

## **Reverend Dr. Herbert Daughtry Sr.**

The Reverend Dr. Herbert Daughtry hails from a family which has produced five generations of Black church leaders. Born in Savannah, Georgia, and raised on the streets of Brooklyn, New York and Jersey City, New Jersey, Reverend Daughtry has risen to positions of national and international prominence. Currently National Presiding Minister of The House of the Lord Churches, he has previously served as Chairman of the National Black United Front, and Founder and President of the African People's Christian Organization. More than 50 years of involvement in church and community service has earned him the title, "The People's Pastor."

Reverend Daughtry's long career of activism began with the civil rights struggles in the 1950s, working in collaboration with Brooklyn CORE and Operation Breadbasket, and continuing with his participation in the fight for community control of schools in the late 1960s.

In 1976, as a result of the killing of 15-year-old Randolph Evans by a New York City police officer, Reverend Daughtry became a major force in organizing the Coalition of Concerned Leaders and Citizens to Save Our Youth. The group used economic boycotts to win jobs and services for the Black community from merchants in downtown Brooklyn. The effort resulted in the establishment of the Randolph Evans Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Randolph Evans Memorial Crisis Fund, and numerous other initiatives. The Coalition of Concerned Leaders and Citizens to Save our Youth evolved into the New York Metropolitan Black United Front in 1978. The success of the New York Black United Front inspired the call for a national organization.

The founding convention of the National Black United Front (NBUF) was held in Brooklyn, New York in June 1980. Delegates from 35 states and five foreign countries were present, convening the widest representation of religious persuasion and political ideology. Reverend Daughtry was elected NBUF's first National Chairman; the following year, he was re-elected and remained in that position until his resignation in 1986.

Ever concerned with institution building, Daughtry has founded and played leadership roles in a number of organizations. In 1982, he initiated the

African People's Christian Organization (APCO) with the purpose of building an African Christian Movement and emphasizing Afro-centricity and Biblical Christianity in the context of advancing human rights and self-determination. Among the first to warn of the danger of AIDS, Reverend Daughtry is a founding member of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. Additionally, he is the founder of Alonzo Daughtry Memorial Family Life Services, Inc., which serves the needs of the community through innovative programming such as Project Enlightenment, an AIDS education program, Families of Victims Against Violence (FOVAV), and The Alonzo Daughtry Memorial Day Care Center, Inc. which provides early childhood education under the motto, "Nurturing and Educating the Leaders of Tomorrow." He is the founding Chair of the National Religious Leaders of African Ancestry Concerned about Darfur (NRLAA).

Reverend Daughtry has previously served as Chair of the New York Citywide African-American and Elected Officials (which played a significant role in the election of the first African-American mayor of New York City, the Honorable David Dinkins. Reverend Daughtry continued as Chair until he resigned in 1996). He also chaired the Association of Brooklyn Clergy for Community Development, which built and renovated more than 500 units of housing for low- and middle-income families in Brooklyn.

Reverend Daughtry has been similarly active in the arena of electoral politics. He has advised dozens of campaigns and elected officials, and has actively worked for the election of many. During the landmark 1984 presidential campaign of Reverend Jesse Jackson, Reverend Daughtry served as Jackson's special assistant and confidant, and as a member of Jackson's national campaign committee.

Reverend Daughtry has traveled and lectured extensively around the world. In keeping with his concern for global human rights and self-determination, Reverend Daughtry has participated in dozens of international conferences and conventions, such as the 1981 international conference on sanctions against South Africa, sponsored by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). He has helped organized and participated in marches and demonstrations in different parts of the world. He participated at a march from Belgium to the International Criminal Court in Hague, Netherlands to encourage the international criminal lawyer to accelerate the presentation of the evidence committed against the Darfurian people. Months later, the court issued

indictments for Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, the president of Sudan and others in his administration.

On two occasions, Reverend Daughtry has spoken at United Nations subcommittee meetings regarding South African apartheid, Cuba, the Middle East, and the state of U.S. civil rights. In addition, he has participated in several conferences sponsored by the World Council of Churches to discuss issues facing the global faith community.

