

April 2012

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# Legacy

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Bill Gaither, Doug Anderson, Morgan Easter & Dailey and Vincent

# PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



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## Letter From the Editor

Rhonda Frye

It's spring! It's planting time! Those who know me well are laughing! Trust me, I have a BLACK thumb- just ask my husband, Eric! Although he is in charge of the gardening around our house, I highly respect the power of the seed! It blows my mind to think that a seed the size of a freckle can be placed under dirt and given the right water, light and fertilizer- it can push its way through ground a zillion times its weight! Some can even burst through concrete! Obviously, I haven't mastered the right water, light, fertilizer formula, but I'm still impressed! Just to think-in the beginning, the seed is tiny and seems insignificant... but wow... What powerful potential is inside!

My heart has been flooded with joy recently by attending several southern gospel concerts. I've been a witness to watching the spiritual seed cycle in action! At each concert, my spirits were lifted. I'm a "what -if" kind of thinker, though. I've thought to myself, what if THE BOWLING FAMILY had been afraid to exercise their faith to step out into ministry? What if BEYOND THE ASHES had allowed their potential to lie dormant within? I would be one person missing a blessing, that's for sure!

I read a story recently about a 4,000-year-old mummy that had been found with several seeds of wheat in its withered hand. The story went on to say that if one of the seeds had been planted in fertile soil and allowed to go through normal cycles of reproduction and growth, that one seed would have been able to produce the equivalent of the yearly wheat harvest for the whole world! I'm not a seed expert, so I have no idea if that's true- but this is true... That seed didn't accomplish what it was intended to!

For any seeds to grow, thrive and reproduce, the environment must be right. The first step is getting into the

soil when the timing is right! We have to feed and water ourselves on the truth of God's word and He will bring the growth, fruits and opportunities to reproduce!

In this issue, Sandi Duncan Clark shares a story of this truth in action! The ministry of DECLARATION is a great example. Notice the part that says they had no bookings, no equipment, no "anything" as they put it, but their willingness to be used of God. They refused to let the seed lie dormant within! They stepped out in faith and look at them now! They are still growing and producing fruit!

I also noticed in this story how others have helped DECLARATION grow. The BOOTH BROTHERS have actively taken an interest in DECLARATION'S ministry. They are intentionally investing time and experience. I attended a BOOTH BROTHERS concert several months ago. Michael Booth explained the reason they are helping DECLARATION simply is because someone helped them. He used the "turtle on a fence post" analogy. The turtle didn't get up on the fence post all by itself!

What about you? Perhaps you're reading our magazine with seeds of music ministry lying dormant in your heart. Perhaps you're reading about your favorite artists, but deep down inside, you know you're called to minister through music too. Maybe you're an artist with a song of your own hidden deep within and you're too scared to share something you've written. Maybe you're a musician, but too insecure to play on stage. Perhaps you've been around the industry a long time and have wisdom to impart to other ministries, but just haven't yet. Hmmmm... Dormant seeds! Another word for "dormant" is "sleeping." I have two words for you, WAKE UP!!!! You know what you need to do!

Speaking of seeds....My husband is going to like this announcement! We are excited to announce a GARDENING feature on our website! Chris Henry will be sharing his insights and tips on gardening each week. Check out [sgnscoops.com](http://sgnscoops.com) on Tuesdays for the latest in the garden videos! I bet Chris can help me master that whole light, water, fertilizer issue!

Just remember as you handle those tiny seeds, that little seed represents YOU! You are packed full of powerful potential to sow seeds for the Kingdom of God! What are you going to do? I know one thing; I'm not going to underestimate the power of the seed! I'm praying you reach your full potential in Christ!

Email me with your thoughts, questions and comments. I'd love to hear from YOU! Happy planting, sprouting and reproducing!

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# OUR MISSION

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

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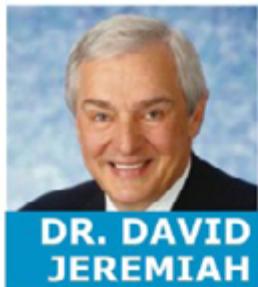
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## DAILEY & VINCENT: SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH THEIR MUSIC

BY SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

When Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent stepped on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium on December 29, 2007, they chose the Gospel song, "By The Mark" to be their first song; this was their debut appearance at the Grand Ole Opry. For Dailey and Vincent, that first step was a milestone in the career of two young men who love the Lord, and Bluegrass music.

From that day till now, Jamie and Darrin continue to be amazed at where God has taken them and how He has blessed their music. While this duo is billed as a bluegrass band, their repertoire is everything from classic Bluegrass, to traditional Southern Gospel and a little country Gospel mixed in and the fans love it! Their presentation always includes Gospel songs, no matter the event or venue.

Having made a decision for Christ at an early age, both men have always had a Christian influence in their lives and in their music. Jamie Dailey shared, "I was fifteen years old when I gave my heart to the Lord. Darrin was a little younger and we're both dedicated to God in our personal lives. We've found if we keep Him involved in what we do, then He takes care of the rest."

When asked how their careers came together, Jamie said "We actually met at a Bluegrass Music Awards Show in 2001. Darrin was playing with Ricky Skaggs and I was with Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver. Both Ricky and Doyle are Christian men, and we learned a lot from working with them."

Dailey and Vincent joined forces shortly thereafter. "Our new manager, Don Light, said that there was only one bluegrass duet in the business today and we decided that we

would be the second one," Jamie said. "We then put the band together and began working on our music."

Darrin and Jamie are quick to tell you how God has blessed their music. "We were excited about being on the Grand Ole Opry for our first paid date," they shared. Jamie told the story, "Our manager met with Pete Fisher about letting us on the Opry. We were as nervous as we could be. Our good friend, Grand Ole Opry Icon, Jeannie Sealy, brought us on for the very first time. We made our way to the microphone and the center circle on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium and we opened up our career with a Gospel song called "By The Mark." Then we brought our band out with us and sang a song that is a fan favorite of ours called "Don't You Call My Name."

That night marked an exciting launch of 136 awesome tour dates for the next 12 months. "With these solid dates, we immediately boarded our bus named "The Mark," and started our tour," Jamie commented.

This was the inauguration of a number of return appearances on the Grand Ole Opry. It was also Dailey and Vincent's first meeting with Cracker Barrel executives, to formulate an agreement with Cracker Barrel Restaurants to release their recordings in Cracker Barrel Restaurants across the country. The duo's current release, "*The Gospel Side of Dailey and Vincent*" is their second recording with Cracker Barrel.

Both Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent are versatile on various instruments. They both are talented singers and trade out parts on lead and harmony vocals. They have honed their craft for a number of years and have been recognized with

many awards both prior to becoming a duet, as well as over the past four-plus years.

Dailey and Vincent are supported by one of the best bands in the music business anywhere. "We are fortunate to have some very artistically strong men playing in our band, as well as supporting us with background vocals," Jamie explained. "Joe Dean, Jr. plays banjo, guitar and sings bass. Christian Davis plays guitar and sings bass, while Jeff Parker plays mandolin and guitar and sings harmony. Jesse Stockman rounds out the band playing fiddle."

Their debut album "Dailey and Vincent" was released in January, 2008, with "By The Mark" from that album, awarded Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Awards. For the year 2008, the IBMA presented Dailey and Vincent with six other awards including "Vocal Group of The Year" and "Emerging Artist of The Year." This was the first time in the history of the IBMA that the same artist had been recognized for both awards for the same year.\*

Since 2008, Dailey and Vincent have continued annually to add awards and credits to their list of accomplishments from the International Bluegrass Music Association, the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music Association and most recently the 2011 Dove Award for Bluegrass Album of the Year for SINGING FROM THE HEART.

While both Jamie Dailey and Darren Vincent will tell you that the awards and recognitions are valued and treasured, this is not their only goal with their music. When asked if they were surprised about the growth and recognition of their



music, Jamie replied, "We are always surprised and thankful by how God has grown and blessed our career. It is a very humbling experience. We are also well aware that it can all end as soon as it started. We don't take it for granted."

This duo has been guests at many special events during their short time together. "One of the most touching dates for Darrin and me was in Washington, D.C.," Jamie mentioned. "We were invited by Jimmy Fortune, our good friend from the Statler Brothers to appear at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Wall. We sang "More Than A Name On A Wall,"



and it was very emotional."

Jamie continued, "We have really enjoyed singing at many Country Music festivals in Europe and abroad and taking our music to Country music audiences. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, we sang a song for our heroes, The Statler Brothers, for their induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. That was a dream come true for us."

While Dailey and Vincent missed their appearance at the National Quartet Convention last year (2011), due to illness, they appeared on the Main Stage in September, 2010. "We were excited and enjoyed being at NQC," Jamie said. "We love the Southern Gospel family, and we have a great camaraderie with a lot of artists in Southern Gospel music. Our bass singer, Christian Davis sang bass with the Old Time Gospel Hour Quartet for a time."

He continued, "We love the Perrys, especially Miss Libbi, and of course we've been on the program with them and other Southern Gospel artists, including Greater Vision. Gerald Wolfe played piano for us when we sang with them a while back."

Jamie divulged, tongue in cheek, "Darrin and I are thinking about offering Gerald a job as the first full-time Bluegrass piano player. But, there are two concerns that we have with Gerald that need to be addressed. One, Gerald's "Mr. Rogers" haircut will have to go! Number two, Mr. Wolfe will have to learn to sing through his nose. Only time

will tell if he can make this happen," he laughed!

With a wry smile, Gerald replied, "I might consider their offer, but then, who would help Rodney find his way on and off the bus? I'd better just stay with Greater Vision. Besides, I'm not sure this Bluegrass music fad will last!"

While Dailey and Vincent enjoy their music and the travel involved, both Jamie and Darrin enjoy their "down-time." Jamie enjoys a good book, hiking or spending time with his family, and especially his dog. Darrin appreciates the time with his wife, Julie, and their two children at their Brentwood, Tennessee home.

"Being at our home church on Sunday is always a blessing too," Jamie stated. We are away so much and we don't get to be there as much as we'd like."

"We all need a break every now and then, and sometimes we take a few days off for vacation," Jamie declared. "I try to get away to South Florida two or three times a year, and Darrin and his family likes to go Florida as well. Getting away just clears your mind and sometimes that's where God can give you a new song."



About Dailey & Vincent reported from [www.ibma.org](http://www.ibma.org) 2008

From the cities and small towns across America; to several countries in Europe, Canada and beyond; from the everyday people who come to hear them sing to the other artists with whom they perform; from important people in the music business, to politicians and dignitaries who attend the awards shows, Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent hope their music is enjoyable and entertaining. Jamie and Darrin pray that the Gospel songs which they always include in their program will tell everyone just where their heart is, and will allow their audience to hear the Gospel story. And, while these men are not there to preach, they want the message in the songs to mean something to everyone in attendance. That's *The Gospel Side of Dailey and Vincent*.

\*Reported from [www.ibma.org](http://www.ibma.org) 2008

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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

## REMEMBERING THE FIRST DOVE AWARDS

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



Writing this column for our fabulous editor Rhonda Frye and for Rob Patz, publisher extraordinaire is an added blessing to my LIFE. Every writer for this delightful digital magazine has my appreciation and LOVE, including the excellent graphics department. The feedback I am receiving about our gospel music LEGENDS makes writing "Life, Love, & Legends" a joy!!! Blessings to all of you as we celebrate the resurrected Christ!!!! I have had the song "He's Alive" on my mind for days. Working with the writer Don Francisco in Nashville years ago was an incredible journey into contemporary music. I had the opportunity to express my appreciation to him at a Gaither Homecoming taping a few years ago. What a creative writer! What a classic Easter song!!

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Gospel Music Association will present the annual Dove Awards at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. For years this event was held in Nashville and only last year was moved to Atlanta. I will never forget the excitement of this legendary event, the first Dove Awards in 1969 in Memphis, Tennessee. Being on the GMA planning committee was exhilarating, and our decision to stage the first Dove Awards during the National Quartet Convention will be remembered for the huge number of artists in attendance that night. These same artists are celebrated today as gospel music legends. The GMA membership had voted, and anticipation was high as we gathered on that unforgettable night to honor our peers at that first awards ceremony. The tables in the ballroom of the Peabody Hotel were lavishly decorated and gospel singers—the men in tuxedos and the ladies in elegant gowns—filled the room. Emcees Marvin Norcross, Canaan Records, and Bob Benson, Benson Music, kept

us laughing with their clever wit. Les Beasley won his first Dove for "TV Program"—Gospel Singing Jubilee. J. G. Whitfield received a Dove Award for "Gospel DJ." The Imperials—Jim Murray, Terry Blackwood, Joe Moscheo, Armond Morales, and Roger Wiles—received the Dove for "Male Gospel Group." Speer Family—Brock & Ben Speer, Jeannie & Bob Johnson, Harold Lane, and Ann Downing—were awarded "Mixed Gospel Group." Oak Ridge Boys—Duane Allen, Bill Golden, Noel Fox, Willie Wynn, & Tommy Fairchild—won "Gospel Album." James Blackwood won the first of many Doves as "Male Vocalist" and "Female Vocalist" was awarded to Vestal Goodman. What I remember so vividly is co-presenting, with John T. Benson Jr., the first "Songwriter Of The Year" Dove to an excited, young, crew-cut Bill Gaither. Since that memorable evening, Bill Gaither has earned many Dove Awards, and we both agree that it was a fabulous moment in time. We will forever remember that long-ago first Dove Awards Ceremony.

At this Easter season, our hearts are filled with thanks to our risen Savior as we reflect on His blessings, and as we unite with our colleagues in serving Him. May we all celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, throughout the year.

Contact: [www.louhildreth.com](http://www.louhildreth.com)  
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Pictured: Bill Gaither accepting his first Dove Award as "Gospel Songwriter" in 1969 from John T. Benson Jr. and Lou Hildreth

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## Giving the world a smile: **Bill Gaither**

by Jennifer Campbell

It all started in 1948. Bill Gaither was in junior high school, and one day he turned his dial to WIBC, a 50,000 watt station in Indianapolis. This station was playing the recording of a regional quartet singing the song, "Give the World a Smile." Bill says, "I heard the quartet and I loved the interaction of the counterpart harmony and all the good stuff that Southern Gospel's known for – four guys and a piano." Little did he know that his own career in Southern Gospel Music would flourish into a ministry that has reached around the globe for decades, always giving the world a smile.

Seven years after he heard this quartet sing on the radio, Bill Gaither founded his first group, The Bill Gaither Trio. This Trio opened the door for Bill to begin writing songs. In 1961, Bill wrote his first song, "I've Been to Calvary." "I wrote it out of a need to have some new expressions I felt the trio needed," Bill recalls. "The trio was my brother, sister, and I. We had been singing songs that the Statesmen and Blackwood Brothers had sung and had sung most of those songs, but we were touring, singing in churches in the area, like most local groups do, and I just felt like there was a need for some expressions I had not heard, and

I'd never heard a hook, a title called, 'I've Been to Calvary.' Not physically, but spiritually through the Bible, that I had experienced a spiritual experience of going to Calvary."



A few years later, Bill married Gloria Sickal, a decision he regards as one of the best things he has ever done. After juggling full-time teaching jobs and ministry for the first five years of their marriage, they finally decided it was time to go into full-time ministry in 1967. This decision would truly change their lives forever, as they were embarking on a journey that could only have been ordained by God. A journey they continue to take, step by step, day by day. Bill and Gloria dedicate their time to writing, singing, recording, and publishing. Yet with all of their success, they remember the reason they answered God's call so many years ago.

During the limited time they spend at home, Bill and Gloria take time to respond to letters and e-mails from people who have been touched by some aspect of their ministry. Bill says, "Letters are important and e-mails are important, of lives that have been touched by what we have done. They go into lengthy detail about how God has used the things we have done to help them in their journey." And Bill is not the only one responding to

correspondence. Bill says of Gloria: "She works at the house at the table on her computer, just trying to get back to people and being responsible for the good fortune, and by good fortune, the fact that we've been able to connect with them during their times of need and to be able to respond to that."

Bill and Gloria are prolific songwriters, always taking time to write down the words that God gives them. They know that God will use the lyrics to speak to others in a special way. When asked about the greatest joy in writing a new song, Bill said, "I think the greatest joy is knowing that you have not only been inspired by God to do something new and different, but that you have so crafted it in a way that maybe this will be meaningful not only to you, but to other people who want that to be part of their lives. It's especially exciting when it finally finds its way to the right singer, the right communicator, and he communicates it in a very special way."

