

SGIN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE
APRIL 2016



THE ERWINNS

ALSO FEATURING:

THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY, JEFF STICE, CROSBY LANE & THE CAROLINA BOYS



The Carolina Boys

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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

Welcome to the April edition of the Publisher's Point! I hope that you had a blessed Easter and are excited about Spring and all of the things that happen during this time of year - so many outdoor singings and events!

As I look back on what a wonderful time we had at Southern Gospel Weekend, I want to thank everyone who worked tirelessly; all of our volunteers and everyone from the sound people to ushers. We also want to thank every artist who was a part of this event.

As I reflect back on the Weekend, I have to tell you, I am excited to introduce new artists who are fantastically talented to the world of Southern Gospel. I would say that one of my missions over the last two years has been to bring new artists and allow you to experience their ministries much like I have over the last few years. I really believe in this next year that it is our goal to continue to bring new groups and soloists to your attention. I see our industry hungry for new talent and we at SGNScoops want to continue to tell the new artist stories and allow you to enjoy their music as much as we have enjoyed and grown to love these ministries.

There are those in this industry who would like to tell you that our genre is dying. I would like to point to the fact that more and more young people are coming to our events, and I hope it's something that we can continue to foster throughout this next year. I truly believe that as an industry there will be changes but that is inevitable. Like any other business, you have to evolve as the demographic that you are marketing to changes. We at SGNScoops will boldly embrace the changes and hope to keep our industry growing. I think we as an industry need to embrace our future while not forgetting our past.

That is this month's Publisher's Point!





“Can You Handle It”

REVIVAL

By David Staton

Revival. What do you think of when you hear that word? As a child, I remember attending and singing at countless revival meetings. Some were just a series of meetings where all of the ingredients seemed to be in place to have revival. Great preaching, great music, all proclaiming the truth of God’s Word, and yet very little power.

But every now and then, I would be a part of revivals where God would do something that would not be forgotten. He would reveal Himself in ways that people had never seen before. **I’ve attended many meetings that were labeled as revivals, but I can tell you that in the times when I really experienced revival, it was life changing.** Let me give you one example of a revival that I will never forget as long as I live.

My wife and I were newly married and we visited a church close to where we were living in Georgia. That Sunday morning, the pastor who had been there for 17 years announced that he was being led to take a church in Virginia. There was such unity in that church, we were drawn in even more. A pastor search committee was formed and the search was on.

In the meantime, there was an interim pastor put in place who focused his messages on prayer and the

power that comes through united, focused praying from a body of believers. Each member received a handout with specific things to pray for concerning the church and the impact they desired to make on the community around them.

Something began to happen when prayer became a priority. Revival happened! During a one year period, with no pastor in place, that church experienced revival like I’d never seen before or since. At the beginning of that summer, that interim pastor told the congregation that God had given him a vision for the church. **One hundred people saved in one hundred days.**

At the onset of vacation season, this seemed impossible. I remember that going into that 100 days, the church stayed open 24/7 for one week. People scheduled 30 minute time slots around the clock. They first went into the sanctuary and read scripture out loud for 10 minutes and then went into a prayer room and prayed for 20 minutes. Part of that prayer was for the power of God to be so strong in and around that church that people would be drawn to it and radically saved.

Each Sunday, people would join the church and we would hear their testimonies. The church would almost gasp when a new believer would talk about just driv-

ing by and being drawn to come inside. **I remember hearing the testimony of a UPS driver who came in to deliver a package to the church office, and the church secretary led him to the Lord.**

Everyone was counting down to the one hundredth day until finally, that Sunday came. I remember the interim pastor getting up and saying that we had not seen 100 people saved in 100 days. He paused and then said, the number was actually 175. The church erupted in cheers that sounded like a rock concert. It was absolutely miraculous! It was empowering. **It was God revealing Himself in ways I had never seen before. It was REVIVAL!**

I felt led to share this with you because I am in ministry. I contact pastors regularly and when I begin to share the focus of my ministry and how I believe we need revival, the response is alarming. I hear things like, “We just don’t have revivals anymore” or, “With all of the school activities and sports, our people just will not come to church on any day but Sunday.”

We need revival like never before, and we don’t even see the need. Seventy five percent of the people living around us have no church affiliation, yet many of our churches are shrinking. Between 4000 and 7000 churches will close their doors this year in America. We need revival!

But God does not just randomly pick churches and park His glory cloud over them. We have to want it. We have to pursue Him. We have to get serious with God and really pray. We have to really love people enough to share the gospel with them. We have to deny ourselves and follow Him. We have to surrender. When we begin to do these things, God does something amazing. God will send revival and none of us will be the same when it happens.

Right now, America is putting their hope and trust in whatever candidate they hope will be our next President, but a newly elected official is not what will save America. When the church experiences real revival, God will heal our land! (2 Chronicles 7:14)



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The Erwins

Paving A New Road



By Matt Baker

“Gospel music isn’t reaching our youth anymore. It’s dying out.” Have you ever heard that statement before at a Gospel music event? I heard it more than my share of times, both as an attendee and as an artist. Each time, I would cringe inside because it hurt to hear that as a young person involved in gospel music.

I grew up on this music. I was in the audience at the Cathedrals’ *Campmeeting Live* taping under the tent. I’ve walked the halls of Louisville, Kentucky’s Freedom Hall and heard the echoes of great young talent from the main stage of the National Quartet Convention. I’ve seen the lines of teenagers at a concert who have lined up to take a selfie with their favorite singer, or to have that CD signed that they just bought from the product table, so it’s hard for me to swallow the statement that gospel music is dying, and it doesn’t reach

young people anymore.

This month’s cover features a family group full of young people serving in many different capacities more than just musically. They’re truly paving a new road for Gospel music lovers all over the country, and the results are astounding. They’ve signed with a record label, released their new project, exploded onto the main stage of the National Quartet Convention, and even sung at the Dove Awards! I’m talking about the Erwins, from the great state of Texas.

The Erwins’ ministry began many years ago, with their father, Dennis Erwin answering the call to preach the gospel. “My dad, Dennis Erwin, began preaching the gospel at the age of 20,” Keith describes. “He traveled to every church, rescue mission, and jailhouse that would have him. Sev-



enteen years into his solo ministry, as a 37-year-old single man, he met Tiffany Duke at a tent revival he was serving in. A year or so later, they got married, and the rest is history! I was born two years later and when I turned 18 months old, Dad had me in the studio to sing “Jesus Loves Me” and “The B-I-B-L-E” on one of his recordings. The same story goes for all four siblings. As soon as we could talk, we were singing. As we all grew, we began to sing harmony, and my brothers and I formed a trio. When Katie started singing harmony, we added her and our ministry became what it is today.”

Their family continues that evangelistic ministry today with their patriarch, Dennis. The Erwins sing and their dad preaches. “We could never express the joy that we have in watching our kids sing for the Lord,” says Dennis, when asked about what it’s like to see his children on stage. “When you raise your kids to love the Lord and then you see that as they have grown, they have put into practice all that we tried to instill in them, there are truly no words. Our children are our heroes. When they were younger they had no choice but to travel with us. Now, however, they’ve all chosen to do this. We stand in awe and give all the glory to glory to the Lord. It’s His ministry!”

Keith adds, “For the past six years, we have not had a year where we were on the road less than 265 days. In that same time span, we usually served in 35 to 45 Sunday-through-Wednesday revival meetings and Bible conferences per year. To us, the spiritual awakening of the local church is and will always be one of the most important fruits of our labor. Being on the road all those dates doing revivals and Bible conferences certainly molded us to keeping Christ at the center of everything else.”

Being on the road as a family full time can present its own challenges. The Erwins are team players, though, according to Kris. “Keith is definitely the talker of the group; thus, he is in charge of all the public relations. He does a lot of the ministering on stage and off the stage. He is always helping others with their jobs, too, but primarily he takes care of those responsibilities. Kody is the quiet one. He keeps up with all of our sound and technical issues. He also keeps our sound system updated and running effectively. I handle all of the product, setting it up, tearing it down, and reordering product.

“Dad preaches during revivals, services, and Bible Conferences, and drives the bus to most of our concerts. He also works with Michael Davis on our bookings and our Mom answers our emails, works with radio requests, and makes sure everything gets done. Then there is Katie... ‘the princess!’ She takes care of our social media.



“The Lord sent wives at just the right time. Lindsey, Keith’s wife, handles all of our phone and internet orders, and all of our correspondence. She also runs the screens during our concerts. Cayla, Kody’s wife, is learning to run sound and also runs our tracks during our concerts. She also helps keep

our mailing lists updated and helps Mom and Dad with the business aspects of our ministry. Everyone has a job and truly takes everyone to make it all work.”

The Erwins have a distinct family sound, and that sound comes from a lot of work, and a lot of listening to influential artists. People like the Cathedrals, the Rochesters, the Mid-South Boys, Jeff and Sheri Easter, the Crabb Family, the Greenes, and others were influences named by the Erwins as artists that helped mold their sound. Now, with the great success of their debut StowTown records release, *Ready To Sail*, they’re poised to become as successful as some of the groups they credited to helping mold their sound.

Kody shares, “It’s a dream come true to get to work with people like Wayne Haun and Ernie Haase at StowTown. Wayne is one of the greatest arrangers, writers, and producers. We had always wanted to work with him, but we never dreamed that it would happen so fast. And then to have Ernie as a supporter and mentor, from inviting us to be a part of StowTown, to being able to sing next to him on different stages and on *Ready to Sail*, it’s been an amazing opportunity.

“The guidance these two men have given us is truly amazing and we’ll never be able to thank them enough for everything they have done for us as a group.” Kris adds, “Wayne is a genius, so it was such a cool experience to be able to work with him. He definitely brought us out of our comfort zone and it ultimately allowed us to grow as artists. Wayne actually wrote our title track, “Ready To Sail”, with the thought of us just beginning our journey of serving the Lord. Wayne’s work ethic really pushed us to be our best!”

Ready To Sail did exactly what it was supposed to do; launch the Erwins onto the mainstream Gospel music scene with great force behind it. They’ll have their work cut out for them to continue to build on this success. “We’re preparing right now to go into the studio for our second StowTown project. We’re listening to songs and actually trying to write as well. *Ready To Sail* has done extremely well for us so we are feeling the pressure to go above the bar that that project set for us through the songs, arrangements, and messages”, says Kris.

Kody continues, “We’re gearing up to start the process with arranging, tracking, and vocals. Also, we’re looking forward this summer to be able to sing in some new concert events, and some familiar ones as well that we’re always excited to be at.”

Part of this early success was culminated by being tapped to perform at the 2015 Dove Awards in Nashville. Keith says, “To be honest, there’s no way I could put that opportunity into words! We met musical influences that night that we

thought we’d never get to meet. We not only got to meet them but we sang to them, as they were on their feet applauding, not appreciating us, but appreciating our specific brand of Christian music. This is a genre that a lot of people think is dying. Those people may have thought differently if they had been there that night!”

The Erwins have been given a special opportunity to be a light to young fans and young people all across the country. “I think it’s awesome that there are quite a bit of young people on the road today,” explains Katie, the youngest member of the group. “I feel like we have an opportunity to maybe reach a different audience that some of the older groups may not be able to reach. We have made it one of our goals to reach our generation for Christ.”

Kris adds, “We are honored by the recognition that our group is getting. We have a huge responsibility, not only with the music itself but the message we sing is vital today. We are having a blast singing as a family, and we’re thankful for the stages God is allowing us to be on.”

Says Keith, “Maybe God is preparing us for something even bigger, which is something we couldn’t comprehend. Today, we are placed on stages we never dreamed of, and singing with amazingly talented people that are musical heroes to us. All of this has happened so fast that it’s crystal clear that only God could be the One opening these doors.”

I can tell you from experience that these folks are some of the best you’ll ever get to be around. Their music is fantastic, their spirit is fresh, and their vibrant personality will warm your heart and bless you at their concerts. The Erwins are paving a new road, and their fans are glad to be on it with them. You will be, too.





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SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND



By LORRAINE WALKER

Southern Gospel Weekend 2016: It's a Wrap!

Southern Gospel Weekend zipped by on March 10th through 12th and everyone involved had an absolutely incredible time. Music, fellowship, food, prayer, ministry; it was all there and fully enjoyed by everyone. The attendance was great and the talent was spectacular. We thought you'd like to know what the attendees had to say about Southern Gospel Weekend 2016! Let's listen in as they talk about this annual event:

It's always an honor to get together with so many anointed and talented groups. We had a wonderful time reuniting with old friends and making new ones while worshipping together. We love Midnight Prayer! Thank you for asking us to lead and share one night. It's always a blessing. Excited to see what God has in store for next year! - Rocky and Gail Smith



Two people accepted Christ that night, and other lives were touched as well. You'll find NO other event in the country where the groups work together, help each other and cheer each other on the way they did in Oxford, AL. I was honored to be a part and I truly look forward to 2017. - Jason Runnels, Jason Runnels Ministries



2016 was my first year to be able to be a part of SGW, and what an awesome event it was. Being with Tony Gore and Majesty for five years as well as The Down East Boys for 10, I have had the opportunity to sing on every major event, and work for almost every promoter in the country. I can honestly say that I have never worked for better people than with those associated with SGW. Everyone from the Board Members to the groups involved were there to have fun and sing, but first and foremost to minister. They allowed me to share my testimony on Friday night and I gave an altar call.

