

MARCH 2014

sgn **Scoops** digital



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:  
Mike Rogers  
Joseph Habedank  
David Timms  
and Ozark Gospel  
Music Convention

WESTON & CHRISTY  
**HINSON**



**OZARK**  
GOSPEL MUSIC  
CONVENTION

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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



Happy March! I enjoy the changing of the seasons but I really like to see Winter fade away and the beginning of Spring. The sun gets brighter, the breeze is warmer and I suddenly hear birds outside the window in my office. It's a season of new life; eggs in nests, flowers by the walk and leaves covering the trees. It's also a season of renewal where the old, brown grass turns green and even people begin to walk with a spring in their step, pardon the pun.

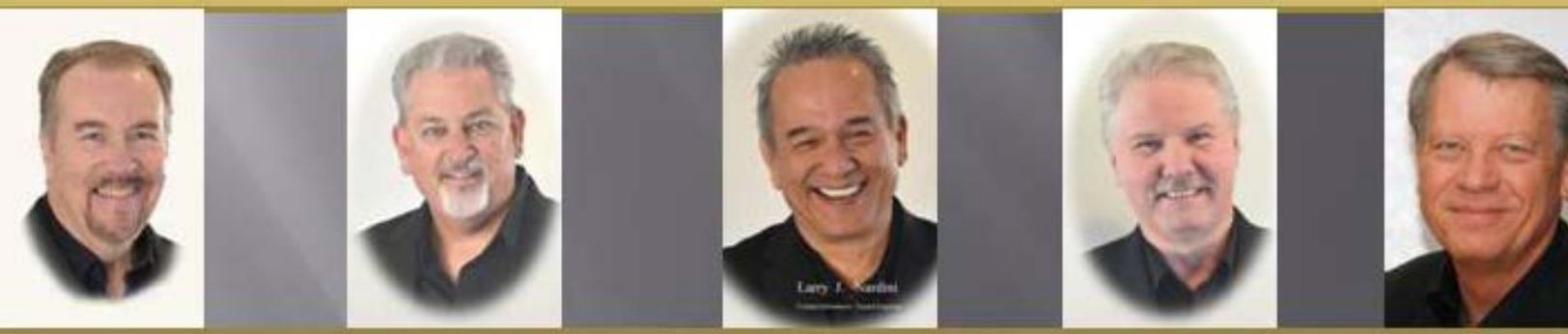
God loves to remind us through the brightness of Spring that He can bring new life into our hearts and a renewal of His grace in our lives. He talks a lot about renewal in His word. I think of favorite passages like "... who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle's." Psalm 103:5 (NIV). "Those who hope in the Lord will **renew** their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31 (NIV). And, "...Inwardly we are being **renewed** day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:15 (NIV).

I like the idea that the Lord will renew my youth, my strength and that inwardly He is renewing my heart, mind and soul. Not just once a year, but 'day by day'. I hope you are finding His love renewing you during this month of newness.

Please take the time to read the features in this edition of SGN Scoops and find out what God has done in the lives of people across the country. Do you need Him to renew you today? If you have questions about how Jesus Christ can transform your life from Winter to Spring, please email me at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com)



*Golden State Quartet*



# Letter

## From The Editor

By Rhonda Frye



Happy March! Hopefully March will usher in some consistent weather! Only in Georgia could you have 10 inches of snow, an earthquake, tornado warnings and 70 degree temps all in one week! Ya know- Isn't that the way life is? You just never know what is going to happen next. Isn't it wonderful that we do have someone consistent and faithful to cling to during life's turbulences?

Our family has been riding out storms for the last year and half. I am living the most stressful season of my life thus far. It started when my husband was forced to take a new position within his company requiring a 30-month training program. The first 15 months location for training was four hours away from home and the last 15 months are at his new work site, three hours away.

Besides the shock of physical separation from my husband of 25 years, the first blow to our security was a financial one. We're thankful he has a great job with family insurance, but the move required a significant cut in pay. Also, during this time every small problem you can imagine has happened. We've had three water leaks inside causing damage, five dead car batteries, two minor car accidents, a car fire, three complete car break-downs requiring a tow truck, the central heat and air unit died, and the paint literally peeled off half of my car- all by itself. On top of that, two of my kids had surgery and my grandmother was hospitalized twice and my husband's mother was hospitalized three times. And... I'm not through! My son received 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns in September and also

suffered major wrestling injuries resulting in three MRI's and numerous x-rays in a three month period. I've literally sat in the emergency room for hours on end with my son, grandmother, dad and mother-in-law on six different occasions- in less than a year. And, (I'm almost done) we've moved my mother in law from her apartment, to the hospital, to rehab, to assisted living and we're not sure what's next.

None of those things *alone* would rattle me, but there is something about experiencing wave after wave of stress that has worn me out. My nerves stay frazzled and I wake up thinking- ok- what's going to happen today? Even so, do you know the Lord has remained and continues to be faithful? I can't tell you the times He has shown up in the most tangible way to comfort me or to bring perspective. For example... this past week I was in the emergency room for 10 hours with my mother in law. We were dismissed literally at 2:30 in the morning. Getting her settled in her assisted living still very sick was a feat all in itself. The next morning as I cried out to God- I said, "I NEED MY HUSBAND!" I whined and told Him that I needed a caring church family and pastor and local friends. I felt in my spirit He was saying to stop looking for people to fix my problems. Like a child, I asked Him to show me something in scripture that would comfort me so I would know he hadn't forgotten me. The very first scripture I flipped to was Isaiah 54:5. "For your Maker *is* your husband, The Lord of hosts *is* His name; And your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth."

Also, this past week I caught Karen Peck and New River in concert. After they sang "Everybody's Going Through Something" Karen shared the truth of the song. EVERYBODY is going through something and since we are, it is so much better to go through it with Him! How true is that?! Life is hard, it just is.

I've noticed that as I've been going through my *something*, God points out those around me whose *something* is a lot worse than mine. Just when I thought nothing was worse than sitting in a freezing cold ER Room for 10 hours, I met a lady across the hall that was there all alone. So alone that she took a cab home from the hospital.

Folks... people everywhere are hurting. It is our job to point them to the faithful friend that will walk through the troubles of life with them. Life can and will turn on a dime, but God never changes and always keeps His promises. While clouds surround us, He is faithful to beam warm rays of peace into our hearts until the storm passes over. My challenge this month is... open your eyes, open your ears and don't wait for an opportunity, stage or platform to share the love of Jesus. People everywhere need a touch from the Lord! If you're in a stormy season, cling to His

Word and open your heart to His love and comfort. He is faithful! It is so good to know the God we sing about is REAL. If He wasn't, we'd have nothing to sing about! He is real in my life and I am grateful.

Blessings!

# Charlie Griffin



Penning by Dianne Wilkinson and Chris Binion

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IN YOUR ARMS  
WHEN MY SHIP COMES IN  
THE BLOOD STILL CRIES OUT  
ALL BECAUSE OF HIS AMAZING GRACE

# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

“Oh What A Savior”

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



We are thankful that March is here, and our traveling gospel music groups and fans survived the rough winter. It never ceases to be a thrill to hear from the many friends who tell us they are checking SGNScoops daily to stay updated about gospel music. Plus, the positive feedback from the readers of Scoops Magazine is assurance that our writers are reaching the people. The February Scoops issue was indeed outstanding! Rob Patz defined the essence of the magazine in his powerful comments about integrity and dignity. Rhonda Frye’s touching article stirred our hearts, and the broad coverage by all the contributors made me doubly proud to be on this fabulous team.

Howard and I thank God for the blessing of a LIFE devoted to gospel music, and our LOVE for attending the events never ceases. Not too long ago we were at an exciting concert featuring Ernie Haase & Signature Sound. Ernie is truly a LEGEND and has been a personal friend for many years. We knew him before he joined the famous Cathedral Quartet in 1990, after a short time with Squire Parsons, and as a solo artist. The late George Younce once told me that when Ernie sang “Oh What A Savior” to audition for the Cathedrals, he was hired immediately. This tall, talented, handsome tenor singer from Evansville, Indiana, met and married George’s daughter, Lisa, six months after joining this LEGENDARY quartet. Probably the first time Howard and I met Ernie was at Shoney’s Restaurant in Nashville. We were there with Scott Fowler, and Ernie sat down at our table.

Scott and Ernie knew each other as both had been students at Oakland City College in Evansville. We loved hearing these two young men talk about their passion to sing about the love of Jesus. When the waiter brought the ticket, I heard Ernie witness to the young man.



Later, when the Cathedrals needed a lead singer, Ernie recommended Scott Fowler for the job. Both Ernie and Scott sang with this revered quartet until the Cathedrals retired. Scott Fowler founded Legacy Five (featured on the cover of February Scoops). Ernie organized “Ernie Haase & Signature Sound” in 2002. In 2006, Howard and I celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on a Gaither Alaskan Cruise, and one of the featured artists was

Signature Sound. We ate some of our meals with Ernie & Lisa Haase, and Bill & Gloria Gaither. The conversation always centered around reaching more people for Christ with gospel music. The mission of our friend Ernie Haase has never wavered and is shared by his group members Doug Anderson, Devin McGlamery, Paul Harkey, David Griffith on bass guitar and keyboardist & arranger Wayne Haun.

At a recent concert, Signature Sound was riding high on the release of their new Gaither Music Group CD which debuted #1 on the Southern Gospel Album chart, and the companion DVD came in at #1 on Christian Music Videos & #3 on Billboard Music Videos, plus at the top of several other charts. The title is "OH WHAT A SAVIOR" the signature song of our LEGENDARY friend Ernie Haase. The highlight of the concert was when Ernie sang those powerful lyrics written by Marvin P. Dalton in 1948. The words of the chorus are—"Oh what a Savior! O hallelujah! His heart was broken on Calvary. His hands were nail-scarred, His side was riven, He gave his life-blood for even me." My precious friends, may these words compel us to number our days,

knowing that Jesus, our Redeemer, is coming back as He promised, and it could be very soon! Until then, let us tell the world about His sacrifice, His love and His grace! Contact us: [www.louhildreth.com](http://www.louhildreth.com) gosplvideo@aol.com P. O. Box 271106 Houston TX 77277



Photo A. Ernie Haase & Signature Sound—Ernie, Devin McGlamery, Doug Anderson, Paul Harkett

Photo B. Lou Hildreth & Ernie Haase

A large event poster for "Melody In The Mountains" featuring "The Kingsmen". The poster shows five men in suits walking in a hallway. Text on the poster includes "Free Admission", "Melody In The Mountains", "Featuring: The Kingsmen", "April 5, 2014", "6:00 PM", and "Sullivan East High School Bluff City, Tn".

**Free Admission**

**Melody In The Mountains**

**Featuring:**

**The Kingsmen**

**April 5, 2014**

**6:00 PM**

**Sullivan East High School**

**Bluff City, Tn**

A smaller event poster for "Greater Glory" featuring "The Wisecarvers". The poster shows a group of people sitting on a bench. Text on the poster includes "Also Appearing: Greater Glory", "The Wisecarvers", "Talent Competition starts at 10:00 AM", "Visit the website for more info www.melodyinthemountains.org", and "A love offering will be received for the Haley Neal Memorial Scholarship Fund".

**Also Appearing:**

**Greater Glory**

**The Wisecarvers**

**Talent Competition starts at 10:00 AM**

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## & The Diamond Awards News

By Rhonda Frye

We are excited as plans continue to develop as we move closer to the Creekside Gospel Music Convention. Make plans to be with us in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on November 3-6 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. The Convention will include Lou Hildreth's Night of Honor, the Diamond Awards, Patterson Promotions Showcase, the Morris Music Group Showcase and more. Don't miss 4 days of great gospel music, fellowship and fun. Yes... FOUR days of great gospel music, fellowship and fun. Tickets are free and accommodations can be reserved by phone, toll free at: 1-800-223-6707 or local call 865-908-3015. For online reservations, click onto <http://www.smokymountainconventioncenter.com>.

### **Diamond Awards Update**

The excitement is in the air! Make plans to be on April 3, 2014 as we announce the top 10 Diamond Awards Nominees! If you can't physically be with us, you can tune in via the internet as we live stream a great concert with Chapel Valley and their artists. You won't want to miss the opportunity to watch live and online an exciting evening of music, worship, and fun, at no cost. On April 3, 2014 at 7:30 pm, SGN Scoops Digital Magazine will announce the top 10 nominees for each category in the 2014 Diamond Awards. The SGN Scoops' Diamond Awards Nominations will be broadcast live and online! Chapel Valley, SGN Scoops and The American Society of Gospel Music (ASGM) have underwritten the costs for this live, online broadcast, so you can watch it live online for free! All you have to do is register for the event by going to <http://tinyurl.com/mar98t3>

This event will be hosted by Rob Patz, CEO of Coastal Media Group; Shane Roark, co-owner of Chapel Valley; and Richard Hyssong, Marketing and Artist Director of Chapel

Valley. The evening will include performances by several Chapel Valley artists, and of course the nominees for the SGN Scoops' Diamond Awards will be announced. This free event will be broadcast on ASGM at <http://www.theasgm.org/> the leader in providing live online Southern Gospel concerts.

### **Creekside Gospel Music Convention Update**

Coastal Media and SGN Scoops Digital Magazine have announced an exciting new addition to 2014 Creekside Gospel Music Convention. Creekside is being extended by another day to enable the inclusion of more artists, events and fellowship that Convention attendees have enjoyed over the past two years.

Jonathan Edwards of SGN Scoops Radio and trio Faith's Journey, says, "Working back stage with the artists of this great event, I am thrilled that the demand to be a part of this event has allowed us to expand to a fourth day. With the extra day, there are more of your favorite groups to hear as well as always a surprise around the corner!"

"I have to say I'm very proud of what we're accomplishing with the Creekside Gospel Music Convention," says Rhonda Frye, Editor of SGN Scoops. "Our event has become a meeting place for friendships and business relationships to begin and thrive. Creekside has become a convention where artists feel they belong and are a part of something bigger than themselves. It has also been the desire of my heart to connect new artists to new fans. The best part is that we are sharing the love of Christ through song to anyone that wants

to hear it- at no charge! Be a part of Creekside 2014. Unified, we can impact the world for Christ with the powerful tool of Gospel Music!"

"I'm thrilled that we are able to present even more of the wonderful music that has been onstage at Creekside," says Rob Patz, CEO of Coastal Media and Publisher of SGN Scoops. "The Convention is growing and we want to make every moment count, by presenting Jesus through the best of today's Gospel music. We want to see all of our friends at all four days of Creekside!"

Make your plans to be with us at Creekside! For booth information, email Rob Patz at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).

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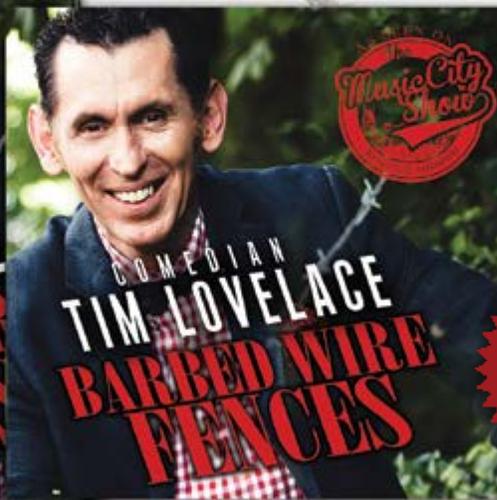
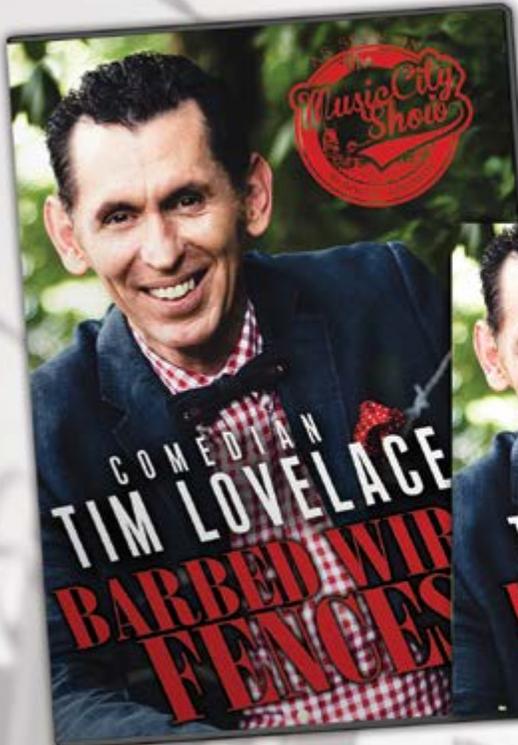
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# Reflections with *Sherry Anne*

“A Perfect Ten”

*“Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” (Matt 7:3-5)*

Every four years, the Olympic Games come upon us. It is amazing how many years these athletes will labor and toil for a precious piece of metal, namely gold. As a competitive figure skater myself, I am aware that it is about more than that: it is about accomplishment. It is about spirit and heart and I commend those who “press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call.” (Phil 3:14)

Recently, I was talking with a friend about this who remarked, “I was watching the short program for figure skating and it makes me thankful for God’s grace. If these skaters fall once or land a little off, the commentators tear them apart and the judges give them a terrible score.” She went on to say, “No one talks about when they stay on their feet, just when they make mistakes.”

