

WILFRED GRAVES JR. – SHORT BIO

Wilfred Graves Jr. was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. His parents were deeply involved in COGIC ministry and frequently conducted revivals throughout the Southeastern United States. Elder Wilfred Graves Sr. pastored two churches in his lifetime. Evangelist Glendolyn K. Graves was known for her beautiful piano-playing and melodious soprano singing voice. Wilfred Graves Jr. made a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ during early childhood, preached his first sermon before the age of twelve, and acknowledged God's call to ministry in his mid-teens. He has been involved in public ministry for over thirty years.

A high-school valedictorian and mathematics prodigy, Wilfred received a full scholarship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He graduated from MIT with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Math and went on to receive a Master of Science in Statistics from Stanford University. He worked for five years as an aerospace engineer for Northrop Grumman, where he supported various engineering efforts with his numerical expertise.

Wilfred joined West Angeles COGIC in 1997 and was ordained as an elder in 1999, the same year he also completed a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary with a minor in Cross-Cultural Studies. Later, he became the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Fuller Seminary.

Dr. Graves is passionate about helping people become mature, productive, thriving followers of Jesus Christ. He began teaching courses at West Angeles Bible College in 2000 and joined the pastoral staff of West Angeles Church in 2003. Since that time, he has served as an adjunct professor of Theology and Church History at Fuller Theological Seminary and Talbot School of Theology (Biola University).

Dr. Graves is the founder and CEO of Wilfred Graves Ministries, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which focuses on evangelism, spiritual formation, Christian scholarship, and leadership training.¹ At West Angeles Church, he served as a Special Assistant to Presiding Bishop Emeritus Charles E. Blake Sr. and now holds roles as Ministry Coordinator, Chairman of the Board of Elders, and Executive Director of Ministerial Training and Development.

Dr. Graves believes that the love and power of God can transform broken lives, and he welcomes the operation of spiritual gifts in his ministry. The Lord often uses him to bring physical and emotional healing to the suffering. He has written an important book entitled *In Pursuit of Wholeness: Experiencing God's Salvation for the Total Person* (Destiny Image, April 2011) which is about the availability of God's transformative grace for every aspect of life. The book has been endorsed by Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr., who provides the book's foreword, the late Dr. C. Peter Wagner, Pastor Jack Hayford, and several other Christian leaders and celebrities.

Elder Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr. is happily married to Dr. Malaika E. Graves, an accomplished artist and pediatrician who practices in Southern California. She is also a daughter of the Church of God in Christ and has served in its teaching and music ministries for many years. As a spirit-filled physician, Dr. Malaika Graves serves children and their families with grace and sensitivity.

¹ Learn more about Wilfred Graves Ministries, Inc. at <https://wilfredgraves.org>.