



**Jack Norman Graham
Served as 52nd SBC President:
2003 and 2004**

Florida Pastorate:
First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach,
1981 – 1989

Introductory Overview

Jack Graham (b. 1950), grew up in Conway, Arkansas, in a home of godly parents, Thomas B. and Emogene Graham. At the age of six-years old, Jack Graham began his spiritual journey in a tent revival led by evangelist J. Harold Smith. Graham professed faith in Christ at the revival meeting and was discipled at First Baptist Church of Conway, Ark. “I cut my teeth on the backside of a Baptist pew,” he said. “Through the years that faith has grown as I’ve studied God’s Word and determined that Southern Baptists are vitally connected to the Word of God and the scriptural mission to reach the world for Christ.”¹

The tragic death of his father caused Graham to re-evaluate his life and his commitment to the call of God. That commitment to the cause of Christ nearly six decades later has resulted in his 37-years of service as pastor of a Plano, Texas, church that Graham led to become a mega-church – Prestonwood Baptist Church – with over 60,000 members involved in multiple campuses and which catapulted Graham to be elected to two consecutive years’ service as the 52nd president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Responding and Preparing for Ministry Service

By his self-description, Jack Graham benefitted from a “wonderful family Christian heritage. A grandfather who was a dynamic believer and follower of Christ who had a huge influence on my life and birth of my faith.” Jack recalled his earliest recollections of “spending time in his [grandfather’s] lap, reading stories of the Bible and hearing how my faith can change my life, how Christ can change my life.”²

Graham credits his family members, in particular, who were significant influences and mentors in his life. “My grandfather probably didn’t know what the

word ‘mentor’ meant, but every evening he would set me on his lap and read the Scriptures to me and talk with me about the things of God or whatever else I wanted to talk about,” Graham wrote in one of his many books. He went on to tell that his father “gave of himself to me in many life-shaping ways.”³ Likely Graham’s brother, who was 13-years Jack’s senior, who had responded to the call of ministry, likely had significant influence upon the younger Graham, who said at age 16 he preached his first sermon.

During his childhood the family moved to Fort Worth, Texas. “When Jack was in the ninth grade, he became enthralled with the youth ministry at Sagamore Hills Baptist Church.”⁴ And because the church was very family oriented, this became the church home for Graham not only during his teenage years, but later while a student at Southwestern Seminary. There Jack Graham encountered a man of God who became not only a mentoring influence but a “father in the ministry” to Graham. That influential man was Dr. Fred Swank, who for 43-years served as pastor of the Sagamore Hills Baptist Church.⁵ “When I was a teenager, Dr. Swank saw something in me and was willing to give himself to me. So many of the important decisions I have made in life are a direct result of his influence on my life.”⁶ The discipleship training Jack received at the church prepared him for his high school and college years, particularly as a baseball-player athlete. The discipling encouraged in him the boldness and tools to share his Christian faith with his fellow athletes and others.

God Encountering Events

Graham had a particular encounter with God during a week-long summer camp at the Latham Springs Baptist Camp, near Austin, Texas, attended by his youth group, and led by Dr. Swank. Emir and Ergun Caner, in their published profile of Jack Graham,

retold Graham's testimony of the life-altering spiritual event: "One morning at the worship service, he struggled with his surrender to the gospel ministry. He left the service still laboring over God's perfect will. He walked to the prayer garden and continued to pray until he realized that he was late" for the camp's softball game championship. "Meeting Brother Swank on the way to the field, Graham was near tears as he shared with his pastor about his struggle and his call. Swank looked at the high school sophomore and said, 'That is fine son, and if you are called to preach, you will still be called after the game. Let's play ball.'" ⁷ As the Caners' summarized: "The point was made. If God was calling Graham, his call was for the long term and would take a lifetime of commitment."⁸

Within a few years, Jack Graham's definitive response to God's call to ministry grew out of the tragic death of his father, Thomas Graham. "My father and I were very close. On

