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### Reginal Young

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation

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# Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**

Reginal Young

**Interviewer:**

Lea Cash

**Interview Date:**

October 20, 2016

**Interview Location:**

Rialto, California

**Interview Summary completed by:**

Karissa Fullner and Makaley Montano, 2021-2022

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**Description:**

Reginal Young was born in 1960 in Oklahoma City. Growing up in the projects of Oklahoma, he developed a passion for education as well as an awareness of his identity as a Black American. Later on, he came to California in 1981 and attended The National Education Center in San Bernardino. He became highly involved in his community and started his own company in 1986. Nonetheless in 1989, he fell into substance abuse and was incarcerated. While serving 3 months in jail, he gave his life to God and found a new purpose in serving his community. In this interview, Young discusses his experiences of helping his community through business and financial services for Black companies and churches. He also shares his religious journey and how it encourages him to help others in the community. Reginal discusses the importance of knowing where you came from and connecting his roots to Africa. Through his faith, passion for the black cause, and business skills, Young was able to make a profound impact in his community.

**Subject Topic:**

- San Bernardino
- Education
- Accounting

- Church
- God
- Micro Data Information Systems (MDIS)
- Computer programming
- Family
- Africa
- Incarceration
- Black newspapers
- Black rallies
- Black Panthers
- Black organizations
- Activism
- Business
- Non-profits
- Minority businesses
- Economic empowerment

**Spatial Coverage:**

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
Temple missionary Baptist Church	1583 W Union St, San Bernardino, CA 92411
National Educational Center (collage)	San Bernardino, CA
Building site for houses	Ghana
Boys and Girls Club	n/a
Principles of Faith Christian Church	n/a
Church of Nazarene	n/a
Trinity Mission, Church of God in Christ	n/a
Norton Airforce Base	San Bernardino, CA

**Temporal Coverage:**

- 1960-2004

**Key Events:**

- Worked with Westside Story Newspaper
- Opened up Business accounting firm, MDIS
- Incarceration: teach Bible study, set up tutoring classes, compound clerk
- Accountant at Temple Missionary Baptist Church
- Started webpage called African history - explains experiences in Africa
- Mission Africa: Worked in Africa for 20 years

**Key Organizations:**

- West Side Story newspaper
- Boys and Girls club
- Mission Africa
- National Urban League
- Emmanuel Alliance, Christian Missionary Alliance Church
- Inland Valley News
- WAG (Westside Action Group)
- Gnuoy Community Development Corporation
- Foreign Ministry
- San Bernardino Pastors United

**Interview Index:**

<b>Media Format</b>	<b>Time (hh:mm:ss)</b>	<b>Topic Discussed</b>
Digital Video	[00:02:13]	Early life passions/experiences in Oklahoma and Childhood
Digital Video	[00:06:09]	Discusses reasons for moving to CO and CA and his college experience
Digital Video	[00:08:12]	Connections and community involvement made during his beginning years in SB
Digital Video	[00:12:45]	His experience while incarceration and the impact that had on his religious journey
Digital Video	[00:22:07]	Discussed in length different organizations he has worked with and name drops often

Digital Video	[00:24:23]	Training program and protocols to help other Black community members with accounting and business
Digital Video	[00:26:33]	Emphasizing the importance of knowing one's roots and his personal connections to Africa
Digital Video	[00:29:10]	Gives reason for why he wants to return to Africa and receive Dual Citizenship + difficulties in leaving behind the community in San Bernardino
Digital Video	[00:34:13]	How his company started and the purpose of it, branches formed from MDIS
Digital Video	[00:39:42]	Advice to younger generations
Digital Video	[00:42:19]	Leaves packet of information of interviewer

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

## Interview Transcript

### **Start of Interview:**

[00:00:00]

**Reginal Young** [00:00:01] OK.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:00:02] OK.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:00:07] Today's date is October 20th, 2016. My name is Leah Michelle Cash, and I'm interviewing Reginal Young, for the archiving history in the Inland Empire Project, his or her name is spelled. Can you spell your full name?

**Reginal Young** [00:00:28] Yes, thank you, Reginal Young R-e-g-i-n-a-l last name Young Y-o-u-n-g

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:00:36] Thank you. We are interviewing here at the home of Wilma Carter in the city of Rialto. Thank you, Mr. Young, for taking the time to conduct this interview with us.

