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**Tadar J. Wazir – Bio**

Tadar J. Wazir is an author, and speaker, who is listed in Who's Who Among Human Service Professionals; Who's Who in Religion; Who's Who in America; Who's Who in the Mid-West; Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care; and Men of Achievement in Cambridge, England. He has been interviewed live by the BBC in 1993 at the Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions, in Chicago, Illinois; he has been interviewed on Public Service TV and Radio stations in Kansas City, Missouri, and Little Rock, Arkansas; and he has been interviewed by the Columbia Tribune Newspaper a few times, and the Marshall Democrat – Marshall, Missouri once, and one of the Columbia, Missouri TV stations once, time and his PTSD has made him forget which one, Tadar has spoken at colleges in Trenton, Missouri, and Columbia, Missouri, and participating in interfaith activities he has spoken in a Synagogue in Shawnee Mission, Johnson County, Kansas, the Mormons (he forgot the new name, and if it is the same group) international building in Independence, Missouri, and other protestant churches.

Tadar was a participant in the historic five (5) day Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions in 1993 in Chicago, Illinois, celebrating its first time so doing 100 years before – It was the second time in history that all the religions in the world came together to let those concerned know about them, and why they believe as they do, and to share how they practice their beliefs. – he joined the group that is to strive for world peace via religion/spirituality.

Tadar J. Wazir, f.k.a. Theodore R. Byers, embarked upon his military service path in Kansas City, Missouri’s Central High School participating in its Jr. ROTC program for the three (3) years that he was in high school. He was a member of Central High School’s Rifle Team for those years. He read all the books in Central High School’s library that dealt with the military. At the age of seventeen (17) he joined the United States Marine Corps on its 120 Day Delay Plan before graduating from high school – his scheme to be a runaway child, which he had been planning since the age of 13 – and entered on active duty on July 2, 1962 – because his dad kept driving him to get a job, knowing that he was to go on active duty when summer ended.

Tadar did his Marine Corps Basic Training at Camp Pendleton, California assigned to Platoon 244, where he became its Right Guide (Flag Carrier) – This is something that had not been known to happen in Marine Corps history: Once after chow the men had formed up on the Parade Ground waiting for the Drill Instructor to come march them back to their unit’s area, after a long time with no DI showing up to take them back to their area, they started wondering what was going on. Eventually their DI came out onto the Parade Ground in their area and with hand and arm signals motioned for us to come there. We knew that we had to march there, and the men felt that the Right Guide would be the next leader in the chain of command, and the 1st Squad’s Squad Leader would be the next in line to be the Right Guide. Tadar took the physical position of the DI and marched Platoon 244 to its area, where he was promptly chewed out, then told by the DI Sgt. Enos, “Y’all looked good!”.

