

MAY 2017

# SCIN SCOOPS MAGAZINE

## DEAN HOPPER:

WE CHECK IN WITH THE DEAN

ALSO FEATURING:  
REGGIE SMITH OF GVB  
THE BROWDERS  
MATTHEW GOOCH OF KPNR



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## OUR MISSION

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

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**

Welcome to the May Publisher's Point. Of course, May is for mothers, and I want to wish my mom a very happy Mother's Day. Thank you for always being there for me, loving me and pushing me to do things that I may not have felt comfortable with, but you always believed in me and listened to me.

I often think about listening ... you know, the famous saying, "Do you hear me now?" For so many of us, we struggle with listening. It is so much more fun to talk than it is to listen. Have you ever been a part of the conversation and realized that you may have not heard the entire story as you are making a comment and you see the face of the person you're talking with and the bewilderment on it? I know it's happened to me, so I'm sure as you're reading this, you're thinking of a time that someone didn't listen to you.

I also have been struggling lately with wondering if God is listening to me. Of course, I know He is. I know He hears everything I say, and at times, I am amazed that the Creator of the universe has enough time to listen to what I have to say. Sometimes, I wonder though if He is really listening. Then, I have to realize that it isn't the fact that He may not be listening, but that what I am saying may not exactly be what He is wanting for my life.

I've dealt with that a lot lately, understanding and questioning a lot of life events that happened. I have spent nights alone pacing the floor, frustrated, asking God, "why won't you answer my prayer?" I'm quickly reminded that God doesn't need to answer my prayers, because He's God and I'm not. I'm also reminded that we don't serve a God who will answer our prayers if it is something that will hurt us. God cannot do something that is against His will and what He desires for our life to be. God is perfect. He sees the greater picture.

I have to think of my early life in the Midwest. The terrain is very flat in most places, but there are times where there are small hills. If you're out in farm country, you might be behind a tractor and have a desire to pass one of these tractors that are taking up valuable time by going slower than you think they should. I was always taught that you never passed a tractor on one of these hills, because you don't know what's on the other side.

It dawned on me the other day that God knows what's on the other side of the hill. I see the tractor, which is the problem, and I want to pass that problem. I can't see everything on the other side of that hill, and God is preparing me for what is just over the crest. This doesn't mean that I understand, and there are times when I honk the horn to make the tractor move. I'm trying to learn that God has exactly the best thing in mind for me, so He is listening. He may not always answer the way I want, and sometimes, I may wonder exactly where He is.



Susan Ashton had a great song in the 1990s where she talked about God and how at times He felt next to her and other times she felt like she was at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. I will tell you that over the last few months, I have seen new value in that song and in those lyrics.

So know today that God loves you. He hears your prayers. He might be protecting you from what's on the other side of that ridge, something that at this moment you are not ready for. Even though you want to pass the tractor, you have to wait. Understand that sometimes God asks us to stand still.

My dad used to say that God answers in three ways. He answers "yes," "no," and "not right now." Sometimes, that answer is just not right now. It's hard to understand, but God has a greater plan for your life than anything you can imagine. If you truly believe that He is your Savior, then you also have to truly believe that He wants what's best for you. We don't serve a God who is out to punish us. We serve a God who wants us to worship Him and be in a close relationship to Him.

I hope to see you this year at Creekside 2017, which will be held from Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information, visit [www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com/](http://www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com/) or [www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention](http://www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention).

The graphic features a dark, textured background. At the top, the text "Hey Y'all!" is written in a large, white, cursive font, with "MEDIA" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font underneath. Below this, a grey horizontal bar contains the text "PRESENTS THE BRAND NEW SINGLE RELEASE" in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. In the center, there is a photograph of four men in dark suits and ties. The man on the far left is older with white hair and sunglasses. The man on the far right is older with grey hair and a mustache. The two men in the center are younger, one with glasses and a goatee. At the bottom, the text "Pine Ridge Boys" is written in a large, gold, cursive font, and "THERE'S A FOUNTAIN" is written in a smaller, gold, all-caps, sans-serif font below it.

# A Mother's Love



By Sarah Murray

When you're a little girl, you watch your mother with the intent of being just like her. She's what makes you love people a bit deeper. She's what makes your home look and smell good, and she's the epitome of God's love. Little boys go to their mother for care and concern and live with the expectation that she can make anything better again. Their mother is who shows them love in the first place.

If God blesses you with a mother, or someone who treated you like their own, He has blessed you with something that will last a lifetime. Mothers deserve more than just a day to recognize them, but take a moment today, or two, and wrap those arms around your mother or the special lady in your life and remind her of the love she has given you.

Fayth Lore of the Lore Family truly knows the leadership and guidance of having a special mother. I asked Fayth the following questions, to which you can feel



the reality of their relationship, and the love and respect she holds for her mother.

*What do you admire most about your mother?*

“There are so many things that I admire about my mother. It's hard to pick just one. Anyone who knows Sandy Lore knows that she loves God, and she loves her family. Mom isn't the type of person who just lives

for Jesus on Sundays and on stage. She lives for Him each day and behind the scenes when nobody's watching. One thing I have always appreciated about my mother is that she is as real as they come. She's not a fake person. She sincerely cares about people and hurts when they hurt. I've watched her talk to individuals after concerts and later write their name down on her prayer board that she prays over daily. She is a woman of faith.



“She is absolutely hilarious when you get to know her and extremely sarcastic, but she's never been afraid to let me see her hard days. She's allowed me to be her best friend, and for that, I am eternally grateful. I share pretty much every detail of my life with my mother, because I have confidence in her discrepancy, advice and love. She's always told me that she loves me, but she's never shied away from telling me when I'm wrong. She is the epitome of class, but she knows how to cut up and have a good time.”

*What is it like singing on stage with your mother?*

“It is something special to have the opportunity to sing with my family on stage. Not very many young women get that chance. We're a pretty normal, average family. We all drive each other crazy, but that's what makes road trips so fun. Hah. We say that we're like a three-ring circus, and it's probably true. In the end, I know that family is the most precious possession that God has given me on this side of Heaven. I wouldn't trade singing next to my crazy bunch, for the world.

“At our latest teen girl conference, True Purpose Girls

Conference 2017, Mom and I both caught eyes while singing a duet together on one of our latest songs, “Many Sparrows” (written by Marcia Henry). Looking each other in the eye, we both began to tear up. Later, we discussed what was running through our minds as we caught eyes, and we discovered that we were thinking the same thing. The lyrics say, “You are worth more than many sparrows. It's important that you know, God knows exactly where you are. And you, don't be afraid about tomorrow. For no matter where you go, God goes. He is looking out for many sparrows.” Running through both of our minds was the thought of how special the other person is. The quality time that I get to spend with my mom every weekend, I'm sure I take for granted many of times. But, I will never forget our special moments that God gives us.”

*Of all the amazing traits your mother has, what do you feel is her best?*

“Her hazel eyes. She does have beautiful eyes, but in all seriousness, my mom has a pure heart. Like I said, she is just real with people. When people come to her with questions or prayer requests, she always tries to sympathize with them and takes time to listen. If there is an issue, she's not very good at sweeping it under the rug. She believes in getting things into the light, because the truth will set you free. We always say that if someone is going to get hurt or sick in the family, it will be Mom. We say it's because she's the most spiritual one of the four of us, and Satan is trying to take her out. But, she has full faith in the power of God. She's not afraid to pray about anything and believe what she's praying for.”



*What trait(s) does your mother possess that you hope to exemplify one day for yourself?*

“Her faith and her class. Mom and Dad both grew up at the same church, up the holler. We’re country as corn-bread as they say. Maybe not that country, but we do live in Southern Ohio. My mother is a classy woman, and she believes in taking care of yourself and looking your best. But, she also showed Samuel and I how to make Indian War paint with river water and river rock. She’d smear it on our cheeks when we were younger, and we’d pretend like we were Indians. I hope to have her sincerity and faith someday. I tend to be too analytical and downcast about situations or goals. But, when Mom claims something in Jesus’ name, she believes it wholeheartedly.”



*If you could give your mother one thing, what would it be?*

“My mom isn’t the type of person who places a high value on material things. She’s sentimental, and appreciates nice gifts. But, she never asks for much at all. Her favorite place is home, surrounded by family and friends ... and chocolate. I will say, that she does long to see some of her close relatives saved. If I could give that to her, I would. But, as we know, salvation is from the Lord. He is the One who does the work to change people’s lives.”

*How does your mother keep ministry real and constant in your family? How does she strengthen your family?*

“My father is the spiritual leader of our home, but my mom is the glue that holds us all together. She is the one who reminds us to read our Bibles, pray every day and to pay our tithes. She encourages us to keep clean hands and a pure heart before every concert. She said that it is our job to help usher people into worship, and we have to make sure that our hearts are in the right place before

we make our way to a stage. Mom encourages us to be kind to one another too. Sometimes, we’re nice to every stranger that we meet in concerts, and we can be pretty mean to one another. Maybe it’s just a family thing. But, when we get out of hand, she brings us back to reality, and tries to put things on a spiritual level.

“I have some incredible memories of spending time with my mother. She always said that her highest calling was being a mother, and I am so grateful for the time I’ve gotten to spend with her throughout the years. When I was in grade school, I would jump off the school bus and run into the house to watch ‘Little House on the Prairie’ with Mom on the Hallmark channel. When I was really little, Mom and I would have mommy/daughter days. She and I would make pictures with pastel crayons. I still have those same broken crayons in my bedroom. I remember coming home one day from volleyball practice, and I was totally broken hearted. Some of the girls had made some rude comments about me that could have hurt my reputation. That day, mom looked me in the eye, and told me to stop letting others push me down. ‘You are no better than them, and they are no better than you. You are my girl, but you are also God’s girl.’ The most admirable lesson that my mom has shown me, has been how to love Jesus and to love others with pure love. If it wasn’t for my mother, I would most definitely not be the woman that I am today.”



Vonda Easley is an example of motherhood in more ways than one. Her inspiration for her own mother is nothing short of amazing. However, she also has the amazing role of playing not only daughter, but mom

to her own children and Nonna to her grandchildren. Vonda's answers to my questions place a new perspective on truly following in your own Godly mother's footsteps and making her proud with the life you are living.

*What do you admire most about your mother?*

"What I admire most about my mother is her honesty. She has always told the truth, even if it would have been easier not to. I remember her having many talks with me as a young girl about trust and how important it is to be trustworthy."

*What are some of your best memories with your mother?*

"My daddy always gave my momma grocery money each week. She and I would go to the grocery store. We bought everything that was 4/\$1 so we could go buy us a new outfit. Daddy never noticed as far as I know. We had lots of laughs about our secret.

*Of all the amazing traits your mother has, what do you feel is her best?*

"I would have to say that Mother's best trait is her abil-

ity to forgive. She will get mad, but she is over it by the time she has said her peace. She doesn't hold grudges."

*What trait(s) does your mother possess that you hope to exemplify one day for yourself?*

"I would love to think that I am forgiving the way my mother is and that I am a good friend to others the way she is."

*If you could give your mother one thing, what would it be?*

"If I could give my mother one thing, I'd give her back my daddy. My daddy was an amazing man and he loved Momma with all his heart. Her life changed and so did our families when my daddy passed away. Heaven truly gained an angel."



*How does your mother keep ministry real and constant in your family? How does she strengthen your family? Your faith?*

"Mother loves gospel music. She will sing even in the mall while shopping. She is in the nursing home now in our hometown. There, she attends singings and bible studies. She loves the Lord, and you can see that if you spend any time with her. She gives us all hope. If you visited her, you would wonder why she is in the nursing home. She was lonely after daddy passed away. She checked herself in. I'm not kidding. She truly loves all of her friends there. She is a strong woman, and my

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-Pastor Benjamin & Victoria Blankenship (BEN\*JAM)

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faith is strengthened by watching her trust God in her circumstance.”

*What was your first feeling when you found out you were going to be a mother?*

“I was scared a little, but I was more excited than scared. I remember looking at my first-born (child) and thinking now I know how much my mother loves me. Wow.”

*What is your greatest joy in being a grandmother?*

“The greatest joy in being a grandmother is watching my daughter with them. She is a wonderful Godly example for my grandbabies to follow. Also, I love it that Priscilla and Eli both love to sing.”

*What do you hope your children and grandchildren see the most of in you?*

“I hope they see and feel the love I have in my heart for them.”



Happy Mother's Day to all of you.