On Easter Sunday in particular, churches across the nation lift their voices in one accord as they sing one of Bill and Gloria's most beloved songs, "Because He Lives." Bill tells the story of how he and Gloria wrote this song, "We wrote that at the end of the 60's. There was a lot of turbulence in that decade. The anti-Vietnam feeling was very prevalent, the anti-God movement was going through the secular institutions, and cities were being literally burned up because of racial riots. And Gloria was pregnant with our third baby. We sat down and said who in his right mind would want to bring a child into such unstable times. We might be blown up by tomorrow, thinking that history has revealed that this world has never been very stable. Christ came in and the world had a very unstable time. And that you don't bring children into the world just because times are good; you bring children into the world because the Resurrection is true, and that in spite of the darkness of the time, hope always surfaces to the top and that is because we serve a Christ. We serve a Savior who not only was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life, and not only was He crucified, He rose again, and through that gave us the power of the Resurrection to live victorious lives. And the song is pretty victorious... "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, fear is gone. Because I know He holds

the future. Life is worth the living, just because He lives." So we wrote that song after our baby was born. "How sweet to hold our newborn baby, and feel the pride and the joy that he gives."

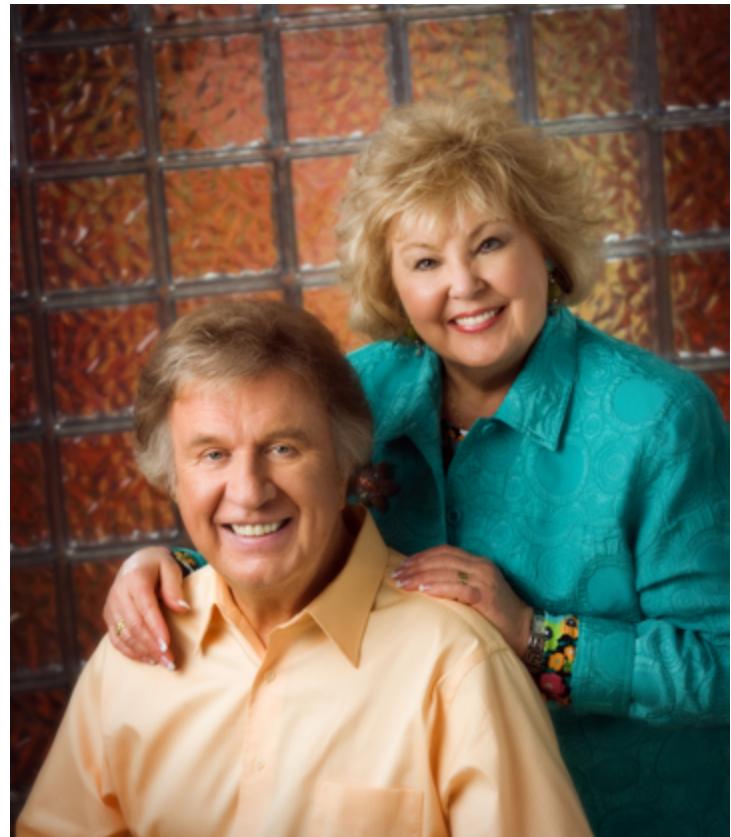
In 1991, Bill and Gloria entered a new chapter of their ministry with the release of the first Gaither Homecoming video titled, *Homecoming*. During the interview, I asked Bill if he had any idea that this aspect of his ministry would expand in such a huge way. He responded, "No, you never do when you do a new creation. I felt the same way after we'd written 'I've Been to Calvary,' 'Lovest Thou Me,' 'He Touched Me,' and 'There's Just Something About That Name.' You didn't realize that not only is this going to be meaningful to you and to your circle of friends and your church circle, but I can remember the first time I went to Los Angeles at the Shrine Auditorium and I heard 4,000 people sing 'There's Something About That Name' like it was a hymn. That's pretty overwhelming. And then you go to Norway last year and find 6,000 people singing in Norwegian. And you go to South America and see 7,000 people singing in Portuguese. And then you put out a video that you know is important to you and you think to the few people that grew up and loved that music. And you find out there are thousands and millions of people across the country, across the world, who also love it. That's pretty overwhelming."

Their Gaither Homecoming video series has become an icon in the Southern Gospel industry. The videos have an anointing that is priceless. They are not just your typical concert footage. These videos are something special. Bill attributes the success of the videos to their authenticity. "The people write to us and say, it just feels so real," Bill explains. "We started doing this before reality television came along. It was just people in a room, nothing was scripted. We were just being ourselves and having fun, and the comment that we've got more than any other comment is that it seems so authentic and real."

Fans of the Gaither Homecoming videos should be pleased to know that Bill is always working on something new. The most recent video was filmed at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, North Carolina. The setting for the taping was an old fashioned tent revival. "We wanted to do a

tent revival because Billy Graham started out in a tent in Los Angeles," Bill says. "The tent is a very precious thing to a lot of people because a lot of people found Christ in a tent meeting. So we're always working on new things like that."

Today, Bill also travels with his own quartet, the Gaither Vocal Band. He says he loves to see the reception of the crowds that continue to come to hear them sing. "It's pretty amazing that we've been able to do it this long and have this



kind of following," Bill says. "But I never take it for granted that we do have a good following and that it's pretty amazing." Bill said that they are in the process of recording a new Gaither Vocal Band album. This project will include several new songs and is set to be released this summer. Needless to say, Bill's excitement was contagious and this album is sure to be an anointed collection of music featuring the classic Gaither Vocal Band sound.

Always looking for new ways to minister to others, Bill and Gloria have begun organizing Gaither Homecoming cruises in recent years. These cruises provide the rare opportunity to gather together with many Gaither artists and enjoy worshipping the Lord with the backdrop of God's beautiful Creation. "I would tell anybody

who is reading this article that the cruise has a special dimension for some reason. There's something about being with the same people for an entire week on a ship. By the end of the week, it's pretty amazing spiritually, the wonderful things that happen. I think that's quite new and exciting. We just came back with 2,000 people. We took the entire ship, I don't think there was a cabin vacant and we're going back in Alaska this summer. It's pretty amazing how it just keeps happening and it keeps getting stronger every time. That's a pretty exciting part of our lives."

Bill Gaither continues to experience great success in his Southern Gospel career. He has performed at prestigious locations around



the world. Together, he and Gloria have won eight Grammy Awards and more than a dozen nominations. They have received more than two dozen Dove Awards from The Gospel Music Association, earning the title of Gospel Music Association's "Songwriter of the Year" eight times. Yet with all of their success, they remain genuine and compassionate. They dedicate their lives to proclaiming the Good News to the world. Through their love for Southern Gospel music, they not only give the world a smile, but they remind everyone that "life is worth the living, just because He lives!"



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# It all started on a donkey

by Jennifer Campbell



Have you ever wondered why Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, rode into town on a donkey more than two thousand years ago? There was no champion thoroughbred, no luxurious chariot...just a donkey. The King of Kings entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey just for you and me. He did it to carry out His Father's plan that included a difficult journey from the cross to the grave. This journey of love began with a triumphant entry and transformed into a sorrowful crucifixion. Think about how Jesus must have felt, riding a donkey, knowing all the while that He would be crucified by the very people His Father created. One day, they were waving palm branches as He rode into town. A few days later, they would be waving their fists, shouting, "Crucify Him!" And to think, it all started on a donkey.

I wonder if Jesus ever questioned, "A donkey???" Did He ever think, "Come on, Father, you've got to be kidding?" Surely there must have been the slightest bit of hesitation when the Savior of the world was being asked to ride into town on a borrowed donkey. While Jesus may have never questioned this minor detail, I am sure that my often outspoken, human self would have had something to say about that. I know there are times in my life when I wonder why God gives me a donkey, so to speak, when I have requested a faster and more comfortable mode of transportation. Sometimes, God does not hand us exactly what we want on a silver platter. Instead, He gives us the things we need. Rather than giving us a "fast pass" through life, He wants us to trust Him to provide what we need when we need it. And Jesus Christ trusted His Father completely.

Jesus knew that God would only ask Him to do what He could realistically accomplish. Although He may have questioned the events relating to His crucifixion, He remained steadfast in His love for His Father, fulfilling His Father's plan. Even unto death, Jesus carried out the will of God. Jesus knew that He was the only Perfect Sacrifice. He knew that a world without His crucifixion meant that all would be lost forevermore. He knew that you and I needed a Savior. As the old song says, "He could have called ten thousand angels, but He did it all for you and me." He knew He could not back out at the last minute...to do so would have changed the world for eternity. And in effect, it would have put an end to the notion of eternity for you and me. If Jesus had not trusted His Father, there would be no way for us to have our sins washed away and there would be no means of getting into Heaven. If He had not given His life for us, the end of our life on this earth would literally be just that - the end.

Thanks to God's amazing love for us, and the love His Son Jesus has for us, we have hope for eternity. If you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, you will live forever. John 3:16 (ESV) says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Jesus doesn't want us to live without hope. He doesn't want us to see death as the ill-awaited doomsday of our life. And He doesn't want us to fear the future. Instead, He wants us to cherish the time we have on this earth, all the while, joyfully awaiting the moment we walk into Heaven's gates. He wants us to believe that He is the Son of the Living God. If you believe this to be true, you will not die, but live. 1 Thessalonians (NIV) says, "He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him." Jesus wants to walk beside you on this earth, and when your earthly life is over, He wants you to live with Him in Heaven. If you have asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life, you have a life filled with hope. You have the hope of eternity.

So, the next time you see a donkey, think about the animal that, over two thousand years ago, carried the King of Kings upon its back. And the next time you wonder why God chose a donkey, take a closer look at the donkey's back. I know that God, the Creator of this hard-working creature, must have seen the significance in the design upon its back: a cross. Since the beginning of time, God knew that His only Son would ride upon a donkey on His journey to Calvary's cross. He knew that His only Son would die for every man, woman, boy, and girl. And yes, He knew that some people would love Him, and He knew that others would reject Him. He knew that the name of Jesus would be praised and adored, and other times; this holy name would be criticized and mocked. Yet, He did it all, just for you and me. Jesus Christ loves you unconditionally. Will you love Him in return?



## SCOTT FOWLER AND LEGACY FIVE: The Mark of Consistency

By Lorraine Walker

Legacy Five is one of the many thriving, award-winning Southern Gospel groups arising from the Cathedral Quartet's college of Christian music. Now entering their thirteenth year of music ministry, the quartet has multiple recordings, Gaither Homecoming tapings and television appearances to their credit. Their distinctive harmonies and strong lyrics have garnered multiple award nominations, including nods for two Dove Awards. Legacy Five showcases some of the finest talent in their genre and with the release of *A Wonderful Life* on Daywind Records, their presentation of Southern Gospel just keeps getting better.

Scott Fowler, co-founder of Legacy Five with the late Roger Bennett, began singing professionally with The Sound in 1987 before joining The Cathedrals in 1990. A decade of working with Glen Payne and George Younce was a complete training center for this affable young man. Fowler honed his craft and the current sound of his group is a credit to his talent and that of Bennett.

The smooth quartet sound of Legacy Five is due to current members, including bass Glenn

Dustin and baritone Scott Howard, who have been with Fowler from the beginning. Newer members Gus Gaches, tenor and Trey Ivey, pianist complete the lineup. Each member is making a permanent mark in Christian music, as much for their engaging personalities and communication skills, as for their musical talent.

Roger Bennett's influence can still be seen and heard in the music of Legacy Five. Most of the group's fans still recall Bennett and the mark he made on the group and genre. This past March marked five years after the passing of Fowler's friend and fellow Legacy Five owner and Fowler recently talked to SGN Scoops about Bennett's impact on his life.

"Roger taught me a lot of things. People talk a lot about my time with the Cathedrals and I always tell them I had great teachers: George (Younce) and Glen (Payne) and Roger. Roger was not only my best friend; he was also my business partner. We started Legacy Five together."

"If I had to narrow it down to one thing - because his sickness was such a big part of his life

after I got to know him and we became friends - really what Roger left me with was this: I've never seen anybody, or very few people, suffer physically like he suffered. Honestly, his attitude...he would get down and frustrated, and I'm sure he got depressed at times, but he never complained. And he always had something positive to say. Regardless of what his situation was, he was finding a message that God had for him at that particular time in his life. He was just an amazing person; he really was an amazing man."

After the passing of his friend and business partner, Fowler continued on with the leadership of Legacy Five, guiding it to the top of the Southern



Gospel industry. Scott Howard had a first-hand look at how well Fowler was able to handle the torch passed to him at the death of Bennett, and has only praise for his boss. "Scott has a managing style that is very easy to work with. He has let everyone know what their job is and what is expected of them and then gives us all the freedom to accomplish these things. He has a commitment to Legacy Five that has been displayed through the years that the group has been in existence. The best example that comes to mind is how he was thrown into a sole leadership position after Roger died. That would have been an easy time to move on to another phase in life, but he was committed to the group as well as to the Lord to see through what he and Roger had started."

Commenting on Fowler's leadership of Legacy Five in the five years after Bennett's passing, Donna

King, music producer and owner of Vertical Sky said recently, "When I think of Scott (Fowler), I think of integrity, consistency, and a man who knows his calling and clearly follows the path God lays in front of him. It's not easy to take the reins of a ministry and guide it in the right direction. Scott is gifted at it. I'm thankful to know him and to help, in my small way, in sharing their music with the world."

Scott Fowler has been guiding Legacy Five from the initiation of a new quartet, through the passing of Bennett in 2007 and through relatively few membership changes. Even after 25 years of being in the business of Southern Gospel, driving countless



hours and singing to thousands of people every year, Fowler retains his enthusiasm for his calling and for Southern Gospel. He says there have been a lot of changes in the industry over the years, but consistency as well, as the genre faithfully presents the good news of Jesus Christ. Fowler's definition of consistency includes "striving to achieve a common goal". "In other words," said Fowler, "we don't change our core beliefs and our core convictions." Legacy Five's music speaks of their beliefs and convictions.

"This music has always been lyrically great in my opinion," said Fowler, commenting on the Southern Gospel style. "The neat thing about it is you have a wide array of styles within the same genre. If you want it very traditional, you can find it. If you want the music very progressive, you can find that as well. There is literally something for everyone."

Strong, Bible-based lyrics have always been a hallmark for Southern Gospel, regardless of whether the style is progressive or traditional. Legacy Five consistently presents their unique blend of traditional quartet sound with inspirational overtones regardless of each recording's flavor or direction. However, the words play an integral part of the song selection and this remains true in their current release, A Wonderful Life.



"We examine the lyrics of the songs that we sing just to make sure that they're scripturally sound," said Fowler. "We don't want to sing something that doctrinally just doesn't line up with what the Bible has to say. Ultimately, the common theme through your music has to be that Jesus is right for what's wrong in your life. If it's not saying something, it's frankly a waste of time. Again, obviously they can't all be about the same thing. There are different seasons of life. There is a time to celebrate, there's a time to mourn, there's a time to rejoice and there's a time to worship. Your songs need to try to cover as many of those bases as possible."

One of those songs for different life seasons is Ask Me Why, from the current project. Ask Me Why is the subject of Legacy Five's first concept video which is being produced by Godsey and Associates. Vice President and General Manager of Godsey and Associates, Scott Godsey, is thrilled to work with the legendary quartet. "The guys with Legacy Five are great to work with," said Godsey recently. "We are all

very excited about what is happening in their career, including their music video to Ask Me Why. The music is timeless and classic. It goes beyond the ears and reaches the heart."

"I appreciate the sincerity [of the group]," Godsey continued. "Scott Fowler is a Godly man in business and friendship."

Gus Gaches, tenor of Legacy Five since 2009, agrees with Godsey's estimation of Fowler. "Scott is a great leader. He expects each of us to give our absolute best and he does whatever he can to help us to do just that. He definitely leads by example both with the group and in his walk with Christ."

Gaches continued, "I believe there is a certain level of consistency in professionalism, ability, and character that was established by the Cathedrals and is continued to this day by Legacy Five and other groups who continue that legacy. To do what we do within that context is what I consider to be consistency."

Scott Howard concurred with Gaches about the continuity of integrity within the group. "Consistency to me is a description of someone who is grounded in his beliefs and holds fast to them. Someone who is the same no matter the situation. Consistency is not a very common attribute in our world today with all of the shifting going on in our society. I am always pleased to hear someone describe Legacy Five as a consistent group. We have a set of core values that we will always adhere to, no matter how the rest of the world is doing things."

