



May 26, 2020

Dear First Baptist Family,

After much prayer and consideration, the Senior Pastor Search Team and Elders are excited to announce Perry Garrett as our Senior Pastor Candidate. The Lord gave us many excellent candidates, but we believe Perry is the man the Lord has sent us to fill His pulpit at First Baptist Powell. We are looking forward to you getting to know more about Perry over the next several weeks.

For the past 12 years, Perry has served as the Senior Pastor at Grace Bible Church in Gatesville, TX. He and his wife, Tanna, have three children: Madeline (12), Titus (11), and Micah (6). Perry is currently working on his PhD in Patristics (Early Christian Studies) at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary after completing his undergraduate work in Biblical Studies at The Master's University and graduate work in New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. We have included Perry's resume as well as additional information and sample sermons for your review.

Our team began the search process on August 3 of last year seeking the Lord and asking Him to lead us to the candidate He had for our church. After meeting with every Lifegroup and analyzing the results of the congregational survey, we identified the four most important qualifications for our next Senior Pastor: Likeminded Theology, Expository Preaching, Leadership, and Oratory Skills. After praying over 240 candidates, reviewing their qualifications, listening to hundreds of sermons and conducting interviews, Perry distinguished himself in all four of these categories as well as many others. Perry's passion for God's word and his ability to convey deep truths impressed our team. In visiting his church and meeting him in person, Perry's desire to disciple others and develop leaders was evident. Throughout the process, Perry displayed a shepherd's heart. His love for the gospel and his convictions around missions, evangelism and education align well with our vision. The Search Team will hold a Q&A on Sunday, June 14 at 4:00pm to allow the congregation to ask us questions about our process and selection. This session will be recorded for those who are not able to attend.

We are eager for you to meet Perry and his family the weekend of June 19-21. We will be hosting a Q&A the evening of June 19 at 6:00pm in the Main Worship Center. The Q&A will be available via live stream and will also be recorded for those who cannot attend in person or watch live. We encourage you to send us questions for Perry if you are not able to attend. On Sunday, June 21, Perry will preach a sermon in view of the call to be our Senior Pastor. Based on anticipated guidelines around church services, we plan to have multiple services that Sunday to accommodate anyone who would like to attend. We will also be streaming the service for those who choose to watch from home. That day, the congregation will be voting to affirm Perry as our next Senior Pastor. For those who are unable to attend and would like to participate, we ask that you reach out to the Search Team for alternative arrangements.

To submit a question for either Q&A (Search Team or Perry) or if you need alternative arrangements for participating in the process, please contact the Search Team via email: [stevenmcghee@fbcpowell.org](mailto:stevenmcghee@fbcpowell.org)

Please visit the Senior Pastor Search Team page for additional information including transcripts and videos of the Q&A: <https://fbcpowell.org/senior-pastor-search-team/>

In His Name,

Senior Pastor Search Team

Tracy Amanns, Barbara Kelley, Tom Latham (Elder), Trish Masters, Steven McGhee (Elder), Mike Petty (Elder), Joe Pope, Eric Sams, Diane Shipley, Randy Smith

First Baptist Powell Elders

Danny Amanns, Russ Amanns, Rick Bertou, Andrew Chitwood, Clayton Gilley, Alan Grissom, Jim McClean, Darin Mercer, Tim McGhee, Jim Waddell

# Perry G. Garrett

Email: [perrygarrett@gmail.com](mailto:perrygarrett@gmail.com)

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## Ministry Mission (or Passion)

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My heartbeat is for Christ and the church. Throughout twelve years of senior pastoral ministry in the same church, five related ministerial passions have surfaced as preeminent in my life: exposition of scripture as a pastor swimming within the great Christian tradition, reliance on the power of God in prayer, developing church leaders, missions (defined as “crossing cultural and geographical boundaries to share Christ where Christ is unknown”), and local evangelism. Recognizing Christ as the Chief Shepherd, I am eager to continue learning how to best serve Christ and his flock as a passionate and developing undershepherd.

## Formal Education

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Post Graduate:	SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY — (In progress) Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) - Early Christian Studies (Patristics)
Graduate:	DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY — 2013 Master of Theology (THM) - New Testament Studies
Undergraduate:	THE MASTER'S UNIVERSITY — 2005 Bachelor of Arts, Biblical Studies

## Ministry Experience

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### **Senior Pastor, *Grace Bible Church/Gatesville, TX***

05/2008-Present

Grace Bible Church is an evangelical church within the baptistic and reformed tradition. Located in rural central Texas, GBC has grown from an average attendance of approximately 50 to an average attendance of 140 during main service on Sunday mornings.

