

DECEMBER 2014

SGN **SCOOPS**
MAGAZINE



MERRY CHRISTMAS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

The Perrys, Randy Byrd, Southern Raised
and Heather Ruppe



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Publisher's Point
4	Letter From The Editor
5	Life, Love, and Legends
8	Randy Byrd
12	DJ Spotlight
15	The Perrys
17	Creekside Update
19	The Griffins
21	Can You Handle the Truth
24	Purple Hulls
27	December Music Reviews
31	Dusty Wells
34	Newsmakers
37	PastorsCorner
39	Dr Jeff Steele
41	Southern Raised
45	Kelly Nelon Clark
47	What America Wants to Know- Heather Ruppe
51	Scott Rhoades
54	Bryan Hutson
57	Younger Perspective
60	Lynn Mills
62	Christmas Memories
65	Reflections with SherryAnne
68	Preacher's Kid Retreat
71	Jennifer Campbell
72	SGN Scoops Top 100
74	Christian Fitness
76	Contributors

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

Layout/Design- Pete Schwager, Staci Schwager

Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley

Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

www.sgnscoops.com

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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Merry Christmas! I hope you are having a great time celebrating this holiday season with friends and family. I love Christmastime, from the decorations to the songs to the church services. One of my favorite things is seeing all the colored lights everywhere, from the trees in the park to our tree at home. It takes me back to my childhood and the wonder of Christmas. The Candlelight Service at church used to be such special time. In fact, everything to do with Christmas still seems to be surrounded by light. It makes sense as we are celebrating Jesus, the Light of the World.

As a child I used to wonder about what I would get for Christmas and I have to admit I still anticipate what might be under the tree for me. But I love to give just as much and I enjoy watching the expressions of those who are opening a present from me. I wonder how much God anticipates our reaction to His gifts to us? And does He get as much pleasure out of what we give back to Him?

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of SGN Scoops, our gift to you this Christmas season. Enjoy the Christmas memories shared by our friends, the features of artists who are sharing their stories with us, and all the articles from the hearts of our writers. You may notice that we have added some new columns in the last couple of months and we hope that we continue to bring you “*what is intriguing and real about Southern Gospel and Christian Country music,*” as our mission statement says. Please write to me if you have comments or suggestions about our magazine, or if you have any questions. You can write to me directly at rob@sgnscoops.com

From all of us here at SGN Scoops and Coastal Media Group, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!



A Letter From the Editor

By Lorraine Walker

Merry Christmas from the SGN Scoops family! We want to thank you for opening up the cover on this month's edition. We hope you are having a good holiday season. For those of you who are already tired of hearing the Christmas songs being played in the stores and on the radio, remember that this is the time of year when people are more open to hearing the Name of Jesus. What a powerful Name! When you wish that store clerk a Merry Christmas, you are speaking the Name of Christ into their soul.

We hope you find plenty to speak into your soul in these pages. We have covered many artists who have made it their life's work to sing about Jesus. Just like the Star of Bethlehem showed the Wise Men the way to Jesus, these Gospel music 'stars' also show the way to the Lord. We hope their stories uplift and encourage you today.

As you read the story of the Nativity this Christmas, I hope you take time to ponder all of the mystery it contains. Like Mary, take the truths and ponder them in your heart. People find it so hard to accept those happenings on faith and so they strip away the mysteries until it is little more than a fairy tale. People argue about the Virgin Birth, the Angelic Host, and the Wise Men... But take any of

these away and you reduce the power of God as He reached down to change the world forever.

It's simple and sweet to see the stable scene depicted by Sunday School children on Christmas Eve. Mary, Joseph, the Babe in the manger... maybe Mary's 'baby' is a doll that wets, or Joseph's headdress keeps slipping, or the Wise Men step on each others' robes as they walk toward the manger. But as you look on that scene this year, think about what our Heavenly Father saw as His Son laying on the straw. The Baby in the manger would grow to become our Savior on the Cross, bleeding and dying for the sins of all humankind. But the story wouldn't end there. The Savior on the Cross would then rise from death to become The King on His Heavenly throne. Our King of Kings and Lord of Lords did not stay a baby and did not stay on the Cross. He is alive today.

May this be a Christmas where we aren't content to see Jesus as a baby but we allow Him to reign as King in our hearts. And may we be like the Star of Bethlehem, pointing all who are wise to the Almighty God.

Merry Christmas.

LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



How wonderful to have the privilege of greeting you in this December issue of Scoops. We appreciate Rob Patz, Lorraine Walker and staff, for their dedicated efforts. We are sharing some thoughts about Christmas and how songs bring so much comfort and joy to our lives!



But first, allow me to express a heartfelt “thank you” to all who prayed for me these past months. My broken ankle is healed, and I am now able to walk. Praise God! There is no doubt that those long days and nights of immobility helped me grow deeper in His precious Word.

I also have a new appreciation for the power of a Gospel song. Believe me, the lyrics of “I Need Thee Every Hour” will soothe the soul in the midnight hour of pain. Yes, God is faithful, and when I felt overwhelmed, despair would be replaced with peace as I recalled His blessings on my LIFE in gospel music.

Pop Wills started the first Wills Family Quartet in 1938, and I sang the alto. I can still hear my daddy

singing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.” We LOVE those dear old gospel songs.

December is here, and Howard and I especially enjoy the Christmas programs on television featuring our gospel friends. “Mary Did You Know,” with lyrics by Mark Lowry and music by Buddy Greene, has helped make LEGENDS of both of these artists. I treasure the fact that many years ago we signed Mark to a booking contract with our company, Nashville Gospel Talent Agency.

I smile as I remember the time Buddy Greene was a guest on a TV series I hosted and made delightful comments about co-writing “Mary Did You Know”



with Mark Lowry.

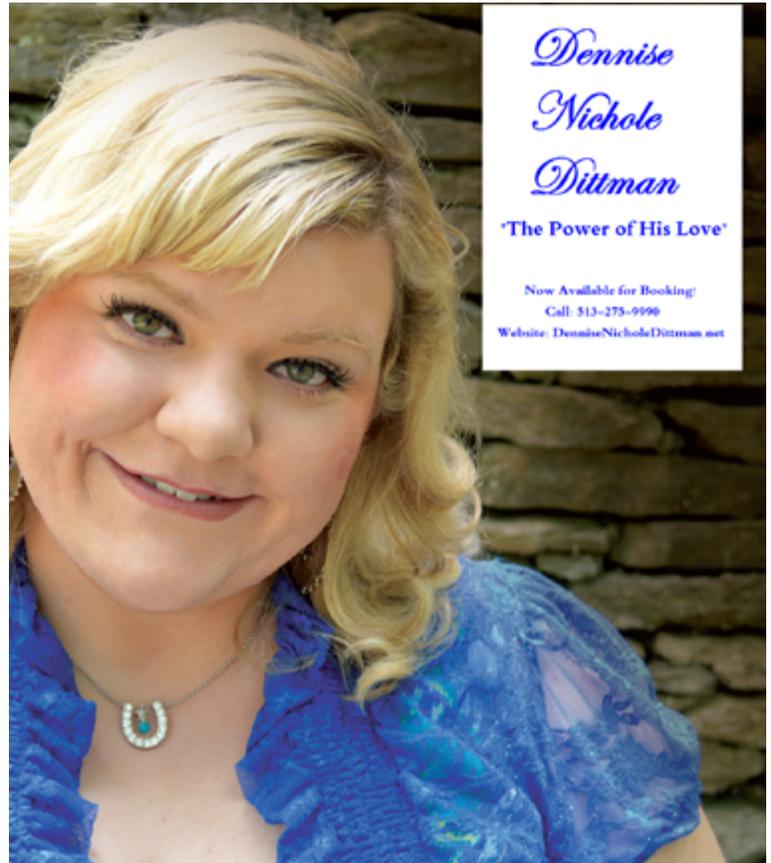
As a closing thought on celebrating the birth of our Savior, may I share a poignant memory of hearing our son and daughter, as children, sing: “Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.”

Dear friends, we pray that the joy, peace, and beauty of the Christmas season will be yours as we

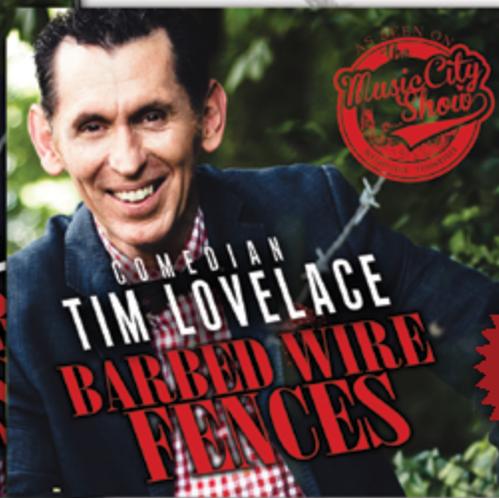
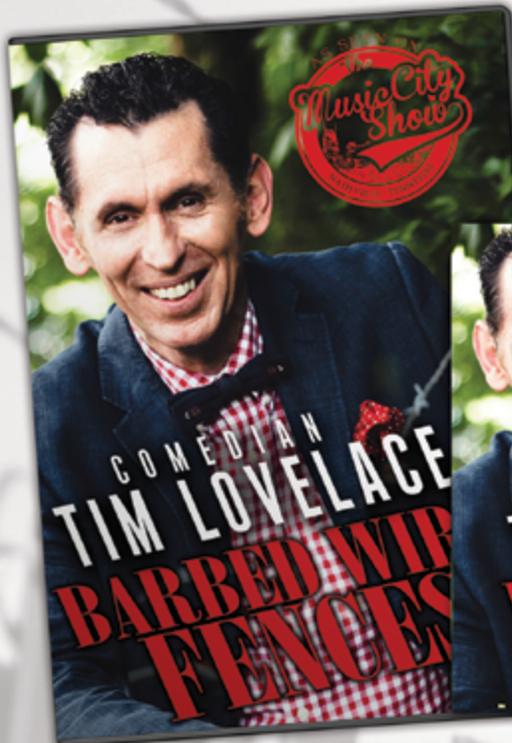
reflect on the reason we are celebrating.

Lou Wills Hildreth gospvideo@aol.com P. O. Box
271106 Houston, TX 77277

- (A) A. B. "Pop" Wills with Betty, Bill, Calvin, Lou, Bob
- (B) Wills Family siblings: Bill, Lou, Betty, Calvin, Norma Jo
- (C) Lou Hildreth with Mark Lowry



BRAND NEW COMEDY DVD & CD SET



featuring highlights
from The Music City
Show as seen on
RFD-TV & FamilyNet.

**Hilarious Songs,
Stories, & MORE!**

**DVD & CD
ONLY
\$20**

JOIN TIM ON
[facebook](#) [twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

Also visit him online at www.TimLovelace.com

FEATURED GROUPS FOR DECEMBER

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

Ascension Quartet

<http://www.theascensionqt.com>

Appointed Quartet

<http://www.appointedqt.com>

Blackwood Brothers Quartet

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

Bradford Ministries

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

The Bridgemans

<http://www.thebridgemans.com>

Christy Sutherland

<http://www.christysutherland.net>

Collisions

<http://www.collisiontrio.com>

Delivered

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

Divine Mercy

<http://www.divinemercysingers.com>

Donna Moreland

<http://www.donnamoreland.com>

4 His Praise Trio

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

Encore

<http://www.acrosstheaway.org>

Full Life Trio

<http://www.fulllifetrio.com>

Gospel Messengers

<http://www.gospelmessengersministries.org>

The Harvey Family

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

The Helmsmen

<http://www.thenewhelmsmen.com>

The Heritage Quartet

<http://www.theheritagequartet.com>

The Inmans

<http://www.theinmans.com>

Jeff Steinberg Ministry Team

<http://www.tinygiant.com>

Jim Sheldon

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

John & Dody Martin

<http://www.martinministries.org>

LeFevre Quartet

<http://www.thelefevrequartet.com>

Living Fountains

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

Lumber River Quartet

<http://www.lumberriverministries.com>

The Masters Men + 1

<http://www.mastersmenquartet.com>

Masters Promise

<http://www.masterspromise.com>

Mercy River Quartet

<http://www.mercyriverqt.com>

One Way Quartet

<http://www.onewayquartet.org>

Persuaded

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

Pine Ridge Boys

<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

The Representatives

<http://www.therepresentativesquartet.net>

Roger Wells Ministries

<http://www.rogerwellsministries.com>

Servants Call

<http://www.servantscall.net>

Siouxland Gospel Promotions

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

Soul Seeking Disciples

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

Sounds of Jericho

<http://www.soundsofjericho.com>

Southern Plainsmen Quartet

<http://www.southernplainsmen.com>

Southern Tradition

<http://www.americanheritagemusic.com>

Steve Jones

<http://www.stevejonesgospelmusicministry.com>

Stephen Wood

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

Three Parts Grace

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

2 Determined

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/2determined>

Unity 4 Quartet

<http://www.theunityfour.com>

MERRY CHRISTMAS

GOSPEL GIGS .COM

Piece By Piece

It's All Coming Together

By Craig Harris



2014 brought bountiful blessings in more ways than one for Mark Trammell Quartet bass singer Randy Byrd

The pieces to Randy Byrd's puzzle have miraculously fallen together. However, the "fit" happened a little later rather than sooner. Randy can vividly remember traveling to Robinson Auditorium in Little Rock, Ark., as a 12-year-old for a concert that included both the Kingsmen and the Cathedrals.

"I went home that night and I told my mom that I wanted to be a bass singer," Randy says. "I got every Cathedrals' album I could get my hands on. I tried to sound just like George (Younce, the legendary bass singer for the Cathedrals)."

However, Randy had to wait 28 years before even the outside edges of the jigsaw began to come into view. The road to full-time ministry was one that involved missed opportunities even from an early age.

"My first opportunity to ever sing was with the Bob Wills Family in Fort Worth, Texas," Randy – who worked on an assembly line for 14 years in

Missouri followed by a lengthy stint as a phone operator for a principal financial company in Des Moines, Iowa – explains. "Bob offered me a job full time when I was a senior in high-school. He offered it in October. I left home, and it all fell apart. The bass singer they ended up hiring was Jeff Chapman (currently a member of the Kingdom Heirs). Every time I saw him, I'd say, 'You have my job,' but I was proud for him.

"I never gave up. I knew it was a dream. With local groups, I had already lived a dream. I wanted to do it full time for a living. I wanted to be in ministry full time singing. My heart was to sing and minister. I wasn't going to punch a time card somewhere."

He had been singing with an Iowa-based local group, Majesty, for more than five years when an e-mail from Mark Blackwood settled in his inbox. That message was too hard for Randy to believe.

"I thought it was a joke, so I didn't answer (initially)," Randy remembers. "I was just playing along (later on), so I answered it. It turned out that



they (the Blackwood Gospel Quartet) were going to be in the area the next week. They had been there the week before and announced that bass singer Ken Turner would be retiring. Someone gave them my name. To this day, I don't know who did it. Two weeks later, I got the job.

"This was the dream since I was 12. At the time, I was 40. I turned 41 later that year." It was Randy's first professional job in Southern Gospel Music. The group later changed its name from the Blackwood Gospel Quartet to the Blackwood Brothers.

He was with the group from that time until 2012, when he relocated to Arizona during a tough period in his life. That stay out West lasted just six months before he moved back to Tennessee.

"I applied for 200 jobs and got two phone calls," Randy points out. "I got in my car to come back to Tennessee. I was in the car for 10 minutes,

and my phone started ringing."

Short stints with the Anchormen, LeFevre Quartet and Songfellows followed. He also did some solo dates. That's when another Mark contacted Randy: Mark Trammell.

"I was just praying for God's guidance," Randy shares. "Mark called and asked if I would fill in (as the bass singer of the Mark Trammell Quartet). I said, 'Sure.' After the first week, he asked if he could consider me (as a permanent group member). I said, 'God's going to have to speak audibly.'"

"I wanted it so bad. I had wanted it so bad with Mike (LeFevre). I didn't want to do that again. I didn't want to get ahead of God, but in my heart, I wanted it more than anything."

Randy and Mark were acquainted since his tenure with the Blackwood Brothers. "When Randy came to the Blackwood Brothers, we sang with them not long after that," Trammell says. "We hit it off with him.

"I started the process of listening to the other 35 (candidates for the bass-singing position), but I didn't find anybody with the same kindred spirit and the same love of our music he had. As nice as they (the other candidates) were, I feared they would sing at the people instead of to them."

Randy's passion for the position was due in part to his fondness for his childhood heroes.

"My favorite group was the Cathedrals, and Mark stood next to my hero," Randy notes. "My fiancé (Tracy Kelley) and I sat down and wrote three very specific things, fleeces to God. They were highly unlikely and very detailed. I told Mark that I wasn't going to tell him what they were. He said, 'I respect



that.’ We prayed specifically about income and benefits packages that are not industry standards. In two weeks, all three of the fleeces took place.

“I shared that with Mark after he offered me the job. We both cried. When you are where God wants you, it’s good.”

The *fit* felt right from the outset. He officially joined the group in July.



“When he hired me, Mark said, ‘From the very first week you were on the bus, it felt like I came home and put my favorite old shirt on,’” Randy points out.

Mark adds, “It just worked. From the beginning, it worked because of like-mindedness. We have a lot of history. I can start an old joke that has been told, and he can finish it.”

Randy has been overwhelmed at the opportunity for many reasons, some of which pertain to past trials he has experienced. “When I left the LeFevres, I was so discouraged and distraught,” Randy remembers. “I felt like God wasn’t in tune with me anymore. Anything was a big deal to me. I understood him calling me to fill in, but to me, the likelihood of Mark Trammell offering me that job, it was more likely for the local high-school baseball pitcher to get a call from the New York Yankees.”

