

JUNE 2018

SGIN

# SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



## KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER ANOTHER BEND IN THE RIVER

ALSO FEATURING:  
JORDY HINSON, PAUL HARKEY, & CAROL BARHAM



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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

In the world we live in, everyone has GPS on their phone, so you can always find your way. However, I'm sure you also have heard the statement... "you can't get there from here."

I think I have probably heard that statement 100 times as I've traveled over the years and been blessed with the opportunity to work in Christian ministry. There are many times I've stopped at a gas station or store and asked how do I get to such and such town, and on many occasions I've heard that phrase.

I heard it recently and it made me start to think about our lives and how we live. How many of us have heard that we can't get to where we need to go from where we are. How many of us in our life have allowed the roadblocks - whether real or imagined - to block our path? How many times have you said in your own head, "I can't get there from here?"

As I look at my life, and as I come up to a significant birthday in a few months, if you would've asked me years ago if this is where I would be at this point in my life, I would've definitely said no. I'm one of those people that plans. I have ideas and goals, I make lists every day and I get excited about checking off things from my list when I've been able to accomplish things. This was not really where I planned to be.

That being said, we can create a plan but that isn't always what God wants for us. God has a plan for you and for me and sometimes his plan is much different than what we think. I know, for me personally, that I have wondered how I would get to where I truly believe God wants me, from where I am at the moment. If we lean on our own understanding, we think we are never going to be able to accomplish the things that we believe God has for us to do.

Don't misunderstand, I marvel at where God has taken me so far. He's allowed me the opportunity to do the things that I have desired, and I am humbled by those things he has allowed me to do. However, being a person of lists and goals, I have not always done everything personally and in business that I wanted to do. In fact, there are times where I have missed the mark completely.

Recently, I was in the St. Louis airport and in my head I was thinking of all the things that I needed to accomplish. Some of those things seemed impossible at the time. There were things in my near future that I felt I couldn't handle on my own.

Then I remembered the song, "God will make a way, when there seems to be no way... He works in ways we cannot see,



He will make a way for me...He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side. With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way..." (God Will Make A Way lyrics by Don Moen © Capitol Christian Music Group)

In the moment of an almost meltdown, I began to sing that song quietly to myself in the airport. I found comfort in the words of the song and I realized again that even when our natural man says you can't get there from here, God says, "I will clear a way for you."

I don't know where you are today, I don't know what things have not been fulfilled in your life, I don't know what goals you haven't seen come to fruition. But let me tell you that no matter where you are, God can make a way to where you need to be. So don't let anyone ever tell you that you can't get there from here.

Hey, I would love to see you in Vernon, Alabama, in September for an awesome weekend of gospel music. Vernon is an event I look forward to every year and I can't wait for this year. Please make plans to join me and many great artists in Vernon, Alabama, September 7-8, at the Vernon City Auditorium.

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



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# Ole Man River: A Look at Ernie Haase and Signature Sound's Paul Harkey

By Justin Gimore

Ernie Haase and Signature Sound (EHSS) is one of Southern gospel's most popular quartets.

Over the years, the group has featured several incredible bass vocalists including Tim Duncan and Ian Owens. Following Owens' departure in 2012, former Anchormen bass Paul Harkey joined the quartet.

The Texas-born bass had dreamed of joining the group for years, and God opened the door in October of 2012. Prior to that, Harkey honed his bass skills with another popular quartet.

"I filled in with Crystal River out of Knoxville, Tenn., for two months worth of Christmas shows at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo.," Harkey recalls. "They were a trio at the time and needed to be a quartet for the shows, so I auditioned and got the temporary position. Either the next night or the following weekend after the shows were over, Crystal River did a concert with the Anchormen Quartet, who were looking for a bass. Tim Bullins, the owner of the Anchormen, flew me in for a weekend audition. I got the job, and was with the Anchormen for almost five years."

The award-nominated bass recently released a short solo EP entitled, "Ole Man River," which features songs previously recorded by Ernie Haase and Signature Sound as well as the legendary George Younce. The EP has been a hit with fans. much to his surprise.

"To be honest, I really hadn't thought about it before," Harkey explains. "I'm not interested in doing solo concerts for the simple fact that I'd have to talk in front of people. I'm much more comfortable as a group singer. That's how I feel called anyway. Ernie approached me about it, and I was happy to do it. He knows my heart is with the group. There is no solo-career danger."

This recording showcases the vocalist's impressive range and smooth bass voice while also paying tribute to one of his bass singing heroes, George Younce. Harkey cites several bass singers as influences on his unique style.

"I take influence from a wide array of singers," Harkey points out. "Some of my bass-singing influences are George Younce, Jeff Chapman – big influence, both vocally and personally – Tim Riley, and Gene McDonald. I appreciate all styles of singing as long as it's good. I really enjoy a lot of low-voice country singers, as well,



such as Josh Turner and Trace Adkins just to name a couple.”

Harkey teamed with Ernie Haase and Wayne Haun to produce the recording, which features seven songs, only two of which had to be re-tracked.

Harkey points the title cut as his favorite track. “It would probably have to be Ole’ Man River,” Harkey says. “It was recorded in Gaither Studios in Anderson, Ind. Also, it brought back great memories of my time as a church music major at Wayland Baptist (Texas) University. I sang ‘Ole’ Man River’ then, along with various foreign language pieces.”

Harkey is living his dream with Ernie Haase and Signature Sound and serving the Lord through his music.

“What can I say ... I love it all,” Harkey shares. “I dreamed of joining this group for 10 years before God finally opened the door for me. The standard of excellence that is required is something that I love. I feel like people can see how hard we work on every aspect of our craft, but what they see on stage is only a small portion of the job. It’s something in which I take great pride. After all, it is all for the kingdom. We should strive for excellence in all aspects of life, not just some.”

Since joining the group, Harkey has been a part of several memorable events.

“I’ve had quite a few incredible experiences,” Harkey says. “One that may top them all is getting to sing at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. It would be pretty hard to top that one. We even got introduced by Ricky Skaggs. It was icing on the cake.”

When he’s not on the road with the group, Harkey is at home being a family man.

“One of my greatest loves in this world are vintage, four-stroke dirt bikes,” Harkey points out. “I love trail riding in the mountains. Also, I’m a major barbecue snob ... ask any of the guys. Lastly, most people know this, but

I have the most amazing wife, two boys, and a step-daughter ... though I love her as if she was my own.”

Time with his family helps Harkey focus on his calling and puts things into perspective. The Lord has blessed him and his family to be able to live his dream. His favorite Bible verse is Zephaniah 3:17.

“Zephaniah 3:17 ... ‘the Lord, your





him, always, in everything. He really is the only One who can be fully trusted ... not even yourself.”

Ernie Haase and Signature Sound is in the midst of their Clear Skies Tour, which features songs from their latest recording as well as Harkey’s EP.

When asked what fans can expect from the quartet in the future, Harkey says, “Lots and lots of clear skies ... get it?”

God, is in your midst,” Harkey shares. “A victorious warrior. He will exalt over you with great joy. He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing.”

“In Christ, you are victorious and nothing is impossible.”

Harkey’s advice to aspiring artists is simple.

“Pray hard ... seek God’s face,” Harkey says. “If it’s your true calling to sing or play gospel music, he will show the way and give you the proper tools to succeed. Trust



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## Have You Learned to Hate?

By David Staton

As Christians, we are constantly told that we must love everyone and that is true. There are plenty of scriptures that tell us that we must love our friends and our enemies. However, there is a distinction between loving the person who is sinning, and loving - or even accepting - the sin that they have accepted as part of who they are.

When someone begins to identify themselves by the sin they love, then trying to distinguish the person and the sin becomes very difficult. I have to wonder if that isn't the angle that the enemy has formulated in order to make Christians more and more comfortable with sin. If it is, it is nothing short of brilliant, when it comes to confusing Christians and breaking down any and all moral standards.

Right now, I don't want to focus on other people's sin, I want you to focus on your own sin. Sin always does something for you, but then it always does something to you.

When the devil tempted Eve, he tempted her with the fruit that the Bible refers to as being good. I'm sure it looked good and tasted even better. I'm sure in that moment when Eve bit into it, that fruit did something for her. It probably did for her what Oreos and a glass of

cold milk does for me when I'm curled up on my couch watching late night television. There is always that sense of, "I have had such a rough day, and I deserve this." In that moment, Oreos and milk does something for me. It tastes great, it comforts me, and makes me feel like I'm being rewarded. I love what Oreos and milk does for me.

