

ANTHONY C. (TONY) GOMILLION

2803 Eagle Pass ❖ Mesquite, TX 75150 ❖ H 972.270.3380 ❖ C 214.392.1922 ❖ Email: govols93@sbcglobal.net



The Gomillions: Bethany (8), Melissa (39), Sarah (14), Tony (39) and Nathan (11)

MINISTRY PERSPECTIVE

My overarching ministry goal is to instill in others the desire and skills to know the Triune God as He is and make Him known – within their families and to the ends of the earth [Mark 12.33; Matt 28.19-20; Acts 1.8]. I agree with A. W. Tozer who said, “Worship is as pure or as base as the worshipper entertains high or low thoughts of God.” As our abiding sense of God’s grandeur grows, we begin to see life – not just church meetings – as an invitation to worship, to gladly offer our whole selves to Him through others as living sacrifices [Rom 12.1]. So, in concert with the Holy Spirit and fellow believers, I seek to passionately, creatively, and excellently employ every means available in making worldwide disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is at the core of God’s revelation to humanity and is the central figure of the Bible, God’s Spirit-inspired and inerrant Word [2 Cor 1.20; Heb 1.1-3; 2 Tim 3.16]. I work hard to understand God’s Word in its various contexts (grammatical, literary, historical, biblical, theological, etc.) so that my preaching, teaching, and ministries become what Philip Brooks referred to as “truth through personality.” I feel no more alive as a human being than when I am preaching and teaching God’s Word, both Old and New Testaments. Though I do not believe I have the spiritual gift of evangelism, I weave a clear presentation of God’s invitation to trust His Son into almost every sermon I preach. In my preaching, whether topical or verse-by-verse, I attempt to present biblical truths in a clear and

relevant way to enable a particular audience grasp and apply those truths in day-to-day life. As we delight ourselves in God and His Word, our desires become aligned with His and the Holy Spirit leads and transforms us into Christlikeness [Psa 37.4; Rom 8.29; 12.2].

Part of our transformation also occurs as we work side-by-side with other believers who possess a variety of gifts and passions. We get stretched, challenged, and encouraged while cooperating under Christ's headship [Prov 27.17; Heb 3.13; Eph 5.21]. I believe in a team approach to ministry, where each woman and man is empowered and accountable for serving (to the greatest extent possible) in his/her areas of gifting and passion. As Ephesians 4.12 states, one of my primary responsibilities as a pastor is to equip the saints to do the work of ministry; for we are all ministers of the gospel [1 Pet 4.10]. As much as I am able, I try to "lead the leaders" who will in turn inspire and equip others to serve.

I profoundly enjoy, and am energized by, pastoring – in all its forms. My overarching aim as a leader in my church, community, and family echoes 1 Corinthians 2.4-5: "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

PERSONAL CORE VALUES

- Integrity:* I say what I mean, mean what I say, and work to be the same guy, both in the dark and in the pulpit. My word and my reputation are very important to me.
- Purity:* I confess my sins to God daily, regularly share struggles with Melissa and an accountability partner, and have an internet filter/recorder on all my computers.
- Excellence:* I may not always be able to give *the* best, but I strive to always give *my* best. Doing everything heartily as unto the Lord [Col 3.23] is very important to me.
- Authenticity:* I aim to be vulnerable and "real." Not wanting to "put on airs," I strive to be my true self at all times in a way that encourages others to be secure and open as well.
- Humility:* Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 remind us that in God's design believers are connected one another and should not think of themselves too highly. Viewing myself in community with God and others, I believe we all have a unique, Spirit-enabled role to play in God's wondrous plan of redemption – with no role, gift, or person more important than another.
- Discipline:* Personal and spiritual disciplines are essential to a balanced, well-lived life. I pray for about 30 minutes each morning (often prompted by Kenneth Boa's *Handbook to Prayer*), offer numerous "spot prayers" throughout the day, and personally pray with each member of my family at night. I am also committed to the spiritual disciplines of tithing, solitude, silence, confession, worship, and occasional fasting. I also spend focused, one-on-one time with each member of my family, eat healthily, and exercise about five days per week.

