

## Healing Place Staff Pastors

**Brian Hackney** as a founding pastor of Cross Timbers, Brian served on the Leadership Team and as Worship Pastor for six years before transitioning to the role of Argyle Campus Pastor, focusing primarily on pastoral care. Having more of a heart for people than operations, Brian eventually turned over the campus pastor role to pursue full-time work in The Healing Place. Brian's compassion and empathy for others were born out of his own marriage struggles, along with grieving the loss of his 2-year-old son, Corban. Brian is certified by Life Innovations to administer the Prepare/Enrich marriage and pre-marital inventories and loves sharing the insight he has gained from working with over 900 couples over the last 20 years, and in his own marriage of over 32 years.

Brian is a certified Mental Health Coach through the American Association of Christian Counselors, and does in-person sessions, as well as on-line Zoom meetings. Brian specializes in couple's counseling, as well as family dynamics, and parenting. He has also done extensive work with men who struggle with anger or addiction due to unhealed father wounds. He also has a heart to help people walk through faith struggles that result from trauma or loss. In his free time, Brian enjoys playing the piano, watching football, listening to podcasts, hiking, fishing, reading, and playing Texas Hold 'Em. Brian, and his wife Jamie, have 3 adult children, Chandler, Christian, and Carson, and one granddaughter, Ruthie Jean, and live in Aurora with their 3 dogs, Jessie, Rascal, and Mila.

Brian is currently scheduling privately. (Email [thehealingplace@crostimberschurch.org](mailto:thehealingplace@crostimberschurch.org) or call 940-240-0029 to schedule.)

**Ores L Johnson Jr**, (AKA Spooony), and his beautiful wife of 27 years, Denisa, are blessed with three amazing young-adult children: Darius, Jordan, Alexyss, and daughter-in-love Vanessa and one grandson Ezekiel. Spooony served as an assistant pastor for 13 years, and it was during that time he found a passion for helping people walk through tough situations and circumstances. While serving he realized he wasn't exempt from life's test and trials, and in that he found freedom knowing that through it all God still loves him. It was then he discovered his purpose, helping people find freedom through Christ.

## CARE COACHES SCHEDULING ONLINE

### FEMALE

**Diana Nellessen** is married to Dan and between them, they have four adult children -many with families of their own. God has allowed Diana to experience many trials in life, equipping her to support others as they face their own struggles. With an empathetic, accepting approach, her heart's desire is to help people connect with God's unique blueprint for them, building their confidence and faith along the way. Her core belief is that the emotions we experience are common, regardless of the life situations that evoke them. God continues to make divine introductions to her clients, skillfully matching their needs with the gifts He has bestowed upon her. She'd love to walk through your trials and tribulations with you as you evolve into a confident overcomer.

**Jamie Hackney** and Brian have been married for 31 years and have three young-adult children. Their son, Corban, passed away when he was two years old and now lives in heaven. Because God has helped her in her marriage, death of child and parenting, Jamie is passionate about helping women of all ages that are struggling in their marriage, or who feel stuck in life due to grief and loss, depression, or just feel overwhelmed. She also loves working with children, teenagers, and young women.

**Kathy Palmer** and her husband, Scott, have been married for 50 years and have 2 adult daughters and 5 grandchildren. Kathy says, throughout our married life we have had to face alternative lifestyle choices, drug and alcohol addiction, divorce, and custody court battles. Through it all we knew Jesus was at work in all our lives, even when it didn't look or feel like it. I have a heart to try and help people navigate through the yuck and disappointments of life. To find ways to thrive and not just survive when life is not going the way you thought it would or when hit with heartbreaking events. Navigating boundaries and finding JOY in the strength of the Lord! Willing to work with women, young adults, or couples.

**Kayla Schroeder** has been married to her husband Terry for 38 years. These years have helped her develop a real world understanding of what it takes to have a healthy and lasting marriage. Together Kayla and Terry have raised two kids who are now both adults working in fields that help others. Passionate in helping women find their healing and self-worth, she understands what it's like for young women to struggle with things such as anxiety, depression, alcohol, self-mutilation, body dysmorphia, and gender identity crisis issues. Sharing in the genuine grace and compassion Christ has for us, Kayla is inspired and motivated in helping women develop their own relationships with Him, and to ultimately find peace amidst a challenging and ever-changing world.

**Lissie Kevlin** has worked in student ministry for over three years, and she has a huge heart for middle school and high school students. She grew up in the area, and her family has attended Cross Timbers since she was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Lissie graduated from Liberty Christian in 2014 and then went to TCU. She now works as a Student Pastor at Cross Timbers. Lissie is passionate about the next generation. She has walked with teenage girls through social, emotional, family, mental health, and numerous other struggles. She enjoys working with girls from ages 11-18.

