

SUMMARY

Freedom Behind the Walls is a true story about the life of Pastor Mandell Motley. As a broken 22-year old, grief-stricken and suicidal, he turns a 10 year sentence at San Quentin into inspiration and opportunity.

While incarcerated, Mandell:

- Got a college degree.
- Started a lead the San Quentin Mass Choir
- Got Ordained, the first in the history of California.
- Hosed / started 2 talk shows for SQ TV.

His talk shows “An Afternoon With...” and “SQ in Focus” afforded Mandel the opportunity to meet and interview A-list celebrities of the time – Paul Rodriquez, Sheila E, ICE T.

In 1992, Grateful Dead manager, Danny Rifkin, hosted a group of Tibetan monks at San Quentin. By September Mickey Hart, The Grateful Dead’s drummer, recorded an album of the San Quentin Mass Choir. Their album, made up of 32 inmates and 18 staff, garnered 3 grammy nominations.



SAN QUENTIN MASS CHOIR

Billboard

FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 23, 1993

Top Gospel Albums

Complete lists of the week's top gospel albums and new releases.

WEEK	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST	TITLE
1	13	JOHN P. KELLY & NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHOR	WE WALK BY FAITH
2	27	SARPH COLEY	WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS
3	4	GRATEFUL DEAD MASS CHOIR	LONG BECAUSE THE HARSH
4	45	REV. MELTON BRUNSON & THE THOMPSON COMMUNITY SINGERS	BY THE NAME OF JESUS
5	21	THE ANCHORED PRICE SINGERS	LOVE
6	13	MELVIN WILLIAMS	IN LIVING COLOR... LIVE!
7	13	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MANDEL'S MESSIAH A SOULFUL...
8	36	REV. JAMES MOORE	ALIVE IN DETROIT
9	50	REV. T. BRIDGES/CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL MASS CHOIR	GLORY ARISE IT
10	26	MELISSA WILKEL/TELLUSHIP CRUSADE CHOR	BEGLOR OIL GILORY
11	11	CHICAGO MASS CHOIR	HE THAT TELL US THIS
12	48	THOMAS WHITEFIELD	ALIVE & SATISFIED
13	47	MISSISSIPPI MASS CHOIR	GOO GETS THE GLORY
14	24	THE RICHARD SMALLWOOD SINGERS	TESTIMONY
15	7	REV. CLAY EVANS	IN GODS THUNDER
16	13	MADONN BIRNANS	PERFECTING CHURCH
17	11	CALVIN BERNARD RHONE	IT'S IN THE PHASE
18	53	SHIRLEY CAESAR	HIS WORKING IT OUT FOR YOU
19	24	FLORIDA MASS CHOIR	HOM, I CAN SEE
20	27	MELIE DEAL, JONSON & THE NEW KEYNOTES	THE COUNTRY BOY GODS LOVE
21	17	BEAU WILLIAMS	LOVE
22	7	RUBY TERRY	WITH THE SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA MASS CHOIR
23	17	SANDRA CRUICK	WITH ALL MY HEART
24	74	YOLANDA ADAMS	THROUGH THE STORM
25	44	REV. FOREST DAVIS & THE WILSONSON CHOR	THROUGH THE STORM
26	17	REV. ALL WHITE JR. & THE SPRING BAPTIST CHOR	COME AS YOU ARE
27	18	VARIOUS ARTISTS	SAULTS TO THE CARIBBEAN
28	38	THE NEW YORK RESTORATION CHOR	THANK YOU JESUS
29	27	THE JACKSON BROTHERHOODS	LOVE AND ANCHORED
30	17	THE GOSPEL MUSIC WORKSHOP OF AMERICA	FROM SAN LUIS CITY
31	3	TM MASS YOUTH CHOR	SEND YOUR ANCHORING
32	4	HEAVEN SENT	KEEP LOVE ALIVE
33	18	BOB TANKARD	KEYS TO LIFE
34	18	REV. JAMES BRUNSON & DELIVERANCE	USE ME
35	17	MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S CHOR	CHILDREN OF THE KING
36	47	NICHOLAS	BACK TO BASICS
37	17	L.A. MASS CHOIR	COME AS YOU ARE
38	NEW	KEITH JOHNSON AND THE RESURRECTION MASS CHOIR	FEEL ME
39	NEW	DOBBIE HARRISON/NEW JERSEY MASS CHOIR	HOME OF THE WORLD
40	NEW	SAN QUENTIN MASS CHOIR	IT'S ALL HERE

ONE MONTH AND CLIMBING !!

San Office Box 446 - San Quentin, California 94964 - (415) 454-3400/Extension 2567 - FAX: (415) 454-6288

As with any good story there is a TWIST.

A routine traffic stop in 2015 reveals Mandell is flagged as a fugitive from justice for the State of Texas. Recognizing this is a mistake, because a Texas judge dismissed all charges for time service in 1992, Mandell willingly complies with law enforcement believing the error would be quickly rectified. This did not happen.

After 25 years as a rural Virginia, law-abiding pastor, Mandell is extradited to Texas. The atrocities and inhumane he experienced at the hands of the Texas authorities is rage inducing for any American. Texas, admitting their technicality error, did not 'make things right' for their treatment of nor months long re-incarceration. Instead, they sentenced an innocent man to 7 years of probation, ending August of 2023.