



# WILLIE WYNN

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

McKameys, Joseph Habedank, Gold City  
& Mark Dubbeld Family



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## OUR MISSION

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

Publisher- Rob Patz

Acting Editor- Lorraine Walker

Feature Editors- Sandi Duncan-Clark, Dixie Phillip, Craig Harris

Layout/Design- Pete Schwager, Staci Schwager

Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley

Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



This month is the countdown to Creekside Gospel Music Convention on November 3rd through 6th, and as we near the opening day, I would ask that all of you be in prayer for the event. Pray for safe travels, good health and great fellowship for all of our attendees, artists and fans alike. This is going to be a wonderful time with the Willie Wynn special on Monday night leading off a terrific week of singing and fellowship.

Of course, my favorite part of the week is the Diamond Awards which occur on the Tuesday night, November 4. I love the fact that it is completely fan-driven all the way from nominations through the Top Ten and then the Top Five. The gala evening is always exciting, with special guests and friends from throughout the industry dropping by. Please come and join us if you haven't already made your plans to do so. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention> for more information. Check the Creekside Update in this month's magazine for all the latest news.

We are so glad that our SGN Scoops staff and friends are in prayer for this event because we desire the blessing of God on each day and each concert. Also, we are planning a special Midnight Prayer service every night of Creekside, where we will begin with singing and then go into a time of prayer for the event, the artists, and the needs of fans and friends. We do hope you will join us!

I have to tell you one reason why I feel prayer is so important in everything we do. I had travelled down to the National Quartet Convention last month and I became very ill. We asked you, our friends and readers, for prayer...and you came through. You prayed for me and God healed my body. I will be going to see my doctor to ensure that all is well but I do know that He healed that situation at that time. Thank you for talking to the Father for me!

My last prayer request is that you pray for each of our Scoops' staff as you go through the pages of this magazine. Many hours are put into each issue and many people are involved to publish it every month. We do have some new writers that I know you will enjoy! Dan Duncan, Paige Givens, Dean Adkins, Candi Combs and Vivian Belknap are some of the newer writers whose articles you will see in our magazine and on our website. We hope that you will find them on Facebook and let them know how much you appreciate their writing.

If you have any questions about the magazine or anything you'd like us to pray about, please contact me at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com) I hope to see you next month at Creekside Gospel Music Convention!



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# A Letter From The Acting Editor

By Lorraine Walker

Relationship. All of our lives are based on relationship. Family, friends, coworkers, church family, and the list goes on. These relationships help complete our lives and teach us about an even greater love, the love of God.

Relationship is one reason why I enjoy Gospel music so much. In what other genre do you see such relationships being built? Acquaintances and friendships are built between artists and fans, fans and fans, and everyone else in the industry. Gospel music events are sometimes like a giant homecoming. People are talking, sharing their hearts and building relationships, because they share a love for the music and a love for Jesus, the Center of Gospel music.

Jesus Himself said that all of Scripture can be summed up in two commands. First, that we love the Lord with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. The second command is that we love our neighbors as ourselves. I'm still working on that but I know I have a great Example.

As unlovable, and sometimes horrible, as we humans can be, still Jesus came and died that we might live with Him forever and that we might know the greatest love ever. That, my friends, is the best example of relationship we could ever know.

Coming up at the beginning of November is your chance to experience more of this incredible relationship. Come hear more about the love of Jesus and experience 'relationship' between His children at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention on November 3rd through 6th in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. You will experience some terrific Gospel music and meet many of the SGN Scoops staff.

This October edition of SGN Scoops is also about relationship. We have families featured, quartets and trios. Events at family parks, conventions and concerts are also in

our pages. The Willie Wynn Bash at Creekside will feature several of Willie's friends and will soon encompass the whole audience as friends as well. We hope that you enjoy this issue and find something in it that encourages and uplifts your heart, whether you are an artist, a fan or an industry friend.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring you closer to the music we enjoy and to help build the community of Southern Gospel through this magazine, our website and our Facebook page. If you have any questions, comments or story ideas, please let us know at [sgnscoops@gmail.com](mailto:sgnscoops@gmail.com) or you can email me directly at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)







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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

An Update....

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



A very special thank you to Rob Patz and Lorraine Walker for getting the word out about my accident. I appreciate the opportunity to share the following update with the readers of this fabulous digital magazine:

Thank you, my precious friends, for the beautiful cards and “get well” comments sent to my P. O. Box and to my e-mail address. I am doing well as I recuperate from surgery to repair a broken ankle.

As most of you know, Howard and I are in our mid-80’s, and until recently we have enjoyed being in excellent health and able to travel to the major gospel events for many years.



I am thankful as I reflect on the blessed life that has been ours, as we deal with the current situation. A few weeks ago, I slipped on the wet stairs of the deck at home, requiring surgery on my ankle for two broken bones. This has been a “learning experience” for me, as I have always been very active.

God is teaching me a new level of patience. My

faith in the promises found in His Word has proven to be a daily source of comfort and peace when I feel overwhelmed.

The real burden, at this time, is on Howard who is taking excellent care of me. We are thankful to have our son and daughter check on us faithfully.

Please keep us in your prayers as I have a few more weeks of healing before I will be on my feet again. We are trusting that we will be able to join you at Creekside in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, November 3, 4, 5 and 6th.

I am confident that God has a purpose and will allow His love to keep shining in me in the days ahead. (Matthew 5:16)

Thank you, dear friends and colleagues, for ALL you do in spreading the message of Jesus Christ via our beloved gospel music.

**Editor’s note: We so appreciate Lou Hildreth and all she has done for us and for Gospel music. We encourage each of our readers to send a note of encouragement to Lou and Howard at: Lou Wills Hildreth [gospvideo@aol.com](mailto:gospvideo@aol.com) P. O. Box 271106 Houston, TX 77277**

Photo ID: Lou and Howard Hildreth



# The Big Heart of Little *Willie Wynn*

By Dixie Phillips



Little Willie Wynn is commonly known in gospel music as the man with a million friends. After interviewing him on the telephone I can see why. His gentle warmth and down home personality makes you feel like you've known him your whole life.

Recording artist, Woody Wright, traveled and sang with Willie for several years. He had these kind words to say, "Willie is my mentor. My dad passed away in 1979. Willie broke the news to me while we

were on the road. I consider him my 'stand-in' father. He is my absolute best friend. There is not a more influential figure in my life. I owe my career to him. I often tell him, if he had not given me my first road job in the music field, I would have probably gone to college and become a doctor or a lawyer."

Southern gospel historians consider Willie a legend in gospel music. His story of humble beginnings and then achieving the pinnacle of success so few art-



ists ever experience is the stuff movies are made of. It's sheer inspiration and should encourage every child who has a dream of singing for the Lord.

Willie was born the seventh child of Cyrus Wynn and Allie Belle Lunsford Wynn in Moultrie, Georgia. He was raised by a single mother on 173-acre farm with his six brothers and one sister. Willie said, "When my father left, my dear mother poured her life into us kids. She loved us and we loved her. All of us



helped with chores around the farm."

Willie learned a tremendous work ethic in the cotton fields of south Georgia with his close-knit family, but he also learned he loved music. "My brothers and I would work in the fields and we always had a dinner break. While we ate I listened to the beautiful music of the Statesmen, Blackwood Brothers, and the LeFevres. Nobody ever taught me parts, but I could hear them all. They came easy to me. It was a gift from God."

God had His hand on Willie and when he was

14 at Hopewell Baptist Church, he gave his heart to the Lord and was baptized. The young man also knew he was supposed to sing gospel music. "From as far back as I can remember, I felt a call from God to sing for Him. I can't really explain it. I just knew I was to sing tenor in a gospel male quartet."

Willie joined a quartet when he was still a teenager and sang with the Happy Four regularly on a local radio station. The group was well received and their fan base kept growing around Georgia. When he got in high school, he sang with the FFA quartet. "I just knew I had to continue pursuing my dream. In my heart I believed I would one day sing with the Statesmen."

While Willie was honing his musical talent, a man moved to Moultrie from Atlanta. He shared Willie's dream and wanted to start a gospel quartet of his own. "We tried to round up a few singers, but then the guy moved back to Atlanta. I wasn't sure how I was going to achieve my goal, but then the same fellow kept calling me and inviting me to move to Atlanta. When the time was right, I moved there and got a job in a bookbindery. After working for about a year Denver Crumpler, the Statesmen's tenor singer, passed away. They were looking for someone to fill his position. I went to the Briarcliff Hotel in Atlanta to audition. I knew all their songs and had a great time singing for them. There was one more fellow after me to try out—Rosie Rozell. Even though they hired him, I still felt in my heart I would one day sing with the Statesmen."

Even though Willie didn't get the tenor position, Jake Hess recognized the young man's talent. When some of the members of Wally Fowler's backup quartet for his All Night Singing asked if anyone knew of



a good tenor singer, Jake Hess suggested they contact Willie. The group didn't waste a minute. They drove to Willie's house around 11:00 p.m. and convinced him to come down to Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium. "Even though I wasn't feeling the best, I threw on my coat and went with them. I sang all the songs and was hired



on the spot. Eventually the group was named The Oak Ridge Quartet."

Warner Brothers was the Quartet's record label. They suggested the group change their name to the Oak Ridge Boys. The guys all agreed. At this time the group consisted of Willie Wynn, tenor singer; Smitty Gatlin, lead singer; Ron Page, baritone singer; Herman Harper, bass singer; and Tommy Fairchild, pianist. They were noted for being on the cutting edge of gospel music



with a progressive country sound.

It was during this time the fans fell in love with the skinny Georgia boy with his smooth tenor voice. At every concert the Oaks introduced him, "Make welcome Little Willie Wynn!" The crowd went wild and the nickname stuck. All 116 pounds of "Little Willie Wynn" sang his way into the hearts of his fans with songs like: "Jesus is Coming Soon," "Mama's Last Amen," "King Jesus," "After All," "My God Is Real," "Mama's Teaching Angels How to Sing," "The Grass Is Greener on the Other Side," "After Calvary," and "Little Is Much."

The Oaks' popularity skyrocketed. Invitations came for them to sing on the Porter Wagoner Show, the Johnny Carson Show, the Merv Griffin Show, and they regularly appeared on the Johnny Cash Show. They were invited to make a guest appearance in the movie 'Sing a Song for Heaven's Sake'. The Oaks received international invitations and performed two tours in Sweden. During this time they gained even broader audience appeal and recognition. They received several Dove Awards and even a Grammy Award. They were in more demand for television appearances than ever before. Willie and the Oaks were rated as one of the top gospel groups in the business.

Willie sang with the Oaks for 15 years and came off the road in 1973, to pursue a business venture and be closer to home. "I was offered a deal too good to refuse—an airplane business. What I didn't see on the horizon was the severe fuel crunch. It didn't go as I had hoped."

The next year, Hovie Lister called and invited him to sing with the Statesmen. "I knew God had put that dream in my heart. I saw the prayers of that little boy from the cotton fields of Georgia come true that day."

After recording a few albums and singing with the Statesmen, Willie formed another group—Willie Wynn and the Tennesseans. Group members included Elmer Cole, Dave Maddox, Woody Wright, and Michael Sykes. Willie said, "Even though we had great talent and recorded several records, we were never quite able to get the group off the ground."

The Georgia farm boy wasn't afraid of hard work. He decided to start another group—Sweetwater. Once again the roster was jam-packed with some talented singers: Darrell Holt, J.T. Hicks, Gary Clark, and later with Woody Wright and Michael Sykes. "Once again, we were blessed with great songs, arrangements, and talent, but we just couldn't make it to the level we hoped to."





Willie married the love of his life on Valentine's Day 1991. He said, "My wife, Sandi, is a beautiful person and singer. She is the highlight of my life."

Sandi and Willie received a phone call from Bill Gaither, inviting them to come to Alexandria, Indiana, and be part of a videotaping. Willie stated, "I cannot say enough good about Bill and Gloria. They have done more for the gospel music field than anyone I know. They have resurrected careers that have been dead longer than Hitler."

Another important phone call came to the Wynn house in 2013. "Woody Wright called and insisted I record a new project—*Willie Wynn & Friends*. He actually wrote a song "The Oak Ridge Boys and Me," especially for this project. If that wasn't enough of a blessing, then the Oaks came to the studio and sang backup on that song with me."

Not only did the Oaks come out to support Willie, but Bill Gaither and Ben Speer also sang backup. It's plain to see Willie loves people and they love him back. His new project is proof of just how much folks treasure "the big heart of little Willie Wynn."

*Willie Wynn & Friends* also includes 11 new recordings of popular songs from Willie's days with the Oak Ridge Boys and new versions of great hymns and classics. Ponder Sykes & Wright (who first sang together as members of Willie's group, The Tennesseans) are featured on several songs, along with other former Tennesseans Elmer Cole and Dave Maddox. Bill Gaither, Ben Speer and Gene McDonald provide support vocals, as well as Willie's great friends Darrell Holt, J.T. Hicks, and Gary Clark from the group Sweetwater. The musician crew is a 'who's who' of some of Nashville finest

players.

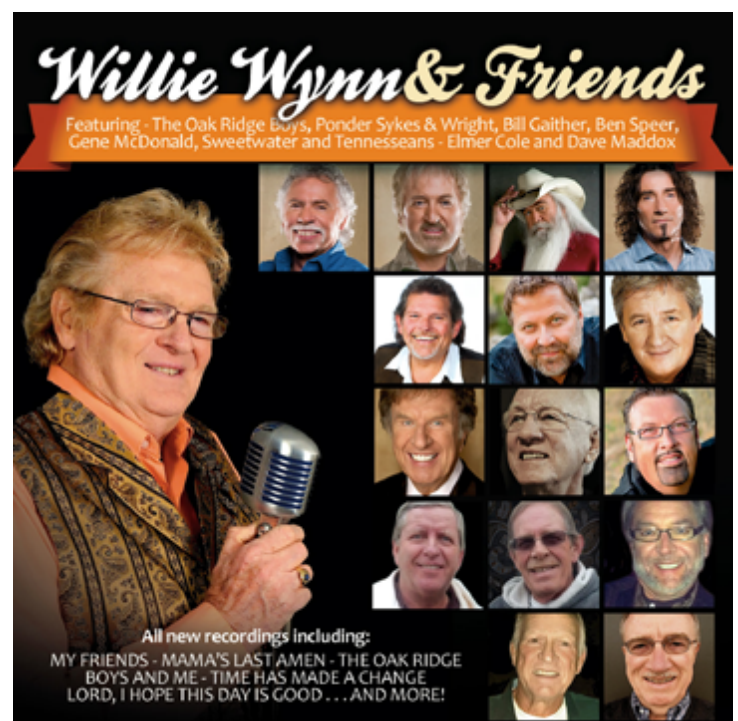
Woody Wright is quick to honor the man who helped him get his start in gospel music. "The November 3<sup>rd</sup>, "Willie Wynn and Friends Bash" will be our fourth annual event. The first was the evening that Willie was inducted as an individual to the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame. So every year since, we have assembled the former members of Willie's groups (The Tennesseans and Sweetwater) to keep honoring Willie, who made it possible for dozens of wannabe Gospel singers get started. Among those names are myself, Michael Sykes, David Ponder, Elmer Cole, and many other players and singers."

Fans will love hearing Willie's signature voice again. His huge heart shines through every song and his music guarantees to inspire his million friends and fans.

Willie also participated in a DVD/CD made in 2012 and 2013 with Scott Kramer and Woody Wright, Good News Music Radio. Willie said, "We are getting incredible number of inquiries about these projects. We are all very excited about them. Fans can purchase them at [www.williewynn.com](http://www.williewynn.com)."

Fans can connect on FaceBook with Willie and Sandi at [www.facebook.com/WillieNSandiWynn](http://www.facebook.com/WillieNSandiWynn) or write them at [LittleWillieWynn@aol.com](mailto:LittleWillieWynn@aol.com).

