

MARCH 2018

# SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE

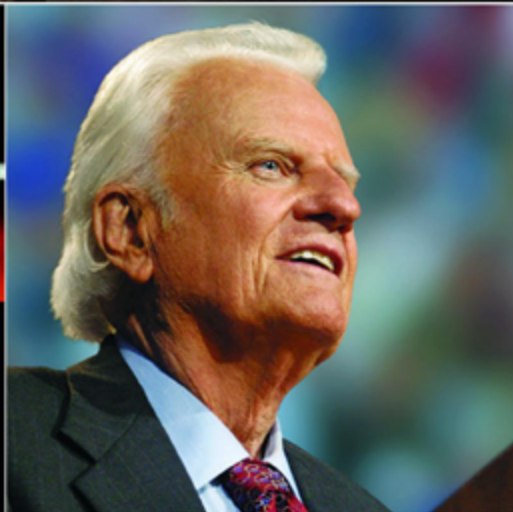


## ZACH WILLIAMS

### *Chain Breaker*

ALSO FEATURING:

REMEMBERING TRACY STUFFLE, A TRIBUTE TO DR. BILLY GRAHAM  
ELI SHAW OF CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE





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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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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Welcome to the March Publisher's Point. As I sit and write this, I have been trying to put into words my emotions about the loss of Billy Graham.

It is amazing to look at the impact that one man had on our world. Dr. Graham never wanted to over complicate a very simple and true message, that Jesus died on the cross for you and for me, and that if you accept Him as your personal Savior, one day you will see heaven.

I think of how amazing it must've been when Dr. Graham crossed over, and for the first time, got to see exactly what he had been preaching about. I read one quote that said that this world was not his home, that he was just a traveler passing through here. I think we should all live that way.

So many of us, me included, work so hard to accumulate possessions here on earth. We want to be able to say, "This is mine," when in reality, none of this is ours. Everything that we are given is a gift from God. How we use those gifts is a completely different story.

I truly believe as an outsider looking in, that Dr. Graham, throughout his life, took the gifts that God had given him and created a legacy that will last forever.

The last few days have made me realize that the only thing that we leave on this earth is what we do for Christ. That will last forever. It has challenged me to do more, to enjoy more, to seek God more. At the end of the day, I want to leave a legacy of pointing people to Christ and His cross and challenging those around me to do the same.




As we know, March ushers in spring and new beginnings, and I want to challenge you during this month to pray about what God has for you to do, and for the rest of this year. What legacy will you leave? What impact will you have, and what is the plan God has for you?

By the time you read this, Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Ala., will have come to a close for another year. I do want to invite you to join us for Christian Country Expo in Cookeville, Tenn., from May 3-5.


Of course, I also want you to be with us for Creekside 2018 in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., which kicks off on Oct. 28.

May this be a year that we all strive to point people to the cross and leave a legacy that will enhance the kingdom.

This is the Publisher's Point.



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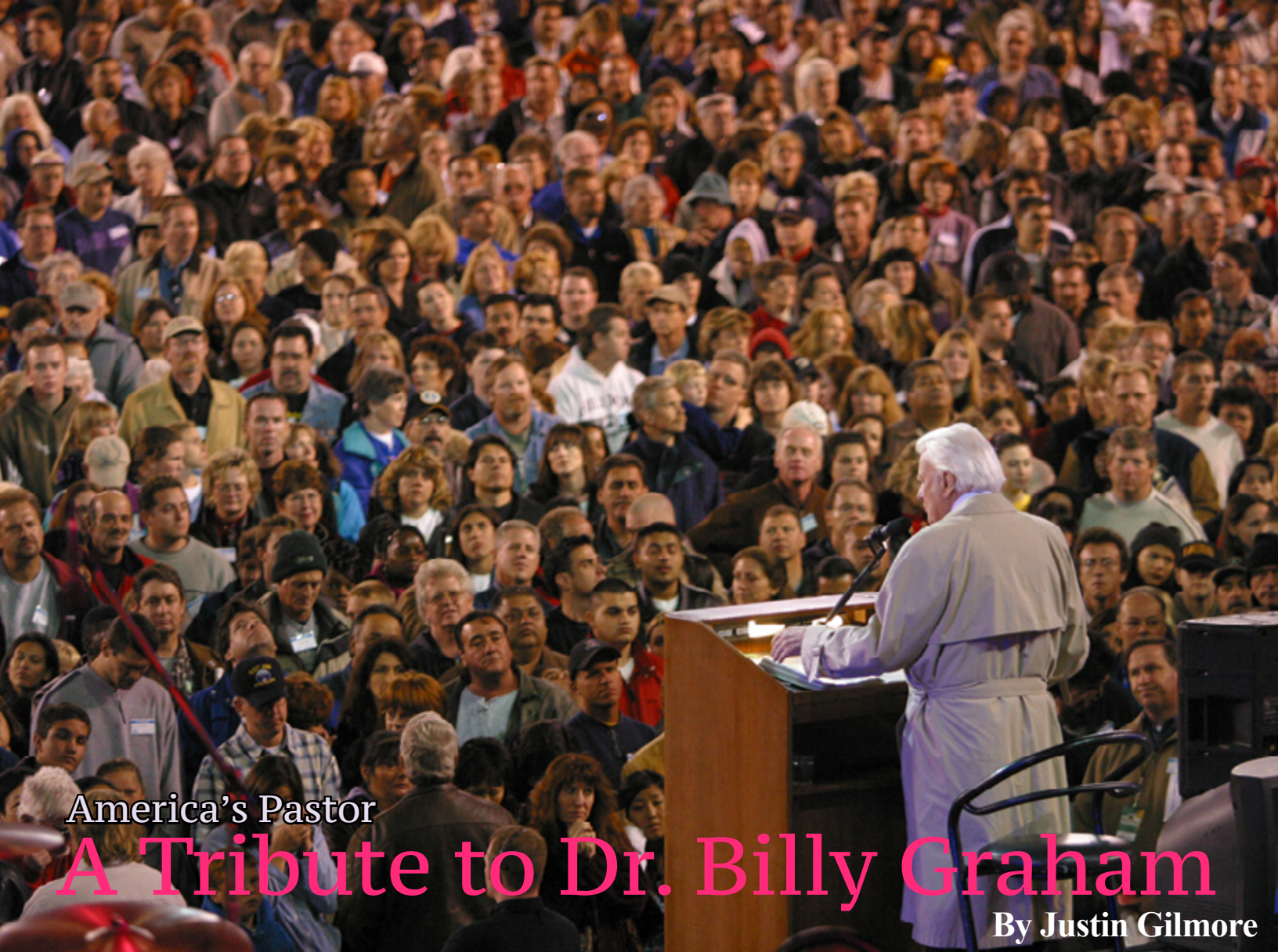
"Charlie's vocals, the production, the message, this song has it all! It is Great!" David Crump, Pastor-Jeffside Baptist, Bluegrass Gospel Tunes TV, Hickory, NC

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America's Pastor

# A Tribute to Dr. Billy Graham

By Justin Gilmore

## A Tribute to Dr. Billy Graham (1918 - 2018)

When discussing Christianity in the United States of America, one cannot leave out one of the most influential preachers of the 20th century.

Over the course of Billy Graham's life, he served as pastor to United States presidents and spread God's word via television and revivals for more than six decades. His crusades are still being rebroadcast today. These events featured some of gospel music's finest, including George Beverly Shea, Cliff Barrows, and the Gaither Vocal Band.

He also participated in great humanitarian efforts, with his ministry creating Samaritan's Purse, now led by his son Franklin Graham.

Billy Graham will be remembered for his unwavering faith and his dedication to preaching the Good News to

all people.

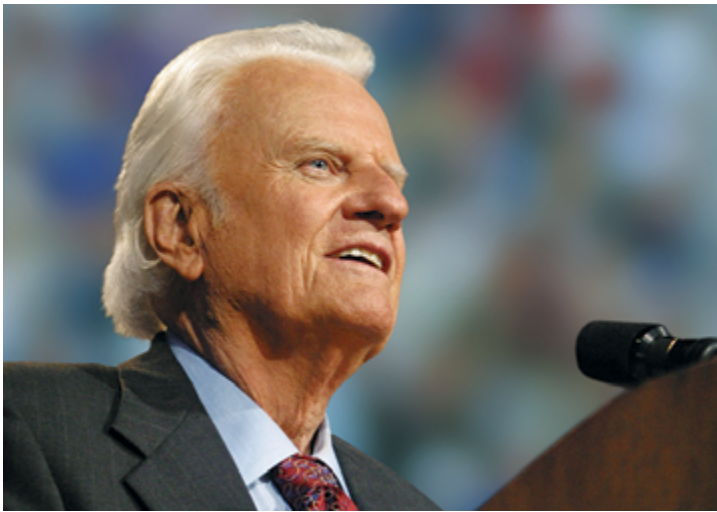
He once said, "Someday, you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."



Here are some thoughts on Graham from the Southern gospel community ...

Les Butler: I have watched Billy Graham preach on TV hundreds, if not thousands, of times. Something hit me today as I reflected





upon the passing of this giant of a man. Every message was on one subject, Sin and salvation. He kept the main thing, the main thing. Well done.

Suzanne Taylor Hise of the Taylors: I can truly say my life would be a far different story if Billy Graham had not answered the calling to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. My father was saved by watching one of Billy Graham's crusades on TV when he was 22 years old. Since that day, my dad has told everyone he knows about the love of God. Through the influence of Billy, my dad taught me the importance of serving Christ and loving others. I'm so thankful Rev. Graham was impacting millions of lives through his service to the Lord. I can't wait to meet you in Heaven and thank you personally for your faithfulness, Rev. Billy Graham.

Donnie Williamson of the Williamsons: Several years ago, Rev. Graham was holding a crusade in Dallas, Texas. He was getting up in years, so several people from our church wanted to go, because it was rumored it might be his last one. I took my bus and about 15 people and had a great time at the crusade, but of course, it turned out he did a few more after that. He just wouldn't quit. I'm so glad I got to see him in his twilight years.

Darin Hebert of the Williamsons: Well for one, (he was) the man I watched (on TV) when I was a young Christian. And two, the first time I heard Southern gospel was the Billy Graham Homecoming the Gaithers did.

Bryan Elliott of Gold City: I remember sitting in the floor when I was around five or six years old and watching him do his love crusades with my mom and dad. (I) loved it then and still love looking back at his crusades.

I always get something new from the same messages I've heard for years past. He truly was a Godly man and will be greatly missed.



Arthur Rice of the Kingdom Heirs: I had the privilege of working at the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville for four years. It was always a special treat when he

visited. He always had a way of making sure everyone, small or great, knew the importance they played in spreading the message that Jesus saves. What an example he was to us all.



Buddy Mullins: I was able to meet (him) and sing at one of his crusades while with the Gaither Vocal Band, and the main thing I remember was that when we were all gathered in the green room meeting each other and talking, there were many well-known pastors and dignitaries. Even the heavyweight boxer Evander Holyfield was there. When Billy walked in, the room silenced as he made his way around to each one of us personally, thanking us for being there. He was so genuine and kind, asking each of us something about our lives. Then, we had prayer together before the evening began. I'll never forget that night as long as I live.

Bob Sellers of the Kingsmen: My greatest memory of



Billy Graham is when George Beverly Shea would sing my favorite song, "I'd Rather Have Jesus."





Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys: “The Oak Ridge



Boys worked or attended many occasions where Billy Graham attended. His presence was always an image of kindness and love. On one oc-

casion, the George H.W. Bush Library opening, I found myself in a hall with Rev. Graham sitting in a chair. I went over to him and introduced myself. He told me that he knew who I was and thanked me for all the years of singing. We talked for several minutes about life, singing, and God. When I think of Rev. Billy Graham, I see him as a man of God, who had one main message for the world ... God loves you.



Josh Feemster of Legacy Five: “My fondest memories would probably be seeing the Cathedrals and Gaither Vocal Band on (the Billy Graham Crusades.) I was young when the crusades were

on television, so I typically checked out after the music. (He was an) incredible man of God. He obviously loved gospel music, because that was always prevalent in his programs. (Scott) Fowler sang on one of his crusades with the (Cathedrals).

Jerry Pilgrim of Master’s Voice: I saw Billy Graham live at one of his crusades after being trained as a crusade altar worker. I remember thinking we were seeing the greatest preacher of our generation, much like the many

must have felt seeing George Whitfield, Charles Spurgeon, or D. L. Moody. He was humble yet obviously resigned to the Lord, which made his message even more powerful and impactful. It was a great experience for me.