However, Randy is enjoying every minute of his opportunity in the “big leagues.”

“After being here for (five) months, it’s beyond my wildest dreams,” Randy emphasizes. “Mark is everything I thought he was. In other ways, he’s

totally different than I thought he was. He and Nick are the most caring people that I’ve ever been around. I’ve been around some great people in this industry, but they are the real deal. They really are.

“There’s not a night that goes by that I don’t forget to come in when I’m supposed to come in, especially after Mark sings a solo. I’ll be more engrossed in him than anybody in the building. I’m still just the 12-year-old preacher’s kid who got engrossed in this.”

A significant concern for Randy in accepting the position was succeeding the group’s long-time bass singer, Pat Barker. Barker submitted his resignation in April.

“They were looking for a replacement for Pat Barker,” Byrd points out. “There is no bigger fan of Pat Barker than me. No one was more disappointed that Pat Barker was leaving this quartet than me. I would fight a buzz saw for this job, but if God ever made a way for Pat to come back, I would support that. He’s always been the consummate professional. Pat reminds me a lot of George, not in how he sounds, but Pat is just a great singer. He’s also is a great communicator from stage, and that’s what George was the master at.”

Mark was aware of Randy’s inevitable concerns. “Randy told me when he came, ‘Mark, I cannot be Pat Barker, but I promise you I’ll be the best version of Randy Byrd that I can be,’” Mark remembers. “We didn’t replace Pat. We just hired somebody so (that) Pat could go home.”

Randy adds, “I was aware of it. My whole approach to it is this: I can never replace Pat. I can never be Pat. All I can be is *me* and be the best *me* I can be. Roger Bennett contacted me when he was forming Legacy Five. He contacted me three times wanting me to audition for Legacy Five. I told him that no matter who you put in that spot, they are going to immediately be compared to George. I knew my limitations. I wasn’t prepared to assume that challenge. Glenn Dustin stepped into that role. He was compared to George, but he didn’t let that bother him. I learned from that. I knew that I could never replace Pat, but I knew the reality of it was that somebody was going to take it. I learned from it. I wanted the chance, and people have poured their love out welcoming me. I was a little nervous going to (the National Quartet) Convention, because that would be the single biggest thing to where the fans would say, ‘You’re not Pat.’

The Pat supporters have come and welcomed me. It is phenomenal.”

The 51-year-old is quick to admit that he is happier now than he has been in a long time, due largely to more than just his opportunity with the Mark Trammell Quartet.



“I went through a divorce three years ago,” Randy shares. “I divorced one month shy of 30 years. I was blessed with three daughters, who have been my reason for living for the last three years. I’ve also been blessed with six grandchildren. I was alone for several months. I’m not cut out to be alone. I wanted a mate, but I wanted the one God wanted for me. Tracy, my wife, had been divorced for almost six years, and she was praying. Mike LeFevre introduced us. We became friends, and corresponded some on Facebook. Last year, at (the National Quartet Convention), we started hanging out some. About a month after that, we started officially dating. Once we started dating, it became apparent that we were both what was missing in each other’s lives.

“She’s the sweetest, most maintenance-free person I’ve known. She too has a heart for ministry, for singing. We have an 18-month plan. We want her to quit her job. If she wants to work on the weekends, that’s fine, but that way, she’ll be home when I’m home.”

Mark adds, “Randy has been through hell. By God’s grace, he came through it, and God restored him.”

Randy and Tracy – who is a member of the Alabama-based mixed trio Hope’s Journey – were married in late August.

It is Randy’s hope that the evidence of God’s restoring power and bountiful blessings in his life will encourage others.

“I believe fully that God rewards faithfulness,” Randy says. “I’ve been blessed that God rewards opportunities. I believe that He just simply rewarded that, and I’ve tried to stay focused on Him.

“I feel like Job. Everything Satan robbed from me three years ago, God has restored over and over. I feel like I’ve died and gone to heaven, not just the singing but with Tracy. She’s my biggest supporter. She’s my best friend. I’m fully convinced that I wouldn’t be with Mark Trammell today if it wasn’t for her and her prayers. She prayed right along with me the whole way, seeking God’s guidance, and I’m grateful for it every step of the way.”

For more information on Randy Byrd and the Mark Trammell Quartet, visit www.marktrammellministries.com



**AVA L
KASICH**
www.avalkasichministries.org

DJ SPOTLIGHT

Larry Flegle



By Vonda Easley



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

I had a few questions for him and here are his answers.

Thanks Larry for helping keep this great music alive!

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

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

VE: What is your favorite hobby?

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

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

LF: My dad was a Baptist pastor. We left Arcadia because he

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

I have been in and out of radio for the last 51 years. I have worked for 15 radio stations. I am also an online college professor.

VE: What would be your dream vacation?

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

VE: Tell me about your family.

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

Larry adds the following story:

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

show. He told Larry if he learned how to run the station he could have the job. Larry immediately took him up on the offer and the "Larry Vee" show was born. Larry rocked on from 4pm until local sunset five days week. He played Elvis, the Beach Boys, Ricky Nelson and a new group from England called the Beatles. The summer of 1965 brought a big change for Larry when his father accepted the pastorate of a church in Dundee, Florida. Larry was crushed having to leave his radio show. Shortly after the move his Dad asked him to go for a ride. The destination was Haines City's WHANAM 930 radio just eight miles away. Larry was asked to take over the morning gospel show and the afternoon rock show and started that afternoon. He stayed with Channel 93 WHAN until February 1967 when he joined the announcing staff at WIPCAM 1280, Lake Wales, Florida. Larry was asked to run the Country music show at midday. Rock 'N Roll was in his blood and he left the fall of '67 to run the "Nightbeat with Larry Vee" on WSIRAM 1490 in Winter Haven.

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

to radio. In June, 1972 Larry began a degree program in broadcasting at the University of South Florida in Tampa. A few months later he was hired by Jim Maloy and became "Larry Michaels" at WQYK AM & FM in Tampa working the overnight shift from midnight to 6am.

Some years later Larry went on to become co owner of WBTGFM Gospel Radio in Sheffield, Alabama.

Dr. Flegle is now a college professor with fond memories of being part of the early days of Rock 'N Roll radio.

He now runs AMU Internet Radio for American Military University. Classic rock, of course. amuradio.com/

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

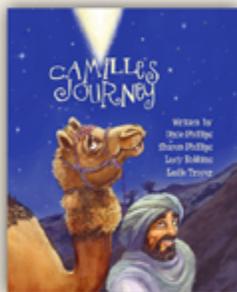
Larry also was with Radio Forecast Network announcing weathercasts for 25 radio stations per day. He is now owner and manager of WUCG M, 93.1, Blairsville, Georgia. URL www.wucg.org/

G93 as it is known, plays gospel and country music 24/7.

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

IRRESISTIBLE

CHILDREN'S *Christmas* MUSICALS from



CAMILLE'S JOURNEY

Written by Dixie Phillips, Sharon Phillips, Lucy Robbins & Leslie Troyer

Spend your Christmas with Camille, an orphaned camel, as she leads three zany wise men and their bossy camels to the newborn King in Bethlehem. Children of all ages will love this fun, easy-to-learn Christmas musical. Finally a drama guaranteed to warm the coldest heart!

Available from Guardian Angel Publishing

Or order online at www.phillipsandphillipsmusic.com/order-camilles-journey.html



BETHLEHEM'S KING SIZE BED

Written by Dixie Phillips, Sharon Phillips, Lucy Robbins & Leslie Troyer

Children will steal the show with this fun-filled, easy-to-stage Christmas musical. Phineas of Capernaum orders a flock of sheep to find a king size bed for the newborn King about to be born in Bethlehem. A series of crazy mishaps lead the shepherd to the perfect king size bed.

Recently released by Guardian Angel Publishing

Or order online at www.phillipsandphillipsmusic.com/bethlehems-king-size-bed.html

Both musicals are available from www.guardianangelpublishing.com!

NORTH METRO GOSPEL SINGING AT SHILOH HILLS
ALL SEATS GENERAL ADMISSION - NO ASSIGNED SEATS



BOOTH BROTHERS

SHILOH HILLS CHURCH CHOIR

JANUARY 31 - 6:00 PM

SHILOH HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

75 HAWKINS STORE RD - KENNESAW, GA

TICKETS: \$20 BY JAN 15 - \$25 AFTER JAN 15

To order tickets: Send self-addressed stamped envelope and check payable to: Robert York, 4030 Ebenezer Dr., Marietta, GA 30066-2718



CANDI'S CATCH-UPS: THE PERRYS

NEW FACES IN SOME OLD FAMILIAR PLACES

by Candi Combs

It is not uncommon for the Perrys to open their concerts with the title track from *Blue Sky's Coming*. What is unusual is to see a new guy and an old guy. To hear Libbi Perry Stuffle describe it, The Perrys now have, "A Yankee and a prodigal." Former Perry, Troy Peach is now in the lead vocal position with the Perrys.

Standing on either side of Libbi Perry Stuffle and Troy Peach is Libbi and Tracy Stuffle's 22-year-old son Jared, bringing the bass part for his dad, and Andrew Goldman of Evansville, IN, who joined the Perrys several months ago. Goldman is a familiar face to most fans as he was a part of the all-male quartet, Union Street. This is the line-up as we sat back to enjoy a great concert by The Perrys.

As the group settled in, Libbi took the lead with "Still Blessed." Indeed, Libbi can say that she is still blessed after the two-year adjustment to the family following Tracy's stroke in January 2013. Tracy was at the front of the church watching the group, which was inspiring to everyone.

Troy Peach was completely comfortable in his new role as lead singer and emcee for the Perrys' stage ministry. The new faces took time to demonstrate what they could do together. This pair worked in great harmony in a duet of "Cleft of the Rock." When Libbi and Jared joined in, the new blend was something to get excited about! Seamlessly, and as if they have always been together, they performed the radio hit single, "I Talked to God This Morning."

Libbi then shared the story of how Troy came to return to the Perrys. She shared that in a conversation, which Troy initiated, he told her, "I just feel this is where God wants me to be." Gospel music is full of personnel changes, but no one can argue with reasoning under God's direction. While discussing the departure of Bryan Walker into a full time pulpit ministry, Libbi quipped, "I feel like I sent one son to college while the prodigal came home."

Following these introductions, the group sang the Perrys' classic, "He is Mine." In a perfect segue,



sharing his salvation story by announcing, “I have made my reservation for that celebration! Satan will always bring things up that I regret but Calvary has a response.”

New faces with the same message of Jesus! The Perrys are a living testimony of what they sing. With a shining spirit of what God can bring one family through, the Perrys are relentless in their desire to share. Libbi wants everyone to know that, “This new season brings heavy responsibility. The days are long and hard, it is easy to become discouraged. And then I look at how faithful He is; the only thing I can say is, go God go!”

“I Can Trust Him” was sung with great conviction by Libbi. At this point, the group came off the platform and joined Tracy at the front. With a great big smile, Libbi stepped back while all four men sang “Three Crosses.” Just a few short weeks ago, Tracy was able to sing although somewhat with weakness on stage at NQC 2014. But this day, Tracy was very much holding his own vocally. This remarkable performance was nothing short of a demonstration of God’s power, touching every spirit in the room with Tracy’s great courage.

Libbi, Jared, Troy and Andrew returned to the platform to sing “I Rest My Case at the Cross.” This anthem was always a song of testimony for Tracy but this day, it served to speak volumes more than just what the lyrics could say. This song is now a testimony of complete surrender and dependence on God and what He did on that Cross. The message of the Gospel along with the emotion of the voices of the Perrys came through with complete clarity.

Libbi came forward with “Celebrate Me Home” which is just a natural way to communicate the need for salvation to everyone listening. Troy followed with



Troy Peach brings just the talent and leadership that the Perrys need at this time. Andrew Goldman is a rising star who matures with every performance. Jared looks strong and tall beside his mother. As for Libbi, this tiny woman is respected more than she can imagine. Her faithfulness to the ministry amidst so many barriers makes her a pillar of which any age, any gender can be in awe of. She stands with her family and with her God, making the Perrys an example of what being a Christian should look like.

See the Perrys in person to hear the new talent at www.perrysministries.com .



Creekside Gospel Music Convention

UPDATE

by Lorraine Walker

Only 11 more months until Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2015! We hope you are looking forward to the next Creekside as much as we are. The dates are November 2nd through 5th, 2015 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Again, the tickets will be free but must be reserved. You can reserve your room now at the special event pricing.

For more information on this and other Creekside news, be sure to stop by the website at www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com

If you would like to be a part of Creekside 2015 as an Artist or as a Volunteer, please contact Rob Patz at rob@sgn-scoops.com.

We would like to thank all of our artists for participating in the 2014 Convention. These participants include:

11th Hour	Redeemed Trio	Willie Wynn and Friends, along with
Angela Marie	Sacred Harmony	Woody Wright and The Kramers
Ava Kasich	Sam Cox	Karen Peck and New River
Billy Hodges	Second Chance	The Blackwoods
Brandon Hughes	Singing Byrds	The Dixie Melody Boys
Broken Vessels	Singing Epp Family	Tim Lovelace
Centurions	Terry Collins	Blue Highway
Chapel Road	The Coffmans	Mike LeFevre
Christy Sutherland	The Drummond Family	Danny Jones
Clearvision Qt.	The Freemans	Ken and Jean Grady
Crimson Ridge	The Griffins	Diamond Award Presenters
Exodus	The Hyssongs	Creekside volunteers
Faith's Journey	The Roarks	Chapel Road
Forever Changed	The Shannons	Glad Heart
Glad Heart	The Steeles	His Mercies
Higher Hope	The Stephens	Hopkins Family
Hope's Journey	The Williamsons	Michael Wayne Smith
Jason Runnels	Tina Wakefield	Richard Hyssong
Jericho Junction	Tony Burchette	Terry Collins
Jim Sheldon	Troy Burns	The Pruitts
John Lanier	Undivided	
Linda Foster	The Red Back Hymn Book Choir	
Lineage of David	Tony Gore	
Michael Wayne Smith	The Morris Music Group Showcase	
Nicky Ellison	Participants	
Pine Ridge Boys	The Chapel Valley Showcase Partici-	
Pruitt Family	pants	

Creekside artists and attendees enjoyed a special time of fun and fellowship during four days and nights of music and worship. The new addition of the Midnight Prayer time was memorable and many have said that the informal gatherings at night were the most powerful, life-changing moments of the whole event. We hope you enjoy this look back at a few scenes from Creekside 2014. Be sure to make plans today to join us for Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2015. www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com



Photographs courtesy of Robert York, Michelle Drummond and Meagan Pledger

The Griffins

“Pressing Onward”

By Marcie Gray



As they celebrate five years as a Southern Gospel trio, The Griffins also celebrate the release of their newest album, *Pressing Onward*. The album was unveiled during Dollywood’s National Southern Gospel & Harvest Celebration when The Griffins appeared in the Valley Theater. Recorded in Hendersonville, TN at Oak Tree Productions, this album features 11 songs, each with tight harmony and a powerful message. “Livin’ Like I’m Leavin’,” “The Blood Covered it All” and “Gotta Get the Good News Out” are a few of the songs you will want to play over and over again.

Tim and Angela are from Spartanburg, South Carolina, and have been involved in Southern Gospel music for over 30 years. Tim serves as the trio’s baritone and is an accomplished pianist. He began his professional career in this industry, playing piano for Alphus LeFevre and The LeFevres and has also worked with Eva Mae LeFevre, Karen Peck Gooch, Mike LeFevre, Brian Free, Rosie Roselle and many others. Tim helped to start a male quartet called “The Regals” in 1983. His solo piano album, *Key Ring*, will keep you tapping your toes as you sing along with some classic Southern Gospel tunes.

Angela grew up singing with her family, The McCrays. When Angela and Tim married in 2002, they combined their love for ministry and their talents and formed “The Griffins.” Angela’s rich alto voice is featured on her solo album, *Thankful*. In addition to her ministry with The Griffins and her work with Love A Child, Inc., Angela is also the News Director for Global Promotions.

Complimenting the harmony of this husband-wife team is the beautiful soprano voice of Holly Faith May, from Greensboro, North Carolina. Holly traveled as a soloist prior to joining The Griffins.

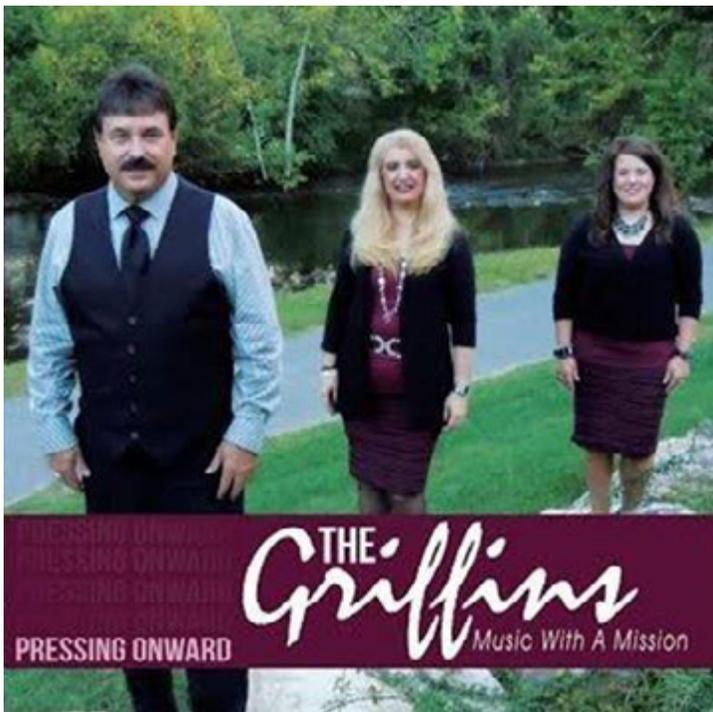


Holly has a heart for missions and has been to both Haiti and Honduras on medical mission trips.

