

Dr. Antipas L. Harris

Professor | Preacher | Public Theologian



Educating, Ministering & Leading

Bio

Dr. Antipas L. Harris is a man of many talents. From humble beginnings in a small Holiness-Pentecostal church, founded and pastored by his parents, to ultimately becoming an accomplished leader in many industries. Dr. Harris approaches every project and assignment with passionate effort to fulfill God's purpose for his life. His objective is simple; to help people overcome distress, to reinforce faith, to impart comfort through the arts and to provide stability through education. Harris is a true force to be reckoned with, and he's not done yet. His motto is "Rise to the Call."

Antipas grew up in a small rural town called Manchester, Georgia, with a population of approximately 4,000 people. He is the second born of eight children— five boys and three girls. Harris discovered his passion for religion, music and the arts in his parents' church. A child prodigy, Harris first revealed his gifts of music at 2 years old. By 12 years old, Harris was the lead musician at his home church.

Antipas' passion was further realized when he founded a singing group with his family that became known as A7. A7 often infused R&B and gospel elements into their "urban inspirational" music. The group became internationally known with their Billboard chart hit single, "Don't Walk Away".

"It is obvious that they (A7) have lived this family principle, as they have all developed their talents and gifts, finding Spirit led occupations by depending on the Lord."

Julie Carr, Christianmusic.com, "A7 Review"

Education

Dr. Antipas L. Harris went on to follow his dreams of becoming a theologian and music producer. He was accepted into LaGrange College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) in Creative Music Technologies and in Religion. He continued his studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology obtaining a Master of Divinity degree. Then, he earned another Masters degree but this time in Sacred Theology from Yale University Divinity School. Antipas ended his academic pursuits with one more degree, a Doctor of Ministry in Practical Theology (Church and Society) from Boston University. With efforts to learn as much as he can, Antipas also studied at Harvard University, Boston College, and Gordon -Conwell Theological Seminary.

"Since his days at LaGrange College where I was president, Antipas has been an 'unstoppable' force. Even then, he showed great promise as a successful musician, theologian, minister and husband."

F. Stuart Gulley, Ph.D.

Past President, LaGrange College (LaGrange, GA)

President, Woodward Academy (Atlanta, GA)

Ministry

Dr. Harris is a talented communicator and loves to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ. He has served on the pastoral staffs at A House of the Living God, Church of

Jesus Christ and Abundant Life Christian Center in Georgia and at Cornerstone Christian Center and Christ Chapel New Testament Church in Connecticut. Dr. Harris currently serves as Theologian in Residence at the First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk, VA. From pulpits to the street corners, to churches, to large arenas, he has shared the good news and led thousands to faith for nearly 25 years. He has been a mentor for young people and his students as well as a friend to the homeless and downtrodden.

While in seminary, Dr. Antipas served his internship as a chaplain in the Georgia prison system. When he was an associate pastor in New Haven, Connecticut, he participated in a prison ministry, holding weekly worship services.

Dr. Harris regularly hosts the local Praise the Lord Show on TBN Virginia Beach, and has appeared on the international TBN with Bishop T. D. Jakes and Mrs. Serita Jakes. Dr. Harris speaks, lectures, and preaches regularly. In 2014 and 2015, he led breakout sessions at the Annual Bishop T. D. Jakes International Pastors and Leadership Conference. Harris regularly preaches revivals and ministers at conferences.

Dr. Harris has planted two churches. One is a local church in Portsmouth, Virginia and the other one is in Kananga of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He intends to continue planting churches throughout the world. As a teacher and leader of leaders, his vision is to raise-up leaders to pastor the churches and to lead ministries.

“Antipas is a people-person with both a powerful and palpable message for the people.”

Michael “Moses” Mathis

Grammy, Dove, & Stellar Award-Winning Producer and Musician

Teaching

Dr. Antipas is a skillful teacher. He creatively weaves scholarship, everyday experiences and theology with passion. He connects well with a variety of audiences in a personal way. Dr. Harris has taught teenagers as a Youth Pastor. He has taught undergraduates as an Adjunct Professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. He has taught at a graduate school for Prisoners at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York, through New York Theological Seminary. He has taught at continuing education level for pastors and ministers in pursuit of refresher courses to enhance their ministries. Currently, Dr. Antipas teaches graduate and doctoral level students at Regent University School of Divinity.

Repeatedly, students give Dr. Harris with high marks as a professor. English Professor at Thomas Nelson Community College, Dr. Clarence Hundley wrote in a letter to Dr. Harris after he addressed an assembly of students at the college: “Your enthusiasm for life is contagious. I can tell that you really connected with students by their comments following your talk.”

“He is truly Inspirational!”

Werner Dyer

Chief Executive

Empowerment Academy, Pretoria, South Africa

Community Service

Dr. Harris is active, not only in his community, but also internationally. In the Hampton Roads region, he has completed the FBI Citizens’ Academy and LEAD Hampton Roads. He serves on two local non-profit boards – the board of directors for the Hampton Roads Committee of 200 Plus Men, Inc, where he is co-chair of the

Education Committee, contributing his expertise as an urban education consultant and applies his passion to help African American teenagers to succeed, and he serves on the board of directors for the Mid-Atlantic Teen Challenge in Newport News, Virginia.

