



Marcellus Mitchell was born in Henderson, North Carolina, and reared in New Jersey. He received his early education at the world renowned Newark Boys Chorus School (NBCS) in Newark, New Jersey. Singing with the members of this school, Marcellus performed in many states in America and abroad, including Carnegie Hall in New York, China, and Japan.



A couple of years before Marcellus graduated from the (NBCS), he was selected to pursue a professional R&B musical career, along with four other boys who were previously from the (NBCS). The group was called, “Infinity.” They were successful in releasing two songs, “Be My Girl,” and “Magic Man.” The group efforts were unsuccessful and ended two years later.

Subsequently, Marcellus was introduced to another lifestyle that many urban black men encounter, known as “street life.” After going through many negative experiences such as being truant in high school, to being suspended, Marcellus persevered and graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation, he matriculated to Paul Quinn College (PQC) in Dallas, Texas, on a full scholarship that was being offered to D.C. inner city youth.

While at PQC, Marcellus did not take his education seriously. He was suspended for a semester. After the suspension, Marcellus went back to PQC with a different mindset and won the seat of Sophomore Class President. In spite of this win, Marcellus realized PQC was not the college for him. So, he decided to take a break from his studies, and return to D.C. to work. While working at a Shelter there, he realized he possessed the skills to illuminate others. After that awareness, Marcellus became more serious about his education, and decided to apply to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Morehouse, completing a double major in Criminal Justice and Sociology.

After graduating, Marcellus discovered a desire to be connected to Africa. He fulfilled this desire by becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer. His assignment involved teaching English and HIV/AIDS education at a high school in the village of Bandjoun located in the western area of Cameroon. After completing his volunteer service, he stayed on the continent and explored. He visited six countries: Nigeria, Chad, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, and Tanzania. When he returned to the states, he worked for a year, and then decided to enter Howard University’s School of Divinity.

Marcellus went to work during the day while attending school at night. He received his Master of Divinity. Due to budget restraints, he was given an option to receive a much lower salary in his position as Operations Manager for, “The No Child Left Behind” Division of The Huntington Learning Center. Instead of staying on, he decided that the implementation of Growing On (GO) would have a greater impact on the lives of others. So, fulfilling one of his goals, he volunteered for the judicial system as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children (CASA). Marcellus says starting GO has a lot to do with his own personal struggles and triumphs. Through his experiences, he believes much can be achieved with love, support and perseverance.