

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

Dr. Robert Jeffress' connection with First Baptist Church of Dallas began long before he became pastor in 2007.

"I grew up here, I was saved here, baptized here, ordained here, married here, preached my first sermon here, after which I served as the youth pastor here for seven years," he told Church Executive magazine.

Jeffress remembers making a commitment to Christ in the office of legendary First Baptist pastor Dr. W.A. Criswell when he was 7 years old. Then, at 16, he told Criswell that he felt called to the ministry, and Criswell began preparing him for the day he would lead First Baptist.



"I believe he had a prophetic sense that at some point I would be a pastor here, so it was a great privilege to learn and train under him and to have him as a father in the ministry here," Jeffress said.

After Jeffress received his bachelor's degree from Baylor, Criswell hired him as youth pastor and Jeffress began working on his master's at Dallas Theological Seminary – where he today serves as an adjunct professor.

Jeffress served at First Baptist from 1978 to 1985 while also completing work on his doctorate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He then became pastor of First Baptist Church of Eastland, Texas, and stayed there until 1992, when he was called to pastor First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

Dr. Jeffress began his weekly television and daily radio program, "Pathway to Victory," in Wichita Falls. The radio show now airs on more than 930 stations in markets such as Dallas-Fort Worth, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Washington, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Seattle. His television program can be seen in 195 countries, and on more than 11,000 cable and satellite systems as well as the Trinity Broadcast Network and Daystar.

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Jeffress, a Fox News Contributor, has made more than 2,000 appearances on TV and radio programs, such as “Fox and Friends,” “Hannity,” “Lou Dobbs Tonight” and “Varney & Co.,” as well as ABC’s “Good Morning America” and HBO’s “Real Time with Bill Maher.”

Jeffress is the author of 24 books including “When Forgiveness Doesn’t Make Sense,” “Countdown to the Apocalypse,” “Not All Roads Lead to Heaven,” and his newest book, “A Place Called Heaven: 10 Surprising Truths About Your Eternal Home.”



Under Jeffress’ leadership, First Baptist has grown to a 13,000-member congregation. He led the congregation in a \$135 million re-creation of its downtown campus, the largest project in modern church history.

Dr. Jeffress and his wife, Amy, have two daughters and three grandchildren.