

## GET TO KNOW US!



### Carol & Howard Leslie

It's amazing how God works behind the scenes to put His plans in motion. Two people so incredible different, one Baptist, one Catholic, one in Arkansas, one in Hamtramck, one from a sheltered environment and one from a worldly influence brought together in one accord to be mightily used for His glory!

The Leslies found each other while working in Kresges Department store when they were in their twenties, and begin a romance that continues to this day. A personal romance that produced 5 wonderful children and recently 2 beautiful grandchildren with one more soon to come; but more importantly a Godly romance that produced a desire to minister to the lost.

The Holy Spirit used a junkyard Bible in a parking booth to plant the Word in Howard, and when the children started coming into their lives, this couple decided it was time to truly make a

commitment to God and raise their children for Him. The next step was to unite their beliefs at one church; but since it was too difficult to decide on which church, God made that decision for them, leading them to the Mission of Love Church of God in Christ (COGIC). During these 10 years, God prepared them for a tremendous ministry that would change many lives. As Howard was reading the scriptures one day, he was quickened by the Holy Spirit and called to start a Detroit COGIC church in Brightmore, a neighborhood infested with pornography. Pastor Howard, Carol, and their 5 children began a small church across the street from an adult bookstore, a pornography theater, and apartments that were lit up with invitation. Five years into this ministry, through the support of other churches, through prayer walks up and down the street, through outdoor preaching services against pornography, through miracles like the electrical wires being cut by the opposition and yet the power continuing to work during the service, through a pulpit being set on fire and yet not consumed by the flames, even through a dwindling away of the congregation because of Satan's attacks; God still honored the prayers and

ministry of His people and brought the pornography den to an END!!! Cheryl Chodun of Channel 7 News did a story on the "Porn Film Burning" after the theater was bought out by the Leslies' church. Members and neighbors came out to drop bits of the film into a casket to be burned, signifying an end to the pornography influence that had once enveloped that neighborhood. Praise God!!!

The Leslies both continued using their Ministry of Helps by teaching Bible studies, and raising their children to see and experience firsthand a God who supplies all needs and is forever leading. Now grown with families of their own, these children are faithful and active in ministries that reflect their Godly upbringing.

Youth and adult ministries, as well as sharing with the entire congregation in Sunday morning Worship will continue to be a calling for both of these dedicated messengers of God, who share a love for *Psalms 113:3* "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."

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