

## K. Randel Everett

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### MINISTRY OBJECTIVES:

Dr. Everett's primary gifts are communication and visionary leadership. Serving as a pastor and seminary president in the nation's capital has given him a unique opportunity to observe the challenges facing the church in a multicultural pluralistic society. He has witnessed many of the Christ-followers from the emerging generation lose confidence in denominations and institutional Christianity. Churches struggle to communicate the good news of Christ to a world that appears skeptical yet continues to be deeply spiritual and search for true meaning in life. The church of North America no longer serves in the Acts 2 Jerusalem world where those who hear the gospel have a common heritage and faith background, but now exists in the Acts 17 community where there are multiple gods and cultures. Dr. Everett's commitment to historical Baptist values, his vast experience serving as pastor in diverse and significant churches, his world-view shaped through leadership roles in the Baptist World Alliance and his service in multiethnic congregations have equipped him to lead Texas Baptists to reach out to the changing world in relevant and creative ways while maintaining timeless biblical truths.

### MINISTRY FORMATION:

#### SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Randel Everett made a personal commitment to Christ as a young boy because of the Christian influence of his parents. They modeled and taught that Christ was to have first place in a person's life. His father recognized God's call to preach while he was hospitalized with tuberculosis. When his health allowed, his father and mother moved to Fort Worth with their three children (two other children would come later) where he completed his seminary training. Even though the educational, financial and ministry challenges must have been significant, the family was always full of joy, hope, encouragement and support. It isn't surprising that three of the sons would become pastors; another became a Baptist deacon and the daughter a public school teacher. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins also provided a context of love and trust in Christ.

Dr. Everett's wife Sheila has been an integral part of his ministry and growth as a Christian. She served as President of the Pastors' Wives in Arkansas, Baptist World Alliance committees and as an education specialist for college students and young adults in Arkansas, Texas and Virginia Baptist conventions. Her passion is for young adult learners. The dream for a Baptist seminary in the Washington D.C. community began with Sheila. She was the first employee of the school and would become the Dean of Student Affairs. Prayer has always been a commitment for Sheila. She led covenant groups for the Master's program at the Leland Center and has recently completed studies at the Shalem Institute in Washington D.C., in spiritual formation. Many others have shaped and continue to mentor and encourage Dr. Everett in his walk with Christ including numerous college and seminary professors; laypersons like Doc Jones, the Chairman of Deacons at First Baptist Church in Gonzales; and other pastors and mentors such as Dr. Jim Pleitz of Pensacola, Florida.

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### **TEXAS BAPTIST ROOTS**

Many of the significant life experiences that have shaped Dr. Everett happened in Texas. He spent his childhood in Fort Worth while his father attended Southwestern Seminary. He returned to Fort Worth for his own seminary training and met Sheila King, a fellow student, who would become his wife. After they were married in Dallas both Sheila and Randel joined the staff of First Baptist Church of Dallas where he served as Assistant Minister of Missions. His experience attempting to bridge the gap between an affluent downtown congregation and the multiple needs of the urban poor did much to shape Dr. Everett's philosophy of ministry. The historic First Baptist Church of Gonzales was his first fulltime pastorate. The church helped to shape and encourage the twenty-six year-old pastor and many of its members remain as friends for life. Dr. Everett left Gonzales to become the pastor of the Inglewood Baptist Church of Grand Prairie. Everett led over thirty Friendship Evangelism seminars in partnership with Texas Baptists while he was pastor of Inglewood. Three of the churches where he would serve as pastor were congregations that were deeply divided. By God's grace, he guided them to understand that unity comes when the church is united by a common Kingdom vision.

After serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Benton, Arkansas, Dr. Everett returned to Texas as pastor of the University Baptist Church of Fort Worth. Many of the denominational struggles were felt by this church that had forty to fifty seminary faculty and staff members as well as a number of seminary students. The church maintained a strong international ministry, a vibrant Arabic congregation and one of the strongest deaf ministries in the state.

