

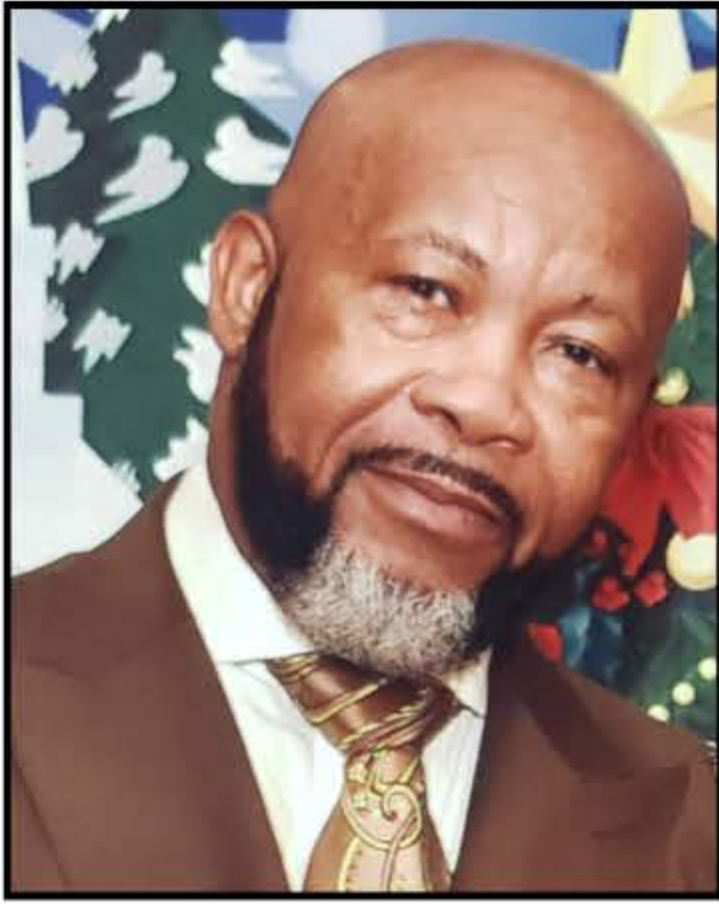


# **Alumni Highlight**

## **Education Ministry Leadership**

### **September 2025 Issue**

#### **M.A. in Education Ministry Leadership**



Jimmie Slater graduated from the MAEML program in May 2025 and is currently serving as the co-founder of New Millennium Bible Fellowship Church in Dallas, Texas. Jimmie was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. He says, “I came to know Christ around five or six years old. I was baptized at Mount Rose Baptist Church in the uptown area of New Orleans. Although my parents didn’t attend church regularly at that time, my neighbor, Ms. Clara, made sure I attended church. One thing I remember clearly is that Ms. Clara would often invite our family to her church. I vaguely recall one Sunday when my mother led my brother and me down the aisle to the preacher. Not long after that, we were baptized in some very cold water. A few years later, we began attending Stronger Hope Baptist Church. It was there, under the leadership of the late Dr. J. C. Profit, Jr., that I truly began to grow in my faith. Looking back, I believe I came to know Christ through Ms. Clara, but I grew in Christ at Stronger Hope. As I

reflect on my journey, I recognize that my desire to grow in Christ has only deepened over the years. I am committed to continually growing in my relationship with Him and I am willing and eager to serve Christ and His people in any way He sees fit. My heart’s desire is to be used by God for His glory.” Jimmie describes God as a “lifesaver,’ not just physically but also spiritually.”

A lesson that Jimmie learned in the MAEML program is the value of creating a biblical narrative that connects directly to the needs of the community. He says, “This has reshaped the way I approach ministry, leadership, and outreach. I’ve applied this principle through the Mighty Men Monday Fellowship, a ministry that meets every Monday night. This ministry is built on the foundational scripture Proverbs 27:17 – ‘Iron sharpens iron.’ Our goal is to strengthen men in their walk with Christ and empower them to lead with integrity and accountability in their homes, churches, and communities. Another major impact of the MAEML program is the emphasis on collaborative leadership and strategic partnerships. As president of the Southeast Pleasant Grove Ministerial Alliance and Beyond, I work with over 30 church leaders and faith-based organizations. We gather monthly in a local church setting where lunch is provided, and we engage in meaningful dialogue about pressing community issues. Overall, the MAEML program has helped me integrate vision, strategy, and spiritual formation in a way that has brought new life and direction to every area of ministry I serve.”

