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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



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Letter from the Editor

by Rhonda Frye
February 2012

A few weeks ago, I was invited to a premier of the movie Joyful Noise in Nashville. With the directions printed from MapQuest in hand, I made my way around the river and over the mountain from Ringgold, GA to Music City- excited as could be!

I followed instructions carefully and patted myself on the back exit by exit and turn by turn until there were no directions left. I looked around and realized I was in downtown Nashville. "That's ok," I thought. "Chattanooga has a movie theater downtown too." I thought it was strange that I seemed to be in a parking lot. Even so, I pulled on up to the waist-high stop sign and then down came the flexible arm gate. Just to the right I noticed a sign: "WARNING! ONLY ONE CAR ALLOWED AT A TIME!" Hmm..."Maybe this leads to a bridge that only one car can cross at a time- I know I'm in the right place," I assured myself. Suddenly, three barriers arose right out of the pavement under the gate. It was like something out of a movie!

"WOW! They are serious about allowing one car at a time to cross the bridge," I giggled. "Who knows, perhaps Dolly and Queen Latifah decided to come after all and they tightened up security!" I could only guess, I couldn't see around the corner. About that time, I looked in my rear-view mirror and noticed a state patrol car behind me and a state patrol officer approaching my car. Sternly he said, "You can't be here!" God must have sent an angel to cover my mouth because I almost blurted, "Oh yes I can, I have a media pass... Take me to Karen Peck!" Instead I asked, "really- why?" He said, "You are at the State Capitol Building!"

I was in the middle of downtown Nashville at 4:55 pm and I had no clue how to get to where I was supposed to be. I had followed the directions, but it didn't matter

because they were WRONG! I burst into tears, handed over my directions to the officer and shouted, "WHERE IS THE MOVIE THEATER?"

I'm grateful he was kind enough to set me on the right path, and also for the Nashville business men and women who allowed me to cut in front of them to get to it! AND I'm grateful for my husband who guided me straight to the theater over the phone. I made it to the premier in plenty of time, but would you believe I had a smartphone with a built in navigator with me the whole time that I had never taken the time to figure out how to use?!?! (blushing!)

As embarrassing as this story is, there is a reason I'm sharing. This experience reminded me what "lost" feels like! It's been a while- but believe me "confusing" is how it felt! The situation also reminded me what it's like to be denied access. If there is one word to describe how I felt that day, "stunned" would be it. Hmmmm....

How many people will get to the end of their lives thinking they are going to heaven only to realize they were wrong? How many of those will have had the gps (Bible) sitting on the shelf unused? I was SO sure I was in the right place right up until the barricade rose up, the arm gate slammed down and the gate-keeper marched out! I was sincere, but sincerely wrong!

We still have the opportunity to warn those around us who are lost before they are stunned with the realization of access denied! I don't know about you, but I'm fired up and ready to lead people out of the confusion and show them the way! My prayer is that you too are encouraged to share the love of Christ. It is only through Jesus Christ we are saved and today IS the day of Salvation!

Although I'm grateful for the experience, I hope it's one I'll remember and not repeat! I do LOVE the opportunity to get out to various concerts and events. So... Bring on the invitations, I know how to work my navigator now and I'm raring to go! I LOVE promoting GOSPEL....MUSIC! Email me at rhonda@sgnscoops.com.

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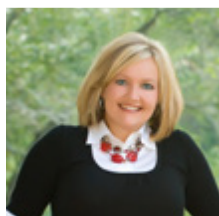
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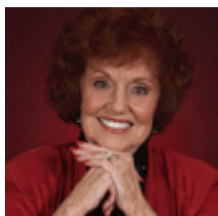
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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern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



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>



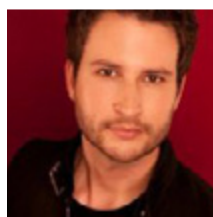
Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties, she was the first woman 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.



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>

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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. Queen-noq.blogspot.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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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>



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



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



Jonathan 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 SGN Scoops 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.

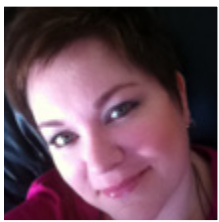
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Denise Salchow grew up singing southern gospel music with her family group and continues to have a passion for the music and ministry. Denise works with the video production team for SGN Scoops and is the artist coordinator for The Diamond

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.



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 stompn', 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

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LIFE, LOVE & LEGENDS

by Lou Wills Hildreth

My heartfelt thanks to SgnSCOOPS Publisher, Rob Patz and Editor-in-Chief Rhonda Frye for the privilege of sharing the journey as I celebrate seventy-five years in gospel music. A scripture that defines the purpose of our passion for this music is Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." In my years in the music industry in Nashville, the following expression was used often --"It all starts with a song" and yes, the song delivers the message, but we know God gives the song. In conversations with many of Christian music's legendary songwriters, each one of them testified often that their songs were gifts from the Father above. I will forever be grateful for their talent and friendship.

One of the dearest of these friends was DOTTIE RAMBO who brought her guitar and sang her songs on "Nashville Gospel" a daily television show I hosted in

the seventies. Our paths crossed many times over the years. In 2007 Dottie and I laughed and talked as we sat side by side at the Gaither Homecoming videotaping at Opryland. Just a few months later, Dottie Rambo died in the horrible wreck of her tour bus on the way to a concert. As I sat with the Homecoming Singers at her funeral in Nashville and listened to Bill and Gloria Gaither pay tribute to this "Songwriter of the Century" my grief was mingled with thankfulness for having her in my life.

MOSIE LISTER, writer of many of our classic Southern gospel songs, and still active at ninety years of age, is a treasure. Not too long ago, I chatted with Mosie and his wife, Martha, sitting on a bench outside the SGMA Hall Of Fame in Dollywood. He thanked me for singing his songs during the thirty years I traveled with the Wills Family of Fort Worth, Texas. My favorite Mosie Lister song is "Where No One Stands Alone." He smiled when I mentioned it was the first song Larry Gatlin, a fabulous songwriter himself, sang on a video I hosted for Hill Country Gospel TV. Mosie talked about Bill Gaither asking him to conduct a male choir singing "Til The Storm Passes By" on "Nashville Homecoming" a DVD taped at Opryland in 2007. In his humble manner, he recalled that in that Homecoming choir were other legendary songwriters, JIM HILL, HENRY SLAUGHTER, and JOEL HEMPHILL, along with Bill and Gloria Gaither, plus many of our young celebrated songwriters of today.

There is no way to measure the impact of songs written by BILL and GLORIA GAITHER. The Wills Family sang those early songs by Bill and sold Gaither sheet music at our store in Arlington, Texas in the sixties. I remember that my brother, Bob Wills, sang in an arranged male quartet with Bill at the Stamps Music School in Dallas in 1954. A few years later, the marriage of Bill and Gloria Gaither created an incredible gift to gospel music.



Dottie Rambo, Lou, and Mark Lowry, co-writer of "Mary Did You Know"

Gloria's lyrics, combined with Bill's genius, raised the bar for all of us. I will forever be grateful for the longtime friendship of Bill and Gloria Gaither. We can never forget other precious friends whose songs are classics. RUSTY GOODMAN's "Who Am I" takes us back to our early days. We remember singing "If We Never Meet Again" and many others by ALBERT E. BRUMLEY. Howard and I are at that stage of life that brings vivid thoughts of Heaven. When we heard the Booth Brothers sing SQUIRE PARSONS "Look For Me At Jesus Feet" we claimed it as "our song." Squire's classic "Sweet Beulah Land" has ministered to the multitudes. Thanks be to the Heavenly Father for inspiring our songwriters, and we can agree "it does start with a song."

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A LEGACY OF LOVE

BY SCOTT RHOADES



Whenever someone mentions the word “legacy” or “love,” I cannot help but think of my grandparents, Paul and Elizabeth Rhoades. Members of Tom Brokaw’s “Greatest Generation,” theirs is a story of romance, love, faith, simplicity, and survival that carried them through an era of severe economic collapse, a great world war, an industrial revolution, the golden era of aviation and space travel, and the ravages of Alzheimer’s disease.

In the late 1920’s, my grandparents moved to a small coal-mining community in western Pennsylvania where my grandfather worked the deep, underground mines of the Allegheny Mountains to provide for his family, while my grandmother tended to the 4-room company mining house and cared for all ten of their children. Times were tough. As with many Americans, they would later reap the benefits of a post-war industrial explosion and stabilization of a country that had come through crises to land a man on the moon. They would enjoy the company of family, friends, and neighbors, and would gather to reminisce about the “good old days.” They would celebrate a 55th Wedding Anniversary, but soon my grandfather would devoutly care for someone who thought him a kind stranger. Within months, they would follow one another to a place of eternal rest.

My grandparents were compassionate and gentle folks. There are times I wish I could have observed them during those early days, just as I was present to watch them live out the last decade and a half

of their lives together. I am thankful for my limited time with them, a small pile of photographs, some old 35mm film, the historical accounts from my father, aunts and uncles, and a collection of stories and poems written by my grandmother. They continually remind me of who we were, who I am, and where I am going. It gives me a sense of strength, courage, honor, direction, and stability. I am blessed to be part of a legacy of love that continues to live on through my family and through me.

Perhaps you have a similar story, perhaps you don’t, but there is one thing we have in common; the heritage and inheritance left to us by Christ Himself. His is a story of love and compassion that carried Him through a suffering we will never truly understand. His physical agonies, mental anguish, and battle with hell itself allow us to reap the benefits of life abundant and life eternal.

As with my grandparents, there are days I wish I could have walked with Him along the road to Emmaus, held an invitation to the wedding feast, or stood with Him at the graveside of His friend Lazarus. I wasn’t there, but the fact of the matter remains I can walk with Him now, and He has left me a collection of wisdom and truth reminding me of who I was, who I am, and where I am going. It too provides me with strength, courage, honor, direction, and stability for the journey ahead, and this legacy continues to live on through you and me.

LITTLE IS

**KAREN PECK'S JOYFUL NOISE
EXPERIENCE**

MUCH

BY RHONDA FRYE

Who knew?! Little did we know our very own Southern Gospel, 11-time Singing News® female vocalist of the year, three-time Grammy® nominee and three-time Dove nominee, Karen Peck, dreamed of being in a movie! Karen made her debut on the big screen January 13, 2012 in the Alcon Entertainment's and Warner Brothers Pictures' "Joyful Noise," starring Oscar® nominees Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton. SGNscoops attended the Nashville premier of Joyful Noise on January 10, 2012 and talked with Karen about the Joyful Noise experience. Karen says her role in the movie was a small role, but "Little Is Much When God is In It!" Not only did Karen land a role in the movie, but also earned herself a spot on WaterTower Music's soundtrack. We're excited to share the "inside scoop" of an experience Karen says was a dream come true!

The faith based movie stirs emotional responses from laughter to tears and offers encouragement, hope and inspiration. The story tells of an economic stricken town in Georgia where the town-folks count on the church choir to lift their spirits by winning a national choir competition. "Vi Rose," played by Queen Latifah, and "G.G." played by Dolly Parton are at each other's throats as they disagree on the style of the music it takes to win. The bickering between those two literally has the audience laughing out loud! Broadway performer, Jeremy Jordan playing

the part of "Randy" G.G.'s rebellious grandson, heats up the conflict with his love interest in "Olivia" played by actress, singer KeKe Palmer. Grammy winner, Kirk Franklin plays the role of the choir's fiery competitor and Karen Peck is featured as the host of the competition. Overall, if there is one word that could sum up the story-line of the movie, "Redemption" would be it. "This is a movie for right now because people really need hope," Kirk Franklin explains in an online interview. "People really need to hear music and to see a movie that really has a message that inspires and uplifts people."

"This movie is about hope and redemption. Times are tough and it doesn't matter what we go through- we may face trials but, we can be rest assured and know where our help and our hope comes from - and that is from the Lord," Karen explains.

Although the story-line is great, the music is the heart of the film! With the sounds of Gospel, Pop, Country, Rock and R & B brilliantly merged, the sound track transcends age, race and genre! The response to the music has been great! In fact, debut week, the sound track came in at #1 on Billboard's Soundtrack Chart, #2 on Billboard's Independent Current Albums chart, and landed a Top 20 debut on Billboard's Top Current Albums chart. The week of January 23 it tops #1 on Soundtrack Chart and #1 on Christian Chart.

The master-mind behind the music is Mervyn Warren. As an original member of the a-cappella group Take-6 from the 80's as well as being an accomplished lyricist, composer, record producer, pianist, vocalist and arranger, Warren had plenty of experience to draw from! Warren is a Five-time Grammy®, six-time Dove, and two-time Stellar Award winner and is known for his work on "Dream Girls," "The Preacher's Wife," and "Sister Act."

The soundtrack to "Joyful Noise" includes renditions of unforgettable songs originally recorded by Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney, Sly & the Family Stone, Usher, and Stevie Wonder. Karen shares: "What I love about these secular songs is the fact that we are ALL familiar with them. People like familiar, but yet they take it a step further and put a positive spin on the message and the message is about the Lord. This is the fourth time I've seen this movie and you can hear a response every time when it comes to a song they're {the audience} familiar with. You can hear people clap and sing along."

Peck continues, "I love these familiar songs and I love bringing these songs to the church. I didn't know this, but there are a lot of choir competitions in the United States. I think this movie shows that we can do these songs. My group does it too. We do "I Can See Clearly Now" and Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand." Karen explained using secular songs in the Christian environment is a way to connect with people because these songs connect with memories.



The exceptional song selection, production and arrangements are matched with exceptional vocal skill and talent. Keke Palmer's voice is pure with an element of innocence as she sings "Man In The Mirror." Other selections showcase Palmer's power-house vocal abilities. Jeremy Jordan's voice has an equaled sense of smoothness and clarity. Singing together on "Maybe I'm Amazed" is nothing less than impressive and delightful.

The "Joyful Noise" soundtrack offers plenty of dance music. Kirk Franklin penned an energetic number called "In Love." Perhaps the tune that is bound to cause speeding tickets is the medley, "Higher!" The arrangement is dazzling, intense and includes many modulations.

Owning the soundtrack affords the listener to re-live unforgettable movie scenes. Queen Latifah's performance, at the piano alone in the church, of "Fix Me Jesus" is one to leave an imprint on the mind. With all instruments stripped away except a piano, Queen Latifah's voice stands out and is beautiful! In an interview with Joy 105, Queen Latifah explained that as she performed "Fix Me Jesus" in the movie, she wanted to be connected to God just in knowing that He CAN fix her. She went on to say God can fix everything. (<http://www.joy105.com/queen-latifah-says-he-can-fix-me/>)

Dolly contributed three originals to the sound track. "From Here to the Moon and Back" is another beautiful song linking to yet another heart-touching scene. Dolly's sweet voice harmonized with Jeremy Jordan's- mixed with tender lyrics and acoustic accompaniment nearly



makes this song a lullaby!

