

SGN SCOOPS

JULY 2016

NE

THE MARTINS

ALSO FEATURING:

**DOUG ANDERSON, THOMAS NALLEY OF GOLD CITY, FAITH'S JOURNEY,
AND BLAKE BUFFIN OF THE MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET**



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OUR MISSION

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

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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

John 8:36:

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free.”



As we celebrate the Fourth of July and our independence as a Country, I often wonder about how much people really think about being free and how much we spend time pondering our freedom. I know over the past few months, the Publisher's Point has become less about things in the magazine, and more about things on my heart, and that's what this Publisher's Point will be about.

I include myself in the group I talked about above, people who probably don't think about their freedom enough. I know especially as Americans we say we cherish the freedom which we have in this country we live, but how many of us as Christians truly enjoy the freedom we have in Christ? I would say most of us haven't and I include myself in this.

I know I have allowed myself to be put in a box and not to enjoy the freedom that I have through Christ. I will also tell you that I have, on many occasions, limited God and what He can do or what He's willing to do if we are willing to allow ourselves to be free in our thinking about God is going to work. Galatians 5:1 says: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free! Stand firm, then, and do not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

Over the last few months I've tried to be better and listen to what God is saying, and what freedoms I can have in my life as a Christian. I'm not saying I'm perfect, I'm far from it. In fact, I struggle every day with allowing God to be able to work through me and through the freedoms that He allows me to

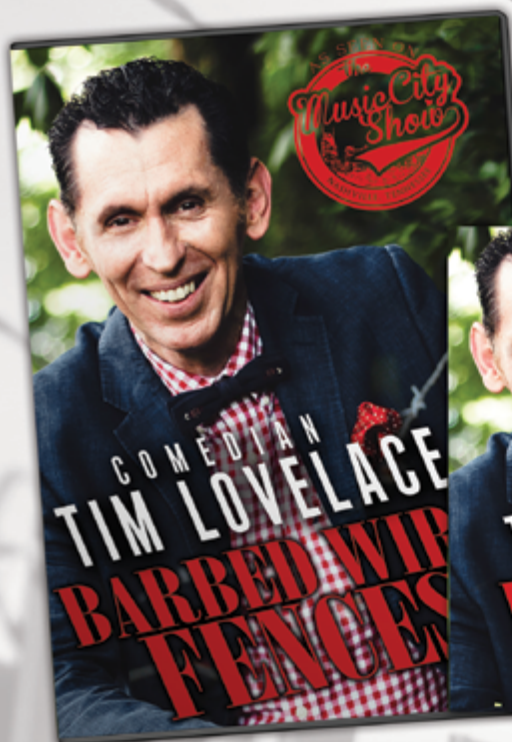
have.

I will encourage you though at this time of the year, when we as a Country celebrate our freedom, that we as Christians should enjoy the same freedom of our faith. God wants us to be able to enjoy life and to live free from worry. I'm not gonna tell you that I will ever live free from worry. I try every day, but to be honest with you, there's not a day that goes by that I don't worry about things.

Yes, as Christians we say worry is a sin and I agree it is. Not only is it a sin, but it affects our body and I know it has mine; but I will tell you, if we pray and seek God through the freedom that we have, He will help us to remain in the level of strength which will help us to reach a new level of freedom.

I hope that you will stand with me during this month of freedom and pray that more and more people find what we have as Christians; a freedom to worship the God who created us. May we not forget with the hustle and bustle of each day, that we enjoy freedom not only in America but in our faith!

That is this month's Publishers Point!



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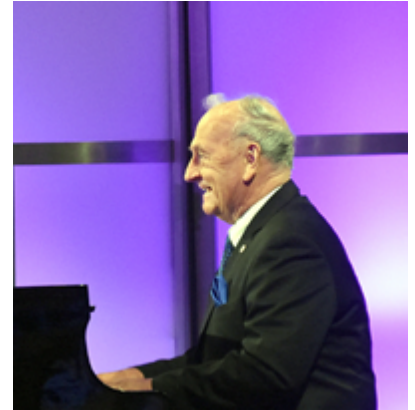
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A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris:

2015 Harmony Honors

Photographs by Craig Harris



This past Spring, TBN was the site for the Southern Gospel Music Guild's 2016 Harmony Honors, hosted by Michael English. This year, the event honored Dottie Rambo and Rusty Goodman, both prolific Gospel singers and songwriters who left this world with a legacy of wonderful music.

SGNScoops' ace photographer, Craig Harris, was on hand to capture the appearances of such musical guests as Rambo McGuire, Goodman Revival, The Nelons, Joseph Habedank, Blackwood Brothers Quartet, The LeFevre Quartet, Freedom Quartet, Mark Trammell Quartet, Gold City, and Tribute Quartet.

We hope you enjoy this visit to a memorable evening of song, as we Look Through The Lens Of Craig Harris.



CREEK SIDE

GOSPEL MUSIC CONVENTION

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 3, 2016

ARTIST SHOWCASE, JAM SESSIONS,
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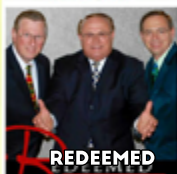
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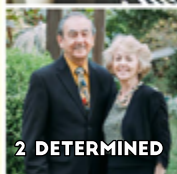
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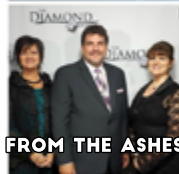
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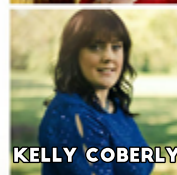
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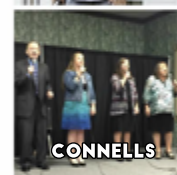
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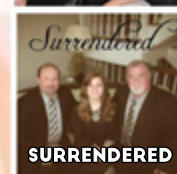
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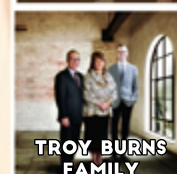
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The Martins

Still Have Something To Say

By Jaquita Lindsey

When the brother/sister trio known as the Martins are mentioned in the Southern Gospel world, you can automatically *hear* the rich, natural family harmony that they are known for. This Spring Hill/Gaither Music recording trio has garnered four number one singles and four top 10 singles in their musical journey. The Martins have also earned eight GMA Dove Awards, as well as two Grammy nominations for 1998's Best Southern Gospel, Country Gospel, or Bluegrass Album of the Year: *Light Of The World* and 2015's Best Southern Gospel, Country Gospel or Grass Roots Album of the Year: *A Cappella*.

While the music has won them numerous recognitions, their memorable songs such as "The Promise," "Out of His Great Love," and "Count Your Blessings" are what the fans remember about this trio the most.

The Start

The Martins grew up in the small, Arkansas town of Hamburg. At a very young age, Jonathan, Judy and Joyce were taught to sing three-part harmony by their mother,

Wylma Martin. They practiced often at home and sang in their home church whenever they were provided the opportunity. Eventually, they ventured out to area churches throughout the region.

The family sold a car to pay for their first recording before they began their full-time music ministry. "We started singing together so early as a family, and we each felt the call to do it in a ministry capacity. It became our career, and we have lived a full life being able to perform Gospel music," Joyce states. "It is so rewarding to know that something we love to do makes a positive impact in people's lives."

The Gaither Experience

The Martins found their big break in 1992 when Michael English and Mark Lowry insisted that Gloria Gaither listen to the trio. They auditioned in the women's restroom of a church with the song "He Leadeth Me," a cappella style, prior to a Gaither Homecoming video recording in Indiana. Gloria insisted that Bill



allow them to sing in the video. The Martins have gone on to appear in over two dozen homecoming videos.

“From the very first day, the Gaithers and everyone involved with Homecoming have been a huge encouragement to us,” Jonathan says. “We had been traveling full time for eight or nine years at that point, but becoming part of Homecoming truly catapulted our ministry into the forefront of Gospel music. At the same time, we were basically being reintroduced.”

This dynamic trio is regularly featured on various Gaither events. Most recently, they were a part of the Gaither Fest event held in Dallas, TX. The Martins have also made appearances on the Grand Ole Opry, at Carnegie Hall and the White House over the years. They are thrilled this year to be a part of the upcoming annual *Turning Point Cruise* with Dr. David Jeremiah this summer.

Forget About It?

Chris Castle and Eddie Howard of Mark Five/Sandcastle Studios discovered the melodic trio at the 1987 National Quartet Convention. Amongst the mid-day cleanup time, the teenage siblings were singing a cappella in an empty room of the civic center. A local record company had just rejected Joyce, Jonathan and Judy. The record company told them to “go back home, and forget about trying to make it in the business.” My, were they so wrong for that decision.

After a weekend visit to their hometown by Eddie Howard, the Martins signed with Mark Five Records. Mark Five launched the Martins’ first album release in 1990, *With Love From Arkansas*, produced by Howard himself.

The project quickly gained ground on the Gospel charts. After the second album later released, the trio’s formation was sealed in Southern Gospel. The contract with the Martins was then sold to Springhill Records. That decision would take this amazing trio to a whole new level of marketing.

Creating A New Niche

Being originally from the south, Joyce, Jonathan and Judy grew up firmly and proudly planted in traditional Southern Gospel music. As they matured into adulthood and their own musical careers, the siblings have encountered a broad range of musical influences. *Bill-*

board Magazine described the Martins as ones who are “breaking down walls and blurring the lines that separate Southern Gospel from Inspirational, Adult Contemporary, and other popular Christian music formats.”

Rather than resting in a single niche among the numerous Christian music genres, the Martins have gathered bits of style from various backgrounds, creating a sound all their own. Whether it is a traditional hymn that we can identify with from our childhood or an original song written by the pen of one of the siblings themselves, the songs are tossed into the trio’s musical blender so that a “Martin” mixture emerges.



“We stopped trying to achieve a certain sound years ago,” Joyce reflects. “Now, we sing songs that speak to and move us. When the time comes, we just trust the producer that God sends our way to put the songs together with a common thread.” Their portfolio of songs includes every musical palate, ranging from innovative and refashioned hymn arrangements to contemporary songs of praise and worship.

Changes For The Family

In 2002, Jonathan Martin left the group in order to spend more time with his family. Joyce and Judy then enlisted the help of Paul Lancaster, formerly with Mullins & Co. and the Nelons. Together, they recorded *Above It All*.



Between 2003 and 2010, they were somewhat inactive as a group in order to spend more time with their own families, although they did reunite for concerts periodically. During this time, the three each recorded a solo album. Joyce released *Diamonds On A Dusty Road* in 2004. Jonathan released his first solo project, *Enjoy the Journey* in 2003 and *With One Voice* in 2006. Judy's *Color Me* released in 2005.

Family Reunion

After nearly a decade of time away and pursuing individual music careers, the three siblings reunited in 2010. The road back from a long break from recording and full-time touring began with a trickle. The Martins schedule has become full stream over the past few years. The thanks for that, the Martins say, mainly goes out to Bill and Gloria Gaither.

In 2011, they released their first new recording together in 10 years, *New Day*. Jay DeMarcus of Rascal Flatts produced the album. The songs on *New Day* ranged from Country-tinged to Pop-leaning, from foot-stompers to Sunday-morning hymns—all, of course, rooted in the

timeless truth, grace and love of the Gospel message.

“The idea for the title came from the sense of where we have been and where we’re headed, individually and as a group,” Joyce says. “Even though we’ve been at this for so long, in our lives—spiritually, emotionally and everything—it is all a brand *new day* for us.”

In support of the release, The Martins returned to touring and found the arms of audiences to be very welcoming. “What we are striving to always be able to portray is hope,” Judy adds. “We have all faced some real-life challenges over the years. We were able to come out knowing that all of those things that we believe and have been singing about are more real than ever. We believed before but we have a lot more heart to believe it with now.”

