

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: ELDER ALONIA PARKS



PASTOR • TEACHER • PSALMIST

Elder Alonia Parks is an anointed vessel of God who has spent her entire life in the service of the Lord. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, she accepted Christ as a child under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Curtis L. Lester at Greater Bethany Baptist Church. After accepting the call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in April 1999, she was licensed to preach in January 2000 by Rev. Dr. Lester. She was elevated to the office of Elder in December 2000 at New Birth Urban and International Ministries under the leadership of Bishop Marvin Hill. Elder Alonia is the Servant Leader/Pastor of Dream to Destiny Ministries, Inc., an Atlanta-based ministry founded under the unction of the Holy Spirit in April 2016. She is also the owner of D2DE, LLC (Dream 2 Destiny Enterprises), a full-service corporate communications and professional development company where she helps organizations and individuals bring their visions to life.

Pastor Alonia is a graduate of Spelman College, where she majored in English. Studying Biblical Studies and Theology, she also obtained credits toward a master's degree at Luther Rice Bible College (now Luther Rice College & Seminary). She received a Doctor of Humane Letters from the Global International Alliance in May 2022 in recognition of 30+ years of humanitarianism and philanthropy.

Pastor Alonia lives her life on five foundational principles: service to God, service to man, accountability, integrity, and excellence. Her ministry gifts lie in the areas of preaching, teaching, and music. She is known widely as an effective communicator. As such, this gift is evident in all aspects of her ministry. Elder Alonia has eight years' experience as a Christian Education Director, five years' experience as a Youth Pastor, and two years' experience as a Campus Minister. Prior to accepting the call to preach, she spent a lifetime in the church choir and as a part of praise and worship ministries, among others.

Professionally, Alonia is an inspirational speaker, certified and transformational life coach, and award-winning journalist who has an exceptional track record that spans 30+ years. With a life mantra of, "Born to inspire...equipped to empower," she has been (and continues to be) an asset to many in the education, entertainment, governmental, corporate, community-based, faith-based, as well as small business arenas. She is the recipient of a plethora of honors and awards. Among them, she was voted Most Influential by *ACHI Magazine*, named a Woman of Excellence by *Atlanta Tribune/Atlanta Daily World*, and recipient of Spelman's Alumni Achievement Award in the area of Media and Communications. Her home base of DeKalb County lauded her as a Hidden Figure of Dekalb under the leadership of Commissioner Gregory Adams. Her exceptional work with *IMANI Magazine* earned her a letter of commendation from the White House during the term of George W. Bush. And, for a brief period, she was publisher of *South Fulton Lifestyle Magazine*.

In short, Pastor Alonia is a loving and doting mother and grandmother, effective leader, compassionate friend, committed pastor, successful business owner, and challenging educator/trainer/coach. But most importantly, she is a child of God. For more information, visit her online at dralonia.com.