

SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2016



THE WILLIAMSONS

Also Featuring:

THE TALLEYS, LABREESKA HEMPHILL, JOHN BOWMAN & KENNEDY HAYES

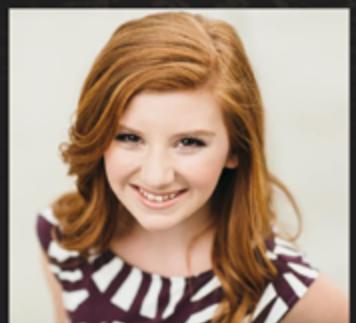


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OUR MISSION

SGNScoops exists to promote the gospel by unveiling what is intriguing and real about Southern Gospel and Christian Country music. With integrity, we aspire to strengthen Christians, highlight people who are fulfilling a call to minister and emphasize the music that inspires audiences and glorifies God.

Publisher- Rob Patz

Editor- Lorraine Walker

Feature Editor- Craig Harris

Layout/Design- Pete Schwager, Staci Schwager

Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley

Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

Happy 2016! I hope the year is finding you well so far. I love the month of January, it gives me an opportunity to get out a brand-new calendar and plan all of the things that I have to do that year. If you are like me, you probably made several New Year's resolutions, and by the time you read this I've probably broken at least five of the seven that I make every year.

I'm looking forward to some amazing things in 2016. Starting off, we have a great event coming up in Oxford, Alabama, March 10th through the 12th, called Southern Gospel Weekend. I know many of you are aware, that due to health problems, I missed the inaugural Southern Gospel Weekend, so I'm super excited to be able to be at this year's event. I know it's going to be a great time of music, fellowship and friends.

You know, in my opening I mentioned about getting a brand new calendar and marking dates down. I want to make this your invitation to join us for Creekside 2016. We believe that this is going to be the best year ever! It is also our fifth Creekside, so that is kind of an important year, and we are excited about some of the neat things that God has been doing and doors He has been opening. We want you to get your hotel room and make plans to join us October 31st through November 3rd, 2016 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I want you to get in contact with Salina and book your room today. Please contact Salina at hotels@sgnscoops.com or call her at 256.239.7716.

At the first of the year, I always think of the scripture in Lamentations 3:22 and 23 that says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness!" Isn't that awesome? I am thankful that each day God's mercies are new. I am blessed that you're my friend and that you are reading this month's Publishers Point!

The New Year brings exciting new challenges and new opportunities. I pray that God blesses you this year with good things!



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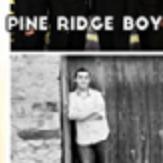
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A black and white portrait of a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a bright, out-of-focus green.

“Can You Handle It”

What Will You Do In 2016?

By David Staton

I don't know about you, but if I don't make a “to do” list in the evening and plan my day, I will not get much done the next day. Everyday life has too many distractions that will keep me from getting done what I need to get done. I've never met anyone who was successful who didn't create a plan on how to achieve their goals. Most people will never retire unless they map out a plan in writing with advisors and a team of people that know how to make it happen.

If I had a business that didn't do very well this past year, didn't grow, didn't make a profit and I sat down with a successful business person, they would ask questions like: “How much money did the company profit last year? What is your product? What is the process for getting the product to the consumer?” Then they would ask a very important question: “Can I see your business plan that makes you think next year will be more successful?” If I don't know the answer to any of these questions, I am almost guaranteed to fail.

We carefully plan our lives and take practical steps to make the things that we care about happen. Many people say that their number-one priority is following Christ, but something is wrong. When Jesus asked the disciples to follow Him, He told them, “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” In other words, “I will show you how to share the Gospel with people.” Then just before He ascended, He told all of us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, baptizing them and making disciples. In other words, He is telling us that when we follow Him, He will teach us how to share the Gospel. It was important enough that the disciples took the time to write down important events and the words Jesus said so they and we would know how to share the Gospel.

I know many churches that have had about the same attendance every week for the last year, two years, five years, 30 years. I have asked the pastors what they have planned for evangelism in the coming year and what their plan was to share the Gospel with the tens of thou-

sands of people that live in their community. Some have a well thought out plan, but too many churches plan on doing nothing different than they did the previous year. I can tell you that most of those churches will not see significant growth. Why? They dream of their church growing, but dreaming is not enough. The difference between a dream and a goal is a timeline, a plan of action.

How can we say that ministry and serving Christ is our top priority and yet we never sit down and write down a “to do” list for sharing the Gospel. Learning how to share the Gospel effectively with the people and culture that we live in is essential if we are going to make an impact on the world around us. If you are a gospel singer and claim to be a *ministry* and you can’t open your Bible and lead someone to Christ, do us all a favor and don’t claim that ministry is a priority in your life! That last sentence may have been a little opinionated, but it’s just some free advice.

Maybe you are a singer or in a gospel group and if you’re like most, 2015 was a tough year. Good dates are getting harder to come by and church budgets are getting too tight to have any kind of outside singers or evangelists come in. Crowds seem to be getting smaller, but you think 2016 will somehow be better. Let me ask you what your plan of action will be to make it better?

If you have ever said that ministry is a priority in your life, and sharing the Gospel is the most important thing in your ministry, then let me encourage you to sit down with someone that can help you achieve more in 2016. If you’re a pastor or church leader, let’s work together to do more to share the Gospel in 2016 than we ever have. When we ask God to direct our paths and sit down and create a plan based on His will and His leading, we will be amazed at what He will do in and through us! A New Year that wins more people to the Lord is guaranteed to be a Happy New Year!

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THE WILLIAMSONS



By Jaquita Lindsey

What a joy it is for me to help SGN Scoops ring in the New Year by writing on a group that is quickly growing in popularity, the Williamsonsons. I met them a little over a year ago and right off became a fan of their music. 11th Hour has had the opportunity to share the stage with Donnie, Lisa, Karl and Darin on several occasions. Not only have they become one of my favorite groups, they are truly some of my favorite people to be around as well. You can tell exactly where their hearts are, which is definitely on Christ.

The Williamsonsons started singing in the Midwest around 1969, later to reorganize in 1998. The current group consists of Donnie Williamson and wife, Lisa, Darin Hebert and Karl Rice. The quartet has been nominated for the Breakthrough Artist of the Year and the Fan Favorite awards for Absolutely Gospel Music, as well as the top ten Favorite New Mixed Group for Singing News.

Based out of Wetumka, OK, the Williamsonsons sing roughly 185 dates per year, but that number is sure to increase with their popularity on the rise. The group just celebrated their first number one song, "Shout", on the Singing News charts for the month of December. The song was the October top spot winner on the SGN Scoops charts.

"We have been so excited and encouraged by all the wonderful things that have happened with our latest project, *Tell Somebody*," Donnie tells us. "Our first single, 'It Was the Word,' written by Lisa, was our first top five song on the Singing News charts. The song also went to number two on the SGN Scoops charts. Now, 'Shout,' which was written by Lee Black and Gina Boe, has done really well for us. We are truly blessed as the first Southern Gospel group from Oklahoma to achieve this honor."

Donnie Williamson began singing with his parents,

Woody and Pinky Williamson, around the age of 12. He carries on his family name and music tradition proudly. With musical influences such as the Imperials, Cathedrals and Happy Goodmans, music has always been at the forefront of Donnie's life. He has also worked many years in the funeral home business. Donnie handles all of the group's business and a portion of their booking. When time permits, Donnie works in the studio that he and Lisa own, Homestead Studios, in Weleetka, OK.

Lisa Chesser Williamson started singing in church around the age of four. She was taught to sing by her biggest musical influences, her parents, Larry and Debbie Chesser. Lisa is also - like many of us - a huge Hinsons fan. Lisa is a terrific songwriter as well. She contributed several songs on their project *Tell Somebody*. She always had a desire to sing and travel. The Lord definitely honored her prayer.



"I remember writing an essay in seventh grade about what I wanted to be when I grew up. It was so detailed that you would have thought that I could see into my future! God knew what He was doing. He placed a desire in my heart, a calling on my life and then gave me the gifts and abilities to fulfill it. I am thankful that He allows me to do His work," says Lisa.

Donnie and Lisa met through music, of course, at a singing in Okemah, OK. He had the group under a different name then, the Homesteaders. Lisa was singing that night in a group with her sister. A few months later, Donnie contacted Lisa about joining his group. After singing together for five years, Donnie and Lisa were married on September 13, 2003. Together, they have



two daughters. Sadie is 10 and Olivia is eight. The girls have made nearly every mile with their parents since they were newborns.



"Our crazy lifestyle seems normal to Sadie and Olivia. They have never known it any other way," Lisa shares. "It has been really exciting in the past few years to see some of their talents starting to develop. They sing a song or two with us each night. There is just something so special, as a mom, to have them stand beside me, singing their little hearts out."

Like many other road babies, Sadie and Olivia know that life can be different while riding a bus with their mom and dad. There is work for school that still has to be completed and school activities can be difficult at

times, due to scheduling.

"Being on the road most of the time, we have to make a point to incorporate family time into the mix. We enjoy visiting zoos, amusement parks, and whatever else we can find to do that is fun along the way," Donnie says.



Speaking of which, the Williamsons and 11th Hour had a playful face-off on a go-cart track while in Pigeon Forge, TN back in November. Both of our groups were in town attending the SGN Scoops event, Creekside Gospel Music Convention, held by Rob Patz. We were runner up to the Williamsons for their spot at number one for the month of December on the Singing News charts. The group's bass singer, Darin, made the joke: "11th Hour should have the chance to be number one at *something*." To the dismay of the highly competitive lead singer of 11th Hour, Grant Gibson, Darin walked away as the race winner that day. Both groups, along with our other friends who raced along with us, had a great time that day.

Darin Hebert started singing at the age of 16 with a few friends from his hometown of Oak Grove, LA. God later opened the door for him to join a local group from Arkansas, which led him to the Williamsons. He joined what was called The Homesteaders his senior year of high school and has been with the group since. Darin married his high school sweetheart, Kallie, in September of 2008. He says that he absolutely could not do what he is blessed to be doing, if it were not for the continued support of Kallie. The two of them have one son, Patrick, who is six years old. When he's not on the

road, Darin enjoys hunting and fishing.

Darin, like many young artists, attended the Stamps Baxter School of Music. He was greatly influenced by Tim Riley of Gold City and the late Harold Gilley. "I have been blessed to get advice and create relationships with several top bass singers in our industry. Those guys have helped me more than they will ever know," Darin states. "I have been able to spend personal time with Tim Riley at his home. Also, Harold Gilley drove 900 miles to Oklahoma on two separate occasions to work with me. These two men took time out for me, time that could have been spent with their own families. That is something that I will cherish forever."

I asked Darin to tell us what he sees the future holding for the Williamsons. "I have been with the group for 10 years. I have seen us grow, together and individually. Our goal continues to be that of reaching more people for Christ. If I can have a small part in that, then I will consider my time with them a success. I do not believe that we have a lot of time left. As long as there is a seed that we can plant or a life that our songs can touch, I will continue. I will retire when Jesus retires me," Darin responded.



Karl Rice grew up in Summerville, SC and found a love for Southern Gospel music when he was 14 years old. His musical influences varied but he gives credit to his inspiration to sing tenor to Ernie Phillips, Michael Hayes and Steve Ladd. "Hearing Ernie hit a B flat,



almost a full octave above a high C, on the ending of ‘Love Lifted Me,’ was the first Southern Gospel song that I heard that totally blew my mind,” Karl shares. He first sang tenor with a group, Holy City, at the age of 15 that was based out of the Charleston area.

“I had never sung tenor before that time and I cannot thank my friend, Mike Bolen, enough for bearing with my first couple of years learning. My heart goes out to everyone that was a part of Holy City,” Karl laughs. He later attended R.H. Rolling’s School of the Arts in his hometown and majored in vocal performance.

After leaving Holy City, Karl found a new ministry home with a group known as Chapter Four. This group of guys eventually evolved into the Anchormen, where Karl shared seven years of his talent. “I owe a lot of my professional success to this group. I always saw myself as a lead singer that could sing tenor. I dreamed of the day that I could wake up on a Sunday morning without having to sing *soprano*. I found that chance and joined the Williamsons. I am the happiest, now, that I ever have been singing,” says Karl.

Karl joined the Williamsons in October of 2013. He relocated with his wife, Daniela, and stepdaughter, Grace, from North Carolina to Wetumka, to be near the rest of the group. He too, along with Darin, is an avid hunter. His free time at home is spent with his family and in the woods or fishing, although he says that fishing is just a time killer until hunting season swings back around. Karl says his favorite outdoors place to visit is Tellico Plains, TN.

I asked Karl what keeps him on the road. He responded: “Souls. All the success and accolades are great. But,

I am not concerned with praise to my name or to the group. I used to get caught up, like many others, wanting to make it big. The Williamsons just celebrated a number one song for the month of December. That is a huge accomplishment and blessing, for which I am grateful. But, I would much rather see a sinner receive the best gift that they can ever receive than any earthly award or acknowledgment.”

Not only is Karl a dynamic singer, but he is a fantastic musician as well. He can play 10 different instruments. Karl contributes his harmonica playing abilities to the stage on a few songs, along with his dobro and bass guitar skills. He and Donnie both share in the piano playing duties for the group. Lisa plays the bass guitar, also, from time to time. The Williamsons hope to add more live music to their performances in 2016.



The Williamsons recently became affiliated with Les Butler’s Family Music Group record label and Butler Music Group management. Les has been a part of the Southern Gospel music industry for many years and is experienced in several areas. He is excited to have the Williamsons on board with his management team.

“I met Donnie Williamson several years ago while serving on the Southern Gospel Music Guild together. It did not take me long to see that Donnie was a sharp businessman with a passion for Southern Gospel music. I made note of that. Last year, when I left Singing News Magazine and Solid Gospel Radio to start my own companies, Donnie was one of the first people I called. A handshake later, we were on our way.

“In the last year, it has been my honor to work with



the Williamsons in the areas of management, record label and radio promotion. We have been blessed with a number one song, top videos, magazine covers and a datebook that is really making progress. They have it all within their group: incredible singers, top-notch writers, musicians and a sharp leader in Donnie! The Williamsons have arrived and they are here to stay,” states Les. The latest release from their project, *Tell Somebody*, is called “Monday.” The song is written by Lisa herself, and is already receiving attention on radio and the song charts. “Monday” has a powerful message for our world today, especially to parents. The song sends the message to live out the life of Christ throughout the week in front of our families and friends, after we have left the four walls of the church. The group released a music video to YouTube in September of last year. In just a short time, the video was viewed several thousand times. Be sure to take time to watch the video and be listening for “Monday” on your Southern Gospel radio source in the coming months.



With hearts of gold, the Williamsons start this New Year off with eagerness to continue doing what God has called them to do. They are in the process of collecting



songs for a new project, which I personally anticipate. The Williamsons have several first time goals this year, such as being a part of a mission trip to Kenya this summer with the World Mission Team. I encourage you to prayerfully consider having the Williamsons for a service. You can view their schedule at www.williamsonsmusic.com.

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WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

My daily prayer when writing is that I will write from the deepest crevice of my heart, and that the writing will be penned with such gut wrenching honesty, openness and vulnerability. I want my writing to flow through me in such a way that each of you will see that I'm just a fellow wandering pilgrim on this ever so amazing journey of life. I am walking right alongside of you with tons of baggage that you will eventually see me unpack in front of you.

I have experienced marvelous inner healing in my life at times as I have journaled for years. I have been so fortunate to have many wonderful people come into my life that have trusted me to mentor and help them, and they in return have been able to speak and mentor back into my own life. I am walking with several fabulous individuals right now who are so important to me and they are teaching me so much.

I know that all of us are in this together for life, the long haul. Yes, we will all have different phases and seasons to go through. I am daily being challenged and motivated to be a good steward over the gifts that God has so richly blessed

and bestowed upon me. I want to daily learn more and be helping others in all they are dealing with and walking in. So, sit back, get some java and let share my *Rainy Days and Monday* story with you...

Monday, early morning, sound asleep and so peacefully dreaming of the most glorious and glamorous life that is filled with unbridled passion and countless riches, the fantasy life that we all dream about every now and then. All of a sudden the alarm begins to loudly and very annoyingly scream with the strangest of buzzing (Don't you ever question who comes up with those ugly dreaded alarm noises?). Of course that is my reminder from the night before that it is time for me to get my butt out of bed.

Jumping up, my hair is brushed...oh, wait I am bald...so I then get quickly dressed and out the door at 4:45 am to walk my four miles (maybe even run a few of those; okay, just maybe). The weather here in Nashville is slowly starting to cool down as winter is in the air; in fact my arms and legs are chilly as I start down the street, but I know by the time I

get back to the house I will be sweating like a pig (wonder where in the world that saying ever come from...I honestly do not think I have ever seen a sweaty pig).

As I pick up the pace my ever-wandering mind is racing furiously with so many thoughts of the last few weeks of this crazy busy life that I lead (and my dear ones I am fairly certain you can relate to this as well) and all the joys, the turmoil and pain in many of our lives, my own private struggles, insecurities, questioning the ups and downs that so many of us are dealing with. The bills, worrying about our kids, trying to make important decisions in regards to careers and futures, my working on the book, working on my own healing journey that I am on...

Well I think you get it; the list for each of us that we are all dealing with could go on and on and on and on and then we each could add a dozen or more things that daily, hourly, even minute-by-minute could and will occupy our minds. So I am walking fast, and puffing and panting and then imagining how buff and strengthened I am going to be in the next few hours...

Well, my mind continues to be flooded with all kinds of emotions that are not only geared to my life, and me, but also for those that I am closest to. I am struggling and my tears begin to fall as I think of some of the hurt and fear that I am experiencing and then to *top it all off*...it begins to rain...slowly at first...then harder.

Now I am not the biggest fan of rain as some are. I know it's important to us, but I would just rather be inside all snuggled up with a large cozy quilt when it's raining outside. The rain begins to pour - and I mean *pour*, and I am walking so fast determined to find a short cut on my walk. Then all of a sudden, I am so sweetly and gently reminded that He is right there with me. I felt His touch, His arms wrapped around my shoulders and I felt His unwavering peace begin to cover my pain.

Oh, I know there is a song there. Someone get your pen and paper out! I then begin to feel the cleansing power that can only come from Him. No the pain was not going away completely, I still felt hurt; I was still struggling. But there was an overwhelming peace that was covering these feelings; the rainwater was flowing off of me, the rushing gullies of water were carrying all kinds of debris down the gutters of the streets and pushing the garbage in the drainage areas. What a beautiful picture that was right there before me and I thought of myself and those other friends around me and all the *crud and junk* we are dealing with and trying to hide in our baggage.

I am certain that God was showing me how He wants to deal with our many areas of weakness, struggles, frailty and sin,

our garbage of life that we so often carry around with us. He wants us to be daily cleansed with His rain of forgiveness, love, mercy and grace; such a simple yet profound truth that has been written and talked about for years.

For me, it was new, fresh and so needed. I kept lifting my head up and just letting the rain pour down on me, so refreshing, so appealing, so cleansing and so thought provoking!

So here it is a few days later and the sun is shining. The air is even crisper with the beginning of winter running towards us and there is another rain shower in the forecast. I only hope that I am out walking in it when it begins to fall. I love His healing peaceful rain and I need it. I am fairly certain you need it as well. I would love to run or walk with you in the rain; I really would. My friends, I need you - you need me!

As always, remember you are loved, you are valuable and the rain will always cleanse.

Peace,

Dusty



THE GUARDIANS



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

2016

Message Music: Spotlight on The Talleys



By Justin Gilmore

There is nothing like family harmony. In my opinion, something magical happens when family members sing together. These great groups have become a major fixture in Southern Gospel Music. Over the years, groups like the Hoppers, the Martins, and the Isaacs have been among some of the most beloved family ensembles in the field. The Talleys are no exception.

This dynamic trio began their ministry in 1984 after brothers Kirk and Roger Talley had completed tenures with the Cathedrals (Kirk) and The Hoppers (Roger). They were joined by Roger's wife Debra, who also sang with her husband as a member of the Hoppers. This lineup performed together until 1993 due to Roger and Debra's desire to raise their daughter Lauren.

Debra Talley, matriarch of the group, states, "Lauren was one year old when the group started. At two years old, she got away from the nanny and made her debut by toddling on stage and saying she want-

ed to 'sing a song.' She's been singing ever since!" This was a beautiful glimpse into what God had in store for this family.

After disbanding the group (in 1993), Talley says, "Kirk continued as a soloist and we focused on making sure our family had a more *normal* life and that we were rooted in our home church. It was during that time we began to sing with Lauren on a limited basis. It gave Lauren an outlet for singing as she was growing up and it was something we could do together as a family for fun."

The group was revived in 1996 with Lauren filling the third vocal position. Billed as the Talley Trio, this lineup remained intact for 15 years and is once again the current lineup. In 2011, Lauren married Brian Alvey, who previously sang tenor for Tribute Quartet, and Alvey joined the group. At this juncture, the name reverted back to the Talleys. Alvey then left the group in 2013 and now sings baritone for the King-

dom Heirs.



The Talleys have been a mainstay in Southern Gospel music. Roger's smooth lead, Debra's tender alto, and Lauren's powerful soprano come together to form a solid and award winning sound. Speaking of sound, Debra cites many possible influences in the formation of their unique sound. Talley states, "I'm not sure we had specific style influences. Roger's and my early years were spent with the Hoppers and the Song Masters. We were exposed to many groups and our upbringing in the church gave us a traditional foundation. Lauren has eclectic musical tastes as well. I think all of those things find their way into our music at some point. It all blends to become our

sound." God has truly blessed this group with a beautiful sound, which has garnered national attention.

The Talleys have enjoyed 11 number one songs, including "Searchin,'" "The Healer," and "Jesus



Saves," and have received numerous Singing News Fan Awards and Dove Award nominations. Debra Talley has won 11 Singing News Fan Awards for Favorite Alto and Female Vocalist while Lauren has won three Favorite Young Artist awards. Another significant achievement is winning the Dove Award for Southern Gospel Song of the Year in 1991(for their hit "He Is Here").

The group consistently takes their music with a message to hundreds of concert and church audiences of



all sizes across America each year as well as overseas to Norway, Northern Ireland, Italy and South Africa. Debra Talley states, "We've been privileged to sing on some of America's most renowned stages such as Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Billy Graham Crusade, the Gaither Homecoming tour, and others." Each of these are counted among the many memorable experiences the group has had in the nearly 20 years together.

Debra expresses the desire to treat each audience with the same focus. She echoes the group sentiment saying, "As someone once said, 'Every night is Carnegie Hall.' Sometimes the most memorable nights aren't necessarily the big venues." Whether to a stadium or a small church of people, the Talleys treat all crowds the same.

"It's message music. When people hear our songs, we want them to clearly understand the gospel in the lyrics, and know that God really can make a dif-



ference in their lives," says Lauren. "Whether we're in front of thousands or in the local church on a Sunday, that message is the same." This approach to music and ministry is a central factor in the success of the group. It is this "message music" that the group has become known for all over the world.

The Talleys have become known for their creativity and commitment to this classic music. Their clear communication of the Gospel in their songs has become a trademark of this talented group as well. Their latest record *After All This Time* is no exception. This stellar project has twelve songs including "After All This Time," "Naaman," "This Thing Called Grace," and many more. Debra says, "The title, *After*

All this Time, sums up our view of where we are in our history, our music, and our career. Groups are always excited when a new project comes out, but if we never made another CD, I would consider this project a crowning achievement. I say that because the collection of songs is maybe one of the best we've had." This landmark project truly speaks to our need for Christ in this broken world.

In typical Talleys fashion, this album is a collection of meaningful songs with a clear message of hope. Debra goes onto to say this about the project: "Songs such as "People In The Line" are so important to our culture and to the church. We hope the listener is challenged to look at the people they encounter and look at themselves within the context of how Christ meant us for to see and respond to each other. The Bible tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. In the current social climate, it appears people don't have a lot of love for either." This album reflects the group's mission statement, which is simply, "to use our music and testimonies to point people to Christ and encourage believers." The Talleys have dedicated their lives to serving Christ and their music reflects their love for Him.

Now in 2015, this powerhouse family is still committed to the cause. The future is looking bright for the trio as they continue to sing about the hope of Jesus Christ. Talley is excited about what is to come. The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the current lineup of the group which is an incredible achievement. Roger, Debra, and Lauren are blessed to still be able to sing about their savior. Debra also teases, "There may be other products in the works this year, so fans can keep on top of our tour dates, products, special events, and all things Talley on our website, Twitter, and Facebook."

God has truly blessed the Talleys with a beautiful sound and a gift of communicating His Word. They have experienced great success in their career spreading the Gospel all over the world. While these "projects" are not set in stone, one thing is for sure, they will "continue to sing great music and uplift Christ," hopefully for another 20 years.

Photos in article courtesy of Candi Combs



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Start the Year Right: Present Your Body



By Laurette Willis, CHC

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1, NKJV)

Paul instructs us to "present your bodies a living sacrifice." Each of us is advised to take care of our body since it is the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 6:19, NKJV).

Here's a sobering question: do you think you will be required to answer to the Lord for how well you have cared for your body?

That's a frightening thought for most of us! "You are not your own," Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:20. "For you were bought at a price" (the shed blood of Jesus Christ). Could this mean your body is not yours, but the Lord's? How well are you caring for the Lord's property?

The good news is that since your body belongs to the Lord, He has a vested interest in helping you care for it. Your body is not only the temple of His Holy Spirit, it's what you need to be able to walk around on this earth and spread the good news about Jesus Christ.

The more fit and healthy you are, the greater the likelihood that you will be around longer to carry out His will for your life. The enemy wants you to fail miserably and go to heaven before your time. He doesn't really care that you're going to heaven – he just doesn't want you to take anyone else with you!

If your body is out of shape and lacking energy, it's difficult to do all the Lord is calling you to do. But you and the Lord working together can change that!

"What?!" you ask. "The Lord needs MY help? But He's omnipotent, all-powerful and in control!" Well, yes – and no. He is all-powerful, but He will not wrestle the cake fork out of your hand or pick up the strings like a grand marionette master and animate your body to take a brisk walk. We are the ones who have to exercise our will to exercise our body and *choose life*.

Presentation Prayer to God — it works!

Take a small, but powerful step today—right now. Present your body to God. You can pray this with me:

"Heavenly Father, I present my body to You. This body is the 'temple of the Holy Spirit,' so it is Your property, not mine. I am the steward and caretaker of it. I present all that I am and all that I have to You, Lord. I trust You to lead and guide me into all truth and good in my life.

"I am Your sheep, so I hear and follow Your voice. Thank You for helping me care for this amazing body You have given me. I choose life in my habits, and love in my attitude and relationships. I will not allow myself to be conformed to this world's way of thinking, but I am being transformed by renewing my mind on Your Word in the Bible. I choose to think in line with Your thoughts! Thank You, Lord for leading and guiding me into all truth. I now receive from You everything I need to be the best I can be today, for Your glory – in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Now receive from the Lord everything you need by faith — the most powerful force in the entire universe. Receive by faith into your spirit and start thanking the Lord (no matter how you feel!). Do this every day and make a "present" of yourself to God.

If you've done this, what are your results? Do tell!

To help in your quest to live long, be healthy and strong, get a free copy of the "Ten Bad Foods List" plus a free Self-Health Evaluation you can take online, by contacting Laurette Willis at praisemoves@gmail.com .

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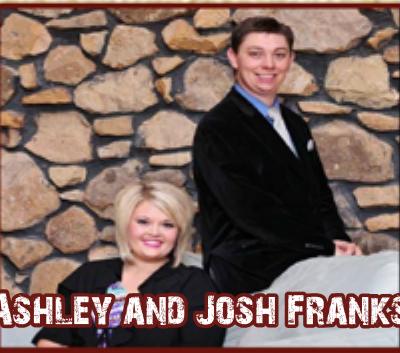
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JOHN BOWMAN Releases “Beautiful Ashes”

By Candi Combs

In a historic music store on 8th Avenue in Nashville, John Bowman performed selections from his newest project, “*Beautiful Ashes*”. The room in Gruhn Guitars was filled with friends and family who gathered to celebrate with Bowman as he shared his heart for the music that has shaped his faith.



“Every song has a special message for every listener whether they are believers or not,” Bowman explained.

“I am so excited about this new music project. I believe this to be the best collection of ministry songs that I have ever done,” he continued.

“Let the Hard Times Roll,” is an updated rendition of an 80’s tune originally written by Lionel Cartwright. This up-tempo track is the first cut listeners hear, where Bowman has split the verses with his son Levi Bowman. Another popular song is written by Southern Gospel favorite Jeff Easter along with Woody Wright that talks about a “Cold Day in Hell.” Throughout *Beautiful Ashes*, Bowman is accompanied by the voice of Autumn Nelon.

“Caiaphas Blues,” is an excellent demonstration of Bowman’s gift of instrumentality. Bowman was afforded access to one of the finest vintage instrument collection of guitars in Nashville by virtue of the location. Bowman honored Gruhn by playing several different acoustic guitars during the event.

One special moment of the evening was when Bowman spoke of a song written by sister-in-law Sonya Isaacs



John Bowman
Beautiful Ashes

Yeary and Tim Surrett of Balsam Range. “Reach of His Hand,” originally recorded by the Isaacs, will tug at the heartstrings. Also tugging at the heartstrings were both of Sonya and Jimmy Yeary’s children. Gatlyn Yeary, just seven days old, was attending his first concert to hear his Uncle John.



Bowman’s long music career has centered around Bluegrass and Southern Gospel. The “*Beautiful Ashes*” project features his mastery of most stringed instruments. Along with Bowman, the CD includes the talents of Tre’ Corley, and Nathan Faucett.



The concert was streamed online with over 10,000 viewers from multiple nations. Technology now allows artists like Bowman to get their music heard simultaneously with the release.

“*Beautiful Ashes*,” produced by Mountain Home Music Co., is available wherever music is sold, including all digital apps. For more information visit johnrbowman.net. John Bowman can be followed on Facebook.

Thank You to all our family, friends, churches, pastors, and promoters for continuing to believe in and support our ministry. We look forward to what 2016 holds for The Drummond Family Ministry!!



Contact Us:

Pat or Michelle Drummond
thedrummondfamily@gmail.com
www.drummondband.com

High Notes

By Kelly Nelon Clark

Celebrate A New Day

It's a new day! It's a new year! It's time to lay all those things that have held us back, down at the feet of Jesus.

Do you have things in your life that you need forgiveness for? Give it to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness. We are so blessed that we have a Savior who loves, cares and forgives. And guess what else? His mercies are new *every single day*.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV): *It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

That is such a great word from the Lord.

We always make New Year's resolutions and sometimes we fall short of making them, or keeping them, but with God, mercies are new *every single day* of our life. So no matter the day of the year, know that God has a new start for you.



As I'm writing this I'm thinking that someone may be reading this who thinks that they have done so much and been so bad that God will never look their way or ever forgive what they have done. *You can never go so far that God won't forgive or love you.*

Give Him a try I beg you! Many times our family or our friends or people we look up to will let us down. People are human and prone to failure. But with God there are no disappointments. You can always depend on Him.

I am encouraging you, as well as myself, to put our trust in the God who holds the universe in His hands, but also holds our lives and our hearts too.

He loves you! He cares for you! You can trust Him!

Hello to all our SGN Scoops readers. Lil' Jan and I are excited to have been asked to host the Diamond Awards in Pigeon Forge, TN on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. It's going to be a great evening of musical excitement as the winners are announced. Make your plans to be at this event in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge. Don't miss out on seeing all the lovely 'Fall Colors' in The Smokies.

Also, we are thrilled with our new television show, *ENJOYING LIFE WITH DR. JERRY AND LIL' JAN*. Jeff Stice orchestrated our musical theme complete with trumpets, piccolos and tubas. It's absolutely great! Paul Heil of The Gospel Greats radio program is our announcer. The show airs in the 8th largest television market in America - Atlanta, Georgia. It's currently airing in 6 other cities and can be seen streaming nationwide every Saturday afternoon at 4pm Eastern on www.watc.tv. Tune in each week for a time of fun and conversation with our friends.

We are looking forward to our annual winter schedule and stay in The Sunshine State of Florida which includes a wonderful Christian Cruise, February 15-19, 2016. Our friends at Templeton Tours lease the entire ship. The bars and casinos are all closed, and it is turned into **THE GOOD OLD GOSPEL SHIP** with singing and preaching by more than 20 nationally known groups and speakers. It is a great opportunity to enjoy some good Gospel Music, Christian Fellowship and make new friends. We'd love to send you a brochure. Contact us at drjerrygoff@aol.com.

