

December 2018



BLACK BASICS

M A G A Z I N E

Moment of Clarity

Kevin Olusola operates from a sense of clarity and intentionality when it comes to spending time with God in his day-to-day schedule and on the road with Pentatonix.



- * 2018 Recap
- * Social Justice Movement
- * The Great Election
- * Humans of Adventism
- * 20 Questions

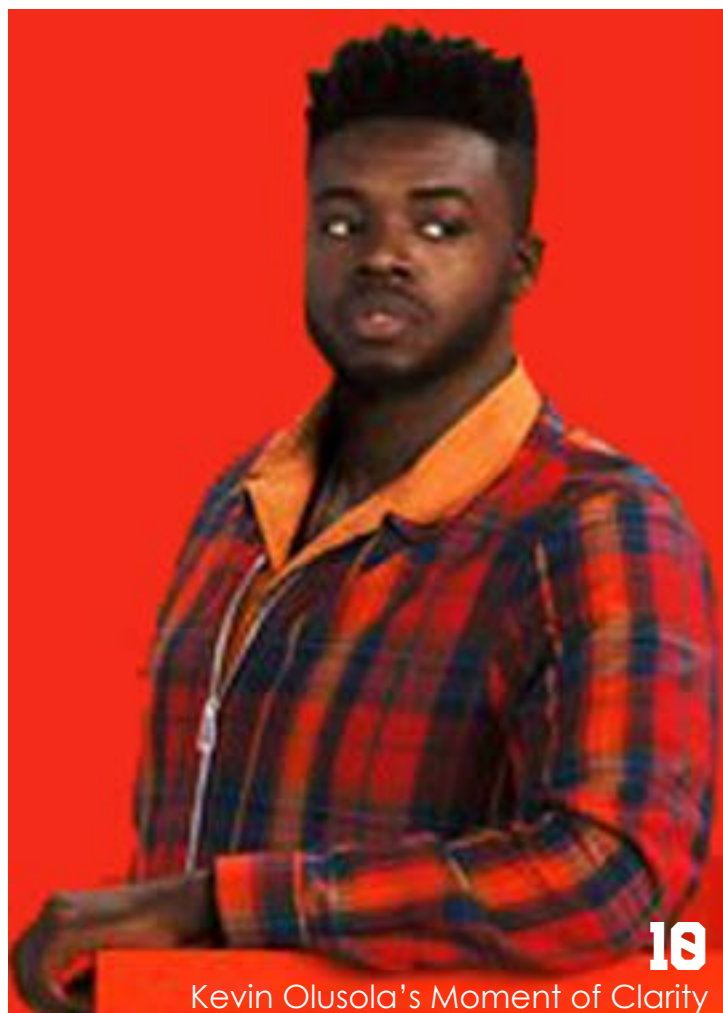
FOR
GOD
SO
L♥VED
THE
WORLD.

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

In 2018 we tried something different. I wanted to speak to the visual sense of our readers and tried our hand in video. In addition, I wanted to focus on podcasting the interview audio. There were many lessons learned and ultimately I realized we need to go back to the basics of this publication. In 2012 B2B set out to be the premiere Christian lifestyle magazine with motivating messages, intimate devotionals, compelling and engaging editorial lineup and vibrant and modern design. Our editorial content is designed to help young people move their lives forward spiritually, personally, professionally and intellectually. I'm happy to announce that our 20 page bi-monthly magazine is back! This time, with new design and even some new sections. Still, the mission remains the same, to inform and inspire young people in their walk with Christ.

In this final month of 2018, we have a recap of our feature stories this year and some exciting things for you to keep on your radar for 2019. We call this issue "A moment of clarity." Featured on the cover is Kevin Olusola of Grammy award-winning group, Pentatonix. Kevin received a deep understanding of the calling on his life and discovered truth's that had been out of reach for him before now. Like Kevin, B2B had a moment of clarity when the vision became unclouded and focused. I learned this year that God is more interested in your development than your arrival. He cares more for your character than your comfort, more for your purity than your productivity.

I thank God for you, our loyal readers, for vibing with us from day one. I promise to keep riding with you until the wheels fall off!



