

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Maxine Walker

PERSON

Walker, Maxine, 1936-2007

Alternative Names: Reverend Maxine Walker;

Life Dates: July 25, 1936-November 2, 2007

Place of Birth: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Minister

Biographical Note

Religious leader Reverend Maxine Walker was born on July 25, 1936 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Bernadine Lucas, a columnist for The Pittsburgh Courier and the Chicago Defender, and Jack Lucas, a minor league baseball player. After moving to Chicago, Illinois at seven years old, Walker contracted tuberculosis and was unable to walk for a year during her illness. Walker graduated from Cortez Business College before receiving her degree from the Moody Bible Institute.

Shortly thereafter, Walker married Cecil Thomas Walker, a grocery and restaurant owner, and had nine children. Together, they worked in his business, Tom's Kitchen, while Walker continued to take college courses.

During her career, Walker created the first gospel magazine printed in Chicago, The Platform. After the creation of her own publication, Walker worked for Gatlings' entities as a public relations person. There, she formed relationships with prominent celebrities like Michael Jordan. Walker then developed another magazine, a television talk show entitled, Touching People, and a gospel play that appeared at the Regal Theatre in Chicago called, One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism.

In 1980, Walker was called to the ministry and was ordained in 1997. She then became the editor of the gospel newspaper The Spiritual Perspective. In addition to Walker's passion for teaching the public about spirituality, she is also in the process of writing her first book, Ten Reasons Why You Should Not Use an Herbalist, which educates people about health options when facing debilitating illnesses.

Walker has formed relationships with many notable people throughout her life, including Nelson Mandela and has preached in both Israel and Africa. She counts

among her list of influential ministers, Apostle H. Daniel Wilson, Dr. Horace Smith and Bishop Willy Jordan, all of whom share Walker's passion for teaching the community. In addition, Walker owned a fish market and a lounge on the south side of Chicago and worked as a classified specialist for the Chicago Defender.

She passed away on November 2, 2007, at the age of 71.

Walker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 28, 2007.

Related Entries

Zenos Colman Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Benedict School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Corpus Christi Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

The Moody Bible Institute [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Gatling's Chapel, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Head of Public Relations

The Spiritual Perspective [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder

The Platform [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder

Tom's Kitchen [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Black On Black Love [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Rainbow PUSH Coalition [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

