

BISHOP T. D. JAKES

Timeline

- 1957:** June 9, born to Odith and Ernest, Sr. in South Charleston, West Virginia, the youngest of three children.
- 1976:** Accepts his call into the ministry by preaching his first sermon.
- 1977:** Licensed as a minister in the Church.
- 1979:** Officially ordained to minister in the Church as a pastor.
- 1979:** Part-time, national evangelist for Greater Emmanuel churches. Responsible for making annual visits to member churches, teaching and preaching.
- 1980:** Established and chartered Temple of Faith Church, a storefront church in Montgomery, West Virginia, with 10 members.
- 1982:** First radio ministry, *The Master's Plan*.
- 1983:** First conference, *Back to the Bible*, held at Temple of Faith with 80 participants.
- 1987:** Ordained into the Bishopric by Dr. Quander L. Wilson, the presiding Bishop of Greater Emmanuel Churches at the Civic Center in Charleston, West Virginia.
- 1990:** Moves church from Smithers to South Charleston, West Virginia, and the congregation grows from 100 to 300.
- 1992:** First preaches *Woman, Thou Art Loosed*, a Sunday school lesson that God places in his heart developed to address the pain of women.
- 1993:** Writes and self-publishes *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* as a book and began weekly television broadcast on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Also moves Temple of Faith to Cross Lanes, West Virginia, and the congregation grows from 300 to 1,100.
- 1994:** Establishes T. D. Jakes Ministries and initiates first *ManPower* conference in Detroit, Michigan, at Straight Gate Church. Also expands television ministry to weekly broadcasts on Black Entertainment Television (BET).
- 1995:**
- Launches his first *Pastors and Leadership Conference* (then titled *When Shepherds Bleed*) in Charleston, West Virginia.
 - Hosts nationally syndicated radio program, *Get Ready*.
 - Hosts regional *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* meetings around the country.

1996:

- Moves his family and leads 50 other families from West Virginia to establish The Potter's House in Dallas, Texas, where they occupy the former Eagle's Nest church building.
- The first church service at The Potter's House draws more than 2,000 people.
- Establishes *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* as an annual national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

1997:

- Licenses Transformation Treatment Center – outpatient rehabilitation program for substance abusers.
- *Christianity Today* and *The Dallas Morning News* tag The Potter's House “one of America's fastest-growing churches” as it expands from 50 families to what would eventually exceed 30,000 members and growing.

1998:

- Receives Grammy and Dove Award-nominations for *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* musical project.
- Establishes Touchdown Concepts, which is responsible for theatrical and musical presentations.

1999:

- Expands international ministry through television broadcasts in Europe and South Africa.
- Hosts first international crusade in Soweto, South Africa.
- Launches a state-by-state *Adopt-A-Prison* campaign to provide unequipped state prison systems with satellite broadcast reception equipment for rehabilitative and religious programming.
- Produces *Sacred Love Songs* CD, which was named as one of the year's top Gospel albums by *Billboard Magazine*.
- Sets indoor attendance record at the Georgia Dome for reaching 87,500 attendees, breaking the previous record held by the Rev. Billy Graham.
- The theatrical presentation of *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* receives No. 1 Gospel play honor.
- Serves as keynote speaker for the *National Day of Prayer* in Washington D.C.
- Speaks at the coronation ceremonies of Ghana Tribal King Kingsley Fletcher.

2000:

- Creates a follow-up to *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* with *Woman, Thou Art Loosed, Plus* to emphasize the economic empowerment of women.
- Co-authors *Behind Closed Doors*, the second stage production created by Touchdown Concepts, which is eventually dubbed one of the top gospel plays in the nation.
- Innovates the *Prison Satellite Network*, a band of satellites at more than 270 men's and women's prisons nationally for the opportunity of live, two-way satellite transmissions during the respective conferences, reaching more than 150,000 inmates. In addition, the satellite program begins transmitting a weekly church service, Bible study, and supplemental inspirational and rehabilitative programming.
- *Maximize The Moment*, Bishop Jakes' 24th book, climbs to No. 3 on the *New York Times* business best sellers list.
- Addresses the national media on Capitol Hill drawing attention to crimes against humanity in Sudan.
- *Chelsea House Publishers* adds T. D. Jakes biography to the *Black Americans of Achievement* series, placing him alongside Alex Haley, Martin Luther King, Jr., Fredrick Douglass, George Washington Carver, Marcus Garvey, Rosa Parks and Booker T. Washington.
- Serves as keynote speaker at annual conferences of The National Council of Black Mayors, National Black Police Association and the 2000 Congressional Black Caucus.
- October 22, 2000 – Bishop Jakes and The Potter's House church family dedicates and consecrates the newly constructed \$45 million worship center.

