

About the Founding Pastor



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Ivan Holt

Ivan Holt is the Founding Teaching Elder and Lead Pastor of Mystery of Godliness Church. Ivan has devoted the vast majority of his life to Christian ministry and has served in a variety of leadership roles, including Youth Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Evangelism, discipleship, and pastoral ministry. Above every ministry role, however, Ivan considers his highest earthly calling to be that of a husband and father. He is the husband of his beloved wife and the father of four wonderful children, and he believes that his family is his first and primary ministry. Before he can faithfully shepherd the household of God, he must first faithfully shepherd the household God has entrusted to him.

At the age of **six**, Ivan's mother faithfully shared the gospel with him, explaining mankind's sin, the saving work of Jesus Christ, and the call to repent and believe in the Lord. By God's grace, Ivan believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ and began his lifelong walk with Him. From that time forward, the Lord cultivated within him an increasing love for Christ, especially through gathering with God's people in corporate worship. The worship of the Church became one of the greatest joys of his childhood and helped shape his desire to know God more deeply and serve His people faithfully.

Ivan's desire to become a pastor began when he was only **eight years old**. He would often sit his parents down on the couch or make them turn the radio off in the car so he could preach a sermon to them. Even as a child, the Lord gave him a burden for those who were overlooked, underprivileged, outcast, or suffering. During a hospitalization at that age, he asked his father to push him through the hospital halls in his wheelchair so that he could stop at each patient's room, lay his hands on the door, and pray for those inside. Throughout elementary school, he intentionally befriended students who had no friends, sought out those who were mistreated, and willingly gave up his own recess to sit with classmates who were unable to go outside because of injury or illness. These early experiences reflected what would become a lifelong calling to shepherd and care for others.

Recognizing God's evident work in his life, Ivan's home church selected him during his elementary years to participate in a future leadership development program. Throughout his junior high years, he was personally mentored and trained by the church's Youth Pastor, who invested in his spiritual growth and ministry development.

At the age of **fourteen**, while just a freshman in high school, Ivan officially entered ministry by teaching Junior High Discipleship Teams. In the years that followed, he continued serving through High School Small Groups, College Small Groups, discipleship ministries, and youth leadership, developing a lifelong passion for teaching God's Word and helping believers grow in spiritual maturity.

Ivan attended **Howard Payne University**, where he majored in Ministry with an emphasis in Youth Ministry. During his time there, he served in Youth Ministry and College Ministry and was entrusted with leadership responsibilities, including serving as a house leader during youth weekends and transporting students to and from Acquire the Fire conferences. These years further strengthened his conviction that faithful ministry is built upon discipleship, biblical teaching, and servant leadership.

Following Howard Payne University, Ivan attended **Dallas Baptist University**, where he earned a **Bachelor of Business Administration in Music Business**. During the next nine years, he was actively involved in Christian Hip-Hop ministry and evangelism, using music as a platform to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ while reaching individuals who might not otherwise hear biblical preaching.

Outside of vocational ministry, Ivan has coached gymnastics since the age of sixteen. Through decades of coaching, he has viewed athletics as an opportunity for discipleship and evangelism, investing not only in students but also in their families. Countless coaching relationships have opened doors for gospel conversations, biblical encouragement, and ongoing ministry.

In March 2022, Ivan founded Holt's Tumbling Clinic, initially partnering with Euless Parks and Recreation to provide tumbling instruction. In July 2025, the business transitioned into a fully mobile model, significantly expanding opportunities to build relationships with families throughout the community. Holt's Tumbling Clinic is already serving children and families and is now beginning a gradual transition toward becoming the first ministry of **Mystery of Godliness Recreation**. Although MOGR will not formally launch until a later phase of the Church's development, the relationships and ministry opportunities already growing through Holt's Tumbling Clinic provide an early foundation for that future recreation ministry.

