

CPS



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**2023 International
Leadership Summit**
In Review

The Many Faces of Ministry

by **BISHOP T.D. JAKES**



I have often believed we must come to a new level of wholistic thinking to impact our world for the next generation. If we are going to help the hurting; educate the young; protect at-risk children; revitalize underserved communities; feed the homeless; provide affordable housing; and more, we must be more than people who shout and run around in church.

The need for strategic thinking and alliances is critical. I recently had a chance to sit on a panel with some of my good friends in business who are the backbone of the *T.D. Jakes Group* marketplace endeavors to reshape our lives, homes, and futures. I wanted to share some snippets from that fascinating conversation, unveiling the many forms of ministry.

My good friend, Reverend Khary Bridgewater, a principal at one of the 10 largest accounting networks in the world, had this to say:

“The biggest hurdle for Christian businesses is overcoming fear. So many

people are afraid to trust their own insights and instincts.

“Many also fear doing the work it takes to learn how to access capital flowing into their business. Many small businesses are one-sided, only focusing on the things they enjoy doing while ignoring hard things that will cause their business to explode.”

The agonizing reality is that we enjoy living within the bounds of our comfort zones when true success stems from disruption. If we're going to achieve something we've never achieved before, we must be willing to think and act outside the lines we feel safest in. During our special discussion panel, my ministry partner, Tiffany Brinkley, director of our main outreach arm, *United MegaCare*, shared how God wants to use us to impact communities both locally and abroad:

“We can all be change agents, and real ministry starts outside the church in the streets. United MegaCare is doing just that in Africa, the Caribbean, India, the

Philippines, and more. We are boots on the ground, pursuing long-term change. Partnership is the key. If we can't make it to a region, there's always a local connection who can assume the work and help people in crisis.

"We also firmly believe real charity begins at home. That's why we labor hard in America to create awareness in our local communities about available resources to build lives and neighborhoods."

One of my favorite parts about this sentiment is the idea of working inter-connectedly to achieve something far too big to do so alone. That's how big our goals should be. They should require us to reach out and relinquish the control of doing it by ourselves.

That's why I also invited one of our *Potter's House* pastors, Michael Phillips, who heads up *T.D. Jakes Enterprises* and our new *Good Soil* business initiative, to share his thoughts.

"We started Good Soil because we wanted a space where entrepreneurs could evolve. We are providing small-business owners with the tools they need to grow and scale their businesses for sustainability.

"Everyone needs help, connection, and resources if they're going to thrive in business."

Cassius Butts, who runs *Capital Fortitude Business Advisors* consulting firm, added to the conversation with his thoughts on the critical topic of homeownership:

"We all can own a home. Every state has funds available for people to qualify to be a first-time buyer. Tools are available for people to learn how to be home and business owners."

The last panelist, Dr. Natasha Gresham, director of the *Center of Counseling and Behavioral Health* at *The Potter's House*, had some crucial things to share about mental health in our communities.

"A lot of times, the faith community doesn't understand what mental health is. Not everyone has a mental illness, but we all have mental health. True mental health is how you live, how you love, and how you laugh. How we show up in the world reflects our mental health."

Ministry is a multifaceted way of serving the people of God. Jesus cares about every aspect of our being. It's time people get what they need to engage their passion and produce plans that benefit our homes and communities at large. ✝

There's so much I was unable to share here. To listen to the full panel discussion, please scan the QR code. I believe it will bless you!



Celebrating the Life of Jeff Troy



TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Recently, Jeffrey Bruce Troy, a cherished member of the *T.D. Jakes Ministries* family, went home to be with the Lord. Whether you encountered him personally or not, Jeff's excellence as a servant impacted you and the rest of our GPS partners in some shape or form.

Jeff began his journey with us when he was hired as our national project manager in 2007. Jeff's consistency and diligence allowed him to thrive as a treasured team member and function in many capacities. Everyone at the ministry lovingly referred to him as "*The Numbers Man.*"

Ultimately, Jeff became the executive who oversaw the entire partner program and the face of GPS at our conferences. He was the one who made sure your partner data and information were handled with care and excellence. Eventually, Jeff transitioned to our business performance operations team, where he would be promoted to director and serve for 16 faithful years before being called home to be with Jesus.

There's so much to be said about this remarkable man who began ministering at

the young age of 11 years old. Jeff spent his entire life in ministry, singing and serving. By the time he connected with us, his gifting and character in the Lord were evident. He became a licensed minister in 2014, and we ordained him as an elder at *The Potter's House* in 2019.

