

**Dr. Tahlib McMicheaux** was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, where he began his ministry as a young person growing up in his dad's church (Bishop James C. McMicheaux). Pastor Tahlib's ministerial service spans almost 30 years in Los Angeles, Orange County, the Coachella Valley and back to Los Angeles County.

In the early stages of his academic journey, the educational process was complicated for Pastor Tahlib until testing determined he had a common learning disability called dyslexia. The discovery of how to cope with and defuse the effects of the condition motivated Pastor Tahlib to complete his undergraduate and graduate degrees with honors at the top of his class.

Pastor Tahlib received his Associate of Arts Degree in Psychology from the College of the Desert, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with an emphasis in Anthropology from California Baptist University, a Masters of Ministry from Southern California Christian Bible College, and his Th.D. from Sacramento Theological Seminary and Bible College where he graduated summa cum laude.

Pastor Tahlib's work ethic and dedication have not gone unnoticed as he has received scores of awards and recognitions for distinguished community service and academic achievements. Pastor Tahlib has served as President of the NAACP of the Greater Coachella Valley, the African American Chamber of Commerce, and the California Baptist University Black Student Union. The Mayor of Desert Hot Springs asked pastor Tahlib to be a spokesperson at Connie University to address the homeless issue and racial inequities within the community. Pastor Tahlib has also served on the Desert Sun community committee, American Cancer Society, Palm Springs Diversity Focus Committee, the first Human Rights Committee in Palm Springs, and the Rancho Mirage Parks and Recreation Committee.

Pastor Tahlib has a vision of unifying local churches and government agencies to reform the way resources are delivered to the needy. He strongly believes that the way to help people is: "not by giving them a handout, but a hand up." The goal is to minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of those in and out of the church. Pastor Tahlib believes the true church of God is one without walls.

Pastor Tahlib is married to Patricia McMicheaux and together, as a blended family, they have five children and six grandchildren.

When asked about his new position as part-time Regional Resource Ministry, Pastor Tahlib responded: "I am honored to work with my region. I was introduced to American Baptist when working on my undergraduate degree. I gave the baccalaureate speech in an American Baptist church for the graduating class of 1995. Once I learned that Martin Luther King Jr. was American Baptist, I knew from that point on that if it was good enough for Dr. King, it was good enough for me. Dr. King was a progressive visionary who preached a subtle form of black liberation theology. I may not affect change on a macro level like Dr. King, but if I can touch the soul of one human being with something I say or do, then my living shall not be in vain. I look forward to learning and growing with the ministers in my region as we prepare for the new norm in and out of the church."