

JANUARY 2021

SGN

SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



3 HEATH BROTHERS

PAUL HEIL | THE KINGSMEN | THROUGH THE ARTISTS' EYES

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OUR MISSION

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

Publisher- Rob Patz

Copy Editors- Joan Walker, Craig Harris

Feature Editor- Craig Harris

Layout/Design- Pete Schwager, Staci Schwager

Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley

Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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THE HYSSONGS



THE HYSSONGS



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on the
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Thank you for playing our newest single

“Turn To The Cross”

From the CD *Claim Every Promise*
written by Shane Roark

For more information, bookings and music visit www.thehyssongs.com

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Psalms 5:3 says, “In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.”

How many of us spent December 2020 waiting for 2021, expecting it to be much better than what we have dealt with over the last 12 months? If you want to raise your hand right alongside me, you can.

December was a month of many special things, but my eye was always on the calendar expecting that 2021 was going to be a year of change for all of us. We believe that it's going to be a year that God is going to restore events and concerts and bring back people to church.

I was reminded over the holiday season about how this magazine has changed my life in so many ways. We celebrated 11 years of owning SGN Scoops magazine. It has been an incredible 11 years, and I have watched God put his hand upon our magazine and guide us through different transitions.

While many of us would love things to remain the same, God never intends us to get so firmly planted in the current that we are not looking forward to what he has in store for us in the future.

Through this coming year you will see many new writers and many new features with our magazine as we continue to grow. We will be incorporating new things, but be assured of this: we will never lose our core which is southern gospel music.

I want to challenge you over the next 30 days to pray and expect God to move in your life and in your ministry. This is your moment.

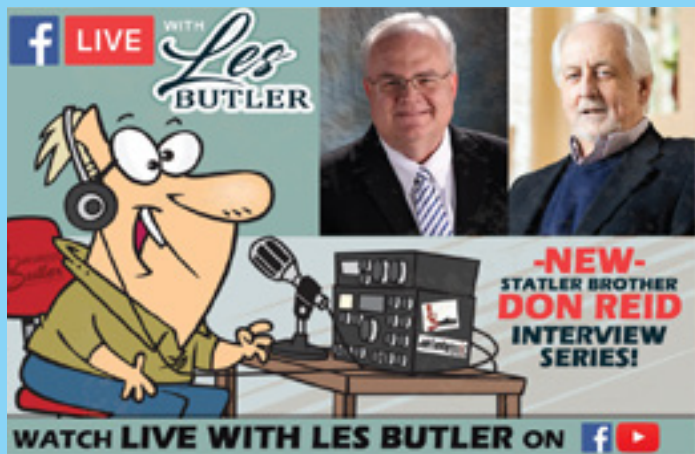
Every single one of you are friends – you are people that I hold dear, people whom I have met through my

time in this industry – and I want to encourage you. As my dad used to say, if God is for us who can be against us!

I would love for you to join us for Creekside Revival March 24-27, 2021, in beautiful Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Also, I hope to see you in Oxford, Alabama, at Southern Gospel Weekend on March 18-20.

This is our year. Stand with me in agreement, and let's pray for one another each day.



THE LOWE DOWN WITH JEFF LOWE



The Kingsmen

40th Anniversary Reunion LIVE

Label: Horizon Records

Producer: Chris Roberts and Scott Whitener

Release Date: December 18, 2020/Available now

Songs on this project:

53 tracks with introductions and dialogue

I Will Meet You in the Morning
Daddy Sang Bass
Closer to Thee
Just as the Sun Went Down
Fa Sol La Song
Gone
Jesus I Love You
Love Will Roll the Clouds Away
Old Time Christian
Glory Road
Look for Me at Jesus Feet
Love Lifted Me
When I Wake Up
It Made News in Heaven
Hello Mama

I Can't Even Walk
On Some Sweet Day
I've made a Covenant with My Lord
Don't Be Knocking

When They Call My Name
It'll Be Different
Lovely Name of Jesus
We Do Not Die
Shake Hands with a Poor Boy
Excuses
Beautiful Home
Child Child
Saints Will Rise
When Mama Prayed
A Place Where the Hungry Are Fed
Go and Tell Somebody
He's All I Need
Life's Railway to Heaven
Cross Has Won Again
Ridin' High
Medley: How Beautiful Heaven Must Be/Wish You
Were Here
I Will Rise Up From My Grave

In 1995 at the National Quartet Convention, The Kingsmen got together with past alumni to record a reunion album called 40th Anniversary Reunion Live. There were some great songs that were omitted from the project along with all of the introductions and dialogue. Now, some twenty-five years later, Crossroads has pulled those missing tracks, including all or the original intros and dialogue, and remastered and remixed that original project. A few of the songs missing from the original version were "The Cross Has Won Again," "When I Wake Up to Sleep No More" and Kingsmen fan-favorite "Love Lifted

Me”.

While I enjoyed listening to the original version of this project, I missed the jokes and stories of Big Jim Hamill, especially that always funny introduction of the “Little Giant” Ernie Phillips on the song “We Do Not Die” which I consider to be the strongest of the project. In my opinion, Ernie is one of the all-time greatest tenors. I always found it hard to believe all those high notes could come out of him! Nobody does them like Little Ernie! The weakest on the project, in my opinion, is “Look for Me at Jesus Feet.” I can’t believe I’m saying that as it is one of my favorite songs with some great lyrics. Overall, this is a great project and long overdue. I don’t know what the original thinking was in omitting some of the songs along with the dialogue; it kind of defeats the purpose of a “live” project in my mind. For me this was a stroll down memory lane listening to the old songs and the original members of the group that sang them.

I was thrilled, when I first heard this project was being released as I have been a long-time fan of The Kingsmen. In fact, they were one of the first groups, along with The Inspirations, that got me hooked on Southern Gospel music and wanting to sing in a

quartet. I can still remember the first time I heard the Kingsmen live. With those big endings, Little Ernie in the rafters and Ray Dean’s smooth bass, it was nothing short of exciting. Squire’s huge voice on “It Made News in Heaven” or Ray Dean on “Shake Hands With A Poor Boy” you couldn’t help but fall in love with this quartet.

Final Notes

I am sure if you’re a Kingsmen fan you have been looking forward to this re-release as much as I have.



An all male gospel group from Dalton, GA is seeking a tenor singer to join the group. Master Peace Quartet usually has about 70 appointments per year. The position will require some overnight travel. MPQ is praying and seeking the man God has for us. Applicants must be able to testify of their salvation and have a heart for ministry.

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THE Williamsons

www.williamsonsmusic.com

Our latest release: “Give Them Jesus”, written by Gerald Crabb and Lee Black.

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Go to: <https://familymusicgroup.com/williamsons-contest>



The project will be available on all streaming platforms as well as CD, be sure and grab your copy today!



The Chitans

Set Apart

Label: Horizon / Crossroads

Producer: Roger Talley

Release Date: November 20, 2020/Available Now

Songs on this project:

Jesus Is Moving / Writers: Richard and Sandy Blythe

I Will Say / Writers: Debbie Davis, Bernadette Negus

Set Apart / Writers: Richard and Sandy Blythe

Feet To My Faith / Writers: Jason Ellsworth, Mark Hawkins, Fawn Jacobs

Running To Jesus / Writers: Lee Black, Sue C Smith

Just What I Need / Writer: Lynn C Robbins

Home / Writers: Melissa Brady, Sue C Smith, Kenna West

New Thing / Writers: Laura Blankenship, Bernadette Negus

This Blood / Writers: Rita Springer, Paulette Wooten

Shine Your Light / Traditional

The Chitans, a family group based out of Toronto, Canada, travel the world, spreading the gospel in their unique style of Southern Gospel music. The Chitans' music is a mix of progressive gospel, black gospel and a pinch of Caribbean tossed in. They have been blessed to have sung at religious, cultural, human rights and civic gatherings throughout Canada, the United States — including at The White House and on Capitol Hill — Kenya (Africa), the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, and to heads of state in Jamaica, Grenada, Bermuda and Canada. In July of 2012, the family received a Congressional Award

from the United States of America for volunteer work done on the streets of Brooklyn, New York.

The group is comprised of Kayandra Chitan, soprano and lead vocals, Kaiziah Chitan, alto vocals, Jesse Chitan, lead and tenor vocals, Jayden Chitan, baritone and bass, and harmony, Karlainah Chitan. Set Apart is the recently released, debut project by The Chitans. The project features tracks that are a solid mix of both traditional and progressive Southern Gospel.

The project kicks off with the medium tempo “Jesus Is Moving” and features Kaiziah and Kayandra singing about the life changing power of Jesus Christ.

Kaiziah is featured on “I Will Say.” We’re not promised a life of ease where storms never rage against. He never promised that trials would never come but He is always with us. His mercy is there to carry us through those trials and troubles.

The title track “Set Apart” features Kaiziah and Kayandra. As His children we are called to live separate from the world – set apart and sanctified.

Jesse takes the lead on the next song that reminds us to put our faith in action. Don’t just say you believe, don’t just claim you have faith, show it! Get out there and take action, share Christ every chance you get. “Feet To My Faith” is an uplifting song of encouragement.

When the burdens pile up, when Satan comes knocking at your door and tries to tear you down, it’s time to do as Kayandra, Jesse, Kaiziah and Karlainah say and go “Running To Jesus” to get you through and give you the victory!

Kaiziah and Kayandra remind us that He is “Just What I Need” when the storms rage, when our souls are dry and thirsty, He is there. Just as He was there in the fire, He is there with us. What a blessed promise to know that no matter what comes, He will be there. Lynn Robbins penned this powerful song of faith and is one of my favorites from this project.

Kayandra sings about that blessed day of finally being “Home.” Secure, no more heartaches or tears, just sweet peace and joy in the presence of our Lord. Another of my favorites.

The upbeat “New Thing” – the promise from Christ to lead us through – features Karlainah.

Kaiziah and Kayandra are featured on the powerful song “This Blood” which talks of the life giving, soul changing power of His blood – the blood He shed to wash over us and give victory over death, hell and the grave.

Karlainah and Kaiziah urge you to “Shine Your Light” for Jesus, be a beacon for Christ.

Wrap up:

Set Apart is a strong debut project for The Chitans. Roger Talley as producer nailed it. Each song is arranged to fit each singer. The tracks are clean and the vocals all strong. Family harmony is hard to beat. I

look forward to hearing a lot more from The Chitans.

Rating:

4 stars out of 5

Writer Favorites:

Just What I Need

Home

This Blood

Strongest Track(s):

Just What I Need

Set Apart

Home

This Blood

Weakest Track(s):

New Thing

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The 3 Heath Brothers are Choosing Life

by Kristen Stanton



In a world of darkness, there is a light.

In a world filled with death, there is life.

And when they sing the lyrics, “we will stand for the truth, we will stand for the right” they aren’t just singing words.

They are declaring their mission.