Both children of the Everetts, Jeremy and Rachel, were born in San Antonio. Jeremy would return to Texas following college and attend Truett Seminary where he met and married a fellow student, Amy Miley, also the daughter of a Texas Baptist pastor and wife, Martus and Jeannie Miley. Upon their graduation from Truett they moved to San Antonio where they continue to work in a ministry with the urban poor. Their two sons, Lucas and Samuel, were born in the same San Antonio hospital where their dad was born.

Dr. Everett has maintained ties with Texas Baptists during these past twelve years in Virginia because of the unique relationship of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. For a couple of years he served with a few other Virginia Baptists in conversations with representatives of the BGCT in exploring partnership options. His involvement with the Baptist World Alliance has also allowed him to work closely with many Texas Baptist leaders.

### **BAPTIST HERITAGE**

Dr. Everett's father and two of his brothers are also Baptist pastors. His father, Kenneth Everett, served in Arkansas and Louisiana and retired about ten years ago from his position as Director of Missions for Northern Louisiana. Randel's brothers, Tim and Neil are pastors in Northern Louisiana.

All of Everett's formal educational experience came through Baptist institutions, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. Sheila earned her Master of Religious Education from Southwestern. Randel has always been active in the Baptist associations and state conventions where he served, including the Executive Committee in Texas and President of the Executive Committee in Arkansas. He also

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served as Chair of the Resolutions Committee and Chair of the Christian Life Committee in Arkansas, and the Budget Committee in Virginia.

Dr. Everett has had significant leadership opportunities through the Baptist World Alliance. He served as Chair of the Think Tank on Evangelism, Chair of the Mission and Evangelism Committee, Chair of the First Pastors' Stream in the 2000 Congress in Australia. He has also served on the program committee for ten years and the resolutions committee for the past two years. He helped the Baptist World Alliance to locate to Falls Church, Virginia, across the street from the Columbia Baptist Church where he was pastor. Many of the staff of the Baptist World Alliance were members of his congregation including the General Secretary, Denton Lotz.

Dr. Everett was also the founding president of the first accredited Baptist seminary in the nation's capital, the John Leland Center for Theological Studies, which is in partnership with the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

#### **PREACHING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Everett taught homiletics and leadership courses at the Leland Center and has led numerous preaching and leadership seminars. These have been passions of his throughout his ministry. His leadership philosophy has been influenced in part by Jim Collins' book, *Good to Great*, especially his chapters on Level Five Leadership, and the diagnostic questions in Chapter V, "The Hedgehog Concept." Dr. Everett believes that churches, institutions and organizations are unified when they pursue a clearly articulated mission statement that grows out of their passions and proficiencies. His experience leading a seminary from concept to full accreditation reflects his leadership abilities in vision casting, team building and development. The John Leland Center for Theological Studies received accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in an unprecedented time, eight years, because of a clearly articulated mission statement, the development of a highly effective staff and faculty, the recruitment of students who shared the vision and passion of the institution and strategic ministry partners including the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

#### **MULTICULTURALISM**

Today's pluralistic society offers significant opportunities and challenges for Texas Baptists. Dr. Everett has had the opportunity to live in rural, county seat, metropolitan and urban communities. He has served with some of the nation's poorest and also met with some of the nation's most powerful leaders in Washington. He has traveled and spoken in dozens of nations and lived in multiethnic neighborhoods. The county where he lived in Northern Virginia had over one hundred and fifty languages spoken in the homes of the children attending the public schools. Columbia Baptist Church had ten worship services each Sunday, including six in languages other than English. The church had one of the leading English as a Second Language (ESL) programs enrolling about two hundred fifty. Each semester the *Jesus* film would be shown to the students in about twenty languages. The church's day care had students from dozens of ethnic groups and numerous religious backgrounds. The Leland Center was multiethnic in its faculty, staff and students.

Dr. Everett would feel comfortable working with the many different ethnic groups who are a part of Texas Baptists and would challenge the BGCT to vigorously continue growth in this strategic ministry.

