

FIRST DALLAS DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE



CHRIS BROOKS

Ashley (wife), Ava (5), Cameron (3)

I was raised in Plano, Texas and attended First Baptist Church of Plano from the time I was about three years old. I am very proud of my parents, Jimmie Brooks and JoAnn Brooks, as I primarily attribute the progress that I have made thus far in life to their teaching, love, and guidance. As most parents of believing children,

mine also were instrumental in the eventual decision to change my eternal destiny. Our family attended church on a regular basis. I was familiar with many bible stories as a child; I also knew that God created and loved me very much.

As I grew older, I learned about sin and truly understood what role it played in my life. In the months leading up to my decision, I had been doing a lot of thinking

about my standing with God, although nothing seemed to push me into action. That all changed one fall Sunday night when I was nine years old. I felt something different and powerful moving within me during and after the evening church service. After determining that I really did understand what I was feeling, my mother led me in prayer to accept Christ as my savior. The power of that moment is still vivid in my heart and mind. Soon after, I was baptized. My life has changed forever.

Over the past couple of years, I have felt God calling me to step up my commitment to him. "To whom much has been given, much shall be required" is a verse that passes through my mind almost daily. My family and I have been extremely blessed. I look forward to serving Him and professing the message of Jesus in a bold and deliberate manner.



JESSE CARREON

Janis Ruth (wife)

I was born and raised Catholic, and at a young age I left my parents' home to live at a Catholic priest's residence as a house boy. I then joined a Catholic seminary to study for the priesthood. After my second year, I was asked not to return and finished my high school education in public school. From

high school, I joined the USAF and after my service time, I spent two years at The University of Texas.

Between the time of my leaving the seminary and getting out of the USAF church, God and I had drifted far apart. My wife, Janis Ruth, a southern Baptist, and I were married in 1967. We did not wish to marry in each other's faiths so we

compromised and married in the Episcopal Church. The following years were not my most memorable. I was not a good father, husband or person; selfishness being my main trait.

I knew I wanted my children exposed to Christianity, and after looking around, my wife and I decided to send them to First Baptist Academy. Around 1983 they started asking to attend church. Finally, I relented and took them to a 6pm service. My intent was not to return to church, but to appease my daughters. Mid-way through the service, the choir started singing "Amazing Grace." I am not sure what happened, but a peace came unto me.

My return was not immediate, no thunder or lighting, but it was a major turning point in my life. The following years were a struggle for my return to Christ, two steps forward three back, lots of doubt, but I was determined not to turn loose of that saving rope – and I never have.





BUD CROW

Wanda (wife)

The summer after I got out of college I was watching a Billy Graham crusade on television and that is when I accepted the Lord as my Savior and began following Him. I moved to Dallas and joined First Baptist and was baptized by Dr. Criswell as a “Second Miler.”

Here at FBD I found a new love for Church attendance and hearing the Word preached. I found the music uplifting and encouraging. I also found Sunday School a great place to dig deeper into scripture and learn what the Bible has to say about living the Christian life. I also made many Christian friends who have the same values, and I regularly see great examples of normal people living extraordinary lives through a close relationship with God.

As I walk with the Lord, something that has become more obvious to me is the linkage between obedience and blessings and also the linkage between disobedience and judgment. (Deut. 11:26-28)

When I read God’s promises and His warnings to His people I no longer see Scripture as a lot of “Thou shall nots”, but instead see advice on how to avoid the temptations and deceptions that Satan places in front of each of us; not commandants to limit our pleasure but commandants to protect us from loss and regret. Scripture tells us what God desires for us, and the more we are able to walk in His path the happier and more contented we will be.

Frankly, I don’t understand how people who don’t know the Lord have much happiness and joy in life, especially during a time of crisis. We as Christians have Someone who loves us, guides us, comforts us, strengthens us, and encourages us. I’m personally convinced that the happiest and most contented people on earth are the ones who have the closest walk with the Lord.



DAVID DUNTON*

Marti (wife), Bailey (13), Maddi (10)

I am fortunate to have grown up in a family where every member has a personal relationship with Christ. My parents taught me stories from the Bible and focused much of what we did on Jesus. At Christmas we had a “Happy Birthday, Jesus” cake.

I recall my mother on her knees each morning praying in a whisper in a darkened room and watching her carry around index cards memorizing scripture.

