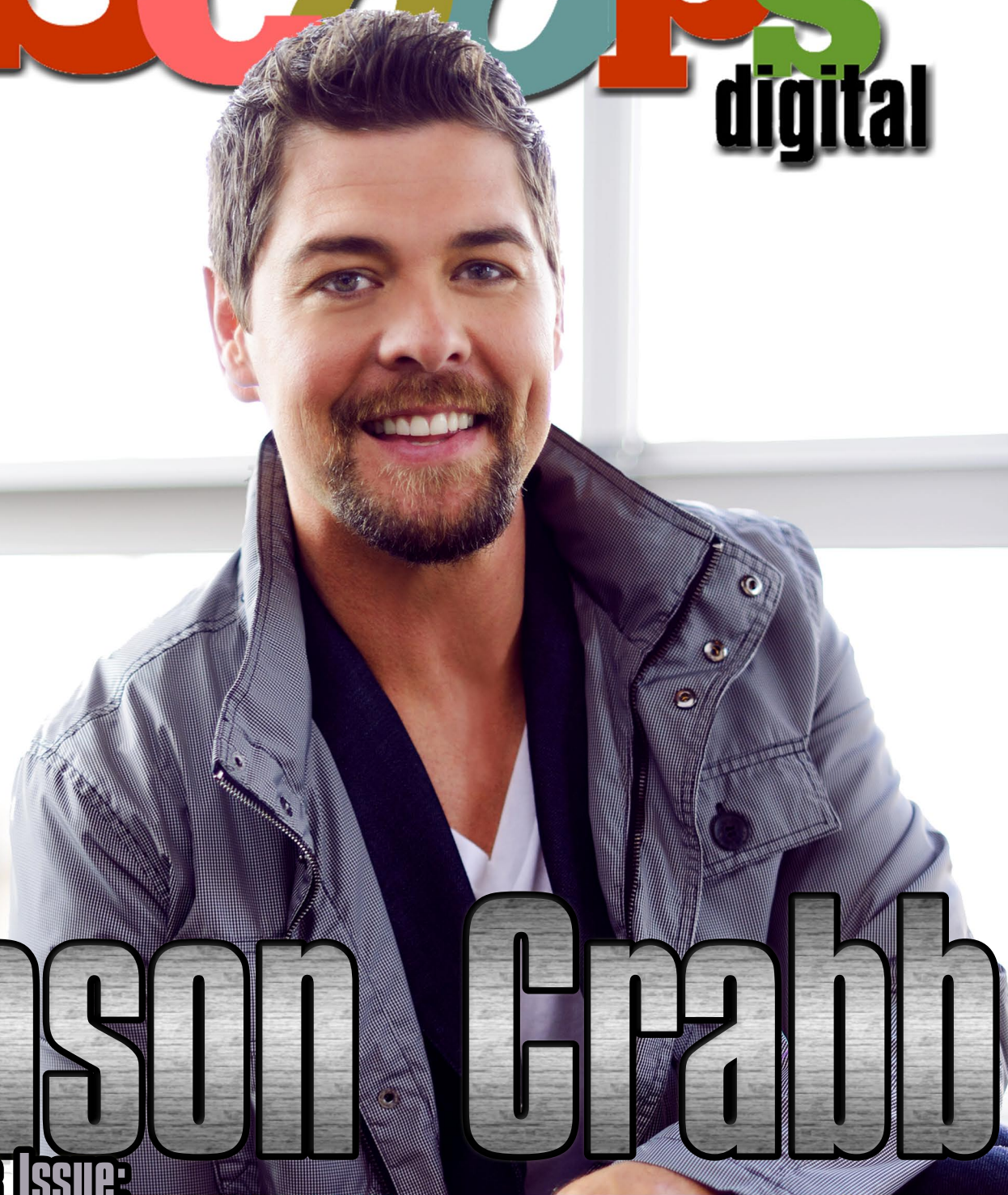


sgn

March 2013

Scoops

digital



Jason Crabb

Also In This Issue:



2013
DIAMOND
Awards



Paul's Journey, Karen Peck Gooch, Diamond Awards & The Diplomats

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Publisher's Point
5	Letter From the Editor
6	Creekside Update
8	Life, Love and Legends
11	Jason Crabb
16	Chronicles of a Singing English Teacher
18	Showing Lots of Promise
21	Focus on the Young
24	Gospel Boot Camp
26	Karen Peck
31	Harmony Honors
35	Healthy Living
38	John Lanier
43	Music Reviews
47	Diplomats
50	Omega in Concert
53	Paul's Journey
57	Mathis Moment
60	Jayce Harold
63	Charlton Jordan
67	The Cargils
70	Maranatha
72	Topping the Charts
73	Contributors

OUR MISSION

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

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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



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March 2013

Letter From The Editor

"Oh The Blood Of Jesus"

By Rhonda Frye



I absolutely love Easter! I love resurrection power and the empty tomb-it makes me wanna shout! But I have to say- this Easter season, I just can't seem to let go of the Cross. I am overwhelmed with gratitude that Jesus loved me enough to shed His blood for me.

I've been listening to Jason Crabb's new song, "That's What The Blood Is For" and I can't get through it without bawling my eyes out. It's the most powerful song I've heard in a very long time. It's powerful because the topic is about the blood of Christ. The Bible says "We will overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony." We will overcome sin and death when we place our faith in the blood of Jesus alone.

I've heard songs and sermons about the blood all of my life, but until recently I didn't really understand the blood's significance. Honestly- wasn't sure why God required blood for the forgiveness of sins-that seems barbaric and honestly- grotesque. Why couldn't Jesus have died by means of a lethal injection?

I accepted God's requirement by faith, but wasn't really sure how it all worked because I take everything literally. When I read that Jesus' blood washes away sins, I want to know how! Jesus isn't still on the Cross and His blood has been cleaned up or washed away off Calvary's Hill by now. Since the blood is gone, how does it save today? Since His blood has power to heal, save and sanctify, then why didn't the soldiers become new creatures when Jesus' blood splattered on to them?

I've accepted by faith the natural blood that was in Jesus' body wasn't/isn't what cleanses sin, but His natural blood had to be shed in order for us to receive

His much needed blood in a spiritual sense. After refreshing my memory concerning the function of physical blood, I have now made the connection to the spiritual blood. I am not an expert, but will share the information I gathered from a few internet resources and my friend, Randall Lechner.

Physical: Blood is complex! There is life in the blood. As blood flows through the lungs, it picks up oxygen. It delivers its nutrients, and then it returns to the lungs for a fresh supply.

Spiritual: Air is a symbol for the spirit of God. We can survive without food for several days, but only three or four minutes without oxygen. If we become disconnected from Holy Spirit, we become weak.

Physical: The blood is responsible for carrying all nutrition.

Spiritually: The nutrients in the blood of Christ are the fruits of the Spirit.

Physical: The blood is healing, it clots! When we get cut, we bleed but the body sends clotting agents to stop the bleeding.

Spiritual: When our hearts get injured, Christ's blood heals!

Physical: The physical blood defends the body, cleans impurities, keeps temperature normal, gives energy and keeps each cell in proper atmosphere.

Spiritually: The blood of Jesus keeps us from spiritual harm, cleanses sin, keeps our hearts from growing cold, brings holiness and energy and keeps our spirits in unity with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Physical: We need our physical blood to live, but to possess blood simply isn't enough. If our blood doesn't *flow*, we die.

Spiritual: Just as our blood has to circulate in our physical bodies, the blood of Jesus flows into us but if it doesn't flow out of us by reaching others, we die spiritually.

I just want to encourage everyone to not shy away from preaching or singing about the blood of Christ. The story of the cross is not a pretty one, but it's our only hope for eternal life and victory over sin.

Revelation 5:9 says "And they sang a new song with these words: You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For You were slaughtered, and your **blood** has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

The blood of Jesus still saves, heals and delivers and it is our only means to overcome! I pray we NEVER stop singing about the blood of Jesus!



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By Rhonda Frye

As details emerge of the 2013 Creekside Gospel Music Convention, it is promising to be an event NOT to be missed! This year's Creekside Gospel Music Convention will take place October 28, 29 and 30 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center.

Last year's event was a blessing as a living legend in Gospel Music, Lou Wills Hildreth was honored. Many of Ms. Lou's family members, friends and industry friends attended the celebration of her 75 years in gospel music. We are excited to announce that we will continue the tradition of honoring a living legend during this year's activities. Lou Wills Hildreth will join us as we celebrate one of the most loved and respected individuals in the Gospel Music Industry. With great pleasure, we

will celebrate the legacy of Ed O'Neal.

Lou Hildreth shares, "In his more than 50 years in gospel music, Ed O'Neal has earned the reputation of being a true gentleman in the industry, recognized for his unblemished integrity. One of his unparalleled contributions is the influence he has made on the impressive, and extensive, list of Dixie Melody Boys alumni, a list that includes quartet men who have reached high levels of leadership in gospel music. I am deeply honored to be the host, as we celebrate the life and times of Ed O'Neal at Creekside Gospel Music Convention, October 28th, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We welcome you to this spectacular event, open to everyone, with free admission."



"I am honored by this recognition," says Ed O'Neal, "When I started singing over 50 years ago, I never dreamed that God would allow me to live a dream this long. I never did it for awards or honors, but rather that God would be honored and lives touched. Thank you for such an honor."

Rob Patz, CEO of Coastal Media Group, Publisher of SGNscoops and owner of Creekside Gospel Music Convention and Diamond Awards shares: "I believe that we need to honor some of the great men and women of our industry. We need to show our respect to those individuals whom I consider pillars of Gospel Music. We have a wonderful vehicle for doing this with our Monday Night Lou Hildreth Event during the Creekside Gospel Music Convention."

We're looking forward to a great night of music from



Ed O'Neal and the Dixie Melody Boys along with many industry friends to pay tribute to the one who has been instrumental in guiding others down successful musical paths.

Plans are also underway for the 2013 Diamond Awards Show too! The Diamond Awards will be presented on Tuesday night during the Creekside Gospel Music Convention. The Diamond Awards are fan based in that fans choose nominees and winners in 23 categories. Round one is still open for nominations. We're excited about breaking new records of voting participation and we encourage artists, groups and fans to share the link on websites and all social media.

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention promises to

be a great three days of fun and fellowship and a wonderful celebration of Gospel Music. To participate in this year's event, please contact Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com. There are a limited amount of booths available.

The onsite hotel by the Smoky Mountain Convention Center is offering discounted rates for Creekside Guests. Reservations can be by phone or online. By phone, call toll free at: 1-800-223-6707 or local call 865-908-3015. Online Reservations- go to <http://www.smokymountain-conventioncenter.com>.

For more information regarding 2013 Creekside Gospel Music Convention, email Rhonda at rhonda@sgn-scoops.com or Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com.

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LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

“Honoring Six Legendary Songwriters”

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



Our Editor Rhonda Frye is a successful songwriter, along with the many projects she does in our shared LOVE for gospel music. It was no surprise to see her recently at a fabulous event in Nashville honoring six of the songwriters who are LEGENDS in gospel music. On this momentous evening, the Southern Gospel Music Guild paid tribute and awarded beautiful trophies to Mosie Lister, Squire Parsons, Ronny Hinson, Phil Cross, Rodney Griffin, and Dianne Wilkinson at the 9th annual “Harmony Honors.” I thank God for the privilege of being

audience of friends and fans filled the auditorium at TBN in Nashville where the program was being taped. Sharing the front row with Judy Nelon, Clarke Beasley (SGMG past president), Glen & Beckie (Simmons) Bates, plus Tracy Dartt (writer of “God OnThe Mountain”) was exciting! My sister and her husband, Walt and Betty Stephens, Nashville residents, were seated just behind us. Rhonda Frye and her daughter Allison were seated nearby. We all knew this was a special night!!! Longtime friend Phil Brower entertained with warm-up



one of the founders of the SGMG—another of the blessings of my LIFE of 76 years in gospel music. In 2010, Judy Nelon, President of the SGMG, and I each were honored with a “Lifetime Achievement Award” from this strong organization. At the spectacular 2013 Harmony Honors, Judy Nelon, and her associates, assembled a fabulous lineup of talent to perform the songs of these six writers. A huge

audience of friends and fans filled the auditorium at TBN in Nashville where the program was being taped. Sharing the front row with Judy Nelon, Clarke Beasley (SGMG past president), Glen & Beckie (Simmons) Bates, plus Tracy Dartt (writer of “God OnThe Mountain”) was exciting! My sister and her husband, Walt and Betty Stephens, Nashville residents, were seated just behind us. Rhonda Frye and her daughter Allison were seated nearby. We all knew this was a special night!!! Longtime friend Phil Brower entertained with warm-up comments to the audience just before an exuberant Jason Crabb walked onstage to host of this thrilling event. Jason was excellent as he warmly introduced the writers and asked each to share specifics of the songs being performed. A stellar list of artists -- Wynonna Judd, Palmetto State, Nelons, Kingdom Heirs, Booth Brothers, Greater Vision, Scott Fowler, Three Bridges, Bowlings, Tribute Quartet, and the

LeFevres—came onstage, at intervals, to sing the familiar, classic favorites of each songwriter. This awesome production is being shown around the world on TBN and is a strong witness to the power of our gospel songs. Thank God for the gift of songwriting given to many, and for the artists who make untold personal sacrifices to take those songs to a needy audience. We must not forget to thank Him for blessing the gospel music industry as we work together to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Contact: P. O. Box 271106, Houston, TX 77277 gosplvideo@aol.com www.louhildreth.com



- (A) SGMG “Harmony Honors” pays tribute to six LEGENDARY songwriters—Pres. Judy Nelon with Phil Cross, Rodney Griffin, Mosie Lister, MC Jason Crabb, Dianne Wilkinson, Squire Parsons, Ronny Hinson, & Past Pres. Clarke Beasley
- (B) SGMG President Judy Nelon & Lou Hildreth



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2013 DIAMOND *Awards*



Diamond Awards Round One Nominations

We are excited to kick off the 2013 Diamond Awards nomination process! On Monday, February 18 voting opened. Fans may now cast their nomination for their favorite artists and groups in many categories covering Southern Gospel and Christian Country. Remember, the Diamond Awards are fan based, so every artist is on equal ground as far as being nominated. Please vote, then encourage your friends, family and fans to vote by sharing the link on your website and all social media outlets. We will close round one on April 22. Look for the top candidates to be announced on our website as well as in the May edition of SGN Scoops Magazine. Round 2 of the voting process begins May 1, and then the final round opens the first of July.

Winners will be announced at the 2013 Creekside Gospel Music

Vote by clicking [here](#) to cast your vote now!



Jason Crabb:

"Not I, But Christ In Me"

By Rhonda Frye

Many eyes have been glued on Jason Crabb since he started singing at age 14. Equipped with a distinctive powerhouse voice, many have watched him transition from adolescence to adulthood while passionately pursuing God's call. During his career, fans have followed Jason from Beaver Dam, Kentucky to Gaither Homecoming platforms, to the Grand Ole Opry, Carnegie Hall, the Brooklyn Tabernacle as well as many churches and venues. Since Crabb's musical journey started, he has risen to be one of Christian Music's most appreciated and diverse vocalists as well as an overwhelming fan favorite. Along the path, he has picked up numerous nominations, accolades and awards including a Grammy® and 17 GMA DOVES. Over the years, Jason has topped the charts with numerous hit songs.

When "The Crabb Family" disbanded, there was no guarantee Jason's music career would continue to be successful, but God has been faithful to offer new opportunities. It is a joy to witness Jason Crabb craft new talents, tackle new assignments, love new fans and embrace a broader calling. Just last year he performed over 150 dates; co-hosted the GMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, appeared regularly on television, performed on Marie Osmond's Hallmark Channel Show and appeared several times on FOX News Network. Jason also participated in Nashville's annual Bella Bash, The Bridge to Christmas event as well as a Christmas benefit concert with Sandi Patty benefitting victims of Hurricane Sandy. And.... Jason is busy songwriting, acting, writing books and producing albums these days too!