**Reginal Young** [00:00:52] Yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:00:52] So what we're going to do is get started on the beginning. Can you tell us a little bit about your early life?

**Reginal Young** [00:01:02] Yes. First of all, we wanted to go to the heart of my life. God means God means everything to me, but to our God I'm nothing. Secondly, I like to just think Amina and her staff and just move this, putting on the archiving of African-American history so important that we record our history in third. I'd like to thank God for my wife Lisa and my daughter's Tarica and Ashley. And then, of course, my mother Shirley, they are the fruit of my eye love them, an apple of my eye. And then finally, I was blessed enough with the community and the pastors. My pastor, I serve under is Dr. Browdy, Principles of Faith Church.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:02:01] OK, so, Mr. Young, give us a little bit about your early life, your childhood, where you were born, where you went to school, things that you did as a child.

**Reginal Young** [00:02:11] Sure.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:02:12] Early life.

**Reginal Young** [00:02:13] I was born in 1960 in Oklahoma City. My mother and father, they were from Texas, Paris, Texas. They migrated from Texas to Oklahoma. I was raised in Oklahoma City. Again, I'm a city boy, but I was raised in the country. You don't hear me. So I learn both aspects of life at an early age. We moved to a project in Oklahoma City. That's where I learned how to really survive. Black people at that time really had it difficult, and again, as a child, I was raised with my mother. I didn't really know my father much. My brother, Mike Young. He went on to be with the Lord in 2004. We grew up together at that time, me and him. We were very blessed to be smart. He was like a 4.0 GPA. I was three point. I've always tried to out do him, but what kept us out of trouble was the fact that we grew up and we loved academics. But we was also involved in street life. So we learned both aspects of it. But one thing that we did, we both had paper routes at an early age. I learned how to get up early in the morning, go through my paper route, then get ready to go to school. So at an early age, I learned about economics and money and dealing with people. From this point on, though, I learned pretty much that knowledge is power. If you can get a book, read it and you can become anything you want. We learned in early age when most kids were doing pranks, me and my brother, who was in our books learning how to make certain things happen. We started working with computers in 1978. My brother, in matter of fact, he started a bulletin board before the Internet and that was the way that computers communicated. We worked with a Commodore 64 k never would forget it, saying that to say an early age. We appreciate academics, but also we had our bad side. We would get into mischief and try to get through life with shortcuts. But again, that taught me how to really be a man.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:04:39] OK, so what was the name of the elementary school or middle school or high school that you went too? And did you have a favorite teacher? Were you in sports?

**Reginal Young** [00:04:49] At Lincoln Elementary was the elementary school we attended. We went to class in high school, attended school there, we excelled in everything. My brother was brilliant with academics. He came second nature to us. As a child, I didn't know my father. My mother was an alcoholic and me and brother pretty much raised ourselves. But we learned, through, my mother always made us go to church. I can never forget it. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. She made us go to the Church of Nazarene and even though we didn't like it, we went. And that was embedded in us at an early age. As I grew up, I understood God and I understood how to use him. Even though I was doing bad things, I knew God. Saying that to say, I learned a lot with working on the streets and trying to make it. But as I grew up, went to

high school, three point GPA and then college here in California, I left Oklahoma. Well, actually, my brother, he left Oklahoma. He went to the military and I ended up following him, going out to Denver, Colorado. And then from there we came out to California in 1981. I followed him out here. Then at that time I went to College and that was at National Education Center, Scaddan Campus.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:06:31] OK, so when you say you came to California, where in California and where was the college that you attended?

**Reginal Young** [00:06:40] Well, I came out in 1981. My brother had already been out here two years. He was stationed over at Lowry, Norton Air Force Base. I'm sorry. And again, when I came out from Oklahoma in 78, I end up coming in and started attending Scaddan Campus at that time. Then they turned it into a national education center where I took business education.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:07:07] Located?

**Reginal Young** [00:07:08] In San Bernardino.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:07:10] In San Bernardino.

**Reginal Young** [00:07:10] Yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:07:11] Ok, so that is your connection how you arrived into San Bernardino?

