

ROOT

AUGUST/SEPT 2009

**GUESS WHO'S
BACK?**

**SMART.
FUNNY.
GENIUS.**

**KIM
BURRELL'S
ALL OF
THE ABOVE**

**INSIDE
THE MIND
OF MEN**

LISTEN UP LADIES!

**TRIBUTE:
KING OF POP**

Michael Jackson
1958-2009

A MOMENT WITH YOLANDA ADAMS

ON THE COVER



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Greetings

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

God is so awesome! I would first like to thank everyone for reading and spreading the word about Root Magazine. We received so many phone calls, e-mails, prophecies and words of encouragement from all over the country.

As you already know Root Magazine is "Your source to the gospel music vibe...and beyond; and we will continue to give you the best features, stories and music. Speaking of music, we also received rave reviews over the Root Box music player and believe me, we will continue to bring the heat!

So much has happened since our last issue. In a five day period we lost three great people in entertainment; Ed McMahon, Farah Fawcett and hours later, the undisputed King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Not to down play the deaths of McMahon and Fawcett but the death of MJ hit home for most of us here at Root as well as our readers. I mean, this is Michael Jackson! There were so many rumors swirling around that Michael had accepted Jesus in his life just a few weeks prior but only GOD knows, Whatever the case, I pray that he is in a better place because Lord knows he suffered here on earth.

On a brighter note I was so intrigued by CNN's Black in America 2. Kudos to Soledad O'Brien and all of the producers at CNN for depicting many different sides of the African-American experience. I was very impressed with Steve Perry, principal of Connecticut Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford, Connecticut for his unwavering commitment to ensure that children of color get a good education. 100% of all students from this school graduate and go on to college! We need more black men like him in the inner city school system.

In addition, a few of our readers had some minor issues with viewing the magazine. We heard you and we now have an updated page turner that is much easier to navigate. Check it out.

In this issue of Root Magazine we had the privilege of interviewing one of the greatest singers of our time, Ms. Kim Burrell. Kim Burrell is a breath of fresh air and so down to earth; she even gave me a prophecy during the interview! I believe GOD for everything that was said Kim!

To all of the single ladies, if you always wanted to get into the minds of men, you have to read the article "What Men Want". To all married, engaged or hopeful couples, "Why Did I Get Married?" is a must read. Lastly, R3 (Root Record Review) is a new feature in Root Magazine and we review new gospel releases. I am very excited and there is much more, so enjoy and most of all tell a friend to tell a friend.

Let's Go!!!!

Robert Hasan James

ROBERT HASAN JAMES

Editorial Director



“...Kim Burrell is a breath of fresh air and so down to earth.”

THE MICHAEL MITCHELL KNOW

by JS WILLIAMS



“**M**ichael Jackson just died!” Those were the words that I saw as I was reading a friend’s Facebook status. Here we go with the silly rumors again I thought to myself. Just to be certain I immediately went to Google and typed in the search box “Michael Jackson dead” and...nothing! Surely, if this were true it would be somewhere on the World Wide Web, right? As I am driving trying to get home to the television, I turn to a radio station and “Rock with You” is on the radio. I then began to panic because I realize that this is no coincidence. Once I get home and turn on the television a caption that I thought I would never read in my lifetime went across the screen: The King of Pop Michael Jackson, Dead at 50.

A few short hours after MJ passed I felt compelled to write my thoughts down on paper and it was at that very moment I realized that the Michael Jackson I grew to love, left us a long time ago. The Michael I knew was the lead singer of the greatest group of all time, The Jackson 5 and at the tender age of 9, Little Michael sang his way into all of our hearts. Let’s fast forward to the day after the Motown 25th Anniversary performance when we ALL realized that he was from another planet after he did the infamous moonwalk. We had never seen a performer like him; not Jackie, not James, not Elvis. We have to give props to the MJ albums that changed the face of music, Off The Wall, Thriller, Bad and Dangerous. I guess by now you’ve guessed that this tribute is not at all like most written about him since June 26, 2009. The crazy thing for me though is that when I began putting my thoughts together, I sort of drew a blank because quite truthfully, MJ hasn’t been on my radar since the nineties.

Now, don’t get me wrong, the man continued to put out great music and up until this very day I have most of it in my ipod. However, in my mind, he just had too much going on his personal life that I couldn’t get down with and when I can’t relate I check out.

Talk about a bizarre man living what looked like to me a circus of a life. I don’t like the circus. The circus appealed to me for about five minutes of my entire childhood. To add insult to injury, this man didn’t even want to look like me.....so I thought. What’s wrong with having brown skin? In my opinion he also made it quite clear that brown children are unacceptable – I mean you have seen his kids, right? So, this is sounding less and less like a tribute isn’t it? You’re probably asking yourself why I was so excited to write about him if this is how I feel. I’ll tell you why. Because regardless of everything he is Michael Jackson and though I could not relate to him anymore, our fathers were painfully similar men and our mothers are somewhat similar to each other as well. Therefore my personal belief is that much of his persona and what possessed him throughout his entire life stemmed from nothing but pain. And I get that, trust me I get pain but this isn’t about me. Through that pain, Michael Jackson still managed to give us the gift of his music, dance and his charitable heart. For over forty years, Michael Jackson lived his life in the very public eye being idolized, ridiculed, worshipped, judged and the list goes on. The more I talk about it, the more I realize that I am guilty of some of these actions myself but at the same time I proudly admit that I am forever in his debt. You see an insanely large part of my life is consumed by memories. These memories range from the good to not so good and everything in between and music has almost always gone hand in hand with my all too frequent trips down memory lane.

Enter little Michael Jackson and his big brothers. To this day the Jackson 5 Christmas Album is my favorite holiday album and it makes me feel safe and warm and young again and full of love and hope. Today I can listen to Michael belt out "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and close my eyes and time stands still. I swear to you I am right back in Brooklyn under the Christmas tree shaking gifts and every smell, every sound, every ounce of feeling I felt back then, is back and it's in the here and now. It's mine again but for a moment at least, and my heart can almost explode sometimes. That's how strong a hold those Motown days still have on me. Crazy, huh? "Mama's Pearl", "ABC", "The Love You Save My Be Your Own", come on the list goes on and on and I sit here now smiling and wiping tears away because I realize that nothing else matters. Not the surgeries or the strange marriages, not the self indulgent ranch or the accusations, or even his skin color. None of this fazes me for a second anymore. Why in my adult life did I turn up my nose at the mention of his name for so many years? Why is it now that doctors are coming out saying that Michael had a skin disease called Vitiligo that caused his skin to be lighter? He'd given me everything I needed and wanted in the earlier parts of his incredible career. Michael Jackson and his brothers lived in our living room on that old record player in the seventies as I played and I danced and I fantasized about what my life would be like someday. Right there, he was there with me as I grew –and I loved him so! He was there by my side when I morphed into a rebellious teen and left home in the eighties. In the early nineties he was still around but I was just way too busy becoming a woman and shortly thereafter we went our separate ways. I'd check in from time to time but for me the fire had gone out so to speak.

I cannot tell a lie and pretend for the sake of this piece that I was running around in zippered jackets cheering Michael Jackson on throughout his career. His early music that he performed with his brothers and the solo Off The Wall, Thriller and Bad days is the music I've played religiously throughout my life. Again, a lot of his music has forced me to shake my butt over the last couple of decades but I froze him in time way, way back in the day. That's my Michael Jackson and that's how I have always chosen to see and know him in my mind. So no more blanks, I've filled in all the empty spaces with what makes me feel good and connected to such an enormous phenomenon and that thing that makes me feel good. There are probably hundreds of thousands of people named Michael Jackson but there can only be one MICHAEL JACKSON!!

Thank you Michael – I will always, always remember the time.....



