

JUNE 2014

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
AUTUMN NELON CLARK
DAILEY AND VINCENT
FREEDOM'S CROSSING
AND DANNY FUNDERBURK

SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



THE DUNAWAYS



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OUR MISSION

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

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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Happy Father's Day to all of you who are celebrating this month! I was thinking about how we as Christian men can impact our world. It doesn't have to be in a huge, earth-shattering way. It can be as simple as an ordinary conversation, building up another human being that we meet along the way.

As I was travelling to Branson, Missouri for our first Ozark Gospel Music Convention in May, I was taking a taxi to my hotel. I was chatting with the taxi driver, just another ordinary guy like me, working to make ends meet.

The taxi driver was a family man and began to talk about what it meant to him to be a father. He has four children and it was clearly important to him that fathers take an active role in teaching their faith to their children. It was also important to him that parents show their faith by being active in their church, where his wife helps in the food pantry three times a week. Living his Christianity, having a solid marriage, and being a man of faith was very important to this gentleman.

My taxi driver was also a Veteran. I thanked him for serving our country, another subject he discussed passionately. He loves the USA and he loves the Lord. He talked about the need for more leaders to stand up and lead this Country with faith and commitment to the truth.

I have often thought about our discussion in that taxi and I've come to the realization that all it takes to impact our world is to be a little more open, a little more interested in sharing with others, a little more willing to talk to the person sharing our seat on the bus or the guy driving our taxi.

Have a great June. And let's all find a way to share our love for Jesus with our neighbors.

If you have any questions about Jesus, faith and living your Christianity, please write me. rob@sgnscoops.com

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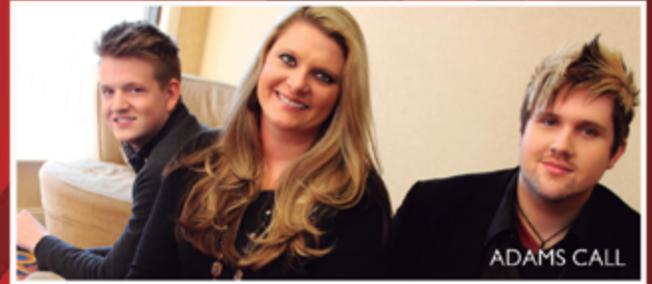


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A Note From A Features Editor

By Lorraine Walker

*“And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;”*

~James Russell Lowell (1819–1891), U.S. poet. The Vision of Sir Launfal (l. 73–81).

Welcome to the June edition of SGN Scoops digital magazine! We hope you are enjoying a few ‘rare’ days such as James Russell Lowell talked about. If you do, please spend them reading this issue of Scoops. There is a lot of great content from a lot of dedicated Christian writers who desire to bring you entertainment, edification and maybe even a little education.

I’ve had the privilege to work with the staff of SGN Scoops magazine since it began in September 2009. I’ve watched and participated as it has grown and evolved into a publication that is diverse as well as respected by Gospel music fans, peers and other industry members. I’m proud to be a part of this magazine, this website and Coastal Media Group. We continue to grow and change as we strive to meet the needs of artists and fans alike.

Growth is impossible without change and we see that all around us at this time of year. Buds open, flowers bloom and then the petals fall to the ground. We love watching the change in children as they grow and develop into young adults. It isn’t quite so noticeable in older adults but we are always growing, changing and

maturing.

I hope you take time this summer to allow your spirit and your mind to grow as you get into the Word of God and let His truths sink in, expanding your knowledge of the Almighty. Take time to read this magazine too as the truths of those who have walked this path are shared through the devotionals of Dr. Jeff Steele, Kelly Nelon Clark and others.

The summer also heralds the approach of those terrific outdoor concert events and vacation sings. I hope you are able to take advantage of some of these over the next few weeks. Go out, hear some great music and support the artists who travel many miles and many days to fulfill their commission to ‘go and tell.’ Relax and let the message soak in as well as the music. Open your heart to what the Lord is telling you through the words of the greatest music in the world!

Don’t let these rare summer days be an excuse for you to let your mind and your spirit go on vacation. Read, dwell, and let the Holy Spirit reveal the greatness of our God to your mind, heart and soul. He will refresh you like the summer rains and enable you to grow even deeper in Him. Remember to bless the Lord... “Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:5).

GospelGigs.com

Featured Groups for June

Support Southern Gospel music and support these groups the next time they're in your area.

Appointed Quartet

<http://www.appointedqt.com>

The Inmans

<http://www.theinmans.com>

Persuaded

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PersuadedVideo>

Blackwood Brothers Quartet

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

Jeff Steinberg Ministry Team

<http://www.tinygiant.com>

Pine Ridge Boys

<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

Bradford Ministries

<http://www.facebook.com/bradfordministries1>

Jim Sheldon

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

Roger Wells Ministries

www.rogerwellsministries.com

The Bridgemans

<http://www.thebridgemans.com>

John & Dody Martin

<http://www.martinministries.org>

Siouxland Gospel Promotions

<http://www.facebook.com/SiouxlandGospelPromotions>

City on a Hill Quartet

<http://www.cityonahillquartet.com>

LeFevre Quartet

<http://www.thelefevrequartet.com>

Soul Seeking Disciples

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

Divine Mercy

<http://www.divinemercysingers.com>

Living Fountains

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

Southern Plainsmen Quartet

www.southernplainsmen.com

4 His Praise Trio

<http://www.4hispraisetrio.org>

Lumber River Quartet

<http://www.lumberriverministries.com>

Stephen Wood

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

Four The Cross

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/4thecross>

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The Helmsmen

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MercySong

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LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

“Thankful for the Wills Legacy”

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



“Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not His benefits” is my theme as I reflect on a life in gospel music that is still overflowing with God’s favor.

A few days ago, a video of a song by the “Bob Wills Family” was posted on my Facebook page and received tremendous response. The fabulous comments from multitudes of friends filled me with thankfulness for the privilege of helping pioneer a gospel singing family who traveled the highways, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am thankful my brother Bob and his family are carrying on that gospel music heritage that began in 1938 when Pop Wills formed the first Wills Family Quartet with my older sister Rene and brother Calvin. I was included in the quartet, a ten-year-old alto who could read



shaped notes and knew every song by heart. I still love being on the platform. The twins, Bob and Betty, were born that same year and took their place in the family group at a very early age.

In 1941, Pop and Mom and all of us kids moved from Texas to California seeking new opportunities to sing the gospel. In 1943 another Wills kid, Norma Jo, was born, destined to grow up singing with the family. Mom didn’t sing but she worked hard and supported our dreams.

In 1944 we moved home to Texas at the invitation of Frank Stamps to attend the Stamps Quartet Music School and represent the company in our travels. We settled in Fort Worth, and this city remains home to the “Bob Wills Family” where Bob’s middle son, Don Wills, pastors First Baptist Church. Don sings with the family when his schedule permits, with Ron, Angel, and Bob. Oldest son Bobby Lee, his wife Annette, children Bethany and Landry are on the road full time across the nation, singing the gospel.

My brother Bob is remembered by many for his male quartet “Bob Wills and The Inspirations” in the ‘60’s and ‘70’s, featured on our nationally syndicated TV show “Wills Family Inspirational Time,” one of the first series to be taped in color. In 1976, Bob and his wife formed the “Bob Wills Family” and launched a song ministry that is still going strong.

About three years ago, Bob began a weekly Friday night concert series at “Dove Creek Café” in Roanoke, Texas, in the Fort Worth/Dallas area. Many gospel music legends have performed there, as well as local talent. Bob’s



twin Betty lives in Nashville, Tennessee, still singing and loved by all who know her. She and her husband Walt are very busy serving our Lord at Victory Bap-

tist Church. Norma Jo is married to Dr. Billy Hamm, celebrating 35 years as pastor of Mountain States Baptist, Denver, Colorado. Promoting the message of Jesus Christ in gospel music is what our family is all about, and I thank God for the Wills Family heritage.

Bless the Lord O My Soul!

Photo A. Norma Jo, Bob, Lou, Betty—Remaining Wills siblings, celebrating Lou's inclusion in the Gaither Bible Photo B. Bob Wills Family-Don, Bob, Bobby Lee, Ron, Annette, Angel

Photo C. The Inspirationals-Curtis Elkins, Ralph

Green, Bob Wills, Jim Wesson, Don Wills



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The Dunaways

By Lorraine Walker

The Dunaways are a family trio whose music defies description. It's Country, Gospel and Bluegrass. It's a mix of the Isaacs, the Freemans and the Goodmans. The one thing you can know for sure is that the message is the love of Jesus, undiluted. Nominated and winners for a multitude of awards from the Singing News, the Diamond Awards, SoGospelNews and the Southern Gospel Music Guild, this family has been traveling and record-

ing for over two decades. Their music will touch your heart and their message will stay there, both making an indelible imprint on your soul. If you've never heard The Dunaways, then chances are you've never quite had "Church In The Kitchen."

Tammy Dunaway is the matriarch of the trio, singing alongside her husband Randall and daughter Kanah.

Tammy is also a frequenter of Facebook, but little did she know a random status that she would type would end up being the title song and radio release of their latest project, "Church In The Kitchen."

"The truth is, since we became a born again Christians, I have always had church in the kitchen, in the car, over the washing machine, cooking, you name it!" exclaims Tammy. "More than once a song on the radio just blessed me until I had to stop what I was doing and praise Him! I may be wrong but I think this is what the Lord meant when He said for us to 'pray without ceasing'"

"One morning, I just simply posted a facebook status that said: 'It Feels Like A Church In The Kitchen Morning.' Songwriter Lee Black saw it and it just so happened that he had a writing session with Sue C. Smith and our producer Jerry Salley that week." Tammy continues, "We had already picked all the songs for the project. Kanah and I left for a week in Nashville to work on arrangements with Jerry and go do the tracking sessions. When we got about half way to Nashville the phone rang and it was Jerry. They had written "Church In The Kitchen." It was love at first listen!"

Randall Dunaway says "Church In The Kitchen" is his favorite track on the album. "It reminds me of my grandmother and the church we found the Lord in." Kanah agrees. "Again and again, it stirs memories of where it all started!" Tammy adds, "This song is fun and you can count on great big smiles from every audience. People who were raised by a real woman of God or had a grandmother that loved the Lord are reminded of how special that was. They were not shy about letting you know where they stood with the Lord. We need that back in our homes in America!"

Tammy concludes, "This album is our history. We have lived these songs and they are very, very special. We can sing you our story without saying a word."

It appears this writer isn't the only one unable to put a tag on the type of music The Dunaways play. Tammy says that it's 'gumbo'. "It comes from our blood, over time molding us with what we were surrounded with. Through my maternal blood comes a com-

ination of Bluegrass straight out of, and flavored by, Louisiana. Paternal, Pentecostal Music. We grew up surrounded by the Blues of Mississippi, Country, Rock, and Gospel, and then add the natural bluegrass. Put all that in a pot and you've got 'Gumbo'. Very eclectic."

Kanah was raised in a house filled with music, so it's no surprise that she began her singing career early. She first sang in church at three years of age, performing a tune her Mom wrote. She debuted with The Dunaways at eight, singing, "Jesus Has A Way Of Making Things A Whole Lot Better," which she says scared her to death.

Wherever she sings, the audience appreciates Kanah's lovely voice, but some of her fans sometimes compliment her in a way that catches her off-guard. "Somebody told me I sounded like Peg McKamey one time, and though I love her, our voices sound completely different." Tammy says that she enjoys some of the surprising things that fans share, especially when they think that Randall is her Dad and Kanah her sister!

Fans also share some very serious situations with these musical ministers, often family situations that need a lot of prayer. Kanah says people will come to talk with her, "...mostly about situations involving sick children or miscarriages because I minister about that sometimes in concert." The Dunaways will often steer people toward



their local church or pastors for follow-up.

As they look toward the upcoming weeks and months, the Dunaways share some goals they have made. Personally, they say they determine to be more organized and focused. Randall adds, "To continually do my job as unto the Lord." From a ministry point of view, Tammy says she hopes the Dunaways will 'reach as many people in person as possible' and Kanah wants to see more people encouraged. Randall shares, "Our main goal is always to lift up the name of Jesus and yield ourselves to Him."



down on the stage for the last time, the Dunaways have a few parting words for their audience and the world.

Tammy says, "The Word is alive and obeying it will change your life. Don't waste any more time doing life your way." Kanah adds, "It never too late, it's never too hopeless, God specializes in those types of situations. Keep an open line of communication with Him. When you quit praying, that is when things get all messed up in your mind."

Be sure to hear The Dunaways when they are in your area and ask your local radio station to play their music. You will find yourself having "Church In The Kitchen!"

For more on the Dunaways, visit <http://www.dunaway-music.com/>

Visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/dunawaymusic>

As the Dunaways travel from coast to coast, many audiences fall in love with their music and message. Fellow artists are also beginning to know this family trio and respect them for their consistency and honesty. The group recently performed at the Ozark Gospel Music Convention, where Rob Patz, one of the hosts of the event, said, "These folks are amazing in concert and they connect well with an audience."

Lindsay Huggins, Christian artist and fellow performer at the Ozark Convention says, "The Dunaways are genuine, talented, anointed! The title cut from their new project "Church in the Kitchen" will stick with you. In fact, I was singing it in my kitchen just this morning!"

"Having heard the Dunaways for the first time live at The Ozark Gospel Music Convention, I was totally blown away with their talent and their heart for people," says Jonathan Edwards of Faith's Journey and co-host of the Convention. "I was so impressed and I can't wait to bring them back to Missouri."

After all the singing is done and the lights have gone





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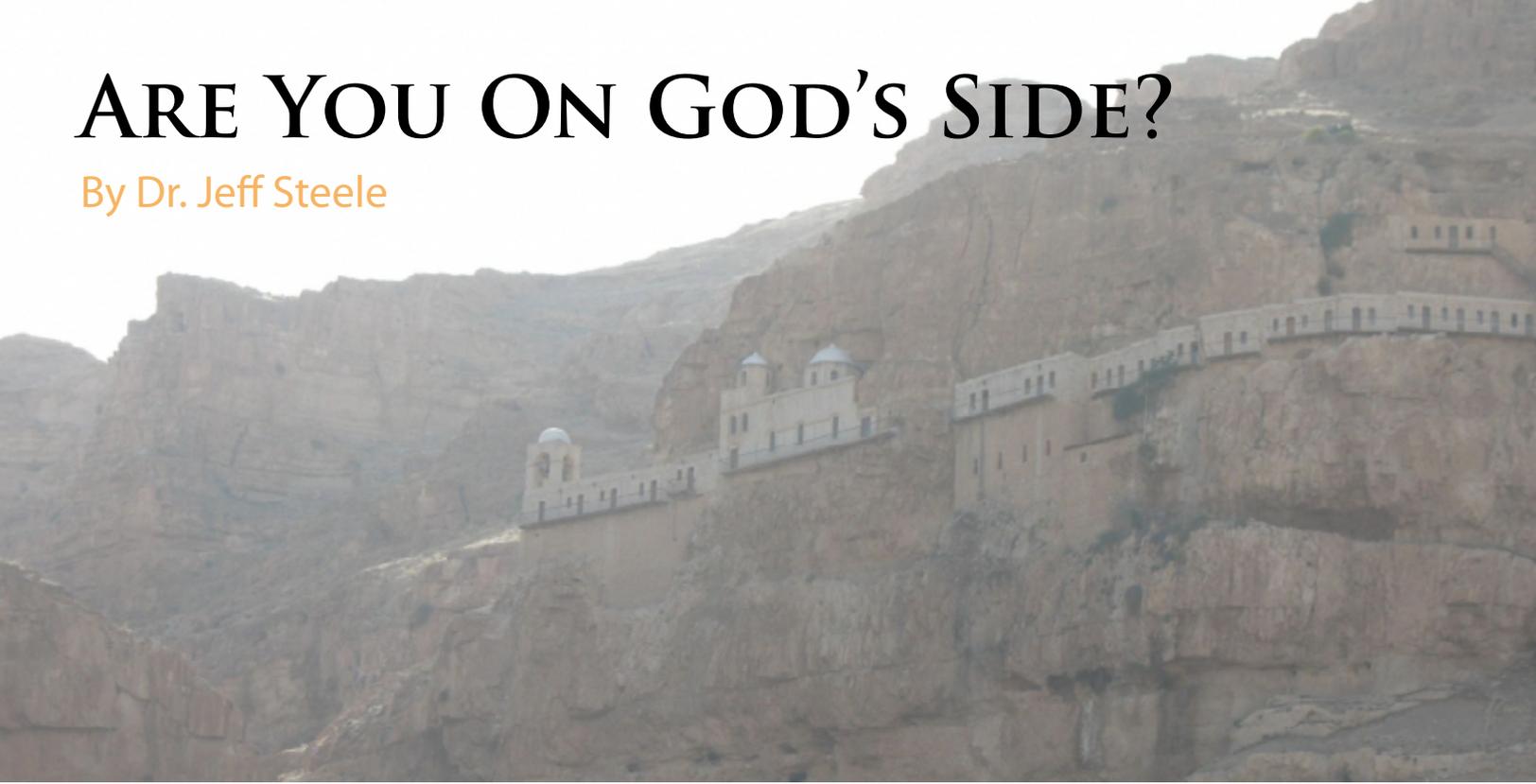
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ARE YOU ON GOD'S SIDE?

By Dr. Jeff Steele



Jericho was a very immoral city. Part of the reason for their immorality was the power they believed was in their city walls. They didn't even believe God could get through their walls and affect them. As long as they were inside those walls they thought anything and everything they did was hidden from, and they were protected from, God. So bad was this city that when the spies went in to scout it out they only found ONE "believer" and that was a prostitute named Rahab!

