

FEBRUARY 2021

SGN

SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



JEFF & SHERI

Easter

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THE HYSSONGS



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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Mark 11:24 says, “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

For many of you like me who grew up in church, that verse at different times in our lives meant different things. For me, a constant thread over the last 30 years was praying for a wife – a helpmate – someone who understood me, someone who could see the vision I had for what God called me to do.

I’m sure most of you know, this past December I asked Kristen Stanton to be my wife. Even writing that makes me grin. You have to understand that there was a long period of time where I was not sure that I would ever be able to call anyone my wife.

So during this month of love, I can tell you that God has answered that prayer. I wish I could tell you that during all of the periods of my life that I believed the above scripture – that I knew that I knew it would happen.

There were countless times I laid in bed and said, “OK God, I get this. Do you want me to be single? Do you want me to do this life alone?” But it never felt like it was the real true answer.

I will tell you this no matter what your current struggle is, whether it’s being single, or it’s financial, or it’s healing, God is listening.

I remember the sermon my dad preached that says we serve a God whose timeline is never ours. His timeline is for his glory, for his plan.

As I got on a plane in the month of December, I could hear my dad’s sermon in my head. I remember taking notes that day, and all of those memories flooded back. My dad has been gone 17 years this year. He was there in that moment on that plane as if he were preaching me that sermon more time.

2021 is the year my life changes completely. I’ve gone from praying about finding a wife to praying about being a great husband – about what it will take to maintain a great relationship. My dad’s best advice is to continue to date as if it was your first.

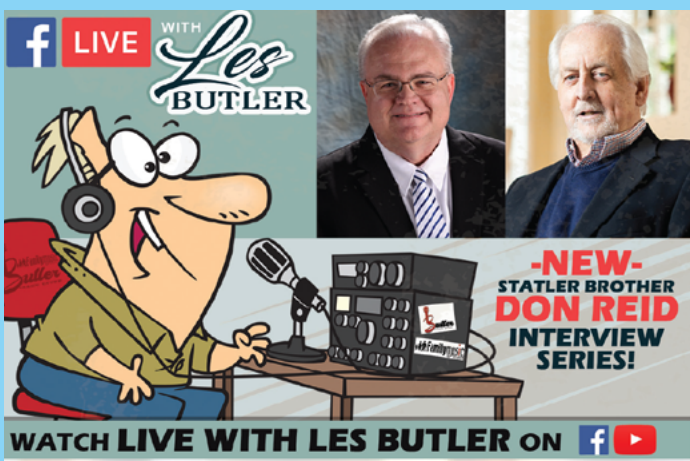
OK, so this is the first mushy Valentine’s Publisher’s Point I’ve ever done. I love you, Kristen, and I’m thankful you are my valentine and my future wife.

That is the Publisher’s Point for this month. I hope you join me in Oxford, Alabama, for Southern Gospel

Weekend on March 18-20.

And make plans to be with us for our brand new event, Creekside Revival, March 24-27 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

And of course you know it wouldn't be the Publisher's Point without me inviting you to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for the event that started at all – Creekside 2021 taking place October 24-28.



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THE LOWE DOWN WITH JEFF LOWE



Purpose

Created with A Purpose

Producer: Shane Roark

Label: Chapel Valley

Release Date: January 5, 2021/Available Now

Songs on this project:

Ain't That What It's All About / Kenny Hinson

My God Is Still Able / Paula N. McDougale

He Still Moves Mountains For Me / Shane Roark

It Won't Be Today / Shane Roark

Ask Bartimaeus / Paula N. McDougale

I'm Too Near Home / Charles B. Wycuff

I've Just Touched Jesus / Paula N McDougale

Hallelujah Meeting / Ronnie Hinson

Acknowledge Him / Paula N. McDougale

Cannot Tell It All / Timothy J. Williams

Russellville, Alabama, is home to the trio Purpose. Now in their 10th year, their mission is to share the Gospel through song and testimony of what God has done in each of their lives. Their name Purpose came from Romans 8:28 (KJV) : "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." As children of God, we ALL have a purpose; we just need to be serving the Lord through that purpose.

"Ain't That What It's All About" is an old Hinsons song written by Kenny Hinson. While most songs are written to minister to the saints or to share the gospel to the lost, this number speaks to the artist and why we sing. While some show up to "perform" or put on a show, they can make you laugh and cry almost on demand, is there any meat to what they're presenting? Telling folks about Jesus should be the purpose. Or as this song says, "Ain't That What It's All About"

We read of miracles throughout the Bible. Three Hebrew boys were thrown into that fire, but when the king rose up, there were four! All through the Bible we read of God's power and miraculous events. Many today think, "Well that was then! God doesn't move like that today." but Purpose says, "My God Is Still Able."

Following that same vein of thought, when you are facing a trial, when your heart is heavy and burdened down with trouble and you think there's

just no way out, hold on and trust in Him because "He Still Moves Mountains for Me." God has not changed. He knows every care. He sees every tear. He can still calm the raging storm.

Unfortunately, growing old is a fact of life. We look at our hands, and they seem so frail. It seems that there's a new wrinkle on our brow or a few more gray hairs almost daily. We don't walk as quickly as we did, and we grow tired a little easier. But we can still raise our hands in praise. We can still read our Bible and thank Him for His love. We can still bow our heads in prayer. There's going to come a day we won't be able to do any of these things but "It Won't Be Today."

"Ask Bartimaeus" is an upbeat song that reminds us to trust and believe, and we will receive.

Next up is the old campground favorite "I'm Too Near Home" that I've always enjoyed. It's an old quartet song about not giving up and just keep pressing on.

"I've Just Touched Jesus" is a moving song about

hopelessness. Even though the doctor may say nothing can be done, have hope; trust in Him. Remember the woman in the Bible who pressed her way through the crowd just to touch His robe? She held on to hope. She had faith. She knew all she had to do was touch Him, and she would be healed. Lean on Him even when the doctors give up and it seems all hope is lost. Just reach out and touch Jesus.

"Hallelujah Meeting" is another old Hinsons song



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.

The Williamsons were honored to have several guest vocalists participate on the recording. We are having a contest with some great prizes. See if you can guess who the featured vocalists are on the second verse.

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

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written by Ronnie Hinson about that day we get home – oh the celebration and rejoicing to be reunited with family gone on before!

“Acknowledge Him” says we have a faithful friend that’s always there all along the way. With each day we rise, we don’t have to fear what lies ahead, with Jesus near, He will lead us walking by our side. Just put your trust in Him and He’ll direct your path.

The project wraps up with an upbeat number that says the Lord has done so much. Through His mercy and grace we simply “Cannot Tell It All.”

Wrap up

Created for a Purpose by the Purpose trio is a good project, with a great collection of songs. I like their picks. All of the tracks mesh together very well and deliver a strong message of God’s grace and mercy through the shed of blood of Christ. Through this project, Purpose has achieved their goal of bringing the gospel through song.

3.75 out of 5 stars

You can learn more about Purpose at <https://www.purposetrio.com>

Writer Picks:

My God Is Still Able

He Still Moves

I’m Too Near Home



Greg Sullivan

I Know He Can

Producer: Ricky Atkinson

Release Date: February, 2020/Available Now

Songs on this project:

This Ship Was Made to Sail / Ricky Lee Brown, Daryl Kenneth Williams

Peace Inside / Mike Powell

I’m Forgiven / Rodney Paul Griffin

Child of Light / James A. Ranger

I Know He Can / Caleb Paul Rogers

His Blood / Gerald Crabb

Beginning Again / Nolan Bishop

I Just Wanted You to Know / Randy Lynn Swift

Peace in the Shelter / James David Brady

It’s the Blood of the Lamb / Ricky Lee Atkinson, Jonathan Montgomery

Masterpiece / Caleb Paul Rogers

I’ll See You at the House / Karen Gillespie, Christy Leigh

This is my first time hearing the Holden, Louisiana, native, Greg Sullivan. When I receive these CDs for review, I seldom know what to expect, unless it’s someone I know.

If you know a group or soloist, you have expectations. Does it live up to previous releases I’ve heard? Is this project as good as another project? And so on. In cases like this, it’s refreshing – and typically it’s easier – to review because I am not judging them based upon any preconceived opinions.

In the case of Greg Sullivan, I was pleasantly surprised. Often, we look at a singer and “imagine” how they will sound based on their appearance. Now I realize how someone looks has no bearing on how they will sound, but how many times have you heard someone say, or maybe you’ve said to your-

self, "He doesn't look like he could sing like that." When I opened the CD, I imagined Greg to have a rich, full voice with more of a low baritone range. Not at all what I imagined! I will tell you that he is an excellent vocalist with a great vocal range.

The project kicks off with "This Ship Was Made to Sail" which is an upbeat, toe-tappin' song that likens the Christian life to a ship sailing on seas stormy and calm, winds raging, and sun shining 'til we reach our treasures and more in our home port Heaven.

We're reminded of the miracles of Christ "Peace Inside" when He fed five thousand, spoke to the stormy seas that rocked and almost crashed that little boat, and of the mad man filled with demons. Christ spoke three little words peace be still. Throughout our walk with Him he speaks those same words to us and gives us that blessed peace inside.

Because of His blood we can say our sins are left behind! "I'm Forgiven." When Satan stands against us, we can look him in the eye and say I'm forgiven, I'm free to live in victory! Greg brings back an old Gold City song and does a great job on it. It's all about what Christ does when He enters our life and changes us. He transforms us from children of the darkness to a "Child of the Light." I've always loved this song and Greg has renewed that love for me in his performance.

