



# Phil Severn

1906 Rowland Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phil and Sandy Severn

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

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I am an energetic people person who loves youth ministry. I have been happily married to my wonderful wife Sandy for seven years. We met when I was in Jr. High and started dating when I was a sophomore in High School. She is my partner in everything, including ministry. She is a giver and a server. She has the tremendous ability to empathize with others and helps offset some of my weaknesses. Together we are excited to see what ministry God has for us in the future.

I grew up as a missionary kid. My dad was the general director of Send International and I have always had a passion for missions. I was saved at an early age and rededicated my life to the Lord when I was 12.

When I was 15, I was a leader in youth group and spent a lot of time with my youth pastor. That time of my life was very revolutionary. I had always been a "good Christian kid," but I learned that Christianity was more about a relationship with Jesus than a checklist of duties. I learned how to study the Bible and gained a passion for the Scriptures. As I changed, I felt a desire to go into youth ministry and help other teenagers experience what I was experiencing.

My youth pastor left after my sophomore year and I spent the next two years of youth group helping out in various leadership roles. After graduation I attended Philadelphia Biblical University and served at a church that supported my parents. They had a very large youth group and I spent most of my time developing friendships with the teens. It was a great youth group and I learned much about how to run a large, growing youth ministry. After my sophomore year, my wife and I were married. We both attended college full-time and shortly thereafter decided it would be best if she finished her degree in Education and I worked full-time.

In December of 2003, I was approached about an opportunity to become the youth pastor at a small church. The church only had about 40 people attending and the youth group averaged around 5. After a lot of prayer, my wife and I decided to take the job. The first year was really exciting as we saw the ministry grow. At times we had more than 40 students coming to youth group and we saw a lot of them make decisions to follow Christ. Throughout the next year, we were able to establish a leadership team and developed a small group ministry. It was some of the most exciting and beneficial years of my life. There were a lot of hardships associated with being a part time youth pastor while working full time, but God was faithful and blessed the ministry.

During my last year there, I had a strong desire to return to college. As we prayerfully investigated our options, we decided to move to Grand Rapids so that we could be closer to family and I could attend Cornerstone University. We have been in Grand Rapids since August of 2006 and I went back to school full time in August of 2008. I plan to graduate in 2010 with a Youth Ministry and Bible major. I have enough college hours, but several classes from PBU did not transfer to Cornerstone, thus I am taking additional classes to meet the degree requirement.

Since we have lived here, Sandy and I have been helping ministry at Kentwood Baptist Church. I serve with the youth ministry leading music, teaching occasionally, and helping where needed. I also lead music/worship on Sunday nights and serve on the Mission Board. Sandy is the Nursery Coordinator, plays viola in the praise band, helps out in youth group, and serves on the CE Board. We love the church and it has been a blessing to serve there.

During the 2008/2009 school year I completed an internship which involved: preaching in church services, attending staff meetings (when available), working with the youth, meeting with the pastor, leading music and worship, and various other responsibilities. It was a great learning experience and I am grateful for the opportunities that I was given.