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Destiny Called And Billy Ocean Answered

By Loretta Manago
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Who can resist when destiny calls? We may put her off, stall her or even avert her path. But in the end the price she demands is paid. Just ask Billy Ocean.

For years, he was destined for a career in music, although circumstances and complications sought to postpone the success and fame that so desperately wanted to be included in Ocean's life.

The gift for music had shown itself in Ocean's life since he was very young. To fill that urge to create and share those musical creations with the world, Ocean made the club the Bluecoat Boy in Trinidad, his second home.

But that was not enough. Ocean later affiliated himself with a local group called Shades of Midnight, later known as The Go And Dry Ice. His first release with writer-producer Ben Findon, "On The Run," landed him a three year contract and a deal with GTO Records.

And just when things were going well for Ocean GTO was sold to CBS Records who did little or nothing with Ocean's career. Ignored was the fact that Findon and Ocean really hit the target with their second release, "Love Really Hurts Without You," which was a hit in Britain and in the U.S. "Love On Delivery" and "Stop Me (If You've Heard It All Before)" also made the U.K. top 20.

When the single, "Nights (Feel Like Getting Down)" became a hit and the American market began to open up for Ocean, the worst began to happen. Ocean's second and last album for CBS, "Inner Feelings," was quietly released and never heard from again.

None of these obstacles were enough to thwart destiny's ultimate aim. Soon, a new deal came into the picture and that path to the top reopened for



Billy Ocean
.....Grammy winner

Ocean. Ocean signed with Jive Records and began to collaborate with Trinidad native, Keith Diamond.

Now almost, three years ago Ocean and Diamond began working on material for "Suddenly." With the album completed, what

happened afterwards was more than even Ocean imagined.

Its first single, "Caribbean Queen (No More Love On The Run)" was an immediate American smash, going all the way to number one and making Ocean the first British black

singer to reach that position. Then gradually, "Suddenly" became a sort of greatest hits album, as the title track,

"Loverboy," and "Mystery Lady" all climbed the charts. By early '85 the album had passed platinum and Billy was awarded a Grammy Award for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance for the album's first release.

Ocean entered '86 with another American smash hit to his name, "When The Going Gets Tough, The Tough Get Going," from the soundtrack of "The Jewel Of The Nile." Produced by Barry Eastmond, Wayne Braithwaite, and Ocean, the second lp, "Love Zone," the solid foundation upon which "Suddenly" perched Ocean on is more stable than ever.

Black Church Has God's Blueprint

For Freedom

Of the 30 million African-Americans in the United States, 20 million belong to approximately 60,000 Black church congregations across the country. It is clearly Black America's oldest and most powerful institution. And a majority of all Black Christians are Baptists.

Progressive National Baptist Convention President Dr. Marshall Shephard of Olivet Baptist Church in Philadelphia along with Dr. Virgil Wood of Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence and distinguished biblical scholar Dr. Gardner Taylor of Concord Baptist Church New York, will join a live studio audience of Convention supporters to discuss their upcoming agenda and the role of the Black Church in solving the problems confronting Black America.