Choirs all over America will no doubt pick up Dolly's "He's Everything!" This song exhibits Dolly's understanding of a deep theological truth and that is the immanence of God. It's difficult to explain how God is both transcendent and immanent. Without a doubt, Dolly conveys the



message that God is with us and is intimately involved in our daily lives. Some of the lyrics say: "{He} Restores our lives, Our broken hearts" ... "{He is} The God of Hope and Change"... "{He is} The Cure for Hurt and Pain." The song is rock solid explaining who God is, what He does and calls us to respond in praise.

"Mighty High" is Karen Peck's song and "WOW" is the only way to describe it! The Southern Gospel Industry has known what a gem Karen is for a long time and what a blessing it is to share her with the world! Her performance of Mighty High showcases her strong but sweet soprano voice all the way up to a high G sharp! Applause and cheers broke out in the Nashville theater following her performance on screen. Karen admits she was very nervous during the taping- Nervous about falling in the 4 ½ inch high heels!

Karen Peck has nothing but great things to say about producer Mervyn Warren. "It was such an honor to work with him! I saw him last night {Hollywood Premier} and he was talking about how much fun this movie was to work with the artist, but to bring back these songs and the pop songs," Karen explains. Despite all the accolades, Karen says he was gracious, kind, down to earth

and made her feel as if she had always known him.

"Gracious and Kind" is the way Karen described everyone she worked with from the first phone call to the last! Hollywood's Premier experience is one Karen will cherish forever. It was more than the red carpet, more than being on the big screen, but it was the conversations at the After Party she will hold dear. Karen explains: "I was just so taken back by their kindness! I really was in tears because they were so nice....And... we were able to carry on a conversation- and for them to actually take the time to talk was just very good." Karen continues, "I was able to spend just a little time with Queen Latifah more than with Dolly. Queen Latifah was talking about the movie and the song "Fix Me Jesus." We talked about some of the songs in the movie we thought really connected. When I spoke with Dolly she was very sweet. My group, New River performs at Dollywood every year, so she said 'I'll be seeing you at Dollywood!' The funny thing she said was... 'Karen, when I hear that song {Mighty High} on the sound track, I think it's me!' There is only one Dolly, that's for sure! But I can honestly say, it is a tremendous honor and a dream come true to be in a movie with Dolly and Queen Latifah."

"Joyful Noise" is Karen's first movie, but would she do it again? Absolutely! Karen shares: "I've always wanted to do something like this. I have dreamed of being in a musical. Back in 2003 I took six weeks of acting classes with my friend Rhonda Rich. We did that because I was doing a lot of ladies retreats, speaking engagements along with my music. I discovered that I loved it! This was a small part, but Little Is Much When God Is In It. The Lord just has a way of putting things in your life that you never expect. Sometimes He drops those little nuggets in your heart or in your lap and He gives you these special things that you never saw coming-they're just special blessings and this movie is just one of those special blessings to me."

Congratulations to Karen Peck for landing your first movie role! SGNscoops says "thank you" to Watertower Music Group for allowing us to participate in the Nashville Premier. We have found "Joyful Noise" a MUST see movie and the "Joyful Noise Soundtrack" a Must have!



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brian free & assurance

Part 2: The Ministry

by
**Lorraine
Walker**



Brian Free and Assurance are among the top artists in Southern Gospel, as shown by the awards and accolades bestowed on the group. Great harmonies and a strong message combine with a unique sound to make this quartet one of the best on the road today. In this second part of the Scoops interview with Brian Free and Bill Shivers, the men discuss the ministry and message of Brian Free and Assurance, with politics, political correctness and even a little preaching thrown in.

From Brian Free's beginnings with Gold City in 1982, his distinctive tenor voice and ability to connect with an audience has opened doors for him and his group to speak to the hearts of listeners nationwide. He and lead singer Bill Shivers have learned to use this opportunity for ministry. Speaking with concert goers after a program gives them an

occasion to hear the hearts of their listeners and to speak the Word of God into their lives on a personal basis. What they hear from their audience is as varied as the people themselves.

"There is such a wide variety of what people will talk to us about, from the loss of family members, to physical problems such as people with cancer, and job loss," Free shares. "More than anything, what I hear is health issues and not just in the older crowd. We have people younger than me that will come and say they have been diagnosed with Cancer or Multiple Sclerosis or Lupus. It's not all negative, there are people coming up and talking about praise reports. There are people saying to us, 'Hey, God healed my wife,' or 'God gave me a job.' So we do hear both, it's not just asking for prayer. It's testimonies too."

Whether the one-on-one discussions are positive or negative, this type of sharing

after an evening of singing and preaching can take its toll on any artist. Free admits that once they get back on the bus, the first thing he does is crash. Shivers notes that as ministers they need to be spiritually fed also and the group has material on the bus to assist with that process.

"We have about eight or ten churches around the country that we've been to, that we know the pastor and the staff really well," says Free. "Pastors that we've heard preach, been a part of their ministry and we know all about them. Each week as they do their sermons and put them on CD for their congregation, they also mail us one so we can listen to them while we are going down the road."

"We read and we pray and we do what we have to do every day as a Christian to keep us on track," Free continues. "But there are times when you

give so much and so hard, that you get to the bus and you are just exhausted, mentally and physically. But that's all a part of it."

Shivers agrees and adds, "But God always gives us strength. He won't put any more on us than we can bear. He knows that this is part of what we do, you might call it the 'burden of the ministry.'"

"God has been speaking to me lately about being more compassionate," continues Shivers. "He really has. I try to pray every night, no matter how tired I am and to give God His time. He has been talking to me about being more compassionate to others, seeing other people's hurts and not thinking about myself. It's so easy to get caught up in whining moments and pity parties. So many people do that. So I'm trying to be more aware of others and be more compassionate."

Growing in their spiritual life, as shown through their compassionate hearts, is a priority for Brian Free and Assurance. Free says he has personal study materials that he uses on a consistent basis. "I enjoy F. J. Dake and have been an understudy of his for many, many years. He was from my area and was in his late nineties when he died. His Bible study is all King James Version and the Dake Bible is all KJV with his notes and references. Everything he writes about, he sends you back to other scripture to reference. You aren't just taking his word for it or anything like that."

"He has a course called

'God's Plan for Man' which I have on mp3. It covers everything from the pre-Adamite world to the Millennium and everything in between." Free laughs, "Dake is teaching at college level, so it's like listening to a college professor and can get a little boring at times."

Shivers agrees that the course is quite comprehensive. "It gets very deep. And [mimicking Dake] It's – monotone – like – this – all – the – time..." Both agree however that Dake has a deep knowledge of the Word of God and the study course is "pretty cool."

Free and Shivers both have also acquired a deep knowledge and love for the Word of God. It seems that Free has the gifting of an evangelist, although the thought of pastoring, for the moment anyway, is not part of his immediate plan. "God called me to preach, but He hasn't called me to be a pastor. There is a huge difference." Free emphatically continues, "I will not pastor a church unless God absolutely, unmistakably calls me, writes it in the clouds, etches it in the sand, carves it on my forehead... It's going to have to be a call of God, without doubt. It will not be self-called! If I ever do something like that in my life, it will be something I know was God. If people only realize what a pastor and his family go through to lead a church! It is something I do not want unless God wants it for me. It's a hard job."

Free and his team of godly men endeavors to follow the call of God wherever it may lead. They are fully aware of

the fact that their audience is drawn from every walk of life and many belief systems are represented on any given night. Neither Free nor Shivers are men to mince words or back down from their convictions regardless of the type of venue or church denomination. Sometimes, the after-concert conversation may turn to politics, and even that subject is not avoided. Shivers comments, "Some people are more vocal than others."

"Don't ask me if you don't want to know!" says Free. Both men agree they will answer questions posed to them. Shivers adds, "That might not be the most popular thing to do. But you have to take a stand."

Free continues, "The way I look at it, if somebody asks me for my opinion, they deserve an answer. If it's going to offend you, then don't ask it. I am a conservative, Christian, Republican. I believe in how this country was founded; I believe in the freedoms of this country; I believe we should not be ashamed of anything this country has ever done. I'm a pro-lifer, not pro-choice. It is not a choice, it is a life."

Shivers adds, "I believe marriage is between a man and woman."

Free says, "Yes sir! Absolutely, it is between a man and a woman, that's it. Anything else, according to the Word of God, is an abomination in the eyes of God. It is not up for debate. It is not up to anyone or their particular group. It is not being non-tolerant, but if God doesn't tolerate something, then neither will I. If that

offends someone – get over it!” Shivers emphatically agrees. Free concludes, “Don’t blame me, I’m just the messenger. The message is there, take it or leave it. It’s in the Word of God.”

Anyone who has heard Brian Free and Assurance will concur that this is a group that does not dilute the Scripture or vary from their stance on the values stated within the Work of God. Friends of Free also agree that this man of God is completely grounded on the Bible.

Mike LeFevre of the LeFevre Quartet, sang with Free during their years with Gold City Quartet in the 1980’s. LeFevre says, “I’ve known Brian since we were in our teens. We sang together for a short time, followed by seven years with Gold City then over three years with Brian Free and Assurance. I can tell you that Brian has been a true friend. If you don’t want to hear the truth about something, don’t ask Brian. He will tell you just the way it is, like it or not. I love that! More than anything, Brian is a good man, a man of God and I’m proud to be his friend!”

Another friend who agrees with LeFevre’s assessment of Free is Bryan Hutson of Soul’d Out. Hutson shares, “I have been a fan of Brian Free since he sang with Gold City. I met Brian years later and became his friend. He is probably the most consistent tenor to come along in many years. I am most impressed with his stance on the things of God. He makes no apologies for standing for the truth of God’s Word. I pray that blessings will continue to follow Brian’s life.”

The uncompromising stance

of Brian Free and Assurance may actually be detrimental as some churches or venues may consider the group’s conservative view-point too rigid. Free acknowledges that this may be the case but makes no apologies. “There are some denominations like that. They believe in homosexuality in the pulpit. There are those who are pro-choice, they believe in abortion, they believe in gay marriage. But you know what?” Free pauses and continues more forcefully. “The message we carry is the Word of God. If you are not willing to accept the message of the Word of God, do not have us in to minister.”

“We do not want to come if you are not going to be responsive to the message we are delivering which is the Word of God,” says Free, very seriously. “If the Word of God offends you, you are the one with the problem, not us and not the Bible. So if that offends somebody, they are the one with the issue and they are the one that needs to get into the Word of God, read it, find out what it says and pray for understanding.” Free earnestly adds, “They need to pray that the Holy Spirit gets a hold of them and pray that they get saved so they would really listen to the Word of God. Then all those issues would be resolved.” Free pauses while Shivers says, “Amen”. Free concludes, “I’m not saying that if you don’t see it our way, you are lost. I’m saying if you don’t see it God’s way, you are lost. Period.”

The passionate declaration of his beliefs brings out the evangelist side of Free, as even

the interview set became a pulpit for anointed preaching. The men settled back with comments of, “Let’s take up an offering!” before discussing their next priority: Family. All the men of Assurance are married with children, and Brian became a grandfather in July of 2011. Free didn’t hesitate when asked how he would like his grandson Jude to remember him in the future. Free says he would like Jude to remember: “That I stood up for what the Word of God says without compromise; that I was not afraid of offending somebody or making someone mad. That I was not concerned with trying to be politically correct, to avoid and evade the truth. That I always stood for what the Word of God said and didn’t back up an inch, whether it offended somebody or not.”

Free continues, “That’s why our country is in the shape it’s in and why the Church is in the shape it’s in. It’s because we have abandoned the Word of God. We’ve become too afraid of offending somebody with the Truth. If the Truth offends you, obviously –it’s a no-brainer – you are the one with the problem. The Truth is the Truth. It’s not up for a debate or a committee to get together and decide whether the Word of God is true or not. It is. Take it for what it says, read it and live it. I’m not perfect – none of us are. It’s black and white; there is no gray area. You don’t live whatever life you want to live because you think it’s right. You don’t make your own religion. There is only one path to God, contrary to what many people say.”

Shivers agrees and reiterates: "ONE way!"

"There is one way to God and one single way, according to the Word of God," continues Free. "Period. There is no other way, so if you found your own little way and you think that is going to get you to heaven, you will burn in hell. There is no compromise to it. It's either God's way and you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you are born again and covered by His blood, you live for Him, you believe He is your Risen Savior...or you don't."

Shivers again agrees: "That's the Gospel. That's what we sing." Both men sit back again and look at each other.

Free laughs, "Now we are GOING to take up an offering..."

Shivers raises his hand: "Hallelujah!"

For Brian Free and Assurance, Gospel Music is not just a job. It is who they are, as they minister in word and song, following God's call on their lives. There is no room for compromise or political correctness, only for the message from the Word of God. As their song "I Believe" says, they 'believe every line, every word, every story they've heard.' Through this, God has been changing them. And that makes this a Season To Remember for Brian Free and Assurance.

For more information on Brian Free and Assurance, go to <http://brianfreeandassurance.com/>



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LOVE A CHILD

by Angela Griffin

In the early 1970's Missionaries Bobby and Sherry Burnette, founders of Love A Child, Inc., recalls a young mother holding her baby high up in the air and asking *"If your God is so good, then why is my baby starving to death?"* They quickly realized in order to share the love of Christ they must first show the love of Christ by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and educating the poor for... *"Love is not just something you talk about, but love is something you do."*

Love A Child is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian Humanitarian Organization to the Island of Haiti. One may ask, why Haiti? Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Imagine a country with no retail stores, no manufacturers, and no opportunity for employment, literally no way to feed yourself or

your starving children. That's Haiti! Haitians are literally dying in the streets from hunger. These precious souls are our neighbors! Just an hour and forty-five minutes from the shores of Miami and yet countless Haitians die needlessly from treatable diseases and illnesses due to the lack of quality health care. Twenty percent of babies die during childbirth. Of those who survive, many will never see their fifth birthday. Children and toddlers under the age of five, struggle to survive. The combination of malnutrition, anemia and worms create an eating disorder called "Pika." When Haitian children are hungry they will eat things such as charcoal ashes, goat feces, dirt, mud clay called "te" and even small rocks. Love A Child is bridging the gap between a life of poverty and a life of hope through

our donor-sponsored relief programs. The Lord has called Love A Child to bring the light of the Gospel into the darkness of Haiti. One tool of evangelism is Love A Child's Christian Radio Station 105.3 donated by CTN television. CTN also donated thousands of solar-powered handheld radios to the Haitian people. They only pick up one station, 105.3! Love A Child is bringing the people of Haiti **"24 Hour Jesus!"** The station features educational programs for children, health and hygiene programs, Christian music and much more. They also have Bible Stories for children and actual Bible readings in Creole because most Haitians cannot read or write. The Christian Radio Station brings many blessings and much joy to the people of Haiti. The greatest most critical need in

Haiti today is food. Love A Child provides a lifeline to hungry families throughout remote

and receive the best possible education, even college. These children are the future of Haiti!



brought him to Love A Child. The medical staff began to nurture and feed this precious baby, giving him the best medical care Haiti has to offer! Missionaries, Bobby and Sherry Burnette, became Mommy and Poppy to this beautiful child and welcomed him into their loving home, the Love A Child Orphanage. He now rests in the arms of people who love him. They named him Moses and what a beautiful child he is. Today he is a healthy young little boy who one day wants to be the President of Haiti. Every child in the orphanage has a story just like little "Moses." Moses beat the odds of survival, but sadly many perish and die.