August 28, 1970, a shoplifter came into the hardware store he was running, and he was bludgeoned. He lived for ten days and then died. It

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was a devastating blow to our family. To this day it grieves me," Graham told reporter Sam Hailes in 2003. "I was a 20-year-old, newly married college student and young preacher at the time. I went to a chapel inside the hospital after my father died, got on my knees and cried out to God. I can't describe what happened in that room, but I walked out of there different. I didn't see visions, I didn't speak in tongues, I didn't hear angels singing. But the Spirit of God moved in my life, and I believe God used that experience, that brokenness. Men throw away broken

things, but God uses broken things – especially broken people.”⁹

Following his father’s death Graham publicly surrendered to the ministry at the Sagamore Hills Church. Rev. Swank arranged preaching opportunities for Graham during his final years in high school. In 1968 Graham enrolled in Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, on a baseball scholarship and began his undergraduate degree in biblical studies. A year after enrolling in the university, Graham was given the opportunity to serve in his first pastorate, East Side Baptist Church in Cross Plains, Texas. This was a small mission church – with only 13 people in attendance – which he served on the weekends. He drove to the church on Saturdays, visited the community and then preached two services on Sunday. As he completed his university degree, he concluded his service at the East Side Church where the Sunday school attendance now topped forty.¹⁰ Graham’s church growth strategy, which he started in Cross Plains, became his standard practice throughout his ministry in later years: exhibiting servant leadership, biblical preaching and small group Bible studies.¹¹

Marriage and Starting a Family

Graham met his first girlfriend – Deborah Sue Peters (b. 1951) – in his teenage days when Deb never thought she would marry a pastor. The unofficial couple had a dating relationship while both were students at Hardin-Simmons University. Deb is reported to be the first and only girlfriend to be in Jack’s life. Graham recalled that Deb “made better grades in school than I did. My grades went up when I married her. Most of us men would readily admit that we married way over our heads,” he wrote years later in a book – *Courageous Parenting* – that the two co-authored.¹² While only partially through their

respective degree programs, they married May 22, 1970. He was 20 and she was 19. During the ensuing years the couple had three children – two sons – Jason Matthew (b. 1976) and Joshua Grant (b. 1983) – and one daughter Kelly Susanne (b. 1977).¹³

Ministry Years Started

Graduating from Hardin-Simmons in 1972, Graham was invited to become assistant pastor of Sagamore Hills Baptist Church, his home church. Working and

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learning what it means to be a pastor under Fred Swank's tutelage "was the highest form of ministerial training," Graham told the Caners in a 2002 interview. Parallel

to working with the Ft. Worth church, Graham pursued graduate training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. By 1976 he earned the Master of Divinity, and in 1980 he earned the Doctor of Ministry degree.¹⁴

While working through the MDiv degree program in 1975, the Graham family moved to Oklahoma where he first served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Hobart (1975 – 1978) and then the First Baptist Church, Duncan (1978 – 1981). He commuted between the Ft. Worth seminary and the church fields in Oklahoma. "These were pivotal years for Graham," according to the Caners' interview. "First Baptist Church of Duncan was running around five hundred and fifty in Sunday school when Graham arrived in 1978, and the church was primed for growth. Graham believed deeply in training the laity for evangelism." Similarly, "at Duncan, the devotion to that biblical principle bore fruit. In a town of approximately 25,000, the church baptized 240 in one year. He had similar experiences during his entire tenure."¹⁵

First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach – 1981 – 1989

Jack Graham was called to the First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, in October 1981.¹⁶ At age 31 Graham was the youngest man ever called to lead the church. During Graham's tenure of the church, membership nearly doubled in size, to an estimated 8,700 from about 4,000, a local newspaper reported in 1989.¹⁷

