



SAMSONG... I'm born to sing

by Kunle Falodun

It was a cool Sunday afternoon, the choir had just done a great number and the congregation was charged up ready for the word when suddenly the Pastor stepped up to the podium and announced the presence of a guest minister who will be ministering in a song or two, the man that stepped up to the altar looked quiet except for his Afro hair style and I wasn't sure what to expect until his voice cracked through the microphone and for the next 7 minutes or so literally rocked the house.

Samsong was born in Nigeria, the seventh in a family of nine and the fifth boy. "I started singing at the age of 8" he told Praisereel, at the Four Square Gospel Church in the ancient Benin City where he was born. "I grew up in church" he continued, "but I wasn't really born again, and between that time and when I got born again, I sang everywhere, in clubs, at shows and in the church." He and three other guys started a group called "Praise Creations" in 1990 and were under the management of Ben Olaye before one of Nigeria's top music label, Ivory Music signed them up on a 2 album deal.

Praise Creations, lasted for about 10 years . Samsong's solo career then took off . A graduate of accountancy from the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma In Nigeria, he was initially employed in a bank in the year 2000 after completing a mandatory National Youth Service with the Central Bank of Nigeria. To the complete surprise of his friends and family, Samsong quit the bank job after just one year to follow his dream of becoming a gospel musician.

He said "No one could really believe I would leave a very good career in banking just to sing" he exclaimed. "My family thought I had gone bunkers, but I just did not feel right working in that bank". Eight years and three albums later, they respect and love him for his decision.

The road to the top was not that smooth though for the Gospel R & B crooner, he entered many singing competitions and talent shows, the most remarkable

of which was Star Quest and the Golden Tones show back then in Nigeria. He won the regional finals of both competitions and has not looked back since then. These shows were on television; hence he gained a lot of popularity and became well known.

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Samsong released his first album in 2002 called "Count Your Blessing", in 2004, "Still Counting Followed" and the current album, "The world of my dreams" was released in 2007. He has since performed on the same stage with several artists; gospel and secular including Donnie McLaughlin, Donald Jones,

112, Onyeka Onwenu, 2face and Dbanj.

He won the Amen award in 2004, the best male vocalist of the year in 2005, Best Video award in 2006, The hall of fame award in 2007 among other National awards. When asked about his relationship with God, He said "God has been good to me as a father, a father is someone you can run to when you feel you don't know much" he continued, "God has directed me, as a friend and is always there to lead me to my purpose, if not for him I will not have been here now" he concluded.

The future cannot come sooner for Samsong, he is working on a new album to come out next year and completing videos for the album already out. He has a vision to put together an academy for young people "God has called me to bring up young people who I can train to believe in themselves and do something better with their lives instead of

turning
to drugs or
other vices. When I
was young, I dreamed
that I could sing and I
grew up singing. I want
to help this young people
develop their dreams".

SAMSONG WILL BE PERFORMING AT
THE HOUSE OF PRAISE CHARLTON
AND PECKHAM DURING THE
CROSSOVER SERVICES ON THE
31ST OF DECEMBER 2008