"God has been opening some doors and offering opportunities that I wouldn't have even dreamed of ever happening," Jason says. "I truly believe each one of these moments allow me to share His love with people, maybe in a different way than a typical concert setting. I'm



loving the journey and strive to remain faithful to His call on my life."

Continuing, "When I ventured out solo five years ago, I had one thing on my mind; tell others about the amazing love of Christ. I never really thought about 'would I be successful or not?' I just believed that if I was faithful in what God is calling me to do, He would do the rest! He's better at being faithful than I am and I am so grateful!"

There is definitely an excitement in the air as the highly anticipated release of Jason's new album draws near. Jason says this album is a *dream come true*! This record, that he says he's been waiting to do his whole life, follows his GRAMMY®-winning, self-titled debut album.

The new release, *LOVE IS STRONGER*, is a collection of 11 songs written by some of the industry's most respected writers including Ronnie Freeman, Tony Wood, Sarah Hart, Marc Byrd, Jimmy Yeary, Sonya Isaacs Yeary, Connie Harrington, Mia Fieldes, Seth Mosley, Michael A. Mobley, Geron Davis and Barry Weeks among others. *LOVE IS STRONGER* hits the streets March 12, 2013.

Describing the album's musical style, Jason laughs, "That's always the million dollar question with me!" Seriously he explains, "I think it's a blend of sorts. What I mean by that is that anyone who loves Christian music

should enjoy what this album is about. Each tune has a message in it that I hope will bring comfort where it's needed, hope where it's needed or just make the listener happy about being a Christian! And more importantly if they're not a Christian, hopefully this message would lead them to be one!"

This time in the studio, Jason placed his trust in three renowned producers. Jay DeMarcus (producer and member of country group Rascal Flatts), Ed Cash (Chris Tomlin, Kari Jobe) and Wayne Haun (Celine Dion, Earl Scruggs) contributed their skills. "I took a little different approach in that I really leaned on the expertise of each producer to help bring the song to life for me. I typically am more *hands on*, but this is a time I followed their lead and boy did they produce," Crabb offers.

"As a producer, I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with some of the best singers ever; I would certainly put Jason on that list," says Jay DeMarcus. "It is such a joy to work with someone that is so talented and driven. We've had a blast working together, and I think he has stretched himself creatively to the point to where he even surprised himself. I cannot wait for people to hear this record!"

"Jay DeMarcus is a genius when it comes to music. He produced six of the tunes and not only did I learn from him, I got to learn *about* him. He's a great musician, producer and family man of faith," Jason says.

"Ed Cash-*Producer of the Year*- didn't get that recognition for any other reason than this, he is simply amazing," Crabb continues. "Ed really pushed me in the studio like I've never been pushed before. Vocally I was challenged by Ed on all three songs he produced. I am really excited and amazed at the sound and feel of these three tunes and so far in my recent concerts, the new tunes are being well received."

"Working with Jason was just an absolute true joy," describes Ed Cash. "He's one of my favorite people I've ever met. He's such a genuine guy and so real and sincere; and that's rare to find, particularly for someone who's had such great success. I was absolutely blown away by how Jason was so vocally flexible...not only was he technically able to stretch vocally, but I feel like the sincerity in his voice was absolutely maintained, and I think that's just a testament to his character. Whatever he's singing—whatever is coming out of his mouth—it's believable because he's believable."

About Wayne Haun Jason shares, "What can you say about Wayne Haun that hasn't already been said? He just

finished all the orchestrations for an upcoming Celine Dion project! That right there says it all! He's known in our field as the best producer you can get, and he's brilliant! Working in the studio with him was a real joy. When we were picking material for the new project, we just knew what songs would go with their producers and the songs he did just had to have that 'Wayne Haun touch!'"

"What I've always loved about Jason's vocal performance is the passion you hear and feel from the first note of each song," describes Haun. "You have no doubt that he really believes what he's singing."

The first single to Southern Gospel Radio will be "What The Blood Is For," written by Ronnie Freeman and Tony Woods. This is a gorgeous song that includes a 40-piece orchestra and features a tender and strong vocal from Crabb. "If there's one thing I am going to remain *old fashioned* about is talking about the blood," Jason declares. "If it had not been for that, where would we be today? This song states just that! We can never be good enough to cleanse ourselves from who we really are! That's what the blood is for! It's a message that never needs to be forgotten."

"Love Wins" is a selection sure to please featuring a duet with recording artist, Kari Jobe. "I remember the first time I heard Kari Jobe. I was just blown away, I'd never heard a voice like hers," Jason recalls. "She's not one of those voices where you just listen to how high she sings, but it's the touch of God on her voice, and the anointing that is on her life! She sings in such a real place and I just don't know how to describe it. I am so honored that she would come and sing with me on this record. I was blown away and still am every time I hear it."

Two other individuals known as powerhouse vocalists joined Crabb for "There's Not A Crown." Jason is a huge fan of Michael English and has always loved the Martins, so having Michael and Joyce Martin Sanders harmonizing with him was truly an honor. This song highlights the skill and creativity of the producer! The voices of Jason, Joyce and Michael are mingled and stacked in tight harmony but are also contained somewhat-only showcasing the power-house capabilities in various spots throughout the song thus making it a brilliant rendition.

"Let Mercy Hold You" is another great cut that has been heard on Christian Adult Contemporary radio recently. Also, "Love Is Stronger" is a favorite of Jason's due to personal experience regarding his family's recent struggles with health issues.

Overall, Jason says, "I want people to enjoy this record and I want them to be drawn to a deeper, more intimate relationship with God, their family and loved ones. There seems to be a theme of LOVE in this album and I want people to get this message: GOD LOVES YOU, HE REALLY, REALLY LOVES YOU!"

As the new record rolls out, Jason is anticipating the release of the movie, INSPIRATION POP 2929- a film he participates in an acting role. "It's a great film and I can't wait for it to come out," Jason says. "It's a family, faith-based film that will inspire anyone to a closer walk with the Lord." Jason also says he got to play himself in the movie and he's excited that his wife and girls are in the movie too.

Jason has been working on producing a few projects lately too. "We're just about finished with my brother Adam's new project and we're both very happy with what it's sounding like. Adam really picked some great songs to record and I'm looking forward to getting this out and letting people hear it."

Jason continues, "Recently I co-produced a song for a movie called *FINDING FAITH*. It's a profound movie about the horrible crime of sex trafficking. It's based on a true story about a girl named Faith being abducted by an internet predator. I actually sing the title track to this movie and have volunteered to be a spokesperson for this film. It's a must see for anyone who cares about the safety of our children and was an eye-opener for me on what is really going on in our country with this horrible crime against our kids."

Although Jason's career is booming and continually experiences some form of *change*, there are three things in his life that remain consistent. There is no doubt that Jason Crabb loves God, family and fans.

Jason actively nurtures his relationship with God in several ways. "I've got a Bible that my mother gave me for Christmas when I was a teenager," he explains. "It's got all kinds of notes and highlights in it so that when I pick that Bible up, I know where to go. It's the foundation that my entire life has been built on and it's the place I can go to find out about what my Father says about anything I am going through." In addition to Bible reading, Jason says he listens to pastors in various venues as well as podcasts, CD sermons as well as Christian television.

Beaming at the mention of his family, Jason says he's proud of his girls. Ashleigh and Emma are doing well and share Jason's passion for music. He's not sure if they will follow in his footsteps, but explains "Right now as a

daddy, I am just grateful that they are happy, healthy and eager to sing. We'll see what God's got in store for their lives. Right now I'm just enjoying the ride!"

Being on the road can be difficult, but Jason says life on the home-front is going well. "Ministry requires sacrifice," Jason explains. "Every time I step on the bus, knowing that I won't see my girls for 4 days or so is a sacrifice. It's a sacrifice that each one of us as family members must be willing to make. My wife, Shellye, does a fantastic job with her call in life and I know when I'm on the road, she has things under control at home. It takes a while to understand your call in life, and being apart doesn't have to be painful all the time. God has a way of giving us peace and fulfillment, even when we're not together. God is good that way!"

Jason adds that he and his family love most anything to do with the outdoors. "I really love sports! I love playing basketball, watching my girls play basketball, hunting deer and turkeys, and boating on the lake with my family," he tells.

And YES- Jason loves his fans! He's always be known for his charisma, fun-loving personality and his ability to connect with people well. For years Jason has showered affection on fans; however with emerging technology and various social media outlets, Jason is more connected than ever and uses these opportunities to

share Christ's love. In fact, he says he LOVES social media! "I learn so much from other people by asking questions and them telling me things. I really love to stay engaged with all the friends I've made through the years and the new friends that come my way. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube - I love it all," Jason laughs.

Jason says someone special instilled in him the value of loving people. "Naming one very important person would be the late Dottie Rambo," Crabb recalls. "When I first met her, she instilled in me just how important your audience really is. She told me 'love the people! If not for them, you really don't exist as an artist,' she would say. It's a simple but a true statement that I embrace every time I'm out on the road. God is love, so I show God's love through my love - I LOVE PEOPLE!"

With an incredible album release and many opportunities swirling, Jason Crabb definitely has many eyes watching, however he carefully directs the attention to Jesus Christ. "My prayer has been and will always be this," Jason says, "anything I do in life whether it is music, movies, books or whatever, I want it to be *not I, but Christ* that people see."

LOVE IS STRONGER INFO:

LOVE IS STRONGER, exclusively distributed by EMI CMG Distribution, is currently available for pre-sale at www.jasoncrabb.com, iTunes, Amazon.com

and at www.gaither.com. The release will be positioned prominently in stores nationwide in the months ahead and will be featured on CTS, Family Net, FFE, GAC, Grace, Vision, RFD, TNN, TBN, Airtime, CTN, Gaither TV, The Walk TV (formerly Legacy), Miracle, TCT and TLN

Additional Album Info: <http://www.sgnscoops.com/2013/02/19/jason-crabb-christian-musics-artist-and-male-vocalist-of-the-year-to-release-all-new-sophomore-studio-recording/>

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Chronicles

of a singing English teacher

"What God Has In Store"

by Jeff Hawes

To say that I have experienced great things while traveling with Karen Peck and New River is an understatement. My latest experience was being able to visit every child's dream land, Disney World. We were off for a couple of days in Florida after Bill Bailey's concert in Palmetto. There was only one place I wanted to go, DISNEY! Thanks to a very special friend, we were able to spend the day in the park for free.

I remember *Aladdin* always being a favorite Disney movie of mine, and being able to see Jasmine walking around the park, was a dream come true. I know that I must have acted just like a little kid when I rode my first ride. Just riding the express shuttle into the park was my idea of a great ride. Ha!

We spent the entire day at Magic Kingdom because there was so much to take in. We rode everything there- plus caught several of the shows, one of my favorites being the "Hall of Presidents." It was absolutely breathtaking when all of the wax figures of the presidents were aligned onstage. The presentation was top-notch. In fact, everything was above and beyond expectation at Disney. Even the food was great. That is usually not ever something to write home about, but that was the best cheeseburger in history!

I believe my favorite part of the day was the presentation of fireworks and visual fantasies at Cinderella's castle. Almost at closing time, everyone in the park gathers around the castle, the central location of the park. They have a parade of characters and floats-all sparing no

expense. It was so neat to see all of the little kids hopping on their parents' shoulders in order to see the parade. I was tall enough. Ha!

They begin playing music that is familiar to any Disney fan and then the visual presentation begins. Characters from all the movies begin to dance across the castle as the crowd begins to cheer and clap. I admit, I was one of the loudest spectators there. I was so excited. Honestly, it was as if all my childhood fantasies were coming true.

The finale of the day was like nothing I've ever experienced before. With probably the world's most expensive fireworks show known to man, Disney truly lit up the sky with beautiful fireworks. I remember even choking up at one time because I couldn't believe what my eyes were seeing. I immediately thought of Heaven.



I looked over to Karen and Susan and told them that if man could come up with something this fantastic and majestic, I cannot begin to fathom what Heaven is going to be like. Just imagine: God has been preparing a place for us for thousands of years, a mansion like none other. Although I am happy here and don't want to leave this earth anytime soon, I cannot wait to see what He has in store for us.

This truly was one of the greatest experiences of my life, but all the while God was telling me "Just wait until you see what I've created for you."



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Showing Lots of Promise

By Dixie Phillips

Southern Gospel music has been very good to Promise, a young male trio consisting of David Mann, T.J. Evans, and Matt Baker. As soon as the group started traveling in July 2011, the recognitions and honors have been rolling in. They were named by AbsolutelyGospel.com as *Top Ten Groups to Watch in 2012*, chosen to sing on the main stage at the 2012 National Quartet Convention, and invited to appear on an Artist Spotlight Showcase at this year's National Quartet Convention.

Each member of Promise has a vibrant faith and unique testimony. Take, for example, David Mann, the group's lead singer. David's father attended his first Cathedral concert in Detroit, Michigan a week before David was born. Three years later little David was crooning these classic Cathedral Quartet numbers: 'Who Can Do Anything,' 'He Didn't Come Down,' and 'Step into the Water.' A person can't help but wonder if David's father realized, the gospel music he fell in love with that night in Detroit would help shape and influence the heart and soul of his son and make him one of the purest, up-and-coming voices in Southern Gospel industry today.

David was born in Wayne, Michigan, and raised in Temperance, Michigan. He grew up under the ministry of Lewis Avenue Baptist Church and attended State Line Christian School. David not only grew up on Southern Gospel music, but was highly involved in band, choir, special groups, and also assembled his own quartet while in high school. Since college he has produced and been involved in several recordings, directed adult and teen choirs, and taught elementary music. He has now been traveling and singing full-time since September of 2008.

T.J. Evans, the tenor singer for Promise has a story that should encourage every Sunday school teacher, children's worker, and those involved in bus ministry. T.J. was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina, aside from a few years spent moving with his military family. At the age of nine, he was reached for Christ through the bus ministry of Trident Baptist Church, and eventually attended and graduated from Trident Baptist Academy, where he sang in a quartet publicly for the first time. After graduation, he attended Bible College where he surrendered his life to sing Southern Gospel music for the Lord's glory. He has been a part of several groups, one of which he found-

ed and managed for several years.

T.J. remembers a concert in 2011 when Promise had the honor of singing with the Mark Trammell Quartet. As a young ministry, they were honored and a tad bit intimidated to share the program with such a seasoned group, but MTQ quickly eased their fears by encouraging the young group. T.J.'s heart was touched by their kindness. "Their encouragement has stayed with me."

T.J. also remembers a couple of services when someone in the group was not feeling up to par. They worried the sickness might hurt the "performance," but every time T.J. was amazed and grateful to see God powerfully work, despite their weakness. "I thank Him for using us, whether we felt worthy of being used or not. Those moments are precious to me."

Matt Baker's story is equally inspirational. He was a shy kid, who was born and raised in Lenoir, North Carolina, the hometown of the Southern Gospel iconic bass singer, George Younce. Matt gave his heart to the Lord at 17 at Lovelady Baptist Church in Granite Falls, North Carolina. He grew up singing, but never really found his niche until a high school music teacher and his mother insisted he join his school's chorus. "This experience brought me out of my shell and I learned just how powerful music can be, especially songs with a message."

One of his favorite music memories was when he was just starting a soloist ministry at the tender age of 21, and had flown to a friend's church in New Mexico to sing. His friend had failed to mention to Matt that the other group ministering that night was Greater Vision! "I have never been so nervous in my life performing on the same stage as those guys! I'm sure they knew I wasn't very experienced, but they were so encouraging to me, and we even sang my favorite song, 'Daystar' together."

Not only does Promise take seriously the Call on their lives to minister through testimony and song, they are men of integrity, who cherish their families and take seriously their wedding vows.

