

# SGN SCOOPS

● MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2015

# LARRY GATLIN

Also Featuring:

Courtney Collingsworth The Hinson Family Jordan's Bridge Blackwood Brothers



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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

Editor- Lorraine Walker

Feature Editor- Craig Harris

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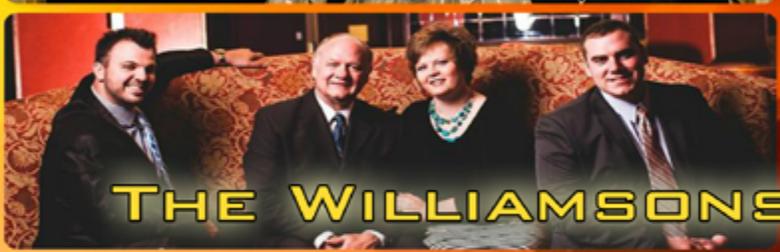
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*The Williamsons will be leading music and worship at midnight*



## **TUESDAY NIGHT**

*The Drummond Family will be leading music and worship at midnight*



## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

*Rocky and Gail Smith have experienced tragedy through the murders of their two teenage sons, Gail and Rocky strive to encourage "Triumph Through Tragedy".. They will be leading music and worship at midnight*



## **THURSDAY NIGHT**

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TUESDAY NOV 3RD

THURSDAY NOV 5TH



COMMON LOVE TRIO

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SARA HAMBRICK

MALACHI

THE SHARPS



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ASCENSION QT

TERRY COLLINS

CLEARVISION QT

REVIVED-QT



REDEEMED TRIO

SONGS OF FAITH

EXODUS

BROKEN VESSELS

KEITH STAPLER



FROM THE ASHES

ALLIANCE QT

DRUMMOND FAMILY

MCKAY PROJECT

THE BRANSCOMBS



THE WEBB QT

BILLY HODGES

NIKKI ELLISON

THE RIDERS

PINE RIDGE BOYS

## ARTIST APPEARING AT THE DAYTIME SHOWCASES

Common Love Trio-10:00am | John Lanier-10:11am | Sara Hambrick-10:22am | Malachi-10:33am

The Sharps-10:44am | The Connells-10:55am | Ascension Quartet-11:06am | Terry Collins-11:17am

ClearVision Quartet-11:28am | Revived Quartet-11:39am | Redeemed Trio-11:50am

The Songs of Faith-12:01pm | Exodus-12:12pm | Broken Vessels-12:23pm | Keith Stapler-12:34pm

From the Ashes-12:45pm | Alliance Quartet-12:56pm | The Drummond Family-1:07pm(TUE)

McKay Project-1:07pm(THUR) | The Branscombs-1:18pm | The Webb Quartet-1:29pm | Billy Hodges-1:40pm |

Nikki Ellison-1:51pm | The Riders-2:02pm | The Pine Ridge Boys-2:13

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Hey everybody, welcome to the November edition of the Publisher's Point. I hope that you are having a wonderful fall and have been able to enjoy at least one pumpkin spice something; as we all know, it is that time of year.

November brings us a time of year to reflect on the things that we are thankful for and I am sure thankful for all the friends I have in Southern Gospel music. During the month of October, I got to travel to the beautiful state of North

Carolina and accept the award from the Lighthouse Gospel Music Association for the Forerunner of the Year! It was truly an honor and I want to thank each and every one of the people involved with the event for all of their hard work. It was a wonderful time. It was also good to see longtime friends Tim and Angela Griffin at the event. Check out the picture of us pointing at each other!

I am so thankful for the opportunity to do what God has called me to do in our industry and I'm excited to tell you about some news that you may have already seen, but I want to reiterate it here. We will begin to print SGN Scoops as a newspaper, starting with an edition that you can find at Creekside. Then, starting with the January edition, we will be printing the newspaper monthly. Email me to find out how you can get your copy!

November has always been a special time of family and friends and spending time being thankful for all of the things that have happened over this year. I'm truly thankful that God has touched my body, as I dealt with many medical issues over this year. I have now seen the other side of that, where I have gotten a clean bill of health. I am thankful that God has been with me each step of the way. I know that His healing hand has been upon my life. It is here that I will look back on and be thankful to know that I serve a God Who loves me so much that He has healed my body.

Just think; when I write you next month, we will be counting down the days until Christmas! Until then, this is the Publisher's Point.

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# Editor's Remarks

By Lorraine Walker

Happy Thanksgiving! Have you ever noticed that there are tons of Christmas songs and carols, but few about the actual day of Thanksgiving? You could list praise songs and songs that actually use the word *thanks*. One song that always helps me lift my heart in thanksgiving is the doxology, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." My mother's family often sang that as a blessing before a meal. Hearing this hymn sung a cappella in harmony reminds me of a tradition and a faith that is now my own.

Our cover feature for November is Larry Gatlin. He and The Gatlin Brothers began their musical journey in church, singing Gospel music. They have come full circle, preparing to release a Christian album in recognition of 60 years of music. *The Gospel According to Gatlin* is expected to drop this month. You can be sure that with their harmony it will be a delight.

One of my favorite Gatlin songs is the a cappella number they often include in their performances and have recorded on the Gaither videos. "Every Hallelujah," brings the focus back to the Lord and away from the singers. I appreciate those artists who aren't afraid to let God have the spotlight.

You will find other artists featured in this edition of SGN Scoops who are like that as well. Courtney Collingsworth, Jordan's Bridge, the Hinson Family and the Blackwood Brothers all have their stories told here, stories of lives being lived for the Father. We have filled our magazine with Thanksgiving stories, thoughts and prayers and we hope you enjoy it.

November is also the month of Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2015. From November 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, you will meet many of the SGN Scoops staff and artists we've featured, down in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. It will be a fantastic time of praise and thanksgiving, with music and fellowship. If you are reading this post-Creekside, I hope you have a moment to write a note of thanks to the artists and all those involved. You will find a complete list in the Creekside Update feature later in this issue. Also, be sure to write a note of thanks to Rob Patz for all of his hard work in coordinating this Convention. You can send him an email at [Rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:Rob@sgnscoops.com).

In this month of Thanksgiving, I also want to send a note of thanks to all of our staff and writers here at SGN Scoops. There are names you need to read in the Contributor's section at the back of the magazine. Names like our creative staff: Stephanie Kelly, and Staci and Pete Schwager. My sister the proofreader who catches what I miss, Joan Walker and of course, our fine publisher, Rob Patz.

We have several monthly columnists who spend time relaying what God has placed on their hearts. Lou Wills Hildreth is one of these, a legend and an example to us all of a fine, Godly woman. She will be leaving us at the end of the year and we will do a better tribute to her next month, but if you have enjoyed her articles, please let her know. You can write to Lou at [gospplvideo@aol.com](mailto:gospplvideo@aol.com). We also really appreciate Jeff, Kelly, David, Lorette, Dusty, Sherry and newcomers Selena and Roger.

Our fine feature writers also deserve our thanks and appreciation. They include Vonda, Randall, Bethany,

Candi, Craig, Dan, Dean, Erin, Hannah, Jaquita, Jennifer, Justin G., Justin M., Lynn, Marcie, Matt, Paige, Robert, Roger, Rhonda, Sheri, Timmy, Tina and Vivian. Read their biographies at the back of the magazine and find out more about them.

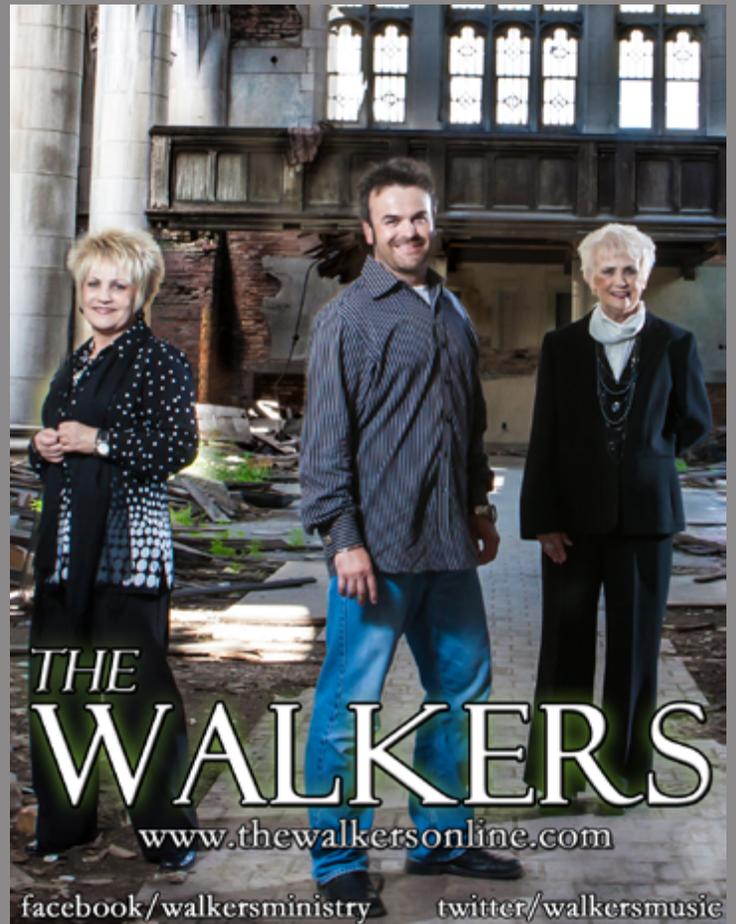
Is there someone you need to thank? Let the season of Thanksgiving give you the opportunity to thank a person you haven't reached out to lately. And most of all lift your heart with thanksgiving to our Lord. It's time to "Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."



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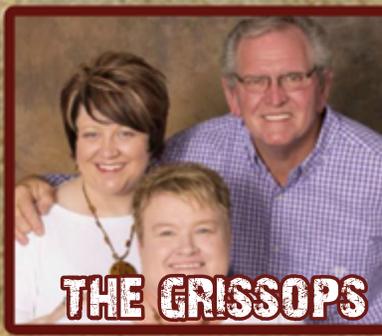
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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



This year is coming to a close very soon and changes are in store for many of us. We can never thank our Heavenly Father enough for the friends we have made on our Gospel music journey. We were blessed to be part of many of the events of this LIFE changing music, and I will forever be thankful for the privilege of writing these articles for SGNscoops. Our fabulous editor, Lorraine Walker, has been so gracious. She understands that I am retiring as a regular contributor after December, but will be available for occasional articles.



Although we regret we are unable to attend, we will LOVE seeing every photo and article from the Creekside Gospel Music Convention. We thank Rob Patz for founding this great event and for his continued devotion to it. Working with Patricia "Pat" Mathis, WATC-57 Atlanta, on the Creekside November 2nd presentation of the Lou Hildreth Honors for Jerry and The Goffs has been a joy. For many years, Pat was office manager and administrator for Jerry Goff, and was there as his talent and his desire to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ made him a LEGEND. Honoring Jerry and the Goffs makes for an exciting time!

We also LOVE the Diamond Awards at Creekside! Ken

and Jean Grady do a good job of coordinating this prestigious event. Congratulations to the recipients!

In closing, Howard and I are thankful that there are still many artists traveling the miles to sing the Gospel. A few weeks ago, we attended Gospel Song-Fest here in Houston promoted by the Dignity Gospel Quartet at Living Way Church Of the Nazarene. Two LEGENDARY quartets, Mark Trammell Quartet and Triumphant, were featured guests. Mark's subtle humor and vibrant singing, plus the performance of Nick Trammell, the marvelous bass vocals of Randy Byrd, and the new tenor Blake Buffin, blessed us.

We were thrilled as Triumphant Quartet received a huge welcome back to Houston. Eric Bennett never fails to express the group's focus on ministry, and he sings a fabulous bass, and David Sutton's tenor is solid. We are always in awe of Scotty and Clayton Inman's powerful presentations. Howard and I appreciate the longtime friendship of these colleagues.

We always enjoy our time with the Dignity Quartet, and





we appreciate their hospitality. We are thankful for the multitude of artists and industry friends who share our passion to take gospel music to a world that needs to hear that “Jesus Is Coming Soon!”

Lou Wills Hildreth [gospvideo@aol.com](mailto:gospvideo@aol.com) P. O. Box 271106 Houston, TX 77277

PHOTO A – Clayton Inman (Triumphant) & Lou  
 PHOTO B—Mark Trammell Quartet, Blake Buffin, Nick Trammell, Mark Trammell, Randy Byrd  
 PHOTO C—Triumphant, David Sutton, Clayton Inman, Scotty Inman, Eric Bennett  
 PHOTO D— Dignity with Lou, Wally Shuttlesworth, Josh Flynn, Russell Allen, Clint Hebert



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# LARRY GATLIN

## Still In Search Of All The Gold

By Craig Harris

**Larry Gatlin's illustrious career marches on as new opportunities arise**

Larry Gatlin is no stranger to the stage. However, the stages have become more varied over the course of his career.

The eldest of the Gatlin Brothers doesn't just step on the stage to sing, though he still performs a host of dates with his brothers Rudy and Steve.

The Texas native and current Nashville resident is a songwriter, an actor, a political and social contributor, and he has also served as a television host.

However, even with those numerous endeavors, Larry Gatlin's feet are still firmly entrenched in musical soil.

We recently sat down with Gatlin to talk about his adventurous past, the present journey and what lies in the road ahead. His feedback is as follows ...

**What's your current touring schedule like, and do you mix some solo performances along with the performances with your brothers?**

People say, 'why don't you retire?' I say, 'I've become real accustomed to eating three meals a day.' We made a lot of money. We paid our tithes, but we weren't very good with our money. The good news is we made a lot of money. The bad news is we don't have a lot left. We still love music. I do some solo performances, and Steve and Rudy also (do select performances without Larry).

**Talk about your time with the Imperials, and who were the other group members at that time?**

I had known Jim Murray and Armond Morales for many years. I did not know Joe Moscheo. Roger Wiles decided to leave the group. I went to work at Steak and Ale, and I got a call. Armond said, 'When can you come out here?' I said, 'I'll be out there tomorrow.' I didn't really work with Elvis (Presley). What they really needed me for was to work *The Jimmy Dean Show*. I worked with them. They really wanted to hire Greg Gordon. When Greg flunked his draft physical, they hired him. I worked with them a month. It was wonderful. All I wanted was to be a Gospel singer.

**You've been fortunate to perform in so many notable venues, win numerous awards and interact with so many musical greats. What are a couple of the highlights that stand out?**



Being a member of the Grand Ole Opry, getting to be on Gaither videos, singing at the Ryman Auditorium, signing at Carnegie Hall and playing Will Rogers on Broadway. Every night is a blessing. Every night is a highlight when people come up to pay their hard-earned money to hear you sing.

**What was the experience of moving to Nashville in the early 1970's and working as a backup singer with Kris Kristofferson?**

I have an incredible wife (Janis). When the opportunity came, she said, 'Larry you'll never be happy if you don't go try it.' She's followed all the way. She's been an incredible helpmate. It was exciting. It was scary. I hadn't been (in the Nashville area) 48 hours, I hate to



use the word important, but *famous* people who knew the business said, 'Yeah, you've got it. Keep doing it.'

**Many may not be aware of the fact that you were a college football player at the University of Houston, catching passes as a wide receiver. What was your background in athletics? Did you play other sports as well, and did your brothers – Steve and Rudy – also play various sports?**

I played everything. I didn't run track. I wasn't fast enough. We beat Idaho, 71 to three, and I got to play in that game. The scouting report, one of their team's players had thrown it down after the game. It had, 'Gatlin, 5' 9", 165 (height and weight) ... he has deceptive speed.' Baseball is my favorite sport, tied with golf. I love a good baseball game. I was the quarterback of the (high-school football) team who won a lot of games, and my old high-school teacher got a job at Houston. I played primarily football and baseball in high school. My brothers played too.

**Who inspired you and your brothers to sing together?**

Our first heroes were James Blackwood, Jake Hess, Hovie Lister, the Blackwood Brothers and the Statesmen ... the royal guys of Gospel Music.