Trey Ivey has only been traveling with Legacy Five for a year, but agrees with the use of the word consistency in defining the group and its members. "To me, consistency in what we do is crucial across the board: in the way you present yourself, in constantly sharpening your craft, and in the way you treat others, just to name a few. With respect to Legacy Five, what first comes to mind with the word consistency are the guys who've been here from day one: Scott (Fowler), Howie (Scott Howard), and Cuz (Glenn Dustin). Not only have they stayed consistent in putting their very best on stage, but have consistently carried themselves with class and integrity."

The group is known for their class and

integrity, and the camaraderie within the group is also easy to see, whether onstage or off. The men are like brothers and Ivey says this has a lot to do with Fowler's guidance. "Scott Fowler is a great leader. He is constantly putting each of us in a position to excel, spending the majority of his time making the rest of us look good. He's the kind of leader that cares more about being my friend than my boss."



Fowler not only cares for his fellow members but also has a burden for the Legacy Five audience. He shared, "There are always people with needs, people with hurts and people that need to be encouraged. There are always people that need to be uplifted and again, that's the great thing about this music. It really is all things to all people. People ask us all the time: 'Is it music, or is it entertainment, or is it ministry?' My answer is: 'You ask the person who is listening to it and they will tell you if it's ministry for them or if it's entertainment.'"

"I don't personally have a problem with either way. The truth is, it depends on what that person is going through in their life and what season of life they're in. Our music can be entertaining, but our music can also be ministry for those that need to be ministered to. So I think the best answer is: 'Ask the person in the seat what it's doing for them.' I think that's a great compliment to this music is that it can be both."

Fowler enjoys both the entertainment and

ministry aspect as he interacts with fans that have followed his career from the early years. While some singers may become burned-out or cynical through the ebb and flow of a musical career, Fowler consistently retains his engaging grin and the twinkle in his eye. Even at 45, he has gained legendary status from his Cathedral past and a certain amount of seniority in the volatile industry. He is a hard-working

quartet-man, a label attached to those elite artists who are willing to put the team ahead of personal interests, to do whatever it takes to enable the group to excel in their presentation.

Long-time fan of the Cathedrals and part-time singer from Kentucky, Tracy Bertram, recently shared an interesting look at Fowler's past. "Years ago I sat down with Scott when the Cathedrals were doing an outside singing. He sat and talked to me forever about all kinds of things. He's one of the nicest guys in Southern Gospel that I've met," said Bertram. "He sat down and talked to my friend and me about how he got the call to audition [for the Cathedrals]. He said they wanted him to come and bring his bass because he had to be able to play bass and sing baritone, like Mark Trammell did. He said he didn't play bass, so he had to learn some stuff on bass to pass the audition." Fowler knew he would do whatever it took to gain that baritone position.

Efficiency in accomplishing whatever is necessary to meet a group's common goals is a

hallmark of a good team leader, regardless of the enterprise. Fowler has continued in this work ethic throughout his career. His continued striving for creative and vocal excellence has not diminished, as evidenced by the Quartet's quality in presentation.

"When I think of Legacy Five, I think of class," stated singer/songwriter Sheri LaFontaine, radio personality at WPOS in Holland, Ohio. "Glen Dustin is not only one of the best bass singers in the business; he's one of my favorite people."

Other Southern Gospel artists agree with LaFontaine and have a high opinion of the group and its leader. Mike Moran of The Torchmen from Ontario, Canada, said, "If you want my opinion, I think they are the classiest group in our industry, and the addition of Gus [Gaches] only added to that status."

"I've had the privilege, in years past, to be able to share the stage with Scott," says singer/producer Randy Miller, formerly of The Kingsmen. "His vocal tones are so rich and smooth. I know I would pay to hear him. Wait.... I have paid to hear him!" Miller laughs. "Keep up the great work Scott. You're not as good looking as me but you sure can sing!" Miller's off-beat sense of humor is a trait shared with Fowler, a quality that is a prerequisite for group members of Legacy Five. Fowler, son of a pastor, is known for practical jokes and on-stage wise cracks.

"You know what they say about pastors' kids, they're the most ornery on the earth," laughed Fowler. "People tell me all the time: 'You look so mischievous. There's something going on there with you.' I like to play practical jokes and I guess that's the other side of being a preacher's kid. You grow up in a pastor's household and oftentimes things are very serious just by the mere nature of it. I am just a mischievous person."

Fowler is married with two children and apparently his boys have inherited the comic streak. "You know, my kids don't have a chance because Ken Davis is their grandfather and so they have mischievousness running in their blood from both sides of the family. They don't stand a chance."

Fowler is a strong family man who enjoys talking about his children. He is very aware of his role as father and role model. "I can fail at everything else in life; I cannot fail at being a Daddy," stated Fowler.

"It is the absolute biggest responsibility I have. I love it and I'm up for it, I'm ready for it, I want to succeed at being a good dad. I just want to make sure that as my kids grow up, they may be able to say a lot of things [about me]," Fowler laughed. "No doubt they'll be in counseling because I will have done something wrong at some point! But my kids will know that I love them. They're not going to have any question about that. I won't do everything right, my dad didn't do everything right, and my kids when they are fathers they won't do everything right. But they're going to know I love them and I tell them that every day."



"I kiss them every day; I'm affectionate and they know their daddy loves them. They're going to have to tell me to stop! I ask my sons: 'Do you get tired of me telling you that I love you?' I say it 100 times a day. I always think it's a shame when I hear kids say after they're adults, 'You know, my dad never told me he loved me.' I'm not going to be guilty of that."

Scott Fowler and his wife Taryn work hard to instill a love for the Lord and His Word in their children. Just recently their youngest son, Bailey,

asked Jesus into his heart at the age of five. Fowler said, "We take [our sons] to church, and every night of their lives when we go to bed we read them the chapter for the day from a children's bible. Actually, the bible we've got right now is a daily thing, so it makes it easy for us because you just read through what's given for that day. Of course we try our best to live it in front of them, make sure that they see and not only hear about Jesus through the reading and through going to church. Hopefully they see Him in action in our lives on a daily basis."

Personal times of meditation in the Word are also important to this devoted husband and father. "I listen to podcasts of services when I'm not at church," said Fowler. "My church has their services online every week, so if I'm not able to go to my home church, which I love, then I'm able to watch it online. I also have a daily devotional. The one that I'm in right now is called Jesus Is Calling. There are lots of great resources out there now, especially with the internet and podcasts. If you are not getting a daily dose of the Gospel, it's your own fault because it is definitely out there and available."

As Scott Fowler and Legacy Five continue to impact Southern Gospel and its audiences with their music and message, Fowler is aware of the necessity being a faithful witness to Christ in his daily life. As he reflects on the legacy of the Godly men he has known and their witness, he expresses the desire to leave the same kind of mark on others. "Certainly what I hope people will say, is that Scott was a man of his word, he was a man of integrity and he was always kind to people - all of the good attributes that you see in people, that you look at people and say: 'I want to be like that. I want to have that attribute.'"

"I hope that people will say that Scott stood strong for his convictions, that he had a good moral compass, that he was relentless about following and wouldn't allow himself to get distracted and taken off course by anything. I hope what people can say about me is that I was consistent in my walk with Christ."

Legacy Five continues to strive for that consistency and it is the prayer of each member that their ministry will reflect a close, unchanging relationship with Christ. Scott Howard said, "I just want us to always be true to what I believe God has

called us to do. Following His leadership will be the best goal that we could achieve as a group as far as I'm concerned."

Gus Gaches said his goal is very simple. "I just want to continue the legacy that the guys in Legacy Five have worked so hard to build. If I can accomplish that, I would be very humbled!"

Newcomer Trey Ivey agrees. "My goal as a member of Legacy Five is to not only be a contributing member of this group for a long time, but make a difference for the Kingdom. I want to use the gift I have to honor God, because it came from Him. At the end of the day, that's all that really matters."

Scott Fowler's goals as leader of Legacy Five are straightforward. "Treat my guys the absolute best I can, and to create an attitude of live and let live on the bus. Be kind. Shake hands and be friendly! Embrace our friends and fans. We sing for them and they support us! We need each other and we owe our utmost respect to them for supporting us all these years."

Fowler's last comments are ones that should be echoed by all Christians who strive to be consistent in their walk with God. "Lastly, above all, be about the Father's business, knowing He expects nothing but our best."

For more information on Legacy Five:  
<http://www.legacyfive.com/index.html>  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Legacy-Five/23710927698>

Photographs courtesy of Scott Fowler, Legacy Five, Homeland Entertainment and Godsey and Associates. Special thanks to Brittany Maxwell of Godsey and Associates.

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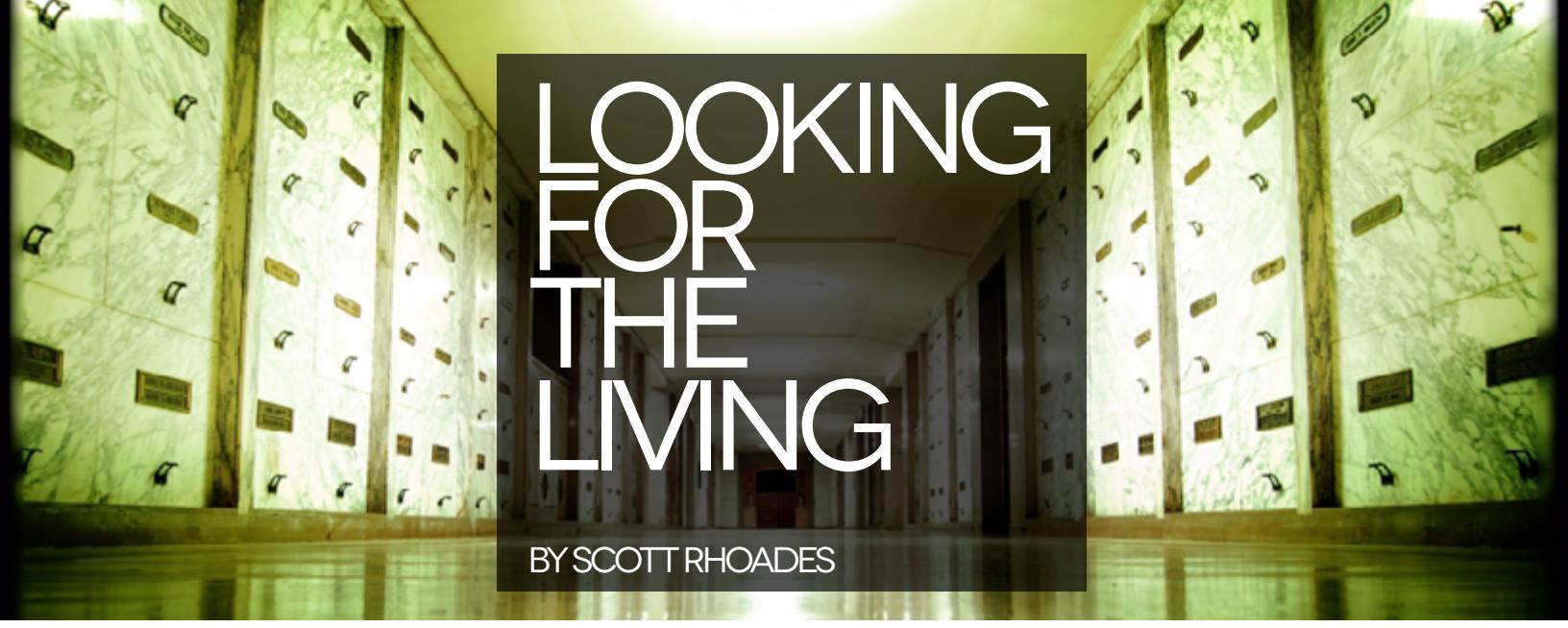
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# LOOKING FOR THE LIVING

BY SCOTT RHOADES

Perhaps one of the most important tools a writer can use is the power of observation. A good writer will open his or her eyes and watch; reading the subtle and not-so-subtle expressions, actions, choices, habits, and patterns of people, places, objects, and events in time. The writer translates these observations from the subjective to the objective, from the intangible concept to the tangible word, all in an attempt to unveil some common or undiscovered perspectives.

As both a traveler and an observer, I've had the extraordinary opportunity to watch the world go by through the lens of my own experience and unique vantage points. I've met some fascinating individuals; wealthy, poor, healthy, ill, famous, not-so-famous, and everyone in between. As I think about these people, I often ask myself what makes them so different, and what makes them so much alike. Why do some people appear to succeed in life, while others appear to fail? Why do some appear to enjoy life, while others seem to find it such a miserable proposition?

A few days ago I found myself reading the Luke 24 account of the women's visit to the tomb of Jesus. It was a distressing time for these devoted followers and I can only imagine the array of emotions and feelings they experienced, leaving them in a state of doubt and uncertainty. The man in whom they poured their trust was dead! Not knowing what to do, but wanting to do something, they gathered up the finest spices they had made and headed towards the tomb with the best of intentions - to honor this "Savior." What transpires next is well known to those of us in Christianity and is a cornerstone event separating Christ from the multitudes of other man-made gods. His body was nowhere to be found. This confused these women even more until "two men in shining garments" (Luke 24:5) appeared to them revealing the good news of what had just taken place- He lives!

While the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord is without a doubt the singularly most important series of events to breach the timelines of eternity, I find it interesting that these heavenly messengers don't begin their announcement with "He is risen," but stop to ask a question – "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Could it be Jesus Himself left the angels with specific instructions and words to share as He made His departure from the grave? Did He have something more to say? Did He have another point to make? Why ask this question? Why not simply give out the good news like they did 33 years before to the shepherds on the hillsides outside of Bethlehem? "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

As I observe individuals and ask myself the questions that surround people's success, failures, outlooks and positions in life, I find we share a common quest – to discover the meaning in life. The differences occur with the choices we make, good or bad, in action or reaction to the changing world around us and our search for meaning in our lives. Perhaps this is just what Jesus had in mind when He had the angels deliver the queried announcement of His resurrection; the answer to the meaning in life would manifest itself through the question of our search.

Some individuals choose to search for the meaning of their lives in things that are well intentioned, much like Mary, Joanna, and the other women who visited the tomb on that early Jerusalem morning. The pursuits seem legitimate - food, clothing, housing, transportation, finance – they all have their places, but can easily turn into obsessions if we permit them to define who we are. Soon, we find ourselves with an insatiable drive and a "need" for the next best sports car, the biggest house, the largest HD television, the most recent smartphone, and the latest designer labels. Our energies and our beings become exhausted and spent. We die in material consumption, all in the name of searching for meaning in life. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

Others search for the meaning of life in even more destructive methods. Failing to see themselves from heaven's point of view, they engage in thoughts, actions, and deeds to soothe the woes of low self-esteem, guilt, depression, and uncontrolled anxieties. Drugs, alcohol, pornography, abuse, obesity, co-dependent relationships, and other addictive behaviors become substitutions to medicate fears and feelings of loneliness, worthlessness, failure, and self-hate. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

Perhaps the best perspective on this account is that heaven intended the nature of the question to be merely rhetorical. It demanded no answer because no human explanation was adequate. With all the events that had taken place, the world of the women who visited the tomb was already turned upside down and inside out; they simply had no response to give. The inexplicability of the question was perfectly timed however, as heaven was prepared with its very own answer – "He is not here, He is risen!"

In your quest and search for meaning in life, is Jesus found in the people, places and things in which you invest your time? Do you medicate yourself with passive ideas, actions and influences that will only serve to keep you on the fast track to nowhere or do you surround yourself with positive and godly ideologies that keep you actively growing and maturing in wisdom, faith, and living? Must you continually try to justify an answer to the inquiry – "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" or have you uncovered the real answer?

The great news is there is an answer for your search. By seeking a personal relationship with the One who loves you unconditionally and surrounding yourself with the limitless resources of His grace, mercy, and love, you open yourself to discover the exciting realities of heaven that will give your life perspective and purpose. Try looking for the living among the living. He is here, He is risen!



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# **DECLARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

## **Declaration Trio**



By Sandi Duncan Clark

When Kasey Kemp, Joshua Horrell and Jake Sammons first sang together, it just "felt right." The commonality of their love of Gospel music as well as their desire to reach the lost with the message of the Gospel laid the groundwork for an exciting music ministry.

During a recent conversation, these gentlemen shared their heart and their ministry with SGNSCOOPS.

Kasey said, "We didn't have a name or any dates on the books, but we knew in our hearts that God was in this."