David has been married to Jael for seven years in April. The couple has three children: Jack is five, Carlee is three, and William is almost a year old. Because of Promise's busy schedule, David doesn't get to attend Sunday services in his home church much, but

when midweek services rolls around, you'll find the family sitting in a church pew at their home church, worshipping together

After T. J. graduated from high school, he attended Bible College, where he met and married his wife, Rebecca. The couple will soon celebrate eight years of marriage and have one baby boy, Adam Roy Evans III. They call him, "Trey." T.J. thanks God for a supportive wife who understands the Call on his life.

Matt and his wife, Ashley, have been married almost five years. They have one darling daughter, Bella Grace, who will turn two in June. The couple is expecting their second child in July. The family attends the Ambassador Baptist Church in Hudson, North Carolina. Ashley teaches at a Christian school in their church and Matt helps with the music whenever his schedule allows.

Promise's greatest desire is to encourage the hearts of those who know Christ, and spread the message of salvation to those who don't know Him. David Mann said, "If God can use us to touch just one heart, the way we've been touched through Southern Gospel music, it will all be worth it."

The group has recently signed with Creative Vision Entertainment's booking agency and looking forward to endless possibilities in 2013. Promise's traditional sound, coupled with a ministry heart, has established them as an upcoming trio worthy of the accolades they have been receiving.

Promise's 2011 debut release *Promise*, produced by Gerald Wolfe is available. They plan to return to the studio again, and Gerald will once again produce their newest project. They will be sending a song to radio later this year, prior to the new CD release.

You can find Promise online at www.promisetrio.com and follow them on Facebook and Twitter. The group is booking 2013 dates at a steady rate so call April at 615.479.0954 and book them today. You'll be glad you did. I "promise!"

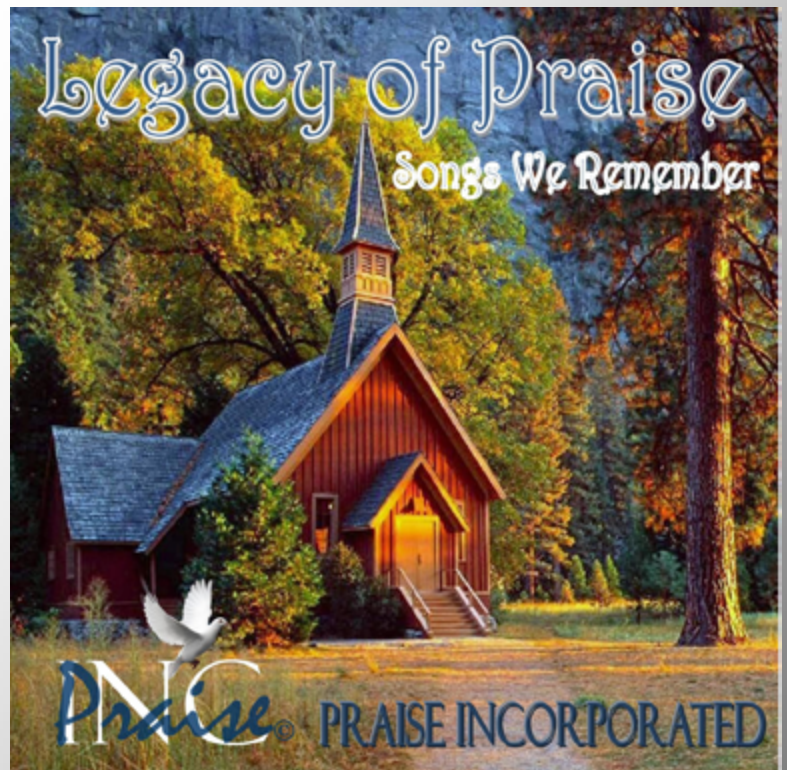
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FOCUS ON THE YOUNG

SHANNON SHELBY

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

I met this young man a few years ago in Chattanooga, TN. His name is Shannon Shelby. He was singing with his family's group, Eternal Vision. Shannon is very talented and one of the sweetest people you will meet. Here's the scoop!

V: Shannon, how long has Eternal Vision been traveling?

S: Eternal Vision has been together since 1989. I joined in the late '90's. I was starting middle school when I joined as EV's drummer. After about a year, I had moved positions to their guitar player, then to their piano player, then to the baritone vocal part, and finally to the lead vocal part which I still hold today.

V: What's your favorite part of ministry?

S: I would have to say seeing lives changed through the power of God's word in song. The legendary songwriter, Conrad Cook told me that when you are writing a song, the secret to making it powerful and effective is to take the words straight out of the Bible. Boy was that true! Any song that I write has at least a section which is taken straight from God's Word, sometimes word for word. Nothing else can compare. It is sharper than any two-edged sword.

V: What instruments do you play?

S: In the group, I play piano, guitar, and harmonica. I play quite a few different instruments in our studio as well. I make soundtracks for people. I'm what they call a jack of all trades, but a master of none.

V: Tell us about your family.

S: I'm blessed to be able to travel with my parents. I also have a wife of six years, Kayla and a one year old little girl,

Annabelle Rose Shelby.

V: What's your favorite Bible verse?

S: Romans 8:28, "All things work together for the good, for those that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose." No matter what you're going through, it is covered under "all things". How encouraging! This verse has the power to give believers such peace in their lives. It sure has mine!



V: What's one of the funniest things that has happened to you on the road?

S: There are so many! One that comes to mind is the time that our bass singer, Stuart Stallings, tried to dance on stage. He twisted his ankle and fell on the ground. The best part about this is that it was caught on video and posted on youtube. Go check it out under Eternal Vision Bloopers. His foot continued to swell the entire service. When he got back to the bus, his foot looked like a pillow, with 5 purple Vienna sausages stuck on the end. It was hilarious!

V: What's your favorite place to eat while traveling?

S: My favorite place to eat is the Brazilian steak house, Brazzerios. However, they are expensive and somewhat hard to find, so my favorite place to eat on the road is Cracker Barrel. No matter where you're at, it just feels like home.

V: When did you know full-time ministry was something you wanted to be a part of?

S: I worked in collections at a law firm for about 5 years. I was very comfortable, but God wanted me to go full time. I

fought it for a while until it got to where I couldn't sleep, eat, or function because I knew I was not where God wanted me. I took a step of faith and have been full time now for about 6 years. God has tremendously blessed me.

V: What would you say is your main goal of being involved in a ministry?

S: To help people through Christ. Whether it be salvation or just a believer who is going through something that needs some encouragement and a smile. That's my goal. To help people.

V: Where would people look to see where Eternal Vision is going to be singing or for booking information?

S: They would go to www.eternalvision.net. You can also look us up on Facebook.

Thank you, Shannon for a great interview. If Eternal Vision is ever close by, go see them! They're a great group and even better people. Until next month, may God bless and keep you!

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Gospel Boot Camp Nashville- With Gerald and Adam Crabb

By Rhonda Frye

Aspiring songwriters as well as those interested in starting or enhancing gospel music careers gathered in Nashville, Tennessee in January to glean wisdom from Gerald and Adam Crabb of the popular Crabb Family. Gospel Music Bootcamp was hosted by Alisa Asbury of Morning Glory Entertainment.

Why Gospel Music Boot Camp? Gerald Crabb explains: "Everywhere I go in both churches and concerts I get asked the same questions. They say, 'I am a songwriter but I don't know how to craft songs, pitch songs, publish songs, etc.' That's why these Bootcamps are so great. All of those issues and more are dealt with on a personal level. These seminars are priceless for the aspiring writers and artists."

Adam Crabb kicked off the morning with singing a medley of songs, that included "Power In The Blood" and then opened his teaching session with prayer. Before he ever got to the teaching tips, Adam shared from Jeremiah 1:5 reminding students that God "had a plan" even before he was created.

Adam stressed the importance of students believing in themselves, finding their own unique sound as well as how to use one's differences as an advantage. He also went into detail as far as why picking great songs are important. He shared lessons on the value of hard work as well as having a great attitude is highly important.

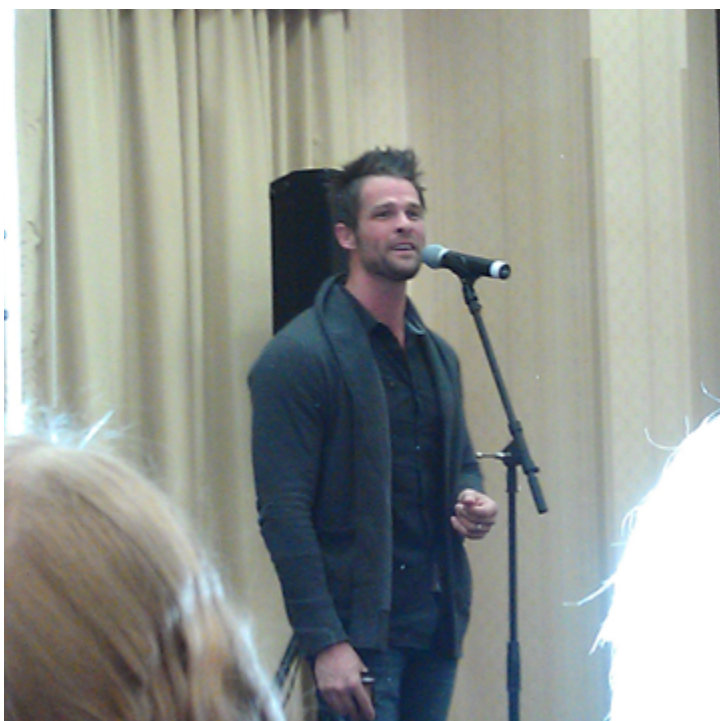
As Adam shared Music Career 101 tips, he offered real-life examples of how the Crabb Family lived out these

principles in real life experiences. Following the teaching session, the floor was opened for participants to personally ask Adam questions regarding the business aspect of Music Ministry. Once all questions were answered, attendees were given the opportunity to perform a song of choice in front of the group to be critiqued by Adam.

One by one, or group by group, students sang their hearts out and it was truly a beautiful sight to behold. The critiques were gentle, constructive and positive and students treasured words of encouragement from Adam Crabb, and occasionally Gerald would chime in with additional encouragement.

Following a lunch break, students reconvened for an afternoon with Gerald Crabb to hone songwriting skills. Before the session started, Gerald shared the heartwarming story behind the song, "Sometimes I Cry." Gerald then picked up his guitar and sang the song as most everyone softly sang along.

Gerald covered many topics such as finding song ideas, rhymes and phrases, song structure, song crafting, song pitching, publishing and more. However, Gerald spent a good amount of time teaching about "Divine Inspiration." He called out timeless classics such as "I Am Redeemed," "We Shall Behold Him," "My Redeemer Lives," and "Midnight Cry." He choked up as he mentioned, "I Still Trust You," then encouraged the aspiring songwriters to write songs such as these! He challenged the students to never stop until



they had written a GREAT song! All of Gerald's tips were explained well making it easy for the songwriters to put the advice given into practice right away.

Following Gerald's teaching session, participants were given the opportunity to perform original songs for critiquing. As in the first critiquing sessions, all comments were helpful and given with encouragement and practical advice.

One student had only a partial song to offer, but Gerald jumped to the rescue grabbing his guitar adding music to her lyrics. That was special moment that aspiring songwriter will never forget!

Although the Crabb Family has experienced tremendous success, both Adam and Gerald exemplified a humble and meek spirit fostering a safe-Christ like environment for students to learn about music careers and songwriting. The day was truly a success!

Many participants expressed appreciation and stated how beneficial the day had been. Brenda Bradshaw says, "Anointed is my concept of our Boot Camp with Gerald and Adam Crabb. No doubt, GOD was the center of everything; from the first thought Alisa Asbury had in planning the boot camp to the very last prayer that was prayed at the conclusion."

Julia Quinn shares, "I have never been so enlightened and encouraged about my songwriting and my singing ministry. The Holy Spirit was felt throughout the entire day! It was truly awesome! These are wonderful and anointed men of God. I am so thankful to have been able to be a part of this great event!"

Dana Russell adds, "I'm always looking for ways to improve my ministry for the Lord, and maximize the talents with which God has blessed me. The time spent with Adam and Gerald Crabb is one of the most important things I've ever done towards accomplishing my ministry goals. The wisdom imparted by Adam and Gerald were so helpful, and as they are Christian artists and songwriters, it is directly applicable to my ministry. The opportunity to network with other Christian artists with similar goals to mine was a big bonus of the day. I've made several new friends that I can support and pray for as they do the same for me."

Alisa Asbury concludes, "I'm so honored to have teamed up with Gerald & Adam Crabb for our Gospel Boot Camp. So many artists have already contacted me, expressing how much they learned and are now working on songwriting with a new perspective. This day was such a blessing, as Gerald and Adam are so anointed with their teaching and singing. We are currently scheduling more Boot Camps across the southeastern States, so if anyone would love to



sign up with "Morning Glory Entertainment" to work one-on-one with Gerald and Adam Crabb, please contact us at 706-226-9729.

Thanks to SGNscoops for coming out to be a part of this with us.

For more information on Gerald Crabb, visit <http://www.geraldcrabb.net/>

For more information on Adam Crabb, visit <http://www.adamcrabb.com/>

Favorite Soprano. Gospel Music Legend. Wife. Mom. Sister. The name Karen Peck Gooch is associated with many different titles. To me, Karen Peck Gooch best fits the title of a dear friend. When I was a little girl, I first had the opportunity to meet Karen in Thomasville, Georgia. Since that time, our paths have crossed countless times. She always has a smile on her face, a word of encouragement, and a warm embrace to share. One thing I can tell you about Karen is that she has a heart for ministry, a love of music, and a passion for life. Karen Peck Gooch is living her dream and walking the miles!

Karen recently released her third solo project titled, "How You Walk the Miles." She said, "The solo project was just a special project that we did after the movie [Joyful Noise]. The record label wanted to do something as a follow-up. I would say working with Ben Isaacs was just a joy. He is a great producer. And the songs and the sweet spirit that we felt in the studio were very powerful and I had so much fun recording this project."

I asked Karen to talk about the differences between recording a solo project and a group project. Karen answered, "I did have reservations about it because I'm featured so much with New River, but I did it with Susan and Jeff's blessing. And I wanted to include them on the album as well on a couple of songs, so that made a difference. It's very different. I felt a lot less pressure from the solo because it was a

Karen Peck Gooch

"Walking the Miles"



by Jennifer Campbell

special project, so I didn't feel the responsibility of the group album. When you're doing a group album, you do one every single year and we pray that every album will get better and better, so I feel so passionate when I record, especially when we're doing the group album,



just trying to choose the right songs. When I was in the studio, I had a great time working with the producer Ben Isaacs, but I did miss Susan and Jeff. This was a great experience for me. I was so blessed to have the artists take their time and come in and sing with me on this project.”

Karen discussed her solo projects over the years and the way they have evolved. “I think it is just experience. Of course, I’m older. The last solo album I did, I was expecting my daughter Kari and that was sixteen years ago. I think that this album is more seasoned than the others, just because I’m older and I have experienced a lot more of life.”

“How You Walk the Miles” features songs written by Kenna West, Don Poythress, Karen Peck Gooch, Lee Black, Sonya Isaacs, Dottie Rambo, and many other talented writers. Karen said that she could tell a story about every song. “I was blessed to be able to co-write with Kenna West and Don Poythress on a couple of the songs,” said Karen, “and of course those songs are very special to my heart.”

While everyone already knows that Karen is a talented vocalist, listeners who hear her new album will soon realize that she is a talented writer as well. Kenna West said, “When we wrote with Karen for the project, it was actually her first time to sit in a room with other writers and craft a song, but you would have never known that by the way she instinctively knew what to do. Lyrically and melodically, she has a great sense of what will work in a song, and as a student of God’s Word, she knows what will minister to the listener. I think it takes all of those components to write well, and Karen innately has that gift.”

