

Total Abandon

Julie Meyer is known as a leader in prophetic worship. She says prophetic worship is born of intimacy with God.



[] Julie Meyer says she used to simply sing songs about God, but now she desires to worship Him with total abandon.

When I began to understand God's love and passion for me, regardless of how weak I was, it radically changed my life," she says.

A full-time worship leader at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Mo., Meyer is known for her prophetic worship music, which she has recorded on five CDs, including her latest, Longing for the Day.

She says prophetic worship is born of intimacy with God. "You can't copy prophetic worship," she insists. "It must come from a heart that is absolutely abandoned to the Lord—a heart like David's that pants after God." —**Sandra K. Chambers**

Leaders Meet for 40th Anniversary of King's Assassination

African-American leaders convened to remember the 40th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. Photo: King's final speech at Mason Temple COGIC.



[] Today African-American church, civic and academic leaders will remember the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. during a vigil at the Lorraine Museum in Memphis, Tenn., the site of the hotel where the civil rights leader was shot and killed at 6:01 p.m. in 1968.

The vigil is part of Where We Go From Here: The Pan-African Leadership Summit, convened by Church of God in Christ (COGIC) Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake and hosted at Mason Temple COGIC, where King gave his last sermon, "I've Been to the Mountaintop." Blake said. The summit, which began yesterday, was designed to begin a "post-civil rights movement" that addresses inner-city poverty, black youth violence and the needs of the continent of Africa.

"We now move beyond the politics of protest and racial complaint to an interracial and ecumenical movement to rebuild black civil society with interventions and programs that measurably reduce black fatherlessness and black-on-black violence," said Blake, who leads the nation's largest Pentecostal denomination.

Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton is scheduled to attend the summit along with Harvard University professor Charles Ogletree, who will represent Sen. Barack Obama.

In addition to outlining his Reclaiming Our Black Children campaign, which targets gang-involved youth and their families, Blake is challenging black churches to become advocates on behalf of Africa, where he said war, disease and poverty have created humanitarian crises. "These extraordinary human catastrophes serve as opportunities for the black church to be a source of hope, conscience and witness," Blake wrote in a letter inviting pastors to attend the summit. "In the crucible of unbelievable human suffering God now offers the black church ... the privilege to be a light during this season of great moral tragedy."

Blake said his plan is the result of a year of consultation with leading policy intellectuals and will be presented for critique during the summit. At the end of the two-day meeting,

participants will have agreed upon a 10-year strategy for helping both Africa and the black urban poor, and developed a plan to fund and implement it.

Blake said King's legacy is a source of both inspiration and conviction. "The words and life of Martin Luther King have inspired us, but now they stand as our judge.

Blake wrote. "By April 4, 2018, we will have taken action and succeeded or we will face an urban landscape that resembles not the Chicago, Detroit, or Los Angeles of 1968, but the Lagos, Nairobi, and Kingston of today. If our agenda fails, we will have missed the opportunity to use our position of privilege in the West, much as Joseph did to help his brothers in Egypt, to intervene in a long history of disease, conflict and under-development. We have no choice."

To view the Pan-African Leadership Summit live, visit .

Why Copeland and Dollar Refuse to Cooperate With Grassley

Creflo Dollar and Kenneth Copeland have released letters explaining their concerns with Sen. Charles Grassley's investigation into tax-related issues.



[04-03-08] Two ministries not fully cooperating with Sen. Charles Grassley's investigation into tax-related issues have released letters explaining their concerns.

As of Monday, Creflo Dollar and Kenneth Copeland have shown an unwillingness to provide the senator with any further documentation. The documents requested by Grassley would

conceivably clear up his concerns that six TV-based ministries have possibly mishandled or misused tax-exempt donations in the past.

According to the senator's office, of the six ministries under investigation, the four others have either complied, or have shown a greater willingness to comply.

Earlier this week, a lawyer for Kenneth Copeland Ministries (KCM) responded in a letter to Grassley's latest request for tax-related information—a request that gave four of the six ministries, including Copeland's and Dollar's, March 31 as a new deadline.

KCM lawyer Shane T. Hamilton pointed out in a letter addressed to the two ranking members on the Senate Finance Committee how KCM was one of only two ministries that filed a timely response to Grassley's original deadline last year of Dec. 6.

