

JANUARY 2017

SCGN SCOOPS

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THE ISAACS, MILES PIKE



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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.

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www.sgnscoops.com

Have a SCOOP to share? For news consideration, email us at news@sgnscoops.com

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

Welcome to 2017. I know I'm not the first person to tell you that, but I want to be one that welcomes you to a brand-new year. I'm always excited about the start of a new year because of the world of opportunities that comes along with it. Some people call it a fresh season; I love how that sounds.

If you look back in my family's history, two generations ago we were farmers in the Midwest and that meant working hard to create an income for my family. My great-grandfather and my grandfather would spend time during the winter preparing for the next year. So I want to ask you: What are you preparing for? What is God working on in your life and what has God put on your heart as far as this season?

I don't know for sure; every year is a new season, but for my analogy, it will be I think that 2017 is going to be a year of



great blessings, not only for me but for SGNScoops magazine and for WPIL. At the midpoint of 2016, we had the opportunity to acquire the radio station and that was an exciting new season for me, but I can look back on my life and how God was preparing me for this season.

I was a 20-year-old boy sitting in the control room in the State of Washington and I asked God if He would allow me the opportunity to own a radio station. At 20 years old, you want things right away. But God had a better plan. God allowed me over the last 25 plus years in Christian media and ministry, to learn what it would take to truly own a radio station and what it would take to make



that become successful. I have been blessed in the last six months to watch as the station has grown and as the community has given us their support.

Also, you can tie that into the fact that I had no knowledge of running a magazine until I started SGMRadio in 2003. At that time God prepared me for what I would do when I bought SGN Scoops by allowing me to meet writers who would contribute monthly to our website. He taught me about managing stories and about creating interest. In 2009, God allowed me the opportunity to acquire SGN Scoops magazine. At that time, He had already paved the way for the writers and the understanding of how to generate enthusiasm in a website. I'm very fortunate for all of the seasons, but the reality is, God is working already on my next season.

So I want to challenge you today to start praying and asking God about your next season. What does He have in store? What is He planning for you and where are you going to go? You might say, "Rob, I don't have any clue as to where my next season will be!" Well, it's going to be exciting! Let's all pray together for each other that God will reveal our new seasons and what it is that He has for us. I pray for each and everyone of you that read the magazine, so if you have a prayer request, please email me rob@sgnscoops.com.

Hey, before I close for this month in the Publisher's Point, I do want to talk to you about a great event. Coming up in Oxford, Alabama, March 23 through the 25th, we are going to have three great days of Gospel music. It is going to be a blast and if you want a VIP ticket, it is well worth the money. Contact me and find out about the over \$60 worth of gifts you will receive for your \$25 VIP ticket. I look forward to seeing you there.

Until next month, happy new year! And this is the Publisher's Point.

Cross Pointe



"Angels" is on the new project by Cross Pointe – "Act IV Scene 1"
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"They're all around us, angels.
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Cross Pointe just released their new single "Angels"
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“Can You Handle It”

Are You Bigger Than God?

For eight years, I ran a Christian music label on Music Row here in Nashville. My job included production, artist management, promotion, radio, publishing, A&R responsibilities, board meetings and spreadsheets. All of that was part of my job, but if you talked to the artists that I worked with, they would not list any of those things as the most valuable part of what I did for them.

When I worked with an artist one on one, I would explain to them that they needed to plug into something bigger than themselves. The initial fear is that you’ll become a small slice of a pie instead of being the entire pie, but actually, the opposite is true. That is why you see major brands fight to be the official brand of their product for the World Wide Olympics. It doesn’t make their brand any smaller, it gives them enormous credibility, and that makes them bigger in terms of public perception. Being part of something bigger than you gives you a much more credibility and purpose.

Post-election events have angered and saddened me. In any sporting event, contest, and life in general, some people win and some people lose. If that was not the case, we would live in a communist society, in which we would all lose. In any election that takes place in a free society, someone wins and someone loses. The folks who support the candidate that loses are always disappointed, but it never takes long before we realize that there is something bigger than that candidate, or

even our ideas. That something allows us to unite as much as possible and move on.

That something is Patriotism, and the reality that we are all part of the greatest Nation in the world.

When you think of our history, what we went through, the struggles and the men and women who gave their life for our freedom, you realize that there is something much bigger than yourself, a political candidate, or even a political party. Folks, that is patriotism! The





symbol of all that I just mentioned is embodied in the Stars and Stripes, the American flag.

When I see people protesting the election results or any issue they feel is important, because of the freedom provided by this great Nation, they have the right to do so. However, when part of the protest involves burning or destroying the flag, I see people who think that nothing is bigger than them. Their feelings at the moment outweigh the struggles, the battles, and the blood shed by our veterans, and the sacrifice of thousands of men and women that defend their right to be so misguided. The only thing their actions prove is that they are ignorant of anything and everything that is bigger than they are.

This selfish, small-minded, and immature attitude is not limited to social and political arenas. It has rooted itself in the church, and like any weed, it is growing. I believe some of our core beliefs nurture this type of this deceptive thought process and can only bring us to a point of major crisis individually and collectively in the church.

When I hear sermons that talk about the season of life that I'm walking through right now, I wonder if we realize what we are saying. When Peter stepped out of the boat, he was fine until he began noticing the *season* or the circumstances around him. When Peter focused on his surroundings rather than Jesus who made it possible for him to walk through those circumstances, he began to sink.

When I hear someone tell me all about the season they are walking through, I want to stop them and tell them, "Don't tell me how high the waves are, or the wind

speeds of the storm around you. Tell me if you can see the face of Jesus."

Are you looking for it? If you seek Him you will find Him and when you turn your eyes upon Jesus, the things around you begin to fade, and you will walk through fire or on water. Focusing on our season and everything that revolves around us is a slippery slope that I believe leads to a selfish, *what's in this for me* outlook, and will ultimately lead to a self-serving gospel.

We have to realize that the Gospel is so much bigger than any one person, church, television evangelist, or movement that we can create. I am nothing on my own, but a lost and confused mess. However, the day I was adopted into the family of God, I immediately became a child of God, royalty, an adopted younger brother to Jesus Christ. I went from lost and confused, living in my own little self-centered world to having a divine purpose and identity.

So think about the Gospel that you are hearing or preaching. Does it make God fit into someone's little world to make it better, or does it plug them into the Kingdom of God, which gives life and purpose to everyone who receives it?

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You can believe the

Hyssongs

Family Matters

By Lorraine Walker

The Hyssongs have watched their latest album, *Believe Me*, be accepted and applauded by the Gospel music audience, taking three of their songs to the top 10 in the music charts. After 20 years, Dell, Susan and their son, Richard, say that hard work along with encouragement from Chapel Valley has boosted their sound up the charts.

“The real reason for our recent recognition and success is God’s hand of blessing upon us,” says Richard. “We are humbled and thankful for all the ways the Lord has led us step by step.

“Radio has really embraced our family and our sound. Whether it is the brass that we use, the live strings, or the sounds of fiddle and steel guitar, they have accepted it all.”

It has been a year since *Believe Me* was released and reviewed by Randall Hamm in SGNScoops January 2016 issue. Hamm wrote, “*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.’”

WCKB 780 has a well-known deejay, Lottie Squires. She says, “I absolutely adore the Hyssongs! I first met them at NQC about 10 years ago; I looked for their booth after seeing their showcase performance. I remember being so impressed by their energy (though trying to catch an unblurry photo of Richard drives me batty to this day) and surprised by how much I enjoyed the trumpet and trombone! Since then, they’ve become dear friends, and I always look forward to spending time with them whenever possible—they’ve even taken time to stop in Dunn for lunch when their travels allow! I’m thrilled at their success, because even though they don’t sing for the chart numbers and big concert dates, it’s nice to see my friends being recognized and rewarded for dedication and hard work.

SOGR’s Brandon Bearden says he loves the Hyssongs’ music. “The latest single, ‘It Doesn’t Get Bet-

ter Than This,' is a great song." Ken Grady, of Gospel Music Today tells us: 'We've known The Hyssongs for many years since our days in New England. We've watched Richard grow from a boy to a man with his own wonderful family. It has been great, too, to watch The Hyssongs' ministry grow to a national level.'

"As a ministry, we want to have a purpose every time we step onto a platform," says Richard. "Our goal is that our songs, stories, and testimonies make a difference in lives. We also want to relate to today's generation and just be real."

The Hyssongs have experimented with different instrumentation, but say that the message has never changed. "We have always desired to see people come to Christ and believers to be encouraged," says Richard. "This year, we have also been speaking about family time and values. We really believe we should get back to the basics. We need to love God, serve God, and spend more



time with the family. That is not only our message, but we have clearly sung about it in our latest radio single.

"What has been such an encouragement is that our audiences have also gotten much younger. We

have a wide diverse crowd when it comes to ages; however, to see young children and teenagers all the way up to retirement age is really neat. We try to have an updated southern gospel sound and ministry, and people of all ages seem to enjoy it. The fact that we have three generations on stage also seems to be something that families want to come out and see."

Richard has lived and worked with his parents for 20 years, watching how they lived. "They taught me by example of how Christians should act, behave and live. One of the major lessons that I have learned is that no matter what, do the right thing and always have integri-



ty. I watched as many times they could've taken an easy road, but they never did.

"They instilled in me the value of hard work, the love of God, and that we should love others.



"My dad was a pastor, and growing up as a pastor's kid was not always easy. I saw them always put others instead of themselves. We always had extra people at our house during Christmas that were in need. My dad

would visit the hospital at all times of the day and night. However, at the end of the day, even though they may not have had time to eat or sleep themselves, they tried to make sure that they were at one of my ball games or events.



“What I want to pass on to my children is that they always love the Lord with all of their hearts and to always do the right thing regardless of whether it is popular.” Richard’s wife, Kelly, and daughter, Makayla, sing with the trio every night and their son,

Richard IV, is showing the same interest.

“The other day I took a few hours just to play with my kids and to see them smile. I realized that they are more important and the work will still be there when I return to my desk. In 2017, I am already planning date nights with my wife and special times and places to take my kids. I’m laughing right now because my cell phone has been ringing off the hook as I answer this question. You bet that it will be turned off more in 2017! It is also important to spend more quiet times with the Lord as well.”



Recently, this family was threatened although they didn’t know it at the time. Thanksgiving weekend was lovely in Pigeon Forge and the fires burning in the mountains didn’t seem ominous. “The Sunday after Thanksgiving, we drove into Pigeon Forge for six nights of concerts. As we approached, we could smell smoke from the fires that were burning in the distance.

By late afternoon it looked like it was snowing, but actually it was ashes blowing and falling from the sky.”

Richard and his family didn’t know that danger was imminent. “Monday night we were singing to a sold-out crowd and had no idea how close the fires were coming. We stepped out the back door of the auditorium and the entire sky glowed with orange from the flames that were getting closer.

“We got online and discovered that they had evacuated everyone up to light eight and we were at light six. The police told us they would knock on our coach door if the fire got any closer, but we decided to drive out to Sevierville to make sure we were safe.”

Richard and his family didn’t take time to snap pictures. “We had several hundred scared people. I was on the fourth floor packing and [we] got out of there.”

“As we drove away from Pigeon Forge, the roads were empty except for the 30 or more fire trucks we passed coming in from all over the state heading toward Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

“On Tuesday, we went back into Pigeon Forge to continue the event. God sent the rain and brave men and women continued to fight the fires. In town we heard story after story from people who had lost their homes, businesses, and even friends in the fire. It was heart-wrenching to talk with people who had lost everything.

“Tuesday night as we slept, our telephones began to sound an alert at 2:45 am. With blurry eyes we read the tornado warning on the cell phone. It told us to take shelter immediately. We went across the street and sat in a hotel hallway with many other people who were also taking shelter. What a relief when the warning was lifted. [Our] four-year-old son broke the tense moments when he asked, ‘Is the *tomato* over?’ We are so thankful for God’s protection.”

Photographs courtesy of The Hyssongs.



Day By Day

By Selena Day

"It's a new season, it's a new day, fresh anointing is coming our way...it's a season of power and prosperity...it's a new season coming to me." - "New Season"(Houghton and Thomas; 1997)¹

This song has been resounding in me the past few days. It truly is a new season for Chuck and me. We've decided to take a year off from working with The World Race to help plan our daughter's wedding. I have decided to try to pursue more speaking engagements this year and Chuck is working on a new album, hoping to release in early 2017.

The past few years have been some of the toughest we have experienced in our ministry. With the downturn of the economy and churches just generally changing their format, it has been hard for our type of ministry. But, in the midst of it all I have seen the goodness of God in the body of Christ reaching out to us.

This past Christmas, Chuck and I experienced a Christmas miracle that left us feeling a little like George Bailey in the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." The quote Clarence the Angel wrote to George, "Remember, no man is a failure who has friends," was a lived out in our life.

Every year I ask God for a word to describe the upcoming year and this year I have heard God say, "Victory!" How exciting is that? I am looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2017. I personally believe that when God speaks to one of us that it is a truth for us all as well. We are the body and as a body what is good for the hand is also good for the foot.

If you have experienced hardship in your own life, I stand with you to believe that victory will be yours this year as well. Let every thought and every action you take this year be taken in confidence, knowing that victory is your outcome. The One who formed this world out of nothing can and will create beautiful things out of our lives and our circumstances.

Today, raise your fist and say to the universe: "I will not give up. My hope is in God! He is my Redeemer. He brings restoration to all things and in Him I can do all things. All things in my life are working together for my good. I choose



to believe that He has seen His child and He says; "Son/ Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has saved you."

There is power in agreement and today our ministry stands with you in prayerful agreement for whatever victory you need in your life this year. Whether it be in your health, healing in your marriage, restoration in your family, provision in your finances, a loved one set free from addiction...

whatever your need today we stand with you.

Remember that God's victory is yours this year!

Stop for a moment and just sit...for 60 seconds, just stop and listen to God. Can you hear the sound of hope rising



up? I pray that you can. There has been a shift in the heavens and the stage is being set for your victory.

Now ask Him what the plan is and walk in that plan. If you are like me, I have asked God for neon signs to light the way. Your best days are ahead of you. Trust the One with the blueprint.

At the beginning of this article I told you that I was going to pursue more of my own ministry this year. Well, I am in the process of writing a book about Queenliving and I have

decided to try out a web channel. So, if you have enjoyed my writings and would like to have me come to your church or event to speak please contact me at selenaday@me.com. Also <http://www.queenliving.org> and <http://facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday>.

No event or church is too small or too large. If you would like Chuck to come and sing at your church or event you can contact us at chuck@chuckday.com or selenaday@me.com.

If you would like to tune in to the youtube channel you can see it at youtube.com/selenabrantleyday or search youtube for Selena Brantley Day.

We are also possibly working on a Queenliving channel, but that is still in the works so just stay tuned!

Happy New Year ya'll!

Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event.

Note:

1. Houghton, Israel and Thomas, Derick W.(1997) New Season. Israel & New Breed - New Season. Retrieved from <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/israelhoughton/newseason.html>

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Help Spread the news
We are bringing Southern Gospel Music
Back to the Rochester, NY Area

Introducing Bob and Joyce Spamer of Spencerport, NY They have a mission to bring Southern Gospel Music back to the Rochester, NY area and are asking that you pray God's blessings on what they are doing. It has been a real struggle they say, as there as not been anyone in the area to promote Southern Gospel for years and with God's help and your Prayers they believe this will be a success. Do you know someone in area? Tell them about SGNY and join us in prayer for Bob, Joyce and Southern Gospel NY



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Lights, Camera...Heart

Amber Nelon Thompson faces a variety of lessons in life and film

By Craig Harris



Amber Nelon Thompson is becoming comfortable in front of the camera. The Nelons' soprano is making her big-screen debut in *A Question of Faith*, which is slated for a release this fall.

"I play Michelle Danielson," Thompson says. "It's about three different families who go through some very, very trying times. One family is struggling with losing a loved one. Another family is living with a loved one who makes a mistake, and they don't know how to help. Another family is struggling with the possibility of losing a loved one. All three families are kind of woven together in the end."

The faith-based film was the first that she had even auditioned for, and the cast includes C. Thomas Howell (*The Outsiders*), Renee O'Conner (*Xena: Warrior Princess*), Kim Fields (*Facts of Life*), C.T. Stallings (*War Room*), Richard T. Jones (*The Wood*) and Christian recording artist Jaci Velasquez.

"My first day, I remember seeing all of these people walk around and was just intimidated," Thompson recalls. "I was like, 'that's Tootie! (Fields' character on *Facts of Life*.) I've seen her on Nick at Nite.' I was like, 'this is the coolest thing in the world.'"

The experience didn't come without its challenges for the 27-year-old. "They have a set schedule where they have to film," Thompson explains. "My family was very gracious to allow me to take the time to film this movie. My sister (Autumn) filled in for me for a few weekends where I had to be off the road.

"It has been tiring. It's early call times, but it's so much fun that I didn't think of it as work ... not until after it

was done. During the filming, it wasn't tiring at all. My adrenaline was going so much. It's life. I make it work. I'm only this age once, and this is the time to do it."

Thompson's mother, Kelly Nelon Clark, has appeared in multiple films. "My mom has really been the actress in our family," Thompson points out. "She's done TV shows, movies.

"This kind of just fell into my lap. I wanted to (do mov-





ies), but I wanted it to be the right one. I wanted it to fit me. I was just patient and waited.” Filming concluded in September.

“I immediately came off set, and my mom said, ‘what did you think,’” Thompson remembers. “I said, ‘I would do this a million times over again.’ It’s a good tired. I’m tired because my dreams have come true all day.

“I hope they call me back (for more films). It’s so exciting. I still feel like I’m dreaming. I’m like, ‘this is not real life.’ I’m so blessed ... I’m so blessed that God takes care of His children and gives us a great life.”

While the big screen has been kind, Thompson’s small-screen experience proved to be considerably different. Thompson was a part of an episode of the Learning Channel’s *Say Yes to the Dress* in October of 2013. The show followed Thompson – who began an engagement one month earlier – as she was in search of her wedding dress.

“They asked me to come on the show and be a part of it,” Thompson explains. “They knew I had been engaged at Disney World. They wanted me to come on and try to find my Cinderella wedding dress. I was so excited to find my Cinderella wedding dress. It was supposed to air about a month after our wedding, which was going to be in June of 2014.”

However, a detour in the four-year relationship occurred after filming for the show was completed. “We went through the engagement,” Thompson points out. “In March, we started realizing our paths were going separate ways. We started praying for God’s direction in our lives.

“So many times, a lot of young couples, they don’t ask the hard questions. They don’t want to ask the hard questions. They want to pretend everything is good, but both of us had that (same) feeling. We were just trying to figure out what that was. We started seeking counsel from our pastors and people we loved. Come April, we made

the decision to call off the wedding. There was an instant peace you just can’t explain. It’s the peace of God. We were four weeks away from the wedding day.”

Despite the peace that followed, the outcome wasn’t the anticipated result.

“To sit here and say it was easy ... I’d be lying,” Thompson says. “It was very tough ... but it was the right decision to make. Both us walked away with respect for each other. It wasn’t something where we were mad at one another. There was no drama. It was an all-God thing.

“I wasn’t mad at him. He didn’t hurt me. We truly did love each other. We truly cared about each other. Sometimes, that’s even harder. He is an amazing person, and we respect each other. We were each other’s best friend. That’s a hard thing. I didn’t just lose a love of my life ... I lost my best friend.”

A host of emotions ensued. “You grieve,” Thompson explains. “It’s like a death. You don’t have that person any more.

“In the beginning, I went through depression. It was very hard. I asked a lot of questions. Even though I knew it was the right decision and knew it’s a God thing, but you still wonder why. I started really reading my Bible and got in the Word. I read about Israel, and Israel asked for a king. They kept asking for a king. God said, ‘You have a king. I am your king.’ They wanted an earthly king.

“I read this conversation they were having with each other. God said, ‘I’ll give you your king.’ He gave them one. He was an evil king.

“When we were dating, I kept praying that it would be the one. I finally realized that I was Israel. The one thing I wanted in my heart the most was to be married. If I had just stopped and listened to God at that moment ... that’s what I would have changed. I think if I would have listened to God, it would have saved us a lot of heartache.”

The episode was televised despite the ending of the relationship.

“It still aired,” Thompson notes. “It’s still on TV. I feel like everybody in America has seen it. It’s still a reminder to this day. It’s something that was really hard.

“I watched it the day it aired, and I said, ‘you know what Amber ... the only way to heal the wound is to watch it.

It's going to hurt you, but you have to let it cut you.”

Amber admits that it has been an evolving process of getting to the point to where she can talk openly about the situation. “I was very depressed,” Amber recalls. “I was an introvert for a while. I didn't want to talk about it, but it's easier to be transparent when you just let it all out. I'm very open and honest about it (now). I try to help people as much as I can. I try to be open. You can make it through. It's a good decision ... even (though) a hard one.

“Life is not easy. Life is tough. Every day of my life, I face hard times and trials.”



It took some time before she resumed dating. “Even thinking about a wedding, it was nauseating,” Thompson emphasizes. “It took me a good year (to date again). Dating takes a while. When you get in the mindset of I'm going to spend the rest of my life with this person and it doesn't happen, it takes a while to rewire your brain. You have to hit the reset button. That's not easy.

“When we first started dating, the things I wanted were different from what he wanted. We kind of settled because we cared for each other. Eventually, those things stack up. It's important to wait for the right one. Now, when I go to dating, I don't settle. It's a matter of being equally yoked.”

Amber is in a committed relationship again, one that is approaching its one-year anniversary. “We're taking it very slow,” Thompson says. “We're letting God lead us. We are best friends. God just kind of led us to each other.

“I'm excited about the future. From now on, I'm just letting God lead.”

She'll face the future with a grateful mentality. “Every day, I wake up, and I'll pray and just thank God,” Thompson explains. “I've gone through phases and depression and wanting to give up. Everybody goes



through those times. God just continually shows me my purpose ... that's to glorify Him through whatever doors He opens.

“I've looked back now at the mountain and know that I can come over it and climb it. I'm ready to climb it. I have my gear on this time.”

Photographs courtesy of Daywind and Craig Harris.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND

Update 2017

By LORRAINE WALKER

Southern Gospel Weekend 2017 is almost here! Running from March 23rd through 25th, in Oxford, Alabama at the Oxford Civic Center. SGW admission is free but must be reserved. Visit www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com for more information. Be sure to contact our head of Lodging and Tours, Salina Clay, for more information at hotels@sgnscoops.com.



radio station in Heflin, Alabama for a great night of fellowship and planning. We've attached the pictures here.

Get Your VIP Ticket

SGW '17 will be providing a VIP seating section again this year. For \$25, true Southern Gospel fans can purchase a pass that will assure them the best view of all the concerts for the entire event. Not only will they have the preferred seating, but also VIP pass holders will receive a special gift at the event, a package worth over \$60. Anyone interested in purchasing a VIP pass

should contact Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892.



SGW Artist's Meeting

This past December, a few of the artists that will be appearing during Southern Gospel Weekend, met at WPIL



Artists Appearing

Some of the artists appearing at SGW 2017 include: The Sharps Quartet, Mercy Rain, Surrendered, The



Pacesetters, Inheritance, Debbie Seagraves, The Chandlers, The Singing Epps, The Pine Ridge Boys,

Kristen Stanton, Purpose, Ava Kasich, Shirley Watson, 2 Determined, Keith Stapler, Shane Cruse, Hope's Journey, The Connells, ClearVision Quartet, and The Drummond Family.



Pat Barker will also be offering classes to assist Gospel music artists. From vocal coaching to stage presence, Barker will touch on everything the artist needs to present Christ, in the SGW version of the Pat Barker University.

Contact Information

Remember, general seating tickets are free for Southern Gospel Weekend.



Call Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892 for more information. If you are an artist that would like to participate in any of these events, please contact Vonda Easley.

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/southerngospelweekend>.



