



## Spirit of Praise Ministries ranked with 'Best of Las Vegas'

### Special to The Answer

Armed with some of the most potent vocalists and several brilliant musicians, the Spirit of Praise Ministries has stacked the deck when it comes to securing a spot on the "the best of Las Vegas" list.

Since its difficult transition just a year ago when the distinguished lead singer Nina Hooks – one of the group's founders and its namesake - stepped back to tackle some career requirements, Spirit of Praise Ministries has waged war against the odds of defeat.

"After receiving Nina's blessings to continue on without her, we prayed, revisited the vision and goals and charted the path," said Toni Terrell, the group's mar-



Spirit of Praise Ministries shown from left to right Darin Scales, Monique Hawkins, Rochelle Schoener, Patrice Coleman, Andrea Coleman, Tara Tatum, Karen Conard and Sonya Jones.

keting and public relations consultant. "There is a lot of

talent in this town and in the United States period. I've

learned that it's not necessarily the talent that takes you

to the next level – it's the anointing, the timing, the

combination and chemistry of the members, and the experience."

Whether ministering before small groups of mature quartet lovers or thousands of trained choir and chorale directors, Spirit of Praise Ministries is famed for adapting to the musical style of the atmosphere – often times that doesn't come with the musical gifts. That's when Rochelle Schoener's 30 years of experience shifts into second gear.

"You have to know who you're ministering to," said Schoener, co-founder and musical director for the group. "If you're ministering to a group of saints who have been directing choirs for 25 years, Kirk Franklin's stomp is not going to move their spirits."

The Chicago-born song bird, who has been directing (See Spirit of Praise, Page 3)

## Gospel Music Heritage Month Returns This September; GMC Unveils Celebration Plans

WASHINGTON D.C. & ATLANTA— The greatest names in gospel music will be featured on-air, online and on-demand as Gospel Music Channel (GMC) celebrates

National Gospel Music Heritage Month across multiple platforms this September.

For the second consecutive year, GMC joined with the United States Senate and the House of Representatives to create the "National Gospel Music Heritage Month" initiative. The dual legislation passed by the House and the Senate designates September 2009 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month," honor-



Gospel Music Channel will feature special Saturday night-long tributes to the biggest names in contemporary Gospel/Christian music including Third Day (shown here).

ing gospel music for its valuable and long-standing con-

tributions to American culture. The initiative was cre-

ated by the Gospel Music Channel; joining GMC as

sponsors of "Gospel Music (See GMC, Page 6)

**DIVERSITY FEST 2009**  
Lisa McClendon  
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