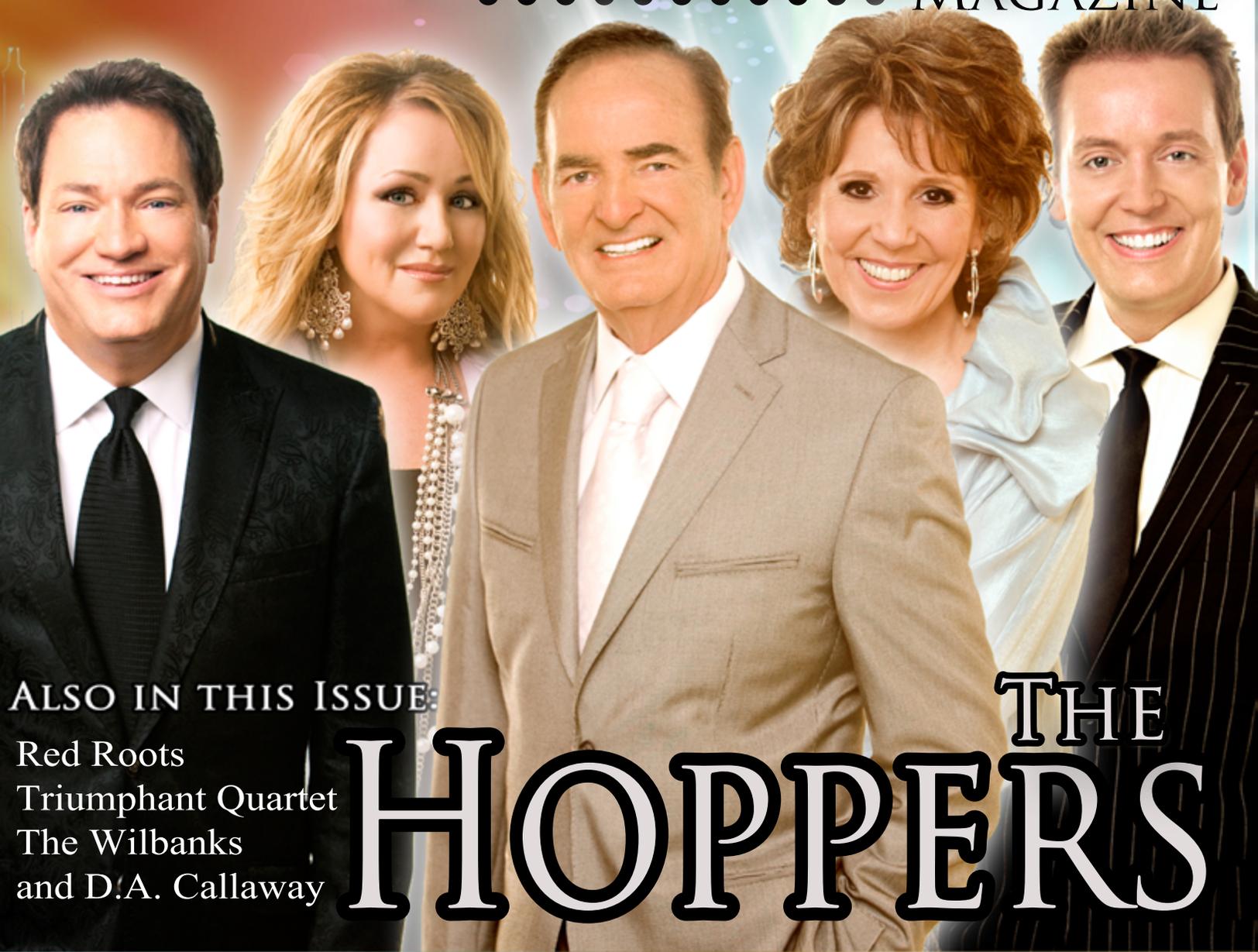


JULY 2014

# SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:  
Red Roots  
Triumphant Quartet  
The Wilbanks  
and D.A. Callaway

# THE HOPPERS



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## OUR MISSION

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

Publisher- Rob Patz

Feature Editors- Sandi Duncan Clark, Lorraine Walker

Layout/Design- Pete Schwager

Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley

Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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Have a SCOOP to share? For news consideration, email us at [news@sgnscoops.com](mailto:news@sgnscoops.com)

# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



Freedom. It's a word we use a lot in July. We like to proclaim our freedom from tyranny and injustice. We enjoy our freedom to worship as we please and walk where we prefer. We don't face things like suicide bombs, sniper fire, kidnapping and mass murder on a daily basis, although those things are creeping into our local newspapers. As a Country we still enjoy basic freedoms. But what about individual, personal freedom?

Freedom has been defined as "Liberty of the person from slavery, detention, or oppression" (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/freedom>, July 3, 2014). Most people would probably say they fit into that definition. But do we really?

Freedom without Jesus means we are enslaved to sin, detained from doing right all the time and oppression from Satan. Whether we understand it or realize it, we are not free without accepting that Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer from our earthly nature.

The Bible says that the truth will set us free, and whoever the Son sets free is free indeed. Once we accept the Lordship of Jesus, He sets us free to live in spiritual wholeness. He gives us liberty to resist evil and live in righteousness. True freedom means life in Jesus. Eternal life with a loving Almighty God.

Do you have freedom? I trust you will find the way to freedom in the pages of this magazine as each feature draws you toward Christ. I hope you will hear it in the songs we promote. Come to Creekside Gospel Music Convention in November and hear it from the stage as our artists sing about Him. If you have questions, email me at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com)

Don't settle for physical freedom. Find spiritual freedom today!

# Letter From A Feature Editor

By Sandi Duncan Clark



“O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things...” (KJV) Psalms 98:1

There is not one among us who cannot say that God has done marvelous things for each of us and we can never praise Him enough! It's enough just to see His handiwork in our everyday life and know that He is in control, but then God goes above and beyond to show us His love!

What a blessing it is to be a part of God's family, and what a blessing it is to be a part of the precious family and staff of SGN Scoops.com digital magazine! Working with Rob, Lorraine, the lovely Lou Hildreth and all the talented Christian writers, photographers and graphic staff is a treasured benefit for which I am truly grateful.

A number of years ago, an ambitious young Christian gentleman with a dream and desire to share his love for the Lord and for Gospel music, launched Coastal Media Group, a syndicated radio show, SGM Radio website and an internet radio station. Rob Patz's vision of a ministry in Gospel music became a reality with the support and help of his dad and mom, Don and Shirley Patz and his mom's twin sister, Sharon Kramer. Rob's father passed away 10 years ago and his mom and aunt provide continued support as prayer warriors.

In 2009, Rob Patz became the owner and publisher of SGN Scoops and has taken the magazine from a printed newspaper to an updated online digital magazine. Rob also presents the annual Diamond Awards at Creekside Gospel Music Convention, one of the industry's quality fan-voted recognitions of artists and industry ministries.

Those of us on the staff are honored to allow our light to shine through Rob's vision, which has

become our own. Experiencing the blessings of God on our contribution reinforces our faith. It is most rewarding to know that in some small way, we have a part in the ministry of each artist we write about and help promote.

It is our true desire to share the current music, news, articles, photos and charts each month, with you, our reader. Our goal is that you see the love of God in the work these artists have dedicated to Christ. If you don't know Christ as your personal Savior, we pray that you will be touched by the music these artists perform and the testimonies they share and you will come to know Him through their witness in Gospel music.

As we strive to attain higher goals in the Lord with Rob's leadership, join us in prayer that we will keep Christ first in what we do. Thank you for reading SGN Scoops digital magazine and website, and please check back often during the month, as we update any special news in our industry. If you haven't already, go on Facebook and "like" us to keep track of all the happenings with Gospel music and with us! We will continue to offer you and God our very best!

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SGN Scoops digital magazine and website: <http://www.sgnscoops.com/>

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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

“GMA Hall of Fame and Gaitherfest 2014”

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



Thanks to Rob Patz, and the staff, for the privilege of sharing two glorious gospel music events with the readers of this magazine. The recent GMA Hall Of Fame Induction And Honors in Nashville was a reminder of the LOVE that has consumed me in a LIFE blessed by being intensely involved in the gospel music industry.

My sister Betty Stephens, who lives in Nashville, and I attended this elegant event, overflowing with present and past industry leaders and artists, staged at Allen Arena, Lipscomb University. Remembering the thrill of my own induction into this Hall Of Fame in 2005, and seeing many of my longtime friends, brought indescribable excitement. Sharing a table with Judy Nelon and Sue Dodge was fun, and the induction of the LEGENDARY Gaither Vocal Band into the Hall Of Fame was a highlight for all of us.

The stage was filled with former members and

current members of the GVB sharing the induction with Bill Gaither. Congratulations to the Gospel Music Association for a fabulous event!

The following week, I joined my brother Bob Wills and our nephew Randy Wills at the Fort Worth, Texas, GaitherFest 2014. Randy is the President of the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame and we were on a mission.

Backstage at GaitherFest, Randy, Bob and I enjoyed our time with three fellow members of the TGM-HOF: Larry Ford, Rudy Gatlin, and Guy Penrod, loved by their Gaither fans.

I never cease to appreciate being onstage with the Gaither Homecoming Friends. Larry Ford, as always, was so gracious to escort me on and off the stage.

We were thrilled to give these LEGENDS their copy of our book “The Lady and Her Legacy” and they



immediately found their photos and stories on several pages.

My deepest thanks to many who have ordered this book by sending \$15 to the P.O. Box. We pay the postage and autograph it.

All glory and praise goes to Jesus Christ, and I thank Him for a life filled with "love and legends" and join you in looking for His soon return!

Contact us: P. O. Box 271106 Houston, TX 77277

[gospvideo@aol.com](mailto:gospvideo@aol.com)

<http://www.louhildreth.com/>

Photo A. Rudy Gatlin and Lou onstage at GaitherFest, Fort Worth, 2014

Photo B. Rudy Gatlin, Lou, Guy Penrod, Jim Brady, Randy Wills, backstage GaitherFest 2014



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# THE HOPPERS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

by Craig Harris

The Hoppers are one of Gospel music's best-loved families. They have been given awards and accolades and number-one songs for many years as audiences embraced their powerful harmonies. After 57 years, they are still going strong and pause for a moment to remember the past, live in the moment and look forward to the future during a conversation with SGN Scoops. Excitement abounds as each of the Hoppers speaks of their history, current happenings and possibilities in the years to come.

"I remember when we started; we'd have probably paid somebody to let us sing," Connie Hopper laughs. "We went to a church one night and sang and got \$12.73 in the offering plate." Needless to say, much has changed since the Hoppers starting performing in 1957. They were then known as the Hopper Brothers and Connie. "In 1970, we quit our jobs and went on the road full time," she remembers. "It was three of the brothers and me."

Connie joined the group as the pianist and eventually married Claude Hopper. She began singing when Claude's brother, Steve, left the group. "We have been so fortunate to support ourselves through the work God has called us to do, and none of that has been by accident, nor any of our own doings," Claude explains. "Every day that we are blessed to travel is attributed to the support and prayers of each individual audience. We're

like a turtle sitting on a fencepost. You know he did not get there by himself."

Connie wasn't the only current group member to come on board as a musician. Claude and Connie's son, Dean, signed on as the drummer at the age of seven. "The only thing I knew was that I wanted to play drums, and I would do anything I could to play music," Dean points out. "I had a chance to play all these guys' big (drum) kits – Mark Ellerbee (of the Oak Ridge Boys), Rick Goodman, Ronnie Segó and Billy Blackwood. That's when the big bands were the big thing. Everybody had a four-piece band."

Dean lived the dream. He vividly remembers flying home from Portland, Ore., by himself as an eight-year-old in order get back to school after the group was out on a lengthy road trip. "Dean would sit and watch Ricky Goodman and different ones play the drums," says Connie. "He's always been a good boy. He worked and helped his daddy on the farm, but he wanted to travel all the time. But we kept him in school." Dean began correspondence school after ninth grade and has been on the road ever since. Dean adds, "I played drums for everybody, played on lots of records, and played on stage with everybody that would ask." He later played the bass guitar and eventually moved into a more visible role as a vocalist when his uncle Will Hopper left the group.

"(Claude) really leaned on Roger Talley a

lot. Roger was an incredible part of this ministry for 10 years. Roger said, 'you need to go ahead and put Dean into that part.' At that time, I would sing one every now and again."

When Dean – who is seven years older than Michael – began playing the bass guitar, the door swung open for Michael. Roger Talley and Roger Fortner were also a part of the Hoppers' band at the time.

"Coming in as a 13-year-old kid, I was fortunate that I arrived when everybody still had a band," Michael noted. "Every weekend, we would go out, and I could stand on the side of the stage and watch people I respected. I'm thankful." However, he admittedly didn't have the same passion for it as quickly as Dean did.

"Michael was a different story," Connie explains. "Michael wanted to stay at home and ride his motorcycle and hang out with grandpa. After Dean went out on the road, that just left Michael at home. His guidance counselor called me and said, 'Michael is smart, but he's just not doing his schoolwork. I think that's because you guys are gone.' We put him in correspondence (school). He was 13 years old when he started."

Michael adds, "I didn't envision a whole lot at 13 other than my dirt bike and my grandfather. I just loved spending time with my dad's dad. I spent a whole lot of time with him. He was my best friend. I've been blessed."

Michael is now singing the bass part during the majority of most concerts. "It seems to be working," Michael says. "They like us all up there as a family."

The current Hopper brothers have assumed different and more extensive roles in the day-to-day responsibility of the group. "I am proud, very proud," Claude emphasizes. "We never pushed them to be a part of this as boys. But now, seeing what they bring to the group and family as a whole, I don't know how we ever did it without them. Both are very talented in their own right and in very different facets. Where one is weak, the other picks up the slack, and vice versa. They know how to pry the very best from Mother and I, which is a wonderful asset to me as both a co-worker and a dad. God knew what he was doing when he blessed us with them."

Connie adds, "We never said, 'this is what you're going to do.' At this point, if one of them

were to say 'this has been great, but I'm tired of this road,' that would be fine with me. I thank God for them. They're just great, and they're talented."



The rest of the group members have different perspective in terms of what the brothers bring to the table. "It's hard for me to classify Dad, because he and I are practically the same person," Karlye Hopper, the daughter of Dean and Kim Hopper, details. "We have the same taste, thoughts, humor, opinions, ideas, etc. It can be freaky at times. Dean is the tape, the bubble wrap and the shipping insurance, going out of his way to keep things are together and protected. Without him, I don't know if this family would even make it to the stage. I would classify Michael as the cool, James Bond strain of tech genius – never irrational and always three steps ahead. He's the quiet type but responsible for the nightly program, which is never the same twice. The quiet thing comes in

handy when discerning where to go with the music.”

“He does a lot of creative stuff,” says Dean. “He manages our web site. He and I carry out the day-in and day-out grunt work that’s in the decision making, a lot that we learned from Dad. There are so many things, and now, he’s singing a lot. He’s just very solid. He’s more business-minded, like my dad.”



The family feels that the contrast in the brothers’ personalities balances out. “He’s very persistent,” Kim notes. “Michael handles a lot of the musical aspect of things and keeps us on the cutting edge. He does our multimedia stuff. He’s a computer nerd. If the bus has a problem, he’s the one on the phone. Dean is the one who can fix anything. He’s the face of the Hoppers right now. He’s the one dealing with the promoters. He has a vision like his father. He is a marketing genius. He is always a protector, but he has the heart of his mother. He can be straightforward with you, but he still has the heart of his mom.”

While the Hopper brothers have assumed larger roles, their parents have no immediate plans for retirement. “Retire? What am I going to retire to? I’m doing nothing now,” Claude jokes. “I genuinely love meeting and learning from people, but encouraging them and helping them is what encourages me. Whether it’s a waitress at the Bob

Evans (Restaurant) or someone sitting alone in the back pew in church, if we can bring a smile to their face, then I am having the time of my life. The Bible says that laughter doeth good like a medicine. We are to laugh, smile and be merry thanks to the hope we have in Christ. Maybe that’s why I’m still out here. Maybe there’s still one ole stubborn guy needing to hear about joy from another.”

Claude’s joy is evident to the rest of the family. “Dad is more carefree,” Michael says. “He’s just having a blast. Good for him. He was doing so much. He doesn’t sit and worry about the detail things now. He delegates that to me and Dean.”

Karlye adds, “Pop has my heart. His heart is deeper than the Atlantic and his intentions are always the best. He just has a funny way of going about them. He got to a certain age and realized he just wasn’t laughing enough. He has been making up for lost time ever since.”

According to her family, Connie epitomizes the heart of the group. “Mom, her spirit has always been the same, and she brings that,” Michael said. “I think her purpose out here is to minister to the people and see people saved.”