Wow! How true! As spectators, we are allowed to fully hear the music and enjoy the program until... “Oops! Look at that! She missed that triple toe loop by a quarter of a turn! That is going to cost her some points right there. Now let’s look at that again...” And, the tape replays.

Now, as one who has struggled with perfectionism for a good part of my growing up years, I can certainly appreciate finding and pointing out mistakes. Further, I appreciate a job well done and those who strive for excellence—as I believe we should. However, Oswald Chambers in his devotion: *My Utmost for His Highest*, states that, “It is a trap to presume that God wants to make us perfect specimens of what He can do—God’s purpose is to make us one with Himself.” He adds, “I am called to live in such a perfect relationship with God that my life produces a yearning for God in the lives of others, not admiration of myself. Thoughts about myself hinder my usefulness to God. God’s purpose is not to perfect me to make me a trophy in His showcase; He is getting me to the place where He can use me.”

From this viewpoint, I gather that we are not to achieve a state of perfectionism to then be placed in a museum for all the world to see; rather, we are to let be removed from ourselves the very thing that can hinder our resourcefulness to a lost and hurting world. We are to “get out of the way” and “let God have His way” in our lives so that His will, mission, and purpose can be accomplished through us. This, in turn, will reach others and in this we become perfected.

Too many of us try to achieve human standards of perfectionism, and thus, the reason for the analogy in Scripture about specks and planks in our eyes! I recently had the unpleasant experience of a sliver lodging underneath my fingernail. At first, I hardly noticed it and it didn’t really bother me that much. Then, as time went

on, the pressure began to build and I wanted it removed immediately! It was all I could think about. I went to urgent care and while biting my folded bottom lip, I held on tight as the nurse began to extract it. OUCH!

Despite the splinter being gone, the pain lingered and a mark was left on my nail bed. Eventually, the pain and the scar faded and the aftereffect lessened. I think this is much like sin, or wrongdoing: we barely notice it at first; but, over time, the pressure builds and the consequences become unbearable. We need to get it out of our lives as quickly as possible-- even though it may hurt more at first. Ultimately, the repercussions that follow will decrease.

And while it helps to have loving, caring individuals point out areas that we need to change— for we all have areas that we can't see (or blind spots)—we must make sure that we check under our own “nail beds” as well. How much harder would it have been for that nurse to pull out the sliver in my hand if she had a heavy tree

branch lying across hers?! Romans 3:10 reminds us that “There is none righteous, no, not one;” that “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). No one is perfect and thankfully, by God's grace, we are loved still.

Nonetheless, the urgent care nurse did a very good job...a perfect 10, in fact! ☺

*Photo Courtesy of Rob Ellis'*

## ***NORTH METRO GOSPEL SINGING AT SHILOH HILLS*** **SPRING SATURDAY NIGHT SINGING**



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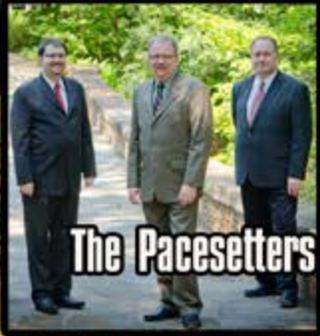
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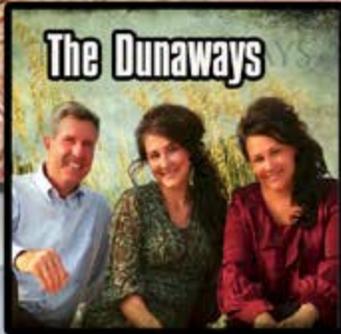


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# Weston & Christy Hinson

By Lorraine Walker

**Hinson.** For over two decades, that name meant powerhouse vocals, intricate harmonies and a Country/Southern blend of Gospel that was purely their own. Dove Awards, Singing News Awards, induction into the Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, as well as over 25 recordings, all speak to the popularity and fame of a family group whose ministry touched all ages. The original lineup of Ronny, Kenny, Larry and Yvonne Hinson may no longer be heard, but Kenny's son Weston, his wife Christy and daughter Jordan are carrying on the family legacy. In the last four years the trio has melded the original Hinson sound with hints of Soul and Bluegrass, to create their own style while keeping the unmistakable message of the Gospel.

In March of 2014, Weston and Christy Hinson are bringing back some of the old Hinson sounds with "A Night To Remember The Hinsons." Weston tells us,

"The whole night is going to be a special highlight for us. I plan on sharing some of my special memories of my dad, Kenny, and having Uncle Ronny, who will be our esteemed guest for the night, share some of the moments that made the Hinsons what they were and still are in many people's thoughts." The Hinsons are also bringing in a live band for the evening, including a steel guitar to provide that Hinson edge.

"The night came about because we felt that it was a good time for us to pay homage to the history that helped shape part of who we are," says Weston. "There have been many who have been influenced and have paid tribute, and we are humbled by the love for our family, but we wanted to take a moment to tip our hat to our family and also include them as their schedules allowed. There will be more than 24 songs that night, straight out of the Hinson playbook, that we believe



‘twinning’ as we call it. Yvonne was the pretty one and had a voice that was beautiful and soothing yet would have such power at the same time when singing those typical powerhouse Hinson songs and big endings.”

Weston is a little partial when it comes to discussing his dad. “Kenny Hinson was to me, and many others across the country, the greatest singer to ever live in any genre. He is my inspiration for singing, for ministry, for life. He did everything so effortlessly and with such poise and precision. As Buddy Mullins once put it to me, ‘He had a smile in his voice.’ When Daddy sang, he enjoyed it and you could tell! And with the other members that came through the years and contributed so much; like Chris Hawkins Freeman who would hit a home run every time she opened her mouth to sing a note and brought a level of energy with her style of singing that was amazing to hear, and Eric Hinson who came in when Larry left the group and Bo Hinson after Eric, to continue a family tradition of smooth baritone richness and tight family harmonies. I could almost write a book of how the Hinsons influenced our current ministry musically, but the most important resemblance has always been and must always be, the pursuance of the anointing and

fans will enjoy and they will be played just like they are remembered so it will make for a great night of tribute to the family!” At the moment this is the only Tribute night planned but Weston says they are open to booking more of these events in the future.

As the child of Kenny and nephew of Ronny, Yvonne and Larry, Weston had the best possible upbringing for a Gospel singer. “I believe that my heritage is a major blessing,” says Weston. “I look at my life as being enriched by a history of musical pioneers and amazingly talented individuals, each in their own right. Of course, Ronny was, and still is, known as the songwriter and spokesmen of the group. Larry had a ton of charisma and oozed confidence and was such a master at vocal harmonies and



the mindset that it's souls we're after! That must come first!"

This family background has had its challenges for Weston. "I have struggled ever since I decided to follow in my dad's footsteps to not appear to be *riding a*



*coattail*, if you will. It has never been a goal of mine to go out and be another Kenny Hinson. That will never happen. For the longest time I didn't even want to use my last name for fear that others might say, 'He's just trying to use his family's name to get somewhere.' I try to honor and protect the legacy that was forged before me and even further it if I can because it is precious to me. My family paid a lot in their own lives to leave to the next generation something to be proud of, and believe me I am most proud of what my father left to me. I have come to accept through the years of traveling and singing in Gospel Music Ministry that the legacy my family, and specifically my father, left for me was God ordained and I walk in it and with my head held high knowing that I am walking in the path that my Heavenly Father has purposed me to trod."

Weston and Christy Hinson have taken a few years to develop what now sounds like the perfect blend of vocalists. After Christy and Weston started dating, they began singing with Christy's parents as Weston Hinson and By Faith, singing together for over two years. In 2010, the young Hinsons felt God calling them into fulltime ministry, which they called The Weston Hinson Group. After trying out a few singers for the third part of the trio, they couldn't find the right fit and at the

end of 2011, they traveled just as Weston and Christy Hinson. However, their third singer was closer than they might have imagined. Their daughter Jordan had been singing harmony since the age of seven, and about a year ago they decided to add her voice to the family mix.

"Jordy, as we affectionately call her, has been singing with us since April of 2013 and doing a fantastic job!" Weston adds with pride, "Her voice has added a country/bluegrass flavor to our music that is a treat for a lot of people. Jordy has quite the range too, because she has to sing parts in the Hinsons songs that we perform that range anywhere from baritone to tenor to even soprano whenever Christy leads in some of our original materials. She also adds the ability to invert parts to enhance the dynamics of vocal arrangements that makes for a powerful style that is often difficult to achieve with a lot of singers. Having started professionally singing at 16 years old and already being ahead of the curve in a lot of areas with her abilities is mind blowing to think of how good she is going to be!"

Jordan is thrilled to be a part of her parent's ministry. "I get to fulfill the calling on my life and see all kinds of beautiful places across the country and I also love spending time with my family. I am in home-schooling and listen to music a lot to further my understanding of music. I am also learning how to play guitar and piano." Jordan adds, "My favorite part of traveling is getting to see people's lives changed through our ministry!"

Jordy was able to record a Christmas album in 2013 with Weston and Christy, an acoustical project that focuses on an amazing blend of vocals and updated arrangements of favorite Christmas carols. The couple's previous studio recording, *Let's Have Some Church*, is Weston and Christy alone and includes many original songs written by Christy. "We have released two songs off that album to Southern Gospel Radio, both made it in the top 100, with 'Finally Home' reaching 45!" says Weston. "This is a song about what all believers dream about: finally making it to the shores of Heaven. The first line of that song chokes me up every time I sing it, and it makes it difficult to sing live because I am crying through most of the song. It says, 'I'm gonna wrap my arms around my daddy's neck and tell him that I've missed him. And tell him all about the man that I became and hope that it pleased him.' Wow!"

Weston continues, "We have released 'I Hold On,' which is a song written by Christy and myself, to Christian Country radio and are anxious to see how it does. We will soon release another single off of this album to Southern Gospel Radio, so I would definitely say this project has done very well for us. We are in the studio now recording a Hinson Tribute album to accompany the Tribute Concert, and our goal is to release another great project with brand new original material later this year. It's a busy year for Weston and Christy Hinson!"

Jonathan Edwards, longtime Southern Gospel deejay and host of SGN Scoops Radio Show, is a fan of the trio. "I think Weston and Christy are one of the best young groups in gospel music. There are lots of people who want to sound like the Hinsons but this family *is* the Hinsons." He is looking forward to more new music from Weston and Christy.

The trio thoroughly enjoys being busy, traveling to their live concerts and being able to communicate their love for the Lord. Weston says his favorite song to perform live is "I'd Rather Have Jesus," because: "It is the anthem of my heart!" Christy likes "He Fixed It For Me" off of the album *Let's Have Some Church*. "I feel it so strongly," says Christy, "And I've seen many lives changed as a result of this God-given song." Jordan comments that her favorites are, "A tie between 'Joy Comes in the Morning' and 'I Never Shall Forget The Day' because it's high energy and I love that style."

Each of the family then shares with us their favorite Bible passages, explaining what these verses mean to them in their personal relationship with the Lord. Jordy says her favorite verse is Proverbs 3:3 "Let love and

faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." (NIV) She adds, "It reminds me of the example I'm supposed to be."

Christy's verse is Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (NIV). She says, "It gives me direction in life when it gets confusing. I know I can always go to the Word of God."

Weston's favorite is Psalm 56:8 "You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?" (NKJV). "I love to know that God cares so much for me that He would keep track of all my sorrows," says Weston.

The loss of Kenny Hinson in 1995 at the age of 41 was huge for the Gospel music industry, but more devastating for the young Weston. However, he and his wife Christy and daughter Jordan have carried on the legacy of his dad with their current ministry. Each of them want their audience to know the strength, hope and love to be found in Christ. "I want them to know that no matter how hard times get...you can still trust in God and He will bring you through 'On The Other Side Of This,'" says Jordan.

"I want people to know that no matter how you walked in, that there's hope in your situation and that Jesus is the answer and hope for your circumstance!" says Christy.

Weston adds, "I want them to remember that God loves them. We're just like everyone else in this world, flaws and all, and if God can use me, He can use you!"

Weston and Christy Hinson are bringing a fresh sound to audiences across the nation, although you might almost think that Kenny is standing backstage. Be sure to hear Weston, Christy and Jordan as they make their own Hinson legacy, through the harmony and message of their sweet brand of Gospel music.

Weston and Christy on the web <http://www.westonand-christyhinson.com/>

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## *“Can You Handle The Truth?”*

**Do You See the Big Picture?**

By David Staton

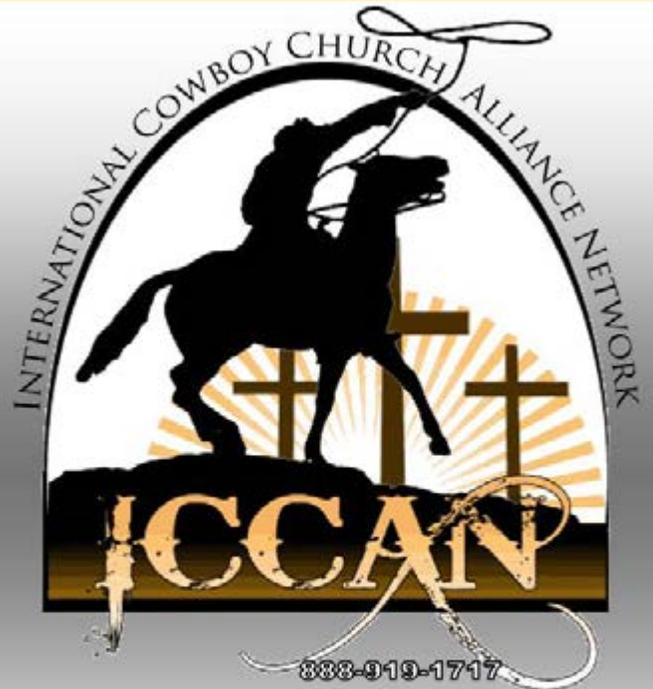
I have been singing Christian music for a long time. I started singing when I was six years old in the mid-1970s. My kids ask me all of the time what it was like in the 1900s. I grew up in a gospel music singing family and started singing with my two older brothers. For the first several years we relied on our parents to pick our music. Learning words and harmony parts was enough work so the last thing on our minds was song selection. We sang in just about every denomination I can think of and as long as I can remember, we never had anyone question or be offended by the lyrics of the songs we sang. My parents understood who we were singing to and they made sure that our songs would connect with everyone. You might think that since its gospel music and the lyrics are

based on scripture, then anything in those 66 books are appropriate topics for songs. Not necessarily. I've heard it said that all of the denominations agree on the entire Bible with the exception of about eight pages. The problem with Christianity today is that we would rather focus on those eight pages rather than unite and work together on the overwhelming majority of things that we all agree on. When I write songs, I stay away from those eight pages that divide the denominations. For example, you will never hear me write or sing a song that deals with the topic of speaking in tongues. Now, I know it would go over great in many Church of God, Assembly of God and Pentecostal churches, but what do I do with that song if I'm singing in a Methodist, Baptist or another type

of church that doesn't believe in or practice speaking in tongues? Eternal security is another topic I would never touch in a song. It would go over great in many Baptist churches, but if I do that song in any other church, chances are I'll either be in the pastor's office explaining my stance on the topic or, more than likely, I'll never be invited back to that church to sing. Now many of you will think this is just common sense, but I see many singers who don't really think about who they are singing to. It has nothing to do with my beliefs on those topics; I just choose to not get into little battles that I'll never win. When I stick to the topics that we all agree on, I find that my music reaches a much wider audience.

I love Billy Graham. For nearly a century, he has preached to millions of people, held thousands of meetings and crusades and is probably the greatest soul winner in the history of mankind. Yet as profound as his messages were, he really only preached on one topic. The cross was the focus of every sermon because it is the most important event in the history of the world. The cross became the altar for the supreme sacrifice for the sins of the world where God gave it all for mankind. It is so simple, yet so complex that Billy Graham has spent his entire life and ministry talking about it. He realized early on what was important and his focus was never shaken. I can't imagine any ministry being more effective with any greater results than Billy Graham. I believe there is a huge lesson to be learned here. The cross is what unites every denomination and is common ground between Protestants and Catholicism. The cross is the symbol of God's love toward us and even though the world may not realize it, it is the very thing they are starving for. That simple, fundamental message became the common ground that united various denominations allowing the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to reach so many. The cross is certainly not the only thing that most all denominations agree on, but it's a great example.

If you are a singer, ask yourself; who is listening to my music and are the songs I sing dividing, uniting, excluding or including the people who are listening? Do I see the big picture when choosing material or am I singing songs that really only appeal to a small group of people? These are some hard questions to ask when evaluating your music and message, but answering them honestly and making adjustments will make you more effective.