The mid-tempo title track "I Know He Can" reminds of the faithfulness of the Lord, ever present, He is Lord of all. Loving us, guiding us through the storms and giving us the sunshine. Ever try to imagine God's perfect plan of salvation? How far God would go to redeem us? The price? He gave His son to pay the price on that awful cross. It was "His Blood" that made all the difference.

For many of us it's been a long time that we've been walking this highway to heaven. We've stumbled, we've fallen, and in some cases, we've strayed off that highway. Just like the prodigal son, we can come running back to the fold and start our walk again. "Beginning Again" reminds us of just that.

"I Just Wanted You to Know" when God called Abra-

ham to lay down Isaac in sacrifice Abraham was obedient. He led Isaac up that hill. Heartbroken, he laid Isaac on the altar and drew his knife to give his only son to God. God did this to show Abraham the price that would be paid for salvation. As we read that story it's a visual reminder to us of that sacrifice.

Everyday we get up and go about life. Some days there are struggles, and some days there's sunshine. There are days the cares of life are just too much to deal with and the storm rages around us, but we can find "Peace in the Shelter" of His arms. On this mid-tempo cut you'll be blessed and encouraged.

We wander this old world for so long in darkness, seeking something to fill that empty void inside of us, trying everything we can to satisfy that hunger we don't understand until that one day we find "It's the Blood of the Lamb" that we've been searching for. It alone can fill that void and make us complete and whole.

"Masterpiece" likens Christ to an artist that takes a brush and paints us what He wants us to be. Training us, teaching us with each stroke of His brush, until that day He has painted a masterpiece of our life.

The final cut on this project is a song dedicated to Greg's father. As they worked together day after day on summer breaks from college, at the end of each workday Greg's father would say, "I'll See You at the House." His father is gone now, home with the Lord, but with that blessed hope, Greg is able to say to his father – "I'll See You at the House." What a beautiful promise that all of God's children can claim. We all have loved ones that have gone on before us that one day we'll be reunited with.

Wrap up

I have thoroughly enjoyed reviewing this project. Greg has a wonderful voice. The arrangements on each song have been done perfectly – nothing overdone or over mixed. There's a good mix and balance of styles and tempos. I'll be keeping this on my iPad and I encourage you to give it a listen. I'm sure you will enjoy it just as much as I have.

You can learn more about Greg at <https://www.gregsullivanministries.com/>

Writer Picks:

I'm Forgiven

Child of the Light

His Blood

Peace in the Shelter

THANKS DJS FOR PLAYING THE CURRENT SINGLE,
"IT'S AUTUMN"


TIM DAVIS



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Jeff and Sheri Easter That's What I Call Love

by Kristen Stanton



It was 1984. Ronald Reagan was President. Apple released the Macintosh computer. The Summer Olympics were held in Los Angeles, California. The Space Shuttle Discovery launched for the first time. The film *Ghostbusters* was a hit at the box office. Stevie Wonder singing, “I Just Called to Say I Love You” was popular on the radio as was *Magnum, P.I.* on television. On the Southern Gospel front, The Hinsons’ song “Call Me Gone” topped the charts.

But 1984 was also known for something else. It was the year that Jeff and Sheri Easter met and later got engaged. And for this couple, it was definitely love at first sight.

“We actually met in Springdale, Arkansas at the Albert E. Brumley gospel concert,” Sheri recalled. “And I was traveling with my family, The Lewis Family, and we were both back at the product table area. Jeff was traveling with The Singing Americans at the time. It was 1984 in August and I looked over and spotted him and he was just very attractive. I told my mom, ‘Do you know who that is over there in that pink jacket?’ And

I said, ‘Don’t look now’ and, of course, she looked! He caught us looking!” Sheri laughed as she reminisced about that time.

“Jeff is very much an extrovert; he came over and introduced himself to my mom,” she continued. “He said, ‘Hey Polly, do you remember me?’ She said, ‘I don’t think so.’ and he said, ‘Well I’m Jeff Easter. My dad is James Easter of the Easter Brothers.’ Momma then turned to me and said, ‘Well Jeff, this is my daughter Sheri.’ So technically my mom introduced us.”

The trip down memory lane was accompanied by laughter and joking, a hallmark trait of this pair. Jeff recalled how he had already spotted Sheri, and how on that first night, Michael English had fixed his hair so he was styling and was looking good. He told me he was sporting a Burt Reynolds mustache, to which Sheri jokingly interjected that the mustache was bigger than he was.

“I looked at Michael and said, ‘Man, The Lewis Family must have like a movie star or somebody traveling with

them' she was that striking to me," Jeff said, with a note of admiration in his voice.

"Sheri gave me a picture of herself, an 8x10 picture that she sold on the table, and I hung it up on the mirror on the bus that night, and Michael English said, 'She's way out of your league' and so of course I said, 'Well thank you for the encouragement there, buddy,'" he fondly recollected.



As both Jeff and Sheri recounted how they talked for hours that first night, Sheri recalling how she told her mom and aunt she was picking out her china pattern, I could imagine how she felt – the dreams she had for the future. I could see the sparkle in her eyes even though I was only hearing her voice. I could sense the excitement she must have felt as she laid awake that night on the bus, recalling the time spent with Jeff Easter. She knew.

The relationship was best described by Sheri in a statement she made to Jeff years later. "I know this doesn't sound like a compliment, but it really is. From the minute I met you, you felt like an old tennis shoe." She didn't have to get used to him; he just always felt like he belonged to her.

And it was no different for Jeff. He knew that night

that she was the one. For a few moments, he was once again 24, boldly approaching "the movie star" that The Lewis Family had traveling with them, staring at her picture on the Singing Americans' bus later that night as Michael English razed him about her being out of his league.

There may have been a connection that day in August of 1984, but it wasn't God's timing. And if there's one thing I've learned in my life, it's that God's timing is perfect. Although there was a mutual attraction between the two, they were both in other relationships. But as Sheri dealt with the loss of her father, she realized more and more that the relationship she was in wasn't the one she should be in. "When you're in the throes of the toughest times of your life, if you will hold somebody away from you and you don't want anything to do with them, then that's probably a good sign that you shouldn't be with them in the good times too," she explained. On the other hand, she had no problems opening right up to Jeff. He was always a good listener. He was comfortable.

The following month they both found themselves at the National Quartet Convention but spent most of the week covertly looking for each other. "I was playing softball, and I was sitting with Michael English's wife on the bleachers," Jeff remarked. "But Sheri, all she saw was the back of my head and I was sitting with a good looking blonde, so she didn't speak to me at the ballgame." Sheri chimed in, "I respect boundaries." It wasn't until later on that night that they ran into each other as Jeff was on his way out the door. But it still wasn't God's time.

Jeff stopped mid-story. "Was you looking for me? I never asked you that." Sheri replied, "I looked for you that entire week."

As he floated back into his memory, Jeff continued his story, picking up a month later in October of 1984, when he showed up at a Peanut Festival in Dothan, Alabama, and saw The Lewis Family bus, wondering if Sheri would be there. "I walked in. Sheri wasn't with them, and Sheri's mom was there getting ready to go on stage. I said, 'So how is Sheri doing?' Her mom said, 'She's good, she and her boyfriend just broke up.' I said, 'Oh my, well me and my girlfriend just broke up.' This second, right there," he joked. He asked for Sheri's number.

“The Lewis Family recorded a song my family wrote called, ‘They’re Holding Up the Ladder,’ and they came on stage with that song,” Jeff continued. “They opened their set with that song, and I was on the pay phone, you know this was 1984. I was talking to Sheri, and they was still doing a three minute song – that’s how fast I called Sheri. We talked and talked until I had to go on stage, and then we talked all night.”

“Kristen,” Jeff explained, “You’re going to love this. We were sitting in my ’77 Firebird in her driveway. We were just sitting there under the street lights, and I finally looked at her and thought this was gonna be the night I kiss her.”

He harked back to that day in ’84, and in typical Jeff Easter fashion, told me about the line he used on her: “Boy, your lips sure do look soft.” Sheri laughed, remembering this as well as her equally cheesy response:



The next day, Jeff was going to be singing in Rockmart, Georgia, and Sheri told him that she’d come over to see him.

Sheri picked up the story from there. “The funny thing is, now he knows I don’t drive any place. So for me to get in the car and drive two and a half to three hours above Atlanta to go see him was a pretty big deal. But I drove over to see him and watched him in concert, and we went out to eat.”

Where they went is a detail that neither could seem to remember. But what they do remember is how they felt. That’s when Jeff really knew – when she would drive that far to see him.

“We were friends and I’ll bet we didn’t kiss for the first couple of months we were dating. I kept thinking that I don’t want to mess it up,” Jeff pointed out.

“Well why don’t you come over here and see?” I could hear the affection still resounding in their laughter, even after all of these years.

Sheri went on to tell me that she had never dated anyone for such a short period of time before things got serious. By December, Jeff had chosen to get her an engagement ring, after only two months of officially dating. “The relationship was only ten months from the day we met until the day we got married, which was crazy because it wasn’t in my nature,” Sheri said. “But we just knew.”

