

RELIGION

GOD'S PROPERTY



Kirk Franklin's Nu Nation release

"For those of you who think gospel music has gone too far, or that we've gotten too radical with our message, I've got news for you. You ain't seen nothing yet!" -- Kirk Franklin

Straight outta Dallas and keeping the faith, the fine art of contemporary Gospel music in all its inspirational, cutting edge glory is personified on the new God's Property From Kirk Franklin's Nu Nation album. The album is on B-Rite Records, a new joint venture label deal with Interscope Records. The project was produced by Grammy winning gospel superstar Kirk Franklin, Buster and Shavoni (Whatcha Lookin'4 and

Kirk Franklin's Christmas) and Kevin Bond (Kirk Franklin And The Family). One again, these talented producers help complete the vision. Its rattling lead single, "Stomp," is remixed by Big Yam and features a prime guest rhyme from Cheryl James a.k.a. Salt of rap's Salt N' Pepa fame. It's a unique gospel/hip-hop hybrid that is the perfect recipe for a hit.

"God's property From Kirk Franklin's Nu Nation bridges musical as well as spiritual gaps, praising the Creator, while creating new mass appeal for Christian Music," says Claude Lataillade, President/CEO of B-Rite Records. Other outstanding album examples include: "Up Above

My head," a syncopated, harmonically appealing jazz inspired gem; "Send It Down," a blissful, Franklinesque praise song celebrating God's omnipotence; "Love," a spiritually motivating call and response track that knocks on Heaven's door; "Sweet Spirit," a beautiful gospel ballad that reaches out and touches one's soul; "You're the Only One," a serious hip-hop edged message about Black youth turning form players to prayers: "My Life Is In His Hands," self explanatory in message and first featured on Spike Lee's "Get On The Bus" movie soundtrack; and "Faith," a strong "get your praise on" song that lifts your spirit and, like the entire album, never lets it down.

At the forefront of today's gospel music, Kirk Franklin, best known for his platinum success with The Family, has broken down many musical barriers since he exploded on the international scene. In the process, he's achieved unprecedented success and become gospel's #1 renaissance man. His first album, Kirk Franklin and The Family, was certified platinum, a gospel milestone. His critically acclaimed follow-up CD, 1996's Whatcha Lookin'4 is at 900,000 (and counting) copies sold. As astute in business as well as music, Franklin's Fo Yo soul company banner has a multi-year production deal with B-Rite Records.

Five rules for successful citizenship

Just As There Are Key Rules and principles for living the Christian life - The Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule - there are also rules for citizenship and civic action. No formula will guarantee political success, but remembering these principles will increase your ability to get things done.

1) **Your involvement in politics is a marathon, not a sprint.** Don't think you can turn America around in one year or one election cycle. This country did not get into the trouble it's in overnight.

Consider every great social reform movement in the history of our nation. The Women's Christian Temperance Union was founded in 1873 and didn't pass its first national temperance law until 1914. The NAACP was founded in 1909, but its members didn't see a major civil rights bill succeed until 1947; desegregation wasn't achieved until 1964 and 1965.

2) **An 80-percent friend is not a 20-percent enemy.** There are very few people in politics with whom you will agree with 100 percent of the time.

In 1995 the Christian Coalition was working to ban Internet pornography. We believe that children like my 8-year-old daughter Brittany should not be able to get on a computer and with three clicks of a mouse be able to access hard-core and child pornography.

Many of our movement's good friends opposed that legislation. It finally came down to a conference

committee with House and Senate members deciding whether or not the bill would go to the president. The bill cleared that conference committee by one vote. That winning vote was cast by liberal Democrat Pat Schroeder of Colorado.

That experience serves as a reminder that there could very well come a time when a person that you

the South in a landslide, Carroll Campbell won his district in a landslide.

Campbell was elected to U.S. Congress in 1978 and then went on to become governor.

4) **It is never as bad as you think it is when you lose and never as good as you think it is when you win.** To be successful in politics, you

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never viewed as a friend could make the difference in whether you win or lose.

3) **There is no substitute for a strong grassroots organization.** You might have money, a brilliant candidate, a righteous and moral cause, and sophisticated polling. But if you don't have a strong grassroots organization, you won't achieve permanent success.

One of Lee Atwater's first campaigns was for state senate candidate Carroll Campbell in Greenville, S.C. Atwater focused all of his energy on grassroots organizing in key counties and precincts. In an election in which Jimmy Carter swept

can't have sky-rocketing highs and plummeting lows.

In 1992 Bill Clinton became the first Democratic president after a 12-year reign of Republicans in the White House. The media hailed his administration as the next Camelot.

A short time later, Clinton was paralyzed by the gays in the military crisis and mistakes by his White House staff. He had controversial cabinet nominees and a tax increase that was the largest in American history. His budget passed by only one vote. His efforts at health care reform blew up in his face. Two short years after his incredible victory, Bill Clinton presided over one

of the worst defeats in the history of his party, and the Republicans regained control of Congress.

