

JUNE 2019

# SGN SCOOPS MAGAZINE



**THE NEW**

# **SPEER FAMILY**

**LET THE SONG GO ON AGAIN**

**ALSO FEATURING: JOHN SCHNEIDER, AVENUE TRIO & 11TH HOUR**



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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



The month of June means that summer has started and Father's Day is upon us. For the first few years after my dad had passed away, I avoided Father's Day the best I could.

People tell you that with time things fade, but that isn't true.

With time, you realize that you need to celebrate what you once had. I celebrate my father, the legacy that he left, and the mission that he instilled inside of me. My father taught me that serving others was a much higher calling than any other profession. Over the last 25 years, I've spent my life helping ministries create content and opportunities, so I'm thankful for what he imprinted on my heart and on my life.

I miss my dad every day, and over the last few months, I wish I had him here to bounce these new ideas off of because he would be all over it.

Last month I gave you a little insight about my plan. This month, I can tell you more. I am excited to talk about Michigan in June 2020. The exact dates are June 4 - 6, 2020, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Over the last few weeks, I've had an opportunity to talk with artists from this region, to hear their heart, and to understand what they desire to do in our industry.

I truly believe that this is part of a grassroots movement. These 12 events we are planning will be regionalized, and will help to equip and uplift artists and fans alike.

Somebody said it sounded like I was running for president, and that's kind of what this is like. We are going to barnstorm these 12 states over the next two years, and introduce them to gospel music if they don't know what it is or reinforce the fact that they love this music and need to be a part of it again.

My dad would be on the front row of all 12 of these events over the next two years, and he would be cheering each artist on; encouraging not only me but everyone around him. My dad believed in small beginnings leading to great success. He used to tell me that you have to start somewhere. So three months ago I started and I will tell you that I am boggled by what we've seen. People like you reaching out and saying, "Rob, I want to help," or artists saying, "I want to stand beside you and attend these events."

Over the next two years, as we roll out these yearly events, is it going to be easy? No, but I truly believe deep in my heart that this is the direction that God is leading me.

I want to ask you to pray for me. Pray for the artists, pray for the staff that I have, and pray for the volunteers.

I truly believe that this can not only be a time of encouragement and uplifting through music, but also an opportunity to witness to those that are lost. That to me is the most important thing: To reach those that are lost.

See, the largest part of the legacy that my father left for me was a heart to reach those who didn't know Christ, who didn't have a relationship like you and I do. This month of June, if your father is still with you, hug him tight and tell him how much you love him. If, like me, your dad has already entered the gates of heaven, think about him and cherish the moments you had together, and, like me, carry out his legacy.

Hey we'd love for you to come to the event that started all of these events, Creekside 2019, Oct. 27 - 31. If you need a hotel room, please don't hesitate to call me at 360 933 074. If you need VIP tickets, you can also reach me and I can get you all set up.

Until next month, this is the Publishers Point.

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# Avenue Trio

## Take a walk down the Avenue

By Robert York

Recently, I had the opportunity to catch up with an up-and-coming trio in Atlanta when they were in town to tape Gospel Music USA at WATC TV. Avenue, based out of Nashville, Tenn., is climbing the radio charts across the country.

Formed by Kasey Kemp, a name known to many in gospel music, Avenue records on the Song Garden Label. Their current project, “Songs For Every Mile,” includes the radio singles, “One Of These Mornings” and “Reach the World,” the latter which was originally recorded by the Bishops.

“We sang (“Reach the World”) 20 years, four times a week, (for) many years,” says Mark Bishop. “(I’m) proud Avenue has put their touch on it and recorded it.”

Kemp was a member of Naomi and The Segos for

several years, as well as with the Toney Brothers, and Allegiance. In Avenue, he is joined by Jacob Lagesse who sings lead, and Corey Lackey, on tenor.

Lagesse and Kemp sang together in Allegiance, and they met Jacob through their pastor, Steve Hurst. Steve Hurst and Gary Casto helped Kemp create Avenue.

“We are passionate about the Gospel and music,” says Kemp. “We believe music is a great avenue in which to share the gospel. Plus, those of us that are born again are on the avenue to heaven.”

Avenue recently made their first appearance in Akron, Ohio, opening their concert with the popular gospel song, “The Heavenly Choir.”

Kemp is pleasantly surprised at the reception Avenue

has received. “We choose songs that everyone is familiar with and that we feel would work together well on stage,” says Kemp. “Our first project was meant to be nothing more than a table project; meaning no radio releases. However, when it was complete, we felt it deserved more than (being) just a piece to sell on our table. We sent ‘One Of Those Mornings’ to radio and it topped out at number 23.” The song was on national charts for two months.



Kasey is the oldest member of the group. He is married to Haley and they have two children, Avaline, age two, and Autry, four months old. Growing up, Kemp was influenced by the Cathedrals. He took private vocal, piano and trumpet lessons as a child, and also went to the Steve Hurst School of Music. Avenue’s audiences are blessed when Kemp brings out his trumpet during their performance on stage.



Lackey, 24, is a college student who is majoring in business management. Being from Wayne, Michigan, Lackey has been influenced musically by a trio with its roots also in Michigan, the Booth Brothers. The group’s

tenor has great support in his career from his parents, sisters and brother.



Lagesse, 22, just graduated from Trevecca University in Nashville, where he studied music business and performed in school musicals. He likes to spend his time off at the beach or at a baseball field. When asked about special memories at university, Lagesse says, “Not sure on embarrassing college moments, but one of my highlights was getting to perform on the Grand Ole Opry stage.” His experiences have seasoned both his vocals and performance ability.



All three artists in this group are ready for this moment that God has brought them together to be his avenue to share his love to the world, including the audience of WATC TV. Avenue’s “Gospel Music USA” episode is scheduled to air July 27.

WATC TV has taped over 200 episodes of “Gospel Music USA” with more than 80 artists and airs on numerous stations across the nation. It airs in the Atlanta area on Saturday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.(EST)., and is also available on the internet at [www.watc.tv](http://www.watc.tv).



This powerful trio's strong vocals are sure to put them on the charts often and to grace stages across the country. Find out more about Avenue at [avenuetrio.com](http://avenuetrio.com)

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# Coastal Media Events

By Lorraine Walker

Coastal Media is preparing to bring the Creekside experience to music fans everywhere.

If you have seen any of the press releases and postings on the SGNScoops website, Coastal Media and Rob Patz have been gaining momentum in event planning.

“In addition to Creekside, which is our marquee national event, we are launching 12 events in 12 states over the next two years,” says Patz.

Patz believes that the strength of gospel music is lies at the grassroots level—the local church, the communities, the regional ministries who are on the frontlines everyday.

“We need to strengthen the frontlines. I believe that if we want to grow as an industry, we need to grow the support at the regional level first,” Patz explains.

Coastal Media is the engine driving the gospel music train to places like Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennes-



see, Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas in 2020 and 2021.

“We are in the planning stages already for several events,” Patz explains, “and my team is working hard to bring high quality events to these states.”

Some of the Coastal Media Events already scheduled for next year include the Gospel Music Expo in Tupelo, Mississippi, on April 23 - 25, 2020, and a Gospel Music Weekend in Ann Arbor, Michigan slated for June 4 - 6, 2020.

Artists wishing to participate in the regional events are encouraged to contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741 to secure their booth space as these are expected to fill up quickly. Canadian artists who are interested are also invited to contact Patz to be welcomed into the family.

Other upcoming events include Southern Gospel Weekend, March 2020, in Oxford, Alabama (call 360-933-





0741 or 256-310-7892 for tickets.)

Also, don't miss the following:



**Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend 2019**

Coastal Media, along with McKay Project and Vonda Armstrong, present Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend on Sept. 6 - 7, 2019, in the City Auditorium of Vernon. Artists include Amy Richardson, Gloryland, the Bibletones, Jessica Horton, Day Three, Hope's Journey, and more. Spend the weekend in Vernon for two days and nights of great music. For more information, please call 662-889-2829, 256-310-7892, or 360-933-0741.

**Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2019**

Creekside Gospel Music Convention returns to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, October 27-31, 2019. Hundreds of people travel every year to the Smoky Mountain





Convention Center, for the entire five nights and four days of music, laughter and family. Creekside offers Bluegrass, Country and Southern gospel music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer. Some of the great artists already announced for this year are the Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, Sue Dodge, the Browders, and so many more.

The last Sunday of October sees the start of Creekside as the Kickoff Concert in the evening presents the Chordsmen and the Pine Ridge Boys. The Pine Ridge Boys are joining with Classic Records and Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today to record Creekside Live! Join them for all the fun on Oct. 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mill Creek Conference Center, 2674 Florence Dr., Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

The Pine Ridge Boys are bringing a bus tour to Creekside through Annabelle's Adventures. Larry Stewart's wife, Anne, of Annabelle's Adventures, is hosting the trip from Oct. 27 - 30; to include the live concert taping, the 2019 Diamond Awards, VIP Seating at Creekside concerts, hotel accommodation and more. For more information, please email [anne@pineridgeboys.com](mailto:anne@pineridgeboys.com) or phone 864-473-8535.

On Monday, Oct. 29, the load-in begins for the groups, as well as the first daily showcase. The evening concert hosts the Life Achievement award for one special music industry leader. Tuesday night is the prestigious 2019 Diamond Award presentations. Concerts occur day and night, as well as special preaching, continuing through Thursday night.

## Christian Country at the Creek

The inaugural Christian Country at the Creek, will be held on October 30 and 31, at the Mill Creek Conference Center, 2674 Florence Dr., in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Dennis and Leslie McKay of McKay Project will be the anchors for the two-day concert festival.

