Dear Pastor Search Team:

I am prayerfully searching for opportunities to serve a local church – either bi-vocationally or full-time – as pastor/teacher. My primary spiritual gifs are pastor/teacher, mercy, administration, and hospitality. I have had the privilege of using those gifts in a vocational role with LifeWay Christian Resources for over 25 years, and more recently as Director of Operations of a large SBC church in Mississippi, and most recently as a bi-vocational pastor.

After several years of prayer, my wife and I are following God's lead and will be moving to the Crestview, FL area this summer – we have children and grandchildren there and this move will also allow us to also be centrally located to our other children living in south GA, central FL, and south MS.

Since making Christ my Lord and trusting Him as my Savior at the age of 16, God has given me a desire to lead others within the church to experience Him as I have and to know Him for all that He is; to live and honor Him as the Lord of our entire lives so that we might know His faithfulness, His presence in the difficulties and the ease of life, His joy in every situation, and His pleasure in our sacrifices and our obedience. I am assured that our churches need leaders who are not only doctrinally sound and knowledgeable, but who are unafraid to lead, to proudly and joyfully proclaim God's promises alongside His warnings and judgements, to serve sacrificially, to love the un-loveable, to be pure and undefiled by the world, to teach the Word and have high expectations for obedience to it, and to love God by loving each other. We need leaders who will make disciples that make disciples, that will encourage and cry with their people when life is hard, and who desire not to rule over a church, but rather guide by example as a shepherd and servant. We need leaders to lead the body of Christ to excel in the five purposes of the New Testament church: transformation by the renewing of our minds; ministering to the needs of the body of Christ; engaging in the corporate and individual worship of Almighty God; evangelizing our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and providing a fellowship where Christians will be encouraged to live out their faith in daily life and in the church. It is to this that I desire and am called, and will commit myself to as God allows opportunity.

In 2019, my ministry with Lifeway Christian Resources came to an end and God blessed me with the opportunity to serve as the Director of Operations in a large church close to our home. While I was blessed with the opportunity, it required me to be available on Sundays in an operational capacity and unable to use my primary spiritual gifts. In late 2023 I felt led to leave my full-time position there in order to be available for pulpit supply and a pastoral role and was called shortly after as pastor at Lodebar Church in 2024. We have witnessed God working in the lives of our members and community as we have focused on prayer, service, and Biblical teaching. We have been privileged to witness four salvations and five baptisms over our last year, have had new families joining our small congregation - including youth and young children - and are seeing members gain an excitement for loving and serving their neighbors and the community.

I believe my spiritual giftedness, along with my years of experience serving God's people, sharing the good news of Jesus, and the desire to love the Church, have all prepared me to serve her in a unique way. While many at my age are looking to retirement, I am looking to "finish strong" and utilize my years of experience to lead and serve the body of Christ with all the remaining years that God allows.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you as you are led to discuss how I might be used by the Lord to serve Him by serving His people at your church.

God's blessings in your search for your new pastor,

Mike Jolly

JOHNNY M. (MIKE) JOLLY

CONTACT INFO

119 Hampton Place
Madison, MS 39110

601.421.2248

Mike.jolly1962@gmail.com

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mike.jolly.988

MINISTRY OBJECTIVE

I am seeking an opportunity to serve a local body of believers in a ministerial capacity where my spiritual gifts of pastor/teacher, administration and hospitality may be utilized to their fullest extent. I am open to both bi-vocational and full-time service opportunities.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Originally from Leake County MS. Married to Andrea Melton Jolly, a native of Gulfport, MS. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mercer University and a masters degree in educational administration from Liberty University. She is the Lower School Principal at Manchester Academy in Yazoo City, MS. We have six daughters (4 married) and seven grandchildren (#8 on the way). They reside in south Mississippi, Georgia, Virginia, and Florida. My interests include reading, historical research, hiking, kayaking, and SEC sports.

