

## One on One with the Notable Pediatric Neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson M.D.

Written by Kam Williams

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Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson was born in Detroit on September 18, 1951, where he and his big brother, Curtis Carson, were raised by a single-mom. Dr. Carson, who realized his childhood dream of becoming a physician, recently retired as the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital after a groundbreaking career of over 35 years.

Now a *Washington Times* columnist and *Fox News* contributor, he is also the author of numerous *New York Times* best-sellers, including *Gifted Hands*, an autobiography which was made into a feature-length film starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. More recently, he co-wrote *America the Beautiful* and now *One Nation* with his wife Candy Carson.

A former member of the President's *Council on Bioethics*, [Dr](#) . Carson is a recipient of the *Presidential Medal of Freedom*

,  
**the nation's highest civilian honor**

. He and his wife founded the

[Carson Scholars Fund](#)

, an organization dedicated to recognizing the academic achievements of deserving young people.

On February 7, 2013, he delivered a seismic keynote address at the *National Prayer Breakfast* during which he criticized

*Obamacare*

and other core principles of the Obama administration while the President was sitting ten feet away from the podium. The speech catapulted Dr. Carson into the political limelight for the first time, and he is presently the #2 contender for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination at 29%, trailing Senator Ted Cruz by just 1 point. [See:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/05/31/ted-cruz-edges-out-ben-carson-in-2016-straw-poll.html>

].

Here, he talks about all of the above and the possibility of throwing his surgical scrub cap into the presidential ring.

**Kam Williams:** Hi Dr. Carson. I'm honored to have another opportunity to speak with you.

**Dr. Ben Carson:** Oh, it's absolutely my pleasure, Kam [Williams].

**KW:** Your 2013 speech at the National Prayer Breakfast was seismic. Did you anticipate that your remarks would catapult you so prominently into the political arena?

**Dr. BC:** No, I didn't. After the initial splash, I thought everything would go back to normal, and that I'd be able to continue with my plans for retirement. [Chuckles] I had no idea that what I said would resonate with millions of Americans. And what really shocked me was the amount of communication I received, particularly from elderly Americans who said they'd given up on the country and had just been waiting to die, but now felt that maybe there was some hope.

**KW: You certainly proved you can hold your own against politicians, when you got the better of former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland on CNN recently.[]**

**Dr.[] BC:** I wasn't necessarily trying to get the better of anybody, but I like to deal with facts. [Laughs] When people start making statements that are non-factual, I feel an obligation to correct them.

**KW: You really made him look like a fool after he criticized your book when you forced him to admit that he hadn't even read a page of it.**

**Dr.[] BC:** [Laughs out loud] I believe he was using a talking point. And he didn't think that I would catch him.

**KW: Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier [of [www.megadiversities.com](http://www.megadiversities.com) ], who interviewed you in [2009](#) and who plans to translate this interview into both French and Spanish, asks: Why did you decide to retire from neurosurgery?[]**

**Dr.[] BC:** I had been told that neurosurgeons die early. I didn't believe it, so I calculated the average age of the last ten I knew who'd died, and it was 61. So, I decided to retire at 61 if I wasn't dead. And I wasn't, so I did.

**KW: Patricia [Turnier] has a follow-up to that question: Why did you decide to get into politics?[]**

**Dr.[] BC:** I didn't make a conscious choice to get into the political arena. That sort of happened after the Prayer Breakfast when people started to focus on me and began to ask questions. And as I listened to more Americans, it encouraged me to become active in that arena. I wrote America the Beautiful and now this book to awaken the people as to what's going on. The ground is shifting under our

very feet, and many people are not recognizing what's going on. And they aren't talking about it, because of political correctness. They're also being distracted by things that are unimportant, and being frightened and intimidated by their own government which is using federal agencies to intimidate.

**KW: Patricia [Turnier] also points out that you have been involved in education for many years through the [Carson Scholars Fund](#) . She'd like to know how you'd go about reducing the computer literacy gap, if you become President, to create well-prepared students, technologically.**

**Dr. BC:** What I would do is look at what has worked. We have a lot of laboratories around the country. There's a pretty dramatic difference between the college matriculation rate of inner-city kids who attended charter schools versus regular public schools. We need to be asking ourselves: What is the difference? And whatever that is, that's what we need to duplicate. And we need to figure out what leads to dismal results, and those are things we need to eliminate. Basing decisions on evidence, that's what we do in science. Basing decision on ideology, that's what politicians do, which is why I will never be a politician.

