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A gospel-music world view

March 2011

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&

Tom, Jennifer, &

Dale Golden:

Encouragement for

LIFE

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*Christian Fitness with Laurette Willis will return in April.



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SGN Scoops exists to showcase what is distinguished, intriguing, and real about southern & country gospel music. We seek with our stories to shed light on people fulfilling a call to minister - to make or support the making of music that excites an audience and glorifies God. And we seek to do it interactively.

What is our calling?

Sometimes I just don't know what to say. Usually, that is a sign that I should say nothing, but since this column is due and all, I have to put it as gently as I can.

Call it mid-western winter funk if you want, but I have had the blues. I don't feel fresh, as the title of this column suggests, and I certainly don't feel like "this" is all new to me, like I did when I began as editor in September 2009.

In fact, lately, when it comes to gospel music, I feel jaded, disappointed, bored, and cynical. There isn't a lot that I am anticipating right now. I read news and it doesn't excite me. I hear of artists having to leave the road because they can no longer cover the expense and I feel helpless. I see in-fighting and trouble-stirring (through a medium I'm beginning to think might have come from the devil; it's an *eight* letter word that starts with F!).

And it occurs to me, when I turn my focus away from all this trivial stuff – because it is, you know, in the light of eternity – that none of these peripheral factors that make up the gospel music industry have an overall bearing on the eternal destiny of people who hear gospel music.

{ *What did she just say?* }

Basically...our magazines, websites, charts, tables, product sales, buses/trailers/trucks, stages, suits, awards, nominations, personnel changes, conventions/cruises/revivals/jubilees/festivals...well, they are means. They are details. They are not the gospel itself.

If we all shut up, deactivated our F---b---k accounts, and did nothing but sing in our local church choir or write for our church bulletin for the rest of our lives, (while living lives pleasing to Christ, of course) God would still be on the throne, He would still grow His kingdom, He would still answer prayers, and Lady Gaga and *People Magazine* would simply go on selling more units, respectively, than the rest of us put together.

I have beat myself up a lot in the past months about my lack of excitement for projects and events, but as I sit here writing this, I can look back over the same period of time and count what has brought excitement to me: my children learning new Sunday School songs, more and more people attending our church's Wednesday night Bible study on Revelation each week, the tears my husband shed after hearing a classic gospel song on YouTube, Biblical truths

evident in a whole new way as I read them in *The Message*, and these words from a very special "gospel" friend of mine: **Sadly, it's really easy to get disillusioned with the gospel music industry; 'business' side of it can totally suck the joy out of a ministry! -- just remember, THAT is not what you guys are called to; it's just the medium.**

This friend is one who has been around the gospel music block quite a few more times than I have. She has Grammys sitting on her bookshelves and people who "define" gospel music on her speed dial. And yet, she acknowledges readily that gospel music leads very few people to fame and fortune, that it is not a ticket to peace and pleasure, and that, we must always be mindful, it's a sub-culture. When we talk to people like Adam Crabb, who emphasize a heart for ministry and then show it in their work, we stop caring about their accolades and can instead be impressed by how God is using them. When we get to Heaven, perhaps the only numbers we see will be souls touched and changed by our actions.

Our readership at *Scoops* continues to grow. Statistics tell me that thousands of people read these pages every month – and sometimes, tens of thousands (THANK YOU!). But I guarantee that if I walk into my local Chicagoland Borders (closing soon...thank you, Recession), none of the avid readers there will have ever read the words I write or edit for this magazine. And that's okay. Because what I hope – what I strive for, is that if I happen to be in Borders, perhaps looking for books with my kids, or making a simple purchase, that the people around me will see Jesus in me. They will see the love presented in the most epic gospel song in the way I talk to them, look at them, present myself.

Gospel music – or writing about it - is not a calling or commandment that came from the Bible. It is a gift God gave some of His people as a tool for spreading His story. God forgive me if I forget that at any time along the way. He does not need me to sustain or do His work; I need Him to allow me to do so.



KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Love, Life, & Legends with Ms. Lou:



The season to serve.

The sacrifices and committed effort made by the staff of Scoops Digital magazine is tremendous. I have a special appreciation for our editor Kelly Burton who spends much of her time on a bus traveling with her husband, singer/evangelist Rod Burton and their children. She is amazing! It is not easy to be in gospel music ministry, but it is a “calling” not to be denied. To all gospel singers and industry workers, young and old, I remind you that the bible tells us when we grow weary to remember in due time we will reap.

God is faithful to His children at all seasons of life, and Howard and I thank Him for awesome blessings as we grow older!

A very special recognition came my way a few weeks ago. I am both humbled and thrilled that Bill & Gloria Gaither’s *Homecoming Magazine* selected me for their HALL OF HONOR page. When I recall some of the recipients in past issues--Glen Payne, George Younce, Hovie Lister, J D Sumner, Howard & Vestal Goodman, and Jake Hess, to name a few, I am overwhelmed !

When Howard and I moved from Texas to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1969, I established the first gospel artist agency owned and managed by a woman. It took long hours, hard work, with 100% dedication to the artists. Total dependence on the Lord became an even stronger reality in my life. My years of traveling with the Wills Family, owning a record and publishing company, and hosting one of the pioneer

television series in gospel music, were God’s preparation for those memorable years in Nashville. One of the young promoters who called my office regularly for talent in those early years was Frank Arnold. The photos we share here were taken by Howard when Frank Arnold Ministries brought the “Celebrate Jesus” concert series to Houston. Frank and Vickie Arnold are still going strong, and God has blessed their efforts. Yes, God is faithful





and keeps His promises. Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

gospvideo@aol.com www.louhildreth.com

Ms. Lou's Memory Book:

*Previous page from top" Guy Penrod; Triumphant—David, Clayton, Scotty, Eric, and Jeff
This page, clockwise from top: Talleys—Lauren, Debra, and Roger; Hoppers—Kim, Dean, Connie, Claude, and Mike; Vickie and Frank Arnold, "Celebrate Jesus" concert, Houston, promoted by Frank Arnold Ministries*

It is the Lord's desire- and ours here at SGN Scoops Digital- that you become one of His followers. God has promised eternity in Heaven with Him for all those who accept Him as their Personal Savior.

Admit that you are a sinner.

Romans 3:23- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Believe that, because of your sin, you deserve to spend eternity in Hell. However, Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross of Calvary to pay the debt for our sin. He then rose from the dead three days later, proving His victory over death, Hell, and sin. He offers this as a free gift to all who will accept it in faith.

Romans 5:8- But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us....Romans

6:23- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

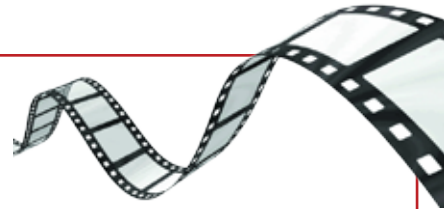
Call upon Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart, forgive your sins, and make you one of His children.

Romans 10:9- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved... Romans 10:13- For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If you would like to accept God's free gift of salvation, then all you have to do is pray and ask Him. Then, you must believe this in your heart as well.

If you have any questions about salvation, or if you just prayed to receive Christ, please e-mail us at sgn-scoops@gmail.com. We'd love to rejoice with you! God bless you!

A Chat With The Showrunner



(Note: A "showrunner" is the person who makes the main creative decisions for a TV show and is often involved in the day-to-day running of it. The following is an imagined conversation between Jesus and me, as if my life were a TV show. The scene starts with me picking up a phone and calling Jesus.)

JESUS: Yes, Tom?

TOM: Jesus, we have to talk about this season again. I really don't like the plot twists so far.

JESUS (weary chuckle): I must say, I'm not surprised. I can't remember when you ever called to tell me you liked the current season.

TOM: Well, I mean, come on. My car slips on some black ice and I wind up waiting for the tow truck in a ditch for two-and-a-half hours? How does that help the overall story arc of "My Life" or grow me as a main character in any way? It's just obnoxious.

JESUS: Well, there's a lot of stuff to cover in that last statement of yours. But for starters, you're still freaking out over all the little things that happen in your life. I can't take you to the more awesome episodes that I have in later seasons until I get you over stuff like this.

TOM: Little things? Not only was the tow truck expensive, but now there's something very wrong with the steering on my car. How can I afford to get that fixed? Did you forget that I'm not working right now? What a continuity slip-up! How am I going to survive for the next two weeks? How is this story satisfying at all?

JESUS: Didn't you read that news article yesterday about the guy that's being held hostage in the Middle East? They're going to execute him for believing in My name. If that happens, he's going to leave behind a wife and several kids. Would you rather be living his story instead?

TOM: No, of course not. I feel for the guy. Clearly his situation is much worse than mine. But at least I UNDERSTAND his situation. If he survives, your name is glorified. If he doesn't, he goes home to a great reward with you. His life has meaning and purpose. What's the meaning and purpose behind a stupid, pointless accident like this?