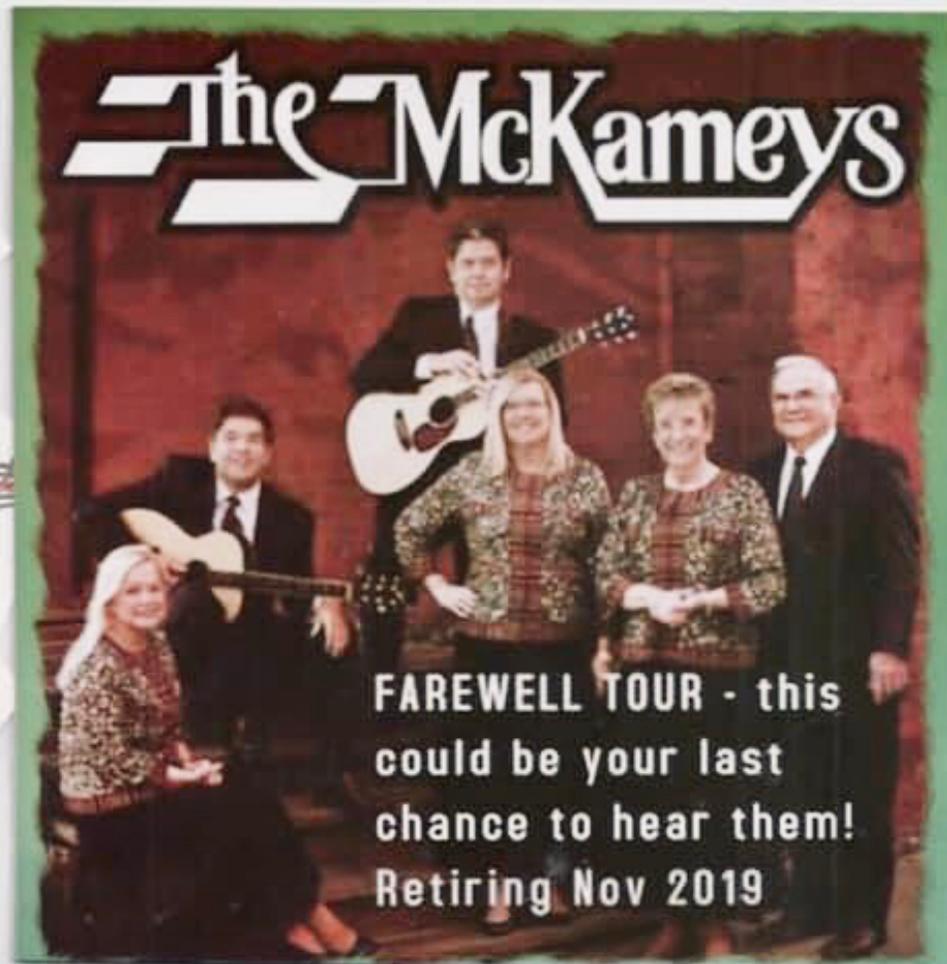
"We are excited to begin this new event running alongside Creekside," says Patz. "Come hear more than 30 Christian Country artists during two music-packed days of concerts. My good friends, Dennis and Leslie, will make terrific hosts. Don't miss it!"

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the 2019 Diamond Awards ceremony, the Kick-Off Concert, Christian Country at the Creek, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741.



Make your plans today to attend Creekside Gospel Music Convention, taking place Oct. 27 - Oct. 31, 2019, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information or to book your hotel, contact [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com) or call 360- 933-0741.

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# New Speer Family Striving to “Let the Songs Go On” again

**By John Herndon**

Brian Speer just knew he needed to get back on stage.

It didn't matter that it had been 36 years since he stopped traveling with his legendary family. It didn't matter that he really didn't know what direction he would take or who would sing with him. He just knew he needed to keep the Speer Family legacy alive.

“After all of Brian's people were gone, he woke up one day and said, ‘I think we need to do a quartet,’” Brian's wife, Allison Speer, says. “It shocked me! We had never talked about it and had never discussed it.”

But something had been burning in Brian's heart ever since his uncle, Ben Speer, and his aunt, Rosa Nell Speer-Powell, the last surviving members of the Speer Family, died in 2017. He knew someone should carry on the legacy of the Southern gospel pioneers who were active from 1921-1998.

With Allison, who has had a successful solo ministry for 35 years, fully on board with the idea, the New Speer Family was born, first performing last summer in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

We caught up with the New Speer Family before their concert at Sand Spring Baptist Church in central Ken-

tucky, less than an hour's drive from Allison's childhood home of Parksville.

“I had been traveling with Allison and running the sound. I manage the ministry,” says Brian, who traveled with the original Speer Family from 1977-1982 before enrolling at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. “I really never had any desire to go back on stage. I think the Lord just moved in me and used the risk of losing this heritage in music to prompt me to try to bring it back.”

It was their dream to revive the legacy of gospel classics such as “Heaven's Jubilee,” “Sweeter Each Day,” and “I Never Shall Forget The Day.” All are included on the New Speer Family's inaugural album, appropriately named, “A Singing Heritage.”

“God was working this new thing in Brian,” Allison says. “He didn't want to be on stage. When I would sing, I would beg him to please come up and do just one song with me. He plays guitar, plays a little piano, but he didn't want to do either. He didn't want to be up front. He wanted to be on the soundboard. And he was very content there.”

He was content until he came to grips with the realiza-



tion that the Speer Family's influence on gospel music could be lost.

From their farm in Gravel Switch, Kent., -- "We don't want to sound too high-falutin,' so we say we are in the suburbs," Brian quips -- Brian and Allison Speer went to work.

"I had asked every group in Southern gospel music to let me join somehow," Allison smiles. "I asked every quartet, every gospel group because I wanted to sing with somebody else. It just never did work out.

"The first thing we said was 'Who are we going to get to sing with us?' The Speers always had at least four and most of the time five or six singers. So how are we going to accomplish anything musically with just the two of us?"

They called Ben Waites, a Louisiana native who had never traveled with a group before but had been singing solo for nearly 18 years despite just turning 30 in late May.



Waites credits his grandfather, who sang gospel regionally, with turning him toward the music he loves. "We were watching the Cathedrals' farewell celebration at the Ryman (Auditorium)," Waites says. "The camera panned the audience and my grandfather saw Ben Speer. He said Ben Speer has (the Stamps-Baxter) School of Music in Nashville and you ought to go. Two years later, I was 13 and went to my first one."

Allison and Brian Speer noticed. "He came every year," she says. "He was very determined to learn this thing called music. We loved him inside and out. We loved his heart, his voice and his determination."

The Speers also reached out to gospel music veteran Mike Allen, a bass who had traveled with Allison on the Gaither Homecoming Series. He jumped at the chance.

Each of the singers continued their solo ministries. "We thought it would be something we would do a few times a year and have a little fun with, but it has turned out to be much more than that," Brian Speer says.



The journey began in the summer of 2018 in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., where G.T. "Dad" Speer moved his family after taking a job with the James D. Vaughan Music Company in 1934.

The New Speers have been busy ever since, despite an unusual travel arrangement. Brian and Allison Speer live in central Kentucky while Allen and Waites live in Nashville, three hours away. Waites was also born with arthrogryposis multiplex congenita, commonly called "AMC," a condition that decreases flexibility in the joints. Waites is confined to a wheelchair and his wife,



Natalie, usually drives him to shows.

Brian Speer says the group makes the arrangement work. There is no tour bus and the singers meet somewhere along the way. “If we are going to Florida, we might meet in Chattanooga,” Brian says. “If we are going north, we might meet in Louisville. We work it out.”

Working it out is a good way to describe the New Speer Family’s approach to the classics. The concert at Sand Spring was strongly influenced by the Speer legacy and moved what Brian called a “receptive and open” crowd with a rousing version of the Gaither classic, “The King is Coming.”

“The Speer Family was the first to record that song,” Brian says. “Every song we did tonight, except ‘It is Well With My Soul’ was recorded by The Speer Family.” With Waites soloing, “It is Well” brought the Thursday night crowd to its feet for an extended round of applause and appreciation.

“A Singing Heritage,” is filled with Speer standards. The liner also contains a photo of the Speer Family that looks to be from the 1930s and includes a photo of The Speer Family’s 1965 album of the same name, released on the Heart Warming label.

The irony in resurrecting the Speer heritage is that Brian Speer’s five-year journey with his family is the only direct connection to the past. His wife’s introduction to gospel did not include the Speers or most of the other Southern gospel greats.

“I was raised here in central Kentucky,” Allison remembers. “We got our music from WJMM radio in Lexington and it was not a Southern gospel station. It was contemporary. I am a child of the contemporary music of the 70s and 80s. Reba Rambo was a soloist then. Sandi

Patty came along. Steve Green. Larnelle (Harris, like Allison, a native of Boyle County, Kent.), Amy Grant, Twila Paris. I was not familiar with The Speer Family until I started going to Nashville to do music there.”

Allison began recording for Impact, a sister label to Homeland Records, which was producing The Speers’ albums. And in the studios, she met Brian Speer, a Homeland accountant.

“We began to date,” Allison says, “and then my life went completely downhill after that.”

Brian, sitting next to his wife, erupts with laughter. Allen and Waites join in and share some of their own barbs.

The laughter is fitting as The New Speers would incorporate some of Allison’s famed comedy into a night of heartfelt worship and she tells stories of growing up in rural Parksville. With numerous family members and lifelong friends in the audience, she transforms her powerful voice to one sharing about her grandmother’s lessons about baking pies.



But she also takes time to offer some commentary on current events and challenges the audience to bolster its faith in Christ, then live accordingly in a world she believes to be growing more hostile to those who live the Christian faith. She reminds the audience of the powerful messages in the traditional hymns and gospel classics.

