



# JOSEPH HABEDANK

LIVES IN THE BEAUTY OF THE BLOOD



**ALSO FEATURING:**

Evidence Quartet, Danny Roberts of the Grascals & Surrendered

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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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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



Welcome to the February Publisher's Point.

Over the last few months, I have talked about family and friendships, where the magazine is going and events we are hosting.

As I step back and look at life over the last month and the loss of my aunt, I realize how valuable the family and the friends that I've talked about so much over the last few months have been. So many of you have taken time to call me, to send text messages, emails, even cards and letters, and I want to thank you so very much from the bottom my heart and from all of my family. We appreciate each and everyone of you.

When you go through a time like this of mourning, the loss of someone who is so dear to you, you realize that you need to take the time to invest in friendships and family. I hope that through this month of love, that you take the time to reconnect with your family, and that you show the love of Christ to not only those that are related to you, but also to those that are your friends.

I know we all say the phrase "we're not promised tomorrow," and that is true. So, I want to encourage you this month to set forth new goals that include spending more time with family and friends, and taking time away from whatever it is you do.

Psalm 143:8: "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life."

In the last few weeks, this scripture has meant even more to me, as each day I have leaned more on my relationship with Christ than ever before. I read that verse and I realize that every morning his love is unfailing. I know many of us are dealing with circumstances where things seem incredibly difficult. Life right now may seem a nightmare, like a mountain that you cannot scale, but realize that in ourselves we can do nothing. Once we call on Christ and ask for his help, all things are possible.

I don't know what you're facing today. It might be a financial, marital or career situation, but let me tell you this: Each morning God's love is unfailing and his mercies are new, as is his desire to help you grow in everything that you're doing, no matter if that's a ministry opportunity, or your job, or whatever. He is there. He is the bridge that rescues us from all our uncertainties.

Hey, I'm excited to see a lot of you in Oxford, Alabama, March 21 - 23, for Southern Gospel Weekend. If you need information, please give me a call, I would love to have you there with us.

Of course, we can't forget Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2019, Oct. 27 - 31. So many incredible things are happening this year. We are excited! Over 50 artists, plus a brand new event called Christian Country at the Creek, Oct. 30 - 31. This is our first multi-site event and it is going to be incredible. You want to be there for what God has in store. I believe that 2019 is going to be the year of revival at Creekside!

I love you all and I will talk to you again next month. This has been the Publisher's Point.

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By Lorraine Walker

After eight years, Creekside Gospel Music Convention has come into its own at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Hundreds of people who have attended all of the events will be returning to the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, to stay for the entire five nights and four days of music, laughter and family, on Oct. 27 - 31, 2019. Always seeing new faces because of the variety of music and the accessibility of the artists, the convention this year is developing into an even more delightful experience for all attendees.

Creekside 2019 is on the brink of surpassing past years' attendance levels from the amount of interest already shown. VIP tickets are already being sought, many rooms at the Ramada Inn are booked and bus groups are planning their visit to this vacation town. Pigeon Forge of course offers plenty of activities for those who come early or stay after the event, from tourist attractions to dining to nature hikes in the Smoky Mountains.

But for the hard-core Creekside fan, it's all about the music.

One of the headliners already announced for this year are the Down East Boys. The Boys have been charting with great Southern gospel songs, and members Doug Pittman, Ricky Carden, Daryl Paschal and Zac Barham, are looking forward to their first time at the event. Carden, member of the Boys for over 30 years, says, "I am excited to be a part of Creekside 2019. I have watched this event grow over the past few years and am honored to be included in the great list of artists!"

Answered Prayer attended Creekside in 2018 and member Nikki Bernardo notes: "My first thought was 'Wow!' I felt like I was just visiting home if that makes sense. And I had never been there. The atmosphere





resembles so much of like being with family. Anointed singing, lots of chatter among great friends we haven't seen in a while, radio stations interviewing fellow artists in the back, and hey, I can get a whole new wardrobe in the corner from the Chandlers. Not only is it a beautiful event, just take a step outside and (see) how beautiful the location (is). Everyone was so gracious and polite. You could really tell that major preparation went into this event. We appreciate all you do to make this happen. I loved it and so did my family. Just let me know if I can ever do anything to help."

Donnie Williamson, of popular family group, the Williamsons, is thrilled to be a part of this function. "Creekside is the best of the convention type events," he says. "The quality of the program and the family



atmosphere is unsurpassed."

"There is no way I can begin to thank God for this past week at Creekside," said Mike McCrelles, solo artist, after Creekside 2018. "I can't begin to name the friends, both old and new, that I spent the week with. There have been many laughs, some tears, but most of all fellowship. Thank you, everyone!"

"Creekside to me is like going to my mamaw and pawpaw's for Christmas," Bobby Richards of New Journey Radio says with a smile. "Oh, I enjoy going to other family members' houses, but going to my mamaw and pawpaw's was special. That's how I feel about Creekside."



The last Sunday of October usually sees the start of Creekside as the Kickoff Concert in the evening welcomes the early guests. Monday, the load-in begins for the groups, as well as the first daily showcase. The evening concert hosts the Life Achievement award for



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“This year will feature many new surprises,” says Rob Patz, owner of Creekside Gospel Music Convention. “If I gave them away now, where would the fun be in that? Just come. And bring a friend.”

Make your plans to attend Creekside Gospel Music Convention, taking place Oct. 27 - Oct. 31, 2019, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For more information or to book your hotel, contact [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com) or call 1 (360) 933-0741.

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# Joseph Habedank lives in the Beauty of the Blood

**Tough love, unexpected guest and faith  
in Christ loose chains of addiction**

**By John Herndon**

Joseph Habedank leans back, microphone in his right hand, left arm outstretched. He pours his entire soul into delivering the message he lives every day.

*Heaven's best takes all the scars  
For the worst in all of us  
That's the glory of the cross  
The wonder of His love  
That's the beauty of the blood!  
--(Written by Michael Farren, Tony Wood, and Joseph Habedank) 2014 Daywind Records*

They aren't just words of beauty for one of Southern gospel's favorite soloists. They're life. And he's grateful beyond measure.

"Only God can take blood and make it pretty," he says during a November concert at Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff, Kentucky.

Joseph Habedank knows that beauty of the blood. He knows it personally. Even his surname is a reminder of

what God has done in his life.

"My name in English is Habedank," he says with a smile. "In German, 'haben' is 'to have' and 'danke' is thanks. So my name means 'have thanks.'"

It was fitting that a few weeks before Christmas he was with the Erwins as part of the Resurrection of Faith Tour which has been working since 2017. The name comes from the artists albums, Habedank's "Resurrection" and the Erwins' "Only Faith Can See," which were current at the tour's outset.

At 33, Habedank is the oldest artist on the tour. The Erwins' ages range from 18 to 26. Through November, they had played about 50 dates together and plan to continue the tour indefinitely.

"I'm proud of (the tour). There is no one else in the entire world I would rather travel with than those kids," Habedank says.

But the Resurrection of Faith tour might be a metaphor

for Joseph Habedank's career. One of gospel music's top stars before he was 20, Habedank hit the bottom before he was 30 but now tells his story, made possible by the beauty of Christ's blood.

He'd started young, singing in Cornerstone Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio as a child. By his teenage years, Joseph and his family sang at area revivals and camp meetings, often traveling with another regional group, the Sandlins.



"That really fostered a love for gospel music at a young age. When I was a little kid, I knew that was what God wanted me to do," Habedank says.

He eventually sang solo, driving his 1994 Camaro around Ohio and surrounding states before joining the Perrys when he was all of 17.

No one could have seen how that chapter in Joseph's life would end. Outwardly, he was singing praises with one of Southern gospel's top groups. On the inside, a battle began to rage.

"I was a drug addict, a liar and a con man," Habedank says during his concerts.

He elaborated in a one-on-one interview later.

"Addiction will make you do things that you otherwise would never do," Habedank says. "I did not lie. I was honest. I never stole anything in my life. I never took anything. But you become an addict, you do anything you can to get that next high."

Habedank had become dependent on painkillers after developing an ulcer on the back of his throat. "I was taking 10 to 12 hydrocodone or oxycodone pills every



day of my life. It was just an endless cycle of chasing that pill. It was no way to live. It was an awful way to live.

"I ended up losing my job."

It was a dose of reality tempered with grace.

"The Perrys came to me. They had given me numerous chances to get cleaned up. I just couldn't do it. I didn't get the help I needed. They came to me and said, 'We really don't want to fire you but we can't have you on the road using drugs.'

"I said, 'If it's okay, I would like to resign.' They said that would be okay and they were gracious enough to let me resign."

It was exactly what Joseph needed.

"I knew I couldn't get sober being on the road 200 and some odd days a year. I had to get away to get the help I needed and I did that. I just wanted to get clean. It didn't matter if I never sang."

Habedank also credits his wife for being steadfastly with him as he fought an addiction to painkillers.

"Lindsey was great," he says. "She was very gracious and she stuck with me. There were times when she could (have left), but she stayed with me."

Habedank checked in to the Cumberland Heights recovery center on the outskirts of Nashville.

About two weeks later, he received an unexpected visitor.

“It was Russ Taff,” Habedank says of the gospel great whose fight with alcoholism was the subject of the movie “I Still Believe.”

Taff became Habedank’s sponsor in the 12-step program to overcome addiction.

