

## INTERESTING FACTS

### *About Dr. John Tolson*

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- In 1978, Dr. John Tolson founded a national men's outreach movement called The Gathering/USA, Inc., which today has helped more than 1 million men in 16 U.S. cities and in South Africa.
- Tolson launched the NBA's first chaplain program in 1978 with a ministry for the Houston Rockets.
- Tolson is credited with helping to bring the NBA to Orlando by connecting Pat Williams and Jim Hewitt together in 1985 - they soon became the franchise founders of the Orlando Magic.
- Through the years, Tolson has been a friend to a number of well-known celebrities and legendary sports figures, including Monica Seles, Orel Hershiser, Mike Schmidt, Julius Erving, Artis Gilmore, Justin Leonard, Nancy Lopez Knight, David Robinson, Avery Johnson, Bobby Bowden, Gary Carter, Laura Baugh, Bobby Jones, Pat Williams, Del Harris, Bernhard Langer, Kevin Johnson and many others.
- Tolson has also been connected to some of America's leading CEOs and business experts such as Lee Roy Mitchell (Cinemark Theatres, founder), S. Truett Cathy (Chick-fil-A founder, chairman), Vonette Bright (Campus Crusade for Christ, co-founder), Harris Rosen (Rosen Resorts & Hotels), Norm Miller (Interstate Batteries, chairman) and the late Mark McCormick (IMG Sports Management, founder).
- In 30 years, Tolson has served as chaplain, consultant or speaker for a number of college and professional sports teams including Florida State University football, Houston Astros, Houston Oilers, Houston Rockets, LA Clippers, Ohio State University football, Orlando Magic, Penn State football, Philadelphia 76ers, San Antonio Spurs, UCLA football, University of Central Florida football, Auburn Tigers and more.
- Events held nationwide for Tolson's organization, The Gathering, have showcased a long list of prominent speakers such as John Maxwell, Joe Gibbs, Kathy Ireland, Tom Landry, David Weekley, Clark Kellogg, Coach Mike Krzyzewski, J.C. Watts, Peyton Manning, Ken Blanchard, Adolph Coors IV, Tony Evans, Tony Campolo, Leighton Ford, Jim Tressel, Wayne Huizenga Jr., Tony Dungy, David Carr, Vince Evans, Lance Berkman, Spencer Tillman, Kyle Rote Jr., William E. Dannemeyer, Lee Stroebel and numerous others.
- Tolson has been a featured speaker and coach at top business seminars, churches and conferences including 170,000 people at Promise Keeper events, 160 messages for the Orlando Magic and a national conference for the Kiwanis Club; he also has held seminars and given corporate presentations for Hyatt Hotels, Walt Disney World and for nearly 1000 employees at the leading sports marketing firm IMG.
- Tolson is married to former film and TV actress Punky Leonard Tolson.

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