Their personal mission to fight.

It is their goal to help the world see Christ, and as a result, to choose life.

There is nothing ordinary about The 3 Heath Brothers. With their own spin on gospel music, this teenage trio is lighting up the stage wherever they go. They are young. They are energetic. They are hip. And they are helping to usher in a new era in gospel music.

Hailing from Thomasville, North Carolina, when they are not on the road, Nicholas, Clayton, and Christian can often be found singing at the church their Father

currently pastors – Faith Community Chapel – which features the largest drive through live nativity in the state of North Carolina. In 2019, over 7000 people drove through it.

Although the boys are just teenagers, as preacher’s kids, they have been involved in ministry for most of their lives. Early on, their mother used to sit them down and teach them parts to songs. Singing at their dad’s church growing up, people began calling which then birthed their travel ministry about three years ago. “We aren’t doing it because we enjoy it. We do enjoy it, and have fun with anything we do, but it wasn’t in our plans necessarily. We are doing it out of obedience to what we feel God is calling us to,” they shared.

With three albums already available in their short career, the most recent is their debut album with Horizon Records entitled *Who We Are* which has been produced by Roger Talley and orchestrated by Nicholas Heath. In many ways, *Who We Are* has been a breakthrough album that has opened new doors of ministry, allowing The 3 Heath Brothers to convey the truth of everlasting life in different ways. With songs like “We

Choose Life”, “Dream Small”, “Smell of Smoke”, and “Give it to Jesus” that speak to the heart of the gospel, they continue to penetrate the hearts of listeners, old and young. “We sing and enjoy a cappella. That’s how we started, but we also sing with tracks and Nicholas plays the piano. We like a variety of styles and do a variety in concerts, but our goal is the message and pointing people to God.”



God is using three teenage boys to reach other teens in a way adults cannot. God has a plan for everyone. And at this point, for the 3 Heath Brothers, those plans involve reaching out to other teens who may be struggling. They’ve had the unique experience of being able to sing in school assemblies which they often talk about during concerts.

“There was a kid we will call him ‘Jason’ [who] told us that the day we came and sang at his school was the same day he was taken out of his home by the authorities for child abuse from his own parents. With tears in his eyes, he asked if we could pray for him. Watching God work in so many kids’ lives through this ministry has really put a burden on our hearts to go back, and we are currently raising money to just that.” The 3 Heath Brothers are helping teens just like “Jason” choose life.

In the midst of a pandemic, even with cancellations, the 3 Heath Brothers are still out ministering, whether it be via social media or at their home church. They were also the winners of the 2020 Best Young Film-

makers award for their “Smell of Smoke” music video portraying the story of the fiery furnace at the Christian Worldview Film Festival. Nicholas also won the 2020 Composer of the Year for short films in his first attempt at putting music to film. With a passion not just for singing but also for the piano, composing, and orchestration, Nicholas is just letting God lead and open the doors He wants him to walk through. “We’ve always prayed that God would open the doors that are supposed to be opened and shut the doors that are supposed to be shut.”

And walking through open doors has become a way of life for these brothers. They recall one such incident. “We were at Dollywood for a fun day because our family had passes and he [Arthur Rice] saw our shirts and went backstage and googled us!” The 3 Heath Brothers were called up on stage to sing an a cappella song and sung their way into the hearts of the audience. “He [Arthur Rice] has remained a dear friend and mentor ever since.”

In 2018 they won the Grand Champion Trophy at the North Carolina State Annual Singing Convention. In addition to performing at Dollywood, they have sung at the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove, and have been on the main stage at Singing in the Sun and the Gatlinburg Gathering. They have also had the opportunity to share the stage with notables like The Talleys and The Booth Brothers.

But their growing list of accolades is not what is so captivating about this talented group. Although their harmonies are tight and their music spans the generation gap, it is also not just that which endears them to their audiences. Rather, it is their reflection of Christ. It is the fact that they not only sing about the hope that can be found in Christ, but they depict it in their own lives.

One of their recently released music videos, “We Choose Life,” portrays their hearts more than anything else. “We Choose Life” is an inspirational song written just for The 3 Heath Brothers. Drawing from their own personal experience, they want to convey the message that we must stand up for what is right. We must stand for life. They recount the story of how their own parents were faced with the option to terminate the pregnancy because the doctors said that one of the twins had stopped growing. Instead of taking what the world

would consider the best option and terminating the pregnancy, they opted to accept whatever God had given them, knowing that God ultimately was in control. The result – twins, Christian and Clayton, who are now both on the stage and on the road singing as part of The 3 Heath Brothers. It's a beautiful reminder of God's promises that he always has a plan for everything.

the truth about the One who knows exactly where they are and who has a plan for them even in the midst of what sometimes appears to be chaos.

Chaos seems to be running rampant today. The world seems out of control, and life is full of uncertainty. But God is still in control. In the song "Give It to Jesus" – a



The 3 Heath Brothers are very vocal in their stance regarding abortion. They are living proof that God is in control, and they want to take every opportunity that they can to remind others of the same thing. When we see only flaws, God sees potential. When the doctors see medical uncertainty, God sees opportunity – opportunity to show his sovereignty and power. For The 3 Heath Brothers, they understand that their personal story has the ability to transform life. It has the ability to sway that mother that is on the brink of terminating her pregnancy. It has the ability to bring hope to that person facing a situation that seems hopeless. The 3 Heath Brothers are conveying their story and believing that God will use it to lead their audience to choose life.

The 3 Heath Brothers are choosing life spiritually as well. They are choosing to infuse the lives of others with life through the truth of the Living God. Through the truth about the One who created them. Through

song that has become more relevant today than he ever imagined – Nicholas penned,

Bring all your chaos

Bring all your stress

Bring all the words you wish could be unsaid

Bring it all and give it to Jesus

God has a bigger plan. No matter what you are going through, God knows where you are. The 3 Heath Brothers use this song to remind the listeners that God can take your mistakes and bring you forth as gold from the midst of your trials. "No matter what you are going through or what you are facing, you can always give it all to Jesus."

These teens are helping those around them who don't



teenage boys truly are a light in the darkness. Armed with the gospel, they are on a mission to fight darkness, to speak truth against the great deceiver. Their goal? To deliver you to the Creator, the Healer, the Savior, the Defender that can change your situation in the blink of an eye. And their message resonates: Choose Life. You can find the 3 Heath Brothers

know how to handle the chaos satan creates to just give it to Jesus. These brothers are helping those they come in contact with to see how God can work even in the smallest details. This young trio is helping those facing uncertainty to choose life.

With ready smiles and hearts that care, these three

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Their music is also available on Youtube, Apple Music, Spotify, and Pandora.

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DJ Spotlight

David Brown



by Vonda Armstrong

This month we are shining the DJ Spotlight on David Brown from Harbor Radio. It was great catching up with David. I know you'll enjoy reading about this awesome DJ.

Vonda Armstrong: How did you get involved in radio?

David Brown: I actually started in Radio back in 1989, my uncle hosted a 2 hour weekly southern gospel show on a local country station Sunday evenings from 8–10 pm. I remember each week, my role in the show was to do the weather, and occasionally he would be absent due to obligations at his church, then I would get to do the whole show. I was always so excited and nervous at the same time. In addition to the southern gospel program, we were announcers for local high school sports for the radio station – what great memories. I would have never dreamed back in those days that I would own my own internet radio station and run one 24/7. But it has truly always been in my “blood” and I am very thankful that God opened the door for Harbor Radio and is blessing us – it is amazing how fast it has grown and the out-reach.

VA: If you could visit anywhere in the United States, where would you go? Why?

DB: That is a challenging question – I have been blessed to sing with my family for close to 30 years. Currently, I sing the tenor part for our group Souls Harbor. God has allowed us to travel to so many different places over the years. In 2019 we actually took a trip from Michigan all the way to California and back. I can't remember the count of how many states we drove through and the sites we saw, but I would have to say my all-time favorite place to travel to is Tennessee. Living in Michigan we see corn and wheat fields pretty much all the time when we travel, so when we get to travel south and cross over that Ohio line into KY we know the hills are starting and we get to see God's beautiful handiwork in those Great Smoky Mountains. I remember many times when we would travel to Tennessee, my wife Joy and I would head out of town and travel the backroads. We would literally turn off the GPS and just try to get lost in the hills. We would find little babbling brooks or even waterfalls. Oftentimes, we would pull off on a shoulder, roll the windows down and turn the car off and just listen to the water flowing and the sound of nature. It is so peaceful. There is nothing like a quiet ride through the hills of Tennessee and viewing God's masterpiece.

VA: When is your show on and can we listen online?

DB: I host the Rise and Shine Southern Gospel morn-

ing show on Harbor Radio, Monday through Friday 8–10 am eastern standard time. There are many different platforms that you can listen to the show/station on – and they are all FREE – and stream southern gospel programming 24/7. You can download the FREE LIVE365 app on your phone and then search for “MY HARBOR RADIO”; you can also go to our website www.myharborradio.com then click LISTEN NOW on the home page. The other way to listen to the Rise and Shine Southern Gospel Morning Show is to go to our website (www.myharborradio.com) and click LIVE. We have an anonymous sponsor that pays for this LIVE Video which also has a Chat room so



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that we can interact during the show. This allows us to have a consistent stream of our program and not have to worry about the interruptions and disconnects that happen on Facebook.

VA: Who is your all-time favorite group? Why?

DB: No hesitation there – Greater Vision. I’ve always enjoyed their harmony and their arrangements. Their songs are powerful and I have always enjoyed their music. On a side note to that, I have always been a fan of southern gospel music and with our music ministry and now Harbor Radio – I also promote southern gospel music here in Southeast Michigan. I have been promoting for over 20 years and have had the opportunity to host GV multiple times as well as the Gerald Wolfe’s Hymn Sing. Getting to meet my heroes one on one, I was not disappointed in seeing their hearts for the ministry and for God are not just something you see on stage, but something they live in their daily lives. I was able to see that they live what they sing.

VA: If you could interview any person in the world, who would you pick? Tell us why.

DB: This one is hard, I truly have been blessed over the years to interview many people and feel honored to have done so. If I were to have to pick one, I guess it would have been Glenn Payne. I realize you are probably thinking of someone in the world “today” – but of all the interviews I have done – he is one that I wish I could have done. For many years, I did not know that Glenn was the actual “owner” of The Cathedrals. I had always thought, based on him always being out front, it was George himself. I would love to have been able to interview Glenn and ask one question, with two parts. The question would be – Glenn, what was it that you saw in George Younce that you

were willing to step back and allow him to play the major role that he played with emceeing and being the “face” of the group? Part two – what would you say is the key to having that success with a partner in the industry today, because it just seems so many are hard to connect with in the way they did with both the fans as well as other groups in the industry.

Thank you, David, for sharing with us this month!