The Child Sponsorship Program is the heart of **Love A Child**. A sponsored child receives a

locations of Haiti. In 2011, LAC distributed just over 13,700,000 hot meals through their food distribution program. With continued donor support, LAC hopes to reach an even greater number in 2012.

The Love A Child Orphanage provides a loving, caring, Christian home for children who have been abandoned, orphaned, or enslaved. It is a loving home to 65 precious little angels. The Love A Child Orphanage is the largest facility of its kind and has been voted #1 for being "The Best of the Best" by the government of Haiti. Bobby and Sherry have great hope for these children. Their dream is for the children to grow up as strong Christians

Meet Moses... A Rescue of Love

Moses will never rest in the arms of his loving mother for she couldn't bear to keep her child, knowing she would never be able to feed him. Shortly after giving birth she walked away, leaving him to die at the bottom of a filthy outhouse. This fragile baby boy, barely clinging to life, faintly cried. A Haitian man passing by the outhouse heard the baby crying. Risking his own life, he sprang into action. He dismantled the outhouse, tied a rope around his waist, went down inside the pit and rescued this baby boy. The village people, who had gathered to see this rescue of love, took the baby to the charity hospital, but they were unable to care for him. That's when they



Christian education, uniforms, books, supplies, regular medical check-ups, basic health care and a hot delicious meal. Many times, parents who are not of the Christian faith, witness what our loving sponsors are doing for their children and

Clinics" are also saving lives. Volunteer mission teams bring much needed medical care to families throughout Haiti. Many times in their remote medical clinics they find a malnourished child that should be in a clinic receiving ongoing medical care,

the largest Earthquake Disaster Relief Center and Operating Field Hospital in Haiti.

Founders Bobby and Sherry Burnette and the entire Love A Child organization are working



are moved to accept Christ. As a sponsor... you may help win souls! Imagine that! Love A Child's educational program is one of the finest in Haiti. They have built 13 schools in Haiti since 1972. LAC serves hot nutritious meals to over 5,000 students daily and provides them with a Christian education in a safe environment. Haitian law requires school children to wear a uniform. You can always spot an LAC student by their bright blue and yellow uniform. The schools also double as a "Place of Worship" for Christians throughout Haiti.

Love A Child's "Mobile Medical

or a young woman who needs a clean and sanitary place to deliver her baby. After seeing the same issues time and time again, they heard the Lord calling them to build a medical / malnutrition clinic in the Fond Parisien, Haiti. They call this medical facility "The Jesus Healing Center." It is a multi-faceted Clinic that supports critical ongoing outreaches in childhood malnutrition, maternal education and community health care. After the recent earthquake, over 25 organizations from 15 different countries united on Love A Child's property to assist in ongoing medical care. The Jesus Healing Center became

to reduce poverty in Haiti. If you have a heart for missions please consider sponsoring a child or making a donation to feed the hungry.

There are seven promises by God to those who help the poor. They are found in Psalms 41:1-3:

¹Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. ²The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

³The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

For a more complete overview of the Love A Child organization, please visit their website at www.loveachild.com. Love A Child is a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA), which has the highest standards of accountability for non-profits. They also have the Independent Charities of America (ICA) "Best in America" Seal of Approval. Charity Navigator has awarded Love A Child a "Four Star" rating, for the past 5 years. Less than 5% of all non-profit organizations in the US receives this prestigious rating.

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Love

OF A LIFETIME

BY SANDI
DUNCAN CLARK



There are a number of special couples in Southern Gospel music, whom we refer to as “Southern Gospel Sweethearts.” Some are older, having labored together in a music ministry for a number of years. Others are of a younger generation and are stalwartly devoted to God, to each other and the ministry.

Jim and Melissa Brady are of the latter group, having known each other since they were youngsters, traveling with their respective families, singing Gospel music. “I remember meeting Melissa and thinking she was so beautiful and sweet,” Jim smiled as he recalled. “I knew she was my one and only.”

Jim continued his story, “I was probably about eleven or twelve, and I wrote her a letter, telling her that I enjoyed meeting her and I thought she was a wonderful singer. A little later I got a letter back from her thanking me for writing and saying she was glad to hear from me, but her mother had told her that she was too young and could not correspond with boys until she was sixteen.”

As the two families continued their music ministry, they would often be booked together, and Jim and Melissa would find time for a short visit. Jim determined that he would keep writing and then when her parents felt she was old enough maybe she would write back. “Shortly after she turned

sixteen, we began corresponding, and I knew that God was knitting our hearts together,” Jim finished. Not only did the two form a stronger bond of friendship; they became confidants and fell in love, and the rest is history! On March 6, 2012, Jim and Melissa Brady will celebrate their nineteenth wedding anniversary!

Both Melissa and Jim are very family oriented. The Bradys share their holidays with both families. “We usually spend Thanksgiving with my family and Christmas with Melissa’s family,” Jim explained. “Whenever our schedules allow, we also like to host a gathering at our home and have a big group of friends over. It gives us a chance to let them know how much we appreciate them.”

Just after the holidays, we caught up with Jim and Melissa relaxing at home following what was a busy tour weekend for each of them. “I filled in for a group this weekend, and Jim just got home after the Booth Brothers concert dates,” Melissa shared. “We always like to take a cup of coffee to the living room and catch up on our weekends.”

During the Christmas holidays, Melissa filled in for Connie and Kim Hopper, as well as the Specks during their Christmas tour. She laughed as she said, “Sometimes I have so many lyrics and melodies floating around in my head, and I wonder if I’ll remember the correct ones!” She continued,

"But then, when I'm on the road, singing and hanging out with my friends, I really enjoy it." This past year has been full of changes for Melissa. "Both Mom and Dad have battled cancer this year, and right now they are officially cancer free," she explained. "I made a number of trips to Ohio during their treatment, and am so thankful God allowed me to be there for them. I praise Him that



they are both over the hurdle and currently doing well."

Jim's folks recently celebrated their 54th Wedding Anniversary, and Jim elaborated a little, catching us up with them. "Dad has had a health challenge for a few years," Jim disclosed, "but he and Mom are both doing well right now. With the celebration of this anniversary, they are a godly example for us, of what a marriage should be."

Both Jim and Melissa feel blessed to have godly parents. Melissa shares, "Years ago, when we were singing with our families, we experienced what it's like to allow God to use us. Growing up, we never even thought of missing church; we never imagined not taking a revival date, and I don't remember trying to make excuses about going." She continued, "When you have the call of God on your life, then He leads in the direction that is best for your life, and we learned to follow."

Jim and Melissa are both involved with Vocal Coach Steve Hurst, and teach at Steve's annual School of Music. "It's a wonderful place to

fellowship with others who love Gospel music," Jim said. "We have the opportunity to encourage singers and writers who are looking for inspiration in their ministry. They always tell us what a joy it is to come to the school and that they learn so much from people who have experienced this lifestyle for a while. You know, God works on both sides of this. They tell us that we encouraged them, but through the week, it's an encouragement to us just as much."

When Jim is away with the Booth Brothers and Melissa is not filling in for another artist, she enjoys doing women's conferences. Over the years, she has sung, taught and/or spoken at these events all across the country. "I love sharing with women that they are special, that they have something to give and that God loves them," she explained. "This year I'll be hosting my own events and I'm so excited about that. The event will be called *Something Beautiful* and our goal is to remind women that God sees beauty in every one of them." Melissa concluded, "We all get discouraged and just need to be reminded that God created us for a purpose, and that we are ALL precious and beautiful in His eyes."

The dates and places for the *Something Beautiful Women's Conferences* have not been completed yet, and Melissa encourages us to keep watching for the announcements. "The new website, www.melissabradyonline.com is not yet complete and all the little details are being worked out," Melissa shared. "You can still find us at www.jimandmelissabradly.com while the other website is under construction."

"When I first started speaking to women, I was a little nervous," Melissa said. "I just remember thinking that I wasn't any smarter than any of the ladies I was speaking to; I just had a different story to tell. As a Christian, we all have our own story, and if sharing that helps others, then I'm willing to do that."

Both Jim and Melissa are tremendous songwriters, and have written a number of songs for their music ministry as well as their fellow artists. They co-wrote "Wonderful Life," the title of Legacy Five's new album. Melissa wrote "Homecoming Day" for Tribute Quartet and it's their current radio single. The Whisnants recorded and released another song written by Melissa; "All Is Well."

Jim has songs on current recordings by the Booth

Brothers, The Hoppers, Gold City, Brian Free and Assurance, Ivan Parker, Lauren Talley, the Talleys, and the Whisnants. "I feel so blessed when I hear these artists sing my songs," Jim acknowledged. Jim is about to celebrate his ninth year singing with the Booth Brothers. For a number of years now, when the Booth Brothers are not booked, Jim and Melissa will book concert dates as a duet. "The Booth Brothers schedule is allowing us to book a few more dates together this year, and we're excited," Melissa said. "It's encouraging to be able to travel together, to sing together and to share our testimonies."

The Bradys have three duet projects that are available through their ministry. "Over the years, we've written love songs for each other, and several friends have asked us to write songs for their weddings," Melissa explained. "In 2004 we recorded 'OUR LOVE SONGS.' And then in 2008, after having a number of fans ask for classic love songs, we recorded an album titled 'CLASSIC LOVE SONGS.' Both of these have been wonderful recordings for us. Jim will occasionally sing one of these songs in a Booth Brothers concert and the audience loves it," Melissa stated.

"You know, I just don't believe that God allowed love songs to be just for the world," Melissa continued. "The talent that the writers use to express their love is just as appropriate for Christians to enjoy, as it is for the world, if we do them properly. After all, God IS love and He teaches us that we should love one another."

In 2011 Melissa and Jim did a new duet project; 'HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS.' Jim said, "This is a compilation of songs and hymns that we've sung for years; that we grew up with. These are songs that shaped our music. On the album we did "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "To God Be the Glory" and "Soon and Very Soon."

Melissa interrupted, "And Jim did a new album that I'm proud of! He always makes a demo of all the songs he writes and uses them to pitch songs to other artists. I'd been urging him to compile these songs on an album, and he did that this year!" She continued, "He put sixteen of his songs together and titled it THE DEMOS. These are exactly as he recorded them to send to artists, and there's a little booklet included which gives the story of the song. It gives artists and fans alike, the chance to see how each song was birthed and what gave it life.

As a singer/songwriter, I think this is a wonderful project and Jim's received a lot of comments on it." Jim and Melissa both agree that hearing stories from fans or other artists about how God uses the songs the Bradys write touches their own hearts and lives. Melissa reminisced, "We were sitting in the auditorium at NQC, and the Whisnants were singing the song I had written, "All Is Well."

Jim picked up the story, "I looked at Melissa and said 'They're singing your song.' I didn't just mean because Melissa had written it, but I meant that after all that had happened in Melissa's family last year, I just wanted Melissa to listen to her OWN words in the song and see how God worked through her writing to speak to her heart. The Whisnants' performance that night was just for Melissa, through God's leadership."

"And that really hit home," Melissa finished, "It was amazing to me that through everything, God was speaking to me, through a song that I WROTE, sung by another artists, and saying that 'All Is Well, just trust Me' That was a God thing!"

When asked about vacations, Melissa laughed as she said, "WE NEED ONE BAD! Our favorite vacation was actually a few years ago when we took a trip to Hawaii. It was the first time in ages that Jim was able to put down the cell phone and walk away from the computer and really relax." She continued. "It was such a joy! I came home and bought "Waves of Maui" on iTunes. I still listen to it and relax as the sounds take me back to the beach! Can you tell? We'll end up taking a vacation there again someday!"

The time that Jim and Melissa share is short but precious. "We learned a long time ago that without making time for each other, we lose touch," Melissa explained. "Not a day goes by that we don't find time to talk to each other about what's happening in our world, and we depend on each other to help us see these things in a better light. Jim is my soul-mate and he can see things from a distance better than I can see them in my life. The same goes for me."

When asked about hobbies, Melissa replied, "Hobbies, for both of us, involve music and writing. I love to read and I love writing. Words are my passion!"

Jim said, "Music is such a big part of our lives; music is my hobby...it's what I do for a living and what I do for fun." He laughed as he said, "I also love to

watch football and I'm a Dallas Cowboys fan!"

The Bradys share a love for God and a special love for each other, and as Valentine's Day approaches, sharing that love with our readers was exciting for Jim and Melissa. "We've always believed if telling our story will help someone find God in their life, or move closer to Him in their relationship, then we will do that," they both agree.

Jim and Melissa have shared their love story and their heart with us, and we have learned something about serving God as a couple. Check their website for their duet dates and go out to meet them. You will thoroughly enjoy Jim and Melissa Brady, our Southern Gospel Sweethearts! Also, remember to check the Bradys' website, www.jimandmelissabrady.com frequently for news about where the Bradys might be appearing, and for news on Melissa's event, *SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL*.



ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE? A MATHIS MOMENT BY JOHN MATHIS JR



Recently, I had a conversation with someone that said what so many of us have before. "I've been praying and trying to have faith, but nothing is happening." This person had some recent turn of events through some bad decisions they personally made and now they were facing the consequences of those decisions, so they decided that it was time to turn it over to God. I've been there, I've had my times in life where I've not lived by faith, where I made my own decisions and choices not based on a foundation of best life practices but based simply on what I wanted to do at the moment. I lived by how I felt emotionally or mentally. I made decisions during those times from instant gratification, void of patience or faith or holding out for the right answers and ignoring what were the right daily decisions.

I found out through all of those times that I'm not that great at going it alone when it comes to living day-to-day life. I will eventually get myself into places where all of those types of decisions lead me down a road where the consequences of tomorrow await to collect the debt I owe them from yesterday's choices. And just like this person I spoke with recently, I abandoned what I was doing after realizing it wasn't working and then decided I wanted God to step in and make it all better. Then I hold my breath hoping He fixes it all and I judge

His performance or ability on what I perceive is a lack of response on His part ...to my faith.

That recent conversation reminded me what faith really is. How valuable it really is in our lives and how it must be cultivated and built up each day, BEFORE we "need" it. Before we get into those tight places in life where we feel pressed and stressed on every side. I propose that faith is MORE important during the times we don't think we need it than when we get into those tight squeezes.