As they talked, one could sense their excitement and dedication to their music ministry. According to Jake, it didn't take long for God to give them the name. He shared, "My wife and I were reading in the Scripture, 1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 5, 'This is then the message which we have heard of Him and declare unto you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all' and the word 'declare' just spoke to our hearts."

Kasey took up the conversation, "That same weekend that scripture came to me, and I shared it with Jake and Josh, and we realized that this was God's direction."

Each of these gentlemen has a history in Gospel music. Josh was only two years old when he first sang in church. "My Grandmother had me sing, and

after that it was just natural. I traveled and sang with my Mom, Cheryl, until I was 11 and then with my Grandmother. My sister is married to Biney English and I grew up around Biney and Michael English. I come from a big family of Gospel singers," Josh revealed, "and I'm really thankful that I was brought up in a Christian family where music was a part of our lives."

Josh is the youngest member of the group. He sings tenor and is a favorite with fans. His personality endears him to young and old alike and he enjoys meeting fans at the group's record table.

Jake Sammons sings baritone with Declaration and carries on the tradition of his father. "My Dad, Tom Sammons, is the greatest influence in my career in Gospel music," Jake said. "As long as I can remember, Dad sang with a group, and I always have enjoyed his voice, his style and his delivery," Jake continued.

Jake shared, "I'm thankful to have a wife who supports and encourages what we do. Anjanette is an excellent mother to our two girls, Allison, 10 and Cadence, age eight. She is a superb example of a Christian wife and mother. She is strong and smart and funny, and whenever we're traveling, I know that Anjanette and the girls are praying for us."

Kasey Kemp's career in Gospel music spans a number of years. He began playing in church at the

age of seven and joined a local Gospel group when he was just 14 years old. Kasey felt the call of God into the ministry and studied to be ordained in the Baptist church. "I know that God called me into full-time service for Him, and Gospel music was where it all began for me," Kasey said.



Kasey Kemp

"I have been preaching and singing for most of my adult life and I'm so pleased that God brought the three of us together as Declaration Trio," Kasey said. "We want everyone to know that our heart's desire is to tell the story of Jesus wherever we go."

Declaration Trio has recently released "In Good Hands," an exciting new recording. "And that's also the name of our single currently playing on Gospel radio," Kasey shared. "We worked on the album for almost a year, to get exactly what God wanted us to have."

Jake commented, "We have been friends with the Booth Brothers for a good while, and when we started working on the recording, we called Michael and Ronnie Booth and Jim Brady for prayer and advice. They gave us direction on a number of things, but one of the most important things that Michael said was 'You need strong songs with scriptural lyrics.' We began looking at what we were doing and praying for the songs God wanted us to have."

Adding to that, Kasey replied, "We looked at every song we were singing to make sure they were lyrically strong and musically solid. The direction from Michael, Jim and Ronnie was what we needed to look seriously at our music ministry and be sure that what

we are doing is the very best for God."

For several months, Declaration has been in various concerts across the country with the Booth Brothers. "Michael called one day and asked us to join them on a couple of their dates," Jake said. "We were excited but told him we would like to pray about it and be sure we were ready."

Josh picked up the comments, "Well, yes, we were excited but were not sure we could do what the people who came to the Booth Brothers' concerts would enjoy. We worked hard and prayed for guidance."

Kasey was excited when Michael asked again. "I told the guys and we felt we could do a program with them. We had put some strong songs together and worked on our stage presence, praying for the Lord to guide us. We told Michael we would be honored to go."

That night for Declaration was a turning point and they have continued to grow spiritually in their music ministry.

"You have to understand," Jake stated. "We started out by faith. We didn't have sound equipment, we didn't have dates, we had nothing...just our willingness to be used of God and to use our talent to...to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins..."



Josh Horrell

Josh concluded, "Then we asked and God supplied,

and more than we even could imagine."

Jake added, "What Josh is saying is that we now have sound equipment, we have a trailer that we pull behind Kasey's Jeep, we have a recording, we have dates...our own dates and concert dates in the book with the Booth Brothers, and the Lord just keeps blessing."



Jake Sammons

Kasey advised, "We're more than thankful for the mentoring we receive from the Booth Brothers, and we feel that through our friendship and relationship, God has caused us to better our ministry with their guidance and help. We know now more than ever that we're in God's will with the work we're doing, by the way His spirit of approval rests on our ministry."

As we talked of the desires of the group and their mission, all three men agree that, "Our desire is that people see Christ when they come hear us sing or preach." Kasey attested, "If they see Jesus then we are definitely doing what God called us to do."

Josh added, "We want people to remember that we are declaring to them the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through our music. When we're in concert, we may laugh, we may clap, we may even shed some tears, but we want them to hear that Jesus is the only One who can change their life."

Jake agreed, by stating, "I love singing, but I don't love it enough to leave my two little girls and my wife every weekend to go sing. But I do love the Lord enough to go tell people about Him. We want people to know that WE love them enough to be there and

share the Lord with them."

At the end of a long weekend, at the end of the day, at the end of a service, this young trio wants YOU to know that their sole purpose for hitting the road, traveling many miles and standing before the audience every weekend of the year is to "... Declare unto you, That God is light and in Him is no Darkness...1Jn. 1:5, and 7... But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin...and 1 Jn. 1:9 ...If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

God has recently opened another door for Declaration Trio, by allowing the Harper Agency to look at their ministry for consideration as one of the agency's new artists. "We're excited that they would consider our music," Kasey said. "This is just another way that God is showing His approval."



The trio's new album has spawned their first radio single, "In Good Hands." Susan Whisnant is promoting the song to Gospel Radio and if you haven't heard this song on your local Gospel radio station, please give them a call. If they say they do not have the song, you can notify Kasey, Jake and Josh on their web site; [www.declarationtrio.com](http://www.declarationtrio.com), or by phoning them at 1-888-699-9015. You may also use these contacts as a means to purchase their recording. God can use YOU to help promote the music ministry of Declaration Trio; Kasey Kemp, Josh Horrell and Jake Sammons.

# NEW MUSIC APRIL

BY SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

What a beautiful time of year is Spring! Flowers, birds, beautiful green veils on all the trees and the sweet, fresh smell of newness EVERYWHERE! What a beautiful time of year is Spring!

Thank you to several who have sent emails regarding our work with SGNSCOOPS! You will never know this side of Heaven, what your encouragement means.

I was treated to some truly great songs and was blessed beyond measure by the music we're presenting to you this month. I hope you'll take our suggestions and follow up for your own copy of these recordings and BE BLESSED!

A special "Thank You" to the people who shared their talent. We are honored that you would allow SGNSCOOPS to introduce your music to our readers. Our mailing address is SGNSCOOPS Reviews, 477 Sandalwood Drive, Easley, S.C., 29640



VINTAGE  
The Needhams  
Independent  
Producer: David L. Needham



The Needhams are three generations of family who have dedicated their lives to the Ministry of Southern Gospel music. Having been a fan of the Needhams for several years, I was eager to hear their latest recording, titled VINTAGE! Ten songs their fans have enjoyed and requested through the years, combined with a bonus cut featuring Dave Needham's wife, Corina, is this talented group's gift.

From the first strains of "Amazing Grace, (My Chains Are Gone)," featuring Steve and Diane Mummert's 16-year old daughter, Adrienne, to the final notes of Corina Needham's rendition of "Blessed," you will be touched by the message in the songs, the music and the family's talent.

Of the three songs written by Diane Needham Mummert and chosen for this album, my favorite is "Lead Me To The Garden." This is a beautiful song worth hearing a second (or third) time and the family does a great job.

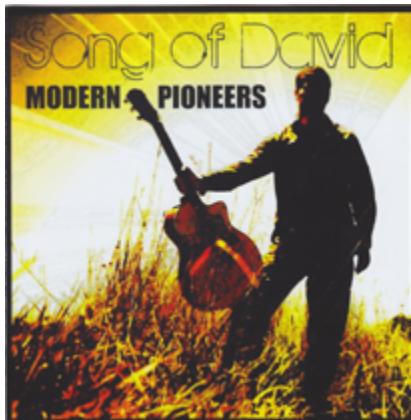
The Needhams sing the great classic, "He Pilots My Ship," written by Ronnie Hinson and a song that is in the old red-backed Church Hymnal, "I'm On The Battlefield (For The Lord.)" These will take you back a few years.

Musical interpretations are well suited to each song, ranging from simple acoustic instruments to keyboards and a full band or basic acapella versions. Brother and sister team, Dave and Diane, know their family's vocal flair and feature each member accordingly. Both Dave and Diane are skillful song writers as well.

Their father, David, who, before accepting Christ, played Country music with Lefty Frizzell and Marty Robins, adds his expertise to the band playing guitar and harmonica. The family stages a full band, with Adrienne playing rhythm guitar, Diane playing mandolin, Dave on keyboards and Steve on percussion. I love hearing the third generation grow into the ministry and take

their place in the family's music and vocal presentation. You just don't see much of that anymore in today's families.

VINGAGE is recommended if you like Southern and Country Gospel music. It is available through the Needhams' ministry at [www.theneedhams.com](http://www.theneedhams.com).



#### MODERN PIONEERS

Song of David  
(David Bryan)

David Bryan has acquired some seasoned veterans to help arrange, produce and perform on MODERN PIONEERS. Danny Crawford serves as session leader on the music tracks, does the music arrangements and adds keyboards and strings. Brian Beatty arranged and produced the vocals, while adding background vocals. These two gentlemen have years of experience and with David's songwriting ability, we have a solid finished product.

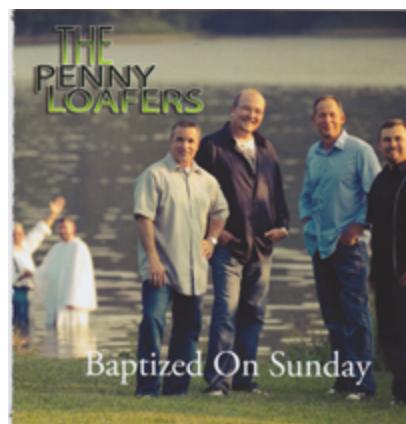
David sings Dottie Rambo's "The Holy Hills" with a slightly different rhythm and arrangement; just enough to catch your attention and bring home the message. Along with his own compositions, David chose songs by Gina Vera and Twila LaBar, Ann Downing and Dwight Lyles, along with Dottie, to complete the recording. He has arranged the songs to suit his style and is secure with his performance on each one.

The title cut, one of David's originals, "Modern Pioneers" likens our Christian journey to that of pioneers of yesteryear. While this is an unusual comparison it is apropos by distinction. "Angels Watching" is strong and comforting, while Ashley Cook Mackey joins David on one of my favorite songs on the recording; "The Storm", written by Gina Vera and Twila LaBar.

David ends this project with "Power In His Name," and oh, what a finish, as every song built up to this blessing! Written by John Keal, the song says, "*There is power in His name, power in His name, whisper it, or shout it, the results are the same...on the mountains, through the valleys in the city or on the plains, when the world needs a miracle, there's power in His name.*"

Ballads with acoustic instruments; powerful orchestration and big endings give the listener a full musical experience. This recording must be personally experienced and shared with a friend. Checking [www.song-of-david.com](http://www.song-of-david.com) will allow you to order

your copy.



#### BAPTIZED ON SUNDAY

The Penny Loafers  
Mansion Entertainment  
Producer: The Penny Loafers

With the title and the artists' name, I knew this would be an interesting experience, and there was no disappointment. BAPTIZED ON SUNDAY is quite a change of pace and a most enjoyable one, I might add. Every song recorded here is without equal in performance and presentation, in my opinion. Some of the 10 songs are done acapella with the men using their voices as instruments. What a wonderful sound!

While the group is known as an acapella quartet, numerous songs are done with music. Acoustic styling is presented on a couple of songs; big band and brass on some and classic Southern Gospel arrangements on others.

The Penny Loafers have been singing acapella music since the mid 1980's. They have traveled extensively, including Branson, Missouri and a visit to the National Quartet Convention. This recording, released in 2011 by Mansion Entertainment, is an exciting display of Gospel music. The year 2010 marked their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a group, and despite personnel changes, Michael, Larry, Alan and Kevin have been together for 18 years.

The title song, "Baptized on Sunday" is the story of conversion and baptism. Then, you will enjoy The Penny Loafers version of an old Mosie Lister song, "Goodbye World, Goodbye." "That's When The Angels Rejoice" "When God Is Leading You," and "I've Been On The Mountain" are impressive and whether you are familiar with these songs or not, you will soon be tapping your toes.

Hat's off to Michael Hunt, Larry Nichols, Alan Pike and Kevin Slemp. Very enjoyable music! This recording is available through their website at [www.theLoafers.com](http://www.theLoafers.com)

continued on next page



JESUS AND ME – THE COLLECTION  
Glen Campbell  
New Haven Records  
DELUXE EDITION

Ken Harding and his associates at New Haven Records joined with the legendary Glen Campbell, offering JESUS AND ME – THE COLLECTION. This is a re-issue of Christian songs originally recorded and released by Glen from 1985 through 1992.

This recording was released in late 2011, not long after Glen announced he is suffering from early onset Alzheimers. Following several years of personal issues in the early to mid '90's, Glen finally resolved the problems, made a definite change in this life and began recording Christian music. He chose positive lyrics that were dedicated to God and these songs reflect that.

The song list is as follows: "Jesus and Me," (a great song written by Phil Driscoll and Lari Goss,) "Call It Even," "Show Me Your Way" with Ann Murray, "Something To Die For," "Sure As The Sun," "Amazing Grace," "The Greatest Gift Of All," with Russ Taff and the Christ Church Choir, "Turn Up The Radio," "The Boy In Me," "The Savior I Sing Of Today," "No More Night" and "Come Harvest Time." There are two bonus tracks; "On The Wings of Victory" and "I Will Arise" performed with The Boys Choir of Harlem.

The recording features the smooth baritone vocals of a younger Glen Campbell, and will bring back many memories. The recording is distributed through Provident Distribution INC, 741 Cool Springs Blvd, Franklin, Tn., 37067.



OASIS  
The Crist Family  
Horizon Records  
Producers: Jeff Collins, Rich Crist

OASIS is the perfect beginning to a great Monday morning! The first sound you hear is a beautiful orchestra introduction to "He Is Amazing," which will categorically put you in the mood for some of the sweetest music this side of heaven! I'm a fan of this family's amazing musical talent and testimony, and their new album is "amazing," (play on words intended!)

With songs from some of the industry's top song writers; incredible music and diversity in arrangements, what's not to love about OASIS? The simple fact is that Rich and his wife, Lisa Crist, their two daughters, Jackie and Breana; Rich's sister, Tami Starkel and her husband, John, as well as their bass singer, Tom Joyce, have a deep, abiding love for the Lord Jesus and for Gospel music. This love is evident in their preparation for this recording. Song selection and preparation bathed in prayer plus support and advice from their producer Jeff Collins, and hours of practice and recording have all contributed to an album that is one of the best on the market today.

You'll enjoy the exquisite orchestration on some of the songs, the traditional Southern/Country arrangements on others, and even the African drums and the African Male Chorus on "Rhythm Of Grace." There is certainly something on this recording that will encourage, uplift and bless you.

While all songs are a blessing, I especially enjoyed "I Love Lovin' Jesus" (I sang this all day!) "His Strength Is Perfect," "Deeper" and the story in "I Love You, Son" will indeed bless you.

We recommend you enjoy a copy of OASIS to enjoy. Visit [www.cristfamilymusic.com](http://www.cristfamilymusic.com)



The logo for the 2012 Diamond Awards. It features the year "2012" in a white serif font at the top left. To the right is the word "DIAMOND" in large, bold, blue and silver metallic letters, with a decorative diamond border underneath. Below "DIAMOND" is the word "Awards" in a large, elegant, white cursive script. A stylized, swirling purple ribbon or banner arches from behind the "DIAMOND" text towards the "Awards" text.

# 2012 **DIAMOND** Awards

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# DREAMING WIDE AWAKE

## DOUG ANDERSON



BY RHONDA FRYE

Everyone loves a story in which the small town boy marries his high school sweetheart and they live happily ever after. In this case, it gets even better! The boy was an all-county, all-state basketball star. The girl was an all-state volleyball player and track star. The two dated all through high school and eventually got married.