Jeff was the kind of man who would pray with you through troubling times and remember to check on you. He was a true friend who loved his family. He enjoyed life and wanted to share that joy with others. One of his favorite ways to bless his team members was through his gift of cooking. As a man who loves to cook himself, I can testify that everyone in the office looked forward to him bringing in his favorite collard greens and sweet potatoes.

So often words fail to capture the true essence of how special someone truly is. In Jeff's case, I say "is" and not "was" because Jeff is still alive. He's just with Jesus. And for that, we praise the Lord.

Our prayers are with his family and friends. Serita and I speak peace and comfort over his mother, siblings, nieces, and nephews whom he cherished.

Rest well, Jeff Troy, faithful servant of the Lord!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. D. Jakes".



Sincerely, Serita

Saving Our Children

The more we engage in strategic ministry, the more opportunities we find to help the suffering. It's been overwhelming to realize how many children are unprotected in our world. As a mom, I go into protective mode, eager to help and shield them from the evil in the world.

That's why our philanthropic arm, *United MegaCare*, is partnering with the *Moses Basket Initiative* in Nairobi, Kenya.

Together, we are laboring in West Africa to break cycles of abuse and provide a haven for young girls being exploited in child marriages.

Our goal is to create a space where young girls can discover their identities, regain their dignity, and reclaim their futures.

Children reflect the heart of God in the earth. Jesus said, "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me ..." Mark 9:37 (NKJV), so imagine how angry He is about the pain and suffering of His precious little ones!

Our goal is to create a space where young girls can discover their identities, regain their dignity, and reclaim their futures.

That's why we are presently involved in building permanent, safe housing where teenage girls and their daughters can go to begin their healing process. Children are our future, and we will fight to protect them!

It's because of the faithful support of GPS partners like you that we're able to make such a transformative change in the lives of God's cherished daughters. Let's continue this good work together. May God bless you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Serita A. Peres



If you'd like more information about this inspiring outreach, visit shestepsforwardinternational.org/moses-basket-initiative or scan the QR code.



Your Generous Support ... Proven Heavenly Results

Struggling families, starving people, challenged youth, and more receive life-saving practical tools for a better life all because of people like you!

GOOD 360 PROGRAM:

5800+ FAMILIES

were assisted through receiving donated items, clothes, disaster relief supplies, non-perishable food items, and more.



MOM'S TOUR: 120+ WOMEN

attended the Mom's Tour—a community-wide resource fair and baby shower for new and expecting moms. Parents received free resources such as bassinets, wipes, baby clothes, baby shoes, toys, bottles, baby bags, laundry detergent, and other necessities.

MEALS ON WHEELS: 550+ SENIORS

were served with home-delivered hot breakfast and lunch meals.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY: 850+ FAMILIES

and communities struggling with food scarcity were blessed with convenient food delivery services at no cost.



COMMUNITY IMPACT OUTREACH: 6700+ PEOPLE

were blessed as thousands of students received school supplies and aid to further academic pursuits. In addition, many mothers were uplifted through *The Stewpot Initiative*, which offers a haven for the homeless and provides at-risk individuals in Dallas with basic survival needs (meals, dental and mental health assistance, family programs, etc.), as well as opportunities to start a new life.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

WORKSHOPS: 240+ PEOPLE

received individual instruction via classes to help them build strong financial habits and a foundation for the future.



**GPS Partners like you
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INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



Join us in Dallas, TX for the 2024 *International Leadership Summit* from March 21-23. Visit thisisils.org or scan the QR code to register.

Exclusive Events Just for You!

We cherish every opportunity we get to have fun and create new memories with our GPS partners. The 2023 GPS Top Golf Extravaganza in Orlando, Florida, was no exception.

If you've never attended one of our ministry conferences or partner events, the next *GPS* partner event will take place on March 20 to kick off the 2024 *International Leadership Summit*.



UPCOMING EVENTS



INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

DALLAS, TEXAS, MARCH 21-23, 2024
thisisils.org

Join me at the *2024 International Leadership Summit!* Together, we will discover why “Timing is Everything.” It’s not just your turn; it’s your time! Register now at **thisisils.org**.

Your Conference Checklist:

- Register online at **thisisils.org**.
- Book your hotel.
- Book your flight.
- RSVP for the special *GPS* partner event.
- Need assistance? Call 1.800.BISHOP.2.



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T. D. JAMES
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