**What made the dynamic of the Gatlin Brothers work so well, and what led to the level of success that you enjoyed?**

It was family harmony. A lot of groups sing great family harmony. Our vocal chords vibrate at the same rate.

**Have you three always gotten along well?**

No. We're brothers. We're three different people. I



don't feel the same way about things that they do.

**The song, "An American with a Remington" – which you wrote with Billy Dean – made a big splash last fall. How many songs have you written, and how much of a passion is songwriting still?**

It's a thousand. The ones that aren't hits that don't wind up on albums are just homework. Every word you need for a song is in the dictionary.



**If you could turn back the clock, what's one song that you would have recorded before another artist did so?**

I wouldn't have.

**You have done some acting, served as a political commentator and hosted talk shows in addition to your vast musical experiences. Do you take a lot of pride in being well rounded?**

I take a lot of pride in my humility. Pride goeth before fall. I'd rather say that I'm grateful for it. I've never been afraid to try something different.

**How much Southern Gospel Music are you exposed to currently, and are there any specific groups that you really enjoy?**

I love to hang with Gaither (artists). The Gaither Vocal Band is unbelievable. I love the old Imperials. I loved the Weatherfords. I love the Isaacs, the Booth Brothers.



I love Gold City. Ernie Haase and that bunch are fabulous. I love to hang with Gaither. We have a ball. It's not just the harmony. It's the spirit.

**What's in the works for Larry Gatlin?**

The new single, "An American with a Remington," we put it on a Gospel album. I wrote all of these songs or co-wrote them. We are proud of the album. I'm thankful. I better sing good, because those two cowboys on the left and right are going to sing good. We are the most consistent, in-tune, phrasing-together group that I've ever heard.



Editor's Note: Larry Gatlin attended the National Quartet Convention in September 2015 and SGN Scoops was given the opportunity for a personal interview through the hospitality of Les Butler and the Family Music Group. Larry opened the Wednesday morning showcase with his radio release, "An American With A Remington," took in some of the Awards ceremony and played his guitar for Eighth Day's appearance at the showcase.

Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers' 60th anniversary album, *The Gospel According to Gatlin*, is slated to be released by Curb Records later this fall.

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# Thanks-Living

By Matt Baker

I've heard it stated a million different ways: "Thank you." I'm guilty of saying it without truly meaning it. I know I'm not the only one. So often, we're obliged to express our thanks by simply saying two words. It's easy to just spit them out and not even really remember why we said it in the first place. We say it to the barista at the coffee shop. Ladies say it when someone opens a door for them. Men say it when someone compliments their golf game. Children say it, often at the prompting of Mom or Dad, when they're given a gift. As a parent, I've worked to instill in my two children to say "thank you" every chance they get. I hear them say it many times; but sometimes, there's a magical moment when I hear them say it from their heart. How my heart swells with pride to see genuine *gratitude* in their eyes.

I've entitled my article for this month *Thanks-Living* for this reason: There are times when we express thankfulness in our heart by our words, and there are other times that we express gratitude in our lives. One of the greatest ways we can express this is in song, and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to discuss all things Thanksgiving with two friends who just happen to be outstanding artists: Matt Fouch of Legacy Five, and Aaron Hise of the Whisnants.



The atmosphere of the Thanksgiving season is surrounded by things we all love: food, family, and more food! We can throw in some football for all who love sports, and the day just can't get much better. Family traditions often are born during this time of the year. "We always get together on Thanksgiving Eve. It's such a fun night!" Matt shares. Aaron added, "Our family's tradition has always been to get together an extra day to celebrate the holiday. We love the tradition of just having more family time."



As many readers have probably experienced, having more family around usually provides some free entertainment. Aaron's story is too good not to share: "The most memorable Thanksgiving that I have ever experienced was when my mom had fixed the most beautiful dinner for me, my dad, and my brother. I was nine years old and my brother was 13. We both had been playing ball outside and came in for dinner. When we got to the table, the turkey had been placed on the edge of the table before we said the blessing. As we

were praying, my brother was trying to make me laugh by poking my side. Well, when I tried to get away, I bumped the table just hard enough to make the turkey fall right onto the ground. Needless to say, we called the ‘ten second rule’ and enjoyed a great turkey!”



I haven’t had that kind of experience but one memorable experience for me, was as a boy with my cousin. We were given the daunting task of being the Thanksgiving-trash-taker-outers. We wore that badge with pride all day long. We were taking out one set of bags filled to the top and I opened one of the trash cans, when like a SCUD missile, the biggest opossum I’d ever encountered shot out of the trash can with every tooth in his face showing as he flew right by me. I’ll never forget it, and I’ll never blindly open a trashcan again!

Naturally, the subject of Thanksgiving-themed songs came up, and I asked Aaron and Matt what some of their favorite songs were along the theme of thankfulness. “The Easter Brothers put it best when they said, ‘There’s a roof up above me, I’ve a good place to sleep, there’s food on my table, and shoes on my feet. You gave me Your love, Lord, and a fine family, thank you, Lord, for Your blessings on me!’”<sup>1</sup> Aaron said. Matt added, “Soul’d Out Quartet recorded a song called, “Thank You Lord.” My wife Candice and I had a beautiful moment one day just driving in the car and listening to this song.”

Obviously, when you get three grown men talking to each other, the subject of food came up. Aaron laid it all out for us. “All of the traditional items will be served this year: turkey, ham, green bean casserole, homemade yeast rolls, dressing, gravy, homemade macaroni and cheese, sweet potato casserole, deviled eggs, and the list keeps going on!” Matt added many of the same traditional menu items, but said that there was one thing

he couldn’t live without on Thanksgiving: “Cool Whip for the pumpkin pie. I like a little pie with my Cool Whip.”

We could all put down a mile-long list of all the blessings we’ve enjoyed this year, but Matt and Aaron each added specific things that they were thankful for. Matt tells us, “I’m thankful for the peace that passes all understanding! In the midst of a crazy life in a crazy world, as believers, we can have a peace beyond our human comprehension.” Aaron added, “I’m especially thankful this year for the family that God has blessed me with. Suzanne (Aaron’s wife, who also sings with The Taylors) and I are expecting our first child in March. We’re beyond excited!” That’s definitely something to be grateful for!



I mentioned as we began the article about the word Thanks-Living. Are we just saying “thank you,” or are we *living* “thank you?” My prayer for myself and for each of our readers is that we won’t just take one special Thursday that’s set aside, and rattle off an impromptu prayer to God for the many blessings He’s given us, but that we, like David the Psalmist, will take time to meditate and think upon the Lord’s goodness to us. His mercy endures forever, and his faithfulness is sure. My sincere thanks to Aaron Hise of the Whisnants and Matt Fouch of Legacy Five for their time and effort this month. Happy Thanks-Living, everyone!

1. “Thank You Lord For Your Blessings On Me,” Easter, James and The Easter Brothers. Copyright 1975. Renewed 2003. LeFevre- Sing Publishing Company/BMI. (website c.October 21, 2015). [www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/mtd.asp?ppn=MN0085124](http://www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/mtd.asp?ppn=MN0085124)

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# Hopes Journey



**"ON MY WAY BACK"**

written by: Ricky Atkinson

*"A song that is sweeping the nation and touching folks that are finding their way back"*

# High Notes

By Kelly Nelson Clark



## God's Forever Protection

December 1<sup>st</sup>, I would be 10 years old. I loved birthdays, and we always had a big time. My brother and I continued that on with our own children. I loved parties, mostly because I loved having friends over to play. One year when I was about eight and my brother was turning six, I thought it would be so nice to have a party for his birthday. I called some of his friends and a lot of mine and told them there would be a party at our house at a certain time that same day. One thing I forgot is that I didn't tell my mom about the party. Children starting arriving about the time my mom got home from work. There were no games, no cake or ice cream. She was furious with me but made a mad dash to the store. I don't think that day was ever forgotten.

Not only did I love the parties, but I loved presents. It was my 10th birthday and I couldn't wait to see what I got. I had presents from friends and my family. One particular friend did not come from a Christian home and I was always scared when I went to her house. Even as a child I could feel something very strange and I would ask God to protect me. She had brought me a game I didn't have, but it was all the rage at the time. It was called a Ouija Board or a spirit board. You could ask it questions and supposedly it would answer you. To tell you how the Lord protects, I also got a

little white zip up Bible from my daddy. I think he had bought it on the road and had my name engraved on it. I loved it!

That night my friends and I played with that board and asked it questions and pretended like it was answering. My parents never saw the game and didn't know I had it. Anyway, as they all left and it was time for bed I was tired and went right to sleep. I don't know if it was real or I was dreaming but I kept seeing a light on that board and the piece moving from letter to letter. I woke up immediately and grabbed that little white Bible and held it. I prayed that God would protect me from whatever was in that room. The next day I got up and I threw that Ouija board in the trash.

Do you think it was a coincidence that I got a Ouija board and a Bible for my birthday? I don't. I think God is always watching over our lives to keep us safe from the Satan who tries to steal and kill us. I'm forever thankful for God's love and His protection, and my little white Bible.

Psalms 91:11 (KJV) "For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Hello to all our SGN Scoops readers. Lil' Jan and I are excited to have been asked to host the Diamond Awards in Pigeon Forge, TN on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. It's going to be a great evening of musical excitement as the winners are announced. Make your plans to be at this event in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge. Don't miss out on seeing all the lovely 'Fall Colors' in The Smokies.

Also, we are thrilled with our new television show, *ENJOYING LIFE WITH DR. JERRY AND LIL' JAN*. Jeff Stice orchestrated our musical theme complete with trumpets, piccolos and tubas. It's absolutely great! Paul Heil of The Gospel Greats radio program is our announcer. The show airs in the 8th largest television market in America - Atlanta, Georgia. It's currently airing in 6 other cities and can be seen streaming nationwide every Saturday afternoon at 4pm Eastern on [www.watc.tv](http://www.watc.tv). Tune in each week for a time of fun and conversation with our friends.

We are looking forward to our annual winter schedule and stay in The Sunshine State of Florida which includes a wonderful Christian Cruise, February. 15-19, 2016. Our friends at Templeton Tours lease the entire ship. The bars and casinos are all closed, and it is turned into *THE GOOD OLD GOSPEL SHIP* with singing and preaching by more than 20 nationally known groups and speakers. It is a great opportunity to enjoy some good Gospel Music, Christian Fellowship and make new friends. We'd love to send you a brochure. Contact us at [drjerrygoff@aol.com](mailto:drjerrygoff@aol.com).

God Bless You All,  
Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan



## Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan Goff

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Tuesday, November 3, 2015  
Smoky Mountain Convention Center  
Pigeon Forge, TN
- ★ Stars of an exciting television show,  
"ENJOYING LIFE WITH DR. JERRY & LIL' JAN"  
on Atlanta's TV57 during the popular  
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## *Gospel Music Pioneers:*

### A LOOK AT THE LEGENDARY BLACKWOOD BROTHERS QUARTET

The name Blackwood is synonymous with Southern Gospel music. In 1934, three brothers and a son from Choctaw County, Mississippi formed one of the most popular quartets in the history of Southern Gospel Music. The original group consisted of bass singer Doyle; lead James, tenor Roy, and Roy's son R.W. singing baritone. The quartet was formed in the midst of the Great Depression in the US, which was a time when Americans were struggling to provide for themselves and their families. The American people needed hope and that was what the Blackwood Brothers Quartet was all about: bringing hope to the world and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. The group, dedicated to the cause, developed a loyal fan base that would only continue to grow.

Billy Blackwood recalls, "They got a break that catapulted them to a national level overnight when, on June 13th, 1954, they appeared on and won the most popular television show of the day, Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts, the 1950's version of today's American Idol. Outside of the south and the loyal fan base they

had established in the upper Midwest, most of the US hadn't been exposed to gospel quartet music. Well, that changed overnight when the Blackwood Brothers won Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts with a rousing tune called, 'Have You Talked To The Man Upstairs?'"

This triumph for the quartet was soon eclipsed by a terrible tragedy. Two weeks after their appearance on national television, group members, R.W. Blackwood and bass singer Bill Lyles were killed in a devastating plane crash in Clanton, Alabama. Blackwood states, "Bill & R.W. made the fateful decision to take the group's private plane up for a practice takeoff to make certain they had the feel of the runway, where they anticipated taking off after dark. After one pass and an attempted touchdown, something went terribly wrong as the plane went straight up, stalled and fell to the ground bursting into flames, instantly killing R.W., Bill, and a young man named Johnny Ogburn, who had gone along just for the ride."



This was a tragic event for the family and the group, but God was in control. James Blackwood almost retired the group, but was encouraged by friends and family to continue. A young charismatic bass singer named J.D. Sumner and R.W.'s younger brother Cecil Blackwood joined the quartet adding an exciting new dynamic. From tragedy to success, the group rose to another level and "they were awarded by RCA Victor records as the first gospel group to sell in excess of one million records." James and Cecil Blackwood along with J.D. Sumner organized the first the National Quartet Convention in 1956. The NQC still exists today and is the longest running Gospel music event in history.

Many great vocalists and performers have been a part of this incredible group: bass singers J.D. Sumner, London Parris, Cecil Stringer, John Hall, and Randy Byrd, and tenors Calvin Newton, Bill Shaw, Cat Freeman, along with many others. James Blackwood left in the early 1980's to form the Master's Five and continued sing-



ing as a solo artist as well. He also appeared on many of Bill Gaither's Homecoming videos until his death in 2002.

The group is currently comprised of Billy Blackwood, James Blackwood's youngest son, singing baritone. Billy grew up playing drums on tour with the Blackwood Brothers, then with the Elvis Presley Show before settling into music ministry. Wayne Little fills the tenor position with the quartet. His signature tenor voice delights fans all over the world. Little previously traveled with the Crystal River Boys as well as New Millennium. Former Stamps Quartet and Florida Boys bass singer Butch Owens adds his unique bass voice to the group. Owens is the father of Ian Owens who sings bass with Soul'd Out Quartet. Last, but not least, Canadian Michael Helwig sings lead for the group. He previously traveled with the Wilburns, The Williamsons, the Stamps, and the Dixie Echoes. Together, Black-



wood's tender baritone, Little's classic tenor, Helwig's powerful lead, and the smooth rich bass voice of Owens come together to produce that authentic, *old-timey* quartet sound.

This group has been a true pioneer and trailblazer in this field, leading the way for the groups of today. In their 80-year career, the quartet has recorded over 200 albums and toured in 47 countries. They were the first Gospel quartet to appear on national television, as well as use a tour bus. They have won eight Grammy Awards and six Dove Awards and were inducted in the *Gospel Music Hall of Fame* in Nashville, TN in 1998. In their long storied career, the quartet has had many memorable experiences. In terms of the most memorable, Blackwood states, "I would say the tandem events of winning Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts on June 11, 1954, followed by the plane crash on June



30th that claimed the lives of R.W. Blackwood, Sr., and bass singer, Bill Lyles.” This event truly was a *phoenix moment* for the group, reminding them that God is in control and will never forsake His children.

The group celebrated its 80th Anniversary last year by releasing a brand new recording that blends together the classic sounds of the old days with the new more progressive sounds of today’s quartets. Billy Blackwood says, “To commemorate this occasion there are two new recording projects by the group’s current record label, Daywind Records. The first is called *Forever / 80th Anniversary Recording* and features 10 songs, seven new and three old, that may be the best recording by the Blackwood Brothers in decades. From the opening sounds of ‘You Can Find What I Found,’ to the closing chord of ‘Dear Jesus, Abide With Me,’ this record is packed full of powerful songs, old and new, that take the Blackwood Brothers to a new level of artistic excellence.” Also available is an 80-song, four CD set, which is a panoramic history of the Blackwood Brothers extensive recording career. This incredible collection includes recordings from the 1940’s and takes listeners through history concluding with the Anniversary recording.

Now in 2015, The Blackwood Brothers Quartet shows no signs of slowing down and plans on continuing to spread the Gospel through song. The future is looking bright for this legendary group. Billy is excited to continue to carry on the legacy of this incredible group. He teases about the future saying: “Fans can expect the quality and class always associated with the Blackwood Brothers; the comedy and tender moments that are a part of every concert we do. Most of all, the old songs and new songs that exalt the Lord Jesus Christ will leave listeners with both the satisfaction of hearing the



classics they know and love as well as new songs that are destined to become classics.”

