Darryl Handley

**Life Story of Darryl Handley**

**Early Memories**

I remember my brothers telling me stories about being in Tillar and not being big enough to pick cotton. Since I was too small, I had to sit on the back of the cotton sack and watch while my older brothers picked cotton.

**Education**

In 1966, I moved to Pine Bluff and enrolled in Coleman Elementary School for the second grade. My teacher was Mrs. Mallette, and I thought she was so mean at the time.

Between the ages of seven and ten, when school was out, our dad required us to write multiplication numbers daily—starting from 1 through 12 in the first month and moving up to 16 as the summer went on.

**Faith and Church Life**

I remember going to church every Sunday without a choice. Dad was a deacon at Union Hopewell, and through his influence, I became the secretary of the Sunday School, a position I held for three years.

A few summers later, BTU started, and while everyone else enjoyed free time, I had to attend every summer. At the time, I didn’t understand why, but now I do—because I am a deacon myself today.

**Family Influence**

My mother was unlike anyone else—soft, loving, and always giving. Dad was firm and disciplined. If I ever needed anything, I could always ask Mom. If she didn’t have it, she would call some of her sons who were doing well, and they would provide whatever was needed.

**Blessings**

My greatest gifts of all are my two precious daughters: **Candice L. Handley** and **Jazmine D. Handley**.

I thank God for my parents, who gave me faith and guidance. I also thank Him for my siblings—Dollie, “Mott,” and “Sis”—who have been God’s continuing blessings in my life.