

“I Am Second.”

by Sue Wright



Nick, Carrie and Wakefield Bartlow



## NICK BARTLOW

*There's that name again I've thought to myself, studying Second's worship guide on Sunday mornings. Sometimes this name and I have shared the same spot on the program even, both of us assigned to reading scripture or speaking a prayer but in different services. Funny, I've mused, we could be members of the same church and never meet far as I remember, but no surprise. This fellow is a regular 8:30 worshipper and I'm a perennial eleven o'clock. He's a pew in the chapel, and Hub and I are seats in the balcony. Makes me curious who I miss knowing not pulling up a chair at Vespers Sunday nights. All the more reason to publish a Weekly for meeting in the middle. Wouldn't you agree!*

*Anyway, thanks to the assistance of our trusty church directory, I sent an e-mail off to the name in question a few weeks ago, and now I'm happy to report he's no longer lost like Waldo in a crowd to me. For those who know Nicholaus Bartlow, I hope you enjoy these additional facts about him. For those who haven't met him yet, may I be the first to introduce this vital face in the 2BC big picture.*

Nick was raised in a Savannah, Missouri Baptist home, attending services with his family every Sunday; Wednesdays too. If the church was open, Nick was there. That was until his pre-adolescent years. Then, as he explains, “When I was eleven years old, my mother became an alcoholic and what resulted was our being disowned by 90 percent of the

congregation that my family had helped form and nurture. [As a consequence], I spent most of my adolescence and undergraduate years determining where I wanted God in my life, whether I agreed with His principles, and how organized religion fit into that view.

“I found myself grow significantly [in my spiritual journey] once I was in college and began interacting with Steve Graham [our past minister] and the people at Second Baptist. I started understanding God, Jesus, and the Bible better: [how the Bible] pertained to my life and the world around me.” He continues gaining knowledge and understanding, he says, as he seeks to interpret the Bible and apply it to his life.

Admitting he attended Second only sporadically while a student at William Jewell where he graduated in 2000 with a BA in Business Administration, Nick discovered himself “trekking” back on a regular basis for early services once he moved to the Plaza after college. He adds that even then, “I loved the 8:30 service for the intimacy and genuineness I felt among those early risers.” He and his wife Carrie continue attending early service for the same reasons.

As it turns out, one of the toughest things for Nick about departing Kansas City for graduate school was leaving the 2BC fellowship he joined in

2000. He says, “When I moved back to KC, I made sure to find a place closer to Second Baptist.” He especially wanted the diversity of religious thought he feels is fostered at Second Baptist Church. He loves, “getting to see a church grow into what God has intended.” He mentions specifically, “the growth of our Journeys Bible study.”

I had to smile when Nick describes himself as part of an All-American family. How many of us share similar family constellations these days? Nick lists his siblings as: “one sister plus a half-sister and half brother from my dad’s prior marriage before marrying my mother, and two step-sisters and two step-brothers from Dad’s current marriage to my step-mother which happened when I was twenty-five.” Nick sees himself as incredibly laid back despite the complications of his upbringing. “I don’t let small things get to me,” he says, “even things that might put others in a state of upheaval. I’ve had enough drama in my life. I don’t require any more.”

*(Continued on pg. 6)*



Nick tandem skydiving...for fun

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Since earning an MBA in Marketing and Strategy from Vanderbilt University, Nick has been employed as a marketing manager; his responsibility: growing a brand. "It's exciting," says Nick, "watching how the decisions you make affect thousands of people's purchases."

According to Nick, his main hobby is cooking, baking being his preference because it requires a set of rules. It was during a four-month stint in the kitchen of a local full service hotel where Nick worked full time while he went to Jewell that this passion for food and prepare it was fueled. If pressed, Nick would choose Indian as his favorite cuisine. He

loves how the flavors of Thai, Indian, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Chinese, and some Japanese intermingle —how they can share a familiar taste and yet be so different. A proponent of sustainable agriculture, he urges buying home-grown and fresh. No frozen Thanksgiving turkeys for Nick!

In sum, he borrows this quote from Kim Severson, a *New York Times* food writer to express his feeling about cooking: "You can cook when you're hungry or cook to make a living or to feel creative or even just as a distraction, but cooking for the people whom you wake up with and go to sleep with is the best thing ever."

Nick also enjoys music, and he emphasizes, "all kinds of music." Truth is he went to Jewell on a partial vocal scholarship, but don't let Allan know, he writes. Oops! Seems I may have let a lost voice out of the bag. Psst! Are you an unsung tenor, Nick, a baritone or bass?

Nick may have an appreciation for all the forms music can take, but he is partial to jazz and standards from the 40s and 50s. When Carrie hears Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra or Wes Montgomery on the LPs he has —"that's right," says Nick, "I have LPs because that's how jazz should be heard,"— she knows her husband is probably cooking up a delicious meal. Nick's crazy about old movies too, in particular, the 'Golden Age of Hollywood' when glamour ruled. He secretly hopes fedoras and the top hat come around again. He's fascinated by the Mafia and its historic links to Kansas City.

A couple more details about Nick: he's run a half marathon, and he refereed high school basketball games for four years. Are



you beginning to think, like me, there's nothing this guy can't do!

The Bartlows have been married for two years after dating for about eight. Their son, Wakefield, is 15 months old, and they have a Lab/Shepard/Chow/Husky/ Pit Bull mix named Cosi. In Nick's words, "I love getting to see the world through our son's eyes as he discovers everything for the first time . . . things that have become so commonplace to me."

*From where I sit, there's nothing even slightly commonplace about Nick Bartlow. For sure, he and his family have become stand-outs in this busy scene we call Second.*

*Okay, friends. Found Waldo! Where are you? E-mail Suewrights@att.net.*

