## **Gospel History Timeline**

Prepared by Deborah Smith Pollard, Ph.D.

1619 First Africans arrive in Virginia singing African music

Large scale slave labor introduced in the British Caribbean

Mid-late 1700's The folk Negro spiritual emerges

1787 The African Methodist Episcopal Church is founded

Slavery abolished by the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment

The arranged Negro spiritual created by the Fisk Jubilee Singers

1890-1920's Transitional/Early Gospel Music

Famous Name(s): Rev. Charles A. Tindley

Songs: "Beams of Heaven," "I'll Overcome Some Day" (which later becomes "We Shall Overcome," the Civil Rights anthem)

1929-1940s Traditional Gospel Music Emerges

Some Famous Names: The Reverend Thomas A. Dorsey The Male Quartets: The Golden Gate Quartet, The Dixie

Hummingbirds

Songs: "Precious Lord," "Peace in the Valley," "If We Never Needed the Lord Before," "Milky White

Way"

1945 -1960s The Golden Age of Gospel Music

Some Famous Names: Mahalia Jackson, The Clara Ward Singers,

Sister Rosetta Tharpe

Songs: "Move on up A Little Higher," "Soon I Will Be Done," "Surely, God Is Able," "Packing Up," "Up Above My Head,"

"This Train"

Late 1960s-1980 Contemporary Gospel and The Mass Choir Sound Explode

Some Famous Names: Andrae Crouch, Edwin Hawkins, Mattie Moss Clark, The Rev. Charles Nicks Jr. & St. James Adult Choir,

The Harold Smith Majestics, The Rev. James Cleveland

Songs: "I'll Be Thinking of You," "Soon and Very Soon," "Oh Happy Day," "Wonderful," "Climbing up the Mountain," "Salvation Is Free," "I Really Love the Lord," "The Doxology

(Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow)," "Peace Be Still"

1980's to present Urban Contemporary Gospel Music

Some Famous Names: The Clark Sisters, The Winans, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Kirk Franklin, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, Commissioned, Witness, Vickie Winans, John P. Kee/New Life, Vanessa Bell Armstrong

Songs: "You Brought the Sunshine," "The Question Is,"
"Heaven," "Stomp," "Open My Heart," "We Fall Down,
"Ordinary Just Won't Do," "Standard," "Shake Yourself
Loose," "Show Up," "He Looked Beyond My Faults and
Saw My Need"

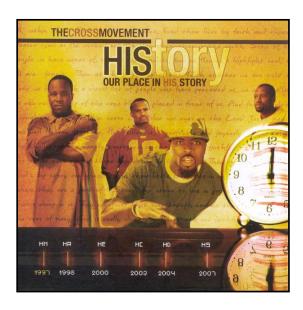
1985 – Present Praise and Worship Music

Some Famous Names: Min. Thomas Whitfield and the Whitfield Company, Fred Hammond, Israel and New Breed, Byron Cage, Martha Munizzi, Shekinah Glory Ministry, J. Moss Songs: "Precious Jesus," "Let the Praise Begin," Rejoice," "The Presence of the Lord Is Here," "Because of Who You Are," "Praise Is What We Do," "We Must Praise"

1987 – Present Christian Rap / Holy Hip Hop

Some Famous Names: The Cross Movement, Da Truth, Lecrae, Trip Lee

Songs: "Cry No More," "That Great Day," "Jesus Muzik," "Invasion (Hero)"







Da'Truth