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OUR MISSION

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

It is the month of June and welcome to the Publisher's Point! So many exciting things going on in SGNScoops, and I overlooked something very neat last month. We want to welcome Nathan Kistler as a contributor! We are excited about what he has to share with our readers, about what is going on in our capital of the United States. He's going to share with us any prayer requests and things that we can do to be involved in our government. I think that is very important and we are excited to have Nathan as part of our team here at Scoops.



June is also the month we celebrate Father's Day and over time I have been hesitant to even talk about it in the Publisher's Point. You can go back and look at past June editions of the Publisher's Point and realize that I didn't really touch on it very much. But I do want to tell you that I had an awesome father who had the ability to communicate and share with people and make them feel like his friends from the first moment they met him. He had the ability to draw people to him and make them want to be a part of whatever he was doing.

I'm truly blessed that I have these memories and as much as I wish my dad was here today I realize that Daddy would never want to come back from heaven. But there isn't a day that goes by that I don't hear his voice and the wisdom that he taught me. I may not have always listened to him when he was alive, but I look back and cherish on the things that he did tell me, and how he truly cared and loved me and wanted what was best. So I truly had a great example of what it means to have a father.

Now there are many people who unfortunately are not as blessed as I am, but we need to know that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us just the same. I think of that each day; how I had a great example in my father of my Heavenly Father. My dad never wanted me to fail or to have hardship, but at the same time Daddy knew a lot of the things were teaching me valuable lessons for down the road. I'm not saying I've always learned them, but through time I'm trying.

So on Father's Day, if you have your dad still with you, tell him how much you appreciate him and love him;

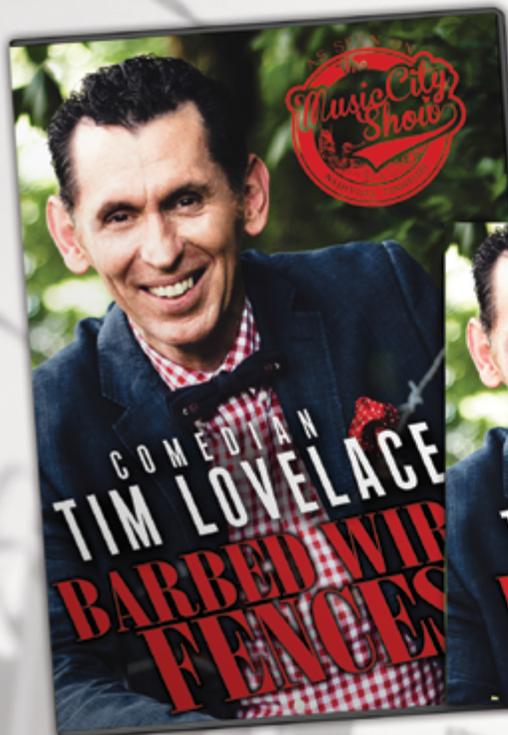
and if you don't, then look back on who was a valuable person in your life, like I will be this Father's Day.

I want to close with quickly reminding you that Christian Country Expo is just a little over two months away on August 15th through the 18th at beautiful Pigeon Forge, Tennessee! We are going to have an awesome time and we want you to be there. Make your hotel reservations at hotels@sgnscoops.com or call Salina Clay at 256-239-7716.

Also I want this to be your special invitation to join me October 31st through November 3rd in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for the biggest event of the year for SGNScoops magazine, which is Creekside Gospel Music Convention! We are excited about Creekside 2016! This will be our fifth year of the event and we have some special things planned. We hope that you come and be a part of these wonderful four days, featuring not only Gospel music but of a time of fellowship and prayer. For more information visit Creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com and for hotel reservations, email hotels@sgnscoops.com or call Salina Clay at 256-239-7716.

Well, I hope everybody gets a chance to enjoy the sun! Remember, you can take the printed version of the newspaper anywhere you go. It is awesome; you don't even need Internet for the printed version of the magazine, you can subscribe here on the website.

Hope everybody enjoys their month of June. This is the Publisher's Point!



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“Can You Handle It”

Who Will Make America Great Again?

By David Staton

The current Presidential election has captivated Americans. The older I get, the more I follow politics. I guess it's because the older my kids get, the more I'm concerned about the world that they will grow up in. Seventeen Republican candidates threw their hat in the ring to become President of The United States, but a few months later, Donald Trump has become the front-runner in the race. His catchphrase, “Make America Great Again,” is something that we all want. Donald Trump has convinced many Americans that he is the man that can do it. But can he? Can anyone? Have we as a country gone too far for too long to ever return to greatness?

Can you remember a time when you thought that America was great? Many of us look back to the early 1980's when Ronald Reagan became President. During that time, America enjoyed some of the most prosperous times in recent history. I still believe we are the greatest Nation on the planet, but I also believe that

we are in a tail spin, spiraling out of control.

What has happened over the last three decades to get us to this point? History shows that many great empires have fallen, and the common denominator in their demise was immorality. Can we pull out of the tail spin, or are we seeing the beginning of the end of this great Nation?

I'm honestly not sure, but I can tell you that no Presidential hopeful will save us. Before I get to what I know to be our only hope, let's look back to those Reagan years. I was a kid, but I remember that during the election that Ronald Reagan ultimately won, there was a man who united Christians and encouraged them to take a stand, pray and vote based on scriptural principles. His name was Jerry Falwell, and he formed a coalition of Christians known as the Moral Majority. Record numbers of Christians woke up and united, letting their presence and voice be heard.

I believe history would have looked a lot different had Christians had stayed apathetic and complacent like we are doing now. I remember my family going to see Jerry Falwell when he came to Cincinnati during that election year. His message was centered on 2 Chronicles 7:14, which says: *"If My people who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways, and seek My face, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land."*

Something extraordinary happened that year. Many Christians realized what was at stake and they did exactly what this verse said. It was a much deeper, personal message than for Christians to simply vote. It was a call for repentance and revival in the church. Did it work? Reagan won by a landslide and has gone down in history as one of the greatest Presidents in U.S. history. That generation is often referred to as "The Last Great Generation of Americans." I believe the church had a major role in that era of history when America was so blessed.

Technology has brought us light years ahead over the last 35 years, but it has also taken us down roads that we may never recover from. Playboy magazine is going out of business because of the internet. Anything and everything can be accessed by every man, woman and child who has a smartphone. Internet access has opened the door to far more graphic images and video than Playboy magazine has ever introduced to the world.

As Christians, we like to blame the moral decay of this Nation on the adult film and magazine industry. We are quick to point our fingers at alcohol, drugs, a Godless generation, congress, and anything that falls under a secular definition. We like to sit in our padded pews and talk about how the world is going to hell around us and we blame everyone but ourselves. I talk to many pastors who tell me that they no longer hold revival meetings. When asked why, several believe that in a modern worship era, revivals are just old fashioned and not a trend that will catch on. Others tell me how they cannot get their people to support or attend revivals.

I then listen to the long list of things that they believe are too much competition for God. Yes, that is exactly what they are saying. Television, school events, football, and the list goes on and on with excuse after excuse for not leading their congregations to really see and hear from God. After all, is a revival really going to make a difference? Is it that important?

What has happened to make leading a congregation to pursue God on a deeper level even optional? After all, what is the point of worship if that is not at the core of our motivation? What has happened to the church in America? Why does there seem to be no passion in many of our churches?

According to recent and very reliable polling, 68% of men sitting in church every week admit to viewing pornography that week. 37% of women who attend church regularly admit to also viewing pornography during the week. The same report shows that about 50% of pastors admit to the very same thing. The world is having way too much of an impact on the church for the church to ever have any impact on the world.

That is why 2 Chronicles 7:14 is not a call for the world to change, it is a call for the church to change! The enemy has come to steal, kill and destroy. His target is you, your marriage, and your kids. If he succeeds, the ripple effect will take down the entire Nation. If you don't believe me, read your history books.

If you say that you are a child of God, and you have taken His name, then the ONLY person who can make America great again is you. According to scripture, if WE will humble ourselves and pray, and turn from OUR wicked ways, then God will heal our land.

Many who attend church regularly will disagree with me because they get upset when you say that the Christian life is a life of action. Those folks believe that doing nothing is always the right thing to do. They believe that since we did nothing to obtain salvation, then that same Grace allows them to live a life of doing nothing.

If you believe Grace allows us to not pursue holiness, then I would encourage you to read 2 Peter, chapter 1. Keep in mind that this is written by a guy who experienced extreme Grace in his lifetime. If you read it and still think I'm wrong, then take a good look at your spouse, your kids, and the survival of this Nation. They will have to deal with the consequences of our denial.

Will America ever be great again? It's not in the hands of politicians, it's in our hands!

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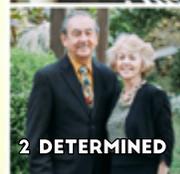
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Cana's Voice

Once Broken, Now Restored



By Paige Givens

“On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, ‘They have no more wine.’...Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water’; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, ‘Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.’ They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine...What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.” (John 2:1-3, 7-9, 11 NIV)

For this first recorded miracle, Jesus made what some may consider an interesting choice in the vessel that He used to perform the wonder. The jars often go unnoticed

in the story of The Wedding at Cana. But they play an important role in the miracle. They are used by the Master to reveal His glory.

The significance of the vessels has not gone unnoticed by TaRanda Greene, Jody McBrayer, and Doug Anderson. All three powerhouse singers have sung before thousands and thousands of Christian music fans. And all three have had moments before an Audience of One when it seemed as if their broken pieces wouldn’t hold any more miracles. But Jesus looked past the brokenness and saw three voices that He would use to restore hearts, to heal wounds, and to change lives.

He saw Cana’s Voice.

TaRanda Greene’s excellent vocal ability and powerful delivery has wowed listeners for years. She has



been a regular vocalist on Grammy award-winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir projects, and has also been invited to sing at the United Nations, as well as in the largest churches across the world. She has been a regular on the In Touch Network, Gaither Homecoming Series, and Turning Point Ministries.

Jody McBrayer traveled 12 years with the highly acclaimed and multi-award winning Christian pop group, Avalon. His vocal abilities helped garner 21 number-one songs, three Grammy nominations, over four million records sold and three Dove Awards for the group. In 2003, Avalon earned the American Music Award for Best Contemporary Inspirational Artist.

Doug Anderson was a founding member of Signature Sound. As a member of this highly successful Southern Gospel quartet, Doug has traveled the globe, appearing in countless sold-out venues. He has earned a Grammy nomination and 13 Dove Awards as both a soloist and as a member of Signature Sound. During his time with the group, they had three videos and one CD attain

Gold status in Billboard sales.

So how did these three extremely talented singers find themselves singing as one voice, Cana's Voice? Doug explains, "Landon Beene, President of IMC/StowTown Records (and TaRanda Greene's husband), TaRanda and I, along with our families, have vacationed together for years and have always joked and dreamed about putting something together where we could still keep our solo careers going, but be a part of something bigger. When I decided to leave Signature Sound the search was on, since we were searching for a third person to make this dream a reality. Landon contacted Jody whom we had all followed over the years, to see if he would be interested. We met at Wayne Haun's house, another Stow-Town Records executive and our producer, and just got around a piano and just did what singers do. I was all in within the first two minutes. I knew there was something special here and I wanted to be a part of it. And so Cana's Voice was born!"

TaRanda adds, "It felt like the world stopped to hear us that night. I know that sounds silly, but for a minute, it felt like everything stood still. I knew I wanted make beautiful music with these two from the first note."



And the group is definitely making beautiful music, both in the lives of listeners and in their own hearts. They started traveling and singing together at the beginning of 2016 when their solo careers would allow it, and released their debut album, *This Changes Everything*, on May 27, 2016. The goal of their first project is to offer the miracle of hope to the hopeless. The group wants to spread the great news of God's love and change as many lives as possible, particularly the souls of those who are ready to give up on the Church as they know it and on a relationship with God.

The group worked with award-winning producer Wayne Haun for the new project and used the incredible song-writing talents of Haun, Joel Lindsey, Tommy Sims, and CeCe Winans, among other talented writers. Wayne comments, “About a year ago, Doug, TaRanda, and Jody came to my house to rehearse for the first time. I knew it’d be good. Of course it would be. There were three major talents gathered around my piano. But when they started singing, something else happened. A sweet spirit filled the room. It was obvious that something special was brewing. Over the past year we have been diligently working on this recording and I know that listeners will experience the same kind of power that I felt that first night.”



On the road, the group is seeing the miracle of God’s transforming love in the lives of many, even as their own bond grows tighter. “Landon is my best friend,” Doug says of Landon Beene, founder of the group and President of IMC/StowTown Records. “We have been through life together. So many memories, laughter and tears. That kind of friendship lasts a lifetime. These days that’s all that matters to me. Landon takes care of all of us in many different ways.