Graham recalled when he went to the West Palm Beach church, in 1981, he considered it to be "a significant strategic church in South Florida." As Graham explained, he "found a congregation that had been in some decline by the time he was called as pastor. However, God began to move in an incredible way . . . as we began reaching people in the community." At the time Palm Beach County had a population of approximately one million people. "Most never went to church," he recalled. "It was a huge opportunity, as I saw it, to evangelize, to reach people with the message" of Jesus Christ. Graham said he led the church members to become "very aggressive in its outreach, and the church grew and grew and grew." He also noted that those years at West Palm Beach became "the formative years of my ministry and the style that ultimately has served me well these last thirty-plus years now at Prestonwood Baptist Church," Graham said in a 2026 podcast interview.¹⁸

Additionally, First Baptist Church by the mid-1980s had to adjust in the type of music featured in the worship service. To more effectively reach "Baby Boomers" Graham told the *Miami Herald* that, "Drum sets, horns and guitars are in nearly every church today." Continuing he said, "It was unheard of 20 years" earlier. Graham said the church's music

program tried to maintain a balance between “the great hymns of the faith and the new praise songs.”¹⁹

Within the first 21 months of his ministry, “Graham – characterized as the spiritual and driving force – has led in the growth by 800 new members at First Baptist. . . Additionally, a second Sunday morning service was added to accommodate the crowds while the Sunday School membership tripled to 1,500 children, young people and adults. . . Already the largest Southern Baptist congregation in Palm Beach County, Graham had unveiled in 1983 a \$20 million building plan to construct a 3,500-seat sanctuary, a three-story educational building, a Christian life center and a parking garage.” At the time Graham said the emphasis was “to make the church a central part of people’s lives . . . Of course, the Lord is first.”²⁰

In addition to providing more space to accommodate increased attendance, Graham focused on using the church’s television

ministry to reach even more people with the gospel message. By 1987 the church not only broadcast on a single channel throughout

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Palm Beach County, but the recorded Sunday services were delayed broadcast on the Liberty Broadcast Network to 35 other states. “I don’t feel like I’m a television evangelist,” Graham told the *Fort Lauderdale News*. “That is not our goal. TV is a seed, a steppingstone, a way into people’s lives.”²¹

Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas, 1989 to present

Ninety-nine percent of the voting membership at Dallas’ Prestonwood Baptist Church voted May 7, 1989, to call Jack Graham of Florida as their pastor

effective June 1. He succeeded the church's founding (1977) pastor Billy Weber who resigned after "admitting to an adulterous affair."²² Newt Hamlin, a Prestonwood Church spokesman, said that Graham is "probably the outstanding young pulpiteer and pastor in the country, and most of the ministers I've talked to have said the same thing."²³

When Dr. Graham went to Prestonwood in 1989, the 8,000-member congregation responded enthusiastically to his straightforward message and powerful preaching style. Between 1989 and 2002, under Graham's leadership, the Prestonwood Church reportedly recorded more than 4,500 baptisms and 10,000 additions to the membership. Currently thriving with more than 60,000 members, Prestonwood continues to grow, reaching people throughout the North Texas region. In 2006, the church launched a second location, the North campus, in a burgeoning area 20 miles north of the Plano campus. Prestonwood has a flourishing Spanish-language ministry, Prestonwood en Español, which includes members from more than 20 nations. Also Prestonwood.Live, the online community, draws worshippers from all over the world.²⁴ To expand the church's evangelistic outreach, Graham led in the establishment of *PowerPoint Ministries* that utilizes TV and radio broadcasts, postings of sermons online, and sending Emails across the country and around the world. Additionally, Graham has written dozens of books addressing the everyday and spiritual concerns of believers and non-believers.