Kim and Karlye view Connie in a similar light. “Connie is the unbiased, arms-outstretched Mother Teresa, if Mother Teresa had been from the South and clever with a skillet,” Karlye jokes. “She is what I aspire to be.” Kim adds, “Connie is our spiritual giant. She always looks on the positive. She can get tired *in* the way, but she never gets tired *of* the way. She is steadfast, diligent and very wise. It’s very quiet wisdom.”

Collectively, Claude and Connie have established a legacy. “They’re the patriarchs,” Michael points out. “They’re the Rock of Gibraltar, the foundation. They bring a tremendous amount to what we do, and they don’t have to do that much if they want to.”

Dean adds, “We all carry our load, but they’re great characters. They have lots of experience under their belt. Mom has a lot after what she’s seen God do in her life, dealing with cancer. The things God has entrusted with them, they didn’t take for granted, and they didn’t take lightly. That’s the way they were raised. They were raised to be very hospitable. Their decisions and their relationships have carved them into who they are.”

Kim joined the group in 1989 after having sung with her brothers as The Greenes. She can relate to some of Connie’s stories from the early

days. “From the time I was 10 years old, we were on the road every weekend,” Kim explains. “We started out in a van. We sang in every little church where the door opened.”

Kim has been along for the ride during the greatest period of growth in the Hoppers’ ministry. “I look at where the Lord’s brought us, and I don’t think we have changed any,” Kim says. “When we started out, we knew what we believed. When I look at it, I think God did this. It’s nothing we did in our strength. We just tried to be faithful and go through the doors he’s opened.”

Dean attributes some of the group’s steps forward to Kim’s addition. “From a stage standpoint, there’s no harder worker in this business,” Dean said. “When she was pregnant, she would go off the stage, throw up and then come right back and sing. She raises the level.”

“She was good when she was with her family. Kim was changing a lot. She got here and had to sing a tad higher. It changed a lot of stuff for her. She can convey. She draws a picture in singing a song. From a standpoint of performance, when you say ‘hit the gas,’ it’s on. Bill (Gaither) has always said, ‘I’ve said this many times, Kim never shows up when she doesn’t show up to work.’”

Kim feels that it was important for the group to evolve as music has evolved. “We try to reinvent ourselves musically, because things change,” Kim notes. “Ways of doing things change. We are still very much based in our faith, our belief and our work ethic. When we are scheduled to be somewhere, we go, and we give 100 percent when we get there. We let God do the rest.”

They also attribute a lot of the growth to Claude’s behind-the-scenes work. “Claude, being the boss, is the one who feels like that all of us are his babies,” Kim points out. “He’s very much a protector. He was always the one with the vision. He pushed and pushed and pushed ... in a good way. He was on the phone booking the dates when the dates weren’t out there to be found.”

However, Claude never envisioned what the group has been able to achieve. “Why would I be worthy enough to live in a place and time when my heart’s desire did not cost me my life,” Claude asked. “A man by the name of Jim Elliot was made a martyr the same year I attended my first Gospel Music concert, and that is humbling in itself. God has stretched out His hand toward so many inconceivable goals, and I’m getting to see them accom-

plished. People say the older you are, the more appreciative you become. There is a lot of truth to that, and I don’t foresee my attitude reversing any time soon.”

The increasing opportunities have been humbling for all involved. “The places we’ve thankfully had the opportunity to sing and things we’ve been a part of, it’s very humbling,” Michael says. “When you can sing ‘Jerusalem’ in the city walls of Jerusalem, it’s pretty humbling. It can be taxing because of the scheduling. I like doing the overseas stuff we’ve done in Ireland, Norway and Scotland. There are some great people over there. They are so receptive, because they don’t get a whole lot out of it (Gospel Music).”

Kim adds, “When we look at where He’s brought us ... when you are doing (new things), you are like, ‘this is what we do’ ... things like singing at Carnegie Hall and meeting George Bush. But then we look back and say, ‘oh wow, we met George Bush.’ It’s a little unsettling.”

Kim agrees with Michael’s notion of how that the group’s schedule can be challenging in many respects. “The things we do and the people we meet are mentally more challenging now than they were then,” Kim notes. “When you travel with David Jeremiah to the Holy Land and you are the music for that event, there’s a lot more stress involved. We need to be on our game. In some



of the bigger churches that we sing, there's more expected. It's very humbling, and it's frightening. The scripture says, 'to whom much is given, much is required.' He has given us a music ministry, but we are required to do our best, be our best and represent Him."

However, Kim acknowledges that there is ample reward; most evidenced in the lives of others. "To see and hear people say, 'something you sang changed my life,' it's still exciting to know that God still uses us," Kim says. "It's exciting to have my kids on the road with me. We're homeschooling our youngest one (nine-year-old Lexus). My kids are seeing the world and learning as much or more on a bus than they could in a classroom. To know my kids are excited and healthy is exciting. We're taking them to places they've never been. To go into a church and for them to say, 'our choir wants to back you up.' To know they've spent the time to want to sing with us from our choral book, for our songs to be sung everywhere is amazing."



Connie echoes those sentiments. "It's not all about number-one songs," Connie explains. "It's not all about things of that nature. It's about that song that you can sing and how it will relate to the people in the audience. Vestal (Goodman) said, 'you can't ever bless anybody else until you get a blessing yourself.' I know He takes what you do or what you sing, and He uses it."

While the group has enjoyed many chart-

topping hits, Connie points out that one of the key moments in the group's history came after being welcomed into the Gaither Homecoming fold. "I was so blessed, because there were people that ... we were here (on one level), and they were there (on a higher level)," Connie remembers. "I just sat there and bawled. Bill heard us sing 'That's Him.' That got us on the first video."

However, it was their show-stopping rendition of "It's Shouting Time In Heaven" on the "*All Day Singin' at the Dome*" Gaither Homecoming Video that catapulted the group into another level of notoriety. The Inspirations performed the song in the 1970s, though its popularity wasn't near what it grew into following that afternoon at Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

"Bill said he wanted a fast song," Connie says. "So, we did 'Shoutin' Time.' It just kind of exploded. I thought, 'who is going to like this old song?' We got up there and started singing, and the hair started standing up on my neck. I looked at Claude and said, 'there's somebody up here besides us.' The people started standing up. It had to be God."

Although the fans continue to show their fondness for that song, it's a variety of songs that the group members call their favorites. "It's songs that paint a picture," Kim says of her preferred numbers. "I'm a visual person. Any songs that are written that paint such a picture that I can see it, emotionally, they tear me apart. There was a song we did, 'I Wonder What They're Thinking Now.' It talked about how the disciples were (feeling) when Jesus died on the cross. It's anything that paints a picture where people are getting it. He didn't just carry the cross. He carried me (lyrics to the group's song 'He Carried Me')."

For Dean, it's a different mix. "All the years Roger, Kirk and Debbie Talley were with us, it helped refine what we did," Dean explains. "We always looked for good songs, songs that had a message. Somehow, God has let us have them. I never thought we'd have a song like 'That's Him,' or 'When He Comes Down,' or 'Jerusalem,' or 'Yahweh' ... but He has. There's a song I used to sing called, 'The Mountain Climber.' It was very moving. It was motivating for me. There's also parts in 'Jerusalem' that do that as well as 'When He Comes Down,' which we recorded for the first time in 1984, and 'Anchor to the Power of the Cross.' Then, there are fast songs like 'Yes, I Am.'

They put something in you. My mom did an old Joel Hemphill song on her solo album in 1983 or '84, 'I Wish I Had Done More.' It fits her to a T."

The group is currently in the studio working on a project that is being produced by Gospel Music Association Hall of Famer, Lari Goss. "The material on the project we are working on is going to stretch our audience a little more," Michael points out. "I think we did that with 'Jerusalem.' I think we did that with 'Yahweh.' We have some great new songs from Paula Stefanovich, but it still sounds like the Hoppers." Stefanovich wrote both "Jerusalem" and "Yahweh" for the Hoppers. "Her songs have revolutionized our ministry," Kim notes. The upcoming project is expected to be released early in 2015. The Hoppers – a Spring Hill Music Group recording artist – are also working on a children's audio project, with Connie having written many of the songs that will comprise that.

Daughter Karlye has also joined the family on stage and now makes regular appearances with the group, singing the alto part along with Connie. "The family 'business' is pretty important to me," Karlye points out. "What they do is beyond a job or normal ministry. To me, it's more of a legacy that has managed to remain one of integrity and sincerity. Fifty-eight years is a long time. For something to last that long, God must be smiling down on it."

The 19-year-old recently completed her freshman year at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She travels with the group when

"She is a fabulous singer," Kim says. "She has said, 'I want to go to school. I want a career, but I am committed to the heritage of the Hoppers.'" She first began to hear harmony at a young age. "It was somewhere between the second and third grade," Karlye notes. "Mom noticed that I would hum the harmonies to whatever was playing on the radio. My talents were usually encased within the four doors of her sedan, but I was learning." It wasn't until last year that Karlye was thrust on stage.

"It was when my grandmother suddenly lost her voice and the family was next to desperate that I tried my hand at alto," Karlye says. "It was one of those things where I got on a plane, put on a dress and was handed a microphone. I had never even listened for that part until the morning I flew in. That night in Birmingham was my first full concert, first time singing alto and the first time the people on stage appeared to need me, which, I admit, was a pretty cool feeling."

As for her future with the group, Karlye, who is an English major aspiring to be a biographer/ghost writer, isn't sure what direction she will go once she completes her college education. "I'm in school studying English and the Social Sciences with hopes of writing about real people," Karlye says. "I discovered my fascination with personal histories over a decade ago during the interview process of 'After All These Years' (the Hopper family biography)."

The youngest Hopper, Lexus, has already



her class schedule allows, leaving six family members extending across the stage when she is along for the ride.

exhibited talent vocally – with an ability to sing harmony – and instrumentally. "That nine-year-old ... she's the one," Connie says with a grin. Kim adds,

“They do have a heart for it. They will be involved somewhere I’m sure.”

Keeping things fresh can be a challenge for a ministry that has the stability that the Hoppers have enjoyed. “In my opinion, to keep it fresh, it’s the people that come to the concert,” Michael points out. “It can get stale, but if you can look down (into the audience), you can feel that energy from them. It’s appreciated.”

While they all put it in different terms, they seem to be on the same page in regard to the group’s future. “I see us continuing to progress,” Kim notes. “We will never allow the message to change. We want to do whatever we can do to go into the next step to broaden our music even more, to bring more youth into it. There are all kinds of different avenues opening. I see it progressing to wider audiences. We sing in Europe. I see more countries opening their doors.”

Some of the concerns involve the short term. “I want Mom and Dad to end well, whenever that is,” Dean explains. “Mom says there isn’t going to be a farewell tour. The future is to keep moving forward no matter what. We want to keep experimenting without abandoning our base. If we can take the folks on a little broader journey, let’s do that.”

Other visions for the group involve the long term. “I guess we get that from Dad,” Michael points out. “We’re not looking at next year. We’re looking at 20 years down the road. It’s his analogy of *planting trees for someone else to sit under*.”

For now, Connie and Claude are still enjoy-

ing the journey. “We’ve always loved it,” Connie explained. “I told the Lord a long time ago that I’d do whatever He put there for me to do. At this point, I could go home and stay. I would miss this, but I could be happy at home. I don’t want to (stop) until it’s the right time, because of the boys and Kim. I don’t know that I want them to stay on the road. They’ve been on the road a long time. I’m not saying (they should) give up the road completely, but if they can do something in the ministry, that would be good. They’re talented. I know they can. I’d like to see them carry the name on. They can sing good as a trio.”

Claude added, “For whomever God has prepared next, I hope they continue to travel to new places and encourage new people. I pray they never become close-minded or faint of heart and continue to share the Good News.”

The fans of the Hoppers also hope that there are many generations of this beloved family to keep sharing the Good News through their music. At SGN Scoops, we too hope to see many carry on the name of ‘America’s Favorite Family of Gospel Music!’

For more information on the Hoppers and their tour schedule, visit <http://www.thehoppers.com>



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# “IT CAME TO PASS”

By Dr. Jeff Steele



In Luke’s gospel account we have the longest of the four gospels and the most thorough. In its pages we find the story of the Good Samaritan, the ten lepers that Jesus healed (out of which only *one* returned to say thanks), the Prodigal Son, the rich man and Lazarus, and the two men on the road to Emmaus. Of course we also read of the Lord’s death, burial and resurrection which sealed His purpose which Luke also reveals for us and that was to seek and to save that which was lost!

It is possible that some of the most stirring words Luke wrote are found in Luke 2:1 where in the first words of that chapter he pens this: “And it came to pass...” In the original language that line is actually, “Then it happened!” Any lady out there who has ever carried a child for nine months *knows* the excitement of those words. I guess about the maddest I ever saw my wife was the time when the doctor told her to come for the next visit with her suitcase because “after the exam this time we are going to admit you to the hospital.” That was on a Friday. Instead, when she got there he informed her that the hospital was indeed filled to capacity. He said “If you were in labor they would find a place for you” but since she was to be induced she would have to wait until Monday. Needless to say I spent that weekend watching movies I never had heard of starring folks I didn’t even know existed.

It doesn’t matter whether we are in the middle of the battle, burden or situation. Whether it is sickness, heartache, or financial strain, a problem with our kids, talk going on about us, confusion or some lack that we are experiencing. It could be a midnight we are facing, a valley or just a place that we don’t want to be the promise of scripture is that it won’t last forever. Scripture says when we pass through the fire we will not be

burned. When we go through the flood we will not be overtaken. The “bad stuff” will *not* last forever. It did *not* come to stay; it came to *pass!*

The Children of Israel were in bondage under Pharaoh for over 400 years but that was not their ultimate destiny. It came to an end; it came to “pass.” They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years but the plan for their lives was not to be a band of wandering, desert-dwelling nomads. Their wandering ended when they inherited the precious plains of the Promised Land! The wandering they endured to get there didn’t come to stay. It was not their destiny and it came to “pass!”

They looked for a messiah for hundreds of years to come and deliver them. Every sacrifice they made pointed to the day when Messiah would someday come. In Galatians 4:4 Paul writes: “When the fullness of time was come God sent forth His son made of a woman...” Romans 5:6 says, “For when we were yet without strength, IN DUE TIME Christ died for the ungodly.” Here Luke writes to those looking for the fulfillment of this messianic promise and says, “It’s time!” Deliverance has come. God has spoken. “I told you,” He says ... Weeping has endured for a night but now JOY has come in the morning in the form of a Baby in Bethlehem. You wandered, wondered and wept but “unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord!”

**Photo Courtesy of \*CQ\***



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# TRIUMPHANT QUARTET

## AWESOME GOD

By Lorraine Walker



“A great song is a great song, no matter how you slice it.”

Triumphant Quartet is known for having variety in their programs, from flag-waving bluegrass to “Everyday” country to southern hits like “Take It From Me, Meshach.” Many of their albums contain hymns, classic

quartet numbers and the occasional patriotic tune. Their new album, *Awesome God*, adds a flavor to their repertoire that may surprise some of their fans. A quick listen on the group’s BandCamp page and you will be brought into the courts of Heaven with Triumphant’s take on Praise and Worship.

Eric Bennett, bass vocalist, says the CD was mostly his idea. "I didn't used to be a fan of Praise and Worship music, mostly because I didn't listen to it," says Bennett. "But, then I saw how it affected my kids and I watched as they worshiped to this music and instantly became a fan. My son, Zac, is Praise and Worship pastor. I have seen how he leads people in this music and it is great and very worshipful. Now with that being said, I don't like all of it. But, then again, I don't like all southern gospel either!" Bennett

laughs.

Triumphant enlisted the assistance of Mike Speck, who is an ordained minister and Associate Pastor of Worship, leader of Mike Speck Ministries and well-known arranger of choral music. "We knew if we were going to try something like this, we needed to involve the best, a guy that knows how to arrange Praise and Worship, put some old hymns in, and make it sound smooth. We knew we needed Mike Speck." Bennett continues, "We have seen him lead worship at different events using this music and how people responded to it. He is the best!" Aided by Jeff Stice and Danny Brown, the Quartet took their time with this album to make it just right.

"As a group we enjoy trying new things and attempting new directions," explains Clayton Inman, lead singer for Triumphant. "Many of the songs are ones that we sing constantly at our home church. People are familiar with these. They are well-written songs that glorify our Savior. We approached Mike Speck about the idea because he is, in our opinion, well known for his choral arranging and many of the songs on our recording can be found in his choral books. His direction was phenomenal! For the record, we are a Southern Gospel group; just one that enjoys expanding our borders."