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GROOMED FOR GREATNESS

Dr. Kris F. Erskine, Sr. Pastor
Bethany Baptist Church
Harlem, NY

Aiden Wilson Tozer was an American Protestant pastor, preacher, author, magazine editor, Bible conference speaker, and spiritual mentor who made life changing comments that are still awing the minds of millions today. Tozer once stated, on the subject of the Greatness of God- "God dwells in eternity, but time dwells in God. He has already lived in all of our tomorrows, as he has lived in all of our yesterdays." First John chapter 4 and verse 4 speaks explicitly about eliminating excuses and fostering failure in our lives.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." The Greek word for greater is "meizon" (pronounced mide-zone) means larger and/or stronger. Today, this very moment, Greater (meizon) is working inside of you! Then, you may be asking, why I am experiencing a steady flow of disappointments, discouragements and battling depression? Why I am situated in sorrows and bombarded with feelings of complexity and anxiety? Because having greater in you does not exempt you from trouble, but rather provides encouragement through it. It was Myles Munroe in his book -The Principles and Power of Vision, who wrote "Successful men and women who have impressed and impacted their generations weren't lucky. They didn't just stumble onto greatness. They thought great things and expected great things, and greatness found them." I believe that you are being Groomed for Greatness while in the school of suffering. Despite your Aggravations, Assaults and even Attacks God is proving himself in your life. God reminds us in Romans 8:26- "For we know that all things work together for the good, to them who love God and are the called according to his purpose." Whenever faced with life's Aggravations we should be encouraged because God can use them to birth our assignments. The very thing that brought aggravation to you will birth the assignment in you. It is not haphazard or coincidence that you are experiencing what you are and where you are- at this time in your life. While reflecting, you may be asking then, "why now" and God is saying, "why not now!" Now is the perfect time for you to step into your destiny and receive all that God has planned for you. God gave you, at birth, everything you will need to accomplish your purpose. He allows the aggravations to assist you in discovering them. Anthony Robbins- American Advisor to Leaders said, "I've come to believe that all my past failure and frustration were actually laying the foundation for the understandings that have created the new level of living I now enjoy." Remember, you are being Groomed for Greatness. Also, whenever faced with life's Assaults we should be encouraged because God can use them to bring accreditation. Only God can use what once violated you to now validate you. He can use the power of your past to propel you into your future. Don't allow what happens to you, to hibernate in you. If Jesus had allowed what happened to him to hinder him, he would never have kept his appointment at Calvary. He, too, was lied on, and ridiculed and embarrassed. He can use the assaults of life to work in your favor and become a vibrant addition to your testimony and bring inspirations to





others. Mike Murdock said- "Great men get knocked down too, they just keep getting back up." I challenge you to "get back up again." Life is too short and you are wasting it! You are viewing life from a level God never intended for you. The testimony of a true champion is that they become for others what they never had themselves. Remember, despite your assaults, you are being "Groomed for Greatness."

Lastly, whenever faced with life's Attacks we should be encouraged, because God can use them to bring assistance. We are not attacked in life because we are always doing wrong, but perhaps because we are doing what is right! Joseph in Genesis chapter 37 was hated and attacked for walking in purpose. Sadly, his attackers were his family. The greatest hurdle, for some reading this article, is your family. The privilege of friendship is choice. You have the privilege to choose your friends; your family is assigned to you. But, you can silence the critics in your life by remaining consistent to God's plan for you. Through the attacks and even your life; God has the final word. Re-Greatness." John 3:2- says that "It does not know that, when Jesus shall appear (shall we shall be like him; for we shall see way of assuring us that help t o





ROOT

with Yolanda Adams

by Robert Hasan James

Yolanda Adams is the undisputed princess of Gospel Music. Her contribution to the world of music is impeccable. Grammys Awards, Stellar Awards, NAACP Image Awards, Multi-Platinum Albums and #1 albums are all things that were not only made attainable but achieved. So, with so many accomplishments over the last 20 years, what is Yolanda's new passion? What has her up and out at the crack of dawn? The Yolanda Adams Morning Show is syndicated in 40 cities across the country with no signs of stopping anytime soon! Ms. Yolanda Adams took time out of her busy schedule to talk to us. Listen in...

Root- Hello Ms. Adams

Yolanda Adams- Hey!

Root- The Yolanda Adams Morning Show has become a staple within the radio community, did you think that it would get so big, so fast?

Yolanda Adams- In a way, yes but you know how God does, he gives you a passion and a dream and then you couple that dream and that passion with hard work. And that's all we did. We all work well together. Brother Larry Jones has 32 years of experience in the radio industry and Marcus and I have just gathered around him. We've learned so much from him and we have to give him majority of the credit for the success of the Yolanda Adams Morning show. So without Brother Larry Jones, A.D. and Marcus I couldn't do this. It would be just the Yolanda Show. We are having great fun though.

Root- One thing I love about your show is that you guys have a lot of fun. It's not your typical gospel show if you will. Do you ever get any backlash about it not being "Christian enough"?

Yolanda Adams- One thing we talk about on the show that you may hear all of the time is balance. There has to be a balance. If God laughs, how come we can't?

Root- Absolutely

Yolanda Adams- The scripture tells us that God laughs, the scripture tells us that Jesus had to rest, he hung out with his boys, his disciples. So that's what we do.

Root- That's right. That's what it is all about.

Yolanda Adams- We do that and it is about that balance and we love it and it is a healthy balance. There's not too much of anything. You know, you get the word, you get the spirituality, you get the news that you can use. The great thing is that you get it in a perspective that is more like yours. Not just some warped person that is talking about, "Well, you can't do this and you can't do that." As Christians, there are a lot of things that we can do.

Root- I totally agree. I have one last question. Does your daughter Taylor understand the significance of Barack Obama being the 1st African American President of the United States of America?

Yolanda Adams- Yes she does, as a matter of fact we've known the Obama's for quite a while so she knows how important that really is. She knows that she is a special girl to know the first family.

Root- Thank you so much.

Yolanda Adams- God Bless you!

ROOT RELATIONSHIPS



WHATMI

IN THE BEGINNING

OK let's start from the beginning, who calls who first..... The man will make the first call knowing it will allow us to obtain a level of control or momentum. As a matter of fact, the first two phone calls place us in a good position on the chessboard so to speak. So ladies, let the man make the first call so you don't seem desperate. It's always very nice in the beginning when you are getting to know one another so whatever you do to intrigue him in the beginning, continue to do so well after the first call. Don't switch up ladies!

Men aren't as complex as the nature of YOU women but we are meticulous in our preference. She almost has to be flawless in his own perception; we want her to be assertive, witty, attractive, domestic, submissive and faithful. There has to be a conjunction between her beauty and smarts, her inner and outer. Don't be afraid to watch the game with him and his friends.

Men like it when other men admire the fact that their lady is cool and down to earth. At the same time, know when to give a man his space. Ladies, this is important. Now, don't get me wrong, there are some men who like to be with their woman twenty four, seven. This type of man is what we call weak, insecure and maybe even jealous. Most men like to have their space every now and again and it has nothing to do with YOU so don't take it personal. Men hate when women nag so if you are a nagger, keep it moving. I want to emphasize the turn-off when a woman is being clingy and overbearing. The constant calls and monitoring becomes borderline "stalk like". We not only enjoy the "chase" but being chased takes the allure out of it all. If you want our undivided attention, just ignore us. Shhhhh, don't tell the brothers I told you our secret.



ENWANT by Al King

Spontaneity and constant stimulation are the platform to his "act right" aura. No man wants to know what to expect or not receive any level of stimulation whether it is physically or mentally. Once either of the two is compromised expect an abrupt change in his behavior. ...Always remember that ladies.

It is very hard to imagine that he would remain interested if not intrigued and again stimulated. Keep in mind, stimulation is not always about sex. It can be stimulation of the mind, body and spirit.

During that initial encounter he almost immediately, know what role YOU will define in his life and every man has

categories that he creates for each woman to fill. Some are good listeners, some are career driven/stable but he will find their purpose.

Attraction is key and is sparked by her walk, her talk, her hair style, her person. Whatever it is...it is what does it for him. Personally, I'm a sucker for a ponytail, some high heels and a strut. It does something to me and makes me want to melt when I'm in the company of such a speciwoman (I made up my own word). Men love it when a woman plays the "hard to get" role but don't take it too far because we will eventually get frustrated and move on.

WHAT MEN WANT

MARRIED COUPLES

Why is it that as soon as you say "I Do", the Victoria Secrets get replaced by the granny panties and the sex is far and few in between? This is a major problem because before the nuptials, your hair and nails was done consistently and you were more affectionate. Now that you have what you want, the REAL YOU is presented. Not good ladies. This is what we men like to call a façade and this is why men turn to other things to take the place of what is missing in their relationship. Your responsibility to give us what we need is not easy. You can't have any boundaries sexually and must be able to bring the lion out of the cage. We expect your touch, kiss and all bodily motions to be impeccable. In his mind, the worse kind of woman is one that is sexually BORING, it's not only a let down but motivation to seek out a supplement. Sex is like water, it flows and flows but when it becomes robotic and telegraphic, it takes the fun out of it. So spice things up a little bit, you are married!

