

Interview Log

Interviewee: Gospel Concert **Tape #:** VA/FT/11.15.101

Interviewer: Kelly Feltault **# of Tapes:** 2 of 3

Date: 11/15/97 **# of Sides:** 2

Location: Nandua High School Auditorium, Onley VA

Topic: performances by the Zionaires of Princess Anne MD, and Jay Caldwell and the Gospel Ambassadors of Delaware

Corresponding Photography Log #: VAIPS/11.15.100-141. See also corresponding fieldnotes: FN11.15.97 and FN11.12.97; and ephemera files for concert program.

Comments: Filename: ft115101.doc (See also ft115100.doc and ft115102.doc for parts 1 and 3 of this program). *Italics* indicate song title; "quotations" indicate direct transcription; [brackets indicate additional information not on tape]. This is a continuation of VA/FT/11.15.100 and starts at the end of a song by the Zionaires. Jay Caldwell on side B periodically puts down the mic and sings to the congregation resulting in an uneven recording.

SIDE A

continuation of *Lord, Remember Me*.

Zionaires change lead singers, a younger man with a higher voice begins, *Walk Around Heaven*, a slower song He makes contact with the congregation by leaving the stage and singing to the people in the front row. [Several women around me comment on his beautiful voice and fine looks, as I take photos].

Next song introduced through chant

Come Along: R & B, solo by young male child, the son of one of the members. Group sings chorus.

There is a Land Beyond the River: bass singer leads this piece, dialogic structure. The bass singer had microphone problems during this song--everyone he picked up lost the signal and his voice fades in and out.

Oldest member of the group takes microphone and praises God. Leads into next song as soloist

I Thought [I Can't even Walk Without You Holding My Hand]: battery light on Marantz illuminates, tape speed slightly affected. Batteries changed. Recording continues.

He Wants Somebody: call and response structure between older soloist and group; soloist breaks out into rhythmical speech; responses by congregation; shouting begins in the congregation as singer chants, "Give in to the Light" and the group sings "He wants somebody" Music plays on, shouts from congregation audible.

[spirit descends upon congregation and a few women from the local choirs are touched. Congregation members form a circle around them to protect them from falling into the seats].

Zionaires leave the stage amidst shouts of "Praise Him" and Jay Caldwell's group begins to set up. Arlene Parker addresses the congregation. Comments on the nice looking, young men she sees participating in this program. Welcoming of special guests and those who worked behind the scenes to produce the program. Arlene speaks of her radio program and that she plays Jay's work.

[the emphasis on gender is heavy in this program and the congregation is equally mixed of men and women. The men's group who organized the program wore dark suits and white gloves to usher folks to their seats. There is an emphasis on getting young men into the church and the (women's) success in doing this.]

Jay Caldwell and the Gospel Ambassadors begin: drum, guitar, bass, organ. Jay does not play an instrument and sings all the leads. Jay thanks everyone, and praises Arlene and Jesse. Begins speech on age and changing to introduce first song.

Time Has Made a Change: slow ballad, when song ends tape is flipped over

END SIDE A

BEGIN SIDE B: VA/FT/11.15.101

[**Note:** when the tape was flipped over several minutes remained on that side. Thus side B begins with several minutes of blank tape]

end of *Time Has Made a Change*

Jay Caldwell talking about changes in physical bodies and selves to congregation; again, he leads into the next song with the title worked into his speech

Everything Must Change: falsetto, sung by drummer, Brother Lindsey

Jay elicits Amens from congregation, begins talk about life as a young man in North Carolina; Sam Cooke's influence [this begins some of the songs Jay claims are more North Carolina style or influence, mentioned later in his speeches]

I Was Born by the River: Jay Caldwell singer, ballad.

Jericho: Jay calls this a request song [apparently several members of the audience requested certain pieces for this performance].

Today: falsetto, sung by drummer; from new album [see VA/RT/1 1. 15. 100]; slow ballad
Jay also sings

Jay begins sermon to music; scripture from Isaiah that leads into

Wonderful Jesus: falsetto chorus; Jay lead; overlapped and dialogic;

Jay begins talk about being from the country, but can't stay away from it; raised on old hymns and likes to perform them; starts right into a medley:

Amazing Grace: mix of spoken and sung, sermon and song

I Wouldn't Take Nothing for my Journey Right Now

[Jay puts down the microphone and enters the congregation, stepping off the stage. His voice cannot be heard over the band's who are still miked]

[unknown hymn]

One Day at a Time [Jay picks up the mic again]

Sometimes I Wonder

Trust in Jesus [Jay enters the congregation again, without a mic; picks it up for last part of song]

END OF SIDE B

END OF TAPE VAIFT/11.15.101

[See tape VA/FT/1 1. 15.102 for continuation or VA/FT/11.15.100 for first tape]

Interview Log

Interviewee: Gospel Program **Tape #:** VA/FT/11.15/102

Interviewer: Kelly Feltault **# of Tapes:** 3 of 3

Date: 11.15.97 **# of Sides:** 1

Location: Nandua High School Auditorium; Onley VA

Topic: gospel music, live recording

Corresponding Photography Log #: VA/PS/11.15.100-141. See also corresponding fieldnotes: FN11.15.97 and FN11.12.97; and ephemera files for concert program.

