

#GettingToKnowYou

-An interview with Pastor James Perry
Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, IA

Squaw Creek Baptist Church in Marion, IA officially began their relationship with Pastor James Perry and his family in July 2016.

When asked to share some things about himself and his family this is what we learned:

James was born and raised in Marshalltown, IA which is about 60 miles west of Cedar Rapids. Marion, IA is a northeast suburb of Cedar Rapids, so James is a “local boy”. He once received a “less-than-passing-grade” in a college Missions class because when he was told to describe the mission field to which God was calling him, he wrote of his love for the people of the Midwest and his



calling to minister to them. His greatest desire then, as now, is to serve the Lord wherever He calls, but James has never wavered from the conviction that He (God) was calling me “home”.



James and his wife Gina have been married for 18 years in June. Together they have two daughters, Faith (11) and Lydia (7).

We asked if James has any hobbies and his reply was that HE LOVES motorcycles. He had to sell his several years ago and has not had the money for another. He says, “Remember, everyone – giving a motorcycle to a pastor is a tax-deductible gift. . . just pointing that out.” He also loves to read, ride bikes with his kids, target shoot, and avoid the mall. Finding new places to eat with his wife is favorite, and if they have to,

include their children. Did we mention James likes motorcycling? *“(see above... especially the giving a pastor a motorcycle part) ☺”*

Aside from the things already mentioned, James’ absolute favorite thing to do in all the world IS his job. He loves being a pastor, loves preaching the word, and loves the body of Christ. He is afraid saying so makes him *“sound like some kind of holier-than-thou pile of superiority complex” (his words)*. The best advice James

was every given about going into ministry was, "If you can do ANYTHING else, do that." He was told that while still in High School and has never been able to see himself in any other career. James was a 16-year-old kid at a Sonlife Youth Conference at Moody Bible Institute in 1991 when he turned to his youth pastor and asked him to teach James everything he knew. The youth pastor assured James that it would be a short and pointless endeavor, and asked why. James says, *"I told him then and there that I was going to be a pastor. I don't know why then, I can't remember who was speaking or what they were saying, I just knew I was going to be the guy saying it someday. From there my course was pretty well set."*

James has been a pastor approximately 20-22 years. He received his first ministry paycheck at the ripe-old-age of 19 as a youth intern, though he did not consider himself a pastor until he was hired as the Junior High Pastor at a church near his college in 1997.

His last church in a different denomination was incredibly disheartening. So much anger and evil intentions concentrated in such a small group of people. On the contrary, EVERYTHING has been a blessing in this transition to Squaw Creek Baptist Church. James says, *"Here at Squaw Creek we are most blessed to have a church that honors the Lord, adheres to Scripture, and loves one another. Even though I have only been here since July we have weathered some disagreements and shortcomings—mine and others'—and have only grown in love for one another. God is at work in Squaw Creek as He is opening them up to putting their great faith in to even greater action. Our church is growing in sustainable ways as new people are coming to faith and disillusioned people from liberal churches find truth available in God's word faithfully learned."*

Prayer Request

"Pray that God continues to use Squaw Creek to greater and greater degrees in the Marion/Cedar Rapids area. Pray for a hunger to develop leaders within the body and for stagnant, complacent, mature believers begin to see the personal application of the Great Commission's Commandment to make disciples."