The guy in this picture played basketball at Purdue University. It appeared he was headed for the NBA, but what most people didn't know is that he longed to sing gospel music full time in a quartet! In fact, coming from a musical family, gospel music was his first love. This guy dreamed of having a beautiful family with the love of his life and dreamed of living a lifestyle filled with sports and music. God granted him the desires of his heart and he is now living a dream, but trust me... He is WIDE AWAKE! The guy who wakes up rubbing his eyes realizing his life is real and he's not asleep is.... DOUG ANDERSON!

Doug Anderson grew up and makes his home in Lapel Indiana, population 2,800! Yes, that's correct, 2,800! This small-town athlete had a dream to sing. Doug's dream to become a full time gospel artist became reality when he joined a group called "Lighthouse." Singing with this group eventually led to meeting Ernie Haase and with a mutual love for basketball and music, a friendship soon developed. At the time, Ernie was singing with the legendary Cathedrals. Knowing retirement for the Cathedrals

was inevitable; Ernie told Doug he would give him a call if he should form his own group. Ernie did, Doug accepted and has been on a whirlwind ride with Signature Sound ever since.

Being the baritone for one of the hottest quartets of all time opens doors that even Doug could have never dreamed of himself! This position affords tasting the success of smash hit songs, sold-out crowds and prestigious awards. Singing with Signature Sound lands Anderson on stages literally all over the world.

It shouldn't be a surprise for the die-hard sports fan to say his most memorable performance thus far took place at a sporting event! "My most memorable performance was singing the National Anthem at the Atlanta Motor Speedway," Doug admits! "You know- it was the second year we'd done the Atlanta Motor Speedway. In 2010 we had beautiful weather, in 2011 it was rainy, but we were just thrilled that they asked us back to do it again," he continues. "For EH&SS, that's a great step! In one five-minute segment, you're heard by millions of people. ESPN is a huge network! We were thrilled and to make things better, I am a HUGE NASCAR fan! My whole family is big into racing! So- when my wife gets to go- that's amazing too!"

Although Doug's voice merges, mingles and tightly weaves around other vocals in a group setting, don't be fooled! Doug's voice is exceptional and is more than capable of shining on its own! When Doug isn't

ministering with Signature Sound, he ministers as a soloist with music from his own album!

"When Ernie approached me about doing a solo project he said there were a lot of people asking for it in the emails. He then asked if I would be interested," Doug recalls. "I've always been a team guy- it took me back at first, but then I jumped at the chance! I thought this would be a great way to expand what I



do and would also be something for our family to do together."

"I didn't want the CD to just be a bunch of songs; I wanted the CD to be about my life," Doug continues, "Basically the CD is a journey of my life, the ups and downs." Award-winning producer, song writer and dear friend of Doug's, Wayne Haun produced the project. "Having Wayne Haun in my life is great, he's the best friend in the world," Doug shares. "He's a great writer himself and has a lot of great writer friends. So...I have incredible songs and some incredible artists who came in and guest appeared."

One duet includes Charlotte Ritchie on the song "That's How Much I Need A Savior." "She is my favorite woman singer in the entire world," Doug says!

The Collingsworth Family went the extra mile

to add a touch too! Phil Collingsworth shares: "We actually finished our Annual Florida Tour on the last Sunday of February, 2011 and Wayne Haun, our producer and partial owner of our record company, StowTown Records, called and said he really needed the kids' voices for one song on the new Doug Anderson solo record. They were almost to the final mix and he wanted to see if we would stop through Nashville on our way back to Cincinnati from Florida and lay in those vocals. We set it up to be in the studio Monday afternoon and planned for the bus to roll all night to Nashville. About 11:30 pm, the transmission on the bus overheated, bringing it to a stop just north of Tampa, FL. We ended up turning around and going back to Tampa and staying on the parking lot of the Allison Transmission Dealer until Monday morning, alerting Wayne of our breakdown. I then went to the Tampa airport and rented a one-way van back to Cincinnati and got Kim, our sound engineer, and the four kids on the road towards home while I stayed with the bus in Tampa for repairs. Wayne stayed in contact with Kim in the van and was able to secure a studio for midnight Monday night, when they would re-direct from the normal route home to Cincinnati and roll through Nashville instead. Wayne and the recording engineer was waiting at midnight when they finally made it to Nashville and they were able to lay in those vocals within an hour, just before the final mix deadline the next day. WOW! You talk about making it by the skin of their teeth! And... what an incredible lyric about salvation and the power of Jesus' saving power!"

"It was great to have the Collingsworth Family on there. They are incredible- probably one of the hottest groups out right now! I owe them a lot," Doug adds!

The most meaningful song on the album to Doug is "Dreaming Wide Awake." In an interview with Rob Patz, Doug shares the story behind the song. "This song was written just for me. Not a lot of people can say they have a song written just for them. Actually, I brought Wayne Haun in to my home town of Lapel, Indiana and also Joel Lindsey. Joel is one of my favorite friends in the world- amazing writer. Both guys came in and stayed at my house. They followed us around for a week and they came up with the song. It's a song about my home town. It's a small town and we basically wanted it to be a story about what we do each day. It's not fancy to a lot of people, but it works for our family and that's what matters the most to us."

The song obviously works for a lot of other people too; it's received a Dove nod for Country Song of the Year! "To have that song to be the one that's nominated is very near and dear to me and actually for our whole town too. People in Australia are asking where Lapel, Indiana is- that's pretty funny because it's such a small town!"

In fact, the album has been received well. This Stow Town recording received three Dove Nominations: "Country Album of the Year," "I'll Take What's Left" for Inspirational Song of the Year, and as mentioned, "Dreaming Wide Awake" for Country Song of the Year."

"I got exactly what I wanted out of this project. Usually I'm very critical about what I do, what I sing and how it sounds, but I am extremely happy with this CD," Doug says. "I'm pretty excited about the Dove Nominations, of course we've worked hard on the record and it's gone really well. I'm thrilled that my peers and my fans have recognized and accepted it.



Three nominations for my first project is pretty good and I'm just very excited about it," he adds.

Doug enjoys performing solo, but admits it does feel a little strange being out there all alone. "The first night I debuted my project was in my hometown because everybody in town knows what I do and follows us on TV and things like that. We debuted it and gave all the proceeds to a foundation that Michele and I started that gives back to schools. I remember running out on stage with the band

behind me. When I got out there I thought, I'm ALL BY MYSELF.... This is totally different and totally weird," Doug recalls! "Ernie has put me on platforms all over the world and I can never repay him for that, but the first concert I did was a sold-out show and it took me a couple of songs to get acclimated," he continues, "I'm the king of forgetting words, just ask Devin



Mcglamery, but it's a lot easier now!"

Ernie Haase and Wayne Haun have been instrumental in making Doug into the man he is today, but there is another man in the picture too and that's Doug's father! "I want to grow up and be just like him," Doug says. "He is a man of God and he is a man of hard work. He's a huge, huge role-model to me. And the funny thing is, we don't have a lot in common. He's into engineering and things like that. He's a very smart man- not a man of a lot of words, but the way he's lived his life and loved me has been a huge inspiration to me."

Doug enjoys his solo work for many reasons, but especially because this is something he does with his family. Family is everything to Doug! Michele, Doug's best friend and wife for 13 years along with beautiful daughters, Isabel and Emma are a huge support.

The Anderson family shares a love for sports. "We're very sports oriented! My wife is the varsity volleyball coach at the high school, so- we're just a gym-rat family," Doug explains. "We're always in a gym or at a ballgame. Most people go to movies, but when I'm home during the week, we go to an event- that's just

who we are."

With a love for sports, there is also room for friendly competition! "We are very competitive! Many times we will be walking out of the grocery store pushing two carts. One of us will start walking faster. Pretty soon, we will be sprinting to see who gets there first," Doug laughs!

Doug and Michele work at their marriage. "We do have those special nights where mommy and daddy just goes out by their selves," Doug explains. "I think with any job, whether it's singing or a 9 to 5 job, communication is everything. When I'm home I try to make sure the house is clean, the yard is mowed and I do all those kind of things so she doesn't have to when I'm gone. She is my best friend," he adds.

Doug is an avid runner and he uses his running time as one means of spiritual nurturing. Doug shares: "My biggest devotion time is when I run. I love to run. I'm just a huge runner! Running is my passion. I get up in the morning and run and those are my 'thank you, Lord' moments. I usually run about 6 to 7 miles a day in the morning while the kids and my wife are still asleep. I get to watch the sun come up every day. There is something beautiful and healing about that time. That's my prayer and meditation time. If for some reason I don't do it, I'm kind of whacked out all day!"

It has been a great pleasure to share Doug Anderson's story. This is a story bound to bring a smile to our readers. Doug concludes, "I always wanted to sing, I always wanted to play sports and have a great family. I am living way beyond what I ever thought. God has blessed me tremendously with the career that I want and I still get to enjoy the athletics because my family is so involved. The athletics and the singing have kept my family together which is the most important thing in the world to me. We all hang together and it's just a dream!"

To learn more about Doug Anderson, visit <http://www.dougandersonmusic.com/>.

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# A Mathis Moment God Will Always Finish What He Starts

By John Mathis Jr.

Have you been introduced to my grandson yet? Well, if you're my Facebook friend you definitely have seen his pictures! He will be 15 months old at the time of this article and has been such a great joy in our household. I guess in my "old age" he has reminded me of the circle of life; I see his beginnings and so often wonder who he will be and what he will do in his life. We call him our little "minister" because of his sweet, loving spirit and the joy he brings.

It also reminded me of my own life and the journey I've traveled so far. Most folks who know me may not know that I started out preaching at nine years old. My dad had three sons and he taught us all to play an instrument. We traveled to different churches playing and singing. When I answered the call to preach at nine years old, we'd also travel through East Texas and Louisiana "holding revivals" (that's Southern church speak for two or more nights of preaching). Of course at the time, I was a nine year old so I had no idea the impact it had for a kid to get up in front of a congregation and preach. We just loaded the instruments and got in the car when it was time to go. We had some great times!

Thinking about those days also got me to thinking about my dad. When it came time to have an "altar call," as we'd say in the holiness Pentecostal circles, my dad would grab his guitar and light in on some of those old songs he'd sang growing up in his father's church. He delivered them with such a drive and spirit that it was like a wave that started from the front of the church and rolled to the back. There were always that one or two people in the back who had been hanging on to the back of the pew up until this time, wanting to join those crying and praying and pouring their hearts out as they knelt at the front of the church, but for whatever reason they were reluctant to go. My dad's fervor and spirit in his singing was usually the final push for them to make haste to the front and find a

place to just let those walls down and open their hearts as well.

My dad passed away last year, so I think of him often these days. I also have this new life coming up, my grandson, another John Mathis in the family, who I know already has a purpose that he will grow toward. And there I am, in the middle, at 43 years old. It's all given me a thought of comparison: of the completed life of my father, the life in progress that I'm living and the new life of my grandson that began 15 months ago.

I have the advantage of hindsight and that of being a firsthand witness to hearing my dad tell about his life... how he started out learning to play guitar in the churches where his dad was the preacher and how he eventually took his talent for singing and songwriting into Country Music and had his own array of successes there. He spent many years living contrary to how he'd grown up in his faith, but made a return in the 60's through a salvation experience driving down a Texas highway. He then sang and evangelized until the time he had a massive stroke in 1999 and then lived under the constant care of my mother until his death in 2011.

It's easy to see in that completed life, one that I was so close to, a life that has been lived until death, how God had a purpose all along. I heard the stories of the ups and downs, the mistakes and failures, the highs and lows, and the joys and regrets. Yet God STILL had a plan and purpose for that life. It's amazing how all along God was taking those twists and turns, even through the bad decisions and still working them out for a purpose and His will. I truly can see in my father's life story where he wanted to fulfill what he thought were his dreams or desires, but kept turning back to what he felt was God's purpose. No matter where he'd been or what he'd done, he still believed God was able

to use him and had a purpose for him. And because of that, there have been many many stories come to us after his death about the wonderful witness and influence he was in the lives of others. He truly left a legacy of faith and a lasting impression upon those around him.

I know personally, I've gone through my own valleys in life. I've made some poor choices. I've made mistakes. I've been misguided and misdirected at times. My priorities have not always been where they should be. There's been a lot of life already lived between being a nine year old preacher and to where I'm at today. There isn't one of us who has not made mistakes. The difference may be in the number and quality (some big, some small) of the mistakes we've made ... but we've all made mistakes.

However, there have been a few passages that have reminded me that when I started this journey of faith, it wasn't ME who was doing the constructing and building of my purpose or yours. In Hebrews 12:2 it says that Jesus is the "author and finisher" of our faith. Philippians 1:6 says that "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it to the day of Jesus Christ".

If in my dad's life and in my own life, God has continued to work all things out toward finishing the work he began in us, EVEN in spite of the times we got off track, HOW MUCH MORE can he accomplish His work in those who remain willing??

I believe many times we become impatient with God regarding His work in us. Sometimes we try to hasten His purpose in our lives; yet, He has promised us that IF He started a work within us, He WILL complete it! In His time, in His way, as He sees fit!

In other words, if God WANTS you to BE something or DO something, it WILL be done. All you have to do is get up each day and follow Him. Just do the basics He has asked of any of us; love Him, talk to Him, love others, love His word and instruction. Trust Him!

God has a purpose and plan for EACH of us. God told Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5 "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*" He also said in Jeremiah 29:11 "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*"

I realize more than ever that we all are born with a purpose. If we are willing, God will begin a work in us, and, if we are faithful, He is faithful to complete it. He was faithful to my father, He's been faithful to me, and I know He will be faithful to my children and their children in

completing the work He wants to do in each of us.

He didn't ask us to be THE BUILDER, he wants us to THE MATERIAL. To be the kind of material that He can work with. If you want to put it in some familiar terminology of the church and scripture ... He IS the potter, we ARE the clay. The clay doesn't mold itself, it doesn't plan its shape or use, it doesn't say I'm going to be a pot or a cup or a bowl... the Potter does all that. The clay just has to remain on the wheel; the Potter will finish the work!



So don't worry about how the clay is going to turn out, that's the Potter's job. Just stay on the Potter's wheel and give Him some good material to work with. He's already PROMISED that He WILL finish what He starts!

John Mathis  
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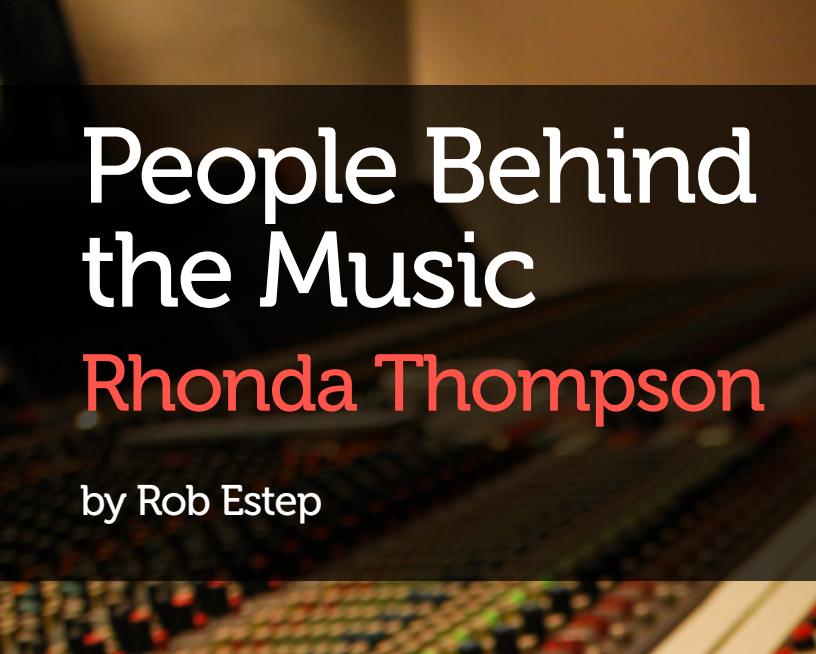
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# People Behind the Music

## Rhonda Thompson

by Rob Estep



Most of us never know, and even many of us in the Gospel music industry never realize what it takes and how many people are involved in getting a Southern Gospel artist's music played on radio and making things happen behind the scenes. Rhonda Thompson of Rhonda Thompson Promotions is a prime example of one of the people who make "it" all happen. Let's take a few minutes and learn a little about Rhonda and what a "promotion company" does.

*Rob:* "Let's start off at the beginning and give a little history behind Rhonda Thompson and her contribution to Gospel music."

*Rhonda:* "I'm originally from Dalton, GA. I've been married for almost 25 years to Terry Thompson and we are parents to Patrik who is 14 and Kady who's 9. We've lived in Hendersonville, TN for 24 years.

