

**Vitae for  
Paul G. Kelly**

**Professor of Educational Leadership and Department Chair for Educational  
Leadership**

**Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention**

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**Ordained:** Springfield Southern Baptist Church, Springfield, IL, May 25, 1986

**Professional Memberships:** Association of Youth Ministry Educators  
International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry

**EDUCATION**

**Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Education**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA

May 2009

Dissertation Title: "Ministry Objectives Across Cultures for Middle Adolescents"

Dissertation Committee Chair: R. Allen Jackson, Ph.D.

**Master of Theology**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA

December 2006

**Human Development Counseling, Incomplete MA**

50 hours of advanced training in Counseling

University of Illinois, Springfield, IL

1986-1990

Letter of Distinction from Faculty

**Master of Divinity**

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

May 1985

**Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Theater**

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK

May 1981, Cum Laude

## **Technical Certificate in Photography**

Nashville State Tech Community College, Nashville, TN

May 2004

## **EMPLOYMENT**

**Professor of Educational Leadership** (2009 to Present), Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, Ontario, CA

- Serve as chair of the Educational Leadership Department.
- Led a redesign of the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership.
- Lead the youth ministry training program of study.
- Served as Chair of Doctor of Ministry Committee for 3 years
- Serve as Chair of Degree Program Assessment Committee (3 years)
- Teach Ministry of Teaching seminar to prepare Doctor of Ministry candidates as adjunct faculty.
- Supervise the doctoral project for Doctor of Ministry candidates.
- Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor in 2015.

**Adjunct Professor, Christian Education** (2006 to 2009), New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

- Taught courses in Christian Education and Youth Ministry.

**Vice President of Ministry Resources** (2004 to 2008), Student Life Publishing, Birmingham, AL

- Led team of editors, copy editors, artists, and technical specialists to develop a Bible study curriculum designed to help teachers guide students to maturity and biblical knowledge in weekly study.
- Led the development of a curriculum that provides teachers of adults tools to nurture spiritual development in their class.
- Promoted from Executive Editor to Vice President in 2005.

**Editor-in-Chief** (1995 to 2004), Student Ministry Publishing, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN

- Designed discipleship curricula for youth, including *Vital Truth*, *Vital Skills*, *Tm412*, and *Basic Student Discipleship*.
- Coordinated the publication of youth discipleship resources from conception to delivered finished product.
- Developed strategies for churches to train youth discipleship leaders.
- Led discipleship camps for students.
- Trained youth leaders nationwide in strategies for discipleship with students.
- Promoted from Youth Specialist to Design Editor (1999) to Editor-in-Chief of Discipleship Resources (2002).

**Minister of Youth and Evangelism** (1993 to 1995), Second Baptist Church, Odessa, TX

- Led youth ministry including Bible study, missions, outreach, and fellowship.
- Coordinated a community-based strategy to reach teenagers.
- Led church outreach strategy.

**Youth Pastor** (1990 to 1993) First Baptist Church, Boerne, TX

- Led youth ministry including Bible study, missions, outreach, and fellowship.
- Initiated discipleship plans as well as coordinating community-wide youth events.

**Minister of Youth and Outreach**, (1985 to 1990), Springfield Southern Baptist Church, Springfield, IL

- Led youth ministry including Bible study, missions, outreach, and fellowship.
- Led church outreach strategy.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Senior Editor, *Journal of Youth Ministry*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators (2018-Present)

### **Books, Book Chapters, Curricular Books**

*Being Young: A Biblical Theology of Youth*, The Youth Cartel (2021).

“Practical Foundations in Christian Education,” Chapter in *Christian Education: A Guide to the Foundations of Ministry*, gen. ed., Freddy Cordoza, Baker Academic (2019).

“Youth Ministry in the New Marriage Culture,” Chapter in *Ministry in the New Marriage Culture*, Jeff Iorg, gen. ed., Broadman and Holman (2015)

*Sexual Resolutions*, a True Love Waits book for teenagers, LifeWay Church Resources (1999)

*Deciphering Jesus’ Parable: Active Bible Curriculum*, Group Publishing (1993)

*Psalms: Active Bible Curriculum*, Group Publishing (1993)

*Forgiveness: Active Bible Curriculum*, Group Publishing (1992)

*1 and 2 Corinthians, Christian Discipleship: Active Bible Curriculum*, Group Publishing (1992)

## **Pending Publication**

“Adolescent Development,” Chapter in *Navigating Youth Ministry*, gen. ed., Tim McKnight, LifeWay (2021).

## **Contributions to Periodicals**

- *Stand Firm: Men’s Devotional Guide*, LifeWay (2019, 2020)
- *Open Windows: Daily Devotional Guide*, LifeWay (2016, 2017)
- *EC: Essential Connection: Devotions for Students*, LifeWay (2014; 2015)
- *KNOWN Student Curriculum*, LifeWay (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- *Living with Teenagers Magazine*, LifeWay (2010, 2011)
- *Christian Media Journal*, LifeWay (2002)
- *Youth Ministry Update*, LifeWay (2001)
- *Youth Explore the Bible Series*, LifeWay (2000)
- *Family Bible Series for Youth*, LifeWay
- *The Youth Disciple*, Sunday School Board (1991, 1993, 1998)
- *Let’s Worship*, Sunday School Board (1998)
- *Junior High Magazine*, Group (1994, 1995, 1995)
- *Youth in Action*, Sunday School Board (1991, 1994)
- *Tube-A-Loon Book*, Group (1994)
- *World Changers Express*, Brotherhood Commission (1994)
- *Encounter: A Devotional Magazine for Youth*, Sunday School Board (1990, 1993)
- *Equipping Youth Magazine*, Sunday School Board