At the age of nine I realized I needed my own relationship with Jesus. Following a crusade at the football stadium in Midland, I prayed to receive Christ at the foot of my parents’ bed. After completing a “new Christians” class, I was baptized by my pastor and began my own Christian walk.

Rather than feeling like my testimony is lacking action and color, I have always been thankful for the Christian heritage that I have. I was spared some of the scars that can come in life that would affect not only me but those around me. My sins before and after my conversion are as repulsive to God as any other sins that society often considers worse. It is not my goal for my girls to “be” Baptist but rather to be seekers of God’s heart. My goal is to model for my girls an everyday life lived consistently that points others to Jesus, His love and saving grace.



SCOTT GORDON

Penni (wife), Piper (3), Parker (18 months)

I was active in the church my entire life, and was convicted by the Lord at a week-long revival. As a child around the age of eight, I accepted the invitation and walked the aisle. I followed that decision by baptism shortly thereafter.

As a senior in high school, I made a decision to leave the Lord. He allowed me to do so with his hand on my every step. At the age of 36 the Lord began to call me back home. There is no mistaking when the Lord calls, He made it clear me, you either choose me or you choose the world.

My sweet mother made a suggestion one evening regarding changes at First Dallas. She mentioned they had a new pastor and a new singles minister, and I should try it. My first Sunday at First Dallas, I knew I was home. Within six months I asked the Lord to forgive me for leaving Him. I told Him I wanted to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and return home, and he could have my life. Soon he gave me a ministry to serve in. While in Stephen Ministry, I was introduced to scripture memorization. The scripture that is so easily remembered and frequently used today is Philippians 4:6-7. “Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to the Lord, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and minds in Christ Jesus.” It is good to be home walking with my Heavenly Father.

Deacons who are being reinstated

MIKE MCCULLOUGH

DON WHORTON

* Ordained deacon from another Baptist church



JIM LANG

Bonnie (Wife), Kate, Terry, Christie, Angie;
12 Grandchildren

I was raised in a patriotic, but not necessarily Christian, home. My mother was a Christian, but my father was not, hence, we were inconsistent at church. My father was a moral and honest man of character, but he did not know the Lord until age 60.

Before my father died he met Dr. Bill Bright at Campus Crusade for Christ, and told me that I should look into what Dr. Bright had to say. At age 36, I received Christ on my knees in Dr. Bright's office. I also learned there that Bonnie was a new Christian (though she hadn't told me).

We returned to our home near San Francisco with a whole new purpose in life and began sharing with family, business associates, neighbors and other unsaved

church members. It was a glorious time as Bonnie and I began to concentrate on God, our marriage and family.

Then, following a trip to the Holy Land, I came home to legal challenges that would send shock waves through my family, business and friends for years. The charges were over business practices from years prior to becoming a Christian and I spent three years in prison. There I learned the value of humility and service. I had come to the end of myself.

Upon my release, Christian men immediately helped me get back on my feet and into business. Soon Bonnie and I began volunteering with the Bill Glass Prison Ministry, and two years later I became the Executive Director, serving there for more than ten years. We have been members at First Baptist Dallas for 16 years, now.



CHRIS McNEILL

Amanda (wife), Jackson (7 months)

I grew up in a Christian home, and accepted Christ at a young age. My dad was a doctor in the U.S. Army, and throughout my life, I have learned that God is always faithful to provide. When I was sixteen, we moved to Nairobi, Kenya for two years. When it came time for me to apply to colleges, Ole

Miss was so impressed with my academic background and world experiences that they offered me a full scholarship sight unseen. The same thing occurred with my admittance to Harvard Law School, and then again when I accepted a job with a law firm in Dallas. In fact, the same thing happened with this church. I attended First Baptist Dallas the week after I moved to Dallas in June 2001 and joined at the end of that very same service because I felt God's presence in the church.

It may seem easy to place my faith in God's providence when he has provided for me so abundantly, and I don't necessarily have a response to that. I have been

exceedingly blessed, and as a sinner do not deserve it, and receive it only through God's mercy and love and the sacrifice made by Christ for my sins.

One area in which I particularly place my faith in God is with my finances. Relatively early in my career, I began tithing based on my gross income. Any other giving, such as building funds and missions, are offerings on top of my tithe to the church's general budget. Since I began tithing in this manner, God has continued to bless my family financially, providing for all our needs and more. I'm not advocating prosperity preaching. I don't believe that if you give properly, God WILL bless you with more. He can and may take it all away at a moment's notice in accordance with His will. However, I do believe that if you are not a faithful steward with the blessings God gives you, He will not increase your blessing.