### **INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Dr. Everett's heritage, preparation and experiences in ministry have equipped him to provide leadership for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He is committed to the local church and believes the denomination exists to serve, encourage and provide resources for the local church. Everett feels at home with the multiple constituencies of the BGCT having served as a pastor and as an institutional president who looked to the state convention for resources and support. He is neither naïve nor complacent about the political and theological challenges Baptists have faced during these past thirty years. He continues to be very optimistic about the church and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. There has never been a greater opportunity and need for Texas Baptists to lead a globally integrated mission strategy and Dr. Everett is eager to participate in such a kingdom endeavor.

### **PERSONAL:**

Married to Sheila King in July, 1972 in Dallas, Texas

Sheila received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Alabama in 1970 and a Master of Religious Education from Southwestern Seminary in 1972. She has done post-graduate studies in Higher Education Administration at the University of Maryland and will complete a certification at the Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation of Washington, D.C. in July, 2007.

Two children: Jeremy and Rachel born in San Antonio, Texas

Jeremy, age 31, is married to Amy Miley of Houston, Texas. They have two sons, Lucas and Samuel. Jeremy and Amy are both graduates of Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas, and serve in ministry in San Antonio, Texas.

Rachel, age 28, is a doctoral student in philosophy at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee having completed all but the dissertation. Rachel married Eric Froom, April 16, 2007. They live in Big Pine Key, Florida.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Founding President, The John Leland Center for Theological Studies,  
Arlington, Virginia** 2001 - 2006  
Served as Acting President of the Leland Center 2000 - 2001  
Previously served as first chair of Board of Trustees 1998 - 2000
- Sheila and Randel led the original conversation in 1997 with three others to discuss the need for theological education from a Baptist perspective in the Washington, DC community. After extensive discussions with church leaders from DC and Northern Virginia, the Leland Center was born. Leland now has about 200 students in the diploma and masters programs from over a dozen nations. Leland received full accreditation from ATS in early 2006 and was invited to join the prestigious Washington Theological Consortium in July of 2006 as the only accredited Baptist seminary in the nation's capital since the nineteenth century. The faculty include professors from Argentina, Estonia, Ghana and the United States. Sheila is the retired Dean of Student Affairs and taught Spiritual Formation. Randel served as President and Professor of Homiletics. He also taught classes in leadership and evangelism. See the Leland website at [www.johnlelandcenter.edu](http://www.johnlelandcenter.edu).
- Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Newport News, Virginia** 2003 - Present  
In August of 2003, while serving as Interim Pastor of First Baptist, the church voted to enter into an agreement with the Leland Center asking Randel to become Senior Pastor while continuing as President of Leland. The church has become the host site for Leland Center in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. The church called a Hispanic pastor and completed a \$4 million building expansion in June of 2006.
- Senior Pastor of Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Virginia** 1996 - 2001  
Columbia is one of the largest Baptist churches in the DC metropolitan community and the Baptist General Association of Virginia with 3000 members. It is consistently one of the top ten churches in mission funding in the BGAV and an innovator in creative church ministries including English as a Second Language (ESL), Day Care, CrossLink International, Columbia Institute of Fine Arts and five language congregations in addition to English.
- Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida** 1992 - 1996  
FBC is one of the largest Baptist churches in Northwest Florida with over 5000 members. It is one of the leading churches in Florida missions giving and has been a pioneer in unique ministries such as Samaritan Hands, a benevolence ministry involving over 80 trained volunteer workers. Dr. Everett led the church to become actively involved in the Baptist World Alliance. He led a group of more than 100 from the FBC choir and orchestra

as guest choir for the BWA meeting in Sweden and in churches in Latvia and Russia. He also led BWA teams in Russia, Ukraine and Slovakia.

**Senior Pastor of University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas** 1989 -1992  
UBC, located across from Texas Christian University, has an effective ministry with the academic community with 40-50 professors from Southwestern Seminary and hundreds of seminary and college students as members of UBC.

