

MARCH 2015

CGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



BALSAM RANGE

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Tribute to Mosie Lister, Sweetwater Revival,
The Luck of the Redhead and The Page Trio



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OUR MISSION

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

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www.sgnscoops.com

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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Are you glad it's March? I certainly am. It has been a long, cold winter, even in Washington State. I'm glad that Spring is on its way and so many Gospel music events are drawing closer.

You will see more information about these events in our Newsmakers section, but I just wanted you to hear about them from me. At the end of this month is the first Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama, with many of the great artists from that area. Special guests are Jay Parrack and Vocal Event and I know you won't want to miss that.

In April is an event called Salute to Our Heroes, a Christian Country event with Marty Raybon and T. Graham Brown. We invite all of our Creekside friends back to Pigeon Forge to enjoy three days of Christian Country music and a special event at the Dixie Stampede, which will honor First Responders.

In May we return to the Ozark Gospel Music Convention in Branson, Missouri for another special time of music and fellowship. We had a great time last year and if you were with us then, I'm sure you are returning and I hope you bring all of your friends.

If you have watched the SGN Scoops website, you know that we are planning for Creekside again and the Diamond Awards nominations are continuing this month until March 31. Don't forget to vote. More information is available on the Creekside Update page in this issue.

On a personal note, I wish to thank all of you that prayed for my health over the last while. I know the Lord heard your prayers and He has brought healing for which I'm very thankful. Thanks to my staff who went above and beyond to keep the wheels turning in all areas of Coastal Media. If you want to know my Lord who hears and answers prayer, write to me at rob@sgnscoops.com.



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A Letter From the Editor

By Lorraine Walker

Have you felt it yet? Change is happening. It's all around us even if we don't feel it yet. Plants and trees are beginning to awaken and shake the snow from their limbs. Birds are feeling the call to take to the skies and head north. The sun is getting minutely warmer every day. Spring is coming.

Change is happening in our world as well. We hear the news of uprising in countries across the ocean as well as in our own backyard. People are becoming more vocal about their beliefs and standing up to declare their convictions. Sides are being taken even as leaders quibble about labels. Social media warps the truth, yet some things are obvious as we look around us. The poor are still with us, the hungry still need to be fed, and the lost need to be shown the way home.

We can get all wrapped up in our political or social agendas but what people really need is to see the truth in you and I. The truth about the Unchangeable One, the God that formed this earth and sent His Son to teach us the reality of life, death and a real truth that will never change. You know that truth. It is summed up in one statement: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should never perish but have eternal life."

Seasons change, people change, governments change and in all this unpredictability, we need an anchor. That anchor is Jesus. This Man of Love is the basis for the lives we live and the music we sing, the Gospel music we promote.

Change is obvious in this edition of SGN Scoops. We give tribute to the passing of one of our elder statesmen of Gospel music, Mosie Lister. Mosie was a singer, songwriter, arranger, and encourager of many artists and industry personnel. He touched the lives of many.

From a legend and one of the more mature gentlemen in Gospel music, we go to one of the youngest. Dean Adkins introduces us to Brandon Stone, the new 17-year-old bass singer for the Gospel Harmony Boys. What a future is ahead for Brandon because of the foundation laid by people like Mosie!

This month we welcome Balsam Range to our cover for the first time. If you are one of the few that have not heard the music of this fine group, you need to seek out their website and take a listen. You may recognize several of the members, if you have been around Southern Gospel or Bluegrass music for any length of time. I first met BR member Tim Surrett several years ago when he joined the Kingsmen. He still has the same sweet spirit, sense of humor and genuine love for others that he had then. I know you will enjoy this feature by Marcie Gray, especially the background to their charting song, "Stacking Up Rocks."

We at SGN Scoops wish you all a great month and hope that you have time to enjoy every feature in this edition. Even as our world changes and we see the events around us, we are reminded that: "Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!" It won't be long!

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LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



We appreciate the opportunity to share our passion for Gospel music each month in SGN Scoops, and we are grateful to Publisher Rob Patz and Editor Lorraine Walker. It is almost springtime, and we thank God for bringing so many of our readers safely through a winter of ice and snow.

Howard and I live in Houston, Texas and we did not have extreme cold weather. Our major travel concern is heavy traffic and my precious husband doesn't



drive at night but God is faithful to provide our needs.

We were thankful to have our son-in-law take us to the recent Gaither Vocal Band concert here in Houston. We arrived early, at the invitation of Bill Gaither, and enjoyed an unforgettable visit with this LEGEND. His assistant, our longtime friend Deana Warren, was more than helpful, knowing that we are somewhat more fragile these days.

Hanging out in the comfort of the hospitality room allowed us precious time of fellowship with Bill and the Gaither entourage: David Phelps, Wes Hampton, Adam Crabb, Kevin Williams, Gene McDonald, Matthew Holt, Greg and Charlotte Ritchie. We met

Todd Suttles, the newest member of the GVB, and found him to be an example of LIFE and LOVE. Howard and I have a deep appreciation for Bill Gaither, and we were extremely blessed to be at this memorable concert!

We were also privileged to attend David and Dana Hancock's concert series "Singin' In Texas" at Sagemont Church in Houston, a few weeks ago. The huge crowd responded to the fantastic talent lineup with great enthusiasm. When Frank Seamans, formerly of Legacy Five, led us in the opening song, we knew we were surrounded by precious colleagues.

A sweet surprise was a piano solo by a longtime friend from Dallas, maestro of the keyboards, T. Bob Davis. We loved making some great new friends who proudly share our love for spreading the message of gospel music.

I had heard good reports about The Old Paths but had not seen them in person, and their performance was excellent. This male quartet gained many fans on this tour to Texas, and we welcome them back soon.

The Hoppers added their sweet spirit to the con-



cert at Sagemont. Connie was not able to make the trip but Claude entertained the crowd with his classic humor. A spirit of agreement swept the audience as emcee David Hancock introduced The Erwins, urging everyone to support all the upcoming young gospel artists. The Erwins sang their way into the hearts of the people. We pray God's continued blessing on these talented brothers and their sister on their journey to national recognition. We are thankful that God made a way for us to share the joy of being with our gospel music friends.

We close with a dedication to the memory of Mosie Lister who died February 12, 2015, at age 93. Mosie wrote "How Long Has It Been," "Where No One Stands Alone," "'Til The Storm Passes By," "His Hand In Mine," and many other beloved gospel songs.

Lou Wills Hildreth
gospplvideo@aol.com
P. O. Box 271106
Houston, TX 77277



Photo ID:

- (1) Gaither Vocal Band-David Phelps, Wes Hampton, Todd Suttles, Adam Crabb, Bill Gaither
- (2) Lou Hildreth and the late Mosie Lister
- (3) The Erwins with Promoter David Hancock "Singin In Texas," Sagemont, Houston

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<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

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<http://www.soundsofjericho.com>

Southern Plainsmen Quartet

www.southernplainsmen.com

Southern Tradition

<http://www.americanheritagemusic.com>

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<http://www.stevejonesgospelmusicministry.com>

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BALSAM RANGE

BLUEGRASS FROM THE HEART OF HAYWOOD

By Marcie Gray



Have you ever visited a place that just feels majestic? Perhaps you are one of the fortunate few who are blessed enough to actually live in a place so beautiful you just don't want to leave home. Nestled right where the Great Smoky Mountains meet the Blue Ridge Parkway is a little place called Haywood County. Surrounded by scenic views and rooted in Cherokee traditions, this area tells its own story. At the top of Water Rock Knob, the highest point on the Blue Ridge Parkway, one can stand and see 180 degrees of beautiful mountain peaks and river valleys as they view Balsam Range, the range of mountains that separates Haywood and Jackson counties in North Carolina.

Named for the place they call home, Balsam Range is not your run of the mill, back porch pickin' kind of Bluegrass group. These five men have extensive musical credentials and impressive professional backgrounds, but one common bond they share sets them apart from any other group: hometown roots. Tim Surrett says, "We all live within a 15 mile radius of each other, and we are not the most talented musicians in Haywood County. There are some impeccable musicians in this area, but when we all came together, we knew we had something special." Having roots in the same

home town gives them a wonderful foundation, and these boys can make you want to put on your dancing boots!

Buddy Melton, Caleb Smith, Darren Nicholson, Marc Pruett and Tim Surrett joined together to form Balsam Range in 2007, and from the beginning their blend was amazing. Tim and Marc played on solo albums for both Buddy and Darren. Tim recalled, "Caleb and I knew each other from previous gospel work, and the guys all decided to get together to jam one night. Immediately, it was like, holy moly, this is pretty good! A couple of months later, Marc got a call and we played at the Grove Park Inn for John Boy and Billy. It was an enormous concert. The crowd went ape and it has just ballooned from there. We never intended to start a band. We just wanted to get together and have a good time making music."

Tim Surrett is the emcee, the voice of Balsam Range. His charming personality and seasoned vocals, complimented by his dynamic bass and occasional resonator guitar playing give Balsam Range a unique edge. Buddy Melton's powerful tenor voice and toe-tapping fiddle playing are unforgettable. Caleb may be young, but his guitar talent



and incredibly dynamic vocals are as experienced as any. Rumor has it that Darren is always up to some kind of mischief. He brings a terrific energy to the group with his mandolin playing and tremendous harmony. Last, but certainly not least, Marc Pruett completes the group with that amazing banjo picking that bluegrass fans adore. Marc is a Grammy Award winner with more than 40 years of music behind him. Put these five, talented friends together and you have Balsam Range!

When asked how they handle their demanding schedule, Tim replied, "We are all very busy and work hard to balance our family life, our regular jobs and our tour schedule. We do about 150 dates per year. We've been invited to Europe, China and Australia. It's not easy, but we love what we are called to do, we enjoy making music together and our families are very supportive."

Balsam Range donates a large portion of their revenue to charitable efforts in Haywood County. Designed originally to bring revenue to Canton and attention to the historic Colonial Theater, their annual winter concert series has been a successful way to support the economic development of the place they call home. This year marks their fifth year of the winter concert series, and there is a charity that benefits from each one of the concerts.

Canton is a paper mill town in Haywood County. The group's hit song "Paper Town" was written by Buddy with Milan Miller and Mark Winchester. Written for a state historic project called *Songs of Haywood County*, the album won an award from the state historical society and was named 2013 IBMA album of the Year. Balsam Range was honored to be named Grand Marshall of the Christmas parade in Canton one year, and also had the honor of participating in the Asheville Christmas parade. They were presented with "keys to the city" in Canton, North Carolina, and honored with an official declaration of "Balsam Range Day" for their positive contribution to the community. They have raised over a half-million dollars for various regional and national charities. In 2014, they were named IMBA Enter-

tainer of the Year and IMBA Vocal Group of the Year.

Papertown is Balsam Range's fourth album released on the Mountain Home Music label. During the recording of that album, tragedy struck and shook the group to its core when Buddy had a near-fatal accident on his small farm. He was a strong, active man who loved to hunt and enjoy the outdoors. He was working alone on the farm, loading cattle into a trailer when one of the cows kicked the metal door into his head. The events that unfolded left Buddy with a serious head injury. After running the initial tests, doctors told Buddy that he had extensive damage to his sinuses and may never sing again. He was told that even if he were able to sing again, he would never sound the same.



Well, you can't keep a good fiddlin' man down any more than you can convince him not to work alone. The guys were in the studio, moving ahead with the album as best they could when Buddy insisted that Caleb drive him over from the hospital. Caleb took Buddy to the studio and the first song he attempted was "Wide River to Cross," which they took on the second take! Prayers had been answered, his voice was there and the album was named 2014 IMBA Album of the Year. Buddy was named Male Vocalist of the Year in the 2014 IMBA Awards, as well.

The band's fifth album, *Five*, made its debut on the Billboard Charts at #4 and remained on the charts for six consecutive weeks. Released in the summer of 2014, it is the number one bluegrass album right now. The song "Stacking Up Rocks," is an cappella piece written by Buddy after his mother brought a scripture verse to him in the hospital. The passage from the fourth chapter of Joshua tells of God's sovereign power when the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. As Joshua led the Israelites out of the River Jordan, there were 12 stones placed to symbolize the 12 tribes of Israel and as a memorial for the children of Israel to remind them of God's sovereign power.

Tim shared that his favorite song from all five albums is "Trains I Missed." The song was named IMBA Song of the Year in Bluegrass in 2013. Tim shared, "That song just

sums it all up for us.”

If you’ve never seen Balsam Range in concert before, “Burning Georgia Down,” written by Milan Miller, is a great song to showcase the group’s talent. Tim said, “We cut it on the first solo record Buddy did and we open with it most of the time.”