To sum everything up, I have learned to try my best today, and to trust in the Lord for tomorrow. Everything is in His hands ultimately. I am thankful for the opportunity and ability to serve God, and pray that as I continue to do so God will grant me spiritual wisdom and maturity and that I may grow closer to Him.



HENRY M. MORRIS, III*

Jan (wife), Henry IV, Scotta Latka; 9 grandchildren

Having been given the privilege of being born into a godly home, I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ personally at six years of age.

Sometime during my twelfth year, I was driven by a strong conviction to dedicate my life to ministry.

I was not aware then what I might "do," but I was convinced that God wanted to do something "special" with me.

That calling has manifested itself in many ways over the many years since. I have been paid and unpaid, full and part-time, Co-Pastor, Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Interim Pastor, Adjunct Pastor, Bible Teacher, College

Professor, Teaching Elder, Deacon, worker, volunteer, layman, businessman, and on every committee imaginable. I currently serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research.

I have earned a BA, MDiv, and DMin in pastoral studies, systematic theology, and Biblical research methods. I hold a MBA from Pepperdine University in the Presidents and Key Executives school focusing on executive management and strategic planning.

In all and through all, I have never doubted my gifts nor my calling. God has greatly blessed and immeasurably enriched my life. I am content. Whatever He may specifically direct me to do in the years that I have left until He comes or until He takes me home, I will always have as my "first love" the teaching, preaching, living, modeling, and glorifying of the Word of God which He has "magnified above all" His name (Psalm 138:2).



COLLIN POAGE

Stephanie (wife), Avery (3), Julia (1)

As a child who was brought up in a Christian home, I was exposed to the Gospel at a young age. My parents and Sunday School teachers took every opportunity to teach me about God's love, sin, and heaven and hell.

One day I knew that I wanted to accept this amazing, free gift of Salvation. The night I prayed with my

parents, as I laid in bed, I knew a change had occurred and I felt a sense of assurance that I now belonged to Him.

A few years later my family moved to Dallas and joined First Baptist Church. As a ten year old, I participated in almost every activity offered including Children's Choir,

Junior Camp, Training Union, Bible Drill and more. While in Elementary School, I felt the pull of the Lord to follow His command of Believer's Baptism and was baptized in our Baptistery on my Father's birthday.

The Lord continues to teach me more and more about His character. Specifically, through the completion of an extensive scripture memory program, I have been completely amazed at the consistent power of His Word. Through this and other programs, First Baptist has been a great source of joy, teaching, ministry, and community for me and my family. I am so grateful to be part of a body of like-minded believers, and am proud to raise my children in such an environment.



TODD SCOTT

Rebecca (wife), Wil (6), Ben (3), Ava (2), Clara (10 months)

I was born into a Christian family and raised at First Baptist Dallas. When I was nine years old, I felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit and placed my trust in Jesus Christ. I believe that was the moment of my salvation, although much of my life afterward did not reflect the change that happened that night.

In 1987, I was driving my family's vehicle on vacation when we were in a serious accident that resulted in the death of my grandfather and serious injury of my grandmother. In the years following the wreck, I grew increasingly distant from God. Life apart from God was lonely, unfulfilling, and ultimately self-destructive.

Throughout that time in my life, however, I now know there were people praying for me. As a result of those prayers, I believe, my heart was eventually drawn back to my Savior and Redeemer.

Sometime in 1998, my brother and I decided to go come back to First Dallas and I was challenged to grow, forsake sin strongholds in my life, seek holiness, and stand up for Christ's sake.

The best day-to-day reminder to me that I am truly His, forgiven and accepted, is that He would provide such a godly and beautiful woman, Rebecca, to be my wife.

