

Connecting Destiny to Destiny

# Distinguished Woman

Magazine

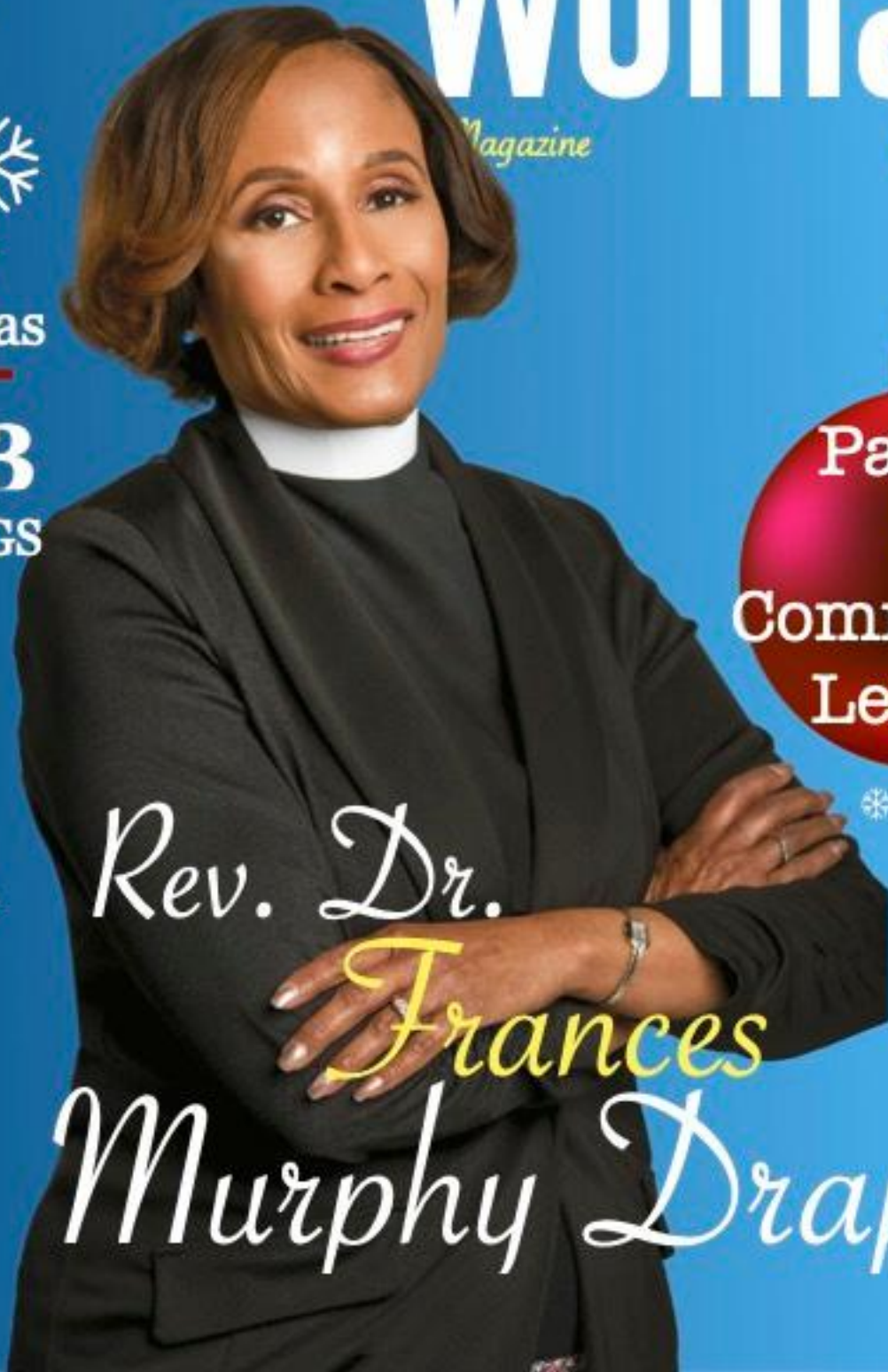
Winter 2023

Merry  
Christmas

2023  
BLESSINGS

Pastor  
&  
Community  
Leader

Rev. Dr.  
Frances  
Murphy Draper



# WINTER 2023

## Distinguished Woman

A FREE DIGITAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE

The DISTINGUISHED WOMAN MAGAZINE is a FREE monthly digital magazine that spotlights accomplished women of color ages 60-plus to mentor, inspire, and motivate the next generation of women via publication and social media connection.

A different accomplished woman of color will be featured bi-monthly. Her life's journey will inspire and motivate you to live your best life.

A Distinguished Woman is mature, wise, sharp, accomplished, and has a good reputation.

PUBLISHER & EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

SoAllMayKnow Publishing

Dr. Caretha Franks Crawford

Cover Design - Dr. Caretha Franks Crawford

Layout/Creative Design - Roshonda N. Blackmon

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## Inside this Issue REV. DR. FRANCES MURPHY DRAPER

Rev. Dr. Frances (Toni) Murphy Draper, a pastoral leader par excellence, is looking forward to retirement while being celebrated for her works of service. She hails from Baltimore, Maryland, and is the great-grandchild of John H. Murphy, Sr., who founded the Afro-American Newspapers in 1892. Dr. Draper is a published author and is known for community services.

Dr. Crawford, founder of Distinguished Woman magazine, and Dr. Toni share many things. They stood side-by-side on December 2nd at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, as honorees for their work in ministry.

Have a Happy and Blessed 2023!

### While You're Taking A Look Around Check Out These Articles:

- Check out the Book Shelf and..
- Apply the Health Tip of the month from Total Person Concept!

