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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 Publisher's Point by Rob Patz
- 6 The Chuck Wagon Gang by Robert York
- 10 Lauren Talley by Justin Gilmore
- 14 DJ Spotlight by Vonda Armstrong
- 16 Gene McDonald by Andrew Ishee
- 20 Gloryway Quartet by Kristen Stanton
- 23 SGNScoops Gospel Music Top 100
- 26 SGNScoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 10
- 26 SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40

## *Christian Country*

- 28 Wilburn and Wilburn By Jantina Baksteen

## *Bluegrass Gospel*

- 31 Les Butler and Friends with Jeff Parker
- 34 Youth in Gospel featuring Autumn Isbell by Lyndsey Chandler
- 36 New Music Review by Justin Gilmore
- 39 Coastal Events Update by Lorraine Walker
- 43 Editor's Last Word by Lorraine Walker
- 44 Contributors

## OUR MISSION

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

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



Welcome to the April edition of the Publisher's Point. I know many of you spent the last two to three weeks in quarantine. Unfortunately, due to my schedule, I wasn't able to do that immediately, but within a week I was able to enter quarantine. During this time, I've been reminded so much of the song, "Be still and know that I am God."

For a lot of us, our job includes daily interaction with people. For me that includes conventions, conferences, and musical events, and over the last two weeks we had to cancel Southern Gospel Weekend, an event that I'm a part of, in Oxford, Alabama. Now the good news: We have rescheduled and will be having it September 3 - 5, 2020.

As I watch the news, and hear about the economy and everything else that's going on, I'm reminded that God is in control. I will tell you, in my own spirit, I have felt very worried over the last few weeks, but knowing that God is in control has helped me so very much. While I was staying in a hotel in Oxford, one morning as I was getting up and praying, God told me that everything that has been taken, will be restored - pressed down, shaken together, and running over. God is not a God of lack. God is not a God who can be surprised. He knew that this was going to happen. He knew that we were going to face this not only as a country, but as an industry.

Let me encourage you if you're reading this, to pray for the artists, their ministries, the promoters and the fans.

I believe that this year is going to be an incredible year for gospel music. I say that because I think during this time, more and more people are going to be searching for answers that the world cannot give them. We have the most incredible music in the world, and we have music that will bring them hope, joy, and strength, things that we need as we look ahead and not behind. May we realize that God is in control.

Please, over the next few months, attend concerts, buy CDs, and sow into the ministries that are out there. I ask also, that you will join me in Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 4 - 6, 2020, for the first Gospel Music Weekend. It is going to be a special event. We're excited about the opportunities that God has laid in front of us for this event and we believe that lives will be changed, hearts will be touched, and a fire reignited in a country that needs it. Pray with me from now until that date, that people that are seeking and hurting will find their way to the Wyndham Convention Center.

I'm praying for each and every one of you this month. I believe that God has great things for our readers and for our artists ahead. I also ask that you will pray for me and for our staff.



Before I go for this month, I want to ask you to join us in October for our biggest event of the year: Creekside Gospel Music Convention, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, October 25 - 29, 2020. Please email [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com) for more information.

Until next month, this is the Publisher's Point.



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# The Chuck Wagon Gang

By Robert York

Most of us remember our parents or grandparents talking about the Great Depression of the 1930s. That is where “Dad” David Parker Carter and Carrie Mabel Carter and their family found themselves. They were struggling like every family during this time, wondering what they could do to keep their family going.

“In the early 1930s, my grandmother, Anna, became ill with pneumonia and needed medicine,” the Carters’ great-granddaughter, Shaye Smith, shares. “D.P. Dad Carter took his oldest son, Jim, and oldest daughter, Rose, to a radio station in Lubbock, Texas, to get a singing job. They were successful and earned enough money for medicine for my grandmother. When she recovered, she joined the other three, and they worked at the Lubbock station for a while. Dad Carter soon decided to move his family to Fort Worth and WBAP radio, where they landed a job. They were still the Carter Quartet initially and were sponsored by Morton Salt. And then entered Bewely Mills.”

Upon taking the flour company’s sponsorship, the name was changed to the Chuck Wagon Gang, and it remains the same today under the leadership of Shaye, who is the granddaughter of Anna and Howard Gordon.

The original Chuck Wagon Gang consisted of Dad Carter, his son Jim (with a given name of Earnest), daughter Rose (Rosa Lola), and Effie (Anna).

Today, it is owned by Shaye, who is also the manager and alto vocalist. Joining her are Stan Hill, Melissa Kemper, and Karl Smakula. Penny Shelnut, who filled in briefly, is their booking agent with the Jubilee Agency.



“The songs (of the Chuck Wagon Gang) and the singing are crystal clear,” Country music artist Marty Stuart says. “Beautiful words wrapped in sounds that touch my heart, give me hope, fill my soul with peace, and paint pictures in my mind of God’s eternal heaven.”

Shaye has taken the group back to the roots of the Chuck Wagon Gang, recently releasing an album honoring the Carter Family, entitled “No Depression In Heaven - Gospel Songs of the Carter Family.”

The title cut has claimed the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Bluegrass Chart as well as No. 2 on Billboard’s Southern Gospel Chart. Their current single is an old Carter song, “When Our Lord Shall Come Again.”

Shaye started singing in church when she was approximately 14 years old, but in her early years, she sang along with songs on the radio, trying to sing harmony with the Eagles.

When she was saved in 1982 and her taste for music changed, she started listening to Sandi Patty and the Rambos. Her love of music followed her to college, where she received two degrees: a bachelor of arts in vocal performance, and a bachelor of music in education, with an emphasis on choral conducting.

“I joined the CWG (Chuck Wagon Gang) mid-1993,” Shaye recalls. “My uncle, Roy Carter, asked me if I wanted to come do a little singing. I had just graduated college with a bachelor’s degree in music, so his offer was right up my alley. My first performance was October of 1993 in Catoosa, Oklahoma. I sang soprano. Singing alto was my grandmother’s younger sister, Ruth Ellen Carter Yates. Our tenor was her younger brother, Eddie Carter. And as I mentioned, the bass was Roy Carter. Jack Eubanks, long-time producer for the CWG, played guitar for us. Uncle Eddie did not want



to travel and Jim Wesson stepped in at tenor. Jim had a good friend named Darrell Morris. Darrell became our guitarist, and thus was the quartet from Jan. 1994 until Uncle Roy’s death in October of 1997. It was such an honor for me to travel and work with this particular configuration. When Uncle Roy passed away, Darrell was the one instrumental in managing the group for many years. I did not take over until Darrell retired from the group in December of 2003.”

Melissa Kemper, who sings Rose’s soprano part, can often be seen on stage with a pair of glasses like Rose wore. She grew up in a small East Texas baptist church and has been singing gospel music for a long as she can remember. At age 4, according to her mom, she sang her first song in public, “Jingle Bells.” She also sang with local groups, the Calvary Kids and One Way.

“I became involved in the Southern gospel industry when I first joined the Chuck Wagon Gang in August, 2001, but I left in January, 2006,” Kemper says. “I returned in August 2015, and I plan to be here as long as they’ll have me.”

Kemper’s husband, Jamie, works as director of operations at a nearby school district and travels with her when possible. They have three adult children – Weston, Brandon and Alysee. Her parents, Alton and Martha Mericle, live about a mile from her, as well as other family members.

“I got emotional at my hometown singing in Grovetown, Texas,” Kemper points out. “I teared up enough that my eyelash glue stopped working, and I had one eyelash flapping in the wind. I had to leave the stage and reapply my eyelash.”

Stan Hill, tenor, was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee. His family would gather around the piano to sing hymns while his mom played.





“One Sunday morning when I was 12 years of age, I awoke from a sound sleep and was immediately under conviction,” Hill remembers. “I don’t recall a dream, but obviously, God had been dealing with me during the night. I knew in my heart that I needed a savior, because I was lost. Later that day, I spoke with my pastor and asked Jesus into my heart.”

In 2006, Hill joined the Chuck Wagon Gang, where his voice and blend continue the high standards established

by Dad Carter. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children and one grandchild.

“My wife is the love of my life,” Hill says. “She’s a nine-year cancer survivor and my hero.”

Karl Smakula has served as guitarist for the group for the past three years. Born in West Virginia, he is a 2016 graduate from East Tennessee State University, with a bachelor of arts degree in Bluegrass and Country music.

Smakula started playing guitar and mandolin at age 11, and he was influenced by Adam Steffey, his mandolin



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mentor. He appeared with the College Bluegrass Pride Band and also played guitar and sang with Country artist Tara Thompson.