I met Terry at my church in Georgia. He was in a full time ministry group and I was in college where my plans were to eventually go to pharmacy school to become a pharmacist. God sure had other plans for my life!

We attend Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee, and I'm so blessed to have had some of my family from GA. and some of my husband's family from KY that moved here to the area."

*Rob:* "What is it that drives you to do what you do?"

*Rhonda:* I grew up going to concerts with my family. I can remember going to many Happy Goodmans, Hinsons, Florida Boys and many other countless concerts throughout my life. I wasn't blessed with the ability to be a songwriter or a singer but I've always had a talent for talking. I love doing what I do because I can get the best music out to radio so people's lives can be touched and changed."

*Rob:* "Many people may not know what a Radio Promoter does so explain what it is you do."

*Rhonda:* "It all starts with getting the music of the artists I work with out to radio stations. I then call the stations every month to make sure those stations have the music and I also encourage the stations to play the songs I promote each month. I'm constantly



on the phone and I'm always updating my lists to make sure all the information is correct. I send out reports, plan radio tours and many other things for the artists that I promote. I also constantly talk with my artists and encourage them. I love what I do!"

*Rob:* "Besides everything you do for the Southern Gospel industry, what hobbies do you have?"

*Rhonda:* "I love to read. I also love to work outside; swim and I try to hit the treadmill when I can."

*Rob:* "Describe a normal night at the Thompson household?"

*Rhonda:* "Busy...Patrik, my son is getting ready to play baseball for the summer so there's' going to be many practices coming up. Kady, my daughter is involved in all-star competitive cheer-leading. Her season is winding down but will start back up in a couple months. We also own a recording studio so Terry is usually working and I'm the family taxi service. (Rhonda has a huge smile here.) "I'm blessed and wouldn't want it any other way."

*Rob:* "You work with several artists. Who are you currently working with?"

*Rhonda:* "Wow...I work with; Jeff & Sheri Easter, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, Beyond The Ashes, The Isaacs, Doug Anderson, Gaither Vocal Band, Jason Crabb, The Crabb Family, The Collingsworth Family, Charlotte Ritchie, The Bowling Family, Christy Sutherland, Morgan Easter, The Martins, The Hoppers, Tribute Quartet along with Gordon Mote."

*Rob:* "What is it like to work closely with your husband? Do you always see eye-to-eye?"

*Rhonda:* "It's great to work with my husband! No, we don't always see eye to eye, especially when it comes to college sports. (again, that smile breaks out!) Being from Georgia I'm a University of Georgia girl...I'm a Dawg! He's from Kentucky and he and his whole family are UK fans. We (Georgia) dominate most of the time in football but when basketball season rolls around its insane!"

*Rob:* "Who is someone you really admire and why?"

*Rhonda:* "My parents. They always taught me to 'treat people as you would want to be treated.' Those have always been words that I've tried to live by. My Mom passed away 10 years ago but there's not a day that goes by that I'm not reminded of something she taught me."

*Rob:* "What has God been teaching you lately?"

*Rhonda:* "Patience in all aspects of my life. I'm always amazed how situations turn out so much better His way, than it would have mine. You would think I'd have learned that by now! I'm also trying to listen more closely when He's speaking to my heart; and not rush. We're going through raising our first teenager so my prayer life has definitely changed." (Another big "Rhonda" smile pops up here!)



*Rob:* "What are some positive changes, trends or other things you see happening in the Southern Gospel music industry?"

*Rhonda:* "I think that the quality of the groups and the music that's out right now is great! In the past few years, I've seen songs climbing up faster on the National Charts, and I like to see that happening. With the quality of songs that are being written and recorded, many albums have more than three radio singles and some great 'filler' songs. It also makes me so happy to see many of the SG artists receiving nominations in many of the major categories in the Dove Awards. The exposure that our music is getting is wonderful. If an artist is getting national headlines, then that's good for our industry as a whole. I see more of the younger artists bring in younger fans also."

*Rob:* "How important is it to strive for excellence in the areas of production, engineering.... and so forth?"

*Rhonda:* "Very! It's the difference in getting added into rotation (number of times a song is played on radio) at many stations or not being added in at all."

Thank you, Rhonda, for sharing a part of what you do to promote Southern Gospel music to Gospel radio. Through your efforts, many people hear the Gospel through the songs of your artists. You certainly play a major role in the music ministry of your artists and we will all be listening for all your artists on our local radio stations!

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# GOSPEL MUSIC IN CHATTANOOGA!

**The Greesons, The Inspirations,  
The McKameys, Michael Combs  
and The Singing Cookes!**

by Rhonda Frye



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Thank you to Paul Belcher promotions for inviting SGN-Scoops to a special night of Gospel Music in Chattanooga, TN on March 3, 2012. Paul Belcher has promoted Southern Gospel Music for 39 years! The March 3<sup>rd</sup> concert featured The Greesons, The McKameys, The Inspirations, Michael Combs and the Singing Cookes. The Memorial Auditorium was packed with enthusiastic fans.

The first group to perform was a HOME-TOWN favorite family group, The Greesons. When the Greesons step on stage, they are serious about having church! The crowd received them well, clapping along from the beginning. They sang a couple of uplifting songs and then Lisa Greeson Dykes opened her heart.

With courage, she told the story of the fear she experienced in 2008 when her late husband, Tony received a grim diagnosis. She testified how the Lord helped her make it through that time and how He continues to sustain her. Lisa then sang "Help Me Not To Be Afraid." As she sang, the pain of her loss was obvious, but so was the grace of God upon her as she remained completely composed. Many in the crowd wiped tears as she sang: "Sometimes life seems unfair, even more than I can bear. But when all hope is gone, I can come to you in prayer. So on my knees each day, I humbly ask for grace. Send a miracle today; give me strength Lord I pray. Help me not to be afraid." Wow- what a powerful testimony from a young widow raising two children! Thank you, Ms. Lisa!

It's a blessing to see a young person singing for the Lord- but what a treat it is to see a young person getting blessed as they sing! When 24 year old, lead singer Joey Demastus sings, he sings straight from his soul! Joey just got "beside himself" as he sang "On The Other Side of Jordan."

Bass singer, Darrell told the story about how a trapped coal miner penned the song "I Have Been Blessed." Newest group member and son, Christian took the lead on the first verse! The whole family sang and worshiped together

as they sang about being blessed by God and the crowd responded with lifted hands.

Before the Greesons stepped off the stage, they set the place on fire with a tune that had Joey "beside himself" again! It was electrifying as he just couldn't stop singing! The crowd went wild with praise and many were "fanning" as it sure grew hot in the place!

The Inspirations were next on the program. They came out in traditional matching suits and took their places. It was refreshing to hear live acoustic instrumentation with 4 part harmony. They sang songs like "I'm a Winner Either Way," "It Won't Be Long," "God Makes No Mistakes," If You Only Knew," "I'm Not Ashamed" and more.



Piano player, Martin Cook was a blessing to watch. He played the piano, and then would stand up just to listen to the guys sing his favorite parts. He also testified about the necessity of Christ's blood for the forgiveness of sins. He challenged the audience to consider their own status. "Either you're saved or you're not," he stressed! Sometimes he would play standing up and sometimes he had a partner to join in. Throughout their set, the crowd responded to their music and comments with shouts of praise.

Promoter, Paul Belcher followed the Inspirations with ex-

pressing his concerns for Heirline's Ernie Dawson. Following the Lord's prompting, he gave the crowd the opportunity to help with Dawson's medical expenses. Les Butler of Singing News shared a personal email from Dawson giving an update on his condition.



"Do you sometimes just need a blessing?" Les asked the crowd. He admitted he needs blessings sometimes too and explained how he can always depend on the McKamey's music to bring them! He asked the crowd to welcome the Mc Kameys to the stage. They opened with "One Step at a Time" and the crowd received them well.

True to their reputation of sincerity, Ruben thanked the crowd for their presence then said, "If we present Him {Jesus} like we should, maybe someone here will want Him!" He then asked the congregation to pray for them as they sang and started singing "I Remember When." Ruben said, "The day may come when this feeble mind may forget, but I KNOW HE will never forget!"

The music started to "God On The Mountain" and the crowd was ready! Out came the hankie and wow- did Ms. Peg ever bless Chattanooga! The perfect song to fall behind "God On The Mountain" was "The Shepherd's Point of View." At the end of the song, Sheryl said, "The Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want!" The crowd responded in applause.

The McKameys were on a roll by this time- moving on to "I Know How I Made It!" Peg was getting so blessed, often the mic wasn't even close to her mouth! After the song, with heart felt honesty she thanked the crowd for being there, and then brought Eli to the center of the stage with guitar to sing!

The McKameys sang a powerful "That's When Faith." It was incredible! All Glory came down as they closed their set with "I've Won!" By the end of the song, Ms. Peg had kicked off her shoes and waved her Bible around! The crowd joined her in praise.

Next up was soloist, Michael Combs. He shared his testimony of how he was saved at a revival meeting. He

sang several crowd favorites including "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." The crowd clapped along. He introduced his hit song- "Drinking From My Saucer," by sharing the story of how he received it as a poem, he added music and has delighted people with it ever since.

Comb's #1 fan must have been in Chattanooga that night. She made her way up to the stage with cell phone in hand snapping lots of pictures as he posed. He continued to charm the audience with his zeal and passion for the Lord. He played the guitar and sang, "I Need More Jesus."

Combs ended his set verifying the story- song "Not For Sale" is indeed true. Michael Combs performed with amazing energy, the crowd received him well. As he left the stage, Les Butler said, "You don't just listen to Michael Combs, you experience him!"

Hubert and Jeanette Cooke have been singing the gospel for 50 years! They kept the tradition and celebration going in Chattanooga! The Singing Cookes along with Les Butler and his instruments took the stage and blessed the crowd.

Jeanette Cooke testified of how she was one of 11 children and that several of her siblings had already gone to be with the Lord. The crowd was moved as they sang about the first day in Heaven. Ms. Jeanette also testified that she received the Lord as a child and her relationship with Him grows sweeter all the time.

The Singing Cookes delighted their long-time fans with songs of the past and newer ones as well. Perhaps the most tender moment of the night was when Jeanette Cooke asked all the couples to hold hands as they sang "I Hope We Walk The Last Mile Together."

The Cooke Brothers made their way to the center as Jeanette explained how they had never had turn-over in their music ministry. The brothers sang a catchy, bluesy song "Did I Mention" and the crowd loved it!

During intermission, the groups greeted fans and posed for pictures. Once the break was over, each group returned for a couple more songs and a closing prayer. Thank you to Paul Belcher Promotions for a great night of Gospel Music! Thank you to The Greesons, The McKameys, The Inspirations, Michael Combs and the Singing Cooke Family!

SGNScoops encourages everyone to get out and support Southern Gospel Music by hosting or attending a concert in your area! God uses Gospel Music to change lives One Song At A Time!

TOPPING THE CHARTS – APRIL 2012



Rank	Title	Artist
1	HOLD ME UP	GORDON MOTE
2	THE PART WHERE YOU COME IN	BRIAN FREE AND ASSURANCE
3	WHO AM I	JASON CRABB
4	I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE	SIGNATURE SOUND
5	MIGHTY BIG GOD	KAREN PECK AND NEW RIVER
6	HE KNOWS THE WAY HOME	REGGIE AND LADYE LOVE SMITH
7	LOVE IS A CROSS	RUSS TAFF
8	WHENEVER WE PRAY	BEYOND THE ASHES
9	TELL THE MOUNTAIN	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY
10	ON MY CROSS	MERCY'S WELL
11	PLEASE FORGIVE ME	GAITHER VOCAL BAND
12	HE LEADS ME EACH STEP OF THE WAY	BOWLING FAMILY
13	TELL THEM THAT I LOVE THEM	MARTINS
14	I WON'T TRADE MY CROWN	DOWN EAST BOYS
15	GOD WILL HEAR YOUR PRAYERS	THROUGH HYMN
16	WHY CAN'T WE	ISAACS
17	ALMOST HOME	TRIUMPHANT QUARTET
18	THROUGH THE BLOOD	SOUL'D OUT
19	I DON'T HAVE TO SEE THE TOMB	PRIMITIVE QUARTET
20	CHILD, I KNOW THE PLANS	CHRIS HESTER

# GROWING IN GRACE, WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE: MORGAN EASTER

BY RHONDA FRYE

Slumber parties, shopping, high-school fun and hanging out with friends are typical activities for any young lady. Like any other high-school senior, Morgan Easter delights in those things too, but Morgan Easter enjoys those things while balancing a professional music career and ministry! She is truly a blessing- and one that's been around the industry for quite a while considering her ripe young age! Gracing the platform since she was a baby, she was introduced to the stage by her parents, Jeff and Sheri Easter when she was just nine DAYS old! At age five, Morgan released her first project, at age nine, her second and by age fourteen she started singing with her parents. It has been a blessing to watch Morgan Easter grow up into a beautiful young lady- right before our eyes! At SGNScoops, we had a chance to talk to Morgan recently about her music, ministry and new album. She is truly a delight- loves God, people and music!

Morgan is a third-generation singer and has literally been surrounded by the gospel music scene her entire life. In addition to her parents ministry, her grandparents from both her father's and mother's side carried out vital music ministries- The Easters and The Lewis Family. Morgan has a rich heritage in gospel music, but that's not the only reason why she sings. Simply- she sings because she wants to! "I've grown up around it, I've not known anything different, but I automatically fell in love with it," Morgan shares. "A woman actually told my mom one time- 'You don't need to MAKE your kids be on stage!' Mom thought it was funny because she didn't MAKE us be on stage at all- in fact, she had to beg us to get off the stage!"

Encircled with the best of the best in gospel music her whole life, she's shared the stage with many great names. For years, the Easters have participated with Gaither Homecoming Events and have stood among many industry giants in a variety of prestigious venues. Morgan has been exposed and influenced by the top artists of our time. Even so, there are a couple of artists outside the southern gospel world that have swayed Morgan's singing. Country



star, Carrie Underwood is one. "I just LOVE her voice and how she phrases things," Morgan shares. "Another singer I've been noticing too is Adele. I'm completely in-love with Adele's voice! I've recently been watching her and it's had a great influence on my voice."

In November 2011, Morgan released a solo project entitled, *NOT WITHOUT LOVE*. Morgan says the purpose of the album is to be a source of encouragement. "I really just wanted to encourage all age groups," Morgan explains. "A lot of people don't realize that younger people go through stuff too. Young people go through a bunch of things that they need to get through," she continues. Not only do older people need to be encouraged, so do younger people. With the CD, I just hope I hit all the age groups that really need an encouragement."

The album is being received well. For the second month in a row, Morgan has climbed the charts and landed in the singing news top 80. Richard Chambers of WGUS 102.7 of Augusta, GA plays Morgan's music a lot. "Morgan is a wonderful young lady and has a great voice, Chambers shares. "Her new cd is really good and you can tell where she gets her talent. When you look at the young people like Morgan Easter, Southern Gospel has a great future. I'm so proud of Morgan and I look forward to see how the Lord is going to use her in the future with Southern Gospel."

As far as the album style, it's a good reflection of Morgan's personality. "It's really different and that's what I wanted because I don't have a favorite genre or a favorite sound of music," Morgan says. "It's just that I like anything and everything- so I wanted that CD to pretty much capture that. It has country sounding songs, it has blue-grass sounding songs and a few that sound modern or urban. I just wanted it to capture how much I love EVERYTHING! I didn't want it to be a one-sound- kind- of- project," Morgan adds.

Studio time is always hard work, but this time the push from the producer came from Morgan's big brother, Madison! Madison is multi-talented- an accomplished musician, song-writer and engineer. Madison's experience and expertise was a great fit for this project. "He did a phenomenal job producing it along with Momma and my producer Greg Cole," Morgan explains. When asked if it was tough having "big brother" in the studio, she said: "I love working with him- but you know how siblings are- We have our moments. We'll always bump heads- that's just who we are and what we do. It was fun, but just a little different with him there. He really brought a really cool sound- he had a lot to bring to the table and it was really great! He even wrote a song that's on there."



Although this is a solo project for Morgan, there are several songs that feature "guests!" Morgan's mom, Sheri Easter sings with her on "Like My Mother Does." Morgan says, "We've sung it a few times live and I try really hard to not look at her because if I look at her I will cry."