PRIMARY GIFTS, STRENGTHS, AND WEAKNESSES

- Pastor/Teacher:* My giftedness as a communicator of God's Word has been affirmed by the Church, and I continue to grow in this area. I have been asked to preach or teach in virtually every church I have attended since childhood and have taught on a range of topics to diverse audiences.
- Leadership:* I have been singled out for leadership at many levels: high school band captain, senior class president, top Air Force ROTC cadet (UTK), cadet wing commander (USAF), company grade officer awards, deacon (Sumter Bible Church, SC), seminary awards, pastoral responsibilities, etc.
- Faith:* I have a deep and abiding confidence in God's person, plan and principles. When His goodness, grace, and power are in view, I see decisions as win-win. In gray areas, either I make the decision God prefers and He blesses that choice, or I err and He teaches me to avoid repeating that mistake.
- Administration:* I am a naturally organized person who is invigorated by the challenge of bringing order out of chaos. I tend to think in a linear (what-must-precede-what) manner and work well with others to shape a plan and make it happen.

- Service:* Though I am often asked to be “up front,” I am not a limelight-seeker and enjoy serving others in most any area – helping a widow clean a gutter, washing dishes at home, helping men build a shed, setting up audio and video equipment for a guest speaker, etc.
- Weaknesses:* Our Spirit-enabled strengths are most often our fleshly areas of struggle. My attention to detail and pursuit of excellence sometimes cause me to invest too much time in a given project. I have been accused more than once of being perfectionistic and “working too hard.” Also, I sometimes struggle to be patient with those who seem self-absorbed and unwilling to submit themselves to God or others, but God is softening my heart and helping me to become more merciful and compassionate. Additionally, my desire to understand a given issue’s process start to finish, as well as its “maintainability,” can cause me to get bogged down. Therefore, I try to surround myself with folks who see from different perspectives so we can together get off dead-center. Lastly, a hazard of my training and vocation, I sometimes have difficulty relaxing and soaking in God’s Word without studying, but God is helping me regain the simple joy of just being in His Word with Him.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- Childhood:* I was born and reared in Knoxville, TN. My father died when I was three years old and my mother remarried when I was ten. I have a half-brother, half-sister, full-blooded sister, and a step-brother.
- Conversion:* I became aware of my sinfulness before God at age eight, while attending Mount Olive Baptist Church in Knoxville. On the way home from church one Sunday, I confessed my sin and desire to trust Christ to my mother, who affirmed and prayed with me. The next Sunday I went forward in both children’s church and “big church” to publicly profess my faith in Jesus Christ. I gladly followed our Lord’s command and example of baptism shortly thereafter.
- Calling:* As I neared the end of my high school years and considered what I might do with my life, I seriously considered full-time vocational Christian ministry. Quite frankly, I wanted to pursue pastoral ministry but did not sense God’s call to do so. I don’t believe that desire alone constitutes a call, so I pursued a career in the military. During my six years of active Air Force service – through God’s Word, the Church, two Christian books (*Experiencing God* and *Preaching & Preachers*), and prayer – God affirmed my calling, and I have sensed His pleasure in my pastoral ministry for almost nine years now. While I appreciate all areas of Christian ministry – missions, academics, chaplaincy, etc. – my heart continues to beat strongest for the local church. After thorough examination by a board of godly pastors, elders, teachers, and lay-leaders, I was ordained to the gospel ministry on May 9, 2004.
- Marriage, Family & Interests:* My wife, Melissa, was born in Dothan, AL, and finished high school (shortly after her parents divorced) in Birmingham. God brought us together just before our senior year at the United States Air Force Academy. Married three days after graduation in 1993, we celebrated 16 years of marriage this past summer. As we model for our children and the world the relationship of Christ and the Church [Eph 5], God has given each of us an abiding sense of the importance of marriage and the permanence of our union. This conviction has steadied us through times of testing and has shaped how we process both daily and major life decisions. Melissa and I invest in each other regularly through times of sharing, marriage devotional readings, and couple’s prayer.
- Melissa served four years as an Air Force logistics officer, while I served six as a civil engineer. Melissa has been a homemaker since 1997; and with our three children now in grades 3, 6, and 9, she is beginning to explore what God intends for her in the next phase of our family’s life. Melissa has a rare hunger for God’s Word and is invigorated by plumbing Scripture’s depth with other ladies. She is right now enrolled in her first class at my alma mater, Dallas Theological Seminary. In addition to studying Scripture, Melissa enjoys fitness, camping, hiking, traveling, and reading. I enjoy fitness, wakeboarding, water skiing, fishing, camping, hiking, softball, playing trombone, quartet singing, and college athletics (especially University of Tennessee football!).

