

J. GERALD HARRIS

Background

Born in Hickory, North Carolina

Born again October 21, 1950, and united with First Baptist Church of Valdese, North Carolina

Called to preach as a high school senior and ordained January 29, 1961, by First Baptist Church of Valdese, NC

Education

Graduated Valdese High School, 1959

Graduated Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, 1963, B.A. Degree

Graduated Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina, 1966, Master of Theology

Graduated Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida, 1977, Doctor of Ministry

Alumnus of the Year 1997, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

1997 President Elect, National Alumni Association, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

1998 President, National Alumni Association, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Alumnus of the Year 2008, Luther Rice Seminary

Sabbatical studies at Oxford University, Oxford, England, 2010

Family

Married Martha Jean Maxwell of Newnan, Georgia on May 19, 1963. Three children, Miriam (married to Billy Godwin) John (married to Karen) and Jerry (married to Andrea) and 13 Children and one great grandson.

Experience

Preacher for Youth Revival Team in college

Pastor Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1964-1967

Pastor Newport Baptist Church, Newport, North Carolina, 1967-1970

Pastor Flint Groves Baptist Church, Gastonia, North Carolina, 1970-1971

Pastor First Baptist Church, Camden, South Carolina, 1971-1980

Pastor Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi, 1980-1990

Pastor Peachtree Corners Baptist Church, Norcross, Georgia, 1990-1994

Pastor Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Georgia, 1994-2003

Editor of *The Christian Index*, Atlanta, Georgia, June 2003-December 2018

Currently preaches and writes for www.LoveLiftedMeHigher.org Ministries

Preaching Experience

Preacher for Sunday School Week at Ridgecrest

Preacher for Evangelism Conferences for several state conventions

Preacher for many of Bailey Smith's Real Evangelism Conferences

Conducted chapel services for Atlanta Hawks and for several college football teams

Preached in over 300 revivals and Bible conferences

Denominational Experience

President, Pastors Conference, Mississippi Baptist Convention, 1987
Vice President, Mississippi Baptist Convention, 1988
Board of Trustees, Criswell College, Dallas, Texas 1982-1990
Board of Trustees, Baptist Sunday School Board, SBC 1984-1990
Chairman, Literature Distribution Committee for the 1994 Super Bowl Outreach, a ministry of Quest Atlanta '96
Chairman, Nominating Committee for the Georgia Baptist Convention, 1997
Budget Planning Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention, 1997
Administration Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention, 1997, 1998
Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention, 1997, 1998
Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1998-2003
Board of Trustees, Mercer University, Macon, GA, 1999-2003
Resolutions Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1999, 2006
President of the Georgia Baptist Convention, 1999
SBC Funding Study Committee, 2001-2008
Chairman, Resolutions Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2007
President of the Association of Baptist State Paper Editors, 2015
Board of Trustees, Shorter University, 2018 – 2022
Board of Directors for Focused Evangelism 2016 -

Writing Experience

Devotions for OPEN WINDOWS, Sunday School Board publication
Sunday School lessons for BAPTIST COURIER, South Carolina state paper
Devotions for HOMELIFE, Sunday School Board publication
Sunday School lessons for LIFE AND WORK SERIES, Sunday School Board publication
Devotions for BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi state paper
Articles for DECISION MAGAZINE, 2022, 2023
PARDONED TO BE PRIESTS, a book of sermons on the priesthood of the believer, published by Broadman, 1988
OLYMPIC HEROES, WORLD-CLASS ATHLETES WINNING AT LIFE, published by Broadman & Holman, 1996
A GENTLE ZEPHYR – A MIGHTY WIND, published by Free Church Press, 2010
A HISTORY OF THE GEORGIA BAPTIST MISSION BOARD 1972-2017, Performa Press, 2017
BLESSINGS OR BALDERDASH, Trust House Press, 2019
THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CONSERVATIVE RESURGENCE IN THE SBC, Trust House Press, 2020

Mission Work

Participated in mission/preaching missions to Cuba, El Salvador, Russia, Ukraine, Korea, China, France, Germany, Mexico, Canada, England, Argentina, Romania, Moldova, Kenya, and the Bahamas, as well as a majority of states in the U. S.