*On the Cover:*  
REV. DR. FRANCES  
MURPHY DRAPER



# Let's Celebrate!

December is known as the month of celebrations and festivities prompted by the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Even though many are partying and making merry who don't know or acknowledge Christ as the King of Kings, they are taking advantage of the season to celebrate family and friends or respite from work.

Christ is the reason for the season. We might not know the exact timing of His birth, but we know He was born. At least I do; He lives in my heart. As I have said many times, if I can get excited about my trips around the sun and celebrate them every year, why not celebrate the birth of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

To celebrate, according to the New Oxford American Dictionary, means "to acknowledge (a significant or happy day or event) with a social gathering or enjoyable activity." December 2022 has been a time of social gatherings and enjoyable activities for me, and it has only just begun.

On Friday, December 2nd, I was recognized and celebrated for my work in the worship arts ministry by The R.E.A.L. Black Women In Ministry, hosted by Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

God called me over a decade ago to establish a worship school and lay a foundation in liturgical dance ministry.

The applause was for the great work that has impacted worship services in many many churches in the DMV (the District, Maryland, and Virginia) and around the nation and has reached Sierra Leone, West Africa. God sees our faithfulness and rewards us at His appointed time.





Twenty-five women were celebrated at this grand event, and among them was my fellow B.W.I.M. sister, Pastor Frances (Toni) Murphy Draper. She was acknowledged and honored for her excellent work in pastoral ministry at Freedom Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Baltimore, Maryland, and beyond. She also continues the legacy of her great-grandfather, John H. Murphy, Sr., as the CEO and publisher of the AFRO-American Newspapers.

Pastor Toni and I share much in common, apostle, pastor, writer, publisher, and B.W.I.M. (Black Women In Ministry) mentors.

Launching my 7th book on December 3rd was also a celebration indeed, *Rebuild Your Life After Spiritual Identity Theft...You Can Write A New Story*. Seven is God's number of fulfillment or completion, but He hasn't finished using me as a scribe yet. I have many more books to write and publish.

I was also blessed to celebrate life as a septuagenarian two years later than expected because of, you guessed it, COVID. Nevertheless, it was an auspicious occasion.



Continue to lift up Jesus and celebrate life every day. Have a Blessed 2023!

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

**“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”**

**Luke 2:13-14 NKJV**

**DR. CARETHA FRANKS CRAWFORD**  
Founder of *Distinguished Woman Magazine*



# The Gift of Great Impact

Help Someone Retrieve Thier Most Prized Possession in 2023

## You Didn't Miss It!

You can still invest in your life by purchasing Dr. Crawford's latest book, "Rebuild Your Life After Spiritual Identity Theft...You Can Write A New Story!"

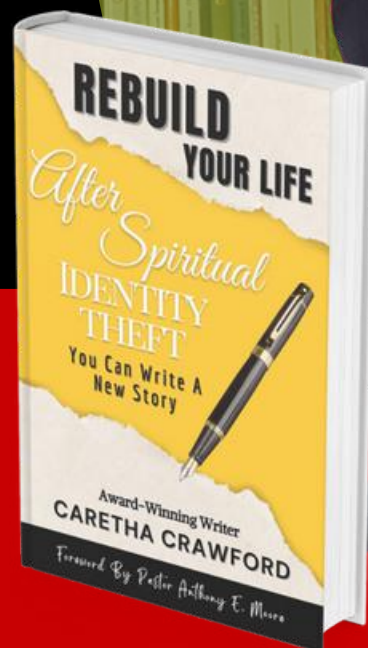
Start the new year off-right by rediscovering the "REAL" you, the person God created and empowered to do mighty works in the earth.

Rebuild Your Life After Spiritual Identity Theft...You Can Write A New Story will take you on a journey of rediscovering the "you" God created. It's a roadmap to rediscovering the person you were before God placed you in your mother's womb and before the world took advantage of the opportunity to taint the divine nature God gave you. Thus, exchanging your God-like identity and narrative for one that resembles the world's model.

To live a successful life according to God's standards, you must know your authentic self. Knowing who you are will eradicate striving and lusting after positions and power. You will be contended and fulfilled living the life God designed for you.