“I knew that he had gone to get my Christmas present, but he didn’t tell me what it was. So I asked him, ‘Well did you get my present? He said, ‘I did.’ So I asked, ‘Well, can I have it?’ He said, ‘Yes, it’s in the glove compartment.’ So I opened up the glove compartment, and he had cued up on his cassette player ‘The Greatest Gift



As she had dreamed of being a June bride, once January hit, Sheri started planning her traditional, southern wedding. One of the things she agonized over the most was that her dad wasn't there to give her away. But that turned into one of the sweetest moments of the day for her. When the pastor asked, "Who gives this woman to be wed?" her younger brother stated, "In memory of our father, my mother

of All' by Dolly and Kenny. So this song starts playing, and I opened up the present and it was an engagement ring. And I seriously was so surprised that neither one of us, to this day, can remember if I ever answered him," she stated with a smile in her voice. "We don't know if I ever said yes."

and I."

But not everything went according to plan. Her little brother had only athletic socks, no black socks. The time on their invitations was wrong. Her dress got caught in her slip. The power at the church went off

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just shortly before the ceremony was scheduled to start. But as Sheri said, “Don’t panic, you’re going to be just as married afterwards. I’ve never heard of a wedding that was fool-proofed.”

As Jeff talked about his memories of the wedding, he described how he had planned on singing the song, “To Me” by Lee Greenwood and Barbara Mandrell, during the ceremony. “About fifteen minutes before the wedding started, all the power at the church went out. I had the cassette cued up and ready to go. And when the power came back on, the cassette deck went into record mode which recorded over the track – the only track we had. Sheri knew nothing about it. She was in the back getting ready.”

Jeff told about how his brother Rabbit had a copy of the track with the rough vocals they did with it, which is what they ended up having to use during the ceremony. “I was crying so much through it that if I’d been singing you’d of never heard my voice,” Jeff said. It wasn’t until some time after the wedding that Sheri found out that there were vocals on that track. Like any marriage, there have been the “for better” as well as the “for worse” stages. But for them, the highs have far out-weighted the lows. For Jeff and Sheri, the highs included some of the many things they’ve done while on tour with Bill Gaither, cruises, the Grammy Award nomination, sharing their music, and creating new music together. The thing they are most proud of? Their children. “They make me proud everyday,” Sheri said.

But in every life, there are those desert places – those times of trials that Sheri had earlier described – that will either pull you together or pull you apart. In 2008 a storm struck Jeff and Sheri’s world. According to them, other than death, this was the hardest thing they have ever had to deal with. Sheri was diagnosed with breast cancer. Through

many rounds of surgeries and chemotherapy, he was by her side. “Hard does not even begin to describe how difficult it was,” Sheri expressed.

They laughed, and they cried. But they did it together. During some of these times, they found themselves going back to a couple of songs that they had recorded, “Over and Over” and “Praise His Name.” For both Jeff and Sheri, the song “Over and Over” has been pretty powerful. “When I’m in the middle of a trial and Jeff starts singing that one, it always reminds me that God is faithful through it all.”

Jeff added, “We are tested. It’s up to us if we pass or not. You have choices. And people make wrong choices just like I make wrong choices. Sheri makes wrong choices. But then again, it brings it back to Sheri. I made right choices, and I got Sheri.”

Through the good times and the bad, they loved and respected each other. They communicated. Jeff was still Sheri’s old shoe – comfortable, and never needing breaking in. That’s what love is.

You could hear it in their voices. In their laughter. In their reminiscing. In the words not spoken.

It was L-O-V-E. And after almost 36 years of marriage, for this Southern Gospel power couple, it still is.



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DJ Spotlight

Phillip and Donna Feazell



by Vonda Armstrong

This month, we are shining the DeeJay Spotlight on Phillip and Donna Feazell from Geraldine, Alabama. Exciting things have been happening with this couple! I recently got to catch up with them and here is what they had to say.

Vonda Armstrong: Tell us about the station, where it's located and how we can listen.

Phillip and Donna Feazell: Thank you! You can go to our website <https://icradio.media> and on Android by going to the app store and searching for IC Radio Media. Soon to have the app ready for Apple phones. You can also find us on www.facebook.com/dfeazell and MORE ways to come in the near future as we are very active in the social media platforms. We are located in Geraldine Alabama, right in the middle of awesome music talent. God fearing awesome people who love God and our Country, the USA!

VA: Who have you heard lately that you think is the next big thing in Gospel music?

PDF: Now that's a hard question, I love so many. And I love all types of Gospel music. I really like "When You Pray, Pray For America" with Mark209, Frankie King with Point of Honor is a Songwriter who I know personally, with many many others. I

don't have enough paper and ink to list everyone.

VA: Internet Radio is reaching the masses. How has technology changed the way you play music?



PDF: Well I think Internet Radio was on the way; however, when Covid hit, we all really started changing the way we did business. I never heard of Zoom until the pandemic. I didn't want to give up on the business so I had to look at alternative ways to get my talk show, Afternoon Drive Home out to the masses. I had already been airing my show Facebook LIVE, and actually my Listeners liked it, so I began bringing ideas to people featuring "how to" segments. Everyone is searching for the "Light" and we know Jesus is that light. We just asked God for Guidance and Wisdom to make it happen. I LOVE my awesome Guests, Sponsors and LISTENERS! So the Zoom platform helped in extraordinary ways to stay in touch with EVERYONE!

VA: Share your testimony.

PDF: Phil and I both love Jesus, and search for ways to get the message to everyone we can. There is such a negative influence in the world. People are searching for the light, and we hope we can do something every day that will help bring the light to everyone.



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VA: If you had to pick one group and play them all day, who would you pick and why?

PDF: OH my goodness, don't put me on the spot lol. I like them all. As I mentioned earlier, I think in the current situation we're in as a nation as a whole, we have turned away from God. I think the thought that the Church has to be separated in many facets is the wrong thought. Because I feel with the Church being separated, we have let down the gap. So I said all of that to say this: my listeners really seem to respond to Patriotic music in Gospel music. I think that brings us together. Not only Patriotic, but to know God's love, hope and forgiveness is the ultimate way to help people who are searching to see the light. If we are happy and see Jesus for who he is, people will see that in us and accept. It's that plain and simple.

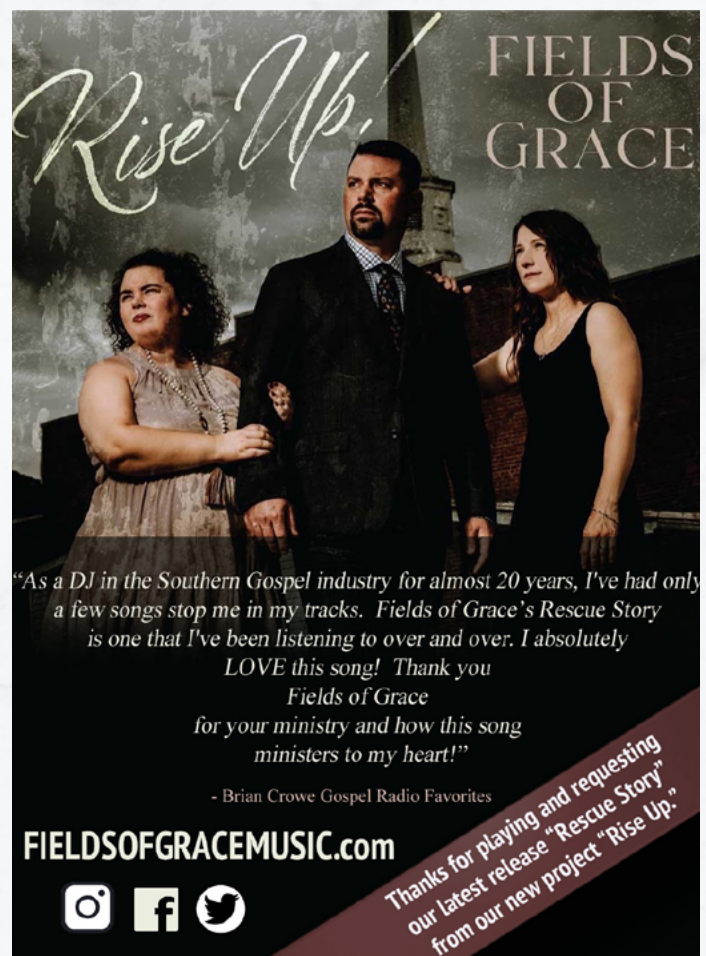


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The Sweethearts of Gospel Music

The Power Couples

by Charlie Griffin

February is the month designated for love. We have featured many articles on artists and couples that were bound by love in one form or another. This article honors and features three gospel music power couples that were bound together by love and for the love of gospel music.

Their contributions are cornerstones of today's gospel music.



When looking at the history of gospel music, one couple is at the front in almost all historical gospel music conversations, Mom and Dad Speer: George Thomas (aka GT or Dad) Speer and Lena (Mom) Brock Speer.

Born in 1891, Dad Speer began his music career as a child. His father was a fiddle player and he learned most of his musical knowledge from the all-day gospel singing conventions that were commonplace at the time. At a shaped note music convention, he met Lena Brock, age 14 at the time. After serving in World War I, Speer returned to his roots. He married Lena in February of 1920.

The Speers began full time music in 1922 after moving to Double Springs, Alabama. The first configuration consisted of GT, Lena, GT's sister Pearl, and her husband, Logan Claborn. As their children matured, they joined the group as well.

In later years, four children – Brock, Rosa Nell, Mary Tom, and Ben – followed their parents' footsteps and became outstanding professional musicians in their own right. It seemed as if every day of their lives together filled with family and gospel music.

The Speers reached audiences throughout North America with their sincere, skilled performances and countless gospel albums. Among them are classics such as "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All", "Time Has Made A Change" and "I Am His and He Is Mine."