“I’ve known TaRanda for years, mostly because we’ve been on the same tour circuit. She is an amazing talent, as everyone knows, and she is pretty much in charge of the stage. She keeps things in line with arrangements and parts, because that’s a true gift that she has and is very good at it. She is like a little sister to me and I

cherish that. She is the baby of the group in age, but also is the Lady presence when we’re traveling so that helps keep the boys in line.

“Jody is the consummate professional on the road. He is always put together as we call it. He doesn’t go anywhere without looking like a movie star. I, on the other hand, will be found in shorts, flip-flops and a T-shirt. Jody is someone that we have followed and looked up to for a long time. The fact that he is in this group still amazes me. He brings a lot of knowledge and experience to this trio and it does help that he can sing just a little bit, ha! More than anything else he’s my brother. I don’t have one so I love having my brothers on the road, plus he makes me laugh. He is classic for his impersonations.”

TaRanda adds, “Both Jody and Doug are very protective of me. They are my brothers and watch out for me, but they’re each the life of the party in their own way. I mean, I’ve seen Jody run a lap around the restaurant on a dare, and I’ve watched Doug literally injure himself going to the extreme to keep our kids having fun on the lake in the summer. They love to help people enjoy life. They’re motivators and they love! Each of these guys really is the best. Very different, but the best!”

As the group looks forward to more laughs, more experiences, and more songs, their goal remains the same: to change as many lives as possible through the love of God, like the name of their new album states... *This Changes Everything*. Reaching fans in Contemporary Christian Music, Inspirational and Southern Gospel, their music will change your perception of what type of music you think you might hear from these artists.

Jody McBrayer explains, “Our goal is to change everything we can about people. I don’t have delusions of grandeur. I just want people to hear and be touched by the music.” These three powerful, incredible talents are humbled by the fact that though they were once broken by life themselves, they are still being used to reveal the glory of God just like the instruments He used at the wedding feast in Cana.

“What is so significant to the three of us is the vessels Jesus used to create that miracle,” TaRanda explains. “They were broken and old, had fulfilled their purpose and had seen better days, but Jesus used them for a purpose that was even better than the first. As we sang our first note together, we realized God isn’t finished with



us. Just like those broken vessels, we have been repurposed for such a time as this. We want to carry the gospel to the world with humility, knowing where we've come from, knowing God is guiding our every step; believing in the Heavenly Father to be exactly who He is. We stand as a voice for the broken and wounded, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb for a higher calling. We are Cana's Voice."

To find out when you can hear Cana's Voice in person, or to get the new album, visit www.canasvoice.com.



Cana's Voice:

This Changes Everything

By Auke Bijlsma



I was supposed to have this review ready two days ago, but I hadn't taken the time to *really* listen to the record. Oh sure, I gave it a spin on several occasions before this lazy afternoon, and heard some cool licks, intricate harmonies and all that other good stuff. But this afternoon on my poolside lounge-sofa in my garden I finally fully registered this production.

As a freelance reviewer, and a *full-time critic* it is sometimes hard to sit back and just enjoy music open-mindedly. Most of the times I catch myself listening for stuff I don't like, and missing the good in the process. Today I didn't consciously decide to listen to this album, I had some alone time and did what I used to like best...listening to music. So I lay down with a cold drink beside me and my headphones on, and found myself sucked in by this album.

CeCe Winans' "**Heavenly Father**" opens this album and this song has an infectious quality, the chorus especially will stay with you all day. Taranda Greene is such a versatile singer, she sounds like Janet Paschal at times without the annoying breathing. She has the lead on this tune. Great tune, and would do great as a next single.

"**Give it To You**" has a Mumford and Sons feel to it. I don't particularly like this type of song, but these singers are so amazing when their voices come together in the blend that I actually enjoyed it. Doug Anderson is featured throughout the song, and what a pleasurable voice this guy's got!

The third track is a song I was introduced to by The Imperials on their *Sing The Classics* album. And Gary Driskell's "**Jesus Never Fails**" is such a classic! First and second verse has Taranda and Doug singing a duet, and the bridge is where Jody McBrayer's tenor voice comes in, with Taranda singing above and around him. This is an epic song, the best cut of this classic tune is on this album! This is the group's first single, one that I predict will do well!

"**On Mountains Alone**," a contemporary and musically pretty predictable pop ballad featuring Taranda. A song again

that proves to me personally that these guys can sing anything and still sound good! Their blend and harmonies are so spot on that I feel myself lured into liking it in spite of my musical preferences.

Jody McBrayer is featured on "**All My Reasons Are You**," a song I first heard done by Lord Song. Mr. McBrayer has a great and distinctive sound. This would do great as a single too.

No one sings songs like "**Love Anyway**" a mid-tempo tune like Doug Anderson, and that's about all I have to say about this tune.

"**His Heart is Big Enough**," written by Dawn Thomas Yarborough, is a song I've heard done by Michael English and Janet Paschal. But this is like "Jesus Never fails;" the definitive cut, and Cana's Voice stellar blend is so apparent on this modern classic. It's one of my favorite tracks on this album. Jody sings the first verse, and is joined by Taranda on the first part of the chorus, and Doug rounds out this heavenly blend when he joins on the second part of the chorus. Taranda takes the second verse. Like I said, this is the definitive cut of this classic.

Back in 1991, I bought the Gaither Vocal Band's *A Few Good Men* project, on it was "**There is a Mountain**," a song Michael English was heavily featured on, and unlike some of the other songs this doesn't make me forget the original. This tune sounds like a typical filler to me. The arrangement is pretty much the same as the GVB's cut; the horn arrangement sounds like it's taken from the original (GVB) track. It is still a very well executed song, and has some amazing vocal licks on it, and intricate harmonies. Wish they had redone "**Things Over My Head**," from that same GVB project instead; that would have fit like a glove.

Taranda sings "**Same Hands**," a power ballad with lush orchestrations, and a choir. Very pretty song, with some vocal acrobatics by Ms. Greene (Beene). Like I said, a pretty song.

“**Let the Blood Speak For Me**” is a Philips, Craig and Dean tune. Featuring Doug, this is one of my favorite songs on this album. A mid-tempo laid back tune, with a superb track.

Speaking of superb tracks, Kirk Franklin’s “**Hello Fear**” has the best music track of this album. A track Gary S.Paxton could have produced, because there is so much happening on this track. The harmonies of the singers are reminiscent of Earth, Wind and Fire at times. It’s a Norah Jones meets Babyface/Stevie Wonder kind of track.

William McDowell’s “**I Won’t Go Back**” is my favorite ballad on this album. A song I hadn’t heard before. Wonderful ad-lib by all singers, and again that amazing blend! Can’t say it enough, this vocal configuration is truly one of the best I have ever heard.

CeCe Winans’ “**Holy Spirit, Come Fill This Place,**” almost gave me the worship experience, my hands slowly and involuntary made their way above my head, when suddenly and rudely interrupted by my son who said ‘*why in the world are you listening to Michael Jackson?*’ I explained this wasn’t M.J. but Jody McBrayer formerly of Truth and Avalon. A simple and casual ‘*Oh*’ was his reply, and he walked off. Leaving me thinking ‘*Michael Jackson really?*’

In conclusion: I hope this group will stay together for a long time. Amazing album, great production, stellar vocals, and amazing songs, with some interesting endings. This album will definitely garner Dove awards and maybe even a Grammy. From the first song “Heavenly Father,” to the last track “Holy Spirit Come Fill This Place,” I was captivated; these three voices together sound so tight, strong and fresh! I highly recommend this album!

This Changes Everything track listing:

1. Heavenly Father
2. I Give It to You
3. Jesus Never Fails
4. On Mountains Alone
5. All My Reasons Are You
6. Love Anyway
7. His Heart is Big Enough
8. There is a Mountain
9. The Same Hands
10. Let the Blood Speak for Me
11. Hello Fear
12. I Won’t Go Back
13. Holy Spirit Come Fill This Place

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CHRISTIAN COUNTRY EXPO UPDATE- CCX'16!!

By Rob Patz

With Christian Country Expo 2016 just a couple of months away, we hope you've made your reservations to come and be with us August 15th through the 18th for a great time of Christian Country music. We are excited about this year's event and one of the things that has us excited and working hard is that this year we will be giving out the Diamond Awards in the Christian Country categories at Christian Country Expo. Vote today at <http://www.christiancountrynews.com/diamond-awards/> We are looking forward to a wonderful time on Thursday evening, August 18th, to close out Christian Country Expo 2016.

Each day we have more artists who are lining up and we think this is going to be four great days of fellowship and music that will change the rest of your year! Don't forget to reserve your tickets and your rooms. Ticket information is available at <http://www.christiancountryexpo.com>. Contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at hotels@sgnscoops.com or call her at 256-239-7716

Artists Appearing



Epp Mevin Walls is an award-winning Christian Country singer/songwriter, signed with Chapel Valley Music/Mercy Road Records. After graduating from high school

Epp formed a band with some friends which quickly became very popular in the North Carolina area. Before long, Epp was approached by a record label in Nashville, TN. Epp's first song he wrote and recorded for his new label became very popular in the overseas Country Music market earning him nominations in the Country Music Indie Awards. The life of a Country artist took its toll and Epp began to drink heavily. At the age of 26 Epp walked away from a very promising Country Music career to attempt to pull himself and his family back together. Epp met Jesus at the passing of his mother and now sings for the Lord.



her home church, Rockin' Country Church, of Seven Points, Texas, where she performed the song "We Are" by Kari Jobe. Trinity auditioned and began singing for the Hayseed Opry, located in the Cedar Creek Lake Area. She has also been invited to sing for many other community outreach events and churches.



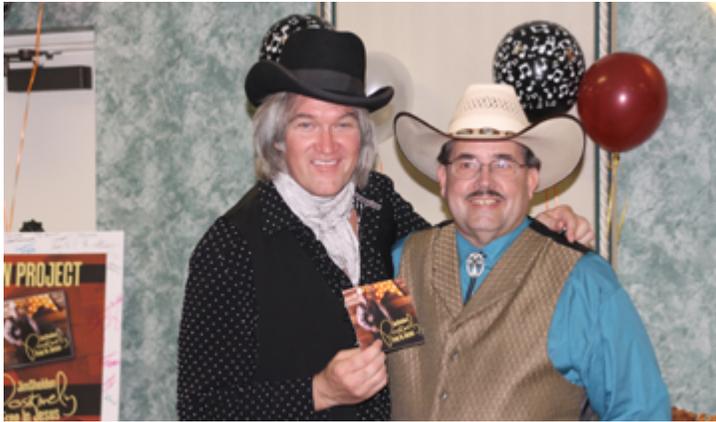
Debbie Bennett was nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year for the Country Gospel Music Guild for 2005, and won Songwriter of the Year for 2007 from the Country Gospel Music Association. She has had five number-one songs including "We Will Stand," "Remember Me," "Sunshine, Rain and Roses," "Dry My Mommy's Tears," and "Take Me Back to That Old Altar." Debbie has been the Most Played Overseas Artist for the months of October and November and December '05, and her songs "The Letter" and "Pictures on the Floor" have reached as high as number three on the National Top 100 as reported in the Glory-train Express Magazine.

Nine-year-old **Trinity Wennerstrom** began singing when she was two years old and performing when she was seven. She has performed for the Hayseed Opry of Cedar Creek Lake, Gun Barrel City Toys for Tots, Gladewater Opry, Wylie Opry, The Texas Gospel Jamboree, Cline's Corner, Cedar Creek Music Show, some churches, and also other community outreach and fundraising events. Her first performance was for



Wanda Osborne has been a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for over 30 years. She has been given the opportunity to preach to the sheep as a pastor, evangelized from place to place, see the sick healed, the bound set free and the captive delivered and most of all the lost saved. She says, "Sometimes the path seemed hard, but as God led I followed and now as he has promised me from Haggai 2:9 I am seeing, 'The Glory of this lat-

ter house shall be greater than the first, saith the Lord of hosts and in this place will I give peace saith the Lord of hosts.”



More artists attending this year’s event include: **Tommy Brandt, Kevin Rowe, The McDougal Family, Chuck Day, Kenny Gardner, Carol Barham, Ava Kasich, the Jordan Family Band, De La Croix, Pace Brothers, Shirley Carter, Shellem Cline, McKay Project, Bev McCann, Arkin Terrell, Danny Pilkey, Debbie Seagraves and The Positive Cowboy, Jim Sheldon,** plus other special guests to be announced.



