

University of Mississippi
Archive Field School

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Field Worker: Holley Acey

Co-field Workers: Duvall Osteen

Begin Date: May 19, 2009-3:30 p.m.

End Date: May 19, 2009-4:30 p.m.

Event: Interview with Kevin Briggs, co-minister, Apostolic Sanctuary of Praise Temple of Jesus Christ, 4905 Tchulahoma Rd, Memphis, TN 38118

Elapsed Time: Approximately two hours

The following is a catalogue of a digital-recorded interview with thirty-seven year old Kevin Briggs co-minister of Apostolic Sanctuary of Praise Temple of Jesus Christ in Oxford, MS at his mother's home in Memphis, TN. This interview mainly contains information about music and instruments in Apostolic Sanctuary of Praise. Kevin also talks about his background with music growing up.

Technical Note: a fire alarm needs battery replacement and beeps throughout the interview.

Technical Information:

Audio File Number: ama2009001ha01001.wav

Related Fieldnotes: ama2009001ha01001.doc, ama2009001ha01002.doc

Related interviews: ama2009001ha01002.wav

Recording Unit: Edirol M-09 digital SD recorder

Settings: 44.1 khz/16bit; WAV file MONO recording

KB: Kevin Briggs

DO:Duvall Osteen

.36 Kevin Briggs tells me about growing up in Memphis, TN. He talks about his love for the city and the desire to see the city grow.

1:11 He talks about being born in 1971 at St. Joseph hospital.

1:23 He talks about his family and siblings.

1:44 KB talks about growing up with music and his love for drums and guitar. He talks about starting playing drums at seven years old. He talks about singing and using his gifts to praise the Lord and glorify him.

3:00 He talks about his family involvement in the church. His father is the pastor and he is the co-minister.

3:20 He talks about his church music from the Apostolic Church of Praise being traditional. He talks about how the church should have a standard from dividing the secular world from the church world this dealing with music also.

Quote: "I have a thing with myself that the church I am not going to say all churches but we have combined too much of the outside world with the church and I believe that it shouldn't be like that. I think the church has a standard and we should continue to hold our standard and not change to try to fir the outside world. Why should I change when I am trying to change someone else and I believe that God is the person drawing and not someone else?"

4:28 He talks about playing his drums for the praise of the Lord and not for the praise of men.

4:51 KB talks about the controversy of playing the drums and loud music at his previous church. He talks about different people fighting for the time to play drums on stage in the church. KB says he is offering time to younger people to play drums in the church so they will not get discouraged. He says that if he doesn't get people to play during the service that they will just go find somewhere else to play their instruments.

5:58 KB talks about playing the organ, keyboard, bongos, bass guitar, and his father plays lead guitar. He talks about his favorite being keyboard but liking to play the drums. [At this point Kim starts laughing at Kevin saying this] He then talks about his wife playing the keyboard.

6:42 KB talks about his church changing from traditional to hymns and praise and worship music. He talks about the importance of slowing down the tempo in praise and worship music so people can feel the "spirit" and the Lord.

8:14 KB talks about using the praise team as a smaller version of a choir and it makes it more personal. He then talks about the youth choir and the service they lead sometimes that includes a sermon from a young person.

9:15 Kevin is asked if he prefers singing with others and Kimberly starts to laugh and joke with Kevin. He talks about preferring to sing solos.

10:00 KB talks about being serious about music and how people can tell if someone is sincere.

Quote: " If someone is serious about it, the people in the audience can tell. If a person is playing lead guitar out of his heart, playing the drums out of his heart, playing the keyboard out of his heart, that person. That person in the seats can feel

that. Therefore, when I see a person is rejoicing in what I'm doing that makes me feel good. Therefore, I am getting a blessing out of it as well."

10:58 KB talks about playing with feeling and not thinking about other things. He talks about playing under the "anointing" and teaching young people to pray and ask for that anointing. He talks about music having a spirit and that you can feel the anointing when you play. He talks about his benefits from playing music and the reasons he has been playing for so long and relates that back to the feeling that music gives him.

12:00 KB talks about how music within the church has changed so much since he has grown up. He talks about African American churches "taking what they hear from the streets to the church." He says there is not much wrong with that but when you bring in that with the wrong intentions, you bring in the wrong spirit and creating a problem. He talks about holding onto standards in the church.

Quote: "I hear all the time as a minister we have to draw people, we have to draw people, we have to draw people, well if you draw people with your life, then they can come in the church and enjoy your spiritual music."

13:36 He talks about having people come into the church for good reasons such as hearing teaching as opposed to simply coming for the music. He talks about the benefit of having different kinds of instruments to play in the church. He talks about the importance of offering people a more diverse music style from adding other instruments.

15:10 KB talks about his inspirations and one of them being Smokey Norfolk. He talks about Smokey holding on to the traditional church music because he magnifies the Lord just with his piano and voice.

15:43 KB talks about being picky with who he listens to and says he has another inspiration and then looks at his wife and says "my wife probably won't like me to say this." He states anyway that he likes Harvey Watkins from the Canton Spirituals. He laughs and jokes with his wife about his choices in music.

16:15 KB states that his favorite song to sing in church is "Because He Lives." He then talks about his encounter with a younger member from his church asking why he sings old songs. He tells the younger person that the older songs have more meaning than the more modern songs of the day. He says that people really need something to relate to and that they can find that in using older songs.