**Why not discover who you are this new year and write a new story?**

**Purchase Your Copy Today!**

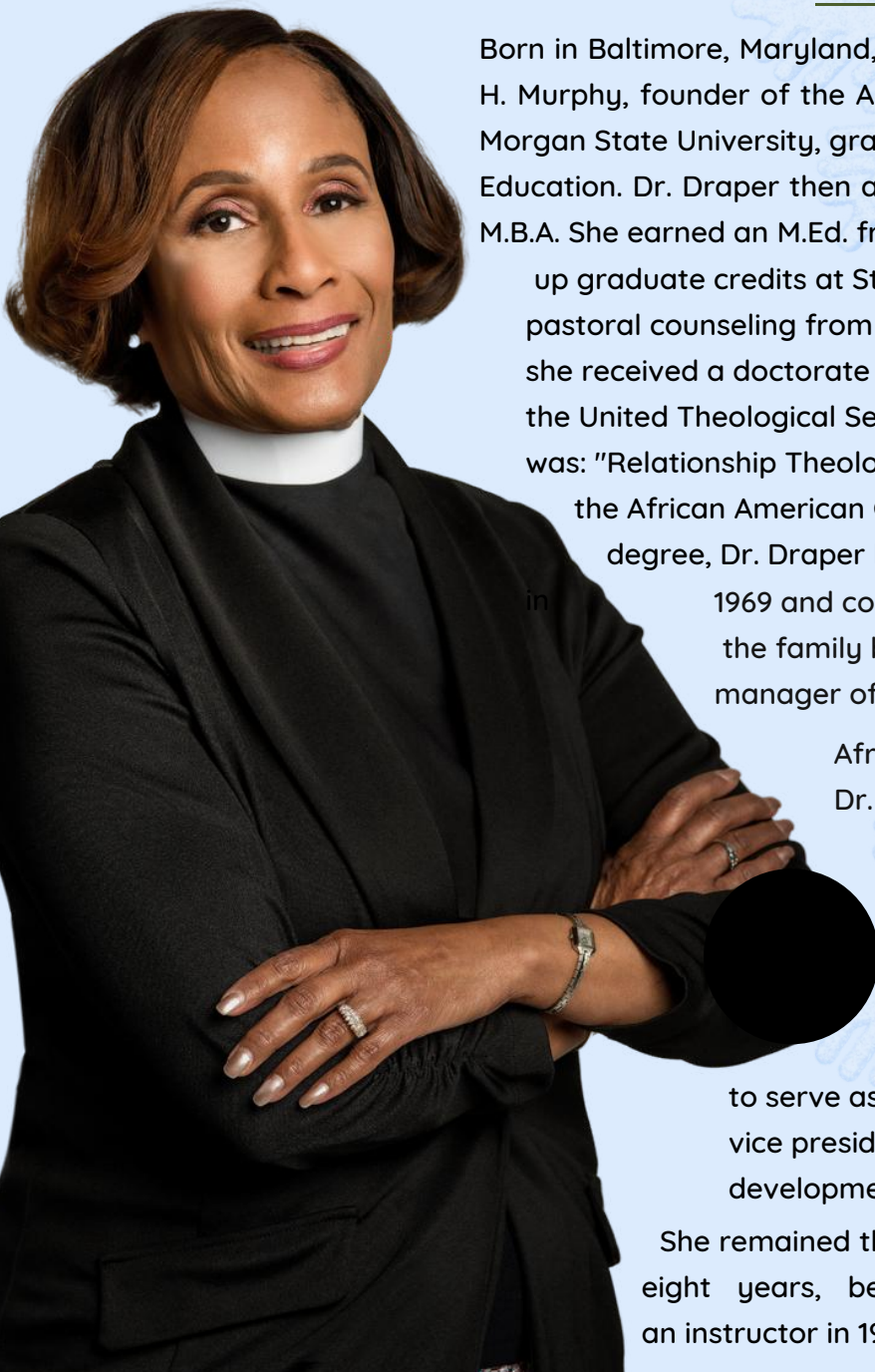


# REV. DR. FRANCES "TONI" MURPHY DRAPER



R

ev. Dr. Frances Murphy Draper, known by the nickname "Toni," has been an influential community leader in her native Baltimore for decades, with leadership positions in journalism, a church she founded, and education. spapers.

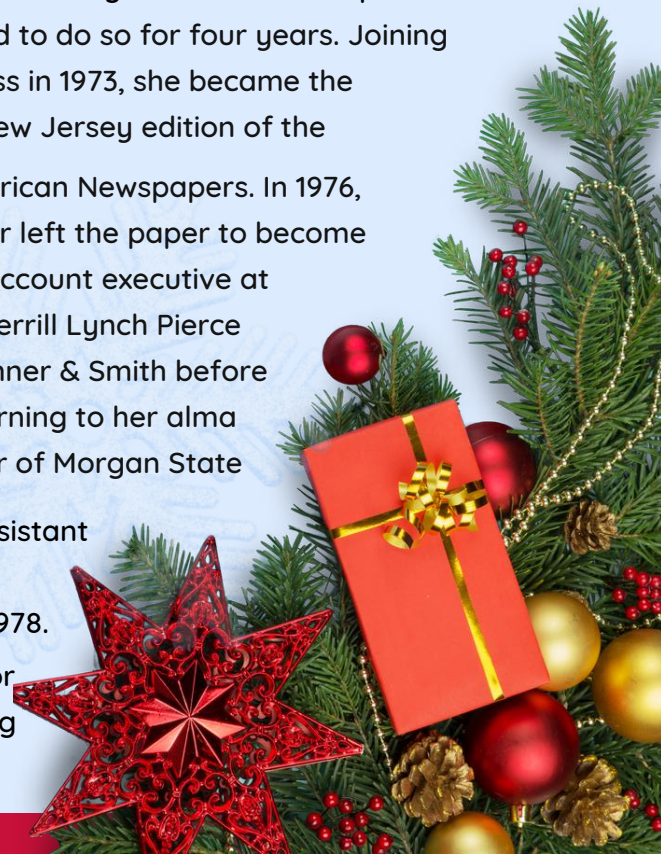


Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Draper is the great-granddaughter of John H. Murphy, founder of the Afro-American Newspapers. Dr. Draper attended Morgan State University, graduating magna cum laude in Spanish and Education. Dr. Draper then attended the University of Baltimore, earning an M.B.A. She earned an M.Ed. from Johns Hopkins University. She also picked up graduate credits at St. Mary's Seminary before receiving an M.S. in pastoral counseling from Loyola University Maryland. That same year, she received a doctorate in ministry for preaching and leadership from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Her dissertation title was: "Relationship Theology: A Model for Producing Healthy Marriages in the African American Context." After completing her bachelor's degree, Dr. Draper began teaching in the Baltimore public schools in 1969 and continued to do so for four years. Joining the family business in 1973, she became the manager of the New Jersey edition of the

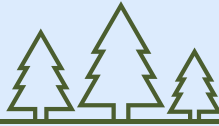
Afro-American Newspapers. In 1976, Dr. Draper left the paper to become an account executive at Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith before returning to her alma mater of Morgan State

to serve as an assistant vice president of development in 1978.

