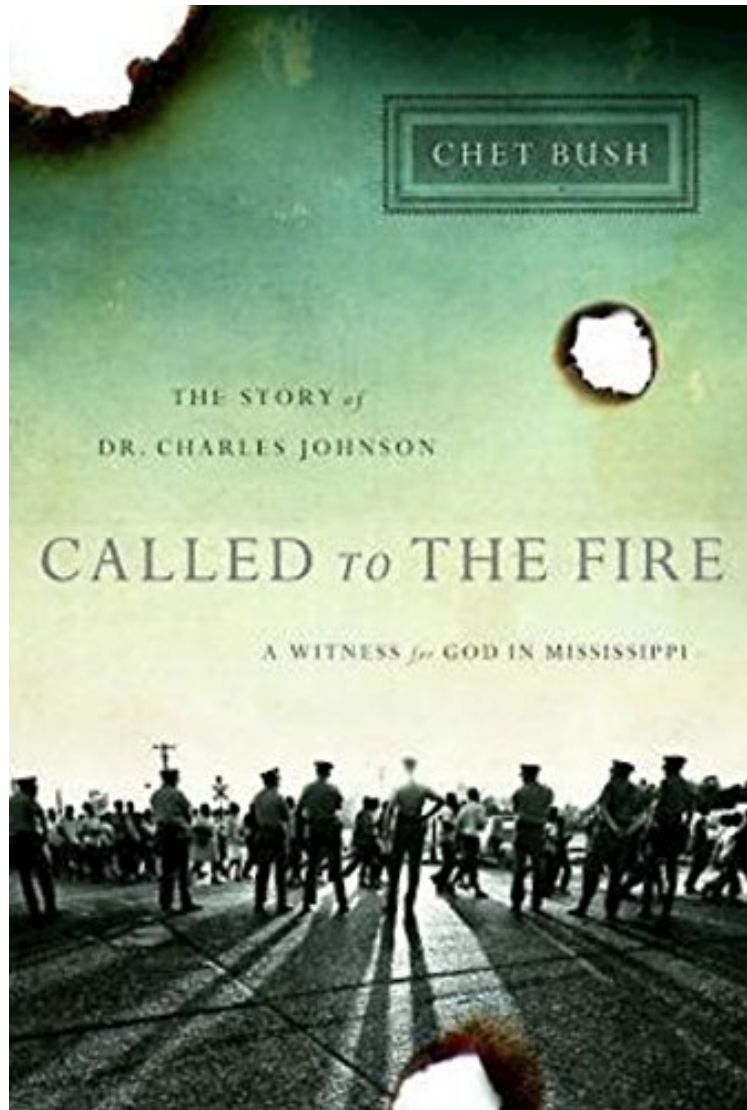


Called to the Fire: A Witness for God in Mississippi; The Story of Dr. Charles Johnson

Chet Bush

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Chet Bush : Called to the Fire: A Witness for God in Mississippi; The Story of Dr. Charles Johnson before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Called to the Fire: A Witness for God in Mississippi; The Story of Dr. Charles Johnson*:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. *Called to the Fire--A Timely Book* By Dr. Dwain K. Butler This is an excellent book that documents the life of a good man, Charles Johnson, who was called to the ministry. After preparing for the ministry, he really wanted to go to California, but ended up being sent to Mississippi. Of all the

places he didn't want to go, Mississippi headed the list. The book is timely, in that its release was just before Mississippi FINALLY completed the ratification process for the 13th Amendment--only 148 years after its official ratification by the states. The setting of the book is mostly the 1960's, when Mississippi was a hotbed of racial hatred and bogotry and violence by the KKK and other "white Christians," trying hard to maintain the status of blacks as less than human. Through it all, Charles Johnson maintained his focus on nonviolence, improving the lives of blacks in the town of his assigned pastorate, Meridian, MS, and ministering to the "whole man." The portrait painted in the book of a young Charles Johnson in the courtroom in Neshoba County, MS, as the only African American witness in the trial of the white vigilante hooligans who murdered the three civil rights workers in 1964, is palpable. The reader can easily visualize the setting in the court room. Charles Johnson is a hero of the civil rights movement and a hero in his ministry, although he is far too humble to really like being called a "hero." He was finally embraced by the denomination he chose and is now a prominent minister and leader of national stature in the denomination.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An excellent look at how loving God and all of His children trumps the scourge of racism and hatred. By Charles Parish

Dr. Charles Johnson, an African American Pastor in the Nazarene Church during the racial turbulence of the 1960's in Meridian Mississippi, was obedient to the highest calling of God - to love each other - and to love Him. In this well documented and personal account of the life and work of Dr. Johnson, new author Chet Bush reveals a truthful and moving story of the events that shaped Meridian, Mississippi, and, our national laws and culture during the racial conflicts of the 1960's South. I purchased the Kindle version and could not put it down! It is formatted well for the Kindle. The writing is authentic and filled with quotes and accounts of the events from the memories of Dr. Johnson himself. The book reads like a novel more than a history book and I applaud the author for his work, and Dr. Johnson for his faith through the years in a God who, "loves the whole man." I bought my copy of the book and was not paid or enticed to write my review.

Chuck Parish

Vicksburg, MS

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bravery under Fire

By Julia S Slonecker

Well written story of a call to action and the courage it took to fulfill that call. The author kept me reading and thinking throughout the book. I was captivated by the role Dr. Johnson played in working for civil rights. The story left me thinking that we've come a long way, but there's still much room for racial acceptance and improvement. The story was exciting; but I realized that even in this new century I need to do my part to bring about change. The story in this book needs to be told "lest we forget".

The last place on earth young Charles Johnson wanted to go was Mississippi during the heat of the civil rights movement. As the key African American witness to take the stand in the trial famously dubbed the "Mississippi Burning" case by the FBI, Dr. Charles Johnson, a young preacher fresh out of Bible College, became a voice for justice and equality in the segregated south. Unwittingly thrust into the heart of a national tragedy - the murder of three civil rights activists - Dr. Johnson overcame fear and adversity to become a leader in the civil rights movement. He played a vital role for the Federal Justice Department, offering clarity to the event that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. And, in a shocking turn of events, Johnson offered a path of reconciliation for one of the convicted killers. A story of love, conviction, adversity, and redemption, *Called to the Fire* is a riveting account of a life in pursuit of the call of God and the fight for justice and equality.

"Called to the Fire is an inspiring story full of the grace of God and social responsibility." ~Dr. John M. Perkins, Author *Let Justice Roll Down*

"I've respected Charles Johnson over the many years we've worked for a better Mississippi and a better world. His life's story is worth your time and your devoted attention." ~Charles Evers, MS Civil Rights Activist and brother of slain activist Medgar Evers

"...one of the great untold stories of the Civil Rights era Mississippi... prepare to be inspired." ~Matt Litton, Author of *Holy Nomad*

About the Author

Chet Bush is a pastor/writer in Oxford, Mississippi. He received a bachelor's degree in Religion from Trevecca Nazarene University (1996) in Nashville, TN. He earned the Master of Divinity degree at Nazarene Theological Seminary (2000) in Kansas City, MO. Bush was ordained an Elder in the Church of the Nazarene in Houston, Texas, in 2002.