



PHOTO BY DOROTHY LOW

WHEN YOU ARE GOING THROUGH tough times, that special friend welcomes you into his or her place to kick off your shoes, relax and be yourself. For Yolanda Adams, that place is what the couch signifies on the cover of her new album, *Day by Day*.

“A couch usually represents sitting down face to face with someone and talking intimately. That’s what the couch represents... Sit down, get your tea, get your coffee, let’s just listen to this CD and let it minister to you as though I’m right there on the couch with you.”

You can bet that Yolanda Adams is right there with you. With songs like “Alwaysness,” “Lift Him Up,” and the title track, “Day by Day,” listeners are encouraged to trust in God and praise Him for who He is. But it’s the song “Be Blessed” that best reflects the heart of Yolanda Adams’ mission to encourage and inspire people. “It would be idealistic to say there are no

problems when you receive Christ, but that’s not the truth,” she says. Yolanda talks about the love of God being the core solution to life’s problems. Spreading the message of peace, victory, courage and success all come from experiencing God’s love, and she does not take that part of her ministry lightly.

Yolanda is quick to dismiss the naysayers who mistakenly label her as a “diva.” “One of the problems with the words that people use is that they don’t know how to describe you. Diva used to mean the soprano or the contralto that sang the aria or solo piece in the operas. Now, because of the way some people have acted, diva can mean a person is hard to get along with, or a woman who can’t be satisfied, so I have to ask people to define the word “diva” so they won’t misconstrue who I am or what I represent. If diva means a statuesque woman who wears nice clothes, ok,

I’ll be a diva.”

In addition to a stellar recording career, Yolanda is charting new territory as an entrepreneur in the movie industry. Last October, she made a guest appearance in Rainforest Films’ *The Gospel*, which she helped to produce. It was an experience that she cherishes as an opportunity to open doors for more wholesome films that deal with issues of faith.

Even with all of the new projects on her plate, Yolanda makes it a point to never forget her first priority—to witness to others about the saving power of Jesus Christ and their need to fellowship with Him.

“Even in the worst of times, find Him and hold on to Him. Once you grab hold of Him, He will make sure that you are secure and safe in His arms. In order to find hope, find God.” Now that sounds like advice from a true friend.