One of Karen’s favorite songs on the album is

the title cut, “How You Walk the Miles,” which was written by Scotty Inman of Triumphant Quartet and Kenna West. Karen shared what the songs means to her: “It’s just how you walk the miles, how do we live our lives here, because how we live our lives here will affect how we will live our lives when we cross over from this life to Heaven. And I just hope and pray that at the end of my life that I can say that I have lived well, that I have lived well for Christ, so that’s why I tell young people everywhere, make sure that you live your life to the fullest for Christ now and you will reap the benefits when you are older in life. Sow good seeds now while you’re young and try to do what’s right.”



Another song that Karen is excited about is her current single, “God Lives There,” featuring Wes Hampton and Ben Isaacs as guest vocalists. “There’s a passion about this song,” Karen added, “and it really inspires us to reach out and look around us more and to be more aware of what’s going on and the people around us that are hurting and lend a helping hand. Kenna West and Lee Black wrote this song and I just fell in love with it. I’m so glad that when the solo came out, that I was able to do it. It’s a great song and to me, it’s one of my favorites on the album.”

Another song that ministers to Karen personally is “Fix Me, Jesus.” Karen commented, “That one really ministers to me because every day I pray that God will help me become a better person.” Karen also said that the song she co-wrote with Don Poythress and Kenna West, “Holy Spirit, Speak to Me,” ministers to her as well.

Karen excitedly shared with me that New River is in the studio in the month of March recording a new album. They are very excited about this new album. “I cannot wait for everybody to hear it,” said Karen. “It’s

gonna be great. We've already got the tracks done and we'll be working on vocals, actually starting next week. I'm very excited about the songs and it's just amazing how God keeps sending the songs. Every album, you wonder, oh my goodness, what will the next album be, but the Lord always sends the right songs at the right time. The writers have done such a great job of writing songs for the time that we're in right now."

a lot, to live life to its fullest, and to trust God with all your heart," Karen said. She added that she said it has been hard watching her kids grow up. She said that one difficulty has been "learning how to let go of them and let them become their own person in Christ."

While Karen's life on the road and at home is full of joy, there are also struggles along the way. She



Aside from her life on the road, Karen also enjoys life at home. "Life is busy because I have an office upstairs in my house. But I love my time off when I'm home. Usually I spend every day doing laundry and trying to get ready to leave out on the road. And then we leave out on the road, of course it's pretty laid back during the day, but the afternoon gets real busy, having to get to the church or go to the auditorium. I started traveling in June of 1980, so I've been traveling a long time. I love the life. Really the Lord has given me the desires of my heart. I love my home life, but I love my road life as well. I feel like I have the best of both worlds and being able to have my husband and kids with me is a tremendous blessing."

As a wife and a mother, Karen hopes that her children will learn from her example. She said that she wants them to trust God in everything they do. "I hope that my kids will have learned from me to laugh

said the biggest obstacle she has faced in the last few years is simply the fact that she is getting older. She prays that God will continue to give her direction in everything she does. "I love my job. I hope and pray that God will allow me to sing 'till He calls me home."

Karen is an encourager. She shares hope with everyone she meets. To readers who may be burdened down with cares, she offers the following advice: "Just keep persevering, keep doing what you're doing, and keep trusting God because He will answer your prayers. And you know what, you're not always gonna be where you are right now, so just keep praying and keep persevering. God will answer your prayers and He has an answer just right around the corner, so keep trusting Him."

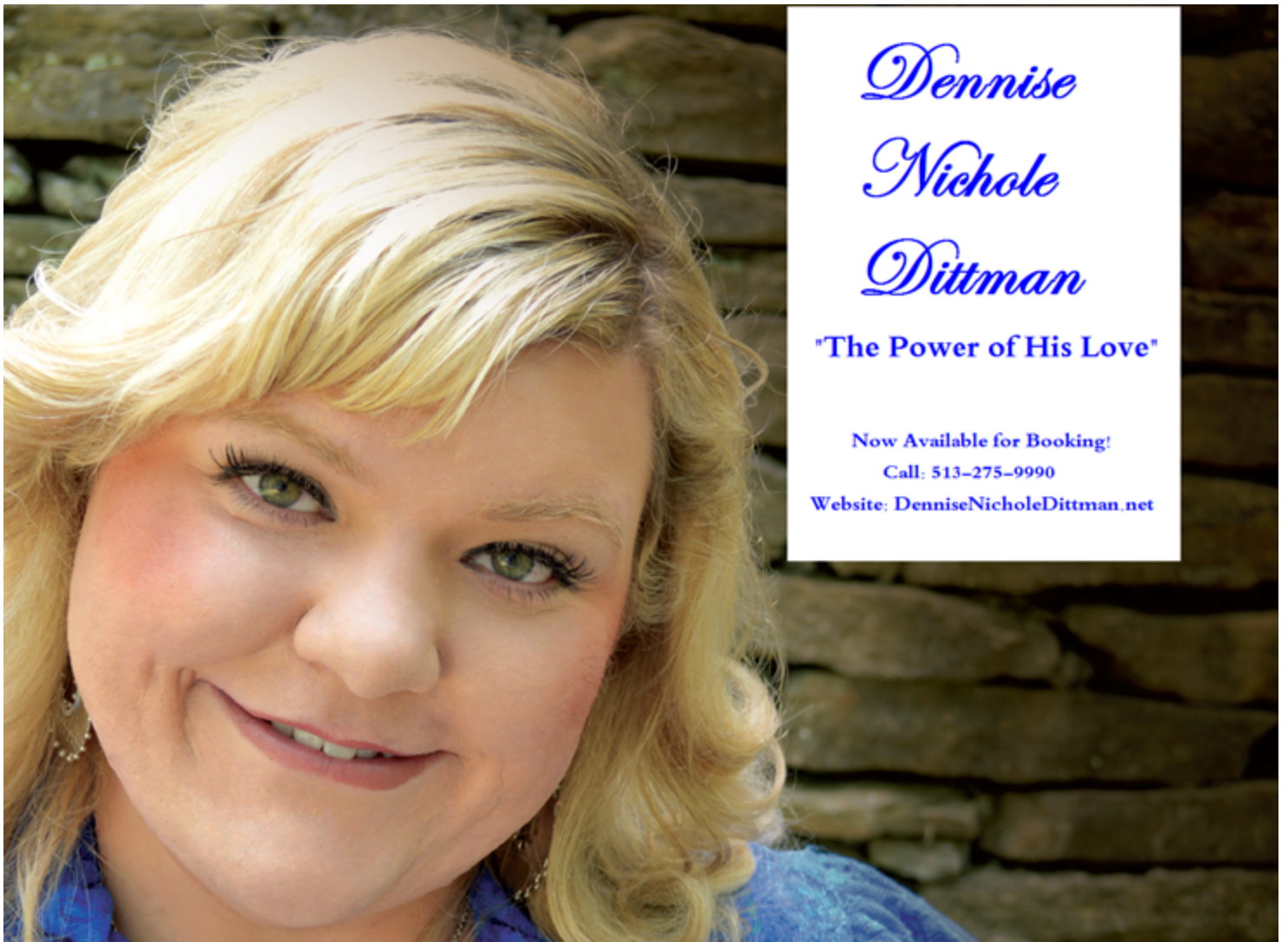
When I asked Karen about the one message she hoped listeners would take away with them after

listening to her new album, she said that she wanted them to take away a message of hope. "I hope that when people listen to this album that they will take with them a message of hope and love and know that regardless of their circumstances, they are gonna make it."



Karen Peck Gooch is a passionate individual who is dedicated to proclaiming the Good News through song. She has her eyes fixed on Jesus and she has a heart for ministering to others. She loves her family, her friends, and everyone she meets. First and foremost, she loves Jesus Christ with all of her heart. Karen Peck Gooch is grateful for the way that God has blessed her with her heart's desires. She spreads the love of Jesus Christ through word and song everywhere she goes, serving as a prime example of the way we should all be walking the miles!

Join Karen Peck & New River for their Homecoming during Father's Day Weekend in Dahlonega, Georgia on June 14-15, 2013. All of the excitement starts on June 14th at 7:00 p.m. with Triumphant Quartet and New River. The music continues on June 15th at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night will feature Brian Free & Assurance and New River. Don't miss this extraordinary weekend of Gospel Music! For more information, visit www.karenpeckandnewriver.com.



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HarmonyHonors 2013 by Rhonda Frye



Photo by Aaron Crisler / The Judy Nelon Group

Since 1986, the Southern Gospel Music Guild has been working diligently to positively affect the Southern Gospel Music Industry. The vision has always been to foster growth, as well as impact the image and awareness of Southern Gospel Music for now and for generations to come. The SGMG is known for promoting quality and professionalism within the industry and for recognizing individuals for their outstanding contributions to Southern Gospel Music. On January 29, 2012, the 9th Southern Gospel Music Guild's Harmony Honors were presented to six well deserving songwriters in Hendersonville, Tennessee at Trinity Broadcasting Network's Trinity Music City.

SGMG President Judy Nelon said, "The six songwriters receiving the SGMG 2013 Harmony Honors are gospel music treasures. The songs of Phil Cross, Rodney Griffin, Mosie Lister, Diane Wilkinson, Squire Parsons and Ronny Hinson are part of the fabric of gospel music that will continue to be woven into the hearts of listeners for years to come. The Southern Gospel Music Guild is comprised of a dedicated group of professionals committed to furthering the message of Jesus through gospel music. We are grateful to Jan and Paul Crouch for providing the television platform to spread our music around the world through TBN, the world's largest religious network. The Ninth Annual SGMG Harmony Honors will long be remembered for the outstanding songs, performances and the dedication of these amazing writers."

The night was indeed a memorable one! Jason Crabb kicked the night off with a great start by performing "I Saw The Light" to a packed auditorium filled with enthusiastic fans along with friends and family members of the honorees. After making his way to his seat, Jason intro-

duced the first Harmony Honors recipient of the evening, Mosie Lister.

Born in 1921, the beloved Mosie Lister is known as one of the Industry's most prolific songwriters. In 1953, he founded his own Mosie Lister Publishing, which later merged with Lillenas Publishing. He is a member of the GMA and SGMA Hall of Fame. He's known for songs such as, "I'm Feeling Fine," "Til The Storm Passes By" and "Then I Met The Master." Mr. Lister said his first *real* song was "I'm Feeling Fine." As the Booth Brothers sang Mosie Lister's songs, he tapped his foot along and later wiped tears during "I Met The Master." Wynona Judd along with Palmetto State Quartet performed a Movie Lister song recorded by Elvis. It was an outstanding piano-only accompaniment rendition.

Rodney Griffin of Greater Vision was the next honored songwriter. Griffin has been awarded Singing News Fan Awards "Favorite Songwriter of the Year" numerous times and is known for songs such as "Just One More Soul," "Don't Let The Sandals Fool Ya," and "He'd Still Been God." Griffin shared the story behind the song, "Faces" and then was joined by the other members of Greater Vision on stage to perform this special song. Griffin shared the story behind "My Name Is Lazarus" and everyone in the audience clapped along as they sang it.

Diane Wilkinson was brought on stage to be honored following Rodney Griffin. Diane Wilkinson has had songs recorded by the Cathedrals, Hoppers, Legacy Five, Gold City, Kingdom Heirs, Mark Trammell Quartet and many more. Host, Jason Crabb asked how she got started in songwriting. She answered saying she really got inter-

ested in songwriting as a result of digging deep into the Word of God and studying Bible commentaries. "We have



to write the truth. We have to know it and understand it," she explained. Gold City performed Diane's "Peter, James and John" and The Kingdom Heirs performed "What We Needed."

Ronny Hinson was well received as he made his way to the stage to be recognized by the SGMG. Hinson is known for songs such as "He Pilots My Ship," "When He Was On The Cross," "Notified," and many, many more. Hinson said he started writing songs in 1969 and laughed saying no one would want to hear them.

On a more serious note, Hinson shared the story behind his hit, "The Lighthouse" from 1972. "I scribbled it in a bathroom, during rehearsal, on a piece of toilet paper, in 7 minutes," he shared. He went on to say the piece of toilet paper was later recovered out of a trash can! Hinson also gave God the credit. "God reminds me

that the biggest song I ever wrote in my life was about something I had never seen before. God had orchestrated something bigger than me." Ronny Hinson then joined the Bowling Family singing "The Lighthouse," and so many in the audience sang along- it sounded like a choir!

Jason Crabb welcomed Squire Parsons to the stage. Some of the gospel classics penned by Parsons include: "Master Of The Sea", "Oh What A Moment", "He Came To Me", "I Call It Home", "I'm Not Giving Up", and "I Go To The Rock." Jason asked how many songs he had written, Squire answered 1,100.

During the onstage interview, Parsons said his favorite songwriters were the ones there on stage along with the late Dottie Rambo. He went on to say Ronny Hinson's "The Lighthouse" was what God used to inspire a desire in his heart to write gospel songs. Parsons share the song stories of "Look For Me At Jesus Feet," and "Beulah



Land." Squire joined Chris Allman and Jim Brady for an unforgettable performance of Parson's "Beulah Land."

Last, but certainly not least- Phil Cross was honored. Phil Cross is one of the most highly respected Christian songwriters of the last 30 years. He has been named Songwriter of the Year four times, and has multiple number one songs to his credit. Phil is known for "Glorious City of God," "Grace and Glory," "Jesus Built A Bridge," "Miracle In Me" and many more. Phil shared how he grew up as a shy child- and endured much ridicule during his school years. He was actually told his songs were "awful," but he kept trying.

Gerald Wolfe of Greater Vision came on stage to personally extend his congratulations. Also, the LeFevre Quartet sang "When I Get Carried Away" as Jason and





2013
SGMG
Harmony
HONORS

Front Row: Judy Nelon (SGMG President), Songwriter Honorees: Phil Cross, Rodney Griffin, Mosie Lister, Dianne Wilkinson, Squire Parsons, Ronny Hinson, and Clarke Beasley (Past SGMG President) Back Row: Jason Crabb (Host)

PHOTO BY AARON CRISLER / THE JUDY NELON GROUP

Phil stood and clapped- having a great time. The guys of Greater Vision and Scott Fowler joined Phil in performing "Champion of Love" and Phil's Group, Poet Voices performed an amazing "I Stand Redeemed." The crowd responded with worship.

It is impossible to share every detail of the evening- but it was certainly an incredible night. Performances by the Nelons, Three Bridges, Tribute Quartet, Palmetto State, Wynona Judd, Gold City, Booth Brothers, The Bowlings, Greater Vision, Kingdom Heirs and Jason Crabb delighted the crowd and six legendary songwriters were honored by the Southern Gospel Music Guild. The crowd responded well to the heartfelt song stories and worshiped the Lord during the music- truly a successful night for all involved. The extraordinary night was also shared with TBN Television viewers on February 8, 2012.

We encourage participants of the Southern Gospel music industry to learn more and become involved with the SGMG. The Guild includes every facet of the Southern Gospel music industry, encompassing artists, record companies, radio, promoters, publishers, distributors, talent management, media representatives, and booking agents. To learn more about the Harmony Honors and the mission and purpose of the SGMG visit <http://www.sgm.org/>.

<http://www.diannewilkinson.com/>

<http://www.squireparsons.com/>

<http://philcrossmusic.com/>

<http://greatervisionmusic.com/>

<http://www.ronnyhinsonministries.com/>

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Exercising with Kids: It Can be Child's Play!

By Laurette Willis

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

We all know how important exercise is to our child's growth and physical development. Lack of exercise is partly responsible for the growing childhood obesity epidemic in our culture.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the U.S., the percentage of overweight children aged 6-11 years has almost doubled since the early 1980's. The percentage of overweight adolescents has risen by nearly 300 percent!

Statistics show the startling frequency of weight-related disease in children:

- 60 percent of overweight children already have one risk factor for heart disease
- 85 percent of children diagnosed with type 2 diabetes are obese
- 25 percent of overweight children are already showing early signs of type 2 diabetes
- Approximately 20 percent of newly diagnosed cases of childhood diabetes are type 2, associated with obesity. This figure is up from 4 percent in 1990.

The trend seems to be affecting pre-school children, too. From 1994 to 2001, overweight among children aged 2-5 years, increased by 42 percent.

