



ERIC ECHOLS

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

I am an innovative leader that is called to use my team-building abilities, creativity, & strategic mindset to positively impact the Church of Jesus Christ. I am a team builder with excellent communication, and interpersonal skills that thrives in an environment focused on reproducing and multiplying disciples of Jesus. My desire is to reproduce fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ by spending time with people, both young and old, modeling a Christ-honoring lifestyle before them, and equipping them for areas of service.

EXPERIENCE

TEACHING PASTOR/EXECUTIVE PASTOR, RIVERSIDE CHURCH; FORT MYERS, FL — 2015-PRESENT

Worship Attendance ~ 1100

- Serve as a primary communicator and teaching pastor for 20+ weekends per year.
- Provide day-to-day leadership and oversight to the Senior Leadership Team and the design and coordination of all church ministries.
- Design strategic plans, sermon series, and “big picture” direction (in partnership with the Senior Pastor) for all ministries of the church.
- Directly responsible for the hiring and dismissal of all pastoral staff (in communication / coordination with the Senior Pastor and Elder board) and indirect supervision of all other full-time and part-time employees.
- Lead all ministries of the church by working through the Senior Leadership Team to be catalyst for innovation and maintaining strategic alignment.
- Oversee and encourage multiplication of ministry (teaching, leadership, and vision development) by developing and empowering both the staff and lay leadership of the church.
- Develop and monitor each pastoral staff member’s goals and related review process.
- Serve as a liaison on the Elder board to maintain collaboration between elders and staff leadership.
- Lead the staff through appropriate direction, supervision, evaluation, counsel, care and accountability.
- Serve on and provide leadership for the teaching team to craft Biblical, relevant, and applicable messages for our adult worship services.
- Work with the pastors and ministry staff in overseeing the spiritual needs of the body and the integrity of the ministry as it relates to the church’s purpose and values.
- Provide input and direction to the Director of Operations for the design and monitoring of our \$1.9M budget as prepared by the Director of Operations and approved by the Elder Board.

**EXECUTIVE PASTOR/TEACHING PASTOR, SOUTH TAMPA FELLOWSHIP;
TAMPA, FL — 2013-2015**

Worship Attendance ~ 2,000

- Serve as a primary communicator and teaching pastor at both of our campuses.
- Provide leadership and oversight to the pastoral staff.
- Serve and lead the Executive Leadership Team by designing strategic plans, sermon series, and “big picture” direction.
- Oversee and encourage multiplication of ministry (teaching, leadership and vision development) by developing and empowering both the staff and lay leadership of the church.
- Develop and monitor each pastoral staff member’s goals and related review process.
- Oversee the creative team to assist in designing weekly worship services to facilitate life change.
- Manage and maintain Godly stewardship of our \$2.9M budget.

**PASTOR OF MINISTRIES, CROSS POINTE CHURCH; DULUTH, GA —
2011-2013**

Worship Attendance ~ 2,000

- Serve as the Chief Strategy Officer for all ministries at Cross Pointe.
- Oversee the staff of multiple ministry environments (birth-high school) by providing coaching, vision casting, strategy, and direction so that vision thrives, leaders are developed, and lives are changed.
- Serve and lead on the Senior Leadership Team by creating a strategic culture necessary to accomplish our vision.
- Maintain high employee moral by being a champion of leadership development and staff coaching to ensure that the team is utilized to their full potential.
- Develop and monitor each pastoral staff member’s goals and related review process.
- Serve on the creative team to assist in designing weekly worship services to facilitate life change.
- Provide preaching and teaching support for our adult and student worship services.
- Serve on the messaging team to craft Biblical, relevant, and applicable messages for our adult worship services.
- Oversee our system for connecting 1st time guests into the life of the church.
- Serve as the liaison for our community outreach by partnering with other churches and local leaders to positively impact our community.
- Partner with Lead Pastor in preparing and implementing our strategic plans.
- Led a mission trip to Uganda to further the global outreach of Cross Pointe Church.

