

Christian Community Magazine

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

**Cece Winans:
At This Age,
This is Who I Am!**

**Racism &
The Church**

Christian Community Magazine

August 2017

The Missouri Gospel Announcers Guilds

Red Carpet Luncheon
With
Gospel Industry Showcase

Dr. Bobby Jones
August 17-18-19-2017



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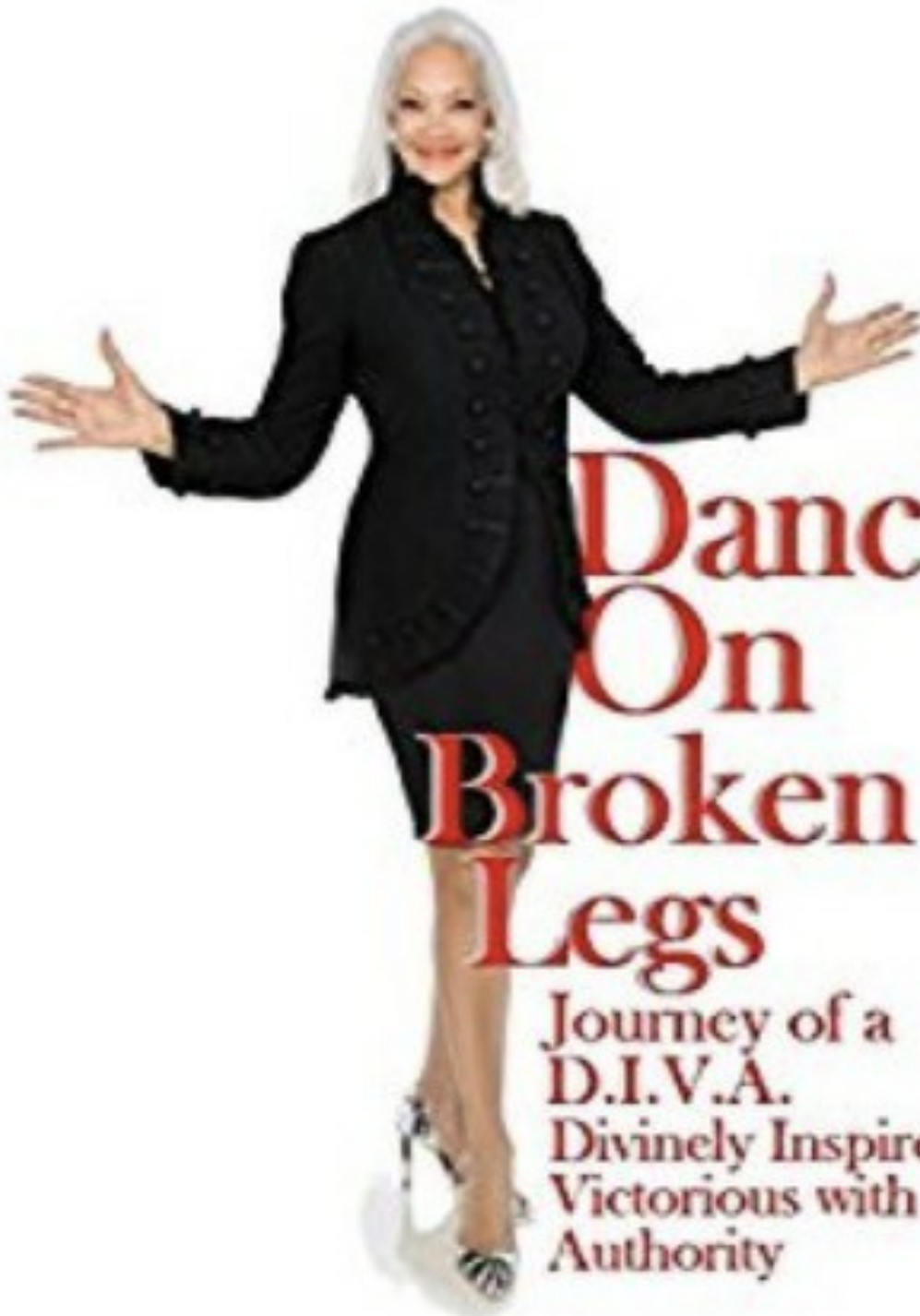
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Women's Support

Women Support and Nonprofit Expo 2017



Conference

Riverside Convention Center September 8 & 9

Mission Statements:

Providing tangible resources for women leaders of micro businesses and for women who facilitate grass root community base nonprofits whose purpose is to assist the underrepresented groups in their local community.

THE CONFERENCE WILL:

- Support and Edify Women Community Leaders
- Provide tangible resources through exhibitors, workshops, and financial grants
- Build and establish relationships of like minded community leaders
- Convey responsiveness of the needs of the underrepresented groups
- Bring Hope and Healing through the love of Jesus Christ to the women receiving services from the community base organization

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, September 8

- The Conference will open with a meet & greet reception for the community leaders.

Saturday, September 9

- Workshops
- Non-profit exhibition tailored to assist women leaders to impact their local communities.
- Community Outreach for Underserved Women attending the event.
- I AM Workshop- To bring lasting healing and change.
- Workshop for leaders on social media, finances, grants and more.

Saturday Evening

Evangelistic outreach and Gala with awards and recognition ceremony.