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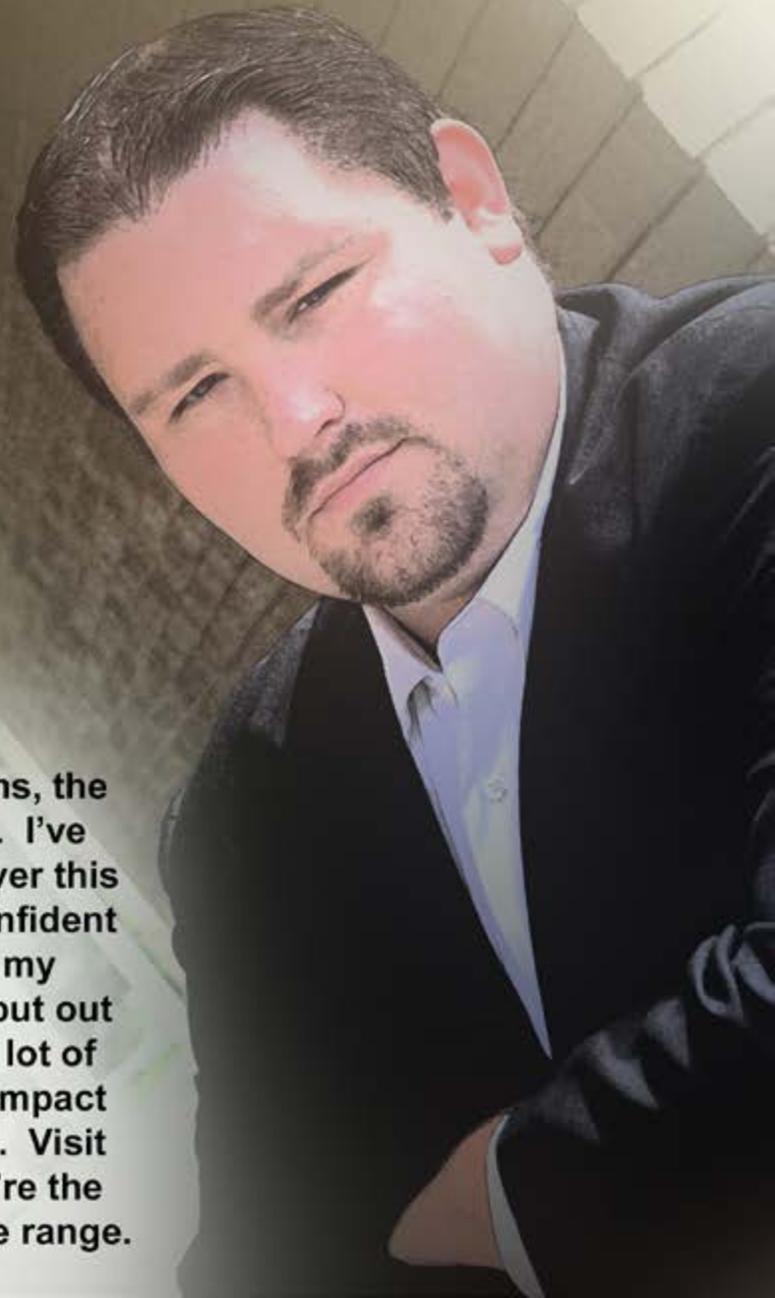
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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

## Mike Rogers

BY ERIN STEVENS

What an honor it was this month to get a sneak peek into the life of the newest baritone with Brian Free & Assurance, Mike Rogers; a 25 year old Christ-follower, husband, daddy, and Gospel singing machine (in that order, as he will proudly tell you). I have no doubt how deeply this heartfelt interview will bless your heart. Mike, take it away!

Erin: At what point in life did you feel the call into ministry?

Mike: I felt the call into ministry about three years ago. It was soon after I lost my job. It was one of the most difficult things I've ever been through. I questioned God a lot during this time. I was a good Christian man, and conducted my life accordingly. I couldn't understand why something like that could happen to me. Looking back now I can see how instrumental this time was in getting me on the path I am on today. It put me in a place where I needed to seek direction. Long story short, I found that sometimes it takes God kicking you out of one door, to prepare you to walk through the next. We don't always understand what's going on at the time, but we can trust that God only wants the best for us. Never would I have dreamt that I'd be traveling the world with one of SG's top groups. After all, I had never sung a note until I was in my 20s. The ultimate point I'd like to get across to anyone reading, is that regardless of your background, circumstance or any other variable in life, never underestimate God's power to move in your life. God took me from being jobless, to giving me a dream and a burning desire to sing, to realizing that dream all in a matter of six months. It doesn't always happen that fast, but God will be faithful. I don't deserve the blessings I've seen in my life the past couple of years. I'm no more deserving than the next person. That's what's so special about God's grace. He works through us and in a lot of cases, in spite of us. The main thing I've found, is that if you trust Him and seek His perfect will to the best of your knowledge and ability, He

WILL give you the desires of your heart.

Erin: As you cover thousands of miles every year, what are some key reasons why you love being a 'roadie'?

Mike: I love to travel. I have a really hard time sitting still. Ed O'Neal used to get a kick out of my need to stay busy. A famous quote from Ed: "Hey buddy, why don't you just be still for a minute and watch Fox News with me for one hour. It would bless ya." (in my best ED voice) Ha! I also get to meet so many sweet people. I want to help make a difference in peoples' lives. If it weren't for the call to minister to people, I'd stay home.



Erin: How do you personally juggle being a husband, daddy and BFA's baritone all at the same time?

Mike: It can be difficult at times. I'm thankful to have a boss that respects our families. We aren't gone from home as much as most groups. We have a busy schedule, but it's not over the top. We travel half the week and we are home the other half as often as possible. Quality time is key with the family.

Erin: What is the Scripture you strive most to live by? Why?

Mike: Phil 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I'm a very anxious person at heart. It's easy for me to be impatient and try to rush God. I'm a "go getter" kinda guy, so I'm always looking to advance, or come up with ideas. So much to accomplish with so little time! I daily remind myself of this scripture, take a big deep breath, relax and trust God. He's got everything under control.

Erin: Always an important question to ask, what's your favorite food?

Mike: STEAK and SEAFOOD! I prefer everything grilled. From a taste standpoint as well as physical. Which is good, because I have to fit in a suit, ha!

Erin: Is there a particular concert that stands out to you as having a profound impact on your life? Why?

Mike: Everybody in Gospel music wants to sing on the NQC main stage at some point in their career. I got to do that, as well as share the stage with one of the guys that kinda drew me into SG (Jason Crabb). If it weren't for voices and styles from artists like Jason, Mike English, Marshall Hall, etc; I probably wouldn't know that SG exists. I'm a contemporary guy in a SG world!

Erin: Who do you find yourself hanging out with most on the bus?

Mike: Bill. We are cut from the same mold! We ain't even a little bit right.

Erin: What is the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

Mike: Wow, that's a great question! "What do y'all actually do for a living? Is this your real job?" "Where is Derrick Selph? I like you a lot but I miss Derrick." "Do y'all live on that bus?" "Are those CD's free?" "Is that your real hair?" "Do you lay in the tanning bed?" "Do you have a dog?" "What's your dog's name?" "Is Brian Free nice?" "Will you marry me?" "How much do you bench press?" And the list goes on and on.

Erin: What was the studio process like while working on "Unashamed?" Also, what are some highlights you took away from those recording sessions?

Mike: This will be my first project ever to be released. Needless to say, I'm pretty pumped! As far as the process, I thought I was going to have to kill somebody! (Can I get away with saying that?) It's a long, drawn out, monotonous process. Ricky Free is a beast producer. He knows what he wants, and he doesn't settle for any less than perfect. I strongly disliked that, and appreciated that about him all at the same time. The vocals aren't right unless they are sung perfectly. "It'll tune" is an irrelevant statement in the BFA recording experience. Some of the highlights? I sing with whom I consider to be the best singers in all of Gospel music.

Erin: Which song off the new album means the most to you? And why?

Mike: It would have to be "Say Amen." "If there's anybody here who's found Him faithful, anybody here who knows He's able, say 'amen.' If there's anybody here who's seen His power, anybody here brought through the fire, say 'amen.' Anybody here found joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the storm, hope for tomorrow, and you've seen it time and time again. Just say 'amen'." What more is there to say? AMEN!

Erin: How has your walk with Christ helped you continue to be an encouraging example to people week in and week out?

Mike: I couldn't continue to do what I do without a relationship with Christ. It's easy to burn out and go through the motions. Seeking a personal relationship with Christ on a daily basis keeps me focused on why I'm out here doing what we do. To love on others just like He loves on us. We all have the opportunity to show God's love in practical ways. Always let your stage be an altar. We all have a 'stage,' whether it be at school or your job at Walmart. Your life is your platform/stage and we are all called to use that platform to be a light in a broken world.

What more could I honestly add to that? Wow! Mike, thanks for making my job so easy this month. What a treat for all the readers to get to know you a little better. Until next month, Scoops fans...

*And that's my take on it.*

# Featured Groups for March

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**Four The Cross**

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**Full Life Trio**

<http://www.fulllifetrio.com>

**Gospel Messengers**

<http://www.gospelmessengersministries.org>

**Hearts Desire**

<http://www.heartsdesireministries.com>

**The Helmsmen**

<http://www.thenewhelmsmen.com>

**The Heritage Quartet**

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**The Inmans**

<http://www.theinmans.com>

**Jim Sheldon**

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

**John & Dody Martin**

<http://www.martinministries.org>

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<http://www.thelefevrequartet.com>

**Living Fountains**

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

**Lumber River Quartet**

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**The Masters Men + 1**

<http://www.mastersmenquartet.com>

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**MercySong**

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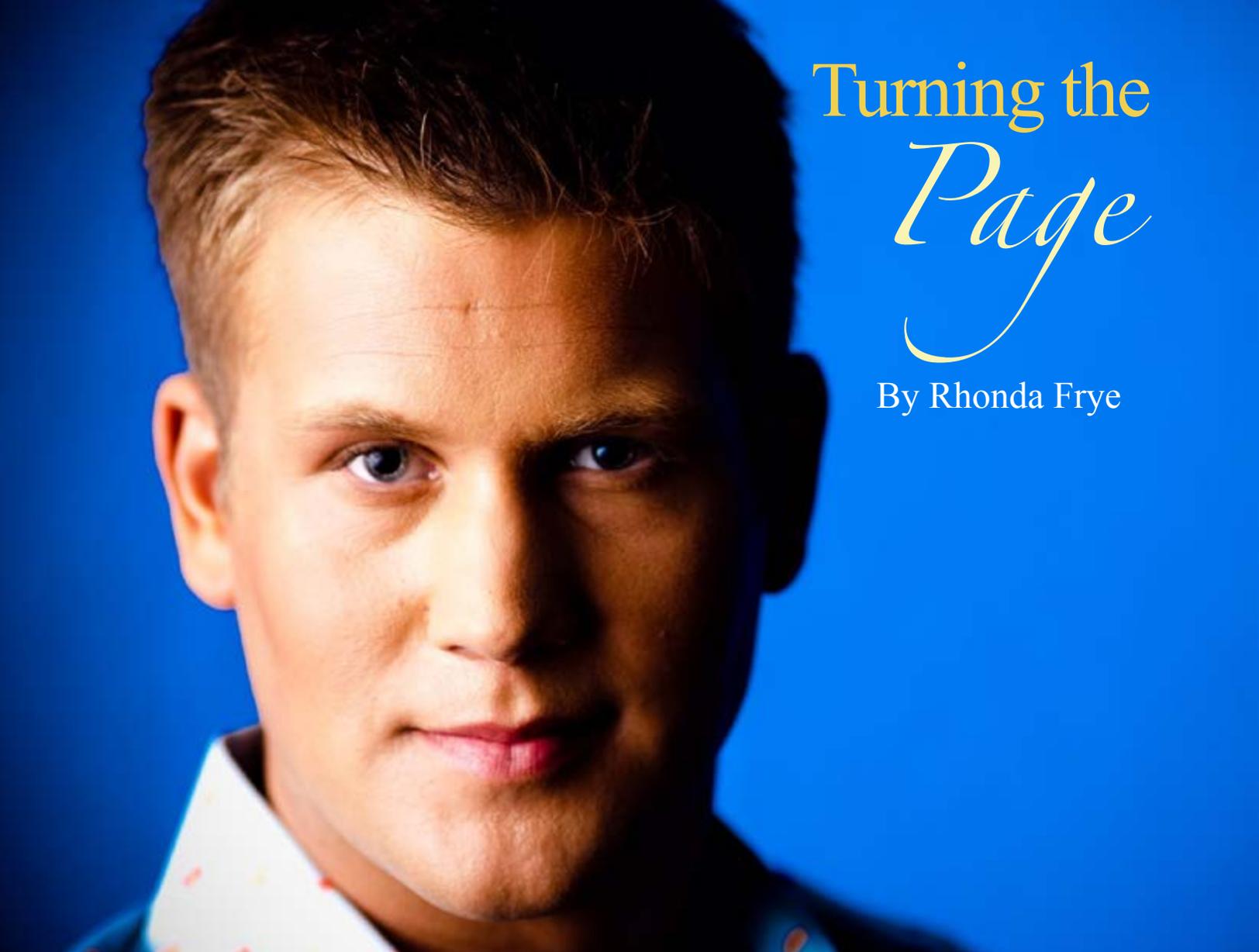
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# Turning the *Page*

By Rhonda Frye

“JOSEPH HABEDANK ANNOUNCES SOLO MINISTRY” was headline news at Southern Gospel news outlets on February 3, 2014. With the support of his wife and many friends, Joseph Habedank turned the page starting a new chapter of life. This new chapter is a solo ministry complete with a recording package with Daywind Records as well as booking agreement with the Dominion Agency.

The chapter may be new, however the book is not. Joseph Habedank’s life is a powerful testimony of Jeremiah 29:11 and Psalm 139. There is no doubt; before Joseph Habedank was born, God had a plan – a good plan! Even while in the womb, Joseph was created to sing for God’s glory. God formed his voice to be one of the smoothest, most pure, and pleasant voices to carry His message in song. The evidence of God’s handiwork appeared before Joseph’s first birthday and it is a blessing to watch God continue to write on the pages of his life.

“I started singing with my family in 1990 when I was five,” Joseph tells, “but Mom says she would play notes on the piano when I was just 11 months old and I would hum

them back to her, so I guess you could say I’ve been singing all my life. I remember singing at First Baptist Church in Forest, Ohio when I was four or five with my two younger brothers. We sang the old Hemphill’s song, ‘He’s Still Working On Me.’”

Influenced by groups such as Greater Vision, Gold City and the Cathedrals, the love for gospel music took root in Joseph’s heart in the early years. Not only were seeds growing in the area of singing, but also an interest in songwriting bloomed. “When I was about seven or eight, I had a binder full of clear page protectors, and I can vaguely remember having probably 50 sheets of paper in there with songs I had written,” Joseph explains. “My mom is a songwriter and has been for the entirety of my life so I guess that came as natural to me as singing did at some point.”

Packed with a love for music and equipped with talent, Joseph yielded his will and then was ready for God’s service. “I was at Camp Victory in Somerset, Kentucky and all of my buddies were surrendering to preach,” Joseph recalled. “I remember asking God to let me preach if that is what He wanted for my life, and I can vividly remember Him saying,

‘No, I want you to sing.’ It was then that I knew this is what God wanted me to do with my life.”

From 1990 to 2002, Joseph sang with his family, the Sandlins and then sang as a soloist. Around 2002, Habedank kicked off his professional career. “I won the talent competition at the Crabb Family’s homecoming,” Joseph explains, “and the winner was awarded studio time at Daywind Studios. It was that CD that Tracy Stuffle heard before hiring me. Ironically, Daywind is my record label to this day and



has been for the entirety of my Gospel Music career.”

During his time with the Perrys, Joseph Habedank grew professionally and in popularity. In 2009 he was voted “Young Artist of the Year” by readers of *SINGING NEWS MAGAZINE* and in 2011, he was awarded “Songwriter of the Year” by Absolutely Gospel. Habedank’s songs have been recorded by artists such as Brian Free & Assurance, Karen Peck & New River, The Hoppers, The Kingsmen, Jeff & Sheri Easter, The Kingdom Heirs, Triumphant Quartet, Gold City and more. In 2010, “If You Knew Him,” written with Rodney Griffin, was nominated for Southern Gospel Song

of the Year at the GMA Dove Awards and won the Singing News Fan Award for Song of the Year. Habedank also collected numerous nominations including *SINGING NEWS MAGAZINE*’S Male Vocalist of the Year, Lead Singer of the Year and Songwriter of the Year for three straight years.

Over the last few months, Joseph has been working on a new solo project. “I am so excited about my first mainline album with Daywind,” Joseph shares. “*WELCOME HOME* will include 10 or 11 brand new songs that I wrote or co-wrote and they are probably my favorite collection of songs that I’ve ever been a part of. I cannot wait to share these songs! I have been wanting to record this particular album for years and it is such an answer to prayer to finally get to see it all coming to life. I can’t wait for everyone to hear it because I think it has a lot of songs that go hand-in-hand with the mission of my ministry.”

*WELCOME HOME* releases later this summer and includes a few surprise vocal guests. Stylistically, Joseph says he won’t stray too far from his southern gospel roots, but most likely this recording will not be *as traditional* musically. Joseph likes to call it *Jesus Music* or *Church Music*. “I feel the message in this block of songs is as strong as anything I could say, though,” he adds.

There is good news for fans waiting on the new record. “Daywind Records is also releasing an album called *TEN* featuring 10 songs that I wrote and sang during my 10-year tenure with the Perrys, Joseph tells. “It will be available at our concerts beginning in March. And also, I have one more new album to tell you about— *THE DEMO SESSIONS* which can only be purchased at our concerts. It is a CD comprised of 10 familiar songs recorded by some of your favorite artists, but it’s not them singing the songs, it is me singing them as the writer. The listener gets to hear what the artist heard before they decided to record the song. My wife, Lindsay, had the idea for this album; and since she’s the intelligent one in our house, I listened,” he adds with a smile.

The solo concerts are going extremely well. Joseph says that being on the stage all alone can be a little uncomfortable or nerve-racking at times, but he loves putting programs together. He also says the Lord is blessing their efforts and he was thrilled to see a teenage girl accept Christ recently.

