

BIOGRAPHY

I pray without ceasing, worship Jesus whole-heartedly, read incessantly, laugh and cry honestly, travel widely, and enjoy music enthusiastically. I rejoice in crossing boundaries to show and speak the Gospel to those who do not yet know the love of God in Christ. As a pastor, I make disciples in a holistic way, engaging the heart, head and hands. I shepherd others to love God and His Church, to know God and His Word, and to serve God and His world. I strive to help others be fully mature in Christ and unified in Gospel-centered living: encouraged in fellowship, equipped in faith and engaged in mission. In all this, I lead by example and then empower others to live out their faith.

I currently live in Chicago with my wife, Ruth. We have two sons, Ian and Josiah, who are university students.



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pastor, First Evangelical Free Church of Chicago

Interim Senior Pastor (6/2021 – 5/2022)

Pastor of Evangelism & Christian Education (6/2018 – 5/2021)

Pastor of Outreach Ministries (3/2015 – 6/2018)

Pastoral Fellow of Outreach Ministries (9/2013 – 3/2015)

- Preacher and teacher of the Bible
- Supervisor and Equipper of staff and ministry leaders (deacons, small groups, outreach/missions)
- Coordinator of Discipleship and Educational Ministries (Sunday School, small groups)
- Mobilizer of outreach and evangelism ministries (immigrant communities, homeless, foster care, elderly poor)
- Shepherd in pastoral care with Elder Team
- Mentor to seminary students and ministry apprentices
- Pastoral Counselor (pre-marital, addiction, parenting, health, etc)
- Officiant for baptisms, weddings, funerals

Graphic Designer

LYDIA Home Association, Chicago, IL (2003 – 2014)

City Colleges of Chicago (2010 – 2011)

DWS Scudder, Chicago, IL (2002 – 2008)

Taylor Johnson Associates, Chicago, IL (2000 – 2002)

North Park University, Chicago, IL (1992 – 1998)

- Graphic designer and art director of print materials, advertising, data and information, web sites and advertising
- Builder of graphic identity systems, typography and logo design in real estate, higher education and non-profits
- Collaborator in marketing strategy and implementation
- Creator/supervisor of university-accredited curriculum for a Graphic Design Internship

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Vice President / Board Chair, HELPSudan International, Chicago, IL (2005 – 2014)

- Co-founder, with three Sudanese refugees, of non-profit humanitarian organization
- Vision caster and developer of strategic plans and goals
- Fundraiser and builder of strategic partnerships
- Liaison of donor and public relations
- Designer/writer of marketing and communications materials

Church Ministry, First Evangelical Free Church of Chicago

- Elder on Church Board (2012 – 2013)
- Deacon of Missions (2003 – 2010)
- Worship Leader & Musician (1993 – 2004)
- Small Group Leader (1994 – Current)
- Sunday School Teacher (2004 – 2022)
- Short-term Missionary (since 1987): Leader or participant in 19 projects with 17 organizations in 13 countries. Experiences includes preaching, teaching, building schools, community development, humanitarian aid, documentary photography, and more.

EDUCATION

Master of Divinity, Pastoral Studies, *cum laude* (2021), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL
Bachelor of Arts, International Ministries (1996), Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Pastor, Missionary, Wisdom, Teaching, Leadership and Hospitality

LICENSURE & ORDINATION

EFCA Ministerial License, 2016
EFCA Ordination, 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA

[linkedin.com/in/delshimandle](https://www.linkedin.com/in/delshimandle)
[instagram.com/ruthandel/](https://www.instagram.com/ruthandel/)
[facebook.com/del.shimandle.79/](https://www.facebook.com/del.shimandle.79/)

SERMON SAMPLES

Series & Title: The Living Word: Unbound And Released
Passage: John 11:17-44; Genre NT Narrative; Date: Sunday, March 6, 2022
https://www.firstfree.com/podcasts/final/2022_03_06.mp3

Series & Title:: The Living Word: Signal Vs Noise
Passage: John 1:1-18; Genre NT Narrative; Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022
https://www.firstfree.com/podcasts/final/2022_05_22.mp3

Series & Title:: More Than Just A Story: Sarah
Passage: Genesis 21:1-7; Genre: OT Narrative; Date: July 7, 2019
http://firstfree.com/podcasts/final/7_7_2019.mp3