"If I wasn't playing, I'd be trying to dodge normal work as best as possible," a smiling Smakula says. "One of the highlights of my career was with the Chuck Wagon Gang at the Earnest Tubbs Record Shop in downtown Nashville. God has blessed me far greater than I deserve, and it's a privilege to get to travel and sing in His service."

After 85 years, the Gang has continued to bring accolades and honors to a poor group that began singing on local radio in 1935, yet went on to play Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and the Grand Ole Opry. The sound and songs today are always consistent with how the original group sang them, and they even perform a set from the original radio program.

The Chuck Wagon Gang may appear youthful, their songs from yesterday, but their message is timeless. They still sing about a savior who died on Calvary and of the home he is preparing for us in heaven. That is a song that will never end.

Find out more [www.thechuckwagongang.net](http://www.thechuckwagongang.net)



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# A new chapter for Lauren Talley



By Justin Gilmore

Southern gospel music has had a major impact on many who listen to it. The same can also be said for those who sing it as well. As a member of The Talleys, Lauren Talley's life has been transformed by this life changing music.

Talley joined her parents as the third member of the trio at a young age. Her soulful, powerful voice and equally infectious personality has delighted audiences all over the world. Now, in 2020, a new season approaches for Talley as she enters into full time solo ministry.

In 1996, The Talleys reformed after a three years hiatus, with Lauren officially joining her parents Roger and Debra. However, Talley's journey into Southern gospel began much earlier.

"I was a toddler when my family formed The Talleys," recalls Lauren. "I sat backstage or on the front row for their concerts every night until I was 10 years old. At

that time, my mom and dad felt the Lord's leading to put their career on pause and stay home. For the next three years, God began to make the calling on my life known to me, and I developed my own interest in singing. My parents and I began performing together as the second version of the Talleys in 1996. I was 13."

Her unmistakable soprano voice has now become a fixture of the group as well as the genre. Lauren cites several influences on her unique sound.

"Pretty much anybody who's good," says Lauren. "I listened to everything growing up, every style. I tried my hardest to sing like the Martins, Wynonna Judd and CeCe Winans as a twelve year old in my bedroom. I've tried to learn from anyone who does what they do well."

This vocalist's unique sound is featured on Lauren's latest two recordings. "Glorious God: Songs of Worship





and Wonder,” is a worship album, featuring the song, “Glorious God.”

“‘Loudest Praise: Hymns of Mercy, Love and Grace,’ is a collection of hymns that I think aren’t sung enough these days. I tried to pick the ones that were superbly written, but aren’t heard every day. Hymns done the LT way,” Lauren states.

Both albums were well received with the latest single



being a standout.

“‘Glorious God’ was written by two 12-year-old boys, Mac Duren and Miles LaPointe,” reveals Lauren.

“They wrote the song at the 2018 Write About Jesus conference, and I heard it when the choral arrangement debuted at the Lifeway Worship Conference. I asked the publisher and Mac’s dad, Cliff Duren, if I could have it right then and there! I’m glad they said yes. Mac and Miles have a very bright future.”

“‘Glorious God,’ is currently number 16 on the SGN-Scoops Magazine Top 100 Gospel for April 2020, and looks to be heading for another top ten song for this lady who has seen many of those in her time with The Talleys. The group was nominated in the 2019 Diamond Awards top ten for trio of the year, and Lauren was a top ten female vocalist.



Though she has experienced many nominations and awards, amounting to great success, Lauren remains grounded in her faith and focused on the message.

“I just want to bring hope to people. I know what it is to struggle, and what it is to survive,” confesses the Soloist. “I want people to feel like they have a friend, and they can have joy in Christ. I want everything I do, whether in music, speaking, writing, or just life, to reflect that.”

Lauren wants all who attend her concerts or listen to her

music come see Jesus and his love.

“I hope people know that they can make it and have joy doing so. Jesus loves them, has a plan for them and we can find peace and joy in him,” Lauren declares.



“I hope people feel like they’ve made a friend when they come to see me in concert,” she says. “I’m a person just like you; I don’t have everything figured out, as much as I want to. But I know he’s faithful, and he’s good, and we can laugh together about life and praise him at the same time.”

“Honestly, I keep it pretty simple. The gospel doesn’t need my help. The fact that he loved us even in our sinful, helpless state, and died for our sins is pretty amazing all by itself. It’s a simple gospel, but it still works. I think sometimes we make things too complicated for our ego’s sake. Just proclaim Christ crucified,” explains Lauren.

In her career and life, Christ has truly been faithful, remaining with her and blessing her with many incredible, life-changing experiences.

“There have been many, but probably the most recent was singing for the United Nations in December, 2019. I met approximately 60 ambassadors from all over the world, and was able to share Christ with them in my songs. One of them even recognized me from the Gaither videos! It’s a small world,” Lauren recalls.

In addition to meeting Heads of State, she has had many meaningful and sometimes funny encounters with her fans.

“Last year at a concert in North Carolina, a man walked up to me and said, ‘You know what I like about you?’ I thought, ‘Well, there’s no telling,’ but I said, ‘What’s

that?’ He said, ‘I just love your little buck teeth!’ I don’t have buck teeth. I managed not to howl with laughter while saying, ‘Well, I didn’t realize I had buck teeth.’ He put the cherry on top when he replied, ‘Well, it’s good it doesn’t bother you!’” This lovely lady has no worries about her dental state, and was a little surprised at this man’s comments to her.

“For the record I was not insulted,” Lauren continues. “I went backstage and told the story to Karen Peck’s group, who were also on the program, and we all screamed laughing.”

Encounters like this one put things into perspective for Talley. “My life has consisted of gospel music since I was born,” Lauren explains. “My time with my parents largely happens on a bus. I have also been blessed to form the greatest friendships and connections through this music, but amazingly, it’s not about that. Gospel music was just the vehicle that God used to make all of that happen. Life is all about relationships. When people stop clapping and the lights go off, the people you love will still be there. It’s important to take care of them.”



2020 has already been quite a tumultuous time for the world. Despite the fear that surrounds all of us right now, Lauren Talley continues to look toward the positives the future brings, including a new relationship that is soon to become a permanent status.

“The Talleys have announced that 2020 is our final year to tour full time as a group. I will launch a full-time solo career in 2021, and I am already performing and recording as a soloist. I’m thoroughly enjoying the next chapter of ministry and career,” the artist states, then adds: “I’m also getting married in October to the most wonderful, Godly man, and becoming a bonus mom to the four sweetest, funniest kids on earth!”





“Everything’s changing all at once, and that part is a little scary, but everything I have prayed for, for so long, is in front of me. I couldn’t be more excited or more grateful. God is good,” Lauren concludes.

As this new chapter approaches, Lauren Talley remains dedicated to sharing the goodness of our glorious, almighty Savior using her God-given gift of music.

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## *Richard Ferguson*

### *WOKK*



**By Vonda Armstrong**

97 OKK - WOKK FM 97.1 is a broadcast radio station from Meridian, Mississippi. This month, we are shining the gospel DJ Spotlight on Richard Ferguson from WOKK.

**Vonda Armstrong: Please tell us about your radio show.**

Richard Ferguson: WOKK 97.1 is a 100,000 watt country station that gives us eight hours of Southern gospel music every week. My show is every Sunday night, live from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. I call it "Sunday Night Gospel Show." I play the best in Southern gospel music. I have been on the air since 1992 at WOKK, and love playing SGM (Southern gospel music). 97OKK.com is the website that you can listen to from any device and call in a request at 601-693-3697.

**VA: Richard, will you share your testimony with us?**

RF: I was raised UPC (United Pentecostal Church) and grew up in church. I gave my life to the Lord at a young age and have been his servant ever since. From singing in church, to nursing homes, and everything in between. I just love SGM and sharing music with everyone.

**VA: Please tell us about your family.**

RF: I have been married to my wife Alexa for almost 32 years. We have two children, Kaylee, 25, and Kameron, 20. My wife was a school teacher for 28 years, and has supported me in all that I do to support SGM. My daughter has a Master's Degree in Clinic Mental Health Counseling, from Mississippi State University, and works as the Marketing Director at John O'Neil John-

son Toyota, in Meridian, Mississippi. My son, Kameron, is starting his third year of college, playing baseball at the next level. He has played two years at Holmes Community College as a pitcher and will start the fall at the MUW in Columbus, Mississippi, majoring in physical therapy and playing the game he loves, baseball.

**VA: If you could interview anyone, in any genre of music, who would you like to interview?**

RF: I have been a D.J. for 27 years, and have shared the stage with a lot of greats, and interviewed some of the best in the business: Wendy Bagwell, George Younce, Glen Payne, J.D. Sumner, Jim Hamill, Anthony Burger, Kenny Hinson, and lots of country artists; but the one person I would like to interview, that I can't, would be Elvis Presley. He loved all music and had a deep feeling for gospel music.