More Information

Don’t forget! Besides all the great music that we have for Christian Country Expo, there are times during the day for you to check out all the wonderful things that are going on around the Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg area. We also want to invite you to take in Dollywood while you are there.

VIP tickets are also available. Call Rob Patz at 360-933-0741 to reserve your VIP spot. Like us on Facebook and be sure to check there for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/christiancountryexpo/>



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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Seth Sneed of the Sneed Family

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

One of the many joys of my job is introducing you to newer faces in our industry. This month, we turn our attention to the tallest member of The Sneeds. While this family is known to many of us, I'm sure some of you have never had a chance to meet their 22-year-old son, Seth. Well, all that can change right now - here's your opportunity! Mr. Seth Sneed, the floor is yours...

Erin: At what ripe old age did you hit the road with your family, and when did you feel called to join the group?

Seth: I grew up in it and was always a part of the group. I felt called to sing not long after I got saved when I was 15 years old.

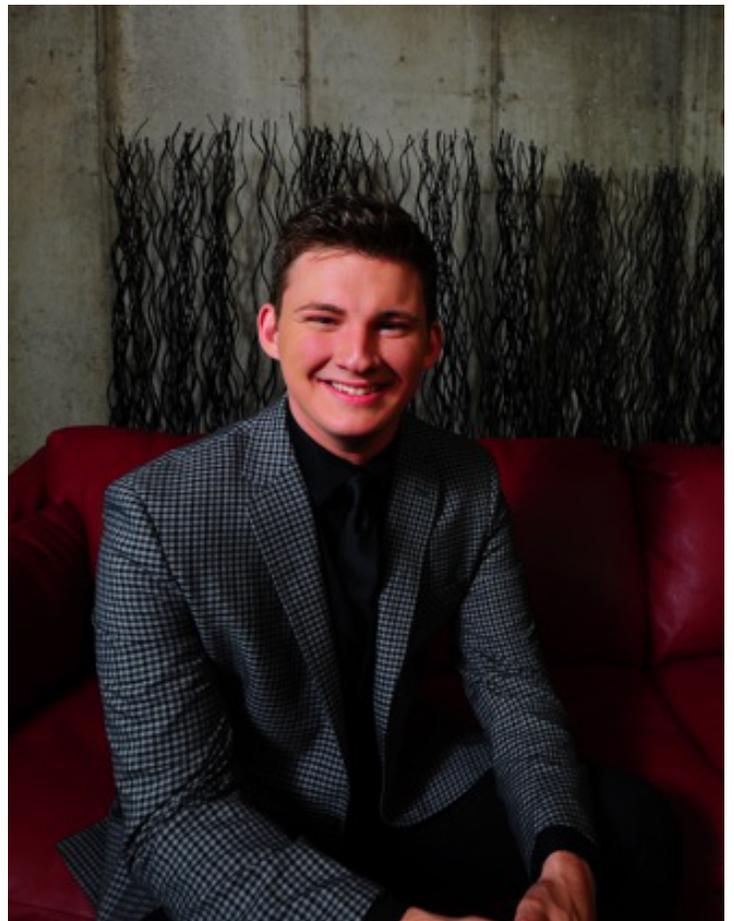
Erin: Share with the readers the story behind your coming to Christ.

Seth: I was nine when I first felt conviction, and spent the next five years in confusion. It was in the summer-time and we were singing on a Saturday evening and Sunday that weekend. It was on a Monday night that Dad decided to invite some friends and family over, and we started a revival in our basement! I went to the altar and prayed, when one of our friends spoke up and said she wanted me to sing "Clear Title." I got up and sang the song and got saved while I was singing that song. I spoke up on a Sunday morning not long after that and told of the joy of my salvation and what happened that night.

Erin: Tell us about Sneed TV and Glory Bound Jubilee. How did this come about?

Seth: There was a show locally that we knew of, and we got to go sing on it a few times. When the folks who hosted it got sick, we had the opportunity to take over temporarily as hosts. That opened the door to us being offered some more time slots to do our own show. We absolutely love doing it and have so much fun.

Erin: It's no secret you're quite the guitar player. When did you pick up the bass and rhythm guitars?



Seth: I was eight when I started playing. We lived in an area of Kentucky that was kind of off the beaten path so we couldn't find any teachers. We then met a bluegrass player in our area named Jeff Cruz, and I took lessons from him for about a year. After that, I fell in love with bass guitar too and started focusing on that as well.

Erin: *And on that note, are you still active in teaching*

Seth:

Lonesome Dove

Anything by Charles Stanley

There is no way I can narrow it down to one favorite song!



The Eagles

An old Dodge Charger

Anything fried!

Erin: *Is there any exciting news we should be anticipating this year from the group?*

Seth: Our show is going to be going into some

private guitar lessons?

Seth: Not really! I have been working on the farm more lately and enjoying helping my brother, Jacob with the cow herd.

Erin: *Are there any new Sneed Family albums on the horizon?*

Seth: Yes! We have been working on some new songs lately. Hopefully soon!

Erin: *Thus far in your career, what has been your favorite event to be a part of and why?*

Seth: I would say getting to sing at the Governor's Mansion in Kentucky, and playing with Loretta Lynn in the same concert at the Plaza Theatre.

Erin: *Let's have some fun - list your all-time favorite for each category, and...go! Movie, book, song, band, car, food.*

new areas soon, so that is exciting!

Erin: *Where do you see yourself in five years?*

Seth: Married, still singing and playing, raising cows and spending time with my dog, Buck.

Erin: *What has the Lord been teaching you in your personal walk that you would like to share with the readers?*

Seth: I've been learning a lot lately about patience and trying to be a kinder and more compassionate person.

Closing words from the writer...

Now that is something we can all be working on no matter where we're at in life. You can never show enough compassion or exhibit too much kindness to those around you - at work, at school, at the supermarket, or at home with your loved ones. I'm sure I'm not the only one who is guilty of struggling with a lack of compassion towards the people who know me best. You

know what I'm talking about? Sometimes it's easier to be nicer to those you hardly even know, and more difficult to maintain that sincerity among family and friends; they are the ones that see us at our best and at our worst. Today is a reminder to us all how important it is to strive for kindness and a patient heart. Thanks to Seth for spending a little time here in the land of Younger Perspective.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

And that's my take on it.

You can connect with Erin on

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Who would YOU like to see Erin interview next?

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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

| | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Tackets | Mirror Mirror |
| 2 | Bev McCann | 24 hrs a day |
| 3 | Carter Robertson Band Kevin Rowe and The Prodigal | God Against The Law |
| 4 | Sons | He's Coming |
| 5 | Caleb Dennis | Jesus is Always On Time |
| 6 | Shellem Cline | Blue Jeans and Biscuits |
| 7 | James Gee | God Sent His Son For That |
| 8 | Bruce Hedrick | Roses from God |
| 9 | Tommy Brandt | Broken |
| 10 | Johnny Rowlette | Old Mustang |
| 11 | Mary James | Fearfully, Wonderfully Made |
| 12 | Debbie Seagraves | Where Was God |
| 13 | Chris Golden | You Can't Do Wrong and Get By |
| 14 | The Parrish Family | Old House |
| 15 | Becky Wright | Come Lord Jesus |
| 16 | John Steed | The In Crowd |
| 17 | Stratiotis | Final Bell |
| 18 | Ashley Helmuth | Full Circle |
| 19 | The Wards | My Father Is Near |
| 20 | Mike Sanford | A Man Named Jesus |
| 21 | The Fowlers | I'm Nothing Without You |
| 22 | Jerry Branscomb | Long Haul |
| 23 | Brandon Poole | I Remember The Day |
| 24 | Christa Jordan | Invisible |
| 25 | Jim Sheldon | Church Like We Knew Back Then |
| 26 | Kristi Miller | In The First Place |
| 27 | Steve Roberson/Randy Finchem | It's a God Thing |

| | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 28 | John Randolph | You Aint Never Been to Texas |
| 29 | Maren Morris | My Church |
| 30 | Tommy Renfro | Where You've Been |
| 31 | Debbie Bennett | From the Third Day On |
| 32 | The Arenos | Thou Knowest |
| 33 | Crossfire Gospel Band | Gimme Back My Country |
| 34 | Tina Wakefield | Jesus Take Ahold |
| 35 | Crosby Lane | Crucified |
| 36 | Chloe Goss | Why Give Him a Reason |
| 37 | Kevin Woodall | God, Guns and Amazing Grace |
| 38 | Long Short Duo | Carry Me |
| 39 | Carol Hogner | There is a God |
| 40 | John Penney | Old Rugged Cross |



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- Landon

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Something Worth Saving A Brief Look At The McKameys

By Justin Gilmore

As human beings, we grow attached to many things. Physical items such as photos, art, and jewels hold sentimental value to many. However, these things won't matter at the end of the day. It is hard to believe that God loved us so much that He saved us. Even though we are sinners, the Lord of All Things said we are something worth saving.

This is the central theme of the brand new project from legendary family group, The McKameys. This highly successful mixed group has been blessed with more than 20 number-one hits in their over 50-year career. Peg McKamey Bean founded the group in 1954 with her sisters Dora and Carol, originally called the McKamey Sisters.

This trio later transformed into a quartet simply called the McKameys with the addition of Peg's husband Ruben Bean as the group's bass singer. This group's dedication to spreading the Gospel is clearly evident. Their musical talent shines on each recording. This new CD is no different as it contains songs of promise and hope. In celebration of the upcoming release of this project, I contacted the group for a brief interview. Here is my chat with Peg McKamey Bean:

Justin Gilmore: Hello Mrs. Bean. Tell me about the early days of the group.

Peg McKamey Bean: The early days were closer home, yet very rewarding. The family started full time in 1980 with Mom (Peg) and Pop (Ruben) and both girls, Connie and Sheryl. We have since added Connie's husband Roger Fortner and their son Elijah Fortner.

Gilmore: Great! What is the group's mission statement?

Bean: Our goal in leading worship is lifting up the One who is worthy, our Lord Jesus Christ. We still do. That is what Gospel music does!

Gilmore: Amen! Who are the group's musical influences?

Bean: Our parents were our musical influences.

Gilmore: What is the most memorable experience the group has had in its career of singing Gospel Music?

Bean: We treasure every memorable experience we have had in these great years.

Gilmore: Talk about your latest CD release.

Bean: Our latest CD will be released June 10, 2016 at our Hometown Sing at Clinton, TN. This is an annual event in Clinton, TN. People from 26 states were present last year and we invite everyone to come to Clinton, TN, June 10th and 11th for the singing. The new CD has 10 new songs. They are the best yet. The title is "Something Worth Saving;" thank the Lord for great songs. Our first single is "That's Why There's A Cross," the first song released from this project.

Gilmore: This project is great! Can't wait for people to hear it! What can fans expect from the group this year?

Bean: We will again be faithful in lifting up our Lord to a lost world. Come to see us when you can. Always pray for us.

Gilmore: Thanks for your time.

Bean: Blessings!

CD Review: SOMETHING WORTH SAVING by the McKameys

Producer: Jeff Collins and Roger Fortner

Members: Peg McKamey Bean (alto/lead), Ruben Bean (bass vocals, manager), Connie Fortner (soprano), Sheryl Farris (alto)

Record Label: Horizon Records

Release Date: June 10, 2016

Song List:

1. Christ Is Able- Tommy Walker, Mike Harland
2. I've Been In The Book- Rebecca J Peck, Dianne Wilkinson
3. Bring You Glory- Leigh Parsons Sexton
4. I Believe- Sheryl Farris
5. That's Why There's A Cross- Sheryl Farris
6. A Few Things- Rodney Birch
7. Back To Bethel- Larry Whitehead
8. Days Gone By- Rebecca J. Peck, Dianne Wilkinson
9. Something Worth Saving- Larry Whitehead
10. Come To My Rescue- Sheryl Farris

This musical journey begins with a tender ballad called "Christ Is Able." This song is simply beautiful! I wasn't too familiar with this group and their sound, but I was immediately captivated by this opening song. This showcases their harmonies well and sets the tone for this record. He is able still to save. Amen!

Next, the tempo picks up with a Rebecca Peck and Dianne Wilkinson penned number "I've Been In The Book." This fun tune is a quartet song through and through. The message of this song is simple: hide the Word of God in your heart! The Bible is His Word and is a Light unto my path. I've been in the book and now it is in me! Peg McKamey Bean nails this energetic song.

"Bring You Glory," is a beautiful prayer in song. Our plea is that we bring Him glory in our lives. Peg and Ruben's first born, Connie Fortner takes the lead on this powerful track.

