

LA VERNE TOLBERT, PhD

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EXPERIENCE

Host, Sunday School Made Simple (2018–Present)

Edit and teach the upcoming Sunday School lesson for teachers/students based on UMI's *Precepts for Living Commentary*. This weekly YouTube program averages 9,000 to 20,000 views.

Vice President Editorial, Urban Ministries, Inc., Calumet City, IL (2015–Present)

Principal editor for the COGIC denominational commentary; develop Bible study curriculum and teacher's resources; assist in editorial training events; recruit and train editors for all levels of curriculum development (children through adults) www.urbanministries.com.

Consultant to Provost, Biola University (2014–2015)

Connected the university with pastors and churches in the inner city; hosted two city-wide Prayer for Los Angeles events, the first at Biola University, November 2014 and the second at the Fred Jordan Mission, April, 2015.

Adjunct Professor, Haggard Graduate School of Theology (Azusa Pacific University, 2000–2011)

Taught Christian education and Bible courses; developed the first online course for the Christian Education Department on Spiritual Formation.

Adjunct Professor, Biola University (2006–2008)

Taught Christian education and Bible courses.

Adjunct Professor, La Verne University (2002–2004)

Taught Christian education and Bible courses.

Assistant Professor, Talbot School of Theology (1994–1998)

Taught Christian education and Bible courses: Foundations of Christian Education, Inductive Bible Study, and Principles of Curriculum Development. Twice nominated by students for Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Ethnic Student Advisor, Talbot School of Theology (1989–1994)

Interfaced with faculty and staff as a representative of the undergraduate African-American student union.

LEADERSHIP: NON-PROFIT AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

Founder, CEO/President, Teaching Like Jesus Ministries, Inc.

(2001–Present) Equipping leaders in the local church through seminars, conferences and workshops with effective ways to enhance educational ministries—children to adults; consultation provided to pastors and Christian education directors. In 2008 in conjunction with the Department of Children and Family Services launched Covenants for Kids: Churches Helping Children in Foster Care to recruit volunteers to drive children who are living in foster care to church. www.teachinglikejesus.org

President/Chair, Society for Children’s Spirituality: Christian Perspectives (2009–2015) now the Children’s Spirituality Summit).

Scholarly organization convenes triennial conferences and publishes research that examines factors contributing to the spiritual development of children (birth to 19). At the 2012 conference, there were attendees from 44 churches, 34 universities, 10 mission and ministry organizations, 6 publishing houses, 21 states, and 9 countries. www.childrenspiritualitysummit.org

Director of Christian Education, Crenshaw Christian Center (2000–

2007) Redesigned the Children’s Ministry facilities; trained and recruited teachers; led the Youth Ministry with a select team of staff and volunteers; launched foster care events on site.

Pastor of Christian Education, Faithful Central Bible Church,

Inglewood, CA (1989–2000). Taught mid-week Bible study; established over 20 ministries; trained and supervised leaders and teachers; designed Sunday School curricula for Children’s and Youth Church, preschool through high school.

EARLY CAREER

Promotion Director, Black American Response to the African Crisis (BARAC), World Vision International, Monrovia, CA (1984–1986). Wrote and designed publicity materials for Black churches.

Family Life Educator, Redeemer Alternative School, Compton, CA (1981–1983). Designed abstinence education curriculum.

Beauty and Health Editor, Bride’s Magazine, NYC (1976–1980). First African American beauty editor of a major publishing house.

Editor-Reporter, Family Circle Magazine, NYC (1970–1976). Editor of the column, “Living Black,” a first for a major women’s magazine.

EDUCATION

PhD in Christian Education, Talbot School of Theology, La Mirada, CA,
1996 Dissertation: *Condom Availability through School-Based Clinics
and Teenagers' Attitudes Regarding Premarital Sexual Activity*

MA in Christian Education, Talbot School of Theology, La Mirada, CA,
1990, Member, Kappa Tau Epsilon Honor Society

BA Hunter College, New York, NY, 1970
Major: Theater/English

Postgraduate Study: UCLA Extension, 2000
Creative Writing: Drama with Simon Levy (4 n/c units)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Committee on the Uniform Lesson Series, 2015–2022; Scope and
Sequence Chair, 2019–2022.

