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licensed and ordained

Finding God and discovering my spiritual gifts. I was raised outside of church culture, and for a time outside of America. This gave me experience with multiple cultures and religions. During my first semester of college a classmate shared the Gospel with me. God convinced me the Gospel is real and the Bible is His written Word. I confessed my sins and prayed to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. My journey has been long and difficult at times. I would not trade any step of my walk with God because everything He has allowed, or caused to happen in my life, has eventually resulted in my being used to help others fall in love with Him. I have no greater joy than knowing my spiritual gifts help other Christians to use their spiritual gifts.

Throughout twenty seven years of active Christian service, sometimes as a volunteer, there has been ample demonstration of the gifts God gave to me. I am a preacher of the Word (small group, large group, one-on-one), a teacher of the Word and a giver. When the preaching happens it is always my goal to deliver the specific message that God gave to me to give to that particular audience at that certain time. When it comes to giving it is always my goal to give away as much as I can. When I teach, the goal is to lift up the students so that they can understand and apply the biblical truths.

How did I go from engineering to pastoring? As an engineer, I became increasingly concerned about the hostility most of my coworkers exhibited towards the concept of a standard of morality in general and towards Christianity in particular. Most people claimed their objections to Christianity were based on illogical and unprovable statements in the biblical text. I discovered the core issue was usually their unwillingness to admit to the existence of an absolute moral standard which was generated by God, the Creator of the Universe. The desire to help people see the beauty and majesty of the Lord continued to grow within me. I kept volunteering at church and learning from the pastors. But something more was needed if I was going to become effective at reaching people.

Eventually, God spoke to me and my wife during our individual prayer times. We believed it was God giving us the message because we heard it separately from each other, and it was consistent. God said it was time for me to go to seminary. I will never be able to praise my professors and classmates enough. I was routinely challenged to defend every theological position, state my cases in plain English (not engineer-speak) and be prepared to give a defense of the Gospel in every situation.

Shortly after I finished seminary God gave us two wonderful sons by way of adoption. William and James are amazing guys. That same year I met Pastor Juan Ramirez in a miraculous way and I was his Associate Pastor until his death in 2014.

During and after seminary the Lord has used my international upbringing and cross-cultural experiences to have me preach, teach and disciple people from various cultures and ethnicities. I am best suited for a ministry that celebrates the power of God to make joyful disciples of all who will come to Him.

**Lay Servant
Austin Oaks Church**

**Nov 2014 - Present
Austin, TX**

- Volunteering for anything that needs doing among the congregation and our missions.

**Associate Pastor (Preaching and Pastoral Care)
New Life Group (Nondenominational church, SBC theology)**

**2006-2014
Austin, TX**

- Writing and delivering original sermons for a multi-cultural and multinational congregation. Sermons simultaneously translated into Spanish. Sermon always driven by the text. English, Koine Greek and Hebrew texts are used. Mentoring of people who are willing to use their spiritual gifts. Mobilizing people for ministry.

**Full-time Intern (Concurrent with full-time seminary)
First Baptist Church of Oak Hill (SBC)**

**2004-2006
Austin, TX**

- **Preaching.** Applied lessons learned to develop sermons from the Greek and Hebrew texts.
- **Teaching/Mentoring.** Transformed the married adults Bible study from a dying paint-by-numbers rote session to a dynamic participatory time with the Lord.

**Small Group Ministry (Concurrent with full-time seminary)
Fellowship of the Hills Church (SBC)**

**2002 - 2004
Austin, TX**

- **Discipling.** Led and managed a small group initiative under mentoring and supervision from the Assistant Pastor. Co-developed the plan and conducted training for all existing and new small group leaders. Wrote the small group leaders manual with input from elders, pastors and church members.
- **Preaching.** Gained my first preaching experiences at Hills Prairie Baptist Church in Rosanky, TX. I had been helping the Pastor and he invited me to preach in rotation.

**Small Group Planter (Concurrent with full-time Engineering)
Park Hills Baptist Church (SBC)**

**1995 - 2002
Austin, TX**

- **Evangelism and Teaching.** Co-founded and led an open weekly Bible study including apologetics and debates. This study was geared towards unbelievers and immature Christians. Saw God change many lives as we recruited more people. Grew from an initial group of six to over forty people.
- **Bible Study Curricula Development.** Created and taught classes on "Archaeological Evidence and the Bible" and "Understanding the Cults"

**College Avenue Baptist Church (Concurrent with full-time Engineering)
Volunteer Janitor, Building Maintenance, Groundskeeper**

**1990-1993
San Diego, CA**

Education

Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	2006
Master of Business Administration, St. Edward's University	2000
Motorola Six Sigma Black Belt Institute, Austin TX	1995
Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical Engineering, UT El Paso	1986
Licensed and Ordained in the Southern Baptist Convention	

Secular Work Experience

TechRep International	Design Engineering and International Business	2008 - 2013
Motorola	Engineer/Manager	1993 - 2002
General Dynamics	Engineering Section Leader	1988 - 1993
United Technologies	Metallurgical Engineer	1986 - 1988

Hobbies

Photography, exercise, travel and enjoying Barb and our sons.

References by church (most recent first)

Austin Oaks Church (formerly First Evangelical Free Church)

Dean Rush 210-378-3249 mobile / 512-520-5398 home

- Currently Executive Pastor San Antonio Community Church
- Former Executive Pastor First Evangelical Free Church
- Former VP American Airlines

Kirsten Weatherly 678-431-1471

- Youth Minister Austin Oaks Church

New Life Group / Nueva Vida:

Johan Ramirez, 512-323-1322 (prefers to be called at work)

- Currently the bi-vocational Pastor.
- We agree on all points of theology except he believes Christians can lose their salvation. I do not agree with him on this point.

Jose-Luis Vara 512-363-2309

- Former Treasurer for Nueva Vida
- He left because he does not believe that Christians can lose their salvation.

Yolany Melgarejo

- Yolany is one of many people I helped to discover and use their spiritual gifts.
- She is a Sgt. in the US Army Reserve and is a full time student at Texas State.

Mel Melgarejo 512-695-2870

- Former Elder for Nueva Vida
- He is the Purchasing Director for PCSI Inc

First Baptist Oak Hill

Juanita Jackson

- Long time church member with vast volunteer ministry experience.
- Juanita is a first class example of how to do effective ministry.

Fellowship of the Hills (this church no longer exists)

Dr. Ray Atilano 512-705-8418

- Former Elder at Fellowship of the Hills)
- He is the Director of Research & Technology, NeuroTexas Institute at St. David's HealthCare.