

Profile of:

Dr. Paul S. Thompson
1001 E Oregon Rd.
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Biographical Sketch

Paul, the last of nine children, was born on January 29, 1939 on a small dairy farm in central Minnesota. At the age of nine, on July 16, 1948, he accepted Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and experienced a definite conversion. He graduated with honors from Long Prairie High School in 1957. While in seminary (1961) he met his wife Sue and they were married the following year. They have three children, Janet, John, Susan, (all graduates of Judson University), six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Formal Academic Training

Bachelor of Arts from Wheaton College in communication arts (1961)

Master of Divinity from Northern Seminary (1965)

Doctor of Ministry from Northern Seminary (1983)

Call to Ministry

At sixteen years of age, while attending a Bible Camp, Paul responded to the call of God for the ministry. He previously resisted that call for some time because all of his brothers and sisters followed the same calling and he wanted to be different. From that time forward, he knew God's definite direction for his life. The pastoral ministry was confirmed while in seminary.

Ministry Experience

April 1963 - July 1967 Business Administrator, Judson University, Elgin, IL
Responsibilities included: managing all business affairs. negotiating contracts and supervising construction of the first eight buildings, developing and landscaping of the 35 acre campus. In addition he oversaw all purchasing, managing maintenance personnel, students accounts, and financial aid to students.

July 1967 - July 1974 Pastor, First Baptist, Plymouth, MI
Plymouth was located between Ann Arbor and a rapidly expanding Detroit suburban area. The church was located in an older section of town and never grew beyond 130 in attendance for over one hundred years and needed relocation. A new facility was built in a new section of town to

house 400 in worship along with supporting classrooms, offices, and a gymnasium. The average attendance worship attendance grew from 130 to 452.

July 1974 - September 1977 Senior Pastor, Augusta KS

Augusta was a town of 7,000 fifteen miles East of Wichita, KS. The church needed a new vision as well as building expansion. Both were accomplished. The average worship attendance grew from 251 to 511. The staff expanded to include an associate and three support personnel.

September 1977 - May 1984 Senior Pastor, First Baptist, Shawnee, KS

Shawnee was an upper middle class suburb of Kansas City. The church was very divided and ready to split. The major challenge was to bring healing and a renewed vision. The average attendance grew from 339 to 996. The pastoral team grew to four full time pastors and five support staff. An office expansion was completed in 1982.

June 1984 - November 1986 Senior Pastor, First Baptist, Covina, CA

Covina was a part of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. This pastorate was a special assignment. At one time it was the leading church in giving to American Baptist missions but had become greatly divided and discouraged. Three of the staff had to resign due to unethical conduct. Healing came when people were lovingly confronted and a new vision emerged. A new organizational structure was adopted. The average attendance stabilized from 697 to 629 but unity was restored. The staff included 10 full pastors with an equal number of support staff.

November 1986 - September 1989 Senior Pastor, First Baptist, Charlotte, MI

Charlotte was a town of 16,000 near Lansing. The challenge of this ministry was to move them out of contentment to a new vision for growth. The average attendance grew from 372 to 566. The last Easter Sunday the attendance was 800.

September 1989 - November 2002 Senior Pastor, Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma Heights, OH

Parma Heights was a Southwestern suburb of Cleveland, OH. This too was a conflicted congregation due to the problem left by the previous pastor. The potential was great but the church needed a new vision and commitment to reach out. The community was 80 percent Roman Catholic. The leadership accepted the challenge and the church adopted a new organizational structure along with a new vision. Worship services grew from one to four with two major building expansions and renovations of \$3,500,000. Heartland Community Church in Medina, OH was started from PHBC. There were seven full time pastors and an equal number of support staff with an annual budget of \$2,500,000. The average attendance grew from 612 to 1197.

November 2002 - July 2006 Interim Director of Disciple Ministries of North American Baptist Conference

Responsibilities included; pastoral placement, church enrichment, church intervention, overseeing the youth and women's ministries and working with the Regional Ministers in the

United States and Canada. The decision was made to move the International Office from Oak Brook, IL to Sacramento, CA which ended the ministry with them.

May 2007 - September 2013 Administrative Pastor, The Chapel, St. Joseph, MI
St. Joseph is a community of 23,000 in Southwestern, MI located on the lake. It is the world headquarters of Whirlpool Corp. The Chapel is an Evangelical Free Church of about 900 in attendance. Responsibilities included; managing all financial operations, overseeing facilities, organizing senior's ministry, administering benevolent fund and filling the pulpit when needed.

September 2013 - present Volunteer in pastoral care at Calvary Church, Lancaster, PA
Areas of ministry include hospital calling, ministering to those on hospice care, coordinating 28 volunteers who call on 70 of Calvary's homebound members, and substitute teaching in ABF groups.

Reflections on Ministry

One can see the Lord's overall plan only upon reflection. It was clear that his plan for my life was to bring healing to conflicted ministries and revitalize their vision for impacting their communities with the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Other Areas of Ministry

Held evangelistic services for churches in Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, and California
Conference speaker for pastor's conferences and other church groups
Trustee of Judson University 1967 - 1992
Led 12 study tours to Israel and Mid East
Moderator of Great Lakes Assoc. of North American Baptist Conference
Chaired the Home Missions Commission of NABC
Served on Executive Committee of NABC
Served on the Exec. Com. for the Billy Graham Crusade in Cleveland, OH (1994) and was responsible for follow up with 26,000 decisions for Christ
Built seven homes for his family during the ministry

Sue's Ministry

Sue had a different ministry in each of our churches including women's ministry, teaching Sunday School, leading Pioneer Girls, and at Parma Heights, directing four handbell choirs. She enjoys quilting, sewing and gardening.