

Mike is a pastor, educator, motivator, author, and storyteller who, along with his wife, Darla, serves the body of Christ and has a passion to help people model God's love. Since 2006, he and Darla have served as Lead Pastors at Winston Salem First in North Carolina. Since coming to Winston-Salem, they have interacted with city officials and key leaders in the community to address the needs of the under-resourced. They are passionate about the spiritual health of the US church and are committed to mobilizing faith communities for God and the good of humanity.

Mike has an M.A. in Biblical Literature from AGTS ('93). He began an M.Div. at Reformed Theological Seminary ('94-96) in Orlando, and completed it at Biola University ('97). He has also completed a D.Min. from Biola University ('00) with an emphasis in Spiritual Formation. Mike believes education is a worldwide language that provides the body of Christ an opportunity to share God thoughts with people far from God. He has held numerous positions within academia, from Department Chairs to Vice President, and even founded a small Bible college for the under-resourced. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Oral Roberts University.

Mike and Darla together have founded the 24sixchurch, taking the emphasis off of Sunday morning church and providing ordinary people the opportunity to participate in meaningful ministry six days a week. Most recently, they are engaged with Robert Putnam's book *Our Kids* in designing ministries that will fill gaps in society.

In 2015, he released his first book *Slings and Stones*, published by Charisma House. Mike has recently presented a paper at Regent University in the area of Semiotics and is currently working on a project called *God Talk*. In this work, he emphasizes a concept he has labeled Pneumiotics, which proves from tacit experience the Spirit's voice to the individual.

Mike may be best known for telling relevant, contemporary, spiritual stories for everyday life. He and Darla have two grown children, Brayden and Whitney; both are married and serve in various ministry capacities.