

## **Dr. James D. Bush III**

The Honorable Dr. James Bush III is a former State Representative for District 109 in Miami, Florida. He is a long-standing advocate for people and communities and has provided leadership for and represented the hearts and mind of the residents in this community for almost four decades.

Dr. Bush III is a fourth-generation Baptist minister and grew up in a family of 13 children. Born in February of 1955, he was faced with a multiplicity of societal ills that could have prevented him from progressing in this society. As a young man, he disciplined and educated himself, and followed the golden rule: " ... do unto others as you would have others do unto you." He has strived to live his life as an example for others to follow and continues to work hard every day to ensure that he lives out his purpose to help create the best life possible for his family and the people God has assigned him to lead and guide.

Evangelist Bush is kept motivated by his purpose driven work with James Bush III Ministries, International. The Evangelistic Ministry began May 18, 2000 and continues today building on its foundation of teaching, conducting Bible workshops and lectures performing weddings, preaching funerals, feeding the hungry, visiting hospitals and prisons, conducting word crusades and preaching the Word of God to the lost. In January 2015 Evangelist Bush launched the community focused Just Pray Movement. This movement sounds the alarm to family leaders - parents everywhere - to return to the practice of family centered prayer to restore families, one by one, building a protective hedge around the family and strengthen our communities from the inside. He is also the host of the "Voices of the Past, Present and Future" radio talk show airing the second Thursday of every month on WMBM 1490 radio in Miami, Florida.

Bush is a graduate of Miami Northwestern Senior High School Class of 1974. He attended Bishop College in Dallas, Texas and went on to graduate from Bethune Cookman University, Class of 1979 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He is an alumnus of Nova Southeastern University Class of 1984 where he received his Master of Science in Educational Administration and Supervision and completed some course work for the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program. He earned a Doctorate in Divinity from Smith Chapel Bible College in 2004.

James offers to this community a wealth of knowledge and expertise supported by more than 40 years of combined experience and wisdom gained from his work in various areas of ministry, education, politics, social/community service, and development. His professional background includes more than 30 years with the Dade County Public School System as a teacher/administrator; more than 23 years as an ordained ministry/Senior Evangelist; and more than 20 years in elected public service. He retired from the Miami Dade County Schools in 2014.

Bush was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1992 and completed four consecutive 2-year terms (8 years). He was re-elected in 2008 to the Florida House of Representatives, District 109 for a 2-year term, and was again re-elected in November 2018 concluding in November of 2022. In addition to his general Legislative duties, he also served on many legislative committees including the Economic Development Policy Committee, Elder & Family Services Policy Committee, Education Committees K - 12, Community College, Higher Education Universities, the Health and Family Services Policy Council, Criminal Justice Sub Committee, the Committee on Collective Bargaining and the Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee to name a few.

Dr. Bush holds numerous citations, special awards and commendation for service, leadership, and community work. Among the list is the award conferred by The National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education recognizing him for his contributions and accomplishments in education. He is a Past Trustee and Vice-President of Smith Chapel Bible University (SCBU), Southeastern Region; Memberships past and current include-- local chapter of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; served on the National Board of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)- served as Acting National President and Past Board Secretary; Past President of the Miami Chapter of Operation PUSH; Past First Vice-President of People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (PULSE) and a past member of the United Teachers of Dade-serving as a Building Steward. He is currently Vice-President of Brownsville Civic Association and continues to work to support the residents of the Miami Dade County community.

Dr. Bush is married to Bernadine Williams-Bush and is the father of two sons -- James IV (wife Heather) and Joshua David. He is also the proud grandfather of two beautiful granddaughters- Jada & Jayla and one grandson James V.