Audience response to the border-expanding Awesome God has been overwhelmingly positive, says Bennett. "First of all, most people don't even know it is mostly



Praise and Worship. A great song is a great song, no matter how you slice it. There are some great songs on this CD. They don't necessarily sound like Praise and Worship. And let's face it; you put a bass singer on it and it Southern Gospel's it right up," laughs Bennett. "These songs seem to be ministering to people. That's our goal." Lottie Squires of WCKB 780am says, "You scared me when you said 'Praise And Worship', but I loved it! I like big ballads anyway (throwback to my Journey/REO Speedwagon/Styx days) and Triumphant does them so well. I'd have liked one or two more up-tempo songs, but 'Put On A Crown' was a great one to mix in with the slower songs. I really liked 'Sing for You,' which I remember from the Melody Masters, and the 'O Happy Day Medley' would be a good radio release."

Scotty Inman, baritone vocalist, says that the song "This Blood" is getting the greatest response from their audience. "It's a powerful song, with a powerful arrangement, sung by a powerful tenor singer." One of this writer's favorites, "I Can Only Imagine," is also included on the new album and is performed by Scotty Inman. "When we were with Louise Mandrell at her theatre, she requested we sing this song during our performances there, since it was a song that many knew even if they really weren't aware of Christian music at all. The only thing is we never recorded the song. However, we still get requests for it from those who remember us back

in the theatre days. So it's kind of neat that we found a spot for it on this CD where it fits so well." Inman adds, "It means a lot to me, as a Christian, for the fact I have loved ones who have go on to Heaven and I have the promise that one day I will get to see them again."

"I think my favorite song on the project is "We Will Remember," says Bennett. "The words to this song just touch me. I think remembering what Christ has done in your life in the past is vital to how you live in the future. When I remember how I was lost, deserving of hell, with no hope, and then to remember how He gave Himself a ransom for me and then even pursued me; I am completely overwhelmed! He chased me down, caught me and saved me. Now I hope I am found guilty of chasing Him the rest of my life."

Tenor vocalist David Sutton says, "My favorite song to perform is the song 'This Blood.' I had first heard it done by Preston Wood Baptist Church choir out of Dallas, TX. They perform the song on You-Tube. When I heard the song performed, I literally sat there with chills running up and down my arms and my eyes watering. This song really ministered to me and I knew it was a



very anointed song. When I choose to sing a song, if it moves me hopefully I can relay the song to the audience to where it does the same for them. Every time I sing 'This Blood,' I think to myself that when I came into this world I brought nothing with me. Jesus Christ still loved me enough to go to the Cross and shed His blood for me. Because of this, I may have everlasting life and He will live in my life and work through me. This song shares the Gospel from the first word to the last word. I'm so thankful for 'This Blood,' the precious blood of Jesus."

Sutton calls himself a Southern Gospel Quartet 'purist' and explains it this way. "A good lyric goes a long

way with me. Whether it is Southern Gospel, Bluegrass Gospel, Contemporary Gospel, Praise and Worship Gospel etc., God's word and His story remain the same no matter what. I love all styles of music and listen to different styles of music. Southern Gospel is what I was raised in and is what I love and will always love. I will never change. I like the fact that Triumphant has this CD to share with our audience because it gives us variety to pull two or three songs from it each night. A lot of our audience goes to churches that offer these songs. I've been amazed each night when one of these songs start, how people start singing along and start worshipping. So again, a good lyric does go a long way with most people!"

Bennett tells us, "Most of Southern Gospel is horizontal, that is, singing about God and telling others about Him. Praise and Worship usually means more vertical, singing to Him." Clayton Inman agrees with this as he explains why he enjoys the song, "We Will Remember". "There are many who cannot remember the actual time or date that they got saved," says Inman. "As for me, the date is sketchy. What I do remember was how I felt and when He entered my heart and saved me.

The last verse says it all:

"I still remember the day You saved me  
The day I heard You call out my name  
You said You loved me, would never leave me  
And I've never been the same." (words and music by Tommy Walker, 2005.)

Bennett concludes, "To me, it's not about Praise and Worship verses Hymns or Praise and Worship verses Southern Gospel. It's more about the theology or doctrine being sound, the message being consistent with Scripture and then, people enjoying it. Hopefully all that is present in every song Triumphant sings."

For more on Triumphant and their new album, Awesome God, click on to <http://www.triumphantquartet.com/lyrics.html>

What Fans Are Saying About Awesome God  
Public Comments from Facebook and Twitter  
Sandy Taylor Martin: I just listened to Awesome God for the first time this morning. I have always loved Praise and Worship music (almost as much as Southern Gospel). Triumphant's combination of their wonderful harmonies with this music is also awesome. Thanks



Just listened to the new album! One of my absolute favorites! @TheTriumphantQt #AwesomeGod @SGMRadioLorain @TheTriumphantQt Awesome God has a different feel to it, but it's still the Triumphant Qt. you know and love! Great cd!

guys - it is wonderful. Everyone else, buy this CD!!!!"

Diana Brantley: Y'all were terrific last night and I love the songs from Awesome God! Love you guys!!

Quarteto Getsemani: Just purchase the new cd "Awesome God." Despite being in a language different from ours, but it's amazing how we can feel the presence of Jesus in every chord, every note. The Triumphant Quartet is a great inspiration for us. We admire how much you exercise music ministry. Here on earth we may never have the opportunity to sing together on stage. But one of our great hopes for the future, is that we are sure that together we will praise the Master in a big beautiful group with millions of voices. Our prayer is that God will continue to use you in a special way. Thanks for the friendship here on instagram and also on facebook.

Special hugs Scotty Inman. God bless you.

Charity Lyman: Really like the new CD guys!! Eric Bennett, O The Blood has been going through my head for days:) Clayton Inman, great job on I Will Rise! And Days of Elijah is a new favorite too. So many good songs. Excellent job!

Never knew a banjo would work in "Days of Elijah" until I heard @TheTriumphantQt cut of it. Lovin the new album!

I should suggest that our choir sings "Happy Day" like @TheTriumphantQt on their new cd. LOVE this album!" Listened to @TheTriumphantQt @mrleadsinger @ScottyInman "Awesome God" on the way home from Terrell.... Loved it!





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## *“Can You Handle The Truth?”*

**Music Unites Us or Divides Us**

By David Staton

Music is a powerful tool when you're conveying any message. Advertisers and television shows have known that a catchy jingle or theme song can make a product or television show something that you'll never forget. I remember being at a television taping and in between takes, they would have a comedian come out and keep the audience engaged. During one of those segments, the comedian was having trouble getting the audience's attention so he stopped and sang one line: "Here's a story" and immediately, in time and unison, the audience sang, "...of a lovely lady." Everyone knew the theme song for the popular television show, "The Brady Bunch." Music is powerful!

In the Old Testament there is much said about music and how it was used in worship, to entertain and calm kings, even how it was used in battle. In the Psalms, David listed so many different instruments used to convey the songs he had written. As a matter of fact, I have never read where a

particular instrument should not be used. From what I gather from David's writings, if you can make a joyful sound with it, use it!

Also, from what I have read, there are only two things that God requires when it comes to music. I hesitate to even say it, but it is absolutely true. He likes it good and He likes it loud. Yes, I said it. So for all of you folks who have ever put your fingers in your ears because the decibel level got to 85 at a gospel concert, I'm not sure what you're going to do in heaven because from what I understand, around the throne of God, it's going to be good and it's going to be loud! Now let me say this; I don't like a loud megaphone-sounding sound system where the annoying frequencies are pushed to an aggravating level. But if the sound is good from a technical audio standpoint and the artist is really talented, crank it up!

I know everyone has their preference on volume levels and artists must be sensitive to whom they are playing. But aside from that, musical style is the biggest source of division in churches today. You have your praise and worship lovers who won't listen to anything unless it's coming from a college student holding an acoustic guitar. That is what they've seen on television and unless it resembles Chris Tomlin's latest music, it's not hip enough to hold their attention.

Then on the other side, you have your southern gospel music lovers who will not listen to anything unless there are four matching suits on stage, even if it's 102 degrees and the concert is outside. There is a huge gap between the two and both sides seem stubborn to even tolerate the other.

So, what style of music is pleasing to God's ears? Well when all else fails, turn to the Word of God and find the answer. In Revelation, John was given a glimpse of heaven. He describes what will happen on around the throne of God when we get there. He talks about the singing and music that will be going on. Now from all that he describes, it doesn't sound like heaven is going to be like Bonnaroo or CMA Week here in Nashville. There will not be a Southern Gospel stage for all of the quartets, no bluegrass stage for all of my bluegrass friends, and no Praise and Worship stage for the artists played on K-LOVE. Hillsong and Brooklyn Tabernacle will not have their own stages in heaven. There is only one stage and that is the throne of God! There is only *One* who will be receiving our applause and praise.

So we know Who is on stage in heaven and that we will *all* be singing to Him, but what will it sound like? If you read Revelation, the answer to the question about musical style is as clear as the crystal river that is described there. John heard it, so he heard what it's going to sound like. Oh, I hear the pages right now as many of you are grabbing your Bibles so you can support what you think it's going to sound like. I kind of wish this was a two-part article and see how many of you can find the answer, but since it's not, I will tell you.

The answer is, John never even mentions what style of music will be around the Throne of God on that day. Yes, you got it. Musical style that is so important to the church here is evidently *so* not important there that it's not even mentioned. He caught some of the lyrics of the songs so you know he was listening; yet musical style was not even important enough for him to write down.

So for everyone who just knew that God was going to choose your musical preference, get over yourself! The two things we do know, is that it's going to be loud and it's going to be good! In fact, I can guarantee you that it will be better than anything we've ever heard. My point is that what we want will not matter. There will be no one trying to find the soundman so you can ask him to turn it down. If you think that heaven and the throne of God will revolve around you, you are terribly misled. We will revolve around

the throne of God, where the light from that throne will illuminate all of heaven. Do you think anyone will walk away disappointed?

I was talking to a pastor not long ago. His church is really growing and they tried doing a contemporary worship service and a traditional worship service. While each seemed to be fine with the people, something always bothered him. Why was it that the young, enthusiastic, on fire for Jesus crowd would not or could not stand next to their parents and grandparents who were pillars of wisdom, patriarchs in their families and church, and worship together? After all, many of those young guns would not even be in the church had their parents not personally led them to the Lord and faithfully instilled truth into their lives.

Why is it we can't all just worship like we will in heaven? I am going to tell you what I shared with that pastor. Whenever you put a descriptive word in front of "Worship", it is no longer worship. The descriptive word describes what I like and what my preferences are in appearance and style of music. Do you see how the focus went from worship to me? I'm going to quote a lyric from two songs. One is very traditional and one is a more modern praise and worship song, but we need to hear them both.

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."* [Words & Music: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922 . First published in *Glad Songs*, by the British National Sunday School Union.]

*"I'm going back to the heart of worship 'cause it's all about You, yes it's all about You Jesus. I'm sorry Lord for the things I've made it, 'cause it's all about You, yes it's all about You Jesus."* [Words & Music: Matt Redman, copyright 1999 Thankyou Music.]

Can the traditional and contemporary worship walls ever come down so that there is just *WORSHIP*?

I just saw an article that focused on what the millennial generation wants when it comes to a worship experience. It's not necessarily more casual attire or a blacked out stage with theater style seating. First and foremost, if they see a church that argues internally over the style of worship, they will move on. The conflict drives them away and it should. After all, if musical style is a big deal, what are these people going to think when they find out what I'm struggling with in my life?

They are looking for three things in a worship service. They want the lyrics and the message to be theologically deep, they want the music to be done well regardless of style, and they want it coming from ministers and singers who are real. When all else fails, drop what *we* think it should be and just be real. Do it right and do it real! Praise and worship isn't a musical style, it's a *life style*. THAT should be on a T-shirt!

# Featured Groups for July

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## Ascension Quartet

<http://www.theascensionqt.com>

## Appointed Quartet

<http://www.appointedqt.com>

## Blackwood Brothers Quartet

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

## Bradford Ministries

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

## The Bridgemans

<http://www.thebridgemans.com>

## Divine Mercy

<http://www.divinemercysingers.com>

## 4 His Praise Trio

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

## Four The Cross

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

## Full Life Trio

<http://www.fulllifetrio.com>

## GladHeart

<http://www.gladheartquartet.com>

## Gospel Messengers

<http://www.gospelmessengersministries.org>

## Hearts Desire

<http://www.heartsdesireministries.com>

## The Helmsmen

<http://www.thenewhelmsmen.com>

## The Heritage Quartet

<http://www.theheritagequartet.com>

## The Inmans

<http://www.theinmans.com>

## Jeff Steinberg Ministry Team

<http://www.tinygiant.com>

## Jim Sheldon

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

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<http://www.martinministries.org>

## LeFevre Quartet

<http://www.thelefevrequartet.com>

## Living Fountains

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

## Lumber River Quartet

<http://www.lumberriverministries.com>

## The Masters Men + 1

<http://www.mastersmenquartet.com>

## Masters Promise

<http://www.masterspromise.com>

## Mercy River Quartet

<http://www.mercyriverqt.com>

## One Way Quartet

<http://www.onewayquartet.org>

## Persuaded

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# Silver Dollar City's D.A. Callaway

## The Man Behind The Southern Gospel Picnic

by Lorraine Walker

Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri, is a hotbed of musical entertainment, especially during the warm summer months. From cloggers and Country music, World Festival artists and the Bluegrass & BBQ Festival, to the Southern Gospel Picnic and An Old Time Christmas, Silver Dollar City fills the air with song for much of the year.

Branson is known as a vacation destination for many across the U.S. and Canada, and much of its success is due to the rise of Silver Dollar City. What began as tours in a spectacular cave is now a 100-acre park open April through December, featuring rides, restaurants, shops and 12 stage venues. As of the beginning of 2014, 71 million guests have come to experience the 1880's theme park, many of them enjoying one of seven festivals and events.

The Southern Gospel Picnic, August 22 through September 1 of this year, is always well attended. America's top Southern Gospel artists perform, with hundreds of performances from Grammy winners, Dove Award winners and top gospel acts, including: The Hoppers, Booth Brothers, Tribute Quartet, The Whisnants, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Legacy Five and more. There are Southern Gospel

Nights Concerts each evening and of course the mouthwatering picnic-style foods including the park's famous chicken.

The force behind this event as well as the Bluegrass & BBQ Festival is D.A. Callaway, Event Producer and according to the artists, one of the best concert hosts you can find.

D.A. Callaway schedules all the artists for the stages at Silver Dollar City (SDC) for both

was and still is a great teacher and encourager, but now he focuses on procuring international groups for World Fest." World Fest features artists from across the globe each spring.

Callaway himself is a musician, which gives him a good foundation for communicating with visiting artists. He is able to anticipate and provide for the needs of those he has booked for the stages at SDC. All of the



the Bluegrass and the Southern Gospel events, researching and booking all year long to provide the very best in entertainment for the attendees. Callaway began at SDC over 20 years ago. "In 1992 I was invited to assist Rex Burdette, who was the talent buyer for Silver Dollar City. He

artists we talked to can't say enough about the great hospitality.

"We enjoy that event every year!" says Michael Hopper of The Hoppers, regarding the Southern Gospel Picnic. "The massive crowd is always enthu-

siastic & ready to participate. Thanks to all the staff at Silver Dollar City for putting on a first class event.”

Gary Casto of Tribute Quartet, says, “Silver Dollar City and all of the staff are a class act. Knowing D.A. Callaway is in charge, Southern Gospel Picnic will always be one of Gospel Music’s greatest events!”

“D.A. Callaway is one of the kindest men around,” says Scott Fowler of Legacy Five. “He is always very gracious and accommodating; a very easy man to work for. The best thing about singing at Silver Dollar City is you get to sing to 5,000 people. The only other time you sing to more people at once is at NQC!”

The Williamsons are also huge fans of Callaway and SDC. Donnie Williamson tells us, “I realize you are featuring D.A. Callaway in this article, but even if you weren’t I’d say the same thing. What I enjoy most about working at Silver Dollar City, aside from the obvious fact that it’s the greatest place on earth, is the way we are treated by Mr. Callaway and his staff. Even if we’re just working one day we are still treated like part of the family. I don’t think for one minute that anyone performing during the Southern Gospel Picnic is treated any better than The Williamsons. We are so honored to be included in one of the greatest Gospel music events in America.”

Perhaps one of the reasons that Callaway and his staff treat the Southern Gospel artists so well is that he remembers what it was like to travel the roads singing Gospel music. “My mother was a good singer, and

did the alto part in a gospel quartet, so we attended ‘singings’ in the Springfield, MO area,” recalls Callaway. “She taught her four sons to sing harmony parts. We became a little kid’s quartet, suits and all. Some of my earliest memories are singing in church and at revivals.”