While he was in Advanced Infantry Training and on leave in Disneyland the Cuban Missile Crisis erupted. Disney staff called out over the loudspeakers in intervals for the people’s attention, and for Marines belonging to X unit to return to their immediately return to their unit, the next announcement would be for a different group of Marines to immediately return to their unit. This started making the people wonder what is happening, then the announcement was for all Marines to immediately report to their units, and there was an immediate apprehension of the faces of many in the park as Marines started running for the exits. India and Pakistan were at war with each other, and there was a lot of bad press about Cuba. He called home that night and told his mom about the situation, and all the troop buildup they witnessed, and what was happening in the world, and he told her that he thought that we would be going to Cuba, which the news the next morning affirmed. My mom thought that the only reason that I did not go was due to my age (17), but my unit was not called to go. He was an infantryman assigned to: M Co., 3rd Batt., 5th Marine Reg’t. (3/5), 1st Marine Div., he received all his promotions meritoriously up to Lance Corporal E-3, the night before he was to get the Corporal E-4 promotion that next morning he and his platoon’s Lt. had a difference of opinion on how to handle things, the Lt. was well meaning, but, young and feeling like King Kong Tadar told him that if he had to hit any of his men he would hurt them, not give them love taps because all of them don’t accept that, and will strike back forcefully (In the old days to be a leader of any Marine you had to be able to beat him in a fight, this helped to keep order in times of chaos), so, he lost one stripe that he had, and did not get the one he was to get the next day, and he didn’t get promoted again until he was in another unit more than a year later; then to D Co. 1st Batt., 9th Marine Reg’t. (1/9), 3rd Marine Div. – where from just before Christmas 1964-mid February 1965 his unit was engaged in Special Ops with Navy Seals using the APA 237 USS Bexar in Vietnam, at 19 years old he volunteered to be part of the backup forces for the Marines who made the landing that signaled the Vietnam conflict if any were needed – due to the racism that Negros were fighting to overcome at home and abroad, he caught flak from some of the Negro Marines; then to the Recruit Rifle Range in Camp Pendleton, California – where he (Byers) extended his enlistment for six months so that he would have enough time for another tour in Vietnam; then I Co. 3rd Batt., 9th Marine Reg’t. (3/9), 3rd Marine Div., Fleet Marine Force Pacific – The 9th Marines were the first GIs to go into the area known as An Hoa. And Hanoi Hanna repeatedly warned them, by unit, on the radio for about a week before they went there not to go there, or they would die there. Within the first four days they over-ran the Marine lines three times, or the Marine lines were over-ran four times in three days (PTSD gets him confused on this, which involved hand to hand combat to beat them back each time); then to Security, Headquarters Co., 9th Marine Reg’t., 3rd Marine Div., Fleet Marine Force Pacific – after an attack about 1/5th of the intensity of that of the movie Platoon (they broke through the Marine lines, but, were beat back in hand to hand combat, they had reportedly knocked the French off of that hill Hill 55 three [3] times) he was assigned as a Forward Observer to the 3rd Tank Batt., 9th Marine Reg’t., 3rd Marine Div., Fleet Marine Force Pacific for two (2) months, then he was called back to the 9th Marine Regiment’s security unit; he was a team leader on this tour of duty from November 1965 – mid-December 1966 who turned down a battlefield promotion position wise, which would have brought the rank also due to the numerous suicidal type missions he had been charged with including several hold at all costs, reinforced positions, and reinforced patrols – machine gun team, and or Grenadier with a 40mm grenade launcher – really a 40mm exploding bullet – (The military newspaper The Pacific Stars & Stripes in the first half of 1966 wrote about an all negro Marine squad that were suicidal, in their makeup. And it stated that they had to fight so hard to stay alive that the Viet-Cong (VC) put a $10,000.00 Piastre – it was almost equal in value to the coupons that the GIs used as money – reward on the head of all negros, all one had to do was bring an ear, nose, etc. to prove they killed one. Meanwhile they are hearing in the western media that the VC are not trying to kill the negro GIs. And the ridiculous rules of engagement seemed to be in favor of the VC, such as: while on patrol the Marines could not have a round in their weapons chamber until fired on, at battalion headquarters where he spent about a week after returning from R&R to Japan, on line security one could not fire at the VC as long as they stayed outside the barbed wire, which is close enough to throw hand grenades, they were not allowed to use their flame throwers, but, napalm bombs – the exact same substance that is in their flamethrowers – were A-OK, etc. later on some of that changed, when he first returned on his second tour due to his unit being out in the field, he was sent out as shotgun on runs with nothing but two (2) hand grenades, once with just a rifle with only one magazine – 20 rounds. All his men were either killed or injured, but, not while under his command, different things happened to them while under his command that would have killed or injured them. But angels were watching over them and caused the projectiles, etc. to hit something they were wearing or carrying causing them to be knocked down, jerked, etc., and a Punji Pit stake broke when he stepped on it. He was not injured either, and says that the only blood he shed there was to athlete’s feet or jungle rot whatever you want to call it, from walking in a lot of water and keeping your boots on because you never knew where the VC were, and when they would attack, seconds make a world of difference in an ambush. He claims that an angel touched him just before an ambush in the An Hoa area that saved him from being an obvious KIA if he had continued with what he had just mentally planned to do, get into the trench – The attacker was no more than 20 yards away, in the trench he was just thinking about whether or not to get into, and the angel stopped him with a hard, slapping, press – like someone doing a quick backhand with the palm on you, and momentarily holding it there – to his chest in front of his heart, feeling about the width and length of his hand. And that the only person who was ever injured while under his command was the squad leader for the machine gun that was attached to that patrol, who outranked him and was directly behind him when he jumped out of the way while shouting ambush! (They had come under fire by a VC in that trench, about 20 yards away, and a couple of feet from where the trench made a right turn, using a submachine gun weapon that sounded more like the weapons that the Marines were using – M 14 – so no one was alarmed and were all trying to figure out what was going on, and by whom - there was another known Marine patrol out at the same time – before he heard a bullet sound like it just missed his head causing him to realize what was happening, causing him to jump aside shouting Ambush!); then to Marine Corps Air Station, Twenty-Nine Palms, California from which he processed out of active duty.

