



DAVID ENNS

SCHOLAR | PASTOR | ARTIST

CONTACT DETAILS

-  (916) 468-3223
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LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

- Public speaking and conference facilitation
- Skilled at translating complex concepts into engaging, accessible language
- Team-building and event management
- Experience overseeing church and organizational budgets

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Communication, 2025
Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA
Research Focus: Christianese and its influence on public perceptions of religious rhetoric.

M.A. in Christian Ministries, 2020
Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA
Graduated with Honors (Omega Nu Lambda)

B.M. in Theory & Composition and B.M. in Music Management, 1998
California State University Sacramento, CA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Religious rhetoric and the sociolinguistic dimensions of “Christianese.”
- Communication strategies for faith-based communities and ministries.
- Ethnographic approaches to Christian slang and public perception.
- Pedagogical applications of worldview theory in Christian education.
- Digital platforms for crowd-sourced research and collaborative scholarship.

PUBLICATIONS

- Article. (2025). **The lexicon of global evangelicalism: A discourse analysis of Gather25.** Journal of Media and Religion (Taylor & Francis).
- Book. (Forthcoming, Fall 2025) **After the Scandal: Faith, Intellect, and the Evangelical Mind** (*working title*). Contributing author.
- Article. (Under review) **The Architecture of Holy Hostility: Algorithmic Schema Reinforcement and the Stigmatization of Religious Identity Online.**
- Article. (Under review) **Oh, the Redefining, Frame-Upending, Reckless Rhetoric.**

PRESENTATIONS

- “Faith in the City: An Ethnographic Study of Christian Slang and Public Perception”**
Presented at the 2024 National Communication Association Convention (OSBR Grant Recipient).
- “Holy Hostility: Analyzing Religious Hate Speech in the Age of AI Moderation”**
Presented at the 2025 Broadcast Education Association Convention (Top Paper Award, OSBR Grant Recipient).
- “Faith, Community, and Student Life”**
Presented at the 2025 Christian Communication Studies Network Conference.
- “The Language of Digital Revival: A Discourse Analysis of Gather25”**
Presented at the 2025 National Communication Association Convention (OSBR Grant Recipient).

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

- Book. (Target Sprint 2026). **The Lexicon of Christianese.** A comprehensive reference work documenting specialized insider language of American Evangelicalism, providing multi-dimensional analysis of over 500 phrases that function as rhetorical filters shaping evangelical worldview and identity.
- Book. (Target Fall 2026). **Faith, Community, and Student Life: Thriving in the Academic Exile** (*working title*). Collaborative university textbook featuring a dozen communication scholars offering foundational wisdom for graduate students navigating faith and academic life. Co-editor and contributing author.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Personal Interests:

- Family time
- Pickleball, boogie board, hiking
- DIY projects
- Writing
- Emerging technologies

Personality:

- Type - Extroverted, Intuitive, Thinking, Judging (ENTJ)
- Traits - Communicative, Punctual, Creative, Organized

Ministerial Standing:

- Ordained Pastor with extensive experience in worship leadership and spiritual formation

REFERENCES

Available upon request

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Pastor

2014 – Present

GateWay Bible Church | Santa Cruz, CA

- Oversee creative arts, including band, choir, and worship teams.
- Lead church-wide budgeting, marketing, and digital media strategy.
- Plan and execute large-scale events and community services.
- Perform ordained pastoral duties.
- Represent the church on local school board and community initiatives.

Self-Employed Entertainer

2004 – 2020

Dave the Horn Guy | Various Global Locations

- Performed comedic musical act for professional and college sports entertainment, conferences, and diverse media outlets.
- Featured on *America's Got Talent* (Season 1 semifinalist), *The Tonight Show*, *The Gong Show*, among several notable international shows.
- Partnered with major organizations such as Disney, Apple, The Magic Castle, Notre Dame, Eurocup, and more.
- Delivered motivational speaking engagements and advocacy for Compassion.

Assistant Music Director

1996 – 2005

River City Christian Church | Rancho Cordova, CA

- Directed and arranged for choirs, orchestras, and worship teams.
- Organized large-scale productions, including award-winning a cappella groups.
- Earned accolades such as 2nd place in the Billboard World Songwriting Contest.
- Licensed as a Pastor during tenure.

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

- National Communication Association (NCA)
- Christianity & Communication Studies Network (CCSN)
- Religious Communication Association (RCA)
- Broadcast Education Association (BEA)
- Serving as Peer Reviewer for *New Media & Society*