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For News and/or Community and/or TV/Entertainment and/or Religion Editor(s)

## **Comedian Chonda Pierce Joins TLN's *Aspiring Women* as Host**

• *Replacement for Tammy Maltby*

**Aurora, Ill., May 7, 2008 (*The Religion Wire™*) — Total Living Network (TLN)**

announces that comedian **Chonda Pierce** has joined the hosting team of its two-time Emmy-winning talk show ***Aspiring Women***. Pierce will replace host Tammy Maltby.

"We're so sorry to see Tammy Maltby leave the hosting team of ***Aspiring Women***. She'll be missed," notes TLN spokesperson Brent Kenyon.

"But, at the same time we're thrilled to replace her with a woman of the caliber of Chonda Pierce. With her background

as a comedian, Chonda will bring a new and refreshing outlook to ***Aspiring Women***."



**Chonda Pierce**, with over 15 years of experience in comedy, has appeared more than a dozen times on the famous stage of The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., following in the footsteps of much beloved comedienne, Minnie Pearl.

She is member of the newly formed Christian Comedy Association.

Three of Pierce's nine books chronicle the journey from dysfunction to dishing out fun: *Laughing in the Dark: A Comedian's Journey through Depression* (Feb. 2007, Howard Books), *Second Row, Piano Side* (Beacon Hill Press), and *It's Always Darkest Before the Fun Comes Up* (Zondervan).

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Pierce lost both of her sisters at a young age. "My older sister, Charlotta was killed in a car accident (she was 20)," She says. "Several months later my little sister became seriously ill and died in 21 days after being diagnosed with leukemia (she was 15). My father struggled with manic depression (bipolar) most all of my life and the inconsistency of his personal life challenged my thinking about God at a young age. And then, I got a job laughing and THAT was the medicine I needed."

With an audience of two million faithful fans and five gold-certified comedy albums, Pierce is the most requested guest artist for the Women of Faith Conferences, has worked with Billy Graham, has a platinum-selling DVD to add to her gold-selling DVDs, sells out most concerts on her schedule to date and has made the list of largest touring audiences in most entertainment magazines.

Outside the comedy, Pierce is a spokesperson for World Vision and The House of Hope in Orlando, Fla.

***Aspiring Women*** is a nationally syndicated **TLN** original program that airs **weekly throughout the country** and daily in Chicago Monday – Friday at 10 a.m. (CST) through the Comcast Cable Network. The program features captivating stories, honest talk and practical insights on the common, challenging issues women face.

Creator and executive producer, Shirley Rose; author and speaker, Michelle McKinney Hammond; and now comedian, Chonda Pierce, host **TLN's** two-time Emmy-winning ***Aspiring Women***.

You can watch **TLN's** high quality programs on Comcast Cable throughout metro Chicago, Rockford TV 51, Rockford Comcast Cable 15, KTLN-TV 68 San Francisco, KEEN-17 Las Vegas, Sky Angel IPTV, and other affiliates. You can also learn more about **TLN** at [TLN.com](http://TLN.com).