

8B

RELIGION



A Time to be thankful

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
 There is a time for everything,
 And a season for every activity under heaven:
 A time to be born and a time to die,
 A time to plant and a time to uproot,
 A time to kill and a time to heal,
 A time to tear down and a time to build,
 A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter and a time to gather them,
 A time to embrace and a time to refrain,
 A time to search and a time to give up,
 A time to keep and a time to throw away,
 A time to tear and a time to mend,
 A time to be silent and a time to speak,
 A time to love and a time to hate,
 A time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain for his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning to end.

Study Questions

1. What are some of the things a believer should give thanks to God for?
2. Is God a God of order? If so, or not back your answer up
3. What ministry is God trying to birth in your life?
4. What pain or misfortune is God trying to kill in your spirit?
5. What hurt are you still carrying that God wants to heal?
6. Is there a wall in your life that God must break down?
7. Why is it important to know what season you're in?
8. When is it appropriate to remain silent?
9. When are you required to speak on unholy things?

How sincere are we in giving thanks?



By Artellia Burch
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Normally, this time of year we reflect on things we are thankful for.

But, what if God took our actions instead of our words as proof of our Thanksgiving.

Would God think we are thankful at all?

We say thank you to God when we acknowledge him in everything we do. Looking at my actions I can't say God was acknowledged in all of my actions because if God were acknowledged there would have been less sin and more obedience.

If I had truly been thankful to God there would have been less lies in my life and more truth. I wouldn't have returned to old ways that have only caused confusion in my life.

If I had truly been thankful for the finances God had given me I wouldn't have mismanaged my

money. Looking at the debt of the country I'm not the only one spending money I don't have.

Peace is always a good sign of how much we're acknowledging God and obeying him.

Peace is something our country doesn't have at this time. The stock market is going crazy, people are continuing to be laid off although the president keeps saying everything is getting better. The rich have received ridiculous tax breaks as the gap between the haves and have-nots has increased.

Let's look at some of the things that have occurred in our country since last Thanksgiving.

- The Episcopal Church has consecrated the first openly gay bishop into a Christian denomination.
- Massachusetts's highest court ruled last week

Please see HOW/5B

Catholic bishops share concerns

By Rachel Zoll
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At a meeting with America's Roman Catholic leaders, Archbishop Simon Ntamwana of Burundi recounted an all-too-familiar litany of African woes: Crushing poverty. War. AIDS.

Africa needs help from U.S. Catholics tackling all those problems, he said. But that's not all. He was just as concerned about getting assistance to meet the spiritual needs of his continent: Catholicism is exploding there, he said, as it is throughout the developing world.

"Africa is a very young continent," Ntamwana said at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "We want the world church to pay attention to our youth."

The bishops, who gathered last week in Washington, took time from their talk of diocesan budgets, liturgy and other issues critical to the American church to consider the challenges to Catholicism in Africa and Asia.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, D.C., proposed that American dioceses move toward holding a regular collection for Africa, calling the continent "the poorest in the world, but also potentially the richest in terms of the future of the church."

The central African country of Burundi is 70 percent Catholic. Its neighbor, Congo, formerly known as Zaire, is 50 percent Catholic.

Overall, Africa has more than 130 million of the 1 billion members of the world church. The numbers on the continent are growing even as church membership is shrinking in many parts of Europe.

"These are crucial times for the life of the church and the peoples of Africa," McCarrick said. "Opportunities missed now may never come again."

Ntamwana was among a delegation of bishops from Africa that included Cardinal Frederic Etsou, the Archbishop of Kinshasa, Congo, and Bishop Nicholas Djomo of Please see BROADCAST/7B

Places of worship in Nigeria burned

By Glenn McKenzie
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

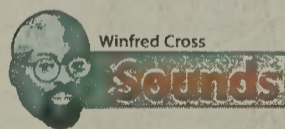
LAGOS, Nigeria — Churches and vicarages were torched and one person killed during religious riots sparked by an argument between Muslim and Christian students at a girl's college in a northern town, witnesses and police said Wednesday.

The mayhem began Tuesday following a "misunderstanding" between girls at a local college in Kauzaure, Jigawa state, said Yusuf Lumu, a Church of Nigeria priest who gave refuge to residents fleeing the fighting.

"Muslim students were abusing Jesus and Christians also insulted their prophet. The words became threats and then acts," Lumu said.

Around dusk, a mob of young men surged through

Please see NIGERIAN/5B



Keith Davidson & The Voices
Full Circle Live
Roderick Vester and Percy Gray, Jr. producers
New Haven Records



Live recordings come and go in pop music but remain the staple of gospel and Contemporary Christian. You have to be able to reproduce the same sound live as on record. If not, your career is short-lived.

So, a good live recording shouldn't be a big deal, but in most cases it is. Keith Davidson's new recording is live, alive and good.

Davidson and his ensemble the Voices are a

Davidson's 'Full Circle' a lively concert CD

joyous bunch. Most of this recording is peppered with infectious uptempo songs that make you move, shake and praise. In fact, the first three will keep a congregation on its feet throughout. "Praise The Lord" starts the CD with a vengeance, sounding much like Richard Smallwood's "Anthem Of Praise" with a slightly more urban twist. "Bounce Back" is pure urban gospel with an inviting near-dance floor beat. The lyrics give the listener a reason to praise and be hopeful. "God Specializes" is ol' school church, complete with a choppy, memorable chorus and robust soprano solo.

The group is just as effective on more melodic pieces. "Grateful" is slower, but intense. Lead singer Cheryl Dodson puts a ton of emotion in her solo. She works the song with the fervor of a blues singer closing down a club.

Davidson and crew jump back into the fray with "Millionaire" another sparkling uptempo

song lead by Davidson and his daughter Kierra. The song is more cute than worshipful, but that's OK.

Praise and worship and contemporary stuff round out the CD, giving it good balance. This CD covers a lot of emotional territory and spiritual situations. It does so in a very earnest and fulfilling way. Job well done, Mr. Davidson.

Ratings

- Classic; ★★☆☆☆☆
- Excellent; ★★★★★★
- Good; ★★★☆☆☆
- Fair; ★★☆☆☆☆
- Why? ★☆☆☆☆☆
- No stars — A mess

CHURCH NEWS

Church Women United recently honored Audrey Wall as Valiant Woman of the Year.

The ceremony was held during the group's annual Leader's Council held at

Camp Caraway in Ashboro.

November 27
 East Stonewall AME Zion Church will hold a free Thanksgiving Day Lunch at 12 pm.
November 30

Silver Mount Baptist Church at 501 West Arrowood Road will hold its Praise Extravaganza "Where The Spirit Is" at 4 pm.

December 6 and 7
 The Pineville Church of

the Nazarene Worship Ministry will present a musical "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

For more information call (704) 542-3618.
December 7

Mount Calvary Holy Church Family Worship Center at 401 Lincoln Street will honor its co-pastor Darlene Mickens at 5 p.m.