

AN INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR FORT...PART 3

HELLO AGAIN BROTHER PASTOR! AND, THANKS AGAIN FOR GRANTING US THIS TIME TO TALK WITH YOU SOME MORE- AND LET PEOPLE WHO DON'T NORMALLY GET A CHANCE TO TALK WITH YOU GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

It is indeed my pleasure and privilege to talk with you. I count it a serious and significant honor to be interviewed.

WELL THIS IS OUR FIRST EVENING INTERVIEW. IT'S FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING- WHAT'S ON YOUR AGENDA FOR TONIGHT AND THIS WEEKEND?

Well, this is our first evening interview. And regarding my plans for tonight well, Sis. Fort isn't here right now. She's gone to the Hilton Hotel in Mesa where she's scheduled to meet some of the ladies from CMBC and they're going to add their personal touch to the tables there.

OH YEAH! THIS IS THE WEEKEND FOR THE WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST ISN'T IT?

Yes, it is. The women of Canaan are really excited about it- and so am I. We've had approximately 120 ladies register. And, let me say that I heard someone comment the other day, that Prayer Breakfasts don't often include prayer- Please know that the W.O.W. (Women of Worth); Women's Ministry at CMBC will be PRAYING tomorrow! This is a great opportunity for ladies to come out and build their faith, have fellowship and really have fun in general.

DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN YOU'LL BE AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILDREN THIS WEEKEND?

Yes, it does. As you know Kiara (our first-born daughter); recently had surgery and I'll be at home with she and Kennedi for the weekend.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THE WEEKEND?" ARE YOU SAYING YOU WON'T BE AT CHURCH SUNDAY?

Yes. I'm saying at this point I'm planning on being at home this Sunday. Sis. Fort has stayed at home the past two Sunday's and with this weekend being Mother's Day as well as our Women's Annual Day Celebration, and considering the fact that Sis. Fort is the Co-Leader of the Women's Ministry at CMBC, if my daughter needs to be at home then I intend on staying home with her.

ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT WHAT WILL OR WON'T HAPPEN AT CHURCH SUNDAY WITHOUT YOUR BEING PRESENT?

Not in the least! Now, let me quickly admit that there was a time when I was ridiculously, over-obsessed with every detail at the Church. I mean I do suffer still at times from a propensity to "Micro-Manage". However, as you know, I have three men that I call "Pastor"; and one of them said something very significant to me that I will never forget. It helped me then and I'm sure will help me until I make it to heaven- in terms of balancing my faith and my family.

REALLY? WHICH "PASTOR" WAS IT AND WHAT DID HE SAY?

Well the three men I call Pastor are: Rev. Fred Campbell, in California; Dr. Walter Malone Jr., in Kentucky; and Dr. Warren H. Stewart Sr., here in Phoenix. And the one who gave me the advice I just referenced was Pastor Malone.

In terms of what he said, suffice it to say that he reminded me that real ministry is not about buildings but The body of CHRIST. He reminded me that what matters most is not programs but people!

WOW! THAT'S GOOD. WELL, I KNOW THAT YOU RECENTLY RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO GO BACK TO ISRAEL W/DR. CARL BAUGH, WHO SPOKE AT OUR CHURCH RECENTLY. WILL YOU BE MAKING ANOTHER TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND THIS YEAR?

Well, I'd really love to go on this trip with Dr. Baugh. However, the way things look I may not be able to go this time around. The real temptation in going this time, is first of all to go with Dr. Baugh. His commitment to our Christ and character as a Scholar, Archaeologist etc. are phenomenal. And if I go, I'll have the opportunity to help in an excavation! That's exciting. However, I'm also planning to go on another Mission trip to Kingston Jamaica with Dr. Emil Thomas and perhaps to Seattle Washington for a class this summer- it's a busy time.

ONE OF THE THING'S I'M PROUDEST OF AS A MEMBER OF CMBC IS OUR COMMITMENT TO MISSIONS. AS WE PREPARE TO CLOSE, TELL US ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN JAMAICA?

Well you, as well as our Church family knows and loves Dr. Emil M. Thomas. In fact, he's been the guest evangelist for our Annual Revival for the past three years now. Well, Dr. Thomas, together with his Mother- organized a ministry called J.O.M. (Jamaica Outreach Ministries). They conduct a Vacation Bible School in Jamaica each summer- and Pastor Thomas has issued the invitation to CMBC to join them in this effort this year. So, I'm hoping to go on that trip this July. We had a meeting for people who were interested in going on this trip last Sunday after Church. About eleven people stayed for the meeting. I think we'll have about ten folks from CMBC go. We also have another member going on a Medical Mission to Thailand this year. We support two foreign missionaries from our Church each year.

THAT'S AWESOME! WELL PASTOR, IT'S TIME TO END THIS INTERVIEW. WE SPOKE BEFORE HOWEVER, ABOUT SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE THINGS. INCLUDING YOUR FAVORITE FOODS, COLOR AND MUSIC. EVERYONE AT CANAAN KNOW'S YOU LOVE PREACHING- WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE PREACHERS?

WOW! Now that's a great question. The list is too long to list. However, let me say that some of the people on my list would likely surprise a few folks. First and foremost let me say that I love BIBLICAL PREACHING! In particular I have great and profound appreciation for the likes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., (in heaven); Dr. C.A.W. Clark; Dr. Albert Louis Patterson Jr., Dr. David Jeremiah, Dr. Jasper Williams Jr., Dr. E. K. Bailey (in heaven); Dr. E. V. Hill, (in heaven); my brother Pastor Harry R. Fort; and a few of my contemporaries/local running buddies. They include Pastor Juan M. Brown Sr., Pastor Milton Pleasant, Pastor Fred Fairley etc. I include of course my Pastors I mentioned earlier and others. I told you the list was too long.

WELL THANKS AGAIN PASTOR FORT FOR YOUR TIME. HAVE A GREAT EVENING AND WEEKEND- IF I DON'T SEE YOU AT CHURCH SUNDAY.

Thank you. You have a great, God-loving and God-leading weekend too!