THE 1ST ANNUAL

Bro. Esmond Patterson

Gospel Music Festival

(1927-2003)

“When the Lord closes a door, He will open a window.”

A WEEKEND REMEMBERING ATLANTA’S GOSPEL GIANT

March 9 – 11, 2012

New Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
1690 Melrose Dr., SW
Atlanta, GA

Host Pastor: Rev. P. L. Redmond
Bro. Esmond Patterson was a legendary Gospel music radio host and concert promoter in Atlanta, Georgia, who had literally been in the homes of African-Americans in Atlanta for over 50 years. He had earlier jobs as a paperboy, mail carrier, insurance and furniture salesman before he began his radio career in 1955 at radio station W.E.R.D. (the first African-American owned radio station in the country.) In 1963, he moved to radio station W.A.O.K. and remained there for 38 years where his 4 a.m. daily "Break-a-Day" radio show created the standard for today's morning gospel radio shows. He also hosted a highly-rated weekly Sunday morning radio show from 6 a.m. till noon.

Known for his signature attire, the tuxedo, Bro. Patterson was a charismatic and beloved institution in the City of Atlanta. He gave many local and national gospel artists an opportunity to sing and minister on his monthly concert series, The Gospel Caravan. The Caravan would be held in various churches on the first Monday of each month for some 40 plus years.

His long-standing radio anniversary celebration began at the 81 Theater in Atlanta (Atlanta's equivalent to the Apollo Theater), moved to Atlanta’s Municipal City Auditorium and, in 1980, remained a longstanding event at the Atlanta Civic Center until 2002. "The Anniversary" attracted over 4,500 fans annually to hear the likes of Shirley Caesar, Dorothy Norwood, Inez Andrews, James Cleveland, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Dottie Peoples, The Williams Brothers, Rev. Leo Daniels, Rev. C. L. Franklin, Rev. Maceo Woods, The Pilgrim Jubilees, The Gospel Keynotes, Lee Williams and The Spiritual Q.C.s, just to name a few. To date, no other gospel radio personality has had the longevity of Bro. Esmond Patterson’s career and probably never will.

Over the years, the popular radio host was known for giving names to many of the local and national ministers. Bro. Patterson dubbed Reverend Jasper Williams, Jr. "Son of Thunder", Dr. Johnny L. Jones "The Mighty Hurricane" and Reverend Timothy Flemming "The Little Man with the Big Voice." He also gave names to Gospel superstars Dorothy Norwood "The World's Greatest Storyteller" and Dottie Peoples "The Songbird of the South."

Bro. Patterson’s honors include a 1996 Stellar Award for Radio Personality of the Year—the Gospel equivalent of a Grammy, 1973 Gospel Parade that attracted over 50,000 fans and a 1992 videotaped interview of his life story placed in the Smithsonian Institution Archives. However, his proudest accomplishment was his philanthropy efforts with the Butler Street Y.M.C.A. Bro. Patterson used his popularity to raise awareness and thousands of dollars for the Southside Branch of the Butler Street Y.M.C.A.
Greetings:

As Mayor of the City of Atlanta, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the attendees and distinguished guests of Community Gospel Music Festival.

Since its inception, the gospel community has been a key component in the religious community. This festival is in memory of the late Brother Esmond Patterson who was a legendary gospel music radio host. For many consecutive years, Brother Patterson has been known for hosting “Break-a-Day” radio on Atlanta’s WAOX station. Brother Patterson served in vital roles, exemplified great strength and built longstanding bridges with many people.

In closing, I salute Brother Patterson for playing such a vital role in the religious community. His generous contributions were never in vain because he symbolized shining examples for all to follow.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I offer best wishes for a memorable and remarkable occasion.

Sincerely,

Kasim Reed
Welcome

Atlanta is known for its rich heritage of gospel music. Home of the first African-American radio station, W.E.R.D., this inaugural Gospel Music Festival will continue the legacy created some 50 years ago by the late radio icon Bro. Esmond Patterson, Atlanta’s “Godfather of Traditional Gospel.” Our mission is to:

- explore and present ways to keep Gospel music relevant in today's society,
- provide an opportunity for artists to entertain a diverse audience of music enthusiasts
- give an avenue for gospel legends to mentor up and coming artists.

Friday – March 9th

Network Reception – Featuring
- Michael El
- Bishop J. D. Means
- Ricky Waddell

Saturday – March 10th

- Seminars, Workshops, Legends Roundtables (Inside)
- Festival affair complete with children's games and health screenings.
- Musical showcase featuring some of the best talent in Atlanta and across the country.

Sunday – March 11th - Bro. Esmond Patterson Day - Featuring

- Darrell McFadden and the Disciples
- The Swanee Quintet
- Darrell Luster
- Rev. R. L. Bush and the Revived Sons
- Rev. Jarius Dorsey and the Gospel Gents
- Rev. H. McDonald
- Special Tribute to the “Georgia Peach”, Sister Lucile Pope
- “The Big Man” Donald Cochran, Host
Donald Cochran
Program Director, W.Y.Z.E. Radio, Concert Promoter, Master of Ceremonies, Comedian

An Atlanta native, “The Big Man” has been involved in gospel music since the age of two. Donald’s father, the late “Slim” Cochran was a gospel singer with the Blind Boys of Georgia and Annette Moore and the Pilgrim Gospel Singers. This was the start of Donald’s love for gospel music. At the age of five, Atlanta legend, “Rough, Tough” Lucille Jordan took Donald under her wing and spent the next thirty-plus years working in the vineyard with this legend. In 1979, Donald won a “DJ for a Day” contest at W.Y.Z.E. radio and, as they say, the rest is history. Donald began working for W.Y.Z.E. as a radio announcer in 1983 and, in 2007, was promoted to his current position as program director for W.Y.Z.E. In 1985, Donald began another phase of concert promotions working for the late George Scott and Good Time Productions.