SALVATION TESTIMONY

I did not grow up in a Christ-centered home. As a child I went to church occasionally and as often as I wanted when in my teen years. I was well respected in school, at church and in the community, received good grades, and seldom got into any trouble. My parents trusted me and I tried very hard to keep that trust. I worked hard to maintain the perception that others had of me. I read the Bible some and was the kid who knew the answers in Sunday School. In my eyes, I was a good person and better than most of my peers, but I thought little about a relationship with God. I wasn't trying to earn my salvation, I wasn't even aware that I needed salvation! I changed schools in the 10th grade and met a boy who had been praying for a Christian friend. He invited me to a weekend youth retreat and I witnessed something different in several of the youth there and that weekend God opened my eyes to the person I truly was – sinful, prideful, self-centered, and with no hope of ever being good enough to please a just and holy God. I also realized how much He had shown His love towards me through the sacrifice of His son Jesus, and I trusted Him as my Savior and my Lord.

I gave Him my life that weekend and while my lifestyle changed very little over those first few months, my life was changed immediately. My motives, my desires, and my interests were no longer self-centered, but were on serving the God who had loved me, saved and redeemed me! I wanted to know Him more, to honor and serve Him with every part of my life.

Christ became my life that weekend and my greatest desire in the 45+ years since has been to love Him with my heart, soul, mind, and strength.

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DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

I believe in God in the form of the eternal trinity: the Father as Creator & Ruler, sovereign and just; Jesus the Son – fully human and fully God - as Redeemer, Savior, and Lord of all; and the Holy Spirit indwelling in and interceding for, guiding, and directing believers.

I believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. I am also in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message of 2000.

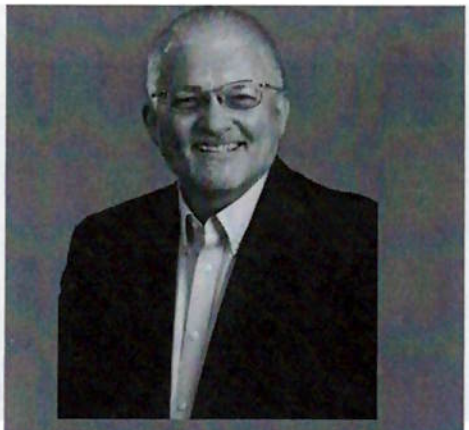
CALL TO PASTORAL MINISTRY

Since trusting Christ, I have had a strong desire to serve Him in whatever capacity I could. During my freshman year in college, I was given the opportunity to preach in my home church on Youth Sunday. I soon began speaking regularly in area churches close to home and was encouraged by most everyone I knew. I did not feel that I was necessarily gifted in speaking, but loved sharing God's Word with anyone I could, so I continued and soon began thinking about serving vocationally. I struggled mightily with this and there was some confusion between God's call and my desires. I wanted to know this was a true calling and eventually decided if unsure, I should not pursue.

I have continued to serve the church and community in numerous ways over the years and in 1993 God blessed me with a vocational opportunity that combined my education, leadership skills, experience, and passion to serve by working with LifeWay Christian Stores.

Over the last few years, I have seen the church as a whole move away from sound, Biblically based teaching, preaching, and worship in an effort to increase attendance and make evangelism the core focus of our church services. Intentionally or not, many of our leaders are shrinking back from preaching and teaching the entire counsel of God. I believe that a watered down gospel, a half-gospel, or only a part of God's Word is a distorted gospel and a corruption c the pure, life changing gospel. I believe the Church has suffered much because of this and has largely become culturally influenced and ineffective in it's mission. The desire that God gave me 40 years ago – a desire that has never left me – I now understand to be God's call. It is a desire for His people – His church – to be built up and edified by His Word so that we can be transformed and then go out into a lost and dying world and be His representatives.

This desire – this calling – is to lead others within the church to experience Him as I have. To know Him for all that He is. To live and honor Him as the Lord of our entire lives so that we might know His faithfulness, His presence in the difficulties and the ease of life, His joy in every situation, and His pleasure in our sacrifices and our obedience. Our churches need leaders who are not only doctrinally sound and knowledgeable, but who are unafraid to lead, to proudly and joyfully proclaim God's promises alongside His warnings and judgements, to serve sacrificially, to love the un-loveable, to be pure and undefiled by the world, to teach the Word and have high expectations for obedience to it, and to love God by loving each other. We need leaders who will make disciples that make disciples, that will encourage and cry with their people when life is hard, and who desire not to rule over a church, but rather guide by example as a shepherd and servant. We need leaders to lead the body of Christ to excel in the five purposes of the New Testament church: transformation by the renewing of our minds; ministering to the needs of the body of Christ; engaging in the corporate and individual worship of Almighty God; evangelizing our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and providing a fellowship where Christians will be encouraged to live out their faith in daily life and in the church. It is to this that I desire and am called, and will commit myself to as God allows opportunity.