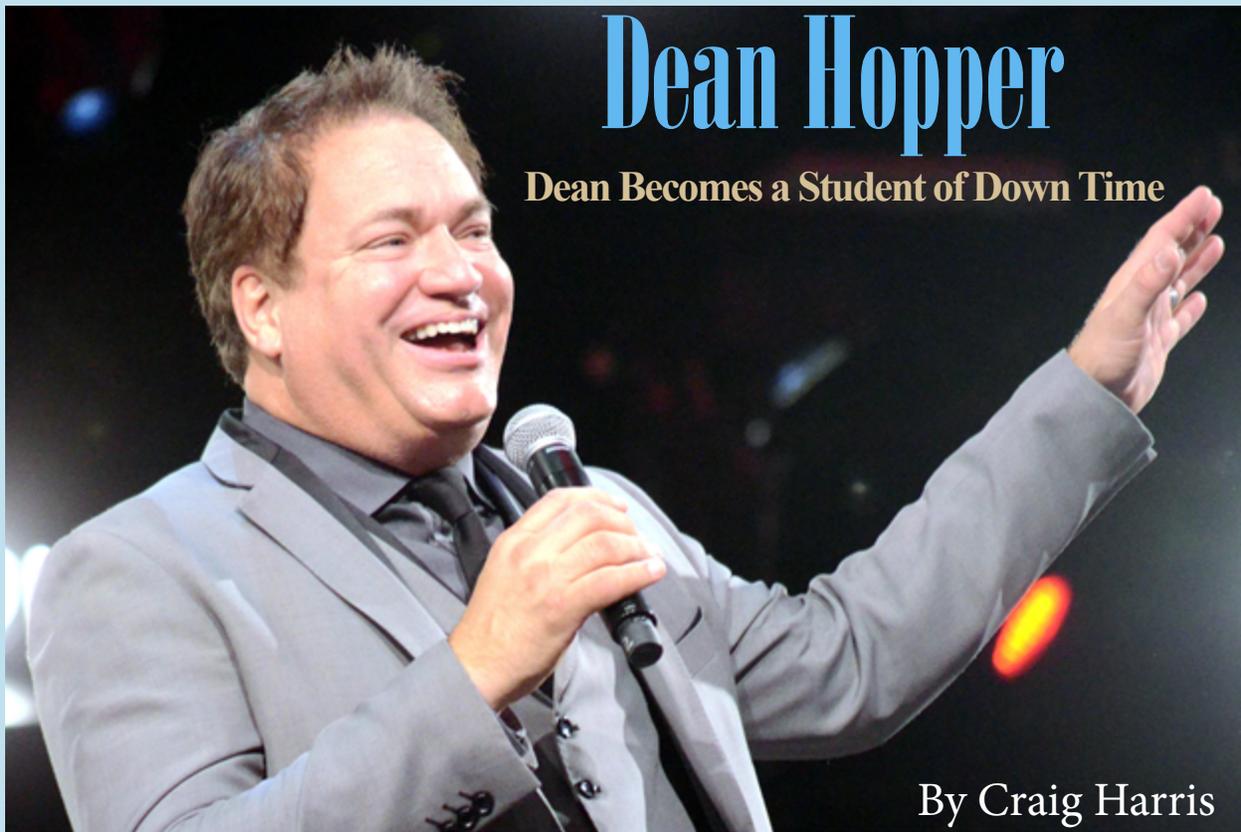
A photograph of an outdoor gospel sing event. On a stage, four people are performing. In the foreground, a large audience of people is seated in chairs, facing the stage. The background shows a building with an American flag and some trees.

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# Dean Hopper

Dean Becomes a Student of Down Time

By Craig Harris

The Hoppers develop a new normal following Dean Hopper's recent health scare

The Hoppers don't have time for jigsaw puzzles. However, time and patience are exactly what has been required as they've carefully pieced things back together as of late.

In early December, America's favorite family of Gospel music was shaken when Dean Hopper suffered a pair of strokes over a two-day span.

"Any time you have a stroke, it comes out of nowhere," Dean says. "I knew I was tired. I was stressed. I opened a new business last year. You're heading into the holidays, so you have extra concerts because of Christmas. We did some work in the studio. We were trying to make all of that happen. I was tired ... tired as much as anything. Evidently, I wasn't getting enough solid sleep at night."

The unexpected episode began with vertigo-like symptoms.

"We were in a country club doing a Christmas program for a guy, and his chef had made us dinner," Dean recalls. "It was about 4:30 (p.m.) on Dec. 6. All of a sudden, the walls started moving. It was like the earth moving below you, and you can't stop it. It lasted for about 60 seconds, and it quit. I went, sat up, sang and



did the program. We had been on the road about a week at that point.

"We went home, and we were trying to get ready to go again. I was up in my office, and Karlye (Dean's daughter) was with me. Things started moving. It was about a minute and a half. I just thought I was tired, so I went to bed early. The next morning, I had to see an orthopedic specialist to get an MRI on my knee (for a torn meniscus), and I got up with double vision. We did a concert

that night. On the second portion (of the concert) that night, I had double vision for about eight minutes.”

That prompted Dean to seek medical counsel.



“I called a doctor friend in Savannah, Tenn., and she said it might be an aneurysm,” Dean explains. “I had already had a CT (computed tomography) scan, and it came back normal. (At the emergency room), I was laying in the bed, and I had a (similar) episode. He said, ‘You have had a stroke.’ My symptoms were double vision, headaches, and what I call vertigo-like symptoms.”

Those symptoms of dizziness and feeling like the world was spinning actually lasted until early January before they ceased.

“Everybody has two carotid arteries,” Dean points out. “In the neck, you have a (vertebral) vein that sends the blood into the brain, and it divides. I have a left, but I don’t have a right. So, there wasn’t enough blood getting into those places.”

That hereditary abnormality is believed to be what caused the 54-year-old’s stroke.

“I’m a complete and utter Daddy’s girl,” Karlye – who sings the group’s alto part along with her grandmother Connie Hopper – emphasizes. “I walked into the (hospital) room, and he looked at me and apologized ... like he had something to apologize for. He had taken on so much over the (last) year.

“When we realized they were strokes, he grabbed me and wept into my hair. We used my hair to dry his tears

in that moment. For someone who is so close to him, it was heartbreaking ... but I had never felt closer to him. He was always the rock. For once, we were the rocks for him”

Dean adds, “You get to this tempo (of how you live life) and forget that you have to bring it back down. You just add a few things, but you can only do so much. Some of my friends say, ‘Hey, bud, it’s just a part of getting older.’ You get used to (living) at a certain level. I’ve found out that things can wait until tomorrow ... they might have to wait until next week.”

The health scare came on the heels of Claude Hopper – Dean’s father and the group’s bass singer (who founded the group along with his brothers) – suffering a stroke in 2015 and Connie Hopper (who had been in remission from breast cancer for 35 years) having a malignant mass removed in 2014 that was followed by radiation treatments. Also, Carolyn Greene – the mother of Kim Hopper (Dean’s wife) – was also hospitalized with a serious illness in 2014 but has since recovered.



“Dad will be 80 in October,” Dean notes. “Mom will be 76 or 77. They’re both doing really good. They’re strong people. Kim is an overwhelmingly strong person. She has fibromyalgia and diabetes. So, we all have our stuff.

“You think because you’ve always done it (that) you can always do it.”

Karlye adds, “With my grandfather (Claude), that (stroke) happened a year prior. It took us all by storm, but nothing hit (as hard) like when they started throwing the term TIA (transient ischemic attack, a blockage of blood to the brain that is similar to a mini-stroke)

around in the emergency room (after Dean's strokes). We were like, 'No, he's too young for that.' He is the rock. He's right there holding it all together. He does everything. I wanted there to be a movement to make people aware and make them realize that this isn't just a little thing. For once, I wanted us to be like, 'Look, this can happen to you. It happened to us. Dad is going to take some much needed time (off), not just from this but from some stress.'"

Karlye can relate to suffering a health scare. In April of 2015, she was the victim of a grand-mal seizure that lasted for five minutes and caused a concussion.

"It hit when dad's (strokes) happened," Karlye explains. "Dad took it very seriously. This is not supposed to happen to him. Pop (Claude) has been kind of down since his last stroke. When this with Dad (happened) ... all his (Claude's) focus went to Dad. He's calling and texting asking how Dad is doing. He's been 100 percent all of the time. There's a new collective (bond) there. Everybody has stepped up to the plate."

It was a significant adjustment for all of the group's members when Dean didn't perform with the group for more than a month.

"He's always been the rock in the whole family," Kim points out. "My world was shaken, in thinking that my rock was not going to be there for a while. It was pretty overwhelming, but we found out – just like in everything – that God's grace is sufficient."

Dean's 12-year-old daughter Lexi adds, "It's a bunch of puzzle pieces that make the group. When one is missing, we're all missing (something)."

In fact, both Dean and Kim were away from the group for a period of time in December.

"The first two concerts after that were without mom or dad," Karlye remembers. "Grandma looked at me and said, 'I think I'm going to let you explain what is going on.' So, I've been the one speaking (about it in concert)."

"Number one, that's the first time I've really had the floor for more than 10 seconds. The topic of conversation is me saying to these people, 'This is my first rodeo of me being on stage without the rock.' In the last couple of (months), for the first time since Dec. 6, I've been able to say, 'Will you please make welcome my



superhero?" That's been a big, heart-wrenching moment for me."

Dean points to his younger brother Michael – the group's drummer and bass vocalist – as having been instrumental following the strokes.

"Since this has taken place, they all had to do more," Dean says. "My brother really picked up the slack."

"I didn't go the last weekend we were out before Christmas. My first weekend back on the road was (in early February)."

Dean hasn't had to endure any rehabilitation. However, he is pacing himself, performing only a select portion of the concert initially before remaining on stage for full concerts in late February. He also takes advantage of a stool while on stage if needed.

"I've been emotional," Dean admits. "I've not had any depression, but you ask, 'Where did I misstep in my health?'"

"It affected my speech a little bit. I'd speak too fast or cut off words. Now, I just slow down."

The biggest drawback has been additional fatigue.

"When I get tired or I get fatigued – and sometimes, I can go all day and feel great – it's like you have a brain fog," Dean says. "You can focus, but you can feel the fatigue."

"I'm going to do things different. We're getting into that busy time of season. As far as pushing myself, no,

I'm not. There are times when I do have that fatigue or whatever."



Kim adds, "I'm very much a protector. I watch him very closely. They said in six months to a year, he should be back to normal. For now, when things get to be too much, I step in."

Dean has lost 15 pounds, some of which can be attrib-

uted to a healthier diet that was incorporated months prior to the strokes.

"I try to walk every day," Dean points out. "You need to walk and get the blood flowing.

"Something like this puts your perspective on the priorities in better order. You put attention to the things that need attention and let some of the other things just float until you have a moment. For a while, I would (only) pick two things a day to do."

However, things are quickly getting back to normal for the Hoppers ... a new normal.

"People have been very understanding and very loving," Dean emphasizes. "We feel like everything is together again. This is the 60<sup>th</sup> year (of the group's existence). There's a few miles left in the bodies ... and we just put a new engine in the bus."

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# HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



This last month has been so fruitful in the ministry God is doing here in Washington. I am more excited than ever to be a part of what God is doing through His people. We have watched the hand of God move in ways that I have never seen before to allow ministry opportunities.



When I decided to leave the road in Gospel Music, I felt at times that I would never sing again. I think that many of us have what I like to call Elijah Moments where we think, "I am the only one left," or that I won't be able to do this or that. It is in these moments that God must smile and say, "Child, if you only knew."

A few weeks ago, I was having one of these moments

and I just couldn't seem to shake it. It was a Friday, and I always go to the Senate chaplain's Bible study on Fridays. I was walking into the Hart Senate office building whilst having a pity party in my own mind. I walked off of the elevator on to the ninth floor towards the tables where the pizza was sitting for our lunch Bible study when I heard the voice of the chaplain behind me.

I turned and looked back, and he was looking at me. He walked straight towards me and said, "Nate, today is the day."

I said, "Today is the day for what?"

"Today is the day when you sing for our Bible study," he said.

I was caught a bit off guard by the statement, so I said, "Well, when exactly do you want me to sing, sir?"

He replied, "In two minutes, so be ready." He then proceeded to introduce me to sing "How Great Thou Art," before he broke the bread of life for us.

In five minutes, I was able to build trust and relationship with people I have been trying to build a bridge with for years. I say this not to boast by any means, but to tell you that first, God uses music to open doors of ministry. Second, the Lord reminded me that He would continue to open doors for me to use my gift to further His Gospel. I am learning that God has placed our ministry here on the front lines to minister through word, deed and song to those here in Washington, D.C. The harvest truly is ready.

We were a part of the committee meetings for our newest associate justice on the bench of the U.S. Supreme



Court, Neil Gorsuch. We have prayed that God would grant him a clear path to the court, but we must continue to pray not only for him but for every member of the Supreme Court that God would grant them wisdom and guidance in the days ahead. We ask that you would pray for us that God would widen our array of influence and that He would provide financially for the ministry ahead. We would love for you to partner with us in the future as God is doing great things on a daily basis.

If you would like to find out more about our ministry and how you can help, you can visit us at [HopeToTheHill.com](http://HopeToTheHill.com) or call our office at 202-770-7300. I would personally love to chat with you and share what God is doing.

