



# THE VOICE



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Hello Shiloh and friends. It is my prayer that everyone is doing well  
Rev. Howard Devenport

## **Do You Trust Him???**

Every time I have a movie come out I do a press conference, and with MADEA GOES TO JAIL it was no different. I'm always asked a lot of questions. They're usually the same questions, but this time I was asked something a little different. I was asked how I got to be homeless. I told the story but this part got left out of the article. When I talk about God people don't like to print that for some reason. Anyway, I ended up homeless following what I believe to be the voice of God. I know that may sound crazy, but hear me out. Here's what happened. I wrote my first play at 22. After I wrote it I prayed and asked God to bless it and lead me in the right direction. No sooner than I said

that, I was in Atlanta visiting for the Freaknick...(LOL). On this visit I realized that there was a small theater called the 14th Street Playhouse that I could afford to rent and perform my play in. So feeling led, I moved to Atlanta, got a job and went to work on saving money to do my show. I just knew this would work. Anyway, there were 200 seats. I thought I would do 6 shows and 1,200 people would come and I would be set. There was one problem. I needed time off from my job to do it. I asked my boss and he said no. I went to my desk and prayed. I said, "God, if this is for me to do then lead me." I clearly heard the voice say, "Quit, it will be all right." So I did. I did the play and instead of 1,200 people showing up only 30 came over the entire weekend. I said, "Okay God, where are You?" I couldn't hear a word. Now mind you, I could always hear from God. You remember my parakeet story? Anyway, of course I was broken-hearted, but I picked myself up and went and got another job. I got a phone call a few months later. Someone

who had seen the show wanted to invest in another show. So I was faced with the same decision again. I had just gotten a job and they wouldn't give me the time off, so I had to quit to go and do the play. Same thing. I went to my desk and prayed and heard that same voice saying quit. So I did. Now from 1992 until 1997 this happened over and over again. I was only doing one show a year, and every time the show failed. So, I would go get another job. But there was always someone new who wanted to invest. I Got another opportunity to do a show, but I knew I would have to quit my "GOOD JOB" as my mother would say. I was making \$350 a week. Anyway, I went to the boss and asked for time off so I could do the play. He said no. So I went back to my desk and prayed. I said, "God, what should I do?" I clearly heard the voice say quit. So I did. I went out and did that show. I think it was in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Anyway, I rehearsed, loaded the U-Haul truck and drove down there. There was a little rain as I was going there. When I got there I found out that a hurricane was coming through. Nobody showed up. I was devastated! As I

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was driving the truck home through the rain, I was going as fast as I could. I was so hurt and angry. I prayed and prayed and said, "God, You told me to do this. Where are You?" I didn't hear a word. It's scary when you can't hear from God. Anyway, I got home and there was The eviction notice. I went out looking for a job and found one, but by The time I got my first check it was too late. I came home from work to Find all of my things out in front of the apartment building. I didn't care about the stuff. Let me take that back. My stereo that I had bought from one of those rent-to-own companies (where you pay five times more than it's worth), was ruined. I was mad about that...(LOL). Anyway, the thing that hurt me the most was that I had so many scripts and songs and things that were ruined from the rain. I sat there getting what I could together. I put them in my car (that was up for repossession) and drove around All night. Finally, I slept in the car. When I got my next check I started staying at this pay-by-the-week hotel. There were drug addicts, prostitutes, and any criminal element you could imagine there. During this time, I was still praying and I still hadn't heard from God. I called home for a family member to send me some money and I was told that I should give up this dream and that I was never going to make it.

I was told to stop doing this play bull\$#@t. I think that was one of my lowest days. I cried like a baby because this was someone that I truly loved. I was working at UPS. Now I was up to about \$400 a week, but I couldn't seem to get ahead enough to get my first and last month's rent. This kind woman (who I have been looking for years) named VIRGINIA HARDIMAN, in Atlanta, loaned me the money. She told me to hold on and that God would see me through. I didn't want to hear that. I felt like He was the reason I was in that situation. Anyway, I got an apartment. The one I showed you the picture of. And Was so happy to have a roof over my head. My thought was, "God, even though I can't hear from You, thank You! Thank You for this place!" I was grateful. Before I knew it 2 years had passed by and I was getting comfortable in my place. It had become safe. I stopped dreaming. I was taking the advice of the family member. I had settled in and didn't want to dream anymore. It hurt too much. I was 28 at the time (you have to be careful when you Get comfortable in a place that's not your home). Anyway, life was okay, but I was so unhappy. By then I had moved on to another "good job" and I walked into that place everyday miserable. I knew