That passion prompted Allen to accept Brian and Allison Speer’s invitation to join their new venture. The former Marine had been a Speer Family fan since meeting Ben Speer more than 35 years ago. “Ben and the whole family, Faye, everybody, just welcomed me

into the family like I was one of their own. I have been a Speer ever since, in my mind.”

Through the Gaither Homecoming series, where Ben Speer served as musical director, Allen became even closer to the Speer legacy. He relishes the idea of presenting Southern gospel history to a modern audience.

“There are so many songs,” Allen smiles. “So many songs. I would love to hear Brian say ‘We are going to do this song and that song.’”

For now, the New Speer family is juggling several different roles. Brian and Allison realized they had few reasons to stay in Nashville after Ben Speer’s death, so to be near her mother, they bought a farm near her childhood home. They plan on a summer move into a new home on the property.

Allison and Brian plan to continue her solo ministry while Waites, who serves as a vocal coach in Nashville, and Allen also have solo ministries.

However, a venture that figured to be a few dates a year has blossomed into much more. Brian says the group has done between 30 and 40 concerts in addition to recording its first CD. A glance at [www.newspeerfamily.com](http://www.newspeerfamily.com) shows calendar filling with dates ranging from Florida to New Jersey to Texas.

Those dates are opportunities but also challenges not lost on the singers.

“The basic thought for me is that we can somehow, even remotely, can continue the Speer Family name and do it justice,” Allen says. “I mean, they were so amazing that to even try to copy what they have done would be impossible. But to just bring back or continue that name and do it justice and do what they originally tried to do in the beginning and that was to spread the gospel.”

Waites concurs with that legacy and purpose. “Through that vessel, I hope to accomplish what they accomplished in spreading the gospel and give people the opportunity to know Christ as their personal Savior.”

During the Speer Family’s amazing run, G.T. Speer was known for stopping songs to share a testimony, then resume the music by saying, “Let the song go on.”

The New Speer Family is doing just that. They’re letting the songs go on...again.

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

1. Testimony Time - The Down East Boys
2. All My Hope - Gold City
3. Revival - The LeFevre Quartet
4. Even Me - The Triumphant Quartet
5. It Carried Him - The Perrys
6. Everything He Forgot - Brian Free and Assurance
7. Choose Life - The Hyssongs
8. Joy on The Journey - The Mylon Hayes Family
9. So Good To Me - The McKameys
10. Just Across The River - The Steeles
11. You're Not In This Alone - The Browders
12. We Are All God's Children - The Gaither Vocal Band
13. His Grave Wrote The Song - Greater Vision
14. The Father Knew - Susan Whisnant
15. I Love You - Joseph Habedank
16. You Chose To Be My Friend - Jason Crabb
17. Heaven Just Got Sweeter For You - The Kingdom Heirs
18. God Fights On My Side - The Guardians
19. Finish Well, Finish Strong, Finish Empty - Mark Bishop
20. The Ground Is Level At Calvary - The Whisnants
21. Be Saved - The Mark Trammell Quartet
22. His Cross Is Empty Now - The Lore Family
23. That's What Happened At The Cross - Exodus
24. Everybody Come See Jesus - The Tribute Quartet
25. Death Was Arrested - The Talleys
26. He Set Me Free - Sunday Drive

27. Mercy and Love - The Collingsworth Family
28. He Is Able - The Sound
29. He's Making Me - Amber Nelon Thompson
30. I Pray Every Day - The Taylors
31. Like I'm On The Shore - The Erwins
32. Lord Knows - The Old Paths
33. In Jesus Name - Michael Combs
34. I'm Not Afraid To Go - New Ground
35. The Sweetest Story Told - The Wilbanks
36. He's Here For Me - The Williamsons
37. Live For You Today - Austin and Ethan Whisnant
38. Victory Shout - The Kingsmen
39. Face to Face - John Whisnant
40. Give It To You - Cana's Voice
41. You're Not The Only One - Tim Livingston
42. Send An Angel By My Way - The Freemans
43. Shouting In The Middle Of My Storm - The Jordan Family Band
44. Love All Day Long - The Nelons
45. That Wonderful Day - The Soul'd Out Quartet
46. Every Word Of God Is True - Chronicle
47. Glory To Glory - Riley Harrison Clark
48. Composer Of My Life - Tim Lovelace
49. God Of Every Moment - Zane and Donna King
50. In The Fire - Dodsons
51. Back To God - Real Truth Revival



52. Dying Like I'm Gonna Live - Big Mo
53. Triumphantly - Bros.4
54. His Eyes - The Rochesters
55. 40 Years and Forever - Georgia
56. The Lovely Name Of Jesus - The Kingdom Heirs
57. Pictures - Jessica Horton
58. We Have To Face The Fire - The Dysart Family
59. That's Right Where He'll Be - The Inspirations
60. Power In The Cross - Battle Cry
61. Let My Life Be A Light - Balsam Range
62. Let Your Light So Shine - Mark209
63. He'll Make A Way - Hazel Parker Stanley
64. Dining With The King - Fields Of Grace
65. Gone - Summit Trace
66. Put It All On Calvary's Hill - Poet Voices
67. More Blessed Than Burdened - The Frosts
68. The River - Karen Peck and New River
69. Leave My Trouble Behind - The Pathfinders
70. Blood Of Jesus - The Carolina Boys
71. Live For Today - Cami Shrock
72. Did I Please God Today - Mike Upright
73. Freedom Band - The Joneses
74. There Is A Healer - Adam Crabb
75. Roll On Jordan - The Common Bond Quartet
76. Jesus You're Always There- The Primitive Quartet
77. Going To The Promised Land - Jeremy Cato
78. The Last Man Standing - Reign Down
79. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
80. It's Good To Be Alive - The Dodrill Family
81. Love Is Gonna Win - The Sharps
82. I'll Be So Happy There - Mercy's Well
83. He Chose To Live - The Isbell Family
84. That's How You Know - The Shireys

85. Empty Chair - Jeff Bumgardner
86. Who Am I - The Kramers
87. I'm Glorybound - The Inspirational Quartet
88. I'm Holding On - Greg Logins and Revival
89. He's Not Finished With Me Yet - The McNeills
90. Standing Strong In The Lord - The Sojourner Quartet
91. There's One Man - Mitchell Whisnant
92. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
93. Runnin' - Out Of Ashes
94. How Beautiful Heaven Must Be - Jeremiah's Call
95. Wherever You Are - Melissa Evans
96. It Had To Be God - The Blankenships
97. So Much To Thank Him For - Anointed
98. Hallelujah Meeting - Charlie Sexton and Homecoming
99. One Of These Mornings - Avenue Trio
100. Three Story House - Don Stiles

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# John Schneider

is Recycling Grace



By Jimmy Reno

When he was just eight years old, John Schneider would entertain his friends and their families with magic shows. He knew then he had a love for performing and that would carry on through his teens and into adulthood. This predilection for acting led to the role of Bo Duke on the TV series, “The Dukes of Hazzard,” a job that would change his life and bring him fame.

Reflecting back on the series 40 years later, Schneider says, “It’s hard to imagine anything has been 40 years really, but what a special time in my life.” The friendships he made during the production of “The Dukes of Hazzard” would carry on through present day.

In 1981, at the height of the popularity of his show, Schneider released his debut country album, “Now or Never.” His first single from the album, a cover of the Elvis Presley song, “It’s Now or Never,” peaked at No. 4 on the U.S. Country Billboard charts and remains the top charting Elvis cover to date, by any artist. Schneider

had found another avenue to tell stories, through music, and he knew that was what he was destined to do. He enjoyed great success during his country music career with four No. 1 singles on the Billboard Country Charts and 10 top 10 hits.

Schneider was tapped for the role of Jonathan Kent on the CW Network series, “Smallville,” in 2001. The show followed a young Clark Kent growing up in Smallville, Kansas before he became the hero, Superman.

“I was the ‘Uncle Jesse’ of that series,” Schneider muses, as he reflects back on the character portrayed by Denver Pyle on “The Dukes of Hazzard.”

“What made “Smallville” such a great show was the emphasis it made on family and how important family is,” says Schneider. “In my opinion, it is the best portrayal of the Superman mythology of any other show or



movie.” He credits that to the creative team of Alfred Gough and Miles Millar who created and produced the “Smallville” series.

The lack of family friendly programming available today bothers Schneider. “It’s not a decline in the morals of everyone who creates shows or movies. It’s about business. If the demand for those types of shows is there, then people will make them because it’s a business and they create these shows to make money.”

Schneider believes the market is there for family friendly movies and shows. As a result, he is creating them in his John Schneider Studios. “We have a new movie we are making called ‘Christmas Cars.’ It’s the story of a man trying to save his farm by selling diecast replicas of the cars he used to drive 40 years ago,” he says. “A lot of my story is in this movie.”

Over the past few years, Schneider has experienced difficult times as two separate floods damaged his studios in Louisiana. After the repairs, and the divorce proceedings from his estranged wife, he found himself hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt and he suffered what he termed the worst financial year of his life. Still, even while going through his current struggles, Schneider hears the voice of God.

“He’s whispering in my ear and tapping my children on the shoulder,” he shares, while lamenting difficult family issues.

Throughout these troubled times, “Bo Duke” has relied on his faith and has rediscovered his music.

“I was playing the guitar when Alicia (his manager and partner) walked in and I stopped. She asked me why I did that. I told her because playing my guitar and singing brought me some comfort. She looked at me and said she meant why did I stop playing.”

Schneider relaunched his country music career in 2017, after encouragement from Alicia and others. He notes that while country music has changed, some fans haven’t.

“I hate to say I’m doing real country but I’m not trying to make country something its not, like rap, hip hop, or pop. I’m doing real country music and I’m sticking to my style and what I do,” the crooner says. The fans have responded with sold out venues at his performances.

