

Michael Graham

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Authorized to work in the US for any employer

Work Experience

Director

THE JACK MILLER PROJECT

January 2015 to Present

Research and writing a biographical dissertation of the late Dr. C. John "Jack" Miller.

Worked with P&R Publishing to adapt a dissertation into a book.

Developing a comprehensive interactive timeline for the life and ministry of Jack Miller.

Most immediate research and writing projects for The Jack Miller Project include "A New Life: Evangelism and the Foundations of Discipleship," "Radical Corporate Prayer," and "Important Sermons by Jack Miller."

Pastor/Teaching Elder

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH (PCA) - Mount Juliet, TN

August 2001 to December 2020

Licensed to preach in the bounds of Nashville Presbytery (September 11, 2001); Ordained by the Nashville Presbytery (October 2001).

Replanted and Pastored Hickory Grove Church, PCA (2001 to 2020).

Moderated Session of Hickory Grove Presbyterian Church (2001 to 2020).

Member of the Nashville Presbytery Church Planting Committee (2001 to 2018).

Assisted in purchase and multiple renovations of church building (2002).

Pastored and oversaw day to day leadership and administrative teams including multiple pastors, church planters, teachers, and other personnel.

Served on the General Assembly Committee for the Review of Presbytery Records (2010).

Director of Nation2Nation (N2N) and N2N Leadership Training Initiative

Hickory Grove Church - Mount Juliet, TN

January 2010 to December 2019

Trained original leaders of the Presbyterian Church of South India and taught various theological courses in South and North India from 2007 to 2012.

Speaker for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South India (2010-2011).

Speaker at Mission to the World General Assembly Breakfast concerning India (2010)

Partnered with international leaders in development of Crossroads of the Nations (a ministry of HGPC and Nashville Presbytery) (2014-2018).

Oversaw translation of World Harvest's Gospel Transformation in Telegu.

Taught pastors and seminary students at Baldaeus Theological College in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka (Summer 2015).

Pastor-Teaching Elder: Business as Mission

Covenant Family Childcare - Mount Juliet, TN

January 2004 to December 2019

Worked with Covenant Family Childcare (CFCC) leadership to start a new childcare ministry of Hickory Grove Church, which included multiple expansions over two decades and an enrollment of 120+ children and 26 teachers.

Helped CFCC develop THRIVE, a leadership training program designed to enhance early childcare teacher training to work with special needs children (2013-2015).

Pastor/Teaching Elder

Harvest Prison Ministry, a ministry of HGPC - Mount Juliet, TN

January 2003 to December 2019

Helped Organize and Oversaw Harvest Prison Ministry, a multi-staff ministry of HGPC operating in various Davidson County correctional facilities.

Education

PH.D. in APPLIED THEOLOGY: NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - Wake Forest, NC

January 2013 to May 2019

MDiv in CHURCH PLANTING & REVITALIZATION CONCENTRATION

Covenant Theological Seminary - St. Louis, MO

July 1998 to May 2001

B.S. in COMMERCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONCENTRATION

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA - Tuscaloosa, AL

August 1983 to December 1988

Skills

- Curriculum Development
- Project Management
- Research
- Strategic Planning
- Pastor-Teacher
- Author-Writer
- Evangelism-Discipleship
- Leadership Training
- Problem-solving
- Flexibility
- Team Work
- Reliability
- Program Development

- Writing Skills
- Budgeting
- Entrepreneur—Self-Starter
- Qualitative research
- Conflict management
- Social media management
- Crisis management
- Supervising experience
- Leadership
- Continuous improvement
- MailChimp
- WordPress

Groups

Evangelical Theological Society

Evangelical Homiletics Society

Trainer—Evangelism Explosion

Mentor—Sonship Mentor Network

Teacher—Person of Jesus Study

Publications

Cheer Up! The Life and Ministry of Jack Miller

<https://amzn.to/2EwNiH3>

December 2020

Through the New Life movement, pastor and author Jack Miller became the pioneering captain of an expansive network of gospel-centered, Reformed leaders who taught in seminaries, planted new churches, revitalized existing churches, and recruited and trained missionaries who were sent around the world. His influence is felt today through their work, his writings, and ministries such as Serge (previously World Harvest Mission) and the Sonship curriculum.

Drawing on extensive interviews with Jack's friends, family, colleagues, and critics, as well as archival material, biographer Michael Graham gives us a full picture of Jack Miller -- from his difficult childhood, early atheism, and conversion to his later teaching and ministries -- showing how he pressed through grave challenges to bring the joy of God's omnipotent grace to some of the most influential leaders in the church today.