Hebrews 13:4 states: Marriage is honorable in God's sight and the bed, undefiled.

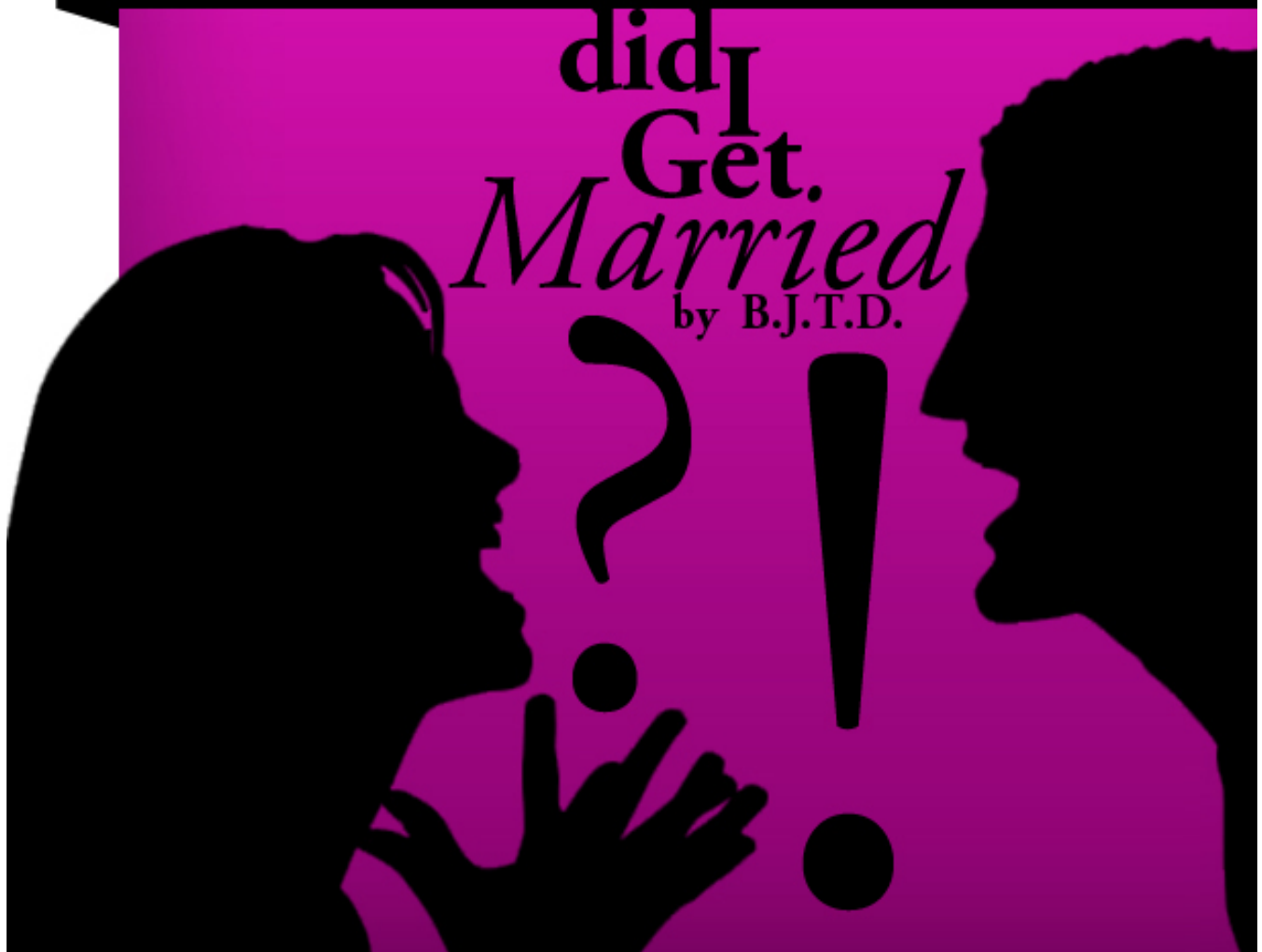
Ladies, I know you are asking yourself how is it that some of your married friends who are "less productive" in status seem to keep their man wrapped around their finger? The answer to that is if you want us to act right, you have to give us all of the right things at the right time...whatever that may be. That is what men want!

“In his mind, the worse kind of woman is one that is sexually BORING.”

Why

“Your mother was right; you were not ready! You don’t understand what it takes to take care of a woman, you think like a boy in a man’s body and oh yea, you still aren’t in touch with your sexuality! I should have listened to her and everyone else who kept telling me all of those things as well as warning me to; keep my own bank account, keep my house that I BOUGHT and rent it out, and don’t burn the bridges that assisted in my success. But did I listen, NO! What in hell was I thinking about marrying a man with no full time job, who was still in college and who was bouncing around living with family members. And Oh, lets not forget the fact that your parents are both nuts! Your daddy can’t make up his mind and be with just one woman, and your mom is still so messed up over him hurting her that she treats you like her man and her girlfriend, and you act like the punk she made you! Oh now you want to walk out like always! What you can’t handle the truth?! Aaaahhhhhh!!! Why Did I Get Married????!!!”

did I
Get.
Married
by B.J.T.D.



"WOW!" is right. This is a fictional version of a one-sided argument that more than 50% of first year married couples have. The sad thing is that I probably watered this version down a bit. It's the age old question echoed in many homes, preceded by a door slamming... "Why did I get married?" Let's attempt to answer this question as well as, "Why should I Get Married?"

There are three types of people who get married; those who are ready, those who think they are ready, and those who know they aren't ready but are responding to the pressures of life. Those pressures are; "I don't wanna grow old alone, so I'll settle", "I'm not ready to reveal my sexual choice, so I need a cover", or "I need something or someone to define me and marriage can do that". ALL ARE WRONG! People who are ready are those who have mastered their social skills, spirituality, and their pursuit for success as a mature single, having been properly prepared by a mentor. The ones who think they are ready are the ones who prepare for the wedding day, but not for the marriage.

Here is some great advice for every husband to be. Don't make the relationship about you. Like Christ loved the church, give her everything she needs as a queen in her kingdom to treat you like her king! When you know her language; communicated thoughts, feelings, expressions, systematic signals, gestures, symbols and actions, life will be sweet!

Every husband wants:

- **Satisfaction Sexually** – This is a real God ordained need. It is intended to be a small part of marriage that should not get much head line, but when it is neglected it becomes front page news.
- **Companionship** – Believe it or not men want someone that will be with him, doing the things he enjoys.
- **Approval and Acceptance** – Life is competitive enough for him, he does want to have to continue to prove himself to his wife over and over.
- **Domestic Support** – A clean, well-managed castle. Learn how to do it or hire a maid!
- **Respect** – "So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33 (read 1Peter 3:1-2)
- **Know his fantasies** and blow his mind with them.
- **Listen to him and inspire him** to reach his goals and fulfill his destiny.
- **Trust him**
- **Tease him**, and then please him!
- **Don't just tell him** how much you love him, show him.

By the way, the guy who walked out earlier in this article never looked back. He remarried someone he was ready for and who was ready for him. As far as the woman goes, she is single and a part-time Anger-Management & Communication Consultant.

Here is some great advice for every wife to be. Get to know him and what he really wants and needs, not just what YOU want to give him. If it sounds like real men are sensitive it's because they are!

There are a few things that every husband or future husband should know that his wife wants, and there are a few things that every wife or wife to be should know her husband wants.

Every wife wants:

- **Affection** – giving... holding... hugging... for no reason at all.
- **Conversation** – reciprocal!!!!
- **Honesty and Transparency** – Be open with her. Ladies, make sure you can handle him being open.
- **Financial Security**- YES – never having to say, "How are we going to pay...?"
- **Family Commitment** – spending quality time.
- **She wants to be #1** – Priority! ... No Competition
- **More Foreplay** – Remember the things you did when you were newlyweds.
- **New after-play** – Pampering, basking and a little cool-down conversation.
- **She wants her man to dream** and succeed!
- **Get to really know her...** watch her... study

(Contact, B.J.T.D. @ devinenew@aol.com)

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Root *fitness*

Jeffrey is the former fitness manager at the New York Athletic Club (NYAC) and personal trainer to many business men and women in NYC. At the New York Athletic Club he ran a department that followed strict fitness guidelines and worked with many semi pro athletes, recreational sports enthusiasts, post rehab specialties, those in need of overall improved function.