Considering that overweight children often become overweight or obese adults who model poor dietary and exercise habits to their children, the cycle continues until someone decides to break the destructive cycle.

What's the Answer?

Get moving!

In addition to eating more healthful unprocessed foods from a wide variety of sources, exercise is vital to growing bodies.

Children who are active on a daily basis develop stronger muscles and bones, and are less likely to develop health problems such as type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure in later years. Daily physical activity is also linked to regulating a child's mood and enabling her to sleep better.

It's been estimated that toddlers require 30 minutes of structured physical activity every day. An additional 60 minutes of playtime is also recommended.

Since we all want to be good role models for our children, making fitness a part of our daily routine will benefit them – and us at the same time! You can break the cycle and start a new fitness tradition in your family.

Exercise helps adults maintain a healthy, consistent weight, and it can also help relieve stress and keep a balanced mood, sleep better, and combat some chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. The CDC says adults should participate in moderate physical activity (such as brisk walking) for 30 minutes at least five days a week.

Here are some fun and easy activities you can do as a family to help make fitness a habit and invest quality time with your children.

Activities with Infants and Young Children

Whenever possible, go outdoors and enjoy being ac-

tive in the backyard, local neighborhood or park. This gives little ones the opportunity to interact with their environment, too.

Stroll-Along: Stroller exercise classes and groups are growing in popularity. A search on the internet will help you find a group near you. While it may seem that Mom is getting more of a workout than baby, it's also a great way for you to interact with other mothers in your area.

Of course you don't need a group to stroll along! You can also take your baby out in a baby sling or carrier and take a brisk walk around the neighborhood.

I Can Dig It! Playgrounds with sandboxes enable baby to play outdoors in the sand with his own toys and you don't have to worry about him falling on the hard ground. Bring a bucket and shovel and help build the castle of your dreams!

Mommy and Me Exercise Classes: Check to see if there are exercise groups in your area that encourage mother/child participation. More areas are offering PraiseMoves classes ("The Christian Alternative to Yoga") for adults and children. If there are no Certified PraiseMoves Instructors in your area yet, work out to a DVD with your child or start a group in your area. Contact PraiseMoves for information (<http://praisemoves.com>).

If You Plant It, It Will Grow! Don't have a garden? Perhaps the local school has an area in need of some flowers. Does your neighborhood have a community garden? Toddlers will enjoy watching the plants grow, and you'll get a good workout, too.

Catch, Jump, Bark and Dance! Indoor fun can be as simple as rolling a ball back and forth or playing "catch" or "kick the ball." Depending on your child's age, a mini-basketball game is fun, as is jumping rope to simple rhymes. Make believe you are different animals. Say the name of the animal, and then both of you move and sound as if you were that animal. Wanna dance? Turn up the music – and shake it loose (dancing is GREAT exercise and lots of fun, too)!

Incorporate Scripture: Faith and fitness are a great combination! Playtime is an ideal opportunity to include simple memory verses such as, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). A Bible promise book is a good resource.

While playing "catch," for example, whenever you catch the ball, say part of the verse for that day. Have your child complete the verse (and vice-versa!).

Act out different biblical accounts (Noah, Jonah, Daniel in the lion's den, David and Goliath, and the parting of

the Red Sea) and Jesus' parables from the New Testament.

While doing sit-ups, toe-touches, push-ups, say scriptures aloud to help keep you "pumped up!" Several Christian fitness programs (such as PraiseMoves) include scripture with their workouts for children and adults – to help keep you fit in spirit, soul AND body!

Lastly, have fun! You have the opportunity to show your child that it feels *good* to move our bodies – the bodies God gave us to care for and enjoy. You can break the cycle of childhood obesity in your generation and see your grandchildren and great-grandchildren become fit witnesses for Christ!

Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry (<http://PraiseMoves.com>) and on Facebook <http://facebook.com/Praise-MovesFan>). Get your free fitness kit at <http://Christian-FitnessKit.com> and something brand new: www.MI-RAdance.com – MIRA! is Christian Fitness with a Latin Beat! Hallelujah!!! ©2013

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John Lanier:

God Is My Refuge, Part One

By Lorraine Walker

For almost 25 years, John Lanier has been a fixture in Gospel music, traveling with Naomi and the Segos as well as Tony Gore and Majesty, working in Christian radio and television, and preaching and singing the message of Jesus. He has produced recordings for other artists, hosted tours to the Holy Land and started the Christian Voice magazine. Lanier's resume also includes a stint with the mixed trio Riversong. The recent passing of Riversong's Sharon Terrell was a huge loss for John.

Sharon Terrell was a singer and author, a lady well known by John Lanier fans who had been battling cancer for several years. "We recorded one CD as RiverSong and toured on a limited basis while I still maintained my solo ministry, in the very late 90's, early 2000's," says Lanier. "About five or six years ago, Sharon was diagnosed with cancer, and that has been an ongoing battle that prevented her from any extensive touring. Her testimony is awesome. In fact, she had just written a book that chronicled her journey and how the Lord had worked His good for her through it all. It's a true story of hope, healing and restoration that I believe will encourage and touch countless lives." The book is entitled *Through The Valley*. Terrell was also in the process of working on a new solo CD. Sharon's husband Greg is a preacher/evangelist and they have two daughters, Sadie and Autumn.

In Lanier's press release of February 14, 2013, he says, "Sharon never lost faith and it can truthfully be said that she fought a good fight. Her strength, faith and determination to hold to God's unchanging hand through the darkest storms were an amazing witness and encouragement to me. Not only was she one of the finest singers I had ever had the privilege to sing alongside, but she and her husband Greg have been two of my best friends for many years."

The loss of his good friend is another trial in a period of challenge for John Lanier. Still, he affirms the title of his recent CD, *God Is My Refuge*, saying this truth has been his hope. "This project was a direct result of God's faithfulness to me during a time of great adversity," says Lanier. "There are many scriptures in God's Word that assure us that our Heavenly Father is a very present help in the time of trouble, a strong tower of safety, and a place of refuge. But my favorite and the most personal to me is found in the 91st Psalm where David said, 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.'

“This is the Word of God that calmed me and gives me peace of mind during times of trial and adversity,” Lanier continues. “The song ‘God Is My Refuge’ is an affirmation of these precious promises. This has been my testimony of God’s faithfulness to me personally. God is so



good, and He has proven Himself over and over again to be faithful.”

Lanier’s project, *God Is My Refuge*, has produced four releases to radio, including the current single, “Cross By The Cross,” written by Michael Sage. “Both The Ruppes and The Southern Brothers recorded this song in years past, but I don’t think it has ever been singled to radio,” says Lanier. “I think the message of this song is perhaps more timely now than before. Sadly, it seems much of the modern church has replaced the pure gospel message of the cross with other doctrine and philosophy. This song, ‘Cross By The Cross’ affirms that there is no other way to God and there is no other way to Heaven but through the finished work of Christ on the cross. I can cross by the cross!”

After so many years in Christian ministry, Lanier’s life proves the faithfulness of God and it is obvious that he loves his calling. “For me, the best thing about Christian music is and always has been the message, both vertical and horizontal,” Lanier says. “Songs about life, faith, family and country, which inspire, encourage and edify. Songs of praise directly to the Lord, which bring us into His presence where we have sweet communion with Him alone.”

John has noticed that there is a difference within Gospel music from the early days that he finds disappoint-

ing. “For me, the biggest change I have noticed in recent years is the absence of the *magic*, for lack of a better term. I miss the *awe and wonder* element of our music. It used to be that every year at the National Quartet Convention, for example, there was always a sense of excitement and expectation. It doesn’t seem to be that way any more; the energy, excitement and the thrill is gone. Everything seems *mechanically manufactured*, in a manner of speaking.”

“Don’t get me wrong, I still love the music, and there are still plenty of awesome artists like The Perrys, The McKameys, The Hoppers, Legacy 5, and so many others who are anointed, and who inspire us and thrill us with their brand of music. But, it just seems something is missing overall. Even in the absence of some of our heroes like The Cathedrals, The Goodmans and others, we are still blessed with awesome talent, and Gospel music is still alive and well. But I wish we could somehow find that *magic* that seems to be missing in our genre. I’d love to see a good ol’ fashioned

Southern Gospel music revival!”

One of the first groups that Lanier sang with was Tony Gore and Majesty (TG&M). The revival of that group seems to capture some of the magic Lanier refers to from the past days of Southern Gospel. “My favorite thing about the origin of TG&M is the fact that we were all best of friends before we ever knew there’d be a group,” Lanier shares. “When the group was formed [in 1993], it was formed out of trusting, sincere friendships and Christian brotherhood. I think that is perhaps the biggest key to our longevity as a group too. You know how it is among friends: when one is down, the others lift him up. I know other groups often say it, but it’s true: we’re like family. The three of us are like brothers. We’ve each been there for one another during the loss of loved ones, sickness, the joys of parenthood, personal struggles and more. We share a strong bond of mutual respect and appreciation.” This bond of friendship has remained strong between group members for many years, even after Lanier left the group in 1996.

To the delight of their fans, the original Tony Gore and Majesty reformed in 2004 and now performs limited engagements across the country, traveling to 12 to 15 concerts per year. “About two years or so ago, we recorded a brand new album,” says Lanier. “The name of the CD is *Dawning Of A New Day* and features all new material

except for one remake of an old Hemphill song, "I Claim the Blood," which features myself and a guest appearance by LaBreeska Hemphill. The album has done very well. It



was long anticipated by many of our old fans, those who knew us *back in the day*. It has also won us a whole new generation of fans."

Many of John Lanier's fans have been closely following the career of this artist over the years. When asked on Facebook about Lanier's ministry, they were enthusiastic in their response. Robin Collins said, "John has been a blessing to me ever since I was a little girl. Knowing him for about 10 years has really touched my life. John has inspired me to work more on my singing so I can sing with him more often and to play the piano. I thank God for putting John in my life. John can put a smile on anybody's face and make them laugh. I'm glad to say what a blessing John has been in my life, because he has not only been an inspiration but like another father figure in my life."

Christopher Howard said, "John has encouraged me to serve God with all my heart. He is the kind of Christian that when you talk to him or hang out with him you can tell he is a true Christian. The way he talks and the way he acts is always about the Lord. I know that I can trust John when I need to talk to someone. He is one of the Christian adults that I look up to in a time of need."

"I appreciate the Godly standard John lives, the anointing that is on him brings peace to all who hear him sing," said Betty Dickerson. "The love he has for children is so touching. He has such a big heart and would not intentionally hurt anyone. His love for God shines through in all he

does!"

Kristi Collins said, "Not a day goes by that I can't pick up the phone and have John give me encouraging words. He's always been there for me when I needed someone to talk to. I know the music he sings and the Word that he preaches is exactly what he lives and it shows when he does so because the Holy Spirit shows up! John has always tried to help me get through my battles. He has prayed with me, cried with me and just totally encouraged me."

John Lanier's fans and friends support him in prayer and have helped him throughout his years of ministry. He comments that he had a challenging year in 2012, with a delay in recording new material, but plans to release two new projects in 2013. "One CD is going to be the second in a series of timeless Southern Gospel favorites. This will be *Treasures Volume 2*, featuring such classics as "He Touched Me," "Victory Is Mine," "What A Happy Day," and others," explains Lanier. "The other project will feature some fresh, new material that I believe will be bold and inspiring. I have a few songs that are personal to me already chosen. And Debby Harrah, who wrote "God Is My Refuge," has contacted me about reviewing some of her new songs as well. I can't wait to see what she has prepared."

"In 2011 and 2012, I had purposely slowed down a little and didn't travel as extensively as in the past, but 2013 is going to be a busy year. It appears I'll be returning to the West coast for the first time in about five years. There are already some great revivals and crusades scheduled in Arkansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and several other states, as well as a Gospel music cruise to the Western Caribbean, more TV appearances and more Tony Gore and Majesty concerts." Lanier is also planning ahead for his 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2014.

Along with the TG&M appearances, solo dates and major plans for the next few months, Lanier is also deeply involved with his magazine, *The Christian Voice* (CV). John always had an interest in journalism and this culminated in September 2006, with the first edition of CV. "I decided to broaden the scope a bit, go beyond just the music and create a 'conservative Christian music and lifestyle publication.' The magazine features Christian music, ministries and topical issues. It gives a voice to conservative, traditional faith and family values. While much of our content about music, ministry, faith and family is intended to encourage and inspire, we do include - without apology or reservation - other relative content from a Biblically conservative perspective that is intentionally intended to motivate, challenge and inform." He comments that this

has brought some negative feedback, but those who know the artist well know that he has never been quiet about his beliefs and standards. "I firmly believe the true and faithful must raise their voice while they still have one!" Lanier concludes, "There may come a day when Christians are silenced."

John Lanier is a singer/evangelist that is not afraid to raise his voice to proclaim the Word of God. He has also learned how to keep his eyes on the Lord in spite of what is happening around him, no matter how trying the circumstance. In Part Two, Lanier gets more personal as he discusses his influences, his family and how to keep going when everything around seems dark.



For more information on John Lanier visit <http://www.johnlanier.com/>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/JohnLanierMinistries>

The Tony Gore and Majesty CD entitled *Dawning Of A New Day* is available at retail stores and online. More information about the CD can be found at www.tonygore.com.

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Music Reviews for March

by Sandi Duncan Clark

As the months speed away, we are so mindful of our lives moving ever so quickly! It seems we were just celebrating the New Year and now we're moving into spring time, head over heels into March; St Patrick's Day and Easter! I am a cold weather person, but honestly, spring is looking better every time the temperature jumps another ten degrees!

I have something I'd like to share with you. Last year our Papa Clark had surgery for lung cancer and I was recently his chauffer for treatment at the Cancer Center. There were a number of patients in the waiting room with family members waiting with them. These family members often came as their drivers, helping get them to the treatment center, laboratory and the radiology center. I'm a people watcher; love meeting people and often make friends with total strangers.

As the morning passed, I watched each patient's face. Each was dealing with the circumstances of their own problem in a different manner. No frowns, some with only blank expressions or lonely stares. They were dealing with pain; their own life problems in their own way, and I learned a lot just from observing. I couldn't help notice one lady; a pretty blond with the pallor of illness, but a huge smile and a sweet attitude. We exchanged smiles occasionally and just as my Father-in-Law was called to the Doctor's office; the lady was called to the treatment room.

The lady came out before Papa, and I reached out to stop her as she passed. I complimented her smile, after a few short minutes, we prayed together. She had been diagnosed in 2009 with Stage 4 breast cancer. A year of chemo and surgery later, she was in remission. At the end of 2011 she began having problems again, and learned the cancer had re-occurred and metastasized to more lymph glands and her bones. She still smiled as she said, "I didn't know much about God until I got cancer. I received Him in my heart and now I have devoted my life to sharing Him with everyone. No matter how long I have, my goal is to tell others how good God has been to me."

I looked out over the waiting room, and a number of people were watching and listening to our conversation. One lady spoke, "I hope you don't mind but I couldn't help overhearing. I wish you would pray for me. Several others asked the same and we joined hands and prayed WITH each other and FOR each other's needs. I realized then that we can often hide our hurts and needs with a smile or a blank star, but no matter how we react; God always shines through. We just never know who needs our encouragement and a smile...and a prayer.

Some of the music we share this month rings home as we express the love of God in our lives. I'm thankful for the song writers, the artists and musicians who share their talent and love for the Master with us through their music.



BEAUTIFUL DAY

Tammy Jones Robinette

Little Creek Records

Vocals Produced by R. Chip Davis

Music Produced and engineered by Mark Hale

Having known Tammy Jones Robinette for a number of years, I'm so very thankful that God has kept her talent and testimony strong and faithful. This beautiful lady has not only remained true in her fellowship with the Lord, she has continued to write precious songs that minister to people who need a blessing.