The Griffins are official representatives of Love A Child, Inc., a Christian humanitarian organization with a wonderful ministry on the island of Haiti.

To find out when The Griffins will be in your area, visit www.thegriffinonline.com. You can also order your copy of *Pressing Onward*, along with their other albums, right from their website. Don't forget to visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/GRIFFINMINISTRIES> and like their page to receive updates on the wonderful things happening in their ministry!

(Photography by Marcie Gray)



Read SGN Scoops on your Kindle!



visit our website
sgnscoops.com
to see how!



“Can You Handle The Truth?”

Have a “Mary” Christmas!

By David Staton

I have been wondering for the last few weeks what I would write about for Christmas. Let’s face it, although it never gets old, we have all read and heard the Christmas story recorded in the book of Luke. Every year we gather around the Christmas tree and read a few verses each night leading up to Christmas day. It is the one time of the year when even most secular events open their minds and productions to something that is written in the Bible.

A couple of years ago, my wife and I took our girls to see the New York City Rockets at the Grand Ole Opry to see their Christmas show. I was shocked and pleasantly surprised to see one of the most elaborate nativity productions I’ve ever seen. Just before the actors and animals came out, the narrator said that whether

you put your faith in the Bible or not, every world historian agrees that the Bible is by far the most accurate historical document ever written. Then he proceeded to say that what you are about to see is a true, historical account taken from the book of Luke. I loved it!

So, with the Christmas story surrounding us everywhere we go right now, what in the world am I supposed to write about in this issue? Then last night, my precious little seven-year-old, Katherine drew a picture of a Christmas tree in a snowy setting. She entitled her masterpiece, “Have a Mary Christmas!” Now you know why I listen to the innocence of kids and the wisdom of old people when I write songs. I immediately started working on a song, “Have a Mary Christmas.”

Can you imagine? When God sent His Son,

He didn't go through the religious community, wealth, or even what would be considered a more notable or worthy bloodline. Instead, He chose a 15-year-old girl whose innocence and obedience in a secluded place in the world did not go unnoticed by the God of the universe! While the religious elite would continue their lives as if the prophecy of a Messiah would never come, this young girl named Mary was told that God would give her a miraculous Child, His Son, and He would save His people from their sin! She was told when and how He would arrive.

Well He did arrive, and we all know the story. But although the Christmas story that you hear in December will usually end with Mary and Joseph, the wise men and some shepherds and animals gathered around the manger, the story went on and that Baby changed everything! He would grow up without sin, His life would fulfill the prophecy given long before and He would finally, willingly stretch His arms across a Cross and become my sin and your sin and take the wrath of a holy God so one day we would not have to.

Oh yes, the story does go on! He rose and hundreds of witnesses saw Him. Before He ascended into heaven, the angel announced that He would come again.

So here we are 2,014 years later waiting for Him to return. Most of the religious community never talk or focus on His return and I'm afraid that most will not be ready when He arrives. So how can we make sure we are ready? It's not enough to see the Christmas story and stop at the manger. When you read everything He did and everything He said, you realize that the Messiah had a greater purpose than to provide us a touching nativity scene. He WAS and IS the Son of God! When you put your faith and trust in His life, His death and all that the Cross did for us and believe that God raised Him from the dead, you will receive the exact same gift that Mary received that very first Christmas. Above all, I hope you don't just have a Merry Christmas, I hope you have a 'Mary' Christmas!



John
JR
Randolph

Country Gospel Artist / Evangelist

John Randolph
Soakin' Up The Son
Available Now

Churches and Promoters
Now Booking Dates for 2014

Email: bookings@jrministries.com
Call Precision Artist Management at:
501-815-4546

Follow John at
[Facebook.com/johnrandolphministries](https://www.facebook.com/johnrandolphministries)
www.jrministries.com

Available on iTunes

cdbaby
DISCOVER MUSIC



Greater still . . .

. . . brand new music from Christy Sutherland to
inspire, encourage, and uplift.

Available **EXCLUSIVELY**
at Family Christian Stores



www.facebook.com/christygospel



www.twitter.com/christygospel



www.christysutherland.net



A portion of proceeds from
this album will go toward
The James Fund, a Family
Christian Stores Foundation.

The Purple Hulls

Made to Make Music Together

By Dixie Phillips



Twin sisters, Katy and Penny Clark, and their big brother, Ben, grew up on a generational family farm in the woods of East Texas. Their parents instilled a great work ethic in their children. Penny said, “Daddy hunted for meat and we grew our own fruits and vegetables. We milked our old Jersey cow and gathered chicken eggs every morning.”

Hard work and family values are only a part of what instilled iron in the souls of the Clark siblings. Katy was quick to credit their Christian heritage for keeping them grounded in a topsy-turvy world. “We attended church every time the doors were open. Mama played the piano, Granny played the organ, and our

uncle preached. We are very grateful for our godly upbringing.”

Not only were the siblings taught from the Word of God, but they also received a quality musical education. The twins shared, “Our maternal grandmother was a music teacher for many years. She taught us to sing harmony and gave us piano lessons when we were very young.” As the siblings grew older, they mastered stringed instruments and have become accomplished instrumentalists of every stringed instrument they can get their hands on.

When the twins came home from college, they helped harvest the purple hull peas their daddy had

planted. Katy said, “We’d fill a pretty good list of pea orders and use the money we made to pay for the next year of college. Purple hull peas were a significant part of our lives. So years later when we were trying to come up with a band name, someone threw the idea of naming our group The Purple Hulls, and it stuck. We connected with it because it reminded us of our roots.”

Penny laughed and added, “Plus, we’re the only thing that pops up on Google when you type in Purple Hulls. That’s a real plus!”

Building on their roots has paid huge dividends to the talented siblings. As the Lord continued to open ministry doors for them and after they graduated from college, their brother encouraged them to move to Nashville, Tennessee, where they could pursue their music even more seriously. He had been living in Nashville and working as a musician for some successful country music artists. In fact, “Banjo” Ben resigned from his job with Taylor Swift to sign a publishing deal at Sony ATV, along with his sisters.

The group performed a lot with the Quebe Sisters, a phenomenal group of girls from Texas. Katy said, “They can play the stars out of a fiddle and sing tight three-part harmony. They have a very unique style. It’s swing music. They are some of our best friends and we love learning a different style of music. In fact, we are incorporating what we have learned from them into our music.”



While some in the music industry might be tempted by selfish ambition, the Purple Hulls have their priorities in the right order. Family is very important to them. In 2012, when the twins learned their father was terminally ill, Penny and Katy left the bright lights of Nashville to be with their parents. Their father passed away a year later. The girls remained in Texas to be near their mother and help on the farm. Ben was unable to make the move. So the group presently only consists of the two sisters.

Not only are the sisters amazing instrumental-

ists and singers, but they are gifted songwriters, as well. They enjoy singing original material. Katy shared, “Whether or not it’s songs we’ve written or songs someone has given us. Singing original material gives us the chance to take something and work it up without much influence from a previous recording. We can really make it our own.”

The group wrote a song from Ephesians 6 to help encourage the Body of Christ. Katy said, “We hoped to remind people that God provides a full defense line for us to use. Here are a few of the lyrics:

Watch out brothers, on your own you’re not able to stand
There’s power in the darkness that can overtake a man
Oh, the enemy is real, but my God holds him at bay
Soon his people will be rescued but until that final day
Stand firm with a belt of truth around your waist
Fix the breastplate of righteousness firm in place
Have your feet fit and ready in the boots of peace
Take up your shield of faith above all things
Grab your helmet of salvation and your Spirit’s sword
You’re fit to fight a raging war, this is the armor of the Lord.”

A pastor sent an email to The Purple Hulls, letting them know how much the Lord used their music. He had been struggling with discouragement and the songs gave him the boost he needed to keep preaching the Word of the Lord.

Another time a professing atheist wrote to them and shared how their music had opened his heart to the Gospel. Penny said, “We keep in touch with him and believe the Lord is doing a work in his heart. It’s a privilege to have our music used in such a way. We have had many testimonies shared with us, and it’s always encouraging to hear them. It’s always amazing to think the Lord will use us as His hands and feet. The fact the Lord is able to minister to people’s hearts through music is what keeps us going.”

Katy added, “The Lord is continuing to open doors for us to share our music and message with folks. There is nothing better than that.”

Fans can keep up with group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thepurplehulls or visit their website at www.thepurplehulls.com. Their music is available on iTunes and Amazon.

ONLY THE TOP SONGS
FROM YOUR
FAVORITE ARTISTS



THE WORD. THE MUSIC. THE LIFE.



Alabama | Arkansas | Connecticut | Florida | Georgia | Illinois | Indiana | Massachusetts
Mississippi | Missouri | North Carolina | South Carolina | Tennessee

info@thelifem.com | [877.700.8047](tel:877.700.8047) | www.thelifem.com

Music Reviews for December

by Sandi Duncan Clark

Luke 2:11 "For unto you is born this day in city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (KJV)

What a wondrous announcement the angels made to the shepherds so many years ago, giving all of us the reason to rejoice and celebrate His precious birth! God's plan of salvation for the redemption from sin was being fulfilled. I'm so grateful for His birth, death and resurrection for our opportunity to become His child! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We wish you all a very blessed Holiday, and thank you for your love and support throughout this year. We are so blessed to have each of you read and enjoy our magazine.

We have new music this month, which will encourage you and entertain you throughout the holidays. Some of the albums are Christmas while others are just great Gospel music. We hope that once you read our comments, you'll look for these at your local Christian music store. These recordings will make wonderful Christmas gifts.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas from the Clark household and prayers for a blessed New Year.



SONG OF NOEL

Donna King

Journey Records

Producers: Zane & Donna King

Donna King is one fantastic vocalist, and this album is a holiday treasure from start to finish! She sings several songs resounding throughout the centuries with the joy of the birth of Christ including "Joy To The World," "Silent Night," and "O Holy Night." Donna brings something new to each of these cherished songs. I loved hearing her sing Rogers and Hammerstein's well-known "My Favorite Things!"

The title song "Song Of Noel," was co-written by Donna and Zane. What a glorious song this is to celebrate this most Holy time! Christmas music should be enjoyed throughout the year and this song is definitely one to remember.

"Christmas Instead" is a catchy little song; one that Donna wrote with Rachel Morgan Perry. Listening to the philosophy in the song, you will make it your own Christ-

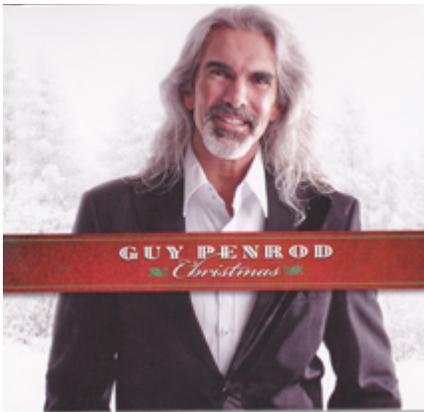
mas pledge! I love this! “Heaven Came To Earth” is the third original song and has such a great reminder of God’s gift to redeem us!

Joel Lindsey has long been one of my favorite writers and his “Give Me This Night,” is such a precious song. Written as a prayer from Mary asking...

“Give me this night to just be His mother,
Give Him this moment to just be my child.
He has the rest of His life to be Savior,
And so little time to simply be mine,
So give me, oh give me this night...”

Beyond a doubt, this song quickly became another “Christmas Keeper” in my play list and will be a standard much like “Mary, Did You Know.”

Donna sings the beautiful “Ave Maria” and created a version to be enjoyed again on many occasions. This collection of great songs should be added to your music library. According to Donna’s notes in the album, this is a dream come true for her, and a pleasure for us to share. Contact her at www.donnakingmusic.com



CHRISTMAS

Guy Penrod

Gaither Music

Producer: Michael Omartian

The smooth, warm vocals of one of Gospel/Christian music’s favorite soloists presents a new Christmas recording, jam-packed with some of the most enjoyable holiday renderings you will ever hear! If you have enjoyed Guy Penrod on previous solo recordings or with the Gaither Vocal Band, you know you are set for great listening.

Guy has selected 15 songs; some revered Christmas carols and worship songs, some typical holiday tunes and other fun songs that we enjoy hearing and singing along with every Christmas. This is an enjoyable, laid-back prize I enjoyed on a Saturday afternoon in late October, and a number of times since.

There are so many favorites on this recording, but “Breath Of Heaven” has been a real blessing. I also like “Cradle In Bethlehem” and “O Holy Night.” Guy’s version of two all-time Christmas hits: “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas” and “The Christmas Song” will please every listener.

Amy Grant and Vince Gill join him on “Tennessee Christmas” and do a beautiful job. I love hearing the entire Penrod family sing “The Twelve Days Of Christmas,” with each family member singing a featured part.

Several other songs deserve special mention, including: “Sleigh Ride,” “Winter Wonderland,” and the medley, “Little Drummer Boy/We Three Kings.” This is a solid hour of music pleasure to put you in a positive mood for the holidays. You’ll find *CHRISTMAS* available at your local Christian book store and at www.guypenrod.com



SOMETIMES IT TAKES A MOUNTAIN

Gaither Vocal Band

Gaither Music Group

Producers: Bill Gaither, Ben Isaacs, David Phelps

Anticipation has been building for this release since the announcement of the new group line-up. David Phelps (tenor), Wes Hampton (tenor), Adam Crabb (lead), Todd Suttles (bass/baritone) along with Bill make up this new Gaither Vocal Band. With the wide vocal styles represented here, it was interesting to see how producers worked their magic.

From the first song: “Jesus Gave Me Water,” the

recording is filled with surprises. Among the new songs in the 14-track line-up, are several new versions of songs from past Gaither Vocal Band recordings. "The Night Before Easter" has a new arrangement, and Todd Suttles shines on "Peace In The Valley." I love the new presentation of "Written In Red." It's wonderful to be reminded at this holiday time, that Christ came to earth to prove just how much we are loved.

Mosie Lister's "Happy Rhythm" is a classic presentation with the traditional piano intro, yet additional instrumental touches bring excitement. Any Mosie Lister song arranged in quartet fashion is a benefit to treasure!

Adam Crabb blends so well with this new vocal group and does a fantastic job on the title song, "Sometimes It Takes A Mountain." This one has a unique arrangement and reminds me how this talented young man has progressed vocally since we first heard him with his family. What a blessing!

"Let It Start In Me" and "Praises" are two more amazing blessings. The prayer of every Christian should be that we experience revival and it should begin with each of us.

There is something here for every fan of Gospel/Christian music. The Gaither Vocal Band has always crossed musical boundaries with their music and this is no exception. It is phenomenal to know that these men will carry the message of Jesus Christ throughout the world, via their recordings, their travels, on television and the internet.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A MOUNTAIN is available through www.gaither.com and at your local Christian music store.



MEETING IN HEAVEN

The Chuck Wagon Gang

Sing The Songs Of Marty Stuart

New Haven Records

Producer: Mick Conley

This present group of "the Gang" as they are affectionately known, is Shaye Smith, Julie Hudson, Stan Hill and Jeremy Stephens, and they have selected 11 Gospel works by country artist Marty Stuart for their new recording. Most of these are fresh, new songs; however, one; "The Gospel Plow," is an older song some will remember from the early '90's.

Shaye Smith is the granddaughter of Anna Carter Gordon Davis, the original alto singer with the group. Shaye has managed and toured with the Gang since 1999, and carries on the tradition of her family. The group has experienced a resurgence of interest and a host of new fans since Shaye took the reins.

My grandparents were fans of the early Chuck Wagon Gang, and I grew up enjoying their older recordings. As personnel has changed in the past I found myself comparing the sound of the newer members, and I really enjoy this group.

I especially like Shaye's feature on "His Love Will Lead Us On," and the entire group on "Rest A Little While." I think they sound the most like the original group on "Pray The Power Down" when Stan is featured on the verses and Jeremy has a good bass run as well as does each lady, in the chorus. Great job on this one!

"The Gospel Plow" is a great song, and the group sounds so very much like the original group; D.P. 'Dad' Carter, Rose, Anna and Jim.

If you are a fan of the Chuck Wagon Gang, you must have this new album. You may contact the Gang at 704-918-9919.

NORTH METRO GOSPEL SINGINGS AT SHILOH HILLS

JIM BRADY TRIO



MELISSA

JIM

TIM



PAT BARKER

MARCH 13 - 7:00 PM

SHILOH HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

**75 HAWKINS STORE ROAD
KENNESAW, GA**

**TICKETS: ALL SEATS GENERAL ADMISSION
ADVANCE PURCHASED BY MARCH 1 - \$17.00
TICKETS PURCHASED AFTER MARCH 1 - \$20.00**

**SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO ROBERT YORK ALONG WITH
SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED RETURN ENVELOPE TO
ROBERT YORK, 4030 EBENEZER DR., MARIETTA, GA 30066**



It is Really Okay

By Dusty Wells

Can you believe it's December??? So friends, that means it's almost Christmas! That incredible season where people from almost every part of the world have some kind of celebration no matter what they believe.

It's also that special time where so many of us decorate to the utmost, listen to beautiful Christmas carols and songs, and share cards with one another. We send and share Christmas pictures, gifts and special Christmas-New Year letters detailing all that has taken place in the past year.

There are gorgeous trees with all kinds of twinkling lights and decorations galore, with presents in all kinds of gorgeous wrapping paper and bows, placed strategically under the tree. There are outside lights in every color and giant blow-up figurines of all shapes and sizes, making even the dullest of homes gleam with personality. The kitchens are filled with way too much candy, baked goodies and delicious treats. Brightly adorned Christmas sweaters make many of us smile and want to take pictures of them, and even secretly wish we were brave enough to wear them.

