

Host of Hallmark Channel's "New Morning" and Clark College Alum Helping to Change Lives, One Viewer at a Time

TIMBERLY WHITFIELD IS the living, breathing embodiment of how the course of one's life is most often predestined.

The daughter of worldwide lay missionaries for the United Methodist Church, Whitfield and her brother spent most of their childhood living in three different countries and visiting more than 20. Her early years were shaped by witnessing the tremendous impact that her parents' missionary work had on the lives of people in African countries.

Taking those experiences with her along with her parents' encouragement to attend a historically black institution, Whitfield returned to the United States to pursue a college degree initially at Southern University. After one year, she transferred to Clark College where, according to Whitfield, her career path was launched.

"In addition to a great education at Clark, I also had a strong relationship with my professors," says Whitfield, who majored in mass communication and minored in religion. "They were supportive, reached out to me and that really made a difference in my success."

Upon graduation from Clark with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications, Whitfield was soon after accepted into both Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University's School of Journalism. She graduated from Columbia University with a master's degree in journalism.

"I eventually chose Columbia because I knew I would enjoy hearing people's stories as journalist," says



Timberly Whitfield with guest on award-winning daily news magazine-style series "New Morning," which airs mornings from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. EDT on the Hallmark Channel.

Whitfield. "I had no idea that fate would have me doing both. It was as though my childhood, my education in religion and my degrees in communication and journalism all came together to foreshadow what I am doing today. It's serendipitous."

Whitfield is currently host of the award-winning daily magazine-style television series "New Morning," which airs weekdays on the Hallmark Channel from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. EDT.

"New Morning," which debuted in 2002 on the heels of 9/11, can best be described as a show that takes viewers on a journey through uplifting and inspiring stories as told by the people who share their experiences with Whitfield and viewers.

"I think that the greatest impact of 'New Morning' is also what I love most about the show and that is hearing from guests who share their stories of struggle, hope and triumph and how those experiences strengthen their faith," says Whitfield. "It is inspiring and uplifting to hear from viewers who tell us how the show is helping to change their lives."

Whitfield has her own story of challenges and faith. After resigning from positions as an executive and on-air personality for A & E Television to pursue her dream of being on-air full time, she encountered obstacles and hurdles abounded. With a strong faith and family support, she stayed the course and today, the Clark College alum's life has come full circle. □