

RESUME



Anton M. Van Straaten
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Biographical Summary:

Anton's experience, and gifts are diverse and rich, and has made him a gracious and versatile pastor who desires to nurture and guide Christ's people by *teaching* them the Word of Christ but also to *disciple* them like a shepherd. He desires to love, lead and protect the people placed in his care. His aspirations are not just for numerical growth but also for the spiritual growth of the saints. As "under shepherd" of the Chief Shepherd, he endeavors to shepherd, and teach the teachers (1 Peter 5:2-4; 2 Timothy 2:2). His passion is to wholeheartedly study, proclaim, and faithfully apply Christ's word (1 Corinthians 2:2), and to live in true obedience, and humility (Ephesians 4:24).

Shortly after his salvation he began teaching bible seminars, and later directed a **college and career ministry** at *Grace Fellowship, in Pretoria, South Africa*. Later, he moved to California to attend seminary, and Grace Community church. Following seminary graduation was called to be the administrator of *Grace Academy Classical School, and service as Director of Outreach—and—Assimilation at Grace Church of Napa Valley*. His first senior pastorate began in 2012, at *Orland EV. Free Church—multi-generational congregation established in 1912*. He faithfully led, nurtured, and equipped God's people until 2018. Currently he is discipleship pastor at Faith Evangelical Free Church, Grand Forks and further studying through the *Association for Certified Biblical Counselors*.

Anton has enjoyed the companionship of his wife Marietjie for 18 years, and his two children Naomi (15) and Olivia (13). They have resided in the United States of America since 2004, and call the US their home. Examples of sermons may be heard at, <https://youtu.be/Omzbx8rVijY?t=1944> well as a video sermon as guest preacher at <https://youtu.be/ajvOKooSO6E>.

EDUCATION

Graduate Studies

Master's Degree in Divinity

*The Master's University and Seminary,
Los Angeles, California*

2009

Accreditation

Western Association of
Schools and Colleges

Undergraduate Studies

Bachelor in Business Management

*Southern Business School
Johannesburg, SA*

2004

(Major: Marketing Management)

Accreditation

Department of Higher Education

Professional Development

Certified Biblical Counselor Association for Certified Biblical

Counselors.
(2020)

Diploma in Business Management

*Institute of Management,
Johannesburg, SA
1999*

Certificate in Successful Salesmanship

*Institute of Marketing Management
Johannesburg, SA
1995*

Certificate in Sales Management

*Institute of Marketing Management
Johannesburg, SA
1991*

Awards: Certificate of Academic Merit

High School Diploma

*Eldoraigne High School
Pretoria, SA
1986*

LEAD PASTOR EXPERIENCE

Faith Evangelical Free Church (2020— Present)

Job Title

Pastor of Discipleship

Responsibilities

- Preach gospel centered expository sermons on occasional Sundays
- Develop and coordinate school classes
- Administration of Bible Studies / Life-groups
- Conference, and seminar planning
- Discipleship counseling, and One-to-one discipleship

Emmanuel Fellowship (2018—2020)

Job Title

Interim Pastor

Responsibilities

Serving for the interim as shepherd of a fellowship of believers “Emmanuel Fellowship” — to see the saints flourish, and grow through grace while ministering healing and reconciliation through delivering expository sermons, discipleship, counseling, and shepherding.

