

Christian Community Magazine

***America's Christian
Lifestyle Magazine***

SPOTLIGHT: Priscilla Shirer

**Do You Resent
the Life
God Gave You?**

Christian Community Magazine

June 2017



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In The News

March for Marriage Participants Prepare for Event on June 17



The annual March for Marriage is scheduled to take place in a couple weeks in Washington D.C., according to The Christian Post.

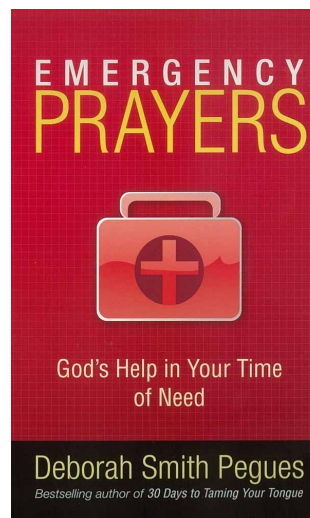
Organizers of the event are especially encouraged in their cause this year by America's Republican political leadership--many of whom are more sympathetic to conservative views of marriage.

"We have potentially better allies in Washington, compared with the antipathy shown toward religious freedom and traditional values by the former [Obama] administration," said Joseph Grabowski, a spokesman for the National Organization for Marriage.

"Trump, as a candidate and since taking office, has made repeated promises to people of faith to protect their interests and values — one of the major reasons that Christians and other faith constituencies turned out in large majorities to support his election," Grabowski added. [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Emergency Prayers: God's Help in Your Time of Need

By Deborah Smith Pegues



We need God's help...and fast! Deborah Smith Pegues, a behavioral consultant and the author of *30 Days to Taming Your Tongue* (more than 500,000 copies sold), offers readers a 9–1–1 prayerbook for life's many circumstances and needs. Brief, immediate, and heartfelt, these prayers bring God's Word to the forefront of a reader's mind as they lift up cries for:

- help on the homefront
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BETX Celebration Of Gospel Live



BET EXPERIENCE AT LA LIVE presented by Coca-Cola brings you a unique city wide worship experience with Pastor Toure' Roberts and Sarah Jakes Roberts concluding with the gospel concert of the summer featuring today's most anointed artists.

This event promises to be spirit filled and a blessing to all in attendance.

Bringing together hundreds of thousands of fans, celebrities, and thought leaders, BET Experience and the BET Awards are a whirlwind celebration of culture. As we head into the fifth year of the BET Experience, our exciting multicultural music and entertainment festival will continue to focus on the millennial experience while providing loyal fans with the opportunity to touch the brand and its culture in an active and experiential way.

New Jersey Family Launches Foundation With \$429 Million Jackpot Winnings

Pearlie Mae Smith and her seven children are investing in organizations that fight poverty.

After winning a \$429.6 million Powerball jackpot last year, a Trenton, New Jersey family is giving back through philanthropy, NJ.com reports.

Pearlie Mae Smith and her seven adult children opted for a lump sum payment of \$284 million. They divided the winnings eight ways, and each family member contributed a portion of their share to establish the Smith Family Foundation.

The foundation awards grants to organizations and programs, mainly in Trenton, that focus on community development, education, and youth and families.

"We want to fund programs that directly affect systems of poverty so we can help change the systems or change the dynamics that are causing people to be in poverty," Harold Smith, the foundation's manager, told the news outlet.

Valerie Arthur, one of the daughter in the family and Harold Smith's aunt, told NJ.com that that God guides the family's decisions—including which numbers to pick in the lottery.

Through God's guidance, the family chose not to spend their new wealth unwisely on material things.

"It's a blessing to have the ability to do whatever you want to do in this life and yet you choose to come and help somebody else — that right there is divine intervention," she said.

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Making An Impact



THE REACH OF ONE LIFE

GWEN LIDDELL HAS BEEN ONE BUSY LADY

Raised in a Christian home, Gwen first started to think about getting involved in missions in her early 20s. After completing Bible school, she applied with one organization to serve overseas.

“They turned me down,” Gwen recalled. “They said my health wasn’t good; I wouldn’t live that long on the mission field.”