there was something more for me. I had gotten so depressed. All I would do was work, come home, eat and sleep. Thank God I have never done any drugs because I know I would have been strung out. You also have to be careful when you're not happy or you will find yourself in some situations that you never thought you could be in. And I did. I started drinking pretty heavily back then. Saturday night I would drink, but Sunday morning I was at church still trying to hear from God. I had given up. Some kind of way the rent got behind again. When I think about it, the rent was \$425 and I was only making about \$1,200 a month. I had a car and gas and food to buy, so I guess it was easy to get behind. Around this time I got a call from someone else who wanted to invest, And she said we had an opportunity to do the show at the House of Blues in Atlanta. I said no. I SAID NO! Oh God when I think about this I get a chill. They had to beg me to do the show! It hurt too much to have that dream be revived in me and not make it. I just couldn't do it. I said no. With a lot of coaxing I finally gave in. Can you imagine if I wouldn't have? Anyway, the night of the play I remember sitting in the dressing room getting ready for the show. I was playing old man 'Joe' at the time. I sat there

complaining and talking to God saying, "You always get me out here and You leave me, and I\*m 28. This is it! I\*m not doing this anymore!" Can you imagine me talking to God like that? That\*s crazy! But I was so mad at Him then. So, I was saying what I wanted to say and in the middle of My rant I heard Him. IIII HHEEAARRD HIIIMMM!!!!!! Somebody knows what I\*m talking about! He said to me, "I AM GOD. YOU DON'T TELL ME WHEN IT\*S OVER. I TELL YOU WHEN IT'S OVER, AND THIS IS THE BEGINNING." I sat there Crying like a baby. Then He said, "Get up and look out of the window." I got Up and looked out and there was a line around the corner trying to get into the place! I still get a chill when I think about it. If I had given up On dreaming... If I had not tried one more time... I wouldn't\*t be here in This place. I wouldn't\*t have seen all that I\*m seeing now. For that matter you wouldn't be reading this email. So, sometimes following God will lead you into places that you don\*t Want to go. It\*s uncomfortable. It\*s scary. It hurts. But if you can just hold on you will see there is another side to it. What you're going through is not in vain. Hold on! Keep the faith! And learn to be thankful for

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whatever situation you may be in. It\*s not over until God says it\*s over. And this is just your beginning. TRY AGAIN!! Retrieved the website of Tyler Perry.

## Are you afraid??

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to Leave the examination room and said, Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.' Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know.' 'You don't know? You're, a Christian man, and don't know what's on the other side?' The doctor was holding the handle of the door; On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, 'Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough.' Contributed by Shaletha Joe

## Aint God Good??

Well Shiloh, you know that it is that time of year again. The Pastor took another trip to Oklahoma to be with the Jones'. The Pastor even decided that he would ride the bus with the whole church. What a time it was traveling with a group of family oriented people. There was a lot of laughter, movies (even bad boot-leg ones), and sleep going on with the trip. We stayed a very nice hotel, and even a few of the men went out to play golf. Now, keep in mind that it was about 20 to 30 degrees in Oklahoma. Well, Sunday morning arrived and we were headed to Guthrie, Oklahoma to have church. Have you all ever heard the song "What Did You Come Here For-To Rock Zion?" Well, that is what Shiloh did when we got there. Mt Zion is the name of the church for those of you who didn't know, and that's why I used that song. Mt. Zion Mass choir sang their hearts out as they always do. I love to see their choir because they remind me of home as a little girl. They have a choir director for every song and they rock the house. Then Rev. Howard III brought the sermon. His topic was "Having The Mind Of A Servant". There was an elderly lady that sat on the same row as myself, and she was a sure witness to the gospel. I know that had to be a good feeling for Howard III just to hear someone else back him up as well as his own. We all

know that Howard III usually sings after he delivers a word, but he sat down and stayed with the program. He did state that he wanted to sing but he would let Rev. Owens extend the Invitation to Discipleship. After service, Mt. Zion fed us very well. They had so much homemade food that it was like we were at a Soul-Food restaurant. They had green salad, roast beef, fried chicken, black-eyed peas, potatoes, greens, peach cobbler, sweet potato pie, pecan pie, carrot cake, vanilla cake, and (to wash it all down) some sweet, sweet tea. I was just looking around and thinking, Lord, are we going to make it for 3pm service, or will they find us asleep on the bus. Now, it was time for the 3pm service which by the way was scheduled for 3:02pm and it started exactly as the program stated. Shilohnites were in charge of the evening service. Mrs. Singleton brought all that she had to bring. She played the piano and Felton was on the drums and Lil' Jimmy on the guitar. What did we come here for- yes, to rock Mt. Zion! People were standing all over the church. The Pastor brought a powerful message which was very informative. There were a lot of ministers there, and they all came to hear what Pastor had to say this year. All of the ministers there supported Rev. Jones and they supported our Pastor as well. But what really impressed me was the fact that all of our Pastor's sons