Another duet is with Gaither Vocal Band's Wes Hampton! Wes shares, "I was honored when asked to sing on Morgan's new project. I have always loved Jeff, Sheri, Madison, and Morgan. What a wonderful family! Morgan is a fantastic singer, so it was lots of fun to record the song, "Broken" with her. I think it turned out great! This whole CD is just wonderful."

Morgan also teamed up with The Perry's Joseph Hade-

bank on a song. "I was extremely honored when Morgan asked me to send her some songs I had written for her new solo album, *NOT WITHOUT LOVE*", Joseph shared with SGN-Scoops. "I was equally as honored when she asked me to sing a duet with her on a song I wrote entitled 'Dreaming Wide Awake.' Morgan is not only an incredibly gifted young singer, but she is my friend and almost like a little sister to me. I'm very proud of her and so humbled to play a small part on her album."

Morgan feels blessed to have such talent added to her project. "It was awesome! I love both of them {Wes and Joseph} and it meant the world that they would sing on my CD," she says. "I just think the world of both of them-so it really meant a lot to me!"

Morgan has been enrolled in public education since Kindergarten and has been very active in the music/drama department all through high school. "I've been in four (and in the middle of one now) musical theater productions at my school and I've been in one drama production," Morgan explains. "And.... I love both! I love musical theater better because you get to sing with it. I really enjoy musical theater!"

Morgan says at times it is hard, but she hasn't really had too much of a problem with balancing music ministry and high school. She goes to school Monday through Thursday, and misses each Friday to sing. She's been careful to spread out her core classes and has a great support system of friends. "I have a great Christian support system at my school...they don't think of me any differently they just treat me like *normal*," Morgan shares. "They don't really think it's weird that I'm off singing all the time. They support me for what I do. I couldn't ask for better friends. They've been nothing but supporters ever since I started singing with Momma and Daddy."

Singing with "Momma and Daddy" is something Morgan plans to do for a long time. "I want to continue singing and singing with Momma and Daddy as long as possible. I want to carry it on! I can't see myself doing anything other than singing," Morgan shares. Well....Morgan is interested one thing in addition to singing. "I'm going to go to Savannah College Art and Design and I'm going to get my graphic design degree," Morgan tells. "I tried to think of something I love to do other than sing and my 2<sup>nd</sup> favorite thing to do is graphic design. I can't think of a better school to get my degree- It's a great school and I was thrilled when I heard they offered an online program! I'll be starting in the fall."

Morgan certainly has been exposed to some great people in her life, but considers her mother and grandmother to be her most influential role models. "My heroes would be my mom and grandma. They've been through so

much and they've always just managed to keep a smile on their face. They are two that I just really look up to," Morgan explains.



When asked, "When it comes to personality, who are you most like- your mom or dad?" Morgan answered, "Ooooooh.. Personality- I'd have to go with Dad! Momma always says I got her looks, but I'm definitely my daddy when it comes to personality!" Morgan Easter is full of personality, that's for sure! She loves to sing and she loves doing all the things teen girls do best- and that's to have fun! "Recently we've gotten a pool table and I'm learning to play. I just like to do all the normal teen-age girl stuff," she shares.

Morgan is wise beyond her years when it comes to spiritual matters and ministry. She loves verses that challenge us to not be afraid. One favorite verse is found in Mark 5:36b: "Don't be afraid, Just Believe!" He heart's desire is to spread that message and to be a source of encouragement to all ages! So far, she has been received well and displays a sweet disposition regarding the warm welcome from fans and the industry. She would like to say: "Thank you for your support.... and I appreciate how welcoming all the fans and everyone in the industry has been ever since I started singing with Mom and Daddy. It has just encouraged me and I couldn't ask for anything better!"

Congratulations, Morgan on your new album and high school graduation. It has truly been a blessing to watch you grow in the knowledge and wisdom of our Lord Jesus Christ! To learn more about Morgan Easter connect with her on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morgan-Easter/109023025862629>. Also visit <http://www.jeffandsherieaster.com/>.

## TALK TO ME

with  
Jonathan Edwards



Audio Interview with Rich Crist



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# FOCUS ON THE YOUNG

JORDAN WILBURN

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

I recently got the chance to sing with Wilburn and Wilburn at Tony Gore's restaurant. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and added a new favorite singer to my list. His name was Jordan Wilburn. What a great talent! We became friends that night, and I just had to share his talent with you! Here's the scoop...

**Victoria:** When did you start singing?

**Jordan:** I started singing with my grandparents, The Wilburn's when I was 2 and 1/2 years old.

**Victoria:** Who's your favorite Southern Gospel group?

**Jordan:** My favorite group really depends on what kind of mood I'm in. So, it's a toss up between the Gaither Vocal Band, The Isaacs and Jason Crabb. They have all had a huge part in my musical style.

**Victoria:** Who has been the most influential person in your life, musically?

**Jordan:** My grandfather, Jackie Wilburn and my dad have been the most influential people in my life musically. They have always been my biggest fans and encouragers. About a year and half ago I was staying with my grandparents for a week and during

that time I worked on a couple of demos with some recording equipment my granddad had in his study. I spent hours sitting in front of a computer screen trying to get them like I wanted them, and the entire time my granddad sat right next to me pushing me on, interested in every word and every note. When I was done, we listened to them, and afterwards he said to me, "Son, God has given you a special gift. If you work hard and stay in His will, there is nothing you can't do."

**Victoria:** When did you and your dad decide this was something you wanted to do together?

**Jordan:** Somewhere around two years ago, we started singing every now and then on the weekends at local churches. After a couple of months, we realized God was calling us to sing full time, however we did not push the issue and just let God make a way. He did.

**Victoria:** I remember us singing with you guys not too long ago, and you two were great to work with! You look like you have a lot of fun. Do you really have as much fun as it looks, though? Haha.

**Jordan:** We look like we are having fun, because we are!! Dad and I love what we do, and God has blessed us with being able to sing for a living, so we want to

share our joy with our fans and we try to do that every night.

**Victoria:** What has been the funniest thing that's happened to you on the road?

**Jordan:** Wow, this is an easy one to answer! At the first of March of this year, we were on our way back home on a Sunday evening. Dad had turned the driving duties over to me, and I had us cruising down the highway nice and easy, when out of nowhere this huge bird runs out in front of our truck!! I had no time to slow down and miss it, so we hit it head on. Dad had fallen asleep, but was immediately awoken to a cloud of feathers!! I pulled over on the side of the road, still stunned from what had just taken place. Dad asked me what we hit, and the only thing I could tell him was a huge running bird. We walked back to look at what we had just hit, and it turns out it was an Emu! Yes, that's what I said, an Emu! So Dad has given me a new nickname. He has now been introducing me as the Emu Slayer.



**Victoria:** What is your favorite place to eat while traveling?

**Jordan:** Cracker Barrel! There is nothing like a home cooked meal when you're away from home.

**Victoria:** Where's your favorite place to sing?

**Jordan:** Wherever we are. Each night is a different place and a different experience. I love them all.

**Victoria:** If people would like to get in touch with you to know where you're going to be, how would they do that?

**Jordan:** The best way for people to keep up with our schedule is to go on our website, [wilburn2.com](http://wilburn2.com), and click on the schedule link.

A special thanks to Jordan for letting me write about him this month! If Wilburn and Wilburn are in your area, I highly recommend you going to hear them. They are wonderful! Keep reading each month for more articles on your favorite Southern Gospel artists!

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# Remembering Jim Arneson

by Laura Kennedy

"There are some people who make an impact on you - without force," offers Rob Patz. Jim Arneson, Southern Gospel music promoter, a caring soul, was just such a man. Jim believed in the message of the Cross, poignantly demonstrated in music, and in this industry enough to bring it to the Midwest area of the United States.

On March 15, 2012, Jim Arneson, 64 years young, left this earthly realm when he died from injuries sustained in a car accident near Arlington, Washington. His son, Thory, was also seriously injured in the crash when a car crossed the center line and hit them head-on.

With an industry of artists and fans still suffering his loss, we offer this page in tribute to a man, whose like, we are sure will not pass this way again. As memories and melodies come flooding back to remembrance, we praise God for the gift that Jim was and for his time among us. Let us continually uphold and pass forward the example that he not only sang about but lived with every breath of every day that he was given!

Uplifting;

"Jim was such a wonderful friend of our family. We made at least one trip out to Washington each year and Jim and his family would host our group for concerts. He was always a man of integrity. Over the years our family felt like he was part of our family. After my father passed away, Jim continued to support us and bring us out. It would always make me cry when Jim would join our group on the second round and sing bass with us. It was a special time and good memories. As much as I will miss him, I have no doubt in my mind where he is. His life spoke volumes about his Christian faith in God. I kind of like to think he and my father are in Heaven, singing praises around the throne together." –Kelly Nelon Clark



Singer;

"Jim Arneson...what could I say that could truly express what this man and our relationship meant to me? Some of The Kingsmen's first dates in Washington state were promoted by Jim Arneson roughly thirty-five years ago. I always admired Jim because of his singing range. Whether on lead, baritone or bass, he had just a solid voice. He instantly became a good friend to me and all The Kingsmen. That friendship lasted very solidly throughout all these years. In fact, my last visit with Jim was New Year's Eve, 2011 and Jan. 1, 2012. The Kingsmen were with Jim and his family at his home church in Shoreline, WA. He will be sorely missed by many including his family, Gospel music and legions of friends, but we as Christians know that we can be with him again one day." -Ray Dean Reese and The Kingsmen Quartet

A genuine heart;

"As president of the Southern Gospel Promoter's Association (SGPA), I was so saddened by the sudden death of Jim Arneson. He was a dear friend and a fine Christian man. His efforts brought comfort to so many people. A true gentleman and a great singer; He will truly be missed." –Jim Heffner

Compassionate;

"There are times when those of us who travel and sing the Gospel may find ourselves ranging far and wide from home. For many of us the Great Northwest of the United States is about as far as some of us wander. Sometimes it is a lonely feeling to be doing a concert so far from any kind of help or assistance if anything went wrong but we had an oasis with Jim Arneson. We felt like we were heading

home when we were going to work with Jim, even though we might be, as far from home, as we (geographically) got all year long. Jim always made us feel welcome. Our group's relationship with the Arneson family goes back to the early 1960's. Some of the first concerts I remember were with Jim. Over the years we found him to be truly interested in us even if we were not working with him. Just a few weeks ago, we were blessed with another bus that is in great shape and he was asking me all about it. That's a friend indeed. If he ever heard we were broken down somewhere, I could always count on hearing from Jim to let us know he was praying for us. I'm nearing 40 years now of singing and I know there is not enough time left for me to develop that kind of relationship with anyone like I had with Jim. It takes years of love and trust to learn to love someone like that. His type will not pass my way again, and I will miss him. I could just say he was not only a good promoter and always showed the highest integrity and principles in his dealings; he was a fan as well as a performer, and that would be a wonderful tribute, but to me he was so much more than that. He loved his family, this music, his profession, and life. In my last conversation with him, he expressed his desire for us to come this spring. Our schedule had changed and we were not coming till the fall, Ole Sven made sure to let us know that whenever we could get there, he wanted to put something together. In this day and time, that is a great blessing. He did not care if we were the latest and greatest. I have talked with a lot of folks who worked with Jim over the years and we have all found it hard to deal with his loss. Over and over I've heard the same thing; 'He just got it'. He respected us for who we are not what we were. I loved that about him. I find that a rare attribute in a promoter. I expect it in a friend and found it in Jim Arneson."—Steven Earl Weatherford

Faithful supporter;

"Jim was a friend to Southern Gospel Music! I was asked recently if I could sum Jim Arneson up in one word what would that be. And the answer was easy... 'Encourager'. Not only has Jim been an encourager to Tribute Quartet, but he has been an encourager to a lot of artists across the country for many years. Not only have we lost a great promoter of the Gospel, but we have truly lost a wonderful friend." —Gary Casto

Husband;

"I am overwhelmed with the amount of love that is being poured out to our family in our unimaginable loss. I married the love of my life that was to last forever! We were to grow old together...old! I still cannot answer the why and never will! To be hit by a drunk and drugged out driver is so unbelievable because Jim never touched a drop of alcohol in his entire life and chose to work for a company that fought to educate drivers against the deadly dangers of drinking and driving! This June he would have worked

for GuideOne Insurance Company for 40 years! The doctor said he died instantly and his last words were, "Oh Jesus". And then he saw Him face to face in all of His Splendor, Majesty, and Glory! The ONE Jim sang about every chance he had! At home, in the car, and in every place the Lord led him! Jim was my rock! He never wavered in his love for the Lord first and then all of us... YOU included! You know he had no casual friends! You ALL were held deeply by Jim and me! He prayed daily and held so many of you up to the throne of God for protection for keeping and that no one... I said no one would be left behind from making Heaven their final home! My grief runs in waves! Only the Lord knows the plans He has for us! And right now we've been served a HUGE curve! Oh, who is gonna make my coffee every morning? Who's gonna say they love me so many times a day I can't count? Get my gas, get my groceries... Getting the picture? He pampered all of us! The, 'what ifs' just cannot be counted, but I cannot help it. This morning I miss him so much I know the only way I can go on is with the help and strength of the Lord Almighty. I love, love, love the song Libbi Perry sings that says, 'Celebrate Me Home'. I crank it up and cry every time I hear her sing it and I sing it at the top of my lungs! So, I am going to picture Jim walking the streets of gold, talking with Jesus and all our loved ones there!! He always said, "I could be your next door neighbor in Heaven. Could you handle that?" And he loved that saying, 'See you at the house.' ... Oh, why so soon? I love you more than I can express!

Roll call: One bass singer, husband, father, grandfather, and friend signing off. Promoted now to Heaven... See you at the house." -Cheryl Arneson

The impact Jim Arneson had on lives is not in just one particular thing he did or a concert event he put together. When we stand before the Lord at judgement, it will be the centrality of the cross in the heart that will measure worth, not works that were performed. Jim cared deeply enough to show Christ's mercy and exemplified His singular message -It was always about you.-



Rhonda Frye

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# THE HIGH & THE LOW OF IT

## GENE McDONALD

BY LAURA KENNEDY

The bass position in Southern Gospel music is an esteemed one indeed. A rich heritage of men such as; "Big Chief" Wetherington, Bill Lyles, JD Sumner, Rex Nelon, Brock Speer, and George Younce to name a few have claimed the part. Such men have produced decades of music and ultimate low notes that have even made their way into the record books, quite literally.

Gene McDonald's path to being counted among such esteemed gentleman is not likely one you'll expect as you read along. And yet his story is one that, we believe, resonates within the heart of many.

Gene's musical journey first began when he was a young child, singing the high tenor part with his family as they traveled throughout the Midwest from 1968-1980. When his sister left for college, however, the family stopped touring together. Still singing tenor, he then joined Jack Campbell and the Ambassadors, known for their classics such as; "I Know A Man Who Can" and he stayed with them until 1982.

It was then that Gene's voice changed from tenor to bass and with that, an even greater transition had begun. In fact, Gene recalls it as a very poignant time in his life; "When my voice changed, I thought my

singing days were done. Over. Finished."

Still drawn by his deep passion for music, Gene sought out to further his music education in 1983, not by singing, but through study. While at Arkansas State University, he received operatic vocal training and studied under one of the leading choral directors in the nation, Al Skoog.

Moving through life with a dream and a hope living inside but having yet come to fruition is one of those difficult passageways of living that must be diligently, yet tenderly watched over. "Thankfully, we have a loving Heavenly Father who knows the right balance for each, and never fails us... never," offers Gene.

In 1988, Gene began a deep friendship with Ben Speer when he first attended the Stamps-Baxter School of Music. Under Ben's guidance and leadership, the school has become known for helping to discover artists and place individuals into groups, thereby guiding them towards paying jobs to earn a living. Armand Morales and Glen Payne are two former attendees from the school who went on to their successful groups; Armand with the ground breaking Imperials and Glen, with the legendary Cathedrals.



Having settled deeply into a richly smooth bass, Gene went on to sing with The Plainsmen Quartet from 1989-1992 and the deep South's own, Florida Boys Quartet from 1998 until the group's retirement in 2007. It was in 1994 that Gene was invited to his first Homecoming taping by Bill Gaither and was featured on the videos; Rivers of Joy and Down by The Tabernacle. He has since become a regular in the Homecoming Choir.

As an avid follower of the Homecoming Videos, I have to say what a tremendous fan I am of Gene McDonald. When asked what the experiences have been like over the years, Gene offers: "The videos have helped to bring down walls between artists that existed, some perhaps stronger than others back in their earlier years." Adding, "We all became fans of each other and that enabled us to really be ourselves and what the viewers see... we really feel."

