



JC GARDNER SPEAKS



ABOUT JIMMIE C. GARDNER

**GRACE UNDER PRESSURE: A LIVING
EXAMPLE OF STEADFASTNESS AND
STRENGTH**

“To be free is not
merely to cast off
one’s chains, but to
live in a way that
enhances the
freedom of others.”

NELSON MANDELA



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BIOGRAPHY

Jimmie C. Gardner is a motivational speaker who draws on the values and life lessons he acquired through his childhood, professional baseball career, and wrongful conviction to help others make the most of the challenges and opportunities granted to each of us. By sharing his story, Jimmie encourages others to live their best lives through spiritual, mental, and physical health.

Born in Dawson, Georgia, Jimmie was raised by his great aunt in Tampa, Florida. Growing up in Tampa provided numerous opportunities to excel, both academically and athletically. Jimmie was a member of the famed Belmont Heights Little League Team and graduated from the academically competitive Tampa Bay Vocational Technical High School. In 1984, Jimmie was drafted by the Chicago Cubs and played with them in the minor leagues for 4 seasons, while studying business management at Tampa College during the off-season.

Jimmie's blessed life took an extraordinary turn in 1987 while he was playing with the Charleston Wheelers in Charleston, West Virginia. Two elderly white women were sexual assaulted by a black male, and over 140 black men in the city, including Jimmie, were rounded up by the police. Because there was no forensic evidence connecting him to the crime and because he did not match the description of the attacker, Jimmie was cleared and went on with his life.

Two years later in 1989, Jimmie was back in Tampa when he was arrested, extradited to West Virginia, and charged with sexual assault, robbery, burglary, and assault during the commission of a felony. In January of 1990, after a travesty of a trial with an inexperienced public defender, blatant prosecutorial misconduct, false testimony from the forensic expert, and numerous trial errors, Jimmie was acquitted regarding one victim and convicted regarding the other—despite evidence that the same person committed both crimes. He was sentenced to 110 years.

While in prison, Jimmie continued to pursue his education, earning three Associates Degrees and numerous certificates. He taught himself the law and worked tirelessly to secure his freedom, while serving as a representative for other prisoners during legal proceedings.

Twenty-seven years after his wrongful conviction, the US District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia held that Jimmie's conviction was a total miscarriage of justice and that he had been held in legal purgatory for 27 years. The court vacated the conviction, and he was released from custody on April 1, 2016. It would take another five months, but prosecutors formally dropped all charges against Jimmie on September 7, 2016.

Since his release, Jimmie C. Gardner has become an advocate for other wrongfully imprisoned and over-incarcerated men and women. He is an advocate for criminal justice reform and inmate rights. As a motivational speaker, Jimmie has shared his message of positive thinking and resilience with students in secondary school and college, sports teams, churches, and community organizations. Jimmie also visits prisons, offering insight, hope, and encouragement. One of Jimmie's passions is the development of Gardner House, a reentry home designed to help returning citizens who might not have the family support and resources necessary to make a successful return to society.

Jimmie C. Gardner's positivity and endurance are a testament to his faith, his upbringing, and his unconquerable spirit. He sees every day as a blessing from God and lives his life to help others attain the spiritual, mental, and physical health that are the keys to happiness and success. Jimmie continues to live life to the fullest. He recently married US District Court Judge Leslie Abrams Gardner and joined the illustrious brotherhood of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.



OFFICIAL HEADSHOT



JC GARDNER SPEAKS



Since his release, Jimmie C. Gardner has become an avid motivational speaker and advocate for other wrongfully imprisoned men and women all over the world.

He shares his message of resilience, grace under pressure and positivity with all types of audiences including prisons, juvenile detention facilities, students in secondary schools and colleges, sports teams, businesses, lawyers, churches, and community organizations across the nation. His story is triumphant and compelling. He is a living example of steadfastness, perseverance and strength.



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Jimmie C. Gardner can address a wide range of important topics, including:

- How to maintain physical, mental, and spiritual health in trying circumstances
- The use of DNA and other forensic evidence in convictions and exonerations
- Preventative solutions to keep young people out of the judicial system
- How his experiences have impacted his passion for judicial reform
- How his mental toughness helped him heal and stay hopeful in the midst of chaotic circumstances

Audiences love how Jimmie C. Gardner speaks truth and confidently discusses difficult questions such as:

- how he survived his ordeal
- how did his false conviction affect his family
- did the real perpetrator of the crimes ever face justice
- was he attacked or assaulted during his imprisonment
- did he ever contemplate suicide
- does he regret not being able to continue with his baseball career

GARDNER HOUSE, INC.

GARDNER HOUSE, INC., is a separate 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization which provides transitional housing for formerly incarcerated people. It provides a springboard towards healthy and productive lives for people returning home from incarceration.

GARDNER HOUSE INC., seeks to provide a safe place, mental health counseling, and the hard and soft skills necessary to realize the full potential of people returning home.

To mail donations - Make Checks/Money Orders Payable to:
GARDNER HOUSE, INC., PO BOX 163, Albany, GA 31702.

**"I FEEL THAT IT IS A
DUTY OF MINE TO HELP
THOSE WHO ARE
COMING OUT OF PRISON
AND THOSE THAT
CANNOT FIND HOUSING
WITH AN OPPORTUNITY
TO GET HOUSING.**

**I BELIEVE THAT THE
MORE WE GIVE, THE
MORE WE WILL BE ABLE
TO RECEIVE IN LIFE."**



JCGARDNER SPEAKS



202 630 5174

WWW.JCGARDNERSPEAKS.COM

INFO@JCGARDNERSPEAKS.COM

BY THE NUMBERS

Since his exoneration, JC Gardner Speaks has continued to grow rapidly on social media and in speaking engagements as more and more people hear his story, get to know Jimmie C. Gardner the man, and look to him for guidance, strength, encouragement and leadership in their own journeys. JC Gardner Speaks provides insight and knowledge about forensics, the criminal justice system and about the strength to win and never give up.

THE VISITORS



1618
CONNECTIONS



51 YOUTUBE
SUBSCRIBERS

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

40+

PRISONS/JUVENILE
DETENTION
FACILITIES/JAILS

25+

FORUMS/MEDIA
APPEARANCES/
THINK TANKS

15+

CHURCHES/
MOSQUES/
SYNAGOGUES

10+

UNIVERSITIES/
SCHOOLS/YOUTH
GROUPS



TOTAL IMPRESSIONS ACROSS
ALL PLATFORMS = 53, 915



1100 FOLLOWERS



2086 FOLLOWERS



252 FOLLOWERS

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