A natural-born comedian, Donald has lifted the spirits of people for many years with his love of life and people. He has been awarded several plaques and trophies, however, the highlight of his career is the being named the 2011 recipient of the Bro. Esmond Patterson Lifetime Achievement in Radio Award. “Growing up listening to Bro. Patterson encouraged me to fulfill my dreams of being a radio announcer.” Donald’s humanitarian efforts are just as big as his career efforts and Atlanta is proud to call him their native son.

Michael El Dalcoe

Michael EL began his musical journey at the age of 7. The first song he ever led was “I Want to Live So God Can Use Me”. What an introduction!

Tutored by his preaching and singing mother, Bishop Mary D. Lawrence, Michael continued to hone his craft. God gave Michael EL, the gift of playing the piano in a dream! To his musical credits, he also plays guitar, bass guitar, drums and horns.

This singer, songwriter, producer and musician has to his musical credits, work with such artist as: Curtis Mayfield, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, Dr. Creflo Dollar and Heart of God, Ann Nesby and many others.

Michael EL is honored to serve as praise leader for Dr. Creflo Dollar and World Changers Church International. He is seen singing praises several times each month on the Changing Your World internet broadcast.

There is no limit to the magnitude of the career of this musical talent. Be inspired, be lifted, be encouraged, be affected, but most of all be blessed by the gift of Michael EL.
Reggie Gay is the trend setting gospel radio/television personality and one of the most recognized gospel DJ's in America. His name became synonymous with gospel music in Atlanta via KISS 104 FM and GLORY 1340 in the 1990’s. www.ReggieGay.com gospel music 24/7/365 (listen “on demand”) now syndicates the show daily sundown until sunrise on REGGIE AM 1310 WPBC, Atlanta, Cincinnati, OH M-F @ 9AM on AM 1320 WCVG; Sunday at 2PM on AM 1350 WLOU Louisville, KY; TV Sunday @ 8PM (et) on WATC-TV 57 Atlanta and Monday @ 5AM (et) on AIB-TV and CW 69 WUPA, Atlanta.

Reggie’s career over the years has been syndicated through the Cumulus Radio Network broadcast on WQQK FM, 92Q in Nashville, Tennessee and WKXS FM, KISS 94.1 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was Program Manager for GLORY 1340 from April 1998 until June 2001. With KISS radio from 1996 till 2004; Program Manager for AM 1480 WYZE November 2003 till January 2005; Assistant General Manager of AM 1260 WTJH May 2006 thru September 2007.

He grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, is an Advisory Board Member of The Stellar Awards and is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Reggie’s charity is the Roots Adoption Agency and his “Suitcases for Kids” program that raises money to buy luggage for foster children.

Reggie is heard as the “Band Announcer” for the Morris Brown College Marching Wolverines in the smash hit movie “Drum Line” and makes a cameo appearance as a “Security Guard” in the blockbuster film “Fighting Temptations”.

Academics/Memberships/Awards... 1984 B. A. degree, Broadcasting, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond; Associate Minister, 2nd Mount Vernon Baptist, Atlanta; 2000 Certificate of License and Ordination to the Ministry, Holy Temple Deliverance, Atlanta; 2000 First Iconium Baptist Community Service Award; 1998 Outstanding Georgia Citizen Award; 1998 Bethany Baptist Man of the Year Award; 100 Black Women of Atlanta 1998 Gourmet Gents Cooking Award; 1997 Gospel Radio Personality Award; 1996 Certificate of License to the Gospel Ministry, Antioch Baptist, Lexington, KY.

For Management & Speaking Engagements call or write:
The Reggie Gay Gospel Show
3812 Soapstone Road
Decatur, GA 30034-6983
Telephone (404) 437-7764
e-mail – ReggieGay@ReggieGay.com
ENOC GEAR

Mr. Enoch Gear Jr. is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and attended The Atlanta Public Schools. Later, he attended Georgia State University and graduated with a B.S. degree in Community Relations and Social Welfare.

Enoch began singing at an early age and began his professional career, at the age of 16, singing with the Thurmond Specials, James Hightower and The Gospel Specials, The Atlanta Philharmonic Chorale, Marvin Anderson, John Griggs, Rev. Ernest Jones and Little Annie Mae Barnes. He toured the United States with Dottie Peoples and The People Choice Chorale. He has shared the stage with The Williams Brothers, Canton Spirituals, CeCe Winans, Kirk Franklin, Beverly Crawford, John P. Kee, Bobby Jones, and Dorothy Norwood. Enoch’s singing gift blessed him to record with gospel greats such as Evangelist Shirley Caesar, Dottie Peoples, Edwin/Walter Hawkins & Arts Seminar Mass Choir in Oakland, California.

His desire to produce and book Christian entertainers prompted the organization of Gospel Entertainment Music International (GEMI) to further spread the gospel worldwide. GEMI is a gospel music productions company and its goal is to recruit and scout quality artist, groups, and choirs to perform their style of Gospel music ministry across the United States and abroad (Switzerland, Canada, Italy, Stockholm Sweden, Barcelona Spain, Africa and other countries.

DEBORAH GONZALEZ

Deborah Gonzalez, Esq., is the founder of Law2sm, LLC, a new legal consulting firm focusing on helping its clients navigate the legal issues relating to the new digital and social media world. She also teaches "Entertainment Law" as an adjunct professor at UGA School of Law in Athens.

Deborah graduated from New York Law School in 1997. She built a successful boutique practice in New York City, focusing on the arts, music and entertainment scene. In 2007, Deborah relocated to Georgia where she was employed by the University System of Georgia. In 2008, she was granted reciprocity to practice law in Georgia.