D.A. Callaway knows who the public wants to see and he is able to obtain the top talent in the industry for The Southern Gospel Picnic every year. Callaway says, “The most popular artists maintain a heavy schedule, of course. But, we can usually find a day or two for the artists we really want... Artists find a way to go where the fans are. There are a great many gospel music lovers in the heartland, and our guests are hungry for the music. We just don’t get

as much of it as the folks in the southern and eastern states.”

Brian Free and Assurance will be singing at Echo Hollow this year and Brian says that for 28 years he’s been enjoying Silver Dollar City. “D.A. is a first class professional and is always a joy to work with. He has al-

ways treated my group and me with the utmost kindness and respect. They are very blessed to have Mr. Callaway as a part of the park. I look forward to working with him for many more years.”

“We’ve worked the Southern Gospel Picnic many years now and we always get so excited at the growth,” says Sheri Easter of Jeff and Sheri Easter. “It seems that every year we break ours or another artist’s record capacity crowds; it’s

awesome to see such continual growth in this industry! Jeff and I love the people that attend and the folks at Silver Dollar City really know how to make you feel special. D.A. is a huge part of that hospitality! From our first meeting, he made us feel so at home and he always goes the extra mile to attend to our every need, even simple things like making sure our daughter, Maura gets a chance to ride and experience the park. SDC is a family and they make our family

feel like a part of theirs!”

Jonathan Wilburn says, “I have been coming to sing there for many years, first with my family The Wilburns, Gold City and now with my son as Wilburn and Wilburn. It is always a highlight of the year for us. It is one of the largest gatherings of Gospel Music lovers, plus the hospitality is the best! We love it and DA is the backbone of this event!”



“D.A. Callaway and the staff at SDC are always so gracious to Soul’d Out,” says Bryan Hutson. “D.A. always comes to our performances, visits and asks if there’s anything else we need while we’re in the park. He has helped so many new groups by giving them a place to perform and expand their audience and share their music. I consider DA a friend to Soul’d Out.”

“We have been to SDC several times,” says Susan Whisnant of popular family group The Whisnants. “I love seeing all the people that love Southern Gospel Music. They are there because they want to be! We can’t wait. Also, the staff is incredible!”

“I love all of our visiting

groups, and there’s something special about them all,” says Callaway. “It’s a thrill to see the artists arrive in the parking lot to load in. I can’t name a favorite; there are just so many fine people in the music business. From the singers, musicians, technicians, and SDC crew, we truly serve God through serving others. That’s what keeps us going.” After all these years, Callaway doesn’t seem to have lost his enthusiasm for the business. “We never go to work, we only go to play. I like to get to know and love the fans and the artists. Together we lift each other up.” Callaway’s personal goal is, “to make the best use of the gift of life, to look past problems and trust God for resolutions.”

Callaway shares one of his favorite stories with us: “The Freemans’ bus would not start one evening, as they were getting ready to hit the road. We had a prayer circle of staff members at the back of the bus and a can of starting fluid. When Darrell hit the starter, that engine fired up and covered us all in black smoke. It may seem silly, but that’s a great memory.”

When asked what Silver Dollar City and Branson have that other places don’t have, Callaway answers, “That’s a great question. The Herschend Family owns Silver Dollar City and I know that they want to make every decision as if Jesus was in the room. In fact, He is present. What could be better than that?” Callaway adds, “Branson is one tank of gas away from a huge population base. Motel rooms are very reasonably priced. There are several great eateries, and many wonderful attractions.

There is no gambling in Branson, either. We, as a community, make every effort to honor God, celebrate patriotism, and offer wholesome choices.”

“We try hard to be hospitable and genuine toward the fans and artists alike. We are in the business of creating lasting memories. We try to have fun every day and most folks can relate to that.” Those attending Silver Dollar City and the Southern Gospel Picnic, both artists and fans alike, can expect to also have fun and create lasting memories. And as Callaway says, if Jesus is present in the middle of a theme park, what could be better than that?

**For more information on the 2014 Southern Gospel Picnic and other Silver Dollar City events, log on to: <http://www.silverdollarcity.com/>**

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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

## Riley Harrison Clark

BY ERIN STEVENS

No matter where you grow up, what job you have, or what music you listen to, when God puts a calling on your life, nothing and no one can stand in your way. That is just the case with powerhouse tenor, Riley Harrison Clark of Tribute Quartet. Take a few moments to hear straight from this tenderhearted man of God. Take it away, Riley...

*Erin: For the readers who don't know your background, why don't you tell about how you came to be Tribute's tenor?*

Riley: I've been singing since I was 12; at that age, I began vocal coaching with Steve Hurst. At 13, I attended his music school; it was there I met the Tribute guys. I had a few lessons with the guys and when Brian Alvey (their former tenor) came off the road, my name was brought to them. On a Wednesday I was on my face at 2:00am pouring my heart out to God, trying to plead with Him to move me forward in the area He was calling me. At 10:00am that same day, Gary Casto gave me a call and asked if I would be interested in joining Tribute. It was one of those *God moments* that, even if I wanted to say no, it would have been impossible. June 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 will be four years since I first sang with Tribute.

*Erin: When you came into the industry, you were the consummate **newbie**. What were some key things that took a lot of getting used to?*

Riley: 1. Sleeping in. Working back home, I was always up early. When I got on the bus, I quickly realized that everyone sleeps in. I'm still getting used to that, and

generally with no success. 2. At first, when we would walk into events, I was taken back that I was not only in the same place with people I looked up to, but that I was actually doing the same thing.

*Erin: While still being in that newlywed stage of life, and recently becoming a daddy, along with traveling full-time, how do you juggle all three roles?*

Riley: It begins with constantly reminding yourself that God has called you at this time, for this season, to be where you are at because He wants to use you. It



Also takes an incredibly loving, supportive wife that understands the call of God, and wants her husband to be in the center of God's will. Can I say that it's easy? Not at all. There are times I want to stay home because of how I miss Megan and Colbin, but it goes back to the first point I made. I am called to sing, and I know I am where I am for a purpose. As for the little guy, it is rather tough to miss out on his everyday adventures; but thank goodness for technology that allows me to see him, even though I may be in a different state or country.

*Erin: What is the most peculiar thing a fan has ever said to you?*

Riley: (This is for you, Morgan Easter) One year during Singing In the Sun, a sweet lady walked up to me, and just said, "I really like your ears." Surprising, since they were red and peeling from sunburn. Besides that, I didn't realize ears were a feature that got much attention!

*Erin: Favorite aspect of road life, and least favorite? (double whammy question - go.)*

Riley: Favorite: waking up at Wal-Mart and being in a different part of the country every morning. Least favorite: waking up at Wal-Mart and being in a different part of the country every morning.

*Erin: Which song do you sing each night that you consider your testimony and why?*

Riley: Recently we put "God on the Mountain" on our *Hit Replay Again* album. If there is something I could say to anyone, it is that no matter what is going on, where you have been, where you are at, or where you are headed, God is *always* faithful. If you believe in what the word of God says, then find rest in the assurance that He will always be God, and that He will always be faithful.

*Erin: A must-ask question among all Gospel singers: what's your hands down, can't live without, favorite food?*

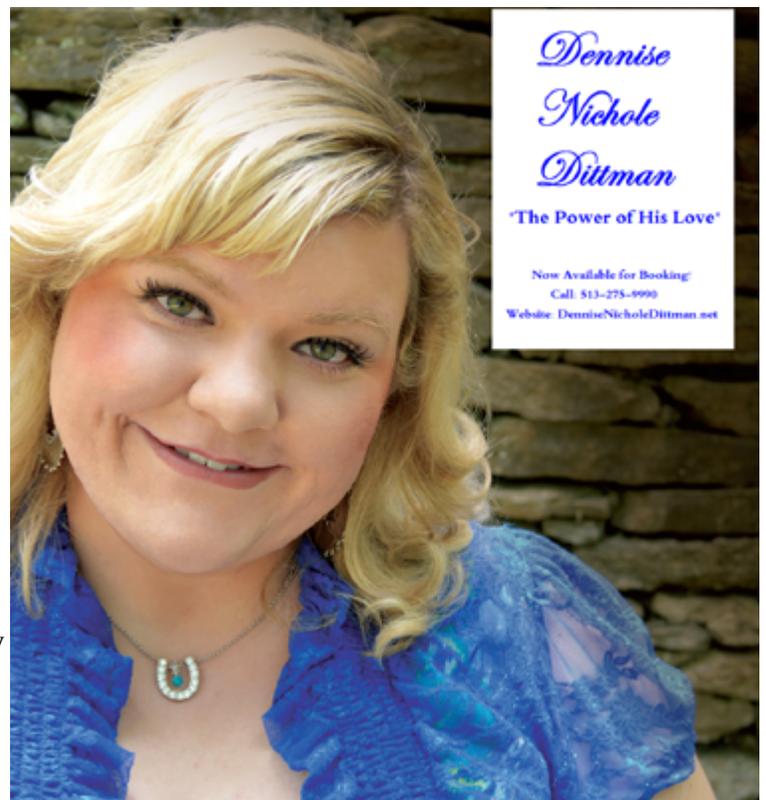
Riley: Hot dogs, pot roast and Ranch dressing. Anthony will make a pot roast on the bus, and there is no doubt that I will eat 70% of what is in that crock-pot. As for restaurants, hands down, IN-N-OUT BURGER.

*Erin: How would you encourage those looking up to you as a role model in these crazy, mixed up days we are living in?*

Riley: Get planted in the Word of God. Stay focused on what it says. Never think you are too small to be used by God. Do your best to know what it is that He wants with you and for your life. Don't stop until you reach your goals and once you get there, never let the devil discourage you because it is God that called you. And if He has called you, then you are carrying out His plan, and that one needs to be carried out 'til the end.

Riley would also like me to add that he has made it thus far largely due to the guidance he has received from his parents. What an outstanding privilege and blessing to have such a strong support system within the family unit. Needless to say, the Clarks raised a great man to carry out the message of the Gospel. Thank you, Riley for sharing from your heart with the readers today. Until next month, Scoops fans...

*And that's my take on it.*



# Red Roots Appears at Creation Festival North East 2014

By Natalie Taylor of Red Roots



Creation Fest is a Christian Contemporary Music Festival appropriately described as “A Tribute to our Creator.” It was so cool driving up seeing thousands of people, tents, campers and booths surrounding the stages. I could hear as we drove up an indie rock band performing on the very stage we were setting up at, and seeing the high energy of the performance and the crowd’s response was super encouraging. The crowd was craving what each different artist was bringing to the table. It was so cool to see! Knowing that we were going to be the first group to represent the country groups that day, I was jumping out of the vehicle to join in on the buzz.

We had a smooth sound check and our drummer, who just got back from playing with a rock band earlier that day, arrived after. He had a purple and blue Mohawk, so us redheaded, country girls fit in a little more. “Straight Shooter” was the start off of our set. It was a great icebreaker song because Nika has a driving guitar solo and riffs and Nicole brings out her electric banjo. Hopefully, the crowd’s first impression was that we were a blend of rock and country. A lot of kids our age are looking for someone. We want them to look for a spouse who’s got God in their sights, and that’s who we call a “Straight Shooter.” The next song “All of my Life” has a pretty similar feel, and the lyrics say every-



one is waiting all of his/her life to find love like God's and He's offering it right now to everyone willing to except it.

I then introduced the band and cleared up the look-a-like confusion. Sometimes I forget to mention we are triplets. We then slowed down things with the song "If I Could." This song gave me a chance to hop off the bass and go to the mandolin. Nicole started off saying how we wrote this song about a friend of ours



who sang in the praise band at church with us, but she lived a totally different life on the weekends. We grew apart thinking she just thought we were boring, but later she came to us saying she was miserable living the life she was living and wanted to come back to God. This song screams out that we wish we could change her or even force her to get right, but only Jesus Christ can change her life if she will let him. The next song "Beautiful" was an encouragement to all saying God can literally make everything beautiful if you are willing to let Him. "One More Night" then transitioned the tables a little. It is actually a cover of one our favorite songs in the 90's, and the audience seemed to groove with the beat of it. The drummer really gets to show off on this one.

"Great Big Yes" was the second to last song we performed. It was cool to see the audience's response when the verse and chorus started out slow and quiet saying, "Is anybody out there? Does anybody know me at all? Does anybody hear me?" Then at the end of the chorus, a big guitar chord and Nika said, "The answer is a "Great Big Yes!" Everyone we sing to, we want him/



her to take away from the concert that there is someone out there. Everyone is trying to fill up and bring purpose to his/her life in some way. It doesn't come by setting a goal for yourself. It's not an earthly relationship you have. It's not a successful job you can have. It's not how you look or even how much money you have. It's true love that only comes from God who gives you that "Great Big Yes" that He cares about you and wants to use you for His glory. In turn you will have peace and comfort knowing you are working for His will and glory. That's the only way to true satisfaction. We feel like the luckiest girls in the world to sing about and talk about this to audiences across the country, and it really



makes us have even more fun performing!

The last song was where I got to bring out my violin (well, I guess you can say fiddle if you want). Nicole brought out her banjo, and Nika kicked off her electric guitar. It's fun for us to be sassy on this song and say, "You can't smooth talk a Christian Girl, cause she won't loose her rep for the whole wide world. She's lookin' for a diamond, not some plastic pearl. You can't smooth talk a Christian Country Girl." It's a time we get to show our Country Music Pride and say that we are extremely proud to be Christians. We are not ashamed, and we think it's actually super cool to be Christians.

After getting off of the stage and packing up, I went to our merchandise table to talk. I noticed a long line was formed. At first I said that I would go back and help pack up everything because no one was at our table. But then I was told to sit over there so I could talk to everyone. I thought that line was for another group. I couldn't believe there were so many people out there

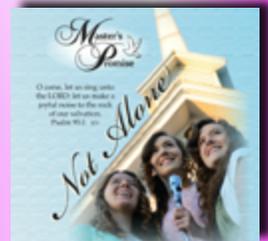
that liked the country music and were encouraged by the lyrics and message. I was thankful that we could stay true to our calling and still have an audience that would receive it. I love seeing little girls saying they are "Christian Country Girls" and guys saying they are "Straight Shooters." It's so cool to be blessed by the fans and knowing they are walking the Christian life with you and are on the same team.

Leaving was tough because besides wanting to see so many respected artists perform, I didn't want to leave the passionate atmosphere there. Over a hundred thousand people at the festival were paying "A Tribute to the Creator" over a four-day period. It was amazing to be in the middle of that experience. I definitely will remember it and be thankful for the opportunity to perform.

For more on Red Roots visit <http://www.theredroots.com/>

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# *The Willbanks*

## Music With a Message

By Dixie Phillips

Every year at the National Quartet Convention, the gospel groups not scheduled to perform on the main stage are granted tremendous opportunities through showcases. When these talented artists sing in their assigned showcase, they are judged and the winner of each showcase gets to sing one song on the main stage. Then out of the winning artists, there is another competition where they are judged again, and that winner gets to perform a second time on the main stage. Gospel music fans who attended NQC last year will never forget one of the winners of that stiff competition: The Willbanks, a family group from Houston, Texas. Hearts were stolen and souls blessed as the talented group sang a rousing rendition of "Psalm 23." There was no doubt The Willbanks deserved to win. Many ministry doors have opened since their stunning performance. They were and still are the talk of 2013 NQC (see You Tube link below). Fans wanted to know more about this up

and coming group and SGN Scoops is happy to deliver.

The group consists of Terry and Rene' Wilbanks, their daughter Monica, and her husband, Jason Mathews. Terry and Rene' have been deeply involved in their churches for years, establishing various groups and choirs, but 13 years ago God called their family to full time ministry. God has blessed their step of faith.

Terry's musical training began when he was 12. He took piano lessons in his hometown of Flint, Michigan. His teacher was pleased as he progressed rapidly through the John Thompson Series. As Terry's talent grew, so did his love for different piano styles. "I fell in love with Floyd Cramer's piano style. In no time at all I learned to play the hit song "Last Date" and several other popular songs." During those early years Terry also took lessons from his church pianist. "This is where I learned to play gospel music, but then we moved to a new home in a nearby city. I started to neglect my musi-

cal training, because I had new hobbies—hunting and fishing.”

In 1973, Terry met Rene’ and they married later the same year. Rene’ had always loved to sing in her home church and she convinced Terry to get back into music. Not wanting to disappoint his new bride, he quickly learned to play the songs she sang. The couple insists, “That’s where our long career in gospel music began.”

the family moved to Pearland, Texas, where Terry became the Music Minister at the First Church of Pearland. In 2001, Terry resigned his position in Pearland and began touring full time with his family.

Rene’ has had a love for music for as long as she can remember. She always sang at church, starting in the children’s choir, then moving on to solos at her local church in Mt. Morris, Michigan. She started piano lessons when she was 10 and continued until she married



After studying music at a Bible college in Stockton, California, Terry returned to Flint and assumed the position of Music Minister in 1977. Soon after returning Terry, Rene’, and Terry’s brother, Greg, started the Terry Wilbanks Trio. Rene’s cousin, Karen, replaced Terry’s brother a few years later and she remained with the group until 1990.

