



PASTOR  
JAY  
**DENNIS**

**Jay** Dennis has been the senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Lakeland, Florida, since February, 1996. Since his arrival, the church has experienced phenomenal growth and has been featured in *Growing Churches* magazine, *Christianity Today*, and Billy Graham's *Decision Today* Radio Program. Under Dr. Dennis' leadership First Baptist outgrew their facilities and moved services several times from the downtown sanctuary to the Christian Life Center in 1996, then to the Lakeland Civic Center 1997, and finally to the 400,000 square-foot Lakeland Mall in 1998 located on 32 acres. Now known as First Baptist Church at the Mall, the 9000-member congregation worships and ministers to the community of Lakeland, our great nation and the world.

**A** Fort Smith, Arkansas native, he graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas (B.A.); Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Texas (Masters of Divinity); and Fuller Theological Seminary, California (Doctor of Ministry). He is married to Angie and they have two children, Will (26) and Emily (21) and has pastored churches in Texas and Oklahoma.

**A** popular conference and seminar speaker, Dr. Dennis has authored six books: *The Prayer Experiment*, *Taming Your Private Thoughts*, *The Prayer Experiment Lab Manual*, *Dangerous Intersections* (2004), *Leading with Billy Graham: The Leadership Principles and Life of T.W. Wilson* (2005), and *The Jesus Habits* (2005). His doctoral dissertation, *Building Bridges To Baby Boomers Through The Sunday School*, was published by the Texas Baptist Sunday School Department.

**Dr.** Dennis served as President of the Florida Baptist Convention (2001-2002) and President of the State Baptist Presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Dennis was elected Vice-President of Florida Baptist State Board of Missions (1999-2004). He was elected President of the 1998 Florida Baptist Pastor's

Conference and was appointed to serve on the Evangelism Committee of the Baptist World Alliance by Dr. Billy Kim.

**Dr.** Dennis' media/ministry efforts include *Strategies4Life* weekly national TV show, *Just a Minute* radio program and *Project Light* a ministry that provides One-Year Bibles to leaders in Washington, DC and military personnel at the Pentagon.