December 2018, Vol. 6, No. 3

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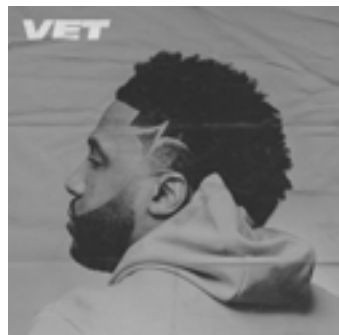
***A Christian lifestyle magazine
designed to inform and inspire
young people in their
walk with Christ.***



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B2B FEED

If You Don't Know, Now You Know



DA' T.R.U.T.H. DROPS "VET" THE EP



MORE INFO AT PTXOFFICIAL.COM

THE TRUTH ABOUT BUSINESS

by Shanita R. James, B2B Contributor

In this day in time everybody wants to be an entrepreneur. The preconceived notation is that entrepreneurs can work when they feel like it. That when you're an entrepreneur you don't have to answer to a boss. You're in charge of the business as well as the decisions making.

Truth is you're going to work longer hours than your 8-12 hour shift day that you're giving your current employer. Statistics show that the average entrepreneur will have double the work amount of years before they are considered "successful". During those years leading up to your success you are going to have to build multiple streams of income as well as build residuals in order to take a day off.

The number one question I get from clients as well as former co-workers is how I transitioned from Corporate American to a Business Owner. The answer is simple I had to know my why. Yes....That's right my why?! My why couldn't be tied to money, as if I thought that every problem I had could be resolved by money then money just became the problem. Simply put don't do it for the income, do it for the outcome.

As a visionary I speak affirmations to myself, employees and clients daily. I support them even when you may not have the support of others. I employ you to surround yourself with people who will support your dreams and aspirations. Positive energy is everything! Positive energy begins in your thoughts, your emotions amplify it and your actions only increase its momentum. Know your WHY? My why is that I want to make a meaningful impact in the lives of my clients that they will find fulfillment that their dreams have been transformed into reality.

Colossians 3:17 says "And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him".

Whatever you do in this world whether it is by your word or by your deed do it in the name Lord. Thank him daily for the gifts inside of you. Cause truth is the only difference between you and someone who didn't make it. Is that you had the faith and the strength not to give up on your dreams when they did.

RECAP:

Number 1: You're going to work, probably harder than you do now.

Number 2: Know your why? (On the days you don't feel like working, when you don't feel successful and you're being challenged on ever end. Your why is what makes you passionate).

Number 3: If you only say one prayer in a day, make it THANK YOU! You're blessed with everything you need. Work hard towards everything you want. And most of all I appreciate and thank God for what I have.

THE
TRUTH
ABOUT
BUSINESS



Shanita Robinson James
Visionary and Founder of
iVision 360 Consulting Firm LLC

For additional information please log on to iVision360.org or call 844-592-2997



RELATIONSHIP OVER RELIGION

with Dionne J. Edmonds

Dionne J. Edmonds, founder of The Be Event, is a woman after God's own heart. By tying Biblical truth to relevant conversation, Dionne is on a mission to empower women to live surrendered to Him. This means giving up their lives for the sake of finding a relationship with Christ.

To live a blessed life is to live in relationship with God. If you lack a relationship with Him, the Gospel cannot impact you to the point of change. This will sometimes require us to give up material wealth and comfort, to experience persecution instead of popularity, and it will lead to a life led in total dependence on God instead of on our own resources and gifts. But the reward is what our hearts really yearn for: Healthy and whole relationships with each other and with God.

The "Be" Event is designed to cultivate an atmosphere where women can embrace all of the elements of "Being." From entertainment, to Girl Talk with Michelle Williams and Dr. Jackie Greene, to fabulous shopping from vendors, live demonstrations and so much more! Party with a purpose: Attendees are asked to bring menstrual hygiene products to donate to SisterFriend.org. Together we can empower vulnerable women!



MUSIC NOTES

Good Music is Good for the Soul

SONGBOOK OF A DREAMER

with Rico Wint

God's Kingdom is increased by men and women who tap into the purpose that God has for them. Rico Wint is a pastor, husband, father, musician and mentor living with purpose and passion for the Kingdom of God. He is the founder of Young Men of Purpose (YMOP) and The Purpose Center - Denver. God's plan and purpose is a basic theme throughout the entire Bible.

