



The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.

Healing of the Nations Foundation, President and Founder
Senior Minister Emeritus, The Riverside Church

The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr. is President and Founder of the Healing of the Nations Foundation of New York and Senior Minister Emeritus of the Riverside Church. Dr. Forbes completed his leadership of this historic multicultural church after 18 years of service, to begin a national and global ministry for spiritual renewal and holistic health.

The Healing of the Nations Foundation (www.healingofthenations.com) is a non-partisan, interfaith, not-for-profit organization for the promotion of a holistic understanding of health and wellness. It seeks to broaden the awareness of the inter-relatedness of physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and community health. Healing of the Nations Foundation encourages individuals, families and communities to be seriously committed to achieving and sustaining good health for themselves and to find specific areas where they may offer their support for the health and wellness of others. It seeks to promote conversation and where possible, cooperative ventures across boundaries of faith traditions, professional disciplines and cultural perspectives.

Forbes, the recent host of “The Time is Now” on Air America Radio was the fifth Senior Minister of the Riverside Church (June 1, 1989-June 1, 2007) and was the first African-American to serve in this post.

Dr. Forbes served from 1976-1985 as the Brown and Sockman Associate Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. From 1985-1989 he was Union’s first Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching. Union named him the Harry Emerson Fosdick Adjunct Professor of Preaching in 1989 when he accepted the pastorate at Riverside. Dr. Forbes also served on the Core Teaching Staff at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York.

In national and international religious circles, The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. is known as the *preacher’s preacher* because of his extensive preaching career and his charismatic style. Based on the 1995 Baylor University Survey, *Newsweek* magazine’s March 4, 1996 issue recognized Forbes as one of the 12 “most effective preachers” in the English-speaking world. This Pastor, Educator, Administrator, Community Activist and Interfaith Leader was designated as one of America’s greatest Black preachers by *Ebony* magazine in 1984 and 1993. He won the Alumni Charter Day Award of Howard University for Distinguished Post Graduate Achievement in Ministry.

Born in 1935 in Burgaw, North Carolina, Dr. Forbes is married to Bettye Franks Forbes, formerly of San Antonio, TX. They are the proud parents of one son, James A. Forbes III.