

Biographical Sketch: Rev Mazie Butler Ferguson, Juris Doctor



Referred to in “*Jet Magazine*” under the topic “newsmaker” (June 25, 2007) Mazie Butler Ferguson holds the Juris Doctor Degree from the University of South Carolina Law School. She received her theological training from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of the Southeast and Shaw Divinity School and served two terms as student representative on the Shaw University Divinity School Board of Trustees.

Like her great aunt Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Ferguson has been challenged to be obedient to the call of God at a time when African American female leadership has not been completely welcome in the church. Like her aunt, Ferguson continues in obedience to God. She has been blessed. She is founding pastor of Liberation Missionary Baptist Church, former senior Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Siler City, NC; past president of the Greensboro’s Pulpit Forum ministerial alliance, has been Religious Affairs Chair of the NC NAACP Conference of Branches, and chair of the Constitution Committee of the North Carolina General Baptist State Convention. A native of Sumter, SC, Dr. Ferguson began her life work as a civil rights advocate working for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting rights Act of 1965 with The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). As a college student Ferguson demonstrated, learned and taught non-violent resistance.

Dr. Ferguson has served on numerous boards and commissions, local state and national. She is a preacher, teacher, theologian and writer. She has a B.A. in history and English from S.C. State University, a certificate from the Harvard University Higher Education Management Development Program. She has been a public school teacher, college associate professor, and adjunct Instructor of Criminal Justice. She presently work as a free lance writer and consultant with her company, *The Refinery*. She is available as a motivational speaker for the cause of justice and a revivalist seeking to bring healing to a wounded people for the edification of humanity and the glorification of God.

She is a subscribing life member of the NAACP, and has been honored by numerous local, state, and national organizations for her humanitarian advocacy on behalf of those left out and marginalized. Among these awards is the highly coveted Sojourner Truth Award bestowed upon her by the National Council of Negro Women.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

In life God calls each of us to take a journey. At an early age God inspired within me an urgency to pursue a life that would make a difference for my people. God has empowered me to overcome each challenge God sends and I discover there are horizons beyond. There is dialectical tension between the struggle to maintain status quo in gender, race, and class; and the struggle for equitable distribution of privilege to everyone. I am convinced that I must work with fervor and integrity toward the goal of equity for all races, classes, and genders. As a theologian by God’s call; as a student of jurisprudence by profession, I am committed to the struggle to move humanity to the higher plane required by Jesus in the Gospels as summarized in Matthew 25:31-46 and following. God calls. My life answers. The journey continues.

Dr. Ferguson is a Soror of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and serves the sorority nationally as a member of the Legal Council to the Executive Committee. She is the mother and Rev. Lei Knight, a South Carolina school Principal, as well as the mother of Professional Performer, Daniel Butler Ferguson, who is also an Assistant Director of Admissions at NCA&T State University. Dr. Ferguson has two grandchildren Nikolaus Butler Knight, 13 and Jaleah Antoinette Knight, 10.