**Paula Salyer** is a widow, with 3 sons and 8 grandchildren. She has had to overcome many trials in life. Paula had an alcoholic father growing up, divorced parents, husband's suicide, bankruptcy, son fighting addiction, and a job loss. Paula says, "I was not sure what a care coach was, but I wanted to use my painful life situations to help others. I discovered while training to be a care coach, that it helped me work through my issues and find more freedom and healing in my own life."

**Sandy Anthony** and her husband Gary have been married for 39 years. They have four adult children and ten grandchildren. Sandy and Gary have led family life groups for 33 years. Sandy desires to see people set free. She has a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from The Kings University and is an LPC-Associate. She has led faith-based marriage classes, and counsels' individual clients who may be experiencing divorce, spouse abuse, infidelity, and reconciliation. She has led grief classes and is currently working on meeting the needs of widows and orphans in our local community. Sandy does individual, couples, and family counseling, specializing in blended families. Sandy has experience counseling those with addictions, depression, anxiety, bipolar, dyslexia, multicultural transition and language barriers, for those who want to strengthen their language skills or English. Her passion is to see her clients restored and made whole, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Sandy loves to connect her clients to resources that will assure their growth and stability in their families, church, and surrounding community.

**Shawn Wolfe** and her husband Doug have been married 29 years and had the privilege of raising a blended family and watching God's faithfulness in creating something beautiful and good from what had previously been broken. By the grace of God, Shawn and Doug have three grown children (and two young granddaughters), who all contribute to society and love each other! Shawn recently, (5 years ago), went back to school to pursue her desire to encourage others and received her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling. Shawn is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor which specifically qualifies her to work with individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. Shawn most recently worked for the University of North Texas counseling college students and served as the facilitator for the Student Veterans Support Group on campus. Prior to that she worked for a Christian non-profit organization, Covenant Kids, in counseling foster children and cared for her elderly mother with Alzheimer's for 3 years. Shawn believes by experiencing Christ's amazing love and grace we can change our thoughts about ourselves, and in turn, change our behavior. At times we cannot control our circumstances, but we can ALWAYS choose our thoughts about our circumstances. Shawn says "In the counseling profession, this approach would be called the Cognitive Behavior Theory. In God's Kingdom it is called the Who I am in Christ Theory". New thoughts lead to new behavior which ultimately leads to a new, BETTER, abundant life. Shawn enjoys working with students, and adults of all ages.

**Sherri Strain** is divorced with 2 grown children, a fur baby, 8 grand-blessings. Sherri lives a well-rounded life enjoying time with her family, thrifting, crafts, and decorating her home. She has many years of experience as a hospice nurse, equipping her to compassionately sit and listen with others. Sherri's not so perfect life, shaped by poor choices, propels her to help women find the same hope and healing she has found in Christ. She has earned the Mental Health Coach certification training through the American Association of Christian Counselors and is eager to walk with you on this

journey to freedom. She meets with women who are experiencing abandonment, unhealthy lifestyles choices and depression.

**Stephanie Hanson** and her family transferred to Cross Timbers from Gateway in 2020. She and her husband John have a blended family with 5 children. She has a passion for helping those going through divorce do it with as much love and grace as possible, finding positive ways to co-parent and see the other person through Jesus' eyes instead of through the hurt. She also loves helping blended families – from meeting individually to a step-family class she teaches with her husband, she has a desire to help others avoid the pitfalls that are commonplace when combining families. Stephanie completed Freedom Ministry classes, Divorce Recovery classes, and completed the Mental Health Coaching classes through Light University.

## **MALE**

**Dean Hockenberry** and his wife, Linda, have been married for 41 years, have 4 adult children and 6 grandchildren. He works with men, young men, and couples. Dean has experience with parenting, adoption, family members with mental illness, teaching tools for overcoming bitterness and unforgiveness, coping with long periods of unemployment, and negative work environments and healing from family disfunction. He is also active in Cross Timbers Veterans group. He is an excellent listener and asks questions that help you connect the dots and get to your root issues.

