



Joyce McDonald – Biographical Summary

Born to parents Willie and Florence McDonald and raised in Brooklyn's Farragut Houses- Joyce is the 3rd eldest of seven children. She was brought up in a household where unconditional love was practiced and family values and prayer were instilled.

Joyce attended P.S. 287, Sands JHS 265 as well as Fashion Industry High School. Her love & compassion for people led her to become a volunteer at Cumberland Hospital as a Junior Nurses Aide at 16 years old for the terminally ill. Joyce's teenage years were not always so hopeful...

During her teenage years leading to her adult years Joyce made many bad choices until 30 years later, 1993, when she returned to her Lord and His redemptive care. Joyce has survived various forms of mental and physical abuse to include rape, attempted suicide, depression and a 25 year heroin addiction. In 1995 during her new found recovery in the Lord, Joyce tested positive for HIV and was later diagnosed with AIDS. Despite her diagnosis Joyce under the new leadership of her Savior continued to share her life story and artistic talents with the world.

Joyce McDonald is a proud member of The Church of the Open Door under the divine pastoral leadership of Reverend Dr. Mark V.C. Taylor where she is the coordinator of the AIDS Ministry which educates while providing spiritual support & fellowship to those who are affected and/or diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in both church and community.

With no formal art training Joyce McDonald is a world renowned artist. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, schools, universities, shelters, nursing homes and hospitals. Her testimony and art has been shared throughout the country via television: NY1, UPN 9, the Leeza show, BCAT, MNN, Bronxnet; via newspaper and magazine: the Daily News, Amsterdam, the Body Magazine, Rollin-Out Atlanta; and via internet worldwide.

Joyce has received the 2002 Martin Luther King Service Award, the 2003 Church of the Open Door Woman of the Year Award, the 2004 Isler's W.E.M. honor by Reverend Alberta, and the 2004 Governor's Citation from Maryland (*to name a few*).

Joyce McDonald's talents include being an artist, sculptress, designer, writer, singer, poet and motivational speaker; talents she attributes first and foremost to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and next to her family: her dad (*now deceased and dearly missed by Joyce*), her mother, 2 married daughters & their spouses and her 6 grandchildren.

And if Joyce could leave you with one lasting statement of her journey it would be...

"I praise the Lord for all He has done for me throughout my life. He has brought me from the Shooting Gallery to the Art Gallery. I shall not die but live to declare the works of the Lord. (Psalms 118:17)"