KCM attempted to answer as many of the 42 questions as it deemed appropriate, stated Hamilton, and the response "reflected a sincere and good faith effort."

"Where [KCM] did not provide a complete answer, [KCM] determined that the question raises constitutionally and statutorily based privacy, confidentiality, and freedom of association issues."

Hamilton said KCM is concerned because the six ministries Grassley has targeted all "share a common theology" based on the belief that "prosperity in all areas of one's life is an outward sign of the fulfillment of God's promises contained in the Bible."

Grassley's investigation, Hamilton believes, could infringe on fundamental First Amendment rights of the six prosperity-based ministries because "the government should not single out any religion for disparate treatment because of its beliefs."

"The selective investigation only of churches that preach the 'Word of Faith' message raises significant concerns as to

whether the inquiry is aimed at publicly questioning the religious beliefs of the targeted churches, their preachers, and their members," he stated.

Hamilton also questioned the committee's motivation, suggesting that if the main basis for launching the investigation is oversight of federal tax laws, then it "could be accomplished just as effectively by the [Senate Finance] Committee asking the Internal Revenue Service to provide all of the information Grassley is seeking through a request pursuant to section 6103 of the [IRS] code."

He added: "Section 6103 of the code does not limit what the committee can request from the Internal Revenue Service. It only limits the committee's ability to make that information public. [KCM] does not understand how subjecting the information sought by Senator Grassley to the section 6103 confidentiality protections would compromise any bona fide oversight-related interests of the committee."

Concluded Hamilton: "Given [KCM's] many continuing concerns regarding Senator Grassley's inquiry, [KCM] has decided not to provide any additional information."

Meanwhile, Creflo Dollar explained to members of the Senate Finance Committee in a letter last week that his ministry, World Changers Church International, has always made every effort to comply with IRS code.

"I would like to assure you that we believe that, like every other citizen, each Christian has a religious duty to pay taxes and comply with the law," he wrote. "Three of the four gospels specifically emphasize Jesus' teaching to his disciples: that we are to render unto Caesar what is due to Caesar, and to render unto God what is due to God."

But regarding disclosure of the ministry's tithing history, Dollar called it World Changers' duty "to protect the privacy rights of our friends and members" which could be "seriously jeopardized by an open-ended public governmental investigation like Senator Grassley's."

He likened such disclosures to “asking particular parishioners the substance of their prayers or confessions.”

Dollar, like Copeland, also expressed concern that Grassley’s investigation singled out six ministries that preach the “prosperity gospel.”

Dollar and his followers believe wealth is nothing to be ashamed of and that God wanted him and his followers to “be rich spiritually, physically and financially” because it is “an outward sign of God’s favor, and we celebrate that blessing.”

“Like any other church in America, World Changers has deeply held religious beliefs, and we must protest any kind of evaluation of those beliefs by a member of the United States Senate,” he said. “As much as we would like to provide information to the senator, we simply must do everything within our power to protect our church and its members from public scrutiny and a Congressional evaluation of the validity of our beliefs.

“We have no choice, therefore,” said Dollar, “but to decline to provide Senator Grassley with a response to his inquiries. We are confident that you will agree that this inquiry speaks to the very heart of our First Amendment rights and will concur that compelling a response would certainly violate the Separation of Church and State.”

Of the four other televangelist ministries also under investigation, Grassley’s office reported this week that Benny Hinn’s ministry had sent additional documents in an ongoing process of compliance while lawyers for Randy and Paula White told Grassley’s staff last week that the Whites’ first batch of documents were in the mail.

Eddie Long’s ministry told Grassley’s office last week that the information the senator requested would be in by April 15 and Joyce Meyer’s ministry sent some of her tax-related information by the deadline Grassley originally requested last

November. His office has indicated that Meyer has “cooperated substantially.”

“It’s good to see the majority of the ministries offering information,” Grassley said. “They receive generous tax-breaks as non-profit organizations. In general, the federal treasury forgoes billions of tax-dollars a year to tax-exempt groups. The ministries sharing of material with the Senate Committee in charge of tax-policy shows an interest in accountability for their special tax status.” **Paul Steven Ghiringhelli**

Congregation Donates More Than \$200,000 to Tornado-Damaged Church

A church destroyed by a tornado just two months ago unexpectedly received enough money to rebuild their facility.



