

March 2012

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The Martins, Josh & Ashley Franks, Southern Brothers, & Poet Voices



PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



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March 2012



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY RHONDA FRYE

Happy March! WAIT... Did I miss winter? I'm actually writing this editorial in February while listening to happy birds sing on this 78-degree WINTER day! Well... this Georgia Peach is NOT complaining! But yes-March is my favorite month- not because is MY BIRTHDAY, but because I love the entire Easter Season! If it weren't for the Cross and the Resurrection, there would be no gospel music!

There are many interesting twists to the Easter story I find fascinating. Sometimes I wish I could do nothing more than think about it all day! Last year, my mind spun in circles at the thoughts of Jesus "singing a hymn" after the Last Supper. This year... I'm wrestling with what happened to the curtain that was torn in the Temple at Jesus' death.

The Bible tells us the curtain was torn in two, top to bottom. The veil was 60 feet long, 30 feet wide and was four inches thick wrought in 72 squares. It was so heavy; it took 300 priests to maneuver it! Can you imagine the sound of that curtain ripping?

I understand the spiritual significance of the torn veil- God's invitation- open access to Him through the cross, but I just wish I knew more about what exactly happened in the Temple. I imagine the High Priest, Caiaphas, was there when it occurred. The same guy that asked Jesus face-to-face, "Are you the Son of God" then yelled "Blasphemy"

when Jesus answered He was. I'm trying to grasp why He didn't call a halt to the old system right then and there.

The temple wasn't completely destroyed until 40 years later, so does that mean the priests repaired the curtain or passed through it in a torn condition to carry out the old rituals on a yearly basis from the point of Crucifixion day? Did they present atoning sacrifices to a God that had already left the building for those next 40 years? Hmmm I don't know!

I wish I were an expert so I could know. And you scholars out there- TEACH ME! I'm all ears! But- this I DO know.... God made a way for us to communicate personally with Him. I admit, whether it's true or not- I get amused at the thought of a nervous priest wrapping a rope around his ankle, tip-toeing around with incense, then crawling under a REPAIRED curtain carrying the blood of an animal that died in vain to face an absent God???? Before I say too much though, I have to think- don't we do the same thing? It's even worse for us because we KNOW the whole story, but when we choose to sin, we hang the curtain back up! Sin is a barrier keeping us from intimacy with God!

Recently, I "missed the mark" and found myself confessing. I agreed with God, my behavior was wrong and vowed to never repeat the offense. I didn't and still haven't. I just couldn't understand why I felt like I wasn't really connecting with God in my prayer time. I ran across a Charles Stanley devotion that said- "Has Christ RECEIVED your sin?" I blurted out- "No- it's mine... I did it!"

Needless to say, the problem was pin-pointed, loving conviction fell and the exchange of my guilt for His righteousness was made. Christ has to receive our sin if the veil is to be lifted! It's not enough to be sorry or to stop sinning- but giving Christ our sin is what the work of the cross is all about. It was humiliating to give my sin to Him, but the second I did, I experienced instant curtain removal service! I responded immediately with a childish... "HI!" Before you judge me- remember what the Bible says about those who say they have no sin! Ha!

Well friends... KEEP SINGING Gospel Music; The Old Rugged Cross sure has made the difference for you and me!

I leave you with words from the late Dottie Rambo: "I boast not of works, nor tell of good deeds... For naught have I done to merit His grace... All glory and praise shall rest upon Him.. So willing to die in my place! My trophies and crowns, my robes stained with sin... were all that I had to lay at His feet... Unworthy to feast from the table of life... TIL GOD MADE PROVISION FOR ME!" Tissue please!?

May you all Glory in the Cross during this Lent and Easter Season!

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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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Life Love & Legends

by
Lou
Wills
Hildreth

My favorite scripture is Matthew 5:16, and I quote it often, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven." At my induction into the SGMA Hall Of Fame at Dollywood, I closed my acceptance remarks with those precious words from the Bible. Other inductees on this memorable day, October 11, 2007, were Joel Hemphill, and Archie Watkins. Deceased inductees were Anthony Burger, Roger Bennett, James Segoe, David Reece, and Jimmy Jones, represented by their families. About twenty of my Wills Family from Ft. Worth and Nashville, plus many of my colleagues, came for this special day. Their love and loyalty made me feel tremendously humble. Looking out on the audience, I remembered the excitement we felt at the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Southern Gospel Music Hall Of Fame & Museum in 1999. This magnificent Hall Of Fame, just inside the entrance to Dollywood, Sevierville, Tennessee, opened with a parade and dedication ceremonies led by Bill Gaither. Joining Bill for the ribbon cutting were gospel music legends Eva Mae LeFevre, J. G. Whitfield, Jerry Goff, Eldridge Fox, Jerry Kirksey, James Blackwood, and Les Beasley. I caught a glimpse of a smiling Maurice Templeton and Jim Cum-

bee just before the Gaither Vocal Band sang. An excited Dolly Parton cut the ribbon to the wild applause of a huge crowd waiting for this moment. Upon entering the Hall Of Fame, we were awestruck by the quality of displays and memorabilia. My heart was racing as we viewed the Wills Family display. The fancy high heels I wore to the first Dove Awards in 1969 are there, and our television shows from the 60's are being shown.

I have never missed the annual SGMA Hall Of Fame induction ceremony. A very special year was 2009. I taped television interviews and hosted "Southern Style Praise" for Dale Burress at the Hall Of Fame; Still available is "Lou Hildreth & Friends" a DVD of fabulous interviews with Karen Peck, Scotty Inman, Jeff Stice, Stewart Varnado, Ed Hill, Don Light, Lady Mull, Willie Wynn, Mark Trammell, Dave Kyllonen, Jack Pittman, Bob Brumley, Jerry & Jan Goff and others. Gospel music fans and industry personnel can be proud of the excellent preservation of our heritage at the SGMA Hall Of Fame & Museum thanks to Charles Waller, Executive Director, and his assistant DaLayne Pope. For more information, call 865-908-4040. Until next time, keep those lights shining for the glory of the Heavenly Father.



SGMA Hall Of Famers Jerry & Jan Goff taping a tribute to Lou produced by Pat Mathis, Atlanta's Channel 57, at the 2007 Induction



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Southern Brothers *Reinvented*

by Lorraine Walker

Gospel roots, Country guitars, sharply honest lyrics and in-your-face vocals: this is *Southern Brothers Reinvented*. The three boys from Jackson, Missouri have been singing their blend of gospel-country-southern rock for over 20 years. The result of these years of training, experience and growth is a slightly different road for Todd, Scott and Tim Mills. With the release of their new recording, the Reinvented artists are remixing Positive Country and sharing it with old fans, new fans and anyone who cares to listen.

The Southern Brothers were edging down this new path with their previous release, *Real Life*. A mix of gospel and country, covers and original material, the recording released the edgier sound of the Brothers that is now given full reign in *Reinvented*. Tim Mills, baritone of the group, is fully aware of the caution of the southern gospel fan when faced with an artist that does both gospel and secular music. He candidly discusses the reason and faith behind the group and their new direction.

"SOUTHERN BROTHERS REINVENTED is our latest CD that features the country side of us." Mills says, "If people were honest with themselves in the Southern Gospel community, they would admit that fans and artists still keep up with the country market and music. Our sound has always had a country/southern rock edge to it. Honestly, those particular styles of songs on all of our previous recordings were the ones that just flowed and seemed natural to us."

"We've been asked over the last 10-15 years if we could do a country project and felt it was the right time. Our fans, pastor and church family have been

overwhelmingly supportive of this new CD's direction." Mills laughs, "Our motivation is to allow the rowdier side of our music to be heard in a much larger setting - beyond family reunions and campouts."

Southern Brothers Reinvented was released on February 24, 2012, with pre-release clips posted on the Brothers' Facebook and You Tube pages, much to the delight of the fans. Response has been good to this very personal project, says Mills. "We are proud of the fact that we have pretty much produced the CD ourselves. That was another bucket list goal that we have had for years. Let it be said that I love all of our previous projects and greatly respect everyone that has worked with us; however, it is a good feeling when you can own the entire project."

"We recorded the project with a good friend of ours, Ken Keller, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He has worked with some major acts in the Denver and L. A. area, so he is no slouch when it comes to recording. Ken isn't as familiar with Southern Gospel as our other producers and engineers and I feel he helped us stretch a little bit because of that lack of reference. He looked at us as a county/southern rock band and dealt with us accordingly. I felt it was a great fit."

Mills says he enjoys every song on the entire recording, not something he could say with other past Brothers' projects. He continues, "Each song we chose was hand picked and we were all on board with every one of them. We did a country version of Whitesnake's *Here I Go Again* and I think it turned out amazing. It wasn't just a typical cover where the same chord progression and timing are re-hashed. I really think

that we took ownership of the song and paid homage to the original, but tweaked it into a Southern Brothers song. You can still sing it in the shower as the melody isn't jeopardized, but the music is definitely new and original. I'm really proud of that one."

Reinvented also contains original material as each member of the Southern Brothers penned a song or two. Tim Mills pours his heart and soul into each tune he writes, and is especially proud of his cut on Reinvented. "I have one song on the new project and it's called *Melanie*. I had written the song about 15 years ago about a girl named Melanie – imagine that," laughs Mills. "Everyone around the campfire and swimming pool has loved this song and others that Scott, Todd and I have written over the years. Seven out of 10 of the songs are original with six coming from my brothers and me."

Mills enjoys being able to put his thoughts to music. "Inspirations come from life, and simple conversations where somebody will say something and your brain just gets triggered. Some of the best hooks come from normal people talking about various things." He is glad to have a new project that features so many original songs from group members.

The internet is a terrific place for marketing new material and the Southern Brothers are doing their best to take advantage of that outlet. "Our goal is to begin a serious Facebook and You Tube campaign with this CD," says Mills. One song currently featured on their website might cause some listeners to shake their heads. One lyric says, 'that's what it takes to feed my addiction,' which seems to have a dark theme. However, a closer listen reveals the sound of bird calls in the distance. "We've got a song about duck hunting called *"Addiction"* that already has a lot of people in the local duck hunting community very excited. We want to target the duck hunting industry and get as much buzz as we can over this song."

Mills comments further on their innovative marketing techniques: "The country market is vastly expensive for us to pursue the traditional promotion route, so we are really leaning on our present and future fans to help us take this much farther than we can ourselves. We've got one song, *"Walking In Jerusalem,"* that I feel is a Southern Gospel radio-worthy song, but we don't have plans to actively promote it as a single. The Southern Gospel fans can hear our version of this classic on the CD. The people that have known us over the years have been 99.9% supportive."

Mills has been overwhelmed by the support shown by Facebook fans and others who have heard

their new material. "The response over this project and new release party have been nothing but positive. We promoted a new release party/concert and the pre-sale numbers put us in the black for the event and almost for the entire project."

"Financially, it's a good feeling knowing that you don't have to worry about the money end of an event or project. We're honored and humbled that we have a fan base that makes projects possible without the worry of financial risks involved. We may not get rich, but we've always been in the black."



The release of Reinvented has also brought new venues to the Brothers' touring schedule. Mills says the ability to present their music to a different crowd is a big reason for the new direction. "It has already opened doors for us in regards to music festivals, fairs and concerts," says Mills. "We are limiting our dates for personal reasons as we still have young kids and want to be around them. However, this new project is already creating local buzz where people are now legitimately considering us to open for major country stars coming thru the area."

"In our humble opinion, The Southern Brothers will be even more attractive [as a viable artist] when those promoters have a tangible project and promotional package in their hands that helps them market us in a different light. Simply put, we have a wonderful loyal and awesome fan base. We're just trying to make those numbers bigger."

The Southern Brothers' fan base has increased throughout the years as their proficiency as artists has grown. Their musical progression can be seen throughout their 13 recorded projects. The changing influences and honing of their craft can be seen in the Brothers' discography, from a traditional southern

sound on an initial cassette that only required six hours from recording to final project, to the current polished, professional project that is Country radio-ready. Mills says, "I see our progression as one of becoming more and more honest with who we are as people and artists. We're not praise, contemporary, traditional Southern Gospel or bluegrass. We're country/southern rock. We always have been if we were really honest. All the marketing in the world can't change that."

"Our aim is to get as many people to listen to our music as humanly possible. We're not asking or expecting 100% of the people to like us. Just give us an honest listen. Whatever the public decides determines where we will be in five years. My opinion isn't what counts; it's the fan's opinion that matters."

Mills is refreshingly honest about the various factors that led the Brothers through their musical progression, as well as the financial and fan-base limitations of the Christian music industry. "At the end of the day, we are country people. We watch the Grand Ole Opry, we listen to country radio, hunt, fish, camp and boat. It's just as much who we are as anything else. Like I said before, this CD contains a bunch of country songs that we've written. It's a part of us that has never gotten any sunlight and we've decided to finally let that part of us be seen."