To Register

www.womenorganizingwomeninc.org
www2womenexpo@gmail.com

951-926-7400

Total Cost: \$225

Exhibitors: \$75

Riverside Convention Center
3637 5th Street
Riverside, CA 92501



Hotel info:

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In The News

Calif. Megachurch Pastor Fred Price Jr. Steps Down



Just over eight years after his father, Dr. Frederick K.C. Price, handed over the reins of the 28,000-member Crenshaw Christian Center to him in 2009, an emotional Fred K. Price Jr. left his congregation in shock on Sunday when he announced that he was stepping down from the pulpit due to “personal misjudgments.”

In a recording of the announcement, which comes approximately a month after Price took a sabbatical from ministry, he didn’t specify his “misjudgments” but noted they were “serious” and he is working to correct them with the help of his church’s leadership team.

“Approximately a month ago I came before you to announce that I would be taking a three-week sabbatical. Well I’m here today to give you an update. I have struggled with,” Price said trailing off into several seconds of emotional posturing as his wife Angel stood in quiet support by his side.

Watch video message [HERE](#)

Snoop Dogg Debuts Gospel Project Featuring Fred Hammond



Rap mogul, Snoop Dogg shared a video clip on his Instagram page to preview his gospel project ‘Bible of Love for fans’.

Snoop Dogg who is an American rapper and actor from Long Beach, California features a famous voice in gospel music, Fred Hammond..

In the preview video clip, Hammond’s signature voice can be heard praising God while Snoop can be seen lip syncing to it.

“He did it for me he’ll do it for you, same God.”

Snoop Dogg whose real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr. announced that he would create a gospel album earlier in an interview with Beats 1 Radio.

“I’m working on a gospel album. It’s always been on my heart.

I just never got around to it because I always be doing gangsta business and doing this and doing that.

But I just feel like it’s been on my heart too long.”

New Song: Tina Campbell – ‘Too Hard Not To’

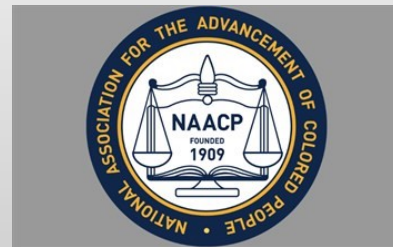


Check out ‘Too Hard Not To,’ the new single by Grammy winning singer-songwriter Tina Campbell released today!

After downloading it ourselves, we can vouch for its quality and we’ll definitely be keeping an eye and ear out from her forthcoming album ‘It’s Still Personal,’ the follow-up to 2015’s solo debut, It’s Personal. A re-working of the NAACP Image Award winner for Outstanding Gospel Album in 2016, It’s Still Personal features three new original tracks—the heart felt new single, “Too Hard Not To,” plus a rousing soulful Southern Gospel tune, “Evidence,” and the rap/hip hop tinged “We Livin.” The singer also includes a re-production of the previously recorded track “Woh, Oh, Oh.”

[CLICK HERE](#) for video

Black pastors urged to 'own up' to truth of abortion



The Life Education and Resource Network, the largest African-American pro-life group in the U.S., is there engaging NAACP delegates in conversation and distributing pro-life literature, hoping in part to convince pastors to preach the pro-life message.

Rev. Clenard Childress, Jr., assistant to the national director of L.E.A.R.N., points to a statement by William Barber, a pastor and president of North Carolina's NAACP chapter.

"We're very frustrated with the words of Rev. Barber and his reference to the clergy praying for Donald Trump [and] insinuating that this administration is 'preying' upon black people, but it's just the opposite," Childress tells OneNewsNow. "The NAACP and Rev. Barber support abortion, which is causing black genocide."

Barber's comments were both "hypocritical" and "delusional," says Childress.

"... It's time for clergy to own up to the responsibility of shepherding their sheep and leading them away from the slaughter, not to the slaughter," he adds.

According to Childress, nearly 1,800 black babies are killed in the womb each day with the majority of abortion clinics located in minority neighborhoods. But progress is being made – Childress' group has passed out more than 5,000 pieces of pro-life literature at the convention ... and he contends that more black pastors are changing their view on abortion every day.

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Making An Impact



How My Homeless Uncle Inspired Me to Help Reunite Families

Mark was my uncle, my father's brother. He was the most family-oriented member of my extended family. He remembered every birthday. The year before he died at the age of 50, he gave me an eagle bandana for my birthday. A very thoughtful gift for someone who loved his country, and whose last name means "eagle" in German.

Mark also suffered from schizophrenia, and lived on-and-off the streets for 30 years.

In November 2013, for the first time since he had passed away, I visited his gravesite in Santa Cruz. Though it means little to Mark now, my dad and his other brother, my uncle David, refused to have his memory forgotten, and chipped in for a proper plot of ground to call his own. As poignant as this was for me, I wondered if there was anything I could do for the people still living on the streets, whose lives we forget or ignore each day.

Like Mark, there are many people on the streets who suffer from mental illness, or drug addictions, or severe disabilities. Many people who have problems, just like the rest of us. Some are just down on their luck: divorced, in debt, or in bad health. They've made mistakes, took chances that just didn't work out. Many homeless people have families and friends who love them, and miss them, just like the rest of us.

I decided to do something about it.

I started Miracle Messages to increase awareness of what it's like to live on the streets, from the first-hand perspective of those who do; to make an immediate and tangible impact in the lives of our homeless neighbors; to use technology to help the homeless be seen as complete and human.

Homeless GoPro was the first version, which equipped homeless volunteers with GoPro cameras. This project started with empathy, and began to evolve into Miracle Messages when I heard this statement from one homeless person: "I never realized I was homeless when I lost my housing, only when I lost my family and friends who supported me."