God's plan was written long before you were born. (Jeremiah 1:5)

God's plan for you is working for your good. (Romans 8:28)

God's plan is built upon your gifts and talents. (Ephesians 2:10)

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed. (Proverbs 16:3)

Songbook of a Dreamer is an anointed project produced by Eris Ford-Ordenes, Solomon Chapman, Javier Ordenes and Evan Ford. Rico explains how many of the songs on the EP were given to him by God in the forms of dreams. "I thank God for the gift of music, I promised Him I would give it back to him as long as I lived, when I was 15! says Rico." There is nothing random or spontaneous about our God and His works.



@ricowint #songbookofadreamer

CAROL OF THE BELLS

with Resound

Joseph Clarke, Jessica Fox & Mariah Hargrove make up the Richmond, VA based trio, Resound. From classical to gospel, this trio is best known for their unique and skillful a cappella arrangements. Their mission is to encourage and provoke individuals to share their God-given gifts and talents with others, just as they have. Resound has been blessed with opportunities spanning from the Festival of Praise Tour with Donnie McClurkin and Fred Hammond to singing live on Good Morning America.



We caught up with Resound just after their performance at the Exodus Music and Arts Festival in Irving, TX on May 26. Their beautifully arranged a cappella harmonies and impeccable blend caught the attention Kirk Franklin and they were the winners of his #ChooseMeForExodus social media contest. It was a dream come true for them to perform on the same stage as Erica Campbell, Tamela Mann, Tye Tribbet, Marvin Sapp and Kirk Franklin. Resound truly believes their gifts and all of the opportunities they have been given thus far can only be accredited to God. Without Him they know they would not be able to do what they do.

@officialresound #carolofthebells

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KEVIN "K.O." OLUSOLA

moment of clarity

When it comes to breaking boundaries in the world of music, Kevin "K.O." Olusola is no stranger. He is best known as the beat boxer of the Grammy-winning vocal quintet Pentatonix. The group has eclipsed 7 million YouTube subscribers (more than both Avicii and Beyoncé), with more than 800 million cumulative views. Their music video for "Daft Punk" has been viewed more than 100 million times and the medley earned the group their first Grammy win. To date, Pentatonix has released 5 albums, each landing in the top 15 of Billboard's Top 200 Album Chart and cumulatively selling roughly 1.7 million albums.

Kevin grew up in the small town of Owensboro, Kentucky, the son of a Nigerian psychiatrist and a Grenadian nurse. At an early age, Kevin began learning piano, cello and saxophone. He performed at Carnegie Hall twice as soloist on the cello and saxophone and has appeared on NPR's From The Top. After finishing high school at Phillips Academy Andover, Kevin enrolled in and graduated from Yale University where he was pre-med and majored in East Asian Studies. He spent 18 months in Beijing becoming fluent in Chinese as a part of his Yale fellowship.

While in college, Kevin began developing his "celloboxing" skills and in 2009, he won second place in the "Celebrate and Collaborate with Yo-Yo Ma" international competition. Ma would call Kevin's celloboxing version of "Dona Nobis Pacem" both "inventive and unexpected." In 2011, Kevin's "Julie-O" celloboxing YouTube video was featured by CBS, AOL, Huffington Post and Washington Post, among others. Kevin was also named one of 100 "History Makers in the Making" by NBC's TheGrio and was hand-chosen by Quincy Jones to represent him in concert at the 2012 Montreux Jazz Festival alongside Bobby McFerrin and Chick Corea.



On March 10th 2015, Kevin released his first solo album, *The Renegade EP*, courtesy of RCA Records. The album features classically reimagined versions of popular songs like “All of Me”, “Stay With Me”, and “Heart Attack”, as well as Kevin’s original composition “Renegade”. The album debuted #1 on Billboard Traditional Classical and Classical Crossover charts, in addition to staying #1 on iTunes classical albums for weeks. As Kevin puts it: “I think this is the beginning of a different sound I’m trying to popularize, just like Pharrell did, just like Quincy Jones did. I’m still developing... but I’m excited for the journey, says Kevin.”

