

Rev. Dr. Gerald D. Austin, Sr.

Founder & CEO, MEGA International & Associates LLC
MEGA INTL Legacy Foundation (501c3)

Grounded in the M.E.G.A. Principle-We-Motivate • Educate • Grow • Advocate

BIOGRAPHY

Rev. Dr. Gerald D. Austin, Sr. is a visionary leader, electronic engineer, ordained minister, educator, and community-developer whose bi-vocational career spans nearly five decades of innovation, organizational leadership, and transformational impact. He is guided by a simple yet powerful conviction: “*people of any good faith should be people of goodwill*”. Grounded in the **M.E.G.A. Principle—We Motivate • Educate • Grow • Advocate**—his life’s work centers on empowering individuals, strengthening organizations, and revitalizing communities. This is not merely a motto; it is the operating philosophy that defines every initiative he leads.

Dr. Austin’s professional and ministerial journey began in 1974 while completing his B.S. in Electronic Engineering at DeVry University. As part of the Texas Instruments Semiconductor team, he contributed to the design of the world’s first scientific calculator, the TI SR-10, marking the beginning of a career rooted in innovation and engineering excellence. After graduation, he returned to Birmingham, Alabama, where he launched **Austin Electronics**, designing laboratory prototypes for the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s School of Engineering.

In 1977, he joined **General Electric Medical Systems Division** as a Field Service Engineer, where he advanced diagnostic imaging and medical technology across healthcare environments. His technical expertise, combined with an emerging commitment to service, laid the foundation for the early stages of his community-focused work.

From 1987 to 2007, Dr. Austin founded and led **The Center for Urban Missions (TCUM)**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit located in one of the nation’s most economically distressed ZIP codes—a community historically marked by **urban decline, disinvestment, and concentrated poverty**. Guided by the principle that “*you don’t have to move to have a better neighborhood—get involved*,” Dr. Austin built TCUM into a catalytic engine for **neighborhood stabilization, human development, and community revitalization**.

Under his leadership, **TCUM** equipped and inspired families in underserved communities to move from dependency to stability through **education, workforce readiness, family strengthening programs, and faith-based community engagement**. In collaboration with public agencies, private sector partners, and local institutions, TCUM helped transform the area from a community once characterized by blight into an emerging model of **urban reinvestment and revitalized neighborhood identity—today known as Park Place**.

During this same period, Dr. Austin also served the Presbyterian Church in America as the **Coordinator of Black Church Development**, where he helped establish **11 congregations across the United States and one in East Africa**, advancing spiritual infrastructure, civic leadership, and community cohesion in diverse urban centers.

In 1990, Dr. Austin founded **New City Church**, the first intentionally multiracial congregation planted and led by an African American in downtown Birmingham—. Through holistic spiritual formation, community empowerment, and civic collaboration, the church and TCUM became a nationally recognized model of reconciliation, cross-cultural ministry, and community revitalization. In 2006, after 20 years of service, he was named **Pastor Emeritus**.

In 2007, Dr. Austin launched **MEGA International & Associates LLC**, a business-to-business, with a clear focus to revitalize urban and rural communities through , leadership development, capacity-building, specializing in government contracting, federal capture management, organizational strategy, and community-centered economic advancement. Under his leadership, **MEGA** has become a trusted partner to government agencies, nonprofits, and mission-driven businesses seeking sustainable growth and strategic alignment.

In 2023, Dr. Gerald D. Austin, Sr. re-established **MEGA INTL Legacy Foundation**, formerly *The Center for Urban Missions* (founded in 1986 as a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit), to continue the lifelong work he began nearly four decades ago. The Foundation advances his enduring mission of empowering and inspiring individuals, families, and entire communities—urban and rural—through **Motivation, Education, Growth, and Advocacy**.

Building on Dr. Austin’s legacy of service and community transformation, the Foundation delivers motivational programs, educational enrichment, entrepreneurial and leadership development, and advocacy for marginalized and underserved populations. Its purpose is to create pathways for people to thrive, achieve stability and success, and, in turn, uplift others. Guided by the values and vision of its founder, MEGA INTL Legacy Foundation remains committed to fostering just, equitable, and opportunity-rich communities for generations to come.

Also, in 2023 Austin received the **President Joseph R. Biden Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award**, and **The International Global Alliance** awarded him an Honorary **Doctorate in Humanitarianism** for his decades of service, community leadership, and extraordinary commitment to expanding opportunity and empowering individuals through education, economic advancement, faith, and public service.

In 2024 as a respected civic leader, Dr. Austin was appointed in 2024 to the **DeKalb County Charter Review Commission**, where he advised on governance modernization and community-responsive policy. He also served two terms as **President of the Deer Creek Homeowners Association**, where he established a self-sustaining Board of Directors governance model that continues to protect homeowners’ investments and strengthen neighborhood stewardship.

His leadership has shaped political, civic, educational, and community-development efforts across Alabama and Georgia, including successful political campaigns—most notably that of his son, **Hon. Johnathan F. Austin**, Esq. who served ten years on the Birmingham City Council.

Across every sphere of influence—technology, ministry, education, government, and business—Dr. Austin continues to be recognized as **a builder of people, a cultivator of leaders, and a champion of transformational change.**

CAREER SUMMARY

- **Founder & CEO**, MEGA INTL LLC & MEGA INTL Legacy Foundation (501c3)
- **Founder/CEO**, Advance Career Training Solutions, LLC (2004–2011)
- **Founder/CEO**, National Institute for Environmental Sustainability Training
- **Founder/CEO**, The Center for Urban Missions – Birmingham, AL (1986)
- **Founder/Pastor**, The New City Church – Birmingham, AL (1990)
- **Coordinator**, Black Church Development, Missions to North America – ATL GA (1985)
- **Systems Engineer**, General Electric Medical Systems Division, Southeast Region (1977)
- **Owner/CEO**, Austin Electronics, LLC – Birmingham, AL (1975)

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

- **B.S., Electronic Engineering**, DeVry University (1974)
- **Th.M., Theology**, Grace Theological Seminary (1995)
- **Divinity Certificate in Religion, Values & Public Life**, Harvard University (2001)
- **Doctor of Transformational Leadership**, Bakke Graduate University (2008)
- **Certificate in GSA Procurement**, Federal Market Institute, Washington, DC (2009)
- **Executive Management Certification**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (2012)
- **Certified Federal Contracting Professional (CFCP)**, Government Contractors Association (2018)
- **Honorary Doctorate in Humanitarianism**, International Alliance Universities (2023)

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- President Joseph R. Biden’s Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award (2023)
- Harvard Divinity School Recognition for 21st Century Faith, Values & Public Life Leadership Model (2001)
- Operation New Birmingham Community Service Honor (2003)
- Featured in Birmingham Magazine “50 People to Watch” (2001)
- 1996 Olympic Torch Bearer
- Honored by Operation New Birmingham for community service (2003)
- Recipient of Omega Psi Phi “Religious Leader of the Year” Award (1996)

- Recipient of Sertoma International “Service to Mankind” Award (1992)
- **Governor’s Appointment** – Task Force for National and Community Service, State of Alabama

Publications & Authors

- *Fund Raising: A Nonprofit Toolkit* (2013)
- *The Role of the Church in Community Revitalization* – White Paper (2008)
- *A Practical Guide for Nonprofit Board Governance and Operations* (2007)
- Contributing Author – *A Mighty Long Journey in Race Relations* (2003)

Above all, Dr. Austin is a builder of people, a cultivator of leaders, and a champion of transformational change.

Isaiah 61:1–4 The Spirit of God is on me, because I am anointed to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release those in darkness to the light”, (GDA Sr)