



BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

The Reverend Dr. Allen Stephen Potts

Allen Stephen Potts was born in Sumter, South Carolina and spent his early years in Newark and East Orange, New Jersey.

He earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Kean College of New Jersey, the Master of Divinity Degree and the Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary in Rochester, New York, with a concentration in Biblical Studies & Prophetic Preaching respectively. Rev. Potts also holds a degree in missionary studies from the University of Zimbabwe in affiliation with the Lott Carey/Lilly Foundation Foreign Mission International Pastoral Excellence Program (Lott Carey PEP). He is an ordained Baptist Minister with ministerial standings in the National/American Baptist Convention, USA Inc. and is a member of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

At the conferring of his Master of Divinity degree, the faculty of Colgate Rochester Divinity School recognized Rev. Potts as “showing unusual promise in becoming a faithful pastor, preach, and parish minister” with the institution’s highest award, the Theodore Louis Trost Memorial Prize. He was a recipient of the J.H. Jackson Scholarship Award; Jessie Brown Scholarship Award, and a two-time recipient of the Gordon S. Deer Memorial Scholarship Award.

Rev. Potts was a participant in a post graduate leadership and mission immersion program with the University of Zimbabwe in affiliation with and through acceptance in the Lott Carey/Lilly Foundation Foreign Mission International Pastoral Excellence Program (Lott Carey PEP). With the Lott Carey PEP, Rev. Potts has traveled abroad with 20 pastor colleagues to South America, West Indies and South Africa on Missions, which he completed the program in December of 2008.

Dr. Potts was the Director of the Newark Southward Safe Haven Summer Enrichment Program where he developed and implemented a program for 250 inner city children for five years. His educational, social, and political influence is a vital aspect in the life of the city as he stands as an advocate for all children of at risk under privilege backgrounds. After working extensively within the Roselle Public Schools as a mentor and substitute teacher for many years, Dr. Potts was hired to be the Director of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Afterschool Program where he continues to be an advocate for inner city students.

Rev. Potts is a former member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Newark, under the pastorate of the Reverend Dr. Granville A. Seward. He was licensed to preach at the age of nineteen at Mount Zion in January, 1988. In order to fulfill God’s call upon his life Mount Zion ordained Min. Potts in April, 1997, where he served as Assistant to the Pastor and Minister of Operations

On November 15, 1999, the membership of Greater Abyssinian elected to call Reverend Potts, as its third pastor and through much prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he accepted.

With God’s help, Rev. Potts has made substantial developments in the life of this church, recognizing God calling us to become **“A Church Determined to Take Jesus Seriously.”** Since assuming the pastorate of the Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Rev. Dr. Allen S. Potts has unselfishly dedicated his life to serving his God, his family, his church and the entire community. The Holy Spirit has greatly anointed him to teach God’s Word as he continuously provides guidance and spiritual comfort.

Reverend Potts is the proud son of John Henry, Sr. and Daisy Mae Potts, and is the middle of five children. He is the proud husband of Keeva Denise, and father of Shelby, Allen II and Aaron.