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For the Sake OF MUSIC

by Charlie Griffin

Gospel music as we know it umbrellas many flavored styles of music genres – from southern gospel to traditional, contemporary, bluegrass, country, and even to the elements of rock gospel.

Although there are many styles in Christian music, the common denominators are people and the love of the music. No other form of music offers the message of change and hope like a Christian or gospel song.

The effect of gospel music on the soul, heart and mind is lasting. For many, it is a lifetime. And in many cases, there are many things we do for the love of the music. Or as Granny said, “For music’s sake.”

As I think back on my life, I fondly remember as a young teenager singing in church with the choir and church quartet, getting on the Singing Winebargers’

bus with my cousin as he sang with them. Or working up a storm to establish the Singing Americans on radio and in concert venues with noted legacy promoters. Or getting on the Vanguard’s bus going to sing with my extended brotherhood in a gospel group. Or cooking, cleaning, and emceeing for consecutive sold out dinner concerts at the Hallelujah Supper Club on Friday and Saturday nights.

I think back on the times where there were flat tires on the side of a mountain road.

A bus breaking down on the way home from a church singing in what seemed like the middle of nowhere.

Crawling under a bus to fix diesel lines, prime a bus to crank because the fuel gauge quit working and we were on “E” on the roadside of HWY 74 in Nantahala National Forest.

Or the bus didn’t crank, so we loaded up equipment, instruments, clothes and merchandise in 3 cars to go sing hours away from home. Towed the bus to the local Detroit garage (30 miles away) only to find out the engine blew in the freezing cold of the Dakotas. Hotel reservations were made but only to find out the hotel was overbooked and there was “no room in the inn.”

The things we encountered could not stop us from singing gospel music.

I think back when working with the Singing Americans of a time when Greg Bentley and I drove to Canton, Georgia, to take voice lessons from the





“Professor” LeRoy Abernathy. Those Wednesday trips were 8.5 hours round trip each just to take one hour of voice lessons from the ol’ professor. Or when I drove weekly to Greensboro, North Carolina, to take voice from renowned Oratorio Society founder Don Trexler.

Why do people – gospel singers – do these things? There are many answers. To improve and refine our music and vocal skill. To share the calling that is deep within our soul. To sing. To make music. Most singers will agree it is for the love of the music.



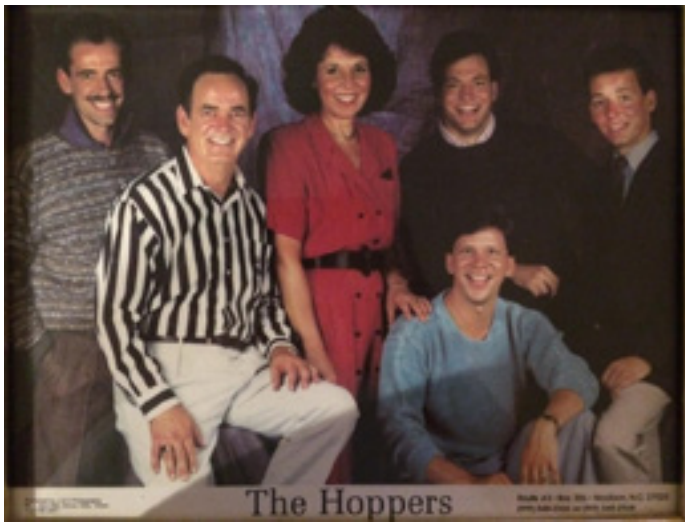
Crossroad Label Group Gospel Artist Relations Director, Greg Bentley, shares, “I remember those

drives. Meeting up at the Singing Americans office and off we would go on Wednesday nights. I absorbed so much from him. I also remember the first time I heard the Goodmans with Johnny Cook in person. Obviously as a tenor, I looked up to him and wanted to sing just like him. I’d worn out his albums, but to get to hear them in person was amazing. But probably the moment that stands in my memory the most, was the very first night I stood on stage to sing with the Hoppers. I was scared to death, had only had 48 hours’ notice they wanted me to fill in. Literally spent all day and night cramming to learn the songs for that first night because I wanted to do it right. I mean, It Was The Hoppers!”

He continues, “Looking back reliving so many wonderful days, weeks and years, so many lifelong friendships that I’ve had the privilege to make. I’m reminded that God does give us the desires of our hearts when we put our lives in His hands. As I’ve seen the way He’s directed my path, even at times when it was not the way I would have preferred, the outcome has always been for my best and for His glory.”



Bentley shares the feelings of many who travel and sing gospel music. He recounts, “There have been a few times in my life that I’ve thought I need to do something else for a living. Like is always said, “Get A Real Job”! But every time I considered it; God would remind me of why I love the music. So, I guess it has influenced me to not always look at what I want to do for me, but what I can do for others through my life.



Even though I am not traveling and singing now, I still feel the calling to share God's love through music, and that is by helping other artists through the recording side. Yes, it is a business, but to me, it is also still a ministry."

Gospel music takes many twists and turns in an artist's life. Take Bill Traylor, for example. He attended the National Quartet Convention in 1974 and was smitten. He served as a youth choir director, soloist and was part of a regional group called Decision before joining The Downings. In later years, he would sing with southern gospel notables Herman Harper, Joe Thrasher and Ben Speer in the Homeland Quartet as he developed, encouraged and directed the Cathedrals, Speers, Singing Americans, Hemphills, Gold City, Kingsmen and countless others in the southern gospel music world. Whether as a TV host, music executive or singer, gospel music is a lifelong gift and journey for Bill Traylor.

Now N'Vision Entertainment CEO, Traylor says, "The deep study of the Word is what directs my life and daily walk. My choices in life are only impacted by gospel music in accordance to what I wanted to achieve such as the signing of a particular artist or the starting of a new company. After touring with the Downings, I walked into the Benson company on July 5, 1978, knowing I was just entering the rest of my career. I am still walking in the music after many joys and a few roadblocks that have not stopped me. That music gift would be the joy and gratification I have received doing something that honors our Heavenly Father and brings encouragement and peace to so many as well as myself. I love Gospel Music because of the message and the passion by which it is sung."

A gospel music lover is challenged to go outside their comfort level as the music shares hope for the down-

trodden. Through the music, the challenge is to share the Good News of Christ with those you meet along your journey.

Gospel Music Today hosts Ken and Jean Grady state, "Gospel music preaches the sermons that cannot have the same impact if spoken. This type of music reaches the heart and touches special memories or special occasions in our life. Just like scripture, the songs may have different meanings for us at different stages in our life. Specifically, for me, gospel music has been the healing balm during rocky times in my life and has also been the encouragement to keep moving on for Christ. Sometimes, a song will help spur me on to speak to someone that I may not have done in the past. The music gives us courage and hope that we can share. On the other hand, because I am a gospel music lover, I need to make sure that my life reflects the love of Christ (and that isn't always easy to do)."

Long time gospel music fan, D Ann Bailey says, "Over the years, I have written for various publications, promoted concerts, cooked and delivered food,



driven countless miles to support and hear some of my friends and favorite artists. I have taken cruises, bus trips, gone to NQC and driven to concerts across the nation. Through health emergencies, car breakdowns and just life, gospel music has remained constant. I have always been touched, encouraged

and challenged through gospel music and those who sing it, those who work behind the scenes and through their lives. In fact, in the hardest times of my life, gospel music - those friends have been there for me. The music with those friends and singers in it are family to me.”

What we do just for the music's sake provides us with more than we could ever give. It is for our sake. In the realm of gospel music, we find great joy, comfort, hope, entertainment, humor, energy and talent. But it is the desires of the heart, friendships, life-long actions and our focus that drive artists, industry executives and fans in our music to do more for the music's sake. We do it all for music's sake. And we will do it again and again.

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Beyond the Song

with Mary Burke

by Jantina Baksteen



It was great to have Mary Burke once again in Beyond the Song, as she has a new single on radio, off of her album "Talk To God."

In the last interview, Mary shared about the tragic accident her husband David was involved in. Now we continue the conversation in this interview.

Jantina Baksteen: Mary, you literally grew up in Gospel music and you have been touring as soloist for five years now. What is it like to do what you love doing the most, sharing the gospel through song?

Mary Burke: I really enjoy traveling and ministering the gospel through song and testimony. I am encouraged every opportunity that I have, and love to bless others, and they bless me in the process.

JB: Your husband was involved in a tragic accident years ago that disabled him. How did you get through this? How do you use this in your ministry?

MB: My husband's accident has helped me realize how short life is and that it is important to take one day at a time. It has also made me realize that I need to make sure to speak life and to love my husband no matter what. It is so easy to find flaws in a person but I want to be the one to find the greatness in people, and especially in my husband and our children.

JB: What life lesson have you learned through this difficult process you and your family went through?
MB: The lesson that I have learned through all of this is to never take life or a person for granted; to cher-

ish each moment given, and like I mentioned before, to look for the good qualities in a person and speak life, not death. It is so easy to find flaws, but it takes a little effort and kindness to find the good in a person.

JB: Can you say the mess you were in turned into a message?

MB: The mess has definitely turned into a message of hope and healing and love. David was broken, and during his most broken times is when we realized we needed a savior and that he was the only way we would make it. We never lost hope and we depended upon the Lord for the strength needed each and every day. David was broken but the Lord is able to use him for his glory, and (he) allows David to encourage others who may be dealing with brokenness in their life.

JB: Do your boys show interest to follow in your footsteps, either as singer or songwriter?

MB: Our boys have their own paths, and they are all such a blessing to me and David. They are not in ministry full time but are definitely doing what God has called them to do and love the Lord.

JB: You put out a new song to radio from your latest project, "Talk to God," that's called "I'm My Father's Daughter." Please tell us about it.

MB: The song "I'm My Father's Daughter," is a song I chose because I have had a road of discovery. I have travelled along this life in search for my biological father. I realized along the way that what really matters is who I am in Christ, and he is my Heavenly Father with a purpose and a plan for my life. He is able to use any kind of brokenness and turn it for his good.

JB: What does this song mean to you personally?

MB: This song means everything to me because I am who I am because of me being my Father's daughter. He formed me in my mother's womb and used two broken vessels for such a (child) as me. He has proven his love toward me time and time again and it is because of him that I can say who and whose I am.

JB: How can listeners relate to this song who have no father figure in their lives?

MB: The listeners may feel like they don't have an earthly father and may feel that they don't have purpose but they do. It is a wonderful time in someone's life when they realize that God uses brokenness and we must be broken for him to use us. He makes beauty from ashes and that is why we must realize that we are made in his image, and for his children, no matter what.

JB: What is your message of hope to those who go through a similar life struggle like you went through?

MB: My message of hope is to tell people to allow God to use their brokenness for his glory. We can be used by him but only if we are broken first. A lot of people think they aren't good enough because they are too broken, well, that is so far from the truth, because I am living proof and so is my husband. It is a requirement that we be broken, so that we will depend upon the one who is able to fix us and use us. If we aren't broken and everything is perfect, we don't even need a savior for anything. Let God use you even in your brokenness and watch him move in your life like never before.