And just like that, Gwen’s dreams for missions were put on hold. This unexpected rejection came just as much of the world entered “the war years,” as Gwen calls them, and nearly a decade would pass before she would pick up that vision again.

‘It’s a Relief

Gwen was first introduced to the work of TEAM through her good friends Andrew and Olive Karsgaard.*

They had sensed God directing them into medical mission work and joined TEAM after Andrew completed medical school. The end of World War II meant that travel restrictions were lifted, and the next year, Andrew and Olive sailed for India. They arrived in November of 1946, and that’s when Gwen joined their support team.

“It’s a relief,” Andrew said in April 2016. “To know you have faithful supporters ... just takes any worry you’ve got off your shoulders. You can’t carry on if you don’t have support!”

Gwen supported the couple in prayer as well. And the Karsgaards couldn’t help but see God’s provision and answered prayer.

“Over and over, the timing of God was evident,” said Andrew.

Gwen faithfully supported Andrew and Olive during the tense days following the creation of the new nations of India and Pakistan, the subsequent communal violence, and Andrew’s work among tens of thousands of refugees suffering from dysentery, cholera, typhoid and other illnesses. Her support was there through Andrew’s additional training in ophthalmology, Olive’s careful supervision of anesthesia during each of Andrew’s surgeries, and the founding and development of Bach Christian Hospital in northern Pakistan (“Legacy: Andrew & Olive Karsgaard,” page 31).

Part of a Praying Community

After the Karsgaards returned to Canada in 1962 to care for Olive’s health needs, Andrew told Gwen about Bob and Madeline Blanchard, another TEAM couple who needed support. They, too, were preparing for medical missionary service. When Bob and Madeline left for Pakistan in April 1966 to serve at Bach Christian Hospital, Gwen was part of the team that made it possible for them to go. [READ MORE](#)

Learn more about Horizons Team: A Global Alliance of Churches and Missionaries at <https://horizons.team.org/stories/the-reach-of-one-life>

Living the Life



Do You Resent the Life God Gave You?

By Sarah Walton

I sat in the restaurant booth across from my husband, but I was distracted by the couple sitting nearby. As I watched them, smiling, enjoying their massive plate of gluten- and dairy-filled food, while my body ached and stomach churned, resentment began to rise in me.

I bet they can eat whatever they want and not feel miserable afterward.

How nice it must be to enjoy a date and not be distracted by a pain-wracked body and a trail of heavy trials that follow you wherever you go.

Rather than enjoying a rare night out with my husband, I found myself spiraling down into self-pity over how hard my life has been, and how easy life seems to be for so many people around me.

Before long, God, in his kindness, jolted me out of my pity party, and made me see the ridiculousness of comparing the messy inside of my life to the seemingly pain-free outside of this unknown couple. I don't know their story. I don't know the heartache or scars hidden behind those smiles. I don't know whether they are joyful in Jesus or ignorantly happy in their blindness. They weren't the problem. My own heart was.

Recognize resentment.

Though I hate to admit it, resentfulness is a subtle but very real temptation in my heart, especially during times of deep pain and sorrow. Over time, I've learned how important it is to recognize this temptation when it comes, so that when I start to go down that path, I can take steps to realign my heart with the truth.

Thankfully, God has shown us exactly what it looks like. Psalm 73 temporarily travels the road of resentment toward “the wicked” whose lives seem to be going so well.

Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning. (Psalm 73:12–14).

By God's grace, the psalm doesn't get stuck there. And as it continues, God shows us how to turn from a resentful heart to a grateful one.

Trust what God says, not what you see.

But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. (Psalm 73:16–17)

If we try to make sense of our circumstances, or compare our circumstances to others', we will inevitably feel like we drew the short straw. We will always find someone who seems to have an easier life, better job, healthier body, or what we long for and can't have.

Therefore, like the psalmist, we need to stop trying to understand what is beyond what God has revealed, and instead trust the loving purposes our Father has spoken by filling ourselves with the truth of his word. As we do this in prayer, our resentment may melt into gratitude as we remember that no painful circumstances in this world can compare to a hopeless eternity apart from Jesus.

How foolish to resent those who are comfortable now, but will be eternally lost. And how foolish to resent other believers who have something that we wish we had when we serve a God who is purposefully working in each of our lives to give us what we most desperately need: more of himself.