Served our church by overseeing and occupying the weekly pulpit ministry.

Led our church in establishing a formal membership process that includes a membership class, statement of faith, oral interview, and membership covenant.

Led our church through the process of moving locations and purchasing a church building located on 16 acres debt free.

Led our church in establishing the diaconate, establishing a more robust elder candidacy process, and developing a leadership training course for aspiring spiritual leaders.

Provided leadership and oversight for staff members including an associate pastor, two pastoral interns, a music director, and a secretary.

### **Varsity Football Chaplain, *GISD/Gatesville, TX***

08/2011-Present

Served as the primary spiritual mentor and teacher for the Gatesville public high school varsity football team.

Provided weekly Bible exposition and theological instruction for the players and coaches.

Instructed small groups of players through the distinctives of the Christian faith.

Provided substance-abuse counseling and personal counseling for the players as needed.

### **Youth Pastor, *Lake Hills Community Church/Castaic, CA***

02/2004-06/2005

Lake Hills Community Church was an evangelical church within the baptistic reformed tradition with an average attendance of approximately 200 on Sunday mornings.

Instructed the junior high and high school students weekly during both Sunday morning studies and mid-week gatherings.

Provided theologically and devotionally robust discipleship through small groups with students.

Collaborated weekly with four other full-time staff members at Lake Hills.

## Personal Background

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### **Conversion and Calling:**

Although I was not raised in a believing home, I was introduced to concepts of Christianity when I was young on account of growing up in the Bible Belt. Remaining disinterested in Christ, I lived into my junior year of high school absorbed in popularity, partying, and football. During one of my classes, a friend of mine talked to me about Christ and the coming judgment. Her perspective intrigued me, so I began considering the truth claims of Christianity. Not owning a Bible led me to spend time in a public prayer room located at a local church. Each night at approximately 11:00pm when I completed my tasks at work, I spent time reading a golden KJV table Bible. After spending many nights thinking through whether or not I believed the things I was reading, I began to realize that I trusted in the God who was revealing himself to me through the pages of Scripture. One night, I dropped to my knees and embraced Christ as my Lord and Savior. I was later baptized at a local church.

I began to sense God's call to minister vocationally while on a short-term missionary trip to Mexico. I recall reading 2 Cor 4:13 where Paul writes, "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak." I realized that I had an insatiable desire to proclaim the message that I had come to believe and love. I was soon thereafter mentored by my pastor and began to preach intermittently as an itinerant preacher under the guidance of my pastor.

**Spouse:**

The Lord has richly provided me with a nurturing, supportive, thoughtful, and capable wife and partner in gospel ministry. I met Tanna late in high school. However, we did not begin dating until I was in college. Tanna spent most of her childhood years in east Texas. Although Tanna was raised in a home containing traces of Christian influence, she did not come to faith in Christ until her junior year of high school. It was only approximately one year after she graduated from high school that Tanna and I were married. From the moment she became a follower of Jesus, Tanna has been hungry for the church and continues to serve the body of Christ through her delectable cuisine, welcoming home, and heavenly vocals in our church music ministry.

Most of Tanna's time is occupied with homeschooling our three children, juggling children's activities and domestic demands, and caring for our menagerie consisting of a miniature schnauzer, a german shepherd, chickens, a cat, and three lizards.

**Children:**

The Lord has kindly entrusted to us three tremendous children in Madeline Grace (12), Christopher Titus (11), and Micah Perry (6). Madeline embodies empathy and care for others. Through the trials that come from learning to live with a rare genetic disorder (VLCAD), Madeline demonstrates a sincere desire to endure in faith in the midst of a fallen world. Titus continues to exude care for others, the desire to learn, and a servant's heart. Micah has brought a level of vitality and passion into our family like never before while remaining tender and caring for his siblings and others. Through our three children, the Father continues to teach me more about his inexhaustibly benevolent character and kindness.

There are not any more important vocations in my life than serving as Tanna's husband and Madeline, Titus, and Micah's father.

**Interests:**

Reading (especially works related to early Christian studies), various forms of exercise, cheering for the Houston Astros, fishing, and enjoying a relaxing evening with my family.

**Sample Sermons:**

[Joshua 1](#)

[Romans 14:1-12 Part 1](#)

[Romans 14:1-12 Part 2](#)

[Joshua 3](#)

[Joshua 7](#)

[Romans 15:22-33](#)

[A Healthy Church Member: Scripture](#)

[Matthew 6:11-13](#)

[Joshua 9](#)



## Q&A with Perry Garrett, FBP Senior Pastor Candidate

- **Tell us about your personal and family devotional life and specifically your time in prayer and the word.**

My typical day begins with communion with Christ (cup of coffee in hand) through mediation of Scripture and prayer. Although I am privileged to prepare sermons and lessons from Scripture each week, I prefer to spend these initial moments of the day reading the Bible without the demands and pressures of preparing a lesson. My prayer time is often influenced and formed by praying God's promises back to him (2 Sam 7:27).