JB: How do you receive the words from God to write

the lyrics for a song?

MB: I always write songs once I feel I have heard a word from the Lord and feel like I'm inspired. For more information on Mary Burke, please check her website at maryburkeonline.com.

Thank you, Mary, for sharing your ministry with SGNscoops. Many blessings in all the work you do to reach out to those who need to hear the word of salvation through song.



THIS IS LOVE

I started singing in 1964. This year I will celebrate fifty-five years of singing Gospel Music it has been a great privilege to do so over these years. I remember writing my first song in 1973 entitled, "Tower of Strength". George Younce was a mentor and he helped me with the process while I was with The Cathedral Quartet. It was recorded by twelve other groups and was used on The Cathedral's "Town & Country" Album.

In 1974, I joined Jerry & The Singing Goffs. Jerry was one of the greatest songwriters in gospel music. He authored countless songs and was another mentor to me both in music and in business. That is when I wrote my second song entitled, "This is Love".

Jerry liked the song so much that he made it the title song of our first QCA Record Album. QCA was a label out of Cincinnati and well known at the time. It was a great honor for Jerry Goff to pick my song to title the album. It was somewhat progressive back in 1974 and the words to this song still speak to me today. It's about the greatest love that can be experienced - the wonderful, unconditional, forgiving and peace giving love of God that is what brought me to the title of "This Is Love." Go to www.HopeWorthHaving.com to hear these songs.



POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	MADE RIGHT	KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER/DAYWIND
2	MY HOME	BROWDERS/DREAM BIG
3	JUST DRINK THE WATER	KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS
4	I WISH I COULD TELL YOU	GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN
5	THREE MEN ON A MOUNTAIN	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN
6	DEAR JOHN	KINGSMEN/CROSSROADS
7	I'VE BEEN WASHED CLEAN	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
8	LOOK AT ALL I LOST	THE OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS
9	WHAT LOVE	DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS
10	EYE OF THE STORM	TRIUMPHANT/STOWTOWN
11	TURN TO THE CROSS	HYSSONGS/CHAPEL VALLEY
12	SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
13	SALVATION'S SONG	TAYLORS/STOWTOWN
14	GOLIATH	JOSEPH HABENDANK/DAYWIND
15	THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET/CRIMSON ROAD
16	HE WILL BE GOD	WHISNANTS/UIA
17	CHILD OF THE KING	GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC
18	GREAT GOD ALMIGHTY	THE SOUND/NEW DAY RECORDS
19	MAKE THE LAST DAYS COUNT	TIM LIVINGSTON/DIAMOND MILL MUSIC
20	ALL THE WAY TO THE GATES	KRAMERS/STOWTOWN
21	WE COME IN JESUS NAME	MYLON HAYES FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
22	WHAT WE NEED	OLD TIME PREACHERS QT/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
23	HOPE FOR THE WORLD	JORDAN FAMILY BAND/CROSSROADS
24	COME TO JESUS MEETIN'	GERALD CRABB/INDEPENDENT
25	A WRETCH LIKE ME	LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS
26	JORDAN	NELONS/DAYWIND
27	DON'T BE CAUGHT DEAD WITHOUT JESUS	JUSTIFIED QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
28	HALLELUJAH HOMECOMING	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
29	WHAT IF JESUS	STEELES/STOWTOWN
30	HEAVENLY MUSIC	MARK DUBBELD FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
31	YOUR HELP IS ON THE WAY	JASON CRABB/DAYWIND
32	THEY'LL NEVER TAKE JESUS OUT OF MY HEART	MICHAEL COMBS/INDEPENDENT
33	THE LAMB	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN
34	GIVE THEM JESUS	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
35	GIVE IT TO JESUS	3 HEATH BROTHERS/CROSSROADS
36	GONNA KEEP LIVIN'	THREE BRIDGES/CROSSROADS
37	NEVER A TIME	PERRYS/STOWTOWN
38	BORN	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
39	FAITHFUL IN THESE TIMES	WILBANKS/CHAPEL VALLEY
40	I KNOW IT'S MINE	11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS
41	HEALER IN THE GRAVE	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
42	INTO THE FOLD	HOPE'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT
43	I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN	GOLD CITY/SONY
44	1945	INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS
45	STARBOARD SIDE	JUDITH MONTGOMERY FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
46	PRACTICE WHAT YOU'RE PREACHING	LEFEVRE QT/DAYWIND
47	HOW GOOD DOES GRACE FEEL	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND
48	LITTLE THINGS	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
49	THE WILDERNESS	ISAACS/GAITHER MUSIC
50	GOD IS GOOD	MCKAMEYS/CROSSROADS

SGN SCOOPS

HOME OF THE **THE DIAMOND** AWARDS

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
51	WHAT GRACE CAN DO	PHILLIPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
52	TIME TO PRAY	GORDON MOTE/GAITHER MUSIC
53	OUTTA THE TREE	AMEN QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
54	KEEP LOOKING UP	ENDLESS HIGHWAY/CROSSROADS
55	I KNOW HIM BETTER NOW	JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND
56	OLD CHURCH CHOIR	BALL BROTHERS/INDEPENDENT
57	YOU CAN LIVE AGAIN	SUSAN WHISNANT/UIA
58	I'M TRAVELING ON	CAROLINA BOYS QT/CROSSROADS
59	COME ON BACK	PARDONED/MANSION
60	HERE'S A REMINDER	HOSKINS FAMILY/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
61	JESUS MADE A DIFFERENCE	ERIC GONZALES/INDEPENDENT
62	RESCUE STORY	FIELDS OF GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
63	PASSING IT ON	BROWNS/STOWTOWN
64	GOD DOESN'T CARE	JACKSON HEIGHTS/CENTER STAGE MUSIC
65	THAT'S MY PREACHER	LES BUTLER/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
66	HAND ON THE PLOW	TROY BURNS FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
67	NOBODY	ERWINS/STOWTOWN
68	KEEP PRAYING	LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS
69	HALLELUJAH WHAT A SAVIOR	SOUL'D OUT QT/CROSSROADS
70	ALL THAT I NEED	PAUL JAMES SOUND/INDEPENDENT
71	THIS SAME JESUS	MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS
72	LAND OF FOREVER	DYSART FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
73	THANKFUL & SINCERE	ISELL FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
74	YOU ARE STILL FATHER	WALKERS/MANSION
75	READY TO SERVE	ROCHESTERS/INDEPENDENT
76	THE EXODUS	EXODUS/INDEPENDENT
77	YOUR SON	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
78	HE MADE A WAY	CHANDLERS/CHAPEL VALLEY
79	MERCIFUL TO ME	SOULS HARBOR QT/INDEPENDENT
80	HERE I GO AGAIN	JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY
81	GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL AGAIN	PHILLIPS & BANKS/INDEPENDENT
82	THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN	MICHAEL BOOTH/DAYWIND
83	THE COMEBACK	SILER FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
84	HE'S STILL THERE	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
85	9 MAKES US 1	LEGACY 5 & WARDLOW BROTHERS/DAYWIND
86	MOUNTAINTOP FOR ME	CRABB FAMILY/DAYWIND
87	IT'S MY DESIRE	BRENDA DENNEY/INDEPENDENT
88	THEY COULD NOT	AVENUE/MAIN STREET
89	HE'LL BRING ME OUT	SOUNDSTREET/INDEPENDENT
90	NO LONGER SLAVES	BATTLECRY/CHAPEL VALLEY
91	NEWS I DIDN'T GET	LINDSAY HUGGINS/INDEPENDENT
92	STILL I WILL PRAISE YOU	SISTERS/INDEPENDENT
93	DELIVER AGAIN	THE FORESTERS/INDEPENDENT
94	I WILL STAND FOR JESUS	CLEARVISION QT/CHAPEL VALLEY
95	WHEN HE WASHED MY SINS AWAY	PINE RIDGE BOYS/CLASSIC ARTISTS
96	JESUS IS MOVING	CHITANS/INDEPENDENT
97	WHAT LIVIN' IS	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
98	THE LOST SHEEP	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
99	PRAYING WHILE I'M WAITING	REAL TRUTH REVIVAL/INDEPENDENT
100	HEAVEN HELP US ALL	ETERNAL VISION/CHAPEL VALLEY

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BLUEGRASS TOP 10 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	DON'T TUNE HIM OUT	WHITES/INDEPENDENT
2	READY TO SERVE	ROCHESTERS/INDEPENDENT
3	IT'S AUTUMN	TIM DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
4	WORRY NEVER DONE NOTHING	EAST RIDGE BOYS/MANSION
5	THE WILDERNESS	ISAACS/INDEPENDENT
6	GOD OF SECOND CHANCES	HIGH ROAD/NEW DAY RECORDS
7	THAT HOME FAR AWAY	ZOE & CLOYD/INDEPENDENT
8	SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
9	IN THE LORD'S WILL AGAIN	NEW RIVER BLUEGRASS/INDEPENDENT
10	SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF MY SOUL	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	COME TO JESUS MEETIN'	GERALD CRABB/INDEPENDENT
2	YOU'RE EVERYWHERE	SHELLEM CLINE/TIRE SWING RECORDS
3	COME ON BACK	PARDONED/MANSION
4	YOUR SON	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
5	HALLELUJAH HOMECOMING	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
6	GARDEN OF MY HEART	BARBER FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
7	GOD DOESN'T CARE	JACKSON HEIGHTS/CENTER STAGE MUSIC
8	AMERICAN HEROES	HUNTER MAY/INDEPENDENT
9	THE REST OF THE STORY	RAY WOLFORD/HMG
10	PROMISE LAND	SAM L. SMITH/INDEPENDENT
11	OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS	TONJA ROSE/MANSION
12	JONAH, JOB & MOSES	CAROLINA/INDEPENDENT
13	LITTLE THINGS	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
14	COME TO JESUS MOMENT	DONNA ULISSE/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
15	HE WILL SEE ME THROUGH	DON STILES/INDEPENDENT
16	TOUGHER THAN NAILS	BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT
17	ROCK BOTTOM	KEVIN AND KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT
18	LAUGH OFTEN	KALI ROSE/INDEPENDENT
19	A DAY	CAROL BARHAM/M.A.C. RECORDS
20	COME ON HOME	TIM DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
21	HERE I GO AGAIN	JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY
22	TILL I HAVE NO STRENGTH TO GIVE	APPOINTED2/INDEPENDENT
23	MOUNTAIN MOVIN GOD	PURPOSE/CHAPEL VALLEY
24	STARBOARD SIDE	JUDITH MONTGOMERY FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
25	CHURCH IN A CHEVY	JORDAN DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
26	EARTH TO GOD	JOHN RICH/INDEPENDENT
27	HE DIDN'T THROW THE CLAY AWAY	GENE REASONER/INDEPENDENT
28	COWBOY BOOTS	SCOTT BROWN BAND/INDEPENDENT
29	WE KNOW	JIMMY R. PRICE/INDEPENDENT
30	JOSEPH	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
31	I'VE SEEN ENOUGH	NATHAN ARENO/INDEPENDENT
32	HOLY SON HOLY	JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS
33	GOD LIVES	LISA DAGGS/INDEPENDENT
34	BORN	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
35	THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE	ELIZABETH MILLER CLARY/INDEPENDENT
36	JOY	BRANDED/INDEPENDENT
37	I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU	LULU ROMAN/INDEPENDENT
38	RIDING THROUGH THE STORMS	ROGER BARKLEY JR/INDEPENDENT
39	THIS TIME FOR THE LORD	GREG MCDUGAL/INDEPENDENT
40	CAPABLE HANDS	MICHAEL ROBERTS/INDEPENDENT

