

Tommy Goode



When I start telling people that know me about everywhere I have lived and all the jobs I've had, they sometimes give me a look of disbelief! Fortunately for me, Elaine is making the journey with me. So, I'm not going to give you the "job profile" version of my biography. I will share some pertinent things that are more relevant to my experience and preparation for leading churches, saving some of the story until we know each other better.

I grew up in a city in northern Illinois during middle school years, and the rest of the time in a farm community in northern Mississippi. I met my wife, Elaine, who is mother of our two adult children and nana to our three grandchildren when we were teenagers at a country church in Mississippi. We got married right out of high school at the young age of eighteen. We've been keeping company ever since. Our son and daughter-in-law with our grandchildren live in Springfield and our daughter lives in Denver with our grand dog. This is the third time for Elaine and me to return to live in Missouri. We first moved to Missouri when our children were just babies and then more recently came back in 2008. We now live in rural Christian County with two horses and a Golden Lab named Lucky.

I was ordained to pastoral ministry in my mid-twenties and have served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Missouri. I served several years as a missionary doing training, organizing, consulting, and administrative leadership in areas of volunteers, disaster relief, social ministries, leadership development, church and organizational health and growth, and in church starting. I have served as a law enforcement, hospital, and hospice chaplain. I was blessed to organize and lead two multi-state responses to US poverty: one along the lower Mississippi River delta region, and the other in Appalachia. Outside the US, I've done missionary work in Mexico, Guatemala, and Puerto Rico. I conducted a multi-year multi-city research project in Texas on community transformation and emerging generations. I have earned several academic degrees in preparation for Christian ministry. I studied religion and psychology in college. And, I have two degrees from a theological seminary.

I have served as a trainer and organizer for starting new churches in West Virginia, Missouri, and Texas. In the 2000's, while living downtown Dallas, Elaine and I organized and led an urban church in the loft community where we lived reaching out to mostly twenty-something year old young professionals. Just prior to moving to the Springfield area a few of years ago, Elaine and I organized and led a cowboy-styled church along the I-70 corridor in central Missouri.

I currently serve as pastor of Ozark Christian Church in Ozark, Missouri and lead Moral Injury Institute, a non-profit organization, and I do some consulting. These experiences and current involvements are part of the "why" I remain interested in new church starting. I believe in the power of each person's story and seek to help them connect their story to the great story of faith in Jesus Christ. Bottom line, I want to serve God and faithfully follow His claims on my life and ministry.

My detailed resume' and personal references are available upon request.

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