Mom and Dad Speer's theme song, "Won't We Be So Happy?" gave a glimpse of their love for each other, their faith and music. Dad's smile and calm demeanor always glowed when he sang to his Lena.



When visiting prior to her passing, Rosa Nell Speer Powell said, "Dad often told us young'uns, when he saw Mom at that singing convention, he said, 'I'm going to marry that girl.' As long as I can remember, I never heard them have a harsh word between

them. They truly were made for each other. That is how we all wanted it, to be like Mom and Daddy showed us."

Their desire to sing never waned. Even when illness took Dad from her side, Mom never stopped singing. When sickness stilled her powerful musical witness, America's first power couple were reunited in heavenly places. The memory of two loving gospel singers continues to reach audience anew.



In conversations with Speer enthusiasts, fans offer Mom and Dad Speer as the benchmark for gospel music couples. Comparisons are offered but rarely match the integrity, character, and evident love of gospel music first power couple.



television.

The Singing Lefevres were from Smithville, Tennessee. The cornerstones of the group were the brothers Urias

and Alphus. Their sisters Maude and Peggy sang with the group until they married. But things changed in 1934 when Urias married Eva Mae Whittington. She was the daughter of Evangelist H. L. Whittington.

Once married, the group name changed to the LeFevre Trio. They sang throughout the southeast in churches and for Eva Mae's father in revival crusades. But their musical career was so much more.

On the road to becoming one of the most versatile gospel music groups, they moved to Charleston, South Carolina, in 1937, and then Atlanta, Georgia, in 1939, where they would remain for the rest of their musical careers (except for a short stint in Philadelphia during the mid-1950's). On WGST radio and during concerts, they referred to themselves as The LeFevre Trio. However, as they added other family members and accompanists, they were simply as The LeFevres.

Urias is said to have been the quiet man of action. With Alphus they branched out in music with various instruments. As members were added, their musical prowess was utilized to make the group have a full live band, including Guitars, piano, fiddle and later the trumpet. A LeFevre concert was exciting and filled with energy.



They were one of the first to have transcribed recordings made in the 1940s. Later they would record on Bibletone Records, Word/ Canaan Records and on their own label Sing.

Urias was the guiding force in Sing Record Company, Atlanta, Georgia. Members of the group flexed their musical talents in the studio as staff musicians. They played on countless recordings including gospel and country genres at their LeFevre Sound recording studio.

Their business acumen was unmatched. During the 1960's, the group's Gospel Singing Caravan, one of the pioneering Gospel music television programs, taped with the Johnson Sisters, the Prophets, and the Blue

Ridge Quartet. It was syndicated nationwide, creating more excitement and popularity for the Caravan artists. In later years Jerry Goff, produced The LeFevre Family Show for television.

Their Sing Music Publishing Company printed sheet music and songbooks for the Gospel market. Their ingenuity and forward thinking included their own booking agency to handle artist scheduling and concert promotion.

In later years, Urias preferred to be seen off stage. Eva Mae was forced to manage the group for a few years while Alphas and Urias fought in World War II. That made Eva Mae unique in that she was one of the few women who were part of professional gospel groups in the formative years of gospel music by singing and playing piano but was one of the first women to be the master of ceremonies for any group. Eventually Eva Mae earned the title as the First Lady of Gospel Music.



Eva Mae was the stage voice of the LeFevres but Urias was the quiet guiding force. Their love affair spanned 40 years of marriage and five children, thousands of concert road miles, untold radio appearances and television appearances.

A public love affair that was family solid.

Eva Mae and Urias LeFevre were inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1997. Given their musical talents, business longevity and gospel music impact, many historians believe Urias and Eva Mae LeFevre opened the doors for many of today's family gospel groups. Their contagious vision and results make them a contemporary gospel music power couple for the ages.

Governor Jimmie Davis is one who holds a spot dear to music lovers – gospel and country. His hit song continues to be a staple. “You Are My Sunshine” is a happy song that was recorded in February 1940. It was one of the first million selling hits of recorded music.



Davis ventured into politics at the urging of the then Louisiana Governor Sam Jones. He became the gov-

ernor of all in Louisiana in 1944. Davis reached across the aisle working with rival factions, appointed conservatives to high office while extending many social welfare programs. By Louisiana law he was unable to serve consecutive terms governor, he left the governor's mansion in 1948, with a surplus of \$50 million in the state treasury while increasing highway spending and increasing education, and healthcare spending. Some people did not like that he did not allow politics to interfere with show business. Davis spent much time traveling to make records and movies, including a depiction of himself in the film Louisiana.

Eleven years later, during the second gubernatorial campaign politics was second to music. His political rallies were handclapping gatherings that featured his favorite songs, especially “You Are My Sunshine,” “Live and Let Live,” and “Peace in the Valley.”

Davis was re-elected in 1960 with a positive campaign that reached Louisiana voters. Davis enacted positive achievements into law, including one of America's most comprehensive education programs for developmentally

disabled children and the construction of new charity hospitals. He continued to make recordings while in office and even reached the Top 20 with “Where the Old Red River Flows.”

Known for his country music, and after the death of



his first wife, Governor Davis married Anna Carter Gordon, of the “world famous” Chuck Wagon Gang. Many gospel music historians rank this couple as one of the first real power couples of gospel music. Governor and Mrs. Davis, married from 1969 until his death in 2000 at age 101, were one of music’s more remarkable husband-and-wife pairs.

Anna’s pure alto was an essential part of the sound of the Chuck Wagon Gang which was formed in 1936. The group spent over 40 years on Columbia Records, sold more than 30 million records, and was inducted into the SGMA Hall of Fame in 2005 and Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame in 1999. Governor Davis was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1971, the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1972, the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame in 1997 and The Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2008.

Together their love affair was shaped by music. Each offered a unique talent and complemented the other. Davis with his folksy delivery and Anna with her class on stage and off.

Governor Davis campaigned with Anna for select political rallies but stayed clear of the fray of politics that surrounded so many. Always the consummate professionals, they were iconic personalities in public, on stage and with family and friends.

Davis dedicated the non-denominational Jimmie Davis Tabernacle on the grounds of his old school in Beech Springs, Louisiana. There he hosted concerts that became infamous while continuing his folksy demeanor. The Jimmie Davis Homecoming events were listed as must attend events in the south.

The merging of two similar yet different music styles with their focus now on gospel music created the foundation that point towards being a gospel music power couple.

There are many sweetheart couples in gospel music, but none have impacted gospel music more than these three. Each unique, but each united in love of each other, their family and the love of gospel music.



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The Parracks

Four Generations Deep

by Apri Potter Holleman

Well, they say music runs deep, and that is a true statement for the Parrack Family. Four generations deep to be exact.

It's the 1950's and John and Vada Parrack are heading to the East Texas State Singing Convention and dinner on the ground as they so often do on Sundays. This is the way of life for the Parrack Family.

One day, as they are practicing as a duet, they hear a third part in the background. Sure enough, it is none other than their 9-year-old son, Johnny (JWP II). Then and there they discovered that he could hear and sing all parts.

The very next road adventure very well might have been to Will Rogers Auditorium to see The Blackwoods and The Statesmen. After all, it was there that it happened – the music bug bit – and when it bit, it bit hard!

Little Johnny Parrack would soon grow up to not only to sing with his parents as the third part in the trio,

but would also see his dream of becoming a gospel music singer come to fruition. The singers he went to see in Fort Worth, Texas, would soon become close friends as well as peers.

As fate would have it, a local trio Johnny sang with recorded an album with Joel Gentry, and he sent the project to The Kingsmen. Johnny flew from Arkansas to Asheville, and before they could get through the first song, he was hired on the spot. As a new dad of 3-month-old Jay (JWP III), he accepted the tenor position for The Kingsmen Quartet and moved his family to their home base in Asheville, North Carolina. It was there with The Kingsmen that he went on to win favorite tenor singer and became one of the most recognizable and most loved tenor singers to ever sing gospel music.

“One of the biggest surprises happened when we were singing in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1976 on a Saturday night. Ken Turner of the Blackwood Brothers came out on stage and told me that I had just won Tenor of the Year for the Singing News Fan Awards.



After being with the group a few years, I mean everyone has an ambition but I thought, well that will never happen and then he came out and told me in the middle of our song,” Johnny shared.

“There were so many great memories on the road like the one time we were snowed in on the bus for 16 hours together! I mean social distancing had nothing on us! We had so many friends back then and they would bring food to us and make sure we were fed real good! I am sure the original tailgate party started with The Kingsmen! There was a couple out of Rome, Georgia, that had this Chrysler Station Wagon about 4 miles long and they would pull up, anytime we sang in the area and they would open up the back of that

station wagon to a feast! She would make the best homemade lasagna you have ever had! We would dig in!”

Of course Jay had already been introduced to Gospel Music very early on as Johnny had played record after record to him while in his mom’s belly before he was even born. Jay got in on the early groundwork of it, often going with his dad on the road on the tour bus at a very young age. Jay would yell from the audience as a toddler, “Sing ‘Old Time I Know’” (I’d Rather Be An Old Time Christian) which is still his favorite song that his daddy sang.

Jay remembers the family telling him all about how he would cry and insist on him singing it every night and how Jim Hamill would get so tickled at him and say, “Boys let’s sing it for the boy!”