Confess your resentment with him.

When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. (Psalm 73:21–22)

Just as the psalmist realized that his resentment was ultimately directed toward God, my resentful feelings toward the couple near me was really a cover for my resentment toward God. I might as well have said to him, "I don't believe you are doing what's best for me, and I don't trust your plan."

When we are suffering and feel resentment towards those who are not, or when we resent others for having something that we don't have, our feelings are rooted in some form of unbelief towards God

We are either believing that he's not good ("If he was truly good, he would not deny me what I want"), or that he's not in control ("If he was truly sovereign, he could have prevented this or given me what I think I need"), or that he's not trustworthy ("This can't be what's best for me"). The battle begins at the level of our thoughts — that we take them captive and make them obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

As we find in God's word what truth about him we aren't believing, we must confess our unbelief. As we acknowledge the root of our resentment, and repent of unbelief, God will faithfully bring us back to the truth of who he is and what he has promised. And our joy will be restored once again.

Tell him all your sorrows.

I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (Psalm 73:23–28).

I thank God for his grace and patience as I stumble my way down the path of following his Son. I never imagined the challenges and heartache that I would face in this life, but God knew, and he has promised to carry me through to the end — growing me and drawing me closer to him each step of the way.





Christian, if you find yourself battling bitterness, resentfulness, or anger towards what God has chosen for your life, and how unfair it feels, I encourage you to lift your eyes to our loving Savior who knows your pain, struggles, and heartache. Nothing on this earth compares to knowing Christ and enjoying him now and having the sure hope of eternity with him.



When you feel tempted towards resentfulness, and feel the weight of your circumstances threatening to crush you, remember that, though your heart and flesh may fail, God is the strength of your heart and your portion forever. He will faithfully guide you with his promises and counsel until that day when he receives you into glory.



When we can honestly say, “There is nothing on earth that I desire besides you,” a grateful heart has replaced a resentful one, and the circumstances that once brought resentment may be the very means God uses to show us his worth and satisfy our restless souls.

Sarah Walton and her husband live in Chicago with their four young children. Sarah blogs at setapart.net and is co-author of the book *Hope When It Hurts*. Learn more at <https://setapart.net/>

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Cover Story

SPOTLIGHT:

**Priscilla
Shirer**

By Joy Sewing

It's a typical Wednesday morning at the Shirer home in Dallas, and like any other mother of two young children, Priscilla is on the run early. Literally. Up by 6 a.m. and out the door for a 3-mile jog, she's back and in the shower before the men in her life open their sleepy eyes. Then the rest of the morning whizzes by as she does her best to keep everybody fed, dressed, and loved.

Two-month-old J.C. naps and feeds throughout the morning, and 2-year-old Jackson goes from inside to outside and back again under Priscilla's watchful eye. Then, about 1 p.m., Priscilla and her husband, Jerry, make the great switch-off. Jerry wraps up his morning business calls and e-mails to care for the kids so that Priscilla can make the trek to her office (the kitchen table).

There for much of the afternoon, Priscilla studies Scriptures, writes, listens, prays, and prepares for the coming weekend when she'll stand before hundreds, maybe even thousands, of women to teach the message God has given to her.



Such work seems natural for the daughter of well-known Dallas pastor, speaker, and author Dr. Tony Evans. After all, she grew up in the spotlight, a talented girl with a powerful singing voice who was never afraid of a microphone. She's also a graduate of the University of Houston with a degree in communications, sought with the intention of becoming a TV news anchor. But God had other plans.



Raising her voice

While in college, Priscilla hunted for an internship that would give her broadcast experience and landed at Christian radio station KHCB as an on-air host. It wasn't long before people started calling the radio station, asking Priscilla to speak at their Bible study groups or special events.

"They didn't know me. They knew my father and just assumed, I guess, that some of the anointing had trickled down from Dad to me," she says with a laugh. "So I would show up, an 18-year-old freshman, and sometimes there would be 10 women, sometimes 500 women."

All she knew to do, she says, was teach what God had been teaching her through the Bible. Nothing more, nothing less. And the fire was ignited in her to share God's Word. Nothing she was learning about broadcasting was more exciting. So after graduation, Priscilla headed straight for Dallas Theological Seminary for her master's degree, all the while asking God to show her what He wanted for her life.