Together LA Board Member, 2019–Present

National Black Pro-life Coalition, 2008–Present

Spokesperson, Protect Marriage Coalition, Los Angeles, 2008-2011

African American Church Initiative, Christian Alliance for Orphans,
2014-2019

Society for Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives, 2006-2015.

North American Professors of Christian Education (NAPCE), 1994-1998

President, Black Californians for Life, 1982-1988

Board of Directors, Planned Parenthood, New York City, 1975-1980

Board of Directors, YWCA, New York, 1975-1980

AWARDS AND HONORS

Distinguished Christian Educator's Award, West Angeles Church Of God In Christ, presented by Bishop Charles E. Blake, Presiding Bishop and Dr. Oscar Owens, Director of Christian Education, May 2019, Bible College Graduation

Priscilla Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring, Biola University, National Women's History Month, March, 2013

Commendation from the County of Los Angeles and the Department of Children and Family Services for promoting positive permanency (adoption) for older youth in the foster care system, National Adoption Month, 2011

Berean Baptist Church Award for writing *The Black Woman's Beauty Book*, New York City, 1979

PUBLICATIONS

A. Books

I Serve You Just as My Mother Did: The Woman Who Discipled a King, 2022, Xlibris.

How to Study and Understand the Bible in 5 Simple Steps Without Learning Hebrew or Greek, Second Edition 2019, Evangelical Training Association www.etaworld.org

Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children: A Holistic Approach, La Verne Tolbert (Ed), 2014, Wipf and Stock.

Life At All Costs: Anthology of 21st Century Black Pro-life Leaders, La Verne Tolbert and Dr. Alveda King (Eds), 2012, Xlibris.

Keeping You & Your Kids Sexually Pure: A How-To Guide for Parents, Pastors, Youth Workers and Teachers, 2007, Xlibris. Originally published by Zondervan, 2002-2005. Endorsed by Focus on the Family and featured in Michelle' Burford's cover story, "Girls and Sex: You Won't Believe What's Going On" (November 2002), *O the Oprah Magazine* (pp. 212-215).

Enseñemos Como Jesús: Una Guía Práctica Para la Educación Cristiana en su Iglesia. Miami: Vida, 2004 (the Spanish Edition Teaching Like Jesus).

Teaching Like Jesus: A Practical Guide to Christian Education in Your Church, 2000, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan (now in 15th printing).

Beauty from the Inside Out: A Guide for Black Women, 1983, New York: Doubleday (La Verne Powlis)

The Black Woman's Beauty Book: A Complete Guide to Great Looks, 1979, New York: Doubleday (La Verne Powlis)

B. Curricula

My Body, God's Property, Sexual Integrity Curriculum for Cook Publishing Company, published in 2013 and taught in countries around the world

Living the LIFE! Curriculum © for preschool–sixth grade, a three-year spiral curriculum for children and youth

The Road Ahead Abstinence 'Til Marriage Health and Character Education Curriculum for Middle and High School Students, CHOICES/Teen Awareness, Orange County, CA (2003)

Power Connections Character Education Curriculum with Shelly Cunningham, Ph.D., Medical Institute for Sexual Health (1998)

I've Got the Power Abstinence Curriculum with Shelly Cunningham, Ph.D. A. C. Green Foundation (1996)

Family Life Education Curriculum for Elementary Grades Kindergarten through Six, Funded by the Department of Health Services Office of Family Planning, Sacramento, CA, Contract # 81-77171 for Redeemer Alternative School, CA (1982)

C. Published in Professional Journals

“The Problem with Black Boys: Race, Gender, and Discipline in Christian and Private Elementary Schools,” Sharoni Little, Ph.D. and La Verne Tolbert, Ph.D. *Christian Education Journal: Research on Educational Ministry*, Sage Journals, December 2018.

“The Relationship Between Fatherless Children and Their Concept of the Fatherhood of God,” *Lutheran Education*, Vol 139/No.3, (pp. 190-212), 2004, River Forest, Ill.