Editor's note: The November 3<sup>rd</sup>, "Willie Wynn and Friends Bash" is part of the annual Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For more information, visit <http://www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com/>







# 2014

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### JANUARY

20 - 25 VICTORY VOYAGE

### FEBRUARY

3 - 8 BILL BAILEY'S WINTER SOUTHERN GOSPEL CONVENTION  
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER, PALMETTO, FL

13 - 15 SOUTHWEST GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL  
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY ARENA, PHOENIX, AZ

### APRIL

22 - 26 SINGING IN THE SUN  
MYRTLE BEACH CONVENTION CENTER, MYRTLE BEACH, SC

### MAY

5 - 7 BRANSON GOSPEL CONVENTION  
8 - 10 JEFF & SHERI EASTER HOMECOMING  
12 - 17 GOSPEL MUSIC FAN FAIR-SOMERSET KY  
CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONVENTION CENTER.

### JUNE

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

### JULY

2 - 5 GATLINBURG GATHERING -GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER

### AUGUST

6-9 BRUMLEY GOSPEL SING - COWAN CIVIC CENTER, LEBANON, MO

### OCTOBER

2-4 VIRGINIA BEACH GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL  
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

### NOVEMBER

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



## Creekside Gospel Music Convention

# UPDATE

by Lorraine Walker

It's almost Creekside time!!! In less than a month, over 45 different artists and groups will congregate again in Pigeon Forge for four days and nights of wonderful Gospel music, fellowship and fun. Over the last few months we've shared many things for you to look forward to during November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center.

First of all, before we go any further...you need to reserve your tickets today! Tickets are free but you have to reserve your seat. Head over to <http://www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com/> and reserve them now. The rooms are almost all reserved but if you call today, you might find one. Call toll free at: 1-800-223-6707 or local call 865-908-3015. For online reservations, click onto <http://www.smokymountainconventioncenter.com>

If this is the first time you've read the Creekside Update, let me tell you what is happening at Pigeon Forge! The Creekside Gospel Music Convention includes morning chapel services, afternoon concert matinees, evening concerts and midnight prayer times. There is an auditorium that seats over 600 and a large exhibit hall for attendees to visit with all their favorite artists. Remember, all tickets are free, so please reserve your spot for all the events!

Special events are happening every day. Patterson Promotions and Morris Music Group have special matinees. You will hear artists like The Freemans, The Steeles, The Drummonds, Hope's Journey, The Stephens and many more. There will be guest speakers for the chapel services and a choir during one of the evenings. And you won't want to miss the EXTRA Special events....

Monday night, Lou Hildreth Honors Willie Wynn, our cover artist for the month of October. Known as "Little" Willie Wynn, this gentleman has a long history in Gospel music. This will be the 4th

Annual Willie Wynn and Friends Bash, with Woody Wright producing the program featuring former members of Tennesseans and Sweetwater, with music, comedy and stories. Willie's new CD produced by Woody Wright in 2013 will be featured, as well. Willie tells us, "We have 14 states and Haiti represented that evening. We are thankful for all of our family, friends and fans who travel the distance at their own expense to honor Willie and Friends, for four years now." This will be quite a 'Bash,' so be sure to attend!



Tuesday night we will present the 2014 Diamond Awards, hosted by Tim Lovelace, with special appearances by Award nominees. The Diamond Award nominations have concluded and you can view the Top Five nominees as we present them daily on the SGN Scoops website. You never know who will make an appearance







as SGN Scoops honors the best in Gospel music!

Also, on both Monday and Tuesday nights, WATC Channel 57 out of Atlanta, Georgia will be present to do a live taping of the evening concerts. The programs will then be aired at a later date. Every day will also be covered extensively on Social Media outlets like Facebook and Twitter, so be sure to look for us if you cannot attend. We welcome Meagan Pledger who



will manage our Social Media during Creekside. "I can't wait to get started working with Rob and the SGN Scoops team," says Pledger. "They're real people who know the *real* reason behind what they do and I can't wait to be a part of that."

Wednesday night we are thrilled to announce the return of Willie Wynn! Little Willie will be celebrating the release of his new DVD/CD, which was recorded live in Anderson, Indiana last November 2013 with Scott Kramer and Woody Wright from Good News Music Radio. This Wednesday night event

will feature The Kramers (Scott, Rachel, and Maria), Woody and Vonnie Wright, and of course, Willie and Sandi Wynn.

Thursday night will be a special surprise event

that is so secret; we can't share it with you yet! But be sure to attend!

Word has spread about the Great Doughnut Caper, featuring Vonda Easley of *Strictly Southern* on WPIL FM. On Tuesday night after the Diamond Awards, listeners who have tuned into the Strictly Southern Show on Fridays at 10am EST will be treated to free doughnuts from Rob Patz. You must listen to the Show to find out how to obtain your free doughnut and you must be present to receive it. To find out how to win and for the latest Creekside updates, be sure to listen to Vonda Easley of *Strictly Southern With Vonda Easley* chat with Rob Patz of Coastal Media, every week, streaming live on <http://www.wpilfm.com/>.

Don't forget that there are many attractions to enjoy in the Great Smoky Mountains while you are at Creekside, so bring the whole family for a real spiritual retreat. Walking trails through colorful fall foliage, streams with fishing areas and forests filled with wild animals await your discovery. For those with more of an urban taste, theme parks, shopping malls, flea markets and restaurants are within walking distance.

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



**Photo Courtesy of yoppy**





## What America wants to know about

*Eric Dunson*

By Rob Patz

This month I had a chance to talk with my buddy Eric Dunson who is originally from Carrollton, Georgia. Eric and I co-hosted a radio program last month with Vonda Easley in Alabama, where I discovered that Eric likes chocolate cake and has an affinity for bowties. I was also privileged to hear the newest project from The Jonathans, the trio Eric joined in 2009.

The Jonathans make their home base in Bremen, Georgia. Their newest CD is called *Heritage* and contains songs that each of the trio has fond memories of, having either sung the songs or heard them being sung by family members. Eric sings the lead part for this exciting group and they have a traditional sound that I really enjoy. Parker and Paula Jonathan make up the rest of the trio and as you might have guessed, they have power harmonies that really spice up their set, whether they are singing slow ballads or fast, convention-style songs.

Eric took time during a really busy month to answer my 10 questions, just so Scoops readers could find out... What America Wants To Know About Eric Dunson!

*Rob: When did you first sing and what song was it?*

Eric: I started singing at a very young age but the first time I can recall singing a special in church would have been when I was around eight or nine. I believe the song was "Who Am I."

*Rob: Tell us about your vocal history. Who all have you performed with?*

Eric: I never actually sang in a group until I was in college at Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, FL. I sang tenor in the quartet Higher Calling that traveled and represented the school. When I graduated and moved home, I received a call from Parker Jonathan asking if I would be interested in coming to their house and singing a little bit and I have been with them ever since. I've had the privilege to fill in with various groups over the past couple years including the Daybreak Quartet and Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call. I've taken vocal lessons since I started college and also attended the Steve Hurst School of Music. My vocal coaches have included Jacob Leporacci and also Lisa Kelly (formerly of Celtic Women).

*Rob: I saw where you listed "Implementation Specialist" on your Facebook page. What is that?*



Eric: As an Implementation Specialist, I implement new software for electronic medical records into medical offices. This consists of customizing the software based on the specialty of the practice and the requirements of the physicians and also training all the physicians and staff on how to operate the software.

*Rob: What is the best thing about being an Uncle?*

Eric: Being an uncle is almost like being a grandparent; I can spoil and spend time with my nieces and



nephews but when I'm tired of them I can send them home! Not that I do that... Seriously though, I have five nieces and three nephews, and I enjoy getting to watch them grow up and experience life.

*Rob: What would you tell young singers who would like to get into Southern Gospel?*

Eric: First and foremost, keep your relationship with the Lord your main focus. I sang for years with a *head* knowledge of what it meant to be a Christian and would for lack of better words, *fake it*. When I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, I no longer had to fake it; I was able to stand up and sing from my heart and honestly know what I was singing about. It doesn't come from the *head* knowledge I have but now comes from my *heart* and where the Lord has brought me. So definitely keep focusing on being more like Christ.

Secondly, stay genuine and humble. Be real in everything you do. There is enough entertainment that has no meaning in Southern Gospel. People are looking for someone who isn't afraid to share where they are in

life. Audiences want to be able to relate with the singers and want to have that connection with them. Stay humble and don't let the fact that you may end up on a stage in front of hundreds, possibly thousands, change you. Wherever the Lord takes you with singing, He can just as easily take it away.

And lastly, always strive to better your craft. If you sing or play an instrument, God has given you that ability to, in turn, glorify Him. Why not always strive to get better? Learn from those who have experience and have walked the same roads as you. I like to try to pick people's brains who have tenure in this industry because they may have knowledge to bestow on me that will help strengthen my ministry.

*Rob: What do you like best about singing with The Jonathans?*

Eric: What do I like best about singing with The Jonathans? Hmm...that's a tough one. I'd have to say the breakfast muffins that Paula's Aunt Lynn makes us. Those things are amazing! Seriously, The Jonathans have become more of a family than a group of singers. The Lord brought me to Parker and Paula at a rough point in my life a few weeks after my mother passed away. They helped to keep my focus on what the Lord has called me to do. We laugh and enjoy every minute of when we travel together. There is never a dull moment on The Jonathans' bus. I'm thankful for how they have helped me in the past five years and they will never realize this side of Heaven how much it means to me.

*Rob: Can you tell us the most unique thing that someone has told you at the product table?*

Eric: Well it's not very unique but I can't tell you how many times I've had little, (ummm...how can I best put this?) mature ladies come to the table and ask if I was single. When I answer them they either proceed to tell me that they have a granddaughter that would be perfect for me, or else they tell me that they are widowed and know how to cook. Either way, it usually makes for an awkward moment.

*Rob: Who is your greatest influence?*

Eric: My greatest influence in life would have to be my brother Chris. When I was younger, he took on a fatherly role in my life that he didn't have to. He has always been there to encourage me and help me through anything I've gone through. He is a Godly husband and father that I am privileged to watch and be able



to know how I should be when my time comes to step into those roles. Without his guidance and honesty in my life, I am certain I wouldn't be where I am today.

*Rob: What is your most favorite bowtie in your collection and can you show us a picture of you wearing it?*

Eric: I just recently started wearing bow ties when I sing and don't have too many in my very young collection. My favorite out of the few I have would be a Brooks Brothers tie that is plaid with orange, red, and blue colors. I wore it for our most recent photo shoot. (Editor's note: Eric is wearing this tie in the pictures attached to this story!)

*Rob: What are your most favorite lyrics from a Gospel song and why?*

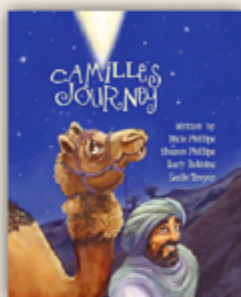
Eric: There is a song that has become my testimony song in the last couple years that was penned by Mr. Ricky Atkinson called "One More Time." The Lord

has brought me through so many trials that I would have never imagined that I would go through in 26 years of life; but through it all, I can stand up and I can praise Him for His goodness, mercy and grace. Every time I stand on a stage or in front of an audience, all I strive to do is to bring glory to the Lord in all I say and sing. If I had one more song to sing and knew it would be my last, "One More Time" would be my song of choice.

Thanks so much to Eric Dunson of The Jonathans for taking time to let us find out all about him. You can find out even more about The Jonathans at [www.facebook.com/pages/The-Jonathans/358784132624](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Jonathans/358784132624) and about Eric himself at [www.facebook.com/eric.dunson.9](http://www.facebook.com/eric.dunson.9) Be sure to contact them about their new album and check the tour schedule for when they will be on a stage near you!

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# *Mike Manuel*

## **Building a Better Country**

By Dan Duncan

Watching people experience a Mike Manuel concert for the first time is an absolute delight. It's a close encounter of the God kind. "Encounter" means "surprise discovery". The delightful surprise of discovering the awesome voice and the amazing talents of Mike Manuel brings a response from listeners that is pure joy!

Mike Manuel ranks as one of the premier vocalists in the field of Country Gospel music today. He's a true icon in his genre of music. With a string of number one songs that total over 15, fans and fellow artists alike anxiously await the debut of every new release. His five solo albums are full of songs that touch the heart and move you to the very soul.

Born in Houston, Texas into a musical family, Mike followed in his dad's footsteps singing songs rich in the solid sound of country music. Early influences vocally were George Jones and Merle Haggard. Mike accepted The Lord as his savior at the age of 12. He fit well into his church, which featured a lot of

singing. His first solo performance was a lead number in the choir.

Together with his brother and his uncle, he formed a trio and began singing in church regularly. The songs fit somewhere between Southern Gospel and Country Gospel. The group evolved into the Manuel Family Band, made up mostly of him and his siblings. By the age of 17, Mike and the group began traveling and ministering everywhere The Lord opened a door.

In 1990, they made the trip to Nashville to record an album of the songs they had written, and the hits began. Songs like "New Well", "Red River", and "Pardon Me I've Been Pardoned" quickly earned their place in the national charts. Very serious about their musical career, they moved to Nashville, and traveled in ministry together until 1996.

With the emergence of Christian Country music, Mike realized that was the place for him. He worked hard to develop his songwriting skills, and soon became recognized as one of the best in the





business. His love for writing rivals his love of singing, and it shows! As the hit songs mounted up, so did the awards. Awards like Male Vocalist of the year, Songwriter of the Year, Entertainer of The Year, and eventually an induction into the International Country Gospel Music Associations Hall of Fame are among the honors bestowed on him.



If you spend any time with Mike, you will quickly realize how much importance he places on his songwriting. From the very first line of a song, he works to deliver a song that is unpredictable, and presents a powerful message. A quick inventory of his hits will prove that it's working for him. You can be sure it will always have a strong Country sound. Mike says he believes in using Country music as a vehicle to get the message of the gospel out. He never wants to use this music as a stepping-stone to achieve secular fame. The title of one of his hits aptly describes Mike: "I'll be keeping it country, just not the neon kind!"

Great things are ahead for this talented artist. He's making plans and booking tours for the coming year with the firm belief that God is going to raise up this music to a greater effectiveness than ever before. He wants to be a part of that plan. He's going to keep on doing what God has called him to do.

Mike feels a responsibility to influence the next generation of up-and-coming young singers, helping to point them in the right direction to keep carrying God's message to a world that desperately needs it.

Mike Manuel will sing anywhere they'll let him sing his music. Convinced it will accomplish what he has always believed it will, he states: "I'll be singing places where Jesus would be if He were on this earth today, out there among them, wherever that is. I want to make a lasting impact for God."

For more on Mike Manuel and his music, visit <http://www.mikemanuel.com/http://www.mikemanuel.com/>





# Just *Another* Day At Walmart

By Kelly Nelon Clark



I was checking out at Walmart today and noticed the cashier being a bit rude with the customer before me. When it was my turn the same thing happened and maybe a little worse. She was snapping at me to get my items off of the baggage area and into my cart.

My flesh started to take over and say something, but all of a sudden I had the thought to give her kindness instead.

I started getting my things off and I looked at her and said, "How are you doing today?" She looked at me and replied, "Not good."

I said, "Can I help you in any way? You seem to be a little preoccupied." I saw her countenance change.

ing surgery tomorrow. I am so worried about her. I can't think clearly today and I'm short tempered." She began to tell me of what her mom was going through.

I said, "It's understandable that your mind and emotions are with your mom." I told her that maybe God put me in her line to let her know that someone cares. That He especially cares. I told her I would be praying for her and her mom.

In just a minute I could have chosen to do the wrong thing. Lord knows I'm not perfect and don't always make the right choices but I'm thankful for the Holy Spirit who guides when we choose to listen.

*Photo Courtesy of Jessica Mullen*



## The McKameys

By Dixie Phillips

Years ago my maternal grandmother introduced me to The McKameys. Grandma suffered from insomnia. To help pass the time she turned on her radio and listened to gospel music on a station out of Little Rock, Arkansas. The first time she heard The McKameys singing, “God On The Mountain” she grabbed the nearest pen and attempted to scribble down the lyrics. For the next several nights she had her radio on and her pen in hand, hoping to hear the song again and jot a few more lines down. (This was before Internet and Google.) This was repeated until she finally had written down all the lyrics. She appeared at my front door waving that piece of paper and saying, “You have got to hear this new song!”