This brought to mind one of the most shocking moments in boxing history when Mike Tyson, then Heavy Weight Champion, lost to Buster Douglas in a championship bout in Tokyo in 1990. Mike Tyson was a 42-to-1 favorite to win this fight; it was *supposed* to be another quick knockout and easy win for Tyson. However, Tyson engaged in the poorest training routines of his life while Douglas trained like he never had before. Tyson without a doubt had the better natural boxing ability but without due diligence to training BEFORE the fight, it wasn't enough for Tyson to win the match.

When it comes to boxing and boxers, they spend an amazing amount of time training. They run, they jump rope, they hit the heavy bag and the speed bag, they work on technique and LISTEN to an

experienced and proven trainer as he instructs and corrects them on their form, tactics, techniques and strategy. They spend weeks and months preparing; from intense physical and mental training to eating a certain way and allowing themselves proper rest and recovery. Through all of this they even build what is called “muscle memory.” Their body and movements are trained in such a way that when they are in the ring, they don’t have to think about it. Their muscles automatically are trained to punch and counter-punch, to bob and weave, to hit and to move. They’ve trained their mental and physical being to work as one.

Boxers even purposely get in the ring to spar with another fighter. They get a “feel” for what it’s like to have an opponent who is hitting back. They know what it’s like to take a punch before they enter the ring for the actual bout. I had a friend who was involved in mixed martial arts for many years; he said with all the training there is still one element that separated fighters. It was how they handled that first good solid punch from an opponent. Many who felt they were ready and knew how to fight were suddenly shocked and disoriented when they received that good solid punch in the face. All of a sudden, they forgot about any offensive skills they had developed or what physical shape they were in and were more worried about not getting hit again.

I think the old saying is true, “practice makes perfect.” Our faith is no different. We have so many good days in our lives, where we get up and go to our jobs, spend time with our families, engage in our hobbies and extracurricular activities with no seemingly obvious need to “have faith” or to build our faith or to prepare our faith for any real tests. Yet those are the days when we need to be developing our faith the most. It’s the time given to us to practice our faith, to build our spiritual muscles, to develop our spiritual “muscle memory.”

The scripture says “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” Those are the days when we are to be listening to our Trainer and learning His instruction and planting it in our hearts and minds; building our trust, building our understanding, building our endurance, building

our spiritual muscles, and exercising the spiritual man in a spiritual sense.

Boxers get up each day and make a decision every morning to prepare before they ever step in the ring. They KNOW they are preparing for a fight. They KNOW a real fight is coming. With all we’ve been told by Jesus about life (John 16:33) “in this world YOU WILL have trouble” and “there IS an enemy that desires to sift you like wheat” (Luke 22:31) it shouldn’t come as a surprise to us that we have some battles coming. These aren’t the only references where Jesus is basically saying “Hey, not only will this world give you problems at times but there is an enemy who will attack you as well.” In essence, *“You’re going to have some fights ahead of you!”*

Guess what, maybe not today or tomorrow or the next day, but you ARE scheduled for a few rounds in the ring of life. It’s already on the card, it’s booked. We ARE children of God and we are MORE than conquerors, BUT we are also commissioned to get up each day and do some training and prepare ourselves for the “fights” ahead.

It is very frustrating to find yourself in that tough moment of life, when you feel you have no strength to punch back, when you feel spiritually winded and just want someone to ring the bell so the round will be over, when you can’t even hear what your trainer is saying because that first punch in the face has you more worried about not getting hit again than about a game plan or strategy of how to get through this round.

This is why faith can be a very powerful and important thing for us in our everyday lives. There are many examples of those who have developed their faith each day. Examples where some have received healing; where others have escaped death and some have moved mountains. On the other hand that same type of faith has caused some to endure sickness, others to face death victoriously and some to be able to climb the mountain that wasn’t moved.

Faith isn’t an answer to escaping our problems no more than intense training will allow a boxer to avoid a fight. Faith is what takes us THROUGH

our problems and allows us to ENDURE round after round.

Job stood there after losing his children, his wealth and his health and said *"Though God slay me yet will I hope in Him!"* Long before Job was in a fight for his life, when he had his children, all of his wealth and his health; the Lord told the enemy *"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil"* (Job 1:8). I like to paraphrase it this way; *"Have you considered my fighter Job? There is no one on earth like him; he has trained, he has prepared, a fighter who has listened and respected the counsel of his Trainer and avoids hindrances and stumbling blocks."*

We've all had those moments in life where we were caught in the position of not being prepared spiritually. I've traced many of those times back to my spiritual mentality and frame of mind PRIOR to my trial or trouble. The things I was doing, the direction I was heading, and things I was NOT doing. It has never been a pleasant experience to be unprepared. And I've had times where I've faced trials and look back and am amazed that I came through them in such a way that it appears effortless when I look back, especially compared to the degree of difficulty faced. But I was strong, I was prepared, I had trained well....BEFORE I faced the trial.

James 1:3 says: *"Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."* That word patience is also translated as ENDURANCE. It means "remaining under the load," "to bear up against," "stand your ground." Sounds a lot like a boxing match doesn't it!?!?

As they say in boxing, **"Are you ready to RUUUUUUMBLE!?!?!?!?"**

John Mathis

www.themansionentertainment.com

www.thepathwayrecords.com

www.johnmathisjr.com

The graphic is divided into two main sections. The top section, titled "high road" in a decorative font, features a photograph of three young women (Sarah, Anna Grace, and Vickie) sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. Below the photo, text identifies them: "sarah... piano", "anna grace... fiddle", and "vickie... upright bass". Below this, the text reads "country gospel at its purest" and "www.highroadmusic.com". Further down, it provides booking information: "For booking information: 615.887.3145, highroadmusic@gmail.com" and social media links "follow us on" with icons for Twitter and Facebook. The bottom section, titled "www.heartsofffaith.biz" in a green font, features a close-up photograph of a woman singing into a microphone. Below the photo, the text reads "Hearts of Faith" in a cursive font. At the bottom, it says "We would love the opportunity to minister at your next service or event. Please contact us. (937) 886-9512".

high road

sarah... piano
anna grace... fiddle
vickie... upright bass

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THE LAST WORD

BY LAURA MICHELLE KENNEDY

Southern Gospel's East-Texas Duo, Dale and Cheryl Golden have just made available a Limited Edition, pre-release of their latest offering entitled, "The Last Word." A selection of 10 songs, chosen from the heart of Dale Golden amid what he readily recalls as the most trying 12 months of his life, this project is sure to move you. Infused with country tones, each selection was also written by Dale and delivered with a passion filled conviction that only comes when one has lived through heartache and pain and come out victorious with the Lord. Follow along as we are given a brief insight to those experiences and look ahead, in expectation to the joy that awaits, on the other side of life's storms.

Have I not commanded you? 'Be strong and courageous.' Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
My SOURCE of strength, my SOURCE of hope,
my SOURCE of PEACE remains with me in EVERY SITUATION!
When the night is darkest, my SOURCE of light shines brightest!

These are the words posted to Facebook by Dale Golden on September 16, 2010, just 8 days before discovering a lump underneath the skin, along the inner left side of his throat. That ping-pong ball-sized lump turned out to be stage 4, grade 3, Squamous-cell Carcinoma (a skin cancer of same tissue present in the mouth, throat, and/or upper 1/3 of the esophagus) which had also spread into the lymph nodes. Simultaneously came a second cancer diagnosis, though unrelated to the Squamous-cell cancer, of the Thyroid gland. Hard to imagine isn't it?

Over the past Eleven years, Dale has been diagnosed with FOUR different types of cancer; Pancreatic in 2000, Melanoma in 2006, Squamous-cell Carcinoma in 2010 and Thyroid in 2010. The next year of his life would bring 5 surgeries, 9 biopsies, 3 invasive procedures, 3 rounds of chemotherapy, 39 radiation treatments, the loss of 12 healthy teeth, permanent damage to mouth/throat/ and vocal chords, lost sense of taste for foods, significant chemotherapy-induced hearing loss, and a myriad of financial, emotional turmoil along with more heartache than one should ever face in a lifetime. "It was one dark time!" says Dale, "Yet where God IS, HOPE remains! In the midst of the storm of 2010-2011, I also lived many miracles, won many victories, gained many blessings and (by HIS blessing) came through the storm...AGAIN!

Starting off with the rhythmic

FAR FROM HOME - "Living for the Lord~ seems to always point the way~ to the place that he's preparing just for me.~ I will answer to his call~ for abiding in His word~ is the only destination I can see." A wonderfully upbeat song that genuinely lifts the spirit and reminds us that we only need to stay focused on the Lord. This earth is not our final resting place.

PRECIOUS LOVE - What is better than God's Love? "This Holy Gift~ Precious Love~ Makes me live ~ Lifts me up~ Perfect touch~ From above~ Holy Gift~ Precious Love" Written with great thankfulness for perfect love. Whatever you do, don't overlook this song. Listen again and again!

BLOOD OF MY KING- Poignant and written so eloquently about Calvary, where we stood (in the gallows) when Christ gave His all. My favorite line: "When no measure for mercy~ Did I possess to redeem~ The price for my pardon~ Was the Blood Of My King."

JUSTICE CALLED MY NAME -This is the very first Dale Golden song I ever heard. Enthusiastic and upbeat, it speaks for itself. The essence of the scriptural story written as it happened. "Every time they scorned and mocked~ as He walked up Calvary's Hill.~ Every time they tore His flesh~ and caused His blood to spill.~ Every time it crossed His mind~ Ten thousand could cease His pain.~ Jesus still chose to die~ Though guilty was I~ When Justice Called my Name."

WHOLE LOT OF LOVE – Likely the most 'commercial' song on the album, it is a song about self. "Those words have served me oh so well~ For anywhere that good has grown~ In my rocky, fallow fields~ Are where God's loving seeds were sown.~ Today, I have those special thoughts~ Still fashioned deep within my soul~ SHARE A WHOLE LOT OF LOVE~ AND SEEK GOD'S FAVOR AS YOU GO!" Honestly, what more can we do than that?

READ BETWEEN THE LINES -Listen closely to this softly melodic song and its tremendous chorus! The horrendous ordeal of the cross was why He came. "Touch the stripes of pain and deepest sorrow~ Jesus willingly bore in our name~ Though it was not He who caused this greatest shame~ Feel each wound where sin would find its marker~ See the mocking words upon the sign~ They say, 'I love you,'~ if you read between the lines."

SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE -A song about prayer and I know that if not for it, I would surely be lost nor would I be able to do for my friends and loved ones any other act so great as being able to go before the Lord on their behalf. Dale captures that so wonderfully in this straight forward, heart felt song that reminds ones we love, "Somebody somewhere is praying for you~ Somebody somewhere is loving you, too~ I'm trusting believing~ you'll always come shining through."

SCARS I BEAR -Dale recalls this as a deeply

personal song written about his first experience with cancer (Pancreatic) in 2000. "I was in the hospital most of the time from the end of May until mid September. I remember many lonely nights of agony, pain, delusions, fever, medication reactions, infection, fear, and depression. It was a terrible time, but an AWESOME GOD never left my side."

WILL HEAVEN BE HEAVEN WITHOUT YOU? -The simple truth is in fact, that Heaven will be PERFECT in every way with OR without me! Accentuated with dynamics and country flavored, the question we should all ask is; "WILL HEAVEN BE HEAVEN~ WITHOUT YOU?"

Among over 160 songs written by Dale Golden, the following is one of the only two with a patriotic message and was chosen to close out, "The Last Word."

YOUNG AMERICAN HERO -On the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, while watching a news report from the beaches of Normandy, a U.S. Veteran stood reminiscing of that day. When asked by the reporter if he felt at the time like he was a hero, the gentleman replied. "No, I was JUST A YOUNG AMERICAN who loved his country. The heroes were the ones who are buried here on this land." The song seeks to convey what Scripture reminds us in that; -the greatest gift one can give is to lay down his life for his brother.- "Just a young, American Hero~ Ready to defend us in the fight~



Just a young, American Hero~ Giving all to God and Country~ Holding high the stars and stripes."

While, "The Last Word" is a *feature* project of Dale Golden, he is also quick to say that it not *all about him*. His focus has remained on the messages of his music, to offer encouragement to others in their time of need. "It then becomes about where God is taking us. THAT is what makes the difference." Dale states, "Keep in mind that I had just been told that my vocal chords were surrounded with cancer; that I may talk, but would likely not be able to sing again and treatments would soon start. In *desperation*, I made a call for musicians. I knew there were songs that I wanted to record and I had just very few days to do it in."

Wife and singing partner, Cheryl stepped back on this project, but beautifully lends her gift of harmonizing to showcase the full and rich quality of Dale's voice.

Since 1995, Dale and Cheryl Golden have been touching lives with their special brand of music and testimony. From Tyler, Texas, where they grew up together as neighbors and schoolmates, the Goldenes have 3 children; Dale Jr., Stefan Elise and Daniel while also enjoying two grandchildren; Adrianna and Breeana.

For 11 years, the circumstance of Dale's journey and God's process has been Cancer. "The one thing I am certain of is this: God has His hand on my life and I willingly go where He leads me." states Dale. "His GOODNESS does not depend upon my outcome! Throughout the trial, I will GODPRAISE with my singing. Take my singing, I will GODPRAISE with my speech. Take my speech, I will GODPRAISE with my writing. Take my writing, I will GODPRAISE with my music. Take my music, I will GODPRAISE with my life. Take my life, I will GODPRAISE with my legacy! When the enemy attempts to thwart your GODPRAISE... ENDURE!"

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,



with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ." ~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

My sincerest hope is that the message of, 'The Last Word' has a deep resounding effect in your soul. I have received great blessings from the writings and musical anointing of Dale Golden and believe as Southern Gospel's, Lauren Talley sings, "The battle's all about where I set my mind." And so, Dale, I thank you for sharing your journey with us, for living your life openly with courage before the world and for your ever encouraging words... BE BLESSED!



focus on the young: **ANNA GRACE KIMBROUGH** **BY VICTORIA SHIREY**

This month I wanted to do my interview with a very talented, sweet young lady, Anna Grace Kimbrough. She sings with a trio called High Road III. I remember the first time I ever heard High Road III. Their style was so different, but awesome! Here's what she had to say.

Victoria: How did you get your start in Southern Gospel music?

Anna Grace: I have been playing in church all of my life, and it was a very natural process just because the music I was used to playing, with my family, was Southern Gospel in nature.

Victoria: How long has High Road III been a group, and who are the members?

Anna Grace: High Road III has been a trio since last January. The members are Sarah Davison, who plays piano, Vickie Vaughn, on stand-up bass, and myself, Anna Grace Kimbrough on the fiddle.

Victoria: How long have you been singing and

playing the violin/fiddle?