On the liner notes in this album, Tammy explains how she wrote all eleven songs. Her son, Preston, inspired the title song on the recording, and played the ukulele. Preston loved the little happy tune and told his Mom that he wished she would write some other happy songs. When Tammy launched the idea for a new album, she wrote other songs that had a cheerful, encouraging, message. Tammy has produced a finished product, with several joyful, spirit-filled songs to bless and inspire everyone who hears her music.

'*You Don't Love Him Like I Do*' will wrap a tentacle around your heart and squeeze. '*I'll Live Again*' is a song from the past, written by Tammy, however she gives it new life and you will LOVE it! From one song till the next, each one takes you on a different musical journey and will bless your heart. I've enjoyed Tammy's music for several years, but this recording is something different and wonderfully put together. Other great songs on BEAUTIFUL DAY are '*I Just Got to Thinking*,' '*The Altar is The Answer*,' and '*I've Got It All*,' '*I Like Life*,' '*I'm Headed Home*' and you will play the title song over and over again!

Tammy sounds a lot like one of my favorite female country singers, Connie Smith, and writes 95% of the songs she sings. I have always found her songs to be solid and scriptural, and something to pass on to my friends for encouragement. This album is no exception!

You may obtain your copy of this encouraging recording by visiting Tammy's website at www.tammyjonesrobinette.com, or by phoning 419-602-7471.



YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR THIS

David Staton

Song Garden Music Group

Producer: Dirk Johnson, David Staton

David Staton is a talented contributor to Southern Gospel Music, being active in several areas of the industry. He is a powerful songwriter, with several of the industry's most influential artists taking some of his creations to the top of the national music charts. He is a producer and arranger, working in the control room with other artists, and David takes time to coach other performers who ask for pointers and suggestions for their career from someone who knows his way around the studio and concert stage.

This being said, this recording is a two-disc package; one being a CD with twelve songs, the other is a DVD with David and his producer, well-known musician, session player and producer doing a Q and A on the particulars of recording a CD, then Tim West from New Life Music explains how CDs are replicated. This is an excellent idea if you've ever wondered how those beautiful, thin, shiny discs can house so much music, and how the entire project is put together.

One of David's first national hits, '*Do It By The Book*,' was recorded by Gold City and is one of my favorite Gold City songs! David is a Dove nominated song writer, with '*Every Knee Shall Bow*,' and included these two songs on this album. Of the other ten songs, David either wrote or co-wrote nine.

David's two daughters, Grace and Katherine are following in their Father's footsteps, joining their Dad on '*Love Never Ends*.' This song was written by one of David's close friends, Buddy Mullins, and as David states, was picture perfect for his precious daughters.

A cameo vocal appearance with Jeff and Sheri Easter on '*(In His Will) There Is A Way*' was special for David. When he saw the title of the song and his own name there as writer, it was surreal. of one the nation's top trade magazines was a thrill. David shares that just seeing his name as writer of the song when it hit number one on the National Charts for Jeff and Sheri was surreal.

Early in his career, David wrote a song of appreciation for his father, simply titled '*Thank You, Dad*,' acknowledging his father's influence on David's life and career. David was able to share this song and to have it played at his Father's memorial service when he passed away in 2005.

TaRanda Green joined David singing '*I Know Who Is*,' another special cameo. Then the Ball Brothers sing with David on two songs; '*I'll Do Anything*,' and '*Glimpse Of Your Glory*.'

All this, plus some of the industry's best musicians helped David create his dream with this double disc recording. It kicks off with a rousing song by Phil Cross and David title '*Isn't It Amazing What A Song Can To*.' The music tracks are exceptional and I've been humming the tune all day!

You may have your copy of YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR THIS by contacting David at his website, www.davidstaton.com



GREATEST HITS

Tommy Brandt

Beyond The Music Promotions

Producers: Ed Smoak, Shawn Conley, Harry Smith and Larry Marrs(on 'The Septic Tank')

Tommy Brandt sings Gospel music with a country flavor, and does it with enthusiasm and a love for the Lord. Wherever he performs, fans love the music, and reality in the message of the songs touch hearts and lives. Tommy's style of Christian/Country music allows him to minister in venues where some other artists choose not to perform and opens the door for Tommy to share his testimony

This recording includes nineteen of his top requested songs, and the recording celebrates his ten years in the ministry. Tommy and his family travel throughout the country, and his son, Tommy Brandt II is following in his father's footsteps, playing the guitar on stage with his Dad. There are 19 songs, ten of them written or co-written by Tommy, with the others written by several excellent songwriters with whom Tommy enjoys working.

Having shared Tommy's story with you last month, I was excited to introduce Tommy's music to our fans of country Gospel music. He is an excellent singer, songwriter and minister. His songs are down to earth and speak to all of us at some point in our lives.

I really like 'No Turning Back,' 'I Believe In Angels,' both Tommy's original songs, and 'Mercy Brought Me Out,' written by James Payne and Mark Payne. 'Child Of My Heart,' is a special tribute to the parents and families who have adopted children. Tommy also noted that 'On My Knees Again,' was written by his friend, Amanda Fessant and recorded with her just a few short weeks prior to her death from breast cancer.

As the title relates, these songs come from ten years of the ministry, each one having a special meaning for Tommy and Michelle. Again, if you enjoy inspirational Country, Christian Country or Country music with a positive message, please contact Tommy Brandt at www.tommybrandt.net for a copy of Tommy Brandt's GREATEST HITS.



THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Redroots

Independent

Producers: Rick Schweinsberg, Micah Schweinsberg

What a beautiful trio of lovely young ladies, with shiny red hair, attractive brown eyes...they are sisters...identical triplets, and my, how they can sing and play just about any instrument you can name. Their testimony for Jesus Christ is evident in their bluegrass/country music, or mountain music if you wish! Their first album was self-titled, and signaled the beginning of the young ladies and their goal to do something special with their music. This is their second album showing their spiritual growth as well as the maturity in their music.

The first single from this recording is "Christian Country Girl," and the young ladies do a wonderful job with this one. Having grown up in a Christian family in the south, Natalie, Nika and Nicole travel together, looking out for each other, depending on God for their safety. They have a number of friends who attend their concerts. Facing an audience of friends keeps them focused on why they do this; why they are in the ministry.

Natalie, Nika and Nicole each play at least two or more instruments. In their early career, after learning one instrument, they would pick up another and add that to their performance menu of instruments.

I like 'Grow,' 'God Doesn't Know,' and especially 'My Kind Of Faith.' If you have a chance, there are a couple of concept videos on their website for your enjoyment. You may also check the website for your personal copy of THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. I promise, you will enjoy it. Red Roots' website is www.theredroots.com

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THE DIPLOMATS

A FAMILY OF AMBASSADORS CARRYING THE TRADITION AND THE MESSAGE

By Eric Melton



From their inception over 40 years ago to their ongoing ministry at present, The Diplomats is a name that is synonymous with unsurpassed family Gospel Music. Unlike most groups however, The Diplomats possess a unique quality that is unlike most other artists in the Southern Gospel Music Industry. One, the current family evolved from their humble beginnings as a quartet. However, they have not strayed completely from an all-male quartet style of singing. If you attend a Diplomats concert, you will see a group where their uniqueness is conveyed not only in their message, but words cannot fully describe the variety that you notice that will occur throughout the evening.

Recently I had the opportunity to spend four days traveling with The Diplomats and with every facet of their ministry, it would not take but mere moments to discern that they give God all of the glory for each window of opportunity. So who are the Diplomats and how was the name derived? The Diplomats from Carrollton Georgia, which is just a short drive from Atlanta, are comprised of original group member Jimmy Pearson, who is the group owner and baritone vocalist, his wife Rita who sings the high part, son Corey who plays bass guitar, piano and sings lead, long time member and bass vocalist Joe Brown, and newest members drummer Zach Flowers and product manager Tiffany Landmon.

Most people will remember Calvin Runion during his tenure as bass vocalist with The Kingsmen. What some people may not know however was in the mid 1960's he was the founder of the Diplomats Quartet. During those early days Calvin along with other members of the quartet gave an opportunity to a young teenager eager to sing. You guessed it. That young man was Jimmy Pearson. Jimmy learned many things in his first few years

traveling full-time and just a few years later, he met his beautiful wife Rita and you guessed correctly again as to where...at a gospel concert in Georgia.

To give even more glory to God, not too long after Jimmy and Rita were married, Rita was diagnosed with cancer. Jimmy made the decision to come off the road for a time to be home with her. That was in mid 1976 as Jimmy and Rita celebrated 37 years of marriage last year. Today more than 30 years later, Rita is cancer free. The Diplomats reformed as a mixed trio with Rita singing with them a short time after that. Jimmy laughs "At first I didn't even realize my wife could sing. But I thank God she showed an interest, and here we are, where God has brought us through and where He has brought us to since then." Around 1980 was when they started picking up concerts on a part-time regional basis and then approximately 11 years ago was the time that that they felt God calling them to travel full time yet once again.

Lead Corey Pearson as a teenager realized during that time that singing is what God had called him to as well. Bass vocalist Joe Brown who has been with The Diplomats for eight years now had a successful career for several decades in the retail grocery industry. Joe states, "As I my wife and I were raising our children, I knew there would be many birthdays, school functions and other events that I wanted to be home and present for. So I sang with groups in my area. Now that I am retired from a career that God blessed me in abundantly, The Pearsons had heard me sing and Corey informed me that I had the position. I told him that I would need some time to pray about it. Corey's reply was that God would reveal to me that this was in His will. I guess he knew what he was talking about because the next thing I knew was I started singing with them within just days



after." He laughed.

Drummer Zach Flowers came to play with them in 2012. Jimmy added "We are blessed to have some vibrant youth in our group." The Diplomats name came exactly from where the word applies. They are ambassadors sent to represent the message of

the Gospel. Furthermore what makes their concerts so unique? Many people that visit their product table mention that their family unit and their style reminds them of a modern day Happy Goodman family. Corey stated, "We



understand why people say that, as we sing many of the old Goodman classics such as Meet Me Over On The Other Side, This Is What Heaven Means To Me, and God Walks The Dark Hills. Then we will switch and bring the young guys to sing and we transform for several selections

from a mixed group to a male quartet and I will go to the piano. In the day and age where a plethora of artists are singing to soundtracks, we still carry a full band. I think all of those aspects are what makes us different, and we try to include something for everyone." You can



understand more of how their musical style is conveyed after listening to one of their concerts and asking about musical influences on each of them. Jimmy and Rita agreed on groups like The Goodmans and The Rambos. Corey mentions the Kingsmen and The Hinsons, Joe states The Cathedrals while Zach credits The Crabb Family and Gordon Mote as influences.

The Diplomats latest recording on the Song Garden Label is titled *JOY IN THE STORM* and features their current radio single "If Not For The Blood of The Cross." Like each recording they include a mix of both classics

and new songs alike. Just as in their concerts, the same is with their projects. Their music includes something for everyone. When speaking of classics, *JOY IN THE STORM* contains songs of yesteryear like "God Shall Wipe Away All Tears", and "I'll Soon Be Gone." Then you will hear new songs that remind you of camp meeting days like "Grand Homecoming" and the title cut "Joy In The Storm" and powerful ballads like the current single "If Not For The Blood Of The Cross."

When asked what goals are ahead for the Diplomats, Jimmy clearly states "We want to go through every door that God opens for us. We don't know what all is in store, but we do know that He has been faithful to us. We also want to show our faithfulness to God as well. As long as there is breath in our bodies, we will continue to be His ambassadors."

I believe it is safe to say that we should expect to see more music ministry from the Diplomats in years to come as they strive for excellence in ministry. You can find out more from The Diplomats, their schedule, how to order their products and information concerning each group member at www.diplomatsqt.com.



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Omega

IN CONCERT

By Angela Griffin



New Prospect Baptist Church in Anderson, SC hosted one of the most talented male gospel trios in the industry today, Omega. It was a cold rainy Sunday evening and The Grammys were being televised that night as well. I have to be honest... the thought did cross my mind that the attendance would be down, but to my delight I was wrong. This large church quickly filled to capacity! You could hear the excitement building as people gathered into the sanctuary. They were eager for Omega to take the stage!

Cody McCreary, Baritone for Omega was also busting at the seams to hit the stage... literally! It was 6:30 PM. The congregation was all a buzz but we had a slight problem. Cody was in the back with a wardrobe malfunction. You would have thought we were at the

Grammys! Let's just say he hit the stage twenty minutes later, safety pins and all!

From the very first note you knew...Omega was in the house! They brought forth the message through song. They started the service with the upbeat song "*Glory to God in the Highest!*" What an uplifting song. They followed with "*Second Opinion.*" This song reminds us as Christians that God knows the end from the beginning of every aspect of our lives. No matter what this old world says, He's the only one that's sure. Another audience favorite, "*It Makes Me Want to Go,*" had the audience singing and clapping along.

Dustin Simmons, one of the greatest lead vocalists in the industry today was featured on a personal favorite, "*Above and Beyond.*" A sweet presence filled the

auditorium with hands lifted high as Omega delivered the lyrics- *"Above and beyond, holy omnipotent, there is no one like Him, His glory fills the earth. Above and beyond, glorious, magnificent, wonderful, so mighty, the whole world shakes in awe. He is above all else and beyond all words. Jesus is above and beyond."* As the song ended, I turned to witness tears streaming down the faces of the young and the old. This song touches lives.

After a short break, Omega returned to the stage with what I believe to be their signature song, "No Bones About It" Jesus isn't dead. What a powerful song. They followed with the classic "Living in Canaan." Once again the audience was singing and clapping along.

Omega had quickly drawn the audience in with "I Want My Stage to Be an Altar." Singing..."I want my stage to be an altar, so all my praise goes to the Father, and if I get selfish and make this life all about me. Lord please, I want my stage to be an altar." What a great song of testimony from the most sincere guys about ministering to the audience through song.

Omega once again brought the audience to tears with their impeccable performance of "If it Wasn't for the Cross." Cody also did a tremendous job on "I Wish I Could Have Been There." Just imagine being at the tomb of Jesus, the stone being rolled away, and Jesus not being in there but yet risen.

Doug Pittman, one of the finest tenor singers you will ever here, gave a stellar performance of "Oh the Cross." Another great song with a powerful message sung by Omega was "Save My Family" which simply says save my family, save my friends. Friends, that's what it's all about.

Omega ended the worship service with "Homecoming Day" and received a standing ovation. It was a great night of worship and praise to the father Jesus Christ. The presence of the Holy Spirit warmed the hearts that night.

If you would like to have Omega at your place of worship or event, you may contact them by logging into their website at www.omegaministries3.com.

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Paul's Journey

By Tina Wakefield



The Apostle Paul traveled the roads of early Christianity to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by preaching and teaching the love of God and the sacrifice Christ gave for the lost souls of mankind. Four talented men joined together with the same calling that inspired the apostle Paul, to spread the good news of Christ. “*Paul’s Journey*” continues the mission of spreading salvation not only in words, but

music and song through a great venue called “Gospel Music.”

Could you for a moment imagine a successful music ministry that has spanned 35 years? Their ministry began in 1977 as “The Relations Quartet”. In 2008 they changed their name to “*Paul’s Journey*” and for the last 35 have shared the gospel through song up and down the highways; in churches, auditoriums, on television, and radio with great success.

Their ministry began when on an ordinary Sunday morning the music minister asked four young men to get a few songs together for service. The young men were so well received that they began sharing their talents on Sundays with their congregation. Word of their talent for singing began to travel, and invitations to share at other locations quickly became available. That small church in DeQuincy, Louisiana did not realize that from that first Sunday morning when the four related young men stepped up to share their talents, 35 years later the group (although members have since retired and new members added), “*Paul’s Journey*” would

still be traveling on sharing Christ all across the United States and around the world.

Today, only Rod Treme remains as the only original member from the 1977 group. Rod is the manager of the group as well as the bass singer. He is joined by three other extraordinarily talented men who complement each other on stage.

Dodd Meadows sings lead for *Paul's Journey* and brings to the group his talent to play bass and guitar on stage for the group. Rod Treme said of Dodd that he brings an air of excitement to the group each time they perform.