Special Events

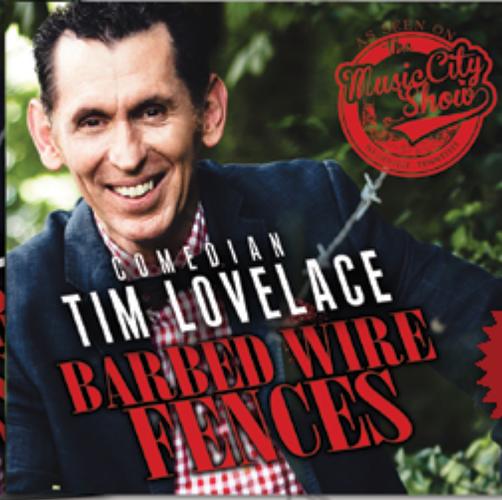
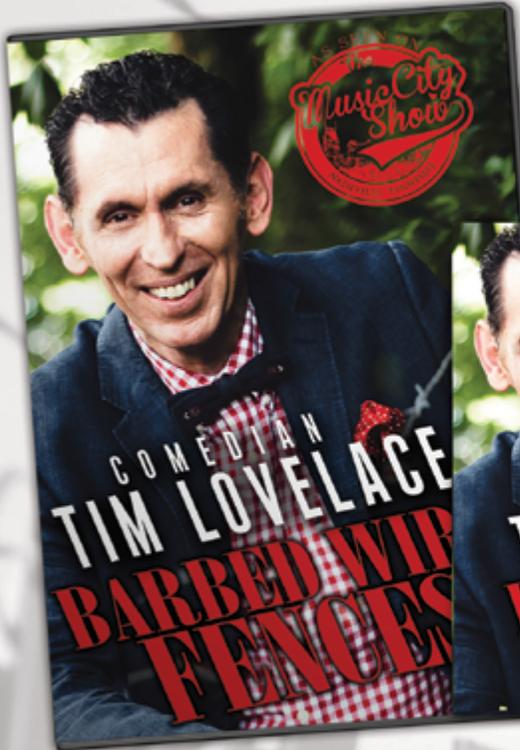
If you have never attended Southern Gospel Weekend, you have a lot of activities to look forward to, encompassing a weekend you will never forget. You will be able to experience the large Exhibit Hall, Daytime Showcases with Ava Kasich and Vonda Easley of Hope's Journey, Midnight Prayer time and Saturday Breakfast. Many solo and group artists will be performing during the three-day festival, emceed by the well-known bass of the Second Half Quartet, Pat Barker.



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A Year of Jubilee

A Conversation with Lily Isaacs of the Isaacs

By Justin Gilmore

The Isaacs have been a mainstay in Gospel and Bluegrass music for years. This acclaimed family has captivated audiences with their harmony and musicianship. Most importantly their hearts for God are truly apparent. I recently had the pleasure to talk with matriarch Lily Isaacs about the group's career and their recent Grammy-nominated album, *Nature's Symphony in 432: A Journey from Pain to Praise*.

Gilmore: Tell me about the formation of the group, the early days.

Isaacs: Well, the Isaacs started with myself and my kids'



father Joe Isaacs, who's my ex-husband. We started singing in 1971 after we got saved. We had a band at the time and we performed just on weekends because we had full time jobs. And as time went on and we got busier, we went into full time ministry in 1986.

As our children were teenagers, they showed a lot more interest in music and so as one band member would leave, the kids would take their place. Sonya was the first one, taking up the position of the mandolin and then Ben went on bass, and then Becky went to the guitar. So it wasn't really a plan, it just happened that way. So today we are an all-family band and we also have a drummer and my grandson Levi, who now plays guitar for us as well.

Gilmore: What is the group's mission statement?

Isaacs: Our mission statement is that we want the world to know that there is hope in trusting the Lord. There are a lot of things- most all things- that are out of our control, and (we need) to just put our lives in God's hands. Trust Him with everything is the most important thing you could do. So our mission is to go out there and let people walk away with a feeling of hope and not despair. There is hope through Christ.



Gilmore: Who are/were the group's musical influences?

Isaacs: We had a lot of different influences. My kids' father Joe Isaacs was very popular in the Bluegrass industry so he would listen to groups like the Stanley Brothers and Bill Munroe. So the Bluegrass end of what we do basically started with that. I personally am a Folk singer. I [recorded] an album on Columbia Records in 1968. I loved people like Simon and Garfunkel, Peter, Paul and Mary, and Bob Dylan, so we had a unique blend of what we liked. Our kids grew up with both sides of that.

My kids would love to listen to Ricky Skaggs. The Marshall Family was one of our favorites, who was a group that was very popular in the '70's. We loved listening to a lot of variety type of music. I would say that my son Ben was always a Country music fan, of the old-style Country that you hear on the Grand Ole Opry. So he loved that style. My daughters also would listen to a variety. Like Eva Cassidy,



and the Country gentlemen who were more progressive, and bluegrass influences; Allison Krauss of course. So it's just a complete mixture and I guess that's why we have what we have today.

Gilmore: Great! What is the most memorable experience you have had in your career singing Gospel/Bluegrass music?

Isaacs: The most memorable experience I think that I've had is probably when we performed at Carnegie Hall. That's one of the most memorable. We had an opportunity to go up there with the Gaithers. It was the year after 9/11 and Gaither put on a patriotic event at Carnegie Hall and we were a part of that.

Growing up in New York City, Carnegie Hall was always my dream. I never dreamed that I would go there. I just wanted to go see that stage let alone be on that stage performing. It was a very memorable event as they honored firefighters, first responders, and police officers and everybody in New York City who responded to 9/11. So it was a very emotional video.



But the highlight to me was my kids got to do the National Anthem, and we did another song as well. My parents are Polish Holocaust survivors, Jewish, and we had my mother come out on stage that night. Bill Gaither introduced her, and at 82 years old, he asked her if she wanted to say anything.

In her thick Polish accent, she said, 'I am proud to be an American now!' And she got a standing ovation. After everything she had been through in her life and losing everything during World War II, it was an electrifying moment, because my parents and I became American citizens when I was nine years old. Just to stand there and have her say that and to get a standing ovation was just probably the most memorable moment of I think all of our lives.

Gilmore: Wow! That is pretty incredible!

Isaacs: Pretty amazing. It was incredible! And she had never

been honored for anything in her life, why would she be, and it was so unexpected and Bill was so gracious to get her out on stage. I was kind of nervous as she had never been to a Gospel show before and hadn't heard our family sing Gospel music, (that's a whole other story in itself). She came and when he invited her on stage, I was a little anxious and I wasn't sure what she would say, but it was perfect! She was charming. She was just perfect!

Gilmore: Let's talk about your latest radio single and integrating your Jewish heritage into your music.

Isaacs: Well our latest single is "This Is The Year," which talks about this year being the year of Jubilee. It actually was supposed to be over at the end of October and every 50 years in Judaism, since the beginning of time, there is a year called Jubilee. My girls studied it quite a bit. It speaks of it in Leviticus 23 about how all debts would be cancelled, all people would be healed, and it was a year of new beginnings, a new start. You know the Jewish people were excited about this particular time because it would give them a fresh start.

The actual holiday began on the eve of Yom Kippur, which is the Day of Atonement. We happened to be in the studio that day and recording the vocals on that particular song. So we decided that it would be so cool to have someone open the song with a shofar, which is the instrument that's used in the synagogue for every celebratory holiday. It happened that the engineer knew how to blow a shofar, so we waited until sundown and had him blow that shofar and we had some of our friends join us.

You know this has been a year of Jubilee. We had a change in our people and our country, giving it back to God; you know it just seems that the song is very timely. We just wanted to get it out there this year especially for that reason. We being Jewish, the DNA of the mother passes through, so my kids, though their father is not Jewish, are considered full blooded Jews and we have dual citizenship in America and Israel for that reason.

It's just all of our lives, and my kids' lives. You know we always pay attention to that because the New Testament is an extension of the Old Testament. Jewish people believe in God; very beautiful religion, and very religious. Jewish people are godly people. However, they don't accept Jesus as Messiah. But I think one day they will.

So we just incorporate what we can and we are proud of heritage. My ex-husband is from Kentucky and his parents were preachers. So it was quite a unique upbringing my family had. We do what feels good, we don't try to fit in a box. My girls wrote all the songs on this new album so we were able to expand our territory that way.

Gilmore: Congratulations on being nominated for a Grammy for this record.

Isaacs: I can't believe it!

Gilmore: Tell me about the recording process for the album.

Isaacs: When we started on this new album, we had had probably the two hardest years of our lives. Each one in our family was facing some type of life devastation. For example, my daughter Becky had been suffering from Crohn's disease for many years and actually went into remission five years ago. But because of that she suffers anxiety. People don't see that on stage. That's something she's dealt with forever.

Two years ago, in 2014, my mother passed away at the age of 95. She was a huge force in our family and that was a big loss.

Two weeks later, my daughter Sonya was carrying a little girl who she named after my mother and lost her. She hemorrhaged and gave birth to a stillborn. That was very devastating. Two weeks exactly from when my mother passed away.

My son has a family member who is suffering addiction and has dealt with that for the last three to four years which was very hard for him.

The subtitle for this album is: A Journey from Pain to Praise. All of these songs were born out of our own life experiences. The girls just started writing songs with other writers and when you hear a song that my family has written, that's what was on their mind that day, that's what they were living basically. That's why I think this album is so special.



My daughter Sonya got fascinated with nature and birds and named her daughter Ava Devorah which means little bird, my mother's name was Fiegel Devorah which also means little bird, so after she lost the baby and all through her last few years of experiences, she was fascinated with the sounds of birds and the sounds of nature. After she lost the baby, she had a special visit from a bird on her windowsill singing to her which was so emotional for her; so she started researching sounds of birds and nature and come to find out that all

of nature is tuned to 432 megahertz not 440 which is standard tuning.

After all the research that we did, 432 tuning was what they used for the Gregorian Chants, the Stradivarius fiddles in the 1700s, because people didn't have the modern day tuners like they do today. So the only way they could tune their instruments and voices was to nature. The birds sing in 432, the whales bellow in 432, the sounds that you hear in our atmosphere and our nature is 432. Studies have shown that the tuning of 432 is more calming and healing to the spirit and the cells respond subconsciously to 432 more than ever.



We're not New Agey, this does not come from New Age, but we just started doing so much research about that and realized that God was telling us: "You've got to record this album in 432 tuning." It is just a little bit under 440 but with the natural ear you can't hear it, but if you play along with it in standard tuning it would sound out of tune. It's just a lower frequency and it vibrates a little slower, but spiritually we feel like it just connected with the songs and what we were doing.

The recording process was very interesting when we went to the studio. We had the piano tuned seven days in a row down to 432 and then back up after we were done. We had the National Symphony, the strings, come in and play on several of the songs and they also had to tune their instruments to 432.

The whole process was so unique, and the outcome was I think -- I love listening to it myself and when it opens up, I feel connected to the Creator. So the whole process was exciting, and just to feel people recognize it by nominating it for a Grammy, is more confirmation that God was pleased with the way we brought this forth.

Gilmore: What do you hope audiences take away from the album and your concerts?

Isaacs: We hope that they take time and listen to the voice of God. Take time to listen to what's around you, you know. We live in such a fast paced world. Everything's drive through. Drive through prayer, drive through work, drive through food. God has created this beautiful and magnificent world for us to enjoy and if anyone's like me, it's like you're so busy living, that you forget to pay attention to things that really matter. We hope that when people listen to this album that they pay attention to God's beautiful creation and renew their spirit and be in connection with the Holy Spirit.

Gilmore: How do you present your faith in your concerts? How do you put your faith into action, every day?

Isaacs: Well, when I wake up every morning, I try to take time to reflect on my day, pray and read a scripture if I can. I am constantly in prayer throughout the day. I say, "Lord, I don't know what you have in store for me today, but help me to be that person who will receive." My family as well. My children were saved at a very young age.

We are busy working a lot but we try to carry that into our ministry and when we are on stage and whenever we go somewhere, we give our testimonies. Each one of us has a story they want to tell. There is always somebody out there that is going to connect with what you have to say.

We have found that when you get on the same level with your audiences and just show them that we are real people. We have suffered the same thing you have, but we got through it. That's kind of our motive in ministry.



Everyone has someone in their life that suffers addiction. That's overcoming addiction. Everyone has someone in their family that has a disease that they are fighting or getting over. Everyone in their family has had a loss whether it be an old person or a baby or lost a child. So we try to bring that personal aspect to our concerts.

Gilmore: Any advice for aspiring groups or Gospel singers?

Isaacs: I guess my advice would be: be yourself! You know so many people try to be who other people are, that I think if you have a talent or a desire, to just be yourself. If you love what you do, the music you do or the songwriting you do, go for it! The American Dream is to go after it and don't give up.

