



Joyful's Christmas Music

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The Christmas season is a very special time for the African-American family. We highly regard its meaning for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. We welcome in and celebrate this holy time of year by showing reverence through praise, music and feasting. Regardless of how much Christmas is commercialized; our thoughts are deeply entrenched and focused on the true meaning, which is honoring the birth of Jesus. The love, appreciation and sharing with one another evaluates during this period which is of particular importance due to our spiritual frame of consciousness. We truly understand "t'iz the season to be jolly" because we have triumphed and made it through the struggles of another year. As African Americans, we genuinely and sincerely mean it when we say, "Thank you

Jesus," which is our respect and praise.

How often have we heard our old folks tell how many times they had no gifts to give or receive? Yet, there was a big celebration by feasting with a home cooked meal on the day after Christmas our spiritual celebration continues into the observance of Kwanzaa, which will go on for the next seven days. Today, more than 18 million or 63 percent of African-American families recognize Kwanzaa and view it as a tradition that further acknowledges our appreciation of togetherness. It is the seven days of Kwanzaa celebration that symbolizes our special family legacy, past and present, and sets the tone for journey into the upcoming year. Although the celebration has no connection with Christmas or religion, it tends to extend our holiday festivities and commemoration. Let's all enjoy the love, music and feasting as we wish "Joy to the World."

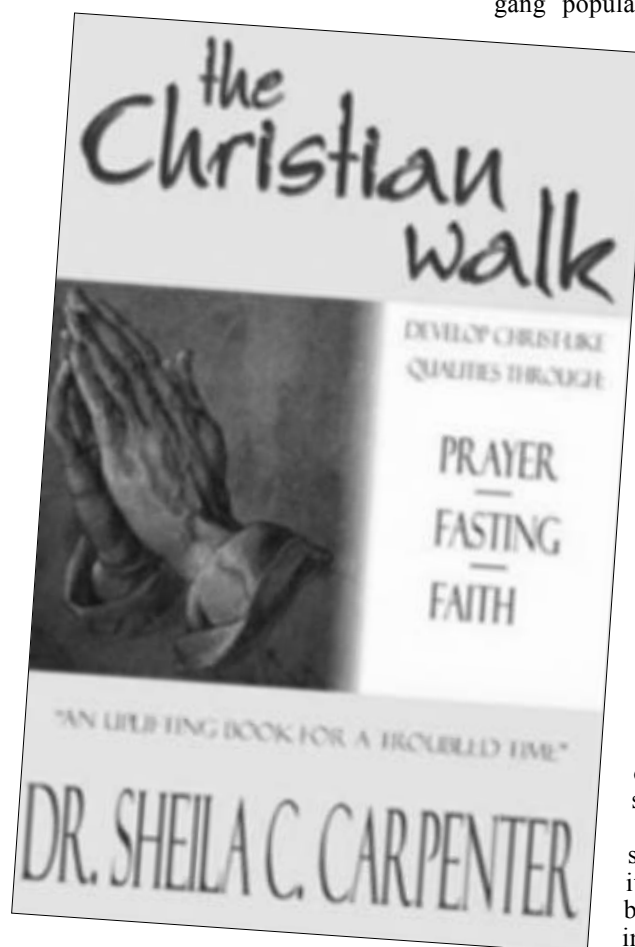
MERRY CHRISTMAS
- BY BOB FERGUSON



Finding faith with Shelia Carpenter



"The Christian Walk: The Struggle to Remain on The Path" is the first book written by Dr. Shelia C. Carpenter. The book is



written for both Christians and Non-Christians alike, and shows the reader how to gain a greater knowledge and appreciation of Christianity, its history, foundation, demands, and rewards.

"When a person goes through these three steps (Belief, Acknowledgment, and Repentance) he is a Christian," states Dr. Carpenter, and clarification of the three steps can be found in the following scriptures respectively - John 3:16, Romans 10:9, and Acts 2:28. Baptism is the fourth step. Baptism by water is an outward sign of obedience, showing fellow brothers and sisters in

Christ that your old ways have been given up for a new life in Christ Jesus. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16). "Here, again, the word 'believe' is mentioned, which is a vital key in becoming saved. Once these steps are in place you are definitely on the right path," she concludes.

Dr. Carpenter is a graduate of Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary, and obtained her doctorate from LaSalle University. She is also a certified hypnotherapist. She has served as a counselor and mediator for the last eight years, working with inner-city youth and adolescents as well as the urban gang population, juvenile delinquents, and individuals with psychiatric and chemical dependency disorders. Dr. Carpenter has studied and completed missionary work in Japan and Egypt. Although is working on building a writing career, "I use scripture in counseling, not so much of the book," she comments.

Although she has found it helpful to begin her writing career in Cleveland, she does feel that Clevelanders are not very supportive of their own. "Family members, co-workers, and church member spreading the word about the book has helped [the book to get recognition]," she comments. (Cleveland accepts you after you've made it somewhere else.) "You do experience that," she states. "People are skeptical because you are not a known name. Never judge a book by its cover," she concludes.

She has promoted her book all over Cleveland, and has traveled to Cincinnati, Youngstown, Memphis,



Shelia C. Carpenter

Iowa, and Miami. "The book signing at Walden's in Tower City was sold out in a half hour," she states. Along with being a counselor and author, Dr. Carpenter also owns her own company Grays Corp, owns real estate, and will be opening a Hip-Hop barbershop soon.

Dr. Carpenter is currently working on her second book which will focus on a plan of salvation, how a person becomes a Christian. "It will focus on God. Who He is. How awesome He is. His majestic being," she states. "It will help people understand how God can be one, but function as the Trinity," she concludes. Her first book is available at Barnes and Nobel, Walden's, Agape' Christian Bookstore, BarnesandNoble.com, and Amazon.com. Dr. Carpenter can be reached at her website <http://www.DrSheliaCarpenter.com>, or via e-mail at TheDrsIn@aol.com.

This has been your weekly look into DNA Level C, and I hope you have found it informative and enlightening. Until next time, this has been your link to Cleveland's Underground with "G Styl". If you would like to showcase your talent or venue in a future article, please feel free to contact me at GStyl@GStyl.com or 216-235-9803. If you have any feedback on the column, please feel free to contact me at Promos@GStyl.com or the editor at Showtime@BuckeyeWeb.net.