The reasons for homelessness are many and can be a result of things such as eviction, sickness/health expenses, addiction, domestic violence, job loss, mental illness, to name a few. It is incredibly easy for someone who is experiencing homelessness to lose touch with their family and friends because relational brokenness is at the heart of homelessness: social disconnection is part of the experience. Along with this come feelings of shame, embarrassment, self-loathing, and uncertainty. A lack of reliable access to the internet and digital illiteracy combined with these emotional barriers keep many homeless individuals further isolated from their potential support systems.

In December 2014, I took a walk down Market Street in San Francisco to ask homeless people if they'd like to record a holiday message to a loved one using my phone. Jeffrey said yes. I shared his video on Facebook, it went viral, and his sister was tagged in the post within 20 minutes. Weeks later, Jeffrey reunited with his family for the first time in 22 years. He'd been a missing person for 12 years. Dubious that this miracle could happen again, I waited a few months before reaching out to the St. Anthony Foundation as a partner. St. Anthony Foundation is a social services agency in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco that offers a way out of poverty to the most vulnerable among us. And has been serving daily meals for 66 years. At a daily meal service, I shared the story of Jeffrey and offered all guests the chance to record their own Miracle Messages.

That's how I met Johnny, who recorded a video message to his family. Within three weeks, all four of his brothers and sisters traveled from across the country to reunite with Johnny in person for the first time in 33 years. Johnny had been missing for 20 years.

Since then, Miracle Messages has helped dozens of homeless individuals reunite with their long lost loved ones, with 40% of reunions leading to stable housing and 90% of delivered messages being well-received by loved ones. Together with a global network of volunteers, local chapters, and non-profit partners, our aim is to help 1% of the world's homeless population reunite with their loved ones by 2021. And all of this by taking a piece of everyday technology, something that most of us take for granted and use for mundane uses like taking selfies or watching YouTube videos, and using it for social good.

Everyone is someone's somebody, and nobody should be defined by what they lack. If we can send a man to the moon, find cures for various

types of fatal illnesses, and provide a safety net for our older citizens, surely we can end long-term homelessness as we know it. Even one person experiencing homelessness is one child, sibling, parent or neighbor too many.

Thank you Uncle Mark, for inspiring the idea that lead to Miracle Messages. I always loved 'em burritos, too. I miss you.

SOURCE: WILD WORD MAGAZINE

The logo for Miracle Messages features the word "MIRACLE" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a blue double-headed arrow pointing left and right between the letters "A" and "L". Below "MIRACLE" is the word "MESSAGES" in a larger, bold, sans-serif font.

Join the movement, and help start a Miracle Messages chapter in your community:

www.miraclemessages.org/getinvolved





Racism is Real and Christians Need to Respond

How should Christians respond to racism and racial tensions?

Racism in America is nothing new, but the past several years have been particularly filled with headlines on the issue, far more than we should be comfortable with. It's an problem that Christians need to respond to, but often trivial things like Starbucks Cups are what capture our offense and commentary instead. We are far too easily incited by small matters and far too quickly ignore the issues about which God calls us to actually care.

Most recently, the University of Missouri has come into spotlight as years of racial tensions finally escalated to the point of President Tim Wolfe's resignation. In a trending piece on the topic, Gospel Coalition writer Isaac Adams encourages readers not to turn away from this story and others like it, but to engage in what is going on in our country and to be active agents in reconciliation.

Adams shares a personal story of his own experience with racism. It is a story that should make us all weep. You can read it in [full here](#) .

. By God's grace, Adams was able to respond in "the more excellent way." He credits his church- a predominately white congregation- for listening to his story and weeping with him. "My church's love for one another reminds me of the hope we have in the gospel."

1. Don't turn away. Ask the God to give you His Spirit so that you might have eyes to see and ears to hear the racism around you. Like Adams' church, be willing to listen and give voice to your fellow image-bearers and meet them in their pain.

2. Speak out. Christians (especially pastors from the pulpit) must speak out against racism and work for reconciliation. Crosswalk blogger Daniel Darling writes:

"We must preach the gospel as the only cure for racism. Racism is the fruit of sin embedded in the heart of every man. Only Christ, who crushed the serpent and defeated death can move into the racist's heart and recreate it to be a heart of love. The cross is where racism goes to die, for every man, red and yellow, black and white, is in need of God's saving grace. There is hope for the repentant racist, but it will only happen as Christ renews his mind and redeems his view of his fellow man... God delights in welcoming sinners home, including repentant racists."

3. Look Inward. Daniel ends his article by encouraging believers to look inside themselves and repent of tendencies toward racism and prejudice.

"We should humbly consider our own sinful tendencies toward prejudice. Racism begins in a corrupted, sinful heart. Only God's sanctifying grace can remove the cancer of racism and replace it with a heart that reflects God's heart."

Cover Story

'At This Age, This Is Who I Am': The Gospel According To CeCe Winans

W

hen CeCe Winans, her husband Alvin Love II and their two children moved into their gated community in the Nashville suburb of Brentwood in the mid-'90s, the house rule was the same one she'd grown up with in Detroit, on Motown turf: They listened to gospel, and only gospel. The conviction ran deep: Her singer father David Winans, known as Pop, had often told of how he'd refused to follow his friend Sam Cooke from churches into nightclubs in the 1950s.