However, after a couple of weeks of eating Oreos every night, I get up one day and can't button my pants. That's when I realize that I have a love/hate relationship with Oreo cookies. I hate what those things did to me.

I'm sure that Adam and Eve loved what that fruit did for them in that moment, but I can tell you that when Adam had to start tilling the ground and working hard in order to get food, and when Eve gave birth and felt the pain, they hated what sin had done to them, more than they loved what sin did for them.

I know as Christians we have to learn to love, but we also have to learn to hate. The apostle Paul touches on this in Romans 7:15 when he talks about doing what he hates and not doing what he loves. This realization of what sin is doing to us vs. what sin is doing for us is the difference between bondage and freedom. We have

to hate what sin does to us more than we love what sin does for us.

So what about you? Have you learned to hate what you need to hate?



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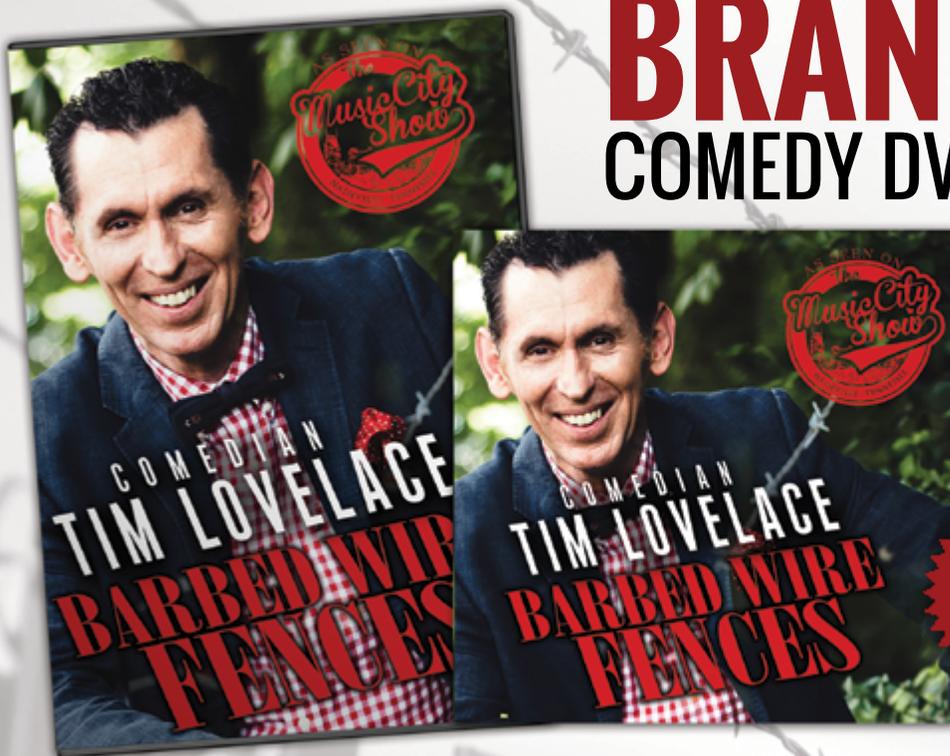
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# Karen Peck and New River :

## Another bend in the river

Arrival of Grant Gibson brings new excitement

By Fayth Lore

For more than 20 years, the inspirational music of Karen Peck and New River (KPNR) has penetrated hearts from around the country and the world.

KPNR has been nominated for – and won – countless awards, including five GRAMMY nominations and six Dove Awards. One of their more recent achievements was Karen Peck Gooch's induction into the Southern Gospel Music Hall Of Fame.

The group's authentic music is just as recognizable as the unmistakable voice of Gooch. Not only does the sound

of KPNR separate it from others within the unique genre of gospel music, but the heart they have for God and His people is like none other.

Fans of KPNR were surprised and disappointed to hear of the departure of vocalist Ricky Braddy last December. After his departure, KPNR fans were praying, wondering and anticipating the next addition to the popular group. Finally, in late March, Karen Peck and New River announced the addition of Grant Gibson as their new vocalist.



Gibson was introduced to the Southern gospel industry in 2011 during his two-year tenure with Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call. Then, he joined the chart-topping group, 11th Hour, in 2013.

While Gibson has become a familiar face in the industry, he still wasn't quite sure if his love for singing and hope for a career in the field could be a legitimate option for his future. However, since hearing Gold City as a young teenager, Gibson knew his passion and call was to be a singer.

"Some friends invited my family to a Gold City homecoming concert in Gadsden, Ala., in the late 1990s," says Gibson. "When I heard Jonathan Wilburn, Jay Parrack and Mark Trammell, I was immediately hooked. It just blew me away. I said, 'I want to do that when I grow up.'"

Gibson fell more in love with Southern gospel after visiting the National Quartet Convention (NQC) in 2002. He began to sing locally until he completed college and joined Jaidyn's Call, eventually joining 11th Hour two years later. As Gibson has already experienced, changes

may be exciting, but they aren't necessarily easy for vocalists taking on a new position.

"The toughest thing about the transition into KPNR was the relationship (with 11th Hour members)," Gibson said. "Amber (Eppinette), Jaquita (Lindsey) and I are not family, but as much as you travel, you become like family. We experienced all kinds of firsts together. Jaquita came a year after I did. The bond with them is something I'll always treasure. Not getting to see them on a week-to-week basis was a little difficult.

"I think one of the neatest things about my time with (11th Hour) was that the group was like a new baby. (2017) marked 10 years that 11th Hour has been on the road. In Southern gospel music, it takes so long to get established. We worked really hard to get to where we were. It was really neat to be on the front end of that process. Seeing the group before I joined them and watching everything from open doors to being on just about every large promoted event in the industry in my time with them was neat. Getting to witness all of those firsts was exciting. I was with them their first time being paid to come to NQC. We had 15 minutes on stage. It was a neat thing to be a part of all of that."



That season was a time of growth and education for Gibson.

"During my time with them, I learned to work hard," Gibson said. "One year, we sang over 230 concerts/church services. I also helped with the contacting and networking. I handled the week-to-week stuff. That was a good experience for me to learn how to do all of that. I was driving the Sprinter (van), running sound, emcee-

ing and setting up week to week. I am just thankful that they allowed me to do those things and get some experi-



ence.”

Gibson’s possible transition to KPNR was a decision that was not taken lightly.

“Joining KPNR was a process,” admits Gibson. “It wasn’t a quick decision on either part. Honestly, I had begun to feel like my season with 11th Hour was coming to a close around October/November of 2017. I didn’t know what that closure looked like. I just felt like I had done what God called me to do with them, and it was time for something else.

“In December 2017, Ricky Braddy decided to leave. I had never thought about traveling with KPNR before. I loved their music, and I was always a big fan. But I didn’t know if it was a possibility. I decided to give it a shot. I reached out to them. I didn’t know what the process looked like. Karen and the Eppinettes were close, so I knew that it was personal. I didn’t want to hurt the Eppinettes or 11th Hour’s ministry.”

Susan Jackson, Karen Peck’s sister and the group’s alto singer, says that Gibson was the right choice.

“I think Grant is a good fit, because he genuinely loves the music and the people,” Jackson explains. “He has a bright future ahead of him. We are thankful that he is with KPNR.”

Gibson adds, “There was a time when I thought the door was closed. I didn’t know if it would end up happening. I just wasn’t sure if everyone was on the same page. That was important to me. A few weeks later, (Karen) messaged me back and said, ‘We’ve been pray-

ing and talking to people, and your name keeps coming up.’ All in all, it ended up being a two-and-a-half month process. We learned that our hearts were in the same place with ministry. It was just made very clear in praying and meeting with them that it was exactly what I needed to be doing. It was neat to have that confirmation.”

However, leaving the group he had grown to love was tough.

“But, I felt like 11th Hour was in such a good place,” Gibson points out. “I felt good about the timing of everything. I never wanted to be a person who jumped from group to group. That is just not my character.

The transition went really smooth, and for that, I am thankful.”

Matthew Gooch – the guitarist for KPNR – is thankful Gibson is now a part of the group.

“He is a great singer and hard worker and very easy to travel with,” Matthew Gooch said. “He is a strong believer and a well-rounded guy.”

Fans have heard this new blend and agree that he is a great singer. The new guy does have some favorites that he really enjoys performing with the group.



