

## **PROFILE**

### **Dr. Althea L. McMillan**

Dr. Althea L. McMillan is a veteran educator and administrator who devoted forty three years to the profession she deeply loves, serving in her country, the Bahamas, in Jamaica, the United States of America, and in South America. She has taught and nurtured students of all ages from at least fifty countries, many of whom refer to her as “mom”.

Dr. McMillan’s education began in her native Cat Island, and she was the first student from that island to receive a full scholarship to the Government High School, which was then a prestigious “grammar” school, offering three foreign languages. Her education was enriched by teachers from many corners of the globe. This helped to broaden her vistas, and fostered a love for people.

She received her bachelor’s degree in Education from Northern Caribbean University, with a minor in English and History; her master’s degree in English from Andrews University, and the doctor of philosophy degree in Education from Walden University. Her research examined the role of parents in the academic performance of their children.

Dr. McMillan is a trailblazer in many areas: the first Bahamian to serve on the faculty of Andrews University and as an administrator at Northern Caribbean University; the first Seventh-day Adventist to serve as an administrator at a catholic university; the first Bahamian SDA foreign missionary.

She is proud to have had exposure to excellent music and musicians all her life, beginning on Cat Island at Knowles’ All-Age School, where the late headteacher Leslie Arthur Armbrister had his students sing four-part harmony without accompaniment. As a student of veteran musician Zenobia Davis at NCU (then West Indies College), she studied all the genres, learnt the rudiments, sang with three choirs, founded the Cherub Choir and the Ladies’ Chorus, and conducted the college choir on JBC television. During her years of teaching primary school music in government schools, she was further mentored by the late Clement Bethel and Timothy Gibson. Her choirs in the Bahamas and in Jamaica always excelled at music festivals.

Quality church music continues to be her passion, having served for many years as music director and crusade choir director.

Dr. McMillan is also an author, and a preferred motivational speaker, devoting much of her time nationally and internationally to seminars on personal and professional development and family life issues. She is a people magnet, and is most happy when sharing from her garden or kitchen, or in a quiet moment of counsel.

She is the last of fourteen children, and cherishes her family island roots. She is the mother of three grown professional children, and the grandmother of Kelli Camille. She

has been in the gospel ministry with her husband Dr. Wendell R. McMillan for the past thirty three years.

Just before her retirement, Dr. McMillan served as Provost of Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica for nine years.

She is now retired and living in Freeport, Grand Bahama.