Elected SBC President in 2002

Jerry Vines during the 2002 annual Pastors' Conference at First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, told the gathering of pastors that Jack Graham "very likely" would be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention that year. "And if he is, I

plan to vote for him. . . He would make us a wonderful, wonderful president,” Vines told the pastors. Referring to the Prestonwood Church’s growth, Vines said, “it’s absolutely phenomenal what’s taking place at the church, how the Lord is blessing. . .”²⁵

Soon after the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention was convened in St. Louis, Missouri, the election of convention president was held. The presiding officer recognized Johnny Hunt of Woodstock, Georgia, who nominated Jack Graham of Dallas, Texas. There were no other nominations. Registration Secretary Lee Porter cast the Convention ballot, and Jack Graham was declared as president-elect for 2002 – 2003.²⁶

During his inaugural press conference Graham promised to continue the SBC’s emphasis on reaching the world for Christ. “Being a Texan, I’m confident in thinking big — that the world and the opportunities of the world are bigger and greater than ever before for Southern Baptists,” Graham said. “There has never been a better time, a better opportunity than right now for us to get the message of the gospel around the world.” Citing Romans 1:16 as a “life verse,” Graham said he is not ashamed of the gospel message and hopes to reflect that conviction as SBC president.²⁷

In response to motions made during the 2002 meeting, Graham affirmed his belief that Southern Baptist missionaries should affirm the 2000 *Baptist Faith and Message*, a decision that drew fire from moderate and liberal Baptists and some state Baptist newspaper editors. The new president described the BF&M as an instrument of accountability. “Our doctrinal accountability is vital. It’s a good idea that all who serve Southern Baptist churches respond to the will of the people, that all who serve us will share our faith and do it in a way that is conscientious.”²⁸

Serving as SBC President in 2003

Graham and first vice president Paul Pressler (b. 1930; d. 2024) presided over the 2003 annual meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona. At the time for election of officers for 2003-2004, Bobby Welch of Daytona Beach, Florida, nominated Jack Graham to be elected for a second one-year term as president. There were no other nominations. Registration Secretary James H. Wells cast the convention ballot, and Jack Graham was declared as president-elect for 2003 – 2004.²⁹

One of the significant actions taken by convention messengers in Phoenix was the approval of a resolution to “lament and renounce statements and actions by previous Conventions and previous denominational leadership that offered support to the abortion culture” on the 30th anniversary of the U. S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision. The 2003 resolution on abortion rights further expressed regret that “1970s-era Southern Baptist Convention resolutions and statements” furthered the “‘pro-choice’ abortion rights agenda outlined in *Roe v. Wade*” and that some of the nation’s political leaders referenced the comments and views of former SBC leaders “to oppose legislative efforts to protect women and children from abortion.”³⁰ Richard

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Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the SBC’s moral concerns arm supported the resolution by observing, “It’s never too late to say you’re sorry.”³¹

Messengers also overwhelming passed a resolution condemning same-sex marriage. The statement

affirmed “that legal and biblical marriage can only occur between one man and one woman.” Noting efforts are underway to repeal state and federal Defense of Marriage Act, the resolution called upon Southern Baptists to “continue to oppose steadfastly” all efforts to legalize same-sex marriage.”³²

Delivering his presidential address, Graham charged Southern Baptists to be salt and light in a lost world. “If we are going to make a difference, we of course must be different,” he said.

Serving as SBC President in 2004

Jack Graham presided as the 2004 annual meeting convened in Indianapolis, Indiana. The gathering marked the 25th anniversary of the movement now known as the conservative resurgence. An approved resolution commended the movement that returned the convention to its biblical, historical roots.³³ At the earlier 1979 annual meeting, Adrian Rogers was elected president, launching a still unbroken string of conservative presidents. A “Conservative Resurgence Reunion” was held during the convention. “The heroes of the conservative resurgence are not those people whose names you know, but those who have come sacrificially to the conventions and voted their convictions and said the Word of God is going to be glorified among Southern Baptists,” said retired Houston Texas Appeals Court Judge Paul Pressler, (b. 1930; d. 2024) a leader in the resurgence.³⁴

President George W. Bush, in his third message to SBC messengers via satellite from the White House, reaffirmed his pro-life stance and his support for a Federal Marriage Amendment. Touching on the embryonic stem cell debate without mentioning it by name, Bush said that life “is a creation of God, not a commodity to be exploited by man.” Bush received one of the loudest ovations for his statement of

support for a Federal Marriage Amendment. “The union of a man and woman is the most enduring human institution, honored and encouraged in all cultures and by every religious faith,” he said. “And government, by strengthening and protecting marriage, serves the interests of all.”³⁵ Bush previously addressed the Convention in 2002, when he spoke via satellite, and in 2003 when he sent a taped message.