[] Last Sunday a church destroyed by a tornado just two months ago unexpectedly received enough money from a neighboring congregation to rebuild their facility.

Thirty members of Fernvale Community Church in Fairview, Tenn., were meeting in a temporary sanctuary when 400 members of Grace Center in Franklin, Tenn., walked into the service and presented the congregation with a \$203,408 offering collected that morning.

Grace Center members knew only that the funds would be given to a person or group in need.

“It’s hard to believe people would do so much for others. It makes me cry just thinking about it,” member Thomas Taylor told *Charisma*. The 77-year-old said he had been “devastated”

when he saw that the small church his grandfather helped build in 1885 had been ripped apart by a tornado on Feb. 5. "It looked like a war zone," he said. "It worried me whether we'd be able to build it back."

Church officials believe the donated money will allow the church to rebuild according to new construction codes.

"Settling the fact that we can build the church has made me realize how powerful God is," said Ann Lee, board secretary of the non-denominational Fernvale church.

Before presenting the check, Grace Center senior pastor Jeff Dollar told the teary-eyed Fernvale group: "We are with you. We have a message for you –God has not forgotten you." The two groups then took communion together.

Plans are under way for both congregations to join together in the groundbreaking ceremony of the new building. "It was the purest act of giving I have ever witnessed," said Chris Dupré, assistant pastor of Grace Center. – **Renee DeLoriea in Franklin, Tenn.**

Grassley's Latest Deadline Ignored By Two Ministries

Kenneth Copeland and Creflo Dollar are two of six ministries under investigation by the Senate Finance Committee that appear unwilling to comply.



[] The second deadline passed yesterday for the charismatic televangelists who were asked to submit tax-related documents

to Sen. Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee.

As of March 31, Kenneth Copeland and Creflo Dollar have both not indicated an intention of complying with the senator's requests.

Four of the six ministries under investigation that remain have either complied, or have shown a willingness to comply.

At close of business yesterday Grassley's office reported that Benny Hinn's ministry had sent additional documents in an ongoing process of compliance while lawyers for Randy and Paula White told Grassley's staff last week that the Whites' first batch of documents were in the mail.

Eddie Long's ministry told Grassley's office last week that the information the senator requested would be in by April 15.

Joyce Meyer's ministry sent the majority of her tax-related information by the deadline Grassley originally requested last November. His office has indicated that Meyer has "cooperated substantially."

The documents being requested would conceivably clear up Grassley's suspicions that the TV-based ministries have mishandled or misused tax-exempt donations.

"It's good to see the majority of the ministries offering information," Grassley said. "They receive generous tax-breaks as non-profit organizations. In general, the federal treasury forgoes billions of tax-dollars a year to tax-exempt groups. The ministries sharing of material with the Senate Committee in charge of tax-policy shows an interest in accountability for their special tax status."

Read more about the Grassley investigation, [here](#).

Channel Surfing

Feedback

A Sound from Heaven

Jason Upton has pioneered a refreshing and spontaneous style of prophetic worship that is redefining Christian music today.

Vibes

Man Uses Grip As Ministry Tool

Tommy Heslep is uncommonly strong. He can crush potatoes with his fists and bend coins in his teeth. Yet he says God is the source of his strength.



At only 5 feet 10 inches and 170 pounds, Heslep, 33, has one of the strongest grips in the world, and he uses his impressive physical ability as a tool for evangelism. He often visits churches near his hometown of Front Royal, Va., and ministers to the youth at his church, First Assembly of God. But he also has appeared in unlikely "pulpits," such as on the Tonight Show With Jay Leno, and at last year's Awakening Music Festival, where he performed before a crowd of 10,000.

At events, he often asks the crowd if they know what held Jesus on the cross. "Most of the time they holler out, 'The nails!'" says Heslep (). "And I tell them, 'The nails were the instrument, but what really held [Him] on the cross was love.' Then I show them what I like to do with nails."

What he likes to do with nails is drive them into boards with his hands. But he says his goal is to glorify God, not himself. Last year, he was diagnosed with Crohn's disease and lost more than 20 pounds as a result. He says God orchestrated a miraculous recovery after he read The Maker's Diet by Jordan Rubin, who also suffered from the gastrointestinal disease.

Now when he bends a bolt or rips telephone books in half, he's also sharing his testimony: "I tell people, 'Look what Jesus can do.'"