17:14 KB says he has taught two younger people in his church drums.

17:40 KB states that religious music affects him more than secular music. KB says that he is centered about what he does within the church and that is why he is as dedicated to the church as he is.

Quote: "Until someone comes to push me off of it I'll be devoted to it until the Lord comes along and says something different"

18:37 Duvall asks for a clarification of the difference between a praise team and choir. KB says that the praise team "ushers in the spirit" while a choir is more of an up-tempo and people that sing a solid song over and over. A praise team is a "spiritual anointment and people that ushering the power of God." He refers to the song "Praise is what I Do" as an example of the praise team ushering in the spirit. He states that choirs simply end after a song but a praise team can lead the service on.

20:25 KB talks about his commute from Memphis to Oxford to attend church. He talks about his previous Oxford pastor passing away and his father being nominated to take over the position as pastor. He has been at the Apostolic Sanctuary of Praise Temple of Jesus Christ for nineteen years. He talked about his father having a vision to build a new church. He talks about the Lighthouse Organization.

21:30 KB talks about the difficulty of the commute from Oxford to Memphis. He talks about being fifteen years old and his father wanting his family to be dedicated to making the hour and a half commute to be apart of this church. He talks about his efforts paying off and that he is willing to keep going for another twenty years.

22:38 KB talks about being raised in a "strict environment" and didn't have musical influences outside of religious influences. He talked about his father being involved in a musical group and about his father playing guitar or bass and assigning his brothers to play instruments: drums, bass, or lead guitar. He talks about his hesitation to do something like playing music. His father encouraged him to play and keep playing. He says that he would watch him leave and go to practice and would look up to his father and want to mimic that desire for music.

24:20 KB talks about his early memories about music. He says he would get the sticks from clothes hangers and old oatmeal boxes. He would set them up like a drum set. He talks about playing in his mother's living room and playing on books and oatmeal boxes. He says he would play the songs in church on the oatmeal boxes and books. He then goes on to say that that is how he gages a child's desire to learn to play an instrument. They have to take the idea home and learn to play at home to show their dedication to learning an instrument.

26:25 He says by the age of ten he was playing in church.

26:44 KB jokes and laughs about his mother's non-musical ability.

27:40 KB reflects on drums being considered a form of secular music within the church. He states that a lot of the music from the secular world came from the church. He then begins to talk about music driving people. He talks about it being important for people's motivations for having music in the church and sites this

back to the time of people conquering the Red Sea and then bringing out tambourines and praising the Lord but he says that people in the world use tambourines as well.

30:00 He talks about church music in MS being much different from that around the area. He talks about some churches using hymns while others might sing more modern songs. He says that he church has a slower tempo in music. He says that a lot of people fit their music style to their church's interests. He says that he can tell when people are sincere in their music. He says he doesn't mind singing out of hymnals.

31:40 KB talks about the African American churches running long but saying that there are differences in the churches. He says that they try to respect their congregation's time. He talks about the benefits of taking ideas from other churches in music and using it in theirs to benefit their service.

32:50 KB says that mostly all of their music for special occasions is the same as a normal service. He says that they had a "woman's day" on Sunday and just sang normal songs.

33:57 KB talks about his vision of keeping the music in his church simple. He talks about the importance of keeping the music simple in the service because he feels that the church has a standard to uphold. He talks about his nephew playing drums in the church and how he encourages him to keep the music as simple as possible.

35:10 "Music is a very important part of the service and I have heard people say that if music isn't right I don't want to go there." KB goes on to state that he doesn't want to implement too much in music and that by people playing together on one accord that can bring about beautiful music.

36:30 DO asks KB opinions on the Reverend Al Green. He says he likes Al Green and his voice. He motions with hands [one in a fist and one open]. He says that he wants to be a preacher but won't let the worldly side go. "If you want to do Gospel, do Gospel. If you are going to be called a preacher, devote yourself to that. Don't be straddling the fence back and forth." He continues to say that one minute he is a pastor at his church and the others he is on tour. He says that is sending the wrong message. He says that a lot of times we send the message that you can do anything to please the Lord but that is not right. He continues to talk about the "standard" of the church. He thinks he should choose one of the other.

39:20 KB says that singing and drums are his favorite church traditions. [Kim laughs]. He says that he loves to preach and invites us to come hear him preach.

40:29 KB says he enjoys Gospel music so much because it is one thing we can do that represents Christ. He talks about recording a service that can touch someone's life. He says that it is special.

41:22 KB walks us through his normal Sunday. He starts at waking up at six thirty to leave the house to be at church by eight. He then teaches Sunday school for an hour and then goes to the noon service and he opens up with the praise team and devotional. He says they then sing and hear sermon and then leave. He says they do not have the usual African American church service of four hours but are out by eleven thirty. He says he sings most of the songs in the service.

After the tape is turned off Kimberly says that Kevin forgot to add information from the service about their altar call in the service that makes the service a little bit longer. Duvall talks to Kimberly a little bit about Memphis and how the youth in the church has changed dramatically over the years. Kim states that youth has no respect for the sacredness of the church. Kim pointed out that most youth would wear hats to church and want to bring in new forms of music. Kim and Duvall then get on the subject of the crime rate in Memphis and the need for a change. Duvall then suggests that we start the interview so we could get some of the information recorded.