5) **Persuade, don't preach.** There is a bumper sticker that is very popular among conservative evangelicals - "The Bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it." It may be good theology, but it is not good politics.

In politics the goal is 50 percent plus one. That means that we need to speak in a way that a majority of our fellow Americans will understand.

We believe the Bible is the inerrant work of God. It is without error and it tells us the answers to life's problems. But in a largely secular society, people don't necessarily believe as we believe.

When Ronald Reagan was asked why he was pro-life, he would refer to the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, recognizing that most Americans view the Constitution as a sacrosanct document. He would explain that the 14th Amendment makes it clear that everyone has a right to life and that no one can be deprived of the right to life without due process of law.

As people who love God and who love this country, we should remember that governing is a spiritual issue, about which we need to pray.

If we bathe these rules in fervent prayer and go out with a humility and a reliance on God ultimately for the outcome, I believe we will see America restored to what she was intended to be - one nation under God.

An appreciation to be held for Pastor

The Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is sponsoring an appreciation for our Pastor, Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes on June 22, 1997 at 4:00 p.m.

Pastor Haynes came to Allen Temple from Tulsa, Oklahoma where he was Senior Pastor of Holsey Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. However, he is originally from Beaumont, Texas and has lived and worked professionally in Tyler, Dallas, and Ft. Worth Texas. He was assigned to this charge in November of 1996 by our Presiding Bishop E. Lynn Brown. Since that time, Pastor Haynes has had a tremendous impact on the Allen Temple Church and community with his preaching, teaching and organizational skills. His professional experience, honors and awards, organizations and associations are many, but the one we would like to mention is that he is Founder and Chairperson of the Resurrection Prevention, Intervention and Support Group Drug Abuse Ministry. A group has been formed at the Allen Temple Church and is available to the community.

His Educational background is extensive. Besides his BA from University of North Texas, he holds a Masters of Theology, Perkins School of Theology, S.M.U.; Doctor of Sacred Theology, Bethany Theological Seminary; Doctor of Ministry Studies at Brite Theological Seminary, T.C.U. Moreover, he is a Man of God who rejoices in people receiving Christ into their life.

We are happy to invite you to come to help us celebrate this special time for our Pastor, Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes on June 22, 1997 - 4:00 P.M. at the Allen Temple Church, 4236 N.E. 8th Avenue, Portland, Oregon

-The Pastor's Appreciation Committee, Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Open House Celebration

Grace Covenant Fellowship Church is pastored by Bishop Grace C. Osborne, one of the few women Bishops in the Apostolic Faith. The church's address is 5450 NE Flanders.

"Pastor Grace" as she is affectionately called, has been involved in community service for over 20 years; her past and present involvement includes serving as President Emeritus of Oregon State Minister's Wives and Minister's Widows; Treasure of One Church, One Child; member of CSD Adoption Committee; Instructor at North Portland Bible College; 1st Vice President of Albina Ministerial Alliance; and Board member for several organizations including Prep (Portland Release Time Education Program), S.O.S Drummers and Dreamers, and Black United Fund.

God's covenant with his children through Abraham and The Dispensation of Grace is the focal point of this ministry and thus, the name Grace Covenant Fellowship.

Bethel Lutheran Church Youth Choir,
Common Ground, Presents:
Love Of Another Kind

Common Ground is a high energy, touring, performing group. We present music & drama by 35 High School youth. You'll experience signing, accompanied by a youth band, choreography, drama, personal sharing and a lot of fun.

In Concert:

Place: Augustana Lutheran Church

Date: Monday, June 16

Time: 7:30 p.m.

For info call:

288-6174

You don't want to miss this dynamic ministry!

Hong Kong Christians vow to keep faith

God or country? Half a million Chinese Christians in Hong Kong pray they won't face such a choice when Britain hands the territory back to China on July 1.

"We are Christians, but we are also Chinese proud to be returning to China," says the Reverend Yu Wai-Kan of the Hong Kong Church Renewal Movement, a Protestant umbrella grouping.

"Politically, our space in the future may be limited but religiously and culturally we hope it will be sufficient."

"We hope the Chinese government realizes that Christians are not a threat, that we are good people, hard working, obedient and cooperative."

"Concerning the handover, we are positive but realistic. Things have been easy for us in Hong Kong under the British because Britain is a Christian country. We are going to have a more pluralistic society as part of China. We must be flexible and not take anything for granted."

Christianity came to Hong Kong on the heels of British troops in 1841, although its presence elsewhere was long established in China.

Christian missionaries played an important role in opening China up to the West, often against Beijing's will. As a result, organized religion is still regarded by some in the Chinese government as a suspect relic of the expiring colonial era.

Language in the Basic Law, promulgated by Beijing in 1990 as Hong Kong's post-handover constitution, seems to guarantee future religious freedom. But Christian activists worry incoming Chinese officials will subordinate the Law to communist political objectives.

They comment that both the Catholic church in China and the mainland's official Three-Self Protestant organization are banned from proselytizing or from expressing their faith through social action — both common forms of religious conduct in Hong Kong.