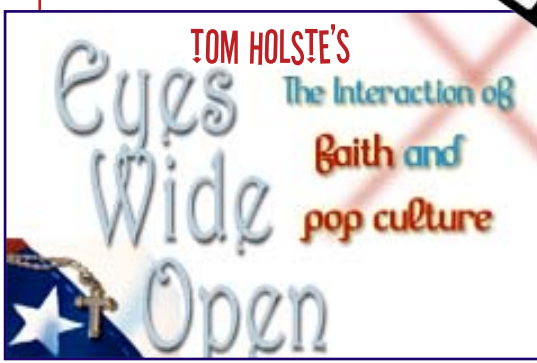
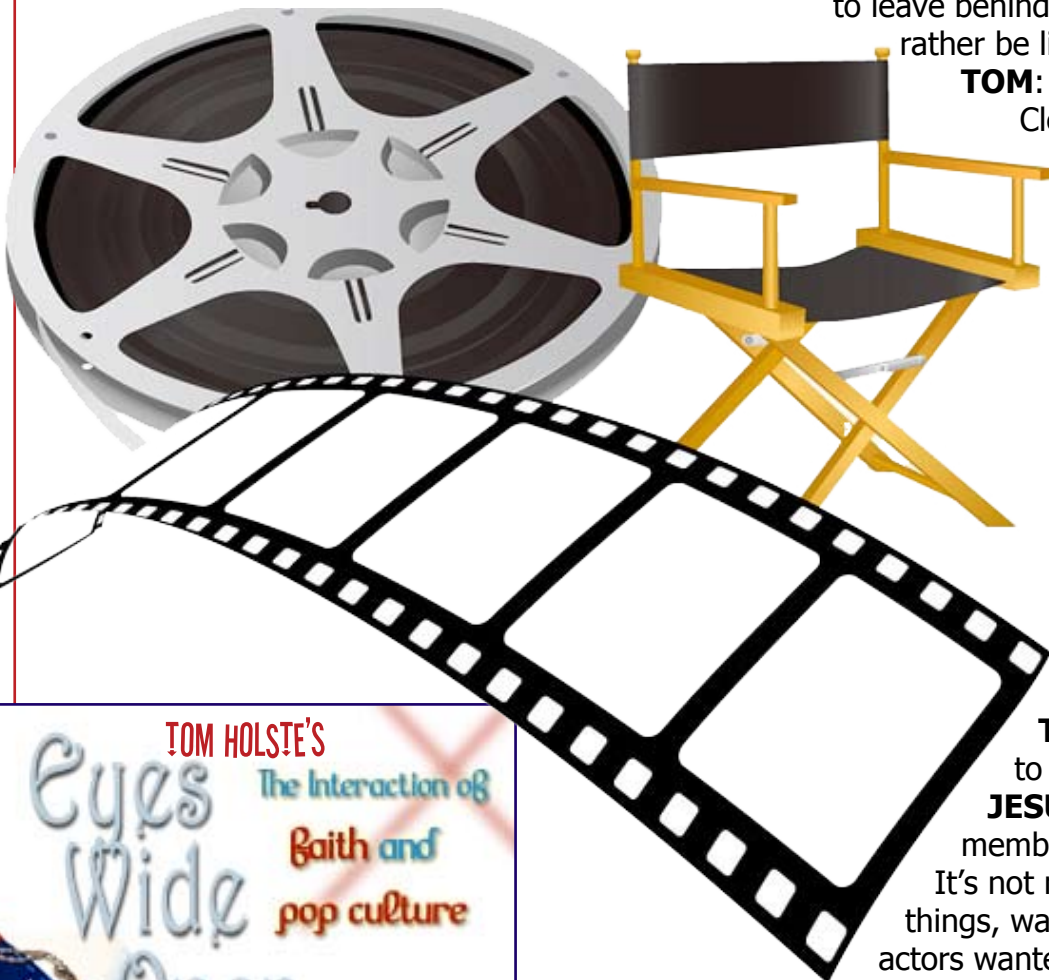
JESUS: You know I'm not the only one calling the shots here, don't you? Everything is a negotiation with the head of the network.

TOM: The head of the network?

JESUS: You know, the "god" of this world?

TOM: But you don't have to answer to him!

JESUS: That's not what I mean. Remember, this scenario isn't my design. It's not me who called in the devil to run things, way back in Eden. That's what the actors wanted. You know you would have done the same thing in their place. So, for now,



everything that happens is a negotiation with him. Don't worry. It won't last forever.

TOM: But can I even really believe that this was the devil's doing? Again, I don't want to trade places with the guy in the Middle East, but I can believe that the devil is trying to mess up his life. I can also believe your hand is in his situation. But I find it hard to believe that there's any element of a grand, cosmic design in my stupid car being in a ditch.

JESUS: I could say more, but I don't think you're done venting.

TOM: You're right. Sometimes I don't think you're writing or directing any episodes of my life at all. And, frankly, I don't know which idea scares me more: the notion that you're doing all this stuff to me on purpose, or the notion that everything is happening willy-nilly, and that you gave up caring about what happened in my life a long time ago. Where was the angelic help when I needed it last night?

JESUS: Did you crash into any other cars when you skidded?

TOM (long pause): No.

JESUS: Wasn't that an extremely busy part of the expressway?

TOM: Yeah. Yeah, it is. Three lanes merge right there. It's rather astonishing that no one got hurt. (humbled) One might say miraculous.

JESUS: And you saw the guy on the other side of the expressway, right? You had been waiting in your car for a while, and then you got out and came to the side of the road to see if any help was coming yet. That's when you saw the guy who skidded on the same road, a while after you did, off to the other side. He did get hospitalized. Remember?

TOM: So . . . what about him? Why wasn't he protected from that?

JESUS (affectionate chuckle): Child, that's his story, not yours.

TOM: Okay. I guess I do see your hand in it all now. But how am I going to pay for the repairs?

JESUS: Sorry. You know I never give out spoilers for upcoming episodes. See, there's something you're forgetting, Tom. Earlier, you called yourself the main character of your show. But you forgot the truth again: Everything that happens is an episode of my show. I'm the showrunner and the main character.

TOM (deflated): Yeah, you're right. Can I find any hope in that concept, though? It makes me feel so small.

JESUS: Well, if it's not all about you in a good sense, it's also not all about you in a bad sense either. And, to be honest, you're one of my favorite supporting characters, just like the rest of my children.

TOM (smiles): Okay. So what now?

JESUS: I think it's time for a rerun. Time to remind yourself of what the basic priorities are.

TOM: Good idea. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name . . . 🇳🇮

***JESUS:**
Didn't you read that news
article yesterday about
the guy that's being
held hostage in the Middle
East? They're going to
execute him for believing in
My name...Would you
rather be living his story?*



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What I Know In The Midst

Encouragement by **Dale Golden**

For the last 16 years of my life, I have dedicated myself in service to my Lord through an active touring music ministry, Christian songwriting (I have over 160 registered songs now), preaching, testifying, speaking, writing for as many as six publications at one time, including a Christian humor column and hosting two separate radio programs, one currently, called "Dale Golden's GODPRAISE!" which airs each Saturday from 1-3 PM on FM 90.3 KBJs in Jacksonville, TX and via Internet at www.KBJs.org. My greatest joy in life is service to my Lord and my instrument of praise is my voice.

But I have cancer. Not just any cancer. I have cancer of the tongue. I am all those things listed above and I have cancer of the tongue. The mere thought, even at this point, overwhelms me. Subsequently, I was also found to have a tumor in my thyroid. When informed of this by my cancer specialist, I asked, "Is this my primary cancer?" "No," he said.

Incredulously, I asked if he was telling me I had **two** types of cancer. "Yes," he said. So, not only do I have cancer of the tongue, which has spread into my throat, but I have a second, unrelated cancer, which is also in my throat. These are the third and fourth different types of cancer I have been diagnosed with in the last 10 years. I survived pancreatic cancer in 2000 and malignant melanoma in 2006 as well. Four differing cancers in the 10 years before my 50th birthday!

At this point, I do not know if I will even survive through 2011, let alone if I will ever be able to speak normally, taste, chew or whether I will ever sing again.

I don't know why or how some things come to be. I don't understand tragedy or trial for some who are seemingly so undeserving of the horror that life can

dish out. I don't know why some who serve the Lord are under constant attack while others seemingly go unscathed. I don't know why some talents and efforts

are embraced and acclaimed while others who are equally gifted or talented languish in anonymity.

I don't know why some suffer physical burdens while others experience perfect health for most of their lives. I don't know why so many are blessed with great wealth and possessions while others can barely survive. I don't know why yesterday

happened or how tomorrow will unfold. I don't know the answer to any of these questions and a million more like them, **but God does!**

The grand thing is **I know God** and that is **enough** for me! **I trust Him** even when I don't understand Him! As a child questions a parent, so too do I often question why some things I don't understand have to happen. It is in these times when I sense the great, immeasurable love of the Father who, though He doesn't reveal His plans or reasoning to me, nevertheless comforts me and calms me with His assurances of love that I am His and in His care, even in my times of mortal suffering.

I can rejoice in these times in knowing that when I don't know, **He knows**. I am then reminded, once again, that **I know Him**, and this is enough to answer my deepest questions, to reassure my strongest doubts, to reinforce my weakest moments of faith and to help me find **faith** in what seems to be the most **hopeless of moments!**

It's not a question of if, but when you will experience these same questions and doubts, but be assured in your personal relationship with **Him**! He has promised He will never leave nor forsake you! You can trust Him, believe Him, and find peace in the storm when you **know Him**! Be encouraged, He **knows** whatever the case may be! Be blessed! 🇳🇮



Dale surprised his wife Cheryl at a singing date this past January, joining her to minister on stage at the Rockport Gospel Fest. Photo by Kendra Springer

Lynda Lynn Songs, Award Winning Songwriter

P.O. Box 2258, Branson West, MO, 65737
angelswings@centurytel.net / 417-338-4331

Frequent television guests, **Lynda & Bud Lynn**, are Country Gospel Music Association's International Media Personalities of the Year for 3 consecutive years. They also received a Publisher's Award from SGN Scoops Magazine.