**VA: Richard, a little birdie told me not only are you a DJ, but you are a singer. Tell us about it.**

RF: I helped start a group in 1986, called New Heart. We changed our name to Common Ground, had our first top 80 song and had to change our name again, in order to be printed in the chart, because of another group with the same name. We changed it to 2ndmile, and 33 years later Reggie Lovorn and myself are still together, singing every place the Lord leads us. Our tenor is Brian Waddell, and the three of us have been together for the past five years. When we started back in 1986, we had a full band and we kept it together until

1996, then we went to tracks. Two years ago we put the band back together. We can now do concerts with a live band if we want to. Our keyboard player is Bryant Williams, Bob Sullivan plays lead guitar, Richie Lovorn plays the acoustic guitar, Reggie Lovorn plays bass guitar and sings baritone. Scott Lowrey, Mark McMillan, and several other guys, play drums with us from time to time. I do the bookings for the group - 2ndmile - check us out on Facebook at 2ndMileGospel.



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# Mile Markers of a Journey

## Gene McDonald

By Andrew Ishee

People always ask me, “How do you break into the music business?” And I’m not sure I know. Everybody’s story is different. And some people just seem to be born to perform.

Maybe that’s the case for this guy. His musical career began very early in life, spurred on by his parents in the beginning, as many singers and musicians are. Then life would take him on detour for a while. This happens a lot, too. But in the end it seems music is the ultimate calling on his life. See if you sense God’s hand at work in the life of my friend Gene.

Gene McDonald has been my friend for more than twenty years. I met him when he joined the Florida Boys in 1998, when I was playing piano for the Kingsmen. He was then, and continues to be, one of my favorite singers. I remember a particular instance when we were having some fun at a stadium concert in Hamilton, Ontario around the turn of the century.

There was a piano in a room off stage. And during some of the night’s performances, we got together to sing old

songs around that piano. Low and behold, Gerald Wolfe walked up. And I said, “I bet you remember this one, Gerald.” I started to play and sing, “Have You Visited Heaven Lately.”

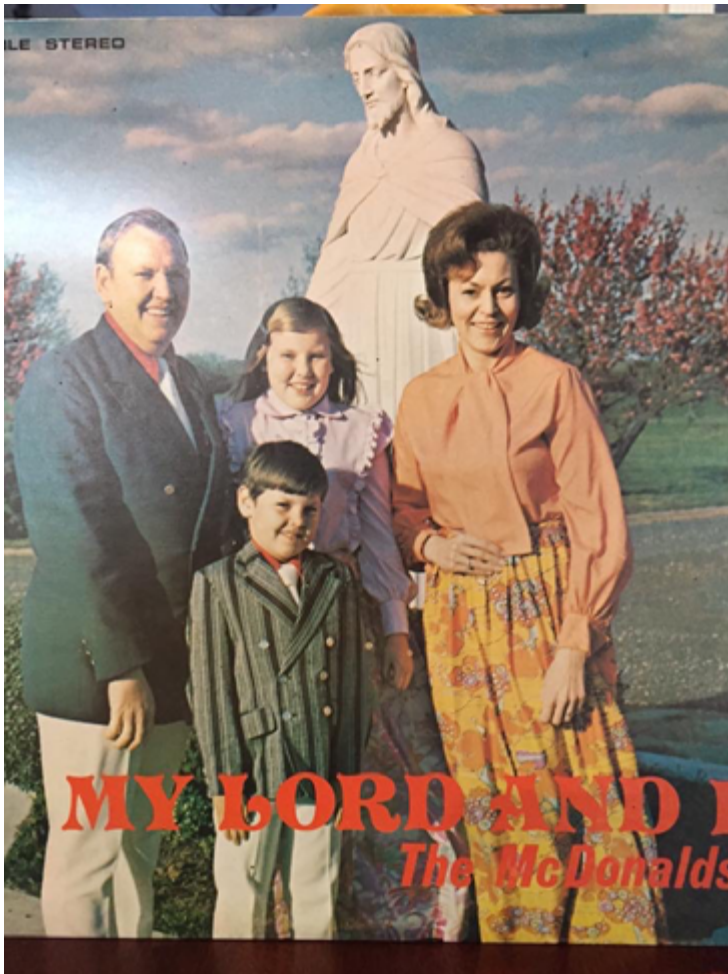
About three lines into the song Gerald said to Gene, “Is he making fun of me?”

Gene said, “Not at all Gerald, that’s just how Andrew sings.”

I think Gene was taking up for me, but I’m not sure.

You may not have had the pleasure of hearing Gene with his first group, the McDonald Family. They had a radio show on KTMO, near Kennett, Missouri, in 1968. That’s where Gene got his start singing at only three years old. Gene sang with his dad (Tommy), mom (Doris), and sister (Janeene) for 15 years. They regularly performed on concerts with legendary Gospel groups, including the Florida Boys. Gene first met Les Beasley at a concert when he (Gene) was six years old.





During those days, Gene attended school in Kennett where he sang in the Kennett High School Choir. He wasn't the only career singer in the school, as it turns out. Pop singer, Sheryl Crow, was one of Gene's classmates. He remembers her being the drum major in the band. And he knew two younger classmates who'd go on to success in Country music, David Nale and Trent Tomlinson. They might not recognize Gene's voice today though.

Gene actually started out singing tenor in the high school choir. He was an "All District" tenor his Junior year, but his voice changed in 1982. He was an "All State" bass singer his Senior year. I don't know for sure how high Gene could sing in 1981, but to reach the bottom of the scale, the way he does today, there must have been quite a change between those years. If my voice could crack and then sound like Gene McDonald, I'd be ok with that.

After high school, Gene went on to Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, Ark. There he studied Music Education with a minor in Opera. I really believe he is in a select number of Southern gospel singers with that kind of vocal training. And his vocal range today is

proof that the lessons paid off.

Gene is also one of a short list of singers that command a proficiency of chart reading on such a high level, and it is one of the reasons he has excelled in studio work. I know of several songs the Florida Boys recorded that Gene transcribed for the group, my favorite being an acapella arrangement, "Stand By Me."

In 1989, Gene would move to Nashville, Tenn. to sing with the Plainsmen. He was there until 1992. When Gene ended his time with the Plainsmen, he needed a new job. And his mom happened to run into Denny Autry, in the DMV in Kennett, Miss. The DMV is a great place to catch up with old friends while you wait in line to get your drivers' license renewed. Fans know Denny from his many years as pianist and singer with the McGruders, who were headquartered in Kennett.

Now, Denny has spent some time behind the wheel of a tour bus for sure; not only with the McGruders but also as a profession, driving touring acts on leased entertainer coaches. I actually caught a great video of him today on YouTube, sitting in with Lyle Lovett, when Denny was out on tour with Lyle as a bus driver. Lyle called Denny to the stage to wow the audience from the piano.

Well on this day, Denny suggested to Gene's mom that Gene could do some bus driving. And that worked out great for Gene.







Gene drove for Senator Coach, a bus company from Corinth, Miss., that leased busses and bass singing bus drivers to music acts like: Guns 'n Roses, Blind Melon, Pam Tillis, Madonna, Lyle Lovett, Huey Lewis and the News, and many more. Lots of these artists still call Gene by name. But it was during this time that Gene would start the musical relationship for which we all know him today.

A songwriter from Indiana started making videos in the early 90's featuring the classic singers of Gospel Music (of course you know Bill Gaither). Bill's music director was Ben Speer, a friend of Gene's from his early days with the McDonald family and the Plainsmen. Ben knew Gene's fantastic vocal ability, and he employed Gene to be a vocalist on those early videos. That began a relationship with Gaither that continues today.

Thanks to his work on the Gaither Videos, Gene was asked to join the Florida Boys in 1998. He was their bass singer for nine years, up until the retirement of Les Beasley, Glen Allred, and Derrell Stewart. He was a part of the Florida Boys when they were inducted into the Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame.

Today, Gene is singing on his own and as a part of numerous Gaither events. His voice is strong, and he continues to be one of the most beloved singers in Gospel music. You simply won't meet a nicer guy. Gene and his family live near Nashville, Tennessee.







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# GLORY WAY QUARTET

## MEN ON A MISSION



**By Kristen Stanton**

Mission impossible? Not for Justin Crank, John Cole, Bryan Langley, and Justin Sayger, also known as the GloryWay Quartet.

The group – which is based out of Mansfield, Ohio – has heard the call of God and has followed that call from churches to conventions to festivals and even into prisons. Mile after mile, they travel with one purpose: to spread the word of God to a lost and dying world.