Back To The Start

In 2013, the trio returned to the studio once again with renowned arrangers Lari Goss, Michael English and David Phelps to record *A Cappella*. This project marked the first a cappella release for the Martins since 1996.

“This new music is something that has challenged us beyond our expectations,” says Joyce. “We had to work harder than ever and strive for the excellence that we believe God expects from us.”

Their current radio release from this project is the song entitled “If We Ever Needed The Lord Before, We Sure Do Need Him Now.” *A Cappella* not only received a Dove Award nomination but a Grammy nomination as well.



Martin Madness

In the spring of 2014, The Martins began touring with long-time friend and popular comedian, Mark Lowry, in the *Music & Madness* tour, in addition to their personal appearance schedule. Twenty-two years after meeting this talented trio, Mark joined forces with the Martins for the first time, on record and the road.

The artists collaborated on Mark's project, *How We Love*, and began an on-going nationwide tour together. Sponsored by Feed the Children, *Music & Madness* also features pianist Stan Whitmire. Fans have learned to expect a little bit of everything at these shows.



Taylor, Olivia, Amelia and Harrison.

"We mix it up," says Mark Lowry. "The Martins and I sing together. Sometimes, I kick Jonathan out and it's just the sisters and I on a song. We do whatever it takes to make the night a success!"



Still Faithful

You have to wonder how these three manage to travel together while living in separate parts of the country. Joyce Martin Sanders lives in Nashville, TN, along with her husband, Paul. She has two children, Trey and Mae.

Judy Martin Hess makes her home in Columbus, GA, along with her husband and her four children: Tripp, Hannah, Emma and Isaac. Judy is married to Jake Hess Jr., son of the legendary Jake Hess.

Jonathan now resides in Des Moines, IA, along with his wife, Dara. Jonathan is the father of six: Halae, Michael,

"Today, the road has a fresh passion for us. We feel like we have something to say to people who struggle and question their place in this world. Music gets us there. Our testimonies of God's faithfulness to our family keep us relevant," Joyce shares with us.

Music is definitely an effective tool in a world that is ever changing. The Martins, like many others, can convey the Gospel in a way that some non-believers will listen to when they will not enter the doors of a church.

I, myself, can testify to being a Martins fan for many years now, owning countless copies of their projects. There are many artists on the road today, especially those who sing with their siblings, will who give credit to this trio as being one of their musical influences.

In a recent article that I wrote, an artist told how she and her siblings would sing into hairbrushes as microphones, pretending to be the Martins when they were young kids. Although it may be somewhat comical to us now in adulthood, we all had those artists that we admired and desired to be like. I cannot think of a better group to desire to sound like than this spectacular trio known as the Martins.

The Martins are on the Harper Agency booking roster. You can contact Harper Agency for more information at www.harperagency.com or 615-851-4500. Showcase Management manages the trio and Writer's Ink Publishing does their publicity. The Martins can be found on all social media outlets as well as their personal website the-martins.com.



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CHRISTIAN COUNTRY EXPO UPDATE - CCX '16!!

By Rob Patz

With Christian Country Expo 2016 just a couple of months away, we hope you've made your reservations to come and be with us August 15th through the 18th for a great time of Christian Country music. We are excited about this year's event and one of the things that has us excited and working hard is that this year we will be giving out the Diamond Awards in the Christian Country categories at Christian Country Expo.



Right now at the Christian Country Diamond Awards voting site here: <http://www.sgnscoops.com/christian-country-diamond-awards-top-5/> you can choose your top pick out of the five nominees. Who do you think should achieve "Living Legend" status out of the following: Tommy Smith, Leo Johnston, Del Way, Dan Duncan, Ken Holloway? And who would you pick for Group Of The Year: Crossfire Gospel Band, Tacketts, Kevin Rowe and the Prodigal Sons, The Hinson Family,

or Branded? Many of the Top Five Nominees will be appearing at the CCX '16!

You can vote now for your favorites on the top five artists until July 24th. Vote today at <http://www.sgnscoops.com/christian-country-diamond-awards-top-5/> We are



looking forward to a wonderful time as we present the Christian Country Diamond Awards 2016 on Thursday evening, August 18th, to close out Christian Country Expo 2016.



Band, De La Croix, Pace Brothers, Shirley Carter, Shellem Cline, McKay Project, Bev McCann, Arkin Terrell, Danny Pilkey, Debbie Seagraves and The Positive Cowboy, Jim Sheldon, plus other special guests to be announced.

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



More Information

Don't forget! Besides all the great music that we have for Christian Country Expo, there are times during the day for you to check out all the wonderful things that




Artists appearing at this year's event include: **Wanda Osborne, Trinity Wennerstrom, Debbie Bennett, Epp Mevin Walls, Tommy Brandt, Kevin Rowe, The McDougal Family, Chuck Day, Kenny Gardner, Carol Barham, Ava Kasich, the Jordan Family**



are going on around the Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg area. We also want to invite you to take in Dollywood while you are there.



VIP tickets are also available. Call Rob Patz at 360-933-0741 to reserve your VIP spot. Like us on Facebook and be sure to check there for more information:
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Let God Drive: A Look At The Career of Doug Anderson

By Justin Gilmore

Small Town Dreams

Dream big and let God drive. This perfectly describes award winning Southern Gospel soloist Doug Anderson. This country-loving baritone had a dream in his heart to sing Gospel music.

Anderson grew up in the small town of Lapel, Indiana where he still resides today with his family. Before his dream of singing full time Gospel music was realized, he excelled in basketball throughout high school and college.

Doug's passion and love for music began at home. Anderson recalls, "My parents always sang Southern Gospel music and I guess it is in my blood. I can remember as a little kid having groups in our church and I knew that's what I wanted to do with my life."

This family atmosphere helped shape the vocalist that Anderson is today. His family listened to many different

styles of music, each having a profound influence on him.

"I grew up listening to all styles of music," says Anderson, "We were a musical household from Broadway to secular to Gospel. I think as an artist today I feel so comfortable with many genres I've pulled from."

In addition to group such as the Happy Goodmans and the Hinsons, many individual vocalists also had a major influence on him. Anderson states, "If we are talking Gospel, I would say Kenny Hinson was my biggest influence as well as Phil Collins, Journey, The Eagles and Alabama." This rich collection of influences truly helped inform Anderson's musical style.

Music was always a major part of his life, as was sports. Doug played basketball throughout school and was a star player. Many people thought that he would go on to become a pro, but God had other plans for Doug that would change his life forever.



A Quartet Singer Is Born

In the 1990's, Anderson got his first major quartet job as the baritone vocalist for Lighthouse Quartet. It was here that Doug developed his vocal style and learned to gel with a group. Future Signature Sound members David Griffith and Roy Webb also performed with the quartet as bass singer and pianist respectively.

Anderson also had the opportunity to sing with the legendary Cathedral Quartet when the two groups performed together. This special concert also included a meeting with Cathedrals tenor Ernie Haase. This meeting would be a definitive moment in Anderson's life.

Ernie Haase & Signature Sound (2002-2015)

When Doug met Ernie Haase, the latter mentioned that he



intended to start a group of his after the Cathedrals retired. Haase said that Anderson would be a great addition to the quartet.

In 2002, Haase formed Signature Sound Quartet, later renamed Ernie Haase & Signature Sound (EHSS) to avoid confusion with regional groups. Anderson, Shane Dunlap (lead), Tim Duncan (bass), Garry Jones (pianist) comprised the original lineup of the group. This was the beginning of a blessed career.

Anderson delighted audiences with his warm baritone voice for 13 years as a member of EHSS. During his tenure, the quartet was nominated for several Dove Awards and a Grammy for their 2008 project *Dream On*.

Anderson has fond memories of his time with EHSS. He states, "The Years with SSQ are the best years of my life to this point. I love the guys there and still do. It is a family and a brotherhood that nobody understands but us. Nobody would know my name if it wasn't for Ernie, and I'm proud of that."

Going Solo

Towards the end of his time with the group, Anderson felt God lead him to pursue a solo career in addition to his position in the quartet. Anderson recalls, "About five years ago, Ernie came to me and asked if I was interested in doing a solo project.

"I didn't know how that would be because I'm used to the whole team

concept. I jumped at the chance and we've had a lot of success. I was trying to juggle Ernie Haase and Signature Sound and a solo career at the same time. It just became too much.



"I have two daughters at home and I love being a part of their lives. So I decided to leave the group and just do my solo ministry. It's been amazing at the response and support that I've had. I'm so thankful and I'm able to control my schedule.

"We have garnered three Dove Awards on my solo projects and that's not what it's all about but it sure helps open doors." Anderson's solo projects, on Haase's label StowTown Records, have garnered high praise and his latest CD is no different.

The Only One, which was released in May 2016, is another



record infused with that down home Country style and heart that listeners have come to expect from Anderson. This recording is a collection of songs that truly tell a story: the story of Jesus and how He changes our everyday lives. It very much deals with faith based heritage, trusting God in the midst of suffering, and celebrating the little things that bring you joy.

Anderson states, "The new project is like a shot of adrenaline in your veins and response has been great. [The new project] is actually more 'me' than I've ever been able to do. It basically shows where I am in my life at this point.

"The songs are great, the writers are amazing and it's doing very well. [The new project] is all about love and how much God loves us unconditionally. Go get it. You will not be disappointed and that's hard for me to say!"

A New Group Is Formed

Doug Anderson has already experienced great success in his solo work this year. He is thankful to God for his continued blessings. In addition to his solo career, Anderson is now a member of a group once again. He provides

baritone vocals in the exciting new Southern Gospel/Christian Music trio Cana's Voice.



This new group is comprised of Anderson, former Avalon vocalist Jody McBrayer, and popular Southern Gospel singer TaRanda Greene. Anderson says, "Landon Beene and I have been dreaming about the crew for the past 10 years vacationing together on the back porch. We just started dreaming and putting things together and it just works."

"I look forward to the possibilities and the doors opened by God."

He is excited for the future of this group and praises God for his blessings. Their debut album *This Changes Every-*



thing, which was released on May 27, 2016, garnered rave reviews.

The album, featuring songs such as "There Is A Mountain," "Love Anyway," and "Jesus Never Fails," debuted at #1 on the Christian Music Inspirational Charts among others.

Anderson has great rapport with the other members and their voices blend well together. This powerhouse trio is sure to take the Southern Gospel field by storm.



Let God Drive

Doug Anderson has been living his wildest dreams. God has blessed him with a wonderful career of praising Christ and spreading His Word all over the world. This small town, country style baritone had a big dream to sing Gospel music. He trusted God and let Him take control of his life.

Remember, you can do all things with God. Just let Him drive!

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HOPE TO THE HILL

Balancing Love and Truth

By Nathan Kistler



Living in a culture where bad has become good and good now bad is the very antithesis of what it means to be a Godly nation. I am finding more and more that Christians are becoming - ever so gently - less about being truth driven, but merely love driven. Yes, love is important just as Christ was the example of love in it's finest form. However, Christ is also the perfect judge. He is in fact love and truth in perfect balance. Finding this balance as Christians is difficult to say the least, but is truly vital for the furthering of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Washington, most typically lose track of reality. It is somewhat of a problem and has been for some time. Many of us wonder what has come over some of our leadership in Washington at times, but we also understand the mass weight of power that reigns over the great city which rules over the affairs of the world.

A deluded state of mind and heart can begin if one is not careful. One is called to choose between the two masters of parties and leadership in Washington, thus there begins the difficult mess which is politics. Right now we find ourselves in a place few nations have been in history. We stand at the door of oblivion some would say, or opportunity say others.

This election is truly vital for the future of our nation. Not in choosing the lesser of two evils, or even following a political movement. This election is about the very core of our nation's belief system and where our past so meets our future. Will we continue to be a nation of God-fearing and God-trusting people in a time when the world does not seem to care about God? Shall we follow a party or movement for the sake of seeming political power? I say no! Let us pray for our nation that God would grant us mercy. May we trust

that God is in control over the affairs of man and not fear for He holds tomorrow.

