

RELIGION

Brian McKnight to Release "Bethlehem" for the Holiday

Joined on new release by Boyz II Men, Dave Koz, Mrs. Nat King Cole and the McKnight Family Choir, the Brian McKnight's ANYTIME continues to hold strong on the album charts and has just spawned a fourth chart rising single, "Hold Me." McKnight changes pace with his first holiday release, **BETHLEHEM**.

The multi-platinum singer/songwriter took putting BETHLEHEM together very personally. "The holiday season is so much about family and love," explains McKnight, "so I asked my wife, my brother (a member of the group Take 6), my children, my mom, and my extended family (aunts, uncles, and cousins) to work with me on making BETHLEHEM with "Hail Mary," and Brian's sons BJ and Niko appear on the heartwarming track "It's All About Love."

Of course Christmas can also be a time of reflection and solitude, and McKnight's plaintive tenor conjures up that side of the season as well, most notably on the melancholy version of the holiday classic "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Delivering a special holiday message on the "Silent Night" interlude is Mrs. Nat King Cole, who takes the opportunity to



reflect on her special Christmas memories with her late husband.

McKnight has been keeping busy over the past year touring. The Los Angeles Times noted in a recent review "(McKnight) conducted a master class in the art of seduction through showmanship." The New York Times declared McKnight is "one of the finest pop singers alive."

Irvington Covenant Church

A Meaningful Christmas Where Less is More

Last December a letter appeared in the widely syndicated column "Dear Abby." It quite eloquently voiced a nagging concern felt by many people during the Christmas season.

In part, the letter read: Every year for as long as I can remember, I've sworn I'll never celebrate another Christmas like the last one, but the holidays are near again, and I haven't done anything to change it. Along with the expense comes a feeling of wastefulness, one gift becoming lost among all the others. My husband retired this year, and we're living on a lot less money now, but even if our finances were greater, I've lost the desire to contribute to this empty commercialism. I don't want to stop giving completely, but I long to have a more meaningful holiday with my family, sharing the gift of ourselves and not our wallets.

The letter was aptly signed, Searching for Answers.

In response to Searching for Answers many more like her, Irvington Covenant Church, at 4069 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, in the old Cost Cutters building, is presenting a wonderful Christmas series. Each Sunday through Christmas, they will explore the topic, "Making Christmas Meaningful."

This four-week Advent celebration includes special worship services centered on specific characteristics of the person of Jesus Christ, whose birth is

celebrated December 25. In addition, individuals and families can obtain a tabletop Advent Calendar. This practical tool has daily Scriptures, prayers and inspirational readings for each day in December. Even more importantly, it's filled with easy, low-cost ideas for creating meaningful memories and simple celebrations that will touch the hearts and souls of family and friends.

Irvington Covenant Church welcomes visitors during its Advent Celebration. Pastor Henry Greenidge says, "We want to help respond to folks like Searching for Answers in the "Dear Abby" column. Far too often our intentions at Christmas are sincere, but our efforts leave us feeling diminished and impoverished! Instead, this should be a delightful time, as people cut back on the trivial and focus on the meaningful. That will happen as we make wise choices and follow through on what satisfies our true longings for the season. Those longings will never be met through excessive materialism or busyness but through giving to others in a meaningful way, focusing on the reality that God himself, the Creator of the universe, came to earth."

Pastor Henry Greenidge encourages anyone who would like to be a part of the "Making Christmas Meaningful" Seasonal Advent Celebration to visit Irvington Covenant Church, or call 287-5226 for more information. Worship services are held every Sunday at 10 a.m. and on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets available at all Fred Meyer Fastix outlets or by phone 503-224-8499 800-992-8499 \$15.00 advance \$20.00 at the door.

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Dec. 19th - 5pm, 7pm and 9pm
Dec. 20th - 2pm Children's Show with The Snowman & Northwest Academy Dance Ensemble & The Metropolitan Youth Symphony (Choreography by Robert Gultson)
Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve at The Old Church 7PM

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True Vine Missionary Baptist Church

On Sunday, December 6th at 9:30 AM, the True Vine Baptist Church will gather at the O.B. Williams Convention Center, 220 NE. Beech to march to our new and permanent home, located at 4735 N Commercial Ave.

The True Vine Church family and the Paradise Church family have united as one, to be identified as the true Vine Paradise Missionary Baptist Church. The pastor of this combined congregation is the Reverend Dr. Raymon H. Edwards, Sr. who is the founder and organizer of the True Vine Baptist Church.

All who can, are invited to march with us. If the weather is bad or raining, we will not march, but have a "car cavalcade".

Our morning worship will begin at 11 AM. Dinner will be served in the Dining Hall and at 3 PM, there will be a dedication service including guest speakers, music, preaching and a dedication ceremony.

You are invited to worship with us throughout the day as we are a warm-hearted church family evangelizing to save souls and carry out God's Kingdom agenda here on earth. Our church is the church where God is Master, Jesus Is Lord, the Holy Spirit is our comforter and he is our guide.

So come, walk, eat, worship with us Sunday, December 6, 1998.

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