D. Scholarly Papers and Presentations

- “Engaging with the Bible for the First Time (All Over Again)” Panel at the Calvin Symposium on Worship in Grand Rapids with Amanda Benckhuysen, Dennis R. Edwards, and La Verne Tolbert, moderated by John D. Witvliet (January 2020)
- “No More Sex in the City: Abstinence Education vs. School-Based Clinics,” Ministry Model, Children’s Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Concordia University, Illinois, June 2012.
- “A Qualitative Analysis of Female Students Enrolled in School-Based Clinics,” Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference, Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH, June 3 and 4, 2011.
- “Orphans Among Us: Evaluating the Ministry Needs of African American Children in Foster Care,” Plenary Speaker, Children’s Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Concordia University, Illinois, June 2009.
- “The African American Church and its Role in Nurturing the Spiritual Development of Children,” Ministry Model, Children’s Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Concordia University, Illinois, June 2006.
- “Fatherless Children and Their Concept of the Fatherhood of God,” North American Professors of Christian Education (NAPCE), 2004.
- “The Relationship Between Fatherless Children and Their Concept of the Fatherhood of God,” Ministry Model, Children’s Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Concordia University, Illinois, June 2003.

E. Chapters and Articles in Books/Encyclopedias

- “No More Sex in the City: Abstinence Education for Middle School Girls” in *Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today’s Children: A Holistic Approach*, La Verne Tolbert (Ed), 2014, Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock.
- “Orphans Among Us: Evaluating the Ministry Needs of African American Children in Foster Care.” In *Understanding Children’s Spirituality: Theology, Research, and Practice*, Kevin Lawson, (Ed.), 2012, Eugene, Oregon: Cascade, (pp. 357-372).

“The African American Church and its Role in Nurturing the Spiritual Development of Children.” In *Nurturing Children’s Spirituality: Christian Perspectives and Best Practices*, Holly Allen (Ed.), 2008, Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, (pp. 320-338).

“But No One asked Me,” “Did I Say That?” “Being Friendly,” “What Was God Thinking?” in *Beauty is Soul deep: 180 Devotions for Growing a Meaningful Inner Life*. June Hetzel and Michelle Lee (Eds.) 2003, Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour Books.

“Learning Disorders,” (pp.415-416); “Late Childhood,” (pp. 405-406); “Sex Education,” (pp. 628-630); “Social Cognitive Theory,” (p. 647); “Socialization of the Child,” (pp. 648-649); “Ordination of Women,” (pp. 723-724). In Michael J. Anthony (Ed), *The Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education*, 2001, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

F. Editorial Essay

“Teaching Abstinence: Legislators Just Said ‘No’”, Essay, June 6, 1998, *Los Angeles Times*, p. B-7.

CHAPEL, CHURCH ENGAGEMENTS (A SAMPLING 2001-2015—FOR A COMPLETE LISTING SEE WWW.TEACHINGLIKEJESUS.ORG)

“100 Ideas for Sunday School” and “Discipline: How to Manage Your Classroom” for American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, the Southwest and Hawaii, Glendale, CA (February, 2015).

“Children at Risk” Breakout Session with Hank Fortener; “Culture, Theology & Race” Panel Discussion with Oscar Owens, Hyepin Im, Young Lee Hertig, Cecil Murray and Michael Mata. Together LA: A City Unbroken at West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. and Planning Team Member (February, 2015).

Friendship Baptist Church Christian Education Conference, Yorba Linda, CA, “Returning to the King” and Youth Seminar for Teachers (April, 2015)

Lake View Terrace American Baptist Church – Sermon for 52nd Church Anniversary (March 2014)

American Baptist Churches Christian Education Bus Tour, Facilitator (October 2013)

Bethany Baptist Church of West Los Angeles, Chair, Thousands Missing Foster/Adoption Conference (June 2013)

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Keynote Speaker, Azusa Pacific University (May 22, 2013)

Biola University Student Chapel, National Women's History Month Speaker (March 2013)

Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic Faith Annual Christian Education Launch, (January 2013)

First Baptist Church of Westchester, Sermon, Los Angeles, (July 2012)

Society for Children's Spirituality, Concordia University, Concordia, Illinois (May 2012)

New Hope Christian Fellowship, Sermon, Pasadena, CA (April 2012)