Billy and the rest of the group haven’t let their success distract them from their calling. The group holds true to their mission statement: “The Blackwood Brothers Quartet exist to declare the gospel of Jesus Christ in songs that convey the message and the hope of the gospel.” This legendary quartet has been a pillar of Southern Gospel Music for decades, inspiring many groups over the years. God has truly blessed this group with the ability to entertain, but most importantly spread the Gospel to the world. For 80 years, the group has experienced great success and continues to release quality recordings as well as performing to sold out crowds.

The current lineup is heralded as one of the best in the group’s history. Southern Gospel Music would not be what it is today without the **Blackwood Brothers**.



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# 7 Secrets to Living Long and STRONG!



By Laurette Willis, CHC

***“With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.” (Psalm 91:16)***

In Japan, life expectancy is over 82 years of age, and in most of the western world the average life expectancy is 78 to 80 years of age.

When the first United States census was taken in 1790, only two percent of the U.S. population was over 65. By 1900, the average American lifespan was only 47. People who make it to 100 and beyond are no longer considered freaks of nature. There are approximately 55,000 centenarians in the U.S., and perhaps as many as 450,000 worldwide.

**Is it unreasonable to expect to live to be 120, as the Bible states?** *“And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’”* (Genesis 6:3)

**What about the scripture that mentions 70 to 80 years of age?** That was considered part of the curse of being in the wilderness, not a blessing.

*“The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”* (Psalm 90:10)

A footnote to Psalms 90 in *The Amplified Bible* explains: “This psalm is credited to Moses, who is interceding with God to remove the curse which made it necessary for every Israelite over twenty years of age

(when they rebelled against God at Kadesh-barnea) to die before reaching the promised land (Numbers 14:26-35).

“Moses says most of them are dying at 70 years of age. ***This number has often been mistaken as a set span of life for all mankind. It was not intended to refer to anyone except those Israelites under the curse during that particular forty years. Seventy years never has been the average span of life for humanity.*** When Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes, had reached 130 years (Genesis 47:9), he complained that he had not attained to the years of his immediate ancestors. In fact, Moses himself lived to be 120 years old, Aaron 123, Miriam several years older, and Joshua to 110 years of age. Note as well that in the Millennium a person dying at 100 will still be thought a child (Isaiah 65:20).”

**“If I’d Known I Would Live *this* Long, I Would’ve Taken Better Care of Myself!”**

We want to live long in order to complete all the Lord has called us to do. We also want to live stronger and healthier. It’s the second part that is giving many people trouble. But it doesn’t have to be that way!

Longevity experts say that while genetics may play a factor in our living long and strong, lifestyle habits, nutrition and exercise play a bigger factor.

**Here are seven secrets** that can dramatically increase the probability you will live long and strong:

1. **STRESS – Control it.** When you’re under stress, your body releases cortisol, known as *the stress*

*hormone*. Cortisol speeds up aging by accelerating body processes.

**Want to know how to alleviate stress?** Listen to my free Christian Meditation Seminar recorded for you **here:** [praisemoves.com/2013/05/christian-meditation-seminar](http://praisemoves.com/2013/05/christian-meditation-seminar).

You'll learn how to control your responses to stress. Events themselves are not stressful; it is our response that causes problems.

2. **SLEEP** – it's more than just for *beauty*. As you age, deep, restorative sleep may become harder to experience. Avoid caffeine and stimulants a few hours before bedtime. Magnesium supplements before bedtime can help relax you and prepare you for sleep.

3. **LAUGHTER** – “*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine!*” Laughter reduces blood pressure, clears the lungs, and produces endorphins, the so-called *happy hormone* that reduces pain.

Be more like a child! The average child laughs 300 times a day. Adults average only 17 times! Researchers are finding that laughter and joy help keep us alive. Remember, “The JOY of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

**What would Jesus laugh at?** Realize that many of the things the world thinks are funny really are not funny at all. Things such as people physically hurting themselves, ridicule and mockery, subjecting people to embarrassment or shame, animals relieving themselves—these are not really funny, but we've been programmed over the last few decades to believe they are humorous. Hey, I've laughed at some of them, too! But I've since found a “check” in my spirit when laughing at some of these things the world promotes as funny.

The Lord has a wonderful sense of humor. Ask HIM what He finds funny (and be prepared to laugh a lot!)

4. **EXERCISE**. Your body desires to move at every age. Fifties, 60's, 70's, 80's? Research shows that it's never too late to start exercising. In fact, if you're a bit older starting out with exercise, you will have faster results than those who have been active all their lives. The key is finding an activity you enjoy and making it part of your daily routine—like PraiseMoves!

5. **REACH OUT**. Studies show that people live longer if they are married, have close friends, or have pets. Volunteer at church or in the community. Make a decision to meet more people. There's nothing wrong

with being alone, but we want to avoid social isolation. People need what only you can share!

6. **BRAIN POWER**. I remember hearing years ago that the brain could not regenerate. Not true! Now doctors know that you stimulate your brain by learning new things, forming new connections in the brain. Memorize a different scripture every other day, take up a new hobby, learn a new language, or try a new fitness routine. Do something in a different way than you usually do!

7. **PRAISE the Lord and Give Him Thanks**. Pay attention to the *now* moment. Stop and thank the Lord for your life. Ask Him what He would have you do at that moment (He usually impresses upon my heart the words, “Praise Me!”) This is for *your* benefit, not His!

**Say Psalm 103 aloud with me and just watch what happens to how you feel!**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul;*

*And all that is within me, bless His holy name!*

<sup>2</sup> *Bless the LORD, O my soul,*

*And forget not all His benefits:*

<sup>3</sup> *Who forgives all your iniquities,*

*Who heals all your diseases,*

<sup>4</sup> *Who redeems your life from destruction,*

*Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,*

<sup>5</sup> *Who satisfies your mouth with good things,*

*So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

The Lord loves you so much! Live long and strong IN HIM!

To help YOU “Live Long & Strong” get a free copy of the “Ten Bad Foods List” plus a free Self-Health Evaluation you can take online, by contacting Laurette Willis at [praisemoves@gmail.com](mailto:praisemoves@gmail.com).

*Laurette is a Certified Health Coach, published author, and Founder of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry. You may contact Laurette at the email address above, 918-458-1800 or [www.PraiseMoves.com](http://www.PraiseMoves.com). Join Laurette at [www.Facebook.com/LauretteWillisPage](http://www.Facebook.com/LauretteWillisPage) ©2015*

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# The Hinson Family

Creating Their Own Legacy

By Jaquita Lindsey

I believe that anyone who has ever followed Southern Gospel music will recall the legendary family group, the Hinsons. Originally from California, the group consisted of siblings Ronny, Yvonne, Larry and Kenny. This dynamic group has remained a mentor and musical influence for countless artists. Songs such as "The Lighthouse" and "Call Me Gone," cannot be heard without the unforgettable Kenny Hinson crossing your mind. Kenny graduated to his heavenly reward July of 1995, at the young age of 41, after fighting a battle with cancer. Kenny not only left a wife and two children behind, but a legacy.

Picking up the mantle that has been left to him is Kenny's son, Weston Hinson. He began his singing adventures around age 12. Weston led worship for his youth group before his solo ministry commenced at age 20. In August of 2010, he and Christy hit the

stages as a duo. They traveled under the name Weston and Christy Hinson for several years. Two years ago, they added Jordan and recently changed their name over to The Hinson Family.

"We first started the group as Weston Hinson and By Faith with Christy's mom and step-dad. We released an album titled Home With You Tonight under that name," Weston tells us. "Christy and I then decided to go full time in August of 2010 as Weston and Christy Hinson. We released three albums under that name, one of which contained songs that my father did, Tribute to the Original Hinsons. Then in April of 2013, our daughter Jordan joined the group, prompting a final name change to The Hinson Family a short time later." This trio won the Artist Spotlight Showcase on Wednesday at the recent National Quartet Convention, granting them an appearance on main stage

later that evening. These talented vocalists rightly deserved the win.

With the rich musical heritage of his father Kenny, Weston almost had no choice but to become an accomplished singer, songwriter and musician. The Hinson Family has received numerous acknowledgements individually, as well as corporately. "I genuinely feel it is a calling for me, for us, as a family. As long as I feel that tug from God to sing and utilize this ministry, I will give my everything to honor the work that He has laid before me," says Weston. Outside of singing, Weston helps his father-in-law with his air-conditioning company in their home of Greenville, TX. He also personally owns a graphic and web design company, Legacy Productions.

Christy Hinson started singing with her mom in a group called The Harvest Masters at the age of 15. She too is a proficient songwriter and singer. The project Let's Have Some Church featured six of her original penned songs. Christy grew listening to the Hinsons, along with other various influences such as the Rambos, the Hemphills, Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn. "I remember Kenny Hinson recording the first album for the group that my mom sang with when I was around seven years old. He was a hoot!" Christy laughs. "I'm thankful for the many awesome opportunities that God has blessed me with. I started singing with a group when I was 17 under the name Country Flair. We were able to sing for several dignitaries, one being



President Reagan. That was a great experience," she adds.

Outside of singing and songwriting, Christy keeps occupied with making jewelry, selling Mary Kay, and photography. Although she has Jordy on the road with them, 20-year-old daughter, Morgan, is in college studying to be a drama coach. "I thank God for blessing me with a husband who is full of conviction and love for God, more than of love of himself. I'm grateful for our family. Yes, my plate is full, but so is my heart," Christy cheerfully says.

Mishaps are always a given on the road. There is nothing worse than leaving a necessity behind, especially clothing. Christy recalls this funny story. "A few years ago, Weston moved all of our dress clothes out of the car and into the church, without telling me. After service, we headed down the road about two and a half hours, where we were leaving for a cruise the next day. When we started unloading at the hotel where we were staying that night, I asked Weston, 'Where are our dress clothes?' With wide eyes, he says, 'Oh no! They are at the church where we sang this morning!' So we canceled our room and drove back. The pastor of the church let us stay with him because it was





so late. The next morning, we ran out of gas on the way back. Luckily, we had roadside service. We almost missed the boat.”

Weston shared another memorable moment of forgetfulness: “We had just gotten the sound set at a concert in North Carolina. With about 30 minutes to spare, I realized I had forgotten my suit pants. I thought I was going to have to sing in shorts. Fortunately, there was a small hardware store close that was within ten minutes of closing. I quickly found some work pants that would suffice. I’m really forgetful so that kind of stuff happens to me all the time.”



Jordan, 18, says that Weston is not the only one who misplaces their belongings. “Once Mom thought she left her phone at a church. We had already driven two hours away but turned around to go and get it. Turns out, it was in her purse the whole time,” she laughs. Jordy, as everyone refers to her as, started singing at age seven. She enjoys crocheting and watching Netflix in her free time. She too loves the original

Hinsons, as well as the Crabb Family and the Isaacs. “I believe for this season in my life, my calling is to sing with my family,” Jordy says. “I can reach youth that maybe would not be able to relate to my parents’ testimonies. But my testimony, along with theirs, can prayerfully reach a multitude of people by singing the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The goals for The Hinson Family are quite simple. They desire to make a Godly impact on the lives of anyone that they come in contact with. They strive to have a level of excellence in their music that is appealing to a broad base of people. The Hinson Family is working towards the planning of a new project that is sure to have more songs from Christy. For more news and events, visit their website at [www.thehinsonfamily.com](http://www.thehinsonfamily.com).

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By Lorraine Walker

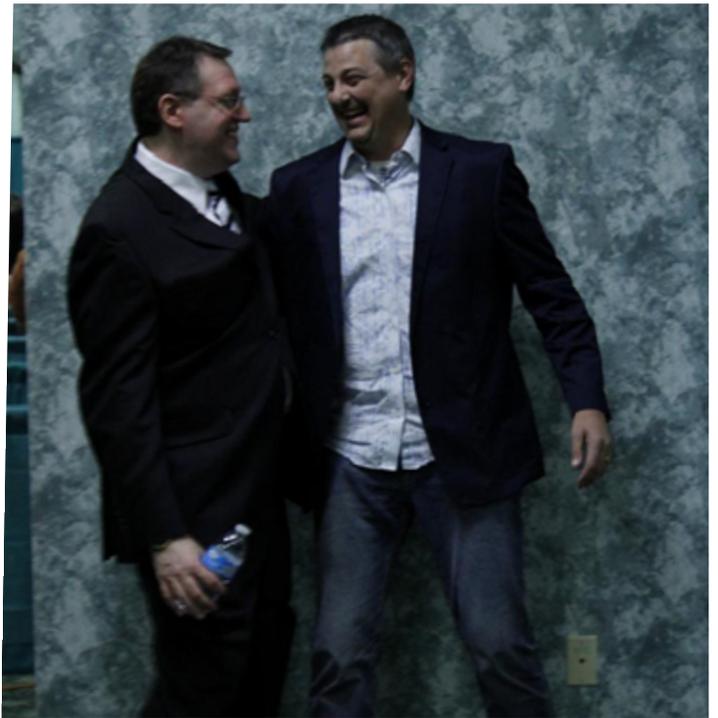
*Fall Tree Photo Courtesy of Wolfgang Staudt*

November has arrived and with it the 2015 Creekside Gospel Music Convention! Held from November 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, it is likely that it will be over by the time most of you will read this feature. We hope that those of you who attended are already making plans for next year. If you didn't make it, keep watching this magazine for all the details for the 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention!

There are so many people who contribute to Creekside, that it is impossible to name them all. However, we will begin by thanking our wonderful artists who came and gave of themselves this week. These artists include:

11th Hour	John Lanier	The Connells
2 Determined	Jordan's Bridge	The Drummond Family
Alliance Quartet	Keith Stapler	The Epps Family
Billy Hodges	Kelly Coberly	The Freemans
Broken Vessels	Kristin Stanton	The Guardians
Clear Vision Quartet	Mark 209	The Hinson Family
Common Love	McKay Project	The Hoskins
Crosspointe	Mercy Rain	The Hyssongs
Dave Williford	Nicki Ellison	The Riders
Dave Mumford	Pine Ridge Boys	The Schofields
Exodus	Redeemed Trio	The Sharps
From The Ashes	Revived Quartet	The Sneed Family
Glad Heart	Sara Hambrick	The Webb Quartet
Glory Way Quartet	Sojourners Quartet	The Williamsons
Hope's Journey	Surrendered	Three Bridges
Jerry and Jan Goff	Terry Collins	Tim and Lana Chandler.
Jim Sheldon	The Branscombs	Tina Wakefield
Watts Rowsey and Bean	Jerry and the Singing Goffs	Ava Kasich

We were thrilled to welcome all of the special guests and surprise artists that entertained us at various events. The *Lou Hildreth Honors Jerry and the Singing Goffs* on Monday night as well as the *2015 Diamond Awards* held on Tuesday night were arranged and produced by many who are associated with SGN Scoops. The Tuesday and Thursday Showcases were put together and hosted by Vonda Easley and Ava Kasich. On Wednesday, Jason Runnels and Hope's Journey hosted a special reception for the Pine Ridge Boys, and we appreciate all who were

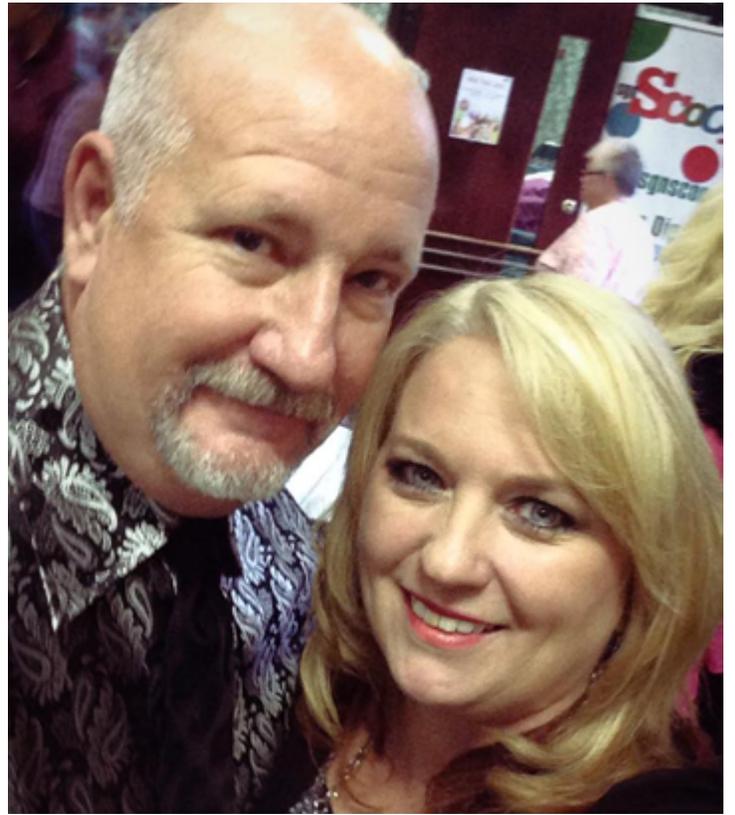


involved with the administration and procuring the refreshments for it.