Jeffrey started personal training in 1997 at an upscale club in NYC. While training clients he also started coaching high school track and field. After one season at Convent of the Sacred Heart, he took on the job of establishing training schedules for his high school alma mater Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx along with being named the Head Coach of Track and Field in 1998. As a high school sprinter he won state, city and placed in national championships. A short lived college career at the University of New Mexico was cut short by injuries.

Over the years Jeffrey's client list has included high school athletes, lawyers, judges, corporate execs., business owners, designers and bankers. His youngest client was 10 years old and his oldest client was 97. In 2006 Jeffrey became the Fitness Advisor to the Frank McGuire Foundation (www.mcguirefoundation.org). In 2008 Jeffrey formed Coach Management (Coachmgt. LLC) to address the growing needs and concerns that small business and individuals have. He offers personal and corporate advice on fitness and functional training. He also offers personal fitness and consulting services to clients in Maryland, New York and Virginia.

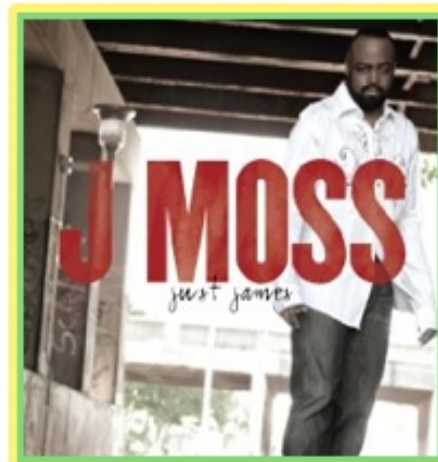
Jeff was born in Cleveland, Ohio on a Tuesday morning in 1975 raised in the Bronx, NY and currently resides in Laurel, Maryland. He is married to Tamekia Boucher and has one child, Jeffrey Kenneth.

Jeffrey is happy to join the Root Magazine online to offer readers fitness advice through articles on the many topics formed from the ever growing fitness industry. The first of many articles to come are those that concern readers the most. Everyone is encouraged to email Jeffrey directly at rootmagfitness@gmail.com with topics for the first article. The subject or nature of the first article will focus on the area that most readers are concerned with. Any personal questions or inquiries will be addressed on a one to one basis. We are looking forward to your feedback and continued success of the Root Magazine Online!

Favorite quote "Just do it" by Nike



R³ ROOTRECORDREVIEW



COKO: THE WINNER IN ME
J. MOSS: JUST JAMES
KIM BURRELL: NO WAYS TIRED
NEW DIRECTION: DESTINY

NEW DIRECTION: DESTINY

Written by Aisha J.

We know you haven't heard from the contemporary/hip hop youth choir New Direction for some time now but they are definitely not strangers to the Gospel Music Industry. Destiny marks the choir's 5th CD and its selection of music contains high energy songs and wonderful worship ballads. Its tunes will inspire you to trust and believe God for the greater coming to your life and to keep praising him. Destiny, which is the first track sets the tone for the rest of the CD and has a youthful groove and rap inter- that will make you clap your hands and also encourage you to stop focusing on the pit your eyes on the destination. The song "Lord know to praise God for who he is in our lives "Starting all over again" is truly a song that will have you in tears because regardless of your past slip-ups and sins, God has forgiven you and wants you to forgive yourself and keep living your life like its golden. After crying you will want to hit the floor when hearing the song "Heaven" to get ya praise on!

Founder Jeral Gray has done it again by creating another CD with stunning studio tracks that can still be sung during Sunday morning service. This is definitely a must have for all. You will be glad you made the investment!



lude
dance! It will
stops of life and keep
You're Worthy", lets us
and not what he can do for us.

KIMBURRELL: NO WAYS TIRED

by Robert Hasan James

No Ways Tired, Kim Burrell's 3rd studio album, is about 90% cover songs that you probably heard growing up in church and maybe even sang along with them as you read the green hymn book. Whatever the case, Kim Burrell translated these songs into current day and made them all her own; which solidifies her as one of the greatest singers of our time.

The album starts off with Kim pretty much warming up over a 2009 jazzy version of Stevie Wonder's Sir Duke. Even when she is scatting candidly she sounds magnificent! "Happy" is one of two original songs on the set and once you hear the first few words, "I'm so happy and I know it Hallelu", you immediately recognize that Kim Burrell is BACK! The songs "No Ways Tired" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" are reminiscent but have a 2009 flare and it makes you appreciate the aforementioned hymn book that much more.



The stand out tracks on this album is: "Happy", "Jesus" and "Yes To Your Will". The latter is a duet with Kim's sister Kathy Burrell, and the two sisters sound amazing together to say the least. Can you imagine being in the Burrell household on a Sunday?

I know we have all waited eight years for Kim Burrell to grace us with an album of all new material, but quite honestly this album is a great place holder until next time....



By Chloe Van der Poole

Cheryl "Coko" Clemons releases her 2nd Gospel album on Light Records this summer called **THE WINNER IN ME**. While there are still some who say, Coko – from the group SWV, I think the time has come where we can officially say she has created her own lane. Coko has most certainly earned herself a distinction from her past life as part of one of music's most successful female R&B groups. She's set herself apart vocally with a signature soprano voice that is unrivaled; but also as an artist who has successfully made the leap from R&B to Gospel.

Coko's musical progression is more about her maturity in her relationship with God than about switching genres. While she's probably always been in the Church and always had a relationship with God – it is now evident that the relationship is much deeper and more personal. **THE WINNER IN ME** is an album that reveals a depth and an intimacy about Coko that has never really been heard before. From the sweeping title song, "Winner In Me," which is delivered with a genuine passion about seeking internal strength from God – to the resolutely transparent "This Is Me," with lyrics that only Coko can sing – "I thought I was a superstar ... Oh, when the music stops my so called friends are gone now I'm all alone ... but God is the one who's always there," you just get the sense that she means every word.

Coko threw open the doors of the studios on this one and includes a bevy of guest artists and a variety of producers that keeps this CD fresh. Among the shining stars – Israel Houghton on "Joy Of The Lord," fellow R&B-turn-Gospel diva Kelly Price on the impassioned and stylized "Oh Mary," and the hard-hitting, rocking "Make A Way," with breakthrough Gospel star

Canton Jones. Coko's friends also showed up on both producer and writing credits including Anthony "Shep" Crawford, David & Timiney Caton, Onitsha Hernandez and Sean Simmonds. Coko also had the chance to team up with her husband, drummer Mike Clemons, on this project. Mike produced and co-wrote on several tracks on the album including "Winner In Me," "Maybe The Last Time" and "Make A Way."

The truly collaborative effort allows Coko to shine throughout and gives listeners something for every situation. Whether you are celebrating or worshipping, THE WINNER IN ME has something for you. "Wait", the album's first single, is one of those big and broad encouragement ballads that is straight up Sunday morning church; offering the timeless message of God's faithfulness and by contrast "Just Like You," is a beautifully simple worship song, where Coko proves that even pared down she is wonderful. While "Maybe The Last Time" gets you moving -- an upbeat and timely song that reminds us to love each other and give God our best TODAY because we don't know what will happen tomorrow.

THE WINNER IN ME is easily a benchmark album for Coko. It is progressive, honest and powerful in a way that solidifies Coko in the genre but also as an artist in her own right.



JUST



JAMES



by Robert Hasan James There are many artists in the history of music that come out with a HOT debut album but by the time their sophomore album is released, the infamous sophomore jinx becomes a harsh reality. That is the reality of many artists but the reality of J. Moss is that he is releasing his 3rd album and it is by far his best work to date. The album is entitled "Just James" and the title is indicative in every sense of the word, excluding any guest appearances, even leaving the background duties to well.....Just James. The album opens up with a PAJAM banger entitled "I gave it up" and this track is sure to be a radio favorite. The first single "Restored" is a beautiful song that showcases J. Moss' vulnerability to the Lord as he sings "I'm restored and I've been rewarded, I'm redeemed from guilt and shame, Never rejected just reconnected, now I'm exalted because I know his name." This album is full of praise and worship songs as well. So Into You, Sweet Jesus and Holy One are all sure to be on the repertoire of praise and worship teams worldwide.