She remained there for eight years, becoming an instructor in 1984,



and then returned to the Afro-American in 1986 as president. She left the paper for the second time in 1999. Dr. Draper is also a nationally certified counselor.

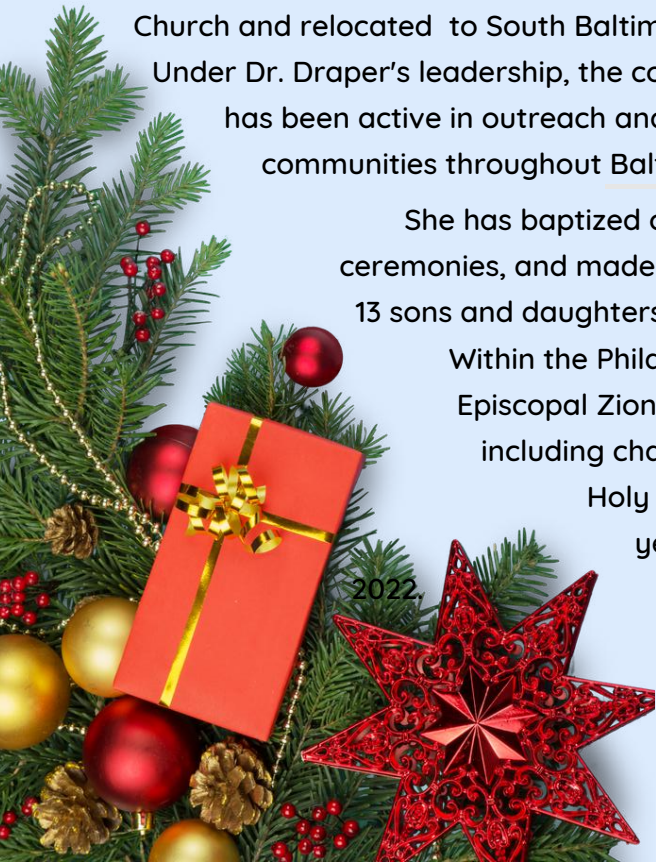


In February 2018, Dr. Draper was named chairman of the board and publisher of the AFRO-American Newspapers, one of the oldest black-owned family businesses in the country. "The AFRO has been at the forefront of the ever-changing media landscape for 130 years," she told a local news outlet recently. "Today, we offer various platforms to get the word out, including an array of social media products. However, our basic mission of championing our people, our causes, our hopes, dreams, and aspirations are likely stronger than ever. Black lives have always mattered and continue to matter to us." In 2021, the Local Media Association (LMA) named Dr. Draper "Content and Audience Innovator of the Year."

Dr. Draper is an ordained elder and serves as a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She accepted her call to ministry in 1991 and preached her trial discourse a year later at the Lord's Church (Baltimore, MD). In 1996, she returned to the Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church, and in 1999 was ordained an elder by the late Bishop Milton A. Williams and appointed pastor of the then John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church in East Baltimore in 2002. After prayerful consideration, the congregation changed its name to Freedom Temple A.M.E. Zion Church and relocated to South Baltimore. Under Dr. Draper's leadership, the congregation has been active in outreach and service to communities throughout Baltimore City.



She has baptized over 75 infants, youth, and adults, performed over 20 wedding ceremonies, and made hundreds of pastoral visits. Dr. Draper has spiritually fathered 13 sons and daughters who were called into ministry and mentored countless others. Within the Philadelphia Baltimore Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Dr. Draper, has served in various leadership positions, including chair of the finance committee, member of the trustee board and Holy Orders Committee, and conference studies instructor. After 20 years of faithful service as a pastor, she is retiring in December. Dr. Draper's mother, Frances L. Murphy II, helped inspire her to be a community leader. She encouraged her to honor God, treat people how you want to be treated, and surround herself with younger people who can keep her updated on the latest trends and technologies.



## As A Lifelong Citizen of Baltimore

Dr. Draper has been extraordinarily active in the community. She served on the Board of Regents of Morgan State University for 25 years before stepping down in 2020. Dr. Draper has also served as treasurer of the Board of the Afro-American Newspapers and Loyola College, has served on the boards of the United Way of Central Maryland and Loyola University Maryland, and was the vice chairperson of the Baltimore's Literacy Foundation.

She is a board member of the National Newspaper Publishers' Association, the Y of Central Maryland, and the Advisory Board of Results Baltimore.

She is a founding member of Word in Black ([wordinblack.com](http://wordinblack.com)). Dr. Draper also serves as an overseer for Grace Fellowship Church in Timonium, MD. In addition, she is a member of the Executive Alliance and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; a national public service sorority co-founded in 1913 by her grandmother, Vashti Turley Murphy.



With all of her responsibilities locally, Dr. Draper is also a sought-after speaker all over the country and throughout the A.M.E. Zion Church, facilitating various workshops and seminars.





## As a result of her tireless efforts and tremendous work

Dr. Draper has received numerous awards, including being honored three times by The Daily Record as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women.

She also received the International Alliance for Women's 21st Century Award and Loyola University's Carroll Award for outstanding community service.



In 2014, Dr. Draper and Dr. Pamela Love Manning co-authored the book *Life Happens...But You Can Finish*. Her second book, *No Ordinary Hook-Up: The Courtship of Vashti Turley and Carl Murphy, 1915-16*, was released in September 2016.



## For more than 40 years, Dr. Draper has been married to Andre Draper.

They have four "children" and 12 grandchildren.

