

# EYE ON GOSPEL

## Gospel Overwhelms Nap City:

More than 13,000 gospel aficionados and professionals converged upon the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome for the 26th annual meeting of the Gospel Music Workshop of America. Some of gospel's biggest names were in attendance including the Winans, Shirley Caesar, the Mississippi Mass Choir, Albertina Walker, Yolanda Adams, Darryl Coley and John P. Kee. Seminars topics ranged from choir choreography and directing to concert promotion. The theme of the confab was "God has brought us to victory." Indeed, says chairman Al Hobbs, "The goals as established by this organization have been actualized. We have built the biggest gospel music convention in the world numerically, standing as a virtual force for the perpetuation of gospel music as a contributing artform of black Americans." Coming out of a self-imposed moratorium after the death of founder James Cleveland, Hobbs says things had been tentative. "The convention could have gone one of several directions," Hobbs states. "Instead the Lord saw fit to allow us to move beyond our own egos and come to an agreement in our spirits that was in the best interest of gospel music to work to keep alive the legacy of Rev. Cleveland." Citing a bevy of similar workshops that have sprung up in the last year but not gotten the numbers, Hobbs notes that the industry has "chosen to come where the network is already together." It also served as a wakeup call to workshop officials with regards to the servicing of delegate needs.

Hobbs now believes the workshop is on the road to becoming an a la carte convention. "We've got so much going on," Hobbs explains, "you've just got to shop for what you want." The meeting culminated with the annual Excellence Awards ceremony. Kee once again topped off, picking up a total of four awards. A complete list of winners is as follows: Group of the year (traditional): The Lumzy Sisters; Group of the year (contemporary): The Richard Smallwood Singers; Group of the year (urban contemporary): Kinnection; Male vocalist (traditional): Donald Malloy; Male vocalist (contemporary): John P. Kee; Male vocalist (urban contemporary): Fred Hammond; Female vocalist (traditional): Albertina Walker; Female vocalist (contemporary): Brenda Nicholas; Best New Artist (traditional): Mississippi Children's Choir; Best New Artist (contemporary): Calvin B. Rhone; Best New Artist (urban contemporary): Dawkins & Dawkins; Quartet of the year: The Jackson Southernaires; Choir of the year (traditional): GMWA Mass Choir; Choir of the year (contemporary): John P. Kee; Choir of the year (urban contemporary): Keith Dobbins & Resurrection; Al-

bum of the year (traditional): "The Best of Thomas Whitfield"; Contemporary Album: "We Walk By Faith" (John P. Kee); Urban Contemporary Album: "Handel's Messiah" (Various Artists); Song of the year (traditional): "Grace & Mercy" (Frank Williams); Contemporary Song: "It Shall Be Done" (Darryl Coley); urban contemporary song: "Keys To Life" (Ben Tankard); Producer of the year (Traditional): Hal Sacks ("When The Music Stops"); Producer (contemporary): John P. Kee ("We Walk By Faith"); Producer (urban contemporary): Ben Tankard ("Keys To Life")...**This week's scripture: "May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance."--2 Thessa:oni-ans 3:5.**

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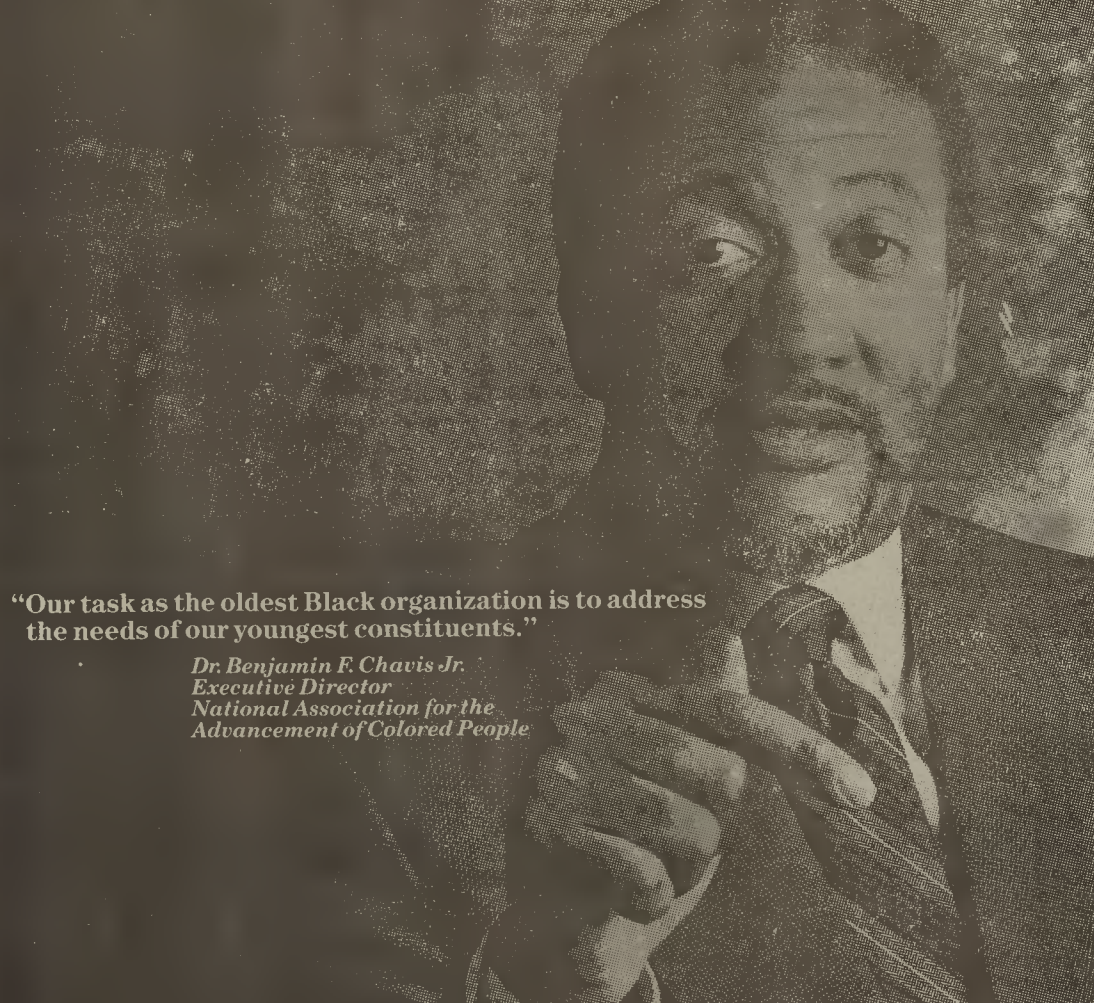
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