

Romanita Hairston

Grounded in the scripture and led by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus

Powerful speaker and writer on the gospel and social issues

Passionate advocate for the common good

Romanita has spent over two decades working in ministry. She accepted the call to preach and teach the gospel while still in college. Her calling has given her the ability to be a witness to the power of the gospel to transform through our words and our actions. Romanita has worked with individuals and families living in under-resourced communities over her 25+ year career. She has seen the power of positive relationships, mission-centered churches, supportive families and strong community systems in improving the lives of children. She believes in the power of purposeful collective action to end poverty, fight injustice and build a better world for children.

Romanita leads with a conviction that "we all give back by starting where we are with what we have to achieve sustainable solutions to poverty here and around the world." She has dedicated her life, professionally and personally, to achieve more sustainable solutions to the seemingly intractable challenges we face here and around the world.

This drive to "give back" led to 20 years of service with World Vision domestic programs that included 10 years leading all domestic operations. She now serves as the President and Founder of MORE320 and as a Director at Microsoft. Romanita says, "These two roles allow me to combine many of my passions and interests. It's a perfect combination."

Romanita believes, "it is important to demonstrate service beyond one's paid vocation when you are asking others to do the same. We should always be willing to fulfill the call we make to others." This has led to a vibrant life of local volunteerism and service. She is part of the preaching team in her local church and she has held numerous roles in church leadership from Children's Church Director to youth leader to Elder.

Romanita is a national spokesperson on issues related to poverty and child well-being, missional theology and spiritual formation focused heavily on women. Romanita holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of Washington as well as an MBA from Eastern University of Philadelphia. She currently serves on the board of Urban Alliance, The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute, Praxis, and Global Women.

An academic all-star in college, Romanita was accepted to law school and into a PhD program, but her heart was calling her to help children change their lives. Romanita is now pursuing a Ph.D. in theology through Trinity University in the UK.

