



Has Worldly Rap Gone to Far?



[From Left] **Rick Ross** current popular mainstream rapper; **Gifted Da Flamethrowa**, Christian Rapper

Top selling mainstream rapper Rick Ross, who derived his stage name from the 1980s drug dealer “Freeway” Rick Ross, recently sparked a controversy when releasing his song entitled “Holy Ghost” It is not the first time that the gospel of Christ has been mentioned in rap songs, but his song is being criticized for distorting scriptures and degrading the Holy Spirit by using Him as a mentor of his own sinful rap verses.

The song begins with Ross depicting himself as a Christian, enjoying lavishness of his expensive Bugatti as he makes a drug deal. He continues to rant that being “dead broke” is the “root of all evil” instead of the love of money, he is attempting to evade police and asks for the Holy Ghost to devine intervene.

Ross’ “Holy Ghost” features Sean “P. Diddy Combs” who also professes to be a Christian. After Ross’ first verse, Combs appears on the song saying a prayer in which he curses several times. Ross’ “Holy Ghost” has offended rappers within the Christian hip-hop community. Many have vocalized their disapproval of Ross’ song; some have offered responses to the record, being careful to label it as a response so as to not come off disrespectfully.

Christian rapper Gifted da Flamethrowa, used this song as a means of outreach to the rapper.

(Continues on Page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Has Worldly Rap Gone To Far? (Continued) 2

Gospel Celebrity Baby 3

Movie Review: Joyful Noise 4

Preview of Bishop T.D. Jake’s New Film 4

Billboard Top Gospel Songs 5

CD Review: Trish Standley 5

Simply Gospel TV 6

Did you know:

Simply Gospel is on

- Time Warner Cable
- U-Verse
- ATT
- Verizon

If you have any of these Television providers feel free to tune in and catch the holy spirit through music and the word!

***Has Worldly Rap Gone to Far?* (continued)**

“It’s obvious he [Ross] is going out of his way to disrespect God. We can’t say he is doing it for [publicity] because he is already a top seller. So what he is doing is from his heart,” Gifted told popular Christian hip hop Journalist Sketch. “When I heard that song it immediately sparked my brain to reach out.”

Using clips of Ross’ earlier remarks of faith, saying that he “puts Jesus first,” Gifted uses this to question Ross’ intentions.

In “The Fence” documentary, Ross explains his faith, he stated that he uses the money and influence for positivity, and believes that God is the reason behind his success in the music industry.

When Ross was questioned about criticism of his music by Christians, who judge his lyrics for not reflecting his religious beliefs, Ross stated that he reflects what he has seen in his lyrics, whether or not people want to look at it and that he embraces the judgments.

Aside from drug dealing, Ross also speaks of overdosing on drugs and premarital relations as he and Combs asks God to forgive those who are after them because “they know not what they do.” With such suggestions and distortions of biblical passages, countless, such as Gifted believe that Ross is not creating music in ignorance but rather a bold disregard.

Ross’ song comes after a sequence of contentious songs involving Christianity that sparked controversy in 2011 such Lady Gaga’s “Judas” Jay-Z and Kanye West’s “No Church In The Wild” and Johnny Depp and Babybird’s “Jesus Stag Night Club.”

Did You Know...



For three decades Alaska Airlines has served their meals with a side of prayer cards. As of February 1st they will be ceasing this tradition. Lets hope In and Out and Forever 21 do not follow suit.





Mary Mary Singer Erica Atkins-Campbell Gives Birth to Baby Girl



Though it may seem that every time I publish a newsletter it includes Mary Mary, that's because they do (*wink*).

Congratulations are in order to Erica Atkins-Campbell, half of the Grammy Award winning duo Mary Mary for giving birth to a 6-pound, 12 ounce beautiful and health Zaya Monique with her husband, Warryn.