GloryWay Quartet's founder and lead singer, Crank, once dreamed of four-part harmony and open doors. God gave him his heart's desire, but he still had to be obedient. He could have merely dreamed – but instead he also took action.

Through personnel changes and setbacks, every time a door opened, GloryWay Quartet walked through it and never looked back. Since the group's inception in 2002, they have traveled around the country, ministering to an ever-growing audience and now are averaging more than 200 concerts and more than 65,000 miles on the

road each year.

GloryWay maintains its focus on sharing with those audiences that Jesus Christ is still the king of kings, encouraging them with the love of Christ, and reminding them that Jesus can break any chain holding them down.

During the past several years, the quartet has shared the stage with industry notables at various conventions such as Creekside Gospel Music Convention, held annually each October in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee; the Lloyd Severance Thumb Gospel Music Convention, which takes place each August in Sebewaing, Michigan; and the Alan Godsey Memorial Northern Gospel Singing Convention in Marion, Indiana. During the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northern Gospel Singing Convention in 2019, Doug Anderson, formerly of Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, made a guest appearance with the group, joining them on the song, "When I Wake Up to Sleep No More."



However, Anderson wasn't the group's only surprise guest throughout the years. According to John Cole, one of the most legendary appearances was not a notable singer. It was not an industry name like musicians Nick Bruno, Mark Fain, or Kelly Back – although they all did accompany GloryWay as part of a live band at the Gospel Legends Reunion. The most memorable appearance was a guest of a different kind. I can only imagine the reaction of the crowd when this guest hit the stage.

It was a day that started like many others. The group set up, did a sound check and launched into their concert. During their performance, a bat decided to join them on stage for a downright legendary experience ... yes, a bat.



"It flew around the sanctuary for a good five to 10 minutes before the trustees got it shewed into the foyer," Cole said.

Once they relegated it into the foyer, he recalled how they battled it for another five to 10 minutes before finally getting it out the door.

"Our bass singer, Justin Sayger, was so scared of it that he cowered down behind me right there on stage," Cole said. "It was quite the sight all the way around."

And to commemorate the experience, the group broke into the old classic, "I'll Fly Away."

From bedlam to precious memories, no matter the situation, GloryWay Quartet has not forgotten its mission.

Some of their most moving times have come when the group went in to minister, and, in doing so, was blessed beyond measure. One such time was when they ministered at the Grafton Correctional Institution in Grafton, Ohio.

The group sang twice that day at the facility, the first being a worship service for just the inmates and the second being a worship service that included friends and family of the inmates. With their unique style and variety of music that ranges from traditional Southern gospel to a more contemporary sound, they were able to minister to those in desperate need of knowing that Jesus still cared. Amidst shouts of praise and worship, GloryWay saw firsthand what God could do with a willing heart.

"What a humbling experience to see these folks so moved by the power of the Spirit and to experience this worship with them," Cole – who also preached for both services – said. "So many of the inmates told us how much they were blessed by us being there with them. However, I'm not sure that we didn't receive the bigger blessing from them. Both services were a couple of the best services we have had anywhere."

Whether sharing music in a correctional facility or a convention, GloryWay has experienced growing success in Southern gospel music. In 2016, the group was the showcase winner of the American Gospel Celebration, hosted by John Hagee. Then, in 2017, the group was nominated for its first Diamond Award.

Since that time, GloryWay has appeared on the stage at the Dollywood Harvest Festival, Paul Heil's Gospel Greats, and the Diamond Awards, winning the Sunrise Quartet of the Year in 2018. They have also recently signed an agreement with Matt Felts of Gateway Management.



With some prior radio releases – including “Trading a Cross for a Crown,” “He Took It Away,” and, “Following In Their Footsteps” – experiencing some success at radio, GloryWay Quartet has recently released a song called, “The Grave Could Not Hold Him,” and the group members believe that God will change lives through the truth contained within that song as well.

Crank dreamed big ... starting GloryWay in a small Ohio town but with a prayer, a dream, and a big God.



Mission impossible? Nah, the GloryWay Quartet would tell you that it's never impossible when you walk with God.

To learn more about GloryWay Quartet or to find the group in concert, visit [www.glorywayquartet.com](http://www.glorywayquartet.com).

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Lindsey Graham The Littles Porter Family  
The Craguns Back Home Down East Boys  
Lore Family Jordan Family Band  
The Coffmans Port City Quartet  
Johnny Minick & The Stewart Brothers  
The Williamsons Troy Burns Family



POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	<b>NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES</b>	<b>GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN</b>
2	SOMETIMES IT'S THE RADIO	JOSEPH HABEDANK/DAYWIND
3	WHEN GOD SAYS WAIT	BROWDERS/DREAM BIG MUSIC
4	THE HEALER HASN'T LOST HIS TOUCH	TRIBUTE QUARTET/DAYWIND
5	CAN I GET A WITNESS	THE SOUND/DAYWIND
6	THE GOD I SERVE	KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER/DAYWIND
7	KEEP ME CLOSE	WHISNANTS/UIA
8	READY TO KNOW	LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS
9	FOLLOW ME TO THE CROSS	JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND
10	IT NEVER GETS OLD	PERRYS/STOWTOWN
11	33	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
12	GO ASK MOSES	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET/CRIMSON ROAD
13	I SEE REVIVAL	CRABB FAMILY/DAYWIND
14	WALKING THROUGH FIRE	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN
15	IF GOD PULLED BACK THE CURTAIN	NELONS/DAYWIND
16	GLORIOUS GOD	LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS
17	GO DOWN AGAIN	WISECARVERS/CROSSROADS
18	IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY	MARK BISHOP/CROSSROADS
19	I BELIEVE THE BOOK	LEGACY FIVE/DAYWIND
20	WHEN I TURN TO YOU	JASON CRABB/DAYWIND
21	I'VE EVER BEEN GLAD	KINGSMEN/CROSSROADS
22	A LOT WITH A LITTLE	11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS
23	YOU ARE LOVED	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
24	TABLE OF THE KING	TIM LIVINGSTON/INDEPENDENT
25	AWESOME POWER OF PRAYER	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN
26	JUST AS BLESSED	JOSH AND ASHLEY FRANKS/INDEPENDENT
27	LOVE STILL FLOWS	TAYLORS/STOWTOWN
28	BLANK PAGE	DUNAWAYS/INDEPENDENT
29	ONE MORE REASON	OLD TIME PREACHERS QT/BUTLER MUSIC GROUP
30	A SONG TO REMIND YOU	STEELES/STOWTOWN
31	WHAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
32	GET ME THERE	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
33	HE'S ALREADY ON HIS WAY	LITTLES/INDEPENDENT
34	LET'S CARRY ON	NEW GROUND/INDEPENDENT
35	YES	TRIUMPHANT/STOWTOWN/SONY
36	I GOT THE GRACE, HE GETS THE GLORY	THE OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS
37	DAYS LIKE THESE	MARTINS/GAITHER MUSIC
38	BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB	WILLBANKS/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
39	LET IT BE THE CROSS	CAROLINA BOYS QT/CROSSROADS
40	COME TO THE WELL	KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS
41	FOR YOUR GLORY	BATTLE CRY/INDEPENDENT
42	MORE THAN ENOUGH	BIBLETONES/INDEPENDENT
43	THIS STORM	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND
44	I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU	TROY BURNS FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
45	LIKE JESUS DID	THREE BRIDGES/CROSSROADS
46	GRACE BECAME AMAZING	GORDON MOTE/NEW HAVEN/PROVIDENT/SONY
47	SING THE BLUES AWAY	EXODUS/INDEPENDENT
48	WELL DONE MY CHILD	ADAM CRABB/DAYWIND
49	NOTHING AT ALL	HIGH ROAD/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
50	REASON FOR THE RAIN	JAY STONE SINGERS/CROSSROADS

