



JAY E. STRIKE

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JAY E. STRIKE

disciple ... husband ... dad ... discipler

ABOUT ME

I am many things, but first and foremost I am a follower of Jesus Christ. I am HIS disciple and there is no relationship that is more important. If this one isn't right, none of them will be right.

I am a husband to my wife Alisa, God placed me in this roll before He called me to follow Him. As a husband I strive to be the husband in Ephesians 5. I provide and protect my wife just as I nurture and care for my own body. I strive to love, serve, and lead her in a manner consistent with how Christ loves, serves and leads the Church. This is sacrificial headship. Together we attempt to model what a biblical husband and wife are to our children, so that they know what to look for in their own mate.

I am a dad to two adult followers of Christ – Sarah and Joel. My role has changed from when they were young, but opportunities still exist to disciple them by speaking wisdom and truth into their lives, raising up prayers on their behalf, and encouraging them to seek God in the decisions they face.

Finally, I am a discipler. I am a disciple who makes disciples. God has commissioned each one of us in this role – go and make and baptize and teach. For me, some of this takes place in my call as a vocational pastor and some of it is done intentionally with other men seeking to go deeper with Christ.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Conversion

I grew up in a church-going family in Racine, Wisconsin. Quite literally, if the doors were open, we were there. I was always active in the activities of the church, but I never came to a point of commitment to Jesus Christ. When I left home to attend college, the influences of church and parents faded and I lived for myself, allowing the influences of the world to come to bear on my life.

When I moved to Florida in 1986 I got back into the church in order to date the woman that God would have be my wife. She was saved and at that time, as far as I knew or thought I knew, I was a Christian. I was playing the part of a Christian because I was saying all of the right things.

It wasn't until February 17, 1992, at a revival service at First Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida, that I trusted Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior. An evangelist was preaching and at the invitation time I knew that I would be found wanting if I died. I resisted the calling of the Holy Spirit, fearing people's perception more than I feared God. Following the service a discerning pastor approached me and I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior.

Calling

In 1995, I felt a distinct call to vocational ministry and began serving in a local church almost immediately as a music associate. I was content serving in whatever role that I was given. I always viewed these opportunities as challenges to serve God, learn more, and hone my skills.

I was ordained in 2007 and a few years later felt God's call to move toward discipleship and family ministry. In 2015, in obedience to God's leading, I resigned my position to pursue my seminary studies full time. God has continually shown His faithfulness by meeting every need in our lives. As He continues to lead and work as we look forward to serving in new and exciting ways and cherish the opportunity of coming alongside others in their walk with Christ as we fulfill God's call.



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FAMILY

I met my wife Alisa while in college and we were married in 1988. That makes 33 years! Alisa has been an elementary music teacher for 24 years. She has mainly worked in schools centered in lower income areas trying to instill a love of music in those children.

Alisa and I share of love of music and at one time were performing regularly with community music groups. Now, we love to travel and explore new places to experience the abundance of beauty in God's creation.

God has blessed us with two adult children. Sarah is 22 and a recent graduate of the University of South Florida in Tampa. She will begin her masters level work in social psychology this fall at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England. Our son Joel is 19 and is an engineering major at Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland, FL.

MINISTRY STATEMENT

My goal in ministry is to use my spiritual gifts, talents, education, and life-experiences to spread the gospel and equip the saints for the work of ministry. God has given me a heart for discipleship and desire to minister and disciple families. My desire is to equip parents as disciple-makers within the home. I believe strong family contribute to strong churches and strong churches reach their communities for Christ.

I realize the importance of working both in ministry and on ministry. Working in means doing the things that God has called me to do in serving and leading the people within the church. Working on means being the best possible manager for the resources and processes that are in place. I have had opportunities to excel in both of these areas.

In my ministry service, I have been a pastor, teacher, preacher, musical director, administrator, production technician, radio and television producer, marketing manager, and communications leader. I have been privileged to serve as pastor to many brothers and sisters in Christ, walking with them in daily life, celebrating their successes and encouraging them in times of loss. I have developed and administrated ministry budgets, worked through 3 major building projects, assisted with 4 church revitalizations and organized many church-wide and community events. My experiences have given me an understanding of the unique balance of pastoral shepherding and conscientious administration that are necessary for the church.

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

First Baptist Church | Plant City, Florida (Average Attendance 1,300)

PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

2018 to present

VIDEO DIRECTOR / ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR / EDUCATION INTERN

2015 to 2018

Bell Shoals Baptist Church | Brandon, Florida (Average Attendance 2,200)

PASTOR OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

2008 - 2015

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR / MEDIA DIRECTOR

2003 - 2008

First Baptist Church | Lakeland, Florida (Average Attendance 1,500)

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR / MEDIA DIRECTOR

1996 - 2001

MEDIA EXAMPLES / FULL TESTIMONY

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EDUCATION

Master of Arts - Christian Education - Family Ministry

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY | Fort Worth, Texas
2017

Master of Theological Studies

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY | Fort Worth, Texas
2016

Master of Science - Music Technology

INDIANA UNIVERSITY | Indianapolis, Indiana
2007

Bachelor of Science - Business - Music Management

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE | Lakeland, Florida
1989

REFERENCES

I am happy to provide a list of relevant references upon request as part of the process.

My references include current and former ministry associates as well as members of the business community. The variety is intentional to give you a better picture of who I am in ministry and in my dealings with others outside the church.



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