

RELIGION

Outreach Convention Choir recording marks a first for Caesar



Shirley Caesar

It was 24 years ago that Shirley Caesar began her "outreach" conventions near her hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. This year alone, over 7,500 people attended

each night of the week-long convention, now located in nearby Fayetteville. Nationally-known gospel singers and musicians, as well as speakers and pastors from across the

country participate in the conventions, which are a mixture of seminars and concerts emphasizing ministerial outreach.

Word/Epic has released the first recording featuring Shirley Caesar's Outreach Convention Choir. Produced by Bubba Smith, Caesar and Michael Mathis, Just A Word was recorded "live" at last year's 23rd annual convention.

Caesar took home her eighth Grammy Award earlier this year for her recording Shirley Caesar Live...He Will Come, which has also spawned a subsequent video of the same title. Caesar was also a featured performer on the Grammy Awards, along with Whitney Houston and CeCe Winans.

Currently, Caesar is nominated for the second annual Lady Of Soul Awards, an off-shoot of the Soul Train Awards. Caesar remains one of gospel's music's most heralded performers, garnering three gold records, ten Stellar Awards and eight Dive Awards in addition to her Grammy honors. Caesar is pastor of Mt. Calvary Word of Faith Holy Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Tommies anniversary album



Forty-eight years ago Milton Brunson formed a community choir in Chicago, Illinois. Today, the "Tommies" remain the longest-standing community choir in the United States, still guided by Brunson.

Tom commemorate over four decades of recording for Milton Brunson and the Thompson Community Singers, Word/Epic has released an anniversary project filled with some of the "Tommies" most memorable performances. Many of the tunes on Greatest Hits Volume 1 will be made available for the first

time in CD format.

The new album was recorded live on April 26, 1996 at a sold-out concert in the "Tommies" hometown of Chicago. Former members of the choir reunited for this anniversary celebration recording.

Though his health is ailing, Brunson remains a mentor to the choir's current director, Tyrone Block and musical director Darius Brooks. Reverend Brunson has continuing input into the music of the choir, and according to Brooks, always offers his spiritual guidance.

"Reverend Brunson is a tremendous role model," says Brooks. "He's taught me that what you are inwardly is just as important as what you are outwardly." Block agrees. "Reverend Brunson brings a real compassion for people's souls," he adds. "My greatest hope would be to keep his dream alive for years to come."

The "Tommies" have garnered seven Stellar Awards during their career, and most recently, won a Grammy Award for their 1995 project, Through God's Eyes.

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As the leaves turned beautiful, and the cold winds started to blow, the rain fell from the sky, and our creator called my father's spirit back home...No longer is he bound in the confines of this earthly house we call a body.

Dealing with the pains and sufferings of what he had in his house he reached beyond his walls to comfort and help other people cope with their struggles.

He went many miles, cut fences and broke many boundaries to do what he thought was right in his heart.

He had a habit of giving much more than he took, and when you tried to give it back, he ended up giving it back to you one way or another.

My heart cried for Him because he no longer walks with us, but my soul sings because he is soaring with Heavenly Eagles now, with knowledge only seen from high above.

I turned my heavy heart light to know his burden had been lifted, and his earthly work was done.

I know the creator must have been so delighted with him. He must be a guardian angel now, fighting unfair battles for us in the spirit world.

Now every time I see an Eagle, I know my Father's spirit lives forever.

Thank You Jim.

Nothing reveals a man's character better than the kind of joke at which he takes offense.

—G.C. Lichtenberg

Courses focus on women

Western Seminary is offering two new courses designed to encourage and equip women who have a desire to minister more effectively to the relational and spiritual needs of women.

PTS 546 developing women's ministries—is a critical course for beginning, maintaining and expanding a women's ministry. Learn how to develop a team of women to minister to women in your church or community. Gain a greater understanding of the woman in today's world and discover how to mold ministry around our particular needs. Discover how to recruit, train and affirm leaders. Enjoy networking with other women in ministry.

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Beverly Hislop, the Director of West-

ern Seminary's Women's Center for Ministry, and a contributing author to Women's Ministry Handbook will teach Developing Women's Ministries. You may take the class for enrichment or credit.

DIS 553 Women in Missions explores the struggles, the issues, and the accomplishments of women ministering worldwide historically. Learn how women in previous generations have known God, heard his call, and made an impact on their world.

Dr. Mary Wilder, an Associate Professor of World Ministry at Western Seminary will teach Women in Missions.

Classes are Mondays 6:00 to 7:50 p.m. beginning January 6, 1997.

Contact admissions for more information, (503) 233-8561 or admiss@westernseminary.edu.

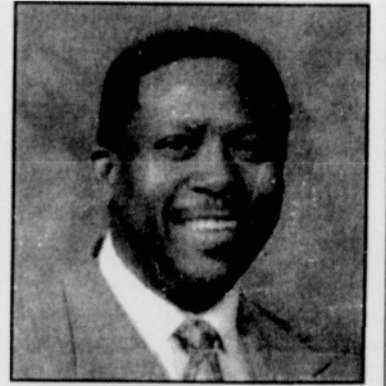
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