From the Jam Sessions to the Evening Concerts to the Midnight Prayer services, so many people worked tirelessly to set in motion Creekside for this year, and you are all so valued and respected for your abilities and dedication.

SGN Scoops would also like to thank Patricia Mathis and WATC TV, Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today, the SGN Scoops Social Media team, all the





volunteers and the staff of SGN Scoops who assisted in any way with the Convention.

This event was constructed prayerfully and thoughtfully, and after four years we can see the growth and the touch of God on Creekside. We are so thankful that He is part of our gathering and we pray He will always be an integral part of all that is done through Coastal Media, SGN Scoops and Creekside Gospel Music Convention. See you next year!





kwhbtv47  
Tulsa, OK

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# Jordan's Bridge

## Linking People to Jesus



**By Tina Wakefield**

When we think of all the journeys we take in life going from one destination to another, we cross many highways, waterways, hills and valleys. When we are faced with a great span between two destinations there is only one way to cross: using a bridge that spans the gap and connects the two points. As Christians, Joe Lane states, “We have always referred to getting to Heaven as crossing over Jordan. Jesus Christ is the *Bridge* for us to cross over Jordan into Heaven; because we point souls to Christ, we act as a bridge for souls to find Christ, so we decided on the name, Jordan’s Bridge.”

Jordan’s Bridge was born from the heart’s desire of Joe Lane, who for years desired to form a group. Joe decided to reach out and call friend Phil Barker to asked if he would like to sing again. Phil never hesitated but was thrilled at the thought. With that contact made, a dream began to unfold for Joe. One more phone call to Rick Sheets and again, Rick never hesitated at the prospect of singing with a group. With everyone on board Joe was thrilled so he enlisted the help of his little brother Jamey to move things forward. Jamey was very instrumental in selecting songs

and choosing the PA system they would need. Joe notes, “I am very grateful to Jamey for his dedication to get us rolling. With his work schedule it was difficult for him to sing and travel very much, but he filled in until we found someone to sing lead.” Phil contacted Kirk Henry who sang with Jordan’s Bridge once and knew immediately that he was destined to sing with them.

The quartet is comprised of four men who have served in Gospel music over the years with various groups. Joe sang and played piano with groups such as The Anchormen, The Dixie Melody Boys, and The Singing Americans in the 1980’s and ‘90’s and more recently with the Dove Brothers. Other members describe Joe as having a true talent.

Baritone singer, Rick Sheets, has been involved with Gospel music promotion and managing his own studio. Rick is the recipient of several honors for his vocals, and the other guys say he has a heart for a lost and hurting world and often gives Bibles away to those who cannot afford one.

Kirk Henry previously sang with a group called Adoration

and is described by his bandmates as having a lot of heart. Rick says, "Kirk can stand toe-to-toe with any lead singer out there. He loves the Lord with all his heart; as a matter of fact, we all do." Kirk comments that he appreciates everyone's commitment to Jordan's Bridge and their stand for Christ.

Phil Barker is known for his tenor singing days with the Harvesters and the Singing Americans in the 1980's. His group describes him by saying, "His tone is just as sure today as ever before. He is a true Christian man who enjoys joking around when we are traveling, but on the stage singing for Christ, it is all business."

Jordan's Bridge began practicing in August of 2012 and four months later in December they performed their first concert to a packed house in a Methodist Church. Joe stated, "That night God's Spirit filled that Methodist Church and we all knew we had something special and that God's hand was on us."

Joe says he knows there are many hurting today that just need to be reminded that Jesus loves and cares about them so very much. Jordan's Bridge opens each engagement with the old hymn, "I Love To Tell The Story." Joe says that this song would be the group's theme song, as fits them well: telling the story of Jesus.

The goal of every group should be to touch the life of someone through song so that the person desires a relationship with Christ. Phil describes what it feels like to be singing and see that one soul rise from their seat and start down the aisle to the altar. "When someone comes forward, you know you are doing what you are supposed to be doing. It makes you forget about all the times when you felt like what you were doing was all in vain. It's a great feeling to know you had a part in seeing someone saved from a Devil's hell."

Phil related to me a service that stands out in the group's memory. "In a small church in the mountains of North Carolina, during the altar call we noticed a young couple that were crying and talking to one another. I just knew they would come forward, but they didn't. I talked to the pastor about them after the service and he planned to follow up with them later in the week. A few days later, one of the Deacons came to where I work and told me the young couple had gotten saved. That let me know we planted seed in good ground."

If you travel any at all then you know there are the stories of terrible trips, funny trips and sometime scary trips. Rick relates a story about the worst trip that Jordan's Bridge has ever taken. "It was when we were coming back from

Lincolnton, North Carolina, during February, with six inches of snow on the ground and blizzard conditions. We were pulling our trailer with our truck, coming over the mountain about one o'clock in the morning. I give God all the glory because we never slid once, but after we arrived home a tire on the trailer went flat. We would really have been in a lot of trouble on top of the mountain in those conditions with a flat tire. Praise God."

Just as there are the scary trips, you can't put four men together traveling without the usual funny stories and in most cases there is one funny man in the group that keeps everyone light and comical. Phil says that Rick is the funny man of Jordan's Bridge. "Even when he feels bad, he still tries to be funny, no matter what the situation; he is always funny or tries to be. We all love to pick and have fun because it makes the time pass quickly." The humorous story that sticks in Phil's mind occurred not too long ago. "We were finishing up a service and had the pastor come forward to give the invitation when all of sudden a cell phone begins to ring. Now you would think the person would hurry and turn it off but no! Instead, the lady answers the phone and says, 'Hello! No, I'm in church right now, I'll call you back later, bye-bye,' and hangs up the phone." Phil said it was all they could do to keep themselves under control with bursting into laughter!

Speaking of traveling, most every group has that mental picture of their dream transportation. I know for myself, I dream of a 40-foot diesel pusher with four slide outs. After all, the Bible says that without a vision, the people perish. With their transportation needs in mind, Jordan's Bridge talked about their current transportation and their needs. Joe says they have completely worn out Rick's new Dodge truck; or rather, it was new. Phil and Kirk currently drive to most places. They desire prayers that God would show them the transportation that He wants for them.

The group's office is based in Bristol, Virginia and they currently travel mostly in NC, VA, TN, SC, and GA. They are hoping to branch out into the Midwest and Northern states very soon. In a time where money is tight for a lot of people, maybe we really don't give much thought to the costs a group must cover to come and minister to a group of people. Rick related to me that if they are close to home base in Bristol, the costs are lower, but when you travel outside your area, fuel prices have to be covered as well as eating on the road and motel rooms. Rick estimates the cost for Jordan's Bridge to travel is around \$600.00 per day and a lot of people don't understand the costs associated with a traveling group.

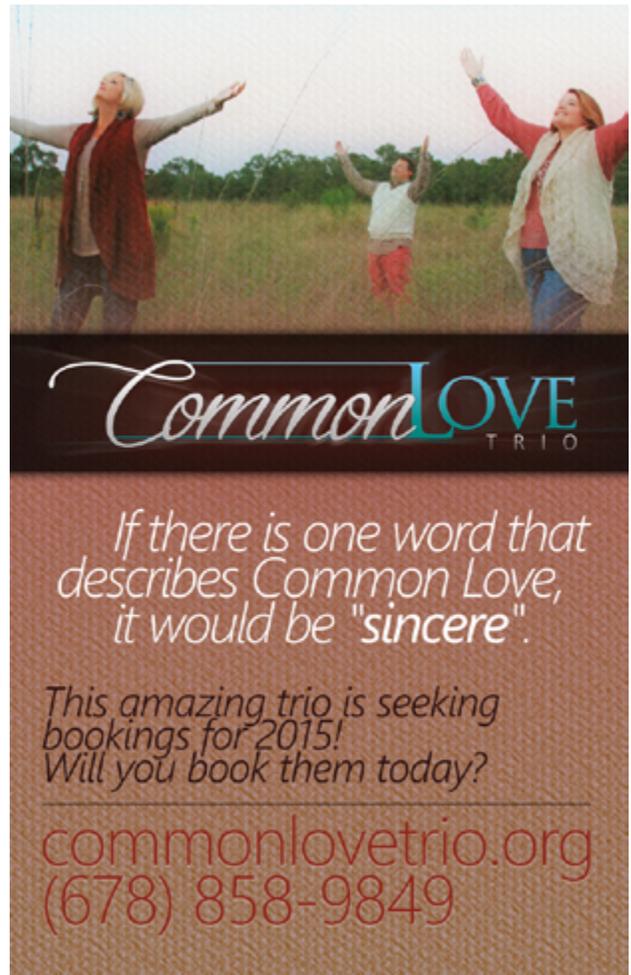
Jordan's Bridge will bless you as you listen to them sing the songs from the '80's and '90's. They feel these songs

have a wonderful message contained in the lyrics. They have also recorded Rodney Griffin's songs and their first radio single was one Rodney wrote entitled, "All Who Call." This release proved to be very successful for the group. They have written several songs themselves but have not recorded them as of yet.

"We want everyone to know that we are singing ambassadors for Christ," says Rick. "We didn't come to show you how pretty we can sing, we came to let you know that Jesus loves you and wants you to make Him your Lord and Savior. We want to be successful in the Gospel Music industry just like all of the artists, but our mission is to bring the Gospel of Christ to the lost and encourage the children of God in these trying times."

Jordan's Bridge has been involved with events such as the Singing in the Sun, Gatlinburg Gathering, and many church concerts. We are very excited that they will be a part of the Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, TN, in November. They will have their new project titled, *Enjoying the Journey*, with them.

Continue to look for great things from Jordan's Bridge and join them and all the other artists at Creekside this year in Pigeon Forge. You may contact Jordan's Bridge for booking at [www.jordansbridge.com](http://www.jordansbridge.com).



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## *“Can You Handle It”*

**Rich, Young & Successful!**

Matthew 19: 16-22

By David Staton

I'm an American and I believe in freedom. I believe in our system of government, capitalism, and what is left of the American Dream. I love stories about how someone started with nothing and through hard work and persistence, became a success. However, as patriotic as I am, I have realized in recent years that there is a huge difference between the American dream and the Gospel. In many ways the two are polar opposites, and in America, the church has a hard time accepting or even seeing the differences. The American Dream says, "believe in yourself and you can be successful." Jesus said that we must deny ourselves if we want to follow Him. These are two drastically different world-views, and more times than not, we end up with a twisted perception of ministry in America.

We want to think that if a ministry is successful and in good standing with God, money and success will be a sign of God's blessing, favor and even anointing. In America, we are drawn toward success, so the church that is doing God's work will have a multi-million dollar campus, hundreds of thousands of dollars in stage lighting and sound, a pastor who shows up in a thousand dollar suit and stands

in the lobby signing copies of his latest self help book that promotes the American dream more than it does the Gospel. He lives a much more affluent lifestyle than most of his congregation and if his wealth is ever questioned, the default response is God's blessing and favor.

The Christian music industry is no different. I know artists who will do everything they can to drive a newer bus, buy the clothes and do all they can to appear to be financially successful, because they believe it will help them be more desirable to churches and as a result they will be more successful. It sounds crazy, but in most cases it works.

Most of the ministers and singers that fall into this mindset are good people. They actually believe that their income and success is confirmation that they are living in obedience. This may be the case at times, but I want to give you a great example in scripture that will show all of us how we can be so easily deceived by financial success.

In Matthew 19: 16-22, a very successful young man comes to Jesus and asks Him a very important question: "How

do I get to heaven and live forever?" First, notice the focus of the question. It is very revealing of his motives and his 'what's in it for me' attitude. How can I make sure I live forever and reap rewards for eternity. No interest in the work of God and how he could impact the world around him, just 'tell me how I can get the final reward.' It's a subtle point but one worth noting. I've been to many churches, large and small and the only time they get emotional is when the topic of heaven comes up. Focusing on all that heaven has for me with no concern for others who may not make it there is nothing short of selfish. I'm not trying to diminish the hope of heaven at all, but if all we think about is what will be waiting there for us, and we do nothing to reach those around us, then we have no love, no compassion, and absolutely no desire to do the work of Christ here and now. But it's okay because God will overlook our disobedience as we are counting our rewards in our very own mansion.

After the successful young man asks Jesus how he can make sure he will live forever in heaven, Jesus tells him to keep the commandments and names a few of them. Don't murder, don't steal, don't commit adultery, honor your parents and love your neighbor as yourself. The rich young man tells Jesus that he has kept these commandments since he was a child. He must have been a pretty good guy. He had an excellent resume for a ministerial position. If he could sing, he could have bought a new bus, hired the best singers, and had the best sound system money could buy. They would have been the best-dressed group on the road. They could easily be on the road 250 days a year. He could have certainly had a church staff position or even started a successful church in America. His best selling book could have been titled, *The Night I Met Jesus!* We would all buy tickets to go see and hear this young minister who had the means to brand and market himself as the guy who had met Jesus. His success would be proof that God's favor was on him. Yes, today in the United States, the rich young ruler could easily be America's pastor!

On the outside he is successful. There is no denying that he had encountered Jesus and eyewitnesses would testify to the fact that he had in fact met Jesus. No scandals! He is a good guy. He doesn't lie, doesn't cheat on his wife, never killed anyone; yet something isn't right. This guy was listed in scripture and had a conversation with Jesus, yet we don't even know his name. How could scripture not tell us the name of such a successful and influential man? Who is this guy that most of us work to be like? His only identity was success. In the end, the only thing we know about him was that he was rich and young. He was everything we want in America and possessed every attribute we want to see in a singer or preacher. Jesus looked at the successful young man and in so many words said, "Just one more thing. I want you to give up your identity and follow Me. Take everything that is important to you and give it away." The Bible says that he walked away from Jesus sorrowful because he couldn't get past himself and all he

had worked for to follow Christ. He would not deny himself or lose his own identity to follow Jesus. He obviously had a certain level of faith in Jesus or he wouldn't have asked Him such a question. Like so many, he wanted the reward, but wasn't willing to pay the price.

I believe there is another reason why the young, rich guy was not named. At one time, I was that guy. I know a lot of people in ministry who are that guy. If Jesus told them to sell the bus, walk away from the fancy suits and the stage, they would walk away sorrowful and not miss one singing date. I'm not saying they've never met Jesus, but I am saying that many of them would not walk away from their identity of what they have aspired to be, and worked to be identified as. Their identity, brand or image is the hardest thing to give up. They are also convinced that somehow in the self-promotion world they've created, that Jesus is the One being promoted. We can go to great lengths to justify ourselves.

I could end this right here, and just let the singers, preachers and people in ministry examine themselves, but I'm not going to. This applies to ALL of us. Do you know why this endless pursuit for fame and financial success so easily becomes an obsession for so many in ministry? Because churches feed it and contribute to the problem. When we schedule singers and outside ministries into our churches, we want the most well-known, successful celebrities our budgets can afford. The higher our perception is of them, the more we will pay, and the cycle never ends. We want a celebrity who is so busy that the only time they are in church is when they are being paid to be there. It is a recipe for disaster. Then when that celebrity ends up on drugs, loses their family, and ends up like most Hollywood celebrities that crash and burn, we wonder what on earth went wrong. After all, they were so successful!

