# Christian Community Magazine

Americals Christian Lifestyle Magazine

**Helping Children** 

**Start School -**

Beyond the

Backpack

Love and Remarriage:

One Couple's Story

Deborah Smith Pegues
Talks Why Smart People

Make Dumb Choices

Spiritual Growth: Our Demanding Schedules

Glamour Shots



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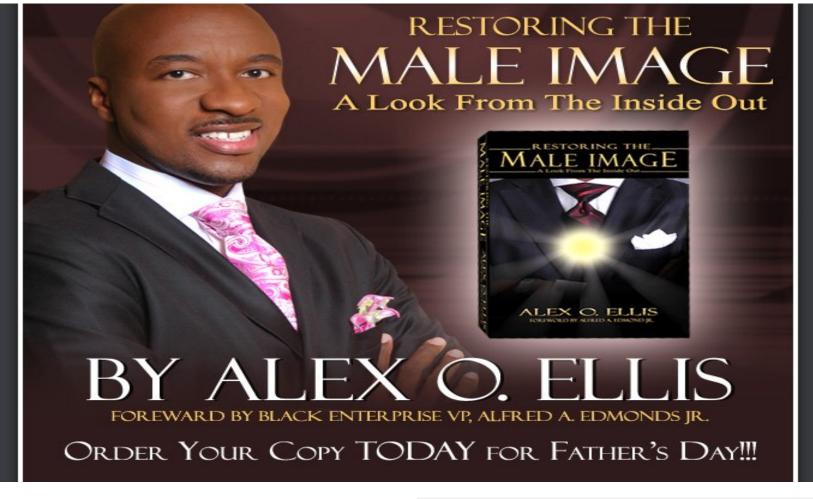
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# Publisher's Message



Its been an awesome month! Thank you for the overwhelming response to our publication. We're excited to bring you the latest on news, entertainment and events affecting the Christian community.

In this issue, bestselling author, Deborah Smith

Pegues shares her latest effort, coauthored with Pastor Ricky Temple, Why Smart People Make Dumb Choices.

Marian Wright Edelman contributes her thoughts on Beyond The Backpack initiative launched by Nickelodeon.

Are you too busy for God? In Spiritual Growth, we explore the importance of time spent with God.

This issue is packed with great information that's sure to inform and inspire. Thanks for visiting...Here we go!



#### Christian Community Magazine

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Marketing & Sales
Chris Smith Enjoli Hall
Amber Smith Richard Hall

Christian Community Magazine
Smith Publishing & Media Group
385 S. Lemon Ave. #E236
Walnut, CA 91789
P - (888) 841-7779 F -(909) 393-7447
www.ChristianCommunityMag.com
ccemag@yahoo.com

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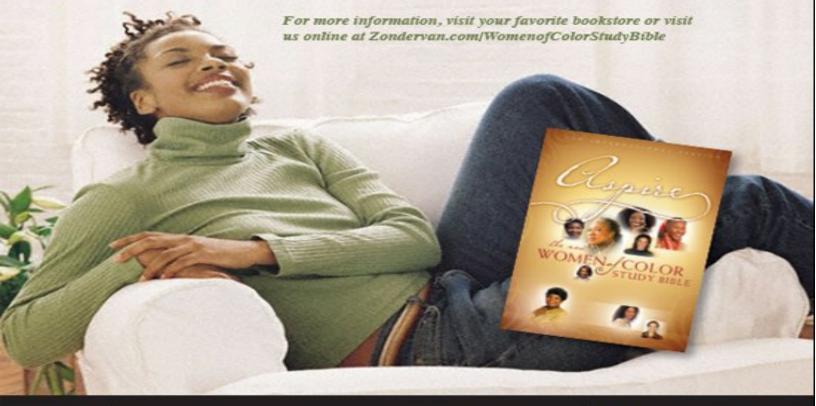
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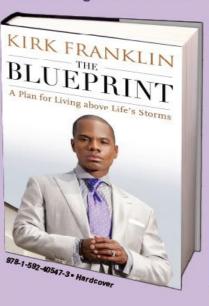


