

Biographical Information

Thomas (Tom) S. Suiter

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Pastoral Experience:

- **2006—present:** serving with the International Mission Board in Vienna, Austria as a church planter and working with the business and professional community to evangelize, equip and energize them for ministry in their work environment and beyond.
- **2000 –2006:** serving with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as church planter, pastor and Bible teacher in Vienna, Austria. Responsibilities include: Pastor of the International Baptist Church of Vienna, implementation of strategies to start new churches in Vienna and to conduct Bible studies each week at the United Nations Organization in Vienna.

The Church in Vienna is composed of believers from 30 different nations. It is an exciting fellowship of ethnic diversity, worship styles and loving relationships.

- **1985—2000:** Pastor of the Indian Springs Baptist Church of Kingsport, Tennessee- A growing and vibrant congregation made up of professionals and young adults.
- **1982—1985:** Pastor of the Dawson Street Baptist Church of Thomasville, Georgia- This is warm fellowship of conservative believers seeking to impact their city for Christ.
- **1979—1982:** While attending the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, I was Interim Pastor of 3 churches in the New Orleans area.
- **1974—1979:** Pastor of the Lakewood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Prior to the above service I served as Pastor in 3 other churches while finishing my undergraduate work at Union University, Jackson, Tennessee and Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Education:

- **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary:** graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree --(M.Div.) Major study: Preaching --1982
- **Belmont University:** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Bible studies- 1975
- Major areas of study: Bible and English literature with concentration in creative writing.
- Have attended various seminars over the years related to personal development, leadership, strategic planning, and church/staff management.
- Certified instructor/counselor with Leadership Dynamics Personality Profile and Team Building.

Ordination:

Hermitage Hills Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee on May 8, 1968.



Family:

Married to Barbara (**Barb**) Brannon Suiter on March 14, 1964. Barb has concentrated on raising a family and being the wife of a pastor. While doing so she earned a degree from Valdosta State University in 1986 with an emphasis in Journalism and creative writing. She began work on her Master's in Family Counseling at East Tennessee State University. She uses her gifts of hospitality, organization and teaching in various ministries.

We have 4 adult children:

- **Sherree**, married to John Williams of Kingsport, TN. They have 4 children.
- **Sharon**, married to Fred Reyes of Franklin, TN. They have 3 children.
- **Sheryl**, married to James Dean of Nashville, TN. They have 2 children
- **Shane**, married to Becky Godly of Rocky Mount, NC. They have 2 children.

Our Son-in-law, Fred Reyes is Camp Director for a Christian Camp near Franklin, Tennessee.

Our Son-in-law, James Dean is Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Owensborough, Kentucky.

Our son, Shane is a Church planter and Pastor of Crossroads Church in Morgantown, WV.

All of our children and their families are actively involved in their churches and are committed Christians.

Leadership style: My basic leadership style is “Team leader”. I realize that the work of the Lord is a team effort and that my responsibility is to lead a team of individuals who are committed to fulfilling the great commission through their own spiritual gifts and callings. There are times when a pastor must adjust to a situation and use a different style according to the people involved.

Doctrinal Position: I support the “Doctrinal statement of the SBC” revised in 2000. I am aware of the various controversies within the SBC over the last 20 years or so. I have been a Southern Baptist all my life. My father was a Southern Baptist Pastor as was his father. I grew up during the “golden years” (1955-1965) of evangelism in our convention. The convention was basically united and working toward reaching people for Christ. Somewhere along the way the emphasis began to shift, but I have sought to remain true to the teaching of scriptures and not get involved in the “politics” of our denomination. I remain a conservative who believes in the Bible as the Word of God, and I believe it has the answers for all of life if it is proclaimed and obeyed.

Denominational Service:

- Serving as Missionary with the International Mission Board of the SBC- 2000-present.
- Trustee for the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Home 1998-2000
- Trustee for Fairhaven Christian Retreat Ministries 1994-2000- a non-denominational ministry located in East Tennessee.
- Various committees with the Sullivan Baptist Association, Kingsport, TN 1986-2000
- Co-chairman of the Sullivan Baptist Association, 1998-2000
- Barb and I have conducted Marriage Seminars with the “Fall Festival of Marriage” in Glorietta, New Mexico, Tennessee and Maryland.

Personal interest:

- Reading—current events and issues related to the Christian faith.
- Woodworking, gardening and any creative project that I can do with my “hands”.
- I also enjoy playing golf, fishing and most “outdoor” related activities.

Honors:

- Awarded the “Morgan Davis Cup” for outstanding leadership and character in my senior year of High School.
- President of the Tennessee Club at the New Orleans Baptist Seminary.
- Selected by Seminary faculty to preach in chapel during “Spiritual Emphasis Week”.
- Awarded the “Barnabas Award” for leadership among Pastors of the Sullivan Baptist Association, Kingsport, TN.

References:

- Bobby Bass, State Farm Insurance Broker and Life long friend
521 General Kershaw Dr.
Old Hickory, TN 37138
Phone 615-847-8494
E-mail: bobby.bass.b1sr@statefarm.com
- Dr. Tommy Holtzclaw, Director of Missions (retired), Sullivan Baptist Association
664 Hood Road (served together for 15 years)
Kingsport, TN 37660
Phone: (home)- 423-349-6260
- Dr. Bob Marsh, Pastor, Missionary with Barnabas International, and personal friend.
4640 Jettridge Dr. NW
Atlanta, GA 30327
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E-mail: bobandmyra55@yahoo.com
- Richard Long (life long friend and former pastor)
4728 Emerald Trace Way
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- Mike Morgan, Minister of Music at Indian Springs Baptist Church (worked with Mike for 15 years)
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