



# Pete Tackett

Hi! I am Pete. I am a happily married father of two pretty well-adjusted adult children. I have been in ministry since 1984, serving in a variety of roles, including student pastor, co-pastor, and senior pastor. During the early part of 2009, I hit a wall, and the Lord whistled a "timeout" that has led to a year we call *halftime*. You can read about it and see an interview with Lori and me by visiting our Web site at [www.petetackett.com](http://www.petetackett.com). We are confident it is time to get back in the game for the second half of our ministry.

As we continue, we believe this journey, including the dark days of 2009, has uniquely equipped us to do what Jesus told Peter in Luke 22:32 – "And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Currently, I am working with several churches and pastors by writing, speaking, consulting, and coaching. We look forward to helping the right church develop *prayer-based* ministries that are life-giving and fulfilling.

## A little about me...

I was born in Paris, Tenn., in 1963. My parents divorced when I was five. Raised by my stepdad and mom in a working-class home in northwest Tennessee, I was a nerdy kid who liked to figure out how things work (some things never change). When I was nine years old, my grandfather took me Davis Memorial Baptist Church in Dresden, Tenn. On April Fools Day, 1973, (I know, ironic, huh?) I accepted Christ and He immediately began a lifelong process of molding me into something He can use.

By the time I was 11, I knew God's plan for me was to serve Him in ministry. I didn't know what that looked like but I knew I was "all in" for the long haul. I began preaching in small churches when I was a teenager and expected that I would work a secular job and be a part-time pastor, which is all I knew in my rural surroundings. I attended Bethel College and East Tennessee State University, pursuing a degree in broadcast management, which means I can manage your radio station so long as you have no equipment newer than 1983 and nothing digital. My greatest discovery at ETSU was Lori. She and I were married in 1984 and have been serving God together ever since.

With about a year to go in that degree program, I was invited to join an apprenticeship program in youth ministry and for the next 25 years have served God in an ever-evolving ministry that included students, families, connections, co-pastor, and senior pastor roles. Along the way, we had two great kids who are now in college and our family has been blessed to serve God together each step of the way.



Jonathan, Sarah, Lori & Pete

# Ministry Experience

**Administration/Leadership:** strategy/purpose development and implementation, volunteer enlistment and training, sermon series development, budget and finance, staff development, small-group curriculum development in conjunction with sermon series, managing team members and schedules, baptisms, assimilation, recovery ministry launch.

**Connecting/Networking:** developed and implemented small-group strategies church-wide, enlisted and trained leaders, developed evaluation tools for determining effectiveness of small-group strategy, transitioned church from Sunday School mindset to connections mindset utilizing home groups, on-campus studies, semester system, recovery groups, etc.

**Public Speaking:** 25 years experience in public speaking before a wide variety of organizations and venues, 15 years as adjunct training consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, conducted scores of weddings and funerals, led student camps and conferences for 17 years, served as camp pastor for a number of camps, many of them with a focus on discipleship/apologetics.

**Outreach:** certified as a teacher/trainer for Youth Evangelism Explosion, certified in CWT, developed block parties, backyard Bible clubs, wrote and taught the one-day seminar called A Ready Answer to equip the church, created events for student ministry to open dialogue with unchurched students, led the church to engage in servant-based outreach. (It is important that you know I believe the day of cold-calling, door-to-door evangelism has passed and there are more effective ways to do outreach.)

**Youth Ministry:** weekly teaching, small group development, school-based affinity groups, mission trips (local, national, and international), camps and conferences, Mountain Movers prayer ministry, volunteer and mentor development and training, facilities design and use.

## Education:

Bethel College, McKenzie Tennessee  
East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee  
Holston Baptist Bible Institute, Johnson City, Tennessee

## Ministry History 1984-2009 (25 years, beginning with most recent)

<b>First Baptist Church, Columbia, TN</b>	Student Pastor (6 years), Senior Pastor (4 years)
<b>First Baptist Church, Bluff City, TN</b>	Student Pastor and Co-Pastor
<b>Antioch Baptist Church, Johnson City, TN</b>	Youth and Connections Pastor and Interim Pastor (twice)
<b>University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City, TN</b>	Youth Pastor

## References

Dick and Mel Tunney	Former Staff Members	<a href="mailto:tunney4@comcast.net">tunney4@comcast.net</a>
Tal Thompson	Director of Missions	423.772.3356
Rick White	Current Pastor	615.794.2812

