



Man from Macedonia

MY LIFE OF SERVICE, STRUGGLE,
FAITH AND HOPE

Startling, inspiring insights from the front lines of the civil rights and social justice struggles over the last 50 years—told with humility, honesty and humor.

BY REV. AARON JOHNSON

WITH DEB CLEVELAND

Foreword by Chuck Colson

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And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: There was a man of Macedonia standing, beseeching him and saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. — Acts 16:9

He was born a sharecropper's son in rural North Carolina during a time when young black men could be lynched just for meeting eyes with a white woman. In 1960, as a seminary student in Raleigh, N.C., Aaron Johnson found himself galvanized by the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. as he and fellow students staged the early lunch counter sit-ins. While pastoring a Fayetteville church for the next four decades, Johnson advised three North Carolina governors and President Ronald Reagan on race relations. In the 1990s he served as North Carolina corrections secretary, launching programs to improve inmates' health and rehabilitation.

Whether being beaten and dragged from a lunch counter, standing blindfolded before a Ku Klux Klan meeting, or praying arm-in-arm with a death-row inmate, Johnson shows us how hatred and fear smells and sounds—and how it feels to empower others with hope and trust.

Aaron Johnson's story reminds us how much one individual, with focus and faith, can do to change the world, despite repeated hurdles. Readers will come to know Johnson as a friend and inspiring hero who suspects that God still has a few projects waiting for him on his to-do list.

What others are saying about *Man from Macedonia*:

“Ever feel tired, worn out, maybe powerless to affect events around you? Read Aaron Johnson's story and do like he did. Here is a man of enormous faith, the kind that God responds to and does amazing things through.”

— *Chuck Colson, founder, Prison Fellowship*

“Aaron Johnson is truly a big man: large in stature, generous in heart, courageous in the face of challenges. I was honored to be his wing man.”

— *James G. Martin, North Carolina governor, 1985-1993*