

# Pastor Joe Cephus Carter, Jr., MDiv

Pastor Joe Cephus Carter, Jr. was born on December 14, 1971, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He is the youngest of four children born to Harriette Carter and the late Joe Carter, Sr. Shortly after his birth, the Carter family relocated to Bakersfield, California, where Rev. Carter was raised and educated.

At the age of twelve, Pastor Carter accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at People's Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Dr. Ishmeal Kimbrough, Jr.

In October 1992, Pastor Carter answered the call to the Gospel ministry. On March 6, 1994, he preached his first sermon titled, "*Making the Right Decision.*"

Recognizing his call and potential for ministry, Pastor Kimbrough encouraged Pastor Carter to attend Selma University in Selma, Alabama, where he pursued studies in Bible and Pastoral Studies. When Selma University temporarily lost its accreditation in 1996, Rev. Carter transferred to American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, concentrating in Bible and Theology. While in Nashville, he united with Antioch Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Marcel Keller, whose mentorship helped shape and strengthen Rev. Carter's passion for evangelism and discipleship.

After prayer and consultation, Pastor Carter later returned to Selma University, where he reunited with Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Dr. F. D. Reese. He graduated from Selma University in May 1995.

Upon graduating, Pastor Carter returned to Bakersfield, California, and reunited with People's Missionary Baptist Church and faithfully served in numerous capacities, including Sunday School Teacher, Assistant Minister of Music, Assistant Choir Director, Youth Supervisor and Bible Teacher, and leader of the Boys to Men Ministry.

Upon arriving in Atlanta in 2004, Pastor Carter was under the leadership of Pastor Willie Sullivan until he relocated to Kokomo, Indiana in 2007 and united with Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Lonnie E. Anderson, Jr. Under Dr. Anderson's teaching and mentorship, Rev. Carter embraced the principle of serving God with excellence because "we serve an excellent God." Dr. Anderson's emphasis on preparation, education, and spiritual development further encouraged Rev. Carter to pursue advanced theological training.

Pastor Carter successfully graduated from Grace College and Seminary in May 2023 with a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Counseling with a concentration in Ministry Administration.

In August 2020, Pastor Carter was officially ordained at Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Lonnie E. Anderson, Jr., and subsequently answered God's call to step out on visionary faith and plant a church in Lafayette, Indiana

For three months, Pastor Carter taught from the theme, *“Building from the B.A.S.I.C.S.”* He believes that strong spiritual foundations are essential for spiritual growth, meaningful relationships, and intentional ministry. On December 8, 2024, the congregation unanimously voted to officially establish the ministry as People’s Missionary Baptist Church–Lafayette.

Today, the church proudly stands under the theme:

**“The church that builds Relationships, Fellowships, and Partnerships.”**

Pastor Carter remains committed to preaching, teaching, discipleship, and building a Christ-centered ministry that impacts lives and communities for the glory of God.

Pastor Carter is the devoted husband of the former Constance L. Milledge.

**To God be the glory for the great things He has done.**