

Justin Buchanan

Biographical Sketch

When did you become a follower of Jesus Christ?

Having been raised in a home with a Christian father and mother, I always remember attending church, studying the Bible, and hearing the gospel message. My parents and church faithfully shared with me the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection that provides the only way we have the forgiveness of sin and a restored relationship with God. However, it was not until the summer before my senior year in high school that I heard the gospel again and understood I was not a faithful follower of Jesus. By faith, I surrendered my life to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

A few months after believing on Jesus for salvation, I made a public profession of faith through baptism at my local church.

When and how did you experience a call of God to vocational ministry?

When I entered college, I planned to earn a pre-med degree with plans to go on to attend medical school. Yet, during my first semester, I realized God had a different purpose for my life than the one I had mapped out. Around that same time, a friend I met in college encouraged me to listen to a message by a pastor named Ronnie Owens. One day, as I listened to his sermon driving home, God inaudibly spoke a call to vocational ministry into my heart. After speaking with one of the pastoral staff members of my local church, I shared with my church family during a worship gathering response time that I believed God had called me to vocational Christian ministry.

How did you and Sarah meet?

Following college graduation, I moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina, to attend Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to pursue my Master of Divinity degree. Sarah had moved there as well to work on a master's degree. She and I had a class together that first semester; unfortunately, I could not get Sarah to notice me. But fortunately, we both began attending the same church and small group where we met. After a few months, she and I started dating and were married the following year.

Is it fact or fiction that you all have five boys?

There's not an ounce of fiction; we do have five fantastic sons!

What does your family like to do together for fun?

Our family enjoys amusement parks, adventures to new destinations, playing and watching sports, and hiking (well...at least some of us do most of the time. The others are good sports and go along.)

What mission trips have you participated in or led?*National*

New Bedford, Massachusetts (2022, 2023)

San Francisco, California (2008, 2015)

Baltimore, Maryland (2007, 2011)

Chicago, Illinois (2007)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2005, 2006)

Charleston, South Carolina (2004)

International

Istanbul, Turkey (2023)

Jaipur, India (2012)

Jamaica (1998, 1999, 2009)

Port Elgin, Canada (2007)

Kenya, Africa (2004)

JUSTIN BUCHANAN

PERSONAL

Birthdate | April 17, 1979

Wife | Sarah | Married May 31, 2003

Children | Isaac (2004), Ethan (2005), Micah (2007), Malachi (2013), Titus (2014)

Licensed and Ordained to Gospel Ministry | September 1999 and February 2004

EDUCATION

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary | Wake Forest, NC **2015**
Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Theology

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary | Wake Forest, NC **2004**
Master of Divinity in Christian Ministry with Biblical Languages

East Tennessee State University | Johnson City, TN **2001**
Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Minor in Sociology

VOCATIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

First Baptist Church | Matthews, NC

Lead Pastor, February 2020 – Present

- Preaching in Sunday worship gatherings and teaching in equip group courses
- Planning worship gatherings and preaching series
- Creating sermon-based small group materials
- Staff oversight, leadership, and development
- Directing and partnering with deacons and primary ministry teams of the church

First Baptist Church | Everman, TX

Interim Pastor, October 2019 – January 2020

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary | Fort Worth, TX

Assistant Professor, August 2016 – July 2019

- Pioneered the Doctor of Philosophy degree program in Family and Generational Studies
- Taught master's and doctoral courses in the Church & Family Ministry School
- Directed team in planning annual Youth Ministry Lab Conference (500+ attendance)
- Mentored and disciplined students preparing for vocational Christian service

Lamar Baptist Church | Arlington, TX

Interim Student Pastor, December 2017 – March 2019

- Responsible for setting student ministry direction, gatherings, and events
- Planned messages and preached at weekly student gathering
- Organized DNOW Weekend, Summer Camp, and Mission Work
- Prepared and managed yearly student ministry budget
- Enlisted and equipped parent leadership team
- Counseled and mentored/disciplined middle and high school and college-age students

Refuge Church | Raleigh, NC

Church Planter and Lead Pastor, March 2013 – June 2016

- Led in the planning and launching of Refuge Church
- Engaged in pastoral care and leadership with the elders
- Planned and preached sermon series for worship services
- Mentored and equipped church staff in fulfilling their God-given responsibilities
- Organized and led mission teams, mission partnerships, community outreach
- Co-authored, designed, and published small group teaching material

Wakefield Baptist Church | Wake Forest, NC

Lead Pastor, September 2010 – February 2013

- Preached messages on Sunday mornings
- Led Wednesday weekly prayer gathering
- Taught a Sunday evening Bible study
- Provided oversight and leadership to staff
- Coordinated work of deacons, stewardship committee, and church committees
- Proposed and led plans to reach community with the gospel in new ways

Bay Leaf Baptist Church | Raleigh, NC

Assistant Pastor/Student Pastor, June 2003 – September 2010

- Developed the work of the church in reaching, teaching, and ministering to students
- Taught the Word of God during student worship gatherings
- Preached weekly in one of the church's three Sunday morning worship gatherings
- Led the student ministry staff in fulfilling their responsibilities and our mission
- Enlisted and equipped small group teachers and discipleship course teachers
- Equipped and led students in national and international missions and evangelism
- Crafted adult discipleship plan and courses

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church | Bristol, TN

Children/Middle School Director, January 1998 – May 2001

- Taught the Scriptures in children and student worship and discipleship meetings
- Directed the AWANA ministry
- Created and led a summer camp for elementary kids
- Planned kids and middle school worship, retreats, camps, and special events
- Led student mission teams nationally and participated in international mission trips

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

I have served as supply preacher, conference speaker, camp and retreat speaker, church consultant, mission team leader and participant, and evangelism trainer/team leader.

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Connor Pool Service | Fort Worth, TX

2019 – 2020

Pool cleaning, maintenance, and repair

Part-time Supervisor, United Parcel Service | Raleigh, NC

2002 – 2003

Managed employees in unloading trucks and meeting company goals

Trained new employees in load methods, company values, and safety responsibilities

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

NATIONAL

New Bedford, Massachusetts (2022, 2023)

San Francisco, California (2008, 2015)

Baltimore, Maryland (2007, 2011)

Chicago, Illinois (2007)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2005, 2006)

Charleston, South Carolina (2004)

INTERNATIONAL

Istanbul, Turkey (2023)

Jaipur, India (2012)

Jamaica (1998, 1999, 2009)

Port Elgin, Canada (2007)

Kenya, Africa (2004)