In other noteworthy matters: (1) Messengers defeated a motion that would have formed a committee to study the possible change of the SBC’s name. After extended discussion, the resolution was voted by ballot with a final tally of 55.4 percent voted against the proposal and 44.6 percent voted for the proposed study.³⁶ (2) By a show of ballots messengers overwhelmingly voted to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance. Theological issues formed the heart of the concerns cited by a BWA study committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee.³⁷

In his second term president’s address Jack Graham encouraged Southern Baptists to ready for the challenges of evangelism responding to the growing cultural and social issues, such as homosexuality and same-sex “marriage.” “I simply ask you a question: As Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians, if we don’t stand up, wise up and speak up on these issues, who will be left to deal with the issues of our times?” he asked. “If not us, Southern Baptists, then who? If not now, when?”³⁸

In an interview with the *Southern Baptist Texan* just prior to the 2004 annual meeting, Graham said he “had grown as a person and pastor as a result of numerous service opportunities stemming from the SBC presidency.” He went on to say it was like “gaining a lifetime of experience in just two years.”

“When you get around the country and see Southern Baptists at work, it expands your vision; it enlarges your heart for what we’re doing together in cooperative evangelism,” he told the *Texan*. Graham explained he had entered the presidency at a time of heightened turmoil in America involving global terrorism, human cloning, same-sex “marriage” and the Federal Marriage Amendment, and the ongoing tide of abortion. “This has been a difficult time in America and around the world. . . with the post-9/11 generation,” Graham said.³⁹

SBC President Jack Graham, speaking to the Executive Committee June 14, 2004 said Southern Baptists are not looking to endorse candidates, but instead to have candidates endorse Southern Baptist values. “One of the reasons we loved Ronald Reagan so much is because he endorsed so many of our values and helped us in our country and our culture,” Graham said. “That’s the way I feel about any candidate, whether it’s this president or any other president. We’re seeking that candidate to endorse us. . . We’re thankful that George W. Bush has endorsed many of the values that we hold dear.”⁴⁰

The Anxiety of Cancer

In May 2009, Pastor Graham was diagnosed with prostate cancer and took a two-month sabbatical. But as Graham later reported on his website, awaking from surgery, his doctor told him they couldn’t be sure they got all the cancer and Graham would need more treatment. The uncertainty of that news left Graham feeling nervous and afraid, which he said, “soon escalated into anxiety.” And as his treatment and recovery became drawn out, “Anxiety gave way to depression and at its worst,” Graham describing himself, “as a dead man walking.” He went on to explain that he “felt hopelessness, sadness, helplessness, despair, numbness, despondency, and

struggled with insomnia and loss of appetite.” But over the course of the next year Graham found resources “to slowly climb out of this pit as strands of a rope: time, the touch of family and friends, thanksgiving, therapy, and most important, God’s Word.” Graham stressed, “the Scriptures reminded me that regardless of how isolated I felt, I was anything but alone. Second, the Scriptures provided me with the power I so desperately sought while stuck in my powerless state. And third, as I prioritized engaging with the God’s Word, even when I didn’t feel like doing so, I felt myself coming back to life.”⁴¹ From that medical experience, Graham wrote a book, titled *Reignite*, that chronicled his physical, medical and spiritual recovery.

