ABOUT VANESSA AND DERON SNYDER

Vanessa Williams Snyder, a former editor and writer with Gannett News Service, teaches Language Arts at Sousa Middle School in Washington, D.C.

A native Washingtonian, she's a National Board-certified teacher, with a Master's degree in Education from Walden University and a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland. Among her many education honors is a Golden Apple Award for "Teacher of Distinction." Vanessa has written freelance articles for several magazines – including Gospel Today, Excellence and Emerge – and also writes Sunday School curriculum for youth.

Deron Keith Snyder is an award-winning journalist with nearly 25 years of experience at several Gannett publications, where he served as a columnist, editorial writer and reporter. He has worked at USA Today and been syndicated in Gannett's 80-plus newspapers, appearing in The Arizona Republic, The Indianapolis Star, The Detroit News and many others.

Deron – who has written freelance articles for several publications and is a regular contributor to theRoot.com – has appeared on ABC, HBO, CNN, CNBC, Fox, MSNBC, PBS and UPN. Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., he graduated from Howard University with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism.

Vanessa and Deron are the co-authors of "50 Ways to Put Christ in Your Marriage: And Live Happily Every Day," in addition to "50 Ways to Put Christ Back in Christmas: And Keep the Spirit Alive All Year." They're co-owners of BlackDoor Ventures, Inc., which specializes in high-quality writing, editing and communication services, including publishing, public/media relations and broadcasting.

The Snyders were married in 1990 and reside in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area with their daughters, 13-year-old Sierra and 11-year-old Sequoia.