She actually owned and operated a house of ill repute right there in the red light district of Jericho. I know some folks that are so holy and righteous that they don't want to believe that but read the bible. She is what they found and that is what she was doing! That ought to prove to all of us that you can't judge a dog by its mother and you can't judge a book by its cover. No matter how we categorize people and judge them to be the kind of person God would never use or speak to God can speak to whomever He chooses, whenever He chooses, wherever He chooses!

This lady Rahab is even in the genealogy and lineage of Jesus. The question is not "why would God speak to a prostitute?" The question is "why would He speak to me and why would He speak to you?" It is called *grace*. Noah found it in the eyes of the Lord. Rahab found it through a red cord. Jonah found out about it sitting under a gourd and thank God I found it in God's Word, the Sword. Grace is the gift of God to sinful (and

what other kind is there?) man and no, we don't always understand it, but where we need to question it the most is when we recall how it was extended to US!

Joshua had a very unusual encounter just before the Children of Israel that were under his command approached Jericho. It is found in Joshua 5 beginning in verse 13:

13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

15 Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

Who was this visitor that appeared to Joshua with his sword in his hand? I believe it was none other than Jesus himself! Why do I believe that? Well in Revelation 1:17 John saw Jesus in His glorified state in heaven. This was the post-crucifixion, post-resurrection,

after-the-earth-experience Jesus. When he saw Him, John said, "I fell at His feet like a dead man." Joshua did the same thing! The scripture says, "he fell on his face on the earth and worshiped." This commander told Joshua to "take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." That is the same thing the Lord said to Moses from the burning bush! This was Matthew's messiah. He was Mark's wonder worker. He was Luke's Son of Man and John's Son of God. He was none other than Jesus Christ of Nazareth who was and is the Son of the Living God! Forgive me, but when you've been with Him the walls that surround your life don't seem nearly so big and tall anymore.

Note that Joshua didn't even ask what this visitor's name might be. Rather he asked Him "are you for US or are you for our enemy?" The soldier answered, "Neither. See I did not come to take sides, I came to take over!" That is the message many need to hear from God today about your own life. "I'm not here to take sides,

I'm here to take over."

Abraham Lincoln, arguably our greatest president, once said, "I'm not nearly as concerned about whether God is on OUR side as I am whether we are on GOD'S side." He is the *take-over* God. He is ready to take over what we will GIVE over to Him. That marriage problem, that financial problem, that church trouble, that medical situation, that child who just WON'T do right! God is ready to take over and when He does the walls that surround you don't have a chance. They HAVE to fall, they don't have a choice because "greater is He that is in YOU than he that is in the world!" It's time to get behind the man with the sword in His hand. It's time to see the walls fall and conquer the city.

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Doubling Up **Jackie Wilburn Memorial Concert Expands**

By Craig Harris

If something is good, it would make sense that twice as much of it is better. That mentality prompted the decision to expand the Jackie Wilburn Memorial Concert to two nights this year, from April 25th to 26th at the Smith County Agricultural Center.

It's the fifth year that the Wilburn family hosted an event in the Wilburn family's hometown of Carthage, Tennessee. What was previously a homecoming has now completed its third year as the Jackie Wilburn Memorial Sing. "I was sitting around with mom (Elaine Wilburn) and told her that I wanted to do it," Jonathan Wilburn said. "Dad introduced gospel singing to Smith County."

Jackie Wilburn, who passed away in November of 2011, hosted area singings that included artists such as Gold City, the Hemphills, the Inspirations, the McKameys and the Primitive Quartet. "It means a lot," Jonathan Wilburn said of the importance of the event. "Dad loved gospel music. He was a man of great integrity in this area. For us to honor him means a lot." The previous two Jackie Wilburn Memorial Concerts were one-night events, with Gold City appearing both years. Gold City was back again for the Saturday night portion of the event this year, with Jay Parrack and Vocal Event serving as the Friday night guest.

"We're trying to grow an event for this area," Jonathan

Wilburn said. "There's a lot to do in this area, east and west of here. We want to grow our Friday night, keep growing the Saturday night and turn it into a weekend thing. I'm having my friends, Jay Parrack and Vocal Event and Gold City. They are my closest friends because I traveled with them for years."

Jonathan Wilburn began his career in Southern Gospel Music as a member of the Wilburns, which traveled in a full-time capacity from 1986 to 2005. Wilburn and Parrack sang together in Gold City, with Wilburn serving as the lead singer from 1996 to 2008. Wilburn and Wilburn, which consists of Jonathan and his son Jordan Wilburn, is in its fourth year of existence. The duo performed both nights in Carthage, with Elaine Wilburn joining her son and grandson on stage for a few songs, including "The Hand of the Lord," "I Won't Have To Worry Anymore" and "I'm Bound For That City," which was Jackie Wilburn's favorite song.

Parrack was Gold City's tenor singer from 1994 to 2004, but he now serves as a minister of music at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama. Parrack has been singing as a third of Vocal Event – which also includes lead singer Anthony Hallman and baritone Darren Morton – for three years. The trio will sing approximately 30 dates in 2014. While they occasionally re-spin some of the songs that Parrack performed with Gold City, such as "I'm Not Giving Up," "Mid-

night Cry” and “Hide Me Behind the Cross,” the group delighted the crowd with other songs such as “Then, I Met the Master” and the up-tempo “Love Lifted Me,” penned by Ricky Atkinson.

“Just to work with Jonathan and get to sing with my friends and sing about the Lord, this is all worth it,” Parrack said.

SGN Scoops encourages those in the Carthage, Tennessee area to make plans to visit the Jackie Wilburn Memorial Concert next year!

For more information on Wilburn and Wilburn: <http://www.wilburn2.com/>

Jay Parrack and Vocal Event: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jay-Parrack-and-Vocal-Event/140018069469560>

Gold City Quartet: <http://www.goldcityqt.com/>



YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Autumn Nelon Clark

BY ERIN STEVENS

Last year, I sat down with Amber Nelon Thompson to talk about her life on the road. This time around, it's her sister Autumn's turn to take the spotlight. Enjoy the next few moments as you get to know The Nelons' youngest daughter, who as of late has been stepping up and joining her family on stage. Oh and if you're in need of mandolin lessons, or the best place to get crab legs, I have just the girl to put you in contact with! The floor's your's, Autumn...

Erin: As a little girl, did you imagine yourself singing with your family?

Autumn: I guess it's just part of my DNA. I've never really had another pursuit, music is my life and I've always loved it.

Erin: What does a typical roadie day in the life of Autumn Nelon Clark look like?

Autumn: After a restful sleep in my bunk, I practice my mandolin, usually eat lunch with our crew, study schoolwork that normally may not get finished and help load our gear into the venue for the concert that night. By that point, it's time to sing!

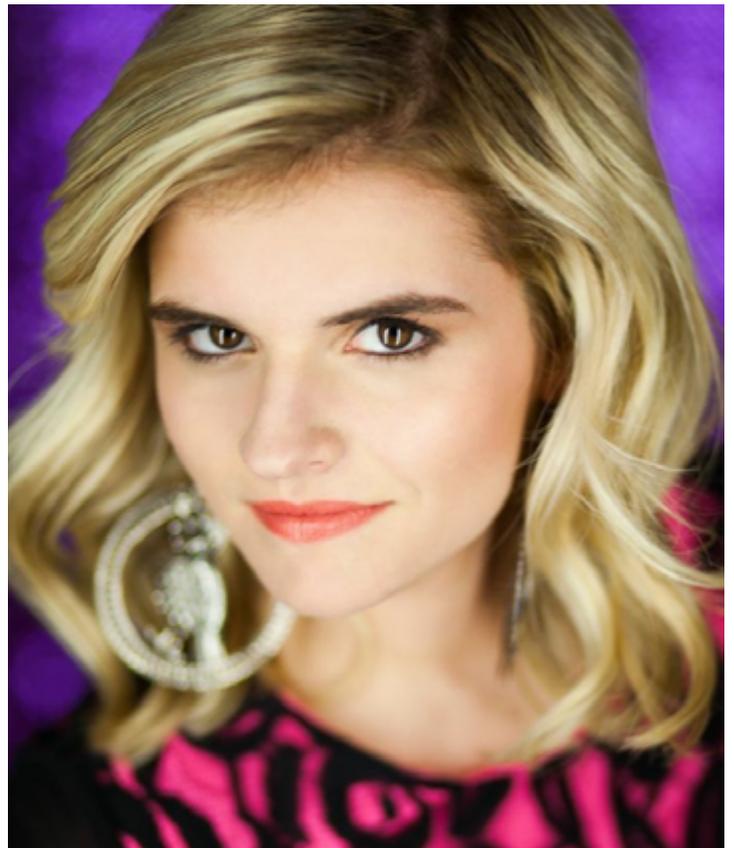
Erin: On social media it has become apparent that you've become quite the musician. Tell us what your fingers have taken to?

Autumn: Well, I love Bluegrass music! So the mandolin is by far my favorite instrument. Once I got a little more comfortable with it, I got a banjolin, which is the same thing, just sounds like a banjo. That's what I'm up to

when I'm not singing.

Erin: Would you consider yourself: A (the prankster) B (the comedian) or C (the one who NEVER gets in trouble)?

Autumn: Hmm, I'll go with C (the one who NEVER gets in trouble). Oh no, I'm only joking! It's probably more accurate to choose B (the comedian). What can I say? I like to have fun!



Erin: Can you describe what your most memorable concert was and why it holds meaning for you personally?

Autumn: When my sister tried out for American Idol, I had to fill in as soprano for her. I was only 12-years-old and I was scared to death, but thank the Lord, I made it through!

Erin: Other than your family, who has been your biggest musical influence and why?

Autumn: Like I mentioned before, I love Bluegrass music and to me, there's none better than The Isaacs. Sonya is one of my all-time favorites and a huge influence on me, not only because of her voice, but her incredible mandolin playing, too.

Erin: Here's a must ask question! What's your favorite food?

Autumn: Crab legs! They are by far my favorite food. I could eat them all the time...and I pretty much do!

Erin: What would you consider are the pros and cons of traveling with your sister? (Be honest!)

Autumn: It's a good and bad thing when your sister wears the same size as you. My clothes vanish, and somehow my earrings always end up in her jewelry bag. It's a good thing I love her!

Erin: I know you have plenty of time to decide, but at this point, can you see yourself doing this the rest of your life, or is there another avenue you feel the Lord may be leading you to?

Autumn: Singing is always going to be a part of my life, and I could never see myself being apart from music.

Erin: While growing up in the Gospel music industry all your life, what are some struggles you've had to face as a young lady?

Autumn: Missing my junior prom was hard. I miss going to my church regularly and not seeing my friends as much as I'd like to; however, I am grateful that my parents chose to come off the road for six years so Amber and I could enjoy those years of our childhood at home. It makes me love this life even more.

Yet again, how blessed this industry is to have teenagers

like Autumn who have made the ultimate sacrifice of praise, week-in and week-out alongside their families. This vibrant young lady has a bright future in store; and in her words, no matter what that future looks like, you can be certain she'll be somewhere singing and playing her mandolin wherever the highway may take her next.

And that's my take on it.

For more on Autumn Nelon Clark and the rest of The Nelons, go to <http://kellynelon.com/>



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A Fathers Day Tribute

Thank You Dad

By David Staton

I have been blessed through the years to write songs for just about every well-known Southern Gospel artist in our field. Not long ago, I was being interviewed and the interviewer asked me if I had a favorite song that I had written. I didn't even hesitate when I told him which one was my favorite. I told him that it was a song that most folks have never heard. Since then, I have added it to my live concerts because the reaction is always the same.

I was so fortunate to be raised by Godly parents. I am one of five kids and we have always been very close. We grew up singing together and had parents that not only poured the word of God into us, but showed us through their lives how God loves us unconditionally.

In 2004, I received a phone call from my Mom that stopped me in my tracks. She told me that my Dad had

been showing signs of being confused and disoriented and they were going to the hospital to have a brain scan done. Well, we all began to pray and a few hours later, my mom called again. She told me that the scan had shown a tumor. They said it was operable, but my dad was 71 years old and at his age, the chances of it being a late stage of cancer were likely. They scheduled surgery for a few days later.

I remember telling Mike LeFevre and the guys that I needed some time off. I went to Ohio for Dad's surgery. The day before the surgery, my Mom told all of us kids that Dad wanted to write each of us a letter telling us how proud he was of us and how much he loved us. I suggested that rather than dad writing a letter to all of us, that we should write a letter to him telling him how much we love him and how thankful we are that God placed

us in his care and allowed us to be raised by such Godly parents.

My Dad made it through the surgery and we were told that the tumor was stage four (the most advanced) and more than likely, another tumor would come back and be very aggressive. I watched my dad who had always been so strong, become incredibly weak as he fought so hard to beat the odds. My Dad lived almost one year to the day of his surgery and passed away on September 10, 2005.

During that last year, I went to visit my Mom and Dad as much as I possibly could. I remember sitting in the living room where us kids were raised, next to my Dad's hospital bed and talking to him and my Mom. I would ask questions that most kids never ask their parents, like: How did you meet? Who introduced you? What did you like to do before five kids came into your life and messed everything up?

At night, I would write down everything I had learned about my parents and began working on this song. I guess the reason this song is so special to me is because from an emotional standpoint, it is the life story of my Dad. From a writer's perspective, the song is both chronologically and structurally sound. There is a story about each one of the lines in the song, so I'm going to share the lyric first and then I will tell you a little bit about each line that made me include it and why it's so special. I'd like to wish every Dad a Happy Father's Day and I hope you enjoy the stories that inspired this song. To hear the song, go to www.davidstaton.com

THANK YOU DAD

Verse 1:

He was born in 1932

Where the coal was black and the grass was blue

That Kentucky home's still standing there today

The way they grew up was hard to believe

They were lucky to have shoes on their feet

The only thing they did harder than work was pray

Verse 2:

Then on a sunny day in fifty five

He met the lady that changed his life

They vowed to share a life and his last name

Not much hope for a family

The doctor said kids just couldn't be

But I'm one of five that sure would like to say

Chorus:

Thank you Dad

For giving us all more than we needed

For teaching us all to trust in Jesus

When others tried to make us fall, you taught us how to stand

Thank you Dad

For bustin' our butts when we were bad

For holding us close when we were sad

And when we got older for being the best friend that we've ever had

So for all the times we never told you when we had the chance

Thank you Dad

Bridge:

Now when it comes to wisdom, no one has any more than you

I just hope my kids look at me the way I look at you

Thank you Dad

For teaching us all how to live our lives

For showing us boys how to love our wives

There's nothing we could say or do to ever pay you back

So for all the times we never told you when we had the chance

Thank you Dad

Here is the breakdown and story behind the lyric:

THANK YOU DAD

Verse 1:

He was born in 1932

Where the coal was black and the grass was blue

That Kentucky home's still standing there today

(My Dad was born during the depression in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. The government declared that it was the poorest area of the country. When we were young, my Dad would tell us stories about how poor they were and things they had to do to live. They were so extreme that we always thought he was exaggerating, but when we got older, he took us to the old house where he and eight siblings were raised and we saw for ourselves just how poor they were.)

The way they grew up was hard to believe

They were lucky to have shoes on their feet

(This line is especially personal. Each one of the kids got two pair of shoes a year. One pair was to work in the fields and the other was to wear to school and church. When my Dad was very young, he had a younger brother named Tracy Wallace Staton. While he was still an infant, he became very ill and died. My Dad had outgrown his shoes and they were too poor to buy him another pair, so he had to wear a pair of his sister's shoes to the funeral. My Dad did not cry very often, but every time he ever shared that story with anyone, he would cry.)

The only thing they did harder than work was pray

(My Dad's parents were Christians and raised all of their kids in church, so prayer was not just a casual thing they did before a meal, it was a means of survival. I saw how far they had to carry buckets of water from the stream to their house just to take a bath and how far they had to walk to school every day in the blazing heat or in snow. It is hard to imagine how they ever survived.)

Verse 2:

Then on a sunny day in fifty five

He met the lady that changed his life

They vowed to share a life and his last name

(My Dad and much of his family moved north to try to find work and escape their surroundings in order to eventually have a better life. Shortly after moving to Hamilton, Ohio, one of my Dad's brothers and his wife introduced him to my mom. After I finished the song, my

mom said to me, "You know it may have been 1956 when we met." I told her it was too late because 1955 was a rhyming line in the song and we had already recorded it. They married in 1958.)

Not much hope for a family

The doctor said kids just couldn't be

But I'm one of five that sure would like to say

(When my Mom was a young girl, she had rheumatic fever and the doctors told her that she would never be able to have kids. Well God had other plans because they ended up having five kids. I'm the middle child and I have two older brothers and a younger sister and brother. My parents took us to gospel concerts and we grew up singing together.)

Chorus:

Thank you Dad

For giving us all more than we needed

(My Dad never made a lot of money. He worked so hard and there was a period of time that he was unemployed. I can remember him doing work and different jobs and I couldn't believe how hard he would work. Looking back, I'm amazed at how God provided for us and exceeded our basic needs.)

For teaching us all to trust in Jesus

(Mom and Dad raised us in church and we were all saved at a very young age. My Dad was a Sunday school teacher in our church and he would study the Bible every night before he went to bed. My Mom told us that when my Dad was first saved, he got a bible and he and my Mom would stay up reading and studying until they would fall asleep. They pursued knowledge and wisdom through the scriptures and then they poured it into us kids.)

When others tried to make us fall, you taught us how to stand

(I could tell you countless stories of how Mom and Dad taught us to stand up for ourselves and for each other when we were kids. If we didn't defend ourselves and each other when we were in school, we would be in trouble when we got home.)

Thank you Dad

For bustin' our butts when we were bad

(This line is self-explanatory. We all knew that Dad's belt

had another purpose than just holding his pants up. We all still have signs of how those spankings affected us. Respect for others, self-control, thankfulness, kindness and other crazy, unheard of things are still side effects from those spankings.)

For holding us close when we were sad

(Right alongside of the discipline was unconditional love. When we were sad, hurting or discouraged, it was Mom and Dad who made us feel loved and who gave us the self-confidence to reach for our dreams.)

And when we got older for being the best friend that we've ever had

(I can't tell you the times after we were grown that each one of us kids would call my Dad for advice. There isn't a day goes by when we all wish we could pick up the phone or go see him.)

So for all the times we never told you when we had the chance

Thank you Dad

Bridge:

Now when it comes to wisdom, no one has any more than you

I just hope my kids look at me the way I look at you

(With kids of my own, I can't tell you how many times I stop and think about how my Dad would have handled a certain situation. I really try to follow his example of being a dad. I sure hope my kids look back and think of me like I think of my Dad.)

Thank you Dad

For teaching us all how to live our lives

For showing us boys how to love our wives

(I've heard it said that the best thing a dad can do for their kids is to love their mom. My Dad really loved my Mom and it showed in what he did for her and how he treated her. That's one of those behaviors that you don't realize who is teaching you or how they're teaching you until much later in life.)

There's nothing we could say or do to ever pay you back

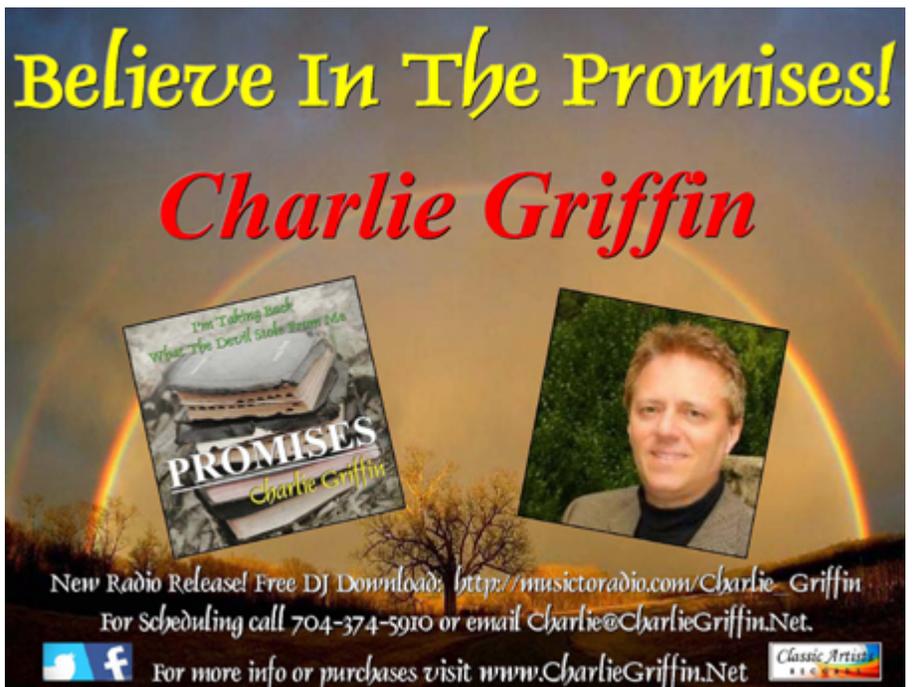
So for all the times we never told you when

we had the chance

Thank you Dad

(We always knew that Mom and Dad loved us. They told us and more importantly, they showed us. We told our Mom and Dad that we loved them over and over again, but after my Dad went to be with the Lord, I thought of so many times I should have told him when I didn't. If you have a Mom and Dad that are still with you, go hug them and thank them for loving you.)

This was the last song we played at my Dad's funeral. After moving to Hamilton, OH, my Dad worked for one company and retired after 35 years. At my Dad's visitation, over 1500 people filed through the funeral home to pay their last respects. I heard a great preacher say once that you will know the people who you have really made a mark on because they will cry at your funeral. Well that day, there were a lot of tears shed because so many would miss my Dad. But through the tears, there was also celebrating because we know where my Dad is today!



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Ozark Gospel Music Convention- May 2014

By Joshua Heston

Branson, MO —Traditional gospel music and Ozark Mountain culture go together mighty well. From brush arbor singing schools to pine-enshrouded churches where country folks sang from well-worn hymnals every Sunday morning, the sweet sounds of gospel music form an emotional basis for many of us; reminders of childhood, dinners on the ground, exciting tent revivals, and for some, simple evening singings as the family would gather together and let their voices ring.

But times changes. People change. The world, it seems, simply picked up its pace and recordings, radio, TV, internet, and job and family responsibilities removed the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. The chance to leave an industrious world outside — even for just a few hours — was lost. Tattered hymnbooks were replaced by projection screens and four-part harmony swapped for an endless stream of praise and worship songs. Families didn't gather around a piano anymore and besides, the music on the radio, then the entertainment on TV, then the library of digital music, was all more professional, more polished, and never required practice but simply the touch of a button.

Gone for most was the shape note singing, the tent revivals, and the conventions. Conventions? No, not

Tupperware conventions. A generation or two ago, gospel music conventions, specifically quartet conventions, were commonplace. Small and large, these gatherings originated from 19th century songbook companies' efforts to sell books. This was after the Civil War and the population was ready to embrace music that spoke of hope and peace.

Professional quartets traveled from church to church, then from convention to convention, stunning largely rural audiences with the now-trademark sounds of a powerful, rumbling bass, soaring tenor, lead and baritone vocals. As quartets polished their skills and styles, white Southern gospel music was born. With it, of course, came those singing conventions, the largest of which ultimately became the National Quartet Convention, an event that packed out the Ellis Auditorium in Memphis for many years. Here was the equivalent of a rock concert arena. Thousands of fans pouring into the venue to see gospel music greats like J.D. Sumner, James Blackwood of the Blackwood Brothers, and more.

Like many other elements of our rural population, Southern gospel conventions became fewer and farther between in the last generation. Now, the words “sing-

ing convention” are typically met with a bit of bewilderment. Southern gospel is still a small but powerful genre of music but many of the artists now travel from church to church, not from convention to convention.

The National Quartet Convention is still going strong, moving this year from Louisville to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, but Southern gospel singing west of the Mississippi? Western region groups have struggled for years, honing their styles, their harmonies, their ministries, but laboring largely in the shadow of “top tier” groups with more convention affiliation in the east. Now, the efforts of Branson-based Jonathan Edwards (of Faith’s Journey), Donnie Williamson (of Wetumka, Oklaho-



ma-based The Williamsons), Ava Kasich (Texas-born Beacon award winning soloist) and Rob Patz (of the Seattle-based SGN Scoops Digital gospel music magazine) teamed up to create a heartland Southern gospel convention here in Branson.

“For most of us who do gospel music, the goal is to see lives changed. But we can’t do that if we don’t have people to sing to. One of the goals of the convention is to expose more groups of the Midwest to an audience,” says Williamson. “That’s why we honored The Lesters during the first night of the convention. We want to highlight the quality of groups from this area.”



Brian Lester notes, “Duane Garren [Southern gospel emcee and board member of the Memphis Quartet Show] helped pull a fast one on us. Little did we know one of the reasons The Lesters were invited to be on the program was to receive a special proclamation from Missouri’s House of Representatives and to be recognized by KWFC-Springfield, one of America’s most powerful gospel radio stations, for our family’s almost 90 years of singing gospel music.”

“We were highly honored and sincerely thank Jonathan Edwards who presented us with the proclamation, and to Dave Taylor from KWFC for presenting us with a plaque recognizing The Lesters as ‘Missouri’s First Family of Gospel Music.’ This is a night we’ll long remember!”

Held in the comfortable surroundings of Stone Castle Hotel not far from the Branson Strip, the event was a carefully planned, conservative effort featuring mostly regional groups. Chapel services took place in the morning, as did the opportunity for artists to sing at nearby Treasure Lake RV Park, a venue increasingly known for its support of Southern gospel and bluegrass music. A Monday-afternoon showcase featured Branson artists including Doug Gabriel, Clay Cooper and Ayo: The Voices of Glory. Mayor Raeanne Presley spoke to Wednesday night guests during an evening designed to honor veterans. Barbara Fairchild also performed the same night.

The event was not without a hitch or two. “It was our



first year,” explains Rob Patz, “And our goal was to bring awareness of the event, which we did. But when you put on an event like this it’s more than a one-year plan. Nothing grows overnight and you learn and adapt each time. I think what went right was the community feeling among the artists, the spirit of cooperation rather than competition, and our connection with the Branson community. What went wrong? We had some issues with the ticketing and with knowing how many people were going to show up.”



The convention was free but required guests to reserve tickets online. As a result, the place “sold out” weeks ahead of time. “We turned about 100 people away on Monday before everything got started,” notes Jonathan Edwards. However, free tickets do not require a commitment and many who had reserved online simply did not show up. Still, Edwards remains positive. “If you had told me earlier that we would have an event and get over 200 people in the audience, I would have been in hog heaven and we got that. It was a success. We were just expecting a much higher number.

Overall counts vary with Monday night being the most heavily attended. “Not counting the artists, the board members, media and industry people,” says Edwards, “Duane Garren’s count of guests was 186. In total we were looking at 220 to 230 people.” Numbers went down on Tuesday and Wednesday night as the excitement of Branson shows lured people away. What remained, however, was a level of enthusiasm both from guests and artists.

“We still had around 100 people in that room Wednesday night and they were into it. They were supporting the groups on stage,” noted Edwards. “This was my

first convention,” says newcomer Landon Villines, the largely self-taught 19-year old prodigy from Compton, Arkansas. “I got to meet a lot of groups. The Dunaways are really great friends now. I got two singings booked and will be involved in Branson’s Jammin’ For Jesus later this year. It was awesome.”

Most artists echo Villines’ enthusiasm. Nashville soloist Lindsay Huggins explains, “As an artist, I enjoyed seeing friends of mine that also travel in music ministry. Our ministries take us in so many different directions [that] it’s always great when we can catch up with each other after a while. I made lots of new friends with folks from all over who attended the event. I even made connections with some Branson folks and will be returning again soon for other engagements.”

Jamie Layton of Abundant Quartet continued, “Probably the biggest highlight for me was rubbing elbows with everybody. Meeting other groups, being able to be seen and heard by people in the industry. Jonathan and Rob did a really good job of getting industry and media here.”



“All the ministries represented were top-notch and we thought it was a very good start,” says Ron Higgins of the Texas-based Pacesetters Quartet. “We have already expressed our desire to come back.”

“It gets kind of lonesome out on the road,” shares Tammy Dunaway of the Mississippi-based blues and bluegrass infused family group The Dunaways. “We really enjoyed the camaraderie and getting to meet new people. And we love Branson and the Ozarks.” The

group, which has been singing together for 21 years, met Rob Patz at the National Quartet Convention last year. “The way we are structured, a lot of people don’t see us,” continues Tammy. “They hear us all the time on the radio but they don’t see us. We wanted to get out there to the people we minister to on the radio.”



Of highlights, there were many over the busy three days. “We felt a sense of celebration,” says Warren Finney of the brand-new group Majesty III of Crossett, Arkansas. “It was an event that took us away from the grind of everyday. We were so impressed with the fellowship and the camaraderie. The other artists embraced my 17-year old son Lane. They had seen his nervousness on Monday night but they took him under their wing and supported him.”

“I was a little bit skeptical of the event,” continues Finney. “I have worked a lot of quartet conventions since I was 16 years old. I’ve seen some events that really did not have the class and dignity gospel music deserves. I’m a concert promoter myself and am a stickler for quality. The thing that impressed me was the overall organization of the event. I can’t say enough good things about the board of directors.”

“When we went on stage Wednesday night,” notes Bradley Davis, also of Majesty III, “We saw not only guests but also fellow artists coming in to support us. These were all new friends because when we arrived on Monday we didn’t know anybody. We were just blown

away by the friendliness, the camaraderie. We’re very thankful to the Lord for allowing us to come.”

A top highlight came on Wednesday night when 93-year old Lonnie Cook took the stage to share his memories of serving in the Navy during World War II. Ron Higgins elaborates, “Probably the biggest thing for me was having the opportunity to listen to Mr. Cook. I have been to the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial several times — right over the top of that ship. And this gentleman, with his clarity of mind, was unreal. There was no frailty to him at all.”

As an inaugural event, the Ozark Gospel Music Convention is deemed a success. Dates are set for 2015 with many groups pledging their support to return. “Our job is two-fold,” elaborates Patz. “We have a responsibility to the fans but also a great responsibility to the artists. When you see that pledge of commitment from them to return you really cannot get a better pat on the back than that.”

“God has opened some amazing doors for us with this event. Now it is our job to walk through those doors.”

May 18, 2014

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.” — Psalm 100:1-2

ALL PLATES, 05/05-07/14, Ozark Gospel Music Convention, Branson. Photo credit, J. Heston.

REFERENCES: Goff, James R. Jr., *Close Harmony: A History of Southern Gospel*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC 2002



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Celebrating *the Ordinary Guy* Father's Day 2014

by Scott Rhoades

He wasn't the CEO of a billion-dollar corporation, a professional football player, or an astronaut. He wasn't a politician, a lawyer, a professor, an accountant, or a top-of-the-chart musician. He didn't cure an incurable disease, write a best-selling novel, or discover the world's next revolutionary invention or scientific concept. He didn't appear on the evening news with Tom Brokaw and he didn't make the front page of the New York Times, the local paper, or the latest edition of People magazine. He didn't have a college degree, he was never garnished with honors and accolades, and he never left his hometown. Some may label him unsuccessful by their standards, others may consider him ordinary, but after years of observation I've come to know there is more to his story than one might imagine.

While many of his friends and family graduated from high school and left that small, Pennsylvania coal-mining town to pursue other dreams and adventures, he was content to stay behind and keep the lights of home shining brightly and to change the world in more conventional ways. He took a job with a local car dealership - carefully washing, waxing, and detailing

the latest arrivals for the showroom floor and making the dream of "taking to the open road" an appealing reality for many.

He took the occasional out-of-town trip with a local mover, relocating professional clients up and down the east coast as they pursued new opportunities and horizons. He drove a delivery truck for the local feed mill, delivering grains and goods to farms and stores and feeding households across the state. He enlisted as a member of the local volunteer fire department, protecting and serving family, friends, neighbors, and businesses throughout the valley, when fire and flood threatened or stole from years of hard work and labor. He later joined the workforce of the state highway department, where he blazed new trails and maintained thousands of miles of highways so thousands could reach their dreams and destinations. He eventually married his sweetheart - my mom.

My dad is an ordinary guy. He is steady, unchanging, and low-key. I never knew his intentions to be self-consuming. He was never out to make a name for himself, but to provide for his family, make our lives a

little bit better, and to serve his friends and neighbors. He went out of his way to help my sister and me reach our aspirations. He worked long, tedious hours under the hot summer sun, and through some very cold winter nights. He drove us to scout meetings, air-shows, church camp, vacations, and college. He even sacrificed a meal at work one night so I could have a new football. I often wonder if Jim Croce knew my father when he penned the lines to his infamous song, *Movin Me Down The Highway*: "...and I carry it with me like my Daddy did, but I'm livin' the dream that he kept hid."

Jesus saw the value of the ordinary guy; in fact, he hired 12 of them. Fisherman, tax collectors, publicans, zealots, and tradesmen possessed the necessary world-changing skills applicable for the calling to the Great Commission of the New Testament Church. They weren't necessarily all educated individuals, but

each of them were created with a unique ability to spearhead the world-wide revelation of a timeless truth.

As we celebrate Father's Day 2014, I am reminded of the ordinary fathers who are out there today. They may not have an important title or fabulous job description. They're not flashy or seeking public approval. They're steady, unchanging, low-key. They're busy serving their family, friends, neighbors, and churches in exceptionally inconspicuous ways. Today we celebrate you - ordinary guys helping others reach their lifetime dreams and eternal destinations in extraordinary times.

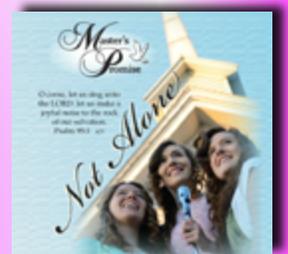
Happy Father's Day to all the 'ordinary guys' who are 'extraordinary' to each of us!

Photo Courtesy of Shutr

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An Evening with

Dailey & Vincent

By Angela Griffin

Dailey & Vincent fans from across the U.S. filled the auditorium of the District 5 Fine Arts Center, Duncan, SC for an evening with the dynamic bluegrass duo. Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent have the gift to entertain and they make fans feel right at home at their concerts. They are both accomplished musicians and vocalists and work with some of the most talented individuals onstage. To their credit the duo are the three-time *IBMA Entertainer of The Year*, three-time *IBMA Vocal Group of the Year*, two-time *Grammy nominee*, and *Dove Award* winners. On this evening in May, Dailey and Vincent, along with their outstanding band, put on a Bluegrass Country and Gospel show for two solid hours that was second to none!

The evening kicked off with host, Paul Pitts of Global Promotions, recognizing those who have served or who are currently serving in our nations' Armed Forces. It's always breathtaking to see these brave soldiers as they stand with great pride across the auditorium. If you look closely, you will see a few tears start to flow as the au-

dience rises to their feet, cheering and clapping, giving thanks to those who put their lives on the line every day to protect our freedom. These brave men and women are the heartbeat of America!