"Yes, it is *partly* about the money! A mediocre successful secular CD can outsell an astronomically successful Southern Gospel CD. That extra money can enable people with ability to be able to afford to pursue things within the church, things that otherwise may not be possible."

"Why does anyone really want to have a number one song in *any* genre of music, Southern Gospel included? Yes, more people will be reached with your message, but more people also means higher flat rates

[paid to an artist to perform]. Higher flats mean nicer buses, houses and so on. Case in point: show me any major Southern Gospel group out there who is successful and who is riding in a station wagon because they feel a bus or an R.V. is an excess or waste. Or, let's look at a Southern Gospel songwriter that gets the nod from a major country artist to record one of their songs. I'm sure there is somebody out there that would say no for moral reasons, but that number is very, very small. I don't knock anyone with a successful ministry or career but let's just be real about it."

Mills continues, "Is it all about the money? Heavens, *no!* On a spiritual note, we are trying to be like Paul, who was *all things to all people*. We don't compromise our beliefs in our words."

"If my memory serves me correctly I read in the Bible about a particular Fellow who went to a tax collector's house to present the Gospel in a way that they would understand. Did He walk in and start preaching from the get-go, or did He talk about life in general? Could He, heaven forbid, have talked about fishing, politics, carpentry or something else non-spiritual? Who knows, but I think I want to be like that Guy."

Mills talks about their music becoming *secular*. "When you come to one of our concerts, you'll see a state of the art light show, awesome live music and a ton of energy. When you leave you can buy a CD that you can let your kids listen to and never worry about what's being sung or said. If we get a fan from the Country side, odds are that they'll take a listen to our Gospel side. If you completely disagree with this logic, then please simply pray for us first. Then you can enjoy a nice helping of fried Southern Brothers afterward," Mills laughs.

The Southern Brothers are actively working to enlarge their audience and reach more hearts with the message of the Gospel. They depend on the support of their family, friends and fellow church members as they work to reach their world. The Mills brothers and their families attend Cape County Cowboy Church (CCCC), which Tim Mills says has been a Godsend to their ministry. "My brother, Todd, is the musical and video director at the church," says Mills. "We sing at church on a weekly basis when we can. We got involved with the church when we were basically burnt out over singing, church and ministry in general. They took us the way we were and loved us unconditionally. CCCC literally saved our musical lives. If it wasn't for Pastor Jim Matthews and the congregation, we wouldn't be singing, period."

The concept of a Cowboy Church is relatively new to many across the Nation, but Mills says their congregation has been active for quite some time. “Our church is a mission church sponsored by the Missouri Baptist Association,” says Mills. “It started nine years ago with 35 members and now has an average attendance of 1100-1250 in the weekly congregation.”

“What I love about the church is that it hasn’t lost its mission focus,” Mills states. “It is designed for people that are estranged from traditional church for whatever reason. You can come as you are and be treated with kindness and love. For example, I have a personal friend that married a man who swore he would never step foot in a church, and who now regularly attends here. Has he made a profession of faith yet? No, but the seeds are being planted every Sunday.”

Mills concedes that even though the Southern Brothers are favorites at his church, they might not fit into just any congregation. “We’re open to singing anywhere, however, many traditional churches may find our style non-typical. And they are right. We design our music for the unsaved. When we go to the *highways and hedges*, we try to give them something that is compelling.”

“Honestly, you won’t see a lot of difference between our church and secular concerts. The venues are simply different locations. We are not ashamed of our faith or our music. In both places we give 110%, leaving them with the message that we love them, appreciate them and God does too.”

Tim Mills has spent a lifetime loving God and others. His desire is to effectively show that love to others so they can also experience the love of their Heavenly Father. “I’m the son of a minister, raised in church my entire life,” Mills shares. “There is not a part of my memory where church wasn’t an integral part of it. [My bothers and I] started singing as a group when we were in our teens. Our youth group for some strange reason couldn’t get the harmonies for The Kingsmen’s *Meet Me At The Table* and it was decided that we’d just go ahead and do it as a group. It was a big hit, and one special during the youth choir became two songs and so on. Eventually we got calls for us to sing instead of whole youth group. From there it blossomed into traveling to the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.” The Southern Brothers have continued all these years, trying to fulfill the calling God has placed on their lives.

“I think God calls me and others to love people where they are at,” Mills continues, “My job isn’t to get people saved, my job is to love them, to be honest

with them and to be real. I think God wants us to be patient and love people, giving them time to formulate the questions themselves instead of pushing answers to questions they haven’t thought of or are ready to ask.”

Mills knows that this is God’s purpose for the group and for himself. “Be there for people and allow God to use His timing instead of you, or me, messing it up. When you’ve proven that you love them, the questions will magically come.”



As the Southern Brothers Reinvented, the Mills brothers hope to reach many new listeners who can be loved into the Kingdom of God. The reinvention of their music has not affected their belief in the God who can answer any question. Rooted in their faith, trusting in the God who has lead them this far, they can bring the Answer to all who begin to question.

For more information on the Southern Brothers:
http://www.thesouthernbrothers.com/fr_home.cfm
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AMATHISMOMENT

YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK YOU ARE!

BY JOHN MATHIS JR.

If you've been reading these articles you know I share much from my personal experience in life. I recently heard a preacher say "You ARE what you think you ARE." It seems God tries to teach us valuable life lessons, some messages we receive over and over again. When I heard this, it was continual confirmation that our thoughts and words from TODAY form our TOMORROWS. This is something God has been saying to me for several years now.

A few years ago, my wife and I were in a situation where we were in a very negative environment and just an overall low place in life, with many challenges that made getting through one day a major mental event. We shared the same work environment at the time. In the midst of that, God placed a few people in our lives that in spite of the circumstance remained positive. They spoke positive and more importantly their THINKING was positive. Now I'm not just talking about an 'if you can't say something good don't say anything' philosophy, these people displayed great faith and based their actions and words on God's promises.

During that time, my wife and I took hold to some promises of God and implanted them in our hearts, minds and spirits. Each day we began to separate ourselves from negativity and doom and gloom outlooks. We began to believe and speak about our *tomorrow* as if it were our *today*. It took months and even a year or two of believing and speaking the promises of God, and seeing beyond the present circumstances and looking through the eyes of faith toward our tomorrow for what we were believing and saying to come to pass. But it came to pass!

Little by little, day by day, month by month, the transition occurred. What's funny is one of the first changes we noticed were the people surrounding us. You'd be surprised at who doesn't want to hang around people who are attempting to walk in a positive light rather than

entertain 20-minute conversations regarding what's wrong with the job, the church or the world in general. You'd also be surprised at how much it weighs you down to be a part of those conversations. Not only were our hearts and minds changing but our surroundings began to change even though we were still in the same circumstance. There began to be a separation of positive and negative, good and bad. We realized you cannot mix the two together and expect a positive result.

We not only spoke differently about our job situation, but about ourselves, our children, our church, our families, etc. It's been AMAZING to see what the power of words can do in a life. It hasn't been instantaneous and it's not come without great effort and renewed diligence each day, but transformations have occurred in so many areas by believing in our hearts and minds that they WILL happen.

Proverbs 23:7 says "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...." If you want to find out who you are and what character you have, take a look at your thoughts. It's easy to have positive thoughts in church on Sunday or in a Bible study group or when talking to the pastor or life group leader, but what you think away from all that is the real key. I heard the preacher put it this way, "Your **leisure thoughts** are what determine who you are." The thoughts you have while commuting to work, or sitting alone at lunch, or in your living room in the evening are your leisure thoughts. The thoughts in your idle time are who you truly are!

My wife and I not only began to believe and speak these things with one another, but in our alone time too. This is where our faith talking began to really take root. It's just as easy to go along with a companion talking about faith and lean on them for that positive influence, but where the real impact happens is when you adopt positive faith views in your leisure thinking when no one else is around. You can't

live off someone else's faith or belief no matter how close they are, you live off of what is in YOUR heart.

We're bombarded with negativity on an hourly basis. Every aspect of our culture thrives on negativity. Count what percentage of news stories are negative or positive. Look at what is popular fodder for television shows these days. "Reality television" is at an all-time high because society seems to want to see the pain and drama of someone else's life. Shows such as American Idol focus



as much or more on people who cannot do something well as they are in search of those who can. The songs on Country, Pop or other radio genres are mostly about subjects that focus on the negatives of life with no positive resolve. Add to all that the attitudes of co-workers on your job, disgruntled church members, neighbors, parents at your kid's sporting events, or perhaps even close family members. We're talking many, many hours each day of negativity. That is a lot of negativity for a person to ingest! Guess where it settles? Into your heart and mind!

Now think of how many hours a day of positive words you receive into your spirit. The percentage of negativity can far outpace the positives in your life. The ironic thing is that IF you want positivity in your heart and mind YOU are going to have to be the one to put it there. It will be completely up to you to get up each day and turn a channel on the TV or radio, excuse yourself from a conversation, avoid certain environments or situations. Even in your alone time, in your leisure thinking, it is solely up to you to decide not to dwell on a bad manager, a bad job, your bills that are due, the economy, the price of gas, what your children or family isn't doing right, etc. Those things are already in place, but if you want them to change you have to begin to think of them as you wish them to be. 2 Corinthians 10:5 says that WE have to bring every thought that come against the knowledge of God into captivity. The change begins with you; it begins in YOUR heart and YOUR mind. Nothing external CAN change unless your view changes internally.

Proverbs 18:21 says "Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." This passage lets us know that there is power in the spoken word; in particular, the words we speak from our heart. Luke 6:45 tells us that "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and a good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth GOOD." Do you ever stop and think that this entire world and all that it contains is not here because God took his own hands and made it? Read Genesis the first chapter again, God SPOKE it this world into existence! He said "Let there be light" and there was light and He saw that "it was good!"


How does this relate to us? God created us in HIS image and likeness. The blueprint for man is like that of God. In other words, what we speak is what *world* or life will be. If you believe in your heart that you are worthless, that you are inadequate, that nothing ever works out for you or that you are nothing and will not ever be anything then that is the world speaking into existence for yourself. This is not the world or life God promised to His children.

Begin to search the promises of God that He has already SPOKEN and given to each of us. Write them down, memorize them and hide them in your heart. Words such as Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Put Romans 8:28 as a foundation in your heart and KNOW that ALL things will work together for good. ALL THINGS...the good, the bad, the ugly. Compile a library of God's promises in your heart and mind and let that come forth in what you think and what you speak. You will see a difference in your life. Know without a shadow of a doubt that God loves you and wants the best for you. He not only offers life, but life more abundantly.

You may be in a situation right now that "appears" hopeless. You may be surrounded by naysayers and negativity. I want to encourage you from my own personal experience that God can change whatever you see in the physical if you can start envisioning it in your heart and mind and stand on His promises. You have the ability through God to change who you are and to change the lives of those around you. Start speaking His Word for life as though it has already come to pass!

You ARE what you think you ARE!

John Mathis
www.themansionentertainment.com
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A close-up portrait of Wes Hampton, a man with short brown hair and blue eyes, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark jacket.

BY LAURA KENNEDY

"NO ONE is too far to pass the grace of Jesus."
-Wes Hampton

BROKEN & SPILLED OUT A MAN LIKE ME

*There is nothing more beautiful than the soul that lies open
before God.*

*After having been stripped of pretentious pride and blinding
strongholds
of human flesh, it is then, that the truest measure of
Spiritual transformation... begins.*

Most of us know Wes Hampton as the voice that shares the tenor position along with David Phelps for the multiple award winning, Gaither Vocal Band. He has, in fact, been with them now for almost 7 years since joining in 2005. Wes grew up with an admiration for music, one that was inspired in part by the music of Steve Green, Larnelle Harris, Michael English, and the iconic Gaither Vocal Band. Forging his own musical path early, Wes sang in two groups while in high school, and also with the Trevedores from 1996-1998. It was while attending the Trevecca Nazarene University that he met and later married Andrea, his wife since 1998. They and their four adorable boys live in Birmingham, Alabama. I couldn't help but ask Wes what it's like to work with heroes like Michael English and Bill Gaither. With a chuckle he readily admits that, "It took about a year to get past the WOW factor of working with Bill. I mean, it's Bill Gaither after all! One thing about him though, he really wants to hear the opinions of others and so drew me in and made me feel quite at ease." And adds,

"I truly know how fortunate I am to sing alongside men whom I admire in many ways as much as their incredible musical gifts."