**CHILDREN’S PASTOR, 12STONE CHURCH; LAWRENCEVILLE, GA —
2002-2010**

Worship Attendance ~ 12,000

- Vision & leadership was primary to the growth of children’s ministry from 500 kids to 2000+ kids in weekly attendance.
- Oversee the recruitment, growth, and development of our volunteer team from 100 weekly volunteers to 500+ weekly volunteers.
- Provide leadership & oversight of the day to day operations of the Children’s Ministry staff.
- Responsible for the development of personal & ministry growth strategies for nine paid staff members across four campuses.
- Responsible for the design and implementation of our multi-campus strategy for our children’s ministry.
- Serve as the Directional Leader of the of 12Stone Children’s Ministry on multiple campuses.

- Responsible for the planning and operations of the \$100,000+ children's ministry annual budget.
- Implementation of vision and strategy for the 12Stone children's ministry.
- Direct the recruitment, hiring, training, development, and performance management practices for our children's ministry staff.
- Responsible for the design of our current state of the art children's ministry facility, as well as, our multi-site children's ministry facilities.
- Responsible for the development and execution of our children's ministry growth plans for staffing, budget, & facilities.
- Executive producer of all curriculum and video productions for our children's ministry.
- Led mission trips to Guatemala & Haiti to further the global outreach of 12Stone Church.

CHILDREN'S PASTOR, GRAND AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH; FORT SMITH, AR — 2000-2002

Worship Attendance ~ 1,000

- Responsibilities included oversight of the overall children's ministry & weekday preschool; including budget, staffing, and ministry design.
- Responsible for the development of curriculum and discipleship plans for our children's ministry.
- Responsible for the development of personal & ministry growth strategies for three staff members.
- Transitioned our children's ministry from a traditional Sunday School model to a large group/small group model for maximum growth.
- Created and wrote children's outreach events & trained outreach teams in creative ministry techniques for local backyard Bible clubs & oversees mission trips to Romania as part of our overall church strategy.
- Primary communicator in our adult worship services when our Senior Pastor was out of the pulpit.
- Co-leader and primary communicator for "Re:generation" - our Saturday night adult worship service that was designed to reach unchurched people in the Fort Smith area.
- Led a mission trip to Romania to further the global outreach of Grand Avenue Church.

FAMILY PASTOR, CENTER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH; LOGANVILLE, GA — 1998-2000

Worship Attendance ~ 750

- Gave direction to all ministries for adults and children ranging from birth to 5th grade.
- Called upon to develop and launch the first children's ministry program at CHBC.
- Oversaw the pastoral care ministry which included developing lay leaders to provide ministerial care to our congregation.
- Began a college ministry that saw 10 students enter into full time ministry as a result.
- Developed and implemented our strategy for community outreach.
- Designed and developed a new children's worship and Sunday School facility.

COLLEGE PASTOR, 1ST BAPTIST CHURCH; SNELLVILLE, GA — 1995-1998

Worship Attendance ~ 2,500

- Provided leadership for ministries to college students and young single adults.
- Designed and implemented campus strategies for outreach to the local colleges in metro Atlanta.
- Grew our college worship service to 200+ students in a non-college town.
- Primary communicator for our college and young professional worship experiences.
- Launched and grew our young singles ministry to 300+ single adults.
- Provided leadership and oversight for all of our multimedia production.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Visionary – Engineered & implemented vision to further the Kingdom impact of the local church.

Strategist – Short and long term critical thinker with focus on continuing function and success.

Leadership – Seasoned high-level decision maker and proven leader of staff and volunteers within the local church.

Creativity – Proven experience in ideation and implementation of innovative structures that help drive the goals of the organization.

Team Builder – Excellent interpersonal skills with focus on team development and implementation.

Communicator - Proven ability to communicate God's Word to all ages. Proficient writer and co-author of "Turbocharged 2.0 - 101 ideas for a successful preschool ministry" published by Group Publishing. Contributor to Church Executive and Children's Ministry Magazines. National conference speaker for the "How2 Conference", "Children's Ministry Magazine Live" conference, and local/regional church leadership conferences.

EDUCATION

Southern Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY — Masters of Divinity (near completion)

University of Georgia, Athens, GA — Bachelors of Business Administration, Marketing

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ericechols>

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