Lynda & Bud with Gregg Busch honor the Purple Heart Recipients at Branson's Chateau on the Lake. Branson cares for our Veterans. Lynda & Bud performed Lynda's song *One Voice* at the Missouri state capital in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Photo George Kurlin

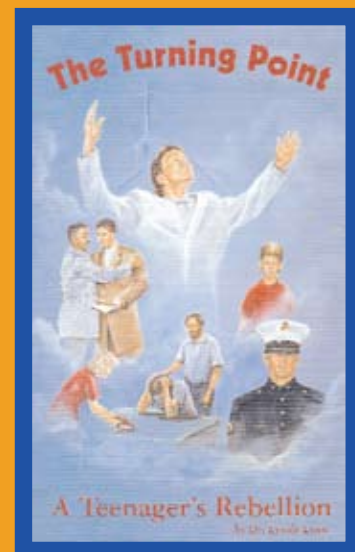


Dr. Lynda Lynn is a 14 time ASCAP award winning songwriter. Her latest CD, *Reach Out For Him*, features 16 Branson artists and 19 songs. Barbara Fairchild, Randy Brooks, Andrea Blackwood Carter, Glory-Anne Prophet and more. Gene Higgins' Powersource Magazine, Nashville, listed *Little Boys & Little Toys* by Barbara Fairchild at #7.



An Ozark winter wonderland at **Chapelwoods**, this was built to make a difference as Rod Burton stated. Rod chose this as an image for the front cover of his new CD titled *The Difference*. Come see and pray. God will "God Zap" you as you enter through the door of this quaint little chapel.

Lynda has co-authored a book with her son Rory titled, *The Turning Point, A Teenager's Rebellion*. The book focuses on trusting God to bring families with troubled teens through rebellious times allowing family restoration.



When life changes

Jennifer Campbell
on the lessons of
“those” moments...

Have you ever had “one of those days?” You know the kind I’m talking about... when everything seems to go wrong, your head is about to explode, and hopelessness surrounds you? There are moments in our lives when it seems that life as we know it is over. In August 2008, I had one of those moments.

My Mom, Dad, and I were vacationing in the Great Smoky Mountains in Western North Carolina. We were enjoying our first summer in our new fifth wheel camper. Life seemed perfect. Then, life changed forever.

One evening, we were sitting in the living room watching a DVD episode of *The Waltons*. In a split second, my Mom sat up, stared straight ahead, and despite my pleas for her to stay with us, my Mom went home to be with the Lord. We did not have a chance to say goodbye. There was no warning. Life just changed. Since then, I have continuously questioned, “what if?” What if the paramedics had arrived on the scene more quickly? What if I had dialed 911 a millisecond faster? What if...?

My Dad and I called out to the Lord, pleading for Him to spare her life. I needed my Mama to be with me. Didn’t God understand this? I knew that God was a miracle working God. I had seen evidence of this through my own journey into this world, even to the point of God raising me from the dead, and I had seen His hand working in our lives countless times again when my Mom, Dad, or I endured an illness or accident. Why wasn’t He working now?

There came a time in my journey that I no longer held on to the heartache. Sure, I still miss my Mom even today. I’ll be honest. Some days are incredibly difficult. But, the real difference came when I stopped dwelling on the past. Specifically, a change came when I stopping reliving the night my Mom went to be with the Lord. This night had haunted me for nearly two years. After much prayer and searching the pages of God’s Word, I finally realized that I no longer had to bear the burden of the “what-ifs.” You see, the “what-ifs” don’t really matter. I could question God for the remainder of my life with questions of “what ifs,” but it would not matter. Why? Because God is a Sovereign God.

If you have ever, even for one split second, questioned whether or not God heard your cry for help, rest assured that He heard you. There is never a time in your life when He does not listen to everything you

say. He is always watching over you, guiding and protecting you. God has a perfect dream for your life. He knows when you will cry tears of sadness and when you will cry tears of joy. Regardless of your current situation, God is in control. He knows, He cares, and He is there for you, in the sunshine and the rain.

As human beings living in a troubled world, we will experience changes in life. There will be times when we don’t know what to do. There will be mountains we have to cross that seem too high, rivers that seem too wide, and deserts that seem too dry. Sometimes, God leads us through trials in order to bring us to victories. We may not understand His guiding hand at the time, but as the beloved song tells us, we will understand it better by and by.

Even in the darkest, most difficult times of our existence, nothing is impossible with God. Sure, the EMTs said that it was too late. They said my Mom had suffered a heart attack, and there was nothing they could do. Still, I waited silently, at first, assured in my heart and soul that God was going to perform a miracle. I knew He would not let me down. I knew He would intervene.

Jesus said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God” (Luke 18:27). I believe God’s word with my whole heart, and I clung to the words of this verse, knowing that it was not too late. What the EMTs could not do was entirely possible with God! I knew that a miracle was possible. Yet, time passed by, a blur of men and women in uniform, fellow campers offering their condolences, my Dad and I finding ourselves in the lowest valley we had ever walked through. God could have intervened, yet He chose not to. Do I understand His purpose? No, I don’t always understand God’s decisions. Still, I know He is working for my good.

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Notice the scripture doesn’t say that all things work together the

When life changes cont'd

way we choose. Instead, it says, "in all things God works." God works in our lives the way He chooses. He sees the big picture. He's not just looking at the next ten, twenty, or even fifty years. He is looking at

After much prayer and searching the pages of God's Word, I finally realized that I no longer had to bear the burden of the "what-ifs."

your entire life, from the very beginnings in your mother's womb to the moment you enter into eternity in either Heaven or Hell. No matter what happens in your life, remember this: life is tough, but God is faithful.

If you feel hopeless, remember that God is the giver of hope. If you are tired of change, rest assured that God will never change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God will always love you. He wants you to experience a life of joy and happiness. If you love God, He will work for your good. He will give you hope. He will restore your faith. He will reveal to you the life you always dreamed of living. 🇳🇮

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Diamond awards

the gospel fans have spoken

Thanks to all the readers who voted in our first round. Top 10 Nominees in every category will be announced in our next issue, MONDAY, APRIL 4

J.D. SUMNER LIVING LEGEND AWARD - MIXED GROUP OF THE YEAR - QUARTET OF THE YEAR - TRIO OF THE YEAR - DUET OF THE YEAR - FEMALE SOLOIST OF THE YEAR - MALE SOLOIST OF THE YEAR - SUNRISE AWARD - SONG OF THE YEAR - ALBUM OF THE YEAR - CHRISTIAN COUNTRY GROUP OF THE YEAR - CHRISTIAN COUNTRY FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR - CHRISTIAN COUNTRY MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR - CHRISTIAN COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR - ANTHONY BURGER INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR - DOTTIE RAMBO SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR - BLUEGRASS GOSPEL ARTIST OF THE YEAR - VIDEO/DVD OF THE YEAR - FAVORITE ARTIST WEBSITE - FAVORITE INDUSTRY WEBSITE - PAUL HEIL AWARD (Broadcasting) -

The SGN Scoops
Diamond Awards
are returning
for a 12th year!

This fan-voted
awards ceremony
will take place
THURSDAY,
JUNE 30 at the
Branson Gospel
Music Revival
(www.bran-songmr.com).

The categories are
listed here. Sec-
ond round voting
begins Monday,
April 4.

Diamond
awards

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coming in April!

the gospel fans have spoken



2011



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& C R A B B R E V I V A L

Modeling CHRIST to
Their Generation

Crabb is a name that has been at the forefront of Christian Music for more than a decade and their name is synonymous with *progressive, driving music* and *tear-your-heart-out lyrics*. When the original Crabb Family retired in 2007, Adam and his sister Terah, along with Zach Smith, Micah Schweinsberg and Jedidiah Richardson formed Crabb Revival, a group that soon began to form its own legacy with a Dove award nomination the following year. Crabb Revival has had a few changes in their lineup, including the additional vocals of Amanda Smith and saying goodbye to sister Terah, but with the release of the new CD, *Going Places*, Crabb and his team are showing no signs of taking a hiatus from the ministry road.

By Lorraine Walker

Between Crabb Revival and the Crabb Family Celebration Tour, 'busy' is an understatement for this talented twin of the award-winning family. In the midst of traveling, recording, and finding time for his family, Adam Crabb recently paused to discuss music, ministry and the responsibility of being a role model for his generation.

"We are excited about what God has already done with Crabb Revival," says Crabb. "We saw a lot of lives changed over the past year and a lot of people saved, and that is what our ministry is about."

2010 was a roller-coaster year for the group, with many doors opening for this relatively new ministry. Last summer, Adam's sisters Kelly and Terah, along with brother-in-law Mike Bowling, were in a terrifying bus crash that shook the family. Adam himself went through some significant personal issues that took him through valleys he'd never walked before. Yet through all of this, Crabb Revival remains firmly planted on the Rock that is their anchor.

"The enemy wants to destroy those that are out there making a difference," continues Crabb. "There are a lot of groups out there that are making a difference and I encourage them to never give up, but to keep doing what God has told them to do. I'm believing for this next year to be the greatest year Crabb Revival has ever had."

With the challenges of operating a successful music ministry in a struggling economy, working to meet the needs of family and fans, traveling the roads so often and trying to consistently present the love of Christ, it can be difficult to remain focused. Adam Crabb has a simple response to how to keep on track: "Just Jesus. He keeps me in line. My flesh is not always cooperative with my heart, but I always try to keep it under subjection to what He wants me to do and be. Have I always been perfect? Lord, no! I have fallen so many times but I keep getting up. I believe that God blesses and

honors those that have the heart to do right and to see things done right."

Part of keeping things "in line" is personal times of fellowship with the Lord. "When we first started Crabb Revival, some of our best services were on the bus!" says Crabb. "There was one night in particular when we were excited about playing a new video game called *Stunt Man*. We were going to play that all the way home. However, we had a bible study and then God just began to move. Before we knew it, three hours had passed and we were just on our knees praying. It felt like the Holy Spirit had come and sat on that bus with us. Before we knew it we were home! Never played that video game once!"