Joe Kitson who sings baritone has a strong ability to minister while on stage. He is the youngest member of *Paul's Journey*, and Rod jokingly adds that, "he looks good on stage." Being the youngest in a group of four gives you certain privileges and for Joe, he gets to drive the bus.

Gospel without leaving out the classics that everyone loves.

The group travels more than 200 days per year ministering in different locations so one might ask, "how do you stay spiritually fed?" Rod says that the key to staying full spiritually is to stay in the Word of God. Each morning, time is given to reading and studying the Bible along with a constant prayer life to stay prayed up. The group takes advantage of every opportunity to worship with the congregation and



The funny man in the group would be Tenor – Stan Watson. Stan provides a lot of humor and keeps things light, but has a strong dedication and conviction for the ministry, and can he deliver a song!

Musical styles change and grow over time and *Paul's Journey* has learned that there is room for the old and the new. Rod Treme classifies the group's style as progressive Southern

soak up the preaching at the venues where they are performing.

"Successful" is a word you can use to describe the quartet, *Paul's Journey*. In 2011 while performing at the National Quartet Convention's showcase something almost unheard of happened. The group was so impressive that they were invited to perform on the main stage during the convention. September 2011 was not



the last time Paul's Journey would perform on the main stage; they were invited back to the main stage to perform in 2012.

Radio is quickly realizing the great talent that *Paul's Journey* possesses. Recent appearances on Paul Heil's Gospel Greats and Solid Gospel Radio are only a few of the many media appearances they have made. Throughout their career *Paul's Journey* has experienced many top 80 hits such as; "There's Still A Cross" #33 on Singing News Charts, additionally, "He Called Me Out," and "Grace Is Never Far" reached the top 40 or top 80 on the charts.

With all their success you will never find a more humble group of men who simply want to share the gospel through song, to minister to the lost and uplift the soul of all who hear their message.

2013 has marked a new beginning for *Paul's Journey*. The year 2012 brought many face changes to the group, but the four men that make up *Paul's Journey* today are dedicated to the vision of the original members- spreading the gospel through song.

Paul's Journey will celebrate 35 years this year with a celebration tour and the release of a "35 Year Celebration" CD. Their brand new CD called *Mission of Mercy* will soon be released, and they will also be in the studio to finish a 2nd volume project of *Tribute To The Classics*.

This year is booking fast for *Paul's Journey* with two West Coast tours already set, so get your bookings in early for this group. Contact The Victory Agency at 817-454-5214. For more information about Paul's Journey, visit <http://www.paulsjourneyonline.com>.

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A MATHIS MOMENT “WHEN IS ENOUGH, ENOUGH?”

BY JOHN MATHIS JR.



I'm just kind of giddy as I write this month's article. Yep, "giddy". Oh, and just downright thankful! Is it because I just received a large sum of money? Did I just find out that I've got a song cut on a new Gaither Vocal Band or Jason Crabb record? Did I just win a new car? Nope, none of the above.

For the past few years my daily driver has been an old 87 Chevy truck. By me saying it's not much to look at is still doesn't describe it. It's just a plain old truck. I think I could go find 10 farm trucks that look way better than this truck but that's not the point. Anyway, I'm grateful for it... most of the time and I like old trucks. It usually gets me from point A to point B. And it has also been one of those life lessons for me but there's not enough space here to tell more about that. Anyway, I had the motor swapped out a few months ago and today I finally passed emission testing! Yippee! This was my 7th attempt of tinkering, setting this and changing that and sitting in the testing line praying, "God, please let this old truck pass emissions!" The number of times I repeated "please" increased with each visit.

All of that today has me thinking back on my life, I get reflective like that when I'm in a grateful frame of mind. As I look at all the things I've gone through in my life, today is a day where I suddenly realized the amount of failures far outweigh the successes. Yeah, that was a shocker for me. Up until now I've never really had that conscience thought that a life will have more failures than successes. But when I evaluate that statement, it's mathematically sound!

Failure is part of learning I guess. From the very first time we started learning to walk as little toddlers, we teeter and totter and fall down many times (failures) before we started putting those steps of success together. Perhaps we even decided to crawl for a little while longer after a hard fall but eventually, if we wanted to walk, we had to get back up and risk failure again.

I look back at so many things in life from learning something new (reading, writing, algebra, playing chess and even relationships) to starting out on some new venture (pastoring a church, audio recording, video editing, developing a website, etc) and it is initially filled with trial and error. However, the only memory I really have now is the "success" part. In fact, most of those things in life are just daily routine now or second nature and a second thought is never given to remembering when I failed at it or couldn't do it.

All of this posed the question today of "when is enough, enough?" This question actually has a simple Yogi Berra answer to it. If you don't know who Yogi is, Google "yogi berra quotes" sometime. In other words it's an extremely simple answer; '***enough is enough when it's enough.***' It's akin to asking your dad on a long trip, "When will we be there?" and his reply being "When we get there!" When is failure enough? When you finally succeed!

I bet when we pick up our phone to make a call, we never think how many times Alexander Graham Bell

failed in his attempts to invent the first telephone. He spent countless hours of pouring over the equations and testing the next theory (and failing) before finally achieving success. We walk into a room and never give a second thought to flipping a switch and having the room illuminated by a light bulb, not realizing Thomas Edison made over 1,000 failed attempts before creating a successful light bulb.

But honestly, when we make a call or turn on a light, we are in some ways celebrating a man's failures as much as his success because most often part of the biggest formula for success is failure. Each failure allows us to evaluate what we thought was right and correct and good and come at the problem from a different angle to test our new perspective or theory.

Failure isn't as bad as we tend to believe it to be as long as we are willing to take a good look at the why's, where's and how's of a failure and give it one more attempt, maybe from a slightly different approach. Sometime we have to fail "enough" times to get it right

and succeed!

All I know is that whatever failures you've faced, they ARE leading you to success. Either to something improved or something new! All that giving, striving, hoping and living you're doing right now will be "enough"....when it's enough to succeed.

John Mathis

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Christian Country News: Jayc Harold

By Rick Kiser Jr.

"He [Jesus] will comfort us through these times with a love that only He can fill".

Jayc Harold is an exceptional singer/ songwriter. His voice and guitar playing are reflected by his passion to serve his God. He had his moment playing secular music but came back to his real love which is Gospel.

Growing up in a religious community, Jayc knew about Jesus, but he never really had a relationship with Him. He loves music and has played the guitar for over 33 years. He endured a lot of pain as a child, and one way to help him deal with loss was with music. By the time he was a teenager, he had already played in a number of bands. "I played everything from hard rock to blues to Elvis Presley." Most of his gigs consisted of performing in bars. He loved the stage and the music but what he was looking for he didn't find playing in bars. While in his 20's with his third child on the way, he and his wife decided it was time for him to get out of the bar scene. "I was getting tired of playing in the bars. Something was pulling me

to get out of that lifestyle."

As a young father with a growing family it was time for him to find another way to earn an income to support his family. "For the next several years I did different types of jobs." As a child he had spent many hours at the family automotive shop so it was fitting for him open up his own shop. "It later turned into a very successful used car dealership. I found out how money can buy you just about anything but true happiness."

During his life Jayc has seen his share of hard times with the passing of his older brother and his sister. When his wife was pregnant with their third child, they got the news that his mom was diagnosed with cancer. The battle lasted for a few years but eventually she lost her fight. On her last day here on earth she said something that forever changed her son's life. "Before my mom passed away her speech kept getting worse and worse. I knew that she was in her last hours. But the crazy thing was the day before she passed away, in a plain, audible voice she looked up toward my father and said, 'If only our boys would do what they were put on this earth to do.' Those were her last words."

His mom had no idea that he had been having those same feelings but never shared them. "Those were words of encouragement from my mom." Jayc knew that he needed a change. His family needed a change. One day soon after his mother passed away and her last words were still fresh in Jayc's mind, he was listening to a gospel song recorded by Buck Owens. "At that moment I gave it all over to Christ."

As a young child he always knew that God had something special for him and now was the time for him to draw closer to his Heavenly Father and do what he was meant to do. Jayc's used car dealership was a financial success but he was ready to trade it in for total commitment to God and what he felt God wanted him to do. Being a songwriter most of his life he started writing Gospel songs again. Out went the used car dealership and in came a used Greyhound bus. He spent the next year restoring that bus and converting it to a tour bus.

Jayc was introduced to a distinct style of playing the guitar called "chicken pickin'" by a good friend of his, Johnny Hiland. He took it upon himself to learn



the art of "chicken pickin" and for the next year he honed down this style treating it like a full-time job until he mastered the art. "Jayc is truly one of the greatest guitar players," Gospel guitarist Richard Kiser says.

When Jayc gets on stage, people take notice. With his voice and style similar to Buck Owens, he has the ability to move people closer to Christ. His voice and guitar playing are truly anointed by God. Jayc says, "I love to see people get saved. That is why I love what I do." He is honored to be used by God. He is also blessed with the fact he is able to travel with his wife and three children. His boys accompany him on stage, one playing the bass while the other on drums. "My little girl, age 12, is starting to also share the stage with me. She has an amazing voice." With three CD's and over 200 concerts a year he stays busy. This year he has been given the opportunity to travel overseas to France, Denmark and Africa. "Doors are just continuing to open up for Honky Tonk Ministries."

In 2008 he received the "Country/Bluegrass Album of the Year" by the Gospel Music Association and in 2011 he was nominated, along with such great artists as Ricky Scaggs and Vince Gill, for the "Musician of the Year" by the Inspiration Country Music Awards. For more information on Jayc Harold please visit his website www.jaycharold.com.



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Charlton Jordan:

A Good Start for The Next Generation

By Sandi Duncan Clark

Nothing is more exciting than having someone tell you they are working their dream job and it's even more exciting when that conversation is with a Christian young person! Charlton Jordan is one such young man. Launching a new job/music ministry can sometimes be challenging as the dates often come slowly, however Charlton is enjoying this experience and has vowed to continue this dream job!

Hailing from Nitro, West Virginia, Charlton grew up in a Christian home. He accepted Christ in Pleasant View Church of God, but grew up in Nitro Church of God in his home town. There he fell in love with music at an early age and began his musical journey both at school church and at school.

"I began singing in the church choir when I was ten," Charlton recalled. "I loved it and learned to sing harmony, as well as lead." He continued, "I enjoyed any kind of music and thoroughly loved being involved in the Show Choir at Poca High School."

Charlton's work with the choir helped him learn the basics in vocal training. "I literally went to bed one night and woke up the next morning singing tenor! My voice changed overnight. To say I was shocked and blessed is putting it mildly" Charlton said.

Working under the direction of David Legg and Roger

Lucas, Charlton was a major part of the show choir. He was recognized as one of the schools "Outstanding Performers" and the show choir was awarded Grand Champion status several times when Charlton was there. In preparation for his goal to sing professionally, Charlton began voice lessons and continued to study with Brett Manning after graduation.

As his voice matured, Charlton gained confidence. He was offered opportunities to perform for the City of Nitro's civic celebrations, including the annual homecoming event; July 4th Festivities and several military memorials throughout the city and the county. Charlton soon became the area's "favorite son," sought after for any exciting official gathering.

These events provided stage opportunities for Charlton to mature into a well-rounded young performer. They helped groom him for the future that God had in store.

As parents, Jack and Debbie Jordan were thrilled as they watched and prayed for their son. Their support, both physically and spiritually, encouraged Charlton to pursue his dream. "Knowing that my family supported what I wanted to do also gave me assurance that I was following the Lord's leadership," Charlton reflected.

Charlton enjoyed attending concerts where some of

his favorite Gospel artists performed. He quickly became friends with top national artists and shared, "I wanted to learn from some of the best performers and I wanted to know how I could get my music out to the right people. I was so young and inexperienced, but God brought some special people into my life. He had something special in store. One good thing just seemed to be leading to another."

"I had recorded a demo to use as part of a promo package, and was working to get my music out wherever there might be an opportunity for me," he continued.

At a Signature Sound concert in Charleston West Virginia, Charlton spoke with Ernie Haas about how he should proceed toward a career in music. "Before the concert Ernie wanted me to sing a bit; I did, and we talked after the service. He got my phone number," Charlton said.



"That was Thursday night and he called on Saturday and he gave me some advice and encouragement," Charlton told us. "On the following Monday, Bill Gaither called and invited me to come to Wheeling, W Va. for the show there. He gave me some really good pointers, and invited me to sing on multiple shows."

Charlton had recorded his demo at Harvest Studio near



his hometown. Mark Hale and John Darin Rowsey helped him work on it, and when it was perfected, at the Signature Sound concert, Charlton shared it with Ernie. "Talking about it now seems so strange," Charlton mused.

That evening formed a great relationship with one of Gospel music's most revered leaders. For several years now, Charlton has been invited to perform on various Gaither tapings for future videos, and to sing on some of the Gaither Homecoming Concerts. "I have learned a lot, and God has blessed me to be invited on stage with some of the greatest singers of all time," Charlton said.

"Along with the relationship formed with the Gaither organization, I have also been able to travel and sing with Squire Parsons, as part of the Squire Parsons Trio." Charlton finished, "Squire is one of the most godly men in Gospel music, and he lives exactly what he sings."

Charlton thoughtfully said, "The privilege to be mentored by two of the greatest men in the Christian/Gospel music field has been awesome and I'm thankful that they allowed me to work with them."

With this background, Charlton enjoys performing with some of his heroes, "I've always enjoyed hearing David Phelps sing. He has been one of my special heroes for a few years now," Charlton shared. "I'm also a fan of Jeff and Sheri Easter and Gold City, and have been on the stage with these artists and a number of others. I'm a big fan of Gospel music," Charlton smiled!

Charlton's first solo CD is self-titled and was produced by Gordon Mote and John Darin Rowsey. His favorite song on the recording is "Robe of White," an older song, but a most requested one, and one that allows fans to enjoy his talent. As part of this current generation who enjoys Southern Gospel Music, Charlton is helping to keep Southern Gospel Music alive and well!

The following is a statement from Bill Gaither which appears on Charlton album:

"I think that Charlton is one of the finest new talents in gospel music today. This project is wonderful -- Great songs and a great new singer! --" Bill Gaither

Currently Charlton is studying Criminal Justice/Criminology at West Virginia State University. He is booked through Gordon Lutz at the Lutz Agency and works concert dates around his classes. He is available for youth rallies, concerts, weekend solo dates as well as Gaither Home Coming dates. You may reach Gordon Lutz at 740-409-1060.



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Artist Spotlight: Cargils

By Angela Griffin

I was introduced to The Cargils from the Orlando, FL area a few years ago at a convention in Cleveland, TN. Father, Ron Cargil began to share a few words with the congregation as his wife Sandy, pianist, and their three young daughters Christi, Mary, and Catherine made their way to the stage with acoustic instruments in hand. What harmony they produced at such a young age. They sold me from the very first note!

The Cargils have been in full time ministry for over 20. Sandy shares, “Our entire life revolves around the ministry. We wouldn’t want to do anything else. Seeing souls saved, people’s lives changed and lifting up Christ is what it’s all about.”

At age 16, Pastor Ron Cargil started singing and ministering. He sang with the Happy Harvesters of Central Florida before marrying Sandy. He also pastors the United Christian Church in Candler, FL and is Founder & Pas-

tor of Harvest International Ministry & Church in Orlando. “We’ve seen mighty miracles take place in people’s lives. We cannot limit God. Believe the unbelievable and receive the impossible,” says Pastor Ron.

Sandy started singing at age eight, helping her father in his ministry, and she is passionate about Christian education. Sandy’s served as principal at several Christian schools, educating children with the “66 Characteristics of Christ.”

Freedra Bowers, owner of Super Channel 55 invited the Cargils to sing and minister on their Divine Connection Program. They were also invited by Channel 52’s station manager, Oralena Valero to take part in taping at The Holy Land Experience Studios. The Cargils share, “We are so humbled that God has remembered us.”