Tim Surrett is an entertaining emcee, a talented bass player and a seasoned lead and harmony singer with a big heart for young artists. He was recognized with a Mentor Award for his work developing young artists by IMBA in 2014. He and Caleb bring an innovative jazz infusion to the group that gives Balsam Range a unique sound. “I’ve always loved Bluegrass,” said Tim. “My dad played Bluegrass and I was 14 years old when I started playing bass. All of us grew up with it in our culture. Mountain music and clogging are just a part of the culture we grew up with in this region. I missed my senior prom because I was in Detroit playing with the Kingsmen, who I spent 10 years with.”



“Studio work has always been a part of my life,” Tim shared. “I always considered myself an instrumentalist, a bass player. It wasn’t until I traveled with the Kingsmen that I became a singer, as well. During my years traveling with Southern Gospel musicians, I always listened to Bluegrass music and so did the folks I traveled with. Jim Hammill, leader of Kingsmen, loved Bluegrass and many of our songs had Bluegrass roots. In 1991, Crossroads started a Bluegrass Gospel label called “Mountain Home Music,” which has become one of the premier Bluegrass labels in the country. In 2005, I came off the road with the Kingsmen after 10 years traveling with them. Balsam Range was born in 2007 and the rest is history.”

Claire Ratliff and Laughing Penguin Promotions is the public relations manager for Balsam Range. She describes the guys as “kind-hearted, playful and rock solid musicians.” Claire commented, “All of these men are happily married with kids. It’s so inspiring to see how they

balance family, work and their passion for music.” Tim said, “In Gospel music, the big goal is to get full-time on a bus. Bluegrass is a little different. It’s more like play when we can and not wreck a good thing. Some of the Hall-of-Famers have been bi-vocational. We all have various jobs and we are thankful that our jobs give us the flexibility we need to travel and make music. It’s a busy life. I just walked in the door after being at the studio all day and it’s after 8:00pm.”

“My favorite part is working up songs for the record and getting in there and digging up notes. I was there for the first through last note in the production of last album,” shared Tim. “We have great instrumentalists and four guys in the band that sing lead and switch up harmonies. I arrange a lot of these songs and using all four voices on many of our songs. We do a few standard Bluegrass trios, as well. Our next record will be an all Gospel album.” Tim shared that his two major Gospel influences are Squire Parsons and Jim Hammill. “Caleb and I have Southern Gospel roots, so this album will be a great project for us.”

When asked to describe the personalities of each band member, Tim chuckled and said, “We are a diverse bunch of guys who share a love for music. I spend my days at Crossroads and I love to arrange and produce what we do. Darren is the social media guy, always keeping us in stitches over something crazy. Caleb builds guitars for a living and also has a great business mind. Marc is an old government guy and a geologist. He’s the one the young musicians want to emulate. He’s played with Ricky Skaggs, won a Grammy Award; he’s done it all. Darren is the clown. He’s a big teddy bear, and you never know what he’s going to say or do. Buddy is very business-minded and quiet, but he’s a terribly evil prankster. None of us ever see it coming! He keeps us organized and handles the business side of things, and keeps us all on our toes.

“One time, Buddy ran over a rattlesnake close to his home. He got out, got the thing and carried it around in the back of his truck until it was time to leave for the next show. He kept that thing hidden from us, but hauled it around everywhere we went just waiting for the right moment to coil it up and scare the bejesus out of Darren.

“Balsam Range was born from common values and roots between five friends from the same county. People ask us, ‘Are you family?’ We simply tell them, ‘We don’t have family harmony. We have county harmony.’”

Though their music has branched out across the nation and beyond, the roots of Balsam Range will always be in the heart of Haywood County.

To learn more about Balsam Range, visit their website at www.balsamrange.com. Be sure to visit their Facebook page, as well, to stay informed on their latest news. Thank you, Tim Surrett and Balsam Range, for taking the time to allow the readers of SGN Scoops Magazine to get to know you!

All photography credit to Claire Ratliff and Laughing Penguin Publicity.



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NEWSMAKERS

By Lorraine Walker

An Open Letter from Karen Peck Gooch

February 19, 2015

Hey Friends :)



My husband, Rickey Gooch, is the strongest and hardest-working man I know. It is an honor and a blessing to be his wife.

A few weeks ago, Rickey discovered a knot in his neck. After consultation with his doctor Rickey was prescribed two rounds of antibiotics. After the knot did not go away, additional testing was ordered.

After a neck scan, two biopsies, a CT scan and a PET scan, Rickey was diagnosed with squamous carcinoma, a type of cancer. Thank the Lord, the cancer is confined to Rickey's left tonsil area and has not spread anywhere else within his body. As a result of this diagnosis, Rickey will begin a series of treatments in the coming days. The doctors feel very confident that the treatments will be successful and this will soon be behind us.

During the weeks Rickey and I have been dealing with this, the Lord has shown us such mercy and grace. He has reminded us of His sovereignty and even when we were at our lowest, we could feel His loving arms wrapping around us and covering us with peace that surpasses all understanding. Truthfully, we would not have made it this far without the Lord. Even though we are devastated, we realize the Lord is strengthening us more every day as we move forward.

Because of this situation Rickey and I stayed home for a few days to attend doctors appointments. We are so proud of our group, though, as they continued to travel to honor our commitments. Rickey and I want to offer our sincere appreciation to Katy Peach for filling in for me and doing an amazing job. Also, we give special thanks to Susan, Jeff, Matthew, Kari, Tripp King, and Danny Jones for stepping up and doing what needed to be done. Audiences were blessed and we were thrilled to learn that some even accepted Jesus as their Savior. Praise the Lord!

Rickey and I will be back on the road this weekend. We want to thank everyone for the love you have shown our family. We love y'all dearly. Please continue to pray for Rickey. We know that God will make this trial a blessing.

Karen Peck Gooch
Karen Peck & New River



NEWSMAKERS

2015 Events in Southern Gospel



Southern Gospel Weekend Southern Gospel Weekend arrives in Oxford, Alabama on March 26th through 28th, 2015. The event will be held at the Oxford Civic Center. Artists attending include Jay Parrack and Vocal Event, Hope's Journey, Ava Kasich, Faith's Journey, the Williamsons, Clear Vision, Exodus, the Drummond Family, the Carter-Robinson Band, Redemption Song, Jesse Reece and many more. For current information visit www.facebook.com/southerngospelweekend. Tickets are free but must be reserved by visiting the website at: www.southerngospelweekend.com.

Salute To Our Heroes

The newest Christian Country spectacular is in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on April 27th through 29th, 2015. Come on out to the Smoky Mountain Resort to hear Marty Raybon of Shennandoah and 2014 Grammy nominee, T. Graham Brown, as well as many of your favorite Christian Country artists. As an added highlight, enjoy the Dixie Stampede Dinner show as we honor our First Responders and salute them for their bravery and service. The sponsors of this event include Compassion International, Firehouse Subs and Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede.

Salute To Our Heroes would like to welcome you to three days and nights of music, fun and fellowship. For more information please call 1-800-309-0816.

Artists: please reserve your booth today by contacting Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com.



Ozark Gospel Music Convention Make plans to be at the second annual Ozark Gospel Music Convention in beautiful Branson Missouri. Some of the artists appearing include the Ascension Quartet, The Williamsons, Faith's Journey, Lindsay Huggins, Broken Vessels and more. You can order your tickets today by calling 417-425-7856 or by mailing a check to Po box 2572 Branson West, Mo. 65737. Find out more on the web at www.ozarkgospelmusicconvention.com or on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/ozarkgospelmusicconvention.

March 26-28, 2015

Southern Gospel Weekend

Oxford Civic Center - Oxford, Alabama

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“Can You Handle The Truth?”

The Challenge

By David Staton

A few years ago, I was running a Christian record label. In my eight years of sitting at that desk, I met many gospel groups who wanted me to help them with a recording and hopefully sign them to the label. They liked the work I did in terms of production, and the idea of getting on radio and seeing their name in gospel publications and charts is what drove most of them to my office on Music Row.

I've been around Gospel singers all my life and it doesn't take long for me to see why many of them do what they do. When you start talking to most Gospel artists about direction, and what they want to accomplish through a recording, they will immediately start talking about ministry. Most will tell me that their goal is to win lost people to the Lord, but I quickly find out

that everything they have conditioned themselves to do is to simply entertain church people. They have been singing for senior adults most of their life and they've learned what older Christians like to hear.

If you learn to say the right things and pull at the right strings, it's easy to let the music as well as your purpose suffer. It's kind of like the politician who is constantly campaigning. They are so busy saying what they're going to do that they never get around to doing it. I see so many Gospel singers who are on a constant fund-raising tour that is not even financially driven. Most singers find themselves singing to the senior adult crowd and when it comes time for the offering or booking dates, they will talk about how ministry driven they are, claiming that winning lost souls is what they've

been called to do. The problem is, they never go beyond their campaign trail to ever do what they claim they are going to do.

Before I go any further, let me say that there is a ministry to the church and I can tell you that it is needed now more than ever. However, in my humble opinion, if your ministry to the church is just going in and singing songs about heaven and giving them warm, fuzzy feelings, your “ministry” is probably contributing to what I see as a major problem in the church today. In many cases, I see a lot of the music we love turning into lullabies that rock the church into a deeper sleep.

I have met with several artists that are on a lifetime campaign tour. When they would finish telling me about how ministry driven they were, I would ask a question that always got the same reaction. I would say, “If God were to speak to you clearly and said that He had enough singers in music ministry and He needed you to work in an area that had nothing to do with music, would you do it?”

The reaction was a *deer in the head lights look*, and silence. Their silence spoke louder than the roar of their 30-year-old Silver Eagle bus, or their sound system could ever be cranked up. The idea of doing ministry without the bus, the suits and the music, was something they had never considered, nor would they. I would look at them and say, “If you have to hesitate with your answer, don’t tell me that you’re singing for all the right reasons.”

This was exactly the world that I was stuck in. Two hundred dates a year, mixed with travel days, left very little time for my family, friends, or to be fed spiritually in my church. I was rarely in church when I wasn’t working a date. God stopped me in my tracks and isolated me for over a year until I realized that sharing the Gospel was not something I do on my terms.

In the last year, God isolated me, distancing me from the Gospel music industry and even public ministry to make sure that my motives for sharing the Gospel was not self serving. In many ways, I felt kind of like Job. It was like the devil was having this conversation with God, and he told God that if He would allow him to take away the microphone, the dates, and everything that I associated as being tools to share the gospel, then I would stop. I knew that I was being tested, and what I have learned has been life changing. I have written a book that is all about sharing the gospel and God is really doing something in me and through me that has changed my life and others. I can tell you that because

of this journey, sharing the gospel on a personal level and not just in a public setting, my music ministry is much more powerful today.

So here is a challenge to all of my gospel music friends: find a way to share the Gospel that has nothing to do with music. If you had no bus, no sound system, nothing to make music with, would the Gospel be enough? Would you still share it with the same passion that you have with the music? I’m not saying you have to stop singing, but find some way to get involved in a ministry that forces you to lay down your security blanket of music and rediscover your passion for God and love for people. I can promise you that when you do, you will never be the same. Later, when you pick up the microphone to sing, there will be a lot more heart behind your voice.



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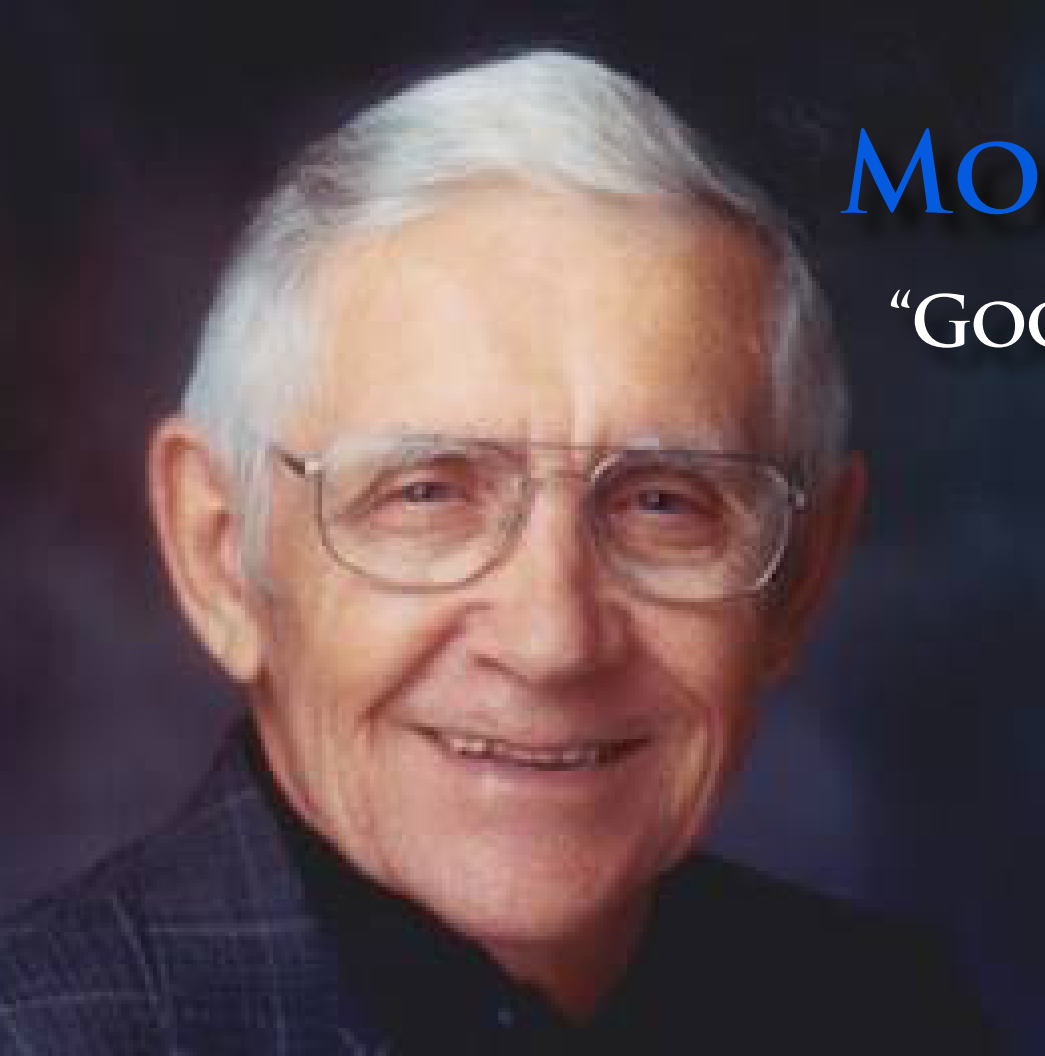


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MOSIE LISTER

“GOODBYE, WORLD, GOODBYE”

By Marcie Gray

On February 12, 2015 at 9:05am (central time), heaven gained another Southern Gospel legend. Born in Cochran, Georgia in 1921, Thomas Mosie Lister was a legendary singer, songwriter and Baptist minister dearly loved by his Southern Gospel family. His parents, Willis and Pearl (Holland) Lister were musical and sang in the church choir. Since Willis taught music as a hobby, Mosie was taught to appreciate music at a very young age. When they placed him in the church choir, they discovered that he was unable to recognize and distinguish musical tones. Determined to encourage his musical talent to emerge, Mosie's father bought him his first violin at age 12 and continued his ear training with violin lessons. By the time he was a teenager, Mosie was studying harmony and composition.

In 1939, when Mosie was 18 years old, he traveled to the Vaughan School of Music in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee to study harmony with Adger M. Pace and G.T. Speer. In 1941, he moved to Tampa, Florida and joined the Sunny South Quartet, singing baritone alongside Clide Cain, Horace Floyd, Lee Kitchens and pianist, R.D. Ginnett. Mosie's singing career was interrupted by Pearl Harbor and World War II, during which he served in the U.S. Navy. Upon his discharge, he attended Middle Georgia College where he majored in English and studied harmony, counterpoint, arranging, piano and organ. He then returned to the Sunny South Quartet, which featured “Chief” Wetherington on bass and Quentin Hicks on piano.

In late 1946, Jim Wetherington, Lee Kitchens and Mosie Lister left the Sunny South Quartet to form the Melody Masters Quartet, and were joined by Alvin Tootle and Wally Varner. Also in 1946, Mosie married Wylene Whitten and moved to Atlanta. They were blessed with identical twin daughters, Brenda and Barbara in 1949. When the Melody Masters moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, Mosie and his family remained in Atlanta.

In 1948, after a break from singing due to a respiratory infection, Mosie was back, stronger than ever. Hovie Lister (no relation), a phenomenal piano player and Baptist minister, formed the Statesmen Quartet. Carefully selecting his lineup of singers in order to secure a prime time-slot on the new WCON radio station, Hovie recruited Mosie to sing lead, along with Gordon Hill (bass), Bervin Kendrick (baritone) and Bobby Strickland (tenor). Mosie soon relinquished the microphone to Jake Hess to sing lead, but continued on with the Statesmen as their writer and arranger. It was during these golden years that the Statesmen gained nationwide recognition for songs Mosie composed, such as “Goodbye, World, Goodbye,” “I'll Leave it All Behind,” “I'm Bound for the Kingdom” and “Sunday Meetin' Time.”

By 1953, Mosie was spending so much time writing and arranging that Wylene suggested he quit his day job and become a full time writer. Mosie took that leap of faith, and formed the Mosie Lister Publishing Company, which



merged into Lillenas Publishing Company of Kansas City, Missouri in October of 1969. By the year 2014, there were over 700 songs penned by Lister and thousands of arrangements credited to his name. Some of the greatest Southern Gospel Quartets have recorded his music, including the Statesmen Quartet, Cathedral Quartet, the Blackwoods, Blue Ridge Quartet, the Jordanaires, and the LeFevres. His music has been recorded by world-renowned soloists such as Bill Gaither, Porter Waggoner and George Beverly Shea, as well as Merle Haggard, Loretta Lynn and Elvis Presley, who recorded three of Mosie's songs in the 1960's: "Where No One Stands Alone," "He Knows Just What I Need" and "His Hand in Mine."



In 1975, after three decades as a Gospel singer, songwriter and arranger, Mosie became an ordained Baptist minister. He was also an ordained deacon at the Riverside Baptist Church of Tampa, Florida.

After 55 years of marriage, Mosie was devastated when he lost Wylene to cancer in 2001. Two years later, Mosie relocated from Florida to Tennessee after marrying Martha Hunter (mother of Vicki Booth, who is married to Michael Booth). The couple lived near Martha's daughter Vicki, and Mosie's daughter, Barbara, (married to David Williams, a music minister, keyboardist and arranger). Barbara is also a songwriter. She and her husband manage their publishing company, *Music by WilliamSong*. Mosie's other daughter, Brenda, is a graphic artist/writer and a talented singer, as well. She lives in Florida with her husband, Jimmie Vann, who is heavily involved in church music ministry.



Lister was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of fame in 1976 and in 1997, he was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame. The Dove Brothers released a project titled, "*A Tribute to Mosie Lister*" in 2004, produced by Lister.

In 2012, Mosie published an autobiography filled with down home stories, anecdotes and historical narratives, titled, "*The Song Goes On.*"

Mosie was preceded in death by his parents, Willis and Pearl Holland Lister; brother, Walter Olan Lister and wife, Wylene Whitten Lister. He was survived by his wife of 13 years, Martha Jean Lister; daughters, Brenda Lister (Jimmie) Vann and Barbara Lister (David) Williams; step-daughter, Vicki (Michael) Booth; sister, Margery Dillashaw and seven grandchildren.

A Homegoing Celebration Concert took place on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at the People's Church in Franklin, Tennessee. A private graveside service was held at Williamson Memorial Gardens. Active Pallbearers were: Steve Mauldin, Michael Booth, Ronnie Booth, Jim Brady, Josh Butterworth and Jake Simmons. Honorary Pallbearers were: Bill Gaither, Joe Huffman, Ron Booth, David Williams



and Jimmie Vann.

Mosie Lister will forever be remembered for his passionate love for the Lord and the music that was penned straight from his heart. Mosie's storms will come no more, as he now dwells with the very Savior whom these lyrics were penned to:

When the long night has ended,
And the storms come no more,
Let me stand in Thy presence.
On that bright, peaceful shore.
In that land where the tempest
Never comes, Lord may I
Dwell with Thee when the storm passes by.

-- "Til the Storm Passes By" Words and Music by Mosie Lister, copyright 1958.

Thank you, Thomas Mosie Lister, for 93 years of faithful service to the Lord, and for the many wonderful songs you left us to remember you by!

Special thanks to Barbara Lister Williams for the portrait of her father.

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WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

Refocusing

So many times *we* in the Christian Music business often forget or somehow lose focus of why we really do what we do. This happens for a variety of reasons in all of our lives, as we all know so well. On a recent trip to a Christian bookstore while out on the road during a business trip for work, I was gently reminded about this, by something that took place while I was looking around the music section of the store. A middle-aged lady asked the clerk what music would they would recommend for a “new young Christian kid of 14,” that she was in the process of helping disciple. I could not help but get a little emotional and reflective, as I began to think back 33 years earlier when I was a young kid of 14.

My life up until that age had been one mass of confusion. My mom, who was also a product of her own dysfunctional past and environment had been married five times by the time I was 13. My life was surrounded with all kinds of abuse, including sexual, verbal and mental abuse. I even had a stepfather take me to a prostitute at the age of 12

to introduce me to “love”. We were raised on welfare, had to steal our school clothes and other basic necessities of life, we lived in a housing development in a small two bedroom apartment that was for divorcees, unwed mothers, widows and their children.

Drugs, alcohol and pornography surrounded me at our house. I never had a “dad” and I was constantly looking for a father’s love. It was a very tough upbringing. I was a miserable and unhappy kid who was daily seeking love, acceptance and approval in all of the wrong places. Yet in the midst of all of the junk and garbage that was around me I had always determined to make the very best of what I had around me.

One Saturday afternoon, a precious couple took time out of their own very busy life and schedule to go around to the complex where I lived. They were inviting kids to Sunday school. They invited me to go with them the following Sunday, and I reluctantly accepted. I will admit, there was something that was different about them; I could sense something, which I now recognize as the Holy Spirit in their lives. They seemed to genuinely care about me as a

person and what was going on with me.

This couple took a great interest in me and would not only pick me up for Sunday School on Sunday morning, they would also pick me up for Sunday night church, Wednesday night youth group and Friday night prayer. They left their own comfort zone and began to take great interest in me. I began to meet other young people who had Christ in their lives, and I knew they were different and I wanted what they had in my life. After about a month of being with them, and watching them, listening to them, I knew I needed Jesus in my life. And on February 12, 1972 they led me to Christ. What incredible joy and peace I felt in my life. It was a real experience that nothing else would ever compare to in my life.

One of the key elements that this couple did for me was to introduce me to Christian music. They would take me to their house every Sunday afternoon after church, and they would immediately put Christian music on their turntable (yes, those are the things that played vinyl records). They would play all kinds of Christian music, and oh, what peace and joy that music would bring to me in so many of my dark and lonely times. I would drink in every lyric; I would look at the album liner notes to see what the artist had to say (I still love doing that). Christian music became one of my

“best friends.”

I quickly discovered our local Christian bookstore and I would go in every Saturday and literally spend hours at the store going through every project and listening to as many demos as I could. When I was 16, I began working on Saturday afternoons at the store helping in their very small music section, and for my pay they would give me a couple of free demos each week and once a month I would get the brand new “newspaper style CCM.”

I thought I had died and gone to heaven! That music really challenged and ministered to me quite often, as I grew older and continued to live in a very ungodly home. There would be many times that I would come home and all kinds of junk would be going on in my home, and I would go to my room and put Christian music on, and I would really begin to feel God’s wonderful presence. God does have such a wonderful way of using music to touch our lives and heart in a very special way. Music is a powerful tool.

I am so thankful that God continues to remind us of “why we do what we do” and I am so grateful to God on a daily basis that I am one of those that He has chosen to work in this field we call *Christian Music*. After so many years of being in it...I think I will just continue on!



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Richie Rose



By Vonda Easley



This month we shine the DJ Spotlight on Richie Rose of the East Ridge Boys. Richie makes his home in Kentucky and comes from a family that loves Gospel music.

Vonda: So Richie Rose, tell us about what you currently do in radio? What station are you affiliated with?

Richie: I am currently the Program Director and morning DJ at WKVG Radio AM1000 in Jenkins, Kentucky.

Vonda: I hear that you have a powerful testimony about what God has done in your life. Would you mind sharing that with us?

Richie: I had a bad car accident in 2003, one mile from the radio station, that left me in critical condition in UK Hospital in Lexington, KY for three to four weeks. I was playing Country music at the time and I believe it happened for a reason, because it happened in Jenkins, KY [same town as the radio station]; now go figure that. Ain't God good!

Vonda: I see you wear many hats and that you also sing in a quartet. Can you tell us about your group and give us a funny road story?

Richie: I sing in the group East Ridge Boys from Pikeville, KY with David Taylor and Fonso Fields. We have been together for four years now and God has blessed us with many charting songs. We travel mostly every weekend singing the best music in the world: Southern

Gospel. We love seeing souls saved and healed. The funniest thing I can remember is being in Florida in January, standing on Daytona Beach, and rubbing it in to the folks back home. We live in Kentucky and it was 19 degrees there!

Vonda: When you guys are out on the road what is your favorite place to stop and eat?

Richie: Anything to do with chicken because of brother Fonso; if they have chicken, we stop. He's the *chicken-eating-est* man in the world, and brother David can vouch for that I promise!

Vonda: The last question is: Who is Richie Rose? Tell us about what you do. Tell us about your family. And tell us about your goals in ministry for 2015.

Richie: I am just an ole Country boy that loves Gospel music, and comes from a family that does. As matter of fact, I just recorded a song, "Looking for That Stone," that my great-grandmother did in church years ago. I just hope, whether it's by radio or the group that someone will get to know Jesus in 2015. That would be the best thing that can happen!

Thanks so much Richie for joining us under the DJ Spotlight this month. I hope many of the fans of the East Ridge Boys will tune in to hear you on their morning drive when they are near Jenkins, Kentucky.

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The Luck of the RedHead

By Sheri LaFontaine



We've heard it said that blondes have more fun, but there is a group of gingers that will tell you a very different story. According to a Clairol Color Attitude survey, 71% of redheads think that the word "bold" best describes them, which is 24 points ahead of blonds. This certainly makes sense, being that redheads are known for their fiery passion.

Just like Little Orphan Annie, Opie Taylor, Lucy, Prince Harry and Reba, our Southern Gospel industry has experienced many carrot-tops in the spotlight. From the ultimate Irish tenor, Larry Ford, to the living legend, Lou Hildreth, no one can deny the talent that comes with those orange locks.

Scientists say that red hair and blue eyes are the rarest combination in the world, which makes Olivia Collingsworth a unique beauty.

Sheri: Where did your red hair come from?

Olivia: My red hair actually came from my great Grandpa. After I was born my parents could not figure out where it came from, because nobody in our family had red hair except for one of my cousins and she got it from a different side of her family. My parents had only seen black and white photos of my dad's Grandpa, but one



day they saw one in color and realized he had red hair.

Kinda put two and two together!

Sheri: Do you like it?

Olivia: Since I was little, I never really minded my red hair! I always kinda liked being different than everyone else!

Moving from one baby of a talented family to another. Miss Kennedy Hayes of the Mylon Hayes Family is winning the hearts of audiences across the country. Born on October 31st, she truly is the perfect little pumpkin.

Sheri: What's the best part of having red hair?

Kennedy: The best part about being a redhead is that it is rare! And to have brown eyes is unique, and it's how God made me! Sometimes I wish I didn't have red hair when people ask if I have a temper to go with it.

Sheri: Have you ever been made fun of because of your hair?

Kennedy: Since I am home-schooled, I have never been teased, unless you count my brothers. When I was maybe four years old, we were walking on the beach and a lady asked my mom if she colored my hair! Wow... some people can ask funny questions!



We couldn't possibly write an article like this without speaking to the amazing tenor with the bushy red mustache, Larry Ford.

Sheri: Are you actually Irish?

Larry: Yes, I am very Irish. My dad's family is, of course, Fords. My mom's family is Kennedy.

Sheri: Have you ever been to Ireland?

Larry: Our first trip to Ireland was in 1995 and it was really a homecoming for me.

Sheri: Is there a down side to being a true red head?

Larry: Along with the red hair there's often a tendency to have really white skin that doesn't much like the sun. I've always had a "farmer's tan" and more freckles on my left arm (driving with the window rolled down) than my right arm.

One time I was at a church in the Florida Keys. On Saturday the pastor and I went out to snorkel and catch lobster. Always mindful of how easily I burn, I applied Bullfrog sunscreen to my face, neck and arms. We probably spent two or three hours out on the water. Later that afternoon, I felt a burning sensation. The two or three inch strip between where my swim shorts and T-shirt did not meet, was cooked. Also, the backs of my knees were cooked. I couldn't even bend my legs to walk. I was walking stiff legged when I walked into church the next morning. Note to self: ALWAYS take the time to apply sunscreen to every area that might even possibly be exposed to Florida sun. If you don't, it can be extremely painful and dangerous for your skin.

However, the lobster was really good.

Next we spoke with the triplets that named their group after the hue of their beautiful hair.

Sheri: So, how do you like having/being Red Roots?

Red Roots: We love being redheads because it makes us different in a lot of ways. We aren't crazy about the sunburns but everything else is all right.



Sheri: Where did you get it from?

Red Roots: We got our red hair from our mom and she said that when she was young, people used to tease her about being red headed by saying a funny phrase. "I'd rather be dead than red on the head."

Poor Momma Red Roots.



Josh Singletary is one of the brightest people in the business today. And I'm not just talking about his hair.

Sheri: What are some of the things you hear a lot from the fans?

Josh: I'm constantly asked if I color it. And the red hair confirms to people that I'm from Ireland, even though they know tons of red heads that live down the street that are as redneck as they come.

Sheri: Any perks that come with having orange hair?

Josh: Well, regardless of the hundreds of folks in line for the ride, my youth director never had any trouble at theme parks, knowing where we were in the line for a roller coaster. And he seemed to ALWAYS know when MY turn on the roller coaster was done!



A true sweetheart in this industry is the beautiful, Misty Freeman.

Sheri: Do you have any Irish in you?

Misty: I'm a mutt so I'm sure there is Irish in there somewhere.

Sheri: So how has life been for you, as a redhead?

Misty: Growing up, it was never popular to have red hair. Only older people thought it was pretty. But as a teenager I started loving it. I felt different but in a good way. My husband jokingly says he married me in spite of my red hair. When our daughter was born I just knew she'd have red hair. It was the first thing I asked the nurse "does she have red hair?" To which she sternly replied, "She's healthy!" She had pretty dark brown hair!

Which Bryce was happy about.

Fast forward two years, I'm having my son and never ever thought I'd have a redheaded son. But the first thing I hear is Reba Rambo in the delivery room saying, "look at that red hair!"

They showed him to me and his hair was bright orange and all I could do was giggle!! What a fun surprise. We definitely get a lot of attention with those red curls but we've also had a lot of negative comments too. One man in line with us one day said, "poor little guy having to grow up with that hair". I hope he grows up to love his.

Sheri: Where did you get it from?

Misty: I get it from both sides of the family. My mom had red hair and my dad did when he was a baby. I have aunts and cousins that are redheads too. The older I get the more I love it!

Only 1-2% of the world's population are natural redheads. Although parting the red hair can hardly be compared to parting the Red Sea, it is still a rare and extraordinary miracle of God. Some could call it luck, but I think that Joel Hemphill said it best when he penned the song, "Don't Call Me Lucky, Call Me Blessed."

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We're All Human

By Dr. Jeff Steele



People of The Cross

Twenty one Coptic Christians were savagely murdered by ISIS terrorists recently. Our United States President said: “Twenty one Egyptian Citizens were murdered.” If it had been people who were Jewish, the Jewish people would have wanted them identified as such. If it had been French people then the French would have wanted that fact known. The truth is... in death all peoples should be affirmed as what they WERE in life!

It was my thought that these “People of the Cross” should have been identified in death with at least the mention of WHY they had been killed... specifically for what they believed! They were Christians and as I said in an open letter to President Obama: “I learned THAT from the terrorists, not from the White House. Why can’t you just SAY they were Christians? We can take it if you tell us that our brothers have died for their faith. What we cannot take is for fellow believer to not be acknowledged...even in death for whom they were and what they believed.”

Having said that it would do us all some good to consider that our spirituality should never be measured by how big our crowds are, how much product we sell, our latest chart numbers or how much people think of us. We belong to the same Body of Christ that persecuted believers around the world belong to. We’re going to Heaven by the same blood and when one of us suffers we ALL suffer!

I know in America where Believers have been called upon to suffer for the cause of Christ very little that our perspective is skewed some. We major on the minors and we minor on the majors. We like to sit around and debate all the things that divide us and talk very seldom of the things that unite us!

Twenty-one Coptic Christians were murdered for their faith and are remembered by the most powerful leader on the planet as *Egyptian citizens*. Before you lay the “that’s too political” argument on my doorstep hold up! I am NOT blaming the President for this. I’m blaming US! The corporate Body of Christ living in freedom here in America! These were OUR brothers! We should grieve their deaths as though they were people from our own families, because spiritually they were. And then we should tell the world that THEY (our brothers) have now OVER-COME...by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimonies!

I will not trivialize their sacrifice by playing politics with it. I will honor them, hold them in the highest esteem, tell my grandchildren of their heroism for the cause of Christ, and most important of all I will see them on the other side, these “Egyptian citizens” who trusted Christ, who loved not their lives even unto death, these men of whom this world was not worthy! Carry on Church! The Lord is coming soon!

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It's All About The Bass

By Dean Adkins



It is not that unusual to find a teenager in a Southern Gospel group but in most cases it is a family group. A teenager in a male quartet is more of a rarity and a teenage bass singer is probably the rarest addition to a group. So it is a unique combination to find a teenage bass singer in one of the oldest SGM groups, but such is the case with the current group comprising the Gospel Harmony Boys.

In 1952 SGMA Hall of Fame member, Harold Lane, founded the Gospel Harmony Boys in Huntington, WV. Since that time they have been recognized as one of the most musically sound groups in the genre. In their 63 years of ministry, they have only had five bass singers. I would like to introduce their sixth bass singer, Brandon Stone, a 17-year-old high school senior.

Dean: Can you please provide some background information: family, education, church affiliation?

Brandon: I am 17-years-old and am a senior at Winfield High School. I was raised by a single mom, and we live in Nitro, WV. We are a small family but very close. Along with Mom, my Nana (Marie Lamont), Pawpaw (Bill Lamont) and Uncle David (David Lamont) are my biggest support system and are always in the audience no matter what I am

doing. I am a member of Teays Valley Baptist Church under the direction of my senior pastor, Dr. John D. Smith.

Dean: What was your earliest introduction to Southern Gospel music?

Brandon: My maternal great-grandparents loved Gospel music. They had tons of the Gaither homecoming videos, always went to local gospel sings and attended the Grand Ole Gospel Reunion for as many years as I can remember.

Dean: What are your musical background and influences?

Brandon: Since I was a toddler, I have always loved music. I always told my mom I wanted to be a choir director when I grew up. I started playing the trumpet when I was 11 years old for Andrew Jackson Middle School. I continued through the years and still play the trumpet today in the Winfield High School marching band, concert band, show choir band and pep band. I started singing in our church's youth choir when I was in middle school and sang my first solo in ninth grade at church. I also joined the adult choir at church when I entered high school.



Brandon: My favorite things to do are probably what you would predict, but I honestly love to hear a good preacher in church, sing, play my trumpet, spend time with my friends and family and listen to gospel music.

Dean: What are your plans after high school?

Brandon: After high school, I plan to attend Andersonville Theological Seminary. God called me to preach in July 2013 so I will further my education to go into the ministry. I plan to serve at my church and sing with the Gospel Harmony Boys while taking classes.

Dean: How are the GHB guys treating you?

Brandon: The Gospel Harmony Boys are the classiest, most respectable, fun, helpful, and friendly group of people I have ever been around. I was worried about being the new young guy, but from the first day, all three of the men have taken me under their wings and made this experience awesome. I have only sung in a few concerts so far, but I am having the time of my life and am honored to be singing with role models that put Christ first in their lives. They are a great example to a young guy like me just getting started. I could not be any happier, and I look forward to the future.

Dean: When did you realize that singing was something you wanted to do?

Brandon: I had never really put much thought into singing with a group like the Gospel Harmony Boys. I had no idea that I was qualified enough to sing for a Southern Gospel quartet. I was content on just singing at church. Now that the door has been opened for me to sing with the GHB, I realize that this is something I love and I hope to minister to people with gospel music for a long time.

Dean: How did you hear about the GHB opening? How was your audition?

Brandon: I heard there was opening from Ron Peters, a man that attends my church. Ron works with Clacy Williams, and I guess one day he showed Clacy a YouTube video of me singing. The next thing I knew, I was getting a call from Clacy himself. The audition wasn't that bad, other than the fact that I was extremely nervous. The guys were kind, helpful, and encouraging. I guess it went well since I am still here.

Dean: How do you balance school, GHB activities and church?

Brandon: The good thing about GHB is that most of our endeavors are on the weekends, so it doesn't affect my school time. While I sometimes have to miss service at my own church to be at an event or practice, I think of it as me working with my own ministry. Balancing it all hasn't really been that challenging so far.

Dean: Favorites - school subject, movie, book, any hobbies?



Clacy Williams, tenor and manager of the group had this to say about Brandon. "Brandon is an extremely talented young man who has the potential of becoming one of SGM's finest bass singers. He has a great attitude and it's amazing how much quicker he learns compared to the old codgers he's adopted as comrades. Singing with Brandon is just good fun as well as watching him improve every program and every rehearsal." Clacy also adds, "We felt it was time to pay back and help a great young talent develop."

To hear Brandon with the Gospel Harmony Boys, see their schedule on their website at www.gospelharmonyboys.org.



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Music Reviews for March

by Jonathan Edwards

In this edition of New Music, Jonathan reviews projects by Tank Tackett, Jim Sheldon and The Jonathans, all albums that you will want to have in your collection. To complete the quartet of music, he pulls out an oldie by The Cathedrals. Every fan of Southern Gospel should listen to that album at least once. All of these CDs have music to help you through to the end of the cold, snowy winter and into the first rays of Spring. Enjoy these reviews and find a copy of each for your own listening pleasure. You won't be disappointed!



Tank Tackett

Songs For The Seasons Of Life

Produced by Bill Traylor and Billy Dykes

Well the name Tank Tackett is no stranger to Gospel music and his talent continues to shine with this CD. I have always thought Tank has great character in his voice, something I believe is missing in a lot of singers. All the songs on this project are familiar and several of them are great hymns straight from the hymnbook.

I love the toe tapping "Satisfied" that starts this project off; I just can't help but feel happy listening to this song. Some great hymns on the CD are "Blessed Assurance," and "It Is Well," along with gospel classics like "Amen," "Farther Along," and "I Bowed On My Knees."

As a listener I really enjoyed the hymns but as a radio guy I loved Tank's take on "Satisfied" and "Swing Low." If you love a CD where you can sing the songs the first time through, you will love this CD.

10 Songs. Total Running Time 34 minutes



Jim Sheldon

I Belong To Jesus

Produced by Scott Godsey and Nick Bruno

I have known Jim for the last six years and the growth I have seen in this man as a singer and performer is a great testament to someone who loves and works on his craft as a singer. Known as a The Positive Christian Cowboy, Jim's music is both very positive and very country.

This CD is produced by the legendary Nick Bruno and one of the best new producers in Gospel music, Scott Godsey. The title track is written by Jim and is a great testimony song. There are two songs from the pen of Woody Wright and they are "Extreme Makeover," and "Mercy, Forgiveness and Grace." These are my two favorites on this album.

This is a very enjoyable project to listen to, with a solid musical feel to it which compliments Jim's vocals, and some great lyrics which are sometimes hard to find in this line of music - what I would call Christian Country. As a radio person I really enjoy "He Is There," and "That's The Kind of Morning."

10 Songs. Total Running Time 33 minutes.



The Jonathans

Power to Prevail

Produced by Marty Funderburk

Parker Jonathan is a name many people will remember from his days with the mighty Kingsmen. He now returns to the Southern Gospel scene with his own group. This CD is what I expected from a former member of the Kingsmen; it is straight up Southern Gospel with some songs from some of the best writers in the business, including Rodney Griffin, Jeff Steele and Kyla Rowland to name a few.

The Jonathans recut the hit from Parker's days with the Kingsmen, "Next Cloud." I still love to hear this song and Parker still can sing it very well. There is also a song the Parker did with the Kingsmen, which many people may not remember called, "Here Comes the Bride." This song was originally recorded by the Sound from Houston, Texas but I don't think is ever got the attention it deserved. I am thrilled that The Jonathans brought this one back.

Overall, the CD is excellent for pure Southern Gospel music fans and I look forward to hearing more from this group in the future. As a listener I love, "Here Comes the Bride." As a radio person I really enjoy, "I'm Ready To See My Lord."

12 Songs. Total Running Time 42 minutes



Cathedrals

Travelin' Live

Produced by Bill Traylor

This has to be one of my favorite LP's in my collection. This live album features the greatest lineup that I think the *Cats* ever had: Roger Bennett, Mark Trammell, Danny Funderburk, Glen Payne and George Younce.

This concert starts off with "Blood Washed Band," and never stops. From the classic "Boundless Love," to the greatest song they never released to radio, "Homeland." By the way, if they sent that to radio today, it would be a number one song for them, and they have been retired for many years now.

There are so many good things to say about this album, but I want to make mention of a song you may never have heard of, called "Come on Home." The message of this song is amazing and Mark Trammell shines on it. I am putting my vote in for the Mark Trammell Quartet to rerecord this great song.

If you have never heard this album find it and take a listen. It is in my opinion a Hall of Fame LP.

To have your project reviewed by deejay and Faith's Journey member Jonathan Edwards, send a copy to: Jonathan Edwards, PO Box 2572, Branson West, MO 65737



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Sweetwater Revival

It's More Than Just Music

By Paige Givens and Katie Paull

If you love Southern Gospel Music, tight harmony, and scripture-filled music, you are probably well aware of “The Female Quartet of Southern Gospel Music” known as *Sweetwater Revival*. They hail from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Yes, you heard that right, Minnesota! Many find it surprising that a Southern Gospel group of ladies would come from the far North, but Sweetwater Revival has found that people are hungry for Southern Gospel music everywhere, and Minnesota is no exception! This year their quartet will celebrate a decade of music ministry.

In 2004, founding member Katie Paull was living in Nashville, Tennessee, and singing with “The New Speers.” This was a ministry was formed by Faye and Brock Speer’s oldest son, Marc Speer. Katie states, “To even be a small part of the Speer Legacy was a phenomenal blessing. I had lived in Nashville for about four years waitressing and pursuing every music contact I could get my hands on. This included meeting with various A&R reps from record labels around town, doing demos with producers, pitching myself to songwriters to be a demo singer, and singing all over town in various venues. I learned so much during this time about the music industry and I will never regret my time there.

“I eventually felt the Lord leading me back to Minnesota,” Katie continues. “I had sold my bed and a lot of my furniture, and then I awoke one Saturday morning to a message from Marc Speer saying he’d heard about me from a friend. He was interested in me auditioning for his alto position. I almost fell off my couch! Upon auditioning and joining The New Speers, one of my greatest joys became reality. At that point I decided to stay in Tennessee indefinitely.

“Singing and traveling with The New Speers was one of the greatest joys of my life. Eventually Marc decided to disband The New Speers and I was heartbroken. During that time of transition, I felt the Lord leading me back to Minnesota. Moving home was very difficult in some ways because I thought that had to mean I was giving up my dream. In reality, God provided just the opposite. I moved home to discover my songwriting mother was in rapid speed, having written hundreds of gospel songs and my dad said, ‘Why don’t you just start your own quartet?’ And thus the vision for Sweetwater Revival began. I don’t think it would have happened without my parents’ belief in my vision for an all-female quartet.” Through much prayer and many auditions with various singers, Katie and her mother Cathie formed Sweetwater Revival. Their deepest



desire was to find quality women who could sing and harmonize, but *most* importantly had a heart for Jesus Christ both on stage and off.



Through prayer and seeking the Lord’s guidance for their ministry, Katie and Cathie were inspired to call the quartet Sweetwater Revival. They took inspiration from John 7:37, “Jesus stood and said, if any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.” Also Isaiah 55:1, “Ho, everyone who thirsteth, come you to the waters.” Cathie states, “I love the analogy of water and Jesus being the Living Water that quenches our thirst. He truly is the only One Who can transform our lives and revive us on a daily basis.”

The group currently consists of Katie Paull, Korissa Olson, Amanda Ellison, Kayla Krizek, and songwriter/manager Cathie Paxson. These ladies, known as “The Female Quartet of Southern Gospel,” work to-

gether to minister to people all over the country through meaningful lyrics and beautiful harmonies.



When an audience experiences Sweetwater Revival in concert, they will find out that the concert is much more than music alone. Katie says, “One thing that has been important to us is having scripture-filled music. That is a vital part of each project that we record. In addition to that, we have found that our music ministry is more than just music. Anyone who has ever attended a Sweetwater Revival concert will tell you that the sharing of God’s Word is a big part of our ministry. We also share our testimonies and words we feel God has placed on our hearts but as Isaiah 55:1 tells us, “So





is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” I know and have faith that if we choose to be His vessels in this way, whether through the singing of a song or a spoken word, God’s Word will not return void. He promises us that.”

Radio personality Vivian Belknap enthusiastically applauds the group’s songs. “We’ve been playing their music for some time now at KKGAM AM 1630 in Dallas, Texas, and also streaming at www.kkgmam.com. I’m live on the board for three hours on Sunday afternoon, and I play at least two, sometimes three cuts of their music during that three hours. I always get phone calls about their music, with people asking ‘Who was that?’ One listener even ended up calling our corporate office asking who was singing!” Vivian happily informed the listener who was singing. She adds, “One song that many listeners respond to is ‘Colossian 3:1-3.’ We also get a very positive response for ‘A Hallelujah Homecoming,’ ‘Until Then,’ ‘He’s The Alpha and Omega,’ and ‘Blessed Assurance.’ We love them in Ft. Worth/Dallas!”

Radio stations are currently playing “A Hallelujah Homecoming,” written by Cathie Paxson Music (BMI). The song just charted on the Singing News Chart at #55 in March. Other radio singles listeners may recognize are “When Someday Becomes Today”, “The Night is Coming”, “We Will Arise”, and “Daddy’s Hands”. Katie points out that without wonderful radio promoters like the group’s own Susan Whisnant and United Independent Artists, many spirit-filled, life-changing songs would never make it out to impact listeners.

Sweetwater Revival has released eight CD projects, a DVD, “LIVE at the Mall of America”, and a complete line of vocal tracks and sheet music. Any of these can be ordered online at www.SweetwaterRevival.com. Their brand new project *Heirloom* (A Collection of Hymns and Harmonies) was released this past spring. Listeners will find a fantastic array of beloved

hymns, harmony filled original music, and a cappella favorites on this newest project, produced by multiple Emmy, Dove, and Certified Grammy Award winning producer Darren Rust.

Sweetwater Revival continues to minister at various concerts. Katie shares, “One event we are heavily promoting and excited about, is our Annual ‘Hallelujah Homecoming Concert’ featuring The Talleys as our special guests. This exciting night of Gospel music will take place on Saturday, June 6th at 6pm. The Concert will be held at Bethel University in Benson Great Hall, St. Paul, Minnesota. Tickets can be purchased through our website or through Bethel’s Box Office at 651-638-6333. All seats are reserved, so please call now to get your best seats!”



You can find Sweetwater Revival online at www.SweetwaterRevival.com and on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SWRMinistries>. For booking contact the group’s Nashville Booking Line (615) 300-1283, visit the website, or send mail to Gospeltown Records, c/o Sweetwater Revival 1934 130th Lane NW, Minneapolis, MN, 55448

Photos Courtesy of Josh Stokes of <http://stokesfoto.com> and Katie Paull



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Creekside Gospel Music Convention

UPDATE

by Lorraine Walker

It's March and welcome to the update for 2015 Creekside Gospel Music Convention! Can you believe that Creekside is only eight months away? We hope that you are including this great event in your vacation plans for this year. Creekside runs from November 2nd through November 5th at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. There will be lots of music, fellowship, fun and food!

Creekside annual events include the Lou Hildreth Honors on Monday night. This past year, Lou Hildreth honored Willie Wynn. In 2015, the honoree will be...but I can't tell you yet because it's a secret! Stay tuned to this page for more information!

The Diamond Awards take place on Tuesday night with many special guests. See below for the Road to the 2015 Diamond Awards.

Other events include showcases and an evening of choir singing. New for 2014 was the evening Midnight Prayer. This is sure to be repeated in 2015! Perhaps even the Great Doughnut Caper...again, check back here for the latest information.

Creekside artists will be performing every night, as well as in showcases during the day. For more information on Creekside including ticket information, click on to www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com or to the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention.

For information on special rates at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, call 1-800-223-6707 or local call 865-908-3015.

Are you interested in volunteering at Creekside? We would love to have your help! If you can't be there, we can even use your assistance prior to the event. Please email Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com.

Artists interested in being a part of Creekside 2015, please email Rob Patz at rob@sgnscoops.com.



The Road to the 2015 Diamond Awards

We are traveling the Road to the 2015 Diamond Awards during this nomination period, by highlighting the definition of each award category on the SGN Scoops website. Be sure to visit the website at www.sgnscoops.com regularly to see the latest posting on this series. We outline who is eligible for each award and also tell you who the 2014 winner was for that category.

The 2015 Diamond Award Nominations are now open on the SGN Scoops website until March 31. Everyone is invited to the website to enter the Nominations area and list their top 10 favorite picks for each Diamond Award category. You can vote today! The 2015 Diamond Awards Nominations can be found at www.sgnscoops.com/2015-diamond-awards

After March 31, the list of nominees will be posted on the site and fans will then nominate their favorites from this list, with a maximum of five names nominated per award. In this way, the field of nominees will be narrowed to 10, voted on by fans once more and then narrowed to five. This final list of five will then be voted on by fans to find the one winner for each award.

Make your plans now to join us for the 2015 Diamond Awards during the Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee from November 2nd through 5th, 2015. For more information visit www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com

The Diamond Awards are hosted by SGN Scoops digital magazine and Coastal Media Group.

We hope to see you at the 2015 Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge!





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The *Pastors* Corner With Ed Smith

I Have A Song In My Heart: The Purpose of Music in the Life of a Christian

Hans Christian Anderson said, "Where words fail, music speaks." During times of tragedy and severe loss, there is nothing like music to soothe the soul. The powerful strains of "The Old Rugged Cross" sung at a funeral service when a loved one has gone on before us. The strong and reinforcing lyrics of "Because He Lives" when a new parent looks for the first time into the eyes of their newborn child. Perhaps a song from just a few years back by Ivan Parker called "I Choose" when things seem hopeless and you need a reminder of who you are in Christ and in need of new determination. Whatever the song, whatever the occasion, music is indeed the lifeblood of the soul.

