

[BIOGRAPHY OF LATOYA YANDIA WRIGHT]

A native of St. Lucia, Latoya is an author, poet, songwriter, international speaker, mentor, pastor, and entrepreneur. She has a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice with a concentrate in Human Services and is currently completing her Masters of Divinity Program at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Along with her studies, she serves on the leadership team for the Andrews University Graduate Student Association, is an ordained elder and serves on the Pastoral team at The Grace Place in South Bend, Indiana, under the leadership of Dr. Hyveth Williams.

Latoya has served the church from childhood. Her ministry encompasses youth, women, media ministries and more. A youth leader for more than 20 years, she was blessed to help with framing and language of Youth Federation bylaws. She is certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid, a proud Master Guide, and completing the ACS Spiritual & Emotional Care Provider course with Adventist Community Services.

Learning from both the positive and negative experiences of her life and her compassion for the disenfranchised, she shifted her life's work to helping others especially women, children and families. She joined 4 Real Women International, Inc (4RWI, Inc.)(4rwi.org) in 2012. Serving with this amazing team of women, she co-facilitated conferences on national and global platforms dealing with trauma, crisis, abuse, immigration reform, mental health, social justice, divorce, youth advocacy, and other women's issues.

Latoya has worked in the media industry as a radio producer, on communications and media teams for faith institutions, and in areas of leadership development nationwide and internationally. She is the producer and host of Life Talks TV, a YouTube series of talks on everything pertaining to life, mental health and pathways to healing and resiliency. She is the author of the newly released book on the power of prayer in her life, "I Will Rescue You."

Her Mission from God - Aligning spiritual and mental health principles with trust, thoughtfulness and care to help build trauma informed faith institutions and communities with the goal of caring for, restoring and increasing resiliency in individuals throughout their crisis and spiritual trauma.

Her Vision - "A Trauma Informed Church" and "Resilient Communities"

Her joy in life is her God, family and her three amazing young adults, Sierra, Victoria, and Nigel, II. As a child of God she recognizes her talents and opportunities as a gift from above. She has endured a slew of life's ups and downs but is determined to live through them all. The lessons learned in the past and those which are being learned today, come from some of the most painful and difficult times. But they have made her determined to help anyone who would listen, and see wisdom in the story of life. Her journey is not over but her influence is active now! Grace is her claim and Jesus is her champion.