Recently, I was privileged to help coordinate the afternoon showcases at Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama. I was expecting it to be fun - and it was - because the promoters of the event are, well, fun people. What I wasn't





ready for, though, was the camaraderie of the talent, and the genuine spirit with which each artist sang. The holy atmosphere that we experienced in the afternoon sessions carried over into the evening services. Yes, I said *services*. It was MUCH more than a typical Convention or Concert. It was Camp Meeting! I can't wait for the next one. You need to plan to be there! - Charlie Sexton

We had a great time at Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford! This was our second year to be a part of the event. SGW was our 2016 *kick off* event. We loved seeing our fellow artists and friends, as well as making new friends. The talent was amazing and you couldn't have asked for a sweeter, more sincere Spirit of worship and fellowship during those three days. - Dennis and Leslie McKay (McKay Project, Columbus, MS)

Southern Gospel Weekend was a great event again this year, great talent of some of the best and anointed artists in Southern Gospel music, plus it's free to the public! The main thing is lives were touched and souls were saved. What an awesome event. Thanks to Rob Patz and all the gang for putting events like this together. - Mike Watson, Exodus



Fast becoming a fan favorite, SGW held in Oxford Alabama is now a destination for many Southern Gospel Music lovers. The addition of the Five O'clock Band to kick off each night was amazing; great pickers and great songs and the crowd loved singing along. This was my second time to play there and the Weekend always goes by too quick. Everyone should just plan to stay close by and come in the morning to the showcases, which is code for *church*, then the main events at night, to going to eat afterwards, then midnight prayer. It's a full day of fun and worship. I love it and by Sunday I'm

already looking forward to the next year. It just keeps getting better and better. With the groups and the fans I couldn't think of a better place to be than at Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama. Thank you Rob, Vonda, Ava, and Donnie. This is truly one of the best events we attend. Thank you. - Russell Wise, Surrendered



We had a great time in Alabama at the SGW event. There was such a sweet, sweet spirit throughout the whole weekend. The Holy Spirit was there. We are looking forward to next year. - Bev McCann

What a wonderful time we had at SGW 2016! The combination of the fellowship of other singers, meeting new friends, reacquainting with old friends and feeling the presence of God, made SGW a very memorable weekend in our lives! - Lana Chandler of The Chandlers

We (Exodus) were excited again this year to have been a part of the Southern Gospel Weekend. What an awesome event. Rob, Vonda and all the gang do a tremendous job of putting this event on. It's free to the public, with some of the best and anointed artists in Southern Gospel today. Lives were changed and souls were saved. Praise God for Rob and the gang for such an awesome event. Can't wait till next year! - Exodus

Young People in Southern Gospel Music

It all started when Caleb Lamb, the tenor singer for Majesty 3, walked up to our table in our booth at SGW and introduced himself to us. As we talked, he began to share his interest in Indiana Bible College, where I (Tiffany) attend. We talked about the IBC chorale/choir songs that we liked and decided that it would be fun to try to sing some of them together. We went to the nearby stairwell for some good acoustics. While we were in the middle of a song, in walked the bass singer for Hope's Journey, Jordan Wilson. He joined right in and completed our sound. Here we were singing together like we'd been doing it for a long time and yet we had only met these guys within the last 24 hours! We thought it would be fun to give ourselves a name and came up with, *Young Grace*, since we were all between the ages of 15 and 21 years old. We were asked to sing during one of the day showcases and made our debut with an a cappella version

of “Oh, The Blood.” Our respective groups aren’t real sure about this, seeing that we would leave four openings to fill, should we decide to hit the road! We have created a sub-group and will sing whenever God brings us together at the same events. - Tiffany Chandler and Lyndsey Chandler of The Chandlers



Hi! This is Sadie Renae from Surrendered. I just wanted to take a moment and say how much fun I had at Southern Gospel Weekend a few weeks back, from the showcases in the mornings, to the awesome concerts at night. I cannot wait until next year. It was awesome getting to see all of our friends and family in Christ. If you did not attend this year, I highly recommend making plans to go next year. You will definitely get a blessing out of it. See you there next year! - Sadie Renae, Surrendered

Hey Y’all this is Pam of The Riders out of Lumberton, MS. I wanted to take a moment to share what I enjoy at Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, AL. For me, I appreciate the opportunity to fellowship and encourage my fellow Gospel Artists as well as those in the audience. It is humbling to me when people say they were touched by the message in our songs and ask us to remember them in prayer. Folks, that’s what ministry is truly about. That’s the type of venue Southern Gospel Weekend provides. It also has free admission to the public for all three days. The Riders can’t wait until next year’s SGW. Be sure to come and prepare yourself for a blessing. - Pam Oxenrider

I absolutely loved Southern Gospel Weekend! Although I have attended many different convention style events, this one is different. The focus really is on Christ. The artists are supportive of each other and are genuinely singing for the right reasons. For me, the impromptu moment in the showcase was something I will never forget: looking up and going from a soloist to being part of a quartet. I am excited to see what God is going to do at the next event! - Kristen Stanton

This was the first year I was honored to participate in the SGW in Oxford, AL. To say that I felt blessed to take part is an understatement. To work closely for three days and nights with a group of artists and not hear one curse word the entire time, just showed their sincere love for the Lord and dedica-

tion to His work. Such a spiritual bond was placed among all of the artists there. I have not participated in an event with such a spiritual group of artists since I first felt this calling on my life two and a half years ago. Thank you to Rob Patz, Vonda Easley, Ava Kasich and Donnie Williamson for including me. I look forward to attending many more of these blessed events. - Annette Bingaman

What a fantastic time we enjoyed at the Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford this year. We met several new friends and reconnected with long-time friends, including artists and SG enthusiasts. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to worship with an array of great artists in our genre. We appreciate [Rob] and Vonda committing so much of your life to keeping Southern Gospel Music alive! We look forward to seeing you again soon! - Adam Dungey, Bros. 4



Comments from the Sponsoring Radio Station

Though I was somewhat tired from the Morning Show I do and then attempting to go to the evening and morning showcases, I would not trade the experience for the world. It was definitely a blessed weekend, with many great performances from people who are doing this for the Lord Jesus. The singing, (I don’t like to call them performances), was so anointed that I left the weekend tired but high on the Lord and His Holy Spirit. I made many new friends and reconnected with many others. The Weekend was a blessing to everyone who attended and heard the anointed music praising the Lord Jesus! There was so much in the way of merchandise from the artists that I wasn’t sure where to look first. They all seemed to be very giving and blessed whatever their personal circumstances. One of the groups had to travel through the part of I20 that was shut down by the DOT in Louisiana, and you could never tell from the way they behaved. - John Abney / WPIL91.7fm Operations manager

The Board of Southern Gospel Weekend: Rob Patz, Ava Kasich, Vonda Easley, Donnie Williamson

SGW this year was completely over the top! Souls saved, lives changed and hearts touched! What an awesome event to be associated with. The artists this year were right on with the move of God. Can’t wait to see what God has in store for

next year! - Ava Kasich

We had a great time at Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama. On Wednesday night before the event started, many of us met at the Oxford Civic Center Gazebo to bathe the convention in prayer. God truly showed up and showed out during the weekend. I am already looking forward to Southern Gospel Weekend 2017. I hope you will be there! - Vonda Easley



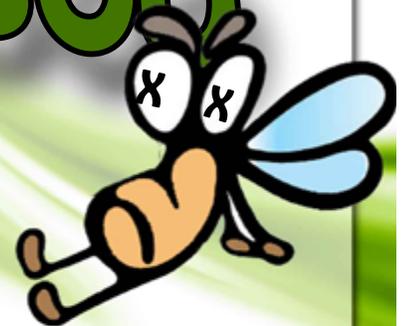
What a great time we had at the 2016 SGW! It was good to see old friends and make some new ones. I believe the stand out event was when two people accepted Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives on Friday night. The moving of the Holy Spirit threw the program off and it ran late. However,

the groups who had to be bumped because of it seemed to be more than happy to postpone their singing time so these precious folk could make things right with God. It reminded me of the quality and dedication of the artists participating in this wonderful weekend. I was told about a similar event where the promoter told the groups, "I want you to sing and not talk. If the Holy Spirit shows up I'll let you know." I'm glad the Holy Spirit is still in control of the Southern Gospel Weekend. He let us know Himself that He decided to show up. - Donnie Williamson, The Williamsons

I had been looking forward to SGW 2016 ever since I had to miss last year's event because of illness. I thought I knew what to expect, but it exceeded everything I had thought it might be! From the pre-event prayer time in the gazebo, through the evening concerts, midnight prayer, morning showcases and the fellowship times, you could sense the Holy Spirit moving in our midst. Souls were saved and lives were changed, and that's what it is all about. I'm thankful for everyone who was involved and my fellow board members for anticipating what needed to be done, and then doing it. I'm especially thankful to the young artists who attended and showed us what the future of Southern Gospel looks like. I also appreciate the faithfulness of those who have traveled the roads for many years, singing about the love of Jesus. You all are to be commended. Please join us next year. I'm excited already about SGW 2017! - Rob Patz

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THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY

THE POWER OF FAMILY

By Paige Givens

When you think of Southern Gospel music, you soon think of family. Families celebrate the music together, they listen to it together, and—in very special times—families sing it together. There have been many moments of magic as people who happen to share heredity and genetics decide to also share a lyric together. Multiple voices blended as one for the song. It's happened in a number of places over the years. Front porches, living rooms, kitchen tables, and church pews. Around a campfire, in the car, and in front of a group of delighted listeners. There's just something special about the harmonies that come from siblings and parents of the same line. The voices blend until you don't hear a number of individual sounds, but instead you hear one sound. The sound of *family*.

There have been many families in the world of music who have forged a trail of greatness for those behind them. The Happy Goodmans were among the first to bring southern

gospel music to television with their TV program, *The Gospel Singing Jubilee*. The Lewis Family, The Nelons, and The Rambos reached the hearts of so many people with their powerful lyrics, coupled with the sound of family. The Gaithers literally brought southern gospel into homes across the nation, even internationally, with their *Gaither Homecoming* series, which breathed life back into the genre that had once been so precious to America.

It was on a *Gaither Homecoming* video that I first saw and heard The Collingsworth Family. They were singing an a cappella version of, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." I was mesmerized first by the sight of these young people singing so gracefully together, led effortlessly (at least it seemed) by both their mother and father. I was enchanted by the style and sound of their voices. They blended together in the most perfect harmony, and their father, Phil Sr., or their mother, Kim, would simply direct them with the

slight movement of hand that signaled more than just stop and start. Under their parents' direction, their voices swelled together. Their song crested and fell with seemingly one sound, just like the waves of the ocean.



I was amazed by this father, mother, son, and three daughters who sang of God's love so beautifully and sincerely. The Collingsworth Family has impacted many listeners in this same fashion. Perhaps it's due in part to their beautiful sound or their ease and grace on a stage. But most certainly, the impact of The Collingsworth Family on listeners is more of an eternal nature, and it's because of the One that they sing about. According to this super talented family, they are simply using their "borrowed" gifts to change the world for the God who gave the gifts in the first place.

According to Phil Sr., the patriarch of the group, the main prayer and purpose of the ministry is this: "That God would supernaturally take these songs to the pinpointed places where they can be used as forcefully as possible to allow the Kingdom of Heaven on earth to see significant growth."

The family music group started with two. Kim and Phil first shared the stage for a church camp in Petersburg, Michigan in August, 1986. Both extremely talented musicians, Phil on the trumpet and Kim on the piano, the couple soon began adding to the family. As their new bundles of joy arrived and grew, The Collingsworth "duo" soon became a group! Daughter Brooklyn was born in 1989. She was followed by Courtney in 1991, Phillip in 1994, and then Olivia in 1998. For the first 14 years, The Collingsworth Family's music ministry consisted largely of church camp meetings and extended revivals, along with positions as Music Ministers for their home church at the time and as Music Director of Union Bible College.

The Family Emerges

Phil remembers, "January 1st, 2000, we transitioned from an evangelistic music ministry where we provided special music for church revival meetings and church camps and conferences to a professional all-concert ministry. This was after a great deal of prayer and many requests for one night concert events."

All of the kids were involved from early on in life with the concerts. When asked how the little ones felt about being in front of a large crowd early on, Phil recalls, "I'm afraid they do not remember, as they were each put in front of an audience by the age of two!"

Brooklyn and Courtney are very talented violin players, and they play at each concert. All of the children, now grown, have always joined together with their parents on stage as a singing ensemble, creating a sound unique only to The Collingsworth Family. Each concert also includes a time of Kim sharing the exquisite gift that God has given to her on the piano, as well as performances on the trumpet by Phil. Besides his wonderful singing, son Phil Jr. manages all of the groups' audio needs on the road and handles Public Appear-



ances. Olivia plays the piano as well.

Since January of 2000, the family has covered many miles

together. They've shared many memories, both sweet ones and unusual ones, together! Phil recalls, "One of the most interesting events was the afternoon that the trailer hitch on the back of the bus got hung on the gang plank of a ferry that had just carried the bus across a river in New Brunswick, Canada. We were trying to drive up a sharply slanted ramp off of the ferry boat when we got hung up. I began to gun the engine and the tires started to spin and smoke and the rear of the bus began to fishtail sideways towards the river (there were no sides on the gang plank). A *lot* of prayers went up! It finally came loose and shot up the ramp onto dry land like it was shot out of a cannon!"

Even through interesting events, packed schedules, the seemingly normal changes of a growing family, and the marching forward of time, the family dynamics have stayed strong and solid.

"We have a very unusual situation where our family is very tight," says Phil, "We are quite careful in our touring not to overdo it and burn out our family. We hold it to 10 concert events per month. Each person on the payroll gets a vote in decision making on venues and mileages. It's *extremely* important that everyone in the family is invested in the whole success of the organization. That each one feels ownership... this is the key ingredient to holding it together and moving forward."

Latest Project

The family has not only been used by God to change lives from the stage, but they have been used on the airwaves as well. In September 2015, they released their current project, *That Day is Coming*, produced by Wayne Haun. After listening to nearly 1,000 songs, the group narrowed it down to 13 selections and noted that incredibly, eight of the 13 songs were written by the same person, Rachel McCutcheon.

One of the current favorites of the group is their next radio single, "When He Carries Me Away," a powerfully uplift-

ing song that reminds us of the promise of Heaven. The next time you're going through a battle here on earth, or just having a bad day, listen to this wonderful song and feel your burdens being lifted!

Wayne Haun, the family's award-winning producer, can attest to the power of their music to the listener. "I've been working with the Collingsworth Family for over a decade now. I've literally watched some of them grow up. I have such a kindred spirit with this family as I too grew up singing with my family. When I see Kim gather her children and husband around the piano, teaching parts and schooling everyone, it reminds me of my mom doing the same thing with my sister and dad. Sometimes when they're practicing and I'm supposed to be charting, I just close my eyes and listen. Many times, my eyes fill with tears (and then I just blame it on allergies). But seriously, they feel what they sing and as a listener, you feel what they feel....and that's a GREAT feeling!"

To find out where the next family concert will take place, or to experience listening to The Collingsworth Family yourself, visit their website at www.thecollingsworthfamily.com. Phil shares, "There will definitely be a new video product this year, which will showcase the repertoire from *That Day is Coming*. Also, our family will be a part of all of the Christmas shows this year at Dr. Charles Stanley's church, First Baptist Church Atlanta, as well as Dr. David Jeremiah's church, Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego. These events will be so exciting!"

The Collingsworth Family is definitely using what they call their borrowed talent to honor the God who gave it to them in the first place, and He is blessing their efforts. He is also blessing the lives of those who listen. Maybe your family will be next. Whether you are gathered around the radio in the car, humming along together in the kitchen, or singing on a stage Collingsworth-style the songs that they shared from the pen of writers like Rachel McCutcheon, your family is sure to be impacted by this family of gospel music.



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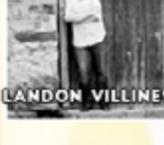
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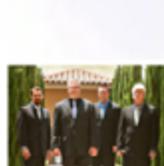
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Day By Day

A New Song

By Selena Day

I love the symbolism from the story in the bible about the children of Israel leaving Egypt for the Promised Land. Over the past few years, God has shown me so much from this story. I believe that the church is on a spiritual journey to leave behind the things of this world, *Egypt*, for a better place, *the Promised Land*, a place where my identity is solely in Him and who He says that I am; not in what I believe about myself or what others have spoken over me.

I believe that just as the children of Israel, God is calling us to a *Spiritual Promised Land* and for those who have ears to hear, you can feel this deep inside your heart. But just as the children of Israel, we are following a cloud by day and a fire by night, taking us to a territory that we cannot comprehend while we are still in Egypt.

They called their Promised Land *a place flowing with milk and honey*. We have all read the stories so we know that this land didn't actually have rivers of milk or honey. It was a figurative description of a better place that was their covenant right.

God is asking us to follow Him on this spiritual wilderness journey. This journey is to claim all that is ours by the death and resurrection of Christ; to

reclaim our spiritual covenant rights.

