

## **VITA**

Thomas Sanders, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Professor of Christian Ministry  
Edwin F. and Mary Prince Moore Chair of Business  
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### **EDUCATION:**

Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Baylor University, May 1987  
Master of Arts in Religious Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, May 1990  
Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership Studies, Dallas Baptist University, August 2009

### **TEACHING AND HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE:**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, East Texas Baptist University, March 2016 – present  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Graduate Programs, East Texas Baptist University, June 2015 – March 2016  
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, East Texas Baptist University, June 2014 – June 2015  
Assistant Provost and Associate Professor of Religion, East Texas Baptist University, June 2013 – June 2014  
Graduate Program Director, Dallas Baptist University, 2006-2013

- Developed and directed two graduate programs: Master of Arts in Christian Education: Family Ministry and Master of Arts in Christian Education: Children's Ministry Programs
- Associate Professor of Christian Education, Leadership, and Research

### Courses Taught:

RLGN 3325 Children's Ministry  
RLGN 4341 Church Administration  
RLGN 5350 Leadership and the Educational Ministry of the Church  
RLGN 2314 Principles of Christian Teaching  
RLGN 3306 Youth and Single Adult Ministry  
RLGN 4303 Christian Servant Leadership  
RLGN 4305 Family Ministry  
CHST 4306 Children's Ministry in the Church  
MACE 6392 Moral Development in Young Children  
MACH 6311 Early Childhood Ministry  
MACH 6312 Ministry with Children

MACH 6350 Ministry in Church Weekday  
MACH 6351 Children and the Christian Faith  
MACH 6352 Advanced Childhood Ministry  
MACH 6353 Ministry to Families  
EDDL 7334 Qualitative Research Methodology and Analysis  
EDDM 7315 Ministry Development and Design  
EDDM 7320 Internship: Ministry Leadership  
EDDM 7371 Faith Formation and Christian Education Process  
PHDL 7303 Leadership through the Ages: Classical Leadership – Educational Model  
PHDL 7308 Great Books  
PHDL 7313 Faith Formation and Leadership Development  
PHDL 7315 Qualitative Research in Ministry

**OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Minister to Children and Families, 2003-2006  
Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, TX

Director of Childhood Ministry Publishing, 1996-2003  
LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN (Supervised budget of nearly \$50,000,000 and staff of 85 editors, consultants, and graphic designers in developing and providing curriculum and leadership resources for churches and families)

Minister of Childhood to Children and Their Families, 1994-1996  
Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, TX

Minister to Preschoolers and Families, 1990-1994  
First Baptist Church, Waco, TX

Minister of Youth and Childhood Education, 1987-1990  
First Baptist Church, Hewitt, TX

Minister to Students, 1984-1987  
Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, TX

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS:**

Scholarly Research:

*Such as These: Exploring the Conversations with Children about Conversion and Baptism.* (Peer reviewed and accepted for *Christian Education Journal* Fall for 2013).

*Images from the Caves: Childhood Reflections of Faith and Life during the Siege of Vicksburg,* Baptist History and Heritage Society, May 2013, for *Baptist History and Heritage Journal*.

*Children's Understanding of the Language of Faith* (related to salvation, baptism, church, and ordinance with 700 plus children participants, June 2013, with submissions to *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*.

*Supporting Children in the Death of a Parent*, research project collaborated with graduate student Jason Noble. Research will be submitted for review and publication in summer of 2013.

Unpublished qualitative research with graduate students related to needs of different types of families in the context of church ministry, emerging ministry design among six church starts, and children and conversion.

#### Books:

Capps, T., Sanders, T., & Shaw, T. (2011). *I'm A Christian Now! Leader Resources Revised*, LifeWay Church Resources

Sanders, T. (2010). *I'm Counting on You*, Sampson Resources

Sanders, T. (2009). *The kingdom of God belongs to such as these: Exploring the conversion experiences of Baptist children* (Doctoral dissertation), Dallas Baptist University. Sanders, T. (2009). *Jumpstart*, Sampson Resources.

