

# About the Authors



**Don Blackwell** was born in Charleston, S.C., where he obeyed the gospel in 1983. He and his wife of 20 years, Sheri, have three children: Macy (17), Lauren (12) and Brandon (11). Brother Blackwell is a veteran of the United States Air Force and a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies

from Southern Christian University and a Master of Arts in Human Services in Marriage and Family from Liberty University. He has done local work in Bankston, Ala., Statesville, N.C. and North Charleston, S.C. He formerly served as the director of broadcasting for Truth for the World in Duluth, Ga. Currently he preaches for the North Charleston Church of Christ and serves as the executive director of the Gospel Broadcasting Network. He is the host of the World Video Bible School DVD series, *The Truth About*.



**Dr. Garland Elkins** was born in Woodbury, Tenn., the son of Richard and Emma. His brother, Clark, was also a gospel preacher. Brother Elkins graduated from Freed-Hardeman College (now Freed-Hardeman University) in 1951. He also attended the University of Tennessee. In 2000 brother Elkins was awarded

the Doctor of ministry degree from Southern Christian University. He married the former Corinne Smith in 1949 and they have three daughters: Connie, the wife of Kenneth Miles and the mother of Olivia; Denise, the wife of Bill Healy and the mother of Stephanie and Shane; and Jan who is a community projects director for a TV station. Brother Elkins is eminently qualified to train preachers, having been proclaiming the gospel for over 60 years. He has served churches in Linden and Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Roanoke and Newport News, Va.; Getwell in Memphis, Tenn.; and Southaven, Miss. He joined the faculty of Memphis School

of Preaching in December, 1990 and presently also serves the church in Stanton, Tenn. He has preached in more than 32 states and in Nazareth, England, Northern Ireland, Philippines, India and Singapore. He was Freed-Hardeman College Alumnus of the year in 1981 and is not only an evangelist but is also well known as a lecturer, author and debater. His writings include the "Elkins-Ross Debate" (co-author), "The Savior's Way," Spiritual Sword lectureship volumes (co-director, co-editor, for 13 years), Power Lectureship volumes (two years). He was also co-editor of *Yokefellow*. He appeared on "Phil Donahue" (1984) and ably defended the Bible doctrine of discipline. Brother Elkins is in wide demand as a speaker. His contributions to church lectureships are legion and often he presides at a lectureships' open forums because of his extensive Bible knowledge. His debate with a Baptist, Ross, is a classic, as Elkins defended Mark 16:16 and Ross could not answer even that one verse. Brother Elkins teaches Bible, Debate class, and other courses. He travels extensively for the school as Dean of Public Relations at Memphis School of Preaching and has helped encourage many men to come and learn to preach.



**Gary Hampton** is the director of the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions in Knoxville, Tenn. He is the author of 18 books.

**Teresa Hampton** is an instructor for wives' classes at ETSPM. She speaks for ladies' days, retreats and lectureships and is the author of six books.



**Dr. William Hardy, Jr.** was born in Madison County, Tex., in 1957. He obeyed the Gospel of Christ at the age of eight and immediately began working in the church serving tables, leading prayers, songs, and was a very active member of

the church youth group that meets at North Tenneha in Tyler, Tex. He preached his first sermon at the age of 12 at the Church of Christ that meets at South Side of Midway, Tex. Brother Hardy has worked as youth minister, pulpit minister, evangelist and missionary over the past 40 years. Brother Hardy married Kathryn Phillips in 1980. They have five children, all of whom are active members of the Lord's church. Brother Hardy has preached in numerous Gospel Meetings and lectureships throughout the United States and Haiti. He and his wife wrote a book entitled "Christian Parenting Skills." He is the founder and CEO of Kidron Christian Camp, Inc., which is located on 120 acres just outside of Palestine, Tex. He is also founder and chief architect for building the WWJ-EPB Christian Camp in Midway, Tex., where many youth have been baptized. Currently he is the senior minister of the Church of Christ that meets at 1612 S. Jackson Street in Palestine, Tex.

evidences. In addition, he is a co-host on the television show "Think About It." Dr. Harrub also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver. He and his wife Melinda attend the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn. They have four children: Will (11), Reese (9), Claire (5), and Luke (3).



