

# PRAIZUM

The Official  
Press Kit



*Life Support*

The Life Support CD features 20 tracks filled with music that will inspire, uplift and bring healing to your soul. The CD is comprised of Christian, traditional & contemporary gospel music.

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...with the STARS



“Lorenzo is more focused than ever and hopes to leave his footprint on culture and history for Christ.”

## Lorenzo Johnson

The Man Behind The Vision

Lorenzo Johnson is the visionary behind Praizum. Determine to create a positive outlet for this generation and a fresh sound, he formed the group in 2006. But what he created was more than just a creative expression, it was also a vehicle to bring awareness to illnesses that devastate families all over the world. Shaped by his own personal tragedy and loss, his passion leads him to take the stage with purpose, hoping to impact lives and make a difference with every note and melody. Lorenzo’s heart was always beating to the rhythm of music. At a young age he was considered gifted, and his gifts and talents have made room for him in the gospel and mainstream industry. His musical diversity has allowed him to perform at the Hollywood Bowl as a jazz pianist and with the Los Angeles Opera as a classical trumpeter. In addition, he is a song writer and producer. He has earned various musical credit working with artist like, R&B sensation, Omarion as a instrumental arranger. Lorenzo took his musical experience

back to the community he grew up in, and taught music to urban inner city youth on high school campuses. He has been recognized as an agent of change by the mayor and city council members of Los Angeles and Carson, California. He has been quoted by the LA Times as an active advocate for the arts in education. Lorenzo currently serves as the youth pastor and minister of music at his home church Holy Pilgrim Temple C.O.G.I.C. He is also a committee member for the state youth & music department of Southern California, First Jurisdiction Church of God In Christ. Lorenzo is more focused than ever and hopes to leave his footprint on culture and history for Christ.

“Look out for Minister Lorenzo Johnson & Praizum as they let a hurting world know that there is a “Life Support.”



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Lorenzo’s own experience with his aunt and mother’s diagnosis with multiple-sclerosis and breast cancer, respectively, was the inspiration behind the album’s title “Life Support.” Today his mother is healed from cancer and Praizum rallies to bring awareness to those who are afflicted with terminal illnesses. By partnering with "Survivor I am" an organization that supplies care packets to people who are suffering with terminal illnesses, they inspire to encourage those who suffer to choose life and to let God be their “Life Support.”

They are driven by their message of hope and plan to take that message beyond the national borders. Look out for Minister Lorenzo Johnson & Praizum as they let a hurting world know that there is a “Life Support.”



## WHO IS PRAIZUM

The Group ~ The Story ~ The Inspiration

PRAIZUM is a fresh new voice on the music scene. Established in 2006 by Lorenzo Johnson Jr., Praizum uses performing arts as a positive outlet for expression and a tool to reach their community. Harnessing the heart and soul of this generation, its members derive from a variety of cultural, religious and denominational backgrounds. Their original musical compositions cover an array of inspirational and positive music [hymns, traditional, contemporary, hip-hop, R&B, Christian & gospel]. Their diversity sets them apart and gives them a unique ability to appeal to people from different walks of life.

Praizum has sung all across the United States as the featured artist at various churches, colleges, musicals and conferences. They have

collaborated and ministered with some of today’s most esteemed artists; opening for Marvin Sapp, Kim Burrell, Bebe Winans, Hezekiah Walker, Andrae Crouch, Judy McAllister, Da Truth and Kiera “Kiki” Sheard to name a few. Whether singing background for artists such as Tye Tribbett or captivating audiences in their featured concerts and events, Praizum has proven their ability to fuse their “out the box” approach to ministry and creative ingenuity to inspire people to touch the heart of God in worship.

Praizum’s newly released debut album "Life Support" is played on radio stations across the country and online radio internationally. The Album is comprised of Christian, traditional and contemporary gospel music.

# LIFE SUPPORT

The Pain ~ The Story ~ The Word

By Lorenzo Johnson

A few weeks after the PRAIZUM debut concert, I was faced with the news that my aunt, Hester M. Jackson lost her battle with breast cancer. I remember nights of crawling into my bed crying myself to sleep. My Aunt Hester played a significant role in my life, not only was she my aunt, but the first lady of my church. Her death did not just affect me; it affected my family and church community as well. The day of her death was the worst day of my life, which turned into the worst week of my life, and it ended up being the worst months of my life.

