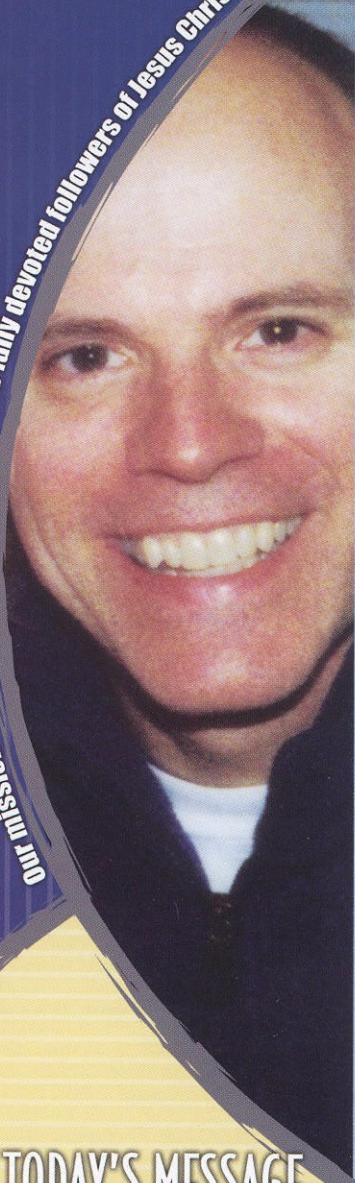


Our mission is to lead all people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



As Pastor for Administration at Germantown Baptist Church for 20 years, Ron Chandler has seen a lot of changes. With almost four times as many people attending small groups and worship services, GBC has grown from a campus of eight acres to almost 90, from facilities of 100,000 square feet to more than 350,000, and from a budget of less than \$2 million to \$10 million. When Ron joined the staff in December 1983, the church did not own a single computer. Today there's at least one in every office.

"Technology, numbers, and the sheer size of things reflect how things have changed for me," explains Ron who remembers when part of his responsibilities included unlocking and locking the church doors on Sundays and occasionally watering the grass.

A gifted administrator, Ron has distinguished himself among his peers and was named National Church Administrator of the Year in 2002 by the National Association of Church Business Administration of which he is a member.

Humbled by this prestigious honor, Ron acknowledges, however, that it is the ministry aspect of his role that brings him the most joy.

"As a pastor you are able to touch people's lives, and their lives touch mine," Ron shares. "The ministry side is really what it's all about. It's what keeps me going."

His heart for ministry is one of the qualities that sets Ron apart from many others in his field. "Ron always looks at the ministry needs first, then the dollars," explains Executive Pastor Pete DeMoss. "He is unique in that respect because he is most concerned about people and ministry. He is a man of faith because he believes that if God lays certain ministries on the heart of His people, the money will take care of itself."

"One of the great joys of my life is to serve with Ron," notes Senior Pastor Dr. Sam Shaw. "His integrity, heart for people, and love for God is a continual inspiration to me."

And Ron's 20 years of service at one church set him apart even more. When Ron and his wife Renee came to GBC, their daughter Rebecca was almost 2 years old, and their youngest daughter, Rachel, was not yet born. "My family has grown up here. We've definitely put down roots. Not many pastors get a chance to do that," Ron admits gratefully. "God has his hand on this church in a wonderful way, and I'm very thankful that the Lord has allowed me to be in a place that He has blessed the way He's blessed this church."

TODAY'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 14, 2003

"God's Glory—Peace on Earth"
(The Angels' Song)
Luke 2:8-14