Music has a strong power over people. I cannot tell you how many people over the years have come up to us after a service or concert and shared their story of how Chuck's songs have touched their lives.

I sometimes wonder if Christian artists assume just because they are singing about Christian things that they are on the front lines, following that cloud by day or the fire by night? I listen to songs on the radio and wonder if we are following after God or are we are singing to what we know the masses want to hear, while missing out on a new sound that God is vibrating into the earth.

I once heard a minister share that God had to give Steve Jobs or Bill Gates the revelation about modern technology because the church as a whole couldn't fathom that God is so big that he cares about technology as much as He cares about our theology. We have been so busy trying to escape the future that we have missed out on what God was saying in the here and now.

What is God saying to you today? **Music has the power to open doors and help the world to peek**

into themselves and others.

We are living in the most divisive time I have ever experienced in my lifetime and I believe that music can help bridge the cultural, gender and economic gaps in our society.

In this season we are living in, the music we are releasing is so important. Globally the world is experiencing transition. I am not even sure what all that means. I do know that I can feel in the atmosphere and can see it around me every time we go overseas.

I believe that God is past getting out of the box we have put Him in. He is in the midst of blowing that box up and if we keep going back to the box because it feels safe, we are not only going to miss out on all the good stuff God has for us in the promised land, but we are going to come away limping.

Today, as an artist or even as a fan, think about the music you are listening to or the songs you are writing and singing. **There is a new day coming and I for one want a part in what God is doing in this**

new day.

I will not settle for the train of His garment. I want to be dancing in the arms of the King as we enter the marriage supper. I want to lay my head on His chest and hear His heartbeat; to be so close to His presence that I cannot only hear but feel the whisper from His lips.

There is a new sound being released from His heart and I pray that we all draw close to Him so that we can begin to release His melody into our world.

Revival is coming! My prayer is that we all begin to wake up and as a musical community begin to release this new sound of our Risen Savior.

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



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BUCK RAMBO: REMEMBERING A HERO AND A FRIEND

by Dusty Wells

What can I write and say about the legendary Buck Rambo that hasn't been said or written about already in the last few weeks since his passing away? The press release and obituary about his life and death all painted an incredible true picture of this great hero and mentor of mine. His accolades, success and rise to fame were all put out there in black and white, as well as his love for his family and friends. His story was a beautiful picture of a life lived out in grace, mercy, unconditional love, respect, honor and the list could continue on and on.

Even though I knew Buck had been in failing health and had truly suffered quite a bit the last few years, it was still a sad shock to me when his precious daughter and my treasured long-time friend Reba called me and gave me the news. I hurt for her, Dony, Mae (his sweet wife) the grandkids, and the family. I could feel the pain, hurt, sadness and yet I knew they had embraced

the beautiful truth that he was *home free*. We finished our conversation, hung up and I sat there quietly, just thinking about the past and how Buck's life had been such a part of my life for the last 30 years or so.

I couldn't help but reflect on how his powerful influence in my life had started back as a young teen of 14 years old and the couple who led me to the Lord would play those 33 vinyl Singing Rambos' records on their stereo every Sunday afternoon when I would go to their house for lunch. They would stack those records up and we would sit in that sweet living room of theirs and on and on and on those songs would play, with Buck singing those heart-felt lyrics as only Buck Rambo could: "Amazing Grace, shall always be my song of praise, for it was grace that bought my liberty", or "the Holy Hills of Heaven call me,"...and how could I leave out, "in the valley He restoreth my soul."

Oh, that music of the Rambos moved me and I was (and always will be) a huge Buck Rambo fan. I loved his voice, that rich country style and that curled up lip when he sang. I loved the passion and cry you could hear when he sang. True heart, conviction and anointed singing. He believed in the song and the Giver of the song, and he knew who and what he was singing about.

I eventually met him and the family at a concert in Oregon, and we all quickly connected and became close trusted friends. In the late '80's, my wife, daughters and I moved to Atlanta, Georgia and I went to work for Reba Rambo and Dony McGuire Min-



Barrel), and I learned so much about all kinds of aspects of the music business from this brilliant man. He poured into me with his stories of life, lessons about life on the road and the business aspects of publishing and music.

But more than any of that, I learned so much about being focused, staying real, guarding my heart, and surrounding myself with the right people. He believed in me and he wanted me to not only be a strong representative of the Rambo's and McGuire's, but he wanted me to make sure I would be a man of integrity and honesty. He challenged me, encouraged me and pushed me daily. I owe so much to him and where I am today in the music business because of his leadership and influence. Yes, I was there in his very broken time of hurting, depression, struggle and pain. I watched as he went through a very public and painful divorce. I hurt for



istries. My job was to work marketing, promotions, and publishing, for anything and everything that involved Rambo-McGuire. At that time Buck was in the office daily helping lend his incredible expertise while taking a break from the road, as he was daily taking care of Dottie and her health struggles.

I would spend seven or eight hours a day with him in the office and we would get coffee, go on walks, or he would take me to lunch at his favorite place (Cracker



him. I prayed for him just like I knew he had done for so many others along his journey.



I watched him the last 18 years or so of his life with his precious Mae by his side, ministering to so many others wherever they went. He would do countless hospital visits to the hurting, they counseled countless people who were struggling in life, and I would see them pray with artists and fans and friends at Gospel music events. I watched him live his life and faith out in a beautiful way.

I saw a great man of God who truly understood the grace and mercy of God. He knew he had made mistakes, but he also had come to that place that every one of us has to come to at some point in life; we pick up, dust off, press on and do what God wants us to do with our brokenness.

He truly came to that place where he lived what he sang



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and sang what he lived. He experienced it, he lived it, he knew the power of God looking way beyond our faults and seeing our needs.

I sure will miss those every few months of seeing him and getting a hug from him, and hearing him say to me: "How's the music biz, are you doing your best to keep it going and keep God in it?" And I would say - and will continue to say, "Yup, I am and I will."

I love and miss this friend of mine. But I know he is having the time of his life with so many of his friends and family, and he is now living out the songs he sang about, with Jesus. Let's keep Mae, Reba, Dony and all in our thoughts and prayers...I know they miss him so much.



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Jeff Stice

Surmounting the Stress of Perfection

By Tina Wakefield

Stress, approval, and perfectionism, are all words and real emotions that many artists struggle with on a daily basis. The need to please the audience and those that influence and shape our lives often play heavy on the minds of artists that share their talents. This is the story of one such man who found himself on the verge of a total meltdown in 2014, but through God's love he was finally able to surrender all the stress and enjoy God and the music in his life.

Jeff Stice, referred to as *The Piano Man* by many in Gospel music, has enjoyed a great musical career that has carried him to venues all over the United States and Canada with an overseas trip planned this fall. But just how does someone get started with a musical career? For Jeff Stice it all began around the age of six when he would lay under the piano as his mother would play. "I recall those days so vividly. I remember my mom practicing and when she would leave, I would jump up and try to pick out what I remembered her practicing."

Jeff continues, "If any child under seven can really know what they want to do when they are older," Jeff recalls. "I do remember loving the piano and wanting to play any melody that would stick in my head. I remember pretending to be in front of an audience when I would play, so maybe in a way, deep down I wanted it to always be a part of my life. It always made me feel I had gotten people's approval when I would play. **Unfortunately approval seeking can be addictive.**"

Jeff's parents began to take him to Gospel concerts where he immediately fell in love with the piano players. At the age of 15, he began playing for his father's

quartet, winning high school talent shows along the way. "We were more of a weekend group and even then it wasn't every weekend," says Jeff. "I remember wishing and hoping that playing would end up being my career. Looking back, I probably took for granted that I was privileged to play for my father's group. Every day I wish I could do a replay of those years." Jeff did receive formal piano lessons for eight years and majored in Piano Performance at Western Kentucky University, although he left college after the sophomore year to travel with a gospel group.

The Piano Man Begins

Jeff Stice played for The Blackwood Brothers Quartet for four years then moved on to become the pianist for the Rex Nelson Singers. During his time with Rex Nelson, Jeff states, "I learned to be a professional every night. Always give 100 % Rex would say! While I was with Rex, I learned to play in every key, and I am so glad I did." He described Rex and the Nelons like a second family. I asked Jeff what skills he felt that he had mastered while he was with these groups. He was quick to reply, "Ha! I in no way think I've mastered anything! I struggled and at times still do with anxiety. Regardless of how hard I would practice and feel that I had perfected a song or piece of music, because I wanted the approval of those around me, my stress level would get out of hand at times!"

In 2002, Jeff was offered an opportunity to put together a quartet for Louise Mandrell and her theatre in Pigeon Forge, TN. Because of this musical opportunity, he helped to form The Triumphant Quartet where he



played for, arranged and produced their music for 12 years. Jeff was also part of Louise's orchestra on several occasions. During his twelve-year span with Louise Mandrell and her theatre, Jeff was honored to receive a number of awards and recognitions, including Grammy and Dove nominations.

This pianist is one of those gifted musicians that possess the ability to play by written note and by ear. "Playing by note keeps you in a box; sometimes this is the best way. When I say in a box the musician has guidelines he must stick to. Playing by ear still means you'll have guidelines but there's also room for personal interpretation of the music. I probably prefer playing by ear although there are situations that warrant playing by written music. I truly am grateful that I can do both."

Jeff is not only known for his quartet accompaniment, but he also has developed quite a unique talent for piano impersonations of a few great artists. During solo performances, Jeff entertains with songs played like Ray Charles, Floyd Cramer, Roger Williams and Liberace. I asked Jeff just when this unique ability appeared and became part of his style. "I'm not sure when it started! I do remember at an early age when my parents had friends over they would say, 'Jeff play like ...?' And I would. It always made them smile," Jeff replied.

Escape from Perfectionism

As I mentioned earlier in the article, Jeff placed a lot of pressure on himself to please others. In Jeff's own

words, "Because I wanted the approval of others, my stress level would get out of hand." It is this pressure that caused Jeff in 2014 to suffer a "near melt down." During this time Jeff states that, "I learned how to be with God instead of just knowing about Him."

I want to quote Jeff's own account of this experience because I know there are others reading this now who suffer from the same expectations. "I enrolled myself in a program at First Baptist Church of Woodstock Ga. While there I had to take a series of tests to help my counselors know how to instruct and help me. I remember the day when my counselor told me, 'Today will change your life because you are going to become aware of who you are.'

"I remember sitting down, listening to him say, 'Jeff, according to this, you are off the chain as an *approval seeker!*' When I asked what this meant he replied, 'You find your value in what people think about you.' Right then a lightbulb went off in my head! The counselor went on to say, 'You have unrelenting standards.' I wanted to know just what this meant and he replied, 'You're a *perfectionist!*'

"I said, 'I have never felt like I was.' The counselor described it was because I practiced and worked so hard trying to get it perfect so that I could gain approval from the ones I thought I needed it from, that by the time I got in front of them, I was so stressed out that I would fall way short of perfection. He then went on to tell me I was a *self-sacrificer!* 'What's that?' I said. He described that I would hurt myself to get approval, and I began to cry.

"He instructed me to go to a picnic table just over the hill from our location and sit and just be quiet. Well, I had never done that before, so I did. After crying myself out, something happened. I became still and just listened. I heard the leaves rustle in the trees, the water crashing against the bank of a small creek at the bottom of the hill. I began to hear the birds sing and then I felt like I had a Friend sit down by me and tell me, 'Jeff, you need to know that with Me there's no need to work for My approval, I love you regardless of mistakes, I love you regardless of your performance. When you give all of your attention to your life, career or getting everyone's stamp of approval, those things become idols. STOP IT! You have my approval and that's all you need! The rest will take care of itself!' For the first time in my life I HAD BEEN WITH GOD!"



Jeff Stice has become a different man since that moment. "I've finally realized that my Heavenly Father already approves of me, and my *performance* doesn't figure into that equation. My playing has improved in a big way!"

As a musician I asked Jeff what role music plays in his

walk with God. He says, "Every time I sit down to play now, I am thankful for the chance God has given me to play for people and share with them that God loves them. You don't have to earn this love because you can't! So love Him back and your life becomes contentment and in that there is happiness."

Jeff spends his time helping to care for his parents along with his two sisters and hanging out with his kids more these days, along with Stacey. He states that he believes and bases his life on Psalm 130:7: "I love you Lord, for in Him there is mercy and with Him there is abundant redemption."

If you have the opportunity to book or be in concert with Jeff Stice I know you will have an experience like no other from a man who has truly learned what it means to "Be with God." Contact The Becky Simmons Agency for bookings 615-595-7500 or visit Jeff's website at www.jeffsticemusic.com

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THE CAROLINA BOYS QUARTET: NEW TRADITIONAL QUARTET OF THE YEAR

By Timmy Williamson

Elvis is alive, and he lives on The Carolina Boys Quartet's bus! Well sort of, but we'll get to that later. You know, when I was growing up, I didn't know a lot about Southern Gospel music. In fact, I didn't even know that I liked the genre. However, that all changed when I attended a concert in Hampton, Virginia. This was the moment when I fell in love with Southern Gospel music. There is still so much to learn about this incredible genre of music, but one thing I know for sure: **Southern Gospel fans love their traditional Southern Gospel quartets!**

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity of speaking with two members of one of these great quartets. Patrick Campbell and Toby Fricks are both members of The Carolina Boys Quartet, and it was a blast talking with them and learning more about Southern Gospel history. From our conversation, it is obvious that they love traveling and singing, and have a great time doing it.

Patrick is the tenor in the group, Toby sings baritone, Chuck Lowe sings lead, and Stephen Jewell rounds the group out

with his powerful bass voice. The last key part of their ministry is their bus driver, Kevin Mclain. In regards to Mclain, the group will tell you they "feel like [they] have the best in all of Gospel music." The group is based in South Carolina where they all live within about 20 minutes of each other. Family is extremely important to all four group members who are all married with children. Toby and Patrick both speak to the fact that they feel blessed for having such supportive families. It takes a strong support system as the group is on the road about 48 weekends out of the year.

Carolina Boys' History

Even though the group has that iconic Gospel sound, many would be surprised to know that this Carolina Boys actually formed in recent years. In fact, it was just December 2009 when this group was officially born. Both Chuck and Steven are original members, while Patrick and Toby have joined more recently. This might be confusing for many readers, because it is possible you heard the name *Carolina Boys* prior to 2009. Don't panic, you're not losing your mind.

Back in 2001, the Kingsmen quartet, at least the *Kingsmen* name, was put on hold. It did not take long for one of the Kingsmen members to start a new group. This man was Ray Reese, the Kingsmen's bass singer. And, you guessed it, his new group was called *The Carolina Boys*. After some time, Reese was able to re-acquire the Kingsmen name. When this happened, nothing more was heard of the Carolina Boys for a while. That is, until the current group was able to acquire the name.

Because of the group's strong history in Southern Gospel music, Toby says that "The Carolina Boys name holds quite the respect of Ray Reese." What an honor for the current members to carry on this legacy. All of this rich heritage culminated in 2009 when the Carolina Boys had the opportunity to be in concert with the Kingsmen. This was their kick off concert, and who should introduce the new Carolina Boys, but Ray Reese himself.

