



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS

Bishop T.D. Jakes

Thank you for the opportunity to openly dialogue with you during your 30th Anniversary Convention in Atlanta. I felt warmly welcomed and extremely honored by the experience. While small churches play a significant role in American society, the influence of mega churches and their ability to significantly impact communities across the street and around the globe is critically important as well. Large or small, every church is charged with an immeasurable Christian mission. This truth was recently driven home as we witnessed the horrific impact of Hurricane Katrina on the lives of our Gulf Coast neighbors. While the government attempted to untangle itself out of bureaucratic red tape, the Church stepped up, and stepping out on faith, we responded expediently to the needs of the people.

Like most Americans, I was angered by what seemed to me unnecessary suffering, and I was moved to action. Scared, uncertain, and unsure of what the future holds for their families, hundreds of thousands of people have lost everything they own in the world. I cannot express passionately enough how deeply touched I was by my tour of the two shelters in downtown Dallas. I went to Baton Rouge and to Houston as a pastor and a humanitarian intent on sharing God's love with men, women, and children who felt abandoned. I feel compelled to touch people and personally hear their hearts, so that I can use what I hear to galvanize strategies for action. Help cannot come quickly enough, and as a minister of the Gospel, I believe prayer and faith will serve as a foundation for emotional and spiritual healing. From a practical standpoint, The Potter's House church will stand on the front lines of the relief effort as long as the need is apparent.

By now I hope you understand that the vision of The Potter's House does not tarry at the doors of our church, or even on the shores of our nation. Continuing our demonstrated commitment to provide rural African tribes with clean, safe water sources, we will dedicate a number of newly drilled wells in Kenya during the week of September 26 – October 3, 2005. We will bring hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical supplies and a skilled team of 120 medical professionals to attend to the physical needs of Kenya's people. I will bring with me ministry and business constituents who are willing to share their respective strengths and expertise, to network with local Kenyans, and address some of the country's most pressing needs. On Oct. 1 and 2, I will lead worship services in Kenya's Uhuru Park in Nairobi where we will preach the Word of God, lift His name in song, and broadcast the Good News of Jesus Christ to millions of families globally.

I look forward to future dialogues with you – corporately and individually – as we continue to reinforce a mutually satisfying relationship built on trust and motivated by a heartfelt concern for the communities of world we serve.

In His Service,

Bishop T.D. Jakes

Founder and Senior Pastor

The Potter's House of Dallas, Inc