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# JOHN H. SPURLING

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817.475.5753 [johnspurling4@gmail.com](mailto:johnspurling4@gmail.com) [johnspurling.org](http://johnspurling.org)

## Professional Objective

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As a mature senior executive leader, professor, university president, provost, and consultant my desire is to serve a dynamic Christian university that is searching for a highly qualified educator to prepare whole person leaders by uphold the biblical standards and traditions of the university, develop innovative learning environments, building strategic partnerships, and executing a visionary plan for a new season of academic growth across all degree programs. And my commitment is to produce excellence in the classroom, in scholarship, in collegial collaboration, and in humbly serving the academic community.



## Education

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**1997 Doctor of Ministry – Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA**

*(Organizational Leadership Studies)*

**1987 Master of Divinity - AGTS, Springfield, MO**

*(Graduated with academic honors)*

**1985 M.A. Program in Strategic Leadership - Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA**

**1984 B.A. in Biblical Studies - Evangel University, Springfield, MO**

*(Graduated magna cum laude)*

## Leadership Experience

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**Founder/CEO, Transform U Leadership Services, (July 2020 – Present)**

**Farmers Branch, TX; Porter Ranch, CA**

A multi-faceted consultation, executive coaching, training, and resourcing company designed to walk alongside senior leaders in church and Christian higher education settings. Utilizing 30 years of leadership experience, **Transform U Leadership Services** provides proven strategic planning and organizational development success to guide leaders and organizations through critical growth challenges. With expertise in developing innovative learning platforms, design planning, problem solving, collaborative communication skills, and leadership development, **Transform U** provides important support for Christian leaders. Critical in this process is aligning every aspect of the organization around producing measurable movement toward fulfilling a clear mission and achievable, vision guided outcomes.

**Primary services offered include:**

- Achieving Organizational Alignment and “Systems” Thinking
- Executive Coaching (group and individual)
- Strategic Planning and Staff Leadership Development
- Building a Healthy, Collaborative Work Culture
- Leveraging Technological Innovation for Excellence in Learning
- Leadership, Academic, and Organizational Resourcing

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## **Senior Advisor/Executive Director for Graduate Medical Education (July 2020 – present)** **Innovative Medical Solutions, Inc.** Panorama City, CA / Beverly Hills, CA

NOTE: With the passionate intention of making a long-term investment in the next leadership position, I have determined to take whatever time is necessary to secure the right situation where I can make a significant Kingdom impact. So, having communicated with the leaders at IMS concerning my clear intent, I chose to secure a “bridge” position while this process moves forward. Thus, during this interim season I have been serving as a senior advisor and Executive Director for Graduate Medical Education for a friend who owns a hospital and other healthcare businesses in So. California.

- Serving as senior consultant focusing on the educational, administrative, organizational, and marketing challenges for two hospitals in the L.A. area.
- Providing leadership to secure professional accreditation (ACGME) for the hospital’s new Family Medicine and Psychiatry post-doctorate residency programs, along with overseeing the training of P.A., UME, Pharm D., LPN, BSN, and RN students.
- Guiding the organization in strengthening their strategic planning, innovation, implementation priorities, budgetary assessment, and diversified platform... with a budget of over \$550 million.

## **Executive Director/Professor of Strategic Leadership & Innovation (July 2018 – June 2020)** **Southeastern University**, Lakeland, FL

Until June of 2020, I served as the Executive Director for Strategic Leadership & Innovation at Southeastern University. My position functioned within the Graduate, Unrestricted Education department. When the full impact of COVID-19 was being felt across university campuses nationwide SEU immediately released over 70 staff and faculty. As someone who was relatively new at SEU, I was part of their cost saving staff reduction efforts.

- SEU is one of the largest and fastest growing Christian universities in the country with over 10,000 students enrolled.
- Responsible for developing a new Regional Executive Master’s Program in Ministry Leadership. These executive level cohorts launched in several locations around the country and, with over 80 new graduate students; doubled the ministerial leadership program enrollment in two years.
- Established the “Resident-In-Training” leadership master’s degree program and worked with partner organizations.
- Invested in mentoring students in their leadership challenges.
- Taught several graduate level courses in practical leadership topics (on ground and online).
- Developed multiple strategically aligned, innovative, educational projects to advance quality leader development within various church and non-profit organizations.
- Focused on extending the resources and assets of the university to marketplace leaders, primarily through non-degree, certificate, micro-credential, and other co-curricular opportunities.

