

Biographical Portrait

Dr. Lonnie E. Anderson, Jr.

Reverend Doctor Lonnie E. Anderson, Jr. grew up in Modesto, California, the youngest of five children born to Barbara Anderson and the late Lonnie E. Anderson, Sr. Church was an important part of his life from an early age, and at just 13 years old, he accepted Christ at Christian Love Missionary Baptist Church under the guidance of the late Pastor J. M. Anderson. That early foundation would quietly shape the course of his life.

After graduating from Modesto public schools in 1984, he later moved to Bakersfield, California, where his sense of calling became clearer. Under the mentorship of the late Dr. Ishmael Kimbrough, Jr., he answered the call to ministry and preached his first sermon in 1991 at The Peoples' Missionary Baptist Church. With encouragement from Dr. Kimbrough and the late Dr. E. W. Roland, Dr. Anderson made the decision to deepen his understanding of scripture and ministry through formal theological education at Selma University in Alabama.

While at Selma, he served faithfully at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Dr. F. D. Reese, where he was ordained and later served as Assistant Pastor. He approached his studies with focus and discipline, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 1996 with dual degrees in Bible and Christian Education and in Bible and Pastoral Ministries.

That same year, he accepted the call to pastor Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Marion, Alabama. There, his heart for people and his emphasis on Evangelism and Discipleship helped guide the church through a season of growth and renewal. In 2002, he earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership and soon after began serving as Senior Pastor of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in Kokomo, Indiana. During his time there, the church continued to grow spiritually, and his passion for education led to the founding of the F. D. Reese Christian Academy.

Never one to stop learning, Dr. Anderson went on to earn a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministries from Grace Theological Seminary in 2012, receiving the Faculty Award. He later completed his Doctor of Ministry degree, focusing his research on the decline of Black male millennials in the church—a reflection of his concern for the future of faith communities and the people they serve.

Since 1994, Dr. Anderson has shared life and ministry with his wife, Patricia Ann Davis. Together, they are the proud parents of Cedric, Brooke, Alexandria, and Loni Eylse, and the joyful grandparents of Cedric Jr., Camron, and June Elizabeth. A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., he remains active in civic and denominational life, traveling across the country to teach, preach, and encourage churches. He is also the author of *Partnering with Pastors and Church Leaders: Closing the Back Door*.

Those who know Dr. Anderson describe him as thoughtful, approachable, and quietly confident, with a good sense of humor and a genuine love for people. Grounded in faith and guided by service, he continues to lead with humility, wisdom, and care for the church and the communities he serves.