Roger and Connie's son, Eli, gets his chance to shine on the groovy "I Believe." This proclamation song written by Sheryl



Farris (alto) is full of praise to Christ. It simply says: I follow Him because I believe who He says He is.

Farris, the youngest daughter of the Bean's, takes the lead on the project's first single, "That's Why There's A Cross." This powerful anthem, also written by Farris, addresses that need for Christ in this broken world. The tag says it all: "He sent His own Son for/ What seemed a lost cause/ Sin's debt was paid/ that's why there's a cross." This song is perhaps my personal favorite on this album. It's also worth noting that the mix on this song allows the listener to hear the solid bass vocal of Ruben Bean.

Roger Fortner, who joined the group in 1987, shines on the Country-styled mid-tempo tune "A Few Things," which is another simple prayer in song. Fortner's performance captures the essence of this incredible lyric well.

Peg is featured again on "Back To Bethel," a laid back Country-style tune written by Larry Whitehead. This song is a reminder of the time the Lord saved your soul. When you're feeling low, just remember His love for you.



Connie is once again featured on "Days Gone By," which reminds us of God's faithfulness. He is always there and will see me through just as in days gone by. Ruben Bean is featured on the title track which is simply brilliant. Though I am unworthy and a sinner, He must have seen something worth saving when He saved me. My God is real and His mercy covers me. Amen! Such a powerful song!



From the pen of Sheryl Farris comes the closing track, "Come To My Rescue." Farris is featured on this incredible song which is a plea to Christ. Wash me clean of my sins. I need You to rescue me! I cannot live without You! What an incredible lyric and performance.

FINAL THOUGHTS: This record is stellar! The McKameys once again provide listeners with Bible-based lyrics and incredible vocal performances. Go get this CD ASAP! 4.5 out of 5 stars. www.mckameysonline.com



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- * Gospel Music Video of the Year - *Monday*
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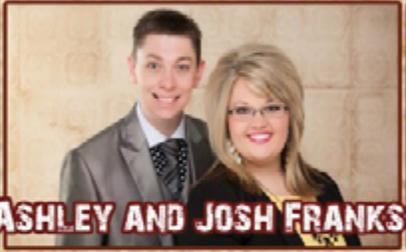
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DRUMMONDS



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ANNETTE BINGAMAN



TO THE END



LINDA FOSTER



THE WALKERS



WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

Good morning! I woke up this morning with a burning desire to share a portion of my heart and journey with so many of you who have touched my own life in one way or another. So pour yourself a cup of coffee or water...or mountain dew...or coke...or whatever it is you drink! Sit down and take just a few quiet moments (we all need to do this more often) to read and listen to my heart. Hopefully it will just give you that little nudge to once again recognize and be reminded that music is a gift from God and we are so blessed, fortunate and greatly privileged to be able to help take care of it and nurture it for others to enjoy and be blessed by it.

There is such incredible power and opportunity in this wonderful yet wacky music business and all that each of us have been entrusted with. We play such different roles and they are constantly changing for all of us. From the artists, to the songwriters, to the booking agents, to the pastors and promoters who present the concerts to their audience, to every one of the radio

folks, A and R, publishing, retail, the choral music extraordinaire, the marketing and promotion departments, to the lovers of the music...and the list goes on and on and on. Every one of us are so valuable and so important in getting the message, artistry and music out in whatever new and creative way possible to help touch lives. To help touch a life like mine, many years ago.

So many times we in the Christian Music business often forget or somehow lose focus of why we really do what we do. This happens for a variety of reasons in all of our lives, as we all know so well. On a recent trip to a Christian bookstore, while out on the road during a business trip for work, I was gently reminded by something that took place while I was looking around the music section of the store. A middle-aged lady asked the clerk what music would they would recommend for a “new young Christian kid of 14,” that she was in the process of helping disciple. I could not help but get a little emotional and reflective, as I began to think back

39 years earlier when I was a young kid of 14.

My life up until that age had been one mass of confusion. My mom, who was also a product of her own dysfunctional past and environment had been married five times by the time I was 13. My life was surrounded with all kinds of abuse, including sexual, verbal and mental abuse. I even had a stepfather take me to a prostitute at the age of 12 to introduce me to “love.” We were raised on welfare, had to steal our school clothes and other basic necessities of life, we lived in a housing development in a small two bedroom apartment that was for divorcees, unwed mothers, widows and their children.

Drugs, alcohol and pornography surrounded me at our house. I never had a dad, and I was constantly looking for a father’s love. It was a very tough upbringing. I was a miserable and unhappy kid who was daily seeking love, acceptance and approval in all of the wrong places. Yet in the midst of all of the junk and garbage that was around me I had always determined to make the very best of what I had around me.

One Saturday afternoon, a precious couple took time out of their own very busy life and schedule to go around to the complex where I lived. They were inviting kids to Sunday school. They invited me to go with them the following Sunday, and I reluctantly accepted. I will admit, there was something that was different about them, I could sense something which I now recognize as the Holy Spirit in their lives. They seemed to genuinely care about me as a person and what was going on with me.

This couple took a great interest in me and would not only pick me up for Sunday School on Sunday morning, they would also pick me up for Sunday night church, Wednesday night youth group, Friday night prayer...they left their own comfort zone and began to take great interest in me. I began to meet other young people who had Christ in their lives, and I knew they were different and I wanted what they had in my life.

After about a month of being with them, and watching them, listening to them, I knew I needed Jesus in my life. And on February 12, 1972 they led me to Christ. What incredible joy and peace I felt in my life. It was a real experience that nothing else would ever compare to in my life.

One of the key elements that this couple did for me was

introduce me to Christian music. They would take me to their house every Sunday afternoon after church, and they would immediately put Christian music on their turntable (yes...those are the things that played vinyl records.) They would play all kinds of Christian music, and oh, what peace and joy that music would bring to me in so many of my dark and lonely times.

I would drink in every lyric, I would look at the album liner notes to see what the artist had to say (I still love doing that); Christian music became one of my best friends. I quickly discovered our local Christian bookstore, and I would go in every Saturday and literally spend hours there at the store going through every project and listening to as many demos as I could. When I was 16, I began working on Saturday afternoons at the store helping in their very small music section, and for my pay they would give me a couple of free demos each week and once a month I would get the brand new “newspaper style CCM.” I thought I had died and gone to heaven!

That music really challenged and ministered to me quite often, as I grew older and continued to live in a very ungodly home. There would be many times that I would come home and all kinds of junk would be going on in my home, and I would go to my room and put Christian music on, and I would really begin to feel God’s wonderful presence. God does have such a wonderful way of using music to touch our lives and heart in a very special way. Music is a powerful tool.

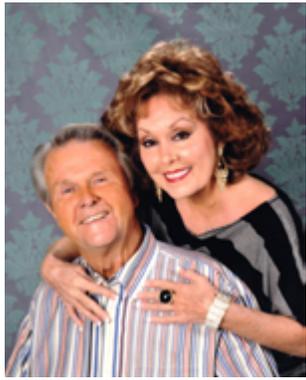
I am so thankful that God continues to remind us of “why we do what we do” and I am so grateful to God on a daily basis that I am one of those that He has chosen to work in this field we call, Christian Music. After so many years of being in it...I think I will just continue on!

Thanks for letting me share a part of my story. Remember there are many many other “Dusty Wells” out there that we all are touching in one way or another with our music and lives. I am so thankful for each of you, and I cannot wait to hear other’s stories about the gift of music and what it has done for them.

Blessings my friends!

Dusty

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Mighty in the Lord



By Lorraine Walker

Many of you may have heard the name Bev McCann but you are not sure who she is. This songstress is well known as an award-winning vocalist in Christian Country and Southern Gospel, but you may also know her as a songwriter. Or you may have seen her name as co-producer of the Music City Show with Godsey and Associates. Flipping through the pages of an industry magazine, you might also come across the concert event entitled ‘Bev McCann and Friends.’ So, who is this lady and how does she do all of these things?

Bev McCann is often seen backstage or behind the scenes at such events as Creekside Gospel Music Convention. With a willing heart and helping hands, she is there to make sure that the artists presenting the Gospel look their absolute best. Besides all of the other titles we’ve already mentioned, we could add “makeup artist” to her resume. This lady may be short in stature but she has an incredible drive.

“I do enjoy all the things that I get to help and do behind the scenes,” says McCann. “I work with Scott Godsey on The Music City Show, as well as videos and EPK’s [Electronic Press Kit] that we do for several dif-

ferent artists. I really enjoy doing makeup on the artists so they look the best they can on the screen. I would rather be busy than sitting and watching; I love helping and making things come together.”

Putting the finishing touches on some of our favorite artists sounds like an interesting job, and McCann gives us an idea of whose faces she has been powdering. “Legacy Five, Greater Vision, Blackwood Brothers, Booth Brothers, Mark Fain and several of the [MCS] band members. Bob Jones, the Williamsons, Rob Patz.”

McCann says, “The men are the funniest. Some of them had not been on a TV set where they had to get on some makeup. The group would harass them the whole time. I’ve have many of laughs with them, but none of them have let me put on lipstick.

“I’ve have had tame a few wild eyebrows on some of these guys,” she adds. “One I had to pluck a few and he teared up! I thought he was going to cry, but he held it together.”

Rob Patz is not only one of McCann’s makeup guinea pigs, he also has high regard for this lady he considers

a friend. “I’ve always admired Bev’s work ethic and tenacity to get the work done. I believe that is one of the keys to the success of her ministry, along with her drive and God-given ability to make music. We really appreciate her!”

Along with her varying duties on television shows and other productions, McCann enjoys her own singing ministry along with her tour schedule with Bev McCann and Friends (BM&F). Joining her on these trips are the Lori Jonathan Trio, Campbell and Rowley, Jim Sheldon and Rachel Taylor along with Don McCloud. It sounds like McCann enjoys hanging out with this bunch of artists as much she does working for Godsey and Associates. “When we go out and travel as BM&F, it is a lot of fun and powerful. God has been moving in our services where we have been seeing folks accept Jesus in their hearts, people healed and delivered. It’s been amazing and I look forward to as many years as God has for us to do this together. We all have separate ministries as well as serving together.”



Did we also mention that McCann is a wife, mother, grandmother, entrepreneur and an ordained minister? It’s hard to believe that she has found time to sing for



the last 20 years and to write songs. “I’ve written many over the years,” begins McCann. “Life inspires me. God somehow drops a tune in my heart and head and it starts from there most of the time. I drove a school bus for a few years and that gave me some inspiration let me tell ya!”

Under the heading of *Be Careful What You Ask For*, McCann used to pray about becoming a writer. “Seriously, I used to ask God about writing songs, then I lived through a lot of pain and changes in my life and I realized that for me, writing songs came out of the trials and victories I walked through. “Hear My Cry,” for instance; this song came out of my pleading with the Lord. I was feeling alone, we had moved away from everything I knew, and my life had been thrown into a whirlwind a couple years prior to me moving away from all that I knew and my kids knew. I had been so hurt in my first marriage that it almost destroyed me.”

But God was faithful to McCann. “God brought my current husband into my life and we are cel-



celebrating 25 years this year. He was and still is my rock and his love for me is like God's love for us. He loves me and supports me in all that we do in the ministry."

"When I start to write a song, I usually get a beat or a tune in my head, and then the words start coming. I have to start writing. Then I sit down at the piano and start picking it out and then BAM! Me and the Lord have done a good thing!

"There are times I have been stuck on a verse or line, and do a co-write. I've only done this a couple of times. I remember sitting at the midnight buffet after NQC several years ago, and Ronnie Hinson and I were sitting talking about one of my songs and he gave me some advice and it just made all the difference in the world with that song.

"Scott Godsey has helped me on a couple of my songs as well, "Thunder" for one. Scott and I took the original and put a new spin on it for today's world and it has blessed so many people and did rather well on the charts last year. God has blessed me in so many ways I cannot tell you everything, or we'd not have room for anyone else!

"Back to the songwriting," McCann continues, "as I said life inspires a lot, but God just drops in my heart words of worship and sometimes as I'm reading His word a chorus will come or the whole song. There have been times that I've sat in church listening to my pastor preaching and something he says will trigger my thoughts and here comes a song.

"One song I was riding on our motorcycle with my husband and I got the words and the tune to 'Almighty God.' So I don't think I can give you one way that it works. I know that there are many better songwriters than I, that meet and come up with some fabulous songs that I love to sing and I am so thankful for all the writers."

McCann has lived a full life that many of us can only wonder at, yet she continues to go full steam and with the knowledge that the Lord is with her every step of the way. The hard times have not only given her material for writing but also strengthened her faith. This mighty woman of God keeps running the race. "I have faced some trials in my life, but at times when I see and hear what others have gone through, or are going through, I think mine was or is minuscule," says McCann. "We all have trials in our life and we all have victories. I live in victory today knowing Who I serve is greater than anything that the devil throws at me."