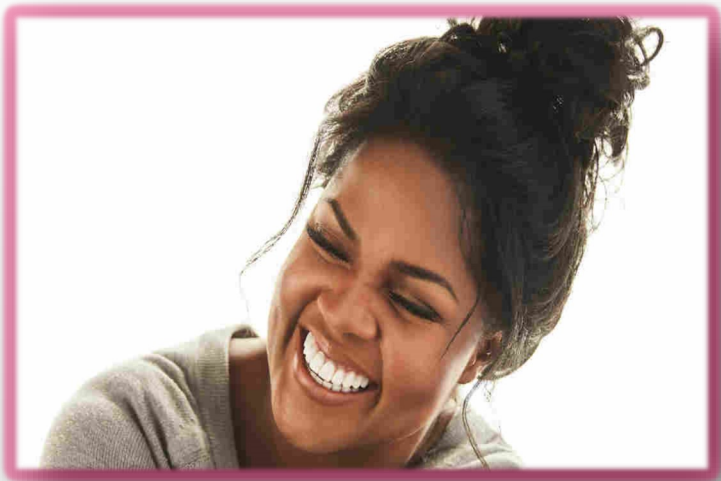
"Now, as strict as that was," says now-52-year-old CeCe, after answering the door of her contemporary mansion with a hug and leading the way into the dining room, "it wasn't like we were in trouble if they heard that we heard a Stevie Wonder song. ... We lived down the street from the Four Tops, so we were very aware of all the other music. But it's not what was allowed in our home. So we heard it on the radio, or we heard it in school. You weren't going to dodge that. And all of us being music lovers, we knew good music when we heard it."

By JEWELLY HIGHT

Winans emphasizes that she didn't experience her parents' all-gospel edict as deprivation. For every traditional-sounding mass choir or Southern quartet, there were innovators who incorporated current soul, pop and rock flavors into their arrangements and instrumentation.

"People think of gospel as one way, but we found all the different styles of gospel and Christian music and don't really feel like we missed anything," she says. "Andraé Crouch, I mean, he was definitely on the same level as any Motown artist," she says. "When you listened to him, he had all the sounds, contemporary sounds. A lot of people don't know who Rance Allen is, but if you were to pick up his CDs even now, you're gonna say, 'Oh my God.'"

At this point in her career, Winans has accumulated a great deal of perspective on her formative environment and familial ties, on paths taken, on priorities preserved.



She's remained devoted to gospel even though her stylistic adaptability brought her popularity well beyond the gospel world. She even started a non-denominational church with her husband. Her new album, *Let Them Fall In Love*, weaves together the disparate threads of her experience — in Detroit, in the Winans lineage, in an ever-evolving musical tradition. And it bears the fingerprints of a new generation, thanks to the contributions of her son, Alvin Love III.

CeCe Winans, born Priscilla Marie, was one of 10 Winans children, and their parents dedicated themselves to nurturing the musical gifts of their progeny at family concerts and their Holiness-Pentecostal church. At her parents' insistence, CeCe sang her first solo at age 8. *"I was crying in the middle of it," she recalls. "It was called 'Fill My Cup, Lord.' And my parents were like, 'OK, you'll do better next time.' ... They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself."*

A quartet of her brothers landed a recording deal after being discovered by Crouch. *"That just started the ball rolling," she says. "They were like, 'Wait a minute. More kids sing?' 'Yeah, the whole family sings.' 'What?' If you look at it on a bigger scale, it was like the Jacksons, Jackson 5."*

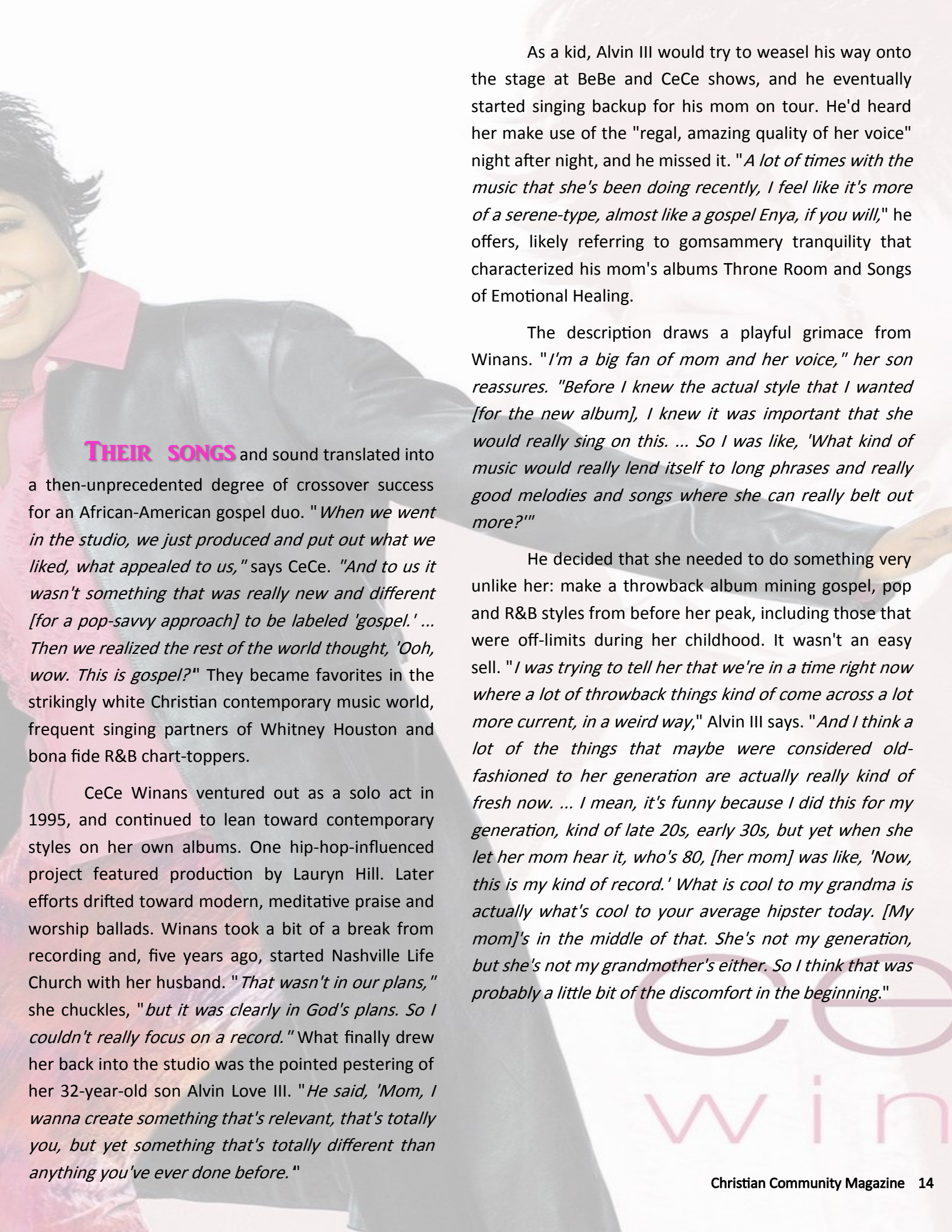
CeCe gravitated toward singing with the sibling to whom she was closest in age, her slightly older brother BeBe.