We attend Christmas concerts, programs, musicals and events where many of us cheer on those special "kids of all ages" in our lives. Some of us even love the fairytale story of "Santa Claus," making it a fun time of laughter and joy to those around us. There are Christmas parties, get-togethers and dinners all begging us to join in the feasts and festivities and usually adding a few extra pounds to each of us. And the list of all that takes place in this month goes on and on and on.

It all leads up to that special day, December

25th where we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST.



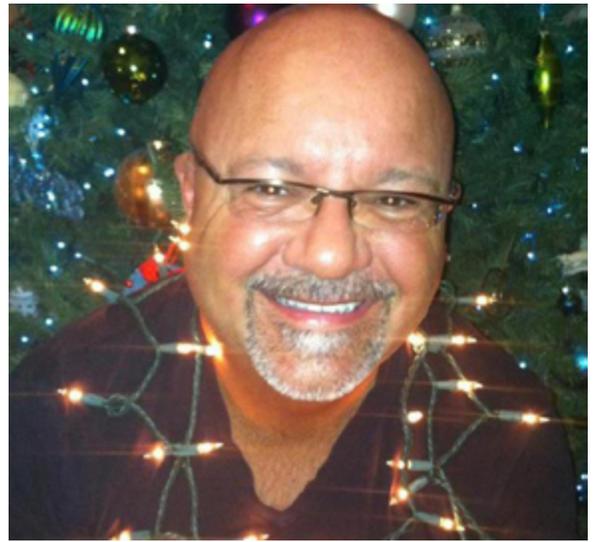
Yes, I am one of those *crazy-wacky* ones who absolutely loves, adores and makes the most of the "Christmas Season." I do almost all of the above-mentioned things and even then maybe more. I tell every store clerk, restaurant worker, UPS and postal folks - actually almost every one I come in contact with - a loud and hearty MERRY CHRISTMAS. Yes, I celebrate the season of Christmas and I want others to know how special it is to me.

You know why???

If you could've seen where Jesus Christ picked me up from and found me... I was in the deepest, darkest pit and darkness was all around me. A life of abuse, junk, crud and debris filled so much of my life. But some very special people took time out of their own



busy lives and schedules and introduced Jesus to me. My life has never been the same. Oh, yes, life has dealt me many blows and I've had my own share of struggle and heartache and yet in the midst of all I've walked in, I've always made certain that I take time to celebrate Christmas with all the traditions, fun, and merriment; always knowing that Jesus in all of His greatness and love is the Reason for the season. Nothing or no one will ever change that belief to me. I enjoy so much of the season, and I always celebrate Him.



Merry Christmas friends! Take time to slow down and savor the season, and know you are so loved and so valuable. And that it's okay to enjoy the Christmas lights, Christmas sweaters and The Carpenters Christmas *Portait* CD. It really is!

Go share His love with someone.



FGS FLOYD GOSPEL SING

SEPTEMBER 11TH & 12TH, 2015

Floyd Community Center Park

706 Fairfield Street in Floyd, Iowa

10:00 AM - 9:00 PM // FREE ADMISSION!

Food served by Lighthouse Academy & Gospel Lighthouse inside the Gospel Lighthouse Fellowship Hall from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM both days.

www.floydslighthouse.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pastor Paul and Dixie Phillips

408 Washington Street, Floyd, IA 50435

641.398.2865 (Home) | 641.398.2864 (Church)

phillips4him@myomnitel.com



kwhbtv47
Tulsa, OK

GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY

WWW.GOSPELMUSICTODAY.COM

Join Ken and Jean Grady and their guests for southern gospel news, concert updates and much more on the internet at www.gospelmusictoday.com

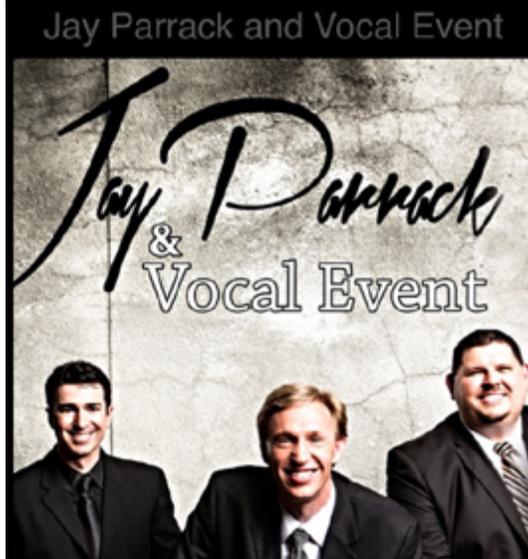
Southern Gospel Television on your computer!



NEWSMAKERS



Alabama will be the home of the first Southern Gospel Weekend in Spring 2015. Oxford will be the site for a full weekend of Southern Gospel Music from March 26 to 28th at the Civic Center. Artists already



scheduled to appear include Jay Parrack and Vocal Event, Hope's Journey, The Williamsons, Faith's Journey and Ava Kasich. More artists will be announced

in the next few weeks, on the Southern Gospel Weekend website.



"Southern Gospel Weekend is a new event that I am very excited about," says Vonda Easley of Hope's Journey. "It is only 15 miles from my hometown, so I expect to see a lot

of friends there. Looking for this event to grow each year. Great things will take place at Southern Gospel Weekend so don't miss it!"



Jonathan Edwards of Faith's Journey and a sponsor of Southern Gospel Weekend, states: "I am looking forward to a great weekend of Gospel

music in Oxford. I can't wait to hear and see familiar names as well as get to know some new names in gospel music."

"I am so looking forward to Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama!" Ava Kasich, soloist, is also scheduled to sing at this event. "I am honored to be a part of this great event. This is one event you won't want to miss! Join myself and a host of other Gospel artists for an awesome time of lifting the name of Jesus in song! See you there!"





NEWSMAKERS

Hotels in the area are offering special event rates for the weekend, including the Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn and the Sleep Inn, all on Colonial Drive. Mention 'Southern Gospel Weekend' or 'SGW' to receive the special rates. The tickets for the event itself are free, making this a very affordable, fun weekend for the entire family.

Rob Patz of Coastal Media Group is thrilled to add Southern Gospel Weekend to the calendar of great musical events like Creekside Gospel Music Convention and the Ozark Gospel Music Convention. "Jonathan, Vonda, Donnie, Ava and I were talking about the need for a weekend event in Alabama that the Gospel music fans further south would want to travel to. Oxford was a great choice and we plan to use some of the ideas we've had in the other events, like the Midnight Prayer service. I am looking forward to a packed-out auditorium in Oxford in March!"



"We are very excited to be part of the first (of many to come) Southern Gospel Weekends on March 26, 27, and 28 in Oxford, Alabama," says Donnie Williamson of The Williamsons. "We have been privileged to participate in the Creekside Gospel Music Convention and the Ozark Gospel

Music Convention and what wonderful events these have been! We expect no less at the Southern Gospel Weekend."



Oxford, Alabama is a swiftly growing residential and commercial city. Oxford has implemented a number of improvements, including the construction of a new City Hall and Public Library, as well as the new renovation of the Oxford Civic Center and Sports Complex at Oxford lake, which is where the "Southern Gospel Weekend" will be held March 26-28, 2015.

Tickets for this event are FREE but must be reserved. Click on to the [Southern Gospel Weekend website](#) for more information.

side Gospel Music Convention and the Ozark Gospel

the williamsons



CHECK OUT OUR NEW CD TITLED "SAVED!"
CALL OUR OFFICES TODAY TO ORDER YOUR COPY!



www.williamsonsmusic.com

The *Pastors* Corner With Eric Bennet

Why Should We Have Music?

This month we welcome Eric Bennett from Triumphant Quartet. Eric was formerly a Pastor of a Baptist Church, so we felt he was well qualified for this Pastors Corner series on "The Importance of Music in the Life of a Christian." We trust you will enjoy his blog.

TD Jakes once said that anyone can praise the Lord, but true worship can only come from someone in whom God has done a supernatural work. (1 Peter 2:19,20: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an Holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the wonderful acts of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.)

I agree with Brother Jakes. True heart-felt worship can only come from someone who has experienced the hand of God working in their life; someone that God has delivered; someone that God has set free.

Joshua 4:19-24, tells the story of when the children of Israel set up 12 stones as a reminder of what God had done in their life. Most all lyrics in Southern Gospel music reflect on what God has done, either on the cross or something He's done in our personal life. Whether it is Chris Allman's, "I Could Never Praise Him Enough," or Bill Gaither's, "Jesus We Just Want To Thank You," which if I were you, I would do myself a favor and look this song up on Youtube and watch the Cathedrals video of this. It'll make you want to shout "Glory" as George would say! All these songs remind us of the goodness of God.

For me personally, I can sit and listen to songs like these and be reminded of all the things God has done for me. I am so very thankful for salvation,

my wife, family, my GRANDKIDS, house, job, health, friends, and on and on. We all have so much to thank God for.

I think music either helps you focus on God or takes your focus off God. The importance of listening to Christian music is that it brings our attention to the One who gave us the breath that we breathe, another good reason to thank Him!

If we could get our mind off who is singing and get it on WHO is being sung about, we could experience true worship. Some of my best times with The Lord are not at church, concerts, or singings. Some of my best times with the Lord are driving the bus at 3am in morning or in my truck, listening to Christian music. God shows up and here we go!

Music will never take the place of Bible Study and Prayer time with God. But, it can truly keep our minds on Him. (Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.)

The world has so much noise today. Why wouldn't a follower of Christ want to keep focused on Him all day long?! What better way to do that than listening to music that speaks of Him?

If you don't already, I would suggest that you start listening to Christian music either on radio or by CD. Listen to the lyrics. Be reminded of all the things God has done in your life. Be reminded of "I once was lost but now I'm found, I once was blind but now I see." If you do, I think you will experience true worship, you will keep focused on Him and I think your day will be so much brighter!



sgmradio.com

This space could be yours!

contact Rob Patz via email at
rob@sgnscoops.com

Follow us on [twitter](#)
[@sgnscoops](#)

Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/sgnscoops

FINDING HOPE

By Dr. Jeff Steele



My subject this month is from Psalm 121 and it's "How to Find Hope in a World That Is Hopeless." In verse one of Psalm 121 we see that if we are going to find hope we must LIFT UP OUR HEADS! "I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help. My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." There is no hope in looking down. There is only help and hope in the Lord!

Folks I learned it the hard way: any idiot can tell you when everything is wrong. It takes a born again, Spirit filled, Bible believing, blood washed, on their way to Heaven and eyes on the prize Christian to survey the situation and look up with hope for the future. No wonder people are upset at their government. A lot of us are disappointed in ourselves!

Well, the simple truth is that we can only be upset and disappointed in what we thought was going to help us and we can't help ourselves and we (as believers) should have never been looking to the government for our help because our help comes from the Lord!

A lot of people have reduced our Christianity to a religion of *do's and don'ts*. If I do this God will be happy with me. If I don't do that then God will be happy with me. Hey, there is nothing – NOTHING - you can do in your own strength that will ever impress God. The truth is that we think we can help ourselves or that someone - the government or whoever - is going to help us, and only God can do that. Our help comes from the Lord! Any time we are disappointed in somebody or something it is because we were depending on them for something they couldn't do anyway: HELP us.

Psalm 121 also tells us that our God is awake. Verse 3 says it, verse 4 says it; our God does not slumber nor sleep. In 1989, He was awake when my father passed away. I know He was awake because I was talking to Him and He was listening to me. He was awake when President Obama was elected to office. He was awake when the President took the oath of office. He was awake when healthcare legislation passed.

You're single and don't like it but God is awake. You have received bad news from the doctor but God is awake and He will be your helper in the midnight! He will lead you to the right mate for life. Why? He's awake!

Six times in this Psalm it says: "He will keep you!" He will keep you because He is awake. Presidents, kings, dictators, preachers and potentates may all go to sleep for a while but our God never sleeps! While the healthcare bill (that many of you hate) was passing God was awake. I know He was awake because we had two to join and one was baptized at our church that Sunday! He wasn't feeling defeated and deciding to nap on Monday to recover from a bad weekend. I know He was awake because TWO were saved in my office Monday afternoon AFTER the healthcare legislation had passed! A young lady who was so shy that when she prayed to receive Jesus, I had to look up and watch her mouth move to make sure she was praying. That's okay because she didn't have to roust God out of a "long winter's nap" to get His attention. He was awake and as she received Him, He received her.

A young man with tears streaming down his face prayed to ask Christ into his heart and God didn't throw back the covers and with a disgusted look on His face kick His feet and reluctantly get out of bed. No...He was awake and heard the young man cry out for mercy and help and He helped him with salvation that only He could give!

Do all the politics you want to do but please don't ever fear that our God can't help or that He is somehow asleep for He can help and He never slumbers nor sleeps!

As the old spiritual says...He's an on time God... yes He is! And I will look to the hill where my helper is and I will know...HE is awake

An old timer once told me "the Lord is awake and if He's awake...there's no sense BOTH of us being up...I'm going to bed!"

Photo Courtesy of *CQ*



ADORATION AGENCY

MINISTRY BOOKING



11TH HOUR



ADAMS CALL



BACK HOME



CHRISTIAN DAVIS



MEN OF MUSIC



MICHAEL FROST TRIO



WESTON & CHRISTY HINSON



THREE PARTS GRACE

WWW.ADORATIONAGENCY.COM
P.O. BOX 297 | HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37075
VOICE: 615-590-7453 FAX: 615-590-7825



SOUTHERN RAISED: GIVING GOD THEIR BEST

by Paige Givens

For the Reith family, giving their best to the Lord has resulted in a music ministry that touches the hearts of all who cross their paths. Whether someone is listening to their acoustic music that has a hint of a classical twist, hearing their beautiful harmonies, or simply talking with one of the siblings, the spirit of the Lord is evident in their humbleness, graciousness, and kindness. Lindsay, Sarah, Emily, and Matt Reith are committed to the Lord, to each other, and to bringing their music to the people. They are focused on giving God their best.

The Missouri-based family didn't always plan to travel and sing, but they did have a heart for ministry early on. Sarah tells their story. "We started singing seven and a half years ago. We actually did not grow up singing or harmonizing. We were classically trained musicians, so our first concert actually consisted of only instrumentals! When we started receiving invitations for more events our Mom looked at us and said, 'Ya'll are gonna have to learn to sing!' We sang our first song, 'Wayfaring Stranger,' in our second concert and we were nervous about that. We thought singing and playing instruments would be like patting your head and rubbing your stomach.

"The story goes back even farther than seven years ago though...When we were very young, our parents heard a message on the power and impact of a family ministering together. At this point in our young lives they began praying and asking God to show them

what we could do together as a family to minister for Him. Our parents never dreamed it would involve music! They thought maybe we could drive a van around and deliver meals, or something like that. When doors began to open with our music, it became apparent that this was the ministry God had in store. He had used all those years of classical music to prepare us for what He had in mind and to answer our parents' prayers."

Each sibling has a special part in the family band. Lindsay, 28, plays the bass, sings the low harmony, and does the emcee work for the band. Sarah, 26, plays the banjo, guitar and fiddle, and sings tenor and lead vocals. Emily Grace, 20, plays violin and mandolin, and sings lead and harmony vocals. Matt, referred to by his sisters as "Little Baby Brother," is 16 years old and plays guitar as well as singing lead and bass vocals.

Southern Raised has gained more attention from listeners with each new ministry opportunity. Some of their recent accomplishments include being a 2014 Top 5 Finalist for "Bluegrass Artist of the Year" at the Diamond Awards, being nominated in 2013 for Top 10 "New Mixed Group" and 2014 for the Top 5 "New Mixed Group" at the Singing News Fan Awards, and being nominated in 2013 and 2014 for the Top 5 New Artist of the Year at the Front Porch Fellowship Gospel Awards, as well as 31 SPBGMA Midwest Nominations.

With each new opportunity that God sends their way, the band has spent more and more time on the road. Lindsay recalls a particularly interesting road trip memory. "We had not had our bus very long and

Dad wasn't going to be able to be on this trip, so Mom was driving the bus. As you can imagine, Dad had lots of instructions regarding the bus as we set out on our journey. One was: 'Be careful on railroad tracks. Some have a high pitch to them and if not careful, the bus can get hung up.'



"As we traveled to our destination, we did have to cross a railroad track. Remembering Dad's words, Mom commented that the crossing looked a little steep. After assessing the situation, she thought it would be ok to proceed across the tracks. We crossed with no problem. Upon leaving our concert late that night, mom took a wrong turn after crossing the railroad tracks. She made an immediate left into a small convenience store to turn around. This was directly across from the railroad track (that is important to this story). I also forgot to mention that we were pulling a 10 ft. cargo trailer



behind the bus. In this VERY, VERY small parking lot was a light pole.

"Mom had to pull between the light pole and the store, which was only about 15 feet of room. She made one pull and had to back up, then was going to make another try. Matt was out of the bus helping her back up. She thought she had enough room, so she kept going. Matt frantically comes running up to the window. With no color left in his face, he asks Mom to get out quickly and come look! Mom gets out and takes a look and comes back in the bus with no color left in her face! I have never seen Mom look like that before! There was a transformer on that light pole that was just out of her



vision and the bus is now lodged underneath the transformer! Matt told Mom to cut her wheels and slowly, VERY SLOWLY, back up. Well, PRAISE BE TO GOD, the bus came right off smooth as butter!

“Well, I forgot to mention that just before we crossed the tracks, Sarah had gone into the back to change. She had no idea any of this was going on. The last thing she knew, we were about to cross the tracks and now we were stopped. Well, of course a train was



now coming! We were sitting just across from the tracks, so it sounded like the train was coming right at us. Hearing the loud horn, Sarah came flying out of the back! Her face was totally white! She thought we had gotten hung up on the track and were about to get on the Glory Train! That was definitely one of our most memorable road trips!”