Schneider recorded 72 songs in 2018, including “The Odyssey,” an ambitious 52-song project. He released a song a week throughout 2018. He also recorded “Greatest Hits...Still,” which features all new acoustic recordings of his biggest hits. Finally, Schneider got into the holiday spirit with the EP “Merry Christmas Baby.”

The Country vocalist is really excited about going in the studio soon to record his first gospel album. The album will be titled “Recycling Grace” and includes an





original song of the same name, penned by Scott Innes.

“An additional original song will be called ‘Stained Glass’ and we are adding in songs like ‘Amazing Grace,’ that has a fresh arrangement I think people will enjoy,” says Schneider. “This album is about second chances. Something we all eventually need.”

Acting remains in his blood. Schneider currently stars as “Jim Cryer” on the hit OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) series, “Tyler Perry’s The Haves and the Have Nots,” the No. 1 primetime series on cable on Tuesday nights. Schneider says of all the characters he’s portrayed, he may have some Bo Duke in him, but he hopes to be the most like Jonathan Kent from “Smallville.”

“He (Jonathan Kent) was the best father of any that have been portrayed in television history,” he states.

Schneider has many talents and portrayed his dancing prowess on ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars,” with pro partner Emma Slater. He was eliminated after seven weeks of competition, and returned for the Season Finale to perform his latest single, “Walk A Mile In My Shoes.”

Another side of Schneider’s personality, is his philanthropy. He co-founded the Children’s Miracle Network along with the Osmonds in 1983. It is a non-profit organization that raises funds for children’s hospitals, medical research, and community awareness of chil-

dren’s health issues. This organization has raised more than \$4.7 billion dollars which is distributed directly to a network of 170 hospitals.

But with everything he’s done, including acting, singing, producing, dancing, and giving, Schneider most of all wants to be remembered as someone who never gave up and never quit.

“We were all designed for a purpose. I know what I’m supposed to do and so do you,” he says. “So go out and do it!”

This “Duke” moves forward trusting in God and knowing he is answering his call. He has been blessed with recycled grace and given a second chance. He’s determined to make the most of it.

Find out more about this actor, singer and philanthropist at [johnschneiderstudios.com](http://johnschneiderstudios.com)



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# TOP 40

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

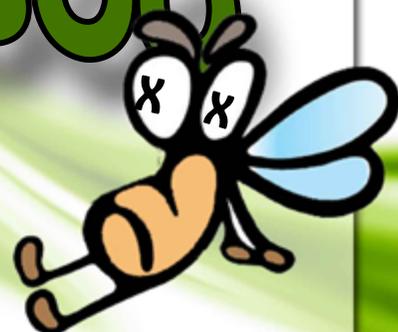
### 2019 June SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40

1. **Sermon On The Mount - Tommy Brandt**
2. **Hands Of A Working Man - Christian Davis**
3. **Victory Song - Cori and Kelly**
4. **Too Nice - Isaac Cole**
5. **I Got Saved - Michael Knight**
6. **I Miss Them All - The Jordan Family Band**
7. **Holding On To Jesus - Terry Davis**
8. **God's Got This - Kelly Kenning**
9. **Days Are Numbered - Shellem Cline**
10. **Grateful - Chris Golden**
11. **No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith**
12. **Pictures - Jessica Horton**
13. **Getting My Jesus On - Andrew Marshall**
14. **I Love You Son - Hunter May**
15. **Sky Full Of Angels - Kali Rose**
16. **Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick**
17. **God Did It - Greg Day**
18. **God, Oral Roberts, and Billy Graham - Carol Barham**
19. **It's Written In The Scars - Dan Duncan**

20. Near You - Michael Lee (with Rhonda Vincent)
21. Why They Call It Heaven - Jayne Carter
22. There's Still Time For A Miracle - Joy Roberts
23. Who But God - Eagle's Wings
24. I See God - Marty Raybon
25. Hand Of The Lord - Jan Harbuck
26. Higher Than A Steeple - Brent Harrison
27. Hole In Her Heart - Linda Lanier
28. Speak The Word - Ava Kasich
29. Praise Looks Good On You - Kevin and Kim Abney
30. He Is Here - Terry and Debra Luna
31. He Took Me In - Appointed 2
32. Help Is On The Way - Jim Sheldon
33. Mama Said - Kolt Barber
34. In The Fire - The Dodsons
35. Till I Get Home - Billy Droze
36. American Christian - Bonita Eileen
37. Dependence - Bev McCann
38. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
39. Believe Me He Can - BloodBought
40. Something Pentecostal - Sandy Jarvis

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## Sylvia Green



By Vonda Armstrong

WVOB 91.3 FM went on the air in December of 1988 with 2,500 watts of power. The studio is situated in the main Administration Building of Bethany Divinity College and Seminary.

WVOB offers Great Christian Programming, including the best and latest in today's Southern gospel music, 24 hours a day. WVOB 91.3 FM is a listener-supported radio station and is the home of this month's DJ Spotlight, the amazingly talented Sylvia Green. I quizzed Sylvia with five unique questions. Check out her answers and get to know her. You will be glad you did!

**Vonda Armstrong: Sylvia, tell us about your current radio position, station, location, job, years on the job, and how you got started?**

Sylvia Green: Our station is Gospel 91-WVOB Dothan/Webb, Ala. We're a 24 hour, seven days a week Southern gospel music station that covers parts of the tri-states area of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Currently holding the position of Assistant Program Director, I'm proud to say I've been associated with this station since the first few months of 1992.

Keith Brady, from the group I sang with at the time (the Bradys) was working at WVOB part time when not on the road. When a sister station was opened in nearby Bonifay, Fla., due to my knowledge of gospel music, the management asked me to help spearhead the opening of WJED. I had no prior on-air experience, but with great on-the-job training and help from up above, WJED became a vital station in that area for many years. When management decided to sell

it a few years ago, they transferred me to Dothan's WVOB where we soon started the "Coffee-Break with Keith and Sylvia," which has become dear to my heart. We love sharing behind the scenes news in gospel music, jokes, trivia, and a whole list of other things, plus we have the "Word Game" each segment where listeners can win gift items.

**VA: You are not only a DJ, but a singer, songwriter and an inspiration to many. Do you have a favorite song that you have written? Tell us about that song of one that is special to you and why?**

SG: "Here I Am" which was recorded by the Hoppers would have to be my first choice. I was so honored that it became Song of the Year in 1990 and was Song of the Decade for the 90's. But what means the most to me are the thousands of testimonies connected



with this song that I've heard through the years. Each time I stop to think about the far reaching effects for the cause of Christ this song has had, I'm blown away yet again by the fact that God allowed this simple girl from lower Alabama to write it. Next year

marks the 30th anniversary of “Here I Am” winning Song of the Year. I’m still getting testimonies of how it changes lives. To God be the glory, he far exceeded my goals and I’ll always be humbled by it.

**VA: Please share your testimony.**

SG: I became a Christian at the young age of six years old during a revival at the church my dad and mom pastored in Troy, Alabama. I guess some think that is too young, but I knew exactly what I was doing. My heart was touched, the tears flowed, and I asked Jesus to be Lord of my life. I’ve rededicated my life to him many times since then because none of us are perfect. We all fail, we all mess up, we all stray a little from where we know we need to be in our walk with him. We break his heart, but his mercy and grace woos us back to him and I’m so thankful for that. Too many feel that because they’ve made a mistake, that God hates them. But nothing could be further from the truth, that’s what the cross was for. I’ve spent a lifetime in gospel music, whether through singing, songwriting, or on radio, sharing the good news of his love and forgiveness; I wouldn’t trade it for the world.

**VA: What is something you look for from artists who send music to Gospel 91-WVOB?**

SG: Our station has certain guidelines set up by management, that we as employees must adhere to when it comes to what is allowed to be played. One in particular is that it must be recognizable as a gospel song in lyric content. We are reminded that there are many good, positive songs, that may not necessarily fall under our guidelines. In the position I hold of being the person who approves or disapproves what gets to be added into rotation, this can sometimes be a hard task. Because I applaud great, positive lyric content, and because we always want to be relevant as music progresses in ways we can, as we maintain our original goal, I do my very best to make the distinctions needed so that management is pleased, God is glorified, and artists continue to send us great music! Having said that, listeners are facing some tough times, they struggle with things they never thought they’d have to face, so I love getting songs that point us to the source of our joy, our strength in times of trouble, and remind us that although what we are facing right now seems to have no answer, we have hope in a heavenly father who can bring miracles to pass!

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**VA: Do you have a bucket list? We'd love to hear about things you've checked off and what's still there?**

SG: When I was young, the first time I saw Vestal Goodman sing, I wanted to sing. When she became "Queen of Gospel Music," I immediately wanted (to be) that one day. That of course wasn't meant to be. When I started writing, I dreamed one day of winning the "Song of the Year Award." And, for some reason God saw fit for that little 14-year-old girl's dream to come true. Veering away from music a bit, I marked several things off my list, like, owning my own golf clubs and learning how to play, learning to shoot a target with a gun, learning to make old fashioned cat-head homemade biscuits, and learning to decorate cakes with roses. But there are some things on my bucket list I have not done. These include, going to Australia and Hawaii for vacation, and becoming a pilot. (Sylvia laughs.) How many would like to fly on a plane I was piloting?

**Thank you Sylvia for sharing with us. I'd fly with you anywhere! Let's go.**



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LIVE FOR TODAY

# Randall Reviews It - June 2019

by Randall Hamm

June is here. We are already halfway through the year, but the new releases just keep on coming. This month, the Kingdom Heirs release a follow up to a highly popular album in their catalog and singer/songwriter Tim Menzies releases his best album to date. Read on, dear reader, to find out more.