J. Moss shows some musical maturity on a few songs but one song in particular entitled "The Anointing" is a jazz influenced song that will make Will Downing proud. I would imagine if the album was not titled "Just James", this song would have featured the likes of Kim Burrell, Karen Clark-Sheard and Nancy Wilson. However, Moss does not disappoint on this song AT ALL as he sings the song like a jazz pro with passion and anointing all rolled into one. Hopefully when the remix comes out, Root Magazine will get some producer credits ;).

As the album draws to a close, you begin to understand that J. Moss really gave us some of the best songs he has to offer and once the last song (which is the title track) plays, it is solidified. The title track "Just James" at first listen sounds identical to Jennifer Hudson's "If this isn't love" and could easily fit in with all of the "Top 40" songs of today. The chorus boasts "I keep thinking bout, where I went wrong, it's keeping me awake at night all alone, but what I realized underneath all of us are really just the same, I'm Just James. Now enter your name _____."



VERSES

So who is your pick for the
best of the best of
1993/1994?

**You Voted:
Hezekiah Walker!**



Here are some stand-out tracks from both classic albums:

**We Walk by Faith
You Can Make It
New Life
He Won't Leave You Alone
Wave it Away**

**Clean Inside
Lord Send Your Spirit Down
Anyway You Bless Me
How Can I Say Thank You
On Time**

BEST OF FALL 2006

VERSES

Friend of Mine, As We Lay, Mirror Mirror,
It's Gonna Rain....
Right Here, I'm So Into You, Weak,
Rain.... Any of these songs ring a bell?

Both of these women have sold millions
of records doing secular music, Kelly Price
as a solo artist and Coko as one third of
the group SWV and later as a solo act.



Note: Both albums in which these songs were featured sold an astounding 22 million copies collectively!

In addition, both of these super-talented Sisters have lent their
Voices to two of the biggest smash hits of the latter century;
Kelly Price with the hook to Mo Money, Mo Problems (Notorious B.I.G.) and Coko with the
hook to Men In Black (Will Smith).

However, in the Fall of 2006 both Kelly Price and Coko (Cheryl Clemons) decided to go back
to their ROOTS and record their first gospel album. Kelly's first single "Healing" was a main-
stay at gospel and secular stations nationwide and "Clap ya hands" from Coko's solo effort
was equally
Infectious. So who gets your vote for the
best of the best of Fall 2006?

Send your votes to www.rootmagazineonline.com by clicking
"VOTE" and the winner will be revealed in the next issue.



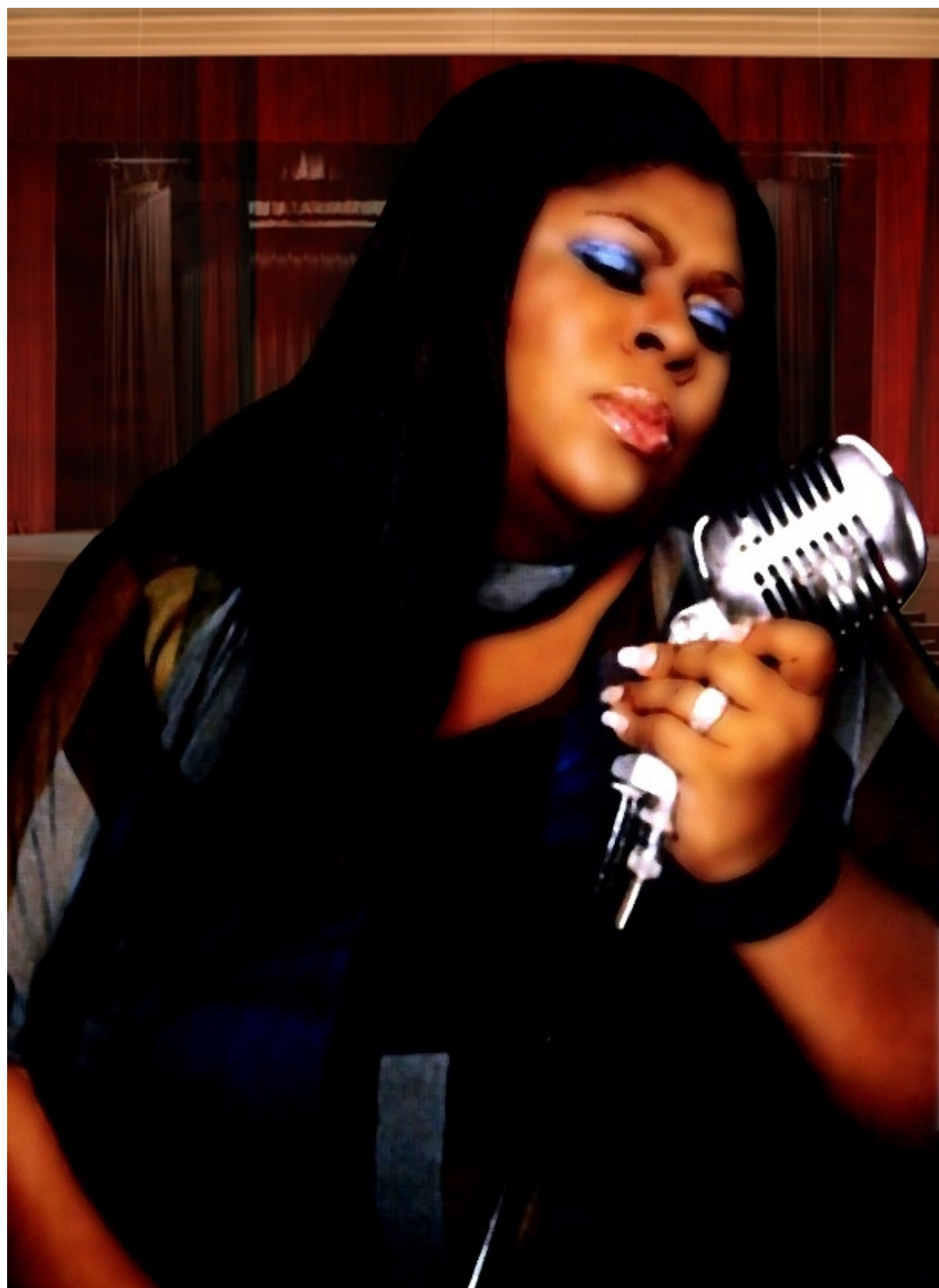
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If you would like to be featured
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High-Resolution photos to:

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Please also send a CD of your project to:

Root Magazine
PO Box 1753
Bensalem, PA 19020





Like I Never Left

by Robert Hasan James



It is very rare that an artist can release two solo albums and become a legend not only in their genre of music but in all genres. It is even more of a rarity that an artist who does not release a new body of work in over eight years is still considered relevant. There's your regular artist and then there's Kim Burrell! Kim Burrell's debut release was the buzz of 1996 simply because we had never heard gospel music sound quite like this; refreshing and jazzy. Once her second effort, *Everlasting Life*, was released it became an instant classic. Kim Burrell is a singer's singer. Singers love her because she does things with her voice that some would otherwise be afraid to do. Musicians love her because she understands musicianship and always has at least one instrumental piece on each of her albums. So why did it take eight years for new material? To be quite honest she has been very visible, working consistently during her hiatus and lending her voice on projects from the likes of Stevie Wonder, Missy Elliott, R. Kelly, Donald Lawrence, Harry Connick, Jr., Richard Smallwood and many others.

It's less than 48 hours after the mysterious death of the legendary Michael Jackson and Kim Burrell is meek, yet jovial. She talks about why after eight years of not releasing any new material, she decided to do an entire album of cover songs. She also talks about her encounter with King of Pop and the person that has her smiling these days. This is Kim Burrell like you've never seen her, uncanny, transparent, funny, sad and just plain ole Kim! It's like she never left...

Root-Everyone is asking "what took you so long to grace us with another album?" It has been 8 years since you released a full album of new material.

Kim Burrell-This answer is difficult. I was working the whole time and I just decided to do a recording and self write. I got together with the producer of the company that I am now affiliated with. I'm not signed to any label I just did a business deal with Shanachie Records and we put some songs out. Actually I'm going to work on two more albums before the year is out

Root-Wow!!!

Kim Burrell-That will make up for lost time.

Root-It sure will. So after so much time in between albums, what made you do an album full of cover tunes as opposed to all new material?

