

Metro Praiz News

“Sing for Jesus and Let the World Feel His Power!”

Reflections...

I would like to welcome the choir back from a well-deserved vacation. I hope you are well rested; ready, willing and eager to start the New Year. I want to thank you for your dedication in 2001 and it is my hope that you will continue to be committed in the upcoming year.

There is one issue that I must address—for those who do not know, I have had a meeting with the parents of choir members informing them of the choir’s guidelines for the New Year. My reason for that is simple—behavior. Behavior has been a constant problem during rehearsal as well as performances. Being apart of a group—choir, or otherwise—demands discipline and a certain element of maturity. If you are not serious about YOUR ministry, then I will be forced to replace you with someone who can and will uphold the standards that I have set forth.

Please note—**THERE WILL BE NO SECOND CHANCES—I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!**

I have seriously been thinking about leaving the choir (and I know I am not alone in my feelings about leaving), because I cannot endure the constant interruptions and insubordination. I respect your time and I must demand your respect my time and the time of your fellow choir members. I am not trying to prevent you from having fun and get full enjoyment out of what we are doing, but **THERE IS A TIME AND PLACE FOR EVERYTHING.**

As written in Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8—

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens.

A time to be born and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck that, which is planted

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down and a time to build up;

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away

A time to rend, and a time to sow;

A time to keep SILENT, and a time to SPEAK;

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time to war, and a time to peace.

It’s about time...

Let’s unite the crew for 2002!! God Bless.

—Your Director, Miguel



January 2002

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The Road to Success is Always under Construction...

- A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor
- Success comes in cans; Failure comes in cant’s
- It is not crime not to be perfect
- Make friends before you need them
- Triumph is just ‘umph’ added to try
- If you can laugh at it then you can live with it

Spiritual Vitamins—F through J

Are you Facing Failure? Take VITAMIN F: "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Are you Grieving? Take VITAMIN G: "God grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man." Ephesians 3:16

Are you Hurting? Take VITAMIN H: "Happy are ye; for the Spirit of Glory and of God resteth upon you." 1 Peter 4:11

Are you Insulted? Take VITAMIN I: "Increase and abound in love one toward another." 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Are you Jealous? Take VITAMIN J: "Judge not that ye be not judged." Matthew 7:1

Repeat After Me!!

God has brought you out for a reason. You have survived because He has a plan for you.

All your bad relationships, all the suicidal thoughts, the bad credit, the repossessions, the death of loved one, the back-stabbing from friends, the negative thoughts, or the lack of support. You have made it because you're blessed!

You should release and let go of all past hurts, misunderstandings and grudges because you are blessed! You should look at them as illusions, God is all there is.

All else is a lie!

Now give yourself a hug, wipe your tears and walk in the victory! God loves you BEST!

Be blessed and know that you are at one with THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD!

"And may the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other." —**Genesis 31:49**

If you do it right, God will bless it right!

Upcoming Performances

We perform the 2nd Sabbath each month unless told otherwise!

February 16—Pathmark Gospel Competition (all day)
Grand Central Station, New York

March 15—Gospel Feast (6:30 p.m.)
Eleanor Roosevelt H.S., Greenbelt, MD

Survival Kit!

Items Needed: Toothpick, Rubber Band, Band Aid, Pencil, Eraser, Chewing Gum, a Mint, Candy Kiss (Like Hershey's), and a Tea Bag.

Why?

Toothpick—To remind you to pick out the good qualities in others.

Rubber Band—To remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out.

Band Aid—To remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's.

Pencil—To remind you to list your blessings everyday.

Eraser—To remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay.

Chewing Gum—To remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything.

A Mint—To remind you that you are worth a mint!

Candy Kiss—To remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday.

Tea Bag—To remind you to relax daily and go over that list of blessings.



Remember to give thanks for

"If you want the rainbow you have to put up with the rain." Noah did!

Unreserved Surrender

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

—Galatians 2:20

God will accept nothing less than unreserved surrender. Half-hearted, sinful Christians can never enter heaven. There they would find not happiness; for they know nothing of the high, holy principles that govern the members of the royal family.

The true Christian keeps the windows of the soul open heavenward. He lives in fellowship with Christ. His will is conformed to the will of Christ. His highest desire is to become more and more Christlike...

