



BISHOP THOMAS DEXTER (T. D.) JAKES, SR.

Condensed Biography

***“Even in a profession peopled with multitaskers,
Bishop Thomas (T. D.) Jakes stands out.”***

Time magazine
Cover Article, “The 25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America”

Bishop T. D. Jakes is founder and senior pastor of the legendary 30,000-member Dallas-based church, The Potter’s House. In a short number of years, his motivating messages have reached the world through best-selling books, award-winning music, critically-acclaimed plays and record-breaking events. Named by *Time* magazine as “America’s Best Preacher,” Bishop Jakes’ message of healing and restoration is unparalleled, transcending cultural and denominational barriers within the church and beyond. With the expansion of the ministry’s name to The Potter’s House of Denver and the establishment of satellite campuses in Fort Worth, Texas and North Dallas, The Potter’s House impacts the lives of many. Through *The Potter’s Touch*, Bishop Jakes’ weekly television outreach, countless people are served by his teachings throughout America, Africa, Australia, Europe and the Caribbean.

Bishop Jakes is the visionary behind several entities: the *Metroplex Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)*, a non-profit organization created to bridge the socio-economic gaps that exist in urban America; *Clay Academy*, a state-of-the-art charter school for kindergarten through sixth grade; *MegaCARE*, the global outreach missions organization affiliated with the church; the *Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (TORI)*, an after-care program that provides intensive case management to former inmates; *The Potter’s House Center for Counseling and Behavioral Health*, which delivers powerful programs and services to those impacted by HIV/AIDS and mental/emotional maladies; and *TDJ Enterprises*, Jakes’ for-profit company that produces and distributes his books, plays, movies, music projects and economic conferences. Additionally, he has established numerous, active ministries that work within the church and community to serve the people of God.

With must-attend conferences such as *Back to the Bible; Pastors’ and Leadership; ManPower, Woman, Thou Art Loosed* and the highly-regarded *MegaFest*, Bishop Jakes has established himself and The Potter’s House as a leader in presenting religious conferences that speak to the heart of people. His conferences have been described as “life-changing” and have set national attendance records.

Few people can claim awards and honors as broad in scope as Bishop Jakes. In addition to holding both a *Quill Award* and *Grammy Award*, he is the recipient of several *NAACP Image Awards*, including the *President’s Award*, and the *Best Independent or Foreign Film Award*. For his outstanding leadership, he has received the *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award* and the *Trumpet Award*. In July 2009, Jakes was honored with an All-Star Tribute at the *Essence Music Festival*. In 2010, *Ebony* magazine named Bishop Jakes to its annual *Power 150*, a listing of the most powerful change agents of our time. Because of his remarkable oratory skills, Bishop Jakes has served as a speaker at many prestigious events and ceremonies including the historic 2009 Presidential Inauguration in which President Barack Obama asked Bishop Jakes to deliver the morning service.

Bishop Jakes is a prolific author of more than 30 books, including his most recent works, *From the Cross to Pentecost* (Howard) and *The Memory Quilt* (Atria). Among his works are 15 best sellers, including, *Before You Do: Making Great Decisions That You Won't Regret* (Atria), and *Reposition Yourself* (Atria), both of which reached No. 3 on *The New York Times Best Sellers* list. *Reposition Yourself* remained on the list for 23 weeks, and spent 20 weeks on *USA Today's* best sellers list.

In January 2009, Sony Pictures released *Not Easily Broken*, Jakes' second novel to be made into a motion picture. Starring Morris Chestnut and Taraji P. Henson, the film was directed by Hollywood legend Bill Duke. *Not Easily Broken* ranked No. 9 nationally during opening week. He is currently awaiting his next movie project, *Jumping the Broom*, slated for release in 2011.

Bishop Jakes' biblically-grounded knowledge allows him to administer sage advice to believers and non-believers when he's asked to appear on the *Dr. Phil Show*, *CNN*, *Oprah* and *MSNBC*, or when called upon by U. S. presidents and international leaders. He also shares his wisdom when quoted or profiled in such notable publications as *Forbes*, *The Washington Post*, *Essence*, *Time*, *Ebony*, and *D Magazine*.

With a home base in Dallas/Fort Worth, Bishop Jakes is married to Serita Jakes. They have five children and two grandchildren.

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