Maria Kramer Wolfe of the Kramers: I was never privileged to meet him personally, but I’ve been so greatly impacted by his integrity and life of faithful ministry.

Phil Cross of Poet Voices: Just like everyone, I watched him on TV and admired him my entire life. He loved reaching the lost with the simple gospel. His impact cannot be measured.

Stephen Forester of the Foresters: I didn’t start learning much about him until I was older, and he was mostly done with his ministry. I never got to see him at a crusade or anything. I was, however, very inspired by his work for Christ and the untold number of people that he reached with the gospel. (It) makes me want to get up and do more.



Lily Isaacs of the Isaacs: We had the honor of meeting Rev. Billy Graham several years ago when we recorded a Gaither video on their church grounds in North Carolina.

He was such a kind, sweet soul. We will forever miss him. He set the bar extremely high for all of us believers. Rest in peace pastor Billy Graham. You have enriched the lives of millions of people.







Libbi Perry Stuffle of the Perrys: (He) finished well. (I) loved this preacher. When he came on TV at our house, everything stopped. Mom and dad would gather us around the TV to watch this anointed man of God. I know my daddy and Tracy probably saluted the soldier of the cross this morning. Heaven's sounding sweeter all the time.



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Can You  
Handle  
The

TRUTH?

## What's Your Story?

By David Staton

If someone asked you to share your story, your testimony, what would you talk about? Most talk about their situation before they met Christ and then about how they came to know Him. Most will end their testimony right there.

Some who will continue, will immediately jump to the promise of heaven and how they know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they will live there forever.

I'm not trying to discount anyone's testimony, but rather trying to help you to encompass more and help you to build on it. Before we are saved and once we are in heaven are the only two times when we are not a threat to the enemy. There is no spiritual warfare in either of those places.

One of the people that I am looking forward to meeting and talking to is King David. During his time here, he experienced incredible success as well as incredible failure. Can you imagine asking him to share his story only to hear him say, "Well, I was a lonely boy, not many friends, and often overlooked by my own father. I was always seen as not good enough. But one day this prophet came and told me that God had chosen me. He anointed me, and I knew from that time on that I would go to heaven. Now, here I am in heaven."

I'm sure I would have a disappointed look on my face just knowing what I know about his life. I want to hear about all of the battles won – the lion, the bear, Goliath, his reign over Israel, his fall, how God restored him after he had done the unthinkable.

Adultery. Murder.

I want to know how he went from feeling the guilt, shame and embarrassment to total restoration.

Think about it, limiting your testimony to the beginning and the end leaves out battles, struggles, and triumphs that ultimately shape and create your story.

So what about you? What is your testimony?

I know that as singers and ministers, we tend to sing songs and share stories about the beginning and the end, leaving out much of what might really help someone who is struggling. I would encourage you to write down and keep a journal, highlighting those times in your life when God worked on you, in you and through you to reveal himself.

I want to encourage you to begin to share those times when you were broke and God provided, when the doctor said "sick", but God said "healed." When you prayed and prayed and God answered.

When you do this, I can promise you that your ministry will become even more relevant and powerful.

God told the Israelites to remember those times when God did amazing things for them. At one point, He had them pick up stones and build a memorial so they would never forget, and to share with future generations what the Lord had done.



How many memorial stones do you have to show all that God has done in your life? How many battles have been

won? How many prayers answered? What's your story?



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# Zach Williams

Singer, Songwriter, Grammy winner

By Justin McLeod

When Zach Williams' hit "Chain Breaker" was announced as the winner of the Best Contemporary Christian Music Album at this year's Grammy Awards, it was the latest and greatest honor in Williams' meteoric rise to the top of the Christian music genre.

A native of Jonesboro, Ark., Williams was not even signed to a record label when he co-wrote "Chain Breaker," the international hit that held the No. 1 position on charts for 15 consecutive weeks and achieved official Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) gold certification.

"I had been in Nashville for a week, writing," Williams said. "I wasn't signed to a label. I was just coming over as a guest to write songs. It was at the end of a week. I was ready to go home. I was ready to see my family. I was tired. I had nothing that I honestly was bringing in at that point.

"Then, I met Mia (Fieldes, co-writer of "Chain Breaker") for the first time. She had this super strong personality. She was just on fire when she came in, and we got to talking. I was sharing my story and my testimony with her. My wife and I were involved in a prison



think it would get played on Christian radio. Nobody knew who I was. I didn't know how people were going to react to it."

After the song's mega success on the contemporary Christian charts, the song was later covered by several Southern gospel artists, including Triumphant, the Gaither Vocal Band and soloist Steve Ladd.

The song also speaks to Williams' own story of redemption. After using drugs and alcohol for years, he was known as a partier. In 2012, God intervened, and he quit the rock band that he was a part of it, instead electing to begin a new Christ-centered life off the road. But the way that Christian songs had helped him in his journey continued to stoke the desire to sing.

In the release of "Chain Breaker," Williams said that one of his chief hopes is that the song ministers to non-believers, as well as those who are already saved.

"Obviously, I hope it can inspire people who are already believers," he said. "But for anyone who isn't saved, they need to know that there is someone out there who can break their chains and help them with these problems that they have in their life and completely make them brand new.

ministry at that time, so we were really excited about where we were then. Jonathan Smith, ("Chain Breaker" co-writer) turned around to the piano and just played a little something, and I went 'play that again.' And when he did, the words to 'Chain Breaker' just started coming. 'If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles. If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies.' That was one of those songs that was literally almost written in 15 minutes.

It was on Williams' mind after the writing session.

"All the way home to Arkansas, I was just praying that God would just use that song and that people all over the world would be able to hear it," Williams shared. "And a few months later, the label heard that song and offered me a record deal."

After the song was written, Williams said that he wasn't sure how it would be received by Christian audiences.

"I thought maybe it was too rock or too country to resonate with Christian music audiences," he said. "I didn't



"For Christians, for believers, I think we get in our day-to-day routine where we're just checking it (items) off our list. We're going to church on Sunday, because it is good for our business ... it's good for the other people around to see. It becomes just like doing the laundry. Going to church, leaving, going home ... and com-



pletely not having a relationship with the Lord. You're coming out of church with the same mess that you went in with. So, I think a lot of believers have just forgotten what it was like the day they got their chains broken."



Though Williams says he can't define his music under just one genre – "maybe some Southern roots gospel," he says – he hopes that his music appeals to listeners of Southern gospel, contemporary Christian, and other genres equally.

"I want these songs to have the opportunity to minister to everyone," he said.

Although "Chain Breaker" was a hard act to follow, Williams' second single off of his debut album, "Old Church Choir," also ascended to No. 1 on the charts, where it stayed for 20 weeks. With his recent successes, Williams became the first debut artist to have back-to-back singles reach No. 1.

"All glory to God," he said. "It's just incredible."

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# Day To Day Water Walkers

**By Selena Day**

Matthew 14:22-33 reads, “As soon as the people were fed, Jesus told his disciples to get into their boat and to go to the other side of the lake while he stayed behind to dismiss the people. After the crowds dispersed, Jesus went up into the hills to pray. And as night fell, he was there praying alone with God. But the disciples, who were now in the middle of the lake, ran into trouble, for their boat was tossed about by the high winds and heavy seas.

“At about four o’clock in the morning, Jesus came to them, walking on the waves. When the disciples saw him walking on top of the water, they were terrified and screamed, ‘A ghost.’ Then Jesus said, ‘Be brave and don’t be afraid. I am here.’

“Peter shouted out, ‘Lord, if it’s really you, then have me join you on the water.’

“‘Come and join me,’ Jesus replied.

“So Peter stepped out on to the water and began to walk toward Jesus. But when he realized how high the waves were, he became frightened and started to sink. ‘Save me, Lord.’ he cried out. Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and lifted him up and said, ‘What little faith you have. Why would you let doubt win?’

“And the very moment they both stepped into the boat, the raging wind ceased. Then, all the disciples crouched down before him and worshiped Jesus. They said in adoration, ‘You are truly the Son of God.’”

This story is one of my favorites because it typifies my

life. I don’t exactly know how it happened but God has called me to be a water walker. I could go on and on telling you countless stories of how God has come through for Chuck and I in supernatural ways.

Last summer, while at a friend’s house for the weekend, I was having trouble sleeping and I had one of those middle-of-the night doubting crises, much like Peter had when he looked down and saw he was on water.

I felt overwhelmed by all that we to accomplish, financially and otherwise, for our daughter’s upcoming wedding. God told me to start remembering all He has done in my life. He reminded me that I had not had a car payment since the late 1990s.

Somehow, some way God has always provided us a with a vehicle. As I’m writing this I am preaching to myself, since Chuck and I have a Yukon that has rolled over 300,000 miles, and we are in need of a new ministry vehicle. “Get out of the boat and walk on the water, Selena,” I hear Him once again say to me as I wait for His provision.

Several years ago, Chuck and I took a trip to Colorado for a missions conference that was given to us for free. We traveled with another couple, some very dear friends of ours, and it became almost comical at the favor we were shown on that whole trip, from free rooms, free passes, free rental car and free meals. By the end of the trip, we were not only walking on the water, we were dancing with our hands held up in the air saying, “What next, Papa?”



The problem with being a water walker is the rest of the world thinks you are crazy.

Before you get out of the boat, your fellow well-meaning, bible-believing friends will tell you that you are being foolish and that God doesn't work that way anymore. So, you have to fight the doubt that arises in your heart. Then, when you get out of the boat and begin walking, you have to keep your eyes and heart on Christ and Him alone.

You cannot take your eyes off of Him and scream, "I'm walking on water," even though you want to. You just have to keep walking and then when you get back in the boat and everyone around you is in awe saying, "Jesus really is the Son of God and moving in your life," you can reflect back on what just happened and then you're not 100-percent sure that you are remembering it right. "Maybe I didn't walk on the water. Maybe there was an explanation to what just happened," you say to yourself.

And it never gets easier. God is like a parent trying to teach their child to learn how to walk. He stands you up and then moves back farther and farther so that you have to keep walking to catch him.

The one thing about us water walkers is that we know that nothing we have ever done or nothing we own truly belongs to us. We may have worked hard, but it wasn't in pursuit of obtaining, it was in pursuit of obeying.

Sometimes, I would like to get back in the boat and just watch from the inside and exclaim about how awesome He is, while watching another walk on the water, but once you've been out of the boat, just sitting never satisfies.

Come out and join us. The water is warm, and Jesus is waiting.



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# Stop Fretting and Start Believing

By Guest Author, Randa Jordan

What a blessing to be alive and know Jesus. My prayer is that this will encourage someone today to seek God with their whole heart.

It's evident that we are living in times of trouble. We can look around and easily become very discouraged. Trials and tribulations are almost everywhere we look, and the world as we know it seems to be a hopeless case. Between political battles, endless wars, wicked hearts, twisted minds and faithless living, it does appear that all hope is gone.

“Oh, ye of little faith....” (Matthew 8:26)

We must stop fretting over what God has already promised He would take care of, and start believing and claiming His promises.

The word of God says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.”

Four words in the beginning of the verse to look at are: if means as long as, and the if is on our side, not God's side.

If we what?

- \* Humble ourselves
- \* Pray
- \* Seek God's face
- \* Turn from our wicked ways

Now let's focus on the words at the end of the verse ... will, will and will.

It's quite simple, but that doesn't mean it is easy. God asks us to devote our lives to Him. Is it a sacrifice? Of course it is. But what do we gain? We gain love, forgiveness, joy, peace, healing, understanding, freedom ... the list goes on and on.

We can live in unity and harmony as a people when we live in Christ alone.

A life without Christ is no life at all.

We are all human flesh, made up of feelings, emotions and selfishness. As humans, we allow our feelings to dictate our course of action, but if we look to Jesus, we can completely depend on our faith and live by that faith through Christ our Lord.

Matthew 25:23 reads, “... thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord.”

We can live a life freed from the bondage of fleshly desires, but we must die daily, delve into the word of God, kneel at the cross in prayer and allow God to reign in our hearts and lives. God's riches are priceless, and the value of the blessings He bestows upon us are incomparable to any earthly possessions we may have or be given.

I love this passage in the word of God, “But seek ye first







the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

Think about what all these things are.

Back up to verse 25 of this chapter in the book of Matthew, it reads, “Therefore, I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”

God will take care of you. Even knowing we are imperfect, He still remains.

May we devote our lives to the Lord, fully. May we fight the good fight, stay the course and keep the faith.