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AWARDS

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
51	HE'S COMING BACK	MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS
52	MY LAST DAY HERE	MARK209/INDEPENDENT
53	CHILDREN GO WHERE I SEND THEE	DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS
54	ROBES OF PURE WHITE	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
55	CALVARY'S TOUCH	BARRY ROWLAND & DELIVERANCE/CROSSROADS
56	THAT LITTLE CROWDED ROOM	TIM MENZIES/DAYWIND
57	WE ALL NEED A SAVIOR	MCKAMEYS/CROSSROADS
58	THREE BEATING HEARTS	STEVE HESS & SOUTHERN SALVATION/MANSION
59	COME LORD JESUS	JUSTIFIED/INDEPENDENT
60	HEAVEN	SOUL'D OUT QUARTET/CROSSROADS
61	GOD SAYS YOU CAN	HYSSONGS/CHAPEL VALLEY
62	HALLELUJAH FOR THE CROSS	RIVER'S EDGE/INDEPENDENT
63	HALLELUJAH MARCH	HEART 2 HEART/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
64	FOREVER SETTLED	INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS
65	JUST A CLOSER WALK	HAZEL PARKER STANLEY/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
66	THIS IS THE PLACE	GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC
67	THE PEOPLE THAT GOD GIVES YOU	BOWLING FAMILY/RIVER HILL MUSIC
68	ONE IN THE NUMBER	SACRED HARMONY/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
69	YOU DON'T WANNA MISS THIS	CANA'S VOICE/STOWTOWN
70	THERE IS A GOD	HYSSONGS/CHAPEL VALLEY
71	THE POWER OF AN EMPTY TOMB	ERWINS/STOWTOWN
72	COUNTLESS	ENDLESS HIGHWAY/CROSSROADS
73	OVER THE NEXT HILL	PAULINE PATTERSON/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
74	A BRIGHTER DAY	PRIMITIVE QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
75	I'M GOING TO HEAVEN	DOYLE LAWSON QUICKSILVER/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
76	THE GRAVE COULD NOT HOLD HIM	GLORYWAY QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
77	MOVIN ON	JORDAN FAMILY BAND/CROSSROADS
78	IT TOOK THE CROSS	GRIFFITH FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
79	PRAISE THE LORD	CARROLL ROBERSON/INDEPENDENT
80	WATER WALKER	KRAMERS/STOWTOWN
81	SINGING MY SONG	ISELL FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
82	ALWAYS GONNA BE	SELAH/INTEGRITY
83	WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO	MICHAEL BOOTH/DAYWIND
84	I WILL GLORY IN THE STORY	AUSTIN & ETHAN WHISNANT/UIA
85	WHAT HE'S DONE LATELY	MILLERS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
86	I GOT SAVED	DIPLOMATS/INDEPENDENT
87	ALABAMA MUD	GOLD CITY/SONY
88	YOU'VE ARRIVED	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
89	GREAT HOME AWAITIN	SWEETWATER REVIVAL/INDEPENDENT
90	SATAN HATES SUNDAYS	FAMILY LEGACY/INDEPENDENT
91	ALL ABOUT LOVE	ETERNAL VISION/CHAPEL VALLEY
92	LORD, SEND ME A MOUNTAIN	PORTER FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
93	REDEMPTION	MCNEILS/INDEPENDENT
94	JESUS PROVED HIS LOVE FOR ME	CHRONICLE/INDEPENDENT
95	OH HEAVENLY DAY	BAKERS/INDEPENDENT
96	BUILD ONE FOR ME	ED MEADOWS/INDEPENDENT
97	I REMEMBER THE FISH	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
98	SMELL OF SMOKE	3 HEATH BROTHERS/CROSSROADS
99	EVEN IF	DYSART FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
100	LOOK WHO'S HOLDING THEM NOW	PERRY SISTERS/CHAPEL VALLEY

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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	<b>TURKEY BUZZARD</b>	<b>EAST RIDGE BOYS/MANSION</b>
2	WHICH THIEF ARE YOU	BAMA BLU-GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
3	WHEN HE SPEAKS	BRITTON FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
4	ONE SUCH AS I	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
5	PLACE NO WREATH	BALSAM RANGE/CROSSROADS
6	FOR A MOMENT OF GRACE	HEAVEN'S MOUNTAIN BAND/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
7	NOTHING AT ALL	HIGH ROAD/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
8	UP ALL NIGHT	SOUTHERN RAISED/STOWTOWN/PROVIDENT-SONY
9	A BRIGHTER DAY	PRIMITIVE QT/INDEPENDENT
10	THE BACK OF THE CHURCH	JERRY SALLEY/BILLY BLUE RECORDS

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	<b>MY KIND OF PEOPLE</b>	<b>MARK209/INDEPENDENT</b>
2	THAT LITTLE CROWDED ROOM	TIM MENZIES/DAYWIND
3	DOWN AT THE ALTAR	PARDONED/INDEPENDENT
4	REGARDLESS	LISA DAGGS/SERENITY RECORDS
5	GLASS HALF FULL	SHELLEM CLINE/TIRE SWING RECORDS
6	NOTHING AT ALL	HIGH ROAD/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
7	WE WILL STAND	ROGER BARKLEY JR/INDEPENDENT
8	PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD	REED BROTHERS/NEWSTEP RECORDS
9	I'M NOT WHO I USED TO BE	TONJA ROSE/MANSION
10	WHEN I COME TO YOU LORD	HUNTER MAY/INDEPENDENT
11	THANK YOU LORD FOR THIS DAY	CHRIS GOLDEN/INDEPENDENT
12	BLIND MAN IN THE BLEACHERS	AARON WILBURN/INDEPENDENT
13	THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME	PHILLIPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
14	BE THE WITNESS	CHOSEN/INDEPENDENT
15	IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES	CHUCK DAY/NEWSTEP RECORDS
16	I'VE COME TOO FAR	TAMMY NORRIS/INDEPENDENT
17	WHO I AM TODAY	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
18	NEAR YOU	MICHAEL LEE & RHONDA VINCENT/RED HEN
19	MY LAST DAY HERE	MARK209/INDEPENDENT
20	BORN AGAIN	ETERNAL VISION/SANCTUARY
21	A DAY	CAROL BARHAM/MAC RECORDS
22	THE BACK OF THE CHURCH	JERRY SALLEY/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
23	HE IS THERE	JIM SHELDON/ZENITH RECORDS
24	ARMS OPENED WIDE	COREY FARLOW/BIG CATCH RECORDS
25	PRAISE THE LORD	CARROLL ROBERSON/CRM RECORDS
26	ONLY THE BEGINNING	BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT
27	HOLY GHOST REACTION	KEVIN & KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT
28	CLIMB	BLOOD BOUGHT/INDEPENDENT
29	BRIGHT NEW MORNING	MARTY RAYBON/INDEPENDENT
30	PATIENTLY WAITING	STEVE BRIDGMON/INDEPENDENT
31	THAT'S HEAVEN FOR ME	BRUCE HAYNES/DIRKWORKS RECORDS
32	NO WORRIES	SINGING BYRDS/INDEPENDENT
33	DEEPER	GERALD CRABB/INDEPENDENT
34	MOVING ON	JORDAN FAMILY BAND/CROSSROADS
35	GOD DID IT	GREG DAY/NEWSTEP RECORDS
36	NOBODY IS TOO BAD	RHONDA RICHARDSON/MAC RECORDS
37	IN THE COOL OF THE DAY	MILES PIKE/INDEPENDENT
38	WHAT DOES GOD LOOK LIKE	GRASCALS/MOUNTAIN HOME/CROSSROADS
39	TOUGH AS A PINE KNOT	JESSICA HORTON/MAC RECORDS
40	LITTLE WOODEN CHURCH ON A HILL	DENNIS JOLLY/INDEPENDENT



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# Beyond the Song with Wilburn and Wilburn

By Jantina Baksteen



I recently brought home the new project of Wilburn and Wilburn, “Raised On Red.” That made me curious, so I contacted Jonathan Wilburn to ask if he was interested in answering some questions. Check it out as we go beyond the song with Wilburn and Wilburn ...

**Jantina Baksteen:** You have been known in the Southern gospel industry for decades, but for folks who’ve never heard of you, please introduce yourself again.

**Jonathan Wilburn:** I have sung Southern gospel most of my life. I started with my family, the Wilburns. I sang with my mom and dad, Jackie and Elaine Wilburn, for over 16 years, and then in 1996, I accepted the lead position with Gold City Quartet. I was there for 12 years, before forming Wilburn and Wilburn, with my son Jordan. He stepped away for a couple years, and for those years I traveled as a soloist. But now, he has returned, and we are back making music as a father-and-son duo.

**JB:** You sang solo for a couple of years. How was that for you?

**JW:** Solo singing is different. If you get sick, there is nobody to turn to. Plus, the nights alone on the road can be long. I did, however, enjoy the time to get back in

touch with how I was singing and to brush up on some training vocally.

**JB:** Right now, you are back on the road with Jordan as Wilburn and Wilburn. How is it to be back again together?

**JW:** It’s so good to have Jordan, my son, back with me. Jordan has a unique talent. He is a great vocalist, and I just love being back out here with him.

**JB:** You brought out a fresh new album called, “Raised On Red.” Please explain the title, and how would you describe this new project?

