

June 2013

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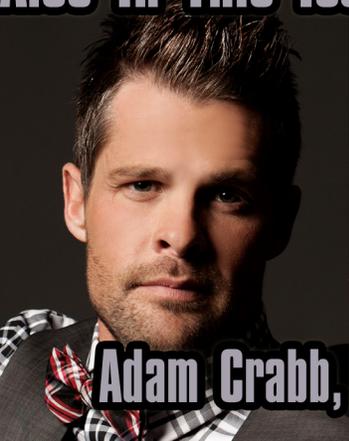
Scoops digital

Christmas with the KINGDOM HEIRS



Kingdom Heirs

Also In This Issue:



Adam Crabb, Jay Stone Singers, Ava Kasich & Great Western Fan Festival

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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.

Publisher- Rob Patz
Editor in Chief- Rhonda Frye
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Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley
Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Welcome to the June edition of the Publisher Point. June is the month we celebrate Father's Day. I have to say; I was blessed not only to have a godly father, but a good example of what a godly father was. My dad taught me many things. I'm grateful that he taught me what it was to be a good Christian leader. Most of all, he taught me about our Father's love. I'm thankful my dad is with the Lord now, but I still miss him every single day. Over this last month, I've especially missed our conversations more than I can say. I don't have proof, but I'd like to think he knows what we're doing at SGNscoops Magazine. If so, I know he would be proud.

We've been busy this month. I'd like to thank the Hoppers, Les Beasley and all of the staff that put together the Great Western Fan Fest. I had a wonderful time. It's exciting to watch this event continue to grow. Make sure you catch my article highlighting this year's event in this issue of the magazine.

Looking ahead... We're about to dive in to a slew of outdoor concerts and events as well as awards shows and conventions. We'll be in Oklahoma for the Seminole Sing in August as well as Patterson Promotions First Annual Homecoming Celebration. We're looking forward to seeing friends, meeting fans and meeting new ones at these events. We're also anticipating a wonderful time at the National Quartet Convention- that's always a blessing to hang out with everyone. Our booth is the fun place to be, for sure! We'll be in the same place- so, come see us!

We're beyond excited about Creekside 2013! It's amazing to see how God has been working in the details of this event. We hope that you've made plans to be with us on October, 28,29 and 30th in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. All events are free to the public, but this year we are asking our guests to register for free tickets. Get tickets here: <http://creekside2013.eventbrite.com/>.

Enjoy this issue of SGNscoops Magazine. As always, our staff has knocked it out of the park. Jennifer did a great job writing about the Kingdom Heirs. Also- we've covered many events and concerts in this issue. Make sure you tell your staff how much you appreciate their hard work.

As always, if you have any ideas about the magazine, email me at rob@sgnscoops.com or you can email my editor at rhonda@sgnscoops.com.

To all the dads out there, Happy Father's Day!

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Letter From The Editor

Or...Editor's Escapades....

hmmmm

By Rhonda Frye



We're rolling right on into summer, and wow things are heating up at SGNscoops Magazine! We've had a tremendous response to the new flip-style format and a lot of positive feedback regarding our stories in the spring issues. A compliment I frequently receive is, "You all know how to get to the heart!" And, as an editor, it always makes me feel proud to hear, "That's the best article I've ever had written on me!" Frequently, we're complimented on the lay-out and professional design. All of those things make my heart swell, so I have to just give a big salute to our entire SGNscoops Team. SALUTE!

When people ask about where we are based, most are surprised when I explain the publisher lives in Seattle, but the SGNscoops staff is literally scattered all over! We have writers from Canada, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Iowa, Texas, Florida, Alabama and Washington. Each month, I'm amazed at how everything comes together, but most of all I'm blessed by how incredibly talented our staff truly is. Not only does our team serve at SGNscoops, but all are involved in various ministries. Being that everyone is involved in some level of ministry, capturing the heart and spirit of Southern Gospel just comes natural to our team. Our articles reflect our writers' spiritual maturity and also passion for ministry. I am grateful.

Well... I'm thinking I need to change my editorial page from "Letter From the Editor" to something more exciting. What about "Editor's Escapades?" - Ha! Although my SGNscoops activities are adventurous, exciting and venturesome, they're not

really risky, hazardous or considered to be those of mischief! However, last month was another fun-filled spree of Gospel Music related events for me.

I must say I thoroughly enjoyed my day trip to Pigeon Forge. The crew at the Biblical Times Dinner Theater treated me like a special guest. It was a great dinner show- and so good to see our Southern Gospel friends making a difference in Pigeon Forge. Make sure you read my review in this issue. While in town, it was also great to stop in over at the Southern Gospel Music Fan Fair and visit with our artist friends and friends from Christian Voice Magazine.

I also spent a couple days in Nashville- and that is always a blast. Special thanks to Judy Nelson for taking good care of me. Thanks to Judy, I experienced my first trip to Loveless Café. I am grateful for folks like her that are willing to share industry wisdom and experience with me; after all, I'm still learning. I also had a great time seeing so many friends and meeting new ones at the Inspiration Pop 2929 Movie Premier. I just can't say how proud I am of our Christy Sutherland and Jason Crabb. Lunch and great conversation with my friend Kenna West made my trip complete. I have to say, this visit was memorable and one to cherish.

Thank you to Dakota and Melody Walker- southern gospel promoters for having us out to see the McKameys, The Perrys and New Ground in Huntsville, Alabama. Dakota does a fabulous job promoting concerts in the South East. We had a great time catching up with Peg McKamey

following the concert. Make sure you catch that interview on the Southern Styles Show. Hmm... Maybe that trip was an escapade- we did get home at almost 4:00 AM! Ha!

All in all- I'm feeling blessed by our wonderful staff and honestly- just down right lucky to get to attend so many wonderful events each month. God's plan for my life is filled with Southern Gospel Adventure and is truly better than what I could have planned myself. Yes- adventures- borderline escapades describe my life with SGNScoops Magazine and I love it!

Let me know about your events, singings and if I can, I'd love to be a part. Just email me at rhonda@sgnscoops.com.

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LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

“Dr. Darrell Bledsoe & Shaped Note Music”

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH

What a blessing to be on the team of this fabulous Scoops Magazine keeping you updated on the latest events and current trends in gospel music. We add our heartfelt appreciation to Publisher Rob Patz and Editor Rhonda Frye for their respect and inclusion of gospel music legends in every issue.

I am thrilled to have the privilege of sharing my LOVE for gospel music and honoring the LEGENDS who have contributed, and still are contributing, to the success of our beloved music. In my book “Deep Within My Heart” I wrote that I sang my first gospel song onstage in Amarillo, Texas, at age 10, and from that moment on, my passion for LIFE has been gospel music. I still remember that “Pop” Wills, his sons and daughters had rehearsed for that event, singing shaped notes (the do-re-mi’s) by kerosene lamplight. Thank God for placing an early call on my life to spread the good news of the gospel.

In the past 75 years, this love for gospel music has taken me from that little farmhouse in West Texas, to several years in California, with many years in Fort Worth, as a member of the Singing Wills Family. In 1968, Howard and I relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, and for more than 20 years, I was blessed to be welcomed into the gospel music industry. Along the way, there have been many friends who have shared this exciting journey. One of these dear colleagues is Dr. Darrell Bledsoe, President/CEO Bravo Music, producer of 9,000 songs on major labels in the past 25 years, and many other accomplishments, in Christian music. This longtime friend is an unparalleled authority on shaped-note music, and I treasure a huge, magnificently framed, shaped-note copy of my song “America There Is Hope” arranged by Dr. Darrell Bledsoe.

A few weeks ago, Howard and I made a memorable trip back to Amarillo, at the invitation of Dr. Bledsoe, for a special concert by the West Amarillo Community Chorale, at the beautiful Church Of Christ At The Colonies where Dr. Bledsoe is Minister of Music, and his wife Beverly is a revered member. I was honored to share the stage with this wonderful choir, and was thoroughly impressed with the selection of favorite gospel classics, excellent arrangements and exciting performances.



The featured guest was the award winning trio Three Bridges--Elliott McCoy, Shannon Smith, and Jeremie Hudson-- who ministered beautifully to the West Texas audience. Earlier that afternoon, Howard and I sat in Dr. Bledsoe’s office, surrounded by walls filled with plaques of appreciation for his years of service to gospel music. We talked about our mutual desire to preserve history and traditions, and our pleasure at being Board Members of the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, an organization established by my brother Calvin Wills for this purpose. Randy Wills, Calvin’s son, is now the highly effective President, carrying on the dream of his deceased father. A visit to the website TGMHOF.org shows one of our treasures, an electric typewriter that types SHAPED NOTES. Conversations with Darrell always include

updates on the long list of artists he has worked with and who are mutual friends. We were both thrilled at the 2012 Induction of Guy Penrod into the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame. At my "Celebration Of 75 Years" at the 2012 Creekside GMC in Pigeon Forge, Darrell was there along with the Williamsons, one of the artists he was producing at the time. Each November, my brother Bob and his family produce the "Wills Family Annual Thanksgiving Concert" at First Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas. We can count on this dear longtime friend, Dr. Darrell Bledsoe, to join us. We thank God for friends like Darrell and Beverly Bledsoe who have made this gospel music journey pure joy!! Contact: P. O. Box 271106 Houston, TX 77277 gospvideo@aol.com www.louhildreth.com



- A. Three Bridges—Elliott McCoy, Jeremie Hudson, Shannon Smith, Dr. Darrell Bledsoe, with Lou Hildreth

The logo for the International Cowboy Church Alliance Network (ICCAN). It features a silhouette of a cowboy on a horse, holding a lasso, positioned in front of two crosses. The text "INTERNATIONAL COWBOY CHURCH ALLIANCE NETWORK" is arched over the top. Below the image, the acronym "ICCAN" is written in large, stylized letters. A phone number "888-919-1717" is printed below the acronym.

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By Rob Patz

The sounds and sights had a distinctively southern flavor a couple of weeks ago in the west coast town of Visalia, California. The Great Western Fan Festival took place from April 25th through the 27th at the Visalia Convention Center. The celebration was part church, part concert, part networking and part family reunion as groups, industry people and fans gathered together to worship, sing, celebrate, laugh and sometimes even cry. The event was hosted by Les Beasley and the legendary Hoppers, who performed along with other favorites such as the Triumphant Quartet, The Booth Brothers, Jeff and Sheri Easter and several others nationally known groups along with local favorites. I was happy to be able to represent SGN Scoops magazine at the event and enjoyed being able to interact with the artists and fans who are all a major part of what makes this magazine a success.

Though the event is held on the west coast, southern hospitality is not in short supply. Visalia native, Art

Brumley, says, "[It's] always a pleasure to come back to Visalia and be a part of The Great Western Fan Fest. Visalia is the town where I was born and raised. I am so proud that I can come home and see the biggest Southern Gospel event west of the Rockies in my hometown." People from all over the west look forward to this annual event, as many of these faithful fans are not able to travel south to concerts, festivals and conventions. Sheri Easter, from the Georgia based group, Jeff and Sheri Easter, enjoys bringing their southern style music to fans in the west. "Jeff & I have been performing out west for almost 25 years and we've made a lot of great friends," Easter tells Scoops. "GWFF gives us a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with all of those incredible folks we don't often get to see. Each year gets bigger and better and is one of the highlights of our year!"

One of the elements that I love most about working in this industry is that I get to be a part of so many

church services and get worship with so many different people. God is at the center of what we do at Scoops and I was pleased to feel His presence at the GWFF. Brittney Dean from Ralph Dean Productions agrees, "This year's Fan Fest surpassed all others as God showed up showering us with the Holy Spirit!"

Herb Henry of the California based group, The Herb Henry Family agrees that there was something special about this year's event, "Our family has been privileged to perform at each Great Western Fan Fest since its beginning in 1997. Our experience, this year, at the Fan Fest had to be the richest ever for us spiritually, for which we are most grateful to our dear friends, the Hoppers and Les Beasley." Some even view the GWFF as a trendsetting event.

Carolyn Daniels of the group, The Daniels, was excited, not only about the event, but about the direction of the industry. "I along with 'The Daniels' have participated in every Great Western Fan Fest since the

very first one many years ago and have seen it grow and the anticipation build more each year," Daniels said. "This year our spirit was uplifted and renewed more than ever before. We are excited for what is happening in our Southern Gospel Music field. There is a NEW thing happening as many of the groups brought back some of their 'old' favorites. The presence of the Lord was surely in that arena each night. After all isn't that what it's all about for us that travel many miles singing, and work so tirelessly?" she continued.

Another important aspect to the event is the fellowship amongst those in the industry and the fans who are more like family. I know that I was able to spend time with a lot of old friends and made some new ones while sitting in my booth, visiting other vendors and while enjoying some good food and music outside in the California sun. Even first time attenders agree that the atmosphere was sweet as groups and vendors turned the event into a family reunion. "It was the first time for the Pacesetters Quartet to be a part of the Great Western Fan Fest, but we were treated like family," said Ron Higgins, the group's manager.

To the by-stander, the Great Western Fan Festival may look like the typical music convention with booths and vendors, concerts and contacts. But for those of us who were able to take an active part in it knows that it was much more than that. People were encouraged by stories of God's faithfulness, heard the message of salvation, prayed and of course, sang about Jesus. Mike Cornell from the Mike and Darla Cornell Trio of Bakersfield summed it up nicely when he said, "The Great Western Fan Festival is always a great time, meeting up with old friends and making some new friends as well. This year's Fan Festival was no different from years past with plenty of fans and great performances from the nationally known groups like the 'Hoppers,' 'Greater Vision,' 'Liberty Quartet' and of course the 'Best of the West' groups which hail from four of the six most western states. I especially enjoyed the sweet spirit that was so prevalent in all of the performances and in the exhibit hall where many groups took time to listen and pray with one another and the fans that came by to visit. I know we are looking forward to another great time at the Great Western Fan Fest 2014, hope to see y'all there!"

Make plans to join SGNScoops and all our west coast friends at next year's event which will take place in Visalia on May 1-3, 2014. Check out the website for more information. <http://fanfestivals.com/>



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Kingdom Heirs

“Singing for the King”

By Jennifer Campbell

Kingdom bound. Heirs to the King. The epitome of a classic southern gospel quartet. While they are certainly no stranger to the world of southern gospel music, allow me to introduce to you a group that hails from the foothills of Tennessee, the Kingdom Heirs! Now in their 33rd year of ministry, Steve and Kreis French have continued the group’s musical legacy, staying true to the roots of the music they love. The Kingdom Heirs are comprised of Steve French, manager, emcee and baritone singer, Arthur Rice, lead singer, Jerry

Martin, tenor singer, Jeff Chapman, bass singer, Kreis French, bass player, Dennis Murphy, drummer, and Andy Stringfield, pianist. The group has received numerous accolades, including SGMA Awards, Dove Awards and Singing News Fan Awards. Their song, “Just Preach Jesus,” from their album WE WILL STAND OUR GROUND was #1 on the charts this spring as well. Even with their many accomplishments, they have remained grounded with the knowledge that earthly honors may pass away, but the Word of the Lord stands forever. Whether touring the country or performing at Dollywood, the Kingdom Heirs have one goal in mind: singing for the King.

Much has been said about the ripple effect and how one thing impacts another. The same could be said about this outstanding group, since it was Steve and Kreis’ parents who first introduced them to southern gospel music. Steve said his parents were very fun, loving, Godly people who loved life and music. He shared, “Mother was our church pianist and played for many groups over the years.” Kreis said his

dad has been his greatest influence. The other members of the group have similar backgrounds, having grown up around this beloved genre of music. Arthur said that his first recollection of southern gospel was watching his family sing. He added, "They would stand me up in a chair when I was three to sing with them." Jeff also came from a singing family, The Singing Chapman Family. Whether they began their musical journey by listening to a Kingsmen album in their grandpa's car or standing onstage singing at the top of their lungs, all of the members of this group literally have southern gospel music running through their veins.



Following in the footsteps of some of the greatest gospel music legends, Steve says that you don't realize what it's like to fill these shoes until you've been doing it for a while. He commented, "I looked up one day and I was in my mid-50's and have been doing 30 years professionally. I feel honored and very, very blessed to be a part of southern gospel music. To follow in the footsteps of legends, you better have on big shoes." Jerry commented, "It's a wonderful feeling to have met some of my mentors and to actually become friends with them. It's nice to be appreciated by them and shown respect for what you've done, just as I've shown them." Dennis added, "The older I get, the more I think what an honor it is to carry on

this music."