Later, Tadar joined a group of Vietnam Veterans and civilians to establish two (2) houses in Columbia, Missouri, on Rangeline, to provide resources for one of them to serve as a home for the homeless veterans who need a place to be contacted by the VA as they process through its system for compensation, it is “**Welcome Home**”, the other house is rented to an entrepreneur for reliable income for anticipated bills.

**Tadar Jihad Wazir is a Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., a member of Chapter 393 which has two units, one FREE on the streets, and the other incarcerated in the former Missouri State Penitentiary, now known as the Jefferson City Correctional Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. And Tadar is a co-chaplain for the Missouri State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., who served as its Treasurer also for two (2) terms.**

Tadar as an author include in his writings and treatises: An Affidavit: Towards Understanding Allah, Al-Islam, And The Muslims; Man Does Not Live By Bread Alone!; Why Islam?; Ishmael's Promise; As-Salaam (as it relates to a name of Allah); "Prove all things" (As-Salaam, as it relates to Allah being revered by the key players in The New Testament); The Six Articles Of Faith Of All The Ways Of Life With Their Proof:; Do The Children Of Abraham (Ibrahim) Worship The Same G-d?; MUSLIMS (according to Allah); An Outline And Broad Representations Of Basic Facts About AL-ISLAM; Key Sources Of Tensions/Relief Among Abraham's Children; and The Science Of Mating, A.K.A. Eugenics (from a positive perspective), and with the Mideast Youth (of **ALL** **faiths**, or lack thereof, and **nationalities** internet group before and during the early portions of the “Arab Spring”, until he ran a copyrighted article – a friend in America told him that he needs to copyright it – with just the copyright information but not saying anyone had to get his permission to use it – it was done that way just in case someone wanted to make some money off of it then they should remember that he should get a share. He had no plan to pursue payments if any, which would be within the guidelines of the group for its authors, after that he could make comments only); and his first published book is **What Am I?  An Accident, or Intelligence, Intelligently Designed**  <https://www.amazon.com/Tadar-Wazir/e/B00CZA2KJ2> which some can read for free. He plans to turn some of his prior writings into eBooks on Kindle, just as his present one is situated, and possibly to make sound recordings of them for the blind to use. Tadar has been approached by a Syrian Sheikh who read some of his writings and found a producer to produce his writings in hardback, and place copies of them in libraries, etc. at no cost to him. Tadar says that he will still put them on Kindle, as, and when he can.

Tadar, and one other person, served as Special Masters functioning as both an attorney – one for the plaintiff, and one for the defendant – and judge in Division 9, of the Jackson County Court, State of Missouri, in Kansas City, MO, one other person served as a judge only, and the case was tried using the laws of religion inside the State Court system – the plaintiff lost, and Tadar feels it is his fault due to not writing that when one is in a non-Islamic society one must obey the laws of that society, and just like the Bible says the LORD’s word is to be obeyed in times of conflict of His and man’s laws. He writes real small and had written the equivalent of 100 pages to show why he was stating his opinion, and thinking that the Judge who allowed them to use his court for that was going to speak with them before he would give his final decision, Tadar opted to wait to speak with the Judge, who had made his ruling before Tadar had a chance to speak with him (Tadar had forgotten that the Judge said that he would speak with them if there was any confusion about their decision, only remembering that the Judge said that he would speak with them before making his decision on their findings, and opinion.) – the Special Masters do all that they can according to the law, and the final decision is in the hand of the Judge of the Court (Al-Islaam seeks peace as much as possible, but will do what is necessary to keep the peace enough where one can peacefully pray to and serve the only true Deity who in the Arabic language, including the Bible in Arabic is Allah. The laws of this land do not allow a hostile takeover of a corporation, etc. in the manner that this case was addressing.);