Kevin gets back to the basics by taking it one day at a time. “I stay centered by affirming myself in the morning with the things I want to believe about myself.” He explains that being reactive to the day vs. proactive derails your plan of who you are and the kind of person you want to be. Daily affirmations allow you to interact with people throughout the day in the manner that you decide for yourself.

A lot of times you hear you must work constantly to achieve success. “I just don’t see that being sustainable,” says Kevin. Ultimately it comes down to balance.

Newly engaged, Kevin thinks on how his fiancée will become his wife and about starting a family. “If I don’t have balance, there’s no way I’m going to be able to be there for my children,” says Kevin. He goes on to say that being an amazing father is more important to him than music.

When you operate from a sense of clarity and know your priorities, those are the keys that keep you in line and level-headed through it all. Practical tips like scheduling your day and being intentional about your uninterrupted time with God offers good advice in your daily walk.

“I believe in the Sabbath and I think the Sabbath is an amazing time to recalibrate your time with God and see where your walk has been. With God, with family, with myself, I can do a review of my relationship with Him and pray some things out.”

“This life is so crazy being a musician... I’m always traveling I’m always touring, I’m always gone so having that intentional time is very important.”

Be sure to get the Pentatonix Christmas is Here album wherever you get your music.

@kolusola // @ptxofficial



Christmas Is Here! is the seventh studio album by American a cappella group Pentatonix. It is also their third full-length holiday album since *A Pentatonix Christmas* in 2016.



a conversation with

Kaleb

I currently reside in: *Orangeburg, South Carolina*

When I was younger, I used to:
Dream of becoming a Pokémon trainer

My favorite thing to learn about is: *Social media, literature, and psychology*

My favorite food is:
That great Dominican food my wife's family makes. Just... all of it.

The best show on television is:
The Office

If I could go to anywhere in the world, I'd go to: *Italy. Some little peaceful town where I could read and eat and not feel rushed or pressured.*

The farthest place I've travelled is to:
Candelaria, Cuscatlán, El Salvador

My favorite color is: *Green*

My current favorite song is: *"Beauty in Movement" by Soren Bryce*

The book I am loving right now:
"The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas

I'm most excited about:
The growing interest in digital ministry in the Adventist church

Three words that best describe me:
Patient, curious, safe



Kaleb Eisele, Editor, Humans of Adventism

What started as a small local project and a cell phone quickly grew into what we now know as Humans of Adventism. Kaleb's love for Jesus and his community is what drives this platform forward. A graduate of the College of Charleston English program, Kaleb's work has been published by both secular and Adventist publications including the Charleston City Paper, 71.5 Magazine, The Odyssey Online, and The Haystack.

Kaleb serves as the Director of Social Media at his local church, and is passionate about integrating Millennial and Gen Z technological and social skills into Adventist congregations. Kaleb worked alongside many others to turn his dying church around, and is now taking their story to others who are struggling. An avid reader, lover of games, and podcast connoisseur, he lives with his wife and two cats in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

How do you get back to the basics in your walk with Christ?

Every day I keep one thing in mind: every biblical law, command, and teaching comes from a God that literally is love. That's the basics. Through this lens I form my interactions with other people and make decisions about my life. The second I forget that God is love, the moment I see Him as a judge with arbitrary rules, I lose sight of His purpose for me. Each time I have to resituate my mind, the question becomes, "how is love guiding my actions here?"



THE GREAT ELECTION

by Mariam Kazadi, B2B Contributor

We live in a politically-charged environment and I think we can all agree with that. Everywhere you look people are passionate about one politic lane or another. Your lane may be women's rights, racism or immigration but we all got a lane. Now, before engaging in an election for these issues, I want to challenge us to participate in a more individual election, I am going to call this the great election.

2 Peter 1:10 New International Version (NIV)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.

This great election is a spiritual one and a challenge I believe we should all accept. It's a moral challenge and one that will challenge our integrity. It will cause us to say IF I truly believe Jesus said this, I cannot agree with that. Or, to get to Peter's point in the scripture, I WILL NOT participate in it. This vote of not participating in anything that goes against God's ways is the great election that will keep us God-secure.

