

## PERSONAL BACKGROUND

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**Childhood:** I was born in and grew up nearby Connecticut until the age of 22. I grew up with 8 siblings in a mostly Christian home and saw the miraculous love and power of God in tangible ways through my parents. Both of my parents were Christians and raised us by doing their best to model a bible centered way of life. As a young boy I didn't understand the gospel even though I was somehow sure that God was real and He was at work in my parent's life. I rebelled as a teenager because I thought God and religion were boring and sinful and self-centered living looked much more promising and entertaining.

**Conversion:** While attending my parent's church during my teenage years, I was almost weekly confronted with the seriousness of sin, the need to make a personal decision to trust Jesus, the importance of sharing my faith, and a godly lifestyle. Much of that was declared and rarely explained though. I would ask Jesus "into my heart" not realizing what that really meant. In reality, I still relied on *my* own salvation prayer or *my* altar call responses rather than on the blood and righteousness of Jesus. Later in my teenage years around the age of 19 my friend invited me to go on a 3 day fast with him at a retreat center. While there, I was deeply moved with a sense of guilt and emptiness that had been building up until then. I cried out to God in desperation because I realized I would never be good enough to earn His favor and love. I felt like a failure as a Christian when in reality, I now doubt I was even one at all. It was then, while being out in the woods that God brought the words of the hymn "The Solid Rock" came to mind. I remember singing the following words over and over again as my faith was transferred from myself and put in Christ alone. *"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand."* True peace flooded my heart as I finally experienced peace with and acceptance by God through Christ alone.

**Calling:** Around that same time I was with some friends who would occasionally go street witnessing in New York City and invited me to come. After having read a few

apologetic books, I thought I was ready. I literally had people laugh in my face and glaze over with boredom as I attempted to share Christ with them, while my friend led 4 or 5 people to Christ in one day. I was discouraged and confused about what went wrong and ready to give up. My friend explained the story of D.L. Moody, his mighty infilling of the Spirit and what happened thereafter in his ministry... how millions were reached for Christ. I knew that was it. I needed God's Spirit to fill me. I was a new Christian, didn't understand what the Bible taught about the Holy Spirit, but was desperate for God's power upon me to reach lost people with the Gospel. I raced home as soon as we got back, went to my room, locked the door and prayed until I knew something happened. I begged God for His power and love in evangelism. After about an hour and a half, I was suddenly so overwhelmed with a sense of God's holiness and justice, my own sin and compromise that I repented for about the next 2 hours. It was then that God revealed to me afresh the work of Christ on the cross with new power and life. I was so overwhelmed by the love of God that I lied down on my bed worshipping and thanking Him for about the next three hours. Ministry and life changed radically after that evening.

I was soon convinced that my call was to make disciples for Christ. After a few years of serving at my church, street evangelism to college students, and volunteer preaching and soup kitchen ministry with the Salvation Army, it became increasingly clear that God had given me the gifts needed to reach people with the gospel and equip believers for lifestyle evangelism. Along with that were repeated fillings of God's Spirit (less dramatic than the first, but equally as necessary) to continue enabling me to grow and help others do the same. Preaching God's word became a burning desire that I could barely hold back. Over the next two summers, I spent 10 weeks on mission trips to Russia and shortly thereafter entered Mountainside Missionary Training Institute in Montana where again and again God made it clear of His call to the Gospel and full time Christian ministry. This was also confirmed through many of the people who knew me during that time.

**Family:** Jayme and I have been happily married almost 19 years and have five active sons Samuel (15) Caleb (13) Levi (11) and Jesse (9) and Micah (5). The 4 youngest are enrolled at Bangor Christian School. They are typical fun-loving boys who like video games, soccer, playing with nerf guns, swimming, bike riding, clay art, legos and cubing. They are a great source of joy to us.

**Jayme:** Jayme attended Gordon College graduating with a B.A. in Biblical History in 2001. In 1996 she served with Teen Missions International to Costa Rica for 3 months. Jayme's typical day consists of caring for our children and carting them around. However, she also teaches piano and voice lessons on the side. She has played the piano and led in vocals on various worship teams. She loves people, enjoys serving others and is a great listener. She has a heart for counseling hurting women and discipling them to know Christ and overcome their adversities.

We are eager to get established with a Gospel loving, elder led and family-oriented church that is serious about cultivating increasing intimacy with God in prayer, worship, and the word, and partnering with God and each other reaching people with the Gospel.