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Continuing Concerns Over ERLC

In 2025 Graham announced on his social media X-account that the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) should be defunded. In his post, Graham said that he “believe[d] the organization has been the single most divisive entity of the SBC since the days of Russell Moore. I believe it should be defunded. . . I’ve been clear on this for a decade.” Eight years earlier in 2017, Graham led his church to conduct “an internal study to evaluate Cooperative Program giving. In February of that year, the church said they would escrow Cooperative Program funds during the study citing ‘various significant positions taken by the leadership of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.’” A few months later, the church released the escrowed funds and continued full support of the Cooperative Program. The rationale for the decision to escrow the funds, likely resided in a 2016 *Wall Street Journal* story in which the Texas pastor explained: “There was a disrespectfulness

towards Southern Baptists and other evangelical leaders, past and present.” Graham was specifically referring to ERLC President Russell Moore’s denunciations of presidential candidate Donald Trump and some of his evangelical supporters. “It’s disheartening that this election has created this kind of divisiveness,” Graham said at the time.⁴² In March 2017, Moore and the ERLC executive committee released an extended statement “seeking unity in the Southern Baptist Convention.” Soon thereafter, Graham tweeted, “This is a gracious and unifying statement from [Moore].”⁴³

Reflections Upon His Legacy

In 2014, as Graham approached his 25th anniversary of pastoral service to the Prestonwood Church, he was interviewed by *Baptist Press*, the Southern Baptist Convention’s news agency. One of the questions addressed his desire for his legacy. Graham response, reflecting what he had long believed, likely still holds true this year as Graham marks 57-years in the pastoral ministry:

I’ve always said that it’s not about leaving a legacy but living a legacy. I want to be faithful with the resources God has given us – ‘to whom much is given, much is required.’ I want my family and my children’s children to carry on the message of faith. . . I want to finish my course with joy. Unfortunately, you see too many ministers who end up joyless in life. I want to be joyful in the ministry that I’ve been given and that I’m ready to pass the baton to someone else when the time comes.⁴⁴

At the time this 2026 *Journal* article was prepared Deb and Jack Graham were still serving the Prestonwood Baptist Church.

ENDNOTES:

Editor's Note: This profile of Jack N. Graham was written by Donald S. Hepburn, managing director, Florida Baptist Historical Society, using the following resources:

¹ Tammi Reed Ledbetter, "SBC nominee Jack Graham rooted in evangelism," *Baptist Press*, June 8, 2002, 1; the story held in the Jack Graham's file of the Florida Baptist Historical Society, Graceville, Florida, [hereinafter similar news publication stories to be identified as: story held in Graham's bio file].

² Steve Gatena interview with Jack Graham on podcast "Relentless Hope," aired June 2, 2023, transcript accessed June 6, 2026, on-line at <https://omny.fm/shows/relentless-hope/jack-graham-main>; [transcript held in Graham's bio file].

³ Jack Graham, *A Man of God*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2007), 170.

⁴ Emir and Ergun Caner, *The Sacred Trust*, (Nashville: Broadman-Holman Publishers, 2003), 208.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 209.

⁶ Jack Graham, *A Man of God*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2007), 170.

⁷ Caner, 208.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 209.

⁹ Sam Hailes, "Megachurch leader Jack Graham: Being a pastor is the world's worst profession . . .but the greatest calling," PremierChristianity.com, January 2023, posted at <https://www.premierechristianity.com/interviews/medgachurch-leader-Jack-Graham-being-a-pastor-is-the-world's-worst-profession-but-the-greatest-calling>, accessed May 15, 2026; [story held in Graham's bio file].

¹⁰ Caner, 209.

¹¹ Ledbetter, 1.

¹² Jack and Deb Graham, *Courageous Parenting*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2006), 36.

¹³ Caner, 210.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ "Florida Features," *Florida Baptist Witness*, November 12, 1981, 6; [story held in Graham's bio file].

¹⁷ Ken Pellis, "First Baptist Church's pastor resigns," *The Palm Beach Post*, May 13, 1989, 97; [story held in Graham's bio file]; also see statistical reports for the First Baptist Church in the Palm-Lake Baptist Association *Annals*, 1981 through 1990.