She was just 19 when they released their first duo album through the music division of Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker's televangelism empire, The PTL Club, in 1984. After that, BeBe and CeCe recorded for larger labels with deeper pockets, enabling the 20-something sibling duo to achieve the popular sounds they wanted in the studio—pearlescent synthesizer pads, misty effects and the sleekly synchronized syncopation of drum programming and synth bass. *"Just because we're labeled gospel music, if anything we should definitely have the budgets and the production that can be played before anything or after anything [pop or R&B] and you're not gonna see a drop in quality,"* CeCe says of her mindset. *"Quality had to be there. And we felt like our message deserved the quality."*

BeBe did a good bit of the songwriting and had a hand in arranging and production, too. There was an artful slipperiness to compositions like "Addictive Love," "Lost Without You" and "Feels Like Heaven (With You)"; the lyrics employed pop's straightforward, lightly sensual language of romantic yearning, but implied that their subject was divine. As CeCe puts it, *"A lot of our songs were love songs that could be sung in a prayer or also sung to a spouse or to a loved one."*



They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself.



THEIR SONGS and sound translated into a then-unprecedented degree of crossover success for an African-American gospel duo. *"When we went in the studio, we just produced and put out what we liked, what appealed to us,"* says CeCe. *"And to us it wasn't something that was really new and different [for a pop-savvy approach] to be labeled 'gospel.' ... Then we realized the rest of the world thought, 'Ooh, wow. This is gospel?'"* They became favorites in the strikingly white Christian contemporary music world, frequent singing partners of Whitney Houston and bona fide R&B chart-toppers.

CeCe Winans ventured out as a solo act in 1995, and continued to lean toward contemporary styles on her own albums. One hip-hop-influenced project featured production by Lauryn Hill. Later efforts drifted toward modern, meditative praise and worship ballads. Winans took a bit of a break from recording and, five years ago, started Nashville Life Church with her husband. *"That wasn't in our plans,"* she chuckles, *"but it was clearly in God's plans. So I couldn't really focus on a record."* What finally drew her back into the studio was the pointed pestering of her 32-year-old son Alvin Love III. *"He said, 'Mom, I wanna create something that's relevant, that's totally you, but yet something that's totally different than anything you've ever done before.'"*

As a kid, Alvin III would try to weasel his way onto the stage at BeBe and CeCe shows, and he eventually started singing backup for his mom on tour. He'd heard her make use of the "regal, amazing quality of her voice" night after night, and he missed it. *"A lot of times with the music that she's been doing recently, I feel like it's more of a serene-type, almost like a gospel Enya, if you will,"* he offers, likely referring to gomsammery tranquility that characterized his mom's albums *Throne Room* and *Songs of Emotional Healing*.

The description draws a playful grimace from Winans. *"I'm a big fan of mom and her voice,"* her son reassures. *"Before I knew the actual style that I wanted [for the new album], I knew it was important that she would really sing on this. ... So I was like, 'What kind of music would really lend itself to long phrases and really good melodies and songs where she can really belt out more?'"*

He decided that she needed to do something very unlike her: make a throwback album mining gospel, pop and R&B styles from before her peak, including those that were off-limits during her childhood. It wasn't an easy sell. *"I was trying to tell her that we're in a time right now where a lot of throwback things kind of come across a lot more current, in a weird way,"* Alvin III says. *"And I think a lot of the things that maybe were considered old-fashioned to her generation are actually really kind of fresh now. ... I mean, it's funny because I did this for my generation, kind of late 20s, early 30s, but yet when she let her mom hear it, who's 80, [her mom] was like, 'Now, this is my kind of record.' What is cool to my grandma is actually what's cool to your average hipster today. [My mom]'s in the middle of that. She's not my generation, but she's not my grandmother's either. So I think that was probably a little bit of the discomfort in the beginning."*

Says Winans, "His favorite [saying] is, 'Just trust me. Just trust me.'"

"That's what it took," her son shoots back. "I knew that when she heard it, she would love it. ... And it really wasn't until she heard the full orchestra with the band and the backup singers that she went, 'Oh, I love this!' But not a second before."