As always, if you enjoy the reviews, pick up this music, or download it, 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, Ind., 47432

Randall

Now...Let the reviews begin!

## THE KINGDOM HEIRS *SOMETHING GOOD • VOLUME TWO*



Kingdom Heirs

“Something Good Volume 2”

Producer: Arthur Rice and Kreis French

Label: Sonlite 2019

Songs: “What A Beautiful Day” (Eddie Crook - Aaron Wilburn BMI); “It’s Gonna Be A Good Day” (Bill Gaither - Suzanne Jennings - Jeff Silvey BMI); “That’s How I Know” (Sonya Isaacs Yearly - Rebecca Isaacs Bowman BMI); “The Lovely Name Of Jesus” (Squire Parsons BMI); “The Love Of God” (V.P. “Vep” Ellis SESAC); “Something To Shout About” (Mosie Lister BMI); “Run On” (Traditional P.D.); Thus Saith The Lord” (Daryl Williams ASCAP); “When We Sing Around The Throne Eternal” (Albert E. Brumley BMI); “Joshua Fit The Battle Of Jericho” (Traditional P. D.)

The Kingdom Heirs follow up one of their best albums, “The Last Big Thing,” with a nod to their

previous project, "Something Good," released in 2017. "Something Good" was a way of bringing back some great gospel songs of the last few years, some great classics out of the redback hymnal, and some great quartet classics of the past.

In "Volume 2," they keep the same winning recipe and once again bring us such great songs as "What A Beautiful Day," and "The Lovely Name Of Jesus," among other classics that have stood the test of time. The album also includes great songs that sound much older, as though they could have been written in that era as well.

The CD kicks off in fine fashion with "What A Beautiful Day," an Aaron Wilburn classic, written with Eddie Crook and brought to us by the Happy Goodmans. It is known for its steel introduction, which on the original was done by Steve "Rabbit" Easter, who was a part of the Happy Goodman Band, as was Eddie Crook. There was such a message in the song, that it was one of the biggest songs of 1975 and 1976, and is considered a classic today. All of the original elements, including the intro, are still here. This song still resonates today, as we draw day by day closer to the Lord's return on that "Beautiful Day."

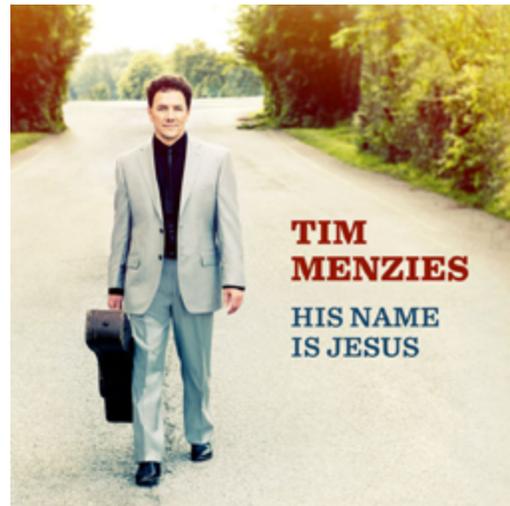
My favorite cut on the album is "The Love of God," by Vep Ellis, harkening back to the Blackwood and Statesmen Quartet days. The Kingdom Heirs could have competed back in the day with their version, complete with just piano, organ, bass and drum. Nothing fancy, just simply singing the song and letting the beauty of their voices shine through. Jerry Martin and Loren Harris shine as the group brings us what quartets sounded like grouped around one microphone. Just so, so good.

The released single brings us a taste of the Kingsmen, circa 1977. "The Lovely Name Of Jesus" sparkles as Arthur Rice takes the lead. A great nod to Squire as he has now retired from the road, due to health issues. Other classics such as "Run On" and "Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho" shine, and their version of "That's How I Know," first brought to us by Tribute Quartet, is a fitting tribute to sounds of days gone by.

Overall, if you were to recommend an album to spotlight, with sounds of gospel music of days gone by, I would recommend this album and the original "Something Good."

Visit the Kingdom Heirs at [facebook.com/kingdomheirs](https://www.facebook.com/kingdomheirs) and get a copy for yourself and for a friend.

Strongest Songs: "The Lovely Name of Jesus," "What A Beautiful Day," "The Love of God"



Tim Menzies  
"His Name Is Jesus"  
Producer: Ben Isaacs  
Label: New Day 2019

Songs: "His Name Is" (Tim Menzies BMI); "That Little Crowded Room" (Tim Menzies - Casey Beathard BMI); "Don't Wait" (Tim Menzies - Monty Criswell BMI); There's Something About That Name/Nothing But The Blood" (Bill Gaither - Gloria Gaither - Robert Lowry BM); "Thirty Year Suicide" (Tim Menzies - Jennifer Layne); "Hanging Out With Old Folks" (Tim Menzies - Monty Criswell BMI); "He Didn't Come That Night" (Tim Menzies - Belinda Smith); "Six Feet" (Tim Menzies - Monty Criswell BMI); "I Know That Was You" (Tim Menzies - Monty Criswell); "I Hope You See Jesus" (Tim Menzies - Sonya Isaacs Yeary - Becky Isaacs Bowman BMI); "Thank God For Cowboys" (Tim Menzies - Monty Criswell ASCAP); "Kentucky Coal" (Tim Menzies - Monty Criswell - Sidney Cox ASCAP); "Walking In Jerusalem" (Bill Monroe); "Little Is Much" (Kittie L. Suffield P.D.)

"Tim Menzies, Volume 2," is what I'm unofficially calling this, although the official title is, "His Name Is Jesus." Tim has been around for a number of years as a songwriter, captivating us with his songs through such artists as Shenandoah, John Conlee, and Mark Chesnutt, among others. He had albums out as well under the name Tim Mensy, scoring a number of top 60 songs on the Country charts in the 1990s. But a few years ago, he turned his writing towards the gospel field.

Menzies' songs always had a gospel feel and message, but now Tim has turned his music more to the gospel field and positive Christian genre. In 2014, he released his first gospel CD "His Way Of Loving Me." From that

CD, Tim released the single, "I Was There," and had a minor hit. Mike Bowling of the Bowling family also recorded that on their "Moments Like These" project, having a top five single with it a few years ago. Tim had not heard them perform it, and I was there with Tim at the Food Court at NQC in 2015, when on the pre show, Mike and the Bowling Family came on and sang "I Was There." It was one of those special moments; you just had to be there, to see a songwriter see his song come to life.

This latest CD contains 14 songs and 12 are from the pen of Tim. The first single, "Six feet Under," has just been released to radio and is a sparkling song of hope, harkening back to Claude Elys' "Ain't No Grave." I'm coming up six feet, ain't no grave gonna hold me. My favorite cut and the one I hope Tim pulls as a single is, "That Little Crowded Room." A man is close to death and he starts introducing family and friends, although there is only Tim and the gentleman in that "Little Crowded Room." I hope it is a hit for Tim, but if not, someone will have a gigantic hit with this song of positive faith.

What can you say, how do you follow up "I Was There?" With "I Know It Was You." With a feel of "I Was There," Tim crafts another song that lets us know that he is always there, and nothing takes him by surprise.

Other great songs such as "Hanging Out With Old Folks," "Don't Wait" and the rest of this project, Tim brings us into his living room and sings just for us. I would not be surprised if this album gets a Grammy nod, like his "His Way Of Loving Me" did a few years back.

There are a number of hits on this album, and someone will release them, Tim or another soloist or group. This album is a must for anyone who loves to hear their songs raw and from the songwriters heart, as he imagined them.

Also a plus, Tim invites a number of guest artists to appear with him, including: The Isaacs, Gaither Vocal Band, Vince Gill, Rhonda Vincent and Karen Peck; making this the album must-have of the year. The album is now out and you can get a copy when you visit Tim at [facebook.com/TimMenziesOfficial/](https://www.facebook.com/TimMenziesOfficial/)

Strongest Songs: "I Know It Was You," "That Little Crowded Room," "Six Feet"



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# Les Butler and Friends:



## Randy Spencer of the King James Boys

By Les Butler

Five guys make up the King James Boys, who are celebrating 25 years of beautiful Bluegrass and Southern gospel music. Father-son duo Randy and Cole Spencer are joined by Jeff Dover, Curtis Lewis, and Will Hart. They recently released a new album, “Time to go Home,” on Pinecastle Records. Randy Spencer joins Les Butler this month for an in depth interview.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Randy Spencer: Singing in my church youth choir ensemble, and my school choir ensemble.

LB: What’s the first instrument you tried to play?

RS: The guitar, and I’m still trying!

LB: Are you a founding member of the group, King James Boys? If so, when was it founded? If not, when did you come on board?

RS: I am one of the founding members of the group. There are only two (originals) of us left in the band, myself and Jeff Dover. The very first time we sang as a

group was at our church on Father’s Day of 1994.

LB: How did you choose that name for the group name? Has the name helped or hurt you?

RS: Since we started as a church group, our Pastor, Dr. Jimmy Robbins, named the group, The King James Boys, and it has always stuck with us. We stand on the King James Bible, so no need to change our name. That is how everyone knows us and it has always been our identifying mark.

LB: State the instruments you play?

RS: I play the guitar and a little bit of bass.

LB: If you could only have one instrument on a desert island, which one would it be?

RS: I guess that would be the guitar, but if I could play the fiddle I would probably choose that.

LB: How are your favorite musicians on each of the instruments you play?



RS: I would have to say Tony Rice is my favorite guitar player and I don't have a favorite bass player.

LB: Do you recall the first song you ever sang in public? Who is your favorite singer?

RS: I think it was "Will You Wait Mate," in our Patch the Pirate play in middle school. My favorite singer is Russell Moore of IIIrd Tyme Out, to me (he) is one of the greatest vocalists alive.

LB: What is your favorite song and why?