They are sure living up to their name. **Just this past year, The Carolina Boys Quartet received The Singing News Fan Award for 2015 New Traditional Quartet!** The success of the group is something for which all of the members are thankful, but it is not the main reason they travel and sing. Sharing the Gospel with unbelievers is their main goal.

Patrick says that "[Their] style of worship is a tool that is able to reach people with the Gospel." This goal is echoed from Toby as well, who states that "**most Southern Gospel songs really do have a message that gets right to the heart of the Gospel...it can convict and work on you, while you're even doing it yourself.**" The members' clear vision for their group is what drives their success. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

When an artist allows the words of a song to first affect him or her, then that artist can more effectively share the Truth in those words to the audience. I love the fact that Toby says "it can convict and work on you, while you're even doing it yourself." What a depiction of an artist who is listening to the words he is singing, and not merely performing. In my opinion, true artistry.

The group is cognizant of the fact that most attendees at their concerts are believers. For this reason, the Carolina Boys seek not only to share the Gospel, but to provide encouragement for believers. Toby explains that "[they] don't take any situation for granted." When the group arrives at a church, they are usually walking into a sanctuary filled with people they have never met before, and this means they don't know the various struggles and burdens with which people are living. But they do know that the Truth of the Gospel and that a growing relationship with Jesus Christ is what every person in that audience needs, and their music is full of these Truths.



Carolina Boys' Secret

By now I'm sure you're wondering why I mentioned Elvis at the beginning of this feature. Well, it's because one of the group's members has a secret special skill. That's right. The Carolina Boys' lead singer Chuck Lowe was an Elvis impersonator. It's true. Prior to his days with The Carolina Boys Quartet, Chuck enamored audiences with his Elvis impersonations. In fact, Toby says that occasionally some Elvis moves find their way into Chuck's stage presence. While The Carolina Boys are traveling throughout the states, they are easy to recognize. The back of their royal blue tour bus boasts the palmetto tree, and folks have nicknamed it *Carolina One*.

Outside of music, Patrick claims to be a marathon runner... but upon further research, namely, his own admittance, this claim is just a joke. Boating, however, is a passion of several members in the group, and Toby, Steven, and Patrick are each blessed to own a boat. They are fans of Clemson and are obsessed with Disney. Church and family are two of their top priorities. While the group is out traveling, it is usually just the quartet, bus driver, and crew on the bus. But, occasionally someone from one of their families will hop on board.

In addition to their busy weekend schedule, the group is a regular at the National Quartet Convention, where they will be performing again this year. **NQC has developed brand new main stage morning showcases this year, and The Carolina Boys are honored to be a part of this new venture.** Be sure to hear them at NQC on Thursday, September 29 at 10:30am. They will also be performing in Dollywood's National Southern Gospel and Harvest Celebration this October.



Carolina Boys' Experience

So, what can you expect from a Carolina Boys concert? Patrick says they want to “encourage believers through [their] music. [They] are very traditional in four part harmony quartet music.” Their main form of accompaniment is tracks, but Chuck does occasionally play guitar and Patrick occasionally plays piano.

Their concerts are filled with old songs you are sure to recognize, as well as new songs. They are signed with Crossroads Label Group, and this allows them the privilege of working with top industry songwriters. Many have likely heard their song, “Grace Will Be There.” The group explains that this song has been extremely meaningful to many audience members. Because of the response from the song, they have made it their closing number in many concerts. The group’s latest single is “We Shall Rise” from their CD, *Watch and Pray*.



CDs can easily be purchased on their website, and their music can also be downloaded from iTunes. In January, the group released *Classics*, which includes songs like “Hide Thou Me,” “Sinner Saved by Grace,” “Walk That Lonesome Road,” and “Master of the Sea.” This new CD can only be purchased directly through their website and at concert appearances.

Patrick says it best, “**I know we have been equipped by the Lord to carry on this style of music, and He has put our group together, not on accident.** I feel we have been called to carry on this wonderful style of music.”

If you would like to book The Carolina Boys Quartet for an upcoming event, please feel free to contact them. They would love to talk with you. Website: www.carolinaboys-quartet.com

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By Lorraine Walker

Seven months until Creekside Gospel Music Convention! Have you made your vacation plans for the Fall? Creekside cranks up the Gospel music in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, from October 31st through November 3rd, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. Click onto the website at creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com to reserve your free tickets. Contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at hotels@sgnscoops.com or call her at 256-239-7716.

Beginning on Tuesday morning, Creekside presents daytime showcases every day to fill your mornings with music. Joseph Habedank will be our special guest on Wednesday. Every afternoon, Scott Roberts and the Five O'Clock Band will be headlining a stellar cast of artists to warm up the listeners for an evening of song. Midnight prayer returns each night before you head to your room to rest up for the following day.

The Diamond Awards will be presented during the Convention on Tuesday night, November 1st, 2016, during a celebration hosted by Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff. Make sure your favorite artist is recognized. Vote today! <http://www.sgnscoops.com/the-2016-diamond-award-nominations-2/>



What You Can Expect

Starting on Monday evening, Creekside will present great Gospel music every night that will uplift and encourage you. Monday evening's special event is Creekside Honors, where we celebrate the life of someone special in Gospel music. Keep watching to find out who will be honored this year.





Every day, beginning on Monday afternoon, the Exhibit Hall is open, filled with artist booths and singers waiting to chat with you. The Hall will be open every day and is part of your free admission to Creekside.

Wednesday night and Thursday night also have special events happening during the evening program, so plan to stay the entire time!



What You Need To Know

We want you to be a VIP! For only \$25, a VIP bracelet will be your entry into the preferred seating at each event plus other special gifts and select backstage happenings. Purchase your VIP bracelet today from Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892 or by email at vonda@sgnscoops.com.

Tickets must be reserved here: Creeksidegospelmusic-convention.com

Creekside Gospel Music Convention would like to hear from you! Tell us what you want to see and hear in November. Creekside also needs your help. If you would like to volunteer through various promotional activi-



ties throughout the year, or with onsite tasks during the convention, please email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com. For more information, latest news and artists scheduled to appear, visit the Creekside page on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention> .

Fall Tree Photo Courtesy of Wolfgang Staudt

Hey Y'all!

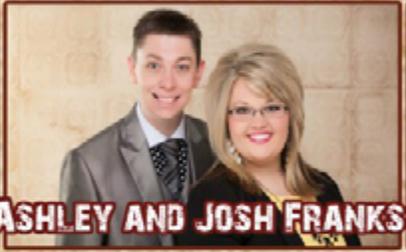
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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Jordan Wilburn

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

Look who we have with us today! If the picture on this page didn't give it away, then I'm happy to tell you this month's interviewee is Jordan Wilburn. Ever wanted to get to know the younger half of Wilburn and Wilburn? Well, look no further because you can right now. Jordan, it's all yours...

Erin: How do you feel growing up in a musical home affected your call into ministry?

Jordan: It definitely helped me see the good and the bad that comes with being in ministry. It was easy to see the good greatly outweighed the bad, from all the wonderful people you meet, and the incredible joy that comes from one of your songs being an encouragement to someone.

Erin: How long now have you taken the stage alongside your dad?

Jordan: Well, if you include seven years with the Wilburns, and the five-and-a-half years as Wilburn and Wilburn, that would be twelve and a half years.

Erin: Who are some of your musical inspirations?

Jordan: JD Sumner, Jim Hammel, Kenny Hinson, Jay Parrack, Ronnie Milsap, and last, but certainly not least, Rascal Flatts' Gary Levox.

Erin: How do you juggle life on and off the road while away from your family?

Jordan: I would be lying if I said it was easy. It definitely is not, but my philosophy is do the best I can and let the loose end drag. My wife knows how much I love

her, and she knows when I am home, that I help her to the best of my ability. She also knows I do not enjoy leaving. Yes, I do love ministering, but I do not enjoy leaving my family.

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

Jordan: Yes, I was six years old. The setting was Bessemer AL, at the Bessemer Civic Center. At the time, my



Had was still with the Wilburns and we were with Gold City, JD Sumner and the Stamps. That night Gold City, which at the time was Brian, Ivan, Mike, and Tim, announced they were disbanding, and that night I became friends with the legendary JD Sumner.

Erin: It's no secret that you've just recently become a daddy for the second time - congratulations! How are you and Lauren handling your newest family addition?

Jordan: Brayden Allen Wilburn is more of a blessing than Lauren and I could have ever asked for. He is such a bundle of joy, and even those 2:00am feedings don't seem so bad when you look at his sweet face.

Erin: Name your all-time favorite, must have food while

on the road?

Jordan: Long John Silver's! Give me the Fish and Shrimp combo. I could eat it every day.

Erin: What's the craziest thing a fan has ever said to you?

Jordan: I had a fan one time come up to me, and at the time I was chewing gum, and she proceeded to ask if she could have the piece of gum I was chewing. I proceeded to bend down and spit the piece of gum in her hand. For almost eight years after that incident, she would see me at concerts and say, 'I still have that piece of gum sitting on the edge of my computer desk!' True story!



Erin: Are there any big happenings taking place this year for Wilburn and Wilburn?

Jordan: Yes! Right now we have the number two song in the country, "You Asked Him To Leave," and any day now we will find out if it goes number one or not! It will be our first number one!

Erin: Being a father/son team, I'm sure you have unique opportunities to minister to the men in your concerts. How do you try to be an encouragement to young boys and men who look up to you?

Jordan: I think in today's society, it is important for young men to see that it's okay and it's cool for your dad to be your best friend.

Closing words from the writer...

Thanks for stopping by, Jordan! We've all enjoyed getting to know you a little better.

I appreciate how Jordan worded that last part. It really IS okay for kids (no matter the age) to be proud of the relationship they have with their parents. Our world is trying to

do everything they can to undermine family and the firm biblical values upon which we base our lives. Maybe you didn't grow up in a loving, Christian home like Jordan did, or I myself have. Please remember that it's more than okay to be proud of your relationship with your Heavenly Father. After all, He gave His only Son for you, and when you receive Jesus as your Savior, God adopts you as His own child into His family. That's good news worth being excited about AND worth sharing!

Until next month, Scoops fans.

And that's my take on it.

You can connect with Erin on

Twitter - @photosforkeeps • Instagram - @photos_for_keeps

Who would YOU like to see Erin interview next?



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

1	Wilburn and Wilburn	You Asked Him To Leave
2	Triumphant	Amazing God
3	Perrys	Keep On
4	Talleys	The People In The Line
5	McKameys	What If
6	11th Hour	Mountain Moving Faith
7	Steeles	Without A Sound
8	LeFevre Quartet	Something
9	Hyssongs	There's Still Room, There's Still Hope, There's Still Time
10	Mark Bishop and Forget The Sea	You Love Me Anyway
11	Karen Peck and New River	I Am Blessed
12	Whisnants	Grave Mistake
13	Williamsons	Monday
14	Ivan Parker	Silent Prayer
15	Brian Free and Assurance	He Still Saves
16	Nelons	Just Can't Make It By Myself
17	Browders	Waiting For You To Get Home
18	Hoppers	Jesus, The One
19	Kingsmen	I Know
20	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Small Town Someone
21	Erwins	Ready To Sail
22	Noah Hinshaw	No Turning Back
23	Bowling Family	I Was There
24	Lore Family	I Lived To Tell About It
25	Zane and Donna King	Lovestruck
26	Mylon Hayes Family	One More Opportunity
27	Shellem Cline	I'm The One
28	Canton Junction	Tumbling Down
29	Mark Trammell Quartet	I'll Take It To The Grave
30	Riders	One Holy Morning
31	Legacy Five	That's A Hallelujah
32	Dunaways	Again And Again
33	Inspirations	Pray For Me
34	Second Half Quartet	Cheer The Weary Traveller
35	Greater Vision	As We Speak
36	Sisters	You Alone
37	Wisecarvers	More Than A Good Man
38	Taylors	He's My Guide
39	Reborn	Potter's Wheel

40	Bev McCann	24 Hours A Day
41	Dennis Cook	Where No One Stands Alone
42	Heart's Song	Jesus Is The Answer
43	Higher Ground	Get Thee Behind Me
44	Drummond Family	I Stand
45	Joseph Habedank	Big Enough
46	Fowlers	I'm Nothing Without You
47	Jonathan Bledsoe	Go And Tell Somebody
48	Keith Barkley and Family Tradition	We're Almost Home
49	Rochesters	God's Been Good
50	Sounds of Victory	Slingful Of Faith
51	Debbie Seagraves	Where Was God
52	Cornerstone	Just Before Dawn
53	Collingsworth Family	What The Bible Says
54	Monty Lane Allen	Love That's Real
55	Browns	On The Winning Side
56	Caleb's Crossing	Brand New Me
57	Wards	My Father Is Near
58	TaRanda Greene	A Little More Jesus
59	Watts, Rowsey, Beene	When Revival Comes To Town
60	Coffmans	This Blood
61	Devon McGlamery	I Will
62	Greg Logins and Revival	Until Then
63	Carroll Roberson	A Mighty Rich Man
64	Jim Sheldon	Church Like We Knew Back Then
65	Ball Brothers	Someday
66	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	God Delivered Me
67	Goulds	He Promised Me
68	Kingdom Heirs	Pieces
69	Wilbanks	Riches In The Soil
70	Isaacs	Leave It On The Altar
71	Spoken For Trio	Return To God
72	Bates Family	Going To Heaven Someday
73	Jim Brady Trio	The Half That's Never Been Told
74	Mercy Rain	Angels All Around Us
75	Southern Raised	Ravens Still Fly
76	New Hearts	Follow Me
77	Sharps	He's The Rock
78	Eagle's Wings	Headed Home
79	Campbell and Rowley	Only Jesus
80	Master's Voice	I Can Hardly Wait To Fly
81	Jimmy Fortune	I Believe
82	Logan Smith	Come Spring
83	Blackwood Brothers	Forever Forgiven
84	Greater Vision	Put Out The Fire
85	Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver	He's In Control

86	Carolina Boys	We Shall Rise
87	Annette Bingaman	Splinters From The Cross
88	Burning Bridges	Take It To Jesus
89	Kelly Coberly	Midnight Cry
90	Manaraze Family	For All He Has Done
91	The Stephens	Just Pray
92	Lindsey Huggins	Nothing He Can't Redeem
93	Debra Perry And Jaidyn's Call	No One Loves You More Than Jesus Does
94	The Walkers	By A Roman Soldier's Hand
95	Connors	Let's Put God Back In Our Country
96	Clark Family	Sheltered
97	Lori Jonathan Trio	Count Your Days To Glory
98	Dixie Melody Boys	Rhythm Of Heaven
99	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	Jesus Changed Everything
100	Furrows	I've Come Too Far