Southern Raised has released their sixth album, which is entitled *Make A Difference*. Sarah says, “It was recorded at Mountainside Audio Labs and engineered by Grammy Award winner Bil VornDick. It was produced by Kevin Williams of the Gaither Vocal Band. It was such a joy and honor to work with both Kevin and

Bil. We are very excited about this new CD!”

Lindsay shares about two particularly meaningful original songs on the CD. “One day I was reading Psalm 37:25, ‘I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.’ This verse really jumped out at me! I began to ponder at what the Psalmist was trying to convey to Christians for ages to come. He was saying, ‘I have lived a long time and seen a lot of things, but I have never seen God leave me, I have never seen Him forsake me and I have never seen Him not provide for my needs!’ What a precious promise to hold onto as a Christian! My mind then went to us as mortal humans; we are such visual people. We mark milestones in our lives by things we have seen. Yet, this verse talks about the things we will never see being one of the most precious things. From this the Lord gave us ‘Things I’ve Never Seen.’

“‘Ravens Still Fly’ takes us back to an Old Testament story. We find Elijah at one point in his life utterly alone, in a desert by the Brook Cherith. Elijah was broken and in despair, feeling that the world was against him. God performed a miracle in his life and sent ravens down to provide his every need. This lifted Elijah’s spirit and gave hope. We want this song to encourage people that no matter how dark the valley seems, how alone you feel or how broken your heart is, God is bigger! He is the same God that performed a miracle in Elijah’s life and this is your God! Take heart, God still works miracles. Hope is not gone. ‘Ravens Still Fly!’

“God has also given Matt the gift of composing instrumental tunes. He recorded his latest called ‘River of Rest’ on our new project. It has a Classical/Celtic feel to it!”

Southern Raised is truly a special band. Maybe it’s because of their group’s motto, which is “God deserves the best.” As Sarah says, “This is something that we remind ourselves of often. It always keeps us in the mindset to strive to do our very best for Him! We want to be the absolute best we can be in order to bring glory and honor to The One who gave the gift of music and all good gifts!”

You can find more information on Southern Raised, their schedule, and their products at www.southernraisedband.com. Follow them on Facebook www.facebook.com/southernraisedband, Twitter @SouthernRaisedB, and Instagram @southernraisedband.

Photography courtesy of Alisia K Photography

The Premier Voice Of Southern
Gospel Music & Great Ministry
In the Ft. Worth/Dallas Area.

1630am

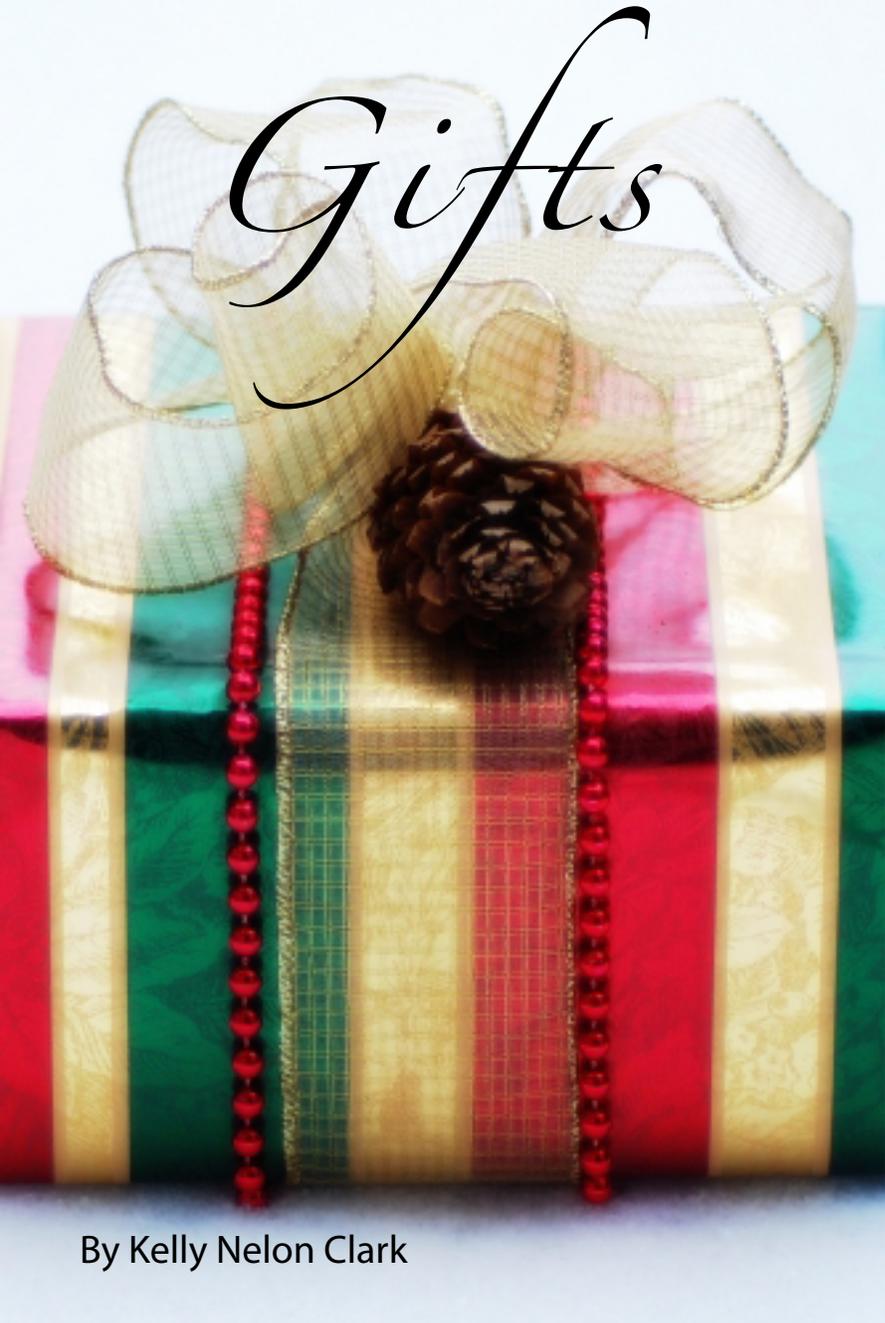
Hope KKGGM Radio

Listen live in the Ft. Worth - Dallas area or streaming on
the World Wide Web at www.kkgmam.com.

HOPE 1630

Your Radio Station For Hope

Give us a listen you will love us!



Gifts

By Kelly Nelon Clark

What a week.... A very unusual week. Going from the hospital to hospice with Aunt Sue moving from responding to us to not responding. I know some of you may think, well, she was just an aunt; but Sue was more than that to us. She spent every Thanksgiving and every Christmas with us. She actually lived with us for many years and lived with me personally for 10 years. She was like a second mother to us.

I was so worried that my family would not make it back before she passed and Autumn even commented, "Well maybe she will make it until we get home." Knowing that the unsaved nurse told me that she only had a few hours, I doubted Autumn would see her alive. But she kept on living actually four more days.

The group was in Texas and it was a long 14-hour drive, but Aunt Sue was hanging on. I got

up Monday morning not knowing if Sue would still be here and called and they said she was about the same. The night prior Todd and I had told her it was okay and that she could go on to Heaven, that we would be okay. She always felt like she had to take care of us.

Sunday night's nurse was a Christian and as we talked, she shared some of her experiences even with her own mother. She asked if there was anyone who has not been there yet, and I told her of my children and my niece. She said, "Well, it looks like she is waiting for someone." I said, "They will be here tomorrow, but it may be too late." She said, "If I were a betting person, I would say she will be here." She was right!

On Monday, I spoke with the day nurse when I got there and I said, "I think we have decided to remove the oxygen and let her go on." It was a decision that I labored over. My cousins were all so kind as to give Todd and I the choice to do it or not. I honestly did not want to do it. I asked everyone their opinion. I prayed all day that God would just take her so we didn't have to do it but it looked like that she would be stuck in that in-between state.

I think the family arrived at 5:10pm and I began to tell Sue who all was in the room and call out their names. I said, "We are all here to see you, Sue." We all gathered around her bedside and everyone told her how much they loved her. We began to sing,

"'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus," and finished with "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be."

Right as we began to finish Sue began to take faster breaths. Almost as if she were seeing something we could not see. No oxygen had been removed; it was all the same. All of a sudden she took one long breath and that was it. It was 5:35 pm. You could almost see and feel her spirit leave her body. I began to pray and thank God with all of our children watching and thank Him for His faithfulness that we never had to make any decisions. It was the most peaceful thing I have ever witnessed and I'm so glad the kids saw the handiwork of God and His great compassion.

As we were singing, a lady popped into the room (not knowing what was going on) and began to say, "Please come, please come and sing for us." I didn't hear or see it but my sister-in-law Rhonda told me she had asked. For just a moment I thought to my-

self, "I share my life with the world and can't we just have one minute with our own family and grieve?"

Then God reminded me that this is a gift we have been given and we can't pick and choose the time to share it. I told the nurse to tell them if they wanted us, we would come and sing. We did, and it was a Spanish mother on her deathbed. We sang, "Since Jesus Passed By."

I looked over and the woman next to me had her arms in the air and was saying, "Gracias, gracias." We finished the song, they thanked us and we left the room. Ten minutes later she went to be with Jesus. God allowed us to help usher her into Heaven.

What an awesome gift to be given. I'm sad and I'm joyful at the same time. This makes me think of my mom and my dad and how much I miss them. Our family is shrinking but I'm joyful and thankful that He was so compassionate to us that day and even continues to use us in some dark times.

So the nurses there had two patients pass on in a matter of an hour. They were emotionally exhausted but they poured into this family's life and I am so grateful. One nurse said to all of us that we just

have to have faith and believe that God will always be faithful. I said I didn't believe I had enough faith to believe today and she said, "That's all it takes, just a little." God heard and He answered. She encouraged the kids to stay close to God.

I think we experienced a miracle of grace and mercy today. I'm truly thankful! To all of you reading this, we all have a gift. It doesn't have to be music. It may be giving or caring for children. It could possibly be sharing meals for someone. Maybe you are called to be a preacher. All I know is that God could have given your gift to anyone else but He chose you! Use your gift for Him today!

Photo Courtesy of mysza831



Advertising Rate Sheet

Magazine Advertising

Full Page \$1000

3/4 Page \$750

Half Page \$500

Quarter Page \$250

1/8 Page \$150

Website Advertising

Cross Banner \$250

Tall Side Banner \$125

Small Side Banner \$100

All prices are per month lower prices avail on
6 and 12 month contracts



What America wants to know about

Heather Ruppe

By Rob Patz

The Ruppes have long been the epitome of female trios in Gospel Music, beginning in 1975, through personnel changes and group name changes. Heather, Kim and Valerie have sung with their mother and also as Lord Song, always bringing a touch of Inspirational and Contemporary to their Southern harmonies.

In the summer of 2014, the siblings who were then traveling as the female Southern Gospel trio, *Sisters*, announced to the Southern world that they would be making a ‘dramatic shift’ with their new album *Atmosphere*.

I caught up with Heather Ruppe to find out about the Sisters and their move to a more mainstream sound, as well as what their goals, influences and how well they really get along.

RP: Heather, please tell us about your transition from Southern Gospel to Inspirational music. What was it that made you and your sisters switch to a more contemporary format?

HR: Well, first of all, Sisters have never wanted to have a stereotype on our sound, like Southern or Contemporary. Just Gospel music. We’ve always been on the more Inspirational side of things. But the new CD *Atmosphere* was done because most of the churches/

venues we were singing for were on the contemporary side of things. And we were asked last year to lead worship in most of the women’s events that we did. So we needed this to help with what we have already been doing! We will never quit singing songs like “Under His Wings” and “I’m Gonna Make It.” Those songs cross all genres.

RP: Can you tell us about ‘Atmosphere’ and who worked with you on this project? What is your favorite song on this album?

HR: *Atmosphere* is a collection of some older worship music along with some new worship songs and a few brand-new original songs. Valerie’s husband, Jeremy Medkiff, produced this for us. He is incredibly talented not only as a musician but also as a worship leader for years at a church in Tennessee. We trusted him to know where to take this recording. He did an outstanding job. “You Alone” is our favorite. Wait; “Crown Him.” No, “When I Speak Your Name.” But then there’s..... Sorry can’t name just one!

RP: You have traveled with family your whole life. Have you ever wanted to do just solo work?

HR: No! I'm that low voice that *Sisters* need, but never considered myself a soloist. But I have always wanted to sing bass!

RP: *Sisters can be really close, and at times TOO close. Can you tell us one quirk about each of you that can be a source of laughter or teasing?*



HR: Well, we all get along great! Best friends. Don't know about teasing, but we definitely have pet peeves. No chomping on ice, or smacking! Kim is the bossy *Sister* of course. She's the oldest. She's mothering and is an *in charge* kind of girl! Valerie is the typical youngest sister! A little spoiled, but we call her the 911 girl. She's a panicker for sure. Well and then there's me, the typical middle child, content by myself, very calm and a peacemaker/keeper! I'm pretty much the perfect sister - ha! Don't know what I would do without my sisters! Love them dearly!

RP: *I have to comment on your 'Atmosphere' cover, which is just gorgeous. You look like you are all ready to walk the red carpet. What is your most favorite thing to wear?*

HR: Thank you! Those pics were so much fun - all dressed up! But our most favorite thing to wear on stage would be dressy clothes, like a beautiful blouse with a skirt or dress pants and always high heels. But as soon as we are done, it's jeans, t-shirts and flats! Or sweats!

RP: *When the three of you really want to go have fun, what do you like to do together?*

HR: Our fun usually involves eating and shopping of course! But if we get to a church early to set up and no one else is around we do really silly videos, usually all on the instruments. We crack ourselves up.

RP: *Who has been your greatest musical influence? Why?*

HR: Our mother. She is super talented and coached us from a very young age. Outside of family, The Rambos were all we listened to growing up! Their style of harmony is what we were drawn to!

RP: *Who has been your greatest spiritual influence? Why?*

HR: Our mother and grandmother. They are truly women of God that have never wavered in their faith, always taught by example and are very Godly, anointed women!

RP: *What is your goal as Sisters?*

HR: Our goal is to always be in the center of God's will, to never lose our anointing and to always be able to sing together as *Sisters*! We are working on doing our own women's events. We always want our music to make a difference in people's lives. And of course it's always our goal to put out great music and reach souls for Christ!



RP: *If you could go on stage one last time and only sing one song, what would that be and why?*

HR: That's a very hard question. But probably, "Under His Wings." Just read the lyrics and you'll understand why.

Under His Wings

V1

My way was filled with
danger, I felt alone
The enemy had singled
me out to do me wrong
And when he drew near,
my heart filled with fear
Then I heard someone
dear calling me to his side
And I ran under His
wings, and there He cov-
ered me
And now I can sing
The enemy still looks for
me, but what he can't see
Is that I'm under my
Lord's wings, under His
wings

V2

Thunder rolled, dark
clouds hung low, I was
out
In a storm, shivering in
the coldness there, no
safe
Retreat from harm, then
there blew strong winds
Would this be my end?
Then I heard my Friend
calling
Me to His side, and I ran
under His wings and there
He covered me and now I
can sing
The storm still rages, but
in the Rock of Ages I'm
resting
Warmly, here under My
Lord's wings, under His
wings

V3

Nighttime came, the
shadows fell, I could not
Find my way, the terrors
of the night took hold
How I yearned for break

of day, then He saw my
plight
And out in the night
He shined His light and
called me to
His side, and I ran under
His wings, and there He
covered me
And now I can sing
And the night's still there
but why should I care,
when
I'm made aware that I'm
under my Lord's wings
Under His wings, and
there He covers me and
now I
Can sing,

C

Under His wings, Under
His wings, who from His
love
Can sever, Under His
wings, my soul shall
abide
Safely abide, forever,
Amen.
- By Tomlin, Wilma.
The Ruppes, "Under His
Wings." Make Us One.
Album. Spring House/
Spring Hill Music. 1998



Thanks Heather for your interesting responses and candor. I hope our readers have enjoyed getting to know you and your Sisters a little better. For more information on Sisters, please visit sistersmusic.org



2014

Relax, Refresh, Rejuvenate TOUR



MICHELLE_WALDROUP@HOTMAIL.COM

JANUARY

20 - 25 VICTORY VOYAGE

FEBRUARY

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

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

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

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

JULY

2 - 5 GATLINBURG GATHERING -GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER

AUGUST

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

TOY AIRPLANES FOR *Christmas*

By Scott Rhoades



It was one of the most memorable holidays of my childhood. To this day I still recall lying on the living room floor under the shadow of our Christmas tree pondering the events of that particular holiday celebration. It was Christmas night and a warm quietness had filled our home. My father headed off to bed in preparation for his return to work the following day, my mother was busy clearing and cleaning the refrigerator in preparation to store the leftovers from our dinner at my grandparents' earlier in the day, and my sister was fast asleep on the puffy, brown sofa.

I turned off the lamps to enjoy the faint glow of the lights emanating from the tree. "Boy, it's a beauty," I thought to myself. A real, live, Douglas Fir fresh from Keilman's Tree Farm was a tradition at our house – and not only did our tradition support the local grower – it was a holiday experience. Music poured softly from the stereo as the 33½ LP vinyl record revolved around and around giving way to the sometimes crackling voices of the classic holiday singers – Crosby, Como, Sinatra, Clooney, Williams, Ives, Mathis, and more. It was as though they serenaded the twinkle of lights that danced across the ornaments, the gifts and packages under the tree, and the sparkle that came from the pride and joy of this year's wish list – two red and silver Hubble P-40 Warhawk airplanes that were perched for takeoff. It couldn't get much better than this!

