



Dr. William M. Johnson, Jr.
Recently Named:
Ambassador World Peace Initiative for the
Middle East
June 2005

William M. Johnson, Jr.

B.S., M.Th., D.D., S.Litt.D.

Teacher, Preacher, Community Developer, Evangelist,
Urban Planner

A Passion for the Glory of God

“If you lay with God, you will become impregnated with a Passion for God and the Creativity of God...’and out of your belly will flow rivers of living water.’”

—Billy Johnson

Dr. William M. Johnson, Jr. has served as a Teacher, Preacher of the Gospel, Intercessory Prayer Warrior, Pastoral Counselor to Pastors, Visionary, and Evangelist for over 25 years. His Passion for the Glory of God has enabled him to reach thousands of souls –internationally and interdenominationally- through radio, street and tent ministries, lectures, newspaper columns, teleconferencing, and a multitude of revivals throughout the United States, Canada, Korea, Europe and Africa.

Dr. Johnson, affectionately called by some Brother Johnson, Doc, or that Preacher over in the ‘hood, or simply called, “Dr. Billy.” He unapologetically accepts his Jonah-calling to not only carry the message of Christ to those who **willing** receive it; but, also to go into the *ghetto* communities where Christ is **not readily received**, where the Christ is **not believed** to be the Savior, and **to teach and preach to those communities the social ministry and saving grace of Jesus Christ**. He is committed to dispelling the overemphasis upon denominational issues, and to illustrate to believers, and non-, that if one truly expresses the compassion and the exhibits the submission to “lay with God, one will become impregnated with a Passion for God and the Creativity of God...’and out of one’s belly will flow rivers of living water.’” His message to Clergy has been, “acquiescence to the life and calling that God has given us *demands* that we become the personification of the Passion of God, the Creativity of God.”

He has also served as a participant and consultant to the White House Office of Public Policy and he has regularly accepted invitations as a guest lecturer on Urban Studies and Urban Renewal, among them, the College of New Rochelle, School of New Resources, South Bronx Campus in the Bronx, New York.

One of his most memorable opportunities to exhibit *the Passion of God* was during the turbulent times of the 80’s in the South Bronx. Dr. Johnson pastored a congregation in the heart of the burned out, war zone in the South Bronx, coined by Hollywood movie producers as –Fort Apache, The Bronx. This was a time when there were daily battles between Blacks and Hispanics, and there were house burnings where whole neighborhood blocks were destroyed. Dr. Johnson had for years run programs to feed, clothe and find employment for the residents of the community. Miraculously, he was able to walk the streets of the South Bronx–day and night-unharmful, unafraid, and unarmed – except for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was able to walk with such faith because the people knew that he was a shepherd for the people, not just in word, but in deed. Totally unexpectedly, one Friday night at 10:05pm, while working with his staff

at the Church's Day Care Center, the doorbell rang. There stood huddled, hundreds of black men, women and children. They had shown up to appeal for "DOC" to please lead them, and to help them to secure relief and protection from the city police department, who had for months been known to refuse to enter the community due to the fear of coming under siege and of becoming fatal victims of the crime on the streets. That night, hundreds of families followed Dr. Johnson through the streets of the South Bronx and down to the police precinct. He spoke, and during the night, many gave their lives to Christ, and the police department made a commitment to protect the people of the South Bronx; and, we are confident that some of them too, gave their lives to Christ. This event was a "parting of the Red Sea experience" for the faithful congregation who supported the messenger, and his message of the social ministry of Christ. *...and out of your belly shall come rivers of living water.*

An ordained minister, Dr. William Johnson, is well received throughout the clergy community – interdenominational- for his contagious vision, and an unconditional willingness and passion for God that has caused him, like the prophet Nehemiah, *to surrender his life to the fulfillment of his own prayers.*

Dr. Johnson's ministerial career includes the pastorate of three urban ministries, including most recently: The Bronx Evangelistic Center, Bronx, New York (1981-1990) and Urban Refuge, Hartford, Connecticut (1990-Present). As a part of his ministry, he has founded several urban ministry organizations including Melrose Morrisania Urban Renewal Project, Bronx, New York; and, People's Hope: Urban Renewal Refuge, Hartford and New Britain, Connecticut.

Raised in New York City's Harlem, Dr. Johnson was graduated from the University of the City of New York with a Bachelor of Art in Social Studies. He has certification in the School of Architecture and Urban Planning from Columbia University and Pratt Institute, respectively. He received the Doctor of Divinity degree in (1963) from the American Divinity School in Orlando, Florida. His spiritual mentor and father in the gospel, the late Dr. R. C. Lawson, D.D., LL.D., Pastor of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and his mother, the late Missionary Elizabeth Johnson, are credited with having instilled in him his fiery zeal and the quest for the spiritual fortitude to go for several days and even weeks of fasting and intercessory prayer. His father, the late William Mylious Johnson, Sr., was his role model for entrepreneurship and for initiating community development. William Johnson, Sr. was BTU Class leader, serving under Dr. Oclay Maxwell, Sr. of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 120th Street and Lenox Street, Harlem, NY. The Johnson Family of Rock Hill, SC was developers and supporters of the Friendship Baptist College at its inception.

Dr. Johnson was chosen as Dean of Pastors for the New England Area Churches; guest lecturer at the Church of Christ Bible Institute, New York, New York and professor of Biblical Principles of Chastity. A prolific writer and charismatic communicator, he has written numerous articles, and is the author of many booklets and pamphlets.

Dr. Johnson and his loving wife, Celeste, have two extraordinary sons, Mylious and Ashley, and one adorable granddaughter, Cheyanne, and a new grandson, Mylious Pascal. The Johnsons make their home in the state Connecticut and New York. Their family daily prayer of thanksgiving is, "hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Other of his accomplishments are:

He has faithfully and dutifully served as executive director of various community development programs both domestically and internationally, including: the position of Ambassador for Earth Day under the leadership of Dr. Margaret Mead, Anthropologist (1977-1980); a member of the

board of directors of the New York City Mission Society during the leadership of Mayor Beam(1983); Executive Director, The Federation of 10,000 Citywide Block Associations, The City of New York; Technical Assistance Director to New York City Operation Open City; Community Board Associations (1988-1991), the Northend Neighborhood Community Organization, Hartford, Connecticut; and

Developer of over 1500 units of affordable housing including 300 units for senior citizens, 160 capacity child development center with pre and after school programs, day care, senior citizens center in the South Bronx.

Founder and Executive Director of the Coalition of Community Clergy and Congregations International, NY, NY to name just a few. Accordingly, he has received numerous citations for his contributions as a humanitarian, for his social gospel ministry, and for his community leadership and achievements. As a result of his successful proposal and grant writings for urban renewal and turnkey projects, he has received invitations to attend many official state and federal government functions .

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**Baptizing in the Jordan River, Israel
Over 30 Persons Were Bantized**