“He told me I was going to be okay and that he loved me,” Habedank recalls. “He gave me his cell number and said, ‘If you can’t get (me at) my cell number, call my home number. I want you to call me every day when you get out of treatment.’”

“If I was having a good day, he was there. If I was having a bad day, he was there. He walked me through that first year. That’s a big part of staying sober. We help other people and it’s a big part of recovery. Russ is probably the biggest reason, outside of Jesus, that I am sober today.”

Habedank has been sober over five-and-a-half years. And he’s thankful for the tough love shown by his former employer.

“I think God used (the Perrys) the way they handled it to help me tremendously. I don’t think I could have gotten sober staying on that bus. ... I knew I had to come off the road. That was the best thing that ever happened to me for them to say, ‘Hey, we can’t have you on the road like this anymore.’ It was hard. It was the hardest thing ever, but I am grateful for it. I really am.”

Habedank considered a departure from his beloved Southern gospel field.

“I was afraid the Southern gospel world wouldn’t accept me. So my wife and I talked about going contemporary. But to be honest with you, I am not a contemporary singer. I love those people -- Steven Curtis Chapman, Michael W. Smith. But that is not me.”

His record company, Daywind, believed in Habedank, pitching a new album.

“I had just gotten out of rehab three or four months earlier. I thought, ‘You have got to be kidding me,’” he says. “I went home and told my wife. She said, ‘You have got to be kidding me.’”

After praying earnestly about the situation, Habedank decided to proceed with the album, which became



“Welcome Home.” The album contains songs to describe recovery, including “The Beauty of the Blood.”

“I tell you what, Daywind took a gamble on me,” Habedank says. “They had no idea I was going to stay clean and sober. I was less than six months out of rehab. But God impressed it on them.”

Since then, Habedank’s career has been exploding. He’s been nominated for Grammys and Dove Awards. He’s won fan awards as Soloist of the Year.



He’s excited about 2019 as well.

“I have a new album coming out in April,” he says, noting that it will contain songs he has written.

But most of all he's excited about ministry. On the late November night in Radcliff, Habedank noted a young family who had lost a young father.

"It was four beautiful little girls, precious little girls," Habedank explains. "They came up to me after the meet and greet. I noticed the four girls and the mom and I was wondering if their dad is here."

"She said, 'I want you to know my husband passed away in March. He was 34. He listened to your songs every night in the hospital room.' It was just a powerful moment. It's amazing what music can do."

"It's easy to talk about how good God is when things are going good. But even when things are going bad, God is good."

Joseph Habedank knows.



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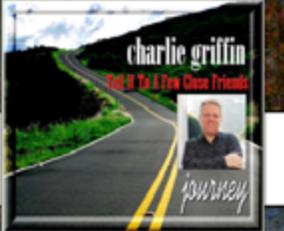
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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## Josiah Holliman



By Vonda Armstrong

This month I am pleased to introduce you to Josiah Holliman, whom I met last year at a concert. We quickly became friends. I am so excited to spotlight him this month for SGN-Scoops. He is a special young man.

Vonda Armstrong: Josiah, tell us about your current position in radio.

Josiah Holliman: I am the evening DJ for 96.5 Alive FM, WXHB, in the Mississippi Pine Belt. You can listen in the Pine Belt on 96.5 on your FM dial and tune in worldwide on our website: [www.alive.fm](http://www.alive.fm), where you will also find a link to an app for your iPhone or Android. I have been with this station going on three years now and in that time it's been a tremendous blessing to me. In addition to hosting the evening show from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. every weekday, I also occasionally write and produce advertisements for our sponsors. Our station reaches thousands of people all throughout the Mississippi Pine Belt each day, and it is an incredible honor for me to have the opportunity to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ each day. I cannot put into words how rewarding it is to encourage people...to give them hope when they can't see the light and to give them joy when they can't find their smile. See, that's what Jesus does for all of us, he gives us hope when we need it most and joy when we are in the midst of trials.

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

JH: Well, you see Vonda, from a very early age I was told that I really had the face for radio ...just kidding. In all seriousness, God, music, and people are my biggest passions in life. I wish I had time to tell you the whole story about how God brought me into Christian radio, but to answer your question, I guess it was about six years ago, during my freshman year of college, that I knew I wanted to be a DJ on a Gospel station. I was 19 at the time.

VA: Will you share your testimony with us?

JH: How can I put such a big testimony in such a small

space? I could probably write a book on how the Lord has rescued me from inconceivably difficult circumstances and how he has brought me to where I am today. I will try to be concise, but this will just have to be the Reader's Digest condensed version. I can't tell you my whole life story, which is what I would really like to do, but what I can do is tell you how Jesus saved my soul and I was born again. One night when I was about nine years old my mother decided to take us to visit this church that we had never been to before. When we got there, we found a seat and the service began, but the whole time we were there, I had what I can only describe as a disturbing, uneasy feeling. At one point it got so bad that I began to cry. A lady from the church came up to me and said, "That's the Holy Spirit, son!" This was not the case. We had always gone to church growing up and I had felt the true presence of God and this was not it. Later that night, we went to my grandmother's house and I was still shaken by the ungodly feeling I had had at the church. Meemaw asked me what was wrong and I explained what happened to her. Meemaw said I should call my Aunt Anna, who is the pastor at the church where we grew up. I called her and told her what had happened and she asked me a question that would change the course of the rest of my life. "Josiah, have you ever actually asked Jesus to come into your heart and to forgive you of your sins and to save your soul?" Up until this point, I had always known God was real and I prayed to Him



almost every night, but I realized that I had never actually asked Him to come into my heart and to save me from my sin. So, right there on the phone with my Aunt Anna that night, I gave my heart and soul to the one that formed me in my mother's womb.

VA: What advice would you give a young person that is thinking of becoming a gospel radio DJ?

JH: To the young person who desires to be a Gospel DJ I would say this: God knows the desires of your heart. He knows what is best for each and every one of us. I strongly encourage you to seek the Lord's will for your life and to surrender yourself completely and totally to Him. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33.) There is a time and a season for everything in this life and God will always place you where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there. If you are not where you think you want to be, at this moment, keep praying and seeking God, and in the meantime, "whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men." (Colossians 3:23)

VA: When you aren't behind the board, what do you enjoy doing?

JH: When I'm not at the station I am teaching, preaching, singing or spending time with friends and family. I am a teacher at the Christian school at our church, and I love teaching the children about Jesus and the world that he created. I am also a singer and a worship leader at our church. I sing from time to time at different churches in the area and there is nothing I love more than to worship Jesus through song. I recently accepted the call to preach in my life and was ordained last year to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. From time to time I will be called upon to preach for our church and I have preached at several churches throughout the Mississippi Pine Belt. I enjoy having the opportunity to serve Jesus whenever and wherever he leads

me, and look forward to any opportunity I have to share His truth. I am also the primary caretaker for my 16 year-old brother and much of my time is spent raising him. I enjoy every minute and consider it an honor to teach him and guide him in the Lord. I also enjoy my animals: I have a precious pit bull dog, four chickens, and a 55-gallon aquarium full of fish.

Thank you, Josiah, for sharing your heart with us and letting us see how much can be accomplished when we fully place our lives in the hands of Jesus Christ, the one who made us. I hope our readers have enjoyed your story and will seek out your radio program, as well as seeking out the will of God.

Thanks for being our DJ Spotlight of the month.

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# Evidence of God's Grace

## A look at the ministry of Evidence Quartet

By Justin Gilmore



Southern gospel has quite a reach across the world. However, in our country its sounds have mainly been heard in the South. Now the West Coast has a growing Southern gospel community and one group that is a part of this boom is Evidence Quartet.

Hailing from Yorba Linda, California, this dynamic mixed quartet proclaims the power of God's grace all over their home state, as well as into Arizona. Evidence Quartet has been singing full time for just over a decade, having been founded in August of 2005. Brenda and Gordon Coogan lead the group today which also includes baritone, Bob Hughes and bass singer, Gil Ramirez, Jr.

Gordon Coogan recalls the early days of the quartet.

“Evidence Quartet was birthed as the brainchild of my wife Brenda's mom, Charlotte Ball. Charlotte had a gift and a heart for Southern gospel, having played piano for many years and traveling in ministry. She was the founder, manager, accompanist, and arranger for our first 10 years or so of ministry prior to her promotion to her heavenly home.”

Evidence is tight vocal unit. Gil Ramirez, Jr., is the latest addition to the group, lending his rich bass to the quartet.



“We’ve been blessed with some fine bass singers since we started. And Gil is no exception to that,” Coogan says of Ramirez.

“Though he’s only been with us for just over a year, Gil is a great fit for the team. He brings super-smooth vocals and good range, both of which are great for group vocals and his solo work or bass lead-outs. Gil blends well with the rest of us and he is very sensitive spiritually, which is critical to our ministry.”

Bob Hughes brings an impressive baritone range to the quartet. “Bob has been part of Evidence Quartet now for over six years,” notes Coogan. “He previously spent six years as the lead singer with another local group, Cross Road Quartet.

“God brought us together with Bob at a time when we didn’t realize yet that we would need a new baritone singer very soon. Bob was gracious to say yes when our need arose and we’ve been blessed to have him as part of the Evidence family since then.

“Bob brings a near-constant smile to the stage. As Gil typically says in our concert intros, ‘Bob sings the notes

the rest of us can’t find.’

Brenda Coogan, Gordon’s wife and Charlotte Ball’s daughter, takes the tenor part and has sung by her husband’s side for over 36 years.