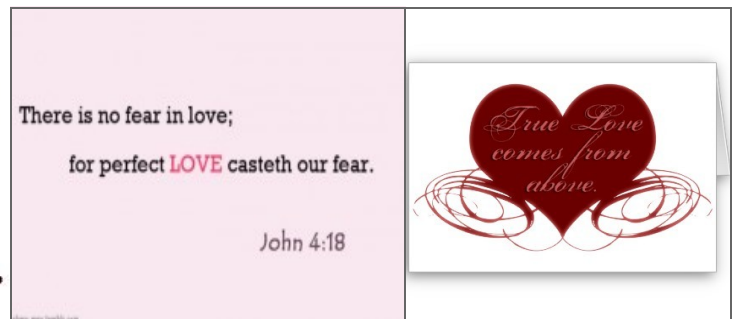
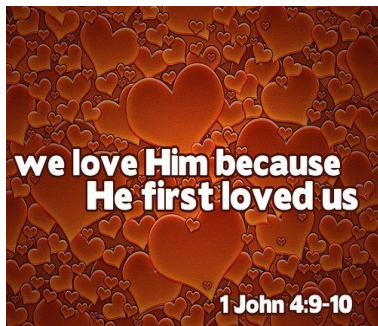
"Feeling so thankful and so blessed to have our sweet Zaya finally make her grand entrance into the world," Campbell said in a statement, as reported by Essence magazine. "God is awesome. Our family couldn't be happier than we are today.

Campbell also tweeted her thanks to fans for their "love and support."

Campbell and her husband have two children; her fans have witnessed a difficult pregnancy. Campbell, who was forced to call off a Christmas tour at the beginning of December due to her pregnancy, also went to the emergency room the day after Christmas because of false labor pains.

SIDE NOTE: Look out for the duo, with their own reality show, which is expected to premiere on WE tv next March.

The show, titled "Mary Mary," will follow the pair while they make music and tour, as well as document their family life.



Silver Screen Review: Joyful Noise



The film *Joyful Noise* (2012) premiered this January has movie goers exhibiting a plethora of emotions from laughter to a sense of connectedness. The story centers on a small-town choir endeavoring to win a national competition despite overwhelming odds. A story of faith and determination by two strong-willed women (Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton) with different musical talents have to work together in order for their choir the Divinity

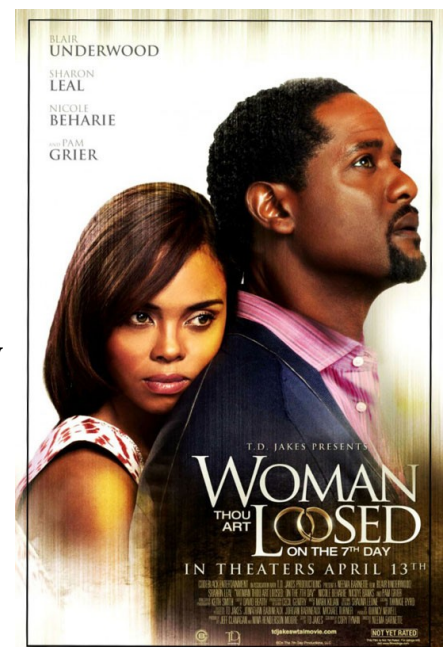
Church Choir to compete and win a choir competition. Keke Palmer also stars giving this cast an all-around A+ for wittiness and great youthful acting. Though it's slightly predictable, but if you feel like seeing a movie that will make you laugh, cry and reflect on your own personal improvements, then *Joyful Noise* is for you!

Silver Screen Preview: Bishop T.D. Jakes

The trailer for Bishop T.D. Jakes' upcoming motion picture, "*Woman Thou Art Loosed: On the 7th Day*" was recently released online and provides a preview of suspense and spirituality. Bishop Jakes' film adaptation of the self-help novel he authored will take viewers through an overabundance of emotions. The film stars seasoned actor Blair Underwood who has been portrayed in *Madea's Family Reunion* among other great films and television productions, and another *Madea* star Sharon Leal who's been a part of the *Why Did I get Married* franchise and other films and series. These talents discover their daughter has been abducted.

The plot thickens when the couple believes their child was taken by a serial killer who murders his victims seven days after capturing them.