Series & Title:: The Book of Ruth: There Is A Redeemer
Passage: Ruth 4:1-12; Genre: OT Narrative; Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021
http://firstfree.com/podcasts/final/5_16_2021.mp3

Series & Title:: Thriving In Babylon: A Hopeful Look Forward
Passage: Zechariah 8; Genre: OT Prophecy; Date: Sunday, November 21, 2021
https://www.firstfree.com/podcasts/final/2021_11_14.mp3

Series & Title:: Living As Exiles On Main Street: A New Allegiance
Passage: 1 Peter 4:1-19; Genre: NT Epistles; Date: Sunday, September 5, 2021
http://www.firstfree.com/podcasts/final/2021_09_05.mp3

PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

I seek to cross boundaries to show and speak the Gospel to those who do not yet know the love of God in Christ. I practice ministry in a holistic way, engaging the heart, head and hands. As a pastor, I shepherd others to love God and His Church, to know God and His Word, and to serve God and His world, so that they may be fully mature in Christ and unified in Gospel-centered living: encouraged in fellowship, equipped in faith and engaged in mission. I lead by example and then empower others to live out their faith. (*Col 1:9-12; 24-29; 1 Pet 5:1-4; Mt 28:18-20; Eph 4:11-14*)

To Love God and His Church

Jesus said: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Our hearts begin to love Him because He loved us first. Likewise, He loves His Church, and He calls us to love one another sacrificially. We love God by worshipping Him and living in obedience to His Lordship. We love one another in community and fellowship. Worshipping God and living life together, up close and personal, facilitates our spiritual transformation and is an integral way to preach the Gospel to a world desperately in need of God’s love.

As a pastor I model worship with enthusiasm and I lead as one in fellowship with His flock, not as one above, but as one among God’s people. I lead by example, while casting vision, collaboratively building consensus, and accepting responsibility in decision making as needed.

A church that loves God and one another is marked by a thankful attitude, vibrant worship, supportive fellowship, and a strong bond of unity in Christ.

(*Mt 22:36-41; Deut 6:4-5; Ps 1:1-3; Hos 2:15-23; Jn 14:15; 1 Jn 4:19; Ps 133; Acts 2:42-47; Heb 10:25*)

To Know God and His Word

Jesus said “This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent!” For Christians, theology is not knowing *about* God, but about *knowing God Himself*. A disciple is a learner, and as followers of Jesus who are given new life, we learn through His written Word, the Bible and through God Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit. We have everything we need for life and godliness.

As a pastor, my primary role is to proclaim the whole counsel of God so Believers might become fully mature in Christ. I do this in three ways. First, by preaching and teaching the Bible in a way that is captivating, clear and compelling. Second, by leading staff and ministry leaders to collaborate in establishing structures that cultivate vitality, vision and viability. Third, by modeling a life dependent upon the Holy Spirit in personal surrender, study and service.

A church that knows God and His Word is marked by humble unity, eagerness to learn, and transformed lives.

(*Jn 17:3; Deut 6:6-9; Josh 1:8-9; Ps 119:105; Jer 9:23-24, 31:33-34; Jn 14:26; Col 1:24-29; 2 Tim 3:15-17, 4:1-2; Heb 4:12; 1 Pet 5:1-4; 2 Pet 1:3-11*)

To Serve God and His World

Jesus said: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men,” and “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” The Gospels make clear that Jesus was God present in the flesh and on mission to redeem the world. He then entrusted this mission to His disciples. God’s people have been set apart as a light to the world, to live holy lives so that others may see and give glory to God our Father.

As a pastor I strive to enfold, equip and entrust this mission to those whom I shepherd. As foreigners and exiles in the world, our apologetic is to dignify sinners, discuss the Gospel, and demonstrate the love of Christ in word and deed. Together, we show and speak the Gospel with pleas to the heart, persuasive arguments from Scripture, and the proof of our own lives transformed by Him.

A church that serves God and His world is marked by Christians who are encouraged in their salvation, equipped with knowledge of God’s Word, and engaged in showing and speaking the Gospel so that others might see our works and glorify God when He returns.

(*Mt 5:13-16; 1 Kng 8:59-61; Ps 105:1; Mt 4:19, 28:18-20; Jn 3:16-21; Act 1:7-8; Rom 10:9-13; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Pet 2:9-12, 3:15-16*)