

## **INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR FORT**

*February 2008*

**INTERVIEWER:** Well hello Pastor Fort. It has been quite some time since we last sat down for a talk, an interview like this.

**PASTOR FORT:** It has been a long time indeed! I've often thought about the fact we haven't sat down together for a while, and in truth, I've wanted to do it for some time.

**INTERVIEWER:** That's good to know. I'm concerned that I'm not cutting into your time and schedule. Speaking of schedules how's yours right now? I know that a lot of things have been going on at Canaan over the past several months.

**PASTOR FORT:** You're right. A lot has been going on at Canaan over the past months, yea even all of 2007. First of all let me say that it's hard to believe that 2007 is behind us. I'm amazed at just how fast time is passing by. That said, Canaan has been involved in a Missions and Evangelism focus over the past months. We had our first Youth Missionaries go on a Mission Trip to Jamaica in the summer of '07! We also assisted another member of our Church, who started her own Missions movement that utilizes a unique Puppet Ministry with her work in New Mexico. In the last quarter of last year, we've gotten even more serious about the prospects of our moving to a new location and trying to beautify and maximize the use of space we have at our present location as well. And you know, in speaking about recent history, we recently ended our Annual Church Anniversary and Revival Services too.

**INTERVIEWER:** Wow, that's a lot. But you mentioned a few things, I want to ask a little more about. First, let me say that as a member of Canaan, it's good to know that you're always interested in expanding the Missions and Evangelism efforts. You've said that this is not an option for the Church. Can you say a little more about that?

**PASTOR FORT:** Yes. Jesus said: *"You shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world"*. Jesus said: *"Go into all the world and baptize... teach..."*. Sharing The Gospel is not an option, it's a command from Christ Jesus Himself for every believer! While we're not doing all that I'd like in these areas yet, I nevertheless try and emphasize it at Canaan. In fact, I'm hoping to have a number of pictures put up in our lobby of our members at various Mission and Evangelism assignments over the years. I'm hoping the pictures will spark conversation, provide some motivation for others who might The Lord might be calling to the Mission field, and promote the liberation of prayers and financial gifts to the work of Evangelism and Missions at Canaan.

**INTERVIEWER:** That's great! Can you say a little more about this building project and/or the relocation possibilities for Canaan?

**PASTOR FORT:** Yes. Well, just this past Monday, we began the process of installing new lights in our parking lot. And what a process it is. I thought it was going to be a simple process that would take just a couple of days... literally two days. But when I arrived at Church this past Tuesday afternoon I found most of the parking lot cordoned off with security tape and significant portions of both the parking lot and landscaped areas had been cut into so that electrical wires could be ran. I'm told now that this will take approximately four weeks! On the other hand, Deacon Turner and members of our Dream Team are looking at buildings and land that we might purchase for moving. In fact, we just toured one property that has about twenty nine thousand square feet.

**INTERVIEWER:** Yeah, a lot is going on with the Church. I hope the install of the lights in the parking lot won't discourage people from coming on Sundays? Will we be able to park there this Sunday?

**PASTOR FORT:** Yes we will. I'm told that the trenches will be covered and we'll have complete access to the parking lot on Sunday. Praise the Lord! People shouldn't be discouraged. In fact, they should be encouraged!

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, well you know the Revival was great. That Dr. Thomas and Pastor Fairley preached wonderful messages. And it was a joy seeing you excited about the revival as you always are. Did you enjoy hanging out with your boys?

**PASTOR FORT:** Yes I did! You know, one of the benefits of our Annual revival for me, is the opportunity to hang out with some wonderful preachers and even better friends. I love Dr. Thomas and Pastor Fairley. And, you're right- those negroes preached some awesome messages. Our revival was the third week of January, we're now approaching the second week of February and people are still talking about it. But most importantly, people came forward during the invitation times, people gave their hearts to The Lord!

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, Pastor I know time it moving swiftly and we've got to wrap this up. It's my goal to get together with you again, very soon for another interview. However, you know I always try and provide people with a little bit about you personally. In past interviews we've talked about some of your favorite things. We've mentioned your favorite color, gospel and secular music artists, restaurant, etc. But now, since our revival just ended let me ask you two questions. First, who's your favorite gospel preacher? And, second, what's the best movie you've seen lately?

**PASTOR FORT:** Wow! Favorite gospel preacher? That's hard to say. Let me say first of all that I love gospel preaching and I love gospel preachers. I have too many to make just one my favorite. However, the gospel preacher I've listened the most to over the past several years- in terms of replaying messages I have on audio tape, CD etc., is Dr. A. Louis Patterson Jr., Pastor of the Mount Corinth Baptist Church in Houston Texas! And recently, I've been on a Dr. E. V. Hill Sr. kick. What a preacher! Incidentally, Dr. Hill, (*he's in heaven now*); is the former pastor of Dr. Patterson.

With regard to best movie I've seen recently... hands down it's The Great Debaters! What a movie. You know those films based in real life kind of hit me, us harder- in a different way from the very start. But this movie was simply great. And to be honest with you one of the best things about it is the fact that the major stars are not the regular, run of the mill stars we all know and immediately appreciate. The main stars are all young, up and coming actors. Sure Brother Denzel Washington and Brother Forrest Whitaker are in it, but they're not the major stars! That tag belongs to Denzel Whitaker, Nate Parker, the lovely Jurnee Smollet and my man Jermaine Williams- from Fat Albert fame. You'll remember Jurnee Smollet from Eve's Bayou, out years ago?

**INTERVIEWER:** I saw the Great Debaters... it is a good movie. And I do remember Jurnee Smollet in Eve's Bayou. Pastor, thanks so much for your time. I know I said that was the last question, but I have to ask if you have anything to say about the Presidential race? I saw you with your Barack Obama Tee shirt on the other day at Church...

**PASTOR FORT:** Yes. And every time I wear that Tee shirt it sparks looks and conversation. I am supporting Senator Obama this year. I like what he's saying about hope and changing what's going on in Washington and our country at large. However, let me also say that Hillary Clinton is someone I like too. In truth, I don't know that it was ever our God's intention to have a woman leading the country? I know that sounds sexist, but it's something I think about. And, I think that many people see a vote for Hillary as a vote for President Clinton too? It's like a two for one deal. It's a phenomenal year indeed when we have a woman, and African American- not to mention Governor Bill Richardson, the Hispanic Governor of New Mexico (*now out of the race*); with genuine chances to be the next President of the United States! Who would of thought we'd live to see the day? With regard to John McCain... I'm amazed. I predicted

he'd be out of the running a long time ago. I was wrong. With regard to Governor's Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee... Let me say that I don't believe Mitt Romney will win (*this time around*); and I really, really like Mike Huckabee. That said, I cast my "*Provisional Vote*" (*I'm a registered Independent*); for Barack Obama on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, "*Super Tuesday*". I do though, have a Preacher friend who told me yesterday, that God spoke to him and told him to stop his work with the Obama campaign, because The Lord did not have "*His hand on him*" (*Barack*) right now. Interesting....

Thanks for the interview. And have a great day my brother.

**INTEVERVIWER**: You too Pastor Fort. And thank you.

\*Read past interviews or re-read this interview with Pastor Fort on our Church website at: [www.mycmbc.org](http://www.mycmbc.org) Pastor Fort's interviewer remains intentionally remains anonymous.