

Autobiography



Tom Woodard was born on August 1, 1950, the first son of a family of farmers from Northwest Mississippi. His early life was spent in several locations including Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee. He is a 1968 graduate of Memphis Technical High School in Memphis, TN. He started college at then called Memphis State University, later changed to the University of Memphis. He joined the private sector work force in Memphis in 1969, but, shortly after that, was baptized into Christ and began biblical studies at the Memphis School of Preaching in the fall of 1970. After graduating in the summer of 1972, he began work as the fulltime minister of the Cloverdale Church of Christ in Northwest Tennessee. Over the next 15 or so years, he worked in parts of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas in said work. Some of the congregations with which he labored were small and it became necessary to acquire jobs in the secular field. When this happened, he continued college work begun in Memphis and eventually graduated from Henderson State University with a B.A. in Sociology and a M.S. in Counseling.

Shortly after attaining his degrees, he was hired as a Counselor at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, MS. He moved there in 1987 where he worked for almost 10 years. He moved to San Antonio, Texas on Memorial Day weekend in 1996. He placed membership at the San Pedro Church of Christ in November on 1997, after a careful year long search of various churches in the San Antonio area. This was the last one he ‘checked out’ during this search. The story behind that selection is too long to put here, but if you’ll ask him, he loves to tell that story.

During that search, he found employment at ITT Technical Institute in the Fall of 1997, where he continued a long career until the school went into bankruptcy in the Fall of 2016, at which time he was laid off. However, during this time and with the help of Charles Johanson at the San Pedro Church, Tom began preaching part time at the church in Devine, TX. Over the years, a number of members passed away or moved away causing a serious decline in membership. This led to the dissolution of the congregation in 2007. However, even in its decline the Devine church make a huge contribution to the Lord’s work. We donated the building to the then Medina Children’s Home. They sold the building for a substantial amount of money.

During this same time, about, October 2008-December 2009, an opportunity arose to work with the church in Lytle, Texas. This began as an interim work for a little over a year, but, in January of 2010, the work continued in a ‘full time’ capacity as the pulpit minister, coordinating the work with Mitchell Watkins, who is the Family & Education Minister. This work has continued until the present time.

There are a number of things involved in successful church work, whether as minister, member, elder, deacon, etc. Normally, numbers are the first thing we look at. However, over the years, there has been one constant theme from which the church in Lytle has functioned: “Do all you can with whatever resources you have. The end result is success.” That approach has led to a high level of biblical success through the fellowship of all who come to be with us. We are, above all, faithful to His word and His cause.