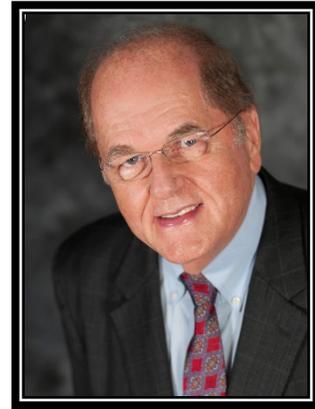


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Dr. Michael C. Blackwell is many things to many people---transformational leader, bold visionary, religious statesman, and powerful communicator. Since July 1, 1983, he has combined his many talents to lead the Southeast's largest child care and family services institution as President and Chief Executive Officer.

The Baptist Children's Homes, founded in 1885, now has 25 ministry points in communities spread throughout the Carolinas with an affiliated orphanage in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Through all its ministries, BCH impacts 152,770 people annually.

Dr. Blackwell grew up in Gastonia, NC. At age 14, he was one of the nation's youngest disc jockeys, helping usher in the golden age of Rock and Roll in 1956. His resonant voice held him in good stead during his college days in Chapel Hill where he worked at WCHL as well as writing for *The Daily Tar Heel* and two major dailies, *The Charlotte Observer* and *Raleigh Times*.

Following three years as News Director at WAYS radio in Charlotte, where he met his future wife, Blackwell entered Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest where he earned three degrees, with emphases on Old Testament, Christian Ethics and Pastoral Counseling. While in seminary, he worked part time as news anchor at WRAL-TV and held two interim pastorates.

At Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh, he began a youth and college ministry for Meredith and NC State students, known for its evangelistic outreach and discipleship training. His seven-year pastorate in Carthage, NC and a three-year pastorate in Richmond, VA solidified his growing reputation as a communicator of note.

At BCH, Dr. Blackwell is recognized as a leader with a compass in his mind and a magnet in his heart. That compass led him to become the Founder of the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry, which serves the frail elderly.

That magnet drew him to begin homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, boys and girls wilderness camping programs, homes for mothers and children, a new outreach center which will eventually cover the entire State, and other specialized ministries, like HOMEBASE at Western Carolina University. Expansion of foster homes and the acquisition of Christian Adoption Services allows BCH to serve humankind from the cradle to the grave.

Dr. Blackwell has written six books and thousands of articles. His latest book, published in 2021, "Founded on faith...Built on love" is a history of BCH with emphasis on the growth of its ministries in the past 20 years. He has received numerous awards for writing, speaking, and public service. A major street in Thomasville, NC was renamed Blackwell Boulevard in honor of his long tenure at BCH. He has spoken with compassion and conviction in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. His twice monthly inspirational video – **A Good Word** – and twice monthly podcast – **It's a Family Matter** – reach thousands of people worldwide. In 2020 and 2021, Dr. Blackwell's podcasts and videos were recognized among the best in the nation by the Baptist Communicators Association.

He has received honorary doctorates from Gardner-Webb University, Mars Hill University, and Campbell University. The city of Thomasville's Martin Luther King Jr. Social Action Committee awarded Dr. Blackwell the 2018 M.L. King Community Service Award. He was named Thomasville's Citizen of the Year in 2019.

Dr. Blackwell is married to the former Kathy Kanipe and they have two adult children and two granddaughters.

Dr. Blackwell's passionate pursuits are best described as "pure determination and the relentless pursuit of excellence."