

Joseph D. Lombardi

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Dear Friends in Christ:

On May 30, 2010 I will complete my current assignment from the Lord as a “co-interim” pastor at a community Bible church here in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. I first met this congregation in February 2009, after they had experienced one devastating disappointment after another. My job was to help them heal, give them hope, and get them ready for their next pastor through the exposition of God’s Word. We believe this mission has been accomplished, as they eagerly await the arrival of their new pastor on June 1, 2010. During the past fifteen months I have seen myself as a servant of the Lord, as well as a servant of the leadership and followership of that church body. Even though the church was located a one-hour drive south of our home, my wife and I participated as much as possible in the life of the congregation. We visited most of the families in their homes, attended Sunday Bible School, participated in “family camp,” etc. I met weekly with my “co-interim,” and also met weekly with several men (church leaders) for prayer. We believe they are ready for the next chapter in the life of that church – which means that my wife, Win, and I are ready for the next chapter in ours. Perhaps our next assignment will be another interim ministry. We are seeking to know the mind and will of the Lord in this regard.

Let me briefly introduce myself to you . . . I have been in full-time ministry for almost thirty-eight years, ever since graduating from Wheaton College (IL) in 1972 with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. For nearly twenty-seven of those years I have been privileged to serve the Lord and His Church as a Senior Pastor. Indeed, during those twenty-seven years He has graced me with both a breadth and depth of ministry experience that has both stretched me and taught me much. I’ve served churches on both coasts (northeast and northwest), as well as in the midwest and the southwest, ranging in attendance from 100-600. In one church I began as a solo pastor. In another church there were four of us full-time pastors on staff. I’ve been to Israel twice, and to Moscow, Russia five times (to teach Bible Study Methods to the incoming students at the New Life Bible College), and to Mexico City, Mexico once to minister to a group of pastors. In one church we ministered to first generation immigrants from thirty-three different countries. In another one we started an outreach to Spanish-speaking people that grew into a large, flourishing congregation today. In one church we had a building program in which we doubled our space, but without having to borrow a penny. In another church I inherited a debt of several hundred thousand dollars, and saw to it that it was completely paid off and the church debt-free before I left. I give glory to God for all that He has done in me, for me, and through me during these years.

My last pastorate (2004-2008) was essentially a “turnaround” ministry. The Lord used us to turn it around in a most unusual way – through a merger with a much larger, like-minded church. Additionally, during the past four years I was also honored to help Dr. Earl Radmacher begin Grace Seminary of the Northwest in Salem, as well as a Bible school for laymen called Grace Bible Institute. Classes were held in the church I served. During the last six months of that pastoral ministry we were also able to broadcast a weekly, 30-minute program on a local, conservative talk radio station (1430 AM KYKN), called “Back to the Basics.”

Since the merger of my last church, June 15, 2008, I’ve had a few offers to consider in parachurch ministry. They have been “tempting,” and interesting, but the more I pray about them, the more I realize that my heart is really in local church ministry. I know that my primary spiritual gifts are preaching, teaching, and discernment (and perhaps my secondary gifts are leadership, wisdom and giving). It just seems to me that the best stewardship of these gifts is still in the context of the local church.

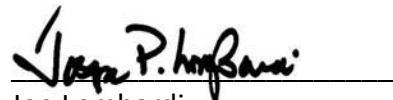
I have uploaded about four "sample" sermons to a site on the web that you can access at <http://www.sermonplayer.com/jplombardi>. I believe there are two from the Old Testament [Psalm 138, and Daniel 3], one from the New Testament [Revelation 3:14-22], and a doctrinal sermon on "The Eternal Security of the Believer" that is titled "The Tamper Proof Seal".

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything else you would like me to provide for you in order to help you get to know us and our ministry better. Any and all of the references I have listed on my resume may be contacted at any time. Additional references [especially from the interim-pastor ministry we just concluded will be provided if necessary upon request].

My wife, Win, and I read the Scripture and pray together every morning. We want to know and do God’s will and to finish well!

Thank you so much for your time, and have a BLESSED day.