The stage was set with an enormous black backdrop that read in big bold white letters "Dailey & Vincent" with the logo of their corporate sponsor, Springer Chicken, located in the top left hand corner. The microphone stands were personalized with their DV logo imprinted on the front of them. The microphones were painted a patriotic red, white, and blue. The fans were on their feet as Dailey and Vincent entered the stage.

One of the first songs Dailey & Vincent performed for their fans was 'Big River'. They also had the audience singing along with the classic country hit song, 'Class of '57'. The fans were soaking it all up! Other favorites included 'Cross Over to the Other Side of Jordan', 'Altar of Prayer', 'Will the Circle Be Unbroken', 'When the Roll Is Called up Yonder', 'On the Other Side' and countless other fan favorites.

Dailey and Vincent had the audience in the palm of their hands from the very first note. One minute they had the audience singing along with them, the next minute they had them in stitches with laughter. It was an upbeat fun night for sure.



The guys know how to have a little fun on stage and connect with their audience. Dailey and Vincent, along with vocalist and musician Jeff Parker, brought laughter to the audience with their funny skits from stage. Make no mistake; Jeff is a fabulous vocalist and musician as well.

Christian Davis brought the house down singing those low notes. Christian is a phenomenal bass singer and also plays several instruments. Christian's dad Michael Davis, owner of the Dominion Agency, was in the audience and you could see the glow about him. He was proud of his boy!



Jessie Baker and B.J. Cherryholmes are very talented musicians as well and are a vital part of Daily and Vincent's performance. In fact, a highlight of the night happened pretty close to the beginning of the program when the guitarist and the fiddle player took turns playing the lead on an instrumental. Let's just say: they got down! Literally! Every time one of them would take the lead in the song, they would get a little closer to the floor until finally they were both playing while on their

knees! The audience loved the friendly competition. They are both fabulous musicians and showcased their musical talents well.



The evening ended with the audience on their feet chanting "More, more!" Dailey and Vincent delivered. They returned to the stage singing not one, but two more fan favorite selections and brought the audience to their feet once again. You could feel the energy and excitement of their fans as they exited the auditorium. It was a great concert that their fans won't soon forget!

Dailey and Vincent is coming to a city near you. Check out their latest news and upcoming tour dates by logging on to their website at www.daileyandvincent.com.

A special thanks to Global Promotions for bringing Dailey & Vincent and other great artists to the upstate of South Carolina. Log on to www.globalpromo.org for a complete list of Global Promotions upcoming concerts.





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A portrait of a woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text 'Reflections with Sherry Anne' is overlaid on the top right of the image. The word 'Reflections with' is in a light blue, sans-serif font, and 'Sherry Anne' is in a white, elegant cursive script.

Reflections with

Sherry Anne

ONE NATION (NOT) UNDER GOD...

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

I had the incredible opportunity to walk where Jesus walked—the Holy Land of Israel. Along with picturesque scenery, it was heartwarming to see a remnant of the Jewish people who have held fast in prayer; praying for their nation, their families, and the preservation of their land. I saw young Hebrew children playing kickball within the walls of Jerusalem, while orthodox mothers pushed their infants in strollers as their husbands—muttering prayers by their side—were careful not to look upon us, the Gentiles.

I felt compassion for them—love and affection, too; but, also, a certain amount of discontentedness was stirring. I was moved by their devotion to God, com-

munity and faith...and yes, to their "TRADITION!" I was convicted and challenged to live a deeper and more holy life than I ever have before. No, not so that I might be saved and earn a free pass to Heaven by my "good works" as many of the devout mistakenly think. Scripture clearly indicates that we are saved (i.e. forgiven of the penalty of our sin) by His grace, given to us through faith, not by any "good" thing we have done to earn it. (Eph: 2:8-9). Thank goodness! How many "good things" would I need to do to be "good enough" for a most holy God if this were not the case? Think about that!

So, then, I do the things that I do (and avoid doing other things) to be a witness: a good example of one who believes in Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, in order that I might lead people to a consecrated life. Still, upon visiting Israel, my thoughts turned to repentance, both personally and nationally. I became increasingly mournful of the state of our nation. One

could clearly see just how far we have all been led astray from God and His will for our lives...

These last few years, I have been reading through the Bible very intentionally: studying every footnote, chart, graph and cross reference in order that I might balance out the teachings of the "new" testament with that of the "old." I especially enjoyed reading through the prophets and was utterly distressed by the waywardness of God's people! Yes, God's people! Throughout Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel and many other texts, God sent His loving warnings and admonitions for the sake of His people, yet they wouldn't hear and change their wicked ways.

Does this not happen today? Are there not "voices crying out in the wilderness," calling people into a deeper relationship with Him? Are there not evangelists, prophets, teachers, pastors and apostles building the kingdom of God... or at least trying to? Be advised, I am not necessarily talking about high-profile personalities—some with a knack for financial marketing and/or other agendas. I am talking about godly people living godly lives and sharing the good news of the gospel that proclaims liberty to captives and sets free those who are bound. (Isaiah 61:1)

It was an apostle, Paul, who warned us to "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Gal: 5:1) Further, we are to come out from the world of unbelievers and be separate. (2 Cor 6:17) Simply put: we are not to do what everyone else does! We have been called to be set apart: to follow the standard for which others may grow in their relationship with Christ and their community. Let it be understood that there are, in fact, consequences for not

following this standard.

Countless times, Scripture records destruction; however, I have never seen it apart from God's love. Proverbs 3:12 tells us, "For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights." God allows destruction out of His love for His people, to preserve them, redirect them, and lead them back. The Jewish people of Israel are well aware of this. Lest anyone think this is "Old" testament prophecy shattered by grace, the "New Testament" tells us in Hebrews 12:6, "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

I have been chastised and disciplined along my walk—painful indeed! At times, it seemed more than I could bear. Yet, I know I am loved and a child of God. I am fully convinced that God's chastisement is out of love. Imagine the day when the impact of this pain will be felt on our nation/world as a whole as God executes His righteous judgments, motivated by love and tempered with justice and mercy, in order to accomplish His will for His people: leading us back to Him. Please don't wait. Start walking in renewed faith today.

I do not know what will happen in the ensuing weeks, months, years ahead. Much like the apostle Paul said, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9) Thus, as I fight the good fight of faith, along with you, and do not succumb to fear, I can only say: let us cling to the hem of His garment and, I pray, to each other...



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DANNY FUNDERBURK

Better Than Ever!

By Sandi Duncan Clark

There is no doubt; The Cathedral Quartet is a legend in the Southern Gospel Music! When the announcement of a Cathedral Family Reunion came last year, every fan of Gospel music looked forward to what we were sure would be more scheduled reunion events. The Dallas-Ft. Worth event in November was more than those in attendance expected, and produced exactly what fans wanted; more concert dates. This year, 2014, six events are planned for fans across the country!

Landon Bean's and IMC Concerts promoted their first

Cathedral Family Reunion in November, 2013. The performers on this event are some of our favorite singers who graced the stage with Glen Payne and George Younce in the Cathedral Quartet. Mark Trammell, Gerald Wolfe, Danny Funderburk, Scott Fowler and Ernie Haas, along with The Mark Trammell Quartet, Greater Vision, Legacy Five and Signature Sound sang for a packed crowd. The concert showcased each man and his signature songs with the Cathedrals. Then the members of each group took the stage to sing other great Cathedral songs. This proved to be a "must-attend" for all future Cathedral Family Reunion events.

As one of the foremost tenors of the Cathedrals, the powerful Danny Funderburk is well remembered for his time with the quartet. Danny graciously agreed to talk with us about the reunion, his time with the quartet, and what he's doing today.

Danny Funderburk is the son of a Baptist minister and grew up in a Christian, church-going family. "We went to church whenever the doors opened," Danny reflected. "My Dad, Bill Funderburk, helped to organize Faith Baptist Church in Hembry Bridge, North Carolina, where he pastored. He and my Mom loved Gospel singing, and I guess that's where I got my love for this wonderful music. Not only could my Dad sing, but my Mom sings beautifully!"

He continued, "Daddy sang with a local quartet, the Revelaires and when I was old enough, he let me play the drums with the group. When the tenor left, Daddy finally gave me a chance to sing. And I guess that old saying is true, 'the rest is history!'"

Danny explained, "As many children who grow up being part of minister's family, I didn't realize in those early years, the need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I thought I was saved because of Dad's ministry and going to church, but I learned that having a Godly mom and dad who loved the Lord would not save me. I accepted Christ as my Savior in 1976, and

have sought to make Him Lord of my life since then.”

Following his tenure with his Dad’s quartet, Danny spent three years singing tenor for Charlie Burke and Singing Americans in the early 1980s and fans loved the group, especially Danny’s talent. Over time, fans of Gospel music grow accustomed to certain singers and their distinctive vocals. That’s true with Danny.



The three years with the Singing Americans offered Danny time to gain confidence and experience in the music. In 1983 Danny received a call from Glen Payne asking him to join the famous Cathedral Quartet. For six years, Danny’s distinctive tenor voice was the high end of the Cathedral Quartet and where he had several signature songs including the wonderful “Whiter Than Snow,” written by his father. Danny wistfully remarked, “Every time I sing that song I think of my Dad.”

“Somebody Touched Me” and “I Just Started Living” are two other songs popularized by Danny Funderburk. He tells us he still sings both songs, and has a Tshirt on his product table that reads, “I Just Started Living” because “Somebody Touched Me.”

Fans fell in love with Danny not only for his singing talent, but for his outgoing, exciting personality. This gentleman never meets a stranger and when you meet him, you feel you’ve been a friend forever. From the Cathedral days fans will recall Glen and George enjoyed having a good time, and had lots of laughs on stage. “This is true however they knew exactly when to be serious,” Danny said. “That is just one of the many things

I learned from Glen and George. That’s one of the reasons the Cathedrals were so successful. Those two men allowed God to be involved in all their decisions and they taught the guys in the group by example.”

“Being approachable by the fans was another thing both Glen and George taught us by example,” Danny continued. “Every fan who visited the record table got a smile, a handshake or often a prayer. They just loved people.”

Following the Cathedrals, Danny sang with Perfect Heart, and Mercy’s Way and is currently staying extremely busy as a soloist. “When I first came off the road, I worked in the studio where I produced projects for other Christian artists,” Danny shared. “This would be 1994 and I did that for about 2 years while singing some solo dates. I was able to help produce 54 projects in 17 months.”

When asked about his current work, Danny said, “I’m traveling more today than I ever have in the past. I’m doing a solo ministry and I love where the Lord has me at this time. I currently travel alone but things are about to get even busier with The Cathedral Family Reunion concerts coming up in the next couple years. The Lord willing, I will have to invest in another means of transportation and hire a driver to help me.”

Fans remember the health issues Danny experienced a few years ago. Danny said thoughtfully, “In a matter of five weeks, I had four strokes. Eleven months later I had a heart attack and open heart surgery in 2007. Of course at the time, I didn’t know what to expect except to trust the Lord. I had a lot of family and fans praying for me, and as I said, I feel wonderful. I’m just thankful the Lord saw fit to heal me. I know He touched my body and he’s not finished with me yet!”

Danny shares his thoughts on the plans for the Cathedral Family Reunion, “We are honored to be a part of this promotion. Our goal is to bring honor to the legacy and vision of Glen and George, for what they brought to this industry. We have all been blessed because of them.”

He continued, “We have a few limited dates this year but if you check with IMC Concerts, (www.imcconcerts.com), you will see all the cities we will visit in 2015 and 2016. We are so happy with the response that we are getting and a lot of great things are going to happen with these events.”

Danny shared more about his calling and his music,

"There is no doubt that God called me to this work. When I think back, it's amazing; all the things God has allowed me to accomplish, the people I've seen come to know the Lord, people I've sung with, people I've met and all the places I've visited. I'm very grateful and very blessed."

From the heart Danny continued, "I've enjoyed every part of this ministry, and loved sharing it with people. As part of my ministry, I have four albums on my table. I record at Rushing Winds Studio with Gary Rushing in Dallas, N.C. I feel comfortable working with Gary and with the product we create."

If you haven't seen or heard Danny recently, you will find he is still the happy, upbeat, inspiring vocalist we all know and love. He is blessed to be honoring the call God has placed on his life, and doing it with joy. You will find that Danny is still the singer you know and love and is singing better than ever!



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Event Planner

God Has Met With US

Singing in the Sun 2014

By Lynn Mills

The house lights were dimmed low, cloaking the room in momentary darkness while the light bar cast a red hue on the silhouetted figures on stage. The choir parted as the band struck the first note, revealing the outline of a woman standing on the center of the last riser. When the music began, the word "revival" scrolled across the big screens and a wall of water began to flow from the ceiling to the floor. As the lights came up Karen Peck and New River descended from the top riser to the stage singing their #1 hit, 'Revival'.

I'm a part of a generation that was born after the great old fashioned revivals of yesteryear, but if there was a place believers could go in this day and time to experience the presence of the Lord, where they could praise Him, pray at the altar, hear Biblical preaching and listen to the harmonic tones of Southern Gospel Music – it would be Singing In The Sun.

Hosted by Abraham Productions since 1998, Singing In The Sun (SITS) is an annual gospel sing located in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. This was my second year to attend SITS and once again, I was overwhelmed by the spirit and attention to detail that the board of directors put into this event. Vice President Jeff Whisnant explains, "After you get an event grown to this size we know you have to work hard to maintain it and continue growing, that's kind of where we are – with blessings and growth come new challenges." The scene above where Karen Peck and New River is accompanied by a choir, a live band, and special effects like a water wall, show in just a few ways that Abraham Productions has taken their event to a new level in 2014.

Yet, the things listed above aren't the only additions to Singing In The Sun. Ray Flynn, President of Abraham Productions, describes one such addition, "This year we offered the FAST PASS to keep people from having to wait for their tickets and give them incredible value and it was warmly received." Also, Abraham Productions announced their first ever Launch Party to be held on Monday night at the Civic Center as a kick off to the event. This special concert featured the groups represented on the Abraham board; The Whisnants, Ivan Parker, Karen Peck and New River, The Talleys and The Hoppers. Seating was limited to 200 seats and I'm pleased to report that I was among them. This concert was held in the rear of the exhibit hall where the afternoon showcases would be located during the week.

The evening began with Greg Cook leading the audience in singing a few old classic hymns and the first thing I noticed, and I'm sure it was the first thing that everyone noticed, was the live band. Three guitarists, a drummer and a keyboardist accompanied the congregational singing and each artist as they sang. When Ray Flynn stepped on stage to welcome the people to Singing In The Sun, the first words he spoke were, "How about the band?" The audience eagerly applauded their approval. Ray went on to explain that the Launch Party was going to be different from the nightly concerts. It was going to be an evening where the fans could spend time with these artists and get to know them in a close, warm setting.

Ray opened the night in prayer and introduced the first group, The Whisnants, who began with 'We Are So Blessed'. Because the Launch Party was the day after Easter many artists chose songs that pertained to the resurrection, The

Whisnants selection was 'He's Living Today', which was encored at the encouragement of Ray and all the artists sitting behind them on stage. The highlights of the evening had to be the Talleys singing their new single, 'Hidden Heroes', Kari Gooch singing with Karen Peck and New River and the Hoppers epic ballad/recitation 'Something's Happening'.



As mentioned above, Singing In The Sun had a full band each evening which was an instant success. Though live music is always a favorite, these musicians were extra special because they were comprised of young people who play every weekend in this industry and three have parents who sit on the board. Josh Parker (Ivan Parker's son) played lead guitar, Matthew Gooch (whose mom is Karen Peck Gooch) took up rhythm guitar, Austin Whisnant (son of Susan and Jeff Whisnant) added with the bass guitar, Stone Carter of the Jay Stone Singers played drums, and director of the Wilmington Celebration Choir, Joey, accompanied on the keyboard.

As one who sat and watched these young men play I can't express how much pride I felt at watching people my age stand on that platform and have fun with this music and the other musicians. The night that Ivan Parker sang, he asked Josh to play one of his guitar solos and when it came time for the second verse Josh had Matthew Gooch play with him while the rest of the band provided backup. It was one of my favorite moments during the Sing. Watching all of the musicians come together and play each other's songs with the enthusiasm that they did was a pinnacle part of this year's performance that won't be easily forgotten!

I asked Stone Carter what it was like to be included in the event this way. Stone said, "I was honored to be a part of the first ever Singing In The Sun All-Star Band. I loved every minute I shared on stage with the other players and many artists we played for." When I asked what his favor-

ite moment was, he related this story, "One moment that sticks out to me, is the interaction between Michael Booth and myself when he jumped on the drum riser and started playing with me." Jeff Whisnant sums up the addition of the live music, "We've received a lot of great comments on the live band – a lot of people are happy to see the kids, the young people involved in the music and the fact that most of them are board member's kids is pretty cool. That's kind of been our new thing this year."

Each evening was complete with top notch artists and life-changing preaching. Among the groups that ministered through song, fans enjoyed music from The Collingsworth Family, Brian Free and Assurance, Greater Vision, The Mark Trammell Quartet, The MacKameys, Ivan Parker, Karen Peck and New River, Triumphant Quartet and many more. There were many unforgettable moments during the week, like the one that opened this article and to include them all would be to add great length to this article. Suffice it to say – *it was good*. Not only was it good, it was spiritually refreshing as well.

On Saturday night I sat in the audience and listened to Jeff LaBorg preach on the prodigal son. There are not words to describe how the spirit moved freely among us all. Jeff asked for all those who have prodigals in their families, or in their church, to come down and pray at the front. In moments, the altar was full. Yet, folks didn't hesitate to leave their seats to stand in the aisles and pray. It was one of those moments when you realize that you're at more than just a "gospel sing" but a place where God has come to meet with you and everyone who was present, both saved and lost.