Victory despite horrible experiences. "I was molested when I was a young girl, went through a horrible divorce after 13 years of marriage. I almost lost my kids due to some false accusations, and a few other things that when I say them out loud it's hard for me to believe. I have started a book and I hope to have it completed sometime this year. I have the first draft done," McCann says, though we aren't sure where she found the time.

"But I want to say this: No matter what it is we are going through, God is there for us, and He is carrying us when we cannot walk or even crawl. I wrote a song that my daughter recorded, I'm going to release to radio sometime this year, 'He Will Carry You.'"

Experience has given Bev McCann the credence to share her faith with a ring of truth that cannot be denied. "Victory is ours as a child of God. You may ask how can I laugh and be as free as I am? Well it is Jesus, and His love that flows through my veins. Am I perfect? Far from it. Just loved by the best husband on this earth, and loved and covered by the blood of Jesus, the True Rock of my life."

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Medicine to ALL Your Flesh



By Laurette Willis, CHC

Do you want to find a life-giving medicine from which you can never overdose?

In Proverbs 4:20-22, we're told that God's words are that medicine: *"My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh."* (Proverbs 4:20-22.)

The word for health in Hebrew is *marpê'*, which literally means "medicine." You can consider speaking the Word over your life as taking daily doses of God's medicine.

Since God's words are life and health, the more you dwell on God's words and thoughts, the healthier and stronger you'll become spiritually, emotionally and physically. These are not magic formulas or vain repetition. You are agreeing with what God says about you instead of what the enemy is saying about you.

Speaking aloud God's promises in the Bible, in faith, will supercharge your prayer life in wonderful ways, too. Don't think you're a good pray-er? Meditate on and speak the Word of God aloud in faith and you'll find that your prayers for yourself and others are more powerful because they'll be tied to the Word of God.

Instead of offering up begging and pleading prayers, pray prayers filled with the promises of God—they're full of faith!

Whenever I catch myself worrying or dwelling on negative thoughts, Scripture reminds me to *"(cast) down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"* (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Like a big child, I will often reach up and act as if I could grab the thought with my hand and throw it to the ground, stepping on it! "Gotcha!" I say. "I cast down that vain imagination. I refuse to entertain those thoughts."

Next step...

I choose to fill my mind with God's thoughts (His Word in the Bible) instead of negative thoughts. We do not have to be a slave to negative thoughts. I choose to say one or several scriptures aloud, or scriptural affirmations (a verse from the Bible said in the first person so you can take it personally).

How powerful it is to affirm "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I am strong in the Lord and the power of His might. I'm more than a conqueror through Him who loves me!" (Based on Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 6:10; and Romans 8:37.)

We can choose to pray in line with the Word of God, think His thoughts (meditate on the Word) and boldly declare that no matter what the circumstances may say to the contrary, what God says is truth and the truth will stand.

To help in your quest to live long, be healthy and strong, get a free copy of the "Ten Bad Foods List" plus a free Self-Health Evaluation you can take online, by contacting Laurette Willis at praisemoves@gmail.com.

Laurette is a Certified Health Coach, published author, and Founder of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry. You may contact Laurette at the email address above, 918-458-1800 or www.PraiseMoves.com. Join Laurette at www.Facebook.com/LauretteWillisPage ©2016



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Thursday Night, October 27

Call 615-742-9210 Ext 235 to find out more, purchase tickets and reserve a booth.

The Inspirational Country Music Association®, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, is under new management by board members eager to take the group into a new phase. The association will meet vetting guidelines on Charity Navigator and Guidestar.

The Whisnants In Concert

Photographs by Craig Harris



The Whisnants are one of the premiere mixed groups of this era of Southern Gospel music, with many top songs and award nominations to their credit and a tour schedule that keeps them hopping across the nation and around the world. Jeff and Susan Whisnant, their sons Ethan and Austin, along with Aaron Hise, have developed a sound that is instantly recognizable on Christian radio. Their sweet personalities along with their honest stage presence make them a great draw, filling venues with enthusiastic fans and the presence of God.

SGNScoops photographer, Craig Harris, recently attended one of these Whisnant concerts and brought us several pictures so that we could experience this event through his camera lens. We hope you enjoy these scenes from the Whisnants, live in concert!



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HOPE'S JOURNEY
JACKY FORTNER
JULY 31 - 6:00 PM

LOVE OFFERING RECEIVED TO COVER GROUP EXPENSES



By Lorraine Walker

It's already June which means the Fifth Annual Creekside Gospel Music Convention is only four months away! Please make your plans to come to beautiful Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, October 31st through November 3rd as for great Gospel music, the majestic Smoky Mountains and fellowship with other fans and artists at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. During this Five Year Anniversary, you will experience excellent showcases Tuesday through Thursday afternoons, the Diamond Awards, exciting evening concerts every night



and the worshipful, intimate Midnight Prayer. Click onto the website at creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com to reserve your free tickets. Contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at hotels@sgnscoops.com or call her at 256-239-7716.

Creekside Classic '16

We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to Creekside Gospel Music Convention! We are adding

a little competitive camaraderie. The Creekside Golf Tournament Classic '16 is planned for Wednesday, November 2nd, for men and women of all ages. There will be trophies and bragging rights to be claimed! Reservations are \$25 per person. Contact Russell Wise to register yourself or a team at 256-458-6943.



A Word From Some of Our Invited Guests

The McKay Project: "The talent at Creekside is top notch. We are honored to be among such

a dynamic roster of artists. If you want to hear some fantastic Gospel music mixed in with great fellowship,



you don't want to miss Creekside. We are counting down the days and looking forward to being back again this year."

Lori Goss Wise: "Surrendered is so excited about Creekside! Once you have participated, you simply long to get back. The friends, family, fellowship and memories are simply eternal. God moves big every single time. If you want to witness the spirit, then do not miss Creekside 2016! Where love is, there God is also!"



Lana Chandler: "It's great to be back at Creekside with our friends and we're excited about meeting new ones! This week is a time of fun fellowship and renewal in the Spirit. The singing and spiritual refreshing is such a blessing!"

Other artists performing at Creekside include: **The Williamsons, the Pine Ridge Boys, Shellem Cline, Alliance Quartet, Ava Kasich, Drummond Family, Heart's Song, Jason Runnels, Sharp's Quartet, Jordan's River, Griffins, Connells,** and more.



Something Special

Monday, October 31st: Creekside will present great Gospel music every night. Monday evening's special event is Creekside Honors, where we celebrate the life of someone special in Gospel music. Keep watching to find out who will be honored this year.

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

Tuesday, November 1: Creekside presents daytime showcases every day to fill your mornings with music. In the afternoon, Scott Roberts and the Five O'Clock Band will be headlining a stellar cast of artists to warm up the listeners for an evening of song.



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

before you head to your room to rest up for the following day.

Wednesday, November 2: Joseph Habedank will be our special guest on the Wednesday showcase. Following this is the Creekside Classic '16 and then the afternoon Jam Session with The Five O'clock Band. Wednesday night and Thursday night also have special events happening during the evening program, so plan to stay the entire time. Don't forget to attend Midnight Prayer!



Thursday, November 3: Morning showcases, afternoon Jam Session with The Five O'clock Band and a special Evening Concert will finish Creekside 2016 with a bang!

Fifth Anniversary VIP Passes Available

This is going to be a special year with exciting things going on all four days and we want to encourage you to purchase your \$25 VIP ticket for ALL four days! That works out to a little over six dollars a day. There is nowhere else that you can get such a great value and see so many fantastic Southern Gospel Groups. And VIP means preferred seating, special gifts and backstage events. If you are interested in purchasing your \$25 VIP ticket call Rob at 360 933 0741 or for information on purchasing online go to www.sgnscoops.com/can-vip-25-creekside-2016

What You Need To Know

Your Creekside fifth anniversary tickets must be reserved here: Creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com.

Creekside Gospel Music Convention would like to hear from you! Tell us what you want to see and hear in No-

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

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

Fall Tree Photo Courtesy of Wolfgang Staudt



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Josh and Ashley Franks

A Passionate Pair



By Jaquita Lindsey

A couple that I personally enjoy being in concert or service with is Josh and Ashley Franks. This dynamic duo makes their residence in Savannah, TN, along with their two children, Priscilla, age five, and Eli, age two. Josh serves as pastor at People's Tabernacle Pentecostal Church of God in Savannah, evangelizes 180-200 dates per year and does some concert promoting. They also assist concert promoter and pastor, Bill Bailey, during numerous events throughout the year. The couple says that they have both been singing as long as they could talk. Together, Josh and Ashley make a fantastic ministry team.

11th Hour recently shared the stage with Josh and Ashley at Harmony Baptist Church in Collinston, LA during their yearly winter camp meeting that was held in February. Josh energetically led the congregation in hymns at the opening of each service. Then, he and Ashley sang a song or two of their own. They do a fantastic job at getting a crowd involved in worship and ready for the word to go forth.

Josh and Ashley met in September 2006 at the National Quartet Convention and married on December 8, 2007. "We went on our honeymoon and were in Nashville the following week recording our first project together. Eight albums later, the Lord is still blessing Ashley and I," Josh shares. Their first concert together came just weeks after being married, on New Year's Eve, 2007. The couple is known for many great songs, such as "I've Not Seen A Mountain," and "First One To Get There, Last One To Leave.. Their latest project, *Sweet Songs About Heaven*, is played regularly in our Sprinter.

Josh began a ministry at a very young age, traveling as a soloist and evangelist. Josh is known for his powerful vocal ability and spunky emceeing. He is also a gifted musician who learned to play several instruments by ear, without any lessons. Ashley traveled several years with Hope's Journey, a group that she started along with her mom, Vonda Easley. Ashley has a sweet, gentle spirit about her yet can deliver the song that she is singing in an anointed, touching way. Ashley has been

blessed with the gift of songwriting and the couple has recorded many songs that she has written.



I always enjoy hearing of other group's funny stories from the road. I was raised Assembly of God, so I can almost picture this particular story. "We were in a service in South Carolina one Sunday morning a few years ago. I could tell it was going to be a hand-clapping, foot-tapping kind of morning," Josh begins to recall laughingly. "After the choir sang the glory down, the pastor stated that he had a couple of serious prayer requests that he wanted to pray over. He called out a lady in the crowd that he wanted us to gather around and pray for. She came forward and much of the church surrounded her to pray. A chorus of prayer began and the next thing I knew, the lady had prayed so fast that



apparently her teeth could not keep up. Her teeth fell out and onto the floor. The pastor grabbed a Kleenex, reached down, picked up her teeth, and handed them back to her. She took her teeth and put them back in her mouth. She kept on praying, never missing a beat."

Josh is working on a book called *Joshology* that will be composed of devotions, inspiring thoughts, road stories and experiences such as the above story. Also, he and Ashley are working toward a new project, hopefully due out around July 4th.

Some exciting, upcoming events that Josh and Ashley are looking forward to this year are their partnered concert *Sings the Gospel* events with Bill Bailey.



"Jackson Sings the Gospel" will be held in Jackson, TN, July 13th through 17th. The newly announced "West Virginia Sings the Gospel" will be held in Huntington, WV, August 12th and 13th. "Mobile Sings the Gospel" will be held in Mobile, AL in January 2017. Josh and Ashley are hosting a camp meeting in Savannah, TN at the church where they serve as pastors, People's Tabernacle Pentecostal Church of God, July 17th through 22nd. Guests include Gerald Crabb, Adam Crabb, Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, the Hinson Family, as well as several others.

I always ask the people of the ministry teams that I write about, to tell *why* they continue to travel and keep the hectic schedules that they continually keep. Josh



passionately stated: “The Gospel must be heard. There are millions of people who are still without Christ. Eternity is real. It is up to us as Christians to proclaim the good news to a bad news kind of world. We believe in the power of the gospel message because it has changed Ashley and I in our own personal lives. We believe that it *can* and *will* change others who will believe upon Jesus as their Savior.”



Josh and Ashley have many enjoyable scheduled events on their horizon. You can check out more about them and all of their upcoming events on their website www.joshandashleyfranks.com.

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Day By Day

No Greater Commandment

By **Selena Day**

I thought it would be this way, but wasn't sure how to prepare for it. I knew that I would meet people at the refugee camps in Greece who would pull at my heartstrings but I didn't quite realize, as I sat with them and heard their stories, that I could identify with the expressions on their faces.