*"I recommend Brother Pete Tackett with enthusiasm and without reservation to any church or ministry seeking a true man of God. I see him and Lori and their children as Bible-centered, mission-minded, people-loving, prayer-focused, Spirit-led followers of Jesus Christ who will bless and inspire others wherever they serve."*

– Mike Dawson, Pastor Emeritus  
First Baptist Church, Columbia, TN 931.619.4411



[petetackett.com](http://petetackett.com)

# Other info you may or may not care to know about me:

## What I read

I typically am reading 2-3 books at a time. Some are for personal growth, others are for professional growth, and the rest are just for fun. Some things I have read that have greatly influenced me are *Fresh Encounter* and *Experiencing God*, both by Henry Blackaby and Claude King; *Simple Church* by Thom Rainer; *The Interventionist* by Lyle Schaller; *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni; *It* by Craig Groeschel; *Leading Change* by John P. Kotter; *Experiencing Leadershift* by Don Cousins; *Red Moon Rising* by Pete Greig; and *Breath of God* by Eddie Lawrence; *The Than Trilogy* by L. A. Kelly is a recent fiction series I have finished.

## Music that moves me

I have eclectic taste in music that defies definition. I cannot sing nor play but music is part of the fabric of my life. Some artists that live in my iPod are: many old-school country and Americana artists such as Johnny Cash, Johnny Russell, Bob Carlisle, Buddy Greene, and Bob Dylan. I have a wide variety of current worship artists such as Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Keith and Krystin Getty, Dick and Mel Tunney, and Third Day (okay, maybe not so current). I love Broadway musicals so I have the original soundtracks to *Les Miserables*, *Titanic*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. I also have a number of obscure independent artists I found through iTunes as well as a collection of old gospel music artists such as Guy Penrod, The Cathedrals; The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir; and The Speers.

## I love

My family, good music, good friends, good coffee, stand up comedy, sermon podcasts, computers, *Chuck* on TV, The Food Network, teamwork, churches with a passion to move people from wherever they are to intimacy with God, books, great preaching that facilitates that movement; hiking and digital photography, mobilizing people for missions, gadgets, great restaurants; the Tennessee Titans and the UT Volunteers, and local church ministry.

## My wife....

also loves the church and ministry. She has been 100% supportive of my ministry since we were married 26 years ago. She is passionate about prayer and intercession. She is sought out as a prayer warrior and encourager by dozens of people. She is an educator and has served the church by teaching preschool and high school students for most of the last 25 years. She is without a doubt the best half of this relationship and the best friend I have in the world. In the dark days of the past year, it was her strength and faith that held me up when I felt like I was sinking. Whatever role we fill in the second half of our ministry, we will be more of a team than ever before.

## College

You will notice elsewhere that I do not have a degree, having left ETSU after my junior year to pursue an apprenticeship program. I was involved with a very fundamentalist pastor and church that bordered on legalism and was led to believe that the only good education was in their system. While I am conservative theologically, I quickly realized that I did not agree with that philosophy. While working with them, I completed a certificate program through the Holston Baptist Bible Institute, part of the seminary extension program of what was then the Baptist Sunday School Board, now LifeWay. To be absolutely clear, it was taught by degreed and credentialed men, but it was NOT seminary extension as we know it today. However, it gave me the theological baseline for much of what I believe and teach today.

In the years since I left ETSU in 1985, I have continued to educate myself through conferences, reading, being mentored by great men, and listening to podcasts. I have been part of conferences of the Willow Creek Association, Saddleback, LifeWay, and have attended leadership events sponsored by Chick-fil-A, John Maxwell, etc. I consider every day and every conversation to be an opportunity to learn. Some of the greatest moments of education in my life have been informal interactions with great, godly men who lived life in my presence and let me in their circle.

# I value this

# NOT this

Prayer-based church development

Pastor-led team approach

Kingdom expansion

Transparent leadership

Long-term leadership

People

Can-do

Freedom

Grace

Inclusion

Authentic worship

Heritage

Family

Deep and meaningful friendships

Community service

Process

Family-based ministry

Longevity

Church leaders that play well together

Partnership ministry

Integrated ministry

People who ask "why not?"

Community-appropriate style

Program-based church development

Pastor-dictated or committee-led

Church growth

Hidden agendas

Dramatic changes

Paperwork

I can't

Rules

Law

Exclusion

Worship wars

Tradition

Appearance

Casual connections

"Trip" projects

Events

Activity that separates families

Promotion

Professional relationships only

Project ministry

Isolated territorialism

People who ask "why?"

Cool church