

# Robert James Perla

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## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Birth:** February 25, 1949, Fitchburg, Massachusetts

**Salvation:** 1983, Charlton, Massachusetts

**Background:** Born to and raised by Italian-American parents, and grew up in a Roman Catholic home. I am the second oldest of four children and have three sisters.

**Marital Status:** For the past twenty-eight years, I have been married to my wife Janet (Alexander) who is in full support of my ministry. Janet has served as a Sunday school teacher, nursery helper, small group leader, and has worked as a corporate accountant and financial manager. Before becoming a Christian in 1983, I divorced my first wife because she was involved in an adulterous affair and she refused to end it.

**Children:** I have a loving stepdaughter and two beautiful granddaughters' age five and six.

**How I spend my free time:** I love hanging out with my wife, family, and friends, dinning out, going to the movies, sharing a meal or "good" cup of coffee, taking day trips, traveling, reading a book, and watching a football or basketball game. In those moments, I find myself thinking, "Thank you God, I can't believe I get to live this life."

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**My Objective** is to serve God through relevant preaching, dynamic teaching, relational living, and strong leadership ability. To pastor a church that will utilize my experiences and gifts to help equip people who will make a difference in their community, who have a heart for the unsaved, for missions and a love for God.

### Education

- Master of Theology in 1994: International Seminary, Plymouth, Florida
- Bachelor of Science in Organizational Behavior in 1984: Lesley University Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Associate of Science in Business Management in 1981: Fisher College; Fitchburg, Massachusetts

### Continuing Education – Pastoral Care

Covenant Hospice Pensacola, Florida

- Family Bereavement Support
- Patient and Family Counseling
- Spirituality and End of Life Care
- Persuasive Patient Advocate
- The Role of Spirituality In Palliative Care
- Effective Communication During Times of Stress

### Ministry Credentials

- First licensed in 1991 by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Church
- June 6, 2005 Licensed transferred to Liberty Network of Churches and Ministers, Pensacola, Florida
- May 8, 2007 Ordained by Liberty Network of Churches and Ministers, Pensacola, Florida
- Member of the Church Foundational Network of Pastors and Ministers, Pensacola, Florida

### Ministry Calling

In 1983, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior during a citywide Christian conference in Worcester, Massachusetts and was water baptized two months later at the Charlton Baptist Church in Charlton, Massachusetts. Shortly after that while listen to Christian music and praying in the privacy of my home, I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Three months later while praying and reading 1 Timothy 4:13-15, God placed within my heart and spirit a strong desire to serve Him in full time ministry a desire that continues to grow even stronger to this day.

*"Unit I come devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.  
Do not neglect your gift...Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them..."*  
(1 Tim 4:13-15 NKJ).

### **Spiritual Gifts and Strengths**

Twenty-eight years of ministry experience in pastoral and volunteer positions with focus on teaching, equipping, education, and ministry have revealed the following gifts and strengths.

- Shepherding
- Leadership
- Preaching
- Teaching
- Counseling
- Pastor Care
- Administration
- Problem Solving
- Team Development
- Equipping/Exhortation
- Discernment
- Word of Knowledge

### **Brief Ministry Philosophy**

I believe Christ is the head of the church and that God, in his wisdom places leaders in positions where their talents and skills can best serve His kingdom. I seek to honor God through my leadership by calling on Him daily for wisdom to lead. As a pastor, it is my primary responsibility to hear from God, to care for God's people, and to prepare His church for the work of His ministry. It is also the responsibility of church elders to help their pastor care for the needs of the congregation, to pray with him, and to provide godly counsel relevant to the needs of God's people. A more detailed philosophy is available upon request.

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## **MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Bi-vocational Minister      2006 to Present**

Liberty Church, Pensacola, Florida

Liberty Church is a non-denominational, multi-campus, Spirit-lead church of 4800+ attendees.

- Facilitate three small group programs (ALPHA, SHAPE, Truth Project)
- Member of the International Missions Pastoral Oversight Committee
- Oversee of the Wednesday Night 12 Step Spiritual Recovery Program
- Worked with the Senior Pastor and the Executive Pastor on the development of the Liberty Counseling 12 Step Spiritual Recovery Program, and the overall structure of the program.
- Member of the Pastoral Care Team: ministering to terminally ill patients and their families in Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Hospice Inpatient Residences.

### **Bi-vocational Minister      1996 to 2005**

Charity Chapel, Pensacola, Florida

Charity is a non-denominational Christ-centered church located in the northwest panhandle of Florida, with a congregation of about 525 members.