As I sat across from a family and listened to their story it became real; these were not just two-dimensional images from the television or the Internet, here was a family of four very much like ours with two daughters about our girls' age sitting in a squatters camp with clothes that came from somewhere around the world in a donation box.

During our visit I saw the same expressions that have probably crossed my face a time or two; parental pride while showing a picture of their girls, or fear and worry over the safety of those beautiful girls and what the future held for them. We sat with this family sharing photos from our phones, when Chuck showed a picture of where we lived and innocently asked to see a picture of their home. The daughter asked her father while he was searching for a picture of something else, and he must have said he didn't have one, because she shook her head and for a fleeting moment you could see the pain in her face as she remembered something, possibly the bombing of her home. She shook her head as if to clear the memory and smiled to us.

This family was not a poor family, the father was a lawyer and the mother was an art teacher. They had two daughters; one was with them, she had been in University studying before they fled, while the other daughter was engaged and

thankfully was safe in Jordan.

We sat with this family sharing the pictures of our daughters and trying to convey to them that they were not forgotten and that there was still hope to be found in this world.

While sitting at the makeshift table a pinecone fell from the tree and hit the table breaking apart and making us all jump. We all laughed sharing that moment of unity, when the father said in laughter, "If we were at home in Syria that would have been a bomb! Boom! We would be gone!" The family all laughed and we laughed with them even though none of us knew what it felt like to have bombs thrown at us.

I was struck by the similarity of how my family deals with tragedy with humor and thought to myself that we probably would have reacted the same way.

Heartbreak has bitten us all one time or another in our life. This past week a family in our World Race community lost a son in a car accident. Chuck and I went to pray with them and give them comfort and they ended up encouraging us. They told us how they could feel the prayers and that even though they were in a dark season they were not spiraling out of control, that our prayers were working and they could feel the power behind them.

After leaving Greece and working with the refugees, my heart was torn in compassion for them. I felt helpless and all I could do was pray. Pray that these people would find hope and that hope would come to their rescue. I was a

little discouraged because even though I knew I could pray I felt a prick of doubt in my heart that my prayers carried power. But standing in front of our friend, who was in midst of every parent's nightmare, once again quiet wisdom shed God's light on my life and I was reminded that prayer is powerful and it can and will change the world.

With the uncertainty of our world, stop putting your focus on what the media or endtime ministries are espousing and press into the goodness of God right now. I'm not saying that these people are wrong, I am saying that the Gospel is Good News and we are to believe that in the midst of darkness God's light will shine more brightly.

It is so horrible what the refugees are facing, fleeing their homes in fear of being killed, but they are fleeing into the arms of a savior. Many are coming to the same places where Paul stood and preached the gospel; to the places where the church was birthed. I can't help but think of the scripture in Isaiah 55:11: "My word will go out and not return to Me empty. But it will do what I wanted; it will accomplish what I determined."

I personally believe that it is a divine set up, that a new

generation is fleeing persecution to the same areas that the first century church fled to and Christians are greeting them with smiles, blankets, food, clothes; the Gospel is being lived out by example in front of these people. They are experiencing not just words but also deeds. Many are beginning to ask questions. One man told Chuck that his brother was on his way to kill him before he fled.

I personally believe we are living in the greatest time in history and that we must pray for our country and pray for our world. God is moving and now is the time for us to step out of our box of doctrine and step into the new commandment Jesus gave in Mark: "The most important [commandment]," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31 NIV)

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

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Thank you for Charting

"Halfway Down The Aisle"





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

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Karen Peck and New River | I Am Blessed |
| 2 | Talleys | The People In The Line |
| 3 | Triumphant | Amazing God |
| 4 | Whisnants | Grave Mistake |
| 5 | Mylon Hayes Family | One More Opportunity |
| 6 | Jeff and Sheri Easter | Small Town Someone |
| 7 | Hoppers | Jesus, The One |
| 8 | LeFevre Quartet | Something |
| 9 | 11th Hour | Mountain Moving Faith |
| 10 | Shellem Cline | I'm The One |
| 11 | Greater Vision | He Does |
| 12 | Lore Family | Trace The Grace |
| 13 | Tribute | I Remember The Day |
| 14 | McKameys | What If |
| 15 | Inspirations | Pray For Me |
| 16 | Brian Free and Assurance | That's Just What Grace Does |
| 17 | Higher Ground | Get Thee Behind Me |
| 18 | Bev McCann | 24 Hours A Day |
| 19 | Logan Smith | Come Spring |
| 20 | Down East Boys | One Way, One Name, One Door |
| 21 | Nelons | Just Can't Make It By Myself |
| 22 | Barry Rowland and Deliverance | God Delivered Me |
| 23 | Kingsmen | I Know |
| 24 | Cornerstone | Just Before Dawn |
| 25 | Chris Freeman | Burdens Are Lifted Away |
| 26 | Bowling Family | I Was There |
| 27 | Amber Nelon Thompson | Sing-a-long |
| 28 | Gordon Mote | Only Jesus Can Heal This Hurting World |
| 29 | Reborn | Potter's Wheel |
| 30 | Booth Brothers | Dirt On My Hands |
| 31 | Keith Barkley and Family Tradition | We Are Almost Home |
| 32 | Greg Logins and Revival | Until Then |
| 33 | Second Half Quartet | Cheer The Weary Traveller |
| 34 | Master's Voice | I Can Hardly Wait To Fly |
| 35 | Perrys | Keep On |
| 36 | Pruitt Family | You Don't Even Wanna Make Me Pray |
| 37 | Carolina Boys | We Shall Rise |
| 38 | Soul'd Out Quartet | What A Great Life |
| 39 | Jim Brady Trio | The Half That's Never Been Told |
| 40 | Debbie Seagraves | Where Was God |
| 41 | Fowlers | I'm Nothing Without You |
| 42 | Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver | He's In Control |
| 43 | Burning Bridges | Take It To Jesus |
| 44 | Cana's Voice | Jesus Never Fails |
| 45 | Annette Bingaman | Splinters From The Cross |
| 46 | Devon McGlamery | I Will |
| 47 | Collisons | I Don't Have To Stay |
| 48 | Taylors | He's My Guide |
| 49 | Big Mo | The Angels Are Silent |

| | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 50 | Bates Family | Going To Heaven Someday |
| 51 | Linda Foster | An Unfinished Task |
| 52 | Page Trio | What God Says |
| 53 | Jason Crabb | Home |
| 54 | Noah Hinshaw | No Turning Back |
| 55 | Carroll Roberson | A Mighty Rich Man |
| 56 | Kingdom Heirs | Pieces |
| 57 | Debra Perry And Jaidyn's Call | No One Loves You More Than Jesus Does |
| 58 | River's Edge | God's Got A Better Plan |
| 59 | Hyssongs | Prepare To Be Amazed |
| 60 | Coffmans | I Still Do |
| 61 | Alliance Quartet | Teach Me Lord |
| 62 | Riders | One Holy Morning |
| 63 | Old Time Preachers Quartet | The Old Time Way |
| 64 | Sounds of Victory | Slingful Of Faith |
| 65 | Walkers | By a Roman Soldier's Hand |
| 66 | Common Bond | Do You Know Him |
| 67 | Campbell and Rowley | Only Jesus |
| 68 | Murray Family | Welcome Home |
| 69 | Isaacs | Leave It On The Altar |
| 70 | Ernie Haase and Signature Sound | A Soldier Fighting To Go Home |
| 71 | Greater Vision | As We Speak |
| 72 | Pine Ridge Boys | The Blood Still Flows |
| 73 | Wisecarvers | More Than A Good Man |
| 74 | Goulds | He Promised Me |
| 75 | Ernie Haase and Signature Sound | Jesus Changed Everything |
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| 100 | Jimmy Fortune | I Believe |



SGN **SCOOPS**
MAGAZINE

#getconnected

THE SENSATIONAL SINGING AMERICANS LEGACY

By Charlie Griffin

Their impact is still being felt in today's mainstream Gospel music

The Singing Americans were started in 1968 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina by Bob Lemar. This group offered some great talent including Rodney Hoots, Mickey Blackwelder and Wayne Maynard among others. This group was also unique in that the group had two trumpeters in the early



'70's.

Around 1972, the group changed ownership with Homer Wadford buying the group and moving them to Asheville. During the Wadford years, the group was with Lou Wills-Hildreth Talent. Comparisons to the iconic Oak Ridge Boys were made. However their stylings never followed in the Oaks tradition as Wadford kept the group true to a more



traditional sound.

In late 1980, Charlie Burke bought the Singing Americans, moving them to their final home in Maiden, NC. The group was retooled with new personnel, Mark Flaker - tenor,



Charles Surratt - baritone, Ed Crawford - lead, and Burke's son, Dwayne, as bass singer. As with all endeavors, change began within a year.

Danny Funderburk replaced Mark Flaker, who went onto sing with the Florida Boys. Ed Crawford left for the Kingsmen. Michael English replaced Crawford and then would leave for a couple years and be replaced by Ivan Parker then Clayton Inman. Also, in 1982, Surratt left the group to be replaced by quartet legend, Ed Hill.

Michael English left for the second time in 1985, again Clayton Inman replaced him. In 1987, Inman moved to the baritone spot replacing Hill. Scott Whitener joined the group as lead singer. The group continued to enjoy noted success even with personnel changes.



In the '90's, the group again began a transition and a teenager's dream really came to life in the tiny North Carolina town of Maiden, NC. Larry Stewart shares, "After singing with the Anchormen, I went back to driving the bus for the Singing Americans and singing my one song a night as I did before singing with the Anchormen. In 1991, Dwayne decided it was time for him to come off the road. So Mr. Burke came to me and said the bass position was mine if I wanted it. It didn't take long for me to say yes. I sang bass and managed



the group until 1994, when Mr. Burke disbanded the Singing Americans.”

But the Singing Americans had been singing for some time with other members with lots of success in the eyes of many Gospel music fans. So what made the ‘90’s configuration of Singing Americans so unique?



When the Singing Americans began the re-organization, the idea was to be a quartet’s quartet. Charlie Burke said, “We’ve had some great talent sing in this organization. I want the best to be on stage and off stage. I think we got that group together now. I think it is a quartet’s quartet and upholds the standards we have had over the years.”



Quartet journeyman and ordained minister Buddy Burton filled the baritone spot with Larry Stewart singing bass. Dale Forbes sang lead and David Sutton singing the tenor. Joe Lane on piano and Taylor Barnes on bass guitar rounded out what came to be one of the best quartets on the road at that time.

The group quickly garnered recognition among fan awards, charted radio songs, and Singing News’ covers, while concert promoters booked the quartet with ease knowing the sound was solid and polished. But more importantly, pastors and ministers of music appreciated having the group in their

church services. Their message, delivery and conviction made each appearance something to remember.

Then the word was given by Charlie Burke that the Singing Americans would be disbanded. There was a void in quartet gospel music. People missed their sound and the members of the prestigious ‘90’s group.

One talking point among gospel music historians, is the Singing Americans personnel. The list is truly award winning. The Singing Americans were the launching pad for many artists who made their marks with other groups and even their own individual careers. Here is a short recap of some the talented Singing Americans Alumni since their move to Maiden, NC:

- Mike English with The Goodmans and Bill Gaither, now solo
- Ivan Parker with Gold City, now solo
- Mike LeFevre with Gold City, now The LeFevre Quartet
- Rick Strickland with the Kingdom Heirs, Stamps and now the Songfellows
- Clayton Inman with the Kingdom Heirs, now Triumphant
- David Sutton with the Kingdom Heirs, and now Triumphant
- Phil Barker with The Trailblazers, now Jordan’s Bridge
- Martin Gureasko with The Nelons
- Mark Fain with Gold City and Ricky Skaggs
- Mark Flaker with the Florida Boys
- Scott Whitener with Melody Masters and now Carolina Quartet
- Jerry Kelso with the Stamps and Dove Brothers
- Larry Stewart now with Pine Ridge Boys
- Buddy Burton with the Statesmen and Southmen Qt
- Joe Lane with Jordan’s Bridge



When things change new opportunities are achieved. But on rare occasions, a glimpse back in time sheds new appreciation for the talents and events



of that time. Gospel music lovers have a once in a life-time event to appreciate the talents of the '90's Singing Americans. Twenty-two years after the Singing Americans disbanded, a reunion concert will take place during the 53rd Anniversary of the Pine Ridge Boys. The attention has been

tremendous. This is a one-night-only reunion of these members. And from all indications, this will be *the* Gospel music reunion concert of 2016.