**Tommy Haynes** has been preaching for 35 years. He has preached in Texas and Oklahoma, and has been with the Central church in Moore, Okla., for the past 24 years. He graduated from Brown Trail School of Preaching and has conducted meetings in 10 states and in Brazil. He and his wife Kathy have three grown children, one of whom preaches, and three grandchildren.



**Dr. Keith Mosher, Sr.** has been married for 46 years to Dorothy and they have three children: Keith, Jr. (Cindy); Mark (Becky), and Mark's twin, Karen. Dorothy is retired from the United States Post Office and is the number one preacher's wife in the world! Keith, Jr. is a graduate of UT

Medical School and is in practice at Dyersburg, Tenn. Mark is a graduate of Memphis School of Preaching and Southern Christian University and is presently preaching for the church in Crossett, Ark. Five grandchildren grace the family: Catie, Cassie, Callie, and David, one grandson, James, died at the age of five months. Brother Mosher has served three churches fulltime: Lake Forest Church of Christ, Walls, Miss.; Gragg Avenue Church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn.; and the Southaven Church of Christ, Southaven, Miss. He has held meetings in 36 states and been in mission efforts in Botswana, Africa; Sidney, Australia; Jakarta; Indonesia; Taichung Taiwan; Klang, Malaysia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Murmansk, Russia seven times. Brother Mosher has preached since 1965 and is a 1975 graduate of Memphis School of Preaching. He holds B. A., M. A., and M.Th. degrees from Southern Christian University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Harding Graduate School of Religion. Brother Mosher's greatest joy in life is to try to be a faithful



**Dr. Brad Harrub** holds an earned Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Kentucky Wesleyan College, and an earned doctorate degree in anatomy and neurobiology from the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. He was listed in Who's Who Among Scientists and Researchers. He is the author of "Convicted: A Scientist Examines the Evidence for Christianity," "Heart of the Matter, Dissecting the Truth," and the coauthor of the books "The Truth About Human Origins," "Investigating Christian Evidences," "Matters of Life and Death," "Diamonds in the Rough: Nuggets of Truth from God's word" and has written many tracts and articles for brotherhood journals. He is a popular speaker on Christian evidences at lectureships, youth rallies, etc., in over 47 states and five different continents. He conducts over 40 "Truth About Origins" weekend seminars each year. In addition, he was an invited speaker to the International conference on Creationism, and he has appeared on the television show "Origins." Dr. Harrub has authored or co-authored numerous scientific publications in science journals and has done mission work in Russia, Ukraine, New Zealand, Ireland, Jamaica, and Nicaragua. Currently, Dr. Harrub serves as the Executive Director and cofounder of Focus Press and as co-editor of Think magazine, a monthly magazine on Christian

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gospel preacher after trying to be faithful Christian. The only glorying one can do is in the cross.



**Gale Nelson** has been preaching for over 20 years. He currently serves as the Minister of the Miami Gardens Church of Christ where he has served for 10 years. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Toledo and his Master of

Science in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. Gale has been happily married for 16 years to his wife Shauntell and they have four children: Gale Sayers Nelson II (age 13), Jordan Gabriel Nelson (age 11), Alexis Nicole Nelson (age 9), and Brandon Joshua Nelson (age 5). Gale currently serves on the National Board of Directors for Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes. Gale has taught and/or preached in Florida, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas and Virginia.