Nearly two months earlier, my friends and I – Jerry and Todd Bond, Josh Spidell, and Samantha "Sam" Williams – sat underneath the large pear tree in my yard scheming our next great adventure. It had only been a few weeks since we formed our exclusive club, but we had already experienced more fun and excitement than we had imagined was possible. We were all about the same age, eight to 10 years old, and we all had grown up in the same neighborhood of the small coal-mining town of Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania. While the "big era" of coal had come and gone in our community, Bethlehem Steel continued to operate a mine on the other side of the valley and most of the people continued to work in the mines or the steel mill

in the nearby city of Johnstown. We all had family members who worked for one or the other, or in some instances, both. The "big era" of coal brought diversity to our little niche along the Blacklick Creek. There were families from a multitude of various ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds – all descendants of those who made the pilgrimage to find work, income, food, housing, and a better way of life. Our families were no different.

It was a cool October day as we lay under the tree in a huge pile of dried brown and yellow leaves and looked skyward. Off in the distance we caught sight of a small airplane as it took off from the nearby airport in Ebensburg. "Wouldn't it be cool to fly?" I said. "Sure would!" said Josh. Jerry Bond pushed upward, propping himself up on both elbows. "I have a cool idea!" he exclaimed. "What if we formed our own flight squadron as part of the club?" "But we don't have airplanes, goofball," said Sam. "That's no problem," I reasoned. "We could use our bikes and put wooden boards across the handlebars for our wings!" "Yeah," chimed in Todd, "and we could patrol the neighborhood and defend it from our enemies!" The excitement was building as our brains went into overdrive. "You know what would be really cool?" asked Josh. We all held our breath and waited as if an epiphany was about to erupt. "What if we all had one of those airplanes in the display window down at Commons Hardware?" A collective sigh escaped our lips as if, in agreement, we gave a unanimous stamp of approval. "Why not put it on our Christmas lists?" piped Sam, and with that, we set off with even bigger plans for the club.

For weeks we made it a point to stroll down Roberts Street just to stop and look in the hardware store window. We ran to the mailbox and consumed the Christmas catalogs from JCPenney, Sears, and Montgomery Wards to scout out the competition and pricing. We made wish lists, visited Santa at the Richland Mall, and made polite conversation with our parents. The airplane was the thing!

On Christmas morning, I leaped from my bed and ran down the stairs. My eyes widened with excitement at the sight of the shiny new airplane setting under the tree.

The Hubley P-40 Warhawk was sleek and sporty with its red wings, silver propeller and fuselage, retractable landing gear, and United States Army Air Corp insignias. I picked it up and begin to “fly” it around the house, imagining I was hometown hero and World War II Flying Ace, Boyd “Buzz” Wagner and test pilot Chuck Yeager. Yep, our club would be the coolest! Eventually, I got back to opening more gifts and imagine my surprise when I peered into a box I had received from my grandparents – another, identical Hubley P-40 Warhawk! Apparently Santa and Grandma didn’t exchange secrets, because here I was with two, identical airplanes. I heard my mother whisper “oops” as I turned to show them, holding one plane in each hand. “Just don’t say anything to Grandma,” my mother said. “We can exchange the other for something else.” “Something else, what do you mean something else?” I appealed. “This is GREAT!!!!”

By late afternoon we had returned from Christmas dinner at my grandparents’ house. I begged my mother to let me run over to Sam’s house to see if she got her airplane. Sam was beaming when she opened the door, Hubley P-40 Warhawk in hand. “I talked to the guys earlier on the phone,” she said smiling. “Everyone got their airplanes!” “Wow!” I said. “I can’t wait until tomorrow!” “Me either!” cried Sam. “It’s going to be great!” I said good night, closed the door, and looked up and down the street. It was a typical winter day in west-central Pennsylvania. Snow had fallen during the afternoon and was continuing to build another fresh covering. Tomorrow would be a perfect day for sledding!

Just then I caught sight of a figure coming down the street, pulling a sled. At first I couldn’t make out who it was because darkness had begun to fall, but as he came closer I realized it was Terry Blackburn, another neighborhood kid, and his little sister, Shelly. “Hi Terry, Merry Christmas!” I said. Terry looked up, but didn’t say anything. Thinking he didn’t hear me, I walked over towards the middle of the street and said it again. “Hey Terry, did you get anything great for Christmas?” Terry paused, looked up, and said, “We got this sled.” I looked down. It was obvious the sled wasn’t new. It was quite rusted and weathered. “Did you get anything else?” I asked. “No,” Terry replied. “We don’t have any money.”

Just then a loud, booming voice yelled from down the street. “Terry, Shelly, get up here now!” It was Mr. Blackburn, Terry’s and Shelly’s dad. I had seen and heard Mr. Blackburn before, but only from a distance. He wasn’t a kind man. Rumor among the neighborhood children was that he was a mean drunk who beat his wife and kids. When the kids in the neighborhood would see Terry, we would always invite him to ride bikes, play ball, and join in other activities, but he always said he wasn’t allowed. On occasion, we’d talk him into joining us, but his dad

would jump in the old beat-up pickup truck, track him down, and make him go home. “Gotta go,” said Terry, and with that he headed up the street. “See you later Terry,” I whispered.

Later that evening, as I lay on the floor congratulating myself on my good fortune, I couldn’t get Terry Blackburn out of my mind. As the needle on the record player moved to the last song on the record, my heart grew heavy and tears filled my eyes as Bing Crosby began to sing.....

*“It’s not the glow you feel when snow appears
It’s not the Christmas card you’ve sent for years
Not the joyful sound when sleigh bells ring
Or the merry songs children sing
The little gift you send on Christmas day
Will not bring back the friend you’ve turned away
So may I suggest, the secret of Christmas
Is not the things you do at Christmas time
But the Christmas things you do all year
through”*¹

I looked over at the two shiny red and silver P-40 Warhawks, but didn’t touch them. Just then my mother slipped into the living room and sat down beside me on the floor. She began to rub my back – something she had done ever since I could remember, and while it made me tired, it brought a sense of comfort. “Did you have a nice Christmas?” she asked. “Yeah,” I replied softly. “You’d really like to fly someday, wouldn’t you?” she inquired. I nodded my head in silence. “You know, sometimes having a big dream means that we share it with other people and help them along too,” she exhorted. “Perhaps you got two planes for a reason.”

It’s been nearly 40 years since that Christmas night. The old neighborhood is relatively silent. Families have come and gone. Our club members are parents and grandparents. I don’t know what became of our P-40 Warhawks, but I do know what happened to at least one of them. Our childhood dreams have evolved and changed, but our wish for peace and goodwill will be forever at the top of our lists. I still hear the echo of my mother’s words and I share them with you this Christmas: Share your God-given dreams, take others along for the journey, and soar to the full potential for which you have been created!

P.S. Yes, I got to fly – and so did Terry Blackburn.

©Copyright 2014 Scott Rhoades. Used with permission.

1. Bing Crosby, “The Secret Of Christmas”, 1959, The Secret Of Christmas (single), Columbia Records, 1959, www.lyricsmania.com, web, November 22, 2014

Photo Courtesy of Theodore Scott



Faith's Journey



Visit www.FaithsJourneyTrio.com

Christmas with Bryan and Yvonne Hutson

By Dean Adkins



For most Southern Gospel artists, Christmas is a time of restoration and a chance to take some time off the road and enjoy their family. Bryan Hutson also took that same approach for a number of years. In the past few years, however, he has used that time to develop a family-oriented program to minister to churches in a multi-state area. Bryan was kind enough to answer my questions regarding his Christmas ministry.

DA: Why did you decide to do Christmas concerts?

BH: I decided to do Christmas concerts to take a break from my normal routine of group presentations (Soul'd Out and Kingsmen) to focus a few weeks on our (Yvonne and myself) ministry.

DA: When did you begin doing this?

BH: I actually began doing Christmas solo dates during my first tenure with the Kingsmen in 1996. I was invited to take part in a *Toys for Tots Benefit* program in southern Indiana (where I'm from) and it so much fun, that I decided to make my Christmas concerts a part of my holiday tradition. Now, since Yvonne and I have launched "Rescue Me Ministries", we are incorporating our ministry focus into our programs.

DA: What is a typical Christmas concert?

BH: That's the thing, we are able to adapt to any

type of program. If the pastor/promoter wants strictly Christmas music, or a mixture of Christmas with Soul'd Out/Kingsmen music or music and testimony, we can do that. One service/concert, we'll actually be working with the church's praise team. So we change to fit the situation.

DA: Have you changed your presentation or your approach to these over the years?

BH: We've changed a little. Our focus has always been pointing people to the Babe in the manger that became our Savior. We have just added our personal testimonies to the programs.

DA: How much preparation goes into the program and when do you start preparing?

BH: We begin a few weeks out in 're-learning' those Christmas songs that we only sing a few weeks of the year. (The older I get, the harder it is to remember words!) We take our programs very seriously.

DA: What is your primary goal for these?

BH: To bring a little Christmas cheer to the folks that support our ministry. I have heard that the holiday season is a very depressing time for a lot of people. We want to encourage the family, challenge the moms and dads to be the parents that God created



them to be and lift up the name of Jesus.

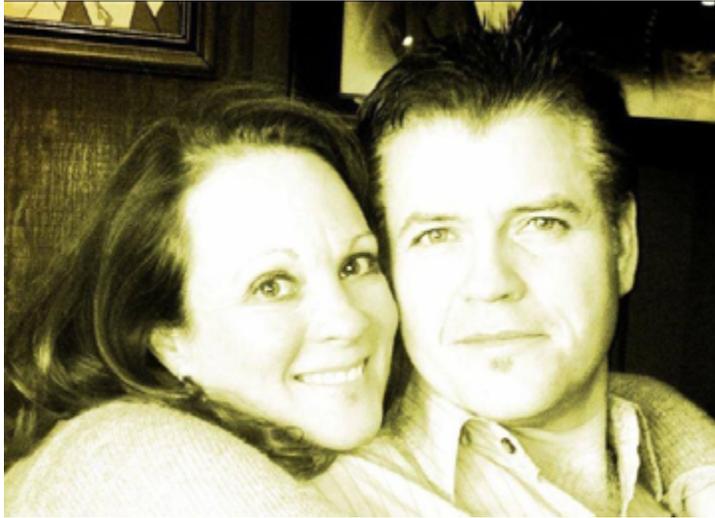
DA: What is a typical Christmas at the Hutson household?

BH: We began a tradition of attending Christmas Eve service together. It is such a blessing to stand and sing songs about the birth of our King on Christmas Eve. We light candles in memory of those we've lost and will read the Christmas story before we go to bed.

DA: What was Christmas like when you were growing up?

BH: Christmas for me (Bryan) was hard. Dad began battling health problems so money for presents was tight. There were never a lot of gifts, but plenty of love. We'd all gather at my grandparents' house on Christmas Eve and eat dinner and have fellowship. In fact, that's still a tradition at Grandma's house. Last year, they counted 48 people in a VERY small house! Yvonne and I go over Christmas Day!

Bryan adds, "If anyone would like to purchase our NEW Christmas CD, they can write us at rescueministries988@gmail.com or search "Rescue Me Ministries" or "Friends of Bryan Hutson" on Facebook. We pray that everyone will have a blessed Christmas and strive to live for Christ every day!"



I have attended Bryan and Yvonne's Christmas program and can attest that it is uplifting and inspiring.



All Southern Gospel Radio

SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE.

Looking for the tight harmonies and beautiful melodies of the latest Southern Gospel hits? Listen at work, on your iPhone or Android, in your car or at home. Just search for All Southern Gospel Radio or come to our website. **We Are Southern Gospel!**

▶ Listen Online 24/7 www.allsoutherngospel.net

The Griffins

...Music With A Mission



www.thegriffinonline.com



YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Phillip Collingsworth

BY ERIN STEVENS

For those of you who remember, it was almost two years ago that the first ‘Younger Perspective’ was published. What a treat for me to start off by interviewing the youngest of the Collingsworths, Miss Olivia. Why not take a moment out of your Christmas shopping to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at another Collingsworth kid: Phillip, the 20-year-old newlywed who is loving life with his wife, Sharlenae, as they travel across the world with the whole Collingsworth clan. Phillip, it’s all yours...

Erin: While growing up in a musical home, at what point did you personally feel the call to ministry?

Phillip: When I was almost 18, I heard my grandfather preach a sermon on knowing God’s will in your life. Through the message, God gave me a vision of what my future could be like if I followed His will. The ‘vision’ then adapted into the Holy Spirit saying as clear as a bell, ‘Keep doing what you’re doing.’ Until I have an encounter like this again that tells me to do something else, this is where I’ll be. It’s great to know you’re in God’s will!

Erin: What are some Collingsworth Christmas traditions you’re looking forward to this season?

Phillip: The first one that always comes to mind is the tradition of caroling at one of our local hospitals in Cincinnati on Christmas Eve. And now that I’m married and am the only one of my siblings that will be hanging onto the Collingsworth name, Sharlenae and I are excited to start some of our own as the years pass.

Erin: Each night, what song touches you the most every time you step up to sing?

Phillip: ‘Healing In His Hands’ or ‘The Love of God.’ These both contain very strong, touching lyrics that not only speak

to the audience, but myself as well.

Erin: (The must-ask question especially this time of year!) What is your favorite holiday dish?

Phillip: At Christmastime, keep the cookies away from me or they will be gone.

Erin: Along with your family’s strong influence, who have been some of your biggest musical inspirations?



Phillip: David Phelps, Newsong and Larnelle Harris have been big inspirations to me in the Christian field. In the secular field, Michael Bublé, the late Michael Johns, IL Volo, Yanni, and many others. Needless to say, my iPhone is chock full of music.

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

Phillip: Someone once said they were praying for me because of my facial hair.

Erin: From your perspective, describe the experience of filming Majestic?

Phillip: I appear about three times, as opposed to usually being on for 100% of the concert. Instead of constantly being on stage, it was enjoyable to watch the program from a relaxing perspective for a change.

Erin: How would you describe the joy of singing beside your wife, surrounded by your family, night after night?

Phillip: There's only one way I can describe it, and that is: I am a blessed man to have a wife who supports what I am called to do and who is able to do it with me. It's also a blessing to have done this for so long with my parents and siblings.

Erin: In the midst of the hustle and bustle on every corner, what does Christmas mean to you?

Phillip: To me, Christmas is one of the greatest times of the year. It's a chance to come together with family and friends to celebrate our Savior's birth. It is a wonderful time to show the love of Christ to someone else, just like the love God showed by sending His only Son.

While you're in the midst of busily wrapping presents, take every opportunity you can to remember why we celebrate this season, and why we gather together at this time of year: to worship the Prince of Peace. His gift didn't stop at the manger; He gave His life so that we could live forever. Why should our joy cease after December 25th? Let's keep that celebratory spirit all year round! And just as holiday music will be heard coming from Phillip and Shar's new home this year, may the joyous songs of the season ring out in your house as well. Merry Christmas from your Younger Perspective writer! Until the New Year...

And that's my take on it.

Find out more about Phillip and the whole Collingsworth Family at www.thecollingsworthfamily.com



New Project Coming Soon!

"We don't ever want to water down the Gospel. We are a Jesus-Lovin' Bible-believin', Gospel preachin' singing family on a mission to win souls for Christ and to uplift fellow Believers through original songs, gospel classics, and hymns of the church."

-TERRY, MELISSA, TAYLOR, BRETT, AND BAYLOR WRIGHT

BOOKINGS: 785-289-8905
INFO@THEWRIGHTSMINISTRIES.COM

Find our album
"Pray Until Something Happens"
at these & other digital outlets:



  WWW.THEWRIGHTSMINISTRIES.COM

SHARRON KAY KING

I WOULD BE HONORED TO BE A
PART OF YOUR NEXT CHURCH
EVENT OR SPECIAL SERVICE.
I AM AVAILABLE FOR:

CONCERTS

LADIES BANQUETS

CONFERENCES, REVIVAL

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
SCHEDULING, PLEASE CALL MY
OFFICE.

765-993-6986



WWW SHARRONKAYKING COM

Home For Christmas

By Lynn Mills



Colored lights line the roof outside. In front of the living room window the silhouette of a pine tree fills the area with its bristly branches weighed down by ornaments and adorned with glittery garland. But it is what's underneath the tree that captures the attention of the youngsters in the house, and if we'll be a bit honest, the festive wrapping paper that conceals the gifts with a parent's name on the tag, tugs at the minds of that generation as well. In the kitchen, women bustle around preparing a meal, the men are in the sitting room and the children are at play. All the while, the radio cranks out the tune, *"I'll be home for Christmas!"*

If only that were the case.

Christmas has been defined through the ages as time spent with family and friends in the comfort of home, yet, plans can be rapidly changed by the circumstances life throws at us. A family falls on hard times and can't afford presents for the kids. Another family struggles to put a meal on the table. Homes are broken. The elderly are placed in permanent care facilities and spend the rest of their days in loneliness. Or, an unfortunate accident occurs and the holidays are spent in the hospital. Flights are cancelled - families traveling to parents or grandparents for Christmas are trapped in

airports due to storms and that keeps them from reaching "home" for December 25th. Speaking of storms, really, any type of trial and heartache can keep a person or family from celebrating the holiday with those they love. Last but not least, some simply have no place to call home.

How strange it is that one day can hold such meaning and longing for one place and so few experience it. How sad it is that the heart's deepest longing cannot be satisfied for just one day! Is there no cure? Is there no hope?

"Of course there is hope," you say, "Christmas is all about hope!" But where is it? Is it in the anticipation of that long awaited raise at work? Is it in a mild winter where flights are cancellation free? A healed relationship? Praying that next year there's more room in the shelter? Where is hope?