Comments: Filename: ft115102.doc (See also ft115100.doc and ft115101.doc for parts 1 and 2 of this program). *Italics* indicate song title; "quotations" indicate direct transcription; [brackets indicate additional information not on tape, or comments by fieldworker]. This is the end of the program and starts with Jay Caldwell and the Gospel Ambassadors building to shouts and holy dances in the congregation by the end.

SIDE A

[begins during sermon by Jay Caldwell asking for a witness; I

Nobody do me Like Jesus: picks up the pace and tempo; R & B; drum and shout segment; [congregation adds rhythm with clapping and shouting]; segway into *Sweater than the Day Before* congregation members begin to get the spirit, two women in the front rows begin a holy dance with neighbors encircling them to protect them from falling; Jay begins a holy dance on stage.

Story about how at home he used to "slip off to a little Sanctified Church, where they had a drum and tambourine" leads to call and response by Jay and a band member with a guitar back-up; Jay then states that there is "one thing that I want you to remember about me tonight, I am Redeemed"[last three words are sung]

I am Redeemed.• slow ballad; congregation begins singing along and waving hands;
I'm Not that Way Anymore: testifying song; changes God has brought to life; Jay repeatedly states "I wish I had time to sing one more verse" and then starts next verse; sings the whole song;

Story of Saul sung and chanted that leads to final song:

Rise and Go into the City: falsetto by drummer; Jay in congregation without mic;

Arlene asks Pastor Thomson to end service by giving people a chance to come to the Lord; [Pastor Thomson stands in front of the stage praying with converts;] Pastor Thomson takes mic and asks everyone to stand, leads prayer as soloist sings *Step on Over*.

Pastor Thomson, "If there is anyone here who is need of prayer step up come on down for this is the altar of our Christ and he's in the house tonight and he'll answer your prayers" she continues prayers and sermon and singing continues; [singers overtake her voice periodically] Pastor Thomson requests that the music go down a little, begins prayer for congregation;

[several people who are leaving stand in front of the mic and their conversations are picked up as thanks are given to the performers and Mcs]

END OF TAPE

END OF SERIES

Interview Log

Interviewee: Gospel Concert **Tape #:** VA/FT/11.15.100

Interviewer: Kelly Feltault **# of Tapes:** 1 of 3

Date: 11/15/97 **# of Sides:** 6 total, 2 this tape

Location: Nandua High School, Onley VA

Topic: performances by local church choirs: Adams United Methodist Young Adults Choir, Friendship U.M. choir with Anthony Ames, Miranda Little of New York, and Robert Tisdale. The Zionaires of Princess Anne MD end this tape, and they and Jay Caldwell and the Gospel Ambassadors of Delaware are on tapes 101 and 102.

Corresponding Photography Log #: VA/PS/11.15.100-141. See also corresponding fieldnotes: FN11.15.97 and FN11.12.97; and ephemera files for concert program.

Comments: File name: vaftl00.doc (See also vaftl01.doc and vaftl02.doc for parts 2 and 3 of this program). *Italics* indicate song title; "quotations" indicate direct transcription; [brackets indicate additional information not on tape].

Arlene C. Parker invited me to this gospel program when I met her at the Accomack Senior Center. She and several other African American women cook for the Head Start Program in the Center's kitchen, and while they were on break I talked with them about the project and gathered some leads.

The program itself began with the local choirs marching into the auditorium, up to the stage and singing. Russ Bahorsky operated the recording equipment as I took photographs during the performance. The auditorium has good sound quality, though it took a few minutes to adjust the levels on the Marantz. Periodically, audience members' voices intrude on the performances as they stood near the microphone. Arlene C. Parker was the MC that evening and unfortunately she did not use the microphone while talking, so her voice did not register well.

SIDE A

Arlene C. Parker welcomes guests on behalf of the Accomack Methodist Leemont Charge [local church] and thanks the men of the church for presenting this gospel concert.

testing the mic

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congregation stands for entrance of choirs through main door in back of auditorium. March singing and clapping toward stage left, clapping begins with piano music.

Everlasting Light: male lead, choral support; sung by Adams United Methodist Young Adults Choir. Congregation standing, clapping and singing as choir crosses stage. Levels on Marantz rise. Piano music stops and choir and soloist sing acappella with congregation. Piano music begins again.

Scripture read by Sister Chestine Warner. Psalm 100.

Introduction of Leemont Charge's new pastor, Rev. Charlene Thomson. Rev. Thomson takes the stage and leads a prayer. She bows her head and raises both arms palms-up toward the lord and begins, "Oh, ancient of days. . ." The auditorium is sanctified and transformed into a church. Slight chanting in voice towards end of prayer. Organ music begins half way through prayer.

Yes Lord: Adams U.M. choir sings slow, rolling chant until male lead takes over.

Arlene C. Parker thanks the choir, Sister Chestine Warner and Rev. Thomson. Introduces Adams choir and their next selection.

