

MARTY DAVEY

Lead Pastor Jacksonville, FL

Background:

How many years have you been part of GCI? I first attended WCG in January 1976 and was baptized by June the same year. **/ How did you connect with GCI?** After I ran away from home at age 17 and hitchhiked around the country for a summer, I eventually landed in FL and moved in with my grandfather who was a listener and subscriber to the church's radio program and magazine. We began studying the bible together and talking about the things of God. We went together to a public church lecture, then began attending worship services in Gainesville, FL. In my case, I was looking for forgiveness and grace, due to my troubled past, as well as biblical teaching that would provide the boundaries and discipline that I especially needed. The sincerity and conscientiousness of the WCG's devotion and biblical emphasis were what I needed, and helped me tremendously. **/ What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** I enjoy doing ministry because of my desire to help others know the love of God through Jesus; and to help others discover the caring and loving way of life taught in the bible so that they will be less likely to hurt themselves or hurt others through sinful and selfish choices. **/ How has your ministry had an impact on who you are? On who God is to you?** For me, ministry with Jesus is who I am, not my occupation. Knowing this is the case, I also find that it is important for one's own survival, balance and mental health that a minister not be one-dimensional. So I make it a priority to be a normal person with a other normal interests and hobbies and skills in addition to Christian ministry. **/ Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** I am grateful for the 6 different US pastors under whom I have served as an intern, assistant or associate, as well as the 3 pastors who mentored me during a summer as an intern in the UK in 1980. From each one I have learned different things from both their strengths and weaknesses. Also, it has been a privilege to receive tutelage from our CAD leadership under Mr. Tkach Sr., Joe Tkach Jr. Dan Rogers, and Greg Williams. Our denomination has been blessed an abundance of sincere and devoted Christian servant leaders. In addition, during my time at the church's college in Pasadena, I greatly benefitted from the loving and honest guidance of so many of the instructors and administrators. And more recently, my ministry for Jesus has been improved even more by the instructors at both GCS and CMM.



Get to Know Marty



1.

For what are you most grateful? For knowing Christ and the truth that is in Him. Secondly, for being called and converted to Him at an early age so that I could marry a believer and raise believing children in the faith.

2.

What energizes you? Everything about life and each day is exciting and energizing to me. I enjoy the good times and many of the challenges to work through.

3.

What is one of your greatest accomplishments? With God's help, to remain faithful to Him since conversion in 1976, and to remain faithful in Jesus' ministry.

4.

What are 5 things you can't live without? Not counting spiritual things: My wife, my kids, air conditioning, sports and books.

5.

Describe your perfect day: I have a perfect day almost every day. I like normal, routine, and the simple things of everyday life.

WHAT DOES YOUR MINISTRY/OUTREACH LOOK LIKE?

One of the things I enjoy doing as pastor for GCI in Jacksonville is meeting the folks who live in the Plum Tree subdivision around our Church building. Every Saturday we open up the church for leftover Panera Bread distribution to any who are in need. Over the past two years we have met several neighbors who have come by for free bread, and some we have offered bread to while golf-carting around their subdivision. A couple of them have begun coming to our worship services, and continue to do so. In addition, we invite the teenagers from the Plum Tree and nearby neighborhoods to come over for Saturday afternoon touch football games, during the cooler months of November - January. Presently about 15-20 of them are participating, including a few of our regular church teens. We start off the activity with a short bible study under the carport next to our church lawn/football field, and then have a prayer together. After that, the game begins. Sometimes after the game we will start up a campfire and sit around and talk while we roast marshmallows.

"Serving in ministry for over 30 years now, I have always enjoyed people, and have come to realize that there is a lot of God's goodness in most people. But I'm also a realist, and have seen in myself and in those I serve that there is still a persistent weakness in our human nature, which necessitates both a loving forbearance among ourselves, and the merciful grace of God. We were created to be subjected to "futility" and frustration (Romans 8:20), so if we can be a little more humble and realistic about who we are, we will be able to get along with one another better."



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