Gospel music charts are proof Grandma’s heart wasn’t the only one touched by this legendary group’s music. Multitudes of people have been blessed, strengthened, and encouraged by them. SGN Scoops decided to take a peek behind the hearts of this dynamic ministry to see if we could discover The McKameys’ key to longevity and success.

Peg McKamey Bean is the first to admit she had a blessed childhood. “I was raised with a loving dad, stay-at-home mom, and 11 siblings. Mom and Dad loved the Lord and gospel music. Mom played the banjo and Dad was an ordained minister. He planted and pastored many churches, and preached at a lot of revivals.”

As her parents led by example, Peg’s small soul was shaped for Jesus. She still remembers the words her father told her mother when their family faced a financial crisis. “Don’t worry, in some way or another, the Lord will provide.”

In 1957, Peg was singing at Moran Baptist Church in Clinton, Tennessee, with her sisters, Dora and Carol, when she noticed a handsome young man. “Ruben and I met that night. We invited him to play the guitar for our group. We courted for a couple of years and married on June 29, 1959. We sang part-time until 1980. That’s when Ruben and I went full time with our daughters, Connie and Sheryl.”





Not only are The McKameys talented singers, but there is also a gifted songwriter in their group. Ruben and Peg's youngest daughter, Sheryl, wrote her first gospel song for the group when she was barely 12. Sheryl shared, "The words and music just started coming." And years later. . . the songs continue to come. Sheryl attributes her songwriting success to keeping her relationship with the Lord fresh and vibrant. "God continues to speak to me as my walk with Him continues to grow. He has walked me through some really tough times and I have always found Him faithful."

Although Sheryl has been writing songs for The McKameys for most of her life, she took a temporary hiatus from singing with the group for a few years and rejoined the group in 2009. Down through the years she has received numerous letters and emails from fans, telling how a particular song ministered to them. The family is always blessed by the testimonies that come in. Fan favorites of Sheryl's original songs have been "A Borrowed Tomb," "Prayer Changes Me," "I Will Trust the Lord," "I Keep Praying," and "When He Speaks." Sheryl said, "The Lord has used 'I've Won' to strengthen the hearts of many cancer patients. It is very rewarding to write or sing songs that minister hope to people. God continues to stir my heart to encourage others and remind them of the hope we have in Christ."

The group ministers in concerts about 150 days a year, traveling all over North America. They have had 29 number-one singles and have been honored for having the most number-one hits in Southern Gospel Music. Peg has been voted the Favorite Female Vocalist and Sheryl has been nominated for the Singing News Songwriter Award numerous times. The group has been awarded several Singing News Fan Awards throughout the years and the accolades continue to roll in.

Currently the group consists of Peg McKamey Bean, her husband, Ruben; their daughter, Connie Fortner; Connie's husband, Roger; Connie and Roger's son, Elijah; and Peg and Ruben's daughter, Sheryl Farris.

"The McKameys are authentic!" A pastor's wife from northern Iowa said after she had a personal encounter with the group in 2008. "My husband was diagnosed with end stage renal failure. The doctors said he would die without a kidney transplant. The day of surgery arrived and I was battling a lot of fear and 'what if's'. One of my friends contacted The McKameys and asked them to pray for our family. Not only did they pray, but Connie sent an email, sharing her personal story about her son's kidney transplant. As I read her email, the Lord's presence filled my heart with hope. Faith devoured fear and I knew my husband was going to be all right."



With ministry hearts like The McKameys, is it any wonder why God has blessed them? It's evident the reason for their longevity and success is because they always put Jesus first. This year they celebrate two ministry milestones—their 50<sup>th</sup> recording and Peg's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary singing gospel music.

Peg stated, "We would ask the support of everyone to pray for our family. Keep your head up high. You belong to God. You are special to Him. We love you."

The group refuses to let the tight schedule and difficulties that come with life on the road detour them from the call God has placed on their lives. "We plan to be faithful to the end." Peg continued, "We want to encourage and help Christians in these last days. We plan to keep finding good songs and cheer up the people who come to hear us sing."

If you would like to know more about The McKameys or find out where they are performing next, go to: [www.mckameysonline.com](http://www.mckameysonline.com).







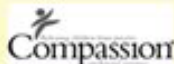
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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

## Josh Parker

BY ERIN STEVENS

What keeps life interesting is diversity. The same applies to music. Southern Gospel is unique in the fact that it covers a broad range of styles; from good old-fashioned quartet singing, to the newer contemporary powerhouse sounds, to lush family harmonies; there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Such is the case with the legendary ministry of Ivan Parker, now joined by his 26 year old, guitar playing son, Josh. Father and son are bridging the gap between traditional and contemporary music. In Josh's words, "As you can see in our services, it's not hard to combine both types of music. It is an awesome way of bringing everyone together as one unit, instead of separating into two groups." I'm a believer that everyone can find something to take away by embracing both styles. Enjoy the next few moments getting to know the cool dude behind the guitar...

*Erin: For those that may not know, why don't you share a little about the transition over the last few years from college to roadie life?*

Josh: I was working retail during my college years, but in the back of my mind, I wanted to play guitar for a living. I knew someday, playing would become my career, but I never dreamed I'd be on the road with my dad.

*Erin: What was it like growing up with your dad being such a prominent figure in Gospel music?*

Josh: To me, he was always 'Dad.' I never fully understood how famous he was, even though meals at restaurants or a walk through Target drew fans. He was on tour a lot with Gold City when we lived in Alabama and also when we moved to Nashville. I knew he loved what he was called to do. The side benefits were Gaither Home-

coming concerts, when I was welcome on Vestal's bus for some great food and hugs.

*Erin: What was the behind the scenes studio process like while cutting your new album?*

Josh: One word: Coffee and lots of it. It was an amazing experience! I had been in the studio all my life, but had never been on the other side of the glass. It was intimidating at first, but once I found my stride, we were off





and running when we hit “Awesome God.” The album is my instrumental take on five songs, which are a combination of the old and new.

*Erin: Desert Island - acoustic or an electric with a solar powered amp?*

Josh: No questions asked, electric, of course!

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

Josh: “You look like your Mother!” My response was a profound, “What??” All I hear is how I look like my dad, so this one comment stopped me in my tracks.

*Erin: The standard, always have to ask, most important Gospel artist question is... What is your favorite food?*

Josh: Steak and taters!

*Erin: Who are the top five bands or artists as of late you would be found jamming out to?*

Josh: I am an old soul at heart, so when it comes to music, I respect the older bands like Chicago. I have a secret dream to perform with them live. Eric Clapton, John Mayer, Lincoln Brewster - he can shred a guitar - and the always classic, DC Talk.

*Erin: So far in your career, what concerts have touched you the most and personally affected you the deepest?*

Josh: This past spring in Myrtle Beach at Singing in the Sun was fantastic! Being part of the Abraham Productions’ band, playing for thousands of people who stayed on their feet, solidified what I feel is possible for Gospel music and also for my life. Another key moment that affected me was when a little boy in Maryland came to the altar, by himself, with tears in his eyes. I don’t know what his burden was, but it touched me deeply to see a kid being so bold to come to Christ for answers. The Bible says we are to come to Him as a child and believe with childlike faith.

When it comes right down to it, it’s that simple: to boldly seek after our Father with childlike innocence. It seems we have overcomplicated *faith* to the point where we struggle to accept the kindness and mercy of our Savior that has been so freely bestowed upon us. May we not lose sight of making our requests known to Him, for He really does care for each one of us. Thanks to Josh for stopping by and chatting with us today. Also, pick up a copy of his self-titled CD available at [www.ivanparker.com](http://www.ivanparker.com). Until next month, Scoops fans...

*And that’s my take on it.*



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# ***“Can You Handle The Truth?”***

**Surely You Know Better**

By David Staton

I have always been amazed how many church people can compartmentalize their church life from how they live their lives Monday through Saturday. I have been in ministry all of my life and I've also worked secular jobs during many of my years in ministry. I will probably speak for many folks in ministry in this article. I am going to address a few issues from many different views concerning business and ministry.

My dad always told us kids that if anyone tries to get you to ignore common sense in anything, you should stay away from that person. There have been times when I ignored what my dad taught me and I can tell you that I have regretted every one of those times. He always told us that God created you with a brain and if you don't use it, you will live a life with a lot of regrets. Your brain is what allows you to make important choices.

How do we choose to follow Christ and live according to the scriptures? You have to use the brain that God so wonderfully created and placed between your ears. Common sense is not living a faithless life, it is using wisdom based on biblical principles and learning from past mistakes.

I heard a great preacher say once that those who won't listen must feel. It's the difference between foolishness and wisdom. What you are about to read is based on common sense, biblical instruction and what I have had to feel.

## **First topic: Recording**

This is directed to gospel artists everywhere. The



average budget for a recording by a major artist is anywhere between \$20,000.00 and \$40,000.00. With any recording project, time is money. When you see someone advertise that they can produce a ten-song project for \$2950.00 and it will compare with anything on the radio, surely you know better!

When you get in the studio and realize your budget recording only allowed enough time to get three songs done and now you have to come up with additional money in order to finish seven more songs, surely you knew better.

Then when a radio promoter tells you they can take your demo quality recording and get you on the charts, surely you know better!

And on the occasion that someone does manipulate the charts and gets that demo quality recording on the air, please know that the entire industry and most fans know better.

If you were in any other genre of music, it wouldn't even enter your mind that such a scenario could be possible. But somehow, since this is GOSPEL music, we open the window and let common sense sprout wings and take off.

To all of my artist friends, surely you can hear the difference. Surely you know better. If you don't, I'm telling you with all the love I have for you and gospel music, you may want to consider a different way to make a living.

To all of my radio friends, surely you can hear the difference. Surely you know better.

If I'm wrong about the last two, we are in really big trouble.

## **2nd Topic: Live Dates**

This is for my fellow artists who are struggling and those who consider themselves leaders in the gospel music industry. If Macintosh / Apple Computers didn't set retail prices and just gave away their products for whatever people thought they were worth, do you know how much that iPhone 5S, iPad or mac laptop would be worth? You guessed it, nothing.

Then imagine the board of directors and stockholders of Apple sitting around a conference table as each one gives their opinion on why the company is about to go bankrupt. The first one says, "I think it's because there are too many little computer companies with inferior products that is killing our industry." Another says, "I think we just need to make more products." Another says, "I think we should train these smaller companies to make better products so there wouldn't be so much junk in the marketplace." Someone speaks up and says, "Forget the laws of supply and demand and let's just work harder and make

more products."

Each one gives their opinion and no one even addresses the fact that Apple has stopped setting a retail price on their technology and they are giving away their products. The obvious problem never gets addressed and Apple continues to give their product away. How can anything that Apple creates have any worth if they keep manufacturing with real numbers, real overhead but they only ask for donations?

If you are or have ever been a leading artist in our industry and you can't figure out this little parable, let me just go ahead and say it: *Stop singing for free!* Why should anyone go to NQC or any other promoter's event, stay in a hotel, pay a ticket price and have to buy food when most any of the artists on these events will be somewhere this year within an hour from my house singing for a love offering?

Does that mean you will work less? Probably! But when you do work, there will be some worth and value to your music and what you do. I'm amazed that this has gone on for so long and everyone is still wondering why the crowds are getting smaller. *You're giving away your product!* Not many people value the music and what you do. How can it have worth?

Now, I know I'm going to get comments from the spiritual elite that will want to talk about how these artists need to sing for the right reason and preach about the artist's lack of faith while ignoring their own lack of responsibility. All of a sudden, their spirituality just asked someone to ignore common sense and do something stupid. If you have six guys who each have families, riding on a bus that blows out \$100 bills from the exhaust pipe, how can you ignore common sense and lose money? Surely you know better!

To the pastors and promoters who book these artists in their church or at their event, surely you know better. Even if the artists don't own a calculator to figure their real expenses, you have a responsibility for any ministry that is coming to minister and edify your church. I realize that the default response is that if the artist is right with God, they'll just drive blindly across the country and hope and pray that someone at your church cares enough to invite folks to come to this free event. I would love to know how 1 Corinthians 16 gets ignored in all of the planning.

If you're going to take a biblical position on this, don't just pull the lack of faith card; let's look at real biblical instruction. The apostle Paul told the church of Corinth to do what the Galatian church did. Paul told them to take up multiple offerings the first day of every week and set aside some so they wouldn't have to take up an offering while he was there. In other words, don't burden the folks who are visiting the night of the event to take care of the

ministry coming in, set the money aside and plan ahead! The need should be met before the bus gets fired up. If there is a debate that singers are really ministers, then you should really examine the ones that are and bless them like they will bless your church.

I have been on too many buses that have traveled for 20 plus hours to get to a date that is only guaranteeing them a love offering that night and refused to get them a hotel room. My first thought is: shame on the artist for neglecting common sense and putting your families at risk because you have not put any kind of value on what you do. After we arrive at the church and there are only 50 people that show up, my second thought is: shame on the leadership of this church for putting no value on this ministry or the event itself. It's not worth more than a collection that night and it's not even worth putting some effort into trying to fill the seats.

The Gospel has more value in a third world country. You don't have to bring a sound system, lights or even a singer. Just show up with some bibles and people will literally risk being tortured or killed to hear the Gospel. Why do ministers who sing or preach have such little value to the American church? Someone has to put value on this if it's going to last. So I say to both the pastors and to the artists, surely you know better!

I'm not trying to place blame on the artists or the

churches, I'm just saying that we all need to wake up and use some common sense. There are thousands of part-time, regional artists who don't do this for a living that will sing for free, and that's fine; but if you are a professional artist and you devote all of your time and money into your ministry, there should be a difference between you and the artists who do this as a hobby. The difference should be apparent in the quality of the music, the vocals and your overall presentation of the Gospel should be so powerful that it's obvious that you have worked and perfected what you do. All of this should make churches want to work toward an event where no financial need is left unfulfilled because you have made sure that no spiritual need is left unfulfilled that night.

For the artists who feel like this should strictly be entertainment, I applaud you. There is nothing wrong with Christian entertainment. In my opinion this should have a ticket price and if it's worth the ticket price, folks will show up. If not, you need to up the entertainment value by maybe making the music worth the price. If you think that people will pay a ticket price for a generic concert that most regional artists do, well...surely you know better.

To anyone who is wondering what the difference is between music ministry (which does have an element of entertainment value) and strictly entertainment, surely you know better!

