

Paul Avis



Paul (30) married to Zoe (30)
for 7 years with child Eddie (1).

About Us:

I grew up in Tamworth and moved to Canberra for University where I studied in Media. I quickly became involved in Crossroads Christian Church and FOCUS, where I met Zoe. Apart from six months in France, Zoe had spent her life in Canberra and was studying Visual Arts at the Australian National University. We got married half way through Zoe's ministry apprenticeship and at the end of mine. After a couple of Media related jobs for me, a teaching position for Zoe, a year living back in Tamworth and a short overseas trip, we moved to Sydney to study at Moore College. I'm now in my fourth year of study and am loving it. Recently God has blessed us with a little boy. Edward is now 21 months old and loves reading, singing, and running beside the Parramatta river with his dad. We also look forward to an extra special Christmas present: our second child due on December 23rd!

Work & Ministry Experience (brief):

See below a brief description of work and ministry experience I have gained, what God has taught me through this and how the past has shaped my approach to Christian ministry.

2004-06	<i>Bachelor of Communication (Media/Multimedia Production)</i>
2006- 07	<i>Television Production Assistant at the ABC, Canberra</i>
2008- 09	<i>Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) Apprenticeship, Crossroads Christian Church / AFES, Canberra</i>
2010-11	<i>Production Manager at 1WAY FM Christian Radio Station, Canberra</i>
2012	<i>Editor at the National Horse Cutting Association, Tamworth</i>
2013-2016	<i>Bachelor of Divinity, Moore College; Student Minister at Trinity Chapel 2013-14; Castle Cove 2015-16.</i>

I grew up in and was profoundly shaped by the faithful, Christ-centred Bible teaching and prayerful relationships at Trinity Church Tamworth. However, it wasn't until I became involved in the AFES University ministry in Canberra that my character, convictions and competencies experienced real growth. As Jesus took priority I grew as both a leader and a person.

MTS shaped my approach to ministry in many ways. It clarified God's sovereignty and power, driving me to focus on Bible and prayer. Through 1-to-1s, bible studies, and sermons across various contexts including children, youth and adults, I became convinced of the 'simplicity' of Gospel ministry (knowing that in other ways ministry is complex): opening up God's Word in the context of relationships. Also, MTS gave me practical experience both in continuing and re-shaping previously existing ministries (for example, the church music team, oversight of mid-year conference), and kick-starting my own (a bible study at a local Australian Catholic University), seeing these ministries through to the end and evaluating them.

Post-MTS, I worked for the Christian Radio Station in Canberra where I grew in conflict management, vision setting, fundraising, public speaking, as well as organising and motivating volunteers. I was able to establish an evangelical Statement of Beliefs for the organisation and a set of program guidelines grounded in my own theological reflections, while attempting to take the volunteer team on the journey. Moreover, I grew in my ability to cope with ambiguity in the ministry setting and learned how to work with those with whom I disagree theologically. Finally, Moore College has deepened my love, knowledge and passion for God and his glorious gospel.

What I Love About Ministry:

I love seeing God at work in people's lives, drawing them to Christ through his Word and in answer to prayer. I especially love the whole process of preaching. God has given Zoe and I many gifts, abilities and experiences in many different contexts that we feel have equipped us to be adaptable and versatile yet faithful, bringing Him glory amongst whoever He places us.

We hope to join an existing ministry team post-college. We feel that we are particularly good team players. I'm able to set and implement a vision for a ministry, but am particularly gifted at supporting Christian leaders and making their ministries happen. I love relationship-grounded, Bible and prayer-focussed ministries. And as a family we are committed to hospitality, 'doing life' with others.