Kim Burrell-Because I have two more albums to do and I just wanted to have fun with it. I also wanted to present songs that people are used to hearing a certain way. A lot of people say, "Oh I like Kim Burrell but I don't understand her singing." So I wanted to do some songs they may know, so they can say, "Oh that's her stuff!" You know kind of make them familiar with me a little bit better. And I like those songs, I just happened to choose them and it's more relaxing. Some people listen to gospel and sometimes gospel is full of energy! BeBe and CeCe.... they are kind of laid back. I kind of wanted to do something laid back, you know?

Root-I understand totally. The great thing about your album is that you made it your own and nothing sounds like anything that you heard on the previous versions. You definitely made it your own.

Kim Burrell-Thank you.

Root-I love it. Like the reprise for "Jesus", I absolutely love it!!

Kim Burrell-Are you serious?

Root-I love the original, but myself and a friend of mine were in the car listening to the reprise like "do you hear this?" It's just so candid.

Kim Burrell-Wow, I'm glad to hear you feel that way.

Root-Yeah definitely. You've been admired and praised by everyone from Beyonce to Harry Connick Jr. to Stevie Wonder. Harry Connick Jr. even referred to you as one of the greatest musical minds of our time. How does that make you feel?

Kim Burrell-It makes me feel like my yes to God was full and complete. For him to really hear that, not that I doubt my years to God, but for somebody who, I know a little bit about Harry but not much to say what his walk with God is, to make him discern that or to make that kind of statement is very humbling and it makes me feel so great. It makes me know that God really did give me something special that exemplifies his nature, that would make people who don't sing gospel hear his voice. It's gratifying, spiritual gratifying.

Root-Exactly. You went from an Independent Record label to status with a major record labels like Electra and Sony. I recently heard Yolanda Adams say that she would never record for a major record label. What's your take on that as far as Majors vs. Independents?

Kim Burrell-I never say never, because only God and I know where she is coming from and I agree, she's my home girl. I agree with her based on what she's saying, but I would never say never because I'm watching God turn some things around in this world at a pace that certain people want to ignore. I guess if someone reads this one would say, "what is it that you see that I don't see?" "What is it that Mr. Obama, the government or the industry is doing that is turning things around to make you say never?" Everybody didn't go bankrupt. You have a company right now that's gospel, that's on top of everybody right now and they are doing their thing. And if God be for you, who can be against you? Therefore, I never say never and I agree with Yolanda to a certain extent because there is so many things in the gospel recording business that will make you say, "Nah, I'll pass." But I'm here for the long haul and whatever will be, will be.

Root-And you don't feel slighted by any record labels because it just seemed like a big shuffle?

Kim Burrell-No, I don't feel slighted at all because God protected me in such a way and he orchestrated my deals with these record companies. From Independent to Sony to Elektra to the whole transition of the Warner Bros. engine.

Root-You were still very much visible even with you not having an album out.

Kim Burrell-Yes, I escaped with no scars because God did it. It's hard to explain. People would look at my paperwork and say, "Come on, you're lying there is no way you got out of this without going to court." Sorry, Jesus already went to the cross, that was my court and I'm done!

Root-That's powerful. How do you balance ministry with motherhood?

Kim Burrell-It's hard. The hard part about it is not being able to have him with me everywhere. He's with me in my heart. People that are close to me, especially when I'm on the road, I know I get on their nerves because I speak of Christian all the time. Christian is very special to me.

Root-How old is he?

Kim Burrell-Christian will be seven years old in September.

Root-Wow! Time is flying!

Kim Burrell-Yeah and in my heart he is still seven months. Sometimes I have to let him have his independence but the funny thing is I have no choice because he has this independence that supersedes his father and I. I have never seen anyone like him, he's not aggressive, he's just very confident and he doesn't allow me to do some of the things that I would like to do with him anymore. After accepting that, I realized that for the call of God on my son's life I have to take my hands off. I didn't see my son through the eyes of God and I know that he has a life to live, especially through the life of a woman who loves God and serves God as well as a father who serves God. He has no choice but to do what the will of the Lord is. I have to start out treating him that way. So it's kind of hard, it's my little baby. But it's easy because he is so musically inclined. He likes stuff that I don't get. His favorite drummer for the month is Tony Royster Jr. who is world renowned. Tony has played with Jay-Z and he has so many DVDs out. Tony came to my house about two years ago and Christian never forgot that.

Kim Burrell-He brought Christian some sticks and Christian just sits and listens to Tony. If I don't stop him, he will sit for three and four hours on YouTube and he will say, "Mommy, I need you to come here and listen to this" and while I'm listening, my son is moving his hands exactly the way Tony is doing, feet included. At the tender age of seven, he is very, very talented.

Root-What's crazy about that is my daughter is six and she is into drums and as a father I'm like you don't want to do something else?

Kim Burrell- Don't fight it because she is learning rhythm, she will eventually be a singer. And to have a mind as a drummer, nobody is going to be able to beat that.

Root-I never looked at it that way. You know the world is mourning the death of Michael Jackson. Did you ever get the chance to work with him or meet him?

Kim Burrell-I met him in the Bahamas in 1998. We were there for the opening of the Atlantis Hotel and it was every personality in Hollywood and in music. Everyone from Madonna , P. Diddy, Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, Oprah Winfrey, Gail King, Stedman, Denzel, Sting. Anybody that you could ever think of in movies and/or music was there, including Michael. I will never forget; Myself, Donnie McClurkin, BeBe Winans and James Ingram was coming off the top of the mountain and we had just finished singing and the police were bringing Michael on the golf cart and people from the same industry that he is in were breaking their backs to take pictures of this guy because he was just that infectious. He was a genius and I feel special towards him because we were born in the same month. My birthday is August 26 and he is August 29. I'd always held that special because I know that Virgos are very strange individuals and I'm not into horoscopes like that but I read them from time to time. But with Michael, I always felt like we did know each other because we have so many similar traits. I understood him sitting up in a tree because he was an extremist. What else do you do in your forties when you've done everything in your teens and twenties that most people only dream of? What else would you do? He could have done anything. But he was being himself and I'll miss him for being creative and I'll miss knowing what he could have been at 60. I'll miss what his interview could have been at 70.

Root-It doesn't matter, saved or saved, Christian or Buddhist, Michael Jackson touched everybody.

Kim Burrell-He touched everybody! I was actually going to London on July 13 to see him perform.

Root-Were you?

Kim Burrell-Yes. I talked to Rodney Jerkins and I was going to go with him on a private jet and fly out to London and meet him before the concert, up close and personal. In retrospect, I'm glad I didn't because if I met him up close like that it would have been very hard for me. Like right now there is a deep cry inside of me for Michael. I told my mom today, on the way to the airport they were playing him singing "Gone too soon" and they were playing different peoples interviews since he's died. And then he will come in again with "Gone too soon." It was so much for me that I had to turn the radio off. I just know that in two weeks when this hits me that I'm going to cry.

Root-I know. It's so hard to believe that the King of Pop is gone.

Kim Burrell-Yea I'm going to cry and I'm going to take my time and cry because he deserves it. I'm going to meet him one day.

Root-Ok we are going to do a little word association before I end and just tell your thoughts on these individuals. Stevie Wonder?

Kim Burrell-My friend, genius.

Root-Nancy Wilson?

Kim Burrell-A Lady. Smart.

Root-Yolanda Adams?

Kim Burrell-Funny, creative.

Root-Kim Burrell?

Kim Burrell-All the above.

Root-I like that.

Kim Burrell-Because that's what they say. I'm only saying that to keep from going down the list to say what all of them say to me about me. And I am all of the above because greater is he, it's the greater in me that makes me say that. Because when I tell you I'm hoarse right now, so I don't think I'm perfect. I just know that the greater in me can allow me to be all of those things and still be humble, love God and look for that in other people.