**First Baptist Church, Benton, Arkansas** 1984 - 1988  
FBC experienced significant growth and facility expansion during this time. Dr. Everett served as Chaplain of the Arkansas House of Representatives for four years, President of the Executive Board of Arkansas Baptists, President of Main Street Benton, Chair of the Resolutions Committee and Chair of the Christian Life Committee for Arkansas Baptists. Sheila Everett served as President of the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Wives and President of the Arkansas Southwestern Alumni.

**Senior Pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas** 1979 - 1984  
**Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Gonzales, Texas** 1975 - 1979

**EDUCATION:**

Doctor of Divinity, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia 2001  
Doctor of Ministry, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary 1977  
Hebrew & Old Testament Grader for F.B. Huey  
Church and Proclamation Emphasis  
Master of Divinity, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary 1974  
Bachelor of Arts, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas 1971  
President of Sophomore Class, Vice-President of Senate,  
Tennis letterman, President of Beta Social Club

**DENOMINATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Moderator, Peninsula Baptist Association, 2007 - 2008  
Member, National Ministry Partners Study Committee, Baptist General  
Association of Virginia 2001  
Chair, Education and Evangelism Commission, Baptist World Alliance 2000 - 2005  
Chair, Pastors Conference, Baptist World Alliance, Melbourne, Australia 2000  
Member, Budget Committee, Baptist General Association of Virginia 1998 - 2001  
Member, Program Committee, Baptist World Alliance 1995 - 2005  
Chair, Think Tank on Education and Evangelism, Baptist World Alliance 1995 - 2000  
Member, Board of Trustees, Florida Baptist College 1994 - 1996  
President, Executive Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention 1988

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Chair, Christian Life Commission, Arkansas Baptist State Convention	1985 - 1987
Chair, Billy Graham Associate Crusade, Grand Prairie, Texas	1983
Member, Executive Board, Baptist General Convention of Texas	1978 - 1979
Chair, Billy Graham Associate Crusade, Gonzales, Texas	1978

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Member, Board of Directors, Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, Florida	1995 - 1996
Rotary (Pensacola and Gonzales)	
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	
Speaker, Tom Landry National Conference	1995
Fort Worth, Texas	1990 - 1992
Pensacola, Florida	1992 - 1996
Chair, Main Street, Benton, Arkansas	1987 - 1988
Chaplain, Arkansas House of Representatives	1984 - 1988

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:**

Served as Guest Chaplain United States Senate and House of Representatives on several occasions  
Frequent Bible teacher at the Pentagon Bible Study, Washington, DC, including Flag Officers Christmas event at Pentagon following 9/11 attack  
One of 12 religious leaders who met with President Bill Clinton upon his first election in 1992  
Met with President Clinton and BWA officers in Oval Office in 1996  
Attended Presidential Prayer Breakfast with 125 religious leaders at White House in 2000  
Led conference for FBI at Quantico on "Ministering to Families of First Responders"  
Featured speaker at Rotary District Meeting in NW Florida in 1996  
National Conference on Preaching, Ridgcrest National Assembly (SBC) in 1994  
"Preaching the Parables"  
Chapel speaker at a number of colleges and seminaries  
Preacher/Conference leader/Bible teacher in 17 different countries and numerous states  
Speaker at numerous service organizations including Rotary, Lions, Civitan  
Led over 30 evangelism conferences

**AUTHOR:**

"Identify the New Realities," <i>Leadership Magazine</i> , Summer 2000	2000
<i>Through the Bible: A Daily Study Guide</i>	
1995	
Ardara House Publishers	
<i>Pillars: The 10 Commandments ... Still Standing after Centuries of Change</i>	1994
Ardara Publishers	
Commentary for the <i>Baptist Standard</i> , weekly newsmagazine of Texas Baptists, Life and Work lesson series on I & II Samuel for July/Aug 1992	1992

**K. Randel Everett**  
**Vita**