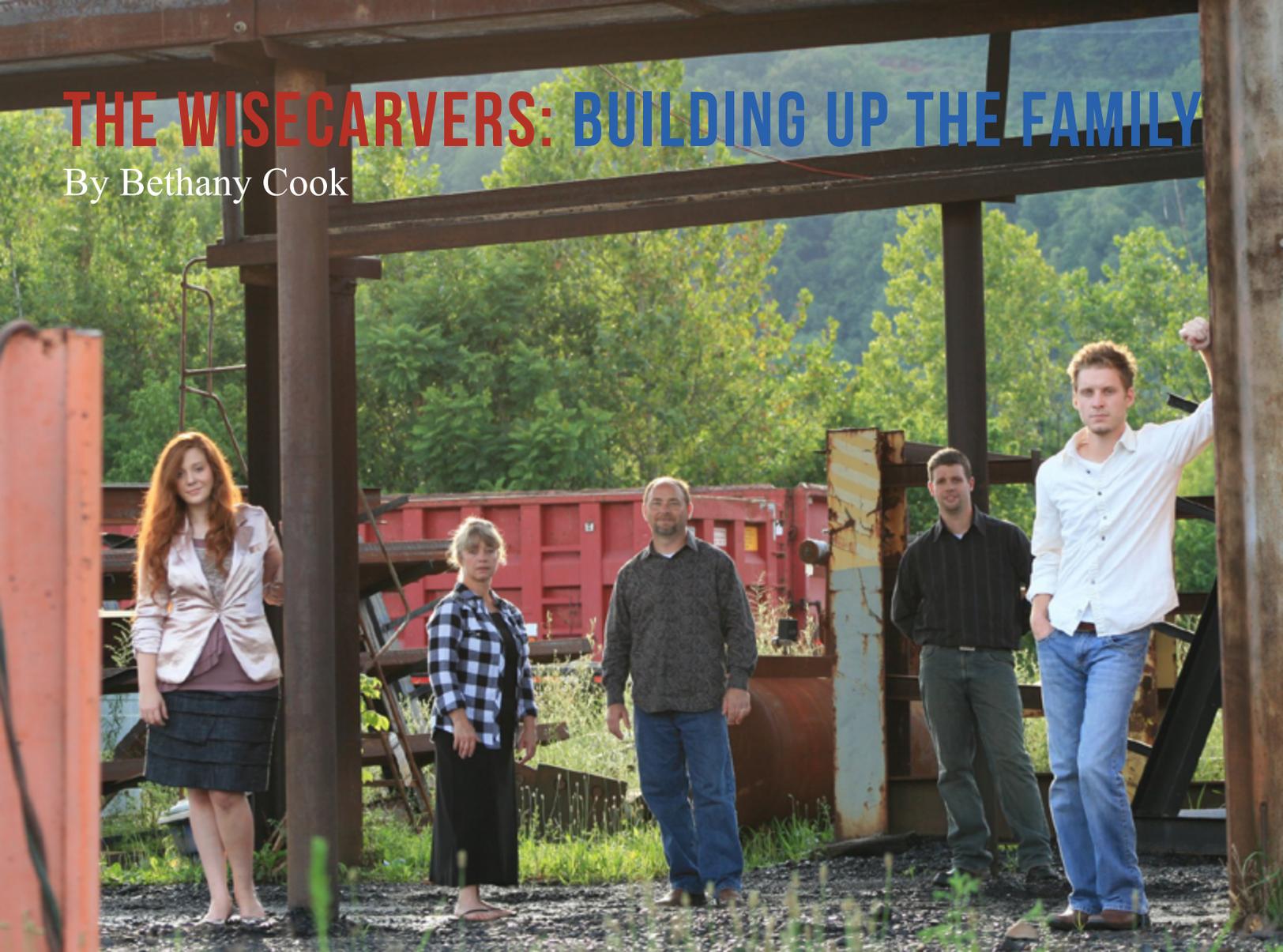


SGN **SCOOPS** MAGAZINE

#getconnected

THE WISECARVERS: BUILDING UP THE FAMILY

By Bethany Cook



The desire of any Christian parent is always that their children will grow up and serve the Lord. While some parents get to see their children thrive, not every family gets to do this together every single night. However, that is exactly the life the Wisecarvers get to live, and they wouldn't have it any other way! Mix together Dad and Mom, two sons, two daughters-in-law, and now a grandson and you have family harmony, lots of laughs and fun, and many new songs in the making. There's no question that once you meet them, you'll fall in love with them!

Vince and Tammy Wisecarver, sons Chase and Dustin Wisecarver, Dustin's wife Kaila and Chase's wife and newborn son make up this talented family. It's amazing the way the Lord worked in each group member's life through music. Each couple met at either a concert or award show or some event centered on music. This is just proof that if you let God have control over your life, He'll put the perfect person in your pathway. Truly each of these couples were a match made in Heaven.

I met this family several years ago and have been able to sit and talk with them on multiple occasions, and I can say without a doubt they are one of the most genuine families on the road today. Whether catching them at one of their concerts or just chatting online, they are always eager and ready to pray for the needs their fans may have. During a recent conversation with the family, they stated: "Our ultimate mission is the same as the calling God has placed upon every believer's heart – to see souls won into the Kingdom and believers encouraged. Another facet of our ministry is encouraging other families. There has been such an attack on the family unit in recent years. Many times the devil starts to break apart the church by breaking apart the families.

"We long to see families strengthened together in their walk with the Lord. Our ministry really started out by singing in our home church and at different family events. We knew that was what the Lord was calling us to do when our souls just weren't satisfied doing anything else. God began to open more doors for our music and led us to

the ministry we have today!”

One of the things the Wisecarvers are collectively most grateful for is when they receive a letter, note or phone call from someone letting them know that one of their songs or their ministry has touched their life in some way. They consider it an honor for folks to share their stories and to know that they have had a small part in it.

Get To Know The Wisecarvers

Chase – Lead Vocals, Songwriter: Not only is Chase the lead vocalist as well as a talented songwriter and musician, he is great at wood working. He can build pretty much anything he sets his mind to. You wouldn't know it by hearing him sing, but Chase has also battled asthma and allergies his whole life. Each time he belts out one of those strong, high notes is a testament of God's miracle working power.

Dustin – Baritone Vocals, Songwriter, Harmonica and Bass Player: Dustin's passion is playing harmonica, however, most of his harmonicas aren't just normal, stock



harmonicas. Dustin usually breaks each one down and customizes the combs and cover plates. He has some made of brass, aluminum, acrylic; all different colors and kinds. Being able to see how the instrument worked is one way he learned to play.

Vince – Lead Vocals, Songwriter, Rhythm Guitar: One of Vince's favorite things to do is making old cars new again. He has an eye for seeing the potential in an old, run-down car, and the talent to reconstruct, paint it, and bring that potential to life. One of his favorite restorations was a 1985 Chevrolet Silverado, as well as other restores he has

done (including a Mustang with customized ghost flames) that have won Best In Show in Autoramas.

Tammy – Lead Vocals, Songwriter: Some folks might be surprised to know that one of Tammy's favorite pastimes is working alongside Vince as he restores cars. If they're adding custom work to a vehicle she helps tape up the customized stripes and paint schemes. Tammy is also a very talented artist and enjoys drawing. She also won an art contest from the local radio station for the best Christmas display.

Kaila – Soprano Vocals, Songwriter, Pianist: Before Kaila and Dustin married, she lived in Alabama and was a DJ at a Southern Gospel station. She worked there for four years and received a nomination for Small Market DJ. Kaila also enjoys interior design and organizing. She also loves to read and would like to one day write a book of her own.

Kasie – Product Manager: Though you might not see her on stage, Kasie is a vital part of The Wisecarvers' ministry. Her newest job is being a mommy. She and Chase welcomed their little bundle of joy, Bobby Jake Wisecarver, on February 6th, 2016. Kasie has always loved teaching children and had worked in the child care field before she and Chase married.

When they are not out on the road, something that the entire family enjoys is getting to catch an Atlanta Braves game. They usually try to go a couple of times a year if possible. They also can be somewhat competitive when it comes to playing corn hole and fishing.

When it comes to the ministry work, one of the things the Wisecarvers enjoy most while on the road is putting thoughts together to write new music. When you're in a 40-foot bus together you tend to have plenty of time to throw around new ideas. Ironically enough, when they are off the road, they usually find themselves talking about all the fun had on the road.

On and off the road, this family is all about ministering. They truly have a heart for people, and a desire to serve the Lord. They say that nothing can replace the times they have felt the presence of the Lord sweep into a service and touch people's hearts. Knowing something has been accomplished for Him is their true desire.

The Wisecarvers have enjoyed singing on the main stage at National Quartet Convention and sharing their music during the Southern Gospel and Harvest Festival at Dollywood. One of their favorite places to travel to is the Nation's Capital, "We traveled through downtown Washington D.C. a couple of years ago and had a blast. We drove



by the White House and Washington Monument, just had a great time. However, we were right next to the stadium as the Washington Nationals game was ending so needless to say, it was a bit crowded. This year will be our first time traveling with a baby, so you'll have to check with us again next year because I'm sure we'll have some very interesting stories."

If you'd like to keep up with the Wisecarvers and their travels, be sure to check out their website and Facebook page. They also have a great event coming up April 15-17, 2016: The Second Annual "It's A Family Thing" Smoky Mountain Weekend Getaway. It is a weekend filled with tons of fun, fellowship and worship. It's at the Steiner Bell Lodge in Gatlinburg, Tennessee where you have the whole lodge to yourselves for the weekend. Grammy Award winner, Michael English, and Gaither Homecoming Artist, Logan Smith, will be at the Saturday evening concert. Also, their brand new CD *Armor* has been released. Their first release, "Just To Save Me," did very well and the latest release, "More Than A Good Man," is out to radio now and they are hearing great reviews so far.

It has truly been a privilege to call the Wisecarvers my friends, and I think there is nothing better to close out my conversation with them other than their desire for 2016. The family states, "We are just thrilled at what the Lord is doing and has in store for this year. Our goal for 2016 is to see our ministry grow to new levels so that we can reach more people with the message of Jesus Christ. These are the last days and we don't have much time left. We want to be about our Father's business, working diligently for Him."

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LOVE OFFERING RECEIVED TO COVER GROUP EXPENSES

Cracked Eggs

By Jennifer Campbell



When was the last time you cracked an egg? Perhaps it was just this morning as you were making breakfast. Maybe it was this past Easter when you cracked open the first boiled egg that you so carefully decorated with your children. Or maybe you haven't cracked an egg since the summer camp where you and your fellow campers participated in an egg toss. Eggs are a wonderful example of God's delicate handiwork. From delicious meals to newborn chicks, eggs end hunger and give birth to new life. **But what good is an egg until it's cracked?**

An egg's shell is such an intricate container, bearing the perfect size and shape to maintain the egg or chick inside in its proper position and climate. While this shell serves its purpose well, it is extraordinarily fragile. The tiniest tap on the shell can result in a crack. The egg white starts to trickle out. Soon the egg yolk flows out in one continuous motion. Soon all that is left is an empty shell, cracked and broken.

In reality, you and I are a lot like this egg. We have this outer shell that often serves as a shield from physical, emotional, or mental heartache. Yet this wall that we put up is extremely delicate, just like an egg shell. Many times, one bit of news can seemingly cause our shell to

crack, or even the whole world around us to crumble.

The loss of a loved one, the ending of a marriage through divorce, the suffering of a child who is battling a life-threatening disease, the burden of possible bankruptcy... all of these things can cause our life to go into a tail-spin. When our life takes an unplanned turn such as these, this is the moment our shell is compromised.

Inevitably, the shell cracks. **Everything within us vanishes, leaving us feeling alone, frightened, and empty, just like the remains of a cracked egg.** The raw emotions we have held in for so long begin to ooze their way out of this shell that we have hid in for so long. But it is only once the shell is cracked that people realize who we really are inside. They finally get to see the real person who has been hiding in a broken shell.

Essentially, an egg is useless unless it is broken. You cannot eat an egg unless the shell is removed. Despite the many comedy routines depicting a baker mixing whole eggs into the batter, you can't bake with an egg that is still in its shell. Even a chick that is growing inside of an egg eventually breaks out of the shell. The shell simply serves as a vessel to ingeniously hold the contents inside. But

this shell only holds these contents for a season. Without first cracking the shell, the egg cannot be used.

Similarly, you and I live in another type of shell. The only question is whether or not you live in a broken or unbroken shell. Do you hold all of your emotions inside, hoping no one will see the real you? Has there been a time when you said you were okay, even though the pain and grief were nearly too much to bear? Personally, I have been there. I know what it's like to live inside of a shell, afraid to let your emotions spill through the cracks. Let me tell you that you cannot truly enjoy life, constantly trying to patch up the cracks.

I want to encourage you to break out of your shell. Don't worry about whether or not the egg yolk and egg white spill out. Allow others to see the real gift that lies inside of you. Just like a little baby chick hatching from its shell, you can also blossom into a beautiful miracle. **God can take you out of your shell and give you the life you have always dreamt of living.** He's a specialist when it comes to taking what's broken and making it whole. Don't hide in your shell any longer; embrace a new life with Christ!

JERRY Branscomb

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Crosby Lane



By Jaquita Lindsey

Crosby Lane is a name that is still fresh on the scene within the Southern Gospel world. This Nashville, Tennessee, based trio came to life in the summer of 2012. Crosby Lane is comprised of Tonja Rose, John Lemonis and Michaela Lemonis. After about a year of getting accustomed to the road, the trio went full-time with its current roster in 2014.

Crosby Lane has been set apart from the beginning. This trio is known for creating its own unique arrangements of traditional hymns that we all know and love. “The important combination of *integrity* with the *original*, and just enough changes to make the song fresh, is a vital balance that we strive for,” John states. “Our heart for hymns causes us to be careful and responsible in our rendering of them. Our ministry is built on these songs. Other groups record hymn projects, but we *are* a hymn project, in a sense.”

In 2015, Crosby Lane released *Story & Song*, featuring some of their favorite hymns. This project includes songs by the group’s namesake and hymn-writer extraordinaire, Fanny Crosby. From this project, “The Old Rugged

Cross” is being played across the country on Southern Gospel radio. Crosby Lane is signed with John Mathis and Mansion Records, distributed by Sony RED.

The story of how Crosby Lane came into existence is quite interesting. “I set up a surprise birthday party for my wife, Michaela, in July of 2012. It was going to be a huge surprise for her, seeing as how her birthday is in January!” John laughingly shares. “Many friends had gathered at our house to surprise her, most of whom were from the music business. Some of them began throwing around ideas, of what would later become Crosby Lane.”

The ideas shared amongst friends that day blossomed into reality. The discussion of a potential group, which would primarily do hymns with fresh arrangements, became what we know today as Crosby Lane. Their goal was to tell the stories behind the songs and writers, adding their own personal touch along the way. Crosby Lane premiered at the Diamond Awards Show in October of that year.

Crosby Lane contains the former Country Music singer-

songwriter Tonja Rose, who actually began singing at the age of three with her father's Gospel quartet in North Carolina. "I remember 'Jesus On the Mainline' being the first song that I sang. Music is a part of my yesterday, my today and, God willing, my tomorrows," says Tonja.

Tonja is a very talented songwriter, musician, and worship leader. She lends her guitar and mandolin talents to the group, alongside her vocal abilities. Tonja has had success vocally in the Country music market, including a charting single. One of her noted achievements as a writer includes Ivan Parker's "Who I Am Ain't Who I Was," from his project *Joyride*. The Washington, North Carolina, native now makes her home in Spring Hill, Tennessee, with her husband, Charles, and son, Chuck. Another son, Jonathan, and his family live in North Carolina.