Arthur added, "I grew up loving this music. My mom was a prayer warrior. She taught me the power of prayer. My dad bought one of those huge console stereos when I was a kid. It had a place where you could plug a guitar in and play along with records or 8-tracks. I think I just told my age. I would stack up records and let them play for hours as I played my bass along with them. I started playing bass for a quartet my dad was in when I was seven and started singing lead when I was 13. I sang with them 'till I was 18, then I joined another regional group for a while before I went with the Kingsmen. This is all I've ever wanted to do, to sing a gospel song. It's an honor to be part of this great music."

Jeff's first memory of gospel music was at a very young age. He said, "My dad sang bass and my mom sang soprano. I had an aunt and an uncle that sang too. My very first big time concert was the all night sing at the Waycross High School stadium. I remember J.D. Sumner, The Goodmans, and the Kingsmen. I started out playing drums for my family and very little singing. I was eight when I started singing tenor. Then about 13 years of age, my voice dropped and I started singing bass. So now the rest is history!"

Jerry had a similar childhood, growing up in a musical family. "My Mom has been such a blessing to me and is a prayer warrior for sure," said Jerry. "My Dad was a great man who I admired for his work ethic as well as his musical talents. I loved watching my Dad sing. He was my hero. We always sang and played gospel music. I grew up singing in churches in the area. My first recording I ever bought was a live Kingsmen album and I was hooked! I knew I wanted to sing in a quartet one day and I got the opportunity. I cut my teeth on the Kingsmen, Gold City, and the Cathedrals. I got to fulfill a dream of mine and became the tenor for the Kingsmen in the late 90's to early 2000's. What a great experience learning from one of the best!"

With decades of experience between them, the guys have some advice for aspiring artists out there who are just getting their feet wet in the music industry. Arthur advised, "Learn all you can, sing every chance you can, give your tithes to

your local church, and put The Lord first no matter what. God has a work for us all to do, so bloom where you're planted." Steve echoed his comments by adding, "Work on your craft every day. Be the very best of whatever you do, whether it's playing, singing, driving a bus, sound, whatever it is, just work hard to be the best."

Jeff also said that young artists should make sure that they know what God wants them to do. He said, "I believe mine is a calling for over 20 years now in full time service. I promised The Lord if he'd give me the talent, that I'd give it my all until I can't any longer and so far we've both kept our end of the bargain. I've tried to do my best every time I've stepped on a stage. I'm only bragging on God's grace and Him only."

33 years of marriage this year," Steve said. He is proud of his two sons, Joshua and Bailey, as well as his new daughter-in-law, Ginny.

All of the guys are family oriented, grateful that working at Dollywood most of the year gives them a somewhat normal schedule where they work during the day and are home in the evenings. Steve said, "I have been so blessed that I haven't missed much. My boys are 28 and 23 now, so I got to see and be a part of ball games, birthdays, etc. and just the little things of watching them grow up. I am so thankful for that."

"My favorite thing about being at Dollywood is having a more normal life," Jerry reflected. "I get to be home every night and spend time with my wife Tabitha. We get to spend more time together and that's great! We don't travel but for



In this life we live, it seems everyone is trying to get ahead. Success is on the top of list for some. While they do not place their achievements on a pedestal, the group has crossed several milestones in life that they consider to be extra special. Kreis said that his greatest life achievement so far was that he has been in the business for 33 years. Steve said that his family is his number one achievement. "My wife Sherry and I will celebrate

about eight weeks out of the year and I don't miss the road life at all. So being at Dollywood is perfectly fine with me."

Arthur enjoys being home with his wife and two sons, Kaleb (12) and Bradley (22). A proud daddy, he says, "Bradley is one of the finest Christian young men I've ever been around. The love of Christ just oozes from him. Kaleb plays travel baseball all year, so most weekends are spent

somewhere on a baseball field.” His wife Tammy serves as the children’s ministry assistant at First Baptist Church Sevierville, in addition to being at home with the kids. Arthur said, “With Tammy and I both working in the ministry, along with Kaleb’s travel schedule, we end up missing a lot of church. So we really have to depend on our individual bible study and our family bible study and make it a regular part of our lives. God is a jealous God and he desires fellowship and for us to make Him first in our lives.”



Dennis said one of the greatest things about his life is that he has had the opportunity to be a husband for 22 years and a dad for 14 years. When they are performing at Dollywood, he said it is easy to balance his time between ministry and family, since he is home in the evenings and lives a normal life. He said this enables him to never miss any of his daughter’s games or important family functions.

While they take their ministry and families very seriously, there are times when they also enjoy the lighter side of life. Steve said a lot of funny things have happened, but there is one particular story that Steve and Dennis remember very vividly. “It was Dennis our drummer’s birthday,”

reminisced Steve, “and one of our ushers dressed in a gorilla suit. While Dennis was on stage singing, she crept up behind him to scare him, which it did. As she walked off, he thought it was me in the suit.” Dennis added, “I thought it was one of the guys, so I jumped on her back and “pile drove” her into the floor.” Steve said, “Hilarious when he found out it was Ann our usher. She later had surgery on the knee that little incident damaged.” Dennis was happy to report that she is doing fine following her knee surgery.

On the other side of the coin, they have had their fair share of trials as well. Steve said one of the hardest things he has ever done was telling one of the guys that one of their loved ones had gone to be with Jesus. “While we were on the road one winter,” Steve recalled, “one of our guys’ sister was killed. They called me and I had to set him down on the bus, tell him, and the get him back home.”

The Kingdom Heirs love the opportunity to sing and minister at Dollywood each year. Steve said the best part of singing with the group is the people he sings with, where they sing, and who they sing about. “I love the fact that we get to reach a little different audience than most groups simply because we’re in a secular location,” Arthur commented. “We don’t change our style or water down the message, and God has blessed it.”

“The best part is just enjoying what I do with the very best singers bar none,” Jerry added. “It’s great being around these guys. They’re like family to me and I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.”

“These guys are the absolute best singers and musicians in the business,” Andrew stated, “and I couldn’t ask for better men or friends to work with.”

Kreis said that his favorite part of performing with the group and being at Dollywood was doing what he loves and being home.

So what’s in store for the Kingdom Heirs in the future? Ten years from now, Steve said he sees himself as 63 years old, cheering on some young kid singing his part from the back of the theater. Arthur says he has no idea. He added, “The way the world is looking, we all may go home

at any moment, but if the Lord tarries, I want to be right smack dab in the middle of where He wants me.” Jerry wants to be doing exactly what he is doing now, what he loves and singing with the men he considers to be the very best at what they do. As for Dennis and Andrew, they echo Jerry’s statement, saying they also want to be doing what they are doing right now, singing with the Kingdom Heirs at Dollywood.

While the future is fun to consider, even more exciting is the here and now for the Kingdom Heirs. Recently, they released their latest project titled, “Redeeming the Time.” They are very excited about this project that features songs such as “Just Preach It,” “Sermon on the Mount,” “How We Gonna Live in Babylon,” and the title cut, “Redeeming the Time.”

Steve said they are also working on a new Christmas CD that is scheduled to be released in November, as well as a new video featuring songs from their project “Redeeming the Time.” This new video will be filmed at Dollywood in August.

With all of their accolades and accomplishments, the Kingdom Heirs have not let their notoriety get the best of them. All seven of these men have a heart for God. They want to see souls saved and lives changed. Ministry is not a job for them, but a calling. They are on a first name basis with the Creator of the universe and they want to tell everyone they meet about His saving grace. Jeff said that the biggest thing to ever happen to him was the day he asked Jesus into his heart. He recalled, “Jesus made a tremendous change when I was 19 years old and He has altered my path a great bit.” This group wants you to know that you can experience this same change in your life. That is why they are so passionate about what they do. They are dedicated to following in the Lord’s footsteps and following where He leads. Why? Because they know that His ways are perfect. Steve summed it up best when he said, “God is more than we can even imagine.”

Get to Know the Guys

Steve French

Favorite Restaurant: Chop House

Favorite Book: The Bible

Favorite Scripture: John 3:17

Favorite Hobby/Interest: Boating; Jet-Skiing

Dream Vacation: To see Europe and on the way home, layover in Hawaii for 10 years.

If you could talk to God face to face, what would you say to Him? “How’d I Do?”

Kreis French

Favorite Restaurant: Bonefish

Favorite Book: The Bible

Favorite Scripture: John 3:16

Favorite Hobby/Interest: Golf

Dream Vacation: Hawaii for 5 years

Write a Song to Describe Your Life: “Who Would Have Thought?”

Arthur Rice

Favorite Restaurant: Olive Garden

Favorite Book: Thru the Bible Commentary by J. Vernon McGee

Favorite Scriptures: John 3:17; 1 John 1:9

Favorite Hobby/Interest: I love golf, working in my studio, golf, and did I mention I love golf?

Dream Vacation: Anywhere in the world as long as my wife and sou mate is with me. We can turn a trip to Wal-Mart into a vacation!

Song to Describe Your Life: “I’m just an old chunk of coal, but I’m gonna be a diamond someday!”

Dennis Murphy

Favorite Restaurant: Buffalo Wild Wings

Favorite Scripture: John 3:16

Favorite Hobby/Interest: Fishing

Dream Vacation: Somewhere in the sun!

If you could talk to God face to face, what would you say to Him? “Thank You!”

Write a Song to Describe Your Life: “Gettin’ It Done”

Jeff Chapman

Favorite Restaurant: Outback Steakhouse

Musical Mentor: Tim Riley of Gold City

Favorite Hobby/Interest: Fishing

Favorite Song: "When the Savior Reached Down For Me"

Favorite TV Show: Andy Griffith

Favorite Vacation Spot: Bahamas

Andrew Stringfield

Favorite Restaurant: Buffalo Wild Wings

Favorite Book: The Bible

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:13

Favorite Hobby/Interest: Playing Golf

Dream Vacation: Hawaii

If you could talk to God face to face, what would you say to Him? "I love you."

Jerry Martin

Favorite Restaurant: Kinkaku's Japanese Steakhouse & My Grill

Favorite Book: The Oath by Frank Peretti

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:19

Favorite Hobby/Interest: Studio Work; Background Vocals

Dream Vacation: Venice, Italy; I want to drive around one of those boats!

If you could talk to God face to face, what would you say to Him? "Thank you for always loving me and never giving up on me. Thank you for giving me a talent to use for Your glory and honor."

"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." Psalm 95:1-

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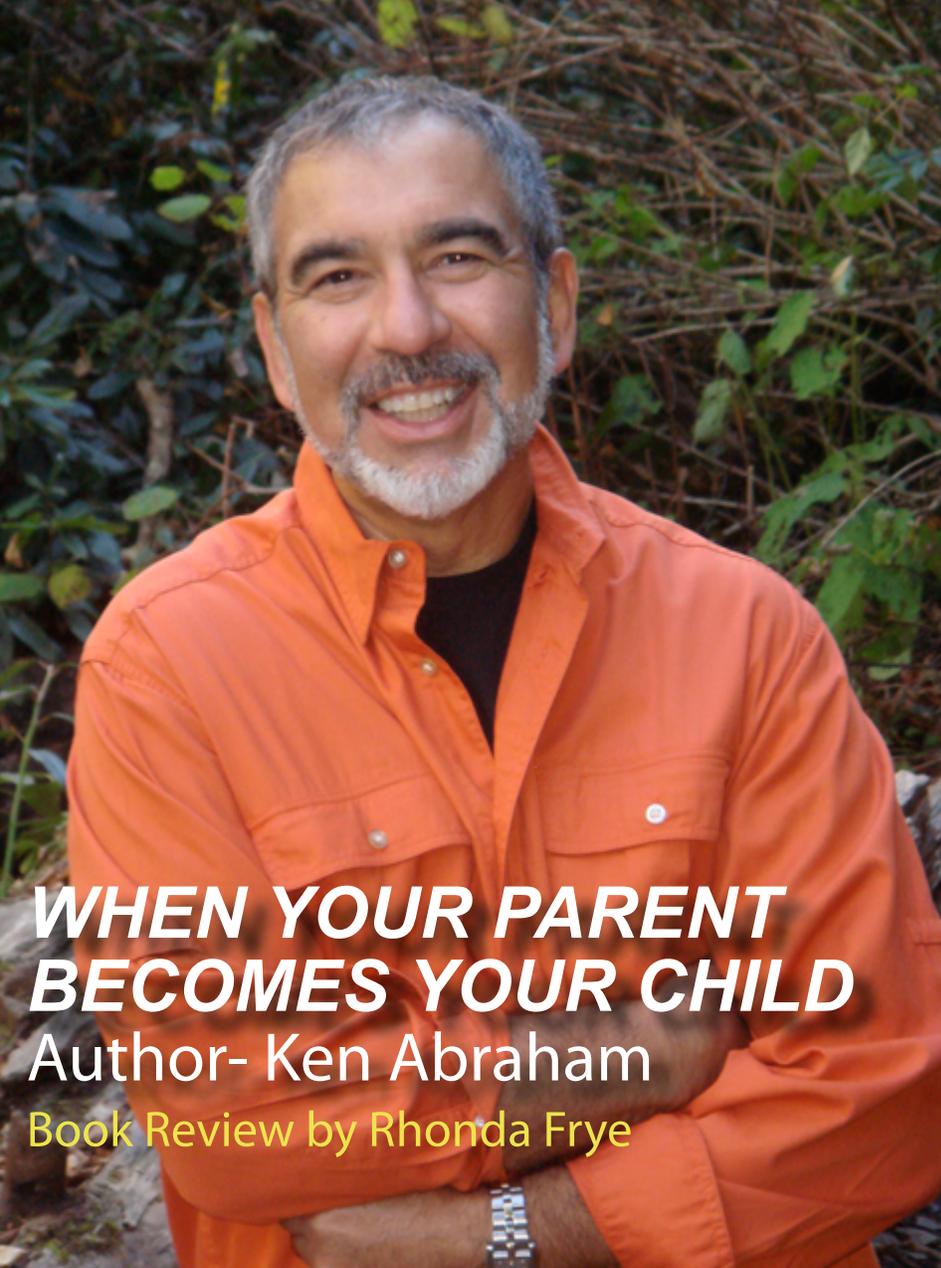
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WHEN YOUR PARENT BECOMES YOUR CHILD

Author- Ken Abraham

Book Review by Rhonda Frye

How heartbreaking it must be to sit next to your precious mother and hear her doctor say, "She's never going to get any better." Unfortunately, that's the news many adult children receive regarding their aging parents. It is estimated that as many as 5 million people in the United States have some degree of dementia, and the number is expected to increase due to the aging of the population.

Dementia is a decline of cognitive functions such as reasoning, memory, and other mental abilities. This decline eventually impairs the ability to carry out everyday activities such as driving, household chores, and personal care such as feeding, bathing, and dressing. Often, family members notice subtle changes in their loved one's behavior such as confusion, poor judgment, memory loss, misplacing things, mood swings, but pass off it as "old age."

Thirteen-time New York Times best-selling author, Ken Abraham, was one such adult child noticing a change in his mother's behavior, but was not familiar Alzheimer's disease or Dementia in the beginning. What began as notes and personal journal entries actually turned out to be a helpful resource book as well as a powerful tool of encouragement for families living with Dementia. In the fall of 2012, Ken Abraham released, *WHEN YOUR PARENT BECOMES YOUR CHILD* and many have found the book a source of encouragement and a valuable resource. Recently, I had the chance to read the book, and to sit down with Ken Abraham to get the inside scoop.

"That book started as a bunch of notes," Ken offers. "Actually notes that Lisa {Ken's wife} and I wrote as we laughed about some of the stuff my mom did. We would come home just cracking up at something she said or did and we didn't even know that my mom had Dementia at the time. We just thought she was getting old."

When Ken's mother actually stayed at his home during a visit, he realized something was seriously wrong. "She started seeing guys looking in the windows and that sort of thing and she literally called the police, the stories are in the book," Ken says.

With many concerns, Ken took his mother to the doctor. He recalls: "We took her to a geriatric doctor- and that was a major turning point for us. He looked at me with my mom sitting right there and said, 'She's not going to get any better.' I wanted to punch him. Who are you to tell me she's not going to get any better? She's been sick before. She used to work with us in gospel music, so I've seen her sick before and I've seen her literally go out and play the concert and go back to bed sick again. I just thought, whatever is wrong with her, God can heal, so who are you to tell me she's not going to get any better? Well...He was right and I was wrong. We were starting down that path of Dementia, and

really I didn't even know what Dementia was at that time, but we found out and realized that with Alzheimer's/ Dementia, you're not going to get any better- it's going to be a downhill journey."