**Dr. Stafford North** has been teaching Bible and other subjects at Oklahoma Christian University since 1952. For 38 of those years he was also in the administration, serving for 20 years as executive vice president. For his more than 50 years at Oklahoma Christian and services to other universities in Oklahoma, he was elect-

ed to the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. Brother Stafford began preaching in 1948 and has been an elder at the Memorial Road Church of Christ since 1972. Stafford has written a number of books on religious topics such as "Unlocking Revelation," "Like a Thief in the Night," "Handbook on Church Doctrines," and "Evangelizing Your Community." He speaks frequently on lectureships and conducts many seminars on the work of elders, the work of teachers, and on various Bible topics. Stafford and his wife, Jo Anne, have four children, 10 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Jo Anne is active in jail ministry and in teaching elementary children.



## Dr. Philip D. Sanders

was born in 1951 in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Phil now lives in Edmond, Oklahoma. He married Jackie Dodgen in 1974, and they have four daughters: Christa, Chara, Tara and Laura; and seven grandchildren. Phil attended Oklahoma Christian College, earning a B. A. in Bible and Biblical Languages in 1974, Harding Graduate School of Religion,

earning a M. A. R. in Christian Doctrine in 1983, and Theological University of America, earning a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies in 1998. He is currently a speaker for "In Search of the Lord's Way," a nationally broadcasted television ministry of Edmond Church of Christ. He served the Concord Rd. Church of Christ, Brentwood, Tenn., for 13 years as minister, is a former assistant director and instructor at the Nashville School of Preaching and Biblical Studies, an instructor for Amridge University (formerly Southern Christian University) and the Theological University of America. Phil is the author of several books and is a frequent speaker at lectureships, gospel meetings and seminars.



## Bill Watkins

was born in Georgia and raised in Tennessee. He is the son of a gospel preacher (James Watkins) and his brother (Alan) is also a preacher. Bill married Beverly, the daughter of a preacher (Lynn Cook), and they have been married 37 years. They have five children—two boys (Jim and Michael) and three

girls (Tiffany, Angela, and Rachel)—and fifteen grandchildren. Bill was formally educated at Freed-Hardeman University, David Lipscomb University, Southern Christian University, and Florida International University. Bill feels he was really educated through growing up with three siblings; preaching at churches in Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas; learning from his parents and parents-in-law; observing his wife's willingness and wisdom; and attempting to raise five remarkable and remarkably different children. Bill has been one of the ministers of the Crieve Hall Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., since March 6, 2005. He loves being with family and working with the church. Preaching is not a career for Bill. Like being a husband and a father, it is his life-choice and joy.



**Dr. Dan Wheeler** is the youngest of five boys born to Bill and Margaret Wheeler in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Raised in the Central Church of Christ and encouraged by the elders throughout his childhood, he made the commitment in 1978 to serve fulltime in the ministry. He and

Grace (Wright) met at Alabama Christian College and married in 1979. Both being children of preachers, he considers her to be his best friend and his biggest asset in the Lord's work. She is a Bible teacher, elementary education coordinator, counselor to women and helper to him in visitation to hospitals, homes and funerals, and homemaker. They have three children: Nathan (married to Cheryl), Bobby and Janna (married to Logan Bethel). Nathan and Cheryl met at Freed-Hardeman University, served as missionaries in Cambodia, and they currently work with the Central Church of Christ in Winter Haven, Fla., where Nathan is the youth minister. They have two daughters, Lydia and Tabitha. Bobby taught English in Korea and is now teaching English in Iraq. Janna and Logan are members of Concord Street, where Logan is one of the song leaders. He has preached fulltime since 1982, serving churches in Missouri, Alabama and Florida. The Wheelers have been with Concord Street since 1999.



**Dr. Joe Wiley** has been president of Freed-Hardeman University since 2008. Prior to that role he was president of Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., and spent many years in various executive roles at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Claremore, Okla. Dr. Wiley was

previously a deacon and elder at Seventh and Beech Church of Christ in Durant, Okla., and traveled to China on three occasions (1985, 1986, 1987) and the country of Nicaragua once (2002) on mission trips. He is a Bible class teacher for adults and was the college-age Bible class teacher and education coordinator at Seventh and Beech Church of Christ. Dr. Wiley and his wife have two children and one grandchild. Dr. and Mrs. Wiley attend the Henderson Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn.