

Ministry Vision

Purpose: I hope to bring glory to God in every aspect of my life. I focus on helping others experience spiritual transformation into mature and multiplying disciples of Christ. See www.groben.com.

Function: I am a teacher. While a pastor has many duties, I focus on teaching God's Word, such that people experience spiritual growth and fulfillment walking with God.

I am a scholar. I seek to explain why God put a particular passage in the Bible, what message the human author intended, and how we can apply it in a dispensationally appropriate way.

I am a leader. I provide teaching, counsel, resources, encouragement, training, whatever I can, to empower others to grow in life and ministry.

Teaching: Orthodoxy: I stress the evangelical theological foundations in the text; I clarify any dispensational issues.

Style: I emphasize expository teaching. I teach classes with Socratic Dialogue; I interact even in a sermon. I structure teachings to inspire and edify. I provide devotions or handouts, use graphics and props, and mix in humor, life illustrations, and other information, to illuminate the biblical text. I think teaching should be deep yet accessible.

Themes: I expound on the biblical theme of being God's image bearers: finding our value in God's intention, accepting God's purpose for us, and understanding God's vision and methods of sanctifying us to become the people he designed us and saved us to be. I reveal techniques for biblical decision making, so we can walk in God's light and not stray into darkness.

Ministry: Multiplying Discipleship: I focus on motivating, edifying, and equipping every member to grow spiritually and be effective in evangelism and mentoring.

Teams: I believe in team building for ministry effectiveness. This starts with the leadership of the church, who must develop strong relationships and work well together.

Methods: I adapt methods to the circumstances and characteristics of the church, while favoring intentional mentoring, missional small groups, and ongoing leadership training.



Qualifications

Certification: Ordination from Northwest Bible Church [Dallas]; 2011

ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary; 2011

- Certification for Prepare-Enrich Counseling
- Certification as a Graduate Teacher from the Evangelical Training Association
- Member of the Evangelical Theological Society

Experience: Pastor of Church of the Open Bible; 2013-2017

- See next page for details

Preacher and Teacher; 1999-2020

- Currently interim preacher for Faith Bible Church
- Preached expository and topical sermons for ten churches of various styles and denominations
- Taught children, middle school students, high school students, young adults, Sunday School classes, and topical training classes

Mentor and Ministry Coach; 2003-2017

- Mentored and coached other adults into their own multiplying discipleship ministries

Small Group Trainer, Coach, Leader; 1999-2017

- Led a two-year Spiritual Formation couples small group for Dallas Theological Seminary
- Developed new training programs and coached small group leaders for three churches
- Led and taught small groups of adults for fifteen years, teenage boys for three years

Volunteer on Ministry Teams; 1997-2020

- Served on teams for strategic planning, communications, evangelism, nursery, children, youth, greeting/ushering, drama, curriculum, special events, and more
- Wrote church theology, sermon-coordinated small group curriculum, and personal devotions which inspired scores of people to begin Bible study in multiple churches

Giftedness: I believe my primary spiritual gift is teaching. Any other spiritual gifts are supportive. I believe in an empowerment leadership style: teaching, coaching, and encouraging others so they become more successful in their ministries and lives.



Pastoral Experience [Church of the Open Bible; Parkesburg, PA; 2013-2017]

Activities: I brought God's Word to people. I was the primary preacher. I taught classes and led small groups. I created curriculum, theological summaries, and learning tools. I mentored, coached, counseled, exhorted, and encouraged. I visited shut-ins and reached out to the lost. I led the church in observing the ordinances.

I led the ministry. I developed new teams, coordinated ministries, and provided training and encouragement. I led the elder team and prayed for our people. I planned the worship services. I volunteered as needed. I was CEO of the business side of the church, coordinated with other ministries, and represented the church in public.

Praises: People stepped out of their comfort zones to expand their ministry. One man overcame shyness to volunteer with youth, then lead activities, and later teach the Bible. Another, long stagnant, started taking care of his family and his health, got serious about Bible study and small group, learned to teach children, led discussions for men, and led a youth missions trip. A shy teenager joined the worship team, then acted in dramas, started to serve in the nursery, and went on domestic and international missions trips. These are just a few examples.



People made life decisions reflecting real spiritual growth. Two people who suffered greatly learned how to respond and endure in God's ways instead of the ways of the world. Six teenagers experienced water baptism. One teenager, never before interested in church, joined a youth program and asked to learn how to lead Bible studies. These are just a few examples.

We initiated missions trips. The church, having not gone on a missions trip for many years, started going on domestic and international missions trips, with six adults stepping up to lead.

We initiated a successful men's ministry. We developed a core group to be intentional about building relationships and studying God's Word in a small group, and to help and encourage each other in daily life. We developed a monthly breakfast, and used it to train men how to teach Bible studies. I coached a lay elder, who mentored two other men and led the group.

We initiated ongoing training for teachers of children and youth. They learned how to use scripture in context and correct curriculum which does not, how to structure a lesson for the type of venue and target audience, and how to engage students successfully.

We strengthened the volunteer teams. We developed several new teams. I provided coaching to the worship team and audio/visual team to improve relationships and effectiveness. 40% of our adults and teenagers became involved in nursery, children's, or youth ministry teaching.