When asked what advice he would give new MAEML students, Jimmie said, “I would tell students to persevere and really be a life learner. Remember to breathe while planning well.”

Jimmie said that future graduates may work alongside him in different capacities such as leadership, teaching, and evangelism. He said he learned to dig deeper in scripture and situations by the power of the Holy Spirit through the MAEML program.

Jimmie shared how the MAEML program has impacted his worldview: “The MAEML program has significantly enlarged and strengthened my worldview, both spiritually and practically. It has helped me to see leadership not merely as a role of authority, but as a sacred calling to serve others with humility, wisdom, and a Christ-centered heart. I’ve learned to value collaboration, innovation, and adaptability in ways that keep the mission of the Church relevant and impactful. I now view leadership through a lens of stewardship and discipleship: caring for people, resources, and vision in a way that honors God and builds lasting Kingdom impact.”

Jimmie advises graduating students to “Be a novel in somebody’s life and not a short story.” He said, “As you turn pages to your life’s next chapter, carry with you everything you’ve been taught. Stay consistent in prayer, led by purpose, and remain honest to growth. You won’t have all the answers, and that’s okay. God doesn’t expect perfection—He wants your obedience. Stay connected to mentors, keep learning, and above all, let love and integrity be the foundation of your leadership.”

*Part Two - Jimmie’s Testimony*

Plans don’t always go the way we expect. I was originally on track to complete my master’s degree in 2018. But during my second-to-last semester, life took an unexpected turn. I wasn’t at my best physically, and I ended up failing that term. Shortly afterward, I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Then, during the COVID pandemic, my wife rushed me to the hospital to be rushed to the emergency room a second time. That visit revealed another serious issue—renal (kidney) failure. I was quickly placed on the path toward dialysis.

In 2022, I was told that due to my specific medical profile, it could take up to ten years to find a suitable kidney donor. But God had a different plan. Just nine months later, a living donor match emerged through my soon-to-be daughter-in-law. But then, five days before her final screening, the Lord intervened once again. The family of a young man who had been in a tragic accident chose to give the gift of life through organ donation. I accepted that gift, and on February 11, 2023, I received my transplant.

As was the hospital’s custom for new transplants, we named the kidney “Job-Nguvu”—Job, my scriptural friend, and Nguvu, the Swahili word for “strength.” His life is now part of mine, and his family’s sacrifice is something I will honor for the rest of my days.

Even in the midst of medications, healing, and rebuilding my strength, I felt the Lord challenging me to finish what I had started in education. In the Fall of 2024, I returned to DBU to retake the semester I had once failed. With renewed focus and God’s grace, I completed it with strong grades, A’s and B’s.

I’ve come to understand that even our setbacks can be God’s setups for something greater. If I hadn’t failed, doctors may not have discovered my failing kidneys in time. What looked like a detour was actually divine direction.

Now, as I prepare to graduate in May 2025, my heart is strong, Job-Nguvu is thriving at two years old, and I feel healthier than I’ve felt in years. I believe my parents, my mother, who could not read or write, and my father, are in heaven smiling. I was the first in my family to earn a bachelor’s degree from Tulane University, and now, I will earn my master’s degree from Dallas Baptist University.

I’ve overcome health battles, learning challenges, and life’s many trials. But by the grace of God, and with the love and support of my wife, family, friends, and church community, I can boldly and joyfully proclaim: “Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord—I made it!”

**Mark Your Calendars**

|                                                  |                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Labor Day Holiday - University Closed No Classes | September 1 <sup>st</sup>                  |
| Late Registration Closes                         | September 3 <sup>rd</sup>                  |
| Fall Break                                       | October 6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| Grad Finale for December 2025 graduates          | October 18 <sup>th</sup> 9:00AM            |
| Grad Finale for December 2025 graduates          | October 20 <sup>th</sup> 11:00AM           |
| Early Graduation Application Deadline for May    | November 5 <sup>th</sup>                   |