

# RELIGION



James Hall (above) with "Worship and Praise" (right) capture the essence of gospel with live set.



## Live gospel set inspires

The essence of Gospel is exposed with the release of CGI recording artist James Hall & Worship and Praise's third offering. According to James Hall-Chapter III. Recorded live at the Rialto Theater, Atlanta, GA, this hot new album features a selection of new songs, thus capturing all of the spirituality and energy that exists when performers take the scripture and translate it properly to music. Under the direction of James Hall and Melvin Crispell, the thirty-

five member choir aims to expose all aspects of Gospel and to inspire their fans with the message of Christ. With James Hall & Worship and Praise, inspiration is the key to their music. ...According To James Hall-Chapter III continues in the James Hall tradition of fiery vocals, upbeat horns and striking arrangements fused with traditional and contemporary Gospel, sprinkled with a little jazz and classical flavor. Most of the songs were written by James Hall. "He

Reigns," the lead-off single, is an immediate spin-off from "God Is In control" but more energetic, "Hold Me" is one of those classic 'big band' medium tempo jazzy numbers reminiscent of a show tune, but is definitely a showcase Gospel tune for the choir with James himself providing lead vocals along with Angela Wint. Its message is a 'cry out' to be held by Jesus. "Great is Our God" is truly magnificent with its various instruments including chimes, organ,

tympani and others mostly associated with an orchestra. It just may become the choral anthem of the year. As a classically-trained pianist since age five, Hall possesses a trained ear, giving him the ability to combine his jazz and Gospel roots with modern, international flavoring, thus creating a new sound with an age-old message. As a native of New York City (Brooklyn), Hall was singing in churches by the age of five, accompa-

nied on piano by his mother. "I was raised in the church and my greatest joy was hearing the choir sing," says James. "I built a little cardboard church in my mother's bedroom and I filled it with little paper dolls that were my choir. I would stand there and direct them." The choir recently celebrated its tenth anniversary in Harlem. Among its distinctive career achievements are top ten status on Billboard Gospel Charts, sell out performances across the nation, special invitation by

Michael Jackson to provide choral background on his HBO-TV concert, special guests in New York's Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, Bobby Jones Gospel and a host of other television, radio and church appearances. A video of the live recording accompanies the album release with the same title. The album was produced by James Hall and his musical director, Mel Crispell and will be one of the most talked about live recordings for some time.

## Bill to stop church arson passes

AB 51, authored by Assemblyman Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles) to strengthen penalties for committing arson against a place of worship was passed by the Senate Public Safety Committee. "Church arson is a statement of intolerance and prejudice, telling people they are not safe to worship without worry. It is an ugly crime used by those motivated by hate to devastate communities," remarked Assemblyman Murray. "An arsonist who knowingly burns a church, does so to threaten the occupants in that place of worship."

AB 51 would classify arson against a place of worship as a "Hate Crime". The bill would also make the act of intentionally burning a church a felony, punishable by a sentence of 10 years to life if a person is convicted for aggravated arson.

"People have traditionally sought physical and mental sanctuary in the church. That peace is destroyed when a place of worship is victimized by arson. This legislation is designed to restore peace and ensure that people can worship in a safe place, free from the violence of arson fueled by hate," concluded Assemblymember Kevin Murray.

## Advocate for the poor honored

The Portland Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul held a local celebration of the beatification of Frederic Ozanam, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, on Friday August 22nd at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Northwest Portland. Frederic Ozanam was beatified (the last step before sainthood) by Pope John Paul II in Paris that day at the Notre Dame Cathedral. Bishop Kenneth Steiner celebrated the local Mass in Portland beginning at noon. The Mass was followed by a light

lunch in the Cathedral courtyard. Ozanam, only 20 years old, founded the Society in 1833 beginning what today is the largest Catholic lay organization serving the homeless, hungry and hurting. Today more than 850,000 Vincentians (lay members) worldwide continue Frederic's model, seeing the face of Christ in the poor. More than 1,000 of those Vincentians serve over 100,000 families in the Portland area annually. Vincentians serve in a person-to-person, one-to-one ministry to those in need. More than \$100 million in

assistance is provided in the U.S. annually. In 1996 the Portland Council provided almost \$2 million in assistance. Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston has praised Vincentians for their service to the poor, telling them they were "helping create a civilization of love." "This an historic event for us," said Janice Pelster, Executive Director of the Portland Council. "We are very excited to see the founder of our Society receive such a great honor and we pray that Frederic Ozanam will soon be recognized as saint."

## Winans records from Detroit church

Vickie Winans first live album was recorded in her native Detroit at the Straight Gate Church. "There were about four thousand people there," the singer recalls. "There wasn't event standing room. It was unreal." Gospel luminaries such as Black Entertainment Television personality Bobby Jones and singers Inez Andres, Albertina Walker, Kim Stratton and Yolanda Adams can out to support Vickie. However the most cherished guests of honor were Vickie's parents, Aaron and Mattie Bowman. The concert took place just a few months before the sudden death of her 73-year-old father. Winans recorded her first album "Be Encouraged" in 1985. Her latest released "Live In Detroit," is her fifth album and the first recorded live. The album opens with the orchestral style overture of Andrae Crouch's classic My Tribute (To God Be The Glory) which Winans transforms into a stirring, melismatic medley with the classic church hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."



Gospel singer Vickie Winans is celebrating the release of her fifth album.

### Obituary

**Dora Lee Jones**  
(Maiden name of Lindsey)

Funeral services Monday, were held on Monday, July 28, 1997 at 11:00 A.M. at Morningstar Baptist Church 107 N.E. Ivy - Portland, Oregon. Burial will follow at Rose City Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.  
Date of birth - January 16, 1900 in Greenville, Mississippi.  
Dora Lee has lived in the Portland, Oregon area since 1945. She worked for N.W. Poultry Company for about 14 years before they closed. She then worked for 3 or 4 years for Albertina Kerr in Portland. She retired somewhere between 1968 and 1970.  
She was a member of Morningstar Baptist Church and the Order of Easter Star her husband, Nelse Jones preceded her in death in about 1984.  
Survivor Include: Daughter Georgia L. Terry of Portland, OR.

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