A typical concert with Joseph Habedank is planned thoughtfully. “I like to think we are very ministry minded, he explains. “Not a lot of show, just me singing my songs and sharing my heart. I tried for years to be something I’m not because I didn’t love the person that I was. When I finally found who I am in Christ, that all changed and it is a priceless gift that I will always cherish.”

Joseph went on to say the purpose for the solo ministry is simple. “I just want to help people. Not too long ago, I was at a point in my life when I would sit in a pew and, in my heart, I was begging for someone to help me--whether it be

in song or in sermon, I needed hope,” he admits. “Unfortunately, there isn’t as much substance in the Christian music industry as there should be, or even in the church sometimes for that matter,” he continues. “It challenged and convicted me to start a ministry geared towards helping people when they are at their lowest. Not because of anything that I’ve done, but because of the work that Jesus has done in me. It also challenged me in my writing to no longer write *fluff* just for the sake of having a fast song or a filler song for an album. There has to be substance for me to completely invest myself into the vision of the song.”

Joseph’s songwriting schedule stays busy. He enjoys writing with Tony Wood, Matthew Holt, Sue Smith, Dave Clark, Michael Farren, his wife, Lindsay and many others. This past fall, he shared his songwriting experience with attendees of Sue Smith’s “Write About Jesus” songwriter’s workshop. When giving aspiring songwriters advice he says, “Always write with emotion and heart. It is important to be a great technical writer, but when you lose the emotion, you lose the real purpose of the song and the message in it.”

Joseph says one of his favorite songs was penned in an unlikely place. “I wrote one of my favorite songs I’ve ever written in a car with Matthew Holt in a Kohl’s parking lot. The song is “Mary’s Wish,” which was later recorded by Ivan Parker.”

Technically, this new ministry of Joseph’s is referred to as a *solo* ministry, but Habedank certainly isn’t in this endeavor alone. Joseph’s drop-dead gorgeous wife of nearly four years backs her drop-dead gorgeous husband, 100 percent! This strikingly beautiful couple is walking through this opened door hand in hand. “Lindsay is, by far, the greatest thing that has ever happened to me outside of Jesus and she supports me in any and every way possible,” Joseph says. “She travels with me most of the time now and I wouldn’t trade these times for all the money in the world. She is also singing a song on my set when she comes out with me. Needless to say, the people love her and ask for her CD when approaching the product table... not mine.”

When the Habedanks aren’t working at the new ministry, they lead a quiet life at home. “We are pretty low maintenance,” Joseph grins. “We love to just relax, watch TV, and laugh. We are boring and fun all the same time, I like to say. We do, however, enjoy a good date night about once a week or so.” Also in their down-time, Joseph admits he is the biggest Green Bay Packers fan ever and he loves playing Rook.

Joseph draws strength from the Lord to carry out this new chapter of his life. He says God is teaching him new things. “Humility and patience are the two biggest things I’m learning and those can be two of the hardest things to learn or experience,” he explains. “However, I am grateful for this journey and I am at the point in my life where I truly try to cherish every lesson the Lord is teaching me. He has been so

gracious to me. I feel Him closer these days - more than ever before and I wouldn’t trade that for any measure of success or accomplishment.”

Joseph is also leaning on the written Word of God. “Lindsay and I read the Bible every night before we go to bed and these two particular scriptures have greatly ministered to me in recent weeks regarding my ministry. First, 2 Timothy 1:9 (KJV) ‘Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.’ And also, 2 Timothy 4:5 (KJV) ‘But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.’”

Joseph and Lindsay’s home church provides fellowship and support as they continue to grow in Christ. “Lindsay and I searched for a home church in the Nashville area for literally years. It wasn’t until we walked through probably the darkest time in our lives that we found Pastor Dan Scott and Christ Church Nashville and realized that was where the Lord wanted us,” he shares. “This church has ministered to us more in the last year than most any congregation has. We love our pastor; we love our choir; we love our church. It isn’t perfect, but we aren’t either so we fit in perfectly. It is a large church so we aren’t as involved as we are used to being in our respective home churches; however, I am very excited about singing with our church choir in a few weeks.”

As Joseph Habedank turns the page, he says his heart’s desire is just to point people to Christ and be the best person he can possibly be. “Above all, I just want to help people see Jesus. I want to be a better husband, a better man, and to draw as close to Jesus as I possibly can.”

It is awesome to know that God grants the desires of hearts when they line up with His will. It is His will that Joseph Habedank Ministries will lead people into the arms of God and it is His will for Joseph to be the kind of man that is like his Son, Jesus. The best news is, God is faithful and will complete the good work He started in Joseph. Philippians 1:6 says, “Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

At SGNScoops, we will continue to report the good news happening in the ministry of Joseph Habedank as the chapters continue to unfold. Also, for more information about this ministry, music and schedule, visit <http://www.josephhabedank.com/>.



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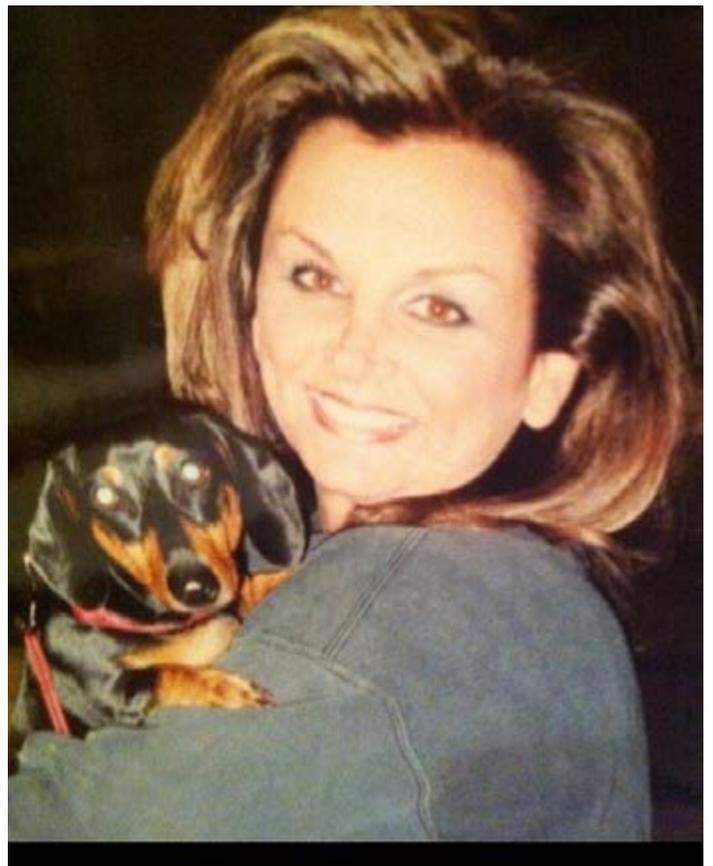
# Life's Up's & Downs

By Kelly Nelon Clark



Twists and turns and up and downs keep our lives spinning around. Life is so unpredictable that you never know what is coming next.

My little 10 year old Simon died on Oct 16, 2012. We had him (dachshund) from the time he was 6 weeks old. He brought such joy to our family. We dressed him in all kinds of outfits and treated him like he was a little baby doll. It was our first pet in our family. Jason brought him home for Christmas to the girls and we wrapped up toys and little clothes making them think it was for a baby. It was a baby alright a little black dachshund. They screamed when they saw him. Simon, as we named him, came to us after some great tragedies such as the loss of my parents and my grandmother. When it seemed like there was sadness everywhere around us, this little black bundle of joy came in and stole our hearts. I know there are people who might say, "Oh wow- get a life it's just a dog." I understand that because I was one, but then when it happens to you and the love fills your heart you act as crazy as the ones you thought crazy. I can remember holding Simon and crying over the loss of my parents and he just loved



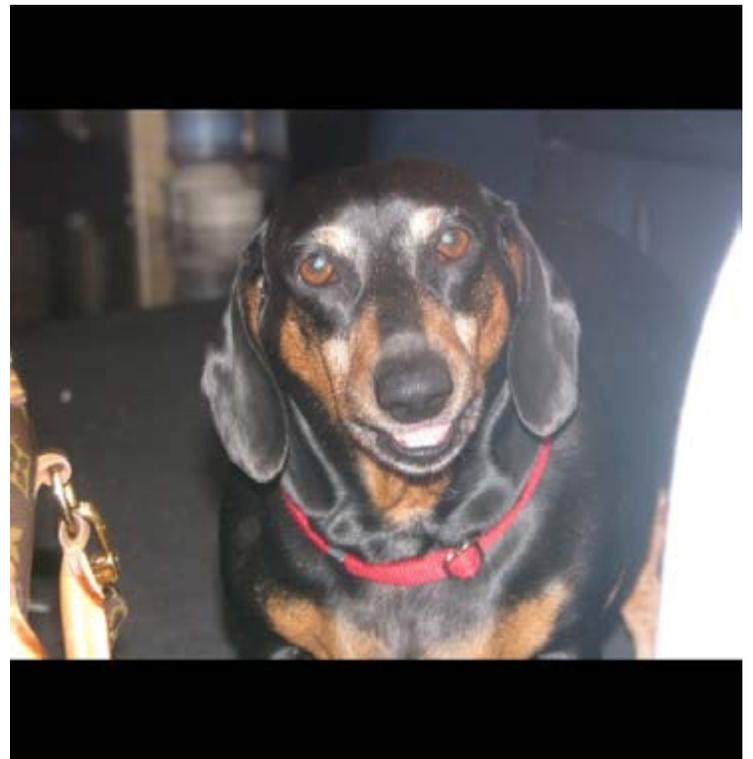
unconditionally. Yes it may seem childish but when you lose both of your parents in a short period of time, you feel a little like an orphan even as an adult. Having something to love and care for made things so much easier.

I still don't get why life has to end. I just wish we could all live happily ever after till Jesus comes. I guess to everything there is a season. It was heart wrenching for our family to go to the animal hospital and one by one hug and pet Simon and say goodbye. He just sat up looked at us like, when are we going home? It was like a depressing movie. I hated seeing my girls cry once again over losing something. I think what I hated the most was how it affected Jason. He was heartbroken and cried most of the night that night. He probably wouldn't want you to know that. We all cried, you could hear sniffing in the bunks up and down the hall of the bus. Simon loved all of us so much and we loved him.

Night is when I begin to think of these things. I'm glad night only lasts for a while. Day comes with new things in store for all of us. I guess we must be thankful for all of the wonderful memories we have and make each day that we live count for good things! Life will have its



ups and downs but we can live with great assurance that we can get through anything with the Lord's help!





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# Ozark Gospel Music Convention

By Jonathan Edwards

Branson in May is a beautiful place to be, with great weather and all new shows in the 57 theatres that line Highway 76, including Silver Dollar City and Sight and Sound. To top it off, some of the best artists in Gospel music are coming to take part in the Ozark Gospel Music Convention at the Stone Castle Conference center. This three-day event is perfect for the southern gospel music fans who want to hear the best in Gospel Music with plenty of time to shop, fish and enjoy the beauty of the Ozarks. I am a little partial since I am blessed enough to call this place my home.

Let me tell you a few reasons why you should come visit Branson during the Ozark Gospel Music Convention. First, let me say Branson has some of the best shopping anywhere with over 200 stores including the Tanger Outlet Malls and the beautiful Branson Landing; plus you have the one of kind store, 'Dick's Five and Dime.' There are several great places to enjoy the home-style cooking of the Ozarks, with 412 restaurants from McFarland's to Cakes and Crèmes, and everyone favorite dessert place,

Andy's Frozen Yogurt.

For those who want to get back to nature, you also have access to two beautiful lakes at Table Rock and Lake Taneycomo. You can enjoy fishing, camping, biking and hiking. Just ask me about my favorite fishing holes and I'll let you know where to catch the big ones!

Branson is easy to reach, with the Springfield/Branson National Airport less than 45 miles away. If you are driving in, US Highway 65 is the main route to Branson, a scenic road through the beautiful Missouri landscape. They say that Branson is within a day's drive of more than half the country's population, so there is no excuse for not joining us!

The best thing about the Ozark Gospel Music Convention is that you have time to experience all of Branson and still not miss a minute of the great Gospel music that will take place at the Stone Castle Conference Center. Here is a quick rundown of what you will get when coming to the Convention:

We will kick things off on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>,

2014 at 1:00pm with the Branson Entertainers Showcase hosted by Doug Gabriel. Branson truly is the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World" and this event will display some of the greatest Branson entertainers doing what they do best, including Barbara Fairchild, Clayton Watson, Barney Fife (Michael J.) and many other Branson performers. That evening we will get the songs started at 6:00 pm including music from Omega, The Williamsons, Faith's Journey and many more. Our special addition to the evening will be the honoring St. Louis' first family of Gospel music, The Lesters.



Rob Patz, SGN Scoops Magazine publisher and a partner in presenting the Ozark Gospel Music Convention, is especially looking forward to the tribute to The Lesters. "I've always admired the legacy of The Lesters," says Patz. "They are a family with a true heart for ministry and they love Southern Gospel music. I know the guests attending the Convention will enjoy this first evening as we honor The Lesters. Other artists performing during the week will present their very best music, from the most current quartets to wonderful soloists and everything in between. This is going to be a terrific retreat filled with music, relax-

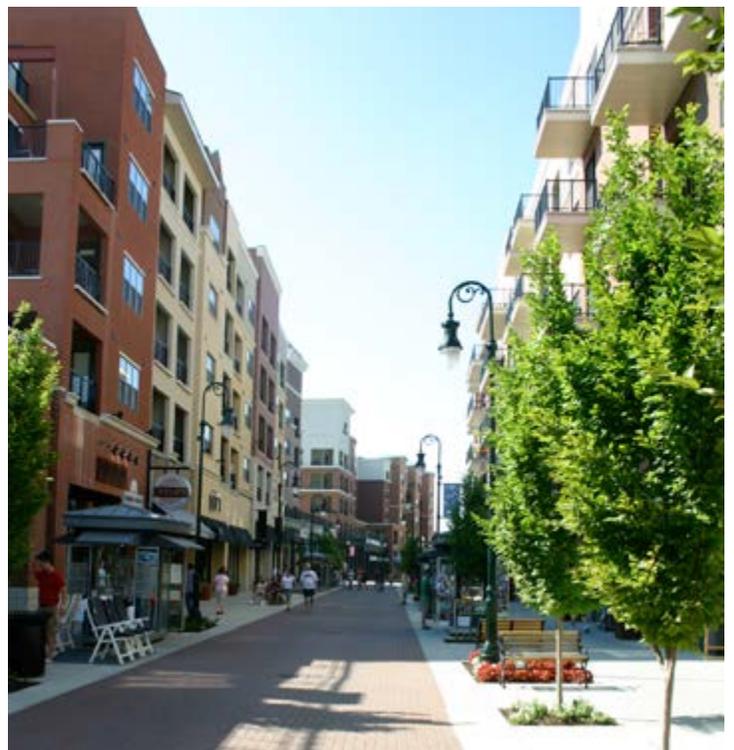


ing accommodations, and my personal favorite – shopping! I hope you will join us!"

On Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have chapel at 9:30 am, with Pastor Hosea Bilyeu of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri. After chapel you will be able to experience a great afternoon enjoying Branson or the nearby lakes. On Tuesday night, we will get started at 6:00pm with music from Jericho Junction, Lindsay Huggins, The Pacesetters and many others. Tuesday night will also offer you the chance to be a part of a special Sing Along Late Night Breakfast which will feature some *scrap iron groups* as well as your chance to sing with your favorite group.

On Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup>, we get things started off at 9:30 am with Bruce Hayes, Pastor of New Life Temple in Hollister. Bruce is a great preacher, singer and songwriter. He also performs nightly at the Presleys' Country Jubilee one of the original shows in Branson. Wednesday night we will have more music starting at 6:00pm and we will wrap up the event with a Tribute To Our Troops, a special presentation called "Heroes."

These are just some of the reasons to come be a part of this great event. Ava Kasich singer and partner in the Ozark Gospel Convention



said recently, "I am so honored to be involved in the Ozark Gospel Music Convention. It is truly a privilege to work with such individuals as Donnie Williamson, Rob Patz and Jonathan Edwards. I love working with Christian people who want to do the same as me, and that is lifting up the name of Jesus in all that we do. I am so looking forward to all the great artists that will be a part of this convention. I know this will be an inspiring, Spirit-filled, and uplifting event. You don't want to miss this one! I look forward to seeing you there!

So make your plans to join me and hundreds of artists and fans today! Visit the [www.ozark-gospelmusicconvention.com](http://www.ozark-gospelmusicconvention.com) to get your free tickets today. I look forward to seeing you in my hometown May 5-7.<sup>th</sup> Until next time, see you at the house.

*Photos Courtesy of Joshua Heston,*

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# Miss Whatcom County

By Erica Scevers



Your Miss Whatcom County 2013 is.... Erica Scevers. It's absolutely amazing how so few words could impact my life in such an unexpected way. A few years ago if you would have told me that I would be competing in pageant, I would have thought you were crazy. I was not your every day run of the mill pageant girl. I was not a classically trained vocalist or been in dance lessons since I was 5 years old. But most importantly I lacked the key factor in pageantry, confidence. Since as far back as I can remember I struggled with

low self esteem, not believing in myself or abilities and letting fear be the controlling factor in my life. I spent too much time worrying about what others thought of me, and became so insecure that I let my life slip out right from underneath me. This journey has not always been easy one. It has consisted of countless ups and downs, tears, smiles and laughter. I wouldn't trade it for the world; it's helped make me the woman I am today.