Tadar (when known as Theodore R. Byers) was a Boy Scout who graduated from Central High School in Kansas City, Missouri and was on its Attendance and Scholastic Honor Rolls; he has credit for 3 years of college, earning an AA in Administration of Justice, minor: Mobile Emergency Medical Technology, on the Dean's List each semester at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, Missouri; (known as Theodore Byers at Arkansas A. M. & N. College, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas – cofounding its ROTC program, and elected to be its first Parliamentarian, he did not return to Arkansas A. M. & N. opting to stay an insurance salesman (With Western & Southern Life, a debit life insurance company, the salesperson got $500.00 a month guaranteed income, and commissions on the type of insurance that one would sell. Knowing that he only wanted it for a summer job, and was going to go back to college, the manager brought it up at each weekly meeting that at $500.00 a month they made as much as the average college graduate just for collecting money, and if they sold any insurance then they made more than the average college graduate without all of the problems of the students.) – and known both as Theodore R. Byers and Tadar J. Wazir at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, Missouri); U. S. Marine Corps Infantry Fire Team Leader in Vietnam (known as Theodore R. Byers); Entrepreneur: selling sterling silver jewelry, leather and suede goods, and wool blankets from Mexico which he went there to get a few times a year, and recorded 8 Track tapes, (known as both Theodore R. Byers, and Tadar J. Wazir); Insurance Salesman for: Western & Southern Life Insurance Company in Kansas City, MO, set record for lowest arrears; New York Life Insurance Company in Kansas City, MO – first African-American to be hired as a salesman in its 35th & Broadway office, and was given the opportunity to be an office manager when he decided to quit – the Europeans whom he was assigned to train to be salespeople made excellent presentations but few sales, he, they and other staff guessed that the problem was because he was with them, in the late 60s going into ritzy upper middle income European neighborhoods, and the potential buyers knew that he would get a share of their payments – but, missing three questions kept him away from it – they had a person come in from the home office to question and retest him, and again missing three questions – two different from the one’s missed before – kept him from it, he won its Spunky Monkey monthly award once, and was on pace for the Millionaires Club; then to Roosevelt National Life Insurance Company in Independence, MO (known as Theodore R. Byers for them – first African-American salesman in the Greater Kansas City area for them); in the 1st National Bank of Kansas City, in Kansas City, MO: Supervisor in the Check Transit Department – third African-American to work in that position - well over $1,000,000.00 hourly going through it, Methods Analyst – first African-American in that position in its Systems Department, and Printer, he was a delegate for the bank at the 1970 Banker's Convention (known as Theodore R. Byers); later on to Salesman for Concept Marketing International, a Silver Eagle selling club, in Kansas City, MO.

Tadar served as a chaplain starting as a Volunteer and later: Contracts with the United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB) in Ft. Leavenworth, KS; the United States Penitentiary and its Camp in Leavenworth, KS; The United States Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, in Springfield, MO, had to get National Security clearance and briefing to be one of a very few non-USMCFP employees who would be able to visit with "the Blind Sheikh, Omar" who recently passed. Employed as a Chaplain/Hostage Negotiator for the State of Missouri, Department of Corrections, Division of Human Services, and Tipton Correctional Center, where history was made when the incarcerated offenders petitioned the TCC administration to be allowed to give him an Appreciation Ceremony on his retirement which was attended by the Incarcerated Offender Facilitator of each accommodated religion - 8 of them -, some were trying to get him to stay on, some were openly crying wanting him to stay; Hostage and Crisis Negotiator training was done by: NCIC; the FBI; and U S Corrections Special Ops; co-chaplain Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., of which he is a Life member, former chaplain and member of Chapter 393 both the incarcerated chapter and the street chapter; former chaplain Marshall Optimist Club; former chaplain National Association for Black Veterans, Tulsa, OK chapter – with belated Bro. Tacuma B. Yero helped to open other chapters in other states, and Kansas City, MO; Accident Investigation by the Liberty School of Claim Investigation, of Libertyville, Illinois, a correspondence course taken while he was in the Marines stationed in  California (TRB); Security Official in the Nation of Islam for six (6) states, and bodyguard for more than ten (10) years; security guard for Drake – secured the Black Republicans in the Republican Convention of 1976 in Kansas City, MO; Medical Assistance at the Kansas City College of Medical & Dental Assistants, in Kansas City, MO (TRB) – its first coed class, and was elected as the class spokesperson; a Paramedic for St. Joseph Hospital in Kansas City, MO, operating the world's first Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) its ICU Head Nurse, and two paramedics could handle up to three patients doing everything themselves except major surgery (TRB) – in the third class offered in Kansas City, MO for such training; past president of the Mar-Saline NAACP; and completed an intensive course of Basic Iridology & Herbology - iridology, nutrition, and herbology - by the Genesis Health & Nutrition Center of the State of New York, trained in Raleigh, North Carolina; he is part of the J T Foxx family of entrepreneurs – J T Foxx is, or was, on the board of the Donald J. Trump Foundation who shares business knowledge guided by George Ross the then Donald J. Trump counselor.