Deborah’s practice has taken her from an inner-city arts community center in NYC to a sidewalk café in Eastern Europe. She has prepared programs for diplomats in the EU, helped medical missions with refugee communities in Thailand, protected artists against music piracy in the U.S. and against bio-piracy in South America. In various venues throughout the United States and abroad, Deborah speaks on the legal issues relating to intellectual property, art, music and entertainment law, and social media trends and practices.
The beginning of Darrell Luster's musical career began when he was only 12 years old. He, along with five of his brothers, formed a gospel group called The Luster Brothers. In the early 1980's, Darrell began playing and singing professionally with The Sensational Nightingales, filling in when one of the group's members became ill. In 1984, Darrell became a member of a gospel group called Charles Johnson and the Revivers.

In 1993, under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, Darrell ventured into a solo career. He released his first album entitled "Peace Be Still" on the Morning Star Records label. His first single, "I Believe He Died for Me", was an instant hit. In October of 1999, Darrell was hired by Malaco Records of Jackson, MS to produce for The Sensational Nightingales. “This was not only a surprise but an honor...to be asked to produce and write songs for the group I had listened to and idolized all of my childhood.” Darrell later produced two other projects and in January of 2003 he joined the group and became a full-fledged member. In 2003, Darrell produced The Sensational Nightingales‘ album “Songs to Edify”, and it received a Grammy nomination for “Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album.”

In 2006, Darrell was hired by Malaco Records as its "in-house producer", in charge of producing its traditional artists. Darrell was also chosen to work with Malaco on the “Yes! Quartet” campaign, featuring The Pilgrim Jubilees, The Sensational Nightingales, Spencer Taylor and The Highway QC’s, and Slim & The Supreme Angels, of which the Supreme Angels and the Pilgrim Jubilees were nominated for a Stellar Award. Darrell, being a well rounded and talented individual in the music profession, currently holds the title as the A &R of the gospel division of Malaco Records.
BISHOP J. D. MEANS, SR.
AS A BISHOP, PASTOR, PREACHER, TEACHER, EVANGELIST

The Bishop, Pastor, Preacher, Teacher, Evangelist, Psalmist, Musician, Composer, Arranger

Bishop J.D. Means, Sr. a native of Newark, N.J., was reared by his parents, along with 3 sisters and 6 brothers. Bishop Means sang his first solo at the age of 4. At the age of 10, God anointed his fingers to pursue an untiring musical career and at the tender age of 11, the Lord anointed him to preach the Gospel. Shortly after, he became phenomenal by becoming the youngest pastor in the State of New Jersey. In 1986 he became the Pastor of Greater Concord Missionary Baptist Church, where he yet serves as Overseer and Presiding Pastor.

Bishop J.D. Means was licensed by the Greater Concord Missionary Baptist Church and ordained by the Baptist Minister's Association of New Jersey; the late Rev. L.R. Phillips, Moderator. Bishop J.D. Means received his education in the Newark public school system, Northeastern Theological Seminary, Phillips Bible Institute and has acquired and received numerous biblical home study courses, and is yet pursuing his knowledge of biblical studies.

Bishop J.D. Means was consecrated on October 21, 2002 as Vice Presiding Bishop of the Body of Christ International Ministries, and he also serves as Chief Presiding Prelate of One in Spirit Inter-Denominational Fellowship, USA and he also serves on the Ecumenical Board of Bishops for Sounds of Praise Pentecostal Fellowship Ministries Worldwide, Bishop Allen H. Simmons, Sr., Presiding Prelate. Bishop J.D. Means has ministered in various settings from small towns to large metropolitan cities. He has ministered in churches, civic centers, coliseums, etc. where the size of congregations and audiences ranged from 25 to 15,000.

Bishop J.D. Means, Sr. has preached and worked closely across the length and breadth of this country with several great pulpiteers such as The Late Rev. Joe Hughes, The Late Rev. Cleophus Robinson, Bishop Richard "Mr. Clean" White, Rev. Timothy Fleming, Rev. Milton Biggham, and The "Son of Thunder" Rev. Dr. Jasper Williams, Jr., just to name a few. Bishop J.D. Means, Sr. presently serves at the Olivet Church, Fayetteville, Ga, and also keeps a full schedule of his own evangelistic era.

AS A PSALMIST, COMPOSER, ARRANGER & MUSICIAN

In his musical career, Bishop J.D. Means sang his first solo at the age of 4, he made his first professional appearance at the age of 10 at Passaic High School, Passaic, New Jersey as an opening act with Joe Ligon & The Mighty Clouds of Joy. Bishop Means has sang, played, and appeared with many Gospel greats such as: Evangelist Dorothy Norwood, Albertina Walker, Sister Lucille Pope and the Pearly Gates, Luther Barnes, Dr. Marvin Sapp, Dottie Peoples, Barrett Sisters, Rev. F.C. Barnes and Janice Brown, Joe Ligon and The Mighty Clouds of Joy, the late Rev. Cleophus Robinson, Sr., Pastor Shirley Caesar, Brook Benton, the late Willie Neal Johnson and the Gospel Keynotes, Lee Williams and the Spiritual QC's, Paul Porter and the Christianaires, Clarence Fountain and the Five Blind Boys of Alabama, Williams Brothers, Donald Malloy, Inez Andrews, Keith "Wonder Boy" Johnson and the Spiritual Voices, Evelyn Turrentine Agee, Smokie Norful, LaShun Pace and many others.
REV. ROBERT MELSON

Rev. Robert L. Melson, Sr. is a native of Fairburn, Georgia. He is a 1968 graduate of Campbell High School and a 1995 graduate of Beulah Heights Bible College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies.

Rev. Melson has served in pastoral ministry since 1979, beginning with the Commerce-Elberton Parish. He has served the Dodd-Sterling United Methodist Church since 1987. Under his leadership, the church has developed several outreach programs that assist the community with practical needs, including After-School Program, and Summer Camp. He serves as chairman of the Fellowship Banquet, United Methodist Minister’s Fellowship, a position he has held since 1985.