“I love the song ‘I Choose Christ,’” Gibson says. “We do that just about every night. It is like an anthem. It’s a declaration that no matter what happens, this is why we are doing what we’re doing.

“I also love the song ‘Jesus Is the Reason.’ Karen has

a history of picking great songs. I feel like this is why she has been so successful. They pick anointed, God-inspired music that truly makes a difference. You want people to be entertained during a concert, but at the end of the day, you want them to be impacted on the inside. If you see 11th Hour or KPNR in concert, both groups always end with an opportunity for the audience to respond to what they have heard. We give an invitation. I think that is so important, and it's cool that both KPNR and 11th Hour do that."



part of a local church. That is where I find my strength and energy to get back out there and go again. There are definitely times when you roll into a place, and you don't want to be there. But God and his strength always pulls you through."

Gibson's addition brings optimism for what lies ahead for the group.

"We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for Grant and KPNR," Karen Peck Gooch shares. "Grant has a lot of supporters who love and respect him.

"Grant is very talented and has an incredible heart to serve the Lord. He has a bright future and will bring new excitement to KPNR. We are looking forward to the next chapter in our ministry."

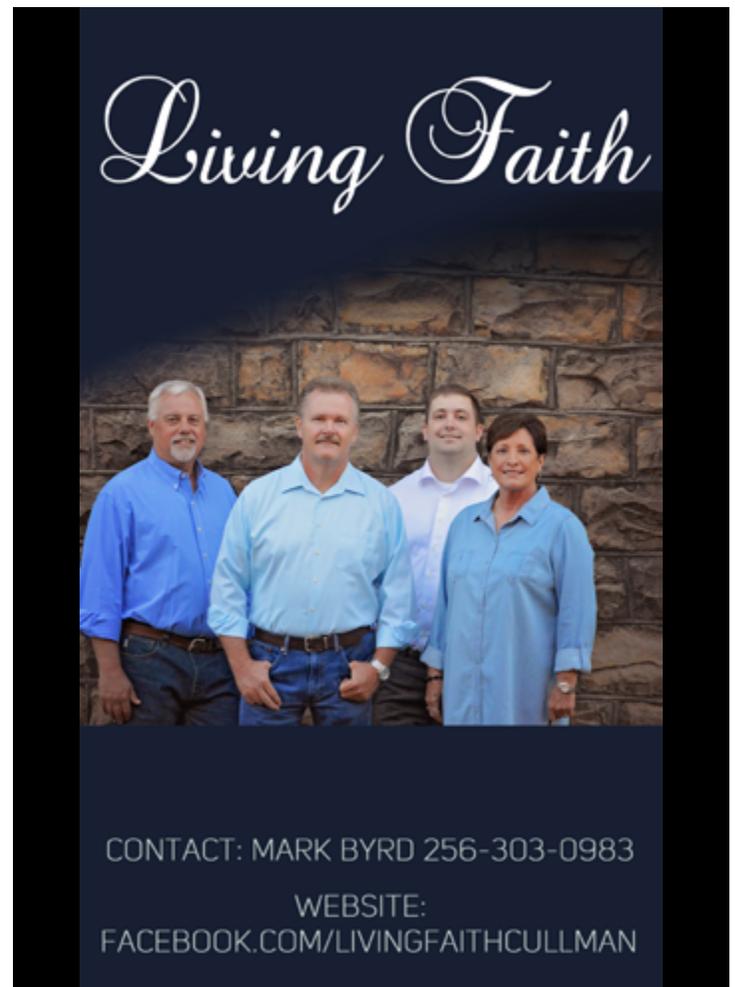
It's obvious that the road to New River had a few bends for Gibson, but it was not without a purpose.

"It took a long time for me to get where I am," reflects Gibson. "You always hear people say, 'grow where you are planted.' You do have to do that. God honors faithfulness. I think if you're not good enough to scrub a toilet and do all of the other things you have to do in ministry, God won't bless you. It takes faith. He wants you to be obedient wherever He's got you, not just where you want to head."

Gibson's journey has strengthened his faith. This strong foundation is part of the reason he fits in so well with his new group.

"We are excited to have Grant join us," Rickey Gooch – Karen Peck Gooch's husband – says. "He is an all-around great guy and singer with a lot of good insight. He is solid as a rock."

Gibson adds, "It's very easy to get discouraged. It's important for me to stay planted in the word. Every week, I go to my home church. I just don't know how I can bless other people if I am not being spiritually fed and blessed myself. For me personally, it's vital that I stay a



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# It's all in a Gospel Song

By Charlie Griffin

Over the last few weeks, life has been a roller coaster for this writer with the passing of my mom. That experience has been hard one for me and the family. But in reality, we all have something we are going through. I have a saying that sums it all up ... “It is what it is.”

Yet with all that has happened, there has been one constant on these trying days of the journey, gospel music. In the music I have found strength, peace, comfort, laughter, tears of joy and blessing. It's all in a gospel song.

Over the miles traveling back and forth to the hospital and then later to hospice, I found myself singing songs I had heard for years in the church and by countless groups. In those songs, I found comfort and peace. Sometimes, they overwhelmed me with such grace and peace. I am sure there were drivers who looked at me when at a stoplight wondering if I was okay. You see, I would be singing loudly and crying at the same time. Please keep in mind when I get a blessing, tears come first.

One night while at mom's beside, we were listening to some Bill Gaither songs, and my mind wandered back to a music conference I attended in Nashville, Tenn., in

the early 1990s. At the Brentwood Conference, Bill and Gloria Gaither shared how their mega-song, “Because He Lives,” came into being. After searching through boxes recently, I found some notes from that conference.

Gloria Sickal and Bill Gaither were single teachers and met while teaching at the same school, Alexandria Monroe High School in Alexandria, Ind. Over time, they began to share ideas about songs. Gloria, the English





major in college, would in later years become the predominant writer of the lyrics in their songs, while Bill's touch would be the writing of the music.

Bill, in most of their songwriting, writes a tune with an idea or maybe a concept in mind. Then, Gloria, using the same idea, will write the lyrics. To date, they have written more than 800 songs, and produced 70 recordings and several musicals. Both are authors or co-authors of several books.

At the music conference, Gloria Gaither shared that as their family began in the 1960s, the world was in flux. She said that racial tensions were rising, people were protesting for civil rights, while many activists and civil rights leaders were being killed. Young American lives were lost in the Vietnam conflict. People were disillusioned. Riots happened on college campuses. People were disconnecting from others and the church. Tensions were high and life was in a negative tailspin.

Now, the Gaithers have been known to write songs that connected to people where they live. Many of those songs became gospel music standards in their own right.



However, in the fall of 1969, with a new baby on the way earlier than planned, Bill was diagnosed with mononucleosis, leaving him exhausted and depressed much of the time. Those songs came a little harder and further apart.

With all the world's' turmoil and stuff going on, around added to personal hardships, they found themselves discouraged. She said they often asked what would things be like in a few years, and what would this child face in the future?

"It was on New Year's Eve that I sat alone in the darkness and quiet of our living room, thinking about the world and our country and Bill's discouragement and the family problems ... and about our baby yet unborn," said Gloria. "Who in their right mind would bring a child into a world like this, I thought. The world is so evil. Influences beyond our control are so strong. What will happen to this child?"



"I can't quite explain what happened at that moment, but suddenly, I felt released from it all. The panic that had begun to build inside was gently dispelled by a reassuring presence that engulfed my life."

While on their journey, the Gaithers continued with prayer and searching, only to find that courage does not come from a stable world. As a believer, our courage came from a stable that saves the world. Christ was born in most uncertain times, but his impact on the world is immeasurable. She said that our lives continue in grace

because of what Christ went through on the cross. We live and have hope because of the resurrection.



In the midst of all that was happening in their lives, their son was born. He was named Benjamin, which means most beloved son. With the experience of a newborn, Bill and Gloria talked about their concerns and their peace in Christ. In time, “Because He Lives” became reality on paper. The carefully-worded song touched the believer’s heart and soul in such a way that hope was renewed in their lives.

Over the years, “Because He Lives” has become a classic gospel song. Choirs, soloists and gospel groups continue to record and stage this powerful yet simple song. The message is timeless. The effect on a believer is powerful. I know how it hit me driving down the highway that day.