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POSITION SONG TITLE

ARTIST/LABEL

1	WAKE UP	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN
2	MIDDLE OF A MIRACLE	TONY GRIFFITH FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
3	WHY DON'T WE SING IT AGAIN	HOPPERS/INDEPENDENT
4	WHAT LIVIN' IS	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
5	THERE IS A LOVE	CANA'S VOICE/STOWTOWN
6	MOVIN ON	BIBLETONES/INDEPENDENT
7	WHEN JESUS WALKED BY	ANSWERED PRAYER/INDEPENDENT
8	WHEN THAT SEEING MAN SAW	SOUNDS OF JERICHO/SONG GARDEN
9	END OF THE STORY	GLORYWAY QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
10	ONE SONG	THE MEADOWS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
11	BEEN TO CALVARY	BEN MCGALLIARD/INDEPENDENT
12	I'LL PUT ON A CROWN	FOLENIUS/INDEPENDENT
13	PASSING IT ON	BROWNS/STOWTOWN
14	FAITH	THE EPPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
15	THROUGH IT ALL	MARK DUBBELD FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
16	GOOD MORNIN' LORD	CARROLL ROBERSON/INDEPENDENT
17	LOOKS LIKE JESUS TO ME	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
18	POTTER'S WHEEL	WISECARVERS/CROSSROADS
19	SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF MY SOUL	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
20	THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE	ELIZABETH MILLER CLARY/INDEPENDENT

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Remembering the Voice of Southern Gospel Music Paul Heil



He was a legend in Gospel Music. An icon. And he wasn't just the host of the highly-touted program, The Gospel Greats, he was one of the gospel greats. His name was Paul Heil.

Gospel Music was blessed to have had such an ambassador for over forty years. He was admired. He was loved. He will be missed.

Vonda Armstrong states, "December 28th, 2020, was a very sad day with the news of the passing of 'The Voice' of Gospel Music, Paul Heil. Paul was an encourager and friend to every artist."

Randy Shelnut, Jr., of the Dixie Echoes added, "Paul Heil was not only the greatest radio personality in Gospel Music, he was a friend to everyone in the industry. He used his platform not to promote himself, but for furthering the kingdom of God through music. The Gospel Music airwaves will miss his voice and unparalleled professionalism."

Eric and Laura Ollis also convey their thoughts: "Paul Heil, our hearts are saddened and yet we rejoice in a race well run. Paul has been the voice of our beloved genre for many years and will be sorely missed. I can honestly say, I have never met a more genuine and

kind person. His kindness reached well beyond the celebrated hits announced into his microphone. Paul not only cared about the songs we sang, he genuinely cared about the impact of our ministry and the lives we were touching for Christ. Paul's friendship was a treasure."

From the influence of Paul Harvey to the radio and television production that helped shape his career into what we all knew him for, the host of The Gospel Greats, Paul Heil truly was the voice of gospel music that transcends time.



"As a child I listened to the radio, hearing a voice that was bigger than life introduce my gospel music heroes with their newest or most popular songs. I knew from that moment, whatever I did in gospel music, I wanted to do it like Paul and Sheila Heil. It was only a few years later that they were kind to my family group and became lifelong friends. Paul and I worked on a TV special and touring the hit show in multiple locations with Quartet Night Across America. His passion and love for gospel music, felt through the airwaves for decades, was also how he made people feel on TV and in one on one conversations. I hope we all can be more like Paul, show a little more grace, more humility and keep working until the work is done. We will be together for a big gospel reunion in the air soon," expressed Scott Godsey, owner of Godsey Media Management.

KWFC station manager Dave Taylor reiterates the impact made by this industry giant.

"Paul Heil set the standard for everyone in Christian radio. His strong radio voice, deep, clear and distinct commanded attention. His production and delivery were the epitome of professionalism, and he made us all proud representing our precious Southern Gospel music with class, dignity and excellence. He was truly the best. I hope the show continues ... we NEED the show to continue ... but there will never be another like Paul Heil. The name Gospel Greats was fitting as it featured one of Gospel music's Greatest ambassadors—ever. He was a giant and he will be missed, but only for a little while. Keep looking up."

As Paul Heil grew up listening to Paul Harvey, many gospel music artists grew up listening to The Gospel Greats. In a 2020 interview Paul Heil did with SGN Scoops, he had this to say about the origin of his show:

"My interest in radio and radio program production and syndication led me to look for some way to put this interest to good use. My brother, John, had a local singing group and introduced me to a monthly publication that included a Top 40 chart. Having been a fan of some of the syndicated Top 40 radio shows on the air in those days, I thought, why not Southern gospel? So the concept was born and launched – with the first broadcast on the first weekend of February, 1980, on a handful of stations around the country. Conceptually, though, I wanted to include the voices of the artists telling their stories, rather than doing it myself (as Casey Kasem did on secular radio). That became the sound of 'The Gospel Greats' program from the very beginning." In that same interview, he talked about some of his most memorable interviews. One of the interviews that was especially meaningful to him was with J.D. Sumner.

He reminisced: "I remember one particularly poignant interview with the late J. D. Sumner, whose public persona was quite often somewhat gruff. But when I asked him how he would like to be remembered in years to come, he said simply, 'I would like them to remember the real J. D.' Indeed, those who knew him said he had a heart of gold in his dealings with people he was trying to help."

Like those who knew J.D. Sumner, those who knew Paul Heil also know that he too had a heart for gospel music and the artists he dealt with. So how do artists and industry professionals remember the real Paul Heil?

Gerald Crabb remarked: "Paul Heil is one of the most professional and classiest people in the Southern Gospel industry. And on top of that he is a great man! Love you Paul."



Matthew Browder stated, "When I was a teenager it was a dream and desire of mine to get on The Gospel Greats with Paul Heil. Later on God allowed it to happen. We finally got to work with Paul and Sheila Heil. Paul had such a calming spirit about him and did he ever have the voice for radio. He knew how to put together an interview too. I loved doing interviews with Paul. He was easy to talk to. We was privileged to work with him for years. I will miss spending time with Paul. He was one of a kind."

"In our circles, if you say Paul and Sheila there was no need to say the last name. You automatically knew it was Paul and Sheila Heil; thy dynamic duo! That's called making a mark," added Les Butler. "Paul certainly made an indelible mark on the world of Southern Gospel Music. He was such a big voice, a big presence and an even bigger Christian man. We knew each other for 40 years, and I was blessed to work with him on many occasions. If you knew Paul, you were better off for it. I know I am! There will never be another Paul Heil. We're sad for now, but not for long. Hallelujah!"

"Paul Heil, his name is synonymous with faithfulness, integrity, kindness, professionalism.

To all who knew him, be it on the radio or off, Mr. Heil's stature as creator and host of The Gospel Greats rivals that of any legendary radio personality in broadcast history. Paul's passing leaves an enormous void in the field of Southern Gospel music, one which may never be filled in quite the same way. Our thoughts, prayers, and heartfelt love go out to Sheila, Jason, Andrew and the extended Heil family. And to all who knew and loved this wonderful Christian gentleman," expressed Jim Stover of Crossroads Entertainment & Marketing, Inc.

Paul Heil always believed that the job of Christian radio was to communicate the Gospel. In an interview with us he stated, "The Gospel deserves our very best. Southern gospel radio entertains to communicate. But the message is the most important element here. Technological changes may bring ears to radio in different ways in the future, but those ears will only stay tuned if we make it worth their time." He mastered this role each time he went on the air.

Scott Brand, former lead singer with Gold City Quartet stated, "'You must immerse yourself in your work. You have to fall in love with your work ... You must dedicate your life to mastering your skill. That's the secret of success.' -Chef Jiro. Paul Heil mastered his skill because he dedicated his life to Gospel Music. We are the beneficiaries of his great work and the Gospel Music world will never be the same without him. He will be dearly missed."

"I heard Paul Heil's incredible voice on the radio long before I got to know him as a person. He and Sheila have become friends through the years. I always felt like Paul and The Gospel Greats elevated our music merely because of the professional standards that his show met and exceeded," Mark Bishop stated.

"Simply put, because of those high commercial standards, many more people in the world heard the Gospel in song and testimony because of Paul's passionate work. His contribution to Southern Gospel music cannot be overstated. My heart is heavy though because I will miss him as a kind friend."

Outside of music and broadcasting, Paul Heil was

most passionate about the Gospel, as it should be for all of us. He believed that our goal should be to assess how we can get the message out there and reach more people. For him, he felt blessed that he was able to do the work he loved and love the work he did, which also happened to be sharing the Gospel. Through the use of the internet, The Gospel Greats, as well as many others, could be heard around the world. And through The Gospel Greats, many artists had a platform for proclaiming the gospel that they otherwise would not have had.



"I was privileged to be able to call Paul my friend. There was not a time when we were with him that he did not talk about his family or show us pictures of his grandchildren. Especially if that meant doing so with his new smart phone that had The Gospel Greats theme as his ringtone. He was always there for advice. A few months ago, I called around 8:30 pm. After we talked, I thanked him for his time and jokingly told him to get to bed. Which he responded, 'I already am in bed!'" Richard Hyssong recollected. Hyssong continued, "The Southern Gospel industry will remember Paul Heil for his many contributions in the music field. He was and will always be known for having the #1 gospel music syndicated radio program of all time. Paul was inducted in the SGMA Hall Of Fame, the President of the Guild for nine years, and does not even have enough space in his office complex for all of his plaques and achievements. Having been given a national and worldwide platform, he used that to introduce and open doors for many artists, including my family, The Hyssongs, something that he did without any expectation of a returned favor. That is how many will remember him; however, I think we should remember him in the following ways. Paul Heil was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. More importantly he should be remembered as someone who loved the Lord and spent his whole life telling others

about Christ. He was right, the Lord is coming back very soon. Paul just happened to meet Him before the rest of us. So, we all need to do what Paul told us to do every week; "KEEP LOOKING UP!"