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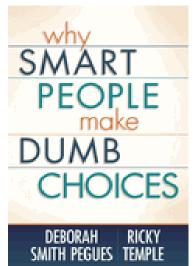
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# Cover Story



#### When Smart People Make Dumb Choices

Excerpt

By Deborah Smith Pegues and Ricky Temple Published by Harvest House Publishers Release Date: May 15, 2010

It all happened within minutes. On January 15, 2009, Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the pilot of US Airways Flight 1549 outbound from New York City's LaGuardia airport, would make one of the most important decisions of his life. On takeoff, a flock of birds got sucked into the powerful

engines of his Airbus A320 commercial jetliner causing it to lose all power. The plane instantly became a glider.

Air traffic controllers quickly concluded

that Captain Sullenberger should return to LaGuardia or try to make it to another nearby airport.

However, based upon the speed and altitude the plane was losing, the experienced pilot knew this was not his best option. Rather, he chose to go for a crash landing in the Hudson River to the west of New York City. His plan worked. Everybody hailed it a miracle.



Testifying in June 2009 before the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Captain Sullenberger explained that only the Hudson River was "long enough, wide enough and smooth enough" to put down his crippled jetliner.1 His split-second decision was a smart one that saved the lives of all 155 people onboard. According to subsequent news reports, it was the first time in 50 years that a major aircraft crash landed in the water and everyone made it out alive. His smart decision made him an instant hero.



In contrast to the Hudson River miracle, let's roll the calendar back about 20 years. On March 24, 1989, a little after midnight, the Exxon Valdez oil supertanker hit a reef in Prince William Sound near Valdez, Ala ska, spilling almost 11 million gallons of crude oil over 1300 miles of pristine shoreline. A subsequent investigation by NTSB revealed that the shipmaster, Captain Joseph Hazelwood, left his third mate in charge, who improperly maneuvered the vessel when he allowed it to remain on autopilot during a critical passage. NTSB ruled that the captain failed to provide navigation watch, possibly due to his

impairment under the influence of alcohol—or the fact that he was sleeping it off in his cabin at the time of the accident. Captain Hazelwood, obviously a man smart enough to have attained such a position, made a dumb choice.

#### "Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts." - Aristotle

By his own admission, he drank "two or three vodkas" between 4:30 and 6:30 that same night. (Due to the mishandling of the evidence, he was later acquitted of drunkenness charges.) He became a villain and the butt of late night television talk show jokes.

The accident was one of the most devastating human-caused environmental disasters ever to occur at sea. Thousands of animals and birds died in its wake. The spill had both short-term and long-term economic effects including the loss of recreational sports, fisheries, and reduced tourism. In the years that followed, various sea life showed shorter life spans. All of these consequences resulted from a dumb choice made by a smart person.

If these two examples are of too great a magnitude for you to relate to, perhaps some of the dumb choices below are more relevant:

- Rev. Hancock, a popular TV minister, is addicted to pornography but chooses to keep it a secret. Getting help is too risky. Dumb moral choice.
- Bob and Grace, unable to resist the temptation to purchase their dream home during their first year of marriage, sold the modest townhouse Bob had inherited from his mother and secured a loan with an introductory low interest teaser rate. When rates adjusted upward two years later, they could not afford the increased mortgage payment. They lost all their equity to
- John, a successful businessman, is absorbed with providing the best that money can buy for his family. He invests little or no time in building a relationship with his teenage sons who, resentful of their father's misplaced priorities, turn to drugs and alcohol. Dumb relational choice.

a foreclosure. Dumb financial choice.

Some poor moral decisions can lead you down the slippery slope of deceit, ending with missed opportunities, destroyed dreams, and wrecked lives.

