



Pastor Jesse Wood

Jessica and I both grew up in Christian homes, but very far away from one another. I was born and raised in Massachusetts and Jessica was born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico. I accepted Christ as a child. Some of my earliest memories are of my father sharing the gospel with me. It was in third grade that I and my parents felt I had really understood and that is when I was baptized.

My sense of call to ministry developed over time. While in middle school, I began to have many doubts. Then at a youth retreat, an apologist spoke who answered many of my questions. He recommended a couple of books to me, and, as I read them, they encouraged me to read the Bible more. The more I read, the more I wanted to know, and the more I wanted to tell others. A friend and I started a Bible Study at the end of my freshman year in high school. I loved it! Ever since then, I have known that I wanted to be in ministry. It was a year or so later, at a youth rally in Phoenix, that I responded to a call given by the speaker to dedicate my life to ministry. Jessica and I met while I was studying my undergraduate at Criswell College. I had become associated with a short term missions organization based in Dallas and would regularly travel to Mexico with the office staff to help them make the 15-hour drive to Monterrey. Once in Monterrey, I would spend time with the church's young adult group while the office staff had meetings. I spent the summer of 2007 as a missionary intern in Monterrey and that fall Jessica and I began to date. Just over one year later, we were married. We began our married life in Dallas where we lived for three years and served as the youth leaders at El Pueblo De Dios. Then, in January 2012, we moved to Connecticut and served as youth leaders at Stepney Baptist Church. After I finished course work for my ThM, we moved to Naco in the fall of 2014 so I could serve as the pastor of Naco Christian Church.

I was ordained here in Arizona after accepting the call to come and pastor in Naco, AZ. The ordination ceremony took place in Sierra Vista at Village Meadows Baptist Church on January 17, 2016.

Jessica committed her life to Christ at a young age and was very active in the children's ministry of her church in Monterrey. Jessica loves working with kids and she has been a beloved youth leader at all three churches where we have served. She has a degree in psychology and has worked as a teacher in Mexico and the US. Presently, she runs the children's ministry in Sonora and works as the Spanish teacher at FBCA. When time permits, Jessica enjoys painting.

Education

Master of Theology New Testament: Westminster Theological Seminary. 2012-2016

Study focused on the hermeneutics of New Testament authors as evidenced by specific citations and allusions to the Old Testament. Additional studies focused on how hermeneutics of the New Testament authors compared with post-biblical Jewish and Christian writers.

Bachelor of Arts Biblical Studies, Master of Arts Biblical and Theological Studies: Criswell College. 2006-2010

Graduated Cum Laude for both degrees. Awarded the “Who’s who among American College and University Students” in both 2009 and 2010.

Additional Studies: Oxford University – Summer 2008

Recommended by faculty of Criswell to participate in a two-week intensive one-on-one course with an Oxford teaching fellow at the university. The course consisted of reading, writing, presenting, and receiving critique on the connections between Liberation Theology and Communism in Latin America. Specific attention was given to providing a Biblical critique of Marx, Guevara, and Gutierrez.

Additional Studies; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary – Fall, 2009, Fall 2010

Hebrew and Greek Exegesis courses, and courses in Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Culture.

Additional Studies: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary – 2010

Two Advanced Exegesis courses (one in Hebrew and one in Greek) were taken On-line.