“I thought all little kids had tour buses pull up at their houses! All of the guys then, Ray Dean, Jim, Foxy, Nick, Gary, Squire, Hamill ... they were all my uncles. They treated me like family,” Jay recalls. Jay would then go home, pull out all of his Kingsmen records and the turntable, put on his Sunday suit complete with clip-on tie and perform on his makeshift microphone made from tinker toys. “I wanted to be like my dad,” Jay shares. “Still to this day, he is my favorite singer and my hero. When he is in the room and I am singing, I’m all shook up!”

With the apple not falling far from the tree, it was clearly destiny that Jay would eventually follow in his





first night with Gold City as well.”

After much success and winning multiple awards, Jay came off of the road in 2004 after ten years with the group to focus on raising his family. During that



dad’s footsteps. But it wasn’t until the teenage years at a Sandi Patty concert that Jay knew he was called to do something in music one day. Jay recalled, “After dad left The Kingsmen, he would do music for these revivals. I was in high school but I would go with him from time to time. I was with him when he went to a church in Glencoe, Alabama, which just happened to be Gold City’s home church. That is where Tim Riley first heard me sing.”

Jay left college in 1993 to accept a minister of music position at a church in Kentucky. The next month, he was engaged, and just a couple of months later, he was called by Eldridge Fox and offered a job by The Kingsmen Quartet.

“In college I was singing with a part-time group and we sang with The Kingsmen a couple of times and Jim would call me up to do a song or two with them. When Gary resigned, Eldridge called and offered me the job, but the timing was just off,” Jay explained. “I did not have a peace about leaving the church that I had just committed to and ended up turning down the job with The Kingsmen.”

“Just six short months later and a newlywed of two months, I got a phone call one day out of the blue from Tim Riley,” Jay continued. “He said Brian is leaving and we would love for you to try out! I went for a try out and the rest is history. I started on Jan 1, 1994, which also happened to be Mark Trammell’s

time, Jay was involved in the formation of a group called Vocal Event and traveled part-time while serving as full-time minister of music. It was there that his son L.J. (JWP IV) would join him on stage playing the guitar. This would bring the music full circle to four Parrack generations on stage serving the lord in song!

Jay and Johnny recorded a project together several years ago and rumor has it there could be one in the works in the near future that would feature the

three generations together. When asked if anyone ever compares Jay's singing with his dad's, Jay replied, "People will always say you sound like your dad or they still ask me how he is doing. I always say, I never mind being second to the best!"

Johnny and his wife Judy live in Camden, Arkansas, and pastor at Elliott Baptist Church. He still sings from time to time with a local quartet.

Jay is back on the road full-time, singing tenor with The LeFevre Quartet. This past year the quartet sang in Smackover, Arkansas, and at his dad's home church where his dad joined him on stage for a few tunes.

As far as LJ (JWP IV) is concerned, he has no plans of pursuing music full-time, but we will be looking for that project featuring the three generations sometime in the near future.

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1	TURN TO THE CROSS	HYSSONGS/CHAPEL VALLEY
2	I'VE BEEN WASHED CLEAN	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
3	LOOK AT ALL I LOST	OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS
4	MY HOME	BROWDERS/DREAM BIG
5	I WISH I COULD TELL YOU	GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN
6	JUST DRINK THE WATER	KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS
7	GOLIATH	JOSEPH HABEDANK/DAYWIND
8	HE WILL BE GOD	WHISNANTS/UIA
9	SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
10	CHILD OF THE KING	GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC
11	THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET/CRIMSON ROAD
12	WHAT LOVE	DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS
13	PRACTICE WHAT YOU'RE PREACHING	LEFEVRE QUARTET/NEW DAY RECORDS
14	SALVATION'S SONG	TAYLORS/STOWTOWN
15	WHAT WE NEED	OLD TIME PREACHERS QT/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
16	DEAR JOHN	KINGSMEN/CROSSROADS
17	THIS SAME JESUS	MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS
18	ALL THE WAY TO THE GATES	KRAMERS/STOWTOWN
19	KEEP PRAYING	LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS
20	I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN	GOLD CITY/SONY
21	JORDAN	NELONS/DAYWIND
22	WE COME IN THE NAME OF JESUS	MYLON HAYES FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
23	THEY'LL NEVER TAKE JESUS OUT OF MY HEART	MICHAEL COMBS/INDEPENDENT
24	I KNOW IT'S MINE	11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS
25	DON'T BE CAUGHT DEAD WITHOUT JESUS	JUSTIFIED QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
26	HOW GOOD DOES GRACE FEEL	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND
27	BORN	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
28	GONNA KEEP LIVIN	THREE BRIDGES/CROSSROADS
29	THE WILDERNESS	ISAACS/INDEPENDENT
30	HOPE FOR THE WORLD	JORDAN FAMILY BAND/INDEPENDENT
31	MADE RIGHT	KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER/DAYWIND
32	GIVE THEM JESUS	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
33	TIME TO PRAY	GORDON MOTE/GAITHER MUSIC
34	WHAT LIVIN' IS	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
35	ALWAYS ENOUGH	BOWLING FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
36	EYE OF THE STORM	TRIUMPHANT/STOWTOWN
37	COME ON BACK	PARDONED/MANSION
38	THREE MEN ON A MOUNTAIN	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN
39	STORM BEFORE THE CALM	HEART 2 HEART/INDEPENDENT
40	RESCUE STORY	FIELDS OF GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
41	HE RESCUED ME	ENDLESS HIGHWAY/CROSSROADS
42	SING JOY TO THE WORLD	SACRED HARMONY/INDEPENDENT
43	NOBODY	ERWINS/STOWTOWN
44	MOVIN ON	BIBLETONES/INDEPENDENT
45	MOUNTAIN MOVING GOD	PURPOSE/CHAPEL VALLEY
46	ALL THAT I NEED	PAUL JAMES SOUND/INDEPENDENT
47	COME TO JESUS MEETIN'	GERALD CRABB/INDEPENDENT
48	I'LL PUT ON A CROWN	FOLENIUS/INDEPENDENT
49	YOUR SON	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
50	YOU ARE STILL FATHER	WALKERS/MANSION

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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
51	WORKING ON A BUILDING	TROY BURNS FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
52	HALLELUJAH HOMECOMING	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
53	CLEAN	ADAM CRABB/DAYWIND
54	THE EXODUS	EXODUS/INDEPENDENT
55	HALLELUJAH	SOUL'D OUT QT/CROSSROADS
56	GREAT GOD ALMIGHTY	SOUND/NEW DAY RECORDS
57	JOSEPH	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
58	A WRETCH LIKE ME	LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS
59	THAT'S MY PREACHER	LES BUTLER/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
60	THE LAMB	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN
61	RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION	BLACKWOOD BROTHERS QUARTET/DAYWIND
62	THROUGH IT ALL	MARK DUBBELD FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
63	END OF THE STORY	GLORYWAY QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
64	MIDDLE OF A MIRACLE	TONY GRIFFITH FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
65	HOME IS SOUNDING SWEETER	INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS
66	WHAT GRACE CAN DO	PHILLIPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
67	GIVE IT TO JESUS	3 HEATH BROTHERS/CROSSROADS
68	WAKE UP	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND
69	I'M TRAVELING ON	CAROLINA BOYS QUARTET/CROSSROADS
70	NO PLACE LIKE HOME	COOKES/INDEPENDENT
71	GOD IS GOOD	MCKAMEYS/CROSSROADS
72	9 MAKES US 1	LEGACY 5 & WARDLAW BROTHERS/DAYWIND
73	DELIVER AGAIN	FORESTERS/INDEPENDENT
74	THANKFUL & SINCERE	ISELL FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
75	SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF MY SOUL	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
76	WHATCHA GONNA DO	TONY ALAN BATES/INDEPENDENT
77	YOUR HELP IS ON THE WAY	JASON CRABB/DAYWIND
78	SPARROWS & LILLIES	CHARLOTTE RICHIE/GAITHER MUSIC
79	THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED	DERRICK LOUDERMILK BAND/INDEPENDENT
80	HERE I GO AGAIN	JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY
81	JESUS IS LORD	BUTLER, HUGHES, & HAYES/INDEPENDENT
82	GOOD NEWS	JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND
83	BECAUSE OF THE CROSS	GREESONS/INDEPENDENT
84	WHEN JESUS WALKED BY	ANSWERED PRAYER/INDEPENDENT
85	PASSING IT ON	BROWNS/STOWTOWN
86	OLD CHURCH CHOIR	BALL BROTHERS/INDEPENDENT
87	WHAT IF JESUS	STEELES/STOWTOWN
88	HEAVENLY MUSIC	MARK DUBBELD FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
89	HEALER IN THE GRAVE	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
90	NO LONGER SLAVES	BATTLECRY/CHAPEL VALLEY
91	GOOD NEWS	WILBANKS/INDEPENDENT
92	THERE IS A LOVE	CANA'S VOICE/STOWTOWN
93	OLD RUGGED CROSS	CHRONICLE/INDEPENDENT
94	THEY COULD NOT	AVENUE/PENN STREET
95	I SURRENDER	RILEY HARRISON CLARK/DAYWIND
96	YOU CAN LOVE AGAIN	SUSAN WHISNANT/UIA
97	GOD DOESN'T CARE	JACKSON HEIGHTS/CENTER STAGE MUSIC
98	MERCIFUL TO ME	SOUL'S HARBOR/INDEPENDENT
99	ANOTHER SOUL IS SAVED	SOUNDS OF JERICHO/SONG GARDEN
100	EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT	JANET PASCHAL/GAITHER MUSIC