Winans is obviously accustomed to working with family members, having done it to great success throughout her career, but entrusting an entire album into her son's hands was a first, for her and him both. For that reason, she asked her friend Tommy Sims, a heavyweight in gospel, R&B, country and pop recording scenes, to co-produce with Alvin III. Sims' connections were essential when it came to securing A-list players, arrangers and engineers from Nashville to New York. Still, *Let Them Fall in Love* was profoundly shaped by the intergenerational dynamic between Winans and her son.

Other than "Why Me Lord," the penitent Kris Kristofferson country classic, and "Marvelous," a stately praise chorus penned by Dwan Hill, the leader of Nashville Life Church's worship band, all of the songs were written by Alvin III. "Run to Him" echoes the tried-and-true BeBe and CeCe approach; the "he" in the lyrics could almost be a loyal lover to whom she's running. The sentiment is delivered Diana Ross & the Supremes-style. ("It is so Motown-sounding," CeCe concurs.) But many other compositions, including "He's Never Failed Me Yet," "Peace From God" and "Lowly," are occasions for bold-faced testifying to God's faithfulness. The horn-heated "Hey Devil!", which features the peppery backup of Detroit gospel veterans The Clark Sisters, and the funky "Dancing in the Spirit," lifted by the robust unison singing of Hezekiah Walker's mass choir, even launch Winans into flamboyant charismatic mode.

Though Alvin III assembled options and made suggestions, his mom had the final say on the material. "I'm a firm believer that it has to touch my heart before I feel like I can really touch somebody else's," she says. But there were times when she deferred to her son too.

"We're a lot alike in some ways that we probably shouldn't be," she says. "When one feels like they're right, that is it. But once I got to the studio, I think — I'll let him tell me — but I think I was a good submissive artist."

"Submissive," her son scoffs.

"I mean, it was kind of weird for me," Winans goes on. "I was like, 'OK, I'm in the studio and I actually have to do what he tells me to do.' ... He was really hard on me. He was a real producer. Where some producers can hear me sing and be like, 'Oh, that was so good on that take,' Alvin was like, 'No, that's not. Do it again.' ... After he tortured me maybe on a song [or two], I realized he's got some ears."

She turns an affectionate gaze on her son. "I would say it was peaceful. I mean, except for the times you were just gonna push me to no end. But I still stayed in there, right? I worked hard."

"Yeah, she worked," he affirms, his mouth melting into a grin. "There were several takes where I would be happy with it and she was like, 'I got another one [in me]. I wanna do it again.'"

Winans is in very fine voice throughout *Let Them Fall in Love* — supple, expressive, queenly at times. But taking her new music on the road has become a more complicated proposition than it used to be. She's making every effort to schedule her shows so that she can be back in Nashville for weekly church services, which start at 2 p.m. since Nashville Life Church rents space from a larger congregation that meets in the morning. At a gospel brunch during the Americana Music Festival last September, she dashed in from an appearance in another city, sang an acoustic version of a number from the album, then hurried off to church. "I'm dropping the microphone in a lot of places," she says. "Everybody who's working on the team is aware of who I am and what I do and what my life looks like now. ... So we're gonna see how it's gonna work."



Songs We Love: CeCe Winans, 'Hey Devil!'

The interracial crowd at **Nashville Life Church** is primarily made up of millennials who dress casually in hoodies and denim jackets, leggings and jeans. Winans would love to add that same demographic to her longtime listening audience. Her son convinced her that pressing the album on vinyl could help, as could releasing it with indie-minded partner Thirty Tigers. But it's been forever since Winans had to win over uninitiated live crowds like the one at her recent Austin City Limits taping. "I think that audience was, if not 100 percent, 90 percent new ears," she says. *"I think they'd maybe heard my name, but maybe not. But they had a good time."*

So is she, clearly. *"Earlier on in my career, or when I was a lot younger, maybe it would've made me nervous, because at that time you're still figuring out who you are,"* she reflects. *"At this age, this is who I am. Either you're gonna really like me or you're not. And I'm gonna be totally free in who I am."*

Winans inhabits the role of "Pastor CeCe" in a way that sidesteps her gospel megastardom. Before church services, she's more likely to be found dispensing hugs in the lobby than soundchecking with the vocalists and musicians in the sanctuary. (She tried participating in the worship band, but her touring schedule made it all but impossible to make their rehearsals, so she stepped down.)

On a recent Sunday, Winans swayed and clapped next to her husband in the front pew through half an hour of praise and worship choruses that ebbed and flowed with anthemic soft rock energy. At the appointed moment, she walked up the carpeted steps to the stage and joined the band, which included Alvin III, vamping at the end of a song. She started off intoning soft "hallelujahs" and gradually swelled into full-voiced declarations of love for Jesus. Then she began to pray aloud. *"Because of your love, Lord, we are set free,"* she called out. *"Do I have any free people here this afternoon?"* After welcoming first-time visitors and collecting the offering, she took her seat again.



Anti-trafficking ministry says Christ can restore

Women and girls rescued from trafficking through Christ tend to walk away from the life permanently.

She is Safe is an organization working internationally to free women and children from a life that often claims their lives.

Michelle Rickett leads the organization. While working on the mission field in Africa, she observed many girls were kept at home to work, for marriage, or to sell. She formed She is Safe to help them and says anyone involved in trafficking can be reached.