Singing solo compared to being a part of the Gaither Vocal Band on a full time basis can be quite a change. Wes shares, "The solo thing is so much different. In the Vocal Band the responsibility is split among up among 5 people. I love the continued challenge of the solo experience. The need to stay focused 100% of the time and to be really prepared for it... I love it. Whenever the Vocal Band isn't singing, usually during the summer months, I pursue my solo ministry."

Dedicated to further launching his solo ministry, Wes is believing that "I have something to say and want to use this platform to talk about life that is violently separated into parts and to show what God's transforming grace looks like." His first solo project, "A Man like Me", is a collection of songs that really speak of brokenness. "I 100% believe in great lyrics that speak to where people are. Melodies are important, but the significance of what is being conveyed in the song was the process of my selection for the project." Wes explains, "It is important for people to hear that no one has it all together. We tend to put labels on pastors and others in leadership roles that somehow 'magically' their lives are always intact but that is just not the case. We are ALL human, falling and in the process of being broken." The up-tempo title cut, written by Jeff Pardo and offering an amazing lyric, spoke profoundly to Wes. "I believe there's hope for everyone. No one's on their own, no one's too far gone. 'Cause love has made a way and your arms still reach...a man like me." Wes has received numerous reports from listeners that this song has spoken to them in a very personal way and always makes sure to perform it in his solo concerts.

Having worked in the secular environment many years ago, Wes heard from unbelievers whose view of Christianity existed only on the negativity that flashes across the TV screens or makes front page headlines of news media...the kind of content such as when an evangelist steals money, a list that sadly goes on and on. But for Wes, it's letting the unbeliever hear about, "...a God that loves. A God that is not condemning or an angry God. He wants a relationship with you and wherever you find yourself at this moment, you are never too far from home to ever come back."

The Lord tells us in the scripture of John 12:24; "... Unless

a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." If until the shell is split open via temperature and humidity in the soil, the wheat will not grow, the question is not if life exists, or by whose hands that life is brought forth, but rather, whether the outside shell is cracked open to allow life to grow. "Each of us," Wes states, "must intend to follow in the journey that the Lord has for us. The life and circumstances that are uniquely ours." Therefore when considering the outward self too clever or more precious than the soul, the importance of that esteem threatens the work of Christ at the very heart of our being. And that is a tremendous misconception, even a non-truth to the potential work of grace and mercy in a person's life.

Timing, as they say, is indeed everything. Wes recalls a time shortly after joining the Vocal Band where he and his family struggled with the culture of church hypocrisy. Unfortunately, it rings an all too familiar bell with many of us today. Their pastor had been found out to be under the bondage of pornography, and, unable in himself to let it go, he was fired. At the same time the very ones accusing and casting the righteous finger towards the pastor, were also found out to be caught in their own web of lies and sin. It left Wes with a heartfelt cry of question to the church, "Is it really like this?" He and Andrea withdrew from that spiral of untruth and instead surrounded themselves with the knowledge of Christ's examples and drew from those who offered their hand of encouragement along that difficult way. Wes offers, "It eventually became a time of healing for us, which has also brought me the sense of urgency to speak to others who feel disunited and cut off.



If brokenness in your heart or life is where you are at, 'Take heart. You are not alone.'"

While we cannot shorten the lesson and the period

of breaking in our lives, for that is solely in God's hands, we certainly can prolong it. And nothing is more heartbreaking than to waste the Lord's time. We see it in the church today. Yes, words can be eloquently strung together and spoken forth to bring about an intellectual decision of response. Yes, we can impact each other by using heartfelt recollections to cause emotional responses, BUT, it is only the Spirit of God that can truly change the spiritual being, like the nutrients feed the broken grain of wheat beneath the soil. If we do not learn how to use our own spirit to be a vessel in which God can speak through us, there will never be that change we wish to see or feel and be a part of.



Which kind of person do you find yourself as? The one whose life is confined, in chains to your circumstance and even worse, lamenting to God for it? Or are you the one in whose life God has forged out the path and in your surrender that life is now released and pouring forth? Yes, it's true, we can expect to see wounds. Wes recalls Gloria Gaither once saying, "I wish God made special exemptions for Christians." It is just not so, but let us take heart, for in breaking we are experience life anew. What use is there really, for only knowing the God of Creation with your mind? Only the spirit through whom He can come forth is useful for the furthering of the kingdom of Heaven. That only comes from the process of being broken. Wes remembers this quote from friend, Mark Lowry, "If I would've known how it ended, I would've enjoyed the journey more." So, what can we offer when the torment of life and circumstance come?

Being there for each other is a great comfort! More than (only) the sometimes cliched, 'I'll pray for you'. But rather, standing with and walking along beside your brother/sister, perhaps your father and/or mother so that they feel a tangible means of strength, assuring them that they are never alone. Wes offers, "Hold on. You will get through it. Choose to trust. Choose to be broken. Choose to live a life spilled out before the Savior of all mankind. And in so doing, He will give you freedom from your captivity and

breathe His divine purpose for life into you and through you."

At this writing we are extremely pleased to share that Wes Hampton's album, "A Man Like Me" has been nominated for a Dove award for Inspirational Album of the Year. Along with peers; Nicole C. Mullen, Russ Taff, HILLSONG, and Selah, Wes' addition to this esteemed category is a true honor and blessing. He offers; "When I first heard my solo CD was nominated for best Inspirational album of the year, I was truly blown away. 'Shocked' might



actually be more accurate a description! What a huge honor to be nominated with these amazing artists. I am thrilled and thankful for those who have believed in me and supported me in this endeavor and for many years." The 43rd annual GMA Dove awards will air on April, 19, 2012.

While off the road, Wes Hampton spends his down time, enjoying his wife and four boys; Barrett, Hudson, Carden, and Sutton all under the age of 8 years old. Mom and wife, Andrea is also a Marriage and Family Therapist and she and Wes enjoy camping and outdoor life. Wes laughingly adds, "That's in a camper, of course!" The boys keep them both quite busy but have also taken a great interest in singing like their dad (and mom too). It looks like Wes has his own vocal band going on at the house, even doing pitch comparisons to the batter mixer while dad is cooking; most recently a birthday cake for oldest son, Barrett.

Wes has a passion for and finds great pleasure in cooking for friends and family. "I enjoy preparing meals ahead and leaving them for Andrea and the boys while I'm on the road with the Vocal Band," Wes explains. His cookbook, "A Place at the Table: Hampton Family Recipes" is available for purchase and is sure to bring many great times as you share with your family and friends.

As Wes Hampton looks ahead with eager anticipation

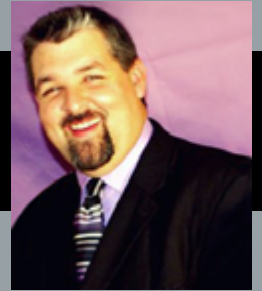
into 2012 for more solo opportunities to sing of God's promise of a New Day, may you find yourself confidently in the place of growth, fully embodied in mind and spirit, dwelling richly in the love of God.

For more information on booking and supporting Wes Hampton, visit;

www.weshampton.com

TALK TO ME

with
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Chronicles of a Singing English Teacher

Sharing Her Story

by Jeff Hawes

Just because I left the English classroom over two years ago doesn't mean I left behind my love of reading and sharing great books with friends. I remember, as a young boy, always being fascinated with stories, whether reading a children's story, having my mom share a Bible story at night, or listening to Grandma share her "life stories." There's just something about reading and then sharing those stories that has always sucked me in.

For this month, I wanted to share something special and unique with you. I recently read a book that completely changed my life. The cool thing is that the writer is a former fellow English teacher. She has written an autobiography of living her life with MD (Muscular Dystrophy). The title is *Wobbly Legs On A Firm Foundation*. She explains how we can find stability through life's circumstances. This easy read will certainly change your walk with the Lord and strengthen the foundation of your life.

Nia Stivers is a Nationally Board-Certified high school English teacher at North Sand Mountain School in Higdon, Alabama. I taught with Nia during my first teaching position in 2007 and it is no surprise that she is now inspiring the world, not only her classroom. We have remained friends ever since, and in fact, her sister Valerie was my eighth grader English teacher, another inspiration in my life. While substitute teaching on my off days from Karen Peck and New River, I heard that Nia had written a book. I read it and couldn't put it down. Wow!

The book begins with Nia introducing herself and then telling how her story began. Chapter by chapter, she reveals how God designed her body and

how He continues to weave her into the women He created her to be. She shares what it was like to be diagnosed with MD at 11 years old and how it would impact her life; however, never controlling her life.

As I read each page I couldn't help but tear up as she shared account after account of her life's lessons. So many times, I put myself in her shoes and tried to imagine how difficult and challenging day-to-day tasks must have been for her, yet she always pressed on. Oddly enough, Nia wasn't raised in church and didn't accept Christ until high school. You can imagine just how much Nia relied on Jesus to make her whole. She would realize that being a Christian didn't solve all of her problems, but that it truly gave her hope and a future of complete healing. "It was the year the Lord placed me in His hand, and the beginning of many future years of my dancing along the edges of His fingers, dangerously close to falling."

I also love the fact that Nia didn't only write about her life with MD but about living in a world filled with sinful temptations. She gives several accounts of her making unwise decisions throughout high school and college, but that God is faithful and just to forgive. "What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then act another, doing things I absolutely despise." Romans 7:15 (The Message).

One of the prime examples of why I think every young reader will benefit from this book is because Nia also describes her dating life and how God MUST be the center of each relationship. Nia and husband Jason dated throughout much of high school and later college; God sent her an angel, a

protector.

While in the midst of living with MD, completing her college degree, and planning a wedding, Nia was told her father was dying with cancer. It seemed as if life couldn't get anymore difficult, but Nia still clung to the Lord.



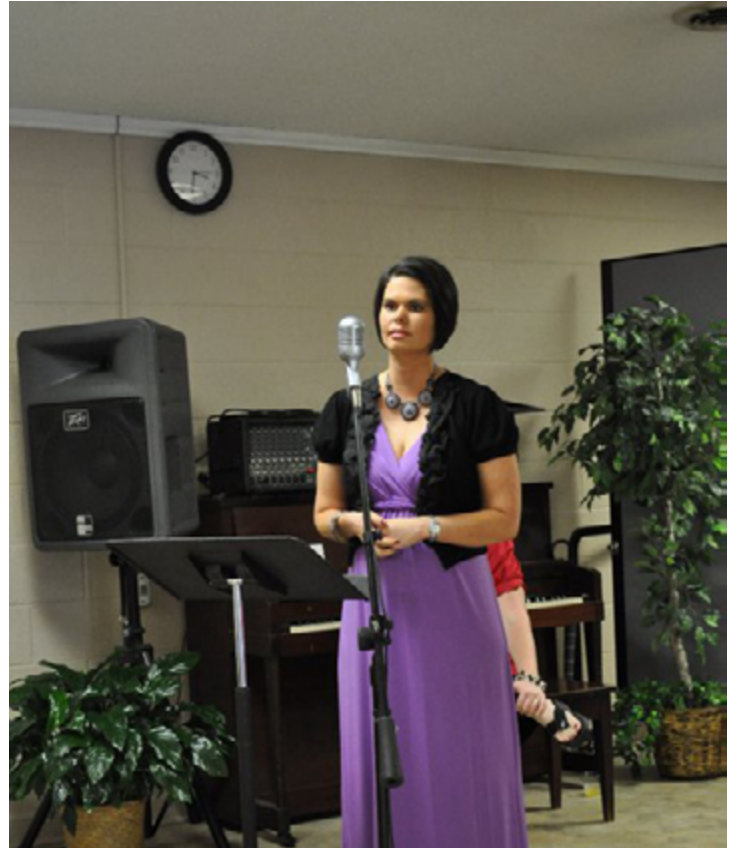
She mentions in the book that her father's death brought her husband closer to the Lord and ignited a fire within him to be the man God created him to be. In the closing chapters of the book, Nia shares her struggle with pregnancy--the effects could have been detrimental to her body while also passing the disease to her child. During this time her prayer life expanded even more. She and Jason tossed around the idea of adoption, but God had other plans in store.

As I mentioned earlier, Nia teaches high school English and the students both respect and LOVE her. Most students look forward to being in her class because they expect something unique and special will happen in her room; she is a life changer.

One student in particular would be the answer to Nia and Jason's prayers, but again, it wouldn't be easy and they would have to listen closely to the Lord.

Nia mentions reading in Isaiah 54:1-3 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

In hopes of not spoiling the ending, I won't share just how God expanded her territory, but I encourage you to order a copy of her book. It will



change your outlook on life and your walk with the Lord. Her purpose in writing this is that we might all see the plans He has for us. To order your copy of her book, visit her website: www.wobblylegs.com . Nia welcomes invitations to speak at women's conferences or church events.