In recent days we have heard of and have seen the horrible atrocities in Orlando, Florida. Our hearts go out to the many who have been affected by these horrible acts of terror and violence. It is once again an opportunity to share the love of Christ with those whose lifestyles we would disagree with. Understanding that while truth is very important, balancing that with God's love is vital.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. This verse rings in my head today over and over again. So I ask you all to be fervent in your living and loving for Christ today. We are all sinners, none greater than the other. Let us have hearts of humility and compassion for the lost.

I had the honor of attending a very special dinner a few weeks back with some of our highest ranking officials as well as many of my colleagues in Washington. It was a glorious evening filled with conversation, laughter, and music in the wonderful Supreme Court building. This was part of our ministry in sharing the Gospel with our leaders and I was truly honored to be a part of the evening.

It reminded me of how important it truly is for our ministry in Washington to the wonderful leaders who serve us as a nation. Much of what we do cannot and will never be spoken, for we bare the trust of those who confide in us with their faith. Daily, I am in awe of God's graciousness to allow us to be "Christians in Caesar's household."

We serve the men and ladies who serve our nation with prayer and encouragement on a daily basis. I ask you to hold us up in prayer and those who serve us in office in highest prayer. The decisions and daily difficulty which comes with their offices can be a heavy load on the mind and heart.

I am encouraged by the many young Christians I am meeting on a weekly basis in Washington. God is moving in a powerful way. I do not believe that He is done with America and I pray you feel the same. Let us have hearts of repentance and may God grant us mercy in the days we live in.

I do want to share one last thing with you all. God has smiled upon us in Washington and has granted the opportunity for us to have a new office space right in the middle of town. These things can usually be very expensive, but someone has offered this space at a reduced rate. I ask that you pray for the Lord to bring in the funds necessary for this and that He would bless our endeavors to share His Gospel.

If you would like to know more about my ministry on the Hill, please visit www.nathankistler.com and click on the "Hope to the Hill" tab to find out how you can better pray and get involved. If I can ever be of service to you, please call the office at [202-770-7300](tel:202-770-7300). I look forward to sharing with you next month about a very special ministry I am partnered with in Washington.

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SGN SCOOPS

..... MAGAZINE

TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Carter Robertson Band | God Against the Law |
| 2 | Bev McCann | 24 Hours A Day |
| 3 | Jim Sheldon | Church Like We Knew Back Then |
| 4 | Kevin Rowe and the Prodigal Sons | He's Coming |
| 5 | Shellem Cline | Blue Jeans and Biscuits |
| 6 | Arkin Terrel | One Step Closer |
| 7 | Mary James | Fearfully, Wonderfully Made |
| 8 | The Parrish Family | Old House |
| 9 | Bruce Hedrick | Roses From God |
| 10 | Debbie Seagraves | Where Was God |
| 11 | The Wards | My Father Is Near |
| 12 | John Penney | Old Rugged Cross |
| 13 | John Randolph | You Ain't Never Been To Texas |
| 14 | Long Short Duo | Carry Me |
| 15 | James Gee | God Sent His Son For That |
| 16 | James Gee | Thank You |
| 17 | Tina Wakefield | Jesus Take A Hold |
| 18 | Tommy Brandt | Broken |
| 19 | Blake Shelton | Savior's Shadow |
| 20 | The Tacketts | Mirror Mirror |
| 21 | Chuck Hancock | All The Way |
| 22 | Freddie Pate | Crossroads |
| 23 | The Fowlers | I'm Nothing Without You |
| 24 | Cindy Hughlett | Make it To The Mountain |

25 Chris Golden
26 Jerry Branscom
27 Dale Friedrich
28 Mike Sanford
29 Cornerstone
30 Danny Ray Harris
31 Stratiotis
32 Craig Campbell
33 Brandon Poole
34 John Steed
35 David House
36 Robert and James
37 Eternal Vision
38 Tommy Renfro
39 Ashley Helmuth
40 Crossfire Gospel Band

You Can't Do Wrong And Get By
Long Haul
In That Old Country Church
A Man Named Jesus
Just Before Dawn
It's All Good
Final Bell
Outskirts Of Heaven
I Remember The Day
The In Crowd
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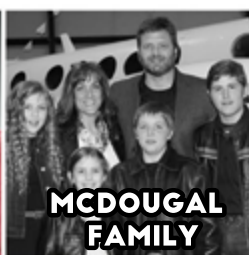
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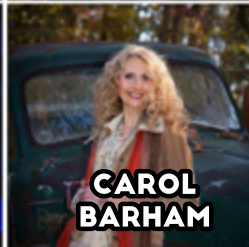
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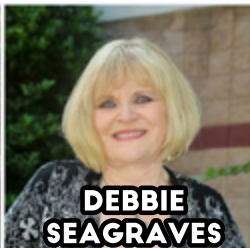
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THOMAS NALLEY: A GOLD-PLATED HEALING

By Craig Harris

Miraculous hearing restoration restarts Thomas Nalley's career as a member of Gold City

Though he started singing at a young age, Thomas Nalley didn't grow up hoping to sing Southern Gospel music. However, simply being thankful doesn't seem to encompass the way the 37-year-old feels about singing Southern Gospel Music now.



"To stand on the stage with anyone is an honor," Nalley said. "Being with Gold City, that's just more incredible. It's all a God thing. I ask Him to give me what I need, and He has.

"I'm thrilled to be singing, period."



A Quartet-Man's Worst Nightmare

Nalley has been an industry mainstay since 2010, spending two years with the Providence Quartet and then three years with the LeFevre Quartet. However, the tenor singer's career came to an abrupt halt in February of 2015.

"I was at a gun range, and when I started to check out, I



realized that I couldn't hear much," Nalley explains. "It was noise trauma. Apparently, the hearing protection I wore that day was not good.

"I couldn't hear my pitches to lock into endings. So, I resigned. I felt like they were at a time where they were about to really take off, and I didn't want to hold them back."

The resignation wasn't immediate. Mike LeFevre – the group's owner and manager – convinced Nalley to remain with the group for a while, but when the hearing condition didn't improve significantly, Nalley eventually resigned.

"Every day was a struggle," Nalley remembers. "My joy was gone. Eventually, it drove me to make the decision to resign. It was a feeling of inadequacy.



"But in that time, God drew me closer to Himself. My relationship really increased. I started to focus on things other than music and really got my priorities in order."

Nalley actually remained with the group after Jeremy Peace was hired as LeFevre Quartet's tenor singer, serving as the product manager.



Healed!

“I ran the product table for a week,” Nalley points out. “We were in Missouri (at a live taping of the Jim Bakker Show), and people came up and asked, ‘can we pray for you?’ That day, I had my full hearing restored.

“Two or three weeks later, Gold City is looking for a tenor singer, and here I am running the product table. They (the LeFevre Quartet) had already brought on Jeremy Pearce.”

Ironically though, Nalley didn’t have hopes of joining Gold City ... despite being a huge fan of the award-winning quartet after discovering Southern Gospel Music in 1998.

“I never heard Southern Gospel until I met my wife,” Nalley explains. “Her name’s Sarah, and she’s a huge Cathedrals fan. She had some cassettes. I fell in love with it. To hear some of the best do it, I was just hooked.



“My wife and I got married in 1998 and started going to pick out homes. We were at a mobile home park. We were looking at modular homes, and that particular day, they had a group out of North Carolina called the Foundation Quartet. When the day was over, I said, ‘I think I’d like to do this.’ They directed me to Singing News Magazine (for job openings in the industry).”

The Cat’s Meow

Though he wasn’t familiar with Southern Gospel Music, he did perform as a child.

“I grew up singing in the church,” Nalley says. “My mother was a singer. My grandfather on my dad’s side of the family was a tenor singer.

“My mother was big into singing in church. One of the first times I sang, I was probably five years old. She would pull my sister and I up to sing in front of the old, country church ... ‘Put Your Hand in the Hand’ and stuff like that.”

Nalley discovered Gold City shortly after his introduction to Southern Gospel Music.

“My first (professional) group I saw live was Gold City,” Nalley – who embarked on his singing career when he joined Solid Rock in 1999 – notes. “They were at a local church. It was Jonathan (Wilburn), Jay (Parrack) and Mark (Trammell). I was like, ‘Man, these guys are just phenomenal.’ I went up that night and talked to Jonathan, and he told me to look at the Singing News too.

“They were the cat’s meow. They were *the* group. They were one of my top three groups of all time, that combination of guys.”

However, Nalley was hoping for a different opportunity when Gold City came knocking 16 years later.

“It was a God thing,” Nalley emphasizes. “I had been contacted during a time where the tenors were dropping like flies. The Inspirations, Kingsmen and Mark Trammell (Quartet) were looking for tenors. I was in the running for that job (with the Mark Trammell Quartet). The Inspirations contacted me. I was very excited about the opportunities.

“I thought – 100 percent – that I was going to be Trammell’s next tenor, but God had different plans. The Gold City thing happened right in the midst of that. Mark Trammell called me up and said, ‘I want you to look into Gold City.’ I said, ‘Well, I don’t really want that job, but I’ll do it because you asked me to.’ I wanted that (Mark Trammell Quartet) job.”

Nalley’s prayerful request for direction was granted.

A Part Of A Legacy

“The more I prayed about it ... finally, I prayed the prayer that really ran my life ... ‘open the doors that need to be



open and close the doors that need to be closed,” Nalley says. “(God) did just that. He took the Trammell job out of the picture. I said, ‘Ok, God, you want me to be with Gold

City. I don't think I'm capable of that, but if you'll help me, I'll do it."

Nalley – who had careers in hotel management, restaurant management and public works prior to delving into Southern Gospel Music on a full-time basis – joined the group last August.

"You see all the Singing News Awards on the wall," Nalley points out. "You see all the groups through the years. You're like, 'wow, now, I'm a part of this legacy.' It's very surreal. It's cool to sing those songs like 'Midnight Cry' and to think of all those top-notch, high-caliber singers."

In addition to "Midnight Cry," some of Nalley's other favorites include "Hide Me Behind the Cross," "Are You Ready" and "He Said."

"I've grown so much in the last eight months since I've been here," Nalley notes. "Danny (Riley, the group's manager) took a chance. He saw something in me, something he could cultivate and grow. I've taken all the positive criticism and applied that."



"God, in the last (few weeks), gave me such a revelation. As singers, it's hard to stand on stage and not think about the technical aspects of what we are doing. What I've began to pray and apply, is, 'Lord, let me put the time in ahead of time, and when I go on stage, let me focus on a perfect praise.'"

Polishing The Gold

In addition to his personal growth, Nalley believes that the group is progressing as well.

"That's why I have grown the way that I have – vocally, as a communicator and as an all-around performer – 100 percent ... it's freedom of being allowed to make

mistakes," Nalley explains.

"We as a group focus on those things. You keep doing that until you find the (correct) formula."

"God has put together this group of guys. We've hired a new booking agent (the April Potter Agency). We've done a lot of things new. We feel like God is placing a team around us to take Gold City to that next level again. We feel that buzz again in the industry."

Family Values

Nalley is not only getting positive vibes from those in the industry but also from those at home.

"One of things we deal with as gospel singers is our family dealing with what we do," Nalley notes. "My wife has always been supportive of what we do, but she didn't completely grasp that it wasn't as much of a desire as it was a calling. (After my hearing was restored), she understood the passion I have for Gospel Music, for people, for fans. That went a long way toward her (further) accepting what we do ... and the kids too."

His daughter Brianna had a similar realization during that period of time.

"My daughter was so excited when she found out I was going to be able to sing again," Nalley remembers. "That meant the world to me. She's 16, so she's doing a lot of things. We're not able to be there all of the time. She was excited that Daddy was going to work a regular job and be home (when it appeared that his singing career was over). But for her to take herself out of the equation and to realize that Daddy loves this was great ... that was cool."

His 14-year-old son Benjamin has been on board from the start.

"He wants to be a bass singer," Nalley points out. "He's still more of a lead, but he has all the moves down, cupping his ear and all of that. He just loves hanging out with the guys. He loves everything about what we do."

Dad is fully on board as well.

Unbelievable and Undeserving

"To go from thinking it was over, to standing on stage doing it at all – much less with the Number One group in Gospel Music history – it's unbelievable," Nalley emphasizes. "God, I am so undeserving ... thank You."

"I'm having more fun than I ever have in my career."



By Rob Patz

Rob Patz, Publisher of SGNScoops, along with Leslie and Dennis McKay of M.A.C. Records are pleased to announce Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend, September 9th and 10th, 2016, in Vernon, Alabama.



"I am so excited to return to Alabama for another great weekend of Gospel Music," says Rob Patz. "These weekend events are becoming widely known for exciting music, quality artists and terrific fellowship. I hope all of our friends return for Vernon

Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend!"

Some of the artists appearing at the GMW include Trinity 3, Chris Golden, The Hinson Family, McKay Project, Capstone Quartet, and Kenny Gardner. Gospel artists that are interested in joining these groups can contact either Dennis McKay or Vonda Easley at the numbers listed below.



Two days filled with Christian Country and Southern Gospel music will also include a talent search for beginning Gospel/Christian music artists. The prize package includes a six-song EP valued at \$3,000, which includes



studio time, engineer/producer, mixing/mastering of project, and two final copies of the mastered project on CD. This incredible package also includes advertising in SGNScoops and song promotion by Hey Y'all Media. Prize package does not include studio musicians or product/CD's.

"We are thrilled to partner this year with SGN Scoops Magazine to bring back the Gospel Music Talent Search to my hometown of Vernon, Alabama," says Dennis McKay, owner of M.A.C. Records. "Last year's talent



search was a great success and we appreciate the support and enthusiasm that everyone showed to us and to those that participated. Last year's winner, Shane Cruse, will be releasing his project in the next few weeks and he has released his single, "I Held On" to radio. We will be looking forward to working with the next winner and are very excited about being able to offer an

even larger prize package this year. So, don't hesitate; get your registration sent in and make plans to be with us in Vernon."

Artists and fans are invited to visit the Facebook page for more information, at <https://www.facebook.com/macnightofworship/> For more information on participation in the Gospel Music Weekend or the talent search, email info@macrecords.net, or call Dennis McKay at 662-889-2829 or Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892.

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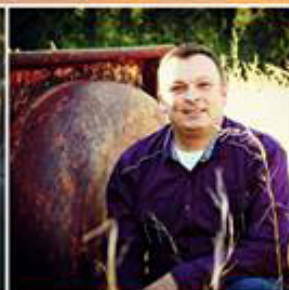
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‘DEFINITELY GOSPEL’ WITH FAITH’S JOURNEY



By Joshua Clark

For the past two seasons, the group Faith’s Journey has joined forces with several of their friends to present a unique take on traditional Branson shows with *Absolutely Country, Definitely Gospel*. This 90-minute show at God and Country Theatres features half Country music with a positive message, and half Gospel music ranging from old-time hymns to recent Gospel hits.

“There are so many great shows in town with so many talented singers, but where we’re different is we’re not Country singers singing Gospel, we’re Gospel singers that do Country,” said Jonathan Edwards, the group’s baritone singer and manager.

“We don’t do any ‘beer drinkin’, or ‘cheating’ songs, and I promise you, this is one show you can walk into and not have to worry about what your kids or your grandma will hear.

“From our stupid jokes to our music, it is all uplifting, and ... we hope when you walk out you’re thinking ‘wow, what a great hour and a half.’”

The show features Edwards and fellow Faith’s Journey members Deana Edwards, his wife who also sings soprano; and tenor Jonathan Lee; as well as friends Jamie Layton on bass; and Lee Hendrix on piano.

Beginning the Journey

Even though Edwards grew up in Tennessee as the son of a pastor, he didn’t see a future in the church until he was in high school.

“What I really wanted to do was play baseball, but when I was in high school I went to a Gospel concert and I feel like my direction in life changed,” Edwards said. “I was going to go to college at Liberty University in Virginia, but I ended up at Baptist Bible College in Springfield, and while I was there, I toured with Tribute, one of the singing groups.”

Edwards continued performing after graduation with Final Call and the Ascension Quartet, but also took a job doing “full time church work” for eight years, followed by a decade-long stint doing radio work.

Four years ago, Edwards married Deana, who sang with her family group Southern Heritage.

Shortly after being nominated for several radio awards and winning the Paul Heil Award for Favorite Broadcast Personality by the Diamond Awards and SGN Scoops, Edwards was let go from the radio station where he had worked for so many years.

“That’s just how the radio business is,” he said. “But after that, we started thinking about what we were going to do now.”



He and Deana decided to form Faith’s Journey, throw caution to the wind and go “full blast” on the road in 2012. After a year of performing, they decided to relocate from Ozark to Branson.

“That first year we did 130 dates on the road, and we still keep that schedule today,” he said.

A Branson Show



“But two years ago we got an opportunity and started doing a show in Branson. (God and Country Theaters owners) Dick and Dawn Easton came over and heard us and asked if we’d be interested in moving to God and Country, which we did last year.

“This is absolutely the greatest place for us to be because it fits so well with what we do.”

Even though the change in venue also resulted in a change of the show’s name, it didn’t affect the content.

“The original name of the show was ‘Positively Country, Definitely Gospel,’ because we wanted to make sure every song we sang was positive and uplifting,” he said.

“We decided to change the name for marketing purposes, and people say it’s such a long name, but it tells you exactly what you get when you walk in.”

The country section of the show includes a mix of uplifting and nostalgic hits like “Grandpa (Tell Me ‘Bout the Good Old Days),” “Meet in the Middle” and “Coal Miner’s Daughter,” while the gospel part highlights old and new favorites like “I’ll Fly Away,” “This Old House,” and “Antioch Church House Choir.”

Even though Edwards and company would love to do a full Gospel show, highlighting some Country music not only allows them to cater to a wider audience, but helps set them apart from other full gospel shows in town.

“We would love to do a full Gospel show, but when you’ve got so many great quartets like New South doing an all-Gospel show, and R.W. Blackwood and them back in town doing Gospel, and Kim (Boyce), Gary (Koreiba), and Allen (Asbury) doing a Gospel show, you’ve got to have something that’s a little different,” he said. “To be honest, doing this show has opened up so many doors for us as far as traveling that doing a straight Gospel show wouldn’t do.

“We go to these places and do Country music with a positive theme and throw in the Gospel, by the time we get to the old hymn section, the people just go crazy for that old time music because these are songs that everyone knows and loves.”

Positively Authentic

Edwards said they’ve been getting positive responses both at home and on the road.



“I’m thrilled where we’re at in our second year,” he said. “Branson has come so far with lights, sound and production shows, but we’re old school Branson. If you want to remember what Branson was in the 1980’s and early 1990’s,

this is the show.

“We try not to be too ‘preachy’ or ‘gimmicky,’ we just want to be authentic.”

That authenticity often carries over into the crowd, something Edwards said keeps them going, and they welcome with open arms.

“You can clap, you can raise your hands and you can shout ‘amen’ here,” he said with a laugh.



“It really is the only show you’ll go to in Branson where revival might just break out. I want people to be encouraged and set the distractions they brought in from the world and set them aside, and to know that Jesus loves them.



“Those are the two biggest reasons we travel the country and do this show in Branson.”

Showtime for “Absolutely Country, Definitely Gospel” is 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the God and Country Theatres. For more information, visit faithsjourneytrio.com or godandcountrytheatre.com.

First published by Branson Tri Lakes News, June 12, 2016; http://www.bransontrilakesnews.com/news_story/article_d8cb5b62-2f2c-11e6-bd03-c71dab0e40bf.html

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Larry Flegle



This month our DJ spotlight is on Larry Flegle from WUCG in Blairsville, Ga.

I had a few questions for him and here are his answers. Thanks Larry for helping keep this great music alive!

VE: At what age did you become interested in radio and what sparked that interest?

LF: My parents gave me a six-transistor radio in 1961. I would listen with a little earphone every night when I went to sleep. I would usually wake up with a dead battery in the morning. As a result I fell in love with radio. In late 1964, I rode my bike out to the local radio station in Arcadia, Florida to visit a friend who was a radio announcer. The general manager of the station told me if I would learn how to operate the station he would hire me. I started working there a week later.

VE: What is your favorite hobby?

LF: I have several. Fishing is number one. I mostly catch and release. About once a year I keep a few trout for the table. I also like to metal detect for lost relics and coins. Twice I have recovered wedding bands for friends and once for my mother.

*VE: If one day in radio had to be your **best** day, what day was it and what happened?*

LF: My dad was a Baptist pastor. We left Arcadia because he accepted a new church. I was heartbroken to lose my radio job. I didn't know it but he called the radio station in our new hometown and got me an interview. I was immediately hired to do "Good Morning Gospel" on WHAN, Haines City, Florida in August 1965. I love gospel music so having a gospel radio show was not work, it was fun. My favorite group of all time is "The Rebels Quartet." I have been in and out of

radio for the last 51 years. I have worked for 15 radio stations. I am also an online college professor.

VE: What would be your dream vacation?

LF: My dream vacation would be to take my lovely bride of 45 years to Hawaii.

VE: Tell me about your family.

LF: My wife of 45 years is Jan. She is my best friend. She is a special, talented lady. She is a precious gift God gave to me. Jan and I are dog lovers and have two Maltese: Lacy and Lily. Our 36-year-old daughter is Krista LeAnn. She lives in Decatur, Georgia with her three dogs.

Larry adds the following story:

In 1964, a 15-year-old preacher's son, Larry Flegle rode his bike five miles to Arcadia, Florida's WAPGAM 1480 radio to visit a friend. When he arrived he met the general manager of the station who was desperate for a disc jockey to work the daily afternoon Rock 'N Roll show.

He told Larry if he learned how to run the station he



**Written By
Vonda Easley**



could have the job. Larry immediately took him up on the offer and the “Larry Vee” show was born.

Larry rocked on from 4:00pm until local sunset, five days a week. He played Elvis, the Beach Boys, Ricky Nelson and a new group from England called the Beatles.

The summer of 1965 brought a big change for Larry when his father accepted the pastorate of a church in Dundee, Florida. Larry was crushed having to leave his radio show.

Shortly after the move his Dad asked him to go for a ride. The destination was Haines City’s WHAN AM 930 radio just eight miles away. Larry was asked to take over the morning Gospel show and the afternoon Rock show and started that afternoon.

He stayed with Channel 93 WHAN until February 1967, when he joined the announcing staff at WIPC AM 1280, Lake Wales, Florida. Larry was asked to run the Country music show at midday. Rock ‘N Roll was in his blood and he left the fall of ‘67 to run the “Nightbeat with Larry Vee” on WSIR AM 1490 in Winter Haven.

July, 1968 brought a letter from the Selective Service office and a temporary end to spinning records. Larry joined the Navy and it was four years before his return to radio.

In June, 1972 Larry began a degree program in broadcasting at the University of South Florida in Tampa. A few months later he was hired by Jim Maloy and became “Larry Michaels” at WQYK AM & FM in Tampa working the overnight shift from midnight to 6am. Some years later Larry went on to become co-owner of WBTG FM Gospel Radio in Sheffield, Alabama.

