

The Reverend Dr. Donnell L. Hegler, the 5th child of nine siblings born to the late John and Bernice Hegler of Locust Bayou, Arkansas. He is a graduate of Hampton High School, class of 1974. He received his Bachelors of Arts degree in Speech and Drama with a minor in Theater from the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff in 1978. He currently holds a master of Education degree in Agency Counseling from South Arkansas University in Magnolia, and a Doctorate Degree in Clinical Pastoral Counseling from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Andersonville, Georgia at Saratoga, Florida.

In 1964, he accepted the Lord as his personal Savior and united with Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Camden, Arkansas which was then led by Reverend Samuel Collins. Pastor Hegler was called to the ministry in 1976, under the leadership of Reverend P.B. Sharp. In 1979, he was ordained as a preacher of the gospel by Reverend B.C. Thomas.

As a young man, thirty-five years ago, he accepted the Pastorate of Douglas Chapel Missionary Baptist Church; where he faithfully nurtures, diligently instructs and unselfishly serves the Douglas Chapel Church Family.

Dr. Hegler and his wife of thirty-four years, Sheila Kay Collins Hegler are proud parents of four children; Tina, Jerome, Sabrina and Marcus and twelve-grandchildren.

Dr. Hegler obtained certification of Biblical Counseling and Biblical Studies from Light University and Liberty Bible Institute respectively. He also holds certifications as Dean of Christian Education and as a License Christian Counselor. For more than twenty-five years, he was an educator in the El Dorado School Districts and subsequently retired in 2003.

Dr. Hegler serves on the advisory board of the Arkansas Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Chair of Disproportion Minority Confinement, Federal Coalition for Juvenile Justice Board Member, Past Evangelistic Director for Baptist Youth Fellowship, Instructor of State Congress of Christian Ed. and former Dean of Friendship District Congress of Christian Ed.

Dr. Hegler currently holds membership in the American Association of Christian Counselors, Baptist Ministerial Alliance, Arkansas Retired Teachers' Association, National Teachers' Association, National Baptist Convention, Arkansas Consolidated Baptist State Convention, Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity and Mu Alpha Nu Fraternity, Alumni of University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Dr. Hegler is the recipient of numerous award; “The George Howard Award” 1995, El Dorado “Five Who Care 2000”, Arkansas Travelers’ Award, El Dorado Education Foundation Outstanding Educator Award 2001 and Who’s Who of Outstanding Black Men in America.

Dr. Hegler has instructed and facilitated many workshop locally, statewide, nationally and internationally, “I’m Too Important to have Sex Before Marriage (Abstinence)”, “Positive Peer Pressure”, “Dress for Success”, “Parenting Skills”, “Spiritual Intimacy With God”, “Marriage Garden”, “Marriage God’s Way”, “Growing Spiritually”, “Becoming A Contagious Christian”, “Aggressive Sunday School Growth”, “Methodology of Teaching”, “Family Money Management God’s Way” . “Loving My Singleness”, Media and Technology in the Local Church”, “Equipping the Saints”, and “Christian Leadership” to men and women serving in the military in Germany.

As God has gifted him in many areas, he continues to remain humble, knowing that his calling is to carry out the “Great Commission” as mandated in Matthew 28:18-20, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.”*