“A young, black, and gifted theologian from the clay hills of rural Georgia...a breath of fresh air with a desire to see the hard core inner-city demographic changed...”

*Francys Johnson J.D.,
Attorney and Counselor at Law
President of Georgia State Conference of the NAACP*

He serves on committees for public educational affairs to help to build stronger school systems. Dr. Harris is a charter member of the Faith and Education Coalition (a national organization to build partnerships between churches and public education) along with Dr. Bernice King, CEO of the Martin Luther King Center and Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, president of the NHCLC.

Furthermore, Dr. Antipas is a member of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Student Discipline Task Force. He serves as advisor for National Building International, assisting the organization with their ministries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where he applies his expertise as a ministry consultant. He has also led mission trips not only in DRC, but Haiti and in the urban centers of the United States as well.

Additionally, he serves on the board of advisors for Life Enrichment Ministries with a Holiness Mission. He holds a leadership role with the ministry to assist the leadership in ordaining, licensing and training global ministry leaders for the pastorate, evangelism, and missions.

“Antipas Harris empowers us to reconcile the optics of faith with the metrics of success in a manner that goes beyond impacting it.”

*Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President NHCLC
Hispanic Evangelical Association*

Scholarship

Dr. Antipas is an ardent writer and author with three published monographs: *Unstoppable Success: 7 Ways to Flourish in your Boundless Potential*; *Holy Spirit, Holy Living: Toward a Practical Theology of Holiness*, and *For Such a Time as This: Reimagining Practical Theology for Independent Pentecostal-type Churches*.

He has also published several chapters in edited volumes and journal articles. He blogs for Renewaldynamics.com, and he has his own blog site called “The Bridge” at blog.antipasharris.com. Dr. Harris is, also, an Op-Ed Contributor for the *Christian Post*. Some of his articles and social commentaries have been published in the *Washington Post*, *Religion News Service*, and *Sojourner*.

Dr. Harris teaches courses in Pastoral Theology, Urban Theology & Ministry and Homiletics at Regent University where he serves as an Associate Professor of Practical Theology & Ministry, the Founding Director of the Youth & Urban Renewal Center, and the Associate Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program.

“Dr. Harris is a bright and energetic scholar with tremendous promise. He writes with clear and compelling prose.”

*William C. Turner, Jr., PhD
Professor, Duke University Divinity School*

Accolades

Dr. Harris has been recognized for his hard work, academic excellence, innovative leadership, and so much more on several occasions. In 2011, he was recognized twice; first at his alma mater, LaGrange College, where his name was added to the Wall of Outstanding Alumni, and Inside Business' Top 40 Under 40 of Hampton Roads. In 2012, International Top 100 Magazine named him as a top 100 International Leader for his efforts in global ministry, higher education and community outreach. Dr. Harris was also honored with the title of Outstanding Faculty at Regent University in 2013.

Vision, Companies, & Family

Looking back as a young boy who grew up in rural Georgia, Antipas' dreams are becoming a reality. Dr. Antipas is an educator, a community leader, entrepreneur, innovator, preacher, motivational speaker, and theologian. With all of his accomplishments, he is not through spreading the gospel to the world through preaching and teaching God's word. He also continues to support, participate and provide consultancy in areas of worship, urban outreach and urban education.

Dr. Antipas has created two organizations to house several initiatives for his various contributions to the academy, the community and the church. The first of which is GIELD, Inc. GIELD is a non-profit organization to advance its mission to enrich, to educate and to empower developing leaders for quality leadership in the Church and Society through partnership with churches, businesses and civic organizations.

GIELD has several initiatives including the Urban Summer Academy that both empowers hundreds of selected urban elementary and middle school children in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and seeks to build bridges between the urban youth and units of public service (i.e. Police, FBI, Fire and Rescue, etc.). Through GIELD's initiative called "the Link", Dr. Harris leads monthly leadership Roundtables with Norfolk senior pastors and the City Manager of Norfolk. The purpose of this group is to strengthen ecumenical collaborations and to support the City of Norfolk's leadership in efforts to fortify racial harmony, primary education, and local economics. Additionally, this group serves as a leadership prayer team to undergird the city in prayer.

Also, through the Link at GIELD, Dr. Harris and a local Jewish Rabbi serve as co-founders of Hands United Building Bridges (HUBB). The HUBB is an interfaith leadership coalition of Christian, Jew, and Muslim clergy for interreligious dialogue and to build a stronger interfaith community in Hampton Roads. Also, GIELD has launched an international chapter, a summer mission training effort in the Delmas neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti at the Bellevue Salem Baptist Church II.

Dr. Antipas' second company is Antipas Enterprises, LLC. Antipas Enterprises offers products and services to enhance, enrich, and encourage leaders to "rise to the calling of excellence." Also, Antipas Enterprises offers education-consulting services.

Dr. Antipas was blessed with a partner of five years who shares his love for teaching and the arts. He is happily married to Micah, who is an Assistant Principal in the Virginia Beach Public School System, a skilled modern dancer and choreographer, and author (*Unstoppable Success Workbook* and Blog: Lead to Learn). Antipas and Micah reside in Virginia Beach. To find out more about Dr. Antipas' community involvements please visit www.antipasharris.com.