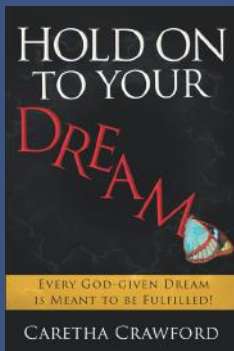
Just as Dr. Draper was inspired by her mother, she now inspires the younger generation. She often tells her grandchildren that giving back to the community is important because many people need a genuine hand-up or a simple word of encouragement to survive and thrive. When people are healthy economically, socially, and spiritually, communities are healthy.



# The Author's Bookshelf

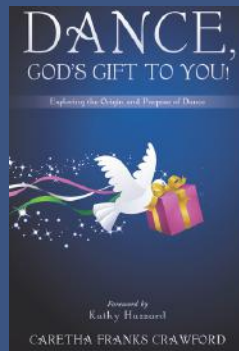
Check out these book titles from the Ladies who Graced the Cover of Distinguished Woman Magazine as well as publisher Dr. Caretha Franks Crawford

Dr. Caretha Carawford  
Hold On To Your DREAM



Dr. Crawford's second book, Hold on to Your Dream, was written to encourage those who wonder if it is possible to achieve their dreams or if they should give up hope. Dr. Crawford inspires and challenges readers to think from God's perspective regarding their dreams and guides them on a journey of discovering their dreams or rekindling the flame of a lost passion. Using biblical principals and citing contemporary and biblical achievers, Questions are answered that many have about making their dreams a reality.

Dr. Caretha Carawford  
DANCE: God's Gift to You!



"The aroma of God is being sensed throughout the earth, awakening those who God has ordained to carry forth the anointing of the dance in the earth." In the 21st century church, God is calling ministers of the dance in record numbers to fulfill His purpose-revealing His glory in the earth. This calling has prompted a myriad of questions in the minds of leaders and laypersons in the body of Christ. Dr. Crawford presents a fresh, clear biblical understanding of how God views the dance, elaborating on how and why dance should be used in the worship experience.

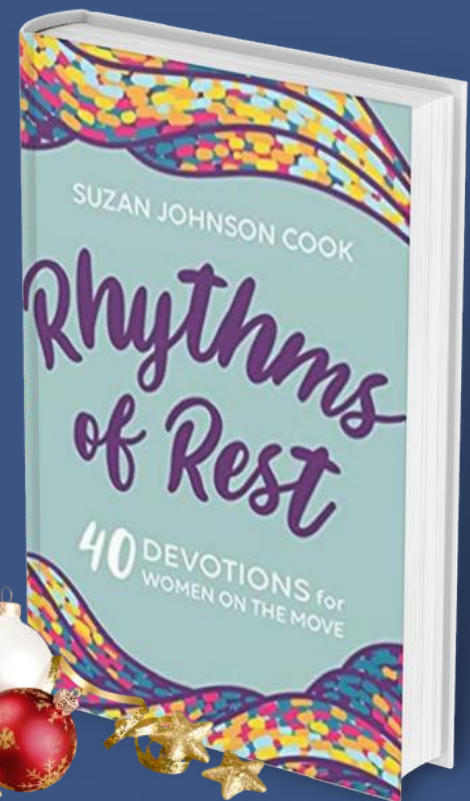
Are you so busy serving God that you struggle to find time to simply be with Him? You are not alone! Rest and retreat are essential parts of the spiritual life, but many Christian women find both elusive in the middle of lives busy serving families, churches, businesses, and communities.

Rhythms of Rest provides a respite for you to simply be still and spend time with Jesus. These 40 meaningful devotions invite you to pause and reflect on Scripture as you ponder topics like soul-care, sisterhood, seasons of life, and Spirit-led living. You'll find daily sustenance and strength from the personal stories, reflections, questions, quotes, and Scripture passages shared by your sisters in Christ.

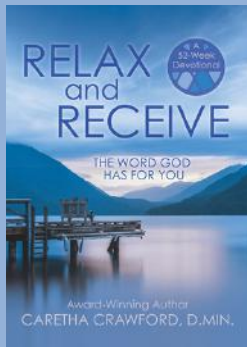
Suzan Johnson Cook and fellow contributing authors are leaders and influencers within Black and multicultural communities and churches, and their devotions speak strength to a woman's soul.

*Featuring Devotions written by*

Dr. Caretha Franks Crawford & Dr. Gloria Miller Perrin

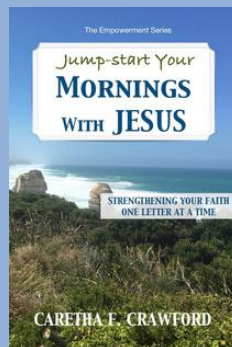


**Dr. Caretha Carawford**  
**RELAX and RECEIVE**



GOD HAS A RELEVANT WORD FOR YOU... RELAX AND RECEIVE IT! A 52-Week Devotional of Meditative Thoughts For Spiritual Renewal Caretha Crawford has learned the value of slowing down and relaxing in the presence of God. The words she receives during these personal moments with her "Daddy" gives her new insights and draw her into a deeper relationship with Him. In this weekly devotional, she shares some of her most precious meditative thoughts received during these quiet times. As you read and reflect on them, they will challenge, strengthen and provide you with hope and encouragement to face each new week.

**Dr. Caretha Carawford**  
**Jumpstart Your Mornings with Jesus: Strengthening Your Faith One Letter At A Time**



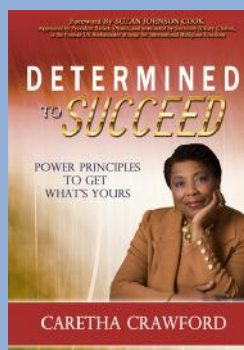
A beautiful colorful devotional. Have you ever wondered if your mornings could be more refreshing and invigorating? Need extra fuel for the day? There is no better way to be energized than declaring (lifting) the names and titles of Jesus. Jesus is the most powerful name we will ever speak. After His resurrection, God gave Him a name that's above all names. Everything is subject to this name. Storms are stilled, demons tremble, and diseases succumb to the name of Jesus. Use the power available to you in this book and move all hindrances out of your day when you Jump-start Your Mornings With Jesus!