"There's not a day that goes by when I don't stop and give God thanks," continues Crabb. "Prayer is so important. Another thing my Dad instilled in me was to fear God. That has stayed with me, no matter where I've gone. If I'm in the wrong place, that fear is there and the conviction is there. God is an awesome God."

Reinventing the Ministry

Adam Crabb grew up in a family with a strong belief in a Holy God, a belief that held them together through trials. While separating was certainly an anxious time, radio host Mickey Bell comments, "It's always exciting to see a family group come along that makes the impact the Crabb Family made when they were all together. Many times you have only one talent in the group and the entire ministry depends upon them. Not the case with this generation of family whose last name is Crabb. Adam has put together a sound that allows him to stay with his roots but also branch into an area of music that he loves and that people have fallen in love with as well."

At 31, Crabb admits that it was difficult to come apart from the family ministry and begin afresh with his own band, becoming his own boss with others looking to him for leadership.

“It’s different when you are involved in something and you get a paycheck every week!” Crabb continues, “Taking on a whole ministry and the load of everything, keeping the bus running and paying the bills - it’s challenging. This past year we had two months where we had no dates. Then the transmission went out on the bus and the generator blew up all in the same period. I got home and my car was missing its rims and tires, just sitting on blocks. You name it, it happened.”

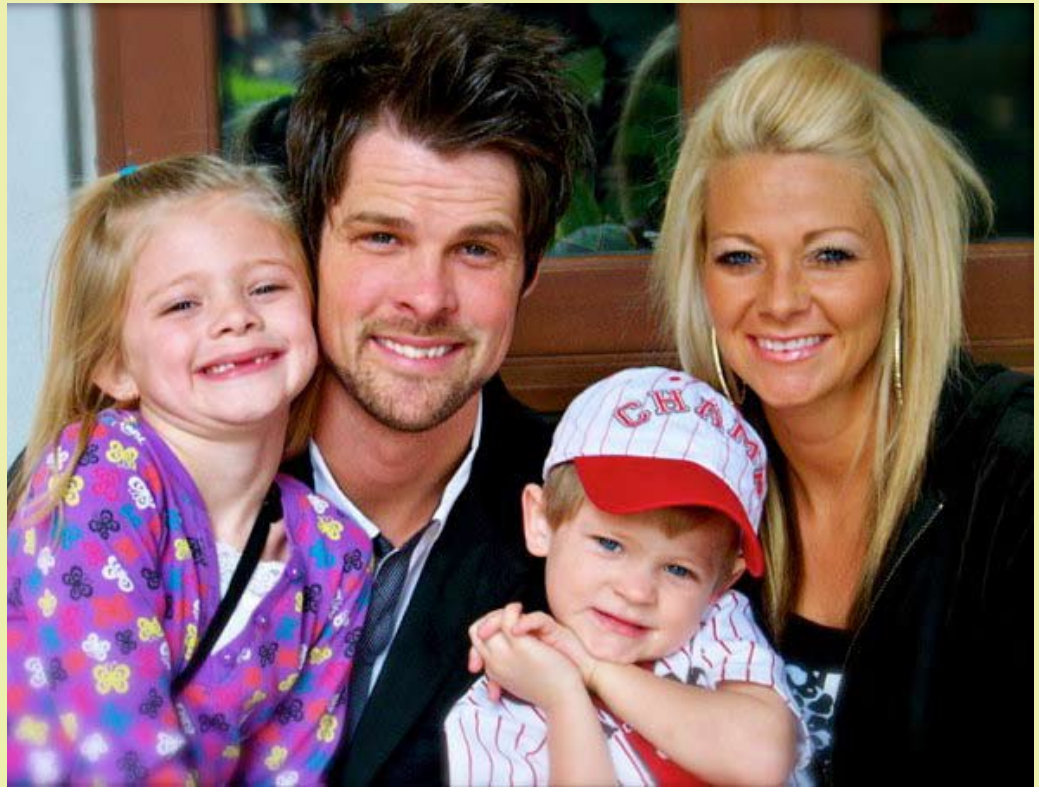
“But every week, we were seeing souls saved and lives changed. We were seeing an impact and the devil was trying to stop us. But we just kept pressing on and moving forward. It’s getting better but it’s a building process.”

Crabb continues, “But you know what? Even if tomorrow I had to say, ‘I can’t do this anymore,’ I’m still blessed. I have been able to do what I love to do, for so many years. I don’t think God’s done with me. I really think that my best days are ahead of me.”

He continues, “This last year, I’ve had to endure some things that I really didn’t want to go through. I endured some pain that nearly killed me. I sat in a field after being up for four days, I couldn’t think, I wasn’t even sure where I was. There was so much hurt in my life and the enemy wanted to take me out that day. I really believe that.”

Crabb shares, “I went up to the hotel room. Jed, our bass player, came and knocked on the door. I didn’t want to see anyone, not a soul. But he came in and said, ‘God told me to wash your feet.’ He began to wash my feet. The presence of God fell in there and I just felt weights fall off of me.”

The memory of that moment still



Adam pictured with daughter Hannah, son Charlie, and wife Kristi.

Photo courtesy of Adam Crabb.

brings tears to Adam Crabb’s eyes. “There are still days that I suffer that same pain, but the load has been lifted. I have the strength to keep going. I thank God for this band and the ministers He has surrounded me with.”

Accountable Partners

As Crabb Revival continues to travel and minister, Adam says it is important to have accountability within the group. The one he is most accountable to is his wife, Kristi. “I believe in being honest with who you are. I have a guy in my life that anytime I’m going through something I can call and he will help me. My father [Gerald] and my brother Jason have both been huge influences in my life and I lean on them for advice. It’s good to have people in your life to push you and to tell you when you are wrong. People to keep you in line and step on your toes a little bit. It may hurt for awhile but it’s going to make you a

better person.”

Adam Crabb is vocal about the role his wife plays in all he does. “Kristi traveled with me for nine years,” Crabb explains. “2010 was our tenth year anniversary. I have learned that being married is an every-day process. You have to understand them and they have to understand you. But more than that, without the Word of God and the Love of God in your house, it won’t work. It is the glue that holds it together.”

Adam Crabb has made the Lord the center of their home. “My Dad wrote a song called ‘A House Ain’t A Home ‘Til Jesus Moves In.’ That is so true. The moment you allow other things to take the place of Jesus, that’s when it all starts caving in.”

As a Christian artist and an exhorter of the Word of God, Adam Crabb recognizes his responsibility to walk his talk. “Somebody told me



Crabb Revival in concert this past December.

Photo by Joan Walker

one time, 'You are a shepherd, guiding the sheep. I didn't really understand that until this year,' says Crabb. "There are a lot of people watching. If I fail in my marriage, what kind of a sign is that to those people? So it's important to me to keep my marriage and my house strong."

"I've been blessed to have ten incredible years in which my wife has been behind me and supported me," continues Crabb. "My kids love their Daddy and they go with me as much as they can."

Crabb does have a warning for those who are careless about their marriage vows or their family commitment: "The enemy loves to destroy a family. If he can get your family, he's got you. I don't care what anyone says, once you've been through a struggle with your family, whether its divorce or whatever, there is always something there. God can heal it, but it's always there. I encourage everyone to work

on your marriage and work to make your house a better home."

Reaching Farther

The audience of Crabb Revival is not a regular Southern Gospel crowd and can range from any age to any style to any culture. "We try to sing to the crowd we are with. It doesn't always work out that way! The direction we think maybe we shouldn't go is often the direction we need to go! Jason always did it so well in the

Crabb Family. But it's a learning process. I think our main

audience is people in their mid-30s and kids, though we do have a lot of older fans. We love to minister to kids. We did have something cool happen recently: an 86 year-old man and a 16 year-old boy got

saved at the same time, in the same night. "

Crabb continues, "Our music is a little different and we get a little crazy once in a while, but people see our heart and that is the main thing. Our message is salvation. If you listen to our songs, you hear about the love of Christ, grace and mercy. And we talk about family. Those are our focal points, plus we want to encourage the Christian to keep fighting."

The strong message of Christ and encouragement is evident in the new album, *Going Places*. "Tired of Living Unforgiven" invokes the old Crabb Family feel. One song in particular will haunt the listener long after they hear it, a song from Mindy Smith called "Come To Jesus."

"It has great songs and it goes back to a more Crabb Family vibe, but we captured a different sound as well," says Crabb. "I'm excited about it. Sometimes when you hear a song it just melts you or makes you cry or makes you feel a certain way. You hear that song and you know it has to be on the record. We now have an album full of those songs."

"Jimmy Yearly wrote "Tired of Living Unforgiven," plus the title cut, "Going Places," which talks about a

The enemy wants to destroy those that are out there making a difference

- Adam Crabb

young boy who is dying. The boy wanted to be so many different things when he grew up, like a base-

ball star. 'He could have gone so far'. And then the hook line comes, 'But he's going places.' 'He can run just as fast as he wants to, he can ride that bike like he used to...he

Crabb Revival cont'd

can catch fly balls with his grandpa, the one he heard about but never knew.' It's a cool message to those who have lost someone. You pray for healing but sometimes you don't always get a physical healing. But you get the ultimate healing. They are in a better place."

Adam Crabb has the heart of an evangelist and a compassion for his audience regardless of age or culture. He longs to reach out to help a hurting world. "We live in a world that is confused and we need to all renew our minds," says Crabb. "We've heard that message before but I feel that if we don't renew our minds, and we keep living the same way we are living, this country is going to be out of control."

"When an artist not only makes great music, but has his heart so focused on making a difference in the lives of others with the music and message they share, it is a complete blessing to my heart," says Donna Beuvais of Daywind and Vertical Sky. "I know this of Adam and his ministry...I am so thankful for it and for his family and all they do to reach the world with the hope that is at the forefront of all they do.... Jesus."