Anna Grace: I've been playing the fiddle since I was five, and I don't remember a time I wasn't singing. Also, Mama started me on piano at the age of three. She plays piano and taught all of us four kids.

Victoria: Have you traveled with any other groups?

Anna Grace: I played with my family growing up, and we played mostly local gigs. But this is the first traveling group I've been an artist in. I have, however, traveled a good bit doing free-lance instrumental gigs.

Victoria: How did you meet the other girls with High Road III?

Anna Grace: We all graduated from Belmont University, and it was through going to school there that we all got to know each other. Sarah and I played on a mutual friend's recital, and I was blown away by her amazing skills. She later hired me to come and play fiddle for her out in Iowa for a week or so. We have been attached at the hip ever since!

Vickie and I were in the Bluegrass Ensemble together. Although, the first time I met her was in mass choir. She sat right next to me and I don't think we paid attention in that class all semester!

Victoria: Do you play any other instruments?

Anna Grace: Sure do! I play piano, mandolin, guitar, and the hammered dulcimer.

Victoria: What is your favorite thing to do on your days off?

Anna Grace: One of my favorite things to do is to knit and crochet. My Grandmother taught me everything I know! Also, I enjoy roller blading, reading, and painting.

Victoria: What is the latest thing going on with High Road III right now?

Anna Grace: We are about to come out with a new album, "Road Less Traveled." The finishing touches are being made now and you should expect to see it out here in several weeks!

Victoria: Where is your favorite place to sing?

Anna Grace: My favorite place to sing is out in the woods. Everything is quiet out there and it is one place where I feel the presence of God in a very

strong way. My reaction to His amazing presence usually comes in a song.

Victoria: How can people contact your group for information on booking you or coming to see you in concert?

Anna Grace: They can check out our website, www.highroad3.com to see our touring schedule. For booking, contact 168 Management at 615-469-1182 or send an email to highroad3@168management.com.

I'd like to thank Anna Grace for a great interview! If they're ever playing in your area, I highly recommend you going to hear them! Keep reading these articles each month to get to know your favorite, young Southern Gospel artists!



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THE LEGACY LIVES ON: THE LEFEVRE QUARTET

BY ANGELA GRIFFIN

The
LeFevre
name
has
been

synonymous with gospel music since the 1920's. The heritage behind the name "LeFevre" is one of quality, commitment and professionalism. The LeFevre Quartet carries the legacy into the third generation, as Jordan LeFevre becomes the lead vocalist for the quartet.

In 2006, after just one year of formation, gospel music fans voted the LeFevre Quartet "Horizon Group of The Year." In 2007 the group clinched the SGN Award for "Breakout Artist of The Year" and in 2009 their hit single "Big Mighty God" was nominated for a Dove Award. This beloved group

doesn't show any signs of slowing down. In fact, they are full throttle ahead with a very demanding schedule for 2012.

In the 1960's the television show "The Gospel Caravan" made the LeFevres a household name to gospel music fans across the country. The show's success led them to form The Gospel Caravan concert tour with The LeFevres, The Johnson Sisters, The Blue Ridge Quartet and The Prophets. A few years ago Mike had a brainstorm and thought it would be neat to bring back the concert series with some of the oldest names in gospel music, which were still in some capacity carrying on the group or family tradition. Two names stood out... The Blackwood Brothers and The Chuck Wagon Gang. Mike spoke with Jimmy Blackwood and also contacted the Chuck Wagon Gang and plans were set in motion. Daywind Records agreed to produce a CD and it turned out to be an incredible project! On the tour they bring to the stage the old mics and incorporate multi-media of the original LeFevres, Blackwood Brothers and The Chuck Wagon Gang into their program. In fact they show a clip where Eva Mae LeFevre speaks to the

audience. It is an awesome experience for fans to take a trip down memory lane and to see future generations carrying on their legacy.

Mike LeFevre who proudly carries on the LeFevre legacy, is a three-time award winner of "Favorite Baritone Singer" voted by the fans of the Singing News. Mike had a 7-year tenure with Gold City... one of Gospel Music's most award-winning groups before forming The LeFevre Quartet. Mike also traveled with award-winning artists like Brian Free & Assurance and the Singing Americans.

Mike will embark on a new adventure in 2012. "Sound Stage with Mike and Brian" is a new TV program that will air in early spring on the Daystar Network. Mike along with Brian Free received calls from their longtime friends, Danny and Dee Kramer, formerly of the gospel group The Encouragers. Gospel music fans may also remember them for their writing capabilities as well. Dee wrote a song entitled "He's In The Midst Of The Storm" made popular by The Bishops. Danny and Dee are no strangers to producing a successful TV show. In fact, they had an idea for a program that later became "Great American Gospel" hosted by Ed O'Neal. It proved to be a very successful show. When a new program idea came to the forefront, the Kramers knew that Mike and Brian would make great hosts. Danny pitched the idea to them and they both loved their ideas. The four decided to meet at a restaurant in South Georgia to work out the details. Mike and Brian recently taped their segment of the program. Be watching for the shows debut in early spring.

Jordan LeFevre, Nominee for "Favorite Young Artist" by the Singing News Fan Awards, started out playing drums at a very early age for the quartet. In fact, at that time, Jordan was one of the youngest drummers in the industry and later became the sound engineer for the quartet. 2011 proved to be a monumental year for Jordan, as he moved into the lead vocalist position, standing beside his legendary dad, Mike; and carrying on the LeFevre legacy.

In Jordan's words: "Growing up as a child whose father was a part of Southern Gospel Music, I was naturally attracted to it. I grew up singing and striving to be like my dad. I would listen to old Gold City and Brian Free and Assurance records. It was in my blood since day one! In fact, dad bought me a play microphone and I would dress up in a

suit, stand beside my radio and sing with my dad's recordings. As I grew older my love for gospel music did as well. I always dreamed that one day I would get the opportunity



to stand beside my father and sing. However, if you had told me two years ago I would actually be standing beside him singing, I wouldn't have believed you. When my dad first approached me about the lead position I said 'You're crazy- I can't sing lead.' It took some convincing from dad. Naturally growing up singing baritone you don't consider yourself a lead singer. God began to move in my spirit and said 'You can do this.' I did take the position and it is literally a dream come true for me to be able to stand beside my best friend in the whole world, my dad. To get to serve the Lord in this capacity is just unbelievable to me at such a young age. I am just blessed and honored to get to sing with these fine guys! I'm just glad it all worked out."

Mike recalls lying in his bunk when Jordan called him on his cell phone. Jordan was driving the bus at the time, so he asked Mike to walk up front. Mike shares: "It was a very proud moment for me when Jordan said 'I would like to try the lead position.' I actually had goose bumps! I knew the Lord had a plan and was working in this ministry."

Harold Reed is the newest member of the LeFevre Quartet and is a veteran in the gospel music industry. In fact, Harold has a reputation of being one of the best tenors in gospel music today. Harold held the tenor position for The Kingsmen Quartet before joining the LeFevre Quartet. He also traveled with the Dixie Melody Boys for ten and half years and with the Florida Boys until they retired.

Brandon Barry is the bass vocalist for the quartet. He is no stranger to the gospel music industry. He was voted Bass Vocalist in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and nominated as Favorite Young Artist in 2009 by the fans of Southern Gospel Music through the Tennessee Association of Gospel Music. Brandon captivates audiences across the country with his rich smooth tones. Everybody that meets Brandon just falls in love with him.

The LeFevre Quartet just signed with Mansion Entertainment and is currently working on a new project. The material has been selected and Jason Clark of "The Nelons" will be producing. Jason is an accomplished singer, songwriter, and producer. The group will start tracking in about three to four weeks. The new CD should be available by late March, early April.

Change is inevitable but it's what you make of the changes that count. As far as this quartet, Mike got it right! Taking his time to find an exceptional bass singer, Brandon Barry, moving Jordan into the lead position, and extending the tenor position to the phenomenal Harold Reed will make for one of the finest quartets in gospel music today. Read more about The LeFevre Quartet and also order music and check out tour information on their website at: <http://thelefevrequartet.com/>.

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THE GREATEST OF THESE

BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Love. It is one of the most poignant words in the English language. The Bible states, "...the greatest of these is love" (I Corinthians 13:13 NIV). Webster defines love as "a strong affection for another." Shakespeare said, "Love comforts like sunshine after rain." Still, one of the greatest descriptions of love comes straight from the Word of God in the first epistle of John. The apostle John writes, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us" (I John 3:16 NIV). Truly, this is the ultimate definition of love. Jesus Christ showed the greatest love of all by giving His all: His life. When was the last time you told someone you love them? Was it last night, this morning, this afternoon? Did the person you were speaking to return the sentiment? You might use those three little words to show your love to that special someone, the person with whom you will spend the rest of your life. Or perhaps you often say these three words to a parent, grandparent, child, or dear friend. Granted, there are many types of love. While we may love our family and friends unconditionally, there is One whose love surpasses all of the love we could ever give. Jesus loved us before we were even born. He loved us when we were unlovable. Even in our unlovable state, Jesus died for us. That is love.

The words of a stirring Welsh hymn written by William Rees give us a beautiful description of the love of our Lord and Savior:

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

If you feel unloved during this season of love, remember that there is Someone who loves you more than you could ever imagine. As humans, we are not capable of loving as Jesus loves. We cannot comprehend the unconditional love that He has for us. We cannot fathom the depth of His love. Jesus not only loves those who serve Him, but He loves every single person on earth. He loves the single mom whose husband passed away, so now she works three jobs to provide shelter, food, and clothing for her children. He loves the preacher who burns the candle at both ends, simultaneously caring for his own family, ministering to his congregation, and visiting as well the unsaved, the sick, and the dying. He even loves the person who spends their life on the streets, purchasing illegal drugs and continually searching for happiness that they cannot seem to find. It doesn't matter where you've been, where you are, or where you're going...Jesus loves *you*.

Think about it. To Jesus Christ, what does it mean to say, "I love you?" Does it mean you love everything the person does? Does it mean you like everything they say? Does it even mean you approve of the way they look? No. Romans 5:8 (NIV) says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This verse doesn't say that Christ died for the good-doers, the eloquent speakers, or the person with a pretty face. It says that God loved us enough to give His only Son to die for our sins. God loved the sinners. Christ died for the unlovable. He died for you, He died for your family, and He died for your neighbors. Jesus died for every man, woman, and child. No matter who you are, Jesus died just for you because He loved you. The most wonderful aspect of Jesus' love is that it is eternal. He gives us an infinite supply of His unconditional love. There is nothing that can take

away the love He has for us. Romans 8:39 (NIV) says, "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." While a husband and wife may quarrel, children may argue with their parents, and two friends may go their separate ways, the love of Jesus will never change. His love is the same yesterday, today and forever. There is never a time when He will stop loving you. Why? Because Jesus Christ loves you unconditionally.

The next time you hear someone say, "I love you," consider the wonderful opportunity to share God's love with them. If you are a Christian, I challenge you to allow God to use you to be a witness for Him. If you are not a Christian, and you want to know why the King of all Kings would love you unconditionally, remember this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV). God loved you enough to give His only Son, so you could have eternal life. He thinks you are amazing. He knows that your life is valuable. He longs for you to love Him. Jesus' love is limitless, and He loves each and every one of us unconditionally. No matter what, JESUS loves you!

Love Notes

"I am a happily married woman! I've been married to the same great guy for 23 years, but I admit there are a couple of other guys in my life! You know - There is absolutely, positively something special between a girl and her daddy and a girl and her brothers! NO ONE takes Daddy's place in my heart! And- I'm here to tell you, my big brother thinks I'm the greatest person in the world and will take you out of it if you don't agree! Believe me, when my tire goes flat, I call Daddy and I know without a doubt, my brother is my biggest fan. Recently, my own daughter experienced a heart-break and I did everything I could to console her to no avail. But...when her daddy came home, our little girl - well our little lady held on to his neck like there was no tomorrow and unloaded her troubles. Although I was at the backside of the embrace, I still felt like a third wheel! It was clear, she wanted Daddy! Still down and out the next

day, I did everything I could to cheer her up with little response. I don't know what was said, but after a few minutes with her big brother, she was dressed and ready for retail therapy at the mall! At first, I just shook my head, but then thought of my daddy and my brother and smiled. During February's "season of love," I would like to say: Happy Valentine's Day to my sweet husband of 23 years...And... to my precious loves - Jesse, Ally and Austin, you'll always be MY babies! And to my Daddy - just know I'll always be YOUR baby... And to my brother...still love being your little sister no matter how old we get! To Mom and Grandmother, I love you too!"

- Rhonda Frye

"To think that someone could love me more than my children or my husband is hard to comprehend. And yet the Savior of the world gave His own life for me. Someone so undeserving. And He continues to love me despite my shortcomings. Unbelievable and overwhelming! No greater love."

- Kelly Nelon Clark

"My father was a minister for most all my life. I had three siblings, and so many times as pastor of a church, he would be with a church family member going through a crisis and we too, would need him. Daddy was dedicated to his calling and always took care of everyone as much as possible.

In later years his memory began to fail, and dementia became a part of his everyday life...thus a part of ours. As the eldest child, I was extremely close to Daddy, but he would forget our names, our relationships and that was profoundly painful. In the last few weeks of his life, he had to be in a nursing home for his care and safety as well as Mom's. I would see him almost every day, and most of those days he didn't know who I was. Occasionally he recognized me immediately.

The day before his passing, I walked into his hospital room, and he looked up, with eyes as clear as crystal and exclaimed, "Sandi, Sandi, my beautiful Sandi!" That was the last time he called

my name, because he went into a coma.

That exhibited his true love for us and although I was there as he passed over...so peacefully, I might add, I never doubted at all, his love for me and my brothers and sister. I saw, in my Dad, a father's true love for his children."

- Sandi Duncan-Clark

"I always think about Adam and Eve and how she was made from him and how God reveals this knowledge to them. Add to that the symbolism of The Garden, as the intimate walking/talking relationship with God as He intended. Then you have man and woman, made from and for each other, woven together in a bond with God to grow, love, and dwell together for His Glory!"

- Laura Michelle Kennedy

"Love is one of those things that you cannot put in a bottle, wrap up in a package, or stuff in a box. Love is one of those intangible things in life that we are so blessed to enjoy. My parents always poured out a love beyond measure that taught me to love others as Jesus first loved us. This Valentine's Day, I am so grateful for a dad who loves me unconditionally. I love my dad so much. He is the best dad a girl could ever imagine. And my Heavenly Father infinitely surpasses his love. Just to think that the King of Kings loves me unconditionally... Now that is something worth celebrating!"

- Jennifer Campbell

"When I think about the greatest love of my life, it has to be the love of my heavenly father. Frederick M. Lehman in 1910 wrote one of the greatest love songs ever written, "The Love of God." This is one of my favorite songs. What makes this song exceptional is the story behind the third verse. Verse 3 was penciled on the wall of a narrow room in an insane asylum by a man said to have been demented. The profound lines were discovered only after they laid the demented man to rest. I have to believe that even though his mind was tormented, he knew the love of my Father."