Just when I thought things could not get worse, a few weeks after we had the funeral service for my aunt, I received a phone call that another aunt, Dezarnes Johnson-Potts had died. She had a relapse of the disease, multiple-sclerosis (a muscle disabling disease). “Auntie Dez” was my favorite aunt. Confined to a wheelchair for as long as I could remember. I always knew where I could find her and tell her the secrets of my life. I watched her suffer and never complain as she dealt with the pain, not only of the disease, but the pain of raising her only son by herself because her husband walked away. She did more for her son from a wheelchair than most parents do with the use of their limbs. I loved and admired her. I was so devastated by the news; I made my way to the hospital expecting to see my aunt for the last time, only to find out that they had revived her back to life and placed her on life support. For the next two months I continued to visit my aunt in the hospital, watching her breathing with the assistance of machines, lying lifeless on a hospital bed.

Just when I thought things could not get worse, a doctor discovered a lump in my mother’s breast. I would secretly take my mother for breast cancer biopsies, while visiting my Aunt Dez, in the same hospital, on the same floor. I really did not want the rest of my family to know because we were dealing with so much already. One month later my aunt, who was on life support, died and my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

The news was overwhelming. I was consumed by fear of what could happen next, angry at a God who would allow this to be, and

jealousy of those who did not have to endure the pain I was experiencing. I had no desire to live. I did not care to know what the out come would be. I just wanted life to be over. All of these thoughts and emotions were built up inside to the point where I felt like I could no longer breathe.

I locked myself in my room and began to pray and cry. I remember some of the scriptures that I would hear in church, but none of them mattered. I recalled the scripture that said, “Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord”; I thought to myself how could I praise God when I feel like I cannot even breathe. As the tears dried on my face I heard the comforting voice of the Lord say, “When you feel like you can’t breathe, I will breathe for you; when you feel like you don’t want to live, I will sustain you and I will be your Life Support”.

Today my mother is healed from cancer and I have made it my life’s goal to remind people to remember those who are afflicted with terminal illnesses and to encourage those who may be suffering. That they can choose life and that there is a God, who wants to sustain them, keep them and be their “Life Support”



“I locked myself in my room and began to pray and cry. “

“I am a changed woman and I am so blessed and grateful to be apart of this dynamic ministry.”



**The Group That Changed My Life**  
By Breann Smith

I've been in Praizum for almost 3 years and my life has turned a 180 degree never to return. When I first began to sing with Praizum my vocal ability and my lifestyle was not up to par for what God had in store. Then I began my transformation, and I admired my group members for their achievements in school and their work in ministry. So I begin to seek God, read his word and I became a member of a new church.

Ready for a fresh begging in my life, I began to become active with my church and my community. On June 2009 I graduated from high school with a 3.8 G.P.A. and received numerous awards. My latest achievement would be winning Miss 2010 Young Woman of Excellence of Southern California 1<sup>st</sup> Jurisdiction of The Church of God in Christ. I couldn't have done any of this without the ministry of Min. Lorenzo Johnson & Praizum. I am a changed woman and I am so blessed and grateful to be apart of this dynamic ministry.

**Inspired To Grow**  
By Tameka Glover

This ministry has pushed me out of my comfort zones and helped me to expand my dreams. Being apart of Praizum has encourage me to use the gifts God has given me and has taught me the value of unity. Praizum is one body with many parts that all have something to contribute. I am constantly

...saving souls and inspiring hearts to turn to God.

being shown how we are “better together,” especially, when we minister at engagements. The

ultimate blessing is when people, who I don't know, share with me how their lives has been affected by our ministry and music. Once, there was an

over weight teenage girl who came to me after we sang at Knotts Berry Farm. She was in

tears, and expressed how we inspired her to become who God has called her to be and not be ashamed of herself any longer. That testimony stuck with me. It is reasons like these, why being apart of Praizum has truly affected my life.



# BEHIND THE MUSIC

## Get Up

is a fun, energetic party song that reminds us that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, lives inside every believer. If Jesus got up from the grave, we can get up; from debt, depression, sickness and bad relationships. This song is usually a crowd pleaser. The climax of this song ends with me lying on the ground while the choir screams for me to get up.

## Praise Your Holy Name

is an interactive song that's perfect for a praise and worship experience. This song inspires us to give God praise with all of our might. My favorite line of this song is "from the bottom of my heart, to the depths of my soul, from the top of my lungs, I'll bless His name."

## In Jesus Name

We sing this song more frequently at youth services and concerts. It is one my favorite songs to sing. Full of dance choreography, this song motivates people to get out of their seats. But, it also encourages believers to walk in the power and authority we have In Jesus Name.

## These Signs

is the first song I ever wrote. It was inspired by my 2006 missionary trip to the Philippines where I saw the miraculous signs of healing manifest on a eleven year old girl, who had been healed right before my eyes.

## In His Presence

was inspired by my experience at early morning prayer. The bridge of this song is a direct quote from a prayer my pastor's prays every Sunday morning, "Let your glory be revealed and your power will manifest"

## More Like Him

Is a simple prayer that I pray during my daily devotion. "Open my eyes Lord, show me which way to go. Open my ears Lord, so I can hear your voice. Guide my feet Lord; lead me and I'll follow ..." I prayed this prayer so much that I began to sing it in my spirit.

