

About Me

March 11, 2015

Hey there! Thanks for checking out my bio here.

I'm a pastor currently located in San Diego (but willing to move!) who is seeking a church that is multigenerational, culturally diverse, and purposeful in engaging the community for Jesus. My dream church has an intense focus on the transforming power of small group life, a cutting edge approach to blending technology, teaching and worship, vibrant expression of the worship arts, strong biblical preaching that's life relevant, and people from all walks of life connecting together in the grace of the Lord.

My personal mission statement is: To have a life worth imitating and a faith worth considering - To live and lead a lifestyle of worship.

My purpose is to know Jesus better, and to help others grow closer to him.

I've been described as a true renaissance man, due to my varied career paths and interests, and I'm comfortable with that description. Paul once described himself as trying to be all things to all people, and that's just sort of happened in my life without an intentional effort on my part... but hindsight being what it is, I do embrace the wide range of experiences that have served to form my character development.

In no particular order, I am a husband, father, shepherd pastor, teacher, musician, chef, Navy brat, Star Wars fan, Browncoat, Trekkie, recovering catholic, transplant San Diegoan, former goth, motorsport enthusiast, handyman, grease monkey, marksman and collector of oddities.

I am a final-year seminary student at the Haggard School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University, completing the Master of Divinity program and have been working on the Master of Educational Technology degree as well. My wife is annoyed with the phrase "final year", as I've been saying that for a few years now. But really, I have just one class left to complete (at least for the MDiv... I'm still undecided as to whether I will continue to pursue the second master's degree at this time.)

As a pastor, I've been actively involved in ministry leadership for nearly 25 years as a ministry leader, worship pastor, outreach pastor, worship musician, small group pastor, and minister to college-age, high school, and jr. high school groups.

This December I celebrated 15 years of married life with my wife Susie, and we have a wonderful 11 year old son named Jay, and a very busy 8 year old daughter named Annika. My wife and I lovingly call our kids "the hobbits" and they are a constant source of joy and adventure in our lives.

We currently live in Mira Mesa and fellowship at Community Bible Church where I served as Worship Pastor for 4 years, also heading up the Community Outreach ministry and giving oversight to Hospitality, counseling and pastoral care. Over the past decade I've also spent quite a bit of time assisting other local churches with worship makeovers, acting as an interim pastor and offering leadership, direction and support to the ministries at these churches. I believe church bodies should partner with each other to establish the unity of God's kingdom

here on earth, evidencing this unity through cooperation – and it has been a goal of mine to do my part to move God’s people along toward that end.

My main passion, anointing and calling in ministry is for worship that is experiential and life transforming, the spiritual care and mentoring of young adults (college, post college, and young marrieds), and servant evangelism with a focus towards long-term community impact.

In short, my philosophy of ministry can be summed up by the acronym “RIMS”: Reach, Include, Mature and Send. It is my goal in ministry to reach the lost, include them in the community of believers, help them mature in faith and equip them to do the work of ministry, and send out into ministry work fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Susie and I believe that as a husband and wife we are both called to serve in ministry, and we have had the wonderful experience of serving together in several ministries through our years together. Susie and I started and led a Young Married ministry that has continued to grow and develop beyond our five years of involvement. We also worked together for several years in community outreach, in our church’s servant evangelism kindness outreach ministry, which I later came to co-lead as assistant pastor.

My wife has her Master’s degree in Special Education and taught kindergarten and first grade bilingual students with mild to moderate disabilities in the inner city for several years, until she became a mommy. Since the arrival of our hobbits, she has been a stay at home mommy, occasionally serving at our kids’ schools as a teacher’s aide. Susie also serves in leadership of the Mothers of Pre-Schoolers ministry at our church. She enjoys scrap booking, antiques, reading, Trading Spaces, and is a closet Trekkie, Browncoat, Tolkien, Rowling & Twilight fan. She was born in Costa Rica, grew up in San Diego, and is fluent in Spanish – and is teaching our children to speak Spanish.

Music is a huge part of my life, and I spend a great deal of time listening and performing. I strive to always be developing my worship leading abilities and musical skills, and I add new songs to my repertoire constantly. I’m proficient on many different instruments, including electric and acoustic six string guitars, twelve string acoustic, five string bass, keyboard, violin, viola, drums, cajon, djembe, conga, penny whistle, and vocals. I’d love to learn the electric cello, banjo, and taiko drums, having been inspired by Bear McCreary, Tina Guo, and the members of the Battlestar Galactica Orchestra... basically I try to learn any instrument I can get my hands on.