Orland Ev Free Church (2012— 2018)

Job Title

Senior Pastor

Responsibilities

- Preach gospel expository sermons weekly including adult Sunday school classes
- Prayer meetings and personal prayer
- Pastoral counseling and personal discipleship
- Serve sacraments, matrimonial ceremonies, and visitations

- Shepherding functions include staff and ministry volunteers
- Provide leadership and vision for outreach and missions
- Chapel speaker /Camp speaker at local Christian school
- Leadership Training —“Ephesians 4:12 Leadership Academy”
- **Administration**
 - Annual vision casting, and event-planning
 - Annual budget process
 - Public relations and community outreach

Achievements

- Leadership Development Academy (est. 2015)
- Shepherding circles for the discipleship of the flock (est. 2013)
- High-school Ministry Group (est. 2014) —modernized youth facility
- Facilities improvement
- New webpage and social media pages (est. 2013)
- Revived *community outreach* programs Cowboy Sunday and Bright-light Homes (est. 2013)
- Redesigned *missions policy*, and drafted a biblical philosophy of missions in 2015.
- Conference Speaker —*Frontline Missions* Int. Thailand 2017
- Introduced fiscal management policies, and staff policies (est. 2013)
- Providence Christian School Chapel /Camp Speaker
2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017
- Updated media-presentation software & equipment for worship services (est. 2014)

OUTREACH PASTOR EXPERIENCE

Grace Academy / Grace Church of Napa Valley (2009-2012)

Job Title

Director of Outreach, Evangelism, and Education

Responsibilities

- Cast vision for *Grace Academy* board for a Classical Christian academy showing excellence in maintaining biblical standards for all students, parents and teachers
- *Curriculum* — formulation educational scope and sequence K—8; and the acquisition of classical resources
- *Fiscal planning*—setting annual budget, management of day to day expenses, oversee expenditures and acquisitions
- *Staff Oversight* — hiring and management oversight of all teachers, and teacher aids;
- *Community Outreach Campaigns* — responsible for public-relations, and advertisement campaigns
- *Teacher Training* — provided training for teachers in classical education, and spiritual disciplines

Achievements

- Christian school became economical viable in 2010
- Introduce Classical Training in 2010
- Deployed streamlined classical curriculum in 2011
- Inaugurated computer-center and library 2010
- Improved Grace Academy's public presentation by remodeling and building a strong public relations program 2011
- Built a highly motivated and unified team of teachers
- Incorporated the Biblical Counseling Center of Napa Valley in 2012
- Introduced novel methods for community outreach and evangelism at Napa-farmer's market 2011-2012

MISSIONS & OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

The Master's Academy International (2006-2009)

Job Title

Academic Intern

Responsibilities

- Source, organize, and acquire academic resources for faculty
- Communicate with the training institutes and seminaries in seventeen locations around the globe.

Achievements

- Introduced: Academic Journals & Periodicals Online: available to missionaries on the foreign field in 2005
- Managed project that provide theological books and Christian academic resources in electronic format to missionaries remote areas of the word
- Prayer Meetings / Prayer Support Letters
- Presentation at annual conferences

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Grace Fellowship: South Africa (2002-2004)

Job Title

Volunteer

Responsibilities

Provided and prepared weekly Bible teaching
Administration /organization / leadership for student group

Achievements

Establishment of a College & Career Ministry at Grace Fellowship December 2002

SECULAR WORK EXPERIENCE

The Scientific Group (2003 -2004)

Job Title

Account Representative

Responsibilities

Sales, Budgeting, and marketing / Introduction of medical products prescribed by specialists like gastroenterologist and internists.

Abbott Laboratories / Knoll Pharmaceutical (1998-2002)

Job Title

Specialist Account Representative

Responsibilities

Territory manager of all cardiologists, internists, and registered nurses. Provide technical product support hypertension, diabetes, and other metabolic diseases.

Wrights Millner Dental Suppliers (1988-1998)

Job Title:

Account Representative

Responsibilities

Service dentist and dental specialists in the sales and maintenance of dental equipment, and consumable products.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Business management skills, computer literacy — Web-page design; Apple OS X platforms, and Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, other editing suites for Apple Mac. Social media's usage in marketing, and public relations

THEOLOGICAL INTEREST

Reading and visiting websites /blogs — thecripplegate.com / 9marks.org / gty.org

OTHER INTERESTS

Travel, and exploring America; studying antiquities, read up on artifacts, and visiting museums.