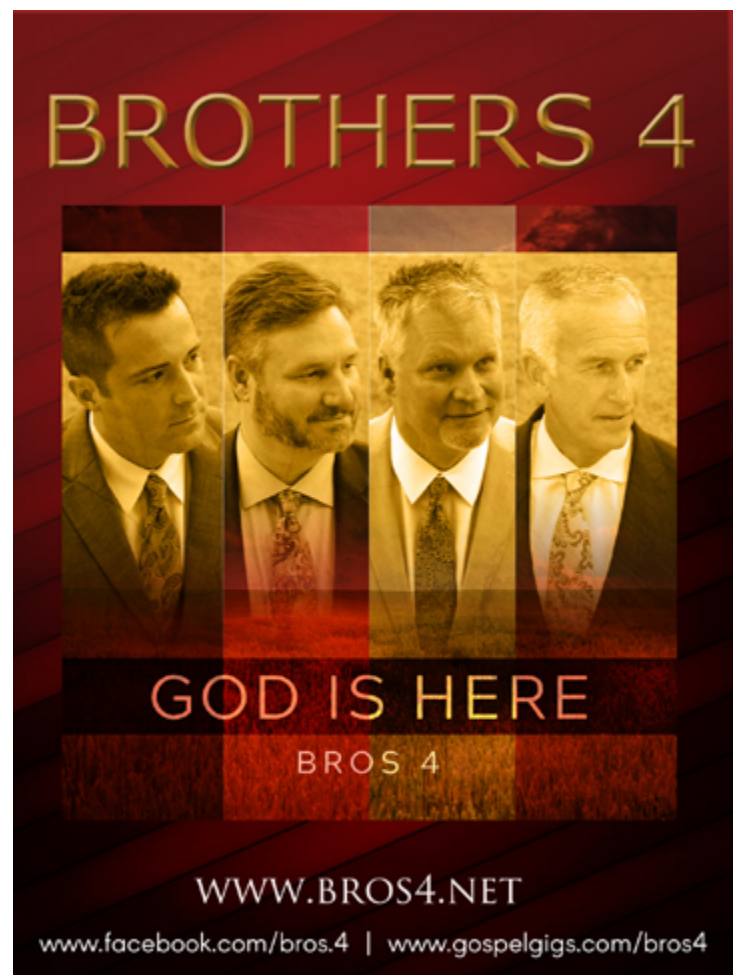
Seek God first, my friends.

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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Eli Shaw of  
Children of the Promise

BY ERIN STEVENS

Today, I'd like to introduce you to one of the youngest and highest tenors in the business. Eli Shaw of Children of the Promise has been astonishing crowds all over the country with his off-the-charts pipes. I've had the joy of getting to know his family over the past few years when I capture them on stage at Abraham Productions' events. Let's learn more about the boy behind the high notes ...

**Erin Stevens: Set the stage for us. Describe the time you first sang in front of an audience. How old were you? What was the setting, and what do you remember from that experience?**

Eli Shaw: I honestly can't remember how old I was, maybe four. I do remember it was on a Sunday night, and while my mom was getting my little brother out of the car, I ran inside and I asked my preacher if I could sing. When he said yes, I got scared and wouldn't get up without my big brother Jacob to help me. We sang, "He Ain't Done Me Nothing but Good," by the Isaacs.

**Stevens: Many people remember you as the kid who blew the audience away (and Gerald Wolfe) when you walked on the stage at Singing in the Sun and belted out "I Know A Man Who Can." Tell us, from your perspective, what that life-changing moment meant to you? Also, has that experience helped to open doors for your family's ministry as well?**

Shaw: That was truly a God moment. It meant the world to me that he would invite me to come sing with them. God gave me the desires of my heart that night to meet Greater Vision, sing with them, and just to be able to sing about Jesus to so many people. God had already been opening doors for us, but God used Gerald Wolfe, Greater Vision, and Abraham Productions that night to bless our ministry to reach more people – people we would have never met otherwise.

**Stevens: You have worked closely with Chris Allman over the past few years. What does the recording process look**

**like with him?**

Shaw: He helps with song choices, vocal arrangements, and orchestrations on songs. When we go into the studio to lay tracks or record vocals, he always begins the day with prayer, and from that point on, he works really hard to make sure everything is the best it can be. I am thankful for Chris. He has helped me and been a mentor to me. Chris makes everything fun. Whether it's recording or a vocal lesson, you are going to laugh and enjoy it.

**Stevens: If you could create your dream quartet, who would you pick?**

Shaw: Oh man, this is hard because I love them all ... hmmm... Joseph Habedank, Jacob Shaw, David Phelps and Pat Barker.

**Stevens: Who are your top three musical influences, and what is the impact each has had upon your life?**





Shaw: My mom, of course, for so many reasons. She not only teaches about the music but more importantly the message. Next, Vestal Goodman. When she sang you could feel the emotion through her heart and the Spirit. And thirdly, my brother Jacob. He has such a smooth voice. His harmonies and blend are always perfect. His range is pretty amazing too.

**Stevens: What is your all-time favorite food you cannot live without?**

Shaw: Mexican. I could eat it three times a day.

**Stevens: Are the Shaw kids homeschooled? What does a typical day in the life look like between homework and concert life?**

Shaw: We are (homeschooled). Jacob has graduated now, so it's just me and my little brother, Isaac. There isn't a lot of time in between school and church, but when there is, we love to be outside. We like to hike, swim, and play frisbee.

**Stevens: What are some things folks can be expecting from Children Of The Promise in 2018?**

Shaw: We are recording a new project. Hopefully, it will be done around the first of April, and as far as future events, we are also returning to the Gospel Jubilee Cruise January 2019. That is always exciting and lots of fun.

**Stevens: How do you encourage young people your age**

**when they express their desire to use their musical talents too?**

Shaw: I always try to let them know how much I appreciate the fact they want to use their talent for the glory of God. I encourage them to stay close to the Lord, and remind them to keep delighting in the Lord and that He will give them the desires of their heart.

It doesn't matter how young you are or how old you might think you are, it is never too late to answer the call God has placed upon your heart. Maybe you answered the call at a young age like Eli did, or maybe you've been running from your calling for years. Whatever the case may be, you still have time to delight yourself in the Lord. Go on ... ask and you shall receive. If we, as His children are walking in the light, He wants nothing more than to abundantly bless His chosen ones.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin on Twitter at @photosforkeeps and on Instagram at @photos\_for\_keeps.



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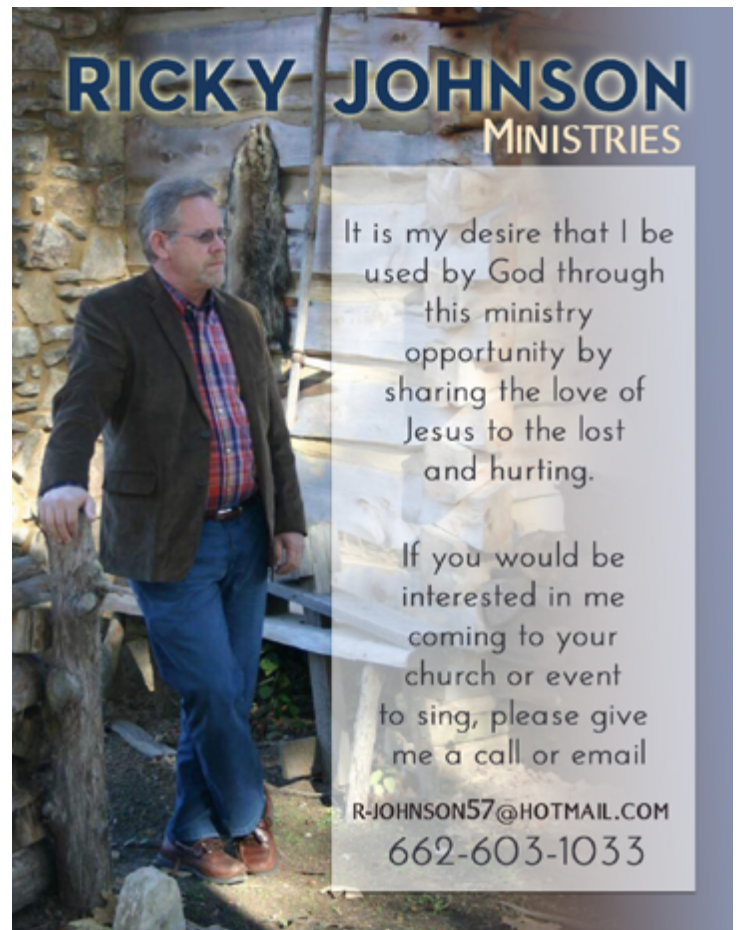
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# Randall Reviews It - March 2018

by Randall Hamm

Oh my, here it is March, the third month of the year, and spring is just right around the corner. It's the season of new birth for all things, and the lead up to Easter begins this month as well. So, happy March everyone, and this month, I have three new CDs I have reviewed – the Littles, Mark Bishop and the Troy Burns Family.

As always, if you enjoy my reviews, get this music wherever you get good gospel music.

Please send your latest releases for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, Ind., 47432.



## **The Littles**

“Back to the Well”

Producer: Gerald Wolfe

Label: Songarden/Garden

Songs: Whole Lot of Heaven in the House (Ronny Hinson, BMI); The Unseen Hand (A. J. Sims, BMI); We're Gonna Rise (Greg Day, BMI); At the Name of Jesus (Pamela Hall, BMI); Some Things Never Change (Greg Day-Steve Hurte, BMI); You May Feel Lonely (Livy Hyde, BMI); Keep Coming Back to the Well (Joel Hemphill, BMI); One Holy Lamb (Phil Cross-Cindi Ballard, BMI); The Sweetest Song (Albert E Brumley, BMI); Ten Thousand Years (Elmer Cole)

The Littles of Monroe, N. C., are quickly becoming a favorite among family groups in Christian music. Their progressive style of gospel music is built around great arrangements, close family harmony, and strong vocals, and it is sure to minister to audiences of all ages. The past year has seen the Lord open new ministry opportunities while expanding the group's reach and schedule.

The Littles consist of Jack and Jan Little and their daughter, Rebecca Little Burke. This is their sixth album, entitled



“Back to the Well,” and this is a song title that completely describes the album. They went “Back to the Well,” picked up some classics and put their stamp on them.

Founded in 2007, the Littles have become fan favorites over the past few years and have appeared on the National Quartet Convention main stage the past few years. Their latest and first single release from the project is “Whole Lot of Heaven in the House,” written by Ronny Hinson, and with its Cajun feel, it consists of pure delight and toe-tappin’ sounds. The single debuted on the March national charts inside the top 30.

The album contains some other new material such as “Some Things Never Change,” from the pen of Greg Day and Steve Hurte. This is the next single release to follow up “Whole Lot of Heaven.” Yes, the “Old Rugged Cross” is still saving the lost ... “Some Things Never Change,” and thank goodness for that.

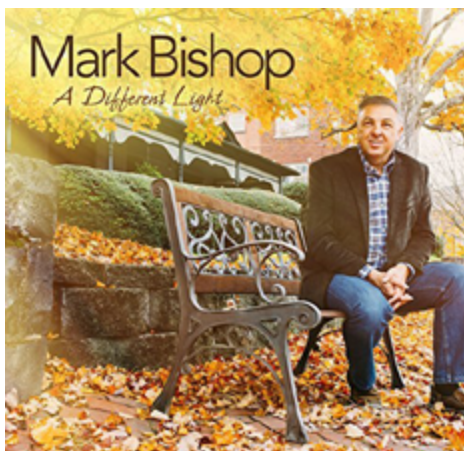
As I mentioned, the Littles went back to the well and put their stamp on some great classics such as: “Unseen Hand,” a Rambos classic from the pen of A. J. Simms; “One Holy Lamb,” from Phil Cross, and “Ten Thousand Years,” from Elmer Cole. These are Southern gospel classics, and the Littles knock them out of the ballpark.

Also, a new recording of “Sweetest Song I Know” had my toe tapping, and I was singing along instantly.

Friends, do yourself a favor and pick up or download a copy of “Back to the Well,” and you’ll be listening to this for “Ten Thousand Years.”

Visit the Littles at [www.facebook.com/thelittlesmusic](http://www.facebook.com/thelittlesmusic) or get a copy of “Back To The Well” at [www.jacklittleministries.org/](http://www.jacklittleministries.org/).

