

Resumé of

Walt Russell

November, 2010

My wife and I have enjoyed over three-and-a-half decades of ministry to adults and collegians. My passion is to teach and equip Christians to be successful in their own ministries using my spiritual gifts of **pastor-teacher, faith, and giving**. I love to envision, equip, and mobilize God's people through vibrant teaching of the Word within the context of warm, personal relationships.

Personal Data

Trusted Christ: February 9, 1958 at First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Missouri
Married: August 18, 1973 to **Marty Megarity** in Columbia, Missouri
Ordained: May 25, 1980 by Pantego Bible Church, Arlington, Texas
Present Position: Professor of New Testament, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University (La Mirada, CA) since September, 1990.

My wife **Marty** has a B.S. in Elem. Ed. from the University of Missouri (1971). She spent two years on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ (1972-74) and taught elementary school for three years (1974-76; 1989-90). She earned an M.A. in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary with highest honors in 1978. She is an extremely supportive wife, excellent mother to our two children, and has a very fruitful ministry to women using her spiritual gifts of exhortation, wisdom, and administrations. She was Assistant to the Director of the Women's Ministry at the First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton, CA from 1991-1996. She has also been the Assistant to the Director of Talbot Impact Ministries, Biola University, and the producer of Biola University's daily radio program, "Speak Up." At present, Marty is a realtor, a speaker to women's groups, and an adjunct faculty member at Talbot School of Theology in the M.A. Women's Ministries program.

Education

B.S. in Business Admin. University of Missouri, 1970
Th.M. (Christian Ed. & N.T.) Dallas Theological Seminary, 1978
M.A. in Theology St. Mary's Seminary & University (Baltimore, MD), 1987
Ph.D. in Hermeneutics & Bib. Studies Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia, PA), 1991

One manifestation of our envisioning and equipping impact is that in the last forty years, approximately sixty men and women have gone into vocational Christian work—many overseas—as a result of my wife's and my ministry. We feel that this kind of **mobilizing ministry** is one of the primary ways we can contribute to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Along the way we have also been involved in fostering creative ministries that help teach and train Christians to discover their spiritual giftedness and to use their gifts in strategic ministry.

I was one of two pastors and four other couples who started Grace Fellowship Church in Baltimore, Maryland in July, 1980. It is now a church of over 4000. In addition to starting this renewal-type church, I also spearheaded the creation of an adult training center within the church which trained about 75-100 folks each semester for several years. My philosophy of **equipping the saints** includes providing the very best possible training for those in the local church—even seminary level!

I also had an entrepreneurial side as a pastor that I expressed through the creation of East Coast Church Planting, which planted three churches in four years in the Baltimore-Washington area. Since then, I co-planted a church in the Lynchburg, Virginia area. My pastoral experience has been full and varied and has helped me develop what I believe is a healthy philosophy of ministry that is solidly grounded in the Scriptures. I have drawn on that experience in consulting with and preaching for various churches that have need of interim pastoral help.

Community Ministry Experience

My wife and I were involved for some time in the Pro Life movement in our area and worked with the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Baltimore. We also had an unwed teenage mother live with us for six months and saw her through her delivery and the adoption of her baby by a Christian couple. We have delighted in having a ministry of way-of-life-discipleship to a succession of eighteen college and post-college age singles who lived with us over a twenty-eight-year period (1982-90, 1996-2002, 2004, 2005, 2007-present).

Teaching Ministry Experience

1990-2010	Professor of New Testament, Talbot School of Theology, BIOLA University (Chairman, Biblical Studies & Theology, 1993-2000)
1987-90	Assistant Professor of New Testament, Liberty University
1985-2010	Lecturer, U.S. Center for World Missions' "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" Course
1981-87	Founder/Director/Lecturer, Grace Discovery Center (Baltimore, MD)
1983-84	Lecturer, Baltimore School of the Bible
1979-81	Lecturer, Walk Thru the Bible Ministries
1978-80	Instructor, Religion Department, Univ. of Texas at Arlington

My teaching has been well-received and characterized by a warm, pastoral dimension with good content in a stimulating package. My passion is preparing good expositions of the Scriptures in a relevant, culturally-sensitive style. I enjoy creating a positive, motivational environment where people want to grow in Christ. My strengths are interpreting the Word of God with enthusiasm and clarity, modeling significant life-interaction with it, and faithfully living out my passion for following Christ.

