



Mauricio Vargas Multicultural Church Planting Strategist

A native of Sonsonate, El Salvador, Mauricio received an Associate of Arts degree from Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas; a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas; a Masters of Religious Education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and attended North Carolina School of Pastoral Care.

Mauricio accepted the Lord Jesus as his Savior at the age of 18 and was baptized at Sonsonate First Baptist Church. He was ordained to the gospel ministry by Zoar Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mauricio and his wife are home missionaries appointed on September 12, 1978. He is a third generation of Baptist pastors and missionaries.

Mauricio has served as: Pastor, Church Starter, Migrant Director, Refugee and Resettlement Director, Language Ministries Director, Interfaith Witness Director, West Central Team Leader, Multicultural Initiative Coordinator and is currently the Multicultural Church Planting Strategist for the Missouri Baptist Convention. Prior to assuming his work with Missouri Baptists, Mauricio was a Language Ministry Missionary with the North Carolina Baptist Convention. He also was a teacher and soccer coach for Wesleyan Academy and Vandalia Christian Schools. He has lead evangelistic mission teams to Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Belarus and Mexico.

Mauricio has been honored by the North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention with the Kaleidoscope Award, the Interfaith Witness of the Year Award and Church Planter Award. In 2005, he was given an Hispanic Church Planting Lifetime Award. He has also received the Peace and Justice Award from Missouri School of Religion and was named Teacher of the Year in Greensboro, North Carolina. In March 2004, Governor Bob Holden of Missouri appointed Mauricio to the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

As a resident of Jefferson City, Missouri, he has served with the following groups: Jefferson City Strategic Planning 2000, Jefferson City Multicultural Forum, Jefferson City Census Committee 2000, Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce Committee Forum, Missouri De Colores, and Missouri MC+Kids Coalition. He is a board member of the YMCA. Mauricio is a member of the University of Missouri MSW Professional Advisory Committee and Jefferson City Human Relations Commission.

Mauricio and his wife, Carolyn, have four children and two grandchildren.

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