Did you know that…

1. Reverend Cameron Madison Alexander was a Saxophone Player before he became a Preacher.

1. The young Reverend Alexander was invited as the “Guest Preacher” the Sunday before the Congregation was set to vote on Antioch’s next Spiritual Leader. His first sermon was entitled “There is a Man in Town.” Now we know that God, in His Infinite Wisdom, had already chosen and brought “The Man” in town to fill the void in His Pulpit here at Antioch.
2. When Reverend Alexander arrived in 1969, there were less than 500 members. Since then, Antioch has grown to include over 12,000 members! Many of its members travel great distances each Sunday to hear God’s Words from the self-described “Paper Boy” as he proclaims the Goodness of the Lord.
3. In 1990, Antioch‘s newly-constructed, multi-million-dollar Worship Center and adjoining Administrative Wing were dedicated and coined as “a Rock in a Weary Land”. Pastor Alexander had decided that for Antioch to be effective, the Church needed to be located within the Community in need of help.
4. Reverend Alexander’s favorite scripture is John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”.*
5. Now 48 years later, that same “Man” is STILL in town. Reverend Alexander is still preaching the Gospel, baptizing new converts, marrying couples, dedicating babies, celebrating Home Goings and always caring for ‘the least of these”.
6. Being led by the Holy Spirit each Sunday morning, Pastor Alexander asks three resounding questions, “Do you know Him?”  “Have you tried Him?” “Has He ever done anything for you?”
7. Reverend Alexander and his beloved wife, Barbara have been married for 63 years. This union has been blessed with 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren!
8. Over the years, Antioch has been an integral part of the revitalization and/or development of our surrounding community. In 1994, the Bethursday Development Corporation was established as a community development extension of Antioch Baptist Church. This non-profit was named to commemorate the Bethursday Prayer Band which originally founded Antioch and was led by eight former slaves. The corporation has become a major stakeholder and real estate developer in the English Avenue Community.

1. Reverend Alexander was educated in the Atlanta Public Schools system and graduated from the historic Booker T. Washington High School. As a teenager, Reverend Alexander’s sports interests included running track and playing football. His favorite subject in school was History, particularly slavery and learning about what our ancestors had to endure.
2. Reverend Alexander received his Masters of Divinity Degree from Morehouse School of Religion.
3. Under Reverend Alexander’s leadership, more than seventy-five (75) Ministries and Auxiliaries have been formed to assist our members and the surrounding community.

1. Because of Reverend Alexander’s vision, compassion and efforts, a number of Outreach Ministries have been established to serve the “least of these”. Some of these ministries include: Luke's Place, Lydia’s House, Matthew’s Place and Ruth’s Place. Malachi and Miriam was put in place to assist the needs of our youth.
2. The Scholarship Ministry has provided more than $1,416,261 to assist Antioch students and families each year with their educational achievements. The donated funds distributed through the Scholarship Ministry averages out to be about 35 students per year and this total includes high school and memorial/book scholarships.
3. Prior to Reverend Alexander receiving the call to become Antioch’s fifth Pastor, there were thirty (30) Deacons already in place and ready to welcome him into his new position.
4. During Reverend Alexander’s watch, thirty-seven (37) Deacons have been ordained within his 48 years at Antioch. Sadly, within this tenure, the “Amen Corner” has lost four (4) servants with many dedicated years of service to our beloved Antioch. Also, Antioch holds three (3) *In Memoriam* due to their deaths prior to Final Ordination.

1. Over the years, Antioch has acquired and/or developed over 38 valuable downtown parcels of land. These purchases include a Business Plaza, an Apartment Complex and Multiple Acres from the CSX Railroad, just to name a few.
2. Reverend Alexander was very instrumental in helping to elect Atlanta’s first African-American Mayor, the Honorable Maynard Jackson, Jr. in 1973.
3. Mayor Jackson also appointed Reverend Alexander to serve as Chairman of the Atlanta Religious Mobilization Against Crime in 1978.
4. Reverend Alexander served as President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention (GMBC) for 29 years and is now President Emeritus. While with GMBC, Reverend Alexander also served as Host and the General Chairman for the 1985, 1992 and 2005 National Baptist Conventions which were held in Atlanta.
5. In 1994, he served as Co-Chair for the Reverend Billy Graham’s Atlanta Crusade.