Sanders, T. (2009). *Kids Ministry 101: Practical Answers to Questions about Kids Ministry*, LifeWay Press, (contributor).

Sanders, T. (2001). *When Can I?*, Broadman and Holman.

Sanders, T. and Bradberry, M. (2000). *Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith*, LifeWay Church Resources.

Sanders, T. (2000). *Levels of Biblical Learning*, LifeWay Church Resources

Sanders, T. and Lumpkin, C. (1999). *Preschool Sunday School for a New Century*, LifeWay Church Resources.

#### Chapters in Books:

*Handbook for Baptists: Things Every Baptist Should Know*. 2013, edited by Bernie Spooner, contributor of the following chapter: Talking with Children about Faith, Conversion, and Baptism

*Christian Education Leadership: Making Disciples in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church*, 2012 edited by Bernie Spooner, Christian Leadership publishing, contributor of the following chapters: Spiritual Formation and Christian Education, Preschool Ministry and Faith Formation in Early Childhood, Leading the Formation of Children

#### Curriculum:

Women's Missionary Union: *Start* magazine, 18 units of curriculum for preschoolers

LifeWay Christian Resources: Vacation Bible School, 1 unit for children and 2 units for students; Sunday School, 2 units for preschool and 1 unit for children

RSI: Three units of stewardship resources for preschool and children

Baptist General Convention of Texas: *Tejas Trails Adventure*, Birth-Sixth Grade

Texas WMU: Mary Hill Davis Week of Prayer Curriculum, Fall 2010

### Articles:

- Sanders, T. (Fall 2012). Children's ministry that fits [Review of the book *Children's Ministry that Fits*, by D. Csinos]. *Christian Education Journal*.
- Sanders, T. (2011). Introduction for *Telling the Story of Jesus to Mississippi Children*. Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
- Sanders, T. (2011). The Power of Parents in the Lives of Children. *Experience Kingdom Life Focus*, 11, 6-7.
- Sanders, T. (2010). Childfaith: Experiencing God and spiritual growth with your children [Review of the book *Childfaith: Experiencing God and spiritual growth with your children*, by D. Ratcliff & B. Ratcliff]. *Christian Education Journal*, 7(2), 437-440.
- Sanders, T. (2010). Handbook of psychology of religion and spirituality [Review of the book *Handbook of psychology of religion and spirituality*, edited by R. F. Paloutzian]. *Christian Education Journal*, 7(2), 446-449.
- Sanders, T. (Spring 2010). The pastoral care of children [Review of the book *The pastoral care of children*, by D. Grossoehme]. *Christian Education Journal*, 7(1), 207-211.
- Sanders, T. (Summer 2007). Tag, you're it! *In Ministry with Kids*, 36-38.
- Sanders, T. (Fall 2007). First impressions: Helping parents guide their child to Christ. *In Ministry with Kids*, 44-46.
- Sanders, T. (2004). OK, I'll do it. *Bible Express*, 11(12), 23.
- Sanders, T. (2004). The whole thing. *Bible Express*, 11(12), 22.
- Sanders, T. (2003). The changing arena of childhood. *In Ministry with Kids*, 6-7.
- Sanders, T. (Winter 2003-2004). Seeking the seekers. *In Ministry with Kids*, 6-8.
- Sanders, T. (2002). Developing a biblical worldview. *ParentLife*, 9(3), 24.
- Sanders, T. (2002). What does holy mean? *Bible Express*, 10(1), 6-7.
- Sanders, T. (2002). When discipline differs. *ParentLife*, 16(12), 26.
- Sanders, T. (2001). Teaching preschoolers the way God created them to learn. *The Leader*, 6(8), 21-22.
- Sanders, T. (2000). Teaching your child about fear. *ParentLife*, 7(5), 50.
- Sanders, T. (2000). Teaching your child about Jesus. *ParentLife*, 7(6), 50.
- Sanders, T. (2000). Teaching your child biblical truths. *ParentLife*, 6(12), 50.
- Sanders, T. (2000). Tell it like it is! *Preschool Leader Guide*, 1(2), M1.
- Sanders, T. (2000). The truth of the matter. *ParentLife*, 6(7), 40-41.
- Sanders, T. (1999). Family matters. *Bible Teaching for 3's-Pre-K: Leader Guide*, 1(1), 131.