My journey began in the fall 2011 when I



decided leap out of my comfort zone and submit an application to the Miss Whatcom County Program. The rest you could say is history. I entered the program not having any idea what I was doing or what to expect. After months of preparation I began to fall in love with a program that promoted a life of service and confidence. It's hard to put into words my exact feeling, but I just felt as if I belonged there. Pageant day was drawing near and I was feeling ready to take the role of Miss Whatcom County 2012. When my name wasn't called out, I was devastated. I prayed about this, I worked so hard and for nothing. How does this even make since? After some time had passed, I finally began to grasp the concept that the plan that you choose for yourself might not be what God has in store for you. So with faith, I decided to give it another shot.

I was more determined than ever to come back the next year, work twice as hard and give it everything I had. But I decided to approach this next year a little differently. Instead of putting so much pressure on myself to be perfect, I made the decision to just be myself

and have fun. I guess it worked, that shiny crown was pinned on my head and I was blessed with the job of a lifetime. My main goal as Miss Whatcom County was to inspire other young girls who like myself, never imagined they would ever have the faith to see themselves as something more. I wanted to encourage them to believe in their dreams no matter how big or small. I fully believe that God has put me in this position to speak into the lives of others dealing with similar situations.

I received a call the morning after I was crowned. My grandfather who lived in Oregon called to congratulate me on winning. It was not typical for my grandfather to call early on a Sunday morning. Being that he was a preacher for over 57 years, Sunday morning were usually very busy. This call however was special; it was the last time I got to hear his voice. I remember being in absolute shock. As memories began to flood my mind, one stuck out in particular. My grandfather ran a program called County Gospel Time, where local and national musicians would come and perform. He always called me "my Erica my Miss America that will one day sing on our show." My grandfather was what I could consider a *real cowboy* so it was only fitting for him to have a show that brought out his western roots. At the time I laughed it off, who would have know that someday day in my distant future I would have particated in pageants. So here I was having all this great and wonderful stuff about to happen and I lose my two biggest encouragers with eight months of each other. I lost my grandpa John in July and now my Grandpa Scevers. My entire family is very close always have been and always will be. It was hard to imagine them both not being there as I competed. I wanted them to somehow be part of this journey. So I took an old dress shirt from each of their closets and cut out small hearts. I pinned each heart to the inside of every outfit I used for competition. It was just a little reminder that even though they don't get to be in the audience, they are tucked away in my heart.

The next step was Miss Washington. After letting that sink in for a few weeks, I hit the ground running. The night before I left I remember kneeling beside my bed praying out to God. "God I want your plan for my life whether that means walking away with the Miss Washington crown or walking away empty handed. I trust you completely, my life is yours. As I wiped a tear from my eye, a vivid picture of the past few months flashed before me. This is real, this is really happening. Tomorrow I am about to embark on an experience

of a lifetime. I was excited for the week ahead of me because I knew that I will have my number one cheerleader by my side the entire time.

Miss Washington week; the most fast paced, overwhelming, exciting, stressful and fun weeks I have ever experienced. All 22 contestants were bussed here and there. Making appearances as a group and spending hours working on production. Stepping foot on a stage is not always the easiest thing to do. If only you could heard the beating of my heart and felt the tingling in my fingers. I remember like it was yesterday, saying over and over in my head “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength” each time I came out on stage.



I'll be the first to admit that I don't like disappointment, it hurts when you have worked so hard for so long and you feel as if you get nothing in return. When my name didn't get called out for making the top ten I felt as if a piece of my heart had broken off. I wanted this so bad, this is my dream. I prayed, I asked God.

Packing up my dressing room back stage an overwhelming wave of defeat, sadness and self doubt began to creep its way back into my mind. But then, I glanced over to the corner of my station and saw the two pictures I had brought with me back stage. In a shiny sliver frame a picture of my Grandpa John and I at my first pageant and a second picture of my favorite



verse Philippians 4:13. It has almost been a year since my grandfather had gone to be with Jesus. I thought back to a conversation we shared after I competed in my first pageant and didn't win. He looked at me with a tear in his eye and deep sincerity in his voice “Im really proud of the young women you have become”. I realized that what I have accomplished is actually a big deal for me. The self conscious sacred little girl didn't have to be my identity anymore. Just being here, competing was incredible and something I never thought I would be able to do.

It took me a long time to realize that the biggest obstacle standing in my way was me. I let doubt and fear of defeat keep me from living the life I wanted to live. Give up when the going got tough, because I didn't want others to see me fail. What I have learned over the past few years is that sometime you gain a lot more from “losing then from winning. More often than not it's about the process leading up to the end result that matters the most. I might not have won the Miss Washington crown, but I won memories that will last a lifetime, amazing friendships and the ability to see myself in a different light. I always thought that in order to be Miss America you had to be this chosen special type of person who was perfect. When in reality you just have to be yourself and let your inner beauty shine through in every aspect of competition.

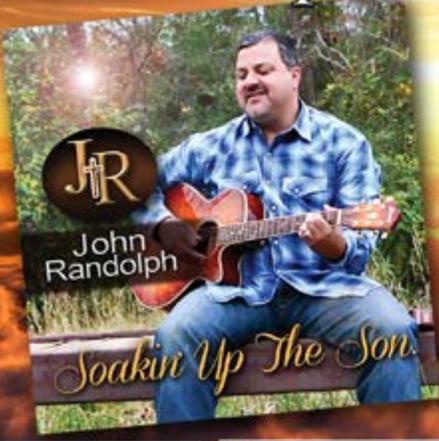
The Miss America program is not about getting



a child's face light up with excitement because they got to meet a princess makes it all worth it. Never in a million years would I have expected to be where I am at today. Every day I walk up extremely grateful for the opportunities I have been given. I thank God for giving me the courage I need to pursue my dreams and for believing in me when I didn't have the strength to believe in myself. I don't know if I will ever get the chance to walk across that historic Miss America stage. What I do know is that God has a plan and a purpose for my life. I am very excited for this new chapter ahead me. I might be closing one door as I prepare to pass my crown to the next young women but I have feeling that this is only the beginning of what is to come.

to wear a sparkly crown or a sash. It's about an opportunity to reach out in ways you have never expected, a sisterhood dedicated to making a difference in our communities. My favorite part of this program is being the reason someone smiles. Walking into a room and seeing

# John JR Randolph



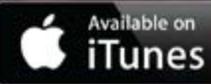
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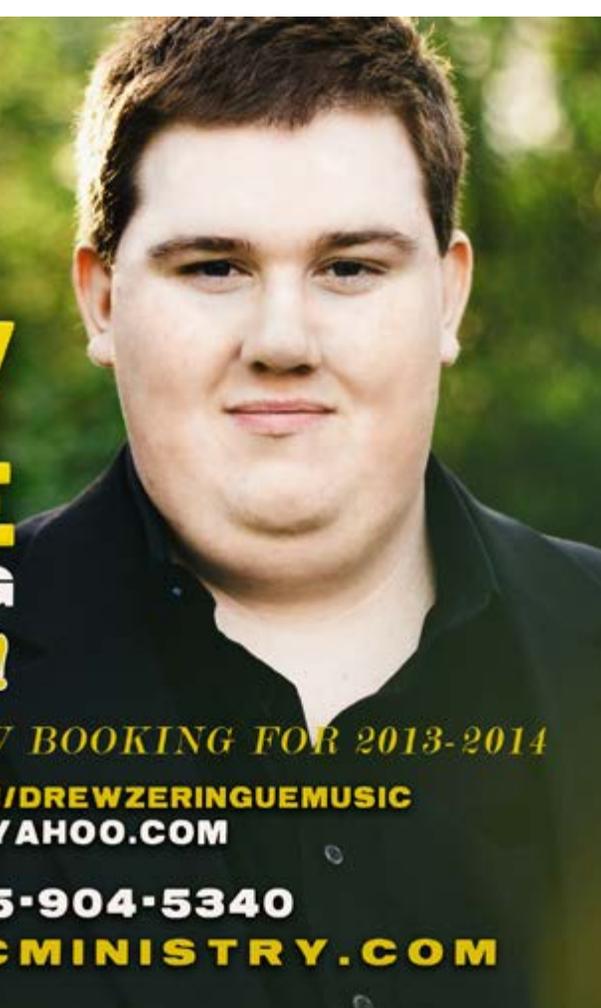
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# The Ministry of *David Timms*

By Rhonda Frye



It's with great pleasure to present the ministry of David Timms to our readers this month. David is just one of those people that seems to always have a smile on his face and is ready to extend a helping hand. His smooth country voice is as big as he is- and that's saying a lot- He's a tall *fella!* But his love for God and love for people radiates from his countenance as he shares the gospel through song. It was a blessing to catch up with David to get the scoop on the latest happenings in his ministry as well as the latest news about an exciting event coming up in March.

David loved music as a child and grew up listening to the Hinsons, Paynes and some George Jones. By the time he was 13 years old he had started singing, and by the time he turned 21 he knew for sure God had called him into the ministry. As David matured in the faith he had a burning desire to do more for God. Approximately 10 years ago with the Lord's help, David formed the group "Heaven's Highway." With a progressive or modern country sound and love for God, Heaven's Highway impressed crowds with their music and changed hearts and lives with its message.

"We started out singing as a family group just ministering in church and it just grew bigger," David shared. "We

were really touching lives, so we just let God use us." Heaven's Highway grew in popularity with songs such as "You Did It Again," "Longing To Go," which was their first top 40 hit, "Back On The Top Again" and "Set Me Free From Me." During the Heaven's Highway tenure, they were nominated for two Diamond Awards and also named a "Group To Look For" in 2010.

Although Heaven's Highway has disbanded, the group is thrilled about getting together on March 22, 2014 in Mooresville Mississippi for a special reunion concert. "We are really excited about getting back together for this special night," David said. "It's going to be an evening of energy, praising the Lord and just a time of having fun with old-time Southern Gospel singing!" The concert will take place at the Living Waters Community Church and starts at 6:00pm. Special guests will include SGNScoops, Ben and Sharon Brown along with former members of Heaven's Highway, Marty Rock, Becky Jones, Sharon Brown, and Jerry Taylor. "We had some great times singing together, for sure," David remarked. "One of my favorite performances was singing with Naomi and the Segos at the Promise Land. During our time together, God took us down paths I never thought was possible. He blessed me with working with others that truly loved

ministry and truly loved the Lord. Our reunion concert is going to be a great night of singing together again, and I want to personally invite everyone to come on out for a great night.”



David Timms stays busy all year long with singing and other activities that go along with solo ministry. “I enjoy doing anything with music and spreading the gospel,” Timms explained. “I do some recording, producing, solo concerts, church ministry and some preaching. I really love preaching and singing. I’m open to ministering in whatever way God sees fit whether that singing or preaching or both. You just never know what God has in store at the next venue.”



Timms released a new single on Patterson Promotions Disc, Volume 13 called “When I’m With You,” written

by Ann Downing and is currently working on a new solo project. The Inspirational Country CD should be ready by this summer.

An interview wouldn’t be complete without asking a few personal questions. When asked who his current musical heroes are, David replied, “Gerald Crabb, the Freemans and James Payne.” He also said that he likes to have fun playing basketball, softball and hanging out with friends in his personal time.

When asked what the Lord is teaching him currently these days David responded, “He’s teaching me to really listen closely and carefully to what He is leading me to do. And He’s teaching me about waiting on Him.” David also mentioned that he and his beautiful wife of 19 years, Amanda and children Austin, Laken and Dathan enjoy the outdoors and also like to play card games.



With a voice that is balanced with both power and a pleasant clarity appeal, it’s easy to listen to David’s music over and over again. His vocal tones are rich, and warm as is his personality. His love for the Lord and His people is sincere and his zeal to reach the lost with the gospel is passionate. With great vocal and musical skills and a calling to sing and preach the gospel, David Timms is equipped to reach others with music and through the preaching of the Word. “My burning desire more than anything else is to reach the lost,” David says, “and to lift up, encourage and motivate God’s people to go forth and to conquer.”

For more information about David Timms visit <http://davidtimmsmusic.com/>.



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# Mark Trammell Quartet Concert Review

By Vivail Belknap



Texas Gospel Music Hall in Athens, Texas was the setting for The Mark Trammell Quartet, February 15, 2014. Thank you Kenneth and Frances Fulton for allowing KKGW to be present and enjoy the wonderful ministry of Mark Trammell.

Mark Trammell has been in full time ministry for 40 years. This energetic group consists of Mark Trammell, baritone, Nick Trammell, lead, Dustin Black, tenor and Pat Barker, bass. Mark wove humor between the introductions of each member of the group; even talking about how the “Yankee” has now learned to love tomato sandwiches and sweet tea!



We heard the great classic song, “How Long Has It Been” and one of their newer songs, “Ransomed and Redeemed.” Even before the concert, Mark was taking requests, two of which were “Echoes From the Burning Bush” and “Wedding Music,” a wonderful Phil Cross song.



Mark introduced their newest project, “Your Walk Talks”; and from that album we heard “Don’t Stop Running” written by Nick Trammell, “God’s Been Faithful,” Mark’s personal favorite. And we also heard the

title cut “Your Walk Talks.” Purchase the album for all of the songs, but especially for “Your Walk Talks” for the message in the song, “your walk walks and your talk talks, but your walk talks more than your talk talks.”



The audience came to their feet as the quartet sang “Wonderful Time Up There” and “Shouting on the Hills of Glory.” They sang it for the second time, and the audience was on their feet again! Referring to the heavy bass lead, Mark said George Younce was right when he

said, “If you’ve got a good horse, ride it.”

As the concert came to an end, Mark talked about his salvation experience. He had been singing for some time with The Cathedral Quartet before he was saved. He was very encouraging and challenging to all of us to make sure “you know that you know.” They closed this glorious concert with “Too Much to Gain to Lose,” again bringing the audience to their feet.

A portrait of Rhonda Frye, a woman with blonde hair and blue eyes, smiling. She is wearing a red and white patterned top and a red necklace. The text "Rhonda Frye" is written in large red letters on the left side of the image. Below her name, the words "SINGER", "SONGWRITER", and "SPEAKER" are listed in black capital letters. At the bottom, the website "WWW.RHONDAFRYE.COM" is displayed in black capital letters on a white background.

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# Music Reviews for March

by Sandi Duncan Clark

The first three months of 2014 have been interesting to say the least. Weather notwithstanding, it has been a learning experience for some of us, and my hand is raised as a participant. That being said, I have learned so many things about God and His faithfulness; we have rejoiced in His goodness, experienced His presence and relied totally on His wisdom. Although we do not know what our day to day journey holds, as children of God, we recognize Who controls that journey.

New music this month comes from several wonderful artists who have presented their talent without the auspices of a record label. Each of these artists is a family group, with a dedication to their music and to the ministry of seeing people come to know the Lord. Their desire to serve prompted them to seek the direction and production of some very talented professional people who definitely know their trade and helped each artist with their recording. These CDs are tools to help promote the artists' music ministry.

While we all can't sing or perform on the major stages and venues across the country, each of us has a place of service in the Kingdom of God. I have thoroughly enjoyed these artists and their recordings and can see the hand of God in their talent and ministry. I know that you will enjoy them as well if you contact them through the information we provide at the end of our introduction to their product. We pray that God will bless them all!



IN HIS HANDS  
Mission Quartet  
Independent

Producer: Brian Worley, James Rainey

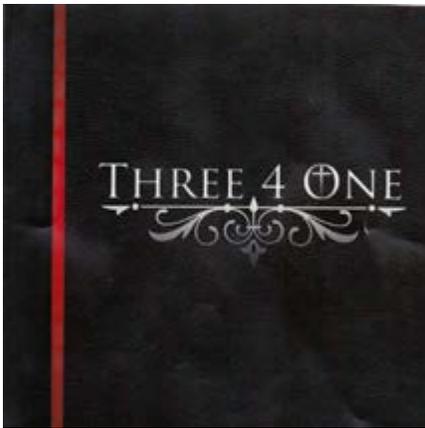
This Florence, Kentucky based quartet has produced a wonderful, old fashioned quartet album with great music tracks, awesome song selection and convincing vocals. With the very first song, I was transported back to some of the "good 'ole days" of solid quartet singing. The hot piano licks on the first song is the work of one of the most talented musicians in Southern Gospel music; James Rainey. That first song, "I Don't Worry, I Can Pray," was written by J.D. Sumner and in my opinion is one of the best he ever wrote. This kicks off a great listening experience.

As producer and orchestrator, James Rainey combined simple four part arrangements with modern, sometimes 5 part harmonies to give Mission Quartet a memorable recording. Another

J.D. Sumner classic; "Love Him So" sounds much like the Blackwood Brothers' original cut on this song

Cover songs like "Midnight Cry," "When He Was On The Cross" and "Because Jesus Said It" are all very well done. Each vocalist is featured on one or more songs on the recording for great variety. Brian and Josh Worley began their early years in Gospel music singing as a family with their Mom and Dad, Charles and Deborah Worley. Both parents join them on this recording as guest vocalists.

The play list has six other songs, each one just as engaging and well produced as the others. This is a recording of which this quartet and their producer can be proud. I do recommend IN HIS HANDS for honest-to-goodness quartet fans! You will enjoy this music over and over again. Contact the group at 859-496-0973 or missionquartet@hotmail.com.