During the downhill journey, there were many sweet moments of grace and memories to be cherished. Although Ken's mother's mind was fading, her love for the Lord Jesus never did, nor did her love for gospel music. In fact, Ken shared stories with me and also in the book about how his mother would pray with others with power and conviction and how her eyes would light up when he read scripture.

Ken also shared stories about how once his mother was placed near a piano, she played hymn after hymn and song after gospel song singing harmony with those gathered around. "Although she couldn't do a lot of things, prayer was still there and the other thing was music was still there," Ken says. "She knew all the old hymns by heart and could play by ear. She could play by note too, she was a concert violinist, but didn't, she played by ear. We'd call out a song and she'd play it. At one party, she didn't know what the occasion was or what she had for breakfast that day, but we had some great singers over and people from our Sunday School class. We would call out songs and she would play them- no music or anything and she would sing. It was incredible. She couldn't remember what day it was or this or that, but the music stayed right up on until she died."

The book includes many personal stories of the real-life situations that many families dealing with Dementia can relate to. Ken is an amazing storyteller, so the stories capture the day to day struggles of living with Dementia. Not only does Ken portray what day to day, real life looks like, but he offers tried and true tricks of how he gained his mother's cooperation during difficult moments. Ken also shares eye-opening information to other problems associated with the disease. Problems such as finding quality facilities, the rising costs of care, inappropriate medical treatments and more are all addressed from his personal experience perspective. Perhaps most importantly, Ken addresses the inevitable, heart-wrenching question, "WHY?"

Watching a loved one suffer would make anyone ask God "Why?" whether it's spoken out-right or just thought. Ken is transparent as he shares his experiences of asking "Why?" in the book. I don't want to give too much away, but I will say... Ken offers perspective, peace and hope regarding that difficult question.

This book is a resource to be cherished by those facing the dreaded disease of Alzheimer's. Bill Gaither says it well at the beginning of the book: "I love Ken's heart, as well as his writing, and I love how poignantly he addresses this delicate subject of caring of aging loved ones. As individuals live longer, families need long-term support navigating the joys and challenges that come with loving each other for the long haul. Keep the resource close. It is a treasure."

Ken admits writing this book was not easy. "That book is not only a testimony for me, but a testimony of really what God does when we least expect it- even when that person has Alzheimer's or Dementia," He remarks. "I won't say *WHEN YOUR PARENT BECOMES YOUR CHILD* was easy, because that's exactly what we experienced. It was emotionally wrenching."

So far, the feedback from readers has been positive. "The book is very personable, personal, easy to read," Ken says, "But mostly I'm getting letters from people all over the country, some Christian, some not, saying... 'Wow... that's right where I am. Thank you for writing this book- this is where we are with our loved one. We're learning from you the lessons you learned the hard way and finding they are helpful to us.'"

WHEN YOUR PARENT BECOMES YOUR CHILD is available in bookstores nationwide as well as on the internet and the author's website. <http://www.kenabrahambooks.com/>.

Editor's Note

It was truly a blessing to be welcomed into Ken and Lisa Abraham's lovely home. I was fascinated sit-

ting in Ken's library listening to story after story of his personal writing experiences. Ken Abraham has written 13 bestsellers, three of those claiming the number one spot! He is known around the world for his collaborations with celebrities as well as high profile public figures. Ken worked with Lisa Beamer, widow of 911's hero, Todd Beamer of Flight 93, to write LET'S ROLL. He collaborated with Joel Olsteen on the number one best seller, YOUR BEST LIFE NOW. He has worked with Senator Bob Dole, Chuck Norris, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, Jim Baker, and so many more. I'm looking forward to sharing some of Ken's behind the scene stories with our readers in the next issue of SGNScoops Magazine.

"Al, Jesus, My Clock, and Me"

By Sheri Thrower

There's a beautiful hand painted grandmother clock that stands elegantly in my family room. I've had it for almost 13 years. I bought it during a time of change in my life. It was a reminder of God's faithfulness; how He is always "on time". I also bought it as physical reminder that it was time for me to "move on," as God was leading. My family celebrated its purchase when it was delivered, and they all know it's meaning for me. Especially my dad.

Time has passed and time has brought more change. One change it has brought is a new friend, "Al." Al is what my dad calls himself now that he has Alzheimer's. When he experiences memory lapses, he'll say, "Well, I guess Al is here." Al is now present at our family dinners, get togethers and holidays. And Al has taught me much about love...and God.

Al showed up for a moment last night when my parents came to see me. He simply peeks his head in the door, at this stage of the disease. I know one day he may take a permanent seat, but for now he slips in and out. Al looked at my grandmother clock and said, "When did you get that clock?" I simply answered, "About 12-13 years ago." My dad just stared at the clock, looked at me, as if to know what that moment just revealed. Al was the friend in the room.

Al made his presence known for a moment, but Jesus made his presence known next, and it overshadowed everything. Before my mom and dad left, my dad said, "Well, let's pray before we leave." We bowed our heads, and my mom gently held my hand. I listened as my dad talked to God about me. He praised God for His faithfulness in my life; how God has always been one step ahead of me, and has never let me down. The more he prayed, the farther "Al" slipped away.

Finally, my dad ended his prayer by saying, "Sheri...the Lord is whispering the word "season" to my spirit. You are in a season. Seasons are important because they cultivate growth...but they also end. Seasons end. Where you are now, the questions and uncertainty will end. It's only a season. God is doing something new in your life."

I could not believe my ears. You see, yesterday I posted on my facebook wall, "Approaching a new life season..." My aunt even posted under my status, quoting Ecclesiastes, "To everything there is a SEASON...a time to laugh, a time to cry...He will do something NEW!" My dad had not seen my status nor did he know my aunt said the same thing. What he did know was the voice of God, overpowering a diseased mind, speaking truth into my world.

I showed dad my status on facebook, and his sister's words from Ecclesiastes on my wall. It encouraged him and me, too. It was a God moment, as my dad is not on facebook.

My grandmother clock ticks away...time still brings change...Al is my friend...but Jesus holds me through it all. He holds all of us through it all; whatever "all" may be.

And that's an eternal season that lasts.



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STAR STUDDED SCREENING PROVIDES "FIRST LOOK" AT NEW FILM, INSPIRATION POP 2929

(And the Inside Scoop!)



Judy Nelon Group, Nashville, TN – May 10, 2013 – A new family film, INSPIRATION POP 2929, received a star-studded music city welcome as the film premiered at a special invitation-only, VIP screening at TBN in Nashville, TN. Music icons Barbara Mandrell & the Mandrell Sisters made their way onto the red carpet in support of singer/songwriter Christy Sutherland (Barbara's daughter-in-law) as she made her acting debut. Alongside the talented women, country music superstar Larry Gatlin, who appears in the film and performs a song written especially for the film, walked onto the carpet followed by Grammy award winning Christian vocalist Jason Crabb. Crabb also made his acting debut in the film and contributed a song to the soundtrack and also performs in the movie. Hollywood actors Jackie Stewart, Britt George and Whitney Goin - all who had starring roles - were on hand to walk as well.

Set in the small fictional American southern town of Mountain Brook, INSPIRATION POP 2929, follows a diverse cast of characters as they struggle in their lives. A young musician wishes to share his gift with a larger audience; a widow copes with the death of her soldier daughter; a small business owner sacrifices her freedom for the safety of a young runaway; a mechanic finds a family by finding his faith; and a man and woman strengthen their marriage by seeking the Lord's wisdom. The main theme in this film is that you too can live a life of irrefutable success if you learn and act

upon the things that God has revealed to you! It asks, "Am I truly listening?"

The film stars Jackie Stewart (Sling Blade, A Time To Kill), Whitney Goin (Nickelodeon, Letters To God, A Measure of Faith), Britt George (Las Vegas, Burning Hollywood, Dragnet) Larry Gatlin (Grammy Winner, Country Music Superstar), Jason Crabb (Grammy Winner, Christian Music Male Vocalist & Artist of The Year), Christy Sutherland (Award winning singer/songwriter, Daughter in law of Barbara Mandrell), Regina McCrary and many more.

This inspirational journey is projected over an original Country Gospel and Contemporary Christian soundtrack, with artists including Grammy Award winners Jason Crabb and Larry Gatlin, Christy Sutherland, Regina McCrary and the McCrary Sisters, Terri Sharp, Andrew Greer, Andrea Thomas, Paul Reter, Rob Rainwater, American Idol's Jimmy Smith, JR Hood, Devin Belle, the Lee University Campus Choir and many more.

INSPIRATION POP 2929 is moving forward with a select theatrical release and a special "producers cut" edition DVD of the movie can be ordered online at www.INSPIRATION-POP2929Movie.com.

The Inside Scoop

The screening for Inspiration Pop 2929 was very exciting! At SGNsScoops, we are especially proud of two cast members. Both Jason Crabb and Christy Sutherland have deep roots and ties to the Southern Gospel/Christian Country Industry and it was indeed exciting to see our friends on the big screen. It was also amazing to hear Jason along with Lee University's Campus Choir singing the southern gospel classic, "Through The Fire," written by Gerald Crabb. We had a chance to catch up with Jason and Christy to get their comments regarding this first-time acting experience- and also caught Gerald's comments too.



Christy Sutherland Says....

SGNsScoops: "This was your first acting experience. How was it? Was it everything you imagined? Did you find it easy/natural or more difficult than you thought?"

Christy: "It was better than I imagined. Although, since I had no acting experience to speak of, I wasn't sure what to expect. I had an incredible acting coach, my sister-in-law Jaime Dudney Gilbert. She is a successful actor with years of experience. She was a tremendous help in preparing me for the role. We worked for hours every day for weeks.

I also prepared so intensely for this role on my own that it truly came naturally for me. I interviewed people who had been in the foster care system themselves as children or who had taken foster children into their home either for a temporary time or for adoption. I also read several books on the foster care system and on child abuse in general. Since Laura Ann comes from a background of abuse and being passed around in the system, I wanted to truly be able to understand her heart. As a singer and songwriter, I have to become someone else for 3 minutes and 30 seconds all of the time...this was just a much longer song!"

SGNsScoops: "Can you describe your character in the movie?"

Christy: "I played the role of Laura Ann. Laura Ann is an independent young woman who owns her own business (a coffee shop/diner) in the small town of Inspiration. Coming from a rough childhood herself, she decides to rescue a young runaway girl out of a bad foster care situation and hides her from the authorities. She learns the biblical principle "The truth shall set you free" when she gets caught."

SGNsScoops: "Can you share with our readers what the message of this movie is about?"

Christy: "Inspiration Pop 2929 is based on seven biblical principles, which when applied to one's life will result in "irrefutable success". I love how the movie shows the different characters in each of their life circumstances and how the biblical principles apply to their lives. The movie shows how the Word of God is relevant today and that it (He) truly changes lives! I am proud to be a part of a movie getting the message of hope out there. The film reinforces to people that it is never too late to turn your problems over to God. Surrendering to Him is always the right decision."

SGNsScoops: "What was it like working with this particular cast and especially London Kimble- Aletheia?"

Christy: "I loved working with all of the cast. We truly became like a little family during filming. We were in Clifton and Waynesboro, TN, two tiny beautiful country towns. There literally wasn't much else to do but work and get to know each other. The film's director Ryan Ramos was absolutely awesome to work with. He will always hold a special place in my heart for not only giving me this opportunity, but for taking a chance on me, casting an unproved actor in a leading role."

"The cast member who truly captured my heart was Aletheia, played by London Kimble. Aletheia is the little girl Laura Ann rescues. London became my "adopted" little girl during the film and we still stay in touch. She calls me her "movie mom"! After the final scene wrapped, my blouse was literally soaked from precious London's tears saying goodbye to me. It was tough!"

SGNScoops: "Can we expect to see you in more acting roles in the future?"

Christy: "I would absolutely love to take on more acting roles!"



Jason Crabb Says...

SGNScoops: "Tell our readers about the role you play in this movie."

Jason: "Well, I get to play myself in the movie and I think that made it a bit easier than acting like someone else!"

SGNScoops: "Since this is your first acting experience, what did you find to be the most challenging?"

Jason: "The hardest part of "acting" was to "not act" like you're acting. What I mean is, the producers tell you to just be natural, to be normal with cameras all around you and people watching. So you're trying to remember your lines and then act normal??? Well you get the jest of it. The good thing is, my girls and my wife are in it too, so I am excited about that!"

SGNScoops: "What can you tell our readers about the music in the movie?"

Jason: "Funny you should ask, but many of the main characters are artists themselves. Larry Gatlin (who needs no introduction) plays a role as the "guitar man" in the film. Christy Sutherland (Barbara Mandrell's daughter-in-law) who is a singer/songwriter herself plays a lead role. Regina McCreary (who has sung for and with famous singers like Bob Dillion, etc.) and with her sisters as the McCreary Sisters, also plays a role. Andrea Thomas (currently on tour with Carrie Underwood as her background singer) plays a lead role in the movie too, so you can see, the film is heavily influenced with musical artists!"

SGNScoops: "To Gerald Crabb...What did you think about the movie and what was it like to see your song performed on the big screen?"

Gerald: "I thought the movie was very entertaining from start to finish. A lot of the religious films out these days are so serious, so predictable, and so unrealistic, that they are a little hard to watch. This movie is very different. Reverse all the things that I mentioned and you have 'Inspiration Pop 2929.' Of course it might be a little extra special to me since my son and grandchildren have a part in the film. I can't explain the feeling that I received to see how everything at the end was tied into the song, "Through The Fire." I think everyone will enjoy this movie and it was an honor to be at the premier."

SGNScoops: "Jason, did you learn anything about yourself in this role?"

Jason: "Well any time you do something new, you learn something new about yourself! I learned that acting is not easy. I had a blast doing it, though."

SGNScoops: "Can we expect to see more acting from you in the future?"

Jason: "If the opportunity comes again and it's the right thing for me, I'm in!"

For more information on Inspiration Pop 2929, visit <http://inspirationpop2929movie.com/>

Photos Courtesy of the Judy Nelon Group

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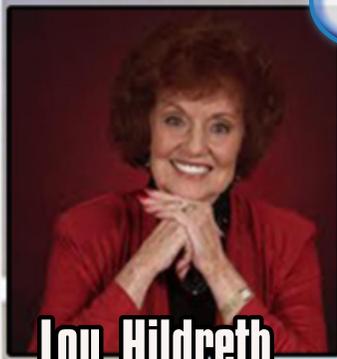
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Ron Brewer



Lisa Herald



Tim Livingston

Adam Crabb:

Surrendering to the Love of Jesus



By Lorraine Walker

Adam Crabb has made the journey from family group to his own group to soloist and now he brings his experience, skill and drive to his debut solo release, **Surrender**. As one of the siblings of Gospel music's powerhouse of talent, this Crabb kid has proven over the years that he is blessed with an equal share of musicianship and desire to share his faith with anyone who will listen.

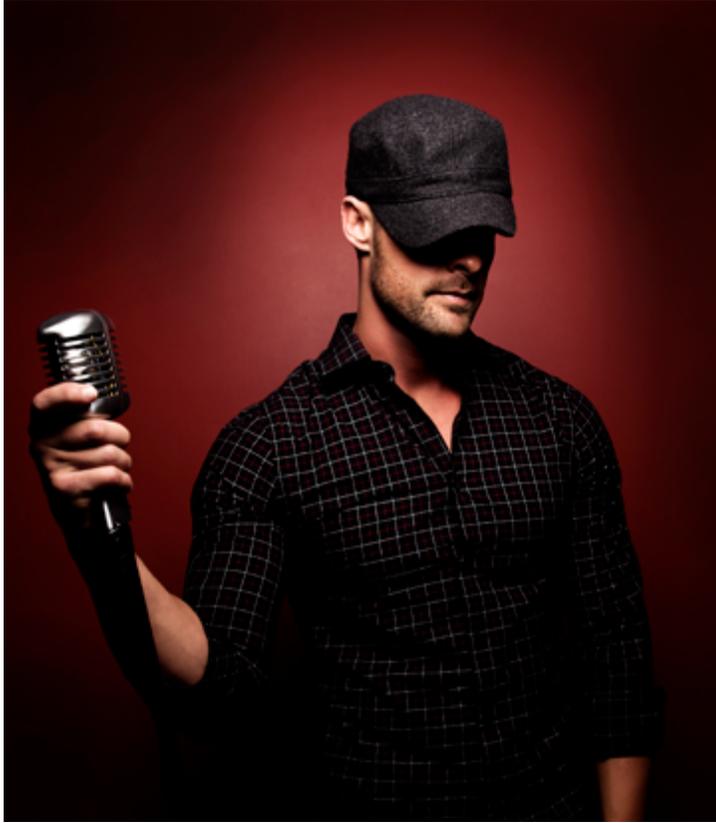
Crabb says he is very excited about his new project. "It's my first solo record and I feel it's the best thing I've ever done. I think there's a song that fits everyone on this album. Can't wait to see how it does!" The tracks for the project were recorded at the studio

owned by Jay DeMarcus, one-third of Country supergroup Rascal Flatts and producer for such artists as Michael English and Adam's brother Jason Crabb. **Surrender** vocals were recorded at Daywind and Terry Thompson's studio.