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BLUEGRASS TOP 10 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	GRIT AND GRACE	BALSAM RANGE/MOUNTAIN HOME MUSIC
2	WORRY NEVER DONE NOTHING	EAST RIDGE BOYS/MANSION
3	SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF MY SOUL	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
4	THAT HOME FAR AWAY	ZOE & CLOYD/ORGANIC RECORDS
5	THE WILDERNESS	ISAACS/INDEPENDENT
6	SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
7	IT'S NOT GOODBYE	BAMA BLU GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
8	DUST ON THE BIBLE	JUNIOR SISK & RAMBLERS CHOICE/INDEPENDENT
9	WHEN I WAKE UP TO SLEEP NO MORE	GOSPEL PLOW BOYS/INDEPENDENT
10	TELL THE TRUTH	BECKY BULLER & FAIRFIELD FOUR/INDEPENDENT

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	COME ON BACK	PARDONED/MANSION
2	HIS NAME IS JESUS	TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS
3	GOD DOESN'T CARE	JACKSON HEIGHTS/CENTER STAGE MUSIC
4	YOUR SON	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
5	GARDEN OF MY HEART	BARBER FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
6	THE REST OF THE STORY	RAY WOLFORD/HMG
7	COME TO JESUS MEETIN'	GERALD CRABB/INDEPENDENT
8	PROMISE LAND	SAM L. SMITH/INDEPENDENT
9	LITTLE THINGS	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
10	JOY	BRANDED/INDEPENDENT
11	JOSEPH	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
12	JONAH, JOB & MOSES	CAROLINA/INDEPENDENT
13	MOUNTAIN MOVIN GOD	PURPOSE/CHAPEL VALLEY
14	HE WILL SEE ME THROUGH	DON STILES/INDEPENDENT
15	EARTH TO GOD	JOHN RICH/INDEPENDENT
16	TOUGHER THAN NAILS	BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT
17	HERE I GO AGAIN	JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY
18	AMERICAN HEROES	HUNTER MAY/INDEPENDENT
19	A DAY	CAROL BARHAM/M.A.C. RECORDS
20	ROCK BOTTOM	KEVIN AND KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT
21	OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS	TONJA ROSE/MANSION
22	CHURCH IN A CHEVY	JORDAN DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
23	STARBOARD SIDE	JUDITH MONTGOMERY FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
24	HOLY SON HOLY	JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS
25	I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY	MARY JAMES/INDEPENDENT
26	IS THERE A PLACE I CAN GO	DEBBIE BENNETT/INDEPENDENT
27	I'VE SEEN ENOUGH	NATHAN ARENO/INDEPENDENT
28	COWBOY BOOTS	SCOTT BROWN BAND/INDEPENDENT
29	GOD LIVES	LISA DAGGS/INDEPENDENT
30	BORN	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
31	I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU	LULU ROMAN/INDEPENDENT
32	THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE	ELIZABETH MILLER CLARY/INDEPENDENT
33	RIDING THROUGH THE STORMS	ROGER BARKLEY JR/INDEPENDENT
34	REPENTANCE STILL WORKS	APPOINTED2/INDEPENDENT
35	HE DIDN'T THROW THE CLAY AWAY	GENE REASONER/INDEPENDENT
36	THIS TIME FOR THE LORD	GREG MCDUGAL/INDEPENDENT
37	SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
38	SINGIN' MOMMA TO SLEEP	CHRISTIAN DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
39	THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED	DERRICK LOUDERMILK BANK/INDEPENDENT
40	MIDDLE OF A MIRACLE	TONY GRIFFITH FAMILY/SONG GARDEN

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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	I CALL IT HOME	TRIBUTE
2	FIRST CHURCH OF MERCY	THE SOUND
3	WALK ME THROUGH	PERRYS
4	HOME IS SOUNDING SWEETER	INSPIRATIONS
5	I'VE GOT A FRIEND	LITTLES
6	YOU GOT TO HAVE A SONG	JIM & MELISSA BRADY
7	WALKING IN THE SPIRIT	WILLIAMSON BRANCH
8	HOMECOMING DAY	ROCHESTERS
9	THIS SHIP WAS MADE TO SAIL	GREG SULLIVAN
10	TO SAVE MY LIFE	CAROLINA BOYS
11	HARD TIMES	ZANE & DONNA KING
12	GLORY	STEELES
13	WHAT LIVIN' IS	LANCE DRISKELL
14	WHEN YOU PRAY, PRAY FOR AMERICA	MARK209
15	RUN TO HIM	JAY STONE SINGERS
16	I'VE JUST SEEN THE ROCK OF AGES	CHUCKWAGON GANG
17	OLD RUGGED CROSS	CHRONICLE
18	SOUNDS LIKE HOME TO ME	BILLY HUDDLESTON
19	THE CALLED OUT CHURCH	ANN DOWNING
20	JESUS IN THE BOAT	A'MEN QUARTET

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Finding Strength in Adversity

The Jon Mullins Story



By Lindsey Sipe

"Will we talk about it?

Or will we just fight?

Go round and round in circles

We could go all night

When you wanna give up, you know I won't stop

Cause you and I ---

we will survive."

----Survive, Jon Mullins

Most of America first met Jon Mullins in early 2020 when he graced the stage of NBC's *The Voice* and caught the listening ears of Blake Shelton. With his wife, Whitney, supporting him in the wings, America was presented with just a glimpse of their modern

day fairy tale love story. And just like with any fairy tale, Jon and Whitney have overcome enormous obstacles to truly soar above the clouds. Their unparalleled commitment to each other and faith in God has served as the main inspiration behind Jon's trilogy of recently released singles. But more so, their love stands as a beacon of light for anyone on the brink of losing hope.

Jon and Whitney's roots can be traced back to a college office building and wrong directions. Ironically enough, the twosome actually lived in three different cities at the same time but never ran into each other until the third city, when they were both attending Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga. Whitney had walked into the office asking for the way to Walmart. An overzealous and confident sophomore by the name of Jon happened to overhear her request and the spark was lit (even though he gave her the wrong directions by accident). And although he had no interest in a serious relationship

with anybody, Whitney was so convinced that she called her best girlfriends almost immediately, and relayed that she had just met her husband. Jon on the other hand, was guarded due to the fact that his parents' recent divorce left him with a broken heart and extreme fear of commitment. But he knew how fond he was of her. After an exchange of numbers, long conversations and daily quality time soon followed, although it took Jon 2 ½ years to officially make her his girlfriend. Upon graduation in 2009, she moved back to Indiana and he stayed in Chattanooga, working full time for a reputable jewelry store and playing music. A four year long distance relationship and frequent weekend trips sustained them, even during his move to Nashville to seriously pursue a music career.



In 2013, Jon knew he was ready to make Whitney his forever. A carefully crafted surprise weekend in Chattanooga included the secret congregating of family and their closest friends at Sunset Rock, one of the most beautiful views in East Tennessee. Whitney arrived with the help of her best friend and Jon's sister to see Jon on one knee, next to a 6 foot hand painted banner that read "Will You Marry Me?" This was of course, only after Jon sent Whitney on a scavenger hunt around town to their favorite locations, with clues handwritten on letters. 18 months later, on October 25, 2014, the couple tied the knot in Northern Indiana, surrounded by loved ones and colorful fall foliage. The first few years of marriage were bliss

for the young couple, as Jon worked full time during the day and spent nights playing writer's rounds and networking per the Nashville way.

And then, in early February of 2016, Jon got a call at the jewelry store and everything changed.

Whitney, a teacher at the time, had fallen on concrete at her work and hit her head. A visit to the ER showed no immediate trauma and she was told she only had a mild concussion. But the next day, she was forgetting super simple words, couldn't put sentences together, and had such crippling anxiety that she could not get out of bed. They assumed it was just short lived residual effects from the fall and that she would be fine. The headaches, anxiety, short term memory loss, speech and motor function, and panic attacks continued to worsen over the next several days and weeks with no explanation or prior history. Jon describes that block of time as a "wild goose chase" trying to find answers and constantly being led down a winding path of misinformation from doctors, lawyers, and therapists.

"Our world was flipped upside down in an instant and we were feeling hopeless. We were angry and frustrated, wondering if it would ever get better or if she would live the rest of her life constantly having to have a therapist come over and play the 'memory' game with her. Imagine going through the scariest, hardest time of your life and you can't even communicate that with the person you are closest to – the person you live with and trust. She couldn't tell me how she was feeling or what she wanted or what was going through her head. You can't write it down. You can't remember the words. All you can do is lay in bed and cry. I felt so guilty because my other half was suffering, and I couldn't fix it. I felt scared because no doctor was giving us the answers. I felt nervous because no doctor was telling us that she would get better. I got irate because all they wanted to do was find the answer on a prescription pad," admits Jon.

And on top of that, workers comp wasn't taking responsibility, and Jon was the only one working which meant that his music career was put on the back burner. And for a while, so was their faith. Having both grown up in Christian households and having attended a small, tight knit Christian college,

both Whitney and Jon loved the Lord and had always trusted in His plan for their lives. But they were at a loss and constantly questioned why God would let this happen.

Through the tears, the fights, the frustration, and the relearning of communication, God brought them a gift in the form of LuLaRoe. Whitney had seen a pop up LuLaRoe ad and decided to give their leggings a try. One pair of leggings turned into \$900 worth of unexpected spending to which Jon nervously said, "Baby, you gotta find a way to make that money back somehow!" Whitney dug into her closet and within the month, had sold \$6,000 worth of her own clothing. Realizing she had an entrepreneurial knack about her, Whitney began selling LuLaRoe. Jon helped her wherever he could which resulted in sleepless nights and a constant rotating work schedule between the both of them for two months straight.