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## **President and Professor of Leadership (March 2014 to July 2017)**

### **The King's University, Southlake, TX**

**Primary duties included:** As chief executive officer, I worked with the Board of Trustees to confirm the strategic vision for the university, communicate the vision to all internal and external constituencies, and secured needed resources to accomplish all strategic goals. As the administrative leader of the university, I exercised general authority over, and supervised the operations of, all departments, members of the faculty, administrative officers, other employees, and the student body. I also provided extensive monthly and semi-annual reports to the Board of Trustees on all operations, academic development, accreditation, student-centered engagement, finances, and pertinent matters consistent with the mission, vision, and direction of the university.

### **Accomplishments included:**

#### **Administrative:**

- Successfully moved main campus operations from Southern California to Texas.
- Built significant relationships with leaders from across America, including local and state officials, community leaders, business executives, current and prospective donors.
- Secured two very successful 10-year Department of Education approved accreditation reaffirmations with strong commendations.
- Effectively identified, hired, and lead a healthy staff of over 100 with 72 full-time employees.
- Increased overall university enrollment by 64% with a total of 867 students.
- Guided an intensive process to advance the mission and vision expansion of the university.
- Formulated comprehensive branding and marketing strategies.
- Expanded campus facilities and office capacity across multiple buildings and locations.

#### **Academic:**

- Added eight new degrees to the undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Raised student retention rates by 34% to a level consistent with peer institutions.
- Increased four and six-year graduation rates by 48%.
- Redesigned and relaunched effective "online learning platform 2.0" that was recognized as a "Top 15 Online Education Program" for private Christian universities.
- Initiated and guided successful process to gain ATS accreditation recognition.
- Launched a new graduate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and received licensure certification from the state of Texas.
- Significantly revised and upgraded the current doctoral degree program.

#### **Financial:**

- Directed annual budget of over \$27 million that was financially sound, exercised high competency, was fiscally responsible across all departments and functioned "in the black".
- Extensively expanded the donor base, donor relations, and diversified contributions.
- Secured significant funding in excess of \$450,000 for systemic upgrades to classroom technology and student management software that was instrumental in supporting student success initiatives.
- Secured multi-million-dollar Advancement results as the lead fundraiser.

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## **Provost/Chief Operating Officer and Professor of Leadership (2012 to 2014)**

**The King's University, Van Nuys, CA and Southlake, TX**

**Primary Duties Included:** As both Provost and COO, I was responsible for all day-to-day administrative decision-making for the university. I exercised authority over all staffing, financial, academic, and facility decisions on nine campuses nationally and one international campus (Hong Kong). I was also responsible for consistent reporting to the President and Board of Trustees. As chief academic officer I was responsible for all matters pertaining to proper academic accreditation reporting, student success, and the overall quality of the educational experience.

### **Accomplishments Included:**

- Successfully initiated first steps in eventual move of operations from California to Texas.
- Expanded number of extension campuses to 9 locations.
- Pioneered engaging, innovative advances in non-tradition learning methodologies.
- Established massive upgrades in all areas of policy, procedures, financial protocol, along with faculty, staff, and student handbooks.
- Established fiscal structures resulting in positive cash flow and budget surplus.
- Designed and directed \$7.8 million renovation of new university main campus.

## **Associate Senior Pastor (January 2005 to June 2017)**

**Gateway Church, Southlake, TX**

- Served as a member of the 'Senior Leadership Team' and participated in all significant aspects of guiding the church from an average weekend attendance of 1,800 to over 32,500.
- Functioned in a senior leadership role encompassing a full-time staff of 850+ people, with an annual operating budget of over \$142 million dollars.
- Provided extensive contributions to national and international leadership training projects and extensive coaching to leaders from over 20 denominations.
- Developed all equipping and spiritual formation ministries on 6 campuses, with over 200 courses offered annually within six growth tracks and over 9,000 church participants.
- Designed and led effective staff leadership development training.
- Developed a dynamic, multi-campus spiritual formation/equipping ministry for the church membership with over 200 distinct courses offered annually within six specific growth tracks.
- Engaged in frequent preaching opportunities at Gateway and various relating churches.
- Made significant contributions and provided consulting services with pastors in our Gateway Church Network, which consisted of over 650 churches from 20+ denominations.