For the past seven years, Ivan has also led an online Bible teaching ministry through **Mystery of Godliness Ministry** on YouTube. Through expository Bible teaching and Christ-centered instruction, the ministry has reached viewers from numerous locations, many of whom have shared testimonies of spiritual growth, renewed understanding of Scripture, and encouragement in their walk with Christ.

Ivan is also a **published author through G3 Ministries**, having written **four books** that seek to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen believers through biblical teaching. Whether preaching, writing, teaching, counseling, or discipling, his desire is always the same—to help people know God through His Son and to live lives that display true godliness.

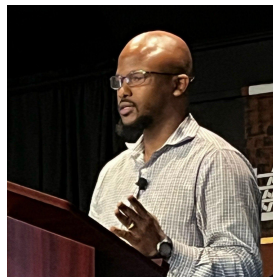
Throughout his ministry, Ivan has served in **Prayer Ministry**, has been **ordained as an Evangelist**, and was later **ordained as an Elder and Pastor**. These experiences have further confirmed his calling to shepherd God's people through the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word.

The driving passion of Ivan's ministry is found in **1 Timothy 3:16**, where the Apostle Paul declares the great mystery of godliness to be the Lord Jesus Christ. Ivan believes that Christ is not only the center of the Christian faith but also the center of every sermon, every ministry, every act of discipleship, every counseling session, every worship service, and every aspect of the Church's life. His desire is not merely to teach biblical principles but to proclaim the person and work of Jesus Christ, through whom alone sinners are saved and believers are sanctified.

It is this conviction that has led him to plant **Mystery of Godliness Church**. Ivan believes that God has uniquely gifted and called him to proclaim Jesus Christ—the great mystery of godliness—for the salvation of the lost and the sanctification of the saints. He carries a particular burden for the **African American community**, the **Hispanic community**, and for all people who have been culturally influenced to embrace teachings that are contrary to the sound doctrine of Holy Scripture. His desire is not merely to oppose false doctrine but to faithfully proclaim the truth of the gospel, believing that the revelation of Jesus Christ is God's remedy for every false teaching and every spiritual need.

Ivan also believes that the Lord has sovereignly brought his family to **Haslet, Texas**, for such a time as this. As the community continues to grow and experiences increasing challenges such as violence, shootings, theft, and brokenness, he believes God is establishing Mystery of Godliness Church to proclaim the hope of the gospel, strengthen families, make mature disciples of Jesus Christ, and raise up future leaders who will faithfully carry the gospel to future generations.

Personal Philosophy of Ministry



My desire is to know God through Jesus Christ and to make Him known. I believe that every sermon, every counseling session, every act of discipleship, every ministry, every outreach, every book I write, and every aspect of church life should proclaim the great mystery of godliness—Jesus Christ—so that sinners may be saved, believers sanctified, churches strengthened, and God glorified.

My aim is not simply to communicate biblical information but to faithfully preach Christ from all the Scriptures, trusting the Holy Spirit to transform lives through the truth of God's Word. I desire to shepherd God's people with humility, love, and sound doctrine, equipping the saints for the work of ministry and raising up future Elders, church planters, missionaries, teachers, and faithful disciples who will, in turn, proclaim Christ to future generations.

Above every ministry accomplishment, I desire to be known simply as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer is that Mystery of Godliness Church would never become centered upon a personality, but upon Christ Himself. I long to faithfully preach the Scriptures, shepherd God's people with humility, equip the saints for the work of ministry, and raise up future leaders who will proclaim the great mystery of godliness until the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

As the Apostle Paul wrote:

"And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory."

— 1 Timothy 3:16

This verse has become the defining theme of Ivan's life, ministry, and the foundation upon which **Mystery of Godliness Church** has been established. It expresses his deepest conviction that the answer to every aspect

of the Christian life is found not merely in principles, programs, or personalities, but in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great mystery of godliness. Through the faithful proclamation of Christ, Ivan's prayer is that God would save the lost, sanctify His people, strengthen His Church, and glorify His name among all peoples until the Lord Jesus Christ returns.