**JW:** “Raised On Red” is our new CD on the Daywind label. It was produced by our long-time friend, Ben Issacs, along with Scott Godsey, and my son Jordan Wilburn. “Raised on Red,” is the title cut from the pen of Joseph Habedank. I’m really enjoying the new music. It is all centered around the redemptive power of the blood of Jesus. His red letters are special and are engraved in our hearts forever. I hope people will see the blood and the power of the word when listening to “Raised on Red.”

**JB:** Your single, “33,” has been released to radio.





**Can you share something about this song?**

JW: “33” is our first radio single. My wife Sandra and I just returned from a trip to Israel. We walked some of the same steps as Christ. We prayed in the garden. I sang in Joseph’s new tomb where the body of Jesus was. His life has touched so many and is the greatest life ever in the history of mankind. This song takes a different approach on that story. It makes you think about His life and what it means to you and so many others.



**JB: What is your definition of Southern gospel music?**

JW: Southern gospel music is soul-stirring music, and lyrics that tell a story. That story is Jesus. The harmonies and lyric have a sound all their own. Southern

gospel is only a style but just happens to be the style we sing. It’s country music with a touch of every other style of music mixed in. The bottom line is that it is Biblically-based and scripturally sound in how it tells the story of living a life in Christ.

**JB: Who do you think is the new, upcoming Southern gospel artist?**

JW: There is a new group from our little town of Gadsden, Alabama, called Exodus, that is doing a great job.



**JB: Do you have a testimony to share?**

JW: I was born again at the age of 9 years old. The date was July 17, 1977. My mom would always come up to my bedroom and talk and pray with me before I went to sleep. She would always ask me about my soul and say, “When you feel God is dealing with you, please promise me you will fall down on your knees and call on Him.” Well, that night at Macey’s Hill Missionary Baptist Church, he did, and I did. I remember it just like it was yesterday, all the people and faces of those around me praying that night, but that didn’t do it. It was my prayer of faith and trust in Jesus Christ is what did it. He saved me that night, and I am so thankful He did.

**JB: What is ahead for Wilburn and Wilburn in 2020?**

JW: We love to travel and pretty much would go anywhere we were asked.

**JB: What is the No. 1 thing on your bucket list to do?**

JW: Go to France where my grandfather was stationed during World War II. He was a cook at a German officer



POW (prisoner of war) camp there.

**JB: Where can we find you on the web?**

JW: They can go to [wilburnandwilburn.com](http://wilburnandwilburn.com)

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# Les Butler and Friends:

## Jeff Parker of Jeff Parker and Company



By Les Butler

I first met Jeff Parker as a member of the Bluegrass group, the Lonesome River Band (LRB). That day he gave me a copy of his solo CD, “Two Roads to Travel,” a great Bluegrass gospel CD.

His vocal range and power are second to none ... and, talk about a Mandolin player ... whoa.

Parker really made his mark over the past decade as a member of Dailey and Vincent. Over the past few months, he left that band to start his own, Jeff Parker and Company.

Let's get to know Jeff Parker ...

**Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?**

Jeff Parker: Learning to play guitar at the age of 6, learning tunes to play rhythm. My dad showed me my first chords.

**LB: What are the instruments you play?**

JP: Guitar, mandolin, bass, banjo

**LB: If you could only have one instrument on a desert island, which one would it be?**

JP: Mandolin

**LB: Tell us about your years with Dailey and Vincent.**

JP: When I was working with LRB, Jamie Dailey was with Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, so we were on the same circuit. He approached me one day and said he wanted to put a band together and he would be interested in talking to me about playing mandolin and singing. He liked my style of picking, singing. So, later on that day he called me to come to Nashville and try out. That was 2007, and I was there through November 2018. It was fun creating music and song. I spent 12 years with them performing around the United States, the Grand Ole Opry, Carnegie Hall New York. I was part of the Dailey and Vincent show on RFD-TV, which is now on Circle TV.

**LB: What prompted your exodus from Dailey and Vincent to start your own thing?**

JP: My thoughts were, if I am ever going to do my own thing, it is now or never. At my age, it will take some time to build, but it is what it is. I want to play music and make my way on my own name for hopefully a few more years or so. I am happy with my decision. I've been on my own one year. But, as of January, 2020, I have taken on a business partner, Colin Ray.





**LB: Tell us about what you are doing now?**

JP: Rehearsing with the band in the studio. We are working on a brand-new project, to release May 2020.

**LB: Which do you enjoy the most, playing live or in the studio?**

JP: Playing live, hands down. I prefer playing live, because I like to interact with the audience, and I just love the stage. I do enjoy the studio and creating music and building a song, but there's just something about playing live that drives me.

**LB: You are a great singer as well. Do you recall the first song you ever sang in public? Who is your favorite singer?**

JP: My first song I sang was "Medals for Mother."

Bluegrassers always like to hear Jimmy Martin sing, and his rhythm guitar playing just has the right dynamics and timing. Larry sparks soulful singing, and (his) guitar playing is great. There's none better than Bobby Osborne for great pitch and clear, clean vocals. John Duffy of the Seldom Scene was a great entertainer, soulful singing and his mandolin playing was distinct. And, of course, my hero, Doyle Lawson, is my favorite



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mandolin player. And, his vocal arrangements are just awesome. There is a wide variety of so many singers I do enjoy. I can't mention them all, but, George Jones, Merle Haggard, Mickey Gilley and Ronnie Milsap are just a few. The list goes on.

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

JP: I don't have a favorite. I enjoy learning different tunes.

**LB: What is your favorite song to sing and why?**

JP: I don't have a favorite song, but gospel songs are

my favorite because of the message.

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

JP: I spend a lot time in my home office making calls and trying to book the band. And, I like family time. It is most important to me.

**LB: Give us a brief testimony.**

JP: I'm very thankful to get to make a living doing what I love and very blessed with a great Christian family. I know when God calls me home, I'll see my precious daddy again.



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# YOUTH IN GOSPEL

## Autumn Isbell of the Isbell Family

**By Lyndsey Chandler**

This month's featured artist is Autumn Isbell from Savannah, Tennessee, which is two hours southwest of Nashville.

Autumn is 17 and will be 18 in October. She has one younger brother, who is 16 years old. At the age of five, Autumn recorded her first solo album.

She plays piano, guitar, mandolin, and ukulele, and she has been traveling and singing full-time with her family, the Isbell Family, for seven years. She sings mostly soprano for the group.

The talented young lady loves to decorate and says that she is also pretty good at ping pong.

Two of her biggest inspirations in Southern gospel are the Collingsworth Family and 11th Hour.

When asked what she would be doing if she was not singing, Autumn says, "Although it is very hard to imagine myself doing anything outside of music, I would probably consider pursuing a career in counseling."

When she graduates from high school this year, she will plan on taking online college classes.

A day off of the road for Autumn normally consists of catching up on school, cleaning the house and maybe a shopping trip.

Also, embarking on a missions trip someday is definitely on her bucket list.

When asked what her funniest moment on stage has been, Autumn shared this ... "At this particular concert, I had decided to wear a long skirt and high heels. As I was stepping up to sing, my skirt got caught underneath my heel, and I couldn't move forward. So, I had to hurry and figure out a way to get my skirt out from under my heel without being too noticeable."

Autumn's parents had a trio with one of her mom's friends for nine years. During that time, her parents were teaching her brother and herself to sing parts, so when her mom's friend got married, Autumn and her brother stepped in. It has been that way ever since.

The family performs approximately 250 concerts a year.

"I know this is what God has called my family and I to do, and when someone is deeply touched by our songs, or even comes to know Christ through our music, it confirms that I am right where I'm supposed to be and doing exactly what I'm supposed to be doing," Autumn explains.







Miss Isbell concludes with a word to her peers: "God made you who you are, and He has a beautiful and unique plan for your life. Be yourself and be confident, just as the Lord intended."

For more information about the Isbell Family, visit [www.isbellfamilymusic.com](http://www.isbellfamilymusic.com).



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# Spotlight CD Review on New Music by Lindsay Huggins

By Justin Gilmore

## **Lindsay Huggins**

“Things I Take For Granted”

Producer: Jerry Salley

Label: Lindsay Huggins Ministries

Release Date: March 1, 2020

### **Song List:**

Higher; Things I Take For Granted; Where The Love Of God Is Gonna Go; Hands Build A House; News I Didn't Get; Breaking Chains, Washing Stains; God Of Every Moment; If I Don't Pray; He Can Do It For You; God Weaves Gold; Granddaddy's Prayer

### **Thoughts:**

Ten year Christian music veteran, Lindsay Huggins, taps into her country roots with her latest album: “Things I Take For Granted,” her seventh studio album. Released in March, this project, produced by Jerry Salley, features eleven well crafted songs of faith and praise written by several notable songwriters including

Lee Black, Kenna Turner West, and Jason Cox. Huggins herself contributes two songs including the fun, yet poignant, “Granddaddy's Prayer.” This album is sure to be a blessing to those who listen.