STILL amazed by His grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe P. Lombardi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joe Lombardi

503.302.7254 (mobile)

Resume of Joseph P. Lombardi

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(four sermons for a sampling of my preaching)



PERSONAL

Background

Born: 15 November 1950
Raised: North Plainfield, New Jersey
Married: 23 June 1979
Spouse: Winifred ("Win") Cheryl (05 September 1959)
Children: James ("Jim") David (10 February 1984)
Timothy ("TJ") John (07 September 1986)

Conversion Experience

Born again November 1957
Baptized December 1962

Ordination

CBA June 1981 (Claim Street Baptist Church, Aurora, Illinois)

EDUCATION

College: Wheaton College (Illinois) 1972
Bachelor of Music Education
Seminary: Dallas Theological Seminary (Texas) 1978
Master of Arts in Biblical Studies

MINISTRY PERSPECTIVE

The passion, purpose and pursuit of my life is to exhaust my God-given ability and capacity to bring glory to Him. I believe that I have been blessed by God with the grace gifts of preaching, teaching and discernment, and have been called by God to declare His excellence through the ministry of the Word. Like Ezra of old, I have "set (my) heart" to study, obey and teach the Word of God. As a servant of the Lord and a steward of His Word, my goal has never been to build a great church, but to build great people, through careful, prayerful and faithful biblical exposition. I am convinced of the total supremacy and sufficiency of the Scriptures, the absolute freeness of God's grace, and the eventual accountability of all believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

FULL-TIME WORK/MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

11/2004 – 07/2008 Senior Pastor, North Salem Baptist Church (CBA)
Salem, Oregon (a “turnaround” ministry)

11/2000 - 05/2004 Senior Pastor, Lake Center Bible Church (IFCA)
Portage, Michigan (a “growing” ministry)

12/1992 - 10/2000 Senior Pastor, Grace Church (EFCA)
Desert Hot Springs, California (a “building” ministry)

04/1987 - 11/1992 Senior Pastor, Evangel Baptist Church (CBA)
Springfield, New Jersey (a “healing” ministry)

01/1983 - 03/1987 Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church (CBA)
Villa Park, Illinois (a “post-graduate learning” ministry)

I have also been a Bible/Music teacher at the Southfield Christian School, Southfield, MI (1972-1977) and the Aurora Christian School, Aurora, IL (1977-1978), and a Youth Pastor at the Claim Street Baptist Church, Aurora, IL (1978-1982). I have organized and hosted two tours of the Holy land (1998-1999), and for five years (1998-2002) I was privileged to teach a three-week “Bible Study Methods” course each fall at the New Life Bible College in Moscow, Russia. I have attended the Moody Bible Institute pastor’s conference for over twenty years, and have been active in the Grace Evangelical Society and the Free Grace Alliance. In 2006-07 I wrote the bylaws for and helped form the Fellowship of Free Grace Churches International. In 2007 I also had an instrumental part in helping Dr. Earl D. Radmacher start Grace Seminary of the Northwest, of which I am currently serving as Vice President, and the Grace Bible Institute in Salem, Oregon.

REFERENCES *(Additional references furnished upon request)*

Mr. Dennis Carden (Attendee of North Salem Baptist Church, Salem, Oregon)

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Dr. Steve Lewis (President, Rocky Mountain Bible College/Rocky Mountain Seminary)

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Rev. Jim Newman (Pastor, Crossroads EV Free Church, Exeter, California)

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Exeter, CA 93221
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(559) 240-1266 (Cell)
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Rev. Osvaldo Silveira (Former Associate at Grace Church, Desert Hot Springs, California)

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Island Lake, IL 60042
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My Personal Testimony

I believed in Jesus for everlasting life in the fall of 1957 while attending a "Good News Club" sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship. Although I was only seven years old at the time, I was old enough to understand that I was a sinner and needed a Savior. I also understood that apart from a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, I would be lost forever. I will never forget that day, more than five decades ago, when I told God that I was persuaded that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the Son of God, and that I was going to believe in His Son alone as the guarantor of my eternal destiny, based on His death and resurrection! It was - and still is - the most important event of my life.

My Call to Ministry

I was 12 years old when I went to my pastor and told him that I believed that God wanted me to be a preacher. However, it was almost twenty years later when the Lord finally confirmed that call to ministry. As a teenager I was always deeply interested in, and serious about spiritual things. However, while attending college I pursued the course that seemed most "natural" to me (and the one that everybody else expected me to pursue) - music education. Nevertheless, during my college days I was always desirous to be active in a local church, and gained years of invaluable experience in both music and youth ministry. Upon graduation from Wheaton College (1972) I began teaching music and Bible at a Christian day school (Southfield Christian School, Southfield, MI). During those early years of teaching at Southfield Christian School my love for teaching the Word of God increased to the point where I began to wonder if I should concentrate solely on Bible education. At this time in my life I was greatly influenced by Dr. George Slavin (who is now with the Lord), as well as another good friend and brother in the Lord, who encouraged me to attend Dallas Theological Seminary. Those years in Dallas only seemed to reaffirm in my own heart God's call and direction for my life. Some of my professors (Dr. Phil Williams and Dr. Howard Hendricks), and some courses (Exposition of Romans, The Christian Home) made a profound impression on my life. After graduating from seminary (and having completed six years of teaching), I had no doubts concerning God's will for me in the fall of 1978 when I was called to serve as the full-time Youth Pastor at the Claim Street Baptist Church (Aurora, IL). I was ordained to the Gospel ministry three years later (June, 1981). The Lord has confirmed that call time and time again, not only through Scripture (Ezra 7:10, Colossians 1:28-29), but also by the affirmation of my teaching and preaching gifts and pastoral leadership by many others during the past 25 years.