¹⁸ Steve Gatena podcast interview with Jack Graham.

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- ¹⁹ Adon Taft, “Boomer’ sing a different tune,” *The Miami Herald*, October 17, 1986, 206; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ²⁰ David Marcus, “Baptist Praise Lord, preacher as church becomes area’s largest,” *The Miami Herald*, July 17, 1983, 719; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ²¹ “Churches,” *Fort Lauderdale News*, February 8, 1987, 437; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ²² “Jack Graham headed for Prestonwood,” *Florida Baptist Witness*, May 11, 1989, 3; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ²³ Ken Pellis, “First Baptist’s Jack Graham expected to leave Florida,” *The Palm Beach Post*, May 6, 1989, 118; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ²⁴ “Dr. Jack Graham,” Prestonwood Baptist Church website accessed May 23, 2026, at <https://www.prestonwood.org/about/ourstaff/dr-jack-graham/>
- ²⁵ James A. Smith, Sr., “Jack Graham to be nominated SBC president,” *Florida Baptist Witness*, February 7, 2002, 1; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ²⁶ Proceedings, item 63, Southern Baptist Convention *Annual*, 2002, 69; [hereinafter referred to as *SBC Annual*].
- ²⁷ Todd Starnes, “Wrap-up: Southern Baptists hear from Bush, elect new president,” *Baptist Press*, June 13, 2002, 1; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ²⁸ Todd Starnes, 2
- ²⁹ Proceedings, item 53, *SBC Annual*, 2003, 63.
- ³⁰ Proceedings, item 110, *SBC Annual*, 2003, 71 – 73.
- ³¹ Dwayne Hastings, “Analysis: SBC sets the record straight on convention’s abortion stance,” *Baptist Press*, June 19, 2003, 1; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ³² Proceedings, item 112, *SBC Annual*, 2003, 74.
- ³³ Proceedings, item 156, *SBC Annual*, 2004, 85 – 86.
- ³⁴ Michael Foust, “Wrap-up: Messengers stick with the SBC name, hear from President Bush during Indy meeting,” *Baptist Press*, June 18, 2004, 1; [story held in Graham’s bio file].
- ³⁵ Proceedings, item 87, *SBC Annual*, 2004, 76.
- ³⁶ Proceedings, items 15, 62, and 120 –132, *SBC Annual*, 2004, 46; 64; and 79 – 80.
- ³⁷ Proceedings, item 34, Executive Committee recommendation #6, *SBC Annual*, 2004, 49.
- ³⁸ Proceedings, item 57, President’s address, *SBC Annual*, 2004, 64; 95 – 103.
- ³⁹ Kaylan Christopher, “Jack Graham: SBC president amid cultural upheaval across the U.S.,” *Southern Baptist Texan*, June 10, 2004; [story held in Graham’s bio file].

⁴⁰ Erin Curry, “Bush speaks to Southern Baptists, reiterates stances on life issues, same sex ‘marriage,’” *Baptist Press*, June 15, 2004, 1; [story held in Graham’s bio file].

⁴¹ Jack Graham, “Dr. Jack Graham on *Reignite: Fresh Focus for an Enduring Faith*,” accessed May 23, 2026, at <https://cbn.com/article/wisdom/dr-jack-graham-reignite-fresh-focus-enduring-faith>; [story held in Graham’s bio file].

⁴² Brandon Porter, “Texas pastor, Jack Graham former SBC president wants to defund ERLC,” *Baptist Press*, May 23, 2025, 1; [story held in Graham’s bio file].

⁴³ David Roach, “Prestonwood to resume CP giving ‘without designation,’” *Baptist Press*, April 26, 2017, 2; [story held in Graham’s bio file].

⁴⁴ Berta Delgado-Young, “Jack Graham marks 25-years at Prestonwood,” *Baptist Press*, June 4, 2014, 2; [story held in Graham’s bio file].

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