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CONTACT: Vel Johnson
vel@vasajcommunications.com

**GRAMMY® Award-winning Kirk Whalum
Comes to Orlando for a Special Performance**

Orlando, FL (July 30, 2018) – Kirk Whalum (<https://www.kirkwhalum.com/>) the 2011 Grammy Award-winning International Saxophonist and Recording Artist, will bring his soul stirring rich tenor sound to Orlando for a special guest performance at Pastor Edward Pitts' 60th Birthday Celebration & Appreciation Event, August 3, at the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819. A welcome reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the dinner program commencing at 7:30 p.m.

The event will also acknowledge 30 years of ministry and 15 years of dedicated service provided by Edward Pitts, Founder and Senior Pastor of Life Focus Ministries. The evening is expected to include a full dinner and event program, with extraordinary entertainment. “Kirk Whalum is my husband’s favorite jazz artist, so we’re especially honored to have him join us at special request,” says Mary Pitts.

Discovered by jazz pianist Bob James, Whalum has released five successful albums with Columbia Records, including Cache, his first #1 album. Whalum and James received a Grammy nomination for their collaboration album, Joined at the Hip. Whalum has performed for artists, including: Barbara Streisand, Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross, Larry Carlton, Quincy Jones, and most notably, Whitney Houston. It’s his sax heard on the mega-hit, “I Will Always Love You.” He has more than 25 solo recordings, including the eclectic, and much lauded, Gospel According to Jazz series, (Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4). Whalum was also a member of the popular soul/jazz group, BWB, which features Kirk as the “W” of the group with Rick Braun (trumpet) and Norman Brown (guitar).

An ordained minister, Whalum has a Master of Art in Religion degree. His daily 15-minute podcast, Bible In Your Ear (BIYE), invites listeners to read through the Bible in a year. In addition to music and ministry, Kirk has a passion to educate young, aspiring musicians and is currently engaged as a music professor at Visible Music College in his hometown of Memphis, TN. Whalum has received numerous awards and acknowledgements for his musical excellence, including three Dove Award nominations, an NAACP Image Award nomination, and two Stellar Awards, including one for instrumental CD of the year for his latest release, Love Covers. A 12-time Grammy nominee, Whalum won his first Grammy award in 2011 for Best Gospel Song (“It’s What I Do”–featuring Lalah Hathaway) alongside life-long friend and gifted songwriter, Jerry Peters.

Reservations to attend the Pastor Edward Pitts 60th Birthday Celebration & Appreciation Event may be made through Eventbrite. Tickets are \$60 per person. Attire is semi-formal. Glenn AllGood, host of “Get Up Mornings with Erica Campbell” on the 2-time Stellar Award-winning station, Inspiration 1680 WOKB, will be the emcee of ceremony. CD’s may be purchased that evening. Free parking will be available. Hotel accommodations may be made available by calling the Rosen Centre Hotel at [1-866-996-6338](tel:1-866-996-6338) and asking for the Edward Pitts' 60th Birthday Celebration & Appreciation group rate.

About Life Focus Ministries

Founded by Pastor Edward Pitts, Life Focus Ministries is a mentoring and developing ministry located in Orlando, Florida. For additional information visit www.lifefocusministries.com.

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