Crabb shares, "This last year, I've been able to go out more into different places and see the reality of where our world is. I've seen the shape it's in, and not just the world, but the church as well. Everywhere around us, so many people are con-

fused and their minds are tormented. The enemy has come to play with their minds and destroy them. I was listening to T.D. Jakes the other day, and as he said, we can't take our same way of thinking into a New Year but we have to put on the new mind."

As Crabb Revival reaches out to their world with a new mind, a new CD and a renewed sense of direction, this band of young people is reaching their generation with the timeless message of salvation. They truly are going places, modeling Christ to their generation.

For more from Adam's interview with Lorraine Walker, visit www.sgmradio.com

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Our SGN Scoops Staff is comprised of professional writers, singers, speakers, publicists, and ministers. Please visit their websites for more from them. **| CONTRIBUTORS**



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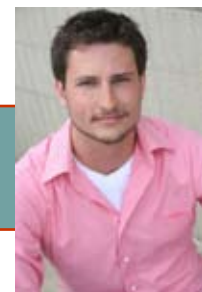
Born and raised in southern Ontario, Canada, **LORRAINE WALKER** has been interested and involved in Southern Gospel Music since the mid-80s. Since 2005, she has also authored the popular 'Reality Check' column and other features for sgmradio.com.



MS. LOU WILLS HILDRETH is always smiling, is married to Howard, is a member of the legendary Wills family, a member of the Gospel Music Association Board, and a television host, songwriter, publisher, journalist, an industry leader. Get to know her at louhildreth.com



SANDI DUNCAN-CLARK! grew up in Greenville, South Carolina as the daughter of a Baptist minister. For more than 30 years, it has been her joy to contribute to the ministry of those who serve the Lord singing Southern Gospel. With her husband, Cliff, Sandi makes her home in Easley, S. C., where she attends Westwood Church, does volunteer work, and spend time with her son and new daughter-in-law. *Sandi's Facebook*



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



ROB PATZ is the owner & publisher of SGN Scoops along with the owner & voice of SGMRadio.com & The Southern Styles Show. He resides in Seattle and loves Jesus, music, food, people, and talking as a job and hobby. sgmradio.com



JENNIFER CAMPBELL has returned to Scoops and we're happy to have her. She resides in Florida where she is a master English teacher and enjoys singing and writing gospel music. We invite you to read her rich testimony at her website. jennifercampbell.net



TOM HOLSTE is a writer living in Chicago and a graduate of Act One, a screenwriting program specifically geared toward Christians. He has written and directed numerous short scenes for church events. tomholste.com.



Guest **DALE GOLDEN** is a gospel singer/songwriter, DJ for the weekly GODPRAISE! program on KBJs.org, and currently, both a survivor and fighter of cancer. He and his wife and partner in ministry, Cheryl, live in Tyler, TX, where they await a "creative miracle." Follow their inspiring journey at facebook.com/roydalegolden

Guest **DR. LYNDA LYNN** is an ordained minister and has her Doctorate in Sacred Music Ministry. She has been awarded 14 ASCAP Awards, Branson's Songwriter of the Year, Female Vocalist runner up of the year and CGMA Songwriter of the Year for the central United States. She and husband Bud are CGMA's International Media Personalities of the Year. Bud and Lynda were recently ordained as ministers by the Sanctuary of Hope in Branson and are frequent guests on Christian television and radio programs aired on Sky Angel Network. Lynda's songs have charted #1 on gospel charts throughout the US. Her songs can be found at cdbaby.com and youtube.com.ozarktrailsandtreasures.com.



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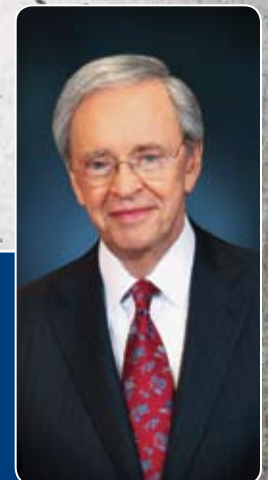
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2nd Generation: *Feeling the Joy*

By Sandi-Duncan Clark

It's a wonderful life! is the title of a movie, but it's also how Brenda, Elaine and Rocky, known as 2nd Generation, feel this way about their journey as Southern Gospel artists and especially about the past year. You will not find anyone more dedicated, excited and focused on their music than this Arkansas based trio and they're enjoying every minute of it!

Brenda Denney and Elaine Robinson can remember growing up singing gospel music with their family, The Singing Greens. "Gospel music was always a part of our lives," Brenda recalls. "Daddy was a pastor and our family sang in the church where he served and anywhere we were invited to sing. I use to kid Tony Greene and tell him we were the Singing Greens before he was even born; we just spelled our name differently," she laughed.

Their love for Gospel music prompted these ladies to launch a music ministry in March, 2005, and as 2nd Generation, they have never looked back. "We chose that name because we are representing our family ministry as the second generation," the sisters shared. "We know the hard work it takes to keep a ministry going, and we are determined to do this because we believe God called us," Brenda continued.

Always an optimist and looking for the next open door, Brenda and Elaine added Rocky Logan as the third vocalist in 2010, and both ladies feel that Rocky completes the ministry of 2nd Generation. "When God brought Rocky to us, we rec-



Elaine, Brenda, and Rocky are posed for another exciting year.

ognized his dedication to the ministry, and the fellowship is in one accord when we travel," Brenda and Elaine agreed. "It has to be, when you travel in tight quarters and especially with two women," they both laughed!

Last year proved to be a turning point in the ministry of 2nd Generation. "We traveled to new areas and met many new people during the year," Brenda said. "We enjoyed the hand of God on our ministry, and our music was recognized in several areas. To us, that is God's way of saying 'Well done,' and we love presenting Christ to others through our music and testimony."

Both ladies agree that it's not just about singing pretty and entertain-

ing. "Last year when we started on the cruise, we sang at a church in Alabama on our way to board the ship," Brenda shares. "We had such a wonderful service and on Monday when we were getting onboard, my phone rang. It was the pastor of that church telling us they had been so blessed by our ministry that they wanted us back again on the next Sunday. That kind of thing is a blessing when you come in really late on Sunday night after a full weekend on the road."

In recounting this last year's excitement, Brenda pointed out several events that were very special for 2nd Generation. "It began in 2009 and early 2010, when we were nominated for the Sunrise Award. This category of the Diamond Awards honors new, developing

artists," Brenda said. Elaine joined in, "We were so excited when our name was called as the winner at the awards show in June!"

The group was also nominated in 2009 and again in 2011 for Fan Favorite Artist of the Year in the SGN Music Awards with Absolutely Gospel. They have also been honored by an invitation to perform at a Showcase Spectacular at this year's National Quartet Convention in Louisville, and they remain a featured artist at the annual Branson Gospel Music Revival.

Gospel Radio is currently playing "I Will Not Fear The Crossing" from their "I See A City" album, and reporting a wonderful response to this song. "Radio has certainly been good to 2nd Generation and we appreciate that." Elaine remarked.

"The fans have responded well to our music on radio and the DJs are very supportive. We love them all!"

Brenda works hard to keep 2nd Generation in the forefront for fans and for the industry. She is on the telephone all day and on the computer all night, staying in touch with people. She shared that the group's main goal is, "to encourage people in the Lord. There is too much 'gloom, despair and agony on me' in the church today. We encourage people to take back the joy they once had; to remember that the joy of the Lord is their strength."

2nd Generation is thankful for everything God brought their way in 2010, and they look forward with great expectation for the year ahead.

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Origin Story: Middle Tennessee Women's Retreat



A treasured photo: Ann and Paul Downing pray during ministry together.

Courtesy of Ann Downing.

Doctors said it would be a miracle for Paul to make it through the night. Yet, for 56 days, Ann waited anxiously to visit Paul every 2 hours in the Intensive Care Unit, per hospital policy. Between visits, she remained in the small waiting room, sleeping on the floor at night, with no desire to leave Paul alone.

Even though Ann held out hope, hopelessness threatened to overcome her. Paul went into a coma after the first week. January singing and speaking engagements were cancelled. There were decisions to be made

Paul and Ann Downing had a dream. They knew what seemed impossible to many would be possible with God. They felt the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which led them to stay committed to this dream.

In 1991, plans were completed for the first annual Middle Tennessee Women's Retreat. It was to be held May 1-3, 1992, in Nashville, and was to feature Florence Littauer, Lana Bateman, and Emilie Barnes, as well as music from The Downings. Brochures had been created and were set to be mailed in January. Paul and Ann planned to enjoy Christmas with their family, having no worries concerning preparations for this event. God was behind this event. Life was good.

On December 29, 1991, life changed. Paul suffered cardiac arrest, and his heart stopped. Ann's life as she knew it had stopped as well. After being revived by paramedics in the parking lot of their hotel in Winchester, Kentucky, Paul was flown by helicopter to Humana Hospital in Lexington. This was their first weekend on the road after Christmas, but they never even made it to the church.

*The dream,
the heartbreak,
the* **JOY**

that Ann did not want to contemplate.

Although she comforted other patients' families, giving them hope, following her call to minister to others, she found it hard to be hopeful in her own situation. It especially became difficult when she saw the other patients often leaving the hospital, going home with their loved ones. Still, she tried to ignore the doctors' statements of hopelessness, clinging to the One True Hope, Jesus Christ. Her family and friends stood beside her, offering comfort through cards, phone calls, and prayers.

Soon, a major decision arrived on the forefront. The Middle Tennessee Women's Retreat brochures arrived. All of The Downings' concerts scheduled for February had been cancelled. May was three months away. Ann did not know if Paul would survive, but she decided to go ahead and have the brochures sent out. Even in the depths of her despair, she kept the faith and trusted God to perform a miracle.