CELEBRATING A NEW DAY WITH THE MARTINS!

BY SCOTT RHOADES



For more than a decade, Southern Gospel Music followers have enjoyed the unique energy and family harmony that we've simply come to know as *The Martins*. From a small country church in Hamburg, Arkansas to the great music halls of New York City, Washington, D.C., and venues in between, this dynamic brother-sisters trio has inspired us with their ever-evolving artistic talent while consistently delivering the unchanging message of Christ's endless promise.

Mastering three-part harmony from the Sunday School songs and hymns taught to them by their mother, Joyce, Jonathan, and Judy set out on a youthful adventure – one that would take them from churches across the Deep South to an opening for the legendary *Cathedral Quartet*, a restroom audition for Gloria Gaither, and a regular appearance with the *Gaither Homecoming Tour*. With five number one radio singles, eight top ten radio singles, eight Dove Awards, and a Grammy nomination, The Martins were on the move with a growing and demanding schedule that soon left little time for life outside of musical ministry. "We had changes, challenges, and trials and we found ourselves holding on to 'a job,'" says Joyce. "We had to be willing to give it up and ask ourselves what was more important." After much discussion and prayerful consideration, they left the road – without any intention of returning.

New Perspectives

Time away from the rush and travel afforded The Martins an opportunity to breathe and discover new outlooks on life and personal identity. "It really gave me time to focus

on my spiritual life and family life," says Joyce. "I had to find my identity off stage and understand that God wanted to use me just as much in the life of my children and on a trip to the local grocery store." Brother Jonathan had a similar experience. "I found validity on stage and in my knowledge of God, but I found I was also just as valuable to God without singing."

While Judy confesses she was unintentionally "comfortable with contributing as little as possible" to the group, she grew as an individual, and embarking on solo work gave her the chance "to grow stronger in everyday life," increasing her confidence as an artist and as a person. "I had to sing by myself and hold an entire program by myself. It strengthened me!" As each of them adjusted to life apart from the group, experiencing this personal and spiritual growth, little did they realize God was grooming them for an exciting new journey.

New Journey

After receiving a local request for the group's reappearance a few years ago, The Martins once again find themselves carefully booking concerts and rebuilding a comfortable appearance schedule, including a return to the Gaither Homecoming Tour. With new-found insights and appreciation for their relationships with God, their families, and with each other, they are re-energized and refreshed for a new and balanced musical journey; a journey where faith, family and friendships are the priority.

Judy is the wife of Jake Hess, Jr., son of the legendary quartet artist, Jake Hess. "Jake is very introspective, he's a writer, and I see the kindness of his father shine through

him,” says Judy. While Jake keeps occupied as a landscaper and Judy sings, their children are definitely on their minds at all times, and Judy simply describes Trip, Hannah, Emma, and Isaac as “amazing!”

Jonathan is the loving husband of wife Dara and is the proud father of six children who include daughter Halea, twin sons Michael and Taylor, daughters Olivia and Emilia, and son Harrison. “They are the joys of my life,” says Jonathan.

Joyce and her husband, Paul Sanders (also a musician) reside in the Nashville area. Joyce’s son Trey is twelve years old and is starting to think about his future. “Right now we’re between a monster truck driver and playing in a band,” says Joyce. “He’s a great and talented kid and loves to play the drums and guitar. We’re hoping he sticks with the band idea.” Joyce also has a nine-year-old daughter, Mae. Diagnosed with *Angelman’s Syndrome*, a neuro-genetic disorder leaving her without the ability to form or speak a language, Mae has captured her family’s heart and is without a doubt, their little angel.

The Martins also enjoy a new and extended family through their work with *Compassion International*, a renowned Christian child advocacy group, ministering to nearly 1.2 million children in 26 countries. “Jonathan became a Compassion Artist while doing solo work,” says Joyce. “He presented it to us as a group and I was a bit hesitant because I didn’t want to make an audience feel guilty. We watched the video presentation and I was hooked!” Compassion International provides food, education and medical care while making the gospel accessible and a priority. In 2011, The Martins made a Compassion journey to the country of Ecuador, where they met the four children they sponsor. “We tell them that God loves them and has a plan for their life,” says Joyce. “We reach the children first, and then we are able to reach the parents and the family; sort of like tipping the first domino.”

Tipping the first domino is exactly what The Martins have done, stepping out in faith for the next leg of an exciting journey encompassing their families, their ministry, and each other. This 360-degree, refreshed perspective has given them the opportunity to celebrate the goodness of God and His promise for a brand new day!

New Day

New Day is the latest release from The Martins and their first since returning to the road. Reflecting on the project, Joyce tells us “we thought that if we were going to make 50 to 70 appearances a year, then we should probably come up with some new material.” It was nearly 10 years since their last recording, and the thoughts of producing a new musical CD was cause for a bit of anxiety. “We wondered if we were good enough,” says Joyce. “We have always

pushed the limits and we were concerned if a new project would allow The Martins of the past to shine through while at the same time staying current with artistic expectation.”

The Martins would not be denied, and after teaming up with producer Jay DeMarcus, they set out on a three-year process to deliver yet another winning project. “From an artistic perspective, we are satisfied and confident with this CD,” says Joyce. “Spiritually, it is our platform and we dare not make it less and be afraid of what we’ve been through. It is a statement of faith as to where we are walking!”

When asked which songs of the project are most meaningful to them, Joyce immediately points to the song *Unredeemed*. “I felt like I’ve lived every word and phrase. It was if it came from my own heart and pen. I can’t help but cry every time I sing it.” Jonathan’s favorites include, *All The Love In The World* and *Tell Them That I Love Them*. “We don’t have to impress folks,” says Jonathan. “All we have to do is give a simple message – somebody loves you!”

Judy has a different and unique view of the project telling us, “The beauty of an album is to say different things because you never know who you’ll be reaching.” Reaching is just what the New Day project accomplishes, conveying a timeless message and encouraging the listener of their hope in Christ and inspiring a growing faith for the days ahead.

New Horizons

As The Martins reflect on this new project and the message of God’s amazing grace, redeeming love, and endless mercies, there is a refreshed sound in their voice, a brisk step in their walk, and a refocused look in their eyes as they set their sights towards the future and all God has in store. What is next for this talented trio? While discussions about another musical release may come to mind, “Life is what happens when you make plans,” says Joyce, “and God changes plans. We’re leaving it up to Him.”

As Joyce, Jonathan, and Judy continue to book concert dates, their families and friends remain at the top of the list. “We not only want to pour Christ into the lives of our kids and our friends,” says Joyce, “we want to stay honest in ministry, humble in heart, and close to Jesus.”

To find out more about The Martins, visit <http://www.themartins.com/>.



COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE GREAT WESTERN FAN FESTIVAL!

BY SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

On April 26th, 2012, through the 28th, Southern Gospel music fans from all across America and several foreign countries converge on Visalia, California, about 45 miles south of Fresno, for the Great Western Fan Festival. They will come by car, by plane, by bus, by van and by RV. They will stay at hotels around the Visalia Convention Center, and at the special RV Park out by the airport, where reservations must be made early. There will be a shuttle service from the RV Park to the Convention Center for fan's convenience. Fans and artists will begin arriving as early as Sunday, April 22 and will come from Western Canada, Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and as far east as Denver, Colorado.

Michael Hopper shared, "These are states that we know people are coming from, but we never really know how many other states are represented unless the fans tell us. With fewer Gospel concerts in the western United States, fans come here for the fellowship with their favorite artists and to hear singing, singing and more singing. Many plan this as their vacation and they love the concerts, the showcases, the fellowship and the sight-seeing during the week. This is the biggest western event in southern Gospel music on the west coast for the year."

Mike explained, "The Visalia Convention Center is where everything takes place. There are several hotels within easy walking distance, along with restaurants

and shopping. The entire event is very convenient and the fans enjoy it. Parking for the event is free at the convention center."

Explaining how this spring event came to be, Michael said, "In 1997, after hearing so many requests from people who came to the National Quartet Convention, the convention board began looking at doing an event in California. That year it was in Fresno, and drew a great crowd; one of the biggest, west of the Rockies."

Michael Hopper said, "The first time the Hopper Brothers and Connie came out west was 1972. They toured with the Oak Ridge Boys Quartet, when they were doing all Gospel. The people just couldn't get enough of Gospel music and the artists who were singing."

This year's line-up for the Great Western Fan Fest reads like a "Who's Who" in Southern Gospel Music. Michael explained, "The fans mention who they would like to have on the show and the board members look at that and work on additions for the next show."

"We are ever ready to hear their suggestions and try to work on the best groups for this three-day program. We also try to have local groups that the fans enjoy." He continued, "Fans appreciate Herb Henry's Family, The California Melody Boys, and

another well-respected quartet from the west coast, The RSV Quartet (Revised Standard Version). Liberty has been on the program for several years, and the fans really like them as well. "

auditorium for the concert beginning at six and over promptly at 10:30."

"Dennis Swanberg will be on the program, and everyone knows how funny and exciting he is. He



"This year we've brought in the Collingsworth Family and The Blackwood Brothers to be with us. This is talent we haven't had before and from what we've heard, fans are really looking forward to having them," Michael finished.

"The events begin in full swing with the evening concert on the 26th. On Friday morning, Dr. David Jeremiah will thrill the fans at Chapel service, and then they are ready for more singing," Michael states. "This year The Booth Brothers will be back, as will Legacy Five and Greater Vision and we'll have them do their 'Jubilee' presentation."

"And of course our family will definitely be singing! This is one of our favorite tours and we love the west coast," Michael stated. "We bring Phil Brower, the event director/producer of the National Quartet Convention to give the fans a classy, enjoyable package. Les Beasley comes to help out for the show and we just have a great time together."

The first showcase is on Friday and the artists have not yet been announced. Michael reminds, "Supper will be served between 4 and 6PM on Friday and Saturday afternoons, just prior to making your way to the evening concert. Supper will be held in the convention concourse and everyone can buy their supper and fellowship before the concert."

"This is another time that fans seem to enjoy tremendously. They can have a hamburger or hot dog with their favorite artists, then make their way into the

will help with the Emcee work as well," Michael also shared. "Dean will do some of the Emcee work, as will Gerald Wolfe, Michael Booth and others. It's easier on everyone, and energizes the introductions; things seem to move faster, getting the next group on stage," Michael said.

Breakfast is a big thing on Saturday morning at the RV Park. "We get an Old Fashioned Chuck Wagon Truck and take it out to the RV Park. We go out and have breakfast with the fans," Mike said. "We have a complete breakfast that everyone will enjoy. The fans love it and so do the singers!"

"We also try to plan a VIP Breakfast for certain people who have been with us from the start. This is to thank them for their contribution and hard work," Mike said.

Michael understands that fans enjoy having fun with each other and the artists, and he reminds everyone that the Exhibit halls for sharing time with your favorite singer are also open during the day. "This is very similar to the time at NQC," he said, "giving fans an opportunity to buy the music, and T-shirts and mementos, as well as take photos, get autographs and have fun with their favorite people."

"This year at the farewell party after the final concert on Saturday night, we're having an Ice Cream and Sundae party," Michael said. It begins at 10:30 PM after the Saturday night's concert, and allows everyone time to fellowship and say good bye till we

meet again."

"One of the things we would urge everyone around the area to do is to go to fanfestivals.com , our web page. Make copies of the posters and take them to your church, your grocery store and any place that will let you share the poster," he said.

"If you've never been to California, if you love Southern Gospel music, and you love to travel this is your ideal vacation." Mike reminded. Order your tickets from iTickets.com, or by calling 1-800-965-9324.



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NEW ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: ALISA ASBURY

by angela griffin

SGNScoops introduces Alisa Asbury as our New Artist Spotlight this month! Alisa Asbury has spent many hours mentoring hundreds of young adults with their music careers and has also organized scores of concerts for unsigned artists. Alisa holds a six-year tenure as president of the Georgia Country & Gospel Music Association and as of 2011, she took on the task of being the president of the Tennessee Country & Gospel Music Association as well! The non-profit organization is devoted to assisting young artists in their musical abilities and assists charities throughout the Southeast with fundraising events. Alisa has been diligent in helping others in their musical path, but the time has come to carve out her own.

Although Alisa is a new Southern Gospel artist, she is hardly a stranger to the stage! Alisa toured with her band throughout the Southeast in recent years singing positive country music. She has performed at fairs, festivals, and other prestigious venues such as Dollywood, Six Flags Over Georgia, Opryland Hotel, and the Country Tonight Theater.