That first semester, she received a call to lead a weekly Bible study at the Zig Ziglar Corporation, and after doing so, was asked to join their team of speakers. God opened the door for Priscilla to sharpen her skills as she spoke to hundreds of corporate employees nationwide.

A partner for life

And then Priscilla met a man who would further shape her direction: Jerry Shirer. An executive for Hilton Hotels, Jerry had attended Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (where Priscilla's dad serves as pastor) for more than six years, but the two had never met.

But God stepped in and set things on fast forward. Priscilla spoke at a regional manager's luncheon for Hilton Hotels, and Jerry called her that evening. A little more than a year later, the two were married.

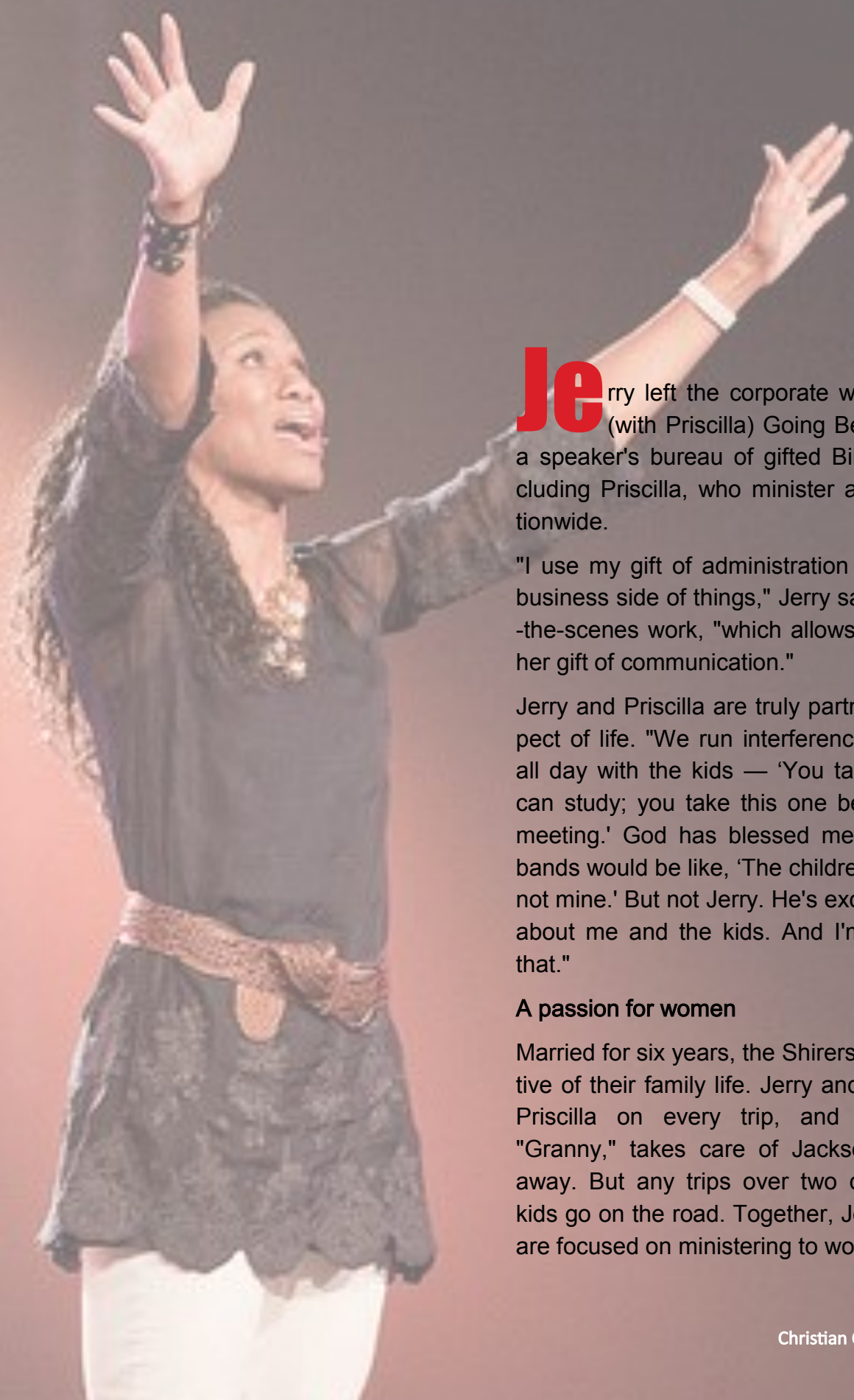
"It's almost like the Lord was saying, 'I was waiting for both of you to finish what y'all were going to do, so I could do what I was going to do,'" Priscilla says, smiling.