1. In 1991, through our Pastor’s vision, the nationally acclaimed Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. (AUMI) was established as the cornerstone of Antioch’s Outreach Ministries.  AUMI provides a variety of supportive services (such as food and clothing) for recovering addicts, persons with AIDS, and those who are HIV positive.
2. Because Antioch cares, many low-income and disadvantaged persons continue to receive assistance with their housing needs, food and clothing. Within the first 2 weeks of July, the Human Services Ministry reports that 992 bags totaling 34,054 pounds of food were distributed, and 138 meals were served to AUMI Residents and a total of forty-one (41) families received goods through the Antioch Clothing Bank.
3. Antioch acquired the 12-story Walton Hotel in downtown Atlanta and transformed it into apartments for the working homeless.  In honor of our Pastor, the Walton House was renamed as the Madison House in tribute to Pastor Alexander’s work for the poor and disenfranchised within the community.
4. In 1993, Reverend Alexander and the Antioch membership hosted South African and Anti-Apartheid Leader, President Nelson Mandela, on his first visit to Atlanta following his release from a South African prison. A 300-voice Antioch choir performed in Dobbs Stadium at Georgia Tech as part of the ceremony.
5. In 1999, Antioch purchased a multi-purpose building at 590 North Avenue. It is affectionately known to Antioch as “The 590”. The 590 Building is frequently used for youth and church-wide events.
6. Reverend Alexander received the Visions of Excellence Award in 2000 from the Atlanta Business League for the development and implementation of Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. (AUMI). The VISIONS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD recognizes an individual within our community who creates a vision to improve the quality of life in Atlanta, and/or its surrounding communities; then uses their leadership and influence to realize that vision.
7. Because of Pastor’s Alexander’s leadership, Antioch has successfully established over nine Missions and two thriving Congregational Churches (New Horizons Baptist Church and Antioch Loving Spirit Missionary Baptist Church). These congregations have served as a living testimony of Pastor Alexander’s commitment to the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.
8. Reverend Alexander was honored by Morehouse College with the “Bennie Award”, the highest recognition that the College bestows to its Most Distinguished Alumni.
9. A portrait of Reverend Alexander hangs in the Hall of Great Preachers in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the Morehouse College campus. Being in the “Hall of Great Preachers” is just another testament to his greatness and comes as really no surprise to the Antioch membership. Our Co-Pastor, Reverend Kenneth Alexander, always introduces Reverend Alexander as the “Best Pastor in the World” which is just another testament to his greatness!
10. Two of Reverend Alexander’s sermons have been placed in The American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress has, for many decades, documented everyday reactions to major events in history. In their efforts to continue that tradition, the AFC solicited interested persons and groups to partake in the Inauguration 2009 Sermons and Orations Project. Antioch submitted Reverend Alexander’s January 18, 2009 sermon entitled *“Who He Is”* (Romans 38, Luke 23:46). In his sermon, Reverend Alexander spoke on 3 Miracles: Miracle on the Hudson River, Miracle on Pennsylvania Avenue, and the Miracle at Calvary.
11. For many years, the Atlanta Business League has recognized business owners, professionals, community and civic leaders in the Atlanta area. Because of his continued community influence and trailblazing impact on Atlanta, Reverend Alexander was inducted into the Atlanta Business League Legends Hall of Fame in 2008.
12. In December 2010, the Atlanta City Council renamed Kennedy Street to *Cameron M. Alexander Boulevard* in recognition of Pastor Alexander’s historical legacy and influence within the city.
13. Reverend Alexander is known to be a jokester; one who loves to laugh and make others laugh as well. Reverend Alexander has stated from the pulpit on many occasions that “those who do not laugh, stay sick all the time”. This statement is just his way of letting the membership know that not all things are bad because “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*” (Philippians 4:13).
14. Some of Reverend Alexander’s favorite foods include neck bones, ham hocks, and a succulent rabbit smothered in gravy. But of course we know, none of these foods, is he allowed to eat. Selah!
15. Reverend Alexander’s favorite movie is The Magnificent Seven, an American, old-western film. This movie is about an oppressed people looking to make a better life for themselves, but like Satan, a greedy industrialist comes to their village,” to *steal, kill and destroy”* (John 10:10). With their lives in jeopardy, the villagers turned to the “bounty hunter” and his recruited followers for help. As Reverend would say;” by now, you should know where I’m going”, One Friday…
16. Pastor Alexander has become one of the nation’s best-known Pastors; A Pastor’s Pastor. He has mentored, trained and groomed nearly 150 ministers known affectionately to members as “Sons of Antioch”.
17. Over the years, countless numbers of wedding ceremonies have been performed here at Antioch. In the early years, during a Counseling Session, Reverend Alexander would serve couples chilled Red Rock sodas while discussing the importance of having three people in the marriage: Christ, Husband and Wife.
18. It is not uncommon for Reverend Alexander to come to the pulpit and deliver what is commonly known as a “Mini Sermon” even when he does not actually preach. He always leaves the Congregation wishing for more.
19. Reverend Alexander served as President of Operation PUSH (now known as Rainbow Coalition) in Georgia.
20. He was President and Treasurer, respectively, of the Morehouse School of Religion and was also a Trustee of the Morehouse School of Medicine.
21. Based on Reverend Alexander’s illustrious ministerial career, he was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees from the United Theological Seminary in 1978, the Interdenominational Theological Center in 1991 and from the Carver Bible College in 2007.
22. In January 2010, he was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame located at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.
23. The Georgia General Assembly honored Reverend Alexander with a Resolution in February 2010.
24. A profile of Reverend Alexander’s “Spiritual Journey” was documented by the Atlanta Interfaith Broadcast (AIB) in April 2010.
25. Reverend Alexander was inducted, in September 2010, into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.
26. He was recently appointed to the Global Advisory Board for the National Center of Civil and Human Rights.
27. Currently, Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. (AUMI), is assisting 134 students attending Atlanta Metropolitan State College with emergency housing, food and clothing.

Sister Michelle Baker Williams

(Some of the factual information contained within was derived from an article, “Our Leader for 47 Years”, previously written by the late Brother Barney Sims)