At the end of 1990, Terry resigned as Music Minister and the family began their ministry as full-time music evangelists, traveling throughout the United States, performing concerts and music workshops along with their two children, Monica and Terry II. In 1996,

Terry. She was involved in chorale and choir when she was in school.

Soon after the birth of Terry and Rene’s daughter, Monica, they moved to Stockton, California, to attend Bible college, where Rene’ became involved in Chorale. When they returned home to Flint, Michigan, she continued to sing solos, directing the adult choir, and the children’s choirs at their home church and then again singing and directing the choir at the church in Pearland, Texas, where they were full-time Ministers of Music.

Monica developed a love for singing as a child.



Under her father and mother’s skillful directing, she sang in children’s choir and youth choir. She was 14 when The Wilbanks began touring. Monica said, “I’ve always had a great love for music and when my family started touring, I felt from the beginning that I would always be involved in some aspect of music ministry from that point on.”

Monica attended Indiana Bible College where she was privileged to tour with a 50-voice Chorale and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Worship Studies. During this time she developed a passion for songwriting. She remains the principle songwriter of the group.

Jason’s musical influence started in his family’s small church in Levelland, Texas, where his father was the song leader. He has fond memories of traveling to visit his grandparents, and hearing his grandfather pick an old 60s’ model black Sears’ Silvertone guitar in the whitewashed church they attended in Burleson, Texas. “That guitar is one of my most prized possessions as a memorial to my musical heritage.” Guitar and piano lessons, high school band, and a stint in the Texas Boys’

Choir all paved the way for his musical journey. His family moved during his senior year of high school to help plant a church. During this time he learned to play the bass guitar. “Playing bass in church and singing in the choir was all I ever envisioned as my musical endeavors, but then I met Monica on a chance weekend trip to Houston. That meeting changed everything!” After their marriage in 2001, he joined the group. The couple were typical “weekend warriors,” working full time jobs during the week for two years and traveling every weekend until the summer of 2003 when they resigned their jobs and traveled with the group on a full time basis.

The Wilbanks attribute their unique and versatile sound to their love for music. Terry said, “We love music! So when you hear us sing, you will hear a diverse influence from Southern Gospel to Motown to Jazz. So many different artists like Dottie Rambo, Andre’ Crouch, Bill Gaither, and The Winans have had an impact on our music over the years. We believe there really is no music without a message. We feel honored to

be called to deliver the greatest message in the world—the message of Salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! For us each song is important. Every word, every note, and every rhythm goes into the story in the song. Every song should minister the Good News of Jesus Christ. We hope the audience enjoys listening to them as much as we did creating them. Our prayer is that the songs minister to God and

it. “Throughout the process we wrestled with what would be fitting for the title cut. As we were seeing the project begin to wrap up and decided on the title, the lyrics of that song had become even more fitting than ever before considering the current state the world is in: *‘When we watch evil called good and those who seek righteousness are scorned. We know that our redemption draweth nigh and our King of Kings reigns for-*



to the listeners.”

When asked what The Wilbanks’ mission statement for their group was, Terry replied, “First and foremost our goal is that every song we sing be a song of worship to the one true God. We hope our music offers a message of hope and God’s overwhelming love for the listener. While we strive for excellence and certainly believe God deserves our best, we want every concert to be more about hearts being drawn to God and less about someone coming out to a performance. Each of us has an interest in a wide variety of music styles. This of course comes through in our music, which we feel, in turn, gives us the opportunity to connect with a broad group of listeners in age, culture, and other variables. We want to convey the Gospel to as many as we can and not be isolated by or to a particular sound.”

Gospel music fans will be delighted with The Wilbanks latest project *He Reigns*. Although the recording process took longer than the group intended, when it was completed, they saw God’s fingerprints all over

*ever’.*”

“Song of Thanksgiving,” The Wilbanks latest radio release, is another song from the project that is getting a great response from a broad audience. Terry Wilbanks said, “If you’re breathing, you can relate to this song. All of us have something to thank God for! While we’ve been privileged to work with some phenomenal producers and musicians, it was Daniel Kinner and Paul “Salvo” Salveson who produced this project, and Joseph Salamida our production coordinator, who really took this project to the next level.”

The Wilbanks’ vibrant faith keeps them grounded. They have never lost their love or concern for the individual. “Large crowds and big venues definitely do not control us. They are fun and exciting but are not the rule of thumb. We can’t become enamored with the thrill of the crowd or the lights. God asks a question in Zachariah 4:10 that points us to a principle of not despising the day of small things: and that day of small things is not a one-time occurrence; it recurs often.”

This group lives what they sing about. After a concert had been unexpectedly cancelled, the group remembered a local pastor had given them his business card during a conference a few years earlier. They contacted the pastor and he invited them to come to his church. When they arrived, they were surprised to see the church was being remodeled. The piano was covered with plastic and drywall dust was everywhere. The seasoned group kept their eyes on Jesus and as they set up their equipment, the discouraged pastor poured out his heart and then felt he was sharing too much. He looked up at them and said, “You don’t need to hear about my troubles.”

When the concert began, there were only eight people in the audience. “We knew our destiny for that night was the pastor and his family. The Lord had given us a divine interruption. He changed our schedules because He wanted us there for that pastor. We sang like there were 8,000 there. Our hearts were ministered to as we watched the Lord strengthen the pastor and his wife through the messages in the songs. Jesus always took time for the one. We must not forget that you cannot get to the masses until you have one.”

Even though the group is on the road most of the year and isn’t able to be really active in their local church, they have a deep love and respect for their home church. Terry and Rene attend First Church of Pearland, Texas, led by Pastor Ken Gurley. Jason and Monica attend Calvary Pentecostal Church of Euless, Texas, led by Pastor Carl McLaughlin. The Wilbanks believe their ministry is an extension of their home churches and do everything within their power to honor the leadership and their congregations as they travel.

Readers can purchase The Wilbanks’ CDs and learn more about The Wilbanks and their touring schedule at [www.wilbankssingers.com](http://www.wilbankssingers.com). Accompaniment tracks and MP3 downloads of their songs can also be found there. A majority of their music is also available on iTunes. Fans can also keep up with them on Twitter @Wilbanks\_Official or on Facebook at The Wilbanks. The Wilbanks will be performing at the *Featured Artist Showcase* on Monday, September 22, 2014 at the National Quartet Convention, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Their performance from NQC 2013 can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0zlsE02Cjc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0zlsE02Cjc).





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# *What is your Scent?*

By Kelly Nelon Clark

Magnolia blossoms and honeysuckle blooms almost immediately take me back to my childhood. For just a moment I can smell their sweet fragrance in my head. My neighbors had a beautiful magnolia tree in their yard and on our way to the creek behind their house the smell of that flower would follow us. I would stop each time to take it in. I had never smelled anything so lovely.

Have you ever thought how the sense of smell has so much value in our life? I mean it brings back so many memories to us. Would life be quite as rich without it?

I can't imagine having to give up my sense of smell. Did you know that a recent study at Rockefeller University states that our noses are far more sensitive than we ever thought? According to the study, researchers determined that we can actually detect more than one-trillion smells. That's a lot of memories!

What are some of the fragrances that you recall? What meaning do they have to you? Here are a few of my life memories:

The sweet honeysuckle has a beautiful smell and also has a sweet taste. I spent many a day in the summer sipping on a honeysuckle.

Something I never drank, and still do not, is coffee. For someone who doesn't drink it I love to smell it and it forever reminds me of being at home with my mom and dad and the percolator every morning. I

woke up every morning to that wonderful smell.

I have always been afraid of shots. My brother and I would go to great lengths as children to avoid them. The smell of alcohol still to this day brings back that fear of the needle. I think I have anxiety attacks just thinking of it.

One of the worst smells is the smell of a skunk. But for me I relate it to my times on the road in the bus. We were always hitting a skunk but the smell does not bring up bad memories but rather good times spent with friends and family. And everyone on the bus hollering out "Skunk!"

The power of scent turns each breath that we take into a puff of the world that's ours alone. It's personal to our memory and to our stories.

We can choose each day how we live before the Lord. What scent will we bring to Him? Will He be ashamed of us or will He be pleased with our lives? I'm praying today that the smell that I bring before the Lord is pleasing and a sweet savor to Him.

"For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish" (II Corinthians 2:14,15).

*Photo Courtesy of tanakawho*

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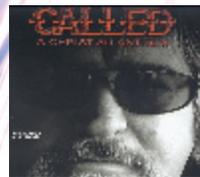
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# SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION'S Hall of Fame



By Marcie Gray

Imagine walking down a hallway filled with familiar faces and voices, some of whom you have listened to since you were a small child, some whom you have met, and perhaps, a few you may be privileged to call friends or family!

Just inside the gates of The Dollywood Theme Park in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee lies a journey through the history of Southern Gospel music, just waiting to be explored.

Established in 1994, and opening its Hall of Fame and Museum doors in 1999, the Southern Gospel Music Association (SGMA) is a professional preservation association of artists, songwriters, industry workers and fans, founded to preserve, protect and promote Southern Gospel Music, its history and heritage. The artists within have dedicated their ministries to delivering a message built around biblical truths and spiritual values, and what a legacy they have left and are still leaving!

It's like homecoming week every time I walk through the SGMA Hall of Fame. As I enter the doorway, the first thing that catches my eye is a shaped note typewriter, surrounded by various song books and a

chalk board with a music staff on it. Originally, Southern Gospel music was sung by quartets, many who used songbooks with notes identified by their shape.

The tour continues as I sit in a church pew and listen to an animatronic quartet singing "Give the World a Smile." There is literally something to look at in every corner as I wander through the museum. A collection of vinyl records, a replica of The Blackwood Brothers' bus, instruments and clothing from legendary artists and collectibles, each having a story of their own to tell, are displayed throughout the museum.

The centerpiece of the museum is the Hall of Fame, where bronzed plaques of legendary faces line the corridor. One hundred and fifty-five faces grace the walls of the corridor. Each individual who is inducted is honored with a plaque that bears their picture and a list of achievements in the Southern Gospel industry.

Danny Jones, Editor of *The Singing News* and Executive Director of the SGMA shares, "The Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame is the home to more than 3,000 Southern Gospel artifacts, not to mention a place where 155 members of the Southern Gospel community are honored. Earlier this year, as we were getting the



museum ready for Dollywood’s opening day, I cleaned all 155 of those 40-pound bronze plaques that hang in the Hall of Fame. It was impossible not to re-read what each plaque said and truthfully, the memories of many of those special people came flooding back to me. It almost like I could talk to George, Glen, Jake, Rex, Brock, J.G. Anthony, Roger, J.D. —and more—again. Suddenly they didn’t feel so far away now that they’ve gone on to their eternal reward.

“As I cleaned each plaque I was reminded of how each of those men and women are on the Hall of Fame roster shaped this thing called Southern Gospel Music. Long-time fans need to come to the Hall of Fame and just relive those days. New fans need to come to the Hall of Fame and learn about those made Southern Gospel Music what it is today. It’s more than a roomful of plaques—it’s a roomful of incredible memories.”

One of our own SGN Scoops contributors and one of those who have helped shape Southern Gos-

pel Music, Lou Wills Hildreth, was inducted into the SGMA Hall of Fame in 2007.

In early February of this year, SGMA President Arthur Rice was minding his own business in Florida, preparing to board a cruise ship with The Kingdom Heirs when his cell phone rang. On the other end one of Dollywood’s fine maintenance men was calling to let Arthur know that a water pipe had burst inside the Hall of Fame and was spewing water throughout the building. Though the water flow was stemmed before any harm could be done to any of the artifacts housed there, substantial facility damage requiring significant repair work was experienced.



In the ensuing days, the Dollywood maintenance and construction teams worked diligently to return the Hall of Fame and Museum to its “pre-flood” condition in time for the 2014 opening day festivities.





We recently talked to Travis Bridgeman of the Advisory Board of the SGMA Hall of Fame and Museum. “In September 2013, I was elected to the Advisory Board,” says Travis Bridgeman. “I had the privilege to walk on the red carpet during SGMA Day at Dollywood for the 2013 Hall of Fame Induction. I am an administrator for the SGMA Facebook and Twitter pages. I post news and facts about the Hall of Fame, as well as recognize the birthdays and anniversaries of the deaths of Hall of Fame members. As a member of the advisory board, I also make recommendations to the executive board to help them with policy and promotion.”



Bridgeman continues, “Our theme for this year is *Raising the Awareness*, which is our campaign to make Southern Gospel music fans and artists aware of the contributions of the Hall of Fame members and how they can keep their memory and our music alive. The SGMA operates the Hall of Fame and Museum from

the support of its membership. It is important to join the SGMA to help us preserve the heritage of Southern Gospel music for the generations that have no first-hand knowledge of the pioneers of our music. Each month, over 30,000 people visit Dollywood and have an oppor-



tunity to walk inside the only brick-and-mortar museum paying tribute to our legacy and the genre of Southern Gospel music. It is the living link to our past, and stands as an example of the excellence we should strive for today.”

The SGMA Hall of Fame and Museum welcomes more than one million visitors annually to read and observe displays and memorabilia from a century of gospel music. Thousands of items from some of the greatest singers, writers and musicians are displayed. The facility includes a gift shop, which carries one of the country’s largest Southern gospel music selections. The SGMA also specializes in vintage and difficult-to-find Southern gospel music products.

The SGMA current membership ranks in the thousands with members from almost every state and several foreign countries. Members come from all walks of life joined by a love for the music, an appreciation for the positive, uplifting lyrics and the music’s central message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The artists in this industry have traveled thousands of miles, often through adverse conditions,



to entertain, minister and create a musical genre for which the SGMA is committed to preserving. In 2014, inductions will be conducted during the week of the National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Some of the inductions will take place during the nightly NQC programming while other inductions will take place during the *Singing News* Fan Awards. These inductions are included at no extra cost in your NQC admission.

If you have not yet visited the SGMA Hall of Fame and Museum, a wonderful time to do so would be during Dollywood's National Southern Gospel And Harvest Celebration, which takes place from September 22, 2014 through November 1, 2014. During those six weeks of wonderful Southern Gospel music, there are opportunities to see your favorite artists in concert, all included in the price of your Dollywood ticket! Visit <http://www.dollywood.com/themepark/entertainment/Harvest-Celebration-Gospel-Performers.aspx> to view the schedule of artist appearances.

You can be an important part of helping the SGMA Hall of Fame and Museum to preserve the rich heritage of Southern Gospel music we all love. Visit <http://sgma.org/> to find out how you can join the SGMA family. Annual membership is \$20, and a lifetime membership can be received for a gift of \$1,000. You can also contact the SGMA at (865) 908-4040.

From all of us whose hearts are touched by Southern Gospel music and the history that has shaped it into what it is today, we want to say "Thank you" to the SGMA Hall of Fame and Museum Directors and staff. Thanks to your efforts, the legacy of those who came before us will be remembered for generations to come.



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## CROSS POINTE:

# “ALL MY TEARS” CONCEPT VIDEO BRINGS HOPE



by Lorraine Walker

Standing outside in a snow-covered cemetery, three singers begin to reach into the souls of their listeners as they talk about the end of life and the temporal nature of the human body. The tune brings to mind the folk styles of the '60's with the contemporary touch of Country writer, Julie Miller. Recently released from the album *Roots: Old and New*, produced by John Darin Rowsey, this song is one you will listen to again and again.

“All My Tears” is the latest concept video released by Cross Pointe from Lancaster, Ohio, a mixed trio whose performance of this haunting song will remain in your heart long after the video has reached the credits screen. The song begins with the lilting soprano of Conda Barlow and immediately draws the listener in to the stark reality of death followed by the Christian's hope

of life after death. Bill Pitts' harmony in the first verse provides the perfect counterpoint with the gentle alto of Debbie Wright joining in almost imperceptibly. The song grows with hopeful lyrics and each vocalist shines even as the rising sun cuts across the hillside.

“The mysterious music of this song is what originally caught my attention,” says Conda Barlow. “Then when I listened to the words, I realized the true beauty of this message needed to be told. And what better way to get the message out than to do it not only in song but also in video. We've been able to reach an audience we may have never reached with just the song alone. Since doing the video we've had numerous viewers come forward with stories of how this video has touched lives. It has truly been a blessing.”

Bill Pitts is the pastor of Cross Pointe FWB Church in Lancaster, Ohio. He shares, "I felt the song warranted more than just sound. It needed a visual vehicle to drive the words and sound home. That decision was even more correctly evident when we sat down with our director. Jake Gornall, of Headsong Productions, is a young man whose wife died just one year before the making of this video. He put all he had into its making. It became a 'labor of love' to her memory. She was only in her 20's when she died."

