



Will McRaney Academic Vita

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Birth: February 10, 1963
Dade City, FL; reared in Panama City, FL

Family: Wife: Sandy Vandevender McRaney - married August 10, 1985
Children: Blakeney, Hadley, Macy

Education: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Degree #2: Doctor of Philosophy, December 1992
Major: Evangelism and Discipleship
Degree #1: Masters of Divinity, May 1989
Major: Biblical Studies

Mississippi State University
Major: Business Administration
Minors: Education, Communication, Mathematics
Degree: Bachelor of Arts, December 1985

Ministerial Credentials:
Licensed by Parkway Baptist Church of Natchez, MS in 1986.
Ordained by Faith Baptist Church of Starkville, MS in 1987.

Ministerial and Teaching Experience:
Executive Director, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, 2013-2015
Co-Founder & Senior Consultant: Ministry Enhancement Group, New Orleans 1999 -
Adjunct Professor of Evangelism & Church Planting, Liberty Baptist Seminary 2009 -

Team Strategist English-Speaking Church Planting Team, Florida Baptist Convention
2011-2013

Director of the Evangelism Strategy Department, Florida Baptist Convention 2007–2011

Interim Pastor West Bradenton Baptist Church, Bradenton FL, 9/07 – 6/08

Professor of Evangelism: New Orleans Bapt. Theo. Seminary, 1996 - 2007

Occupying the Max and Bonnie Thornhill Chair of Evangelism 2001-2007

Occupied Day Center for Church Planting 1996-2000

Founding Pastor: Northpoint Church SBC (now Life Church), Mandeville, LA 1997-99

Lead Pastor: Daybreak Community Church, SBC, Littleton, CO 1992-1996

Adjunct Professor: Denver Seminary, Denver, CO 1994-1996

Adjunct Professor: Colorado Christian University, Denver, CO 1993-1995

Pastor: Jackson Avenue Baptist Church, Pascagoula, MS 1987-1991

Minister of Youth & College: Faith Baptist Church, Starkville, MS, 1986-87

Co-Founder - Ministry Enhancement Group (MEG):

MEG exists to increase the effectiveness of church leaders, church planters and churches by providing them with biblically based and cutting-edge methods, strategies, and training that will enable them to lead the church of the 21st Century.

Research, Writings and Teaching Ministry

Research and Publications on a variety of topics. Including...

Personal and Church Evangelism, Church Growth and Health, Church Planting, Leadership, Revitalization, Church Models, Postmodernism, Cultural Trends, Creating Church Climates and Guest Sensitivity, Values-shaping
Addendum #1 available for a more detailed list

Teaching Ministry

Created, redesigned and taught many different courses while a professor
Addendum #2 available for a more detailed list

Professional and Academic Positions Previously Held

- Editorial Board – Journal for American Society for Church Growth
- Fellowship of Southern Baptist Evangelism Professors – President
- Interim Director of the Nehemiah Church Planting Project at NOBTS with NAMB
- Church Planter Assessor, Trainer, Systems Designer for Training and Support
Max & Bonnie Thornhill Chair of Evangelism, NOBTS
- Cecil B. Day Chair of Church Planting, NOBTS
- Director of the Praxis Church Planting Program, NOBTS

Top 7 from Gallup's Strength Finder

Achiever, Ideation, Learner, Command, Strategic, Analytical, Futuristic

Strengths Summary Statement – Often recognized for perceptively analyzing the complexities facing leaders and churches today, forward thinking ideas, and for developing workable strategic models that can be used in a variety of ministry contexts to advance the Great Commandment and Great Commission.

Personal Wiring

- DISC Personality Profile - Highest D, second highest I
- Myers & Briggs Type Indicator – ENTP

Selected Church Planting Mission Experiences

- Colorado, Vermont, Main, Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Delaware, Louisiana, Florida

International Experiences: Mission & Educational Trips

- Haiti, Canada, Taiwan, Korea
- Jordan and Israel - 11 day exploratory trip with a Biblical archeologist

Selected Business Experiences:

Owner and Lead Instructor - Pitching Plus, 2002-2007
Salesman for McRaney Realty 1984-1986

Hobbies & Interests:

Skiing (water & snow), water sports, golf, most any sporting activity
Played both football and baseball at Mississippi State University teams
Engaging with my children's activities
Chapel leader for youth and professional sports teams
Reading, researching and writing on topics impacting churches and SBC

References: Available upon request-laypersons, pastors, SBC Executives, Directors of Missions

Addendum #1

Selected Research and Publications

“*Considering Approaches to a Great Commission Church*” chapter in Mobilizing a Great Commission Church for Harvest. WIPF and Stock Publishers, 2011.

“*SBC Decline in Baptisms*” Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary’s Journal of Evangelism and Missions. Vol. 10, Spring 2011.