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# A Quick Chat with Reggie Smith

By Justin Gilmore



Recently the Gaither Vocal Band welcomed its newest member, Reggie Smith.

Smith is no stranger to Southern Gospel Music as he and his wife Ladye Love have been mainstays in the Gaither Homecoming family of artists for more than a decade. Smith joined the powerhouse group to sing tenor alongside Wes Hampton, following the departure of David Phelps.

We recently sat down for a conversation with Smith.

*Justin Gilmore: How did you get your start in Southern Gospel Music?*

Reggie Smith: (I) grew up singing in church where my dad was the music guy and mom played piano/organ.

*Gilmore: Who are your musical influences?*

Smith: Too many to list ... of course, the obvious

would be the Gaither songs. Growing up singing songs like "He Touched Me," "Something Beautiful," and "I Will Serve Thee" was pretty cool.

*Gilmore: How did you come in contact with Bill Gaither?*

Smith: Guy Penrod and I knew of each other from working in the studio together, and (he) introduced us.

*Gilmore: And how does it feel joining the Gaither Vocal Band?*

Smith: Pretty cool deal.

*Gilmore: What has been the best part of traveling with the Gaither Homecoming Tour and your wife Ladye Love?*

Smith: Getting to hang with people like Jake Hess, Howard and Vestal Goodman, and Ben Speer has been awesome. And being married too and traveling



with one of the greatest female voices on the planet is the (great) deal.

*Gilmore: Tell me about your latest CD with Ladye*



*Love.*

Smith: The last duo project we did is called “Thank You Lord.” This project was a follow-up project that Larry Goss produced. “Thank you Lord” was a song that Ladye Love and I wrote along with the great Lionel Cartwright and featured our son Bret in the lead. We cut the track before his voice changed, so it’s this pure boy voice with mom and dad singing harmonies. We also put “I will Serve Thee” on the project. We wanted something that was a little more relaxed

and ethereal.

*Gilmore: What is something that people might not know about you?*

Smith: I am the middle of three boys. We grew up on a farm – farming soybeans, wheat, and cows. By the way, we used motorcycles to herd the cattle.



*Gilmore: What is the most memorable experience you’ve had in your years of singing Gospel Music?*

Smith: I don’t have a most memorable but so many great moments. Of course, I’ve been on a 35-day run (touring trip), so maybe after a day of rest I could give you a most.



*Gilmore: Any advice for aspiring Gospel artists?*

Smith: Keep it real and take care of the instrument you’ve been given.

*Gilmore: What can fans expect from the GVB this year?*

Smith: Fun.

For more information on Reggie and The Gaither Vocal Band, visit [www.Gaither.com](http://www.Gaither.com).



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By Leslie McKay

### Vernon Gospel Weekend Update

#### **Songwriter's seminar with Dr. Jeff R. Steele added to Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend 2017**

September means football to many folks, especially in Alabama, but to the folks in Vernon it also means Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend 2017. This is the weekend that more than 20 gospel artists from all over the country – soloists, duos, trios, quartets, family groups, musicians, and even a comedian – will gather in Vernon to present two free evening concerts featuring some of the best artists in Christian music.

“Last year's event was just fun,” says Dennis McKay of M.A.C. Records.

“I think the event in Vernon is the best-kept secret in Gospel Music, but we want folks to know about this secret and want them to come to Vernon, Ala., on Sept. 8-9. We want



them to experience the music, worship, and fellowship that makes this such a great event.”

Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend will be held at the Vernon City Auditorium. There will be a free concert starting at 6 p.m. on Friday and at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.



There are more activities in the works that we will announce at a later date, but one thing that has been announced is the addition of a songwriter's seminar on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Dr. Jeff R. Steele will lead the songwriter's seminar.



Steele is a writer, author, pastor, conference speaker and not only the owner and founder of the award-winning group the Steeles, but also the owner of his own publishing company. He has written or co-written 17 No. 1 songs in Gospel Music.



forward to meeting you and transferring what knowledge God has blessed me to accumulate with you,” Steele says. “This won’t be a traditional seminar like those I teach on college campuses with a large crowd of students. This will be a very small gathering (by comparison) with plenty of time for questions and critiquing of some of your songwriting. I urge you to come and be a part. If I didn’t think it could help you, I wouldn’t come. I am beholden to no one and have no secrets to protect. If you ask it and I know it, I’m gonna tell you the answer.”



“I learned a lot of what I know just going through the process and taking some whippings,” Steele points out. During the seminar, he will talk about copyrights,



royalties and songwriting techniques, and there will even be some time for Jeff to listen to the songs and give you a critique. Don’t miss an exciting time with one of the nation’s most prolific songwriters in what is expected to be a very intimate setting.

“Alabama is my home state, and I am looking



The songwriter’s seminar will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the City Auditorium in Vernon. The registration fee for the seminar is \$25 per person.

To register for the Songwriter’s Seminar or for more information on Vernon Alabama’s Gospel Music Weekend 2017, contact M.A.C. Records by calling 662-312-4146 or 662-889-2829 or e-mail [info@macrecords.net](mailto:info@macrecords.net). More information is available via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/macnightofworship](http://www.facebook.com/macnightofworship).



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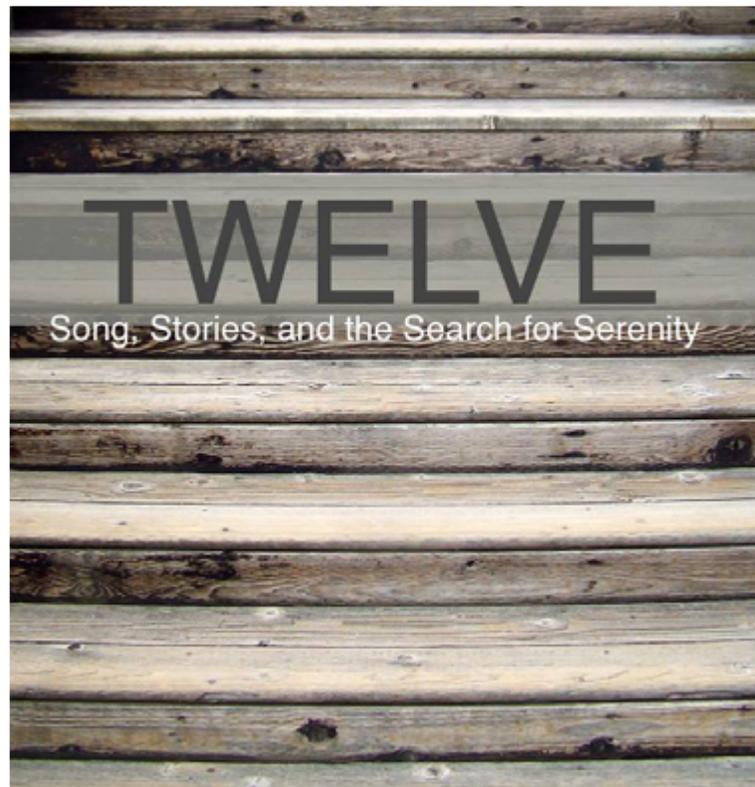
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# Southern Gospel Television on your computer!

# Twelve: A mother's song of hope

## Donna King talks about addictions and the family



By Lorraine Walker

Donna King is a singer, songwriter, producer and involved in music creation for many genres. King lives in Nashville with her husband, Zane, who is also an incredible musician and singer. As wife, mother, nana, workmate, music maker, and life traveler, Donna wears many hats when she is with Zane. However, in the last few years she has taken on even more.

Anyone who has ever moved in the loving orbit that surrounds King, has been touched by her open and nurturing heart. Often hard times will give hearts a thicker skin, but that doesn't seem to have happened to King. She took time recently to share about an issue that is more than just a subject of a recording; it is a generational and "heart-breaking" disease.

"Zane and I have six children total," begins King. "For the sake of their privacy, I want to express this carefully, but our daughter, Jenna, is not the only one to struggle with drugs and/or alcohol. Additionally, my mother is an addict and Jenna's former husband (they married young) struggled with addiction and lost his battle on January 1st of this year." She adds that her brother, who was an addict, lost his life at the young age of 25 due to relationships related to drugs. And there are others.

As a songwriter, King is adept at expression and she opens a door to a family dealing with addictions. "It seems to start with marijuana. This is common of many young adults now

fighting for their lives or many who lost the battle too soon. They get invited to a seemingly innocent little party in their brains, using pot or drinking alcohol, that quickly escalates to the next thing, then the next, until they are alone, broken, and very sick, possibly using a car or a cold, concrete, park bench as their bed. The celebration and laughter turns into lonely despair and a river of tears. Mild hangovers turn into violent withdrawals that leave the one withdrawing preferring death over living through them.

"Let me just say, when you are parent of an adult child going through those things, it defies all that is natural within you to stay back and let them find their [rock] bottom. I was so into rescuing Jenna, that I know I hurt her more than helped her in the early years of her struggle. There were times Zane and I made healthy decisions and other times I was led by panic, instead of by the God of her hope and healing. Zane has always been gifted at keeping a pretty cool head. For that I am so grateful. But we have both had moments through the years of dealing with addict children when our fear and panic-stricken hearts took over and we tried to climb right over God to pull our kids out of the pit."

In the face of such desperation, how do you know what will work and what won't? King shares, "...I think the one word answer for what doesn't (work) is 'me.' And the one word answer for what does (work), is 'God.' In Jenna's case, for us, it was truly in letting go and letting God. This had



no choice but to happen when we purchased her a one way plane ticket to Orange County, CA, where there was an open bed waiting at Agape House. Agape House was simply a transitional living home designed to help those who desired recovery to stay on track by holding them accountable through drug tests and 12 Step meetings like AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), NA (Narcotics Anonymous), and CR (Celebrate Recovery). By the time Jenna had gotten there she had already been to at least three other rehabs. So, for Jenna, I think it was in finally having the chance to lean only on God for rescue and help, knowing that no one else was going to be able to get in the car and come to her rescue.”

How does the family cope? “Interestingly, it is when we recognize our own need for God, amidst the pain and fear, that we begin to find our sanity and heal. And, what’s most astounding is that our own healing has a way of flowing over and onto the lives of those around us. This isn’t to say that as soon as we get it together, our addict will; but it increases all our chances. And, no matter their outcome, whatever happens to them, we are better equipped to handle it.”

If your profession or your family life brings you into the world of addictions, you will find different ideas expressed about those who have become sober or stopped using. Some may think they are no longer in danger of taking another drink or pill. King is straight with her response about recovery:

“I think it’s very important for people to understand that no one ever finds their way out of addiction. It is a progressive brain disease and a dangerously powerful force inside the precious souls it afflicts. The beauty is that God is the remedy to this disease. Following His principles passion-

ately and vehemently can throw this disease into permanent remission. However, you’ll never hear a true addict say, ‘I was an addict.’ They can be heard saying, ‘I *am* an addict who is finding recovery through the healing and hope in God, one day at a time.’ This is an important factor for those learning about this disease to understand. Addiction is a quiet and sneaky shadow when in remission. One can never let their guard down...not for a moment. That shadow can rise up so quickly when it gets the addict to believe that they are completely healed.”

“Jenna found her way into remission from this disease by recognizing that she alone could not save herself. She saw God as her remedy and relied deeply on Him for the strength to overcome active addiction. She left behind those who pulled her down and surrounded herself with a recovery community who lifted her up. Her greatest help is God. Her greatest circle is found on Thursday night at Celebrate Recovery (CR) of Yorba Linda, CA. And her greatest support is found in her sponsor, who is also the leader of CR at Crosspointe Church.”

“Another way that Jenna strives to be strong is by giving back to the community herself. This is a key component of recovery. It is the embodiment of the 12th Step in the highly effective 12 Step program of recovery.

