



## **Pastor D. J. Manuel**

In June of 1996 D. J. Manuel accepted the call to the ministry and was licensed and ordained by Dr. Samuel L. Matt, Pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, in his own home city, Birmingham, Alabama. Upon completion of his ordination, Reverend Manuel joined with the Rehoboth Baptist Church, in Valley, Alabama and served as an Associate Minister for two years.

Under the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Manuel family joined the ministry work of Rev. H. Frank Centrallo at Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Tuskegee, Alabama. There, Rev. Manuel served as Youth Minister and Assistant Pastor, respectively for nearly 10 years. In 2007, Rev. Manuel succeeded Rev. Centrallo as Pastor of Greater Friendship where he served for 16 years. Pastor Manuel was installed at Lily Baptist Church in Tarrant, Alabama in January 2025.

Pastor Manuel has authored two books: "Sermon Series Preaching: A Guide to Developing Sermons That Connect" and "GROW: 7 Spiritual Practices to Grow Your Faith".

In addition to his Pastoral Ministry, Pastor Manuel is an instructor for the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Congress of Christian Education. He has also been a 3 time missionary to Niger, Africa through "Schools For Niger Africa", an organization dedicated to building Christian Schools in a predominately Muslim country. Pastor Manuel has also served as the president of the Macon County Ministers' Council, Secretary for the Auburn District Association, Webmaster for the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, the Southeast District State Convention of Alabama Baptists, and a host of other businesses, churches, non-profits and faith-based organizations.

Pastor Manuel is a graduate of Auburn University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts / Religious Studies and a second Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. Pastor Manuel has been happily married to Dr. Melissa Barnes Manuel for 28 years and they have two adult children, DeVonti, and Faith Marie.