The Pine Ridge Boys have also placed on the concert festivities another heritage group known throughout the Gospel music circles, the Sheltons. This group with roots in the South Carolina upstate was instrumental in one of Gospel music's most iconic songs, "Jesus Is Coming Soon." The dynamic duo, Hearts Afire, will also be on the program being held at the First Baptist Church in Inman, SC.



For more information contact the Pine Ridge Boys, Larry Stewart at 864-473-8849.

Pine Ridge Boys Homecoming Sing!
 90's Reunion of the
award winning
SINGING AMERICANS

Taylor Barnes, Dale Forbes, Buddy Burton,
 David Sutton, Larry Stewart, Joe Lane



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For group reservations or concert information
contact Larry Stewart
864-473-8849, larry@pineridgeboys.com or
www.pineridgeboys.com



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Randall Reviews It - June 2016

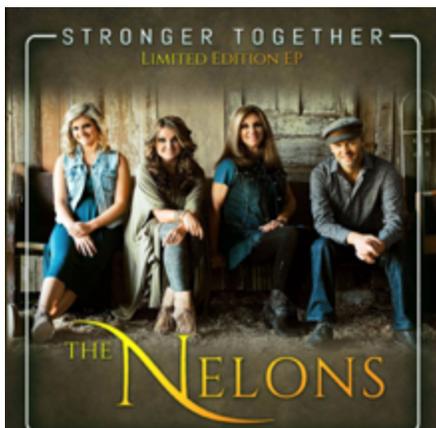
by Randall Hamm

Friends, it's June and we're halfway through the year. Time flies as they say! And I say, without further adieu, bring on the reviews. For the halfway point of the year, I bring you three of the latest CD's to land on my reviewing desk, from the Nelons, Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers, and Shenandoah.

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

And remember: get a copy of these releases, wherever you get good Gospel Music.

Now let the reviews begin....



Nelons
Stronger Together
2016 Daywind
Producer: Jason Clark

Songs: I Just Can't Make It By Myself (Suzanne Jennings, William J. Gaither, J.D. Miller and Gloria Gaither); Family Chain (Joe Isaacs BMI); You Can't Make Old Friends (Featuring Karen Peck) (Caitlyn Smith, Donald Schlitz and

Ryan King BMI); Imagine Alleluia (Marty Funderburk BMI); Days Of Jericho (Jason Clark BMI); Then Came The Morning (William J. Gaither, Gloria Gaither and Chris Christian BMI)

The Nelons are back with a six-song EP titled *Stronger*. Six strong songs and no filler. The CD kicks off with the latest radio single "Just Can't Make It By Myself," which is a upbeat catchy song from the pen of the Gaithers: Bill, Gloria and daughter Suzanne. If any statement holds true, we can't make it by ourselves, we must allow ourselves to let go and let God.

Also on the EP is a fine cover of the Kenny Rogers-Dolly Parton song "You Can't Make Old Friends," with special guest Karen Peck. Also, the Isaacs tune "Family Chain," gets a new reading and is well done. The album closes with the finest version recorded of "Then Came The Morning."

Add in some new songs "Imagine Alleluia," and "Days of Jericho," and you have a album that will never leave your Itunes or player. Kudos to the Nelons for releasing a EP instead of releasing a full CD. So often groups think they must release a full album with 10 songs or more and many are weak, filler songs. This EP is all strong songs and no filler. To me and the fans that's a win-win situation.

Visit the Nelons on the web at <http://www.thenelons.com/>
Strongest Songs: "I Just Can't Make It By Myself," "You Can't Make Old Friends," "Then Came The Morning."



Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers
Sacred Memories
 2016 Rebel Records
 Producer: Joe Mullins

Songs: When The Sun Of Life Goes Down (W.A. McKinney BMI); All Dressed Up (Jerry Salley-Dianne Wilkinson BMI); We Can Sing (Don Williams ASCAP); Oh Lord (Rebecca Ruth Hall BMI); Sacred Memories (Dolly Parton BMI); He's Getting It Done (Gerald Evans, Jr. BMI); I Hope We Walk The Last Mile Together (Toedy Holley BMI); The Same Old Dipper (Sandy Shorridge BMI); I Know What I Know (Paul Humphrey BMI); The First Word In Heaven Is He (Randall Hylton BMI); The Armor Of My God (Billy Smith ASCAP); Will The Circle Be Unbroken (PD – Arranged William J. Mullins)

Brand new music from a fixture on the Bluegrass circuit since 2007, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers. Recording since 2007 and with six studio releases, including one all-Gospel CD, they bring us their latest: *Sacred Memories*. If you're a fan of the Bluegrass Gospel genre, then this is a must have. 12 great cuts from beginning to end, you the listener will enjoy this offering.

Kicking off the CD is: "When The Sun Of Life Goes Down," a call and answer song that will have you singing and tapping your foot with plenty of fine banjo work and tenor from Joe. One of the highlights of the CD is the end song, "Will The Circle Be Unbroken," with an alternate set of lyrics. Special guests helping out are the Isaacs on this cut. There is also a fine video of this collaboration on YouTube.

Ricky Skaggs and Sharon White are more guests with the Radio Rambler, this time on, "Sacred Memories," a song written by Dolly Parton. Also guesting is Rhonda Vincent on a fine tune, "I Hope We Walk The Last Mile Together," a story of a husband and wife who have been through the ups and downs of marriage, but hoping with their love they can hang on and "Walk That Last Mile Together."

The Ramblers' first single release is "All Dressed Up," a story of a old farmer who looks forward to seeing his sweetheart again. For his services he requested to be buried in his suit he was married in. He wants to look his best and wants all that see him to know he's "All Dressed Up," with somewhere to go.

This CD is one of the finest I've reviewed all year. Get a copy wherever you get good Gospel Music. Visit Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers here <http://www.radioramblers.com/index.html>

Strongest Songs: "All Dressed Up," "Sacred Memories," and "When The Sun Of Life Goes Down."



Shenandoah
Good News Travels Fast
 2016 Daywind Roots
 Producer: Bud McGuire and Mike McGuire

Songs: A Cross Between A Sinner and A Saint (Mike McGuire, Marty Raybon, Mark Narmore ASCAP); Didn't It Rain (Bill Emerson, Jody Emerson BMI); Good News Travels Fast (Bud McGuire, Jerry Salley SESAC); Hallelujah For The Cross (Roger King, Todd Wright ASCAP); I Know He Knows (Billy Lawson, Michael Curtis, Rusty Moody ASCAP); Seconds Count (Coy Fulmer, Billy Walley BMI); Stained Glass (Michael Curtis, Bob Gulley ASCAP); Sunday Morning Sermon (Mark Narmor, Rusty Moody, Bud McGuire BMI); Just Wait, Be Still (Mike McGuire, Marty Raybon, Jerry Salley ASCAP); Like Every Day's Sunday (Jason Jones, Billy Lawson ASCAP); If I'm Right (Gerald Crabb, Tim Menzies BMI)

The late 1980's brought us a band that would take the Country world by storm and bring to us "The Church On Cumberland Road," "Two Dozen Roses," and "Sunday In The South," among many songs that were top 10s and number ones for them. Here it is 2016 and Marty Raybon and the band he was a part of from the mid '80's til 1997 has reunited. Marty has been for many years a part of the

Country Gospel scene, and when Marty said it was time for him to reunite with former members of Shenandoah, many fans rejoiced. But what was not seen was that this LP would be an all-Gospel project and their first Gospel project. 11 cuts with a Country Gospel flavor, creating a CD that Shenandoah and Marty Raybon fans will absolutely love.

The opening song is “A Cross Between A Sinner And A Saint,” “a Cross between what we are and what we ain’t.” What a line, referring to Christ between the two thieves and our lives with Christ.

The first radio single that should do well at radio is “Good News Travels Fast.” Three verses: ol’ Buster Brown, the Town derelict, becomes a convert; the three shepherds who came to visit the baby Jesus and Mary; and the visitors to the empty tomb, and how the news, the Good News, traveled fast.

Special Guest Karen Peck duets with Marty on “Seconds Count.” For DJ’s looking for a good new Father’s Day song, you can spin “I Know He Knows,” a song about our earthly and heavenly father and their love for us. Although not seen, it’s there, “I Know He Knows.”

Every song from “A Cross Between A Sinner And A Saint,” and the ending track “If I’m Right,” has a message for everyone, whoever you may be. What could be tough for the group, is deciding which songs to single. Thanks Marty and all of Shenandoah, for bringing us one of the best CD’s in the Shenandoah catalog.

Visit Shenandoah at <http://www.shenandoahband.com/>
Strongest Songs: “Good News Travels Fast,” “Stained Glass,” and “I Know He Knows.”

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Don Elrod



Don Elrod of WGTJ in Gainesville, GA is our DJ Spotlight this month. Known by listeners for his professionalism and his distinctive voice, Don has been active in radio broadcasting for more than a half-century.

Here's what I asked him and what he had to say...

Vonda: What is your favorite food and your favorite place to eat?

Don: There's not much I don't like, but a medium rare, thick-cut prime rib is certainly one of my favorites. Although I don't eat a lot of red meat I do enjoy an occasional prime rib! My favorite place to eat is "Praise the Lord BBQ" in Buford, GA. Everything on the menu is to die for. The ribs and pulled pork are two of my favorites and the sides are fantastic too. I also enjoy the beautiful religious themed decorations and wall art. When I'm on the road I love eating at Cracker Barrel.

Vonda: Tell me about an amazing day as a radio DJ... What happened?

Don: After 54 years in broadcasting it's difficult to name just one amazing day but I'll try. President Lyndon Johnson came to Gainesville on May 8, 1964 to promote his "War On Poverty" and I was part of the local media team which covered his visit. It was an exciting day for our city and one I will never forget.

Vonda: What is your favorite vacation spot and why?

Don: We love visiting Hilton Head, SC. Typically we go there in the off-season when it's not so crowded. It's a beautiful town with an abundance of excellent restaurants. And it's only a five hour drive for us.

Vonda: I've talked with you in the past and I know God has done some amazing things in your life. Would you share your testimony with us?

Don: When I was 12 years old my pastor, a wonderful, old

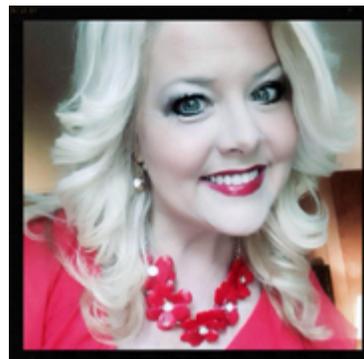
fashioned, fire and brimstone preacher, spoke on the subject of hell. It was in that service that the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins and drew me to Christ. I've never regretted my decision to trust Him and I've never been the same. The Lord has kept me and blessed me and given me great joy and wonderful peace for more than 61 years. During that time I've been privileged to serve on the staff of several churches in our area and I'm still broadcasting for three radio stations in Northeast Georgia and singing every weekend. What a mighty God we serve!

Vonda: What is your favorite hobby?

Don: I enjoy reading about the early days of Southern Gospel music and about those who pioneered this genre we all love so dearly. And, I never grow tired of listening to the wonderful groups of by-gone days as well as the fantastic groups we are blessed with today.

Thanks to Don Elrod for sitting under the DJ Spotlight this month! You can hear Don daily on WGTJ on "Good News From The World of Southern Gospel Music". Listen on your digital device at http://streema.com/radios/Glory_1330_WGTJ

Don also hosts the "Solid Southern Gospel" broadcast on WMSL in Athens, GA on Saturday mornings. It also streams live at <http://tunein.com/radio/The-Great-88-889-s36452/>.



**Written By
Vonda Easley**



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HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



“Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.”

Obadiah 1:2

The Bible speaks much about how the Lord makes small a nation when they are in sin. Psalms 16:18 says: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” We as a nation are in the pits of sin. We pride ourselves in our sin of pride and debauchery yet we heed not the Words of God. Repentance is truly needed in our land as we have fallen to the lowest of places.

Second Chronicles 7:14 says: “If my people who are called by my name 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.” If we truly humble ourselves and repent, God will heal our land. A contrite heart and humble spirit is required.

May was an incredible month of ministry in Washington, DC. For 27 years, people from every walk of life have converged on the city of Washington, DC for a whole week just before the National Day of Prayer, for the national Bible reading marathon; 90-straight hours of continuous reading of God’s Word from the steps of the US Capitol at the very place where America inaugurates Her Presidents. What a powerful thing it is to read and speak the Word of God over the great city of Washington.

Starting Sunday night, May 1st, at 6:00 PM, the Bible was read until we reached the last chapter of Revelation on

Thursday morning (on the National Day of Prayer which was set into law by President Harry Truman in 1952). After the congressional Day of Prayer festivities, we all walked back to the Capitol and read the final chapter of the Bible together in one voice! What a gift we have in America to be able to do things of this nature.

