

# Mark P. Gonzales

DMin. \* Lifelong Learner \* SW Florida



National Director of Soul Care \* N. America/EveryEthne at ABWE Global Mission Agency

*He guides me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul. Psalm 23*

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## EDUCATION

### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Missions & Evangelism  
Southwestern Baptist Theo. Seminary  
Ft. Worth, TX 1986-1988

### MASTERS OF DIVINITY

Southwestern Baptist Theo. Seminary  
Ft. Worth, TX 1979-1984

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

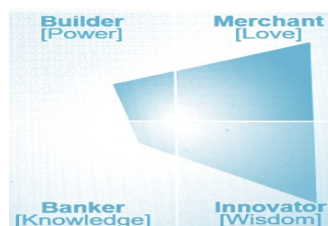
Political Science/Pre-law  
University of Texas @ Austin 1976-79

## MY GIFTS OF GRACE

### MOTIVATIONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*Exhortation \* Teaching \* Leading*

### CVI RESULTS: Wisdom/Love (Innovator)



### TOP 5 STRENGTHFINDER RESULTS:

*Ideation \* Strategic \* Achiever  
Futuristic \* Activator (see back page)*

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION SEQUENCE

*Comfort \* Affirm \* Reveal  
Based on Sermon on the Mount sequence  
Horse Whisperer principle \* Faucet principle*

### MISSION DRIFT CORRECTION

*Heart healing \* Stuck BB principle  
Team building \* Swimming Eagle principle  
Relational focus \* 2x Tapestry principle  
Vision clarity \* Blue-blockers principle  
Strategic options \* Street crossing principle  
Ministry mentoring \* Park Ranger principle  
Practical training \* Flight School principle  
Inspirational writing \* Class Note principle  
Motivational speaking \* 7 Coaches principle*

## MISSIONAL MINISTRY OVERVIEW

*Since my Texas Longhorn days as a student leader in Campus Crusade and my local church, and hearing God's call to vocational ministry, the Lord has led me to: serve in many positions from church plants to mega churches; launch home and Christian school entities; assist with global initiatives and learn tons about missions from gifted leaders in traveling to over thirty countries; broadcast, write and create training guides for over thirty years on evangelism, discipleship, and the deeper life in Christ; oversee a network of over 100 churches and pastors; and practice lifestyle "PrayEvangelism" in sports and daily life. Below is how the Lord has led me to do that thus far as I enter a 3rd season of ministry.*

## REGIONAL & LOCAL EXPERIENCE

### EXEC. DIRECTOR/AMS (ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST)

Royal Palm Baptist Association \* 107 churches \* SW Florida \* 2014-2025

### COMMUNICATION LIAISON/LEAD TEAM BOARD

Florida Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (FBCAL) \* 2018-2025

### LEAD PASTOR/PLANTER/ELDER

Gateway Grace Fellowship, SBC \* Ft. Myers, FL \* 1990-2014

### FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Heritage Christian School \* Ft. Myers, FL \* 1992 -1998

### FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Christian Home Educators of Southwest Florida \* 1991 to present

### CO-PASTOR/ELDER

Parkridge Baptist Church \* Ft. Worth, TX \* 1986-1990

### CO-PASTOR/PLANTER/ELDER

Common Ground Baptist Church \* Ft. Worth, TX \* 1983-1986

### COLLEGE & YOUTH PASTOR/DEACON

Southcliff Baptist Church \* Ft. Worth, TX \* 1980-1983

## GLOBAL MISSIONS & MEDIA MINISTRIES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/PASTORAL CONSULTANT/TRAINER

Global Children's Network (53 countries) \* Jack Eggar, President \* 2019 to present

### STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM/PASTORAL CONSULTANT/THEOLOGICAL TASK GROUP

4-14 Global Movement \* International travel with Luis Bush, Transform World \* 2008-2018

### PASTORAL CONSULTANT/SPEAKER/TRAINER

AWANA \* 4-14 Window/International travel with Jack Eggar, President \* 2005-2018

### "HERITAGE HOUR" GOSPEL RADIO BROADCASTOR

Portraits of God \* SW Florida, New Jersey/Philadelphia, Nepal \* 1991 to present

### "WHISPERS OF GOD" MONTHLY COLUMNIST, SW FLORIDA

Musings about God in Life \* 1998 to present (see markpg.org)

### NEXT GENERATION DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS, AUTHOR

Story of God & Man catechism \* Unpacked Parenting guidebook \* Family Pastor video series

## MISSIONS IS MY HERITAGE!

*My Mexican grandparents were saved as immigrant children in Austin, Texas by Baptist and Methodist missionaries. Papa Turo became a church founder and lay preacher/leader, my parents also became faithful church leaders, and all four of their children have followed their lead. My amazing wife, Lindy, was an MK in Peru to her very active missionary parents with the SBC International Mission Board. Her father (later my mentor) became Area Director of nine countries in South America with 650 missionaries under his charge. From this heritage we now have three generations on both sides of the family gratefully serving the Lord. The Lord does indeed, bless generation after generation!*

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### YOUR TOP 5 (of 34) STRENGTHFINDER SIGNATURE THEMES RESULTS

Many years of **research conducted by The Gallup Organization** suggest that the most effective people are those who understand their strengths and behaviors.

