

## Das Sydney – Short biography

### Condensed Biography

Rev. Dr. Das Sydney is the President of the Canadian Council of Churches. He was born in India, grew up in Africa, and had his university education in Ghana, Canada and the U.S. He is a past president of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec and has taught as an adjunct at Acadia Divinity College and McMaster. He has served in churches in Ontario and Nova Scotia and is currently the Minister Emeritus at Highland Baptist Church in Kitchener, ON. He is married to Angela, a graduate nurse and they have three adult children and three grandchildren.

### Short Biography

Das Sydney was born in India and moved to Africa with his parents at a very young age. He lived in Ethiopia and Ghana for a total of 14 years before immigrating to Canada. This rich and varied background has given him a profound appreciation and sensitivity towards people, cultures, and differing expressions of faith around the world.

He has served in the parish contexts in both Ontario and Nova Scotia where his ministry has maintained the importance of preaching as a key element of worship. He has also emphasized the dynamic union of the message of Jesus with the practical care of people. It has led to a compassion towards those in need, advocacy for the marginalized and offering care where there is spiritual need.

He has served as the Lead Pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Kitchener for almost 19 years. During his tenure, the church engaged in meaningful ways to serve locally, regionally and globally. In turn, many in the community, found in Highland, a safe spiritual home. On his recent retirement from Highland, he was given the honorific title, Minister Emeritus.

He has helped churches engage in long term planning and helped them find their calling or mission, in service and witness. While the Lead Pastor at the historic Wolfville Baptist Church in Nova Scotia, the church attained the highest membership since records were kept. He spear-headed the Out of the Cold program at a Toronto Church, helped organize a variety of helping ministries for refugees and new Canadians, and has been involved with significant reconciliation efforts with our First Nations neighbours.

He is currently the President of the Canadian Council of Churches (<https://www.councilofchurches.ca/>) a Past President of the CBOQ and was the chair of the writing team that produced *This We Believe*, an important document that outlines various emphases in faith and practice among Canadian Baptists. He serves on the Leadership Commission of the Baptist World Alliance, is on the Board of *Christians*

*Together Waterloo Region* and is a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Team of the CBOQ.

Das has graduate degrees from the University of Toronto, McMaster University, and a doctorate from Northern Seminary in Chicago. He has taught Practical Theology as an adjunct at Acadia Divinity College (Wolfville, NS), McMaster Divinity College (Hamilton, ON) and is currently an adjunct at Emmanuel Bible College.

Das is married to Angela, and they have three adult children and three grandchildren. His hobbies include biking, golfing and painting. His personal motto is, "to make God's kind of world real."

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