The story of the rich young ruler who was financially successful and spiritually bankrupt should cause all of us to redefine our definition of success. Don't pursue what you can't give up!





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Getting to know ...

# RICKY BRADDY

By Craig Harris

Ricky Braddy has performed on some prominent stages. Now, he's singing with one of the elite artists in Southern Gospel Music. The 32-year-old is the newest addition to the Karen Peck and New River ensemble, joining the group in August.

Braddy is best known for finishing among the top 15 during season eight of *American Idol*. Braddy recently sat down to talk about that achievement, in addition to a variety of other topics.

**What was the experience of being on *American Idol* like?**

I didn't intend or want to audition to begin with. It wasn't, 'oh my gosh, I have to do this or my life is over.' I went in with no story. I was just a country boy from North Carolina. I just sang. I just prayed and asked God to close the doors. He wanted to close. I just kept making it round after round. What the overall experience taught me was more of what I didn't want out of my life. It's cool to step out of a movie theatre and have cameras there. It's cool in the moment, but ultimately, it's not what I want. Now, being back in Gospel music and being with great ladies, I feel at home.

**What was your primary musical style while on "Ameri-**



### can Idol?”

It was soul, bluesy, pop ... blue-eyed soul kind of stuff. It was good, ole soulful R & B ballads.

### What have you been involved with since your time on “American Idol?”

I lead worship in Nashville (at Crossroads Church in Lebanon, Tenn.). I’ve been doing that. I do quite a bit of session work, background vocals in studios. Non-musically, I’ve been working really intensely with special-needs children. I have a heart for that. I’ve been doing behavioral-aid type of stuff.

### Do you have a background in Southern Gospel Music?

I was raised in Eastern North Carolina. That’s the hub of a lot of it. I was raised on Gospel music. I sang with my family growing up. We did local churches. My biggest influences were Michael English with the Gaither Vocal Band. I loved the Cathedrals and the Gaither Vocal Band. I’ve known (the music) for a long time. I think it’s in my bones.

### Talk about the process of joining Karen Peck and New River?

It was actually a mutual friend. It’s a friend with the Steeles. I was loosely connected with the Steeles. My friend was texting me saying, ‘Hey, Karen Peck (Gooch) is looking for a singer if you are interested.’ They were kind of laughing about it. They didn’t think I would be interested. I said, ‘Yeah, send me your information.’ They sent Karen a link to me singing. She called me later that day. They face-timed me. They were in Lebanon (Tenn.) singing the next week at the county fair. I sang on the bus with them that night. They really put me on the spot. That night, they asked me if I’d be open to filling in. I got the (soundtracks). After about a month of traveling with them, they hired me.

### How familiar were you with Karen Peck and New River?

I knew about Karen from when she was with the Nelons. “Four Days Late” was familiar to me, but I was not familiar with their new stuff. I didn’t know they were doing the progressive stuff like “Revival.” I didn’t know a lot of the current stuff. I love it. I loved learning it. It made it easy.

### What’s the experience been like so far?

The first time I stepped up on the stage with them, I felt like a fish in water. It felt like it was exactly what I needed to be doing. I feel like I’m connecting well with the world of Southern Gospel, mainly because I love it. I just came in new to the industry. Everybody has been awesome and receptive. I’m just learning the ropes and doing my thing.

### What are your favorite songs that the group regularly performs?

“Four Days Late,” being able to do that with Karen has been incredible. Everybody; that’s the one they really know and connect with. One of my favorites is, “I Wanna Know How



It Feels.’ I listened to John Darin Rowsey (the writer of the song) sing it. He was (at the National Quartet Convention), and we sang it. I was intimidated a little bit to sing it with him there. That one has connected with me.

### What other groups do you enjoy listening to?

Jeff and Sheri Easter, they’re good friends with us. We’ve done several things with them. Their music is great, and we’ve connected with them. The Martins, I grew up obsessed with them. The three of them singing again together ... man ... it was nostalgic.

### What has the transition been like since joining the group?

I’ve told several people that I already feel like part of their family. They are so good about being warm and inviting. I will say this ... I have been used to sleeping a whole lot. I go to bed at 10 o’clock (when I’m) in Nashville. Those girls



will stay up and talk. I've never had so much trouble keeping up with 50-year-old women. They are stretching me to be young.

**How steep has the learning curve been since joining the group?**

They've been pretty good to – ahead of time – let me know what I need to know and learn. There have been several times where they've just thrown me into the fire, where they

have to. There have been moments where I've been driving up to an event with my headphones in listening to "Whispered Prayers." It's been good though, but it has tested me.

**Have you always naturally heard harmony parts, or has that been something you have been forced to work at?**

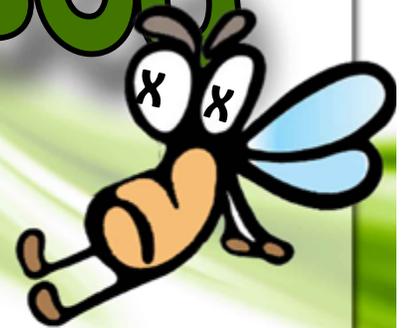
I started singing harmony when I was four years old. It just came naturally. I've always been able to hear naturally harmony parts. Having to adjust to blending (with others), I'm careful to do that. Leading worship and other stuff that I've done, I've not had to think about blending with other singers. This is way different, keeping an ear out for Susan (Peck Jackson, the group's alto) and where she's moving. Karen breaks into an a cappella song, you have to jump in. I love the challenge.

**Where does all the energy that you exhibit on stage come from?**

I just always have been really excited to sing. For whatever reason, that explains it. I love what I do. I love the opportunity to share the Gospel through song. The best way I can lead worship is not necessarily telling them what to do or how to do it, but to do it. I just live by that. I want to show people how to worship God, in the ways He wants and likes.

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## Reflections with

Sherry Anne

**So, That Don't Mean Nutin'!**

A few years ago, I had the incredible privilege of attending a taping at the Grand Ole' Opry. This was not, however, going to be just any ole' taping! No! I would be sitting backstage at this concert—or, technically, the way it is set up, *onstage*.

I was so excited! I had attended the Opry one other time prior to this and still have the program tucked neatly away in my *Look-Where-I've-Been* scrapbook. I carefully selected my outfit—a red and black ensemble with red leather boots to show my love of country music and fashion. Prior to entering the building, I was briefed by a friend who instructed me as to when to arrive, where to park and how to proceed to the private entrance.

By now, I could hardly contain my exuberance! I followed orders down to a tee and entered the back door, effervescent and bubbly, probably even giddy—I was just that excited. I wasted no time in saying to the security officer at the door, “Hi, I’m here for the Opry; is

this where I stop to check in as a guest?”

He replied: “Name?”

I blurted out, “Sherry Anne!” as if he should have *known* I was coming; after all this was my big day! I was going to step out onto the Opry stage, even if just to sit down!

The officer looked down at his rather lengthy list, scrolled it a bit, and then looked up at me with a rather skeptical look. He peered right at me and said, “Have you been backstage before?”

Grinning from ear to ear I replied, “Nope, this is my first time!”

Upon hearing my answer, he proceeded to instruct me of all the Do's and Don'ts of Opry etiquette - and then some. He added, “No loud shouting, singing, or wild dancing.”

The last one struck me odd and so I asked about it: “Excuse me sir, do you tell everyone that?”

“No, but it seems like I need to tell *you* that.”

Still grinning, yet surprised, I said, “But Sir - I am a gospel singer!”

Without hesitation, he retorted, “So, that don’t mean nuthin’!” Not a second passed before the man behind him said in agreement, “Don’t mean a thing these days!”

WOW! What an indictment on our profession! With my smile partly faded, I took my seat in the center of the stage and witnessed several amazing performances. I met and greeted everyone that I could, posing for pictures and collecting autographs. Once again, I took my program home for my scrapbook, but I also took home a far more lasting memory from that experience than a couple of photos with ink: The truth of that statement.

As I traveled back to New York from Tennessee, I spent the better part of my plane ride thinking about our profession and how it came to a place of such degradation and in this case, humiliation. I looked up the definition of the word *profession* and according to Merriam-Webster, a profession is “a *calling* requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation.” I found it very interesting that our profession is also described as a *calling*.

As I thought about that definition, I began to think about another calling that we as Christian believers have, and that is, serving as ambassadors for God (2 Cor 5:20). The Bible tells us in 2 Tim 2:15 (KJV) to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” So, not only is our work profession a calling which requires intensive study and knowledge, but so, too, is our spiritual profession, a calling in which we must study to show ourselves approved. Both callings require intensive study and preparation to be established and rooted.

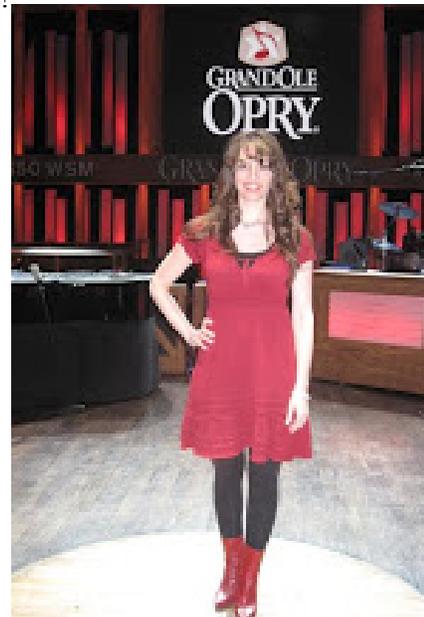
How much more so is this true for professionals who represent not only Gospel music, but also, the Gospel itself? I can’t help but wonder how many of us really take this *calling* seriously. How many of us are *just singing* Gospel music verses sharing the Gospel *through* music? How many of us have actually *studied* the Gospel or even know what it is? Have you made preparations, as God’s ambassadors, to be a light in a

dark world? Are we hiding Jesus in our hearts, or are we just hiding Jesus period?

I ask these questions because, unfortunately, I have experienced countless situations and am aware of numerous instances in our industry that represent not only a lack of professional conduct but also a lack of respect for the God we claim to know and sing about! I have seen misrepresentations in everything from our clothing, to our vocabulary, to our actions as married or single individuals. It is appalling to our faith and damaging to our industry—an industry that many exemplary pioneers fought (and are fighting) so hard to preserve.

I think we can do better than that. I recall the words of the apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:1: “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” It is a high calling indeed and I, too, pray to walk worthy of this calling. I pray as the psalmist prayed that the “words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer (Ps 19:14).” He is our Redeemer. He has come that we would have life and life more abundantly. He has come to heal and to restore. He has come to serve...

Who are *we* serving? Are we serving ourselves, or are we meeting the needs of others? Have we been made whole by the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:2)? Do we know the reason for which we sing? It is my solemn and earnest request that we, as a profession of gospel singers, and as ministers of the Gospel, examine our hearts and confess our inadequacies. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) and... that does mean somethin’!!



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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

## Courtney Collingsworth

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

If you are a faithful 'Younger Perspective' reader, you would know that in years past, I've had the joy of interviewing two members of The Collingsworth clan. This month I thought, "Why not go for three?" It has been a long wait to invite my dear friend, Courtney, to join in the fun. There couldn't be a kinder, more sweet-spirited, gracious, multi-talented and well-dressed young lady you could find in the gospel music world. Let's dive into all the happenings taking place in Mrs. Metz's life, shall we?

*Erin: If anyone has been a Collingsworth fan for any length of time, they would know that you have grown up singing Gospel music since you were a little girl. However, for you personally, when did you feel the call to become a full-fledged part of the group all those years ago?*

Courtney: I think I really began to take the ministry on as my own when I was in my mid-teens. I loved what I did, but as I began getting older (and towards the end of high school) I started considering my options outside of singing, and I came to realize that I just could not imagine my life without being in ministry traveling with my family. More than that though, there is just something about conveying the Gospel through song that I know is my calling. Hearing the stories of how God has used a certain song never ceases to bring tears to my eyes and reaffirm that I am doing what God has planned for me.

*Erin: What began your enjoyment of flipping houses with your hubby, Michael?*

Courtney: My dad is really into real estate, and my husband, Michael, is an excellent handyman, and if you follow me on Instagram, you know I love to decorate. So, two years ago we purchased our first home and remodeled the entire house and sold it. Thanks to a lot of hard work on my husband's part (and a lot of advice and expertise from my dad) it has

been a successful thing for us and also, a lot of fun to create beautiful homes together!

*Erin: Your family just got back from a weekend in NYC singing at the Brooklyn Tabernacle. You said on Instagram, "Best day ever!" Describe what that incredible experience was like?*

Courtney: If you have never been to the Brooklyn Tabernacle, it is something you can't describe; it has to be experienced. All I can say is the Brooklyn Tabernacle puts a huge



emphasis on prayer and you can feel it when you walk into the building. They have a team of people praying above the auditorium during every service (three services every Sunday) and I have never felt the presence of the Lord quite like it. It is a huge honor and highlight of our year to minister at their church.

photography blog about modest fashion, but we never got around to acting on it. So, we were on our California tour this year, and us girls got to talking about fashion (something we all enjoy) and thought, well, why don't we start an entire blog dedicated to modest fashion? Modesty can be looked at negatively and we wanted to hopefully show that you can



*Erin: It's been so fun keeping up with all the behind the scenes video clips of you all tracking in the studio for your brand new album That Day Is Coming. How would you summarize these recent recording sessions?*

Courtney: It is always so exciting to get in the studio with new music. We only record new songs every two years, so by the time we start a new record we are definitely ready for fresh music. We are privileged to work with some amazing Nashville musicians and it is always amazing to see them work.

*Erin: What is it like cramming that many people onto the The Black Pearl every week?*

Courtney: We honestly have an awesome time! Lots of late nights, laughs, and too much fast food. There are now 11 of us traveling; including all of our spouses who work for the ministry, my niece Emma and a driver. Oh and a little dog!

*Erin: Is there a verse or a particular passage of Scripture that is meaningful to you at this stage in your life?*

Courtney: My favorite verse has always been Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones." Just reminds me to keep a happy, positive spirit.

*Erin: Tell the readers the story behind launching The CFam Sisters blog. Who's idea was it?*

Courtney: I had an idea a few years ago to do a post on my

still dress fashionably and modestly at the same time. It has been a blast putting everything together!

*Erin: What's your favorite song off the new CD? Why?*

Courtney: I think one of my favorites is a new song called 'You're About to Climb.' It puts a positive spin on the struggles (mountains) that people go through in life.

*Erin: In all of your travels, where are some of your absolute must stops for the bus when it comes to shopping? (I'm sure all the ladies reading will be thrilled that I asked this!)*

Courtney: That's a hard one! One of our favorite places to be honest are the Tanger Outlets in Sevierville, TN. We all love a good bargain! Also, shopping along the Piers in San Francisco is also a favorite stop!

*Erin: How is your photography business doing in the midst of your hectic road schedule?*

Courtney: It has been doing well! Obviously our travel schedule is full, so I have to turn down a lot of sessions, but I have about five sessions as soon as we are home from the trip we are on at the moment. It keeps me busy and challenges my creative side.

*Erin: Given the large platform the Lord has blessed you and your family to minister from, how do you personally want your light to shine as you're working for the Kingdom of God?*

Courtney: I just hope that people will see that I truly want to bring honor and glory to my Savior, not only in my singing, but with the life that I live.

Closing words from the writer...

I'm thankful to women like Courtney who are willing vessels to go wherever their Heavenly Father leads. It's true, The Collingsworth Family is reaching lives that you or I may never meet. But Courtney's closing thought is the same for all of us, right where we are, right where God has us. Our lives are our testimony; we are walking, living, breathing testimonies everywhere we go. The challenge is to make sure what we say lines up with what we do! The closer we live to Jesus, the greater chance of the world seeing Him in us as they peek around the corner of our lives to watch our testimonies in action. Thanks so much to Courtney for her heartfelt answers and for brightening our day!

Until next month, Scoops fans...

