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# The Compass

Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper.

## ECSU'S *GOD'S IMAGE* RISES IN THE GOSPEL MUSIC INDUSTRY



*God's Image*--Branden Anderson, Stefen Vaughan, Marlon Anderson, Krystal Nollie, and Curtis Langley

-Photo Courtesy of Rich Harvey

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"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness... God created man in His own image....'" (Genesis 1:26-27)

God's Image, the Richmond-based group made up of three young men, Branden Anderson, Marlon Anderson and Curtis Langley, formed in 1997. These men love to sing, and so they decided to form their group to use their talents to glorify God. The group also consisted of a lot of their friends back home.

The Book of Genesis inspired the formation of the group's name. Since God has created us in His image, they saw that it was a good name for them because they are trying to walk in His image. "It's a struggle day to day, but we must be empty to walk in His image be-

cause that's the will of God," said Branden Anderson.

Their inspirations are many. Branden's inspirations are Mary Mary, Kirk Franklin, Yolanda Adams and Shirley Caesar. Curtis's are Fred Hammond and the Canton Spirituals. Marlon's inspirations are the Jackson 5.

Their goals and expectations are to do the will of God by drawing people to Christ. They also hope that God will bless them to minister to people across the world, and also, to venture into other aspects of the industry.

Although they are rising stars in the gospel music industry, they also have to balance their schoolwork and their recordings. They concentrate on their schoolwork throughout the week, and on the weekends, they get together and rehearse. Branden admits that he does not have a lot of free time. He says, "I believe that anything that you really want to do and you're dedicated in doing it, that

you would just naturally get the job done."

Jonathan Owens, the group's road manager says, "the group is doing a great job spreading the word of the Lord and they are going places. The path had already been set. All they got to do is follow through and walk and they'll be all right."

Stefen Vaughan and Krystal Nollie, the group's dancers, also had some good things to say about God's Image. One of the dancers said of the group: "they are a great group to work with." Vaughan and Nollie have known God's Image since middle school. They also said that dancing was God's gift that was given to them and that being with the group has been a great experience.

There were also supporters on campus who had positive things to say about God's Image. Khima Toxey, an ECSU senior Psychology major, saw the group perform during the homecoming gospel concert.

"God's Image were really good. It was different, but I liked it and the message was still there," she said.

Selena Overton-Johnson, an ECSU senior Music major said "I thought that God's Image was a true inspiration to young people today. They had an excellent performance and I was truly inspired and felt the Spirit of God's presence."

The group will release its latest album in March or April 2002. Also, from December 9 thru the 11, God's Image will be performing in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Ninth Bi-Annual International Gospel Record Label Executives and Artist Retreat. They will be performing two songs. Let us support God's Image and pray that they will be successful in attaining their goals.