

INTRODUCING RICK DEGIROLOMO!

Rejoice with us and help us welcome to the church staff our new Pastor to Children and Their Families, Rick DeGirolomo! Rick, his wife Karen, and kids Matt and Carly moved here from Nebraska just before Christmas and jumped into their new life immediately. Here's a little about Rick and his family . . .

Give us a brief testimony: Although raised in a Catholic home, I did not meet Christ until my freshman year in high school when I attended a Vacation Bible school and heard the gospel message for the first time and began my relationship with God.

Where have you worked before? My secular work history includes, but is not limited to, Vitramon, Inc. (supervisor and engineering technician), Crown Market (meat cutter/butcher), Oxford Health Plans (group service manager), US Airways (customer service, supervisor, training coordinator), and the Kennedy Center (job coach). In ministry, I've served at Calvary EFC in Trumbull, Connecticut; Wayside Chapel EFC in San Antonio, Texas; and for the Midwest District of the EFCA.

What confirmations did God give that this was the next step for you and your family? We believe that from the beginning God was leading us to EV Free Fullerton, from finding the online posting on a website I had never heard of, to our meeting with Jenni Key in Columbus, Ohio, at the EFCA Conference. God focused our attention to what He was doing here and led us to become part of it. As we continued to pray through the process, we asked for agreement on both sides of the search and for God's vision for children and families to be the driving desire for both sides. We would not have considered this if it were not so.

What excites you most about taking on the new role of Pastor to Children and Their Families? The single most exciting



thing is having the opportunity to bring the discipling process into the home so that generations would walk with God all the days of their lives.

The biggest challenge(s) you see about taking on this job? Although there are many challenges that face any new endeavor, the biggest one is the spiritual attack that I anticipate, because Satan would love nothing more than to keep God's people from becoming disciples of Christ.

How would you finish this sentence: Probably my greatest passion in life is: discipling!!

Have there been one or two particular events in your walk with the Lord that have particularly formed who you are today? Yes, the first was my training with Sonlife Ministries (which formed my heart and passion for discipling) and my training at Vitramon (which taught me to think critically).

Other Christians, living or dead, who have helped make you who you are: My father Matt; Dave Scheffer and Don Ferris (my youth pastors); Jeff Piehl (EFCA); Dan Spader (Sonlife); Oswald Sanders; and John Cawood (PCB).

Books which have especially challenged/ motivated/formed your thinking: *Spiritual Leadership* by Sanders; *The Next Generation Leader* and *Visioning* by Stanley; *In Search of a Confident Faith* by Issler/Moreland; *Made to Stick* and *Switch* by the Heath Brothers; *Good to Great* by Collins; and all Blanchard's books.

Your education: B.S. in Bible from Philadelphia College of Bible; M.A. in Leadership and M.A.R. from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary; M.Div. in process.

continued on back . . .

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How did you and Karen meet, and anything fun or interesting about your courtship: Karen was a student in my youth ministry at Calvary. I initially thought she was one of the adult leaders and had to back off when I found out she was a senior in high school (we started dating after she graduated!). Interestingly, Karen's father refused to give me permission to marry her (I asked twice) and when Karen found out, she called her mom and told her what had happened. Five minutes later her father called and gave me permission.

Your kids, ages, and a little about each of them: Matt (b. 9/7/2000) and Carly (b. 11/2/2001). Matt is athletic, loves playing and watching baseball (sadly, he is a Yankee fan) and football (Philadelphia Eagles), and also loves video games. He is very creative, and loves to build with Legos. Carly is very creative and intelligent, and loves design. She sews and crochets, and has made some of her own clothing. She is currently learning how to play guitar (which she bought with her own savings). Both have placed their faith in Christ within the last couple of years.



Your favorite thing to do as a family to kick back: We go picnicking, fishing, and play board games.

The funniest/weirdest thing that has happened during your years of ministry: I was in youth ministry for 25 years—everything was funny and weird!

Anything else that's important to know about you? OK, everyone knows that I am a Red Sox fan by now, but add to that Dolphin football, Celtic and Spur basketball and UConn sports. My "quirk" is aggressive driving which, I've discovered, fits in well in SoCal (I say I'm least like Jesus when I'm behind the wheel of a car). I hate losing and many of my former students (mostly the boys) know me as "the Big Dog." The rest you'll just have to find out by yourself . . .

Ways we could be praying for you: Please pray for my family. We would love to transition well and fit into our community. I know Karen would appreciate if you would pray about her employment opportunities and all the details that go with that [Karen is a nurse]. As for me, please pray for this new ministry (is that obvious?) and the needs for clear communication and for people to catch God's vision for the ministry. I would really appreciate that.

