

## *La Verne Tolbert, Ph.D.*



... is President/CEO of Teaching Like Jesus Ministries, Inc. (TLJM), a parachurch ministry equipping leaders in the local church. A former Christian education pastor/director, she trains teachers with principles from Jesus' ministry in interactive workshops and seminars throughout the United States.

Dr. Tolbert is the host of "Sunday School Made Simple," the YouTube Program with up to 20,000 weekly viewers who study the upcoming Sunday School lesson from UMI's *Precepts for Living Commentary*. In addition, she serves as Vice President of Editorial for UMI (Urban Ministries, Inc.), founded by the late Dr. Melvin E. Banks, to provide Christian education resources for the African American community. Under the leadership of C. Jeffrey Wright,

Esq., President/CEO, UMI has become the largest independent Christian African American media company for 10,000 congregations in the U.S., Africa, and the Caribbean.

Dr. Tolbert was born and raised in New York. After graduating from Hunter College, she began her writing career in the publishing world as an editor-reporter for Family Circle Magazine. Her next job as beauty and health editor of Bride's Magazine culminated in two beauty books published by Doubleday. Sensing the Lord's calling, she relocated to California and earned her Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Christian Education from Talbot School of Theology/Biola University. She became the first African American professor at Talbot, and students twice nominated her for Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

*Teaching Like Jesus: A Practical Guide to Christian Education in Your Church* (Zondervan), hailed by the late Dr. Lawrence Richards as "the best book in Christian education," is her signature text. Her latest, *I Serve You Just As My Mother Did: The Woman Who Discipled A King* (Xlibris), was born from listening to Scripture during daily devotions. Tolbert has authored/edited several other books including *How to STUDY and Understand the Bible in 5 Simple Steps Without Learning Hebrew or Greek* (etaworld.org), and *Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children: A Holistic Approach* (Wipf & Stock). An expert in curriculum development, she has produced curricula for UMI, David C. Cook, the A.C. Green Foundation, and TLJM's *Living the LIFE*.

During 33 years of full-time ministry, Dr. Tolbert received notable awards—The Distinguished Christian Educator's Award for excellence in Christian Education from West Angeles Church of God in Christ, Presiding Bishop Emeritus/Pastor Charles E. Blake (2018); the Priscilla Ruby Award from Biola University for women who model godly character, Dr. Barry Corey, President (2013); and a Commendation from the County of Los Angeles for her commitment to finding forever homes for youth living in foster care, Dr. Edwina Lewis, Supervising Social Worker (2010).

Ordained to the Gospel Ministry by Apostle Frederick Price, Dr. Tolbert's most cherished roles are wife, mother, and grandmother. She is married to Elder Irving Tolbert, D. Min., who chairs a Rites of Passage ministry for over 25 years. The couple has two daughters and six grandchildren. ###