

USA \$1.50/CANADA \$2.25 AUG. 28, 2006

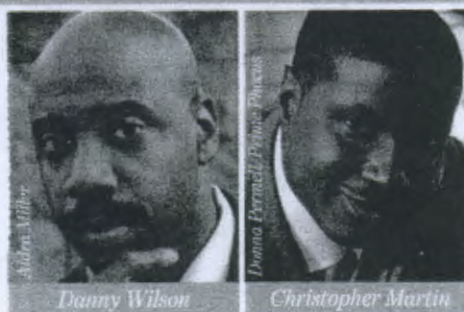
JET

INSIDE:
The Man
With
The Half-
Million-
Dollar
Smile

**A YEAR
AFTER
KATRINA**
**Spike
Lee**
**UNCOVERS
WHAT
REALLY
HAPPENED**

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Holy hip-hop has been telling people in the street about Jesus for over 10 years, according to Danny Wilson, chairman and CEO of holyhiphop.com, who says, "the ministry of Jesus Christ is first and the music is second."

"[Holy hip-hop] is a tool to help our youth understand the language of Jesus Christ, who used parables to break down the gospels for people to understand. Holy hip-hop is the language of this generation to help them understand," Wilson explains. "Music tells stories...to filter the gospel in a form of parable to music. Isaiah said God was going to do a new thing."

Wilson says that while the people preaching aren't the messengers your parents listened to, the messages—living a positive life, being a man for God or a virtuous woman—is the same.

"It's about the young people, the next generation. Who's going to take up their cross and follow [Jesus]? Everybody's not listening to [older gospel singers]...the demographics are different...it's an evolution...God is cool like that...God can use anything to send His message..."

Mainly remembered for his crazy *House Party* movies, some might find it hard to imagine that Chris Martin, the rapper/actor known as "Play" from the 1990s hip-hop duo Kid-N-Play, is now a devout Christian focused solely on Christian-based media who has found a way to seamlessly blend his multimedia talents with Holy hip-hop.

Using his business savvy and inside connections, the Queens, NY, native became executive director of Amen Films and decided to spend his time spreading God's message through Holy hip-hop.

"My main thing is Christ-centered films...that people can relate to...that was the point of creating [the DVD] *Holy Hip Hop*," says Martin, who is also founder and CEO of HP4 Digital Works and Solutions.

"I know it's cliché to say, 'If one person's life is changed, I've done my job', but that is very true." □

—Scotty Ballard and Javonne Stewart