RS: This may sound funny but one of my favorite songs isn't a bluegrass song. It is "Moving Up to Glory Land," by the Cathedrals. I love to hear the harmony in that song and Danny Funderburk's tenor line is my favorite.

LB: Do you write? If so, what's your favorite song you've written?

RS: I write a little and we have recorded three or four of my songs or co-writes. My favorite song that I wrote is "Just Can't Wait to Get There," because the words speak about getting to see a lot of my loved ones that are already in Heaven.

LB: When you're not picking and singing, what are you doing?

RS: When we are not on the road, I love to fish. I have a Pro Craft bass boat and we like to get out on the water and relax and fish for largemouth (bass). I also just like

to stay at home and work in my yard and spend time with my family.

LB: Give us a brief testimony...

RS: I was brought up in a Christian home. I have been a member of Mountain View Baptist Church in Cowpens, S.C., my whole life (45 years.) I graduated from a Christian school and was in church every time the doors were open. I went to Christian camp and camp meetings, my dad is a deacon and a Sunday School teacher, and I was a pretty good boy in the world's eyes. I said all of that to explain that I was a pretty good, church going boy that was lost and on his way to hell. At the age of 14, the Lord showed me I was lost and that I needed him to get to heaven. It did not matter how good I was, or who my family was, or that they raised me in church; that would not take me to heaven. I'm so thankful on September 8, 1988, the Lord showed me I was lost, and I was completely dependent on him and had to accept him as my personal Savior. He is my dearest friend and I want to live the rest of my life singing and witnessing for him.

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# **SGN SCOOPS** **Bluegrass** **Top 20**

## **2019 June SGNscoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 20**

- 1. In A Whirlwind - The Little Roy and Lizzy Show**
- 2. Songs Like Those - The Chigger Hill Boys and Terri**
- 3. Most Requested Prayer - Heaven's Mountain Band**
- 4. Who But God - Eagle's Wings**
- 5. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver**
- 6. Thinkin' Outside The Box - Dave Adkins**
- 7. I Start Each Day With The Lord - The Britton Family and Friends**
- 8. Let My Life Be A Light - Balsam Range**
- 9. I Am Just A Pilgrim - The Appalachian Road Show**
- 10. His Eyes - The Rochesters**
- 11. Call On God - Tonja Rose**
- 12. All My Tears - Jaelee Roberts**
- 13. Acres Of Diamonds - Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers**
- 14. A Brighter Day - The Primitive Quartet**

15. **When The Storm Is In My Path - Heaven's Mountain Band**
16. **Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet**
17. **Are You Ready To Go - Sally Berry**
18. **I See God - Marty Raybon**
19. **Heaven's Back Yard - High Road**
20. **Little White Church By The Way - The Rumfelt Family**



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A photograph of four men in suits standing in a church aisle. The men are dressed in dark suits with white shirts and patterned ties. They are standing in a row, smiling, in the center of the aisle. The church has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams. A circular stained glass window is visible in the background. The floor is made of dark wood planks.

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# 11th Hour



By Lorraine Walker

Experts may say the world is in the 11th hour and may be approaching apocalypse, because of the downturn in the environment due to man-made pollution. Others say that many animal species are in their 11th hour because of the threat of extinction. Then there is the threat and presence of war, division and discrimination which often makes us feel that humankind is approaching the 11th hour.

The truth is that we are in the 11th hour. The Bible clearly tells us that we are in the end times, and frankly, the world's time clock might be a little slow. But whether or not it is 10 minutes to midnight or five, time is flying by and gospel trio, 11th Hour, desires to spread the knowledge of salvation through Jesus before the clock strikes 12.

Amber Eppinette has been the owner and soprano of the group since she began the trio 10 years ago, at the age of 16. This lady has more stage presence and ability to

communicate than artists twice her age, yet that does not seem to have changed her attitude or her vision for the group. She has seen the group's songs rise in the charts and enjoyed award nominations and achievements. The music of 11th Hour is heard across the nation and the world, yet she is humble and respectful of her call from God.

"I truly believe it's everything from knowing what our call is and that is to minister, on and off the stage, to having a great team that supports and backs us," says Eppinette. "Our families, the Crossroads label, Beckie Simmons Agency, the churches, and of course all of the D.J.s that believe in our music to play it."

The music of 11th Hour can be found on their seven recordings, which includes a recent Christmas album. One single released to radio that received a lot of attention was "Power in Prayer." This song also brings positive response when performed live during a concert.

“On the ‘Silence the Stones’ project, ‘Power in Prayer’ is probably the most requested,” states alto vocalist, Jaquita Lindsey. “There’s not a person in the crowd that can’t relate with the lyrics to that song. Every one of us have been through a trial and can testify that there’s power in prayer.”

An 11th Hour song that is personally poignant to Lindsey still receives a lot of airplay.

“The song that never gets old is a song that Amber wrote years ago with Joseph Habedank called, ‘He Sees What We Don’t.’ There’s hardly a service that the altar doesn’t flood during that song. I get a blessing watching God move in others.”

In her fourth year with the trio, Lindsey has come into her own. This young lady assuredly presents her faith with a voice that will bring her more accolades in the future. As sweet and humble as her fellow singers, Lindsey knows that her life is in the hands of a loving God.

“There are times that I realize how blessed 11th Hour is for our ages and the opportunities that we get,” the alto states. “I never thought I would enjoy working weekends. I love having Monday off. Although, I do miss out on some special events on the weekends. It’s hard

being away from family and friends when they’re having special moments, while you’re singing to a crowd that may not seem too excited to see you. I just have to remind myself that there may be one who needs to hear a song of ours.”

Although the desire to share the love of Christ is still paramount, sometimes the routine can get difficult for full-time artists who are on the road.

“It’s so difficult at times to remember why we do the late nights and early mornings,” Lindsey confesses. “Last year, I went through the most trying time personally. I just did as David did and encouraged myself in the Lord to the best of my ability. Also, I have some God-given, amazing friends and family who keep me going.”

The third member of the trio, Logan Smith, also has a strong family base on which he leans.

“I’ve been raised by incredible parents that taught us to stay surrounded by people that make better versions of ourselves,” Smith says. “I’m grateful for that. In the crazy world we live in, it’s so easy to get wrapped up in the wrong things. I’ve learned the hard way to keep folks around you that make you laugh, encourage you, and give you the hard truth when you need it. It’s im-



portant. I feel like all of that has played a huge role in making me who I am today.”

Who Smith is today, is well-rounded singer who many have watched grow up in gospel music. From a pre-teen to a 20-something, Smith has many years of vocal performance behind him, which gives him a great vocal range and diversity, as well as confidence and understanding of his call. That’s not to say that he isn’t still learning, however.

“I moved to Nashville last fall and it’s been a tough adjustment,” admits Smith. “I’m a homebody. I’m blessed to have three of my four grandparents living, and a niece and nephew all back home. It’s been hard not being 10 to 15 minutes down the road from everyone, but I’ve had so many dear friends in Nashville that have made me feel at home. It’s a good time in life right now. You really find out who you are when you’re 300+ miles from any family and you start making your own routine.”

Eppinette is thrilled that Smith made the move to 11th Hour and says the young vocalist is definitely an asset. “The blend is as if he’s been with us for years,” says Eppinette. “He also brings a new and fresh energy to the group. I’m thankful to have him.”

Eppinette calls Smith an “old soul,” with a love of Country music, and Smith agrees.

“You could give me a pot of coffee, a porch to sit on, sunshine, and good music and I’d be content all day,” says Smith.

“There’s never a serious or dull moment with Logan,” says Lindsey. “He keeps us laughing.”

The red-haired extrovert, Smith, calls Lindsey “crafty,” because of her love of arts and handicrafts, including painting and restoration of old furniture. One thing he says people might not know about Eppinette is that, despite her confident stage presence and personality, she is actually an introvert. The leader says it makes life



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difficult at times.

“The most challenging (part) for me is being around so many people at once,” says Eppinette. “I struggle a lot with anxiety, so crowds, though they are awesome, tend to scare me or trigger my anxiety at times. I work through that by prayer and of course, the group helps me as well by doing things at the table so I can breathe for a moment and get back out there.”

Despite this, Eppinette loves her life. “I enjoy feeling the anointing of God upon myself but also in the unity of the group. There’s nothing like the feeling of being in his will,” she says.

Smith agrees that there are both good times as well as challenging experiences as a gospel artist.

“I read a devotion the other day on Matthew 4 where Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil,” Smith says. “It hit me that we’re all tempted by evil, pleasures of the world, and it’s so easy to fall into those traps. The devil loves to plant fear, depression, self doubt, and so many other things in our minds. He even tried to do so to the only sinless man that’s ever walked this earth.

“There’s been times in my life the devil has tried to tell me ministry isn’t worth giving up 200+ days a year from your family, or tried to convince me that there’s no hope in this music we sing,” Smith admits. “But I was also reminded that a lot of things in life are tests and we’re bound to fail sometimes; we’re human. Some days it’s hard to keep our eyes on the prize. We all need God’s mercy and grace on a daily basis to make it through life. None of us are worthy of it, but I’m grateful His mercies are new every morning.”

Lindsey also keeps her focus on the Lord through devotions. She says that her favorite scripture is Psalms 27:14: “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.”

“Every time in life where I’m demanding God to work (or) show me His will, I see this scripture pop up, what seems like everywhere. I’ve needed it so much over the last year and a half of my life,” Lindsey admits.

Waiting on the Lord is what Eppinette has needed to do in her life as well. She says her favorite scripture at the

moment is: “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalms 46:10.

“Being still doesn’t mean to be lazy and do nothing,” says Eppinette. “It means to rest and know that He is God, while moving forward in your call.”