Regardless of what we go through in this life, there is hope. Someone loved us more than life itself. In fact, Christ gave his life so we might live. This chorus says it all and just energizes me.

“Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know, He holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just, because He lives.”  
(Written by: Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither. 1971.  
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# Randall Reviews It - June 2018

by Randall Hamm

Dear Friends and Readers,

June, the sixth month, the middle month, and just like that, we're halfway through the year. With this review, I bring you a group who has crafted their finest CD to date and a group that is just now getting discovered: the LeFevre Quartet and the Shireys.

As always, if you enjoy my reviews, get this music wherever you get good gospel music.

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

Now on with the reviews....



## **LeFevre Quartet**

*“Ascending”*

Producer: Wayne Haun  
New Day Records 2018

Songs: I Have It All (Jeff Bumgardner - Wayne Haun BMI); Revival (David Carr - Mark Lee - Johnny Powell ASCAP); A Rugged Old Cross (Gerald Crabb - Dianne Wilkinson BMI); I'll See You At The House (Christy Sutherland - Karen Gillespie BMI); Sailing Away (Lee Black - Marcia Henry BMI); Sun's Gonna Come Up (Lee Black - Scott Inman BMI); Only Jesus (Geron Davis ASCAP); Silver and Gold (Keagan Denney - Shane Dunlap - Wayne Haun BMI)

The latest release by the LeFevre Quartet is also the first on a new label, New Day records. New Day is a subsidiary of Daywind Records, to provide distribution, marketing and promotion services to established independent artists. This is only an 8-song CD; all great selections, with no fillers. This is the second CD to feature the lineup with bass, Keith Plott. Many might

remember Plott from his days with Brian Free and Assurance.

“Ascending” begins with a great track written by Jeff Bumgardner and Wayne Haun: “I have a hope, I have a song, ‘I Have It All.’”

A great start but things get even better from here. Tracks “Revival” and “A Rugged Old Cross” follow. But, the true standout track is the Christy Sutherland and Karen Gillespie written tune “I’ll See You At The House.” A song of goodbye and remembrance, “I won’t say goodbye, I’ll say so long for now... ‘I’ll See You At The House’” This is one of the best songs I have heard Mike and the group do.

A song with a nod back to the original LeFevre Quartet, complete with a nod to Alphus and Urias with the guitar work and Jeremy Peace’s tenor, “Sailing Away.”

Next follows the first single, “Sun’s Gonna Come Up.” Catchy, singable, hummable, the signs of a great single. With the rising of the sun, God grants us new mercies, and if you’re having a bad day or going through a trial, rest assured, the “Sun’s Gonna Come Up,” and a new day starts again, fresh and new.

“Only Jesus,” gives us another Jeremy Peace-featured song. “Silver and Gold” is a showpiece for Keith Plott.

Visit the LeFevre Quartet at [facebook.com/thelefevreqt/](https://www.facebook.com/thelefevreqt/), or to get a copy of “Ascending” go to [thelefevrequartet.com/cds-dvds](https://www.thelefevrequartet.com/cds-dvds).

Strongest Songs: “Sun’s Gonna Come Up,” “Sailing Away,” “I’ll See You At The House”

### The Shireys



“All The Way”  
Producer: Jeff Collins  
Independent 2018

Songs: Watching And Waiting (Victoria Bowlin); That’s How You Know (Joseph Habedank - Dianne Wilkinson); Miracle Waiting To Happen (Larry Collie); Another Empty Vessel (Felicia Stephens); Because Of The Blood (Victoria Bowlin); On This Journey To His Throne (Joseph Habedank - Dianne Wilkinson); Why Should I Worry (Charlotte Sons Baker); We’re Almost Home (Victoria Bowlin); I’m Not The Same (Larry Collie); I Met The Master (Mosie Lister); Love Goes A Mighty Long Way (Joseph Habedank - Dianne Wilkinson); I Must Be Getting Closer; Awake (Victoria Bowlin); All The Way (Jeana Boyd Byers)

The Shireys of South Carolina are back with another CD and one of the best of their career. The Shireys are Wayne and Darlene Shirey and daughter Rachel. Former member is Victoria Shirey Bowlin, who now has a ministry with her husband and has contributed four songs on the this 14-song set.

I first met the Shireys at the 2014 NQC, when they were in the same room as the Goulds. Wayne, Darlene, Rachel and Victoria were just down to earth folks.

The latest single is “Because of The Blood,” written by Victoria, and currently as of this writing a Top 80 song on a national chart. The style of the Shireys is pure Southern gospel and this song hits the nail on the head. “Because Of The Blood,” we’re set free, and our sin debt is erased.

There is some variety, with four songs a little more on the progressive side. But the best songs on this project are when the Shireys stay true to their roots.

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Cookes, you'll love the Shireys. They are just finally getting discovered. At the 2017 National Quartet Convention, after winning their showcase, they played the NQC Main Stage for the first time.

To visit the Shireys go to [facebook.com/theshireysfanpage/](https://facebook.com/theshireysfanpage/) or to get a copy of the Shireys CD, go to [theshireysministries.com/store.htm](https://theshireysministries.com/store.htm).

Strongest Songs:  
 "Because of The Blood," "On His Journey To The Throne," "Why Should I Worry"



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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Jordy Hinson

**BY ERIN STEVENS**

A word from Erin Stevens...

Whether you were a fan of the Original Hinsons back in the day, or you're a 21st century Hinson fanatic, this one's for you. I sat down this month to chat with Jordy Hinson, and goodness, was she ever a breath of fresh air. Step inside our conversation and get to know this dear of a gal even better ...

**Erin Stevens: The name Hinson is well known within the gospel community. That being said, when did the transition happen from the Original Hinsons to your parents beginning their ministry and then to you joining the family business?**

Jordy Hinson: My mom has been singing all her life. She sang with her mom when she was a kid in an Opry in Mesquite, Texas. Weston, of course, grew up getting to hear Grandpa Kenny's unforgettable voice. Weston, however, wasn't in the Southern Gospel scene until later. He sang praise-and-worship-style music, and it wasn't until he met my mom that he joined the group with her and sang his family's classic songs. After a while, mom and Weston decided to go full-time. At this point, I was in public school while mom and Weston were on the road, and I hated missing out on fun trips. (It was) not only that, but I loved hearing the stories of lives that were being changed through my parents' ministry. The time came when they were doing a Hinson Reunion concert in Tulsa, Okla., at the Mabee Center and needed a third singer. There I was, ready and willing. They trained me up, and that's where it all began.

**Stevens: When did your musical inclinations first make themselves known?**

Hinson: I have always loved singing. When I was younger, my mom would get my sister and me on stage to sing a song or two, and we fell in love with singing. We would ride in the car, singing along to the Isaacs and the Crabb Family, and we'd throw a little Jo Dee Messina in the mix. We were raised to love music, and I honestly couldn't see my life without it.

**Stevens: I read recently that you wrote your first song at the age of 17. Has songwriting continued to be a creative outlet for your music and your ministry?**

Hinson: Yes, definitely. I don't write all the time, I'm more of a heartfelt writer – meaning, it takes a circumstance or inspiration to trigger a song for me. I have written more songs. Some will hopefully make it on a solo project in the near future. The song that I wrote that is on our latest project, "The Light Just Came On," is called, "You're Forgiven." My entire testimony lies behind this song, and I hope it reaches many people and touches lives.

**Stevens: If you are on a desert island and you can only have three beauty products, what are your can't-live-without items?**



Hinson: This is possibly the hardest question I have ever answered. Anyone

that knows me, knows I am a makeup fanatic. If I was stranded, I would have to have my bareMinerals Original Powder foundation, my Becca pressed highlighter, and my Clinique Black Honey lip gloss. I'm sure I could find resources to make some mascara.

**Stevens: As an encouragement to others, can you share what the Lord has revealed to you lately through your personal devotions and Bible reading?**

Hinson: God has been dealing with me a lot on mercy and forgiveness. I have been through a lot in my lifetime, I'm sure there are others who have been through worse situations, but through the trials I have faced, God has shown me how to really forgive and let go. So many of us hold grudges and bitterness toward others. We remember that one situation that hurt us, or that one time that person shouldn't have done this or that. It can really tear you apart if you hold that bitterness inside. Sometimes, we even think we have gone so wrong and been out of God's will for so long that he could never forgive us, but that is far from the truth. God gave the ultimate sacrifice so we could be free from the chains that hold us. We can finally experience the peace that passes all understanding when we give all our burdens and struggles to him.