**Reginal Young** [00:07:16] Yes, that's how it all really started for me. As far as in San Bernardino, me and my brother, I always go back to my brother Mike because he's the one who convinced me to come out here to California. I love Colorado, Denver, Colorado. We had Rocky Mountains when I came to California. I moved, resided in San Bernardino County in the city, and we had the foothills. It was a big change for me, you know, it was big difference. But again, San Bernardino grew on me. Yeah, it grew up on us a lot.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:07:51] And so now moving to San Bernardino, what were some of the beginning things that you were attaching yourself to that you began to understand in the struggle and for equality within San Bernardino that you really started reaching out to?

**Reginal Young** [00:08:12] Funny you say that when we came out to California, to San Bernardino, me and my brother to come here, we was always into black causes is I share with you before we started throwing newspapers, The Daily Oklahoma. But we also attached ourselves with black newspapers, The Black Dispatch. There was a couple other ones, but that was always our niche because we enjoyed information. We understood that black community could only be empowered through coming together and helping each other out. We kept it even as kids coming up. We was always into our blackness. God gave us that in coming out here. One individual in particular that really galvanized our concern for black community was Ratibu, my brother, Mike Young. He met, Ratibu. They hit it off like that because Ratibu was black consciousness. Again, our desire at that time was connect black businesses. And Ratibu was working to create a business service directory. And we just clicked like that. And from that standpoint, our desire was to work with other black businesses. We were still working with the West Side Story newspaper Wallace Allen this is back in 1986. Again, Wallace Allen, West Side Story newspaper publisher. He became like an uncle brother to me and him is like that. I couldn't do too much without consulting Wallace, but saying that to say he was offering to his National Urban League to help also our black community. So when I first came out here, I was thrust into the minority community to help our people. But one thing that happened, you know what it was, it's hard to work with black people who are struggling because they don't have a lot, so you have to teach them how to get X amount so they can, you know better themselves. Well, that was our challenge because it's hard to teach people who are resistant to change, who are stuck in the system. And that's the way it was for us. So what we decided to do was practice what we preach. We start implementing our own business program. We develop our own business accounting firm. My brother became an agent and a broker. We opened up a second company, which is actually funding group at that time. And then at that point, we started taking on black businesses to be our clients. And then churches and then other small businesses to learn how to set up corporations, learn how to do grant funding, learn how to make sure your fiscal was on point as you move forward to make sure that you're a good steward of what God trusted you with. Because after all these things we go through, we learn that it is God who blessed us to be able to do the things we do. So we have to be good stewards of that. So that's what we did as a result of our infancy in San Bernardino, working to develop our company in 1986. But again, I had a dark side too. Yes, ha! Did I say dark side? Because one thing about me I learned is that I know that finances is very critical to your operation. As a youth, I always wanted to get money fast and you learn that, you know, quick, fast money is not the right way to do it.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:11:35] I hear that a lot with my students. They want to get money fast.

**Reginal Young** [00:11:38] Quickly.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:11:39] Quickly.

**Reginal Young** [00:11:40] So you learn the hard way that that's not the correct thing to do. Saying that to say God had to teach me that the hard way, even though I was knowledgeable in the Lord , very bright a 3.0 GPA, I had to bump my head to learn that. Oh, no, no, no, no, no. You have to go through things the proper way. You have to put God first. You have to understand that it's not yours. It's the Lord's. You got to understand that you don't love money, but you use money as a resource to do things that God might have you to do. So after I learned incorrectly in 89 through drinking, smoking, you know, going that route, God had to wake me up, by putting me in jail and then eventually being incarcerated. That's why I rededicated my life to Christ. At that point in 1987, my life was changed. It was a metamorphic that came over me.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:12:40] How are you. How, how long were you there in jail?

**Reginal Young** [00:12:44] For only about three months.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:12:45] Three months

**Reginal Young** [00:12:45] In jail. But when I went to jail though I was going to commit suicide. But God came to me in a small voice said Reginal, you can try anything I want you give your life to me. So I gave my life to Christ that night. I remember. And I met the next morning the chaplain, Don Ellis. Don Ellis, you know, he prayed with me. And at that time I was still, you know, in my sin, but I came out of it. So when I got out of jail, God put me under wise people and then I learn the fundamentals of the faith. In 87-88. I sit under a man by the name of Bohamed Atioseph Ethiopian, sent from Ethiopia to preach the gospel. He learned at International School of Theology. I saw it. And he eventually created Emmanuel Alliance, Christian Missionary Alliance Church, and I sit under him for about three years. But then I had to go back into jail because of the crime that I had committed. Don't you know God used me miraculously when I went back into jail because I was filled with the Holy Ghost. I was able to go there and teach Bible study, set up tutoring classes, and God used me as a compound clerk. It was one of the most powerful times in my life. After I came out of that scenario, God put me with seasoned leaders and then the rest is history. I came back to work for our company. It then understood what God might had me to do, learn accounting through the county I worked with the county for six years, work with their budget over thirty million dollars. I asked God to show me how I can use that same training in my own company. After I prayed that prayer and believed God, God enable me to work for my own company. And