• Maggie, a 45-year-old social worker, discovered a lump in her breast. Not willing to face her fear of the worst, she refused to see her doctor. She died within six months. Dumb health choice.

The list of dumb-choice scenarios is endless. French philosopher Albert Camus said, "Life is the sum of all your choices." Indeed, wherever we are in our lives today is due primarily to the smart and dumb choices we have made. (Excerpt courtesy Harvest House Publishers. www.smartpeopledumbchoices.com, www.confrontingissues.com.)



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God and inspire His people.

Bishop David G. Evans



# In the News...



#### Faith Leaders Continue Marriage Fight in D.C.

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals heard arguments earlier this month in a lawsuit seeking a ballot initiative to allow Washington, D.C., residents to vote on the definition of marriage.

If passed, the ballot initiative, filed by leaders with the Stand4MarriageDC Coalition, would repeal a law passed in December legalizing gay marriage in the district. The law went into effect in March.

"This hearing is of extreme importance to D.C. voters," said Bishop Harry Jackson, chairman of Stand4MarriageDC, a coalition of faith leaders and district residents. "As D.C. residents and voters have witnessed in the past year, the D.C. government has repeatedly rebuffed the people's efforts to put the definition of marriage to a vote of the people."

Traditional marriage has been upheld in all 31 states where the definition of marriage has been put to a vote. A January Washington Post poll found that 56 percent of district residents support gay marriage, though 59 percent think the issue should be put before voters.

The appeals court is expected to rule on the case later this year.



#### Todd Bentley Remarries, Begins Restoration Process

Todd Bentley, who became well-known for leading the Lakeland Outpouring until he stepped down after announcing he was divorcing his wife, Shonnah, has remarried.

He has also entered into a restoration process led by MorningStar Ministries founder Rick Joyner, it was announced Monday.

Joyner said Bentley and his new wife, Jessa, married "several weeks ago" and have moved to Fort Mill, S.C., where MorningStar is based. Jack Deere of Wellspring Church in Texas and Bill Johnson of Bethel Church in California will assist Joyner in overseeing Bentley's restoration process.

"There were failures; there were mistakes-I want to be absolutely sure he sees them, understands them," Joyner told Charisma. "I want to see that that gate is shut, that this is not going to happen again.

"I'm not in the business of trying to perfect anyone," he added. "I'm not going to ask him to be perfect, but there are a lot of issues, and they're valid. ... He is not pushing for ministry or anything; he is trying to get his life right."

Joyner said the restoration team would be giving regular updates, including videos of Bentley telling his story posted at the MorningStar website.



# Making an IMPACT



Marian Wright Edelman

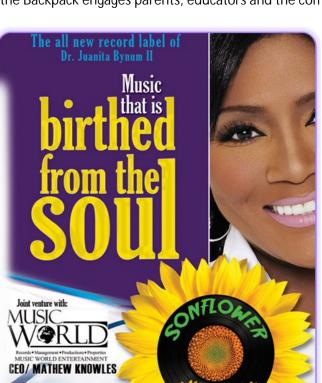
#### "Beyond the Backpack": Dora the Explorer Helps Prepare Children to Start School

Is every child in your community ready to start school? This may seem like a strange question to families still finishing up their plans for summer vacation. But in reality, it's never too soon to start making sure children are prepared for their first day of school. That includes children for whom kindergarten is still a few years down the road. So I'm pleased that Nickelodeon has launched a new initiative to help provide preschoolers the resources, skills, and support they will need to be well-prepared for school and ready to start their school years on the right path. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is joining the National Parent Teacher Association, actress Salma Hayek Pinault, and others in partnering with Nickelodeon on this important school readiness campaign.

