

CHADWICK WALENGA

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

<p>Biography <i>A brief telling of the story that God has been telling in my life.</i></p> <p>Page 1</p>	<p>Ministry Experience <i>Highlights of some of the areas that I have had opportunity to serve in.</i></p> <p>Pages 2-3</p>	<p>Theology Statement <i>The foundation upon which I build ministry and life.</i></p> <p>Page 4</p>	<p>Contact & Reference Information <i>Resources for you to draw additional information in your search process.</i></p> <p>Page 5</p>	<p>The Back Page <i>Contact information and a letter from our family.</i></p> <p>Page 6</p>
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MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH GOD CAME

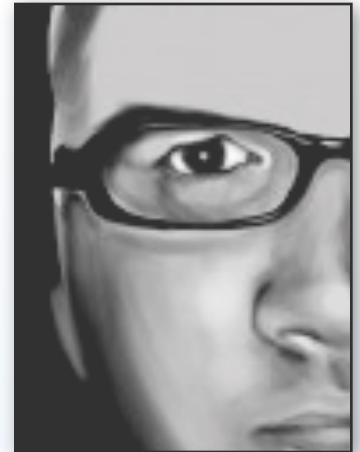
as a young boy while sitting outside looking up at the constellation Orion and asking the question, “Who is out there?” This question led me on a search for answers that

I am still on today. During my elementary years, I attended St. Mary’s school during the week, and a Baptist church on the weekends. Once in Middle School, I had no Christian environment to influence me, and my search for God led me down many different paths. Being a product of Generation X, I indulged in the banquet of beliefs that my culture laid out before me. I was perpetually full on ‘experience’, but lacking in ‘relationship’. That seems to be how God kept me running after Him, allowing me to chase after my heart’s desire through many destructive ways. Until one day, I reached the end of my rope and surrendered my search for Him to Him. I understood Salvation on a cold December day in 1997 when I accepted my natural brokenness and personal responsibility for sin. I prayed with my wife, and gave what little I had left of myself to Him.

Since then, the experience of a heart desperately in search of God has given me a heart that is sensitive for the lost. The reality of a deep relationship with God now drives me to encourage others to take their faith the next step in Christlikeness.

My call to ministry came in the winter of 1998 while attending Berkley Hills Wesleyan Church in Grand Rapids, MI. I had a great mentoring relationship with the Senior Pastor there at that time. Emily and I began getting our things in order for a move to college in Indiana during the late summer of 1999.

All the years of my life have been in search of Abba Father’s heart. That I have been given the opportunity now to share this journey with others as a pastor still causes me to just stand in awe of Him. He has given me my hearts desire. I look forward to communicating His heart with others as long as He is willing.



Born February 25, 1975 to Walter Christopher and Barbara Ann Walenga.

Married to Emily since 1995. Our family has grown from the two of us to a little tribe of six. Emily and I have four wonderful, unique children ranging in age from 9 to 2. We also have two Dachshunds named Jack and Frank.

EXPERIENCE

Fremont Wesleyan Church, 2002-present

Young Adult Director, Youth Ministry Director, Spiritual Formation Director, Missional Director

Ron Schmidt 231.924.3284

I was hired in to FWC as the Youth and Christian Education pastor. Currently, I am the pastor of Young Adults, Spiritual Formation and Missions. The church has been constantly in transition as we have nearly doubled in size from 225 to 450 in Sunday morning attendance in the 6 years I have been able to be here. This transition, and the multiple hats that I have always worn at FWC, have given me broad experience at multiple levels of Church Leadership. As a Church, we have spent the past five years organizing around the Purpose Driven Model. I developed much of the curriculum and material that we needed to take the church beyond 40 Days of Purpose, into a Purpose Driven Church. After several years of being apart of a team that got this Purpose Driven ministry model in place, I noticed that the programming at our church needed to be thinned out a bit. People were very busy at the church, and burn-out was everywhere. I began researching the North Pointe Church model and discovered a way to maintain our Purpose Driven foundation, but simplify the process. This next transition for ministry is where we are currently at.