Strongest Songs: “Whole Lot of Heaven in the House,” “Some Things Never Change,” “Ten Thousand Years”



**Mark Bishop**  
“A Different Light”  
Producer: Jeff Collins and Mark Bishop  
Label: Sonlite

Songs: More Than Enough; I’m in God’s Hands; Finish Well, Finish Strong, Finish Empty; He’s Always Been a Friend (with Kenneth Bishop); God is Powerful; The Refrigerator Door; What it Comes Down to is Me; Tell Me You Saw Me; Couldn’t Feel Any Better (with Chris Freeman); Fly Away Little Birdie; I’m Gonna Wish I Had Worried Less. All songs were written by Mark Bishop, BMI.

The 14<sup>th</sup> solo studio recording by Mark Bishop, “A Different Light,” includes 11 cuts written by Mark and is another CD that brings us Mark’s style of singing. His style can weave a story, bring us into the story, and by the end, the listener is as much a participant as the singer.

I talked with Mark a few weeks back, and he said that this is the first album that finally sounds like a Bishops album. From “More Than Enough,” to “I’m Gonna Wish I Had Worried Less,” the album easily could have been recorded with his dad, Kenneth, and his brother Kenny, alongside Mark. They formerly traveled as the Bishops.

I have always loved Mark’s easy-going style and especially on this project. The true highlight of this album is the first single, “The Refrigerator Door.” It’s a story of how grace was found on a refrigerator door. It’s a great story song and one that Mark excels in.

Other highlights include a duet with Chris Freeman on “Couldn’t Feel Any Better,” that you feel at any moment Ronnie and Larry Hinson will jump in, and “He’s Always Been a Friend,” with his dad.

“Finish Well, Finish Strong, Finish Empty” features the Kingdom Heirs backing Mark up on a great song of faith.

Overall, this CD certainly feels like a Bishops recording through and through and is the best of Mark’s career.

Visit Mark at [www.facebook.com/markbishopmusic](http://www.facebook.com/markbishopmusic) or get a copy of this CD at [www.markbishopmusic.com/shop](http://www.markbishopmusic.com/shop).

Strongest Songs: “The Refrigerator Door,” “Finish Well, Finish Strong, Finish Empty,” “He’s Always Been a Friend”

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**Troy Burns Family**

**"In God We Trust"**

Producer: Shane Roark

Label: Inspire/Chapel Valley

Songs: I'm Going to a Land (David Doolittle, BMI); God Is Near (Leonard Fletcher, BMI); Nothing Is Impossible with God (Phil Morgan, BMI); Jesus Is Mine (Wally Fowler, BMI); He Washed My Feet (Rodney Griffin, BMI); When I Leave It in Your Hands (Ann Downing-Dwight Liles, BMI); Chiseled in Stone (William Shane Roark, BMI); Good News in a Bad News World (Barbara Lister Williams, BMI)

The Troy Burns Family has become a favorite of mine to play on my radio program and in my car. This latest CD is the best of their career, with a sound reminiscent of the Inspirations. Of course, Troy was a long-time member of the Inspirations, and he makes their sound easy to listen to.

Troy, Tammi Burns and Shane Mathis have crafted a recording that you'll give many spins to in your home and car. Starting with the first track, "I'm Going to a Land" – with its convention-style singing – it will have you shouting, "Glory."

Also on the CD is a recut of "Jesus Is Mine" that Troy did with the Inspirations in 1976, and Troy doesn't miss a step.

Some great ballads are also featured, including the first single release, "When He Laid His Hammer Down," a story of when Jesus, who was a carpenter, finally laid His hammer down and took up His ministry and changed all history.

"When I Leave It in Your Hands," is a song of the peace we know when we leave it all in God's hands. Ann Downing has written some great songs, but this is truly one of her best.

Overall, this CD is a must have. And again, a shout-out to the Chapel Valley musicians, who always do a fine job backing up their artists.

Visit the Troy Burns Family at [www.facebook.com/pg/troyburnsfamily](http://www.facebook.com/pg/troyburnsfamily) and get a copy of the CD at [www.troyburnsfamily.com](http://www.troyburnsfamily.com)

[troyburnsfamily.com](http://troyburnsfamily.com).

Strongest Songs: "I'm Going to a Land," "When I Leave It in Your Hands," "When He Laid His Hammer Down"

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# Step By Step

By Joan Walker

It's cold today, after a weekend of snow and sleet ... and that always makes me crave comfort food.

Is the winter time a time for comfort food for you as well? However, I'm not craving as much as I have on other days.

I'm sitting here writing this article and realize that I was able to hang on and rein in my need for carbohydrates and sweets this weekend. Of course, with the plan I am on, I have points for that, so I can indulge to a certain point. But, in previous days, weeks, and yes, even years, I have over-indulged to the point of being totally out of control.

I wonder why I had more self-control this weekend than other weekends? It is possible that I'm just reminding myself each moment that I'm on this journey, step by step, to reach a weight goal.

But I have another idea as well. I've been diving into God's word, spending more time with God in prayer, and finding great help through the writings of Lysa TerKeurst. Yes, there is a definite correlation between our physical health and habits, and our spiritual health and journey.

I do want to talk about my "whys" this month. I find weight loss inspiration and helpful tips on a few social media sites as I go along my journey. There's something that comes up over many of these sites, and that is figuring out your "whys."

Why do you want to lose weight? Why do you want to increase your activity? Yes, we may all want to feel healthier, look better in our clothes, live longer, but maybe there are subconscious or hidden "whys."

Here are a few of mine, in addition to the obvious ones I just listed. I want to get in and out of a booth in a restaurant without getting stuck. I want to wear high heels. I want to enjoy hiking with my sisters without having to sit down while they go on ahead. I want to not feel like I must hide and be quiet in a group gathering.

Those are "whys" that are based on my human needs. But, I do have one big "why" that is a spiritual need. I want to feel that I'm honoring God with my body ... "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Yes, God's grace covers my feelings of guilt, and He loves me for who I am ... but I know deep down inside that I am not honoring Him with my body when I let my weight get out of control.

Of course, there are more parts to this than just physical body weight, and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 covers other ways we can dishonor Him with our bodies.

My body is His temple. Sometimes, that can just be overwhelming. But if I am faithful to Him by reading His word and going to Him in prayer, I know He will give me the strength to be successful in my weight loss. It's a cycle. When I am reaching out to God and finding strength in Him, I am more disciplined in my eating. When I'm more in control of my eating, I am not feeling as defeated. The shame isn't as strong, and I don't feel as if God is disappointed in me.

You'll notice there's a lot of feelings in those sentences,



but maybe you can relate. Our feelings can come into play so easily. But, God doesn't love me any less, and He doesn't draw away from me.

Whether I have a good day or a bad day, whether it's with my eating plan or my spiritual walk, they affect each other. God loves me, and He loves you, whether you had that chocolate bar last night or you had your fruit and oatmeal this morning. I need to remember that and we all need to remember that.

As we go forward, step by step, remembering our "whys," God is there loving us still.

*Joan Walker, copywriter for SGNscoops Magazine, allows us to take a look into her life as she follows a path to improve her health, both physically and spiritually. Please watch for Step by Step every month and write to Joan at [joan@sgnscoops](mailto:joan@sgnscoops).*



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## RIG Ministries

### *A Church without Walls*

By Leslie McKay

“If you have it, a trucker brought it”...think about that. There are approximately six million truck drivers in America that haul freight up and down the highways. They spend countless hours going from coast to coast to make sure that all the things we need are delivered to our community.

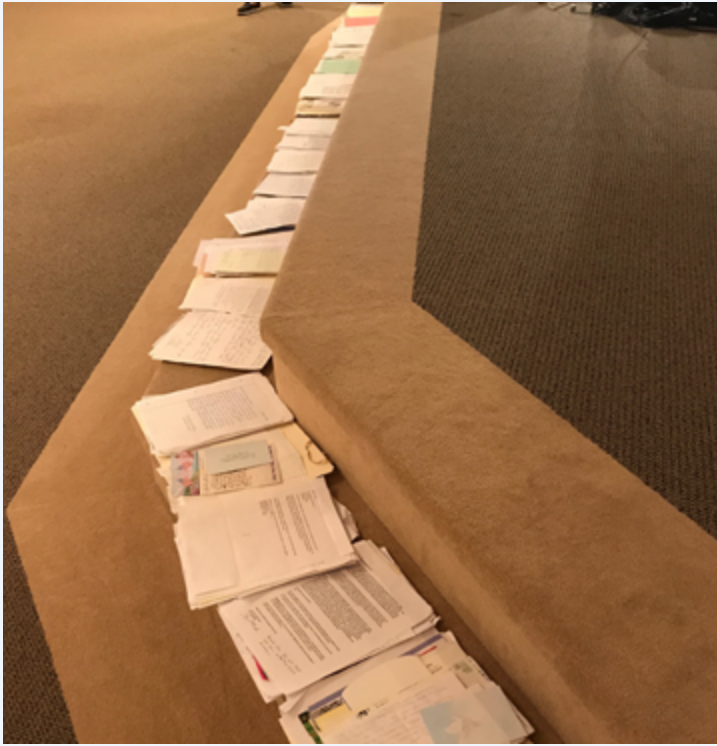
Have you ever stopped to wonder, “If truck drivers are always on the road, when do they go to church?”

The answer to this is RIG Ministries (Receiving In God Ministries) whose primary focus is to take the love of Jesus and His redeeming power to the truck drivers across America and be the church without walls.

In 1995, God saved an alcoholic, drug-addicted truck driver named Gary Rayburn in the cab of his truck. When he got saved, Rayburn knew he wanted to do something for God. His pastor encouraged him to write out his testimony to share in church, and what came out of that was the words for a song called, “This One’s For You.” Rayburn believed he had found what God wanted him to do, write songs.

The trucker started writing more, studying and learning about songwriting. Rayburn started sending his songs to publishing companies and even though he got rejection letters, he kept writing. Then, in 1999 one of his songs, “Praise The Lord,” won a songwriting contest which resulted in several of his songs being recorded and published.

Later, while driving through Virginia, Rayburn stopped at a truck stop and saw a basket of cassette tapes by a ministry called Gospel Sunrise. There was a sign on the basket that said, “Gospel Tapes – Take One, Listen Closely, and Pass It On.” He took several of the cassette tapes and started listening to them.



“That was exactly what I needed out there on the road as I was driving, away from my home, and my family, and my church. The tapes helped me. They had music, preaching, and testimonies and that was just what I needed,” remembers Rayburn. He started looking for those tapes everywhere.

Later that same year, while driving through Georgia, he stopped and picked up a cassette tape by a ministry called “I-20 for Jesus,” with a message by the founder, Ray Sisk.

“This big booming voice came on and this guy would just talk to you like he was sitting in the cab of the truck. He would talk and then he would play a song. It was just something I needed out there on the road,” Rayburn recalls. While listening to that tape, God spoke to him and

said, “This is your ministry – this is what I have called you to do.”

Rayburn got a tape recorder and went down to his basement and started trying to record his testimony. “I would speak into that tape recorder and then play it back. I thought, this is awful, I’m not letting anyone hear this.

“I kept trying and trying and finally I just gave up and said, ‘God, I can’t do this. It ain’t going to happen,’” says Rayburn.



Then, in October of 2000, he was driving across Indiana listening to the radio when the well known speaker/evangelist, David Ring, was giving his testimony.

Rayburn says he remembered David closing out his testimony by saying, “I’ve got cerebral palsy...what’s your excuse? Why aren’t you doing what God called you to do?”

It was at that point Rayburn surrendered and told God that he would start the tape ministry.

The following Sunday, he went to church and the new pastor met him at the door. He asked Rayburn if he would be willing to record his testimony and put it on tape so they could share it on the radio. The door opened and that was the beginning of The Lonesome Road tape ministry.







Over the next several years, the tape ministry evolved into a CD ministry. It had a couple of different homes before finally becoming RIG Ministries in Carmi, Ill. When Rayburn started that first tape ministry, he was making 100 tapes a month but God had so much more in mind.

In 2006, Gary started working as a truck driver for Les Wilson Inc. in Carmi, Ill. He would bring the CDs with him to work and pass them out to the drivers and oil field workers at Les Wilson.

The owner, Bob Wilson, was a strong Christian and the two started having Bible study meetings during lunch for the employees and they called it, "The Upper Room."

One night, Rayburn had a dream and God told him he was going to be the oil field chaplain, but he had never heard of such a thing. He had the same dream three nights in a row and each time God would direct him to Revelation 3:8 which says, "I know everything you have done. And I have placed before you an open door that no one can close. You were not very strong, but you obeyed my message and did not deny that you are my followers."

Rayburn went in and told Wilson what had happened. The owner jumped up and said, "Let's do it – you are the oil field chaplain."

Rayburn suggested that they start a CD ministry at Les Wilson for the oil field workers.