The initiative was launched as part of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of Nickelodeon's popular Latina preschool character Dora the Explorer. It's named "Beyond the Backpack," taking its title from the well-stocked backpack that keeps Dora ready for every adventure. Nickelodeon hopes to similarly prepare young children for the big adventure of starting school. As they explain, "The first five years of life are critical to kids' lifelong development. However, too many children enter kindergarten with physical, social, emotional and cognitive limitations that could have been minimized or eliminated through early attention to child and family needs. Research shows that children who are not performing proficiently by the end of third grade are at very high risk of poor long-



term outcomes, such as dropping out of school, teen pregnancy and juvenile crime. Beyond the Backpack is about the navigational tools -- emotional, physical, experiential and actual that kids need to start school. Beyond the Backpack engages parents, educators and the community at large in the four areas critical to school success:



The Diary of Juanita Bynum II'

RECORDS

For more information call: 1-866-942-9686 1) social and emotional "know how," 2) early literacy and math skills, 3) parental involvement in schools, 4) health and wellness. Families and communities are a critical part of the solution for the well-rounded development of young kids."

I applaud Beyond the Backpack, which will give parents tools to share unforgettable learning opportunities that stir the mind and spirit of their child. This is the real power of education.



# Spiritual Growth

## Our Demanding Schedules

Read: Mark 1:32 - 39

At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

Is your life too busy? Business deadlines, productivity quotas, and shuttling children to lessons and sporting events can really fill up your schedule. Its easy to think, If only I didn't have so many responsibilities, then I could walk in vital union with God.

Yet C.S. Lewis wisely points out that no one was busier than Christ. "Our model is the Jesus...of the workshop, the roads, the crowds, the clamorous demands and surly oppositions, the lack of all peace and privacy, the

interruptions. For this...is the Divine life operating under human conditions."

DEFEATING
POVERTY
IS NOT A
HANDOUT,
IT IS A
HAND UP.

or books are und

We read of Jesus in Capernaum: "At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many" - didn't say he healed all. (Mark 1:32-34). The next day Christ sought out a solitary place and prayed. There He received direction from His Father to pursue a demanding ministry in another place. Our Lord communed with His Father and depended on the Spirit to minister through Him – not the demands of the people or the statements of the disciples.

Is your schedule demanding? Follow the example of Jesus and set aside a specific time for prayer and gain clear direction. Don't be moved by pressure or your own head. Sometimes God is trying to do something in a persons life and your well intended action keeps them from learning the lesson. – Dennis Fisher

The many tasks we face each day Can burden and oppress, But spending time with God each day Can bring relief from stress. – Sper

To keep your life in balance, lean on the Lord.

# Relationship Corner



### Love and Remarriage

By Felicia Mann Read the entire interview at Charisma Magazine www.charismamag.com

For years statistics have shown that Christian marriages are just as likely to end in divorce as non-Christian ones. Adding to the bleak snapshot of the American church is the fact that clergy divorce rates are lock step with their congregations. But pastor Isaac Pitre and his wife, Denisha, (pictured left) who helm Christ

Nations Church in Texarkana, Texas, say God wants to restore all marriages—even if couples have already divorced. Charisma recently spoke with the pair, who remarried each other six years after their 2003 divorce.

Charisma: After 10 years of being married, what led to your divorce?

**Isaac Pitre:** It was basically, not understanding that my ministry was really to be at home and to [Denisha] as much as it was to the church and the world.

Charisma: What caused the two of you to reconcile your relationship?

**Isaac:** I had to accept personal responsibility for what I did and what I caused, and that it wasn't the devil. It was my own pride and selfishness and neglect of really honoring and loving her. It took me awhile to come to that conclusion, but when I did, I immediately knew that our relationship could come back together. If I helped tear it up, then I could help fix it.

Denisha Pitre: Immediately during the separation I realized that this was not the will of God, so I ... tried to reconcile with Isaac. After a few years of realizing that the relationship was not going to be reconciled, I just started to pray ... for soberness of mind. I continued to pray for myself and that God would just cleanse me and make me whole.

Charisma: What happened next?

