

Biographical Sketch

Jewrell Rivers is the son of Mr. Jewrell Rivers, Sr. and Mrs. Ida Mae Rivers both of Alamo, Georgia. He is their only son and brother to his three sisters: Barbara Williams of Valdosta, Georgia; Debra Abernathy of Rex, Georgia; and Beverly Rivers of Alamo, Georgia. Jewrell was born and raised in Alamo, Georgia, where he attended school within the Wheeler County School System and graduated with honors. He is married to the former Jannie Suzanne Townsend (now Jannie Suzanne Rivers) and is father to his three boys: Adrian, Austin and Joshua.

Shortly after high school, he went on to continue his education at Valdosta State University. While there he earned a B.S. in Psychology in 1988 and a M.S. in Sociology in 1989. More importantly, it was at Valdosta State that he received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and accepted his call as a preacher in the ministry. Also, while he worked on his graduate degree at Valdosta State University, he led and chartered the Evangelistic Outreach Ministry, an inter-denominational campus ministry that offered spiritual growth for college students through prayer meetings and bible studies.

Shortly after obtaining his master's degree at Valdosta State University, Jewrell was hired by the Department of Sociology as a part-time instructor. Along with his teaching responsibilities, he went on to serve as a part-time counselor in the Office of Minority Affairs under the direction of Dr. Jerry Hardee. Eventually, he was made full-time counselor within that department, and coordinator for the Minority Achievement Program and the VSU Achievement Program. Since then, Jewrell has diligently served students with undying vigor and enthusiasm by encouraging them to develop themselves holistically and reach their highest potential. To Jewrell, this is a ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ within itself.

In addition to working at Valdosta State University, Jewrell has also been employed at Florida State University, where he taught marriage and family classes and served as an academic coordinator for students in the School of Social Work. Currently, he is employed at Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, Georgia as an Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Presently, he holds a Ph.D. in Family Relations at Florida State University. With his vast educational background, Jewrell has conducted several marriage and family workshops and youth seminars for the community within the South Georgia area. Also, as a doctoral student he has presented workshops at professional conferences such as the National Black Family Summit, the Graduate Leadership and Recruitment Conference, the National Association of Social Workers and the Minority Advising Coordinators and Minority Recruitment Officers' Conference. Upon completing his doctoral degree, he plans to use his education to continue to teach and conduct research at the college or university level, as well as lecture and conduct workshops for the black community and the Body of Christ.

Currently, under the guidance of Bishop Johnnie Quarterman, Jewrell serves as an ordained minister in the Church of God. As a long-term goal, he plans to develop a Youth and Family Institute to promote the stability of families, and implement youth development initiatives to help young people realize their full potential. Overall, Jewrell aspires and endeavors to minister to the needs of the African American community as a preacher, professor, counselor, mentor and teacher. By the grace of God he has come this far and achieved much. It is the grace of God that will take him on to accomplish greater things for the Kingdom of God.