Through the years Alisa won "Female Vocalist of the Year," "Female Entertainer of the Year" and was awarded "Favorite CD of the Year" by the Georgia Country & Gospel Music Association and the North American Country Music Association International. Alisa is also the two-time recipient of "Favorite Gospel Artist" by CountryAtlanta.com.

"You wouldn't believe how hard it is to select country songs with a positive message. We made it work, but were very limited in our song selections. Country music was a steady paycheck for me and my family," Alisa shares. Alisa had a lucrative career no doubt, but began to feel God leading her in a new direction. "My

convictions of singing country music grew stronger as the years passed. I fell in love with Gospel Music as a child and was saved at the age of eighteen. I felt God leading me back to my Southern Gospel roots."

Alisa has always been grounded in her faith, but it was through life trials that she found God's word to be faithful and true. Alisa lost her little girl upon delivery, devastating their entire family. A few years later Alisa was told she had stage three cancer. A biopsy that was supposed to last 45 minutes turned into a 4-day hospital stay that almost claimed her life. It was after this surgery the doctor informed Alisa she would never be able to have a child. "It was a difficult time for me and my family. While recuperating at home I remember listening to Jason Crabb sing 'Through the Fire.' I would play it over and over. It brought me through this difficult valley and motivated me," she explains.

Then another tragedy... Alisa shares: "A massive heart attack claimed the life of our drummer. I didn't know whether he would spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. It was at that moment, I laid it all down. That changed me! I didn't ever want to question where a loved one would spend eternity ever again! Shortly after Steve's passing my husband asked me... 'What do you have to do to be saved?' My husband prayed the prayer of salvation led by Christian friends. I still get chills when I think about that moment!"

For the next year, Alisa sought the Lord's will and direction for her life. Alisa also claimed a favorite passage of scripture found in Psalm 17:17: "I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high."

With a clear refreshing new vision for the future, Alisa formed "Morning Glory Records & Entertainment" with the help of producer & mentor, Eddie Crook. Eddie recently produced Alisa's debut CD entitled, *MY NEW JOURNEY*. The first song "Came to Get My Blessing" is an upbeat melody with a great message. Alisa's goal is to sing what God would have her sing, in hopes it will lead someone to Christ. The taping of Alisa's new video is complete and scheduled to be released later this year. "It's more than humbling to see all the support being offered in my new journey," Alisa says.

Alisa is preparing to launch her 2012 Southern Gospel tour and hopes to reconnect with old friends and gain new fans. Keep up with Alisa's ministry on Facebook, Twitter, or by visiting her website at www.alisaasbury.com.

Stay tuned to SGNScoops as we spotlight other new artists in future issues throughout the year!



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PRESENT YOUR BODY

by Laurette Willis

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1, NKJV)

While exercise was not a priority in Biblical times, Paul instructs us to "present your bodies a living sacrifice." Each of us is advised to take care of our body since it is the "temple of the Holy Spirit."

Here's a sobering question: Do you think we'll be required to give an accounting to the Lord for the stewardship of our bodies and how well we've taken care of them?

That's a frightening thought for most of us! "You are not your own," Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:19. "For you were bought at a price" (the shed blood of Jesus Christ).

Could that mean your body is not yours, but the Lord's? How well are we, as stewards, caring for the Lord's property?

The good news is that since your body belongs to the Lord, He has a vested interest in helping you care for it. Your body is not only the temple of His Holy Spirit,

it's what you need to be able to walk around on this earth and spread the good news that Jesus is Lord!

The more fit and healthy you are, the greater the probability is that you will be around longer to carry out His will for your life.

The enemy wants you to fail at your task, to fail horribly and go to heaven before your time. He doesn't really care that you're going to heaven—he just doesn't want you to take anyone else with you!

If your body is out-of-shape and lacking energy, it's difficult to do all the Lord is calling you to do. But you and the Lord working together can change that!

"What?!" you ask. "The Lord needs MY help? But He's omnipotent, all-powerful and in control!" Well, yes--and no. He is all-powerful, but He will not wrestle the cake fork out of your hand or pick up the strings like a grand marionette master and animate your body to take a brisk walk. We are the ones who have to exercise our will to exercise our body and "choose life."

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV).

Every day choices are set before us that add to our lives or take from them. Select just one thing you can do today that you know would be life-engendering to your body (drink more water, eat a cup of raw vegetables in a salad, exercise your God-given body for 20-30 minutes, bless your life and loved ones by speaking God's promises over yourself and your family—out loud!).

Present your body to God today (including what you do, hear, see and say) as an act of worship. Since you cannot "out-give" God, you will discover He will bless, beautify and strengthen everything you present to Him.

Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry (<http://PraiseMoves.com> and on Facebook <http://facebook.com/Praise-MovesFan>). Get your free fitness kit at <http://Christian-FitnessKit.com> ©2012

God's Timing Is Always Right

Kevin & Beverly McManus

By Sandi Duncan Clark



Recordings, both audio and video are a major contribution to the livelihood and fan base of any artist. The opportunity to “take the artist home with you” is a plus for each fan and we appreciate the best when it comes to these music presentations. While many people are involved in the recording process, a critical individual to the success of the project is the producer and engineer, and it’s always a blessing to have the same person work in both capacities. One of the most talented sought-after Producer/Engineers in Nashville, Tennessee is Kevin McManus.

“Producer and engineer extraordinaire” would be the phrase that comes to mind when one mentions Kevin McManus. For a number of years, Kevin has been the “go-to” guy for anyone planning to do a recording, whether audio or video, and most recently, for anyone looking for an expert in the field of sound equipment and technology.

Kevin’s name is synonymous with quality and excellence, and the accolades, awards and honors have come from his peers, the artists with whom he has worked, as well as various organizations and societies involved in music. Kevin has worked with a number of the major artists in Southern Gospel Music; The Hinsons, The Cathedrals, Gold City, The Lesters, The Whisnants, The Kingsmen, The Crabb Family, McKameys (God On The Mountain,) and McGruders,

to mention just a few.

As engineer at Hill Top Studios in Nashville from ’76-’85, Kevin did nine recordings with the Hinsons, including their first number one song, “Two Winning Hands.”

“I remember they were in the middle of ‘High Voltage’ when I started working with them,” Kevin recalled, “Their engineer couldn’t finish the project and I was asked to engineer. Kenny Hinson liked full drum sound on their music; that ‘west coast drum sound,’ and I knew what he was talking about. We really enjoyed working together from then on.”

During these years, Kevin produced two of the best-selling videos in Gospel music; “Lift The Roof Off” with the Hinsons in Louisiana, and “Come Fly With the McGruders” in Arkansas. These were two of the hottest videos in Southern Gospel music before the Gaither videos became so popular.

And while most of his work in recent years has been in the field of Gospel music, Kevin is listed as producer or engineer on albums by some of the top performing artists in Country music. Kevin worked on albums by Lorrie Morgan, Floyd Cramer, Faron Young, Western Flyer, Billy Walker and Ray Price.

Kevin's first venture in music was as a musician in late the 1960s and early 70's, playing drums for a touring show band. In the mid 70's, Kevin joined the Marshall Tucker Band, working as sound FOH Engineer and Tour Technical Director. In this position, Kevin worked some of the largest music venues in the country, including Madison Square Gardens, the Superdome in Louisiana, and Boston Gardens, as well as a number of others.

Kevin's work in the music industry has earned him recognition as a 5-time "Studio Engineer of the Year Award" winner, "Producer of the Year," and "Director of Video of the Year." He also received an EMMY from the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, for television audio.

Currently Kevin is President of Nashville Teleproductions, Inc. and Zion Music Group. Nashville Teleproductions provides audio/video system integration and design, theatrical lighting systems, projection systems and acoustic treatment/solutions for houses of worship and the performing arts. He is responsible for some of the best videos in Southern Gospel music. Kevin assumed operations of Oak Valley Studios in 1986. Most of the major audio recordings Kevin worked on were done in that studio and in 1991 he established Zion Music Group. Kevin continues to operate Zion Music Group today, producing for artists on Zion, Jericho, Axiom and Mercy labels.

In his capacity as Event Producer for the United Pentecostal Church International General Conference, Kevin coordinates sound, video and lighting for the churches' annual event. Kevin operates sound for his home church, First Pentecostal Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Kevin McManus' expertise and knowledge in sound integration has been effectual in churches from California to the Carolinas, and from the mid-west to the state of Texas, as churches have had him install their sound operations.

Kevin is married to Beverly Cohron McManus, whom he met at Oak Valley Studio. Beverly serves as Vice President of Nashville Teleproductions and Zion Music. Beverly has her own Christian counseling service, Beverly McManus Counseling, Franklin, Tennessee. Kevin and Beverly are parents of two adult children, and four grandchildren. They are also

parents of Kyle Edward Cohron McManus, age six, whom they adopted as a baby in 2006.

In 2002, Beverly and Kevin began their quest to have another child. Following a failed pregnancy, they looked to adoption. Beverly's story is very poignant as she states, "Our journey to having a child began about 9 years ago. Kevin and I went through fertility and lost a pregnancy that we wanted very much. It was completely devastating to us! We started researching adoption and interviewed agencies. We went through intense training to become qualified by the State of Tennessee for adoption, as well as a home study to qualify us for adoption. We were prayerful that God would order our steps to the child that was the "one" we had prayed for."



Beverly continued, "My cousin, Jodi and her husband pastored a church in Florida and during this time God laid us on her heart to pray for the child we would adopt. She learned about a woman who was having a baby and was not able to provide for the child. Jodi called the baby..."the baby of promise" and prayed daily long before we were even aware of the pregnancy that God would allow us to provide that baby a loving home."

"It was a long journey to completion, but that baby was our precious little redhead! I met him two days after he was born and was completely smitten with him, but the birth mom was not emotionally ready to follow through with the adoption process. I came home empty handed and devastated! I couldn't speak of that beautiful boy I left in Florida. I left part of my heart with him! It was one of the darkest valleys we have had to walk together."

"My family continued their prayer vigil for our baby of promise! We trusted that God had a plan!! Seven months after meeting our redhead, I turned 40. It was a difficult day since I always thought that if I was going to be a mother, it would be by the time I turned 40. I remember spilling my guts out to God that day! I told him that I understood parenthood was not a role He had planned for me and I accepted that, but I agonized surrendering my will that day!"



"Exactly 20 days after my birthday we received the call that the birth mom was ready to sign the legal documents to place her baby into adoption and wanted us to be his parents! Kevin and I could not get to Florida fast enough!! We were deliriously happy! The first moment they placed Kyle into our arms was a moment I will never forget!! They placed him in Kevin's arms first!"

"It was as if the world stood still while they studied each other and smiled and loved one another! There was not a dry eye in the room! It was clear that Kyle

was "home"! There really has not been a dull moment since! Kyle is enthusiastic, incredibly talented, very intelligent, energetic and passionate! God's plan is PERFECT!!! Always trust Him!!"

Today, six year later, Kyle McManus is an inexhaustible little boy, talented and funny, and because God had a plan, he keeps his Mom and Daddy on their toes. Beverly laughed, "Kevin and I will definitely attest to that. Kyle brings so much joy to our lives."

Kevin and Beverly McManus let this knowledge and faith that God has a Plan and that Plan is perfect; carry over to other parts of their life. In September 2011, after a few weeks of illness, Kevin was diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas. Following surgery to remove some cancerous tissue, Kevin began chemotherapy.

He has had twelve treatments and except for a day or so after the treatment, feels very well. As Kevin continues a few more weeks of treatment before further scans to determine his body's response, Kevin and Beverly ask that we all continue to pray for Kevin's total healing. This gentleman's stamina during these treatments has amazed his family. His family and Kevin believe God has a plan and that plan will be revealed in God's Time.

At the present time, Kevin continues his work for the Lord. He has his own plane and continues to travel wherever God opens a door to work with artists and with churches to further the Kingdom of God.

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FOCUS ON THE YOUNG

KELLAN MONROE

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

Each month, I try to find new, young talent who some of our readers may not know. This month's new talent has really come a long way in the group, Beyond The Ashes. I met him when he was singing with the Melodyaires several years ago and saw great talent and potential. His name is Kellan Monroe, and he's a fellow South Carolinian. Here's the scoop...

Victoria: Kellan, how did you get started in Southern Gospel music?

Kellan: I've always enjoyed the music. Growing up in South Carolina, there was a lot of it around so I was always able to go see a group or hear it on the radio. I love all kinds of music, but the message in Gospel music is what attracted, and kept me involved in it.

Victoria: When did you start singing with Beyond The Ashes, and how did you get hooked up with them?

Kellan: In July of 2010, I got an email from a friend in the SG industry that knew of my love for the music and my ability to sing, contacting me about Beyond The Ashes needing a baritone. In a crazy whirlwind of circumstances not allowing me to finish my degree when I wanted to, I sent the guys an email explaining my interest in the position and the rest is history. I've been with the group about a year and a half now and I'm loving every minute! I never dreamed I'd really be able to do this on a professional level, much less at 21 years old!!