we start doing extremely well from thirty six thousand a year, God bless me to over one hundred thousand dollars a year.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:14:48] So a lot of people pray that prayer. And so therefore. One of the one of the things is, is that walking in harmony with that prayer, that you pray so that you can receive the blessings. So at that time, your heart was ready. And so in the process of your heart becoming ready to be a better person and a better man, what do you think, looking at your community at large and the responsibility that is placed on an African-American man to be a mentor, to be a role model, to be a lover of God? How did that all fit into play for you?

**Reginal Young** [00:15:39] Well, that's a good question. Being that I didn't know my father, I end up having a close relationship with God as a child. Matter of fact, I always tell people that I have more of an edge on you because my relationship with Christ as a kid, he helped me to.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:15:57] He was your father.

**Reginal Young** [00:15:58] He was my father. And I didn't really have a biological father. So I always went to him as a kid. I remember I always wanted to read to read. I said I read to read I'd be smarter. And that really struck me as a kid saying that to say as I get older, I still operate in the precepts that Christ with my father and I can go to him for anything. But I had to learn that I am a steward with what God trusted me with. And again, that's what our men need to understand, that we are God's instrument and we're tools to be used by him. But we can be filthy and cluttered up with stuff that we had to be sincere about our efforts to serve. And that's what God showed me, that I've always been an advocate for justice and equality. I believe that's why I became an accountant, because I always want to make things balance out. I always want to make things right. That's one thing about me. My mother would take me to the store as a kid. She would tell me to add it all up. I would know what it would be, you know, at the end of the session. And that's what happened with me as I grew up. I'm always trying to ascertain things making sure things balance out. So as I work in the community, you see so much inequality with our black man being treated like they do with the homeless situation, prostitution, you see a lot of crime so much. And so it inspires you to want to use your gifting to be a blessing in the community. I always look at being in San Bernardino as an outsider, looking in because I'm from Oklahoma. God enabled me to be here for the period of time, for a season to do a work here in this area. But I again, believe that it's. I love Dr. Martin Luther King. Let me say that first. He's my mentor. I mimic everything I do based on Dr. King's life because he used social gospel to impact change.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:17:53] Well that was going to be one of my questions, who did you actually look up to you know that you're a lover of God? But is there someone that you actually looked up to and that you tried to model

**Reginal Young** [00:18:09] My grandmother, Martha Thomas, she loved the Lord. She can pray to the Holy Ghost like you never would believe. When I came to visit her when I was a kid, I always wanted to pray like her because she would like get into the spirit. She can spit some stuff up. And, you know, that she done heard from God. And that's what I always prayed and I could, you know, operate in that zeal. I want to play with the power of God. I want to have it and demonstrated. And that's how Dr. King was. I still remember my grandmother always had his albums on he preaching in the back of us when we came up. That's all we had was this church and the gospel songs. And we've had albums that we had to listen to. It was she's always prayed Dr. King, never forget that. So that's a big impression on me as a kid. So as I grew up, I said, no, no, no, no, no. I want to be like Dr. King because he used the word of God to make change and he used the word God to impact equality for all. He used the black race as a model, but everybody benefited from the work of the civil rights struggle. As I move forward in 2015-2016 I tell people it's hard for me to keep talking about I have a dream because we are living the dream. We realize the dream. We have walked through the dream. I can't keep talking to people about.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:19:39] We're living, we're realizing, we're walking through. We're actually doing it.

**Reginal Young** [00:19:43] Yes. I can't keep talking about kumbaya because he already came by here. Can't keep on singing those songs. So in 2015-2016 we're operating in the power of God. Again, as God transformed my life, I seen the power of God. So he told me in a vision of what to do for us churches that I work with. I work with 50 churches now, he said, bring them all together in unity and enable us to bring our income together so we can go back into the community that are those that are disadvantaged, not just minorities and blacks, but anyone that's underserved in the community.