“Finally, serving others in outreach ministry like missions is one great way Jenna can be on track. In fact, she is plan-





ning to serve at a Christian orphanage, built in large part by her church, in the fall. I wouldn't be a momma if I didn't tell your readers that they can be a part of her recovery by making a donation to her trip on her GO FUND ME page at [www.gofundme.com/get-jenna-to-guatemala-2017](http://www.gofundme.com/get-jenna-to-guatemala-2017)"

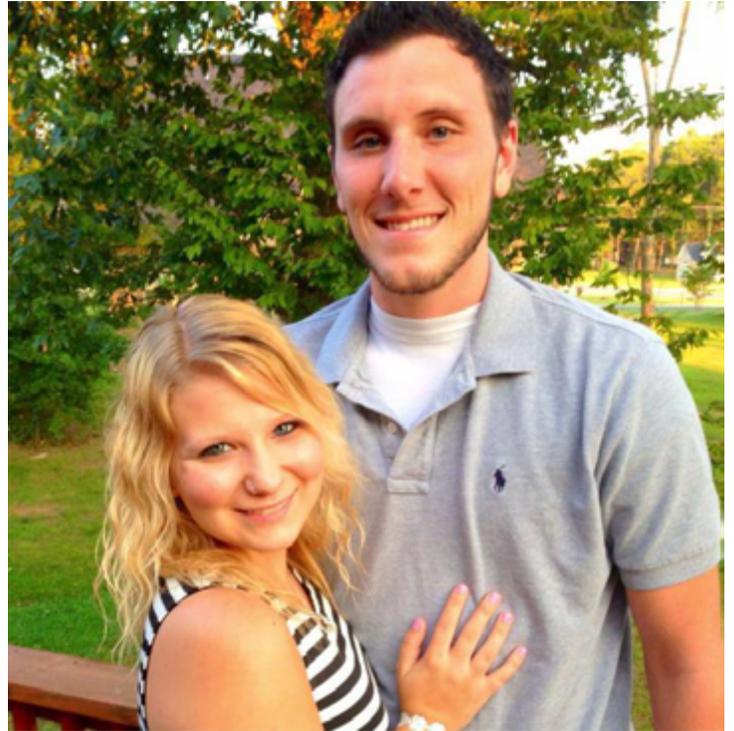
When Jenna was overwhelmed with an addiction, the mother's heart in Donna reached out in a co-dependent fashion. In addition to her various roles mentioned at the beginning of this feature, King found herself taking on several more, including: "Therapist, Homework and School Work Coordinator, Detective, Google Research Guru, Chauffeur, Bail Bondswoman, Central Bank of Emergency Assistance..." It was too much. She found help in a support group.

"I'll never forget the first Alanon meeting I walked into," says King. "To clarify, Alanon is for the families of those in addiction. Naranon is the same thing basically. One focuses on alcohol as the substance being abused, while the other focuses on narcotics, but the struggle on the inside is the same. They just have different wrappers."

"So, I walked into the meeting begging for help and an answer on how to save my daughter. What I would soon find out is that you cannot save a sinking ship while you yourself are drowning. Alanon and Naranon help the families of addicts to learn how to help themselves, and most importantly, where our help comes from. By working the 12 Step program ourselves, we find hope and we're better able to do the right thing by and for those living in their disease and/or living in recovery."

The Kings had just taken a breath when life handed them

another blow. "When our former son-in-law, Logan, lost his battle with addiction on January 1st of this year, it was a life-altering moment. It hurt on so many levels and each one felt like it was falling under the weight of the others. We loved Logan as one of our own and we dearly love his parents. Our hearts were broken for them, for our daughter, for all of the rest of his family, and to be honest, for ourselves.



"He was doing so well. He was making such progress. He had setbacks, but relapse is part of recovery and we believed, with God's help, he was going to win the fight and be a beautiful and strong light in the recovery community. He had gone out a couple times and spoken to churches about addiction and recovery. He was living in a recovery home called Path to Miracles, so, somehow, even the name of the place made me feel like, 'Wait God, didn't he deserve his (miracle)?"

After spending time with Logan's family, the Kings returned to Nashville, exhausted. King says, "I carried a cup of coffee and my crumpled spirit to the corner of the living room couch. I pretty much stayed crumpled, in the corner of the couch for four days. On day five, as I prayed and thought about what steps I needed to take to pull up out of this desperate funk, God nudged my heart and reminded me of the steps I was already taking -- the TWELVE step program I'm working through in Alanon." King decided to write what she was experiencing. The first song about Step One was created, called "Powerless."

The Kings were asked to come to a rehab to speak and sing. TWELVE began. "Our plans are to take it a step at a time, sharing our story and our songs where the door opens; rehabs, recovery communities, parent groups, churches, and

so on.

King adds, "TWELVE is coming to life out of grief. Isn't it just like God to take our tears and turn them into the water needed to grow a garden of hope."



This seems like a daunting task, trying to stem the epidemic that is addiction. "Having written music for many years and toured (sharing it), we've seen the power of a song and this new chapter is no exception. We're humbled to think God can use anything that we have to offer... but we know, with His strength, we can all make our own little difference in this big fight."

For more information, there is a facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/twelvevashville> and an email address: [twelvevashville@gmail.com](mailto:twelvevashville@gmail.com).

Do you see yourself or a loved one in these stories of addiction? Here is hope from a mother's heart. King says, "If you, as an addict, or a family member of an addict feel there is no way out, this is good news. The reason is, when we reach that point, then we have nowhere to look but up. From the very bottom of our journey we realize we are powerless, but our Higher Power isn't. God is our help and our hope and He can pull us out. We only need to recognize we cannot fix it alone. So, feeling there is no way out truly is the first step.

"For those who relapse, here is the hope in that: Relapse is part of recovery. We all slip back into misplaced thoughts and failed actions, whether we are addicts or those trying to rescue them. But, since relapse is part of recovery, this just brings us closer to long term remission and healing."

What keeps Donna King, child of the King, strong and stable? God's Word. Specifically, Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."



Rusty Golden: Clean and Sober

Back in September 2014, SGNScoops published a feature on artist/songwriter Rusty Golden. At the time he was staying at the rehabilitation facility where he had undergone 120 days of rehab. Since then he recorded an album entitled *Sober*, and has spent much time in the Middle East playing his music. He is still sober.

"Physically, my 58-year-old body is giving me some signs of one thing or another." Golden answers from Bahrain. "Arthritic pains here and there. Tinnitus in the ear. Emotionally, I'm a pretty happy, upbeat guy. Spiritually, I know in my heart that the Lord continues to keep His hand on me. I talk to Him daily and need to learn how to listen more."

Golden talks about his battle to remain clean. "It's easier in that I don't obsess about using drugs as much. The craving has been gone for well over four years now. I have been clean since February 24, 2013. But the desire is still in there. It's not like I think about it often, it's buried deep inside...but it is there."

The future for Rusty looks...well...Golden. "If you had told me two years ago that I would be living in the Middle East for a year, I would have thought you were crazy. But the opportunity came to make some good money playing music, which oddly enough isn't easy to do in Nashville. There's a lot of music going on in Nashville, but there are too many musicians much younger than me who are ready to do the same job for much cheaper. I am so thankful that I get to see the world, play music and pay my bills.

"I have been writing songs over here. Just wrote a new one with Dianne Wilkinson last week. I'm going back home to USA in the summer but there's a chance that I might return here in the fall for another eight months or so.

"But like any good student of recovery, I take it all one day at a time..."

Look for more of Rusty's story and samples from the album *Sober* here: [www.rustygolden.net](http://www.rustygolden.net).

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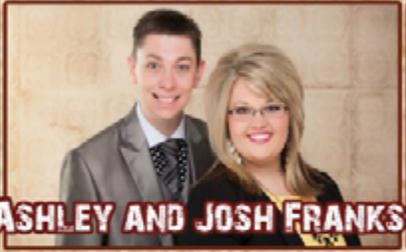
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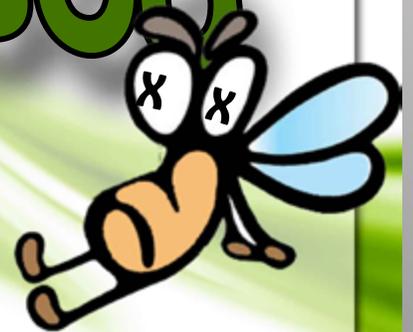
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6. Hello Daddy - Shellem Cline
7. Never Let Me Down - The Arenos
8. The Church Pew - Cliff Waddell
9. Shoot For The Moon - Amy McCallister
10. You Are Welcome Here - Bev McCann
11. Still Standing - Jonathan Dale
12. That's What Jesus Would Do - Justin Todd Herod
13. The Other Side of Sober - Jacob Bryant
14. Old School - Jim Sheldon
15. Living Right - Tony Bates
16. God Bless America Again - Sherry Damron
17. I'm There - Buddy Jewel
18. One Wave At A Time - Cash Creek
19. The Reason - Jordan's Crossing
20. Like Everyday's A Sunday - Shenandoah
21. Mustard Seed Faith - Chuck Hancock
22. When I Pray for You - Dan and Shay

23. Rest - Peter Christie
24. On The Sunny Banks - Chris Golden
25. Those Two Shoes- Appointed 2
26. McKay Project - Get Saved
27. He's Coming Back - Debbie Bennett
28. Looking Back - Ava Kasich
29. Back To God - Reba McEntire
30. Father I Praise You - Greg McDougal
31. My Favorite Singer - Kenny Gardner
32. Sweet Whispers - Amy Richardson
33. Well Worn - Lisa Daggs
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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Matthew Gooch

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin...

It's time for another Gooch to take a seat in the Younger Perspective corner (they aren't really sitting in a corner, I meant that more figuratively). Last year, it was Kari who joined us, but this year, it's all about Karen and Rickey's eldest offspring, Matthew. Matt is the 24-year-old cool cat who jams out behind Karen Peck and New River week after week on stage. Let's get to know the dude behind the 72 Les Paul, shall we?

*Erin: As a kid, what sparked your love and interest in the guitar?*

Matthew: Some of my first memories of guitar were riding in the truck with my dad, listening to bluegrass and oldies. I can remember the sound of a guitar just made me happy, so I wanted to learn how to play what those guys did.

*Erin: Although she's always been "Mom" to you, how would you describe growing up, knowing how influential your mother was and is in the gospel music world?*

Matthew: I have always had an understanding that Mom was loved by people in the industry and I have been proud to see her progress in her career. I think it came into perspective for me, the magnitude of her influence, several years ago at the Dove Awards. One of the women from Point of Grace came up to her freaking out, saying that when she was little, she wanted to be Mom and that Mom was a huge influence on her. It is hard sometimes to see these kinds of things when we are doing our normal concerts and services, but it is important to remember that these kids grow up to do things, and they remember who inspired them. I am just a proud son that loves his mom.

*Erin: Choosing from any genre, who are some of your top musical inspirations?*

Matthew: I have so many influences. I am such a fan of mu-

sic as a whole, so my influences really pull from all angles. The Edge from U2, Noel Gallagher from Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Jimmy Page from Led Zeppelin, Stevie Ray Vaughn, David Ryan Harris, Miles Davis, Pink Floyd, Bethel Worship, Hillsong United, and so many more.

*Erin: What is one thing about Matthew Gooch most people would never guess?*

Matthew: Well, I have begun roasting coffee and I absolutely love it. Also, I have a secret favorite song: "Girls Just Want To Have Fun," by Cyndi Lauper. People are always shocked by that.

*Erin: List the guitars you currently own. Which is your favorite? And what is your dream guitar?*

Matthew: I currently have: a prototype Fender Tele, G&L Tele, Gibson SG, Fender Stratocaster, Epiphone Les Paul, 72 Gibson Les Paul Custom, Taylor GS Mini, 70's Yamaha



Acoustic, and 73 Martin D35. The 72 Les Paul and the 73 Martin are my two favorites. It is hard to pick between the two of them because they do completely different things, but I will say that the Les Paul really plays with pure perfection. I think right now my dream guitar would be a Deusenberg Starplayer TV. They are popular in the worship scene, and they really have a tight sound. I would love to have one for a different flavor in my collection.

*Erin: How would you encourage someone beginning their pursuit of playing guitar?*

Matthew: I would tell them to stay focused and not to give up. It is easy to get frustrated when you are learning the basics; most people quit during that part of the learning



process. If you can get over that hump, then learning new things is a ton of fun. I am still trying to learn new things all of the time and when you get that spark of inspiration, there is nothing quite like it.

*Erin: Other than being on stage, what are some behind the scenes roles you fulfill around the bus?*

Matthew: I help with the equipment set up and whatever else needs to be done. I've recently started driving the bus some when we have long runs and the others need me. I am currently managing our Israel trip that is coming up in July. It has been fun communicating with the people that have signed up so far, and asking them what they are excited to see.

*Erin: Is there a particular Scripture that has struck you deeply so far this year? If so, why?*

Matthew: Acts 1:8 "And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." That has been my favorite verse for a few years now because it really impacted me when I was at a turning point in my life.

*Erin: How do you keep Christ as the center of your focus in*

*this fast paced life of being a roadie and musician?*

Matthew: I think that going to church as much as I can when we are home is the key. It can get overwhelming sometimes, especially since we are constantly giving to others, and it is hard to be filled back up. I have found that when we are able to worship at home and be filled, it makes the road so much easier for us to give to and help others.

Closing thoughts from Erin...

Thanks for reminding us of that truth today, Matt. I'd say we all need our own dose of being refilled and refueled. The Bible talks about how coming together as the body of Christ is vital for our spiritual walk to thrive. Hebrews 10:25 reminds us, "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Communing with the Lord through church fellowship can revitalize even the most weary soul. It's great to have podcasts of sermons and worship services on our phones, but participating in that sweet, sweet time within the pews is so important. Maybe it's been awhile since you've darkened the door of a church. I urge you to take a step forward this very week and try again. The message could be intended just for you. Don't miss the blessing awaiting you.