Rev. Melson’s civic and community activities include: Member, Board of Directors, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, 1982-1983; Member, Regional Development Planning Advisory Council, The Atlanta Regional Commission, 1982-1984; Member, Board of Directors, Hugh O’Brien Youth Foundation, 1987-1988; President, Jaycee Journal-Constitution Empty Stocking Fund, 1981-1982; Member, St. James Lodge #4, Prince Hall Free & Accepted Masons; President, Atlanta Jaycees, 1982-1983 (first African-American person ever so elected); Life Member, NAACP, Clayton County Branch, 1995 to Present; Chaplain, Gus Thornhill’s Funeral Home, 1997 – Present; Wesley Community Centers Board of Trustees 1990-2000; Founding Member, Board of Trustees/Advisors, Quality Care for Children, 1999-Present; and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bethel World Outreach Church Atlanta.

Rev. Melson has also traveled to Jamaica, Mexico, Kenya, East Africa, and Cape Town, South Africa as a part of a teaching/preaching leadership team from Beulah Heights Bible College. In 1999, he was given the title of Paramount Chief “OMOWALE” by the ICF Church (Liberian). And in May 2006, he was awarded honorary membership in Delta Epsilon Chi by The Association for Biblical Higher Education. May 2010, he had the distinction of serving on the Greater Atlanta Presbytery Commission for the Installation Service for Dr. Jason Whitener, new pastor of St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Melson brings a wealth of wisdom and experience from the corporate world, having worked as the Operations Manager for National Transportation Service (1973-1979), Operations Supervisor, C&S National Bank (1979-1981), and Operations Manager, Lanell’s Motor Coach (1981-1999). From 1999 to 2004, he had the distinction of serving as Vice-President for Institutional Advancement & Community Affairs at his alma mater, Beulah Heights Bible College. He currently serves as Executive Director for Woodward Academy’s Student Transport.

Pastor Melson was married to Eather Lindley Melson for 40 years, until her untimely death on March 10, 2009. They have three children, one daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. On April 25, 2010, he became the husband of Evangelist Vernita Harris. Together, they believe every day is a blessing from God and another opportunity for faithful witnessing and living the Gospel. And he believes “Relationship Makes the Difference.”
EVANGELIST VERNITA HARRIS MELSON

Evangelist Vernita Harris Melson was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. She answered the call to preach the gospel more than twenty years ago and was ordained June 6, 2004.

She has served as Youth Pastor at Laurel Grove Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, and Assistant Pastor at New Deliverance Baptist Church located in Forest Park, Georgia. She is a sought after Counselor, Bible Study & Sunday School teacher, and evangelist/preacher.

She attended Clayton State University and is Certified in Early Childhood Education, and currently employed with the Clayton County Board of Education in the Special Education Department. She has studied divinity at Newburg Seminary.

Evangelist Melson has four wonderful children, Trayvis, Dana, Shamonte, and Daniel. And she is the proud grandmother of two granddaughters, Kyla and Zaria.

Her goal in life is to educate as many people as possible about the importance of salvation. Her motto is “If you don’t want to know the truth, then don’t ask me.” And her favorite scripture is Isaiah 2:3 “He will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His paths.”

On April 25, 2010, Evangelist Vernita Harris became the wife of Pastor Robert L. Melson, Sr., of Dodd-Sterling United Methodist Church. Walking together, they intend to share the good news of the gospel in an effort to see the Kingdom of God enlarged.

JOE POPE, SR.

Joe Pope, Sr. is the Founder and CEO of Pope Broadcasting Company, Inc. and Glory to God Television (GTG-TV.) The mission of Pope Broadcasting is to link people ideas and resources together through innovative productions for radio, television and the stage. The mission of Glory to God Television is to spread the Word of God through music and ministry.

Mr. Pope graduated from Woodbury High School and went to attend Upson Technical College where he became an ASE Master Auto Mechanic. He worked in this profession at Ford Motor Company for a number of years before leaving to start what soon became a successful auto repair business, Big Q Auto.

His career in broadcasting began as a DJ on WFDR Radio Station in Manchester, Georgia where he was eventually offered his own Christian talk show. In 1998, while managing WNEA Radio Station in Newnan, Georgia and making a positive impact on listening audiences, God gave him the vision to expand his reach to viewing audiences through Glory to God. GTG-TV continues to expand and grow toward the vision of a worldwide Christian television broadcasting network.

Mr. Pope serves as a positive role model in his church and his community. He is very active in ministry, giving freely of him time, talents and love for others.
Victorious Inc. provides image consulting for discerning men and women. The Atlanta-based company has a collaborative approach, ensuring a good experience with great results. Founded by Victor Rogers, a public relations and communications professional, Victorious Inc. offers customized services including initial consultation, style analysis and recommendations, wardrobe review and, of course, shopping.

Victorious Inc. encourages clients to select clothing and accessories based not only on how they look but how the clothes make them feel. The goal of Victorious Inc. is to fill the client’s wardrobe needs — not just fill their closet.

Victor especially enjoys helping clients navigate major transitions such as a career change, significant weight loss or gain, or if they are in a rut and just need to shake things up. When it comes to fashion, Victor’s motto is, “Life is short. Don’t spend it wearing ugly clothes!”

WWW.VICTORIOUSINC.COM
PAM WILLIS-HOVEY

Pam Willis-Hovey is a native of Columbus, Georgia. She is married to retired Sgt. Harry R. Hovey, and is the stepmother of three children. At the age of 18, Pam started a janitorial service. This business has since grown and is still serving the Columbus & surrounding areas today. Pam is a member of the Move of God Ministries, Church of God in Christ. She assists her parents, Pastor Will A. Willis, Jr. and Co-Pastor Emma Willis with many of the church programs. She is also a Sunday school teacher at the church.