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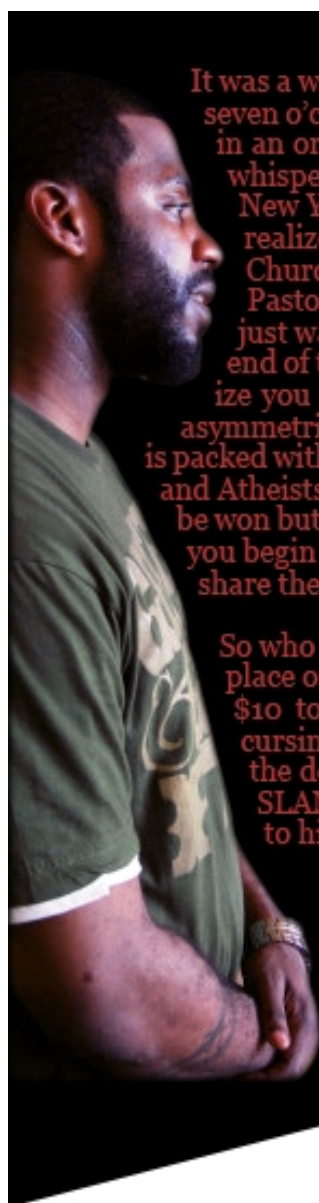
NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN



SEPTEMBER



MELLOW YELLOW



It was a warm day in June and the sun was shining bright even though it was almost seven o'clock in the evening. The velvet rope was outside and people were lining up in an orderly fashion waiting to be let in. At a glance, you could see some people whispering that the ticket said Logos Lounge- 464 Liberty Avenue, Brooklyn, New York and that there must be some sort of mix-up. After a few minutes they realized that Logos Lounge is also Love Fellowship Tabernacle, The Kingdom Church and two-time Grammy Award Winner- Bishop Hezekiah Walker is the Pastor. Some people thought they were hoodwinked, bamboozled even. Others just walked upstairs to the lounge where the event was being held because at the end of the day, all they wanted to do was SLAM! Once inside, you don't even realize you are in a church building because the set up is so COZY. Couches, funky asymmetrical chairs and bar stools fill the room. Can someone say IKEA? The room is packed with all kinds of people. Christians, Non-Christians, Muslims, Five Percenters and Atheists....yes atheists, fill the room to capacity. There is however a \$100 prize to be won but you get the sense that the prize doesn't matter because as you look around you begin to see that most of the people in here just want to express themselves and share their gifts and talents.

So who is the unorthodox person that got a plethora of people together in one place on a Saturday night? Who is this person that got people to pay \$10 to come to a CLEAN (no smoking, no drinking, no cursing) SLAM? Whoever he is he obviously beat the devil at his own game and made the SLAM world become subject to his world...

He is THEE APPRENTICE and HE is
WANTED

“Sierra” Polished Poet

Root: Sierra, you have a spoken word piece entitled Talking to God. Where did the inspiration from that particular poem come from?

Sierra: I think for me it came from the idea of how even if you don't have a specific spirituality you follow, you can always find yourself talking to someone “out there”, whether you call this person GOD or not. As you get older you find the desire within you to articulate that and say who am I talking to and are they listening or responding. The poem for me was just kind of playing with the idea of like who this person is for me and how important he is to me and how I want to communicate. I know that it is a common theme, that struggle of is anyone listening when I am talking to someone out there and it's just sort of about that idea.

Root: You're one of the big names in the spoken word scene. Who are some of your influences?

Sierra: Some of my biggest influences are Andrea Gibson; she's a spoken word artist out of Denver. She's a phenomenal writer, great flow. Enish Moskani is another poet out of Seattle who is really great. Most of my influences are a lot of local people that I see like Omni, who I will be performing with later.



BY ROBERT HASAN JAMES

Thee Apprentice

Root:
What are your
views on "The Church"?

Sierra: I grew up in a Christian family and I have an excellent assortment of friends. One side of the spectrum is agnostic or atheist and the other side who are very strong Catholics and I like to say that religion and the church holds a very important place in my life and I think that it is important to find a happy medium because I see both extremes of the situation and I the most important thing for me is respect and tolerance for all. Church has always been something that is rooted in my family and has been important to me.

Root: Have any of your works been published?

Sierra: I just got a book deal to get my manuscript published by Red Bloody publishing, coming out in September.

Root: What's next for Sierra?

Sierra: The book deal changed my whole life. However, next I will be editing the book with this publishing company and it will be released in September. From there I will be doing a spoken word tour for about two months so I will be living on the road.

Root: You recently made the 2009 Nyorican Poet's National Slam team. Your type of poetry is taboo in this scene as your type of poetry is cleaner and Christian based. How did you feel when you actually won?

Thee Apprentice: To win the 2009 Nyorican Slam team was a very big accomplishment, especially because of my type of poetry. For the most part, my poems are positive, Christ centered, faith centered and all about positivity. So to make it in an atmosphere where Christ isn't really welcomed or digested felt really good. I won on a Friday and I was stuck for four days because I was in a state of shock. I was speaking to my brother about it and I shared with him that you get so used to putting your best foot forward and not making it across that you tend to find confidence in the fact that you know you gave it your all. But to have given it my all and to cross over was just HUGE. Also, all the people that came out that night and supported, made a difference because in slams sometimes the crowd tends to sway the judges so because there was such a large crowd that supported me, it put pressure on some of the other poets. Some of them actually tried to do poems with God, Christ and church in them but that it my realm. I got that! All in all, it really was a

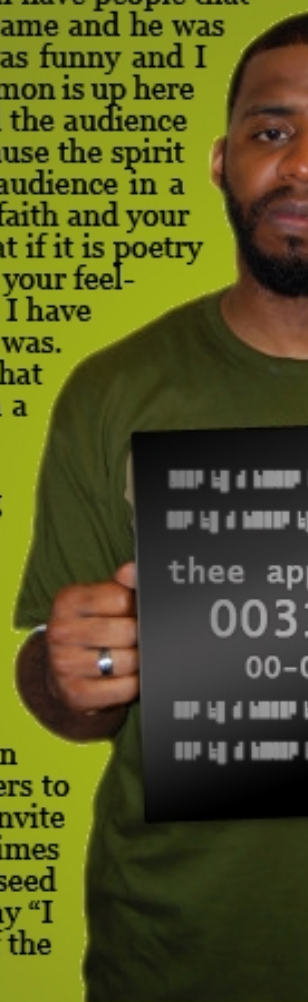
big accomplishment, especially with some of the poets I competed against that night like: Shenelle Gabriel who is a world renowned poet who has been on HBO Def Poetry and who is a full time poet. My friend Ebony is also a great poet and it actually came down to me and her and I won by half of a point. So I can't say enough how much of a big accomplishment it was.

Root: How can Christians such as yourself, break down barriers in the spoken word scene? The reason I ask is because it is typically other forms of poetry that is on another realm.

Thee Apprentice: Yeah I know what you mean. Even at the Logos Lounge, I censored it because you have erotic poetry and things of that nature. I can listen to an erotic poem but for the most part, I don't go to erotic poetry shows because I am a Christian and I am single so I am trying to hold on so I am not trying to go home with that in my spirit. They do what they do so it is nothing for them but to me that is something I would have to shake off. For Christians to try and break barriers, I would say that #1, they have to be mature. They have to be mature in their faith, mature in their belief. They have to know what they believe and can't be just a regular person that goes to church out of formality. There are many Christians that attempt to do this but make a mess out of their witness. You have some Christians that perform at slams but they curse and stuff like and they will take your poem as a good poem but it doesn't really hold any power as a Christian witness because to them they see you as one of them or somewhere in the middle. You have to let your light shine and be strong in you. When I first started going to slams, it was hard at times because there were nights when I heard some poems that I got offended by. Like when I first heard Omni's poem, "What would Jesus do", I was offended and upset. My spirit man was uptight and I was compelled to write a rebuttal. It wasn't until I spoke to him and he told me why he wrote the poem that I understood. You even have people that are demonic that do poems and slams and one time it was this kid that came and he was demonic and after he finished, the whole atmosphere was shut and it was funny and I came on right after him. I was actually glad because I said to myself this demon is up here doing a poem and I went up and because of him I did a church poem and the audience did not even know what was going on but I changed the atmosphere because the spirit that he left in the atmosphere was so demonic and he literally left the audience in a trance so even in the realm of poetry you really have to be mature in your faith and your belief and you really have to know what your standing for. I would say that if it is poetry slams, you have to have an agenda because if you don't, a slam would hurt your feelings. A score will hurt your feelings, a response will hurt your feelings and I have had my feelings hurt but God always had to remind me what my agenda was. My brother once told me that you might lose a slam but you won a soul so that has always been my motivation. Winning is winning but I am winning in a different way.

Root: You are the host of this Logos Lounge. What was your goal for having believers, non-believers and even atheists on the same platform?

