

RELIGION

An All Saints Reunion

Mallory Church of Christ
3908 NE Mallory Avenue
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TO INVITE ALL MISSING SHEEP TO COME HOME

Warren Blakney

A singing preacher from the North Peoria Church of Christ in Tulsa, Oklahoma will be encouraging us from the word.

Through Loving Christian Fellowship.
Dinner on the Ground Sunday, Oct. 3, 1999.

Derrick Starks Releases Debut Album

"I haven't had any tragedies in my life," Derrick Starks says humbly. "But, musically, I didn't have my business straight on my end." Almost a decade ago, Derrick submitted a song to a record label. They used his song and it became a big gospel hit. "I never got paid," he says of the sad experience. The late Grammy-nominated choir conductor Thomas "Maestro" Whitfield helped Derrick deal with his anger at being swindled out of the profits of his first composition. "Tommy

gave me advice about it," he says. "He told me to take it as a learning experience. I was ready to go to court. I had been reading a book about publishing and that was no help. I thought I had done everything the right way. I filled out my forms and a copy was accidentally sent back to me. Where my name was, someone else's name was typed over it. Now, I have an attorney check over everything."

Today, Derrick has forgiven the culprits, but he was mostly hurt because he thought of them as

friends. He has found some true friends though. Those friends, Brian Spears and Ben Whitfield, run Detroit's Crystal Rose Records and they've done all they can to support Derrick, not exploit him. He wrote or co-wrote nine of the ten songs on his new album "He's On Time" and he got writing credit for every one of them. Although, Derrick was robbed of a song, he's been blessed with favor. When the time came to record his new album, he received help from two gospel heavy-hitters: Vanessa Bell

Armstrong and Rance Allen. Derrick was Armstrong's musical director for several years. "When it was time for me to do my album, she did it for me," he says. "I met Rance at a COGIC convention and at some other events. When I wrote that song 'Choose Ye This Day' I had Rance in mind, so I sent it to him and when he heard it, he said he'd do it." Derrick's unique mix of traditional and contemporary gospel is bridging the gap between young and old gospel lovers.

Born in Detroit in 1970, Derrick's life was full of faith and music. His dad is a pastor. One year his dad bought the family an organ for Christmas, but Derrick was the only one of his five siblings who took an interest in it. He was seven years old. He played at church and eventually began playing at functions around the city. Locally, Derrick's name was being banded about as the next big talent to rise out of Detroit when he caught the attention of Thomas Whitfield who became his primary influence. "I was a Tommy fan. I'd go to his concerts and follow him. I hung around him so much that I wanted to do things he had done and he was with Crystal Rose, so I wanted to go there too. So, I eventually submitted a tape to Brian Spears." Since then, Derrick's choir has backed John Tesh, Vickie Winans, the Whitfield Company and Walter Hawkins.



Gospel Music Talent Search

Nashville - Southern communications of Nashville Tennessee is conducting a song and artist search. The Southern Gospel talent search will offer grand-prize winners a national release to Southern Gospel Radio. Entry forms will be available September 22, 1999. All entries must be received no later than Wednesday, November 10, 1999.

For over 15 years Southern communications has charged radio hits for such artists as Ricky Skaggs, The Cathedrals, the Gaither Vocal band, The Martins, and Bruce Carroll among others.

To receive entry information call 615.345.2500 or visit Southern Communications on the web @www.socompro.mid-tn.com.

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Obituary

Rev. Perry L. Palmer

A funeral was held 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, 1999, in Emmanuel

Temple Full Gospel Pentecostal Church for the Rev. Perry L. Palmer, who died Aug. 15 at age 68.

The Rev. Palmer was born Sept. 8, 1930, in Panama City, Fla. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 16 and served in the 82nd Airborne Division. After moving to Portland in 1959, he was a bumper straightener and manager at Lenninger Plating. He was ordained as a minister in the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church in 1972 and had served as Sunday school superintendent, brotherhood president and deacon. He was an associate senior pastor at Emmanuel

Temple at the time of his death. He married Maudell Turner.

Survivors include his wife; daughters, Julia X. Palmer, Marilyn Lockhart, Nicola Williams and Shannon Olive, all of Portland, Iris L. of Ellenwood, Ga., and LaDreaa McBride of Columbus, Ohio; sons, Jackie L. of Vancouver, Wash., and Keith A. of Portland; brothers, Arthur J. of Portland, Alphonzo Oates of Winter Haven, Fla., W. Odice of Miami and Ralph of Lutz, Fla.; 19 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Interment will be in Willamette National Cemetery. Arrangements are by Vann & Vann Funeral Directors.



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