God Bless You All,
Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan



Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan Goff

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Catching up...with Tim Lovelace

By Craig Harris

Tim Lovelace broke into the Southern Gospel industry as a pianist. He's become much more since that time. He's a versatile musician, singer, songwriter, comedian, motivational speaker and television personality.



Lovelace is a Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame inductee who has penned multiple Number One songs, been named the industry's musician of the year, has been awarded as the industry's comedian of the year, been nominated for both GRAMMY and Dove awards and has won a Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) Award as both a song-

writer and publisher.

We recently sat down with Lovelace to talk about his career, his family and what's on the horizon, among other topics. His feedback is as follows...

How did you break into the Southern Gospel industry?

My parents were shaped-note singers and did evangelistic work. I was raised around Gospel Music. I was 18 years old when I first joined a quartet. It was a group called the Masters Quartet. I was with the Florida Boys for nine years as an instrumentalist. I played piano for the Kingsmen and also for Jake Hess on the Gaither (Homecoming) Tour. For the last several years, I've been in full-time Christian comedy.

When did the comedy come prominently into who you are as an artist?

I was kind of the class clown in school. I tried to do any-

thing to make my algebra teacher laugh and hoped that would keep me from failing. All of the groups I was in would usually do something comedic. If something went wrong, I was the relief guy with the humor. It just kept developing. Jake Hess told Bill (Gaither) that he wanted me to do "The Fourth Man" on one of the Gaither videos. It was during a successful time in the video series. A lot of people who didn't know I was with the Florida Boys or Kingsmen thought of me as a comedian, because they didn't know I played or sang, so I started getting calls to do comedy at a variety of events.

Who are some of your favorite comedians?

I'm really old school. I loved the dead-pan look of Jack Benny. I loved Red Skelton and Abbott and Costello – the silly, clean humor. I also enjoy Carol Burnett and Tim Conway.

At this point in your career, what's your touring schedule like?

I travel almost every weekend. I do a lot of concerts strictly by myself, whether it be a college, a theatre or a corporate event. I also do events where there may be four or five gospel groups. Sometimes, my family travels with me, and sometimes I travel with one of my girls.

Tell us about your family

My wife, Mary Alice, and I have been married almost 20 years. She's from Ohio. She's the buckeye, and I'm the nut. We have two daughters – Gabrielle (age 12) and Gracie (12).

Has your hosting of the "Music City Show" made an impact on your visibility?

I think it's helped broaden the base of Southern Gospel Music, because it has been airing on secular networks,



along with religious networks, from the beginning. Scott Godsey does a great job as the producer of the show. Jim Sheldon is on the show every week as the positive cowboy. First of all, Southern Gospel Music fans are some of the most loyal fans in the world. Once they find the show, they will say, 'I never miss it.' With the show, we are finding new fans. It's a Gospel show, but we incorporate some Bluegrass, Country and Praise and Worship. We've had a wide variety of artists, including Doyle Lawson, the Oak Ridge Boys, Don Moen, Greater Vision, Ray Stevens, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Karen Peck and New River and so many more great artists.

Has the success of the "Music City Show" been surprising?

My wife, Mary Alice – like most women – has that woman's intuition. From the very first time they contacted me asking if I wanted to be a part of the show, she said, "It's going to be good," without even seeing or knowing anything about it.

What is Mary Alice involved in currently?

She is a super-creative person. She likes to be behind the scenes. She came off the road to be a full-time mom after (their daughter) Gabrielle was born. She's a wonderful mom. She's currently working with a variety of publications, and she works as part of Dolly Parton's team with SD Professionals. She does articles for Dolly on a section of her website called "The Front Porch." She's a phenomenal business woman, an idea person, and she's a great photographer. She always has a way of staying ahead of the curve. There are different artists and organizations that seek her advice. She's a business person and does so much, not just for me, but for a lot of different artists.

Talk a little about your songwriting.

I started songwriting as a teenager. I love to write a lot of



different styles. I love convention-style music, Southern Gospel, hymns, Bluegrass, Country ... just a plethora of styles. I've written for such artists as Ernie Haase, Karen Peck, the Kingsmen, Nelons, Doug Oldham, Ivan Parker and the Cathedrals. Mary Alice and I had a BMI Award for "Getcha' to the Other Side." I wrote "Knock, Knock, Knock" for Palmetto State (Quartet). Rodney (Griffin) and I have written together. I've written, "I've Been Rescued" by the Kingdom Heirs, "My Favorite Place" by Greater Vision, "House That Love Built" by Karen Peck and New River, "Unto the Hills" by the Florida Boys, Nelons and Doug Oldham ... but my favorite cut was Mary Alice's version. I've also done some songwriting seminars. I slowed down some after Gabrielle was born. She's starting to song-write too. I just wrote one with her called "Some Assembly Required." It's a comedy Christmas song.



What is your favorite song that you've written?

One of my favorites was one that Rodney and I wrote called, "My Favorite Place." It's just a great reminder that the best place to ever be is at the foot of the cross. Life is so hectic. Stress is everywhere, but He is the Father, and we are His children. My favorite place in the whole, wide world is at the foot of the cross.

How many instruments do you play?

I used to play horns in school – trumpet, baritone and tuba. Piano is my main instrument. I play guitar, mandolin, banjo...maybe 15 (instruments). I always found it interesting that there was only one scale. Once we know the scale of the instruments, there are only so many notes. I think we've complicated music. If you can play piano, you may be able to play guitar and mandolin. You just have to figure out that scale.

The Florida Boys hired me to fill in on piano while Derrell Stewart was sick. Then, they put me on bass (guitar). Then they started asking me to play a couple of other instruments. Even though I was a piano player, adding mandolin, banjo and Dobro gave me more of a challenge musically.

What is your favorite instrument to play?

Piano, but there are times when you can't beat an old Martin guitar with new strings.

What types of artists do you listen to?

I truly listen to a variety of styles, but I especially love great melodies married to wonderful lyrics.

You've experienced so much in your career. What are some of the highlights?

When I was 19 years old, I was playing in a group from Virginia. There was a week-long revival in West Virginia at a small country church, and our group was singing there on the last night of the revival. A little boy was praying at the altar, and a couple came and knelt down beside him. The church erupted with joy. I found out later that the little boy lived across the street and had walked across the street every night of the revival and prayed that his parents would get saved. His parents came in the last night of the revival and knelt down and were saved. That's bigger than any awards show. That's what it's all about.

What's on the horizon?

I'm working on a book, which is really interfering with my fishing on the lake. I have a new Christmas project. I'm privileged to be involved in a tour coming up with the Collingsworth Family and Triumphant Quartet in February. We also have a Christmas tour coming in 2016. I also have a couple of (other) things in works that I'm really excited about.

Photographs (1) and (2) by Craig Harris. Other photographs courtesy of Tim Lovelace.



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LaBreeska Hemphill

A Lasting Legacy

By Jennifer Campbell

Over fifty years ago, LaBreeska Hemphill began her rewarding journey as one of the first ladies of Southern Gospel music. As a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a niece, a cousin, a friend, a singer, a songwriter, a pastor's wife, a precious woman of God, and so many other titles, LaBreeska was a woman of many talents who wore many hats. She stood alongside her husband Joel through trials and tribulations, always emerging victorious. Her strong faith and devotion to her family

were her focus. The world will greatly miss LaBreeska's wit and wisdom, but her legacy will last forever.

"We are sad to hear that LaBreeska Hemphill has slipped from our Gospel Music community," said Bill and Gloria Gaither in a recent press release from the Judy Nelson Group. "We are glad to know that she has instead slipped into the arms of Jesus. The death of a saint of God is only sad on this side of the very sheer

veil. On the other side there is great rejoicing and no more pain. We believe that there is eternity on both sides, as we are all learning to recognize and embrace the eternal in every moment. Soon for us all, the material will let go and the eternal will flood in with no veil to filter it! LaBreeska was a dear and unselfish lady who loved her Lord, her family and all of us who were brought into her life. We shall miss her...but not for long."

LaBreeska knew how important it was to share the love of Jesus Christ with everyone she encountered. She was involved in some aspect of ministry from a very young age. In 1957, Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill were married. In 1966, they wrote their very first song. Since that day in Louisiana so many years ago, they were blessed to write hundreds of songs.



Joel and LaBreeska's songwriting career flourished as God has given them songs such as "I Found a Better Way," "He Filled a Longing," "Pity the Man," "I'd Like To Say It Again," "When Jesus Says It's Enough," and "Two Out of Three". The Goodmans, Gaithers, Speers, Blackwoods, Cathedrals, Charlie Daniels, and many other Southern Gospel artists have recorded their songs. Their prolific songwriting career has been rewarded with six Dove Awards. Joel has also been nominated as the Songwriter of the Year 10 times by the Gospel Music Association.

Joel and LaBreeska's first album titled, *The Country Gospel Style of Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill*, was

produced by Marvin Norcross and Rusty Goodman. This album was the first of six albums that Joel and LaBreeska recorded with Canaan Records. They also wrote for the Canaanland Music Publishing. In 1968, they bought their first bus. It was at this time that they began touring on the road, still pastoring their church with the help of an assistant until 1971. In 1972, they moved to Nashville where they continued evangelistic work and writing songs.



As the Hemphill family grew, their ministry grew as well. Soon they became one of the first families of Gospel music, traveling and singing with their children, Trent Hemphill, Joey Hemphill, and Candy Hemphill-Christmas. Their contributions to the Southern Gospel music industry are significant, due to songs such as "He's Still Workin' On Me," "Every Need Supplied," "Master of the Wind," "Consider the Lilies," "I Claim the Blood," "Let's Have a Revival" and over 350 more



The Hemphills

that were all penned by the Hemphills. Their ministry as the Hemphill Family garnered them two additional Dove Awards. Their family harmony, unique style, and original songs have influenced many groups. The family left an indelible mark on the world of Gospel music that will forever be etched in the history books.

“One of the first artists I met when getting in the whole Gospel music scene was the Hemphills,” says Dusty Wells of Word Entertainment. “All of them were just awesome, but that sweet LaBreeska Hemphill was truly one of the most genuine, real, caring and loving people that I’ve ever had the privilege of meeting. She would always smile from ear to ear, hug my neck and tell me: ‘Oh, it’s so good to see you, Brother Dusty.’ I just absolutely loved her and I will so miss those times of seeing her. She truly lived what she sang and sang what she lived. I cannot even imagine the conversation and fun that her, Vestal and Mama Dottie and so many others are having right now. My heart and prayers are with Joel and her sweet family. Love them all dearly. Treasured friends...”

“The Hemphills have had a significant impact on my life,” says Jennifer Campbell, solo artist. “When I was three years old, I sang my first song in public, ‘He’s Still Workin’ on Me,’ at a revival in Atlanta, Georgia. As I grew older, I was blessed to not only know them as songwriters and Gospel music artists, but to also call them friends. They were an encouragement to me throughout the years, even calling me just to see how I was doing. That’s the kind of person LaBreeska was, a caring, loving, sweet lady who was always concerned for someone other than herself. Her smile was as bright as the sun and her heart for people was infinite. She was a Christian lady in every respect and I love her dearly!”

“I love LaBreeska. Her smile was beautiful and her laughter brightened the room,” states Karen Peck Gooch of Karen Peck and New River. “She was always

the same...loving life to the fullest no matter what her circumstances were. Most of the time she greeted me with a ‘hello darling.’ She was always encouraging me to keep trusting God no matter what may come my way. She was truly a blessing in my life and a great example of a Godly woman.”



Even through trials and tribulations, LaBreeska stood strong. When her husband Joel battled depression following cancer surgery and complications many years ago, she remained by his side, despite how difficult the situation seemed. On November 8, 1992, while being prayed for by his pastor, God delivered him from this devastating disease. Since that moment, Joel has continued to keep his eyes on Jesus, knowing that the Heavenly Father loves us beyond comprehension.

Joel and LaBreeska emerged from this battle even closer than before. The love between Joel and LaBreeska was special, orchestrated by God. It was a love that knew no bounds, unconditional and never ending. Their love for each other was only





surpassed by their love for their children and grandchildren, and above all, their love for the Lord.

"My grandmother was the embodiment of grace and beauty on and off the stage," shares Jasmine Brady. "It gives me comfort and peace to know she is with Jesus whom she loved and sang about all of her life, but I can't imagine a world without her."

Surely, none of us can quite imagine a world without LaBreeska. Some years ago, LaBreeska wrote a book titled, *Partners in Emotion*. Joel and LaBreeska embodied this title perfectly. They were perfect partners, through the good and bad times. Now, one partner is walking on streets of gold beside a crystal sea.

LaBreeska's impact on Gospel music, on her family, and on everyone who knew her, will never be forgotten. We will continue to sing the songs. We will remember her compassion, her love, her zeal for life. Most important, we will remember the way she loved the One she sang about. For one day, we will see her again when we meet Jesus in the air on that glad reunion day! Until that day, her husband Joel, her children, her grandchildren, and countless others will keep the flame burning



bright, ensuring that her legacy lasts forever.

Main portrait of LaBreeska Hemphill courtesy of the Hemphill family.

Special thanks to Jasmine Brady for providing photographs.

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SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND



By Rob Patz

With its rich history in Southern Gospel music, Oxford, Alabama is the home for one of the most talked about events of 2015. Oxford is already abuzz about this year's Southern Gospel Weekend. Over 30 great artists will be performing in Oxford from March 10th through the 12th, 2016.

"I have to say, more people in this past year have asked me about Oxford, Alabama and Southern Gospel Weekend, than about any other event I have been a part of. The industry as a whole is excited to see the growth of this event. The community as a whole has also embraced this event," said Rob Patz, President of Coastal Media. "There's just a feeling of excitement about these three days of music. Besides the nightly concerts, this year there will be showcases and a special breakfast on Saturday morning that will feature several artists."



Donnie Williamson of popular family group, The Williamsons, said, "We had an amazing time last year at the Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama. The Williamsons are so looking forward to the event being held again this year on March 10 through 12. So many great local, regional and

national groups will be there. If you don't care for Gospel music you might want to stay away. If you love it like we do, be there!"

"I am so excited about Southern Gospel Weekend 2016. Last year, we were in awe of the awesome groups that participated and the great crowd we had each night! I expect no less this year," states Vonda Easley of Hey Y'all Media and Hope's Journey.

Ava Kasich, Southern Gospel artist, tells us, "This will be the second year for Southern Gospel Weekend and I am SO excited to see what God has in store for all who attend! Last year there were so many lives touched and souls saved and I know God is going to work many miracles this coming year. The lineup of artists is beyond great. You don't want to miss it! I am so honored and

blessed to be a part of this awesome event. Call today to get your free tickets and come expecting great things. See you there!"

Along with Hope's Journey and Ava Kasich, many solo and group artists will be performing during the three-day festival. Gospel-chart toppers and



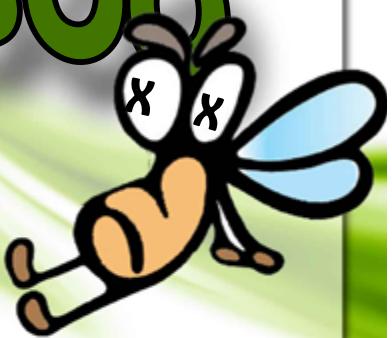
our January cover artists, The Williamsonsons will be there along with The Riders, Higher Hope, Jason Runnels, Pine Ridge Boys, Exodus, McKay Project, Schofields, Surrendered, From The Ashes, and many more.

For more information on Southern Gospel Weekend, visit their home on the web at <http://www.southerngospelweekend.com/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/southerngospel-weekend>.

Call Rob Patz at 360-933-0741 or Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892 for tickets. Contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at hotels@sgnscoops.com or call her at 256-239-7716.

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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Kennedy Hayes

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

Welcome back to an exciting new year in the Younger Perspective world! Stay tuned for the much-anticipated interviews that will be coming your way. Speaking of one in particular, this January, I wanted to capitalize on the ‘younger’ part of the Perspectives. Here we turn our attention to the cutest, spunkiest 13-year-old redhead in the business. Kennedy Hayes of The Mylon Hayes Family is stopping by today to tell us all about the great things in store for her family this year. Let’s dive right in to find out a little more about the girly girl in pink!