Yup! Instead of going through life wondering if we are doing the right thing believing or living the right way, we can choose God's way and in His way we will never stumble. This scripture is talking about stumbling the same we we talk about trippin'. (You know "you trippin'," "they trippin'")

No more disorder or confusion, no more insecurity, no more tripping out about what to do, or if what you did was the right thing. When you participate in the great election you will find yourself voting daily. Every time something happens that prompts a response, we are in the middle of a voting opportunity. When I decided I would save myself for marriage, every fine man I met presented a voting opportunity. The vote will sound a little like "Do I still believe what God said about this part of my life or am I ready to risk it all?" Sometimes we risk it all and forfeit our vote. I have done this many times in other areas and may fall again in different areas. (But a righteous women/man gets up!)

Urban dictionary: Tripping

When one is in a serious state of disarray; A state of disorganization or untidiness. Disorder, confusion, chaos, untidiness, disorganization, dishevelment, mess, muddle, clutter, jumble, tangle, shambles. "The room was in disarray."

**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**

If your vote and actions demonstrate that you agree with God - you cannot fall into insecurity. Instead, you will live this new year (and even a the last few weeks of this year) being a God-secure individual.

The New Year is almost here. Let's confirm our election and decide what our vote will be.

Mariam Kazadi is a writer/speaker with an upcoming blog, for all inquiries contact mariamkazadi@yahoo.com.



ADVENTISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

ASJ is a young adult driven initiative, developed following the shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. As a church body, we were hurt and *burdened* by prior similar instances of social injustice towards minorities in the past, and had sought our local churches for an avenue to participate in marches, protests, rallies, or simply a space to discuss the trauma we too experienced by these recurring murders, sadly we were denied that space. Upon this most recent occurrence, we decided that possibly, the responsibility was ours to create this space for like-minded Christian youth, who were burdened by social injustices within our communities seeking ways to get involved. On that very evening we created what was then “SDA’s for Social Justice” which was later changed to “Adventists for Social Justice”.

Fact: There is so much injustice in the world. Netflix's 'Seven Seconds' is another reminder of those suffering because of injustice. I am very impressed with the courage of Tiffany Llewellyn, CEO & Founder of Adventists for Social Justice. Through this ministry platform, we see how God does not show favoritism. Regardless of an individual's religion, ethnicity, gender, age, income, etc., God is fair and just and His judgement is coming. In the end, no one can get away with anything. God has the final say.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” Proverbs 31:8-9 NIV

We are Christians committed to being our brothers keeper. We invite you to join us in the fight for systematic justice, equity, and equal distribution of resources to vulnerable communities.

Our Mission:

“The mission of Adventists for Social Justice is to reflect the character of Christ by seeking justice and defending the oppressed in our communities.”

Our Core Focus:

- Education
- Economic Empowerment
- Community Involvement
- Evangelism

Our Values: C.R.I.E.S.

ASJ is a youth/lay person driven initiative, which seeks to promote Community, Respect, Integrity, Excellence, Spirituality.

LEARN MORE AT ADVENTISTS4SOCIALJUSTICE.ORG

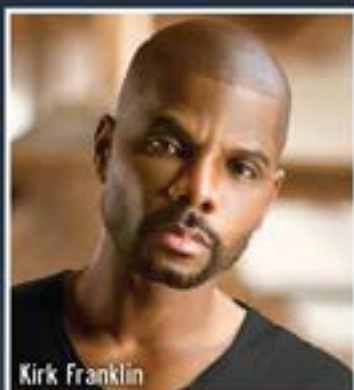


BREATH OF LIFE
PRESENTS

King OF Kings

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Oakwood University Church

This ABC Television special, in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), features a Christmas message from Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry and Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama. This special will also feature the music ministry of Kirk Franklin, Sheléa, and the Oakwood University Aeolians Concert Choir.



