

# Meet Our Founders

Reverend William Raphael Hookes & Victorious Rhoda Hookes



At God's appointed time, Pastor Williams and Pastor Victorious came together in holy matrimony in 2023, after parting ways in courtship in the 1980s. Not only did God mean marriage for them, but He also meant oneness in ministry for the couple.

Rev. William Raphael Hookes and his Wife share a lot in common. They both came out of impoverished communities in Liberia, West Africa. They both grew up in separate Christian homes where their fathers served churches as rural pastors.

Pastor William was born in Gbeh Town, 10 miles from the Roberts International Airport, and 15 miles away from Monrovia, Liberia's Capital. He acquired education solely by the grace of God. His first school still exists now as a government high school, John P. Mitchell Public School, adjacent Liberia's biggest military barrack, Edward Beyan Kesselley Barracks.

As a son of a pastor, his father asked some American missionaries who operated a mission school called Teasley Academy to help his son attend school. He finished junior high school at Teasley and taught there as a prerequisite to advance his education.

In 1974, Pastor William moved to the USA with the help of a missionary. There he completed high school and enrolled at Faith School of Theology in Charleston City, Maine until 1977 when he was made to return to the village in Liberia since his US guardian thought so. Now in Liberia, young William return to teaching at his alma mater, Teasley Academy where he served as acting principal, under whose leadership all the students passed their national examinations that year. He returned to the USA in 1980 and attended Moody Bible College and felt called to ministry.

Pastor Williams got afflicted by the death of his first wife but God consoled him later by reconnecting him with his childhood friend Victorious after 29 years of disconnection.

**Reverend Victorious R. Hookes** is a daughter of a rural upbringing until age 10 when she was brought to Buchanan, Grand Bassa County for her primary schooling in 1975.

God comforted her mother by the birth of Victorious after 10 years of childlessness in her marriage. As Hannah would say, "No, my lord, I am a woman with an oppressed



spirit! (1 Samuel 1:15), Victorious' Mother was desperate for a child in her married home.

A married woman without a child in an African village would be suggested to many faith-implicated compromises. Her friends and family serve as the first line of confrontation. As Christian leaders, her parents kept the faith until a prophet unveiled God's intent. The will of God was that the couple would give birth to a child in due course and the child in question would be great. The devil fought to eliminate the child, but God kept His promise.

.Indeed Victorious was born in the village and started to grow in wisdom. She had profound spiritual gifts. She saw witchcraft at play in the village, but it spelled danger for her. Therefore the mother, at the displeasure of the father, sent Victorious to school in the city.

As the oldest kid in her class, Victorious suffered bully from her friends. She slowly performed, fearing the urban culture, but God assigned her the Holy Spirit that taught her in the dream. To the dismay of her teacher, Victorious topped her class.

To become the woman of God she has turned into by the grace of God, Rev. Victorious experienced a lot including molestation and harassment as a girl child. Amidst all the challenges, God led her through to the point of blessing her with gifts and sights of ministry, though she ran from God not once but several times. Her caught-up point was the dream she had when she saw the lake of fire that no man could escape. She was convinced that her life was meant for Christ. This led her to serve in many ways until this testimony came up:

“God showed me he was going to give me a partner for ministry. God sent my husband from the US. So God gave me a pastor. We now do together do ministry. God revealed to us to establish Compassionate Glorious Ministries International”.