

'Trust God' Finds New Urgency Amid National Tragedy

by Shema Poitier

A song born from personal pain more than two decades ago is finally making its way to listeners, its long journey to completion taking on new urgency amid a national tragedy that left many Bahamians grieving and searching for answers.



Bahamian Gospel recording artist Shema Poitier, also widely known as Lady Shema, will premiere her newest single, Trust God, on radio on October 1, ahead of its worldwide digital release on October 30.

Although new to listeners, the song itself is 21 years old.

Poitier wrote Trust God in 2005 during a particularly difficult period in her life, marked by deep emotional turmoil and heartbreak, compounded by financial challenges.

Then, in a moment when it all became overwhelming, the song came.

"The lyrics and the melody came to me all in one go," Poitier recalled. "I was hurting deeply, and the song really came out of that place of pain."

Although born from deeply personal circumstances, Trust God reaches well beyond them. Its lyrics confront different expressions of human suffering, including heartbreak, financial hardship, the devastating loss of a loved one, sickness and the emotional and psychological weight that pain can carry.

At its centre is an anthem of faith, hope and trust in God, particularly when life presents circumstances that are difficult, or even impossible, to understand.

"There are things that happen in this life that we simply will not understand," Poitier said. "But I believe we can trust God's omniscience and His sovereignty because, ultimately, we can rest in His unconditional, never-ending and unfailing love."

A 21-year journey

Poitier first attempted to record Trust God in 2006.

Over the years, she returned to it several times, but various recording and production challenges prevented the song from reaching completion. Eventually, after another serious attempt around 2011, she placed it on the shelf.

She never completely let it go.

People who heard Trust God over the years continued to encourage her to finish it, responding to its contagious melody, deeply transformative message and its capture of the particularly beautiful warmth characteristic of that section of her vocal register. Producers and listeners also observed that the song crosses musical boundaries, carrying qualities of contemporary Christian music while lending itself naturally to country influences.

More recently, advances in audio technology made it possible for Poitier to revisit the earlier recording in ways that had not previously been possible, renewing her confidence that the song could finally be completed.

"It felt like I had been given a second chance at the song," she said.

Still, something else would ultimately turn that possibility into urgency.

Earlier this year, on Independence Day, July 10, ten Bahamians lost their lives as a result of a Flamingo Air aircraft crash near San Andros Airport.

The tragedy reverberated throughout the country, turning a day of national celebration into one of mourning.

In the days that followed, as Poitier processed the shock and grief of the tragedy, she began considering how she might offer some measure of comfort and encouragement. Trust God eventually came to mind.

"The tragedy of the Independence Day plane crash is what really thrust the song into completion," she said. "I kept thinking about the families and asking myself, 'What can I do to bring some degree of comfort, encouragement and healing?'"

Trust God was not written as a result of the crash. It had existed for 21 years.

Poitier is careful not to suggest that the song provides an explanation for tragedy. But its message about trusting God through profound pain, particularly when tragedy seems cruel, unfair and impossible to reconcile with His love, suddenly carried particular relevance.

Rather, she hopes it encourages those wrestling with grief and unanswered questions not to interpret their pain as evidence that God has ceased to love them.

"Pain can be so intense that it causes you to question the faithfulness of God and even the love of God," she said. "But His sovereignty, His omniscience and His unconditional love work in tandem. Even when we don't understand what He allows, we can ultimately rest in His

unconditional love, trusting that His sovereignty is exercised in perfect knowledge.”

There is an unexpected symmetry in the song’s journey.

Trust God was born from Poitier’s own pain in 2005. Twenty-one years later, witnessing the pain of others gave her the urgency to finally complete it.

Radio Premiere

Trust God premieres on radio on October 1, 2026, with listeners encouraged to request the song on Gospel radio stations throughout The Bahamas, as well as community-conscious stations like Global and Peace FM. A sample of the song will also be available on social media.

Its worldwide digital release follows on October 30, when the single will become available for streaming and digital download.

Poitier is no stranger to recognition for her music. Her debut single, Affirmation, received three Caribbean Gospel Music Marlin Award nominations, while We Lift Our Hands, recorded with Adrian Edgecombe and the Bahamas Harvest Choir, and for which she served as lead vocals arranger and vocalist, won the 2004 Marlin Award for Praise & Worship Recording of the Year. Her original songs Walls of Jericho and Catapult have both advanced to the semifinalist round of the prestigious International Songwriting Competition, a global competition attracting entries from more than 150 countries and in which semifinalists have represented only about 15 percent of entries. Catapult also received a Bahamas Gospel Music Award nomination for Inspirational Song of the Year.



Beyond music, Poitier continues her professional work as the Communications Liaison within the Sustainable Tourism Department of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. She is also looking ahead to another creative milestone, with the release of her first book planned for sometime in 2027.

For now, however, her focus is on a song that waited 21 years to be finished and the people she hopes it will reach.

“When we don’t understand, when we’re hurting and when we cannot see what God is doing, we can still trust who He is,” Poitier said.

“Ultimately, we can rest in His unconditional, undying love.”