Personal Details

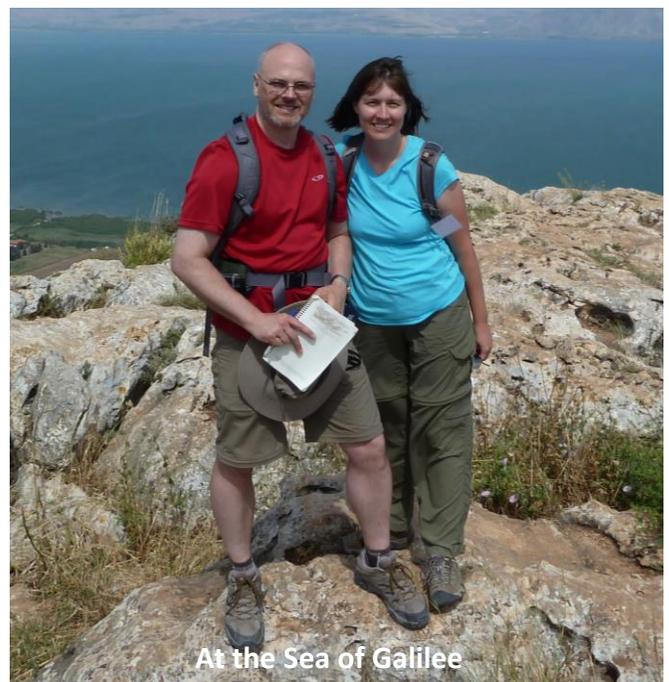
Family: LeeAnn and I were married in March of 2003. She is gifted to be the most merciful, caring, and kind person I know. She is loving and effective with all types of people. She is experienced at teaching and leading children, teenagers, and women, and has served on a variety of ministry teams. We love children, and were blessed with our first, Sofia Kalay, in May of 2017. Our extended family lives in Florida, New York, Connecticut, Indiana, and California.

History: I was born in 1966, in Utica [NY], and raised in a suburb. I attended New College in Sarasota [BA Economics], graduate school at Georgetown [MA Economics], and seminary at Dallas Theological Seminary [ThM]. I taught college economics as a teaching assistant or adjunct lecturer at four colleges over a twelve year period. For about fourteen years, I worked as a bank consultant, credit manager, and analyst. I helped edit two ministry books and was published several times in a local business journal. LeeAnn was born in 1976, outside of Ft. Wayne [IN]. She moved to Sarasota [FL] when she was ten. She graduated from the University of South Florida [BA Business] and works in software development.

Faith: LeeAnn came to faith through her church as a child, and increasingly learned to live out her faith. She is excited about our life of ministry. I talked to God as a child and read the red letters in my Bible so I could understand Jesus. When I was fifteen, I believed when a friend explained the gospel [particularly why Christ had to come and die]. I enjoyed a passion for God in high school, went astray as a young adult, but was humbled into a consecrating moment at age thirty. Since then, I have sought to live in complete submission to Christ.

Church: LeeAnn grew up in Baptist and Evangelical Bible churches. I received infant baptism in the Roman Catholic Church, attended a Presbyterian USA church in middle school, and tried Pentecostal churches in high school. After a decade of non-attendance, I was reintroduced to church by a Pentecostal friend, and received water baptism by immersion. After rejecting aspects of Pentecostal theology, I joined LeeAnn in attending an Evangelical seeker church for nine years. We later joined a dispensational Baptist church which asked for our help. In Dallas, we were members of Northwest Bible Church [Evangelical/Dispensational]. Since then, we have helped several Evangelical churches, including Church of the Open Bible [Evangelical/Dispensational]. Our ministry calling has grown as we served.

Hobbies: We enjoy reading, walking, watching movies and sports, travelling, conversing, gardening, playing with children and pets.



At the Sea of Galilee

References

I have listed people who have known me in various contexts, including seminary, ordination, and ministry. I can provide more references if necessary.

Bob McNabb

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Bob is the National Director for missions agency Launch Global. He was my mentor and I was his ministry assistant while he was pastor of small groups and missions at South Shore Community Church [Sarasota]. He earned MDiv and DMin degrees [the latter from Columbia School of Missions], planted two successful churches in Thailand, and wrote *Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World* [which I helped edit].

Michael Svigel

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Michael is Department Chair and Professor for Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He earned his ThM and PhD degrees at DTS and worked for Insight for Living before joining the staff of the seminary. He has written several books, including *Retro-Christianity* [which I helped edit].

Eric McNeil

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Eric is the pastor of Mandeville Bible Church. Prior to that he was a deacon and ministry intern at Park Cities Baptist Church [Dallas], and worked as an attorney. He and his wife were in the spiritual formation small group which LeeAnn and I led for the seminary, and during those two years he was my closest friend and accountability partner. He earned his ThM at Dallas Theological Seminary.

TJ Osborn

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TJ is an ordained associate pastor at Oak Lawn Bible Church. He earned his ThM at Dallas Theological Seminary, and previously worked as a youth pastor at multiple churches. He and his wife were in the spiritual formation small group which LeeAnn and I led for the seminary, and would be our daughter's guardians if we both were to die.

Brad Hairston

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Brad was the elder at Northwest Bible Church [Dallas] who oversaw my ordination process. For six months, we breakfasted together regularly while discussing theological and practical ministry issues. He works in business consulting.