



Elder Christiana M. Russell has been a member of Pool of Bethesda Church of the Living God International since she was 8 years old. She was saved and filled at a very young age and received her calling into the Ministry at the tender age of 13. She was a local youth minister and was also appointed as the secretary for the Pool of Bethesda Adult Choir. In 1995 she was appointed as the Secretary/Treasurer of the International Youth & Young Adult Department. The Lord elevated Dr. Russell in 1997 and she was ordained as one of the youngest Elders in the Church of the Living God. As a young woman Dr. Russell's many talents earned her the reputation as a dynamic speaker and leader for other young teens in not only in her church but also in the community.

Dr. Russell's charity was not only evident in the church but also in her community where she volunteered at several area hospitals, Special Olympics of Ohio, and was a member of the Ohio Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Dr. Russell has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Africa encouraging youth and young adults to reach their goals and aspire to do great things both in life and in the Lord.

Dr. Russell is of Nigerian decent, born to Nigerian parents in Washington, D.C. She grew up in Columbus, Ohio where she attended Groveport Madison High School. She graduated in 1991 and began her academic journey at The Ohio State University with a full academic scholarship. In 1995 she received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and went on to Attend Georgia State University where she received her Bachelors of Science in Criminology in 1998. Dr. Russell then returned to Columbus to attend Ohio State again for her Master's in Social Work and completed that degree in 2002. To culminate her academic endeavors she received her Doctorate in 2006 in Human Development and Family Science with a concentration in Sociology.

Currently, Dr. Russell is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Auburn University in Auburn, AL where she heads a research team of many graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Russell is happily married to Dr. Eric Russell and the mother of 2 beautiful little girls – Heaven and Faith. Dr. Russell has always kept the Lord first in her life and she proves to be a model example of the great things that one can accomplish if you seek the Lord first!