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Gateway Seminary:**

- *Foundations and Practices of Youth Ministry* (Classroom and Online)
- *Youth Ministry Leadership* (Classroom and Online)
- *Contemporary Trends and Critical Issues in Youth Ministry* (Classroom and Online)
- *Contextual Youth Ministry* (Classroom and Online)
- *Foundations of Educational Leadership*
- *Principles and Approaches to Bible Teaching* (Classroom and Online)
- *Lifespan Human Growth Development* (Classroom and Online)
- *Education Ministry of the Church*
- *Public Speaking for Christian Educators* (Classroom and Online)
- *Administration and Church Growth*
- *The Ministry of Teaching* (Doctor of Ministry seminar)
- *The Ministry of Writing* (Doctor of Ministry seminar)
- *The Ministry of Relationships* (Doctor of Ministry seminar)

### **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary:**

- *Youth Bible Teaching and Evangelism*, team-taught with Dr. Allen Jackson
- *Philosophical Foundations of Christian Education*
- *Introduction to Christian Education*
- *Transformational Discipleship*, team-taught with Dr. R. Clyde Hall
- *Exploring a Biblical Worldview*, Guest Lecturer
- *Survey of Mentoring and Discipleship*, Guest Lecturer
- *Understanding Discipleship and Decision-making*, Guest Lecturer

### **Alliance Graduate School, Manila, Philippines**

- *Teaching Youth the Bible*
- *Youth Evangelism*
- *Youth Culture*
- *Developing Leaders for Youth Ministry*
- *Educational Psychology*
- *Adolescent Development* Guest Lecturer with Dr. Allen Jackson

### **Shekinah Bible School, General Santos City, Philippines**

- *Youth Ministry Leadership*
- *Youth Culture*

### **Contextualized Leadership Development, Yerevan, Armenia**

- *Introduction to Christian Education*

### **American Bible Institute, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire**

- *Introduction to Christian Education*

### **American Bible Institute, Dakar, Senegal**

- *Introduction to Christian Education*

<h2><b>RECENT CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS</b></h2>
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*Helping Youth Develop Enduring Faith*, Gateway Bible Teaching Conference on Demand (January 2021)

*Maximizing Teaching during the Pandemic*, Association of Youth Ministry Educators, Online (November 2020)

*Building Strong Relationship*, Online Camp for Adolescents, Good Community Church, Torrance, CA (August 2020)

*Parenting Second Generation Immigrant Adolescents*, Online Conference for Parents (July 2020)

*Colloquium on Emerging Adults*, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, CA (April 2020)

*Leading Small Groups*, a Training Conference for Adolescents in Leadership of Christian Club, Ayala High School, Chino, CA (October 16, 2019)

*Educational Leadership Conference*, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Ontario, CA (October 5, 2019)

*Youth Leader Training: Caring for Hurting Kids*, Sandals Church, Riverside, CA (April 9, 2019)

*Keeping Spiritual Formation at the Frontier of Theological Educators*, training for adjunct faculty at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio, Philippines (January 10-11, 2019)

*Sunday School: General Officers' Conference*, Ministry Connection, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Ontario, CA (October 5, 2018)

In the last 20 years, I have led conferences on *Youth Ministry*, *Youth Discipleship*, *Adolescent Development*, *Youth Culture*, *Youth Education*, *Teaching Methods*, and *Educational Organization* at youth ministry conferences, Sunday School conventions, and churches in 30 states.

## REFERENCES

Allen Jackson, Ph.D., Senior Pastor, Dunwoody Baptist Church, Dunwoody, GA  
Phone: 770.280.1200      Email: [ajackson@dbc.org](mailto:ajackson@dbc.org)

Karen Jones, Ph.D., Professor of Ministry and Missions, Huntington University  
Phone: 260.359.4270      Email: [kjones@huntington.edu](mailto:kjones@huntington.edu)

Jim Wilson, D.Min., Director of Doctor of Ministry, Gateway Seminary  
Phone: 951.816.7343      Email: [jimwilson@gs.edu](mailto:jimwilson@gs.edu)

## **PHILOSOPHY OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Colleges and universities have an obligation to prepare students with the skills needed for meaningful careers. Whether in nursing, business, or Christian ministry, a college graduate should enter the workforce with confidence that he or she can effectively perform. The skills of a school's alumni reflect on the quality of education provided by the school. However, the demands of almost all careers shift and change with the development of new technology and an increasingly global community. Students who are only trained in the skills needed for their vocation today and are unable to adapt to changes in their field have been failed by their education.

Higher education should lead students to become lifelong learners. Students who are equipped with the foundational principles of their field and problem solving skills will be productive over time. Effective higher education should include a mix of skill development and philosophy. Students should be exposed to the best thinking of their time and of past times. They should be challenged to think deeply about the meaning of their world and determine the contribution they have to make to it.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

I came to know Christ as a teenager. During my senior year in high school, I sensed God calling me to a life of ministry. The Lord has led me on a path that included ten years of full-time local church ministry, five years of consulting and training churches in youth discipleship, eight years developing Bible study and discipleship resources for youth, and now five years of teaching seminary students in youth ministry and Christian education. I have been involved in church ministry full-time, part-time, and as a volunteer. God's call for me has involved teaching, writing, editing, training, Bible study teaching, event coordination, drama, counseling, preaching, research, and speaking. I have had experience working with teenagers in Sweden, Russia, India, Italy, Ukraine, and Saudi Arabia. I have participated in training youth leaders in the Philippines and Sweden, and have taught Christian education courses in Armenia and the Cote d'Ivoire.

For this season of my life, I believe God has called me to teach and train men and women for ministry, especially for the discipleship of adolescents. I am passionate about my current role as a faculty member at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.