

## **INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR FORT # 5**

**WELL GOOD MORNING PASTOR! HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY? IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE TALKED.**

Good morning to you my brother. Yes, you're right it has been a while since we've talked. And, as usual, like every other person who trusts Jesus as their Savior and Lord... I am blessed and highly favored of The Lord.

**THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. PASTOR A WHOLE LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST INTERVIEW. I ALMOST DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START? I MEAN THE CHURCH REFURBISHMENT PROJECT IS ON HOLD IN LIGHT OF THE FACT, WE MAY BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE THE CHURCH FACILITY NEXT DOOR TO US. YOU'RE LOOKING EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVELY INTO STARTING THE CHURCH PLANTS IN THE TOWNS OF QUEEN CREEK & MARICOPA. YOU'VE EVEN SAID YOU'RE NOT BEYOND RELOCATING OUR CHURCH FAMILY IF THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES. WHY DON'T YOU JUST RESPOND AS YOU SEE FIT.**

Wow! You're right there is a lot going on at CMBC. But, it seems to me there will always be a lot going on in a healthy, well balanced Church. I used to believe that there was a quiet, neat, organized place I could reach as a Pastor with our Church and just relax. I now know that's not the case.

In terms of our refurbishing and the possible acquisition of the Church next to us. I'm very excited about both ideas. Canaan has just refinanced our first loan for the purpose of adding classroom, office and fellowship hall space for use by our Church family. In the midst of that activity, I received notice from my very dear friend, Pastor Louis Spears, that he would be resigning his position as Pastor at The Bridge Fellowship Church. This of course sparked other thoughts and possibilities in my mind. And, to make a long story short, we temporarily placed our construction plans for adding on to our facility on hold until we heard a definitive word from Pastor Spears and the Bridge Fellowship Church family as to what they were going to do with the facility.

I can say that I have a meeting this evening with our Trustee Team and I believe we know what will be doing in the immediate future at least. The bottom line is that I don't want to come across to Pastor Spears or his Church family as a congregation who's simply sitting and salivating at the opportunity to pounce on the purchase of their facility- without any regard for them. So we've gone to significant lengths to insure that they understand this is not the case. And, what we really want is for ***GOD'S WILL TO BE DONE!*** God may choose to keep us here, relocate us, or whatever? I just want to follow His will for CMBC.

**AMEN! WELL IT'S GOOD TO HEAR THAT YOU AND OUR TRUSTEE TEAM MAY HEAR SOME DEFINITIVE THINGS THIS EVENING. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE CHURCH PLANTS?**

Well this is really exciting. As you know we have about 12 families that have relocated to Maricopa so far. And I don't know how many members we have that live in Queen Creek, but the numbers are significant. Our hope is to plant Churches in these towns and eventually place Ministers there to serve as Pastor. God has blessed Canaan with 13 Associate Ministers. And you may remember we have two young men who will be joining our ranks after successfully preaching their trial sermons this month.

**PASTOR, I KNOW A WHOLE LOT HAS BEEN GOING ON WITH YOU PERSONALLY LATELY AS WELL! FOR ONE THING, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE TAKEN YOUR FIRST REAL- EXTENDED VACATION IN A VERY LONG TIME. YOU WENT ON A CRUISE. TELL US ABOUT IT.**

Yeah. It was awesome! I mean, you know I've never cruised before. We went on a Disney Cruise. The Disney "*Wonder*" Cruise ship to be more specific. And it was wonderful... that is full of wonder. It was a short cruise to the Bahamas, so we had to fly to Orlando Florida. And you know Sis. Fort wasn't crazy about flying anywhere. But, from the moment we arrived at the Port- getting out of the car with our bags, the superior customer service that is Disney took over. I was then and still am now so impressed by their Customer Service that I literally got some ideas for our Church.

I could take a lot of time and talk about this, but let me say in brief that the cruise caused me to think about the awesomeness of our Christ. And, when you're out on the ocean and you see nothing but the vastness of the sea, you are reminded of how physically small we are in the whole scheme of things. But still our God loves each of us enough to send His Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. That's amazing! I thought a lot about heaven, my Mother, family, the Church etc. while on the cruise. It was phenomenal. And the musical stage productions were awesome.

**WOW! WELL PASTOR FORT, I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO- I KNOW YOU HAVE A LOT ON YOUR PLATE TODAY. THANKS FOR TALKING WITH US AGAIN. AS A FINAL NOTE WE ALL KNOW HOW YOU LOVE MUSIC, WHO ARE YOU LISTENING TO MUSICALLY NOW?**

Ah, that's a great question. Because I'm on this personal quest for more of Jesus! And I've been listening a lot to Jonathan Butler! That's a bad brother. I'm also listening to a lot of CeCe Winans music and things like that. I think the song: "Falling in Love with Jesus" by Bro. Butler has turned into my personal quest. Do you have it? If not, you need to pick up a copy. It's awesome.

Thanks for the interview. I look forward to talking with you again very soon.

**THANK YOU PASTOR. HAVE A NICE DAY.**

You too! Be blessed.