Erin: When did you first discover your love for music?

Kennedy: I’ve never known life without music! So for it to not be there would leave a big hole in my heart. I’ve always loved music and I always will!

Erin: Besides your loving and supportive family, who are some of your role models within and outside of the industry?

Kennedy: There have been so many. But to just name a few; Hannah Webb from The Rick Webb Family would be at the top of my list. She has been such a great friend and encourager. And for as long as I can remember I have sung to the top of my lungs singing along with Lauren Tally. There are so many more; I wish I could name them all!

Erin: What are some of your ‘best of’ moments from the Hymn Sing tour you would like to share with the readers?

Kennedy: I have to admit... sitting up there with all the people I have looked up to made me feel like I should be out listening to them and running up asking for

their autograph, (which I did anyways). But a highlight would have to be at Mims Baptist Church in Conroe, Texas! It was raining cats and dogs, but 2,000 people showed up that night! It was an incredible evening that I will NEVER forget.

Erin: What event do you look back on as having a profound impact on your life?

Kennedy: The first year we sang on NQC main stage is



A moment that will always stick out in my mind!

Erin: When you have some down time off the road, what hobbies are listed under "Kennedy's faves?"

Kennedy: My brother and I consider *I Love Lucy* and *The Andy Griffith Show* to be our favorite TV shows!

My family loves to play board games, and I will sometimes curl up and take a nap.



Erin: As a roadie girl, how do you juggle being home-schooled and living life out of a suitcase?

Kennedy: It's not easy, I will tell you that. But we make it work. My polka dot suitcase is always stuffed full of clothes and schoolwork (but mostly shoes)!

Erin: Any good books you've read lately, besides school-related?

Kennedy: I'm not a huge reader, but I have started to read *Live Original* by Sadie Robertson. It's a Christian book for girls, especially teens. And I highly recommend it!

Erin: Cinderella or Elsa? Pink or red? Puppies or kittens? Manis or pedis? High heels or slippers? Chocolate or strawberry ice cream?

Kennedy: I'm a Cinderella girl all the way! Pretty much everything in my room is pink! Puppies for sure. I love to get a manicure and pedicure with my mom. High heels, of course! Chocolate is definitely my comfort food.

Erin: Describe yourself in three words.

Kennedy: (I asked my brothers for help on this one)
Funny, girly, and Disney-fanatic!

Erin: Who are a few of the most-listened-to artists on



your iPod?

Kennedy: The Collingsworth Family are my favorite. And Christmas music is playing all year long!

Erin: In your own words, what does 2016 hold in store for The Mylon Hayes Family?

Kennedy: We are excited about what God has in store for us. We are trusting Him and looking forward to the days ahead! We will be going on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic, as well as doing some more Hymn Sing Tour dates.

Erin: If someone asked you, "How has Jesus impacted your life?" - what would your answer be?

Kennedy: He has made the difference not just in our music that we share, but in our hearts too. Seeing Him work and touch people through our ministry is so amazing! I'm thankful to be in a family that loves the Lord and that wants to serve Him whole-heartedly.

Closing words from the writer...

I trust when we are posed with the same question,

"How has Jesus impacted your life?" that we are prepared to take a stand for what we believe in. Ultimately, our life and actions should reflect Christ daily. People can see the difference in a life led by the Savior. The world may not be able to put a finger on exactly what it is, but they will feel an urge to be drawn in. Maybe someone, even this week, will see you going about your daily tasks, and say quietly to themselves, "I don't know what it is about him/her, but I sure do want what they have."

Thanks again, Kennedy, for gracing us with your sweet spirited self today.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

And that's my take on it.

You can connect with Erin on Twitter - @photosfor_keeps • Instagram - @photos_for_keeps

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So Special



By Sheri LaFontaine

Somewhere this Sunday morning is a little country church where someone is preparing to sing their special.

Most of us have done this at one time or another. Some continue to do so quite often, while others fall into the once or never in a lifetime lot. One thing is for sure, singing a special can be quite special.

Here are a few things to remember when you are taking the big step from the pew to the platform.

Something Special

First, keep in mind that a 'special' should be just that; something special. Choose a song that perhaps isn't something the congregation sings every Sunday in their worship.

Approach and Exit

How you approach the stage can set the tone for the

entire experience. If you are acting like a nervous wreck, chances are, the audience will become nervous too. Approaching the stage with confidence can set everyone at ease. Not pride mind you, but a healthy confidence.

Before leaving the stage it is always a polite thing to acknowledge your audience. A simple smile will do, but try not to rush off the platform without some eye contact.

Others

Remember that the song you choose is not just worship between you and God anymore. If it was, you could do so right from your pew or in your car, shower, etc. There's a transition that takes place when you choose to sing for others. A 'special' is testifying in song. It's about choosing a song that has been a blessing to you and now you want to share it with your brothers and sisters in Christ. It becomes all about the congregation at that point. You want to be used by God to be a blessing to others.

Message

The message of the song is the heart of your ‘special’. You are not choosing the best song to showcase your voice, but the song that touched your heart and will now help others.

For this very reason, it is good to remember that the words are the most important thing. Everything done vocally, as well as every action, is to enhance the words of the song. In order to do this you must learn your words! Don't be the tacky cell-phone-in-hand singer. You are preparing to sing before the King, the very Body of Christ. Would you sing for the president without practicing?

Saying your words clearly is extremely important. If they can't understand the message, there is no reason for you to be on stage.

Together

When singing with other people, be mindful of them. Blending is very important, even when you are leading. Unity is a powerful thing. Even if your voice is more powerful or 10 times better than those you are singing with, when you choose to sing with others, you are choosing to come together as one voice.

Singing together is not just about unity of voice, but also spirit. If there is something between you and the one you are singing with, it's a good idea to make it right before you share the stage. Nothing should interfere with the delivery of the message.

Soundman's Worst Nightmare

If your mic is not close enough to your mouth for you to be heard, again, there is no reason for you to be on stage. Holding the mic too far away causes the sound guy to have to turn you up. This can cause feedback, ringing and even a nasty squeal. Screaming into a mic hurts the ears and can ruin the message of a song as well. Either one can quickly make you a soundman's worst nightmare.

The Fight of the Gifted

Another thing to keep in mind is, if God has given you a gift and you have chosen to use it for the Lord, you automatically have an enemy after you. It's the fight of the gifted. If there's one thing Satan hates, it's someone who is using their gift to glorify God. And he will usually set out to destroy you by one of two very different things: Pride or Nerves. Either is not of God.

Pride is usually easy to spot. You can see it in the clothing, their appearance, body language, and what is done vocally. Believe me, people are smart enough to know if you are wrapped up in yourself or wrapped up in the message and anointing of the song.

I like to point out one of the best examples of this. Christina Aguilera forgetting the words to the National Anthem at the Super Bowl made waves across America. Her publicity department said that she just forgot and it could happen to anyone. This is true. However, from the very first note, it was easy to tell that her mind was not on the message of the song at all, but on what she could do vocally with the tune. Many true Americans were smart enough to ask the question, "Where was her heart?"

Another form of pride is when you find yourself trying to push an agenda. You are trying to prove a point by choosing a song based on your own motive or ideas. Ask yourself, "Are you promoting His plan or yours?"

The other dart Satan tries to shoot your way comes in the way of unsettled nerves. I'm not talking about being humble or just the meek personality. I'm talking about fear.

Nervousness is NOT from God. He does not give us a spirit of fear. You can be a meek person but there is no scripture that says nervousness is good. An unsettled, scared or worried spirit comes from one source and it's not God.

If you find yourself struggling with either of these things, the best form of attack is prayer.

Prayer

The best way to prepare for a ‘special’ is to pray. News-

flash! Prayer works! God is waiting to hear from you. He wants your 'special' to be a true blessing to His people.

Heart

Making sure your heart is right before you hold the mic is the key to everything.

I've heard it said many times that singing in your home church can sometimes be the hardest. It's because they know you better than anyone else. They know the life you lived before you stepped on stage. They know if your testimony matches the message of your song. This being said, God does not expect us to be perfect. All He requires is a surrendered vessel and a sacrificed gift.

This is what makes the enemy so upset and has him coming after you. He wants you, not the unbeliever doing karaoke at the local bar. He's after your gift, to seek, kill and destroy.

This just shows how powerful a surrendered gift can be. When you get up to sing a 'special' it could mean the difference of salvation for someone. So sing on...and make it special.

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BRIAN & ASSURANCE FAN RETREAT

By Lynn Mills

Many groups in Gospel Music host homecomings and special events, and several of these have enjoyed the longevity of becoming annual events. Maybe even this month you are planning the ones you want to attend in 2016. If so, make note of October 14-16, 2016. When the sun turns the lush green Blue Ridge Mountains to a shimmering rainbow of red, orange and gold, you can sneak away on a weekend with one of your favorite Dove Award winning groups. Although they've been on the road for over 20 years, they have never hosted their own event. Until now.

Brian Free and Assurance (BFA) has announced their very first Unashamed Fan Retreat to be held October 14-16, 2016. This new event will be held at the Lifeway Stores Conference Center, Ridgecrest, only a short 15 miles from Asheville, North Carolina. Set among the towering Blue Ridge Mountains in the midst of fall color, this weekend promises to be a getaway for the

soul via BFA's inspiring music and relaxation among the beauty of God's creation.

During this three-day weekend, BFA will bring a live band to accompany them during concerts. Fans will enjoy reliving the days when the group traveled with a band as Ricky Free (drums) and a pianist add that unmistakable magic that comes when they take up their instruments on stage. In addition to the concerts in Lambdin Auditorium, there will be a time when everyone gathers around the fire pit below the back porch to make s'mores and sing hymns and songs of worship by request. Once again, band members will bring their acoustic guitars, as everyone sings under the stars hemmed in by the mountains all around. The Unashamed Fan Retreat will also be a time where fans will have the unique opportunity to hear Brian preach from the Word of God during devotional times.



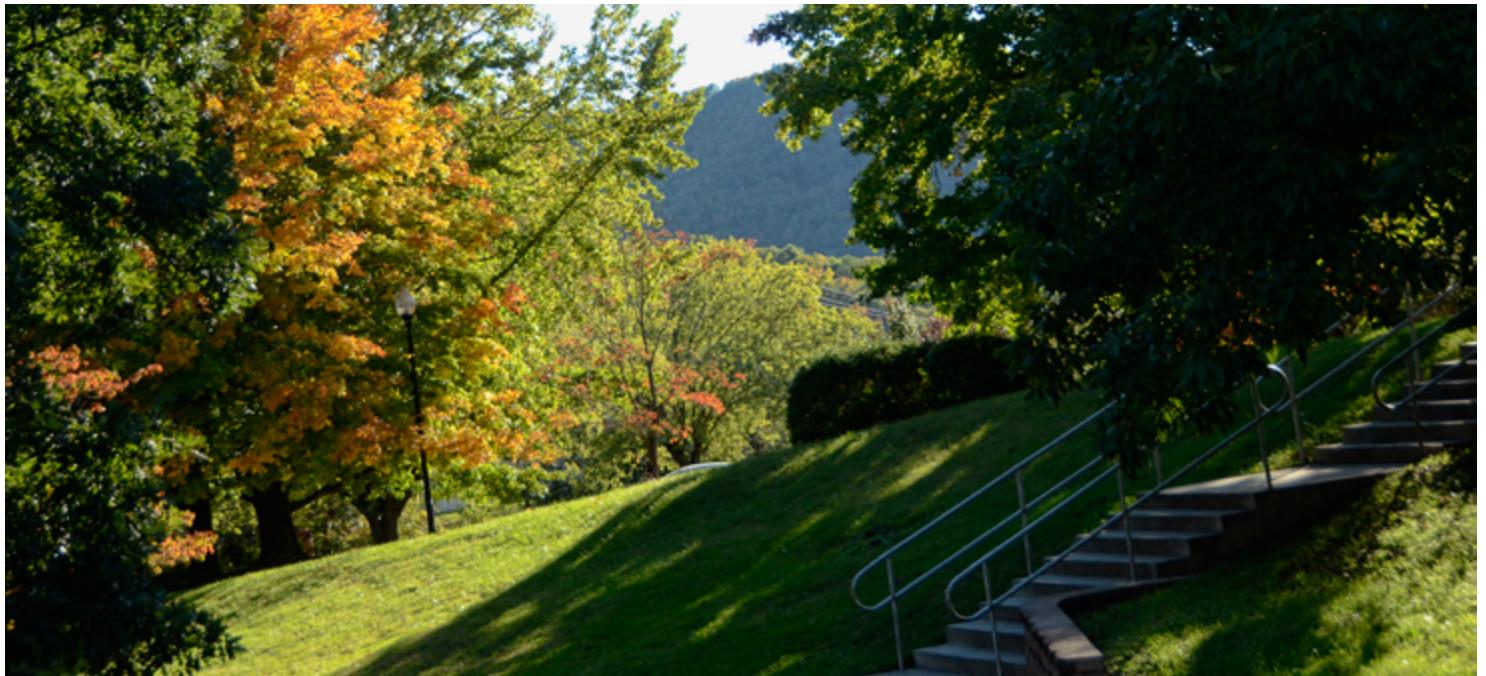
Brian Free explains, "When we were planning this retreat, we didn't want an event that people would come to and just be sung at. Yes, we want to sing - but more importantly, we want to interact and spend time with the people who faithfully come out and see us throughout the year."

In addition to the unique activities, Lifeway's Ridgecrest Conference Center will give attendees an experience all its own. Accommodations will be in the Mountain Laurel Inn. In addition to lodging, the VIP

Event Pass includes meals on campus, an exclusive Fan Retreat Tee Shirt, group photo, reserved luncheon with the guys and a few surprises.

The grounds are set among 1300 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains with walking trails, lookout points and numerous common areas both inside and outside where you can relax on rocking chairs and take in the view. Though you're only 15 miles from Asheville, North Carolina, when you come through the gates of Ridgecrest, you'll feel like you're miles away from the rest of the world!





If anything catches your attention about this event, it may be this: there are a limited number of VIP Event Passes available. If you're interested in being a part of the very first Brian Free and Assurance Fan Retreat, you need to reserve your spot immediately. The fall color

and exclusive time with BFA will make this retreat a fast seller. More information can be found at www.bfafanretreat.com, or call 1-800-588-7222 to make your reservation.

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The Stamps' Tony Goforth: *Journeying On*

By Justin McLeod

Jim Hill. Roy McNeal. Ron Booth. Steve Warren. Jerry Trammell. These are just a few of the near-dozen men that have filled the tenor role for the Stamps Quartet since the group began being billed as JD Sumner and the Stamps in 1965.

Following Sumner's death in 1998, the group lost some of its notoriety, but they never stopped singing. Now helmed by Ed Enoch, who sang lead and baritone with the Sumner-version of the group for many years, the group sings primarily as a backup and show-opener for 'Elvis', performing concerts all over the country and around the world.

Tony Goforth has sung with the Stamps since January 2015, assuming the tenor role in the shoes of those same greats before him. Already, in his short tenure with the group, he has made his own mark and assured that his name will be included on that list of tenor greats years and decades down the road.

Formerly of the Living Water Trio, Christian Brothers Quartet, and the Greenes, Tony is a true renaissance man, having worked in a variety of professional industries in addition to, and in between, full-time singing positions.

Early last year, Tony added yet another title to his resume, embarking on a part-time solo career when he isn't on the road with the Stamps. He released his first solo recording, *Journey On*, in mid-2015. Including some of the most popu-

lar and beloved hymns of all time, including "It Is Well With My Soul," "I Need Thee Every Hour," and more, *Journey On* has received overwhelmingly positive reviews.

Also found on the recording is the timeless classic "Great is Thy Faithfulness;" this song has proved especially poignant with some recent events in Tony's life. After being diagnosed with colon cancer, Tony underwent surgery and was told the cancer was stage four. However, just days later, there was a sharp turnaround when the pathology report reflected a much more treatable diagnosis of stage 2a. Due to this miraculous turnaround, traditional treatments have been avoided by the adoption of a vegetarian-esque diet change.

Tony was kind enough to join me for this interview where we discussed his career, *Journey On*, his favorite verse of Scripture, and more.

SGN Scoops: Tell me how you first got started in Gospel music.

Tony Goforth: As a kid, my dad liked to listen to all kinds of music. A group that I loved and admired most was the Statler Brothers.