Christian Education Conference, Teacher-Training, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Oklahoma City (March 2012)

Azusa Ministerial Association Covenants for Kids (foster care) Presentation (May 2011)

American Baptist Churches of LA/Congregations of the Southwest and Hawaii Annual Meeting, Teacher-Training (April 2010)

Friendship Baptist Church VBS (July 2010)

Christian Educators' Association International Released Time Conference, Keynote Speaker for National Conference, 2003 and 2009; Azusa, CA Conference (November 2009)

Christian Ministries Training Association, "Teaching Like Jesus" (April 2009)

Youth For Christ's Turn Your Campus, Biola University, La Mirada CA (2000-2011)

Urban Youth Workers Institute, Reload Conference, Teacher-Training (2000-2009)

Biola University Biblical Womanhood Chapel Speaker, La Mirada, CA (2008)

Atherton Baptist Church "Believing God" Women's Conference (2008)

Lake Hills Community Church, Laguna Hills, CA—Teacher Appreciation Dinner (2006)

Neighborhood Christian Fellowship—Parenting Seminar (2006)

Faithful Central Baccalaureate Service (2005)

UYWI Reload at Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA (2004)

Haggard School of Theology Christian Women in Leadership (2004)

Biola University Reconciliation Chapel (2003)

Progressive Baptist State Convention of California, Teacher-Training (2003)

Youth Specialties Pastors Convention (2002)

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Panorama Baptist Church (2002)

National Pastors Convention (2002)

Dream Again Conference, Azusa Pacific University (2002)

Bay Area Church Workers Convention, Teacher-Training (2002)

St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church Annual Women's Day (2002)

Worldwide Church of God Conference, Teacher-Training (2002)

P.S. Let's Getaway (2002)

Christian Children's Ministry Association (2002)

Kids' Stuff Conference (2001)

PROLIFE AND ABSTINENCE ENGAGEMENTS (A SAMPLING 1995-2013)

Pregnancy Care Clinic, Annual Banquet Keynote Speaker (October 2013)

Choices Women's Resource Center, Calvary Chapel Chino Valley, Keynote Speaker (May 2013)

The Pregnancy Help Center, Keynote Speaker for Annual Fundraising Dinner (March 2013)

Pregnancy Help Center, Keynote Speaker (March, 2013)

Biola University Student Chapel, Pro-life Chapel Speaker, La Mirada, CA (February 2013)

Westmont College Pro-life Chapel (September 2013)

Guadalupe Pregnancy Services Fundraising Luncheon (December 2012)

Rolling Hills Covenant Church, Keynote, Annual Sanctity of Human Life (January 2012)

The 700 Club Interactive (June 21, 2011)

A Baby's Breath Crisis Pregnancy Center training parents and leaders (March 2011)

Rally with Dr. Alveda King, Manhattan Bible Church, New York (January 2011)

International Life Services Advanced Training Institute (July 2010)

Survivors Pro-Life Camp (2010)

Biola University, Sanctity of Life Week (2007)
Womanhood and Sexuality: What God Says About Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender—Mountain View Church (2007)
Community Church Women's Retreat, Temecula, CA (2007)
Purity Seminar, Arrow Community Church, Covina, CA (2006)
Annual Fundraising Banquet Keynote Speaker, First Choice Pregnancy Center, Texarkana, TX (2006)
Keeping You & Your Kids Sexually Pure, Abstinence Clearinghouse Annual Conference (2004)
Mothers & Daughters Sexual Purity Seminar with La NeJ Garrison, Grace Lutheran Church (2003)
Keeping Kids Sexually Pure, Million Moms Conference (toured several cities 2001-2002)
13th Annual Education Conference, School Based Clinics: Past, Present, Future, The Right to Life League (1997)
Planned Parenthood is *Not* Your Friend, speaker with Norma Corvey (Roe v. Wade) for the Right to Life League (1996)
Abstinence Assembly, Valley Christian High School/Student Assembly, LA County High School of the Arts (1995)

ORDINATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Ordained to the Gospel Ministry by Apostle Frederick K. C. Price, Crenshaw Christian Center (2002)

Church Membership - West Angeles Church of God in Christ, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., Pastor, Los Angeles, CA.