And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

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Who would YOU like to see Erin interview next?

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## Tom Rusk



By Vonda Easley

This month we shine the DJ Spotlight on Tom Rusk of 101.7FM WGOG in Walhalla, South Carolina. WGOG has a 6,000-watt FM stereo signal that touches three states: Georgia, North and South Carolina, with Country music every day and Gospel music on Sunday, courtesy of Rusk and “Golden Corner Gospel.”

*Vonda: What age did you know you would work in radio?*

Rusk: My first taste of announcing came when I was in high school in Illinois where I grew up. I was asked to announce the starting line-ups for the basketball home games. It was not until four years after I graduated I got my first break in radio at WARU in Peru, IN. I began as the evening DJ, but within six months I was the oldest staff member there and instantly became the program director and morning man. Talk about “putting my feet to the fire”, wow!

After a 14 year stint at WARU, I moved to Central FL and began a seven year career in broadcast sales. In 1987, I had the opportunity to manage and program a non-commercial FM Southern Gospel station in Haines City, FL. When the station was sold in late 1990, I was called to active duty with my Army Reserve Unit. I was asked to head up family support and public affairs during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.



After a 10 month active duty tour, I went to work at Walt Disney World in Transportation (Bus Operations). I had a great career at Disney which included not only driving a bus, but facilitating guest seminars all over property. I retired from the Army Reserves in 2004, on my 60th birthday having served a total of 24 years. I was privileged to serve my last 10 years in the Chaplaincy as a chaplain assistant.

After a 10 month active duty tour, I went to work at Walt Disney World in Transportation (Bus Operations). I had a great career at Disney which included not only driving a bus, but facilitating guest seminars all over property. I retired from the Army Reserves in 2004, on my 60th birthday having served a total of 24 years. I was privileged to serve my last 10 years in the Chaplaincy as a chaplain assistant.

In 2006 I retired from Disney. My wife, Kathy, and I sold our home and retired to the Upstate of South Carolina near Clemson University (2016 Natl Football Champs). In April of 2007, an announcer at the local Country station (WGOG) asked me if I’d be interested in co-hosting a Sunday morning Southern Gospel show. Of course I jumped at the opportunity.

Due to health issues my friend and fellow broadcaster,



Wayne Morton, had to step down from co-hosting in 2013. I recently celebrated my 10th anniversary on April 9th with a

big Collingsworth Family concert at my home church, Utica Baptist, in Seneca SC I select all the music and programming for the Sunday morning program.

We are a reporting station for both Singing News and SGN Scoops. We currently do not stream any of our programming live. I communicate with my listeners during the week through social media namely Facebook at Golden Corner Gospel - 101.7 WGOG.

*Vonda: What is your favorite vacation place?*

Rusk: Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg

*Vonda: Will you tell us about your family?*

Rusk: Married to Kathy Ferguson in 1988; two children: daughter-Toma, 44; son-Sebastian, 38; granddaughter-Kayla Marie, 16; mother-Alfreda Rusk, 96; sister-Nancy, 75; brother-Dan, deceased.



Vonda: How did you come to know Jesus?

Rusk: My testimony: I grew up in the church, which was not very evangelistic, but fortunately began attending a Bible believing, Bible preaching church in the late 60's in Indiana. I made Jesus my Savior and was baptized, by immersion, in November of 1969. But it wasn't until I moved to Florida in late 1980 that I totally surrendered to Christ and made Him Lord of my life. I've been very active in church since that time leading several men's ministries in different churches. Trained in both Evangelism Explosion and F.A.I.T.H. on how to properly share your faith and lead others to the Lord. I sing in the choir, drive the church bus for youth and senior outings and handle publicity at Utica Baptist.

Our thanks to Tom Rusk for this look into his life and career as a Gospel music DJ. Look up Tom on Facebook at [ww.facebook.com/Golden-Corner-Gospel-1017-WGOG-575137259167504](http://ww.facebook.com/Golden-Corner-Gospel-1017-WGOG-575137259167504) and be sure to tune into 101.7FM WGOG when you are driving through his area.

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# The Browders

*Just living life, writing songs from the heart*



**By Sarah Murray**

Onlookers can see the passion and pure grace the Browders portray when they take the stage. The family is truly personable and their ministry is more than their career, it's their purpose.

The Browder family members are gifted songwriters and write almost all of their music. As anyone would imagine, writing is a difficult task. But writing Southern Gospel Music that not only charts but truly connects each listener is an even harder task that the Browders handle with nothing less than purpose, grace and professionalism. Each member of the team has their position in writing Browder music.

Matthew Browder talks about he gets most of his inspiration outside of the goodness of Jesus Christ alone. His answer is simple. "Knowing that God knows best, reading the Word, and basically just living life."

Matthew says his process typically starts with singing a song that he has never heard before and the words just continue to flow. As with any writer, there are times of quietness, where the song stills, while not being com-

pleted. In these times, Matthew prays and asks God to help him finish the song as He would see fit.

The Browders are not only answering the call God has placed on their life each and every day, but they are also anointed in their singing. As Christians, Jesus proved His love for us on the cross. Yet, He continues to provide proof of His goodness every day.

For the Browders, the proof is first of all how they travel to places they've never sung before, and the audience requests their songs. Another example is having 10 No. 1 songs, and seven of the 10 coming from the same project, "Time Machine."

With a reputation like the Browders have and the number of songs they've been able to write and record, it would be hard to pick a favorite song or one that meant the most to them. However, they could recall a few that have truly connected not only with the audience but with themselves as well.

"Fall on my Knees," was written approximately eight



years ago and holds a special place in all of their hearts, as does “Waiting for you to get Home.” The song “I am so Blessed” reminds each of them of the example their father is by being bound to a wheelchair and still not complaining or letting anything in life stop him. Their songs are something people can relate to.



Matthew has some writing advice and strategies to keep writing, to help any artist with a pen in hand. Some of these include: Try different rhyme schemes. Stay with a consistent theme. Make the lines connect and continue your thought and your melody connect with the lyrics. “When writing, paint a picture so that the people not only hear it but they see it as well,” Matthew explains. “At the end of the day, remember that it’s about getting

a message across that people can understand.”

Besides original, charting songs, there are many things that make the Browders stand out in Southern Gospel Music, including their family harmony, their spirit-filled services, their representation of their walk with Christ through their songs and the fact they travel and sing with a live band. But what makes them who they are is that they always bear in mind why they do the job they have been called to do.

“When things aren’t going great, remember that you are called,” Matthew points out. “When you remember that you are called, not enough critics or devils in hell can stop you. For God has a plan for such a times as this.”



If you have the pleasure of meeting the Browders you will experience of piece of their walk with Christ and the love and honor they have for the Lord, as well as the love they have for Southern Gospel Music. They have an outstanding piece of advice for other groups and anyone in ministry alone.

“A lot of ministries are waiting for a big break, or the next step,” Matthew says. “But sometimes you step and sometimes you leap. Regardless, you just have to keep stepping forward for the Lord.”

When you hear the Browders’ music, think of strength, think of mercy, and think of the goodness of Jesus. Most of all, think of what God can do when you fully let Him use you, just as the Browders have done and



continue to do.

“Do what you can, and God will do all that you can’t,” Matthew shares.

For more information on the Browders, follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. You can also visit their web site at [www.thebrowders.com](http://www.thebrowders.com).



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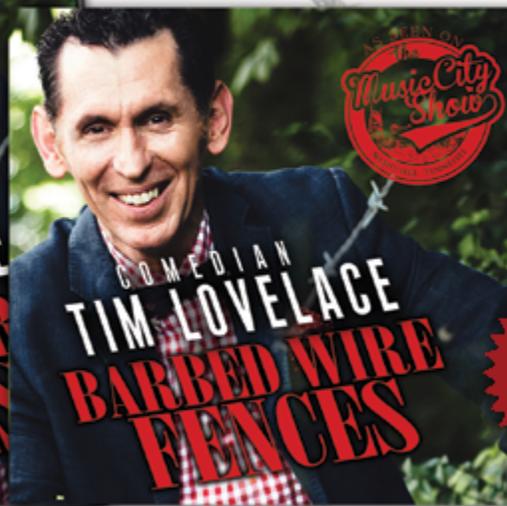
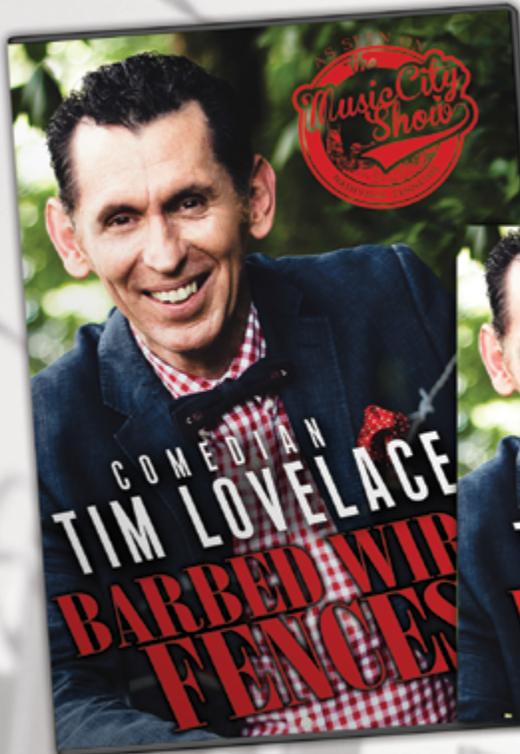


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# Day By Day

Happy Mother's  
Day

By Selena Day

*Luke 8:22 "Also, some women were with him. They had been cured of evil spirits and various illnesses. These women were Mary, also called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; Joanna, whose husband Chusa was Herod's administrator; Susanna; and many other women. They provided financial support for Jesus and his disciples."*

I have been blessed with many strong women in my life. My mother was the oldest of six, and her mother was the oldest girl of 13. These women strongly influenced my life.

In the Christian world, we talk a lot about spiritual mothers and fathers, and to be honest, I have never felt the need for one because of the great support I have had from my parents and from the influence of such a large family. It was not until I was older that I became thankful for their influence in my life. I would like to share the stories about several of those women.

My mother has a strength to her that I have not seen in many. She has really been the constant in my life. She has pushed me and tough-loved me when I needed it. She has blessed my family over and over by giving so much to us. Just yesterday, she took us girls out shopping at the thrift store so we could use her senior discount, and then, she would not let me pay her back. She has taken care of my father through his liver transplant and my aunt and uncle when they battled cancer. She was there for my cousins when those same parents passed away.

Then, there's Chuck's mother. She is a female evangelist, and I am thankful for the strong spiritual heritage she has instilled in Chuck. Recently, she began sharing some of her stories of traveling alone and preaching as a young woman. She spoke of the camaraderie she experienced with the older women saints praying for her and encouraging her to keep doing what she felt called to do. She loves being a grandmother. My youngest daughter laughs and talks about how she is the only person she knows that can make you jealous of the younger version of yourself.

Then, there are my grandmothers. Mildred Felice Smith, whom I am named after. She was a spitfire. She was a woman way ahead of her time. Back in the early



1970s when women usually were very grandmotherly, she broke her arm by trying to jump a pile of bricks with her motorcycle. I hope you're not envisioning a biker chick, because she was far from this. She was very much a junior league southern matriarch. She gave me her sense of adventure. When I was a little girl and would stay at her house, she would load us up in her car and set out to play the "get lost game" ... each child would pick the turn at an intersection. It was so exciting as a child to think you were discovering new places.

Next is Ernestine Brantley Minton. She was your classic southern lady. This is where I got my artistic nature. She was the type of woman who made everyone feel as if they were special. I know that she lead each one of us grandchildren into believing that we were her favorites. She wanted all her girls to be beautiful ladies and all her men to be strong and kind. She called her family "her clan" and always signed her notes and cards with, "thanks for being mine."

I could go on and on about all the women in my life. I am forever thankful for each of them. Recently, we lost my aunt in a tragic fire, and it made me realize once again how important it is to tell those whom you love and who have made a difference in your life how thankful you are for them. So, if you would allow me to, I would love to say how thankful I am for Sue Brantley, Grace Day, Grace Ward, Jeannie Kyser, Lucy Brantley, Kelly Miller, Ruby Eskew, Nancy Kenney, Gail La-Bach, Joy Nesbitt, Carol Pitts, Belinda Dutton, Kathy Brantley, Georgiana Rhea, Carol Byler and Michelle Green. Many of these women are not mothers, but they have made an impact on our ministry. We could not do what we have done without them.

Happy Mother's Day, and don't forget to celebrate the women in your life.

*Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. You may contact her at [selenaday@me.com](mailto:selenaday@me.com) <http://www.queenliving.org> <http://facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday>. Photographs courtesy of Selena Day.*

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The advertisement features a collage of four individual portraits of the Miller family members. Below the portraits is a CD cover for 'The Millers Glad' which shows the same four family members standing together. The background of the entire advertisement is a dark green wood-grain texture.

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The advertisement features a group photo of four men in suits. In the foreground, there are two CD covers: one for 'Live With Greg Logins & Revival' and another for 'Greg Logins & Revival Come Gospel'. The background is a blue and white striped pattern.

# Jeff Gibson

## Is Makin' Music

By Charlie Griffin



In the early 1970s, a group from down east came to the western North Carolina foothills. The Foundations were a male quartet with a full band. They were pretty good, but they only came a time or two. And I never thought much about them until some years later.



**Heaven Bound initially included: (L to R) Ken Eubanks, Jeff Gibson, Lawrence Taylor and Allen Ham.**

Striking out on their own, Ken Eubanks, Jeff Gibson, Lawrence Taylor and Allen Ham left the Foundations and formed Heaven Bound in 1975. Then, late in 1979, I booked Heaven Bound at the Hallelujah Supper Club. There, the friendships renewed. Over the years, the friendships have remained focused on music, family and friends while always filled with laughter and food.

And we carry on those friendships today.

Today on the radio, when you hear “Canaanland is Just in Sight,” you think of Heaven Bound and Jeff Gibson. Jeff Gibson, the writer, is a man filled with music, and it comes out in so many ways. Gibson is a singer, musician, teacher and equally talented songwriter. Today, we get to know Jeff Gibson once again for the first time in an off-the-cuff question and answer session.



**Pictured are: (L to R) Jeff Gibson, Lawrence Taylor, Dave Compton-WPET Radio Greensboro, NC, Ken Eubanks**

*CG: Tell us about your salvation experience.*

JG: I've always been involved in the church since a very young age. My mom has several brothers that are pastors. I was always helping them with their music, so it was like I was in youth camp all my life. I was blessed to find the Lord at a very young age. I don't have a great testimony about being delivered from drugs or alcohol. But I can testify that He saved me and has kept me. I've made more than my share of mistakes along the way, but His grace was always sufficient. He is ever faithful.

*CG: You have been around gospel music most of your life. So, when did you really know you wanted to sing in a group? Professionally?*

JG: I've always been involved with music in the church, since a very young age, so we were constantly forming groups. I never considered or even dreamed of full-time ministry until we organized Heaven Bound. We knew early on we had something special and the Lord has His hand on us.

*CG: What groups have you sung with? Tell us something about each one.*

JG: I sang with several local groups including a group called the Foundations. That group will always be special to me. It was the first group I went in the studio with to record, and it was where I met all the guys that later became Heaven Bound.



**Heaven Bound and Gold City are pictured eating together. Pictured are: (L to R) Tim Riley, Brian Free, Jeff Gibson, Ken Eubanks, Rick Busby, Lawrence Taylor, Garry Jones**

*CG: What is your favorite food, color, TV show?*

JG: I love watermelon and any southern cooking (of course that means fried and lots of butter). My favorite TV show and pastime is watching and talking the "Andy Griffith Show." My friend Brian Free and I used to talk Andy Griffith constantly, and any time I was on

Gold City's bus, the reruns were running.



**Jeff Gibson and Bern Gibson are pictured on their wedding day**

*CG: Tell us about your wife and support system. How did you meet? Tell us something about her.*

JG: I met and started dating my wife in high school, and we were married during our college years. It was great. With her help, I made the dean's list every semester after that. She has been such a blessing in my life. June will be 42 years of marriage. Bern is the best. Of course I was just 10 when we got married.

*CG: What is important to you today?*

JG: The most important things in my life are the Lord, ministry and my family. Of course, when I was traveling full time all those years and writing constantly, I ate and slept Gospel music, but even then, nothing was as important as God and family.

*CG: When you start writing a song, what comes first, lyrics, melody? What speaks to you when you write a song? Is there a concept?*

JG: When I write, I never know when it will come, unless I'm just sitting down to finish a song or if the melody or lyric will come first. For me it varies. The idea may be something I read or heard. Sometimes, I've even dreamed the group was singing a song, and I'd get up and write it or put it on a recorder till later. More often than not, I'll be reading the Scripture or hear a sermon, and it lights a spark in me with an idea. I learned early never to ignore it and wait till later. But

any song I've written, I can still tell you where I was or the circumstances. I wish I could remember everything that good.

*CG: Where is the weirdest place you have ever written a song?*

JG: Probably the strangest place I've ever written is the bathroom.

*CG: What was the first song you wrote, first song recorded, etc.?*

JG: The first song I wrote was when we formed Heaven Bound and wanted something to help introduce the group. The song was "I'm Heaven Bound." It was by no means my best attempt at writing, and that's putting it mildly. But it served its purpose.

*CG: "Canaanland Is Just In Sight" is your most popular song. How did this song come to be?*

JG: When I was blessed to write "Canaanland," we had one of those rare Sundays at home, and our pastor was teaching about the children of Israel and their journey. It just spoke to my heart, and by the time Sunday school was over, I had completely finished it, lyric and melody. I had no idea how the Lord had smiled on me that day.

*CG: What is the one song that speaks to you and why?*

JG: I guess every song speaks to us but each in different ways. My favorites I've been blessed to write are probably "Canaanland" of course, as well as "We Are Those Children," "Gloryland," "I Am With Thee," "I Know My God Can Do It," "A Different Way," "Can The World See Jesus in You," "The Old Fashioned Way," "Go And Tell Somebody," "When Jesus Passed By" and on and on. One that's always spoken to my heart that I love is the Lanny Wolfe tune, "Whatever It Takes." I just love the message in that song.

*CG: Name the artist that recorded one of your songs that just made you feel accepted as a songwriter to other artists?*

JG: I've been blessed to have my songs recorded by many artists, and I'm thankful for every one of them. But the earliest that really made me feel that it was my calling would be cuts by the Kingsmen and Cathedrals ... what a blessing. I remember I was still working on the farm part time helping my dad, and I was on the tractor spraying corn. I had a radio mounted on the tractor so I could listen to Gospel music, always hoping to hear a cut by Heaven Bound. All of a sudden the D.J. said, "this is a new cut by the Kingsmen from the pen

of Jeff Gibson." It was a song called "Just to Know." I just about fell off the tractor I was so excited. I quit spraying and headed to the house as fast as I could for my family to hear. It was awesome, and then, to hear the Cathedrals as well as many others record my songs ... wow. And, of course, now to have my songs on the Gaither videos ... God is so good. I am truly blessed.

*CG: Are you still writing? Who has your song library?*

JG: I am always writing, some for our church choir when we do recordings and still some for groups when the time allows. My entire catalog is still with Benson-Universal.



**The Gibson family includes: (L to R) Lauren, Bern, Hunt and Jeff Gibson.**

*CG: What are you doing now?*

JG: I'm always working with the music in my local church and often other churches when I can work it out in my schedule. I'm teaching music, which I love. I teach vocal music, composition and music history. It's an awesome opportunity to still be a witness and minister to young lives every day.

*CG: Do you ever think about singing again full-time?*

JG: I do miss singing full-time tremendously. I miss all the friends we made over the years, as well as working with the other groups. After a horse accident years ago, it didn't take long to realize the doctors were right, the days of riding and sleeping on the bus constantly were over, but I do miss it. As much as I love teaching, Gospel Music will always be my first love.

*CG: Do you think about making an appearance at NQC (the National Quartet Convention) or a Gaither concert?*

JG: I really miss being at NQC. I will always treasure the many years of singing there and spending time with fans and friends. Another thing I will always cherish and miss is doing the Gaither Homecoming videos. (It was) so much fun and such an honor to have been included in some of those. I watch them on TV every week, and it brings back so many memories. Bill and Gloria are amazing servants, and the Lord just continues to honor them. It's just amazing to know that no matter what the circumstances, God always has a plan for our lives.



**Jeff Gibson directs his Pitt County public school choir.**

*CG: Tell us about you and your mission? In your mission, what is your vision to reach the goal you have set?*

JG: My goal and mission in life has always been just to be used of Him. I've always been an encourager. Words are so powerful, and we can use them to help build someone up or to tear them down. I always loved seeing someone's face from stage or talking to them, and they just light up when you touch their heart or encourage them on the journey. I still get letters or emails constantly of how a song has ministered to someone or touched their life. Even now students that I've taught will call or email and tell me how they were encouraged by something I said. That's not me do the doing the work. It's the power of words through the Holy Spirit. His word and His anointing make all the difference.

As you see music runs in Jeff Gibson's veins. His activity and impact is being felt 22 years after his last Heaven Bound concert date. Yet, his songs will live on in the groups that record and sing them now or in the children he teaches. But when you are listening to your favorite Gospel radio source and hear "Canaanland Is Just in

Sight," you will remember Jeff Gibson with a smile, knowing he is doing what he loves ... makin' music.

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By Lorraine Walker

It's only five months until Creekside Gospel Music Convention comes to Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Join us from October 30 - November 2, as we listen to Southern and Country Gospel music, enjoy the parks and trails of the Smoky Mountains and have fellowship with other fans and artists of Creekside at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. During the convention, you will experience showcases Tuesday through Thursday afternoons, the Diamond Awards, evening concerts and midnight prayer. Tickets are free but must be reserved. Accommodation specials can also be obtained by calling 360-933-0741.

"Getting to be part of Creekside in 2016 was the highlight of our year!" says Yvonne Dodrill of The Dodrill Family. "As singers, we had not had too many opportunities to mingle with other artists, so it was intimidating at first, but we quickly got over that. Our whole family came away from Creekside feeling like our family circle had grown by leaps and bounds. Sometimes being in ministry, especially when you travel somewhere new all the time, can feel very isolated, so being connected to fellow traveling ministers was



awesome. The feeling of being part of something so much greater than each of us individually was inspiring. Getting to know people, and coming away as friends was an unexpected gift. We love Creekside, and are excitedly awaiting this year's convention."

"I think one of the things that makes Creekside so unique is the atmosphere of worship," says Kristen Stanton. "The artists are supportive of each other from the day showcases through the evening concerts and right through the bonding moments of midnight prayer. Even though everyone brings their own style, the commonality is that the artists want to see lives changed. It's not just an event... it's an experience!"

"I've been to many conventions in the past, so four years ago, I made the trip to Pigeon Forge to check out Creekside Gospel Music Convention before I decided to take my group, Hope's Journey," says Vonda Easley of Hey Y'all Media. "I was impressed with the non-competitive, family-type atmosphere throughout the convention center and the talent level of the artists was amazing! Rob Patz and his staff put on a great event. I am honored to be a part!"

#### **David Ring speaking at Creekside**

David Ring, the enthusiastic encourager with the opening line: "I have Cerebral Palsy — what's your problem?" brings his presentation of resilience and hope to Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2017 in October. Ring will be speaking during the evening concerts on Monday, October 30 and Wednesday, November 1. "David Ring has used his unique story of endurance to challenge audiences across the nation," says Rob Patz, CEO of Coastal Media, sponsor of Creekside. "You can't escape David's joy or his eagerness to communicate this life-changing message. We are absolutely thrilled

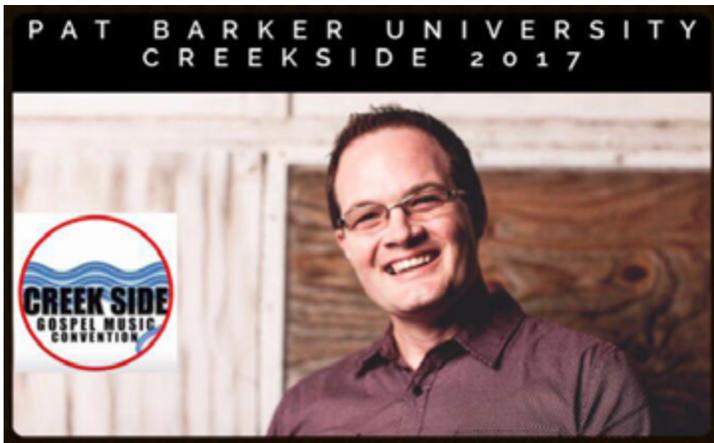
that he is coming to Creekside and we encourage all those who need victory in their lives to make plans today to join us.” Go online to [creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com](http://creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com) to reserve tickets.



### **Pat Barker University**

Pat Barker, a well-known bass singer and Gospel music personality from Alabama, has begun to share his wealth of experience to aspiring singers and accomplished artists alike. These sessions of training and encouragement are called the Pat Barker University. Offering vocal coaching to stage presence, Barker touches on everything the artist needs to present Christ.

Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2017 is thrilled to be able to present the Pat Barker University to artists and attendees for a nominal cost on a first come, first served basis. Please call Rob at 360-933-0741 or Vonda at 256-310-7892 to reserve your seat today. The fee is \$25 per person.