## Life Support "Breathe"

I received a phone call that another aunt, Dezarnez Johnson-Potts, had died. I was so devastated by the news; I made my way to the hospital expecting to see my aunt for the last time, only to find, they had revived her back to life and placed her on "Life Support". For the next two months I continued to visit my aunt in the hospital, watching her breathing with the assistance of machines, lying lifeless on a hospital bed. I recalled the scripture that said, "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord"; I thought to myself how could I praise God when I feel like I can't even breathe. As the tears dried on my face, I heard the comforting voice of the Lord say, "When you feel like you can't breathe, I will breathe for you; when you feel like you don't want to live, I will sustain you and I will be your Life Support".



# BEHIND THE MUSIC

## I Need You

After hearing about the death of my Aunt Hester, who served as the first lady of my church, I was overwhelmed with emotion. To make things worst her death seemed to bring out the worst in people. Many hurtful things were said, turning this time of mourning to bitter resentment. The pain I felt from this ordeal, forced me into a place where I desperately needed the help of God.

## The More I Praise Him

While my mom was going through her chemotherapy treatments, I would come home late from revival and late night services to hear my mother screaming HALLELUJAH and THANK YOU JESUS. I would rush into the house to see what was going on, and find her rejoicing in the Lord in spite of her pain. I learn from my mother, the more you praise God the better you will begin to feel.

## House Of God

With a lot of new age thinking within the church, I often hear people make statements like “I don’t need to come to church, I am the church”. The Bible teaches us that we ought not forsake the fellowship with other believers. This song comes from the story of Jacob found in Genesis, where he saw a ladder that reached heaven with angels ascending and descending on it. Jacob grabs the angel of the Lord and wrestled with him all night long and was determined not to let the angel go until he received his blessing. He then called the place Bethel that means the house of God. It was there, where God has placed his name. A place where the blessings of the Lord flows.

## Try God

Honestly I found myself treating God how people treat a good friend that you just don’t feel like being bother with. Although you know that friend is right, you just are not ready to accept it yet. But even after I rejected God, his blood still reached all the way down and saved me. Knowing about God is one thing, but actually being a blood washed believer, who has accepted Christ as Lord of their live, is something completely different. This song simply tells us to “Try God”.

## Romans 7

Like Paul in Romans chapter seven, I find myself struggling to do the right thing. This song reminds us although we may be faced with temptations, Jesus is always standing there, and He is our deliverer.

## My Soul Cries Out

Some of my fondest childhood church memories were during testimony service. One of the most common sayings during this service would be, “When I think of the goodness of Jesus and all that He’s done for me, my soul cries out hallelujah, thank God for saving me”. Before the person reciting this phrase could finish, the church would have already started reflecting on the goodness of Jesus. Everybody would stand on their feet rejoicing, singing, clapping and dancing.



# PRAIZUM ON THE MOVE

The Performance Biography

- September 24, 2010 ~ Open for Tye Tribbett at the City of Refuge's (Bishop Noel Jones) Back to School Revival in Gardena, CA
- July 17, 2010 ~ Open and provided background vocals for Mali Music at the Dream Center in Carson, CA
- July 11, 2010 ~ Long Beach Gospel Fest (other notable musical guest include Deitrick Haddon, Kierra Sheard & Damita Haddon)
- July 5-10, 2010 The International AIM Convention of the Church of God In Christ (Charlotte, North Carolina) appx. 30,000 people in attendance.
- May 15, 2010 ~ KJLH Knott's Berry Farm Gospel Showcase (other notable musical guest include Marvin Sapp, Hezekiah Walker, Earnest Pugh, James Fortune, Bebe Winans)
- May 10, 2010 ~ Appeared on KTLA Channel 5 News 7am with news anchor Gayle Anderson
- April 2, 2010 ~ Good Friday Service of Southern California First Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ Annual Convocation at West Angeles COGIC
- March 27-28, 2010 ~ Bobby Jones Gospel Show taping in New Orleans, LA. (Will be aired in 47 countries on The Word Network 2010)
- January 31, 2010 ~ Musical at Mount Sinai COGIC (Pamona, CA) ... Singing background for Michelle Prather of the Kurt Carr Singers
- September 19, 2009 ~ Back 2 School Event City of Refuge (Gardena, CA) (Bishop Noel Jones, Pastor) (other notable musical guest include Da Truth, GB5, Tonya Baker)
- July 12, 2009 ~ The City of Long Beach Gospel Fest. (Long Beach, CA) (other notable musical guest include Kim Burrell)
- June 29 - July 4, 2009 ~ The International AIM Convention of the Church of God In Christ (Tampa, Florida) appx. 30,000 people in attendance.

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