2001:

- On New Year's Day, CNN and *Time* magazine names him "one of America's Top Five religious innovators for the year."
- Sells more than 1.5 million copies of the book *Woman, Thou Art Loosed*.
- In March, releases his third musical project, *The Storm is Over* under Dexterity Sounds in collaboration with EMI Gospel.
- *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* is televised to more than four-fifths of the globe, reaching a potential 5.2 billion people and broadcast in close to one billion homes.

- September 2001 – *Time* magazine and CNN distinguishes him as *America's Best Preacher*.
- October 2001 – launches a national daily talk show to discuss pressing issues concerning Christians in everyday life called *The Potter's Touch*.

2002:

- Joins Yolanda Adams and Debbie Allen as a co-host of Lou Rawls' *Miracle of Stars*, which benefits the United Negro College Fund.
- Delivers the keynote speech for the NAACP regional convention in Dallas, Texas.
- February 2002 – Receives the Chairman's Award from The National Religious Broadcasters.
- March 2002 – *The Storm Is Over* receives both Dove and Grammy nominations for "Best Gospel Album – Contemporary."
- April – *The Storm Is Over* wins both NAACP Image and Stellar Gospel Awards for "Best Gospel Album – Contemporary."
- Receives the "Chairman's Award" from the National Religious Broadcaster's Association (NRB).
- *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* celebrates its 10th anniversary with a unique leadership conference at The Potter's House of Dallas titled *God's Leading Ladies* designed for female Christian leaders.
- Selected in the *Who's Who Among African-Americans*, and asked to write the foreword.
- *God's Leading Lady*, his 27th book, peaks at No. 4 on the *New York Times* Hardcover Advice Best Sellers list.
- *Woman, Thou Art Loosed – Worship 2002* nominated for the "Best Soul Album – Contemporary."

2003:

- March 12, 2003 – *The Bridge* – Collaborates with Grammy-award winning Gospel singer Bill Gaither during a celebration of cultural and ethnic diversity held at The Potter's House.
- Launches the *God's Leading Ladies Conference Tour*.
- Joined by Dallas Mayor Laura Miller, Bishop Jakes and The Potter's House donate \$107,000 to the Dallas Faith Communities Coalition to support the relocation of Cadillac Heights residents.

- Hosts *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* and *ManPower* conferences attracting more than 80,000 people from 50 states, 26 countries and 700 prisons – during *ManPower* the ministry joined with Habitat for Humanity in building two homes for single parent families.
- Receives Grammy Award nominations for *Follow the Star* (Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album) and *A Wing and a Prayer* (Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album).
- November 2003 – Hosts *The Revival at Sea* cruise.
- Bishop Jakes is featured on the gospel music CD *The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin*, which was presented with a Dove award as the Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year in 2003.
- December 31, 2003 – Bishop Jakes and The Potter’s House church family retire the \$45 million debt incurred by the construction of the church worship center.

2004:

- January 6, 2004 – *Cover Girls*, the play based on the best selling novel by Bishop Jakes, begins its national tour.
- January 23, 2004 – Releases *God's Leading Ladies Workbook: Taking Your Place on Life's Center Stage*.
- February 8, 2004 – Bishop Jakes and The Potter’s House Mass Choir wins a Grammy Award in the Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album category for the album *A Wing and a Prayer*.
- March 6, 2004 – Receives the NAACP President’s Award, given to a person who exemplifies high standards of character, conviction and achievement.
- July 2004 – Releases *He-Motions: Even Strong Men Struggle*, with foreword by Max Lucado, *He-Motions* CD music project and national tour. The CD is nominated for a 2005 Grammy.
- Launches *MegaFest* (Christian family festival) July 23 - 26, 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia – more than 140,000 people attended.
- Hosts the *God’s Leading Ladies Conference* Tour in Washington D.C. and Los Angeles.
- Releases the novel *Woman, Thou Art Loosed*
- Fall 2004 – Bishop Jakes and The Potter’s House church family break ground on Capella Park, a 231-acre planned community in south Dallas.
- October 1, 2004 – Magnolia Pictures releases *Woman, Thou Art Loosed: The Movie*

- Winner: “Best American Film” at the 2004 Santa Barbara International Film Festival;
- Winner: “Audience Award for Best Feature” at the 2004 American Black Film Festival;
- Named one of 10 best films of 2004 by U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting, a list including *The Aviator*, *Hotel Rwanda*, *The Passion of the Christ* and *Ray*;
- Kimberly Elise and Loretta Devine nominated for Independent Spirit Awards;
- Opens No. 6 at the box office
- First film since *Amistad* to break the top 10 on only 400 screens;
- Nominated for a NAACP Image Award, and
- Released on home video/DVD by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment on March 8, 2005.