Dr. Flegle is now a college professor with fond memories of being part of the early days of Rock ‘N Roll radio. He now runs AMU Internet Radio for American Military University. Classic rock, of course. amuradio.com/

He also runs Cowboy Gospel NETradio over the internet at www.cowboygospelnetradio.com/

Larry also was with Radio Forecast Network announcing weathercasts for 25 radio stations per day. He is now owner and manager of WUCG M, 93.1, Blairsville, Georgia. URL www.wucg.org. G93 as it is known, plays gospel and country music 24/7.

In 2013 Larry was fan voted DJ of the year by the Gospel Music Express Showcase for his work with Cowboy Gospel NETradio. He is on the Campfire Council for the International Cowboy Church Network Alliance.



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By Lorraine Walker

Creekside Gospel Music Convention is coming up quickly and you need to make your hotel reservations today! Held from October 31st through November 3rd, 2016, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, Creekside features many of your favorite Southern Gospel artists such as The Williamsons, Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, Joseph Habedank, The Hyssongs, and more.

Remember that the Creekside tickets are FREE but must be RESERVED! Do it today at www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com.



Reserve Your Room Now

The time to book your accommodations at one of Pigeon Forge's finest lodgings, the Ramada Hotel at the Smokey Mountain Convention Center, is NOW! Rates start as low as \$182 per person (based on double occupancy) for reservations call Rob at 360.933.0741 or contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at hotels@sgnscoops.com or by phone

at 256.239.7716.

Don't miss the special events happening every day and night, from the Creekside Honors, Diamond Awards and Hymn Sing, to daytime showcases, afternoon jam sessions and mid-night prayer. For more information click on the Creekside website or Facebook page.

A Word From Some of Our Invited Guests

Richard Hyssong of **The Hyssongs** tells us, "We always look forward to singing at Creekside in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Each year the crowds are getting bigger and we love seeing all of our friends."

Soloist **Ava Kassich** says, "I am so excited to be going to Creekside for my 4th year! Every year is better than the one before. It's very exciting to see just what God has in store for





everyone involved. I can't wait to see how many souls are saved this year. If you haven't been yet, please don't miss it this year! If you were there last year, I know you are just as excited as I am. I'll see you there!"

Donnie Williamson of the **Williamsons** notes, "We are looking so forward to the Creekside Gospel Music Convention again this year in beautiful Pigeon Forge, TN. There just isn't a better place to be! Great music, ministry, fellowship, and, best of all, worship. What more can you ask for?"

Other artists performing at Creekside include: **The Pine**



Ridge Boys, Shellem Cline, Alliance Quartet, Drummond Family, Heart's Song, Jason Runnels, Sharp's Quartet, Jordan's River, Griffins, McKay Project, Surrendered, Chandlers, Connells, and more.

Creekside Classic '16

Reserve your spot at the newest Southern Gospel Golf Tournament! We are adding a little competitive camaraderie by staging the Creekside Golf Tournament Classic '16 on Wednesday, November 2nd, for men and women of all ages. There will be trophies and bragging rights to be claimed! Reservations are \$25 per person. Contact Russell Wise to register yourself or a team at 256-458-6943.



Something Special

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

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



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

The Diamond Awards will be presented during the Convention on Tuesday night, November 1st, 2016, during a celebration hosted by Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff. Make sure your favorite artist is recognized. Vote today! The Top Ten

nominees are waiting to be voted on by you! <http://www.sgnscoops.com/the-2016-diamond-award-nominations-2/> Midnight prayer returns each night before you head to your room to rest up for the following day.

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

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



Fifth Anniversary VIP Passes Available

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

What You Need To Know

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

Creekside Gospel Music Convention would like to hear from

you! Tell us what you want to see and hear in 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.

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

Fall Tree Photo Courtesy of Wolfgang Staudt

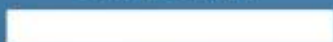


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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Blake Buffin of the Mark Trammell Quartet

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

It's time to welcome another *newbie* into the Younger Perspective family! Today, that just happens to be 27-year-old Blake Buffin. Blake is coming up on one year of filling the tenor part with The Mark Trammell Quartet (MTQ) and what an excellent job he is doing, I might add. I asked him back at Abraham Productions' Singing in the Sun this year if he would be interested in being one of my interviewees. (I mean, how could you say no?) I'm so glad he accepted and is here with us today! Take it away, Blake...

Erin: For those that don't know the back story, how did you come to fill the role as tenor for MTQ?

Blake: I was following MTQ on Facebook and saw the release about their tenor leaving, so I prayed about it and sent them a demo and bio. I heard back from Mark, and set up a time to drive down to Gadsden to meet the guys and sing a little. I filled in with them a few weekends and then got offered the position.

Erin: What did life look like for Blake Buffin before joining the group?

Blake: I was singing tenor for a group out of Kentucky called Mission Quartet and also working for my dad doing home remodeling.

Erin: What are some aspects of traveling full time that you weren't expecting?

Blake: I wasn't expecting to get picked on so much! But I have come to learn that it is a good thing and if they quit, there must be something wrong. I am slowly learning to pick back. I also wasn't expecting to love

sleeping in a bunk so much. I think I sleep better on the road than I do in my own bed.

Erin: Between joining the group and getting married all around the same time, how are you and Lauren adjusting to 'quartet life' on and off the road?

Blake: It has been a whirlwind, but honestly it has gone very smoothly and we are adjusting very well. Since we married into this kind of lifestyle, it is all we know as a



married couple. It has actually been nice because when we come home, we typically have three full days together a week. God has been so good through it all, and has made it clear to me and to Lauren that this is where we have been called to be. I am so thankful that Mark gave me this opportunity, and he has been very gracious and has helped make this transition go as well as it has.

Erin: Any new, favorite foods discovered while traveling so far?

Blake: Oh man, I have had so many new food experiences, mostly good. We eat a good bit of barbeque and that is definitely one of my favorites, especially Tony Gore's Smoky Mountain Barbeque. There was one

particular seafood restaurant we ate at called The Wharf Express; it is definitely up there on my favorites.

Erin: Who would you be found listening to most often on your iPod?

Blake: I go in music phases and listen to a



Erin: Where has been your favorite place to sing thus far in your career?

Blake: I'd have to say that the National Quartet Convention is up there as one of my favorites because it



was a very surreal feeling singing there for the first time. I had gone the year before as a fan and got to meet MTQ, not having any idea I would be singing on stage with them the next year.

large variety, but I'd say lately I've been listening to a group called The Tenors. They are a Pop-Opera group that consist of four tenors that cover a broad range of music.

Erin: In today's world, with so much uncertainty out there, how do you keep a positive perspective?

Blake: It is easy to watch the news and look around and wonder what in the world is going on, but I just know that I have a Creator who is in complete control of everything He has made and I can rest in that.

Erin: Is there a particular song you currently sing night after night that speaks to you personally? If so, why?

Blake: One song that keeps me in check is "How Long Has It Been?" which is a song about prayer and simply asks, "How long has it been since you've talked with the Lord, and told Him your heart's hidden secrets? How long has it been since you knelt by your bed and prayed till your heart knew no burden?" No matter how many times I sing that song, it will always have a big

impact on my life.

Closing words from the writer...

If you have had the privilege to hear MTQ in concert, you are aware of how moving that song is to the listener. What I appreciate most is the tenderness of Blake's heart to be moved by those lyrics, even after singing it at least a hundred times. They are words to live by, words to keep us in check and words to reevaluate ourselves daily. So may I ask, how long *has* it been for you, friend? How long since you asked the Lord for guidance and strength in this season you've found yourself experiencing? Don't wait a moment longer. Reach out, drop to your knees, and ask Him to show you what to do next. He's listening...

Until next month, Scoops fans.

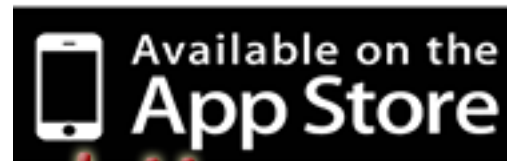
And that's my take on it.

You can connect with Erin on Twitter - @photosforkeeps • Instagram - @photos_for_keeps

Who would YOU like to see Erin interview next?



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"I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay
The last thing I need is to be heard
But to hear what You would say..." --MercyMe

Recently I have heard that some in the faith were spreading rumors to hurt another's ministry.

Now let's pause here a second...I know! I was just as shocked as you probably are right now.

I can't think of anything more blatantly straightforward in scripture as there is concerning gossip and trying to tear down someone's ministry. I think Paul actually encountered this himself.

I am reminded of the story when Jesus' disciples came to Jesus angry, because a man was casting out demons in Jesus' name. He was doing the very same thing they were doing.

The disciples were outraged because this man was not a member of their exclusive group. I love Jesus' reply: "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."

I guess the reason hearing this story felt so personal to me was because lately I have been studying Proverbs. Over and over Proverbs says the foolish person speaks gossip

and spreads rumors about another. Prov.19 says it twice, in verses five and nine: "A false witness will not go unpunished, and a liar will be destroyed."

As believers, the world is watching us and when God has given you the platform to be an influencer you have a greater responsibility to weigh the gravity of your words in love and gentleness, especially when it comes to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

The bible says that they will know we belong to Him (Christ) by our love for one another.

Romans 1 goes as far as to call gossip unrighteousness and evil. Romans 1:28-32: "And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil..."

When Chuck and I were in Greece working with the Muslim refugees, a long-term missionary told us that some of the refugees were coming to the faith because the people they met there to help them were Christians.

When they first came off the boats, a Christian was there to give them a blanket and wrap their arms around them.

When they went to the camps, a Christian was there to give them shelter. When they were hungry, a Christian was there to help hand out food. Their hearts were being softened because they saw love in action.

All throughout scripture we see where it is taught that wisdom is shown by our speech and by our reactions.

When I hear such talk of people using their influence to disparage another, my first reaction is, WOW! My second reaction is to search my own heart, and my third reaction is to separate myself from the gossips and then I stop and ask the Lord what His reaction would be and I lift them up to Him.

I would love to challenge you today to use your influence to spread the Good News of Christ. Let us all become love in action.

Lately my heart has longed to just sit with Jesus. Chuck wrote a song several years ago talking to God and telling Him that he wanted to just sit and hang out with Jesus and thank Him for all he has done for us.

The more we travel and see this world, the more I find

myself drawn to the simplicity of the gospel. Jesus saves...Jesus saves us all.

No matter what flavor we represent in God's kingdom we should do it with excellence and with honor showing respect and honor to those around us trying to do the same thing.

I love the above quote from a MercyMe song. It never has been about me, but about Him.

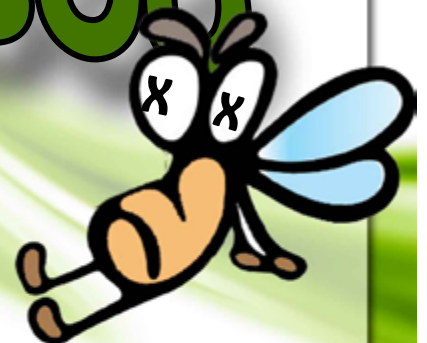
When you discover that, you discover true and real freedom. Freedom to love others and cheer them on where they are going, and the freedom to be all the quirky, cool, weirdo *you* that you are.

A poverty mentality says that there isn't enough room at the table for everyone but we serve a God that can and will open doors to many arenas, and allow us all entrance to the fullness of what God is doing in these last days.

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

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ED HILL

A Class Act On Any Day

By Charlie Griffin

Ed Hill has had a long and distinguished career as a Southern Gospel baritone singer. As a teenager the singing bug bit Edwin Lee Hill. In St. Louis, MO he found himself singing at the age of 15 with the Humble Hearts and later with a group known as the King's Men. Being a preacher's kid, he was always in church and Gospel music extended that reality.

