



### **Pastor Bishop Willie McGhee III, B.A., B.S.**

**Pastor Bishop Willie McGhee III** (better known as Pastor Billy), is the **Administrative and Jurisdictional Prelate** for **Behind The Veil International Ministries**, overseeing the states of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky. He also is the founder and pastor of **Christ Memorial Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina**.

At an early age he felt the calling on his life to become a pastor. But that calling did not mature until he has his share of the streets. Growing up and spending most of his life living in Washington, D.C., he shares some of that experience.

“No matter how much teaching I had, and how much preaching I heard, what finally equipped me for what I am now doing, are those years I spent in the streets! My dad was not just a pastor – he was a Bishop. But he could not live my life for me, nor could I catch the vision for my life without understanding it. The streets and my years of being in the streets gave me the inside knowledge and understanding of those who are in the streets and really want out.

Like many in the streets, I had to go rock bottom and get to that point where I was sick and tired of being sick and tired of the destructive life I was living. And when I came to that understanding, I wanted out and I wanted to change my life. Because I knew it was by my own hands and my own doing that I was destroying myself, I also knew I had to change or die or be killed. That was my reality.

I remember, I started helping a young man sell heroin to support my habit. It was a slow day and the procedure was, to walk around the block when the police drove by. Once I began to walk around the block, one of the lookouts was not watching me and I took off with about \$4000.00 worth of heroin. I got away and stayed away for 2 months. One day one of the lookouts spotted me and stabbed me. I stayed in the hospital for about a week. I promised God I would stop, but I didn't. The final straw was a Saturday night when I over dosed on a mix of heroin and cocaine. The person I was with had the wisdom to revive me. At that point I asked God to help me stop and I haven't touched a drug since.

As a D.C. Corrections Officer, promoted to recreational supervisor for the D.C. Jail, I also saw what the streets can do to you and where it ultimately leads you – death, drugs and incarceration. I have watched inmates come in paralyzed and in wheelchairs, inmates with colostomies from gunshot wounds, inmates dying from diseases after sharing needles. I have witnessed inmates going back to their familiar places and being killed. My desire is to help prevent and rehabilitate these young men and women to become God fearing adults and law abiding citizens.

There are many like me still out there in the streets, and that is where I have been called to be. I know the streets and I know what gets you out in the streets and I also know what gets you out! But it's going to take someone who has been there, done that and have the scars as well as the victory to get others up out of there," Pastor Billy adamantly asserts.

Through his own life changing story, it took an extra-ordinary change of direction for his life and a Miraculous Move of God, which prompted him to answer the call that was on his life and now serving as pastor to those who are where he once was.

"I love what I do, and I would not have it any other way! It is my prayer that they can see me – hear my story and know there is a change coming for them as well. They just have to be inspired by someone or something to make that change. I am heavily burdened and grieved over what I see – its even much worse now that when I was out there. ...And I want to be that someone who filled with zeal and compassion, is available to them, and is not afraid to go back to the street to take them the message of love, redemption and change." He says.

He is very active in his local community as a part of the Ministerial Roundtable, as a mentor, and numerous other involvements to bring about positive change in the lives of youth.

[Pastor Billy graduated from George Washington University in Washington, DC with a paralegal certificate and an ABA certification. He later graduated from the Apostolic Christian College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biblical studies. He also graduated from Maple Springs College and Seminary with a Bachelor of Science in Pastoral Studies.

He is currently working on his first book, Daddy, I'm not perfect], and faithfully shares a Daily Inspirational Text to those who need encouragement and strength – especially those seeking a change in the trajectory for their lives.

He resides with his lovely wife Rosalind Jones McGhee, R.N. and younger children in Rocky Mount, North Carolina and also continues to minister in the D.C. areas.