She loved the fact that Jerry was not the least bit concerned with her family tree. And Jerry's faith and character struck her as rock solid. Jerry also saw something in her that he desperately needed.

"I grew up in corporate America where you work from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., six days a week and another four hours or so on Sunday," Jerry says. "But not Priscilla. I saw her zeal to have fun while still serving the Lord, and I wanted it along with her."



Jerry and Priscilla are truly partners in every aspect of life.



Jerry left the corporate world to establish (with Priscilla) Going Beyond Ministries, a speaker's bureau of gifted Bible teachers, including Priscilla, who minister at gatherings nationwide.

"I use my gift of administration to deal with the business side of things," Jerry says of his behind-the-scenes work, "which allows her to focus on her gift of communication."

Jerry and Priscilla are truly partners in every aspect of life. "We run interference for each other all day with the kids — 'You take that one so I can study; you take this one because I have a meeting.' God has blessed me. So many husbands would be like, 'The children are your thing, not mine.' But not Jerry. He's excited and serious about me and the kids. And I'm so grateful for that."

A passion for women

Married for six years, the Shirers are very protective of their family life. Jerry and J.C. travel with Priscilla on every trip, and Jerry's mother, "Granny," takes care of Jackson while they're away. But any trips over two days mean both kids go on the road. Together, Jerry and Priscilla are focused on ministering to women.

Until two years ago, Priscilla recalls, she was taking any business opportunity that came her way, working as an independent contractor for CBS as one of their live reporters; hosting "Positively Texas," a local TV show; and taking speaking engagements.

"The Lord slowly weeded things out, saying, 'Priscilla — ministry, ministry, ministry.'" she says. "My calling is ministry to women."

Within that calling, Priscilla's teaching approach is often compared to her mentor and friend, Anne Graham Lotz, a woman with whom she has a lot in common, even beyond their respective well-known preacher fathers.

"Anne has been my mentor for ministry," Priscilla says. "She has taught me to stick to the integrity of Scripture, not to fluff it up. That girl just gets up there and gives it to them straight."

And while expository teaching (critically interpreting straight from Scripture) isn't necessarily the most popular approach in women's circles, "that's very clearly what God has asked me to do," Priscilla says.

"That way, women open up the Bible, see the passages unfold, and watch the principles jump out, and then realize they can do it in their own life."

The crux of Priscilla's ministry is helping women grasp one indispensable reality: ***"The Word of God is alive, it's sharper than any two-edged sword, and it can speak to you," she says, longing to ignite a passion for Scripture in other women.***

And, perhaps ironically, she wants to free women from their speaker-dependency. "So many of us become so dependent on books and tapes and conferences. We become conference junkies. We want to hear what everybody else has to say about Scripture. But the Holy Spirit is saying, 'If you'd just open it yourself, I would tell you what I want you to know.'"

Family first

While Priscilla is passionate about her ministry to women, she's also passionate about ministering to the men in her life — and making sure they make the most of every opportunity to enjoy life.

"I love spontaneity," she says. So oftentimes she and Jerry will drop what they're doing to go to dinner and spend time together. And on weekends that take them out of town, Priscilla and Jerry are intentional about carving out time for each other.

"Priscilla wants to experience the foods and culture of each city. She's always dragging me somewhere," Jerry laughs. "My feet hurt just thinking about it."

At home, their favorite hangout is the park, where Priscilla beats Jackson to the swings and they laugh and play for hours.

"My wife takes her study time with the Lord very seriously," Jerry says. "But she also enjoys her time away from the kitchen table."

