

## **AN INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR FORT**

(Interview #2)

### **Well good morning again Pastor Fort! How are you feeling today?**

Good morning to you! I'm feeling fine, blessed, and grateful to God for His love, mercy and grace.

### **How's your day going so far?**

Well, to be honest, it's going great right now. It's early in the morning and my day in terms of activities hasn't really started yet. As most of those who are even relatively close to me know, I'm a pretty early riser. So the beginning minutes of my day aren't spent doing physical activities, in terms of work- they're more reflective.

### **Well let me tell you how glad I am to be doing this second interview with you. We got some good response to the first one. I think it's a great way for people to get to know you a little better.**

I'm glad to do it. In fact, I really look forward to it. It's fun for me, I hope other people enjoy reading the interviews. In fact, one member of our Church suggested that I interview the Ministry Leaders in general. I thought that was a good idea.

### **Well Pastor you started saying something earlier about your being an "early riser". You're known to some of us as a person who doesn't sleep a whole lot- what's up with that?**

Well you're right. The truth is I suffer from a kind of "*chronic busyness*". Just like a whole lot of other folk, I'm simply too busy. At least in my brain. Do you know what I mean? It's like this, I can be exhausted physically, be in the bed, acknowledging that I need to go to sleep etc., but my brain is still in work mode. I literally have to calm myself down and go to sleep. My wife can go to sleep just like that (*Pastor Fort snaps his fingers*); however I can't. To be honest with you, my best sleep comes when I follow a certain routine.

### **Really? What routine is that?**

Suffice it to say that the routine is a throw back to our early childhood days. Basically, it's a hot bath and a good story. The bath time provides moments for uninterrupted reflection and the reading well you know... it just takes you to another place altogether!

### **Okay, let's move on to something else. Resurrection Sunday or Easter Sunday just passed. How was it for you?**

Phenomenal! Fantastic! Great! Exhausting, exciting and extraordinary. Well it was a really long day. I got to the Church on Resurrection Sunday just a little after 5:00am. We had SONrise service at 6:15am, regular early service at 7:50am, the Children's Program at 8:20am and our Celebration Service at 10:30am. All of this came on the heels of our Church picnic the Saturday before, Church Movie night on 'Good Friday' (we showed the Passion of The Christ for the adults and the Chronicles of Narnia for the children); and the Tuesday before that, in place of our regular Bible Study we had The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross preached at CMBC by seven area Pastors and preachers. So Resurrection Sunday and Passion Week as a whole were great for me.

**There were a lot of people at Canaan this past Sunday. We had three Services, plus our Children's Program as well. How do you feel about the growth we're experiencing at Canaan?**

Well, here again- one of our statements kick in to place: *"If it's good, it's God. If it's not it's our fault."* That being said, I feel great about the growth, but I know that anything good that happens in my life individually or the life of CMBC is the result of the love, mercy and grace of our God! Period!!! I do recognize however, that there is so much we need to do if we're going to continue experiencing the growth we currently are at the church.

**Oh yeah, what kinds of things?**

Well, we've must continue to address the needs of our children, youth, seniors, singles and families in general. I used to think that once we got paid staff on board and a sound "plan of work" for them that that would be the end of the matter. I now know I am wrong. Just like sermons I attempt to preach or lessons I attempt to teach- the work is never really done. We're always in a state of flux, adjustments, development.... you know?

So I'm look forward to having space specifically set aside for our children and youth. We're considering opening a Daycare on the property we purchased some time ago across the street from the Church. We're also considering building a place where our youth can go and just hang out. You know with a library, computers, pool tables, positive video games, etc.

**Well Pastor, we've got to end this second interview. But let me close by asking: what's on your agenda for today?**

Well it's Wednesday. So I know we have our regular Noon Time Bible study! I also have a meeting with another Minister this morning who wants to utilize space in our building to hold Bible Studies for his Church. Our Administrative Assistant will be out today due to other commitments, so I'll be working without the benefit of her presence today. And oh yeah, my sister Melinda is in town this week celebrating her daughters graduation from Carstens Beauty College- so I hope to spend some time with her as well. Finally, I'm going to try and visit the Bible Study time at South Phoenix Baptist Church tonight and see one our states great Pastors, Dr. Bernard Black.

**Well again, I'll be praying for you. You have a busy day planned. Be blessed Pastor Fort.**

You too! Be blessed! I pray that you experience the very best our God has for you... right now!

**Oh, I almost forgot. Your favorite things? Last time we asked what your favorite color is, each interview I want to ask about a favorite thing. Who's your favorite music artist?**

Oh man, that's a question with a potentially long answer. Suffice it to say that I love all kinds of music! I'm craziest about traditional gospel music! You know things done by James Cleveland, Mississippi Mass Choir, Milton Brunson, The Rance Allen Group- people like that. On the secular music end... I love Rhythm and Blues and I love jazz. On that note there are two artists I basically keep in car at all times. They are Grover Washington Jr and Kenneth Edmunds aka BabyFace! A preaching friend just suggested to me that I need to pick up Stevie Wonders latest CD too. I did. But I haven't listened to it yet.

Amen. Amen!