- Taught adult Sunday school classes on a weekly basis
- Provided marriage, family, and pastoral counseling as needed
- Successfully facilitated a home small group of 14 adults once a week
- Conducted home, hospital, nursing home and hospice visitations
- Pulpit Supply provided during pastoral vacation or absence
- Guest preached once a month at the Wednesday night service
- Officiated at Weddings, Funerals, Water Baptisms, and Baby Dedications
- Led a comprehensive assimilation plan to connect new comers to the church
- Participated in the annual missions conference and various community outreach programs

### **Pioneer Pastor      1991 to 1995**

Pensacola Foursquare Gospel Church, Pensacola, Florida

- Served as the pioneer pastor of the Pensacola Foursquare Gospel Church for 5 years. In 1996, the Pensacola Foursquare Gospel Church merged with Charity Chapel where I served as a Bi-vocational Minister for 10 years before moving to Liberty Church.

### **Lay Ministry Leader 1985 to 1990**

Holden Chapel, Holden, Massachusetts

Holden Chapel is a non-denominational, Family oriented Church located in central Massachusetts.

- Taught third grade Sunday school
- Successfully lead a weekly home fellowship group of 14 adults
- Conducted weekly home, hospital, and nursing home visitations
- Preached once a month at the Wednesday night service to a congregation of 185

### **Pastoral Care Minister 1984 to 1989**

Crossroads Outreach Ministry, Worcester, Massachusetts

For five years, I ministered to those suffering from, depression, suicidal tendencies, anxiety disorders, and substance abuse or chemical dependency. Referring patients to appropriate community services when necessary was an essential part of my ministry coupled with providing:

- Facilitated a weekly adult Christian education class of 12 students
- Conducted weekly home, hospital, nursing home and hospice visitations
- Preached relevant teachings each week at the Wednesday night service
- Successfully lead a weekly 12 Step Spiritual Recovery Program of 14 adults
- Overseeing and directing ministry resources, people, and projects
- Serving on various ministry boards and community outreach committees
- Provided mentoring, spiritual counseling, pastoral counseling and pre-marriage counseling

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## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Spiritual Support Volunteer 2008 to Present**

Covenant Hospice Inpatient Residence, Pensacola, Florida

Covenant Hospice is a 16-bed inpatient residence facility caring for terminally ill patients.

- Provide emotional and spiritual support to hospice team members.
- Provide bereavement support to families/love ones as requested.
- Stand-in for the full-time chaplain when he is unavailable or on vacation.
- Available for on-call emergencies when pastoral services are requested
- Assist the full-time chaplain in providing interfaith spiritual support to terminally ill patients/families.
- Work with social workers, nurses and hospice staff in resolving spiritual concerns of patients/families.
- Serve as liaison to community clergy to ensure the patient receives all the support he/she needs.
- Assist in the review and development of hospice policies in regard spiritual support volunteer services.
- Conduct spiritual support visitations in Patient Homes, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Assisted Living Facilities, as well as visiting with Covenant Hospice inpatient residents and families.

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## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

### **Leadership Skills**

The leadership experiences gained from the following secular positions have well prepared me to pastor today's contemporary church.

- Adult Education Teacher: City of Worcester, Massachusetts
- Elected City Committee Member: City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts
- Advisor to Former Mayor William Flynn: City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts
- Graphic Design Specialist and Web Developer: U. S. Navy — Contract Worker
- Information Management Task Supervisor: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers — Contract Worker
- High School Substitute Teacher: Montachusett Technical High School, Fitchburg, Massachusetts

### **Computer Skills**

**Expert User:** Microsoft Office Suite: Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, Visio Pro, and Adobe Photoshop CS2

**Intermediate User:** Microsoft Outlook, Excel, Acrobat Reader, Adobe Dreamweaver, HTML, Java Script, Flash Animation, and Cascading Style Sheets.

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**REFERENCES****Senior Pastor Buford Lipscomb**

Liberty Church  
2221 South Blue Angel Parkway  
Pensacola, Florida 32506  
Phone: (850) 453-4318  
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Website: <http://libertychurch.net>

**Pastor Jerry Ireland**

Charity Chapel  
5820 Montgomery Avenue  
Pensacola, Florida 32509  
Phone: (850) 944-5520  
Email: jerry@charitychapel.org

**Executive Pastor Scott Brown**

Liberty Church – Blue Angel Campus  
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**Evangelist Jon Jenkins**

In-House Ministries  
175 Autumn Leaf Road  
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**Pastor Jim Mather**

All Nations Community Church  
5659 William and Mary Street  
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**Becky Luntsford**

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