

Vickie Winans brings soulful gospel sounds to Portland

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Encore! Encore!" has been the joyful cry of the spiritually uplifted masses following the incredible 92 week (and still counting) top-chart run of the best-selling, Grammy, Dove, Stellar, and Lady of Soul Award nominated, Excellence Award winning, CGI gospel album, Vickie Winans: Live In Detroit.

A critically acclaimed achievement of outstanding proportions, it raised the bar of her live-in-concert gospel album to a level that could only be equaled and subsequently surpassed by her anointed sequel, Vickie Winans: Live In Detroit II.

Once again the beautiful, charismatic lady with the magnificent soul stirring voice and unwavering faith in the Lord delivers a timeless CD of heavenly quality and spiritual substance. "From the first song to the last shout, I felt God's presence, which inspired me and everyone involved to make this the best album I've ever recorded. It's my victory album," admits Detroit born and based Vickie Winans. In addition to being one of the industry's most respected artist, she manages her own career and is also the vivacious host of the syndicated decade-long running gospel variety show,

"Singsation." As President of Viviane, Inc. her Detroit-based management company, she books and performs 200 or more shows a year. However, Vickie says her favorite "job" is being the proud mother of her sons, hit producer Mario "Skeeter" Winans and Marvin "Coconut" Winans and "Nannie" to her 2 year old grandson, Mario II.

Produced by Vickie and industry veteran Steven Ford, Vickie Winans: Live In Detroit II was recorded before a rafter shaking audience on October 16, 1998. The venue was the beautiful Straight Gate Church in Detroit, Michigan, where the first live set was recorded. The album, which is visually represented by a state-of-the-art, collectors item, two-hour companion video, features the spirited lead single, "Already Been to the Water," which, like one of Vickie's past hits, "Long as I Got King Jesus," reaches deep down, bringing his light and joy to the heart, spirit, and soul. "It has me singing Jesus with all my might," Vickie says, her charming persona amplifying her words.

"I think we say Jesus 50 to 60 times back to back in the song! You see, I'm not ashamed to call His name," she beams!



Vickie Winans

Companies cracking down on workers who send offensive e-mail

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington County's sheriff faces discipline for sending a lewd e-mail about "The Rules for Bedroom Golf" to county employees, including a county commissioner. An employee at a Portland software-maker is fired after accidentally shipping an unflattering e-mail about a colleague companywide. Earlier this year, Portland's Concentrex, which makes banking software, sent a stern message about its policies to employees. A worker was fired after hitting the wrong button and sending a distasteful e-mail about a colleague to everyone in the company.

Then there was this week's news that the New York Times Co. had fired more than 20 employees at a Virginia payroll-processing center for exchanging "inappropriate and offensive" electronic messages. With Internet and e-mail rivaling the telephone for workplace communication, there are signs nationwide (signs) that employers are cracking down on e-mail abuse and cyberslacking in general. Oregon is no exception.

According to a new American Management Association survey,

27 percent of the country's major companies checked employee e-mail in 1999, up from 15 percent in 1997. A recent survey says 84 percent of the nation's workers send personal e-mail from work and 90 percent admit to recreational surfing at the office.

Increasingly, employers consider sending jokes via e-mail or vacation-planning on the Web to be akin to sitting atop the Xerox machine and pushing the copy button, experts say.

"The naivety and novelty of e-mail and the Internet in the workplace is wearing thin," said Portland consultant Barbara Lilly, author of the book "The Eway of Email: How to Act, Write and Stand Out On-line." Lilly helps companies create effective Internet policies. "Employers have realized its power as a tool and a weapon." As a weapon, the Internet can create a hostile workplace environment where racist, sexually explicit and other offensive content popping up on computer networks can lead to lawsuits by workers, she said.

And it's hard to use the Internet as a tool when personal chitchat and surfing seriously strain networks,


causing crashes in the middle of the day. Pricey hardware upgrades are usually the only remedy, say Portland-area systems managers.

For example, Clackamas County,

where employees send about 20,000 e-mails a day, was recently forced to spend \$30,000 on an e-mail server that could handle the heavy load.

A recent Newsweek article on

cyberslacking cited a figure of \$1 billion a year in wasted computer resources and billions of dollars more in lost productivity in the wired workplace.



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