Thee Apprentice: In the beginning of this year my bishop, Bishop Hezekiah Walker said that we spend too much time doing ministry and not enough witnessing. As Christians, we put a lot of events together that people who already go to church attend but for the most part we have not found a way to get people who don't go to church or don't believe in GOD to come to those events. So when I found slams, I found that slams was an avenue I could use to get people who are not necessarily Christian believers to come to the event. We want GOD to do the work in one shot. We want to invite somebody to church and we want them to get saved that Sunday but sometimes it's a process. So my thinking is with poetry, if they could come and the seed gets planted, that's good because then you may have someone who may say "I think I will come on a Sunday" or "When do you guys have service." One of the



One of the poets who just performed told me that he is coming to church next Sunday after contemplating for awhile about coming. The funny thing is what pushed that more is the decision I made...

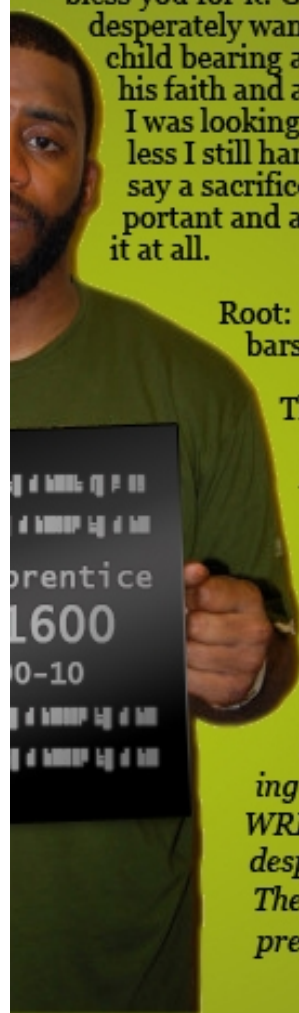
Root: Can you elaborate on the decision that you are referring to?

Thee Apprentice: The decision I made... because I won the slot of the Nyorican 2009 Slam team and on the slam scene, that's the highest slot you can attain. The Nyorican is the most renowned poetry event and the most well known. Just for people to hear that you're on the team is automatic respect and the status of it is crazy! I actually didn't know the status of it until I actually won and I didn't have to prove myself to people anymore; all I had to say was I was on this team and that was enough to people who had never met me. The discrepancy that I had was actually a conflict in schedule. The team practice on Sundays from 1 to 4. For me, not just as a poet but as a minister, not to be in church on Sundays is a problem. I am a Christian and I walk by faith and not by sight; faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of GOD so I have to hear the word so the walk that I walk can be strengthened and encouraged and I know what direction I am going in. For me not to be in church for two months, that's gonna alter my walk of faith whether some may believe it or not. For me not to get my spiritual meal on Sundays, the schedule just was not gonna work for me so I had to make that decision in giving up my slot. It was a sad decision, however it was something that GOD told me to do and I said yes. I spoke to my Bishop about it and he told me a story about when he first started singing gospel music he had to take a stand and sometimes you have to take a stand for GOD that people outside of GOD might not understand but you have to know that its for GOD and if you take that stand GOD will bless you for it. GOD confirmed it by taking me to the story of Abraham where Abraham so desperately wanted a child and GOD blessed him with Isaac after he and his wife were past child bearing age. Then once they had the child GOD ask him to sacrifice his child to test his faith and after Abraham was willing to sacrifice his child, there was a ram in the bush. I was looking for the ram in the bush but the ram didn't show up (laughter) but nevertheless I still hand it over to GOD and I know that he has something bigger in store and they say a sacrifice is not a sacrifice if it's not important to you and making the team was important and a big accomplishment but I'm a preacher before I'm a poet so I did not fight it at all.

Root: You have this poem entitled "I write" and I would like you to recite a few bars so the readers can become believers!

Thee Apprentice: Where do I start.....

I WRITE for those who know their value despite situations, despite income, marital status and other persuasions. I write for those who know they're a blessing despite limitations. I might not be the brightest star in the sky but I can interpret the constellations.....I WRITE cuz I've seen the light, replay those allegory of the cave I've learned that there's more to life to live than a life lived in the cave...I WRITE for those who realize it's time to move to the next stage, for the author with writers block tryna move to the next page, for those of us like Maya Angelou with birds singing in the cage, the man looking for his rib and the rib looking for her cage- I WRITE for the visionary walking blind by faith hoping for a specific outcome despite your present state, my generation is sick and ignorance is the plague, Thee Apprentice, I'm like a dentist, my words are toothpaste and I write to prevent from the decay- I WRITE!



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"Celebrity Chef Nee Nee, Queen of Hip-Hop Soul Food"

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food." Genesis 1:29 NIV

"Food: Material, usually of plant or animal origin, that contains or consists of essential body nutrients, such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins or minerals, and is ingested and assimilated by an organism to produce energy, stimulated growth and maintain life."

Nee Nee counts it an honor and a privilege to be the vessel that God chosen to use for such a time as this, to be a humble servant through the ministry of cooking.

She has served a number of recording artist through her position held as Executive Chef/Food Consultant that launched Sean (Diddy) Combs' Justin's franchise restaurant's in both New York and Atlanta. Nee Nee also served as personal "on call" chef to many others. Dubbed "The Queen of Hip-Hop Soul Food", by her former boss, her cooking has taken her from the projects in Brooklyn to Park Avenue. Please allow "The Queen" to take you on this delightful journey as she shares with you some of her famous cuisines that have excited the palates of many. One of Diddy's favorites was this signature dessert below...

RED VELVET CUPCAKES

Yields: Three,9-inch layer cakes Baking Time: 12-25 minutes, 325 degrees pre-heated oven Level of Difficulty: Moderate.

Dry Ingredients

2-1/2 cups of cake flour
2- cups of granulated sugar
1- teaspoon of baking soda
1- teaspoon of fine salt
1- teaspoon of cocoa powder

Wet Ingredients

1- cup of buttermilk
2- eggs
1- teaspoon of vinegar (white distilled)
1-1/2 cups of canola oil
1- oz of red food coloring (McComicks)
1- teaspoon of vanilla extract

Cream Cheese Frosting

4- cups of confectioners sugar
1- lb of cream cheese (room temperature)
1-lb of butter (softened)
1- teaspoon of vanilla extract

Technique

Sift together all dry ingredients, Add liquid in and electric mixing bowl and beat on medium speed until well incorporated.
Slowly add dry ingredients to bowl, until all ingredients are combined. Bake @ 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

Frosting: Mix together the cream cheese and the softened butteer, Gradually add confectioners sugar until it reaches desired sweetness and smoothness, Add 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract and frost the cake.

Serves 10- 12

Tip: Serve with Banana Ice Cream



A portrait of Elder Timothy Wright, a Black man with a shaved head, wearing a white shirt and a gold chain with a large medallion. He is looking down and to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

The by J. Printz Benediction

We Remember the Godfather of Gospel
Music Rev. Timothy Wright

How many of us remember early Sunday mornings preparing for church and hearing the radio choir singing "This is the sound of Pentecost, all over the world." Then that distinct voice would belt out, "ohh, ohh, ohh, ohh, ohh." It was none other than the Late Rev. Timothy Wright.

My mind goes back again to childhood choir days where we would sing songs like "Testify", "What A Time", "There's A Blessing On The Way" and so many others. Little did I know that this pioneer in gospel music would one day become my pastor.

I have fond memories of after service Super bowl parties, late night rehearsals for recordings and fried chicken from the kitchen of Grace Tabernacle Christian Center Church of God in Christ. All of these elements were the quintessence of Elder Wright.

I was numbed by the news of what was more than a horrific accident on July 4, 2008. How could this happen? Why did this happen? A drunken driver was the vehicle that took Co-Pastor Betty Wright and DJ home to be with the Lord? And nine months longer than the doctors projected Elder Timothy Wright remained here with us as a beacon of hope and God's power. Rev. Wright finally joined his wife and grandson on April 24, 2009.

Because of Elder Timothy Wright and the Concert Choir so many others can say; "I've Got A Song To Sing", "Certainly Lord" we can "Testify" "What A Time" we had listening to these songs but, we "Cant' Stop" there; "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus" it was a "Miracle" that "One More Day" continued to be his anthem.

"Yes I'm a Believer" that "Trouble Don't Last Always" . Elder Wright we "Know Your Place In God". You asked the question "Master Can You Use Me?" and with a great " Reunion " Elder Timothy Wright, "You Shall Wear A Crown".

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