**Reginal Young** [00:20:24] And that's our ministry

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:20:25] Because that's the dream.

**Reginal Young** [00:20:26] Yes. Yes, but yes, ma'am. Dr. King. Malcolm X. Nelson Mandela. Marcus Garvey. Of course, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman. All of these men and women, they we stand on the work that they did. That's one thing that I got presented

upon me is to do the things that I do is to make sure I remember this outcome in the shoulders that I stand on because I'm not a Lone Ranger. I'm not in this by myself. And I have a lot to be proud of. And that's why I work so hard. I even came to the realization that, first of all, my company is very successful. We gross maybe 250, almost 300,000 a year. And the firm tried to want to purchase. My company it offered me X amount and I thought it was an insult because you can't if I were to sell our company, it would be in the millions. If you want to buy my company it's an insult to offer me three hundred thousand dollars, because of the impact that we have on the community is much greater. And my prayer now is to be able to go back and serve in the community. I'm a good steward of my county and my business. But what's important to me is restoring God's people, making sure that the body of Christ is walk in unity, making sure we can as the body put on the whole armor God and, you know, walk in the fruit of the spirit and impact change.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:22:07] So now you spoke about bringing all of the churches together and in the civil rights of walking and talking, seeing and experiencing equality. Under the dream, let's say, what are some of the other organizations that you have worked with?

**Reginal Young** [00:22:32] Yes, that's a good question. You ask good questions. I work with many organizations. It is so, so, so, so a privilege and a blessing to be able to work and sit under the men and women that I sit under, as I shared with you initially, Wilma Amina Carter, Honorable Assembly Woman, I've served with her from 2006 to 2012, I work with Bohaman Atioseph, an Ethiopian theologian who has a Ph.D. now in psychology because he lectures. Sit under him for four years, worked with Pastor Raymond Turner. Matter of fact, I am the staff accountant over at Temple Missionary Baptist Church at this time. Worked with St. Paul AME Church with Reverend Norman Copeland worked with Wallace Allen, Westside Story newspaper. Tommy Morel with Inland Valley News. Work with Ratibu was very instrumental in me having the zeal to work in our community.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:23:37] With WAG?

**Reginal Young** [00:23:37] With WAG. Through WAG and Alton Garrett through WAG and Amond Jottie through Boys and Girls Club and the Doctor Beckley with a with Ecclesia Christian Center. Mr. Ward who went off to be with the Lord, last week at um

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:23:58] Is he New Hope ? No?

**Reginal Young** [00:23:59] No he's with the Trinity Mission, Church of God in Christ, work with over 50 churches from Principles of Faith Christian Center Dr. Many Browdy, to a Dr. Acodo Somney with Mission Africa, 2,000 practical believers in Christ through Reginal Woods in Life Changing ministries from. I mean, the list goes on just about 50 organizations that I worked closely with at this time.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:24:23] So did you have you ever had, like, trainings or provide some teaching for, you know, those who wanted to understand and do the accounting experience? Because you really have to be pretty special to do accounting.

**Reginal Young** [00:24:39] God is a privilege for me to work with over 50 churches. I gathered my knowledge in working and learning at National Education Center Scanden campus as a business major and accounting major. I took those courses and then the practical application taught and trained me and taught me how to train others through procedures and principles. That's one thing that I learned in understanding accounting. It's not adding up numbers is procedure and principles. So wherever I go, I set up procedure and principle.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:25:14] Oh, ok.

**Reginal Young** [00:25:15] To implement some programs and protocols.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:25:19] So there is teaching and training in those?

**Reginal Young** [00:25:20] Yes as a rule of thumb, is I go anywhere. I found the general rule of thumb is every business have an accounting format that needs to be applied. And I don't care if it be a barber shop to a bakery. You have a general ledger and you have protocols. And that's what I've learned. I've learned how to go to church and set a procedure. So if I'm not here that they will work their procedures. When I come in monthly or quarterly, I make sure things are in place. And again, these are the precepts that Jesus taught us also that I implemented as I move forward in that county preceptor. I walk in and that's where I work so hard to connect the body of Christ with the churches. I believe that we are walking together. That we're connected by dots and my prayer is through physicality connect us back together to do specific missions.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:26:13] Excellent. So one of the things that's checked off here is about African heritage. Well, tell us, do you have you researched your African heritage or what is it that you feel regarding our African heritage that you'd like to share with anyone watching this?