### **2017 Diamond Awards**

The 2017 Diamond Award voting is now open on the SGN-Scoops website. It's time to pick your favorites from the top-10 nominees. Fans, friends, artists and industry personnel are all invited to vote and to encourage their supporters to vote as well. To vote, click on [www.sgnscoops.com/2017-diamond-awards](http://www.sgnscoops.com/2017-diamond-awards). The 2017 Diamond Awards will be held on Oct. 31, during the Creekside Gospel Music Convention



in Pigeon Forge. Guest hosts will be Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff. The awards ceremony is a unique evening of recognizing the best in gospel music. Be sure to be there for all of the surprises.



### **Creekside Accommodation Reservation**

It is time to reserve rooms for Creekside. “Most fans want to stay at the Ramada Inn, which is part of the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, the headquarters of Creekside 2017,” says Patz. “We have an exceptional deal for attendees who book early. For those arriving on Monday the 30th and leaving Friday morning, the 3rd, the cost can be as low as \$200 per person, based on double occupancy. That is an incredible at any time, but especially during a music event in Pigeon Forge. Plus you don't have to worry about parking and one of everyone's favorite donut shop is just down the road!” Accommodations can be reserved at 360-933-0741.

### **VIP Bracelets**

We want you to be a Creekside Very Important Person. For only \$25, a VIP bracelet will be your entry into the preferred seating at each event, and you will also receive

a Creekside gift bag and be the special guest at select backstage happenings. Purchase your VIP bracelet today by calling 360-933-0741.



### **Are you bringing a Bus?**

Church and community groups are welcome to attend Creekside. If you're planning on bringing a bus or RV to Creekside 2017, please contact Larry Stewart at [larry@pineridgeboys.com](mailto:larry@pineridgeboys.com).



### **More Creekside Information**

Last year, the Monday morning open-air showcase began the week, with a free breakfast for veterans, a talent contest and hot dog roast. It was also the first time for the Creekside Classic Golf Tournament. Keep watch-



ing for more exciting announcements and to become involved in every event. More information is available at [creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com](http://creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com). For more information, latest news and artists scheduled to appear, visit the Creekside page on Facebook at [facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention](https://facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention).



Photographs courtesy of Robert York, Michelle Drummond, Meagan Pledger, and Creekside Gospel Music Convention.

A promotional graphic for Dennise Nichole Dittman. It features a photo of her in a yellow lace dress with a necklace. Below the photo is her name "Dennise Nichole Dittman". At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, along with contact information: "Booking: 513-560-6715", "LIKE" me on Facebook [www.facebook.com/DenniseNicholeDittman](https://www.facebook.com/DenniseNicholeDittman), "FOLLOW" me on Twitter - @Dennise\_Dittman, and the website [DENNISENICHOLEDITTMAN.NET](http://DENNISENICHOLEDITTMAN.NET).

# Randall Reviews It - May 2017

by Randall Hamm

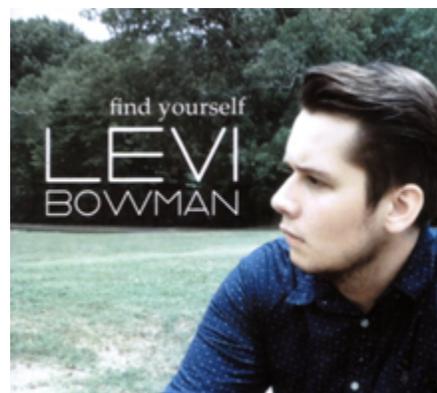
Friends, May has arrived and those showers have now brought May flowers. And some new CDs have bloomed, and here they are. I have reviewed new CD releases from Levi Bowman, Brian Free and the Ministers Quartet. I hope that you'll enjoy the reviews and get a copy of these CDs to add to your collection.

As always ... pick up a copy of these CDs wherever you get your good Gospel Music.

Randall

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

So with that, let the Reviews begin...



Levi Bowman  
"Find Yourself"  
Independent 2016

Songs: Money Can't Buy (Levi Bowman-Jimmy Yeary-Sonya Isaacs Yeary BMI); Only Jesus Could Love You More (Sonya Isaacs Yeary-Jimmy Yeary-Brice Long BMI); Back Home Again (John Denver); The Kitchen Table (Jimmy Yeary-Adam Scott Browder-Andrew M Dorff BMI); Leave It Behind (Jimmy Yeary-Ben Hayslip-Nicole Galyon BMI); Castle In The Sand (Levi Bowman-Sonya Isaacs Yeary-Rebecca Isaacs Bowman BMI); You Just Do It (Jimmy Yeary-Ben Hayslip-Tim James ASCAP); Try A Little Kindness (Bobby Austin-Curt Sapaugh); Find Yourself (Brad Paisley); Walking Down The Road (David Johnson BMI)

A chip off the old Isaacs, John and Becky Isaac Bowman's son Levi has officially released his first solo CD, "Find Yourself." Levi has been performing almost all of his life joining the group for specials, beginning as a little youngster until today. He serves as a full-fledged member of the Isaacs' band. Levi has put together a 10-track CD that will please any Isaacs fan as well as those fans of Country Gospel. He had plenty of help putting together the CD, calling on guest vocalists Vince Gill, Jimmy Fortune, Autumn Nelon Clark, and the Isaacs as well. A who's who of musicians joined

Levi, including Gordon Mote, Aubrie Haynie and the Isaacs' band, among others. Producer of the Year award winner Ben Isaacs along with Troy Engle and Levi – in addition to the Isaacs' sound engineer, Mark Capps – have crafted a CD that belongs in anyone's collection.

The first track kicks off with the current single, "Money Can't Buy." There are some things money can't buy ... peace, love, happiness and family to name a few. "Only Jesus Could Love You More" could be a possible crossover cut. A great love song of a young man telling his love, only Jesus could love you more than I do. "Back Home Again" is a cut Levi has been doing for a number of years in concert, and folks continue to request it. "The Kitchen Table" is where all family functions occur. We fed our bodies and our souls at "The Kitchen Table." "Leave It Behind" ... you can leave it, but you leave it all behind you. We all have things in our past, but some stuff you just can't leave all behind. "Castle In The Sand" speaks of how love will make you do things you won't understand. Love will make you feel as helpless as a "Castle In The Sand." "You Just Do It" is a song about a mother who died too soon at a young age and a father who has to step up and take care of the family. How do you do it? "You Just Do It." "Try A Little Kindness" is a remake of the 1960s song that many have recorded over the years. How can you go wrong with this classic. A Brad Paisley-written song "Find Yourself" that was featured on the "Cars" soundtrack has never sounded better than with Levi's vocals. Levi doesn't stray far from Paisley's arrangement or vocal style. The CD closes with a new arrangement of a former Isaacs song, "Walking Down The Road." It includes great backup vocals from Vince Gill and Levi's aunt, Sonya. Need I say more? Overall, it's a great first release from Levi, a CD that should be in your collection.

Strongest cuts: "Money Can't Buy," "The Kitchen Table," "You Just Do It"



Brian Free and Assurance  
"Signature Ballads"  
2017 Daywind

Unashamed (Ricky Free-Sue C Smith); I Believe (Lee Black-Kenna Turner West); He Still Saves (Marty Funderburk-Steve Marshall); There'll Come A Day (Jeff Steele-Chris Ballard); I Want To Be That Man (Lee Black-Ricky Free); He Will Carry You (Lee Black-Gina Boe); For God So Loved (Terry Franklin-Barbi Franklin); Only God Knows (Sheldon Mencer); Die Another Day (Marty Funderburk-John Lemonis-Roy Smith); Calvary's Cry (Jason Cox-Sue Smith-Kenna Turner West); Stand Among The Millions (Jim Brady-Barry Weeks-Tony Wood) ; Never Walk Alone (Jeremy Johnson-J.J. Williams)

Twenty-three years ago, Brian Free left one of the top groups in the industry to form his own group, Assurance. Over that time period, Brian Free remains one of the top tenors in the industry, and his group remains one of the top groups as well. Over those 23 years, Brian and his group – first as trio, then a quartet and now back to a trio – has given us many top songs such as "Where Would You Be," "Live Like We're Redeemed," "For God So Loved" and many others. Assurance has been known for their ballads, so Daywind has released Brian Free and Assurance's *Signature Ballads*, 12 top songs from their 23-year history. All of the songs are original cuts featuring the great lineups of Brian Free and Assurance over the years. From "For God So Loved" to the latest "He Will Carry You," you will hear 23 great years of signature ballads from Brian Free and Assurance. To get a copy of "Signature Ballads," visit [www.brianfreeandassurance.com/shop-2/](http://www.brianfreeandassurance.com/shop-2/).



Ministers Quartet  
"Homeland"

2017 Church House/Chapel Valley; Producer: Shane Roark

Songs: Ain't That What It's All About (Kenny Hinson BMI); When He Was On The Cross (Mike Payne-Ronny Hinson BMI); Homeland (Dianne Wilkinson BMI); Puddle of Blood (Michael Sandefur-Terry Russell); He's Still In The Fire (Tim Hill BMI); Jesus Is coming Soon (RE Winsett SESAC); He's All I Need (Sammy Easom BMI); I Have An Anchor

(Jim Brady BMI); I Remember The Day (Mary Spencer ASCAP); I Want You To Know (Dianne Wilkinson BMI)

The Ministers Quartet, based out of Muncie, Ind., has just released a new album entitled "Homeland," on the Church House division of Chapel Valley Records. The Ministers Quartet have developed a following wherever they minister in song. Current members include lead singer Michael Sandefur, baritone Rex Crockett, tenor Scott Evans and bass Ron Pence. One new song, "Puddle of Blood" (written by Sandefur), and nine classic songs in Southern Gospel comprise their latest release.

The CD kicks off with "Ain't That What It's All About," a classic Hinsons song. It's a great choice for a kickoff tune that gets you singing along immediately. "When He Was On The Cross" and "Homeland" follow, but the true gem and the only new song on Homeland is an original song by Sandefur, "Puddle of Blood." This is the CD's leadoff single. It is about the crucifixion story and all that was left on the hill was a cross on a hill and a "Puddle of Blood." Vocally, the Ministers have never sounded better, and the Chapel Valley band once again does their great job backing up their artists. It's another great CD produced by Shane Roark. Overall, if you're looking for a new artist to listen to or a new artist to break at your station, may I recommend the Ministers Quartet? You can contact Ron Pence at 765-570-8177. To get a copy of this CD, visit [www.ministersquartet.com/each-album](http://www.ministersquartet.com/each-album).

Strongest Songs: "Puddle of Blood," "Ain't That What It's All About," "I Have An Anchor"



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# *The Troy Burns Family*

By Robert York

Picture yourself as a young man in school 50 years ago. Every boy had a dream of having a beautiful young lady fresh out of college for a teacher. She would be his idol, and before you knew it, he would fall in love with her. Well, Troy Burns wasn't that lucky. He received Martin Cook as one of his teachers. As a result, a few class members would gather at Martin's home and sing. Sometimes, they would sing the same song for three hours. This led to Burns becoming one of the founding members of The Inspirations. He sang with them for almost 30 years.

"It all started when we sang as a family ever since I was knee high," Burns says. "Dad taught me to play the guitar and sing harmony. When I was about 10 years old, I sang 'I'll Fly Away,' at Spruce Grove Church in Bryson City, N.C."

Also at the age of 10, in a little church in Bryson City, after he had been under conviction for a week, he accepted Christ. Then, in March 1980, Cook introduced Burns to Tammy Odom from Robbinsville, N.C., a small town close to Bryson City. They had dinner together, and on June 14, 1981, Tammy became Troy's bride.

Tammy was 10 years old when she sang her first solo

with the youth choir at First Baptist Church in Robbinsville. Later she became a teacher.

"I would go back to my teaching roots," Tammy says. "I love young people and try to help them in any way I can."

Tammy sang her first Southern Gospel song after she and Troy were married. Troy taught her how to sing harmony on "The Wonders of Wonders." She holds the title of being the first and only woman to sing with The Inspirations when she filled in for Archie Watkins on two occasions for three months.

"As a 10-year-old girl in VBS (vacation bible School) in 1969, our pastor gave the message about coming to know Jesus as your personal Savior," says Tammy. "He said it was as simple as coming and taking the quarter he had in his hand. I remember my heart beating out of my chest, and I went forward. I remember being terrified of dying, but from that day forward, that fear has not been a fear, praise the Lord."

After Troy left the Inspirations, he and Tammy were in business as real estate and land developers. They had five pizza restaurants and an apartment. This didn't hinder



their singing as Troy teamed up with former Inspirations and joined the Smoky Mountain Reunion for seven years.

As the group was only singing part time, Troy and Tammy got together and starting singing as the Troy Burns Family, which has previously performed as a trio. Four or five times a year, you can listen to them live from Ogles Furniture Store in Sevierville, Tenn., where J. P. Miller hosts the weekly radio program "Smoky Mountain Jubilee" on WJBZ Praise 96.3 radio.



