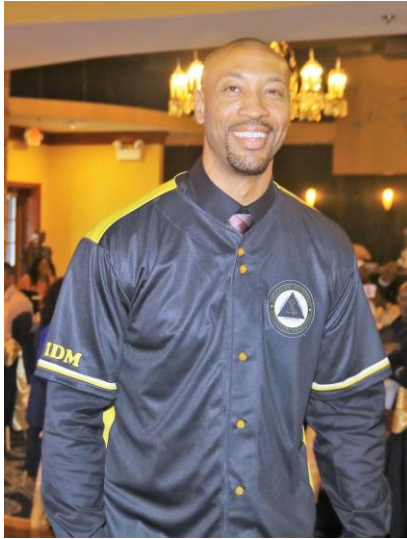


Victor “Coach J” Junious



At the age of six, **Victor Junious** started taking private piano lessons from the late Lucinda Blackmon, a well-known legendary gospel musician in Chicago. After studying music for nearly six years under her tutelage, **Victor** began playing the piano for the Sunday School of his home church, Mt. Eagle Baptist Church, under the pastorate of the late Rev. Edicular Draine.

The Lord not only blessed **Victor** with the gift of music but also a love and hunger to serve others. **Victor** served as a musician at Mt. Eagle Baptist Church from 1990 - 2021. During this time frame he has also served as a musician for many other churches and groups across the City of Chicago.

Victor is a 1996 graduate of Mt. Carmel High School. While remaining faithful to music ministry he was active with the Cross Country Team for two years and the Basketball Team all four years. He attended Dominican University located in River Forest, IL on a four-year basketball scholarship. While at Dominican he was a three-time All-Conference Selection, three-time MVP, and two-time Arthur Ashe Jr. Scholarship recipient. **Victor's** name was placed in the record books at Dominican University for scoring, rebounding, and blocked shots. He graduated from Dominican University in May of 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology.

Victor pursued a professional basketball career and tried out for several Continental Basketball Association (CBA) Teams. He traveled to Fort Wayne, IN (Fury), Gary, IN (Steelheads), Grand Rapids, MI (Hoops), and Rockford, IL (Lightening). After a very brief run of traveling to CBA camps **Victor** began to work in the field of criminal justice in December of 2000.

Victor has worked as a Juvenile Detention Officer, Adult Correctional Officer Supervisor, Police Officer, Director of Security for a privatized prison in the State of Illinois, and now a Juvenile Probation Officer for Cook County for the past 17 years. While serving in these capacities **Victor** has hosted numerous violence prevention programs and community restoration projects through his non-profit organization, *Imago Dei Ministries, Inc. (IDM)*, to help give the youth in our surrounding communities rational alternatives to committing crime. *IDM* was founded by **Victor** in 2001. Under his leadership as Executive Director, *IDM* has grown to offer many programs and services for youth ages 10-18. Some of the programs are: PEN Pals Male Mentoring Program, DOV Female Mentoring Program, Heal The Land Youth Conference, and the Panthers Basketball Program. **Victor's** experience with Juvenile Court and his passion for ministry has opened many doors for him to accept keynote speaking engagements at local elementary schools, high schools, social services agencies, and churches.

In 2012, **Victor** accepted an appointment to serve as a Board Member of *Midwest Christian-Inspirational Indie Film Festival*. His business strategies has helped MCIFFF move forward with its mission to provide a Christian-Inspirational platform for artists to present their work and encourage independent Christian-Inspirational filmmakers, by offering appropriate recognition for excellence in this genre of film production.

Victor has been regarded as a pillar in the community. He was a finalist and award recipient of a national honor in 2012 that was hosted by a national retailer, Midnight Velvet. In 2015, Allstate Insurance Agency honored **Victor** for his work in the community through *Imago Dei Ministries, Inc.* In 2017, **Victor** received the Public Service Award of the Annual Sigma Gamma Rho's Catalyst For Change Leadership In The Community.

In September of 2013, **Victor** accepted his calling into the ministry of preaching the Word of God. On July 19, 2015, **Victor** was licensed as a minister and was designated to be the youth minister of Mt. Eagle Baptist Church, under the pastorate of Elder Osmund L. Hooks, Sr.

In August of 2017, **Victor** was offered an opportunity to use his basketball background and knowledge to coach at Dwight D. Eisenhower High School located in Blue Island, IL. **Victor** has served as the Head Sophomore and Assistant Varsity Coach for five seasons. He is known across the Midwest Region of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) circuit as “Coach J,” as he began coaching travel basketball in 2009. **Victor** has been a certified licensed USA Basketball coach since 2015.

Victor married his grammar school sweetheart, LaSherrian Junious. They have 3 beautiful children.

2012 Community Leader, Junious Wins National Retailer's



<http://www.chicagolandrealestateforum.com/2012/06/29/chicago-charity-gets-a-hand/>

2015 Community Leader, Junious by Allstate



<http://wgnradio.com/2015/01/16/allstates-great-gift-to-flossmoor/>

2017 Community Leader, Sigma Gamma Rho's Catalyst For Change Leadership In The Community.