By the third month, Whitney was so successful he was able to quit his full time job and focus solely on music, which every Nashvillian will tell you, is truly living the dream. Going "live" by herself forced Whitney to start remembering orders and comments which, in turn, helped with her speech and motor functions, not to mention her balance and confidence.

"All of a sudden, I'm seeing my wife go from some-

one who is hurting and having a hard time to a BOSS BABE who is healing and making women of all sizes feel comfortable and happy in their own skin. It brought her purpose and life. Not only that, the CEO'S and owners of LuLaRoe treat us like family and are so invested not only in Whitney, but in my music and career. They have hired me to perform at their conventions and conferences around the country – truly a blessing."

And in 2021, Jon is jumping in with arms wide open when it comes to his music. He released a trilogy of back to back singles during the last half of 2020, no easy feat for an artist, considering the music industry took a huge blow and touring life has been put on hold. But his and Whitney's faith sustains any hurdle thrown their way, even a pandemic. And as is expected of a true songwriter, Jon's songs chronicle his and Whitney's life changing story. His September 2020 release, "Better Man", is what the musician calls a desperate "love letter" and says it came out of the most painful part of their relationship.

"We were fighting in our effort of learning how to re-communicate. And one night after a fight, I'm sitting at my keyboard and started playing these four chords over and over again. And all of a sudden, the words literally just flew out of my mouth. I think in our cancel culture of today, you lose sight of what's worth fighting for. And I wanted her to know that I want to be a better man for her. She's so incredible and I don't deserve her, but I am determined to be what she needs."

The second single, "Get To You", was written with Tyler Cain and serves as more of a "broken plea" according to Jon, because he felt they had run out of things to try in their effort to communicate. At one point, he relays that they had grown so cold to the situation, they exhausted all their efforts pretending to be fine to the world, when they had lost hope deep down.

And then came the third and final single, just released this past month, simply called "Survive." Written with Ryan Prewett, "Survive" narrates what it's like to have a problem so strong that it overtakes your life when you're awake, when you're asleep--even showing up in your dreams. Ever the compelling storyteller, Jon felt that the story wasn't quite

finished and wanted to let others know that while we all have our struggles, there is a light at the end of the tunnel if you believe and fight for it.



And that is the message Jon and Whitney hope to pass onto others through their incredible experience—that hope exists, even in the darkest of times, if you're willing to ask for help, push through, and sacrifice to get there. Their pivot point came from a visit to a neurologist's office, where the doctor simply inquired about their relationship with God.

"After being so upset and angry, it took a doctor to help us understand that when God sees his children hurt, He hurts too. He knows it's happening and yes, He allows certain things to happen. But He works in crazy ways and sees the bigger picture. God is always giving us something – a love letter so to speak – from Heaven. When he said that to us, a light flickered, and we went from blaming the world and God to depending on Him to restore us fully."

Today, almost five years later, Whitney is "85% recovered" but still suffers from anxiety and panic attacks here and there. Jon credits her with being the "strongest, most beautiful, most courageous, giving, kind and caring person I know. She has made it through this – we have made it through this and come out on the other end stronger because we decided to fight for what we believe in and what we love. We realize that our lives are better together than apart."

The pop vocalist hopes that their story and his music can help others know that they are not alone and that they won't always be stuck in the valley at rock bottom.

"Either someone will pick you up and pull you out or you can get out by yourself because you have the strength to do it. People are so much stronger than they give themselves credit for. But don't be afraid to ask support from family and friends. And especially from God because even when we felt like He wasn't there, his hand was guiding us through this whole thing."

*Keep up with all things Jon Mullins at www.jonmullins.com and on socials @jonmullinsofficial. To book him for an interview, speaking, or singing gig, email Lindsey at lindz@litnashville.com. *



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Finding Hope **in a Hopeless World**

by Carrie Hofmeister



We have all had those days where we need to get our devotions in and spend time with God, but we just are not feeling it. We have all had those moments where we read a chapter or two out of the Bible, just to say that we had our time with Him that day.

We have all been there if we are being truly honest with ourselves. I know I have, many times. Between work, kids, activities, church, and normal day to day living, sometimes we struggle to find the time to really walk with God. And in return, we feel distant from Him. I know this is not just how I feel. Am I right?

Pastor Mike Sanders has been the pastor of The Open Door Church in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania for 15 years. Married with three children, two grand-kids and one on the way, he also runs a television, radio, internet, and social media ministry called, Hope Worth Having.

The busy man that he is, he is passionate about teaching his congregation to have an authentic and sincere relationship with God. Not just having a

quick pick me up to get their "time" in, he wanted to create something that would draw people closer to God.

Dynamic Devotions is a devotional guide written by Pastor Mike Sanders to help people have more than just a surface relationship with Christ. It is to help us dig deeper into what God is truly trying to say, giving us the raw, rock-solid truth, sharing more than just "feel good" stories.



I believe that now more than ever, during these abnormal times, people are searching for hope in



any place that they can find it. Dynamic Devotions is meant to show us that God is with us in every aspect of our lives. No matter where we are at, He is with us every step of the way, leading us, guiding us to where He wants us. In this book, you will find about 20 different devotions to encourage you to have personal time with God – Monday through Friday – and on the weekends, to spend time as a family in the Word and worship together.

I am a firm believer that God has His own timing for everything. That is no different for this book. The idea for this book has been something on Pastor Mike's mind for a couple of years, but he just never had the time to really sit down and tackle it.



The year 2020 has been an interesting year to say the least, and I know that a lot of uncertainty came with it for a lot of people. But it also gave us the time

that we never really have. I know for me, it gave me time with my family that I do not always get. It gave me rest, and it gave me memories. For Pastor Mike Sanders, it gave him the time to write exactly what was on his heart.

I also believe that it was in God's timing because the theme of 2020 that many people were searching for was hope. So, in his words, "What was a frustration, also became a blessing." I love that.



The number one takeaway from this book is that there is hope worth having. No matter what season you are going through, whether it is loss, financial struggles, marriage issues, or whatever it may be, this book will help you find hope.

You can find hope in the One that created you. He is always there to guide you through the darkest of times. This book will also provide encouragement in your everyday life. One of the most common things in this world right now is negativity and division. Division is being caused by almost every little thing that we speak out about. Whether it be by race, religion, who you are voting for, or even just by the car you drive, we are all being divided by things that don't – and shouldn't – matter.

Pastor Mike's hope for this book is that you find unity



in the body of Christ, that we can come together as Christians and become united instead of divided.

For \$10, you can purchase your own copy of Dynamic Devotions by going to hopeworthhaving.com. All the proceeds will be going to the Hope Worth Having ministry to help reach as many people as possible through television, radio stations, internet, and social media. Not only will you receive a great book to help you grow a deeper relationship with Christ, but you will also help spread the word to the lost. What a great cause!

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February's Sweet Bakes

If you are anything like me, I often get stuck at the question- what on earth is for dinner? I'm a horrible meal planner too- so this question usually pops into my head around, oh...5:30- the time when my organized mom- used to be setting everything on the table in preparation for my dad's arrival so we could eat as a family. I often wonder how on earth did my mom come up with so many recipe ideas because Pinterest was certainly not around at the time I was growing up. Somehow, we always had a wide array of dinner options and it wasn't tacos every Tuesday or the "Oh it's Friday night- must be pizza time" like I find myself thinking most afternoons or early evening- if I'm being completely honest with myself. Pinterest has been a lifesaver for me in this busy season in life. With it being February, the Valentine's month, I wanted to share a sweet treat I found a while back. Its my "new favorite cookie recipe" go to and... its so easy and so delicious too! I was thankful Becky at [beckysbakingdelights.com](http://www.beckysbakingdelights.com) shared this and that I happened to find it on Pinterest as well! Here is the full recipe link should you want a printable! <http://www.beckysbakingdelights.com/cream-cheese-cookies/>

Enjoy and Happy Baking!

Cream Cheese Cookies

These soft and chewy cream cheese cookies are simple to make and enjoyable to eat.

Course Dessert

Cuisine American

Prep Time 10 minutes

Cook Time 8 minutes

Total Time 18 minutes

Servings 24

Author [beckysbakingdelights](http://www.beckysbakingdelights.com)

Ingredients

1/2 cup (8 tbsp) unsalted butter, room temp

4 oz cream cheese, room temp

1 large egg, room temp

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 tsp almond extract

1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour

Instructions

In large bowl, combine butter and cream cheese with

an electric mixer on medium speed for 2 - 3 minutes.

2. Add in egg and blend until combined.

3. Add in powdered sugar, baking powder, and both extracts. Blend until combined.

4. Slowly add flour and blend just until combined. Cover bowl with saran wrap and refrigerate batter for at least 30 minutes.

5. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

6. Scoop chilled cookie dough onto silicone (or parchment) lined baking sheet. Slightly flatten top of cookie ball. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until edges are golden brown.

7. Remove pan to wire rack. Cool cookies on pan for 1 minute and then transfer to wire rack to finish cooling.

8. Sprinkle cookies with powdered sugar.



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Deeper Things

FOR KIDS

by BJ Jenkins

Do you wonder if God is even listening when you pray? Do you sometimes feel like your prayers are not being answered? Maybe you've been praying wrong! God's not a drive-up window that you place your order through. You don't give Him a list of things that tells Him what to do! So exactly how do we pray a prayer that we know that God will hear?