Wilson's wife came up with the name, "Receiving In God," and RIG Ministries was born. They started with 1,000 CDs that first month and it grew quickly.

Within a couple of years, RIG Ministries was distributing 18,000 to 20,000 CDs each month, with music, testimonies, and preaching to drivers across the country. It continues even today with a total of 164,500 free CDs distributed in 2017.

RIG Ministries has grown and expanded through many "divine setups" - a term Rayburn likes to use. Through partnerships with other ministries such as Faith on the Move and Channel 21 Ministries, there is a network of 150+ road chaplains across the country handing out CDs, filling up display racks in truck stops, and making themselves available to minister to truck drivers.

RIG Ministries started an annual conference in Carmi, Ill. with drivers, chaplains, other trucking ministries, preachers and musicians in attendance. The conference features music, testimony, preaching, encouragement, and fellowship to celebrate what God is doing out there on the road.

In 2017, there were 28 states represented by those in attendance and they are expecting even more in 2018.

Through the ICGMA (International Country Gospel Music Association), RIG Ministries has developed relationships with several Christian country artists who have volunteered their time, testimonies, and music because they believe in RIG Ministries.

Through a relationship with Dan Duncan, President of the ICGMA, RIG Ministries was able to launch RIG TV in 2017 and produce 12 episodes bringing to television a video version of the CD ministry with speakers and artists.

Rayburn travels around the country taking the vision of RIG Ministries on the road to churches, truck shows and conventions, telling people about the CD minis-



try and inviting people to get onboard to stretch a net across America with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are countless testimonies of how the CDs distributed by RIG Ministries and its partners have touched and ministered to people around the country. Many have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior on the side of the road or in the cab of their truck and in turn families have been won to the Lord. RIG Ministries truly is a church without walls.

For more information about RIG Ministries, contact Gary Rayburn at 618-382-4622.

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A photograph of Jonathan Dale sitting in the driver's seat of a vintage car. He is wearing a tan jacket over a black and white striped shirt and has a tattoo of musical notes on his left forearm. He is looking out the window with a thoughtful expression.

## Christian Country Expo Artists: Jonathan Dale

By Lorraine Walker

The Christian Country Expo returns in 2018 to showcase the great talent in Christian country music. CCX '18 will be held in Cookeville, Tenn., from May 3-5. Visit the CCX website at [www.christiancountry-expo.com](http://www.christiancountry-expo.com), designed by H&US OF JAYDALE.

CCX recently announced that JB Rocket of Country Music Television's "Can You Duet" will headline the event. One of the members of JB Rocket is Jonathan Dale, our guest artist this month. This family man is born and bred country, from the foothills of North Carolina, and a recovering addict who grew up singing gospel music. He is also a professional photographer and website creator.

**Lorraine Walker: Who or what inspired you to begin your musical journey?**

Jonathan Dale: Music for me has always been my

source of survival. I started singing Southern gospel music when I was eight years old. My mom entered me into the local 4-H talent search, where I was named the overall winner, and I went on to perform at dozens and dozens of North Carolina political events and galas. At that time, I was literally and totally obsessed with performers in the Southern gospel genre like Jason Crabb, Sheri Easter, Michael Combs, and TaRanda Greene. I love it all so much.

Later in life, I found influence in my music from all different types of genres. I find inspiration from a range as wide as current top 40 hits to Tony Bennett jazz music. It all inspires me to create and develop whatever the theme of the song I'm working on may be. (It inspires me) to pull a little gospel, add a touch of pop, with a hint of country ... sign me up.

I love music more than anything else material. It holds me together on most days, because I'm able to express



whatever I feel through writing or just listening. Music is powerful.

But I think the moment, or what inspired me to begin my musical journey, was when I performed the national anthem for an NFL (National Football League) football game. I was 12 years old, and the game was in Charlotte, N.C., between the Carolina Panthers and the Dallas Cowboys. I stepped onto the field, and there were 80,000 people screaming for me and with me as I hit the high notes. In the moment, I saw my name going around me in lights. I felt like I could see each and every single person. I thought to myself, as young I was, (that) if I can positively impact this many people's lives with music, then this is what I want for the rest of my life. I've been going non-stop ever since.

**Walker: How many dates do you perform each year?**

Dale: The last few years I've been very picky about the events I've played. In 2016, my wife and I were planning a wedding. Then, in 2017, my wife and I were expecting our daughter, and now we are trying to learn

how to be first-time parents. In 2018, my calendar is wide open though. I'm excited to talk with people and promoters, or anyone holding an event that they feel I would fit the style of. I'm excited for 2018, because I'm trying specifically to spread awareness about opiate dependency at all my events.

However, I have to say the event I am most excited about in 2018 is the Christian Country Expo, in Cookeville, Tenn. My old friend and duo partner, Brandon Green, from CMT's "Can You Duet," will be reuniting with me for our first performance in seven years. I cannot wait to take the stage with him again. I look up to him more than he will ever know or understand. He's partly responsible for (me being) the man I am today. I really am thankful for the time we sang together, and I can't wait to do it again.

**Walker: What has been your most memorable experience in your career to date?**

Dale: The most memorable experience in my career thus far was most certainly my time on CMT's "Can You Duet." Working with the same production company as "American Idol," the celebrity judges were Big Kenny of Big and Rich, Scott Borchetta of Big Machine Label Group (BMLG), and Naomi Judd of the Judds. Naomi and Scott specifically were just wonderful. Big Kenny wasn't a JB Rocket fan, but nonetheless, it was a wonderful experience. We signed a record deal with Big Machine Records after being the first runner-up on the television show. Learning how the industry works and being trained by BMLG was the most rewarding experience. All together, it's something I'll never forget, and it's something else that has molded me into the man I am today.

**Walker: What is your most favorite song to perform?**

Dale: My current favorite track to perform is my latest single, "This Is Your Now." I wrote this song with my old duo partner from JB Rocket, Brandon Green, and Parker Wellings Nohe. This song is all about self-empowerment, inward faith, and overcoming the obstacles at hand. We live in a time where we question every move we make, because of bullies or insecurities. But this is our now. I'm ready to see a generation rise up that believes just that ... "This Is Your Now."

**Walker: Some say Christian Country is experiencing a resurgence not seen since the 1990s. Do you agree?**

Dale: I spent from the time I was eight years old, until





my time on CMT's "Can You Duet," traveling all over the country singing gospel music. Those memories are special to me, as are all the opportunities that God has allowed me to walk into. But personally, when it comes to Christian country, I think the reason it saw a decline for almost two decades was because of recording and writing quality. Instead of just rewriting a popular country song with Christian lyrics, I think artists in this genre are finally evolving into true artists.

I see artists writing songs about true life experience again, songs people can relate to lyrically instead of melodically. So, I totally agree that there is a resurgence happening in the industry and with the artists. I applaud people like Red Hen Records and Rick Schweinsberg for developing true and authentic Christian country records and music. I literally love every song they put out and (every) artist. It's a formula that, in my opinion, will catch on and be the core of the Christian country.

**Walker: What one message do you hope to convey to your audience?**

Dale: The message I want to convey to my audience is hope ... hope in the darkest situations. When we walked away from our record deal in Nashville, I fell

into a dark addiction – heroin addiction. But on Dec. 7, 2017, I celebrated being clean from heroin and a long list of other drugs for five years. I owe the success of my sobriety to my family and now my wife and my daughter.

But totally and fully, I owe the daily deliverance from that long list of drugs to my Lord and savior. It was when I found my identity in Christ that I found my recovery.

You can find out more about Dale at [www.jonathandal-emusic.com](http://www.jonathandal-emusic.com).

# TOP 40

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

### **SGNScoops' Christian Country Top 40 for February 2018**

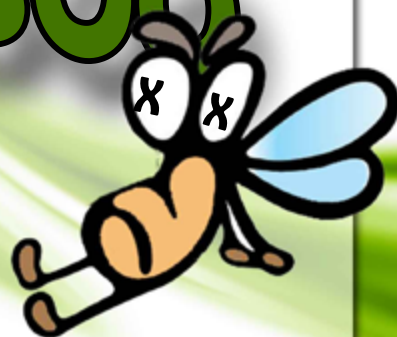
- 1. Michael Lee - Ain't That Just Like Jesus**
- 2. Chris Golden - Less of Me**
- 3. James Payne - The Flag**
- 4. Mike Leichner - I Wouldn't Trade America for the World**
- 5. Lisa Daggs - Love Found Me**
- 6. McKay Project - Taking me Home**
- 7. HighRoad - Somewhere I'm Going**
- 8. Johnny Rowlett - Where I'm Going**
- 9. Kolt Barber - Another Day**
- 10. Ava Kasich - The River Runs Red**
- 11. Ronnie Horton - Unclouded day**
- 12. Steve Bridgmon - Joyride**
- 13. Mike Manuel - The One Who Holds the Pen**
- 14. Bruce Hedrick - Wingin' It**
- 15. White River - Pardon Me**
- 16. Tina Wakefield - Over and Over**
- 17. Caleb's Crossing - Someday**
- 18. Charlie Griffin - Cast the First Stone**
- 19. Jerry Branscomb - Hammer Down**
- 20. Shellem Cline - Getting in the Word of God**
- 21. Jeff Dugan - Dashboard Jesus**
- 22. Ryan Watkins - Anyway the Wind Blows**



23. Kevin Rowe - Heaven Above
24. Jim Sheldon - Old School
25. Amy McAllister - Shoot for the Moon
26. Cami Shrock - My God will Always be Enough
27. Corey Farlow - If Jesus Sang Country Songs
28. Buddy Jewel - I'm There
29. Steve Warren - Forever Kind of Love
30. Bev McCann - God's Got a Miracle
31. Jamie Lynn Flanakin - Free
32. Cindy Tikens Jennings - Let it Shine
33. Wade Phillips - Make Me More Like Jesus
34. Molora - The River
35. Dan Duncan - Church Out of the Country
36. Carol Barham - I Can't Praise Him Enough
37. The Mercy Mountain Boys - Come On Back
38. Christian Davis - That's A lot Of Praying
39. Blood Bought - In the Eyes of Man
40. Les Taylor - If That Mountain Don't Move

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In June of 2014, Russ Jackson, a very close friend and church member, came to me and said that God had laid on his heart that we needed to go out into our country and spread the word that we need righteous votes to bring our country back to God.

he agreed.

In or around July 2014, my wife and I hosted a youth party at our home, inviting Emily Attebery (videographer), Casey Rivers and Dr. Philip Attebery to have a meeting at the same time, for the brand new I Love America Revival Tour. We shared Jackson's vision for the tour and then prayed about what God would have us do.



We prayed and then approached Casey Rivers and shared the vision Jackson had. We asked if Rivers would lend his talent and help us spread the word, and







We came back together in about two weeks. Philip Attebery told us that he wanted to be part of the tour, but God had laid it on his heart that righteous votes were not what we needed. We needed righteous voters. If the worst of us stumbled into the voting booth, they could vote the same way as we would or a pastor would, but they would still live a harmful life for not knowing Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

From this came Proverbs 14:34, which reads “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” That’s our theme verse.



Thus, we began a revival tour seeking the lost as well as saved, inviting all to search their hearts and to know there is still love and hope through Jesus Christ, for ourselves as well as our country.

We kicked off the tour in January of 2015 and have been privileged to witness to thousands, spreading God’s word through song, comedy and a message of hope and love.



Since January of 2015, our I Love America Revival Tour team has grown from 15 to 25 members that travel with us to each meeting, including artists such as Jamie Lynn Flanakin, Casey Rivers, Mike Breitling and Wade Phillips, who wrote our theme song “Stand Together.” We also have preaching from Dr. Philip Attebery (dean of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological



Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas), Bertram Cooper (director of Community Seeds of Lone Oak in Lone Oak, Texas), comedy from Russ Jackson (who was a former guard at Arlington Cemetery), and Rusty Mitchum (with the *News and Times* in Lindale, Texas). God has opened doors that only He could and allowed the tour to continue into 2018. If you are interested in bringing the tour to your church or community, call Richard Mabry at 903-262-8280, visit [www.nhbc.us](http://www.nhbc.us), or visit [www.youtube.com/watch?+FL6VciRRPi4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?+FL6VciRRPi4).







By Lorraine Walker

The Christian Country Expo returns in 2018 to showcase the great talent in Christian country music.



jAYDALE. This website features the Christian Country Top 40 music chart, artist spotlights, artist blogs, and more.