Earnestly and untiringly we are to strive to reach God's ideal for us. Not as a penance are we to do this, but as the only means of gaining true happiness. The only way to gain peace and joy is to have a living connection with Him who gave His life for us, who died that we might live, and who lives to unite His power with the efforts of those who are striving to overcome.

In this lower school of earth we are to learn the lessons that will prepare us to enter the higher school, where our education will continue under the personal instruction of Christ. Then He will open to us the meaning of His Word. Shall we not, in the few days of probation remaining to us, act like men and women who are seeking for life in the kingdom of God, even an eternity of bliss?

Message of Inspiration

A TRUE WORKER FOR CHRIST—Modified from Oswald Chambers

Is that your aim in life? Is that your aim in singing? If God has selected you for His purpose, he is now using you—not just in your own church—but throughout the world, just as He used His Son. If you seek great things for yourself—position and fame—you are placing a barrier to God's use of you. You are making it difficult to identify with God's interests. Being a worker for Christ requires that you lose any idea of self and allow Him to take you right into His purpose for the world.

The aim in life is God's, not yours. God is using you from His great standpoint, and all He asks of you is that you trust Him, and never say—“Lord, this is too much headache! I can't be bothered!” Stop telling God what you want. Only then can He use you for what He wants. He can crumble you or exalt you—He can do anything He chooses. All He asks is that you have complete faith in His goodness. Self-pity, strife and complaining is of the devil. If you go off on that tangent you CANNOT be used by God for his purpose in the world.

There is too much work to be done Metro Praiz. God will continue to use you to accomplish the task as long as you stay willingly humble. For the year 2002, I admonish you to “Commit your way to the Lord—Trust also in Him—and He will do the rest” Psalms 37:5.

—Pastor Brenda Billingsy

Just P.U.S.H.

When everything seems to go wrong, just push—it could be a lot worse

When the job gets you down, just push—there are so many who don't have a job

When you want to tell them off for whatever reason, just push—don't be arguing just to be arguing

When you ask the question, when is my ship coming in (as I often do), just push—share your plans with the Lord and you will succeed

When people just don't understand you, just push—all wisdom comes from the Lord, and so do common sense and understanding

P-ray; **U**-ntil; **S**-omething; **H**-appens

If your life is going well and have nothing going wrong, just remember you are truly BLESSED and you too should continue to PUSH for even better blessings.



“Sing for Jesus and Let the World Feel His Power!”

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“Sing for Jesus and Let the World Feel His Power,” is the aim and motto of Metro Praiz. The choir has doubled in its short existence and has merged onto the international scene under the leadership of its current director, Miguel Davis. While the music of the choir incorporates their heritage, they have transcended all cultural boundaries in their earnest search for the voice of God in music.

Enjoy the ministry that walks you into God’s promises—Blessed Assurance, through the storm Jesus is a Rock, and into the light of an exuberating experience with God, Your Joy and Your Peace.

Our Director, Miguel Davis has made his personal pledge to God, “to enhance the worship service and draw some sin-sick

METeam Administration

The choir elected new officers:

SECTION LEADER: SOPRANO—Lesa Elliott-Caesar
Assistant: J. Rosemae Simmons

SECTION LEADER: ALTOS—Tamara Cort
Assistant: Dawn Brown

SECTION LEADER: TENOR—James Jones
Assistants: Kevon Aaron & Cassia Thompson

SECTION LEADER: BASS—Derrol McLaren
Assistants: Shallun Evelyn, Marcus Jones and Rocky Sherwood

LIBRARIAN: Claudette Smith

WARDROBE COORDINATOR: Neidya Griffith

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Deon Roberts

SECRETARY: Cherry Sorzano

The following officers will remain in their current position:

BOOKING TEAM: Danielle Fordham

WEB TEAM: David Carr
Assistant: Claudette Smith

NEWSLETTER: Claudette Smith

TREASURY: Neitha Harris

CHAPLAIN: Pastor Brenda Billingy

METRO PRAIZ ADVISOR: Gordon Cort

PUBLIC RELATIONS/SALES: Dawn Brown

Contact information for all METeam members will be provided in the next issue..