Creating A Sound

After moving to east Tennessee, he founded the Prophets Quartet and stayed with them until disbanding the group in 1973. The original Prophets formed in January of 1959, after Ed became acquainted with Lewis Garrison, (a.k.a. "Big Lew") who was the choir director serving at his Dad's church. Ed incorporated Lew's high tenor sound into this new group.



"Big Lew" Garrison sang tenor, Jay Barry was lead singer, Ed sang baritone with Rancel Taylor singing bass, and Gary Trusler was the original piano player. The first three months the group practiced every

day. Their first program was in March, 1959.



The Prophets recorded their first album in November that year. During these quartet years, Ed and Lew Garrison truly took Gospel music to a higher note. Their polished high harmony

and energetic performances remain as classics today in the annals of Gospel music.

Ed shares, “The Prophets were the first new major quartet to come along in several years. The Statesmen Quartet, Stamps Quartet, and the Blackwood Brothers really helped us getting started.



“But when Rev. J. Bazzell Mull used us on his TV program, in May 1960, then things took off. He was really a help for us to get started, and got us right into the middle of things. Then 1961 we went on the Gospel Singing Caravan with the Blue Ridge Quartet, the LeFevres, Johnson Sisters, and Prophets.

“The TV program was syndicated in over 50 markets in

the U.S., almost from coast to coast. The program was comparable to the Gospel Singing Jubilee and Singing Time in Dixie in their day.”

The Elvis Years

Hill then moved to Nashville and was working at Sumar Talent Agency as managing agent. But that was short-lived, when JD Sumner called needing someone to fill in singing baritone with the Stamps Quartet. That lasted for five years until 1979.

During that time, the group was the feature quartet backing Elvis. Ed was also the personal announcer for the Elvis Presley Shows. “Elvis has left the building...” remains immortalized by millions of Elvis fans globally.

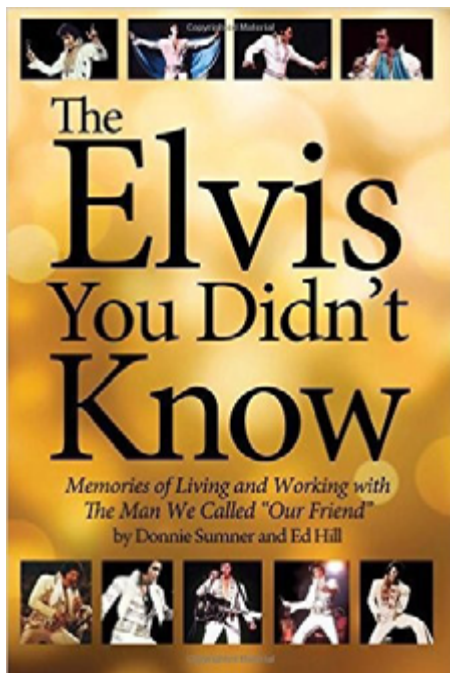
In that five year span the Stamps recorded *Live at Murray State University*, which is considered by many to be the benchmark of live recordings.



The Singing Americans

After a short stint with the Hovie Lister and the Statesmen from 1979 through 1980, he joined the Singing Americans in late 1980. During these years, Ed molded some tremendous singers into accomplished talents, including Michael English, Rick Strickland, Clayton Inman, Mike LeFevre, Danny Funderburk and Ivan Parker to mention a few.

When Charlie Burke called Ed about joining the Sing-



them.”

He continues, “I called Sharon and let her hear them. After hearing them she just said, ‘Well, I’ll pack my bag for North Carolina.’”

He was a fixture in the quartet until 1987, when he left the group, moving back to Nashville, TN. But in a short time he joined JD Sumner with the Masters V that same year. A few months later the group was re-named J.D. Sumner and the Stamps.

He remained with the Stamps (including a few years after J.D. Sumner’s death when the group was also known as Golden Covenant) until 2005.



ing Americans, there was a tug from yesteryear. Ed knew that Burke wanted him to sing baritone and manage them.

Ed states, “I wanted to get off the road. But I went to hear the group. When I heard the Singing Americans, they were the nearest sound to the Prophets I’d heard since I disbanded

Off The Road

On March 4, 2005 Ed suffered a stroke. He was released and underwent his recovery and rehab while at home. During this time he had triple bypass surgery. He was out for a few months. Thousands of Elvis and gospel music fans followed his recovery and awaited his return.

Now keep in mind, JD Sumner has been quoted as saying Ed Hill is “the best quartet man” he ever traveled with. He continued with the Elvis Memorial shows appearing at conventions throughout the USA and Europe.

His book “*Where Is Elvis?*” shares a side of Elvis not seen to many fans and is found with online vendors. Ed and Donnie Sumner also co-wrote *The Elvis You Didn’t Know*. Both books are available on Amazon.com.

Back On The Bus

For several years, Ed traveled performing solo concerts while sharing his testimony. The demand for a his solo concerts and talks filled a void. But his love for quartet music never waned. Then Ed got a call. Yes, The Songfellows owner, Bob Jones called needing someone to fill in on baritone one weekend.

Today Ed is not slowing down. He is still the “fill in” baritone singer for the Songfellows Quartet. Bob Jones, Hill, Rick Strickland and Mike Allen sing the classic Quartet Gospel music with rich traditional harmonies.

Since late 2009, he has continued singing those favorite gospel songs. Yes, he still gets requests for his timeless rendition of the “Lighthouse” and to share some of those “you should have been there” stories.

The Biography of Ed Hill

The Ed Hill impact has been subtle but not un-noticed by fans and historians alike.

- In 2009, Hill was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall Of Fame.
- Those who have travelled with him are quick to point out his disposition and positive attitude makes him one of the most valuable quartet men on the road.
- Ed Hill’s friendships are lifetime and he never forgets his friends.
- The Prophets are considered one of the most

beloved quartets of their era.

- While the Singing Americans followed in the Prophets style, Hill's touch on their growth and stylings is unmistakable.
- His tenure with legendary JD Sumner and the Stamps speaks for itself.
- Hill's classic smooth voice as Elvis' Concert Announcer is legendary.
- Hill is one of the best blending baritone singers on the road.

Over the years his family has supported the quartets, the moves to different cities and his desire and love of gospel music. He and Sharon Hill will have been married 62 years in August of this year. They have two children, both living in Nashville, TN, son David and a daughter Lisa, with three grandsons, David, Drew, and David! There is a love affair with the names Lisa and David in the Hill family, (two Lisa's and three David's.) His son married a Lisa as well.

Sharon is a quartet man's wife and is a wonderful Christian lady.



Full Circle

When you talk to Ed Hill you will learn his life is not so different than most church people. He will tell you he sang a lot of years without being a Christian. Being a "Preacher's Kid" he knew how to talk like a Christian and how to act like a Christian.

But his testimony comes full circle.

He shares, "I became a Christian while with the Stamps in 1979, just before joining the Singing Americans. I wasn't a bad person, but I had never asked the Lord to come into my life. When I did there was a change. A change in living and singing. I have to admit, the Prophets were started just to entertain."

Hill continues "The Lord challenges us to live life fully and as a Christian we are to tell the people about Jesus Christ and what He's done for us. If I sing just one

song, and somebody gets saved because of what they heard, that's what it's all about.

"I hope I have touched people's lives in a good way and helped people to realize the need of salvation. I have been truly blessed singing for all these years and just been blessed many times over through years."

Class Act

Ed Hill is a Southern Gospel ambassador. He is truly one of the most genuine people you will ever meet. What you see on stage, at the merchandise table or at a local eatery, is the same every time.

Here's a side note, having worked with Ed Hill during his tenure with the Singing Americans and booking those groups in the subsequent years, I can say he is a mentor and friend. He shares his knowledge and cares about the person.

Ed Hill is not only an iconic figure of gospel music, he is a quartet man through and through. His love of God, family, friends and music still guides him. He is a class act on any day!





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

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Triumphant | Amazing God |
| 2 | Bowling Family | I Was There |
| 3 | Jeff and Sheri Easter | Small Town Someone |
| 4 | Karen Peck and New River | I Am Blessed |
| 5 | Whisnants | Grave Mistake |
| 6 | Brian Free and Assurance | That's Just What Grace Does |
| 7 | Kingsmen | I Know |
| 8 | Hoppers | Jesus, The One |
| 9 | Jason Crabb | Home |
| 10 | Mylon Hayes Family | One More Opportunity |
| 11 | Logan Smith | Come Spring |
| 12 | Tribute | I Remember The Day |
| 13 | LeFevre Quartet | Something |
| 14 | Kingdom Heirs | Pieces |
| 15 | 11th Hour | Mountain Moving Faith |
| 16 | Booth Brothers | Dirt On My Hands |
| 17 | Greater Vision | He Does |
| 18 | Second Half Quartet | Cheer The Weary Traveller |
| 19 | Wilburn and Wilburn | You Asked Him To Leave |
| 20 | Down East Boys | One Way, One Name, One Door |
| 21 | Talleys | The People In The Line |
| 22 | Jim Brady Trio | The Half That's Never Been Told |
| 23 | Lore Family | Trace The Grace |
| 24 | Blackwood Brothers | Forever Forgiven |
| 25 | Hyssongs | Prepare To Be Amazed |
| 26 | Chris Freeman | Burdens Are Lifted Away |
| 27 | Wilbanks | If It Ain't Broke Don't Fix It |
| 28 | Linda Foster | An Unfinished Task |
| 29 | Paynes | No Matter What |
| 30 | Ernie Haase and Signature Sound | A Soldier Fighting To Go Home |
| 31 | Georgia | The Road Less Travelled |
| 32 | Guardians | My Hope Is In The Lord |
| 33 | Old Time Preachers Quartet | The Old Time Way |
| 34 | Bates Family | Going To Heaven Someday |
| 35 | Collingsworth Family | What The Bible Says |
| 36 | Keith Barkley and Family Tradition | We're Almost Home |
| 37 | Mark Bishop and Forget The Sea | I Will Sing |
| 38 | Perrys | Keep On |
| 39 | Soul'd Out Quartet | What A Great Life |
| 40 | Barry Rowland and Deliverance | God Delivered Me |
| 41 | Allen Family | God Loves You |
| 42 | Page Trio | What God Says |
| 43 | Carroll Roberson | A Mighty Rich Man |
| 44 | Joseph Habedank | Big Enough |
| 45 | Noah Hinshaw | No Turning Back |
| 46 | Amber Nelon Thompson | Sing-a-long |
| 47 | Mercy's Bridge | The Crossing |
| 48 | Zane and Donna King | It Takes Jesus |

49	Annette Bingaman	Splinters of the Cross
50	Murray Family	Welcome Home
51	Ascension Quartet	The Lord Knows What To Do
52	Shenandoah	Good News Travels Fast
53	Isaacs	Leave It On The Altar
54	Pruitt Family	You Don't Even Wanna Make Me Pray
55	Canton Junction	Tumbling Down
56	Watts, Rowsey and Bean	When Revival Comes To Town
57	Sunday Drive	If There's a Rocking Chair in Heaven
58	Mark Trammell Quartet	I'll Take It To The Grave
59	Taylors	He's My Guide
60	Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver	He's In Control
61	Cana's Voice	Jesus Never Fails
62	Walkers	By A Roman Soldier's Hand
63	Brenda Whitlock	He's The Sanctifier
64	Mark Trammell Quartet	The King Is Coming Medley
65	Mary James	Fearfully, Wonderfully Made
66	HighRoad	Walk Beside Me
67	Joseph Habedank	Welcome Home
68	Gordon Mote	Only Jesus Can Heal This Hurting World
69	Mercy's Well	Today
70	John Bowman	Let The Hard Times Roll
71	Taylors	He Won't Fail You
72	Shellem Cline	I'm The One
73	Griffith Family	Give His Love Away
74	11th Hour	Can You Burn
75	Wisecarvers	More Than A Good Man
76	Bev McCann	24 Hours A Day
77	Legacy Five	That's A Hallelujah
78	Treena Wicoff	Ain't Nothing
79	Carolina Boys	We Shall Rise
80	Surrendered	I See My Name
81	Kramers	Who Am I
82	Nelons	Family Chain
82	Hoppers	Life Is Good
84	The Blankenships and Southern Praise	Hand On The Plow
85	Greg Logins and Revival	Until Then
86	Browders	Waiting For You To Get Home
87	Austin and Ethan Whisnant	I Lean On You Lord
88	Trinity Heirs	The Power Of Your Love
89	Judith Montgomery Family	I Claim The Blood
90	Pauline Patterson	The Road
91	Zach and Rodney	God's Honest Truth
92	Trinity 3	God Did It
92	To The End	Lord We Worship You
94	Greater Vision	As We Speak
95	Bledsoes	Heaven Will Be Worth It All
96	Steve Ladd	One More River
97	Inspirations	Pray For Me
98	Sherry Anne	I Know My God Cares For Me
99	Chuck Wagon Gang	Someday
100	McKameys	What If



SGN **SCOOPS**
MAGAZINE

#getconnected



The *New* Dove Brothers

By Robert York

In August 5, 1969, Belinda Dove gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. David E. Dove was the father and they named the baby David McCray Dove. He was named after his father David and the McCray came from his Scottish ancestors. Later on a brother, Eric, and sister, Crystal, was born.