When I spoke with Jeff Whisnant he shared how this creates a unique atmosphere during the week, "People that come to this event know that and like it. That's why we became interested in Abraham, because of Ray's heart and the heart of the guys that were here. This event is different; I say that from an artist's standpoint and from an owner's standpoint. Ray Flynn, our president, takes pride in how many people come to know Christ every night. I've never

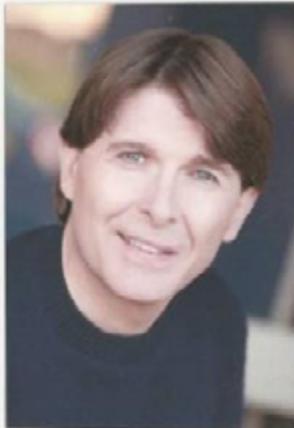
seen that announced at another concert. That's one of the ways we keep score. Ray's never had a concert where the gospel wasn't shared."

This year, over 80 people came to know the Lord during the week at Singing In The Sun. "The 2014 Singing in the Sun was one of the most incredible weeks in the history for the event," says Ray Flynn, "We have been doing Singing in the Sun since 1998 and the growth of the event and God's blessings on it have been amazing! Our goals have not changed: 1. Present an event where God is praised, people are encouraged and those who don't know God will meet him as Savior. 2. Present the best and highest quality Gospel Music Event in America. We can't wait for the 2015 Singing in the Sun." When Ray Flynn stepped on stage one night to open the evening in prayer, he said, "God hath met with us this week." Indeed, He did.

Make plans to join Abraham Productions next year in Myrtle Beach April 20-25, 2015! In addition to Singing In The Sun, Abraham Productions has another great event coming up in July, The Gatlinburg Gathering. Situated in the quaint city of Gatlinburg with the lofty Smoky Mountains as a backdrop, you can enjoy more fellowship, preaching and Gospel Music in a relaxing, festive location. Make plans to join us at the Gatlinburg Gathering July 2-5, 2014!

Photos by: Candace Mills

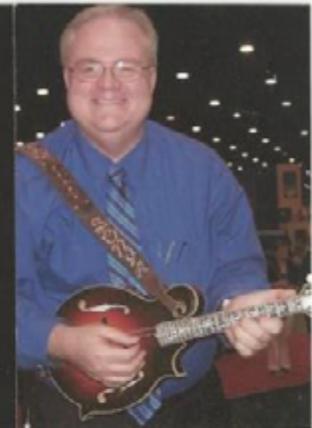
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What America wants to know about

Freedom's Crossing

By Rob Patz

Freedom's Crossing is a great example of how America's youth are touching their world with their talents, passion and faith. Adam and Rebecca Reynolds met at a church event that would change their lives forever. Now a dynamic and polished Southern Gospel duo, this couple travels many miles bringing their original music and message of the love of Jesus to audiences across the Nation. They are even developing into a trio with the addition of their young daughter Jeslynn who is learning harmony.

Freedom's Crossing has just released a new album and a new radio single, and with their excitement and sincerity, I knew they were artists that I needed to introduce to our SGN Scoops readers. Keep reading to find out what America wants to know about Freedom's Crossing...

Rob: Your bio says you met at a church event. How exactly did you meet and what did each of you think when you saw the other one?

Adam: We actually met at a church state convention in Roanoke, Virginia, when we were 15 years old. Up until we met and eventually got married, Rebecca traveled basically all of her life with her family group, The Duncans, out of Cleveland, Tennessee. Her family was ministering on stage at our convention and I was sitting with my papa on the third row. My first initial thought of Rebecca was, wow,

this girl is beautiful! Then, my ear starting listening even closer to her and I thought to myself, wow, this girl can sing! Knowing I had to meet her, I actually made my way backstage through security and met her for the first time as they walked off of the stage. To me, it was love at first sight. To Rebecca, it took a little more convincing. However, it wasn't long after until we knew that we were born to be together.

Rob: Please tell us about your backgrounds in music and how you started singing.

Adam: I sang a year or so in the school choir, but I always had music in my blood. My dad used to travel years ago with a group called Praise Him. My poppy, which is my mom's dad, traveled in a bluegrass band called The Country Hicks. So music has always run deep in my veins, but I never really had a lot of experience singing in front of people until Rebecca and I met. After we met, I started singing with Rebecca's family group.

Rebecca: From birth, I was raised on a bus traveling with my family, who at that time was known as The Gospel Carriers. The group included my dad, mother and uncle. I remember sitting on the front row with my sister and cousins while our parents ministered, always knowing to be good while they were on stage or we would get the eye from mom and dad. At age three, I began singing on stage

with my sister and my two cousins, whose ages ranged from three to six. One song in particular that will always stick out in my mind was "We are God's Little People" by The Perrys. We had a lot of fun with that one! As we all got older, God began shifting the ministry into two separate family ministries. My uncle began singing with his wife and children and my parents began singing with my sister and I. At that time, we began traveling as The Duncans and felt God calling us into full time ministry. We traveled for about 10 years together and then a few years after I met my amazing husband, God then called us into full time ministry as well, now known as Freedom's Crossing. I'm so thankful to have been raised not only in Gospel music, but surrounded by ministry. My heart and passion has always been to sing and serve God and most importantly, to win souls for the Lord!

Rob: Do you take others along with you when you are on the road? Do you have any live music?



Adam: Yes, we take our little girl Jeslynn with us, who is six years old. We'll never forget when she was three years old, we were in our car listening and practicing to some new songs and all of a sudden, we heard a third harmony jump in and we were shocked to say the least when we realized it was coming from our little girl! At that time, Jeslynn began singing a couple of songs with us and is still singing with us today. It's amazing to see how God is already using her at such a young age. Currently we do not have a live band. Although, I know we would prefer having a live band if we had the choice and finances to do that. It's just a different live element and makes it a lot easier knowing that wherever the Holy Spirit leads, there is a band and music behind you. However, we do have a piano player that travels with us on select dates when he is available. Other than that,

we sing off of our music tracks, which have served us very well.

Rob: Where are your favorite places to shop?

Adam: I don't normally find shopping the best of hobbies, but when we do shop I tend to shop at places like Buckle for my jeans, Macy's, Marshalls, and any Under Armor and Nike outlets that we pass on the road.

Rebecca: On any normal day when I'm not pregnant, I love places like Buckle, Belk and finding Victoria Secret jump suits to travel in. Also, I am what my husband and family like to call a professional Goodwill shopper! It is so much fun going to Goodwill and seeing how many hidden treasures I can find on any given day.

Rob: What is your favorite hobby?

Adam: Spending time together with our family is always top priority, but hands down put me in the woods hunting or playing any kind of sport and I'm in heaven on earth!

Rebecca: Spending time together as a family is always at the very top for me as well, but I have to say that if going shopping would be considered a hobby, it would be mine!

Rob: What is your current album and radio release?

Rebecca: Our most current album that is available is called You Chose Me. We were honored to work with and record at Oak Tree Studios in Hendersonville, TN. Grammy and Dove award winning producers Paul and Tre' Corley really helped us make this album unique by bringing our original songs to life! We had an idea about how things would turn out, but they far exceeded our thoughts and expectations. We are hearing daily testimonies about how our songs are affecting and changing peoples' lives. Currently, our radio release is actually the title track from the record which is a song called, "You Chose Me." That song is written by Adam and came from a prayer that he prayed one night before going to bed. Little did we know that a song from that prayer would be such a powerful song and bring many hearts to the saving knowledge of Jesus!

Rob: What is your favorite song to sing in concert and why?

Adam: I would have to say that one of my favorite songs to sing in concert would be, "I'd Rather Have Jesus." That song sums up my whole life and reason for doing what we do. I have tried a lot of things in my lifetime, but Lord knows my heart is to have Him more than anything in this world. It means a lot to me, but I believe if people can truly grasp this song and be able to sing it for themselves, we would

see even greater things in the body of Christ!

Rebecca: My favorite song to sing would definitely be "You Chose Me." It amazes me to think that God gave such a powerful lyric to my husband. I am thankful that Adam is willing to hear God's voice and share it with others. It has ministered to me on a daily basis and it makes me think about how much God really loves His children every time I sing it. The song sums up God's love and the choice He had, and He made, on the Cross. The bible says He could've called 10,000 angels to His rescue, but He saw us and chose the cross. What a love our Savior has for us!

Rob: Who are your musical influences?

Adam: My musical influences come from different genres and styles of music. One group that really grabbed me, in a time where I almost gave up on gospel music and Christianity as a whole, was The Crabb Family. I grew up knowing about God and being able to feel His presence. They were that one group that was real in a sense that I could feel the presence of God when they sang. I always admired them for their boldness to follow the leading of the Lord no matter who was there or who was listening. Our ministry is a lot like their's in the sense that we've always been true to following the leading of the Holy Spirit anywhere we minister. I am thankful to call them friends now and see God using all of our ministries for His glory.

Rebecca: I was raised on Southern Gospel music listening to artists such as The Hinsons, McGruders, Karen Peck and New River, and many more. As far as female vocalists go, Karen Peck has always been one of the biggest influences for me. Her voice is not only incredible, but her passion and love for God that shines through when she sings blesses me more than words can say.



Rob: Who has been the greatest spiritual influence on your life?

Adam: The biggest spiritual influence in my life is my papa, Rev. R.J. Reynolds. Not only did he take me to the state

convention where I would meet the woman of my dreams, but also he has dedicated his entire life to the call of ministry. If there is one person that I know that is praying for me on a daily basis, it's him! He has always been supportive of our ministry and the calling God has placed on my life. He has given me priceless guidance and direction whenever I needed someone to talk to. More importantly, he always lived what he preached. His life is an example of God's love and how we as a body should live. Many trips in many different places ended with people coming up to me saying, "Are you R.J. Reynolds grandson?" I would proudly reply, "Yes, I am!" Then the stories would begin about how much they loved and respected my papa. He is the best example and spiritual influence anyone could ask for. I love you, Papa!

Rebecca: My spiritual influence has always been my dad, Glynn Duncan. Anytime I have ever needed someone to pray with or pray for me, I have always been able to count on him. I grew up watching him minister and watching God use him in such a powerful way. He has been in ministry for 30-plus years and is still going strong, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and winning many souls for the Lord. Thank you Dad for raising me to love Jesus and Gospel music! I love you!

Rob: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

Adam: We want people to know that we truly love the Lord with all of our hearts! If we sing or minister at any event, church service or anywhere the Lord opens the door, we do not take it lightly. We pray that God uses us in a special, unique way everywhere we go. We are real people, who have gone through real struggles and problems in life that have led us to a closer walk with the Lord. When you are a Christian and live for the Lord, it doesn't mean you are exempt from trials. We know personally Whom we sing and preach about. It is our desire to see a revival ignite our churches, communities and even the entire world. God is doing some amazing things through people that are willing to go to extremes for Him. We are willing and will go wherever He leads and opens the door. Lets ignite the world together and see God work miracles like never before!

Freedom's Crossing will definitely ignite your soul and encourage you to walk closer to the Lord. Be sure to visit their website to hear their music, read their story and find out when they will be appearing at a venue near you. I've enjoyed getting to know Adam and Rebecca, and I'm sure that this will be a duo we will be hearing a lot more about in the months and years to come. Thanks to Freedom's Crossing for answering What America Wants To Know for SGN Scoops!

Freedom's Crossing website:
<http://www.freedomscrossing.com>

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By Lorraine Walker

It's only five months until the Creekside Gospel Music Convention and we are busy making plans to make this the best Creekside ever! If you haven't yet booked your room and your ticket, please do this soon. The tickets are free and the rooms are not expensive, but you have to book them today. Please make plans to be with us in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on November 3rd through 6th at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center.

One of the many special guests performing during the Creekside event will be the award-winning family group, The Freemans. These artists have been performing for over 30 years and have a progressive Country/Bluegrass/Gospel sound loved by audiences across the country. Don't miss this fabulous group as they take the stage in lovely Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

This year, the Convention will also include Lou Hildreth's Night of Honor, the Diamond Awards, Patterson Promotions Showcase, the Morris Music Group Showcase and more. Plans are in the works for a possible choir and other special events. Don't miss four days of great Gospel music, fellowship and fun. Tickets are free and accommodations can be reserved by phone, toll free at: 1-800-223-6707 or local call 865-908-3015. For online reservations, click onto <http://www.smokymountainconventioncenter.com>.

The Great Doughnut Caper

Our good friend, Vonda Easley of Strictly Southern With Vonda Easley, has been chatting with

Rob Patz on the air every week as he brings updates about Creekside. She recently shared some news with SGN Scoops:

"Hey Ya'll! I'm super excited about Creekside 2014. Looking forward to the great singing and also can't wait to watch Rob Patz sweat about how many doughnuts he has to buy for my listening audience of the Strictly Southern show."

That's right, for every person from Vonda's listening audience that travels to Creekside, Rob will provide doughnuts. This Doughnut Caper will be held during the Creekside event. Don't miss out! Stay tuned to Vonda Easley for more information.

Strictly Southern With Vonda Easley can be heard every Friday at 10am CST on <http://www.wpilfm.com/>.



The Diamond Awards

The Diamond Awards will be handed out during the Convention in a gala program hosted by Tim Lovelace. Be sure to join us to see your favorite artists as they are recognized for their hard work and excellence in ministry by the fans.

The Diamond Award nominations are still continuing on the SGN Scoops website, so drop by to click on the link and nominate your favorites. Currently, you will find the Top Ten nominees for each category and you may choose your three favorites. The Top Ten will close on July 3, 2014. Following this, the Top Five contest will open on July 7 for the final round of nominations. Make sure your voice is heard and vote today! <http://www.sgnscoops.com/2014-diamond-awards/>

Final Notes

Creekside Gospel Music Convention would like to hear from you! Tell us what you want to see and hear in November. Artists, please notify Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com to reserve one of the few remaining booths.

Creekside needs your help! If you would like to volunteer through various promotional activities throughout the year, or with on-site tasks during the convention, please email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com.

For more information, latest news and artists scheduled to appear, visit the Creekside page on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention>.

Photo Courtesy of yoppy

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JANUARY

20 - 25 VICTORY VOYAGE

FEBRUARY

3 - 8 BILL BAILEY'S WINTER SOUTHERN GOSPEL CONVENTION
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER, PALMETTO, FL

13 - 15 SOUTHWEST GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY ARENA, PHOENIX, AZ

APRIL

22 - 26 SINGING IN THE SUN
MYRTLE BEACH CONVENTION CENTER, MYRTLE BEACH, SC

MAY

5 - 7 BRANSON GOSPEL CONVENTION
8 - 10 JEFF & SHERI EASTER HOMECOMING
12 - 17 GOSPEL MUSIC FAN FAIR-SOMERSET KY
CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONVENTION CENTER.

JUNE

18 - 21 MEMPHIS QUARTET SHOW - COOK CONVENTION CENTER, MEMPHIS, TN

JULY

2 - 5 GATLINBURG GATHERING -GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER

AUGUST

6-9 BRUMLEY GOSPEL SING - COWAN CIVIC CENTER, LEBANON, MO

OCTOBER

2-4 VIRGINIA BEACH GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

NOVEMBER

3-5 CREEKSIDE GOSPEL CONVENTION
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN CONVENTION CENTER, PIGEON FORGE, TN,



The Steeles

By: Tina Wakefield

When we talk of Gospel Music sensations there are many names that come to mind. When we talk of "great comebacks" the list narrows a bit. At the top of the list of great comebacks you will find the name, "The Steeles". In the Gospel music industry when you take a leave of eight years from the road and the public eye, it can be difficult to regain popularity if and when you decide to return to ministry. Jeff Steele and The Steeles have done what others would say is impossible- to come back after an extended absence with a chart-topping song.

Jeff Steele has devoted his life first to God, ministering, and then to singing. When I asked Jeff exactly when he dedicated himself to God, he told me it was at the young age of six that he first felt the wooing of the Holy Spirit inviting him to Christ. Jeff stated that, "I gave my life to Christ almost 50 years ago and I am just as saved today as the day I asked Jesus to come into my heart and take up residence." Jeff says that he surrendered to full time ministry when he was only

10 years old when, "I just knew God wanted me to minister and somehow I knew that my ministry would never be normal like a 9-5 ministry, and to say that is the understatement of the year!"

The first song that Jeff Steele ever sang in public was "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I stand" which was done while standing in a folding chair as a young boy of four or five. Jeff went on to record with Malaco Records in Jackson Ms., and then an independent project on his own, and his first solo project at the age of 19 before signing with Daywind Records.

Jeff Steele is not only a great singer, but has achieved great success as a songwriter. He has been blessed to have 17 number one songs that he was the sole or co-writer on, and this doesn't take into account the all the top 10's, top 40's and other radio releases. Jeff told me that the "greatest high" he experienced was not the 17 #1 songs- it was the fact that after being absent for about a decade, his first release back in music "But God" debuted at #39 on the charts in its

first month! He says, "That to be gone and have the opportunity to 'do it again' with something you love, like I love this, is a very special thing." Jeff feels that the movement that grew from the song "But God" is very humbling and gratifying- so many testimonies and so many souls blessed- it was truly a 'God thing'. Jeff states that one of the greatest honors he has received during his career was to be nominated for the Dottie Rambo Songwriter of the Year Diamond Award. Dottie was a special friend to Jeff, and he was grateful just to be included. The awards and nominations are building for The Steeles with "But God" being nominated for a Diamond Award as Song of the Year. Jeff says that he is grateful for the awards and honors but, " Awards in themselves are meaningless, but they are symbols of being in God's will, and that is something I will always cherish in my heart."