Pam's Accomplishments

A graduate of Shaw High School with a vocational diploma and opened up a janitorial service in 1992 during her senior year. She furthered her education by attending Columbus Technical College and studying computer technology. Pam also received an award, called Great Expectations, from WRBL News Channel 3 for starting a business at the age of 18 years old. In 2001, she was featured on Black Entertainment Television for advocating for senior citizens who were being overcharged on their life insurance because their race. That started House Bill 1078 that deals with industrial life insurance policies and a new law was passed. In 2003, Pam organized the Men and Women of Faith Conference, which addresses unity of all kinds of people, businesses, churches, and even health issues. In April 2006, Columbus mayor Bob Poydasheff gave Pam's church a proclamation for this great conference. In 2005, because of this great hunger for Unity in the community, Pam has been blessed with her own television show called Unity with Pam, which airs on FOX 54 (WXTX) every Thursday at 6a and Sundays on WYBU at 7pm.

Featured Guest Interviews on Unity with Pam

- Alicia Robinson Cooper lead singer for John P Kee
- Chad Cooper writer of the play Church Mess
- Michael Milton background for Twinkie Clark
- Harlem Globetrotters player Otis Kee
- Jim Simonini, Robert Trent Jones Design Firm
- The Cochran Firm, Attorney Jock Smith
- Pastor and Songwriter Clint Brown, Faith Word Church
- Bishop William Sheals, Movie Producer of Sunday Morning Rapture
- Bishop Donald Battle of Divine Faith Ministries International
- The Williams Brothers
- David Teems, national book author of Majestie and songwriter
- Renny Roker of Hill Street Blues
- Dr. Lei Lewis editor and CEO of WOW Magazine
- Tuskegee Airmen, Col Albert McConnell
- Carla Hawkins actress in the movie FireProof
- Anita Bohannon owner of Bovanti
- The Christian Radio Journal, John A. Adams
- PGA Trade Show 2009 in Florida
- Trumpet Awards 2011 in Georgia
- National Religious Broadcasters Convention 2012
- Spencer Athletic Alumni Association 2009 Gwen Johnson
FESTIVAL SHOWCASE ARTISTS
(In alphabetical order)

EVANGELIST ROXANNE BROADNAX AND NEW DIRECTION

Evan. Roxanne Broadnax and New Direction was formed in October, 2011, and consists of Mrs. Sadie Saunders, Sonya Williams, and Mrs. Lanesha Bailey. Women that are being lead and guided by God as they know that by walking in God they will receive direction through the spirit of God. They are keeping their eyes on Jesus, reaching the lost and bringing them to Christ.

These women of God have endured a lot but refuse to give up on their well doing. “But it is determine to mount up on wings as an eagle, run and not get tired, walk and not faint, keep the faith, and never give up, because at the end we know God will say well done.”

CARLA BROWN

Carla Brown began singing in elementary school talent shows at the age of three, winning her very first one. Later she began writing songs for her first and second CD while playing piano for her church choir in Newnan, GA. She wrote and song lead on the New Calvary Missionary Baptist Church’s CD entitled “Praise Only You.”

Ms. Brown won first place in an Easter Gospel Fest contest sponsored by W.Y.Z.E. radio station and appeared on the Let there be Praise TV station as well as singing five songs for TBN’s TV station.

Her first CD was a blessing by God that allowed her to record her new release, “Christ Child.” God has blessed her to travel to spread’s God’s ministry as it is his ministry and not hers. She is more than happy whenever she can to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ through song.
PASTOR SHAY DILLARD-FULTON

Just like in the days of old when God spoke to his prophet Moses, his anointing has evolved in the voice and the words of Shay Dillard when she sings, “It’s In the House”.

Shay Dillard is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, the daughter of Dennis Dillard and the late Jennifer Jackson and the grand-daughter of Bishop Rufus and the late Mother Juanita Whitlock the founders of Lakewood Church of God In Christ. Shay has been singing since the age of 5, exciting audiences throughout the east coast with her soprano voice.

When you hear the electrifying soul stirring spoken word of Pastor Joseph Thompson and the soulful vocals of Shay Dillard, this combination can’t help but to revive your inner emotions. Here she is with her first single entitled, “It’s In The House”, which also features her foot stomping, traditional, Holy Ghost filled “Jesus Will Fix It”.

So if you want to FEEL THE SPIRIT remember, It’s In the House!

THE CHOSEN DISCIPLES

Being chosen by God requires release of one’s own will in order to fulfill His. While three men were conversing, simultaneously singing the Spirit-given hit “I’ve Got a Crown” and speaking life to the vision ordained by God, Frank Marshall, III received the vision and took flight. With God-provided provision to fulfill destiny, Frank, through much prayer and supplication, sought young men willing to fulfill this vision. The pilgrimage began as they started working on this journey to minister to God’s people and win souls to Christ.

All seemed well and the group was experiencing a “Good Time” until unpleasant, difficult “Situations” decided to tag along. The group began to experience “storm(s) out on the ocean.” Members began to come and go. Finances grew thin to none. It was “in times like this” that the group had to maturely learn to “Trust in Jesus.”

Constantly suffering and battling “Situations,” the group remained “Anchored (in Jesus).” For it was “in times like [these]” that they needed God’s “grace and mercy.” God inclined his ear to the faithful few and began to supply their every need. God heard the cry of the faithful and provided the group members that could perform dual, whether vocal or instrumental, tasks.
Currently the frontline, consist of four members who can provide both vocal and instrumental sounds, are Ronald Marshall, David Hammond, Roderic Elder, and of course Frank. The frontline would not be complete without its anointed, God-appointed band: Randall Render, Ronald Marshall, Donte’ Jones, Quintin Tucker, and Desmond Render.