On an ordinary Wednesday morning like this one, what's important to God may not be preparing for the weekend conference, spending more time in prayer, or taking notes at the kitchen table. In fact, sometimes the Lord's work may not seem like the Lord's work at all, Priscilla says.

What's important is often revealed in an eager tug on her skirt, the appearance of little Jackson's big eyes, and his pleas for her: *"Mom, mom, mom! Play ball with me! Mom, come build blocks!"*

And with those small hands and bright eyes, the Spirit redirects her attention to what matters most during this time as a wife and mom. And she goes to build blocks with her 2-year-old, because that's what's important to God.

Melissa Riddle is a freelance writer living in Franklin, Tennessee.



Le'Andria Johnson

Crafts New Style on Upcoming Album “Bigger Than Me”

GRAMMY® and Stellar Award-winning artist Le'Andria showcases a fresh sound and elevating musical experience on 10 new songs, as the acclaimed vocalist unwraps a new song and album cover for her upcoming new album BIGGER THAN ME, available for pre-order now.

The new song “All I Got” is impacting UAC radio on June 5th, and both “All I Got” and the anthem “Bigger Than Me” are available as instant grat tracks upon digital pre-order, with the full album scheduled for release on Friday July 21st, 2017.

Following the release of the album's title track “Bigger Than Me” as the lead single, the song “All I Got” continues the thrilling creative collaboration between Le'Andria and prolific hitmakers Claude Kelly and Chuck Harmony, with Le'Andria, Harmony, Kelly, and Phil Thornton helming the album as executive producers.


Crafting a new style together on a bold spiritual journey, BIGGER THAN ME is a loving celebration and reflection of God's amazing gifts of constant love, strength, and power to deliver renewal to brighter days.

Catch Le'Andria live as she continues to perform this summer, including an upcoming appearance at BET's Celebration of Gospel, taking place in Atlanta, GA at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre on Friday August 4th, 2017, with tickets on sale now via Ticketmaster.

Le'Andria: BIGGER THAN ME, is available for pre-order now via the digital providers below.

iTunes: smarturl.it/BTM-PreOrder

Amazon: smarturl.it/BTM-PreOrder-A

A man with a beard, wearing a tan fedora, a tan jacket over a colorful patterned shirt, and blue jeans, is leaning against a brick wall. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred street scene with buildings.

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ESSENCE Fest Gospel Tribute

CeCe Winans, Chante Moore, Kelly Price & More To Honor Music Icon Cissy Houston

An all-star line up of powerhouse vocalists will pay tribute to **Dr. Cissy Houston** at this year's Festival!

Dr. Emily Cissy Houston's lengthy career in music has been nothing short of amazing and this year, we're proud to honor her at the 2017 ESSENCE Festival Gospel Tribute as part of the ESSENCE Empowerment Experience.

ESSENCE Festival 2017 single-night tickets and ticket packages are on sale now! For more info and the latest news, visit our Festival page [here](#).

Set to take place on Sunday, July 2, this year's ESSENCE Empowerment Experience Gospel Tribute will celebrate Dr. Houston's influence on Soul, R&B and Gospel music with a star-studded line up of performers. Free and open to the public, the tribute will feature performances from CeCe Winans, JJ Hairston & Youthful Praise, Kelly Price, Tyronne Foster & The Arc Singers, Chante Moore, PJ Morton, Jekalyn Carr, Gene Moore and a special surprise guest who's sure to bring the house down.



An accomplished singer and songwriter, Dr. Houston's multi-faceted history in music has a presence in both Soul and Gospel music that dates back 6 decades. She first got her start in the industry as a child, where she joined her sisters to form the gospel singing group, The Drinkard Sisters. In the mid 1960s, she joined forces with her niece Dee Dee Warwick and songstress Doris Troy as a part of the Sweet Inspirations singing trio. The group later went on to sing back up for a host of notable artists including Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley, Otis Redding, Lou Rawls and her niece, Dionne Warwick.

ESSENCE

Gospel Artist Spotlight

Your monthly round up of Gospel Artists to Watch!

SINACH

“No Other Name”

WEBSITE: <https://www.facebook.com/sinachgospel/>

There is no other name like our God who made heaven and earth. So with the help of holy Spirit and digging deep into the scripture, I came up with this wonderful and melodious track.

