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## **BIOGRAPHY**

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### **A Pastor's Tale** ***Biography of Dr. Rusty J. Sowell***

Dr. Rusty J. Sowell, 53, will have served as pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Beaugard, Ala., for 25 years on May 13, 2009.

Sowell was born in Savannah, Ga., on July 7, 1955, and he spent his early life in Rincon, Ga. Sowell and his family later moved to Prattville, Ala. He remained there until he graduated from high school.

At a young age, Sowell felt called to the ministry. After high school, he continued his education in Newton, Miss., at Clarke College where he received his associate's degree. He received his bachelor's degree at the University of Mobile in Mobile, Ala.

He received his master of theology degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La. During this time, Sowell served as pastor of Mt. Sterling Baptist Church in Butler, Ala., for two years.

After his graduation from seminary in 1979, Sowell was offered a job at First Baptist of Garden City in 1980 where he served for four years.

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After four years at First Baptist Church of Garden City, Sowell said he was called to Providence Baptist Church. While at Providence, Sowell continued his education, receiving his doctorate from Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Sowell says there are many reasons that he has remained with Providence for a quarter of a century. In his tenure, he has developed many strong relationships with members of the church and community.

“In any relationship there is a certain level of commitment,” Sowell said.

The pastor said that it would be hard for him to sever the commitment he has with Providence. He also loves the fellowship and relationship with the church.

“I like the table fellowship and the camaraderie,” the pastor said.

Sowell said that there are many reasons that he continues to serve at Providence. Most importantly, he said it is God that ultimately controls his life.

There is no timeline,” Sowell said. “I will be here until the Lord leads otherwise, or Providence decides otherwise.”

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