

Testimony about our attending the Annual Dallas, Texas Prayer Breakfast

John Jackson
February 20, 2017



Rev. John Jackson, the district pastor of District 9, and his wife, Fusae, along with Bishop Jesse Edwards, Rev. Mark Hernandez, Dr. Harbans Lal and his wife, and Dr. Karen and Bishop David Thibodeaux, took part in the annual prayer breakfast organized by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, a longtime member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Dallas, Texas. This is Rev. Jackson's testimony of the event, which took place on February 20, 2017, and had about 70 attendees.

The main speaker that morning was Dr. Michael W. Waters, a local minister who was present last year in July when the shooting of five Dallas police officers happened. He had just led a group of people in a peaceful march downtown. After the shootings the press, of course, were seeking answers where there were no answers -- none that made any sense, at least.



Dr. Waters said many people had thought that Dallas was a place where there was harmony and all was well. But that was not the Dallas that he knew. He knew a Dallas that was divided north and south -- one half, in the north, where people could go out and have peace and live where they felt protected and secure, and the other half, in the south, where shots would be fired, the police would be called over and over again, and no one would come. This was, in truth, the Dallas that he lived in.

Dr. Waters said that if you were to look at the statistics, you would see a city that was the seventh most religious in the United States, with churches spread all over, many across the street from one another. But these monuments to our faith are just empty walls if we are not building people and raising up saints. Dallas has work to do, he said. We religious leaders of all faiths have work to do: We need to raise people and to lift their confidence so that this kind of racial bigotry will end, he said, because we are one people, one race, one family under God Almighty. This work is ours. We must not fail, we must prevail, he said. Let us work together with our political leaders like Eddie Bernice Johnson, a champion to build a united Dallas where all of God's children are free and safe.



Congresswoman Johnson, the final speaker, was so eloquent. She said that she could work with our new president if he would give her a chance. She said that President Trump was the rightfully elected president and that she had sat at his inauguration in the rain on January 20 because he was elected by the people. The 81-year-old congresswoman said she got a terrible cold later that she had only recently recovered from. Then she told us that she was so grateful for the prayers of the clergy and that she needed those prayers -- that it was the spirit of the Lord that led her and kept her. She thanked us for coming, and then we prayed again for our leaders, each other, the city, and the nation.

We met many people at the event, exchanged business cards and made new friends. It was a very good experience and something to build on.

Congresswoman Johnson was so gracious to spend time with everyone and take pictures.