*And that's my take on it.*



\*Connect with Erin, your Younger Perspective writer, on Twitter: @photosforkeeps & Instagram: @photos\_for\_keeps. Who would you like to see her interview next?\*

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# *Thankfulness*

By Selena Day

Thankfulness has been a life lesson on my heart for the past few years. It has become the thread in the tapestry of lessons Papa God has taught me. There are seasons in my life when I feel the need to keep a gratitude journal, a tangible book of remembrance for me to direct my focus on what God is doing. Thankfulness has become a way of life in the Day home.

Let me stop for a moment and share with you a truth I believe. I believe that God is talking ALL the time; I mean He likes to talk more than anyone I know. I believe that He talks to everyone and not just to Christians. I know; take a deep breath as this may shock some of you. As Life Coaches, Chuck and I share the knowledge and wisdom Christ has given us with many young people and do not just keep that wisdom for our own children, but our children know our hearts, so they know deeper secrets into the life lessons from the Day kingdom. They know they have our hearts so they don't have to repeatedly ask us for permission to come to our table and ask questions; they just know that it is their table as well. People come to Chuck all the time asking advice about writing and becoming an artist, but it has only been our children Chuck ever paid lessons for and bought equipment to further their artistic drive. I believe

that we as God's children have an advantage, that by being in relationship with the Creator of the universe, we have access to keys that unlock truths that the rest of the world grapples with.

Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you. I will tell you of great things, things beyond what you can imagine, things you could never have known."

I personally believe that for centuries God in His word has taught us, His children, to have a grateful heart and now medical research is proving that being thankful actually promotes positive health.

I believe that having a thankful heart keeps us as a believer looking to the external in our lives but at the same time helps us have a healthy view of our internal thoughts, which science is starting to prove is beneficial to living a healthy life.

I love Thanksgiving! For me the Christmas season begins right after Halloween. Yes, I am that person; I begin to decorate our house in early November as it takes a lot of work getting that stuff up so I spread it out. During these weeks leading up to the time we celebrate our Savior's birth, my heart and mind is meditating on the goodness of

all that God has done in our lives. Thanksgiving becomes this day that is more than just a day of remembrance, it is a *sabbath moment*; a day that we take as a reminder to celebrate all the good that the Savior has, is, and will do in our lives. For me it is a day that we choose to stop the busyness of life and gather with our loved ones and say, "I am so grateful to belong to the kingdom of God."

This article is not about remembering to have a heart of gratitude all year and not just once a year, though I would like to challenge you with this thought. Just as we take this moment once a year and feel grateful, try to set aside a few moments of holiday in your daily life everyday and *feel* grateful. There is more to it than just saying thanks. It's about taking a quiet sabbatical and remembering your day and feeling the gratitude for all the good that goes on around you.

Chuck and I sometimes play this game when we can feel our hearts growing heavy. We will ask each other: "Tell me something positive? Or tell me something you are thankful for?" We call it: *The Thankful Game*. I believe that when you

take a moment and stop from the busyness of life and feel gratitude, you start to build memories of God's goodness in your heart and mind that open doors to more of His blessings.

So this season however your family and friends celebrate, stop and be thankful that we have a national holiday where we can take a day off to remember the goodness around us. Also remember every day to make your own little holiday within yourself, to memorialize God's goodness in your life.

It is amazing when you filter your life through thankfulness. You will start to see the people and circumstances around you in a positive way and you will also start to feel differently about yourself and your life.

Happy Thanksgiving From the Days!

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



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**The Bells**

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**Bev McCann and Friends**

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**Blackwood Brothers Quartet**

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

**Bradford Ministries**

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

**The Bridgemans**

<http://www.thebridgemans.com>

**Bros4**

<http://www.bros4.net>

**The Bunkleys**

<http://www.thebunkleys.com>

**Cheyenne McIlvain**

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

**Christy Sutherland**

<http://www.christysutherland.net>

**Clear Vision Quartet**

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

**Collisons**

<http://www.collisontrio.com>

**Cross Pointe**

<http://www.crosspointemusic.com>

**Delivered**

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

**Divine Mercy**

<http://www.divinemerseysingers.com>

**Eventide**

<http://www.eventidemusic.com>

**4 His Praise Trio**

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

**Full Life Trio**

<http://www.fulllifetrio.com>

**Glad Heart**

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

**Global Promo**

<http://www.globalpromo.org>

**The Goodin Family**

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

**Gospel Harts**

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

**Gospel Messengers**

<http://www.gospelmessengersministry.org>

**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>

**Jimmy Howson**

<http://www.jimmyhowsonmusic.com>

**Jim Sheldon**

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

**John & Dody Martin**

<http://www.martinministries.org>

**Ken Hornsby**

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

**Living Fountains**

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

**Lumber River Quartet**

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**Mark Dubbeld Family**

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**Masters City Trio**

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

**The Masters Men + 1**

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**Masters Promise**

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**Matt Tollison Music**

<http://www.matttollison.com>

**Mercy River Quartet**

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**Midwest Gospel Music Association**

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**Midwest Gospel Music Promotions**

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

**One Voice Country Gospel**

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

**One Way Quartet**

<http://www.onewayquartet.org>

**Persuaded**

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

**Pine Ridge Boys**

<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

**The Representatives**

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**Sacred Harmony**

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**Steve Jones**

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# TIMOTHY NOBLE

**There's Pretty Much Nothing Else Besides Music**



By Timothy Williamson

If you're like me, you enjoy hearing musicians who just make the piano come alive! You know the ones I'm talking about. The pianists that make you wish you had listened to your parents when they told you to practice. Well, in 2014 at the National Quartet Convention, I met one of those pianists. His name is Timothy Noble. He has been playing piano since he was three years old and has continued to grow into an accomplished pianist. For two years he was invited to play in the National Quartet Convention's "Parade of Pianos." In 2012, he opened for Presidential Candidate Mike Huckabee in the Faith and Freedom event at Ohio Christian University. He has even performed onstage in concert with Dino. Oh yeah, did I mention he's only 16?

Crazy, right? Timothy lives in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He and his two younger siblings are enrolled in a small Christian school that is very gracious in allowing the family to travel and have more flexibility when it comes to booking concerts. Timothy is a junior in high school and loves music. I had the privilege

of sitting down and talking with him and his family a couple of weeks ago, and I asked Timothy what he likes to do besides music. He calmly responded, "There's pretty much nothing else besides music. I have to sleep. I have my own studio."

This is not to say Timothy does not enjoy other activities, but he is an extremely focused musician who loves what he does and desires to present everything with excellence. Kevin Noble, Timothy's father, told me that one of their ministry goals is to "do what [they] do with excellence, and I think people of all ages respect, admire that." One of the questions I had for Timothy was how he thought the younger generation could be reached with his and other styles of music. His entire family agreed that they were overjoyed to see the response from younger audience members. They even referenced an event he has played at for many years and how the number of younger audience members continues to increase! Timothy says, "I get all ages," and his aunt exclaims, "People have been talking about how the younger

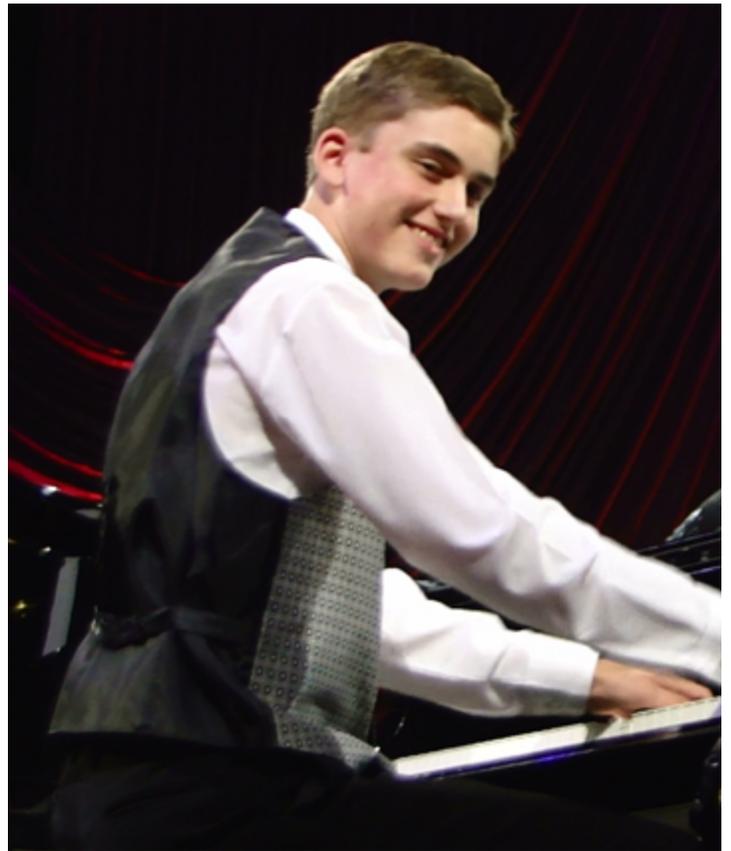
people really enjoy him, and they like the music.”

Timothy has been blessed with an incredible gift, and he is using it to bring glory to God! It did not take long for him and his family to recognize this amazing gift. Timothy says, that at the age of three, “he came home from church and started picking out the hymns that [he] heard.” This is when the family knew it was time for him to begin taking piano lessons. He began taking group piano lessons, and by the age of five was growing in his skills at such a rapid rate that he moved to private lessons with Glee Smith. In fact, Mrs. Smith is still continuing to give Timothy piano lessons, and she had the opportunity to hear him play at NQC this year! Kevin Noble praises Mrs. Smith’s teaching technique. He says that Glee required Timothy to play and sing because it caused him to focus on the words. When an artist knows and understands what he is playing, he can then perform with a new power and determination. The Bible says in Psalm 119:11, “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” This principle is so true for the artist as well. Not only so that we do not sin, but we must know the words to the song. Not just the text, but also the subtext. We must know what we are singing or playing so that we can communicate that message to the audience. This principle was instilled in Timothy from an early age.

Timothy describes his musical style as sacred music that implements a classical style. However, it is not uncommon to hear him bust out into a good ole’ Gospel toe-tapper. Where does he get his motivation and who is his stylistic model? He named several pianists, but one in particular.

Timothy was only seven, and he, his grandma, granddad, and aunt headed to a church in Elkhart, Indiana. Who was on the schedule that morning? None other than Dino Kartsonakis. Dino was no stranger to Timothy, having listened to endless hours of his piano mastery on CD. But, this was going to be a day the Noble family would **never** forget. Dino was playing two services that morning and the family had attended the first service. As all good, aspiring musicians do, they took the opportunity to meet Dino in between services.

Dino immediately recognized Timothy as a pianist after shaking his hand. “He said [Timothy had] quite



a grip,” recalls Timothy’s grandma in reference to Dino. He went on to say, “I’d like to hear you [Timothy] play sometime.” Timothy and his family chose to stay and hear a few songs in the second service. However, they needed to get on the road, so they started to leave; and Dino saw them. Nothing like being the ones called out in the middle of a service! But this was a blessing, not a rebuke.

Dino invited them to sit in the front row, and several minutes later, he invited Timothy up to play! Can you imagine what must have been going through their minds? Most would have panicked! But seven-year-old Timothy was prepared. He knew what he was going to play. A few weeks prior, Timothy entertained the crowd at his piano recital with an arrangement of “God of Our Fathers.” Timothy took off on the piano and what followed can best be described in the words of Timothy’s aunt: “I think Dino was in shock.” The audience loved it! What a moment! The applause was encouraging and playing onstage with Dino standing by you is unbelievable; but what happened next is life changing! Dino took the time, right then and there, to pray over Timothy. He “prayed that Timothy would use the gift that God had given him...to minister and bless people, and prayed for his hands...”

God answers prayer, and God has been using Timothy for over 10 years to encourage others. I believe the Noble family is rooted in God's Word and in His will, and because of their faithfulness to Him; God has opened doors for ministry. Timothy even had the opportunity to perform alongside of Dino in a joint concert, which featured both Timothy and Dino onstage together. Timothy's grandma said it best, "But doesn't that show how God has a sovereign plan? I mean, it's amazing!" Timothy's dad went on to say, "It really makes you more aware and alert of the present when you see things that have happened in the past. You get your eyes opened more." Timothy has opened for the Faith and Freedom event with Presidential Candidate Mike Huckabee, he has wowed crowds at NQC for years, and played in churches all throughout the United States.



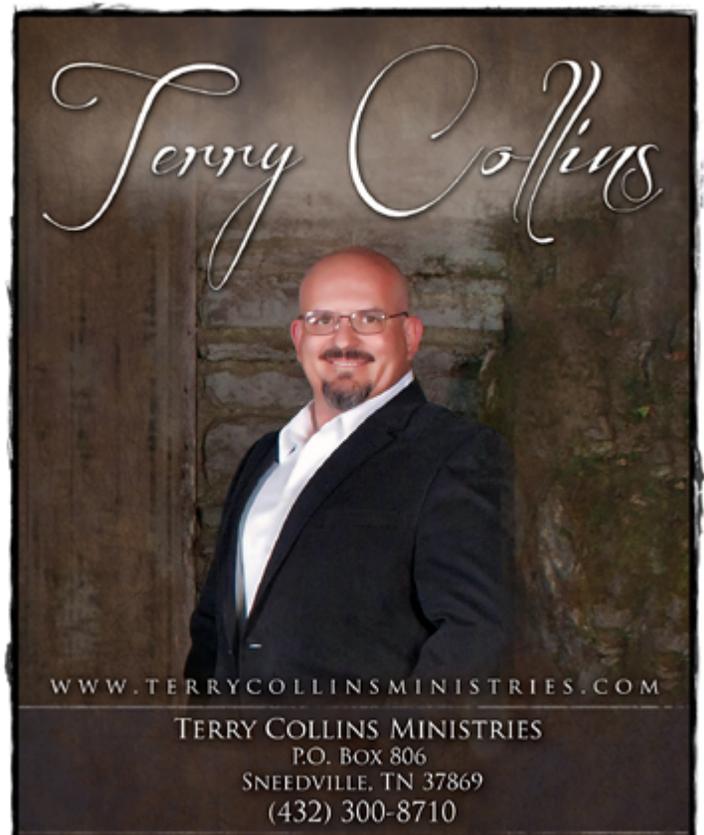
Timothy has recorded seven CDs to date. His most recent CD features an entirely new side to Timothy: Singing. He recorded this CD himself in his own studio. In fact, five of his seven CDs are self-recorded, tracks and all. Most of the songs that Timothy performs are either arranged or modified by Timothy. I asked the family if singing was a new thing, and they said that singing during concerts is a new thing. They said that Timothy has sung for a long time, as noted by the neighbors who often hear him as he's mowing the grass. So, if you want a free concert, just move next door to the Nobles!

So what can you expect from a Timothy Noble concert? Well, first of all, traveling and performing is a family affair. Timothy's father, mother, aunt, grandma and siblings generally travel together to the concerts. Each member of the family has an important role in making the concerts something to remember! Timothy has crafted several *themed* concerts. These

programs are intricately put together to minister to those in attendance. Audiences are captivated with Scripture, narrations, PowerPoint presentations, and, of course, beautiful musicianship that often features Timothy's mother and sister playing violin. Kevin Noble says, "One of the main goals is to encourage Christians in their walk with the Lord...the church needs to stand up and be the church...standing up as a unit, as a group, as a church, is going to bring people to the Lord..."

Whether it's one song during a church service or a full scale, themed concert, Timothy's skill and technique are sure to bless you. The family says, "[The concerts] have a message, they share the Gospel...it's more than just entertainment, it's a ministry...God has given him a gift. We want to do what we can do to give Him that back."

If you would like to listen to Timothy Noble or would like more information about him, please feel free to visit his website below. You may inquire for booking by contacting Kevin Noble or Michael Davis of the Dominion Agency. Timothy Noble Official Website: [www.timothynobleplayspiano.com](http://www.timothynobleplayspiano.com)



Thank You to all our family, friends, churches, pastors, and promoters for continuing to believe in and support our ministry. We look forward to what 2016 holds for The Drummond Family Ministry!!



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# ARE YOU THANKFUL?

By Roger Barkley Jr.