**Dr. Caretha Carawford**  
**Promises And Prayers for Uncertain Times**



Promises and Prayers for Uncertain Times is a collection of Scripture verses, affirmations, and prayers, accompanied by brilliant pictures of nature. These sixty inspirations speak of the promises that God has made to His people for challenging and uncertain times. They will lighten your heart, soothe your soul, and remind you that God is a compassionate God. He provides for your needs. As you meditate on each one, God will reassure you of His presence and power in your life. It's the perfect gift book for nature lovers.

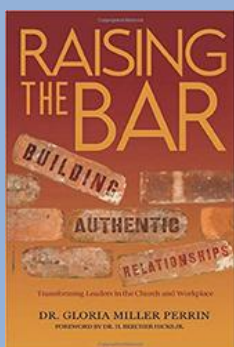
**Dr. Caretha Carawford**  
**Determined to Succeed: Power Principles to Get What's Yours**



Go Get What's Yours! Everyone wants to succeed in life: achieving goals and leaving a legacy from which others will benefit. However, for some ethnic groups, it is more challenging to accomplish their goals due to the odds stacked against them. In her book, Determined to Succeed, she reveals a strategic plan for women of color or any ethnic group to live a successful life.

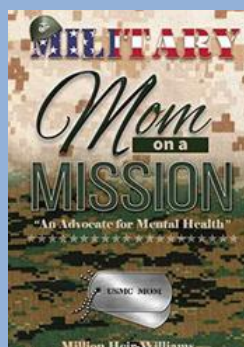
[Guest Author's books can be purchased on Amazon!](#)

**Dr. Gloria Miller Perrin**  
**Raising The Bar: Building Authentic Relationships**



Will the real you please stand up! The word "authentic" has become the buzzword of our day. Everyone is looking for the real deal. The Millennials call it "Keeping it 100." More and more people are looking for authenticity with those they encounter. Authentic leaders are those that are striving to be open, honest, and straightforward. Raising the BAR offers a seven-part building process for leaders at all levels to help guide them along their authentic journey.

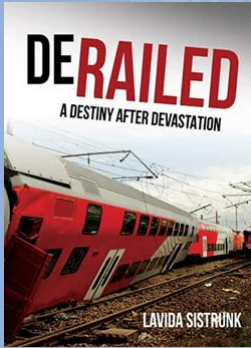
**Million Heir-Williams**  
**Military Mom on a Mission: An Advocate for Mental Health**



As you read Military Mom on a Mission you will discover the journey of a mother and her family as her son returned from the Iraqi war. She was completely excited when her son returned with all his body parts, however, little did she know PTSD was lurking within the walls of her son's mind. The story unfolds taking you on this journey as every detail of the experience you feel. The confusion, excitement, loneliness, anger, frustration and many other emotions as you read along.

Pastor LaVida Sistrunk

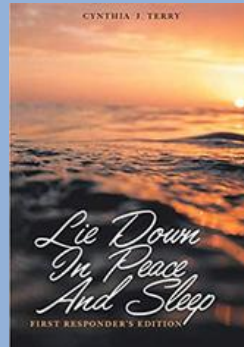
**DeRailed: A Destiny After Devastation**



Has life ever thrown you a curveball? Have you encountered the death of a loved one, and unexpected job loss, a dire medical diagnosis, or something else that caused your life to run off your carefully selected track? Have you ever been plunged into confusion, depression, and despair and suffered in silence? DeRailed: A Destiny after Devastation by LaVida Sistrunk is an inspiring book that takes a look at a common experience that is often not discussed in the Christian community for fear of shame or judgment and trying to keep up the appearance of having it all together.

Cynthia J. Terry

**Lie Down In Peace And Sleep: First Responder's Edition**



Lie Down in Peace and Sleep is a clarion call for prayer for first responders at all levels. It's a devotional designed for first responders, their families and friends as well as thousands of community residents to develop a discipline of prayer and devotions leading to a good night's sleep. This book is designed to support and uplift the ones that sacrifice selflessly to support and protect US! Let's pray for our first responders and pray that they will be able to develop a dynamic prayer life so that they can sleep well for a better tomorrow.

**Dr. Caretha Crawford's books can be purchased via the following sources...**



CashApp - [\\$CarethaCrawford](#)

Paypal - [paypal.me/CarethaCrawford](https://www.paypal.me/CarethaCrawford)

Zelle - [Caretha Crawford](#)

Amazon - [Caretha Crawford](#)

Web store: [Caretha Crawford E-Store](#)

**ADVANCEMENTS**

*Take a Minute for Your Health!*

We are living in the age of advancements. We are totally dependent on cell phones and the internet. There are emerging advancements in the medical field, such as developments in biotechnology. These all are beneficial, but nothing can replace the basic elements that assist us in obtaining and maintaining a healthy body.

Discipline, exercise, proper diet, pure air, and adequate amounts of water are essential and are always necessary. These are easily accessible to everyone. These are vital elements for building, repairing, and sustaining our health. These basic elements should never be underestimated, even in the midst of all types of advancements.