So how does Paul Heil himself want you to remember him? In our March 2020 interview he had this to say to the readers, "And there's one thing that most people, I hope, do know about Paul Heil—but if they don't, it's this: first and foremost, he loves the Lord." He truly was one of The Gospel Greats.


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PRESSING ON TO 2021 THROUGH THE ARTISTS' EYES

After the pandemic of 2020 waylaid the plans most artists had set for 2020, it forced many into digging deeper and resetting their ministries. Just because many had dates canceled did not mean that ministry was also canceled. The artists who minister each day through traditional concerts, social media, and radio are looking ahead to 2021.

“How do you put into words what you feel God has called you to do? We (Faithful Journey) count it a pleasure to be able to go out and sing and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ! This past year has been different for everyone, and we all have had to come up with creative ways to minister. It is our desire for this next year, to be able to meet in person with more than just a few people at a time! With that being said, we pray that we are able to put out another cd this year and that we will be able to minister to the ones that have already asked us to come. Also we are praying that we will continue to get more and more engagements for the months to come! No matter what happens next, we just ask that the Lord use us and that he be glorified in all that we do and say!” – Faithful Journey Quartet

“Since 1982, the ministry of HEARTS OF FAITH has had one goal: share God's goodness, mercy and grace through the means of Gospel Music. Even through the uncertainty of 2020, that goal remains intact for 2021 and beyond ~ focused on Jesus Christ ~ the author and finisher of our faith. As our hearts stay focused on Him, we have assurance the future will bring opportunities where we can minister of that goodness, mercy and grace. While ministry was not the typical church dates in 2020, we learned that ministry never stops! There are always methods of sharing the Gospel to those around us with a kind word, a smile, or even just a ‘God bless you.’ We honestly may never know to whom we minister in those small, daily deeds that can make a huge difference in the life of others. While some may never grace a concert or church stage, our daily lives can sing much more than those few moments. Each of us is called by God to use the talents He has given us. When we follow that calling, we will find success in HIM! May we each follow His lead throughout the coming years in order to lead others to Him.” – Hearts of Faith

“At Southern Gospel News Podcast We are extremely happy to have a awesome loyal following. Over 250,000 people have found and downloaded the show since April 2019. As 2021 arrives, our goals are simple. To help expand the format, culture, and message of Southern Gospel music. To expose Southern Gospel to the world that is not defined by a particular group, region , individual or song. But Rather present Southern Gospel music as a story, an art form, a calling and a true impactful faith builder. To help a world realize Southern Gospel music is a message and inspiration that speaks to countless millions in personal ways we individually and collectively enjoy.” – Darien Southerland

"I am simply grateful to be alive! I'm grateful to have a second chance to refocus. All my attention is on God. We've witnessed global chaos, economic and financial ruin, death, funerals, destruction, division in our country at an alarming rate, freedom challenged, collapse of all we took for granted. This is our great flood, like Noah before us. Let's use our gifts and these lessons graciously and wisely! With a love for people like we've never seen before! Let's be the bridge to unite and bring all God's people together, let us seek and shepherd the lost by going places we would not have dared before! 2020 vision has shown us glimpses of biblical prophecy clearly being fulfilled. 2021 is our time, No more mediocrity and numbness, onward CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS, let's be an alliance for God's glory, not for man's!" – Joy Holden

"Our goals in 2021 are to continue to reach the lost, encourage the church, and to teach our children what it means to truly deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him. Matthew 16:24 God is good and does good and in a world that desperately needs to hear this, it's our privilege to give them hope, through the message of Jesus!" – The Morse Family

"There are so many aspects to the 'Gospel' in song, whether speaking of Heaven, miracles, or the Resurrection! But in 2021 we plan to avidly look for songs that remind listeners of God's love and concern for them! And of His power to help RIGHT NOW with the tough circumstances life may bring! It's so needed!" – Sylvia Green, WVOB

Many artists also went through trying times in 2020, and it has impacted how they are moving forward into 2021.

"With the loss of a dear friend and serious illness of another, the calling placed on my life as a child, has become even more urgent. While I always felt I was surrendered and emptied out before standing before a crowd, I now realize how self centered I had become. I really don't know how concerts and speaking events will look within the next few months, but one thing I do know - I will never sing a song or speak to a crowd the same. Time is short and Jesus is coming soon!" – Cheri Taylor

"Like every other group, 2020 was unlike anything we had experienced or hope to experience again. It hit Master Peace Quartet particularly hard on February 1st, our tenor singer, our friend, our brother passed through the gates into Glory. With all of this our mission has not changed! We will continue to spread the greatest message ever told, the message of the peace that passes all understanding that can only come through Jesus! Our goal is to be ready to step through any door that God opens." – Master Peace Quartet

"My goals for 2021 are much different than they have been in years past. The year 2020, although it was hard, taught me a lot. In 2021, I plan to love more. I plan to pay attention more in the world I am in, of all the things around me that God has placed for me to water and help grow. Due to Covid-19, my Mom, who is in the nursing home, has been isolated from her family. She was accustomed to seeing her family many times a week, including leaving the facility, going shopping and out to dinner. I missed a lot of time with her that I will never get back." – Vonda Armstrong

"My goal is simple. I pray that my music ministry can get out to spread the word of God in song, this upcoming 2021 year. It has been a struggle for my ministry with the evil virus that occurred in 2020 and I am looking forward to what God has planned for my ministry." – Michael Bailey

"To focus on what Zig Ziglar said about "being a meaningful specific instead of being a wandering generality." I want to concentrate on being deliberate, consistent and intentional in all that I do. Whatever my hands find to do, I want to do it with all my might." – Rich Bruce, The Point FM

Some artists used the unexpected time off the road to create new avenues to minister and are excited to see where it takes them in the New Year.

"We know that it has been a tough year for everyone, however our family, The Hyssongs, are excited about 2021. Proverbs 28:19 says, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' Regardless of how hard things get, we must never lose our vision and focus. As for the new year, our concert schedule is starting to pick up quite a bit. We are already in the planning stages of releasing a new album in early summer, produced by

Jeff Collins. Dell Hyssong has started a Sunday morning devotional that can be seen on our Facebook page. These short devotionals are watched by people all over the world. He is currently working on a three-day virtual crusade event along with launching into some TV markets. Richard Hyssong has started The 516 Project. This is named after James 5:16 where it says, 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.' We believe in the power of prayer and have started prayer teams nationwide. So far, several hundred have joined us in praying for those requesting prayer. To join the 516 prayer team or to submit a prayer request, email prayer@thehyssongs.com. Our goal is to have 1,000 prayer team members by spring. We will continue to follow as the Lord leads." – The Hyssongs

"Though the trying, hard times of 2020, Gil Magee Music experienced unprecedented growth and blessings; souls were added to His kingdom. [I'm] asking God to let me continue that upward, upbeat ministry in 2021 with added emphasis on the mass media and digital availability of my music. Planning and prepping two radio, audio, and video releases, 'Mission The Impossible' and 'The Color Crimson' and a new digital-released album, Gil...Old Hymns & Christmas Things all on all streaming platforms!" – Gilbert Magee

"One thing we want to expand upon in 2021 is flexibility in ministry, music and as a band. In 2020 we did live streams, parking lot services, multiple church services instead of one, anything it took! In 2021 we will be in about 30 different states and each concert will present a different need or approach. We want to be flexible to the needs of that congregation. We have adapted our program to be from a full band down to an acoustic type presentation for a live stream if need be. Churches are responding to that. We added an FM transmitter if parking lot services are needed. Whatever it takes will be the motto for 2021! We also have started an initiative to send our concert DVD and 2 CDs, free of charge, to thousands of nursing homes for those that are shut in from a Covid. People are responding to this and helping to support it." – The Foresters

"Candy & Jeremy are excited about what 2021 has in store after surviving what has proven to be a truly trying time for so many. Although the year 2020 has brought many difficulties, this husband and wife duo are focused on the blessings and opportunities God

has given them. One of those blessings came very unexpected. They received the news that their title song off their debut album "WORTH THE JOURNEY", written by Jeremy, had been nominated for a GMA Dove Award in the Bluegrass / Country / Roots Recorded Song Of The Year category. During all the down time due to the world-wide pandemic, Candy & Jeremy have been working hard to write and find new material to go into the studio this spring with friend and Producer Ben Isaacs. Jeremy and Candy Looper Bear along with their two sons Colter (age 11), Kayden (age 8), band members- Matt Vaughn, Tyler Newberry & Fred Spencer are eager to be back traveling full time. Candy & Jeremy are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through Word and song anywhere a door is open. They spread the message of hope to the hopeless and broken because they were once broken themselves." – Candy and Jeremy

Some artists just miss the time being on the road and want to get back to seeing the faces of the people they are ministering to.

"As I consider our GOALS for 2021, I am reminded that goals must be attainable and measurable. Some might think of that in terms of the number of churches in which we sing, miles we travel, nights on the road, or even people in the seats. But for me it's about making a difference to one person everywhere we go. I want to have just one person after each concert come up and say how they were impacted by a story that was shared, or a song that was sung. Did they find comfort and feel God's presence? Were they challenged to seek a closer walk with Christ? Were they convicted to change and become more like Him? Did they accept Christ as their Savior? For me, it's about that story that is shared, the warm hug, even the tear in the eye as a connection was made and at least for that moment people could see Christ through the ministry of Common Bond." – Common Bond Quartet

"My goal and the family's goal is to broaden our horizon. Get out to people we've not had a chance to share my ministry and my family's ministry with. To spread the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ, to tell others how to find hope in the valley's like I did in mine! To teach people how to smile through the valley's and fully trust God. To preach and to sing with our dear friends all over this great nation! And to give God all the praise and glory he deserves!" – The King Family

“Like all Gospel singers, 2020 has been a year of lost opportunities to share our ministry with precious souls who have needed to hear a message of hope. For 2021, we believe God has called us to continue to serve in our local church, to sing where He opens doors, and to reach out to seniors who have suffered from isolation, fear and loneliness. We have a heavy burden to bring joy to those who have been deprived of the Gospel through song for too long now. We have been privileged to sing for a memory care center for several years now. There was a dear lady there who had loved Gospel music her entire life. To the world, her mind was gone, but when we began to sing, she held Alecia's hand with broad smile and a twinkle in her eyes. Soon the tears would flow, and her hand raised in praise. We learned of her passing after nine months of Covid restriction. We know there are countless others just like her, and we long to be with them again. May 2021 be a year of restoration for us all!” – TheBridgemans

“God's Anointed is looking forward in 2021 to getting back to spreading the Gospel through song to the world, encouraging those that need lifted up, and being a light to the lost in this world of darkness!! We love the Lord Jesus and we know that He is the answer to any problem you may have!! We are working on a new album of original songs and we look forward to its debut! We are praying for an end to Covid19 and restoration of church services! Our goal is to see souls saved and set free!!!” – God's Anointed

Without Christians being a reflection of the light of Christ, the world would be lost in darkness. Gospel Music Artists feel that calling deeply and take it seriously – especially in the midst of a pandemic. It has put a burden on these artists like never before.

