



OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM BISHOP T.D. JAKES

Pastoral Care to Hurricane Katrina Survivors

Bishop T.D. Jakes Continues Pastoral Care to Hurricane Katrina Survivors in Baton Rouge and Houston as Ongoing Relief Efforts are Planned

Sept 5, Dallas – One week after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region, Bishop T.D. Jakes will leave Dallas, where he has mobilized supplies and relief, to join President George W. Bush to visit the survivors still pouring into Baton Rouge, La., to lend comfort, compassion, and pastoral care. Later today, Bishop Jakes will also console and reassure survivors in Houston, Texas. On Tuesday, Sept. 6, he will participate in a meeting with relief organizations and religious leaders to discuss ways to put resources directly into the hands of those on the front line of assistance.

“Like most Americans, I see the unfathomable suffering and it makes me angry. Help cannot come quickly enough. I go to Baton Rouge and Houston as a pastor and humanitarian to share God’s love, and to be the eyes and ears of the Church. Suffering and pain are common denominators for people. They know no color or bias. I feel compelled to touch people and personally hear their hearts, in order to effectively translate their needs into strategies for action.

“The African-American community has been disproportionately hit by this disaster, and so many immediate needs must be addressed. Immediate housing and jobs are needed. When we begin to rebuild, we need programs in place that motivate contractors to hire residents who have lost their jobs and homes.

“We need to identify specific ways faith-based initiatives can serve people looking to us for help. We need to cut out the red tape and open communication for people who are suffering.

“Many questions deserve to be answered, and it is a conversation that should and will happen in due time. Right now, we must focus on saving lives, and caring for the survivors who have lost everything. For the sake of the suffering, our nation needs to pull together. There are no overnight solutions to the monumental task before us. But with prayer and perseverance, we’ll get through this together.”