"We had a lot of great players [on the project]," says Crabb. "Jay DeMarcus played bass, Jeremy McPherson on guitars, Scott Williamson on drums, and on keyboards and organ Tim Acres and Blaine Johnson, and I got to play harmonica on this record."

Adam Crabb says he is excited about the whole recording. "One of my favorite songs is, "Surrender."

I love the message in the song!" says Crabb. "I also love the song "Why I Do What I Do," as it talks about my family! I love my family. Also, a song that talks about, 'Sometimes God Allows.' It's hard to pick a favorite, because I don't really have a favorite; I love them all." Although he didn't write any of the cuts, Crabb says he was part of the inspiration behind "Why I Do What I Do."



The first single from **Surrender** will be "Higher Ground." "This song is a fun song and reminds me of that old Crabb Family sound, that's why I love this song. It's a traditional song that everyone knows, so I feel it will be a good 'listener.'" The project will be released to Southern Gospel radio as well as Adult Contemporary Christian radio.

Dani Lintzenich of Daywind Records says, "One of the great things about Adam is how genuine and down-to-earth he is, as well as his heart for worship. His new CD is the perfect combination of southern, country and worship, and truly defines him as a solo artist. When fans hear it, they'll instantly recognize his powerful vocals, but also get to see a whole other side of Adam. They won't be disappointed!"

Simply recording and releasing new music is en-

joyable for any musician, but Crabb says he expects more from his music. "With this album I want people to be reminded of what Christ did for them," Crabb shares. "And also for the unbelievers, to feel the love of Christ so that they may receive Him. No matter what we face in life, God is always with us. Life is hard, life is tough, but through Jesus Christ all things are possible."

Crabb has faced difficult life moments so he has experienced the faith he shares onstage. Even the life of a Christian artist can be challenging. "Being solo has been very tough at times. When I'm sick there's no one to lean on. But when I'm weak He is strong! Also all my life I've played with a band. Having the band allowed me to flow. But all in all God is faithful and has helped me." He says the good times outweigh the bad. "I have so many joys of traveling. Most importantly making new friends, my road family, I love them very much. And of course it never gets old when one soul is saved! That truly is the greatest joy ever."

Anyone who has ever heard Adam Crabb perform on stage knows that his talent is truly something special. The Bible says that to whom much is given, much is expected, and Crabb certainly pours out his gifts to his audience. He appears to be fulfilling the call for which he was created, but this call is also his dream. "The book of Proverbs says, 'In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path.' When you follow the path of Christ, He makes all your dreams come true!"

Crabb says that the Lord is teaching him to show His love to others. "The greatest gift God gave us is love! When someone comes to my concert I want them to experience the love of Jesus Christ more than anything!" Through the words and music of **Surrender**, the ministry of Adam Crabb will continue to shower his audience with the love of Jesus.

For more information on Adam Crabb: <http://www.adamcrabb.com/>

Adam Crabb on Twitter: @adamcrabbmusic

Adam Crabb on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/adam.crabbmusic>

Daywind Records: <http://www.daywindrecords.com/>

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If you need an Emcee for a special concert or event, check with us about having Rob Patz or Rhonda Frye to host your next program! With more than 19 years experience in media, Rob is the owner of Coastal Media- parent company of SGM Radio and SGNScoops Magazine and the host of the Southern Styles Show. Although Rhonda is fairly new to the industry, she is no stranger to the stage. She is a singer/songwriter, an associate pastor and the editor in chief for SGNScoops Magazine.

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Union Street Concert Review

By Sheri Whit



I know you've had this experience at some point in your life. You're enjoying something so much, you don't want the night to end. And you might even think, "Wow...if we're having such a great time on earth, I can't imagine what it's going to be like in heaven!" On May 17, 2013, Union Street brought a little piece of heaven on earth to the Missouri Theater in St. Joseph, MO as part of the NWMO Gospel Concert Series. I think I can speak for all of us in attendance when I say the night ended way too soon.

That little piece of heaven started as we were greeted by big hugs and bright smiles from my buddies, concert promoter Scott Peek, and Union Street's lead singer, Ryan Seaton. I have to take time to recognize these guys. Scott has worked tirelessly to keep the NWMO Gospel Concert series alive, and Ryan has supported this ministry from day one. This was an exciting night for Union Street, as well as a first for the NWMO Gospel Concert Series, because the concert was live-streamed all across the world!

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: I love Union Street. I love their hearts. I love the fact that they preserve the integrity of good old Southern gospel quartet-style music, while keeping it new and interesting for their listeners. I love the fact that when they visit, it's not a "show"... we have church. I love seeing Andrew Goldman whisper a prayer before each song. I love Aaron McCune's quick, quiet wit, proving that yes, we as Christians can – and DO – have fun. I love Toby Hitchcock's humorous antics, and his passion for this music. I love Ryan's sincerity and his ability to tell a story through song. And let's not forget Ryan's brother, Chris Seaton, the one who stays behind the scenes and makes a fantastic group sound out of this world.

I cannot tell you the order of the songs that were sung that night, or even begin to list every song in the lineup, because I was too busy enjoying being in the moment. I can tell you that this group sings each and every song with overwhelming emotion and conviction. "God is Good" always gets the crowd clapping, and I could hardly sit still enough during "Angel On My Back" to take a decent video. If you pull up the video on YouTube, please excuse the shaking. That's just me doing a little dancing in my seat! Anyone who loves good quartet music will no doubt remember the Cathedrals, and Union Street did a rendition of Boundless Love that would have made George and Glen so proud! Andrew brought tears when he sang "That Should've Been My Cross" with great emotion. Aaron did a wonderful job singing "That's Just the Way He Was Raised" in his smooth, deep bass voice. Toby sang an exciting version of "Trumpet of Jesus." Ryan sang a favorite song of mine, "Prisoner of Hope," which will appear on his next solo album. I enjoyed hearing the classics, such as "Old Rugged Cross" and "It is Well." The group received well-deserved standing ovations for "He Still Saves" and "Then Came the Morning." Toby and Andrew came down the steps and into the crowd to sing as the guys closed out the night with a reprieve of "Boundless Love."

It's hard to believe Union Street is still such a relatively new quartet. The way their voices blend together, their energy, and their camaraderie on and off the stage is something truly special. The group had to do a little improvisation during a brief technical glitch, and they handled it like pros, taking questions from the audience. Their individual personalities shined, and the audience got a kick out of hearing their stories. It was fun to see the guys having a blast, cracking each other up with some unplanned



humor, and enjoying interacting with the crowd. These guys have been blessed, and they will definitely bless you. Please, please, please, go support Union Street whenever they come to your area. You will not regret spending time having church with them. Be sure to visit their website, www.unionstreetqt.com, to see their schedule and order a CD or two. Also, make sure to visit Ryan's website at www.ryanseaton.com and pick up his solo albums. This is one fantastic group of talented, inspirational gentlemen that we in Northwest Missouri hold very dear.

As always, I ask you to support Speek Ministries, and founder Scott Peek. Scott is working hard to bring Southern Gospel back to Northwest Missouri. Please give a "like" and a "follow" to his pages on Facebook and Twitter (Speek Ministries, and NWMO Gospel Concert Series) to keep up-to-date on concert schedules and ticket information. Visit the www.nwmogospel.com website and click on the link to his online radio station, KNMG, to hear some good Southern Gospel music and programs. Please pray for this ministry and for all who are giving selflessly of their time and resources to keep it going. And please pray for safety and God's hand of protection over all of our musicians who travel many miles on the road and in the air, and for their families who are holding down the fort at home while they are away.

Once again, it was a fantastic, spirit-filled night with some of my favorite people on this side of heaven. There are only three concerts left in the 2013 series...if you are relatively close to St. Joseph, Missouri, you NEED to attend!

Even if you're not relatively close, St. Joseph has enough hotel space and restaurants to accommodate you! Make plans for these upcoming concerts: the energetic Declaration quartet on June 22, the legendary Ivan Parker on August 23, and a Homecoming-style Southern Gospel/Christmas Concert with The Nelons and the LeFevre Quartet on November 30. Bring your friends, bring your family, bring anyone and everyone! We would love to see you ALL there!

Until next time, keep supporting and sharing the Southern Gospel tradition!



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A Leap of Faith: *Ava Kasich Testimony*



By Dixie Phillips

Ava Kasich won my heart the first time I heard her sing on the 2012 All American Gospel Cruise. Her beautiful voice, poignant lyrics, and vibrant faith blessed the hearts of her audience. After she ministered in testimony and song, my 80-year-old mother elbowed me and whispered, “Will you take me to

meet her?” After the concert we headed straight to Ava. My mother was thrilled by Ava’s warm welcome.

Like many other gospel singers, Ava’s singing ministry started very young. She was only three when she sang her first special in her home church. Word spread about the little girl with the big voice and several other local Texas churches invited her to share her God-given talents with them.

As Ava grew, so did her musical gift. In 1980, she was invited to travel with Nashville’s Wally Fowler and the Tennessee Top Ten as a featured background singer. The group toured throughout the United States performing Southern Gospel Music at major venues.

In 1989, Ava moved to Branson, Missouri, and worked with Boxcar Willie, Barbara Fairchild, and several other well-known country and gospel music artists. She became a major part in the Branson Gospel Music Association, not only performing, but also recruiting and promoting new talent to perform in the Branson area.

The accolades and awards started rolling in. Ava was named the Branson Gospel Female Vocalist of the Year in 2001. This award catapulted Ava into an even busier ministry schedule. She walked through the ministry doors the Lord opened and traveled throughout the United States singing down the glory.

Ava became a national recording artist in 2003, with the release of her second project—“Try Once Again.” This title cut and “He Came Through” were released to the national media. This project was recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, and produced by Les Butler of Butler Music Group and Family Music Group with Jason and Aaron

Crabb singing backup on two of Ava's songs.

The Lord continued to shower His blessings on Ava as she toured throughout the Midwest and Southeast



singing and sharing her testimony at churches, women's conferences, and television appearances.

Ava's faith would be tested in January 2009, when she slipped on a patch of ice and suffered a severe concussion. She was plagued with crippling headaches, tremors, and debilitating weakness. Even though an MRI was inconclusive, her doctors realized the seriousness of her condition and insisted she rest and not travel, but Ava's warrior spirit kicked in and she continued to tour and minister throughout the United States. She believed if she was faithful to meet the needs of others, God would be faithful to meet hers, but Ava saw no manifestation of healing month after month. Instead she grew worse.

In August 2009, she had three ministry dates to fulfill, but an extreme weakness gripped her and she couldn't stop the plaguing tremors. Her doctors warned her again to slow down and rest, but when she knelt before the Lord, faith rose in her heart. The Holy Spirit revealed to her that God would not have opened all the ministry doors if He hadn't intended

for her to go through them. Like the woman with the issue of blood, she pressed through her pain and weakness to obey the Call of God on her life, hoping she would touch the hem of His garment and be healed. She fulfilled her concert dates, but was so weak she had to sit on a stool as she ministered in song.

When she returned home, her condition deteriorated. She shook like someone suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease, and was admitted to the hospital. Blood tests showed some signs of Lupus, but she needed further testing to be sure. She was hospitalized for five days, but was given no solid diagnosis. Her medical team informed her they needed to figure out what was wrong with her because her body was failing rapidly. They feared she would never recover and die. After a few more tests, she was dismissed from the hospital. The doctors once again insisted she go home and rest as they studied all the lab results.

The following Sunday evening Ava took a leap of faith. She knew God was leading her to attend her home church, Faith Church, in Sherman, Texas, where Pastor Charles and Mary Jo Glass serve. Ava was determined to get there even if she had to crawl. She arrived at the church, slipped into her pew, and listened to Pastor Charles preach a familiar sermon about when Peter stepped out of the boat and Jesus said, "Oh, ye of little faith."

Her pastor asked, "Aren't you glad you don't have to have a lot of faith, but just a little bit will do?"

Ava began to pray, "Lord, I know I have that much faith!"

At the end of the sermon when she went to the front of the church to be prayed for, the whole church surrounded her and stormed heaven for her healing. She felt absolutely nothing, but extreme weakness. When she arrived back at her house, she lay down on her bed and continued to pray, "Lord, I know I have that much faith." The Great Physician did not sleep while Ava slept that night. He was granting his handmaiden a miracle. The next morning she woke up completely healed. No headache, no weakness, and no more tremors. She went back to her doctors and they confirmed she was completely healed.

God continued to bless Ava's ministry. In 2011, she recorded and released her newest project—"Stones," and signed with Pathway Records. In 2012, she won



the Beacon Award for Soloist of the Year and her signature song, "Stones," won the 2012 Beacon Award for Song of the Year and held the Number One spot on Southern Gospel Times Top 40 Chart for 10 straight weeks in a row. The blessings kept coming when SGN Scoops Diamond Awards nominated her album "Stones" for the 2012 Christian Country Album of the Year.

Ava is living proof that a little faith can melt mountains.

Walk on Water Today

*One stormy night on Galilee
Jesus walked across the choppy sea.
Waves were rolling high and fast.
Thunder roared and lightning crashed.
Peter stepped out on the waves.
And lifted up his shield of faith.*

*I've got a choice at the end of this rope
To run from this storm or get out of the boat.
This is my chance to laugh at defeat
Pull out my sword and never retreat.
I've got a choice to leave or stay
I'm gonna walk on water today.*

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To learn more about Ava's ministry go to www.avakasichministries.org.

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Biblical Times Dinner Theater

By Rhonda Frye



Pigeon Forge, Tennessee is flooded each year with visitors flocking to the scenic town to enjoy festivals, great food, tourist attractions, shopping and great entertainment. Many people make Pigeon Forge their vacation destination, and many visit for weekend getaways. Either way, this popular spot nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, beside neighboring Gatlinburg is hopping with activity year 'round. Smack dab in the middle of the busyness at traffic light number two sits the Biblical Times Dinner Theater, the one and only Biblical Theater in Pigeon Forge.

Officially opening the doors in October 2012 with a Christmas show, the Biblical Times Dinner Theater now presents its brand new show for 2013, "Kings of Psalms." The all-star cast shares the story, written by owners Jess and Linda Davis, of God working through the prophet, Samuel to bring forth three Kings: Saul, David and Jesus. The show includes acting, musical performances as well as 3D holographic technology thus making exotic animals, "the queen of Sheba," and Southern Gospel's beloved Triumphant Quartet come to life.

Before the story is presented, theater guests are served a hearty dinner including salad, pulled pork, smoked turkey, grilled chicken, red potatoes, baked beans, a biscuit, caramel cream cake, and unlimited tea and lemonade. While

guests enjoy a delicious dinner, the energetic cast entertains by singing a variety of gospel songs for all to enjoy. During this half of the show, the cast members introduce themselves and tell about their past musical experiences.

The cast includes several familiar Southern Gospel faces! Benjamin Morelock, student of Stamps Baxter School of Music and Allison Speer's Elijah School of Performance has landed a spot in the cast alongside of Adam Elrod formerly of Dove-nominated Hissong. Ben says he loves his work at the theater. "Several months ago I really wanted to get into musical theater, theater production, so I moved out to Seattle, but things didn't really work out. I told Adam {Elrod} if you hear of anything working out there, just let me know. Within 72 hours, I was in Pigeon Forge working here. God has opened up so many doors. I'm learning that God puts you in exact places at the right time."

Adam admits coming off the road was a necessary thing because road life is all he's ever known since he was 17 years old. "Coming off the road was a scary thing, but it was a needed thing," Adam says. "I didn't have a home life; my life consisted of sleeping on a bus in a bunk for all of those years. Coming off the road has been a blessing and it's been an eye-opener for me. I went without a job for about six months and I didn't think I was ever going to sing again. About that time, my friend Michael Frost asked me if

I would join the trio with him and his wife. We don't travel extensively, just a weekend or Saturday or Sunday here and there, but we're home all week long and work together at the theater. I love that I'm settled and I'm sleeping in my own bed every single night. I'm having so much fun, I love Biblical Times."

