The following interview took place with Pastor Eddie Goliday, of Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church, and Pastor Andrew Robinson of Second Baptist Church. The first 50 minutes of the interview focuses on Pastor Goliday. After that time, Pastor Robinson becomes the primary narrator of the interview. Hereafter, Pastor Goliday will be referred to as PG, Pastor Robinson as PR, and Duvall Osteen as DO. Pastor Goliday has presided over Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church for eleven years. He was raised in a Methodist home, and initially became a Methodist minister, but converted to the Baptist faith in 1998. He began preaching at Clear Creek in 1998.

00:01

Pastor Goliday (PG) begins by sharing biographical information. He was born in Oxford, MS. He refers to himself as the shepherd of the church. He was raised in a Methodist Church.

01:24

PG is one of 9 children in his family, 4 boys and 5 girls. Growing up, there was never a dull moment

1:58

PG moved around a lot during his young adult days to get a better feel for places other than Oxford.

2:48

PG explains that he believes in a divine calling, and received that calling in 1982. Becoming a pastor was not a choice, but a calling from God. May 5, 1992, he gave his first sermon on the importance of prayer.
PG resigned from the Methodist Church in April, 1998, and joined Clear Creek as Pastor one month later.

PG listens to spiritual and classical music. In church, music takes different forms, including hymns, spirituals, and quartet-style singing.

PG, aided by Pastor Robinson, demonstrates a form of singing done in PG’s church. They sing “I Will Trust in the Lord”

PG discusses that there is a Youth Choir, and an Adult Choir at Clear Creek Missionary Baptist (CCMB), and that once they are ready, the youth may leave their choir and join the adults.

PG talks about how when The University of Mississippi breaks for summer, the membership of the church drops by about fifty members, but that does not affect the choir.

PG talks about his children, and their musical abilities, and their involvement in the church. His son, Eddie II was interviewed for last year’s field school. He is a drummer at Clear Creek.

PG talks about some of his favorite songs that are sung in church, and PR helps him sing the songs. He talks about how he encourages the choir to sing lots of different songs.

PG talks about how he sings traditional songs to please his older audience, and newer, more contemporary songs to please the younger crowd. During the service, he encourages each group to learn from the songs they are less familiar with.

PG talks about the ways that gospel music has changed over the years.
PG talks about the importance of knowing the history of hymns, and why they are sung. He uses an example of the hymn Amazing Grace, explaining its meaning, and when it is appropriate to sing. It is important to PG that people understand their history, and the history of a tradition before they blindly follow that tradition.

PG talks about his favorite church tradition, which is making certain that the word of God is always brought forth, and upheld as the most important part of worship.

PG talks about the difference between the Methodist tradition and the Baptist tradition, and how he enjoys the freedom in the service of the Baptist church, and how it does not bind him to a specific service order.

PG tells a joke about the members of his congregation who are classified as CMEs - Christmas, Mother’s Day and Easter members

PG talks about the difference between praise and worship, and how praise is meant to get you ready for the service, and worship is what you should focus on. The choir is more focused on praise songs, and the worship songs are the hymns.

PG talks about the structure of the service, how it incorporates members who are present, and members who are unable to make it. He walks me through the course of a Sunday service.

PG talks about the length of his service, and talks about the importance of focusing on worship on Sunday, rather than focusing on being ready to get out of church.

PG does a playful impression of an older member of his congregation that explained to him that some songs are too difficult for older people to sing, because they go too fast. He talks about how this helped him choose songs that would allow people to participate by learning from each other.
PG talks about the history of the physical structure of churches, and how the balcony was a place for slaves to sit, and how they had to ask permission to come and go. He talks about the importance of understanding the way the church is set up. Then he talks about the history behind naming churches, and how that emerged after slavery when freed slaves were permitted to start their own churches.

PG concludes the interview by talking about his hope that younger generations would slow down and hear music. He believes that if people actually listen and hear music, they would feel closer to God. He talks about the connection between gospel and blues music, and how the traditions are similar.

At this point, Pastor Robinson begins participating in the conversation, and they talk about the connection between blues, gospel and country. They begin to sing lots of different songs, demonstrating the connection between the actual music. This continues for several minutes, and Pastor Robinson begins discussing rap music. At this point, Pastor Robinson uses the interview to explain his views on faith, and his path to faith. He becomes the primary narrator in this section of the interview.

Pastor Robinson talks about understanding the hidden messages in rap music, and what effect that has on youth.

Pastor Robinson talks about the importance of interpreting the Bible properly, and the dangers of misinterpreting it.

Pastor Robinson (hereafter PR) talks about his ability to communicate with people across all lines, and how that impacts his ministry.

PR talks about how ministers are some of the smartest people in the world because of their ability to communicate.

PR talks about the importance of music, and how it is a tool to worship God.
1:12:39
PR talks about the importance of taking time to understand what things mean in order to understand people more completely.

1:13:27
PR talks about the danger of being set in your ways. He talks about the importance of communicating with the music director and with the congregation in order to welcome change in your music and worship.

1:14:00
PR sings in demonstration of singing a song a different way.

1:16:58
PG asks me if I am saved, and the conversation turns towards religion.

1:22:45
PR talks about how you can reach people across denominations. He talks about his father, and how his father preached in several different denominations, and how the music as well as the message translates across that divide.

1:24:00
PR talks about doing mission work in the inner cities. Through that work, he took a mission trip to Mexico, which changed his life. He sang gospel music on the mission trip, and that experience of communicating through music with people who did not speak his language helped him direct his life to God. His experience seeing poverty in Mexico was profound, and that is when he felt the calling to become a Pastor like his father. He talks about a few instances in which he experienced prejudice, and overcame it. This leads into a conversation on science and religion, and the importance of putting God first, and not losing sight of God even though many modern people try to detract from the message of Christ.

1:40:00
The interview concludes with me asking Pastor Robinson to introduce himself to the microphone because I was unable to do so at the beginning of the interview.