Huggins' soulful country voice shines on the opening tune “Higher,” which reminds us that one day, we will join our Lord in heaven. Soon I'll be going higher with my Lord!

The title track is a beautiful prayer thanking Christ for His many blessings. “The things I take for granted someone else is praying for.”

“Where The Love Of God Is Gonna Go,” is a powerful, mid-tempo track that reminds us that the love of God never stops. It reaches farther than sin can ever go.

“Hands Build A House,” is a fun song that simply says that hands build a house, but hearts make a home.





Huggins' brings great emotion to the powerful lyrics of "News I Didn't Get," which encourages listeners to thank God for our blessings for life is short.

The classic gospel style of "Breaking Chains, Washing Stains," will surely get toes tapping. This fun, groovy tune praises Christ for his transforming power. He still heals and breaks the chains of sin!

The beautiful ballad "God Of Every Moment" is a comforting lyric that says God is with us in every moment. No matter what the circumstance, God is in control.

"If I Don't Pray," reminds listeners of the importance of talking to God. Let the good Lord lead. The fun, uptempo track simply says: "It's hard to keep the faith if I don't pray!"

The groovy, "He Can Do It For You," is perhaps my favorite on this project. This catchy tune simply tells of Christ's promise to us. Lay your burdens at his feet for he is the God of miracles. If He can change my life, He can do it for you.

"God Weaves Gold," is a beautiful ballad that tells of the redemption found in Christ.

This fantastic album closes with a tribute to Huggins' late grandfather. "Granddaddy's Prayer," written by Huggins, is a fun song that features her family and sim-

ply recalls her grandfather's daily prayer at the dinner table.

### Final Thoughts:

I must admit that I was not familiar with Huggins or her music prior to this review. After listening to this CD, I count myself among her fans. This well crafted CD features great songs, incredible vocals, and top notch musicianship. Huggins' voice reminds me a lot of Reba McEntire's, which is not surprising, given that she has worked with her in the past.

Highlights include: "He Can Do It For You," "Granddaddy's Prayer," "Higher," and, "News I Didn't Get." Go get this CD ASAP! You will not be disappointed. Find it at: [www.lindsayhuggins.com](http://www.lindsayhuggins.com).

### Introducing Lindsay Huggins:

Lindsay Huggins is a highly sought-after worship leader and recording artist. Her music mirrors her personality. It is vivacious, joyful and relentlessly enthusiastic while maintaining an uncanny ability to speak with honesty and vulnerability about life as it is. And about life as it should be. She holds a Music Business degree from Trevecca Nazarene University and spent five years working for country music superstar Reba McEntire. Lindsay holds a song evangelist commission with the Church of the Nazarene and lives outside of Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband Craig and two kids. ([lindsayhuggins.com](http://lindsayhuggins.com), <https://www.lindsayhuggins.com/promotional-items>, March 24, 2020)





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# Coastal Events Update

By Lorraine Walker

## Gospel Music Weekend—Michigan - June 4 - 6, 2020

Coastal Media heads up north for **Gospel Music Weekend — Michigan**, coming to Windham Garden Convention Center in Ann Arbor, on June 4 - 6, 2020. Coastal Events is thrilled to announce the addition of Doug Anderson to the roster of artists for Gospel Music Weekend -- Michigan.

“I’ve had the pleasure of being in several concerts and events with Doug Anderson. The effect is the same in every setting – he draws the crowd in. They laugh, they cry, they worship. It’s a moving experience,” states Kristen Stanton, a Gospel Music Weekend solo artist from Ohio. “Doug Anderson is a great addition,” says event host and owner of Coastal Events, Rob Patz. “His contemporary country flair will appeal to a wide variety of concert goers. We are excited to have him.”

GMW -- MI will feature artists from the Great Lakes Region, such as the Diamond Award winning artists, Justified Quartet, from Michigan, and Gloryway Quartet from Ohio. Diamond Award nominee, Cami Shrock, from Indiana, will also be appearing, along with over



thirty artists slated to appear in daytime showcases on Friday and Saturday, and evening concerts running Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

GMW Michigan is also going to be a host location for a Creekside Artist Search in Sat. June 6. With over one hundred artists currently on a waiting list for Creekside Gospel Music Convention, this will be an opportunity for artists to be considered for a place on the Creekside artist roster. The winning artist will sing on the main stage of the Saturday evening concert in Ann Arbor and also sing on the main stage at Creekside 2020. Artists wishing to participate or for more information, email [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).

Ann Arbor, Michigan, is located on I-94 and US 23, and is only thirty minutes from Detroit Metro Airport. VIP tickets for Gospel Music Weekend Michigan are available for just \$25.00 for the weekend. General admission is free.

For anyone wanting to stay on site, we have negotiated a group rate with the Wyndham Garden Ann Arbor for





\$89 plus tax per night. Call the hotel directly at 734-249-6157, and mention Gospel Music Weekend.

For more information on Gospel Music Weekend – Michigan, or Creekside Gospel Music Convention, please call Rob at (360) 933-0741.

### **Gospel Music Weekend—Ohio - July 2020**

Northern gospel music fans will enjoy **Gospel Music Weekend—Ohio**, coming to Mansfield, Ohio, on July 16 -18, 2020. Some of the artists appearing in GMW--OH are from the Great Lakes Region, including Gloryway Quartet, Ezekiel's Call, The Bobby Jones Family, New Promise, Kristen Stanton, Justified Quartet and Matchless Grace, among others. Look for more information at [www.gospelmusicweekend.com](http://www.gospelmusicweekend.com).

There may be a few openings for gospel music artists in these areas who would like to become a part of these concerts; please contact Rob Patz at 360-920-4057. For more information on these events please visit [gospel-musicconvention.com](http://gospel-musicconvention.com) More information for VIP tickets, lodging, bus groups, and more, can be requested at [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com).

### **Southern Gospel Weekend Oxford Alabama - September 3 - 5, 2020**

Donnie Williamson, Vonda Armstrong, and Rob Patz invite you to **Southern Gospel Weekend, Oxford, Alabama**, which was cancelled this spring due to the



Coronavirus. Originally scheduled for March 19 - 21, 2020, Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford Alabama has been rescheduled to September 3 - 5, 2020. The event will be held at the Oxford Civic Center. Thursday night, September 3rd, is Veterans' Night, saluting all first responders and veterans, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday night and Saturday night concerts will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Southern Gospel Weekend will present Southern Country Grass, a combination of Southern gospel, Christian Country, and Bluegrass gospel music. A great mix of quartets, live bands, soloists and wonderful music, fellowship, and fun will be enjoyed at daytime showcases beginning at 9:00 a.m., and evening concerts. Artists to be announced.

On Saturday, the daytime showcase will take place in the number eight pavilion, the largest pavilion in the park area. It will be a Picnic/ Showcase beginning at 9:00 a.m. The park will be open all day on Saturday, offering a chance for good family fun in the outdoors, complete with fishing.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for each evening concert and parking is free. Accommodations are available at the host hotel, the Sleep Inn Oxford. Please call 256-770-4804 and mention that you are a guest of SGW for a special event rate. General admission to the concerts is free but a love offering will be received. For more information, or VIP tickets, call 256-310-7892 or email [vonda@sgnscoops.com](mailto:vonda@sgnscoops.com).



## Gospel Music Expo, Mississippi - To Be Announced

Coastal Media invites you to Tupelo, Mississippi, to the **Gospel Music Expo**. Gospel Music Expo (GME) is a two day event held annually at the Mall at Barnes Crossing in Tupelo, Miss., to showcase gospel artists and their ministries. The event is free to the public. Gospel Music Expo was to have been held in May but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please watch [sgnscoops.com](http://sgnscoops.com) for information on the rescheduled date.

## The Coastal Events Cornerstone Celebration: Creekside Gospel Music Convention

The original concert event that started it all, Coastal Events presents Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2020, taking place Oct. 25 - Oct. 29, 2020, at the Grand Smokies Resort Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Creekside is an annual event, bringing hundreds of gospel music fans and over 50 artists to beautiful Pigeon Forge. The convention presents Southern gospel music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer. Some of the great artists who appeared in 2019 were the Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, Sue Dodge, the Browders, Josh and Ashley Franks, and more. Keep watching this column for announcements regarding artists appearing in 2020.

## 2020 Diamond Award Top Ten

Coastal Media Group and SGNScoops Magazine are pleased to announce that the 2020 Diamond Award voting is now open on the SGNScoops website, and ballots have been included with the SGNScoops print



magazine. The Top Ten nominees have been announced and appear on the printed and online ballots. Everyone is invited to fill out the ballot or visit [sgnscoops.com](http://sgnscoops.com) to enter the voting area and list their favorite picks for each Diamond Award category.