Victoria: Are you dating anyone special right now?

Kellan: Yes! She's a Junior at the University of North



Carolina in Chapel Hill. We've been together about a year and a half and she's my lovely Carolina girl. She's an incredible support system for me and she understands what I am called to do and why I am gone so much. It's not always easy being apart all the time but I'm a VERY blessed man to have her!

Victoria: Do you have any hidden talents?

Kellan: I love to cook. I started at the local ice cream parlor in high school, and it just picked up from there. Anything I can shoot, or catch, I'll cook!

Victoria: What is your favorite place to eat out on the road?

Kellan: Whataburger! It's one of the best parts about

visiting Texas. While in California we got to try In-N-Out. Amazing burger! So, basically anywhere I can get a really good cheeseburger. Don't judge me. :)

Victoria: Where's your favorite place to sing?

Kellan: South Carolina of course! It's my favorite place to be all the time! Anywhere in the Palmetto State feels like home to me. And oh yeah... playing the Opry was pretty cool too!

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

Kellan: Our bus caught fire last year in July...but that's not the funny part. The funny part was the image of Casey Rivers in nothing but basketball shorts running in the store at 3 am to warn the people of Wal-Mart that our bus caught fire and might explode. You should've seen that cashier's face!

Victoria: Do you have a hobby?

Kellan: I have a ton of hobbies! The problem is, I am ADD and can't stay focused on one for very long. I LOVE being in the studio and creating new music. Between writing and recording, I stay pretty busy. Outside of music "stuff," I love to hunt and fish! If I can shoot it or catch it, I'll keep it! Hopefully I didn't offend any PETA people. :)

Victoria: Who has been your biggest influence in Southern Gospel music?

Kellan: Is it ok to have a few biggest influences? It's so hard to choose just one! Wayne Haun and Joel Lindsey have definitely made a huge impact on me professionally and personally. Getting to know these incredible guys has been a highlight of my career! They possess an ability to communicate and convey a lyric like no one else and I consider it an honor to call them friends!

Victoria: For people that would like to come see Beyond The Ashes live in concert, where can they go to find out more information on where you will be and the latest news with your group?

Kellan: You can check out www.beyondtheashesonline.com. There you'll find our touring schedule as well as links to the group's Twitter and my blog. There's also a news portion on the home page so if anything happens, it'll be there first!

I'd like to thank Kellan for giving us the scoop on him for this month. Stay tuned each month for more interviews with new, young Southern Gospel artists!

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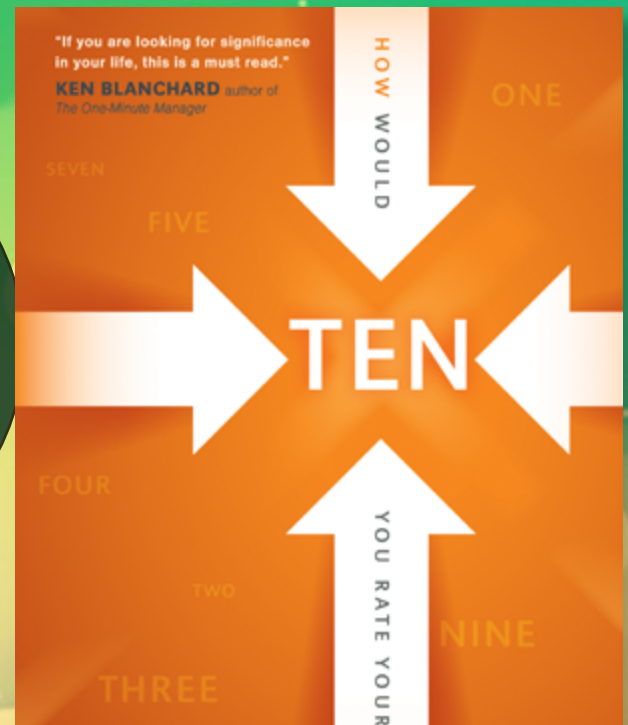
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TEN: HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR LIFE

BOOK REVIEW BY RHONDA FRYE



Author- Terry A. Smith
Published by HigherLife Development Services, Inc
Media Contact- B&B Media Group
www.tbmedia.com

Are you a zombie? If not a zombie, how about a mannequin stuck on the stage of life all dressed up and nowhere to go? TD Jakes says in his WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED Devotional Bible, that we would be amazed at how many people live like mannequins who have decided there are no options or windows in their lives. "They have embalmed themselves with regret; they exist in a constant state of decomposition." He goes on to say, "They have rocked their faith to sleep in the cradle of depression and they are reaping the bitter rewards of negative thinking." On another page, he describes such people as those who wanted to "make a difference" at one point in their lives, but because of obstacles, the decision was made to adjust their expectations to their limitations. Are "you" part of the "they" crowd Jakes talks about? If not that extreme, would you say you've fallen into the trap of settling for a life of mediocrity?

If we are honest, most of us would admit we are not living up to our full God-given potential. God's Word says in John 10:10 that Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to give us a RICH and satisfying life. The Message version says it like this: "I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of!" Friend, if you are living a life that is anything less than full of purpose, meaning and joy, there is a tool for you!

Author, national and international speaker and lead

pastor of The Life Christian Church in West Orange, New Jersey, Terry A. Smith, wrote an amazing book based on John 10:10. This book is described as a *guide* to living the dreams that GOD has for us. **TEN offers the necessary steps it takes to fully claim the destiny God has for our individual lives.**

Smith uses Ephesians 2:10 to point out that we are made in the image of God so that we can do the things He planned for us a long time ago. He also teaches that our future lies within us and encourages us to figure out our mission and do it. Period! "We are mandated to assume our own positions in this world- to take our place in the circle of life- bearing God's image and using our God-given authority to bring help and hope into a broken world," Smith says on page 26. He continues with these questions: "What kind of world will we have if we don't play the roles we were made to play? What futures deficit will exist? What love lost? What potential thwarted? What business not built? What book not written? Church not started? Movie not made? Project not funded? Because we didn't do what we were made to do."

Smith does NOT teach that anyone anywhere can do whatever they want to do! I can vouch for that! This writer could NEVER work in the medical field! Smith teaches that our destiny has boundaries, but we make choices within those God-given boundaries- -choices to live to our fullest! This is not a typical "self-help" book that teaches to follow a formula to achieve success. Instead, Smith stresses that our destinies are made clear as we practice spiritual disciplines and grow in our relationship with Christ. "When we come into relationship with God, we come alive to what He

planned for us. We see a whole new world. We begin to see the world as He sees the world, both in its brokenness and its possibilities."

Smith reveals how to move up the scale to a "Ten," to achieve fulfillment in our own lives and also to influence the lives of others. Much is addressed regarding leadership. Smith says on page 151, "I believe everyone is a leader somewhere. If you are a mother, you are a leader. If you are a teacher, you are a leader. If you are gifted in the arts, you are a leader. Excellent athlete? Leader. Manager? Pastor? Politician? Neurologist? CEO? Obviously, a leader."



All in all, there are seven steps revealed in the book. Awaken: Wake up to God's dreams for your life. Discover: Learn how to discover your life's calling. Imagine: Learn how the discipline of imagination makes the future real. Grow: Develop the life infrastructure necessary to sustain success. Act: Take action to create your future. Lead: Learn to lead yourself and others to the best possible future. Go There: Accept the call to get started living the life God dreams for you.

The book itself is a wonderful tool, and Smith's website serves as a learning companion. There are videos and messages enhancing the *TEN* experience at <http://www.livingten.com/book/>. This book is designed for individual reading and group study. Readers are challenged at the end of each chapter with several questions regarding the material covered in the section.

Thank you to Terry A. Smith and B&B Media Group for sharing *TEN* with SGNscoops Magazine. Personally, I have been challenged to not settle for a life of mediocrity and have been inspired to nurture my relationship with Christ as I make choices within my God-given destiny! God's timing amazes me! This book came at a time where I was feeling like the mannequin all dressed up with nowhere to go. I have found this book to be the big dose of truth I needed to jet-propel myself into action!

I strongly recommend *TEN* if anyone is serious about changing the world, this book is a must! We have high hopes at SGNscoops to indeed change the world! We've been talking about making a difference for months. This book and the videos from the website are tools we will use to move forward into our preferred future.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING:

"There is no way in the world you can read this book without being challenged. You will want more, be more and do more. Terry has struck a note- a chord- for leaders and potential leaders. *TEN* is a part of the natural order that often people miss because they limit themselves. This book will put you in the right orbit so that you will reach your full potential."

~Archbishop LeRoy Bailey, Jr.
The First Cathedral, Bloomfield, CT

"If you are as passionate as I am about creating a better world, then this book will instruct and inspire you. Terry's ideas have motivated and helped me. You are going to love *TEN*."

~ Cory Booker
Mayor, Newark, NJ

"*TEN* encourages you to open your heart to new possibilities and your mind to dreams deferred. It will motivate you in a God-inspired way to grow more, do more, give more and achieve more than you ever imagined."

~ Connie Nelson
Senior Vice President, Verizon Telecom
and Business

"Precious lessons and sound principles to a better you, a preferred future you, and a miracle you. In this book, Pastor Terry shares how God can and will work wonders in your life if you allow Him to. There is no limit to His wisdom, power and grace! Read this book and be changed!"

~ Jenny Sim
Vice President of Finance and Strategic
Planning, Footlocker

March New Music Reviews

by Sandi Duncan Clark

Spring is just around the corner! At least that's what the calendar says! Winter of 2011-2012 has been extremely unpredictable, so I'm just not willing to count on the calendar just yet! And as my Grandmother would say, "What will be, will be!"

New music for this month certainly has been exciting and uplifting! Thank you to all who allowed us to share your music with SGNSCOOPS' readers, and may God bless you for being obedient in your ministry. If you would like to submit a recording for consideration in the magazine, please send them to SGNSCOOPS REVIEWS, 477 Sandalwood Drive, Easley, S.C. 29640. We would love to share your music with our readers!

Happy Spring!



IN GOOD HANDS

Declaration Trio

Independent

Producers: Nick Bruno, Wayne Haun, Jim Brady

Vocals Produced by Jake Sammons, Kasey Kemp, Joshua Horrell

Declaration Trio's new recording is a wonderful experience for any Southern Gospel music fan. The trio's trademark is smooth, easy-listening vocals and great music tracks. Some of the songs they have selected were charting songs for other artists in the past. Declaration has given them new life with their own arrangements and performance. Kasey Kemp, Jake Sammons and Joshua Horrell have close tight harmony that is most enjoyable without a rousing, heavy-handed sound.

Declaration's sound has been compared vocally to the Booth Brothers, and while on some songs, I feel this is true, they definitely lend their own touch to each song on IN GOOD HANDS. "Come To The Water" written by an amazing songwriter, Mosie Lister. This song kicks off a wonderful variety of music!

These men do a great job on Glenn Campbell's hit, "Try A Little Kindness, which I haven't heard in a very long time. Nice job guys!"

Jim Brady (The Booth Brothers) wrote "I Know He Loves Me", one of the strongest songs on the recording. Group member, Jack Sammons co-wrote one of my favorite songs with Jim, titled "I Know

He Loves Me." This song made my heart sing! Jim along with Michael Booth, offered great insight for Declaration, as they were recording this project.

The talented trio does an impressive job on two of Squire Parsons' famous songs; "I Call It Home" and "I've Got a Reservation," made popular during Squire's Kingsmen days. Declaration gives these songs as well as the other eight their own special treatment.

I recommend this recording for the quality, messages in the songs and the sheer enjoyment of good Southern Gospel music! Visit www.declarationtrio.com for your copy of IN GOOD HANDS.



RET-RO-SPECT
Hearts of Faith
Independent

Hearts of Faith, sisters Donna Strong and Brenda Messaros, have released both a CD and DVD with their project, RET-RO-SPECT. This duet has been singing for almost thirty years; first with their Mom and Dad from 1982 till 2001. Then when their parents retired in 2001, the ladies felt the call to continue their music ministry. Today their travels take them all across the country, working several of the big Southern/Country Gospel events while sharing their love for God and the message of salvation with their audience.

Donna and Brenda included a number of our favorite songs from the past, as well as original material on this recording, which is their first since 2004. Congratulations, ladies. Good job!

The CD and DVD have ten songs. The DVD includes two concept videos of Hearts of Faith's most requested songs. "Suzie's Eyes" is the story of a little blind girl, and how she faced that adversity with child-like faith and a great testimony. "Yellow Ribbon Christmas" is the story of a soldier and his family.