**Juan Vazquez** and his wife, Janice, worship and serve at Cross Timbers. They have been married for 16 years and have 7 children including the custody Luis a nephew. Juan and Janice also have the privilege and blessing of raising Juju a special needs Angel with Down syndrome. Juan is Professional Licensed Counselor Associate in Texas and earned his Masters in Mental Health Counseling from Colorado Christian University. He enjoys working with couples and marriages. He knows marriage is hard, having survived a separation and divorce during his 20-year military service. Juan sees marriage not as an entitlement, but as a gift from God for us to experience the dynamics of His own relationship with us and to put into practice Mathew 5, 6 and 7. Juan also meets individually with men, women, and teenagers. Juan understands the pressure leadership and daily responsibilities impose on marriage, family relationships and spiritual relationships. Juan is an advocate for experiencing wellness through the reframing of the thoughts, the challenging of cognitive distortions, and providing a holistic approach to mental wellness. This is done discipline targeting healthy nutrition, rest, exercise, spiritual nourishment, support and practices. He believes in a holistic approach to wellness via mind, body, and soul. He enjoys spending time with his family, exercise, flying airplanes or helicopters and flight instruction.

**Robert Rouse** and his wife Tracy have been married 24 years and have five (5) adult children and two (2) grandsons. He works with men, young men, and all veterans. Professionally, Robert's current career is in sales/marketing. He has experience with veteran issues, parenting, family members with addiction, stress, work environment issues, couple issues, divorce, and unemployment. Robert is a great listener and provides a perspective to help you uncover your issues. He is the ministry leader for the Veterans Support Group and is an active member of the Serve Team, currently serving on the Parking Crew.

**Steve Gornik** has been married to Jayne for 10 years and they have a blended family of 5 adult children. He works with men of all ages and couples. Steve has experience in working through marriage issues, parenting, divorce, remarriage, blended families, pornography, financial stewardship, life transitions and leadership. He is sincerely interested in helping people break through barriers so they can live a more fulfilling Christ-focused life. Steve and Jayne also offer premarital counseling using the Prepare & Enrich Premarital Assessment tool.

**CARE COACHES SCHEDULING PRIVATELY (Email [thehealingplace@crosstimberschurch.org](mailto:thehealingplace@crosstimberschurch.org) to schedule.)**

## **FEMALE**

**Alex Akopiantz** has called Cross Timbers home since 2002. She and her husband Erik were married at Cross Timbers in 2005 and have a blended family of 3 children. Alex has completed courses in Freedom Ministry, Divorce Recovery, Care Coach, and I.D. training. She has completed the Mental Health Coach certification training and is earning a Master of Divinity degree. Her passion is for women who are struggling in their daily lives. She has experience with divorce, children in crisis, unhealthy relationships, childhood wounds, navigating difficult family dynamics, identity crisis,

infidelity, depression, anxiety, and health challenges. Her hope is that the Lord will use her to help other women find the same peace, freedom, and healing she found. Alex only offers appointments virtually or by phone.

**Alissa Pearson** and her husband, Tim, have been married for 5 years. They are a blended family with 4 children (ages 20, 15, 13, and 10). After working for 9 years as a child care director, the Lord called her back to school to complete a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy at The King's University. Alissa is currently completing the Mental Health Coach certification training through the American Association of Christian Counselors. She is Gottman Level II trained, a certified facilitator of both Prepare & Enrich and SYMBIS, and she and her husband are certified Marriage Mentors. Alissa has a heart to walk with individuals, couples, and families as they seek to find freedom, peace, and healing. She does in-person sessions, as well as online Zoom sessions.

**Amanda Muscle** has learned that waiting for the other shoe to drop, is often worse than the shoe dropping. When her shoe dropped, the world kept spinning and God was there, holding her hand. As a Care Coach, Amanda shares that hope and peace only Jesus can bring! Amanda has earned the Mental Health Coach certification training through the American Association of Christian Counselors. She has a heart for walking along side military and civil service families, foster and adoptive families, as well as individuals struggling with co-dependency. Amanda and her husband Chris have been married for 13 years. Landon and Leighton, their two sons, are their greatest adventure! When needing to soothe her soul, Amanda reaches for her paddle board and seeks out the nearest lake!

**Carol Meade** was married for almost thirty years, then divorced, then widowed. Carol has 5 adult children. She works with adults, usually women, but not exclusively. Carol is a Stage IV cancer survivor (4 years), as well as experienced as a parent of a child with pediatric cancer and the devastation that accompanies a critically ill child. She has experience with family members with mental illness and personality disorders; financial devastation and recovery; as well as teaching tools for overcoming depression, anger, bitterness, co-dependence, and insecurity. She has been unemployed and homeless as well as self-employed and a successful small business owner. She can help with entrepreneurial and small business development and issues pertaining to a self-employed person. Carol recently received her Master's in Pastoral Counseling and Leadership Coaching. She is a good listener and loves helping people realize the strength they have within themselves to look beyond circumstances and make new, positive choices.