Kirk Franklin



Sheléa

Featuring
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www.breathoflife.tv or call 256.929.6460

Breath of Life

WOMAN EVOLVE

with Sarah Jakes Roberts

Sarah Jakes Roberts is a name you may or may not know already. You may know her as the daughter of megachurch pastor, bestselling author and film producer, Bishop T.D. Jakes and Mrs. Serita Jakes, author, media personality and business executive. Or as Pastor Touré Roberts' wife, but Sarah is a woman all her own. Sarah shares her story with transparency and because of that, people gravitate to her.

womanevolve.jpeg

On July 13-14, 2018, Pastor Sarah hosted 2,000 women in Denver, CO for the first-ever Women Evolve Conference. She kicked it off by challenging the audience to "find your own wilderness." Your wilderness is a place where God has created you to thrive. Sarah identified attendees as "Wild Women," not afraid to explore unmarked territory outside of your comfort zone. An analogy she used was the process of going through labor to deliver a baby. "You have to push the baby out." Whether that be a business, book, nonprofit, ministry, or any kind of idea. If you do the work and push (labor), God will pull it out for delivery. This was the theme that the Holy Spirit naturally weaved throughout the two-day conference.

During one of the breakout sessions entitled by Melissa Fredericks, Jeremiah 1:5 was repeated. Melissa said "Confidence is a journey I am on." There is ministry in transparency. The definition for confidence for me is: Whole, complete, full. Nothing broken, nothing missing. I am more than enough, as is, without change.

Pastor Sarah stated during the Inner Circle meet-and-greet, "I always loved rap music. I didn't think my relationship looked like everyone else's. That's because I have my own relationship with him. I pushed and God pulled Woman Evolve out." With her down to earth personality, contemporary style, and revelatory messages there's no question why she is an emerging thought leader for this generation, yet her growing influence came by surprise.

At one point, T.D. Jakes addressed the Women Evolve delegation and said this: There's always conferences and events with motivational speakers

but the difference with us is that we know God has our back. He called us into Denver for a time such as this.

Alongside her husband, Touré Roberts, she co-pastors The Potter's House at One LA and The Potter's House Denver.

"If you would have told me five years ago that I would be in full time ministry, I would have asked if you were talking to the right person." Sarah said.

Together they have six children and split their time between Los Angeles, CA and Denver, CO. Pastor Touré (PT) presented the "Year of the Woman" with four points:

- God's order of creation culminates with the woman.
- Humankind was not fully formed until the woman was brought forth.
- Woman is not synonymous with wife.
- The fullness of God's kingdom strategy is the emergence of the woman.

Evolving is getting back to the basics in your walk with Christ. PT explained the evolution of TD Jakes' "Woman Thou Art Loosed" Conference to the "Woman Evolve."

Mrs. Roberts is redefining what it means to be a modern woman of faith. Sarah has a unique way of reaching people who are seeking to make peace with their past, maximize their present, and deepen their relationship with God. At twenty-three years old she was tempted to allow her journey as a woman battling insecurities, teen pregnancy stigma, low self-esteem, toxic relationships, and depression to define the rest of her life. It wasn't until she was in her darkest moment that she realized she only had two options: settle or evolve. Her passion is to utilize her experiences, insight, and influence to help every soul she encounters to evolve into the best version of themselves.



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Meanwhile, in Wakanda...



- 01 Are you living your best life?
- 02 Why is Chik-fil-A so good?
- 03 How often do you call on the **Holy Spirit**?
- 04 Where's your story... Snapchat or IG?
- 05 Are you minding your business?
- 06 Is Deitrick Haddon taking it too far on his new Christmas album?
- 07 How amazing is **Michelle Obama**?
- 08 What are you afraid of?
- 09 Where is the love?
- 10 Will you be at the *Christmas Is Here* tour with **Pentatonix**?
- 11 Will Black Panther ever get old?
- 12 How many times do you say *I'll pray for you* and actually pray for that person?
- 13 Doesn't it feel like time is speeding up?
- 14 Why don't you go to church?
- 15 When did **Montell Jordan** become a pastor?
- 16 Did you know taking a week-long break from social media can improve your concentration?
- 17 Have you seen KevOnStage live?
- 18 Christmas tree or no Christmas tree?
- 19 How do you think you did this year?
- 20 What was the best **meme** of 2018?

YOUR FAITH.

YOUR VOICE.

YOUR LIFE.

BACK2BASICS

MAGAZINE

**PRACTICAL TIPS ON HOW TO GET BACK TO THE
BASICS IN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST**

BRITTANY N. WINKFIELD