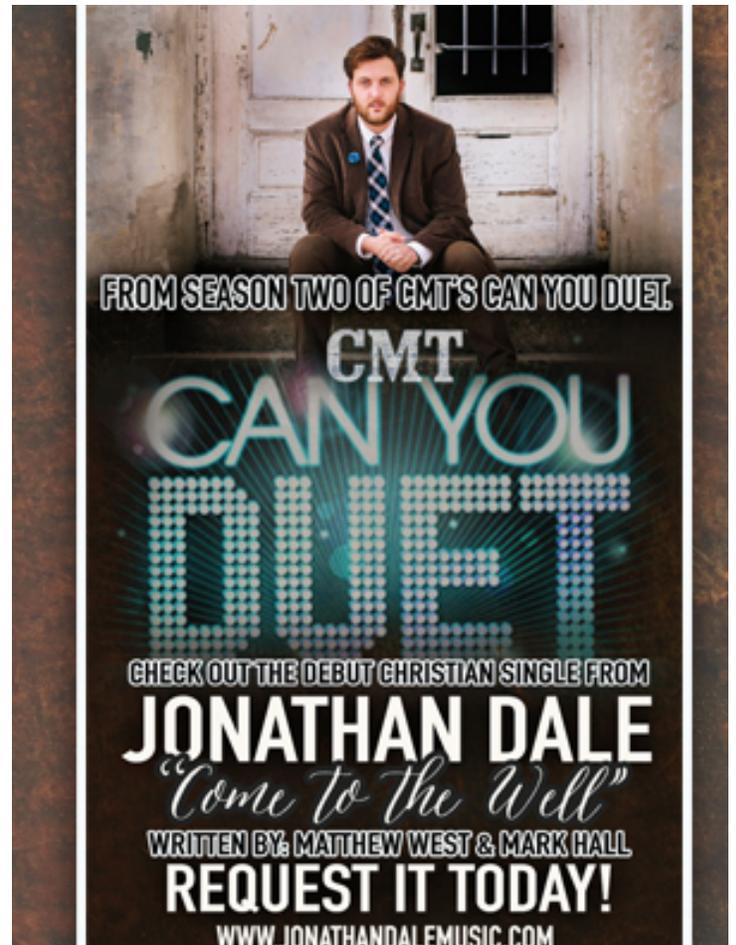


You know if you have to get a job as waitresses or waiter, while you're doing your songwriting, do it. But don't give up your dream. I think that would be my advice. A lot of young people these days have a spirit of entitlement, but it doesn't come with that. We, The Isaacs, for example, have been singing for 40 years and we are still working. You don't get it handed to you on a silver platter. You have to work; you have to be dedicated. Keep focused on the ministry and keep focused on the Lord. Be yourself!

Gilmore: What can fans expect from the group this year?

Isaacs: Well, we are going to the Grammys in February so we're excited about that. We are getting ready to back into the studio to do another recording perhaps later this Spring. My daughter Sonya is expecting a baby girl in April so we're excited about that. We are going to Israel in July. It'll be our 13th trip and we love going and taking people with us. Terry Bradshaw, who is the executive producer of our new album, is also going to be doing an album this year on the House of Isaacs Music label and we're thrilled about that. A lot of positive things coming up but a lot of work. Hopefully, we can just continue doing what we are doing and meet all the people out there who are faithfully going to our shows.

Photos courtesy of The Isaacs and Craig Harris.



Randall Reviews It - January 2017

by Randall Hamm

Dear Friends:

It's January; a new year and a new start. It's time to begin the year with fresh new music and fresh new faces with music you'll want to get and groups to keep an eye on this year. I bring you the McClanahans, a group who is getting back on the circuit; the McNeill Family from Texas, one of the new emerging family groups on the scene, and Saving Grace Trio, featuring a former Inspiration and his daughter.

And as always, pick up a copy of these CDs wherever you get your good Gospel music.

Randall

Please send your latest releases for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.

Now...let the reviews begin.



The McClanahans
Here We Go Again

Producers: Johnathan Groan and David Manning
2016 Independent

Songs: Pardon Me I've Been Pardoned; God On The Mountain; Through The Fire; Heaven Will Be Worth The Journey; Baptism; I Know I'm Alive; Broken Ones; How Great Thou Art; Say Amen; God's Gonna Do The Same For You And Me; Precious Blood; We'll Understand It Better By And By

Beginning the new year with fresh new faces and fresh new music, we feature a group that's been out of Gospel music for around 20 years: The McClanahans, based out of Columbia, Louisiana. The group leader is Roger McClanahan, Sr. and he's joined by his daughter Donna McClanahan Gregory on vocals, son Roger McClanahan, Jr. on vocals and bass, and a third generation of McClanahan, Donna's son, Jonathan Gregory. They also play a wide of variety of instruments as well, making this a true family band.

The McClanahans' latest CD is titled *Here We Go Again*,

which is an appropriate title for their return to Gospel music. The family has chosen 12 great songs for this recording. A rousing version of “Pardon Me, I’ve Been Pardoned,” kicks off the CD featuring Roger.

If you like your music similar to McKameys style, they don’t stray far from it on the version of “God On the Mountain.” “Through The Fire” gets the McClanahan treatment, and this is one of the better cover versions of this Crabb Family classic that I’ve heard.

A cover of the Randy Travis’ tune “Baptism,” is sung with conviction. Some of my other favorites on the CD are “Broken Ones,” “God’s Gonna Do The Same,” and “We’ll Understand It Better By and By.”

This CD is mainly covers and they sing them well. Their sound evokes that of the McKameys and the Crabb Family in spots. Overall I love the CD, and it’s a good first release. I’m looking forward to hearing more original material in forthcoming releases. You’ll definitely want to get a copy of this CD.

Visit the McClanahans at www.themcclanahanfamily.com.

Strongest Songs: “Pardon Me I’ve Been Pardoned,” “Baptism,” and “Through The Fire.”



The McNeills
Family Favorites

Producers: McNeill Family and Brad Davis
2016 Independent

The McNeill Family, based out of Texas, has released an album of “Family Favorites;” songs that are most requested at their concerts. This family has taken the world and Youtube by storm with their *Silo* videos. Their original *Silo* video, “What A Friend,” has garnered almost 7.5 million views on Youtube and Facebook total so far. There are other *Silo* videos as well, check them out.

But continuing this month’s *fresh faces and fresh music* is the McNeills’ “Family Favorites” recording, including nine

songs that are covered in McNeill Family style which is fresh and energetic. Mom and Dad, along with Chris and Michelle McNeill and their two oldest children, Caylie and Landon McNeill make up the group, and in the wings are their eight other children. Yes, I said *eight*: Ashleigh, Grace, Brianna, Hannah, Samuel, Madelynn, Ayden and Sarah.

The CD begins with their version of “My Name Is Lazarus,” and it’s a good way to get the CD started. “My Lord and I,” is a great song for morning or drive-time scheduling; upbeat, cheerful and oh, so catchy.

The Isaacs had a hit with “Waiting In The Water,” but Caylie and Mama Michelle do a wonderful job on one of the prettiest Isaacs’ songs in their catalog. “Satisfied” gets the full family in song. The last chorus gets all 10 children and Mom and Dad singing.

If you love their *Silo* videos, you’ll love their version of “All People That On Earth Do Dwell,” a cappella and wonderfully sung by Caylie, Landon, Grace, and Brianna McNeill. [PS. This reviewer would love for a full a cappella project down the road.]

Once again the McNeills dip into the Isaacs catalog and bring us “Walk On.” I’ve seen them do this in concert. Amazing.

They sing a unique version of “There’s Just Something About That Name.” As a part of this chorus, 12-year-old Brianna and 13-year-old Grace McNeill recite the Beatitudes. Absolutely gorgeous.

Another group that has taken Gospel music by storm in the last few years is 11th Hour. The McNeills tackle “How Do You Plead” and make us wonder what will our answer be.

Closing out the CD is “Wish I Could Have Been There,” a song that ends the CD in fine fashion. The McNeills will have a major CD release sometime in the fall. This family is one that you should keep an eye on, as they are one of the *up and comers* to watch. Get a copy of their latest CD by going here visit the family on the web at www.mcneillmusic.com. P.S.: Happy birthday this month to *Mama*, Michelle McNeill.

Strongest Songs: “My Lord and I,” “There’s Just Something About That Name,” and “All People That On Earth Do Dwell.”



Saving Grace Trio
Saving Grace Trio
2016 Independent

Songs: God Handled It All, It Is Well, Hallelujah Meeting, Healing Stream, We Speak Your Name, Leave It On The Altar, Faithful Friend, I Like The Promise, Room With A View, I'm Gonna Make It, Don't You Wanna Go to Heaven

Our last review for the *fresh faces and fresh new music* is a trio based out of Jackson, Georgia, the Campbell's hometown. The group is comprised of Melton Campbell, his daughter Blair Campbell and friend Terri Cook, and their self titled CD was released in October. The recording features 11 great songs with a variety of styles.

"God Handled It All," kicks off the CD with straight ahead Southern Gospel, and boy, is it good. Great blend. They undertake the hymn classic "It Is Well." It's not enough to just to try and manage a classic, but they tackle it a cappella.

Next up is a Hinsons' classic "Hallelujah Meeting;" by the end, you're wanting more. "Healing Stream," written by Larry Gatlin, has been covered by many; add this version to your list. This trio does it right well.

They slow it down for "Speak Your Name," and it's a good time to slow down and reflect. This song will do that. Absolutely beautiful.

The Isaacs originally cut "Leave It All On The Altar." Melton and the ladies do a fine job.

Melton takes the lead on "Faithful Friend," and he falls back on his Inspirations roots, music and all. This is the highlight and my pick if they decide to release a single.

If you loved the Inspirations, you'll love "I Like The Promise." Just add Mike Holcomb and voila, you'd have the Inspirations. You can tell they were having fun with this number. If you're not humming and singing by the end of

this number...

One of the early hits by 11th Hour was "Room With A View." Once again, this group stretches their boundaries and gives us a great song. "I'm Gonna Make It," and an a cappella tune, "Don't You Wanna Go To Heaven," close out the CD.

This project gives truth to the old adage, "Don't judge a CD by its singer." With Brother Melton being a former and longtime member of the Inspirations, I was expecting that type of material. Although several tunes did harken back to those days, the group and Melton proved that they can handle and sing any type of Gospel. This one of the groups to keep an eye on for this year.

To meet Saving Grace Trio and to get a copy of their CD go to www.facebook.com/savinggracetrio; you won't be sorry you did. P.S.: Buy two and give one to a friend.

Strongest Songs: "Faithful Friend," "I Like The Promise," and "Healing Stream."

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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Dustin Doyle

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

Welcome back to another year of fresh, new and exciting Younger Perspectives! I wanted to start 2017 off with someone I knew would bring an extra spark of excitement to the table. So it's no surprise that I chose Ernie Haase and Signature Sound's newest member and long-time friend of mine, Dustin Doyle! He not only has an incredible voice, but a kind heart that you're going to get to know a little better. Without further ado...

Erin: There may be some EH&SS fans who aren't familiar with your background. Share with the readers what your life looked like growing up as a pastor's kid, and your journey to where you are now.

Dustin: Well, as a child, it looked like most other kids with a church-going family. We were at church two to three times a week. We had big family gatherings every Sunday, and everything looked like you'd think it should. But to be perfectly honest, on the outside, my life looked exactly like I wanted it to look to everyone else, through my teenage years and into early adulthood. I made many mistakes and did many things of which I'm not proud. I totally took for granted how valuable my upbringing really was, because it was all I knew. It wasn't until my mid 20's when I actually learned what it meant to follow Christ and have a real relationship with the Lord.

Erin: Since joining Sig Sound in 2015, what are some things you weren't expecting?

Dustin: I was honestly not expecting the energy that the Signature Sound stage demanded. That energy leaves

absolutely no room for you to call it in for the night, or go on auto-pilot like many of us in this industry tend to do when we're tired or not feeling well. I feel like Signature Sound requires my A+ game at all times, and that was something that I wasn't necessarily expecting.

Erin: Between traveling full time, and being a husband and a daddy, how do you keep family first while wearing so many different hats?

Dustin: The only way to do that is to make the absolute most of the time that I have when I'm home. While at home, I make sure that my attention is 100% on my children and my wife. I believe that a lot of people who work a normal nine-to-five job can find themselves checked out when they get home, because it's easy

to take for granted being home every night. When I'm home, I'm home.

Erin: Any chance Dawson or Lana are already showing signs of following in your musical footsteps?

Dustin: Definitely! It's





very exciting to watch their little minds develop. They both have always loved music, and any time I sit to play the piano or the guitar, they love strumming with me or pounding on the piano keys for a little bit. They also love dancing, which they must have gotten from their mother, because dancing is borderline a phobia for me. Hopefully, they will keep that love for all things musical. I believe they will.



Erin: Craziest thing a fan has ever said to you, and... GO!

Dustin: I honestly can't say that I've really had anything crazy said to me by a fan. However, I do get asked much more often than I anticipated, the question, "Are you Ernie?" That's one I just can't figure out.

Erin: What is the weirdest thing about yourself that no one would ever guess?

Dustin: I can memorize the dialogue of most movies

that I watch if I've seen it a few times. I don't mean certain lines. I actually mean the movie in almost its entirety. I also remember most numbers that I see. If I see any number or series of numbers for more than a few seconds, I can usually remember it for the rest of my life. So, there are two pretty useless talents that are pretty odd.

Erin: What are some ways you four stay entertained on long night journeys?

