



BABBIE'S FAITH LIFT

Babbie Mason's success as a contemporary singer and songwriter is a testimony to the goodness and faithfulness of God. She encourages us to put feet to our faith. Compiled by **Tamsyn Cornelius**

WITHIN A FAMILY OF AT LEAST FIVE generations of preachers, Babbie Mason was more than accustomed to the ways of the Baptist Church in which her father was the pastor. Her younger days were filled with church activity as Babbie took up the role as church pianist and choir director for almost two decades. She had talent, loved to sing, and wanted to share this passion, and her zeal for Christ, with the world. So when the opportunity arose to start her own ministry, Babbie was thrilled to extend her reach and minister to a wider audience – a ministry that would eventually see her sing around the world.

But it wasn't all plain sailing. Babbie had to leave her job as a teacher in Michigan to pursue her dream of a music ministry. And God was faithful. A year later she was honoured with first place in both songwriting and vocal categories at the Christian Artist Music Seminar in the Rockies, Colorado. This experience changed her life. She says, "I had no idea it would awaken a songwriter in me." But it did. This exposure also prompted additional performance opportunities, and suddenly there was no turning back for this aspiring artist.

FAITH RANKS HIGHER THAN FAME

Over the years Babbie has shared the platform with some of the greats in the Christian community including Dr Billy Graham, Dr Robert Schuler, Bishop TD Jakes and Bill Gaither. The US's most popular Christian artists such as Larnelle Harris, CeCe Winans, Steve Green and the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir have all recorded her music. Her song writing credits can even be found on the silver screen in Denzel Washington's *Déjà vu*.

She has been the recipient of two Dove Awards (and many nominations) as well as two ASCAP Awards (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers). And many of her songs are considered contemporary church classics such as "All Rise", "With All My Heart" and "Each One Reach One." But despite all of this earthly success, Babbie remains grounded in her relationship with Christ.



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Liz Curtis Higgs, award-winning author, Bible teacher and radio personality, is gifted with deep spiritual insights and great humour. She will be exploring the book of Ruth which reveals the depth of God's love for us - His generous, trustworthy, steadfast love. If you enjoy meaningful journeys and redemptive endings, shared with humour, honesty, and hope, then this is the conference for you!

Babbie Mason, a Dove award-winning artist and song writer, has performed before three US presidents, and sung for Billy Graham and the Gaithers. Don't miss hearing her at the conference which will end with a special Babbie Mason concert!



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"As a Gospel singer and songwriter, I am grateful to God for what I do. It's hard for me to believe that I actually get to live out my dreams. Then I add to that the fact that potentially people can receive a blessing from what I do. God has given me the honour to sing in some of the largest churches in the nation [USA] and for conferences, crusades, presidents, prime ministers and kings from all over the world. On the other hand it has been my humble privilege to sing in remote villages in East Africa and in prisons for men, women and teenagers here in my hometown. I've sung at baby dedications, retirement homes for the elderly, weddings and funerals. Whether the audience is young or old, many or few, it is always an honour to share the love of Christ with anybody who will listen."


IT'S ABOUT TOUCHING OTHERS

Today Babbie has her hand in a number of media ventures, as a contemporary Christian singer-songwriter, author, television talk-show host and professor. She is married to Charles, and together they have two grown sons, Jerry and Chaz. The Masons are an example of what steadfast faith and hard work can accomplish through God. Despite a demanding schedule, Babbie still finds

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time to mentor up-and-coming singers and songwriters, offering songwriting classes at two American universities. She says: "I have discovered first-hand the joy of sensing that ping of inspiration in my spirit then watching that inspiration turn into a song. It's a God thing."

She has also written two books, the latest of which is *Faith Lift*. As in her music, her books are also centred on encouraging the Body of Christ. She says, "I know God has equipped you to share your gifts as well. You don't have to be the best or the biggest. Just be available. Do you know someone whose faith is sagging right now? Has the Lord brought someone to your mind whose spirit has been beaten down along life's road? It's guaranteed that someone within your sphere of influence could use a faith lift today. It's quite possible that the person who is in need will see Christ in your response or plight. As you put feet to your faith, you'll be rewarded knowing that you've made a difference in someone's life."

And Babbie has certainly made a difference in many lives, on the screen, through powerful praise songs, and by equipping the next generation of songwriters. 

In May 2009 Babbie Mason heads to South Africa to share her God-given talent at the annual Beauty For Ashes conferences for women, held in Cape Town and Johannesburg. For more information visit www.beautyforashes.co.za.