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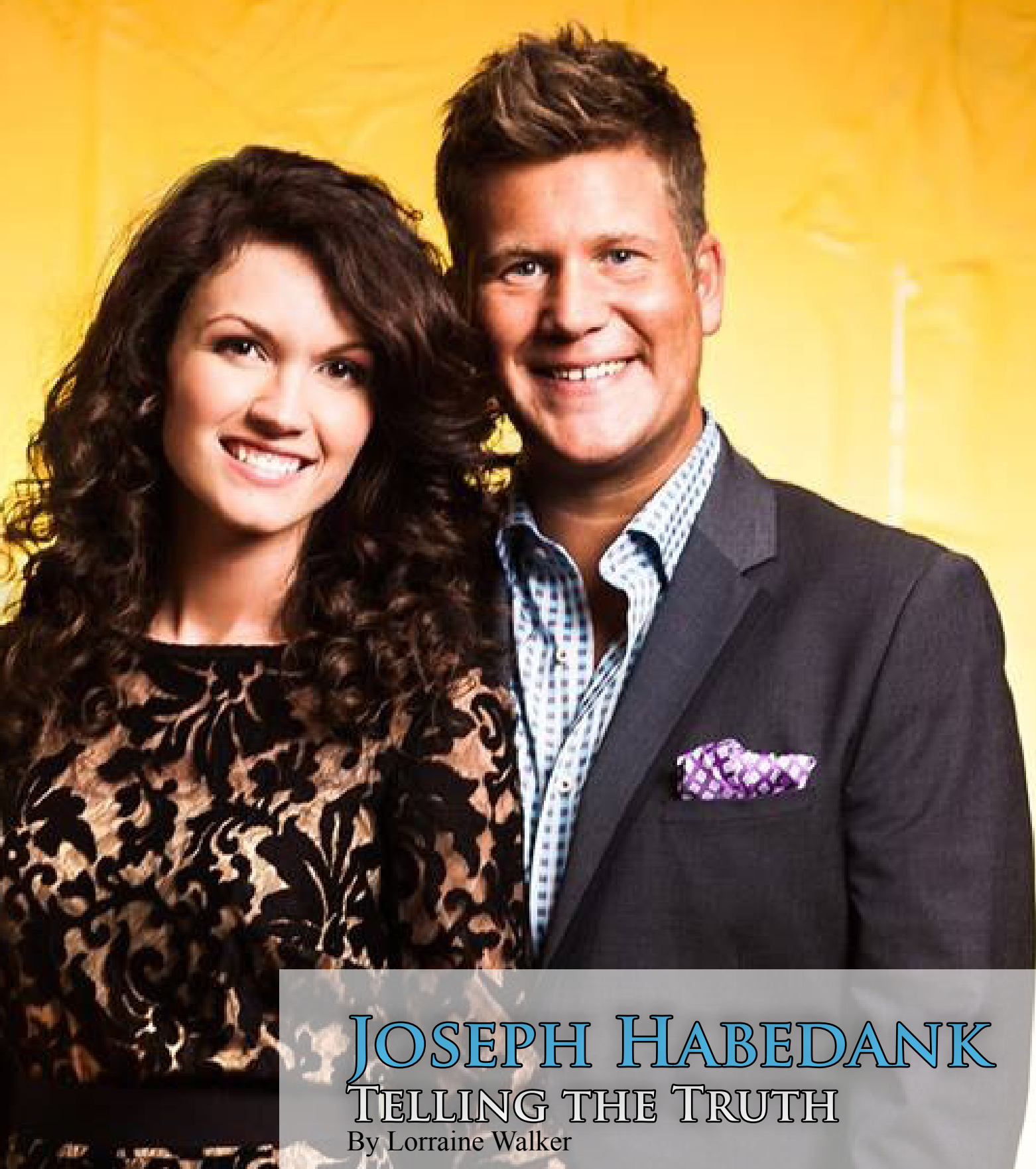
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# JOSEPH HABEDANK

## TELLING THE TRUTH

By Lorraine Walker

Joseph Habedank is an award-winning vocalist and songwriter, who traveled with beloved family group The Perrys for 10 years and has just been announced as the Singing News Favorite New Soloist for 2014. He has waged a war against an addiction to pain killers and has been sober for over a year. Habedank found

strength in the Lord to start again, returning to the stage, the music and the community that has surrounded him with love and support.

In August, Billboard magazine released an indepth interview with Habedank about his addiction and how he moved into recovery. Following that, he



assisted SGN Scoops with a feature called Christians and Addictions, published in September 2014. He says it wasn't so much deciding to take his addiction issues public, but just answering questions with honesty. "I think it had less to do with me talking about my problem and more to do with telling the truth when we were asked. Lindsay and I decided early on that if I was going to truly recover, I had to tell the truth."

In telling the truth, Habedank admits that losing his job with the Perrys was his rock-bottom. "Music was my life, it defined me and when I lost that, it was like losing myself and I almost had to reinvent myself as an individual. I had to relearn how to think and even how to live. That wasn't easy."

Part of Habedank's recovery included finding the strength to start again in his musical career. "I think it was two things, neither of which had much to do with me. First, it was a matter of trusting that the Lord wasn't through with me, and then having the courage to do what most people said I couldn't. And secondly, I had an incredible behind-the-scenes support system. Not to mention, the Lord specializes in the impossible. I thought I was a hopeless case, but He saw what I could be and not just what I was."

Joseph and his wife Lindsay found that their friends in the industry were there to support them in his return to Southern Gospel. "Daywind was very quick to hop on board, as was the Dominion Agency, and Ricky Free was on board from day one," Habedank says. "The songwriting community really rallied around me as well."



One result from this experience has been the new project by Habedank entitled *Welcome Home*, which was a labor of love for the soloist. "We started



recording in the spring, but it feels like I have been writing for this record for years. It is definitely the most personal album that I have ever been a part of; it's my heart." Habedank continues, "I had the privilege to work with the brilliant Ricky Free, who I now consider 'my producer.' He totally outdid himself on this record. I also got to work with Cliff Durren, orchestration arranger, for the first time. I just love his attitude and heart. Not to mention he's a genius. And of course all of my wonderful co-writers as well. I had an amazing team around me."

The first release from *Welcome Home* is "Never, No, Never" which Habedank co-wrote with Tony Wood and Lee Black. The song contains a great promise and a message of encouragement that Habedank hopes will help his listeners.

Another special tune on the album is "Empty",

which Habedank says follows the theme of the album. "We aren't who the Devil says we are," Habedank states. "We already have a name, we are part of a Royal Priesthood and we are because Jesus says so." He was also thrilled to have one of his favorite people sing with him on this song. "Russ Taff was one of the first people to help me when I came off the road last year. He has been an amazing mentor and an even greater friend. I love him dearly and will forever be indebted to him. I just asked him to sing on my record and he said 'Absolutely' as he so often does. It was that simple. He's a great man."

"The Beauty of the Blood" is Habedank's favorite on *Welcome Home*. "I feel something different when I'm singing that song, more so than almost any other song I've sung before. I think it's because my life reflects the message that I'm trying to convey when I'm singing that song, so it's much easier for me to communicate it. I'm extremely grateful for Tony Wood and Michael Farren, who helped to make it what it is."

Joseph Habedank admits it wasn't easy to step out alone on that stage after having shared it with the

Perrys for so many years. To tell the truth, he says it was both "terrifying" and "wonderful." However, traveling as a soloist has allowed him to see the country along with Lindsay, as well as being able to choose his own material, to say what he wants to through his songs.

As a soloist, Habedank's personal goal is not much different from when he was part of group. "I say this a lot, but I really just want to help people by pointing them to Jesus. I want to be a better man, a better husband and a better kid to my Heavenly Father."

Some people might question Joseph Habedank's decision to tell the truth about his addiction, or even just admire his courage to be transparent, but he just has one response: "You don't have to hide what Jesus has already redeemed."

Find out more about Joseph Habedank and *Welcome Home* at <http://www.josephhabedank.com/>



The graphic features a background of a dramatic, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. On the left, there is a circular logo with the letters 'JR' and a cross, and the name 'John Randolph' below it. Below the logo is a photo of John Randolph sitting on a wooden bench, playing an acoustic guitar. The photo has a small 'JR' logo in the top left corner and the text 'John Randolph' and 'Soakin' Up The Son' at the bottom. To the right of the photo, the text 'Country Gospel Artist / Evangelist' is written in a cursive font. Below that, the name 'John Randolph' and the album title 'Soakin' Up The Son' are written in a bold, serif font, followed by 'Available Now'. Below this, the text 'Churches and Promoters' and 'Now Booking Dates for 2014' is written. Then, the email 'bookings@jrministries.com' and the phone number '501-815-4546' are listed. At the bottom, it says 'Follow John at' followed by the Facebook link 'Facebook.com/johnrandolphministries' and the website 'www.jrministries.com'. In the bottom left corner, there are logos for 'Available on iTunes' and 'cdbaby'.

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# The Product Table: Crazy places or odd things about them

By Dean Adkins

“Where We Gonna Put the Piano” is an obscure song recorded by the Cathedral Quartet. Most Southern Gospel groups would agree that a more salient question is, “Where We Gonna Put the Product Table?” Although ‘Product Table’ is a more appropriate term, many artists still refer to it as the Record Table.

If “location, location, location” is the key aspect of real estate, it is also extremely important to SG artists. A subpar location can have a deleterious effect on sales. Many times however, the location for the table is out of the artists’ hands and this can lead to some interesting scenarios and a few are described below.

**Jamie Caldwell** (Anchormen) stated, “Well, with the Dixies we set up on a blackjack table on a cruise. I suggested we have a “3 for \$21” but the idea was vetoed. I also sang on a Riverboat years ago and we set up on the deck while at the dock of course. We started singing as we were getting underway. Well, we did not think through to the fact that the boat would be traveling at about 20 mph into the wind so most of the items from the table ended up in the Ohio River.

**Neil Enloe** (Couriers) related, “In 1980 we Couriers disbanded for the first time and I went solo for about seven years. I was singing at a church in the outskirts of Toronto on a Sunday morning and there were two services in succession, with only a short break for the first service to clear out and the second one to assemble. I knew that it was going to be a tight schedule for me to get to the product table, with one crowd pressing to get out and another pressing to get in. So I made the product pitch in the first service and attempted some humor. I say *attempted* because it didn’t work out to be funny. I told the first service crowd, “As you’re rushing out, ask an incoming friend to get one of my albums and hold it for you. And while you’re at it, tell them to pay for it . . . that way you’ll get it free.” Ha-ha? Nope! All they heard was “free” and they cleaned me out at the table while I was not there. Uh . . . I’ll never say THAT again.”

**Buddy Burton** (Statesmen, Masters V and others) said, “Two come to mind: The Masters V had to set up outside at Opryland. There came a torrential rain that day, the wind was blowing and some of our records were floating all over the place. Another time, the Southmen were in





Atlanta and set up outside. Someone stole everything and we suspect some lady is wearing our beautiful Southmen tablecloth today.”

**George Shelton Jr.** (Dixie Echoes) stated, “The only thing I can think of is, one church didn’t want us to sell at the church so they let us set up across the street in the parking lot, also owned by the church!”

**Duane Nicholson** (Couriers) said, “We have sung in several Catholic churches. One in particular I remember. I asked the Father if I could place our product in the lobby of the church. He said, ‘Why not place it down front in the main auditorium by a door that leads to our eating area because everyone is invited for food after the concert.’ I protested that I did not want to put the product in the sanctuary by the altar area. His reply was. ‘Oh this is not our sanctuary, this is where we hold our services. The Holy Area Sanctuary is in another room.’ So I put our product table down by the altar area close to a side door that everyone would use to go to eat!

Another church, which will be unnamed, had a Christian book and Music store in the lobby of their church. A local businessman had a contract with the church and probably paid rent to have his store in the church. The pastor informed us that we would have to run our sales through this store and give the store a percentage of our sales! We refused to do so and since it was warm weather I set up our table by an open bin on our bus and sold our product

at curbside as the people left. We told the pastor that we would warn any group booking with this church about this. The bad thing was that they did not reveal this to us before booking the date. We have had to pay a certain percentage at concert halls but never to a in-house bookstore in a church.

Some churches would not let us exchange money. The people would order at the concert and we would leave the product and the peoples’ names and the people would stop by the church the next week and pay for the product. We had to wait, sometimes for weeks for our product check. Only one church did it another way. We took orders and names and the church wrote us a check immediately to cover all the orders. I think the sales were over \$1,000. The church took the chance if people did not show up to pick up their purchase. That was a cool church that understood.”

**McCray Dove** (Dove Brothers Band) closes the topic with his tale of woe, “Well once we paid 100 dollars to set one up and sold 75 dollars!”

This is the glamorous life of a Southern Gospel artist.

Photographs attached: The Speer Family courtesy of John Crenshaw; The Couriers courtesy of Dean Adkins



# FEATURED GROUPS FOR OCTOBER

Support Southern Gospel music and support these groups the next time they're in your area.

**Ascension Quartet**

<http://www.theascensionqt.com>

**Appointed Quartet**

<http://www.appointedqt.com>

**Blackwood Brothers Quartet**

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

**Bradford Ministries**

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

**The Bridgemans**

<http://www.thebridgemans.com>

**The Collisons**

<http://www.collisontrio.com>

**Delivered**

<http://www.we-are-delivered.com>

**Divine Mercy**

<http://www.divinemercysingers.com>

**4 His Praise Trio**

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

**Encore**

<http://www.acrosstheaway.org>

**Four The Cross**

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

**Full Life Trio**

<http://www.fulllifetrio.com>

**Gospel Messengers**

<http://www.gospelmessengersministries.org>

**The Harvey Family**

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

**The Helmsmen**

<http://www.thenewhelmsmen.com>

**The Heritage Quartet**

<http://www.theheritagequartet.com>

**The Inmans**

<http://www.theinmans.com>

**Jeff Steinberg Ministry Team**

<http://www.tinygiant.com>

**Jim Sheldon**

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

**John & Dody Martin**

<http://www.martinministries.org>

**LeFevre Quartet**

<http://www.thelefevrequartet.com>

**Living Fountains**

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

**Lumber River Quartet**

<http://www.lumbriverministries.com>

**The Masters Men + 1**

<http://www.mastersmenquartet.com>

**Masters Promise**

<http://www.masterspromise.com>

**Mercy River Quartet**

<http://www.mercyriverqt.com>

**One Way Quartet**

<http://www.onewayquartet.org>

**Persuaded**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PersuadedVideo>

**Pine Ridge Boys**

<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

**The Representatives**

<http://www.therepresentativesquartet.net>

**Roger Wells Ministries**

<http://www.rogerwellsministries.com>

**Servants Call**

<http://www.servantscall.net>

**Siouxland Gospel Promotions**

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

**Soul Seeking Disciples**

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

**Sounds of Jericho**

<http://www.soundsofjericho.com>

**Southern Plainsmen Quartet**

<http://www.southernplainsmen.com>

**Steve Jones**

<http://www.stevejonesgospelmusicministry.com>

**Stephen Wood**

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

**Three Parts Grace**

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

**Unity 4 Quartet**

<http://www.theunityfour.com>

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## Candi's Catch-ups: Jason Crabb Takes a Leap of Faith By Candi Combs

Jason Crabb certainly took a leap, and it worked! This leap was an unusual set on the Friday night of the 2014 National Quartet Convention. As the lights went up, the multiple screens in the room went to scratchy black and white. An accordion player began this unusual set while Jason began singing very traditional gospel tunes, 40's style around a big old style silver microphone. The backup singers swooned with harmony to Jason's smooth sounds.

His eldest daughter joined Crabb on stage, singing the answer lines to "This Little Light of Mine" while sharing the microphone with her dad. Crabb sang nothing that was flashy, until the group sang "America the Beautiful". During the bridge, Crabb saluted the veterans in attendance.

Something very special happened in those 20 minutes. The atmosphere in the room of over 12,000 completely changed. Following Crabb's performance, the rest of the night was different. Crabb had brought those in attendance back to their roots. And from there, the other stage artists were able to build on sharing a deeper faith. Certainly innovative, creative and very gutsy, but Crabb pulled it off!



"The new house of the National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge" Photograph courtesy of Rob Patz







# NEWSMAKERS



"Clarke Beasley welcomes fans and artists to the National Quartet Convention."

"The audience was thrilled when Connie Hopper appeared on stage with her family, The Hoppers, after a season of medical issues."



"Tracy Stuffle joined the Perrys during the NQC, much to the crowd's delight."



"The Booth Brothers welcome new vocalist, Paul Lancaster."



"The Isaacs were a favorite as well. Lily Isaacs sent a note later saying that her mother passed away on September 26. Our prayers are with the family."

*NQC Photographs above courtesy of Craig Harris, except where noted*





# NEWSMAKERS



In Case You Missed It...

## **SGN Scoops Digital Magazine Welcomes New Team Members**

By Lorraine Walker

SGN Scoops recently welcomed a new couple to their Executive Sales Team. Pat and Michelle Drummond travel with their Southern Gospel group, The Drummond Family. Pat is the manager as well as a vocalist with the group and Michelle is a songwriter and the booking agent for the Drummonds. A vivacious and committed couple, Pat and Michelle have already proved to be an excellent addition to the SGN Scoops family.

The husband and wife team of Pat and Michelle Drummond is excited to be working with the SGN Scoops Advertising and Marketing Team. The Drummonds noted, "God has blessed us so much, and we are thrilled to be working with this great team. Being involved in the Southern Gospel field for more than 40 years, we feel God has placed us here for this time. It's truly a great honor to be a part of this powerful team with a great vision."