The members of 11th Hour rely on the word of God for their foundation and on the people he has surrounded them with to keep getting on that stage, night after night. They are joyful, focused and assured that they are answering the call.

“All I can say is that the Lord has truly blessed us,” says Lindsey. “It’s been a privilege to watch God open doors. We’ve seen so many souls saved. That’s what matters the most!”

For more information on 11th Hour, visit [11thhourgg.com](http://11thhourgg.com).

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# Southern Gospel Television on your computer!

# Jeff Stice

By Robert York



It was a clear day at Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Fla., with a high temperature of 87 degrees on May 30, 1960, when Evonia Stice gave birth to her first child. It was a boy. As she held him in her arms, she was probably wondering what the future would hold for her new son, who would be named Jeff.

The future for Jeff Stice has turned out to be great for the proud mother. He has become an award-winning piano player. Some know him as ‘Buck,’ some call him ‘The Piano Man,’ but he prefers to just be called Jeff. He has two younger sisters Terri and Kelli, and is married to Stacey. They have four children, Braxton, Natalie, Mattie and Nicholas.

Stice was blessed to be raised by amazing Christian parents, while he spent his time immersed in basketball, superhero comics and the piano. They moved to Louisville, Kent., where Stice attended elementary school. At age eight, he began taking piano lessons.

“I remember my first public appearance was playing for my dad’s group as an emergency,” says Stice. “Their pianist got held up at work and Daddy asked me if I thought I could do it!”

He remembers ‘Far Above The Starry Skies,’ as the first song he played. After high school, Stice attended Western Kentucky University where he majored in piano performance.

In 1986, the Piano Man joined his first full time group, the Rex Nelson Singers. He got embarrassed singing for them when he fell off the piano bench, but he wouldn’t go into all the other embarrassing moments he’s had. Later, he joined the Blackwood Brothers.

In 1990, with the investment of a businessman, Stice, along with Danny Funderburke, Mark Lanier, Dale Shipley, and Mike Presnell, formed the group “Perfect Heart.” Aubrey Stevens was their bass player. Buck



stayed with Perfect Heart until 1999, when he went to Dollywood to become the pianist for the Kingdom Heirs.

Leaving Dollywood, Stice was a founding member of Triumphant Quartet where he remained until 2014. During his time with them he wrote three songs the group recorded, “I Know I’m Going Home,” “Streets of Gold” and “When The Rapture Comes My Way.” After leaving Triumphant, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana Baptist University. This grad has many talents, which include playing the organ, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, accordion and harmonica; but he prefers sticking to the piano.



“I’ve had so many influences in my music,” says Stice. “As far as pianists; Wally Fowler, Eva Mae LeFevre, Jack Marshall, Floyd Cramer, Roger Williams, Liberace and Dino.

“As far as influences in my life, there’s not enough room. My wife Stacey, Dad, Mom, the Nelons, Vera Nations, Shannon Newman, Chris Pearce and at least 100 others!”

Stice enjoys playing and listening to many styles of music. “Well I’ve always enjoyed all genres of music...I’m of the belief that God created all music. I think, like a lot of things, music has been abused and disrespected. Sometimes I’m moved by beautiful melodies that have no lyrics at all...just the music. God created harmony and to say there has to be lyrics for it to give praise to our Father is absurd so if it’s good, I love it. I have never wanted to be put in a box as far as my style goes, so I’ve tried to be a student of good music regardless of the genre. Christian music will always be my favorite but I love jazz, classical and movie themes and some pop stuff too,” Stice shares.



Dr. Jerry Goff once approached Jeff about doing a jazz recording together. Jeff had never done one but Jerry wanted to do it in the New Orleans style, and he picked the songs. Needless to say, it went over great.

“Jeff Stice, truly the best of the best,” says the great trumpeter. “He can play anything from chopsticks to the classics. He can play reverently or with showmanship. He’s my choice for number one.”



Stice loves playing for senior conferences across the country, but he never takes any place he gets to play for granted. Once he was invited to the Hope Music Festival in Tokyo, Japan. During his career he has recorded about 26 projects.

Stice has won many awards for his talents. “I fully realize had I not been given the accolades that I have, I wouldn’t have the opportunity to be a soloist these days,” admits Stice. “While on some level I guess I’ve

acquired ‘clout’ by receiving them, my heart no longer beats out of my chest wondering if my name will be called as the winner. Having said that, the first time I received the Diamond Award for Musician of the Year was probably the most special. It was 2016 and I honestly thought my award days were over. So when my name was called it was so refreshing and new.”

Jeff’s solo ministry is five years old and still going strong, but the future is still a little murky. “You tell me!” he laughs. “I have no idea where my heavenly father is going to take me. I never dreamed I would go to Tokyo, Japan and play. I will say this though, I’ve never been more content in my life. God seems to overwhelm me every day. It’s been an absolute adventure. 1 Peter 5:10 says ‘after you have suffered for awhile...the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will confirm, restore, strengthen and establish you.’ So we shall see.”

Jeff can be reached through his website at [www.jeffsticemusic.com](http://www.jeffsticemusic.com), and his bookings are handled by the Dominion Agency.

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# Our Greatest Father

By Jennifer Campbell



What does it mean to be a father? Is being a father defined as someone who works hard to provide shelter, food, and clothing for their family? Does being a father refer to the way they protect their children from harm, even to the point of putting their own lives on the line?

No matter how you define what it means to be a father, one thing is absolutely true. Fathers may readily hand out advice, allowances, and accolades, but the reason a father becomes an irreplaceable hero in the eyes of their children is due to their unconditional love.

This Father's Day, many children, young and old alike, will honor their fathers through cards, special dinners, and the greatest gift of all, love. And yes, dad will likely receive tie number 87 to add to his collection. But it is not about the sentimental greeting card bearing the perfect verse or the funny card with the verse that asks, "How much do I love you?" and leads to the large hands that pop out and say, "This much!"

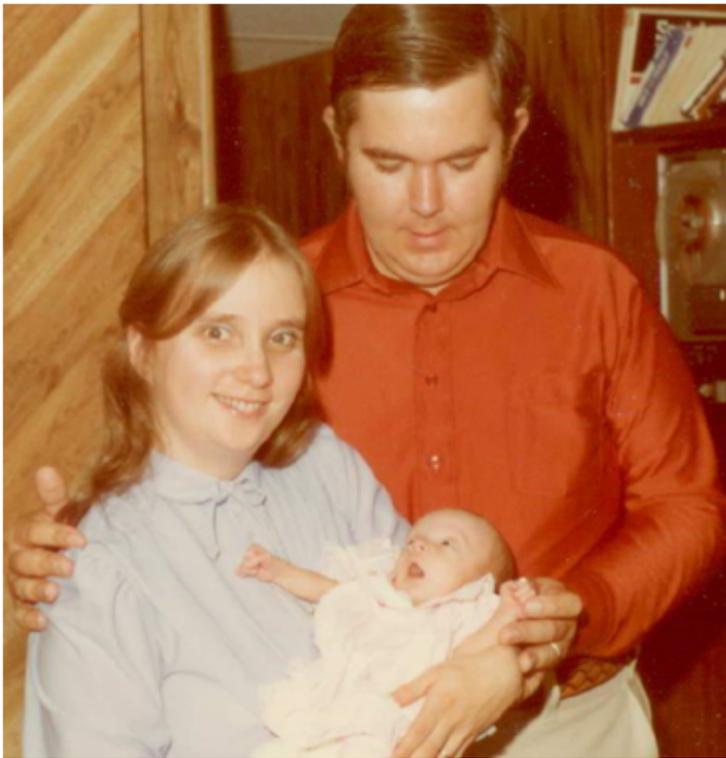
Father's Day is about honoring the gentle giant who

loves his sons and daughters, even when they spit up on his new suit on the way to church, or when they accidentally back his car into the garage door. Fathers are the special men who continue to love their children, long after these children reach adulthood.

I am blessed to have a father who loves me unconditionally. My dad is always there for me when I need him, and he is the rock my foundation is built upon. My mama and daddy encouraged me to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ, my personal Lord and Savior. This was the greatest gift they could have ever given me.

Even as an adult, my dad continues to pray for me and help me, no matter what I am going through. He always has a word of wisdom or encouragement, or maybe just a hug to remind me how much he cares. He is my ministry partner, travel buddy, kitchen companion, and loyal friend. I am truly grateful to God for such a wonderful father-daughter relationship.

Perhaps you have never had a relationship like that



with your father. Or maybe your father has gone on to be with the Lord and you are lonely, due to this void in your life. While it is understandable that you miss him and you wish things were different, I want you to know that you are never alone. Jesus Christ, your heavenly Father, is always with you.

Joshua 1:5 (NIV) says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Unlike your biological father, who may no longer be a part of your daily life, our heavenly Father will always be with you every moment of every single day. He will always love you unconditionally.

According to a Native American tradition, a young boy must exhibit bravery in order to become a man. To do this, his father takes him deep into the forest. Once they are in the appropriate location, the father places a blindfold over his son's eyes and instructs him to sit on a stump. The son is not allowed to leave the stump or remove the blindfold until after sunrise the next morning. During the night, he hears the sounds of wild animals and other frightening things around him; still, he cannot leave the stump or take off the blindfold if he wants to complete this rite of passage successfully.

When morning breaks, I am sure he is relieved to feel the sun on his face and know that he can finally remove the blindfold after enduring a long, fearful night. When he looks up, he is stunned. For it is only then that he realizes his father had been sitting on a stump beside him all night long, watching over him and protecting him from

When morning breaks, I am sure he is relieved to feel the sun on his face and know that he can finally remove the blindfold after enduring a long, fearful night. When he looks up, he is stunned. For it is only then that he realizes his father had been sitting on a stump beside him all night long, watching over him and protecting him from

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harm. You see, the father wanted to know if his son was brave, yet he was not willing to put his son in harm's way to do so. Instead, he ensured his son was safe and constantly under his watch all through the night.