“The world would have us believe that our greatest fear is darkness upon the earth. But our greatest fear is not the darkness but the absence of light. While Jesus was here, He was the light of the world but when He ascended He told us we'd be the light of the world. Matchless Grace has but one goal in 2021 and that is to be a shining light in a world of darkness.” – Matchless Grace

“Our goal for 2021 is to get back out on the road and do what we are called to do. We want to be a witness in a world that is so dark right now. We want to share the love of God to others who are in need of a Savior.

We pray that wherever God leads us that we will be in the very Center of His will and be a blessing to others. Right now we are seeking His will about recording our 5th project and praying He will send us the right songs.” – The Journeys

“Ours goals for 2021: To sing and minister the gospel to the hurting, even in more places than we have been before. To see more souls added to HIS kingdom.. For truly the fields are white and it's harvest time. Many Blessings to all of our friends as you go out and minister in song in 2021.” – Chronicle

“The goal for the Walkers is first to bring honor and glory to Christ and to see lives changed!” – The Walkers

“I can't wait to see what God has in store in 2021 for myself and those I help in gospel music ministries. Having had so many cancellations in 2020, I anxiously await springtime and Creekside Revival as the first event I'll be volunteering with. I, too, am scheduling singings at the Sevierville Civic Center. I hope everyone will follow Secure In Him Ministry events Facebook page and plan to attend. God is so good and I'm thankful for His favor.” -- Sheila Blackwell

“My prayer for 2021 is that God will give me a fresh anointing to minister to the hurting & lost. Our world is a mess and many are searching for answers. Jesus is still the answer!” – Brenda Denney

“The Mark Dubbeld Family is excited about the new year 2021! We have seen God do amazing things in the middle of the pandemic and our nations struggle. While doing a radio interview with Paul Heil and the Gospel Greats program, Janene made this statement “Cancellation + Cancellation + Cancellation = CONFIRMATION of the call of God on our lives and ministry!” We give Him Praise for all He has done. As we look to the future, by God's Grace, we will be the family that cares about you and your family by encouraging through song, personal testimony, written word and by providing inspirational resources. It is our goal to exalt Christ with a song to sing, a word to write, and a call to answer by sharing the story of life and love.” – The Mark Dubbeld Family

Some artists plan on building on what they have seen

God do throughout 2020.

“The goal that I have in 2021 is to continue to build on the blessings that God bestowed upon me in 2020. “Beginning Again” was a huge song introducing me as a soloist to the Industry and to our fan base. I would like to see the expansion of my territory in 2021. I will continue to seek God's guidance and leadership in all my endeavors. This is His ministry, I am His servant and I look forward to what lies ahead.” – Greg Sullivan

“Just like everyone else WCC has had it's fair share of challenges in 2020! However the choir has pressed on throughout the year, and ended on a high note. We are now a smaller group, with a laser focus on teamwork and ministry. Even though we only did 31 concerts this year, God blessed us more than we could even imagine. In 2021 our goal is to continue to build upon some of those challenges that have changed us. In the first quarter of the year WCC will have a new CD project entitled “Loudest Praise” with 10-12 songs both old and new. The Lord has opened doors with many of the great southern gospel writers in the last couple of years, with our 2019 Christmas project starting a new direction and momentum in our brand of music. Stay tuned for that release in the early Spring.” – Wilmington Celebration Choir

“From a ministry standpoint we truly stand amazed at how God continued to bless this year in spite of all the craziness that was going on in our world. We sang in over one hundred services this year, was blessed to see one hundred and thirty two people come to the altars to pray for needs and do business with God. But best of all, we were privileged to witness 11 precious souls give their hearts and lives to Jesus!! That's what makes this all worth it to us!! And let's be clear, those numbers have nothing to do with us, nor are they a reflection on us in any way. It's truly all about our Savior!! We love what we do, and consider it a great honor to be able to tell folks about Jesus through song. As far as “goals” for the coming year, it is to be a more effective witness for our Lord. We have no agenda or prize that we have our eyes on. We just want to bring God all the glory we possibly can, and we trust Him to use us in whatever manner HE chooses to do just that.” – Chosen

“My goal for 2021 is to see people's lives touched through my ministry. I am looking forward to being able to minister at Singing In The Sun and The Ark

Encounter this coming year. Although 2020 brought about drastic changes to the Southern Gospel music industry, I am praying and believing that 2021 will be a year of seeing our nation restored and lives brought to Christ.” – Emma Bunch

“Love more. Worry less. 2020 has taught us all so many things! I plan to carry what I've learned into 2021 and keep ‘the main thing the main thing.’ My hope is to build a home project studio for song demos and to do studio work if quarantined. I will continue to write and sing in whatever ways God presents opportunities! Some challenges this year forced me out of my comfort zone - but God has always prodded me onward this way, so I'm grateful that He still has plans for me! For us songwriters, there are songs building and brewing in the midst of the chaos that will tie us together and get us through it. I'm still praying for an end to this virus, but I'm thankful for the lessons I'm learning. Let's hope I can continue to remember to love more and worry less.” – Jessica Horton

“What's to come for Harley Madden Ministries for 2021... first on the agenda is going to be a new cd, I have been trying to get into the studio this past year in 2020 but seemed I couldn't get the timing right because of COVID-19, but I feel 2021 is going to be a better year for all of us artists.” – Harley Madden

“We will put all our trust in Jesus to meet all our needs as evidenced by souls finding Jesus in our ministry. [And that] God would give us the wisdom to write more gospel songs to draw others to Christ.” – Bobby Jones Family

“Though 2020 was a trying year for us all, we are reminded how faithful God was and is. Though many concert events and homecomings were canceled, God still provided every financial and spiritual need Exodus had. We look forward to 2021 with great anticipation. This marks the 10th year we, Exodus sang our first song together. We plan to put a homecoming concert together in the spring or early summer. We already have several dates on the books and are in hopes of more to come. We look forward to sharing the goodness of God and his love with you this year!” – Exodus

“They say that we look back with 2020 vision. While looking back on the year 2020 we all saw a lot of trials,

but we also saw that Jesus was still God through it all. Looking ahead to 2021 we are encouraged by the lyrics of our song You Will Still Be God. The chorus begins with "You will still be God, we will still be yours." Our goal for 2021 is to encourage churches, and communities, everywhere that no matter what they face Jesus is still God, we still belong to him, and as Jesus said in Matthew 28:20 "I am with you always." It is our desire to point churches and communities to Jesus." – The Dysart Family

Pastor Jim Fader, singer and lead pastor of Church of God Ministry Center in White Cloud, Michigan, puts everything into perspective:

ISAIAH 43:19 (NTL): For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

"As we turn the last page of the 2020 calendar, we find ourselves embarking on a whole new year. What will 2021 look like? Will we ever be able to find normalcy again? As I ponder on the ministry God has entrusted me with, I want to be ever mindful of Him and be completely obedient to everything He asks me to do. I want to bring a message of hope and healing to every ear that hears the sound of my voice, either through word or song. I truly believe God wants us to rest completely in Him. He is wanting to revive, renew and refresh the hearts and lives of His people. I am laying my life down at His feet and becoming the vessel He has created me to be and to share the message of the Gospel wherever He leads me. Isaiah 43:19 reminds us that God is wanting to do a new thing. He says that He has already begun it in each and every one of us and He is wanting to finish it. But He is needing people like you and me to help Him lead people to the cross. No matter the avenue God chooses to use, I am here saying, 'Here I am, send thou me.' Nothing else matters."



Who are the Foresters?

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Produced by
Scott Godsey

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They perform more than 200 times each year in the USA, Canada, Mexico and Scotland

Their Southern Gospel style and Live Band appeals to all ages

Our debut single, Deliver Again is at radio now

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Deeper Things

FOR KIDS

by BJ Jenkins

Does God still speak to people today like He did in the Bible days? Actually, God is always speaking, and He has a lot to say! There are things He'd like to tell you each and every day. But if God is always speaking, why can't we hear His voice? Some think that God has somehow changed and that He doesn't speak to people like He once did. The truth is God IS speaking, and He's calling out to you. The problem is not with God; the problem is with you! So how you learn how to hear the voice of God?

Most of us do not hear from God because we are just too busy! Yes, we may take the time each day to pray. But sadly, even our prayers are something we usually hurry through. The secret to hearing from God is learning how to wait on Him. Waiting on God opens the door to an audience with Him.

How do we learn to wait on Him? Simple, just wait! Start by finding a quiet place away from everyone and everything that may be distracting to you. Turn off the music and TV and get comfortable. I personally have a prayer closet where I go to meet with Him every day. Maybe it's a special chair or on your bed. You may even find a quiet place outdoors you would like to go.

Once you are there, take a moment to worship Him. Tell Him how great He is and how much you love Him. Sing a song to Him! He would love that! He loves hearing from us! When you are finished with your worship, just ask Him to speak to you. Tell Him that you are here and willing to wait for Him to come! Then just wait! You will need to sit very still and try to clear your mind of all your thoughts. This will be difficult at first, but the more you practice, the better you will get. Remember, waiting is the secret to opening the door to an audience with the King. So, expect Him to come, and very soon He will!

Note to Parents: Teach the deeper things of Jesus. They're not too young to start, for their childlike faith will open the windows of their heart.