**Stevens: Understanding that there are many people attending your concerts with difficult family situations and broken relationships, how would you offer hope through your own personal testimony and God's Word?**

Hinson: There are so many people that come to our con-

certs broken and hurting. They need encouragement. As I mentioned earlier, that song I wrote has touched more lives than I could have ever imagined. God has used my pain and testimony to help others. I like to tell people, "You may be going through something, and it may seem dark, but the testimony you are going to have on the other side of this pain is going to encourage others. We can stand and say, I know it was rough, but God got me through and he is going to carry you through this ... just like he did for me."

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

Maybe you are one of those hurting and broken souls Jordy mentioned, or maybe you are currently on the mountaintop, because God just made the impossible possible in your situation. If you are the one in a season of rejoicing, it's your chance to reach out to someone who is hurting and be that shoulder they can lean on. If you are the one who is in the valley, don't be afraid to ask for help. And definitely don't be afraid to make your requests known to God. He is there, and his Word reminds you that you don't have to carry your burdens alone.



Psalm 55:22 says, "Cast your cares on the Lord, and he will sustain you." Reach out, have faith, and wait on him. Your miracle is on its way.

And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin on Twitter at @photosforkeeps and on Instagram at @photos\_for\_keeps.

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# TOP 40

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. Chuck Hancock - One Pair Of Hands
2. Kolt Barber - Another Day
3. Trinity Wennerstrom - Shine Big, Shine Bright
4. Christian Davis - Every Scar
5. Tina Wakefield - Over And Over
6. Brent Harrison - This Side Of Sunday
7. James Payne And Bruce Haynes - Dancing In The Rain
8. Michael Lee - Ain't That Just Like Jesus
9. John Penney - In God's Hands
10. Wade Phillips - Make Me More Like Jesus
11. McKay Project - Taking Me Home
12. Bruce Hedrick - Wingin' It
13. Jamie Lynn Flanakin - Free
14. Terry Davis - Braggin' On Jesus
15. Bloodbought - Gospel Plow
16. Tonja Rose - When The Mountain Can't Be Moved
17. Mike Leichner - Don't Bring The Country Out In Me
18. Heather Van Derren - Come To The Table
19. Debbie Bennett - The Blood He Applies
20. The Reed Brothers - Holding On
21. Steve Warren - Forever Kind Of Love
22. Carol Barham - I Can't Praise Him Enough
23. Caleb Howard - Live Like That
24. Kevin And Kim Abney - Broken Bread
25. Jonathan Dale - This Is Your Now
26. The Kendricks - I Could Be Leaving Right Now
27. Charlie Griffin - Rise And Shine
28. Tommy Smith - Let's March On

29. Kali Rose - What's A Valley
30. Gil Magee - Climb The Sycamore Tree
31. Buddy Jewel - I'm There
32. Kevin Rowe - Heaven Above
33. Shellem Cline - This Thing Called Life
34. Mike Manual - The Country Side Of The Cross
35. Kolt Barber - Send The Rain
36. Bev McCann - Dash Between The Dates
37. Debbie Seagraves - I Still Believe In Amazing Grace
38. Gunner Carr - Take My Hand
39. Ava Kasich - Speak The Word
40. Tony Alan Bates - Numbered



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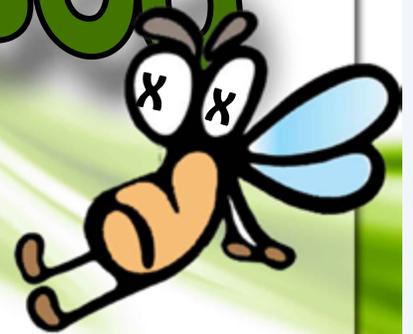
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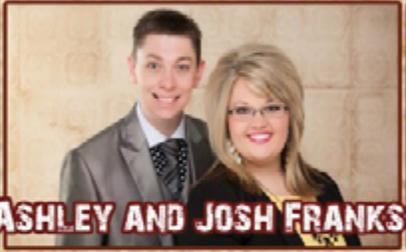
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**THE WALKERS**

# Carol Barham

She just can't praise Him enough



By Lorraine Walker

She steps on stage with her trademark long, wavy, blonde hair and vivacious personality and begins to sing with a low, traditional vocal. Expressive and energetic, Carol Barham is a Christian Country artist with a definite stage presence and a clear message.

“My message is simple yet profound,” says Barham. “There is a God in Heaven that loves us so much that he gave his Son to die on an old rugged cross so you and I would have eternal life forever ... that he cares about us and longs to be a part of our lives, whether we’re rich or poor, old or young, messed up or think we got it all together. If we’re down, he’ll pick us up from where we are. He wants to wrap his arms around us and say, ‘It is I. Be not afraid.’ That’s the kind of God we serve.”

Barham’s message and unique talent are being heard and accepted, as her latest single, “I Just Can’t Praise Him Enough,” climbs the charts in both Country and South-

ern gospel music. However, this welcome wagon has taken some time to drive up to her door.

“I’ve always had this (song) in me since I was a child,” begins Barham. “(I was always) around my brothers, who played guitars and sang Country (music). Each had their own style. When I grew up and later met my husband at a Pentecostal church, the gift of singing and songwriting began to take on a whole new journey for me.

“I was asked by a group to join them, and we traveled quite a bit on weekends for about two years. After that, it was singing in church every Sunday. Then, in 2011, I met up with an old friend, Dennis McKay. He had opened a recording studio. I knew this was no accident but a set up by God.”

McKay asked Barham to join him and his wife, Leslie, at



M.A.C. Records.

“In 2015, we released a Country gospel song I had written called ‘You’re My Mama’ that hit Cash Box Country and then (national Christian music) charts also,” Barham said. “It was a dream come true.

“Here I am today with my song, ‘I Can’t Praise Him Enough,’ on four different charts, 10 months later. The SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40 has me at No. 22 for June. Words cannot explain the joy and gratefulness I feel for where God brought me from and where I am today.

“It’s different from the other songs I’ve written for sure. It gets the crowd into an atmosphere of praise to our God. Think about your name being on the roll, and when he calls your name, you’re gonna dance, sing and shout around the throne. That’s enough to get anybody excited.”

Produced by M.A.C. owner Dennis McKay, “I Can’t Praise Him Enough,” is still rising on the charts. Barham pointed out that McKay played every instrument and also did the background vocals.

Not just a vocalist, Carol and Paul Barham (her husband) have pastored Fountain of Life church in Vernon, Ala, for many years. This commitment reduces the number of dates she might travel to venues, but there are some favorite events she enjoys attending, like the

International Country Gospel Music Association Convention in West Plains, Mo.. The soloist has been nominated for Horizon Country Gospel Artist for 2018, with the event to take place from July 19-21.

Barham has also been nominated in the top 10 Diamond Awards Favorite Country Gospel Solo Artist category and recently appeared at SGNScoops Christian Country Expo 2018. But it was in Sand Springs, Okla., in March that she had a unique experience just as special as winning an award. The songstress appeared at Five West Outpost with Red Polster, celebrating 25 years of radio for Marty Smith.

Barham said that the crowd fully appreciated the songs that she presented at Five West Outpost, including “America Come Back” and “I Can’t Praise Him Enough.”

“Once again, the passion I have for Christ must have come shining through,” Barham said. “They worshipped and praised God with me.



“After I got back to my booth, several (people) came and bought CDs and wanted me to autograph my picture for them, which in itself was very humbling to me. This one lady in particular came up with this beautiful glow upon her and said, ‘You touched my life tonight so much. She had this glow and peace that radiated from her. She said, ‘I almost didn’t come. Someone at Walmart invited me. I debated whether to come or not, because I’ve never been here before. But it won’t be my last. I’ve been going through a very hard time,’ and there were several health issues she mentioned. ‘But tonight it’s like a huge weight lifted off of me when you started singing.’”

While Barham was giving, she also ended up receiving.

“She was blessing me so much I wanted to give her one of my CDs,” Barham explains. “She said, ‘I want to bless you with something. I make jewelry, and I am going home tonight and (will) make you something beautiful and will be back tomorrow night to give it to you.’ Sure enough, here she came with this beautiful strand of colored pearls and black beads all blended together and put them around my neck herself. They were beautiful.

“I felt like I had won a trophy, but more importantly, a life was changed because of something I did or said or sang. It was worth every mile and every hour traveled.”