Please go listen to it and thank God on my behalf.

#TeamSinach #NoOtherName



Jokia

Not Forgotten EP

WEBSITE: <https://jokiamusic.net/>

The music that Jokia writes and sings is true, genuine worship music. When people hear her music, they instantly feel the intense joy of worship that she felt throughout her faith. Believing every word with all of her heart, it's hard not to walk away from a Jokia song without feeling the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Jokie has brought a fresh new sound to Christian Contemporary Music (CCM) today. In a relatively short amount of time, she has invited listeners to engage in worship in a way that few other artists can. She has a gift for singing and songwriting, and is determined to share it with as many people as possible.

Run51

This Moment

WEBSITE: <http://www.wearerun51.com/>

Life is a race. What are you running for? Run51 is challenged to point the hearts and minds of young men and women to what truly satisfies. While popular culture often promotes the corrupt and destructive pleasures of money, power and sex, Run51 promotes freedom, peace and love given to us through the gift of the cross.

The band is led by a few former athletes. Run51 strongly identifies with the athletic culture and a desire to perform well. However, its success is not based on only winning a physical prize, but on the knowledge that the members have freedom to run for something much greater.



Travis Greene

You Waited

WEBSITE: <http://www.travisgreene.net/>

Travis Greene lives his life as a testimony of faith, perseverance and love.

What is to be said of a child who has been pronounced dead twice in his life before entering kindergarten? Is it fate and favor that the child is still here? Or, is it the power of a praying mother calling on the name of Jesus so fervently that the circumstances defy all of the odds? By growing up in culturally diverse regions and experiencing various church denominations, Travis embraces his unique call for adaptability.

Gretchen Keskeys

Pure Hope

Website: <http://gretchenkeskeys.com/>

Christian music fans quickly embraced Keskeys, who CCM Magazine Contributing Editor Andy Argyrakis said "may very well possess the most magnificent voice since Sandi Patty." Keskeys spent the last year performing at events and women's conferences nationwide, openly sharing her songs alongside an inspirational testimony detailing her miraculous deliverance from anxiety and depression.



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First Lady Profile

Reeds Temple Church

Pastor David & Lady Iris Reed

1300 N. Broad

Griffith, Indiana

www.reedstemple.com

Sunday

9:00 am – Sunday School

(for all ages)

10:30 am – Worship Service

4:00 pm Evening Service

What is your husband's name?

My husband's name is David Reed.

How many years have you had that title?

This year will be 10 years for me as the first lady.

Do you preach along with your husband?

Yes, I also preach. Sometimes, I preach on Sunday morning; sometimes, during our midweek service on Thursday nights, and I teach Bible class to the teens and young adults on Tuesday nights. I also welcome our visitors each Sunday. I also go on speaking engagements at various churches.

Does it seem like you are a pastor along with him?

No. I do not feel like I am the pastor along with my husband. I assist him in any way that I can, but I don't feel a need to share that title or responsibility.

What does it mean to be a first lady to you?

I'm technically the first lady because I'm married to the pastor, but it's not a position that should be taken lightly. In my opinion, it is a position that requires patience, understanding, listening and non-judgmental communication skills, serious prayer life, smiling, volunteering and, last but not least, support. It is important that we encourage him when he's discouraged, make sure his wardrobe is in tact, give constructive criticism, not be the jealous type and know how to balance being a first lady and simply a wife. You really have to know how to flow from the natural to the spiritual and vice versa. You have to have balance, because in addition to being a first lady/wife, some of us are mothers, career women and students. While it is an honor to be deemed as the first lady, it is imperative to remain humble. I feel that it is my job to step up to the plate and do whatever is necessary for the upbuilding of God's kingdom and the church. Yes, you will see me dressed nice, but I'm the same person who will go and clean the women's restroom.

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What is the most challenging part of being a first lady?

The most challenging part of being a first lady is not having as much alone time with my husband as I would like. Of course, I know what he is doing is an awesome thing spiritually, but sometimes I wish we had more time together.

What is the best part of being a first lady?

