

## **John F. Fast**

10981 Spanntown Rd.

Arrington, TN 37014

615-210-3155

[j.fast.60@gmail.com](mailto:j.fast.60@gmail.com)

### OBJECTIVE

---

Being convinced that the rural church is one of the least understood and most overlooked (and sadly often avoided) fields of ministry in America today, I desire to faithfully serve God and His people in a rural congregation long term. I know from personal experience that there are now many communities, and entire regions in which no Bible-believing church can be found. Therefore, to instruct God's hungry people in the glorious truths of His word (2 Tm 4:2), to encourage them in, and by God's grace, model a humble and submissive obedience to all His commands (1 Pt 1:2) and an unwavering trust in all His promises (Hb 10:23), to steadfast perseverance in His word (Hb 10:36), and to equip them for the work of service through the faithful, hermeneutically sound teaching and expository preaching of God's inerrant word, biblically based worship, and personal discipleship, so that God may be glorified through His church, would be a great privilege.

### BIOGRAPHY

---

I was born in Beloit, Wisconsin on January 19, 1960, and was raised in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Like many, I defected from the church during my college years. The Lord graciously brought me to a true saving knowledge of Himself at the age of 30, and I returned to the only religion I knew, the Lutheran Church. However, as the Lord grew me in true biblical knowledge, primarily through self-study and reading, I came to realize that I parted company with Lutheranism on many major points of doctrine. It was not until the Lord led us to a church, which at that time was faithful to the word of God, and came under the influence of expository teaching and biblical discipleship, that my spiritual growth began to accelerate. It was here that the thought of entering into pastoral ministry began to enter my mind. Along with this I was encouraged by the pastor and church leadership to consider pursuing full-time ministry; something I desired to do, but felt was not realistic at this stage of my life. I thought I could be content serving and teaching in my local church and contributing financially to the Lord's work. What I was doing was good, honorable, and fruitful work. However, after wrestling for about three years with an inward pressure to preach His word, the Lord's call to pastoral ministry was thrust upon me so strongly that it became overwhelming and irresistible. I could do nothing else. So, after much prayer, and with the full support of my family and church leadership, I sold our 30 year-old family business and enrolled in The Master's Seminary.

My wife Debbie and I have been married for thirty-six years, and the Lord has blessed us with six children. They are Rachel (28), Hannah (26), Joshua (23), Samuel (17), Abigail (13), and Isaiah (12). Prior to moving to California to attend The Master's Seminary, we have lived most of our lives in Triune, Tennessee, a small rural community twenty-five miles south of Nashville. My wife holds a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University, and since the birth of our first child Rachel, has been a full-time homemaker as well as home schooling all our children.

## EDUCATION

January 2007-May 2009 Master of Divinity (M.Div.), The Master's Seminary; Sun Valley, California. Graduated May 10, 2009 with High Honors.

1983- 1986 B. S. in Horticulture Science, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

1982 -1983 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. Transferred to Purdue University in the fall of 1983.

## MINISTRY/PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

May 2011 – Present, Pastor-Teacher of Hilltop Bible Church, a new church planting effort in the Murfreesboro, Tennessee area. Having seen from personal observation and experience that the Bible-belt is in desperate need of the Bible, and given the deplorably weak condition of the professing church in our nation, I have begun the process of establishing a church dedicated to equipping the saints for the work of service through the expositional preaching of Scripture (please see the article *Do We Really Need Another Church* on our church web site). We are currently meeting in a one-room school house where I preach once on Sunday, teach a Sunday morning Bible class, and a week-night Bible study. I also teach a weekly men's study and write in-depth studies on much neglected biblical doctrines. In 2015 I was asked to contribute to the GloryBooks blog, a ministry of Dr. Greg Harris, Professor of New Testament at The Master's Seminary, by writing a biweekly blog post and recording a few podcasts, which I did for almost two years. However, seeing a need for more teaching on much neglected and rejected doctrines, I have since turned to writing in-depth studies on these much ignored biblical doctrines. These studies are posted to our website [www.hilltopbiblechurch.org](http://www.hilltopbiblechurch.org) with the prayerful hope and believing expectation that the Lord in His providence will direct them to hungry souls and reach others with God's truths around the world.