These men have become the chosen ones that God desires to go to higher dimensions in Him. Many, both positively and negatively, talk about them. To those that are positive, thank you for your encouragement and support. To those who speak negatively, “Keep on Talking” because regardless of the negative remarks, they will not come into fruition. We cannot worry about negative remarks because we know that if we were not “anchored in the Lord, then we will surely drift away” This is why we stand on knowing that “the steps of good men are ordered by God.” It is great joy in knowing that “every time [we] turn around, the Lord keeps blessing [us]!” We will continue to work until the “Rapture” comes or until we are called to “Sit Down and Rest.” God knows our desire to fulfill his will that He has ordained for us. That is why we are known as His chosen ones: the Chosen Disciples.

FORGIVEN OF ATLANTA, GA

Five young men from Atlanta and surrounding cities in Georgia on a mission to spread the good news of Gospel, Forgiven has been singing since 2011. Talented men that have been brought up in the church (singers, musicians and a Pastor in the group), they are determined to be an example of Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
HAROLD HOLLOWAY AND COMPANY

If you haven’t been to church with “Harold Holloway & Company” then, you haven’t been to church! The four harmonious voices of Harold Holloway, Willie Henderson a.k.a. (Uncle Willie), Tim Parker and Richard Phillips make up the phenomenal sound of Harold Holloway & Company. The group has a unique soulful sound from urban neo-soul to the down home syncopated rhythms of traditional gospel. The group has made appearances on the renowned Bobby Jones Gospel Show on BET, Atlanta Live TV 57 and Good Day Morning Shows for the FOX Network in several cities across the country. They also appeared on The Kay Bang Show in Tupelo, MS. Also was nominated best group/duo 2011 Atlanta Gospel choice award.

Harold Holloway & Company talent also extends onto the stage where they have appeared in the International Stage Play “Five Guys Named Moe”, most recently in the Gospel Musical Play “A Family Divided”. They have traveled and performed internationally to a diverse audience of people. Harold Holloway & Company lives by their credo, “Giving to audiences what God has given to them.” Their down to earth and up to Heaven connection with the heart of the audience is remarkable. It is what makes Harold Holloway & Company an experience you definitely do not want to miss. Harold Holloway & Company has shared the stage with many greats such as Shirley Caesar, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Vicky Winans just to name a few.

They are currently signed to Crew Entertainment which is owned by William Guest of Gladys Knight & The Pips. Look for their latest live recording titled “Lord You Brought Me” Live from Atlanta on Crew Records featuring the Hot single “Never Had a Doubt”

Contact: Harold Holloway
2850 Delk Rd
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678-768-5269
MARVINA LILLY

“To focus on Lost Souls and bring them to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His eternal love and redemption.”

My name is Mrs. Marvina Lilly and I have been ministering the gospel as a psalmist for 39 years. I am originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but have been living here in Columbus, Ga for 26 years. I’m employed with Muscogee County Schools as a substitute teacher having a passion for both children and souls. Over two years ago, God called me to another mandate to reach out to these souls by show.

Mission - We have elegant banquets, luncheon, concerts, etc., to show hurts women that they are beautiful, special, wanted, and loved by God first and then by us His servants.

Matthew 25 : 35-46,

For I was hungry, and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in.... Please study the rest of this scripture it will change your very life!!!

KENNETH LOWE - “THE MAESTRO”

What most people know about Kenneth J. Lowe, affectionately called “The Maestro”, is that he is an incredibly and anointed singer and musician. He is a native Atlanta, reared by his mother, the late Mrs. Catherine B. Lowe, a graduate of the Atlanta Public Schools and continued his education at the Marsh Draughn Business School, pursuing his education in Business Administration.

Most of his great singing knowledge and training was passed down through birth from his mother, who was a wonderful soft tone singer in her hay day, and also, through the teaching of the late Mother Mattie Bruce, cousin of the late Renowned Song-Writer, Thomas Dorsey. His singing was enhanced through the school where the late Donald Vail was also a student.

Since 1961, Kenneth has been a devoted church member of The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, even though he was almost born in the church in 1954. At a young age, he served as choir president and director of several choirs in the church. He has served as minister of music for various churches in Atlanta and South Georgia area and served as Music Administrator for the Music Ministry of the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church for two years and Senior Staff
Member of Worship & Arts Ministry. In 2003, he became Music Director at the New Fellowship of Praise Community Baptist Church, Reverend Stanley Calloway, Pastor. And now he is presently serving as Music Director at the Lindsay Street Baptist Church, Reverend A. A. W. Motley, Pastor.

What most people don’t know is that he has served as president of Creative Gospel, Inc., the founder of the National Black Gospel College Choir Workshop; the assistant secretary in the Music Department, of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., where Dr. Shaw, President; The Executive Secretary for The Fifth District, auxiliary of The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Ga., Inc., Dr. Cameron M. Alexander, President.

Kenneth is known all around the Atlanta area for his singing and playing ability to do both under the power of HOLY GHOST.

NATASHA PHILLIPS

Singer, Songwriter, and Inspiration Leader are just a few words to describe contemporary gospel artist Natasha L. Phillips. Born and raised in Atlanta, GA she clearly defines the meaning of “Virtuous Woman”. She is beautiful, educated, driven, and most of all dedicated to fulfilling God’s plan for her life. Natasha has been singing and writing music since she was a very small child, and adapted her musical gift from her mother Colleen who at one point had dreams of becoming a recording artist as well. It was at a very young age that her mother realized that her daughter had a very special gift, a voice that not only brought joy to those who listened but the ability to create her own melodies and songs. Throughout her adolescent years she participated in several musical activities including bands, choruses, choirs and songwriting groups which only furthered her interest in the music. After graduating high school she attended Morris Brown College where she majored in music and interned at one of Atlanta's hottest record labels. Due to financial difficulties Morris Brown College lost their accreditation causing her to transfer to Georgia State University where she completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2005. She continued her education at Troy University where she earned a Master of Science degree in 2007. Unsatisfied with a career in corporate America she decided to place her focus back on her music ministry which is truly what God has called her to do.