The best part of being a first lady is seeing how all the hard work, prayers, counseling and sacrifice pay off. I love when people come into my office and they testify how God turned a situation around that we've been praying about, how unsaved spouses, other loved ones find God. I love to hear about people going back to get their diplomas or degrees. I love to hear when people tell me about a diagnosis from the doctor. then they tell how God healed them. I love the fact that my title allows me to get up close and personal with individuals to help encourage them to make their lives better naturally and spiritually.

Did you ever think you would become who you are today?

I can't say that I predicted ever becoming a first lady, but at the same time, it's not very shocking. I'm a P.K. (pastor's kid) and my mom is also a first lady. The unconditional love and giving heart that

I have for people goes right along with this position. God gives us all the tools we need in order to be successful in what He has called us to do.

How do you balance church and home life?

I balance church and home life by doing other things outside of church. I have a unique floral business called Lady I Chatting Buds. I can write words or put pictures on real live flowers. I am a member of SAG/AFTRA and I still do some modeling/acting from time to time. I led a song in the movie Sister Act 2 and I've done a lot of commercials. I'm also the mother of an 18-year-old, who is in her third year of college.

What is your advice to future first ladies or those who are already serving in that capacity?

I'd like to tell future first ladies that being the first lady often times means you're last. The position looks quite glamorous and yes it comes with a lot of perks, but it definitely requires a lot of sacrificing and giving of one's self. You represent your husband as well as the church. Having a great attitude and knowing when and when not to speak is key. It is awesome to be chosen as first lady and with the help of the Lord, you can make a real difference in the lives of many. Remember, much is given, much is required. Be the best first lady you can be. You can do it.



Calendar of Events

Submit your events. Learn how your event can be listed and featured.

Email us: spmmedia@gmail.com

ALLENTOWN, PA
JULY 13TH-15TH

VICTORY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INC. & VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL INC. present
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DR. CYNTHIA MCINNIS THURSDAY 13TH 7PM
ELD. SHAWN MASON FRIDAY 14TH 7PM

THURSDAY MORNING GLORY
THURSDAY HIGH NOON
FRIDAY MORNING GLORY
FRIDAY HIGH NOON

APOSTLE MARY WALKER
BISHOP DESHAUNE DUBE
PASTOR FREDERICK DUKES, SR.
APOSTLE SHIRLEY GRAHAM
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VICTORY CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE
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FOR MORE INFO: WWW.VICTORYCHRISTIANMINISTRIESINC.ORG, VICTABINC@GMAIL.COM OR VCFIM16@GMAIL.COM

ZION'S LIBERTY BELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 620 W. HAMILTON ST. ALLENTOWN, PA 18101

The Inaugural Holy Convocation of Victory Christian Ministries

July 13 – July 15

Jul 13 at 10 AM

Jul 15 at 6 PM EDT

Zion's "Liberty Bell" UCC Church

620 Hamilton St, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

TICKETS: [CLICK HERE](#)



Rhythm Of Gospel Awards

June 21st - 25th, 2017: The 2017 Rhythm Of Gospel Awards will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Host hotel: Downtown Omni. The event recognizes churches, pastors, choirs and independent gospel artists nationwide for their outstanding contributions to Gospel. For the 2017 nominees, showcase opportunities, registration and more information, visit-

MegaFest 2017

June 28th - July 1st, 2017: MegaFest 2017 powered by PepsiCo will be held in Dallas, Texas. The ManPower event features Bishop T.D. Jakes, John Gray, Dr. Shane Perry, Pastor Bill Winston, Joseph Prince, Tye Tribbett and others. For more information, visit www.mega-fest.org

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Tampa Bay Gospel Awards

September 29th - 30th, 2017: The Third Annual Tampa Bay Gospel Awards will be held in Tampa, Florida. The event honors independent gospel groups, artists and others from across the state of Florida. For the 2017 nominees, hosts and more details, visit www.tampabaygospelawards.com or call Jorad Holmes, CEO & Founder, at 941-526-0577



Voices Of Gospel Music Awards

September 8th - 9th, 2017: The 2nd Annual Voices Of Gospel Music Awards will be held in Mobile, Alabama. The event recognizes, appreciates and honors independent and mainstream gospel artists. For the 2017 nominees, voting procedures and more details, visit www.vogma.org or call 251-268-9585. Rev. Gary Johnson is CEO & Founder



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