**Reginal Young** [00:26:33] Let me say this. If you don't know where you come from, you don't know where you're going. In order to know where you're going you got to know where you come from. As a child, I understood that I was a black American and I believe that I came from Africa through the slave trade. So that was embedded in me that I'm from Africa. It always it hurt me to see our people suffer so hard. It hurt me to no end. So I always had in my heart to be able to help our people as a kid. It was always in my heart and I've always trusted God to give me the ability to do and help our people. So therefore, I'm always connected in with community activities, black rallies, Black Panther. I mean, I'm black, OK? However, God had to change me when I went through the prison scenario. God said, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. I understand where you come, however, you must love all people because again, we're Christians we. Our spirit fill people. So we're beings from Christ. Saying that to say, I still understand my traditions, my history, so I always gravitated to African people, my first mentor was Bahommad Joseph from Ethiopia. After I sit on the hand for a period of time, I end up working with Dr. Kodo Samni from Ghana, West Africa, sit on him for about eight years. His mission is to bridge the gap between Africans and African-Americans. Since the year 2000, we sent over 700 church pastors and persons from the Inland Empire to Ghana, West Africa. We built two city churches, three village churches, an orphanage. We built a hotel. We built houses. We established great relationships in Ghana, West Africa. To this day, Dr. Kodo Samni comes and visits. He's here now. Saying that to say, I set up a Web page, I call it. African history, history, which is my story, Eight with an upper uppercase, and I always use that page to mimic all my experiences with things of Africa, and it's just so helpful for me to move forward. My prayer is to eventually have dual citizenship and have my home built in Africa.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:29:04] Ooo have dual citizenship?

**Reginal Young** [00:29:05] Yes, that's my prayer.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:29:06] And have your home built in Africa.

**Reginal Young** [00:29:08] Yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:29:09] Won't that be amazing?

**Reginal Young** [00:29:10] That's going to happen in 2017 or 2018. I have projected it by the grace of God working with Dr. Kodo Sumni. Dr. Kodo Sumni now his goal is to bridge the gap between African Americans and Africans, as well as restore African persons from each of the different nations of Africa. It's an ongoing mission. He started with nothing, and now we have several facilities and his own television. He implemented

National Prayer Day, where he goes to the parliament once a year. And the Mission Africa, they gave they gave him a national holiday. Saying that to say, Dr. Sumni will like this. He's always encouraged me, please come home. And see, that's one thing I haven't done. After I done work in Africa 20 years and I haven't been back yet. So that's my prayer in 2017-2018 is to go there and continue to work.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:14] So you did go to Ghana?

**Reginal Young** [00:30:15] No, I haven't.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:16] You haven't gone at all?

**Reginal Young** [00:30:18] I haven't gone at all. And I was supposed to go on many occasions, but I'm so, so, so committed to what I do here. It's hard to leave.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:24] Yes. In that plane in getting ready for that plane ride.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:28] Yes. Yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:30] More than a notion.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:32] Haha, yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:32] Because I have visited I didn't go to Ghana, but I went to Kenya.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:38] Kenya.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:38] Kenya.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:39] Yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:40] And once you go on that plane.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:45] Yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:47] You're so thankful you that got there. Yeah. Yeah. Because you can do basically is really cry.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:55] Cry.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:56] Because you're so happy.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:57] Yes.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:30:59] You're so happy.

**Reginal Young** [00:30:59] And that's what Dr. (Sunbi) Tells me.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:31:01] Yes. And it's true. That's very true. So that more than likely will happen to you.

**Reginal Young** [00:31:06] Yes. I may not come back to San Bernardino, Rialto, but I'm just I'm joking. Of course, my heart is with my community and I eventually will go back to Oklahoma and then Texas. I first established various branch offices nationwide and my brother Mike Young wanted to be with the Lord in 2004. I always put him still with me as I do things, because MDIS is our company. He started it and this is his vision. I expanded it when we worked together. We were doing 150. I have expanded it to 200/300 thousand. I was going to give up the company. But no, God said, no, no, no, no, no work it. And I'll show you what we can do

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:31:47] because I understand that there probably was a huge blow to your heart.