Let me start by telling you what I always tell my kids. "You don't HAVE to pray; you GET to pray!" Did you know that prayer is actually an "audience with the King?" Would you like to know how to meet with Him?

The first thing you need to do before you pray is humble yourself before Him. Ask Jesus to come and forgive you for any sin you may have done in the past. Don't rush through this important step because the Bible says, "It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore," Isaiah 59:2. If you will take some time to wait on Him, the Holy Spirit will begin to show you the things in your life you need to ask forgiveness for.

Next, take some time to thank the Lord for all the wonderful things He has done for you. This can be the big things and the small things. Thank Him for the things He does for you every day that you take for granted: air to breathe, food to eat, clothes to wear, a place to live, etc. We call these prayers of thanksgiving!

Now, tell Him how wonderful He is! How very great and powerful He is, and how much you love Him! You can even sing a little song to Him. He LOVES that! We call that Praise!

Now that you have thanked and praised Him, the gate to His presence will open for you! The Bible says we can, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name," Psalm 100:4

Now you have God's attention. He has invited you through His gate for your audience with the King!

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.





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Introducing Bob and Joyce Spamer of Spencerport, NY. They have a mission to bring Southern Gospel Music back to the Rochester, NY area and are asking that you pray God's blessings on what they are doing. It has been a real struggle they say, as there has not been anyone in the area to promote Southern Gospel for years and with God's help and your Prayers they believe this will be a success. Do you know someone in area? Tell them about SGNY and join us in prayer for Bob, Joyce and Southern Gospel NY



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LES BUTLER AND FRIENDS

Tim Surrett

by Les Butler



I was first acquainted with Tim Surrett by playing the Carolinians, a group he was with in his teens. They were a really good Southern Gospel quartet.

I looked up one day and found Tim on the stage as a member of the Kingsmen Quartet as well as with Squire Parsons and Redeemed. In addition to being a vocalist he also played electric bass with all of these groups.

Then the bluegrass bug hit him, and he picked up the dobro and was a member of the Isaacs until co-founding the bluegrass super-group, Balsam Range.

Balsam Range took the bluegrass world by storm and remains one of it's very top groups. Tim also hosted the Bluegrass Jam at the National Quartet Convention for a few years.

Tim is a multi-talented vocalist, touring and studio musician. I'm happy to present my friend, Tim Surrett!

LES BUTLER: What is your earliest musical memory?

TIM SURRETT: I guess it would have to be hearing my dad play and sing. He was a great country and bluegrass singer, and he would let me tag along to shows and practices.

LB: What's the first instrument you tried to play?

TS: My dad started showing me a few chords on the guitar when I was 5 or 6. I decided to be a bass player at 14.

LB: State the instruments you play?

TS: I'm a bass player by trade, electric bass for several

years. The upright bass came along later. I play the dobro on our records and a few songs onstage. I still play a little guitar.

LB: If you could only have one instrument on a desert island, which one would it be?

TS: Probably my old 1945 Martin D-18 which belonged to my grandfather.

LB: Who are your favorite musicians on each of the instruments you play?

TS: I would say Todd Phillips on the upright bass. Great mix of jazz and bluegrass. Jerry Douglas and Rob Ickes on dobro. Tony Rice on guitar. He's probably my favorite musician of all time.

LB: You are a founding member of the multi-award winning, Balsam Range. Bring us up to date on what's going on with Balsam Range.

TS: Well like everyone else we haven't played much since last March. We have kept busy in the studio. We have a new record mostly finished, and have a new single releasing in January. Our song "Richest Man" was the top bluegrass song of 2020. We sure are look-

ing forward to getting back on the road!

LB: Tell us about the radio you've started hosting.

TS: I was missing the sense of community that playing music provides, and I started thinking of some way I could enjoy music and fellowship with all the friends I've made over the last 40 years. I started thinking about our local radio station, and maybe starting a show there. They were excited about the idea, and 10 days later I went on the air with it. It's called Papertown Roots Radio. Paper town comes from a Balsam Range song about our blue collar hometown Canton, North Carolina. I play bluegrass, classic country and a lot of Gospel music. It has been very well received.

LB: You have played with multiple artists in live settings and on hundreds of albums as a session player. Give me your most memorable live performance, as well as your most memorable album recording?

TS: Playing in Tony Rice's band was an amazing thing for me – he was my absolute favorite. Walking on stage for the first time with the Kinsmen was pretty surreal as well. I would have to say my first night with Squire Parsons was amazing as well. I was just so stunned as he sang "Beulah Land" that I almost didn't come in on the chorus!

LB: Which do you enjoy the most; playing live or in the studio?

TS: I love the studio to this day, but the connection with a live audience is the best for me. I learned from two all time greats, Jim Hamill and Squire Parsons. They had totally different styles, but both had a great way of relating to the audience. I still love putting songs together in the studio, and I'm glad to still get that opportunity quite often.

LB: You are a great singer as well. Do you recall the first song you ever sang in public? Who is your favorite singer?

TS: I think I sang "Thank God I'm A Country Boy" at a bluegrass show when I was 11 or 12. Ha Ha. I also sang "Jesus Is His Name" at East Canton Baptist Church about that same time. I was playing guitar with a family group at that church.

LB: When you're not picking and singing, what are you doing?

TS: My son is 12, and a good middle school baseball player. I love every second helping him practice in the yard or on the field. I even have a lefty catcher's mitt! Over the last year I have really enjoyed just being at home with my wife Hope. I've never really had this much time at home, and we really enjoy being together, just being normal.

LB: Give us a brief testimony.

TS: God has blessed me so much more than I ever deserved. A beautiful wife, an awesome boy, and so many great opportunities to play music with so many heroes and friends. This year makes 40 years of traveling and playing, the last 14 with my Balsam Range brothers. Overall, the chance to lead my son to Christ this past year is the greatest blessing of my life. We're waiting on a baptizing! Help me pray that God will use me somehow in the place he has put me.





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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.



Contributors

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

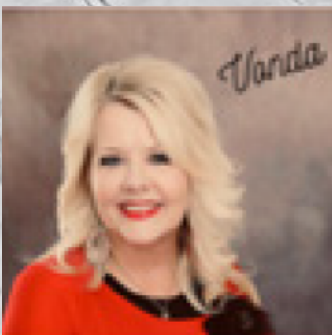
Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com

Stephanie Kelly is a public speaker and owner of



Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebie, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. QueenOQ.blogspot.com

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 she also hosts a weekly radio show which keeps her in touch with many of Southern Gos-



pel's leading executives and artists. It also allows her a fresh view of new music and 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.

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.

Justin Gilmore is 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.

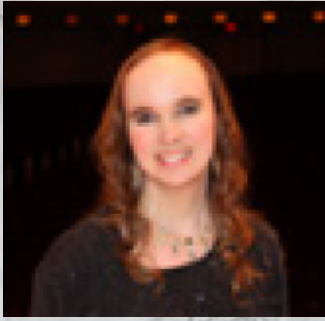


Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGN-Scoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at www.charliegriffin.net.



Contributors

Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middleschool English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion of teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony. To learn more about Jennifer visit <http://jennifercampbell.net>.



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer. He is behind the scenes making sure content is uploaded to the servers properly and that the monthly digital magazine can be properly downloaded each month. He and his family have a farm in East Tennessee. www.cloverleafhorses.com



Staci Schwager enjoys design work of all kinds.



Whether its graphic design layouts or interior design she loves and has an eye for color and layout. In her spare time she can be found usually with a paint brush in hand doing some type of project. She and her husband Pete enjoy their farm life in the East Tennessee

mountains.

Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The MysteryMen quartet, Florida Boys, and Mark209. Off the road, he enjoys spending time with his wife Christa, his three kids and one granddaughter.



Robert York's love for Southern Gospel music began at a young age when his parents took him to Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosed by Warren Roberts. After retiring from USPS after 35 years, he decided to start promoting concerts. The goal was nit only to promote our concerts but to promote any Gospel concerts in our area. When his wife graduated to heaven in 2013, he was at a crossroad. After much prayer God led him to continue promoting concerts. He still very mush enjoys attending concerts and writing about the groups as well.



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 Soulseekers, 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 publicationsaJeff is excited to be a part of the SGNScoops family!



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by many popular gospel artists. Shis is also a 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.



Contributors

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.



Carrie Hofmeister is a staff writer for SGNScoops magazine, covering a wide range of stories that push her to step outside of her comfort zone. She has always had a passion for writing, whether stories, songs, feelings, or just what happened that day. When she isn't writing articles, she and her husband, Mitchell, write and sing their own music, traveling to wherever God opens a door.



Lindsey Sipe heard God tell her that she would work in country music when she was just 4 years old. Currently making her living as a publicist, artist/media consultant, and freelance journalist through her company LIT Nashville, telling stories is Lindsey's specialty, whether it's through writing, photography, social media, or on camera interviews.



April Potter Holleman is a 24-year veteran in music business serving in consulting, marketing, radio, publicity and most known for her booking and management agency April Potter Agency where she has had the privilege of working with numerous, multi award-winning artists and speakers. She joins SGNScoops as a speciality guest writer. You can follow her www.apotteragency.com, FB [www.Facebook.Com/aprilpotteragency](https://www.facebook.com/aprilpotteragency) or IG [april_potter_agency](https://www.instagram.com/april_potter_agency)