### Academic Presentations:

- Velma E. Schmidt Early Childhood Conference, 2007, University of North Texas, "The Moral Life of Children"
- Velma E. Schmidt Early Childhood Conference, 2008, University of North Texas, "Spiritual Formation in the Early Years"
- Baptist World Alliance, 2008, Christian Education Commission, "Deuteronomy 6: Implications for Christian Education for Children"
- Baptist World Alliance, 2009, Christian Education Commission, "The Kingdom of God Belongs to Such as These: Exploring the Conversion Experiences of Baptist Children"

Baptist World Alliance, 2011, Commission on Theological Education and Spiritual Formation, “Millennials and Theological Education”  
Fellowship of Baptist Historians during the Baptist History and Heritage Society, May 2011, Annual Meeting, “The Bushnell Effect on Baptist Education, Baptism, and Conversion”  
Baptist World Alliance, 2012, Commission on Theological Education and Spiritual Formation, “Faith Formation in All the Stages of Life”  
Association of Christian Schools International, 2016, Biola University, “Teaching the Bible with Generation Me in Mind”  
Baptist General Convention of Texas, 2016, Texas Baptists Annual Meeting, “Creative Teaching Methods”  
Childhood & Family Ministry Summit, 2016, First Baptist Church Arlington, “Every Child Deserves Your Best: Preparing to Teach Everyone in Your Classroom”

Dissertations Supervised:

Penick, Mark E., 2013, *Christian Conversion Related to I Am Second: A Qualitative Phenomenological Study*  
Shelton, Ross D., 2015, *Revitalization in Seven Previously Declining, Established, Baptist General Convention of Texas-Related Churches*  
Cranford, B.J., 2016, *A Study of Baptist Pastors’ and Childhood Ministry Leaders’ Practices Relating to the Age of Accountability*  
Whitenack IV, John H., 2016, *How Church Plant Leaders in the Sojourn Network Minister to Families: A Multiple Case Study*

**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

Editorial, Consultant Activity:

*Read to Me Bible for Kids: KJV*, 2000, Broadman and Holman, Thomas Sanders. (support material contributor, executive editor)  
*Read to Me Bible for Kids: NIV*, 2000, Broadman and Holman, Thomas Sanders. (support material contributor, executive editor)  
*Christian Education Journal*, Children and Family Ministry Book Review Editor  
Bread for the World Academy Advisor, Washington, D.C. (Bill Gates Foundation sponsored)  
“*The Gathering*” Planning Committee, 2013, Texas Baptists BGCT  
Come to the Table Resources, 2011, Christian Life Commission  
Childhood Ministry Journal, 2009, Volume 1, Edition 1, Editor  
Childhood Ministry Journal, 2011, Volume 1, Edition 2, Editor

Awards and Honors:

John Sullivan Leadership Award, 2000, LifeWay Church Resources  
Teamship Award, 2001, Sunday School Group, LifeWay Christian Resources  
Outstanding Young Leader Award, 2004, Baptist Association of Christian Education

Nominee for Piper Outstanding Professors, 2012, Dallas Baptist University

Professional Organizations:

Theta Alpha Kappa Theological Studies Honor Society Moderator and Sponsor

North American Professors of Christian Education

Baptist World Alliance Commission on Theological Education and Spiritual Formation

Baptist Religious Education Association of the Southwest

Baptist Association of Christian Educators

Online Writing:

*Faithvillage.com* Contributor (list articles)

- The Power of Parents in the Lives of Children (Feb 2012)
- When Discipline Differs (Feb 2012)
- The Hunger Games: Hungry for What? (Mar 2012)
- Follow the Leader (Mar 2012)
- Sharing the Easter Story with Children (Apr 2012)
- “No” – A power word for children (Apr 2012)
- Lying and Spiritual Development for Children (Apr 2012)
- “He is different like that” (May 2012)
- Parents: A Barrier or Filter Between Two Worlds (May 2012)
- “Jesus Has Never Taught Zeke!” (May 2012)
- “Look Who is Not Coming to Church” (May 2012)
- Letters to Camp (Jun 2012)
- Pastor to the Youngest (Jun 2012)
- “Who is Teaching Whom?” (Jun 2012)
- Vacation Bible School is Still Cool! (Jun 2012)
- Being Dad, Being Minister (Jun 2012)
- Talking with Your Child about Death: Part 1, Part 2 (Jul 2012)
- The Spiritual Lives of Children’s Books (Jul 2012)
- Kids, Competition, and Stress (Aug 2012)

Keynote Speaking/Conference Leading:

Keynote speaker on ministry topics related to preschoolers, children, student, family and leadership development, and advocacy in hundreds of churches/associations/conferences.

Alabama Baptist Convention

Alaska Baptist Convention

Arkansas Baptist Convention

Association of Christian Schools and Institutions

Baptist Association of Christian Educators

Baptist Convention of South Carolina

Baptist Convention of North Carolina  
 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma  
 Baptist General Convention of Texas  
 Baptist Religious Educators of the Southwest  
 Baptist World Alliance (Four presentations: Prague in 2008, Amsterdam in 2009, and Kuala Lumpur in 2011, Santiago in 2012)  
 California Baptist Convention  
 D6 – Family Ministry Conference (Dallas, TX and Louisville, KY)  
 Dallas Morning News 360 Series Panelist – *Competition at a Young Age: Are Our Children Under Too Much Pressure*, August 8, 2012  
 Florida Baptist Convention  
 Georgia Baptist Convention  
 Heart of the Child Conference, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri  
 International Network of Children’s Ministry  
 Kentucky Baptist Convention  
 LifeWay Christian Resources  
 LifeWay Kid’s Conference  
 Louisiana Baptist Convention  
 Missional Ministry Conference  
 Missouri Baptist Convention  
 New Mexico Baptist Convention  
 Southwest Regional Sunday School Workshop  
 University of North Texas Early Childhood Conference  
 Tennessee Baptist Convention  
 Texas Baptist Weekday Education Association  
 Texas Baptist Preschool/Children’s Minister’s Retreat  
 Virginia Baptist Convention  
 Washington/Oregon Convention  
 Weekday State Director’s Retreat  
 Youth Ministry Conclave, Dallas, TX - 2011, 2010, 2009

University Leadership:

Service-Learning Council  
 Ph.D. Dissertation Committees (Chairperson of 5, Research member of 5)  
 Ph.D. Committee  
 Graduate Program Committee  
 Co-Chair, Childhood Ministry Summit Workgroup  
 Theta Alpha Kappa Theological Studies Honor Society Moderator and Sponsor  
 Institutional Effectiveness Committee  
 Protection of Human Participants (IRB) Committee

Disabilities Committee, (Chairperson)

Professional/Church/Community Leadership:

Baptist World Alliance Commission on Theological Education and Spiritual Formation

Board Member Mustang Run Country Estates Homeowners Association

Volunteer, 4-H, Forney, TX

Kindergarten Sunday School Department Director, Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, TX,  
2006-2009

Inclusive Sunday School Class for 6 children with special needs along with 20 typically  
developing children, Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, TX, 2009-2012

Board Member Mission Marshall 2019-2021