and daughters in the ministry from Shiloh were there to support him. Now, keep in mind that I have only been a member of Shiloh for 5 years. This was my first time seeing all of them together in Oklahoma. I just smiled and thanked God for allowing it to be so. I can't end this article without mentioning the way Mt. Zion showed their love for Pastor and Sis. Jones. Every year they do something to make you laugh and maybe even cry. It is good to know that you have people that love you as much as those members of Mt. Zion do. It is well deserved because they are good people. They have a big heart and they really show that they care for others as well as their own families. As I close, our Pastor says that this year may be his last, but he also stated that only God knows. The Jones' are very grateful for the 20 years that Pastor has given them. Until next time you all, let's rock Zion here at Shiloh!!!  
Love, Amy Washington

## I AM

I am one with all things.  
I am one with all life.  
I am one with all people.  
I am one with the divine.  
In my oneness I am eternal and unlimited.  
In my oneness I am able to give of myself to myself.  
In my oneness I give what I am.  
In my oneness I give freely, willingly, compassionately with love.

As I give to myself, I am strengthened.  
As I give of myself, I am empowered.  
As I give, the presence of eternal, unlimited divinity becomes the reality of my existence.  
For this I am so grateful, and so it is!

Let me remember....  
I am powerful enough to give what I have without losing anything.  
I am one with everything and everyone.  
Support + Comfort + Nourishment = Compassion  
For in my compassion, I am strengthening myself.  
Everyone has the power to heal themselves.

By: Connie Naylor

## Encouragement Come

I would like to say a few words of encouragement to Minister Yolanda Randolph. She did such a fine job on Sunday, Feb. 28th when she preached her first sermon.. "Now Is The Time", was the sermon topic that she gave to us. She started out with a powerful prayer to God, then she began to tell her story of how she "ran" from her "calling" for 30 years. I was just sitting there and watching her as she gave a semi testimony. As her sermon began, God took over in her speech. Ms. Yolonda began to hit a high pitch note that really shocked us all. She really let God have his way in her sermon. I felt God's presence when she came from behind the pulpit and

began to walk the aisle. She passed by Sis. Tolivar and tapped her on the shoulder as she made her way through. I had my hand in the air waving as a witness to her sermon, and she passed by me and gave me a "high five"! Tears began to flow from my eyes as she said, " Now Is The Time." I felt a vibe go through my hands all the way to my stomach. Ms. Yolanda, I think you ran for 30 years because of me. I needed to be at Shiloh on that night to hear a word from God through you. That message was for me as well, and I thank God that I was there to be a part of a very joyous occasion. May God continue to bless you as you preach his Word.

Love, Amy Washington

## Encouragement Come

Take a few minutes and study God's word. There are a lot of scriptures to inspire us at any time and anywhere.

Psalms 122: 1-9

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together.

Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sake, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

Be Encouraged by Connie Naylor



### March Birthdays & Special Occasions

01 Kyle Warren  
 01 Kennedi Michelle  
 05 Denise Glaster  
 05 Jimmy Banks Sr.  
 05 Jimmarcus Banks  
 06 Alberta Jackson  
 07 Belinda Hall  
 14 JoMaria Crawford  
 16 Kaylen Jackson  
 17 Tamika Devenport  
 18 April Lowery  
 18 Dectrick Devenport  
 22 Albert Taylor  
 22 Amere Taylor  
 22 Gabrielle Hays  
 23 Edwin Powell  
 23 John Hillsman  
 24 Jerald Gainous  
 24 Gerald & Amy Washington Anniversary  
 25 Edwin Powell III  
 27 Tyson Martin



We would like to wish our son Tyriq Blanks a happy birthday. We are so very proud of you, and we pray for your continued success everyday. On Feb. 12Th, Tyriq will be 13 years old. Tyriq is a great student who maintains straight A's and has perfect attendance. To you, we say that we love you very much. We know that God has a very special gift for you because you are special. Happy birthday to you and may God bless you with many more.