"Pat and Michelle are good friends and I am excited that they have joined us at SGN Scoops," said Rob Patz of Coastal Media Group, publisher of SGN Scoops. "We are committed to expanding our reach with the message of Jesus through the stories of the artists we feature every month. I truly believe that Pat and Michelle will be an integral part of that expansion, just as they are committed to sharing the love of God in everything they do."



# Paul's Journey

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

"Entertaining, uplifting, and ministry minded" are often words used to describe this exciting TEXAS based quartet.

Gospel music fans all across the country are loving their latest chart topping single "Come Dirty, Leave Clean" written by Rodney Griffin which is available for download on our website. While on our website you can also view our brand new "Come Dirty, Leave Clean" music video absolutely free.

Paul's Journey is honored to be considered by the SGM fans to be one of the top 5 New Traditional Quartet's in America.



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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

**Don Elrod**



**By Vonda Easley**



Don Elrod, music director of WGTJ in Gainesville, GA is under our DJ Spotlight this month. Known by listeners for his professionalism and his distinctive voice, Don has been active in radio broadcasting for more than half a century. Here's what I asked him and what he had to say!

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

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

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

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

*Vonda: What is your favorite vacation spot and why?*

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

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

Don: When I was 12 years old, my pastor, a wonderful, old-fashioned, fire and brimstone preacher, spoke on the subject of hell. It was in that service that the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins and drew me to Christ. I've never regretted my decision to trust Him and I've never been the same. The Lord has kept me and blessed me and given me great joy and wonderful peace for more than 61 years. During that time I've been privileged to serve on the staff of several churches in our area and I'm still broadcasting for three radio stations in Northeast Georgia and singing every weekend. What a mighty God we serve!

*Vonda: What is your favorite hobby?*

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

Thanks to Don Elrod for sitting under the DJ Spotlight this month! You can hear Don daily on WGTJ on "Good News From The World of Southern Gospel Music". Listen on your computer/device at [http://streema.com/radios/Glory\\_1330\\_WGTJ](http://streema.com/radios/Glory_1330_WGTJ)

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

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# Exercising with Kids: It Can be Child's Play!

By Laurette Willis, CHC



We all know how important exercise is to our child's growth and physical development. Lack of exercise is partly responsible for the growing childhood obesity epidemic in our culture.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the U.S., the percentage of overweight children aged 6-11 years has almost doubled since the early 1980's. The percentage of overweight adolescents has risen by nearly 300 percent!

Statistics show the startling frequency of weight-related disease in children:

- 60 percent of overweight children already have one risk factor for heart disease

- 85 percent of children diagnosed with type 2 diabetes are obese

- 25 percent of overweight children are already showing early signs of type 2 diabetes

Approximately 20 percent of newly diagnosed cases of childhood diabetes are type 2, associated with obesity. This figure is up from 4 percent in 1990.

The trend seems to be affecting pre-school children, too. From 1994 to 2001, overweight among children aged 2-5 years, increased by 42 percent.

Considering that overweight children often become overweight or obese adults who model poor dietary and exercise habits to their children, the cycle continues until someone decides to break the destructive cycle.

## What's the Answer?

Get moving! In addition to eating more healthful unprocessed foods from a wide variety of sources, exercise is vital to growing bodies.

Children who are active on a daily basis develop stronger muscles and bones, and are less likely to develop health problems such as type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure in later years. Daily physical activity is also linked to regulating a child's mood and enabling her to sleep better.

It's been estimated that toddlers require 30 minutes of structured physical activity every day. An additional 60 minutes of playtime is also recommended.

Since we all want to be good role models for our children, making fitness a part of our daily routine will benefit them – and us at the same time! You can break the cycle and start a new fitness tradition in your family.

Exercise helps adults maintain a healthy, consistent weight, and it can also help relieve stress and keep a balanced mood, sleep better, and combat some chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. The CDC says adults should participate in moderate physical activity (such as brisk walking) for 30 minutes at least five days a week.

Here are some fun and easy activities you can do as a family to help make fitness a habit and invest quality time with your children.

## Activities with Infants and Young Children

Whenever possible, go outdoors and enjoy being active in the backyard, local neighborhood or park. This gives little ones the opportunity to interact with their environment, too.

**Stroll-Along:** Stroller exercise classes and groups are growing in popularity. A search on the internet will help you find a group near you. While it may seem that Mom is getting more of a workout than baby, it's also a great way for you to interact with other mothers in your area. StrollerFit has classes at YMCAs and other locations across the U.S. (see <http://strollerfit.com>).

Of course you don't need a group to stroll along! You can also take your baby out in a baby sling or carrier and take a brisk walk around the neighborhood.

**I Can Dig It!** Playgrounds with sandboxes enable baby to play outdoors in the sand with his own toys and you don't have to worry about him falling on the hard ground. Bring a bucket and shovel and help build the castle of your dreams!

**Mommy and Me Exercise Classes:** Check to see if there are exercise groups in your area that encourage mother/child participation. More areas are offering PraiseMoves classes ("The Christian Alternative to Yoga") for adults and children. If there are no Certified PraiseMoves Instructors in your area yet, work out to a DVD with your child or start a group in your area. Contact PraiseMoves for information (<http://praisemoves.com>).

**If You Plant It, It Will Grow!** Don't have a garden? Perhaps the local school has an area in need of some flowers. Does your neighborhood have a community garden? Toddlers will enjoy watching the plants grow, and you'll get a good workout, too.

**Catch, Jump, Bark and Dance!** Indoor fun can be as simple as rolling a ball back and forth or playing "catch" or "kick the ball." Depending on your child's age, a mini-basketball game is fun, as is jumping rope to simple rhymes. Make believe you are different animals. Say the name of the animal, and then both of you move and sound as if you were that animal. Wanna dance? Turn up the music – and shake it loose (dancing is GREAT exercise and lots of fun, too)!

**Incorporate Scripture:** Faith and fitness are a great combination! Playtime is an ideal opportunity to in-

clude simple memory verses such as, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). A Bible promise book is a good resource.

While playing "catch," for example, whenever you catch the ball, say part of the verse for that day. Have your child complete the verse (and vice-versa!). Act out different biblical accounts (Noah, Jonah, Daniel in the lion's den, David and Goliath, and the parting of the Red Sea) and Jesus' parables from the New Testament.

While doing sit-ups, toe-touches, push-ups, say scriptures aloud to help keep you "pumped up!" Several Christian fitness programs (such as PraiseMoves) include scripture with their workouts for children and adults – to help keep you fit in spirit, soul AND body!

Lastly, have fun! You have the opportunity to show your child that it feels *good* to move our bodies – the bodies God gave us to care for and enjoy. You can break the cycle of childhood obesity in your generation and see your grandchildren and great-grandchildren become fit witnesses for Christ!

*Christian Fitness Expert and Certified Health Coach Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, Training, and Classes by Certified PraiseMoves Instructors on six continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>).*

**Photo Courtesy of Chicago's North Shore Con-**



# *The Griffins*

...Music With A Mission



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





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

1	Karen Peck and New River	Everybody's Go- ing Through Something	38	Kingdom Heirs	I'll Know I'm Home
2	11th Hour	How Will You Plead	39	Bev McCann	Thunder
3	Whisnants	Not Afraid To Trust Him	40	Red Roots	Great Big Yes
4	Hyssongs	I Was Blind But Now I See	41	Shellem Cline	Look Up
5	Old Paths	Love Them To Jesus	42	Debra Perry and Jaidyns Call	Coming After Me
6	McKameys	There Is Jesus	43	Inspirations	God's Word Will Stand
7	Hoskins Family	God Is Big	44	Charles Surrate	Just Stand
8	Talleys	Hidden Heroes	45	The Gospelaies	Miracle
9	Browders	Listening For The Shout	46	Jim Sheldon	Even After
10	Bowling Family	I Know Enough	47	Jeff and Sheri Easter	I'll Take It
11	Brian Free and Assurance	Say Amen	48	Martins	If We Ever Needed The Lord Before
12	Shellem Cline	Dinner With Jesus	49	Mylon Hayes Family	Prayer Meeting
13	Carolina Boys	Watch And Pray	50	Adam Crabb	Hey Now
14	Perrys	I Can Trust Him	51	Ball Brothers	Who's Gonna Stand In The Gap
15	Dunaways	Church In The Kitchen	52	Shireys	Praying And Waiting
16	Kingsmen	Oh Yes I Am	52	Lori Jonathan Trio	What A Precious Friend
17	Gordon Mote	Ain't It Just Like The Lord	54	Risen	When He Said Live
18	Joseph Habedank	Never No Never	55	The Murray Family	Near To Thee
19	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	He's Still God	56	Georgia	We Have A Hope
20	Gold City	Never Too Broken To Belong	57	Tina Wakefield	Foot On The Rock
21	Dixie Melody Boys	That Story Is Mine	58	His Mercies	Bound
22	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	Water Walking God	58	Scotts	I Won't Let Go Of My Faith
23	Zane and Donna King	If There Was Any Other Way	60	Steeles	We're All Human
24	Mark Bishop	Love's Gonna Get You	61	Gann Family	This Blood
25	Booth Brothers	If God Didn't Care	62	Doug Anderson	Love With Open Arms
26	Social Security Boys	I'm Not What I Was	63	Pine Ridge Boys	He Is Mine
27	Gaither Vocal Band	God Leads Us Along	64	Paul's Journey	One Foot In Egypt
28	Soul'd Out Quartet	Hey Everybody	65	Amber Nelon Thompson	Falling
29	Tony Burchette	We'll Soon Be Gone	66	Brothers Redeemed	If It Had Not Been
30	Greater Vision	For All He's Done	67	Collingsworth Family	Show A Little Bit Of Love And Kindness
31	Legacy Five	Christ Is Still The King	68	Jesse Reece	My Life
32	Dennis Cook	Crying In The Chapel	69	Bledsoes	That's What's So Amazing
33	East Ridge Boys	He's Leaving His Throne	70	Dave's Highway	Jesus, Messiah
34	Pauline Patterson	I Fell Down	70	Wilbanks	Song Of Thanksgiving
35	Collingsworth Family	How Great His Love/Love Found a Pardon	70	Kirsten Alting	Unlikelies
36	Calebs Crossing	What I'm Made To Be	73	McKameys	Hill Worth Dying On
37	John Lanier	Look For Me	74	Mark Trammell Quartet	Your Walk Talks
			75	Higher Hope	All The Way
			76	Ernie Penley	Jim Got Saved Tonight
			77	Primitive Quartet	Empty Me Lord



78	New Vision	Faith Steps Out Of The Boat	90	Mark Trammell Quartet	To Know He
79	Freemans	The Last Time I Looked			Knows Me
80	Legacy Five	He Is To Me	93	Balsam Range	Stacking Up The Rocks
81	Watts, Rowsey and Bean	Waste Another	94	Heather Thomas Van Deren	What Love Really
		Day			Means
82	Mountain Faith	I'll Be Gone	95	Adoration Quartet	Stepping Into The Light
83	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	That's Why	96	Master's Voice	He Saved Me Anyway
84	Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver	He Made	97	Beyond The Ashes	No Sin Greater Than
		The Tree			God's Grace
85	His Mercies	You Backed It Up	98	Wilburn and Wilburn	Help Me
86	Karen Peck and New River	Revival	99	Akins	Heaven Is A Lot Like This
87	Heavenly Sunrise	Jesus Is Coming	100	KC and the Elk Valley Boys	The Dream
88	Erwins	When Justice Called Mercy Answered			
89	Canaan's Crossing	His Unchanging Hand			
90	Steve Ladd	Heaven			
90	Phillips Family	Somewhere In The Shadows			

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# The East Ridge Boys

By Marcie Gray

What Southern Gospel trio hails from Lick Creek, Kentucky and has two fabulous songwriters in their midst? The East Ridge Boys! Four years ago, when Richie Rose went into the studio to track a solo album, he had no idea what God had in store for the men who would track background vocals for him. As his father-in-law, Fonso Fields and his cousin, David Taylor joined him to rehearse their parts a cappella, they all agreed that

the harmony was anointed. God's plan unfolded and it became evident that these three men were meant to join together and form the trio we know today as the East Ridge Boys.

Choosing a name for the group was a challenge. Richie said, "We had a hard time coming up with a really good unique name for a male trio, and we tossed around some names, but it seemed like every time we searched,



the names were used to death. I was going to the grocery store and as I passed the recently built East Ridge High School, it just clicked. From that point forward, we were the East Ridge Boys.” Their debut album, PRAYER WARRIORS, was recorded at Big Appal Studio in Paintsville, Kentucky with producer Dan Huff and released in 2010.

Richie Rose sings baritone and lead and is the manager of the group. He does the charting for WKVG Radio Jenkins, Kentucky for SGN Scoops, Christian Voice and Singing News. Born July 20, 1975 to Richard and Freda Rose, Richie shared with great joy that his mother and father are both Christians and still living for the Lord. He has a brother and sister who are both saved. Richie and his wife of 17 years, Bridgett Fields Rose (daughter of Fonso Fields) have one son, Noah Rose, who is 13 years old. Noah sings and loves sports. He’s been saved and baptized. “I’m very blessed to say that my entire immediate family serves the Lord. We are a very close-knit family,” said Richie.

David Taylor sings both lead and tenor, is the group’s sound engineer and one of the songwriters of the group.

He worked at Dollywood for five years in a production called “Fire on the Mountain” and also at Country Music USA at Opryland in Nashville, TN. David’s song “Someday” was on the Singing News charts. Currently charting in the SGN Scoops charts is his song “He’s Leaving His Throne.” The song charted at number 12 with SGN Scoops and was the number 16 song in the last issue, as well as number 34 on the Singing News charts.

David and his wife, Delphia, have two beautiful children. Tragedy struck when they were told that their precious baby girl would not live past the age of seven years old. Tarria Taylor was never supposed to be able to walk or talk. She is autistic, and the Taylors were given very little hope for any kind of future for Tarria. God had bigger plans than the doctors could imagine for Tarria. Today, she is nine years old. She walks into her classroom at school and speaks a few words now and then. “You’d have to run to catch up with her,” said Richie. She is an inspiration to the entire family.

Fonso Fields does it all. He sings lead, tenor and baritone. He’s the driver and a powerful songwriter. Fonso is the father of six children, three daughters and three sons. “My wife is his baby girl,” proudly

exclaimed Richie. The children all sing in this talented family. Fonso brings a wide array of experience to the group and is very much loved and respected by Richie and David. He’s the patriarch of the family, and is affectionately referred to as “Pappy,” since that’s what the grandkids call him. He’s been singing in gospel groups for over 40 years and his experience brings a refining quality to the group that only a seasoned artist can bring. Fonso penned the song “One Small Miracle,” which topped the Southern Gospel Times Magazine Charts for several weeks and has touched more hearts than any other song the East Ridge Boys have ever done. When asked what the history of Lick Creek was and how it got its name, Richie replied, “Lick Creek is a funny name, but there are much stranger names in these parts!” The East Ridge Boys currently book approximately 100 dates per year in KY, VA, WV, TN, OH and FL.

Their second album, self-titled EAST RIDGE BOYS was recorded at Chapel Valley and produced by Shane Roark. Richie shared, “We just finished our first live album in Palatka, Florida at Tabernacle Baptist Church. The album will be titled, EAST RIDGE BOYS LIVE IN PALATKA, FLORIDA. The engineer on this project is our very own David Taylor, and the album will be released in November.”

The East Ridge Boys have a song about autism called, “Don’t Weep for Me.” That song was placed



in 106 Food City stores in three states to raise money for Highlands Center for Autism, a school for autistic children. Governor Steve Beshear in Prestonsburg, Kentucky presented the prestigious Kentucky Colonel's Award to Richie, Fonso and David. They were honored for their charitable community work and fundraising efforts. "Tarria Taylor, David's little girl, is such a huge inspiration to all of us. She reminds us that God has a plan for each one of us, and He can overcome every challenge we face," said Richie.



up to him and he's always been in good groups locally. We're comfortable around each other. Even in personal lives off the road, we confide in one another. Our families even vacation together," Richie chuckled.

Richie closed by saying, "We thank you, SGN Scoops, for sharing the East Ridge Boys with your readers. We just want to see souls saved. That's what we're in this for. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming concerts, and we would love to meet you personally and pray with you." To learn more about the East Ridge Boys, please visit their website at: [www.eastridgeboys.net](http://www.eastridgeboys.net) and be sure to like their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-East-Ridge-Boys/121272198016765>.

Photographs courtesy of John Michael, Paintsville, Kentucky

Richie shared a rather embarrassing moment from National Quartet Convention this year. "I'm used to going to Louisville, but was so excited to arrive on Saturday and trying to learn the new layout in Pigeon Forge. I had gotten off the trolley and walked into LeConte Center, thrilled to hear the singing as I walked through the door. I hadn't been off the trolley for ten minutes and I made a grand entrance into the women's bathroom! No ticket needed for that venue. Imagine my surprise when I opened the door and found myself face-to-face with a woman! She looked at me with shock and exclaimed, "Sir!" Fonso was laughing like crazy. Thankfully, I didn't get all the way through the door, but that poor woman looked at me like I needed to go get on my knees and pray. That is a memory of NQC 2014 that I will never forget."

Being in ministry with family is a precious thing. "We're close. We pray together and we always consult with each other on everything. Having family on the road makes you not miss your family at home as much. It's a privilege traveling with my father-in-law. I've always looked







# *Golden State Quartet*



Larry J. Kaulin  
Comptroller, State of California



# Music Reviews for October

by Sandi Duncan Clark

How many times have you said...or heard it said, "Time seems to fly?" That has been our reality especially this year, and I know in my life, it means that my need to trust the Lord grows daily! This year has brought many things to each of us, and I will forever be thankful for friends who pray and encourage us in times of trials.

The music I've heard and introduced to our readers has been so helpful to me. I appreciate artists and pastors who are open to the leadership of the Lord in their music selection and the messages they preach. Several times I've let the neglect from friends I trust and hold dear drag me down and have had to ask God's forgiveness for taking my eyes off the Truest Friend I will ever have. His love is beyond measure!

As we roar into my favorite months of year... fall and winter, believe me, I'm ready! As warm as it's been this summer, I am so ready for a snug, fleecy sweater. I still haven't had my favorite fall treat: a fat free, sugar free Pumpkin Latte from Starbucks. I'm looking forward to that just as soon as I catch up with a few things!

There is much music to share, so I'll dive right in. Be sure to check out each CD because I promise, you will be blessed!



## *SINGING HIS PRAISES*

Lori Jonathan Trio

Godsey and Associates

Producer: Scott Godsey

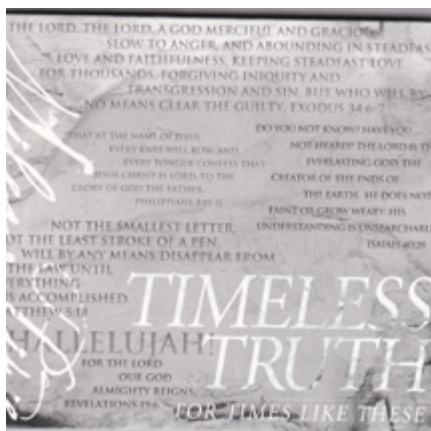
The Lori Jonathan Trio is a wonderful female trio with beautiful voices, smooth harmony and excellent arrangements on the 10 songs included on this recording. Music tracks are outstanding, thanks to the direction of their producer. The orchestration on several songs feature brass intro's giving some songs an exceptional blues sound.

Beginning with "All This And More, (Christ Is To Me)," each song is very encouraging, exciting and entertaining. "It's Always Darkest Before The Dawn," has a slight western swing arrangement and the well-known "Living By Faith," has a great intro. On this song, the ladies sing in unison, then break into harmony parts and add a chorus of "Faith Is The Victory" before a delightful ending.



“No One Ever Cared For Me” is followed by “No One Understands Like Jesus,” tying both songs into the thought that Jesus is everything we need. The latter is such an impressive song with a big band intro and great orchestration on the music tracks.

The saxophone on “What A Precious Friend Is He” is magnificent. This trio does a great job on one of Lily Fern Weatherford’s signature songs. There are some inspiring songs, extraordinary arrangements and notable music tracks on this album. While this is my first experience with these talented ladies, I assure you, they are definitely worth seeking out for your copy of *SINGING HIS PRAISES* at 716-297-0389.



### *TIMELESS TRUTHS*

*For Times Like These*

Miles Pike

Miles Pike Music

Producer: Tommy Cooper

Miles Pike has produced an exceptional album, one that you must listen to closely to get the full impact of his goal. I found a quiet place to enjoy the promises from the Word, the music and Miles’ easy-to-enjoy vocals.

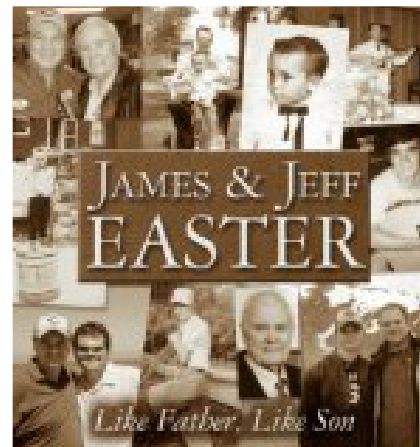
The first song, “Revive Us Again,” has a Celtic cadence introduction, which adds tremendously to the effect of the song and leads into this old church hymn. I really appreciate the scripture he includes with his music, and I have enjoyed following along in my Bible, allowing the meaning of both to speak to my heart.

Many churches follow the doctrine established in the Apostle’s Creed. Miles added scripture from 1 Corinthians 15 and sings the words of the Apostle’s

Creed. Great job, Miles.

We’ve all read and heard much of the scriptures Miles uses, so they are familiar to us. Two songs and accompanying scriptures are especially encouraging. They are “How Deep The Father’s Love For Us” and “The Church’s One Foundation.” Those songs, along with “The Power Of The Cross,” add strength to our faith and increase to our assurance.

I recommend this recording to enhance one’s devotion time and to enjoy while meditating on the love and glory of God. Contact Miles Pike to have your copy of this compilation. Office number is 903-586-8605 and website [www.milespikemusic.com](http://www.milespikemusic.com).



### *LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON*

James and Jeff Easter

Sonlite Records

Producers: Jeff Easter, James Easter, Tim Surret

The Easter family has been a trademark name in Bluegrass Gospel for more than half a century, and James Easter, one of the famed Easter Brothers, is the father of Jeff Easter. With 10 songs; some well-known favorites, others more recently written and wisely chosen for their message and significance, this album is a timeless piece for all Bluegrass fans.

You’ll hear some very special music from this father-son duo along with several unusual guests who drop by for cameo appearances. Sheri Easter wrote the title song, “Like Father Like Son” which definitely suits Jeff and James. Sheri joins them, along with Russell and Edd Easter on “Jesus Is Living In Me.” This is a tremendous song and the vocals are wonderful.

James, Edd and Russell co- wrote one of my favorites, “Hero For Jesus,” with Steve “Rabbit” Easter. He also joins the brothers and Jeff singing this one. I love the message!

Other favorites are “Something Got A Hold Of Me” and Jordan and Jonathan Wilburn join them on “Way Up On The Mountain.” Jason and Gerald Crabb make a guest appearance with Jeff and James on “I’ve Got No Rocks To Throw.”

Morgan Easter sings “I’m Ready To Go” with his father and grandfather, and Madison Easter adds another third generation Easter to “Dying To Live” on this memorable recording. What a great legacy for this family!

“I’ve Been Touched” and “He Set Me Free/ When The Battle’s Over” round out almost an hour of listening enjoyment and warrant a second or third listen. To get your copy of *LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON* contact Jeff and Sheri Easter at 706-359-1997.



### *HYMN REVIVAL*

Gold City

New Haven Records

Producers: Gordon Mote, Daniel Riley

No matter how old, what the setting, or how you arrange and sing them, there is nothing more precious than the church hymns we grew up singing in our local churches. As the daughter of a pastor, I grew up understanding how the music, specifically hymns, can lay the groundwork for the preaching of the Gospel. The scriptural truths in those old songs are still as true today as ever.

Gold City has some exceptional arrangements on 11 favorite church hymns and this quartet sings them to perfection. I fell in love with the intro and arrangement on “Nothing But The Blood.” I love the orchestration, and the interesting guitars. This song sets the pace for an afternoon drive to the doctor with my father-in-law, Paul. What an encouragement!

“Power Of The Cross” is such a powerful song and I love the arrangement and the message in the song that increases our strength and faith. “He Hideth My Soul” completes the picture of God’s love for us!

The blessing of “In Christ Alone” on this day cannot be measured, as my father-in-law, Paul, and I made our way to the oncologist. These words and this song was exactly what we needed! The latter part of the last verse is:

“...No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life’s first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny...”<sup>1</sup>

When Danny Riley first began his career, long before he joined Gold City, he became one of my favorite singers and remains so today. He does an outstanding job on “I Must Tell Jesus.” His ability to communicate is immeasurable and his range is remarkable.

Ending a most enjoyable and reassuring album is “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” featuring Tim Riley on the first verse and Chip Pullen on the second verse. One can never hear this song too often.

Other great songs on the recording are: “Farther Along,” “Power In The Blood,” “Redeemed (How I Love To Proclaim It),” “Victory In Jesus,” and “Part The Waters/I Need Thee Every Hour.”

I urge you to contact Gold City’s office to secure a copy of this recording at 253-492-0942, and let it make your day better!





## *COUNTRY GIRL AT HEART*

Jan Harbuck

Independent

Producer: Jan Harbuck

Jan Harbuck makes her home in Monroe, Louisiana, and has been involved in music since the age of six when she began piano lessons. Growing up in a Christian family she dedicated her talent and music to the Lord, and she and her husband have actively pursued a Christian ministry all of their married lives.

The title of this album and the title song, *COUNTRY GIRL AT HEART*, was suggested by her husband, and Jan wrote or co-wrote all but two of the 10 songs on her recording. While the message is spiritual, the music speaks to Jan's roots in Country music.

Jan has great music arrangements and music tracks, and her background vocalists complement her vocal style and range. She has produced this recording, after many years involved in all aspects of music, and has dedicated the recording to her husband.

My favorite songs are "Beyond The Clouds," "Let's Make Some Noise" and "Give It To Jesus." I like that she added "Country Christmas" to the recording, since we are about to enter the holiday season. If a DJ is not familiar with Jan's music, this would be the ideal time to add her music to their play list so their audience can become acquainted with her music in preparation for the holidays. Then they will have "Country Christmas" to use for Christmas!

Order your copy today from Jan on her website at [www.janharbuckmusic.com](http://www.janharbuckmusic.com). You will enjoy her music, especially if you are a fan of Christian Country music.

1. "In Christ Alone" Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Copyright © 2001 Thankyou Music, <http://www.stuarttownend.co.uk/song/in-christ-alone/#sthash.PeEXm7wh.dpuf>







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# **Mark Dubbeld Family**

## **A Song to Sing, A Word to Write, A Call to Answer**

By Paige Givens



When the Mark Dubbeld family answered the call to full-time music ministry in 2011, they were relying fully on their faith in God's provision and counsel. Mark Dubbeld, along with wife Janene, daughter Elena, and sons Vincent, Leighton, Channing, and Britton, stepped from the local church ministry into spreading

God's word full time in the music ministry that spring. The Dubbeld family only had three family camps scheduled at the time, but they knew that the God who called them into this journey had much more planned for them. God had a song for them to sing, a word for them to write, and a call that they were ready to answer.



### *A song to sing...*

Mark's father was a pastor, so he started singing at a very young age at his local church. "I was singing and playing at church by the time I was six years old," Marks says. In high school, he began to travel and sing with a men's quartet and was singing for churches and



conventions full-time by the age of fifteen.

Janene started singing at a very young age, too. She says, "My audience was actually in 'radio land!' I was around three or four and my dad had a radio program. I sang from a closet so no other noise would be in the background. I sang, 'Today is Jesus' Birthday!'"

Mark and Janene met in college, they decided to blend their songs into one and got married on January 1, 1988. Their family of two gradually began to grow and would eventually include four sons, one daughter, and one daughter-in-law. Presently, son Vincent and his wife Heather, daughter Elena, and young sons Channing and Britton sing and travel with the Mark Dubbeld Family. While son Leighton does not travel with the family, he is involved in music as well. He is currently singing lead, writing music, and playing bass and acoustic

guitar for a band he directs called Von Mark. Leighton is currently growing and expanding this ministry as he finishes college at Judson University.

Mark says that he especially loved the Cathedral Quartet while growing up, and singers such as George Younce and Glenn Payne inspired him. The Dubbeld children are also inspired to spread God's word through song by some wonderful singers and songwriters of our time. Oldest son Vincent, along with youngest son Britton, loves to hear David Phelps sing. Britton says



he especially loves to hear David Phelps sing "He Is Alive!" Their son Channing says that some of his favorite groups include the Gaither Vocal Band and Mercy's Well. And both Channing and Britton mention that one of their favorite singers is their dad, Mark Dubbeld! Daughter Elena has her favorites as well. "Taranda Greene—when I first saw her as a young girl, I knew I wanted to sing. I also love Sandi Patti and the legacy she is leaving."

The music career of The Mark Dubbeld family actually began with one song at a time. In 2010, the family recorded a simple family album and from there friends and family urged them to go to the National Quartet Convention. They went and that first year won a showcase and a national single release with the song penned by Janene titled "Living Oasis." Then in 2012, the Mark Dubbeld Family won the NQC Regional Showcase and was invited to sing their chart song "Inside The Gate," also written by Janene, on the Main Stage. From there God has continued to work in the lives of the Mark Dubbeld family, giving them a new song to sing for each leg of their journey!

### *A word to write...*

The Dubbeld's albums include many original songs written by Janene. "As far as singing, many of the songs we sing are heart songs that God has given

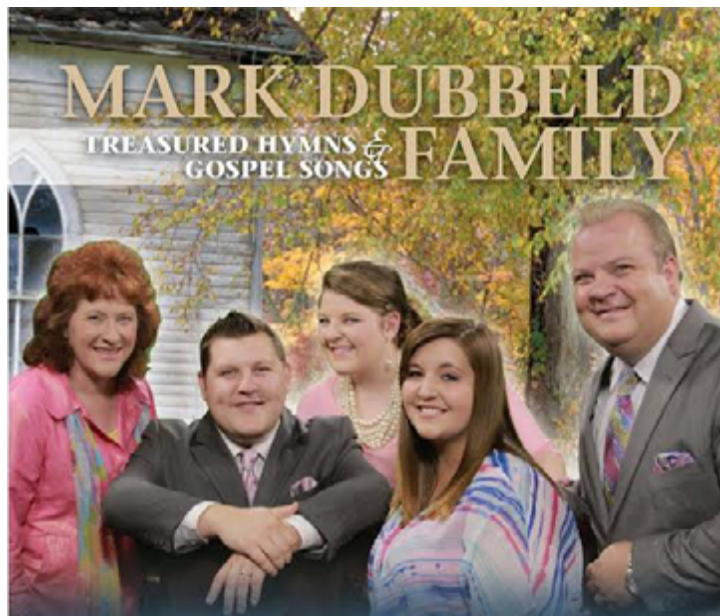


me,” she says. “Writing in general is my favorite! I love to write songs, children’s stories, devotionals, articles, books, Vacation Bible Schools, poems – you name it,



I love to write it! My greatest goal is to allow the Lord to give me the words He wants for others to read and hear.” She goes on to add, “Currently some doors are opening in songwriting, as well as children’s writing and publishing for which I am most grateful.”

The family not only writes their own words as inspiration, they look to God’s Word for their inspiration. The ordinary people that God used as heroes in the bible inspire them today. Recently Janene was reading the bible story of Eli and Samuel to Britton, and he said that he wanted to be like Samuel. Son Channing added that he wants to be like Solomon because he was wise. Janene says that there are many bible characters that



she admires, too. “I like Joseph because he stayed true all the way through, David because he had a heart after God, and Mary because she was willing to be a hand-

maiden of the Lord . . . just to name a few!”

Through scripture, prayer, and listening, the Lord is giving the Dubbelds inspired words to write.