The very day each of us were born again into the Kingdom of Christ, we did so without the requirement of singing. There was no command from Scripture that said, "thou shalt sing a song in order to be born again." There is no command from God that we sing at all. Music is a GIFT from God, a precious gift that allows us to express our love, adoration, worship and praise to God. In fact, all music began in Heaven with the angels singing in chorus!

But, just like the sin that caused man to fall into the pit of despair and sinfulness, music likewise was hijacked and became something our Creator never intended it to be. It has become discords with lyrics that discuss adultery or some unthinkable topic such as killing and maiming of innocent people. "Rappers" go on and on about the stories of sinful man while bringing their messages of sin and depravity into their lyric. Hopelessness abounds where the music is secular and without the Hope of the Gospel. No wonder so many, even famous people commit suicide after living in utter despair for so long. The world is a hopeless place without Christ...and His gift of music will pull us right out of despair and hopelessness and bring us back into a place of praise!

Step back in time with me. The dungeon the men were thrown into was dark and damp. It likely smelled of human feces and rats were everywhere. When they were thrown into the dungeon, all hope of seeing the sunlight was locked in that dark and hellish place. No human being

could remain sane under such barbaric conditions! Shackled and hungry, most prisoners in the dungeon began to wish to die. But, not Paul and Silas!

These two men of God had been arrested because they were preaching the Gospel of Christ on the streets. They had not committed any crime, yet their future appeared as dark as those they occupied the space of the dungeon with. But one thing was different about these two. They had a song in their heart, and it wasn't long until it was coming out of their mouths. The Bible doesn't tell us what songs they sang. "Amazing Grace" hadn't been written yet. No human being had heard "How Great Thou Art" either. So, we don't know the lyrics they sang nor the melody to which they lifted them; but we do know this: They lifted their song to the top of their lungs and praise filled the space where darkness and hopelessness once lived!

You know the story. God sent an earthquake and freed them. And, the jailer gave his heart to Christ. You see?



God was in control after all. And, He used the praise of two of his faithful followers to raze the roof and set them free!

One interesting thing about darkness is that any light whatsoever looks incredibly bright against its total blackness. My admonition to you is that, whenever you find yourself surrounded by complete darkness, don't curse it, Just turn the light on! SING! Like the Gaither tune admonishes us, "Then, He said 'SING!' With a laughing heart! SING! When the night is darkest! SING!....Just throw back your head and SING!" Singing is the same as turning on the light!

Remember today when things get dark and tough.....just SING! It's truly "Good Medicine for Your Heart," as we say at Joy Christian Radio!

Ed Smith is an ordained minister and Christian Radio Broadcaster, and is the Founder and President of the Joy Christian Radio Network. www.joychristianradio.com/streaming

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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Reagan Griffin

BY ERIN STEVENS

It's one thing to impact thousands of people's lives through the example of your ministry, songwriting, and personal life, but it is entirely another thing when you are your children's hero. The shoulder they run to in times of defeat, the hug they crave after a long day at school, and the sounding board to all life's 'wonders and whys.' That is exactly the case in the life of Rodney Griffin. Today I am delighted to introduce to you his darling daughter, the lovely Miss Reagan. Get to know this young lady, budding with talents, and a remarkable dedication to serving others. Reagan, take it away...

Erin: What was it like growing up with your dad being such a prominent figure in Gospel music?

Reagan: It was always normal for me to see him leave every weekend. That's just who he is. Dad loves what he does and I love being his daughter. I take so much pride in his ministry.

Erin: When did you first discover your love for the piano?

Reagan: My love for playing began in church a few years ago; that was a huge push for me! I've recently started having fun playing the ukulele too.

Erin: It's apparent on social media that you are becoming quite the scarf maker! How are you enjoying your latest businesswoman endeavor?

Reagan: Honestly, it's a blast! When I have spare time, I love to just sit and crochet. It's quite relaxing.

Erin: For those who are missing out, try to put into words the magical joy that comes from growing up with your family at 'the happiest place on earth?'

Reagan: Disney World is such an exciting place! It has always been somewhere I look forward to going back year after year! I feel like I'm a little child all over again when we walk inside.

Erin: What is your life-verse or verses? And why?

Reagan: One of my favorites is Proverbs 3:5-7: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil." It reminds me that, yes, I will fail me, but God won't.



Erin: While being a junior in high school, what are the most effective ways you have found to be an example of Christ to those around you?

Reagan: My youth pastor has a quote he always says: "Treat everybody like somebody." There is much truth in that statement. Everyone wants to be appreciated. I've discovered that when you take time and really listen and pay attention to someone, they will notice something different in you. Another way is to simply go out of your way to do extra, tiny deeds. Whether it's picking up empty water bottles left after practice, or throwing away the gum wrappers left in the church pew; these are things that are overlooked as 'unimportant.' Someone has to do them. Let's be that person.

Erin: Who would you most likely be found jamming out to on your iPod?

Reagan: I love the 1940-50s swing music: Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, and Nat King Cole.

Erin: If there was one defining moment in life you could relive, what would that be?

Reagan: Last year, I was chosen to be the Singing News Fan Awards 'Trophy Girl.' I had the privilege of walking on stage and presenting the awards to those I look up to. It was an incredible experience that I'll remember for a long time!

Erin: Being surrounded by Southern Gospel fans since you were little, what is the craziest thing a fan has said to you?

Reagan: I was standing to the side of a walkway with some friends, listening to my dad sing, when an older lady came up behind me and said, "You know I'm stalking you, right?" With a nervous giggle, I said "Uh, okay." and moved a little closer to my friends.

Erin: Are you a songwriter like your dad?

Reagan: When I was growing up, my best friend, my sister, and I wrote several little songs with the most obnoxious tunes. "Poor Little Doughnut," "Mr. Dan and The Hotdog Stand," and one about cowboys. I don't think you'll be seeing those up on the 'One-Hit-Wonders Chart' anytime soon.

Erin: In closing, how would you personally encourage young ladies in their walk with the Lord as you make steps every day to become closer to Him?

Reagan: I am learning more and more all the time about how much God cares for me. As young ladies, we

tend to compare ourselves to the other girls around us; therefore, finding our self worth in the wrong things. God wants to be that one person we go to when those insecure thoughts cross our mind. He wants to wrap you up in a big hug and say, "I love you. I made you just the way you are."

We all come from different walks of life, but I am certain that Reagan's moving words can speak to every heart. You may be 18 or 80, it doesn't matter; insecurities plague every age group. Coming from a mind so sharp and a heart so full as Reagan's, I pray you can see that YOU are enough. You are capable enough when you lean on Jesus as your Rock. When we are weakest, that's when He is the strongest in our lives. Thank you, Reagan, for gracing us with your presence and allowing us to see a glimpse into your life today. May God's hand of blessing rest upon you. Until next month, Scoops fans...

And that's my take on it.



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A close-up portrait of a woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text 'Reflections with Sherry Anne' is overlaid on the top right of the image, with 'Sherry Anne' in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, the subtitle 'Little Things Mean A Lot' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The entire image is set against a dark blue background.

Reflections with

Sherry Anne

Little Things Mean A Lot

“Little things mean a lot” ... what a sweet song that is! It’s a little before my time but still current in my way of thinking.

I am a detail-oriented person. I realize not everyone is, but there are some things that I think we should all take the time to pay attention to. Things like saying, “Thank you” or “No, thank you” when speaking to someone. Even something as simple as just returning your shopping cart to the store or to one of the MANY stalls put in place for your convenience. I cannot tell you how many times I have had to move shopping carts out of a parking spot—not to mention all the times my car got hit by a cart blowing in the wind! And why can’t people be courteous enough to signal the lane they are moving into when driving? I have attended many drivers’ safety classes and the instructor often refers to this as “sheer laziness.” Come on, Christian witnesses... we can do better than this!

With all the technological gadgets and advances

we have today, there is no reason why someone cannot get back to another person within a reasonable amount of time—within the same week is reasonable I think. I know I try to respond within 24 hours. By the same token, it is also courteous to be mindful of not contacting someone too much either! It’s not old fashioned to hold the door open for someone who is coming in behind you. It always amazes me how surprised women and men are when I do this for them. Better still, step aside and let them go in before you! There’s a challenge—especially on a Friday, after work, at the bank!

Probably one of my greatest pet peeves is this next topic. You’ve heard the expression: *what’s in a name?* Because so much communication is written now (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Email, YouTube, etc.), a person’s name shows up almost everywhere! My name, for instance, is Sherry Anne (two “r’s” and an “e” at the end of my middle name. Not Sherrie, Sheri, Cheri, Cherie, Sherri, Sherie, Sharry, or Ann... Sherry Anne).

My last name has 5 letters in it-- just five, but I have gotten over eight different spellings of it through the years. When you add all these combinations together, it is truly rare that I ever see my whole name spelled correctly! It never ceases to amaze me how many times my name is misspelled in an email or Facebook when my name is listed properly, right there, in plain view! When I respond to people via email or Facebook, I make sure I take the time to look at the person's name and see how it's spelled first. If signing a product, such as a CD, I always take the time to ask how their name is spelled. I couldn't begin to count how many people have thanked me for doing that. Maybe I am getting old and set in my ways, but I do think that little things make a BIG difference...don't you?

Is there something someone says or does repeatedly that truly does irk you? Perhaps even causing resentment? Tell them! However, please take time to pray, think and structure your words properly before you do— as you are now opening the door for them to do the same thing to you, and I trust that you would like to be approached in a kind, gentle, caring manner as well.

In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us we will be judged by the measure in which we judge others (Matt 7:2). Also consider 1 Corinthians 1:27: "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong."

Let's be people who take time to notice the details—the new haircut, the nice gesture, the pretty blouse, or the nicely trimmed lawn. Compliment someone on a job well done... it's one of the simplest ways to show someone you care and that they matter. In the words of one of our timeless hymns, "Little Is Much When God Is In It." As Edith Lindeman wrote:

"Blow me a kiss from across the room
 Say I look nice when I'm not
 Touch my hair as you pass my chair
 Little things mean a lot.
 Give me your arm as we cross the street
 Call me at six on the dot
 A line a day when you're far away
 Little things mean a lot.
 You don't have to buy me diamonds or pearls
 Champagne, sables, and such
 I never cared much for diamonds and pearls
 'cause honestly, honey, they just cost money
 Give me a hand when I've lost the way
 Give me your shoulder to cry on
 Whether the day is bright or gray

Give me your heart to rely on
 Send me the warmth of a secret smile
 To show me you haven't forgot
 That always and ever, that's, now and forever
 Little things mean a lot." ¹

Yes, they sure do...

1. Edith Lindeman (lyrics), Carl Stutz (music), 1953. "Little Things Mean a Lot," by Kitty Kallen (Decca 9-29037) r.1954.



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Fast Five with

The Page Trio



The Page Trio is a male group of family members who have been singing for over 10 years, making their own brand of Southern Gospel well known to fans across the country through charting songs like “I Wanna Go There,” “I Surrender,” and “I Am From Above.”

We welcome the Page Trio as they prepare to answer the SGN Scoops Fast Five interview questions!

SGN Scoops: I know you guys are excited about your new project, Our Lord And Savior. What makes it different from the others?

The album has limited instruments and the focus is more on the lyrics of the songs. The CD consists of four cover songs and six new original songs that were written by members Wayne Page and Johnny Page. Blaine Johnson, who is a life-long friend of the group, is featured on the CD playing the piano. Blaine grew up in our hometown and currently plays for Jason Crabb. We went back to record some good old gospel favorites such as “Sweet Beulah Land” and “I Never Shall Forget the Day.” Overall, the CD has a message for just about every phase of life. The songs will minister to the lost soul, encourage the believer and challenge the church.

SGN Scoops: What is your favorite song on the project?

It is hard to pick a favorite but if we had to it would be ‘My Light and Salvation’. Another favorite is the title song ‘Our Lord and Savior’. Both are original songs that we were able

to write. Our favorite cover song is ‘Sweet Beulah Land’. It was the first song that Wayne ever sang in front of a church.

SGN Scoops: Tell us about The Page Trio.

The Page Trio consists of brothers Wayne and Johnny Page and their dad, Cranford Page. We grew up as a singing family in a small town called Nauvoo, AL and have been singing officially as a trio the past 10 years. We have had a lot of help along the way to be able to produce, write and record a lot of the material that we currently sing. We try to be ourselves and love to share the music God has laid on our hearts. Our main goal is to reach the lost and encourage the believer in the name of Jesus Christ. God has truly blessed us more than we could ever deserve.

SGN Scoops: How can we purchase your CD?

You can go to our website at thepagetrio.com and purchase it in our web store.

SGN Scoops: Give us all your information.