I was able to accumulate many hours of counseling experience with members of the congregation and community. Preparing for sermons has become a joy for me, as I walk with God through His Word and discover the nuggets that He has for His people to absorb or wrestle with. Building relationships with leaders from the sacred and secular arenas of influence in our county have allowed me to be involved at multiple levels of programming designed to build the Kingdom in our community. From directing a community school outreach that impacted five school districts and brought 2,500 people together to hear the Gospel message, to leadership in our local Chamber of Commerce, having a presence of leadership in the broader community is not foreign to me. I am currently working on leadership development for the various ministries in our church, as well as the process for assimilating new people of the church into a discipleship process that will give them the connections they need to grow in fellowship and service at Fremont Wesleyan. When my schedule allowed it, I was able to lead several different worship bands. I play the guitar, banjo, drums, and can now sing pretty good.

Transitioning into the Young Adult Pastor was a welcomed challenge, because I have always enjoyed the openness and vulnerability of this age group when it comes to walking with, leading, and sometimes following these people in the 'discovery of their faith'. We are seeing some great momentum pick up as we are going to 'birth' additional small group of young adults in the near future to further provide them a place of transformation and belonging.

One of the biggest challenges for me at FWC has been taming my self-starting personality to fit appropriately into a constantly changing leadership structure. I have discovered that I am sensitive to the pulse of the congregation. When this sensitivity mixes with the tendency to begin blazing trails ahead of the pack, there would sometimes be the need to backtrack and get everybody on board. One of my most frustrating challenges was not always knowing where my accountability rested as we went from two members on staff, to nearly eight. Through this challenge I grew in the ability to deal with issues face-to-face in open dialogue.

My position as Missions pastor gave me the opportunity to say 'Yes' to God when Hurricane Katrina made it's impact on our nation. We were on the road with a team of relief workers just days after Katrina did her damage. This response turned into a six month commitment to a community in Alabama that took a big hit. Working with World Hope International, we were able to raise the funds to keep teams of 6-8 people on the road nearly every other week. I also facilitated a county wide drop-off point with a local gas station in an effort to send relief supplies by semi-truck to the Alabama area. Churches from multiple denominations were able to take place in this response, and World Hope International flew a representative to FWC in recognition of our effort.

Central Wesleyan Church, 2000-2002

Youth Ministry Director. Matthew Miller 765.552.6523

VanBuren Church of the Nazarene, 1999-2000

Youth Ministry Director.

Berkley Hills Wesleyan Church, 1998-1999

Youth Ministry Sponsor.

EXPERIENCE

Education

Spring Arbor University, 2008 - Present: Master of Spiritual Formation and Leadership

Indiana Wesleyan University, 1999-2002: Christian Ministries

I took an emphasis in Biblical Literature. I received several Honors Scholarships that were based upon the strengths that were seen by the staff of the Religion Department at the University. The 'a-ha' moment for my studies came during the junior year while taking two classes: Theology of Holiness and Impact of Science on Faith and Society. A merging of the topics of Holiness and Quantum Mechanics came at a time near the end of the semester, when all of us future pastors and theologians could not describe a simple, one-size-fits-all philosophy for Holiness. The lessons that I drew from Chaos Theory in Quantum Mechanics somehow made sense of the Holiness experience in life of a Christian, and I shared it with the class. Light-bulbs began to turn on all over the room, and I found my voice. It's at least worth sharing a cup of coffee over.

Jackson Community College, 1995: studied Music Theory

Continued the study of music theory. Participated in a jazz show choir called The Starfleet Ambassadors. I couldn't sing well, and later learned that during the performance, my microphone was turned all the way down. I did however have an incredibly beautiful dance partner who later became my wife.

Olivet College, 1993-1994: studied Music Therapy

I don't think I was ready for college the first time around. I did not have enough discipline to make it worth the college loans I had to pay off. Looking back, I have determined to prepare my own children as much as possible for these important years of their life so that they are not wandering as aimlessly as I was during this period of life.

Employment

Labor Ready Incorporated, 1997-1999 Roaming Assistant Manager Southern Michigan

Labor Ready Incorporated is a temporary employment agency that provided day labor for various businesses in the area. I was responsible for the operations of an office in Grand Rapids. The company would also send me to different offices throughout southern Michigan that were struggling with organizational efficiency. I would spend a week working with the staff of these offices to get them running as efficient as possible. I left this position to attend Indiana Wesleyan University.