Having grown up in a Navy family, I basically lived everywhere; we moved 25 times in 21 years, but I consider San Diego to be my home. It should be known as well that I am the prince of Navy brats – my dad was a highly decorated two-star admiral & multiple war veteran, former SEAL and naval aviator as well as surface warfare officer and Purple Heart recipient. I took great advantage of being his son to exercise my brat factor on many military bases around the world. Unfortunately he was killed in the line of duty when his F-18 went down in May 1995, but he was an amazing role model and I miss him dearly.

In response to having lost my dad in service of our country, I have become involved with TAPS – Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which is an organization that provides support to military families who have experienced the death of a loved one in military service. I currently serve as a chaplain, peer mentor and group leader for survivors.

As a grease monkey and enthusiast I have a fascination with cars – restoring them, modifying them, repairing them, racing them, driving them, and looking at them. My garage is full of every random tool ever conceived of for auto maintenance, and some that were never meant to be used on a car. Sometimes I have to make my own tools to fix things that break on cars that are no longer supported by their manufacturers (for some reason I am drawn to “problem” cars, rare & hard to find parts for). I love being involved in the car scene, hanging out with different auto clubs and communities. In 2011 I completed the restoration of my 20 year old VW and it placed highly in a SoCal car show, right before I drove it off a cliff in Malibu. Don’t worry, while I do appreciate extreme sports, I’ve restrained myself from doing any such stunts for the past four years. Well, unless you count having to have knee surgery after injuring myself running a Marine Corps obstacle course last year...

As alluded to previously, I am also a huge sci-fi geek, and helped found the San Diego Star Wars Society, serving as its president for 4 years. I’m also one of those weirdos that dresses up as a Star Wars character in public. As a costumed Stormtrooper I’ve had the pleasure of being on the TV show “Deal or No Deal”, marching in many televised parades, and performing with Weird Al Yankovic in concert many times, in addition to appearing at dozens of charity events supporting Make-A-Wish, Starlight Children’s Foundation, the American Lymphoma Society, the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, Multiple Sclerosis Walk, and many others. I’ve also been interviewed on CNN and been in a Superbowl commercial, in addition to a movie or two.

Currently I serve on the organizing committee for Comic-Con International as a general committee member and senior staffer in the Programming Department. I enjoy most cheesy sci-fi and fantasy (Firefly, Lord of the Rings, Star Trek, the Matrix, etc). I do have fun playing Halo3 & Forza Motorsports with my friends when I get the chance (g60racer2 is my gamer tag), and I spend time keeping up with friends online through social networking, mostly Facebook these days. I am also a proud child of the 80’s and love memorabilia and music from the best – check that – the most radical – decade ever.

Somewhere in all this I’ve been involved in the film/TV/media industry. My geeky friends & family who work in this medium are probably somewhat to blame, but I’m drawn to the production aspects of film making such as costume & prop making, musical scoring, and special effects and cinematography. As I mentioned, I’ve had the pleasure of appearing on screen on a couple of TV shows and movies as an actor, so as weird as it sounds, I’m actually a member of SAG and AFTRA and I have an IMDB page online.

As far as employment goes... well, let’s see. As a tent-making pastor, I was the senior chef of a Greek restaurant for a number of years, and that was my family’s financial mainstay throughout the majority of my ministry life. I started working there in 1995 and served there until December 2010 – it was a true blessing to have a place to serve and grow in my leadership skills! I’ve also been a high school department chair & teacher (history, government, economics, guitar, English, religious studies, Spanish) musician, and pastor (as mentioned earlier).

In the midst of all of this, I’m a prolific writer who has been regularly published by Worship Leader Magazine and a very active blog. I’ve got several books in process, and I’ve been working to connect with the right literary agent to get them published.

Currently I'm in search mode, seeking the church my family will call home, where I'll be able to use the gifts, talents, abilities, experiences and education God has afforded me to serve His people.

Anywho. That's not exactly brief, but it's more or less an overview of this particularly geeky pastor whose bio you're reading. If you think I might be a good fit for your ministry staff, and my family might be a good fit for your church, please shoot me an email, PM me on Facebook, txt message, or you could get all crazy and call me on the phone. But really, who still does that now? ;)

Here's my basic contact info:

Brendan Prout
619.417.3872
brendanprout32@aol.com

Blessings!!