Isaac: The night God broke through to me was the same night I picked up the phone. I went after Denisha and told her what the Lord had showed me—that I was wrong and it wasn't her. It wasn't about the ministry. It was my arrogance and my pride, and I wanted her back.



of evangelical adults have divorced

of Christian men describe their marriage as happy

of Americans say divorce outside of adultery is sin

—The Barna Group, Lifeway Research

#### (Relationship Corner...continued)

Charisma: Denisha, what were you thinking at that point?

**Denisha:** When he called, I just didn't trust it because I thought there was a hidden agenda. But the faith that was built through [the previous year's trials] helped me to accept him calling and accept that what he said was true.

Charisma: What happened after you decided that you were going to reconcile?

**Isaac:** We dated for six months, just to make sure we were really transformed. God had really started working on us, and Denisha wanted to make sure I was this new and improved Isaac, and I wanted to make sure she was the new and improved Denisha. After the end of that, I think another month and a half we were married.

**Charisma:** What would you tell someone who is currently going through a divorce or is contemplating getting one?

**Isaac:** First of all, everyone should understand that God hates divorce. Even though God forgives, divorce outside the groundworks of the Bible is wrong. The next thing is to understand that if there is a possibility for reconciliation, meaning the other person not remarked, instead of asking God for someone else, ask God to fix the



marriage you had. If the man is not fixed and the woman is not fixed, no matter who you remarry, you're going to have the same issues.

**Charisma:** Pastor, do you have any specific advice for husbands? Isaac: Yes I do, and it is simply Ephesians chapter 5, that we are to love our wives as Christ loves the church. First Corinthians 13 says that we can have power to understand mysteries; we can preach with deep revelation, and we can have faith to move mountains, but the Bible says that if we have not love then we are nothing. That became very real to me.

Charisma: And how about you, Denisha—any advice for wives?

**Denisha:** For all wives, but especially for pastors' wives, you should learn not to be a clone of what you think a pastor's wife should be. I urge women to look inward and discover who they are. Focus on developing that. Everything you need for your spouse is wrapped up in who you really are.

Charisma: How do you now view your experiences?

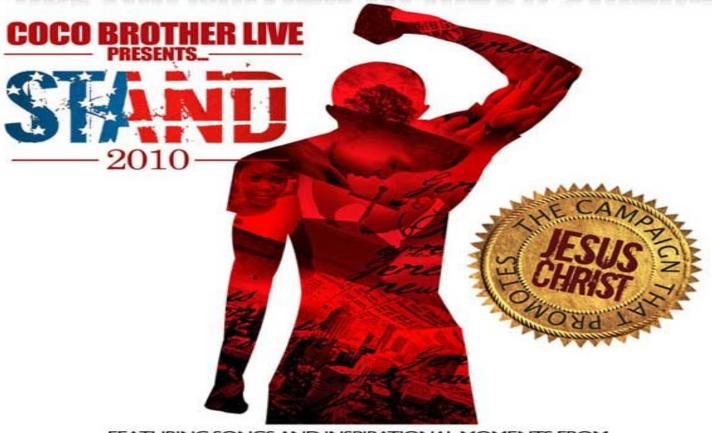
**Denisha:** One of the greatest things I see in retrospect is that staying together is really one of the easiest things to do. You simply love each other, be humble and put God first. If you're sincere with who you are in Christ, then you don't have all those flaws and pride that cause separation. To actually stay in the relationship ... is one of the easiest things to do.

**Isaac:** We give glory to God for our reconciliation ... but instead of saying that God put us back together, we like to say that we allowed God to put us back together. God is trying to fix every marriage in every home, but He's often not allowed to [mend relationships] because people don't yield to Him. He is either trying to put every home back together or He is trying to keep every home from falling apart. It's not a question of what God can and cannot do; it's a question of what God is allowed to do. **Read more at Charisma Magazine online**.