A song written by Brenda, "I Go To Jesus," and one written by Eva Brock titled "I Am Coming Home" are two of their strongest. If you know Donna and Brenda, you will enjoy this latest recording, very appropriately titled RET-RO-SPECT. If you don't know them, this will be a opportunity to learn of their ministry. Contact them at www.heartsofffaith.biz.



THE GOSPEL SIDE OF DAILEY & VINCENT
Dailey & Vincent
Rounder Label by Concord Music Group
Produces: Darrin Vincent and Jamie Dailey
Distributed by Cracker Barrel

Recently my husband and I stopped by Cracker Barrel for breakfast and I found the new CD from Dailey & Vincent titled THE GOSPEL SIDE OF DAILEY & VINCENT. Libbi Stuffel had mentioned this album several times in recent months so my husband and I had to have our own copy! We have NOT been disappointed!

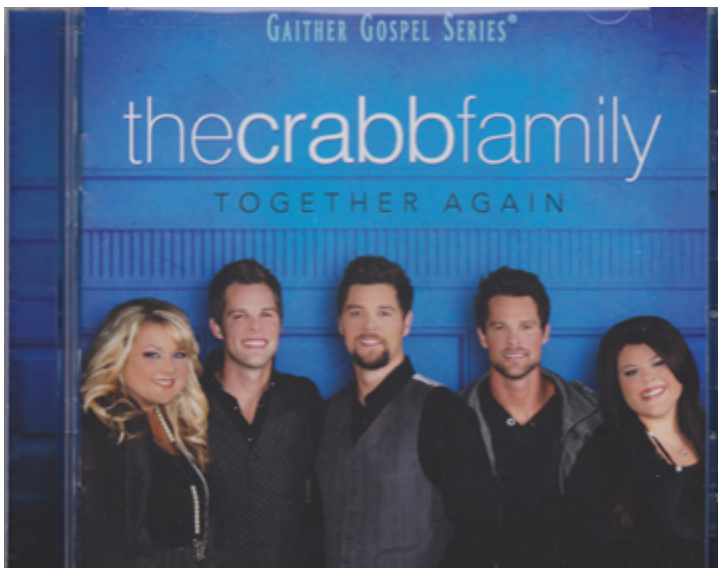
Twelve songs are a reward for any Bluegrass/Gospel music fan. Some original songs and other older ones that we're familiar with will have you singing along. The band is impressive and sets the pace for a great music adventure. Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent

are joined by Jeff Parker, Joe Dean, Christian Davis, BJ Cherryholmes, Key Chang and Harlan Gallinelli, playing and singing some of the best Bluegrass music you'll ever hear. These same gentlemen present a variety of vocal combinations and it just doesn't get any better than this, in this music genre.

"Living In The Kingdom of God," written by Jamie Dailey kicks off a very gratifying listening session. Wayne Haun and Caleb Collins wrote one of my favorites, "Peace That Covers All The Pain," and Dailey & Vincent sing an old song you will recall from the '80's, written by Arthur Smith, titled "The Fourth Man In The Fire." This group does an incredible job on this song.

Wrapping up the project is a song written by Dolly Parton; "Welcome Home" and an old song written by Carl Perkins, "Daddy Sang Bass." Both are treated royally by Dailey & Vincent. I like the variety of arrangements on all songs; some are true Bluegrass, others have a more traditional Gospel flavor with keyboards and horns, all fit well with the group's vocals.

Exciting music tracks, excellent song selections and distinctive vocal presentations are trademark for Dailey & Vincent and they do not disappoint with THE GOSPEL SIDE OF DAILEY & VINCENT.



TOGETHER AGAIN
The Crabb Family
Producers: Jason Crabb, Lorie Sikes, Michael Shade
Rowsey & Blaine Johnson
Gaither Music

Every Crabb Family fan has been anxiously awaiting this reunion project, and true to our expectations, it is a winner! The Crabb Family's vocal blend on strong message songs takes us down memory lane as we recall countless Crabb Family concerts and church services where the Holy Spirit ministered to each of us. The former hit songs along with accolades from their peers and fans have kept this family in our hearts, prayers and thoughts. Hearing them TOGETHER AGAIN is a blessing beyond measure.

"Back To The Front Porch," a song co-written by Sonya Isaacs, Jimmy Yeary and Jason Crabb, sets the pace for the album, and prepares our hearts for the message in each of the remaining nine songs. The song reminds us in the chorus that: "...there ain't nothin' better than love, faith and family together..."

A song that is so very uplifting is "God Has A Plan," written by Gerald Crabb and Don Poythress. No matter where we are or what we're experiencing, we need to remember; "God Has A Plan" for each of us and that plan is for our good and God's glory.

The testimony of each member of the group has remained strong; convicting the sinner, encouraging and uplifting the Christian, while pursuing their individual calling. This new recording and the limited tour dates they have scheduled have fans clamoring to once again be in service with The Crabb Family!

Your personal copy is available at their concerts and through www.thecrabbfamily.com.



THE NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION

Volumes 1 & 2

Reba & Dony McGuire

Producer: Dony McGuire

What a remarkable package of exceptional music! Two discs with twenty songs; some new and some pulled from three of the McGuire's older albums, provide inspiring music tracks and an assortment of vocal combinations; pure delight for the listener! Reba and Dony wrote or co-wrote all twenty songs on these discs, with the exception of one on disc two.

There is definitely something here to bless and uplift you, no matter what your need, or your music preference. I related specifically to "We Must Reach Out," "Ready For Battle," "Come On And Walk On The Water With Me," from disc one. Disc two has several that were an immense blessing: "Broken Vessels of Light," "A People Who Were Not" and especially "I See Jesus In You." We all should be that example!

I thoroughly enjoyed Dony's testimony and explanation of "The Only Snow I Care About (Is On A Frosty Mountain Peak.) You absolutely must hear this song, since he uses street names for drugs and drink that marred his life before God took control. His testimony is amazing and the song is remarkable.

The final song on the recording was written by the McGuire's and Rosie Greer, proclaiming the plan of salvation. From big musical productions to basic piano accompaniment, this CD set is everything one could ask for in a music presentation, including some of the most poignant songs you've heard in a while. Visit www.rambomcguire.com to experience THE NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION.

GOD IS THE ANSWER

Weatherford Quartet

Independent

This CD continues Lily Fern Weatherford's conversion of the older, best loved music of the Weatherford Quartet from record albums to CDs. GOD IS THE ANSWER is the third of these new releases.

The Weatherford Quartet, currently The Weatherfords, has often "been imitated, but never duplicated." The signature voice of Lily Fern Weatherford, along with her husband, Earl Weatherford, Glen Payne, Armond Morales and Henry Slaughter playing piano was one of the premier quartets in Gospel music in their early years. Today's Weatherfords continue that heritage with tight harmony and smooth vocal blend.

Singing on this CD are Earl, Lily Fern, Glen and Armond with Henry. Songs are "God Is The Answer," "Pass Me Not," one of my all-time favorites: "I'll Never Be Lonely Again," "Till The Last Leaf Shall Fall," "In His Time," "Amazing Grace," "Let The Lower Lights Be Burning," "Tenderly He Watches Over You" and "When I Got Saved."

These recordings may be ordered from Lily Fern's website, at www.lilyweatherford.com, or by calling the office at 404-484-7212.





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WITH A HEART FOR REVIVAL JOSH AND ASHLEY FRANKS

BY LAURA KENNEDY

From the ideal small town and rural heritage of Heflin, Alabama towards the picturesque and flowing Tennessee River, Josh and Ashley Franks welcome you to a little piece of Heavenly southern comfort from their home and ministry in Savannah, Tennessee. They are an anointed husband and wife team who, while they once traveled in separate solo ministries, are now united in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in its unwavering truth via song and evangelism.

It is indeed an incredibly exciting time in Southern Gospel music to see the younger generation passionately serving and singing. In my opinion, it's not a picture we see often enough these days but it is with a grateful heart that we, at SGN Scoops, invite you into the life, the love, and the heart of this dynamic duo; Josh and Ashley Franks.

JOSH FRANKS was led to travel and minister at a very young age. While as a soloist, known for his vocal ability, Josh won several of the top talent contests in our industry. He has an easy way of emceeing about him that relaxes and delights audiences. Yet what is one of the most distinguishing things about Josh, that truly sets him apart, is the powerful word of evangelism and the 'Holy-Ghost filled' services that are an integral part of this ministry. In that southern style uniquely Josh, he offers; "I'm not the

most popular preacher. I do not offer any sugar coating to the word of God. I believe and share that people need to get their hearts *right*... Not religious, but *righteous*."

"It has been quite some time since I have found such extraordinary talent and dedication in young Christian Artists, as I discovered in Ashley and Josh Franks, during a series of recording sessions that I had the pleasure of producing, just this past year! The chemistry between the two is impeccable ...vocally, mentally, spiritually. I was further astounded at how much I have in common with them musically and otherwise! I can't wait to work with them again. They are professional and moreover, very fun to be with. Always positive and open to suggestions! I love them both! I encourage anyone to go experience them in person and let the Lord bless you, through them..."

-James Gordon Freeze, Producer, Oasis Records, Florence, Alabama

In September 2006, Josh met the love of his life and they

married in December of 2007. ASHLEY EASLEY FRANKS had traveled with Hope's Journey for the previous 4 years; the successful group Ashley and her mother, Vonda Easley started. Sharing a very close bond with her mom, Ashley says, "She has been the biggest mentor in my life." Adding, "If it weren't for her, I wouldn't have ever known Jesus. She is a great woman of God." With a gentle and joyous spirit about her, Ashley delivers in song in a soft yet powerful and profound voice. And many of the songs sung by the Franks have been written by Ashley. God has wondrously given her the gift of expression in songwriting. Ashley adds, "I began keeping a journal in high school literally writing as much down of my own and others' experiences

"I recently had the opportunity to sit and watch Josh and Ashley Franks minister to an audience and I must say that I was thoroughly blessed by their wonderful presentation of the Gospel through song and testimony. These guys present the Good News of Jesus in a beautiful way. They are talented and personable and above all else, the love of the Lord is evident in their lives. I can highly recommend them without any fear of disappointment."

-Mark Bishop/Singer, Songwriter, National Recording Artist

that were laid on my heart, even my own prayers at times." Her latest recorded song, "Levi's Song," sung by Josh & Ashley reached #51 on the gospel music charts. Levi's story and witness for Christ is a moving display of the power and prayerful service no matter what painful circumstances are cast into your life.

About six to eight times a year, Josh promotes Southern Gospel Concert Events. He and Ashley have hosted groups such as The Booth Brothers, Gold City, The Chuck Wagon Gang, Bowling Family, The Kingsmen, Naomi & the Segos, The Freemans, Gerald Crabb, Dixie Echoes, The Talley Trio, The Whisnants, and Mark Bishop just to name a few. Additionally, he and Ashley minister in a full-time capacity with an average of 200 dates each year in camp meetings, crusades and churches and always sharing in evangelism and preaching. Fundamentally rooted in the word of God, the Franks are seeing powerful workings of the Holy Spirit, believing "Churches do want to see and experience revival. What we are charged with sharing to them is that before revival can happen in the world, it must first occur in the heart."

True soldiers of Christ and followers of His footsteps,

Josh and Ashley released their first project in March 2008 as a duet and also were nominated in the 2008 & 2011 Diamond Awards for Duet of the Year, the 2011 SESGMC Duet of the Year Award and 2011 Duet of the Year award in the SGM FanFair Awards. Subsequent recordings in 2009 titled, "All You Need is Jesus" and 2010's "Moving to the City" are a great collection of southern gospel messages; both eloquently moving as well as foot-stomping, goose-bump raising, hand-clapping movements of the Holy Spirit. Their 2011 offering of "Singin' Shoutin'" is barely staying in stock long enough to meet the requests of listeners.

On January 5, 2011, Josh & Ashley welcomed their first-born baby girl, PRISCILLA ROSE to the family and she is the delight of all that see her. Loving the affections of everyone she meets, Priscilla is showing her own affinity for the stage, often enjoying time with the microphone. Being exposed to the beautiful experience of worshipping the Lord in this manner will serve to become second nature to her as she continues to grow. I applaud the family that sings together, dwells in truth together and worships the Lord together. What a beautiful example of what it means to love the Lord with your whole heart.

Merging the voice and ministries of two soloists can be a transition that sometimes artists take years to accomplish. Yet, while both Josh and Ashley offer different takes on its effect on them, the vocal transition element has had a seemingly effortless quality about it. For Ashley, "It was completely different for me. I went from a group of four singers where I had actually never even spoken from the stage before, to marrying a preacher and sharing half of the stage load! Our voices clicked though. That was there from the beginning." By contrast, Josh says, "We molded with our voices. It worked! Although it was a totally different element in that it had just been me on the stage before, doing the whole service."