- Angela Griffin

THE LOVE OF GOD

Verse 1

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Chorus

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.

Verse 2

When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
The saints' and angels' song.

Verse 3

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

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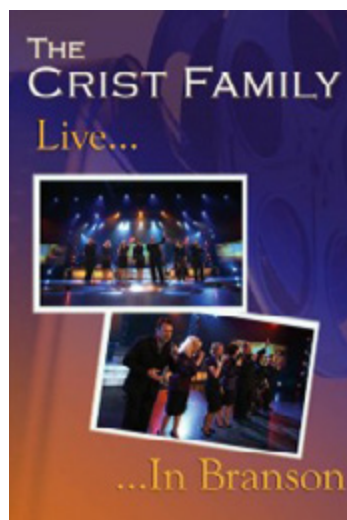
NEW MUSIC VIDEOS FOR FEBRUARY

BY SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

The temperature outside is 23 degrees. It's time for a great cup...no, a great POT of coffee, a comfy throw, a fire in the fireplace, and new Gospel videos in the DVD player! I love winter! I love coffee, and I love Gospel music. I thoroughly enjoyed all the holiday music but have looked forward to sharing some of these videos with you.

Let me share MY thoughts with you on five DVDs. You must remember, contrary to what everyone would have you believe, ANY reviews you read, either in print or online, are just one person's humble opinion...so you must see them, or in the case of CDs, hear them yourself to form your own opinion. Trust me folks, each of the DVDs reviewed here are great and I would suggest that you add them to your personal collection.

We are now in the month of February and Valentine's Day is just around the corner! Don't forget to tell your Sweetheart; your "Someone Special," just how precious they are to you this Valentine's Day! You ALL are a blessing to us!



LIVE IN BRANSON

The Crist Family
Crossroads Music
Producer: Rich Crist Jr.
From start to finish, this DVD made my day. For those of you who haven't experienced the Crist Family, I highly advise that you check out this family and their far-reaching music ministry. The harmony and blend from the seven vocalists on the DVD is mesmerizing, and the audience at the White House Theatre in Branson, Missouri encouraged

the group with hand clapping and praise, throughout the filming.

Beginning with "I've Come Here To Tell You," for more than an

hour, the quality and entertainment on this DVD is worthy of your time. Times of introduction and features allowed the audience to become familiar with all members of the group and as each individual was featured at some time during the recording, we were able to enjoy the amazing voice of each performer.

The beautiful White House Theatre in Branson provided the picture-perfect background for this group. While they sing Southern Gospel, they also sing more progressive Christian music, sometimes singing five and six part harmony. One of my favorite songs on the recording is "I've Come A Long Way" which demonstrates this harmony.

Music tracks are great with a solid foundation for the Crist Family. The enthusiasm the Crist Family generates is contagious and the audience, as well as the at-home-viewer finds themselves clapping, tapping your toes and participating in the music.

Other great songs are; "I Believe He's Coming Back," "The Anchor Holds," "Lift Up The Cross," "Joy's Gonna Come In The Morning," "Great Beyond" and "He Looked Beyond My Faults." The second part of the DVD is titled "The Journey" which is a testimony of the calling of the Crist family. It is such a blessing and you'll listen to this portion over and over.

Although this DVD is older, it allows one to see the heart of the Crist Family and ministry. If you're NOT a Crist Family fan, this DVD is a must-have, and if you ARE a fan, it will be a keep-sake. It is available through the ministry of the Crists at www.cristfamilymusic.com.

continued on next page



THE BEST OF SANDI PATTY
 Hosted by Bill Gaither
 Gaither Music Group
 Produced and Compiled by Bill Gaither
 A "Best of..." DVD or CD is one of my favorite types of recordings. As the producer or record company is preparing for a "Best of" recording, they choose all the very best songs from that particular artist's previously recorded projects for a tremendous presentation. I enjoyed this one since all my favorite Sandi Patty songs are on

one recording!

Between songs, Bill Gaither sits in the "interview" room at the Gaither studio in Indiana and talks with Sandi about her life, her career and her appearances on the Gaither Homecoming Videos. They share stories of the years they have known each other and worked together. For this recording, Bill worked with Sandi to select her best known and most loved songs; solos and duets, those with the Homecoming family and other performers, for our total enjoyment.

On one segment, Bill invited Sandi's parents to join them to discuss Sandi's childhood and the early years in her career. The Pattys sang together as a family prior to Sandi's solo career and they end this segment with Sandi, her parents and Bill singing "Through It All" acapella. In another touching portion, Bill and Sandi share the story of how the song, "The Stage Is Bare" was written, then as Sandi sings this song, the cameras pan the stage and we see J.D Sumner, Jake Hess, Glenn Payne, George Younce, Rex Nelon, Tony Greene, Danny Gaither, Hovie Lister, Vestal and Howard Goodman and so many wonderful friends who have transitioned to Heaven's Choir.

Sandi's amazing soprano heralds forth on "We Shall Behold Him," "More Than Wonderful," "Love In Any Language," and my all-time favorite, "I've Just Seen Jesus" with Larnelle Harris. There are too many wonderful moments to revisit here, but you'll enjoy each one over and over again with your personal copy. This DVD is available through the Gaither website, www.gaither.com/store and I recommend you have your own



A COUNTRY CAMPMEETING
 The Triumphant Quartet
 The Mansion Entertainment
 Mansion Entertainment has two artists who recorded wonderful live appearances at a favorite auditorium near Nashville, Tennessee. David Sutton kicks off Triumphant Quartet's Campmeeting DVD singing "Thinking of a Mansion" and nine other great songs follow. The DVD is crystal clear HD, filmed at Trinity Music

City Church Auditorium in Hendersonville, Tennessee. There is no better quartet in Southern Gospel music today than Triumphant Quartet and this DVD proves that to the viewer. The quartet has received many awards and recognitions for their outstanding music, their performances, songwriting and recordings. These men have been together longer than most quartets, and have produced a number of top charting songs. This DVD is nothing but wonderful Southern Gospel music; not a lot of talking, just great Gospel music and the audience loved it!

You'll enjoy "When the Trumpet Sounds," and "Still Small Voice," along with their award winning song, "Don't Let The Sandals Fool Ya." The Gospel medley features "Old Time Way," "Have A Little Talk With Jesus," "Victory In Jesus," "Everybody Will Be Happy" and several other favorites from the Red Back Church Hymnal. You'll enjoy "Goodbye, World Goodbye" with Jeff Stice on piano and David Sutton playing harmonica. Jeff is one of the most talented pianists in Southern Gospel music and does a fantastic job on "Down From His Glory." The DVD ends with "He Is," a song listing all the names of God, from Genesis to Revelation. This DVD will make a great addition to your collection of Southern Gospel music and you may order it from www.triumphantquartet.com.

continued on next page



A COUNTRY CAMPMEETING
The Palmetto State Quartet Mansion Entertainment
The Palmetto State Quartet has a long, illustrious history in Southern Gospel music. Originating in South Carolina (The Palmetto State) in the mid 1940's, the quartet has been an established entity in the world of Gospel music. Currently based out of Nashville, Tennessee, the group consists of bass singer and quartet manager, Larry Strickland, baritone and Emcee David

Darst, lead Paul Lancaster and Robert Fulton singing tenor, to the piano accompaniment of Casey Martin.

This DVD was filmed at Trinity Music City Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee, and gives us eleven solid quartet songs. Emcee David Darst introduces each member of the quartet and does a fantastic job involving the audience in the quartet's musical presentation.

I grew up in South Carolina listening to the Palmetto State Quartet and knew each member personally. Their transition to this current line-up has several members who are new to me, however these men maintain the solid quartet sound for which the Palmetto State Quartet is known. This current group of men brings talent and enthusiasm to the stage, and the audience shares their excitement. The group selected songs which feature each member of the group. Each man can trade parts to make the harmony interesting and the songs enjoyable.

"All Hail The Power," (not the old hymn we grew up with,) begins our journey with the Palmetto State Quartet, and we enjoy forty five minutes of tremendous entertainment and Southern Gospel music. This DVD is available through the Palmetto State's Website at www.psqworld.com



**TENT REVIVAL
HOMECOMING**
Bill and Gloria Gaither and the Homecoming Choir
Gaither Music Filmed at the Billy Graham Library, 2011

Believe me, this is two hours of wonderful music and memories. The Gaither Entourage rolled into Charlotte, North Carolina a couple of days before the video was made, and filmed scenes from the Billy Graham Library, including photos of historical Graham

Crusades. Photos of the history of the revival tent meetings that were the epicenter of religion during the early years of Billy Graham's ministry were of interest, and Franklin Graham referred to these as the "Canvas Cathedrals."

Bill Gaither's dream of imitating the settings of the 1950's and 1960's tent revivals came true, and was supported by vintage cars and trucks delivering the artists to the tent. Many of the artists were dressed in clothing depicting that time in history and the ambiance was enhanced with sawdust and wood shavings on the floor and folding chairs for the audience. We were all transported back in time by this wonderful event.

"Yes I Know," sung by Ivan Parker, Terry Blackwood, Becky Isaacs Bowman, Taranda Greene and Shane McConnell kicked off the highly advertised and anticipated evening of Gospel music. This song was followed by a three-piece brass band, entering from the rear of the tent, playing "When The Saints Go Marching In." It was a dynamic introduction to the evening and set the pace for an enthusiastic, exciting night. Taranda did an awesome job on several songs on the DVD, and it was wonderful to see her.

Every song was a memory; a reminder of my childhood and the outdoor campmeetings, revivals, church services and youth meetings where we sang these old songs. The songs featuring George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows were especially poignant, reminding us of watching the Billy Graham Crusades on my Grandparents' black and white television.

The Oak Ridge Boys were featured on "Lead Me To That Rock," and Joe Bonsall shared his memories of attending the Graham Crusades and watching them on television as a child. Angela Prim is a wonderful singer and one of my favorite background vocalists. She appears on a number of recordings doing background vocals for numerous artists. Angela is featured on this DVD, as she, Jason Crabb and Marshall Hall do an awesome job on "Take My Hand, Precious Lord." More than one hundred Homecoming artists perform on this DVD, including The Isaacs, The Hoppers, Janet Paschal, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Karen Peck and New River, and the Nelons, to only name a few. There are twenty three songs, and several are reprised because of the audience's response.

If you enjoy Gospel music, rejoice when you hear it and remember special moments with God as you listen, then you must have this DVD. It is available at www.gaither.com/store.



Provided by: Rich Bruce-Music Director

1	HE'S EVERYTHING I NEED	KINGSMEN
2	BLUE SKIES	PERRYS
3	LIKE I WISHED I'D LIVED	GREATER VISION
4	HE'S LIVING TODAY	WHISNANTS
5	BRING ON THE JOY	TRIBUTE
6	WHEN FAITH STEPS IN	MCKAMEYS
7	HIS STRENGTH IS PERFECT	CRIST FAMILY
8	TRUST YOU IN THE TRIAL	SISSONG
9	ROCKS DROPPIN	LESTERS
10	SHE STILL REMEMBERS JESUS NAME	BOOTH BROTHERS
11	TELL ME WHY	KINGDOM HEIRS
12	THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN	DILLS
13	WHO I AM AIN'T WHO I IS	IVAN PARKER
14	IM GOING HOME WITH JESUS	NELONS
15	HANDS OF GRACE	TALLEYS
16	ALMOST HOME	TRIUMPHANT
17	SIDE EFFECTS	TIM LOVELACE
18	TELL THE MOUNTAIN	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY
19	ASK ME WHY	LEGACY FIVE
20	WALK RIGHT OUT OF THIS VALLEY	CHARLOTTE RITCHIE

BRENDA DENNEY CAME ON DOWN AND TOOK IT ALL HOME!

BY
RHONDA FRYE

To know Brenda Denney is to love her! Brenda is a person who always has a big smile, is enthusiastic about life, loves God and loves people! For those who may not know Ms. Denney, she has been singing Southern Gospel music for as long as she can remember. Brenda and sister, Elaine sang with their family, The Singing Greens, before launching their own music ministry, 2nd Generation. Brenda has had plenty of experience of being on stage and has tasted a win with a 2010 Diamond Award, but never did she imagine she would storm the stage of the popular game show, "The Price Is Right" and take home everything! On November 28, 2011, Brenda Denney's life was forever changed when she heard her name called followed by the famous line "COME ON DOWN!" I can hear the game show music now! We had the privilege of talking with Brenda about her "Price

Is Right" experience and the showcase she claimed, which included a trip to North Carolina, a speed boat and a NEW CAR!! Brenda's total win topped a whopping \$54,000! Brenda explains the win as "Favor" from God and gives Him all the glory.

Rhonda: "I noticed you had a radio interview just this morning with Alice 107.7 in Little Rock. Tell us all about it.

Brenda: "I'm still in shock... this is not a Christian station at all. They play the big hits of pop and rock music. They called me on Wednesday afternoon and said, 'We heard you were on "The Price Is Right" and that you're in a music group so we'd like to do an interview.' I 'googled' them and realized I sing Christian music and this is NOT a Christian station! I called them back and they were so nice and excited. They were great; they played our song 'Hanging On A Nail' this morning.

Rhonda: "Preparing for this interview, I read that you claimed 'Favor' before you went to the show. I also noticed in the bio on your website that you are great woman of faith. Can you explain to our readers how your faith played a role in this experience?"

Brenda: "I live my life every single day believing and having faith in God that He is going to help me make it through the day with the little and big things. If we don't have faith, we have nothing. I also claim favor of God in everything I do in my personal life and in my ministry. We pray for favor. The Word says that we have favor among men so that means that if I'm serving Him and living right He is going to show me favor. I claim that!" "When I found out that we had tickets to 'The Price Is Right,' I told my kids- 'Alright guys, you know me and you know how I claim it, I'm claiming 'FAVOR'... I need a car, I want a trip, I want some cash and I'm going all the

way. God has given me a ticket to that show and He's going to take me all the way- I'm going to win it all! I did NOT back down off that story because I knew for about 2 weeks that we were going to be able to go to the show. So I just kept claiming it to everybody saying 'I'm going to 'The Price Is Right' and I've claimed it; I'm walking away with it all."

"The most awesome thing through this is the testimony it has been to my kids. My kids are young adults and as they've grown up, they've watched my faith. If you watched the clip of the show, the minute I grabbed the key; before I put it in the car- the minute Drew Carey handed it to me, I said 'FAVOR.' Then I turned around and looked at my sons and held the key out again and said 'FAVOR.' When I turned the key and the bells and whistles went

eyes, we knew you had it. I'm so thankful two of my kids got to witness that with me and it's changed their life."