Barham looks for songs that are life changing.

“‘Reach Out for the Life Line’ has brought people to Christ and a renewal of gratitude to the believers across this land,” Barham says. “I was privileged to do an interview with Gary Rayburn from Rig Ministries when that song got on put on the Rig Ministries Outreach CD, and thousands were distributed across the land. I actually had people calling, texting me, thanking me for that song and testimony behind the song. It was life-changing for me.

“I also want to acknowledge it has been an awesome

journey for me to work hard, interact with DJs and other artists that are pulling for me. I wouldn’t have traded it for anything. Thank you to anyone and everyone that in some way you had a part in my journey. (I’m) looking forward to what God has in store.”

The future of Christian Country is bright, and Carol Barham’s is as well. She says the music she loves is shaking up the industry.

“What I’ve heard from some of the outstanding Christian Country artists is phenomenal,” Barham points out. “I love the different styles and lyrics that touch the heart and soul. These artists are feeling what they’re singing about and who they’re singing about.

“To me, it’s drawing people in from every walk of life. I’ve noticed that some that have been in other types of music are checking out what’s going on in this Christian Country blowout. I personally believe if we sing from our hearts and have a drive in our spirit to see souls saved for the Kingdom of God, a multitude (will come) to Christ. But no matter what kind of music you feel God has called you into, he will use it ... and the ultimate goal is seeing souls come to Christ, and the Christians be renewed in their spirit, to keep on pressing toward the mark that is in Christ.”



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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## Chuck Bryant



By Vonda Easley

Chuck Bryant, owner of WOTG in Clearwater, Fla., is in our DJ Spotlight this month. WOTG is the only Gospel station on the west coast of Florida and in Southwest Florida.



Here's a piece of our conversation. Enjoy.

**Vonda Easley:**  
Can you tell us how long you have been in radio and how things started

**for you and WOTG?**

Chuck Bryant: I started working at a local radio station in the Tampa Bay area in April of 2014. I enjoyed radio so much that I became interested in starting my own station. In January of 2015, WOTG was launched.

**Easley: How do you think Southern Gospel music has changed over the years musically and stylistically?**

Bryant: I feel in a lot of ways it has changed for the better. With the use of computerized recording and being able to use more digital sound, the music is much clearer and a better quality. Most groups have kept the Southern Gospel tradition and style, and because of that, it has opened up the door for their music to cross over into other genres such as Christian Country.

**Easley: Being a Florida station, do you feel you have the ideal spot geographically? Everyone loves Florida.**

Bryant: Well, we are the only Gospel station on the west coast of Florida and in Southwest Florida. Because we are an internet station and have several other stations around the country, we feel we do a great job of getting the music out to the people. So, we are not only reaching Florida. We are reaching folks around the globe. Our people in Florida do love good ole' Gospel Music though.



**Easley: Who have you heard lately that you think is the next big thing in Gospel Music?**

Bryant: For me to put a label on anyone of

our groups is a hard thing to do. We try our best to play our regional groups and our national groups who sing Southern Gospel, Bluegrass Gospel and Country Gospel. Many of these groups are like family to us, and we love all their music and love working with them to get their message in song heard by the people.



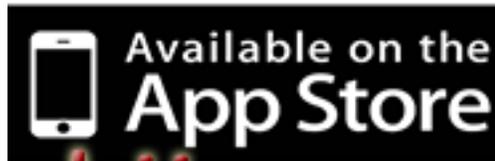
Easley: Internet Radio is reaching the masses. How has technology changed the way you play music?  
 Bryant: Unlike the days of the turntable and cueing records, now, most of the

music is downloaded to a computer. Playlists are set up and managed by a station manager. Technology has changed things for the better as long as everything is up and working. It amazes me the thousands and even millions of people that can listen to our stations just at the click of a button.

We hope you join the thousands listening in to WOTG in Clearwater, Fla. Enjoy Chuck every week day on [www.wotgradio.com](http://www.wotgradio.com) on the Morning Show with Chuck and George at 9:30 a.m. (EST).

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# Master Peace Quartet



By Robert York

About five years ago, old friends Anthony Patton, Bill Worley and Barry Minish got together with a desire to uplift God and Jesus Christ in song and formed Master Peace Quartet. Worley and Patton had sung together previously in another quartet. Minish was the business manager of that group and continues in the same role with Master Peace. Wiley Brewster was to sing tenor.

The men began to search for a baritone and contacted Worley's friend, Brian Morse. Master Peace Quartet held their first concert on April 26, 2014, at Olivia Baptist Church in Dalton, Georgia. However, soon they needed to find another tenor so they found Brian Etheridge and in 2015 they hired baritone Bobby Christopher. Each member grew up singing gospel music with family and friends.

Since that time, God has opened many doors for the group and they even received the Crimson Music Award as Quartet of the Year. They have opened concerts for many of the most popular Southern gospel groups. Later this year, they will make their first appearance at Creekside Music Convention in Pigeon Forge as part of the Alabama Quartet Convention Road Revival Showcase

which will be held October 31 in the afternoon.

Worley sang his first song 'Just Jesus and Me,' when he was six years old. Later he sang in public at Oak Hill Baptist Church. Bill says the Smith Family (Jack Smith and his singers Sara-Ann Stevens, Marlene Weaver and Ruby Wolf as well as Anthony Payton,) influenced him most in his musical career. He continues, "I was saved at six years old. My father was preaching about the cross. Christ has been so good to me. He has held my hand through many trials in my life. I lost my parents at the same time in a plane crash. I cannot imagine going through that or anything else in my life without Christ as my rock."

Original member Patton, who sings lead, started singing in 1973, with "When I Lift Up My Head." Anthony and his wife, Amanda, love to vacation in Siesta Key, Florida.

Patton recalls an embarrassing moment in his career. "Holding up the service because of a last minute restroom trip," he confides. "The guys were on stage and it was a full house at Providence Road Baptist Church in Maiden, N.C. All eyes were on me when I headed down



the aisle for the stage.” This vocalist previously sang with Called Out Quartet.

For 22 years, Christopher sang with a family group, beginning when he was only 14 years old. At age six, he would sit in his room all day and play his bass guitar with all the artists on the radio. His mama was a big influence in his life with her dedication to traveling and spreading the good news of Christ.

Christopher reveals, “My wife is the person I most admire. She is always right behind me in whatever I venture into. And my oldest son who just announced he is going into ministry.”

“I asked Jesus to come into my heart on a Sunday morning, July 1, 1984 at Chamblee Church of God when I was 11 years old,” says Christopher. “I was raised in

church and knew right from wrong at an early age; but that Sunday morning I realized, though I knew all about Him, I had no relationship with Him. So we changed that and I’ve never been the same since.”

Tenor Etheridge sang with an all a cappella group called Unworthy, previous to joining Master Peace. He says that Kyla Roland has penned so many wonderful songs, that she has been one of the most important influences on his life.

Etheridge confesses that he has a nickname, one that some may hint, might lack a little maturity. His two sisters and his mom started calling him ‘Bubbe’ when he was born and it has stuck with him. Bubbe has many



hobbies, and when the group isn’t traveling he enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, woodworking and singing.

Master Peace was recently in the studio. Among the songs they recorded for their new project is “He Stood for Me,” written by baritone Christopher. The recording is scheduled to drop early this month, June 2018.

The quartet recently sang at the 2018 Easter Weekend Quartet Singing with the Anchormen and Gold City, and were very well received. Summer will find them at the Maggie Valley singing in North Carolina, and the Alabama Quartet Convention in Mobile, Alab., among others. Fans can check their schedule at [www.masterpeaceqt.com](http://www.masterpeaceqt.com) to find concerts in their area.