### *A call to answer...*

The Mark Dubbeld family has been called to minister as God leads. Their greatest desire for their ministry is: “To water the earth with the gospel. To see souls saved and believers inspired and encouraged to do God’s will.”

There are challenges in their calling. One of the biggest challenges is staying focused on the ministry when the business side of the ministry also needs attention. Things like bookkeeping, scheduling, and filling online orders take a lot of time and effort. The whole family helps with special areas to keep the ministry running smoothly. Mark manages the group and leads the ministry. Vincent is in charge of the sound set up and assists Mark with the office work. Elena and Heather head up products and resources. And Janene? Well Janene writes the music, teaches homeschool for the children, and takes care of just about everything else!

There have also been lots of laughs and crazy moments in their calling. Janene recalls one such time. “We were parked in the RV on a Christian campground with very few people around. We were in between dates and there were no services being held on the campground at that time. Mark and Vincent went to work over in another area, and the boys took their schoolwork over with them. The older children were staying in other rooms, so Heather and Elena weren’t around either. I wanted some writing time, so everyone was trying to get out in a hurry.

“I was taking a shower when Mark hurriedly walked through the RV and inadvertently locked the shower door from the outside. Needless to say, I had to holler for about 15 to 20 minutes, between bouts of laughter, to try and get someone’s attention. Finally, Britton came over to get some schoolwork. He said, “Mom?” To which I responded, “Please help me, I’m locked in the shower.” His answer included much laughter! But he did unlock the door!”

Through the laughter, tears, excitement, and even a little anxiety sometimes, God has been faithful

as Mark, Janene and their family continue to answer His call to spread the gospel. Mark says, "My focus when we are singing is to sing each word with passion and conviction. I have said we are 'gospel heavy.' We want you to enjoy the experience and harmonies, but you will know that you have been in church and heard the gospel message in song." Janene adds, "When we began, we had no church that had pledged an amount to help us or anything like that – we solely had to rely on God. He alone had called and was our support. We lean on Him continually as we do our best to obey His call. We have a song to sing, a word to write, and a call to answer."

The Family has just released a Hymns CD called *Treasured Hymn and Gospel Songs*, which was produced by gospel music legend Nick Bruno. You can find it on their website today. Also, be listening for their new single to radio called "Face of The Captain." It's a great song and promises to be a great single for the Mark Dubbeld Family. Their current single, "Higher Than I," has been on the Singing News Chart for the last three months.

It's exciting to see what God is doing with the Mark Dubbeld Family as they sing His song, write His words, and answer His call!

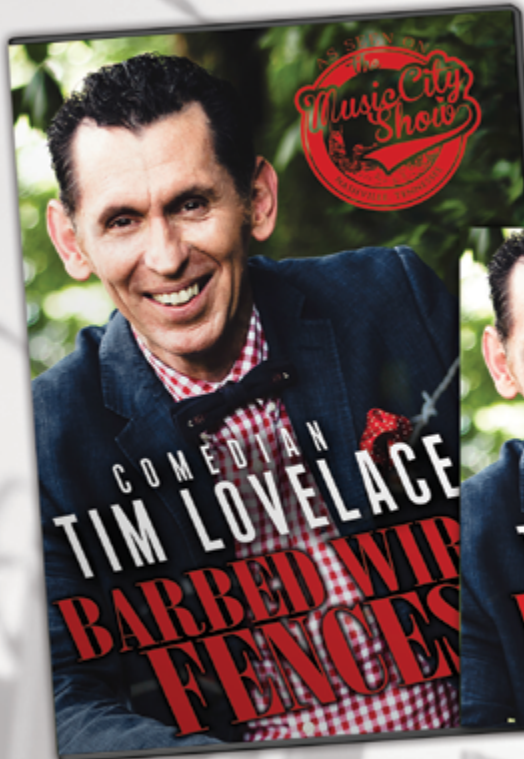
You can find the Mark Dubbeld Family online at [www.mjdubbeld.com](http://www.mjdubbeld.com). You can also like them on Facebook by going to Facebook.com/MarkDubbeld Family, and follow them on Twitter by searching @MDubbeld-family.

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# "PARABLE OF TWO SONS"

MATTHEW 21:28-31

By Dr. Jeff Steele



This is not a parable that is preached on very often. Here's the deal: Jesus has had His authority questioned by the religious crowd. These are the bean counters, the rules and regulations guys, and the ones who always question everybody else's authority. Right, they *never* question their own authority, just everybody else's.

Jesus poses a question to them. He says a father had two sons: to the first one he said, "Son, go work today in my vineyard." The first son says, "I will *not*!"

Don't judge him too harshly because that's what we *all* say when the Heavenly Father knocks on our heart's door. We all say, "No... we're going to set up our own set of rules and regulations and we're going to keep them and *that's* how we'll be right with You, God."

The scripture says *all* we like sheep have gone astray... we've turned *everyone* to *his own way*! We have all sinned and come short of God's glory. There is none righteous, no not one.

So that is pretty much the way we all responded when God first came calling. We just said like the first son here: "No!" Then the scripture goes on to say that after a while he/we regretted that decision and *did* go and do the work! That also is what we do. The Father keeps calling, the Holy Spirit keeps wooing us and eventually we realize the truth of the gospel message, realize the futility of trying to do it ourselves and we get saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Jesus continues, "He came to a second son and said the same thing." That being, "Son, go work today in my vineyard." This son said immediately, "Sure I'll go sir...I'll do it." *But* he did not go! No work was done.

This son is a picture of religion. This is the

crowd that says "I'll do it...just put *me* in charge. Make *me* the head of the committee; make *me* the boss, the chief over the whole thing. You do that and I'm ready to go."

The problem is that when people have that mentality they spend their whole life not *working* but rather *protecting* their new position of authority. They can't turn loose of it and they work the rest of their life to protect the position they now have and the WORK goes undone.

Do you wonder why attendance in churches is down? Why is giving down? Why is the overall level of excitement and enthusiasm down? Quite frankly it's because the second son has taken over and everybody has a title, position and their name on the sign but nobody is doing the work.

Religion has taken over the church and religion won't *ever* save you...only Jesus will. Religion is not the answer; it is the problem! So Jesus asked the religious bean counters: "Which of the two sons did the will of his father?" And the religious crowd said, "Why, the one who first refused and then later went and did the work."

Jesus said, "You're right and I tell you that tax collectors, prostitutes, robbers, crooks and thieves will enter the kingdom of God before you religious bean counters." Isn't that amazing? Religion will give you an upset stomach, send your blood pressure sky high, make you stew at home over what "others" are doing down at the church...ultimately it'll *kill* you! Then at the end of the way it *will not* deliver you into God's Heaven. Religion won't save you...only Jesus will!

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# EVENT PLANNER

## SOUTHERN GOSPEL PICNIC

By Lynn Mills



On one side of the fence a rock-shaped speaker blared Southern Gospel music. Across the way a sparrow took a kernel of popcorn in her beak, then took flight. The asphalt path marked the way through shops, food stands and rides while the faint sound of screaming echoed in the distance turning my attention to the left, where thick pipes beckoned the young through its entrance, enticing them with the promise of adventure. Up above, the word “Wildfire” swung from its mooring. I nibbled on my corndog as I continued up the hill to the end of the park. Even though it was only the second day of the Southern Gospel Picnic at Silver Dollar City, everything functioned as if the festival had been going on for weeks. Folks from all walks of life were at “the City” to soak up the last days of summer fun combined with the distinct sounds of southern harmony.

The Southern Gospel Picnic is Silver Dollar City’s (SDC) most attended festival. Over the course of

11 days during the month of August, SDC brings in 60 performing groups to seven stages throughout the city. The park opens in the morning with everyone gathered in the 1800’s town square to begin each day with the Pledge of Allegiance and a singing of the National Anthem. When the last note is sung, the rest of the park opens to allow visitors to spread out between six daytime theaters where they can hear their favorite music.

Artists appearing are such names as the Isaacs, Karen Peck and New River, The Hoppers, The Browns, Brian Free and Assurance, Legacy Five and many more. Up until six o’clock in the evening, you can enter any theater to hear the artist of your choosing, and with nine groups performing each day there are plenty to choose from! Yet, even though the clock strikes 6 PM, the music is far from over. Each night SDC opens their beautiful amphitheater, Echo Hollow, for a special finale with one of the nation’s top groups. No other vacation



destination in America has ever pulled off anything like this the way Silver Dollar City does year after year.



The beautiful thing about this arrangement is that folks coming to the park regardless of the festival are exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music while they spend their day at the City. Even if a family comes to ride roller coasters and spend the day occupied with other activities, Gospel Music is still pouring through the speakers everywhere they go. The theaters are open to everyone and are a popular place to gather to avoid the heat for a little while. This unique setting in which the theme park becomes a major Christian event during these eleven days creates an exceptional witness

to all who walk through the gates.

With the park expanding the Southern Gospel Picnic to accommodate more fans each year, they have taken a portion of their concerts to the Showboat Branson Belle, which has been a great success. This popular dinner cruise hosted eight consecutive shows on the Showboat this year with artists like The McKameys, The Perrys and Old Paths to name a few. These shows hosted at noon each day feature a two-hour cruise on Table Rock Lake and include a delicious three-course meal. These have had great attendance and will be continued in the future.

Perhaps one of the highlights from this year's festival took place in Echo Hollow one evening with Triumphant Quartet. As mentioned above, the Picnic is hosted in August when the summer heat can be blistering hot. This summer, users of Social Media have been challenging their friends to the Ice Bucket Challenge; where the user has a short video clip filmed of someone pouring a bucket of ice cold water on top of them.

While Triumphant sang their first set that evening, five buckets of water filled with ice sat off to the side melting...making the water colder by the minute. When intermission ended, each member of Triumphant sat on a wooden chair as a SDC staff member poured a five gallon bucket of ice water over their heads. Please note that no one was harmed physically in this process...but they still had to sing the second set, soaking wet! Completing their challenge, Triumphant publicly challenged the Booth Brothers, knowing they would be performing at Echo Hollow a few days later. Hence, The Booth Brothers and Echo Hollow's emcee, Duane Garren, faced the same fate and thoroughly entertained all in attendance!





Silver Dollar City is a place like none other. It's a place for families with clean entertainment all year round. The historical style and setting takes you back in time for the duration of your stay and fun is guaranteed for folks of all ages. When you add 60 of your favorite Gospel groups to that setting, you have just about reached perfection. Where else can you hear the clang of a blacksmith and your favorite SGM songs playing over the speakers all in the same place? Or catch a gospel singer exploring the many rides and rollercoasters? Or enjoy an evening in a beautiful amphitheater surrounded by 4000 other southern gospel fans?

"We are providing entertainment for Christians," says D. A. Callaway, the Director of Entertainment for Silver Dollar City. "We want to stay current with what is happening in Southern Gospel Music and be a part of it." That is the goal of the Silver Dollar City, the staff and everyone involved in making the Southern Gospel Picnic available to the public. Next year the Southern Gospel Picnic will celebrate its 10th Anniversary at SDC! Make your plans now to be a part of this major event! You know they'll have something special planned...gather together with a variety of artists and fellow Gospel Music lovers to enjoy this premier event!

Visit <http://www.silverdollarcity.com/> for ticket information and more!



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# Fall Jubilee Gospel Sing At Willowdale Baptist Church

By Charlie Griffin



Gospel music has long been a part of Watauga County. Over the years, many churches and individuals have used their talents to share the Gospel message and to provide enjoyment to local residents.

Watauga County has made other imprints in the Gospel music industry, most notably being home to the ever popular Hayes Family and the Singing Greenes. A number of artists have gone on to sing with other professional gospel groups as well, including Greg Bentley and Jeannie Cameron Vargas. Yet the impact is far more reaching as the Singing News called Watauga County home for over 20 years. Today the Home-Going Community Choir spreads the rich legacy of Gospel music in the county, with many artists from a number of local churches.

On October 12, 2014, Willowdale Baptist Church will host a new opportunity to share in some great Gospel music. This promises to be an exceptional night of Gospel music, filled with long time Red Book Hymnal favorites and some new songs too. Pastor Eugene Braswell extends a cordial invitation to all readers to attend a special night of gospel music! Willowdale Baptist Church, 133 Westside Drive, is located on 421 North, just outside of Boone, North Carolina. A love offering will be received.

The Fall Jubilee Gospel Sing will feature an artist

who loves to come home to Watauga County, Charlie Griffin, originally from Deep Gap and the Pine Ridge Boys from Inman, South Carolina. Charlie Griffin is the son of Geneva Smith Johnson originally from Deep Gap and Kyle Griffin of Millers Creek, NC. Since he was a teenager, Griffin has been singing in church, quartets, for weddings, funerals, special events and on concert stages. The music was not always Gospel. You will quickly learn of his love for Jazz, Blues, Country and even some Pop. But it is his love of Gospel music that impacts his audiences today. As you listen to the melodies on Griffin's projects, you hear and understand why Gospel music is so endearing to him.

The journey continues for Griffin who has been singing for 35 years. And by the signs, this artist does not look like he is slowing down. The enthusiasm is still contagious for the music he shares. The message is just as vibrant as the day he started. Yes, Charlie Griffin is still making music and enjoying what he does, singing and sharing the Good News.

Griffin records for Classic Artists Records, teaches Positive Seminars and tours extensively while studying online via Liberty University.

Also appearing at the Fall Jubilee Gospel Sing are the Pine Ridge Boys. In the 1963, the Pine Ridge Boys be-





gan their journey and they are still going strong today. Jim Stewart, Wayne Shuford, Charles Burke and Miles Cooper made it their mission to sing Gospel Quartet music and



to do it right. Fifty-one years later, their mission is still the same, if not more so.

Today, bass singer Larry Stewart (Jim Stewart's son) now carries on the tradition with Wayne Shuford (original member) singing baritone. Ivory Luke sings the tenor with Duane Rizzo handling the lead vocals.

The Pine Ridge Boys are known for a rich Quartet sound that captivates an audience. Quartet arrangements that share the true heritage of Southern Gospel music are complemented by harmony that is considered a lost musical art form. From an old convention song to a heart stirring Gospel ballad, the Pine Ridge Boys stage Gospel music with excitement, passion and a mission to reach people with a positive message in every song and appearance.

A full-time touring music ministry, the Pine Ridge Boys are experiencing a renewed interest in their music. Once you attend a concert, you will truly know why the Pine Ridge Boys are still enjoying the journey!



Hosts of Fall Jubilee Gospel Sing, Willowdale Baptist Church has provided parishioners with a positive message while being deeply involved in the community for over 100 years. Deeply rooted in faith, family and looking toward the future, Pastor Eugene Braswell and Willowdale Baptist continue to reach the local community with a number of services, programs and inter-active ministries. Willowdale meets the needs of the community and offers biblical guidance to living a rich positive impacting life. Preaching, teaching and music are integral facets of Willowdale Baptist Church.

Readers are encouraged to attend the Fall Jubilee Gospel Sing in Watauga County this month to hear the Pine Ridge Boys and Charlie Griffin. For more information, visit <http://www.charliegriffin.net/page1.php>





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# *Reynold Rutledge*

## Marimbas and Southern Gospel

By Vivian Belknap

Who looks, sings and plays an instrument like a much younger man? Reynold Rutledge, still going strong at 81 years young. I first met him a few weeks ago at Dove Creek Cafe in Roanoke, Texas. The instrument he's been playing for 75 years with class, style and expertise is an instrument called a marimba. It looks like a xylophone, but there is a significant difference between the two instruments. The xylophone has a range of 2-1/2 to 4 octaves, and the marimba has a 3 to 5 octave range, or greater for the new ones. And because the fifth octave key is now commonly used in musical concerts, the newer marimbas have found their place in the music scene. Xylophones are commonly used during a band concert or in a symphony orchestra. The marimba is played often as a stand-alone instrument or along with other percussion instruments in a simple ensemble. Well, Reynold Rutledge plays his

marimba as a stand-alone instrument. He needs nothing more!