Christian Country Expo has been making noise in the industry. CCX recently announced that J.B. Rocket

For those who like their Gospel with a twang, Christian Country Expo '18 will be held in Cookeville, Tenn., from May 3-5. Be sure to visit the brand new CCX website at [www.christiancountryexpo.com](http://www.christiancountryexpo.com), designed by HåUS OF

of Country Music Television's "Can You Duet" will headline the event, alongside Michael Lee. Lee landed at No. 1 on the SGNScoops' Christian Country Top 40 this month, and anticipation continues to build. Also scheduled to perform are Bruce Hedrick, the McKay Project, Wade Phillips, Jami Flanakin, Michael Lee and many more.

Christian Country Expo is a three-day event, built and hosted for the artists and the fans. The fans will be able to network among the industry leaders and the best artists in the business. Seminars and professional-level classes will be taught by the business greats in the fields of radio, social media, stage performance, vocal coaching and more.

The home base for CCX '18 is the Clarion Inn in Cookeville. This conference center hotel is located off of Interstate 40, in close proximity to many of the area's





vacation destinations, such as the Hidden Hollow Recreation Area and the Cumberland Caverns. There is an accessible business center, free wi-fi, an exercise room and an indoor/outdoor heated pool. Guests will also enjoy a free breakfast.



With the purpose of honoring and hosting an event for those in the industry who have made a great impact, Christian Country Expo '18 is changing the game of Christian country music. Visit [www.facebook.com/christiancountryexpo](http://www.facebook.com/christiancountryexpo) or [www.christiancountryexpo.com](http://www.christiancountryexpo.com) for more information, and call Rob Patz for lodging and ticket reservation. Space is limited.



Artists can call 360-933-0741 or 256-310-7892 to obtain booth space.



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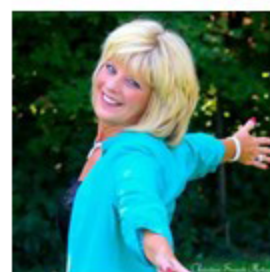
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## Celebrate Him Home: Remembering Tracy Stuffle

By Justin Gilmore

The Southern gospel music field has lost another beloved friend and artist. More importantly, the Stuffle family has lost a husband and father.

Long-time Perrys' bass singer Tracy Stuffle entered into his Heavenly home on Feb. 4.

Stuffle was born on March 20, 1966, in Morristown, Tenn. He was saved at his home church during vacation bible school in 1975. Stuffle joined the Perrys in the early 1980s when they expanded into a quartet.

The group not only gained a bass singer, but Libbi Perry gained a husband. The two became the foundation of the group and led it to great success.



Tracy was the bass singer, comedian and the group's emcee.

In recent years, Stuffle experienced several health issues, but he continued to perform with his

family. He remained steadfast in his faith, and he never lost his sense of humor. Stuffle's faith in Christ and love for others shone on and off stage as evidenced by the quotes below from his friends in the industry.

I never got a chance to meet him or see him perform live, but I always enjoyed listening to him sing. I can tell you that even through watching YouTube videos and Gaither videos, he was the real deal. He will be missed. See ya' at the house Tracy.

Here are some special memories of Tracy from his fellow Southern gospel artists and friends ...

**Maria Wolfe (wife of Ben Wolfe):** Ben told me that the one thing he loved about Tracy was that he was such a blessing to Gerald. It's so refreshing to have a trustworthy friend in life.

**Rachel Sancricca of Master's Promise:** I was first introduced to the Perrys when my uncle shared their album, "Almost Morning," with me. At the time, I was going through some battles in my faith, with a seemingly endless situation I thought I would never get out of. At the pinnacle of all I was dealing with, I heard "Prior to a Prayer." When sweet Tracy's voice came





on singing, “But when Jesus came, when I finally saw Him – no more burdens, not one little care ...” it was like the atmosphere in the room, and in my heart, completely changed. It evoked total confidence in my prayer-answering God, sending me back to that song over and over again as a reminder of what God was doing in my situation as I prayed. Tracy’s faith in Christ came through with every note he sang, and it impacted my heart on more occasions than one. By the time I got to hear the Perrys live for the first time, Tracy was in his wheelchair, with a voice echoing even more faith in his Lord than ever before. Tracy Stuffle was, and is, an example to us all of living what we sing.



**Keith Erwin of the Erwins:** Jared [Stuffle] has always been a really close friend of mine. I got to spend a week in his home. I went to my first hockey game with Tracy and Jared. I’ll never forget that week spent with great friends, filled with great memories.

**Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys:** We were working a date in South Georgia. We heard that the Perrys wanted to come to our show. We cleared out the front row for all of them. After the show, we all wound up on our buses talking and telling stories. All of the Oaks

love Tracy, Libbi and all of the Perrys. Every time I visited Tracy in the hospital, he started singing “Elvira.” Tracy was a good man. Heaven has added a powerful voice in the bass section.

**Les Butler:** It’s hard for those in ministry to find time for anything else. I loved the fact the he loved our hometown hockey team, the Nashville Predators. We hung out at many Predator games together. He was always the loudest and most vocal person in the arena. We had some great times inside and outside of gospel music. I will miss his singing, his emcee work and his wit.

**Gene McDonald:** He was a great friend. When I was with the Florida Boys, we’d meet at least once a week-end to talk about singing and buses. When they would come to Florida for vacation, we’d meet and have supper and have a great time together.



**Bryan Elliott of Gold City and a former Perrys member:** When I joined the group, my first daughter was about to be born. He allowed me to take a few weeks off and then he pulled out cash and told me that he didn’t know what all we would need, so he asked me to take the cash and get whatever I needed for Marlee. And he paid me for two weeks to take off even before I started, because he said I needed to be at home for my wife and daughter.



**Gary Casto of Tribute Quartet:** Many may not know that Josh Singletary and I traveled with a family group, the Wilburns. Upon their retirement, they passed

the mantle to both of us and encouraged us to continue in the ministry. During one of our first appearances as Tribute, a letter filled with love, wisdom and encouragement was presented to us by the church. It was written and signed by Tracy and Libbi. Through the years, I have tried to apply those words to the ministry of Tribute Quartet. For this, I am grateful. Tracy was always an encourager, and I was blessed to call him a friend.

**Derek Simonis of Liberty Quartet:** I'm incredibly thankful for the example and kindness of Tracy and Libbi. About 10 years ago, a local quartet I was singing with was asked to provide a few songs during the offering at one of the Perrys concerts. Unfortunately, our bass singer had a family emergency that prevented him from coming. At the concert, Tracy generously stepped in and filled the bass spot for us, and he did a tremendous job. Tracy just was that kind of gentleman. A couple of years later, the Perrys came to sing at our home church. The Lord moved in a wonderful way, and saints began to spontaneously testify of the Lord's goodness. Tracy and the group were right at home in the spirit of worship, and God blessed wonderfully that day. I'm indebted to Tracy and Libbi for their wonderful example and testimony through the years.



**Darin Hebert of the Williamsons:** I never got to know him very well, but growing up, he was one of the few I used to listen to, learning how to sing bass.

**Lily Isaacs of the Isaacs:** We've been blessed to go on several Singing News cruises. On one cruise, Tracy and Jeff (Easter) did a show, and I was their special guest one night. I couldn't even talk, because they had me laughing so hard the entire time. I told them I was their No. 1 fan. Tracy had one of the best and kindest spirits ever. He will be missed.

**Andrew Goldman of the Perrys:** I have had the honor and privilege to travel as a member of The Perrys over the last four years. During this time, I've grown to



love each and every one of them as my family. The first time I stepped on the bus, Tracy instantly became my buddy. While traveling with the Perrys full-time, I have also had the opportunity to teach and work in the music department at Oakland City University. One of the classes that I teach is drums and percussion. One of my most favorite and comical moments involving Tracy, was the evening I was being introduced as the Professor of Percussion at the school. Tracy chimed in, mishearing the introduction, said he thought I was a "Professional Cusser," so the name stuck. Mind you, I am not a cusser. All kidding aside, Tracy was one of my biggest encouragers. He never failed to tell us guys how much he loved us and appreciated us. I'll cherish the time I was able to travel with Tracy and be a part of this ministry that he loved so much. As we continue and press on, I'll always carry a bit of Tracy with me. Love you, Boss.

SGNScoops extends their sympathy and prayers to the family of Tracy and Libbi Stuffle.



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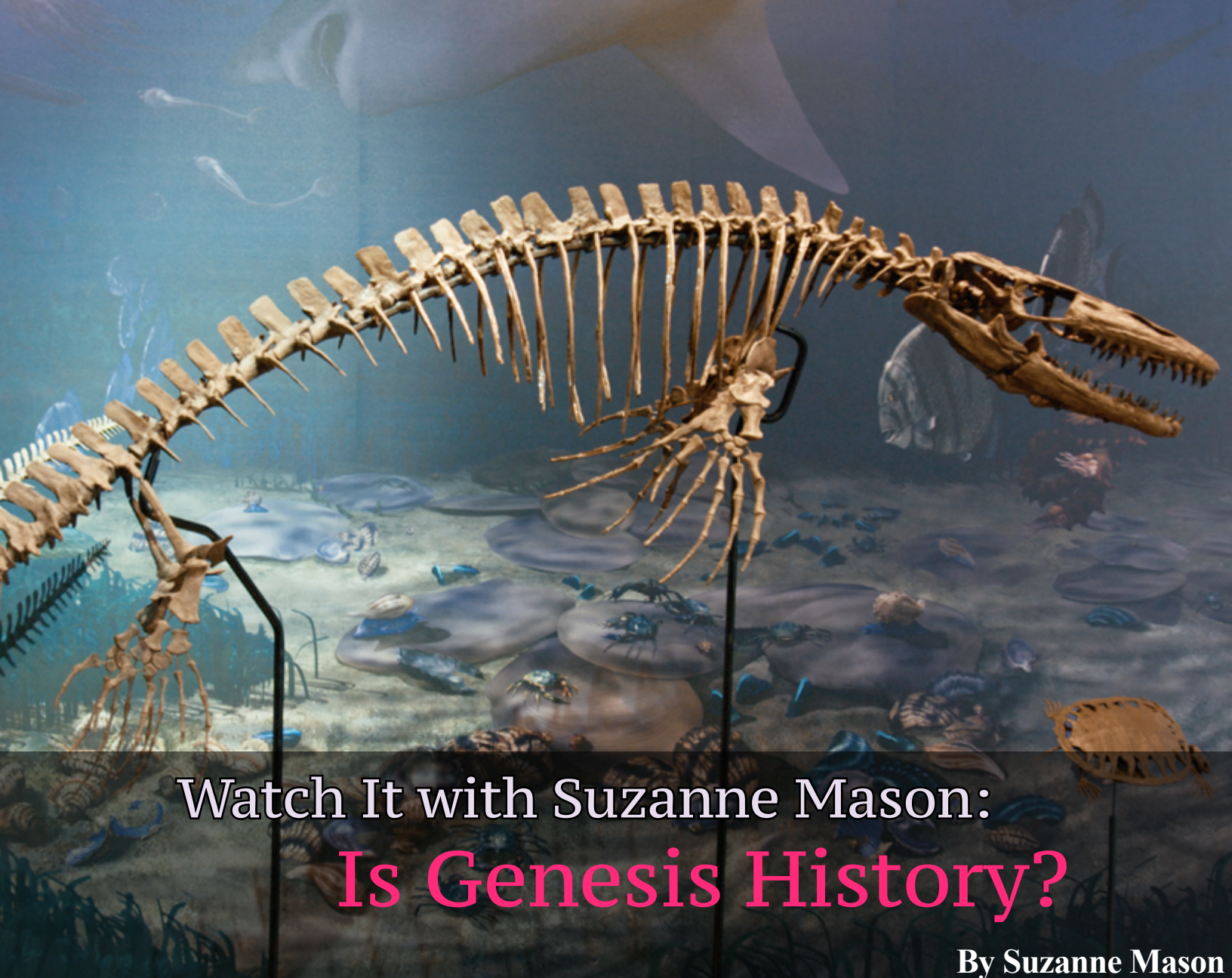
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# Watch It with Suzanne Mason: **Is Genesis History?**

**By Suzanne Mason**

Have you ever read Genesis and wondered if it's really true, wondered how the biblical account of creation holds up against the widespread, secular, scientific theories that rely so heavily on chance and happenstance? Maybe you've wanted to talk to scientists who look at the earth, studying its mysteries and ask if there's another, more intentional perspective from which to view creation? If so, you won't want to miss "Is Genesis History?"

A documentary borne out of the desire of filmmaker Thomas Purifoy, Jr., to answer his 10-year-old daughter's questions about science and the Bible, "Is Genesis History?" presents an intelligent alternative to what most people have been taught from childhood – that the biblical account of creation is not fantastical myth but scientific fact.