Dustin: We watch a lot of movies. We talk a lot (especially Devin). And we make up games on the road that would seem pretty ridiculous to most people. For example: We found a ping pong ball not long ago, and made a game where we would hit it in the air back and forth to each other with the face of our cell phones and see how long we could keep it in the air without the ball hitting the floor. I think our top number of hits was around the mid 40's. Needless to say, it was an intense game!



Erin: How would you encourage fellow roadies as they step into another year of ministry, and are maybe struggling to trust God for the future?

Dustin: Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." We have to take God at his word and believe that whatever we do for the Kingdom, we will be rewarded for it. That doesn't mean that it's always going to be easy. Jesus never once told us that following Him and His will would be easy. He did, however, tell us that it would be worth it.



Erin: With only being a few days into 2017, how do you regroup and refocus for another year doing what you love as you serve the Lord?

Dustin: Well, fortunately for us, we have quite a bit of time off for the Christmas season. We get about three weeks of nothing but time with family and time to refocus. I do realize that many groups do not have that luxury, and I honestly hurt for them because it is tough to keep perspective when you're gone so much. To those people, a passage that gives me strength that I hope gives strength to anyone reading this, is Hebrews 12 beginning with the first verse. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely and let us run with endurance the race that is

set before us. Let us FIX OUR EYES on JESUS, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men so that YOU may NOT grow weary and lose heart."

Closing words from the writer...

Most of the time, I like to leave you all with something to ponder and take with you once you turn the page. However, I think Dustin has truly said it all. Each and every one of us can be impacted by the stirring message found within Hebrews 12. Jesus paid the ultimate price so we wouldn't have to. He simply desires for us to "Believe on Him..." Let that be the truth you take with you into this uncharted 2017.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

And that's my take on it.

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Who would YOU like to see Erin interview next?



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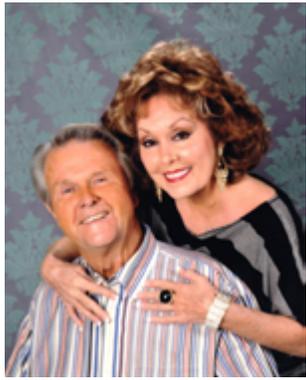
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Services, Concerts, Relaxing Trips and Family Time, and of course we'll climax the year with **SGNScoops Diamond Awards Nov 1, 2016!**

We had a great Winter with friends, ministers, and promoters during our stay in Florida.

We have a full schedule of church services, concerts, and senior programs for the remainder of the year. Lil' Jan and I have also scheduled personal times with two weeks in the Smokey Mountains, a week in New York, and a week in London, England. Please check our schedule for the times and dates of a program near you. We love sharing time with our Gospel Music Friends. (DrJerryGoff.com)

Check out our Singing at Sea Cruise for 2017. Make plans to go with us. It's the best vacation you'll ever have. - Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan

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

1	Tim Livingston	Without You
2	Wilburn and Wilburn	It's What He's Done
3	The Wisecarvers	Don't You Think You Ought To Worship Me
4	The Hoppers	If We Ever Got A Look
5	The Bowling Family	Mourning Into Dancing
6	The Whisnants	I Love You This Much
7	The Nelons	My Father's House
8	The Hyssongs	It Doesn't Get Better Than This
6	The Tribute Quartet	Never Forsaken
9	The Mylon Hayes Family	I Choose To Stand
11	The McKameys	That's Why There's A Cross
12	The Talleys	After All This Time
13	Karen Peck and New River	Calling
14	Ivan Parker	Mama's Rocking Chair
15	Brian Free and Assurance	Somebody's Miracle
16	The Taylors	We Are Not Ashamed
17	The Lore Family	World Of Hurt
18	The Triumphant Quartet	Living In The Promised Land
19	Josh and Ashley Franks	In The Midst Of It All
20	11th Hour	He Welcomes The Beggar
21	The Troy Burns Family	Somebody Go Get Jesus
22	The Anchormen	I Heard About A Man
23	Highland Park	Gonna Get Baptized
24	Logan Smith	My Lord Will Send A Moses
25	The Pine Ridge Boys	I've Got A New Song
26	Dallas Rogers	Beyond The Gates
27	The Erwins	Only Faith Can See

28	Jason Crabb	If I Shout
29	The Browders	New Song
30	The Mark Trammell Quartet	Already In Canaanland
31	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Someone's Listening
32	The Broken Vessels	American Christian
33	The Carolina Boys	For Every Goliath
34	The Williamsons	He Lived To Tell It
35	Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call	Promises Of God
36	The Hoskins Family	Unbreak The World
37	The Talleys	There Is Coming A Day
38	The Guardians	It Ain't Gonna Worry Me Long
39	John Whisnant	There He Is
40	The Perrys	Did I Just Hear The Thunder
41	Legacy Five	Still
42	Gordon Mote	Oh The Blood
43	Shellem Cline	Why Can't Christians Share The Love Of Christ
44	The Nelons	Just Can't Make It By Myself
45	Rejeana Leath	Walking Miracle
46	The Stephens	Lord Have Mercy
47	The Kingdom Heirs	Saving Us A Place In The Choir
48	The Bates Family	That Day
49	The Wilbanks	Thy Kingdom Come
50	Sunday Drive	A Good Song
51	The Common Bond Quartet	God Made A Way
52	The Isaacs	This Is The Year
53	Aaron and Amanda Crabb	I've Seen What He Can Do
54	The Gabbards	Faith That Floats



55	Canton Junction	When He Was On The Cross
56	Greg Logins and Revival	There's Power In The Blood
57	Messiah's Call	Livin' In Me
58	The Diplomats	Let Your Light Shine
59	Three Bridges	Shadrach
60	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	Holy, Glory To The Lamb
61	Larry Ray	What A Glad Reunion Day
62	Caleb's Crossing	Good Things
63	The Soul Purpose Quartet	Lift Up His Name
64	The Blackwood Brothers Quartet	When I Cross To The Other Side Of Jordan
65	Carla and Redemption	Goody, Goody Devil
66	The Walkers	God Of Promises
67	The Tribute Quartet	I Remember The Day
68	The Kingsmen	Here I Stand Amazed
69	11th Hour	Can You Burn
70	The Browns	Didn't It Rain
71	Doug Anderson	The Only One
72	Tammy Jones Robinette	I Turned The Radio On
73	Dean	When God Speaks
74	Steve Ladd	Not Guilty
75	The Second Half Quartet	The Prodigal Son
76	The Singing Epps Family	Heaven
77	The Erwins	Greater
78	The Down East Boys	One Way, One Name, One Door
79	Reborn	Can He Count On You
80	The Whisnants	A Grave Mistake
81	The Taylors	He Won't Fail You
82	New Freedom	We're The Church
83	The Millers	I've Got A Lot To Thank The Lord For
84	The Victory Trio	He Put My Past In The Past
85	Greater Vision	He Does

86	The Mark Dubbeld Family	This Is What I Know
87	The Master's Voice	Lord Of Mercy
88	The Joyaires	You've Been Good To Me
89	Cana's Voice	Heavenly Father
90	The Collingsworth Family	When He Carries Me Away
91	The McKameys	I've Been In The Book
92	Adam Crabb	That Whosoever Was Me
93	Heirline	He's Still Saving Me
94	The Kramers	Revive Us Again
95	Joseph Habedank	Big Enough
96	Oasis	Potter's Wheel
97	Mark Norman Murphy	What A Beautiful Morning
98	Landon Villines	Better Days
99	Gaither Vocal Band	Let It Start In Me
100	Mercy's Well	Deliver Me Through

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A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris: Bells, Boots and BBQ

Photographs by Craig Harris



Bells, Boots and BBQ

The Talleys, Tribute Quartet, Rebecca Little Burke and Jeff Stice were among the artists who participated in the fifth annual Bells, Boots and BBQ, an event held on November 29th at the Depot Square Event Center in Gallatin, Tennessee. Also performing was Jared Myers on acoustic guitar.

The dinner and silent auction benefited the Veranda, a respite activity program that helps meet the needs of senior adults and their families who are affected by Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia and other issues associated with the aging process. Activities are provided a few hours a day, three days per week at Gallatin's Fellowship Church to allow families much-needed respite time to take care of other family needs.

Mary Anne Oglesby-Sutherly is the director of Veranda Ministries, and both Debra Talley and Tribute's Gary Casto serve on the board of directors.



Gaither Christmas Homecoming 2016



Gaither Christmas Homecoming 2016

The Gaither Christmas Homecoming Tour 2016 stopped in Nashville, TN at Lipscomb University on December 8th.

Many Gaither favorites were there including the Gaither Vocal Band, The Martins, The Isaacs, Buddy Greene, Landy and Joy Gardner and the Christ Church Choir, Russ Taff, Charlotte Ritchie, Gene McDonald, Matthew Holt and Kevin Williams.

We hope you enjoy the faces of your favorite artists as we Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris.





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Rob Patz and SGN Scoops winners at 13th Annual USAGEM Awards

By Lynn Fox and Lorraine Walker



The 13th Annual USAGEM Awards Show was held on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at the historic Texas Troubadour Theatre in Nashville, Tennessee. This yearly event is sponsored by the United States Association Of Gospel Entertainers and Musicians. The USAGEM is a non-profit, member-run organization of Christian entertainers and musicians who are dedicated to sharing and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

The Fox Brothers were the hosts of the award show. Joining them were several segment co-hosts including: Russ and Linda Murphy; Tommie and Dwayne Lewis; Ann Hartmann and Tank Tackett; Sheila Berry Harrison and Larry Dunlap; Julian and Bonnie George; and Bev McCann and Rachel Taylor.

Rob Patz was honored to receive (in absentia) the USAGEM Media award on behalf of all of the staff at SGN Scoops magazine. SGN Scoops digital magazine has been online in its current format since 2009, hosted by the website of the same name which also posts current Gospel music news. Patz notes, "I am humbled that all the members of the USAGEM would regard our work at SGN Scoops as the very best in the Media category. We aim at excellence and we do it for the Lord. I'm excited to receive this award and it is a great encouragement for all of us at SGN Scoops."

Lorraine Walker, editor of SGN Scoops magazine, comments: "Our staff at the magazine works hard to bring the best features and information to Gospel music fans and we are blessed that our efforts have been recognized by USAGEM. Thank you so much to all who voted for us and to the USAGEM organization."

The two and one-half hour award show was intertwined with song performances and award presentations. There were several highlights during the program including an impeccable performance by The Fairfield Four. Their vocal harmony on "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" brought the entire audience to their feet.

After their performance, Lynn Fox and Sandi Kay Shupe presented The Fairfield Four with the Black Gospel Crown Jewel Award. The Fairfield Four have been performing as a group for more than 90 years. The current members are Grammy award winners and have appeared in movies such as, "O Brother Where Art Thou."

This year's Bluegrass Crown Jewel Award winners, Leipers Fork Bluegrass performed "The Three Bells." This song was made famous during the 1960's by Jim Ed Brown and The Browns and was performed as a tribute to them. New artist, Cassidy Huckabay, who received this year's Contemporary Christian Crown Jewel Award, performed her top nominated song, "Dying Again."

Joanne Cash Yates performed her nominated song, "The Cost Of The Call," written by legendary Gospel songwriter, Joel Hemphill. Other notable performances on the show were "Church Like We Knew Back Then," by Jim Sheldon; "Sunshine, Rain, and Roses," by Debbie Bennett; and "Lead Me To The Rock," by legendary Gospel singer, Tank Tackett.

Comprising the USAGEM band were Tom Campbell (fiddle), Dewitt Johnson (Keyboard), Lashell Spears (piano), Jack Roulier (lead guitar), Jay Shupe (pedal steel), Mike Dunbar (bass), and Barry Wayne

(drums). The backup vocalists included Sandi Kay Shupe, Paul Sparks, and Cassie Cornish. The trophy presenters for the show were Summer and Autumn Ryan.

