

## **Dr. Samuel Sierra's Biography 2013**

Samuel's life exemplifies the Transformational Power of Jesus Christ on a lost soul. He was born in the Dominican Republic and rose in Brooklyn, New York. He had always felt the calling of God upon his life. However, his was to be a prodigal-son story.

After many failed attempts at understanding the meaning of life and his purpose for being, Samuel descended into New York City's netherworld of drug abuse during his late twenties. On through his early thirties, his addiction to heroine came to snowball unstoppably, decapitating him from being the stable father figure and husband that his household needed.

After innumerable attempts to free himself through self-help and government-issued methadone; even after years of this, as well as of years of hearing his wife weep and children groan--it held onto him strong, bringing about, eventually, the final tragedy: divorce.

Not many months after this, he was admitted into Teen Challenge Brooklyn, a Christian drug rehabilitation center. And not long after that, during one of the early morning chapel services, surrounded by like cases, it happened: all the love that this wasted soul could ever dream of knowing broke forth in furious rage, all over him, as he stretched out his arms in repentance, receiving Christ as his personal savior and redeemer. Immediately, the tyranny of the addiction over him was conquered as he stood a drug-free, addiction-free and forgiven new creature.

Today, by the mercy and grace of God, Samuel has been restored to his family. He is an Ordained minister of Jesus Christ who has a passion for God and for people. He is a Board Certified Pastoral Counselor and a Board Certified Advanced Christian Life Coach who delights relating God's love and truth in human relationships. His heart's passion is helping people experience the

transforming truth of biblical principles in their relationships. This passion for helping others comes from his own experience with the deep and painful consequences of a failed life; a life void of love, nurture, and healthy relationships. And this failed life lead to all kinds of addictions, fears, and cycles of failure. He is now a man fully stored and growing into the man God created him to be who has a deep desire to help others out of their place of suffering and pain. He especially loves building men up because of his own personal struggle with forging a true masculine heart.

He lives in Reston, Virginia, with his wife Evelyn where they raised their two sons and daughter; Erick, Sami and Diana. There, he leads a thriving counseling practice, Real Life Counseling, LLC ([www.RealLifeCounseling.Biz](http://www.RealLifeCounseling.Biz).) where he provides counseling to individuals, couples, and families dealing with a wide variety of issues, including marital and family problems, dealing with difficult people, and building healthy relationships.

Most recently he served as the Executive Director of Teen Challenge, a Christian drug rehabilitation center and the place of his new birth. He served as the Spiritual Director to the Latino Pastors of the Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of The Nazarene and of the Community of Hope, a Nazarene Compassionate Ministry helping the poor and homeless, while also being the Urban Missionary in Washington DC. Until June 30, 2003, he served as the Senior Pastor of the Inner-city Congregation of Christian Fellowship Church (New Hope Community Church) which he founded. He was also the Founder and Director of the Hope Center, the inner-city outreach and community-development arm of the mother church Christian Fellowship Church, on whose staff he served since 1991. The Hope Center is composed of Christian Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Programs for the Capital's disenfranchised, Temporary Housing and Feeding for the Homeless, GED and Computer classes, Drug Counseling, Bible studies, and an

array of other social services programs that continue to help meet the people's needs in the community in a practical way.

Samuel is a 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Masters Level) and Licensed Karate Teacher. He also founded the accredited Kick Drugs Karate School--which later lead to his Induction into the World Christian Martial Arts Hall of Fame for his Christ-like ministry to troubled youth in New York, Northern Virginia and Washington DC Ghettos. He holds Masters of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry degrees.

Indeed, not only has Samuel's life been transformed, but his life has been fashioned into a vessel of the greatest honor that can flow through a man: that of being able to serve his Savior passionately, his family rightly, and his community selflessly, thereby helping to meet the real-world needs of the hurting around him.