THREE 4 ONE  
Self-Titled  
Independent

Producers: Gary DiBenedetto, Eric Gonzales, Kyle Dean

Three 4 One has close, solid harmony and has chosen eleven songs for their latest recording. This young group is at home in Tifton, Georgia and is a wonderful missed trio. Eric Gonzales, Andrea Dean and Kyle Dean have selected songs which showcase their smooth blend and bring the blessings in each song to life by executing each one to perfection.

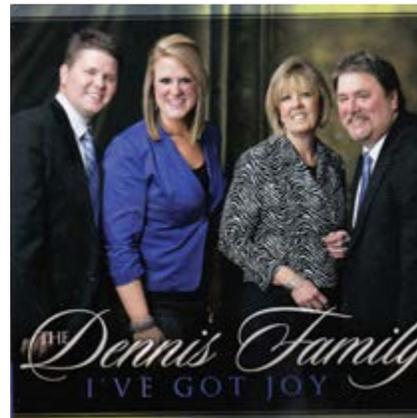
One of my favorites on the recording is a song about Paul and Silas being locked up in jail and is titled "Feel A Little Song Comin' On." It's a toe

tapping, happy song that explains this groups dedication to God and their music ministry!

You will enjoy their version of "The Cloud He's Coming Back On" and "God On The Mountain." Each vocalist is strong and yet does not overpower the others. "Christ Arose," "Who Am I" and "Daystar" are winners because of their simple arrangements and beautiful vocal treatments.

Of all the songs here, the one I appreciate most is "Sometimes I Cry." Written by Gerald Crabb, it has a reflective message and a haunting melody. This trio does a wonderful job on this song.

With a ministry focused on churches, Three 4 One, is exceptionally talented in bringing excellent music to a church concert or service. You may contact Andrea Dean at 229-386-4551 or 229-386-6491 to have Three 4 One at your next Gospel music event or to order your copy of this recording.



I'VE GOT JOY  
The Dennis Family  
Independent  
Producer: Wesley Pritchard

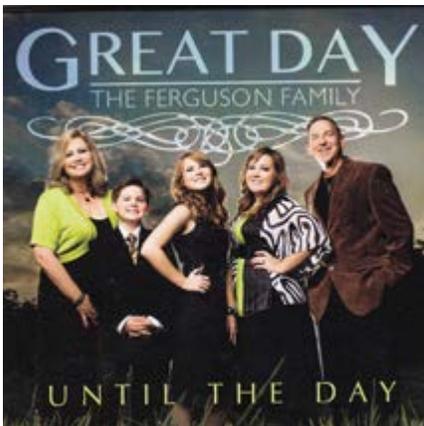
Doug Dennis, his wife Jackie, their son, Jason and his wife, Lauren sing some of the sweetest music you'll here in Southern Gospel! This talented family has been singing for more than nine years and is certainly enjoying the blessings of God on their music ministry. Wesley Pritchard has surely produced a winner for The Dennis Family.

I'VE GOT JOY has fourteen wonderful songs; a

mixture of message ballads, upbeat tunes that will cause you to tap your toes and sing along. This family delivers all with finesse! Jason's tenor, Lauren's soprano, Jackie's alto and Doug's smooth bass will thrill your heart. "Joy", written by Becky Isaacs Bowman, Sonya Isaacs Yeary and Marsh Hall, is the song you're hearing on Gospel radio. It scored a number 56 on the national Southern Gospel Charts in February.

"The Difference Is In Me," kicks off the blessings and the excitement on The Dennis Family's recording. This song, along with "Nothings Worrying Me" is two favorites in the Clark household. "Ephesians Chapter One" and "Life's Railway To Heaven" are barn burners and Joyce's version of "The Healer" brings the truth home that Jesus can do far more than we can even imagine!

"No One Ever Cared" and "The Answer" are other special songs on the recording, and I promise you will enjoy the entire project. Contact The Dennis Family at 910-891-1959 or visit their web site: [www.thedennisfamilymusic.com](http://www.thedennisfamilymusic.com).



### UNTIL THE DAY

By Great Day; The Ferguson Family  
Independent  
Producer: Jeff Stice

There is not a greater compliment to an artist than to have their producer express his joy in working on their project. Jeff Stice is one of Gospel music's most talented musicians and producers. His comments about the Ferguson family's talent and dedication to their music ministry, speaks volumes.

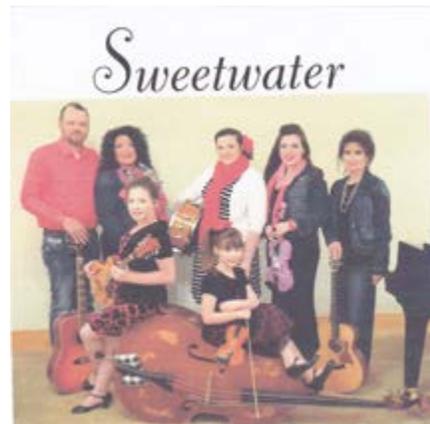
The Fergusons are from the beautiful state of Florida and enjoy singing throughout the state and

surrounding areas. Their harmony is smooth and so close it's difficult to tell who is singing the parts unless they have a feature! Bill, his wife, Brenda, daughter's Lisa Ann and Sarah Lynn and son Steven are a family who enjoys music, but more, they enjoy sharing the Gospel through their music.

Beginning with "Fourth Man," there are nine more glorious songs on the recording. Each is arranged to perfection for this family's vocals, there is a blessing in each one. Jeff has produced music tracks to compliment the group's vocal ability and they have lived up to his expectation.

Triumphant Quartet's Eric Bennett joins the family on "I'll Tell It Wherever I Go," and is featured on "We'll Soon Be Done With Troubles and Trials." Awesome job, guys!

Great Day may be reached by contacting Bill Ferguson at 407-733-6165, or by visiting their web site at [www.greatdaymusic.com](http://www.greatdaymusic.com).



SWEETWATER  
Self-Titled  
Independent

Sweetwater, known to many as the Sartin girls, play acoustic instruments and sing Bluegrass and Southern Gospel music. Sweetwater makes their home in McAlester, Oklahoma, and travel throughout a four state area. They play concerts, revivals, church services and enjoy all Gospel music.

The group is made up of a Mom, Shana Sartin; her beautiful daughters, Kristian, MaKanaan, and Lily and Shana's mother and 'Gramzel' to all the

young ladies, Debbie Denny. Each of these ladies has heroes in Southern Gospel music: among them, the original Hinsons, the Goodmans and the Greenes. These performers have no doubt influenced these young ladies.

They have twelve songs on this recording, all familiar to every fan of Southern/Bluegrass Gospel music, and you will sing along to each one. Each of the ladies is featured on at least one song, and sings harmony on others.

Among the songs on the CD are "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow," "He Understands," "Mansion Over The Hilltop," "Burdens Are Lifted Away" and "Trade The Old Cross For A Crown." You may contact Shana Sartin, (918-470-7694) or Debbie Denny, (918-470-9552) for a copy of SWEETWATER, or for any other information on this group. You may also visit their web site at [www.sweetwaterbluegrassgospelmusic.webs.com](http://www.sweetwaterbluegrassgospelmusic.webs.com).






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# Waves of Harmony

By Marcia Gray

Imagine setting sail with several hundred friends who all have some key things in common: a love for the Lord; a love for music and a fondness for good food and fellowship. That pretty well describes the environment on the Singing at Sea cruise on the Carnival Fascination! The ship set sail from Jacksonville, FL on February 2nd, stopping in Freeport, Half Moon Cay (my favorite!) and Nassau, returning on February 8th.

The air was filled with excitement as artists and fans alike gathered to embark upon the Carnival Fascination. Once on board the ship, tucked into our cabins and properly educated on emergency procedures through the infamous muster drill, everyone headed to the Lido deck. The Kingdom Heirs kicked off the cruise with a 'sail away' concert as the ship departed from the port.

If the fellowship at dinner time hadn't been so wonderful, I would have been tempted to skip dinner so as not to miss the concerts going on all throughout the

afternoon and evening! Fortunately, there were at least two concerts with each artist, and plenty of food to be found at any time, so I never went without great music, fellowship, and oh, did I mention... food?

One can only run so fast from one end of the ship to the other, and with over 75 concerts throughout the week, there was plenty of wonderful music to choose from. Here is a glimpse of some of the wonderful talent on the ship, including a glimpse at some of the concerts I was able to attend.

**Mark Bishop** - Mark Bishop has a great sense of humor and a fabulous voice. He was one of three emcees on this cruise, and his uplifting music left me tapping my feet and singing along. The title track to his current CD, "I Can Rejoice" and "Jesus Can Lift You Up" were two of my favorites. Mark has a brand new CD titled, "This Is What It's All About" coming out April 15th that his daughter joined him in the studio for



ries, sometimes about audience members, always following them up with an “I love you,” leaving the audience no doubt that laughter is a gift from the Lord that unites one and all.

**Karen Peck and New River** - Based in Dahlonega, GA, Karen Peck and New River was

a couple of songs on. This album marks his 30th year of Gospel Music ministry.

**Brian Free and Assurance** - Formed in 1993, Brian Free and Assurance has been consistently recognized by their fans with numerous awards. The crowd was enthusiastic as the group made its way to the stage in the Puttin’ on the Ritz lounge. The group consists of Brian Free - (Tenor), Bill Shivers (Lead), Mike Rogers (Baritone) and Jeremy Lile - (Bass) The song “I Will Be Praying” is always a favorite, and “Have a Little Talk with Jesus” brought the house down! Their new CD, “Unashamed,” was released just last month.

**Down East Boys** - Based in Reidsville, NC, The Down East Boys began their ministry nearly two decades ago. With their rich Southern Gospel history and smooth blend, Tony Jarman (Tenor), Ricky Carden (Lead), Daryl Paschal (Baritone), Stuart Cary (Bass) (The Down East Boys) were a fabulous group to see on my final day aboard the cruise. “Under the Blood,” and “I Won’t Trade My Crown” are two songs I could listen to all day long. The Down East Boys’ new album, “Amen” is available now.

**Geraldine & Ricky** - Anyone who has experienced Geraldine and Ricky knows that you will walk away feeling like you have done at least 50 situps after laughing the entire time they are on stage! The theater was packed and the audience was howling with laughter throughout their conversation. Geraldine Ragan and Ricky have traveled since 1967, sharing humorous sto-

formed in 1991 and is comprised of Karen Peck Gooch, her sister, Susan Peck Jackson and Jeff Hawes. Karen’s son, Matthew Gooch, accompanies the group on guitar. Ray Dean Reese and Chris Jenkins from the Kingsmen joined Karen Peck and New River for a couple of songs at their last concert on the cruise, and Karen ended with a high note that gave Chris a run for his money! I can still hear Karen’s contagious laughter.



**Kingdom Heirs** - The Kingdom Heirs are veterans of the Singing at Sea Cruise, so it was no surprise that they kicked off the cruise with a wonderful 'sail away' concert. Based at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee since 1981, their name came from James 2:5, which says, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God

tion's, "Hall Of Fame." When he started to sing "Some Call it Heaven, but I Call it Home," I became lost in the lyrics. Squire's son, Samuel, along with Samuel's wife, Leah Rouse Parsons joined Squire and sang "Gonna Let my God Work it Out" and had the crowd clapping and tapping their feet. Squire announced that just two



chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?" The group is owned and managed by Steve French and his brother, Kreis. Steve sings Baritone and Kreis plays bass guitar. Dennis Murphy is the drummer. Jeff Chapman sings bass, Andy Stringfield does everything from playing piano and drums to singing baritone and lead vocals. The tenor part is sung by Jerry Martin. The Kingdom Heirs released their newest album, "The Heart of Christmas" in November of 2013.

**Soul'd Out** - Based in Georgetown, Ohio, Soul'd Out was originally formed as a trio in 2001 and re-formed as a male quartet in May of 2004. This young, energetic group is comprised of Dusty Barrett (tenor), Bryan Hutson (lead), Matt Rankin (baritone), Ian Owens (bass), and Michael Howard (pianist). I love to hear them sing "I Go to the Rock" and "Arise, My Love," both of which can be found on their newest project, "Soulace 3."

**Squire Parsons** - Squire Parsons is one of America's best loves soloists and songwriters. He has been a part of the Singing at Sea cruise since 1975 and has been in solo ministry since 1979. On October 9, 2008, Squire was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Associa-

weeks prior to the cruise, he received the news that there was no longer any sign of Leukemia in his blood. Praise God! His newest CD, "You're Still Lord of All" is available now.

**The Browders** - The Browder family's newest album "Time Machine" is a musical journey for all ages with father Tommy, brothers Matthew and David and Matthew's lovely wife Sonya each taking a turn on lead vocals. The Browders' sound is further enhanced by the newest member, Sonya's brother Burt, who moved down from their home in Maine to join the band. I was reduced to tears listening to Sonya sing, "He Took the Nails." What a powerful message! After 23 years of ministry on the road together, this family has a powerful bond with which to share the gospel through song!

**The Easters** - Since 1981, Jeff & Sherri Easter have been in ministry as The Easters. As their family has expanded, so has their ministry, with their son, Madison on bass guitar, daughter, Morgan joining them to round out vocals and their 20th anniversary gift to one another, daughter, Maura Grace, bringing a smile every time she is on stage. Young Landan Smith plays drums for The Easters. When Jeff and Sherri are on stage, there will be no shortage of laughter, and maybe even a few

tears as they communicate the gospel so well through their music. My very favorite song to hear them sing is "Sitting On Top of the World."

**The Isaacs** - There is nothing quite like the country and bluegrass sound of the Isaacs! Mother Lily Isaacs and siblings, Ben Isaacs, Sonya Isaacs Yeary and Rebecca Isaacs Bowman brought the house down with their amazing talent both vocally and instrumentally. I can't decide which song was my favorite out of "I'm Gonna Love You Through It" "But I Know About Tomorrow" "Walk On" and "I Must Tell Jesus." Perhaps my favorite moment was when young Levi Bowman joined them to sing, "Walk Down the Road." Based in Hendersonville, TN, this award-winning family group has been singing and playing for more than 35 years. Their newest album, "The Living Years," is available now.



**The Kingsmen** - Rising up out of the mountains of western North Carolina in 1956, the Kingsmen have reached audiences far and wide to become one of the most widely recognized groups in Gospel music. Today's group is comprised of Ray Dean Reese (Bass), his son Brandon Reese (drummer and audio engineer), Randy Crawford (Baritone), Bob Sellers (Lead), and Chris Jenkins (Tenor). With such a rich history of wonderful music in their repertoire, there are so many favorites, but my favorite from their newest album is the title track, "Grace Says."

**The LeFevre Quartet** - The legendary LeFevre family first made its mark in the Gospel Music world in 1921. In 2005, The LeFevre Quartet hit the ground running and hasn't slowed down since. Father and son, Mike LeFevre (Baritone) and Jordan LeFevre (Lead), along with Thomas Nalley (Tenor), Brandon

Barry (Bass) and Michael Lott (Pianist) combine their smooth, rich sound with an unparalleled enthusiasm for seeing souls saved through their music. Their most requested songs are "But for the Cross," "Come and See" and "Jesus Saves," which always brings the crowd to their feet!

**The Pfeifers** - With over 70 years of music ministry coming from the Pfeifer family, it's no surprise that their vocal and instrumental talent is widely recognized in the Gospel Music world. The unique combination of brass instruments and vocal harmony sets the Pfeifers apart. Present Pfeifer members include the brother/sister team of John and Candy Pfeifer, as well as Mary Jane Carter, who joined the group in 1982. Their brass and vocal arrangement of "He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need" is simply out of this world!



**The Perrys** - What a testimony the Perrys have! Just a few days prior to the Singing at Sea cruise marked the year anniversary of Tracy's stroke. Gospel Music fans and artists have rallied around Tracy and Libbi, as they worked through the intricate details they would face in the midst of Tracy's recovery. Through the trials and the victories, The Perrys have been faithful to continue sharing the message of hope through their music, and God has been faithful to provide! This group is comprised of Tracy Lee Stuffle (Bass), Libbi Perry Stuffle (Alto), Bryan Walker (Baritone) Jared Stuffle (Audio Engineer and vocals). The song "Oh, It was the Blood" is one of my favorites, but under the circumstances, "Still Blessed" just touches my heart.

**The Royalairens** - The Royalairens have been singing together for over 42 years, dating back to 1962. They are another veteran Singing at Sea group. This sweet-spirited group is comprised of Jerry Metzler (Tenor), accompanied by his wife, Susan Metzler (Alto) and Michelle Davis (Soprano). I love the message in their song, "God Said You're Gonna Make It," and when they did "Amazing Grace," the entire audience worshipped right along with them, hands lifted high in praise!



**The Taylors** - Voted Singing News Favorite New Mixed Group for 2013, The Taylors are a brother-sister quartet from the heart of North Carolina. Jonathan Taylor, Suzanne Hise, Christopher Taylor, and Leslie Perkins joined together in 2006 to form a sibling quartet that has achieved many accolades and awards since its inception. No amount of fame or recognition brings them as much joy as seeing a single soul saved through their ministry, and that was evident as I watched them interact with people on the Singing at Sea cruise. There is such a sweet message in their song, "Paid in Full," yet my all-time favorite of their songs is "Allelujah to the Lamb."