Are you a thankful person? That question got me to thinking. Some may say that is a little dangerous. So as I started to make a list, I had to ask myself: What am I most thankful for? I am so thankful to be able to do what I do. I have the privilege to travel this great nation and tell others what God has done for me. Not only do I get to do this, but most of the time my wife and youngest daughter are right there with me. They are right there supporting me, praying for me, praying for the individuals and families coming to the altar to make decisions, praying for me, helping with equipment, praying for me. Do you see a pattern? That leads me to the next thing I am thankful for. My family believes in the power of prayer.

I am thankful that God joined me with Dianna to be a witnessing team even though she would rather not be seen at all and be behind the scenes. Whenever there is a prayer concern, the first person I think of and bring it to is my wife and helpmate.

I am thankful for a Mom and Dad that took me to church and did not send me to church. They showed me by example in life of what servanthood means and I hope I have passed that on to my three children. That leads me to the next in my list of thankfulness.

I am thankful for my four children. Now let me explain. I am thankful for Amanda, Chelsea and Derrek and the joy they bring, but also that God brought Melinda to us as Derrek's other half as they minister together in their own way.

I am thankful for my brothers and sisters-in-law. We may not

get together as much as we used to with busy lives and ministries, but I still love and am thankful for our experiences together in life. Just as the Bible says, some of our discussions were as 'steel sharpening steel,' but has made us into the men and women of ministry that we are.

I am thankful for my church family and the pastors in which I server under. It is a joy to know that when I am out on those lonely highways that not only is my wife and family praying for me, but my church families as well have stopped in the middle of their service at times because God had dropped in their heart to pray for me. At the time they were praying we were at some of the hardest places in which to minister. It is awesome what God does.

I am thankful for many more things and maybe should write a book entitled Thankful. Until then I will tell you the biggest thanks in this country boy's heart has to be to Jesus and to God. I cannot comprehend how God could let His Son die for me. I can't fathom why Jesus would accept the undertaking of such a heavy burden. I cannot imagine the pain He went through, but I am thankful, oh so thankful, that not only did He die for me but rose from death! He now holds the keys to victory and is seated just waiting to come get the rest of His family. He is waiting for a personal relationship with those who may ask. With all the turmoil on TV, all the misery we read in the paper, all the drama on Facebook and other social media outlets, why not have the biggest thanks for the one who really deserves it?

So, Are You Thankful?

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## *Event Planner:* *The National Quartet Convention*

By Lynn Mills

The National Quartet Convention has always been the *event of the year* for fans of Southern Gospel Music. From across the country and around the world, thousands come to hear their favorite music, meet the artists and listen to notable speakers. Since NQC's move to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee new records have been set in ticket sales and attendance. This year, the event made improvements to seating, stage and screen visibility and access to booth spaces inside the convention center. In response to the challenge of parking, trams and shuttles made transportation from the parking lot to the entrance of the building quickly and more frequently. After attending NQC this year, I believe every issue was addressed and solved, making the 2015 NQC one of the best I have ever attended.

One of the reasons why I enjoyed 2015's event so much was the creativity put into the programs to make each of them unique. For example, in the past, the Chapel services would consist of a 30-minute concert by a group, a sermon and then another group. This time, the mornings were planned with a theme, had all three participants on stage at the same time and were held at the LeConte Center in the main auditorium.

On Thursday morning the Jim Brady Trio shared the stage with Mark Trammell and the Booth Brothers on





the topic of *grace*. Both groups opened the morning singing together and when they ended, Mark Trammell joined them in the closing song. Other notable speakers during the week were Fox News co-host Todd Starnes, Dr. Dan Spencer, Dr. Hollie Miller and Dr. Dean Haun. The presentation on the stage combined with the theme and all the artists present created a wonderful atmosphere in which to start the day.

Throughout the week, there were many other extraordinary showcases. The Cathedrals Family Reunion, Kim Collingsworth's "Majestic" (piano showcase) and the Gospel Music Hymn Sing were just a few. Perhaps the most distinguished event was Friday morning, when Dr. David Jeremiah took the stage to remind the church how to *Stand Up* without cowardice, compromise or contention. With Daniel as a Biblical example and Dr. Jeremiah's new book, *Agents of Babylon*, as the script, believers were encouraged and challenged in their walk with God through this powerful story of Daniel and the lion's den.

The evening concerts, commonly known as Main Stage, began each evening at 5:30 pm and featured six hours of the best in Southern Gospel Music. This year, the evening concerts were emceed by father-and-son teams, such as Jonathan and Jordan Wilburn, Gerald and Jason Crabb, Mark and Nick Trammell, Claude and Michael Hopper and Jeff, Austin and Ethan Whisnant. Once a night, NQC would show a special video saluting the singers that have overcome strenuous personal battles in the last few years. Between Connie Hopper, Tim Riley and Libbi and Tracy Stuffle – it is no exaggeration to say that many tears of joy were shed during those videos! In addition to these highlights, Main Stage would end every night featuring a unique program. Some favorites were A Cathedrals Celebration that

featured the Cathedrals Family Reunion Tour, A Heritage of Gold with former Gold City members Jonathan Wilburn, Mike LeFevre Quartet and Gold City, and the Brotherhood Tour featuring the Booth Brothers and Ernie Haase and Signature Sound.

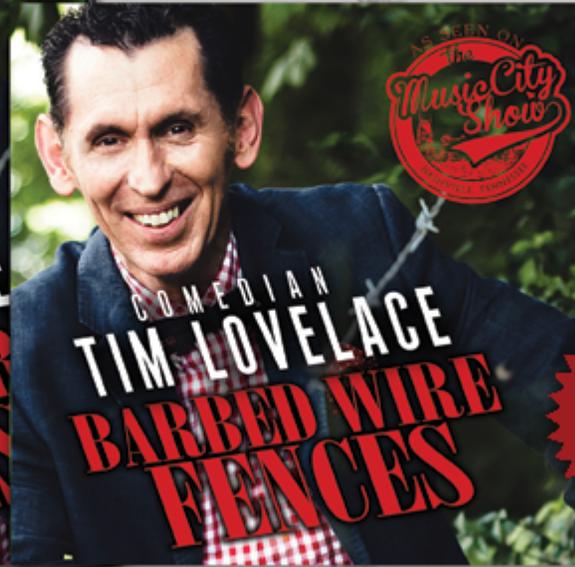
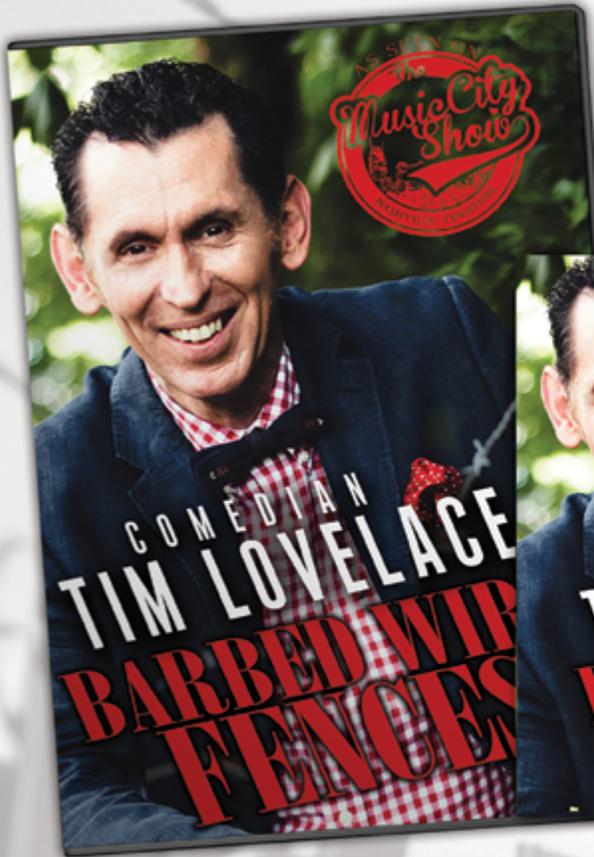
The 2015 National Quartet Convention was a success. The event took every measure to improve the quality of the fan experience through the suggestions they received after moving to Pigeon Forge the previous year, and I believe that those additions were satisfactory. The risers that were added to the corners of the main auditorium helped tremendously. When seated on one of those risers, there's not a bad seat in the house! The extra screens were also a plus and increased visibility to any who chose to watch the stage from the different angles the screens afforded. With these wonderful improvements, you can begin planning your trip to NQC next year! The dates are September 25 through October 1, 2016 at the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For more information visit: [www.nqcconline.com](http://www.nqcconline.com)

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## WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

### Questions

Do you ever wonder and question God and His timing? Do you ever sit and ponder and ask God those tough “But why, God?” questions? Or do you just simply look at all that is happening and taking place in your life, or those around you and say, “Why? Why me? Why them? And what now?”

Oh my dear friends, I am fairly certain every one of us has had those moments and times of questioning Him in all that we have to walk through. I know for a fact I have asked those questions even earlier this morning for my own life and all that is taking place around me. I assure you there is nothing wrong with the questions and with us questioning our amazing *Daddy God*. He has most likely already heard them all. The scripture has already assured us, “He knows the end from the beginning,” “His ways are perfect,” “Everything has a

purpose and a season,” and of course the hardest part of what He has to say with all of the questioning will be, “In His time.” But if you are like me, the questions still persist and always come, no matter what.

I really have to admit I have no patience; I mean ZERO patience and I would most likely argue with many of you that I have more questions of “why” than you do. I really do...and if you could hear me walking and praying daily, you would most likely see that first hand.

But in the midst of all of the questioning, searching and seeking of answers and striving to find solutions for all that is taking place, here is what I have found to be so true. It’s fairly simple, and I have no earthly idea of how I truly came to the place of where I stand strong on what His truth declares for me, but it’s this: He is faithful, He is good, He is a constant friend, He will never leave me nor forsake me, and He will never put on me

what I cannot handle.

That's it. It's really nothing deep or super spiritual. Maybe it's me getting older and learning to at least strive to trust more, or else it is me choosing to look back at every place and stage of my life and see how even amid all of the dark lonely valleys of questioning, He was always right there beside me and He has always been right on time. I assure you if you stop and take a long look at your own life, you will find it to be the same. He will not leave us. He will not forsake us. He will be with us always and He does have the perfect answer to every question we have.

Oh, for some of those questions, His answers will not be what we would choose and for some of them, we may not get the answers until we stand before Him, and you know what? That's ok. He has it all in control and He has every answer that we need. It's plain and simple and when we truly decide to embrace that and at least try to grasp it, it will help take us to a more peaceful place on the journey.

Yes, I will still have questions, lots of them. But I know that I know that I know...He has the answers.

You are loved my friends and He has the answers for you as well. In His time.



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

1	11th Hour	Jesus Is In The House
2	Bowling Family	One Glorious Moment Of Faith
3	Hyssongs	Lead Me To The Rock
4	Shellem Cline	Halfway Down The Aisle
5	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Jesus Loves You
6	Browders	Time Machine
7	Williamsons	Shout
8	Whisnants	Worry Ends Where Faith Begins
9	Brian Free and Assurance	Where There's A Will He Has A Way
10	Troy Burns Family	The Potter
11	Triumphant	Living In Harmony
12	Jim Brady Trio	Good Lord Willin'
13	Akins	Revive Us Again
14	McKameys	I Have A Home
15	Kingsmen	Cross Of Grace
16	Bev McCann	I've Seen What God Can Do
17	Josh And Ashley Franks	You Got What I Deserved
18	Kingdom Heirs	The Chain Gang
19	Joseph Habedank	The Beauty Of The Blood
20	Bates Family	Jesus On The Mainline
21	Higher Ground	A Hill A Cross A Place Called Calvary
22	Mark Bishop	He Can See My Tomorrow
23	Karen Peck and New River	Pray Now
24	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	Our Third Day
25	Kelly Coberly	Because He Loved Me
26	Linda Foster	One Prayer At A Time
27	Christy Southerland	Don't Blame Jesus
28	Calebs Crossing	Raised On Amazing Grace
29	Page Trio	Difference Is The Cross
30	Mylon Hayes Family	The Sweetest Words He Ever Said

31	Jay Stone Singers	Love Like You Mean It
32	LeFevre Quartet	He Left No Stone Unturned
33	Dunaways	Again And Again
34	Canaan's Crossing	Closer Than A Brother
35	Gold City	Power Of The Cross
36	Jim Sheldon	I'm Going Home
37	Wards	Bible Revival
38	Booth Brothers	Happy Rhythm
39	Richie Rose	Walk With My Jesus
40	Bledsoes	Sin Met Grace
41	Terah Crabb Penhollow	Stronger
42	Sounds Of Victory	You're Always There
43	Wilbanks	Song Of The Redeemed
44	River's Edge	Blessed Morning
45	Greater Vision	Put Out The Fire
46	Changed 4	I'm A Believer
47	Campbell and Rowley	There's Still A Cross
48	Watts, Rowsey and Bean	Faith
49	Old Paths	What Did They Call Him
50	Hoskins Family	Eternity
51	Hope's Journey	On My Way Back
52	Waymasters	Hills Of Glory
53	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	Jesus Changed Everything
54	Chosen Vessels	He Outstretched His Arms For Me
55	Pruitt Family	Bring It All To Jesus
56	Goodman Revival	The Sweetest Song I Know
57	Austin and Ethan Whisnant	When Life Doesn't Make Sense
58	Mark Trammell Quartet	I'll Take It To The Grave
59	Freemans	Unwanted Crowns
60	Eighth Day	I'm Gonna Say It
61	Stubborn Love	The Hour I First Believed
62	Debra Perry and Jaiden's Call	Caught Up
63	David Haynes	One More Mile
64	Stephens	Just Pray
65	Debbie Seagraves	Dream Big
66	His Mercies	The Day Death Died
67	Legacy Five	Who Is This Man
68	Tribute	Those Who Know Me
69	Carolina Boys	Livin' Like I'm Leavin'
70	Rachel Taylor	Live Loud
71	Talleys	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
72	Michael Frost Trio	Who Will Shout The Loudest

73	Canton Junction	Weep No More
74	Rod Truman	Almost Home
75	Pathfinders	Willing And Waiting
76	Browders	Waiting For You To Get Home
76	Greater Vision	As We Speak
78	Wes Hampton	My Father's House
79	Kevin Woody	In My Bible
80	Georgia	That's Why I Love Him So
81	Gibsons	Home At Last
82	Back Home	Empty Pews
83	New Ground	I Can Still Pray Through
84	Sweetwater Revival	Dancing On Those Streets Of Gold
85	Tim Livingston	More Than Enough
86	Pauline Patterson	Middle Of A Miracle
87	Glorybound	All Because Of Grace
88	Guardians	Somebody Prays
89	Austin and Ethan Whisnant	1+2+3
90	Lore Family	I Lived To Tell About It
91	Terry Collins	Out Of This World
92	Dixie Melody Boys	Praise The Lord, Hallelujah, Amen
93	Legacy Five	That's A Hallelujah
94	Red Roots	Beautiful Storm
95	Rochesters	As For Me And My House
96	Perrys	When He Comes Walking On The Water
97	Knight Family	I Believe, Help My Unbelief
98	Collingsworth Family	At Calvary
99	Soul Purpose Quartet	In My Robe Of White
100	Mike Anderson	I'm Going There



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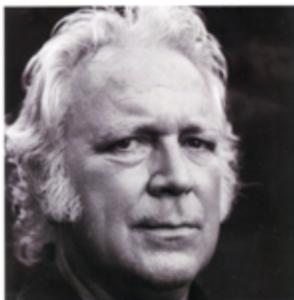
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# Randall Reviews It - November

by Randall Hamm

Welcome to November. From the month of the pumpkin to November, the month of the turkey, I bring you three new CD Reviews that aren't turkeys. They definitely are the cream of the crop and ready for you to discover them. So let's start the discovery, right now!