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EDUCATION

Bachelors degree in Marketing from Mississippi State University, 1984

Mississippi School of Banking, 1987

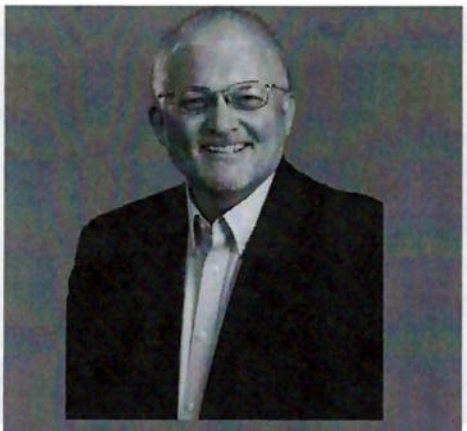
Graduated with Distinction from ABA School of Bank Marketing, Boulder, CO
1990

PRIMARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Pastor/teacher
Mercy
Administration
Hospitality

MINISTRY AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE

- Pastor – Lodebar Church, Pelahatchie, MS 2024-present
- Pulpit Supply – various churches in Central MS 2023-2024
- Adult Life group Leader – Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison, MS 2021-2023
- Decision counselor – Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison, MS 2020
- Adult Life Group Leader – First Baptist Church, Ridgeland, MS 2017-2019
- Adult Discipleship Leader – Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison, MS 2016
- Adult Life Group Leader – Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison, MS 2015-2016
- First Responders Team – Grace Crossing Baptist Church, Madison, MS 2009-2012
- College Sunday School teacher – Grace Crossing Baptist Church, 2010-2012
- Youth Sunday School teacher – Grace Crossing Baptist Church, 2009-2010
- Adult Sunday School teacher – Grace Crossing Baptist Church, 2008-2009
- Youth Sunday School teacher – Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison, MS 2005-2006
- Youth Discipleship Director – North Shelby Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL 2001-2004
- Deacon – North Shelby Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL 2001-2004
- Associational Assist Team leader/instructor – Leake County Baptist Assn. 1991-1993
- Associational Treasurer – Leake County Baptist Association 1991-1993
- Deacon – First Baptist Church, Carthage, MS 1990-1993
- Adult Sunday School teacher – First Baptist Church, Carthage, MS 1990-1993
- Youth Ministry leader & Sunday School teacher – First Baptist Church Carthage, MS 1986-1990
- Royal Ambassadors leader – First Baptist Church, Carthage, MS 1985 - 1986
- Summer Youth Director – First Baptist Church, Belzoni, MS 1982-1983
- Youth group leader, children's and youth camp director – Emmanuel Baptist Church, Starkville, MS 1980-1984



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WORK EXPERIENCE

Manchester Academy – Yazoo City, MS

Upper School Spiritual Advisor/Bible Teacher 2025-present

- Teaches various Bible classes to upper school (grades9-12) students
- Plans, coordinates, & directs weekly chapel service for upper school students, involvir students in worship and prayer.
- Acts as spiritual advisor to students and staff; developing meaningful relationship providing counseling, prayer, and encouragement as needed.
- Coordinating & leading monthly staff prayer times and overseeing student led Bibl studies.
- Planning, directing, & leading student worship events and service/missions opportunitie

Keller Williams Realty – Flowood, MS

Licensed Realtor 2023 – present

Broadmoor Baptist Church – Madison, MS

Director of Operations 2019-2023

- Oversaw and directed all aspects of operations for a dynamic, growing church with an annual budget in excess of $7.5 million, over 225,000 sq. ft. of facilities, and a staff of almost 100.
- Provide leadership for an operations team of 12 full time & 9 part time employees.

LifeWay Christian Stores – Nashville, TN

Store Manager/Market Manager 1993 – 2019

- Responsible for all aspects of daily operations while leading up to 60 associates spiritually and professionally, executing all corporate programs, promotions, and policies, and leading associates to excel in customer service, productivity and Profit & Loss results.
- Awarded LifeWay's Ministry Impact Award, a career service award for an individual that best exemplifies LifeWay's mission and for serving their community and peers above and beyond expectations.

The Carthage Bank – Carthage, MS

Marketing Officer 1985-1993

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