

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Las Vegas has its own Esther – Miss Teen 2010

By Juanita Davis

The Answer Staff Writer

Las Vegas recently named its choice for Miss Teen Las Vegas 2010, and it is quite apparent that it was not only the judges' choice but God's as well.

The story unfolds a lot like the story of Esther in the Bible. In the Book of Esther, we have the account of a young Hebrew girl, who was orphaned and then adopted by her cousin Mordecai. After the King of Susa's wife, Queen Vashti, rebelled against the King (Ahasuerus) he banished her from her duties as Queen and sought another. Young, beautiful maidens were taken from all over the land, to include the *fair and beautiful* (Esth. 2:7) Esther.

After a twelve-month purification process before being presented to the King, Esther's turn to go before him came. Out of many beautiful maidens, she is the one who found grace and favor with the King and became the new Queen. It is quite clear to anyone who has ever read the Book of Esther that what caught King Ahasuerus' eye went deeper than outward beauty. Esther possessed a quiet and humble spirit, and it is evidenced



Natriana Shorter-Barbee named Miss Teen Las Vegas 2010.

by the fact that prior to going into the King, she requested nothing except what the King's eunuch advised. Because of it, "Esther obtained favor in the sight of all them that looked upon her" (Esth. 2:15).

Las Vegas has an Esther of its own. Just a few months ago, Patricia Shorter-Barbee received notice of the then-upcoming 2010 Miss Teen Las Vegas Pageant. She asked her 19-year-old daughter, Natriana (pronounced "Nay-tree-ahna") Shorter, if she would like to enter the pageant. Natriana, who had not taken part in a pageant since the age of six, told her mother she would think about it.

A week later, Natriana gave her mother her answer. She would enter the pageant, but she was "...not going to just do it. I'm not in it to

lose it, but to win it!" And taking before the judges only that which was advised – *trust in God* – she won! Out of 220 contestants, *from all over the land*, Natriana was named Miss Teen Las Vegas 2010. Since the pageant's inception in 1983, she is the first ever African-American to hold the title; and although that is quite a milestone and is to be celebrated, that is not the highlight of this story. The highlight of it is Natriana's faith in and her humble disposition toward the Lord God.

Although it is unsure whether she is the first Christian to ever hold the title, what is sure is that Natriana is sold out for Christ, and she realizes that, "Without Him on my side, I would not be successful. I have to put Him first."

(See Miss Teen LV, Page 23)

## Members honor the life of their pastor

Special to The Answer from Tabernacle of Faith Church

Pastor Corine W. Claiborne, pastor of Tabernacle of Faith, faced a challenging brain surgery a year ago that left her pondering the side effects (i.e., changes in vision, weakness, difficulty in speaking or understanding speech, seizures, loss of motor skills and mental coordination) – nobody was sure she would make it.

"For a total of six-weeks, we spoke longevity and peace into her life, as we presented her with a weekly gift that exuded royalty (i.e., a crown, red carpet, scepter, perfume, etc.). Most importantly,

we lifted God higher than any devil, demon, illness or disease as we festively proclaimed... Long Live the Queen each week," Rev. Doreen D. Johnson explained.

One year later at the top of the Stratosphere Hotel in The Renaissance Private Dining Room, the members of Tabernacle of Faith Church again proclaimed "Long Live the Queen," as they celebrated the life of their pastor last month.

"In this modern day, if a Saint were ever asked to describe their role in the Kingdom of God and his/her duties, you may be surprised to find numerous descrip-

tive adjectives. Nonetheless, if the same Saint were asked to observe another Saint and list a range of perceptions concerning the other Saint, you may receive an entirely different list," Rev. Johnson said.

"Although there are many words to use to edify one another, In March, we chose numerous descriptive words to magnify the Lord for his healing power as we gave (Pastor Claiborne) very well deserved roses while she yet lives, while presenting her to all as The Queen," Rev. Johnson added.

The group concluded this one-time season with a formal dinner where the Black Tie Affair Committee (Vickie Daughtery, DFunda Whaley and Rev. Johnson) hosted fellow believers and church congregants, who were too many to mention, according to Rev. Johnson. "Nevertheless, we recognized them for calling on the name of Jesus on Pastor Claiborne's behalf during her illness and for making the night an awesome success," she said.

Tabernacle of Faith's Assistant Pastor, Fredrick Johnson presented Pastor Corine Claiborne's Neurosurgeon, Gary Flangas, M.D., a trophy to recognize his excellent service.



Pastor Corine W. Claiborne is the pastor of Tabernacle of Faith.



*Let The World Know  
How Special She is!!!*

**Do you know a woman who is selfless, considerate,  
busy in her community as well as ministry?  
A woman who never has time for herself?**

**OF COURSE you do!**

**The Answer Newspaper is sponsoring a  
Pamper Me Contest.**

**All you have to do is nominate a woman you think  
deserves to be pampered by writing a short essay on  
why she is so special. The winner gets an hour with a  
professional stylist, a new outfit, hair style, manicure  
and pedicure, along with an evening out just for two.**

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Each Nominee must be a current and active member in a church and or ministry; Must have a letter of recommendation from Pastors and/or ministry leader; Must live in the State of Nevada; Must be at least 21 years of age at the time of nomination. No nominee can be an employee or partner of The Answer Newspaper and its subsidiaries.**

**HOW TO ENTER**

**Each nominee must be nominated by a second party and cannot self nominate. A short essay must be written to show why the nominee should be considered. These essays have no set length and can be sent into the contest judges electronically. Each nominee needs a brief reference letter from a Pastor or Ministry Leader. Deadline for all entries will be 4:00pm on April 25, 2010. All entries received after that time will not be considered. All entries can be e-mailed to Tonilives4christ@aol.com.**