T. GRAHAM BROWN



**FOREVER CHANGED**

T. Graham Brown  
*Forever Changed*

2015 Mansion/Sony Red

Tracking Room – Nashville Tenn

Producer: Mark L Carman and T. Graham Brown  
Special Guests: Vince Gill (He'll Take Care of You); Jason Crabb (Soul Talk, People Get Ready); Leon Russell (Shadow Of Doubt, People Get Ready); Jeff and Sheri Easter (The Power of Love); Oak Ridge Boys (People Get Ready, How Do You Know); Steve Cropper (People Get Ready); Booth Brothers (Pillow of Mercy); Three Bridges (Midnight Rainbow); Sonya Isaacs (Which Way To Pray); Jimmy Fortune (Wine Into Water).

Songs: He'll Take Care Of You (D Fritts-G Nicholson-D Penn); From A Stronger Place (TG

Brown-S Schuffert); Soul Talk (TG Brown-G Nicholson-D Flowers); Forever Changed (H Lindsey-D Penn-C Whitsett); Shadow Of Doubt (G Nicholson); The Power of Love (G Nicholson-D Cook); Out Of The Rain (TJ White); People Get Ready (C Mayfield); Pillow Of Mercy (TG Brown-D Penn-G Nicholson); Midnight Rainbow (J Barnett-D Penn-C Whitsett); Which Way To Pray (TG Brown-G Nicholson-B Anderson); How Do You Know (G Nicholson-D Bramlett); Wine Into Water (TG Brown-B Burch-T Hewitt).

What could be the surprise album of the year, T Graham Brown's *Forever Changed* has 13 great tracks with some great guest vocalists. From the straight-ahead country cut, "He'll Take Care of You," with the great Vince Gill, to the closing track - a re-recording of one of T. Graham Brown's last chart hits, "Wine Into Water," there is not one bad track on this CD.

Graham of late is a constant it seems on the Country Family Reunion videos, hosted by Bill Anderson. But this album, after popping it into my CD player, made me give a big smile, track after track, and some reaching for the repeat button. Not a bad selection on this CD, no matter where you decide to start it. I started with track number 11, "Which Way To Pray," a compelling song about a daughter who had been abused by her father and he is on his deathbed, wondering "Which Way Do I Pray." It's a hard choice for the daughter and a great storyline, and features beautiful background vocals by Sonya Isaacs Yeary.

If you start with track number one, you get the great Vince Gill and his beautiful vocal stylings - and I'm

sure his guitar licks – on, “He’ll Take Care of You.” Vince is not listed on the musicians’ list, but I’m sure that’s him. One of my favorite tracks is “People Get Ready,” which is a who’s who of guest stars; the Oaks, Jason Crabb, Leon Russell and Steve Cropper, yes that’s Steve Cropper of Stax and Muscle Shoals. His influence is really felt as he brings a Stax/Muscle Shoals soulful feel to “People Get Ready,” and is the true highlight of the CD. Steve is also listed as one of the musicians on the project playing Electric Guitar.

The first single has just been released to radio: “Soul Talk,” featuring Jason Crabb. Be listening for it on your favorite Gospel station. This may be the best album that you may never hear about this year, but it is a must to buy! Take it from me, it’s worth it, just to hear the soulful T. Graham Brown doing what he does best, singing sweet *soul* music; you know what I mean, music that will do the soul good and bring a smile, a pat of the foot and a reach to play that song again!

Visit T Graham at: [tgrahambrown.com](http://tgrahambrown.com). Strongest Songs on the CD: “Soul Talk,” “People Get Ready,” and “Which Way To Pray.”



Tammy Jones Robinette  
*My Amazing Life*

2015 Butler/Little Creek Music  
Harvest Gospel Studios – Huntington West Virginia  
Track Engineer – Mark Hale  
Producer: Chip Davis/Owen Lindaman

Songs: My Amazing Life; I’ll Make It; The Same Hands; He Is God Alone; I Found Grace; I’m Gonna Pray; He Can Do It Again; A Christian Woman Needs To Cry; I Turned The Radio On; You’re Not A Sinner Anymore; I’ve Got The Key; all written by Tammy Jones Robinette and Heaven I’m Glad It’s So Real, written by Grady Cole.

Tammy Jones Robinette has been a busy woman this year with two projects released; one a bluegrass and this one a straight-ahead Southern Gospel CD. I’ve been a fan of Tammy since she released the “Little Boy Song,” on Zion a number of years ago. In fact one of my first giveaways was a Tammy Jones Robinette cassette back in the late ‘90’s.

From the beginning song “Amazing Life,” to “I’ve Got The Key,” there are 12 great cuts that will edify and make one feel better about your day and life. The first single release to radio is “A Christian Woman Needs To Cry.” It describes the role of a Christian woman who sometimes handles too much; sometimes she can’t be strong, but she needs to. Sometimes she just needs to let it out and talk to her Lord.

The most fun song on the CD, from the first note to the last, is: “I Turned the Radio On.” In my opinion, if released to radio, could be a Top 40 song. The song describes the happiness one finds when you turn the radio on and you’re having a bad day, but your favorite song comes on, and all is better because your favorite song is playing, and everything is better, if just for that instant.

Earlier this year, she had a Top 40 hit with “I Like Life,” from her *Beautiful Life* project. As I mentioned, she has a Bluegrass project as well, *Tammy Jones Robinette and the Drive*. Both projects are worth seeking out and adding to your collection.

If you’re a Connie Smith fan, you’ll love Tammy. If one closes their eyes, and listens, you would think it is Connie, the Rolls-Royce of female singers. That’s high praise for any female singer. Thanks Tammy for such a great project.

Visit Tammy at [www.tammyjonesrobinette.com](http://www.tammyjonesrobinette.com). Strongest Songs on the CD: “I Turned The Radio On,” “My Amazing Life,” and “You’re Not A Sinner Anymore.”



Kirby Stailey  
*Sowing Seeds*

2014 Mercy Road/Chapel Valley  
Chapel Valley Studios – Sharps Chapel Tennessee  
Producer – Shane Roark

Songs: Sowin’ Seeds; Saved; Forgiven; The Power Of Your Love; All The Proof I Need; There’s Still Hope In Him; I’m In; For Your Glory; If That Don’t Make You Quit; I’m Glad You Did; That’s Why I Sing. All songs written by Kirby Stailey

Here’s a gentleman many do not know about, but if you spend any time in the heart of Southern Indiana, you’ll become acquainted with Kirby Stailey, *The Singing Trooper*. You can hear him sing just about every Sunday on the Sunday Morning Gospel Show with Randall Hamm on WFLQ French Lick 100.1 FM. He is truly a hidden secret and we’re going to introduce him and his latest CD, *Sowin’ Seeds*.

Kirby writes 99% of his own material that he performs, and if you love your Gospel on the Country side, Kirby will fit your bill. Kirby has a day job with the Indiana State Police but sings Gospel on the weekends and through the week when he can. His latest project is his first nationally produced. Previously, he recorded locally several projects, which did well.

The first single release is “All The Proof I Need,” an observer’s look at a newscast and a news story that proved the Bible was a book of fiction. The observer wishes he could just have a moment of the newscaster’s time to tell him of all the things that God has done and all that he’s seen, to prove to the newscaster that his conclusion is wrong. Powerful song with some great steel guitar thrown in; request it at your local Gospel station.

The project kicks off with the title track “Sowin’ Seeds,” based on the Parable of the Sower. “There won’t be no fruitful harvest until that seed’s put down, well I’m sowing seed for the Master’s garden in search of fertile ground.” Other great songs on the CD include “The Power Of Your Love,” “If That Don’t Make You Quit,” and the closing song, “That’s Why I Sing,” an anthem for why he sings for the Lord and a last minute addition to the CD. “There’s no Grammys on my shelf or Gold records on my wall. Just a shoebox full of thank- you cards sayin’ I appreciate the songs.” “It’s for my King and all these important things, that’s why I sing.”

The project is masterfully produced by Shane Roark and all the folks at Chapel Valley and wonderfully sung by Kirby Stailey. If you like what you’ve read so far, I encourage you to buy a copy for yourself and one for a friend.

Visit Kirby at [www.kirbystailey.com](http://www.kirbystailey.com). Strongest songs on the CD: “Sowin Seeds,” “That’s Why I Sing,” and “All The Proof I Need.”

ARTISTS, PLEASE SEND YOUR CDS FOR REVIEW TO RANDALL HAMM, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. BOX 100, FRENCH LICK, IN 47432.

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# THE INTERNATIONAL COWBOY CHURCH ALLIANCE NETWORK HOLDS ROUND UP

By Jan Harbuck

The International Cowboy Church Alliance Network (ICCAN) Round Up was held October 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Cornerstone Cowboy Church in New Iberia, Louisiana. Pastor Andy Starks is the pastor at Cornerstone, as well as the International Director of ICCAN. Jan Harbuck from the ICCAN Trail Office in Monroe, Louisiana was the Round Up Coordinator. The church did an awesome job in hosting us and fixing great Cajun and Mexican Food.

consisted of seminars and music showcases as well as some great Cajun food!

Pastor Starks gave a workshop on Cowboy Church ministry and Jan Harbuck gave a workshop on Church tax and law issues. A few of the ICCAN ministries represented were Greg McDougal and his family, Mike Holmes, Tommy Brandt, Gail Cogburn, Carolyn Rowden, Mo Howard, Carol Hogner, Mike Vaughn, Beverly Crocker, Pastor Gene Tatum, Elliott Johnson, Paul Tillman, Allen Upshaw, Gary Brock, Darlene Jennusa, Trinity Wennerstrom, Kerra Cheyenne and so many



We all had a great time in the Lord. A large group of music ministers, pastors, evangelists and Cowboy Church leadership personnel gathered to lift each other up and learn better ways to improve their ministries. The three-day event





more! People came from several states, including Wyoming, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Missouri and Louisiana. We want to thank HLE Radio for broadcasting the concert live!



We finished off on Sunday morning with an awesome time of celebration for Pastors Andy and Femmie Starks, who were celebrating 20 years at Cornerstone. Tommy Brandt ministries blessed us all with music and several souls were brought into the Kingdom! Plans are already being made for next year's Round Up. Join us. For more information click on to [iccanlink.ning.com](http://iccanlink.ning.com).

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## John Whisnant



This month we are shining our DJ Spotlight on John Whisnant. I ran into John at The Lighthouse Gospel Music Convention in North Carolina recently and asked him a few questions. Here's what he had to say.

*Vonda: Tell me all about your current radio job.*

John: I am the co-owner and morning host of the Sunrise Show on AM760 WCIS in Morganton, North Carolina. My son Caleb is my co-host. I am also the pastor of the Grandview Baptist Church.

*Vonda: Tell us about a great day at the Station.*

John: During one of our share-a-thons a few years back, a desperate man called in revealing he was seriously considering suicide. In trying to find out where he was so I could go to him, I discovered he was very nearby. I got him to the station. He accepted Christ in the lobby. He's still living for the Lord today.

*Vonda: Where is your favorite place to eat?*

John: *On The Border* - Greatest tex-mex hand's down!

*Vonda: Will you share your testimony?*

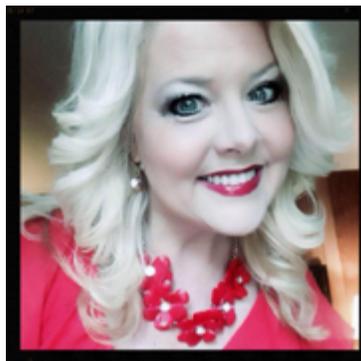
John: I was saved Sunday morning, Aug. 30, 1970. I was seven years old. I rededicated my life to Christ when I was 22 in college. I traveled and sang with my family, The Whisnants, until 1993. I came off the road and accepted the pastorate at my home church. That same year we purchased WCIS radio. I've had two full-time jobs ever since. I am privileged to serve the Lord from behind a mic or a pulpit every day. I am blessed to have an awesome, Godly wife, Suzi, and two incredible kids. Our son is Caleb, who just graduated from Gardener Webb with honors. He is now my co-host on

the radio. Our daughter, Elizabeth is a junior at Appalachian State. She works full-time at our local library and she is also the youth leader at our church. They are both great Christians. I am a blessed man.

*Vonda: If you could visit any place in the world where would you like to go?*

John: I would love to go back to the Holy Land. Greatest trip I've ever taken, hand's down. I'd go back tomorrow!

Thanks John for sharing. If anyone is in the Morganton, North Carolina area, be sure to tune into AM760 The Cross, WCIS for the Sunrise Show, to catch John and Caleb Whisnant. Or you can go online to listen to the live streaming of WCIS at [www.am760thecross.webs.com](http://www.am760thecross.webs.com). Don't miss your chance to hear John Whisnant!



**Written By**  
**Vonda Easley**



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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>



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 Wash-

ington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://Queenoq.blogspot.com)



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

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



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, shar-

ing her testimony of how she was born lifeless and how Jesus raised her up to live for Him. Jennifer is a member of the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra and has performed with them at Brooklyn Tabernacle, Carnegie Hall, Central Park, and Times Square. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jennifercampbell.net/blog.htm> and a food and travel blog at <http://jennifersjourneys.net>. Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net> and [www.christwillreturn.org](http://www.christwillreturn.org).

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

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

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



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.



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.

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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.jeffrsteale.com](http://www.jeffrsteale.com).



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

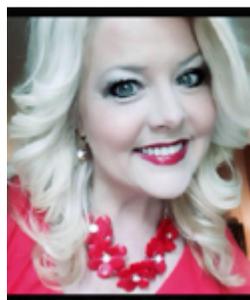
working behind the scenes on their social media. She also travels full-time on the road with her family's gospel group, The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion and singing for Jesus is her calling. For several years, you have known her as our very own "Younger Perspective" writer. Check out her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



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



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

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



Jonathan Edwards began his radio career on KWFC 89.1 FM in Springfield, Mo. At KWFC he worked in news, sales and was an on air personality, creating the very popular Ozark Gospel Showcase. He has been nominated for two Singing News Fan Awards and garnered the coveted Paul Heil Award from the 2012 Diamond Awards. He

travels full time with Faith's Journey and currently hosts the syndicated radio show SGN Scoops Radio.

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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.

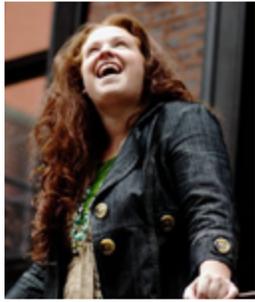


Bethany Cook is a 26-year-old from the great state of North Carolina. In her early years, Bethany grew up on the road as the daughter of an evangelist. In her teen years, the family came off the road and made their home in Burlington, NC where her father is now a pastor. Being an avid Southern Gospel fan from an early age has enabled Bethany to

meet many different artists and make many friends along the way. With a history of devotional writing for family and friends, she looks forward to sharing her writing and allowing her readers to see a little more into the lives of Southern Gospel Music artists. Bethany is a Medical Assistant for a large Cardiology Practice in North Carolina.

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

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

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



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

Paige loves to blog about faith,

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



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

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



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



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

love of this great style of music.



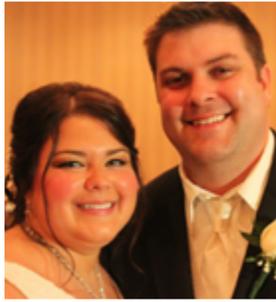
Hello, I'm Randall Hamm, Gospel Program Director of WFLQ French Lick Indiana, host of the Sunday Morning Gospel Show for the past 20 years on WFLQ French Lick Indiana and Singing News Top 10 Small Market DJ for the past three years. I now add something new to my resume! Record Reviewer, ok...

CD Reviewer. I'm Old School, having

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

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

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



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

been in the ministry for 26 years raising three daughters and homeschooling them while they traveled together as a family. During this time God taught her how crucial inter-generational ministry is for the furthering of God's kingdom. Selena travels the world speaking at conferences with the emphasis on empowering a multi-generation of women to rise up and become everything that God has called them to. Encouraging the next generation of the church to break the walls of limitations in their mind and rise to their full potential. Selena and her husband are life coaches for The World Race, which is an extreme missions trip for adults 21 through 35. They travel every two months somewhere around the world to mentor these missionaries. She and Chuck have been pastoring a home-church for 14 years where they have experienced God moving in community and seeing the body of Christ in action through each other.



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

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



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

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