



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### AND THE WINNER IS...

## ***THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOSPEL CHOICE AWARDS CELEBRATES & HONORS A RICH HERITAGE***

September 29, 2009 – From the Red Carpet to the Chosen Pastors reception, to the excitement and energy of the performances and announcements of the winners, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gospel Choice Awards was a resounding success. The program once again brought to life the vision created by Creed W. Pannell, Jr., Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Gospel Choice Awards who founded the show in 1994 as a medium to highlight the “good news” of Gospel music.

Actress Nevaina Rhodes and Comedian Andrew Ford hosted the black-tie event at the Georgia World Congress Center Tuesday, September 28. Winners in eight categories were announced at the sell-out event which began with Red Carpet arrivals and the Chosen Pastors Reception. Dinner followed with riveting performances by the Lamar Sisters and Gospel Jazz saxophonist Antonio Allen. Derrick Starks and Berean Christian Church Choir had the crowd on its feet as a hand-clapping performance complete with praise dancers officially began the show program.

### Awards winners:

- ❖ Best Choir and Director - Derrick Starks & Berean Christian Church Choir
- ❖ Song of the Year - “So Glad He Saved Me” - Monica Lisa Stevenson
- ❖ Best New Artist - Lowell Pye
- ❖ Best in Holy Hip Hop – Canton Jones
- ❖ Best Duo/Group – Men of Standard
- ❖ Best In Media – Twanda Black – 104.1 FM
- ❖ Best Female Artist- Leah Lee
- ❖ Best Male Artist – B.Chase Williams

Other show highlights included the *Lifetime Achievement Award* to Radio veteran Larry Young and the *Thomas A. Dorsey Award* to Gospel songstress Babbie Mason, who thanked the crowd as she recalled her start in Gospel Music as a preacher’s daughter in Michigan. She then wowed the crowd with her Gospel favorite, *God Will Open the Windows of Heaven*.

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOSPEL CHOICE AWARDS  
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The program was a mixture of traditional and contemporary performances, including an exciting song by Southern Rock Christian artist David Huff, joined by one of the Bolton Brothers, who also gifted the crowd with a selection. Monica Lisa Stevenson, Wanda Trent Phillips, Troy Sneed, Mark J, Derrick Starks, Clifford Duckworth and the Ku'-Worshup Gospel Choir rounded out the performances.

The program also honored *Ten Chosen Pastors* from across Georgia who have made significant strides towards Kingdom-building. The honorees include:

- ❖ Dr. Gregory Fuller, Macedonia Baptist Church, Augusta, GA
- ❖ Mack Jackson, St. James Christian Fellowship, Tennille, GA
- ❖ Pastor Kerwin B. Lee, Berean Christian Church, Stone Mountain, GA
- ❖ Pastor Karl D. Moore, Clarkston First Baptist Church, Clarkston, GA
- ❖ Pastor Marvin A. Moss, Cascade United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA
- ❖ Pastor Motley, Lindsay Street Baptist, Atlanta, GA
- ❖ Bishop Matthew Norwood, Bible Way Ministries International, Atlanta, GA.
- ❖ Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr., Macedonia Baptist Church, Macon, GA.
- ❖ Bishop Dr. Jeronn C. Williams, New Life International Family Church, Decatur, GA.
- ❖ Joseph Wingo, Emmanuel Praise, Monroe, GA.

The program ended with the announcement of Ray of Hope as *Church of the Year* and a combined choir singing, *I Need You to Survive*. As in years past, the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Gospel Choice Awards continued the legacy of celebrating a genre of music that inspires, uplifts and stirs the soul.

For show highlights and a recap of the award winners and honorees, visit:

[www.thegospelchoiceawards.com](http://www.thegospelchoiceawards.com)

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