The 2020 Diamond Awards will be presented

on October 27, 2020, during the 9th Annual Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Many vocal performances and surprise guests will be included

in the gala evening. Fans are encouraged to make their plans to attend today.

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the Diamond Awards ceremony, Creekside Bluegrass, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741, email [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com) or visit the website [www.gospelmusic-convention.com](http://www.gospelmusic-convention.com).

## Bluegrass Gospel at Creekside

Keep watching this space for information on more great Bluegrass gospel concerts during Creekside Gospel Music Convention.

## Christian Country at the Creek

Christian Country at the Creek 2020 will take place Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 at the Grand Smokies Resort Convention Center located at 2385 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The event will begin the day after Creekside ends, with a special kick off on Thursday night at the close of Creekside, followed by evening concerts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Special events and Midnight Prayer are also being planned as part of Christian Country at the Creek. "This is an event you don't want to miss. We can't wait to showcase these amazing artists," Patz adds. Admission is free to the public with VIP tickets available for just \$10.00 per night or \$25.00 for the entire weekend.

If you are an artist wishing to be included on the roster for 2020, or if you would like more information, please contact Rob Patz at (360)933-0741 or send an email to [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com). For reservations, you may contact the Spirit of the Smokies Lodge directly at (865)453-4106 and indicate the group code of CCC20 or Christian Country at the Creek to get the group rate.





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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

As I write this editorial for April, things in our world have shifted mightily - the economy, health care, transfer of goods and services - all of these things and more are completely different than they were 30 days ago. What a reminder that nothing lasts forever, that our lives are but grasses in the desert that grow, die, and are blown away by the wind. I do hope that the era of the pandemic will eventually prove to be the measure used to convince us that all life is sacred. With all the conflicting reports we received, I'm sure we have realized once again that there is no government, no system, no race or color or creed, not one person who has all the answers and is infallible.

With that cloud over our world, we celebrate Easter, reminding us that the infallible Word of God lived among us briefly and experienced our hatred, jealousies, conspiracies, lies, and cruelty. Jesus experienced firsthand the frailty of life and the deceit of the enemy. He lived sinlessly, died selflessly, rose victoriously and now reigns eternally. Can there be anything or anyone else that is worth placing your trust in today? Someday, at the end of this world, he will return gloriously. Revelation, the last book in the bible, describes Jesus riding on a white horse, crowned with many crowns, and given the name "Faithful and True." He alone is the way, the truth and the life.

Proclaiming this message today is Lauren Talley, our cover artist, who describes our King of Kings as a "Glorious God," on her latest solo release. We are thrilled to be able to tell her story and have it written by Justin Gilmore this month. As these days go by with no live concerts to attend, we hope that you have been able to watch Lauren as she shares on her Facebook live appearances. We also hope that you support her and all of our artists this month by purchasing their product or donating to their ministries. It is a tough time for all artists that depend on live presentations for their income. Also, don't neglect your church although the doors may be closed.

Thank you to all of our writers and artists this month, especially the new addition to the SGNScoops staff, Andrew Ishee. I first met Andrew when he joined the Kingsmen Quartet. That incredibly talented young spring chicken showed us all even more artistry as he matured, and we appreciate that he is lending his journalistic abilities to SGNScoops Magazine. Thanks to Gene McDonald, GloryWay, Autumn Isbell, the Chuck Wagon Gang, Wilburn and Wilburn, and Jeff Parker for sharing your time with us this month. We hope that our readers have had time to read every story, well crafted by each writer.

At this point of writing, I am not aware of any in our gospel music community who have contracted the coronavirus, but I'm sure there are some that have. For all who are sick or have been ill, we pray you are able to come to full health. To those who have lost loved ones, we hope you are reminded of the greatest hope ever, that of eternal life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Some day, those who have invited him to live with them here on earth, will be invited to live and reign in his kingdom. Abundant life can start today, as you invite the Almighty God to allow his son, Jesus, to be born in your heart. Can you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit as you read this?

Whether it is COVID-19, or something else, you and I will soon reach the end of our lives. Do you want to face death without Jesus Christ? I certainly don't. Ask him to become your Lord today. Celebrate Easter like never before.

If you have any questions or comments about this editorial or anything else in this magazine, please email me today at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, [SGMRadio.com](http://SGMRadio.com). In 2009, Rob Patz acquired [SGNScoops.com](http://SGNScoops.com), including the all- digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).



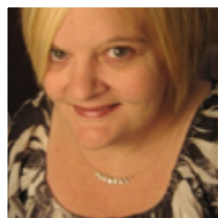
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://Queenoq.blogspot.com)



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)



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



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!

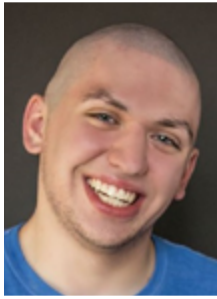


Justin Gilmore, 22, a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share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



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family. You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



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



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

tives and artists. It also allows her a fresh view of new music and the latest happenings inside the industry. Vonda is also a group owner and manager as well! A self starter Vonda has started and managed several "new" events in Southern as well as "Country Gospel" Music. These events are fast becoming trend setters within the industry. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



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.



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

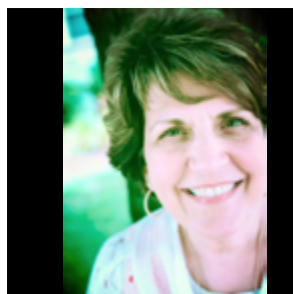
# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers,

Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.



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

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

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

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



Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The Mystery Men quartet, Florida Boys and Mark209. Off the road, he spends time with my wife, Christa, with whom he celebrates 25 years of marriage with this year. Jimmy

also enjoys spending time with his three kids and one granddaughter.



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second

solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.



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

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

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

Robinson, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Dr. Paul Conn, and most recently, he performed with Governor Mike Huckabee.

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



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

old and eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps.

John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



**Jantina Baksteen**  
I live all the way overseas in the Netherlands. I'm married and I have three adult children. I grew up in a Christian home and knew in my early years that I wanted to belong to Him. I surrendered my life to Christ was baptized one day before I turned 11 years old.

Somehow, the seed of loving gospel music was planted by the style of music my parents played at home. Around 2006/2007, I was listening to Gaither homecoming music that I found on the internet. The song, "Oh, What A Savior," by Ernie Haase hit me with the so-called Southern gospel bug.

From there, I've been reading /studying all I can find. I found the digital SGNscoops Magazine.

As I was spending so much time reading and listening about this industry, I started praying for God to please give me a job in the Southern gospel industry. Sometimes, I commented to Lorraine Walker on her posts. How could she know the longing of my heart?

But last year she asked me if I wanted to do something for SGNscoops: the Wacky Wednesday posts online. Now I do the "Beyond the Song" article that really has my heart as I am reaching out to artists, asking about a current song and having a sneak peak behind the scenes.



**My name is Lyndsey Chandler.** I sing with my family, the Chandlers. I have wanted to get something started to promote the youth in Southern gospel for a long time. I want to say a huge thank you to SGNscoops magazine for allowing me the opportunity

to do this. I will be sharing exclusive interviews in an effort to showcase the abilities, talents and dedication of young artists in Southern Gospel music. I will be offering these monthly interviews to better acquaint you with young voices that are growing louder in our industry.

The Chandlers travel in a ministry of singing and preaching

conducting concerts, revivals, camp meetings and conferences. Their travels have taken them all over the United States, Canada, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia, and The Philippines. The group consists of Tim, Lana, and their two daughters, Tiffany, and Lyndsey. Their ministry website is [www.thehandlersmusic.com](http://www.thehandlersmusic.com).



**Cheryl Smith** describes herself as a "passionate disciple and follower of Jesus Christ." She says: "I am married to the sweetest, most patient man for over 30 years...Mama to one miracle son God sent to us after 12.5 years of infertility...Home-

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



**Andrew Ishee** grew up playing gospel music in church and with local Christian groups. At age eight he asked his dad to show him some chords on the piano. That night Andrew prayed that God would bless him with the ability to play. Since that evening, he has played piano by ear.

Andrew began playing professionally at age 16 with the Dixie Echoes, a Southern gospel group from Pensacola, Florida. He then moved to Asheville, North Carolina to join the Kingsmen Quartet. Since then Andrew has worked with many of the top Gospel recording companies and artists producing and playing piano on countless recordings. And today the Andrew Ishee solo music tour has spanned the length and width of the United States. Andrew says: "There are two great things about what I get to do: Music and People. And I love them both."



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