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## **MEGACARE OFFERS HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO LOCALS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAZILAND**

### **MegaCARE and Other Philanthropic Initiatives to Reach Thousands During MegaFest International**

**DALLAS, August 14, 2008**—*MegaFest International*, one of the world's largest Christian events, will provide healthcare and educational opportunities to the people of South Africa and Swaziland, October 11 – 12 and October 14 – 18 respectively, under the banner of *MegaCARE*. *MegaCARE*, a new component of *MegaFest*, allows the event to fulfill its commission of meeting the spiritual and physical needs of all people.

"We have always been committed to serving the whole person through our ministries at The Potter's House. We extend that commitment to *MegaFest*, where we have offered financial planning seminars, built homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and delivered other vital services that met the physical needs of people," said Bishop T. D. Jakes, visionary for *MegaFest*. "*MegaCARE* continues that tradition of supplying programs and services that meet the practical needs of all people."

Sponsored by Terra Cotta International (TCI) and The Potter's House Office of Counseling and Behavioral Health (OCBH), *MegaCARE* is partnering with governmental and faith-based organizations in South Africa and Swaziland to provide onsite health services. TCI and OCBH volunteers and staff will greet families and individuals as they arrive at the conference facility and direct them to triage, general health screenings, HIV counseling and testing, dental care, ophthalmic care and referral services where materials and resources on malaria, tuberculosis, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and more will be disseminated.

A partner of PEPFAR (United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), Society for Family Health/New Start will provide HIV testing and counseling while Pro-Health International will provide the physicians, lab techs, pharmacists and others who will deliver expert care and counseling. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in South Africa is another partner in this initiative as well as The ONE Campaign.

For South Africans who are interested in learning more about healthcare services offered in their community, *MegaCARE* will also present a health fair. The *MegaCARE* Community Health Fair will run from October 10 through 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Expo Centre (Nasrec) in Johannesburg. Various healthcare organizations will man informational booths and share educational briefs focused on their area of expertise.

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Other philanthropic initiatives occurring during *MegaFest International* will address the housing shortage in South Africa. The Potter's House and partners such as the Niall Mellon Township Trust will build two homes near Soweto to replace houses that are currently made of tin, cardboard and scrap materials. In Swaziland, World Vision and The Potter's House join hands to build The Potter's House for Children, a community-based care center for children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS. The center will provide meals, training and love to approximately 200 children. And in Zambia, two water wells will be rehabilitated, affording the citizens a safe water source.

**About The Potter's House of Dallas:**

A globally recognized church of more than 30,000 members located in Dallas, Texas, The Potter's House strives to be the voice and the hand that encourages people of all creeds and cultures to change their lives with hope, comfort and peace. The church is led by Bishop T. D. Jakes, twice featured on the cover of *Time* magazine as "America's Best Preacher" and one of the "25 most influential evangelicals." Jakes is the visionary of the historic *MegaFest* and now *MegaFest International* which will be held **October 11-12 in South Africa** at the **Expo Centre (Nasrec) Johannesburg**. The other 2008 conference is **Pastors' & Leadership, September 10-13 in Washington, DC**. Please visit [www.ThePottersHouse.org](http://www.ThePottersHouse.org) as well as [www.Mega-Fest.com](http://www.Mega-Fest.com) for more information.