Jan 2010-May 15, 2011, Pastor-Teacher of Community Bible Church of Holly Springs, Inman, South Carolina. As the sole pastor I had the privilege of preparing and preaching two Sunday sermons (morning and evening service), leading a Wednesday night prayer meeting, teaching two weekly discipleship classes for

men, regularly teaching Adult Sunday School, and providing the teaching for a monthly men's breakfast. I also had frequent opportunities to provide biblical counseling to both men and women on a number of issues. I implemented and oversaw the men's ministry and home fellowship ministry. I also wrote several pamphlets for distribution to the congregation addressing various doctrinal issues, particularly elements of the Charismatic Movement and the myth of the carnal Christian. I oversaw the revamping of the church's web site, the VBS program, and engaged in other outreach activities. The Lord gave us the immense privilege of seeing many of His dear saints come to a deeper, more accurate understanding of Scripture, resulting in a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

The church was only six years old when I was called to be their first full-time pastor, but after about a year into my ministry several issues came to light, both doctrinal and administrative, of which I was unaware when I first became the pastor. After much prayer and anguish of soul, and after seeking the counsel of other godly men more experienced than myself, I was brought to see the necessity, both for the good of my family and of the church that I should resign as its pastor. We still maintain a close relationship with many faithful saints from the church.

2008- May 2009 I taught and shepherded a home fellowship group of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California under the leadership of Pastor Jim Pile and Dr. John Street. Given the size of Grace Community Church, most of the one-on-one shepherding occurs in the home fellowship groups. I was also involved in *Abundant Comfort Ministry*, a ministry devoted to providing pastoral comfort and guidance to widows and widowers at Grace Community Church. I also filled the pulpit from time to time in various local churches.

2006-May 2009 Led, counseled, and disciplined a weekly men's Bible study. In early 2007 I taught an undergraduate class in Hermeneutics at The Master's College, substituting for the regular professor, Dr. Greg Harris, on one occasion.

1990-2006 Since my conversion, and prior to attending The Master's Seminary I was always very involved in our local church, either in teaching and/or leadership roles.

#### ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

1986-2006 Fast's Greenery, Inc., Arrington, Tennessee, President and owner. A family owned and operated retail/wholesale commercial greenhouse business, growing horticultural crops for the landscape, garden center, and floriculture industries. Responsibilities included everything associated with managing and operating a successful corporation with hundreds of loyal customers for over twenty years.

- 1983-1986 Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Horticulture Research Greenhouse. General labor/work study.
- 1984 Bellinger's Professional Grounds Maintenance, Lafayette, Indiana. Responsible for the grounds of a 65 acre Caterpillar Tractor manufacturing plant.
- 1981-1983 University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Horticulture Research Greenhouses. General labor/work study
- 1975-1981 Fast Greenery, Arrington, Tennessee. After the unexpected and sudden death of my father in 1979, I became responsible for the day to day operation of our family greenhouse business.

#### HOBBIES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

My favorite leisure activity is just spending time with my family. My next favorite activity is reading, especially theology, the Puritans, and the biographies of godly people who have sacrificed all their worldly pleasures and ambitions for the cause of Jesus Christ. I have always enjoyed woodworking, building, and working with my hands. In the greenhouse business, one learns to become a "jack of all trades," doing everything from carpentry, plumbing, and light electrical work. And, of course, I enjoy gardening.

#### REFERENCES – Others available upon request

Dr. David Harrell  
 Calvary Bible Church  
 5245 Highway 41-A  
 Joelton, TN 37080  
 615-746-7716  
[pastordave@cbctn.org](mailto:pastordave@cbctn.org)

Brian Swillum, Pastor-Teacher  
 Calvary Baptist Church  
 2000 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. N  
 Escanaba, MI 49809  
 906-786-6323  
[swillum@gmail.com](mailto:swillum@gmail.com)

Jay Cothren, M.Div. TMS 2009  
 1716 Powell Run Cove  
 Collierville, TN 38017  
 901-497-6069  
[jaycothren@yahoo.com](mailto:jaycothren@yahoo.com)

#### ORDINATION

Ordained by Community Bible Church, Nashville, Tennessee, December 19, 2009. This church has since embraced the error so prevalent today, that of antinomianism, and both the church and pastor (a graduate of TMS), have been removed from The Master's Seminary website.