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## Christian rapper, rocker hits American Bank Center today

**DATE: March 6, 2015** 

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PUBLICATION: Corpus Christi Caller-Times (TX) EDITION: Corpus Christi

SECTION: Entertainment tab Page: 2W

When TobyMac hits the stage, it's hard to fathom this Christian rocker and hip-hop artist who first made a name for himself as a member of the trio DC Talk, recently turned 50.

In fact, given his youthful appearance, it seems unbelievable that at least 20 years have passed since DC Talk's "Jesus Freak" had its first airplay or that TobyMac, born Kevin Michael McKeehan, released his first solo album in 2001.

Yet in an industry consumed with worshipping youth, TobyMac continues to move forward with massive solo hits, a new album and tour focused on worshipping God.

"I just love to have a party," the singer-songwriter said via phone about his latest tour. "My show is hopefully energizing. I hope people leave the place sweaty and hoarse, but refreshed in their spirit and their desire to love God and people as well."

The self-styled rapper, who released his latest single titled "Beyond Me" earlier this year, plans to bring his spirited energy to the American Bank Center Selena Auditorium on Friday for a concert featuring special guests Season 5 "American Idol" finalist Mandisa ("Overcomer") and electronic and Christian pop duo Capital Kings ("Fireblazin").

"The response for this show has been great," said Kristen Bily, marketing and media relations manager for the American Bank Center. "We love when we can bring in a diverse sound to appeal to all music lovers. TobyMac, Capital Kings and Mandisa will be performing for the first time in our venue and that has us really excited."

The tour, which also features TobyMac's band, Diversity, comes on the heels of the debut of "Beyond Me.".

"I'm at a place where I feel like I'm wanting to be in a position where I can't handle it on my own. It's all beyond me," he said. "Walking on that stage in Corpus Christi is beyond me. Playing with artists like Mandisa and Capital Kings is beyond me.

"We're all energetic bands," he added. "We write about life and the pursuit of God in this crazy world. We try to make it fun. There are moments when we're rocking and we're worshipping. The goal is to turn people's hearts to God."

**Caption: Contributed Photo** 

Toby Mac will perform Friday at the American Bank Center.

**Contributed Photo** 

Electronic and Christian pop duo Capital Kings will perform Friday at the American Bank Center.

## **Contributed Photo**

Season 5 "American Idol" finalist Mandisa will perform Friday at the American Bank Center.

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