Creator and Lead Designer for *Love Your Neighbor – Share Christ* church evangelism strategy, model, and materials prepared for the Florida Baptist Convention, 2010.

The Choice: Life’s Most Important Decisions - 40 Day Experience., LifeWay Christian Resources, 2005.

The Art of Personal Evangelism: Sharing Christ in a Changing Culture, Broadman and Holman, 2003. (Spanish and English, 2016 Korean)

“*Church Planting as a Growth Strategy in the Face of Church Decline*” Journal for Baptist Theology and Ministry, Fall 2003, p. 69-93.

Contributing writer for *The NET: Evangelism for the 21st Century*, the 2000 personal evangelism program materials produced by the North American Mission Board.

Research/Academic Related:

“The Purpose-Driven Church: An Investigation into the Development and Implementation of a Purpose-Statement and Its Benefits to Church Growth” PhD Dissertation, 1992.

“SBC Decline in Baptism” Journal for Missions and Evangelism, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, 2011, pp. 25-38.

“Antioch: A Case Study in Spiritual Vitality – A Response in View of the 21st Century Church” Lenaz Lecture Series, May 2005.

“Church Planting as a Growth Strategy in the Face of Church Decline” Journal for Baptist Theology and Ministry, Fall 2003, p. 69-93.

“Church Planting as an Evangelistic Strategy,” research paper for the North American Mission Board, 2002.

Formal Paper & Presentation: “Evangelism in an Increasingly Postmodern America” to ETS Regional meeting in March 1999.

“The Evangelistic Conversation in an Increasingly Postmodern America,” in *Journal for American Society for Church Growth, Growth*, Volume 12, Winter 2001, pp. 81-94.

Research paper for Florida Baptist Convention on Cultural Distinctives, “Cultural Distinctives of Anglo Churches,” November 1999.

“Cultural Distinctives of Anglo Churches” *Journal for the American Society for Church Growth*, Volume 13, Winter 2002, pp. 19-38.

“History and Impact of Church Planting on the Southern Baptist Convention,” Major paper for PhD Seminar ‘Evangelism in Southern Baptist Life,’ November 1989.

Selected General Publications

“Personal Evangelism: Sharing Christ with the Confused” *Journal for American Society for Church Growth*, Winter 2004 issue.

“Reaching Lindsay: Examination of the Differences Between Traditional and Postmodern Approaches to Evangelism” *On Mission*, Summer 2004, p. 10-13.

“Modern Heroes and Storytellers” *Mature Living*, January 2004, p. 1 & 4.

“Sharing Christ with the Confused” Baptist Press First Person Article, February 11, 2004.

“Overcoming a Fear of Witnessing” LifeWay.com, June 12, 2003.

“How Guest Sensitive Is Your Church?” at the National Conference for Church Leadership at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in June 2001, available in an online article available from LifeWay Christian Resources at <http://www.lifeway.com/article/150552/>

Article: “Kinds of Church,” *Christian Ministry Journal*, Fall 2002, pp. 10-14.

Articles: *Mississippi Baptist Record* – January-February 2002

“Postmodernism: What is It and Who Believes It?”

“Postmodernism: Its Impact and Why Christians Should Care”

“Postmodernism: How Do We Respond?”

Additional research and writings published on numerous topics of evangelism, church planting, church models, leadership, spiritual development, cultural trends, postmodernism, marriage, youth, men’s ministry and church growth

Addendum #2

Courses Developed and Taught

Masters of Divinity Courses:

Evangelism Related

- Introduction to Evangelism
- Church Evangelism
- Great Revivals and Awakenings
- Personal Evangelism
- Basic Field Education (changed to Supervised Ministry I)
- Pastoral Evangelism
- New Testament Evangelism
- Evangelism and Church Growth in Small Churches
- Contemporary Trends in Evangelism and Church Growth
- Reaching the Postmodern, Dechurched and Uninterested

Church Planting Related

- Introduction to Church Planting
- Church Planting Apprenticeship I & II
- Church Planting Designated Reading List

Pastoral Ministries Related

- Advance Field Education (later - Supervised Ministry II)
- Christian Ministry in the 21st Century
- Church Models for Disciple-Making and Growth
- Spiritual Formation I & II

Research Doctoral Seminars:

- Emerging Issues in Evangelism and Church Growth
- Evangelism of the Early Church
- Church Revitalization and Strategic Leadership
- First and Twenty-first Century Ministry Parallels
- Supervised Reading Colloquium: Church Growth
- Supervised Reading Colloquium: Contemporary Methods and Models of Evangelism

Professional Doctoral Seminars:

- Case Studies in Healthy, Evangelistic Church Growth
- Developing a Strategy for Healthy Evangelistic Church Growth
- Worship and Healthy, Evangelistic Church Growth
- How Church Works 1 & 2 & 3
- Emerging Issues: Implications of Postmodernism on Ministry