

There's something quietly whimsical about Will Fillingham. He is the Senior Pastor at The *Bridge* Foursquare church. In *Christiansburg, Virginia*. Also, the Bridge is the host-church for Life Pacific University East, the flagship institution of the *International Church of the Foursquare Gospel*. And the address for The Bridge and LPU is located on *Life Drive*. Talk about landing in the Bible Belt! And for this Montana cowboy turned pastor, Will admits, this mission assignment has certainly required a bit of acclimation. Fourteen years later, however, Will has become something of an entrepreneur within Foursquare's international partnering efforts, standing out for his vision, initiative, and relational leadership.

This aptitude was formally recognized just months ago when Will and his wife, Juniece—who serves as Executive Pastor at The Bridge—were honored by the Foursquare Atlantic District with the Hope Award, which celebrates exceptional service and meaningful ministry impact.

Much like TLC, Will and the ministry of The Bridge are marked by a striking diversity of global connections. The Bridge congregation includes students and families representing 12 different nations across the world, including Kenya, Ghana, the Congo, Nigeria, Ukraine and China. Will also holds a close partnership a mutual TLC friend--Pastor Constant Damba in the Congo. Will played a key role in securing the land and developing the five-story ministry training center in Kinshasa.

Will and Juniece have cultivated an international mindset at The Bridge, that started with the simple but heartfelt question: *What can a local church do to partner with our international leaders, churches and students to advance the Kingdom?* One powerful expression of that question is the African Awareness Conference—an annual gathering that brings together American and African pastors, leaders, and students. Now in its third year, the conference remains something of a beautiful anomaly, yet it has grown into a vibrant and unexpected success. Will is quick to credit this impact not to strategy or programming, but “only and all to the Holy Spirit.”

Married 26 years, Will and Juniece have four children: Abby, 23, works in the corporate offices for Bass Pro; Caden 22, is with the U.S. Space Force; Chloe, 19, a junior Criminology major at VA Tech; and Gavin, 17, a senior in high school. Outside of ministry, Will is a dedicated foodie and aspiring chef who loves creating meals that bring people together. He also finds refreshment in the outdoors, whether fly fishing, mountain hiking, or relaxing on ocean shores. Whatever he's doing, wherever he is, Will believes that every follower of Jesus is called to live on mission right

where they are. And his heart beats for helping people discover their calling, and to embrace it with purpose and passion--all for the advancement of God's Kingdom.