The Steeles today are comprised of Jeff Steele, his wife- Sherry, and Andrew Ishee. Andrew comes to the Steeles from Laurel Ms. where he serves as Worship Pastor at Life Church. Andrew is no stranger to Gospel Music Ministry; he is one of the best pianists to ever play. He has played with The Kingsmen, Dixie Echoes, and The Palmetto State Quartet. Andrew has always hid behind playing the piano, but when he began to sing with The Steeles, everyone was amazed that he not only was a great pianist, but a great singer as well.

Sherry Steele is known for her gentle spirit and her genuine compassion for people and the difficulties they face. She is known for her song "In My Eyes" which is sung for all occasions in churches everywhere. Sherry is a Pastor's wife, a mother to three, and now a grandmother. She is a great asset to The Steeles and a great helpmate to her husband Jeff.

The Steeles' current song out now "We're All Human" is climbing up the charts as I write this article. What could be next for The Steeles ?

I know that you are just as excited as I am to watch the ministry of The Steeles to see where God will take them. We wait with great anticipation for the next song that God will help Jeff write, and the lives that it will influence. It is one thing to write a song, but another to write a sermon accompanied by music that can influence and change a life- but that is just what Jeff Steele accomplishes as he lets God direct his pen to write. Jeff says that he is going to do what God calls him to do until either He comes, "or I go to Him!"

You may contact The Steeles at www.jeffrsteele.com or jefferyrobertsteele@gmail.com



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Don't Be "Sumo Girl!"

By Laurette Willis, CHC



Photo Courtesy of Kimtaro

Japanese Sumo wrestlers may be the world's top experts on how to gain weight. They are devoted to gaining as much weight as possible because the heavier the wrestler, the more likely he is to beat his opponent.

If you want to lose weight, you'd be wise to learn from the Sumo wrestler what not to do. Here is how an average 165 lb. man becomes a formidable 400 lb. contender. His day looks something like this:

He lives in a dormitory-style Sumo training center with other athletes like himself and awakens around 6:00 a.m. For the next four or five hours he trains and exercises without eating.

Clue: Skipping breakfast will not make you slender.

Most overweight people do not eat breakfast. I was one of them—until I realized I was becoming "Sumo Girl." Skipping breakfast makes one more likely to overeat later in the day. It also causes a 5% drop in metabolism. No wonder I was so sleepy!

Considering Sumo wrestlers exercise so much you'd think he'd be thin, but his eating habits ensure he keeps piling weight on no matter how heavily he trains for competition.

Clue: Exercise alone will not cause you to lose weight. You must change your eating habits.

The Sumo wrestler's first meal of the day is around noon, after which he takes a nap for three or four hours. His trainers want him to conserve as much energy as possible so that most of the calories he eats

will be stored as fat.

Clue: Going to sleep after eating puts on weight. In order to lose weight, do not eat within three hours of bedtime.

To gain the large belly for which Sumos are famous, he eats only two meals a day.

Clue: Infrequent meals equal weight gain. Eat smaller amounts every three to four hours instead.

Some women have told me, "I shouldn't be so heavy. I only eat twice a day." So do Sumo wrestlers. You'd think they were non-stop eating machines to become so huge. But no, they eat just two meals a day—two huge meals a day. The average Sumo meal would feed five or more average people!

Clue: Portion sizes do count.

In order to train his stomach to eat those huge portions, he eats past the point where he is no longer hungry. He continually ignores his "full signal."

Clue: If you want to lose weight, stop eating when you are no longer hungry—NOT when you feel "full."

The Sumo wrestler's diet is surprisingly healthy and low in fat. He eats the same dish at every meal: chanko-nabe, a meat stew with rice and vegetables. This traditional Sumo dish is eaten with very little variation every day, twice a day.

Clue: Don't be a "boring eater."

I used to call myself a "boring eater" until I decided to stop calling myself names. We get into a rut with our eating sometimes, don't we?

Fitness experts agree it's important to vary our workouts because the muscles adapt quickly. If we continue to exercise the same exact way all the time, the body becomes accustomed to it and we won't experience the progress we'd like. Similarly, it's important to add variety to our food plans. This isn't just to fend off boredom at the dinner table. When you eat a variety of different foods you are more likely to get the broad range of nutrients your body needs. You also won't get that horribly deprived feeling of being on a diet and become tempted to go running into the arms of the nearest Keebler cookies elf.

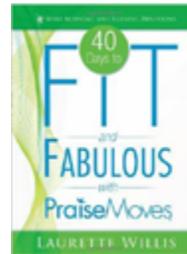
To avoid becoming "Sumo Girl" remember:

- Skipping breakfast will not make you slender. You must eat breakfast.
- Exercise alone will not cause you to lose weight. Eat-

ing habits must change.

- Going to sleep after eating puts on weight. Do not eat within three hours of bedtime.
- Infrequent meals equals weight gain. Eat smaller amounts every three to four hours.
- Portion sizes do count. Use a measuring cup until you can "eye it."
- Stop eating when you are no longer hungry, not when you're "full."
- Don't be a "boring eater." Variety is the spice of life!

And now I'd like to invite you to get my free "Fit Favorites Devotional" and PraiseMoves FitNews. To get yours, go to <http://praisemoves.com>.



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



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Family Fest Review **The Hills Are Alive With Gaither Family Fest Music!**

By Candi Combs

Cradled within the Smoky Mountains is the well-known resort area of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where Gospel music fills the air during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Hundreds of folks converge in Gatlinburg for the Gaither Family Fest. This event has become a tradition for families who wish to observe the Memorial Day weekend in a way that not only honors our nation's heroes, but also raises high the banner of Jesus! Bill Gaither and the entire Gaither Music Group team make Family Fest a star studded event that extends from the stage to the entire Gatlinburg community.

It has been said that change is inevitable, especially in Gospel Music. The big change in the Gaither Vocal Band in 2014 is receiving warm reviews from audiences as they adjust to the new flavor. Along with David Phelps, Wes Hampton and Bill Gaither, the addition of Adam Crabb as lead and Todd Suttles as baritone certainly changes things up. Gaither Family Fest was the

first for many to see and hear just what this new line-up can do! At each concert the new Vocal Band did much of the music that is already well known. It is likely the Band's sound may continue to evolve as the group melds together.

Bill Gaither showcased Crabb and Suttles multiple times. One of the most entertaining tunes was a rendition of an old '50's tune where Suttles was able to use his smooth voice for some *do-wop*. Again, in an effort to show the crowd what Suttles brings, the GVB did an old Folger's Coffee commercial, old-style. Many in attendance remembered that live radio format talking about a cup of Folgers. Gaither teased Suttles about his stature as well as his electric white smile. Suttles certainly is settling in with his new gig.

Crabb has been well trained for this time in the spotlight. He takes the lead with Gaither classics and



brings a hint of Crabb Family with his styling. Surprising to the entire audience was to hear the GVB perform some of Adam's father Gerald Crabb's music. "Through the Fire" as performed by the GVB brought the house to their feet. Like Suttles, Crabb brings a new dimension of youth and energy with a forward thinking presentation. Gaither has shown his genius intuition and vision once again!



The 2014 multi-day gala began on Friday evening as the first of five shows. The Gatlinburg Convention Center served as host to the hundreds of gospel music fans who travel from far and wide to participate. It is very common to see a group from the UK who makes this

annual trek. This year there was a large family group that made the trip from India where they had heard of the Gaither Vocal Band, but had never seen them. By all accounts, they were thrilled to see the Smokies and enjoy all the events of Family Fest.



The Gatlinburg Convention Center's entry way as well as the extended corridor outside the main hall served as the hub of activity. This area was used by the artists to display CDs and an assortment of gift items. Most importantly, this was where the artists and the audience had an opportunity to meet. The term Family Fest came alive in this area as the families of the artists could be seen running around the tables. The artists were always very gracious to speak and pose for photographs. It was a casually relaxed environment for all.

Family Fest was a favorite with the artists because they were afforded the opportunity to get off the buses and spend a couple of days anchored down. There was a great advantage to having the same audience for five consecutive shows. Ben Isaacs said in an interview, "We stop rolling for a few days and really get to know the folks we are singing to. We also get to try out some new music and do some different things that we don't have a chance to do when we are rolling down the road."

Family Fest began with the smooth strains of Kevin Williams. Kevin just has a way of welcoming everyone into the room to get things started off. Bill Gaither

joined Kevin to offer an official greeting as the energy in the room ramped up. The Gaither Family Fest format featured each artists group individually followed by a full sing-a-long as all artists converged on the stage to close each session.



A new wave of music from the Martins took center stage with their special blend of sibling harmony. Currently touring with Mark Lowry, the Martins were relaxed before the Family Fest Crowd. While performing some of their most popular radio singles, the Martins took the time to introduce their recent release A Cappella project. Michael English produced this album ensuring this new music would work well in a Gaither Family Fest program. “So High” was performed bringing everyone to their feet to participate in this great happy tune.

Allison Speer, part of this year’s lineup, brought her own flavor of smiles with sidesplitting story telling and then topped it off with her beautiful voice. And of course, there is never a dull moment when the Booth Brothers are in the house. The energy level seems to go up several notches when they take the stage. At all five sessions, they sang their most popular ballads along with some of the new cuts from the newest project, which released in May.

A good singing should always include some good

preaching. Saturday’s guest preacher was Andy Andrews. Bringing the Word while putting a smile on each face, Andrews has a special style of humor along with the truth. Andrews brought the message in a full-length sermon at the morning session then drove the message home by telling the evening crowd stories of his childhood. Gaither has a unique way of making sure everyone hears of salvation whether by song, word or a laugh. Andrews subtle humor communicates in a way that everyone can understand.

Saturday night needed no warm-up! The Nelons took the stage by storm. Just as most of the audience had settled in their seats, Kelly, Jason and Amber had the entire house up with “I’m Going Home With Jesus”. With a feeling of excitement in the air, it was clear this crowd was ready to go in the “twinkling of an eye”. As the music reached fever pitch, Bill Gaither himself joined Matthew Holt at the piano. If there was anyone in the room without a “reservation for that mansion in the sky”, it was obvious they needed to know where to make one! From that point, the atmosphere in the Gatlinburg Convention Center would remain in full praise mode.

On Sunday evening, the Nelons returned to the stage where Amber Nelon performed the most excellent rendition of “How Great Thou Art” that has possibly ever been done. Daniel Britt with Joy FM tweeted that “Amber is our (Southern Gospel’s) very own Carrie Underwood!”

There is no doubt that Southern Gospel Music is blessed with some extremely gifted new talent. Keep your ears tuned for anything coming from the Browns. These Iowa farm kids can raise a roof! Not only do they have that unique blend of sound that can come only from siblings, when they each pick up a violin, classical music becomes a song of praise. The energy expended when they play demonstrates great training that becomes multiplied as they give their all.

As only Mark Lowry can do, he was able to communicate his most recent loss of his mother, Beverly Lowry (who wrote many of the classics heard today), in a way that brought a story of great hope. Mark also shared about the loss his dog and most recently of his friend Norm Holland. Lowry’s latest release reminds us to pray. He performed the number beautifully. On Sunday night, he finished his set with “Mary Did You Know” which always brings the crowd to their feet.

Always bringing grace to the stage is Karen Peck and New River (KPNR). Their latest top charting song describes an old camp meeting with all the *fixin's*. "Revival" takes the listener back to a time gone by and motivates them to bring a revival today. From the 2008 project Ephesians One, Karen, Susan and Jeff sang the simple message of "Why Can't All God's Children Get Along". Going back to one of the most popular KPNR songs, "Four Days Late" left the Family Fest audience with the reminder that God is always right on time.

Perhaps the biggest crowd pleaser of Saturday night was the smooth sounds of Ryan Seaton when he sang Benji Gaither's "Prisoner of Hope". Seaton performed during the collective sing-a-long portion of the program. The wide range of Seaton's voice propels the listener into every word while his strong emotion brings the song to life. It was no surprise that Seaton received a standing ovation.

Following this was a performance by another amazing soloist. The only thing more beautiful than her clothing is the truly angelic voice of Angela Primm. This precious gal first draws the listener in with her sweetness and then lets loose a sound so rich and pure that a person is sure this is what music in Heaven may sound like. Each time Primm held a microphone, she had the ability to perform with a genuine voice that could only be brought by God. When Primm opens her mouth, you know that something beautiful is about to come forth.

Bluegrass and Gospel blend perfectly when Sonya, Becky, and Ben Isaacs sing the classics of the past with an array of instruments. The Isaacs were accompanied by the Isaacs' mother, Lily and Bill Gaither on the song "All the Chapel Bells Were Ringing". Gaither adds the bottom bass with his special "bum, bum, bum's"! Performing at all five sessions, the Isaacs sang both old and new songs.

Also proudly representing the Bluegrass style of gospel was Jeff and Sherri Easter along with their children Madison and Morgan. Through a rich heritage, Morgan is coming into her own with vocal performance and stage presence. The pride of her parents is written on their faces as she takes the lead. Especially touching was Jeff when he shared the strong connection he had as a son with the Easter Brothers early music. The highlight of the Easter's presentation was the duet of

Jeff joined with his father via video in "Like Father, Like Son". The video was produced in the small country church of the Easters' home place in Mt. Airy, North Carolina.



While each production of Gaither Family Fest is as good as the one before, there is something special about the Sunday Morning Worship. Maybe it is the fresh mountain air and the realities of God's refreshing grace...both artists and ticket holders arrive ready to worship together.

Students hold the future as demonstrated by the commitment of the Music Department at Lee University. The 2014 edition of the Lee Singers proves that these youths hold a strong level of energy accompanied with fine training. Their young faces shone brightly during the morning worship.

The Collingsworth Family used the morning session for the simplicity of hymns. Everyone was standing when they concluded their own arrangement of "At Calvary". During the evening show, the Collingsworth Family used their happy style to lighten hearts when they sang "Show a Little Bit of Love and Kindness". As the family quietly departed the stage, Kim took a seat at the piano. As the mother of the Collingsworth clan, she puts her entire being into playing each key with pure conviction.

The Sunday morning praise continued when former

Gaither Vocal Band icon Guy Penrod sang a few selections from his “Hymns” project. Penrod was accompanied by his band which brings a little bit of Gospel, then adds a lot of foot tapping Country. Having Guy back on stage was a lot like having a visit from an old friend.

Another Gaither Vocal Band former member, Russ Taft delighted the crowd with a voice that is strong as ever. “I Believe” stirred the hearts of all who listened as Taft delivered the song with an added level of compassion. Taft and Gaither frequently banter openly on stage but when asked to sing, Taft makes sure the message is clear.



Author Leonard Sweet brought a message that empathized much about the culture of present day. By using the Bible, Sweet painted a visual of the importance of the *table*. “From the time Abraham laid Isaac on the sacrificial table, to the family meal, the table is where we commune with God,” Sweet noted. Using Jesus’ dialogue with the disciples at the Last Supper as another illustration, Sweet challenged the room to “join Jesus around the table where He welcomes all”.

The concluding assembly of Family Fest 2014 certainly brought the weekend to a full crescendo. For as long as most can remember, Claude and Connie Hopper have been singing at premier Gospel events. Rounding out the present lineup of the Hoppers is Dean, Kim and Carly. Standing with her parents, daughter Carly is a

rising star. During one of the Hopper’s songs, Claude and Connie stepped down to admire this next Hopper generation. “Jerusalem” is a Hopper’s classic and the performance of their last song of the session was as fresh as the first.

In keeping with the theme ‘family’, David Phelps was joined on stage with his beautiful 16-year-old daughter Maggie Beth. Phelps began an Italian aria when daughter joined in duet with the English translation of “Agnus Dei”. No doubt remained in the room that the younger Phelps has an angelic voice, which audiences will likely be honored to hear more in the future.

As this event is held during the observance of Memorial Day, Gaither invited Sonya Isaacs’ husband, Jimmy Yeary, to perform his award winning song “I Drive Your Truck” along with the music video produced for the song. Isaacs provided harmony to Yeary while the audience was drawn into the story in song of a fallen hero. This special treat brought everyone in attendance to a reminder of the observance of the holiday.

Family Fest wrapped on Sunday night with what has become a tradition of having all the artists on stage and then inviting the children to join their parents. The sweet smiles of these children illuminate the center stage. It is completely fitting that the weekend ends with the bright hope, “Because He Lives”.





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Music Reviews for June

by Sandi Duncan Clark

Have you noticed how summer smells so different from the other seasons of the year? The smell of freshly mown grass and the various blooming flowers: peonies, gardenias, roses, hyacinths which are all blooming to high heaven! Have you noticed the smell of fresh dirt, the summer rains and even the electricity in the air during a thunderstorm? Sometimes when I step outside before the sun comes up, the scents of summer are almost overwhelming. I'm amazed that our mighty God gave each flower a distinct fragrance!

Every bird sings the song God designed just for it. What an awesome expression of God's great love and handiwork!

After a tumultuous spring, with heavy rains, temperatures below normal and often violent winds, it's easy to enjoy the peacefulness of these summer mornings. They pass away too quickly, and leave us panting in the sweltering heat of late summer evenings. Thank you, God, for your wisdom in giving us changing seasons.

You will love the music we introduce this month. Each artist has a heart for Jesus and a desire to share the message of His love. Be sure to check the contact info at the end of the information on each recording so that you can obtain a copy.



GRACE
Full Life Trio
Independent
Producer: John Darin Rowsey

Full Life Trio: Debbie Davis, Lea Parker and Becki Parker, make their home in Savannah, Missouri and travel throughout the Southeast singing traditional Southern Gospel and Bluegrass Gospel. They have the pleasure and luxury of staging a full band in their performances. The group, along with their producer, has selected fourteen songs for this project. The variety is good, with up-tempo songs along with slower melodies and each with a good message. Group manager Debbie Davis wrote seven of the songs with a number of Southern Gospel's best writers contributing the remainder.

