Joshua Handley

**Life Story of Joshua Handley**

**Early Life**

I was the tenth child out of sixteen children and was born at home in Tillar, Arkansas, with **Sweet Ola James** serving as the midwife.

I was given the nickname **“Juice”** because I loved to drink sorghum. There were times when I stayed home to work the fields, because there was no one else to do it and Daddy made us.

Growing up, I did not have a love for school until the seventh grade. Holidays were always plentiful in food, though not many gifts.

**Moving to Pine Bluff**

On February 17, 1967, our family moved to Pine Bluff in a big old red truck. We lived in a three-bedroom home, with two to three children sharing a bed. Despite those conditions, we were grateful for what we had—and in fact, we were very happy.

**Education**

I graduated **number two in my class** of more than 100 students at Coleman High School.

I attended **AM&N College** (which became the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1972) from 1970 to 1974, earning a **B.A. degree in Mathematics**.

Later, I pursued graduate studies and obtained a **Master’s degree in Education** from the **University of Arkansas at Fayetteville**.

**Career in Education**

I began my teaching career in the fall of 1974, teaching 7th through 12th grade mathematics in Altheimer, Arkansas.

After my first year of teaching, I underwent open brain surgery in the summer of 1975.

I continued to serve in education and retired from teaching in the **Pine Bluff School District** in 2010.

**Later Years**

Now retired, I am enjoying life and giving thanks to God for each day He blesses me with.