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# WHAT WE'RE READING

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So Long, Insecurity: You've Been a Bad Friend to Us, Hardcover By Beth Moore

Prolific Bible teacher and women's ministry leader Moore (Get Out of That Pit) moves away from her characteristic dead-on expositions of scriptural principles in her newest; the topic is insecurity, and the content, she admits, is close to an autobiography. Moore, always transparent with her own personal struggles, is refreshingly so throughout this text. Readers will be chortling in laughter one moment and sucking air the next as Moore exposes the many faces of female insecurity. The author names and claims each one, then defuses every bit of power these nonsensical inner voices possess by countering their lies with God's truth. Women, no matter what their age, battle

against advertising's siren call for unattainable physical perfection; the habit of making a man's love the ultimate validation; and the worldly definition of success as money, power, and status. Moore uses personal essays, women's true confessions, expressive prayers, and lots of commonsense suggestions to jar women out of their insecure rut. Readers will delve into this work and find themselves comfortably uncomfortable, and this is a very good thing.



## 52 Things Kids Need from a Dad: What Fathers Can Do to Make a Lifelong Difference

By Jay K. Payleitner

"God, please help me...another game of Candy Land..." Quite a few dads spend time with their kids. However, many have no clue what their kids really need. Enter author Jay Payleitner, veteran dad of five, who's also struggled with how to build up his children's lives. Dads will feel respected and empowered, and gain confidence to initiate activities that build lifelong positives into their kids. Great gift or men's group resource!



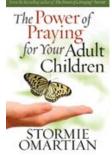
## Misconception: One Couple's Journey from Embryo Mix-Up to Miracle Baby

By Paul Morrell, Shannon Morrell, Angela Hunt

In February of 2009, Shannon and Paul Morell were especially eager to bring a new life into the world. After years of infertility and miscarriages they had, in 2006, finally scrimped and saved enough to have in vitro fertilization. The result? Two dear daughters had been born, and six precious embryos had been frozen.

They counted the days until they could transfer the six remaining embryos. Until the fateful day of February 17, 2009, when the clinic called. "The doctor would like to you to come in today?"The Morells have a story to tell. A cautionary tale of medical errors, unexpected miracles, sincere mourning, and grateful bonding with their son.

Amazingly, theirs is also a story of joy-filled thanksgiving . . . a story of life--life that is precious, sacred, and treasured.



#### The Power of Praying for Your Adult Children

by Stormie Omartian

In this important follow—up to her book The Power of a Praying® Parent (over 1.7 million sold), Stormie Omartian addresses the areas of concern parents have for their grown children and shares how to lift them up to God. With stories from other parents and insight gleaned from personal experience, Stormie helps parents pray with the power of God's Word over their adult children and their career choices and sense of purpose marriages and other vital relationships parenting skills and leadership struggles, addictions, or emotional trials faith commitment and prayer life.

Each year thousands of parents watch their grown children step out into the world and wish they could do more to support them. They can. Every parent can rest in the power of prayer to turn their child over to the care, protection, and guidance God provides.

# What We're Listening To...



Ragamuffin Soul
Carlos Whittaker

Husband and father of three, Carlos' ministry journey has taken him from Sandals Church in Riverside, California, to the Atlanta-based Buckhead Church. His goal is to "ignite a movement of authenticity among all generations of Christians that morphs the face of the evangelical church into a place of being real with yourself, others and God."