Recently she has been in the studio with Sensei and Candy Joy of N'Fluential Entertainment. She has also recorded with Atlanta based record producer David Waehner of D.W. Productions. Not only is she a talented singer, but she is also a gifted songwriter who can write and arrange all variations of music. With several songs to her credit her music showcases not only her vocal abilities but her songwriting skills as well. “My music show’s people that God is faithful; that he is worthy of all the praise and able to bring you out of any situation”. Influenced by gospel greats such as Kirk Franklin, Mary Mary, and Helen Baylor Natasha gets her inspiration to write music from family, friends, and testimonies of the goodness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Natasha’s performances and appearances include Atlanta Gospel Fest, Café 290, Empowered Christian Women’s Blog Talk Radio Show, Eddie’s Attic, and Dorinda Clark Cole’s Annual Singers and Musicians Conference, National Association of Gospel Music Promoters and many others. Her musical style ranges from upbeat contemporary tracks, to slow ballads, as well as praise and worship songs. Natasha’s songwriting abilities and performance skills show people that she is not just a singer, but a creative artist. She is an artist with a vision to bring new people to God's kingdom. Her upbeat contemporary music style appeals to people of all ages, races, and ethnicities, allowing them to dance and groove while receiving the anointing of God's word. She is a very talented artist that is sure to capture the hearts of audiences worldwide.

THE REVERENCE GROUP

James Lionel Reid, Jr, was born November 19, in Norfolk Va. and has many musical accomplishments. At the age of six, he started in the musical industry and has been blessed with many musical talents such as playing the drums which started in the church which also led him to play piano as well as the bass guitar as well as the lead guitar.

Mr. Reid has successfully been on the road traveling across the United States spreading the gospel through songs and his music. James has performed as well as worked with some of America's favorites still on the road now.

The group Reverence has been successfully on the map since 2002 and there have been plenty of ups and downs but with the Lord on their side, He has always pulled them though. After, working with some of America's favorites such as The Virginia Aires of Chesapeake,Va, The Faithful Few of Chesapeake V., and a host of other Gospel Greats, the Group Reverence has been very blessed to have shared the stage with some of the World's Greatest Talent such as Keith"Wonder Boy" Johnson, Cecil Washington and the Supreme Voices, The Mighty Clouds of Joy The Soul Stirrers of Chicago IL. Little Blair and the New Violinaires. James has been very blessed to work with the Soul Stirrers in the Studio.

In 2003, a new transition and a new style of music came to the group which was his baby brother Morris(Bishop) appeared on a show and decided to stay with the group Reverence. Bishop has been singing since the tender age of 4. Bishop also has been blessed with many talents and has his own solo project which is titled "Your Will."
The Gents started in 1987 at the noted gospel artist home of Troy Ramey of The Soul Searchers. The Gents toured the country opening up on gospel shows for Troy Ramey and his group. The Gents finally got the break they needed and signed with MSF record company out of Baltimore. Their first album was an instant hit and since that time the group have recorded several albums and has been with several record companies.

The members are Jarius Dorsey, Paul Dorsey, Anthony Ramey, Derrick Ramey, Tim Pullins and Hollis Morton.
Rev. H. McDonald
Salvation Word of Life

Rev. H. McDonald, Pastor and Founder

Rev. H. McDonald a native of Jackson, Mississippi attended and graduated from the Jackson Public School System in 1972. He is an alumnus of Jackson State University formerly known as Jackson State College. Reverend H. McDonald also attended Carver Bible College and he is an UAW graduate.

At the age of 19, he was the youngest director of the Welfare Rights Organization in the State of Mississippi. He served as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Tri-County District in the Metro Atlanta area. Rev. H. McDonald served on the advisory board to President Jimmy Carter in the fields of education and vocational education of the inner city task force. His other list of community service boards include, but are not limited to both civic and political such as Operation PUSH, religious and business coalitions.

Reverend H. McDonald has been in the ministry for thirty-six years. Thirteen and one-half of those years, prior to Salvation Word of Life, was as Pastor of Coffer Grove Baptist Church. In 1996, the Lord had other plans for him. He became Pastor and Founder of Salvation Word of Life Ministry. This year begins his thirteenth year milestone as Pastor and Founder. Pastor McDonald is a MAN who walks, talks, and lives what he preaches. He only preaches and teaches SOUND DOCTRINE. He is most definitely a true soldier for the Lord.
Robert Stevenson is now hosting “A Joyful Noise” every Sunday morning with his wife Beverly, from 6 am until 8 am on 93.5FM simulcasting on Magic 1360AM and continue on 1360AM until 9 a.m. broadcasting live and online at www.935lifefm.com and http://magic1360.com and he is working on year number 46 as a Gospel Announcer.

As formidable as his reputation for being a Gospel Announcer and Concert Promoter, Robert's greatest achievements may be as an Ambassador for Christ. Bryant Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is where Robert faithfully attends, but he serves wherever he steps.

Living in Rome, GA, as a teen and as an adult, Robert Stevenson can truly claim to be “Rome's Own.” He takes what his hometown gives him from the street and shares it with his radio audience. Whether it is concerts, group anniversaries, church functions or advertisers' grand openings, Robert’s warmth and ability to relate to people have made him a favorite with not only Gospel music listeners but with faces all over America.
One of the most popular Southern-styled gospel quartets of the 1970s, Sister Lucille Pope and the Pearly Gates enjoyed hits such as “Somebody’s Gone” and “Jesus Was by My Side.” She was born Lucille Hall in Concord, Georgia, the youngest of eight children. Sister Pope formed the Pearly Gates with two of her brothers and a brother-in-law.