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1. Greater Vision - God Doesn't Care
2. The Bowling Family - I Believe He's Alive
3. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - Clear Skies
4. The Kingsmen - Cost Of The Cross
5. The Mark Trammell Quartet - Go Show John
6. The Lore Family - Asking, Seeking, Knocking
7. The Old Paths - Broken People Like Me
8. The Hyssongs - I've Seen Enough
9. Tribute Quartet - When The Prodigal Comes Home
10. Gold City - If Church Pews Could Shout
11. Karen Peck And New River - Gotta Be Saved
12. The Taylors - For What I Don't Know
13. The Kingdom Heirs - Heroes Of Faith
14. The Williamsons - Jesus, What A Wonderful Name
15. The Steeles - Psalm 113
16. The Guardians - Woke Up This Morning
17. Jason Crabb - Washed By The Water
18. Ivan Parker - A Little More Like You
19. Canton Junction - When I Lift Up My Head
20. Matthew and David Browder - Man I Am Today
21. The Whisnants - He's Never Moved
22. The McKameys - Living For Eternity
23. Mark Bishop - The Refrigerator Door
24. The Collingsworth Family - That Day Is Coming
25. The Hoppers - Song Of Moses
26. The Talleys - Look Up

27. Brian Free And Assurance - He Can Take It
28. Tim Livingston - Waiting At The Top
29. Jonathan Wilburn - Calvary's Cross
30. Amber Nelon Thompson - Grateful
31. Debra Perry And Jaidyn's Call - Rock Of Ages
32. Poet Voices - Extraordinary
33. Joseph Habedank - Jailbreak
34. The Triumphant Quartet - The Cross Is All The Proof I Need
35. The Wisecarvers - Somebody Here
36. High Road - Christ My Hope, My Glory
37. Georgia - I'm Getting Restless
38. Surrendered - His Tomb Is Empty Now
39. The LeFevre Quartet - Sun's Gonna Come Up
40. The Bibletones - That's Why His Grace Is Amazing
41. The Bakers - Why Should I Worry
42. The Wilbanks - You Are Good
43. Soul'd Out Quartet - Run On
44. Day Three - I'm Not A Failure
45. The Jay Stone Singers - Just Receive It
46. Chronicle - I'll See Him
47. Doyle Lawson And Quicksilver - He's Everywhere
48. The Isaacs - Yours Amen
49. Lindsey Graham - But God
50. The Pruitt Family - Love At First Sight
51. Ben McGalliard - Clouds



52. Mercy's Well - Who Do You Know
53. The Inspirations - I Know Him
54. Tim Lovelace - Choose Happy
55. The Booth Brothers - Leave Your Sorrows
56. The Greesons - I'll Put On A Crown
57. Blood Bought - Gospel Plow
58. Jeremy Cato - Things I Know For Sure
59. Billy Huddleston - Miracle
60. The 3rd Row Boys - Do It All
61. Jason Davidson - It Was The Cross That Got To Me
62. The Diplomats - Nothing Less Than Grace
63. Hazel Parker Stanley - I'd Do It All Again
64. Curtis Hyler And Jubilation - When God's All You Got
65. The Porter Family - When I Lay My Isaac Down
66. 11th Hour - Power In Prayer
67. The Mark Dubbeld Family - This Joy Is Mine
68. The Frosts - That Which Cost Me Nothing
69. The Sharps - Standing In The Storm
70. Jordan's Bridge - The Bridegroom Cometh
71. The Master's Voice - Without You, I Haven't Got A Prayer
72. The Liberty Quartet - 'Til Mercy Sang
73. The Dunaways - Somewhere Around The Throne
74. The Bates Family - Rejoice
75. The Millers - Going Where He Lives
76. Michael Combs - How Do They Do It
77. The Joyaires - A Touch Of His Hand
78. New Ground - There's Nothing He Can't Do
79. The Mylon Hayes Family - What An Anchor
80. Charlie Griffin - Rise And Shine
81. The Songsmiths - The Best Is Yet To Come
82. The Kendricks - Old Piece Of Clay
83. Jason Cooper - When I'm On My Knees

84. Eagle's Wings - King Jesus
85. The Freemans - God Of The Storm
86. Dallas Rogers - It Should've Been Me
87. Austin and Ethan Whisnant - Should Have Been Three
88. Michael English - Love Is The Golden Rule
89. Michael Wayne Smith - Lead Me Lord
90. The Perrys - Find Me Faithful
91. Steve Ladd - Living Water
92. Cana's Voice - Same Hands
93. Jeff And Sheri Easter - Wayfaring Stranger
94. Sisters - Another Day
95. Purpose - I Know Me
96. The Gaither Vocal Band - Jesus Messiah
97. Exodus - Open Invitation
98. The Down East Boys - Pray
99. The Carolina Boys - I Didn't See Him Rise
100. The Nelons - Daddy And Son

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Inner Views

# of **The Bontragers**

A Bluegrass family making music together

By Guest Writer Cheryl Smith

It is always such a blessing to come across families who are living for God together, and who are following him and his plan for their lives as a large family unit. When there is bluegrass music involved, it is an even bigger blessing. I am so grateful to be able to share the Inner Views of one such family with you, the Bontragers.

**Cheryl: Please tell us about yourselves and your family.**

Marlin and Becky Bontrager: Our parents taught us the value of hard work and strong family ties. We raised our family on a farm in rural Kalona, Iowa. We farm half of the year and travel singing and sharing God's Word the other half.

**Cheryl: How and when did the two of you meet?**

Becky: We casually met at a Bible school in Arkansas, then again with some mutual friends a year later, and

once more at a conference in Ohio six months later. Total, we had spent probably three hours together, mostly with other friends, but through all this, God put it on Marlin's heart to go out on a date with me. So about two years after our first meeting, he came to Cincinnati (where I was working at a daycare) to take me out on a date. The rest is history...

**Cheryl: Will you each kindly share with us about your personal Christian testimony?**

Marlin: We both were raised in Christian homes. I was rebellious for my growing up years. I came to Christ at a revival meeting a few months before my 20th birthday.

Becky: I asked God to save me when I was about 14. More recently, I have realized that God's salvation is free and complete without any help from me. My part is



simply trusting him for salvation and then joyfully serving/obeying him every day of my life. It is always the work of the Holy Spirit that draws a person to Christ, but our parents, the church, and a loving home were all instrumental in bringing us to salvation. Surrendering one's life to Jesus Christ changes everything--it has affected our thoughts about birth control, how we raise our children, our finances, the way we spend our time, etc.

**Cheryl: Please share with us about your children and how God is working in and through their lives.**

Marlin and Becky: God has blessed us with 10 children. Each of them has asked God to save his or her soul. We have no greater joy than to see them walking in truth as they faithfully serve God in various ways. Four of them are now married, but the other six are still at home.



**Cheryl: What is your favorite part of having a large family?**

Marlin and Becky: A strong family is an incredible witness in a broken society. There are countless benefits to having a large family, but I will only list a few. A large family can complete a large work project very quickly. Family businesses are more easy to run with family members living in the same household. We have the same schedule, can discuss schedule and work while we eat family meals, we take vacations together. We also can have a party without inviting anyone else to join us but when we do hospitality, and we do it a lot both on the road and at home, the preparation and work is shared.



**Cheryl: What is your advice to parents who want to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?**

Marlin and Becky: Parents must build their homes on God's Word (Psalm 127.) Home discipleship is vitally important in raising and equipping our children. Deuteronomy 6 commands parents to teach their children as they "walk by the way, lie down, and rise up." Parents must also be willing to be different and to make hard choices in order to shepherd their families. Discernment is a must. Teach your children to love God, to love his Word, and to love those around them.

**Cheryl: How long have you been singing as a family, and how did God lead you to start this ministry?**

Marlin and Becky: We have been traveling and singing for 13 years. We began when we were invited to participate in a Prison Crusade in South Carolina. After that first year, we did a few concerts at churches, and the ministry grew from there.



**Cheryl: Will each of you share about a dark time in your life and how the grace of God sustained you and saw you through such difficulty?**

Becky: For me personally, road life has some big challenges, the biggest being insomnia which seems to intensify when I get to bed late, eat certain foods, and am under stress, all of which seems to happen during concerts on the road. God’s grace, again, as in his divine influence on my life and it’s reflections in my life, has given me the strength to be joyful, to remember my words when singing most of the time, and to minister to others no matter how little sleep I get. I remember one lady who said, “It must be hard to live on the bus.” Those kind, understanding words ministered healing and encouragement to my heart. There have also been many acts of kindness along the way--a basket of home-made lotions, etc.

Marlin: My father passed away when I was 18. Although I was an adult at the time, I think that has given me a greater compassion for the fatherless. And while I know death is final, I know there are many men who are living without fathers in the U.S. and I think that would be harder. Letters or text messages I have gotten from



brothers or sisters in Christ (that) have encouraged me, have (also) encouraged me to do likewise.