SGN Scoops: Was becoming a Gospel singer always your career of choice? What other vocations did you look at as a young man?



Tony Goforth: From a very young age, I've always wanted to sing. My dad has always sung; he sings bass, actually. I've sung in church for a very long time. As far as other jobs, I've done everything from waiting tables to being a jailer in juvenile detention to serving as a worship pastor to locksmith dispatching.

SGN Scoops: Give me your full resume by group, if you would.

Tony Goforth: I sang with the Living Water Trio as the tenor, but I did alto on a lot of our selections. I also sang with the Christian Brothers Quartet and The Greenes as the tenor for each group. Of course, I'm now with the Stamps.

SGN Scoops: Who would you count as your musical inspiration, or who have you used as someone that you emulate when you're on stage?

Tony Goforth: I've always wanted to be the best *me* I can be. I don't want to imitate anyone, in a group setting or as a soloist. I hope that my style and voice bring strength to the group as the good Lord has gifted me. I've been fortunate to sing with some great men of God who have helped shape me into who I am today.

SGN Scoops: What are some of your favorite memories from time on the road?

Tony Goforth: My favorite memories have always been of the people, and seeing lives changed by hearing the Word of God. The looks in people's eyes as they come to a realization

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of a Living Savior.

A distant second is, of course, the food. I've been afforded the opportunity to travel to many places, all over the US and Europe, and have sampled lots of cuisines, met lots of people and seen lots of sights. It's always a blessing to try new things.

SGN Scoops: What are some of the biggest difficulties associated with being a part-time, yet full-time, Gospel singer?

Tony Goforth: Filling the time between tours. "Sitting around" has never been something I enjoy; I'm a worker. I've been able to work in a secular job, as well as at my home church leading worship. That helped keep the bills paid, pass the time, and allowed me to produce my first solo CD. I hope to get out and share the Good News on a solo basis as well.

SGN Scoops: Tell me about how you joined the Stamps – how the opportunity came about, what made you decide to accept, etc.

Tony Goforth: That's a very funny story! I was walking into church one night after work, on my way to choir practice, when my phone rang. I didn't recognize the phone number but answered it anyway. The person on the other end said "Tony?" I said, "Speaking." The person said, "This is Ed Enoch." My initial response was, "Sure you are, now who is this really!?" After a few moments, I realized it really was him. I was having a conversation with a legend, an icon. He was offering me an opportunity of a lifetime by filling in a few times with him. I gladly accepted and the rest is history.

SGN Scoops: Your CD has an excellent selection of songs – tell me about how you chose each of them.

Tony Goforth: My CD selections were based on some of my favorite songs; suggestions from my loved ones and church family; and songs that I've sung in church over the years. Honestly, it was some of the most difficult choices I've ever had to make. I hope to be able to produce a second project someday so I can use some of the ones that didn't make the cut for *Journey On*. The message behind *Journey On* is based on the direction God is taking me in right now. So many positive changes in my life led me to songs that reflected that message.

SGN Scoops: What is your favorite verse of Scripture and why?

Tony Goforth: Habakkuk 3:17-19, "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the field yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the

deer's; He makes me tread on my high places."

It is a promise that, no matter what happens to us, He will never leave us and we are to rejoice in Him.

SGN Scoops: What is your favorite hymn and why?

Tony Goforth: "He Keeps Me Singing;" it's always been my favorite. It's fast, fun, full of energy and rich in its message. Even as a kid, I loved it. There are so many other wonderful songs that I love. Pull out any old Broadman Hymnal and just pick one.



SGN Scoops: Tell me what it means to you to be a part of the legacy of the Stamps quartet.

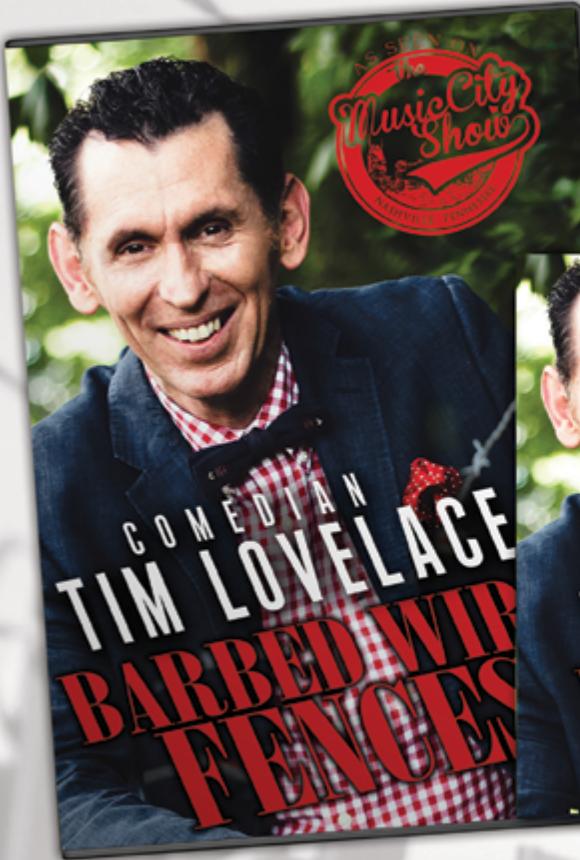
Tony Goforth: Not just the rich history but also the vast diversity. The phenomenal talent that has come from the group can be added to the different directions to make an amazing combination. From churches to major venues to Elvis! It's an honor to sing with Mr. Enoch. I get to stand next to an icon... a legend! It's an experience that I'll never forget. I consider it a blessing from God to do my hobby as a profession.

SGN Scoops: Tell me about your recent health scare and the miraculous news that the severity of it is half of what it was thought to be!

Tony Goforth: I have faith that there was a healing in me! For an experienced surgeon to see one thing and a report to say another... that's only God.

SGN Scoops: Fans can keep up with Tony on his website, tonygoforthmusic.com, as well as on Facebook. His CD *Journey On* can be purchased from his site and on iTunes.

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By Lorraine Walker

Creekside Update

It's January and welcome to the update for 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention! Can you believe that Creekside is only 10 months away? We hope that you are including this great event in your vacation plans for this year. Creekside runs from October 31st through November 3rd at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Be sure to contact the Head of Lodging and Tours, Salina Clay, for more information at hotels@sgnscoops.com.



Creekside annual events include the Creekside Honors on Monday night. This past year, Lou Hildreth honored Jerry and The Singing Goffs. In 2016, the honoree will be...but I can't tell you yet because it's a secret! In 2015, we also had a morning event to honor the Pine Ridge Boys, who are celebrating over 50 years in Southern Gospel.

The Diamond Awards take place on Tuesday night with many special guests. The 2015 Diamond Awards were hosted by Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, with many artists presenting awards. Guest artists during the evening included The Freemans, The Guardians, The Hinson Family, Johnny Minick and Roger Talley. There are always surprise guests and it is an evening not to be missed. This year, the 2016 Diamond Awards presented at Creekside will be for Southern and Bluegrass Gospel artists. The 2016 Christian Country Diamond Awards will be held at the Christian Country Expo 2016 held in August. Look for more information in another part of this publication.

The nominations for the Diamond Awards begin this month! Watch the sgnscoops.com website for more details. Anyone may nominate all their favorite artists





in each category. After March 31, the list of nominees will be posted on the site and fans will then pick their favorites from this list. The field of nominees will then be narrowed to 10, voted on by fans once more and then narrowed to five. This final list of five will be voted on by fans to find the one winner for each award. The 2016 Diamond Awards Nominations can be found at www.sgnscoops.com/2016-diamond-awards.

Other Creekside events include showcases and an evening of choir singing. New for 2015 was the afternoon jam session, featuring Creekside artists in a casual setting. The Midnight Prayer service was held every night and was well attended also. Creekside artists will be performing every night, as well as in showcases during the day. For more information on Creekside including ticket information, click on to www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com or to the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention .

Are you interested in volunteering at Creekside? We would love to have your help! If you can't be there, we can even use your assistance prior to the event. Please email Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com. Please pray for this event that God will use all of those performing and



those presenting the event for His Glory. We aim to see people brought closer to Jesus!

Artists interested in being a part of Creekside 2015, please email Vonda Easley at vonda@sgnscoops or Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops or call 306-920-4057.

Make your plans now to join us for the 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention, hosted by SGN Scoops digital magazine and Coastal Media Group, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee from October 31st through November 3rd, 2016. For more information visit www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com



We hope to see you at the 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge!

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THE OLD PATHS: THE END OF AN ERA

By Robert York

Tim Rackley began his musical career with the Rowlands, along with songwriter and artist Kyla Rowland, where he spent five years with them. While Tim was singing with the Rowlands, Douglas Roark joined the group. Leaving the group, Tim and Doug, who became great friends, formed the group The Old Paths. In the fall of 2003 they started as a trio and their mission was as stated on their website: "Our vision has always been for the world to see the good way, through our ministry. Yet as we traveled, we could not foresee HIS hand on us as our music spread across the country and overseas, nor did we realize the impact this ministry would have as it reached across the globe." They needed a name for the group and Tim's Dad, Rev. Lamar Rackley came up with the name The Old Paths which he based it from Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and they shall find rest for your souls."

This being the beginning, The Old Paths were on the road singing around their home area in mostly churches. With Tim's Dad's connection as a pastor, he was able to help them get into some churches. They got the opportunity to sing several times at Georgia Pastor Conferences and gained recognition from pastors all across the state, which led them to be able to sing at Dr. Charles Stanley's First Baptist Church in Atlanta for *In Touch Ministries*. They were even able to make a trip to Scotland. They have appeared on the cover of Singing

News magazine, on stage at National Quartet Convention, take Gospel cruises and appear at Dollywood stages. In their 12-and-a-half years, they have recorded over 20 CD's and four DVD's. They have had four number one songs on the charts, and six top 40 songs of the year, and as many top 10 hits. "Battle Stand" was their first number one song in July 2012. Also that year they were signed by Cross Roads record label.

Lead Singer Tim Rackley's daughter, Brianna, had to have a kidney transplant a year ago. Doug's son also had some problems in his life, so both Tim and Doug decided it would best to discontinue traveling, so they could be able to spend time at home with their family. They decided to conclude their journey at home for the hometown folks, but after making closing plans they discovered that their booking agent had scheduled another weekend, so they decided to honor this booking. They continued their plans for the final hometown concert, which was held at Fullerville Baptist Church, Villa Rica, GA.

The concert began with the congregation singing from the Red Back Book, "When We All Get To Heaven," and "Power In The Blood," following which, host pastor Steve Swafford welcomed the folks and had prayer. He spoke about the financial needs of groups and asked Rev. Rackley to have the offertory prayer. In the statement he made before the



prayer, he urged people to give, as he had been unable to retire because he and his wife had been trying help keep the Old Paths on the road! The Old Paths started with the song "Love Them To Jesus," followed by several more of their older and new songs.

There were a lot of folks there who were seeing the group live in concert for the first time. Even a busload from Alabama drove down for the concert.



Doug performed the introductions for the group. As he was introducing Daniel Ashmore, bass singer for the group, who has been with them for four years, Doug told the story of Daniel's start with The Old Paths. Doug said Daniel came over from Mississippi to audition, and Doug asked him if he could go back home and get his stuff so he could go with them on a ten-day tour. Daniel's response: "Don't worry I brought it with me."

As well as being one of the best singers in which he was twice nominated as one of the top 10 bass singers in Gospel music, Daniel is also a great saxophone player. As always he picked up the sax and played a couple of songs.

With the exit of their tenor some four months earlier, they picked up Chuck Pettyjohn to fill the slot during the remaining of their schedule. Chuck met them at a truck stop and hit the road with them, where he has become very popular with the fans. He sang his signature song 'I Cried Holy'.

Dr. Jerry Goff had been invited to provide an evening message, and what a Christmas message he provided! The subject was *I'll Tell You About Jesus*. The three main points were: *Jesus* is His name, *Christ* is His heritage, and *Lord* is His position in life. Dr. Goff is a scholar of biblical history, a singer, a songwriter, a preacher and a speaker. He is also a member of the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame along with his wife 'Little' Jan Buckner Goff.

The Old Paths came back to finish the program with their number-one hit, "Battle Cry." That was their plan to end the program, but they were called back on stage and closed with "Midnight Cry," as their final song to be sung by the group, to all their family and friends that had attended their final concert in Georgia.



They journey on the next weekend and concluded at First Baptist Church in Ramer, TN for their last concert. The final song of their journey was "Long Live The King." Songwriter Dianne Wilkinson stated, on Facebook, "I was so happy to hear this song again...but sad that it was closing the chapter of the Old Paths. My, how they will be missed! I was blessed to have an association with these dear men through the songs, and I wish them God's best. I hope in the fullness of God's time, He'll bring them back to us!"



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January 2016

This chart was compiled from a list of reporting stations. Each month we will be adding more stations.

1	Shellem Cline	Halfway Down The Aisle
2	McKameys	I Have A Home
3	Pruitt Family	Bring It All To Jesus
4	Bowling Family	One Glorious Moment Of Faith
5	Wards	Bible Revival
6	Wilburn and Wilburn	You Asked Him To Leave
7	Higher Ground	A Hill, A Cross, A Place Called Calvary
8	Chandlers	I'll Still Be Standing
9	Bev McCann	I've Seen What He Can Do
10	Hyssongs	There's Still Room
11	Hope's Journey	On My Way Back
12	Linda Foster	One Prayer At A Time
13	Jim Sheldon	I'm Going Home
14	Terry Collins	Out Of This World
15	Bates Family	Jesus On The Mainline
16	Kelly Coberly	Because He Loved Me
17	Page Trio	Difference Is The Cross
18	Booth Brothers	Happy Rhythm
19	Georgia	Great Revival
20	Kingsmen	Cross Of Grace
21	Perrys	Keep On
22	Sherry Anne	To Be Forgiven
23	Coffmans	This Blood
24	Legacy Five	That's A Hallelujah
25	Whisnants	Worry Ends Where Faith Begins
26	Greater Vision	As We Speak
27	Brian Free and Assurance	Where There's A Will He Has A Way
28	Gibsons	Home At Last
29	Tim Livingston	I'm In Good Shape
30	Lore Family	I Lived To Tell About It

31	Dean Hickman	Greatest Of All Miracles
32	Campbell and Rowley	There's Still A Cross
33	Karen Peck and New River	I Am Blessed
34	Triumphant	Living In Harmony
35	Lori Jonathan Trio	No One Ever Loved Me Like Jesus
36	Eagles Wings	When I Wake Up To Sleep No More
37	Cope Family	At The Fountain
38	Sounds Of Victory	You're Always There
39	Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call	Caught Up
40	Whisnants	Even Then
41	Calebs Crossing	Raised On Amazing Grace
42	Mylon Hayes Family	The Sweetest Words He Ever Said
43	McKameys	Here Is Love
44	Christy Southerland	Don't Blame Jesus
45	Akins	Revive Us Again
46	Wilbanks	Song Of The Redeemed
47	Rachel Taylor	Live Loud
48	Mark Trammell Quartet	I'll Take It To The Grave
49	Troy Burns Family	The Potter
50	Keith Barkley and Family Tradition	It's Time
51	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	Jesus Changed Everything
52	Talleys	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
53	Joni Erickson Tada	Alone Yet Not Alone
54	Rod Truman	Almost Home
55	Chosen Vessels	He Outstretched His Arms For Me
56	Primitive Quartet	He Did A Surgery On My Heart
57	Browders	Waiting For You To Get Home
58	Josh Wilson	Goodly Heritage
59	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Jesus Loves You
60	Knight Family	I Believe, Help My Unbelief
61	Lindsey Family	How Great Thou Art
62	Williamsons	Monday
63	Mark209	Graceland
64	Mark Dubbeld Family	A Little Bit Better
65	Carolina Boys	Livin' Like I'm Leavin'
66	Clark Family	I Trust You
67	Debbie Seagraves	Dream Big
68	Inspirations	It's Not Long Until Forever
69	Ricky Atkinson and Compassion	Here For Now But Not For Long
70	Guardians	Shoutin' Sounds
71	Karen Peck and New River	Pray Now
72	Freemans	Unwanted Crowns

73	Joseph Habedank	Welcome Home
74	Jason Crabb	He Won't Leave You There
75	Changed 4	I'm A Believer
76	Collingsworth Family	What The Bible Says
77	Taylors	He's My Guide
78	Zane and Donna King	Lovestruck
79	Collingsworth Family	My Gift Is Me
80	David Phelps	Heaven's Shore
81	Spiritual Voices	Tell Me How Amazing Is His Grace
82	Judith Montgomery and Family	God Provided
83	Lorraine Howard	Brand New Day
84	Gold City	Victory In Jesus
85	Rochesters	Move Along
86	Austin Whisnant	When Life Doesn't Make Sense
87	Kirby Stailey	All The Proof I Need
88	Conners	Get Me To The Cross
89	11th Hour	Jesus Is In The House
90	Erwins	Ready To Sail
91	Adam Crabb	I've Got A Right To Pray
92	Talleys	People In The Line
93	Lineage Of David	Stepping Out On A Limb
94	Kevin Williams	Nosey Rosey
95	Amber Nelon Thompson	Another Time Another Place
96	Stephens	Just Pray
97	Doug Hudson	If They Could See Us Now
98	Brian Free and Assurance	He Still Saves
99	Blakey Quartet	Come Up A Little Higher
100	Kingdom Heirs	The Chain Gang



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

T.J. Armstrong



For this month's DJ Spotlight, we go to Birmingham, Alabama and the radio station known as The Truth. T. J. Armstrong is the host of the station's Gospel music show and we recently met at the Gaither Christmas Homecoming concert in Birmingham. T.J. has only been a DJ for a little over two years, but he has quickly settled into his work and certainly enjoys the music he is playing.

