

DEBBY BAILEY

Pastor
Pikeville, Kentucky, USA

Background:

How do you serve in GCI? I serve as a co-pastor of Grace Fellowship in Pikeville, KY along with two others, Mike Stewart and Ron Tiller. I was commissioned in August of 2002 to serve as a member of the pastoral team and ordained an elder in 2007.

What is your ministry or calling? What is the legacy you hope to leave? Before I was given an opportunity to serve as a pastor, I had a definite sense that God was urging me to get more closely involved in the lives of people and love them, as they are, without judgement; however, I didn't understand exactly what that was going to look like in my life. Within about three years, I was chosen to serve as one of the pastors of my congregation. That was just the very beginning of starting to understand what God meant. The legacy I hope to leave is that I was faithful in allowing Jesus to love people through me and that my life has made a difference.

Are you involved in any unique ministry opportunities in your community? My desire for Grace Fellowship has always been to find our niche in the community. We don't want to duplicate what anyone else does, but truly be guided by the Holy Spirit to serve as He leads. Fourteen years ago, we sensed that we should reach out to our community by serving meals on holidays, which are often difficult or lonely days for many people. We prepared, served, and delivered meals on Easter and Christmas. We did that for almost ten years when I sensed that God saying it was time to do more. Through prayer as a church family, it seemed God was leading us to serve meals on a more regular basis. Starting in 2015, we began serving meals on a monthly basis. Not only can people eat in, but they are allowed to take two trays each. We serve on average between 350-400 meals each time. The response from our community has been tremendous and that gives us the opportunity to see people on a more regular basis, get connected, and then begin to have a better understanding of how to more effectively love and serve our community.



Get to Know Debby

THE LEGACY I HOPE TO LEAVE IS THAT I WAS FAITHFUL IN ALLOWING JESUS TO LOVE PEOPLE THROUGH ME...



1.

What energizes you?

When I see progress or change in a person's life. It excites me to have a front row seat and watch how God works his magic in moving a person from one place to another and brings them to the point of surrender to Him. It thrills my heart to watch a person face their deepest pain, find the courage within to deal with that hurt, and then with God's help be able to overcome and forgive.

2.

What is your leadership style?

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Five Voices workshop and learned that my foundational voice is "nurturer". Often I have felt that I wasn't an effective leader because I wasn't loud or brash. I have always been concerned about people's feelings, want to talk out issues and problems when conflict arises, and am sensitive to the undercurrent of what is not said. In learning that I am a nurturer, I better understand the value of my role, both at work and in the church, because I'm working with people who are bruised and broken. Being a nurturer helps me connect to those who are hurting because I'm sensitive and in tune with feelings and all about relationships. What I thought was a weakness in me is actually my greatest strength.

3.

What is one of your greatest accomplishments?

My greatest accomplishment, outside my family, is currently where I find myself in my career. I retired from a state government job ten years ago. Immediately after retiring, I had an opportunity to work part-time in a substance abuse program. I felt like a fish out of water, but had a sense from deep within that it was a step I should take. I worked for more than three years part time when the counselor's job came available. I was asked to apply for that job. I hesitated, but felt the nudge that I should apply. It has been almost seven years now and words seem inadequate to describe how this job has impacted me or the opportunities I have had to impact the lives of many of the women in the program. Often in dealing with their very serious and traumatic life issues, I have no idea where to begin to help. I am amazed, time and time again, how a thought or word picture will come to mind that I share that resonates with them or with something they haven't previously shared. I know beyond a shadow of doubt that it is God speaking to these women because He loves them and wants them to heal from their brokenness. I feel my greatest accomplishment is to be in a place where God can love hurting women through me.



FAVORITE SCRIPTURE?

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

It has been a guiding force in my life for many years. I was reading through Proverbs and this passage leapt from the page into my heart. I honestly believe that as long as I am doing the best I know how to do to serve and listen to the Lord, that He will guide my steps and work things out in my life. These verses give my life peace.