**Tribute Quartet** - Based in Nashville, TN, Tribute Quartet was formed in 2006 by two former members of the Wilburns, Gary Casto (Lead) and Josh Singletary (Baritone and Pianist). Joined by Riley Harrison Clark (Tenor) and Anthony Davis (Bass), this group of talented men have a unique sound and a dynamic group of personalities you won't soon forget. "Good News from Jerusalem" and "Homesick Angel" are two of their songs that always get the crowd up on their feet and

clapping.

Though the 2014 Singing at Sea cruise is over, the memories will linger for a lifetime. Those crystal blue waters were so mesmerizing! The plethora of incredible music, worship, Bible teaching and fellowship was exhilarating. The withdrawals set in as soon as we disembarked, however, my iTunes playlist loaded with wonderful music to carry me through to next year's cruise. I could have spent at least another three weeks on that ship, going from concert to concert all day and evening, and never tiring of it. All good things must come to an end, however, and it's a good thing this was only a week long, or I might have become the next candidate for The Biggest Loser, with all of the delicious food that is readily available around the clock.

If you have never been on a Southern Gospel cruise - I highly recommend this one! Templeton Tours has hosted over 100 Christian cruises, and they make it an amazing week for artists and fans alike. Next year, we sail from Tampa, FL, February 16-21, 2015 and will visit the beautiful Grand Cayman Islands and Cozumel on the Carnival Paradise. For more information, you can visit: <http://www.templeton tours.com/singingatsea/index.shtml> or call Templeton Tours directly at: 1-800-334-2630. You can even choose your favorite artist and cruise as their special guest. I'm sure looking forward to hearing those waves of harmony again. We hope you'll join us in 2015!





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# Breaking the Box

by Jennifer Campbell

When was the last time you thought “outside the box?” The idea of thinking outside of the box is thought to have originated in the 1970’s or 1980’s when corporations challenged employees to complete the infamous “nine dots” puzzle as an exercise in lateral thinking. Today, the phrase is widely used to refer to anyone showing an ability to see the big picture or be extraordinarily creative. While thinking “outside the box” is definitely a sign of individuality, there is one action that goes beyond simply being outside the box. Sometimes, you have to give all that you have to give, holding nothing back, and boldly break open the box.

In the books of Mark and Matthew, we read of a woman whom Jesus’ disciples rebuke. Why? All because she breaks open a box of perfume. Mark 14:3 (NIV) says, “A woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.” She didn’t just think outside the box. She broke open the alabaster jar (or box), pouring out the contents on Jesus’ head. While it was customary back then to anoint someone with a drop or two of essential oil when they entered your home, no one would have thought to literally pour this potent

liquid on someone’s head. This perfume was made from the Nard plant found in the Himalayas that grows at an altitude of 3000-5000 meters. Imported from India, the perfume is created by crushing and distilling the roots of this plant to create an amber-colored essential oil. In other words, this was not your average perfume found at the local drug store. It was quite expensive and is not something that would have typically been poured out so freely. Jesus’ disciples knew this all too well.

The disciples said, “‘Why this waste?’ they asked. ‘This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor’” (Matthew 26:8-9 NIV). Besides the monetary cost, the scent of this perfume was very strong, and likely lasted for up to ten days. One or two drops would have been adequate. Because of the customs in place at the time, the disciples did not see the need for such drastic measures. I’m sure they thought, *yes, this is Jesus our Lord, but one or two extra drops would be just fine! He will understand. There is no need for extravagance here!* But this woman did not just want to give a little. She wanted to give a lot. She wanted to be extravagant because God showed extravagance in His love for

her. This woman knew that the One she anointed was worth it all. He was a priceless treasure, unlike the perfume she used to pour on Jesus' head.

The perfume she used was estimated to have cost more than 300 denarii, which would have been equal to the average person's yearly wages. What would your husband, your wife, your family, or your friends say if you spent a year's wages all at once? Just imagine. One decision and every penny you worked so hard for over the course of the entire year is gone. Yet, she did not have any hesitation. The Bible says she "came," "she broke the jar," and "poured the perfume on his head." It doesn't say that she stopped to think about what she was doing, or that she poured a little bit first and then slowly drained out the rest of the container. She knew what she must do. She came there on a mission. She had no doubts, no fears, and no concern for what others thought of her. She knew that she was in the presence of the Lord God Almighty and that was enough for her to break open the box and give her all.

Although this woman is unnamed, she will always be remembered as someone who did not just give a little to Jesus; instead, she gave everything she had. Jesus recognized the greatness of her kind gesture. Jesus said, "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me" (Mark 14:6 NIV). Jesus does not tell her that she should have sold the perfume to give to the poor. Instead, He tells them that they will always have the poor with them, but that He will not always be there (Mark 14:7 NIV). The woman's action was in preparation for His burial. Soon He would be crucified. The woman gave a year's salary to prepare Him for the difficult task ahead of Him. Yet Judas Iscariot agrees to hand over Jesus to the chief priests for only thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15 NIV). By comparison, this would be about \$15 worth of silver today. The woman spent a year's salary to anoint Jesus. Judas received fifteen dollars to betray Jesus. He sold Jesus out for the price of a pizza. But the woman essentially empties her pockets in an effort to show her love toward the Savior. In doing so, she finds favor in the sight of the Lord.

Jesus says, "She did what she could" (Mark 14:8 NIV). Jesus doesn't say that she did a little bit. It doesn't say that she should have done more. No. It says she did what she *could*. She gave all that she had to give. There was nothing left. She held nothing back, she didn't show any restraint. She put herself out there and boldly broke open the

box and poured all of the perfume on Jesus' head. Jesus recognized the magnitude of her generous deed. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her" (Matthew 26:13 NIV). This woman's boldness and compassion for Jesus is still being remembered more than 2,000 years later. All because she disregarded the opinions of others, ignored the rebukes from Jesus' disciples, and broke open the box for Jesus.

Often times, we worry about what other people think. We worry about what they'll say about us, or whether they will even like us. We may even alter our conversations just to be more in tune with what they want to hear. Telling others about what Jesus Christ has done in our lives often becomes a cumbersome task, even if we are among other Christians. People squirm in their seats when the name of Jesus is mentioned or when the Holy Spirit is talked about. But the Bible declares that we are to boldly go into the whole world and preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15 NIV). We are called to tell other people about the saving grace of knowing the one true God. We can't just sprinkle in a few words here or there like the disciples thought the woman should have just used a small amount of perfume. We need to pour it all out. We have to break open the box, laying all of the cards out on the table, and share the plan of salvation with others before it is too late.

There is no cost too great. There is not one thing in this world that is more valuable than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. There is nothing on this planet that should come between us and witnessing to someone in need. We need to get outside of the box, pick up that box, and break it open for Jesus. We need to be a bright light in this sea of darkness we find ourselves living in. We need to disregard the opinions of others and focus on the One who truly matters: Jesus Christ. By living our lives fully dedicated to the cause of Christ, we will be blessed abundantly. By giving all we can, holding nothing back, we can live a life according to the will of God. I challenge you to tell someone about Jesus Christ today! Be bold, stand firm, and break open the box!

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# Garnish Your Plate with Praise

By Laurette Willis, CHC



Most of us are accustomed to thanking God for our meal *before* we start eating. What I propose is encircling our dining experience with praise.

In Isaiah 55:2 the Lord says, “Listen carefully to Me and eat what is good, and let your soul be satisfied with abundance.”

Do you see the three parts of that scripture?

1. **Listen carefully to Me**
2. **Eat what is good**
3. **Let your soul be satisfied with abundance**

As Paul wrote, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every

good work.”

While we know that scripture is “spiritually discerned” and has great significance for our spiritual lives, it is also immensely practical and relevant to our everyday lives.

As we grow in our walk with the Lord, we realize that He is genuinely interested in everything that concerns us—even what we eat. By being willing to discipline our flesh, we become more sensitive to His leading.

## **Out of the Blue...**

Have you ever had an idea come to you “out of the blue?” That’s how this idea came to me. You know when something is so good, you can’t possibly take credit for it? That’s how I feel about this. Not long ago I was Prayer Journaling. That involves writing prayers to God and recording what you believe He is telling you in the Scriptures and in your heart.

I wrote: “Father, how can I best reach and maintain the healthy ideal weight and size for me?” The idea, or revelation, that occurred to me was so complete and made so much sense. I must have stopped and stared for a full minute in wide-eyed wonder.

The Lord led me to Isaiah 55:2 and this plan:

## **Give the Lord a portion of your food every day.**

How?

Substitute a portion of what you would ordinarily eat and give it to the Lord. Since you can’t physically give that food to the Lord, what do you substitute it with?

## **An offering of Praise...**

Praise and thanksgiving. Your portion is what you eat. The portion you give to the Lord is your offering of praise and thanksgiving. The physical food you leave on the plate serves as a symbol of the sacrifice of praise you will be offering Him from your heart.

After all, praise is called the “fruit of our lips!”

You know how “full” you feel when you completely throw yourself into praise and worship? Or if that’s not your style, recall a time when you were so tremendously thankful for an answered prayer or the Lord’s intervention at the exact moment you needed Him most that you thought you’d burst? That’s what I mean.

I used to eat way past the point of satisfying my physical hunger to fill a void of a different kind. Have you? If you will eat slowly enough to be sensitive to when your stomach is satisfied, you will recognize when to stop eating—even if there’s still food on your plate.

Put your fork down and if you’re alone, start praising the Lord. Thank Him for who He is in your life. Worship Him for His amazing attributes and His love for you. It will be a time of sweet communion between the two of you. After all, He is the “bread of life” that truly satisfies. You may be amazed at how quickly you feel satisfied.

If you are with the family or out to dinner at a restaurant, when you sense that you have had an “elegant sufficiency,” put your fork down and silently praise and worship the Lord. Thank Him in your heart.

**You don’t have to be flaky about it.**

No need to be rude or hyper-spiritual and shut everyone else out because, “I’m communing with God.” Hoo-wee, what a witness!

Instead, why not tell those at table something wonderful the Lord has done for you or someone you know?

In the Psalms, David often spoke of telling others about the Lord’s marvelous works. That’s praising Him! No one has to know what you’re doing if you don’t want them to know.

It’s a great opportunity to tell your children why you love and trust in the Lord. Share an experience of what God did for you or someone in your family, or someone in the Bible. You might begin by saying, “I was thinking about how much the Lord loves us.”

You’ll be giving glory to God and “satisfying your soul with abundance” at the same time.

1. Listen carefully to Me
2. Eat what is good
3. Let your soul be satisfied with abundance

*(Adapted from **BASIC Steps to Godly Fitness** by Laurette Willis, Harvest House Publishers)*

*(photo) Check out Laurette’s new book & DVD set from Destiny Image Publishers: “40 Days to Fit & Fabulous with PraiseMoves.” Christian Fitness Expert and Certified Health Coach Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, Training, and Classes by Certified PraiseMoves Instructors on six continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>). Join the 40-Day Fitness Challenge at <http://40DayFitnessChallenge.com> ©2014*

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# 10 Questions America wants to know about

# Jason Runnels

By Rob Patz



Jason Runnels has been singing Southern Gospel for over 20 years and has sung tenor with two of America's favorite male groups, the Down East Boys and Tony Gore and Majesty. After traveling all over America with these groups, he decided to stay home and find a *normal* job. However, God had other plans for Jason as he now finds himself on the road in a motorhome with his family, taking his new ministry across the country and bringing up his sons in Gospel music.

Jason has been married for 23 years to his high school sweetheart, Theresa. They have three kids Trisdon, 17, Hunter, 15, and Braden, 13. They plan to travel full-time beginning in May of this year and are busy making preparations to load up the motorhome. Jason took a few moments to answer my 10 questions for this month's feature.

*Rob Patz: 1. Jason please tell us about your past history in Southern Gospel. Who have you sung with?*

Jason Runnels: I started singing in 1992 when I joined a local group called The Watchmen Quartet. I sang lead with them for about three years and I had the opportunity to join a regional group called Emerald City Quartet. For two and a half years, I sang lead with them until we lost

our tenor. I moved to the tenor position thinking it would only be for a short time. Little did I know that it was a change for me that would change my career in Gospel music. After three and a half years I began to feel that God had bigger plans for me. My wife, Theresa and I began to pray for God's will to be done in our lives even if it meant we would have to move away from home.

In 1998, I was at a singing with the Dixie Melody Boys and Ed O'Neal took some time to talk to me and encourage me not give up on my dream to sing full time. He and several other people in gospel music began to spread the word that I was looking for a job in Gospel Music. I never will forget sitting at home one night and getting a call from Mike Holcomb to tell me that Tony Gore and Majesty were looking for a tenor and he felt that I needed to try out. That same night Dave Wilcox called and told me the same thing. I hung up the phone and immediately called Tony. We set up a tryout for the following week. I went over to Clanton, Alabama, and sang for a couple hours. I left thinking how unsure I was that I even had a chance. To my relief and surprise Tony called and the rest is history. After traveling with Tony for five years, Tony decided to start a solo career and disbanded Majesty.

After filling in with a few groups and traveling around with Danny Jones selling the Singing News, Danny got a call from Ricky Carden of the Down East Boys. Ricky was looking to make a change and Danny asked if I was interested. I called Ricky and set up a tryout. I flew to Greensboro, North Carolina, and met with Ricky and the guys. We sang and talked for a few hours and decided to pray about it. A couple of weeks later, I got a call and three weeks later I met the guys, got on the bus and spent the next 10 years traveling with some of the greatest guys I've known.

*RP: 2. What are you doing now with your ministry and how often are you singing?*

*And...3. What led to your decision to go full-time and buy*



*a motorhome?*

JR: After 10 years with the Down East Boys, I felt like God was calling me to come home and spend some time with my family. Once I left the road, we decided to move back to Mississippi where we are from. When we got home I took a job with Chick-fil-A as a manager and began to live life. Not long after we moved home, I began to have people ask me to come sing at their church. Well, when I would sing, people would ask me if I had any CD's. So, I recorded my first project *I'm Amazed*. As my son Hunter and I began to minister regularly, we began to get more opportunities to minister in full concerts. I began to see God using our ministry in big ways. We were seeing people saved, we began to see people letting go of stuff in their lives that they had been holding onto

for years and we began to see churches who were going *through the motions* understand that God had higher expectations from them. Through all this, I still felt that I was only doing it as a hobby and that my expectation was to own my own Chick-fil-A store.

However, my expectations and God's expectations were two totally different things. I soon began to see my youngest son Braden listening to Jason Crabb, his new *hero*. What's up with that?! Just kidding, I have been friends with Jason Crabb for a long time and I think he is a pretty good role model for my son. Anyway, Braden began to go with us and with my dad when his group would go sing. I began to pray and ask God what He was doing, because I just felt lost.

Then one day I came home from work and Theresa said that she felt like we had a higher purpose than owning a Chick-fil-A. We began to pray that God would show us His will and that we would center our family in the middle of it. Soon afterwards we felt the call and together accepted that call to begin a family ministry. And so, Jason Runnels Ministries was born. We are singing every week right now, usually only on Sunday, (Chick-fil-A is closed on Sunday, so it works) but as of May we will be singing a full time schedule. I will be singing at least three times per week. We are in the process of purchasing our new home, a 38" Tiffin Allegro Red Motorhome, and we will be living on the road. We will come home every few months to visit and sing around Mississippi.

*RP: 4. Have you released any recordings recently and have you sent any singles to radio?*

JR: I have two recordings, *I'm Amazed* and *Just Blessed*. I have yet to release a song to radio, but I am talking to Jeff Whisnant about getting my first release out. I hope to have it to radio by May or the first of June.

*RP: 5. What kind of response have you had from the audiences to your music?*

JR: The response has been very good, surprisingly. I have never considered myself as a great singer and I have never been much of a fan of soloists. I always thought that after a few songs everything began to sound the same. I knew that I would have to be able to sing more than one style of music if I was going to keep people interested. So, I sing a few Contemporary Gospel songs, a few Country Gospel, some hymns and some songs that I have written. I also try to use a little bit of humor to engage the audience, but for the most part I just talk to them like I'm talking to you and just sing.

*RP: 6. What is it like to travel with your family as opposed to traveling with a male quartet?*

JR: Traveling with my family is awesome; we home-school our boys and have from day one. Traveling as a family gives us opportunity to do things as a family that most families will never have the opportunity to do. My kids will go places and see things that most kids never see. However, it has its challenges as well. There is only



so much space for us or our kids to escape to. Not that my kids would want to ever be apart from me! All in all, though, it's not a lot different than traveling with the guys, still the same amount of space, still stopping at the same truck stops. I just get to be with my family versus having to be away for extended times.

*RP: 7. What is your favorite song to sing live and what do the lyrics mean to you?*

JR: My favorite song is "Baptism of Jessie Taylor." I love the song because it takes me back to the old Oak Ridge Boys before they went Country. I also have seen firsthand a man that was just like Jessie. I never will forget singing one time for a camp meeting and a man walking in so drunk he couldn't stand up. He had some men help him to the altar and I watched as that man began to cry out to God to help him. I remember him screaming out how he had lost everything; his family, wife, kids, job, home, all because of a bottle. I remember him asking God to save him and help him. I remember men beginning to lay hands on him and cry out to God to help him. Then I

watched in amazement as God worked a miracle in that man's life. He stood up and that man was completely sober as if he had never had a drink. I watched a man's life transformed before my very eyes. That is what that song talks about. It's not about what we've done, it's about what God can do in a life. Whew! I might run just thinking about it!