My family often sits down for a time of family worship in the morning during or after breakfast. During these times in worship we read and discuss a portion of Scripture, sing, and pray. At night before bed, I often have the privilege of leading my children in a time of memorizing great truths from the Bible in question and answer format. Finally, Tanna and I spend time praying together each night before we go to sleep.

- **Who have been the major influences in your ministry?**

My first pastor, Willie Clark, has influenced me as a pastor. He taught me the value of loving people as we have been loved by the Father. Additionally, Jason Nolte, under whom I served in ministry for a few years, taught me the trustworthiness and power of the text of Scripture ascertained in expository preaching. Jeffrey Bingham and Stephen Presley (both early Christian scholars in the Baptist tradition) are a persistent reminder to me that as a Christian pastor I am part of a great heritage in Christ that consists of under-shepherds serving Christ's bride under the authority of Christ. My greatest influences are likely my wife, Tanna, who has taught me the beauty of sacrificial love, and my children, Madeline, Titus, and Micah, who are constant reminders of the goodness and joy of serving my Father in both the home and the church. In addition to those listed above, I would add many Christian leaders from the early church and contemporary pastors such as John MacArthur, John Piper, Mark Dever, Sinclair Ferguson, and many more.

- **Tell us how you prepare a sermon? What steps do you take to ensure you teach the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27)?**

My sermon week typically begins with work in the original languages in order to develop a preliminary translation. This is supplemented with reading through the text in English a series of times to get a feel for the ways the English translators have handled the text. Depending on the book of the Bible and the original language of the book under analysis, I will often divide up the clauses of the text so that I am able to see the ways each clause relates to the others. This step includes work in the grammar and syntax of the particular passage under consideration. Next, I work at discovering the subject or subjects (what the text is about) and the predicate (what is said about the subject). During this stage, I will often look to commentators (modern and ancient) to garner insight from others. I then compare my text with other passages in Scripture attempting to understand the passage as a part of the whole Bible. This also means seeking ways the Spirit of God communicates in the text to twenty-first century Christians since "all Scripture....is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16)



and the “Word of God is living and active” (Heb 4:12). I then begin looking for ways to communicate the text, its message, its outline, and its place in the story of Scripture to particular people I have been given the opportunity to pastor. Finally, I develop a homiletical outline (i.e. an outline I will use for the sermon) and fill in the outline with a kind of modified outline-manuscript. It is important to mention that throughout the sermon preparation, I am seeking to hear from God by understanding the text of Scripture and finding ways this text communicates with my congregation. This means that the entire process must be fueled by prayer and dependence on the illuminating work of the Spirit.

To ensure that I teach the whole counsel of God, I preach expositionally (verse by verse, paragraph by paragraph, chapter by chapter) through entire books of the Bible toggling between the Old Testament and the New Testament. I do not prefer preaching texts I have preached before since I desire to preach through the entire Bible if the Lord permits.

- **How do you organize worship services?**

I organize worship services according to the story of redemption in Christ. This means that the elements and order of the service reflect the gospel. For example, I may organize a service around Isaiah 6 in which the congregation receives the revelation of the glory of God, realizes and confesses sin, receives the grace of God in Christ, and responds with eagerness to go in service to God.

- **What part of ministry are you most passionate about?**

This is an incredibly challenging question to answer. I suppose I would have to say I am most passionate about igniting a passion for Christ as revealed in all of Scripture through preaching and teaching. Additionally, developing other faithful leaders who take their growing passion for Christ to influence others occupies a central passion in my ministry.

- **What interests you most in coming to First Baptist Powell?**

I think what interests me most is being a part of a team of leaders alongside of a congregation who prioritizes the preaching and teaching of the word of God not as an end in itself but as a means to worship. In getting to know the elders, pastors, search committee, and other brothers and sisters from FBP, I am eager to be a part of the countless ways the revelation of God in Christ impacts all of life.

*Have questions for Perry? Join us on June 19 at 6:00 PM in the Main Worship Center for a Q&A. Can't attend? We will livestream the Q&A and post it afterwards.*

*Send us your questions for the Search Team or Perry via email: [stevenmcghee@fbcmail.org](mailto:stevenmcghee@fbcmail.org)*