### **Additional Leadership Positions:**

**Senior Pastor (2002 – 2004)**

**First Assembly, Colleyville, TX**

**Chair of Practical Theology Dept. / Professor of Leadership & Church Health (1997 – 2002)**

**AGTS, Springfield, MO**

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- Chaired Practical Theology department and increased department credit hours sold by 110%
- Made significant contributions as core team member in establishing the Doctor of Ministry degree program.
- Served as member of the newly formed Doctor of Ministry staff.
- Taught dozens of graduate classes and eleven doctoral classes while at the seminary.
- Designed and achieved ATS approval for new Master of Christian Ministries degree.
- Successfully participated in achieving 10-year ATS accreditation reaffirmation.

## **Founding Partner, Leadership Development Resources, LLC (1998 – 2003)**

- Co-founded a successful resource and consulting business that served several hundred churches in the United States and thousands of churches worldwide.
- Created denomination-wide discipleship and equipping resource call “We Build People”, that was also translated into 12 languages.

## **Senior Pastor, (1994 – 1997)**

**Harvest Chapel, Yorkville, IL**

## **Sr. Associate Pastor, (1991 – 1994)**

**First Assembly, Bakersfield, CA**

## **“Selected” List of Courses Taught**

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### **Undergraduate**

- Theological Foundations for Ministry: I, II, III
- Life of Jesus: His World and Words
- Teaching to Transform Lives (on ground and online)
- Building Team Ministry
- Pastoral Ministry

### **Graduate**

- Strategic Missional Leadership (on ground and online)
- Spiritual Formation of the Minister
- Contemporary Practical Theology
- Renewing the Established Church
- Equipping People for Life (on ground and online)
- Life of Jesus in Historical Context
- Effective Leadership

### **Doctoral**

- Leading Christian Organizations
- Strategic Leadership
- Vision-Centered Leadership and Management

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- Renewing the Spiritual Leader
- Managing Conflict Effectively
- Multi-Generational Ministry
- Leading Through Stages of Growth (on ground and online)

## Resource Publications

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### Tree of Life Bible Translation

Served as a theological editor and advisor on the *Tree of Life Bible Translation project*, 2014-2017.  
(see further: *Tree of Life Bible Society*)

### Selected Articles

“Beyond COVID-19: Relaunch and Reconnect”, *In Trust Magazine*, Summer 2020.

“Resolution or Restitution”, *Gateway Life Magazine*, January 2015.

“Why Christian Higher Education Matters: The Battle for the Soul of this Generation”. *Ministry Today Magazine*, Fall 2014.

“Generosity is a Heart Issue”, *Ministry Today Magazine*, January 25, 2011.

### Selected Published Teaching Resources

“*Feed Yourself: Jesus, His World and Words*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*The Crimson Cord*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*The Bible in One Word*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*The Journey: Gateway Adventure*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*Leadership Skills for Team Ministry*”. Leadership Development Resources, GPH, Springfield, MO.

“*We Build People: Making Disciples*”. Leadership Development Resources. GPH, Springfield, MO.

## Student/Athlete Career

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### Evangel University

- Lettered in Football (4 Years).
- President’s Award winner (Given to student athlete with highest GPA).

## Personality Profiles

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### StrengthsFinder 2.0 Top 5 Signature Themes:

- Learner, Achiever, Strategic, Relator, Belief

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## Sample Teaching Videos

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**NOTE: To view my “digital portfolio”, with teaching and preaching samples, please visit:**  
[johnspurling.org](http://johnspurling.org)

## References

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**Pastor Robert Morris**

*Founding Senior Pastor*  
Gateway Church  
*Chancellor, The King’s University*  
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