**Reginal Young** [00:31:51] Yes, being my only brother

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:31:53] with your brother.

**Reginal Young** [00:31:54] Yes, it was life changing. But like you said, though, I have a lot to be thankful for, to work toward. And my family, my wife and my children.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:32:07] See now, we're getting to that. You know, the family history, you know, when you got married and how have things changed for you with building a family and all of that stuff that you would like to share.

**Reginal Young** [00:32:22] My wife, Lisa Young, we got married in 1991. That's after the period of time in my life where I came to know the Lord in '86. As matter of fact, I received the gift of the Holy Spirit in '87. I could remember the dates and my life had changed and I prayed and trusted God for different things because I came out of prison. My life was like a whole new slate and then got - it's miraculous. Everything thing in my

life is a miracle. I should be dead. I should have died twice. But God saved me. No, seriously, I am so serious. God saved me,.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:33:02] I know you are.

**Reginal Young** [00:33:04] For such a time as this. And he gave the desires of my heart to the wife and my wife Lisa. Again, how we married it had to have been God because we didn't supposed to get married. But it was miraculous. So saying that to say we get married in '91 and we've been married since. We've been very happy to be married. My wife, had two children prior to me marrying her and I accepted them as my children. I don't have any biological children, God didn't bless me with the biological children. So I have a heart for all children. In matter fact I started so many programs for children and men. But I'm saying that to say my heart is in the family, my mother, Shirley Cupper, she's still with us. She's 77, spirit filled Christian, serving at the same Pastor Brown at a church in San Bernardino. Again, she loves the Lord. My family is everything to me.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:34:05] So now on the business, what was the name of the business and where was it located or did it have several locations?

**Reginal Young** [00:34:13] My business is 30 years old. My brother, Mike Young, started a company in 1986, MDIS, we stand for Micro Data Information Systems. Micro Data Information System is a fancy way of saying computer processing. We learned at an early age that knowledge is power. I think I share that with you. If you know anything, if you know things, you can and are learn things are and or get a book, you can become so powerful and we can do that as kids. When we came back here to San Bernardino, these people here do it backwards. They weren't really that fast. So when we started doing the things we did, our prayer was to really help our community out. Not that we were all that, but God had his blessings at a higher calling now, honestly. So our company was birthed. My brother said we'd never do good with taxes, helping people personally because everybody did it. Well, I had a rule of thumb and the foresight to know that if I got enough clients that I would be able to do pretty decent. And the same thing with bookkeeping. If I had enough people doing the books for them, I could do very decent. And so that's what God enabled us to do in our infancy in 1986 through '89, we implemented MDIS. Secondarily my brother Mike, he started a real estate company called Equity Funding Group, and that was birth in about 1995. He eventually got a real estate brokers license did extremely well. And then also we started our own nonprofit. I call it Gnuoy Community Development Corporation, which is young spelled backwards. Gnuoy CDC, which was started in 2001, Mike went onto be with the Lord in 2004

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:35:54] And the purpose of the nonprofit?

**Reginal Young** [00:35:57] The purpose of the nonprofit. Again, the nonprofit serves many purposes. The first thing it does is an economic empowerment movement. When we first came to California, our goal was to help minority businesses to better themselves. We work with government contracts, but in order to get a government contract. You had to be certified as a minority business, so in order to get certified you had to fill out an application, so we developed it as a service to help minority businesses get contracts with the government. We became so very well with it. We put it out and created a nonprofit with it.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:36:36] OK.

**Reginal Young** [00:36:37] And then from their birth other ministries, we birth the small business job creation division, we birth treasurer of the Foreign Ministry, which is the ministry God gave me. And that's an outreach ministry, I call it, out of the pulpit, into the streets. And then we also created a computer division microdata information system, it does computer processing.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:37:08] You guys were pretty busy.

**Reginal Young** [00:37:09] We have five divisions it was working out of. Again and then we always aspire to get the big contracts. So we have enough funds that will fund our project to help the community. That's been always our prayer is to get enough money so we can support our vision to help the community.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:37:29] To help the community.