**Cheryl: What is the best marital advice you have ever received?**

Marlin and Becky: An elderly couple at one of our concerts said: “Follow the Owner’s Manual,” the Bible, to have a good marriage. We also have learned a lot from the “Love and Respect” DVD series as well as many other books. We took each of our married children through the “Love and Respect” series before they got married.

**Cheryl: How can we pray for you?**

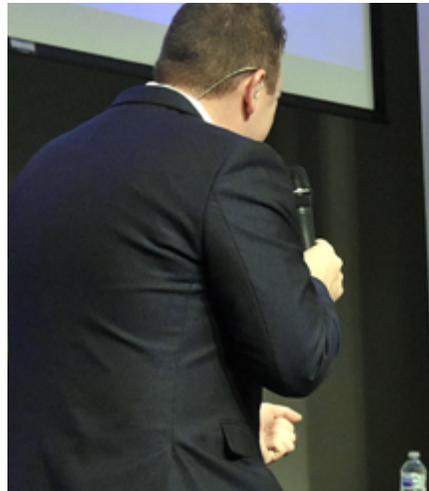
Marlin and Becky: You can pray that we would continue to serve God in humility and faithfully follow no matter where he leads us.

A big thank you to Marlin and Becky for sharing their Inner Views here. Find out more at [bontragerfamilyingers.com](http://bontragerfamilyingers.com)

First published on Homespun Devotions by Cheryl Smith. This feature has been condensed. For the full interview, read [homespundevoitions.com/2018/04/the-inner-views-of-marlin-becky.html](http://homespundevoitions.com/2018/04/the-inner-views-of-marlin-becky.html)

# Through The Lens of Craig Harris: The Perrys at Calvary Baptist Church

Photographs by Craig Harris



The Perrys performed at Calvary Baptist Church in Lafayette, Tenn., on May 11.



# A Look Through The Lens Continued..





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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

June means summer has truly arrived, and I have to agree that it has, especially after reading through this issue of SGNScoops Magazine. Would it be trite to say that the stories are hot? We enjoy bringing you the inside scoop of the new and the enjoyable within gospel music.

Karen Peck and New River has a new member, and we inserted the group on to the cover just as soon as we could. For most of you, as well as most of us at Scoops, the award-winning trio is a favorite, and we are so happy that Fayth Lore could have a chat with Grant Gibson. I think he is a good fit with the New River gang.

I hope you had time to read everything we have presented this month. Each of our writers and the artists being interviewed by them are committed to bringing you the best information possible, as well as displaying their faith and commitment to the Lord. If you have any questions or comments about any of the features, please write to me at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com). I would love to hear from you.

I was in a grocery store the other day and saw a young, teen-aged girl wearing a short, tight shirt. Her mom was checking out at the cashier and seemed unconcerned with the display the girl was making of her body. It made me think about how I appear to others, and I wonder if I display a modesty reflective of the morals I claim to hold. I'm glad that so many of our artists in

gospel music, both men and women, attempt to show decorum when they perform.

More to the point ... do we display the fruit of the Spirit when we live out our lives every day? Are we aware of seizing the opportunity to show love, joy, peace, and even patience? It seems that even friendliness is in short supply these days. It is difficult to display an outward indication of your inward belief on days where it seems to take too much effort just to do your usual routine. I have a chronic condition where pain and fatigue play a major role every day, but that is no excuse to only think of myself. The Bible doesn't say, "Love your neighbor as yourself (except for Lorraine)," even though some days I live like that.

How about you? Do you have an excuse for not sharing the love of God with others, even with your family, because of your bad day, hard work or the pet that shed on your new outfit? It doesn't come naturally. Otherwise, Jesus wouldn't have had to command us to do it. But if you ask God to fill your life every day with his love, he will. Your soul will run over on to everyone you meet, and with a little practice, you can show it to others.

This summer, open that window of your heart just a crack until your light shines out into a dark world. You will be amazed at how the Lord will use you.



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## SGN SCOOPS



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



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



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



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



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



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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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

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



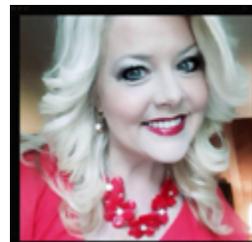
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGW 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.



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.

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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 Greenes, 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/>.



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

Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://www.paigegivens.com).

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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 America's Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and

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



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model. Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have been in the ministry for 26 years raising

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



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

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas. Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho, and Derek is the baritone vocalist for Liberty Quartet. His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is to give his all in the service of the Lord.



Logan Smith is a 20-year-old with a lot of miles behind him. At the age of three, he would stand in his room with a pencil as a microphone and one of his dad's handkerchiefs singing his heart out to one of the Happy Goodman's songs, such as "I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now." At the age of seven, Logan was asked to

sing at a senior's dinner at his grandparent's church. Logan recorded his first CD, "The Journey Begins," at the age of 10 and his latest release, "Hits Before My Time," at age 19. In October of 2008, Logan was invited to sing with The Gaither Homecoming Tour in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for Gaither Fest. Since that night, he has sung at many different venues with the Homecoming Tour. As of 2017, Logan has toured all across America, Canada, and has headlined two Norwegian tours. Logan is on the road more now than ever spreading the good news and has no plans of slowing down.

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

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



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

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



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

currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass Association) in 2016. She enjoys speaking at Ladies Events, sharing her testimony of how God spared her life from a near fatal motorcycle accident in 2011, how He brought her out of the depths of severe clinical depression, and through the death of her daughter in 2009. Also, Debbie is an avid Georgia Bulldogs fan and loves to fish, read, and spend time with her children and grandchildren. Debbie says: "No one can come as close as I did to dying and have it not change you. I am forever changed, blessed beyond measure, and just so grateful for every day that the Lord allows me to spend with those I love and to serve Him." She considers Micah 7:8 her life verse as she says that verse has carried her through some of the darkest times in her life. If you would like to have Debbie at your church or venue, you can reach her through her website: [debbieseagraves-music.com/](http://debbieseagraves-music.com/), on Facebook, or send her an email at: [fully-alive1956@att.net](mailto:fully-alive1956@att.net).



Jimmy Reno is from Birmingham, Alabama. He began singing in church at four years of age. Jimmy has sung with various groups over the years, until singing professionally for Mark209 and the Florida Boys. Jimmy is married with three children.

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

bachelor's degree in K-6 Education and a Master's degree in Human Resources Development. Her daytime job is being the Human Resources Director for a small company in Greeneville, Tennessee. Her passion outside of singing, writing, and crafting, is simply God's people. "I love the Lord and truly believe my mission in life is to reach his people, and that's both on and off the stage, behind my desk, and in my community. I just want people to see Jesus in me! I'm so honored to be a part of Bless'd and love our tight knit family group." For more information on Sarah, visit [blessdministries.com](http://blessdministries.com)



Kaleb Powell can be found in the small town of Greeneville, Tennessee. He sings baritone for the Southern Gospel group, Bless'd Ministries. Alongside Southern Gospel Music, Kaleb's passion is playing the piano. He started playing at the young age of 13 and for the majority, is self-taught. His style of piano

playing is inspired by artists such as Kim Collingsworth, Jeff Stice, and Gerald Wolfe. He has been singing and playing for Bless'd Ministries for the last six years.

Kaleb is currently the owner and operator of AKM of Tennessee, Inc., which is an organization that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. His life has been surrounded by taking care of others and for living out his passion through music ministry.

"I feel honored that God chose to give me the talent He did in playing the piano. I feel that if I can use this to serve Him more, I will perfect my talent to be used as only a vessel for Him. Being a part of Bless'd and traveling with our group is a lifelong dream of mine that I am forever grateful God saw fit to put together. On and off the stage, I want my talent to be only used for Him and to be a part of seeing souls saved." For more information on Kaleb Powell, visit [blessdministries.com](http://blessdministries.com).



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



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

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

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

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

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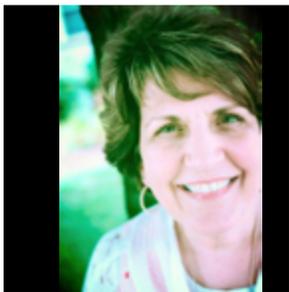
Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped

since. Suzanne holds a bachelor of English degree from Columbia (N.Y.) University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tenn., she began writing for AFrontRowView.com before joining the SGNscoops.com team. She enjoys sharing the love of Jesus through volunteering, music, writing, and teaching.



Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world of music that surrounds us. She believes

when words fail us, music speaks.



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

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