You can reach us at: The Page Trio, 1955 Rose Hill Road, Nauvoo, AL 35578. Booking number (205) 384-3274. Website: thepagetrio.com and Facebook: [thepagetrioonline](https://www.facebook.com/thepagetrioonline).

Many thanks to the Page Trio for letting the readers of SGN Scoops learn more about your ministry and your music.



the
FREEMANS

We thank our Lord Jesus for a great 2014!
2015 the best is yet to come!

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to everyone one from SGN Scoops, you are a gift to our Industry!



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High Notes

By Kelly Nelson Clark



Just Another Day At Walmart

I was checking out at Walmart today and noticed the cashier being a bit rude with the customer before me. When it was my turn the same thing happened and maybe a little worse. She was snapping at me to get my items off of the baggage area and into my cart.

My flesh started to take over and say something, but all of a sudden I had the thought to give her kindness instead.

I started getting my things off and I looked at her and said, “How are you doing today?” She looked at me and replied, “Not good.”

I said, “Can I help you in any way? You seem to be a little preoccupied.” I saw her countenance change.

She said, “My mother is 81 and having surgery tomorrow. I am so worried about her. I

can’t think clearly today and I’m short tempered.” She began to tell me of what her mom was going through.

I said, “It’s understandable that your mind and emotions are with your mom.” I told her that maybe God put me in her line to let her know that someone cares. That He especially cares. I told her I would be praying for her and her mom.

In just a minute I could have chosen to do the wrong thing. Lord knows I’m not perfect and don’t always make the right choices but I’m thankful for the Holy Spirit who guides when we choose to listen.



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sgn Scoops

March 2015 digital

This chart was compiled from a list of reporting stations. Each month we will be adding more stations.

1	Browders	He Took The Nails	34	Dennis Cook	One Pair Of Hands
2	Williamsons	It Was The Word	35	New Vision	That's What Love Looks Like
3	Zane and Donna King	No One Like God	36	Wards	Coming Out Of Bondage
4	Hoskins Family	Land Of Endless Tomor- rows	37 38	James and Jeff Easter	Jesus Is Living In Me
5	Bowling Family	That's What I Miss The Most	39 40	Dunaways	Church In The Kitchen
6	East Ridge Boys	Pray Pray Pray	41	Mark Bishop	Pray On The Little Days
7	Shellem Cline	That Saving Song	42	Mercy's Reflection	Oh What A Difference
8	Mylon Hayes Family	There's Still A Refuge	43	Higher Hope	He Walks With Me
9	Kingdom Heirs	Joys Of Heaven	44	Ivan Parker	Til The Shackles Fall Off
10	Watts, Rowsey and Bean	Don't Give A Rock A Chance	45 46	Wilburn and Wilburn	Nobody Like Jesus
11	Hyssongs	Still Blessed	47	Clyde Felton Jr.	Lord Forgive Me
12	Josh and Ashley Franks	He Promised Me	48	Steve Hess/Southern Salvation	Living Proof
13	Greater Vision	The Blood Hasn't Ever Changed	49	Sunday Drive	This I Know
14	Exodus	Tell Me Oh Tell Me Again	50	Danny Norman	The Best Day Of My Life
15	Page Trio	I Wanna Go There	51	Jim Brady Trio	Steppin' Out In Faith
16	Karen Peck/New River	Everybody's Go- ing Through Something	52 53	Wilburn and Wilburn	Help Me Help Someone
17	Heavenly Sunrise	He Died A Savior		Rod Truman	I'm Gonna Make It
18	Whisnants	Glorybound	54	Legacy Five	Christ Is Still The King
19	Tammy Jones Robinette	I Like Life	55	Mark Trammell Quartet	Don't Stop Running
20	Steeles	Eternally	56	Sounds Of Victory	How Good God's Been To Me
21	Jason Crabb	Love Is Stronger	57	Poet Voices	He Saw Me
22	Tim Livingston	I Just Miss You	58	Porter Family	I'm Gonna Run
23	Valor 3	Hallelujah He Has Risen	59	Brian Free/Assurance	Unashamed
24	Linda Foster	That Day Is Almost Here	60	Joseph Habedank	Never No Never
25	Kevin and Jennifer	He's Still Doing Miracles Today	61 62	Tony Burchette	Better Hurry Up
26	Lore Family	It Shall Be Well	63	Goodman Revival	What A Happy Time
27	Mercy's Well	I Wanna Hear The Gospel	64	Taylors	Measure Of Grace
28	Caleb's Crossing	Isn't The Love Of Jesus Something Wonderful	65 66	Connors	I Need To Hear From Heaven
29	McKameys	Pure Satisfaction		Bruce Hedrick	Roses From God
30	Wilbanks	I'll Be Praisin' You	67	Tribute Quartet	Everything I Need
31	Mark Dubbeld Family	Face Of The Captain	68	Wisecarvers	One Prayer At A Time
32	Tina Wakefield	I've Got A Lot To Thank God For	69 70	Doug Hudson	Help Me Find My Way Home
33	Troy Burns Family	By The Blood Of The Lamb	71 72	TaRanda Greene	That's Where Amazing Happens
				Perrys	If You Knew Him
				Shellem Cline	Dinner With Jesus
				Debra Perry/Jaidyn's Call	Bottom Of The Hill
				Campbell and Rowley	It's Not About You
				Partons	No More Chains
				Doyle Lawson/Quicksilver	O Far Country

73	Rita Broyles	Looking Through The Bars	94	Bev McCann	Smile
74	Crowe Lawson/Williams	Insured Beyond The Grave	95	Barry Rowland/Deliverance	Somebody Go Get God
75	Georgians Quartet	Back In The Day	96	Lori Jonathan Trio	It's Always Darkest Before The Dawn
76	Carter Robertson Band	Dog Named Dog	97	Inmans	Here Comes The Bride
77	Pauline Patterson	One Prayer Away	98	Joyaires	I Can't Make It Lord Without You
78	Singing Cookes	The Church Has Moved Away	99	Allegiance	Lighten Up
78	Spiritual Voices	There's Still My Joy	100	Southern Raised	Good News From The Graveyard
78	Terry Collins	This One Thing I Know			
81	Messiah's Call	He'll Do It Today			
82	Charlie May	One Last Stand			
83	Bledsoes	I'm Glad I'm Saved			
84	South Of Heaven	When I Crossed That River			
85	Blackwood Brothers	You Can Find What I Found			
86	Cornerstone	Stormy Seas			
87	Brian and Angela Monehan	I Talk To Him			
88	Chuck Day	Back Page News			
89	Anchormen	Come To The Fountain			
89	Tribute Quartet	Everybody Needs Jesus			
89	Simeon's Promise	Rapture Ready			
89	Eagles Wings	The Potter's Hand			
89	Emmaus Road Quartet	Victory Song			

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The Wills Family Reunion

“A Heavenly Black Friday”

By Vivian Belknap



While a vast majority of Ft. Worth, Texas is shopping for Christmas gifts the Friday after Thanksgiving, others are preparing for a great night of Southern Gospel music at First Baptist Church of Ft. Worth. Now known as *The Wills Family Reunion*, but originally called “The Inspirational Annual Reunion”, the Wills Family celebrated their first Inspirational Reunion the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27, 1992. After several years it became difficult to gather former members so the decision was made to transition it to *The Wills Family Reunion*. Thus was born a yearly family gathering of the members of the Wills family along with various former members of The Inspirational that occurs every Friday following Thanksgiving Day.

Who were the Inspirational, you ask? Perhaps you were not a part of the Southern Gospel genre during the ‘50’s, ‘60’s and ‘70’s, so let us take a tour back in time. In 1958, a group of young men were given the opportunity to sing in a full time capacity by Nu-Way Products, owned by Bro. J.C. Sullivan. The group consisted of John Hall, Roger McDuff, Jory Waldon, Robert Gorey and Jack Bell, the pianist. Shortly after they became a group, Robert Gorey took a position in a church and Bob Wills was asked to join. The group continued traveling full time, changing only the position of the piano player to Jimmy Doan.

In 1960, there were other personnel changes. Bob Wills and Roger McDuff continued The Inspirational by hiring Gary McSpadden, Dwight Edwards and James Clark as the pianist. In 1964, The Inspirational were again re-organized by Bob Wills. And in 1965, the group made their first appearance on television on Channel 5 in Ft. Worth, Texas with a 10-minute program of Gospel music, and for the first time in color. In 1966, Bob Wills was still leading the group, and the television show called “Wills Family Inspirational Time” was begun. The Inspirational at this time were made up of Jory Waldon, Jim Murray, Charles Nix and Lindsey Reast (pianist). Over the following years many others filled various slots but Curtis Elkins who joined



in 1966 would become one of the best known and remembered of the group.



In 1976 Bob retired The Inspirationals and started his family group, The Bob Wills Family consisting of Bob, his wife Betty, Jennie Cameron and Bob Cameron and during this time Betty along with their children, Angel, Don, Ron and Bobbie Lee would take the stage to sing special songs.

After a silence of 18 years, in February 1992, Mr. W. B. Nowlin hired The Inspirationals to be on a Battle of Songs program. They were overwhelmed with the response, and continued to book venues. Then in November 1992, Bob saw his vision of trying to preserve the tradition that was started in 1958 by instituting a yearly reunion of The Inspirationals, which evolved into “The Wills Family Reunion.”

This tradition continues every Friday night after Thanksgiving. Several members of The Inspirationals are always there along with The Wills Family, and Bob always invites a special group to be the main attraction. Larry Gatlin, Rudy Gatlin, The McDuff Brothers, Squire Parsons, The Splawns, Larry Ford, The South Men, and The Erwins are only a few who have graced the stage with The Inspirationals and The Wills Family.

Many groups will have yearly homecomings but the *family reunion* part of The Wills Family Reunion makes this a very unique event. The entire event has a family

reunion feel and rightly so, as a large number of those on stage as well as a significant segment of the audience is made up Wills’ parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles. Last year Bob Wills who normally emcees the event was not able to attend due to sickness. His son Don Wills stepped in to take the role of emcee along with Bob’s other sons, Bobbie Lee and Ron.

The event was held at First Baptist Church of Fort Worth where Don Wills has served as pastor for a number of years. Don has a great bass voice, which is showcased on several of the songs that were performed. Curtis Elkins was there along with Ralph Greene and both were featured on a couple of numbers that proved why they were strong members of the Inspi-

rationals.

The 2014 Reunion also featured Reynold Rutledge opening the event playing his marimba as he enthralled the audience with his musical ability and with his strong voice. Then Bob Wills’ children took the stage as Angel Wills joined her brothers, Don, Ron and Bobbie Lee to sing several songs with their unique family sound. Bobbie Lee Wills, Bob Wills’ son, is continuing the Wills singing tradition with his group, The Wills Family, consisting of Bobbie Lee, his wife Annette and their daughter, Betheny and son Landry (affectionately known as Bubba to his family). Bobbie Lee writes



most of the songs that his family sings and some of the favorites are “When Justice Called Mercy Answered,” and “When He Whispers Sweet Peace.” One of the highlights was when Randy Wills presented his great-nephew Landry Wills with the “Youth Soloist of The Year 2014” award from the SGMA of Texas. He is only 12 years old but is maturing into quite the singer.



The Irwins were there to bring their youth and family harmony to the stage. This young group consists of three brothers and a sister who are taking the country by storm by winning awards and hearts of Southern Gospel fans. Also appearing and closing the concert was The Joshua Experience; this is a group of men and women who bring the big band sound to gospel music. This group is led by Larry Randall who is known as “The Saxman” and who has played with legends like Tony Bennett, Al Hurt, Judy Garland, Pete Fontaine and others. When they took the stage on the Friday night following Thanksgiving they captivated the audience with their sound.

If you find yourself in the Dallas Fort Worth area on the Friday after Thanksgiving this year, come and be a part of the “family” at the next Wills Family Reunion. You will be blessed with great singing and a fun experience to round out your Thanksgiving season.



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Yoga:

It's More than "Just Exercise"



By Laurette Willis, CHC

"Abstain from things offered to idols" Acts 15:29

Yoga is extremely popular in the fitness world and many wonder if it has a place in Christian Fitness. Is there such a thing as "Christian yoga" or a "Christian alternative to yoga?" While many know that yoga originated in India, few realize it is part of the Hindu religion.

Those who think yoga is little more than a series of stress-relieving stretching exercises may be surprised to learn about true foundation of the multi-billion dollar yoga craze in North America.

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, yoga (coming from an east Indian Sanskrit word which means "union with god" or "to yoke") is "a mystic and ascetic Hindu discipline for achieving union with the supreme spirit through meditation, prescribed postures, controlled breathing, etc."

Many have found yoga to be the doorway to the New Age movement and away from Christ, as I did. As a child growing up on Long Island, I became involved with yoga at the age of seven when my mother and I began watching a daily yoga exercise program on television (thinking it was "just exercise"). For the next 22 years I was heavily involved with yoga, metaphysics and the New Age movement until I became a follower of Jesus Christ in my late 20s.