Maybe a better question would be, "What is hope?"

If we could travel back in time to the days of Herod's rule, we would most likely find the Hebrew nation asking those same questions. Where is it? What is it? After 400 years of silence from the Almighty, they could not be blamed for asking, could they?

The Magi were searching it out in their scrolls, looking for the promise of His coming. The Shepherds looked after their lambs day after day, year after year, wondering if there would ever be something so pure that it could take the place of their lamb's innocent blood. Rid the world from the guilt of sin.

What happened? A star appeared to the ones who were looking. Angels spoke to the ones who could distinguish pure from the impure. Scholars and shepherds. The great and the poor. What did they find? Hope.

“And they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” - Matthew 1:23

Hope was never meant to be found in something that could be worn out, perish or leave us. Hope came to us in form of a person on the first Christmas night so home could always be wherever we are. As the apostle wrote: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.”(Ephesians 3:17).

The wise men found Him, as did the shepherds. They didn't find Him because they were either rich or poor...they found Him because they were looking for Him. How simple the thought! What if hope could be found by simply looking for it in the person of Jesus Christ? When we reach the bottom line, isn't that what

Christmas is all about? Why can't everyone who has found Him celebrate as if they were home for Christmas whether they sit in an airport, nursing home or homeless shelter? They can. The Babe in the manger paved the way for everyone to have a true home at Christmas, and that home is found in Himself.

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is name that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.” - Ephesians 3:14-16

Photo Courtesy of desi.italy



Gospel Music's Newest & Favorite Duet

Campbell & Rowley



New Covenant



(304) 228-3363
117 Ludlow Lane
Daniels, WV 25832



www.newcovenantmusic.com

Christmas Memories

Compiled By Lorraine Walker



and white or blue and white, it was *green and white*. Nobody that I knew had a green one, making it even more special. I did learn later that Santa had gotten a good discount on this one because of the color, but I know it was just waiting for me! I woke up that Christmas morning very, very, very early...as always. I saw that beautiful *form* sitting there in the dark room. I just couldn't help myself, I got that bike out the door and rode it all over the property (our farm was wide open) before daylight - and it didn't even have a light. I found out later that Santa had had to be creative in hiding away that bike...it found a temporary home in the hayloft, Santa explained through my Daddy. To this day, that bike is hung on the wall of Daddy's shop on that farm, and Santa Daddy has been in Heaven over 30 years. When I'm down on the farm, I have to visit that memory often." – Ann Downing www.anndowning.com



"I will never forget when I was about five years old and Santa Claus actually came to our house! He delivered a red pedal car. I'm sure there were other presents but I don't have a clue what they were. I became a bit nervous when he asked me if I had been a 'good little boy' because I knew there were sev-

eral areas in which I had failed. I won't mention them here. But I got the shiny pedal car in spite of my misdeeds. I also remember looking out our window and seeing our neighbor ironing a big red suit through the window next door prior to Santa's arrival. Although I knew something was up it didn't take away a bit of the excitement. But, I think it might have been the first Christmas that I really began to understand that the holiday was much more about the birth of our Savior, than a big man in a red suit." – Donnie Williamson williamsonsmusic.com/

Photo Courtesy of Randy Pertiet

Many of us have special memories around Christmastime, and we have asked some of our Gospel artists to share theirs with you. We hope you enjoy this time of nostalgia. Merry Christmas!



"I'd wanted a bike for *so* long and to my great surprise, on Christmas morning when I was about nine, *it was there under the tree*. And to top it off, it wasn't the normal red



“Christmas 2006, Ferrell and I had been dating since June. On Christmas morning as I had finished preparing my dishes to take to my mother’s for lunch, Ferrell came to help me load my food and gifts. He came into the kitchen with his arms folded, waving an engagement ring on his pinky. He proposed. And it was a Christmas to remember! We married the following July 7th and I am still wearing that Christmas gift with pride!” – Jeanie Byrd Bailey thesingingbyrds.org



“Christmas has always been a season filled with music at the Brown house. One of my fondest memories is Christmas caroling together. Mom has always had a way of making things special and out of the ordinary! Many years ago she had an idea for The Browns. She went to an old fur company and they took her up to their warehouse where she picked out remnants for hats, muffs and coat collars. Then she took a trip to a bridal store, again, back in the warehouse, where she found big antique hoop skirts and little tux coats with tails for the boys. After piecing together all of her clever finds our family looked like we had stepped out of the pages of a Charles Dickens Christmas novel! With our new Victorian caroling outfits we stuffed those big hoop skirts in our little mini van and caroled in parades, Christmas parties, and of course, on the steps of our neighbors and friends who couldn’t venture out in our cold Iowa winters. The Brown kids will all admit that it may not have been our favorite thing to do at the time, but now that we are older, we all cherish those memories as special times! Although we have outgrown those old Victorian costumes, we have not stopped the tradition. Last season we had new Victorian caroling outfits tailor-made for our Branson Style Christmas Shows, and we look forward to many more Christmas seasons of Victo-

rian Caroling!” – Michaela Brown thebrownsmusic.com

“One of my favorite Christmas memories is the first Christmas that Ken and I were married. He not only married me, but he acquired an instant family with my daughter and son. Since he had never been married before, he had never had a family Christmas in his home because he would always go to another family member’s home for the day. It was a day of opening gifts with a new family in our own home and a day of having other family members come to our house. I can still remember the look on his face through the day, which said, ‘I have my own family now in my own house.’ I never want to forget this very special memory.” – Jean Grady gospelmusictoday.com

“Growing up, we always opened our presents with our parents on Christmas Eve and then went to church service at midnight as a family. The next morning, our mother would make a Mexican breakfast, which is basically the most delicious food you can think of, wrapped in tortillas. After that, we would go to the movies, because the best movies would always come out on Christmas day! Of course, we were practically by ourselves in the theater, which was a good thing, just in case an extra taco made it in with us.” – The Hagees differencemedia.org/Artist/View/thehagees

“My fondest memory of Christmas is going to my Mamaw and Papaw Duncan’s house. They had an open wood-burning fireplace. My papaw would have a huge fire going, and every few minutes, he would grab the poker and stoke the fire. Every once in a while he would let me do it. When I was 10 years old that was a big deal! The whole family would be there and my cousins and I would shoot fireworks. One year, I climbed on the roof and shot a bottle rocket down the chimney and it went off in the fireplace. Scared everyone to death! And of course the food was delicious. Nobody can cook like my mamaw. If I could have one wish, it would be to go back to those days of Christmas at Grandmas!” – Tim Duncan timduncanonline.com



“A few years ago, I decided to do a fun Christmas card. I was really worn out from the ministry and always being so serious, that I decided to just have some laughs. So I went to a costume shop and looked for an outfit from The Christmas

Story, which is my favorite Christmas movie. The only outfit they had for me to dress like Ralphie, was the *pink rabbit* outfit. So I dressed as the Pink Rabbit and my brother Shawn dressed as Santa Claus. Then I went and bought a BB Gun because Ralphie always wanted a Red Rider BB Gun. After we got into our outfits we went to Oglebay Park and took pictures with our camera girl and her family. While posing as the Rabbit and Santa we had the camera girl's daughter pose with us to make it really a cute shot. All of a sudden the Ranger stopped us. He told us that there was a warrant put out by the sheriff's department for a deranged rabbit with a gun and Santa Claus with a child on the loose. So then he realized that we were the Chrisagis Brothers and said, "Brian and Shawn, you better get those outfits off and get in your cars and get out of here." Well we got into our car and so did our camera girl and her family. We were like OJ Simpson on the freeway driving like mad men but didn't get the outfits off in time. Five Sheriff's Department men surrounded us. They asked us to get out of our cars and I hopped out as the rabbit and Shawn got out as Santa. They put us up against the car and then frisked us for weapons. People stopped and took video and pictures of our arrest. Then they asked us where our weapon was and I said, "Here it is." I grabbed the BB Gun and they all pulled their guns on us. Shawn started crying cause we had a bad year and because I was never shutting up and just kept explaining things to the police and it kept getting worse. Suddenly one of the young policemen realized we were the Chrisagis Brothers and said, "I can't put them in jail. My kids love their music." God has a sense of humor. He created us and laughter and I believe He watches us like a sitcom daily to see what laughs He can get. That was the most unforgettable Christmas for me!" - Brian Chrisagis chrisagisbrothersministries.org



"I have two memories. One was when we were children and our entire family was together. It wasn't about the gifts but about the Giver of the gifts. Our mom always made sure that we celebrated Christmas for Christ. Our grandmother would make the biggest meal and our dad would decorate the biggest tree and put all the decorations around the house. It was like being in Disneyland. But our mom really spent it explaining who Jesus was to us when we were young. She had us write up a play for the Nativity and we would have to decide who got what part. Since there were three of us

boys (brothers: Anthony, Brian and Shawn) we got to play the Wise Men. Then we gave our mom the part of Mary and our dad was Joseph. We had our grandmother play the angel and our grandfather play the shepherd. Then we would carry the baby Jesus from room to room and finally put Him in the manger as we sang all the great Christmas carols. Then our Mom brought out a huge decorated cake that she had baked and had us help make with her. We all sang 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus. We always had Evie Tornquist music playing as well. It was truly beautiful. Jesus was the Star of each Christmas we had as a family, as our Mom reminded us that Jesus was the Reason for the season and that family stood for the acronyms Forget About Me I Love You. Now our Mom and Grandparents are in Heaven but the message remains and we miss the love we once had as a family but feel them always with us. The second Christmas I remember and loved was a recent one that we had our dreams come true in doing Christmas Concerts with people we truly admire and were inspired by, like Evie Tornquist and Farrell and Farrell. After our Mom died around the Christmas holiday we stopped putting up the tree, but we always celebrated Jesus. Still, there was always a longing for our mom and grandparents, and our brother Anthony who now lives in Las Vegas with his family. So Christmas is not the same, but in the past few years God has blessed us with time spent with those mighty ministries that we always loved and dreamed of working with. They have now become family to us and we cherish the time we have spent ministering with them around the holidays. It gave us new memories for Christmas to cherish and to be grateful for. And I know that our mom and grandparents are looking down, having orchestrated it all, and they are very pleased; kind of like 'It's A Wonderful Life' when Clarence orchestrated everything for Jimmy Stewart and made Christmas worth living again. It is the Season of miracles and dreams, and my memories are showing dreams and miracles still can take place and come true.

- Shawn Chrisagis chrisagisbrothersministries.org

*Come
Celebrate
Jesus*

**Jammin' for
Jesus**

**1st Sunday Each Month
March - December, 2014
2 p.m.**

The Doug Gabriel Theater
3755 W. Hwy 76 (Behind Olive Garden)
Branson, MO 65616
Call 417-336-5622 For Information

Reflections with

Sherry Anne

Mary Had A Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb... a helpless babe in the middle of the night...

From to Nazareth to Bethlehem—a, long, dangerous plight;

Yet, the star in the East shone radiant and bright.

Shepherds came and animals lay

To see the newborn, asleep on the hay.

Angelic hosts proclaimed the new birth:

“The Son of God had come to earth!”

Wise men offered their finest gifts,

Peace and goodwill exchanged in their midst.

Onlookers bowed and sought to glean

A sense of hope from the One who redeems.

Hosanna in the highest...the King has come!

Hosanna in the highest... Thy will be done.

This season as we celebrate and recognize the birth of our Lord and Savior—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), let us remember: He is the Light of the World (John 8:12), the Alpha and Omega (Rev 21:6), the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16). He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace and the government is upon His shoulders (Is 9:6). He reigns forevermore and is seated at the right hand of the Father (Rom 8:34).

Let us not fret over the things we do not comprehend; rather, let us behold, with childlike awe, the wonder of His miraculous conception and incarnation. Behold, the Son of the living God has entered the world—not to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16). This offer is for all who are willing to believe the greatest mystery and love story ever told.

A babe in swaddling clothes, born in a manger—after all, there was no room for Him at the Inn (Luke 2). He grew into a boy and began to teach-- but there was no room for His teachings in the temple. Becoming a man, he journeyed the sea and land-- but there was no room for Him to lay His head (Luke 9:58). He gave His life as a sacrifice for all—but He had no tomb to call His own (Luke 23:53). On the third day He rose to life again and chose to dwell within His people—but, still, there is no room for Him in many hearts today.

Will you believe? Believe in His birth. Believe in His death. Believe in His resurrection. Believe in His return. Believe. Watch and pray, for no man knows the hour or the day (Matt 24:42), when the Sacrificial Lamb will come, roaring as a Lion to rule His Kingdom, and His kingdom and peace will have no end (Is 9:7).

During this season of light, let there be peace on earth, and let it begin... with you.



- *On and Off Stage
- *Promo Shots
- *Engagement
- *Wedding



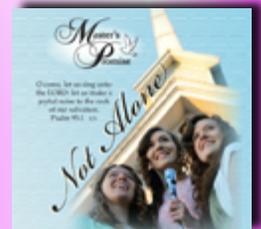
- *Anniversary
- *Family Reunions
- *Maternity
- *Babies & Children
- *Family

...Captures LOVE For Every Reason & Season!
 Cell: 615-886-8650
 Call NOW to hire the best!
 LaDonnaAnnPhotography@gmail.com

Master's Promise



Bringing Youth Back
 to
 Southern Gospel



Thank you for
 requesting our
 new single

"Not Alone"

Visit us at masterspromise.com

Thank you for your nominations for "THE SUNRISE AWARD"

We are grateful for your continued love and support!



**DREW
ZERINGUE**

**A BRIGHT BEGINNING
AVAILABLE NOW!**

CHURCHES AND PROMOTERS: NOW BOOKING FOR 2013-2014

FOLLOW DREW ON FACEBOOK.COM/DREWZERINGUEMUSIC

EMAIL: DREWZ292@YAHOO.COM

OR CALL

615-426-0829 OR 615-904-5340

DREWZERINGUEMUSICMINISTRY.COM

Read SGN Scoops

On Your Kindle

Check out SGNScoops.com today to see
how!

IDENTITY PREACHER'S KID RETREAT 2015 FEB 17-20

Preacher's Kid Retreat: PKs Helping PKs By Lorraine Walker

Growing up as the child of a pastor, missionary or other Christian leader can be a challenge, and often preacher's kids (or PKs) have a hard time living up to an ideal that others have placed on them. Church members may think that the son or daughter should be perfect, or conversely, expect that child to break away from the faith. Many of us know of a PK that has been marred by their childhood, just as we know those who wouldn't have traded the experience for the world.

Jon Leighton, Ben Schettler and Barnabas Piper are keynote speakers at the Preacher's Kid Retreat to be held February 17th through 20th, 2015, in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. The Retreat is called *Identity*, as the purpose is to help PK's discover who they are, not in relation to their parents or Christian community, but who they are in Christ. The Retreat is specifically for young people from the sixth through the 12th grade, to address issues, equip them to walk in the Lord, and encourage and empower each one to grow in their own personal ministry.

Each of the keynote speakers are PKs and they know first hand the issues and problems faced while growing up in the home of preacher. Breakout speakers Jon Groves and Pastor Jason and Mrs. Lizzy Lane are also PKs, so each session will be delivered from a first-hand perspective.

Jon Leighton recently talked to SGN Scoops about the PK Retreat. Readers may wonder why PKs need their own Retreat and to this he replies, "The life

of a Preacher's Kid or PK is *far* from normal!" Leighton continues, "And when we refer to PK's, understand that we imply the child of any preacher of the gospel; from pastor to evangelist, musician to missionary!"

"We are probably all somewhat familiar with the *fishbowl* or *glass house* terminology, and that is exactly what Preacher's Kids live in every single day. Often the fish bowl is filled with unattainable goals, ministerial expectations, and unreasonable standards all due to their parent's occupation. And where other families have separation of work and home, the minister's family is always on call. It takes a PK to really know a PK, and we believe they deserve the opportunity to retreat from parishioners' and fans' ever-watchful eyes and network with others who understand them, because they



are just like them!”

The PK Retreat is being held at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, chosen because it is a top of the line retreat facility owned by Lifeway Christian Stores. Leighton says, “The rooms are extremely nice, we’re talking hotel quality! Everything you could want is right there, on campus: food, gymnasium, comfortable hangout spots, and even laser tag! Ridgecrest provides a hotel or lodge atmosphere, but on a campus equipped with staff to make sure PK’s have a fun and safe experience, with everything they could want, for the best price possible. Ridgecrest is also conveniently located near the Charlotte International Airport where we will shuttle anyone flying to the retreat.

Leighton comments that the keynote sessions will be packed with great content and the breakout sessions will give each PK an opportunity to share about the topics presented. Still, there will be plenty of time for fun and relaxation to enjoy all the campus has to offer.

Leighton admits that the leaders have not even begun to plunge into the depths of the need for ministry to PKs. “We are partnering with some strategic organizations to make sure that within the next five years, there is a PK event in every region of the country, every single year.”

More events geared to youth are being planned for those with families in ministry. “There are two definite events in the works for this next year,” says Leighton. “There will be a *young artist* event during the week of NQC that will allow everyone to take a break from the rigorous convention week and go have some fun and eat some free food!

“The second will be a national Student Ministry Conference in Nashville, TN. We are having some of the nation’s top youth pastors and workers come in to present an opportunity for current youth pastors or anyone who wants to be involved in youth ministry in some capacity to learn how to best reach today’s students with the Word of God!”

Leighton himself is a “fourth-generation preacher” who currently works as an evangelist. His life was not easy and he gives us a look into just what PKs have to deal with. “For me, everyone assumed my parent’s call [was the same as] *my* call! Because

I was at church every time the doors were open and involved in every single aspect of my parent’s ministry, not only did people pressure me to pursue ministry, I was around the work of God so often that I failed to identify the personal work of God in my own life.