The Cargils latest project *NEW* was recorded at Family Room Recording Studio in Gallatin, TN with Grammy Award Winning Producer, Robb Tripp. Robb also gave them a word from

Isaiah 43:19 “Behold I will do a new thing and it shall spring forth.”

“When we named the CD *NEW*, we didn’t realize that God had given him that scripture for us. God is so amazing in that every little detail is covered. Our friend, Laverne Tripp is featured on a song with Pastor Ron. We were blessed with some of the greatest musicians in the Nashville area to play on our new recording,” the Cargils share-Aubrey Haynie on violin and mandolin, Marc Fain on bass, Robb Tripp on drums and percussion, Johnny Brown on piano and keyboards, and Joe Key on acoustic guitar. The Cargils say their music has been influenced by the late Dottie Rambo, Don Warren, The Crabb Family and The Isaacs.



The Cargils have many blends of various types of Gospel Music. The family-featured songs have more of a Southern Gospel sound while the girls love to put a contemporary, soulful spin on bluegrass. This project showcases the incredible talent that God has bestowed on the Cargils.

Sandy shares, “We knew that God had a special plan for our children. We were traveling and ministering in the mountains of Georgia and North Carolina in our early days of ministry. The Lord impressed Isaiah 8:18 on Ron. “Here am I and the children whom the

Lord has given me.” Pastor Ron knew that God had given him a word concerning our children. It was just a couple of years later that Christi, the eldest sister started singing, then Mary and finally Catherine. One night in church the girls were singing Amazing Grace and all of a sudden I heard harmony coming from the girls. Catherine, age seven at the time, was singing the higher part. I got off the keyboard and told them, keep singing, keep singing... just like that. That was the beginning of the harmony blends of the sisters. The instruments followed. “We are so proud of the girls and their Christian lives. They truly love the Lord with all their heart. At home we’ll go by their bedrooms and they’ll be praying and reading God’s word. They love and care about

people and are very appreciative of anything God blesses them with. We believe that God wants to use young people in their early stages of life. This truly prepares them to be ambassadors for Christ,” shares Pastor Ron and Sandy.

Christi started singing at four and plays guitar. She also has a passion for fashion. Christi is developing a clothing line, JLINE. She envisions creating clothing that’s beautiful but modest; to enhance the Godly character of young women today. She’s in her second year of college with Liberty University. Christi shares, “We find Him in our storms and the more we struggle the closer it brings us to Him. We shouldn’t put people on a pedestal. When we do, disappointments come, because they’re not perfect and we’re not perfect. Only God’s perfect.”

Mary started singing at five and plays violin. Mary loves music, photography, media production, and has a vision to make Christian movies. Mary graduates this summer and plans to further her education at the collegiate level. Mary has learned that no matter what anyone tries

to do or say about you, it doesn't matter in the end. "It's all about Him! As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, He will see us through. We just have to obey and seek Him (Matthew 22:36-39). People say, 'You need to stop doing ministry and do something useful with your life,' Mary explains. "Ministry is useful. Bringing in the lost, healing the brokenhearted, bringing the gospel to your family, neighborhood, community and to the world the message of Jesus Christ and that He is coming back again just like He said. He is the only Way, the Truth and the Life."

Catherine started singing at age three and plays mandolin. She also has a passion for writing. Catherine's started a book that she wishes to publish and have a series. The story line is of a young lady in the Revolutionary War and chronicles her adventures. Her goal is to get young teenage girls excited about American History. Catherine has learned to love others just like they are her family. "Remembering the love Christ has for the sinner and never forgetting that we were all sinners and all imperfect. We are all the same in needing a Savior. Only by Jesus and His love do we survive daily," shares Catherine.

The Cargils say ... "Our mission is to see more souls come into his Kingdom and spread his love and light to a dying world. Only what's done for Christ will last. That applies to whatever occupation that you are in. Any job or task we do, we can do it as unto the Lord and promote His light to people of all walks of life."

The Cargils can be reached at (407) 325-3089, Mailing is: P.O. Box 680418, Orlando, FL 32868, email: mcargil@cfl.rr.com and Fan Site on Facebook (The Cargils) You may also visit their church websites at www.himoforlando.com and www.uccofcandler.com.

A family photo of The Gibsons. A man and a woman stand on either side of a young girl who is sitting on a white ornate sofa. They are outdoors in a grassy field with trees in the background. The man and woman are wearing dark suits with red ties. The girl is wearing a red dress. The photo is framed by a dark red border.

The Gibsons

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A logo for the 2013 Diamond Awards. The text "2013" is in a simple font, and "DIAMOND Awards" is in a stylized, cursive font. A small diamond graphic is next to the word "Awards". The logo is set against a dark purple background with a subtle pattern.

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Maranatha! Music

Releases Top 25 Southern Gospel Classics 2013

By Rhonda Frye



Gospel Music lovers are in for a treat! Now available from Maranatha! Music is a music compilation featuring some of Southern Gospel Music's classic songs! Maranatha! known for the popular Top 25 series, has collected 25 classic Southern Gospel songs that have never been heard before in one compilation. The two disc collection shines the spotlight on the Southern Gospel Industry's most prolific songwriters such as Gerald Crabb, Carroll McGruder, Joel Hemphill, and more. The album offers some of Southern Gospel's most popular recording artists too such as Jason Crabb, The Happy Goodmans, The Nelons, The Hoppers and Michael English.

In a recent press release, Randy Alward, president and CEO of Maranatha! Music said, "The Top 25 brand is synonymous for bringing the best of the best together in one CD collection. Top 25 Southern Gospel Classics 2013 Edition captures the vibrancy and spirit of Southern Gospel music, and we are honored to partner with many talented labels and artists on this project."

Don't miss out on this opportunity to listen to unforgettable voices and original masters of songs that over the years have proven to be Southern Gospel's timeless classic. These are beloved songs that have stood the test of time. "Top 25 Southern Gospel Classics 2013 Edition" is available online, at www.MaranathaMusic.com, and in stores on February 12, 2013, distributed by EMI-CMG Distribution.

Track listing for Disc 1

- 1 Sweeter As The Days Go By- Canton Junction (Live)
- 2 When God's Chariot Comes- The Happy Goodmans

- 3 What A Morning- The Booth Brothers
- 4 Please Forgive Me- Jason Crabb
- 5 Thanks- The Nelons
- 6 I Bowed On My Knees (And Cried Holy)- Michael English
- 7 Let The Redeemed Say So- The Hoppers
- 8 This Ole House- Ernie Haase & Signature Sound (Live)
- 9 Walkin' And Talkin' With My Lord- Gold City
- 10 Rolling Along- JD Sumner & The Stamps
- 11 Through It All- Gordon Mote
- 12 Joy Unspeakable- The Collingsworth Family

Track listing for Disc 2 -

- 1 Saved By Grace- Triumphant Quartet
- 2 From The Depths Of My Heart- The Isaacs
- 3 Angel Band- Vestal Goodman with George Jones
- 4 I Lean On You Lord- The Florida Boys
- 5 Hide Me, Sweet Rock of Ages- Janet Paschal
- 6 Through The Fire- The Crabb Family (Live)
- 7 Leaning On The Everlasting Arms- Guy Penrod
- 8 He's Still Working On Me- The Hemphills
- 9 The Answer Is Christ- The Talley Trio
- 10 The Love Of God- Anthony Burger with Aaron Crisler
- 11 God's Word- The Kingdom Heirs
- 12 Let Me Tell You 'Bout Jesus- The LeFevre Quartet (Live)
- 13 Until Then- Mark Trammell

ABOUT MARANATHA! MUSIC

Since 1971, Maranatha! Music has been creating life-changing music and ministry resources for the body of Christ. The company's passion for the lost was the driving force behind the development of the best-selling The Invitation CD series featuring Rick Warren, Beth Moore, Kay Warren and John Baker. Not only has the series sold over 2 million copies to date, but thousands of lives have been impacted by the salvation message of Jesus. Maranatha! Music is a pioneer in praise and worship music publishing. Best known for the Invitation Series, Praise Series, Praise Band Series, and Top 25 Series, Maranatha! Music has sold more than 30 million records and changed lives worldwide. For more information, visit www.maranathamusic.com.



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TOP 20

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. CITY LIMITS | HOSKINS FAMILY |
| 2. MY LORD WILL SEND A MOSES | SOUL VISION |
| 3. WAY PAST READY | MARK TRAMMELL |
| 4. JUST LOOK HOW HE FOUND ME | PRIMITIVE QT |
| 5. JUST PREACH JESUS | KINGDOM HEIRS |
| 6. THERE I BEGAN TO LIVE | NEW GROUND |
| 7. UNLIKELIES | MIKE UPRIGHT |
| 8. I JUST WANT TO PLEASE THE LORD | ERWINS |
| 9. CELEBRATION LIKE WE'VE NEVER KNOWN | BRADYS |
| 10. IN MY FATHERS EYES | ROCHESTERS |
| 11. THE LOVE OF GOD | JIMMY JUSTICE FAMILY |
| 12. I CALL HIM MINE | BRIAN BURCHFEILD |
| 13. I'M GONNA MAKE IT | SISTERS |
| 14. IF NOT FOR THE BLOOD OF THE CROSS | DIPLOMATS |
| 15. WHEN HE BECKONS ME HOME | DARRIN & BROOKE JOHNSON |
| 16. WHEN HE SPEAKS | MCKAMEYS |
| 17. AS LONG AS MERCY FLOWS | MCKAMEYS |
| 18. NO GREATER LOVE | CHUCK COMPTON |
| 19. I GOT AHOLD OF GOD THIS MORNING | PERRYS |
| 20. WE'RE NOT HOME YET | JOYAIRES |

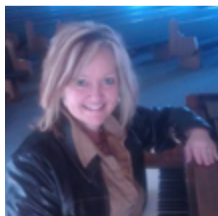
Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob

Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all-digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeding concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com.



Rhonda Frye is an ordained minister serving as the Associate and Worship Pastor at Rock Pointe Church in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. She is a recording artist, songwriter, preschool music teacher and sings with family trio, "Rhonda Frye & RiverSide." Rhonda is from Ringgold, GA and is supported

by her husband and their 3 children. To learn more about Rhonda Frye Music Ministries, visit: <http://rhondafrye.com>



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

first woman to own an artist management agency. Lou is an inductee of the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, GMA Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, SGMA Hall Of Fame at Dollywood, and the Christian Music Hall Of Fame. She is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Of Sacred Music from Louisiana Baptist University. Recently, Gaither Homecoming Magazine named Lou in the "Hall Of Honor" series, and the Southern Gospel Music Guild gave her a "Lifetime Achievement Award." Lou is celebrating a 65th wedding anniversary in 2011 with Howard, and they live in Houston near son Dr. David Hildreth and daughter Kathryn Mumaw, and 4 grandchildren. Visit Lou at: <http://louhildreth.com>



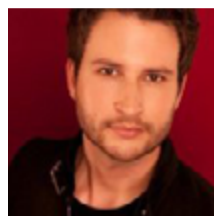
Victoria Shirey first took the stage at 3 years old. Strong vocal abilities and harmonies are a God given talent that started in her at a very young age. Along with writing for SGN Scoops, she designs websites, is a Producer and Background Vocalist for Homeland Records out of Gallatin, TN and

is a part-time cruise director for Paradise Tours & Travel. Victoria writes and arranges most of The Shirey's music as well. Most importantly, she loves the Lord with all of her heart and makes it her goal to let the love of God shine through her.

Visit victoria at: <http://theshireysministries.com>



Sandi Duncan Clark and Cliff Clark make their home in Easley, S.C. where they enjoy traveling, gardening, and the beautiful South Carolina weather. Sandi has worked in journalism for more than thirty years, and she is thankful that her love for God and Gospel music provides a great opportunity to positively impact the careers of so many in Gospel music. Email Sandi at sandi@sgnscoops.com.



Through a series of events, Jeff Hawes has moved from the classroom where he taught high school English in Jackson county, Alabama to the tour bus of gospel great Karen Peck & New River. Jeff chronicles the fulfillment of his gospel music dreams and his road

life exclusively for SGN Scoops. Learn more about him at <http://www.karenpeckandnewriver.com>



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of Praise-Moves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves Instructors

on four continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>), on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/PraiseMoves>. Laurette invites readers to get started on the road to better health and fitness for spirit, soul and body. For a free, easy-to-follow 21 day program visit: <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com>

Contributors

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



John Mathis Jr's life and musical influences have given him years of experience in the music industry in the areas of songwriting and music publishing, radio, publicity, A&R and recording. Another influence in John's life has been ministry. His grand-father was a church-planter

and minister for 43 years, his father was a national evangelist. John has spent a number of years as an evangelist, pastor, worship director and public speaker. Currently, John works with Mansion Entertainment in the aspects of media promotions, publishing and recording while continuing to write, manage his own music catalog and occasionally speak.

www.themansionentertainment.com

www.avidgrouppublishing.com

www.thepathwayrecords.com

www.johnmathisjr.com



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

bend. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational

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

<http://jennifercampbell.net>



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that

the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at lorraine@sngnscoops.com



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead

others to Christ. On December 31, 2002 she married Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.



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

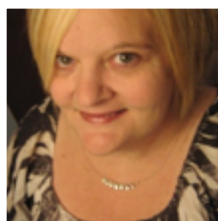
ing. In 2009, he took to the airwaves, joining the staff of WMUG in Indiana, Pennsylvania where he is the Program Host for Sunday Morning Light.

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

Website: www.scottrhoades.net

Contributors

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Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...

and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing ideas. While Pete on the

other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



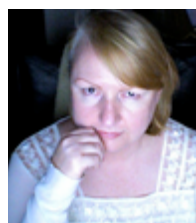
Richard (Rick) Kiser Jr. is the author of the children's book series, Carly and Friends. He also has written one novel, "Forever My Son." He is a full time computer technician and lives in Virginia with his wife and two daughters. To learn more about Rick visit his web site

www.carlyandfriends.com



Dixie has been married to Pastor Paul Phillips for 35 years. The couple has been honored to serve the congregation of the Gospel Lighthouse Church in Floyd, Iowa, for 31 years. They have four grown children and four "perfect" grandchildren.

Dixie is a ghostwriter, award winning children's author, and songwriter. She and her sister-in-law Sharon won the 2012 Singing News/Solid Gospel Songwriters Search with their song "Hidden Heroes." Her favorite pastime is counting her blessings. If you'd like to know more about Dixie, visit her website at www.floydslighthouse.com or www.phillipsandphillipsmusic.com. You can e-mail Dixie at Phillips4Him@myomnitel.com.



Susan Werchonowicz is a lover of our Lord Jesus Christ. Susan is Canadian-born with a deep love of Southern Gospel Music. Her passion for Gospel Music was re-ignited when Russ Taff performed at her church in Brampton Ontario Canada a few years ago.. When Russ performed "Ain't no Grave" Susan

became re-enamored and consumed with Southern Gospel music. By trade Susan is an analytical "left brain" type, with her profession as a Project Manager in the Telecom Industry. Susan has returned back to her passion for writing, including her love for Lyric Writing, including writing a Christian play which she hopes to see on stage one day. Susan is single and lives about 1 hour north of Toronto. She has recently joined the SGN Scoops Magazine team Dec. '12. "It's your heart, not the dictionary, that gives meaning to your words" (Matthew 12:34) (MSG). You can email Susan directly at swerchon@sgnscoops.com



My name is Tina Wakefield and I am currently Music Minister for Amazing Grace Worship Center in Alabaster, Al. I have led worship for over 18 years as well as teach adults how to live everyday life in Victory as a Christian. I enjoy playing and singing Gospel Music whenever and

wherever I am invited. I currently have three Cd s available on my website at www.tinawakefield.com and just released my first music video with Godsey & Associates called, "The Choice" available on YouTube. I write a lot of the music we sing at church and also record my original songs. My family is very ministry oriented with Pastors, Teachers, Musicians, and Singers. My heart's desire is to spread the gospel of Christ through any and all open doors that I receive.