Hosted by Dr. Del Tackett, the film takes viewers on

an educational adventure, seeking to answer age-old questions – this time from a biblical perspective – such as: was the universe created in six, 24-hour days; what happened to the dinosaurs; did humans evolve; and was there a global flood?







Dr. Tackett – a retired United States Air Force colonel, computer engineer, and educator – traverses the country to speak with more than a dozen scholars and scientists who provide an evidence-based argument for the reliability of the Bible as history. He brings his questions to experts in microbiology, marine biology, and geology, as well as those in mechanical engineering, philosophy, paleontology, and archeology. Further, he seeks accurate translation and understanding of the biblical text from a Hebraist and a theologian.

“Scientists from well-known universities view the fossil records and see the Bible as a more accurate historical record,” Purifoy said. “It’s like a puzzle piece that Christians aren’t taught about. As Del Tackett has said, the Bible tells us Jesus was crucified, but we learn from history what crucifixion entails.”

Fossils, sediment and rock layers, canyons, paleontological digs, and even lions become topics of discussion, and the film truly delves into history to answer origin and global flood questions, filling in missing pieces.

“When you look at the scripture, it makes sense of a lot of things,” Purifoy said. “The biblical view actually explains things best.”

Fortunately, the film doesn’t have to be the end of the educational journey. The website [IsGenesisHistory.com](http://IsGenesisHistory.com) provides additional resources such as articles, free guides, interviews that didn’t make it into the film, in addition to a Bible study that digs deeper into Genesis.

“It’s important that everyone who has an interest take ownership and educate themselves,” Purifoy said. “Start with the authority of Scripture and ask what the Scripture is saying. And in that light, what does the universe say to us?”

Due to popular demand, “Is Genesis History?” was awarded a one-night only anniversary screening on Feb. 22 in select theatres.

For more information, to access additional resources, or to purchase tickets, visit [IsGenesisHistory.com](http://IsGenesisHistory.com).

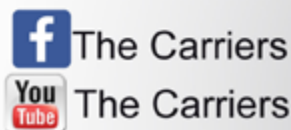
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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## *ReJeana Leeth*



**By Vonda Easley**

Recently, we shined the DJ Spotlight on ReJeana Leeth from Scottsboro, Ala. Leeth is always a joy to catch up with. Check out the questions and answers.

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

Leeth: We are a Southern gospel station located in Scottsboro, Ala. You can also listen to us online at [www.southerngospelam1330.com](http://www.southerngospelam1330.com).

**Easley: How did you get your start in radio?**

Leeth: I went into a local station in Fort Payne, Ala., and inquired about a job. They said they had an opening on Saturdays, 12 noon to 6 p.m., so I told him I was very interested in that. It was a country station, but it also played gospel during the morning show. So, that excited me. I've been doing it ever since. I have worked there 12 years.

**Easley: If you had to play one group all day long, who would it be?**

Leeth: I would play the Singing Cookes, because they are a living legend group that has been out there for many, many years serving the Lord. They are very true and dedicated to the ministry.

**Easley: If you could interview anyone in the past or present of Southern gospel music, who would it be?**

Leeth: I would talk to Vestal Goodman, because she was from my hometown. She was also a living legend. She could out-sing any tenor singer, in my opinion,

and I was always excited to see her with a smile upon her face. I have sung at Highway Church of God, her home church, many times, and I also opened up for her at the Fyffe UFO (Unforgettable Family Outing) days. She was a great lady in gospel music and a legend to remember.



**Easley: If someone is interested in working as a DJ, what advice would you give them?**

Leeth: It is a ministry within itself, and it should be treated that way. DJs reach thousands of people on the radio and the worldwide web, and out in the public, as they talk about what God has done at their radio station, using them to bless others.

Don't miss Leeth, who is the station manager, on Southern Gospel AM 1330. You can live stream their station to enjoy Southern gospel music.





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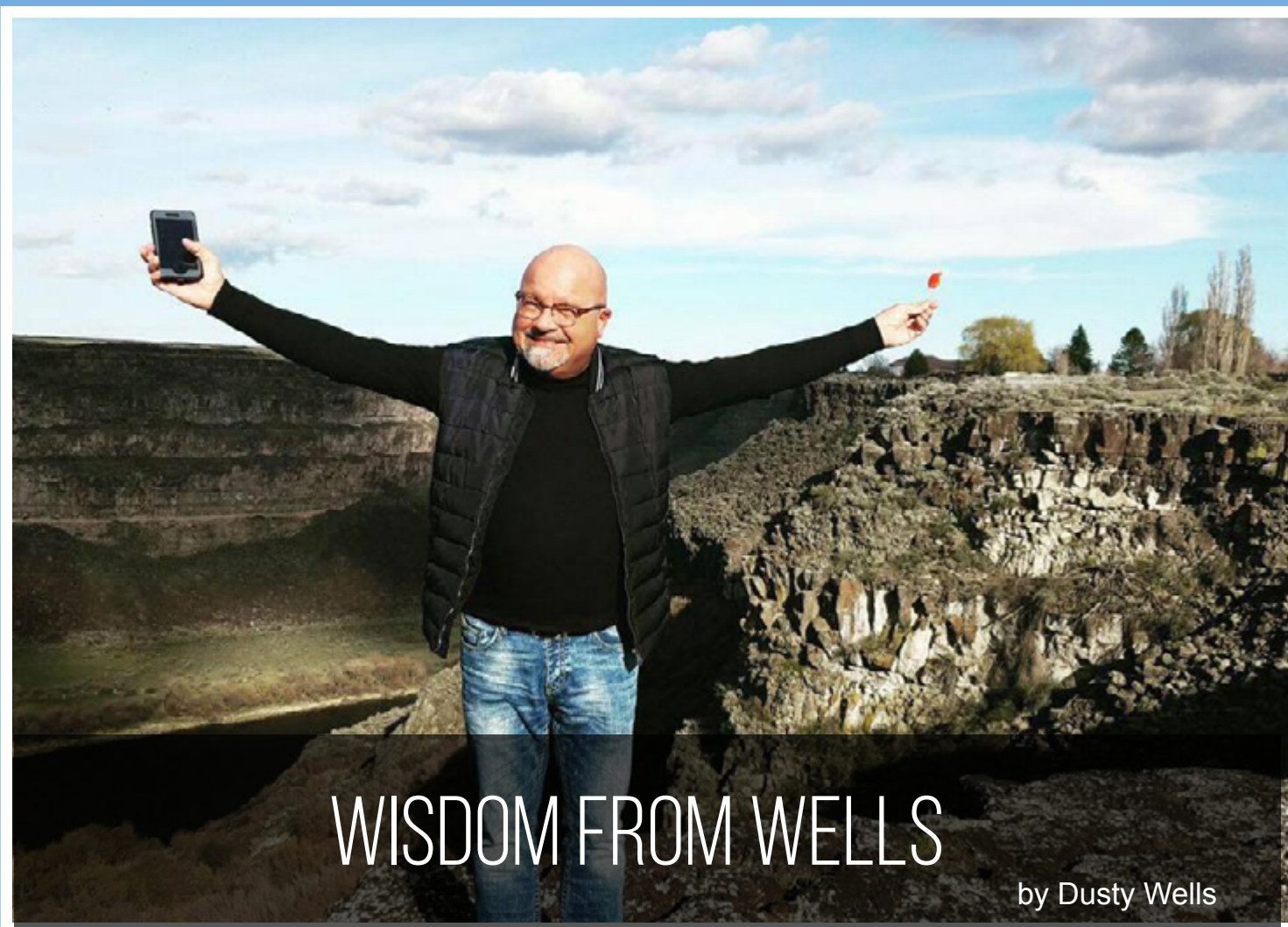
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# WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

## My Time with Him

It sure does seem like so many of us are in those times of questioning God about so many things, from financial to relationships, then on to spiritual, then back over to jobs and careers.

Sometimes, we question our abilities, looks, attitudes and so many “but why, God” questions, and of course, the list of cares and concerns can go on and on. I know for myself I have had many daily questions ... okay, maybe hourly. Seriously, we all have questions about all we are walking through and dealing with, and you know what ... it’s okay. It really is.

He knows everything we are questioning, asking and wondering about, and the good news is that He has the answers. It’s not always our answers and certainly not in our timing, but He does always have the perfect and right-on-time answer for each one of us.

As I age, I am so glad I finally understand and recog-

nize this powerful truth. Someone asked me earlier today as I was talking with them about this ... “How did you come to the place of understanding?” I gave them my thoughts and shared my heart.

Here is my answer...

One of the first things I saw in action and watched intently when I first got saved at the age of 14 was the precious people that led me to the Lord and that I went to church with and their belief in, and living out, the power of prayer. They not only believed in prayer, but they lived it ... they demonstrated it ... and they shared it. When it came to Wednesday night prayer meetings, that little Pentecostal church in Twin Falls, Idaho, shook with people praising Him, worshipping Him and crying out to Him with all kinds of needs, requests and thanksgiving. They showed me the power of taking time with Him, talking to Him and what true intimacy with God was all about.

Week after week, I would attend those prayer meetings,



and they became such life to me. Growing up in an unsaved home and environment, I truly began to believe and live out that time with Him. I grabbed hold of the power of prayer. I was daily desperate for more of Him, and prayer made me feel so close and intimate with Him. I was told over and over to tell Him everything and talk to Him about every situation in my life. And what do you know, I believed it, and I wanted to live it out. I didn't know any better.

And so, here it is 45 years later, and I can honestly stand before anyone and proudly proclaim that my time with Him is the most valuable part of the day. His Word is full of powerful truth and stories of how prayer has worked. For me, I have experienced healing, and I have seen firsthand the miracles of God in all kinds of circumstances and situations.

I have also had those times of waiting and waiting for prayers to be answered, and I still am waiting for answers. But I have never doubted the power of prayer. His greatest desire for each of us is for us to come to Him with every need that we have, big or small. He wants us to communicate and have such tender intimacy with Him. Let me assure you, friends, there is nothing like being in His presence and experiencing that intimacy with Him. His faithfulness will always surpass

the greatest of our needs. I know it. I believe it. I want to proclaim it and live it out ever louder.

Take some time with Him right now. Get alone with Him and just start talking to Him. He knows. He cares, and He promises to never leave us nor forsake us. How awesome is that?

Dottie Rambo penned some of the greatest lyrics ever, and I love to start the day singing them ... "I didn't come here to ask you for anything. I just came to talk with you Lord."

I sure am glad we can talk with Him always.



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By Lorraine Walker



### **Bringing Churches to Beautiful Pigeon Forge**

Preparations are underway for the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, which is slated to be held at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1.

The musical event will consist of three days of music, fellowship, preaching and prayer.

Creekside has special rates for church groups.

Convention attendees can participate in nature escapes and city experiences, as well as music and ministry, reveling in a retreat to rejuvenate body, mind, soul and spirit. For more information on group rates and accommodations, call Rob Patz at 360-933-0741.

Beginning on Oct. 28, Creekside will host acclaimed speak-

ers, renowned Christian musical artists, special midnight prayer times and fellowship with other Christians. Churches attend in groups to enjoy this retreat from everyday life, sitting under the ministry of such speakers as David Ring, the enthusiastic encourager with the opening line of "I have cerebral palsy ... what's your problem?" This international minister noted last year that Creekside was his favorite yearly event. Why not make it yours?

All of this takes place in Sevier County, one of the most beautiful settings that the Smoky Mountains has to offer. Rugged mountain trails, trickling streams and fall foliage bursting with color are only one side of Sevier County that visitors to Creekside Gospel Music Convention will enjoy.

Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg together form one of the top tourist destinations in Tennessee, showcasing the entertainment of theme parks and attractions, shopping malls and flea markets, and restaurants offering everything from home cooking to fine dining.

Among the many attractions Sevier County has to offer, visitors can experience Pigeon Forge restaurants, with







varieties to suit every taste. You'll want to stay longer to try them all. Among the restaurants are Alamo Steakhouse, All American Pancake House, Dixie Stampede and Show, Genos Restaurant, Great American Steak Buffet, Log Cabin Pancake House, Mandarin House, Bellacino's, Sagebrush Steakhouse and Smokies Breakfast House.



When you aren't listening to the great preaching or the award-winning artists at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention concerts, Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg have a myriad of attractions to keep you and your family entertained. Museums, adventure parks, Dollywood and miniature golf are a few that promise good times for the entire family.

