



**BARTHOLOMEW
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Will McRaney to you without any hesitation. I met Will in 1988 while we were M.Div. students in seminary. Will would eventually join the faculty at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Will's academic excellence, gifting, and character was observed by Dr. Chuck Kelley, who after assuming the Presidency of the seminary, invited him to replace him as an Evangelism and Church Planting professor. Dr. McRaney served NOBTS for 11 years. Dr. Mac, as he is known by students, was also my doctoral faculty supervisor 2002-2005. I observed him interacting in his work environment with other faculty members and with the students in multiple seminars. Without question he was a loved and respected professor, faculty teammate, and mentor. To this day when I am with Will I see former students approach him and offer words appreciation and gratitude for his investment into their lives and ministry.

Will and I also served together at the Florida Baptist Convention in the Evangelism Division for seven years. His contributions were significant in the field of evangelism and church planting. As a strategic thinker he kept us on point and doing what makes sense for local church ministry. Will was a go-to-guy for our convention colleagues; they appreciated his insights and understanding of our work. You will discover that Will is a wise man and has a solid grasp of Scripture. His ability to apply Christ-likeness towards others is evident as he is gentle and compassionate. No matter where we found ourselves: on ministry teams, in collaborative groups, or on the field serving the 3,000 Florida pastors Will was consistently creative in his approaches to problem solving, creating ministry resources, and networking. His forward steady thinking challenged and inspired those he led. If you combine intellect, wisdom, strategic thinking, the gift of leadership, and compassion you will have identified my friend and colleague Dr. Will McRaney.

Dr. Jeff Hessinger
Associational Missionary
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