“No one is beyond the reach of God, whether it's a trafficker, or a madam who's holding slaves, or a perpetrator on the street,” she told OneNewsNow. “Everyone is someone that we ought to be praying for, someone that we ought to be reaching.”

Rickett points to the track record of the two approaches.

“Someone who's been trafficked for many years will find it very difficult to imagine themselves having a life of freedom unless they gain that freedom through Christ,” she said.


“Recidivism in the U.S. for restorative care and overseas is very high in programs that do not address the spiritual need for Christ.”

Those in the secular programs have a higher rate of recidivism.

The goal of She is Safe is to see these women rescued through Christ, connected with a church, mentored by members, and kept under the cover of prayer.

Learn more about this organization at <https://sheissafe.org/>



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

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Gospel singer and actress Ann Nesby



By Phil W. Hudson

'Atlanta is the place to be'

PH: What advice would you give to singers who are trying to break into the music industry?

Ann Nesby: *Take care of your business. This industry is 80 percent business and 20 percent talent. You can make it but you have to have your business in order. Get an attorney, get an account, and go to school. Learn your business, believe in yourself and know it's not an easy road. You have to get up early, and hurry up and wait but if you want it, you can have it.*

PH: What comes to top of mind when you think of Atlanta's music industry?

AN: I moved to Atlanta about 18 years ago because I felt like Atlanta was a mecca of music. Since moving here, I've worked on different projects, two different musical projects, did the movie "The Fighting Temptations" and had the opportunity to work with the greats like Usher, Jermaine Dupri and so many other great producers that are here in the city. I feel like Atlanta is the place to be if you're working in the music or movie industry. It's a place where there are talented people and the door is open. You just have to walk through it.

PH: Looking back at your career, what is one business decision you wish you could have differently done?

AN: When I came into the business, I was working with Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis in Minneapolis. I wasn't really aware of anything and was green but was able to work with them because they kind of had the best of both worlds as producers and then as owners of their own company.

As the former lead singer of Sounds of Blackness, Nesby first charted with hits including: "Joy," "Testify," "The Optimistic," "I'm Going All The Way," and No. 1 dance hits "I Believe" and "The Pressure." Since launching her solo career in 1996, the Queen of Inspirational Soul has toured with Luther Vandross, had duet smashes with Sting ("Demolition Man") and Al Green ("Put It On Paper"), written a Top 10 R&B hit for Patti LaBelle ("Right Kinda Lover") and the soul classic "Home Alone" on Gladys Knight's last gold-seller.

In her addition to her career as a musician, Nesby is an accomplished actress appearing in films including "The Fighting Temptations," "The Last Disciples" and "What My Husband Doesn't Know."

Nesby released her most recent record, "Living My Life," in 2014 and recently performed in Atlanta.



Going in with them, I really learned that it's important that singing artists should write because publishing is your lifeline. I didn't keep my publishing on the first project I ever did and that is our lifeline and lifeblood. Not only do you prosper from it, but your children's children can go on and live off of your work. I would definitely say that it's important to keep your music right for yourself and make yourself available. If you think this dream is worth it, then go for it and invest in yourself.

PH: Do you have any new music slated to be released soon?

AN: I'm working on a project now. It's going to be music from the vault that I haven't released as I'm a writer and a producer myself. I'm also going to do some cover tunes of some of my favorite songs. We're looking forward to having a new project sometime in 2018.

PH: You have one of the most amazing voices I've ever heard. My favorite vocal expert is Mama Jan Smith (interview with Smith here) and she's here in Atlanta too. Have you ever worked with her? I have a feeling y'all would get along as both of you appear to have very kind and gentle souls.

AN: I haven't worked with Jan but would definitely would look forward to it. I've talked to people that have worked with her as a vocal coach but I haven't had the privilege. I leave the door open for it and would definitely look forward to it.

PH: What do you want your legacy to be?

AN: I want my legacy to be that I set an example for young people all over the world that they could follow their dream and be whatever they desire to be if they believe in their hearts, work for it and follow thorough — not just dream.

Gospel Artist Spotlight

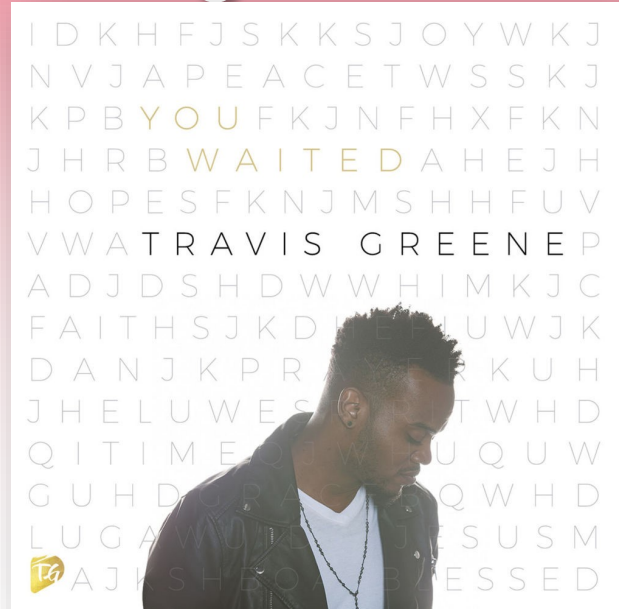
Your monthly round up of Gospel Artists to Watch!

Travis Greene

“You Waited”

WEBSITE: <http://hyperurl.co/YouWaited>

The acclaimed recording artist – who jump-started the year with worldwide buzz and career accolades including 2 GRAM-MY® nominations, and winning a leading 7 awards at the 2017 Stellar Awards – now marks “You Waited” as the lead single from his highly-anticipated upcoming album *Crossover: Live from Music City*.