Old Kent Bank and Trust, 1996-1997 Corporate Trust Specialist

Part of a team that oversaw and maintained the Stock and Bonds of the customers of Old Kent Bank. Distribution of stock dividends and payment of bonds that had matured were the main responsibilities here.

THEOLOGY STATEMENT

Narrative Theology

I believe God inspired the authors of Scripture by his Spirit to speak to all generations of believers, including us, today. God calls us to immerse ourselves in this authoritative narrative individually and communally to faithfully interpret and live out that story today as we are led by the Spirit of God.

In the beginning God created all things good. He was and always will be in a communal relationship with himself - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created us to be relational as well and marked us with an identity as his image bearers and with a missional calling to serve, care for, and cultivate the earth. God created humans in his image to live in fellowship with him, one another, our inner self, and creation. I recognize that through human sin, darkness and evil entered the story and are a part of the world, fracturing our relationships with God, others, ourselves, and creation.

I believe God did not abandon his creation to destruction and decay; rather he promised to restore this broken world. As part of this purpose, God chose a people, Abraham and his descendants, to represent him in the world. God promised to bless them as a nation so that through them all nations would be blessed. In time they became enslaved in Egypt and cried out to God because of their oppression. God heard their cry, and

he liberated them from their oppressor and brought them to Sinai where he gave them an identity and a mission as his treasured possession, a Kingdom of priests, a holy people. Throughout the story of Israel, God refuses to give up on his people despite their frequent acts of unfaithfulness to him.

God brought his people into the Promised Land. Their state of blessing from God was intimately bound to their calling to embody the living God to other nations. They made movement toward this missional calling, yet they disobeyed and allowed foreign gods into the land, overlooked the poor, and mistreated the foreigner. The prophetic voices that emerge from the Scriptures held the calling of Israel to the mirror of how they treated the oppressed and marginalized. Through the prophets, God's heart for the poor was made known, and we believe that God cares deeply for the marginalized and oppressed among us today.

In Israel's disobedience, they became indifferent and in turn irrelevant to the purposes to which God had called them. For a time, they were sent into exile; yet a hopeful remnant was always looking ahead with longing and hope to a renewed reign of God, where peace and justice would prevail.

I believe these longings found their fulfillment in Jesus the Messiah, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, mysteriously God in the flesh. Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted and to set captives free, proclaiming a new arrival of the Kingdom of God, bringing about a New Exodus, and restoring our fractured world. He and his message were rejected by many as he confronted the oppressive nature of the

religious elite and the empire of Rome. Yet his path of suffering, death, burial, and resurrection has brought hope to all creation. Jesus is our only hope for bringing reconciliation between God and humans. Through Jesus we have been forgiven and reconciled to God. God is now reconciling us to each other, ourselves, and creation.

For all who trust Jesus, the Spirit of God affirms as children of God, empowers with gifts, convicts, guides, comforts, counsels, and leads into truth through a communal life of worship and a missional expression of our faith. The church is a global and local expression of living out the way of Jesus through love, sacrifice, and healing as we embody the resurrected Christ, who lives in and through us, to a broken and hurting world.

I believe the day is coming when Jesus will return and judge the world, bringing an end to injustice and restoring all things to God's original intent. He will reclaim this world and rule forever. The earth's groaning will cease, and God will dwell with us here in a restored creation. On that day we will beat swords into tools for cultivating the earth, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, there will be no more death, and God will wipe away all our tears. Our relationships with God, others, ourselves, and creation will be whole. All will flourish as God intends. This is what we long for. This is what we hope for. And we have given our lives to living out that future reality now.

This Statement of Theology has been adopted from several sources that I stand by as the compass by which I approach the Bible and ministry.



REFERENCES

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THE BACK PAGE



The Walenga's

Thanks for taking the time to go through this portfolio. Hopefully it has given you the information you need to decide if a future conversation needs to take place.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of our references, or request additional ones.

On the website listed below, I have included audio and video samples of my preaching, as well as a video of our testimony.

From left to right in the picture above: Katherine (age 2), Emily, Natalie (age 9), Chadwick, Gabrielle (age 7) and Steven (age 4)

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