

Rickey Bolden

Rickey Bolden was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. The seventh of ten children, he was raised in a single-parent home after his father died at an early age. While growing up, Rickey witnessed violence in many forms. He experienced the murder of one family member, the long-term incarceration of another, and the attempted suicide of yet another. He himself was shot in the leg as a 14 year old for throwing a snowball at a passing car, in this case a car with 5 armed men. His family had a very difficult time staying immune from the violence and drug culture that pervaded his neighborhood. He had years of tough choices to make.

Rickey's escape was athletics. By high school Rickey was an All-American in football and an All-Metroplex in basketball. He was awarded a 4 year scholarship to SMU, where he continued his journey to the NFL. In 1984, Rickey was drafted in the 4th round to the Cleveland Browns. In his seventh season in the pros he felt the call to go into full time ministry. He literally walked off the field one day and went home and told his wife Glenda he had been called. After completing seminary, Rickey accepted the role of pastor at Southeast Christian Fellowship, a church of six members in Washington D.C. Under Rickey's leadership, the church experienced growth and developed a number of ministries that impacted the community. After 9 years he resigned his role as pastor and began focusing on speaking to groups around the country. He was one of many regular speakers at Willow Creek's Evangelism Conferences.

In August 2005 he became Senior Pastor at New Community Church in LaGrange, Georgia, where he and his wife Glenda now live with their 3 sons and 1 daughter; he has an older son who lives in Texas. He still speaks frequently around the country but has greatly reduced his speaking engagements as he serves the Lord in his home church and the surrounding community. He is actively reaching out to his new community by teaching the love of God through racial reconciliation and sharing the positive message of Jesus Christ and how He empowers us to live contagious spirited lives.

03/10/06