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Colonie pastor's calling is to teach the Bible

Published 7:08 pm, Friday, May 18, 2012

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1 of 3

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Pastor Jerry Lynn in the Sanctuary of Reach Out Fellowship in Colonie May 15, 2012. (John Carl D'Annibale / Times Union)



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The Rev. Jerry Lynn: Senior pastor of Reach Out Fellowship on Osborne Road in Colonie

Background: Born in Tennessee and raised in Albany, he graduated from the [Albany Academy](#), [Princeton University](#) and Albany Law School.

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Ordained by the [Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowships](#), he received master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Luther Rice Seminary. In 1983, with his parents, [Pastor Mort](#) and Mother [Verna Lynn](#), he started Calvary Chapel of Albany, which became Reach Out Fellowship in 1996. "Reach Out," his radio program, has aired locally on WHAZ and WJIV for more than 20 years. A lifelong bachelor, he lives in Albany and has two stepsisters, [Susan Ansley](#) in California and Diana Honet in Michigan.

- [Things We Should Probably Never Do Again After 50 \(AARP.org\)](#)

careers?

I enjoyed practicing law in my father's firm for 13 years. Upon becoming a born-again Christian, I began to concentrate on studying the Bible, praying and preparing for the ministry. When I received a clear calling from God, I retired from the law practice and entered full-time ministry in 1983.

Has your training as a lawyer had an influence on your ministry?

Absolutely. Law school taught me how to analyze and explain case law. I use my law training to analyze, explain, illustrate and apply God's Word to our daily lives. The law practice taught me how to work with people and manage a large law firm. My management background is invaluable in running the church.

You were an Army captain in Vietnam? How has war shaped your view of humanity and God and war and peace?

Serving in Vietnam was a life-changing experience. I saw firsthand how fragile life is, how it can end at any moment and how it should be appreciated every moment. I learned the worth of human beings, the presence of God, the horror of war and the value of peace.

There's a lot of discussion these days about the role of religion in politics. How do you communicate your faith-based perspective on public policy issues to your congregation?

I do not discuss politics in my messages. My calling is to teach the Bible, explaining God's values, morals and commandments. In the pulpit I teach the entire Bible, verse by verse, in six-year cycles. My complete teachings verse by verse on our website [reachoutfellowship.org](#). I leave it to the congregation to apply those teachings in their homes and at the polls.

In line with the name of your evangelical church, you reach out to people with a Bible-based, prayer-oriented message. Do you try to carry on a discussion with those who don't share your faith and values? Is there common ground among people of different faiths and those who don't believe in God?)

My days are filled with studying, teaching, praying and counseling, all relating to those whom I am called to serve. I do not have the opportunity to relate much to those outside my ministry. For me, [Jesus Christ](#) is the common ground. But for those who think differently, the common ground for me then would be His works of caring for the needy, loving others and doing good whenever possible.

— Rob Brill

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