Barlow had also suffered a recent loss before the making of this video. "For me it was very personal. My family had just come through the death of a loved one and I witnessed how it can totally devastate and destroy the lives of those left behind. To the non-believers that are left feeling that all hope is gone, it can share the Gospel. In our video we wanted to show that you can have a peace even through these most difficult times if you share the love and grace of Christ."

"The video tells a story for the non-Christian

and Christian, that there is hope after death," says Debbie Wright. "Through all the sorrow and pain, the person who has died wants their loved ones to have comfort because they know they will see them again if they have Christ...The basic message is there is life after death and material things are just that, material things."

Pitts also tells us, "The Telly Awards has just named Cross Pointe as a Bronze winner in the 35th Annual People's Telly Awards for 'All My Tears' Music Video. With nearly 13,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries, this is truly an honor. There are only a handful of Southern Gospel Artists that have won this award."

"All My Tears" can currently be seen on the main page of the SGN Scoops website, at <http://www.sgnscoops.com/>

For more information on Cross Pointe, visit <http://www.crosspointemusic.com/http://www.crosspointemusic.com/>

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

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### OCTOBER

2-4 VIRGINIA BEACH GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL  
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### NOVEMBER

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

# EVENT PLANNER

## DAHLONEGA GOLD

Karen Peck and New River Homecoming

By Lynn Mills



Dahlonega, Georgia is probably not the first place you would think of when planning a getaway for the weekend. If it were not connected to Gospel Music as Karen Peck and New River's hometown, most probably wouldn't even consider its existence. *What a mistake!* As I pulled into Dahlonega over Father's Day Weekend for Karen Peck and New River's Homecoming, I felt that this place would not be easily forgotten. I was right.

In 1828, Dahlonega became the location of America's first major gold rush and in its downtown the Price Memorial Hall became one of three buildings in Georgia to be gilded in Dahlonega gold. Today you can tour the gold mines. Pure gold; that's Dahlonega, Georgia.

The heart of this town is as pure as its heritage. Every Veterans' Day through July Fourth, a team of 100

workers assemble 700 memorial crosses that line all the major roadways leading into town to honor the veterans from World War II to Vietnam. Each cross bears an American flag and displays a soldier's name and the war he fought in. The people of Dahlonega are dedicated to keeping alive the memory of what the price of freedom is and you can tell by the precision and beauty, that they take pride in their work.

On the other hand, the area's natural splendor is unmatched and the attractions are numerous. Springer Mountain brings the Appalachian Trail to the mountain range of north Georgia and Lake Lanier offers a variety of activities for families on the water. If you are more of the waterfall type, Amicalola Falls offer a spectacular view!

Though there are plenty of things to do by day, there's nothing like a good ole' Gospel Sing by night.

Over Father's Day weekend, Karen Peck and New River set up a tent on the family's property. Karen cooks beans all night for the concession stand and folks set up their lawn chairs for two nights of Gospel Music.



This year was an exceptional year for the KPNR Homecoming. Every night before the concert began Karen shared how the Methodist Campmeeting (where they sang as children) donated their old wooden benches to New River Park. "They are going to be our altar this year," said Karen, and if anyone wanted to pray, they were welcome to make their way down to those old fashioned pews at any time during the evening. I couldn't help but think how appropriate those 80-100-year-old benches were for an outdoor sing where the stage resembled an old church house and the concessions featured homemade cooking.

As the sun began to set the first evening sending pink streaks across the sky, Karen, Susan and Jeff walked on stage to welcome everyone to their Homecoming. When Karen finished telling about the Methodist Campmeeting's aged benches, Susan stepped up to share about one of the blessings they received while preparing for the weekend. She explained how everyone gathered in front of the stage in a circle to pray the previous night for the weekend festivities. Excitedly she told us, "Everybody had left and I was the only one down here and it was like something said, 'Look over,' and when I looked over a double rainbow was right there in the sky. I have never seen the end of a rainbow before, but the end of that rainbow was sitting down right over there at the end of that tent. I said, 'Lord, thank you. Thank you for Your blessings.' Cause' you

know what? Maybe you've come with a heavy heart and you feel like there's no hope – there is hope in Jesus Christ and He has already given us all the blessings we will ever need but there are so many more out

there that He wants to give us. So be encouraged and let this weekend be one of rest, restoration and knowing that God's promises are good and that He has given you a double rainbow!" That promise in the sky shined all through the weekend.

This year's KPNR Homecoming began on Friday evening and featured two artists plus the host

group. The Old Paths set included their three number one songs: "God's Great," "Battle Stand" and "Long Live the King." These three songs reached the number one position on the Singing News Charts within fifteen months of each other.

The Perrys were the second group of the night and took the stage with their popular "I Got a Hold of God This Morning." This was a special evening for Libbi because her mom was in the crowd. Libbi wanted to sing a special song for her mother, but all the guys were against it because it was a bluegrass tune. So the guys slid backstage while Libbi explained to the audience that her mom took them to the singings when they were kids and whether they were driving to the concert or back home, they would always sing this song. It was "Jesus Hold My Hand."

Karen Peck and New River were the last group to sing before intermission and came on stage to sing some of the fans favorite songs, including "Ephesians One," "I Wanna' Know How It Feels," "Sustaining Grace," "Robe and Crown." "Thirteen years ago we had this dedicated to the Lord," Karen said, explaining how they started their homecoming. "We had our pastor come and pray and we gave this part to the Lord." The evidence of this displayed itself after intermission when KPNR were singing their song, "Everybody's Going Through Something." Two ladies went down to the old Methodist benches to pray; shortly after, an older

gentleman did the same and then another, and another and another...

Saturday night was the closing night of the sing and included The Royalaires, the group Susan sang with many years ago; The Guardians, who former member



John Darin Rowsey currently sings with; and Jeff and Sheri Easter, another Georgia group! Once the sun went down and intermission ended, KPNR came on and sang the second set with carefully chosen songs.

The original band members were there, ready to jam with Matthew and Christian Booth and they kicked off with a song from their very first project from back in the 90's, "Bend In the River." Each number played a distinct part in their history and was remembered as such. One of my favorites was "Is There a Christian in the House?" Karen teased Christian Booth, saying that song had a double meaning for him!

Yet, as the evening came to a close, there was an intense urgency within KPNR to express to the crowd the working of God in their ministry. Sometimes it was told through a story, at other times a song, or Karen would just share from her heart. Each of the band members said a word of what it was like to be a part of KPNR.

A very special part of the program was when Kari

(Karen and Ricky's daughter) came and sang "Amazing Grace" as a tribute to her grandparents. This was the first time Kari had sung by herself in any concert. There was also a song that Joseph (Susan's son) joined them on. But the pinnacle of the evening was, as Karen calls it, the altar service. There was a time when she left the stage and came out into the audience asking if anyone wanted to testify. The first gentleman said, "My chains are gone, I've been set free..." "This is what's it's all about," said a young lady, "a year ago I could've not been here, but here I am. They're not just lyrics they're meaning." Another said, "I was saved when I was 13, I love the Lord." Folks were at the altar, many shared their heartache and sorrows and by the end of the night, everyone was lifted up in spirit.

Karen Peck and New River's Homecoming is the reflection of what the historic city is known for... pure Dahlonega gold. Their ministry is pure, their hearts are towards service and their love shines brightly like the sun. Their Homecoming is unique because they use it as a place where they can follow the Lord's leading and do anything with their program. You never know what will happen! Yet, you can be guaranteed great singing and spirit-filled worship! Make plans to join the Homecoming crowd next year over Father's Day Weekend and be among the many who will testify to God's amazing grace.

For more information on Karen Peck and New River please visit <http://www.karenpeckandnewriver.com/>

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# Florida Worship Choir & Orchestra NYC Worship Project

## My First Multi-Day Mission Trip

By Jennifer Campbell



A few months ago, a friend called me to tell me about the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra, and how they would be traveling to New York City to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through song. When I heard words like Central Park, Times Square, Carnegie Hall and Brooklyn Tabernacle, I was in awe of the doors that God had opened for ministry. Little did I know that I would have the opportunity to not only join the choir, but that I would also be able to participate in this life-changing mission trip.

It was evident that God walked ahead of us every step of the way. I also began to realize that this was not truly my first multi-day mission trip, even though it technically was. Through this trip, I began to more fully understand that we are a reflection of Jesus Christ to everyone around us. People look at us to see if we are smiling or if we look angry, if we are kind or rude to others, if we love our neighbor as ourselves. We don't have to be on a mission trip to witness to others. We are living testimonies of God's saving grace. Life itself is a mission field.

The moment I arrived at the airport, the excitement began to grow. New York City is one of my favorite cities to visit. Even though my hometown is a small rural area in Florida, I love the hustle and bustle of this

metro area. This time, though, I began to look at people more closely. I saw the hurt in their eyes, the brokenness of their spirits, and the longing for something more. I talked to perfect strangers about the love of Jesus Christ. I prayed that God would use me to encourage everyone around me, whether I knew them or not. I wanted this trip to be more than a fun trip to the Big Apple. I wanted this to be a life-changing experience. But while I was praying that God would change lives, I didn't even realize that He was working in my own life as well. I came home with a newfound boldness in my faith. I feel that He has rejuvenated my spirit and strengthened the desire in my heart to tell others about the saving love of Jesus Christ. This is what I was born to do.

We took the bus directly from the airport to Central Park. Along with rehearsals and lunch, we also had the opportunity to hand out ticket vouchers for the concert at Carnegie Hall. Attached to each voucher was a card with John 3:16 on it. Walking up to people strolling through the Park, I prayed that they would not toss it aside, but read it and carefully consider the message. During the concert in the Naumburg Bandshell, I saw people from nearly every tribe and tongue represented. As I looked out and saw people from varying socioeco-

nostic and religious backgrounds, I couldn't hold back the tears as I sang the song, "This Blood." The lyrics state, "I come to tell you He's alive. To tell you that He dries every tear that falls. So I come to tell you that



He saves. To shout and to proclaim that He's coming back for you." To see people who looked so desperate for answers and to know that we were presenting the Answer to all of life's problems: Jesus Christ. It was overwhelming. I knew then and there that this was not going to be an ordinary choir and orchestra tour.

On Sunday, we had the opportunity to minister to 12 churches in the NYC metro area. I had the privilege of meeting the congregation at Christian Bible Church in Yonkers. Pastor Todd Brandt and his family began pastoring this church nearly three years ago. The people were so gracious and it was a joy to worship with them. One of my favorite parts of the day was the Prayer Walk through downtown Yonkers. Stopping to pray along the Hudson River, inside the Train Station, and other locations, was a very special experience. What a privilege to help them hand out VBS fliers to children we encountered during our walk. I pray that God will encourage them in their ministry and I hope to see them again one day, Lord willing.

One of the most incredible moments I experienced was the flash mob in Times Square. Imagine 350 choir and orchestra members gathering together in the midst of the Crossroads of the World to sing praises to Jesus

Christ! What a blessing to know that we had an estimated 100,000 people within earshot of us that evening. After the flash mob, one lady asked if I was a Christian. I promptly told her that I loved Jesus Christ with all of my heart. She asked me to sing for her. I sang the chorus to a song I wrote years ago titled, "There's Sunshine Awaiting You." This lady who had been so excited about the flash mob turned quite serious and said my song had touched her heart. She was one of 100,000 people. God knew I was supposed to meet her. He knew she needed encouragement. I am so grateful to



know that God could use me, even in the midst of tens of thousands of people.

Ever since I was a little girl, God has used me to minister to others through song. I sang my first song in public when I was three years old in Atlanta, Georgia. The song I sang was "He's Still Workin' on Me." Every



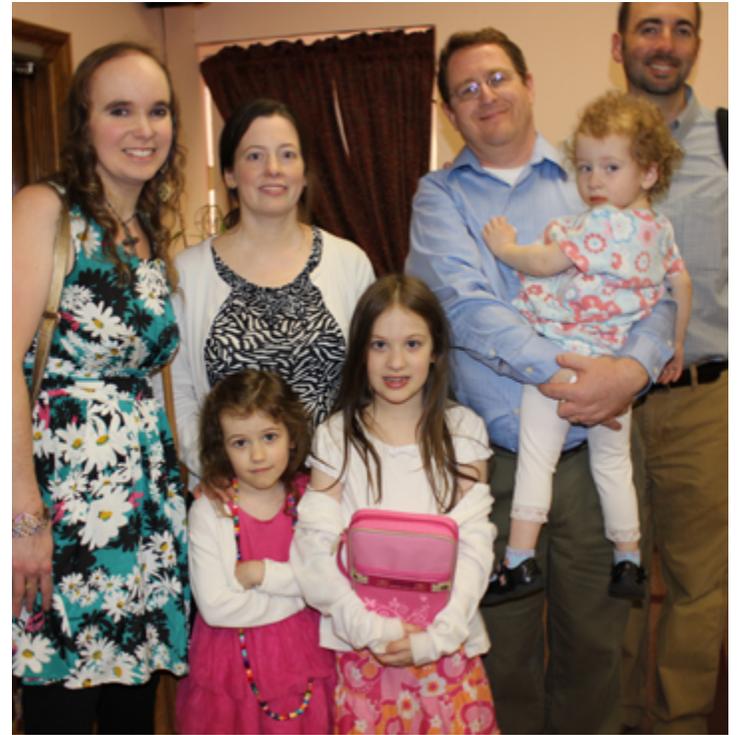


year, He continues working in my life and it amazes me to know that the little girl who sang at in Atlanta so long ago would end up standing on stage at Carnegie Hall. The Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra had the opportunity to sing on this prestigious stage, debuting our newest recording, "Almighty God." What an honor to worship Jesus Christ in this historic building. I believe all of the members of the choir and orchestra would agree that we did not just put on a performance, but we had church at Carnegie Hall!

One of my favorite places in New York City is Brooklyn Tabernacle. The Holy Spirit permeates the walls



and spills out onto the sidewalks. Through the power of prayer, this church is filled with the presence of God in such a mighty way. We had the privilege of singing at the Tuesday evening prayer service during our time in New York. What a joy to minister to the congregation and to worship Jesus Christ with them! The entire service was so anointed and my heart was overflowing



with joy after spending quality time in the presence of the Lord. We went there to minister and in turn, we received a tremendous blessing ourselves.

As I look back on our mission to New York, I am amazed at all of the unexpected blessings God bestowed upon us. I wondered if I would even be able to participate in this mission. I stepped out on faith and requested donations online to cover the cost of the trip. Three days later, God provided funds that exceeded my original goal. I knew at that very moment that God had called me to participate in this mission trip. Just like He called me, He is calling you to the mission field as well. Everywhere around us, there are people who need to know that it is going to be okay. They need a smile, a hug, and a word of encouragement. They need to be reminded that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords loves them. You don't have to be on a mission trip to tell someone that Jesus loves them. You could be at the grocery store, riding the subway, or sitting at work. Every person in this world needs hope. Your mission field is waiting. Tell someone today that there is hope in Jesus Christ!



# *Golden State Quartet*



# Present Your Body

By Laurette Willis, CHC



*“I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1)*

While exercise was not a priority in Biblical times, Paul instructs us to “present your bodies a living sacrifice.” Each of us is advised to take care of our body since it is the “temple of the Holy Spirit.”

Here’s a sobering question: do you think we’ll be required to give an accounting to the Lord for the stewardship of our bodies and how well we’ve taken care of them?

That’s a frightening thought for most of us! “You are not your own,” Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:19. “For you were bought at a price” (the shed blood of Jesus Christ).

Could that mean your body is not yours, but the Lord’s? How well are we caring for the Lord’s property?

The good news is that since your body belongs to the Lord, He has a vested interest in helping you care for it. Your body is not only the temple of His Holy Spirit, it’s what you need to be able to walk around on this earth and spread the good news that Jesus is Lord!

The more fit and healthy you are, the greater the probability is that you will be around longer to carry out His will for your life.

The enemy wants you to fail at your task, to fail horribly and go to heaven before your time. He doesn’t really care that you’re going to heaven--he just doesn’t want you to take anyone else with you!

If your body is out-of-shape and lacking energy, it’s difficult to do all the Lord is calling you to do. But you and the Lord working together can change that!

“What?!” you ask. “The Lord needs *my* help?”

But He’s omnipotent, all-powerful and in control!”

Well, yes and no. He is all-powerful, but He will not wrestle the cake fork out of your hand or pick up the strings like a grand marionette master and animate your body to take a brisk walk. We are the ones who have to exercise our will to exercise our body and “choose life.”

We’ll discuss the “secret weapon” of choosing life in our next article.