Pleasing female vocals and close, clear harmonies deliver the songs with emotion and confidence. It isn't often you hear three female voices who are not related that blend as well as these ladies. I enjoyed Full Life Trio's version of "How Great Thou Art," which usually

is a song done by a soloist, and while there is a solo feature, there is also harmony on the chorus. Picks on the record are “Only Jesus,” written by John Darin Rowsey and sung beautifully by these three ladies. What a great message and very nicely done. “Because Of Grace” and “Take Me To The Place Of Grace,” two of Debbie’s compositions, are two more of my favorites. I also enjoyed “Let Me Feel Your Spirit” and “Just Like God.” This group of ladies has been singing together since Lea joined the group in 1999 and has developed a bond, both in spirit and in song. You may have a copy of *GRACE* to enjoy by contacting Full Life Trio by visiting their website at www.fulllifetrio.com or by phoning 816-294-7257 or 816-262-2634.



A SOUL GOING SOMEWHERE
Southern Raised
Independent

Producer: Andy Leftwich and Southern Raised

After hearing the first two songs on this recording, I had to stop and track this family down on their website! What brilliant talent and a total package these four siblings present to fans and this industry! I find their expressions of love for the Lord even more valuable. It’s amazing how their music just oozes with talent and integrity.

Not only does each individual sing and play acoustic instruments; they are amazing song writers, singing many original tunes. The group wrote or co-wrote four of the songs here and added songs from other writers to balance out a dynamic presentation.

A move to the Ozarks in 2004 introduced Lindsay, Sarah, Emily Grace and Matthew Reith to the wonderful bluegrass music of the region. The Reiths are classically trained musicians; the three young ladies were trained on classical violin with Matthew on cello. They quickly fell in love with the local music, adopting the style as

their own.

Their style is Bluegrass Gospel and is being well received at a number of venues across the country. The confidence and joy with which Southern Raised shares their music is both mature and rewarding.

A song written by Gerald Crabb, “The Sun Will Never Set Again” sets the pace for eleven songs perfectly suited to these talented young people. I particularly like the title song, “Soul Going Somewhere,” and a song written by David Harris, “More Than Merciful.” I very much enjoyed Matthew singing “This Rock Is Jesus.” “This World Is Not My Home” from our church hymnal has a fresh arrangement and the A Capella arrangement on “Just A Closer Walk” totally took me by surprise with both melody and rhythm!

A SOUL GOING SOMEWHERE will be a blessing to you. I suggest you contact Southern Raised for a copy at 417-369-1213 or 417-429-8097.



GREAT DAY
Legacy Five
Daywind Records
Producer: Lari Goss

Legacy Five launches a refreshing new album with a grand arrangement of an old Master’s Five hit, “There’s Gonna Be A Great Day.” Upon hearing this first song, you’re ready for a full-fledged blessing.

The strength of this recording is the choice of songs. There are songs of excitement, encouragement, promise and joy, and songs which cause us to examine our thoughts and hearts. There is literally something here for everyone’s need. Vocals, music and arrangements add a new dimension to each song.

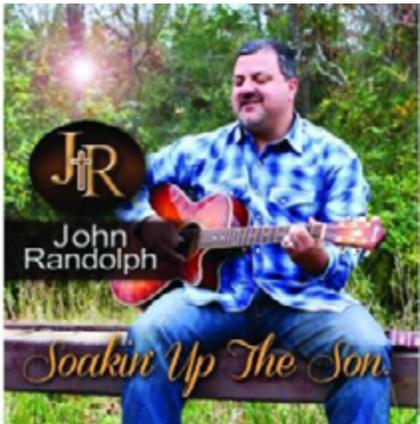
I love the full orchestration and great quartet harmony on the project! Dianne Wilkinson and Rebecca Peck’s wonderful song, “Christ Is Still The King” is an

explosion of joy! Amen, Amen! "Only The Living" is another great song, written by Lee Black, Larry Ford and Kenna West and will touch you emotionally if you've ever lost someone you love dearly.

There are two medleys on the recording that allow the listener the extra pleasure of a sampling of more songs. "What A Happy Day" is a combination of seven songs, and the "Great Medley" has "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "How Big Is God," and "How Great Thou Art," all done magnificently.

Other songs on the playlist are "He Is To Me," "Who Is This Man," "That's A Hallelujah," "So Many Things," "Who Is This Man," and "He Heals." As previously stated, there is definitely something here that will make your heart sing!

Contact Legacy Five at 615-931-0020, or visit their web site at www.legacyfive.com



SOAKIN' UP THE SON
John Randolph
Independent
Producer: Mike McClain

Grand Saline, Texas is home for John Randolph and I've never heard an artist relate his sincerity through his music more than this gentleman. Reading CD covers is a habit, and I always love it when an artist shares a testimony and gives credit to the songwriters. This gentleman does both and enjoying his music afterward allowed me to feel his dedication to ministry.

There are twelve songs on the recording, including three original songs from John. He also has a unique version of "Shall We Gather (At The River.)" "I'm Your Man" is an inspiring song to which every father should subscribe. I like "Drifter" and "I Call Your Name;" both songs have solid messages. John Randolph sings Gospel music with a country flavor, and brings each of these songs to life. He has some

great musicians providing a strong foundation for his pleasing vocals.

The title song, "Soakin' Up The Son" is a play on words, and pretty much says it all, if you're dedicated to God and the ministry. Rather than taking that great vacation, sitting in the sun on a white sand beach, the writer says, "...sitting on a church pew soaking up the Son." It speaks of the state each of us finds ourselves sometimes; often wishing for things, knowing what we have in God is so much better.

I recommend this recording for a blessing, for entertainment and for encouragement. You may contact John Randolph at 972-955-8842 for a copy of *SOAKIN' UP THE SON*.



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Booth Brothers, High Road III
Make A Splash At

Sneed

Family Homecoming

Change can be good. It worked out quite well for the Sneed Family on April 26, 2014 at the family group's third annual Homecoming Concert.

The homecoming had previously been a two-day event held at the Cave City Convention Center in Cave City, Kentucky, which is approximately 10 minutes from the Sneed Family's hometown of Glasgow, Ky.

However, this year's Homecoming was a one-night event held at the historic Plaza Theatre in Glasgow.

"We love Cave City," Sneed Family manager Jeff Sneed said. "However, I used to come here (to the Plaza Theatre) as a little boy. My mom came here as a little girl to see 'Gone With the Wind!'"

"It's something special this year. The hometown draws more of the hometown people and it's exciting to see the Plaza."

With emcee Larry Hinson handling the group introductions this year, High Road III led off and delivered an eight-song set, highlighted by "High Road" and "My Redeemer Lives," which prompted the audience to request an encore.

High Road III is a female, instrumental trio consisting of Belmont University graduates Sarah Davison, Anna Grace Kimbrough and Kiley Phillips. "Of all we've done, this is one of the highlights," Jeff Sneed said. "High Road is such a strong, upcoming group. We will hear a lot out of them."

The award-winning Booth Brothers followed that up with nine crowd-pleasing songs, including "He Saw It All," "Tradin' the Old Cross," "Look For Me At Jesus' Feet," "My Secret Place" and four songs that were on the group's A Tribute to the Songs of Bill & Gloria Gaither project.

The Booth Brothers concluded their set by receiving a standing ovation after a passionate rendition of "Then I Met the Master."

The Sneed Family opened their nine-song stand with "Calm the Troubled Water" and "More to Go to Heaven For." The group – which consists of Jeff Sneed, his wife Pam, their three children (Amanda Cowan, Seth Sneed and Jacob Sneed), their son-in-law Caleb Cowan and pianist Adam Wagner – was actually founded in 1982 as the Glory Bound, a male quartet that consisted of 18-year-old Jeff Sneed serving as the pianist and baritone singer. Now, as the Sneed Family, the group performs 100-120 dates per year.

In the middle of the group's set, Glasgow police chief Guy Turcotte joined the group on stage and presented the Sneed Family with a key to the city.

That was followed by a phone call from Buck Rambo – who was scheduled to be in attendance but was unable to attend due to illness – conveying well-wishes to the group.

An offering was also taken to help offset medical expenses from recent illnesses that Hinson and Rambo have experienced. More than \$700 was given to both men.

"Getting a key to the city was a shock," Jeff Sneed said. "Getting a phone call from Buck Rambo was awesome and having Larry Hinson was awesome."

The Sneed Family concluded its set with "If You'll Move Over," followed by a performance of "Hallelujah Square" that was tagged with an a capella rendition of the chorus. Then, they concluded their set with Larry Hinson and the Booth Brothers joining the host family on stage for an energetic delivery of "He's Leading the Way."

To top off the event, the Booth Brothers concluded the evening with its crowd-pleasing blockbuster "Still Feelin' Fine."

What a great way to end a terrific Homecoming for The Sneed Family.

For more information on these groups, visit:
The Sneed Family <http://www.sneedfamily.com/>
The Booth Brothers <http://boothbrothers.com/>
High Road III <http://www.highroadmusic.com/>
Larry Hinson <http://larryhinsonministries.homestead.com/>



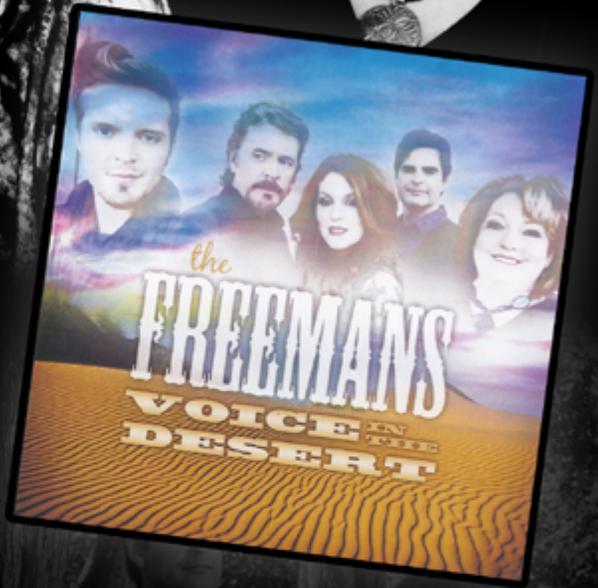




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This chart was compiled from a list of reporting stations. Each month we will be adding more stations.

1	GORDON MOTE	MEANWHILE BACK AT THE CROSS	35	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET	WONDERFUL TIME UP THERE
2	KAREN PECK AND NEW RIVER	FINISH WELL	36	BARKLEYS	HEAVEN'S IN THE HOUSE
3	MCKAMEYS	A HILL WORTH DYING ON	37	WILBURN & WILBURN	FUNERAL PLANS
4	HYSSONGS	THINKING ABOUT GOING HOME	38	KINGSMEN	THE NEXT CLOUD
5	GREATER VISION	FOR ALL HE'S DONE	39	KINGDOM HEIRS	I'LL KNOW I'M HOME
6	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY	SHOW A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE AND KINDNESS	40	NELONS	THE SUN'S COMING UP
7	TIM LIVINGSTON	OVER THE NEXT HILL	41	LORE FAMILY	HE STILL BEARS THE SCARS
8	BARRY ROWLAND AND DELIVERANCE	GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME	42	RED ROOTS	SEVEN DAYS
9	FREEMANS	LEAD ME HOME	43	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET	YOUR WALK TALKS
10	ERNIE HAASE AND SIG. SOUND	THAT'S WHY	44	SUNDAY DRIVE	HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY
11	BRIAN FREE AND ASSURANCE	SAY AMEN	45	TAMMY JONES ROBINETTE	BEAUTIFUL DAY
12	PERRYS	THE BLOOD AND ITS POWER	46	CAROLINA BOYS	WATCH AND PRAY
13	OLD PATHS	LONG LIVE THE KING	47	MARK BISHOP	LOVE'S GONNA GET YOU
14	TALLEYS	WHEN HE CALLS I'LL FLY AWAY	48	NEW GROUND	SETTLE DOWN AND REST
15	ISAACS	WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN	49	BROWDERS	LIFT UP HIS NAME
16	OMEGA QUARTET	LOVE WORTH DYING FOR	50	BOWLING FAMILY	SOMEBODY'S BELIEVING
17	JEFF & SHERI EASTER	I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO SURVIVE	51	DUNAWAYS	OVER 100 YEARS FROM NOW
18	DIXIE MELODY BOYS	ROLL BACK	52	ADAM CRABB	SOMETIMES HE WHISPERS
19	JASON CRABB	LOVE IS STRONGER	53	BLACKWOOD BROTHERS QUARTET	THAT'S WHAT HEAVEN WILL BE
20	HOPPERS	I'LL TAKE YOU HOME	54	GREATER VISION	PREACHER TELL ME LIKE IT IS
21	MERCY'S WELL	MORE LIKE JESUS LESS LIKE ME	55	SHELLEM CLINE	LOOK UP
22	MICHAEL AND DELILAH	THE STROLL	56	DOVE BROTHERS QUARTET	HOLD ON
23	TRIUMPHANT	THE GREATEST LOVE STORY	57	WILBANKS	MATCHLESS NAME
24	STEELES	WE'RE ALL HUMAN	58	TRIUMPHANT QT	BECAUSE HE LOVED ME
25	WHISNANTS	HE CAN MOVE THAT STONE	59	LEFEVRE QUARTET	PUT IT RIGHT THERE
26	11TH HOUR	HOW WILL YOU PLEAD	60	BROWDERS	LISTENING FOR THE SHOUT
27	BROWNS	THE CAPTAIN'S GOT IT UNDER CONTROL	61	RICK WEBB FAMILY	LET THE ROCKS KEEP SILENT
28	LEGACY FIVE	HE IS TO ME	62	NEW VISION	WHEN I CROSS
29	GOLD CITY	NEVER TOO BROKEN TO BE LONG	63	DANNY ROBERTS	I WENT DOWN A BEGGAR
30	GEORGIA	WE HAVE A HOPE	63	ISAAC COLE	I'M JUST A KID
31	HOSKINS FAMILY	GOD IS BIG	65	ALLEN FAMILY	TALK ABOUT THE LORD
32	ROCHESTERS	GOD'S BEEN GOOD	66	GREAT DAY	YOU SAID NO
33	MYLON HAYES FAMILY	JESUS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE	67	GALLOWAYS	TIL THE STORM PASSES BY
34	STEVE HESS & SOUTHERN SALVATION	MOUNTAIN OF GRACE	68	DIXIE MELODY BOYS	THAT STORY IS MINE
			68	PAUL JAMES SOUND	HIS CALL
			70	TARANDA GREENE	STRONGER
			71	TINA WAKEFIELD	IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
			72	HIGHER HOPE	ALL THE WAY

73	PRUITT FAMILY	MAKIN' MY WAY	94	CALEB GARRETT	SOMETHING TIMELESS
74	WESTON AND CHRISTY HINSON	FINALLY HOME	95	JAMES AND JEFF EASTER	LIKE FATHER LIKE SON
75	COMMON BOND QUARTET	I JUST STEAL AWAY AND PRAY	96	GANN FAMILY	THIS BLOOD
76	RHONDA FRYE AND RIVERSIDE	LOOKING OUT FOR YOU	97	MARK209	TENNESSEE ORANGE
77	BEELERS	BECAUSE OF YOU	98	QUINTIN MCGINNIS	WHEN IT COMES MY TIME
78	TONY BURCHETTE	LOOK WHO'S IN THE SHIP	99	DALTON GANG	IN THE STORM
79	PRIMITIVE QUARTET	EMPTY ME LORD	99	TIM OOTEN	JUST A PRAYER AWAY
80	JIM ANTHONY	WHO DO YOU THINK			
80	MIKE UPRIGHT	GOOD HANDS			
82	DRUMMOND FAMILY	VICTORY IS MINE			
83	TERRY COLLINS	IF I BE LIFTED UP			
84	BRIAN BURCHFIELD	FAMILY CIRCLE			
85	JONATHAN TRAYLOR	JESUS IS ALIVE AND WELL			
86	DOWN EAST BOYS	IF I KNOW HIM			
87	EAST RIDGE BOYS	SOME DAY			
88	WILLIAM TOLSON	WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN			
89	ANCHORMEN	SOME THINGS I KNOW			
90	DANNY NORMAN	I'M AN AMERICAN			
91	GOSPELAIRES	THERE IS A GOD			
92	DEBRA PERRY & JAIDYN'S CALL	GONE, GONE, GONE			
93	PROMISE	SHOUT BEFORE THE WALLS COME DOWN			



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SGN Scoops Website Wins Award