“They say that ministry is the easiest place to drift from God, and that is so very true! It took me a long time, 19 years in fact, but I am finally making my relationship with Jesus about me and Him and what He is calling me to do, rather than what people (even my parents at times) have projected on my life. It cannot be genuinely public until it is definitely personal.”

Jon Leighton is working hard to minister to young people and to address that ministry specifically toward those who have grown up under the microscope of the church. Leighton has a message for all those PKs struggling to make their way as they mature. He says, “Be yourself! I know that well-intentioned people are telling you what God’s will is. I know that others are watching and waiting for you to mess up. But you must live your life as the unique individual God has created you to be! Don’t get weary with the pressures, and don’t become callused to the work of God because of the privileges. You need a personal walk, and personal talk. Just be yourself.”

PKs from across the country are invited to join Leighton and all of the speakers for this fun, informative and potentially life-changing Retreat in February 2015. Please see the coupon on this page: even though the date will expire, anyone who sees this coupon in SGN Scoops can claim the SAME discount by noting that on your registration form!

For registration and payment go to www.preacherskidretreat.com. More information can be found on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/preacherskidretreat. Readers who would like to make a donation or sponsor a PK, visit www.gofundme.com/pkretreat

PREACHER’S KID RETREAT
EARLY REGISTRATION SAVINGS

SAVE 30%

REGISTER BEFORE
NOVEMBER 20TH
TOTAL COST: \$175

PREACHERSKIDRETREAT.COM



Producing Music and Video for the World-Wide Market



Mansion Entertainment has expanded its horizons to the world of Media with the opening of its **MANSION ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA CENTER** in Franklin, TN. Providing the absolute best in Cameras, Lighting, Sets and Audio Production Mansion Media is prepared to provide you with your best Concept Video and full Concert Video for prices that beat any in the industry.

Mansion Media is currently producing "Concept Music Videos", "Talk Shows", "Teen Music Shows", and "Gospel Music Shows" that are distributed by Mansion Media to over 150 million households across the US and Canada each week! **WE CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU!**

Artists that have utilized Mansion Media and have been featured on our shows "NASHVILLE COUNTRY REVIVAL" or "SPIRITFEST" have

seen Increased Concert Bookings, Product Sales, and Overall Notoriety. This all begins with your call to MANSION MEDIA at 866.996.9986 X 211 or go to www.MansionMedia.TV for more information.

Connect with us for your next Concept Video, Concert Video, and Your idea about a TV Show. We can produce it and distribute it World-Wide!

Mansion Entertainment and Media is distributed by:



theMansionEntertainment.com

866.996.9986

MansionMedia.tv



1242 Old Hillsboro Road, Franklin, TN 37069

CHRISTmas Is Coming

By Jennifer Campbell

Christmas is such a special time of year. I love the glow of the Christmas lights on the tree, the way the stockings hang from the mantle that is topped with a nativity scene, and the smell of fresh baked cookies as they are removed from the oven. And I especially love the aroma that fills the house when I make my mom's white meringue chocolate chip cookies, or when my dad makes his perfectly spiced pumpkin pie on Christmas Day. Both of these delectable desserts melt in my mouth with a tantalizing taste that is scrumptiously satisfying to my sweet tooth. Of course, nothing is better than the warmth in my heart that is borne of filling gift boxes with something special for family and friends.

Every aspect of Christmas is so special, so endearing, so treasured. But the real reason I love Christmas is because of a precious little baby Boy who was born one night many years ago.

Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords was not born in a palace, but a stable. He was not placed in a cradle lined in luxurious plush blankets, but a manger filled with hay. He was born to a virgin; his father was a carpenter. He grew up to be the Savior of the world and died for the forgiveness of our sins. He gave a gift we could never give. It wasn't a new pair of tennis shoes, a necktie, or a fruitcake. Jesus gave all He could possibly give: His life. That's the greatest gift of all. That's unconditional love. That's Christmas.



So this year, I encourage you to look past the list of 101 things to do before Christmas. Look past the cards to write, presents to wrap, and cookies to bake. Look past the house to clean, tree to trim, and parties to attend. Look past all of the things that may worry you or stress you and look to the One for whom this joyous holiday is being held. Christmas is the birthday of a King. Jesus is the King who does not require a fancy banquet or an elaborate celebration. All He requires is an open door inside your heart, so He can come inside. He doesn't want you to become frazzled over holiday plans. He wants you to enjoy the time with family and friends. He wants you to spend time with Him. He wants you to feel His amazing love. And He wants you to love Him in return.

As you trim the tree, wrap the presents, and bake the cookies this Christmas, remember the reason for the CHRISTmas season: Jesus Christ! Whether or not Frosty and Santa come to town, you can be assured that Jesus Christ IS coming to the celebration. The lights glisten with a festive glow, the ornaments dangle from the boughs of the tree, and the angel tops the tree with a divine smile on his or her face. But the most glorious part of Christmas is all about the manger underneath the tree, on the mantle, or out on the lawn. For the Baby in the manger is the Savior of the world. He is the reason we live, the reason we laugh and the reason we love. Jesus Christ is the reason for CHRISTmas.

Photo Courtesy of ben124.



sgn Scoops

December 2014 digital

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

1	Kingsmen	Oh Yes I Am	39	The Gospelaire	Miracle
2	Old Paths	Love Them To Jesus	40	Master's Voice	He Saved Me Anyway
3	Legacy Five	Christ Is Still The King	41	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	Water
4	Karen Peck and New River	Everybody's Going Through Something	42	Tribute Quartet	Walking God
5	Brian Free and Assurance	Unashamed	43	Nelons	Everything I Need
6	Shellem Cline	Dinner With Jesus	44	Wilburn and Wilburn	Do Unto Others
7	Perrys	I Can Trust Him	45	Steeles	Help Me
8	Tim Livingston	I Just Miss You	46	Poet Voices	Eternally
9	Kingdom Heirs	Joys Of Heaven	47	Jim Brady	He Saw Me
10	Bowling Family	I Know Enough	48	He Didn't Throw The Clay Away	
11	Primitive Quartet	Empty Me Lord	49	Brothers Redeemed	If It Had Not Been
12	Joseph Habedank	Never No Never	50	Lori Jonathan Trio	What A Precious Friend
13	Porter Family	It Won't Be Today	51	Mark Bishop	Pray On The Little Days
14	McKameys	There Is Jesus	52	Wisecarvers	One Prayer At A Time
15	Talleys	Hidden Heroes	53	Bledsoes	That's What's So Amazing
16	Terry Collins	Some Things Never Change	54	Freemans	The Last Time I Looked
17	Dunaways	Church In The Kitchen	55	Jim Sheldon	Even After
18	Williamsons	It Was The Word		Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call	At The Bottom Of
19	Zane and Donna King	No One Like God	56		The Hill
20	Soul Vision	When We Step Inside	57	Greater Vision	The Blood Hasn't Ever Changed
21	11th Hour	How Will You Plead	58	Isaacs	I Wanna Be There
22	Dennis Cook	Crying In The Chapel	59	Gordon Mote	Ain't It Just Like The Lord
23	Brian Free and Assurance	Say Amen	60	Whisnants	Not Afraid To Trust Him
24	Greater Vision	For All He's Done	61	Big Mo and Chosen	More Like You
25	Keith Barkley and Family Tradition	It Will Pass	62	Murray Family	Near To Thee
		By	63	Rochesters	God's Been Good
26	Booth Brothers	If God Didn't Care	64	Crimson Ridge	Hand On The Plow
27	Hyssongs	Still Blessed	64	Mercy's Well	I Wanna Hear The Gospel
28	Tony Burchette	We'll Soon Be Gone		Hoskins Family	Land Of Endless Tomorrows
29	Social Security Boys	I'm Not What I Was	66		
30	Lore Family	It Shall Be Well	67	East Ridge Boys	He's Leaving His Throne
31	Bev McCann	Through The Thunder	68	Guardians	He'll Welcome Me
32	Ernie Penty	Jim Got Saved Tonight	68	Calebs Crossing	Made To Be
33	Mylon Hayes Family	Prayer Meeting		Primitives with Archie Watkins and Smoky	
34	Wilbanks	Song Of Thanksgiving	70	Mountain Reunion	When I Get Home
35	Michael Wayne Smith	Changed By Your Grace		Mark Trammell Quartet	Don't Stop Running
36	Hoskins Family	God Is Big	71		
37	Hyssongs	I Was Blind But Now I See	72	Josh and Ashley Franks	He Promised Me
38	Carolina Boys	Watch And Pray	73	Browders	Lift Up His Name
				Michael Frost Trio	Author And Finisher

74	Kingdom Heirs	I'll Know I'm Home	93	Joys	Revival Comes To Town
75	Mark Bishop	Love's Gonna Get You	96	Triumphant Quartet	This Blood
76	John Bowman	Have Your Way	97	Jesse Reece	My Life
77	Georgia	Under Grace	98	Sunday Drive	Just Another Stone
78	Karen Peck and New River	Revival	99	Jay Parrack and Vocal Event	Sometimes He
79	Crystal River	The Pastor			Whispers
80	New Hearts	He Will Deliver	100	Zane and Donna King	If There Was Any Other
81	Kevin and Jennifer	He's Still Doing Miracles			Way
		Today			
82	New Vision	Faith Steps Out Of The Boat			
83	Undivided	I Trust You Lord			
84	His Mercies	Bound			
85	Pacesetters Quartet	Let Me Touch Jesus			
86	Page Trio	I Surrender			
87	Rita Broyles	Looking Through The Bars			
88	Georgia	We Have A Hope			
89	Calebs Crossing	What I'm Made To Be			
90	Heavenly Sunrise	Jesus Is Coming			
91	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	God Has			
		Been Good To Me			
92	Phillips Family	Somewhere In The Shadows			
93	Eternal Vision	New Man			
93	Browns	Place In The Choir			



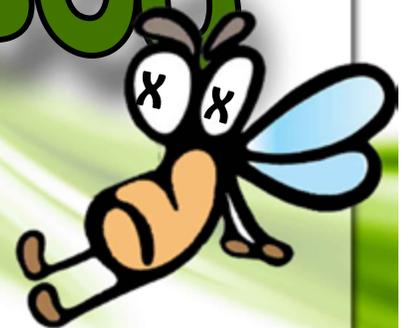
Charlie Griffin

"Tis the season" to give thanks, share gifts of love and appreciation. A heartfelt... "Thank you" for a tremendous 2014! What a gift you gave! With you, I am looking forward to 2015, a New Year of blessings & Opportunity!

Now Scheduling 2015
 CONTACT CHARLIE AT: 704-374-5910
 OR EMAIL: Charlie@CharlieGriffin.Net
 MORE INFORMATION: www.CharlieGriffin.Net

Classic Artist RECORDS 

Bug - A - Boo Traps



360-483-7966

The Bug-A-Boo bug trap is a safe way to control pesky gnats & fruit flies. Safe to use in kitchens, around children & pets

www.bugabootraps.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/bugaboobugtraps
Bugaboobugtrap@gmail.com



Environmentally Friendly

Ask about being a distributor & our commercial traps
 The natural, non-toxic solution to get rid of annoying gnats and fruit flies

Fast Now To Feast Smarter Over The Holidays

By Laurette Willis, CHC

“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:17-18)

While many look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas with joyful anticipation, others fear it will be a time when they will gain weight; unable to control the amount of holiday foods they eat. I was one of those people who had no control. Fasting helped me.

One of the most powerful tools I’ve found to train the flesh is fasting. For many years I would not fast. I was convinced I could not fast. The idea of going without food for even one day was beyond my grasp. Part of the reason I wasn’t obedient to Jesus’ words “And *when* you fast...” was because I was afraid I couldn’t do it. Yet, if the Lord excluded me from fasting, He would have said, “And *if* you fast...”

There are over 80 references to fasting in the Bible. It appears 30 more times than the word “food.” Fasting is a time of spiritual discipline during which you deny the body’s physical desire for food in order to devote yourself to prayer and communion with the Lord.

There are examples in the Bible of fasts lasting one day, three days, seven days, ten days, 21 days and 40 days.

Cautionary note: Anyone desiring to go on a fast for longer than three days would be wise to consult first with their healthcare provider. Those taking medication should see their physician before starting a fast. Please do not fast if you are pregnant or lactating. Toxins are eliminated during fasts, and we don’t want a baby ingesting toxins into his or her little body.

Fasting is the Bondage Breaker!

To be freed from bondage and strongholds (physi-

cal, emotional, mental)

To be freed from lusts of the flesh (greed, gluttony, covetousness, perversion)

For clearer guidance and direction from the Lord on a specific issue

During a season of intercession for others

To strengthen your relationship with God

To debilitate the power of the enemy against you

To overcome temptation, confusion and frustration

For physical cleansing and healing

When seeking new focus and direction for your life from God

To walk in greater strength and victory in every area of your life

I have found fasting to be a vital part of overcoming food addictions (sugar, caffeine, and overeating); destroying mental strongholds (negative patterns of thought); defeating the lusts of the flesh; and receiving clear direction from God when unsure what path to take.

Fasting doesn’t *win points* with God or enable Him to hear you any better. It does quiet your flesh and mind to help you hear from God more clearly. If your carnal nature has been in control, fasting will enable your spirit (the real you) to gain the upper hand—if you fast as unto the Lord.

Fasting without prayer yields limited results beyond the loss of a few pounds which are quickly gained back when the fast is over. Fasting *with* prayer breaks strongholds at the root of overeating, depression, or whatever bondage is holding you back.

Physical Benefits of Fasting

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that can yield profoundly positive physical results.

1. **Healthful Weight Loss** – In addition to losing several

pounds, fasting will help you train your tastes toward more healthful foods.

2. Fasting promotes the secretion of Human Growth Hormone – HGH is important for burning fat. Fasting can also promote muscle building, while decreasing insulin levels. Fasting can actually transform your body into an effective fat burning machine.

3. Fasting helps normalize insulin sensitivity- When your body gets too many carbohydrates and sugar, it can become insulin resistant, which will then lead the way to a host of chronic diseases. It's important to help keep your body sensitive to insulin. Fasting is an effective way to do this. When insulin sensitivity is up, you can better prevent diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

4. Fasting can normalize hunger hormone levels (ghrelin) - Ghrelin helps your body know that it is hungry. When you fast, the ghrelin levels in your body normalize, so it actually becomes more accurate in telling you if you should really should eat or not.

5. Fasting can slow the aging process – Fasting can cause the body to produce more Human Growth Hormone. HGH is closely connected to the aging process. When the body produces less HGH, it tends to age faster. We can therefore conclude that fasting can help the body age more slowly.

How to Fast

Plan ahead of time when you will fast. Begin by fasting one meal or for one day and devoting the time to prayer instead of a meal. When I fast, I like to have a particular prayer subject or reason why I'm fasting. During meal times instead of eating I devote that time to praise, prayer and reading the Word.

I recommend beginning a fast on the weekend or time when you can be at home without the everyday stresses of the workplace. If you work at home, pick a time when you know you could rest if you needed to do so.

For those new to fasting, I recommend a fruit and vegetable juice fast instead of a water-only fast. Another option is what many call a "Daniel Fast." The concept of the Daniel Fast comes from Daniel 1:8-14 when Daniel and his friends decided not to defile themselves with the royal food and drink of the Babylonians.

Daniel said, "*Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.*" So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days."

This type of fast means you eat only vegetables and fruits, abstaining from all meat and "pleasant bread" (breads and sweets).

Facing the Holidays without Fear

A fast is a great way to overcome our flesh's cravings for heavier, processed fare. Your digestive system has had a cleansing, so you will find the taste and fragrance of natural foods more pleasing.

You can actually train yourself to desire purer foods this way. Fasting is how God broke my addictions to sugar and caffeine. I remember when I could not have imagined being able to pass by a sugary dessert without having one—or two! Now by the grace of God and the strength He's given me through prayer and fasting, I'm able to say, "No, thank you."

I have also seen bondages will power could not break absolutely shattered and prayers answered during times of prayer and fasting.

Are you ready for a breakthrough in some area of your life – or in many areas of your life? Fasting IS the bondage breaker!

*"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free,
And that you break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6)*

*Christian Fitness Expert and Certified Health Coach
Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness
Ministry with DVDs, Training, and Classes by Certified
PraiseMoves Instructors on six continents (<http://Praise-Moves.com>). ©2014*



HIGHROADIII

sarah.....piano
anna grace.....fiddle
kiley.....guitar

country gospel at its purest
www.highroadmusic.com

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is

also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all-digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com.



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

ton State. QueenOQ.blogspot.com



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

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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ. On December 31, 2002 she married Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.



Scott Rhoades is an Inspirational Writer, Speaker, Healer, Explorer, and Life Traveler who loves to share his experiences, life lessons, and encouragement through publication and speaking in public forums. He is an Assistant Professor of Nursing for Indiana Wesleyan University School of Nursing's Post-Licensure Division and continues to pursue specialties in aerospace and hyperbaric medicine. He is a freelance writer/songwriter and a former radio host. To learn more about Scott, please visit his website at: www.scottrhoades.net



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



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



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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

is her calling. Check out her photography website www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com and her ministry website www.stevensfamilymusic.com.



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

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



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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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/>.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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



Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and small. We want to do all we can to support them!" In 2015, Candi will have a law degree from Liberty University and will provide a full range of legal counsel. This component will bring the highest level of support to those who also desire legal representation.



Paige Givens is a Christ follower, wife, mother of two boys and kindergarten teacher to 18 five-year-olds. She is a writer, reader, singer, studier, and teacher of words. Paige lives in Hayden, Alabama with her husband of 10 years, Chris Givens, and their sons Parker and Peyton. Paige loves to blog about faith, writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at www.paigegivens.com.