Michael Frost and his wife, former Sight and Sound cast member, Jennifer, are an asset to the Biblical Times cast. In addition to theater performance, Michael wrote all of the music except for three of the songs. "When Michael wrote this, he actually wrote the music for two weeks before we started rehearsing," Adam discloses. "He's a very clever writer, he is very smart. He has a great concept on how to grab things. He basically just pulled every bit of the lyrics



for these songs straight out of the scriptures. The music is relevant for today- songs you could sing in your home church in this day and time, but it also replicates what happened in the *biblical day*. I love his writing and he is an absolute joy to work with," Adam concludes.

Maria Albani-Cook completes the cast and comes highly experienced and multi-talented. "Maria Albani- Cook has been on television and has also performed at Sight and Sound which is one of the biggest biblical theaters in the country. She was trained in opera and is very talented," Ben explains.

Obviously, the theater hopes to attract Christians, but also the desire is to reach the non-believers too. Theater and production manager, Allan Miller explains: "We all know everyone has to go eat. Our desire is that families can bring in their family members that may not go to church. We can get them in and through entertainment – just having fun we can soften someone's heart and hopefully by the time they leave here they'll have a different



thought about Christianity- Jesus. That's really what we're really all about. So this is a different approach. This is a subtle presentation. We understand you can't cram Christianity down anyone's throat. That's why on the first half of the show, we've made it so that everyone gets to know our cast. People like to know who they are, how they got here, what their past was, and their testimony. We have some fun gospel songs while the people are eating and in the second half we get into the Psalms."

"Kings of Psalms" will be performed until this November and December. At that time, a Christmas show will be presented to be followed by an all-new production for 2014. "Our production is a 3-D presentation with a live cast," Miller reminds. "As far as we know, we are the only theater in the country doing this kind of presentation on a daily basis. The holograph production as it is done here is usually done by others as a one-time event. People have



used it for the Grammys or for a day or maybe a week-long event, but at the Biblical Times Dinner Theater, we're doing it 6 nights a week."

With a storyline written using the King James Version of



the Bible, great food and an award-winning cast with roots deep in gospel music, the Biblical Times Dinner is definitely a hot spot in Pigeon Forge to visit. Shows are scheduled Monday through Saturday at 6:00pm. For theater, ticket and group information, please visit <http://biblicaltimestheater.com/> or call 865-908-3327.

Editor's Note:

I'm grateful for the opportunity of visiting the Biblical Times Dinner Theater thanks to my friend, Ben! I must say, I was impressed. The food was delicious, seating was comfortable, the story and 3-D production was great, but I have to say I loved the music best! The music was just fabulous-something to enjoy in the car, at church, not just at the theater during the performance. I also love the heart and vision to reach the "Non-Churched" in a non-threatening way. Keep up the good work in Pigeon Forge, my friends. We hope to see you again in October! Rhonda



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SACRED CALLING

By: Tina Wakefield



Great talent sometimes goes unknown to the world of music when friends sit around and just sing for the love of the music, but on occasion, some will feel the desire to share their anointing and talent with others. In 2000, during a fun evening in Morristown, Tennessee, one such group of friends who were just having fun harmonizing their favorite childhood hymns, formed the beginnings of a group called *Sacred Calling*. Nicole Buchanan, Penny Shelnut, and Nikki Shaw realized they had a great desire to share their favorite hymns with people who would love them as much as they did. *Sacred Calling* was formed and the group began sharing in song the hymns they grew up loving so dearly in church as young girls. Time went by and as they grew in their personal lives, they each moved on to different interests, but the thought of an unfinished task in music never left them. Nikki moved home to Georgia, Nicole became a CPA, and Penny signed on to sing Alto with the *Chuck Wagon Gang*, but the three remained close friends.

Just before Penny's mother passed away she recommended that Penny meet a young girl she had met that sang with a beautiful voice and heart for God that matched her talent. Penny met Rachel Elkins in 2010 and the two ladies became instant friends. The two soon discovered that they shared the same love of music from their early years in church. These two new friends, Penny and Rachel together with Nicole began spending time together, and the same desire that had burned in the original three members of *Sacred Calling* years earlier began to stir again- and *Sacred Calling* was reborn.

Penny Shelnut is no stranger to performing music, but has sung all of her life with her very first performance coming in kindergarten when she sang a song entitled *Everyday With Jesus*, and filling in with groups such as the Hoppers and The Chuck Wagon Gang. Penny comes from a musical family as her father traveled full time singing and her husband and father-in-law currently sing with the talented group –*The Dixie Echoes*.

The name *Sacred Calling* seems to suit the concept of the musical style of the group. Sacred implies the feeling of something we hold dear to the heart, like songs from childhood. Hymns from early childhood days in church are what the members of *Sacred Calling* fondly hold close and is what they share with their audiences everywhere. Penny sings Lead for the group, Nicole sings Alto, and Rachel sings Soprano and although each member knows what to sing and how to do it very well, they are multi-talented and are able to switch parts often as they need. The three artists are very close to each other as Nicole has been the sister Penny never had, and has been her best friend through thick and thin since the sixth grade. The close relationship of these two allows them to move with ease and follow the leading of each other to make sure the group is Spirit-led during each service. Rachel Elkins has been with Penny and Nicole for a year and a half and is best thought of as “the little sister” of the group. Rachel sings with a strong dynamic voice and heartfelt anointing. Rachel is not new to performing professionally, but comes with prior experience from performing with a group called Rejoice!

Now you would think that the group would be complete with these three wonderfully talented ladies, but God had another plan. Just as the group originally began by friends “just singing”, in 2011, Nicole ran into an old friend one night who just happened to play piano. The three ladies invited him over to sing and play with them for fun, and Andrew Alder never left. Andrew, who was an Honors High School Math teacher, joined *Sacred Calling* and brought a new level of diversity to the group with his piano skills. With the addition of Andrew Alder, the group now had the ability to sing with tracks or live piano. Penny describes Andrew as the “brother of the group.”

Sacred Calling finds its roots in the traditional red-backed hymnal, and they classify themselves as mostly Southern Gospel, but love a variety of musical styles. Penny Shelnut said the desires of *Sacred Calling* is to be used by God to minister in any way He chooses, and to one day become full time in their ministry. Choosing songs to minister with is sometimes challenging, but this group has



a strong belief that a song must touch the heart and speak to the soul. Penny states that it is very troublesome to her that the blood of Christ has been left out of so many songs today, and after all, it is the blood of Christ that makes salvation and hope possible for all. This is why it is very important for new generations as well as older to never forget the hymns that sing of the blood and the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us.

2013 finds *Sacred Calling* in the studio working on their newest project *HYMNS OF PRAISE* coming straight from the red backed hymnal. Each selection was chosen because of a special childhood memory of the song. Included on this recording will be such favorites as: “I’d Rather Have Jesus,” “Heaven’s Jubilee,” “Blessed Assurance,” “Take A Moment and Live,” and “Last Mile of the Way.” As if one recording project was not enough of a challenge, the group hopes to produce three to four projects this year. The projects for the year will include a Christmas recording, and a recording of original *Sacred Calling* songs like, “Until I’ve Seen the Savior” and “I Believe God.”

2013 is set to be a great year for Penny Shelnut, Nicole Buchanan, Rachel Elkins, and Andrew Alder with recording projects and bookings increas-

ing. It is with much anticipation and delight that we will watch *Sacred Calling* grow and rise in the ranks of great Gospel Artists.

To contact *Sacred Calling* for bookings or information, you may reach them at www.sacred-callingmusic.com, sacredcalling@aol.com, or through Penny's talent agency- Jubilee Talent Agency 423-736-7272

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A promotional image for The Gibsons. It features three people in formal attire standing in front of a white, ornate sofa outdoors. The background shows a green field and a building with an American flag. The text is in a white, cursive font on a dark red background.

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A logo for Aval Kasich Ministries. The name "AVAIL KASICH" is written in a large, serif font. Below it is the website address "www.avalkasichministries.org". The background is a light gray with a faint floral pattern.



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Singing in the Sun



By Lynn Mills

Fans of Southern Gospel Music have quite a variety of events to choose from when considering a multi-artist Gospel Sing to add to their yearly travels. It's also worthy to note, that more and more of these events are being organized. Though I could spend a lot of time listing each one and what they're known for, instead, I would like to focus on just one, Singing in the Sun, and share some of the highlights from my time there this past April.

Singing in the Sun makes its home at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. For five days, the finest artists in Gospel Music gather there for a week of singing, preaching and fellowship. Personally, this year was my first time to attend the sing and though I was excited to see some of my favorite artists again, I had no idea how special the week was going to be and how the experience at this event was going to set itself apart from any other one I've had the privilege to attend.

On Wednesday night, board member Jeff Whisnant said, "We never do a concert without requesting the Holy Spirit to be present." As I sat on the second row and watched each group sing, the evidence of the Spirit's presence was before my eyes all evening. The music and thoughtful comments the singers made set the tone for the night – it was wonderful to hear the new songs from Tribute Quartet and Greater Vision. The Whisnants sang a few from their new "Hymns

and Harmony" release – but after all the groups sang, a pastor by the name of Larry Brown stepped up on the platform and preached before intermission. He encouraged us not to let anything steal our joy or our hope and then he invited anyone who felt lead to come down to the front and pray about any need they had in their life...and they came. And they didn't come in small numbers either; the front of that stage was full. After five groups and a preacher, those people could have easily slipped out to get some lemonade at the concession stand or rush to the exhibit hall to talk to their favorite artist, instead, they came down to the front to talk to God. That impressed me because I haven't attended any other event the size of Singing in the Sun that number one-has a time to come to the altar and pray and number two- gets a response so great. By the end of the week, Ray Flynn (President of Abraham Productions) announced that 73 souls came to know the Lord this year alone. I believe the request that Jeff Whisnant spoke about on Wednesday night was answered in the most positive way!

Though each night we heard the Scriptures expounded through pastors, the artists also slipped in a word of encouragement (and challenge!) while introducing a ballad or song. This one from Debra Talley brought tears to my eyes as she told it on Friday night.... The Talleys had their bus parked in a Walmart



parking lot a few months ago and Debra grabbed her purse to go in and purchase some items. Before she left the bus, she noticed a young woman on the other side of the lot holding a cardboard sign. Even though she was too far away to read it, Debra was very sure what the sign said and felt lead to go speak with her. During their conversation, Mrs. Talley asked the woman if she knew Jesus. Her response was what really touched me, Debra said the woman looked down and said, "Yes, I do. That's one of the reasons I'm so ashamed of being out here... **because He's been good to me.**" Debra found out that her name was Angel, she had two children and times have just been tough for her financially. Debra prayed with Angel and placed the only two bills she had in her wallet in Angel's hand. To the audience at Singing in the Sun, Debra said, "We go to church on Sunday, and then we go to work the next day and though we know we have the answer we don't tell one person about Jesus, shame on us!" This story led into their song Broken World, and when Lauren began the first verse she changed the lyrics to accommodate that story, "Angel's got more month than she's got money... she's got two kids, she's barely getting by." Karen Peck Gooch and Susan Whisnant also encouraged the audience by sharing what the Lord has brought them through. Though it's not possible to replicate exactly what they said, they opened up their hearts and assured everyone in the auditorium that because the Lord brought them through, they know that He will do the same for all His children.

In addition to the ministry, fans know that when God's people gather together in a setting like that...

there will be a little fun! I can think of no better way to close this article than by going over some of the highlights of the sing. After intermission on Wednesday night, Gerald Wolfe was given the honor of emceeing that segment. All the singers were up on stage and by mixing up individuals and creating "new" groups with them, he would announce a random number from the red back hymnal and watch his masterpieces unfold...in a way that only he can do. Finally, the previously mentioned emcee and Josh Singletary decided to play a duet on the piano. The only problem these two didn't foresee having was something called a "piano bench." Josh is kind of tall...and Gerald is kind of short...and the bench can only be situated to accommodate one of the two! After adjusting and re-adjusting, Josh went to sit on a speaker case and missed – landing on the stage with a sound, plump! Everyone on stage and off was dying with laughter; yet, Gerald managed a lopsided grin and said, "Now we're the same height." On Saturday night, Karen Peck and New River and Brian Free and Assurance had the privilege of singing with the Wilmington Celebration Choir. The energy in the room doubled when the choir mounted the stage to accompany these groups on songs like: "Four Days Late," "On the Banks of the Promised Land," "The Mighty High" and "Long As I Got King Jesus." It was truly something to experience!



Singing in the Sun met my expectations and exceeded beyond. I expected a regular "Gospel Sing," but my spirit was renewed like I attended a revival - I expected concerts with five artists a night trying to squeeze in every song they could before their time was up, but each group took the time to say something meaningful about the Lord – and though I



expected an ordinary experience, I found an extraordinary staff that was focused on serving the people. Ray Flynn encouraged those who came to know the Lord to pick up a Bible by the doors before leaving (free of charge). Singing in the Sun also offered a free breakfast of Krispy Kreme doughnuts to those who would come to the morning service with John Hagee on Saturday. To those who would pre-order their tickets for 2014 while they were there before a designated time, those names would be entered in a drawing where one group of tickets (whether there be 2 or 20 tickets in that group) would be given as a gift – marked paid in full. This is an event that is focused on the Lord and blessing His people; and the things I just mentioned are some of the ways they do that. If you have plans for attending Singing in the Sun next year, or have thought about attending, I guarantee you will love it! A special thanks to board members Ray Flynn, Karen Peck Gooch, Jeff Whisnant, Ivan Parker, Dean Hopper and Roger Talley; you guys (and gal!) do a wonderful job coordinating this event!



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The Jay Stone Singers: He Is God Enough



By Lorraine Walker

The Jay Stone Singers have been involved in Southern Gospel music for several decades and the history of the group is remarkably like the present. Jay Stone began singing with his wife, daughter and son in 1976. Today, the Jay Stone Singers are made up of Jay's daughter Sharona and her husband, daughter and son. The music and the message continue through the family harmony and evangelistic ministry that shares the timeless love of Jesus Christ.

Jay and Mary Stone, their daughter Sharona, 11, and 14-year-old son Jeff started traveling from their home in Hope Mills, North Carolina, beginning a career that would see the group appear in Canada and Mexico as well as 25 of the United States. In 1984, Bobby Carter joined the group to sing tenor and play the bass guitar. Romance bloomed and Bobby married Sharona Stone

in 1987. In 2010, Jay and Mary came off the stage and today Bobby and Sharona perform with their son Stone, 18 and daughter Emma, 16.

Sharona Carter is the only original member of the Jay Stone Singers. "In many ways this ministry is a big part of my family heritage and legacy," says Sharona. "I've been singing all my life. I believe I was around four years old when I sang my first solo in church. I don't know what the first song I ever sang was, but I do remember one of the early songs that I sang. It was a song by Bill Gaither called "Something Worth Living For."

Bobby and Sharona are also songwriters, allowing the group to sing many original songs along with those penned by today's top Gospel songwriters. "We are in

the process of finishing up our latest Crossroads Music recording,” says Bobby. “We are blessed to be part of the Crossroads Music family. Our latest recording is entitled *God Enough*. The CD is filled with great songs by some of gospel music’s greatest writers.”

where we are at all times and no matter how out of control things may seem, God has it all under control and He has the answers if we will ‘Just Wait’ on Him.”

The younger half of the Jay Stone Singers (JSS), Stone and Emma Carter, are already seasoned artists de-



Jeff Collins of Crossroads truly enjoys working with this talented family. “The Jay Stone Singers are just *real* people, if you know what I mean, and that comes out in their vocals. You feel their heart when you listen to them, and even more when you see them perform or get to be around them for any length of time. They have a good variety of songs that minister to young and old alike, which I view as a positive in our genre’s climate today.”

“It’s hard to pick a favorite song, but one that I can’t wait to sing each night is titled “At The Altar.” It’s written by a great friend, Melody Goodman, and tells the story of what takes place when you come to the altar,” Bobby says. “Our first radio single off of the new CD is entitled “Til We Get Home,” written by Ricky Free and Sue Smith. It features Stone on vocals and also Stone is playing the drums on the song as well. As far as the message, it speaks of this journey that we all are on, and how much better it is when you are taking it with Jesus.”