Troy remembers one of the most unusual happenings.

"One Sunday afternoon after we had finished a concert, the pastor asked if anyone had a testimony," Burns remembers. "A gentleman in the back stood up and said, 'I thought the Lord called me to preach, but He has called me to umpire ball games ... and I'm here trying to get all the votes I can for Nixon.' He just sat back down."

Among Troy's career highlights are having tea with Ruth and Billy Graham, achieving a No. 1 song in the March 2017 Christian Voice Charts ("Somebody Go Get Jesus") and also when a gentleman from the Atlanta area was saved because of the influence of singing. He went from being an alcoholic to a great father and husband.

When asked, Tammy said her favorite singer was Troy Burns – of course – and also Kelly Nelon Clark. They have known each other for many years. She also admits she gets embarrassed when she trips going on stage. The song, "Teach Me Lord To Wait," was sung at her little brother's funeral, and it became her life song. Cairns, Australia, is their favorite vacation spot, and their favorite restaurant is The Peddler Steak House in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

The Troy Burns Family records with Chapel Valley Music.

"(Chapel Valley executives) Jetta, Travis and Shane Roark were a large influence on us, they have gone above and beyond what they said they would do for us," Tammy points out.

Troy and Tammy are dedicated to sharing great Gospel music and changing lives of those they sing to. Visit [www.troyburnsfamily.com](http://www.troyburnsfamily.com) for more information.

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

1	Greater Vision	Never Will I Ever Again
2	Jason Crabb	If I Shout
3	Karen Peck and New River	I Choose Christ
4	The Taylors	We Are Not Ashamed
5	Jim Brady Trio	Homesick For Heaven
6	11th Hour	He Welcomes The Beggar
7	The Hyssongs	Let The Hallelujahs Ring
8	The Whisnants	I Love You This Much
9	The Bowling Family	Praise God He's Alive
10	Josh and Ashley Franks	It's The Blood
11	The Talleys	There Is Coming A Day
12	Legacy Five	Still
13	Tim Livingston	Headed For Higher Ground
14	Wilburn and Wilburn	Living Proof
15	The Mark Trammell Quartet	Already In Canaanland
16	Shellem Cline	Why Can't Christians Share The Love Of Christ
17	The Lore Family	Because Of Calvary
18	HighRoad	We Are Broken
19	The Browders	Put It Into God's Hands
20	The Collingsworth Family	Gotta Get To Jesus
21	The LeFevres	He Was There
22	Master's Voice	How Long A Lifetime Is
23	The Guardians	Packin' Up
24	The Whisnants	Joy In The House
25	The Mylon Hayes Family	It's Not A Problem For The Answer

26	John Whisnant	There He Is
27	The Rochesters	I'm Gonna Need A Hand
28	The Kingdom Heirs	Never Made A Promise
29	The Perrys	Cry No More
30	Jason Davidson	He Came Searching For Me
31	The Tribute Quartet	Never Forsaken
32	The Isaacs	Rocks
33	The Cavaliers	Forever Redeemed
34	The Chandlers	Somebody Give Him Some Praise
35	Amber Nelon Thompson	Give It To Jesus
36	Chronicle	I Believe When Jesus Died
37	The Second Half Quartet	Wonderful Grace Of Jesus
38	Doug Anderson	Little White Church House
39	The Wilbanks	Because He Died I Lived
40	The Wisecarvers	It Was Jesus
41	Mark Bishop	That's When It's Time To Pray
42	Cornerstone	What The Preacher Said
43	Dean	You Can't Tell Me I'm Dying
44	The Mylon Hayes Family	I Choose To Stand
45	Greater Vision	Toes In The Water
46	Reborn	Can He Count On You
47	Heaven's Mountain Band	I Went Under The Blood
48	Austin and Ethan Whisnant	There's Nothing God Can't Do
49	The Hoskins Family	Unbreak The World
50	The Williamsons	I've Got To Tell Somebody



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51	The Triumphant Quartet	Living In The Promised Land
52	Faith's Journey	Independence Day
53	The Ascension Quartet	I Know My Redeemer Lives
54	Sisters	It Was Finished On The Cross
55	Jason Cooper	Thank God For The Victory
56	The McKameys	Something Worth Saving
57	The Kingsmen	They Don't Know
58	Battle Cry	I'm Amazed
59	Three Bridges	Shadrach
60	Canton Junction	When He Was On The Cross
61	Caleb's Crossing	Good Things
62	The Forgiven Quartet	I Have A Story To Tell
63	Brian Free and Assurance	Somebody's Miracle
64	Jordan's Crossing	The Reason
65	Karen Peck and New River	Calling
66	The Millers	I've Got A Lot To Thank The Lord For
67	The Bowling Family	Mourning Into Dancing
68	The Second Half Quartet	Standing On Holy Ground
69	The Old Time Preachers Quartet	Waving This World Goodbye
70	Pauline Patterson	Delivered Again
71	The Beelers	More Than Amazing
72	The Nelons	When Grandpa Sang Amazing Grace
73	Ivan Parker	Mama's Rocking Chair
74	The Paynes	You've Come Too Late
75	Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver	Burden Bearer
76	Brian Free and Assurance	He Will Carry You
77	Steve Ladd	One More River
78	The Browns	Aim Higher
79	Great Day	Journey On
80	Jeff and Sheri Easter	More Than Enough
81	BenJam	When I Pause
82	The Diplomats	Let Your Light Shine
83	Adam's Voice	The Church Has Left The Building

84	Lauren Talley	I Hear A Song
85	Josh and Ashley Franks	In The Midst Of It All
86	Jonathan Dale Cox	Still Standing
87	Larry Ray	What A Glad Reunion Day
88	The Kramers	Look For Me
89	Sherry Damron	God Bless America Again
90	The Freedom Quartet	I Am A Christian
91	The Rick Webb Family	I Will Sing Of The Redeemer
92	The Dunaways	I'm Never Gonna Give Up On You
93	The Primitive Quartet	I've Been Touched
94	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Someone's Listening
95	The Carolina Boys Quartet	Treasures In Heaven
96	The Pruitts	Jesus Built This Church On Love
97	The Pine Ridge Boys	I've Got A New Song
98	Logan Smith	My Lord Will Send A Moses
99	The Wisecarvers	Don't You Think You Ought To Worship Me
100	The Bates Family	That Day

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

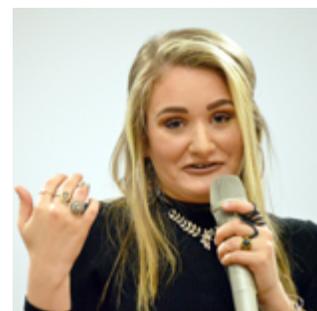


# A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris: The Hoppers

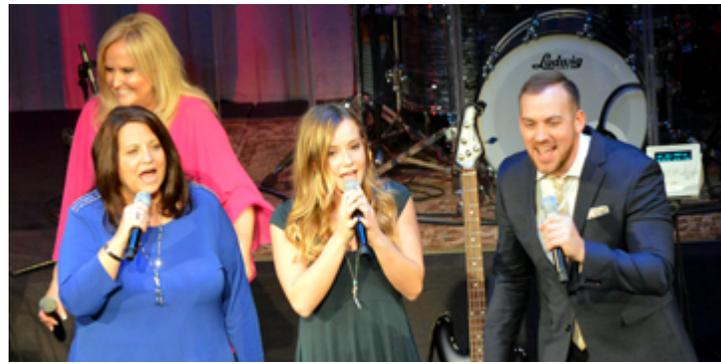
Photographs by Craig Harris



The Hoppers were recently in Spring Creek Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tennessee. Craig Harris was there to interview Dean for this month's cover story. He also captured several great images for this photo spread.



# National Quartet Convention Spring Break



The National Quartet Convention held their annual Spring Break in March, in two separate venues in Tennessee. SGNScoops' photojournalist Craig Harris was present to obtain these images.





Love EVERYONE,  
ALWAYS.

# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's May, and with this fifth edition of SGN Scoops for 2017, I hope you will find a feature, an article, or even just a photograph that is educational, entertaining or encouraging. We look for stories that will be intriguing to you, and we believe we have included many this month.

A special thanks to Dean Hopper for sharing with Craig Harris the difficulties of his health scare recently. There has been so much written about this special family over the years, and we hope you enjoy this feature. Please remember to keep them all in your prayers.

We appreciate all of our writers and staff here at Scoops, and they have all performed beyond expectations this month. These ladies and gentlemen do what they do because they believe they are making a difference. I believe they are as well.

As I look out into our backyard and see all the flowers that are now in bloom, I see what a difference they make to a rather dull scene. Color and fragrance attract bees and birds, enlivening the yard and our street. I'm so glad everything is flourishing in the warmth and moisture of spring.

It occurred to me that our team here at SGN Scoops

are also blooming where they are planted. Have you considered where you are in your work, your home life, your hobbies? Are you changing your landscape with the scent and beauty that is Jesus in your life?

Perhaps you are finding things so difficult right now that your spiritual life feels dry and barren. The Bible uses water as an image of the Holy Spirit and His power in our lives to bring life. Let Him wash over you today, quench your thirst and moisten your heart so that your relationship with the Lord will grow afresh. Then, not only will you feel rebirth in all areas of your life, but others will catch the color and fragrance of Jesus and seeds will be planted in their hearts.

If you feel you have talents that are lying dormant in your life in the area of writing or other skills you think you might be able to utilize here at SGN Scoops, please let me know. We are always looking for fresh ideas and volunteers to help to enrich our publication. We would love to hear from you. Write me today with any comments, questions or suggestions 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



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

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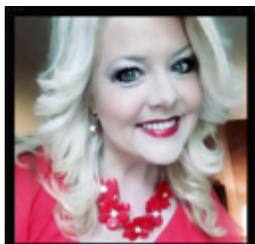
Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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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](http://www.graydoveministries.com) to learn more!



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

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



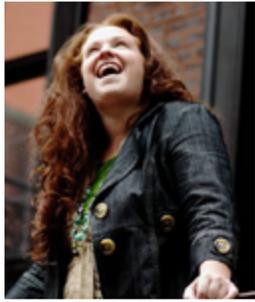
Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music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



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

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

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

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



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

writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://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](http://11thhourgospelgroup.com)



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

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



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

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

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Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model.

Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist.

Selena and Chuck have been in the ministry for 26 years raising

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



Auke Bijlsma- I was born in Zaandam, The Netherlands on September 21st 1966. I'm Head of Operations for a major airline. My home is in the countryside of Holland where I live with my wife Patty, and our two kids: Jake who's 16, and Lexi who is 14, and our pack of dogs. My oldest children, son Jesse 23, and daughter Sarah 21, don't

live with me; they are all grown up building their own homes and lives.

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

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

Weatherfords, The Rambos, The Hinsons, The Cathedrals and many more.

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



Sarah Murray sings soprano for the Southern Gospel group Bless'd. The group is from Greenville, Tennessee and has been together for over five years. Sarah was born and raised in Jonesborough, Tennessee, but now resides in Greenville with her husband, Chase. She has a bachelor's degree in K-6 Education and a

Master's degree in Human Resources Development. Her daytime job is being the Human Resources Director for a small company in Greenville, Tennessee. Her passion outside of singing, writing, and crafting, is simply God's people. "I love the Lord and truly believe my mission in life is to reach his people, and that's both on and off the stage, behind my desk, and in my community. I just want people to see Jesus in me! I'm so honored to be a part of Bless'd and love our tight knit family group." For more information on Sarah, visit [blessdministries.com](http://blessdministries.com)



Debbie Seagraves is a Gospel music soloist, songwriter and speaker from Hull, Ga. She and her husband, Mike have been married for 21 years and have five grown children, including four sons and one daughter that graduated to Heaven in 2009, as well as nine

grandchildren. She loves singing, speaking, and writing her own songs. Debbie is currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass Association) in 2016. She enjoys speaking at Ladies Events, sharing her testimony of how God spared her life from a near fatal

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motorcycle accident in 2011, how He brought her out of the depths of severe clinical depression, and through the death of her daughter in 2009. Also, Debbie is an avid Georgia Bulldogs fan and loves to fish, read, and spend time with her children and grandchildren. Debbie says: "No one can come as close as I did to dying and have it not change you. I am forever changed, blessed beyond measure, and just so grateful for every day that the Lord allows me to spend with those I love and to serve Him." She considers Micah 7:8 her life verse as she says that verse has carried her through some of the darkest times in her life. If you would like to have Debbie at your church or venue, you can reach her through her website: [debbieseagravesmusic.com/](http://debbieseagravesmusic.com/), on Facebook, or send her an email at: [fullyalive1956@att.net](mailto:fullyalive1956@att.net).