*(Adapted from **The Busy Woman’s Guide to Total Fitness** by Laurette Willis, Harvest House Publishers) available at [www.PraiseMoves.com](http://www.PraiseMoves.com).*

*Photo Courtesy of Tom@HK*

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

with Vonda Easley

The great state of Michigan is home to *Quartet Time* and radio personality, Donnie Cox. We placed Donnie under the DJ Spotlight and here is what he had to share with us:

*Vonda: What was your first job in Southern Gospel music?*

Donnie: My first job in Southern Gospel music was 38 years ago. I was on the air Sunday mornings from 6:00 to 10:00am. We did not have a Christian radio station in the area, but Flint had a very Southern influence so it fit perfectly. For the past several years now God has allowed us to be syndicated in Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, and New York.

*Vonda: What is your favorite Southern Gospel memory thus far?*

Donnie: I have a ton of memories, but none as memorable as when we asked for prayer for an eight-year-old boy who needed a kidney transplant. There was a big search going on and a listener donated one of his kidneys to this little boy. The man died a year later, and last I knew, the little boy who is in his 30's is still alive. God used us to help save a life.

*Vonda: What is your favorite hobby?*

Donnie: I am a Certified Master Barbecue Cook. I specialize in smoked brisket, pulled pork, ribs, etc. I have a small catering business with all Southern barbecue. Obviously, my family comes from the South!

*Vonda: If you were not a Radio DJ, what would you most likely be doing?*



Donnie: If I were not a DJ in Gospel Music, I would be a talk show host, talking to folks about their lives. After 38 years on the air, I have learned many things about people. I know I could help people. I love sharing God with listeners. There is such a need for it.

*Vonda: What are your goals for the coming year?*

Donnie: My goal for the year is to continue to play Southern Gospel music and to seek God's will for my life. God uses common people to do uncommon things.

Donnie has hosted *Quartet Time* for over 35 years and his wife Judy, joined him as co-host in 1999. *Quartet Time* is currently broadcast from WSNL 600 AM in Flint, Michigan. Please check out his website at <http://quartettime.com/http://quartettime.com/>

Thanks Donnie for sharing with us!



# Faith's Journey



Visit [www.FaithsJourneyTrio.com](http://www.FaithsJourneyTrio.com)

# James Payne

## The Life of a Honky-Tonk Evangelist

By Rev. Dan Duncan



I met James Payne the week I moved to Nashville, Tennessee from Boise, Idaho. Driving into the community, I passed by a church, which caught my attention. I said to nobody in particular: "That's where my family and I will be attending church." Two days later we slipped through the doors of that church just as James Payne stepped behind the pulpit. What I heard in the next few minutes impacted my life to this day. At age 27, James Payne preached with a power, a passion and an anointing rarely heard. The man could preach! After church, we had lunch together. That was the beginning of a lifetime friendship.

Through the years James and I have shared good times and bad times. I stood alone beside his hospital bed when he was given no chance of recovery and I saw God raise him up. I sat beside him in the listening room of a major Christian recording company in Nashville when he was told: "You have two choices; you can sign a contract now, or go home and pray about it, and come back and sign the contract tomorrow." We've sat for hours in solitude with pens in hand, laboring over songs we were writing together.

We've shared the stage in Gospel concerts. And we've been together on worldwide television broadcasts, as his message was beamed into 170 countries of the world.

That being said, I'd like to assure you of two things:

1. James Payne is the Real Deal!
2. He is a man driven by the pursuit of excellence.

It is a privilege to share with you today the life and ministry of James Payne as I know him.

James Payne is one of the finest Christian Country artists of our day. His voice moves the heart. His writing is powerful. His album production is incredible. He is a mighty force whose influence has helped shaped Country Gospel music today.

James was not raised in a Christian home. His family never attended church. He had no religious background whatsoever. James was a drug addict and an alcoholic when Jesus found him. He was lying in a hospital bed from an overdose of drugs, given

up by his doctors, and pronounced dead. But Jesus appeared to him in that hospital room. James relates the story as follows: "I had an out-of-body experience. I was suspended in the room looking down at myself lying in the bed. I was physically dead at that point. All the monitors on my body flat-lined. I did not see the face of Jesus, but I did see His robe, His sandals and the nail prints in His hands. He touched me on my right foot and told me He was going to raise me up, and that I would preach the Gospel around the world. No one in my family had ever been a Christian before that time. As I look back, it's hard to believe that Jesus loved me enough that He would come to my room and change my life by saving me and delivering me from alcohol and drug addiction."



James grew up in pool halls and honky-tonks, not in church. The music he listened to was on the jukebox. It included George Jones, Merle Haggard, Conway Twitty, Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, and Waylon Jennings. Those were his honky-tonk heroes.

James was saved in a hospital room. Shortly after his release from the hospital, he began attending church. He felt the desire to do just what Jesus told him he would do: carry the Gospel around the world. He borrowed a Bible from his pastor and began reading it. He read the New Testament through 25 times the first year he was saved. The church needed a guitar player in their band, so James saved up \$39.00 and bought his first guitar. He learned the chords and began playing in the band.

God rewards faithfulness. A few years after James was saved, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee to pursue his desire to preach and sing the Gospel of



Jesus Christ. He began pastoring a church there. God sent many musicians and singers from the country and gospel music industry into his church. They became great friends and mentors in the area of songwriting. Among those were Gospel artists like Kenny Hinson, Ronny Hinson and Rusty Goodman.

The first song James wrote was a song called "The Cloud He's Coming Back On." That song was recorded by the Happy Goodman Family and reached number two in the gospel charts. The song was recorded by a number of artists, and was later printed in the Church Of God hymnal. James comments: "That made me feel I had reached immortality. I was in the hymnbooks."

Throughout his 31 years of ministry, James has experienced some great successes and some devastating failures. He has written over 2200 songs, and has had over 700 different artists, choirs, and singers record the songs he has written. They include; Lee Greenwood, Terri Gibb, Tanya Goodman, White River, Ricky Van Shelton, Jimmy Swaggart, Del Way, the Florida Boys, Dixie Echoes, Betty Jean Robinson, Vern Jackson, Mike Purkey and hundreds of others.

When James began recording Christian Country music, very few others were doing it. It was all Southern Gospel. Very few Gospel soloists were heard on the radio. Quartets and trios were the order of the day. Southern Gospel artists have recorded many of the songs written by James, but when James sang them, they came out Country Gospel. He was country before country was cool.

James has won numerous awards. Songs that he recorded have reached number one in the music charts. His awards include: Male Vocalist of The Year;

Songwriter of The Year; Song of the Year; Album of The Year; Living Legend Award, and Evangelist of The Year. He was inducted into the International Country Gospel Music Association's Hall Of Fame and was recently honored by the I.C.G.M.A. for achieving 50 number-one songs which he has written or recorded.

James was on a flight to Florida when he wrote what would become his signature song, "The Night Jack Daniels Met John 3:16". He recalls: "I was reading my Bible. The man in the next seat ordered two small bottles of Jack Daniels whiskey. I looked down at my Bible. It was opened to John 3:16. It took only about ten minutes to complete the song. It almost wrote itself."

to number one.

Looking back over the years of his music ministry, James feels the one thing that kept him going was his songwriting. There is a sticker on the back of his truck, which says: "It all begins with a song." A great song can make an average singer successful. An average song can make a great singer average. James believes every song should speak to the listener and it should be so graphic that it will move the heart of the singer.

James is quick to credit those good people who have helped him along the way. Ronny Hinson took time to help with his writing. His brother Kenny helped James with his singing and recording arrange-



At first, Christian radio refused to play the song. It was unheard of for the word "whiskey" to be written into a gospel song. Had it not been for Jan Crouch and TBN, the song would have died in obscurity. But they produced a television video of the song and began playing it on TBN. Nearly every time it played, people would call in and get saved. Whatever the song has accomplished, it is because Paul and Jan Crouch believed in it and played it almost every day for nearly a year. Because of its popularity, Christian radio decided to play it. This was a song God wanted the world to hear. He made a way and the song went

ments, as well as overall performing. Jimmy Gateley taught him to deal with criticism, and be true to himself.

James concludes with these comments: "I know that soon I will be too old to have my picture on the cover of my CD's," he laughs. "At that time I would like to see some young gun writing and recording music that has my fingerprints on it. I know there is a generation in the wings that can take this music to a larger market. With that in mind, I can sleep well at night."

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

## Reflections with

Sherry Anne

### If Rambo Had a Wife, It Would Not Have Been Me!

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

One of the more enjoyable skits I have ever done was for an overnight ladies retreat in the Adirondack Mountains, New York. The theme was a “lighten-your-load-get-rid-of-your-baggage” kind of theme. Our ten-minute opening presentation was a hit. Three of us ladies each portrayed (and quite appropriately, too!) a character on her way to a very important event if they could just navigate their way through the woods to get there!

The first character, Jane, was the female equivalent of Indiana Jones. Dressed in cargos, she was equipped with her hat, compass, and map to locate the mystery cabin. Think of the second char-

acter, Chris, as the female counterpart to Rambo. This dame came equipped with a machete and a Swiss Army Knife, along with all the skills needed to survive the jungle. Enter my character: Tiffany. Yup, the brunette version of Elle in Legally Blonde! Oh yes, it’s true! She came prepared with her three suitcases, ten dress outfits, five pairs of high heels, two bottles of hairspray and a large case containing makeup, toiletries, and other odds and ends that served absolutely no purpose in steering her in the right direction. She looked great but was ill-suited for the task at hand. She was definitely not fit to travel with her action hero companions!

So, there we were— the three of us—on an adventure to accomplish a goal, encountering several setbacks along the way: injuries, hunger, and getting lost. Tiffany’s plan was to pray for a man (i.e. Tarzan) to show up and solve all her problems. Know anyone like that? Chris, on the other hand, just wanted to

get ahead as she hacked everything up, relentlessly destroying not only potential food sources but also leaving us trailing behind in the wake of her mess. We can be this way, too, with words or job positions—tearing people down to further our own agenda and egos. Meanwhile, Jane was so busy looking down to read, study, and analyze the plans that she didn't see the small boat right in front of her that would take all of us safely over to the other side. I think anyone living in the media-crazed twenty-first century can relate to Jane!

After several hours in the woods, Tiffany, whose stockings and mascara were now running, eagerly entered the boat. But, when she went to get in with all her luggage in tow, it began to sink. Her baggage had become her blockage, or hindrance, to where she was going. Even though she had used and needed all of these things in the past, they were of no use to her where she was going. In order to survive and reach her ultimate destination, Tiffany had to drop her excess baggage to cross over to the other side, where the blessing was.

Similarly, the Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." For our benefit, and for necessary growth, we need to let go of many things we are holding onto from our past and allow God to fill us up with the new things He has for us in the future. In 1 Corinthians 2:9 we read, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

New adventures await you! What do you need to let go of? Who are you willing to put in God's hands and not your's? What is the thing that is keeping you from getting to the other side where you are appointed (and anointed) to be? Think about that today as you pray this prayer: Father, help me to lighten the load of my past and leave baggage behind so I cross over to the new future you have for me. Thank you for providing me what I need, daily, to take the next step. Amen



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## What America wants to know about

*Pauline Patterson*

By Rob Patz

Pauline Patterson is a singer, deejay, radio and concert promoter and has been in ministry for 35 years. She and her husband Ken live in Corbin, Kentucky and for nine years Patterson Promotions have promoted Southern Gospel artists like Poet Voices, Hoskins Family, Wilbanks, Hyssongs, Homeland Quartet, and many more. I have known Pauline for some time and I appreciate her support of Creekside Gospel Music Convention, as well as her heart to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I want to thank Pauline for taking the time to talk with me and sharing her heart with SGN Scoops.

Rob: How did your interest in Southern Gospel begin?

PP: Well Rob, I'm a country girl from extreme southeastern Kentucky, so it fits with my mountain heritage upbringing. It was either that or bluegrass, I chose Southern Gospel.

Rob: What made you decide to become a promoter?

PP: From 1999-2002 I was the morning show host on WFSR in my hometown of Harlan, Kentucky. While there I met a group called the Sons Family. A few years later after leaving the station I went to hear the Sons Family in concert and at that concert the Holy Spirit spoke to my spirit and said these words, "Why don't you

do radio promotions for them?" I said okay! I did and that song was a Singing News Top 80 for six months; it spent two months in the top 40 and three months in the top 20. Needless to say, that is how my promotions days began.

Rob: What is your best advice for new artists starting in the industry?

PP: Make the best projects that your finances can buy. Don't go full time until you're so busy with your bookings that you have to make that choice. Don't buy a bus until you're financially able to absorb the cost. Keep your focus on souls.

Rob: Who has made the biggest impression upon you as an artist and why?

PP: The Crabb kids. I'm impressed how in spite of their fame, when you meet up with Jason or one of the twins, they will take time to say hello and you will walk away feeling special.

Rob: Which one of your songs has had the greatest impact on the charts?

PP: "Jesus Walks Down Main Street." It spent six months on the Singing News Top 80 and seven months in the Christian Voice Top 100.

Rob: What do you look for in a song that you think will appeal to a radio audience?

PP: The best radio song has a message that will speak to the common man or woman. No matter what our title is in life we all are common in many ways, although our closest family and friends may be the only ones that may be allowed to see it.

Rob: Tell us about a regular day in the life of a radio promoter.

PP: I start my day with coffee and conversation with Ken (Patterson). I then go to my room for prayer and reading. My work day will begin with checking my messages, answering emails, facebook messages, calls... sometimes the phone is never ending and some days it may be quiet. DJ calls begin the first of each month but emailing stations begin the third week in each month. I go straight out of one compilation disk being mailed to manufacturers to booking the next one.

Rob: What is the best thing about your job?

PP: It's that I promote the gospel.

Rob: What is one of the biggest highlights for you from the last nine years?

PP: God has allowed me the joy of growing so many clients in their radio ministry and that is really what I think He has called me to do. Many have never been charting artists when they came to P.P. and before long they will be Singing News charting artists among many, many more charts. I have seen artists that had never charted come in with a Top 40 in their first song with us. I give God the praise for that!

Rob: What are your goals for the next nine years?

PP: I look forward to more favor, I pray for favor with radio, because after all, I do 'promote the gospel.'

Pauline Patterson is always hard at work promoting Southern Gospel music and ensuring Patterson Promotions artists are heard across the nation. Whether she is singing her own songs or telling radio deejays about other artists, Pauline does it to the best of her ability and with a focus on souls. Thanks so much to Pauline and Patterson Promotions for all you do to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For more information on Pauline Patterson and Patterson Promotions, click on to <http://www.pattersonpromotions.com/>.

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# Music Reviews for July

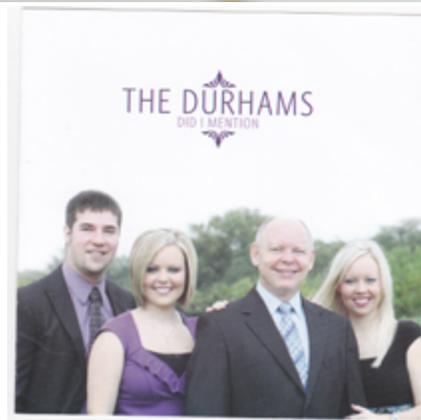
by Sandi Duncan Clark

Most everyone thinks of July as vacation month due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and the fact many businesses close for this holiday. The Southeast grew around cotton farming and the textile industry. For many years the textile mills would close for the July 4<sup>th</sup> week for what they called a “shut down.” This allowed workmen to come into the plants to do repairs, cleaning and any remodeling that was needed. All employees would have the week off with their families, hence, vacation month.

My favorite place to visit for rest and relaxation is the coast. I can sit by the ocean, talk to the Lord, read a good book and let the sea wash the cobwebs away. Then I can take a long ride for rest and relaxation to the Smokey Mountains and visit the Primitive Quartet’s and the Inspiration Quartet’s concerts and enjoy the cool evenings under the stars. Either way I feel I’m in the presence of the Lord and His handiwork is just amazing.

This month we have some fantastic music you will truly enjoy. Take time to read about the artists and their music, then follow the instructions at the end of each review and get your own copy of these fine CD’s.

Blessings to you and all those you love. Remember to thank God for our glorious country and for all those who fight and work so hard to secure and hold safe our freedoms. There is no other country in the world where I would ever want to live than the United States of America.



## DID I MENTION

The Durhams

Independent

Producer: Marty Funderburk

This great family started my day off in the right way! “This Old Sinner Testifies,” with a bass solo on the second verse just topped the day off like whipped cream on a great banana split! Now I’m ready for more great music!

The Durhams are: Dad, Michael Durham, with daughters, Ashley and Lindsay Durham Reeves with her husband, Nathan Reeves. The group makes their home in Pisgah, Alabama, traveling throughout the Southeast. They have solid family harmony and have selected ten songs that are truly a blessing.