Sharon says that her favorite song to sing live is called “Just Wait.” “Rebecca Peck wrote it and I love the message in that song. There is something so amazing about the realization that our God knows right

spite their youth. “I’ve been singing ever since I could talk,” says Emma. “I started singing harmony when I was four. Singing is a second nature for me. Anyone who knows me knows I’m always humming and singing!” Stone says, “Right now I’m a full time member of this ministry, as well as the drummer and background vocalist for The Parachute Parade. I’m so incredibly blessed to travel with the ministries I’m a part of, and I believe I’m exactly where God wants me right now! When He sees fit to change that, I’ll go with Him!”

Bobby Carter says he is reminded every week of how thankful he is to be traveling with his family. “Watching how Stone and Emma have matured into fine Christian young adults and with my sweet wife by my side as we carry on this message of hope and salvation through song...I am blessed!”

Emma says that it is important for young adults to have strong examples in their lives of Christians living their faith. She says, “My mom is my number one role model.” Emma continues, “I’ve come to realize that some of the sweetest and most genuine people you’ll ever meet are found in the Southern Gospel music industry. A role model for me is someone who has heart, passion, and is a driven individual who is willing to

follow God in all they do. That's the type of person I strive to be!"



Bobby agrees that the Gospel artists are terrific people to be around. "Back a couple of years ago I sat down with Rich Crist from the Crist Family and we talked for about two hours. I appreciate the fact he was willing to encourage me, and to take the time to share from experiences he had." Bobby now tries to share his experiences with others. "My advice for new artists just starting out is to never forget to thank God, the One who has given you the talent, and keep Him in the center of your ministry. Never forget the ones who come fill the seats and always take the time to hug a neck, shake a hand, or take a picture. Every artist out there has to start out at the beginning and be grateful for the opportunity to share with others."

After over 34 years in the ministry, Bobby and his family continue to strive to keep Christ as the center of their ministry. Stone says, "I think the most effective part of a JSS concert, is the altar/reflection time. It is a main focus for us, and we try our best to make it a time that the people in our services can receive prayer for salvation or any other need they may have."

"Our goal has always been ministry," says Sharona. "No matter how much we love to sing, travel, meet new friends and have fun, if we aren't doing the Kingdom

any good then we are missing the mark. I have seen how powerful the right song at the right time delivered in the right way can be. As we grow our gifts grow and our territory grows. God has blessed us. Every day we strive to be faithful to the call He has placed on our lives."

"The Jay Stone Singers love people, especially Bobby," Jeff Collins says. "Ask anybody who knows Bobby and they will tell you they love that guy! He'll do anything for anybody if they need something. Outreach is their middle name! The whole family is out there, day-in and day-out, serving the Lord with a humbleness that's real. That's their calling. You can't beat that, and God blesses and uses them in a mighty way."

For Bobby, that call has meant not only to be a Gospel artist, but also a Pastoral Care Pastor and a law enforcement officer. He has had a lot of different experiences, but has learned that God is faithful. "I love Philippians 4:11, which says, 'I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.' With life there are ups and downs. Regardless of where you are, God is there. It's so easy to become discouraged and want to give up, but God is a constant and ever present help! I am thankful for that, and that I can be assured of His love!"

Sharona has been with Bobby through more than 25 years of married life, and she agrees that God has always been with them. Her advice? "Never give up! God is working even when you don't feel, hear or see the results. Spend time daily with Him. Read His word and allow Him to speak to your heart. He is 'God Enough!'"

Bobby Carter will soon be celebrating 30 years of being a part of The Jay Stone Singers, and the family is moving into the next decade with the sure knowledge that whatever the circumstances, God is enough for their family, their music and their ministry.

For more information on the Jay Stone Singers visit <http://jaystonesingers.com/>

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7 Secrets to Living Long and STRONG!

By Laurette Willis

“With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation” (Psalm 91:16).

In Japan, life expectancy is over 82 years of age, and in most of the western world the average life expectancy is 78-80 years of age.

When the first United States census was taken in 1790, only 2% of the U.S. population was over 65. By 1900, the average American lifespan was only 47! People who make it to 100 and beyond are no longer considered freaks of nature.

There are approximately 55,000 centenarians in the U.S., and perhaps as many as 450,000 worldwide.

Is it unreasonable to expect to live to be 120, as the Bible states? *“And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years’” (Genesis 6:3).*

What about the scripture that mentions 70-80 years of age?

That was considered part of the curse of being in the wilderness, not a blessing.

“The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by

reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psalm 90:10).

A footnote to Psalms 90 in *The Amplified Bible* explains:

“This psalm is credited to Moses, who is interceding with God to remove the curse which made it necessary for every Israelite over twenty years of age (when they rebelled against God at Kadesh-barnea) to die before reaching the promised land (Numbers 14:26-35).

“Moses says most of them are dying at seventy years of age. ***This number has often been mistaken as a set span of life for all mankind. It was not intended to refer to anyone except those Israelites under the curse during that particular forty years. Seventy years never has been the average span of life for humanity.*** When Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes, had reached 130 years (Genesis 47:9), he complained that he had not attained to the years of his immediate ancestors. In fact, Moses himself lived to be 120 years old, Aaron 123, Miriam several years older, and Joshua to 110 years of age. Note as well that in the Millennium a person dying at 100 will still be

thought a child (Isaiah 65:20).”

“If I’d Known I Would Live *this* Long, I Would’ve Taken Better Care of Myself!”

We want to live long in order to complete all the Lord has called us to do. We also want to live stronger and healthier. It’s the second part that is giving many people trouble. But it doesn’t have to be that way!

Longevity experts say that while genetics may play a factor in our living long and strong, lifestyle habits, nutrition and exercise play a bigger factor.

Here are SEVEN *SECRETS* that can dramatically increase the probability you will live long & strong!

1. **STRESS – Control it.** When you’re under stress, your body releases cortisol, known as “the stress hormone.” Cortisol speeds up aging by accelerating body processes.

Want to know HOW to alleviate stress? Listen to my free Christian Meditation Seminar – recorded for you **HERE** (<http://praisemoves.com/2013/05/christian-meditation-seminar>)

You’ll learn how to control your responses to stress. Events themselves are not stressful – it is our response that causes problems.

2. **SLEEP** – it’s more than just for “beauty.” As you age deep, restorative sleep may become harder to experience. Avoid caffeine and stimulants a few hours before bedtime. Magnesium supplements before bedtime can help relax you and prepare you for sleep.

3. **LAUGHTER** – “*A Merry Heart doeth Good like a Medicine!*” Laughter reduces blood pressure, clears the lungs, and produces endorphins, the so-called “happy” hormone that reduces pain.

Be more like a child! The average child laughs 300 times a day. Adults average only 17 times! Researchers are finding that laughter and joy help keep us alive. Remember, “The JOY of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

WWJD Laughter? Realize that many of the things the world thinks are funny really are not funny at all. Things such as people physically hurting themselves; ridicule and mockery; subjecting people to embarrassment or shame, animals relieving them-

selves—these are not really funny, but we’ve been programmed over the last few decades to believe they are humorous. Hey, I’ve laughed at some of them, too! But I’ve since found a “check” in my spirit when laughing at some of these things the world promotes as funny.

The Lord has a wonderful sense of humor. Ask HIM what He finds funny (and be prepared to laugh a lot!).

4. **EXERCISE.** Your body desires to move at every age. Fifties, sixties, seventies, eighties? Research shows that it’s never too late to start exercising. In fact, if you’re a bit older starting out with exercise, you will have faster results than those who have been active all their lives. The key is finding an activity you enjoy and making it part of your daily routine—like PraiseMoves!

5. **REACH OUT.** Studies show that people live longer if they are married, have close friends, or have pets. Volunteer at church or in the community. Make a decision to meet more people. There’s nothing wrong with being alone, but we want to avoid social isolation. People need what only you can share!

6. **BRAIN POWER.** I remember hearing years ago that the brain could not regenerate. Not true! Now doctors know that you stimulate your brain by learning new things, forming new connections in the brain. Memorize a different scripture every other day, take up a new hobby, learn a new language, or try a new fitness routine. Do something in a different way than you usually do!

7. **PRAISE the Lord and Give Him Thanks.** Pay attention to the “now” moment. Stop and thank the Lord for your life. Ask Him what He would have you do at that moment (He usually impresses upon my heart the words, “Praise Me!”). This is for YOUR benefit, not His!

Say Psalm 103 aloud with me and just watch what happens to how you feel!

*Bless the LORD, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!*

² *Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:*

³ *Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,*

⁴ *Who redeems your life from destruction,*

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord loves you so much! Live long and strong
IN HIM!

Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry (<http://PraiseMoves.com> and on Facebook <http://facebook.com/PraiseMovesFan>). Get your free fitness kit at <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com> ©2013

Photo above courtesy of [familymwr](#)

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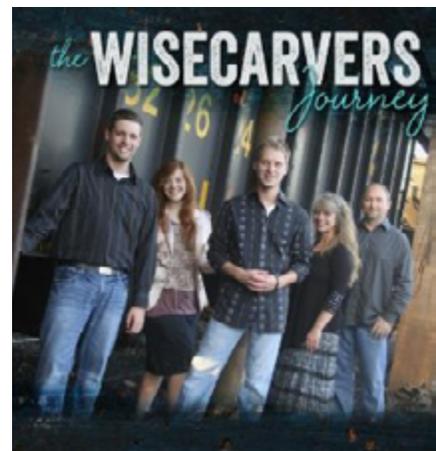
Music Reviews for June

by Sandi Duncan Clark

Rose bushes in the garden are just brimming over with blooms; red, pink, yellow, coral and white. Trees are providing shade for the late afternoons when we enjoy a glass of iced tea and a good book. What a beautiful summer our God is providing and we do so appreciate it!

I hope you are enjoying some of these nice days with your family, and thanking God for them. God has recently shown favor to my family with my brother Cliff Hendricks. On May 7, he was airlifted to Charlotte, N.C. for emergency surgery for an aortic aneurism. Today Cliff is recovering and in rehab, and we are so very thankful. Telling your family and loved ones how much you love them should be something we do regularly, however when we go through tremendous health issues, we realize just how fragile life is and we must remember to let those we love know just how much they mean to us. Please continue to pray for Cliff Hendricks and our family.

The music we have for you this month is all uplifting, encouraging and exciting. Each artist has their own musical style and talent, and they enjoy sharing God's love through their music ministry. Search out their web sites to purchase copies of their music and find their schedules. Make plans to worship with them soon. You will be blessed.



THE JOURNEY
The Wisecarvers
Skyland Music
Producer: Jeff Collins

You will recognize the beautiful face of Kaila Martin Wisecarver, a member of the Wisecarvers, from her tenure with the Bradys. Kaila sang with the Bradys for several years before her marriage to Dustin Wisecarver. Shortly after their marriage, she joined Dustin's family music ministry.

The Wisecarvers make their home in Erwin Tennessee, and the group is literally all family; Dad and Mom, Vince and Tammy Wisecarver, their sons, Chase and Dustin along with Kaila. They combine their talents in various vocal combinations to present some great music. This album is the group's third recording and Kaila's first with the family.

The group kicks off the album with Rusty Goodman's and Jimmie Davis' old song, 'I Wouldn't Take Nothing

For My Journey Now.' They have a progressive country arrangement and rhythm on the song and they really do an impressive job.

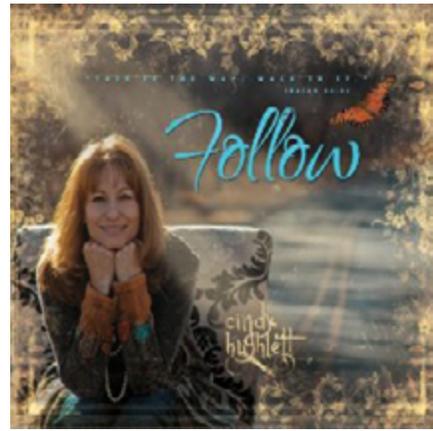
Tammy, Dustin, Chase and Kaila are all song writers and have contributed a number of songs to this project. From the inspiring first song, the group moves on to a couple of original ones. 'Turn Back Time,' written by this young trio and says 'more of you, less of me, while I still have the time.' This should be a prayer we all pray.

'Falling In Place' was written by Dustin and reminds us 'when everything falls apart, it's really just falling in place,' if we know the Lord. It's a wonderful reminder that God is in control!

I love the Wisecarver's version of the late, great songwriter, Jack Campbell's 'The Next Step.' They really treat this song royally. These young folks also have a very progressive version of 'Heaven's Jubilee' and really shine.

When I first heard Kaila sing with the Bradys several years ago, I realized how talented this young lady truly is. Her singing, playing, and her songwriting developed more acutely during her time with the Bradys and she has three beautiful songs on the Wisecarver's recording. She is featured on 'One Prayer At A Time.' 'Only Good To Me' has a music track reminiscent of an old Glen Campbell song. Her third song, 'Grace Tore The Veil' is beautiful and very well done. You'll be blessed by all three songs.

There are twelve songs on the album, including 'Heaven's Jubilee,' 'Just Fine,' 'In Jesus Name We Trust' and 'I Need You.' The Wisecarvers finish out their recording with the Easter Brother's well-known 'Thank You Lord, For Your Blessings On Me.' If your music preference runs toward smooth family harmony and Country Gospel music, you will want to add the Wisecarver's new recording to your music library. Contact them at 423-747-6815.



FOLLOW
Cindy Hughlett
MCM World Media
Producer: Mark L. Carman

Beautiful, pleasing vocals on encouraging, inspiring songs are what we hear from Cindy Hughlett on her latest album, FOLLOW. Cindy wrote or co-wrote seven of the eight songs on the recording and she dedicates a portion of the sales of the project to ICM, a ministry building churches, orphanages and teaching centers around the world.

With some of the best studio musicians in the business, Cindy has a great foundation for her vocals. I was touched by 'Seasons,' which speaks of the seasons of our lives and what we learn from them. As a new grandmother in the autumn of my life I can very well relate to this song!

The album's title song 'Follow,' is another that touched me; it's a conversation between the Christian and the Master. As long as we seek Him and 'follow,' He will lead us in the path everlasting. What a promise and what a great song.

'Whisper Of A Warrior' picks up the tempo a little, and has a "mean" saxophone throughout the song, thanks to one of my favorite sax players, Sam Levine. James Mitchell on electric guitar also adds much to the music track, which encourages the Christian in our battles against the world. The Lord always answers the prayers (whispers) of us, the warriors, and He is our strength. Great song and great performance by musicians as well as the vocalist!

Cindy chose to record 'Touch Of The Master's Hand,' a song that we have often heard from bass singers in a male quartet as a narration. This is the story of an old

violin and an auctioneer. I do like her version of this song.

There are three more good songs on the recording; 'God Has No Walls,' 'Get Lost' and 'Soar.' All have a great message and Cindy's delivery is unique and enjoyable. Christian music with a different style and sound is always interesting and reassuring for us if we are willing to step out of our comfort zone and give it a try. I loved this experience and over my extended years in Gospel music, I have experienced an increased love for all types of music, thanks to artists like Cindy and her producer, Mark. Cindy, your music is exciting and encouraging.

Contact Cindy Hughlett at www.cindyhughlett.com to experience this lady's music and love for the Lord.



THE GRACE OF GOD
The Dysart Family
Crossroads Music
Producer: Roger Talley

Without a doubt, this Macon, Missouri family gives it their all when they sing! Not only is family harmony a given since all seven family members perform, but the anointing in their music is a significant byproduct of growing in the Spirit of the Lord.

With the heralding of this New Year, Lorena and LeWain Dysart along with their five children embarked on a full-time music ministry, the byproduct of a lifetime lived in service for the Lord. The announcement of full-time ministry is significant in that it is the fulfillment of a dream that Lorena and LeWain have had since their meeting in 1986 and their wedding in 1987.

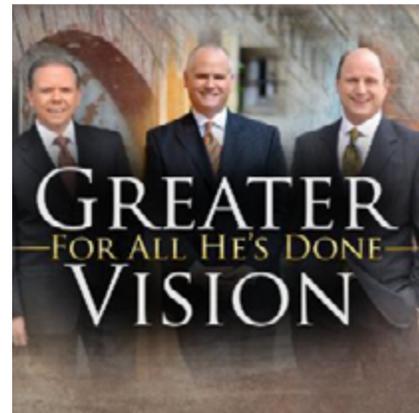
THE GRACE OF GOD features twelve songs, some

well-known favorites and some original songs from group members. 'Walk Right Out Of This Valley' begins forty-five minutes of encouragement, excitement and entertainment for Christians and will introduce others to Jesus Christ.

Arrangements are varied on the songs, and Roger Talley's influence is evident as he has so much talent at his command! He even has a young quartet to work with when the four Dysart young men sing! They do a good job on one of their father's songs, 'Walk On Water.'