Tadar is a Life Member of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE); its membership is made up of both those who are incarcerated and free – with some of the free members not being x-cons.

Tadar collaborates, as he can, with the RESTORATIVE JUSTICE organization’s program for offenders. He used to attend all of their meetings at Crossroads Correctional Center until its new Warden refused to allow him entry for it, stating that “I don’t see what you like about those people”. A program for teaching incarcerated offenders who are interested in habilitating themselves ways to give back to the outer community. He has participated in its pre-implementation Think Tank; and participated in it as a chaplain along with Sis. Chaplain Lee Rader (Chillicothe Correctional Center – for women), and the Supervisor of Religious/Spiritual Programming Bro. Winfrey Dickerson in its 1st national conference in Y2K in the huge Catholic cathedral in Washington, D. C. The State of MO DOC DIV. HUMAN SERVICES later reassigned this from the religion/spiritual category into the activities category. Tadar alerted the All-Faiths Chaplains for the State of Missouri, DOC, Div. of Human Services about this change – they were basically new chaplains – and were annoyed that it had happened, but made no move to get it back.

Sheikh Imam Tadar Wazir is one of the pioneers for the Islamic Center of Central MO in Columbia, MO; while living in Kansas City, Missouri along with a Kuwaiti colonel he helped to influence the Muslim Allied Officers at the Command & General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, KS to influence the college to set aside a space and time for Salat-ul Jumu'ah, which was established in the early 1980s, and he attended their meetings at least twice, and a few of their graduations; he actively supported the establishment of the Islamic Society of Greater Kansas City Islamic Center, he helped to influence and establish the Islamic Center of Springfield, MO, and St. Joseph, MO. He attends many of the Islamic Centers and Masjid Omar in MO, with most of his time devoted to Al Haqq Islamic Center where Bro. Imam Sulaiman Salaam, Jr. is the Imam – who gave an address for youth in the Vatican in place of Bro. Imam W. Deen Mohammed. Tadar was on the Board of Directors for: Butterfield Youth Services; and the Saline County University Outreach/Extension Service; and he worked with the MO Valley Community Action Agency's, Prosperity Team – concerning veterans, which awakened the area that KMMO and the Marshall Democrat newspaper influence on the plight of veterans and their families.

Tadar has been a member of several interfaith groups in the Greater Kansas City area, and is known in some of the Amish communities in central Missouri. He has stayed with some of them and their family members in Ohio for a few days each time, and was treated as very hospitably, and they took care of his religious diet requirements. One of the families that he spent the night with in Indiana had gas lights to light their house, and running water with an indoor toilet. He was too shy to ask if they had become Mennonites, with whom he has a lot of interaction also.

Tadar was a fully trained Red Cross volunteer, and he is going to get retrained now that he is positioned to follow through as needed.

Tadar founded the T J W Family Charitable Foundation. <https://www.tjwfamilycharitablefoundation.org>

Tadar is married, with children – 3 males, one adopted – Ajamu, who served in the U. S. Army operating an anti-aircraft missile launcher, and West Point sent a letter to his commanding officer to seek Ajamu’s attendance at West Point during the 1st Gulf War while he was serving in Korea; – his eldest son Tarik applied for the U. S. Air Force, and was told by the recruiter that he had made the highest score that he had ever seen for a recruit. But, before he could join he found out that his ID had been stolen and that an Arrest Warrant was out for him for a crime committed in the State of Ohio while he was in a hospital in the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri; it took years to get clarity on that warrant, and the person who stole his ID is incarcerated in Ohio; - and Tadar has 13 grandchildren. Tadar’s dad served honorably in the U. S. Army during WWII, and he and his mom always encouraged and pushed Tadar and his sisters to be all that they can or want to be, and do it all under the watchful eye of our Creator.