Coogan exclaims, “She is, without question, not only one the most talented singers I’ve witnessed, but also one of the most anointed, and she truly ministers when she delivers a gospel vocal. She can sing just about anything, but she really brings the Holy Spirit with her to each concert or church service. That, joined together with her incredible voice and range, make for a very special place in our group.”

About his own part, Coogan says, “I started in Evidence Quartet as our baritone, but the needs of the group took me to higher ground after a couple of years. I love singing lead, but thankfully, the way our group works switching parts for an arrangement or a key-change, I get to spend time on baritone and tenor parts as well on occasion.”

The group has a unique yet classic style, that draws from several well known Southern Gospel artists.

Coogan states, “We’ve borrowed from and been influenced by many groups. Being a mixed quartet with an actual girl singing the tenor or girl-part, we naturally gravitated to many songs made famous by the Perrys and the Happy Goodmans. We’ve also found resonance with many all-male groups like Legacy 5 and Triumphant Quartet. We love trios, too, borrowing from the likes of Greater Vision and the Jim Brady Trio, for example.”



“When we learn new music, we choose songs that move us and speak to us with messages we want to share,” says Coogan. “When we culled together the songs we’d learned over the past year as we built toward the new project, we realized the resounding message throughout the songs was simply God’s grace. And that’s the title, ‘Grace.’ The songs have been well-received by our audiences.”

In their decade-plus career, Evidence has made some incredible memories in their travels. Gordon recalls, “Our most exciting venue and experience would have to be The Great Western Fan Festival currently held in Visalia, CA in the Spring. This year it’s May 2 - 4, 2019. We get to share the weekend hearing and fellowshiping with many of the best full-time groups in the country. It’s a great event and we’ve been honored to be a part of it since our first year.”

Coogan explains about the origin of the quartet’s title. “Our name sprang from a desire to exemplify God’s character in what we do. In short, we want to be evidence of His love, mercy, grace, joy, and so on as we deliver His message to the hearers of our music and testimonies.

“(We want) the takeaway (from each concert) to be joy and hope and a security in knowing that God loves and cares for each one of us, and that each person matters to Him, and that He is faithful who has promised. We hope that when people hear and see us that they hear and see the Savior.”

This dedication to Christ and His call is clearly evident both on and off the stage. “As a group, we place our faith in the Lord daily in several ways that come to mind. From the outset when Charlotte started Evidence Quartet, we established that this would be a ministry that would depend on God for provision,” Coogan explains. “And we committed that for as long as that provision remained, we would continue to minister for Him. Certainly, we depend on Him for our health and protection. And in 13 plus years, we’ve never had to cancel a commitment for any reason, including health issues, transportation or road problems, or equipment failures.”

2019 is looking bright for this dedicated quartet. When asked what’s next for the group, Coogan exclaims, “I guess the short answer is, more of the same. We are going to keep following His lead as we seek opportunities

to minister. We do hope to expand the areas to which we travel. We want to foster and encourage groups from our own area as we attempt to stimulate more awareness and love for Southern gospel locally. We’re part of an organization - The Western State Gospel Music Association or WSGMA - whose goal, in part, is to do just that. So, it comes with the territory.”

Evidence Quartet hopes that God continues to use them for his glory for many more years to come. Dedicated to spreading the Gospel, the group truly hopes that people will find in their music and their example: evidence of God’s grace.



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# Randall Reviews It - February 2019

by Randall Hamm

Dear friends and readers:

This is an Encore Presentation of Randall Reviews It from May 2018. This review brings back the McNeill Family, who won a showcase at the National Quartet Convention in October, and wowed the audience with their version of "Mary Did You Know;" the Sheltons, who are once again back on the road and bringing back their brand of Southern gospel harmonies, and the Kendricks. All are back in the spotlight this month, in Randall Reviews It. Now on with the reviews.

As always, if you enjoy the reviews, pick up this music, or download it, wherever you get good gospel music.

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



## **The Sheltons**

"A Child's Request"

Producer: George Shelton, Jr.

Label: Independent

Songs: "A Child's Request" (Carter); "I'm Walking This Lonesome Valley" (Traylor); "I Know You" (Ann Downing-Dianne Wilkinson); "I'm Gonna Take A Vacation" (Buxton); "I'm Gonna See Jesus" (B.J. Thomas); "I Want To See Heaven" (Unknown); "Is My Lord Satisfied With Me?" (Suggs); "He Washed My Eyes With Tears" (Stanphill); "You Can't Fool The Lord" (Corbin); "Walk With Me" (Langdon)

It's a name you might not be familiar with today, but back around 1968, this family group emerged from Pickens, South Carolina. As the story goes, "Jesus Is Coming Soon," written by R.E. Winsett around 1942, had been recorded by the Sheltons on their Halo Records LP "Heart Felt Gospel." Halo Records was

distributed by Mark V. Also recording for Mark V at the time was the Inspirations. The Inspirations recorded the song as well, and eventually the song was recorded by the Oak Ridge Boys.

The Sheltons are in the history books as the first artist to record it, but did not get their copy out before the Inspirations, and the rest they say is gospel music history. "Jesus Is Coming Soon" was the very first No. 1 song on the first national Top 80 chart in 1970 and also won the first Dove for Song of the Year in 1969.

The Sheltons were one of the premier family groups of the early 70's that you may have forgotten about. Fast forward to today where George, Frankie and Sandra have put the Sheltons back together.

They say there is nothing like family harmony and it is evident on this recording. The blend achieved here is beyond superb. They cover a number of gospel classics such as: "He Washed My Eyes With Tears," "Is My Lord Satisfied With Me," and one of my favorites, "A Child's Request," first brought to us by "Little" Steve Sanders.

One of my favorites is "I'm Gonna Take A Vacation," and it just gets me in the mood to go right now to Heaven and my eternal vacation. The CD ends in fine fashion with George doing the lead on the classic "Walk With Me." This may be Larry Ford's signature song, but George does a great job with it as well, with his sisters joining him in the chorus.

A note as well: The Sheltons have been nominated for Sunrise Trio at the SGNscoops Diamond Awards. Go over to [surveyMonkey.com/r/695PYTN](http://surveyMonkey.com/r/695PYTN) to vote for them.

An integral part of the Sheltons sound from the beginning was their sister Gail, who has since passed on, but the remaining three dedicate everything they do in honor of her.

Visit the Sheltons at [facebook.com/SheltonMusicPickensSC/](https://www.facebook.com/SheltonMusicPickensSC/) and get a copy of "A Child's Request" there as well.

Strongest Songs: "I'm Gonna Take A Vacation," "He Washed My Eyes With Tears," "Walk With Me"



**The McNeills**  
"Right In The Middle"  
Producer: Ben Isaacs  
Label: Independent

Songs: "Right In The Middle" (Trevor Conkle - Karen Gillespie - Chris White, BMI); "He's Not Finished With Me Yet" (Caylie McNeil); "Pardoned At Calvary" (Caylie McNeill); "Let Me Tell You 'Bout Him" (Megan Sorrelle Mulnix - Gene Ezell - Jerald Hill); "Ride On King Jesus" (PD); "We Will Serve The Lord" (Chris McNeill - Michelle McNeill); "He Heals" (Jennifer Layne - Donald Poythress); "Wait On Jesus" (Caylie McNeill - Michelle McNeill - Megan Sorrelle Mulnix); "Believin' (Paul's Song)" (Caylie McNeill - Michelle McNeill); "We Are Washed" (John Mathis, Jr. - Jim Davis, BMI); "The Jesus Medley" (Bruce Broughton - Dennis Spiegel - Charlie Bancroft - Vikki Cook - Travis Cottrell - David Moffitt, BMI); "Be Still My Soul" (Katharina A. von Schlegel)

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The McNeills have taken the world by storm with their “Silo Singing” videos and now have released another CD of their brand of gospel. No other family group can lay claim to the sheer number of people in their group. The family’s matriarch, Michelle, and patriarch, Chris, and their 10 children, have recorded their finest CD to date.

The McNeills’ latest CD is entitled “Right In The Middle,” and is produced by the Grammy award winning producer, Ben Isaacs. Mom, Dad and the two older children, Caylie and Landon, have become dear friends of mine and I am rooting them on in their ministry.

This CD was released at National Quartet Convention last year to a big splash in front of their booth and now they have released the first single. The song “Right In The Middle,” tells us that no matter whether you are in your darkest night or in your biggest fight, Jesus is “Right In The Middle.” It’s a fun song about who’s going to bat for us in those times. A must add for DJs.

They cover “Ride On King Jesus,” brought to us by the Gaither Vocal Band, and do a wonderful job with it. One of my favorites is the “Jesus Medley,” composed of “Alone Yet Not Alone,” “Before The Throne Of God,” and “Jesus Saves,” and it is the masterpiece of the CD. Caylie lays down some Sonya Isaac-esque vocals and brings us to Church.

The whole family, all 12, are featured on “We Will Serve The Lord,” and what a fine job is done by the other eight members. Michelle told me, “We don’t have to go looking for any replacements for singers, we have them right here in the family.”

Landon takes the lead on “We Are Washed,” and makes it truly his own. The McNeills have taken a giant leap in their music and ministry and they will be one of the families to watch this year in gospel music. If they come to your hometown or in concert near you, please go and attend, as this family will put a smile on your face and a song in your heart.