The young child McCray began singing at age four and started playing piano at age five. Soon after he began playing all types instruments and by age 14 wrote his first song. He sang tenor from age 13 to 15 for The Countymen.

An Envious Resume'

McCray states, "My mentor was Gerald Miligan; he was well respected by many of the quartets of the '50's thru the '70's. I joined The Dixie Melody Boys when I was 17. I auditioned for the lead spot, Ed liked it, and we became a team from 1987 through 1998."

McCray has been married for 18 years to Yvonne Dove and they have four children. They are Kalea, who is their soon-to-be 16-year-old daughter; David Robert who will be 14 this year; and Andrew and Matthew who will be 10. McCray calls his mother-in-law *Momma Sam*, age 83, who has lived with them since Kalea was two years old.

McCray's grandpa passed away when McCray was seven. "My grandpa never got to see me in a quartet but he loved for me to sing. I wish the Original Dove Brothers could [have sung] for him."

Throughout his career McCray has written numerous songs.

The Dixie Melody Boys, Triumphant, Wilburns, Palmetto State Quartet, Karen Peck and New River and the Dove Brothers are among some who have recorded his songs.

This singer's most embarrassing moment was when he was with the Dixie Melody Boys and went to jump in the air on stage and slipped and fell on his backside in front of 2500 people.

Dove Brother Number Two

Tony Peace was born in 1958 in the Atlanta, GA area. Tony's parents formed a quartet a year before he was born and sang together until 1964. Inez Day, Tony's mom said, "I guess you can say Tony cut his teeth on Southern Gospel music."

Ms. Day is a great piano player and Tony always has her play when she attends a concert.

At age 12, Tony sang in his first Southern Gospel quartet along with his sister Melony, and cousins Derrick and Dennis. The group was short lived as the boys were more interested in sports than singing.

At age 16, he played for his dad's group until his illness. After his dad's death, Tony and his sister formed a quartet using their dad's name. During this time, he also served as music director at a church in Metro Atlanta.

1990 brought another change for Tony, when he joined The Wilburns. After his tenure with them, Tony created "The Tony Peace Gospel Hour," which was seen for the next 13

years on WATC TV in Atlanta every Sunday at 3:00 pm.

Tony also promoted an annual “Gospel Hour Concert” at his old high school. During this time he joined Palmetto State Quartet as baritone and emcee, staying there until 2004. He then went with The Kingsmen for a couple of years. He has since served as choir director and filled in with other groups, even playing bass for The Dove Brothers in 2011.

Dove Brother Number Three

From Hillsboro, Alabama comes Wesley Todd Smith, born in 1973. Wesley is often introduced as being from Fish Pond, AL which is quite a distance away, unless they are referring to the fish pond in Hillsboro, AL.

Fishing is Wesley’s hobby. He says, “I just love, love, love to fish, fish, fish.” His dad was a tenor singer. Wesley started at 14 years old, singing with his dad and brother. He spent time with the Palmetto State Quartet in 2006 and 2007.



Wesley was the tenor for the Dixie Echoes for four years and then with Driven Quartet from 2011 until they disbanded. Wesley said his dad was his greatest influence and the Old Statesmen was his favorite group. He describes the highlight of his career as “right now.”

The Dove Brothers Now

The Dove Brothers have seen changes throughout the years. Eric, McCray’s Brother who was one of the original members, sang until he hurt his shoulder and back and continues to battle severe nerve pain. He had to come off the road.

Eric keeps busy as a handyman but can’t handle the road anymore. He can still sing as good as ever.

McCray said, “I miss him, but I know coming off the road was best for him.”



McCray kept a group going, forming a band and calling it the McCray Dove Band.

Tony and McCray had always talked about forming a group. McCray said, “I was ready to sing classic Gospel music again. I asked God if it be His will, to put it together; so I guess He decided to put me with Tony. I have to say the New Dove Brothers is a God Thing!”

Wesley Smith said, “McCray and I talked about singing together. Tony and I talked about singing together. McCray called and said, ‘I’ve been thinking about a sound’....I had just come off the road and thought I was ready for a break....so I told him, I’d fill in and think about it....so here I am!”

Then the New Dove Brothers were on the road, having two CD’s on their table and hoping to have another soon.



With songs like “Get Away Jordan” and “Didn’t It Rain,” you can’t help but to clap your hands and tap your feet when the New Dove Brothers begin to sing.

This month the New Dove Brothers are celebrating their first year on the road. If you would like to book them contact McCray Dove [252-347-3170](tel:252-347-3170) or The Greenwood Agency [336-469-2705](tel:336-469-2705) or visit www.newdovebrothers.com.

Looking forward to a great Summer and Fall of Worship Services, Concerts, Relaxing Trips and Family Time, and of course we'll climax the year with SGN Scoops Diamond Awards Nov 1, 2016!



We had a great Winter with friends, ministers, and promoters during our stay in Florida.

We have a full schedule of church services, concerts, and senior programs for the remainder of the year. Lil' Jan and I have also scheduled personal times with two weeks in the Smokey Mountains, a week in New York, and a week in London, England. Please check our schedule for the times and dates of a program near you. We love sharing time with our Gospel Music Friends. (DrJerryGoff.com)

Check out our Singing at Sea Cruise for 2017. Make plans to go with us. It's the best vacation you'll ever have. - Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan

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Randall Reviews It - July 2016

by Randall Hamm

One year ago today, I began as CD reviewer for SGN Scoops. Since then I have reviewed 21 albums and have enjoyed every minute of it. Thanks to Rob Patz and all of SGN Scoops for this opportunity. Here's to another batch of 21 reviews this year! *Please send your latest releases for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.*

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

Randall

Let the Reviews begin!



JEANNE JOHNSON

Jeanne Johnson
Jeanne Johnson
2016 Independent
Producer: Gary Rushing

Songs: Stand and Testify (Anita Renfro, Kelly Garner BMI); If That Isn't Love (Dottie Rambo ASCAP); His Strength Is Perfect (Steven Curtis Chapman, Jerry

Salley Jr BMI); City of Gold (Fannie J Crosby PD) More Of You (William Gaither, Gloria Gaither, Gary Paxton BMI); God's Been Good (Tim Parton BMI); Hold Me (Joan Ewing ASCAP); The Longer I Serve Him (William Gaither BMI); The Old Song (Larry Gatlin BMI); When I Get Up To Heaven (Levoy Dewey, James Harrell ASCAP)

Jeanne Johnson, as many know, is a Gospel Music legend. She has spent time with the Gethsemane Quartet, The Speers, with her late husband Bob as a duet, and as a soloist these many years. Jeanne filled the gap between the departure and the return of Faye Speer to the Speer Family from 1968 through 1976. This current recording finds Jeanne in fine form, singing 10 great Gospel tunes, both new and old. The CD begins with "Stand and Testify," and what a song to begin with. It's a personal testimony about how the Lord has brought her through some trials and especially with the passing of her husband and ministry partner of 53 years, Bob, in 2014 at the age of 82.

Jeanne's alto voice over the years has been on many a hit song, but one of the biggest for the Speers was in 1971 with the release of "City Of Gold." Here Jeanne brings it to us again, and that beautiful alto voice has not lost any of its beauty.

The last track was recorded live at First Baptist Church in Indian Trail, North Carolina. "When I Get Up To Heaven," a song of victory, is a great track to close out the CD. It is a song of hope and eagerness to be there, with all the millions who've made it.

From her days with the Gethsemane Quartet, to the Speers, and her days with her husband Bob, and her

appearances on the Gaither Homecomings, Jeanne has certainly become a true legend in the industry. Her alto is one that when you hear it, know that it's Jeanne.

Thank you Jeanne for all the songs you've brought us, and we look forward to many more that you will continue to bless us with. To get a copy of this CD you can visit Jeanne at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009145728253&fref=ts> or email her at jeannejohnsonmusic@gmail.com

Strongest Songs: "City Of Gold," "God's Been Good," and "When I Get Up To Heaven."



The Harmony Quartet
When Jesus Speaks Life
 2016 Independent
 Producer: Tim Surrent, Danny Crawford

Songs: I've Made It Home (Rebecca Peck, Marty Funderburk BMI); One Step At A Time (Chris Binion BMI); When Jesus Speaks Life (Chris Binion BMI); I Believe God (Rebecca Peck BMI); I Am Barabbas (Dianne Wilkinson BMI); Don't Settle For The Grapes (Kenneth Kuykendall BMI); King Of The Mountain (Chris Binion, Jerry Kelso, Jim E. Davis BMI); Smack Dab In The Middle Of His Will (Chris Binion, Scott Inman BMI); More Than I Deserve (Chris Binion, Jim E. Davis BMI); Where You Lead (Chris Binion, Terry Wilkins BMI)

The Harmony Quartet, based in Dallas, TX, kicks off their 26th year of performance ministry with the release of *When Jesus Speaks Life*; a collection of musical biblical promises penned by some of the giants in Southern Gospel songwriting. Songwriters such as Chris Binion, Rebecca Peck and Dianne Wilkinson have contributed some great material for their latest CD.

The group is composed of Dan Andrews/baritone, Duane Daniels/bass, David Smith/tenor/piano, and Jay Meadows/lead. Both Daniels and Smith have been with the group for 13 years and Jay Meadows joined the group in 2015. Their harmonies are reminiscent of another group that retired in 2012, The Sonshiners. The CD kicks off with a great Rebecca Peck song, "I've Made It Home." Next comes the possible lead off single, "One Step At A Time," written by Chris Binion. No singles have been decided as of press time in June, but this reviewer is hoping that this will be one of the singles released.

One of the strongest songs on the CD is "I Am Barabbas," written by Dianne Wilkinson. Written from Barabbas' perspective, the lyrics say, "Who is this Man Who took my place, who is this Man who gave His life for me?" Barabbas was a criminal in chains and Jesus took his place on the Cross. We are prisoners shackled by chains of sin and Jesus took our place. Are we any different than Barabbas? What a song! Well crafted by Dianne, one Southern Gospel's top songwriters. The rest of the project is great listening as well. To get a copy of their strongest CD to date visit them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HarmonyQuartet/?fref=ts> or on the web at <http://www.harmonymusic.com/>

Strongest Songs: "One Step At A Time," "When Jesus Speaks Life," and "I Am Barabbas."