Cheer Up! A Biographical Study of the Life and Ministry of C. John "Jack" Miller: A Twentieth Century Pioneer of Grace

<https://www.etdadmin.com/linkAuth?>

[accountId=2242835&submissionId=656768&timeSent=1623966290&destination=etdlist&checksum=78A71AAFD4941](https://www.etdadmin.com/linkAuth?accountId=2242835&submissionId=656768&timeSent=1623966290&destination=etdlist&checksum=78A71AAFD4941)

May 2019

Abstract—"Cheer Up!" is a synoptic biography that recounts and examines the life and ministry of C. John "Jack" Miller, a twentieth century pioneer of grace. Chapter One explains the research question and thesis of this biographical study followed by an explanation of the originality, model, approach, and limitations of the study and concluded by a survey of current literature. Chapter Two fittingly begins with grace. "Cheer Up! God's Grace Is Greater Than You Have Ever Dared Hope" introduces Jack's early life in southern Oregon—including his 1948 conversion to Christianity—through his second move to San Francisco. Chapter Three, "Cheer Up! You Are Far Worse Than You Ever Thought," covers Jack's life and ministry from 1950 to 1970, following Jack and Rose Marie from San Francisco to Philadelphia, back to central California, and then Jack's return to Philadelphia where the pioneering, Reformed leader served as part-time pastor at Mechanicsville Chapel and began teaching at Westminster Theological Seminary. Chapters Four, Five, and Six form the heart of this biographical study. Chapter Four, "Cheer Up! God's Spirit Works in Your Weakness," covers the 1970s beginning with Jack's spiritual revolution in Spain and the effects that formative change had on his life and ministry thereafter. This chapter explores Jack's Trinitarian theology expressed in corporate prayer and Lordship evangelism and also the relationship of theological and missional elements as the Calvinist leader developed the idea of the pastor as the "Chief repentor" in the church. Additionally, Chapter Four follows the planting and growth of New Life Church, and the story behind Jack's small catechism on evangelism, A "New Life" booklet. The booklet explains Jack's understanding of the gospel and his vision for every-member-ministry where evangelism supports and functions as the foundation of discipleship. Chapter Five, "Cheer Up! Justification by Faith in the Twentieth Century," examines Jack's involvement in the otherwise destructive seven-year Justification Controversy over Norman Shepherd's teaching at Westminster Theological Seminary and in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. This chapter surveys Jack's own scholarly, theological development through the intense context of a highly nuanced and often confusing doctrinal controversy as Jack explains his Biblical and confessional understanding of the relationship amongst justification, adoption, and sanctification in union with Christ. Chapter Six, "Cheer Up! God's Kingdom Is More Wonderful Than You Have Ever Imagined," begins with the arrival of Ugandan refugee Kefa Sempangi at New Life Church in the mid 1970s. The chapter continues with Jack's work with Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship and the opening of new mission fields in Uganda, Ireland, and elsewhere. The chapter places Come Back, Barbara into the larger context of Jack's ministry and describes Rose Marie's transformation from orphan to sonship. Chapter Six considers Jack's approach to leadership development as well as the origins and evolution of the Sonship Leadership Training Series. This pivotal chapter in the study describes the formation and development of World Harvest Mission from 1983 to 1990. It also includes the circumstances surrounding Jack's 1983 heart attack in Uganda and his 1987 battle with Lymphoma. Finally, Chapter Seven, "Cheer Up! Come On, Let's Die Together; It's a Great Way to Come to Life," begins with New Life Church's move from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church into the Presbyterian Church in America followed by Jack's own transition from New Life Church to World Harvest Mission. The chapter surveys how Jack Miller, a dying man preaching to dying men, continued to influence leaders through the Sonship movement up to and after his April 1996 death. Chapter Seven concludes considering two examples of Reformed leaders who criticized the Sonship movement and Jack Miller. Jay Adams published his highly controversial and uncharitable treatment of Jack Miller and the Sonship movement in his 1999 book Biblical Sonship. Paul Köoistra provides a more irenic, constructive approach in explaining Mission to the World's (MTW) transition from Sonship to Living in Grace that critiques disciples of Sonship, while remaining supportive of Jack Miller's own vision for the gospel as expressed in Sonship. The study concludes by offering recommendations for further analytical research based upon the research made available by this synoptic biography of the life and ministry of C. John "Jack" Miller.