If God is Always Speaking, Why Can I NOT Hear His Voice?, by BJ Jenkins, is a fun children's rhyming book that teaches how even the smallest child can learn how to hear the voice of God every day. Get your copy today at www.bjjenkinsministries.com

BJ Jenkins is a 5-time Christian recording artist, worship leader, songwriter, and children's author. She surrendered to the ministry in college and now teaches and encourages children as an ordained minister. BJ's husband Lane is retired from the Mississippi Highway Patrol. They have been married 38 years and have two daughters and five grandkids. They own and operate the Ivey Lane Bed & Breakfast in Kosciusko, Mississippi, USA. www.bjjenkinsministries.com



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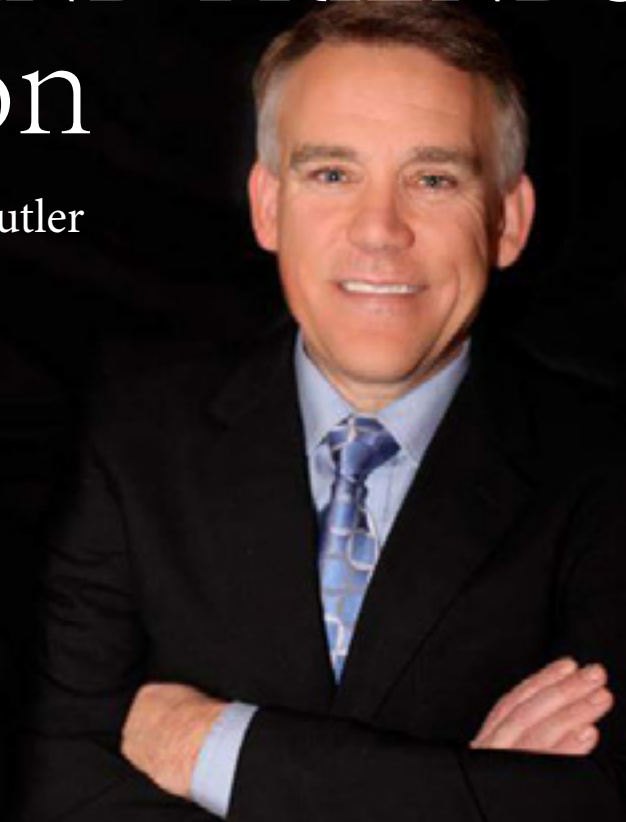
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LES BUTLER AND FRIENDS

Tim Raybon

by Les Butler



Many of you no doubt are familiar with the last name Raybon. You are probably familiar with Marty Raybon. Marty is a founding member of the country group, Shenandoah, as well as the bluegrass group, Marty Rayon and Full Circle. His versions of “Beulah Land” and “I Can’t Even Walk” are still being played on Gospel radio today. You may or may not know that he has an equally talented brother.

Tim Raybon is as good of a singer and songwriter as you will find anywhere. I’m talking about a world class talent. His new group, Merle Monroe, is creating some of the best bluegrass music being produced today. And their Gospel music is a “must add” to any Bluegrass Gospel radio programmer.

Their version of Kyla Rowland’s “He Will Roll You Over the Tide,” will give you cold chills. And for my two cents, Tim wrote the best Gospel song I’ve heard in years called, “God’s Still in Control.” If you’ve never heard it, stop what you’re doing and find it right now.

Tim Raybon happens to be my neighbor and lives just a few miles down the road from me. Recently, we were able to break bread and really get to know each

other. I even asked him to sing on a couple of songs on my new CD, I Like Southern Gospel Style the Best. He knocked it out of the park. So, this month I want to introduce my neighbor and friend, Tim Raybon.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Tim Raybon: Might have been my dad and his brothers singing at a family reunion.

LB: Growing up in a musical family, did you ever have a desire to do something else?

TR: I did. At one time I wanted to go to law school. Later decided against it and stayed working with my father building houses.

LB: Tell us about the early musical years in Florida.

TR: I grew up in Central Florida (Sanford). I started playing professionally when I was 11. I had two wonderful brothers (Rick the older and Marty in the middle) and our dad played fiddle with us as well. We were the big fish in the state’s little pond of bluegrass music. We won every band contest we ever entered. We played shows with Lester Flatt, Bill Monroe, The



Osborne Brothers, Don Reno, Ralph Stanley, Keith Whitley, Doyle Lawson while he was with the Country Gentleman etc... It was a great time in bluegrass. We played with most of the pioneers while also playing with second generation bluegrass musicians who have carried on this great music for decades.

LB: You are a great singer! Do you recall the first song you ever sang in public?

TR: I was about 8 or 9 I sang "Drivin' Nails in My Coffin." I heard Bobby Osborne do it and I was

hooked on high lead singing and harmony! Then when I got a little older and heard Earnest Tubb sing it on the Opry, I thought he stole that song from Bobby Osborne. I had no idea that Bobby idolized Earnest Tubbs! Bluegrass Music Bobby, to this day, is still my favorite singer! Country that's a complete split between Merle Haggard and Ronnie Milsap!

LB: Tell us about what you are doing musically these days.

TR: We are working currently on our sophomore project, Songs of a Simple Life. "God's Still in Control," was our first single. "Hello Sunshine" was our second. Both have been number one songs for several weeks. Very grateful! With COVID-19 it's been hard to finish up this project. However, it should be out in March, Lord willing.

LB: Tell us about the band.

TR: We are a bit of a hybrid of all kinds of music. We do Haggard, Monroe, Don Williams, Hank Williams, Kenny Loggins, Kenny Rogers and on and on. However, we play hard driving intense harmony Bluegrass too! We play other venues other than Bluegrass festivals, so we must be diverse to a great extent.

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LB: How did it get started?

TR: I met Daniel Grindstaf, my band partner, while I was filling in for Marty Raybon and Full Circle's bass player about 11 years ago. We started a friendship and it has flourished through the years. I had no interest in starting my own band. I knew I would be better off with a partner. However, the only person I ever considered starting a band with was Daniel.

LB: Who's in it?

TR: Fiddle: Derek Deakins, Guitar: Kevin Richardson, Bass: Matt Wright. These guys have played with some of the biggest names in the business. We consider them the very best!

LB: You came out of the gate hot as a pistol! Were you expecting the crazy-good start that you had?

TR: To be completely honest, we really didn't know. We were so different, and we just didn't know if it would work. The song "Dad" caught the ear of Kyle Cantrell via Terry Herd. To both gentlemen we are extremely thankful. Then we took off from there! Music is like life. You need a great foundation that you can build and build on for years.

LB: What's in store for Merle Monroe?

TR: We simply hope to keep building on what we

have started and see where the Lord leads us. We for sure want to keep moving the boundaries of our music to reach more and more people. God's Still In Control has certainly helped us expand that goal!

LB: When you're not picking and singing, what do you like to do?

TR: I asked Tony Brown, a record producer for The Raybon Bro's that same question many years ago.... He said music, that's the ONLY thing I liked to do! Well, I guess I am the same. I don't have a lot of hobbies. However, I love writing music and constantly working on my voice.

LB: Give us a brief testimony.

TR: In my 57 years of living, here is all I know for certain. Apart from Grace in and from The Lord Jesus Christ, my wisdom and knowledge doesn't matter. How I sing or play doesn't matter. We all want to count in this life. However, 50 years from now I will not matter on this earth. Here is the only thing that matters... He is the way the truth and the life and no one can go to the Father without Him!



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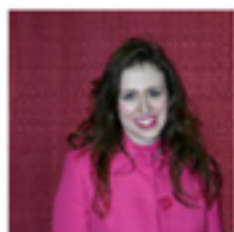
Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. 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.



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



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



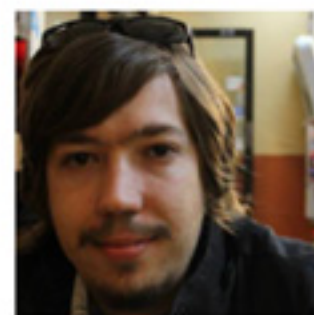
Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony of how she was

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



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right

place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



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

the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share his love of this great style of music.

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Vonda@SGNScoops.com**



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



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



Vonda Armstrong is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Vonda draws on a vast knowledge of Southern Gospel Music for her expertise in the field. In addition to her many personal friendships within the industry she also hosts a weekly radio show which keeps her in touch with many of Southern Gospel's leading execu

tives and artists. It also allows her a fresh view of new music and the latest happenings inside the industry. Vonda is also a group owner and manager as well! A self starter Vonda has started and managed several "new" events in Southern as well as "Country Gospel" Music. These events are fast becoming trend setters within the industry. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



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

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



Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGN Scoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at www.CharlieGriffin.net.

Contributors

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Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back.

But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second

solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.



During his 40 plus year career, Bill has developed expertise in commercial banking, retail banking, sales and marketing, media, and financial consulting. After years of being bi-vocational, he was able to merge his professional expertise and his passion for ministry. Since 2010, Bill has been helping

churches and ministries with areas of operation. This includes financing (construction, permanent financing, re-financing). In addition, many organizations need help understanding how to market their ministries and how important it is to promote their ministries properly through media and social networking.

Over the past 40 years, Bill has become an accomplished gospel singer, having performed on 32 albums and produced over 200 albums for other performers. His extensive professional credits include singing with renowned gospel music groups including The Cathedrals, The Goffs, The Senators, and The Rhythm Masters, which performed four songs that reached No. 1 in the gospel music charts. In addition, Bill has received nominations for three Dove Awards and a Gospel Music News Award. He is also known for writing and performing the Gold Record winning song, "No Greater Love." Bill also performed in events led by Jerry Falwell, Pat

Robinson, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Dr. Paul Conn, and most recently, he performed with Governor Mike Huckabee.

Bill studied finance at the University of Cincinnati and vocal performance at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. He also attended seminary at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and he holds a Doctor of Divinity Degree at Heritage Baptist University in Indianapolis. Currently Bill serves on the Board of Trustees for Davis College in Binghamton, N. Y.



John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years

old and eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps.

John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

He loves listening to gospel music or playing one of his guitars.

John lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Stephanie, and 17-year-old daughter. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.



Jeff Lowe, from Massillon, Ohio, has been involved in Southern Gospel Music for 46+ years. In 1974, at the age of 14, Jeff started singing bass with The Souleseekers, a mixed group from his hometown. There have been several groups since that time, and in 2009, Jeff started Mercy River Quartet. Eleven years later, the group is still serving the Lord and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

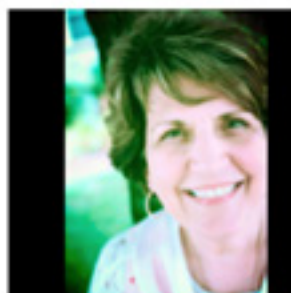
Having written for other publications, Jeff is excited to be a part of the SGNscoops family!

Contributors

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Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and I often went to The Joyful Noise for dinner and concerts. Every known name in Gospel Music sang there at one time or another. After I retired, we decided to start promoting concerts. Our goal was not only to promote our concerts, but also to promote any Gospel concerts in our area and attend as many as we possibly could. I came to a crossroads in December 2013 when my wife graduated to heaven, not knowing what to do. After much prayer God led me to continue promoting concerts. Have promoted around 100 concerts and can't tell you how many I attended. I still enjoy going to concerts and writing a little about the groups.



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by The Talleys, Gordon Mote, The Williamsons, Doug Anderson, Susan Whisnant, The Erwins, Jay Stone Singers, Master Promise, Three Bridges, Endless Highway, 3 Heath Brothers, Fortress, and many other gospel artists.

Dixie is also an Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.



Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of the Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers,

Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.



Derek Simonis began singing gospel music at an early age, around the piano with his sister,s at home and in church. His mother, an accomplished pianist and music teacher, was his inspiration to sing. Derek was saved at an early age due to the influence of godly, praying parents and a faithful Sunday School teacher.

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas. Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed." His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is to give his all in the service of the Lord.



Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The Mystery Men quartet, Florida Boys and Mark209. Off the road, he spends time with my wife, Christa, with whom he celebrates 25 years of marriage with this year. Jimmy

also enjoys spending time with his three kids and one granddaughter.