It not only is powerful to speak God’s Word over the city, but it also allows us to exercise our first amendment muscles if you will. If we do not use them, we will lose them! My favorite part of the day of prayer is our daybreak prayer at the Supreme Court of United States (or SCOTUS). Until about 10 years ago, you would be arrested if you were to try to pray at the court (even silent prayer!) Over the years, my ministry partners challenged the court to allow prayer on one day of the year. What better day to do so than the National Day of Prayer?

On that the first Thursday in May, a small group of Pastors and ministry leaders including myself, pray early in the morning at the Supreme Court for our leaders, our nation, and the future of this great land that God would grant mercy to us. It is powerful to say the least and a blessing to be a part of this tradition. I say all of that to say this: God is not through with our great nation. His remnant is here in Washington and we are not going anywhere, with the help of Almighty God.

I will leave you with this, for this month’s edition. I was in the office of a congressman from Alabama last week for a

meeting. He sat down and I preceded to ask him how I could pray for him. He said, "Nathan, most people tell me that they are praying for courage as I face the oncoming onslaught of what this city brings. I however, do not need courage as it took courage to come to this city in the first place as a congressman. I ask you to pray for wisdom; wisdom that I know when to speak and fight or when not to speak."

I was so encouraged by his response as I carried on that day. I want you to understand once again that there are courageous Christians on the Hill fighting for what is right. I pray that you will encourage those who represent you in the coming months as this is most likely the most important election in our nation's history. Pray for repentance, and a heart of humility. God have mercy on us.

As always,

Your faithful missionary in Washington,
Nathan Kistler

If you would like to know more about my ministry on the Hill or how you can help, please visit my website (www.Nathankistler.com) and click on the Hope To The Hill Tab.



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NEW GROUND

By Robert York

From Scottsboro, Alabama, comes a great group of singers known as New Ground. The group was formed by Dale and Robbie Maxwell, in the spring of 1993 just to see what they would sound like. They sang their first song at Scottsboro Holiness Church on June 19, 1993 and the rest became history. Actually, Dale says he began coaching Robbie back in 1986. You've just got to know Dale. He says, "I'm one of those guys who just tells it like it is!"

New Ground's manager and baritone, Dale was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and has been singing for 35 years, starting with a family group while he was growing up. Known as The Maxwells, it consisted of Dale, his brother Ladd, and sisters Pam and Belinda. Dale stays, "I have always loved Gospel music - but I was just a bystander, going to the *all day singings/*

dinners on the ground with my family and friends. My mom and dad went to the singing schools when I was younger and I always heard the sounds at church at the sings." Dale's mom was truly a major influence on him.

Robbie also says that Dale's mom was her true musical influence. "I had always been around the music, but when Dale and I got married, I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket, and she would always encourage me to sing with the family." Dale and Robbie were married December 12, 1980.

New Ground's tenor singer, David Owens from Hartsville, Alabama, has been singing for 22 years and been with the group for 18 years. He has three children. He was with New Ground for a brief time and then with

another group. Dale asked him to fill in one weekend and he has been *filling in* for the past 18 years.



Pianist Scott Brand is from Opelika, AL. He previously played with the Rabbit Easter Band and The Trammells. He notes that George Younce and Glen Payne were his musical influences. When Robbie, Dale, David and Scott are on stage together, they create several different groups. They mix it up; one time you have a mixed trio, then a male trio and a mixed quartet. New Ground has released radio singles for about 15 years and their current single is entitled, "He'll Know What To Do".

New Ground recently traveled to Scotland and Robbie tells a little about the trip there. "As far as most exciting places we have been allowed to sing, this was by far the most favorite. I had a guy from Scotland order CD's off our website. I was so excited to know that our music was going to Scotland. Then in a few weeks we got a call from him and learned that he saw us singing on YouTube. They were having a Scotland Music Convention and invited our group to represent the United States at the event.



"At first, I thought he was kidding, but it was a trip of a lifetime. We were gone for approximately a week and we sang four times at the event and then we were invited to sing at the Fishermen's Church at the Bay in Fraserburgh. We loved the purity of their worship. There they just want to worship Him in song and want to know more and more about the Lord. It was an eye-opening event for us. We got to travel the countryside and see all the beautiful sites and even got to sip tea at the castles. I would truly love to go again, soon."

Funny things always happen on the road. They have plenty of them but the funniest thing was when Robbie had a bit of a fall. Every group has to have someone that wears a hairpiece and Robbie is the one in New Ground. They were at a church in Park City, Tennessee and David was giving an invitation. Dale had gone over to play the piano and Robbie was just standing on the stage. When they started singing, a lady came forward to pray and she was all by herself and Robbie thought, "When I get through with this chorus I'm just gonna slip down off the stage to the altar and pray with her."



Robbie didn't slip down, she *fell* down the steps and landed in the altar, and hit so hard that her hairpiece fell in front of the communion table. Robbie was already on her knees from falling so she just shimmied over, picked up her hair piece, clipped it back on and scooted on over to pray with the lady who was crying.

Robbie said, "I don't know what you are in need of but



I'm here to pray with you, but you can't get up right yet, that big noise you heard was me. I fell off the stage onto the altar and my hair fell into the altar." Robbie tells us, "The lady went from crying and busted out laughing. Well, we stayed in the altar a little bit longer and she went back to her seat. The pastor came forward

to dismiss, and I asked if I could say something. I told everyone what had happened and a guy in the back said he looked up when he heard the noise and thought I had lost my dog in the altar area!!! Needless to say, it was an eventful night. I told them I was *Holiness*, that I just shouted my hair off."

How did they arrive at the name New Ground? A lady that they went to church with had written a song entitled, "Breaking New Ground." The lyrics included, "The fields are white, the harvest is ready, let's take a good look around and start breaking new ground." Robbie and Dale state that, "This is our prayer, to start breaking New Ground and carry His word in song to a lost world. We love, love, love our life and truly enjoy what we do and have been blessed to sing for Him for approximately 150+ dates a year." You can contact them at www.newgroundministries.com.

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Father's Day Special

Our Father

By Jennifer Campbell

This month, millions of people will celebrate Father's Day. Some fathers will be honored at church, other fathers will be celebrated at home, and many fathers will enjoy fishing, grilling, or quite possibly, doing nothing at all. And like any good husband or dad would, some fathers may even find themselves completing "honey-do" lists or sitting on the floor playing with their children.

But what makes a dad truly special? It's not his willingness to buy a bigger car or a nicer house, or even the way he prolifically mows the lawn or takes out the trash. It's not even the way he shows his children how to build the tallest skyscraper out of building blocks. The thing that makes a dad truly great is the unconditional love that he has for his children.

Ever since I was a little girl, my daddy has loved me unconditionally. No matter what I am doing, he is always my number one supporter. Whether I am teaching school, singing with the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra, or writing a new song or blog, he always encourages me and prays for me. You see, it's not about what I'm doing. It's the fact that I am the one who is doing it. He loves me for who I *am*, not for what I *do*.

Perhaps you have the same relationship with your father, so you know exactly what I am talking about. Dads love us even if we spit up on their new suit on the way to church as infants, spill milk on their new house slippers as toddlers, or back their car into the mailbox as teenagers. You may wonder why fathers love us so much, even when we make mistakes. Because from the moment we are born, our dads become some of our biggest lifelong fans. We are priceless treasures in the eyes of our fathers.

In the same way, our Heavenly Father considers us a treasure. In Isaiah 43:4 (NIV), the Lord says, "you are precious and honored in My sight." Even before you were born, God knew all about you, right down to the number of hairs on

your head. Matthew 10:30-31 (NIV) says, "And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." You are valuable in God's sight. Why? Because God loves you unconditionally; He cares about you so very much. I Peter 5:7 (NIV) says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

Perhaps you feel alone and long for this kind of compassion. You may not have a loving relationship with your father here on this earth. You may have gone your separate ways as a teenager, chasing something you now regret. Or your father may be abusive, either physically or emotionally, causing you to distance yourself from him. I encourage you to pray that God will mend the broken bridge between you and your father. If your father has passed away, you are not alone. God loves you and He is with you always. He will comfort your heart, surrounding you with the peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).



Whatever circumstance you find yourself in, rest assured that our Heavenly Father loves you so very much. No matter what you've done, or where you

are, you will never be out of the reach of His unconditional love. Romans 8:38-39 says that nothing can ever separate us from the love of Jesus Christ. He will mend your broken heart, restore your joy, and reveal His purpose for your life. Put your trust in Jesus Christ today. He is a Father to the fatherless. Call on His name. Your life will be changed when you call upon our Heavenly Father.



The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's summertime and everyone is beginning to slow down and take life a little more easily. What a great time to read SGNScoops' website, magazine and newspaper! So much wonderful, uplifting information about Gospel music and the people who make it all sound so lovely. We do hope you enjoy this issue and drop us a line about what else you would like to see in Scoops! Write to me at lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

We are thrilled to have Cana's Voice as our cover feature this month and we know you will love reading more about TaRanda, Doug and Jody. I love their backstory and I hope you have read about how each of them felt like they had been used up until Jesus told them He had more for them to do. TaRanda of course sang with The Greenes before going solo and you will hear echoes of that harmony in the new CD. Doug sang with Ernie Haase and Signature Sound and he just keeps on getting better and better. Jody comes from a CCM background and you might hear some Avalon as well in Cana's Voice.

I have listened to the new album and each time I have a new favorite. "I Won't Go Back" has lyrics that speak deeply to my heart. I'm sure you will have your own top pick out of the songlist. Some might call this group Contemporary Christian Music or any one of a number of labels, but I just love listening to really good music that speaks to the heart. I know you do too, so I hope you give this group a listen.

I know that you will have enjoyed the other artists featured this month, including the Singing Americans, Seth Sneed, Josh and Ashley Franks, the McKameys, Bev McCann and New Ground. We so appreciate all the artists that have been a part of Scoops, as well as all of our writers. We have such a great team with so many gifts that they are using to lead others to the Father.

I was talking with one of my favorite singers from our choir last Sunday and she talked about sometimes feeling nervous about presenting a solo. Then she said that using her vocal abilities to sing about Jesus was just giving back to God the gift He had given her. You don't normally feel nervous giving someone a gift do you? Our Heavenly Father has given each of us so many gifts. Exercise those gifts; hone them, develop them and do your best to present them as well as you possibly can, then give them back to God. It's the best Father's Day present He would want: YOU!

Happy Father's Day. Our Father loves you so very much. Rest in His arms! And if your father is still with you, give him a hug today. This day has been made for you! Have a great month.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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



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

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



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

ton State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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

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



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

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



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

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

Contributors

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

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

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



Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible.

The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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



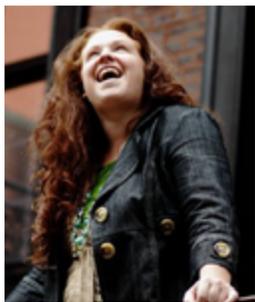
Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and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



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

Contributors

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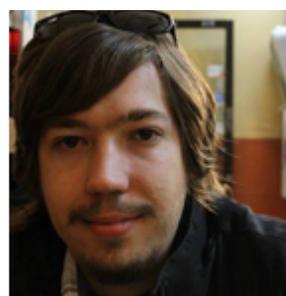
Sheri began singing while traveling with her abundantly talented family, led by her father John LaFontaine, a minister for over 48 years. In 1994 with Grammy nominated singer Jeff Easter producing, she recorded her first solo project, *Takin' My Place*.

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

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



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



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

love of this great style of music.



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

Paige loves to blog about faith,

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



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

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

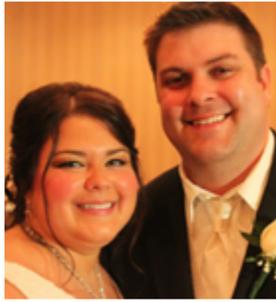


Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being crafty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

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

Contributors

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

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



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

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



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

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



Nathan Kistler was born on the road and was singing at the age of three years old. He has had the opportunity travel with groups like Southern Gospel's beloved trio the Nelons, and most recently for almost two years with Americas Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and 24 countries singing about the won-

derful story of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has also been a part of three crusades on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and while there, he had the privilege of singing in the Pentagon courtyard twice. Through his father's ministry in Washington, Nathan began his work on the Hill as a ministry partner with different Christian organizations like Faith and Action and more. Nathan is a missionary to Washington and continues to work there during the week while singing Gospel music on the weekends around the country and being an artist in residence at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins, West Virginia.

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

are all grown up building their own homes and lives.

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

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

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