

Ayiesha Woods

2009

- Filmed video for “Never”
- “Alive” radio single goes for adds to CHR radio

2008

- Sophomore album *Love Like This* released September 9th
- Performed at 4 Women of Faith Events to crowds totaling over 33,000
- Toured with Newsong’s Christmas Tour Celebration, the Girls Get-Away Cruise, the Music Boat Cruise and the Cruise With A Cause. Also performed at Creation East, Lifest, Creation West, and Life Light Festival, among others.
- 2 Marlin Award nominations for “Happy” in Pop/Rock Recording of the Year and “Big Enough (Featuring tobyMac)” in International Recording of the Year.

2007

- GRAMMY nomination for Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album
- Dove Award New Artist of the Year nomination
- Toured with 3 Women of Faith events with over 28,000 in attendance
- Performed at 14 of the Revolve 2007-2008 teen conferences nationwide with over 123,000 girls attending
- 4 radio singles at radio with “Big Enough” (AC Top 10), “Happy” (AC Top 15), “The Remedy” (AC Top 15), and “Beauty” (CHR Top 10)

2006

- *Introducing Ayiesha Woods* debut album released June 6th
- MTVU.com’s URGE service (www.urge.com) picked *Introducing Ayiesha Woods* in their 2006 TOP 10 year-end list for Inspirational music

Ayiesha Woods

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by Erin-Oliver Prater

A Different Kind of Glow

The new face of contemporary Christian music finds her fulfillment outside the glitz and glamour of this world.

Ayiesha Woods glows. Her latest CD, an eclectic mix of rock, pop and reggae spiced with dancehall and Caribbean influences, radiates with praise and positivism. Her album-cover portrait exudes calm confidence and style. And if you get a chance to chat with her, you'll find her enthusiasm utterly contagious.

She definitely has what the entertainment industry terms "the *it* factor," both on and off stage.

Toby McKeegan recognized that. In 2004, the former dcTalk member now known as tobyMac signed Ayiesha to his label, Gotee Records. Now, three years later, her single "Happy" is on the Wow 2007 CD.

Ayiesha doesn't credit her success to her own talent and hard work or even to the support of a man in her life. This 27-year-old single songstress is solely concerned with influencing others for the kingdom of God and stirring a little diversity into the mix while she's at it.

Passion and Providence

Ayiesha has her musical, globetrotting family to thank for the colorful, culture-savvy personality. Born in Long Island, N.Y., she spent her childhood in the tropical paradises of Florida, Hawaii and Bermuda, the southern comforts of Georgia and the West-Mex culture of Texas.

She always knew God had a special purpose for her. Ayiesha and her siblings grew up regularly involved in church, often participating in choirs and ensembles. But what she had in routine and religion, she lacked in a relationship with her Creator.

Little did she know, her life was to take a 180-degree turn. At age 12, the conservative, hymn-singing Ayiesha visited a charismatic worship service where banners and flags were being waved by dancing believers. She was taken aback by their passion.

"I thought, *God, I want that, you know?*" Ayiesha says. "This was just something so fresh."

Moved, the young girl accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and soon found herself writing worship songs. In 2001, Ayiesha released her first independent record. It's first single, "Crazy," received rave reviews in the Caribbean and on the East Coast. During a visit to

the tropics, tobyMac heard it on Jamaican Radio Airwaves and subsequently signed Ayiesha to his label in 2004.

"I had my little star-struck moment," she says of the first time tobyMac called her. "It was crazy because I always said if I was going to shop my independent record for a deal, I'd want to be at Gotee. God had it mapped out from the beginning."

And the accomplishments kept coming. In 2004, Ayiesha became the first female to win "Producer of the Year" from the Caribbean Gospel Music Marlin Awards, where she also took home "New Artist of the Year" and "Contemporary Vocal Performance of the Year (Female)." In 2006, Gotee released *Introducing Ayiesha Woods*, and she was included in tobyMac's Winter Wonder Slam tour.

But all the accolades and accomplishments mean nothing to Ayiesha if she's not in line with God's will.

"Shucks, the glitz and the glamour, all that stuff is fading. Only the things that I do for Christ are what last, and those are the things that really make me excited," she says.

Brilliant Future

So what's next for this 20-something sensation? In the near future she hopes to delve into more missions and ministry work. Ayiesha's goals include getting further involved with music production, writing lyrics and a book, and speaking at conferences. Eventually, she hopes to start a family and launch a teen ministry with her future husband.

This February, Ayiesha is looking forward to the spotlight Black History Month will shine on the subject of diversity.

"Race is such a beautiful thing," she says. "If we think we need diversity now, can you imagine what heaven is going to look like? It's not segregated. It's our responsibility to embrace one another's cultures and learn and benefit from one another."

And although she is hoping for a Valentine this year, Ayiesha is waiting on God to bring the right man into her life at the right time.

"We live in this microwave soci-

ety," she says. "We want everything in a hurry, but waiting is a part of the process, and it's in that waiting when He molds us into what He wants us to be." ✨

Erin Oliver Prater lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., and loves spending time with her husband and clipping coupons.



Single and Scrumptious!

Does this Feb. 14 seem more like Singles Awareness Day than Valentine's to you? If your calendar is empty (and even if it's not!), Ayiesha encourages you to "make Jesus your Valentine" by gathering up some good food, great girlfriends, your favorite praise and worship CDs, and hosting a get-together.

"Do you want to talk about some serious intimacy? That's what will be going on when you girls worship," Ayiesha says. Check out some of her favorite dessert recipes below, perfect for a Valentine's Day "just desserts" gathering!

Banana Bread: A Bermudan Favorite

"My friends and family come running over for it every time!"

