

Phyllis Boudreaux Turned Her Purpose Into Her Passion

By Anita Oubre



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On any given day when you make your way around the New Orleans community you will undoubtedly see some people who seem to be everywhere you look: busy people who are involved in multiple projects and activities that benefit large numbers of their fellow New Orleanians. Phyllis Boudreaux is one of those busy people.

Founder of the former Touching Lives Ministry and FaithPhyll Ministries (now renamed Anointed Road to Christ), author of a widely read book on the keys to a happy marriage, community activist, publicist, consultant and wife of a renowned musician (bassist Paul Boudreaux), Phyllis is, as the expression goes, “all over the map!”

Phyllis especially enjoys her high-visibility job hosting an inspirational 30-minute program, “Talk it out with Phyllis,” on New Orleans Access (NOA) TV, Channel 76, featuring important guests from all walks of life.



Recently turning 70 and showing no signs of slowing down, Phyllis enthusiastically discussed what got her to where she is now and what motivates and guides her as she goes through what she sees as her mission within the New Orleans community and the community of the faithful. “I am passionate about the spiritual development of God’s people. It is our lifeline to true prosperity and peace,” she said.

The oldest of twelve children, Phyllis Boudreaux grew up in the 7th Ward neighborhood of New Orleans. She learned responsibility early in life and she knew that gifts came along with those responsibilities. Not tangible gifts but rather ones that could be felt like love, trust and acceptance.

Phyllis had a special relationship with her grandfather who, she explained, was “a Christian and a man of God. He was a deacon in the church and to serve in that role was his great love. He shared with me his beliefs and his faith.

“My grandfather told me, ‘The devil is going to attack you in this life and you have to be ready. You have to be strong,’” Phyllis said, recalling his advice. “There are some things that no one, not your parents or anyone else, can help you with. Only God can help you,” was how he explained it.”

Those lessons made such an impression on Phyllis that she began what would become a lifelong journey in ministry teaching others the word of God.

At just 7-years-old, Phyllis wrote her first book of poetry while a student at Edward H. Phillips Elementary School. Her teacher was so delighted with it that she and the principal decided to dedicate the booklet to the school.

“It was a big deal

to me. I was encouraged and embraced,” said Phyllis. “I had done something well. At that time, I knew of God but wasn’t that well-acquainted with Him so the writing had to come from somewhere within my heart and my soul.”

Her passion during her school years was always English and reading. An avid reader, she enjoyed reading her Bible throughout her John F. Kennedy High School experience. “It was a difficult time and there was a lot to concentrate on,” she recounted. “I could have been more studious but there were many distractions as we were the first integrated class at Kennedy. I was trying to figure out who I was and who my friends were.”

During this transitional period, Phyllis’ grandfather introduced her to the biblical



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Book of Job. “I thought to myself, ‘Why do bad things happen to good people?’” she wondered. “I learned that Job suffered and endured many hardships and I could relate to that. I learned that God restores us. He is in control. God has been showing me and leading me just like He did with Job.”

Phyllis attended both Baptist and Catholic churches over the years. From those experiences she realized that she was on her way to becoming more than just a church member. Her life was starting to change and she was building a testimony. “I saw how real God was and it was more than a formality. It was a life experience,” she fondly recalled.

Furthering her education, Phyllis enrolled at Delgado Community College, the University of New Orleans and Liberty College.

In her professional career, Phyllis has held positions with the U.S. Census Bureau for four consecutive ten-year censuses: 1990-2020. She helped spread the word throughout communities in Louisiana regarding the importance of participating in the population head count.

She also worked as a case worker for the State of Louisiana helping people determine their eligibility for state benefits.

However, as Phyllis proudly states, her life’s work is her ministry. She oversees prayer groups which she says are paramount to her life.

“We are a group of dedicated women who gather to pray for others,” she said. “We are dedicated and committed to intercession for others,” said Phyllis. Through her ministry she is often asked to pray for relationships and marriages.

And so the question arises – one that she has been asked many times – how did Phyllis herself remain in a happy and healthy marriage for so long? “A lot of people admired my marriage. They were in awe of my relationship with a musician,” Phyllis responds.

Phyllis met her husband Paul in the early ‘70s. She recalled it was the hippie era and he played the part wearing a big floppy hat and playing music all night. Even though they had been “kicking it,” she had to be sure that marriage was the right move as Paul’s popularity as a musician was blossoming. But she accepted



his proposal and now the couple has been married for 46 beautiful years.

In 2009 Phyllis took her gift for writing and the perfected recipe for her successful marriage and published a book to help others in their relationship journey. “The Marriage Recipe: Ingredients for a Savory Marriage” continues to be popular and Phyllis is keen to the idea of a sequel.

Phyllis enjoys her relationship with her daughter, Ari-Anne, who she calls “the light of her life. We are constantly learning from one another. Like in any relationship, you can disagree but come to an understanding and that’s how you learn someone’s heart,” Phyllis added. “My daughter has taught me a lot about patience and it has made me a better person.”

And learning hearts is what Phyllis is specializing in at the end of the day. Of her ministry, Anointed Road to Christ, she says it is “powerful and humbling at the same time. Watching others in their walk with God teaches me.”

Whether in fellowship with a group or on a one-on-one prayer call, Phyllis Boudreaux is doing the work she was called to do. She loves her ministry, being able to help people is what truly makes her happy. The gifts of wisdom that she first received from her grandfather have been put to good use.

“Talk it out with Phyllis” can be seen on NOA-TV Channel 76 every Tuesday from 11:00-11:30 a.m. (repeating from 11:00-11:30 p.m.) You can also follow her on Facebook and other social media.



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