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# AVIS WARD

Interview By Lilisa J. Williams, MBA, PhD Candidate

“Meet Evangelist Avis Ward, a woman who has exceeded everyone’s expectations.”

**V**ision, passion and purpose are not just mere words. They describe the awe inspiring Evangelist Avis Ward. I met Evangelist Ward through social networking and was amazed that I had not heard of her until now. This awesome woman spends many hours helping to change and save lives. Like most of us, Evangelist Ward has had her share of life’s ups and downs. Today, we celebrate her accomplishments as a woman who has emerged as a servant to our youth and their families. Her life’s purpose is what bolsters her efforts. In an exclusive interview she shared her heart and soul about why and how she became known for raising the quality of life for teen mothers in South Carolina. Now, meet Evangelist Avis Ward, a woman who has exceeded everyone’s expectations.

LILISA: What inspired you to work with pregnant teens?

AVIS: When I was a child, my parents were loving parents to more than thirty troubled teens, some of whom were pregnant. The home that we’ve founded, "GeoVi's Home," is named in memory of them, George and Viola Ward.

Also, being unable to carry a baby to full-term was a problem for me. As a result, I have no biological children. Many couples face the same circumstances. These girls and boys need to be made aware of the miracle of conception and childbirth.

LILISA: I know you are very committed to your ministry, how did it (your ministry) begin?

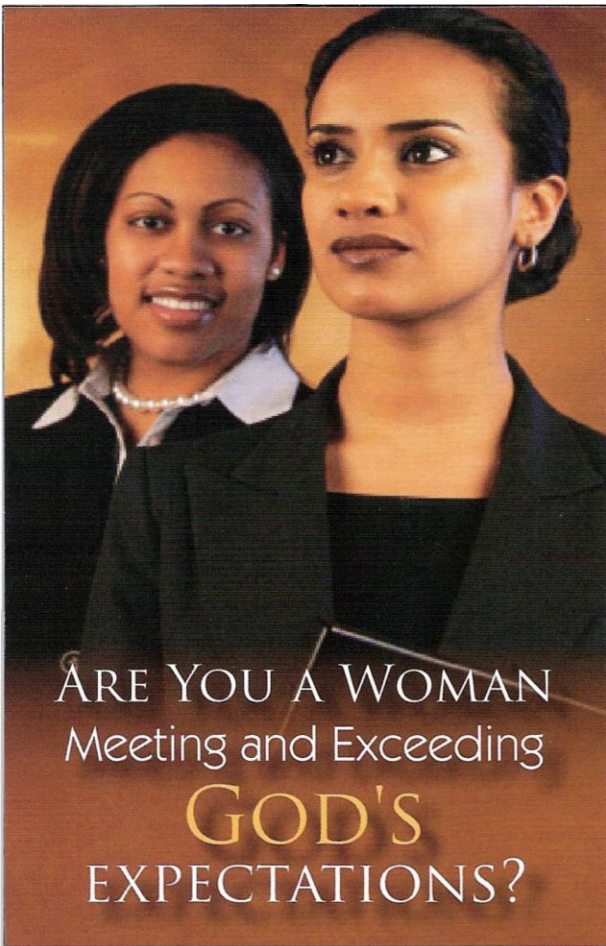
AVIS: I was always taught that everyone has the responsibility to minister in his or her own gifting. I am a pastor’s daughter and have been active in church since I could talk and walk. I remember passing out fans to members as they entered the church. To be more specific and present-day, it was God who placed a vision inside of me to start a home for pregnant teens. I was saying my bedtime prayers and His presence filled the room. I could smell baby powder and hear babies crying. Mind you, I was on my knees at bedside, praying and I began to pray in the Spirit. I said, "Yes, Lord." The vision was written in my first website. GeoVi's Home for New Life was born. Darlene Bishop was kind enough to grant us permission to tour her home near Dayton, Ohio. We were given a one-on-one experience, receiving a wealth of information and assistance from her director and staff.

LILISA: I read that you are a highly skilled trainer. For what training do pregnant teens hunger?

AVIS: In our G.R.E.A.T. (GeoVi's Relationship Education and Training) Program, we teach middle to high school age students about relationships. We have discovered that they hunger for love. Many do not recognize real love, and once they have seen a demonstration of what real love is, this is their hunger. I do not find them unique from the rest of us. Of course, with love, there are communication, trust, friendship and authentic relationship.

LILISA: What impact does your ministry / business has on the community you serve?

AVIS: Community is doing life together. Community is also worldwide. It's not my desire to itemize all we do for others, but what we do is not restricted to our local vicinity. We speak to parents and teens from all over the country. They are always encouraged to call when they simply need someone to listen to them, and they do. We cry together. We pray together. We laugh together. We connect.



ARE YOU A WOMAN  
Meeting and Exceeding  
GOD'S  
EXPECTATIONS?

If so, please let us know.

Email the Editor at

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& you could be spotlighted

in the next issue of

HAVING CHURCH FOR WOMEN!

LAST ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

*Liz Black*  
New York's Radio Angel!



See our current spotlight on pg. 22

LILISA: What advice would you give to a woman who is struggling with finding her purpose?

AVIS: I would advise the woman who is struggling with her purpose to turn within for divine direction. I would then ask her to identify her greatest passion and pain. We endure hardship and are victorious over it so that we can be a credible witness to what God can do. This will help us minister to others more successfully because we can speak of the pain as a personal experience.

LILISA: What are you currently pursuing?

AVIS: We have been called into ministry and have been chosen into the pastorate. There have been hesitations on my part. I have been disobedient. My mother was a pastor for twenty-three years and I have no delusions about the requirements. I have tried to appease God with other ministerial work because I've never had a desire to pastor a church. I've thought of being a founder of a church. I am a visionary. We're also pursuing a Master in Divinity. Our schedule is full.

LILISA: How do you ensure success in your ministry / business?

AVIS: We pray. We trust in God. In addition, we are not lazy, complacent, apathetic, and do not take credit for anything. We put God first.

*Avis Ward is the Founder of GeoVi's Home for New Life, El Elyon Outpouring Center and Providential Coaching.*