Below is a full list of this year's USAGEM award winners:

Gospel Entertainer Of The Year - **Jimmy Jack Whitaker**

Female Vocalist Of The Year - **Melanie Walker**

Male Vocalist Of The Year - **Frank Pizarro**

Vocal Group Of The Year (tie) - **Mending Fences**

Vocal Group Of The Year (tie) - **The Reed Brothers**

Musician Of The Year - **Jimmy Jack Whitaker**

Duo Of The Year (tie) - **The Davis Family**

Duo Of The Year (tie) - **Randy and Wendi Pierce**

Singer/Songwriter Of The Year - **Jimmy Jack Whitaker**

Comedian Of The Year - **Peggy Inks**

New Artist Of The Year - **Bob Etzel**

Video Of The Year - *"You Will Fly"* **Daniele Carson**

Song Of The Year - *"Thank You"* **Sandi Kay Shupe**

Christian Country Crown Jewel - **Jimmy Jack Whitaker**

Southern Gospel Crown Jewel - **Rick Alan King**

Contemporary Christian Crown Jewel - **Cassidy Huckabay**

Black Gospel Crown Jewel - **The Fairfield Four**

Bluegrass Crown Jewel - **Leipers Fork Bluegrass**

Diamond Award - **Don and Peggy Inks**

Emerald Award - **Laura Lewis**

Pearl Award - **Margaret Anne Smith**

Ruby Award - **Dwayne Lewis**

Sapphire Award - **The Davis Family**

Servant's Heart Award - **Chuck and Candace Kuykendall**

Helping Hand Award - **Don McCloud**

Media Award - **Rob Patz, SGN Scoops Magazine**

Radio Servant's Award - **Bruce and Connie Lea Cutler**

Film & TV Award - **The Music City Show**

Excellence In Outreach Award - **Rockin' Reggie and Kat Vinson**

USAGEM President's Award - **Ann Hartmann**

Based in Nashville, TN, the USAGEM organization was formed in 2003 when a group of approximately 15 artists met to explore ways in which they could enhance their individual ministries by bonding together with other Christian ministries. From that

small group of artists, today the organization has grown to more than 200 professional members. These artists represent five genres of Christian/Gospel music, including Southern Gospel; Black Gospel; Christian Country Gospel; Contemporary Christian; and Bluegrass/Acoustic/Folk Gospel. If you have any questions about USAGEM, you are encouraged to contact the organization's president, Lynn Fox, at President@usagem.org. Please refer to their website for more information about this fine organization: <http://usagem.org/>.

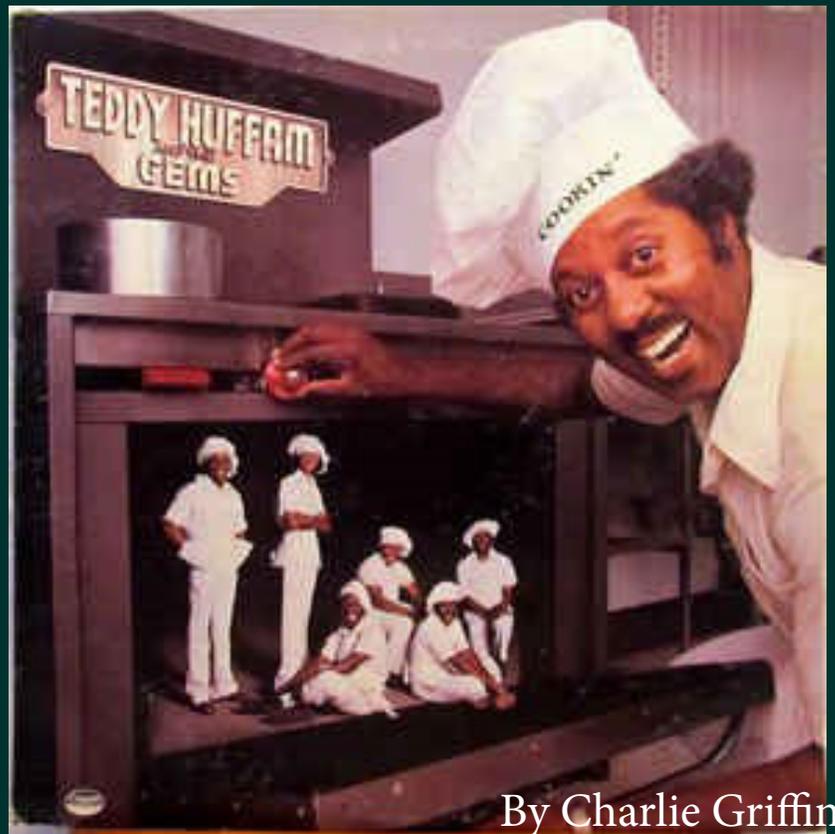
Photographs courtesy of Lynn Fox, Bev McCann and the USAGEM.





Teddy Huffam and the Gems:

Cookin' Southern Gospel Music



By Charlie Griffin

One of the most talented artists to excite a Southern Gospel crowd, Teddy Huffam could generate a fervor with his unique brand of music. His soulful, enthusiastic stage presence captured the attention of many concert goers. Crowds flocked to see and hear this man and his group, The Gems, for almost 20 years. He was fresh and exciting to watch.

Huffam began by singing around the Richmond, VA area, making a name for himself and the group. But things began to change when he fully embraced Southern Gospel music. Teddy Huffam and the Gems received notoriety in Southern Gospel music after winning the Watermelon Park talent competition hosted the Hoppers Brothers And Connie during their annual Watermelon Park singing in 1973.



Huffam and The Gems had their first album out by 1974 with RUC records. Multiple projects followed with Skylite Records. Each

recording had increased airplay and the group became more coveted. But the breakthrough Huffam had been working toward finally came with their first album with Canaan Records in 1977. On this recording "Gone" was the charted song for over two years in the Singing News top 40 singles chart. The song topped out in the top five most played songs of the time. It was their stirring live performance to those lyrics that just captivated fans, singers and musicians. "Gone" remained Huffam's signature song throughout his touring and even with radio airplay.



Many consider Souled Out Live (1977) to be Huffam's best recording.

"Gone" was penned by the Kingsmen's Hall of Fame member, Eldridge Fox.

This was Fox's biggest composition. The Kingsmen first recorded the song in 1971 and then the Florida

Boys recorded the song in 1973 and charted the song in the top 40. After Huffam's release, "Gone" became a classic Southern Gospel song and has been recorded by countless groups.

Huffam remained with Canaan Records through the end of 1981. It was during this time he returned to Skylite Records recording a between-contract project in 1978. With Canaan, his string of hit songs continued with "Gone," "Heavenly News," "I'm Rich," "John the Revelator," "Living In The Light Of God," "Oh What a Sunrise," and "Wait 'Til You See My Brand New Home."



The Group's recording of "John The Revelator" on the *Cookin'* album became another of the group's most popular songs. Their stage delivery of this song captivated Southern Gospel fans, young and old alike.

The album also featured "He's Everything To Me," and "Just In Time."

Teddy was like the Kingsmen in many ways. His live recordings were stellar and captured the intensity of the concert and his relationship with the concert family.

Teddy Huffam and the Gems recorded another live album in 1979 titled *Standing Room Only*. The listener was treated to rousing renditions of "Rock My Soul" and "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus." The album also contained one of the best versions of the Southern Gospel classic, "Stepping on the Clouds."

During this time, it also became a tradition for Teddy Huffam and the Gems to close out the National Quartet Convention on Saturday night each year. Folks would stick around and in usual fashion, the group would bring the house down. It was Teddy's night for sure.



Teddy at the piano giving his rendition of "Gone."

In 1979, I booked Teddy Huffam to appear at the

Hallelujah Supper Club in Newton, NC. That Friday night performance sold out in just a few days of the announcement. Fans packed the supper club enjoying an up-close and intimate concert with Teddy and The Gems. People began asking for "Gone," "John The Revelator," "Stepping On the Clouds," and "Wait 'Til You See My Brand New Home," when they came in the door. For over two hours, Teddy and the Gems delivered a soul-stirring concert that had people clapping; standing ovations woven with praise and heartfelt worship.

Over the years, the fans' demand required two nights of performances at the supper club. Both Friday and Saturday night would sell out several times each year. Those concerts continued until Teddy came off the road in 1990. In those 11 years, only a limited number of artists consistently had the draw power to fill as many as 10 yearly concerts in a supper club setting. Teddy was



a first and held the benchmark for many years.

In the '80's through 1990, Huffam recorded for other labels including Bread of Life Records, New Dawn Records, Morningstar Records and Horizon/Pinnacle Records.

In 1990, he came off the road. It was a loss to his countless fans and friends. His death in 1991 was the end of a trend setter and true Southern Gospel artist, touched with a little soul.

Teddy always had the Gems working the stage. All were friends and loved their music performances. William Anderson and Gary Shelton spent the most time with Teddy Huffam going back to the group's start. Clyde Wilson, Jerome Jackson, James Jackson, Leon Brown, James Branch, Burton Lewis, Robert Cooper, Morgan Stevenson and Irvin Mayo toured with Huffam as The Gems over the years.

Gary Shelton and other former members of the Gems came together to record an album in 1994 titled *Sail Away*. The Gems even toured for a short time after Teddy's passing.

In 1996, Horizon Records released a classic concert, originally recorded on video in 1990, titled *Live Like*

No Other. This was the last video recorded by the group before Teddy's passing in 1991. This live recording has great versions of some of the group's biggest songs. "I'm Rich," "Glory Road," "What A Lovely Name," and, "Joy In Jesus," all highlight this album. Fans love the recording of his classic hit "Gone" on this one-of-a-kind video.



In 2005, Horizon Records released a collector's edition of Huffam's Greatest Hits.



Teddy Huffam and the Gems with their crowd pleasing "Stepping On The Clouds."

While today's Southern Gospel music fans may not be familiar with Teddy Huffam and the Gems, their accomplishments and ground-breaking work should not be overlooked. It was Teddy Huffam and the Gems that changed the industry and made a way for black artists to find a home in Southern Gospel music. Huffam's success paved the way for artists that came after: Don DeGrate and Strong Tower, Gospel Enforcers, Larnelle Harris, Charles Johnson and the Revivers, Quinton Mills, Lynda Randle and Scotts.

It was Huffam who delivered concerts that began to have staging and choreography to some songs. In talking with Teddy, he would often say "Just give 'em what they want. People want to have fun, laugh and be touched by our songs. So why not enjoy what you do. God gave you the gift. Have some fun using it!"

With history on his side, Teddy Huffam and the Gems will remain one of the most loved on stage groups. Their energy was contagious and their heartfelt delivery made music fans their friends. I know it happened to me.

Not long after the concert you would be *cookin'* Teddy Huffam and the Gems on your car radio and you would be loudly singing along. I know it happened to me many times...and still does even today.

Hey Y'all!

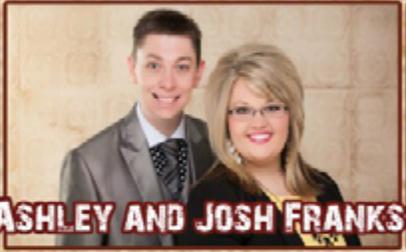
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PAGE TRIO



DRUMMONDS



THE BATES FAMILY



ANNETTE BINGAMAN



TO THE END



LINDA FOSTER



THE WALKERS

HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



We are just a few days away from Inauguration Day. The world will have its eyes on the city of Washington, D.C. and we will be there trying to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all those who are attending.

We have partnered with Seedline International to bring a special Inauguration Day John and Romans booklet to the city of Washington. God's Word is powerful and can change the hearts and minds of people. No matter what side of the aisle one may be on, God loves you and we want to share this news.

We ask that you pray for this endeavor, that God would provide the funds needed and that He would bless the disbursement of His Word. We also ask that you pray for our leaders that God would protect them during this transition of power. Pray for their hearts to be softened by the Word of God. We need leaders who will make known our need for repentance and a Holy God. Our nation's future depends on what God's people would do in the coming days.

I wanted to share a little story with you from a month ago or so. I was at a pastors' town hall event on the Hill where many members of Congress stopped by and shared what God is doing in their lives. It was a glorious time of prayer and singing that evening on the floor of the United States' Senate!

I met a certain congressman whom I had never met before that day. We chatted a bit about the state he is from and my family's history there, about what God is doing and what we pray He will do. I was very impressed by his heart for the Lord and wanted to catch up with him again.

The following week was our live nativity, when we - with

our ministry partners (Faith And Action) - brought live camels, sheep and donkeys to the city of Washington. The "Holy" family and the baby Jesus would lead the way in procession through the city of Washington. In the days leading up to the nativity, I was making personal visits to members of congress and giving invitations to the nativity.

I had a list of members whom I wanted to visit and the congressman whom I had met the week before was at the top of my list. I walked onto an elevator on the first floor of the Cannon house office building to go down to the basement (which connects all house office buildings with a tunnel) to get to the Rayburn building. As I was on the elevator going down, I was alone and I prayed that the Lord would allow me to catch the congressman even for a moment to personally give him the invitation.



As the elevator doors opened, I walked out and down the hall. A man passed me in the crowd of people who looked



familiar out of the corner of my eye. I stopped and turned around only to see the very congressman I had just prayed for. I was in awe that God had answer my very short prayer. I said "Congressman!" He said, "It's been a while," with a chuckle. We shared a moment of niceties and I was able to give him the invitation. I share this to say that God hears our prayers and He answers them. It is hard to fathom at times how good God truly is.

