

## Distinguished brings different package with same message

**MARVIN D. CLOUD**

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Every now and then, in a musical world filled with soloists, groups and bands, someone is given a idea so unique, so different that it can only be called, "distinguished." The accepted definition of the term is "to mark as separate or different." That can be said of the male duo that goes by the name of "Distinguished."

The group is made of former National Football League players Gino Mingo and Marcus Price, who are from Denver, Colorado and Houston, Texas respectively, made their CD debut the last week of August. The two have played professional football for the Jacksonville Jaguars, San Diego Chargers, New Orleans Saints, Buffalo Bills, Dallas Cowboys, Kansas City Chiefs, and the B.C. Lions. Warriors/Worshippers, the first release on MPG Entertainment Group, features a host of musical all-stars including Grammy award-winning producer Aaron Lindsey (Israel & New Breed), D.C.-based Kollektive Music Group, and the Usher band among others. Distributed by Taesis and Word Distribution, the two praise & worship leaders at Shoreline Christian Church, in San Diego, under the leadership of Pastor Dave Soto, describe themselves as "warriors who love to worship God."

Gino said, "We go back to 1995 being a part of the same ministry and athletics. In 1999, we came to San Diego to plant a church. That same year, Marcus decided that he wanted to get back into music

which was a passion in his heart. Along with being a senior associate pastor, I was a praise and worship leader. We wanted to take things to a higher level. From that point, we started singing together, not with the idea of being a duo. Marcus and I were both on the path to doing solo projects. I did one in 1997, but I was wanting to do another and Marcus was looking towards doing one. We were working together on Sunday mornings and the Lord was doing something. We begin to say, 'Maybe we should do something together' and that's how the duo was birthed."

Although it's not unusual for football players or other professional athletes to enter the gospel arena, it is sometimes difficult for others to take them seriously. Marcus stated, "One of the things that happens when you transition out of being a 'professional football player' is that you don't have a lot of credibility. But by working hard and allowing the anointing to come forth, you show God through your gift."

The title track, "Warriors Worshippers," reminds one of an old school groove, yet it describes how true worshippers and warriors, get on their face before God. "It's Worth It" reiterates the value of making wise choices in life and having relationships that please God and bring him glory. "There Is A Name," honors biblical attributes given to the name of Jesus.

The message in "My Everything," reveals the longing for God's presence and His spirit in our lives. The CD is rounded out with several other tracks including, "There Is A Sound," "Say Something God Can Use," "He Is," "I Still Have Peace,"

and "Come And Drink." Perhaps the most stirring and profound song is found on the first single, "Manifest."

Gino said that "Manifest" was inspired by God after he and his wife, Michelle had three miscarriages. Medical professionals could not provide them with a reason for the miscarriages. The Mingos did not give up on God, who gave them their first child, Noelle Marie.

A word study after her birth revealed that Noelle meant "Inspiration/Song." Gino already knew that Marie meant bitter. "At that moment, God spoke to me and said, 'I want you to know that I birthed this inspiration out of the waters of bitterness.'"

They now have two girls. He released his debut solo project The Unfolding, in 1997 which was co-produced by Grammy award-winning Israel Houghton and featured

recording artists Niecee Walls, Claude McKnight of Take 6, and Shake Anderson, former bass player for Earth, Wind, and Fire. Marcus is a certified sports nutritionist and personal trainer, who took a variety of applicable classes

and sung in the gospel choir while attending Louisiana State University. He also performed the National Anthem, in addition to singing alongside gospel greats at the 2004 Super Bowl Gospel Celebration in Houston Texas, during his time in



the NFL. For the past six years, he has devoted much of his football off-season to songwriting, arrangement, and musical development.

He now resides in San Diego, California with his wife of 11 years, Roxanne. ★

## Greater Denton Arts Council announces African art exhibit

**DENTON-** The Greater Denton Arts Council announces they will host an exhibition of art from Africa, from the collection of Alford Green, Jr., of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Green has stated that this will be last time his collection will be made available for public viewing. The collection will be on display in both the Meadows Gallery and East Gallery at the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton.

The Alford Collection will be open to the public from Tuesday, September 18, 2007 thru October 31, 2007. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Sunday from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. It is free and open to the public.

Docent Tours are available.

Ceremonies in African Art will be on display in the Meadows Gallery. It will showcase art and artifacts from the 18th century and later, representing such diverse cultures as the Ashanti, the Benin Kingdom, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Zaire, and more. Among the pieces are a Village Totem-Fang, Cameroon/Gabon; a Rhythm Pounder (pombibele)—Senufo, Ivory Coast; Fertility Mask—Nimba, Sima Society, Baga, Guinea; and a royal memorial ancestor male figure—Bangwa, Cameroon. Two more very important pieces are the Village Fetish-Mother Spirit, Tikar, Cameroon

and Oni (king) of Ife, brass/bronze, Western Nigeria.

Equally important are the Umabatha woodcuts by Lucky Madlo Sibiya (1942-1999). They are displayed in the East Gallery. These fifteen woodcuts depict the "Zulu Macbeth"—Umabatha. They are displayed with Shakespearean passages from the English work. Umabatha is not a Zulu version of Macbeth but portrays historical Zulu events woven around Shakespeare's plot. Lucky Sibiya's wood panels mirror scenes from the play. For more information please call the Greater Denton Arts Council at (940) 382-2787. ★

## Deals & Wheels

**Figuring out how much you can buy**

**GWENEVERE M. CLOUD**  
Automotive Correspondent

**HOUSTON**

All financing institutions use mathematical formulas to figure out how much you can possibly pay. Some use your credit



report as their guide while others use your debt-to-income ratio (how much you owe versus how much you make). Your credit report can give you an idea of what you're willing to pay, while debt-to-income tells you what you're able to pay.

It's a good idea for you to know for yourself - before you set your sights on your dream vehicle. If installment-wise, your debts consist mostly of what you owe to large lenders such as major credit card companies, banks, and automobile finance companies, you might only need a report from one of the three major reporting agencies. If you primarily owe, smaller creditors, you should get all three because they tend to report to only one or two of them.

You should verify the information contained in your credit report to make sure that it is accurate and up-to-date. This will also allow you to calculate your own debt-to-income ratio. If you know up front what you can afford to pay for a vehicle, chances are slim that your emotions will "over rule" your senses during the buying process. ★

Gwenevere M. Cloud is Business Development Manager for Gulfgate Dodge, 7250 Gulf Freeway, Houston, TX. For more information, call (281)477-6767 ext. 6130 or email her at gcloud@gulfgatedodge.com.

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