"*Woman Thou Art Loosed: On the 7th Day*" will be the first under a multi-year partnership deal between AMC Theaters and Codeblack Entertainment—a new media and film company marketing to urban audiences. The deal secures Codeblack's releases to play exclusively in specific AMC locations.





TOP 10 GOSPEL SONGS

Billboard

1. "In the Middle"Isaac Carree
2. "I Need Your Glory.."Earnest Pugh
3. "Still Able" James Fortune & FIYA
4. "Spiritual".... Donald Lawrence & Co.
5. "Be Still"...Yolanda Adams
6. "I Won't Go Back" William McDowell
7. "Nobody Greater" Va Shawn Mitchell
8. "Let the Church Say Amen".... Andrae Crouch featuring Marvin Winans
9. "I Smile"... Kirk Franklin
10. "I Heard the Sound (of Victory)"... Maurette Brown Clark

CD Review: Trish Standley



Trish Standley contemporary gospel artist has debuted her sophomore album this January entitled **Redemption**. It's one CD you want to pick up starting off the new year with a bang. The songstress who recently performed at the ECMA Gala this past October in Washington, DC has been receiving rave reviews from fans in the United States and the UK, alike. Trish first new release "Love" is a top chart on the UK Soul Chart.

Trish began singing at her home church in Kokomo, Indiana. Her songwriting career began when she transformed her mother's poetry with her own creative melody. Years later, Standley moved to Atlanta, and cultivated her musical talents by studied voice with **Canangela Boyd-Robertson** of Jan Smith Studios, owned by the renowned singer and songwriter.

10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
 91730 Phone: (951) 685-4233
 E-mail: simplygoodnews@simplygospel.tv

SIMPLY GOSPEL TELEVISION NETWORK
BILL BUFKIN / PRESIDENT



“The Message is In the Music” is a show that highlights a diverse array of Gospel/Christian Music. . The show highlights live concerts with up and coming talent! Join Simply Gospel at <http://www.simplygospel.tv/>

“Doctor Joshua Beckley Pastor of Ecclesia Show” Ecclesia Christian Fellowship is hands down one of the best churches in the Inland Empire. Turn to Simply Gospel to see weekly messages from the powerful Pastor Beckley. Strengthen your spiritual-self by tuning into <http://www.simplygospel.tv/>

“The Pastor Rodney Brewer Show” is located at The Well of Riverside Church Watch Simply Gospel to gain a greater relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ turn to <http://www.simplygospel.tv/>

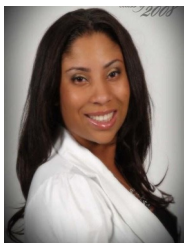
“The Words of Wisdom Show” Minister Deborah Williams provides an uplifting message at World of Wisdom Ministry. Learn about a God that provides unconditional love when you turn to <http://www.simplygospel.tv/>

Simply Gospel’s Sponsors

<p>Purple Directory Map to the African-American Funeral Firms Editor: Miriam E. Pipes www.purpledirectory.com</p>	<p>Ecclesia Christian Fellowship 1314 East Date Street San Bernardino www.EcclesiaChurch.Com</p>	<p>I-Am-Unlimited-Records Donald Turner Jr 14003 Siesta Drive Apple Valley, 92307 Telephone: 760-946-3462 Www.i-am-unlimited.com</p>
<p>Sheila “O” Show Where you will find the Best Artist, Feautred Guest and Music Anywhere! Www.sheilaoshow.com</p>	<p>The Fellowship Hall Christian events for young urban professionals! Www.fellowshipevents.com</p>	<p>GT Productions G T Productions Promotions Www.gtproductions.biz/</p>

Want to PURCHASE ads on future Simply Gospel Newsletters? Please Contact the Advertising Department at 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
 Or Emailmail: simplygoodnews@simplygospel.tv

Editor’s Note:



If you wish to contact me regarding Simply Gospel newsletter or would like to see a something added, please send all questions or comments to: editor.simplygospel.tv

Have a Lovely Valentine Day,

Nicole Dunlap



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled, nor let it be afraid” — John 14:27 (KJV)