

## Westina Matthews, Ph. D.

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Westina Matthews is an accomplished Wall Street executive, author, public speaker and retreat leader who owes her success and happiness to “a little faith” – and the power of the mustard seed. She affectionately describes herself as a “p.k.” (preacher’s kid).

For over 25 years, Westina has turned her passion and creativity into realities for so many in the community at large. She has received numerous honors for her achievements in the boardroom and commitment to community service. Westina currently serves as a trustee at the University of Dayton and is a director of The International Women’s Forum; and is the immediate past president of the New York Women’s Forum.

She has served on the boards of the Ms. Foundation, Wilberforce University, Bank Street College of Education, the Arthur Ashe Institute, the New York Theological Seminary, The Executive Leadership Council, and the New York Association of Grantmakers, among others. In July 1990, Mayor David Dinkins appointed Westina to a four-year term as a Member of the Board of Education for the City of New York.

Westina earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in education at the University of Dayton, Ph.D. in Education from the University of Chicago, and served as a postdoctoral research fellow at both Northwestern University and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She has also received honorary doctorates of Humanities from Carlow College (2000) and the Metropolitan College of New York (2005). She is a graduate of the Spiritual Guidance Program at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation (2007).

A tiny mustard seed motivates Westina who has found a way to connect with others through a series of poignant, spiritual books. Since 2000, she has traveled around the country sharing her inspirational message of hope at churches, conference and college campuses; and is the author of three books *Have A Little Faith...the Faith of a Mustard Seed* (2003), *Have A Little Faith...for Women Fully Grown* (2004), and *Have A Little Faith...in the Midst of Relationships* (2005). Each book includes a packet of mustard seeds with the verse from Matthew 17:20.

Raised in the A.M.E. denomination, Westina is a daughter of the late Rev. Wesley Smith Matthews and is a native of Yellow Springs, Ohio. She is now a member of Trinity Church/St. Paul’s Chapel in the City of New York.

Westina has been interviewed or featured in *The New York Times*, *Working Women*, *Financial World*, *Bloomberg*, *Essence*, *Black Enterprise*, and *Ebony*. Her most recent article, “Finding God at Starbucks” was published by *Sacred Journey* (December 2007/January 2008) and is the title of her fourth book which she is writing.