Let me introduce you to T. J. the DeeJay!

Vonda: Tell us about your current radio position.

TJ: I'm the host of the Dixie Gospel Caravan; it's the longest running Gospel show in America on WXJC. Wayne Wallace drove the ship for 45 years as the host, before being diagnosed with cancer. Wayne WON his battle in 2013 and went Home; and I became the host shortly thereafter. We play music from the Florida Boys and Booth Brothers to the Crabb Family and CT Studd, and all those in between!

Vonda: At what age did you become interested in radio and why?

TJ: I've been interested in radio my entire life. I wish I could say that I knew at a young age I wanted to be a radio host and followed that dream, and have some kind of wonderful story of triumph

and perseverance, but it's really not like that at all. I do a lot of writing, and applied originally to be a creative writer for the company. There were no positions open, so I was placed in sales because of my extensive sales background.

I Absolutely Flopped despite a very successful sales career prior. I was the worst radio ad salesperson ever! However, God did show them my potential and placed me in the right seat eventually. And I *love* the opportunity to host the Caravan! To be a part of something so legendary is amazing.

Vonda: Where is your favorite vacation spot?

TJ: Vacation? Never heard of it.

Seriously, if I were going to take a vacation it'd be to my hometown of Cocoa Beach, Florida. It's amazing!



Written By
Vonda Easley

Vonda: Tell us about a “cool” thing that happened while on the air...

TJ: One of the coolest things that ever happened to me on the air was the time I was playing several back-to-back Danny Funderburk songs, and a listener called in talking about how awesome Danny was. He went on and on about Danny’s talent, and asked if I could play a few more songs for his big-



gest fan. I asked his name, and he replied, “This is Danny Funderburk.”

And there was the time I interviewed Kirk Cameron, too. But he’s nowhere near as cool as Danny Funderburk.

Vonda: Who is your favorite Southern Gospel group and why?

TJ: This is a loaded question for sure! There are so many amazing artists, and it’d be hard to choose. If I had to pick one, it’d be my buddy Jason Crabb. No, Danny Funderburk. Wait, the Cathedrals. The Inspirations--definitely the Inspirations. Right behind Gold City. Or maybe the Florida Boys...

Thanks so much to T. J. the DeeJay for joining us in the Spotlight. You can listen to T.J. and the Dixie Gospel Caravan from 7:00pm to Midnight, Monday to Friday, on 92.5FM and AM 850 locally, or online at www.850wxjc.com. You can use the Tune In App by searching WXJC or stream the station live at 850wxjc.com. You can also join the WXJC community on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wxjcthethruth.



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Back Home: Jennifer and Jimmy Layne

By Tina Wakefield

I think you would have to agree that “Back Home” is a very unique name for a Southern Gospel group. What significance could this name have? As I reflect on Back Home’s testimony this is what I feel: In Luke we read of a young man who once lived at home in his father’s house with everything he could desire provided for a successful and blessed life. There came a day when he felt he needed to take a journey, to see what was out there. After being in the world without his father or his father’s provisions, he found that life was not what he imagined. He was soon broke, alone and in trouble, then a thought came to him: “Why not go home?” So he gathered himself and took the long journey back to his father’s house not knowing what he might face, but to his delight, his father ran to meet him and welcomed him “Back Home.”

Jennifer and Jimmy Layne’s story mirrors the story of the Prodigal Son we find in the book of Luke. Growing up attending church all their lives, even they could not escape the lures of the enemy. Satan dangles temptations and desires filled with excitement and intrigue in front of each one of us. Jimmy and Jennifer were and are no different than any other Christian, living their life from day to day seemingly unaware of the slow fading away from God. The enemy, Satan, is clear in his desire to steal, kill, and destroy anything that God holds dear, and a Christian is his prize trophy.

Without realizing the decline, Jimmy and Jennifer soon found themselves living a life that did not include church, they were entangled in a world full of trouble, deception, and addiction. They faced many hard days in their life away from the comfort of their Father, with several miscarriages and Jimmy’s addiction that almost cost him his life.

Jennifer states, “During this time in our lives, we were hurt and were hurtful to others, and many had written us off as what could have been, and what God could have done with us.” Jennifer went on to say that she and Jimmy asked God’s forgiveness and watched as God began to rebuild their lives. The goal of their ministry is to share the message to others that just like them: *God is not done with them!* This couple is a living example to others that God has a plan for each and every life; no matter what you have done, His grace is sufficient. All you need to do is come “Back Home.”

Jimmy and Jennifer Layne of Back Home have been married for almost nine years with the last seven spent in full time ministry. I asked Back Home if during their tragedies there was a particular scripture they stood on and Jennifer replied, “Romans 4:18 says: ‘Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed.’” Jimmy quoted Jeremiah 29:11 as his scripture which states, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord,



thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an unexpected end.”

What advice would this couple most like to give others who are struggling through difficult times? The message of hope they share is that Jesus Loves You. It's not just a cute song; it is the greatest truth that has ever been told.

Throughout the story and ministry of Back Home you will find the references to the story of the Prodigal Son, that all anyone needs to do is just realize that God loves you no matter what. Jennifer states, “We choose songs based solely on their message. Our motto is that if it speaks to us, then it will speak through us.”

Jimmy and Jennifer write about half of their songs while carefully selecting the others through prayer. Many may recognize this couple through the 26 years they spent as highly-sought-after background singers in Gospel and Country music. While holding corporate

jobs, they managed to become two of the most sought after background singers for such greats as: Jeff and Sheri Easter, The Bowling Family, Rhonda Vincent, Jason Crabb, Karen Peck and New River, Brian Free and Assurance, Marty Raybon, T Graham Brown and the list goes on.

Although the Laynes work as a team for Back Home, we all know there are certain duties that just fall to one or the other as a couple and as a vocal team. Jennifer says, “Jimmy is the driver, roadie, sound guy, singer and guitarist. We are each other's biggest fan always having faith in the other's ability to minister. If one of us has something on their heart that week, the other just stands back and takes it in, we want more than anything for the people in that service to receive what they need from God, neither of us wants to get in the way of that.”



In everyone's ministry there is that one service or concert that just stand out in your mind and for Back Home their first anniversary concert with Karen Peck and New River along with Crabb Revival is theirs. Jennifer remembers there was standing room only and the atmosphere was amazing. A man happened to attend that night that had been given a ticket by someone. He went

to church the following Sunday and announced that he had been saved at the concert that night but a few days following he passed away. Jennifer reveals that they felt so humbled that God had used that concert to be the place where he met God and was saved.



Although Back Home travels all over the US, they admit that they would like to travel and expand their ministry out west. Whenever I always ask artists the one place you have never performed that would be your ultimate dream, I most often receive this answer- The Ryman. Jimmy agrees that it has to be the Ryman! I asked Back Home their favorite place to perform but they both agreed there have been too many to name just one.

Artists and ministries are never built without the influence and encouragement of others in the industry. Jimmy Layne states that Jeff King and Chris Latham, producers for Back Home, have been with them from the beginning along with Bishop Tim Hill (World Missions Director for the Church of God), have been the greatest encouragers with prayers, good advice, and recommendations to other pastors.

"We love God and don't want to be considered *just a* singing group," says Jennifer. "We strive to be a ministry and take the call on our lives very seriously." For the

year ahead Jennifer's outlook is to be prayerful, be kind and show the world who Jesus is with their actions, because the world is desperate for Him.

Back Home will release a new project in April 2016 along with enjoying two tours in Texas. You will not want to miss them in concert, as they have won Favorite Duo twice and have been nominated for numerous awards from Singing News, SGN Scoops, and Christian Voice, along with many others.

I encourage you to contact Back Home to book your concert now before the dates are filled. You may reach Jimmy and Jennifer Layne at backjlhome@gmail.com or by phone at 423-228-4301.

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Randall Reviews It - January 2016

by Randall Hamm

Welcome to the New Year and may it be a good year for you musically, as I'll bring you reviews of some great music that you may want to seek out for your collection. And with the New Year here, welcome to 2016 and the first *Randall Reviews It* column of the year! *Artists, please send your CDs for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.*

Let the reviews begin...



Morrison Sisters
Homesick
2015 Independent
Producer: Wesley Morrison

Songs: He Saw It All (Daryl Mosley); I Was There When It Happened (Fern Jones); Homesick (Stacy Pearcey); Thank God I'm Free (James McFall); Redeeming The Time (Rebecca Peck); When Jesus Speaks Peace (Ricky Atkinson); I'm Not Going To

Hell (Stacy Pearcey); Over and Over (Belinda Smith, Sue C. Smith); Fishers of Men (Becky Buller); Get It Together (Dan Barton)

Three sisters and their dad from Calhoun Georgia have recorded a brand new CD, their second, and it swept this reviewer off his feet. May I introduce you to nine-year-old Addie, 11-year-old Kaity, and 15-year-old Megan Morrison and their dad, Wesley. Collectively, they're known as the Morrison Sisters, based out of Calhoun Georgia.

According to Wesley, they have been singing together for the past three years and Wesley sang with his dad and their family ministry for years. The CD includes 10 great songs that are Southern Gospel and Bluegrass/Acoustic in nature that will bring a smile to your face. From the classics: "I Was There When It Happened," and "Thank God I'm Free," to newer material from Rebecca Peck, "Redeeming The Time," and the breakout song "Homesick," written by Stacy Pearcey, these sisters prove that there is nothing like sisterly - and family - harmony.

All in all, it is a worthy effort and worth a listen, and worthy of a spot in your CD collection. The title track "Homesick" hopefully will be a single that will be pulled for release sometime in the New Year, this reviewer hopes.

You can hear that title track by visiting the Morrison Sisters here [www.facebook.com/morrison sisters](http://www.facebook.com/morrisonsisters) and you can get a copy of the CD by visiting them at their website morrison sisters.com.

Strongest Songs: "Homesick," "Redeeming The

Time," and "Thank God I'm Free."



Hyssongs
Believe
2015 Chapel Valley
Producer: Shane Roark
Studio: Chapel Valley Studios, Sharps Chapel Tennessee

Songs: I've Got A Love (Steve Dunlap and Russell Ballway BMI); How They'll Shine (Dianne Wilkinson BMI); There's Still Room, There's Still Hope, There's Still Time (Rodney Griffin BMI); He Gave Me The Well (Shane Roark BMI); Lead Me To The Rock (Sheldon Wade Mencer BMI); Choose Life (Michael Frost BMI); While This Blessing's Being Made (Stephanie Gober); Death Could Not Hold Him (William Clark BMI); You Better Believe That It's True (Rodney Griffin BMI); The King Is Coming (William and Gloria Gaither BMI)

The latest CD offering from the Hyssongs is *Believe*. They are based out of the great state of Maine, and have been ministering for the past 19 years. I first met them, dad, Del Hyssong, mom, Susan Hyssong and son, Richard Hyssong, through Christmas In The Smokies in 2008. I became friends with them, and that friendship has grown over the past seven years.

"Believe" me, if you do not have a CD of the Hyssongs in your collection, this is the one to start with. It includes 10 great songs of faith, hope, love and belief, from the upbeat, "I've Got A Love," from the pen of Steve Dunlap and Russell Balway, that will you will be humming and singing long after the track ends; to the last track, the classic "The King Is Coming," that will have you saying, 'Come quickly Lord.'

One of the standout tracks is from the pen of Dianne Wilkinson dedicated to those who quietly do their job and don't get the praise or 'shine' that they deserve. "How They'll Shine," is a big power ballad that dad, Del Hyssong, expertly pulls off and sings with conviction. This is a track that once I heard it, kept me pushing the repeat button.

Already, one track from the CD, "Lead me To The Rock," went top 10 for the Hyssongs in 2015, their second top 10 overall. The latest track released to radio is "There's Still Room, There's Still Hope, There's Still Time," a song that is already climbing the charts. I "Believe" that you need this CD in your collection. Visit the Hyssongs on the web at www.thehyssongs.com and on Facebook www.facebook.com/The-Hyssongs-115261415263342/

Strongest Songs: "There's Still Hope, There's Still Time," "How They'll Shine," and "I've Got A Love."



Judith Montgomery & Family
God Provided
2015 Independent
Producer: Robb Tripp

Songs: Home (Rusty Goodman, Tanya Goodman, Aaron Wilburn); God Provided (Megan Montgomery); Greatly Blessed (William Gaither, Larry Gatlin); When He Calls Your Name (Floyd E Short); Out Of His Great Love (Terry and Barbi Franklin); On The Road To Emmaus (Jeff Steele); I Claim The Blood (Joel Hemphill); His Life For Mine (Rebecca Peck); The Holy Hills of Heaven Call Me (Dottie Rambo); In God We Still Trust (Bill Nash and Robert LeClair)

Maybe the best CD and unknown group (unknown

outside of Southern Indiana) that you may never have heard about. Well let me introduce you to Judith Montgomery, her daughter Megan Montgomery and son Graham Montgomery, which comprise Judith Montgomery & Family.

They are based out of Shoals, Indiana, a small sleepy town in Southwestern Indiana. Judith has been ministering for over 20 years and for the past five years has brought her children in to sing with her and minister.

From the kickoff tune "Home," a Gaither Vocal Band standard, to a standard in the making: "In God We Still Trust;" 10 great songs that will make you say, 'where has this family been?'

The first single release in summer 2015 was, "When He Calls Your Name," which did quite well in certain parts of the country including Indiana and making the lower 100 part of the SN Charts.

The latest single: "God Provided," is climbing many

Gospel charts and looks to be Judith's biggest song on the charts yet. Young Megan of the group wrote this song and it's only her second song to write. She will write many more songs and she has provided the strongest song on this CD.

Also on this CD, is the next best version this side of the original that you'll hear of the Hemphills classic, "I Claim The Blood." And on that note, condolences to the Hemphill Family on the loss of LaBreeska Hemphill, December 9th, 2015. LaBreeska made this song, written by her husband Joel, a classic; she will be very much missed.

This CD is an absolute must hear, especially for those who love to seek out and hear new groups. Get your copy of the CD here and visit Judith at www.judithmontgomeryministries.weebly.com or visit them at www.facebook.com/judithmontgomeryministries.

Strongest Songs: "God Provided," "When He Calls Your Name," and "I Claim The Blood."