Similarly, our heavenly Father watches over us, day and night. Only we do not have to be afraid like the young Native American boy. We need to trust that God will watch over us during sunshiny days and stormy nights. Even though we cannot see him, we can have complete confidence that he is right beside us.

Psalm 3:5 (NLT) says, "I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the Lord was watching over me." Even when we are sleeping, God is looking out for us. He never "slumbers or sleeps" (Ps. 121:4 NLT). When we feel alone or afraid, he will be our refuge, our place of safety (Ps. 91:2). When we need to know that everything

will be okay, he will provide the calm assurance we so desperately need.

Our heavenly Father even knows our needs before we ask (Matt. 6:32). Earthly fathers may give their children what they need, but the Lord will give us abundantly more than we could ever imagine. God's Word says, "If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" (Luke 11:13 NLT).

God will not only provide food and other necessities we need in life, but he will also send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to help us. We need to trust him completely.

This Father's Day, remember that you have a Father in heaven who loves you more than you could ever imagine. He loves us with a fierce, unconditional love. That is why he gave his life for you and me (I John 3:16). John 3:16 (NIV) says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Confess your sins today. Believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. Receive this priceless gift of salvation.

The moment you put your trust in Jesus Christ, you will receive peace beyond understanding, matchless amazing grace, and life more abundant. Accept God's love today, for he is our greatest father.

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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Here is the June edition of SGNScoops Magazine and we are halfway through another year. It's hard to believe we are almost finished the second decade of the second millennium. I'm relieved to see sunshine and blue skies today, as we've been deluged with rainstorms ever since it stopped snowing, or so it seems. I hope that today we've brought some light into your day through SGNScoops and the artists we have introduced in its pages.

The New Speer Family graced our cover and John Herndon had the pleasure of speaking to the members of this fantastic group which is rejuvenating the celebrated sounds of the original Speer Family. I also had the pleasure of speaking to various members through email even though I've never personally met them. Allison Durham Speer communicates like few are able to, regardless of the type of music. If you ever had any doubt that faith in God can move mountains, one look at the smile on her face will assure you of her belief in a God who does the impossible.

John Schneider is also an artist we have never featured before, but Jimmy Reno has introduced a man who has struggled with many losses, yet retained his faith in God. Schneider's anticipated new release, "Recycled Grace," is bound to be heartfelt and eloquent.

One artist that readers will already be familiar with is 11th Hour, since member Jaquita Lindsey was on our

writing team for some time. The group itself has been featured in the past and now Rob Patz has asked them to join the Creekside Gospel Music Convention family of artists. This trio is loved by so many and their songs continue to light up the charts months after release.

We appreciate the time all of these artists and writers took to tell the story of faith through music, along with new trio Avenue, as well as pianist virtuoso Jeff Stice, who both spoke with our esteemed writer, Robert York. Les Butler is also highly valued here, as he brings a touch of Bluegrass to our pages, through the story of Randy Spencer of the King James Boys. What a great issue, along with Jennifer Campbell showing us the greatness of our Heavenly Father in this month where we celebrate Father's Day. Randall Hamm, Vonda Easley and Rob Patz also lent their talent and pens, and we salute our whole staff, including our creative and design team.

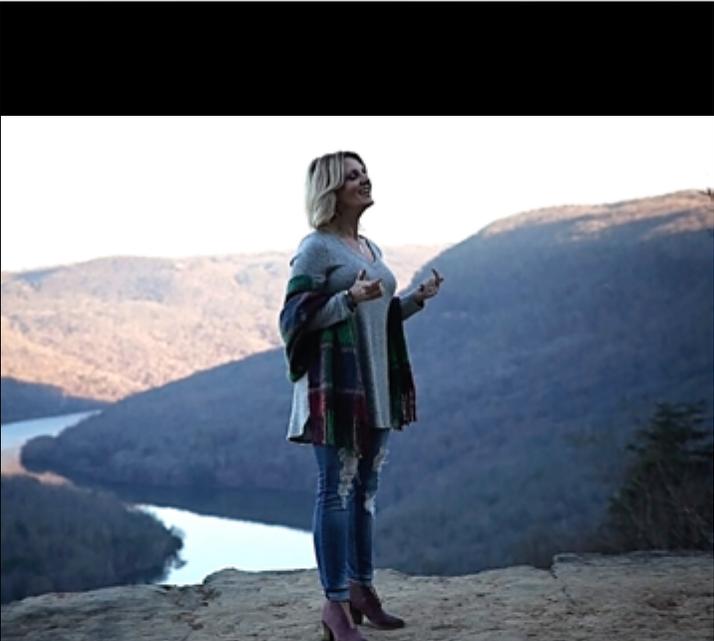
I don't often get a chance to visit with our SGNScoops team, but recently I went with my sister Joan, our proofreader and all-around error-catcher, to enjoy an afternoon with Vonda and Jack Armstrong. We had a good time with this fun couple and we appreciated that they would carve out a few hours in their too-short Niagara trip to visit with us. Vonda and I have been acquainted for several years but don't really get to chat very often. We met Jack for the first time and I was reminded that regardless of accent, a sense of humor

is something that connects people. A like spirit is also a positive connection and we all enjoyed the time of discussion and fun.

Strengthening relationships is something we all need to do, to either have an opportunity to show the love of Jesus to an unbeliever, or to build our own faith circle with people we trust. If you are an introvert like me, you find it difficult to step beyond basic greetings with your neighbors or the cashier you see regularly at your favorite store. Perhaps you are an extrovert who loves to chat but finds the deeper realities harder to discuss. It's a learning curve for all of us to gain the trust of those around us enough to have the right to discuss our faith. I'm still learning and beyond talking about the random raccoon that appears to ravage our roofs, I haven't built that many friendships on my street. But I'm trying.

I'm so glad we have the encouragement of gospel music, whatever style we happen to listen to, on any given day, to lift our spirits and strengthen us with the message of Jesus to face that day, whether we are asked to become uncomfortable or just watch for raccoons. Jesus loves us. The world needs to be reminded of that.

Thank you, as always, for spending your time with us at SGNscoops. We appreciate our readers and we know that we wouldn't be here without you. If you are struggling and need encouragement, or need to hear more about the love of Jesus, please write to me or anyone on our staff. We read every note and email. Please write to me at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)



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# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



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



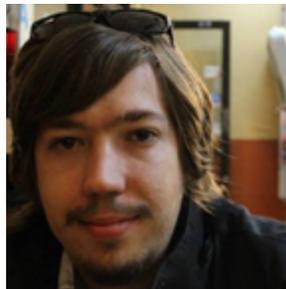
Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written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



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



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



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

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

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

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



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

also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



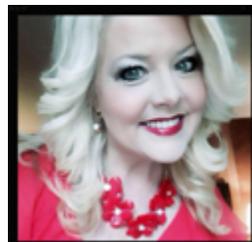
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



Vonda Armstrong 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.

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

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



Cheryl Smith describes herself as a "passionate disciple and follower of Jesus Christ." She says: "I am married to the sweetest, most patient man for over 30 years...Mama to one miracle son God sent to us after 12.5 years of infertility...Homeschool Teacher who learns way more than I ever teach. I love to spend time with my husband

and son in the mountains, sing and play Bluegrass music, and write. I am so thankful for your visit and hope you will visit my blogs: [homespundevoations.com/](http://homespundevoations.com/) and [biblicalminimalism.com/](http://biblicalminimalism.com/) It is my goal to encourage you in your walk with Jesus and to inspire you to let go of this world for the sake of a higher call. It is His call that I hope you hear. So compelling, so intense, so far above anything this world has to offer. It is the call His disciples heard as they went about a normal, ordinary day, fishing. It is a call they could not refuse. A call that caused them to drop everything they had and walk away from life as they knew it, without a backward glance. Can you hear it? Are you listening?"



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.



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).

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

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



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. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed."

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.



John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years old and

eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps. John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

He loves listening to gospel music or playing one of his guitars.

John lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Stephanie, and 17-year-old daughter. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.



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. She holds a Bachelor of English from Columbia University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 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.

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Angela Parker is a life-long singer and sings with her mother's group, Mercy Rain. She resides in Lexington, S.C. She's been happily married to her husband Jack for nearly 4 years. He's supported every decision Angela has made without fail. Jack travels with Mercy Rain whenever he can and helps out where

possible. He supports Mercy Rain continuously. Since Angela has recently been diagnosed with Lupus, Jack has done everything he can to take care of her.

Angela actively advocates for Autism Awareness. She feels education for all involved is the key to their success. She worked with Autistic children providing ABA Therapy up until her current illness forced her to have to quit.

She speaks out against Domestic Violence having been a victim of abuse for many years herself. Her constant battle today is healing from the mental scars that are left over after the physical and verbal abuse. Her personal testimony will help others see how God can deliver from abuse and help to heal the abused person.

Angela is very excited about writing for SGN Scoops and loves all of the SGN Scoops family. She loves the Lord with all her heart and has been blessed with awesome talent and love for others. You will be blessed by her talent and great spirit!



Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back.

But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing

songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.



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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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.



Amy Duncan Oxenrider, the daughter of Grant and Shelia Duncan, is married to Jason Oxenrider and they have three sons, Brady, Weston, and Rylan. Amy works as a psychometrist for the Mississippi Department of Education. She also writes for Pure Gospel Magazine and

is now a member of SGNscoops.

A former member of the Riders, Amy continues to minister through singing and speaking engagements. She is excited to see what her future holds and longs to uplift the name of Jesus Christ wherever the doors may open.



Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of the *Singing News*, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, *Les Butler and Friends*, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.