On February 23, 1992, God performed the miracle that Ann had been praying for all along. God did not give her the answer she desired, but God did answer her prayer. Paul was completely healed as he slipped into the waiting arms of his Heavenly Father. ➡➡➡

By Jennifer Campbell

Time stood still. Ann's world had changed. Though she was busy with funeral arrangements, services, flowers, phone calls, cards, and letters, she was alone, with a broken heart.

Something special happened at that first retreat in 1992. Nearly 80 women attended. They each received a special blessing. Nevertheless, Ann was the one who was equally blessed. She shared her story. She told the women in attendance about the most vulnerable time of her life.

Ann recalled her experience at the first retreat: "Saturday night commitment time...God chose to bring me to that place of complete brokenness and grief in the presence of 80 loving women who knew how to pray with me as I emptied out waves and waves of grief and pain. This moved me into getting on down the road to my healing."

This time of sharing is what defined the purpose of the retreat: a safe place to cry, laugh, talk, share, grieve, find support, confess, receive forgiveness, find healing, meet new friends, and draw closer to God. Even though the dream she shared with Paul passed away on February 23, 1992, their vision became a reality. God fulfilled His promise to bless this newfound ministry.

The retreat continues to be a ministry to others. Ann said the one person who has been an encouragement to her in keeping this event going is her best friend, Dolly Simms. Ann said, Dolly "has been with me from the beginning, even though she didn't even know what



a women's retreat was. She was with me every day and night of Paul's hospitalization (56 days). She is the on-site coordinator of the Middle Tennessee Women's Retreat."

Of course, an event this successful also has its challenges. Ann said the economy has been their biggest challenge. Still, they have felt called to help women who cannot afford to attend, even in their financial struggles. Ann says, "We've been in a position (and under conviction that we must do something) of attempting to help women to be there by finding sponsors for scholarships to be provided for those who cannot pay."

This year, the 20th Annual Middle Tennessee Women's Retreat will be held April 15-17, 2011, at Cool Springs Marriott, in Franklin, Tennessee. Speakers include Karen Dean Fry (keynote speaker), Kathy Blume, Gail Wenos, Barbara Davis, Cherie Jobe, Peg Kennedy, Melissa Shoemake, and Bonnie Skinner. Music will be provided by Ann Downing and friends, and Sheri Thrower, Praise and Worship Leader. All of the speakers have been chosen for the insight they can provide on the topic of joy.

Ann shares, "The keynote speaker this year, Karen Dean Fry, has been a friend of mine since the late 1970s. The workshop leaders are women I believe have something to say on certain topics around 'joy,' our theme being 'Bring on the Joy.' Kathy Blume has been with me ever since the beginning as emcee for the weekends, and has also taught workshops. She will present two sessions this year, as well as provide counseling."

Now celebrating their 20th year of ministering to women, Ann said, "I think I see the Middle Tennessee Women's Retreat as continuing to be a 'family place' where women can feel at home and be free to listen to HIM in a non-threatening place...no expectations of them. I want them to continue to feel safe." If you would like to experience the joy at this year's retreat, plan now to attend. More information concerning the event can be found on Ann's website at <http://www.anndowning.com>.



From left: Ann pictured with MTWR mainstays "Gail and Ezra;" Ann ministers in word and song.

Courtesy of Ann Downing.

Continuing the heritage: *Tim Greene Trio*

By Sandi Duncan-Clark

In early February Southern Gospel fans learned that Tim Greene, original founding member of The Greenes, would be returning to Southern Gospel music with a new male trio. The announcement was made the first week in February and The Tim Greene Trio launched their new endeavor on February 24th with a concert in Fountain, North Carolina. Tim is joined by Stacy Saunders and Marc Ivey and they completed their debut recording, "It Sure Sounds Like Angels To Me," in mid-February.

This news was received with excitement and anticipation, since Tim has not been actively involved in Gospel music since illness forced his retirement from The Greenes in 2002, so it was exciting to catch up with Tim; to hear his testimony of healing and learn how God brought him to the decision to sing again.

With a deep breath, Tim begins: "This has been a whirlwind month for us, but we didn't come to this decision lightly."

He explains, "In 2000 I began having severe headaches, breathing problems, and sinus issues. I was diagnosed with toxic black mold in my sinuses. I went to several different doctors before they finally found the problem, and it was totally debilitating. I had to leave the road in 2002." Tim continued, "I was in a wheelchair for almost four years, praying for relief and healing. In May of 2009 the Lord sent a preacher to baptize



me and I was totally healed. Since then I have been sharing my story wherever God opened a door."

Tim also shared his reason for beginning the new ministry. "Since [brother] Tony's passing [in September 2010], I had felt that God wanted me to continue the music ministry that we, The Greenes, began in 1979," Tim stated. "At Tony's funeral, TaRanda [Greene] told me that it was my heritage to continue the Greenes' ministry. I began praying and the Lord revealed what I needed to do. I knew

I couldn't find the combination of vocals for a mixed group like we had as a family, so I felt in my heart a male trio would be the right thing."

Stacy Saunders' love for Gospel music made him a natural for the Tim Greene Trio. Stacy has served as music minister and been involved in youth crusades, rallies and camp meetings all his life. He studied music at Coastal Carolina University and hails from Conway, South Carolina, Stacy sings baritone for the trio.

Marc Ivey sings tenor with Tim and Stacy. He has been involved in Gospel music for a number of years, lending his vocals to several different groups, including The Greenes. Without a doubt he brings not only strong vocals to the group, but a wonderful testimony.

"Marc and Stacy have sung together before and are good friends," Tim said. "It's a great honor

'I knew I couldn't find the combination of vocals for a mixed group like we had as a family, so I felt in my heart a male trio would be the right thing.' - Tim

to be singing with them, and I believe we will make a difference with our music. Both men not only have a love for Gospel music; they also have a heart for the ministry."

Turning attention to the new trio's music, Tim shares a few points about their debut recording. "I wrote a new song for the project, and also co-wrote one with Phil Cross. We did a couple of new songs from Phillips, Craig and Dean, and we have an exciting new one written by Joel Hemphill, titled "The Cost Of The Call."

Tim finished, "Of course we felt like the fans would enjoy some of the songs The Greenes did so we added "It Sure Sounds Like Angels," "Miracle In Me" and "When I Knew." Tim expects the CDs to be available in early March.

The last weekend in February was a landmark weekend for The Tim Greene Trio. Tim said, "We started out on Thursday evening, February 24th in Fountain North Carolina at Kings Crossroads Baptist, then New Life Baptist in Belmont, North Carolina, Shining Light Baptist in Greensboro, North Carolina and ended up in Rockingham, North Carolina at Jefferson Park Freewill Baptist Church, on Sunday evening, the 27th. It was so exciting, especially for me, to be singing again and to meet so many people who are excited about our trio."

Tim tells us, "We are blessed to have Steve Harper doing our booking, and we plan to work one weekend each month. I will still be preaching and sharing my testimony on Sundays."

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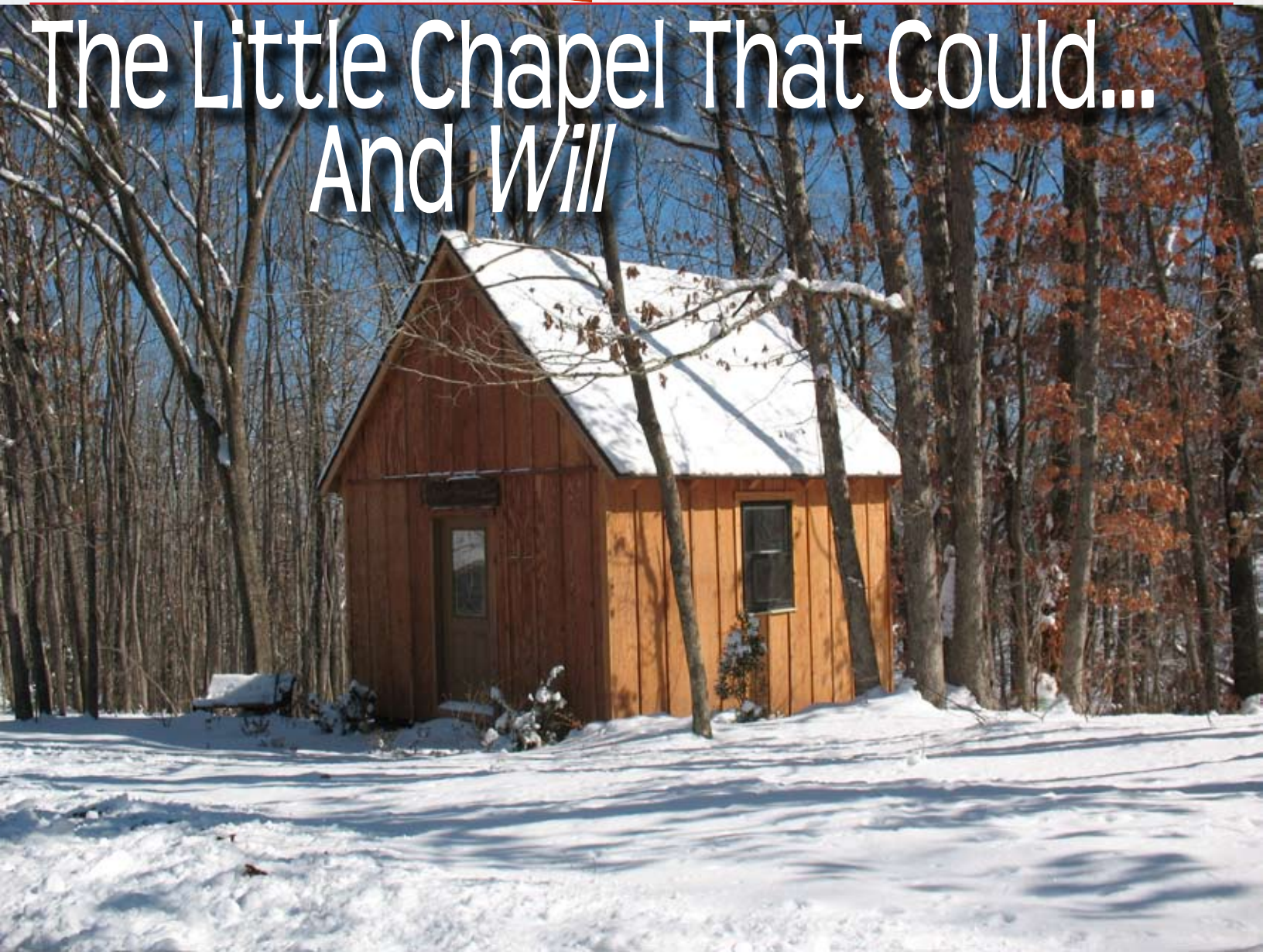
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The Little Chapel That Could... And Will



For fifteen years I have wanted to build a Chapel on our property. We have fifteen acres that join a beautiful walking trail in Branson West, Missouri.