Yoga Poses are "Offerings to 330 million Hindu gods"

George P. Alexander, Ph.D., who taught World Religions at Biola University, is a friend of our family. Born in Sri Lanka, George grew up in India, the birthplace of Hinduism and yoga. He told us that yoga postures are actually offerings to the 330 million Hindu gods.

"Many Westerners who practice yoga today are unaware that the physical positions assumed in yoga symbolize a spiritual act: worshiping one of the many Hindu gods," Dr. Alexander said. "To a Hindu, yoga is the

outward physical expression of a deep spiritual belief. You cannot separate one from the other."

Professor Subhas Tiwari of Hindu University of America said, "The simple, immutable fact is that yoga originated from the Vedic or Hindu culture. Its techniques were not adopted by Hinduism, but originated from it. The effort to separate yoga from Hinduism must be challenged because it runs counter to the fundamental principles upon which yoga itself is premised. Efforts to separate yoga from its spiritual center reveal ignorance of the goal of yoga." (HinduismToday.com – 9/1-3/09).

A Different Lord?

While Hinduism recognizes 330 million gods, the trinity of chief Hindu gods includes Brahma (creator), Vishnu (preserver) and Shiva (destroyer).

According to Webster's dictionary, Shiva is the Hindu god of destruction and rebirth. Shiva is Lord of Yoga (Yogeshwara) – according to Bhagavad-Gita and the first Hatha Yoga teacher – according to Hatha Yoga Pradipika. The Hatha Yoga Pradipika (HYP) is a classic text for Hatha yoga (the type of yoga taught in fitness centers and many churches).

According to this text, "The (real) Yogi becomes the creator and destroyer of the universe, like God." Ch. 4.76, HYP Yoga is motivated by a spirit that inspires self-deification — with a promise of reincarnation. That sounds familiar! *"And the serpent said unto the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'*" (Genesis 3:4-5).

"But They Do Yoga in My Church."

As mentioned earlier, yoga means "yoke" in Sanskrit. It's a different yoke from the one Jesus referred to when He said, *"My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* (Matthew

11:30).

What is a practice yoked to Shiva the Destroyer, the Lord of Yoga, doing in the church of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Would you agree that the root of something can affect its fruit?

Sannyasin Arumugaswami, managing editor of *Hinduism Today* said Hinduism is the soul of Yoga “based as it is on Hindu Scripture and developed by Hindu sages. Yoga opens up new and more refined states of mind, and to understand them one needs to believe in and understand the Hindu way of looking at God. A Christian trying to adapt these practices will likely disrupt their own Christian beliefs.” (Orlando Sentinel, May 14, 2006).

Jesus said, speaking of satan: “*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*” (John 10:10). In Ephesians 6:12, the Holy Spirit wrote through Paul: “*We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*”

Perhaps you can see the potential spiritual influence of yoga in the church. Some would say that influence has already been seen and felt.

So-Called “Christian Yoga” is an Oxymoron

Since yoga is tied so strongly to Hinduism, can there be such a thing as “Christian yoga,” or would that be an oxymoron (a contradiction in terms)? Many practicing Hindus as well as Christians agree that since yoga IS Hinduism, the two cannot be combined.

Are there other ways to bring flexibility training into a Christian’s fitness program without doing yoga? Yes! There are plain vanilla stretching courses as well as Christian alternatives to yoga which incorporate stretching exercises with Scripture. Practitioners meditate upon Scripture or speak verses aloud which correspond with each stretching posture.

In PraiseMoves, the Christian alternative to yoga, “The Angel” posture is accompanied by Psalm 91:11, “*For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.*”

As Dr. Alexander told us, “My question for Christians who practice yoga is, ‘Why would you want to better your body by aligning with a religious philosophy that contradicts the Christian faith?’” Good question.

Christian Fitness Expert and Certified Health Coach Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, Training, and Classes by Certified PraiseMoves Instructors around the world (<http://Praise-Moves.com>). ©2015



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Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all-digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com.



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>



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of PraiseMoves 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>



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



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at lorraine@sgnscoops.com



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony of how she was born lifeless and how Jesus raised her up to live for Him. Jennifer is a member of the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra and has performed with them at Brooklyn Tabernacle, Carnegie Hall, Central Park, and Times Square. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at [HYPERLINK "http://jennifer-campbell.net/blog.htm"](http://jennifer-campbell.net/blog.htm) and a food and travel blog at <http://jennifersjourneys.net> Learn more about

Contributors

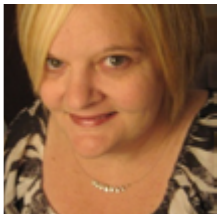
SGN SCOOPS



Dusty Wells is a man of many talents and multiple skills, from his speaking engagements across the country, to traveling and encouraging various artists in the Christian music genres. Dusty has a passion that is evident from the moment you meet him.

Dusty is a man who remains passionate and secure in the calling and destiny upon his life. He has come to realize the importance of finding purpose and clear direction for not only his life, but also the lives of those he comes in contact with, no matter what stage of life they may be in. Growing up in a very dysfunctional home, surrounded by all types of abuse, Dusty had every excuse to be a failure in life. He grew up on welfare, having to steal his daily necessities of life at times, being surrounded by drugs, alcohol and pornography. He was raised by a mother who was married multiple times, living in a housing project on the wrong side of town. But in the midst of what seemed to be complete devastation, God had different plans of success for Dusty. At the age of 14, a precious couple took time out of their own lives to invest in Dusty...thus leading Him to the Lord. His life is a testimony of God's relentless love and deliverance, and is one of the most triumphant stories told in modern Christianity. Dusty is confident in the fact that if God can do it for him, He can do it for anyone, no matter the situation.

Dusty and his wife of 33 years have four children, and two grandbabies with one more on the way. They make their home in Nashville, Tn.



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.



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.

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Dr. Jeff R. Steele is a pastor, conference speaker, singer, songwriter, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is currently the Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Their services are webcast worldwide; they have a weekly television program and host

an annual Jubilee each August that attracts hundreds from around the southeast. Dr. Steele is beginning his eighth year there. As a songwriter Jeff has been credited with 17 Number One songs in Christian music as well as four BMI Gold Medals for Great National Popularity as measured by Broadcast Performances. He has also been recognized by BMI as Christian Songwriter of the Year on several occasions. The group, The Steeles was featured across the nation and was seen on numerous magazine covers, feature articles, television and radio programs during their ministry on the road. Jeff is still writes songs and articles, sings on occasion and speaks in conferences and revivals. Jeff is married to Sherry, his wife of 31 years and they have three grown children. Visit Jeff on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and at www.jeffrsteale.com.

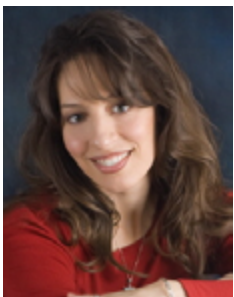


Vonda Easley is the owner of Hope's Journey Christian Ministries and the voice of "The Strictly Southern Show" at WPIL 91.7 in Heflin, Alabama on Fridays



Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented 18 year old shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, social networker and shooting coach. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. She also travels in full-time Gospel music ministry with The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion, and singing for Christ is her

calling. Check out her photography website www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com and her ministry website www.stevensfamilymusic.com.



Sherry Anne Lints, a Doctor of Chiropractic, singer, speaker, actress, writer and fitness trainer, was born with a bilateral hearing and speech impairment. She appeared in the films, Clancy and The Perfect Gift and was a special guest on 100 Huntley Street, in Ontario, Canada. She is a contributing author for the book, Modern-Day Miracles and released her second CD,

Keep on Prayin', July 2012 and has opened for many of the Gaither Homecoming Artists. Additionally, Sherry Anne helps lead worship and drama at her church. For more information, visit: www.SherryAnne.com.



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGW in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over 10

years beginning with Phil Cross and Poet Voices and later Sharron Kay King and Jerry Bennett to name a few. She has spent the past several years promoting Southern Gospel, Inspirational Country Gospel and Bluegrass in this area in order to preserve this part of our heritage.



Jonathan Edwards began his radio career on KWFC 89.1 FM in Springfield, Mo. At KWFC he worked in news, sales and was an on air personality, creating the very popular Ozark Gospel Showcase. He has been nominated for two Singing News Fan Awards and garnered the coveted Paul Heil Award from the 2012 Diamond Awards. He

travels full time with Faith's Journey and currently hosts the syndicated radio show SGN Scoops Radio.

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

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

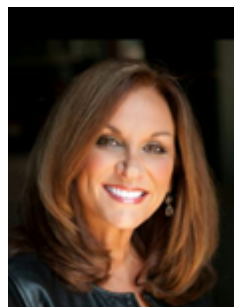


David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great friend!

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.0. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre

Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

Through the years, artists like Gold City, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Kingsmen, Singing Americans, Dixie Melody Boys, Imperials, Dottie Peoples, Ball Brothers, LeFevre Quartet, Palmetto State Quartet, Priority, Trailblazers, The Greens, Ivan Parker, Brian Free and many more have recorded David's music. From 2005 to 2013, Staton was the Executive Vice President for Song Garden Music Group in Nashville, TN. In recent years, the National Quartet Convention has asked David to be a part of an industry advisory panel to help artists who need assistance and training. Not only has David made a mark as an artist, he is passing on his talent and knowledge to new artists, influencing and shaping the future of Gospel music.



Kelly Nelon Clark is the daughter of Gospel Music icon, the late Rex Nelon. As part of her father's group, The Nelons, she blazed a musical trail bringing a fresh new sound to the traditional Gospel quartet style. That sound and style influenced a generation of Gospel music performers and can be heard today in the styling of

groups like the Martins, Point of Grace, The Crabb Family and more.

As The Nelons broke new ground, the Gospel Music industry repeatedly recognized their excellence. The group won four GMA Dove awards as well as multiple awards from readers of Singing News Magazine. Kelly was named female vocalist of the year on four occasions and received favorite alto vocalist award 3 times. At one time, Kelly was the most awarded artists in the history of the Singing News Fan Awards. The music industry at large also recognized The Nelons with 3 Grammy nominations.

Today, Kelly currently performs throughout the United States, Canada and Europe with her husband and two daughters as The Nelons. The group is featured in hundreds of churches and concerts each year. The Nelons have been part of Gaither Homecoming concerts sharing their music with thousands of Gospel Music fans in sold-out arenas across the country. For more information, visit <http://www.kellynelon.com/>.

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Marcie Gray was born and raised in sunny California, yet always dreamed of moving to Tennessee. She had planned to move to the south as a young adult and sing with a gospel group, after being inspired to do so by her Great Uncle, Alphus LeFevre. Though it took longer than she had expected, in 2011, her dream of moving

east finally came true when her husband, Don, retired from the CHP. They packed up their two youngest daughters, three dogs and two horses and headed east. What a blessing to finally be where the tea is sweet, the Southern Gospel music is plentiful and there's a Cracker Barrel on every corner!

Spend ten minutes with Marcie and you'll learn that she is rarely lacking for something to say. Her passion for Southern Gospel music, combined with her instinct to be behind the camera, makes journalism a very enjoyable outlet for that "Type A" personality she has been affectionately labeled with by her family and friends.

Marcie is a worship leader, vocalist and songwriter. She has directed choirs of all ages and given voice lessons for many years. Her solo CD, "Carry Me Home" was released in September of 2014.

Having family in ministry has given Marcie a desire to support those who are on the road sharing the gospel through song. Visit her website at www.graydoveministries.com to learn more!



Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals,

Photos, Video and News tidbits. Keep up with Lynn online at <http://lynnschronicles.com> or on facebook @ <http://facebook.com/lynns.chronicles>



Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many of my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.



Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and small. We want to do all we can to support them!" In 2015, Candi will have a law degree from Liberty University and will provide a full range of legal counsel. This component will bring the highest level of support to those who also desire legal representation.

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Sheri began singing while traveling with her abundantly talented family, led by her father John LaFontaine, a minister for over 48 years. In 1994 with Grammy nominated singer Jeff Easter producing, she recorded her first solo project, *Takin' My Place*.

Shortly thereafter, Sheri received a call from the top promoter in south-

ern gospel, Frank Arnold and was asked to join his group, The Arnolds on the road. After several years of traveling Sheri felt the Lord leading her to focus on her solo career and songwriting. In 2004 she signed a songwriting contract with one of the industry's top recording labels, Daywind Music. Her songs have been recorded by Kim Hopper, Karen Peck, Sue Dodge, Brian Free & Assurance, Misty Freeman, Three Bridges, The Whisnants, The Browns and many more.



Paige Givens is a Christ follower, wife, mother of two boys and kindergarten teacher to 18 five-year-olds. She is a writer, reader, singer, studier, and teacher of words. Paige lives in Hayden, Alabama with her husband of 10 years, Chris Givens, and their sons Parker and Peyton. Paige loves to blog about faith,

writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at www.paigegivens.com.