Koryn Hawthorne

“Won’t He Do It’

WEBSITE: <http://korynhawthorne.com/>

“Won’t He Do It,” ft. Roshon Fegan produced by Rich Shelton, Makeba Riddick-Woods and Matthew Head. Showcasing her confident voice with the artistic delivery that has garnered Koryn widespread praise among both her peers and her fans, she’s considered one of the most exciting new voices for her generation. “Won’t He Do It” is only just the beginning of a line of new music to come.

Tess Henley

Wonderland

WEBSITE: <http://tesshenley.com/>

Soul singer-songwriter Tess Henley began Suzuki piano training at age three, and by age five was dissecting harmonies that even her mother – a singer by trade – found difficult. Multi-Grammy winning producer Don Was (Rolling Stones, John Mayer, Bonnie Raitt) recently selected Henley from over 10,000 performers as the winner of Guitar Center's National Artist Discovery Program.

"She's unlike any artist that's out there now, a world class singer with a true gift" says Was. Billboard describes her music as a classy brand of soulful R&B that could hold up in any era of Was' storied career.



Anthony Faulkner

Guardian Angel

WEBSITE: <http://afaulkner.com/>

Anthony Faulkner is an award-winning International Urban Inspirational Artist. He is a writer, arranger and producer of contemporary gospel, an urban inspirational singer, a director and actor, and steadfast international philanthropist from Houston, Texas.



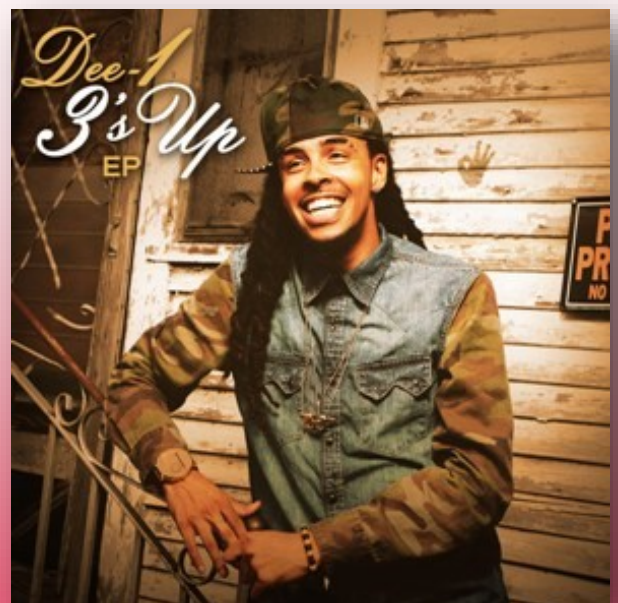
Dee 1

3's Up

Website: <http://www.rcainspiration.com/artist/dee-1/>

Dee-1 honed his lyrical skills while balancing two careers, teaching middle school children by day and performing at rap shows at night. The New Orleans native's love for hip-hop was born while attending Louisiana State University during a year filled with grief and heartbreak.

2005 was a very tumultuous year for Dee-1. First, his world was shaken to the core when his best friend was murdered during a robbery following a flag football game. Second, he experienced the pain of ending a five-year relationship with his high school sweetheart. Third, he watched his hometown of New Orleans endure the catastrophic flooding of Hurricane Katrina. Finally, his life flashed before his eyes when he was the victim of an armed robbery at gunpoint. Despite the difficult year, Dee-1 interpreted these events as a wake-up call to reaffirm his Christianity.



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A portrait of Myesha Chaney, a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a red top. The background is blurred.

First Lady Profile

Myesha Chaney

Antioch Church of Long Beach

1535 Gundry Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90813

Worship Times

8:00 am, 9:30am, 11:30am

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

Tell us about your church in Long Beach.

MC: Antioch Church of Long Beach, California is the first and only church of which I have been a member. I attended as a young girl and it just stuck with me. I met my husband Wayne there when I was eighteen. He ended up taking over the church; he is now Senior Pastor. It was originally a traditional Baptist church but now it is non-denominational with approximately 3,000 members. People travel from as far away as Corona [California] and the Valley to attend services here.

What in your early life led you to singing and writing?

MC: I grew up in Long Beach, California. As far back as I can remember, I was singing. I sang so much in the house that my father would ask me to go outside and sing! I would sing in my backyard, have my own concerts. People knew if I wasn't singing, I wasn't in a good mood.

I always had a desire to sing because I was around musical people. In high school, however, I took on some insecurities about singing, which delayed my journey. But when I became more passionate about God, it led me to leading worship. Slowly but surely, God validated that my voice was perfect for His ministry.

Who have been your inspirations, musically?

MC: Although I attended church, I was also interested in pop culture and secular music, artists such as Brandy. After I decided to devote my life to God, I kicked out the secular and listened to gospel singers like Yolanda Adams, Mary Mary, and Kirk Franklin. Mom played Shirley Caesar.

How would you describe your brand of gospel music?

MC: Young, fun, passionate, and liberating.

With such a busy schedule, what keeps you centered?

MC: It takes a lot of effort to stay centered because you are "always on." Sleep is my best friend. It is essential for me. With the extra traveling I'm doing now, I need to be more intentional about taking some time for myself. It will keep me emotionally happy.

What do you want the world to know about Myesha Chaney?

MC: I am a very real person with real experiences who is obedient to God, who helps me cultivate a fresh experience in music.

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