

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Mike Rakes

Personal Info: Lead Pastor at Winston Salem First 4993
Autumnwood Ct. Clemmons, NC
(336) 817-4993

EDUCATION

2002-2005 D.M., Doctor of Management (ABD), University of Phoenix

1997-2000 D.Min., Doctor of Ministry; Biola University (La Mirada)

1996-1997 M.Div.; Biola University, Talbot School of Theology (La Mirada)

1994-1996 M.Div. (study), Reformed Theological Seminary (Orlando)

1991-1993 M.A., Biblical Literature, AG Theological Seminary (Springfield)

1982-1985 B.A. Pastoral Ministries, Central Bible College (Springfield)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Pastor Winston Salem First July 2006 to present
Mike is a consultant, educator, leader, motivator, author, and a new kind of multi-dimensional Pastor who - along with his wife, Darla - leads a socially engaged church since 2006. Mike is known for empowering women and emphasizing diversity in every organization he leads. Mike and Darla are passionate about the spiritual health of the US church and are committed to mobilizing faith communities for God and the good of humanity.

Founder/President Bridges Christian College August 2009 to 2012
The semantic and experiential bridges that move students from one theological truth to another are in disrepair. Students understand less and less about how their epistemology, theology, character, philosophy, and personal values are inextricably connected to their effectiveness in God's kingdom. This ABHE college prepares students for seminary and the world's hard places by graduating them debt free. Mike gave this college to a ministry in Louisiana when he joined the Board of Trustees at Oral Roberts University. Mike is now the Chair of Oral Roberts University Board of Trustees.

Vice President for Student Development Southeastern University May 2000 to June 2006
Mike reconstituted and deployed a new model for student development using the techniques of Appreciative Inquiry (A.I.). Through dialogue and assessments Mike took an unhealthy student culture and led a team to design, recruit and deploy a new plan for tripling the number of students leaders on campus. He introduced campus themes each year including the term Servant Leadership (Greenleaf) and character development to the campus of Southeastern University for the purpose of empowering students to experience meaningfulness in their vocations.

Department Chair/Faculty Member Southeastern University August 1993 to May 1999
Appointed the Practical Ministry Chair by President James Hennesy Mike became the youngest Department Chair in the history of the school of any division. He led a cross-disciplinary collaborative think tank to re-write and execute a comprehensive internship program. Created a model for Pastors to follow on using students in ministry by planting a church just forty three miles from campus in south Orlando using juniors and seniors.

Planted Church Using Students GreeneWay Church (Orlando) January 1996 to August 2003
Mike led a blended team of students from the Practical Ministry Department of SEU to plant a new and innovative church near Sea World in Orlando. This church targeted the highly educated and busy executives of the south Orlando area. Mike handed the church to his assistant who is still the Pastor. The church of over 2000 now has five services and just purchased another campus for \$3 million dollars.

Consultant and Curriculum Writer The Character Company January 2000 to July 2006
Sharing contemporary stories with audiences of all sizes combining humor and universal truths for the purpose of changing mindsets and inspiring people. Mike authored various products and growth materials written to enhance the spiritual and emotional intelligence of pastors and some main stream executives.

Senior Pastor Calvary Assembly Winter Haven January 1991 to December 1996
Elected by thirty-eight people in a building that seated 500 near foreclosure Mike led them to cutting the debt by 66% in five and a half years. The average attendance grew to six-hundred and fifty on Sunday mornings.

ACADEMIC WRITING /NOTABLE SPEAKING EVENTS & EXCERPTS :

- **Bioethics, Public Moral Argument, and Social Responsibility**
Wake Forest University (2009)
Technology is not necessarily synonymous with progress. There must be a deep, respectful, and even loving dialogue between scientist and those dedicated to the discovery of deeper spirituality and the human experience. Perhaps only then can science be contemplative and progressive through the commonness of the desire to better humanity in every dimension. May The God guide our intellects and spirits to a more congruent place where a culture of wisdom and wholeness await those who desire the advancement of humanity, healing and technology.
- **The Semantics of Renewal: The loss of the Spirit's language.**
Spirit-Empowered Christianity in the 21st Century: Insights, analysis, and future trends from world-renowned scholars. Vinson Synan (2011)
How subtle and satanically deceptive it might be to turn the very relational aspects of a Spirit-filled leader's message of being formed by the Holy Spirit into a career simply commenting upon what they experienced and shared with us. How dangerous to be so linguistically familiar with their message that we take their experience as our own. Depending upon one's linguistic skill, it might happen that one is exalted to positions of power and influence because they have a good memory or scholarly way about them, rather than an actual daily life with God the Father through the Holy Spirit. (p. 30)
- **Thoughts, Moments, and Signs: Avenues of Discipleship, Dignity & Renewal**
Regent University (2013)
The Spirit is continually using an experiential pedagogy to provide discipleship, dignity, and renewal through both corporate and individual spirituality...This communicational intent comes to us through triadic threads of thoughts, moments, and signs individually relevant toward formation correlating directly with the activity of The Trinity.
- **Proclaiming Christ in the Power of the Holy Spirit: Opportunities and Challenges (2020)**
- The Chapter Titled: Postmodernism, Pluralism, and Pneumiotics: Three major influences on the Spirit-empowered church

Notable Accomplishments & Published Books

- 2006 Created Church based cohorts for M.A. Degree in Florida and North Carolina.
- 2009 Certified Emotional Intelligence Coach with MSCEIT
- 2015 **Slings&Stones**: How God Works in the Mind to Inspire Courage in the Heart
- 2021 **Surrendered & Unafraid**: The Flourishing of Faith During Seasons of Suffering
- 2013-Present Board of Trustees ORU: Leadership Committee & Board Chair

Areas of expertise:

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| * Theological education | * Motivational speaking |
| * Personal growth of employees | * Strategic thinking |
| * Team building | * Organizational renewal |
| * Staff training / development | * Creating culture |
| * Performance appraisals | * Visionary leadership |
| * Executive coaching | * Transformational leadership |
| * Character/ethics training programs | * Pneumatological imagination |
| * Budgetary oversight | * Collaborative knowledge creation |
| * Personal renewal | * Advanced writing skills |
| * Spiritual leadership | * Story telling for culture change |