The desire in my heart to build a Chapel came to me because I wanted a place for visitors to realize the presence of God as they walk along the beautiful walking trail that joins our land. I wanted them to be more in tune and energized by God's beauty. Some folks never enter into a church, but the Lord told me when they enter the doorway of this chapel He will "God zap" them with an anointing that they've never had before.

At first we hired a man to build the Chapel, but funds ran out because he went over the budget that he had presented to us. The result was the roof wasn't on, only the walls were up. It was raining every day. So Bud, my husband, and I would go to the Chapel every day to shop vacuum the water that accumulated on the floor, praying that the floor would hold.

The Lord told me to go to prayer warriors on the Internet and ask for divine help to put up the beams and add the roof. This was midweek.

I immediately got a response. The following Saturday, the Cedar Ridge Baptist Church Army loaded up their tools and ladders. Clay Mosier, a young carpenter, directed the men. The men's ages ranged from 16 to 75. They all worked together and by the end of the day they had constructed the trusses, the decking and the roof. In addition Clay knew a family that would donate some big, beautiful windows. Soon, here he comes with the two side windows and a huge picture window, a window he placed in the back for a view of God's beautiful mountain ridge for all to see.

By Reverend Lynda Lynn



On Easter 2009, God told me to go ask a lumber yard for a donation of material for the Chapel. I was really shocked that the Lord would ask me to do that. I never ask for money, I give money, but never ask for money. But nevertheless, I stepped out in boldness and asked, and received \$1500.00 from Meek Lumber in Kimberling City, Missouri! They also said any materials needed after that would be at cost! I was so shocked.

Then the Lord told me, "Go to the carpet shop and ask for wood flooring." So I stepped out in boldness again and asked Stoneridge Carpet in Branson West. I walked out of the carpet shop with solid oak, lap and groove wood flooring! Then He said, "Go to the grocery store (Country Mart in Branson West) and ask for a community donation. They too were obedient and sent a gift card for food for the dedication of the Chapel. We decided to have a precious "Jesus Hootenanny" to dedicate the chapel and serving food on our grounds among the spring flowers and dogwood trees.

Since then we telephoned our neighbor, Silver Dollar City, one of Branson's major attractions, to ask for "Chapel help." Because Silver Dollar City has a National Handcrafters Organization that constructs everything out of natural wood, I thought it would be a perfect opportunity for them to be a part of Chapel Woods. So here comes the Director of Publicity, Lisa Rau, with her friend, Steve Varney on their motorcycle. They stepped into the

Some folks never enter into a church, but the Lord told me when they enter the doorway of this chapel He will "God zap" them with an anointing that they've never had before.

unfinished Chapel and Lisa said, "Yes, we can donate a handmade wall mantle or cross." Then her friend Steve said, "I own a landscaping business, I'll donate the bushes and flowers." I thought, Oh Lord you are amazing!!!

Since all this wonderment of God, we've have had so many people donate their time and artistic talent. A close friend, Cindy Keely, has asked her brother to make a free standing cross. Our Country Gospel Music Group was singing at a church when I saw this beautiful wood cross on a stand with the crown of thorns around it. My friend Cindy said, "If you love that cross, my brother can make one just like it." She took a picture of it. A neighbor down our road, Rueben Sullivan said, "I can make the bronze cross for the steeple."

So many people have stopped by to see the Chapel being constructed. One Sunday some of our Country Gospel Music Association members came over to see the chapel. We all stood in a circle and sang How Great Thou Art. Wendell Johnson, an International Award Winning singer said, "This Chapel has perfect acoustics for music!" Well, wouldn't we know our God would make the Chapel perfect for His glory?

I told Wendell how badly I wanted a pulpit made of a real oak tree. He said, "Lynda, my parents cut down the two trees I played on as a child. They were going to cut them up for firewood. I asked them if I could have them. They are in my yard now. I know what to do with the large one - make the 20" trunk into the pulpit top and the small tree into the pedestal for the pulpit." Wendell is a craftsman. He said "I'll put a polymer finish on the top." He added, "I have extra sheet rock, nails and insulation too!!" Wow!

On and on the Chapel Story goes. There's a small church around the bend called Notch Community Church. I minister there when needed. I shared my story about the Chapel and immediately various ones offered to come over and do the Jericho Walk around the Chapel, write scripture on the inside walls before the sheet rock goes up. One individual offered to faux paint the walls to make them look old, another said she could arrange the flowers, and another offered to help clean. They all said they were with us in prayer.

We needed a door. Our "Chapel Man", carpenter Clay, told us to go to Herman Lumber in Branson and ask them for a door. I thought, OK God here we go. One hour later we were loading up a beautiful steel constructed door we will paint. The windows can also be stained to look like stained glass. The glass has the sign of a fish.



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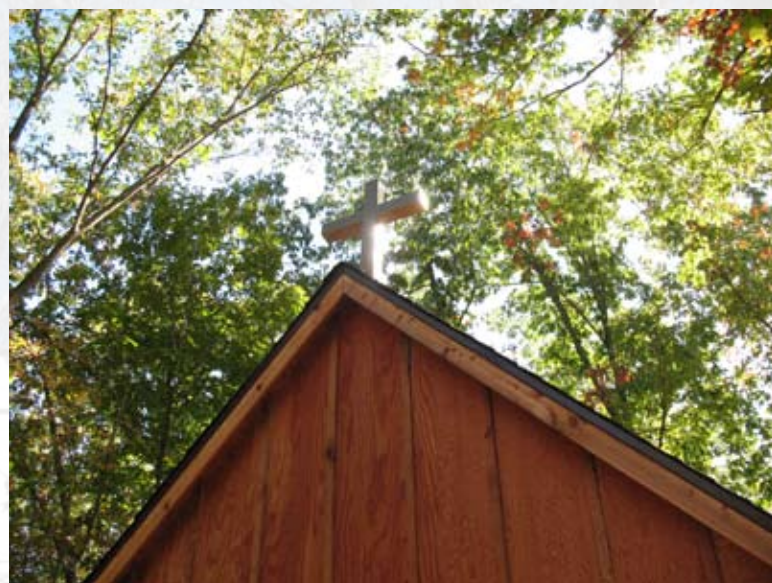
One big, big man came over and got on his knees by the chapel and said, I want to come over and help finish the inside.

Some of our CGMA family including Steve, Christy and Linda Mynatt along with Peggy Van Deren came over during the International Country Gospel Music Convention to work on the Chapel's sheet rock.

Another close friend, Bonnie Walker, from the Notch Community Church, a short walk from Silver Dollar City, made a beautiful wood signboard for the entrance. She made it from an old barnwood board that was once a part of an old barn that was used as a church over one hundred years ago. She hand-burned the "Chapel Woods" image into the old board and carefully prepared it and placed it over the door. Bonnie also added her special touch decorating the Chapel for Rod and Kelly Burton, Branson Gospel Music Revival hosts, for them to take photos for the front and inside cover of Rod's new CD, *The Difference*. Bonnie is designing a prototype of Chapel Woods for our booth display at the Branson Gospel Music Revival scheduled to be held at Tri Lakes Cathedral in late June through early July this year in Branson.

Now that the weather is getting better we can start all the sheet rock, staining, beautifying and glorifying the Chapel. God told me the people who walk in the Chapel will never be the same after they walk out.

The Chapel is called Chapel Woods. The Lord also put it in my heart, if we can swing it, to put a Chapel in every county of Missouri. Instead of Johnny Appleseed, He's named me Lynda Chapelseed. Since all this has happened, we have captured the name Chapel Trails, Inc. which is a



The chapel's sunlit steeple.

501c3 organization.

If anyone would like to donate their time or make a donation to this God project, please send your information to the following email address: angelswings@centurytel.net or contact us at Bud & Lynda Lynn, P.O. Box 2258, Branson West, Missouri. Our corporate telephone number is 417-338-4331 (Ozark Trails Magazine, Inc.).