Visit the McNeills at [facebook.com/TheMcNeills/](https://facebook.com/TheMcNeills/) and get a copy of the CD “Right In The Middle,” here [mceillmusic.com/index.php/buy/the-mcneills-cds](https://mceillmusic.com/index.php/buy/the-mcneills-cds).

Strongest Songs: “Jesus Medley,” “Right In The Middle,” “He’s Not Finished With Me Yet”



### **The Kendricks**

“The Kendricks”

Producer: Rick and Micah Schweinsberg

Label: 65/40 Records

Songs: “I Could be Leaving Right Now” (Johnny Kendrick); “Old Time Way Of Leaving” (Chuck Day - Johnny Kendrick - D. Johnson); “Country Road” (Johnny and Billy Kendrick); “As Soon As We See Jesus” (Johnny Kendrick); “Judgement Day” (Jay S. Deale - Johnny Kendrick); “When I Met You On The Other Side” (Johnny Kendrick); “Slipping Away” (Johnny Kendrick); “Show Me How” (Johnny Kendrick); “Nothing Without You” (Johnny Kendrick); “Now That’s Love” (Bill Anderson)

The Kendricks, Johnny Kendrick, Billy Kendrick and Sharon Lankford, are back with their debut CD on a new record label. The new label is 65/40 records and run by Rick and Micah Schweinsberg. Their self-titled CD, “The Kendricks,” is produced by the brothers. The sound is pure country - tinged with southern gospel - and it is a fine debut for the new record label.

The Schweinsbergs have their fingerprints on this CD, but the sound is all Kendricks. I fell in love with this group from Alabama from their first note. Their last single “Ole’ Piece Of Clay,” was on the chart for five months and topped out in the 70’s. The first single to Southern gospel is “I Could Be Leaving Right Now,” and is once again Hinson-esque, as was “Ole’ Piece Of Clay.” This song would feel right at home on a Hinson record.

The Kendricks - once other DJs finally pick up on them - will be one the biggest family groups on the scene.

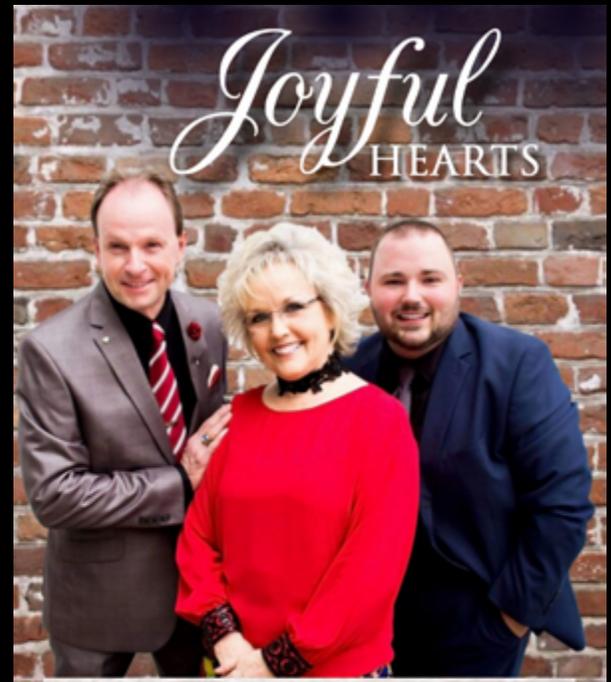
The brothers present a little different sound on “Judgement Day.” If you love Charlie Daniels, you’ll love it. The song is reminiscent of “Legend Of The Wooly Swamp.” This song is being promoted to Inspirational/Positive country stations as their latest single.

My favorite on the CD is, “When I Meet You On The Other Side,” a personal favorite from the pen of Johnny Kendrick. Johnny Kendrick wrote, or co-wrote, nine of the 10 songs on this CD.

This CD is a must purchase for lovers of Hinson-type gospel, or if you love your gospel music on the country side. You will not be disappointed.

To visit the Kendricks go to [facebook.com/thekendricksmusic.org](https://facebook.com/thekendricksmusic.org) and to get a copy of the Kendricks at [thekendricksmusic.org/home](https://thekendricksmusic.org/home).

Strongest Songs: “When I Meet You On The Other Side,” “I Could Be Leaving Right Now,” “Judgement Day”



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# TOP 40

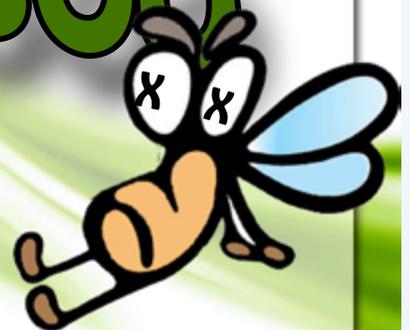
## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. **Victory Song - Cori And Kelly**
2. **Sermon On The Mount - Tommy Brandt**
3. **I Miss Them All - The Jordan Family Band**
4. **Just Because I Asked You - Gena Hamilton**
5. **Here To Eternity - Cindy Hughlett**
6. **There's No Place Too Far From Grace - Tina Wakefield**
7. **I'll Take It From Here - Bruce Hedrick**
8. **Hide Me Behind The Cross - Tonja Rose**
9. **Around The Table - Brent Harrison**
10. **Wonderful - Lisa Daggs**
11. **I Am - Robert Stowell**
12. **Send The Rain - Kolt Barber**
13. **Rockin' Of The Cradle - Arkin Terrell**
14. **If You Could Love Me Anyway - Perfectly Broken**
15. **In Our Father's House - Bob Davidson**
16. **The Songs Will Never End - The Tiptons**
17. **Lord You Are Love - Sonshine Road**
18. **Build My Mansion - Gene Watson**
19. **Pictures - Jessica Horton**
20. **No One Compares To You Lord - Mary Fay Jackson**
21. **Coming On Strong- Cami Shrock**

22. Love You Like Mary - McKay Project
23. I'd Settle For A Dirt Road - Chuck Hancock
24. Hands Of A Working Man - Christian Davis
25. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
26. I Got Saved - Michael Knight
27. Family Ties - Barbara Fairfield
28. Lord You Have - Jan Harbuck
29. It's Written In The Scars - Dan Duncan
30. Thank God For The Music - Tommy Brandt II
31. Don't Let The Devil Ride - Doug Corum
32. Hey Brother D.J. - Jimmy R. Price
33. Speak The Word - Ava Kasich
34. God, Oral Roberts And Billy Graham - Carol Barham
35. Always Better - Kevin and Kim Abney
36. Take My Hand - Gunner Carr
37. Praise You - Chuck Hancock
38. I Know The End Of The Story - John Penney
39. Pretty - Jamie Lynn Flanakin
40. The River - Bev McCann

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# Tonja Rose

## Story of a Song



By Lorraine Walker

As soon as you hear her voice, you wonder why you haven't heard her name before now. Sweet country vocal with a bluegrass edge, and an energy that convinces you this lady knows what she is talking about, Tonja Rose is suddenly on the Christian music charts after years of honing her craft on secular and gospel stages. You may remember her from Crosby Lane but now we see the whole artist package, as this lady steps out alone with her debut project from Mansion Entertainment, entitled, "Me, Jesus and the Highway." Two cuts from this album have already risen in the Bluegrass charts, and will not likely be the last.

"When The Mountain Can't Be Moved," was the first single released to radio and this song, written by Tonja Rose and John Mathis, was birthed from a life changing event that occurred three years ago. Rose was traveling with Crosby Lane and the fulltime group found themselves at loose ends when their booking on the weekend of April 1, 2016, was canceled and rescheduled three times.

"We all decided God wanted us to be home that week-

end," recalls Rose. "Friday night, April 1, 2016, my husband (Ward) suffered a stroke, at 45. I then knew why we had been canceled three times. If we had not been canceled, my husband would have been home alone."

Rose continues, "Everything changed for us at 11:50 that night. So we spent the next six months facing our mountain. He couldn't work, he couldn't drive, he couldn't really be left alone for long periods of time which meant I couldn't leave to go dates with Crosby Lane.

"While accepting our situation and deciding what needed to be done and not done with music, the road, the group, etc., I wrote. I was riding down the road and six words popped into my head: 'When The Mountain Can't Be Moved,'" Rose recalls. "I immediately texted John Mathis at Mansion/BlueGrassValley Records, because I finally had an idea that I thought would be good enough to snag a writing appointment with him, or at least I was hoping it was. I told him the idea and by that afternoon, via emails, we had pretty much a whole



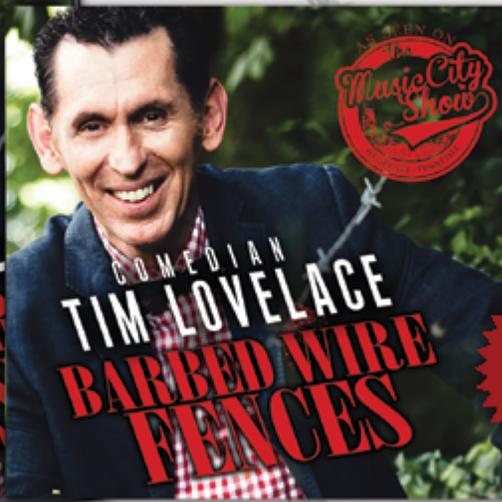
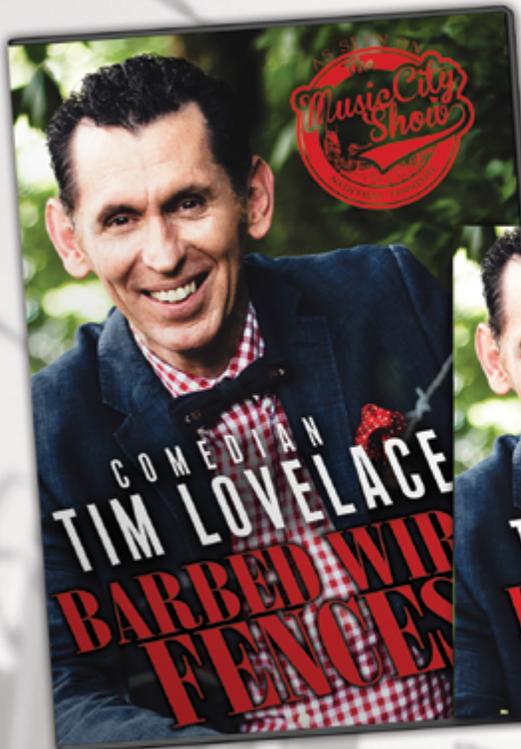
song.”

Facing her mountain clarified Rose’s faith.

“I learned that saying you have faith during struggles and actually having faith through struggles are completely different things. You can say you have faith all day long but you don’t truly learn how to rest upon it until you can’t live without it,” states Rose.

“I’ve also learned that when you share your mountain that others are willing to share with you their mountains,” Rose says. “I hate that my husband had to suffer through what he went through but because of it, we can now share our story and how God had his hand on us from the very beginning. Sometimes we say we were ‘blessed by a stroke;’ not by the event but by those that helped support us through the process, by the recovery itself, and by the realization that his hand has been on our lives leading us long before we ever faced this mountain. More importantly, because of all the things that event has allowed us to share with others about our God.

“When you can share that with others who are struggling with a mountain and show them the love God had for you during your time of need, it not only allows them an opportunity to open up and share, but it shows them your faith and how it truly made a difference.”



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Tonja Rose has always wanted to sing and says that God honored that desire. She had to work hard but knows that the music business isn't simple, regardless of the genre. Fellow artists gave her advice that she has tried to follow.

"I was working in Country music and basically they were saying, 'Go everywhere, sing everywhere, write with everyone, do all the gigs, go to all the show, etc. You should never have to introduce yourself to someone twice because they have forgotten meeting you the first time,'" recalls Rose. Being driven, talented, and sincere, are not always the key to success.

"In the Christian music industry I would have to say the best advice was, 'You know, there is really no rhyme or reason to making it in Christian music. What worked yesterday may not work today but might work tomorrow. You just have to find your niche, have good songs with substance that people can relate to in their daily walk. Give it your best shot, trust in God's will and purpose for your life and hang on!'"

This talented vocalist has her own advice for newcomers in gospel music. "Stick to the race because there is a reason you are running, and always make sure not to forget the reason you started singing Christian music," she says. "Don't forget (your) overwhelming love for God and using your gifts for Him. To gain success and forget that....well, it's just not worth it."

Songwriting is a skill and a gift that Rose has honed for many years. She has written with the likes of Mark Narmore, Liz Rose, Ken Harrell, A.J. Masters, John

Mathis, John Lemonis, Erin Johnston, Devon O'Day, Adam Wheeler, and Rob Harris. "Most of these are country writers but we get some good gospel tunes out of our sessions," she says.

This beautiful, passionate vocalist has sung on many stages across the country, joining groups such as Selah, and singing the gospel in The Bluebird Cafe, the famous Country hall in Nashville, Tenn. She says that the location doesn't really matter.

"Look, I've sung in front of 10,000 people and I've sung in front of 10 people," Rose states. "Doesn't matter the venue really, what matters is the heart and how you can touch others with your ministry/music. Can you help someone? Can you lead someone to Christ?"

Rose is thrilled to watch her songs head up the charts as more radio stations are playing her music. She is currently working on a new album to be released mid-year with Mansion/BlueGrass Valley Records and a daily devotional based around her most recent album. Her songs are promoted to radio by Vonda Armstrong and Hey Y'all media.



This vibrant believer also hopes to be a part of some women's ministry opportunities this year. She certainly has stories to tell and songs to sing that will open hearts and minds to the possibilities of abundant life in Jesus Christ.

"Being a Christian is not a title for me, it's a way of life," says Rose. It's a personal relationship, a daily walk, and outwardly living an inward decision to follow Christ."



Tonja Rose leans on the word of God and says her life verse has always been Jeremiah 29:11.

“Everyday in my walk it is relevant and real,” Rose declares. “Because even in the best situation, life is tough and before I know it I’m in there up to my knees trying to control everything and everyone around me and you know what happens? I fail. Then I get down and I lose my way because nothing happened when I was trying to steer the ship. This verse makes me take a deep breath and it reminds me that God know my future, God has his plan for me, and that I need to stop and rest in him. He’s got this!”

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# SGN SCOOPS

## Bluegrass

### Top 20

#### **2019 February SGNscoops Bluegrass Top 20**

1. Super Water - The King James Boys
2. That's Grace - The Primitive Quartet
3. Songs Like Those - The Chigger Hill Boys and Terri
4. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
5. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
6. Hide Me Behind The Cross - Tonja Rose
7. When The Storm Is In My Path - Heaven's Mountain Band
8. The Church Bell - The Little Roy and Lizzy Show
9. Now I'm Here - The Stevens Family Tradition
10. Don't Look Back - The Rochesters
11. Why Should I Worry - Canaan's Crossing
12. Love - HighRoad
13. If He Hung The Moon - Eagle's Wings
14. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff and Sheri Easter
15. Thinkin' Outside The Box - Dave Adkins
16. Don't Turn Me Away - Sally Berry
17. If God Doesn't Bless America - Williamson Branch
18. Was Nots - The King James Boys
19. Hillbilly Graham - The Farm Hands
20. Little White Church By The Way - The Rumfelt Family



## Les Butler and Friends: Danny Roberts of the Grascals

By Les Butler

I first met Danny Roberts when he started the Bluegrass Gospel band, The New Tradition. I loved them. They were, as their name suggests, both new sounding, as well as traditional sounding. And wow, could that mandolin player tear up a mandolin.

Over the years, I interviewed them and featured them many times on my nationally syndicated radio show, Front Porch Fellowship. When they stopped traveling, I was bummed out. But that closed door lead to another open door.

Danny and Andrea Roberts started going to my church, Middle Tennessee Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn. For several years we got to play side by side in the church band. Those were great days. Now, he's on the road full time with the multi-award winning, Grascals.

Let's learn a little more about my friend, Danny Roberts.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Danny Roberts: The earliest memories of playing music are with my Uncle Jim. He was one of the few relatives I had that played guitar and he was always open to sitting down with

me and helping me learn new things. He always played guitar at his home church, so I had that influence from the start.

LB: What's the first instrument you tried to play?

DR: Piano. When I was 12 years old, I broke my hip and had to homeschool that year and my mom was taking piano lessons. After a few days of playing, I decided I really liked playing an instrument but thought it should be guitar. Several years earlier my dad had bought a guitar and brought it home, but no one ever did anything with it, so I got it out and learned to play "Jingle Bells," (my favorite guitar instrumental that I had heard on a Buck Owens' Christmas record.)

LB: What instruments do you play?

DR: Guitar, mandolin and fiddle.

LB: Who are your top three mandolin mentors?

DR: Sam Bush, David Grisman and Bill Monroe.

LB: What's your band history, first band to current band?

DR: First band would be the New Tradition, then Ronnie Reno and the Reno Tradition and now the Grascals.



LB: What is your favorite song to play and why?

DR: This changes for me fairly often. Right now, my favorite song to play is "I've Been Redeemed," from the Grascals current CD, "Before Breakfast." I love the message in the song. It's in three-quarter time which is something the Grascals don't do a lot of, but I really like it, plus I get to kick it off with the mandolin.

LB: Do you write lyrics? If so, what's the favorite song you've written?

DR: I do enjoy writing songs with lyrics and my favorite would probably be "Crucified by Me." I wrote it and recorded it several years ago. Recently it's been revived by a great young band called ClayBank and it's receiving a lot of airplay. The song is about a having a dream where I was committing



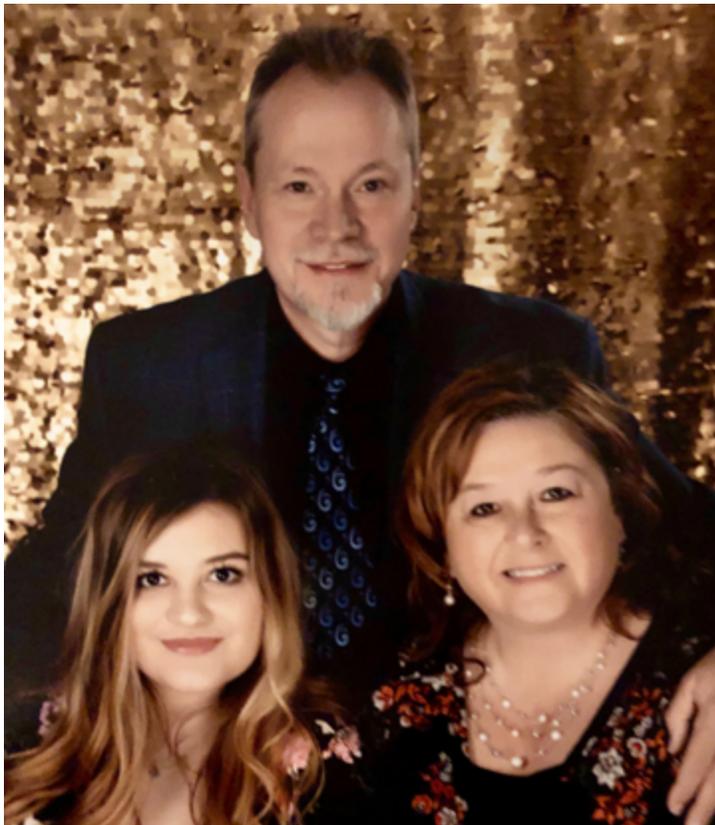
a crime, but I wasn't paying for the crime - an innocent man was. That innocent man was Jesus.

LB: How do you give birth to your original instrumentals? Do you have a favorite you've written?

DR: The instrumentals I write usually come from a mood I'm in or from inspiration that I get from listening to other artists. If I must pick a favorite, I think it would be "Derrington Drive," off of my "Nighthawk" CD. The song was inspired by the tuning Bill Monroe did on his tune, "Get up John," and named in honor of Charlie Derrington - one of my best friends and mandolin building mentors. I've written several and many of them are special to me including "AndiWayne," and "Old Paths," from my "Mandolin Orchard" CD, and "Danielle's Waltz," from the "Nighthawk" recording.

LB: What's your biggest musical moment?

DR: I've been very blessed to have many, awesome musical moments and I'm so grateful for each of them. However, I think the one moment that may stand out just a little more than the rest was playing the Grand Ole Opry with Dolly Parton and having Porter Wagoner join us to sing a couple of their old duets. It just so happens that this was the last time that Porter and Dolly sang together because Porter passed away not too long after, so it's an extremely precious memory for me. Also, having the legendary Jordanaires join the Grascals on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry to perform our Dove Award nominated song "Did You Forget God Today" was also an amazing musical moment.



LB: Tell us about your wife and daughter, both of whom are

very musical.

DR: I met my wife, Andrea, at a bluegrass festival where she was playing guitar and singing in her group Petticoat Junction (I was at the festival playing with New Tradition.) A few months after we first met, my band sold her band a utility trailer for hauling music equipment and, as they say, the rest is history. Andrea stopped traveling on the road after our daughter Jaelee was born and later started the Andrea Roberts Agency - a booking agency that books several top bluegrass bands including the Grascals.

Jaelee really didn't have much of a choice but to be in music being that's all that has ever gone on in our home since she was born. She started playing fiddle when she was four and now plays guitar, mandolin, piano, banjo and some bass. Jaelee has literally grown up singing in church which has been such a blessing and we're so thankful that she has that foundation...THE Foundation. She is a very talented singer and her first single, a gospel song called "All My Tears," will be released early in 2019.

LB: When you're not picking and singing, what are you doing?

DR: I have an instrument repair shop in my home and I repair stringed instruments. I also give music lessons to folks all ages and skill levels wanting to learn mandolin and guitar.

LB: Give us a brief testimony...

DR: When I was 12 years old I broke my hip and spent the next year on crutches and pretty much in the house. During that time my life was forever changed...that's when I started playing guitar and when I got saved. I had just turned 13 years old when I was attending a revival at my home church in Leitchfield, Kent., and the preacher preached on hell and preached it hot. I decided that was something I wanted no part of and accepted Christ as my Savior that night. There are a lot of decisions I've made in my life that I might change if I had the opportunity, but making the decision to accept God's gift of salvation is the single greatest decision of my life.

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# Daniel Thraikill of the Trailblazers

By Cheryl Smith

My family and I were recently blessed to enjoy a concert by a bluegrass band which included young man I am interviewing today, Daniel Thraikill. I knew the minute their music started ringing out from the stage that we were in for something special. Not only is this artist super talented, he also has a deeply-instilled love for God and speaks of his Christian faith freely while performing, and throughout his interview below.

The Trailblazers have already won the 2018 International Bluegrass Music Association Momentum Band of the Year Award, and I know this is just the beginning of the amazing things God has in store for Thraikill and his band. I am so thankful to introduce him and to share his inner views with you here.

Cheryl Smith: Please tell us about yourself.

Daniel Thraikill: My father is a pastor at Back Creek Presbyterian Church in Mount Ulla, N.C. He began his ministry in Spartanburg, S.C., at a small church and

there, my older brother, myself, and my younger sister were born (I was born in 1997).

Being raised in the church, we were always singing hymns and learning about God through song. My mother is gifted with music, playing piano and having a wonderful voice. We moved to Mount Ulla, N.C. in 2001.

My siblings and I were homeschooled, which allowed us to have a special time of singing and prayer every morning. I took piano lessons from age seven to 12.

When I turned 13 or 14, I began focusing on listening to music. My brother Will plays the upright bass and my sister plays piano as well. I'm 21 now, I still live at home as a student and musician, and music teacher.

I've been a student at Mitchell Community College and I received an Associates in Arts Degree in 2017.

I'll be starting at UNC Charlotte in the spring of 2019.

I also teach guitar, ukulele and piano at Learn Music in Cornelius, N.C. I've been teaching there for a little over two years and love it.

CS: When did you first begin singing?

DT: I started singing by myself when I got more into bluegrass and country music. I was around 14 years old.

CS: What instruments do you play, and how long have you played them?

DT: I play piano and guitar exclusively. I've been playing piano since 2004, and guitar since 2009. My first taste of the guitar came from my dad, Bill. He had a few guitars around the house and I was interested in learning how to play. An elder in our church, Mark Merrill, taught me my first song, "Windy and Warm" (a Chet Atkins tune.) I dabble in other bluegrass instruments, such as bass, mandolin, and banjo, but I would not consider myself proficient in them.

CS: How did your band, The Trailblazers, get started?

DT: We got started because our mandolin player, Jonah Horton, needed two guys to play guitar and bass with him for an event in Salisbury, N.C. So he asked myself and my brother to join him. We called ourselves the



Carolina Swinggrassers. Eventually we got a few more gigs as a three-piece band. One night in early 2016, Jonah came to our house for a practice and I asked another friend Alex Edwards to join us. So once we started practicing and jamming, Alex fit right in. I believe we changed the name to the Trailblazers in February of 2016.

CS: Who are your current members? Can you tell us a

little about each one?

DT: Will Thrailkill is our bass player. He's 23 years old and just received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from U.N.C. Charlotte. He's beginning a job at a ceramics plant called NGK, located in Mooresville, N.C. Alex Edwards is the banjo player and he's 26 years old. He works in Mechanical Engineering in Spencer, N.C. He began playing bluegrass with his family band, the Edwards Family. He is a Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina banjo champion.

Jonah Horton is 17, and he's from Wilkesboro, N.C. He plays mandolin, and has been playing ever since he was seven years old. He's played with Sam Bush, Sierra Hull, and many others. He took first prize two years straight in Galax, Va., at the Galax Fiddlers Convention.

CS: What dreams have you already achieved, as a musical artist?

DT: Well, I've been able to travel some. That's a huge part of why I love to play live bluegrass, is the potential for seeing new places of the nation. With my time filling in with Circus No. 9 (band based out of East Tennessee), I've been to different places in the Midwest, and up the Atlantic coast. Every gig is an awesome opportunity to play the music I love, and that's an achievement I always look forward to.

CS: Please share with us about your personal Christian testimony. How long have you been following Jesus, and what does He mean to you?

DT: I've can't really pinpoint a time in my life without a Christian influence. Being a pastor's child and being raised in the church, I have been accustomed to the gospel and the grace of our Lord. When I was in my teens, I was rebellious and apathetic to the faith. I just didn't understand what a relationship with Christ was, or how to have it. When I was somewhere between 17 and 19, I can't remember a specific time, but I started seeking the Lord through prayer and the bible. I love the book of Romans, and that is where I learned about God's love and wrath combined, and how he has saved me from a multitude of sins. And by faith, I try to live day by day having a relationship with Christ my Savior.

CS: To the one reading this who is feeling overwhelmed and discouraged in their Christian walk, what would you like to say?

DT: I would say something I tell myself a lot: "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God." (Psalm 42:11) This

verse speaks to our emotions and feelings, speaking truth into a place that may be darkened by the world. I would also say, don't find comfort in the world. Find



comfort in the word of God and in prayer. He shows up in supernatural ways to those who seek him wholeheartedly.

CS: What do you most hope to accomplish through your music?

DT: I hope to glorify the Lord in all that I do. Fame and fortune have their place, but nothing surpasses the goal of glorifying God, my Father. I'd like to be able to play music with my girlfriend, Carley Arrowood. We love to play in churches and encourage folks through gospel and bluegrass music.

CS: How can we find your music and keep up to date with the Trailblazers?

DT: You can go to [www.trailblazersmusic.com](http://www.trailblazersmusic.com) as well as on Facebook, and Instagram. Our music is on Spotify, Amazon Music, and Apple Music.

Please click on to the website of The Inner Views, written by Cheryl Smith, to read the entire interview with Daniel Thrailkill.

## JEREMIAH'S CALL



We would like to thank all Dj's for taking time on us and allowing our music to reach places that we may not be able to go and sing. We look forward to the future and we are excited to see what God has in store.

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

1. Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Mile – The Williamsons
2. Faithful - The Whisnants
3. I Know I'll Be There - Karen Peck and New River
4. Meeting In The Middle Of The Air - The Tribute Quartet
5. Love, Love, Love - Gordon Mote
6. Never Changes - The Steeles
7. Longing For Home - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
8. You Chose To Be My Friend - Jason Crabb
9. God Fights On My Side - The Guardians
10. Grab Your Umbrella - The Talleys
11. Heaven Just Got Sweeter For You - The Kingdom Heirs
12. Running - The Martins
13. It Carried Him - The Perrys
14. Treasures In Heaven - The Mark Trammell Quartet
15. By And By - The Hoppers
16. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff and Sheri Easter
17. Mercy And Love - The Collingsworth Family
18. So Good To Me - The McKameys
19. Revival - The LeFevre Quartet
20. Silhouette - The Wisecarvers
21. He Set Me Free - Sunday Drive
22. Joy On The Journey - The Mylon Hayes Family
23. Testimony Time - The Down East Boys
24. Anything Less - The Taylors
25. All My Hope - The Gold City
26. We Believe - The Troy Burns Family

27. Run The Race - The Hyssongs
28. Good News Never Gets Old - Three Bridges
29. Peace Is On The Way - The Old Paths
30. One Of These Mornings - Avenue
31. Yes He Did, Yes He Does, Yes He Will - Master's Voice
32. That Old Red Back Hymnal - Les Butler (The Williamsons)
33. Jesus Messiah - The Gaither Vocal Band
34. He's Making Me - Amber Nelon Thompson
35. I'm Gonna Wish I Had Worried Less - Mark Bishop
36. Lost - The Jim Brady Trio
37. Everything He Forgot - Brian Free and Assurance
38. Love - HighRoad
39. Jailbreak - Joseph Habedank
40. Let My Light So Shine - Zane and Donna King
41. In Jesus' Name - Michael Combs
42. The Father Knew - Susan Whisnant
43. That's What Happened At The Cross - Exodus
44. Even Me - The Triumphant Quartet
45. Put It All On Calvary's Hill - The Poet Voices
46. I Will Not Be Shaken - Jason Davidson
47. When Jesus Turns My Prison Into My Shouting Ground - The Inspirations
48. The Stone Is Rolled Away - TaRanda
49. I Want To Praise Him - 11<sup>th</sup> Hour
50. We're Gonna Rise - The Littles
51. Thou Knowest - The Arenos



52. Let Me Take You To The Cross - Iva Parker
53. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
54. He Is Able - The Sound
55. Go Before Me - Billy Huddleston
56. Now I Can Sing - The Griffith Family
57. Mama Prayed - Mark Lowry
58. Live For You Today - Austin and Ethan Whisnant
59. He's Making A Way - The Pruitt Family
60. Power In The Blood/ Are You Washed In The Blood - The Blackwood Brothers Quartet
61. Did I Please God Today - Mike Upright
62. On The Other Side - The Journeys
63. Sin Is No Match For Grace - Jonathan Wilburn
64. Pictures - Jessica Horton
65. The News Is Out - Georgia
66. Runnin' - Sharon Stewart and Out Of Ashes
67. Don't Look Back - The Rochesters
68. Just Before The Dawn - Answered Prayer
69. He Took It Away -The GloryWay Quartet
70. Shouting In The Middle Of My Storm - The Jordan Family Band
71. I Will Pray - Blake and Jenna Bolerjack
72. That Wonderful Day - The Soul'd Out Quartet
73. Amazing Grace - Jeremiah's Call
74. Decided To Believe - Day Three
75. Least I Can Do - The Ball Brothers
76. Still - Sisters
77. Little Is Much - Michael English
78. Faith Is All You Need - Family Legacy
79. Power In The Cross - Battle Cry
80. For My Good - Hope's Call
81. Faithful To The End - Mercy Fell
82. By A Show Of Hands - The Carolina Boys
83. If He Hung The Moon - Eagle's Wings

84. This Is The Grace I Know - Endless Highway
85. Part Of Me - Covered by Love
86. He Is The Only One - The Dixie Echoes
87. Testify - Cheri Taylor
88. The Thing About A Valley - Steve Ladd
89. I Get Down - Charley Lucas
90. Let's Meet By The River - The Bakers
91. Where Is The Valley - Ricky Atkinson and Compassion
92. Broken Things - Avery Road
93. God Told Me To Walk A Little Farther- The Porter Family
94. Give It To You - Cana's Voice
95. It's Gonna Be A Great Day - Jason Cooper
96. The Way Of Love -Tiffany Coburn
97. By The Touch Of Your Hand - Messiah's Call
98. God Is Good – Charles Billingsly
99. Choose Happy - Tim Lovelace
100. Who Is On The Lord's Side - The Mark Dubbeld Family

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# Surrendered



By Robert York

Surrendered, a mixed trio based in Gadsden, Alabama, was formed by Russell and Lori Wise. Their niece, Sadie Matthews, felt the calling on her life to sing for the Lord, during an Alabama gospel convention, while Jay Parrack was singing “Sometimes He Whispers.” That night, she openly expressed what God had impressed upon her.

Lori says, “Immediately, God put things into motion. Sadie and Russell began singing as a duet.” Later, a long time friend, John “Bitt” Fugatt of the Fugatt Family joined the group and they became a trio. Russell is the only remaining original member.

Lori Goss and Russell Wise both attended middle school together in 1979, where they became acquainted. Both went on to attend and graduate from Gadsden High School in Alabama. After high school they went their separate ways.

Russell became involved in music. His dad was a pastor/evangelist and his mom was an incredible pianist. The entire family was vocally talented and all grew up on buses, traveling and singing as the Wise Family.

Russell also filled in and played bass for a group from Branson, Missouri, called White River. He fulfilled his dream in 1989, when he became the bass player for Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters.

“Some of my greatest memories were those days traveling with Wendy, Geraldine, Little Jan, Kevin Williams and product manager Mary Sue,” says Russell. “I loved those moments and still share many stories from those early days.”

Upon graduating from high school, Lori attended North Alabama College of Commerce in Huntsville, Ala. She worked for over 30 years in building supplies, managing a 14-state territory for the largest distributor of



fiberglass insulation in the U.S.

Some years later, both Lori and Russell both returned to their hometown of Gadsden. They were in their late 40's, when they reconnected through a mutual friend, and within a year, the two were married. About 350 of their high school friends attended the wedding which many still say was one of the most fun and music filled wedding ever held in Gadsden.

Today the group consists of Russell, Tiffany Hamilton and Jesse Fuson. Lori, who is a co-owner of the group, serves as their number-one supporter and manager.

Hamilton is the niece of Russell and grew up under his feet. Since the age of three, she has been singing gospel music. She is a powerhouse singer, anointed beyond words, a mother to two beautiful girls, and married to Chris. Tiffany continues to further her education as a full time college student and works part time at Wise Choice Promotions.

Fuson is an amazing cook and loves hunting, fishing and gardening. He is married to Stacy and they have one child, Xander. He plays a plethora of instruments, writes his own songs and recently released his own Christian Country solo project. He is always helping Surrendered in any way possible.

When asked about the most embarrassing moments on

stage, the group had a variety of answers. From tripping, no music, zippers unzipped, food in mustaches, to two different styles of shoes, no voices, showing up at the wrong address, and leaving important items at churches, Lori (just) laughs and says, "This is the life!"

"Surrendered's name is simply a reflection of each of us," explains Lori. "We choose Christ. We are surrendered completely to our Savior and we pray that every day we can reflect his love through our words and actions. It's all about Jesus, we are willing vessels."

Some of the group's charting songs include, "I See My Name," "I've Been to the Well," and "You Don't Know the Half of It," written by Dianne Wilkerson. The trio has been in the top 10 of Fan Favorite New Artist nominees, and won Sunrise Trio of the Year, just to name a couple of accolades.

In the meantime, to add to all her duties, Lori has accepted a position with Dominion Agency as one of their agents.

Michael Davis of Dominion Agency states, "As we begin 2019, I view Lori Wise as a tremendous asset to maintain our commitment to excellence and integrity in all our business relationships."

This year is going to be an exciting one for Surrendered. They are blessed to have several events already



confirmed and are adding to their schedule almost daily. You can contact the group at 205-937-1185 or visit their website [www.surrendered.biz](http://www.surrendered.biz).

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# The Purpose of Gospel Music

By Charlie Griffin

Fact: Music plays an important part in people's lives.

To many, singing in the shower is second nature, while others lay it down doing household chores. I have sung with the best groups in the business (Statesmen, Blackwood Brothers, Gold City, Speers, Goss Brothers and hosts of others,) while driving down the highway with the radio blaring and my voice on the hunt for various parts within those iconic songs.

People have long used something to create music as a means of entertainment. Music is not only an entertainment, but also a way for people to relax, motivate, and even worship. Entertainment and ministry tend to be frequent discussions for Southern gospel groups. In this



writer's opinion, before any artist can minister to another, that artist must first get the listener's attention and captivate their ears, causing them to listen to the words, intent, and heartfelt passion of any song.

I find a gospel song makes "Whatever is Wrong in Your

Life," better. "Burdens are Lifted at Calvary," when we're "Rolling Along," singing to "An Old Convention Song."