**Your Signature Themes report presents your five most dominant themes of talent** in the rank order revealed by your responses to StrengthsFinder.

#### Of the 34 Themes measured, these are your Top 5.

**Ideation.** You are fascinated by ideas. What is an idea? An idea is a concept, the best explanation of the most events. You are delighted when you discover beneath the complex surface an elegantly simple concept to explain why things are the way they are. An idea is a connection. Yours is the kind of mind that is always looking for connections, and so you are intrigued when seemingly disparate phenomena can be linked by an obscure connection. An idea is a new perspective on familiar challenges. You revel in taking the world we all know and turning it around so we can view it from a strange but strangely enlightening angle. You love all these ideas because they are profound, because they are novel, because they are clarifying, because they are contrary, because they are bizarre. For all these reasons you derive a jolt of energy whenever a new idea occurs to you. Others may label you creative or original or conceptual or even smart. Perhaps you are all of these. Who can be sure? What you are sure of is that ideas are thrilling. And on most days this is enough.

**Strategic.** The Strategic theme enables you to sort through the clutter and find the best route. It is not a skill that can be taught. It is a distinct way of thinking, a special perspective on the world at large. This perspective allows you to see patterns where others simply see complexity. Mindful of these patterns, you play out alternative scenarios, always asking, "What if this happened? Okay, well what if this happened?" This recurring question helps you see around the next corner. There you can evaluate accurately the potential obstacles. Guided by where you see each path leading, you start to make selections. You discard the paths that lead nowhere. You discard the paths that lead straight into resistance. You discard the paths that lead into a fog of confusion. You cull and make selections until you arrive at the chosen path—your strategy. Armed with your strategy, you strike forward. This is your Strategic theme at work: "What if?"

**Achiever.** Your Achiever theme helps explain your drive. Achiever describes a constant need for achievement. You feel as if every day starts at zero. By the end of the day you must achieve something tangible in order to feel good about yourself. And by "every day" you mean every single day—workdays, weekends, vacations. No matter how much you may feel you deserve a day of rest, if the day passes without some form of achievement, no matter how small, you will feel dissatisfied. You have an internal fire burning inside you. It pushes you to do more, to achieve more. After each accomplishment is reached, the fire dwindles for a moment, but very soon it rekindles itself, forcing you toward the next accomplishment. Your relentless need for achievement might not be logical. It might not even be focused. But it will always be with you. As an Achiever you must learn to live with this whisper of discontent. It does have its benefits. It brings you the energy you need to work long hours without burning out. It is the jolt you can always count on to get you started on new tasks, new challenges. It is the power supply that causes you to set the pace and define the levels of productivity for your work group. It is the theme that keeps you moving.

**Futuristic.** "Wouldn't it be great if . . ." You are the kind of person who loves to peer over the horizon. The future fascinates you. As if it were projected on the wall, you see in detail what the future might hold, and this detailed picture keeps pulling you forward, into tomorrow. While the exact content of the picture will depend on your other strengths and interests—a better product, a better team, a better life, or a better world—it will always be inspirational to you. You are a dreamer who sees visions of what could be and who cherishes those visions. When the present proves too frustrating and the people around you too pragmatic, you conjure up your visions of the future and they energize you. They can energize others, too. In fact, very often people look to you to describe your visions of the future. They want a picture that can raise their sights and thereby their spirits. You can paint it for them. Practice. Choose your words carefully. Make the picture as vivid as possible. People will want to latch on to the hope you bring.

**Activator.** "When can we start?" This is a recurring question in your life. You are impatient for action. You may concede that analysis has its uses or that debate and discussion can occasionally yield some valuable insights, but deep down you know that only action is real. Only action can make things happen. Only action leads to performance. Once a decision is made, you cannot not act. Others may worry that "there are still some things we don't know," but this doesn't seem to slow you. If the decision has been made to go across town, you know that the fastest way to get there is to go stoplight to stoplight. You are not going to sit around waiting until all the lights have turned green. Besides, in your view, action and thinking are not opposites. In fact, guided by your Activator theme, you believe that action is the best device for learning. You make a decision, you take action, you look at the result, and you learn. This learning informs your next action and your next. How can you grow if you have nothing to react to? Well, you believe you can't. You must put yourself out there. You must take the next step. It is the only way to keep your thinking fresh and informed. The bottom line is this: You know you will be judged not by what you say, not by what you think, but by what you get done. This does not frighten you. It pleases you.