

Local artist's new DVD earns gospel support

By Debbie Hall
Sentinel-Voice

It was an evening of prayer, joy, laughter, applause, music, fellowship and praise during the celebration of local gospel singer Carlton Malone's "Turn Back the Clock" launch event for the artist's first DVD/CD release by that name. It was held on Saturday at the Holy Trinity AME Church in North Las Vegas.

Malone, along with guest performers, including the Nellis Air Force Base Choir, Duana Heard and others, lifted the audience spiritually with their renditions of gospel songs from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Heard is Malone's business partner and co-"Web Minister" in their cyberspace pioneering, successful Internet business, ChurchesInLasVegas.com, a resource for the faith-based community. She also helps direct parts of his music business and produces the website.

Malone is known for giving service to the local community and promoting church activities for youth and families. Malone with his group, God's Beloved, has traveled worldwide and opened for legendary gospel artists such as Helen Baylor, Vickie Winans, Mary Mary and Shirley Caesar.

"This event was put together to remember the songs of the old times from the '70s and '80s," Heard explained, "Songs that got us over when you are going through hard times, songs that would minister to your soul. The people who listen are really blessed."

Keith E. Andrews II of Urban World Productions Las Vegas is the executive producer as well as the audio-visual tech on Malone's DVD.

"DVD is cutting edge," Andrews said, "Most artists in the [gospel music] industry do not have DVDs."

He spoke about Malone's distribution deal with Sony.

Malone talked about his love for the old-time gospel music and how it influenced him as a child.

"The Lord told me to do this. This beautiful music is something we just can't lose. I wanted to bring that time back. Spiritual music has al-

ways uplifted our people, and I want everyone to either remember or experience this music, especially our young people."

Malone played a vintage Hammond B3 organ, an instrument with a robust bass and distinctive sound made popular in the 1960s, which added to the flavor of the event. With an accompanying percussionist and pianist, members of the audience got up to sing throughout the evening.

Rev Matthew Goins of the Greater St. Paul Church of God and Christ joined in with his powerful voice, praising God and singing the songs of the past.

"Carlton is prolific," Goins said later, "...Just awesome and the music is great."

One of the biggest surprise guests was Malone's godmother, Missionary Fay Brewer of the Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois. A gospel singer herself, she remembered over 100 songs, "and I want to sing them all," she told a laughing audience. She brought tears to everyone's eyes as she sang from her heart.

During the event, special guest Dr. Harrison Johnson, 75, was honored for writing and singing gospel music and years of service in the church community.

He shared a personal story of faith and commitment to gospel music: "There was a time between me having and not having. In 1966, my youngest daughter was born and I was flat broke. I just couldn't seem to do anything. During this time, a man came to the door to repossess my car. I was behind \$400 and [gospel choir leader] James Cleveland was there when the man came to take my car. James offered to pay the man, but I said no and was handing the keys to the man when he asked me if I was the gospel singer Harrison Johnson. I told him yes.

"The man looked at me and said that people hide from him and it can take months or even years for him to find the car he needs to take. The man said that it was his first attempt to find me, handed me back the keys, and told me that he would see me in three years. I promised God that I would devote my

life to Him again and not worry about the secular world. I made millions after that."

The audience gave a standing ovation to a man who still ministers and will not stop "until my last breath."

The evening ended with a soulful dinner with musical accompaniment by harpist Kathy Kavanaugh.

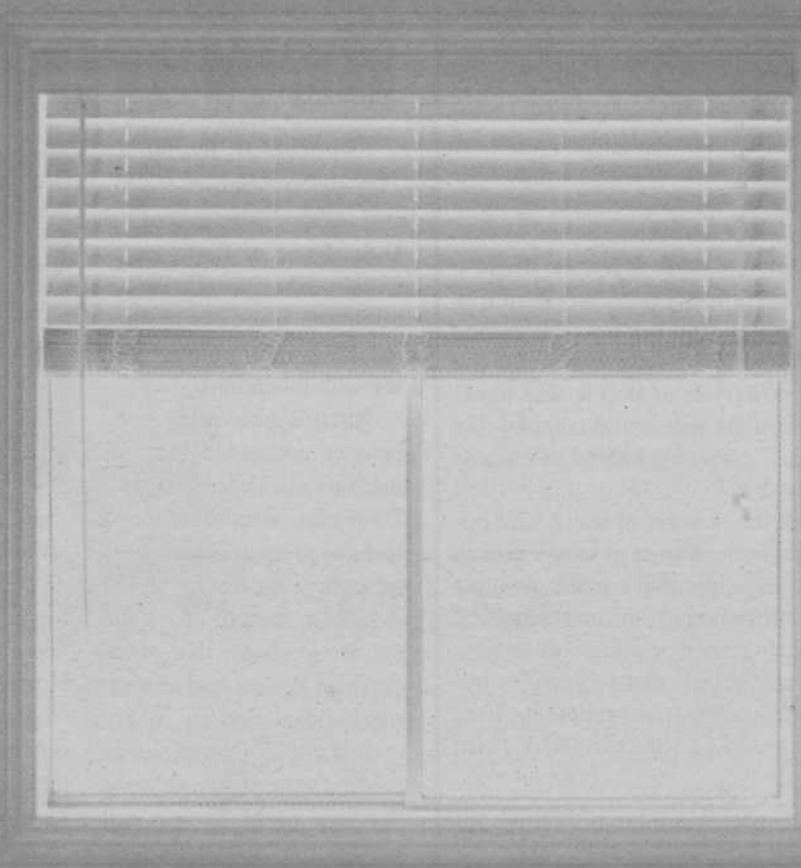
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Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frieson


SUCH IS LIFE

R&B sensation Lyfe Jennings poses with Sherita Saulsberry, program director of KVEG-FM 97.5. Jennings gave a special singing performance Tuesday at Club Ice.



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