Publications

Journal Articles and Review Articles

- "The Anointing with the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts," *Trinity Journal* 7 NS (Spring, 1986) 47-63.
- "An Alternative Suggestion for the Purpose of Romans," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 145 (Apr.-Jun., 1986) 174-84.
- "The Holy Spirit's Ministry in the Fourth Gospel," *Grace Theological Journal* 8 (1987) 227-239.
- "Who Were Paul's Opponents in Galatia?" *Bibliotheca Sacra* 147 (1990) 329-350.
(also included in the anthology *Vital New Testament Issues: Examining New Testament Passages and Problems* [Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1996] 146-164, 271-276; Roy B. Zuck, gen. ed.)
- A Review of Jouette M. Bassler, editor, *Pauline Theology, Volume 1: Thessalonians, Philippians, Galatians, Philemon* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1991) *Steadfast* 6:5 (March, 1992) 7.
- "Rhetorical Analysis of the Book of Galatians, Part 1," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 150 (July-Sept., 1993) 341-58.
- "Rhetorical Analysis of the Book of Galatians, Part 2," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 150 (Oct.-Dec., 1993) 416-439.
- A Review of Richard N. Longenecker's *Galatians* (Word Biblical Commentary 41), *Westminster Theological Journal* 55 (Spring, 1993) 159-161.
- "Does the Christian Have 'Flesh' in Galatians 5:13-26?" *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 36 (1993) 179-187.
- "Insights from Postmodernism's Emphasis on Interpretive Communities in the Interpretation of Romans 7," *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 37 (1994) 511-527.
- "The Apostle Paul's Redemptive-Historical Argumentation in Galatians 5:13-26," *Westminster Theological Journal* 57 (Fall, 1995) 333-357.
- A Review of Anthony Thiselton's *New Horizons in Hermeneutics. The Theory and Practice of Transforming Biblical Reading* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992, 703 pages) in *Trinity Journal* 17NS (1996) 241-243.
- "Forty Years of Church Growth: A View from the Theological Tower," *Journal of Church Growth* 6 (1995) 17-41.
- A Review of Timothy George's *Galatians. The New American Commentary*, Volume 30 (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994) in *Themelios* 23 (October 1997) 83-85.
- A Review of Vern S. Poythress & Wayne A. Grudem, *The Gender-Neutral Bible Controversy* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000) in *Philosophia Christi* 6:1 (2004) 177-181.
- "The Role of *Body Discipleship* in Fulfilling the Great Commission," forthcoming in 2011.
- "The Intended Application," submitted for publication.

Popular Magazine Articles

- "What does this verse mean to you?" *Sundoulos* (Winter, 1992).
- "What It Means to Me," *Christianity Today* (October 26, 1992) 30-32.
(reprinted in *Herald of Holiness* [November, 1993] 14-17).
(also reprinted in *Vista Holiness Digest* [October 23, 1994] 2).
(also reprinted in *Pathways for Young Adults Student Guide* [March, April, May, 1995] 8-11).
(also reprinted in *What About the Bible?* [Dialog Series Books; Kansas City, MO: Division of Sunday School Ministries, Church of the Nazarene, 1996]).
(also reprinted in *Why Small Groups?* [Study Book Series; Gaithersburg, MD: People of Destiny International, July, 1996] 121-127).
(also reprinted in *Discover the Word. Reading the Bible for All Its Worth*, Everett Leadingham, editor [Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1997] 83-90).
- "Matthew 24:14 - Do We Need to Evangelize ALL Peoples before Christ Returns?" in *Adoption: A Practical Guide to Successfully Adopting a People Group*, Bruce K. Camp, editor (Pasadena, CA: U.S. Center for World Mission--Mobilization Division, Nov., 1993) 10-12.
(reprinted in *Mission Frontiers Bulletin* 16, nos. 7-8 (July-August, 1994) 14-16.)
(also reprinted in *Alliance Life* [C & MA] 130, No. 2 [Jan. 18, 1995] 8-9, 12 under the title, "When Will Christ Come?").