#### **BECKAH SHAE**



Life Beckah Shae

Beckah Shae showers songs with soulful melodies to catch anyone's ear who's listening. Beckah says "It's my hope and prayer that through this project many will discover the joy and freedom that comes through the response to His call for intimacy." Full of fresh, organic instrumentation and distinctive, soulful vocals, "Joy" resonates with triumph. Beckah's desire is to see people set free from the bondage the enemy has

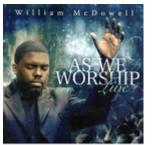
caused by falsely defining who they are. "To see yourself the way God sees you is the beginning of freedom. You are adored, and dearly loved. His passion for you is from everlasting to everlasting. If you could only accept and receive this immeasurable free gift, you then would discover the overwhelming peace and joy that surpasses all understanding. Nothing can discourage a heart that beats in time with the heart of God



WOW Hits 2010 CD

Various Artists

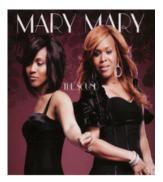
Christian music's best shine in this much-anticipated collection of chart-topping hits---songs that will fuel your faith, provide encouragement, and fill your heart with praise to the Lord. Includes "A New Hallelujah" (Michael W. Smith), "Forever" (Fireflight), "Free to Be Me" (Francesca Battistelli), "Revelation" (Third Day), "Slow Fade" (Casting Crowns), and "Two Hands" (Jars of Clay). Two CDs.



As We Worship: Live

William McDowell

Join worship leader William McDowell for this two-disc recording of uplifting gospel worship! Featuring a standout performance from the Group 1 Crew ("Go Forth"), this live recording includes "The Sound." "Give Him Praises," "Here I Am to Worship," and more.



The Sound CD

Mary Mary

The dynamic Grammy, Dove and Stellar Award winning sister duo Mary Mary is at it again with their highly anticipated fifth release. Award winning producer Warryn Campbell (Erica's husband) is at the helm producing this album along with help from Rodney Jerkins. With the volume of issues facing many today The Lord continues to give Mary Mary a fresh sound that speaks His message in a relevant and timely manner to the young, old, men and women of all nationalities. Join Mary Mary and release *The Sound* of God's love and encouragement to this generation.



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To. Goo From: Tyler

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# I HEAR MUSIC AWARDS The People's Choice

FRIDAY, MAY 28TH, 2010 · 7:00 PM · ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS

HOSTED BY DAVID AND TAMELA MANN (THE BROWNS)
& BISHOP GREG DAVIS



FINAL VOTING - MAY 14-21, 2010 GO ON LINE AND VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE GROUP ENSEMBLE, CHOIR AND MORE

COME WALK THE RED CARPET WITH US!

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2010 AT 7 PM - TICKETS: \$25 OR PURCHASE A TICKET TO "AN EVENING WITH MARVIN SAPP" AND RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY TICKET!

Visti www.cincinnatiarts.org For More Information or Call 513-573-9596

## AN EVENING WITH Marvin Safup SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2010 5:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

SPECIAL GUESTS
BYRON CAGE,
DARWIN HOBBS,
KATHY TAYLOR BROWN
RODNEY POSEY
AND CHRISTOPHER



THE ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS . PROCTER AND GAMBLE HALL . 650 WALNUT STREET, CINCINNATI, OH.

Tickets on Sale Now. Visit www.cincinnatiarts.org or call 621-ARTS or visit your church bookstore or Berean Christian Bookstore in Forest Park, Ohio 671-0300 Purchase a tickeet to the concert and receive a FREE ticket to the Friday Night I Hear Music Awards.

#### FREE CONFERENCE CLASSES 11:00 - 2:00 - ARONOFF CENTER LOBBY

11:00 a.m. - Spirit Born Creativity - Annie Ruth

11:00 a.m. - Gotta Have Faith - Faith Daniels

11:45 a.m. - State of The Industry - Tracey Artis (Moderator)

11:45 a.m. - Praise Is What I Do - Tels and Cherie Patterson

12:30 p.m. - State of Our Faith Panel - Local Ministers - Damon Lynch III, Rev. Paul Mechell (Dayton, Ohio), Paul Booth Jr., Rev. K.Z. Smith, Pastor Teresa Langford

1:15 p.m. - Closing

CALLING ALL YOUTH GROUPS!
FREE
Teen Saturday May 29, 2010 12 - 4 PM
SEASON GOOD PAVILLION AT EDEN PAI
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