I pray that in this new year, you would be encouraged that God knows of you and cares. I do not believe that He is done with America, for I feel that we are on the precipice of Revival in this land.

I ask again that you pray for our ministry in Washington and if you feel so led, stop by our website and find out how you can be involved in a greater way in sharing the Gospel with our leading officials in Washington. We would love to know how we can pray for you as well!

Be encouraged and of great courage in the days ahead. God is still King and He reigns forevermore!

One of your faithful missionaries in Washington,

Nathan Kistler, Director of Hope To The Hill
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SGN **SCOOPS**
MAGAZINE

TOP 40

**CHRISTIAN
COUNTRY SONGS**

SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40 for January 2017

1. Mitch Pullen - What You Leave Behind
2. Carter Robertson Band - Little Yellow Seeds
3. Shellem Cline - Hello Daddy
4. Austin Zimmer - You Ain't Looking Hard Enough
5. Terry Unthank - But For The Cross
6. Branded – Lay It Down
7. Chelley Odle - Why Didn't I
8. Mitch Pierson - Thank God I Can Still Thank God
9. The Tacketts - And I Know
10. Noah Hinshaw - Life's Rain
11. Bryan Carroll - God's Not Me
12. Randy Paul - Moonshine
13. Rejeana Leeth - Walking Miracle
14. Caleb's Crossing - Good Things
15. JT Lewis – Shoot Straight
16. Red Letter Band - Sold
17. John Steed - The Cowboy Kind
18. Mike Manua I- Where's The Family
19. Rosehill - Bible And A Gun
20. McKay Project - Get Saved

21. Southern Raised - Ravens Still Fly
22. 3rd Generation - Soldier's Last Letter
23. Wade Phillips - He Was Standing
24. Ryan Watkins - One More Time
25. Ava Kasich - Looking Back
26. Reed Brothers - I'll Make The Most Of It
27. Shenandoah - Good News Travels Fast
28. Danny Ray Harris - It's All Good
29. Debbie Seagraves - Where You Could Be
30. Freddy Hart - This Old Church
31. Butch Tinker - Drive
32. Peter Christie - Rest
33. Trevor Bohannon - It's Time
34. Doug Hudson - If They Could See Us Now
35. Mary James - Fearfully, Wonderfully Made
36. Miles Pike - Hard
37. Kevin Woody - Days Like That
38. Mike Upright - When My Last Song Is Sung
39. Dan Duncan - Nobody Sang Amazing Grace
40. Bruce Hedrick - Gravy



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Ten Years of Life and Grace

Miles Pike

By Vivian Belknap

The piney woods of East Texas have given us some great music talent over the years: Van Cliburn, Johnny Horton, Jim Reeves, Ray Price, and Tex Ritter to name a few. I would like to introduce you to another talented son of the piney woods, Miles Pike. Miles is a talented singer with a vocal range of five octaves and because of this range, has a voice that some have compared to John Denver, Josh Groban and Josh Turner.

Miles was born into a Christian family; church and singing hymns was an important component of forming his desire to sing. By the time he was nine years old, he had begun to do specials with his mom in church services. When he turned 12, his high soprano voice of a child morphed into a man's low bass voice. He would spend hours each day experimenting with his new voice. By the time he was 14 he had not only reclaimed his tenor voice but had developed his five-octave singing range.

Miles was born into this world with a rare eye condition that necessitated surgery and many visits with specialists. His eyes were operated on when he was 15 months old. Having only known the world through his faulty vision, he did not associate this condition with his frequent migraine headaches. He did not realize the full

extent of his impaired vision and because he was able to adapt, neither did those around him.

At the age of 16 it was time for him to apply for his driver's license. It was at this time he and his parents realized the extent of his blindness and that he would be dependent on someone else to drive him for the rest of his life. Miles is legally blind; he has no sight in his right eye and it can only detect some light. His left eye has no peripheral vision leaving him with tunnel vision.

Miles' parents, knowing his love and passion to sing Gospel music, paid for his first summer at the Stamps-Baxter School of Music in Nashville following his graduation at age 18. During that first two weeks of school he realized he had a huge task ahead of him. He brought the lessons home and spent many hours applying those lessons of music theory, vocal training, performance and the aspects of managing the business side of ministry.

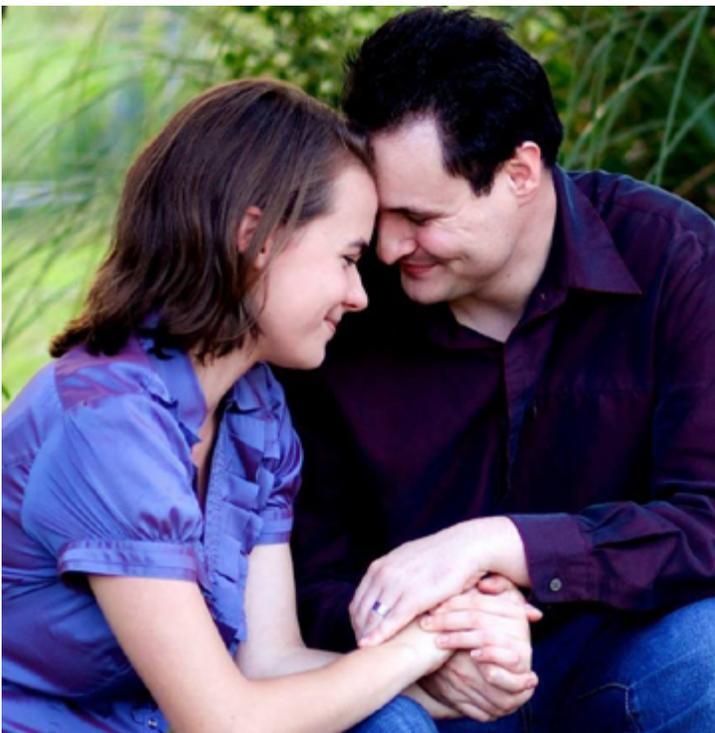
He attended the school consecutively for eight years, continuing to build each year on the previous lessons learned. In October 2006, after four years of attending the school, he had his first opportunity to minister in song at a small church a day's drive from home. His ex-



pectation was that he would not have his expenses met but he went and sang to a small group of people. This was the first time he realized that God does provide for the needs of His children and for those who labor in the field.

Miles states, “Martha and I do this now as our full time living; but it’s a ministry first and foremost for both of us, so we make it a practice not to demand or ask for ‘x’ amount up front. The Lord has always taken care of us through His people.”

Speaking of Martha; how did the paths of this East Texas boy cross with a Georgia girl? The answer is the Ben Speer’s Stamps-Baxter School of Music in Nashville. Martha attended the School to learn more about music theory and to associate with other musicians. It was during Miles’ third year that Martha walked in and, as he likes to say, “Although I am legally blind, it was love at first sight.”



They continued to stay in contact through Facebook as good friends. After four years they began dating in July of 2010 and were married December of 2010 in Miles’ home town of Jacksonville, Texas. Many of their friends, not knowing about their long distance friendship for several years, thought this was a fast romance.

Martha says, “He was the first man that I could talk theology with and that’s how I knew he was the one.” They both agreed that if they dated that they would marry. Neither planned on dating until they knew who they were marrying and both agreed that they would not kiss until their wedding day. Their first kiss was at their wedding with friends and family gathered to celebrate the occasion. They make their home on a hill that has been in Miles’ family for generations.



In 2015, their ministry took them to 30 states, and this year, seven states, as they were able to book appearances that were close to their home base. In 2017, they are adding Michigan, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas to their concert schedule.

Miles tries to do concept albums with songs that follow a theme. With his last album, *Candid*, he picked songs that

were very open and honest with a touch of humor, as he says, “Sometimes humor softens the blow a little bit and sometimes helps to make the point better.”

On this album he writes a small commentary along with scripture passages for each song. The comment from the song “Recovering Pharisee” reads: “My Christian life is very similar to what I imagine rehab is like. I’m in recovery—the cure has been given and it is working. My mind is being changed to reflect the mind of Christ. But my flesh has ruts a mile deep where the wheels of old habits go round and round. I know Christ is working in me, but sometimes I wish He’d speed up the process.”

Martha does not sing with Miles in concert because: “One, I sing like normal people and two he is The Voice.” Miles says, “One of my favorite things is when we stand together in church and sing parts together.” Martha’s talents of singing, hearing parts and arranging music and letting Miles know when he is *off* helps their ministry to reach



higher levels.

The Pikes are currently working on a new album and hoping for a release in 2018. The theme of the album is worship, meditating on the Word of God. The tentative title, *The Grace of Life*, comes from the Apostle Peter referring to marriage as the “grace of life” in I Peter 3:7. Miles says “I’ve never been more excited about an album. It’s going to be a part of our soul. I love working and sitting around the piano.”



“I have three goals for each concert. I want to do what Paul told Titus, ‘Rebuke, reprove, exhort,’” says Miles. This holds true if the venue is in a church or in a secular setting. In the secular venue he lets them know that he is a Gospel entertainer. He uses his gift of the large vocal range to entertain while he shares God’s truths in a thought provoking manner.

Each year they have a Homecoming Event where they invite some of their Gospel artist friends into the piney woods of East Texas to share this great music genre with their fans in their home area. Mark March 4th,

2017 on your calendar and make plans to attend their 10th annual Homecoming in Flint, TX. The concert will be recorded both to a DVD as well as CD for future purchase. Visit their website at <http://www.milespike-music.com/> to learn more about the ministry of Martha and Miles Pike.



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

John Mills



This month I got to chat with John Mills from Skiatook, Oklahoma. John is a veteran radio man who used to live and work in radio in Kansas. He is also a long-time connoisseur of Southern Gospel music. I'd like to introduce you all to John and find out about this DJ currently online at WVSG radio.

Vonda: What is your current radio position, station, and station website?

John: I host an hour program, "John's Gospel Music Show," on WVSGradio.com. It airs three times a day; 11:45 am, 7:45 pm, and 11:45 pm Central. I have a couple of other things in the works with the station.

Vonda: At what age did you know you wanted to work in radio?

John: I wanted to be a DJ as long as I can remember. As a five year old I remember listening to Elder Childress on a Country station. He had a Southern Gospel program twice on Sundays. He was my childhood hero. I would make my Gospel music shows on cassettes for family and friends. My dream came to pass in November 1988. I worked at KSGI in Wichita, KS for nearly 17 years. WVSGRADIO.COM is the second Internet station I've had programs on. I enjoy producing my Internet shows. But, I'd love to get back into live radio!

Vonda: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?

John: If I could go anywhere in the world, I'd stay in the USA and visit every state! Back to the question about wanting to be a DJ. My mom became bedridden when I was nine years old. I would sit by the stereo, playing songs off the LPs and act like a DJ for my

mom, to entertain her. She passed away in 1973. My love for Southern Gospel Music just got greater. I own 100's of LPs, cassettes, CDs, and have thousands of songs on my computer. It is comprised of 99% SGM.

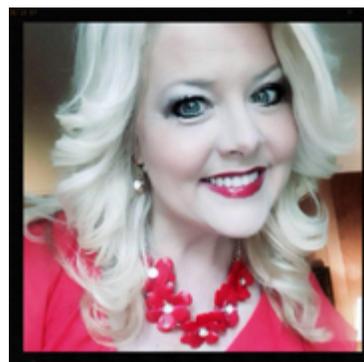
Vonda: Tell us about your family. Wife? Kids?

John: I have been married to Denise for almost 35 years. We have 27-year-old twins, Michelle and Michael. Michelle and her husband have five children. I LOVE being Grandpa!

Vonda: What is your favorite restaurant?

John: My favorite restaurant is Cracker Barrel.

Thanks so much to John Mills for talking with us today on the DJ Spotlight. Do you have a Southern Gospel DJ that you enjoy listening to regularly? Let us know who it is and we may put them under the DJ Spotlight. Write to me at vonda@sngnscoops.com



By Vonda Easley



kwhbtv47
Tulsa, OK

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Join Ken and Jean Grady and their guests for southern gospel news, concert updates and much more on the internet at www.gospelmusictoday.com

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By Lorraine Walker

It's January and welcome to the update for 2017 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 30th through November 2nd 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. Archie Watkins was our special guest this past November. In 2017, the honoree will be...but I can't tell you yet because it's a secret!

The Diamond Awards take place on Tuesday night with many special guests. The 2016 Diamond Awards were hosted by Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, with many art-



ists presenting awards. Artists performing and award winners in attendance included Gold City, Jeff Stice, Ronnie Hinson, HighRoad, Surrendered, Eagles Wings, JP Miller, Williamsons, Freedom Quartet and Mark209 among others.

