

# YOUTH NEWS & ISSUES

Trevor Bell Youth Editor



## Just Kicking It By: Trevor Bell Gospel Music Great Thomas Dorsey,

Just a little something to share. Enjoy  
Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993, composer of such standards as "There Will Be Peace in the Valley"), is considered by many

gospel devotees to be the "Father of Gospel Music." The son of a minister, Dorsey was a consummate musician and as a young man accompanied some of the most famous blues singers of all time-specifically, Bessie Smith (1894-1937) and Ma Rainey (1886-1939). He also arranged and composed blues tunes. His penchant for bouncy tunes and bawdy lyrics did not keep him from attending the annual meetings of the National Baptist Convention, though, and it was at one of these meetings in Philadelphia that Dorsey first heard the compositions of Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933, composer of "We'll Understand It Better By and By" and "Leave It There" among others).

In his essay, "Rock, Church, Rock," Arna Bontemps says that it was then that Dorsey began to write religious music, abandoning his brash lyrics but not the jazz rhythms and blues flavor and rhythmic style so akin to Tindley's own. Naturally, the "old guard" conservatives considered this blending of the sacred (spirituals and hymns) and the secular (blues and jazz) as "the devil's music" and shunned it. By its actions, the church declared Dorsey's brand of gospel music unworthy of a hearing within the sanctuaries of the day, a story quite similarly echoed by churches responding to the rock 'n' roll Jesus Movement that swept the country in the early '70s. In both instances, the traditional church failed to see the positive influence contemporary music could have, blessing its listeners and encouraging them to draw near God. It is this intense spiritual quality in gospel music that lifts it up beyond its mere form, a quality that most preachers in Dorsey's day failed to understand.



## Keeping It Real By: Taylor Brooks

Hey guys as you know school will be starting on August 25. I will be a sophomore in the town of Farmersville were I will attend school at Farmersville high school when school begins.

When school does begin I hope I will be released from the doctors to go back to playing sports again. I had major surgery; I tore my ACL and messed up some other ligaments too.

I'm really not excited to go back, but in order to go to college you have to get an education, which after I graduated from school I would like to go to the University Of Oklahoma and major in college basketball then go off to play for the WNBA.

I had a great summer this year, with my grandmother taking me back and forth to Physical Therapy, visiting some of my friends in Wylie and going shopping, and swimming and just having fun.

This year I had a great time going to District Congress in Kemp Texas, with my youth group and directors, and the other youth that came along too, it is always fun going to congress especially on Thursday because we get to show off our talent.

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Presented by Hattie Kelly Ministries



## Amazing Year-2008 By: Andre Cyres

My name is Andre Cyres, I am 10 years old and I attend Hickey Elementary school in Plano Texas. I will be in the 5th grade when school begins. I live with my parents, brother and two catfish. A lot of rabbits are in my yard and I get to catch them.

After catch them, I let them go because they need their mother's milk.

My favorite T.V. is SpongeBob Square pants. I like it because SpongeBob Square pants always has a character that I hope I can always be when I grow up-caring, joyous, and always in everyone's heart. My favorite character is SpongeBob Square pants and Patrick.

During my free time, I like to play with my Capsela boat. It's fun because I like to make waves in my hand and see what happens. It's made out of electronic parts that you put together for different things you can make.

I feel joyful when I do something helpful or get money. I like to hear that phrase "thank you" ringing in my ear because it tells me right away I've helped someone. It always feels like I'm always there to help anyone in need. Someone I've always looked up to or admire is my family because they teach me right from wrong ever since I was little. They taught me right from wrong ever since I was little. They taught me this and when I get older it will come in handy. It's just a big blessing I can receive but everyone doesn't receive it.

I got top honors in writing because I scored a 4 on the TAKS writing. I achieved a commended score on the math portion of the TAKS test. I am really good at football, basketball and writing. I was on an undefeated team when I played basketball for Upward Basketball. In football, I usually throw to my brother around the house and throws back to me. Well now you know a little about me. I will be writing for Power Pages on a regular basis, so see you next month.

The Power Pages News welcomes Andre

## Summer Success By Andre Cyres

Playing basketball  
Jumping, blocking, and shooting.  
Just like the NBA

Fishing at CrossLake  
Where fish delightfully jump  
Breeze feels like heaven

Pack early morning  
On the road to Atlanta  
Get there at seven

At the waterpark  
Lots of rides to go on to  
Wish I could come back

This Youth page section is sponsored by Brooks Clean-Up Services and Jim Foy Inc.

*If you know of a young person who has talent and would like to show that talent, let them try writing for the Power Pages News Give us a call at 972-784-6648 or email us at [ppages2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ppages2@sbcglobal.net)*

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