"I didn't think about it when I was there playing the game but as the days have gone by, God has been revealing to me more and more, the awesomeness of Him and how He had His hand on everything. We have a big song titled 'Hanging on A Nail' and it talks about a key- which is Jesus Christ hanging on a nail and that key can lock the gates of hell and unlock the gates of heaven. It is the answer to everything we need. The game that I played is called *Master Key* and those five keys that I had to choose from were all hanging on a nail Now that I've put it all together, I say 'Of course, God would do that!'"

"I do give Him all the glory and I did while at the show. You can't see it by watching the clip, but

over and told them that I had claimed this. I also told them that I live my life claiming I have the favor of God. Drew said, 'THAT'S AWESOME, God is just so awesome!'"

Rhonda- "Ok, so tell us, how did you get so good at guessing prices? Are you a penny pincher or good with numbers?"

Brenda- "Oh my goodness, I am not a penny pincher at all and I don't really think I'm good with numbers but again, it was just all favor. When I was on contestant row and was bidding on the treadmill which got me up to the stage, I will say my sister Elaine and her husband had been looking at treadmills. I kind of knew the pricing a little bit, but treadmills vary so much in price."

"When I got up to guess the prices of the cupcake maker and other things, I don't know, I didn't even hesitate to guess. Again, it was all God. He had it all orchestrated before I ever got to the show."

Rhonda- "Just getting on the show is an accomplishment. I've heard you have about 30 seconds to sell yourself to the producers. What did you say when it was your turn?"

Brenda- "You're not really one on one- He's standing right in front of you but there are people right in line with you too. And he just walks right up to you one at a time. He walked up and said, 'Brenda, tell me about yourself.'"

"I said, 'My name is Brenda Denney and I come from Oak Grove, Arkansas. I travel and sing Southern Gospel music full time with a trio called Second Generation. I come from a



off, I wish you could have seen their faces! The first thing they said was, 'Mom when you said 'FAVOR' with that look in your

as we were going off the air I told Drew, the producer and the camera people- 'THIS IS FAVOR!' I just kept saying it over and

singing family; was raised in a preacher's home and I just love what I do. And he said... 'So you're an entertainer?' and I said 'Yes I am, I entertain by singing Gospel music and I love it.' He smiled, looked at me and said. 'Well maybe you'll get to sing for Drew today.' I said, 'I would love to sing for Drew today.' Then he asked me to give a big 'Woo Hoo' and he didn't even know I say that all the time on Facebook!"

Rhonda- "Which is your favorite prize?"

Brenda- "Oh- that's easy! My MINI Cooper! I went yesterday to test drive because on the show, I only got to sit in it. There was just too much excitement. They were yelling 'Go here, go over there' so I didn't get to check it out too much."

Rhonda- "How in the world did you keep this a secret?"

Brenda- "Oh my goodness, it was the hardest thing for me! The way I kept it was because they made me sign a form saying I had to keep this a secret. I told my immediate family and of course my two sons knew and they told people- they didn't sign a document but I did! No one knew! No one where I live, where I go to church, my friends, my Facebook friends; no one knew! Just my very immediate family knew because you can risk losing your prizes if you tell and if they find out. I did not want to do that and I've just been bursting at the seams. I could not wait! That was November 28 when we filmed it and I can tell you I've had many sleepless nights since then because I would just be re-

living the show and going over everything and just building up the excitement!"

Rhonda- "In light of the Biblical principle-'God gives so that we can give.' How will you use this experience to give as God has given to you?"

Brenda- "Sharing the love of Jesus Christ is the best thing I can do. Sharing this story of God's favor has been helping so many people! We are getting emails and private messages saying 'I'm claiming favor for this...' 'I'm believing God for that...' Thank you so much because I had given up hope." "I told my sister this the other day. Of course I am very excited- I won 'The Price Is Right,' who would have ever thought it, I grew up watching the show! What's more, is what GOD is doing THROUGH it! 2nd Generation is getting emails that say; 'I've never heard of Southern Gospel music before or never heard of 2nd Generation but I 'googled' you, listened to your music and oh, what a blessing- this has changed my life.' So- God knew what He was doing when He allowed me to get a ticket and allowed me to get up there. You know- Sometimes I say I sing Southern Gospel music, sometimes I say I sing Gospel music -but on that day, I said... 'I sing SOUTHERN Gospel music with 2nd Generation.' Those two lines right there have changed my life and the ministry of 2nd Generation."

Rhonda- "I'm not sure if this is a question or just a comment, but I just have to say, from my vantage point of watching the news roll and interviewing

artists, I am amazed at God's activity! It seems like God is using Southern Gospel groups



to bleed over into the secular world. A few weeks ago, Jason Crabb lit up Twitter, reaching over a million people. Karen Peck lands a role in a Hollywood Film, and now here you are not just appearing on 'The Price Is Right,' but winning it all- as you subtly introduce our music! Do you see what I'm seeing?"

Brenda- "We felt the same thing about Karen being in the movies. It's awesome how God will take us and plant us where He wants us. Hollywood needs Southern Gospel music- it needs Christian music!! If He is going to use two women in Southern Gospel music to get it there, then 'Go For it!' We do have to take God out of this box and be willing to be vessels to go where He wants us to go and do what He wants us to do and not be ashamed. I was not ashamed at all to stand on that stage at 'The Price Is Right'

and say 'I sing Southern Gospel music.'"

"I'm just excited! I can't wait to see who God is going to use next and where this is going to go for Karen, and where this is going to go for us! There's been so much talk and rumors over the years that Southern Gospel music is dying and what are we are going to do? It's time we step back and let God do it, but we have to be willing to do what He wants to do. Southern



Gospel music is NOT going to die. It has been around forever and is not going to die as long as WE do what He wants us to do and follow Him, He will help us keep it alive. I'm just excited!"

Rhonda- "In addition to 'The Price Is Right,' what else is going on with 2nd Generation?"

Brenda- "We are in the middle of recording a brand new CD, but we do not have a release date on it. We would love for it to be early spring. Rocky recently stepped down from the ministry, so we are in the

process of filling that position. We will be doing a press release soon about that and we think we do have the position filled. Once that position is filled, we will move forward with the CD and finish the project."

"This CD is going to be amazing; Great songs written by great writers! There are ten songs on the CD, I think nine of them are originals. There is a great range of music by Rodney Griffin, Marty Funderburk, and John Lemonis. These are songs about faith. One song is titled 'As Faithful As You.' It just talks about how no one is as faithful as God. There is another one that talks about how 'I've Not Seen A Mountain That God Cannot Move.' There is another one called 'Ordinary People.' It's about how God can use you even if you've messed up. If you look at the people He used in the Bible it was everybody that was messed up. We are all ordinary people, so He can use us too. So we're really excited about getting this out. Be looking for that in early spring."

"We are headed to Myrtle Beach, SC to Singing In The Sun, we've been invited back to the National Quartet Convention to perform in the NQC Showcase Spectacular from 2PM till 3PM on Wednesday. It's in the East Hall, Rooms A and B. Artists are there by invitation only, so we're thrilled and thankful for an invitation for second year in a row. We're working on a West Coast Tour and we received an email from someone in Canada wanting us to come there, so we're expecting great things in 2012,"

Brenda finished.

In conclusion, SGNSCoops would like to congratulate Brenda Denney for her big win! We would also like to thank Brenda for using this opportunity to introduce many people to Southern Gospel music. We are excited with her to see how God is going to use this chance for His glory and her good! To learn more about 2nd Generation, visit <http://2ndgenerationministries.com/>.

BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL (& SPIRITUAL) CARDIO TRAINING

BY LAURETTE WILLIS

**“Keep your heart with all diligence,
for out of it spring the issues of life”
(Proverbs 4:23).**

This proverb of King Solomon’s is not referring to physical cardio training, but spiritual. We want to keep watch over what we are meditating on in our heart.

Is there unforgiveness or bitterness? Envy? Worry? If so, the answer is to exercise. Exercise forgiveness, repentance and then cast your cares upon the Lord.

Being what I call a “Fit Witness” is wonderful not only for you—but the people around you will want to know your secret. You can begin explaining your blessing with words like “by the grace of God” and then mention how you like to combine faith and fitness (such as doing PraiseMoves or prayer-walking).

As a child of God, you are a steward or caretaker of the body the Lord has given you. Did you know your body actually belongs to Him?

“For you are bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1



Corinthians 6:20).

Both your spirit and your body are God’s property. Don’t let that scare you if you haven’t been taking as good care of His property as you could. Instead, realize He has a vested interest in helping you take care of your body! Ask Him to help you.

Physical Cardio Training

Cardiovascular training involves any activity that requires the use of the large muscle groups of the body in a regular and uninterrupted manner. It elevates the heart rate between 60 to 85 percent of your maximum heart rate.

Some examples of cardio training include brisk walking, running, aerobics, cycling, elliptical training and rowing.

How Much Cardio?

Most experts agree that cardiovascular training should last for 20 to 60 minutes, with the normal range being 30 to 40 minutes per session. Cardio should be performed a minimum of three days per week, with four to five days being optimal.

What Are the Benefits of Cardio Training?

1. Burns calories
2. Lose excess body fat

3. Strengthens heart and lungs
4. Elevates your mood—a real blues buster!
5. Adds variety to your workout routine

When to do Cardio Training?

Most people find exercising earlier in the day best—so you don't put it off! But anytime you do purpose to exercise is fine—just do it! Some find after work is best for them.

Avoid doing cardio exercises before bedtime. You may have a difficult time sleeping if you do so, as the energy level of the body will be elevated for a while.

If you are doing weight training too, try doing some cardio exercises right after, not before.

A protein shake 30 minutes before cardio ensures you'll have energy and won't burn muscle protein during your workout. Exercise 2 hours after a larger meal.

Combine Physical and Spiritual Cardio

Select a scripture for the day and meditate on it while you are working out. Consider the scripture piece-by-piece and ask the Holy Spirit (our Teacher and Guide) to reveal hidden truths to you.

Build your faith muscles by speaking the scripture out loud as you are working out so you can hear yourself saying it. Remember, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Combining these two forms of cardio exercise will thus ensure you will keep your physical and spiritual heart with all diligence!

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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NEW OLD MUSIC FROM THE WEATHERFORDS

BY SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

In the mid 1940's, into the 50s, and '60s and even up until today, some of the sweetest sounds in Southern Gospel music come from a group that originated on the west coast. Earl Weatherford, who had studied at Stamps Music School, organized a male quartet, The Weatherfords, with a home base in Long Beach, California. With personnel changes in the quartet, Earl's wife, Lily Fern would fill in with the group. Her smooth vocals were such a wonderful success and Earl realized his wife's unique vocals made a big contribution to the group and with fans. Lily Fern tells the story, "Whenever someone left I would fill in, then Earl would hire a new member and I'd stay home and get a job. Then he would need me again, and I would leave the job to sing again. I finally just told

him I'd do one or the other, so I became a permanent member of the group."

Over the years, some of the best, most talented singers in Southern Gospel music were part of the Weatherfords. The list reads like a "Who's Who" in Gospel/Christian music. A few of those well-known singers are Glen Payne, George Younce, Bobby Clark, Bill Gaither, Dallas Holm with the list too long to mention everyone who learned the business at the feet of Earl and Lily Fern Weatherford.

Having been cultivated in the early years, the unique sound of the Weatherfords has been a favorite with the fans for more than seven decades. In 1976 Steve Weatherford joined his dad and mom singing in the group permanently and the

group became a trio. Today Lily Fern Weatherford and her son Steve are joined by Terry Robertson from Little Rock, Arkansas, carrying on the style and tradition of the Weatherfords.

One of the Weatherford's first recordings, *IN THE GARDEN* is a classic and the songs on that album continue to be highly requested in the group's concerts today. Produced for RCA by Chet Atkins, it was released in 1959. Group members who sang on that album were Earl Weatherford singing baritone, Lily Fern Weatherford singing alto, Glen Payne singing lead and Armand Morales singing bass. Henry Slaughter joined them playing piano. This line-up proved to be one of the best during the quartet's early years.

This album featured the Weatherfords all-time, best loved song, "What A Precious Friend Is He," written by Henry Slaughter. And, since this is the group's signature song, Lily Fern, Steve and Terry sing "What A Precious Friend Is He"

He Love Me So," "He's The Lily of the Valley," "Hide Me In The Palm Of Your Hand" and "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning."

With the release of IN THE GARDEN, Lily Fern realized how treasured these older

who attend the churches and concerts let her know how much the music means to them.

"I just turned 83 years old, and it does my heart good to know that the songs we held so true in our service to Jesus Christ when we first entered the music ministry are still precious to people today," Lily Fern testified.

The songs on I'LL FOLLOW JESUS are; "Tenderly," "Do You Know Jesus," "I'll Follow Jesus," "My God Won't Ever Let Me Down," "He Will Show You The Way," "Sinners Plea," "The Greatest Of These Is Love," "He'll Put A Little Heaven In Your Soul," "I Believe In The Old Time Way," "I Want To Tell The World About His Love," "If You Only Know The Lord" and "I'm Thankful."

Through the years the Weatherfords have remained true to their testimony. "Our goal from the beginning has been to share the Gospel with people who come to hear us," Lily Fern stated. "While we enjoy making people smile and we're pleased when they tell us they enjoy our music, if we don't present Jesus to them, then we're not fulfilling our mission. I'm so blessed to be able to sing and travel at my age. The Lord is truly my strength."

These two newly reproduced recordings are available through the ministry of the Weatherfords by contacting them at www.theweatherfords.com, or by contacting their office at 405-484-7212. Booking is also available at this same phone number.



at almost every concert they do even today.

With dozens of requests from fans, Lily Fern decided that they would produce IN THE GARDEN on CDs from the master of the 1959 recording. She shared, "We had thought about it for a long time, since the songs are some of our most requested ones. We didn't have them available in CD format and that's what fans are buying now."

There are twelve songs on the CD; "What A Precious Friend Is He," "When I'm Walking In The Garden," "One God," "I Heard God Today," "Footprints of Jesus," "In The Garden," "House of Gold," "I'll Never Be Lonely," "Why Should

recordings are, and just days before the deadline for this issue of SGNSCOOPS, she announced the CD release of another of the Weatherfords older recordings, I'LL FOLLOW JESUS.

"This is twelve more songs that were constantly on our concert programs in those early years," Lily Fern informed us. "We still sing these songs in concert today and our audiences really enjoy them."

The Weatherfords booked 170 dates in 2011, and presently have about 150 dates on their calendar for 2012. Lily Fern is constantly surprised and blessed when people

HANGING OUT ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH THE CRABB FAMILY

CONCERT REVIEW BY RHONDA FRYE

Whoever came up with the idea of naming The Crabb Family's latest tour "The Front Porch" couldn't have picked a better title! I realize "Back To The Front Porch" is the first selection on their new album, TOGETHER AGAIN, but there couldn't be a more fitting title for a tour featuring The Crabb Family. Great music is just part of what makes a Crabb Family concert unforgettable! It's the transparent way they connect with people that makes fans feel more like neighbors hanging out on their front porch rather than just fans.