They were regular performers on radio announcer Ed Shane’s 15-minute broadcast on WGRI in Griffin, Georgia in the early 1960s. Soul legend Otis Redding was a fan back in those days. Shane had the group record a 45-rpm single of “Almighty God” and “Early One Morning” for his small Eddo Records label. After the song began to make some noise, Vee-Jay Records picked it up and reissued it nationally in 1964. Later that year, Chess Records picked up the group’s “Jesus Tore My Heart to Pieces,” which was another big hit in early 1965.

Sister Lucille Pop has been an integral part of the Atlanta/Griffin Gospel scene since she first started recording for the legendary Nashboro label in the 1950s. She performs exceptionally soulful spirituals that groove with Stax/Volt simmer, powered by a fantastic rhythm section and an elastic guitar player. Her supremely heavy-duty contralto is otherwise supported by an all-male vocal combo.

The group signed to Nashboro Records in 1975 and enjoyed an immediate hit with the sad ballad, “Somebody’s Gone.” After Nashboro closed down, the Pearly Gates signed with AIR Records in 1982. They have recorded stunning quartet-styled music such as the 1999 live CD “Real Christians Stand Up”, which showcases Pope’s rustic, powerful vocals against the male harmony of the Pearly Gates.

Sis. Pope has seen her fame and prestige grow abroad due to compilations such as the various Nashboro reissue projects that have been released over the last 15 years.

Sister Lucille has been called 'the best kept secret in Gospel Music'.
February 7, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Minister Betty Jo Watson and this letter that I’m writing is all about Sis. Lucille Pope. I see her as the “Mother Pearl” of the Pearly Gates; because she is the mother of the group. And as a friend and a long-time gospel promoter, I give her this recognition!

I not only know her as an outstanding inspirational gospel singer, but I know her also as a good mother, who showed tender love and care for her children as well as her grandchildren when they came on the scene.

And my name is Arlene McClure, a gospel radio announcer for AM-800 WPJM Radio Station and this letter is being composed concerning, who I feel, is one of the “greatest legends” of this walk of life, and her name, Sis. Lucille Pope.

I was introduced to Sis. Pope by my Sister-In-Christ, Minister Betty Watson, and I have known her for many, many years and it’s nothing “false” about her, she is always the same every time you meet her. And if there has ever been a true Christian, then I can say that about Sis. Lucille Pope.

I have been a gospel radio announcer for over thirty years and her music was hot back in the day and is still “hot” now. I use to promote some and I recall that there were times when the crowds didn’t come out to the programs and the amount that was promised to the groups couldn’t be paid and Sis. Pope never fussed or grumbled. And I’m sure that there were times when she and her group didn’t have the money to travel from this place to the next place; however, she went in faith. I pray that God will continue to bless Sis. Lucille Pope.

Respectfully yours,

Minister Betty Jo Watson

Sis. Arlene McClure
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On Your Anniversary

We pray you always wait for your blessings from the Lord,
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Our Father say wait. Wait. He will not over try your spiritual strength.
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For more information, call Rev. Lonnie Kelley, Jr. at 770-256-1778 or Tracie Culverson-Bryant at 678-754-2037
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For bookings, please contact
Mrs. Ella Miller
(404) 583-2475
The Atlanta Travelers is a relatively new group with seasoned singers. As reflected in their name, they are from Atlanta, Georgia. The group was formed in June, 2009. The members were previously with Lil Dave and The Soulful Knights. They were with the Soulful Knights for eight years before venturing out on their own as The Atlanta Travelers.

The group vocalists are Anthony J. Clark, Gerriell D. Gilmer and Rev. Joseph Brooks. The musicians are Eric Parham, David Reeves, Adrian Lowe, Hollis Morton, and Leonard Julien, III.

Their new CD is titled *Signs of God’s Love*. It is a CD that is well rooted in traditional gospel music. In addition, the musical arrangement for each song is outstanding. The guys are certainly influenced by Rhythm and Blues and good smooth Soul Music. If there was a designation of ‘easy listening’ quartet gospel, this CD would qualify.

There are only four songs on the CD. They are “He Won’t Let You Down,” “It’s Going To Be Alright,” “Fire Shut Up In My Bones,” and “Last Time.” The songs allow the listeners to get a good sampling of the diverse vocal talent of the group. You get just enough on this CD to want more from this group. In addition, there is an instrumental of each song on the CD.*

*Reprinted from Gloryland Gospel Blog

CD available on www.cdbaby.com
For bookings, please contact
Mr. Anthony Clark – 770-256-9377
Dodd-Sterling United Methodist Church

3272 Browns Mill Road, SE
P.O. Box 82838
Atlanta, Georgia 30354
Church (404) 361.4135
Cell (404) 576.7062

Rev. Robert L. Melson, Sr., Pastor
Evangelist Vernita Melson, First Lady

E-Mail: r.melson@comcast.net
Slim’s Original Angels

The longest serving members of the group have decided to venture out with a new group – Slim’s Original Angels.

Michael (Big Mike) Kimpson, and Gregg Kelly have joined forces to bring back that style of gospel quartet music created by the original Supreme Angels. With the new name, the guys pay homage to their longtime leader (SLIM) and members (ORIGINAL ANGELS) that have been with the group for many, many years. Look for something new and exciting Slim’s Original Angels.

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Calloway, White, Patterson Named To Emerson Radio Hall

Three Black entertainment legends recently were announced as this year’s inductees into the Emerson Radio Hall of Fame.

Big band leader Cab Calloway, who catapulted into fame as the “hi-de-ho” singer at Harlem’s Cotton Club, Sunny Joe White, whose innovative programming has become his trademark in Boston, and Brother Esmond Patterson, who established himself as an integral part of Atlanta’s gospel music radio programming, will join the select group of hall of fame inductees.

“The criteria for nomination involve significant contributions to radio programming, including a long-term track record of success and innovation,” said Emerson Radio Senior Vice President Marino Andriani.
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