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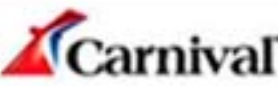
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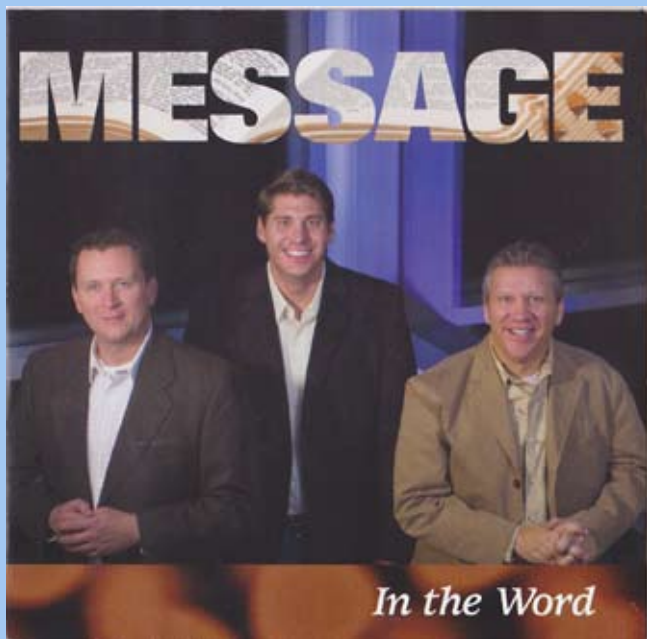
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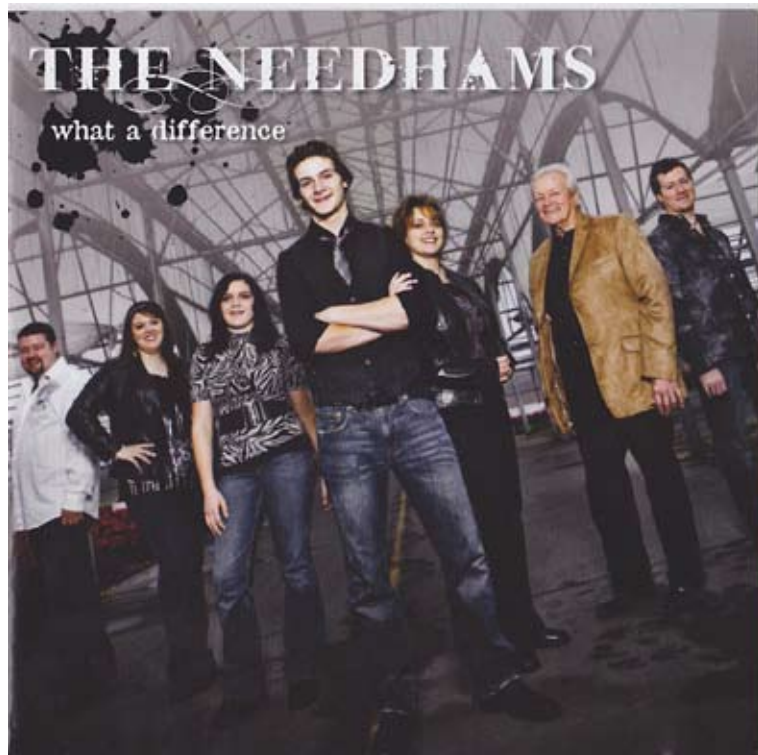


Message Trio ***In The Word***

Produced By
Van Atkins and
Jeff Collins
Crossroads Records

With songs by three talented veterans of both Southern Gospel and church music, this new CD from Message can't help but be a winner! Having more than a combined 60 years of music to their credit, Robert Pickens, Greg Bentley and Trevor Gibbs sing Gospel music Southern style, with strong harmonies and a close blend.

Ever consummate professionals, Message presents their music with excitement and a sincere heart. Robert Pickens comes from an evangelistic family who traveled together, singing and ministering throughout the country. Greg Bentley is well-known for the years he traveled with the Hoppers, Down East Boys and Squire Parsons, singing tenor. Trevor Gibbs



The Needhams ***What A Difference***

Produced by: Joel Key
Independent

With three generations of family on stage together, the Needhams have a wonderful legacy in Gospel music. David and Eileen Needham brought their children up with a love for the Lord, and bequeathed their love for Gospel music to their children. Their son Dave played professional country music before accepting Christ in his life. He then spent two years with the Dixie Melody Boys. Their daughter, Diane, grew up singing with her parents and writes many of the groups songs. In 1997 Dave left the Dixie Melody Boys to join his family's ministry.

The current group consists of Dave Needham and his wife, Corina, Diane Needham Mummert, her husband Steve, their children Steve Jr. and Adrienne along with their father, David. Mom Eileen no longer plays guitar with the group, but is their staunchest supporter and cheerleader and all-round behind the scenes person.

This new recording showcases the Needhams' warm, strong family harmonies as well as their instrumental expertise on lead guitar, mandolin, bass guitar, percussion, harmonica and acoustic guitar. Staging a full band allows the Needhams to present a mixture of traditional Gospel and



grew up in a pastor's family and studied voice at the Steve Hurst School of Music. Each man has an imbedded love for God and for the music they grew up with. They attend Trinity Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina, where they each serve as a member of the church staff.

In the Word begins with Message's tapping version of Kyla Rowland's "It's Still In the Book," which sets the pace for ten more inspiring songs. The trio has a unique arrangement of the old church song, "If We Never Meet Again," and Robert, Greg and Trevor do an awesome job on an acappella version of "Goodness Medley." Each vocal part is strong and makes this song an exciting addition to the recording.

One of my favorite songs from Message is "Your Grace Still Amazes Me," which speaks to the wonderful forgiveness and mercy God gives to His born again children! What a wonderful song!

Other exciting songs on *In the Word* include "Follow Me," written by Rodney Griffin and "This Old Sinner Testifies," another Kyla Rowland song, along with "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power." Each man is featured on various songs allowing the listener an opportunity to recognize their individual talent.

From my experience, one can feel their love for the Lord as Message presents their music on this recording, and even more so when you hear them sing in person. I recommend if they ever appear in your area, that you make a point to enjoy their music and their testimonies.

Due to their commitments to their church, Message books one weekend each month. You may have them at your next Gospel music event or obtain a copy of their recording by contacting Greg Bentley at 828.712.1663, or visiting their web site at www.message trio.com.

bluegrass/country Gospel, much to the delight of their fans.

One of my favorite songs, "Middle Of A Miracle," written by Diane, kicks off the recording and it just gets better!

Every song on *What A*

Difference is original, written by Diane, Dave or Corina. Songs feature various vocal combinations allowing the listener to enjoy the individual talent, yet focus on the message in each song.

"I Will Praise You," "Come Home To Me" and "Help Me To Forgive" have a more traditional Southern Gospel style while "I'm A Nobody," "Standing On The Promises" and "Give Me Jesus" have progressive country arrangements and feature some "kickin'" music tracks!

Several of the songs could cross over to positive country radio. These include "She Could Hardly Wait Till Sunday," and "What A Difference A Prayer Makes."

There is something on *What A Difference* that will appeal to every Gospel music fan. The recording is one of the best I've heard from this dynamically talented family.

You would be more than blessed and entertained to have this family at your next Gospel music event. Please contact Dave Needham at 615.849.8352 or their web site at www.theneedhams.com for bookings and product.

Behind the Music cont'd



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New River just returned from the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, and the Singing at Sea cruise to the Bahamas. With spring approaching, a sense of life and rebirth has all of our team eager and ready to spread the gospel.

February was a jam-packed month for our group. Besides having snow to maneuver around, we still have been traveling on rental buses while our bus has been in the shop. However, we have had such a blessed experience in every direction we've gone; isn't that just like God?

For me, even saying the word "Grammy" gives me goose bumps. I have grown up watching the show every year, and since the day we heard about our nomination, I have been counting down the days to the show. We were thrilled to also be nominated along with our friends, Jeff and Sheri Easter. I remember, as a boy, they were always a favorite of mine, so going to the Grammy Awards with them was quite a dream come true. We were able to get to Los Angeles a day early, and we HAD to shop a little. The gang had been talking about the world famous Garment District; we had a BLAST! It was simply a shopper's heaven, with clothing store after store.

Later that night, we were honored to be able to attend a celebration for the recipients of the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Among those that night were Dolly Parton, George Beverly Shae, Julie Andrews, and many others. I just about jumped out of my seat when Mary Poppins walked across the stage! I think everyone in the crowd probably started singing "A Spoon Full of Sugar" in their heads. George Beverly Shae



graced the stage at 102 years of age. Wow! One of the songs I sing each night on stage is "I'd Rather Have Jesus," written by Shae, and it was a privilege to be in the same room with this anointed writer and singer.

On the day of the awards show, my heart must have been pumping out of my chest. We even walked the red carpet, and I saw so many of my favorite musicians and singers as we entered the building. Somehow, we ended up with great seats, and really enjoyed the night. Although we didn't win the award, we were extremely gracious for the nomination. Congratulations to Diamond Rio for their win. This was definitely a weekend to remember.

From the Grammy Awards, we immediately hopped on the Red-Eye flight to Jacksonville, Florida. As you

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of Karen Peck & New River

can imagine, we were all sleep deprived by the time the plane landed. The next morning, we boarded the Singing at Sea cruise to the Bahamas. Last year was my first cruise ever, and was a little stressful for me to say the least. This year's cruise was *perfect*! I was able to relax, have fun, and sing praises to the Lord.

Earlier that week, my Grandmother Jeffery went home to be with the Lord. I was able to make it home in time to see her smiling face before she passed. Her home-going was such a beautiful service, and I thank the Lord for allowing me to come in to be with my family.

Needless to say, the cruise was a much needed vacation. We also loved visiting our New River friends on the ship and stopping to share stories and memories with each other. The weather was absolutely gorgeous, and fueled our fire to hit the spring season in full force. This time of



Previous page: Jeff on the Grammy Red Carpet. Above: Jeff's view of the Bahamas.

the year is always exciting, with flowers beginning to bloom and the weather warming up. The sense of new beginnings and life is contagious, reminding us of the new and exciting life we have in Christ.



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