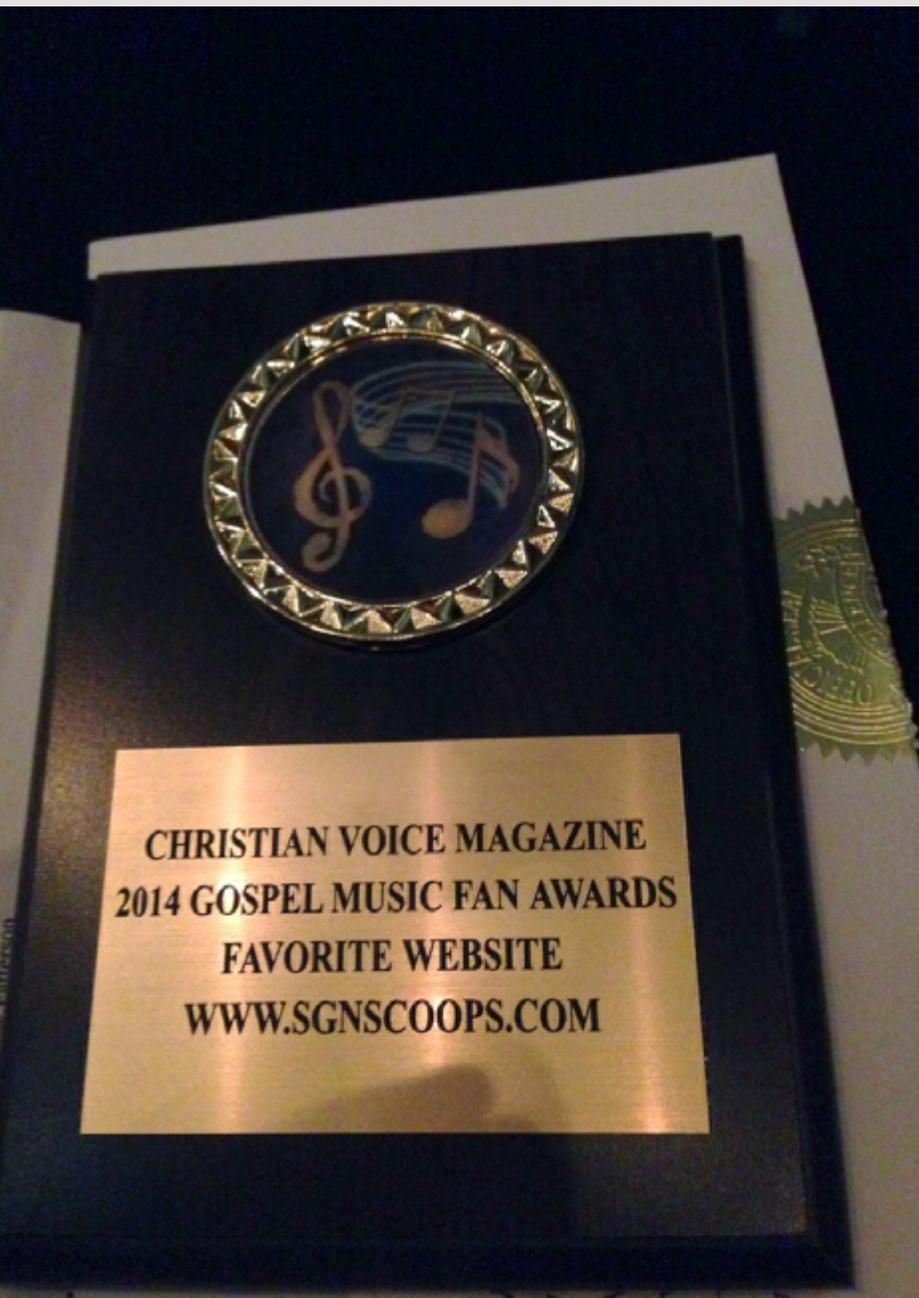
By Lorraine Walker

The first Gospel Music Fan Fair was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee in August 2005, featuring Fan Awards voted on by the readers of US Gospel News and hosted by Wilds and Associates. This past May, the Fan Fair's 10th Fan Awards was held in Somerset, Kentucky, attended by hundreds of fans excited to learn who would win these awards. Rob Patz, owner of SGN Scoops website and publisher of SGN Scoops magazine, attended the Fan Fair from Monday May 12 to Thursday, May 15. The event continued through Saturday, May 17, when it held its annual Fan Awards ceremonies.

In 2006, Wilds and Associates published the very first Christian Voice Magazine, which then became the conduit through which fans would vote for the Fan Awards. The Fan Fair and the Awards were divided into Southern Gospel and Christian Country, but both were brought together this year in Somerset, in the Performing Arts Center, for a week of wonderful music and exciting artists.

"I was happy that my schedule allowed me to attend the Fan Fair in Somerset for a few days," says Rob Patz. "I was sorry I had to leave before the end of the week. I was able to meet a lot of friends of SGN Scoops and a lot of dedicated fans of Gospel music. Each performer gave their best and it was great to see the camaraderie between artists. I encourage everyone to make it point to visit Fan Fair next year!"

Christian Voice Magazine offers its readers 25 Fan Award categories in which to vote for their favorites. One of those awards is for Favorite Website. "When I saw that SGN Scoops was voted for the top ten in the website category, I was thrilled that our readers would be that enthusiastic about the site to nominate us along with so many good artist and industry sites," says Patz. Imagine his surprise when he was notified that SGN Scoops website was the winner of the 2014 Fan Award for Favorite Website!



"We work hard to make the SGN Scoops website and magazine a place for people to receive news, encouragement, information and entertainment," Patz explains. "Since Coastal Media Group obtained the site and the magazine from founder Dr. Allen Smith in 2009; we have endeavored to keep the same dedication to Christ, the artists and the fans as Dr. Smith achieved. We hope our readers keep coming back again and again to find more Christ-based content and exciting new features. Thanks to you and to Christian Voice Magazine for your encouragement to us to keep on fulfilling our mandate!"

SGN Scoops website and magazine encourages our readers to share with us anything new or interesting they would like to see on our site and our pages. Please contact us at rob@sgnscoops.com. Thank you for reading!

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Grip of Grace With *Dixie Phillips* and *Debbie Bennett*

In February, I had the privilege of meeting Debbie Bennett, the widow of Roger Bennett, in Nashville, Tennessee. Although I wasn't personally acquainted with the Bennett family, I had seen Roger perform at several Cathedral and Legacy 5 concerts. I was an avid fan of his music. I had often prayed for the Bennett family when Roger was fighting for his life and wondered how his family was getting along after his death.

Debbie and I kept in touch after I returned home from Nashville. I asked if she would be willing to share her story with our SCOOPS' readers. I was thrilled when she agreed to be interviewed.

I know every reader will be deeply moved by her authenticity, transparency, and willingness to allow a peek behind the scenes of her life with Roger, his sickness, and death. One theme is woven throughout her story—God's grip of grace.

Dixie: Tell us about your life growing up, Debbie.

Debbie: Growing up as the youngest of four children,

and the only girl, I had no inkling of the blessings that God would bestow upon me; I'm not sure I could have faced either the highest of highs, or the lowest of lows, if I had. But isn't that just like God to give us what we need, when we need it?

I was born a Texas girl, barely over the line in Texarkana, but most of my youth was spent in Arkansas. My daddy was an over-the-road truck driver, so we moved a couple of times. My mom stayed at home with us, and taught us much about life and coping with changes. From the time I was 11 years old, until I married, I lived in West Memphis, AR. Little did I know that in a small town in Northeast Arkansas, a town called Strawberry, Roger Bennett was growing up as the only child of Doug and Jean Bennett, to be the man I would eventually marry.

Dixie: When did Roger know he had a musical gift and where did he receive his musical training?

Debbie: As a young boy, Roger first fell in love with Southern Gospel music by listening to the Gospel Jubilee program on Sunday, while getting ready for church. He could almost pinpoint the moment that the

Florida Boys introduced him to his life-long love of this music. He spent hours listening to albums of all of the classic groups, playing along on the piano with them, and although his parents TRIED to provide him with piano lessons, Ms. Oleta, his very patient teacher, finally declared that she couldn't do anything else with a student who refused to try to read music. Roger would ask her to play through a piece, then he was able to play it back for her, using his ability to play by ear. He could be a bit challenging! His talent was a natural one, and was truly God-given. Roger practiced a lot, but he was perfecting his own style.



Dixie: Share about when you came to know Christ as your personal Savior and also Roger's testimony.

Debbie: Because we were both blessed with families who cared enough to have us in church, we were both saved at early ages. I was eight years old when I asked Jesus into my heart, and Roger was near the same age. What a blessing to say that neither of us ever had a testimony of being saved from a life of drugs or hard living. Sure, we went through normal ups and downs, and if I'm being honest, I've heard a few childhood stories of Roger's that must have had his parents pulling their hair over his creative antics. Anyone who knew Roger knew that he was full of life – and mischief. He was a character, but somehow his mischievousness made him even more lovable!

Dixie: How did you and Roger meet?

Debbie: I will never forget the day that I first met Roger Bennett. I had just begun my freshman year of col-

lege at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, AR (it has since been renamed Williams Baptist College). Roger was beginning his sophomore year there then. Some friends and I were in the college's chapel singing around the piano, which I was playing (yes, I do play too, but I only read music, as opposed to playing by ear). We had been singing a while, when Roger came in, listened as we finished a song, and asked "Do you mind if I play?" – to which I replied, "Oh, do you play, too?"

He sat down and started playing, and I was both amazed and mortified. We became good friends, but never dated while at college together. Interestingly enough, Roger dated one of my best friends, and I dated the guy she eventually married. SBC was only a two-year college at the time, so after Roger finished his sophomore year, we did have a couple of dates before he left the state to join the Cathedral Quartet, moving to Ohio.

It was quite some time before we reconnected, and when we decided to pursue a relationship, it was via phone for the most part. We got to know each other really well, developing good communication skills, courtesy of Ma Bell and some hefty long-distance phone bills! We had only two actual dates that weren't in a concert setting before he proposed to me in July, 1981.

Dixie: Tell us about your wedding and early life together.

Debbie: When we married on December 17, 1981, we spoke our vows in the very chapel where we met that first day of college. He wrote me a song, titled "You Took My Life By Surprise", and sang it to me at our wedding; I still tear up thinking about that.

Eleven days after our wedding, we loaded a U-Haul and set off to our new home in Ohio, arriving to 18" of snow on the ground, and me thinking "What have I done?". Two days later, Roger left on the Cathedrals' bus, and that began my 25 year life as a quartet wife. In those days, the Cathedrals traveled about 250 days each year.

I firmly believe that God had begun preparing me for that life early on. My young life as a truck driver's daughter, watching my mom deal with events in life as they came up while Daddy was away, was good preparation for teaching me how to cope in my own situation. I also had great examples in Van Payne and Clara Younce. I believe that Roger and I were both called to

the life we led.



We were a true partnership. The ministry he had, both at home and while traveling, was fully supported by the things that I did “behind the scenes”. We wrote songs together, too. I did all of the proofreading of the songbooks and printed music, because I had the patience to read the music. And, although Roger could read music, he really didn’t have as much patience with it. If he wanted to learn some new song that was in print, he would often have me sightread it, play it through, then scoot me over on the piano bench so he could just take off with it. I never knew whether to be flattered or frustrated!

Dixie: Tell us about your children and what it was like being a “quartet” wife.

Debbie: We were blessed with two wonderful children to complete our family. Our daughter Chelsea was born in July, 1984, and our son Jordan was born in November, 1986. Being a “sometimes-single” mom wasn’t always easy, especially since our families lived so far away, but it was always clear to me that God had his hand on our family, and Roger’s ministry. As the years went by, this was confirmed over and over. Yes, he missed some of the kids’ milestones, and those were the

years before cell phones, and instant photos and video feed.

We both got tired and worn, and when Roger was traveling, I was busy trying to juggle kids’ schedules and run the group’s mail-order business, while staying active in church and missing him. But I don’t think I would trade a minute of that for anything. We had wonderful times together. We were able to go on many cruises with the group, and somehow God multiplied the time we had at home together so that we were a very happy, contented family. As much as Roger loved what he was called to do, he said many times that his favorite job of all was being a dad, and that if he failed at that, he had failed at everything. Well, he didn’t fail at that; he was a wonderful dad...and a wonderful husband, a great son, a loyal friend, and a Godly example of what a man should be, both on and off the stage.

Dixie: When did you realize Roger was sick?

Debbie: In June, 1995, Roger was in a recording session, when he leaned back to rub his tired neck, and felt a large lump. We were leaving to take the kids on vacation to Disneyworld the next day, and he told me he was concerned. We both thought it was probably something like mono, and after we got back home, he saw a doctor, who treated him with antibiotics. When it didn’t get better, he had a needle biopsy done, and in August, 1995, he was diagnosed with cancer.

Going to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, we later learned he had leukemia (CLL), and the disease progressed enough that he began treatment for it in December of that year. He went into remission after several months of treatment, staying symptom-free until December, 1999, just as the Cathedrals were retiring, and he was founding Legacy Five with Scott Fowler. From then on, although periods of remission occurred, he battled the disease in one form or another.

In late 2003, we discovered that his CLL was transforming into Lymphoma, and in April, 2004 he had his first bone marrow transplant. Being an only child, he wasn’t an easy match, but through an only-God miracle, his father was a perfect match, and eagerly agreed to be the donor. This is a very rare occurrence, but Roger, with his trademark grin, joked that being from Arkansas, his family tree didn’t fork!

That first bone marrow/stem cell transplant basically cured both his CLL and Lymphoma. However, years

of harsh treatments, while prolonging his life on one hand, ultimately contributed to his developing a much more aggressive form of leukemia (AML). There was a second transplant, also with his father's cells; another remission; then another relapse; and the 3rd transplant within 30 months, this time with a matched, unrelated donor. He could never achieve remission following the last transplant, though, and finally, on March 17, 2007, Roger got his ultimate healing, when he gained his Heavenly promotion.



Dixie: Share about your journey after Roger's death.

Debbie: My life, and the life of our family, was forever changed on that day. Everything I had known during 25 years and three months of marriage was suddenly gone. I hadn't traveled on a bus, but I was a part of the Southern Gospel family and industry, just the same. Now, there seemed to be no place where I really fit in. My children had moved out.

This was all a new and scary world. But the lessons I had learned by living with a man of God became more focused. Could I really live out the things we had talked to others about? And I had projects to complete. There were videos to be finished; I completed a book that Roger and I had started together; I continued the blog that he and I had been writing. And, through the friends and "family" we had made while walking this medical portion of our journey, I was blessed with the opportunity to become a trained volunteer with the National Marrow Donor Program.

For over six years now, I have traveled throughout the United States, and internationally, to transport life-saving bone marrow and cells from selfless, anonymous

donors to patients awaiting a transplant and the hope of a future. I have had lots of good days, and I have made a lot of mistakes. I am still trying to figure out how to reinvent my life.

New opportunities have presented themselves, and I have been involved with the Veranda ministry for two years now. I love the purpose of this ministry, which provides respite for seniors with age-related diseases, including Alzheimer's and Dementia, and their caregivers. Two years ago, as this idea was evolving, I lost my sweet Daddy to the devastating disease of Dementia, so I've been given an empathy in this regard, as well. I learned from the best that God can use all of our difficulties to minister to others, if we will allow Him to.

Dixie: Is there anything you would like to share with our readers?

Debbie: I am blessed! Our daughter, Chelsea, is living with me, working in Nashville, and is one of the most vibrant Christians I know, with a heart for service. Our son, Jordan, and his wife Jessica live in California, and both have very interesting careers. He is an exceptionally talented musician, and performs, composes for films, orchestrates, and engineers, while she is a stunt person and actress. Both of my children inherited their father's great gift of musicianship.

I have the time and ability to pursue my passion for volunteering, and I may one day decide just what I want to be when I grow up! I have a couple of ideas for books to write that are taking root in my head. I love to write, and I still post the occasional musing on the web blog. My life has been greatly enriched with the blessing of having a precious little boy in my life, too. Isaiah will be five this summer, and I love spending time with him every other weekend. It is a true pleasure to be able to nurture a little one again.

Life may not always turn out like we had planned, or expected. However, GOD always has a plan, and His plan is meant for our good. To close, I can think of no better phrase than the one Roger always used when signing off. I am so thankful that no matter what may come my way in life, I am held securely, lovingly, and eternally..... "IN HIS GRIP".



Legacy of Love

*You've left us for a while.
We'll miss your lovely smile.
But death cannot erase
Sweet memories that took place.
Although you've gone away
In our hearts you'll always stay
Our gift from God above—
Our legacy of love.*

*Your work on earth is done.
Life's final war you've won.
This one thing we know
You've left "footprints" in our soul.
We'll keep marching on.
And keep singing all your songs.
Until we reach heaven above
And see our legacy of love.*



*Your legacy of love with us will remain,
Echoing the truths your life did proclaim.
You're with Christ above and Christ is here with me.
We're really not apart—there's just a veil between.
You will always be etched in our memory—our legacy
of love.*

--Dixie Phillips

Here are links near and dear to Debbie's heart. Her blog can be found at rogerbennett.typepad.com. Roger's products are available at the Legacy 5 website: www.legacyfive.com. The National Bone Marrow Donor Program can be found at www.bethematch.org. And last, but not least, is The Veranda's website at www.verandaministries.com.

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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.



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.



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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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

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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>



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 is an Inspirational Writer, Speaker, Healer, Explorer, and Life Traveler who loves to share his experiences, life lessons, and encouragement through publication and speaking in public forums. He is an Assistant Professor of Nursing for Indiana Wes-

leyan University School of Nursing's Post-Licensure Division and continues to pursue specialties in aerospace and hyperbaric medicine. He is a freelance writer/songwriter and the former radio host. To learn more about Scott, please visit his website at: www.scottrhoades.net



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine

each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



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

in the country with his family. You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



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

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

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

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



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

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



Sherry Anne Lints, a Doctor of Chiropractic, singer, speaker, actress, writer and fitness trainer, was born with a bilateral hearing and speech impairment. She appeared in the films, Clancy and The Perfect Gift and was a special guest on 100 Huntley Street, in Ontario, Canada. She is a contributing author for the book, Modern-Day Miracles and released her second CD, Keep on Prayin', July 2012 and has opened for many of the Gaither Homecoming Artists. Additionally, Sherry Anne helps lead worship and drama at her church. For more information, visit: [www.](http://www.SherryAnne.com)

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After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

Craig's Southern Gospel interest dates back for approximately the same time span, having closely followed the industry since the later portion of the 1990s. He also performed for seven years with a local trio prior to joining the SGN Scoops staff.



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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