Reverend Daughtry has led innumerable delegations in travel around the world, to places as diverse as Israel, Ireland, and Iraq. For example, in 2003, he organized and led a multi-faith, multi-racial delegation to Iraq in a last, desperate appeal for peace. Since 2006, he has made several visits to the refugee camps of Darfur, and met with government, religious, civil, and resistance leaders. As a result of his efforts, he was invited to Juba, Sudan, to meet with all Darfurian leaders to assist them in forging a united front. In 2010, Reverend Daughtry was a member of an American delegation to South Africa to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's release from prison, delivering the sermon at the opening event.

In 1991, Reverend Daughtry gained the distinction of being the first black Pentecostal minister to give the invocation in the U.S. House of Representatives. That same evening after the prayer, President George H.W. Bush ended the war in Iraq. As a result, Reverend Daughtry's invocation has been called "the prayer that ended the war." During the Clinton Administration, Reverend Daughtry was among a select group of religious leaders from across the United States to be invited to meet with the President at periodic breakfasts held at the White House.

Currently, Reverend Daughtry is one of a handful of community leaders working with Forest City Ratner Companies to bring to Brooklyn a 19,000 seat arena to house the New York Nets basketball team. This \$5 billion project also includes 16 high rises buildings for residential, commercial, and office space. Reverend Daughtry was instrumental in the creation of the landmark Community Benefits Agreement that ensures delivery of a wide variety of services to the Brooklyn community, including a state-of-the-art health facility, an intergenerational initiative – including day care, a youth center and a seniors center, and a community foundation, in addition to housing opportunities for low- and middle income New Yorkers, construction jobs allocated for minorities and women, and thousands of other employment opportunities. In 2005, to emphasize issues related to

health, Reverend Daughtry walked from Brooklyn, New York to Washington, D.C, retracing the path of the Underground Railroad in conjunction with Million More Movement.

In 2009, New York Governor David Paterson appointed Reverend Daughtry to serve on a nine-member State Task Force on police-killing-police. Hearings, consultations, and conferences were held with a goal of developing legislation on police conduct.

Reverend Daughtry has lectured at Harvard University School of Divinity, the Union Theological Seminary, and the New York Theological Seminary. He was one of the principal lecturers at the 150th Anniversary of the Virginia Theological Seminary, and his lecture, "A Theology of Black Liberation: The Who, What and How," was published in the school's journal. He has spoken to countless community and civic associations, high schools, colleges, and universities, and has been interviewed extensively for a variety of media outlets.

Reverend Daughtry is a prolific author, writing weekly columns for the New York Daily Challenge, and contributing to other leading publications such as The New York Times, the Amsterdam News, and the Bergen Record. His book, *No Monopoly on Suffering: Blacks and Jews in Crown Heights and Elsewhere*, published in 1997 with a foreword by Dr. Cornel West, gives a chronology of the creation of movements in Brooklyn and serves as a guide for the empowerment of any people. Among his other books are *My Beloved Community*; *Effectual Prayer*; and, *Dear 2pac: Letters to a Son*. Reverend Daughtry's latest book, *In My Lifetime: Towards the Presidency of Barack Obama*, published by Africa World Press. Self-published volumes include *South Africa Reader*; *A Theology of Reparation and Liberation*, *The Life and Times of the People's Pastor: 1980-1990*, *Press Reports*; and, *Visiting Darfurian Refugee Camp and Confering with Darfurian Leaders: A Pictorial Account*.

Since 1972, Reverend Daughtry has been the host and principal speaker on a weekly radio program airing Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. on New York City's WWRL-AM. Further, Reverend Daughtry made a cameo appearance in Spike Lee's 1990 movie, "Mo' Better Blues."

Among the numerous citations and awards, Reverend Daughtry has received honorary doctorate degrees from Seton Hall University (1980) and the State University of New York, College of Old Westbury

(1992). Additionally, he has received citations, resolutions, and proclamations from the U.S. Congress, the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Council in honor of his many years of service to humanity.

Reverend Daughtry is married to Reverend Dr. Karen Smith Daughtry. They have four adult children, Leah, Sharon, Dawnique, and Herbert, Jr; and three grandsons, Lorenzo, Herbert III, and Myles and one great grand daughter, Lauren Joy