There are definitely several favorites on this recording; 'God's Love Is So Amazing,' 'I Will Be Praying,' 'The Grace Of God' and 'Nothing Better To Do.' You will enjoy every song on the project.

You may contact this talented, dedicated family at 660-676-7411 to experience their music.



FOR ALL HE'S DONE
Greater Vision
Daywind Records
Producer: Gerald Wolfe

There is nothing quite as refreshing and uplifting as new music from Greater Vision. I must admit, I've played this over several times before sitting down to write. When it comes to great songs, simple messages of relationships with God, along with tremendous music tracks, nobody does it better than Greater Vision. For the duration of the groups 20 plus years of success, Gerald Wolfe has learned what works for Greater Vision and rarely strays from that winning style. FOR ALL HE'S DONE is no exception to that.

'Come Unto Me,' a medium tempo song, written

by Chris Allman, reminds us that in all our life experiences, God is there and invites us to His arms of peace and comfort. Amen!

We are currently hearing 'Looking For The Grace' on Gospel radio, and if you're not hearing it, how about giving your local radio station a call and requesting this one. This song is another Rodney Griffin winner; up-tempo and a toe tapper. The tune is catchy and you'll fall in love with this one for the message. Rodney is one of the most prolific songwriters in the industry today, and all of his songs are based on scripture.

If your heart doesn't swell with emotion and praise when you hear 'This Is Mercy,' I'd be so surprised and disappointed. It speaks of the sign over the head of our Lord when He hung on the cross and how it should have read 'this is mercy!' I'm still coming down from this blessing!

All GV fans remember Greater Vision's first time recording of 'The Blood Hasn't Ever Changed,' and a remake of this song is part of the new album. Chris Allman brings so much emotion to the song, and it is thrilling to realize the message is ever the same!

Rodney shares the credits for 'Forever Is Sure' with Jim Brady. The song has a good message and a catchy rhythm. From there, the group moves on to Lanny Wolfe's 'Seeking For Me,' with big orchestration and a solid arrangement. Gerald, although not related to Lanny, Gerald has always been a fan of his music, and is featured on the first verse with of 'Seeking For Me.'

Rodney Griffin is featured on one of his own compositions, 'Preacher Tell Me Like It Is.' This song urges the preacher to give the word straight, not to preach only what we want to hear but what we need to hear; not to just be our friend, but to call our sin exactly what it is! This is a solid song.

'I Can Trust You,' 'I Will Take Care of You' and 'For All He's Done' round out a wonderful collection of new songs from one of Southern Gospel music's most successful and faithful trios. Not only does the music touch and bless, but the lives these gentlemen live make it come alive. A fan and follower of Greater Vision's music ministry has found they can always trust this group for the music and testimony they

put forth. This latest recording only enhances that knowledge. Greater Vision continues to give us music with a message and a blessing, to help us know just how much God loves us and how much we can trust Him. You may contact Greater Vision for a copy of FOR ALL HE'S DONE at www.greatervisionmusic.com



I'LL BE THERE
The Singing Cookes
Cooke Records

Producers: Jeannette Cooke, Jeff Branham

For more than 50 years, Jeanette and Hubert Cooke have traveled the country, telling people about the Lord with their mountain music, and because the group is a family, the Cooke's personnel has never changed over the years. That is with the exception of adding a grandchild to sing and play, until they have gone away to school or gotten married! This consistency speaks volumes to their testimony and sound integrity.

I'LL BE THERE has ten songs all done in traditional Cooke style, and as a fan of this family, I can say this is a keeper. I love the title song, which is the Cookes' current radio song, and I especially enjoy hearing Jeanette sing this one. From experience, I can tell you, this song will quickly move up on the national Gospel radio charts

The Cookes always choose songs with an encouraging message and 'Hold On A Little Longer' is one of those. I also like 'Jesus Said, "It is finished,"' a song written by Hubert Cooke. Hubert also is featured on 'It's Me Again, Lord,' which was written by Dottie Rambo and is another of my picks from the album.

Jeanette, Hubert and their sons have dedicated 'What A Day That Will Be,' to Rev. Norm Livingston, long-

time Southern Gospel promoter from Dayton, Ohio. Norman was a great friend of the Cookes and passed away in spring of 2011. Their mutual respect was strong and long lasting and this song honors their appreciation for him.

Jeanette sings her heart to us on the final song on the project, 'Jesus Has Conquered The Grave.' This song is actually a song of praise that God has not only conquered the evils of this world, but has settled any doubt that we are destined for another world when Jesus arose from the grave.

Other songs on the recording are 'Don't Worry About Me,' 'I'll Just Stop Long Enough (to put on my robe and crown),' 'We'll Have A Reunion,' and 'Old Time Way.' If you are a Cookes fan, this new album is a "must-have," and you may contact the Cookes at 423-357-6199

LIVE... At Red, White and Bluegrass
Darin and Brooke Aldridge
Mountain Home Music Company
Producers: Darin and Brooke Aldridge

Darin and Brooke Aldridge hail from Cherryville, North Carolina and play on bluegrass festivals all across the country. Their Christian faith stands out in their performances as well as their song selection and they never fail to let folks know of their love for the Lord.

This album has all the fun of a live performance having been recorded in Morganton, North Carolina at the Red White and Bluegrass Festival. The crowd reacts to each song, as well as the performers comments between each song. Their first song, 'Lonely Ends Where Love Begins' sets the pace for their set on the program. My favorite all-time bluegrass song is 'Making Plans,' and this group does a great job on this one.

Brooke does an old Shania Twain song, 'No One Needs To Know,' and the crowd loved it when she told them that when she and Darin begin dating no one needed to know! This sort of teasing endears them to the audience.

With writer George Shuffler in the audience, Brooke introduces 'When He Beckons Me Home.' The really does a fine job on this one, and the crowd enjoyed it.

Other good songs on the project are 'Every Scar,' 'That's Just Me Loving You,' and 'Sweetest Waste Of Time.' The group adapted the old love song from the early sixties 'To Know Him Is To Love Him' and did a great job re-introducing it. I also enjoyed the instrumental on 'Foggy Mountain Rock.'

The band does an awesome job supporting Darin and Brooke. I enjoy that in the bluegrass community, a group/artist can sing romantic/inspirational songs about love and family relationships, along with the Gospel songs and still be totally accepted. This gets the Gospel across to all in attendance and is still entertaining. You may contact Darin and Brooke at PO Box 645, Cherryville, N.C. 2801

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Christian Country News: Paul Summers

“I want to sing a song as if I am singing that song to Jesus Christ Himself.”

By Rick Kiser Jr.



Paul was raised in a Christian family. His father was a Pentecostal preacher, so Paul grew up hearing all the Bible stories. At the age of three, Paul started singing with his family in the Illinois area. He and his three sisters sang while his mom played the piano. They sang everywhere that his dad preached. Instead of outside playing with other kids his age, he and his family practiced. For many years this was his life. He had seen firsthand God work in people's lives and how He would change them, but it would be years before Paul truly felt God in his life.

By the time Paul turned nine he started playing the drums. “My mom and dad bought me a Ludwig snare and I would shut myself in my room and practice. I listened to groups like The Downings and The Rambos. I practiced all the time learning the beats and so forth.” Paul loved music, he loved singing and playing the drums but the older he got the more questions ran through his head.

At age 12 he began experimenting with drugs and alcohol. “I think my rebellious spirit was starting to take over.” As a young child in a Christian home Paul wasn't able to do certain things or listen to certain music. Rock and Roll was unheard of. He was introduced to Rock and

Roll and this, along with drugs, made him feel invincible. During his high school years, drugs and alcohol became a very important part of his life. He was an addict. “I used the drugs and alcohol to help cope with the hurt and pain of life.” Paul knew who God was and that God was there but this lifestyle had taken hold of him. “Many prayers from my mom and dad were prayed for me in this time of my life.”

The party never went away, the music never went away. He played for a rock and roll band, and was writing and singing. His talent for playing the drums grew as did his talent for writing songs. The problem was that Paul was using the talent that God had given him for destruction.

God really got a hold of Paul and his girlfriend, now his wife, when he was about 30. “We were traveling home; I was drunk and had no business behind the wheel, when my car crossed the yellow line. The last thing I remember was the headlights of a semi-tractor trailer heading right for us. I don't know how or what happened but my car managed to go back in the correct lane and I was able to stop the car without so much as a scratch.” Paul continued to tell me he knows now that it was the hand of God that

kept his car from slamming into the front of that semi. "That should have ended my life. I have never been as shaken up as I was that night."



A few days later he and his girlfriend decided it was time to have a long talk about their lifestyle. They both knew that something had to change. "That day we poured out hundreds of dollars of alcohol into the sink." A few months later they got married, and then a few days later they went and both gave their lives to God, together. "That night at the altar God spoke to me. He told me, "Son, I've called you to a ministry and if you leave here today and refuse my call I will withdraw my hand from you." I cried out to God to come into my heart." Paul and his new wife both gave their



hearts to the Lord. It was truly a new start for both of them in many ways. They had a new life with each other and more importantly a new life with God.

Paul continued to write music. This time, however, his music had meaning behind it. His songs are much more than music with words. "My songs are prayers, testimonies and stories of God's grace. My music is my testimony. My songs are my prayers to God. I wrote a song a few years

ago, "Under that Banner." That song is my life and my testimony about God's amazing grace." His song, "Pouring Rain," talks about how life is saturated with problems but God is always with you.

"I look back at my life and I am amazed at what God has done for me. I shouldn't even be here, I don't deserve to be here but God's grace is truly amazing." Paul's ministry has come a long way in a short time.

His first CD project, *PRAISE HYMN*, now out of print, was released seven years ago. While his music was beginning he also became an ordained minister. God was using Paul in many ways. "I learned that there is nothing better than surrendering everything to God. I have much more fun now with music than I did before I got saved."

Today Paul has released a total of seven CD's. His latest, *BOLDLY PROCLAIM* was released a few months ago. He has taught himself how to play the guitar all while performing at 50-70 concerts a year. He is also a part of the Illinois Country Music Association.

When Paul is at one of his concerts he not only sings and plays the guitar, but he gets to give his testimony which usually ends with an altar call. He is able to relate to people with similar issues and tell them that this is not the end. "I tell people, 'You can never out run God. He loves you and has a place and a purpose for you.'" Paul shared with me the story of when he was able to help a girl whose mom had many addictions. People are able to relate to him. People's lives are changed. Tears are shed and sins are left at the cross. This is why Paul is in the ministry. For more information on Paul Summers, visit his web site is www.country4jesus.com.



2013 DIAMOND Awards



Diamond Awards Round 2 Voting Is Now Open!

The votes are in! Thank you for your participation in the round one nomination process. The second phase of voting is now open. Please vote and encourage your friends, family and fans to vote as well.

Living Legend

Ed O'Neal
Brian Free
Gerald Wolfe
Tim Riley
Michael English
Guy Penrod
Kelly Nelon Clark
Mark Lowry
Ray Dean Reese
Squire Parsons

Mixed Group

The Isaacs
The Talleys
Karen Peck & New River
Collingsworth Family
The Nelons
The Perrys
The Whisnants
Jeff and Sheri Easter

The Hoppers
The Martins

Quartet

Brian Free and Assurance
Triumphant Quartet

Gold City
Gaither Vocal Band
Tribute Quartet
Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
Legacy 5
The LeFevre Quartet
Kingdom Heirs
Mark Trammel Quartet

Trio

Karen Peck & New River
Greater Vision
Booth Brothers
The Nelons
The Talleys
Declaration Trio
The Easters
The Martins
The Bowlings
Sisters

Duet

Wilburn & Wilburn
Aaron and Amanda Crabb
Dailey & Vincent
Reign Song

Josh & Ashley Franks
Second Generation
Weston and Christy Hinson
Reggie and Lady Love Smith
Jim and Melissa Brady
Randy & Sheri Miller

Female Vocalist

TaRanda Greene
Janet Paschal
Charlotte Ritchie
Karen Peck Gooch
Kim Hopper
Lynda Randle
Sheri Easter
Libbi Perry Stuffle
Christy Sutherland
Amber Nelon

Male Vocalist

Doug Anderson
Ivan Parker
Michael English
Guy Penrod
Jason Crabb
David Phelps

Steve Ladd
Mark Bishop
Mark Lowry
Wes Hampton

Sunrise

Declaration Trio
Promise
The Griffins
Canton Junction
His Mercies
The Cargills
Mercy's Bridge
Morgan Easter
Red Roots
11th Hour

Song of the Year

I Want To Be That Man - Brian Free & Assurance
Come and See - LeFevre Quartet
Excuse Me Are You Jesus - Nelons
Victory Party - Porter Family
Greater Still - Christy Sutherland
I Got A Hold Of God This Morning - Perrys

Hold On- Canton Junction
Unspoken Request – McKameys
Sustaining Grace- Karen Peck & New River

Battle Stand- Old Paths

Album of the Year

Eyes Wide Open – Jeff & Sheri Easter
Nothing But Love – Brian Free & Assurance
But For The Cross – LeFevres
Come On Home – Nelons
Pure and Simple – Gaither Vocal Band
Through The Night – Perrys
Love Is Stronger – Jason Crabb
Lifetime- Mark Trammell Quartet
Some People Change – Michael English

Count Me In- The Hoppers

Christian Country Group

The Easters
The Isaacs
Red Roots
Branded
The Martins
The Cargills
The Roarks
The Akins
Doyle Lawson & Quick Silver

Parish Family

Country Female

Sheri Easter
Christy Sutherland
Mary James
Sonya Isaacs Yeary
Laura Dodd
Keshia Parish

Ava Kasich
Abby Paskvan
Lindsay Huggins
Kali Rose

Country Male

Tim Livingston
Jason Crabb
Guy Penrod
Jeff Easter
Jim Sheldon
Doug Anderson
Chuck Day
Marty Raybon
Shane Roark
Tommy Brandt

Country Album

Eyes Wide Open – Jeff & Sheri Easter
Consume Me- Tony Dean Family
Here's A Miracle- Tim Livingston
Still Putting God First- Jim Sheldon
Hymns – Guy Penrod
Greater Still – Christy Sutherland

Love Is Stronger – Jason Crabb
Hand To The Plow – Marty Raybon

Greatest Hits- Tommy Brandt
From The Heart Of Nashville – Mark 209

Anthony Burger Instrumentalist of the Year

Gordon Mote
Kevin Williams
Kim Collingsworth
Jeff Stice
Matthew Holt
Trey Ivey
Madison Easter
Josh Singletary
Michael Lott
Tim Griffin

Songwriter of the Year

Jim Brady
Kenna West
Gerald Crabb
Rodney Griffin
Phil Cross
Wayne Haun
Diane Wilkenson
Jason Clark
Christy Sutherland
Joseph Habedank

Bluegrass Artist of the Year

Isaacs
Dailey & Vincent
Red Roots
Doyle Lawson & Quick Silver
Marty Rabon
Cargills
Primitive Quartet
Mountain Faith
Rochesters
Canaan's Crossing

Video of the Year

I Wanna Be That Man - Brian Free & Assurance
Excuse Me Are You Jesus - Nelons
God Whispers - Lindsey Huggins
Live at North Star – Declaration Trio
Stones- Ava Kasich
Classics - David Phelps
Don't Give Up – Adam's Call
Pure & Simple – Gaithers
Country Christian Girl - Red Roots
Ask Me Why - Legacy Five

Artist Website

Jason Crabb
Brian Free & Assurance
The Nelons
Christy Sutherland
Gaithers
Declaration Trio
Karen Peck & New River

Triumphant Quartet

The Perrys

The Booth Brothers

Industry Website

Christian Voice
Singing News
Gospel Gigs
Creative Vision Entertainment
Daywind
Gospel Music Today
Absolutely Gospel
Solid Gospel
Sogo Radio
Southern Gospel Times

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award

Dave Taylor- KWFC
Greg Hutchins- Solid Gospel
Lottie Squires-WCKB
Guy Penrod - Gospel Music Showcase
Daniel Britt – WXRI
Ken & Jean Grady- Gospel Music Today
Tim Livingston – WGNZ
Anneice Loudermilk - Heaven's Jubilee
Radio Program
Bruce Edwards – WCGW
Les Butler- Solid Gospel

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The Cross of Christ

By Dr. Jeff Steele

In Matthew 27:39-44 the mocking crowd among other things was challenging Jesus to come down from the cross to prove He was the Son of God...