Pastor Gregory Franks, Founder and President of Total Person Concept (TPC) will provide you with important information and tools to help you on your healthy journey

Email: [Totalpersonconcept@yahoo.com](mailto:Totalpersonconcept@yahoo.com)

Click Here >>> [TPCHealth Tip Videos](#)

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All ads must be received on the 15th of the month. A month  
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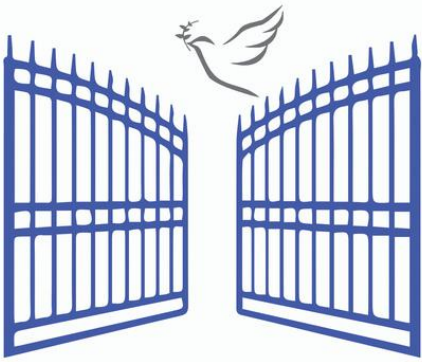


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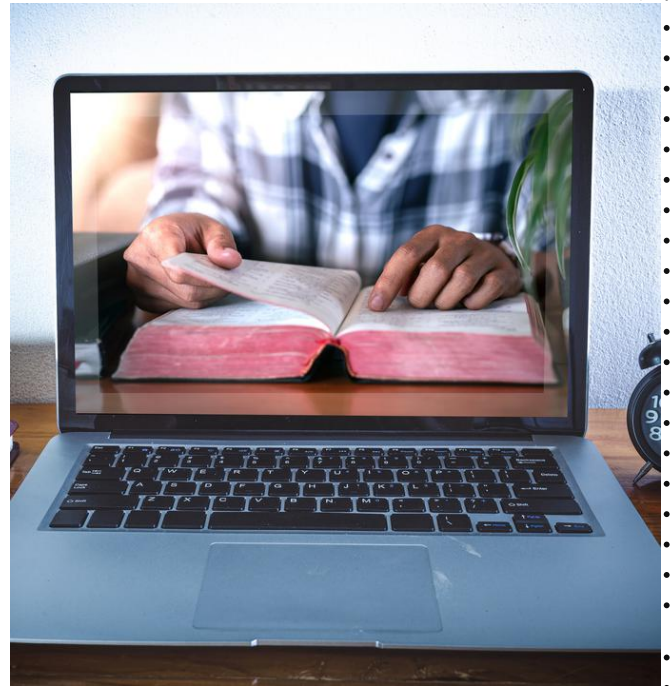
*Jesus Christ*

**WEDNESDAY  
PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY  
12 NOON**

**SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:30 AM**



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**THE GATEWAY TO WHOLENESS CHURCH  
MINISTRIES - ONLINE - 10:30 AM**

Website: [thegateway2wholeness.com](http://thegateway2wholeness.com)

Email: [info@thegateway2wholeness.org](mailto:info@thegateway2wholeness.org)

**Phone: 301-386-2888**

**Mailing Address:**

**P.O. BOX 6718 Upper Marlboro, MD 20792**

**Dr. Caretha Franks Crawford, Apostle/Senior Pastor**



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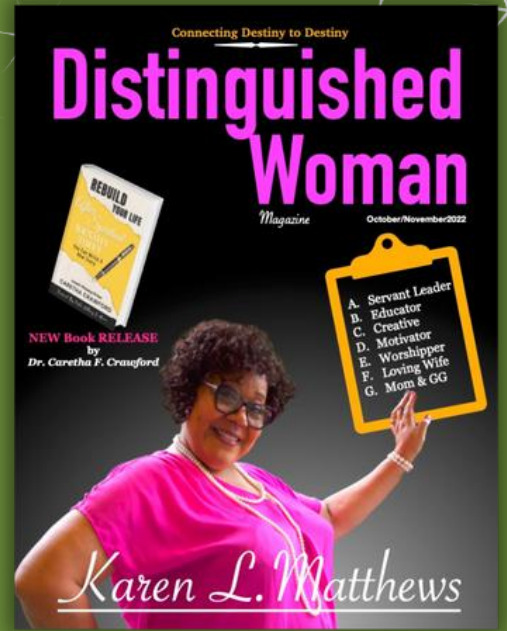


Looking for a good read?