**Reginal Young** [00:37:30] And then my brother, he passed in 2004. It was a very, very hard thing for me. And then God gave me more inspiration to he told me to excel.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:37:39] To keep it moving forward

**Reginal Young** [00:37:42] Yes. He said, son, I will use that seed has been planted in the ground to birth future vision. And that's what he did, my brother being deceased. I used MD real estate scholarship fund to keep his name and remember his name was M.D. I use MD a lot, by the way, in different acronyms for various other businesses that I've started which stand for million dollars also. That's what Mike's nickname was, million dollars. But I'm saying that to say, that's been our aspirations to use business services to help the community. I have learn governmental accounting. I learn real

estate accounting, corporate tax accounting, and budgetary accounting, all aspects of accounting and I have aspired to be a blessing to businesses and politicians. That's how I started working with Amina because of my background in accounting. Ratibu, referred me to work with Amina. But prior to Ratibu referring her, pastor, Raymond Turner, asked me to work with her for the confirmation and then still working with the media and assisted her during that period of time.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:38:57] OK, so in the struggle and in the sacrifice. With being an African-American man, what would you say to the young generation today if they looked at this video 10 years from now, 15 years from now, what would they say or what would you say to questions? What do you want to say to them? And what would they say you feel about you? Was your greatest achievement that they can look at and honor?

**Reginal Young** [00:39:42] That's a good question. And I'm reminded of Solomon he says, all that's chasing the wind, you know, not where it comes, you know, not where it goes. If you don't know God, you don't have anything, that's the bottom line to it. The whole scenario. Without God, forget it. Don't even try to do nothing. Stay under mommies wing and daddies shoulder, because I've learned that to live is to serve and to die is much gain. So even when I die, the stuff that God has given me will move forward because of the legacy that we leave forward. My prayer for young people is that they don't look at things from a microwave standpoint because that's what I find is the case everybody wants to get things real fast and real quick, but that's not going to work. They need to hold fast to what God bless them with their natural abilities and work with what they got. But they must accept Christ into their hearts so they become able to live forever. Because one thing that they need to understand is that I don't care what your color is, you are a child of God and you gonna one day go back to your father. So live your life is a living testimony of what you want to be shown to you once you get there because we're going to meet our maker. And one thing I like to say also is that, make no mistake, I'm a Christian, but I would defend my family to the death. Make no mistake, I am a Christian, but don't mess with me. I am a fierce adversary. Make no mistake. That I'm very concerned about unity in the family of Christ and that we must help one another because he's coming back, so we need to make sure that were about our father's business more than anything else. But again, I'm a fierce adversary. Don't mess with me. And that's why I tell them to think that. So they have the audacity to believe that they can do anything, but they aren't themselves. They belong to Christ. And that's what I will share with them.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:42:08] OK, well, thank you, Mr. Reginal Young, again for this interview.

**Reginal Young** [00:42:17] Thank you.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:42:17] And we are so glad to have you.

**Reginal Young** [00:42:19] Yes, it was my pleasure. And like I said, prior to even sitting down, I took the liberty to create a packet of information. I'm going to leave with you, as I shared with you, that San Bernardino Pastors United is a group that God had called together to help restore the depressed families in San Bernardino. Then also, God gave me Pastor Ordaine with Economic Readiness, which is a pastor unity program where we're putting our money together to help the community. And then also God gave me to give you my stewardship teaching for my ministry, Treasure of the Heart. And then finally I write everything down and make it plain. It's so important that we write it down. Brothers committed to the cause. This is one of the pet projects that God gave me because I didn't know my father have a heart for men who don't know their father, and my prayer is to have them come up. I have a five point program, but it's all based on finances.

**Reginal Young** [00:43:24] So.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:43:26] Did you ever did you ever try to find him or look for him or look for any of his other children or, you know, anything about his life?

**Reginal Young** [00:43:36] Oh, yes, I know the background. My father I know the whole history. I did my research, but God told me it was very important for him to find me, not for me to find him. So I left that alone. That's a God thing I don't get in God's business. That's one thing I've learned over the years. God, he'll figure that he'll work it out. But until that time, I've learned that I'm still learning. And that's one thing about me. I'm not unteachable and that's my prayer for young people to they never stop being teachable. That's so important. But I'm learning things still that I can help people out are men or women. But that's my prayer, though, to live, to serve is a guy's great game.

**Leah Michelle Cash** [00:44:17] So we thank you, Mr. Young.

**Reginal Young** [00:44:18] Thank you.

**End of Interview:**  
[00:44:20]