What You Need

- 3 ripe bananas, mashed
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

What to Do

Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten eggs, mashed bananas and then the rest of the ingredients. Bake in a greased loaf pan at 350 degrees for one hour.

Awesome Ambrosia

"You will not be disappointed!"

What You Need

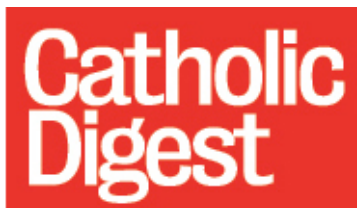
- 1 large can of mandarin oranges
- 1 cup of shredded coconut
- 1 bag of mini marshmallows
- 1 large can of crushed pineapple ("Dole tastes the best!")
- 2 cans of fruit cocktail
- 1 cup sour cream (add more for thickness or taste)

What to Do

Mix and chill before serving.

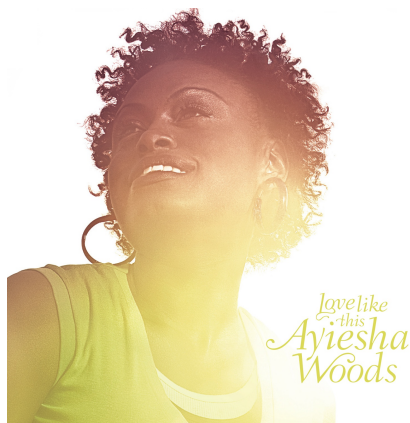


Ayiesha Woods brings her own brand of diversity, quality and purpose into music with her album *Introducing Ayiesha Woods*.



The magazine
for Catholic living

2008 Christmas Guide
Especially For Teens And Young Adults



Love Like This

Ayiesha Woods

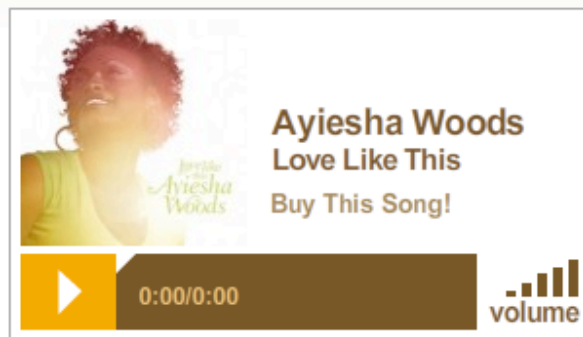
Gotee Records

Christian artist Woods tackles her second pop album with the same energy, vibrancy, and talent that marked her shining debut in 2006.

Elev8

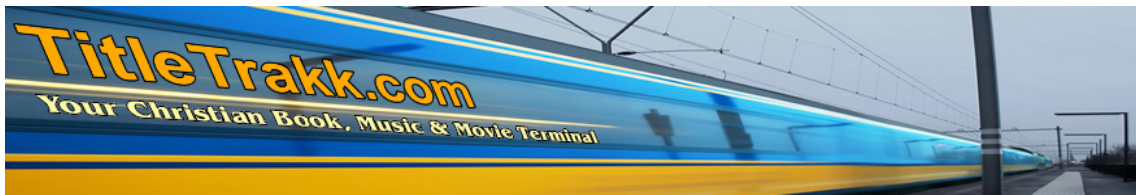
Song of the Day - Ayiesha Woods: Love Like This

By Melanie Clark, Contributing Editor November 10, 2008 2:39 pm



With her first album, celebrated singer/songwriter Ayiesha Woods accomplished more than most artists achieve in a lifetime. It's title was unassuming and self-explanatory, but *Introducing Ayiesha Woods* did more than merely introduce her: it established her as one of the most precocious and promising new artists in Christian and gospel music.

A GRAMMY® nomination, a Dove Award nod for New Artist of the Year, appearances in a number of high-profile tours, and universal acclaim were some of the highlights of Woods' initial time in the limelight. It's a winning streak that is bound to continue with *Love Like This*, her second Gotee Records release also the name of this sunshiney single.



AUGUST 2008

Love Like This by Ayiesha Woods

Reviewed by Dale Lewis

“Ayiesha brings a high energy and refreshing sound to God-honoring music.”

Simply put, Ayiesha Woods brings it all to *Love Like This*, her second Gotee Records release. Her passionate vocals, co-written lyrics, diverse sounds and an overwhelming infectious joy are identifying marks of her music!

Folk, rock, pop, R&B, reggae and ballads all receive equal time on *Love Like This* which is produced by Chris Stevens (tobyMac, Group 1 Crew) and Jamie Moore (Mandisa, Falling Up). Woods says, “I’ve always listened to music in different genres. When it comes to writing music, I’ve never been one to just be comfortable with the same ol’ same ol’.”

Her songwriting is transparently heartfelt...reflecting one who is taking seriously her faith walk with God. The title track “Love Like This” is a worshipful prayer, written in her late teens, revealing her unending quest for a deeper intimacy with God.

My favorite is “One Day” with lyrics like: *And one day you will know the truth and it will make you free, One day I know you’ll surrender and let love in.* It is her upbeat and soulful affirmation of the Holy Spirit’s work in a friend who is spiritually seeking answers and the elusive everlasting love. Ayiesha’s reinterpretation of Jennifer Knapp’s “Refine Me” is a heartfelt confession of wandering child of God.

Love Like This is a musical outpouring of the love lessons Woods has been learning over the last couple of years. Although love is an overused and oft abused word in our world today, Ayiesha draws the listener into the eternal, perfect, unconditional love of the Almighty.

Her lyrics, though refreshingly simple, sometimes become too trite i.e. “People are people and everybody needs some love” or “And I don’t know what I would do if it wasn’t for you.”

Still only in her twenties, Ayiesha brings a high energy and refreshing sound to God-honoring music. You’ve gained a new fan, Ms. Woods!