



The crowd rises to its feet as Donald Lawrence rocked the stage with his song medley at the McDonald's Inspiration Celebration Concert last Thursday night.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

A contemporary gospel artist rocks the crowd during the Inspiration Celebration.

Gospel

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able to beat it. He said he was even told by multiple doctors he was lucky to be alive. "It was a favor of God that I got the call to be a part of this tour," Williams said. "The people are being blessed so much when they come out to these concerts and you can see it with the reaction of the people."

The tour, which will make stops in 13 cities nationwide, looks to bring awareness to the Ronald McDonald house and the important role it plays in helping families have the ability to stay close to their children who require medical attention.

"Anytime someone is doing something for charity it is great," said Lawrence. "I know some people who have benefited from the Ronald McDonald House. It's great that McDonald's and Faith Based Communications is sponsoring a great tour so the community can come out and donate and see how beneficial the Ronald McDonald House really is."

"We are on the corner, but we are in the community also," said James Smith, a local Triad McDonald's

owner. "We support everything they can think of, from the schools, the churches, and community organizations. We are not about a lot of words, we are about action and this is an action to help the Ronald McDonald House."

The Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem is a 35-bedroom facility with private baths for each room, full service kitchen, living rooms, play rooms, televisions, and playground for healthy siblings. The house is a safe haven for families with children in treatment who cannot afford to stay in a hotel. The charity only asks a \$10 a night donation for those who can pay, but many families cannot due to hospital costs.

"It puts their mind at ease and we try to remove as many barriers as possible," said Chuck Kraft, executive director of the Ronald McDonald house of Winston-Salem. "My hope is that everyone here gets to enjoy some beautiful music and moved by the spirit of the Lord. Everyone here is doing their little part and they are helping people in the community."

During the show, a young child by the name of "Baby Israel" was highlighted to show the impact

that everyone's donations have on a family. Baby Israel was born three months prematurely and weighed only one pound at birth. Her family was able to stay at the Ronald McDonald house for over 200 days while she gained enough strength to make it home. She is now eight months old and doing well.

The concert was a big success and everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves, from the young children to the elderly.

Shavon Tate of Greensboro said, "The concert was phenomenal and there was something for everyone. Some of my favorite artists were here, so I was in heaven."

Adara Johnson of Greensboro said, "I enjoyed the different levels of Gospel music. It shows that not only can the older generation celebrate God in their way, but the younger generation can as well."

"The tour is pretty amazing and I hope it continues to be sustained and goes to a greater level," said singer John McReynolds.

Domestic

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the husband and the wife.

Throughout the June 4 seminar, Richmond recounted countless stories of women and children who have been victimized and the trauma they have had to live through.

According to Richmond, most domestic violence victims do not reach out for help, and the average victim attempts to leave an abusive relationship seven times before they actually do. Domestic abuse typically arises in four forms; physical, psychological, sexual and financial. Many people only associate it with the physical form.

Men are not immune to domestic abuse, either. Most of the abuse on men is not physical but is typically emotional or verbal. Men are less likely to report such acts because of the negative stigma that is

attached to men who report such crimes. Many times they are looked upon as being weak or docile so they just endure it.

A question and answer session followed the seminar. It allowed audience members to obtain additional information and share stories of the abuse they suffered in the past.

An audience member who wished to remain nameless said, "For me as a child, I internalized the abuse I saw and heard my mother endure, and because of that, I suffered with anxiety. I grew up with low self-esteem and constantly thinking that I was going to be a victim. It impacted all of us because my brothers grew up to be abusers, so the children are victims whether they are being touched or not."

"As a victim of domestic violence, it affected me in terms of my parenting and my ability to enter into a healthy relationship. It

also allowed others to control my life and rob me of my voice," said Marva J. Edwards.

Advice for individuals who may be dealing with domestic violence from those who have lived through it was offered from those in attendance as well.

"At all costs reach out for help and know that you are not alone and there are others who are going through the same thing," Edwards said. "There are many resources to help a victim to help her reclaim her voice and live a happy life."

For further assistance or additional information, contact Family Services at 1200 S. Broad St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101 or at 336-722-8173.

Lesson

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The destruction of other nations didn't sway Judah at all. They didn't believe God would do the same to them, after all they were "chosen." God really didn't want to strike Judah or destroy it, but the people just did not take heed. They continued in their sins and even rose early in the morning expressly to participate in sin. They were given an opportunity to repent, to choose the Lord's instruction and cor-

rections, but their choice was to continue in their sinful ways. After having been rejected by Judah, the Lord promised to "gather the kingdoms of the earth" and issue complete destruction (Zeph. 3:8). Judah has not only disregarded God's warnings, they did an "in your face" to Him with their early rising to do evil. Judah basically asked for judgment.

For Your Consideration: How are we today much like Judah in the Bible days? How does God correct people today?

Life's Application:

The people of Judah in Zephaniah's time didn't have the Holy Spirit to guide them because the comforter had not been sent. We, however, do have the Holy Spirit available to us as a guide and He is constantly speaking to us, whether we choose to listen is up to each individual. But if we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and read the word of God regularly, He will guide our footsteps and direct our paths. Judah chose destruction ... we don't have to.

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Kimberley Park Pool & Water Playground, 620 Burton St., 336-727-2198
Mineral Springs Pool & Sprayground, 4700 Ogburn Ave., 336-661-4990
Polo Pool, 1850 Polo Road, 336-659-4308
Reynolds Park Pool, 2450 Reynolds Park Road, 336-650-7645
Happy Hill Pool & Sprayground, 1230 Alder St. 336-727-2199
Sprague Pool, 1350 Sprague St., 336-650-7681
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CityLink 311

Call 311 or 336-727-8000
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