

## Raymond A. Harris

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### OBJECTIVE

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Seeking an opportunity to share the *Grace-centered* Gospel, to strengthen our mutual faith, and to help lead a church into greater love for God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and humanity.

### MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE

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Note: experiences that I consider personal achievements are in **bold**.

- Teaching** **Created Bible program and seminars teaching “how-to” study the Bible.**  
Integrated audio/visual teaching tools using Bible software, Microsoft PowerPoint.  
**Presented a study series on Covenant; Conducted small group study of Acts.**  
Bible studies: formal class setting, in-home, personal one-on-one.  
Conducted and emceed yearly youth and family camp.  
Taught youth classes from Elementary to University.  
Served as guest speaker at various congregations.
- Ministering** Provided marital conflict resolution; pre-marriage, marriage and family counseling.  
**Initiated a weekly prayer service.**  
Participated in Jubilee Christmas (a yearly interfaith project for disadvantaged families).  
Conducted weddings; memorial (funeral), graveside services.  
**Provided inmate counseling and spiritual guidance.**  
Visited members in hospitals, homebound, and nursing homes.  
Initiated weekend youth retreat; Conducted Kinder/First Grade youth camp class.
- Studying** **Conducted a one-year project detailing Bible history in Microsoft Excel.**  
Continually studying the Bible’s Near-Eastern words, concepts, and culture.  
**In-depth study of the New Testament’s use of the Old Testament.**
- Writing** Weekly minister’s article for church bulletin.  
Blog participation; **published a web series on Theology.**
- Leading** **Initiated a Sunday evening program with topic variety and class choices.**  
Participated in regular leadership meetings, and the church worship ministry program.  
**Mentored and tutored a “Timothy” in faith, study, and practice.**  
Reinvigorated the church pantry program.

### PERSONAL

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- Born:** August 30, 1972, Jacksonville, Arkansas
- Family:** Married July 25, 1992.  
Wife: Mary A. Harris, born Tooele, Utah  
Interests: Home School, Bible Study, Mentoring and Gardening.  
Active as a Bible School teacher, and Ladies’ events.  
Children: Christine Harris, July 17, 1994      Stephen Harris, May 16, 1996.
- Interests:**
- Mentoring, Bible Related Research Projects, Home School (English, Greek).
  - Recreational Outings, and Earning a Masters Degree in Theology.
  - Continuing my studies in the Hebrew and Greek Languages.
  - Furthering my understanding of the Hebraic Roots of Scripture.

## MINISTERIAL LOCATIONS

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***Website Ministry***

December 2003 – Present                      Faith and Conviction                      www.RaymondHarris.com

***Pulpit Minister***

February 2008 – November 2010              Washington Church of Christ              Washington, Indiana 47501

***Pulpit Minister***

July 2006 – December 2007                      Sheffield Church of Christ                      Sheffield, Texas 79781

## OTHER EMPLOYMENT

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***School Bus Driver***

February 2011 – Present                      North East ISD                      San Antonio, Texas

***Website Administrator***

December 2003 – Present                      Faith and Conviction                      www.RaymondHarris.com

***Software Developer***

August 1997 – July 2004                      Insurance Rating Systems                      Universal City, Texas

***Insurance Representative***

1993 – March 1997                      Allstate Insurance Agencies                      Austin, Texas

## EDUCATION

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***Bachelor of Bible Studies (Non-Accredited Equivalent)***

June 2006                      Southwest School of Bible Studies                      Austin, Texas

- Enrolled Full-Time: July 2004 – June 2006

***Bachelor of Business Administration***

December 1996                      Texas State University                      San Marcos, Texas

- Major – Computer Information Systems.

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

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While I was saved and baptized at thirteen, I have been on a diligent spiritual quest over the last ten years. I grew up in the church of Christ, participated in worship activities and youth functions, but as an adult I found myself personally upside down and turned around, so I rededicated myself to serving God; but then found myself confused and unable to find answers to questions about: doctrine, spirituality, worship and many other things.

With God's help I attended a non-accredited, full-time, two-year Bible Study program. Through that experience God simply primed my quest for understanding, and then He grew me in ways I never imagined. I confronted myself and what I believed, but God kindly and gently made my mind think clearly, my heart feel honestly, my spirit lively, and my body to breathe freely. For insight and examples, I have looked to leaders in my heritage, but also to leaders in other parts of Christianity, including Israelite (Messianic Jews) and Aramaic Christians.

I am extremely passionate about the truth and seek to make the complexity of life and the reality of God's answers known; doing so has produced beautiful fruit of faith and maturity for many. Personally, I like to present the Scriptures in a manner that reveals the challenges of humanity and faith, and I feel that God is maturing me into a theologian and is leading me to focus on helping the growth and maturity of Christians (Hebrews 6.1-3). Worship should be a time of praise and upliftment, but presentations should challenge the church to be more and remind the disciples of the "high calling of Christ" (Philippians 3.14). Mercy reigns supreme (James 2.13) and it is wonderful that grace and love cover a multitude of shortcomings (Romans 3.24; Peter 4.8).

## REFERENCES

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### Virgil Wininger

- Route Driver (former Elder)  
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### Kenneth Sutherland

- Long-term Friend  
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### Bill Mundy

- H&R Block Franchise Owner  
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Office Phone: 812.254.1041

### Jeff Frederick

- Itinerant Minister  
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Home Phone: 812.254.9367

### Lana Bartley

- Tax Associate  
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### Gay Christie

- Composer  
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### Jason Davis

- Mechanical Engineer  
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### Todd Deaver

- Minister, church of Christ  
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## MINISTERIAL DIRECTION (OVERVIEW)

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- The Great Commission (Matthew 28.19-20) has three components (go teach, baptize, and teach into maturity); it is my desire to teach all three; with my focus primarily on the third, knowing that when God helps the church through the minister (see next statement), individual disciples increase in number effectively helping each other to carry out the first two components of the Great Commission.
- Part of my responsibility is to encourage and build members into effective ministers for each other and the community (Eph. 4.11-12; 2 Tim. 2.2); giving confidence for relationship driven evangelism.
- Loving God with everything and loving others (Mark 12.30-31) is the core for the disciple and church.
- I consider myself sensitive to and desirous of being lead by the Spirit (Romans 8.14).
- It is my intent to be sensitive to the Bible's Near-Eastern cultural, historical, lingual, theological, and narrative contexts when studying and teaching. I do not want to take the Bible "out-of-context". I do my best to learn the original message and its intent then present it in a contemporary application.
- My aim is a teaching ministry; to reveal the *why* behind the *whats* – challenging us to become more.
- I am convinced that faith demands that we live in our culture, and not be afraid of it; therefore, news, pop-culture, philosophers and theologians are used to help bring the Bible's relevant message for today.
- Through continual study, God has provided the ability: to guide classes and discussions in an adaptive manner; to address the needs of those in attendance; and to present heartfelt, at a moment's notice (if needed), sermons and lessons.
- I want to be sensitive to the individual's culture, spiritual maturity and life condition.
- I would like to establish or incorporate into the educational system four classes: How-to study the Bible; Bible History; Covenant; and English. Experience has shown that when disciples have these classes they experience increased faith, improved stability, the personal ability to go in-depth into the Bible, and greater confidence to share their faith with others.
- I want to help plan church direction for one, three, five, ten and twenty years; I want to be part of the church, not just its minister.
- Please see "Ministry Philosophy" at [www.raymondharris.com](http://www.raymondharris.com) for more information.