The only way one can appreciate the lungs and tenor voice of this gentleman is to hear him in person. He was in concert a few weeks back in Ponder, Texas, and the first song he sang was "God On The Mountain", written by Tracy Dartt and it was majestic! I honestly believe most of the time he simply does not need a microphone. Next we heard "Give Them All To Jesus", with a nice Latin feel to the music, thanks to the marimba, ending with a nice, "cha, cha, cha."

Rutledge sang favorites such as, "I Know Who Holds My Hand" and "Gentle Shepherd". Playing only the marimba, he gave it a nice "island" sound, which left me thinking I was in Hawaii. We were treated to "Dwelling In Beulah Land", and then "This Is Just What Heaven Means To Me" and he started it with a

yodel. Is there nothing this man can't do? His audiences certainly enjoy the great variety Rutledge brings to concerts.

Born and raised in Canada, Rutledge has been to many other countries, but currently lives in the Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas area. In 1950, Rutledge was one of the founding members of The King's Men, a Southern Gospel quartet and band. They ministered at many events for ten years, including Youth for Christ in Canada.

In 1960, another ministry door opened in Aus-



tralia for The King's Men. Reynold Rutledge and his wife, Jean, their children, and other members of the group moved to Australia to establish the first Christian Camp of its kind called Teen Ranch. The Teen Ranch is still operating today and celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary April 2, 2011. Reynold along with three other members of The King's Men were there for the celebration.

The King's Men's southern gospel music was new to the Australians in 1960 and they loved it. A Christian businessman also loved the music so much that he sponsored 500 radio programs, six days a week, featuring their music. Some of the programs were done live and some were recorded for airing. Their albums at the time were outselling secular artists from the United States, and the concert venues were packed with young people loving the music, too. They ministered in Australia 1960 thru 1962.

Reynold returned to Canada and in 1975, he was named public relations director for Crossroads Christian Communications where he promoted the new children's telecast "Circle Square". He was later involved on the show playing the beloved older character, Durk, a school custodian that the children would come to for advice and share their problems. Thousands of letters came in from children across Canada sharing their hearts and wanting help and encouragement.

In 1977, Reynold was appointed National Director of Circle Square Ranches, a Christian camping ministry as a follow up to the TV program. Children would come and have a fun camping experience and hear how Jesus loved them and had a wonderful plan for their lives.

During the 18 years that he was involved with the ranches, they expanded across the country from British Columbia to Newfoundland. From the nine ranches at that time, eight to nine thousand young people would attend the ranches each summer with hundreds accepting Jesus as their Savior.

For 25 years he was a regular vocal and instrumentalist on Canada's daily Christian TV program, 100 Huntley Street. However, in 2012 Rutledge was diagnosed with West Nile Virus, and Guillain Barre Syndrome. Many people all over the world began to pray for healing and health for Reynold Rutledge. Today, he is a walking testimony to the power of praying the prayer of faith and God's healing touch.

Since his retirement from the Crossroads Ministry, Rutledge served on the board of directors of Christian Life Relief International for 10 years and has made 12 trips to India. He ministers and entertains at senior centers, and retirement homes in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, and during the winter months he can be found in Florida entertaining seniors there.

Reynold Rutledge is available for ministry and can be reached at [reynrutledge@gmail.com](mailto:reynrutledge@gmail.com).







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Reflections with

Sherry Anne

Thinking Out Loud

I was driving through downtown today and couldn't help but notice the various people, places and things that all make up a community. In particular, I was struck by the fact that just a few blocks away from where I live, there is what seems to be a whole other world out there: one of severe lack, devastation, heartbreak and illness.

The Salvation Army was my first stop to dispose of some things that were, well, disposable! These were things given to me, and I had no need for them-- reminding me of the Scripture in Philippians 4:19: "*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*"

I had to drive through the coarser part of town to get there and noticed a few older gentlemen puttering around in wheelchairs, wearing jackets and hats marked by patches of military patriotism; truck drivers making deliveries to the many decrepit businesses as they limped off the truck, seemingly wounded from battles themselves; mothers pushing infants in worn strollers that were not

much older than the child they were caring for; tenants sitting on the front steps of their dilapidated buildings engaging in *recreational* substance use in the middle of the day; and children scantily clad weaving bicycles in and out of the busy, congested streets.

These are not things that I haven't seen before, but I just began to see them a little bit differently today. I began to feel overwhelmingly burdened and saddened by their lot in life. I am a firm believer that every person is born with a purpose (Ecclesiastes chapter 3) and can succeed to reach their highest potential; but I am also acutely aware that there will always be some people who just never will. In that moment, the only thing I could think to do, to help every one of them, was pray.

I began to pray whatever came to mind for each person I saw who appeared to have need or lack. What a neat experience! I couldn't help but to silently giggle as I sat at traffic lights looking out on unsuspecting faces thinking: "I am beseeching the throne of heaven for YOU, yes YOU, right now!" Try this some time—it gives a



sense of comfort of how easy it is to find purpose and hope in the smallest everyday details of life. Also, it creates a sense of awareness of just how connected we all are.

From there, I had to drop off donations to other charitable places and organizations, and as I continued to drive through the city, the constant bombardment of stores, advertising billboards, advocacy groups, pawn shops, adult shops, bars and food lures was ever present. Influences of all kinds court our senses and flirt with our sensibilities daily. I am thankful that, as believers in Christ, we can stand firmly on His word and claim, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4) and also, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor 10:13). Amen?

It was an interesting day for sure—one that really got me thinking. Oh! And I paid a parking ticket today. Ahh.... life is good...even when it's not.

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and *complete, lacking nothing.*" (James 1: 2-4)



  
  
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# 34 Golden Years for Gold City Quartet

By Melissa Joy Wright



Since the group's inception in 1980, Gold City Quartet has become the standard to which all other quartets strive to meet. This Quartet's legacy is rich and deep with talent, ministry and love for the Lord. The current line-up is no exception. If you ask these guys each other's best attributes, they'll tell you first that their success in ministry is a collective team effort. They are a great team as a whole.

One part of that team is Chip Pullen. Chip sings lead for the group and is a down-to-earth guy who is a great friend to have. He brings energy and excitement to the Quartet both on the stage and off. He is an asset to the group and you can see his heart for Christ with every word that he sings.

Robert Fulton is another part of this team. Robert sings the tenor part and is a self-professed nerd who loves trivia and game shows. He is the go-to guy if you want to be in the know on world events. He has a tender heart to serve and you can hear that

when he shares the gospel from the stage.

Daniel Riley sings the baritone part and manages the group. Daniel is a constant source of encouragement for these guys. Not only does he pray for them, but he prays with them, as well. Daniel builds confidence in the lives of others and truly has a heart for ministry, in addition to being the man behind the details of running this successful quartet.

If you were asked to name an icon in southern gospel music today, the name Tim Riley would be on your short list. This Hall of Fame inductee has truly been *famously* singing the bass part for Gold City. He is the mentor of the group, resonating with each member as the ultimate voice of experience. The other group members all agree they seek Tim's advice and wisdom in all things, and his road stories can't be rivaled. He has a real desire to reach the lost. Tim wants to see others make great music and perpetuate Southern Gospel. Reports of his progress since



his recent stroke are positive. He is at home, in good spirits, and making great strides toward recovery.

Chris West is helping to hold down the bass part while Tim is recovering. Chris is a long time Riley family friend who has filled in beautifully. The guys say Chris is great to travel with and has become a real friend. He has a laid back personality and he really enjoys serving the Lord.

Another important member of this team is Bryan Elliot. One of the very best musicians in this business, Bryan makes the piano sound fabulous day in and day out while bringing glory to God. He is a devoted family man who has a wonderful sense of humor, and he genuinely cares for people and truly desires to see others come to a personal relationship with Christ.

The sound for this quartet has never been better and part of the reason the mix is always perfect is because of Chuck Howe, Gold City's sound engineer and road manager. He is their resident MacGyver, fixing the most difficult problems with nothing more than a rubber band and drinking straw. Chuck is willing to help do anything and help anyone at anytime. He is invaluable to Gold City Quartet.

These men love their job and they love their Lord. They all share a firm desire to see people come to the salvation of Christ. They strive to encourage believers in their faith and further Southern Gospel music. Gold City Quartet has an historic legacy and a bright future, in fact; you could say it's as bright as... gold.

For more information on Gold City, visit <http://www.goldcityqt.com/>





# Our Shield

By Jennifer Campbell

## "Thou, Oh Lord"



Yesterday, while walking through the grocery store, my cell phone began playing the song sung by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, "Thou, Oh Lord." The phone was in my purse with the lock screen in place. No one touched it. Yet somehow, some way, the phone began to play this song loud enough that I could hear it, even in the midst of the crowded supermarket. I picked up the phone to see what was going on, since I have a different song set as my ringtone. When I pressed the button to stop the music, it kept playing. Finally, I turned the sound completely off. The music stopped, but I am still perplexed as to how this occurred. While I cannot explain how it happened, I am fairly certain that I know why. I believe God was reminding me that He has everything under control.

Sometimes in life, it seems like everything is going according to our plans. Our job provides a stress-free environment and steady income, our family is healthy, and nothing rains on our parade, so to speak. All too soon, a storm comes through like a tornado, perhaps causing turbulence in the workplace, illnesses among our family members, or other negative circumstances we must endure. It is during these times that we need to have the calm assurance that Jesus Christ is standing alongside us, providing a shield from the calamity that threatens to overwhelm us.

Psalms 3:3 says, "But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head" (ESV). The Lord never sleeps nor slumbers. He is always awake, watching over us, interceding on our behalf. When you are having a

wonderful day, Jesus is there, keeping you safe from harm. When you are having a miserable day, Jesus is there, keeping you safe from harm. It doesn't matter where you are or where you are going, Jesus Christ will always be a Shield surrounding you, helping you along the way.

A couple of weeks ago, my dad and I were out working with our cattle. As I opened one of the gates, a swarm of wasps came out after me. Because I had never been stung before, I was extremely concerned as I felt a wasp sting my leg. I prayed that no others would sting me. At that moment, I know that the Lord placed a shield around me, keeping me from getting stung multiple times or getting stung on the face. I am grateful for His protection and His healing, as the sting did not cause an allergic reaction. On the same day, my dad was charged by one of our cows more than once. This particular cow had horns, which could have caused a serious injury. I prayed that my dad would not be harmed in any way. Once again, the Lord proved faithful and true, placing a shield around my dad, protecting him from the potential danger.

Sometimes, we get so busy with our daily activities that we do not even notice the hand of God working in our midst. A traffic delay could be saving you from an accident down the road. An unexpected phone call could keep you from slipping and falling on a patch of water in your kitchen. Having to go back inside your house for a forgotten item could serve as a reminder to turn off the stove or unplug the curling iron before it causes fire damage to your home. You

see, there are so many scenarios where God sees the possible outcomes before we could ever begin to process them all. He knows our future. That's why we need to trust in His timing, because He knows what lies ahead.

As human beings, none of us are perfect. Our natural tendency is to call on the Lord more when we are in distress than when everything is going well. When we are sitting on cloud nine, we tend to believe we are doing great on our own, like a captain of a ship enjoying smooth sailing on a sunny day. But just like the captain should be thanking God for the calm seas, we need to remember to thank Him for His blessings every day. In the good times and the bad times, we need to praise Him for His endless love and mercy. We need to trust that He will work everything out for our good, no matter what is going on around us (see Romans 8:28).

God's Word says,  
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). The Bible doesn't say to acknowledge the Lord on Sunday and don't worry about it the rest of the week. It says "in ALL your ways acknowledge him" (emphasis added). We need to completely depend on Jesus Christ, making sure that everything we say and do revolves around His plan for our life.

Jesus Christ is our Shield. He is the glory and the lifter of our head. Jesus wants us to live an abundant life. He wants us to be happy. He wants us to lean on Him. By doing so, we can ensure that our focus is not on the trials and tribulations of this world, but on the One who loves us more than we could ever imagine. If we keep our

eyes on Jesus, we'll find that the difficult times are more bearable and the joyful times are even more delightful. Let us praise the King of Kings and Lord of Lords for all that He has done in our lives! From dawn until dusk and all through the night, the Lord is watching over you, keeping you safe. Jesus Christ is our constant Friend, our Lord and Savior, and our Shield.



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# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



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



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

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



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



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



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

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## SGN SCOOPS



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, 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 [HYPERLINK "http://jennifercampbell.net/blog.htm"](http://jennifercampbell.net/blog.htm) and a food and travel blog at <http://jennifersjourneys.net> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>.



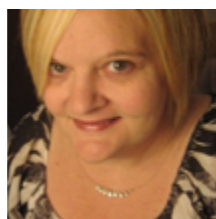
Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ.

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



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

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



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



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

<http://peteschwager.com>



Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



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

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



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

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



Dr. Jeff R. Steele is a pastor, conference speaker, singer, songwriter, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is currently the Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Their services are webcast worldwide; they have a weekly television program and host

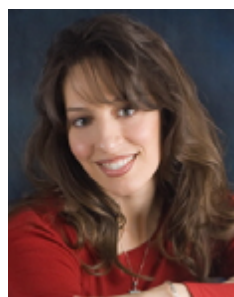
an annual Jubilee each August that attracts hundreds from around the southeast. Dr. Steele is beginning his eighth year there. As a songwriter Jeff has been credited with 17 Number One songs in Christian music as well as four BMI Gold Medals for Great National Popularity as measured by Broadcast Performances. He has also been recognized by BMI as Christian Songwriter of the Year on several occasions.

The group, The Steeles was featured across the nation and was seen on numerous magazine covers, feature articles, television and radio programs during their ministry on the road. Jeff is still writes songs and articles, sings on occasion and speaks in conferences and revivals. Jeff is married to Sherry, his wife of 31 years and they have three grown children. Visit Jeff on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and at [www.jeffrsteele.com](http://www.jeffrsteele.com).



Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented 18 year old shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, social networker and shooting coach. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. She also travels in full-time Gospel music ministry with The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion, and singing for Christ

is her calling. Check out her photography website [www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com](http://www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com) and her ministry website [www.stevensfamilymusic.com](http://www.stevensfamilymusic.com).



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

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



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

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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 Greenes, Ivan Parker, Brian Free and many more have recorded David's music. From 2005 to 2013, Staton was the Executive Vice President for Song Garden Music Group in Nashville, TN. In recent years, the National Quartet Convention has asked David to be a part of an industry advisory panel to help artists who need assistance and training. Not only has David made a mark as an artist, he is passing on his talent and knowledge to new artists, influencing and shaping the future of Gospel music.



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

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

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

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



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Hannah Webb is the soprano of the Rick Webb Family and director of radio promotion and relations for Song Garden Music Group. Hannah and her family have shared the platform with noted personalities such as Governor Mike Huckabee, Dr. David Jeremiah, George Beverly Shea, William Graham, Kathy Ireland just to name a few

and has made multiple network appearances with the TCT Network. Talent winner at Miss North Carolina 2013, Hannah also appeared on Jeff Foxworthy's "The American Bible Challenge" season 3. An advocate and spokesperson for Compassion International, she is completing her Business and Communications Major through Liberty University Online.



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, Alphas 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](http://www.graydoveministries.com) to learn more!



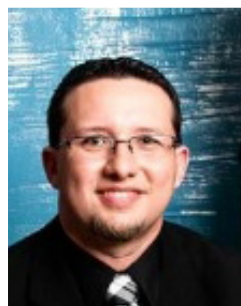
Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals, Photos,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

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



Melissa Joy Wright is a vocalist/musician/evangelist with the Southern Gospel music group The WRIGHTS. She is a wife, mother of three, and servant to the Risen Savior. Melissa is a blogger, focusing her attention on Spiritual and Physical Fitness and her passion: all things Southern Gospel! She enjoys watching her kid's activities, running, scrapbooking and crafting, and traveling

with her family. Most importantly, Melissa's calling is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and further Southern Gospel Music to a hurting world.



Chris Clay is an evangelist and the baritone singer for the Southern Gospel group Hope's Journey. He resides in east central Alabama with his wife Salina and daughter Cadence.

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Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many of

my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.



Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and small. We want to do all we can to support them!" In 2015, Candi will have

a law degree from Liberty University and will provide a full range of legal counsel. This component will bring the highest level of support to those who also desire legal representation.



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

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