The cross of Christ is the central theme of all the scripture. Everything in the Old Testament points forward to the cross. Since then everything has pointed BACK to the cross. God measures everything by the cross. You can have ALL of your sins forgiven but God says you must first come by the cross. You can have Heaven as your eternal destination but God says you must first come by the cross. Romans 8:1 says there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ. All of your past that has you condemned before God can be done away with but in order to access that benefit you must come by the cross of Christ. God measures everything by the cross. Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world on the cross BUT Jesus was not the only thing that died that day. SIN died at the cross! I know sin and SINS are still being committed every day. That's the reason we have prisons that incarcerate those who perform sins like rape and murder and robberies and all the rest. Jeff if that's true then how can you say sin DIED at the cross.

I don't mean sin died as in it stopped happening rather I mean sin died as the reason that mankind was granted Heaven or was sentenced to Hell. The reason people die and go to spend eternity separated from God in Hell is because they reject the cross. The only reason men go to heaven is not because of the lack of sins they commit but because they accept the cross. All existence in the next life whether it is in Heaven or Hell is based on our acceptance or our rejection of the work of Christ on the cross.

The religious leaders (Pharisees and such) had completely misinterpreted something Jesus had said. Imagine that: religion misunderstood the scripture. Wow I hope that never catches on. Ha Ha!! Jesus had said He was going to tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days. They thought He meant that He was going to literally tear down the temple and get it back upright in just three days. He of course was referring to Himself. They totally missed it as religion usually does. They seized on it and made fun of Him for it as He hung on the cross. They said "hey...you who can rebuild the temple in three days. You can't even save yourself from the cross." They said

"IF you are the Son of God like you have said you are and STILL say you are then come down from the cross. That's it...we will believe you and everything you say if you will just come down from the cross." Doesn't that beg the question? It sure would have been tempting (at least to me) to do just that. Shut them up. Come down off the cross. Prove who I am just like they said to do. But Jesus never said a word or did a thing. He hung right there and died. Why didn't He come down? What was it that held Him to the cross?

It wasn't the nails was it? He had opened blind eyes, stuck His fingers into deaf ears and blind eyes could see and deaf ears could hear. One day he laid his hand over in a casket being carried to the Nain cemetery and the dead inhabitant of the coffin sat up, got out and went to eat lunch! No for this incredible God/man three Roman nails would have been no problem to overcome.

It wasn't because He was friendless that He didn't come down. You remember the story when He was leaving the garden and the soldiers came to get Him and Peter drew his sword from his sheath and said "you'll take Him over my dead body" then he swung wildly and cut off a soldier's ear. Jesus simply picked up the ear, returned it to the man's head and said "Peter don't you know that if there is something here that I can't handle my Father would dispatch 12 legions of angels to come to my aid at a split second's notice." See the songwriter wasn't taking poetic license when he penned the words "He could have called ten thousand angels...to destroy the world and set Him free..." He was quoting what Jesus said to Peter. No He wasn't on the cross because He was out of friends to help or Heaven's angels to defend. But what WAS it? The accusers said "come down and we'll believe you're the one." He didn't come down. What was the power that held Him there...on the cross...like supernatural glue?

His love for you and me held Him there. He had said it

to Nicodemus... "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." His unusual, unending, unselfish love for you and me held Him like glue to the cross.

His submission to the will of God held Him there. He came to do a work for His Father and He meant to get it done. When He had come to earth He said "Lo I come to do your will. In Gethsemane facing the cup set before Him He said "Father if it could be that somebody else could do this let them do it nevertheless don't let it be MY will but yours that is done here." He was COmmitted to and SUBmitted to the will of God and it held Him to the cross!

Our sins held Him there. Sin brings sorrow and suffering to our world. It is a part of the curse from sin. Every person who suffers right now in a hospital room, nursing home or on the bed of affliction is there because of the curse of sin originally brought on our world by Adam and Eve in the garden. Sin did its greatest work on the cross when it crucified Jesus. Our temptation might be to say "shame on you sin for doing that" but it wasn't JUST sin; it was OUR sin that held Him to the cross. He was wounded for OUR transgressions. He was bruised for OUR iniquities. ALL we like sheep have gone astray. The Lord has laid on HIM the iniquities of us ALL!

The mocking crowd said "IF you are the Son of God come down from the cross" but: "He didn't come down oh no He didn't come down. Ten thousand angels were camped all around. He could have called them to set Him free. But He stayed on the cross for you and for me. No it wasn't the nails. It was His love for us, His submission to God's will and our sins that caused Him to stay and defeat sin and pay our debt on the cross.

Photo Courtesy of Json

The Singing Cookes

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Facebook Band Page

YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Dustin Leming

BY ERIN STEVENS

It is always so encouraging to watch young people rise up in this great music industry. That is precisely the reason we bring “Younger Perspective” to you every month. It gives hope to all of us who love this music that the next generation of musicians are finding their place and stepping up to the plate. Such is the case with 22-year-old, piano playing machine, Dustin Leming of Declaration. Dustin has been traveling with the group as their piano player and bus driver for a year. This young man has such a passion to serve Christ through his God-given talents! Let’s take the next few moments to get a closer glimpse into the life Mr. Leming...

Erin: At what age did you feel the call into music ministry?

Dustin: I have always had a love for Christian music, coming from a family that has roots deeply planted in ministry and music. I began singing around the age of 15.

Erin: Who is your biggest influence in life and why?

Dustin: Gerald Wolfe has influenced me the most. I grew up listening to Greater Vision at The TruthSeeker’s Homecoming every year and always wanted to be just like Gerald when I grew up! When I started traveling with Declaration, God opened the door for me to become friends with him. He extended a hand of advice and friendship to me anytime I needed it. He’s one of the most classy, godly men I know.

Erin: So far in your career, what concert(s) have touched you the most and personally affected you the deepest?

Dustin: Wow...there are so many to choose from! We’ve been in many various venues over the past year. We’ve seen souls saved, healed, families put back together...the list is endless. So I would have to say those services are my favorites.

Erin: What is your life-verse?

Dustin: “I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.” -Psalm 89:1

Erin: What is your favorite food? (Seems like the boy



has quite a sweet tooth...)

Dustin: Pumpkin Pie & Peach Rings!

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

Dustin: Fan: "Do you take credit cards?" My response, "Yes sir!" Fan: "Can I borrow yours?"

Erin: Do you play any other instruments besides piano?

Dustin: Yes, I play 15 different instruments: Piano, Bass Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Mandolin, Organ, Accordion, Q-Chord, Auto-Harp, Banjo, Harmonica, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone and the Tuba.

Erin: Other than Southern Gospel, what is the most common genre you would be found listening to?

Dustin: I'm a big fan of Christian Country music!

Erin: What is something no one would ever guess about you?

Dustin: I'm an only child, I love being outdoors and I enjoy horseback riding.

Erin: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Dustin: I see myself in music ministry because I feel

this is the calling God has placed on my life. That could change in a moment, though. I'm willing to go anywhere and be anything God leads/wants me to be!

We all could learn something from the attitude and commitment Dustin has for the Lord. Sometimes when you feel bogged down with life, and don't quite know which direction to turn next, just remember that He needs willing vessels to follow Him anywhere, and to be anything He has divinely called you to be. If you have not had the privileged opportunity to hear Declaration live in concert for yourself, I urge you to check out their schedule and go support these awesome young men! Make sure you take the time to go shake the hand of their piano player. Maybe even bring him a homemade piece of pumpkin pie; I'm sure he'll probably love you forever.



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2013 Gospel Legend's Reunion

August 2 & 3, 2013

Goodlettsville Cumberland
Presbyterian Church

226 South Main Street
Goodlettsville, TN.

Organizer & Promoter Tim Stutler



How many times have you heard an old song that seemed to transport you back to a day when life was simpler and more joyful? Often we recall the days of our childhood, forgetting all the scrapes and bangs, and look upon those times as carefree, as time has a way of erasing some of the painful experiences of life. When we hear one of those "good old gospel songs" from way back, it has sort of a healing quality that allows us to transcend the cares of the day, like when we hear a recording of the Happy Goodman Family singing, "I Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now," Dad Speer singing, "I Just Began to Live", or when we watch a Gaither Homecoming video with all those great gospel legends who have gone on to be with the Lord. We'll have to wait for that great reunion in heaven before we'll be privileged to see them "live in concert" again, but you know we have lots of "living legends" of gospel music that we can still see "live in concert," but for how much longer we cannot be sure, as many are getting up in years, and it may not be too long before the Lord calls them home. Indeed, our beloved

friend Stephen Hill was called home last August at the age of 55, just two days after performing at the 2012 Gospel Legend's Reunion. Who in attendance that night would have ever dreamed that it would be the last time to hear him live, and that is just another reason why we organized the Gospel Legend's Reunion, because we never know when it might be the last time we see one of our gospel heroes.

On August 19, 2011 the first Gospel Legend's Reunion was held at Madison Heights Baptist Church in Madison, TN, after Pastor Tim Stutler conceived and organized the event. The notion of bringing some of the legends of gospel music together came to Pastor Stutler many years earlier, and he was finally able to see his plan come to fruition in great part due to his relationship with the legendary Ed Hill. With Ed's help and encouragement, Stutler was able to call upon Donnie Sumner, Bill Baize, George Forbis, Tanks Tackett, Roger Horne, and Garry Valentine to meet for the first Gospel Legend's Reunion. As modest as it was, the artists performed for a full house,



leaving the crowd begging for more. After that night it was determined to have another "reunion" the following year.

Due to the need for larger seating capacity, in August 2012, the Second Annual Gospel Legend's Reunion was moved to the Goodlettsville Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Goodlettsville, TN, where Pastor Stutler's son, Tim Stutler II, is pastor. After the first "reunion", Pastor Tim had no problem recruiting "legends" for the 2012 Gospel Legend's Reunion, and he had no difficulty filling his son's church for the second reunion. The show included Ed Hill, Donnie Sumner, George Forbis, Bill Baize, Garry Valentine, Armond Morales, Jim Murray, Stephen Hill, Gene McDonald, Tracy Dartt, Gene Higgins, and Steve Warren, an Elvis impersonator, to perform a Tribute to Elvis with several of the "real" Elvis backup singers. In addition, the show included Chico Nix, Butch Sanders, Carl Sanders, and Gary Scott from the old Prophets Quartet, as well as Royce Taylor, and Tim Duncan, and the Gospel Reunion house band under the direction of Keith Wil-

banks. The overall response to the 2012 Gospel Legend's Reunion was overwhelming with inquiries from all over the country requesting information about the next "reunion", as well as from artists desiring to be included in future concerts, therefore the event had to be expanded to two days.

On **Friday, August 2**, the doors open at **5PM** with a "pre-concert" concert at **6PM** with **The Singing Stutlers** and various artists performing, and then at **7PM**, there will be a reunion of the **Singing Americans** with Dwayne Burke, Danny Funderburk, Ed Hill, and Scott Whitener, followed by a reunion of past (members of) **J. D. Sumner & The Stamps** with Ed Hill, Donnie Sumner, and Bill Baize, as well as a **Tribute to Elvis** with Steve Warren, and past Elvis backup singers. Also featured will be Nick Bruno, Ann Downing, Joanne Cash, Bill Dykes, Tank Tackett, and Roy Tremble.



Showcases begin at **1PM** on **Saturday, August 3**, with a reunion concert of **The Prophets Quartet** with Ed Hill, Chico Nix, Carl Sanders, and Butch Sanders. At **2PM** **The Singing Stutlers** will perform with Tim & Judy Stutler,



and their sons Tim II and Matthew. The **3PM** showcase will feature past members of the **Cathedrals, Rhythm Masters, Jerry & The Goffs, and The Plainsmen**. The **4PM** showcase will feature a “**jam session**” with many of the artists and band.

Saturday, August 3, 6PM, the doors open with a “pre-concert” concert with the **GLR House Band**, and **The Singing Stutlers**. At **7PM** there will be a reunion of some past **Imperials** including Armond Morales, Jim



Murray, Dave Will, and Jeff Walker followed by other artists including Gene McDonald, Danny Funderburk, Donnie Sumner, and others.



Pastor Stutler hopes to do his part in preserving the music that he has loved all his life, and to present an opportunity for the younger generation to see and hear the gospel greats who have remained steadfast in the field of gospel music, making them living “Gospel Legends”. Plans are already underway for the 2014 Gospel Legend’s Reunion, and there is a clear indication that it will be bigger and better, with even more “Gospel Legends”.

For information about the 2013 Gospel Legend’s Reunion visit the website at www.gospellegendsreunion.com or call Tim Stutler at 304-615-5655 or 615-758-0237.



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For more information or questions:

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WDFB's Top 35
Southern Gospel Songs

1. **I Have Been Blessed** Gressons
2. **Just Preach Jesus** Kingdom Heirs
3. **Unspoken Request** McKameys
4. **J-E-S-U-S- Spells Love** John's River Qt.
5. **I Got A Hold of God This Morning** Perry's
6. **Celebration Like We've Never Known** Bradys
7. **Because He Loves Me** Minister's Qt.
8. **God's Great** Old Paths
9. **There I began To Live** New Ground
10. **Lord Take All That I Have** Carroll Rober-son
11. **I'll Leave It All Be- hind** New Salem
12. **The Bible Told Me So** Songfellows
13. **I Don't Need A Man- sion** Marvin Marrow
14. **Back To Grace** Kingsmen
15. **Expect to Win** Ivan Parker
16. **We're Not Home Yet** Joyaires
17. **Here Comes The Lord** Ernie Dawson
18. **In The Precious Blood** Daryl Williams
19. **Sustaining Grace** Karen Peck & New River
20. **I'll Never Sail Alone** Inspirations



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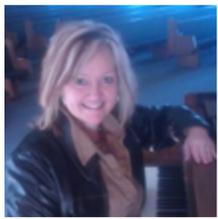
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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern

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



Rhonda Frye is an ordained minister serving as the Associate and Worship Pastor at Rock Pointe Church in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. She is a recording artist, songwriter, preschool music teacher and sings with family trio, "Rhonda Frye & RiverSide."

Rhonda is from Ringgold, GA and is supported by her husband and their 3 children. To learn more about Rhonda Frye Music Ministries, visit: <http://rhondafrye.com>



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

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



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

Gospel music provides a great opportunity to positively impact the careers of so many in Gospel music. Email Sandi at sandi@sgnscoops.com.



Through a series of events, Jeff Hawes has moved from the classroom where he taught high school English in Jackson county, Alabama to the tour bus of gospel great Karen Peck & New River. Jeff chronicles the fulfillment

of his gospel music dreams and his road life exclusively for SGN Scoops. Learn more about him at <http://www.karenpeckandnewriver.com>



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

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



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

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Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, spreading the message that there is joy around the bend. She serves as a group leader for

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



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will

glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at lorraine@sgnscoops.com



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

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



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

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

Morning Light.

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

Website: www.scottrhoades.net



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



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



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

Contributors

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

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



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

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



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

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



Dr. Jeff R. Steele is a pastor, conference speaker, singer, songwriter, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is currently the Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Their services are webcast worldwide; they have a weekly television program and host an annual Jubilee each August that attracts hundreds from around the southeast. Dr. Steele is beginning his eighth year there. As a songwriter Jeff has been credited with 17 Number One songs in Christian music as well as four BMI Gold Medals for Great National Popularity as measured by Broadcast Performances. He has also been recognized by BMI as Christian Songwriter of the Year on several occasions. The group, The Steeles was featured across the nation and was seen on numerous magazine covers, feature articles, television and radio programs during their ministry on the road. Jeff is still writes songs and articles, sings on occasion and speaks in conferences and revivals. Jeff is married to Sherry, his wife of 31 years and they have three grown children. Visit Jeff on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and at www.jeffrsteele.com.



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

Contributors

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Charlie Sexton is a Minister Of Music near Atlanta, Georgia and possesses a passion for traditional Southern Gospel Music. His formative years were spent attending church with Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters. He credits them for instilling a love for exciting, entertaining, yet heartfelt music presentations. An avid historian, Charlie has over 5000 vinyl

Southern Gospel recordings, cassette tapes and compact discs, as well as vintage memorabilia. He is an accomplished pianist, having toured with several well-known groups like Liberty and New Desire. As a sound and recording engineer, Charlie was nominated in 2008 for an Emmy® Award for his work on a featured documentary on Kennesaw State University's Men's Basketball team. Charlie and his girlfriend, singer Linda Foster, have worked with singers, musicians, promoters and pastors over the years promoting Southern Gospel Music. Email: chsexton@mindspring.com www.sweetcreekpromotions.com.