

## IT'S ALL LOVE

*Pastor Bonita Sams*

February is the month we celebrate LOVE! Being in love with a special someone is truly a gift and blessing from God. I know this because it's been 30+ years and I still get all gooey inside when the love of my life, Pastor Samuel Sams, enters the room. It's a joy to share my life with this incredible person who is still, in my mind, the dreamy boy with the outrageous sense of humor I met 38 years ago. I can honestly say, I have no regrets and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that this is the person God ordained to be my partner for life!

Being in love is all about those magical moments that bring you closer together. The one you adore can take you back to a moment in history that reminds just how deep the love you share really is. Believe me, you need those moments when the winds of challenge are blowing out of control. Or, when you just can't agree. Is it an easy partnership? Absolutely not! I still get annoyed when he orders my hamburger without onions. Honestly, who does this guy think he is. He knows I love onions! Then I get a glimpse of a moment when the two of us shared an onion-less hamburger and chocolate milkshake while watching the sun set in Maui. Ok, I'll let that go...for now!

This brings me to my point of unconditional love. I can't help but think of the love Jesus has for us which is immeasurable. To leave his seat in glory for us...that's all love. To allow himself to be humiliated and degraded as He made His way to Golgotha Hill...that's all love. And finally, to die one of the most excruciating death's in history, all for my sake...that's all love. He is love and therefore, it is His nature to love us in a way that is far reaching than our finite minds could possibly imagine.

I could go on and on about the Savior's love for us. But I'd like to take this love thing a little further and a little deeper. God the Father already knew from the beginning of time that man would fall and be in need of a redeemer. Yet, He created us anyway and gave us the most amazing gift...the world. See *Genesis 1:26* God, our Creator King, started out the relationship with us by showering us with gifts. I don't know about you girls, but I can't remember a first date that included Bonita walking away with a spectacular gift...maybe I just dated the tightwad cheapskates! Anyway, God came into the relationship and put it all on the table for us to simply reach out, touch it and have it all. What did we do...we rejected His gift by misusing it. God still being the God of ultimate love provided another gift to us...His son, Jesus Christ. What did we do...we rejected His gift again by sending him to die, which was part of the plan. God has extended His love to us in so many ways over and over again. To continue to bless a repeat offender...that's all love! We humans are not so good at that one. We do have "One Man, One Chance" tendencies.

Finally, let me take you down the memory lane of love. Do you remember when God spared you from some catastrophic scenarios? Do you remember when you defied the odds the doctor gave you? Do you remember when you were in the wrong place at the wrong time? Do you remember the accident that you walked away from unharmed? Do you remember when everyone else was getting downsized, you received a promotion? Do you remember the sweet nothings of revelation He whispered in your ear? Do you remember the private conversations you had with Him? If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, then it really is all love between you and God. If you can't remember a God moment you had, then I can only tell you there has to be a ginormous void in your life.

In this season of love be reminded that there is no love like the love of the lover of our souls.





## NEW BIRTH KINGDOM MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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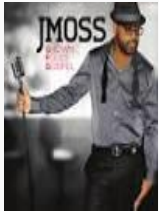
*PASTOR SAMUEL SAMS, SENIOR PASTOR*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:** 8:45 A.M. LIFE APPLICATION – 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP AND THE WORD

*(INCLUDES ALPHA ANGELS CHILDREN'S CHURCH)*

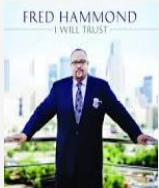
**TUESDAY QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE BIBLE STUDY:** 7:30 P.M.

## IN THE KNOW



### **GROWN FOLKS GOSPEL** *BY J MOSS*

J Moss has hit it out of the park with this one. He has made several songs that we've enjoyed over the years including "God's Got It". Grown Folks Gospel has a good mix of ballads and upbeat songs that are sure to get your toes tapping for the Lord. He has a great medley of artists featured including Faith Evans and Fred Hammond. If you've never purchased a J Moss CD and would like to get a flavor of his anointing, check out The Very Best of J Moss.



### **I WILL TRUST** *BY FRED HAMMOND*

Fred Hammond has been a longtime favorite of gospel music lovers. With his old school sound wrapped up in praise and worship, he nails it in his latest CD. Last year he endured the pain of double knee surgery which he calls "pain with a purpose". He has dropped a substantial amount of weight and sounds better than ever. This CD is classic Fred. "Take Me to the Water" has the complete Hammond sound which we've loved over the years, including his trademark grunts. The featured song "I Will Trust", is a beautiful worship song featuring his daughter BreeAnn Hammond who is talented in her own right. Be sure to check it out!



### **FROM GOOD TO GRACE: LETTING GO OF THE GOODNESS GOSPEL** *BY CHRISTINE HOOVER*

Christine Hoover's latest book is coming out this month. This mother of three boys and pastor's wife can no doubt speak to the "attagirl" syndrome where we feel we must be every woman. She speaks very candidly and from experience about trying too hard to be all the things we think we need to be rather than that who God created us to be. Learn how to serve God with great joy rather than out of obligation which can be exhausting!

## AROUND TOWN

### **House of Blues Gospel Brunch**

329 North Dearborn Chicago, Illinois

Every Sunday 10:00 – 12:30

Purchase tickets online

### **Broadway Soul**

**February 12-15, 2015**

Harold Washington Cultural Center

4645 S. King Drive, Chicago, Illinois

By phone 773-373-1900

### **Allstate Gospel Super Fest**

**March 21, 2015**

House of Hope Arena

752 E. 114<sup>th</sup> Street Chicago, Illinois

[www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or

by phone 866-468-7619

[WWW.GOSPELSUPERFEST.COM](http://WWW.GOSPELSUPERFEST.COM)

## Upcoming Church Events

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015 – Quest for Knowledge Kick Off**

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. at New Birth Kingdom Ministries International

**Married Couples Ministry and Couples for Christ Valentines Weekend Retreat**

**February 13 – 14, 2015**

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Illinois