



## Dr. Willie L. Wilson

Dr. Willie Wilson is a highly successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, and humanitarian. He is married and resides in Chicagoland area with his wife of more than twenty years. He has four grown children. Yet, his humble beginnings would hardly have predicted the success he has attained.

Born in Gilbert, Louisiana, Dr. Wilson was one of eleven children of Lula and Douglas Wilson. Sharecroppers, who worked in the cotton fields of Louisiana, his parents barely made enough money to meet the basic needs of their children. Life was very tough for Dr. Wilson and his family; and at only 13 years old, he decided to leave home in search of a better life. He left home with big dreams and a huge amount of determination and took a bus to Chicago to stay with a cousin.

In Chicago, Dr. Wilson supported himself with various laborer jobs, including working at a McDonald's restaurant in 1970 where he was the custodian, making \$2.00 an hour. His experiences working as a manager led to the aspiration to own a McDonald's himself and Dr. Wilson resolved to meet with Corporation founder, Ray Kroc. Impressed by his determination, intelligence and nerve, Kroc agreed to give him a McDonald's restaurant after a discussion at an annual shareholders' meeting in 1979. With capital provided by South Shore Bank, Dr. Wilson took a financially suffering Chicago franchise and turned it around within a year.

Displaying amazing business acumen, Wilson went on to purchase a total of five McDonald's restaurants over the next ten years; and received many "Outstanding Store Awards" from the Corporation.

Dr. Wilson had united with Christ Temple Missionary Baptist Church in 1973, where he is still a member today. There, he met the Norfleet Brothers, a gospel group that had toured the gospel circuit for several years. As his love for the Lord deepened, Dr. Wilson felt a strong affinity for praising God through singing. He joined the Norfleet Brothers and sang with them for several years. His love of gospel music led to Dr. Wilson's vision to start a production company, Willie

Wilson Productions. This company premiered Singsation in 1989, a televised gospel show which was the first and only nationally syndicated gospel entertainment program on commercial television. This half hour show, hosted by Dr. Wilson, is aired on superstation WGN and is available in millions of households every Sunday.

Along the way, Wilson divested himself of all of the McDonald's restaurants so that he could devote more time to Singsation and to his involvement in bringing his gospel music ministry to churches throughout the world. He became a staunch supporter of the Chicago Baptist Institute International and is noted for providing significant financial support to the many churches that invite him to sing and speak before their congregations.

In addition to producing five national gospel recordings, Dr. Wilson wrote an inspirational book chronicling his life story, "What Shall I Do Next, When I Don't Know Next What To Do?"

Dr. Wilson holds several Honorary Doctorate Degrees including an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Mt. Carmel Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Humane letters from Chicago Baptist Institute, and an Honorary Doctorate in Humanitarianism from Swisher Bible College.

Ever the entrepreneur, Dr. Wilson started Omar Medical Supplies Inc., in 1997, a company that is one of the largest black-owned company in Illinois. Distributing and importing a variety of products, including gloves, can liners, towels, tissues, safety supplies, etc., Omar sells to many of the country's Fortune 500 companies; and is one of the nation's fastest growing minority-owned companies in its field. With national and international distribution and warehousing capabilities, Dr. Wilson, as CEO, has guided Omar to the point that it is well poised for continued growth.

Dr. Wilson's life is a true embodiment of the American Dream--that hard work and persistence can overcome any obstacle. Dr. Wilson is an amazing man who has overcome many struggles in life: poverty; a child murdered in gang violence, failed relationships, prostate cancer, and a heart attack. Yet he perseveres and thrives.

Dr. Wilson is a sought-after speaker; and he profoundly inspires his audiences. He has the ability to provide pragmatic insights about running and growing a business; encouragement about what can be accomplished through hard work and determination; and spiritual motivation about faithfulness ... all in the same speech!

In 2015, 2019, and 2023, Dr. Wilson ran for Mayor of the city of Chicago seeking to address economic development, public safety, education and parity and fairness for all Chicago citizens.

In 2016, Dr. Wilson ran for President of the United States of America seeking to give voice to the issues of equal opportunity for everyone, fairness for all our citizens and public safety.

In 2020, Dr. Wilson ran for the United States Senate seeking to address education, public safety, homelessness, and equal opportunity for all citizens.

As a humanitarian, Dr. Wilson provided over \$5 million to help churches, senior citizens, the Chicago police and fire departments, the Chicago Housing Authority and people struggling through COVID-19. In addition, he helped bail people out of Cook County Jail with misdemeanors. He donated millions to pay citizens property taxes to save their homes. When Hurricane Katrina and Ida struck New Orleans and Mississippi, Dr. Wilson gave away more than \$3 million to help people struggling. Most recently, Dr. Wilson donated more than \$5.2 million to help provide free gas, and groceries for people struggling with high inflation.