

Gerald Cowen attended Murphy from 1956-1960 and participated in baseball and basketball. He was deeply involved in his church, leading music, serving a Vice President of the Youth for Christ Club and organizing Sunday schools in poor neighborhoods. Upon graduation, he enrolled in Mississippi College and earned his BA, continuing on to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for his masters and doctorate in Theology completed in 1971.

He began his career in ministry by pastoring several Baptist churches in Mississippi. He then took a position as Director at Lake Forest Ranch, followed by a director position at the Baptist Student Union at University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette. He moved from here into academia, serving as Professor at Southwest Baptist University, where he was voted the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1979. His next stop was at Criswell College, and then he held the post of Professor of New Testament and Greek at Southeastern Baptists Theological Seminary. In 1989, Gerald was Scholar in Residence at Regent's College in Oxford, England. In 1995 he founded Southeastern Baptist College and was chosen as Dean, a role he filled for more than a decade. He received the Outstanding Teacher Award from Southeastern Seminary in 2001. In 2006 he became Vice President of Southeastern College.

He has a passion for evangelism and theological education that took him on over 60 mission trips in 11 countries. He is especially drawn to serve in Mexico and all of Latin America, and in addition to leading missions in these areas, he founded New Life Baptist Seminary (Seminario Bautista Vida Nueva) in San Salvador, El Salvador, in 2008. Dr. Cowen serves as President of New Life Baptist Seminary.

Dr. Cowen has been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society since 1983, published three books, and has served as interim pastor for over 30 churches in his career. He has been married to his wife, Mary, for 52 years.

Gerald has spent his life serving others with his gifts and talents, earning him a place in our Hall of Fame.