



Biographical Sketch Of ***Mark A. Croston, Sr., D.Min.***

Dr. Mark Andrew Croston, Sr. was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the eighth of nine children born to Mrs. Isabella Jones Croston and the late Reverend Nathaniel Moses Croston, Sr.

Dr. Croston came to know the Lord at an early age and was baptized at the Liberty Baptist Church of Philadelphia.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He received a Master of Divinity Degree with a concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Reverend Croston completed his studies and earned the Doctor of Ministry degree, concentrating in Christian Education, at Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia. Formerly Dr. Croston was employed by the IBM Corporation as a systems engineer.

Three years after the death of his first wife, Dr. Croston married his current wife, Brenda. This blended family has four children; Candace, Juliette, Mark, Jr., and Antonio.

Dr. Croston is a contributing author to several books including *The Chosen Path*, *Seeds of Hope: Liberia and Virginia Baptists*; *From My Heart to Yours* and *Worship: How to Say to God I Love You*. His doctoral dissertation is titled *Intentional Christian Education in a Rural-Urban African American Church and Community*. He is a sought after Conference Presenter and Revival Preacher. As a man on mission Dr Croston has been privileged to do quite a bit of domestic and international travel. He has traveled in Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Egypt, England, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Holland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. John, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Maatren, St. Martin, St. Thomas, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland and Trinidad.

God called Dr. Croston to the preaching ministry. He was licensed by the Christian Mission Fellowship Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and later ordained by that same body.

While in Seminary Dr. Croston served as Minister of Youth at the First Baptist Church of Jeffersontown, Kentucky. He continued in that position until he responded to the call of God to the pastorate of the East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, Virginia in October of 1987.

In November of 2013, after 26 years of successful pastoral ministry, Dr. Croston, in response to the call of God, transitioned to serve as *National Director of Black Church Partnerships* at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tennessee.

In the denomination Dr. Croston serves or has served as President of the Baptist General Association of Virginia; President of the Virginia Baptist State Convention; Treasurer and President of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention; Member of the African American Advisory Committee for the SBC Executive Committee, Member of the Nominating Committee for the Southern Baptist Convention; President of the African American Fellowship SBC of Virginia; Financial Secretary, Sharon Baptist Association; and Moderator of the Portsmouth Baptist Association. He has also served as Chairman for African American Taskforces for NAMB, IMB and LifeWay.

His involvement in the community has included his work as Chairman of the Suffolk City School Board; member of Healthy People Healthy Suffolk Steering Committee; Civic Leadership of Hampton Roads; Suffolk City-wide MLK Day Celebration Committee; President, Suffolk Civic Forum; Vice Chairman of the Board of the Nansemond Credit Union; Board Member, Paul D. Camp Community College; member Hampton Roads Workforce Development Board Youth Council; and President, Suffolk Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

Dr. Croston believes as Henri J.M. Nouwen said, "*Nobody can minister to his fellow man when he is unwilling to deny himself in order to create the space where God can do His work.*" (*Creative Ministry*, p.50)