Their versions of “Grace Will Always Be Greater Than Sin” and “Yahweh” are amazing. This family sings from their hearts and one can tell they believe what they sing and love what they do.

Producer Marty Funderburk has worked with the Durhams on arrangements that are well suited to their vocals and the music tracks. I always enjoy the information on the CD insert, looking for credits, including the songwriters. I do wish the writers had been included on this fine album.

Other songs on the play list include “Did I Mention,” “Just A Little Talk With Jesus,” “Look For Me At Jesus Feet,” “Four Days Late,” “If You Knew Him,” “It’s Over” and “Miracle In Me.”

You may contact the Durhams at 256-451-3240 or 256-505-7657 to have a copy of *Did I Mention*.



## HYMNS FROM HOME

The Collingsworth Family

Stowntown Records

Producer: Kim Ryan White

Part of the excitement of this magnificent project is the fact it was recorded in the Collingsworth’s home, just as the title says. There is a DVD and CD for our total enjoyment and the Collingsworths do a fantastic job on eighteen hymns.

You will never hear sweeter singing, closer harmony or better music than when you experience the Collingsworths. There are various vocal combinations; Mom and Dad and all four children sing and the Collingsworths give each hymn a soul of its own.

“Brethren We Have Met To Worship” is the call to worship on this recording and we are thrilled to do just that as we enjoy seventeen more classic hymns. From this intro we have a precise acapella “Holy, Holy, Holy” and a combination instrumental/vocal “O Worship The King.”

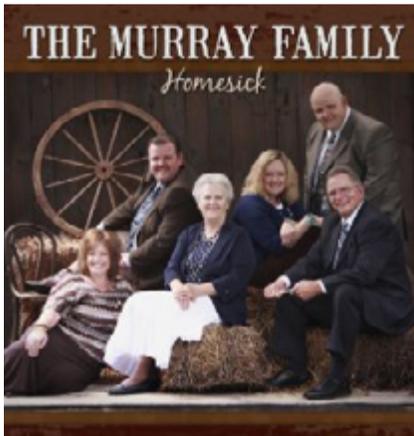
Hymns are some of my favorite memories of growing up. As a Preachers Kid, we were always in church and I couldn’t wait to grow up enough to sing in the choir. Some of these songs are some of the very first ones I learned, including “Covered By The Blood,” “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart” and “Unclouded Day.”

Kim Collingsworth’s piano instrumental of “In The Garden” is tranquility restored for the overworked mind and heart. And while this song reconditions our inner self, her version of “When We All Get To Heaven” sets our toes tapping and hands clapping as wide smiles spread across our outer visage.

A verbal description of every magnificent presentation on this CD/DVD package is impossible. When our world gets busy, overwhelming and sometimes unbelievable this is the style of music that will calm our day, refresh our spirit and renew our faith.

Among the other songs on the recording are “I Need Thee Every Hour,” “At Calvary,” “Come Thou Fount,” and “My Wonderful Lord” are only a few you’ll find here. Some are instrumental with Brittany and Courtney playing violin with their mom; others are acapella, and without a doubt, the big orchestration on others will blow your socks off! There is no other way to describe this but to say is it a magnificent treasure.

Needless to say, I HIGHLY recommend the CD and/or DVD for your blessing. Contact the Collingsworths at [www.thecollingsworthfamily.com](http://www.thecollingsworthfamily.com).



## HOMESICK

The Murray Family

Skylande

Producer: Jeff Collins

I've always enjoyed the Murray Family! The Murrays are mother, father, two sons and their wives all totally committed to God and their music ministry. The Murrays are a mixed quartet and make their own music. Each family member sings and occasionally they change parts to form a different quartet to offer a diverse sound. Mom, Connie sings alto, daughters-in-law Cindy and Emily sing lead and harmony permitting a unique sound on each quartet combination. Dad, Ernie sings bass, and sons Chris and Jason pick up whatever part left for the individual arrangement of a song.

As mentioned, this family is also a self-contained band. Ernie plays acoustic guitar, Chris and Jason play lead and bass guitars respectively, while Jason's wife Emily plays piano. Having a full band is a rare treat for fans who attend Murray Family concerts. Another advantage for the Murray Family are the songs that Chris and Cindy Murray contribute to the family's repertoire. All this leads up to a full package of praise, talent and entertainment.

One of their original songs, "His Name Is Jesus" kicks off this new album and leads to blessings galore! "Homesick," another of Chris' songs will truly bless you and tells the story of how all Christians feel about our Heavenly home! Three other songs are original from Chris.

The sincerity and their love for the Lords shines through the ten songs on the recording. I like Bill Funderburk's "Whiter Than Snow," made popular by Danny Funderburk and the Singing Americans and sung so effectively by the family. I also like "I Have Victory"

and "Near To Thee."

If you like Southern Gospel with a Country/Bluegrass flavor, then you should have this album. Contact the Murray family at [www.murrayfamilymusic.com](http://www.murrayfamilymusic.com) for a copy.



## TIME TO MOVE

Trinity River Band

Independent

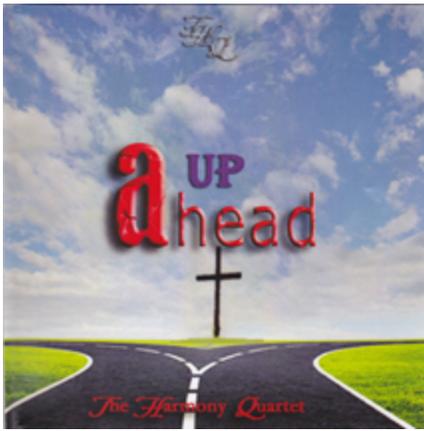
Producer: Corey Hensley

Trinity River Band is a Bluegrass Gospel family group from Florida. This group will definitely remind you of the Isaacs as their music features mandolin, banjo, dobro, bass, fiddle and guitars. Mike and Lisa Harris, along with their children, Sarah, Josh and Brianna create wonderful harmony and music tracks for their album.

Producer Corey Hensley wrote the intriguing title song on the project, "Time To Move." Words in the chorus are "...when the Spirit says go, it's time to move..." Mike Harris does a great job on the old Kris Kristofferson hit, "One Day At A Time," and young Brianna is featured on an acapella "Near The Cross."

"Oh Come Angel Band" is very well done and you will enjoy "My Lord Does." Despite which group member is featured, you will hear excellent harmony background on every song.

Other songs on this inspiring album are "Hold Fast To The Right," "How Great Thou Art," "Rock Of Ages," "There Is Power In The Blood" and "My Lord Does." You may enjoy a copy of *Time To Move* by Trinity River Band by visiting their website at [www.trinity-riverband.com](http://www.trinity-riverband.com).



## UP AHEAD

The Harmony Quartet

Independent

Producers: Danny Crawford, Keith Gilliam

The Harmony Quartet's latest album is an upbeat, exciting collection of ten songs, three of which were penned by Keith Gilliam. This group sings traditional four-part male quartet harmony with a Southern Gospel/Progressive Country style. You can't help getting involved with the music, clapping, tapping your feet and singing along!

Beginning with a unique arrangement of "Gospel Ship," the men have the listeners pumped and primed to receive 30-plus minutes of excellent music! Co-Producer Keith Gilliam wrote three of the 10 songs on *Up Ahead* and all three have arrangements well suited to the country style of the Harmony Quartet.

My favorites from the recording are Keith's song "Because He Is, I Am," along with "Changed," "Fight To The Finish" and "Roll Away Trouble River." It's ironic that the quartet ended their recording with "Land Of The Free, Because Of The Brave" since we get to use this in the July issue of SGN Scoops.com.

I enjoyed the music, the talent and the blessings in the songs. You may do the same by contacting The Harmony Quartet at their website, [www.harmonymusic.com](http://www.harmonymusic.com).



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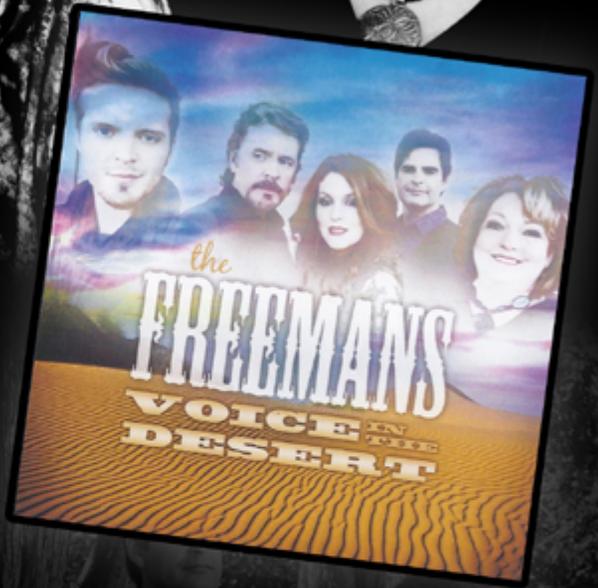
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## Creekside Gospel Music Convention

# UPDATE

by Lorraine Walker

November is getting closer and with it, the Creekside Gospel Music Convention! We hope you've already made your plans to join us, but if not, do it today! Tickets are free but must be reserved. It all happens in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on November 3rd through 6th at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center.

One of the special events during the Convention will be the Lou Hildreth Honors on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the evening. Lou is honoring the great Willie Wynn this year! "Little" Willie Wynn was a member of the Oak Ridge Boys from 1959 to 1973 and has also sung with the Statesmen, The Tennesseans, and Sweetwater. He is well known for his beautiful tenor voice and Lou Hildreth is thrilled to be honoring him this year at Creekside.

If you like to hang out with your favorite artists, talking to them and getting to know them in a more personal way, Creekside is your place to be. The Exhibit Hall is filled with artist booths and the singers are waiting to chat with you.

Other special events at the Convention include the Diamond Awards, Patterson Promotions Showcase, the Morris Music Group Showcase and much more. Keep watching for more exciting announcements. Don't miss four days of great Gospel music, fellowship and fun. Tickets are free and accommodations can be reserved by phone, toll free at: 1-800-223-6707 or local call 865-908-3015. For online reservations, click onto <http://www.smokymountainconventioncenter.com>.

### The Great Doughnut Caper

You may have already heard that Vonda Easley of Strictly Southern With Vonda Easley, has

been chatting with Rob Patz on the air every week as he brings updates about Creekside. Vonda is inviting all of her listeners to join her at Creekside this year. Each and every listener will be treated to doughnuts, courtesy of Rob Patz. This Doughnut Caper will be held during the Creekside event. Don't miss out! Stay tuned to Vonda Easley for more information. Strictly Southern With Vonda Easley can be heard every Friday at 10am CST on <http://www.wpilfm.com/>.



### The Diamond Awards

The Diamond Awards will be handed out during the Convention in a gala program hosted by Tim Lovelace. The Diamond Award nominations are still continuing on the SGN Scoops website, so drop by to click on the link and vote for your favorites. The Diamond Awards Top Five contest opens on July 7 for the final round of nominations. Make sure your voice is heard and vote today! <http://www.sgnscoops.com/2014-diamond-awards/>

### Final Notes

Creekside Gospel Music Convention would like to hear from you! Tell us what you want to see and hear in November. Creekside also needs your help. If you would like to volunteer through various promotional activities throughout the year, or with



onsite tasks during the convention, please email Rob at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).

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

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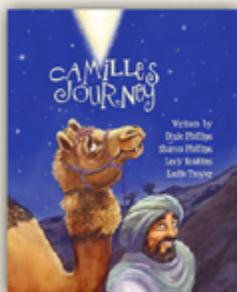
This chart was compiled from a list of reporting stations. Each month we will be adding more stations.

1	Hyssongs	Thinking About Going Home	38	East Ridge Boys	Some Day
2	Gold City	Never Too Broken To Belong	39	Great Day	You Said No
3	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	That's Why	40	Greater Vision	Preacher Tell Me Like It Is
4	Hoskins Family	God Is Big	41	Georgia	We Have A Hope
5	Whisnants	He Can Move That Stone	42	James And Jeff Easter	Like Father Like Son
6	Brian Free and Assurance	Say Amen	43	Hoggle Family	I'll Keep On Running
7	Greater Vision	For All He's Done	44	Anchormen	Some Things I Know
8	Mark Trammell Quartet	Your Walk Talks	45	Shellem Cline	Look Up
9	Mercy's Well	More Like Jesus Less Like Me	46	Perrys	I Can Trust Him
10	Browders	Listening For The Shout	47	Phil Cross	I'm In Good Hands
11	Jeff and Sheri Easter	I Know How It Feels To	48	Gospelaire	There Is A God
		Survive	49	Erwins	When Justice Called Mercy Answered
12	Hoppers	I'll Take You Home	50	Sharps	He Built A Bridge
13	Mark Bishop	Love's Gonna Get You	51	Freemans	Lead Me Home
14	Browns	The Captain's Got It Under	52	Beelers	Because Of You
		Control	53	Higher Hope	All The Way
15	Perrys	The Blood and Its Power	54	Down East Boys	If I Know Him
16	Old Paths	Long Live The King	55	Josh and Ashley Franks	I've Not Seen A
17	Booth Brothers	If God Didn't Care			Mountain
18	Allen Family	Talk About The Lord	56	Promise	Shout Before The Walls Come
19	Collingsworth Family	Show A Little Bit Of Love			Down
		And Kindness	57	Tony Burchette	Look Who's In The Ship
20	Kingsmen	The Next Cloud	58	Blakely Quartet	It'll Be Alright With Me
21	LeFevre Quartet	Put It Right There	59	Michael and Delilah	The Stroll
22	Talleys	When He Calls I'll Fly Away	60	Mark Trammell Quartet	Wonderful Time
23	Browders	Lift Up His Name			Up There
24	McKameys	A Hill Worth Dying On	61	Gordon Mote	Meanwhile Back At The Cross
25	Steeles	We're All Human	62	Gann Family	This Blood
26	Primitive Quartet	Empty Me Lord	63	Common Bond Quartet	I Just Steal Away
27	11th Hour	How Will You Plead			And Pray
28	Steve Hess and Southern Salvation	Mountain	64	Galloways	Til The Storm Passes By
		of Grace	65	New Ground	Settle Down And Rest
29	Sunday Drive	Happy, Happy, Happy	66	Drummond Family	Victory Is Mine
30	Omega Quartet	Love Worth Dying For	67	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	God Has
31	Triumphant Quartet	The Greatest Love Story			Been Good To Me
32	Whisnants	Not Afraid To Trust Him	68	Canton Junction	Sweeter As The Days Go
33	Keith Barkley and Family Tradition	Heaven In			By
		The House	69	Changed 4	I Have Not Forgotten
34	Mark209	Tennessee Orange	70	Master's Voice	Ordinary Sunday
35	Legacy Five	He Is To Me			
36	Nelons	The Sun's Coming Up	71	Karen Peck and New River	Everybody's
37	Mark Dubbeld Family	Higher Than I			Going Through Something

71	Pine Ridge Boys	He Is Mine	88	Skyline Boys	Makes Me Wanna Go
73	Tim Livingston	Over The Next Hill	89	Dunaways	Over 100 Years From Now
74	Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call	Gone, Gone, Gone	90	New Vision	When I Cross
75	Steve Ladd	Jesus Saves	91	Matthew Hagee	I Don't Want To Get Adjusted
76	Big Mo and Chosen	More Like You	92	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	He's Still God
77	Soul'd Out Quartet	Hey Everybody	93	Undivided	Walking With Jesus
78	Mylon Hayes Family	Jesus Can Change Your Life	94	Gibsons	One Drop Away
79	Rick Webb Family	Let The Rocks Keep Silent	95	Blackwood Brothers Quartet	That's What Heaven Will Be
80	Rochesters	God's Been Good			
81	Carolina Boys	Watch And Pray	96	Canada's Double Portion	Gentle Hand
82	Dove Brothers	Hold On	97	Primitive Quartet with Archie Watkins and	
83	Wilbanks	Matchless Name		Smoky Mountain Reunion	When I Get Home
84	Dixie Melody Boys	Roll Back	97	Triumphant Quartet	Because He Loved Me
85	Tammy Jones Robinette	Beautiful Day	99	Old Paths	Love Them To Jesus
86	Dixie Echoes	So Many Reasons	100	Jay Parrack and Vocal Event	I Call Him Lord
87	Kingdom Heirs	I'll Know I'm Home			

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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).



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

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



Sandi Duncan Clark and Cliff Clark make their home in Easley, S.C. where they enjoy traveling, gardening, and the beautiful South Carolina weather. Sandi has worked in journalism for more than

thirty years, and she is thankful that her love for God and Gospel music provides a great opportunity to positively impact the careers of so many in Gospel music. Email Sandi at [sandi@sgnscoops.com](mailto:sandi@sgnscoops.com).



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

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



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

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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational

blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

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



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



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



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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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



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

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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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