Ajamu (A J) A. Wazir

Ajamu was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and reared in both Kansas City, Missouri, and Marshall, Missouri. Ajamu attended Marshall High School, Marshall, Missouri, where he was elected as its freshman class president. Ajamu is listed in Who’s Who Among American High School Students. Ajamu was in both its concert, and marching bands. He was also a member of the JV, and varsity basketball teams.

Ajamu enlisted in the US Army, and graduated from basic training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and he graduated from Advanced individual training at Fort Bliss, Texas, and he did one overseas tour in South Korea. While in Korea, during the 1st Gulf War, West Point tried to recruit him through his commanding officer.

Ajamu attended Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri.

Ajamu majored in Human Service, and Recreation, with a minor in world history.

Managed Domino's Pizza in Lake Ozark, Missouri.

Was assistant manager of Pasta House in Osage Beach, Missouri.

Supervisor of internet sales at Kohl's department store in Lake Ozarks, Missouri.

He is **President of the T J W Family Charitable Foundation (TJWFCF)** where he looks forward to helping people achieve their goals.

Ajamu is married with children.

 

Rita Williams was born into a humanitarian oriented family, and was encouraged to be a humanitarian. Rita has done that by being a:

Volunteer Computer Training at the Metropolitan Community College on behalf of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Volunteer Youth Friend for the Hickman Mills School District.

Volunteer in the Attendance Office at the Hickman Mills High School.

Youth Director at the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church.

Former Block-watch Captain at the Fairlane Home Association.

Former Regional Director of the Missouri State PTA-Three Trails.

Former President of the Hickman Mills High School Parents Teacher Student Association (PTSA).

Former 1st Vice President of the Hawks Ridge Home Association.

Former CWA Union Leader.



Vanessa Mahaney Biography

Born and raised in a loving Christian family, Vanessa is the fifth child of the late Mr. Roosevelt and Mrs. Osceola Moore Byers. Vanessa received her formative education in the Kansas City, MO School District and graduated from Lincoln High (now Lincoln Academy) School in 1974. Not one to sit idly by she started her post-secondary education her senior year at Lincoln and took several general courses at Penn Valley Community College, knowing she was wanting to obtain a college degree after high school graduation. She received the B.S. degree in Business Administration in 1974 and her B.S. Degree in Accounting in 1989, both from Lincoln University of Jefferson City, Missouri. She is married to Rev. James P. Mahaney, Sr., and they are blessed with three children and seven beautiful granddaughters.

Vanessa’s Christian foundation was at Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Kansas City, MO from the time she was born. She served in various capacities in the Youth Department from being a choir member, president of the Youth Council, member of the Y Society Missionary Department, and was selected Ms. Metropolitan prior to her going off to Lincoln University. During her time in the Youth Department she traveled to various meetings within her conference and to the National Christian Youth Council Meetings held annually across the country, representing the youth within her church. This taught her how to conduct meetings, using Robert Rules of Order during this time.

Her love is for children and the elderly, but believes in giving biblical advice and guidance to those going through life challenges. While pursuing her college degree, she worked with the Girls Scouts in Jefferson City, MO and is very active, presently, within her local church and conference. She serves as the Sunday School teacher, Leader of Leaders, church secretary, Christian Education Director, and is the President of the St. Louis District’s Ministers Spouses and Widow(ers) Fellowship. She has been ordained a Deaconess in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church denomination.

She worked as one of the program director’s in the nonprofit organization Life Changing Ministries working to help change participant’s lives for the better through teaching and providing assistance through local agencies to improve their lives. Currently serve as a mentor within the Missouri Valley Big Brothers Big Sister Program of Jefferson City and has worked with the Jefferson City Project Homeless Connect. Her belief and something she constantly says is to speak life into our children because what we release into the air is what they will become - so speak life and always try to encourage them. With the elderly she has always believed that if we don’t learn from our past then we will repeat it.

Her work experience includes: Lincoln University’s Student Special Services Department; Pizza Hut Assistant Manager; Montgomery Ward’s Service Contract Clerk; Department of Natural Resources’ Outdoor Recreation and Assistance Program serving as Fiscal Management Assistant overseeing the Adult Conservation Corps and Youth Conservation Corps Programs; and Department of Conservation retiring as Financial Services Analyst working with the department’s internal and governor’s approved budget and internal financial reports.

It is her desire to return to school to obtain her Master’s Degree in Biblical Counseling. Vanessa believes whatever you do, do it to the glory of God!