John Lemonis and wife, Michaela, contribute the other two voices to Crosby Lane. John is originally from the Mississippi Delta and Michaela is an Anchorage, Alaska native. John has received Dove nominations for his writing and arranging skills. His songlist includes recordings by several diverse artists, such as Point of Grace, Kingdom Heirs, Mark Harris, Brian Free and Assurance, Talley Trio and the Hagees. John has also taken part in print/choral music releases.

Michaela has worked as a model and is well versed on several instruments. She has seen recent activity as a writer as well with artists recording some her music. A neat fact about Michaela is that her great uncle played the drums for Johnny Cash for over four decades. She and John make their home in Nashville, TN with their



daughter Kara.

In 2016, the group began the year by releasing their project entitled *Crucified*. Mansion Record's John Mathis put together a campaign featuring the title track, "Crucified," which is an original song written by John and Michaela. The group shot a video for the song that Mansion promoted to Country radio stations and television networks. The Great American Country network (GAC) picked up the video, placing it on their *Positively Sunday* program as well as running it during the week with its Country Music videos. The networks of CMT, MTV and a host of Christian stations followed suit.

The radio single for *Crucified* has been released to Southern Gospel, Christian Country, and Contemporary Christian radio stations across the nation. The song has a unique musical composition. "Crucified" transcends genres by using acoustic, folk-style instruments with a soulful presentation and rich harmonies. Award winner Rob Ickes contributed his Dobro talent to the song. *Crucified* has added musical guests such as Ed Kee on the upright bass, Dennis Dearing on percussion and Wanda Vick Burchfield playing the fiddle.

The members of Crosby Lane say that they could fill a book with road stories in the couple of years that they have been traveling together. One of their most memorable happened near St. Louis, MO. John recalls:

"It was around 2:00 am and I was driving through a construction zone. I was not going particularly fast but there was something in the road. There were cars all around



me so I thought hitting it seemed like a better idea than hitting the concrete barrier or swerving into another vehicle. I was driving our personal vehicle at the time and whatever I hit tore up the wheel well. Something started dragging the ground so I found an exit and stopped to



examine the problem.

“Tonja’s son, Chuck, was traveling with the group at the time. He and Michaela ran into the store and asked the clerk for duct tape and a knife. I can only imagine what the clerk must have thought. Tonja remained asleep in the car. I was outside the car trying to tear away everything that was hanging from our Hyundai Sonata. There was so much gear in the trunk. I’m surprised it didn’t fly open from the impact, leaving instruments and clothing all over the Interstate.

“I began praying because we had to get home and it was late. ‘Help us, Lord,’ I remember whispering under my breath. About that time, Chuck and Michaela returned with a small roll of duct tape but no knife, while laughing at the clerk’s reaction to their inquiry. Suddenly, out of the blue, a man pulled up next to us in a Jeep Wrangler near the outer corner of the gas station’s lot where we had stopped. He asked if we needed help and we all looked at each other as I barely got out a weak, ‘Yes, we need a knife.’

“Picture this: the man looked like a professional wrestler and had a Chihuahua sitting in his lap. He answered, ‘I have one’, and immediately pulled out what appeared to be some type of hunting knife with a blade that seemed to be close to a foot long, saying, ‘Be careful.’ I quickly

cut away everything I could and gave this *sword* back to the man. By the time we got in our car, he was long gone and we laughed about it for miles.”

Crosby Lane’s goal is to minister with every opportunity given and to maintain a full-time schedule. The trio plays in churches of all sizes and denominations, Christian schools and colleges, fairs and festivals, conferences and revivals, and private events. “Hymns are a huge part of our presentation because they contain beautiful poetry and possess nostalgic value. There is great worth to the hymns and their part of our spiritual heritage and history,” says Tonja.

“The Bible says to ‘Sing unto the Lord a new song,’ and we definitely like adding our personal touch to old songs. We love new music but we do not want these great historical songs with their inspiring stories behind why they were written to fade with history,” adds John.

Crosby Lane can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as “crosbylanemusic” or you can visit their website at www.crosbylane.com.

TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1	Tommy Brandt	Broken
2	Bev McCann	24 Hours A Day
3	Shellem Cline	Blue Jeans and Biscuits
4	Mitch Pullen	Cross that River
5	John Steed	The In Crowd
6	Kevin Rowe and The Prodigal Sons	He's Coming
7	Kevin Woodall	God, Guns and Amazing Grace
8	Carter Robertson Band	God Against The Law
9	The Drummond Family	I Stand
10	James Gee	Thank You
11	Tina Wakefield	Jesus Take A Hold
12	Chuck Day	Stand Up
13	The Fowlers	I'm Nothing Without You
14	Jim Sheldon	Church Like We Knew Back Then
15	The Wards	My Father Is Near
16	Debbie Seagraves	Where Was God
17	Steve Roberson/Randy Finchem	It's a God Thing
18	Bruce Hedrick	Roses from God
19	Johnny Rowlette	Old Mustang
20	The Parrish Family	Old House
21	Chris Golden	You Can't Do Wrong and Get By
22	New Hearts	Follow Me
23	Brandon Poole	I Remember The Day

24	The Tacketts	Mirror Mirror
25	Stratiotis	Final Bell
26	Big Mo	One
27	Arkin Terrell	The Race
28	Shelby Ledford	What A Day
29	Caleb Dennis	Jesus is Always On Time
30	Cornerstone	Just Before Dawn
31	Debbie Bennett	From the Third Day On
32	Caleb's Crossing	Brand New Me
33	Crossfire Gospel Band	Gimme Back My Country
34	Freddie Pate	All Watered Down
35	Charles Scarlette	In the Morning
36	Chloe Goss	Why Give Him A Reason
37	Peter McDougal	Standing in Line
38	Nate Fortner	Why'd You Take Her Away
39	Carol Hogner	There Is A God
40	Bridge of Faith	Tougher than Nails

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The Lore Family

By Robert York

True family harmony comes from The Lore Family from Portsmouth, Ohio. They were Regional Artist winners at the 2013 National Quartet Convention and sang on the main stage. They sang, “I Lived to Tell About It.” This song is their current single and is number nine for April on the Singing News Charts as well as being on the charts at SGNscoops. Darren Lore is the father in the group and is married to Sandy. Darren stated, “I was raised on Red Back Hymnals and Southern Gospel. Actually, Sandy and I attended the same country Baptist Church. We began dating by forming a trio and singing together. We never sang with any other group until forming The Lore Family. But we always had a church trio involved in our pastorate.”

Darren is a pharmacist by profession but called by God to preach and sing. When asked if he could change anything he stated, “Well, I’d part my hair differently and buy tall shirts!” (He is kind of a short person.) He went on saying, “I supposed I would have liked to focus more on music years ago. I’d have focused on skills with instruments and taken voice lessons. I’d love to have a degree in Biblical counseling as well as music ministry.” They took the group from a part-time regional region group to a full-time group last year, traveling to where God calls them to sing.

Sandy Lore, whose father is Jack Strickland, said, “He [Jack] took a trip to the altar five years ago and since then, he has never been the same. His love for God, his family and his church is truly beautiful! He is one of our biggest supporters and prayer warriors.” Sandy, daughter Fayth and the entire group host a lot of conferences and retreats throughout the year. Two are coming up April 15th and May 20th through 21st. You can find out about these conferences on their website listed at the end of the feature.

Fayth states, “I have been a PK [Preacher’s Kid] all of my life. At age eight, I gave my life to Jesus Christ. I can’t say that I have a testimony of God delivering me from drug abuse or alcohol, but I can say He kept me from those things. I’m thankful that my parents always told me I couldn’t make it inside the gates because my Daddy was the preacher of the church. I had to choose salvation for myself. Boy, am I glad that I did.” Fayth was nine and [her brother] Samuel was 10 when their Dad taught them to sing harmony on the old song, “I’ve Come Too Far (to turn back).” Mother’s Day morning, they surprised their Mom by singing that song for her in church. Actually the surprise was on Fayth and Samuel as God has taken their ministry to places they could have never imagined since that day. Samuel stated, “The highlight of my career is anytime I see



someone dedicate their life to Jesus.” He is also a fan of the Piano Guys and enjoys the BYU men’s choir and Disney music.

Every person or group has a funny or embarrassing moment. Fayth said hers happened at the 2013 National Quartet Convention. She was wearing her favorite pair of black heels. The family had sung in the showcase and they were hurrying to the main stage. When they arrived she realized the little black bow was coming off one of her shoes. She was in dire need of help! She had a friend, Kelsey Gould, who offered to let her borrow her shoes, but Mom came to the rescue using taffy candy to reattach the bow. Telling the story she said, “Thanks Mom. The bow stayed on just fine. The moral of the story, always have a piece of taffy near by.”



After nearly two decades in the pastorate, God has gifted the Lores with a unique heart for the local church. Whether in the pulpit or the pew, by song or in seminar, the anointed ministry of the Lore Family will engage each listener as they are ushered into the presence of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in contacting the Lore Family, do so at www.lorefamilyministries.com.

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High Notes

By Kelly Nelon Clark



Have you ever felt like your life is a whirlwind and sometimes spinning out of control? You are so busy with doing and going that there is little or no time left for you and God. You work so hard to provide for your family and forget who is really the provider. Days turn into weeks and then months and you feel so removed from God. You've carved out time for everything else except the One who really matters. The One who gently calls our name.

He never screams or yells to get our attention but speaks with love. When we allow God to be a part of who we are, His words bring peace, joy and love into our crazy busy lives. Don't squeeze Him out of what you do.

When circumstances overcome us and we don't know which way to turn, whom do we call on? I've always heard that we have all either just come through a trial or we are headed toward one.

We need the One who is stronger than us to guide our steps and lives. When we make Him the first priority in our lives, He puts everything in line for our lives and in balance.

Let Him fill you with everything He has for you. His glory will brighten up the whole world around you.

The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

—Isaiah 50:4

The Griffins

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On the Spot Interview

with Jerry Pilgrim of Master's Voice



By Justin Gilmore

Finding new artists to listen to and follow is something I greatly enjoy. A few months ago, I came across a group called Master's Voice. Their dynamic sound and style caught my attention immediately. I then had the pleasure of reviewing their latest project *Undivided* in January which was their major label debut as a quartet. This CD greatly impressed me in three areas: production quality, songwriting, and vocal performances. Each member shined on this project including bass singer Jerry Pilgrim. Pilgrim is no stranger to Southern Gospel music having served as the final bass singer for the Old Time Gospel Hour Quartet. His smooth bass voice is a great addition to the group. Pilgrim definitely makes my list of favorite bass singers.

Let's get to know Jerry Pilgrim.

Justin Gilmore: Hello Mr. Pilgrim! Thanks for taking the time to talk to me. How did you get your start in Southern Gospel music?

Jerry Pilgrim: Justin, I appreciate your consideration of me for the interview. I've been singing most of my life, but I started my first quartet my first year of college. We called it Witness Inc. We recorded with the late Robert (Bob) MacKenzie and we were about to go full-time when the group fell apart. I think it was all happening so fast, it freaked us out. Since then I've been fortunate enough to sing with several full-time groups including The Old Time Gospel Hour Quartet and Monument.

Gilmore: Who are your musical influences?

Pilgrim: I grew up watching The Gospel Singing Jubilee television show. I guess Billy Todd was my first influence in gospel music, along with too many others to name.



Gilmore: Speaking of Billy Todd, who is your favorite bass singer? Singer in general?

Pilgrim: Without a doubt, George Younce was my all-time favorite, because he could *sing*. My favorite living bass singer is Jeff Pearles. I think he's totally underrated by many.

Gilmore: George Younce was an incredible singer who also sang bass! Jeff Pearles is great as well. What is the lowest bass note you can hit?

Pilgrim: I hit the occasional double low F in concert. I've hit some lower notes, but it's unusual. All the stars have to be aligned so to speak.

Gilmore: Who are your favorite groups? Past or present.

Pilgrim: As you've probably already guessed, the Cathedral Quartet was my favorite. I really like what the Kingdom Heirs are doing these days. Jeff Chapman is great.

Gilmore: Two of my absolute favorite groups as well. How did you get involved with Master's Voice?

Pilgrim: Ricky Capps, the owner of Master's Voice, and I have known each other for about 15 years. We have talked off and on for the past seven years about my joining the group. However, the timing was not right until last June.

Gilmore: What is your favorite part about traveling with the group?

Pilgrim: Seeing folks get saved. The group makes evangelism a priority. One service last year the group witnessed

27 decisions one night. Just last week we saw 13 saved in a service. It's an honor and a thrill for us to get to be a part of that. And let me add, we all love each other and enjoy each other's company.

Gilmore: Awesome! That's what it's all about. What song do you enjoy singing the most?

Pilgrim: Probably a Daryl Williams tune called: "Lord Of Mercy," from our most recent album.

Gilmore: One of my favorite songs on the project. What is your favorite Scripture verse?

Pilgrim: I would have to say Proverbs 3:5-6. God can take care of things so much better than I, if I will only trust Him.

Gilmore: Great word. One of my favorite verses, What is something people don't know about you?

Pilgrim: That I'm an introvert. I have to work at being outgoing. Of course, my wife is just the opposite.

Gilmore: I'm an introvert as well! What is the most memorable experience you've had in your years of singing Gospel music?

Pilgrim: I suppose it would be my first night on main stage at NQC with the Old Time Gospel Hour Quartet. The outgoing bass, Jeff Pearles, sang one song then handed the mic off to me. I had never sung with the group prior to that night.

Gilmore: Any advice for aspiring Gospel Music singers?

Pilgrim: Keep doing what God has called you to do. Small venues, large venues; God's timing, planning, and His purpose will be accomplished. Don't give up.

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

Pilgrim: We have some exciting things happening this year including the Memphis Quartet Show, a tour in Canada, and a trip to Australia. But we're excited every time we get to sing, wherever it may be.

Gilmore: Looking forward to what's in store for you all! Thanks again for your time!

Pilgrim: Blessings.

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

John Mills



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

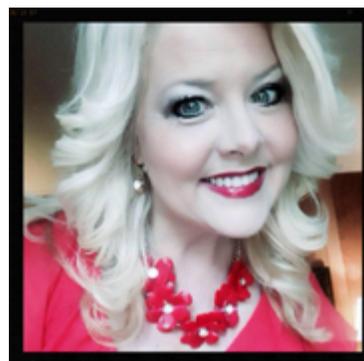
Vonda: Tell us about your family. Wife? Kids?

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

Vonda: What is your favorite restaurant?

John: My favorite restaurant is Cracker Barrel.

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



**Written By
Vonda Easley**



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Meet Squire Parsons

Again For The First Time



By Charlie Griffin

Squire Parsons, Jr. was born April 4, 1948 in the hills of Newton, WV. Today he is a Southern Gospel singer and songwriter. His parents are Squire and Maysel Parsons, and Squire was introduced to music by his parents. His Dad was a choir director and deacon at Newton Baptist Church. He also taught him to sing using shaped notes.

In 1970, Parsons earned a Bachelor of Science in music from West Virginia University Institute of Technology in Montgomery, where he was trained on the piano and bassoon. Following graduation, he accepted a teaching position at Hannan High School in Mason County, West Virginia, and served as music director at various churches. During this period he wrote "Sweet Beulah Land," his signature song.

