Alumnus of the Year

Reverend Doctor Jerry Louder

Reverend Dr. Jerdall (Jerry) Louder is a Riverside native who has devoted his life to helping others in need. In 1996, he became the National President of the United States Pastors Association, which represents all of the nation's inner city churches and most of the nation's African American and Hispanic churches.

Louder has a well-earned reputation as a motivated and focused individual. As an RCC student in the 1960s, he completed all 60 undergraduate units in one year. He repeated this accomplishment at UC Riverside, finishing his Psychology and Philosophy baccalaureate degree in 12 months. He made the Dean's list in all



quarters, was elected the statewide Black Student Union president for all nine UC campuses, and graduated cum laude. He continued at UCR as a graduate student in the School of Administration and later earned graduate degrees from USC and the Claremont Graduate School.

In his professional life, Reverend Louder's career started with the Riverside Opportunities and Industrialization Center. In 1979, he founded the Riverside Opportunity Center's Lord Kitchen Ministry (ROC), where they provide meals, housing, job training, and job counseling for the homeless and near-homeless residents of Riverside. ROC has fed more than one million hot dinner meals to the needy while putting hundreds into housing and jobs.

A respected minister, Louder is known for his work and leadership. His role with the United States Pastors Association touches 103,000 churches and more than 21 million people nationwide. He also has worked as a consultant to such major corporations as Lockheed-Martin, Winnebago, and Sears; the University of California system; and individual universities such as Tulane.

Dr. Louder and his wife, Phalia (a gospel recording artist and minister), have five adult children, twelve grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.