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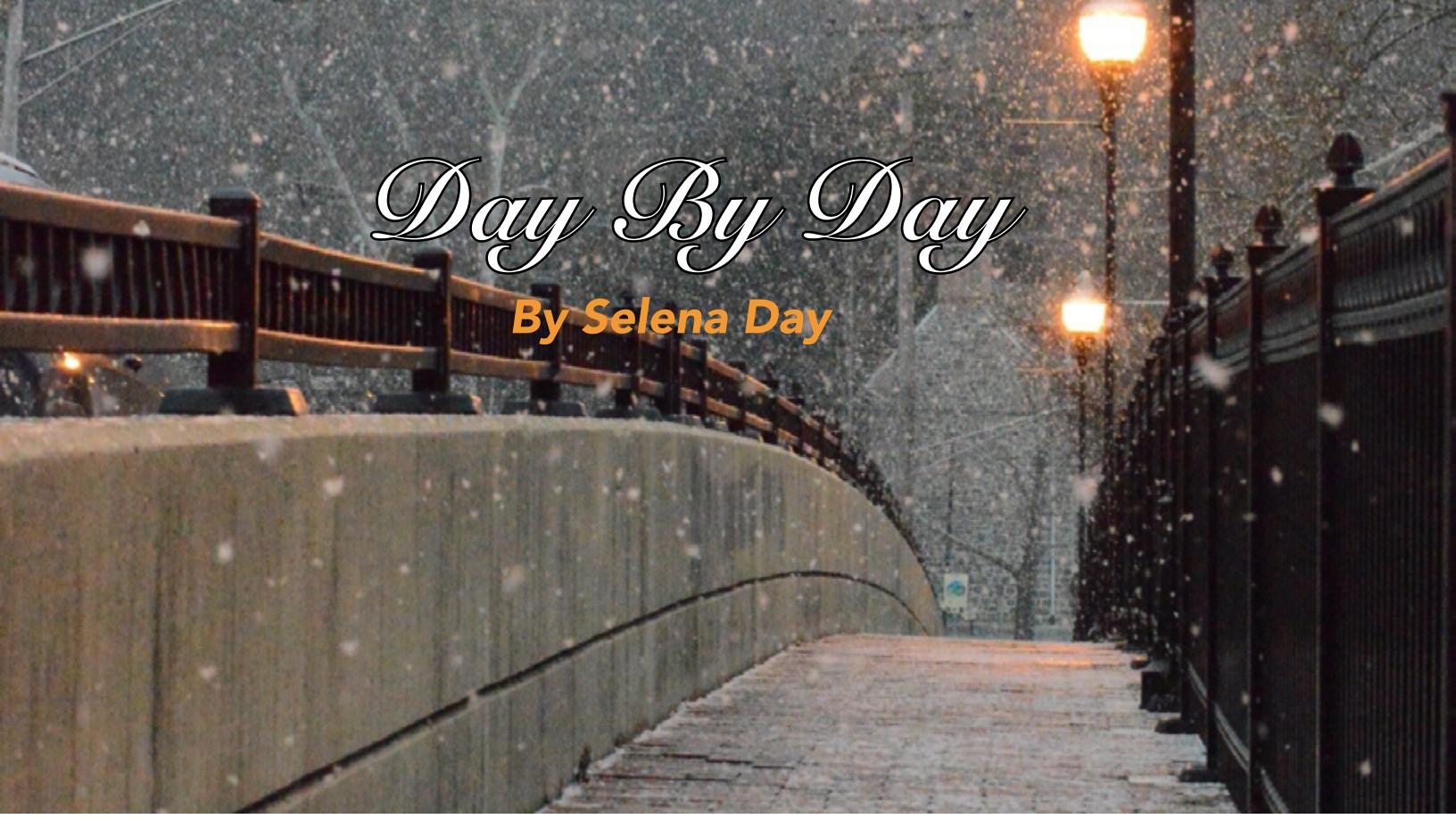


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Day By Day

By Selena Day

New Beginnings

December is the month of excess. We overindulge in everything. We stay up too late entertaining, we spend too much on gifts and greatly overeat. It is that time of year when we say that it's okay to let go of restraint. Then comes January; when reality sets in and we come to terms with all our overindulgences.

To be honest, I am thankful for both. In my life I have learned the value of self-governance as opposed to behavior modification. Behavior modification tells us that to be a good, moral and righteous person we must fit into a set of rules and regulations. Self-governance leads us to Christ and brings us into relationship with him. With Christ we take ownership of our actions and reactions in life. This relationship helps us hear what He says to us about our life and helps us to walk in our full potential to fulfill our destiny.

Matthew 7:14 says, "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Have you ever wondered why so few find this road that leads to life? I have come to believe that in life there are two pits on each side of this road. One is the pit of sin; it is usually easy to see that which is morally wrong. It is easy for us as Christians to stay out of this pit, but on the other side is another pit. The pit of doing

what you believe is right - things that you believe you should do or other people believe you should do. Such as, becoming a missionary or minister, giving to a certain ministry or trying to mend relationships that God is still working on. This can become a pit just as much as sin.

Are you doing things because you think it's the right thing to do or because of what others think of you? What is the Father saying to you about your life? What is the straight way that leads to life? Eric Little, Olympic champion said, "God made me fast, I feel His pleasure when I run." What do you do that makes you feel God's pleasure when you are activating it?

Did you know that the Chinese New Year is February 10, the Cambodian New Year is April 13, Nepal's New Year is April 14 and the year is 2071? I'm over 100 years old in Nepal! I kind of like that. I look pretty good considering in the Nepali calendar I'm over 100.

The New Year is usually the time when we reflect back on what we did the previous year and re-evaluate where our road is taking us. Let me challenge you to look to what God has placed inside of you that gives Him pleasure; the gifting, the talent or even your nature. You are a unique person with greatness inside of you. It took me many years to realize that I am an encourager. It

actually took many people calling that out in me for me to realize this about myself. Though I am not musical I know that I am also called into music ministry because of my connection with my husband. I am actually an asset to my husband because I'm not musical; I am creative so I understand the creative process, but my giftings are in different areas, so I am a good sounding board for him because my thought process differs from his.

January is a wonderful time to begin again, but I but love the Anne of Green Gables theory. "Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes in it"; or the Scarlett O'Hara view "After all tomorrow is another day!" New Year begins at different times all over the world. Keep your heart turned toward the Father and remember that He can and will make all things new. 1 Kings 18:41b says, "For there is a sound of the abundance of rain." This verse should become the mantra of our lives.

I believe that our best days are ahead of us, not behind us. Difficulty is the catalyst to greatness. Today is a new day, no matter how many mistakes we make God is there waiting to help us and to give us a new beginning. Every day is new opportunity to begin again;

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every day we have the possibility for success.

It is time for us as a body of believers to stop speaking gloom and doom over our lives and over our nation. Now is the time to start thinking differently and to begin to see difficulty as a chance for opportunity. Did you know that the game Monopoly was presented to Parker Brothers during the height of the Depression? One of the most popular games ever produced came out during the worst economic time in our history.

You might be God's greatest success story and this year could be your year to see that success come to fruition. Declare over your life that 2016 is the greatest year you have ever known; a year to see the triumph of the Lord in your life, to show the greatness of who God is and to proclaim His great favor over your life!

Happy New Year from The Days!

Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. You may contact her at selenaday@me.com <http://www.queenliving.org> <http://facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday>

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SOUTHERN GOSPEL ARTISTS' FIRST NIGHTS

By Robert York

Have you ever wondered how it feels the first night a singer joins a group and goes on the road with them? I decided to ask a few artists what their experience was with the group they are with, on their first night out.



Aaron Hise: Aaron is the lead singer with popular mixed group, The Whisnants and he is married to Suzanne Taylor of the Taylors. He has been with The Whisnants for many years.

Aaron says, "I remember my first night with the Whisnants. It was on December 30th, at the First Baptist in Elkhart, Indiana. I'll never forget this night because it was extremely cold with 14 inches of snow on the ground. I'm from Indiana so I was used to the weather, but the Whisnants didn't know what to think, being from North Carolina. Besides being very nervous and missing some of the lyrics, it was a fun night. Looking back, it's amazing how God works and how He's giving me the opportunity to do what I've always wanted to do. Fifteen years later, I'm still here!"

Preston Garner: Preston sings baritone for Freedom Quartet, from Sevierville, TN. He is an original member of the group after they transformed into a quartet. Preston tells me, "Our first night out as Freedom Quartet was certainly interesting to say the least. Just one week prior, John Rulapaugh, Dale Shipley and I met in a cabin in Pigeon Forge and sang a few songs to see what we sounded like. Burman Porter, our bass, had not even made it into town yet. The very next week was our first date in Alexandria, VA. On the eight-hour drive to that date we were rehearsing together as a quartet for the first time. The evening turned out great. The folks at the church were gracious despite the fact that we were singing old songs that we all knew, or were looking at lyric sheets. It was a fun night."



Chad McCoskey: Chad joined the Ball Brothers in 2012 and in August 2014 he became officially a Ball Brother-in-law when he married their sister Sarah. He sings baritone for the group.

Chad relates, “My first night traveling with the guys was a bit of a whirlwind. I was living in Pennsylvania at the time and had just finished a full week of work when I got a text from Andrew Ball. Through a series of conversations he mentioned that his younger brother Josh was making a transition to come off the road and that they were going to be in my area the upcoming weekend. He also mentioned they were looking for someone to fill in for Josh while he made the transition. I agreed to do so and felt confident that I knew the songs enough to get by.

“Little did I know that same night the guys would send me a list of 70 songs to learn by the next weekend. I felt a bit overwhelmed but began listening intently to each song and part. The next weekend rolled around and I hopped on the bus with my bags packed.

“We arrived at our first venue for the weekend and I tried to help as much as possible but stayed out of the way to not disturb their process. After setup and sound check we briefly ran over a few songs. At this point the nerves started creeping in. As I was getting ready for the concert, I remember praying, asking God to help me remember the words and that I could just make it up the steps without tripping and falling. Thank the Lord neither of those things happened.

“Halfway through our set Daniel asked if I knew the song ‘Beulah Land.’ I nodded yes. He then proceeded to ask if I would sing the verses and for some reason I nodded yes again. Now the nerves were really kicking in. As the piano began to play, I prayed again, asking God to calm my nerves.

“I started in on the first verse and felt the peace of God come over me. It was incredible! Amazingly I made it through the night without tripping or knocking anything over (that was a feat in itself). After the concert we tore down and headed towards our next destination. We were all sitting towards the front recapping the evening. I asked questions to see if the guys thought the concert was a success.

“Andrew and Daniel then asked if I would like to travel full time. We talked some things over and I agreed to take the job. Now it’s almost four years later and I’m married to their sister Sarah, have a little girl and a baby boy on the way. It’s been an amazing journey both literally and metaphorically but I never regret traveling.”



THE LEFEVRE QUARTET

Brandon Berry: Brandon sings bass for Mike LeFevre and the LeFevre Quartet.

Brandon notes, “My first night out with the LeFevre Quartet was one of the most exciting nights of my life but also one of the most nerve racking! Trying to remember all the words to the songs has never been a strong point for me and I was nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs!

“I remember Mike calling one of the songs that featured me and as the track started I drew a complete blank. I looked at Mike and he said, ‘You know this song yet?’ And I just looked back with a smile and said, ‘We’re about to find out.’ Turned out I knew it well enough to sing it. It was one of the most memorable nights of my career and a dream come true. Still living the dream.”



Riley Clark: Riley sings tenor for the popular male group, Tribute Quartet.

Riley says, “My first night on the road with Tribute, I believe the date was June 25, 2010. I had never been more north than Tennessee and we were headed to Maine. My first concert was in Lancaster, PA. They had given me over 30 songs to learn the week before and



we had barely worked on any of them together. I was the first one up that morning on the bus and nervous the whole day until I got back in my bunk that night.”

Josh Townsend: Josh is the new guy on the block, just

starting as piano player for the Bowlings. Josh relates, “On my first night with The Bowlings, I decided to meet them at the venue in Leeds, AL. Mike told me that they would be there at 3:00 pm, so I got there at 1:30 pm. I wanted to make sure I wasn’t late! When they arrived, we set up and had sound check. My nervousness quickly changed to excitement as I started to play. I felt at peace. Mike asked me to play a solo my first night and I was honored to oblige. I played ‘Revive Us Again.’ That song should be the prayer of every believer. The concert was incredible and we all left blessed. The Bowlings are such genuine people! I am enjoying every minute with them!”

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ROGER'S ROUNDUP

By Roger Barkley Jr.

A young lady was attending an event where I was performing. She made a remark that I had heard before but never really took the time to address in a public forum. She said, "You guys have way too much fun doing what you do to be Christians."

I rebutted by telling her the usual thing you will hear most preachers say: "Christians oughta be the happiest people on the face of the earth!"

I know it sounds very cliché but it is the truth. However, I will have to go a few steps farther in that there is a difference between happiness and joy. You can be happy about a team winning a game. You can be happy about the sale at the local market and the list goes on. Happiness is a state of mind. Joy is a state of your heart.

It is a very simple realization. Jesus first (J). Others second (O). Yourself last (Y).

JOY – The true fullness of what is inside you has to show outward. If you have things inside you or have people around you that make you unhappy, negative, derogatory, and condemning in nature, most likely they will pull you down rather than you pulling them up.

So yes. I probably have more fun in some of the weirdest places because of a joy inside me that cannot truly be explained but rather experienced. The joy of a person coming to know Christ for the first time, the feeling inside when your child witnesses to the person that everyone else would shy away from, the depth of emotion that cannot be imagined, and yet cannot even compare to the joy in knowing Jesus as my best friend.

So once again, yes, in my sad times there is still joy; in my happy times there is joy and when I am around other people that are as joyful as me because of Him - you'd better watch out.



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Appointed Quartet

<http://www.appointedqt.com>

The Bells

<http://www.bellsingers.com>

Bev McCann and Friends

<http://www.bevmccann.com>

Blackwood Brothers Quartet

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

Bradford Ministries

<http://www.facebook.com/bradfordministries1>

The Bridgeman's

<http://www.thebridgemans.com>

Bros4

<http://www.bros4.net>

The Bunkleys

<http://www.thebunkleys.com>

Cheyenne McIlvain

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/cmministries>

Christy Sutherland

<http://www.christysutherland.net>

Clear Vision Quartet

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/clearvisionquartet>

Collisons

<http://www.collisontrio.com>

Cross Pointe

<http://www.crosspointemusic.com>

Delivered

<http://www.we-are-delivered.com>

Divine Mercy

<http://www.divinemercysingers.com>

Eventide

<http://www.eventidemusic.com>

4 His Praise Trio

<http://www.4hispraisetro.org>

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<http://www.fulllifetro.com>

Glad Heart

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/gladheart.com>

Global Promo

<http://www.globalpromo.org>

The Goodin Family

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/thegoodinfamily>

Gospel Harts

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/gospelharts>

Gospel Messengers

<http://www.gospelmessengersministry.org>

The Helmsmen

<http://www.thenewhelmsmen.com>

The Heritage Quartet

<http://www.theheritagequartet.com>

The Inmans

<http://www.theinmans.com>

Jeff Steinberg Ministry Team

<http://www.tinygiant.com>

Jimmy Howson

<http://www.jimmyhowsonmusic.com>

Jim Sheldon

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

John & Dody Martin

<http://www.martinministries.org>

Ken Hornsby

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/kenhornsbymusicministry>

Living Fountains

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/livingfountains>

Lumber River Quartet

<http://www.lumberriverministries.com>

Mark Dubbeld Family

<http://www.mjdubbeld.com>

Masters City Trio

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/masterscitytrio>

The Masters Men + 1

<http://www.mastersmenquartet.com>

Masters Promise

<http://www.masterspromise.com>

Matt Tollison Music

<http://www.matttollison.com>

Mercy River Quartet

<http://www.mercyriverqt.com>

Midwest Gospel Music Association

<http://www.midwestgospelmusic.com>

Midwest Gospel Music Promotions

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/midwestgospelmusic>

One Voice Country Gospel

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/onevoicegospelquartet>

One Way Quartet

<http://www.onewayquartet.org>

Persuaded

<http://youtube.com/user/PersuadedVideo>

Pine Ridge Boys

<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

The Representatives

<http://www.therepresentativesquartet.net>

Robert Blankenship

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/rblankenship>

Sacred Harmony

<http://www.sacredharmony1.com>

Servants Call

<http://www.servantscall.net>

Siouxland Gospel Promotions

<http://www.facebook.com/SiouxlandGospelPromotions>

Southern Plainsmen Quartet

<http://www.southernplainsmen.com>

Southern Tradition

<http://www.americanheritagemusic.com>

South Star Entertainment

<http://www.southstarlive.com>

Steve Jones

<http://www.stevejonesgospelmusicministry.com>

Stephen Wood

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/stephenwoodministries>

The Trio

<http://www.sites.google.com/site/thetriony>

Three Parts Grace

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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

I am so glad to see that everyone made it through 2015 and you are all now reading the first issue of SGN Scoops 2016! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. There are always surprises and the unexpected, especially around holiday time, and perhaps not all of those events are happy ones. But you know what? You can look toward 2016 with hope, regardless of what is in the past. How? By talking to Jesus, the Author of hope. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13; NIV)

This month brings us a fresh start and SGN Scoops is also experiencing a new beginning. This month we introduce the print edition of SGN Scoops for January 2016! A special edition was printed for the attendees of Creekside 2015 and they loved it. We decided we needed to print it every month, so beginning with this issue, SGN Scoops will be available as a newspaper. For more information on how to get your copy, email Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com.