"Sweet Beulah Land" has become known the world over for its worshipful tune and lyrics expressing the desire of the Christian to be home in Heaven. This song has earned Parsons nominations for Dove Awards as well as the title of Favorite Song of the Year and Favorite Songwriter by the Singing News. He has also earned the Favorite Baritone and Favorite Gospel Male Singer

awards from the Singing News.

Although "Sweet Beulah Land" is the most recorded song of his, Parsons has written many songs, including such favorites as "The Master of the Sea," "I Call it Home," "I Sing Because," and "I'm Not Giving Up." Parsons' work has crossed stylistic boundaries, being recorded by Bluegrass favorite, Marty Raybon, as well as Contemporary Christian artists, Casting Crowns.

Parsons joined the Kingsmen Quartet as a baritone in 1975 and toured with them for four years before embarking on a solo career. During the time with the Kingsmen, he became known as the *Gentle Giant*, all because of his disposition and positive outlook on living life. His love for life, Christ, and people, was shown daily on concert stages and when talking to anyone at the record table. That same flare carried over into his solo ministry.

Squire has been the guest soloist at some of Gospel music's most prestigious concert halls and churches, singing on the platform of such noted preachers as Dr. Charles Stanley, Dr. Jerry Falwell, and Dr. Billy Graham. He is also a continual participant in the Gaither



Homecoming videos. The solo career has allowed Squire to reach out in new venues and in places where Gospel music is normally not heard. Churches, supper clubs, concert halls, outdoor camp meetings are highlighted by television and frequent radio appearances. He is a keynote speaker for revivals and conferences.

Throughout the years, the Gentle Giant has achieved many milestones. He was ordained as a minister at Trinity Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina, his home church. He was honored by his alma mater, West Virginia Institute of Technology, with an honorary Doctorate of Humanities. Squire was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Association's Hall Of Fame, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in 2008. He was also presented with the Harmony Honors Award, by the Southern Gospel Music Guild, for his outstanding contributions to Gospel Music as a Songwriter.

What most people forget is that Squire loves Quartet music. Over the years he has kept a group of sorts to fill those concert dates. Ernie Phillips, Jim McCauley, Ernie Haase, Tim Surrent, Joe Fowler, Greg Bentley, Seth Parsons, Jody Medford, Harold Reid, Greg Fox, Bo

Sullivan, Charlton Jordan and others have appeared on stage with him as Squire Parsons and Redeemed, Squire Parsons Trio and even the “*no name spur of the moment come sing with me quartet.*”



When I scheduled Squire at the Hallelujah Supper Club, the demand for his music created back-to-back concerts over the scheduled weekend, five times each year. No other artist had 10 sell out concerts in a year, while having a waiting list in the event of no shows.



As most groups would do, Squire and the boys got to the HSC early to set up. They loved to get in early to practice and then eat and relax. One night the group sat down to a meal and just ate up a storm. It was a couple of hours before the concert, so Squire went back to the bus. It wasn't long before he was taking that dinner nap.



Ernie Phillips came in saying, "Just kill some time. It won't take long." I asked was everything alright? Ernie said, "Well you see, it was a big meal and well, uh... Squire took a nap and we're running behind."



The program went on for some two hours and not one patron left. The sweetness of the message and the love Squire shared just captivated his fans and friends.

His love of Gospel music is infectious. When around him on stage or breaking bread, you can see Squire is just *good people*. When you talk with him you learn one thing, he is genuine. "After the song is over, I hope that they have realized that we've not been trying to say, "Oh, what a singer," but that they will remember, 'Oh, what a Savior!'" states Parsons.

Notes:

1. Information included from Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squire_Parsons, March 29, 2016) and Squire Parsons' personal website



(<https://www.squireparsons.com/about.html>, March 29, 2016) also written by Charlie Griffin et al.

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Randall Reviews It - April 2016

by Randall Hamm

Happy Spring and welcome to another edition of Randall Reviews It! We have enjoyed several great new releases in the last few weeks, and I have picked out three of the best to share with you. Enjoy reading about Mark Lowry, Steve Warren and Pam Weston. *Please send your latest releases for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.*



Mark Lowry
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2015 Springhill

Producer: Kevin Williams Exec Producer: Mark Lowry

Songs: Mary Was The First One To Carry The Gospel (Mark Lowry, William J Gaither); Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven (Loretta Lynn); Worry (Cindy Morgan); I Thirst (Beverly Lowry); Live Loud (Jason Cox, Marty Funderburk); How We Love (Beth Nielsen Chapman);

Old People (Jimmy Yeary, Sonya Isaacs Yeary, Ben Hayslip); Happy (Pharrell Williams); Rock In A Weary Land (Ashley Cleveland Greenberg); When I Survey The Wondrous Cross (Isaac Watts-PD); Come As You Are (Reba Rambo McGuire, Ray Davis, Marcia Henry)

Mark Lowry returns with his first album since 2013. Many of us know Mark mainly as a comedian. But he is so much more. He is also a writer, singer and as we mentioned, comedian extraordinaire.

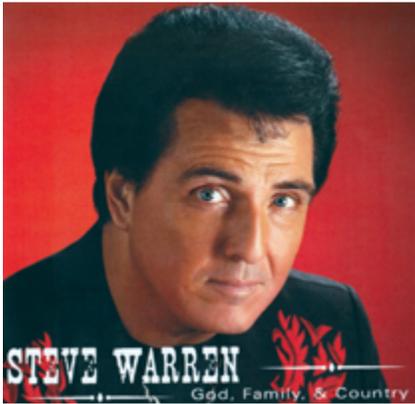
Here we find Mark bringing us 11 songs, including the Country-styled “Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven” written by Loretta Lynn, where Mark is joined by friends Dailey and Vincent. The song as of this issue is Top 40 for Mark and getting a lot of airplay.

Mark is redoing an old classic he co-wrote with Bill Gaither, “Mary Was The First One To Carry The Gospel.” Joining Mark on this album are as I mentioned Dailey and Vincent; also joining Mark are the Martins on “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross,” and “How We Love,” the title track.

Sisters join Mark on “I Thirst,” that was written by Mark’s mom Bev and joining Mark are Jimmy Yeary and Sonya Isaacs Yeary on “Old People,” a song they co-wrote with Ben Hayslip. This is the standout track on the CD. It’s heartwarming and tugs on the heartstrings. If released as a single, this should do quite well. The match of Mark’s voice to the quaint lyrics of Jimmy and Sonya, make this a song match made in Heaven.

The only song that, to me, just doesn't match the album, is a cover of Pharrell Williams "Happy." Overall not a bad CD and if you're a Mark fan, it's a must have. Visit Mark at <http://marklowry.com/>

Strongest Songs: "Old People," "Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven," and "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross."



Steve Warren
God, Family, And Country
2015 Independent

Studios: Direct Image – Nashville Tennessee
Producer: Terry L Nunley-Kenny Royster-Rory Rositas

Songs: Let's Put God Back In America (Terry L Nunley BMI); I Just Have To Praise The Lord (Terry L Nunley, Greg Day BMI); Chicken Eating Preacher Man (Terry L Nunley, Danny Hathcock BMI); Forever Kind of Love (Terry L Nunley, Larry Stone BMI); Just Like Jesus Said It Will be (Terry L Nunley, Danny Hathcock BMI); The Dress In The Window (Terry L Nunley BMI); Used To Be Honky Tonk Man (Terry L Nunley BMI); When I Looked Up To Jesus (Terry L Nunley, Zane King BMI); Holy Ghost Train (Terry L Nunley BMI); Just A Touch (Terry L Nunley, Larry Stone BMI)

The 14th album of Steve Warren's career is titled *God Faith and Family* and it is as the title implies, full of songs of God, faith and family. Steve has had a number of chart songs over the years and his latest single is "Just Like Jesus Said It Would Be." "It's just like Jesus said it would be, The strange winds blowing are no mystery. It was written in red in bible prophecy, now it's just like Jesus said it would be."

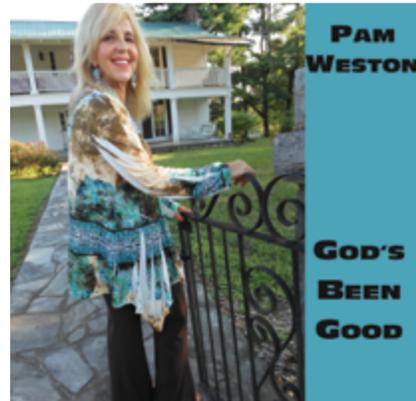
Ten other songs on the CD, that if you like your Gospel on the Country side, will fit the bill handsomely. You'll

find comedy with "Chicken Eating Preacher Man" and even a narration "The Dress In The Window" on this CD.

It's a well rounded CD that brings a little bit of everything including a duet with Country star Ken Mellons on "Used To Be Honky Tonk Man". Also a bonus track has Steve Warren singing with David Hale of *Knight and Hale* TV show fame on "Hunting Man."

It had been a while since I had heard Steve Warren, and once the CD began to play, it was like an old friend comforting me. Do yourself a favor, get a copy of this CD and order a second for a friend; if you don't, you may never get your CD back.

Strongest Songs: "Just Like Jesus Said It Would Be," "The Dress In The Window," and "Just a Touch."



Pam Weston
God's Been Good
2015 Independent

Studios: Oak Tree, Hendersonville Tennessee
Producer: Gordon Mote, Pam Sandidge,, Rick Weston

Songs: Try A Little Kindness (Curt Sapaugh, Bobby Austin); Go's Been Good (Sue C. Smith); Jesus In A Song (Gerald Crabb); A Little Good News (Tommy Rocc,-Charlie Black, Rory Burke); I've Got That Old Time Religion/Gimme That Old Time Religion Medley (Iris Dement-PD); I Can Trust Him (Glen Bates, Glenn Ashworth); Solid Floor Of Faith (Glen Bates, Glenn Ashworth); My Only Love (Pam Weston); Mama Can't Remember (Pam Weston, Glen Bates); Till The Answer Comes (Paul Overstreet)

You may not be familiar with the name Pam Weston, but you soon will be. Pam came to Nashville in the

mid '80's and has been a part of Bill Anderson's Po' Folks Band, has sung backup for Jeannie Seely, Helen Cornelius, and Sylvia, and also toured with Bob Hope on a USO tour.

Pam has been touring as a soloist for a number of years. This is Pam's fourth Gospel CD and the second to be produced by Gordon Mote. She also worked with Gordon on her last CD *I Will Pray For You*, which produced the single "Graduation Day," in which she and Gordon sang a duet.

This latest CD brings 10 great songs filled with faith and hope. Some great songwriters such as Paul Overstreet and Gerald Crabb have provided songs, that make this her strongest CD to date. The highlight song is a song written by Pam about her 95-year-old mother who has Alzheimers, entitled "Mama Can't Remember." Poignant lyrics that get to the heart of the matter, a loving Mama who taught us well, taught us lessons, but we wish we'd have written them down. Now, "Mama Can't Remember."

The whole album has a faith and hope theme: "Til The Answer Comes," "God's Been Good," and "Try A Little Kindness." My favorite song on the CD is "Jesus In A Song." Gerald Crabb wrote a song, that all Gospel singers should take to heart: "Lord help me step aside, So they can see the One who died. I can point the way, But only You can say, That when my part is over I hope someone can say that I met Jesus in your song today."

Other songs such as the classics: "Try a Little Kindness," and "A Little Good News," make this CD one that can encourage you and lift you up. Visit Pam at <http://www.pamwestonministries.com/>

Strongest Songs: "Mama Can't Remember," "Jesus In A Song," and "Solid Floor of Faith."

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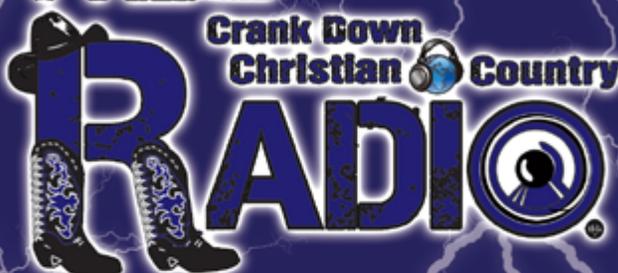
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Technology with a Twist

Periscope with the Perrys

By Lynn Mills

Social media is always changing. From Facebook's addition of "love," "anger," and "laughter" emotions to Instagram's 10-second videos, there's always something new to explore in the world of cell phones, tablets and computers. This month, I want to look at a platform that just celebrated its first birthday on March 26th – Periscope.

Periscope is a mobile app that streams video live, as it happens. People watching a live broadcast can comment on the video, which is then seen immediately by the broadcaster as each comment is posted. This way, the one filming the video can communicate with those watching while the broadcast is streaming. Watchers can also express that they like a broadcast by tapping the right side of their device screen, sending hearts that float to the top expressing enjoyment.

Last month, we discussed how artists are using mobile apps to enhance communication with their fans; now, we want to take a look at how these artists use Periscope. This feature for mobile devices was launched March 26, 2015 and exceeded 10 million accounts after four months of usage. Does that include artists from Southern Gospel Music? Why, yes it does!

The Perrys were among the first Southern Gospel artists to use Periscope to keep fans updated on the group's happenings. These broadcasts have ranged from live concert footage to cooking on the bus. Perhaps the most watched and possibly most "hearted" video was when Libbi hid just off the trail's path and filmed her son, Jared, as he proposed to his fiancé, Lindsey. With Periscope, moments like these can be experienced as they're happening. I'd dare say that is a twist to technology fans have been waiting for...



To follow the Perrys on Periscope, search for: @ThePerrys70 under "people" in the Periscope app.

New to Periscope? Let's go over a few key features: Periscope does not "archive;" this means that once a video is broadcasted, viewers have 24 hours to watch it before it disappears. Unlike YouTube and SocialCam, Periscope does not offer a platform where you can watch videos from weeks or months ago. While users have the option to save their video to their camera roll on their device to keep personally, viewers only have a 24-hour window to catch the moment after it happens. Secondly, if you have an account with Twitter, you won't have to create a separate account for Periscope. Twitter owns Periscope, so if you have the Twitter app, just download the Periscope app and you're ready to go! No extra sign-ins and passwords to remember! Last but not least, let Periscope send you push notifications and you will never miss a broadcast. They'll come directly to your phone when someone you follow starts streaming.

Be sure to sign up with Periscope if you haven't already and catch the many delightful videos shown by artists and industry personnel, from live concerts to church services to behind-the-scenes features that you won't catch anywhere else.