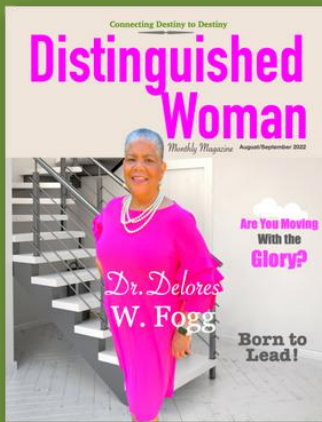


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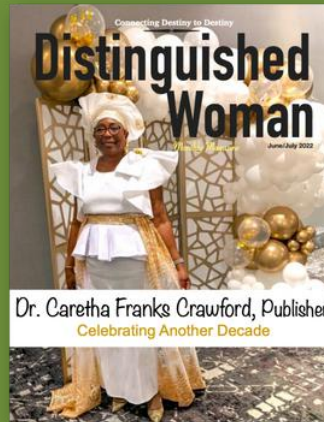
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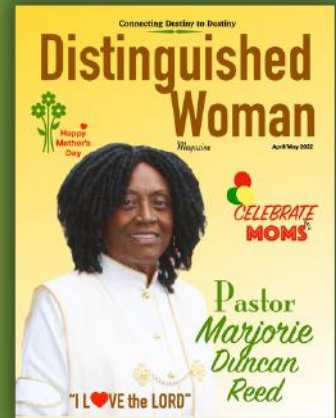
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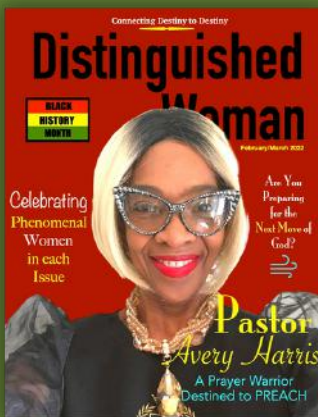
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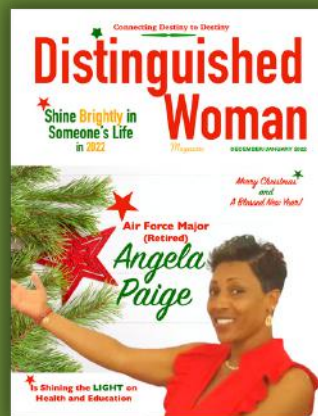
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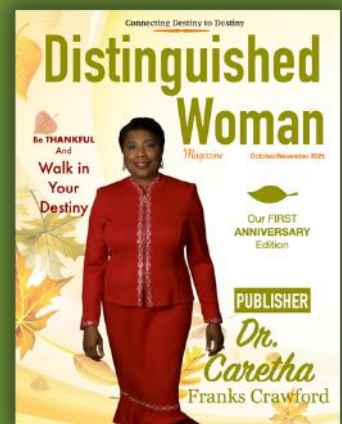
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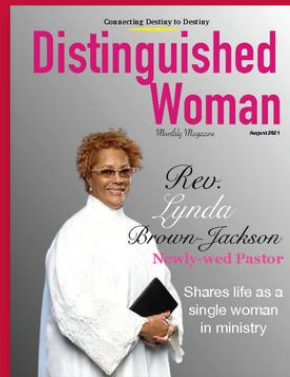
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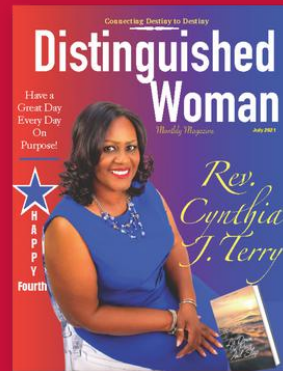
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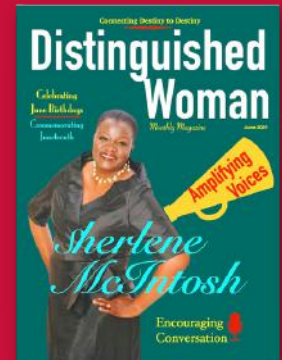
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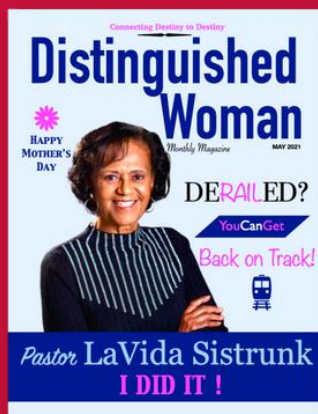
July 2021



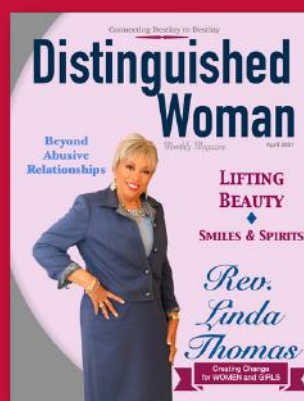
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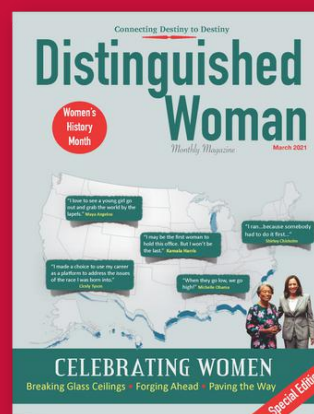
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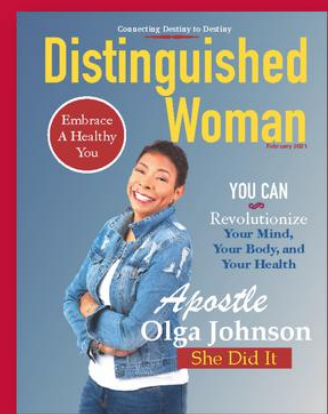
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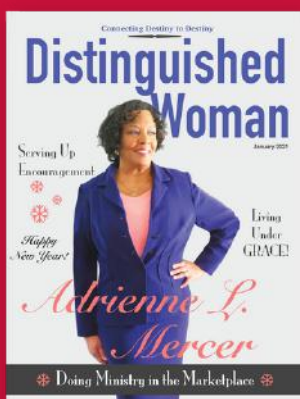
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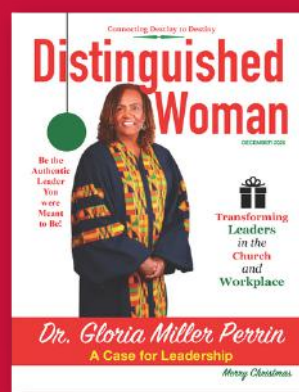
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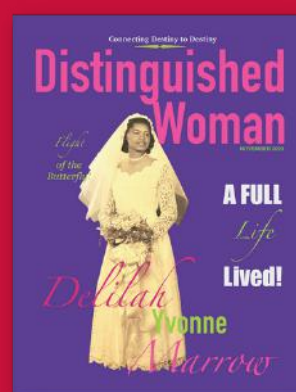
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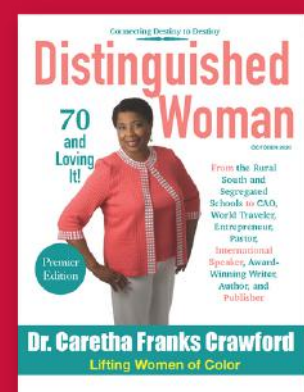
December 2020



November 2020



October 2020



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