2005:

- November/December 2004 and January 2005 – The Potter’s House finances the digging of water wells in Kenya, Africa and Bishop visits in January 2005 to dedicate them.
- January 2005 – The Potter's House congregation and Clay Academy students raise more than \$100,000 for the tsunami relief effort.
- February 2005 – *Time* magazine names him one of the “25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America.”
- March 2005 – *Woman, Thou Art Loose:- The Movie* won NAACP Image Award for best independent or foreign film, the first award of its kind presented by the organization.
- April 25, 2005 – Honored as a Trumpet Award recipient.
- May 2005 – Officials honor Bishop and Mrs. Jakes for their *MegaFest 2004* attendance record, which surpassed the previous record held by the Rev. Billy Graham. A plaque depicting their image and recording the accomplishment is presently displayed in the Dome.
- May 15, 2005 – With Pastor Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Bishop Jakes serves as co-host of The Global Day of Prayer event. Held at Reunion Arena in Dallas, Christians and churches from diverse traditions and backgrounds gathered together for a concentrated time of prayer with others around the world.

- June 2005 – Awarded Chairman’s Award for Community Empowerment by 100 Black Men of America, Inc.
- July 16 – 23, 2005 – Hosts *Doing Business in Deep Waters*, a weeklong business cruise in Alaska.
- August 3 – 6, 2005 – *MegaFest 2005* attracts more than 100,000 participants to Atlanta, Georgia.
- August 5, 2005 – Bishop Jakes is the plenary speaker during the National Association of Black Journalists Annual Convention in Atlanta.
- August 30, 2005 – Receives an Equal Justice Award by the Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas for the ministry’s efforts on behalf of domestic violence victims.
- September 2005 – Bishop Jakes and The Potter’s House mobilize resources on behalf of Gulf Coast hurricane survivors.
- September 16, 2005 – Serves as the official homilist at the Washington National Cathedral during the commemoration of the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.
- September 26 – October 2, 2005 – “*Faith for Africa: Kenya Mission^(tm)*” – Leads more than 300 African Americans, including a skilled team of medical professionals and The Potter’s House’s 140-member mass choir on a humanitarian mission trip to Kenya, Africa.
- October 2005 – Honored for his exceptional support of his community and Historically Black Colleges and Universities with the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Award in the field of Faith and Theology.
- October 15, 2005 – Featured speaker at the National Black MBA Association’s Annual Conference and receives the organization’s Chairman’s Award, its most prestigious honor.
- December 2005 – Asked to serve with the Rev. William H. Gray III as co-chair of the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund’s Interfaith Coalition.

2006:

- Bishop Jakes celebrates his 30th year in ministry.
- January 2006 – Bishop Jakes is a featured speaker at 9th Annual Rainbow/PUSH Wall Street Project Conference, Gala & Career Opportunity and Development Exposition.

- January 2006 – Readers of *The Church Report* magazine choose Bishop Jakes No. 1 among The 50 Most Influential Christians in America.
- February 2006 – Bishop Jakes is featured, along with a diverse group of highly accomplished African Americans, in *African American Lives*, a four-part PBS series hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Using genealogy, oral history, family stories and DNA analysis the series traces the family lineage through American history and back to Africa.
- March 9 – 11, 2006 – Bishop Jakes hosts the *For Men Only Conference*, three days of inspired teaching, fellowship and camaraderie for men from diverse racial and ethnic, geographic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- March 18, 2006 – The *T. D. Jakes* wing of the Melchizedek Hospital located in a slum area of Kenya called Kawangware is dedicated. The wing will facilitate a maternity ward, intensive care units and an operating room.
- April 25, 2006 – Releases *Mama Made The Difference: Life Lessons My Mother Taught Me*.
- July 19 – 22, 2006 – *MegaFest 2006* attracts tens of thousands of men, women, young adults, and children to Atlanta, Georgia.
- September 2006 – Releases *T. D. and Serita Ann Jakes Speak to Women*.
- October 11, 2006 – Releases the novel *Not Easily Broken*.
- October 10, 2006 – Bishop Jakes wins 2006 Quill Award in the Religion/Spirituality category with his best-selling book, *Mama Made The Difference*.
- December 2, 2006 – The ministry launches *It's Time to Step Up!* – a comprehensive national and international HIV/AIDS awareness campaign that targets the faith community, women and minority populations.

2007:

- January 2007 – Readers of The Church Report magazine choose Bishop Jakes No. 4 among The 50 Most Influential Christians in America.