- "My Theological Concerns about the Church Growth Movement," in *Sundoulos* (Spring, 1997) 2-5.
- "How I Learned to Love God's Word," *Discipleship Journal* 123 (May/June, 2001) page 59.
- "Avoid Every Appearance of Evil," *Biola Connections* (Summer, 2003) 31.
- A 4-Part Series on Hermeneutics in *Boundless*, a Focus on the Family Webzine (www.boundless.org):
- "The Hazards of Reading on a Battlefield," November 12, 2003 in *Boundless*.
 - "'Indians Slay Tigers' and Braking for Genres,' December 18, 2003 in *Boundless*.
 - "Overcoming Verse-bite Christian Culture," January 22, 2004 in *Boundless*.
 - "Grave Lessons about Application," February 12, 2004 in *Boundless*.
- "Is There Healing in this Application?" in *Christian Research Journal* 27:1 (Mar., 2004) 58-59.
- "Facing the Pain of Dementia," *Biola Connections* (Summer, 2004) 16-17.
- "The Road to Generosity," *EFCA Focus on Accountability* (First Quarter, 2010) 5-6.
- "Spirit-Intended Applications," *Sundoulos* (Spring, 2010) 5-7.

Chapters in Books and Study Notes

- Introduction and Reference Notes on "Romans" and "Galatians" in *The Life Recovery Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1992).
- "The Apostle Paul's View of the 'Sin Nature'/'New Nature' Struggle," "A Response to David M. Ciochi," and "A Response to Sherwood Lingenfelter" in *Christian Perspectives on Being Human: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Integration*, edited by J. P. Moreland and David M. Ciochi (Baker Book House, 1993) 207-228, 112-114, and 147-149.
- "Literary Forms in the Hands of Preachers and Teachers," in *Cracking Old Testament Codes. A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*, edited by D. Brent Sandy and Ronald L. Giese, Jr. (Nashville: Broadman/Holman Press, 1995) 281-298.
- "Romans" and "Galatians" in *Top Picks of Commentaries on the New Testament* (Biola University, 1999) 17-20, 25-28.
- "Kingdom Confusion: The Concern for Ethnocentrism in the Book of Acts," in *Institute of International Studies Reader* (Pasadena, CA: Institute of International Studies, 2003).
- "What Does it Mean to Say, 'Jesus is Messiah'?" in *The Apologetics Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007) 1286.
- "Notes on Galatians," in *The Apologetics Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007) 1752-1760.
- "God & Giving: The Road to Generosity," in *Revolution in Generosity: Transforming Stewards to be Rich toward God*, Wesley K. Willmer, editor (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008) 63-77.

Books & Booklets

- 📖 *Tracing the Blessing of God: A Survey of the New Testament and the Intertestamental Era* (Pasadena, CA: U. S. Center for World Mission, 1997).
- 📖 *The Flesh/Spirit Conflict in Galatians* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1997).
- 📖 *Playing with Fire: How the Bible Ignites Change in Your Soul* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2000).
- 📖 *Generous Loving, Generous Living* (La Mirada, CA: Biola University, 2009) [33-page booklet].
- 📖 *Equipping the Saints* (forthcoming in 2011 or 2012)

All of my writing centers around **my three life themes**:

- 1) emphasizing the primacy of the Great Commission in the life and ministry of the church,
- 2) equipping the saints for the work of ministry while living in dynamic community, and
- 3) strengthening the church through vibrant teaching of the Scriptures.

I see these as great needs that I want to help meet as a pastor-scholar and as crucial emphases that I want to model to other believers.