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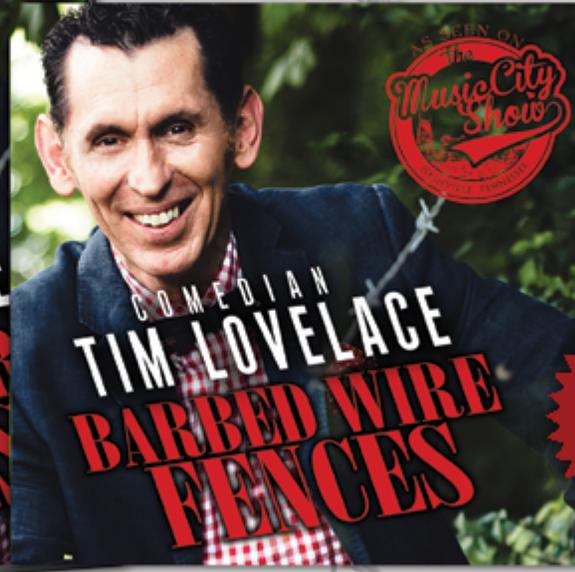
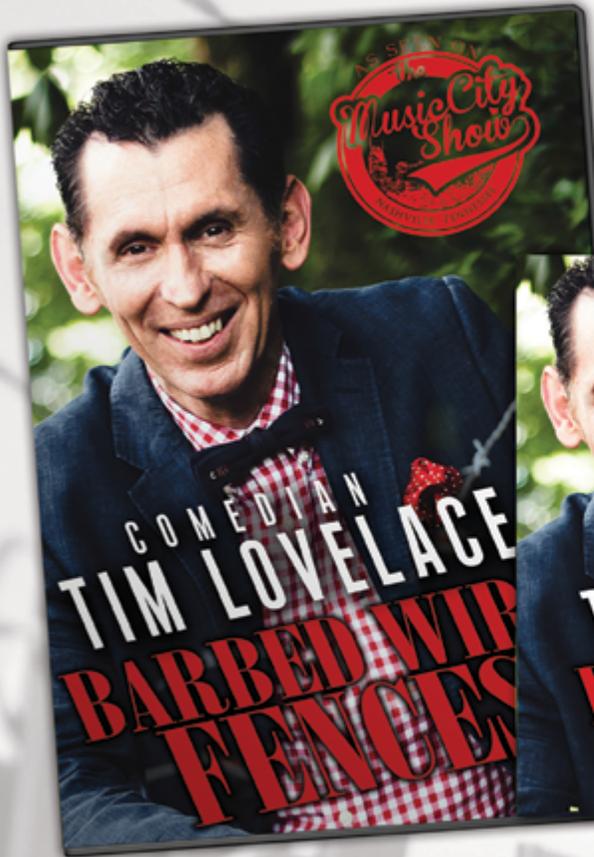


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CHRISTIAN COUNTRY EXPO 2016 UPDATE

By Lorraine Walker

Do you like your Gospel music with a twang? If so, then **Christian Country Expo 2016** is your vacation destination! The nation's biggest gathering of Christian Country artists and fans will converge on the **Smoky Mountain Resort Center, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee**, from August 15th through 18th. This will be your best opportunity to meet and talk with your favorite Christian Country artists in the large exhibit hall, pick up their latest CDs and take selfies with the



stars.

Do not miss the very first **Christian Country Diamond Awards**, to be presented during the Expo. Vote today at <http://www.christiancountrynews.com/diamond-awards/> Everyone is invited to the website

to vote for their favorites. Artists and industry personnel are also invited to vote and to encourage their friends and fans to vote as well!

We are excited to announce some of the artists to be added to the lineup of CCX16. We are sure you will know these Christian Country favorites: **Kenny Gardner, De La Croix, and Chuck Day. Kevin Rowe and Greg McDougal** will be appearing along with **Joe Loftus, the Pace Brothers and Carol Barham**, and many others.

Don't miss the **Christian Country Expo 2016** from **August 15th through 18th, 2016**, a wonderful time of music and foot-stomping fun. Ticket information is available at <http://www.christiancountryexpo.com/> VIP tickets are also available. Call Rob Patz at 360-933-0741 to reserve your VIP spot. Christian Country artists that would like to be involved, please contact Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892. Contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at hotels@sgnscoops.com or call her at 256-239-7716. Like us on Facebook and be sure to check there for more information! <https://www.facebook.com/christiancountryexpo/>





ROGER'S ROUNDUP

By Roger Barkley Jr.

So many choices. So many thoughts. Yelling at the opponent. Almost seems more like a professional wrestling event than a political debate.

Once again we are at the preface of a decision that will impact our future as a nation.

I know we all keep hearing from preachers, pastors, evangelists, televangelists, or elders, the scripture: If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, then I will hear the cries of My people and heal their lands... [from 2 Chronicles 7:14]

By now you are starting to write to the Editor about the misrepresentation of scriptures. Don't write that note just yet. I am reporting what is being heard. I am not reporting what, in fact, needs to be heard. There is a phrase that has been ignored or omitted from that scripture. The phrase "turn from their wicked ways" are just five simple words but speak volumes of why this

land may not be healing.

As many of you know, I am proud of being an American. Proud that my dad and other family members have served for our armed forces. I am proud that our nation was founded upon worshipping the true God freely.

Some of us may never be able to be on the steps of our capital buildings. Some may never get to speak at a national rally. We can, however, speak the loudest when we pray and seek God's guidance to show us the right leader to lead us to start our nation's healing process.

Whatever your choice of political party, I urge you to pursue the understanding that only God can give as we enter this crucial time in our America.



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Water is Key to Faster Fat Loss



By Laurette Willis, CHC

Water seems to be the single most important catalyst in weight loss and maintaining a healthy weight – and it’s definitely a “Penny Pinching” favorite!

Decreasing water intake actually causes fat deposits to increase, while *increasing* water intake can reduce fat deposits. Why? The kidneys need water to function properly. When they are not receiving sufficient water, they’re not operating at full capacity and some of the load is managed by the liver. One of the liver’s many functions is to metabolize stored fat into energy, but if it’s doing some of the work of the kidneys it’s not able to function at maximum capacity.

Result? More fat is stored by the body instead of metabolized.

Did you know that sometimes you only *think* you’re hungry? You may actually be thirsty. I call it “mouth hunger.” You know that sensation you have when you want something to eat, but the desire isn’t coming from your stomach? Perhaps it’s a taste in your mouth you want to change and you know that eating a particular snack will change it. Next time that happens, drink water instead (not soda pop, juice, coffee or tea). People who are “grazers” or all-day snackers will lose weight if they drink water when they experience “mouth hunger” instead of eating.

Many women have told me they are rarely thirsty. Our bodies can become imbalanced from eating food when we’re really thirsty or drinking caffeinated soda, coffee or tea which further dehydrate the body. These physical imbalances can cause us to lose our natural thirst for water.

Water Retention Woes

What about water retention (edema)? Many women are concerned that drinking water will aggravate bloating and swollen ankles. Actually, the opposite is true. The best treatment for fluid retention is drinking sufficient quantities of water. Seems contrary, doesn’t it? It’s comparable to what happens if we follow an extreme diet. When we don’t eat sufficient quantities of food every few hours, the body perceives starvation, lowers metabolism to burn fewer calories and hoards fat.

Similarly, when the body isn’t receiving enough water, it perceives this as a threat to survival. It holds on to as much water as it can and stores it in spaces outside the cells. This results in swollen feet, ankles and hands.

Diuretics only worsen the condition. Stored water may be forced out for a time (along with nutrients the body needs), but the body will replace the water lost as soon as soon as it can. Swelling returns, so diuretics are taken again and the cycle is perpetuated. If edema is a problem for you, first try decreasing salt and caffeine intake and increasing the amount of water you drink.

What is a sufficient amount of water?

“Does iced tea count?” “What about juice, coffee or diet soda?” Even though there is water in juice and man-made beverages, water is the only liquid which does not require the body to work to process it. Soft drinks have chemicals and colorings that have to be removed, and caffeinated beverages actually dehydrate the body, removing more water than the beverage contains.

Most nutrition experts agree that 64 ounces (eight eight-ounce glasses) of water each day is adequate for most people. If you’re overweight, one eight-ounce glass is recommended for each additional 25 pounds of body weight.

Want an easier way to remember? Take your weight and divide it by two. Drink that number in *ounces* of water each day. For example if you weigh 160 pounds, half that number is 80. Drink 80 ounces of water every day (or ten eight-ounce glasses).

Unfortunately, our water supply is tainted by chemicals and waste matter even in the purest of settings. Today water must be filtered, so purchase a good water filtration system (preferably steam distilled) or buy bottled water.

Don't like the taste of water? Filtration systems can do wonders, but until you can get one, refrigerating water improves the taste. Also try a squeeze of lemon, or two teaspoons of organic apple cider vinegar and a teaspoon of honey.

Increase the amount of water you drink when exercising, in warm weather, or if working outdoors. Cold water appears to be absorbed by the body more quickly and may even help burn more calories (we like that!).

If you stop drinking enough water, natural thirst will disappear; body fluids will go out of balance again causing fluid retention and mysterious weight gain. Solution? Increase your water intake again back to 64 or more ounces per day. Simple – and so thrifty, too!

Water of Life – the REAL thing!

Jesus said to the woman at the well who was looking to satisfy a thirst that no one on this earth could ever satisfy: “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13, 14).

Jesus is the only One who can give us living water. He alone can quench your every thirst and satisfy every hunger. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you as the source of true life today.

For information on the 90 Essential nutrients, and to get a free copy of the “Ten Bad Foods List” plus a free Self-Health Evaluation you can take online, contact Laurette Willis at Laurette@PraiseMoves.com.

Laurette is a Certified Health Coach, published author, and Founder of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry. You may contact Laurette at the email address above, 918-458-1800 or www.PraiseMoves.com. Join Laurette at www.Facebook.com/LauretteWillisPage ©2015



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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Happy Spring! I am saying that, in faith believing that we will have a Spring! As I am writing this, we are enduring a late winter storm with lots of ice. Our early flowers will not survive, but I know there will be more flowers eventually. Jeff and Sheri Easter used to sing a song, "Roses Will Bloom Again," urging the listener to move past their past and look forward to what tomorrow will bring. Spring is a great time to anticipate all the great things the Lord has in store for us!

One young group that has a lot of great things in store for them is our featured artist, The Erwins. They have signed with StowTown and jumped up the charts during the last year, and they are proof that Southern Gospel is not dead. There are more young people involved than ever before, mainly through the influence of the Gospel family sound. Just look at the other families we've highlighted, including The Wisecarvers, The Collingsworth Family and The Lore Family. Jordan Wilburn is also a product of a Gospel-singing family. What a legacy!

Every month it seems we have new writers joining the SGN Scoops team and others taking a sabbatical. In the last couple of months, we have welcomed Charlie Griffin and Charlie Sexton, with more to come. Those leaving us for a time include Matt Baker, Hannah

Webb, Sherry Anne, and Tina Wakefield. We hope they rejoin us soon. Thanks to all of our dedicated, committed team members. You are so appreciated!

Looking ahead at the Scoops' calendar, we have Christian Country Expo and Creekside coming up quickly, along with the Diamond Awards for each event. Be sure you add these music festivals to your calendar and don't forget to vote for the Diamond Awards, which you can reach by a link on the SGN Scoops website.

As a final note, I'm sure you are with me in praying for those around the world touched by terrorism. Every day it seems like there is something else in the news about bombs or beheadings, or school shootings, or another type of arrow, aimed to add fear and stress into lives already crumbling under the weight of health, family or financial problems. If this is you, please take that fear and stress and leave them at the foot of the One who wants to hold you. Jesus is our Peace. Let Him ease your mind and heart. He can do it! Then turn on some good Gospel music and cut a rug, or at the very least, tap your foot. After all, it is the Good News!

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



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

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



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

ton State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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

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



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

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



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

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

Contributors

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

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

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



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



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

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



Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing

ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



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

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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and I often went to The Joyful Noise for dinner and concerts. Every known name in Gospel Music sang there at one time or another. After I retired, we decided to start promoting concerts. Our goal was not only to promote our concerts, but also to promote any Gospel concerts in our area and attend as many as we possibly could. I came to a crossroads in December 2013 when my wife graduated to heaven, not knowing what to do. After much prayer God led me to continue promoting concerts. Have promoted around 100 concerts and can't tell you how many I attended. I still enjoy going to concerts and writing a little about the groups.



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

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



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

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



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



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGW in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over 10

years beginning with Phil Cross and Poet Voices and later Sharron Kay King and Jerry Bennett to name a few. She has spent the past several years promoting Southern Gospel, Inspirational Country Gospel and Bluegrass in this area in order to preserve this part of our heritage.



Hello, I'm Randall Hamm, Gospel Program Director of WFLQ French Lick Indiana, host of the Sunday Morning Gospel Show for the past 20 years on WFLQ French Lick Indiana and Singing News Top 10 Small Market DJ for the past three years. I now add something new to my resume! Record Reviewer, ok... CD Reviewer. I'm Old School, having

started in the days of LP's, 45's and Reel to Reel along with cassettes as the main form of music played. If you'd like to listen to my program, you can visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheSundayMorningGospelShow> and listen to archived programs, plus I post various Southern Gospel news updates, uplifting music and Gospel-related items. If you're in the six-county area around French Lick Indiana, in the heart of Southern Indiana, tune in every Sunday 6:00am-12:00pm and listen to the Gospel Greats with Paul Heil, 6:00am to 8:00am and the Sunday Morning Gospel Show with Randall Hamm 8:00am to 12:00pm.

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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.



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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



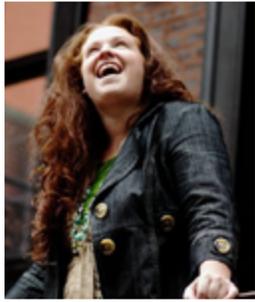
Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and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



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

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

Shortly thereafter, Sheri received a call from the top promoter in south-

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



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

Paige loves to blog about faith,

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

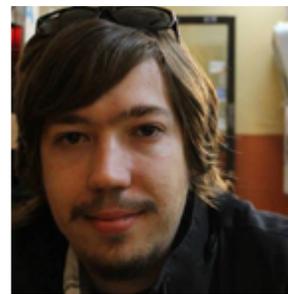


Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being crafty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

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



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



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

love of this great style of music.

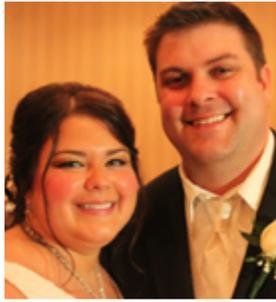


Roger Barkley Jr. is an award-winning Christian artist and musical evangelist. With multiple charting songs reaching to the top 10, his goals remain the same: to win souls for Christ, use Gospel Music of any kind to reach the world with the Good News, seeing lives changed and being an encouragement to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

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

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Brian Fuson is from the great state of Michigan, and although he is a Northerner, he certainly knows his Gospel music. He's been promoting concerts since he was 15-years-old and has worked with a diverse group of artists. He has been blogging about Southern Gospel music for the last few years on his site called Fuson's Findings. And

most recently, Brian has started singing with his wife Crysta and her parents, The Sammons Family. All of this information and more can be found on his website, brianfusonmusic.com.



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model. Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have

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



Timmy Williamson is a 24-year-old singer and actor from Virginia Beach, Virginia. He graduated from Liberty University in 2014 with degrees in Worship and Theatre. Over the past several years, he has been given the privilege of singing in many churches and events as well as performing in professional theatre productions. He has been enjoyed by audiences at NQC's

Artist Showcases, Gospel Explosion at First Baptist Church of Dallas, and in the Virginia Beach Gospel Music Festival. Timmy currently lives in Lynchburg, Virginia where he is pursuing a full time career traveling and singing. He would love to come and share his music with your church or special event! For more information, please visit his website, www.timmywilliamson.com.