*RP: 8. Do you and your wife Theresa divide up the household chores and what are your responsibilities? Is it the same on the motorhome?*

JR: Chores? Man, that is why we have kids! Just kidding, we all pitch in with everything. The boys do have their certain jobs they are responsible for, but we all do everything. Theresa taught all the boys how to cook, clean, wash clothes, iron, and clean toilets. She swore up and down that her sons' future wives would not have to go through what she went through with me! Again I say, what's up with that?! The motorhome is no different; we all pitch in with all the duties and responsibilities of chores as well as the running of the Ministry.

*RP: 9. What is your favorite restaurant when you are on the road?*

JR: Our favorite restaurant is Panera Bread. Oh, how we have missed it since moving back to Mississippi. I love to travel around because we find them and I can have my Cinnamon Crunch bagel. Yes, I am addicted!

*RP: 10. What is your favorite Bible verse and why?*

JR: My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I have always loved this verse because when I am unsure of my direction or my abilities, God reminds me that He's got me, my life and my future.

Jason adds, "I am on Facebook at Jason Runnels Ministries. I can be reached at [336-263-8266](tel:336-263-8266), [jason.runnels1208@yahoo.com](mailto:jason.runnels1208@yahoo.com) or message me on Facebook for booking or to order product. Our website is in the process of being built."

SGN Scoops looks forward to following the music of Jason Runnels and his family. We encourage you to contact Jason to learn more about their ministry and schedule.

Jason Runnels Ministries' Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/JasonRunnelsMinistries>



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# “Got Problems?”

By Dr. Jeff Steele

The story of Lazarus is told in John 11. Please note the catastrophe that occurs in this family. Lazarus is sick. In verse 3 of John 11 Jesus is sent for because the Bible says he is sick. We then learn that the sickness is terminal because Lazarus actually dies. You see now why I said this was a catastrophe. It would be at MY house and it would be at yours if one of our loved ones were to get sick and die. In the midst of this crisis though I want you to notice something: in verse 3 when Mary and Martha sent for Jesus they said... “Please come because the one you love is sick.” Verse 5 says, “Jesus loved Mary and Martha and Lazarus.” Jesus loved them and Lazarus got sick anyway. Jesus loved them and Lazarus died anyway. I know how the devil operates. He will say things like, “if God REALLY loved you your son wouldn’t be on drugs and in jail right now. If God REALLY loved you your family wouldn’t be falling apart, you wouldn’t be out of a job and unable to pay your bills. If God loved you, you wouldn’t be sick, the deal wouldn’t have fallen through, the house would have sold and mama wouldn’t have died.” The Devil will “what if” you to death.

If someone told you that if you became a Christian you would have smooth sailing and no problems for the rest of your life I want to issue you a formal apology right now because somebody lied to you. The scripture actually says MANY are the afflictions of the

righteous; that it rains on the just AND the unjust. The same sun that melts butter hardens clay. The sun that rose this morning illuminating the most beautiful mansion on the highest hill also lit up the filthiest pigsty at the bottom of the lowest valley! We were never promised a smooth ride and a life free from problems if we became believers. What Jesus DID promise was that He would never leave us or forsake us...that He would be with us even till the end of the world. Paul said of God’s character that He was busy working all things together for our good and His glory. The Psalmist said, “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for I am not alone....You are with me even there!”

Don’t ever let anyone make you feel unloved by God because right now times are difficult. Don’t ever let anyone convince you that God has forsaken you because you have hit a bad patch. Lazarus got sick but Jesus loved him! Lazarus died and the scripture says Jesus loved him. Jesus loved Mary and Martha and before this story is finished we will see that He never left them alone...not for a second and He has never left you either. And He never will.

*Photo Courtesy of familymwr*

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1 Corinthians 12:20

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

1 WHISNANTS  
HE CAN MOVE THAT STONE

2 BOOTH BROTHERS  
I SEE GRACE

3 BROWDERS  
LIFT UP HIS NAME

4 BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE  
NOTHING BUT LOVE

5 HOSKINS FAMILY  
WHENEVER I HEAR HIS NAME

6 MARK TRAMMELL QT  
WONDERFUL TIME UP THERE

7 GOLD CITY  
FOOTPRINTS ON THE WATER

8 GREATER VISION  
PREACHER TELL ME LIKE IT IS

9 TIM LIVINGSTON  
OVER THE NEXT HILL

10 KINGDOM HEIRS  
THE BORROWED TOMB

11 BOWLING FAMILY  
SOMEBODY'S BELIEVING

12 JEFF & SHERI EASTER  
I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO SURVIVE

13 KAREN PECK AND NEW RIVER  
FINISH WELL

14 GUARDIANS QUARTET  
LET THE HEALING BEGIN

15 SHARRON KAY KING  
THE STORY OF MY LIFE

16 BLEDSOES  
THE BLOOD OF JESUS

17 GREAT DAY  
FOURTH MAN

18 PERRYS  
THE BLOOD AND ITS POWER

19 CANTON JUNCTION  
SWEETER AS THE DAYS GO BY

20 OLD PATHS  
LONG LIVE THE KING

21 CHARLOTTE RITCHIE  
SO GOOD

22 MARK BISHOP  
IT WOULDN'T BOTHER ME TO BE THE LAST

23 ZANE AND DONNA KING  
SHINE

24 DIXIE MELODY BOYS  
ROLL BACK

25 AUSTIN FOSTER  
PRAYERS GO UP, HEALING COMES DOWN

26 ANCHORMEN  
SOME THINGS I KNOW

27 11th HOUR  
WAKE THE LAND

28 TALLEYS  
WHEN HE CALLS I'LL FLY AWAY

29 COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY  
SHOW A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE AND KINDNESS

30 WILBURN & WILBURN  
A MAN LIKE ME

31 PRIMITIVE QUARTET/ARCHIE WATKINS AND  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN REUNION  
WHEN I GET HOME

32 WATTS, ROWSEY AND BEANE  
I STILL AM YOUR CHILD

33 DEBRA PERRY & JAIDYN'S CALL  
GONE, GONE, GONE

34 WILBANKS  
PSALM 23

35 WISECARVERS  
I NEED YOU

36 CATHEDRALS FAMILY REUNION  
WE'LL WORK

37 FREEMANS  
LEAD ME HOME

38 TINA WAKEFIELD  
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

39 MYLON HAYES FAMILY  
JESUS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

40 STEELES  
BUT GOD

41 TROY BURNS FAMILY  
I'M PRAYING FOR YOU

42 SOUL'D OUT QUARTET  
THANK YOU LORD

43 LEGACY FIVE  
LIVING IN A PALACE

44 BEYOND THE ASHES  
WALKING WITH MY EYES ON JESUS

45 HYSSONGS  
GOD'S IN CONTROL

46 MCKAMEYS  
A HILL WORTH DYING ON

47 KINGSMEN  
THE NEXT CLOUD

48 BRADYS  
THIS TIME I'M THE ONE

48 TAMMY JONES ROBINETTE  
BEAUTIFUL DAY

50 TALLEYS  
UP ABOVE

51 PAYNES  
HOLD ON TO HOPE

52 RHONDA FRYE AND RIVERSIDE  
LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

53 HOPE'S JOURNEY  
HE NEVER CEASES

54 MICHAEL AND DELILAH  
A PLACE FOR US

55 DEAN HICKMAN  
I'VE NEVER HAD TO TRUST YOU

56 CARLA BRAGG  
I KNOW A PLACE

57 ERWINS  
BASICS OF LIFE

58 ADAM CRABB  
SOMETIMES HE WHISPERS

59 SISTERS  
RISE AGAIN

60 RED ROOTS  
SEVEN DAYS

61 TAYLORS  
OH, I WANT TO SEE HIM

62 PAGE TRIO  
I AM FROM ABOVE

63 TRIBUTE QT  
GOD'S GONNA SEND A REVIVAL

64 DIXIE ECHOES  
CLOSE TO THE MASTER

65 BIG MO  
GOD MADE THE OFFER

66 GEORGIA  
HIS CROSS

67 AARON AND AMANDA CRABB  
IF I'M GUILTY

67 GAITHER VOCAL BAND  
I CATCH 'EM, GOD CLEANS 'EM

69 DEVIN McGLAMERY  
FROM MY RAGS TO HIS RICHES

70 MICHAEL WAYNE SMITH  
JUST ABOUT HOME

71 BROWDERS  
HE IS ALIVE

72 CAROLINA BOYS  
ONE MORE GOLIATH

73 BRIAN BURCHFIELD  
THE FAMILY CIRCLE

73 BRIAN MACE  
GIVE THEM ALL TO JESUS

75 BARRY ROWLAND AND DELIVERANCE  
GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME

75 HYSSONGS  
THINKING ABOUT GOING HOME

75 LORE FAMILY  
HE STILL BEARS THE SCARS

78 NELONS  
MORE THAN WONDERFUL

79 GIBSONS  
HE LIFTED ME

80 CARROLL ROBERSON  
LIFE

81 TRIUMPHANT QT/OAK RIDGE BOYS  
EVERYDAY

82 MCKAMEYS  
HOLD ON

83 DENNIS FAMILY  
JOY

84 SANCTUARY QUARTET  
EVERY QUESTION

84 TRIBUTE QT  
GLORIOUS CITY OF GOD

84 WILBURN & WILBURN  
FUNERAL PLANS

87 TRIUMPHANT QT  
BECAUSE HE LOVED ME

88 POET VOICES  
LOVE OF CHRIST

89 SCOTTS FAMILY  
NOBODY CAN DO IT LIKE THE LORD

89 SKYLINE BOYS  
MAKES ME WANNA GO

91 BROWNS  
ROCK AND REDEEMER

92 BLACKWOOD BROTHERS QT  
DEVIL CAN'T HARM A PRAYING MAN

93 TONJA LOFTIS  
PRAISES OF CONFIDENCE

94 CHILDRESS FAMILY  
GLORIOUS TOMORROW

95 DAVIS FAMILY  
JESUS IS ENOUGH

96 DRIVEN QT  
I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED

97 LESTERS  
MY LORD WILL LEAD ME HOME

98 ATONED  
WATER IN THE WELL

98 RICKY ATKINSON AND COMPASSION  
GOOD NEWS

98 TOMMY BRANDT  
MEANWHILE BACK AT THE CROSS

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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).



As a Worship Pastor in 2009, Rhonda entered the Gospel music scene with an album of all originals in one hand, writing gifts in the other along with a heart full of passion for Gospel music. Although she knew no one and nothing about the industry, she followed

the calling in her heart walking through doors only God could have opened. By 2011, Rhonda was named Editor in Chief of SGNScoops Magazine. This role has placed Rhonda in a position of learning all aspects of the industry and also provides a platform to unleash her contagious enthusiasm. After juggling church ministry and music ministry, Rhonda felt led to pursue Gospel music full time beginning in January 2014. In addition to her work with SGNScoops Magazine, Rhonda is a singer, songwriter, speaker and founder of a ladies trio, Rhonda Frye And Riverside. Rhonda also works with other artists and promoters organizing and promoting concerts and national events. Rhonda's heart's desire is to use the tool of Gospel music to inspire others to experience reconciled and real relationships with Christ. For more information, visit [rhondafrye.com](http://rhondafrye.com).



Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties,

she was the first woman to own an artist management agency. Lou is an inductee of the Texas Gospel Music

Hall Of Fame, GMA Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, SGMA Hall Of Fame at Dollywood, and the Christian Music Hall Of Fame. She is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Of Sacred Music from Louisiana Baptist University. Recently, Gaither Homecoming Magazine named Lou in the "Hall Of Honor" series, and the Southern Gospel Music Guild gave her a "Lifetime Achievement Award." Lou is celebrating a 65th wedding anniversary in 2011 with Howard, and they live in Houston near son Dr. David Hildreth and daughter Kathryn Mumaw, and 4 grandchildren. Visit Lou at: <http://louhildreth.com>



Sandi Duncan Clark and Cliff Clark make their home in Easley, S.C. where they enjoy traveling, gardening, and the beautiful South Carolina weather. Sandi has worked in journalism for more than thirty years, and she is thankful

that her love for God and Gospel music provides a great opportunity to positively impact the careers of so many in Gospel music. Email Sandi at [sandi@sgnscoops.com](mailto:sandi@sgnscoops.com).



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves Instructors on four continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>), on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/Praise-Moves>.

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



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

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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, spreading the message that there is joy around the bend. She serves as a group leader for

Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>



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)



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ.

On December 31, 2002 she married Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.



Scott Rhoades has a passion for writing, and enjoys sharing his experiences and interests through publication and speaking in public forums. After completing graduate work in 2006, he began to pursue freelance writing and continued public speaking. In 2009, he

took to the airwaves, joining the staff of WMUG in Indiana, Pennsylvania where he is the Program Host for Sunday

Morning Light.

The owner of Ivory Hill Studios, he is the co-author of Legacy of Love: Memories from Ivory Hill - a collection of stories and poems highlighting the history of the Rhoades family and the small coal-mining town of Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania. Scott is also a songwriter, publishing his first song, I'm Under His Wings, with Asheville Music Publishing/Chris White Music in 2010.

Website: [www.scottrhoades.net](http://www.scottrhoades.net)



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!



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.

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Richard (Rick) Kiser Jr. is the author of the children's book series, Carly and Friends. He also has written one novel, "Forever My Son." He is a full time computer technician and lives in Virginia with his wife and two daughters. To learn more about Rick visit his web site [www.](http://www.carlyandfriends.com)

[carlyandfriends.com](http://www.carlyandfriends.com)



Dixie has been married to Pastor Paul Phillips for 35 years. The couple has been honored to serve the congregation of the Gospel Lighthouse Church in Floyd, Iowa, for 31 years. They have four grown children and four "perfect" grandchildren.

Dixie is a ghostwriter, award winning children's author, and songwriter. She and her sister-in-law Sharon won the 2012 Singing News/Solid Gospel Songwriters Search with their song "Hidden Heroes." Her favorite pastime is counting her blessings. If you'd like to know more about Dixie, visit her website at [www.floydslighthouse.com](http://www.floydslighthouse.com) or [www.phillipsandphillipsmusic.com](http://www.phillipsandphillipsmusic.com). You can e-mail Dixie at [Phillips4Him@myomnitel.com](mailto:Phillips4Him@myomnitel.com).



My name is Tina Wakefield and I am currently Music Minister for Amazing Grace Worship Center in Alabaster, Al. I have led worship for over 18 years as well as teach adults how to live everyday life in Victory as a Christian. I enjoy playing and singing Gospel Music whenever

and wherever I am invited. I currently have three Cd s available on my website at [www.tinawakefield.com](http://www.tinawakefield.com) and just released my first music video with Godsey & Associates called, "The Choice" available on YouTube. I write a lot of the music we sing at church and also record my original songs. My family is very ministry oriented with Pastors, Teachers, Musicians, and Singers. My heart's desire is to spread the gospel of Christ through any and all open doors that I receive.



Dr. Jeff R. Steele is a pastor, conference speaker, singer, songwriter, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is currently the Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Their services are webcast worldwide; they have a weekly television program and host an annual Jubilee each August that

attracts hundreds from around the southeast. Dr. Steele is beginning his eighth year there. As a songwriter Jeff has been credited with 17 Number One songs in Christian music as well as four BMI Gold Medals for Great National Popularity as measured by Broadcast Performances. He has also been recognized by BMI as Christian Songwriter of the Year on several occasions. The group, The Steeles was featured across the nation and was seen on numerous magazine covers, feature articles, television and radio programs during their ministry on the road. Jeff is still writes songs and articles, sings on occasion and speaks in conferences and revivals. Jeff is married to Sherry, his wife of 31 years and they have three grown children. Visit Jeff on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and at [www.jeffrsteele.com](http://www.jeffrsteele.com).



Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented 18 year old shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, social networker and shooting coach. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. She also travels in full-time Gospel music ministry with The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion, and singing for Christ is her

calling. Check out her photography website [www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com](http://www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com) and her ministry website [www.stevensfamilymusic.com](http://www.stevensfamilymusic.com).



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

July 2012 and has opened for many of the Gaither Homecoming Artists. Additionally, Sherry Anne helps lead worship and drama at her church. For more information, visit: [www.](http://www.SherryAnne.com)

# Contributors

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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.



John Randolph is a Country Gospel singer, songwriter, speaker, business leader, husband and father who has a burning desire to see the hearts of men turn back and embrace the calling that God has given us to lead our homes. After serving for seven years as the lead singer for a regional East Texas Southern Gospel Quartet, and two years on church staffs as an Interim Worship Leader, John is now in his second full year of solo music ministry. More importantly, John is finally getting the answer to the question he's asked God for over 20 years... "why did you let me get this degree in Journalism?" With his first full-length solo-project CD under his belt, John has been recognized in the Christian Country music genre with numerous award nominations including winning the 2013 Male Horizon Award. His initial single release - Call Me Old Fashioned - was a Top 10 Country Gospel Music hit for over 13 months in 2012. You can learn a lot more about John and JR Ministries at [www.jrministries.com](http://www.jrministries.com) as well as connect directly with him on Facebook ([facebook.com/johnrandolphministries](https://www.facebook.com/johnrandolphministries)).



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

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.0. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

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

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## SGN SCOOPS



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

groups like the Martins, Point of Grace, The Crabb Family and more.

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

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



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

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

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

Marcie is a worship leader, vocalist and songwriter. She has directed choirs of all ages and given voice lessons for many years. Her solo CD, "Almost Home" is expected to be released in the Spring of 2014.

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