McKameys
Something Worth Saving
 2016 Horizon
 Producer: Roger Fortner

Songs: Christ Is Able (Tommy Walker, Mike Harland ASCAP); I've Been In The Book (Rebecca J. Peck, Dianne Wilkinson BMI); Bring You Glory (Leigh Parsons Sexton BMI); I Believe (Sheryl Farris BMI); That's Why

There's A Cross (Sheryl Farris BMI); A Few Things (Rodney Birch BMI); Back To Bethel (Larry Whitehead BMI); Days Gone By (Rebecca J. Peck, Dianne Wilkinson BMI); Something Worth Saving (Larry Whitehead BMI); Come To My Rescue (Sheryl Farris BMI)

The McKameys are back and like clockwork their latest CD is available. *Something Worth Saving* is definitely something worth listening to! Peg, Reuben, Sheryl, Connie, Roger and - lest we forget - Eli, have brought us 10 new songs with that pure McKamey sound. Sheryl Farris has once again brought us three new tunes, including the first radio single "That's Why There's A Cross," a top pick. Because of the incident in the Garden, when sin first came on the scene, God looked ahead in time and knew there needed to be a cure and "That's Why There's A Cross."

As on all McKameys albums over the past few years, everyone gets their moment to shine. Sheryl begins the CD with "Christ Is Able." The group is featured with Peg getting lead on "I've Been In the Book," one of my favorites on the CD. Connie gets a feature with "Bring You Glory." Young Eli this time gets a great Country-sounding tune, "I Believe."

Smack dab in the middle of the CD, we find a bonafide next single by the McKameys, "A Few Things," sung well by a singer that Peg discovered in her group, Roger Fortner. It's hard to believe that Roger never sang a note in concert or on a McKameys CD until *Unspoken Request* a few years ago. That song became a gigantic hit and now it is as much a staple at a McKameys concert as is "God On the Mountain." Reuben gets his turn with the title track "Something Worth Saving."

Overall this a CD you can't go wrong with. If you're a fan of the McKameys, this CD is like an old shoe, comfortable, and a CD you'll love to listen time after time.

Strongest Songs: "That's Why There's A Cross," "A Few Things," and "I've Been In The Book."

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John Rulapaugh



By Justin McLeod

One of the most recognizable tenor voices in Gospel music is that of John Rulapaugh. Whether seeing him for the first time or having heard him a dozen times, there is no mistaking his distinct vocal abilities and style.

John has sung with some of the most famous names in Gospel music history, including the Palmetto State Quartet, the Dove Brothers, and the Blackwood Quartet and now own his own chart-rising group, the Freedom Quartet.

A Gospel Music Newbie

Rulapaugh's career began with the Proclaimers Quartet, during which time he describes himself as "green as grass." After spending several months with the group, Rulapaugh got his "big break" early on, gaining national notoriety as the original tenor for the Dove Brothers.

"I was there from the first moment the group stepped on stage through the successes of the group receiving the Singing News Fan award for Favorite Male Quartet," John said of his time with the Dove Brothers. From the jumpstart-popular Doves, John wound up with the Palmetto State Quartet where he spent another five years.

Simultaneously during that same time, John sang with the Grand Ole Gospel Reunion Quartet, made up of legends of

the craft, including Buddy Burton, Hovie Lister, and Jack Toney. I'm going to let John recount verbatim some of his time with the group:

"I've said this before, but most people try to hold off until the end of their career for their 'swan song'. I went ahead and got mine out of the way early. What other kid gets an opportunity like that? Seriously?! There were grown men who were literally quite angry with me because I'd been chosen for the spot... I was oblivious. The idea [came from] Charlie Waller, to honor Hovie Lister and attempt to recall the "glory days" of the Statesmen Quartet. Incidentally, Hovie chose not to use the name 'Statesmen' because he'd already made the decision to retire the group upon his death and he knew Charlie's intention was to continue creating special projects going forward... When it became clear that Hovie was nearing the end, Charlie asked him to play piano for the group's first recording and he did, merely two weeks before his passing. Sitting in a plastic chair with pillows propping him up, he played his heart out for a full day and never seemed to miss a beat. He was a master at his craft till the very end."

The Grand Ole Gospel Reunion, GOGR, came to an end in



2016 after a mixup at the hotel where the event was hosted. “To say that I am saddened would be an understatement. For a few weeks, I felt like I was in mourning,” John shares, adding that the GOCR was the annual event he most looked forward to from his first attendance.

Trying To Fit In

Though considered one of the best in the genre, Rulapaugh has never seen himself as a traditional high tenor. “I fall squarely in the middle [of a high lead and tenor]. Not low enough to fill out the range necessary to sing lead for most quartets and not high enough to sing tenor for Gold City or the Kingsmen,” John says.



After a lengthy career in Gospel music, John, along with former Dixie Melody Boys lead singer Josh Garner, formed the Freedom Trio in the mid-2000’s.

Though the group’s sound was solid and the singers among the best at their respective positions, the group never completely found its niche and Josh later left for a full-time position with his former group, the Dixie Melody Boys.

Freedom Returns

It was at this time that John made possibly his biggest career move, transforming the Freedom Trio into the Freedom Quartet, adding legendary lead singer and Perfect Heart veteran Dale Shipley and popular ex-Dove Brothers bass Burman Porter, along with new-face baritone Preston Garner.

The quartet immediately became one of the most popular on the touring circuit, earning performances at the National Quartet Convention and Memphis Quartet Show, among other popular events, almost immediately.

Busy and Blessed

Behind every good man is a great woman, or so the saying goes, and John is married to Jennifer. The couple will celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary around the time this article is published, and they have two beautiful girls, Jaydon and Joscelyn, who are 10 and eight, respectively.

As if running one’s own popular quartet weren’t enough of a full time job, John and Jennifer also own, manage, and operate Vacation Valley Cabin Rentals in Sevierville, Tennessee. The business provides rental management services to log cabin owners in the Smoky Mountains and serves as a lodging provider for vacationing travelers and folks traveling on business.

I will close with this quote from John when asked about his beginning as a professional singer: “... [it was] as a natural progression in my life. It was always what I was going to do, and then suddenly, it’s what I’m doing. And I’m the luckiest guy in the world for the opportunities I’ve been given.”



ROGER'S ROUNDUP

By Roger Barkley Jr.

Am I Doing This Right?

In ministry there are many obstacles we all must face. Finding the right mixture of our talents with Godly wisdom of what to say to a crowd of people at any given time to some may seem as an insignificant thought process to some, but to me is something I take very seriously. You wonder, pray and cry to God to ask the question, “Am I doing this right?”

I used to tease my dad that he was my second favorite story teller (Jesus of course being the first.) They both had a way of taking a story and tying it together to make a point in ways that only they could do.

I always strive to say what God wants and not what I want to say, never using the time allotted to grandstand or soapbox political issues, but instead sharing biblical principles with stories of growing up on the farm.

Some people, even friends, say that sometimes I get a little preachy between songs or that talking between songs gets a little long.

I take comfort in the fact that it puts me in good company with my dad, Jesus, Jim Hamill, Wendy Bagwell, and others that have gotten God's Word out without people realizing they were even receiving a word from God. We must reach the world by any means necessary. I just happen to be a musical evangelist that utilizes technology in my ministry and tells stories through spoken word and song. Some people like it and some people do not. That is the great thing about freedom of choice. You are free to choose to listen or not.

The great thing to me is, as I heard just recently after services, that there are lives that say they have been encouraged, attitudes that have been changed, and spirits that have been lifted, because of the story that was shared between the songs of the concert.

I think maybe that this is God letting us know the answer to the question we asked Him earlier with an astounding ‘yes!’

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LOVE OFFERING RECEIVED TO COVER GROUP EXPENSES



The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Summertime. There have been many songs written about this time of year and I have lyrics swirling through my head right now, but what comes to the forefront is a verse from Isaiah, "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8 NIV). This may sound like a verse for Fall, but right now we are not having enough rain here in Southern Ontario, and things are not as lush and green as they could be. Regardless of what happens with the weather, the word of God stands. Forever. Just let that those two words roll through your mind.

I love that the word "Forever" means more to God than it does sometimes to us. It seems like bad times last forever. A relationship that was supposed to be forever ends too soon. Lifetime warranties are meaningless and our favorite Southern Gospel group decides to retire. Nothing is forever here on earth, except the Word of God and the Love of God, for both of those are wrapped up in Jesus!

I was so glad when The Martins retired some years ago that their leaving was not forever. One of my most favorite trio's ever, I am thrilled that these three siblings are gracing the cover of our magazine this month. Welcome Judy, Joyce and Jonathan to the world of SGNscoops! I'm sure all

of our readers will enjoy the feature story of your lives.

We have many talented artists to read about and we hope you enjoy all the updates on your favorite events as well. If you have any comments to make or suggestions or even constructive criticism, we welcome it all. Write to me at lorraine@sgnscoops.com. We strive to keep our magazine positive and uplifting but we don't always reach our goal. For those who find that we haven't hit our mark, we welcome your notes and email as well and we apologize for any offense. It is definitely not intended.

I'm glad we serve a God who is able to balance Love and Truth, as you have read in Nathan Kistler's feature. I hope that our magazine will strive to keep that balance as we invite you, our readers, into the world of Christian music. Thank you for reading!

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves Instructors on four continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>), on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/PraiseMoves>. Laurette invites readers to get started on the road to better health and fitness for spirit, soul and body. For a free, easy- to- follow 21 day program visit: <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com>



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

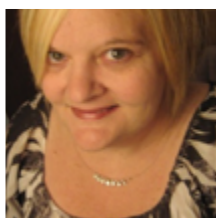


Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern

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



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



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

Contributors

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



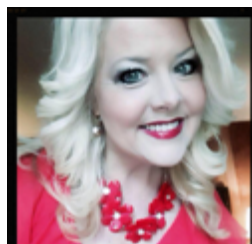
Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, and social networker. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. Along with running her own business, she is the official photographer for Abraham Productions (API). You will find her behind the lens at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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

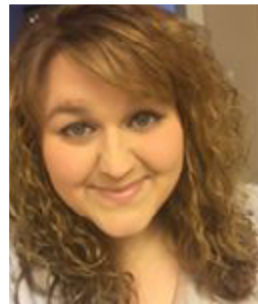


Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals,

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

Paige loves to blog about faith,

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

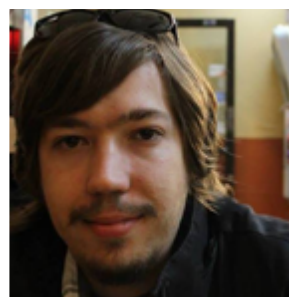


Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being

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



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



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

love of this great style of music.

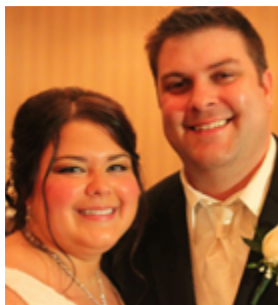


Roger Barkley Jr. is an award-winning Christian artist and musical evangelist. With multiple charting songs reaching to the top 10, his goals remain the same: to win souls for Christ, use Gospel Music of any kind to reach the world with the Good News, seeing lives changed and being an encouragement to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

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

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

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



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model.

Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have

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

She and Chuck have been pastoring a home-church for 14 years where they have experienced God moving in community and seeing the body of Christ in action through each other.



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

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



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

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

Contributors

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Auke Bijlsma- I was born in Zaan-
dam, The Netherlands on Septem-
ber 21st 1966. I'm Head of Opera-
tions for a major airline. My home is
in the countryside of Holland where
I live with my wife Patty, and our
two kids: Jake who's 16, and Lexi
who is 14, and our pack of dogs. My
oldest children, son Jesse 23, and
daughter Sarah 21, don't live with

me; they are all grown up building their own homes and
lives.

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

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

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