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**For immediate release**

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**MPT premieres *Oh Gospel! The Evolution of Praise, Worship & Song* on December 10**

***New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown ​and Fade2Blac Video produce film to explore history and tradition of gospel music***

**OWINGS MILLS, MD –** Maryland Public Television (MPT) will air a 90-minute original broadcast production *Oh Gospel! The Evolution of Praise, Worship & Song* on Thursday, December 10 at 8 pm.

The telecast, described by its producers as a musical journey grounded in the history and tradition of gospel music from its African roots, features Grammy®-winning gospel artist Richard Smallwood and *American Idol* finalist Jacob Lusk. The film is a collaboration of the New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown and the video production firm Fade2Blac.

Two nights after the premiere telecast, on Saturday, December 12, MPT will rebroadcast the program in a two-hour format and include live performances by The Victorian Gospel Singers, a Baltimore-based group. The December 12 broadcast airs at 7 pm.

*Oh Gospel! The Evolution of Praise, Worship & Song* includes performances by the Sankofa Dance Theatre of Baltimore; the New Masters Trio; soloists J​o​ycelyn Walls and Priscilla Jones; gospel rap artist Ro​c​​kmel; teen gospel group Lyric; and the Oh Gospel Community Mass Choir.

Fade2Blac's Nathaniel Howard explains that *Oh Gospel!* showcases the miracle of song and its ability to cross cultures, races, ages, and genders. "Gospel artists energized a people's hunger for freedom and worship across the darkest periods of our history right up to today's generation," he says.

**About MPT**

Launched in 1969 and headquartered in Owings Mills, MD, Maryland Public Television is a nonprofit, state-licensed public television network and member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). MPT’s six transmitters cover Maryland plus portions of contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards, MPT creates local, regional, and national television shows. Beyond broadcast, MPT’s commitment to professional educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through year-round instructional events and the super-website *Thinkport,* which garners in excess of 19 million page views annually. MPT’s community engagement connects viewers with local resources on significant health, education, and public interest topics through year-round outreach events, viewer forums, program screenings, and phone bank call-in opportunities.

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