Our oldest daughter, Sarah, was born in North Dakota and is 14. She is a gifted, spirited, and focused young lady who enjoys swimming, orchestra (plays viola), water sports, shopping, movies, and networking with her friends. Nathan, 11, was born in South Carolina. He is a tender-hearted, fun-loving young man with a good sense of humor who enjoys fishing, computer games, swimming, model building, tinkering, and learning to play the cello. Our eight-year-old, Bethany, is the artist of the family. She likes most anything that sparkles and enjoys swimming, singing, dancing, coloring, computer games, friends, and is learning to play the guitar. While our children can be as selfish and impatient as any, many who spend time around them comment on their maturity, intelligence, politeness, and helpfulness. We very much enjoy them and are encouraged by how God is working in their lives.

FORMAL EDUCATION

Graduate: **DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
Master of Theology – May 2004
Emphasis: Pastoral Ministries/Leadership
Senior Paper: “The Biblical and Historical Support for Using Videocasting as a Local Church’s Primary Sermonic Medium”

Awards & Honors:

- J. Ellwood Evans Award (given to top pastoral ministries graduate), May 2004
- Graduation Honors (3.64 GPA), May 2004
- Carl and Constance Butz Scholarship, 2001-2002
- Nathan D. Maier Servant-Leadership Award and Scholarship, Bible Exposition Department, October 2001
- Chuck Swindoll Presidential Scholarship, 1999 - 2001

Undergraduate: **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering – June 1993

Awards & Honors:

- Third-highest (of 942 graduates) cumulative military performance average
- Cadet Wing Commander (top military cadet of 4,000+), Fall 1992
- Group Sergeant Major (top-5 3rd-year cadet), Fall 1991
- Dean’s, Commandant’s, and Superintendent’s Lists (for performance above 3.0 average in respective areas), Fall 1989 – Spring 1993 (various semesters)

Future Education: I have no current plans to pursue additional formal education. I would be open to working toward a Doctorate of Ministry degree or PhD in preaching/communication if I believed either program would bless my family and church.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

My current ministry situation has not emphasized this area, but I have engaged in the following:

Emergence Conference (Austin, TX), October 2007

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement (Dallas, TX), Spring 2007

Stephen’s Ministry workshop (Dallas, TX), October 2006

Prepare/Enrich marriage counselor training (Dallas, TX), April 2005

Billy Graham “Metroplex Mission” counselor training (Dallas, TX), October 2002

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Redeemer Bible Church (Dallas, TX), Feb 2001 – present

Pastor for Ministry Development (~400 active attenders)

