

BIOGRAPHICAL REFLECTION

of

The Reverend Dr. Norwood G. Carson

I introduce myself as a man from meager means, raised by a family of strong faith and determination to fulfill God's will for their lives. My father, a man of high moral values and a mother who had faith that could move mountains. I was raised by parents in a Christian home, taught that we all have something to offer to humanity for the good of others and to make God's will of love available to all. This foundation of love and faith in my home is the basis upon which my faith in God and understanding of His Scriptures have shaped my life to be one of service to my community and world.

My home nurturing led to my service in church throughout my years of development and maturity that guided me through the children's choir, youth choir, youth usher board, adult usher board, teacher of Sunday School, and leader of our department of education. This journey led to my passion for the educational ministry of the church. I felt God's guiding hand as it led me through Sunday School as a teacher, the educational ministry of our Church as a team leader, and subsequent calling to the Gospel ministry to become a Minister of Christian Education. This journey would end with the call of God to the pastorate, using the teaching ministry as my area of emphasis to meet the mission and ministry of Christ for His people. I believe God's guidance and providential care of my life has led me to be a minister of the Gospel who has been called of God to use love, discipline, and training as tools for developing relationships, understanding and purpose. I believe that God called me into a ministry of love, humanitarian service, and witness; a ministry that uses love as the foundation for every plan and work. A ministry that is not centered on a particular

church nor individual, but on manifesting the Kingdom of God on earth in the lives of those who will allow God's love to rule and influence their lives. I believe that family is the key social unit of all that God does in and through our lives to promote union and fellowship with all creation.

Therefore my family of Bernice (wife), Carrie (oldest daughter), Camille (youngest daughter), and I have committed to the divine purpose of loving God, loving others, and serving our community as the key work of the church and our home life. What you see in my personal life, is what you will witness in my public life of service and love. God has called me to fulfill this divine purpose through the ministry of pastoral care and as I live by the Christian Education motto of Marvin Taylor, "I am the first, last, and always, and educator, demonstrating by Christian living what is the Christian life."