**KW: Lastly, Patricia [Turnier] asks: What overall message do you want the readers to take away from your new book?**

**Dr. BC:** I want them to understand that that's what we are: one nation. We, the people, are not each other's enemies. The real enemies are those who drive a wedge into every little crack they can find to create wars. A war on women... racial wars... income wars... age wars.... You name it, there's a war on it. Somebody's your enemy. Somebody's causing your misery. Not you, of course. And they're creating all the victims and the resentment. And of course, it all comes directly out of the pages of *Rules for Radicals* by Saul Alinsky who particularly wants to make sure that you contain the class warfare. He says that has to be maintained at all costs. Driving those wedges into position will destroy a country. A wise man once said: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Our nation was once so strong that there was no one who could even begin to challenge us. The only one who could bring us down was ourselves. And there are forces at work attempting to do just that.

**KW: Harriet Pakula-Teweles asks: How can we be 'One Nation' when legislators refuse to cross the aisle any longer to pass legislation in a fine historic tradition that has the people's interest at heart, but instead simply vote as a bloc to maintain party loyalty?**

**Dr. BC:** Well, we have to break that rule ourselves. Those people are there because we, the people, have been voting as a bloc. We go into that booth looking for a “D” or an “R” or for a name that looks familiar. That’s all we know, and that’s why we get what we have. We don’t get people who actually represent us; we get people who have familiar names, or a party affiliation. I favor a system where there are no party affiliations, so you actually have to know who it is you’re voting for.

**KW: Harriet [Pakula-Teweles] also asks: With the political system hopelessly gridlocked, do you wonder whether you might be able to do more to benefit mankind in the operating room than in the White House?**

**Dr. BC:** I am 62 years-old. I’ve done all the operating that I’m going to do. Do I want to be in the White House? Absolutely not! It’s certainly was not among my retirement plans. However, I have found my life moving in a very different direction than I had planned, and I am hearing an increasing number of requests for me to run. I would prefer that someone else come along, who really wants to be president, who understands the Constitution and business principles, and how to get our economy moving. And who understands how important it is to provide a pathway for people to move up rather than remain dependent. And who understands how to employ the EPA to facilitate the development of our natural resources in a safe way rather than blocking their use. Who understands how placing more and more regulations on business, industry and academia are strangling rather than enabling our nation. And who understands a host of other things about leadership. If that person were to come along and could generate genuine excitement, then I wouldn’t see any need to do it myself.

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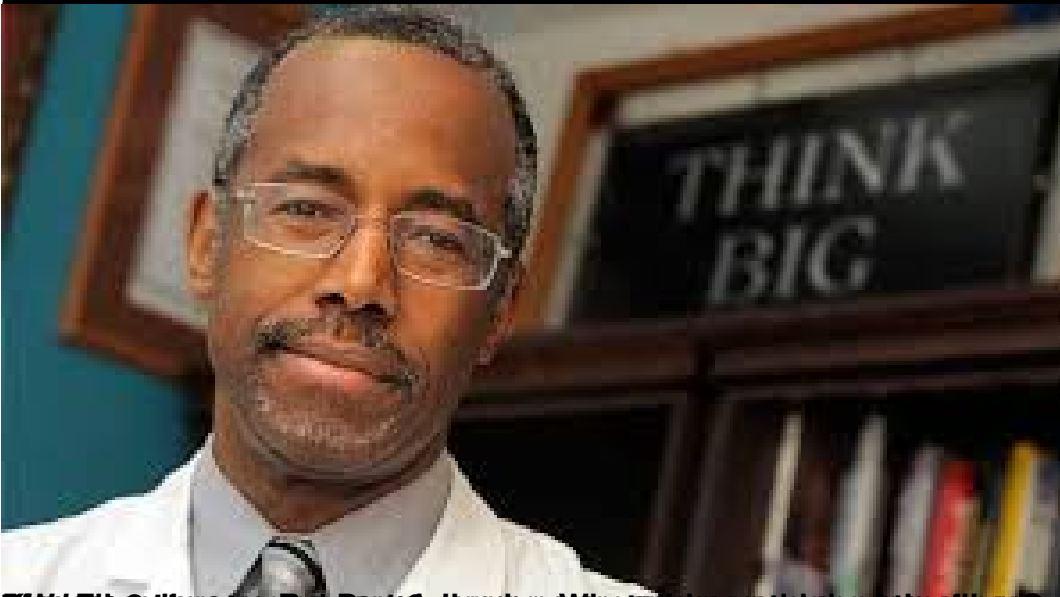
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[kwilliams@megadiversities.com](mailto:kwilliams@megadiversities.com)