Christian music is set apart from other forms of music because of its message. It is a message that can be understood regardless of where you heard it or sang it. Other music styles may have feel-good words and be the newest music genre, yet gospel music is simply God-praising music. This music offers praises to God while telling the world about what he's done.



Southern gospel music is certainly music with a purpose and positive message. It rarely grows old or stale. The music preaches the changeless Gospel. Psalms chapter 150 lists most major types of musical instruments. The passage ends with, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." Gospel music gives every instrument and every voice the medium to obey that command.



As a minister of this gospel, I would be remiss not to share that "God dwells in the praises of his children." (Psalm 22:3.) As much as you love to hear, "I love you," and appreciation from others, just think how much more Christ loves to hear praise and adoration from his children. He just loves us more and more when we offer praise to him from music, while living a positive, effective, purposeful and action filled Christ-centered life.



Gospel songs are songs that talk about what the Lord has done in a person's life. Laverne Tripp says, "Gospel songs average three minutes but are three minutes of preaching a positive Christ-centered message." It may be about a salvation experience, or how the Lord has blessed, or about trials sharing how the Lord helped them through it all; but there is a real message.



Regardless of how you look at the music from enjoyment, talent, message or ministry, the bottom line is that the purpose of this music is measured three ways:

- It is to uplift and encourage the body of Christ (his church.)
- It preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ through music, with the hope of bringing salvation to non-believers.
- It entertains all people with positive messages and values.

We still hold to the church singings and auditorium concerts as the place we go to hear that good ole' gospel music. Yet singing in the car will still be a top place where we love to hear and sing along with our favorite gospel songs. Of course, singing in the shower, in the car, or mowing the lawn is acceptable on any day, anywhere. If you listen close, you'll hear me singing for sure.



A promotional poster for 'The Journeys' project. It features a man and a woman in formal attire embracing. The text on the poster includes: 'WWW.THEJOURNEYSGOSPEL.NET', 'LIKE US ON FACEBOOK (THE JOURNEYS)', 'the Journeys', 'THE JOURNEYS NEW PROJECT "/&gt;



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ALWAYS.

# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's February and I can almost sense the breath of spring in the waning winds of winter. Regardless of the groundhog and Cupid, this month and this year are already picking up steam and racing toward the first turn in the track. I'm sure the days of this year have already left their mark on you. Have you made your mark on your world?

Making his mark on the world is our cover artist, Joseph Habedank. Dove award winner, Grammy award nominee, this stellar vocalist has overcome so much to be where he is now, living a sober life and managing a blossoming career. We so appreciate the chance to showcase his talent here through the writing of John Herndon. We hope you enjoyed this and every artist we have presented this month.

From Surrendered to Evidence to Tonja Rose, each and every artist also displays the main focus of February, which is Love. The love of God flows through the words of the songs our artists sing, the features our writers create, and the images our design people fashion on every page. Love is the reason we do this, love is the reason we were created and love is the reason Jesus died for us. I hope you take a moment to celebrate his love today.

One way to celebrate his love is to share that love with someone else. Talk to someone today and pepper your conversation with grace, while seasoning it with the salt of the truth that Jesus is alive and God loves them. Sometimes people just need a listening ear, someone who really listens. Can you be that one?

Another way to celebrate his love is to have good fellowship with other believers. Stir up their gifts. Spur them onward. Encourage them with the knowledge that God is for them. Everyone is dealing with something,

everyone needs to know there is someone they can trust. God is for them and you can be too. Be trustworthy.

If you are looking for somewhere to go to fellowship with other believers, a good place is a gospel concert. At the end of March, the Southern Gospel Weekend is taking place in Oxford, Ala., with a variety of artists that are sure to uplift, encourage and strengthen your heart with their songs of faith and the love of God. There is more information elsewhere in this issue. If you can't attend that event, find another close to you, with music that will draw you nearer to the Lord.

Thank you for reading another issue of SGNScoops. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com).



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# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, [SGMRadio.com](http://SGMRadio.com). In 2009, Rob Patz acquired [SGNScoops.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony of how she was born lifeless and how Jesus raised her up to live for Him. Jennifer is a member of the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra and has performed with them at Brooklyn Tabernacle, Carnegie Hall, Central Park, and Times Square. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jennifercampbell.net/blog.htm> and a food and travel blog at <http://jennifersjourneys.net> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net> and [www.christwillreturn.org](http://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.

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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.



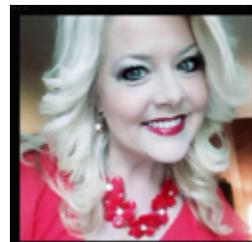
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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.



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

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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.



Cheryl Smith describes herself as a "passionate disciple and follower of Jesus Christ." She says: "I am married to the sweetest, most patient man for over 30 years...Mama to one miracle son God sent to us after 12.5 years of infertility...Homeschool Teacher who learns way more than I ever teach. I love to spend time with my husband

and son in the mountains, sing and play Bluegrass music, and write. I am so thankful for your visit and hope you will visit my blogs: [homespundevoations.com/](http://homespundevoations.com/) and [biblicalminimalism.com/](http://biblicalminimalism.com/) It is my goal to encourage you in your walk with Jesus and to inspire you to let go of this world for the sake of a higher call. It is His call that I hope you hear. So compelling, so intense, so far above anything this world has to offer. It is the call His disciples heard as they went about a normal, ordinary day, fishing. It is a call they could not refuse. A call that caused them to drop everything they had and walk away from life as they knew it, without a backward glance. Can you hear it? Are you listening?"



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.



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.



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](http://www.paigegivens.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 intergenerational 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.



Derek Simonis began singing gospel music at an early age, around the piano with his sister,s at home and in church. His mother, an accomplished pianist and music teacher, was his inspiration to sing. Derek was saved at an early age due to the influence of godly, praying parents and a faithful Sunday School teacher.

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas.

Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed."

His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is

to give his all in the service of the Lord.



John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years old and

eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps. John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

He loves listening to gospel music or playing one of his guitars.

John lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Stephanie, and 17-year-old daughter. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.



Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGNscoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at [www. CharlieGriffin.net](http://www.CharlieGriffin.net).



Jimmy Reno is from from Birmingham, Alabama. He began singing in church at four years of age. Jimmy has sung with various groups over the years, until singing professionally for Mark209 and the Florida Boys. Jimmy is married with three children.

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Angela Parker is a life-long singer and sings with her mother's group, Mercy Rain. She resides in Lexington, S.C. She's been happily married to her husband Jack for nearly 4 years. He's supported every decision Angela has made without fail. Jack travels with Mercy Rain whenever he can and helps out where

possible. He supports Mercy Rain continuously. Since Angela has recently been diagnosed with Lupus, Jack has done everything he can to take care of her.

Angela actively advocates for Autism Awareness. She feels education for all involved is the key to their success. She worked with Autistic children providing ABA Therapy up until her current illness forced her to have to quit.

She speaks out against Domestic Violence having been a victim of abuse for many years herself. Her constant battle today is healing from the mental scars that are left over after the physical and verbal abuse. Her personal testimony will help others see how God can deliver from abuse and help to heal the abused person.

Angela is very excited about writing for SGN Scoops and loves all of the SGN Scoops family. She loves the Lord with all her heart and has been blessed with awesome talent and love for others. You will be blessed by her talent and great spirit!



Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back.

But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing

songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.



During his 40 plus year career, Bill has developed expertise in commercial banking, retail banking, sales and marketing, media, and financial consulting. After years of being bi-vocational, he was able to merge his professional expertise and his passion for ministry. Since 2010, Bill has been helping

churches and ministries with areas of operation. This includes financing (construction, permanent financing, re-financing). In addition, many organizations need help understanding how to market their ministries and how important it is to promote their ministries properly through media and social networking.

Over the past 40 years, Bill has become an accomplished gospel singer, having performed on 32 albums and produced over 200 albums for other performers. His extensive professional credits include singing with renowned gospel music groups including The Cathedrals, The Goffs, The Senators, and The Rhythm Masters, which performed four songs that reached No. 1 in the gospel music charts. In addition, Bill has received nominations for three Dove Awards and a Gospel Music News Award. He is also known for writing and performing the Gold Record winning song, "No Greater Love." Bill also performed in events led by Jerry Falwell, Pat Robinson, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Dr. Paul Conn, and most recently, he performed with Governor Mike Huckabee.

Bill studied finance at the University of Cincinnati and vocal performance at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. He also attended seminary at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and he holds a Doctor of Divinity Degree at Heritage Baptist University in Indianapolis. Currently Bill serves on the Board of Trustees for Davis College in Binghamton, N. Y.

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Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world of music that surrounds us. She believes

when words fail us, music speaks.



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by The Talleys, Gordon Mote, The Williamsons, Doug Anderson, Susan Whisnant, The Erwins, Jay Stone Singers, Master Promise, Three Bridges, Endless Highway, 3 Heath Brothers, Fortress, and many other gospel artists.

Dixie is also an Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.



Amy Duncan Oxenrider, the daughter of Grant and Shelia Duncan, is married to Jason Oxenrider and they have three sons, Brady, Weston, and Rylan. Amy works as a psychometrist for the Mississippi Department of Education. She also writes for Pure Gospel Magazine and

is now a member of SGNscoops.

A former member of the Riders, Amy continues to minister through singing and speaking engagements. She is excited to see what her future holds and longs to uplift the name of Jesus Christ wherever the doors may open.



Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of the Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.