Speaking of Awards, the nominations for the Diamond Awards begin soon! 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. Be sure to watch the website for the opening of the 2017 nominations.

A new event included in Creekside 2016 and planned for 2017, was an outdoor hotdog roast and Gospel music talent search sponsored by MAC Records. Welcomed by lovely weather and a large audience, the concert was deemed a success and was even attended by Superman himself. Winner Dallas Rogers performed that evening and also at the 2016 Diamond Awards.

Other Creekside events include showcases, choir singing, afternoon jam sessions and the Creekside Classic golf tournament. 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! 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 2017, please email Vonda Easley at vonda@sgnscoops.com or Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com or call 306-920-4057.

Make your plans now to join us for the 2017 Creekside Gospel Music Convention, hosted by SGN Scoops digital magazine and Coastal Media Group, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee from October 30th through November 2nd, 2016.



For more information visit www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com

We hope to see you at the 2017 Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge!



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Gary Dillard



Leave it to Beaver- Catching up with the Kingsmen's Former Musician By Justin McLeod

During the peak of the Kingsmen Quartet's reign atop the Gospel music world, even your casual Gospel music fan could identify the group's members by sight. There was "Big Jim" Hamill, Eldridge "Foxy" Fox, and Ray Dean Reese. A host of talented singers were part of the group at various times; a list so plentiful, it reads almost as a Who's Who of the Gospel music industry.

As great as the vocalists were, the band behind them was just as grand. Ivory-tickling Anthony Burger played the group's keys for many years. Outside of Burger, one of the most well-known members of the Kingsmen band was the man Big Jim dubbed as 'Beaver'.

Gary Dillard played a host of instruments, and during his nearly two-decade career with the group, often had to play many of them in swift succession. With the banjo, dobro, harmonica, and the steel guitar all among his repertoire, Gary was the quiet star of many a Kingsmen concert.

The story of how he joined the group is an intriguing one in its own right. "When I was 16 or 17 years old, I

worked with my dad at a sign company in Birmingham, [Alabama]," Gary shares. "Keeping in mind that around 1969 through 1972, there were very few Gospel radio stations."

It was the Quartet's hit 'The Apple Tree Song' that introduced Gary to the group where he would later spend 18 years as a member. "[The first time I heard The Apple Tree Song] I had to pull over on the side of the interstate because I was crying too hard to drive," Gary says.

Dillard had an experience sharing a concert billing with the Kingsmen, and then had an encounter with Ray Reese that left the young man with an indelible impression of the legendary bass singer. Fast forward down the road a few months, to August of 1973 when the Kingsmen were scheduled to appear at a church very near Gary's home.

"I listened to [the Kingsmen] sing in the morning and during the lunch time, I saw Hamill and asked him if they needed a steel player," Gary recalls. "He respond-

ed ‘Can you pick?’ I said yes.”

Gary was invited to sit down and pick with the Kingsmen during their afternoon set. Only one problem: He didn’t have his steel guitar. It was still at his home, roughly 20 miles from the church. Looking back and recalling the day, Gary notes that it was a particularly swift roundtrip.

After playing with the group that afternoon, group owner Eldridge Fox told Gary that a full-time job was his a year later. Why that time frame? Gary, a senior in



“After those two nights, the song never did anything in a live performance... after those two nights... nothing. Looking back, I find that sort of funny. I do not enjoy singing at all. I laugh and tell everyone I can make a better living playing my instruments. I never recorded a solo again with the Kingsmen; with the great singers we had, they sure didn’t need me.”

Gary left the Kingsmen in 1992. Worn out from nearly two decades of picking and playing, as well as driving the group’s bus, Gary left the road and went back to school. He got his associate’s degree in respiratory therapy and became a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). While working at a hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, Gary also began assisting his own former



high school, had to earn his diploma first.

With such talents at such an early age, it is no surprise that, to this day, fans recall the skill of the man they called Beaver.

Some may even recall a time when the incredible musician picked up a microphone and sang – if that’s your recollection, your memory isn’t failing you. That actually happened. I asked Gary to share the story of how it did:

“The song was ‘It’ll Be Different.’ This was first recorded by Naomi and the Segos. [The Kingsmen] recorded it on an album titled *The Upper Window*. This was also Squire Parsons’ first recording with the Kingsmen. The funny thing about ‘It’ll Be Different’ is that, one time at Memorial Auditorium in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I sang that song and encored it four times. People were shouting all over the building. The next night, I sang it at the auditorium in Knoxville and encored it three times.



instructor in teaching respiratory therapy to others.

After receiving his Bachelor’s degree in Health Care Management, Gary would later become the program director for Respiratory Therapy at the college from which he earned his own degree. A Master’s Degree in Health Education from the University of Alabama was earned, along with a firm allegiance to the Crimson



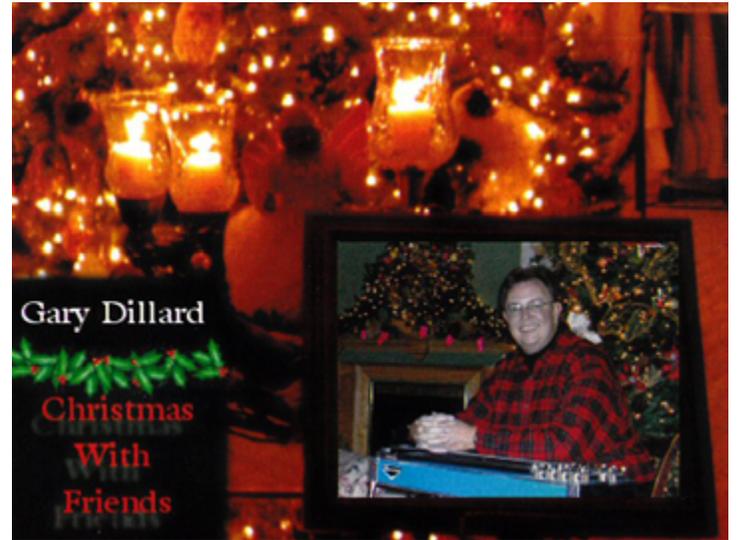
Tide.

Now employed with a company working out of Dayton, Ohio, Gary travels the country showing new graduates, much like he (himself) once was, how to prepare for the board exam to become a registered therapist.

After several years away from music entirely, Gary has put his talents back to work, as he now plays on a remote-studio-session basis. "I don't play with a group,

but I do some recording for groups from home," he says. "Technology has really come a long way. People send me the recording; I add steel, harmonica, Dobro; and send it back. That's all I do, but I'm having a blast doing that!"

One of the finest musicians to grace a Gospel music



stage, hopefully a new generation of Gospel music fans will not forget the man they called Beaver.

Photos courtesy of Gary Dillard.

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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Happy New Year! You have read this more than once in this issue alone. I hope that you are looking forward to the new year and can find pleasure, not fear in the knowledge that there is a whole new book for you to fill in, an empty volume labelled 2017 for your life. Whether or not you have a journal or a diary, every day and every minute is being recorded in history. I trust that you will ask the Lord to guide your steps and make every day count for Him.

As we took time to look into 2017 and thought about the stories and artists we wanted to present to you, we kept in mind that January is usually our issue about people who are rising on the charts and increasing their audience. Our cover guests, The Hyssongs, saw three of their songs from one album reach the top 10 in the national charts. This is the first time that has happened for them, and we are happy to celebrate with them by presenting their story to those of you who may not be familiar with them.

Amber Nelson Thompson is a young lady who is also seeing her career accelerate, not only in the music field with The Nelons but also in movies and television. Dustin Doyle is enjoying the challenge of singing with Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. Miles Pike is finding more national acceptance in the Christian Country field. All of these artists are faces to watch in 2017.

We have also featured the Isaacs who seem to be at the top of every type of Christian music chart; well known and well loved, these talented and versatile artists seem to have done it all. However, with their latest release in late 2016,

they have attempted a recording that is very different. Be sure to watch the charts for their singles from this album.

I was thrilled to hear that Rob Patz and SGNScoops magazine was acknowledged by the USAGEM association. All of our writers, design, creative, proofing and sales team are behind every single issue you read and every honor that may be earned. We have a lot of wonderful people who give their time and talents to SGNScoops. I want to say to each and every one of you that you are appreciated, that your individual skills and knowledge are valuable, and that God knows how much you are doing for Him.

As you, our readers, move into this new year, I want you to pretend that the next issue of SGNScoops is completely blank; every page, every picture - including the cover - has nothing on it. How would you fill it up? How would you make it exciting and informative? What artist feature would make you want to curl up by the fire with your hot beverage and just read? Tell us. Write me today at lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

If the thought of a blank journal for your life worries you or brings fear, I hope you have read enough in this magazine to know that there is a God who loves you beyond anything you could imagine. He has conquered death, so there is nothing left to fear. If you want to talk to me about Him, write to me. I'd love to hear from you.

It's 2017. Let's fill our pages with love, joy, peace and hope - everything we are giving to others. Always.

Contributors

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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.



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



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 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.



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!



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.

Contributors

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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

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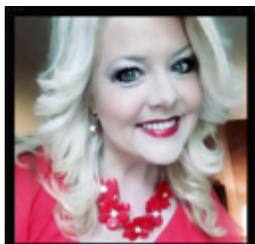
Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and

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.



Vonda Easley is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Vonda draws on a vast knowledge of Southern Gospel Music for her expertise in the field. In addition to her many personal friendships within the industry she also hosts a weekly radio show which keeps her

in touch with many of Southern Gospel's leading executives and artists. It also allows her a fresh view of new music and the latest happenings inside the industry. Vonda is also a group owner and manager as well! A self starter Vonda has started and managed several "new" events in Southern as well as "Country Gospel" Music. These events are fast be

coming trend setters within the industry. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



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 Greens, 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 Nelon Clark is the daughter of Gospel Music icon, the late Rex Nelon. 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/>.

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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>



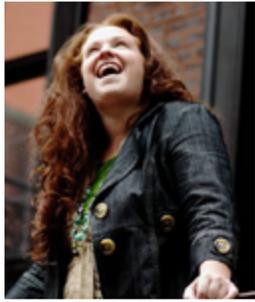
Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (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.



Nathan Kistler was born on the road and was singing at the age of three years old. He has had the opportunity travel with groups like Southern Gospel's beloved trio the Nelons, and most recently for almost two years with Americas Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and 24 countries singing about the wonderful story of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has also been a part of three crusades on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and while there, he had the privilege of singing in the Pentagon courtyard twice. Through his father's ministry in Washington, Nathan began his work on the Hill as a ministry partner with different Christian organizations like Faith and Action and more. Nathan is a missionary to Washington and continues to work there during the week while singing Gospel music on the weekends around the country and being an artist in residence at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins, West Virginia.

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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 south-

ern 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.



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



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

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.



Fayth Lore is a young woman from southern Ohio with a love for God and people. Although she enjoys chocolate, oldies music and spending time with friends around the bonfire, her passion is ministry. In January of 2014, after pastoring for 20 years, her family decided to follow God's call into music evangelism. In September 2015, they

launched into full-time ministry. The Lore Family travels the country, spreading the Gospel through songs, sermons and seminars. While Fayth loves to sing, she also has a heart for encouraging young women in Christ. She has spoken at various youth/women's events, as well as hosted her own blog for young ladies. To see more about The Lore Family, visit their website at www.thelorefamilyministries.com. To learn more about Fayth's blog, visit www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com.

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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.



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.



Auke Bijlsma- I was born in Zaandam, The Netherlands on September 21st 1966. I'm Head of Operations for a major airline. My home is in the countryside of Holland where I live with my wife Patty, and our two kids: Jake who's 16, and Lexi who is 14, and our pack of dogs. My oldest children, son Jesse 23, and

daughter Sarah 21, don't live with me; they are all grown up building their own homes and lives.

In my childhood, I went to church with my family, and I fell in love with harmony singing. I sang in choirs, a Southern Gospel Trio, and made a few television appearances with that trio here in The Netherlands. At the moment I am not active in music anymore, but you never know what comes along.

In my teens, I started to listen to 50's Rock and Roll, and of course, Elvis Presley. Through Presley I was introduced to the great Gospel Quartets. I started looking for music by The Imperials, Jordanares, and J.D.Sumner and the Stamps at first, because these were the quartets that backed Elvis for many years. My first love is Gospel singing, particularly Southern Gospel. I love groups like The Stamps, The Imperials, The Weatherfords, The Rambos, The Hinsons, The Cathedrals and many more.

Besides being a music lover, I love vintage cars, architecture, books, movies and writing. I hold a Masters in Journalism and Communication. I will write articles about anything; music, faith and life in general. Hope you will enjoy the views of an outsider. Thank you SGNscoops for giving me this opportunity.