Like everyone else, our hearts sank when the Crabb Family disbanded, but what a thrill it was to catch them reunited even if it was for a limited time! "The Front Porch Tour" presents the Crabb Family singing their old hits combined with perhaps the best music they've ever put out. At SGNScoops, we LOVE being where the action is! We actually caught two dates of the Crabb Family's Front Porch Tour! Thank you to Aaron Crisler of the Judy Nelon Group and to Dakota Walker of Perfect Harmony Promotions for this experience.

On Thursday, January 19th, the Conn Center of Lee University was packed out with fans eager to see Jason, Adam, Aaron, Terah and Kelly together again. Ken Hicks, bass singer of Testimony

Quartet and popular DJ for Chattanooga's Favorite Country, US101, got the night off to a great start with a warm welcome. The Crabb Family literally looking as good as they do on their new album cover, came to the stage singing "Back To The Front Porch." What a GREAT song about getting back to the safety of what really matters in life- and that's home!

Kicking things up a notch was their blazing rendition of "I Saw The Light!" Most of the crowd jumped to their feet. Jason joked that if anyone came looking for a nice quiet evening, they were at the wrong concert! With that said, he taught the audience their parts and encouraged everyone to sing along.

When the excitement ended, keyboardist Blaine Johnson began playing a soft pad on the keys. Adam slowly started "Amazing Grace" on the harmonica holding notes really long- putting lots of soul into it. The crowd cheered, whistled and many lifted their hands in praise. Just as in the Crabb days gone by, Adam delivered a POWERFUL "Amazing Grace" as a harmonica solo. His siblings "ate it up" as much as the audience did!

The Crabb Family gave us another sample of new music, titled "Come Home." The message in the song is strong! It was also really amazing

to hear each member sing solo and then with each other. The first verse features Aaron and Terah, the second features Adam and Kelly. As the Crabbs sang, long time bass player, Lori Sikes sang along too in the background enjoying the

worship. "If
you're not
where you
need to
be... then
come



home,"
Jason

encouraged.
"Looking
for answers...

you need a way out...you've been trapped in that trial... full of sorrow and doubt" was as far as Terah got before the crowd erupted with applause! The trip down Crabb Family memory lane was in full swing. Fans all over the building could be heard singing along on "He'll Make A Way," "Trail of Tears," and "The Reason That I'm Standing," Adam ripped "Something Going On In the Graveyard," and the crowd went crazy! This performance sizzled as Adam went back and forth using his vocals with the harmonica! Jason then brought the glory down with "Still Holding On." Hands were up all over the building as the sound of the organ dominated the band. This portion of the old tunes concluded with "Don't Ya Wanna Go," spotlighting Kelly.

"Say A Prayer," another new one, was introduced. "That's my prayer and I hope you

remember we want to be in the middle of God's will," Jason said as the song ended. "Prayer helps us all get through." Jason then asked Terah to sing "I Go To The Rock" and jumped started it with a guitar lick.

The closeness between the siblings was evident. Jason affectionately introduced his brothers and sisters with pride, and then Kelly introduced Jason. There is no doubt about it, the Crabb Family is close knit and love certainly abounds! At one point during the introductions, Adam wondered away momentarily- no one really noticed except Jason. "Where did you go?" Jason asked. "The BACK Porch," Adam shot back. Needless to say, the crowd roared! There was also a little teasing about Jason not being able to keep up with Adam in the gym. In fact, Jason confessed he couldn't lift his hands in worship because his arms were just too sore!

All kidding aside, Jason became vulnerable as he openly shared. "I wish I could say everything has been perfect," he said rolling up his shirt sleeves, "but I'm flesh and blood like



everyone else. We go through it like everyone else does," he continued. "There are times I say, 'God, I've got to have You, I need You!'" There was a beautiful piano introduction

and Terah sang, "If there ever was a time I needed you before, Lord I need ya now..." Each group member took a line and the room became completely still. This song is more than just a song. It is a heart-wrenching confession of total dependence on Christ. The message rules as it rides on top of only piano accompaniment. The crowd responded in worship.

Jason told the crowd that God never promised a bed of roses and pointed out that we are ALL a mess. With that said, the Crabb Family sang the ever popular "Through The Fire" and then "My Redeemer Lives." As a choir, the congregation stood and sang along.

Another selection from the new album was previewed and brought everyone to their feet! "You Can't Do That Anymore" is a patriotic song for red-blooded Americans to connect with. Jason recognized all present veterans and then a local division of the Boy Scouts of America presented the American Flag. Jason led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Kelly gave personal testimony of why she and husband Mike Bowling are involved with Compassion International and then dismissed everyone to

intermission. Although it was hard to pull away from die-hard fans, the break had to end. Ken Hicks of US101 teamed up with Jason, Adam and Aaron and dished out an unbelievable performance of "Going Home!" It was astounding and the crowd responded heartily.

Unrestricted by the clock, The Crabb Family delighted with many more songs in the second half. The audience yelled out requests and then someone shouted, "Does Jason cry?" Aaron responded, "Sometimes he does!" With quick wit, Adam chimed, "When he worked out with me in the gym, he did!" The crowd laughed, and then Jason, Terah, Adam and Aaron sang Jason's smash hit, "Sometimes I Cry."

Before all was said and done, the Crabb Family added, "Please Forgive Me," "Traveling On," "Jesus Messiah," "Miracle Today," "God On The Mountain" and "Daystar." Kelly and Terah's vocal talent was showcased on a rockin' new one (Rhonda's personal favorite) called "This Is You And Me!"

When the concert was over, many lingering fans hung out with the Crabb Family just like neighbors! While hanging out on The Front Porch, I asked Jason to tell our readers a little about the new album and this is what he had to say: "We are very, very excited about our new album! It has been seven years since we have recorded a record. Our first song to radio is going to be 'If There Ever Was A Time.' We're excited and things are really going good with that! We also have a song that we're really going to work for radio called 'You Can't Do That Anymore' which we did tonight -It's a song-writers DREAM to write a song like that and it's also extremely hard to find songs like that. The record comes out on February 7. My favorites on the album are 'If There Ever Was A Time' and there is one called 'No Problems' which is really kind of fun and also 'Say A Prayer', and the girls tune ['This is You And Me']".

Thank you, Crabb Family for a great Front Porch Tour! The tour ended, but the new music is just taking off! TOGETHER AGAIN will be released on February 7, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.thecrabbfamily.com/>. For a video preview of the music, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qY78eamHllo>.



Chronicles of a singing english teacher

by Jeff Hawes



February has to be one of my all-time favorite months. There's just something special about candy, candy, and more candy! However, I usually end up buying it for myself—Valentine's Day is sometimes tough for this mid-twenties guy, with a crazy schedule, who travels the world. I always have big plans and ideas of how I would love to spend each Valentine's Day, but the perfect celebration hasn't happened YET! Nevertheless, I love the joy that this month brings to our lives. In some way, it's almost as if winter is on the downswing, and we can see the light of spring just around the corner.

Our culture today has emphasized so much on this one day, when actually, we should be spreading love, hope, and encouragement all throughout the year. I suppose it's easier to just wrap it all up (being kind, putting others first, letting grudges cease... etc), in one day rather than having to really be on our best behavior all year. Honestly, I am preaching to the choir because I have the same difficulties in life. It does always seem easier to perform acts of kindness when there's something to receive in return for doing them.

LOVE....I, being an English major and a "LOVER" of words, have yet to conquer the true meaning of this word when it comes to being the imperfect human that I am. My parents always say they never really knew what love was like until they had children. Hmmmm.... Supposedly, they even LOVED me when they spanked and grounded me. RIGHT! Maybe someday this mystery will make sense when I have children of my own.

The Bible mentions several different types of love, and when we come to the Bible, our handbook for life, words such as *love* begin to make sense. For me,

I always thought love meant that I cared more than just to say I *liked* something or someone. Perhaps the greatest example of love would definitely be the love that Christ expressed to us when He died for our sins. He LOVE(S) us! He placed no barriers on what love meant or even what he would receive in return; he loved freely. Wow! This truest example of love is hard to fully comprehend, but I must believe that the Bible is true and have faith that He accepts me just as I am and loves me and wants the best life for me. Come to think of it, my parents don't seem so crazy after all; they want the best life for me too. Karen Peck and New River has a new album, *Reach Out*, and one of my favorite songs is one written by Sonya Isaacs and Becky Isaacs Bowman. The song, "Love With All Your Heart," best sums up what this word suggests and that its meaning can be fulfilled through Christ.

**Love don't see color; love don't make war
Love don't hold grudges and it don't keep score**

**Love is forgiving in spite of the pain
It may not be easy but it's never in vain
So LOVE, love with all your heart
LOVE, love with all your heart.**

**Sometimes you think it's just too hard to do
To love your neighbor and your ENEMY too
But love is stronger than the towers of hate
And you give it POWER when you give it away**

**So LOVE, love with all your heart.
LOVE, love with all your heart.**

BEHIND THE MUSIC: WAYNE HAUN

BY
ROB
ESTEP



There is a name that is very synonymous with Southern Gospel music, Wayne Haun. Many people know him as a songwriter and producer, but there is much more to this musical genius! I want you to take some time and read this candid interview with the one and only Mr. Wayne Haun.

Rob - Wayne, you are a pretty well-known fixture in the Southern Gospel world, but let's start with a little history of you and where you started from.

Wayne - I was raised in the 'burbs of Knoxville, TN. I grew up listening to WKXV and we watched the Mulls Singing Convention on Channel 10 every Sunday morning, no matter what. My dad was a pastor and my family provided the special music most Sundays. That was where I developed a love for Southern Gospel Music. I also studied classical music and theory, but I always had a special place in my heart for this style of music. It was and still is a part of me.

Rob - Where do you derive your inspiration from when writing a song?

Wayne - Everywhere! I get inspiration from books, sermons, people, etc. Songs' hooks and ideas are everywhere. You just have to be listening...and grab them.

Rob - When did you write your first song and what was the title?

Wayne - It was entitled, "Faith." My family recorded it on a custom record in 1982. It wasn't very good. I was eight years old when I wrote it. But the idea was there. Years later I re-wrote it with Daryl Williams and the song became, "Faith Like That," which was a Top 10 for the Anchormen in 1996.

Rob - I know this may seem like a very hard question because I know to every writer their songs are like their children, but if you had to pick a favorite, what would that be?

Wayne - The song right now that really hits me is a new tune (surprise, surprise) called, "Sometimes I Wonder." I wrote it with Joel Lindsey and Ernie Haase and it's on the new Signature Sound CD (how's that for a plug.) But seriously, it was written out of pain and loss and yet it's so honest. I still tear up when they sing it. It probably will never go to radio and become a classic hit, but it really speaks to me.

Rob - Besides writing you are involved in many facets of the music industry; tell the readers everything that you are involved with.

Wayne - I'm also a producer. I usually produce around 4-5 projects a year and in that time I usually arrange one musical or choral collection. I'm also a publisher and have 5 incredibly gifted staff writers at Sunset Gallery Music. My business partners, Joel Lindsey and Tom Snell run this company from California. I'm also a partner with Kevin Ward for Vine Records, which is distributed out of Arden, NC by the excellent staff of Crossroads Entertainment and Marketing, Inc. Then, Ernie Haase and I have a label called StowTown Records, which is distributed out of Nashville and New York by some of my favorite people at Provident and Sony. I'm also a staff writer for Lillenas Publishing in Kansas City, MO. I stay pretty busy.

Rob - You have written with many other writers, but if you could have a co-writer, past or present, who would that person be?



Wayne - Well, I have so many heroes that are gone; so I'm not sure if my dream would be to write with them as much as it would be to have met them. Cole Porter, the Gershwins and Ira Stanphill would be

at the top of my list. When I was a kid (in the 70s) I loved the melodies of the Gibb Brothers (otherwise known as the Bee Gees,) and I loved the hooks of Joel Hemphill. But if ever there were a way made, I'd die to write with Dolly Parton. We'd probably spend the time just talking. She's from my neck of the woods and I admire her so much musically and personally. We both had very humble beginnings, yet we're both proud of our heritage.

Rob - There is a song called "Light A Candle" that you co-wrote with Joel Lindsey that touched a lot of people. Can you tell us how that song came to be?

Wayne - That's an interesting story. I was working for Daywind Records at the time. It was my 25th birthday. Joel had asked me to write that day and I really didn't have any plans so I booked it. Little did I know that Celeste Winstead, who also worked at Daywind, was planning a surprise party. It worked. So, "Light A Candle" was the result of a "plan of distraction" from my house. That had to be the best birthday gift ever. It keeps on giving. I'm always surprised to find where that song lands each year.

Rob - What is that drives you to do what you do?

Wayne - As young writers we're told to draw from our "well of creativity." But what drives me to do what I do is to listen to other people's work. I love to go see concerts of other Gospel artists. I am a season ticket holder for the symphony. I love

the music scene in Nashville, LA, New York and London. We were doing a concert in London a few weeks back and we had a day off. In 24 hours I saw a Broadway show, a string quartet concert and a songwriter at a coffee shop. I'm inspired by re-mixes and re-makes. I love hearing another take on a song by an engineer or producer. One time Kevin Ward did a dance re-mix of a LordSong acapella song I'd produced. I was completely awestruck at what he did with it.

Rob - You get to travel with a very talented group of guys, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound. Tell us what a normal weekend is like on the road.

Wayne - Funny you ask that... Right now I'm on a plane heading to Spokane, WA to meet the bus. Signature Sound has become my family. I'm the luckiest man in the world to get to spend time with them and I'm even more proud to call them friends. They take care of me. They know how to listen and they know how to calm me AND they understand and deal with my quirks and phobias. They can also deal with the fact that I'm a prude. But seriously, I'm amazed at how this crew of 12 pulls off a show of set-up, staging, lights, sound and performance night after night. The set-up usually takes 6 hours to complete. We then rehearse for at least an hour and then sound check. It's a well-oiled machine.

Rob - I know with all that you are involved with you are a busy man, but what are some hobbies that you enjoy?

Wayne - I don't have many, but I'd say film and attending live performances are my hobbies. I live for New York theatre trips. I also have a Wednesday night prayer group that I love, and I find myself counting down the hours till 6 p.m. each Wednesday morning. I'm also about to brush up on my French. I studied it for 7 years and I'm planning another trip to France for my 40th birthday this year. So, Rosetta Stone and I will become good pals this winter.

Special thanks to Wayne Haun for talking with us at SGNScoops! We pray God's riches blessings on you and your ministries. Thank you for reading! I'm looking forward to March's issue as we keep highlighting People Behind The Music. Until then, have a blessed February!