Love, Mommy and Daddy



### Happy Birthday

To my best friend Jimmarcus Banks, I want to wish you a good birthday because you are a good dude. I am glad that we came to Shiloh and I got a chance to meet a cool guy. I think that when you grow up, you will be a Pastor or something like that because you study the Bible. You know a lot about God's Word and his son Jesus. You can always count on me if you need any help. Thanks for being a real friend. Happy Birthday to you and many more!  
 Corey Washington



I would like to wish my daddy and my grandmother a big Happy Birthday. Most of you all know by now that my daddy (Rev. Richardson) will be celebrating another year on God's beautiful Earth. On March 6Th, his mother (my grandmother, Bessie Richardson) will celebrate her birthday as well. My daddy celebrates his birthday on the 12Th. I am so grateful to God for them both. They have been a very big part of my life. They are always praying for me even if I don't ask them to. They care for me just as they did the day that I was born. My grandmother is a very good lady, and she is a very good cook. She is very well known throughout the community in Pointblank and Coldspring, Texas. They say that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. My daddy is the same way. He is well known all over Texas and some other parts of the world. Happy Birthday to the both of you, and I love you very much.  
Love, Amy Washington



As we get older we thrive!  
Look who's turning forty-five!

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Happy Birthday little sister. My prayer for you is that the Lord continue to bless you with not only good looks, but with good health. My life would be nothing without you in it! I love you, Sis! Wanna go to the Flea Market?  
Love, Sherrie



Honey, Happy Birthday! I pray the Lord continue to bless you. I pray he continues to guide your mind, body, and soul. That's only two of the reasons I love you like I do. When I think about you are my husband, a big smile covers my face like a kid. I pray you have many, many more years. I'm gonna spend all of them with you! Happy Birthday Albert!  
Your loving wife, Sherrie



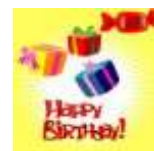
I would like to wish my daddy and mama a very Happy Anniversary. First, I will talk about my mama. She helps me to stand up strong, and she teaches me good manners. She helps me in basketball and she shows me ways on how to get better. But most of all, she teaches me about God. She

says that I need to put God first, then school, then all the other things fall in. I just want to thank you for teaching me the right things. Now to my daddy, he teaches me how to play football and golf. I like to play golf, but I think that I worry daddy because he says that I don't play with heart. But, I want him to know that I have a big heart just for him. He is a good daddy who is always there for me. I love you daddy also for teaching me about God and how important school is as well. Thank you daddy for loving me even when I mess up. So Happy Anniversary because it's your Anniversary!!

Love, Corey Washington



We want to wish our mother, Alberta a very happy birthday. It is our hope that God blesses you with many more years to come.  
Shaletha and Dekendrick



I want to wish my little Koala Bear, Amere a wonderful birthday. Born the same day as his dad, he is one of my favorite men. It seems like yesterday you were a baby, and you will always be my baby. Always

remember your family loves you so very much, and God loves you even more!  
Happy Birthday, Amere!!  
Mom, Dad, and Shimiya



Happy Birthday to our Aunt Denise who always has a purse full of candy and gum whenever we need it. We love you and hope you have many more.  
Love,  
Shaletha, Dekendrick,  
Kalyn, Davion, Amiera,  
Keon, Aliyah



To a wonderful man that God has breathe air into and gave him to me. I love you with every part of me that God allows. You are a great man even with a few flaws (smile). I care deeply for you, and I would never do anything to bring shame to your name. I support you in all that you do. I am really proud to say that I am Mrs. Gerald Washington because you have brought so much joy to my life. I only pray that God will allow us to have many more years together. You have a sense of humor that keeps me tickled pink. Thank you for the children that God

allowed us to have together. I am so glad that you and I relate on so many levels. Thanks for having my back and my front. Thanks for keeping a young lady on her toes. You make me smile and that is very good because I don't like to be mad or have a frown. You always look out for me even when I think that I got it all together. Continue to pray for me that I will be the wife that you want me to be, but remember that it has to be according to God's Will. I love you so very much, and I wouldn't want to imagine me without you! Happy Anniversary on the 24TH of this month.

Love your wife, Amy  
Washington

#### **Bible Verse of the Month**



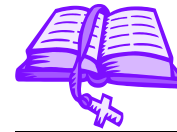
*Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I [am] the Lord*

*Leviticus 19:18*



#### **Come to Sunday School**

Come to Sunday School,  
Come to Sunday School,  
Bring somebody with you  
and come to Sunday School.  
That's an old song we use to sing when I was a little girl. My plea is for us to all come to learn more about our Creator. Come to Bible Study, You will be truly Blessed



This is my monthly plea and it is my prayer that everyone will join us every Wednesday Night at 7:00pm at Shiloh Community Church. This is only an hour of your time and it is very enlightening it is a very well spent hour. Please take the time out of your busy schedules to come and worship and learn with us. I must also thank the faithful Bible Study attendants who do come out your presence is greatly appreciated. Please continue to come and influence others bring a friend.