Through these incredible platforms, Josh and Ashley remain united in the belief that God has brought these two individuals together for a greater purpose, and that the message they have been charged with sharing to the lost is a continued effort of exercised faith. Exhibiting a confident expectation and focus for an outpouring of Revival, the heartfelt kind so that to anyone who hears the Gospel in word and in song, will then... out of that movement choose to respond. When that takes place inside the heart of a believer, it will be visibly manifested in a life giving and outwardly altering way.

For wherever the Spirit pours out Himself there will be: A *Renewal* whereby God touches the heart of a single individual, recalling unto them that sweet moment of salvation, the likes of which will then spill over into a *Revival* shown as God's touch on a community of faith

bearing believers (Can we say the church?). After the spirit of an individual bears witness to another and yet another, the offering, cast before them is truly ripened to rouse an *Awakening*. Then, and only then is there potential for the greater society to be impacted. Oh that we could see this in our lifetime! "A wonderful promise is living by Faith," Ashley says. "And as the scripture of Psalm 37 reveals in verse 25," Josh adds, "...I've never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread."

From Genesis to Revelation, Josh encourages to strive toward truth. He asks you this, "Do you really need to tell anyone that you are a Christian? Or don't you think they should be able to SEE that you are a Christian?" He continues; "The scripture of John 3:3 says that you must be born again to enter the kingdom of Heaven. True Salvation is a feeling, yes, but as such, comes with that feeling the conviction to changes in lifestyle and in ways of thinking, living, and being. It is not a way of the true salvation experience... It is THE way. Do so with your prayer life, inside your home, in your church and flowing through and out of your life."

Let your heart be alive... with the light of REVIVAL!

For more information on attending or helping to support the call of ministry, visit Josh and Ashley at; www.joshandashleyfranks.com



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A portrait of Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill. Joel, on the left, is a middle-aged man with graying hair, wearing a black jacket over a yellow shirt. LaBreeska, on the right, is a woman with voluminous white hair, wearing a blue top and a gold necklace. They are both smiling at the camera against a plain white background.

Songwriter Spotlight: Joel Hemphill

By Jennifer Campbell

The year was 1966. The place was Louisiana. The world of Southern Gospel Music would never be the same. For it was in this year and in this state that Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill wrote their very first song. Now, several hundred songs later, Joel and LaBreeska continue to follow the Lord's call on their lives to write inspiring lyrics that remind everyone that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us more than we could ever imagine.

"LaBreeska and I were pastoring a church in Louisiana," Joel said. "When I was 21, we took the pastorate in 1961 and pastored this church for 10 years. Candy was born the week I took the pastorate. But by 1966, we were praying and asking the Lord to give us an outreach in this little paper mill town where we were. We had 14,000 people in the town and we had a radio program. We had some church growth, but you win some and lose some, some move away. The oil

business was booming in Texas, so we lost a lot of people to Houston. When we'd get the kids graduated from high school, they'd move away to Houston. We just felt like we weren't growing like we wanted to or reaching as many people as we wanted to with our Gospel ministry of preaching. Of course, we always sang. LaBreeska and I sang from right after we were married in 1957. But we didn't think about writing songs. We began to pray and seek the Lord for a way to reach beyond this small town, and what the Lord sent was for us to write. The way it happened is LaBreeska and I would go together to the church to pray and ask Him. The apostle Paul said, 'Desire the best gift.' There are many gifts, whether it's teaching a school class or whatever our place is. So, we began to pray for some means to write."

Little did Joel and LaBreeska know that God would answer their prayers in a much

greater way than they ever dreamed would be possible. Since that time, they have written hundreds of songs and continue to travel the globe singing the Good News of the Gospel. All it took were two faithful servants praying to a faithful God, a God who knows just what we need when we need it. Joel tells the story of the day he wrote his very first song...

This particular day, LaBreeska couldn't go with me, she was up with the children. I went to the church alone and prayed and when I got up from praying, I just felt this song stirring in my spirit. And I went to the piano. I'm really not a piano player, but I can make a chord. So I began to write this song called 'The Way is Made.' And that's the first song I wrote. We didn't record it for a while, but a few days later, I wrote a song called 'The Point of No Return,' and a few days after that I wrote 'Not in a Million Years.' So I put those songs on a tape and sent them to Uncle Rusty Goodman, LaBreeska's uncle; we were close to them. I didn't hear from them for about two weeks. I began to think probably he didn't think much of my songs, and they just hated to tell me. But one day the phone rang and I was out mowing and LaBreeska came excited and said, 'Rusty's on the phone and he loves your songs.' So he told me, 'Joel, we're going to record those two songs in Nashville on our next album.' It was for the album called 'Bigger and Better' with the Goodmans and their bus on the cover. That was in 1966, so they paid our expenses, we came to Nashville to help them learn the songs, and they recorded 'The Point of No Return' and 'Not in a Million Years.' That's how we began to write.

Joel and LaBreeska's songwriting career flourished as God gave them songs such as "I Found a Better Way," "He Filled a Longing," and "Pity the Man." Joel said "Pity the man" was the sixth or eighth song he had written. It was recorded by the Goodmans, Gaithers, Speers, Blackwoods, and many other Southern Gospel artists. This song also received a nomination for a Dove Award. Joel said, "About six months later, I got a call from Marvin Norcross who was the Goodman's producer. We met in Nashville at that recording session and he said, 'Joel and LaBreeska, if you'll write for us, we will give you a recording contract,' so that was big stuff. Within about six months after hearing the Goodmans record, which was an exciting thing, we came back to RCA studio B, same place with some of the same musicians, and Marvin and Rusty produced our first album called 'The Country Gospel Style of Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill.'"

This album was the first of six albums that Joel and LaBreeska recorded with Canaan Records, and they also wrote for the Canaanland Music Publishing. In 1968, they bought their first bus. It was at this time that they began touring on the road, still pastoring their church with the help of an assistant until 1971. In 1972, they moved to Nashville. Joel says they kept on writing and it's been a continuous thing ever since.

While he has written hundreds of songs, Joel does have a favorite. He says that "Consider the Lilies" has been a comfort to him, helping remind him that our Heavenly Father loves him. He also said that this song reminds us not to worry. Joel said, "In our modern terms, Jesus said, 'Don't worry; take no thought. Consider what you're going to eat or wear, but don't worry about it because your Heavenly Father clothes the lilies and feeds the sparrows and you're worth more

than many sparrows.' So if He feeds the sparrows and clothes the lilies, He's going to take care of you. That was Jesus' lesson and that lesson has always moved me. We tend to worry. I think we've all been awake at two or three o'clock in the morning. Things look different in the middle of the night and worry is going to crowd in on us sometime. But our Lord Jesus gave us that assurance that our Heavenly Father loves us. John 3:16 says, 'For God so loved.' I John 3:1 says, 'What manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us.'"

The chorus of the song "Consider the Lilies" begins, "We have a Heavenly Father above, with eyes full of mercy and a heart full of love..." How precious and true are these words. Our Heavenly Father cares about us more than we could ever comprehend. He watches over the tiny little sparrow. Just think about how much more He cares about you and I. The lyrics to this song transcend all boundaries. Everyone has had a time in their life when they experienced worry. And what a comfort it is to be reminded that our Heavenly Father loves us unconditionally. Joel said, "I wanted to write a song that would not only comfort me, but would also comfort others. Our Heavenly Father does love us. He's not an absentee God. He's close by, at hand, a very present help. Not just a present help, but a *very* present help in times of trouble . . . God's blessed me to write several hundred songs. I'm not bragging in any way because He just let me hold the pen. But out of all the songs that I've written, it's my favorite because it comforts me to know that my Heavenly Father does love me."

Many years ago, Joel battled depression following cancer surgery and complications. In his testimony, he says that the enemy told him that God did not love him. "I lived for two years wondering, in depression,

thinking that maybe God didn't love me. I've had my failures," Joel said, "we all have. So I guess that's why 'Consider the Lilies' means so much to me, because every time I sing it, I'm reminded that my Heavenly Father does love me, and I know for sure that He does. I've never doubted it since He healed me in church November 8, 1982, and I've never had another day of depression. I've never had another doubt that my Father in Heaven loves me. It's desperately needed and totally undeserved."

This song has been a blessing to many people around the globe. Joel tells the story of a plane that went down in Florida several years ago. He said they aired the memorial service live on CNN. Two songs were sung at this service: "Amazing Grace" and "Consider the Lilies." Joel said, "That ministered to me greatly because in that manner, I was able to minister to those hurting people. Again, God just let me hold the pen. I always know that God lets me write beyond myself, but 'Consider the Lilies' is probably my greatest proof of that. When I look back on that song, it doesn't feel like I wrote it. I know I did, but I know I wrote beyond myself."

"Consider the Lilies" is also a song that is often sung to celebrate the Easter season. Joel said that the first thing that comes to mind when he thinks of the Easter season is "the death, burial, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ was the perfect Sacrifice. He was and is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Joel added, "The Bible says He was proved to be the Son of God by the Resurrection from the dead. Jesus only gave one sign . . . Paul said without the Resurrection, we would have no salvation. 'Because He lives,' Bill Gaither said it in that beautiful song, 'Because He Lives,' we will live forever. But I've always loved Easter. It's a very

special time in lots of ways, but mainly it's about Jesus."

When asked how he and LaBreeska spend Easter, Joel said they usually attend church on this special day. He said, "Of course, everybody tries to dress their best. I think when we go to church, it's not about how we dress, but I like to give God my best. The trend is in another direction these days, but to me, church is a very special place and Easter is a very special day. For most Christians, I'm sure it's not about dressing better than someone else; it's about a day of celebration and giving God your best. It's a very special day. I saw a church marquee once, about a week and a half before Easter. It said, 'Come to church this Sunday and avoid the Easter rush.' So a lot of people feel religious on Easter, but that's okay. Maybe they'll get something Easter Sunday that'll bring them back again and again."

How true it is that one visit to church could bring someone back again and again. All it takes is for a single seed to be planted. "Seed has life," Joel said, "and I've seen seed grow through asphalt and up through the cracks of concrete. The seed is the Word, Jesus said, and it has life. However they receive it, if it's in church or through a Gospel song on Gospel radio, it's important for us to keep telling the Good News. I tell them I'm in sales, not in management, so I just do my best to scatter the seed and God will take care of the management."

Undoubtedly, Joel and LaBreeska have a heart for Jesus. They want to see lives changed and souls saved. And as Joel says, he just scatters the seed. God is working through their ministry in such amazing ways. They are excited to have a new avenue to preach and sing the Good News on the Family Friendly Network. They have taped six programs so far and they have received good response. From

their new television program to an upcoming conference in Germany as well as a trip to the Congo, God is doing great things in their lives.

Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill have been an inspiration to an infinite number of people. Their heartfelt passion for sharing the love of Jesus with others is contagious. The lyrics of their songs reach down into the depths of our hearts. And their love for each other is only surpassed by their love for the Lord. Joel said to our readers, "Give them our love. The older we get, the more we love and appreciate our friends. I don't think we've ever called them our fans; they're friends. I think that's one thing about growing older. LaBreeska and I don't plan to be old, but we are older and as we grow older, we appreciate our friends more than ever. We've never been more excited about Jesus and one another than we are today. We're coming up on our 55th wedding anniversary on June 28th. That's an amazing thing. We've been in ministry about 53 years of that. We just love the Lord, love our friends, and love one another."

CONTRIBUTORS

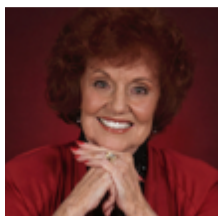
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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern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



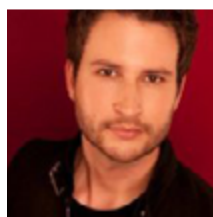
Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties, she was the first woman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

www.themansionentertainment.com

www.avidgrouppublishing.com

www.thepathwayrecords.com

www.johnmathisjr.com



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

Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational

blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at

<http://jennifercampbell.net>



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.

CONTRIBUTORS

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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 SGNscoops and is the artist coordinator for The Diamond

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



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

Raised in Charlotte, North Carolina around the 5th Sunday night sings at church; that hand clappin', foot stompin', spirit flowing rhythm of harmony stirs me to moments of Heaven on Earth. Believing it is still about the music, God has given me a heart for writing and a platform to learn from my heroes as well as sharing their ministry to expand their touch to others. Listen with your heart and hear the gentle, yet assured voice of our Father speaking to your heart, and be blessed!



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

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

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

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