My Ordination

I was ordained to the Gospel ministry on June 7, 1981 at the Claim Street Baptist Church (Conservative Baptist Association) in Aurora, Illinois. My ordination council was convened a month earlier (May 7, 1981), and was very well attended (28 delegates from outside the church, including many of the leaders of CBA of A and the CB Home and Foreign Mission Agencies).

My Spiritual Gifts

I believe that God the Holy Spirit has graced me primarily with the spiritual gifts of preaching, teaching, and discernment. However, also included in this Divinely-granted gift mix (although perhaps to a lesser degree) are the gifts of ruling, giving, and wisdom.

My Statement of Faith

I believe the Bible to be God's special revelation through which He discloses truth not only previously unknown, but truth which men must come to know in order to be rightly related to God. I believe that the method of revelation was by verbal, plenary inspiration. I hold the Bible to be authentic, trustworthy, infallible and also inerrant in the original autographs. I believe that God's Word is the final authority for Christian life and faith. I hold to its supremacy and its sufficiency.

I believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons - God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit. I believe that these are equal in nature, power and glory and in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the "God-Man," - true God and true man - who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. When He walked this earth He was fully human and fully divine. I believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead and His subsequent ascension into heaven, where He is presently interceding for the saints and preparing a heavenly dwelling. I believe in His personal, visible return in power and glory.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality, and His ministry to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, which He accomplishes by working in both believers and unbelievers. He is a restrainer of sin and convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates believing sinners and incorporates them into the Body of Christ. He permanently seals and indwells all believers, gifting and empowering them to be witnesses, and to produce fruit and Christlikeness.

I believe that man, the climax of God's creation, was created morally undefiled in the image of God, during the last of six consecutive 24-hour days of God's creative work. I believe that man is a sinner by nature and by choice, and is therefore spiritually dead and in need of a Savior.

I believe that a person is saved on the basis of grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, apart from human works, merit or ritual. No clearer explanation of the Gospel can be found than the one given by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 15:3ff. This "good news" is based on the fact that Christ died (as evidenced by His burial), and that He rose again (as evidenced by His appearances). He died for our sins (Romans 3:23). In other words, He took our place on the cross. He shed His blood so we can be saved. And He rose again guaranteeing our salvation - the fact that our sins can be forgiven and that one day we can go to heaven. This gift of eternal life cost Him dearly, but is offered to us freely (Revelation 22:17). When we place our trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross, we are "born again": We are placed in the Body of Christ and His Spirit is placed in us. We have been "justified" (declared righteous). But salvation also has a "present" and "future" tense aspect. We have been saved (past tense - justification) from the eternal PENALTY of sin. We are being saved (present tense - sanctification) from the POWER of sin. We will be saved (future tense - glorification) from the PRESENCE of sin. Thus, all the redeemed, once justified, will indeed be glorified, for they are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever.

I believe that the church is the espoused bride of Christ, and is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. The church is distinct from Israel, and is comprised of all born again persons of this present church age (from Pentecost to the rapture). I believe that the local church is an assembly of baptized believers in a particular locality who meet together regularly for teaching, fellowship, prayer, communion and service. The purpose of the church is to glorify God through obedience and worship, edification and education, fellowship and discipline, and evangelism and discipleship. The ordinances of the church, prescribed by Christ, are the memorial of the Lord's Supper and believer's baptism. I believe that each local church is to be a self-governing body, and that no outside individual or organization can interfere or exercise authority over a local assembly.

I believe in the personal, imminent, pretribulational and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church, and in His subsequent return to earth in power and glory, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom. I believe in the bodily resurrection of all men; the saved to rewards and eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

My Philosophy of Local Church Ministry

The purpose of the church is to glorify God as its members declare the Great Confession (Matthew 16:16), obey the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) and fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). In order to complete its God-given mandate the church must be Christ-centered, Biblically-rooted, theologically-rooted, grace-oriented, Spirit-empowered, love-motivated and heavenly-minded. (I call these the non-negotiables). Furthermore, each local expression of the Body of Christ must hold the following core values as essential:

1) God-centered WORSHIP that is joyful, creative and uplifting, and that engages the heart, mind and emotions of God's people. Worship, which begins as a heart attitude, can be outwardly and upwardly expressed individually as well as corporately with creativity, excellence, and in a carefully, sensitively, wisely balanced and culturally relevant variety of forms and musical styles. Songs used in worship and edification must have both musical and textual integrity. God calls us as members of a "royal priesthood" to "declare the praises of him who called (us) out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9) and "to continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise" (Hebrews 13:15). It must also include the careful and practical exposition of the Bible. For God has "exalted above all things (His) name and (His) word" (Psalm 138:2). Indeed, as the Psalmist said, the Scripture "is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold" (Psalm 119:72). I strongly believe in the supremacy (Psalm 138:2) and the sufficiency of the authentic, trustworthy, inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3-4). It is the sole authority in matters relating to faith, practice, ministry, life and godliness. Preaching and teaching from the Bible is essential for a healthy, maturing congregation.

2) A well-articulated curriculum designed for the intentional DISCIPLESHIP of people of all ages and backgrounds in "congregations" (e.g. "life-stage" Adult Bible Fellowships) and "cell groups" (e.g. small group ministries), to enable them to develop a passionate spirituality as they grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, to equip them for the work of the ministry, and to bring them to spiritual maturity.

3) Diverse and frequent opportunities for FELLOWSHIP through a variety of gatherings designed to develop loving relationships that result in unity and accountability, and to foster a nurturing and caring body-life ministry in the church.

4) An emphasis on STEWARDSHIP that challenges members to discover, develop and deploy all of their God-given resources (personal, financial and spiritual) and capacities (spiritual gifts) to the glory of God and for the growth of His church. The church must have a clear sense of God's mission and a compelling vision to develop its own unique evangelistic outreach and ministry beginning in its own "Jerusalem," and then extending to the ends of the earth.

Real church growth (qualitative as well as quantitative) ultimately comes from God, and is most often the result of solid and sound biblical exposition, as well as the evangelistic lifestyle of church members. I have often said that as a Pastor, my goal has never been to build a "great church." (Jesus said that HE would build His Church). My goal is to build "great people" (Colossians 1:28-29), through whom the Lord can build His Church, so that to each one the Lord might then be able to say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:21).

My Philosophy of the Senior [and/or Teaching] Pastor's Role

I believe that the Senior [Teaching] Pastor is first and foremost a servant of God and a steward of His Word (Colossians 1:24-27). He must meet the qualifications of Elder as they are stipulated in Scripture (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1). He should fulfill his Divine calling by faithfully preaching the Word and by gently and patiently correcting, rebuking and encouraging God's people (2 Timothy 4:2). He must be devoted to prayer, and to the preaching and teaching ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 4:13). He must watch his life and doctrine closely (1 Timothy 4:16), making sure to keep himself pure (1 Timothy 5:22). He must see to it that he handles the Word of God correctly (2 Timothy 2:15), never undermining or depreciating its supremacy and sufficiency (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I believe that along with his fellow Elders and other pastoral staff members the Senior [Teaching] Pastor is responsible for the general spiritual oversight of the members and ministries of the local church. He is to be a servant leader, demonstrating Christlike character by personal example with his lips and his life (1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Peter 5:3), and he should protect the "flock" from doctrinal distortion, deviation and division (Acts 20:28-31), guarding what has been entrusted to his care (1 Timothy 6:20), while fighting the good fight of the faith (1 Timothy 6:12).

I mentioned in my resume that the passion, purpose and pursuit of my life is to exhaust my God-given ability and capacity to bring glory to God. I believe that I have been called by God to declare His excellence through the ministry of the Word. I recognize that God in His grace has given me speaking gifts that I must steward faithfully for the good of His Church and to the glory of my Lord. In His sovereign good will and pleasure He has allowed me to serve as Senior Pastor in several different congregations. Over the years I have personally "mentored" several young men preparing for ministry, by helping them discover, develop and then deploy their God-given abilities and capacities for the good of His Church and to the glory of God. As a Senior [Teaching] Pastor I am to be devoted to doing whatever I can to help them succeed in their areas of ministry for the Lord. At the same time, I have been blessed for many years by having older, more experienced godly men, such as Dr. Earl Radmacher, mentor me.

Over the years I have enjoyed the complete support of my precious wife – my very best friend and ministry partner - as well as the prayer support of each congregation, without which I know I would never be able to fulfill my ministry. As I grow older, I am thinking more and more about the spiritual legacy I will leave to the next generation. I want to remain faithful and I want to finish well. Therefore, I have recruited individuals in each church to serve on what I call my "Aaron-Hur Prayer Team." They pray for me each day, using 30 requests (one for each day of the month) gleaned from 1 and 2 Timothy. Because of their prayers, and by His grace, I hope one day to be able to say, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*" (2 Timothy 4:7).