**Chary Horton** grew up in a religious home but had no understanding of a personal relationship with Jesus. She has BSN in nursing, a master's in Psychology. While coping with the trauma of divorce, she heard Jesus died for her. "My boyfriend is now my 2nd husband, Mick. This marriage has lasted 40 years. I asked Jesus into my heart, at 35 and a year later, received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That relationship with God and the birth of our son, in '81, are about God's grace. We raised a blended family, (I inherited 6-year-old and 10-year-old stepdaughters) and were on the roller coaster of alcohol, drugs, and codependency for 30 of the past 40+ years. When we found Celebrate Recovery, our lives changed. The learning curve went straight up, as I began to incorporate the truths of CR, plus the unconditional love of step study sisters. Cross Timbers church gave me another way to serve our community, as a Healing Place Care Coach. I continue to be in awe about the provisions of God. My husband is part of the Veterans Group at Cross Timbers and together, we have been able to reach out to others, who have suffered the effects of PTSD."

**Erica Kelm** and her husband Brian have a blended family with three kids ages 21, 13 and 10. Erica is a certified school counselor and has worked in public education for almost 20 years. She enjoys building relationships with her students and helping them discover their unique gifts and abilities and pursue their passions and interests. She currently attends Midwestern State University and is working towards a master's degree in Clinical and Mental Health and her LPC credentials. Erica completed the 12 steps in Celebrate Recovery and served as a sponsor and small group facilitator. She enjoys walking alongside others and praying with them for God's wisdom, provision, and blessing. Erica is thankful for loved ones in her life that struggle with mental health issues and has benefited from attending the Family Grace group. Plus, she has participated in Divorce Care and Blended Family ministries. The Lord brought others alongside Erica to help her learn and navigate through life's challenges and experience joy and victory in the midst of trials and valleys. Her heart's desire is to give back to those in need of a listening ear. She is also a certified Mental Health Care Coach.

**Kim Henning** is a young senior who has lived a varied life. She is a 33-year educator with a focus on special needs students. Kim has two adult children and has three grandchildren. Kim works with women who do not know where to

turn next - and has experienced this at times in her own life. She has experienced divorce, living with family members with addictions, single parenting, learning boundaries, understanding self-value and identity, and codependency. She has a focus on recovery and overcoming codependency. Kim has a compassionate heart for those who do not know where to turn next or how to overcome the situation in which they may find themselves. She helps you to identify the things you can change and how to take the next step in your life.

**Linda Hockenberry** and Dean have been married for 44 years and have four adult children and six grandchildren. Linda's passion is two-fold. She wants the church to be a safe place for hurting people to find help and healing and for God's people to use healing and freedom they received to help someone else in similar circumstances. For years, I tried to avoid shame by performing perfectly. This led to anger, depression and harsh parenting. After counseling and EMDR therapy, I now walk in freedom and peace. I can love and care for others out of my weakness and relationship with Jesus. I enjoy helping women to find God's heart for them, so that, they can walk in their identity and purpose.

**Pam Rinn** and her husband, Curtis, have been married 36 years and have two adult children and six grandchildren. As a care coach couple, they can work with couples experiencing relationship challenges or issues related to life course changes (birth, death, parenting, launching children). Individually, Pam has experience with women's issues including self-esteem and identity in Christ, parenting, and relationship challenges. Curtis and Pam are active on the Prayer Team at Argyle campus and serve in the Hope Center. Helping others find their path to healing is the goal.

**Sonya Johnson** and her husband, Ores "OJ", have been married for 50 years. They have four adult children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She works with women, young adult women, and couples. Before moving to Texas, Sonya worked alongside her husband pastoring a church. She has taught parenting classes and coached Youth/children from single parent homes and foster care. She has mentored many single, married, and divorced women. Sonya listens well and helps others to connect to God for emotional healing. She believes they experience relief from the pain of unforgiveness and other deep-rooted issues that can be remedied by way of spiritual healing.

**Tanya Farmer** and her husband, Eric, have been married for 14 years. She works with women and young women. Tanya has experience with coparenting, blended families, sexual abuse, family members with addiction and mental illness. She loves helping others find another perspective when times are hard. She encourages women to do what they never thought possible.

## **MALE**

**Curtis Rinn** and his wife, Pam, have been married for 36 years and have 2 adult children. He works with men, young men, and couples. Curtis has experience with parenting, financial concerns, and negative work environments. He is an excellent listener and asks questions to help you connect the dots and get to your root issues.

**Ores "OJ" Johnson** has been married to his wife, Sonya, for 50 years. They have four adult children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. OJ has experience as a Pastor, chaplain, community leader, associate, and counselor working with families, married couples, Men's groups, youth, etc. His passion is to assist in rebuilding communities, by mentoring one person at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time to become one nation under God for His glory and honor and honor as the True Body of Christ.