January also is a time for renewal and working towards new heights in our lives. One Southern Gospel artist that is experiencing a renaissance in their ministry is The Williamsonsons, our cover feature. This wonderful group of people recorded an album that is

bringing them more and more fans across the country. Their latest release, "Shout," hit the Number One spot on the SGN Scoops chart in October and the Number One position on the Singing News chart in December. They have a fresh, unique sound and present songs with powerful lyrics. It is no wonder they are seeing their ministry soar. Enjoy this feature written by Jaquita Lindsey of 11th Hour!

This past year, we saw many of our Gospel music legends pass away, including Larry Goff, Mosie Lister, Faye Speer and others. In December, we were saddened to hear of the homegoing of Labreeska Hemphill. The Hemphill sound was unique and energetic, enthusiastic and appealing to a large demographic of fans in the '70's and '80's. Labreeska's warm demeanor and bright smile were seen on many Gaither videos, introducing her to a new set of Southern Gospel fans. Be sure to read her story in this issue, by Jennifer Campbell.

I hope you have enjoyed all the features in this issue by our wonderful writers. Some are artists, some are in the industry, some are bloggers, but they all have the same goal, which is our SGN Scoops mission statement: "...To promote the Gospel, by unveiling what is intriguing and real about Southern Gospel and Christian Country music. With integrity, we

aspire to strengthen Christians, highlight people who are fulfilling a call to minister and emphasize the music that inspires audiences and glorifies God."

I am thankful that all of our SGN Scoops team, including the creative and editorial staff, works toward that goal. We have set some other goals for this year as I sure you have in your work and personal lives. Be sure that goal also includes our Lord's command to "Go Tell."

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DOWN HOME GOSPEL

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SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is

also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all- digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com.

Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at lorraine@sgnscoops.com



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony of how

she was born lifeless and how Jesus raised her up to live for Him. Jennifer is a member of the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra and has performed with them at Brooklyn Tabernacle, Carnegie Hall, Central Park, and Times Square. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jennifercampbell.net/blog.htm> and a food and travel blog at <http://jennifersjourneys.net> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net> and [www.christwillreturn.org](http://christwillreturn.org).



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves

Instructors on four continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com> , on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/PraiseMoves>. Laurette invites readers to get started on the road to better health and fitness for spirit, soul and body. For a free, easy- to- follow 21 day program visit: <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com>



Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right

place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Dusty Wells is a man of many talents and multiple skills, from his speaking engagements across the country, to traveling and encouraging various artists in the Christian music genres. Dusty has a passion that is evident from the moment you meet him.

Dusty is a man who remains passionate and secure in the calling and destiny upon his life. He has come to realize the importance of finding purpose and clear direction for not only his life, but also the lives of those he comes in contact with, no matter what stage of life they may be in. Growing up in a very dysfunctional home, surrounded by all types of abuse, Dusty had every excuse to be a failure in life. He grew up on welfare, having to steal his daily necessities of life at times, being surrounded by drugs, alcohol and pornography. He was raised by a mother who was married multiple times, living in a housing project on the wrong side of town. But in the midst of what seemed to be complete devastation, God had different plans of success for Dusty. At the age of 14, a precious couple took time out of their own lives to invest in Dusty...thus leading Him to the Lord. His life is a testimony of God's relentless love and deliverance, and is one of the most triumphant stories told in modern Christianity. Dusty is confident in the fact that if God can do it for him, He can do it for anyone, no matter the situation.

Dusty and his wife of 33 years have four children, and two grandbabies with one more on the way. They make their home in Nashville, Tn.



Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible. The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



My name is Tina Wakefield and I am currently Music Minister for Amazing Grace Worship Center in Alabaster, Al. I have led worship for over 18 years as well as teach adults how to live everyday life in Victory as a Christian. I enjoy playing and singing Gospel Music whenever and wherever I am invited. I currently have three Cd's available on my website at www.tinawakefield.com and just released my first music video with Godsey & Associates called, "The Choice" available on YouTube. I write a lot of the music we sing at church and also record my original songs. My family is very ministry oriented with Pastors, Teachers, Musicians, and Singers. My heart's desire is to spread the gospel of Christ through any and all open doors that I receive.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and I often went

to The Joyful Noise for dinner and concerts. Every known name in Gospel Music sang there at one time or another. After I retired, we decided to start promoting concerts. Our goal was not only to promote our concerts, but also to promote any Gospel concerts in our area and attend as many as we possibly could. I came to a crossroads in December 2013 when my wife graduated to heaven, not knowing what to do. After much prayer God led me to continue promoting concerts. Have promoted around 100 concerts and can't tell you how many I attended. I still enjoy going to concerts and writing a little about the groups.



Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, and social networker. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. Along with running her own business, she is the official photographer for Abraham Productions (API). You will find her behind the lens at all API events, along with working behind the scenes on their

social media. She also travels full-time on the road with her family's gospel group, The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion and singing for Jesus is her calling. For several years, you have known her as our very own "Younger Perspective" writer. Check out her photography website www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com and her ministry website www.stevensfamilymusic.com.



Sherry Anne Lints, a Doctor of Chiropractic, singer, speaker, actress, writer and fitness trainer, was born with a bilateral hearing and speech impairment. She appeared in the films, Clancy and The Perfect Gift and was a special guest on 100 Huntley Street, in Ontario, Canada. She is a contributing author for the book, Modern-Day Miracles and

released her second CD, Keep on Prayin', July 2012 and has opened for many of the Gaither Homecoming Artists. Additionally, Sherry Anne helps lead worship and drama at her church. For more information, visit: www.SherryAnne.com.



Vonda Easley is the owner of Hope's Journey Christian Ministries and the voice of "The Strictly Southern Show" at WPIL 91.7 in Heflin, Alabama on Fridays



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGM in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over 10 years beginning with Phil Cross and Poet Voices and later Sharron Kay King and Jerry Bennett to name a few. She has spent the past several years promoting Southern Gospel, Inspirational Country Gospel and Bluegrass in this area in order to preserve this part of our heritage.



Hello, I'm Randall Hamm, Gospel Program Director of WFLQ French Lick Indiana, host of the Sunday Morning Gospel Show for the past 20 years on WFLQ French Lick Indiana and Singing News Top 10 Small Market DJ for the past three years. I now add something new to my resume! Record Reviewer, ok... CD Reviewer. I'm Old School, having started in the days of LP's, 45's and Reel to Reel along with cassettes as the main form of music played. If you'd like to listen to my program, you can visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheSundayMorningGospelShow> and listen to archived programs, plus I post various Southern Gospel news updates, uplifting music and Gospel-related items. If you're in the six-county area around French Lick Indiana, in the heart of Southern Indiana, tune in every Sunday 6:00am-12:00pm and listen to the Gospel Greats with Paul Heil, 6:00am to 8:00am and the Sunday Morning Gospel Show with Randall Hamm 8:00am to 12:00pm.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

Craig's Southern Gospel interest dates back for approximately the same time span, having closely followed the industry since the later portion of the 1990s. He also performed for seven years with a local trio prior to joining the SGN Scoops staff.



David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great friend!

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.0. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre

Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

Through the years, artists like Gold City, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Kingsmen, Singing Americans, Dixie Melody Boys, Imperials, Dottie Peoples, Ball Brothers, LeFevre Quartet, Palmetto State Quartet, Priority, Trailblazers, The Greenes, Ivan Parker, Brian Free and many more have recorded David's music. From 2005 to 2013, Staton was the Executive Vice President for Song Garden Music Group in Nashville, TN. In recent years, the National Quartet Convention has asked David to be a part of an industry advisory panel to help artists who need assistance and training. Not only has David made a mark as an artist, he is passing on his talent and knowledge to new artists, influencing and shaping the future of Gospel music.



Kelly Nelons Clark is the daughter of Gospel Music icon, the late Rex Nelons. As part of her father's group, The Nelons, she blazed a musical trail bringing a fresh new sound to the traditional Gospel quartet style. That sound and style influenced a generation of Gospel music performers and can be heard today in the styling of groups like the Martins, Point of Grace, The Crabb Family and more.

As The Nelons broke new ground, the Gospel Music industry repeatedly recognized their excellence. The group won four GMA Dove awards as well as multiple awards from readers of Singing News Magazine. Kelly was named female vocalist of the year on four occasions and received favorite alto vocalist award 3 times. At one time, Kelly was the most awarded artists in the history of the Singing News Fan Awards. The music industry at large also recognized The Nelons with 3 Grammy nominations.

Today, Kelly currently performs throughout the United States, Canada and Europe with her husband and two daughters as The Nelons. The group is featured in hundreds of churches and concerts each year. The Nelons have been part of Gaither Homecoming concerts sharing their music with thousands of Gospel Music fans in sold-out arenas across the country. For more information, visit <http://www.kellynelon.com/>.

Contributors

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Marcie Gray was born and raised in sunny California, yet always dreamed of moving to Tennessee. She had planned to move to the south as a young adult and sing with a gospel group, after being inspired to do so by her Great Uncle, Alphus LeFevre. Though it took longer than she had expected, in 2011, her dream of moving

east finally came true when her husband, Don, retired from the CHP. They packed up their two youngest daughters, three dogs and two horses and headed east. What a blessing to finally be where the tea is sweet, the Southern Gospel music is plentiful and there's a Cracker Barrel on every corner!

Spend ten minutes with Marcie and you'll learn that she is rarely lacking for something to say. Her passion for Southern Gospel music, combined with her instinct to be behind the camera, makes journalism a very enjoyable outlet for that "Type A" personality she has been affectionately labeled with by her family and friends.

Marcie is a worship leader, vocalist and songwriter. She has directed choirs of all ages and given voice lessons for many years. Her solo CD, "Carry Me Home" was released in September of 2014.

Having family in ministry has given Marcie a desire to support those who are on the road sharing the gospel through song. Visit her website at www.graydoveministries.com to learn more!



Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals,

Photos, Video and News tidbits. Keep up with Lynn online at <http://lynnschronicles.com> or on facebook @ <http://facebook.com/lynns.chronicles>



Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many of my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.



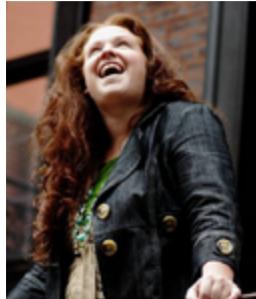
Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and small. We want to do all we can to support them!" In 2015, Candi will have a law degree from Liberty University and will provide a full range of legal counsel. This component will bring the highest level of support to those who also desire legal representation.



Bethany Cook is a 26-year-old from the great state of North Carolina. In her early years, Bethany grew up on the road as the daughter of an evangelist. In her teen years, the family came off the road and made their home in Burlington, NC where her father is now a pastor. Being an avid Southern Gospel fan from an early age has enabled Bethany to meet many different artists and make many friends along the way. With a history of devotional writing for family and friends, she looks forward to sharing her writing and allowing her readers to see a little more into the lives of Southern Gospel Music artists. Bethany is a Medical Assistant for a large Cardiology Practice in North Carolina.

Contributors

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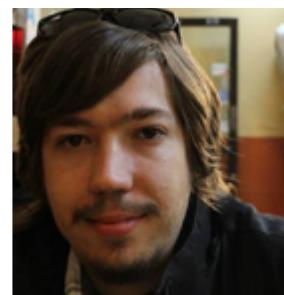


Sheri began singing while traveling with her abundantly talented family, led by her father John LaFontaine, a minister for over 48 years. In 1994 with Grammy nominated singer Jeff Easter producing, she recorded her first solo project, *Takin' My Place*.

Shortly thereafter, Sheri received a call from the top promoter in southern gospel, Frank Arnold and was asked to join his group, The Arnolds on the road. After several years of traveling Sheri felt the Lord leading her to focus on her solo career and songwriting. In 2004 she signed a songwriting contract with one of the industry's top recording labels, Daywind Music. Her songs have been recorded by Kim Hopper, Karen Peck, Sue Dodge, Brian Free & Assurance, Misty Freeman, Three Bridges, The Whisnants, The Browns and many more.



Matt Baker resides in Lenoir, NC with his wife, Ashley, and children, Bella and Bennett. A gospel music lover, Matt spent time on the road full-time with Promise of Murfreesboro, TN, before moving into church ministry as the music minister at Ambassador Baptist Church in Hudson, NC.



Justin Gilmore, 22, a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share his love of this great style of music.



Roger Barkley Jr. is an award-winning Christian artist and musical evangelist. With multiple charting songs reaching to the top 10, his goals remain the same: to win souls for Christ, use Gospel Music of any kind to reach the world with the Good News, seeing lives changed and being an encouragement to the



Paige Givens is a Christ follower, wife, mother of two boys and kindergarten teacher to 18 five-year-olds. She is a writer, reader, singer, studier, and teacher of words. Paige lives in Hayden, Alabama with her husband of 10 years, Chris Givens, and their sons Parker and Peyton.

Paige loves to blog about faith, writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at www.paigegivens.com.



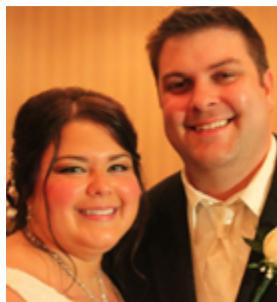
Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being crafty and spending time with

family and friends. She's been singing since the age of eight, but realizes that it's much more than just singing. "Anyone can show off their talent. I'd rather hear someone that shows that they are anointed!" For more information on Jaquita, visit 11thhourgospelgroup.com

saints. When asked about his ministry, Roger said, "I can remember the first time singing with my dad playing the guitar and standing beside my mom when I was four years old. I have always loved all types of music." His vision is to lead as many people to Christ through preaching, singing, sharing testimony, comedy, drama and technology as possible. Having been labeled a Christian Entertainer, he believes it is possible to minister in an entertaining way, and in over 35 years of ministry has found that he can utilize all different types of music to let people know the love of Jesus Christ. Currently he is Artist-In-Residence with his wife, Dianna, and daughter, Chelsea, at Leestown Gospel Church in Frankfort, KY, and Redemption Road Community Church in Stamping Ground, KY where he leads worship when not spreading the Gospel across America.

Contributors

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Brian Fuson is from the great state of Michigan, and although he is a Northerner, he certainly knows his Gospel music. He's been promoting concerts since he was 15-years-old and has worked with a diverse group of artists. He has been blogging about Southern Gospel music for the last few years on his site called Fuson's Findings. And most recently, Brian has started singing with his wife Crysta and her parents, The Sammons Family. All of this information and more can be found on his website, brianfusonmusic.com.



Timmy Williamson is a 24-year-old singer and actor from Virginia Beach, Virginia. He graduated from Liberty University in 2014 with degrees in Worship and Theatre. Over the past several years, he has been given the privilege of singing in many churches and events as well as performing in professional theatre productions. He has been enjoyed by audiences at NQC's Artist Showcases, Gospel Explosion at First Baptist Church of Dallas, and in the Virginia Beach Gospel Music Festival. Timmy currently lives in Lynchburg, Virginia where he is pursuing a full time career traveling and singing. He would love to come and share his music with your church or special event! For more information, please visit his website, www.timmywilliamson.com.



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model. Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have been in the ministry for 26 years raising three daughters and homeschooling them while they traveled together as a family. During this time God taught her how crucial inter-generational ministry is for the furthering of God's kingdom. Selena travels the world speaking at conferences with the emphasis on empowering a multi-generation of women to rise up and become everything that God has called them to. Encouraging the next generation of the church to break the walls of limitations in their mind and rise to their full potential. Selena and her husband are life coaches for The World Race, which is an extreme missions trip for adults 21 through 35. They travel every two months somewhere around the world to mentor these missionaries. She and Chuck have been pastoring a home-church for 14 years where they have experienced God moving in community and seeing the body of Christ in action through each other.