Gene recalls the taping of one of his most memorable videos; Rivers of Joy. "There were two doors on either side of the studio. While we sang, it felt as if the Lord opened one door and passed all around, over and through each one of us that day before going back out the other studio door. It was an incredible experience for me. I know deep inside my soul that the worst days I thought I'd ever had, were really not that bad at all. You see, they are over."



Father to little man, Nathan and husband to wife, Teri, the McDonald house shares Gene's love for music. Looking ahead with him, Gene is eager to share

his message and see God continue to expand his ministry. His current single is a bluesy feel and is titled, "Everything He's Done For Me," and is written by Diane Wilkinson. He is also looking forward to returning to the studio in May to record a new project.



Gene McDonald feels strongly about his message today. It is a message of Love. "My dad had these two words for me and our family while growing up and singing. He said, "God Cares". I've come to learn that old saying is true and too, that love really does make the world go 'round."

Gene adds; "Along with the joy of singing comes a responsibility to its ministry. The church needs love. We need love. God is love. Let's share it and not our own judgment. Stop bickering among each other. Show in deed and in word that, "We Care" and faithfully hope in the Holy Spirit to touch a world, in its time of need."

For more booking and more information, visit him at [genemcdonaldmusic.com](http://genemcdonaldmusic.com).

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# Chronicles of a singing English teacher

by Jeff Hawes

April is one of my favorite months of the year, and this year it holds my favorite holiday, Easter. Yes, I do love Christmas, but Easter is especially special. We are usually off of the tour on Easter weekend, and I love being able to celebrate Jesus at my home church.

Every year we gather at my little home town country church. We arrive somewhere around daylight on Easter Sunday for a sunrise service, one of those where you can hear the roosters crowing in the background. I remember as a young boy, dreading the early service because, back then, I would have much rather slept in. I didn't see the urgency of worshiping before daylight. Now that I am older, I cannot wait for the event to roll around each year. There's always something breathtaking about gathering outside (weather permitting) and singing praises to Christ at 6 a.m.

If not heart-felt, traditions can often times become ritualistic or habitual, but celebrating the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is something I am so glad my family has always taken part in. I thank my parents and church family for always taking time out their busy lives to focus on the Lord and to be quiet enough to listen to what He whispers to them.

As we stand quietly in the church yard, one might hear the birds chirping in the trees, almost as if they too are praising their creator in song. We might also stop long enough to feel the wind whipping across the field and through the crowd as we sense the awesome presence of a mighty big God.

As we look around, we see a beautiful creation that God blessed each of us enough to live in. Wow! I think back to generations before of all the men and women who were perhaps dressed a little differently than we are today, but they stood in the same spots, acknowledging Christ and what he had done for them. So many times today in the fast paced culture we live in, we sometimes forget to stop long enough to hear the Lord speak to us. What is he telling us today, 2000 years later?

As a lover of words and communication, I can't help but find symbolism in every part of Christianity.

I believe God uses symbols in our every day lives to correlate with how he wants us to live in our Christian walk with him.

Our church yard is surrounded by huge trees that provide wonderful shade in the summer. During the spring, as each tree begins to bloom, it is absolutely amazing. As I look up to the very tops, I can't believe something so tall and massive could have begun as a small, somewhat insignificant seed. Yes, some trees are bigger than others, their branches extend further and their trunks much larger, but each one, deeply rooted in the foundation of the earth, comes with its own purpose and life.

How amazing the similarities that we share with the very creations in our church yard. There are trees that have been in our church yard for at least a hundred years, many of which have experienced storm after storm, yet they still stand, never buckling.

We serve a mighty big God, don't we? One who is greater than anything, waits patiently for us, and whispers our names to serve Him. All the while, He says "I will give you the strength and power and the foundation you need to fight all of life's battles." However, we must be deeply rooted in Him and the foundations of His WORD.

Over the years, I have looked up to so many



spiritual giants in my life, wondering if I might ever have the impact on someone's life as they have had on mine. The older I get, the more I realize just how deeply rooted they were. I imagine that when times were tough, when the wind attempted to blow them down or pull up their roots, they began praising the Lord, much like that of the birds we hear on Easter morning. These giants of our lives knew that when they needed a miracle to come, they claimed it in Jesus' name, never allowing defeat to settle in.

May we keep our focus on Christ and the mark He has set for us. May we deeply root our families in the WORD of God and stand strong in our faith. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31) This Easter, may we stop long enough to hear God whispering our names and witness his mighty hand.

# THE BEST TIME TO EXERCISE?

BY LAURETTE WILLIS



**"My times are in Your hand"**  
(Psalm 31:15 NKJV)

I'm often asked what time of day I consider the best time to exercise. The short answer is, "Any time you *will* exercise is the best time!" Additionally, once you have a routine established, stick with it.

According to the American Council on Exercise (ACE), those who exercise in the morning are most successful in making exercise a habit. ACE also recommends that if you prefer an early morning workout, "emphasize stretching and a good warm-up to insure that your body is ready for action."

In recent years, scientists have been exploring the area of "circadian rhythms," the internal clocks God put in place within our physical bodies.

## You've GOT RHYTHM...

Circadian rhythms, the daily cycles which govern certain physical processes, originate in the hypothalamus just above the brain stem. They regulate everything from body temperature and blood pressure to metabolism.

The influence of circadian rhythms on body temperature seems to have the greatest effect on the quality of the workout we have. When your body temperature is at its highest, your workouts appear to be more productive. They are likely to be less productive when your body temperature is low.

Your body temperature is lowest one to three hours before you wake up in the morning, and at its highest late in the afternoon. Later in the day your muscles are warmer and more flexible, reaction time is quicker, blood pressure and resting heart rate are lower, and strength is at its peak.

Since studies have shown that exercise during these late afternoon/early evening hours produces better results, this may be a good choice for you. However, if you are a procrastinator (as I have been!), it may be wiser to stick to early morning workouts so you don't melt into the couch after a hard day at the office.

## Finding Your Peak Body Temperature

This will take a bit of work, but worth it if you really want to know your circadian peak body temperature.

1. Record your temperature every couple of hours for 5 or 6 days in a row. Body temps usually fluctuate by 1.5 degrees plus or minus throughout the day.

2. Try exercising during the period 3 hours after your highest body temperature.

For most people, this will fall in the range between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. If you are an early bird or night owl, the times may fluctuate 2-3 hours on either side of that, so adjust accordingly.

## The ABSOLUTE BEST Time to Exercise

If stress relief is your goal, exercise always works, all of the time. And if you're wondering when it's best to train for an upcoming event, it all depends on what time you'll actually be competing. If an upcoming marathon begins at 7:00 a.m., try training at that time of day.

In addition, combining exercise with the Word and prayer (as we do in PraiseMoves!) can help make a good habit even better -- "Transforming your workouts into worship!"

*Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry (<http://PraiseMoves.com>). Get your free fitness kit at <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com> ©2012*



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## Through the Years With Harold Reed

by Angela Griffin

This month we are shining the Artist Spotlight on the exceptional tenor, Harold Reed of The LeFevre Quartet. At the early age of eight Harold was introduced to traditional quartet singing by the legendary Cathedral Quartet in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Cathedrals would become Harold's all time favorite group, inspiring his own musical career.

Harold's parents, Bill and Sandra Reed, would also take their young son to hear Gold City and The Mighty Kingsmen Quartet. The message in the songs, the energy in the room, and the four part harmonies were infectious for this impressionable young man! Harold's love for quartet singing was growing and he knew that somehow it would be a part of his life forever!

Harold's mother, Sandra, a music teacher, taught Harold the fundamentals of music. Sandra would sing with Harold and his sisters in their home church and well as various churches around their area. Harold remembers singing throughout most of their childhood.

The family re-located from Ohio to Asheville, North Carolina in 1988. With Asheville being nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, many of the best Southern Gospel artists and most talented song writers lived throughout the area. Harold met the beloved singer/songwriter, Squire Parsons, who makes his home near Asheville, and Harold was honored to travel with him. Squire would become one of the most influential people in Harold Reed's career.

"Squire is known as the 'gentle giant', and I learned so much

from him in the year that I traveled with him," Harold said. "He would simply say, 'Try it like this,' teaching me by example."

Harold later joined The Melodyaires, a regional quartet from South Carolina. "The group hosted their annual homecoming gospel concert, 'Singing In The Foothills,' in November 1993, and featured the Dixie Melody Boys," Harold recalled. "Eric Ollis mentioned the tenor position would be coming open soon with the DMB, and asked if I would be interested. A few weeks later, I received a call inviting me to drive to Kinston, N.C. to audition," Harold noted.

Ed O'Neal hired Harold, beginning his professional career in Southern Gospel Music. Harold boarded the Dixie Melody Boys' Silver Eagle every week for the next ten and a half years.

Harold then joined The Florida Boys and was part of that well-respected quartet until he felt lead to move back to North Carolina. Upon returning to North Carolina, he joined The Kingsmen Quartet and traveled with the group for a little over four years.

In early 2012 The LeFevre Quartet welcomed Harold Reed as their new tenor singer. "When I learned of Jeremy Easley's departure from the LeFevre Quartet, I felt led to call Jordon and express interest in the tenor position."

Harold had met Jordan when he filled in for Randy Crawford with the Kingsmen Quartet. "Shortly after I spoke with Jordan, I received a call from Mike LeFevre, asking if I would be interested in filling in with them on an upcoming TBN Christmas special and I replied, 'that's exactly what I want to do!'" Harold continued, "It turned out to be my unofficial try out for the quartet, and I have been singing with this great group of guys ever since."

"YOU ASKED, WE ANSWERED," is a new project from The LeFevres that I'm excited about," Harold shared. "It features songs requested by our fans that you will be familiar with like 'Joys Gonna Come In The Morning' and 'God Saw A Cross,'" he finished. "We are also set to record a brand new project with Producer Jason Clark of The Nelons. The songs have already been selected and each one has an incredible message."

Harold brings years of experience and professionalism to the stage with his phenomenal tenor voice. He is one of the most talented and exceptional tenors in the gospel music genre today.

In closing my interview with Harold, I asked if there was anything else he would like to share with SGN Scoops. Harold replied, "One of my real heroes in this world is Rob Patz! If there was someone I'd aspire to be like, it would be Rob Patz!"

You can follow Harold and The LeFevre Quartet at their website [www.thelefevrequartet.com](http://www.thelefevrequartet.com).

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A promotional image for Charlie Griffin's CD release. It features a photo of Charlie Griffin standing in front of a window with diamond-patterned glass. The title "Sing, Sing" is in large red script, followed by "Charlie Griffin" in yellow. Below that, it says "with Curt Davis and Jeff Martin". At the bottom, it reads "From the CD release 'Homecoming - Friends!'". Contact information is provided at the bottom: a phone number (704-552-9060), city (Charlotte, NC), email (Charlie@CharlieGriffin.Net), and website (www.CharlieGriffin.Net).

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# CONTRIBUTORS

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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, [SGMRadio.com](http://SGMRadio.com). In 2009, Rob

Patz acquired [SGNScoops.com](http://SGNScoops.com), including the all-digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).



Rhonda Frye is an ordained minister serving as the Associate and Worship Pastor at Rock Pointe Church in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. She is a recording artist, songwriter, preschool music teacher and sings with family trio, "Rhonda Frye & RiverSide." Rhonda is from Ringgold, GA and is supported

by her husband and their 3 children. To learn more about Rhonda Frye Music Ministries, visit: <http://rhondafrye.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>

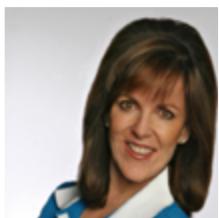


Victoria Shirey first took the stage at 3 years old. Strong vocal abilities and harmonies are a God given talent that started in her at a very young age. Along with writing for SGN Scoops, she designs websites, is a Producer and Background Vocalist for Homeland Records out of Gallatin, TN and is a part-time cruise director for Paradise Tours & Travel. Victoria writes and arranges most of The Shirey's music as well. Most importantly, she loves the Lord with all of her heart and makes it her goal to let the love of God shine through her. Visit victoria at: <http://theshireysministries.com>

Sandi Duncan Clark and Cliff Clark make their home in Easley, S.C. where they enjoy traveling, gardening, and the beautiful South Carolina weather. Sandi has worked in journalism for more than thirty years, and she is thankful that her love for God and Gospel music provides a great opportunity to positively impact the careers of so many in Gospel music. Email Sandi at [sandi@sgnscoops.com](mailto:sandi@sgnscoops.com).



Through a series of events, Jeff Hawes has moved from the classroom where he taught high school English in Jackson county, Alabama to the tour bus of gospel great Karen Peck & New River. Jeff chronicles the fulfillment of his gospel music dreams and his road life exclusively for SGN Scoops. Learn more about him at <http://www.karenpeckandnewriver.com>



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of Praise-Moves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves Instructors on four continents (<http://Praise-Moves.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>

# CONTRIBUTORS

## SGN SCOOPS



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



Rob Estep is a vital part of the ministry of the popular group, BEYOND THE ASHES. Currently serving as the Office and Road Manager, his wealth of experience in office management skills makes him a true asset to the group. His expertise of handling daily operations

and road responsibilities go unsurpassed in quality. Rob has worked full time alongside of Anthony Facello for the past two years. Rob's Music Pastor Father exposed him to all genres of music growing up, therefore since childhood; he has had a rich love for Southern Gospel Music. Rob studied business at Columbus State Community College, is a HUGE Buckeye Football fan, and is single- but open to dating when the right one comes along. Email Rob at: [robestep@sgnscoops.com](mailto:robestep@sgnscoops.com)



John Mathis Jr.'s life and musical influences have given him years of experience in the music industry in the areas of songwriting and music publishing, radio, publicity, A&R and recording. Another influence in John's life has been ministry. His grand-father was a church-planter and minister for

43 years, his father was a national evangelist. John has spent a number of years as an evangelist, pastor, worship director and public speaker. Currently, John works with Mansion Entertainment in the aspects of media promotions, publishing and recording while continuing to write, manage his own music catalog and occasionally speak.

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



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



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

Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>



Jonathan Edwards was saved at the age of 5 in Humboldt TN where his dad was Pastor. He has served as Youth pastor, Music pastor and Senior Pastor, but his love for Southern Gospel Music keeps bringing him back to radio and Quartet singing. Jonathan contributes audio interviews for SGNScoops and serves on the Diamond Awards Planning Board



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.

# CONTRIBUTORS

## SGN SCOOPS



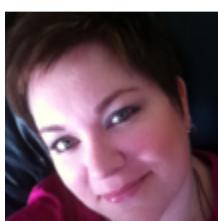
Denise Salchow grew up singing southern gospel music with her family group and continues to have a passion for the music and ministry. Denise works with the video production team for SGNScoops and is the artist coordinator for The Diamond

Awards. Born and still making her home in Springfield, MO she works as an elementary school secretary and is the proud mom of two wonderful daughters, Colby & Kate.



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!



Laura Kennedy. Music moves me. Christ's loves inspires me. Mixing the two together in the beautiful array of the message of the gospel through Southern Gospel music is the purest of joys to me.

Raised in Charlotte, North Carolina around the 5th Sunday night sings at church; that hand clappin', foot stompin', spirit flowing rhythm of harmony stirs me to moments of Heaven on Earth.

Believing it is still about the music, God has given me a heart for writing and a platform to learn from my heroes as well as sharing their ministry to expand their touch to others. Listen with your heart and hear the gentle, yet assured voice of our Father speaking to your heart, and be blessed!



Scott Rhoades has a passion for writing, and enjoys sharing his experiences and interests through publication and speaking in public forums. After completing graduate work in 2006, he began to pursue freelance writing and continued public speaking. In 2009, he took to the airwaves, joining the

staff of WMUG in Indiana, Pennsylvania where he is the Program Host for Sunday Morning Light.

The owner of Ivory Hill Studios, he is the co-author of Legacy of Love: Memories from Ivory Hill - a collection of stories and poems highlighting the history of the Rhoades family and the small coal-mining town of Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania. Scott is also a songwriter, publishing his first song, I'm Under His Wings, with Asheville Music Publishing/Chris White Music in 2010.

Website: [www.ivoryhillstudios.org](http://www.ivoryhillstudios.org)

Blog: <http://ivoryhillstudios.wordpress.com/>



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> and <http://cre8able.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. She also has a couponing blog with one of her best friends at <http://Craftycoupongirlz.com>