

# MATT JEFFREYS

## Personal Profile



Growing up I never imagined being a pastor. Who does, right? I intended to spend my life in some combination of military service and federal law enforcement. I first sensed God's call to Christian ministry while in college. I was originally a Criminal Justice major, but changed to Bible my junior year. Serving nearly eight years in the Marine Corps Reserve, I was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 2003. Although God had different plans for my life, I'm grateful for the time I spent as a Marine and believe it was a good training ground for ministry.

My wife and I have been married for thirteen years. Sharon and I met at Hardin-Simmons University and married the summer after I graduated. We have three children-Jayci (7), Cade (5), and Karis (3). Yes, our home is loud and busy! I'm blessed to have a wife who loves God, and shares a commitment to his church and his mission in this world. I'm also blessed to have children who consider it normal to have believers and nonbelievers in our home on a regular basis. Our kids are learning to love Jesus and love those who don't yet believe what we do. It can be messy at times, but we believe it's the life we're called to live as followers of Christ.

I'm a reader and a runner. Although at times, I think both are better in theory than practice. I ran my first full marathon our first year in California and especially enjoy trail running and hiking. I process stuff better on the move, so running and hiking are great ways for me to think through issues at work and home. It's also where I get creative bursts, as rare as they may be! I enjoy history, especially military history and think Magnum P.I. is the greatest television show ever created. I listen to country music unapologetically, and I'm a Yankees fan. I know...I've heard it all before.

I love the local church, warts and all. God has now given me enough experience in ministry to know my ideas are not always the best. Although I am confident in my God-given abilities, I know I still have much to learn. I believe the church functions best when there is a plurality of leaders. I enjoy doing ministry with friends and am grateful for the great people I've shared the journey with so far. I look forward to pastoring, and being part of, a church with a gospel-centered heart for people far from God. Having pastored in an established church setting and led a new church plant, I'm passionate about seeing Christ-followers engage the culture around them in ways that glorify God and lead to transformation! I believe that the Word of God, lived out through the people of God, really is sufficient to change lives and draw people toward Christ.