- supervise more than 15 volunteer leaders in the execution of our Adult Bible Fellowship (Sunday School) ministry to 200+ participants
- supervise more than a dozen volunteer leaders in our in-home small group ministry which serves 100+ people
- taught hundreds of Sunday morning lessons to youth, college & career, young adults, and multi-generational audiences on a diverse range of topics and texts
- preached more than 40 expository sermons on a wide range of texts and topics (*A sermon list and CDs/DVDs are available upon request.*)
- taught semester-long Wednesday night Bible study electives on topics such as: preparing to care for your small group, the basics of the Christian faith, church history, sanctification, spiritual disciplines, Mark, Romans, John's Upper Room Discourse, and how we got our Bible
- worked with 6-man volunteer leadership team to plan our men's prayer breakfasts, retreats, golf outings, service projects, widow care, etc.
- developed and oversaw midweek "Coffee House" for our growing college and career ministry for two years; transitioned leadership to students who now plan and execute themselves
- serving in the "associate pastor" role, regularly briefed elder and deacon boards on current and pertinent church issues, worked with finance committee to develop and monitor budget, served as staff liaison to advise missions leadership team concerning our 20+ foreign missionaries; performed innumerable hospital and shut-in visitations, congregant counselings, pre-marital counselings, benevolence assistances, etc.

Miscellaneous Ministries, July 1999 – present

- led two short-term missions trips to Hungary, Serbia, and Germany
- administered Communion several times and conducted two baptisms
- preached at Three Fountains Retirement Community (Dallas, TX) numerous times
- featured speaker at two week-long boys' summer camps (Dale Hollow Lake, TN)
- featured speaker at five weekend men's retreats
- officiated 7 weddings and 11 funerals (participated in dozens more)
- conducted "Toward a Growing Marriage" enrichment weekend
- played trombone in church orchestra and sang in numerous quartets
- taught five classes at Dallas Seminary in the Pastoral Ministry and Theology Departments
- taught two extension classes for Southwestern Theological Seminary

Local Church Involvement

- ***Sumter Bible Church (Sumter, SC), 1997-1999:*** 200-person church; member, deacon, pastoral search committee, choir member, and young adults Sunday school teacher
- ***Bethany Baptist Church (Grand Forks, ND), 1994-1996:*** 30-person church; member, youth Sunday School teacher, and Sunday School superintendent
- ***Mesa Hills Bible Church (Colorado Springs, CO), 1992-1993:*** 200-person church; student leader in college and career group
- ***Pulpit Rock Baptist Church (Colorado Springs, CO), 1991:*** 1000+ person church; member of college and career group
- ***United States Air Force Academy Chapel (Colorado Springs, CO), 1990:*** attender

- **Mount Olive Baptist Church (Knoxville, TN), 1976-1989:** member, adult choir member, youth leader, youth week pastor, youth choir member, Royal Ambassador, puppet ministry, and more

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Chief of Maintenance Engineering (Shaw AFB, SC), July 1996 – July 1999:** led 9 military and 9 civilian personnel in execution of in-house work for \$15M annual budget, 180 unit vehicle program, \$7M base energy and utility program, and \$10M government service contract program
- **Deputy Commander (Doha, Qatar), February – June 98:** led 130 engineers in support of 36 fighter aircraft and 1,100 deployed personnel during Operation Southern Watch
- **Commander, Readiness Flight (Grand Forks AFB, ND), February 1994 – June 1996:** led 9 military personnel in the organization, training and equipping of 275 airmen for worldwide deployment, as well as preparing 170 civilians for base sustainment operations
- **Project Manager (Grand Forks AFB, ND), June 1993 – February 1994:** managed \$11.2M engineering design program focused on renovating dormitories, upgrading family housing, and repairing airfield pavements

REFERENCES

Donald Geiger, Sr.

worked under/with for 8+ years
Senior Pastor (retired)
Redeemer Bible Church of Dallas

Dr. Mark Bailey

student of/under; father of colleague
President
Dallas Theological Seminary

Stu Howe

served with for 6+ years
Elder Board Chairman
Redeemer Bible Church of Dallas

Charlane Rack

church member; volunteer leader
Women's Fellowship Leader
Redeemer Bible Church of Dallas

LeEtta Detrich

church member and volunteer; my student
Greeter, Assimilation Team
Redeemer Bible Church of Dallas

Matthew Henke

friend and accountability partner
Pastor of Equipping
Grace Covenant Church of Austin, TX

Additional references available upon request.