

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
of
LEWIS & JANICE BEELER

Lewis and Janice Beeler are both natives of Columbus, Ohio. They both grew up on the west side of Columbus. Lewis worked as a mechanic and a truck driver before beginning a career in law enforcement in 1983. Lewis resigned from the Columbus Division of Police in June of 2000 after more than 15 years of service in law enforcement. Janice worked for Columbia Gas of Ohio as a service representative for 17 years. Janice left Columbia Gas in 1996 to care for Lewis' ailing parents. Lewis and Janice have been married since June 2, 1979. They have two sons, Lewis Junior, and William. Both sons are graduates of Maranatha Christian School in Columbus, Ohio. Lewis Jr is scheduled to complete his Doctoral Degree in New Testament Theology in May of 2016. William has a degree in graphic design, and does corporate web design. William is married to Nancy, and they have two girls, Isabella and Luciana.

Jan began attending the church services at Maranatha Baptist Church after enrolling Lewis Jr., as a student at Maranatha Christian School. After attending a Sunday morning church service in 1990, Jan became very convicted about her sinfulness and called the pastor of the Baptist church on the following Monday. The pastor shared the good news of Jesus Christ over the telephone with Jan. Later that day Jan trusted Jesus Christ to be her personal Savior at home. She was baptized at Maranatha Baptist Church just 3 months later. She soon became a member of Maranatha Baptist Church in Columbus. Jan later attended classes at the Bible Institute of Ohio, and in December of 2001 Jan earned a diploma through correspondence from Moody Bible Institute, in Chicago, Illinois.

Although Lewis Sr attended services at a Methodist Church as a boy, he was never confronted with his need for a savior. Lewis followed in his father's footsteps and became a Columbus Police Officer as an adult. It was as a result of many life threatening experiences that he began to fear what would happen to him when he died, for Lewis knew that he was a sinner and that in front of a holy God he stood condemned. Lewis' mother Frances invited him to a New Year's Eve church service at her church on December 31, 1992. It was after this service that the preacher quoted a verse from the Bible and Lewis became convicted of his sin. It was at that church service that he trusted Jesus to save him from the eternal consequences of his sin and give to him eternal life in heaven. Lewis was baptized about 2 months later at Maranatha Baptist Church in February of 1993. Five months after his salvation Lewis began a Sunday afternoon worship service at an inner city retirement center in Columbus. The retirement center ministry continued until the facility was closed by the county government in 2003. The Beelers became involved in the outreach of their church in 1994. Lewis later led the outreach ministry of Maranatha Baptist Church under the direction of his pastor. Lewis elected as a deacon in his church for two terms of service. Lewis graduated from the Bible Institute of Ohio, in Columbus in 1999. The Beelers answered the call of God to vocational ministry on March 17, 1995.

Lewis and Janice traveled to Atlanta, GA in 1996 to participate in Medals For Glory, an outreach to the Olympics sponsored by Baptist Mid-Missions. They spent a week in Atlanta street witnessing to the thousands of spectators from around the world who had come to watch the Olympic events. It was during this outreach ministry that the Beelers became convinced that God wanted them to serve as foreign church planting missionaries. In 1997 Lewis and Janice traveled with their sons to Salt Lake City, Utah to assist a local Baptist church. While their sons assisted with a vacation Bible school in Salt Lake City, Lewis and Janice passed out literature to more than 1000 homes in the surrounding neighborhoods, and witnessed to the mostly Mormon residents. Their service to the Baptist church in Salt Lake City, once again confirmed their call to church planting ministry. In 1998 Maranatha Baptist

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Church sent the Beelers to the south American country of Ecuador, on a survey trip. It was during this survey trip that Lewis and Janice became persuaded of their call to missionary work in Ecuador.

In January of 2002 the Beelers arrived in the field of Ecuador and began their language training. For ten months they spent six hours a day, five days a week in language classes studying Spanish. In addition to their language study, the Beelers assisted another missionary at a church plant in a small town, and Lewis Jr and William studied for several months learning to play the guitar. Shortly after finishing their language classes Lewis and another first term missionary began a church plant in the Beeler's home. All of the Beelers played a significant role in the church plant. Lewis Sr and Janice led the outreach for the church plant and organized the meetings, and Lewis Jr., and William led the music in the church. There are today only two fundamental Baptist churches in Cuenca, a city of about 700,000 people. The two churches together have about 150 members.

Lewis and Janice returned to the field of Ecuador to start more churches in 2012. Lewis Jr plans to return to Ecuador and lead the Bible seminary and institute in Ecuador when he finishes his doctor degree, sometime in 2017.

In addition to starting a new church in Cuenca in 2015, Lewis Sr, hopes to open a Christian book store in Cuenca in the first part of 2017. The Beelers know of no other fundamental book store in the entire country of Ecuador. The book store is one of several ministries the Beelers plan to start in 2017, including a pro-life counseling center, a Christian radio station, and a rescue mission.