Come Let Us Worship the Lord begins low with piano accompaniment, repeating chorus; grows as congregation begins clapping; reaches pitch and is taken down low with chorus; raised again at end.

Clapping of congregation and choir begins as piano changes tunes to next selection, clapping grows as piano plays melody.

Stop by the Church Sometime: male lead, begins with chorus "You ought to stop by the church sometime, stop by the church sometime. Something maybe said, oh that helps you on your way. If you stop by the church sometime." Traditional song structure; congregation gets on feet. Call and response begins in middle, "If you feel like shouting," "Stop by the Church" "If you feel like singing" "Stop by the church." Shouting from congregation. Choir marches off stage singing and clapping, sits in first row of auditorium, center isle.

Arlene C. Parker announces that Pastor Thomson claims the auditorium is now a holy place, auditorium's transformation is complete. Mrs. Parker praises the lord, urges congregation to stop by the church and hear the word. Arlene jokes with congregation, talks about her first time as MC and praises the young men of the churches for their involvement, comments on gender issues in church and changes happening there.

Introduces Jesse Poulson [Accomack County teacher of the year] who introduces Mrs. Olivia White, Mrs. White is called "the icon of Adams Church in Leemont Charge"

Mrs. Olivia White welcomes congregation and thanks them for coming; further reinforcement of the transformation of Nandua high into a place of worship. Thanks the United Methodist men and Adams U.M. church. Putting all faiths together, several of the groups from out of state are Baptist. Asks the congregation to stand and say something joyful to your neighbor, greetings and talk travel around the auditorium.

Arlene C. Parker introduces Friendship U.M. Mass choir and Anthony Ames of Wattsville, VA near Chincoteague.

Organ begins slow followed by bass and drum with funk beat, choir rises in audience forming a single line. They begin a side step motion: right foot a step to the right, left foot touches right heel; left foot steps left, right foot touches left heel. this is done in place for a few beats, then they move forward continuing the dance step. Choir snakes around the front of the stage and then heads up the stairs onto the stage. Tambourines beating.

Choir director addresses congregation, "We came to worship the Lord, I don't know what you came to do but we came to worship the Lord." The choir faces the congregation and the director turns to lead the choir, leaving her back to the congregation. Congregation is clapping.

We've Got to Worship Christ

Anthony Ames preaches with call and response from choir and congregation as he plays the organ

[unknown song, "Singing in the Heavenly Choir"?]: solo by Ames, R & B rhythm, slow song with story; solo by female choir member; choir sings chorus.

Ames begins preaching as he changes tunes and moves into next selection. Melody of next selection begins on organ as Ames continues preaching and working in chorus of song into speech. Begins song

END SIDE A

BEGIN SIDE B VA/FT/11.15.100

Nobody Does It Like Jesus: call and response from choir, sing in unison the chorus; Ames gets congregation on its feet, singing. Song interrupted as Ames stops playing to address congregation, "you all going to help me sing tonight" and moves straight into next song.

Way Down, Jesus Will Pick You Up: clapping by choir and congregation, tambourine; Ames sings stanzas; chanting of "Way Down" portion of chorus; choir begins to dance off the stage and towards their seats in the congregation. At one point the chorus and congregation merge.

[the stage is only 2 feet off the ground and the separation between audience and performer is frequently blurred. Many of the soloists preferred to stand on the ground with the congregation, and the choirs moved in and out of the seating area with ease and dance.]

Introduction of Friendship's director, Angela Wallace by Jesse Poulson, thanks to the choir. Arlene praises the Lord, and the young people returning to the church.

Jesse Poulson introduces Miranda Little of Rochester, New York; Arlene Parker stops the introduction to ask where she is from, it is repeated, and Arlene counters with, "Well New York is taking over." Laughter from the congregation.

We Shall Behold Him: the music is piped in from a recorded source. Miranda Little sings solo soprano [levels go off the scale].

Arlene enters stage and introduces Robert Tisdale [Mr. Tisdale is not on the program and must have been a last minute entry].

Robert Tisdale takes stage and starts talking with audience, moves into chanted speech quickly and then into a song.

I've been running for Jesus for a mighty long time: Robert Tisdale solo vocal with guitar and drums backup; R & B; congregation singing response, "I'm not tired yet";

Mr. Tisdale moves directly into the next song without stopping

Heaven is Looking Down on Me: shouts from congregation; slow piece.

Jesse and Arlene talk with congregation and introduce the Zionaires; state that this group plays frequently on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Zionaires take stage, entering from backstage and not the audience as did the first groups. Group consists of drums, guitar, bass, organ

Zionaires begin preaching and reaffirming the transformation of the auditorium. Introduces first song by preaching first line of song.

Operator: traditional notation; R & B; lead male vocalist with band members singing chorus and responses.

Introduces next song with first lines

Peace in the Valley: slower, solo with drums and occasional guitar, falsetto notes; group and other instruments enter with chorus; second chorus is just voices and drums; voices brought down low, then instruments enter.

Introduction of next selection with story and the first line of the song

Lord, Remember Me: R & B; tape ends at mid point of song

END TAPE VA/FT/11.15.100

See VA/FT/11.15.101 for continuation