2010 ACTIVE DEACONS

Chairman: David Brewer Vice-Chairman: John Thomas Secretary: Matthew Elias

Allen, Sr., Eugene ('66)	Clements, Dick ('71)	Gibson, Gene ('85)	Lockhart, Jim ('91)	Robinson, Jeff ('96)	Usrey, David ('91)
Anderson, Ron (09)	Coates, Dale ('80)	Gordon, Scott ('10)	Lovvorn, Mark ('84)	Rodriguez, David (09)	Vallabhan, Ravi ('06)
Arnold, Daniel ('80)	Collins, Charles ('96)	Halcomb, Jerry L. ('76)	Madeley, Paul ('81)	Rogers, Bill ('98)	Vanderslice, John ('84)
Arnold, David ('75)	Crossman, Steve (09)	Hand, Barry ('01)	Magers, Mike ('87)	Schmitt, Allan	Vick, Dale ('08)
Baker, Scott (09)	Crow, Bud ('10)	Hanson, Bill ('62)	Martin, Fred ('89)	Scott, Todd ('10)	Volbeda, Michael (09)
Beazley, Robert ('75)	Cummins, Roddy ('89)	Hargrove, Alan ('87/08)	McCullough, Mike ('64)	Sewell, Glenn ('00)	Wade, Jim ('91)
Bentley, Clarence ('56)	Dodgen, Jr. Allen ('74)	Hayes, Daniel (09)	McNeill, Chris ('10)	Shanahan, Ralph ('85)	Waite, Jerry ('65)
Berry, Burt ('81)	Donaldson, Gordon (09)	Hearon, Kyle ('91)	Metcalfe, Don ('75)	Shoemake, Robert ('06)	Wallace, Chris (08)
Brady, Jack ('63)	Dorough, Tom ('82)	Horner, Andy ('65)	Morris, Henry III ('10)	Shoemate, Jack (09)	Wallis, Gerald ('98)
Brewer, David ('96)	Dorough, John ('05)	Humphrey, Charles ('66)	Mulkey, Wayne (09)	Skinner, Jim ('85)	Wang, Peter ('01)
Brooks, Chris ('10)	Dunkin, Jim ('96)	Hunt, Doug ('02)	Naramore, Bill (09)	Smith, Doug ('82)	Whorton, Don ('74)
Brophey, Mike ('00)	Dunton, David ('10)	Hunter, Troy ('72)	Niemeyer, Greg ('98)	Smith, Jack ('77)	Wicker, David ('60)
Brown, Richard ('87)	Easterling, DeWitt ('70)	Johnson, Dwight ('02)	Noah, Terry ('95)	Spurlock, Keith ('06)	Will, Robert ('98)
Brown, Ron ('89)	Edwards, Bill ('98)	Johnson, Ivan ('06)	Oates, Charles ('00)	Stephenson, Scott ('97)	Willmon, Jim (09)
Bryant, Marc ('01)	Eklund, Kirk ('01)	Johnson, Wes ('74)	Patterson, Drake ('71)	Stiles, Jay ('96)	Wilpitz, Scott ('87)
Bryant, Mike ('84)	Elias, Matthew ('98)	Jones, Kent ('01)	Pearson, Dan ('98)	Stohner, Ken ('85)	Wilpitz, Wayne ('76)
Bullard, Jack ('96)	Erwin, Jim ('64)	Just, Brad ('04)	Peterson, Jr., Sam (09)	Taylor, David ('64)('09)	Woodward, Alson ('77)
Burks, Michael ('08)	Ewing, David ('00)	Kelly, Larry ('87)	Pliker, Randall ('91)	Thomas, John ('91)	Yates, Ed ('60)
Burnham, Eugene ('01)	Farish, Phil ('96)	Kendall, Gary (09)	Poage, Collin ('10)	Tippie, Ken ('85)	York, Dennis ('72)
Byrum, Alex (09)	Faulhaber, Keith ('96)	Kendrick, Dick ('89)	Pokladnik, Milton ('82)	Treadway, Lee Roy ('81)	Zala, Bachu ('88)
Campbell, Robby ('66)	Flagg, Merle ('70)	Knox, Bob ('89)	Pulley, Ralph W. ('60)	Trotter, Ide ('89)	
Carreon, Jesse ('10)	Forester, Herschel ('62)	Lang, Jim ('10)	Ray, Johnny ('74)	Trull, Michael ('78)	
Chanslor, Don ('63)	Foster, Charles ('89)	Laycock, Royce ('81)	Riffe, Ron ('06)	Tucker, Charles ('77)	
Cherry, Wayne ('81)	Fox, Weldon ('66)	Leeds, DeWayne ('80)	Robinson, Douglas ('75)	Turner, Jerry ('05)	

Reception follows in the Atrium