

## Rev. Melvin D. Watkins Jr.



Pastor Melvin Watkins is a family man, a preacher, pastor, Air Force veteran, and a friend. He deeply loves his wife Mrs. Loie (Tyler) Watkins and their three sons: Joshua, Isaiah and Daniel. He believes that it matters not to win the world if we neglect our family. Reverend Watkins is the Pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood in Memphis, Tennessee, where he has served since 2003. From the beginning of his preaching ministry in 1996, his life and ministry have been driven by a desire to share the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Inspired by Galatians 2:20, "I

have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live", it is his aim to demonstrate accessibility and a common touch to the community and the thriving congregation that he serves in Memphis, TN.

Pastor Watkins has a heart for outreach, higher education and leadership development. He gives leadership to several organizations both locally and abroad. His passion for outreach and evangelism has extended his ministry globally. He has ministered in Sierra Leone, Mali, and Uganda where he assisted in planting churches, teaching in Bible Schools, conducting seminars, and encouraging believers to faithfully continue their Christian ministries.



He is the founder of The Chosen One Mentoring Initiative which trains adult male mentors, prepares male youth for manhood and in partnership with Families matter, Inc. is currently being used in The Shelby County Schools System. He is a founding board member for the nationally recognized Freedom Preparatory Academy, a K-12 public charter school in Memphis, TN. He is an Adjunct Professor of Theology and is on the board of directors at The Memphis College for

Urban Theological Studies, a fully accredited college offering associates and bachelor's degrees.



Pastor Watkins received a Bachelor's degree from Crichton College. He graduated from the Memphis Theological Seminary with a Master's of Divinity degree. He is a fellow of The Black Theology and Leadership Institute of Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently, he is pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry Degree in Pastoral Theology and Church Revitalization from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.