



Harold's Autobiography...

I was born in Twin Falls, Idaho. My parents, who remained married until the death of my father, provided me with a stable, supportive and loving family life. My family moved to Boise

when I was about six-years old. Boise, bordered by majestic mountains on the north and rolling plains and desert towards the south, provided a host of experiences as I grew up. I learned to appreciate the beauty of the plains; was inspired by the arid and grace of the desert regions; and I fell in love with the mountains, hiking, backpacking, skiing and picnicking as often as I could. I graduated from Borah High School in 1970.



My adolescence however. It was marked by rebellion when rebellion was "cool." school and my first years of college and it was not until I was to be more to life than this ended my spirituality and was able in the church as a pastor. In pursuit from Northwest Nazarene University-Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley the Nazarene Theological Seminary, my primary emphasis was religion. Following my graduation from the Nazarene Theological Seminary, I became a Methodist and was ordained in the United Methodist Church in Fayette, MO, on May 29, 1987.



cent period was not one of roses, lion as it was a time in our nation's Having made some poor choices in high college, I got involved in the "hippie" about 23 that I realized that there had lifestyle offered. At that time, I decided to move from the life of a hippie to life in a suit of pastoral credentials, I graduated from college in 1977, received my M.A. from Berkeley, CA in 1980, and an M.Div from the University of Kansas in Kansas City, MO in 1982. In all of philosophy and

In 1989, I moved to Denver, CO to attend the Joint Ph.D. Program of the Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver. While attending the program, I taught philosophy and religious studies at the University of Denver, Regis University, Metropolitan State University, Red Rocks Community College and a host of other colleges in the Front Range Area. I graduated with my Ph.D. in 1999. My area of emphasis was theology, philosophy and cultural theory. My dissertation was in the area of ethics, and I was one of the first to develop an ethic for a digital ontology (digital way of being), which I called "digital culture." It was a view steeped in a postmodern rendering of systems theory.





During my 30+ years of ministry, I did a great deal of counseling, especially in rural areas where counselors were not plentiful. It was at this time that I realized two things. First, I realized that for the most part, ministers were not adequately trained to do counseling. The few counseling courses, or more properly, pastoral counseling courses that they had both in college and seminary woefully prepared ministers to do counseling. Most lacked an adequate ground in counseling and therapy models. In addition, pastors are often called upon to work with couples and families, and almost all pastors lack background in systems theory and the models of family and couples therapy. I realized neither I nor other pastors were adequately prepared to do counseling although we are often called upon to do just exactly that. When there are no other qualified counselors around, pastors may be pressed into service where they are not adequately prepared. Second, I realized that I really enjoyed counseling, and early in my ministry I began to entertain the prospect of obtaining more education and the proper licensure necessary to do therapy.

My interests in counseling, however, took a detour when I decided to get my Ph.D. not in counseling, but in theology, philosophy and cultural theory. My area of interest was directed towards philosophy and cultural theory more than it was theology, but as I worked on my dissertation, I realized that while we live in a world defined by systems theory, we often define the people living in that world in non-systemic ways. Put differently, I realized that if we are to truly understand a person's place in their world, old individual models of human development simply do not work. In response to that, I developed a way of thinking systemically about the self and what that meant for ethics. Interestingly, when I successfully defended my dissertation, my director asked me to identify one area in which I felt that my work made the greatest contribution. I replied that its greatest contribution was to a systemic view of the self and its implications for responsible living. I now seek to apply that insight to counseling theory and practice.

Retiring from the ministry provides me an opportunity to make the transition from theology and philosophy to psychology and therapy theory and practice. To this end, I have taken over 48 hours of postgraduate work from Capella University and completed my family and marriage therapy work at the Colorado School for Family Therapy in Denver, both fully credited institutions. I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), a clinical fellow of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT), served as Treasurer of the Colorado Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (COAMFT), an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, and a Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC) III. I am also teaching marriage and family therapy at Argosy University and am on the Supervision Advisory Board for Capella University. All of this affords me to do what I love: practice and teach family therapy.

The greatest event in my life was when Becky and I got married, November 22, 2004