The Great Smoky Mountains are a wonderful place to gear down with your fellow church members. Nature lovers and city slickers alike will find their minds refreshed by spending time in the beauty of the mountains. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, established in 1934, is home to a variety of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

Creekside 2017 was a great time of fellowship, music and ministry. The seats were full, and hearts were touched by the preaching of Eric Bennett, David Ring, Dr. Jerry Goff, Matthew Browder and more. The music of more than 40 artists filled the halls of the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, both day and night. The altars were filled with people looking for a special touch from God.

From the chapel services to the showcases to the evening concerts to the midnight prayer sessions, it was obvious that it was no ordinary Christian event. Attendees from churches across the United States were brought together to enjoy a time apart.



The Creekside Gospel Music Convention offers a terrific vacation destination, and attendees should make their plans now to experience everything that Pigeon Forge and the Smoky Mountains have to offer. Embrace the beauty of God's creation in the majesty of the mountains and the fellowship of family and friends while participating in neighboring attractions, and the refreshment of a spiritual retreat as you enjoy the ministry of gospel music.

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, visit [www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com](http://www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com).

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

1. The Guardians - Present in the Presence of the King
2. The Steeles - Prodigals
3. Karen Peck and New River - Hope for all Nations
4. Triumphant Quartet - Thankful, so Thankful
5. Brian Free and Assurance - He Can Take It
6. Gold City - I Will Stand
7. The Perrys - Moses and Elijah
8. The Kingdom Heirs - The Last Big Thing
9. The Isaacs - If That's What it Takes
10. The Hoppers - Song of Moses
11. 11<sup>th</sup> Hour - Doin' What's Right
12. Joseph Habedank - Just When You Thought
13. The Kingsmen - Hear the Word of the Lord
14. The Collingsworth Family - You're About to Climb
15. The Gaither Vocal Band - Hallelujah Band
16. The Erwins - Clouds
17. The Whisnants - He's Never Moved
18. Sunday Drive - 11:59
19. Susan Whisnant - I Prayed Through It
20. The Wisecarvers - Plain and Simple
21. The Bowling Family - I Believe He's Alive
22. The Mylon Hayes Family - The Coming of the Lord
23. Jeff and Sheri Easter - Sing It Again
24. Old Time Preacher's Quartet - I'll Ride This Ship to the Shore
25. Akins - Dying to be With You
26. The Hyssongs - I Tell Them Jesus



27. Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call - Somebody Pray
28. The Littles - Whole Lot of Heaven in the House
29. Josh and Ashley Franks - While My Tears are Falling
30. Zane and Donna King - Hallelujah and Amen
31. Day Three - Might Go Home Today
32. The Bates Family - You Are
33. The LeFevre Quartet - Let the Church Rise
34. Billy Huddleston - Freedom, oh What a Word
35. The McKameys - Living for Eternity
36. Shellem Cline - Getting in the Word of God
37. Hazel Stanley - People Get Ready
38. The Greenes - Send a Little Rain
39. The Second Half Quartet - During the Rapture
40. The Coffmans - Know So
41. Blood Bought - In the Eyes of Man
42. The Music City Quartet - I Wanna be Somebody
43. The Walkers - Holy Spirit Flow Through Me
44. The Pruitt Family - Bless His Name
45. Mercy's Well - When We Make it to the Other Side
46. Dean - Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk
47. Allison Speer - Out of Here
48. MARK209 - I Can Call Jesus
49. Battle Cry - You're All I Need
50. The Pine Ridge Boys - Sail On Over
51. C. T. Townsend - My God Delivered Me



52. Summit Trace - What God Looks Like
53. The Chandlers - He Does
54. The Inspirations - We Are Christians
55. The Page Trio - God Will Fight the Battle
56. Exodus - Behold the Lamb
57. The Kendricks - Old Piece of Clay
58. The Griffith Family - That's Who He Is
59. Ivan Parker - A Little More Like You
60. Three Bridges - Jesus Saves
61. Covered By Love - I'll Lay My Crown
62. The Lore Family - Asking, Seeking, Knocking
63. Abby Pasvan - Anchor to the Power of the Cross
64. Psalm 101 - Don't let Me Miss the Glory
65. The Lear Family - Too Far From Home
66. Michael Combs - How do They Make It
67. The Rochesters - Bow the Knee
68. The Down East Boys - Pray
69. Michael Wayne Smith - Lead Me Lord
70. Heart 2 Heart - He is There
71. The Dysart Family - Jesus Loves You
72. Steve Ladd - Since I Laid My Burdens Down
73. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - Clear Skies
74. Aaron and Amanda Crabb - Restore Me
75. The Blackwood Brothers Quartet - The Love Of God
76. The Rick Webb Family - Jesus, Only Jesus
77. Lauren Talley - Our Song will be Jesus
78. The Ball Brothers - Let Your Light Shine
79. Chris Golden - Less of Me
80. The Taylors - For What I Don't Know
81. Steve Warren - Forever Kind of Love
82. The Ferguson Family - Living for the Call
83. The Farm Hands - The Bible in the Drawer



84. Michael English - Love is the Golden Rule
85. The Browns - Know You Now
86. Adam's Voice - Come, Sit on the Porch
87. Just One - If Not Jesus, Who?
88. The Browns - Aim Higher
89. The Master's Voice - Without You, I Haven't got a Prayer
90. Tim Lovelace - Living in a Coffee World
91. Mark Bishop - The Other Room
92. The Primitive Quartet - The Shepherd Became the Lamb
93. Austin and Ethan Whisnant - Should Have Been Three
94. The Dixie Echoes - Sweet By and By
95. The Ascension Quartet - Salvation is Found on a Cross
96. Christian Davis - He Can't Stop Loving You
97. The Bilderbacks - Take Away the Cross
98. The Nelons - You Can't Make Old Friends
99. Judith Montgomery and Family - There is a Remedy
100. The Mark Dubbeld Family - This Joy is Mine

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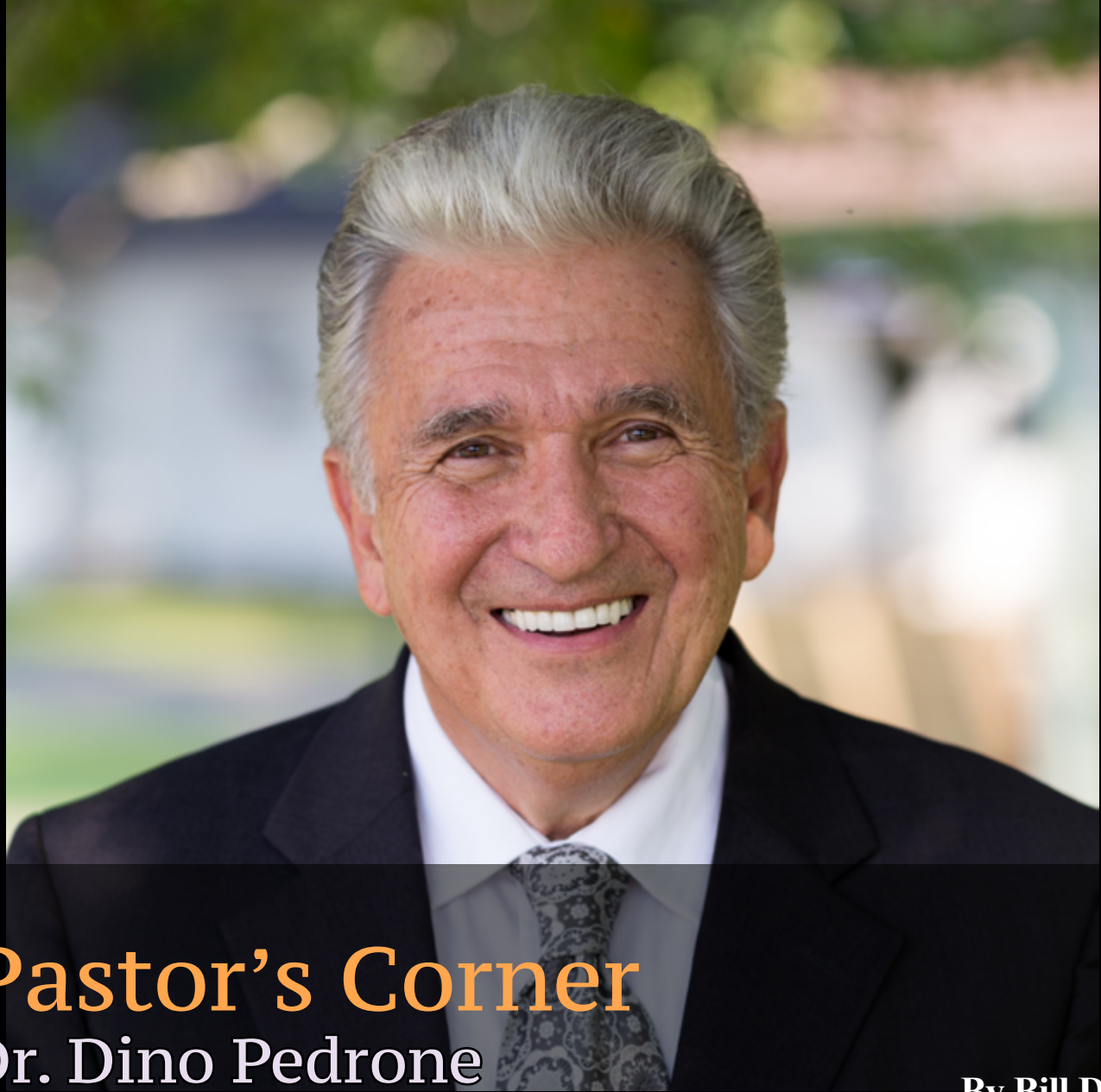
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## Pastor's Corner

### Dr. Dino Pedrone

By Bill Dykes

The pastor would begin quietly, then he would preach with vigor. At times he seemed to scream.

A young, very bashful boy sat and listened to him. The boy would go home and mimic what he just heard in the quietness of his bedroom. Little did he know that God was calling him to preach.

The pastor, Dr. William Taylor, probably had no idea he was touching a child for a lifetime. Those sermons changed the boy's life and he would never be the same.

Dino J. Pedrone was born in Binghamton, N.Y. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized at the Grace Baptist Church in the same city. His father, Fred, was born in Cooperstown Junction, N.Y., then he was sent to Italy and returned to America to be raised by relatives.

Fred was a chef, then a businessman, and his wife – Bertha – was raised in Susquehanna, Penn. The couple, Dino's parents, were a part of what news broadcaster Tom Brokaw called the “greatest generation.” They teamed together and built a successful dry cleaning business and lived a Christian life that was exemplary to others for 56 years.

Fred died at 76, and Bertha was nearly 92 years old when she passed away. Through his parents, Pedrone learned the value of family devotions and faithfulness to church.

Pedrone graduated from high school and was admitted to Practical Bible Training School in the Greater Binghamton area. It was there that he met the love of his life, Roberta (Bobbi) Griffin. Upon graduation, they were married, and their first ministry assignment was at



his home church, Grace Baptist Church, where he was the director of Christian education.

After two years, Pedrone left for university training. It was during that period of time that God dealt deeply with his heart, and through a process with his best friend Jerry Traister's involvement, Pedrone was accepted as the pastor of a newer church, the Open Door Church of Chambersburg, Penn.

The church was small but had some wonderful people who were committed to Christ. The congregation began to grow, and for two years, it was recognized as the fastest growing church in the state by Christian Life magazine. The church also received recognition as the state's largest Sunday school, with attendance peaking at 1,950 one year. One large Sunday recorded 11,009 in attendance at several locations.

It was during those years that Pedrone began speaking both nationally and internationally, building a ministry based on solid Bible exposition. The co-founder of

Liberty University and church growth teacher, Elmer Towns, described his preaching as "bible teaching on fire."

Pedrone spoke at some of America's largest conferences. He also founded Cumberland Valley Christian School, was the speaker on the Open Door Hour television ministry with 68 cable stations, and was the bible teacher on the radio ministry that reportedly reached one-fourth of the English speaking world. He also finished a doctor of ministry degree and received several honorary degrees.

In 1995, Bobbi and Dino left the Pennsylvania ministry and went into the heart of the urban South Florida area to pastor a church located on two properties. The church was historic in the Baptist Bible Fellowship movement and was the founding ministry of a national school association. The church with its two campuses and schools grew with an annual budget exceeding \$18,000,000. Dino also was the president of the state's school association and developed and helped found an international association of Christian schools.



After nearly 15 years of ministry in the Florida sun, Pedrone returned to the school he started, which was now known as Davis College. After doing both ministries in Florida and New York for over a year, the preacher settled back into his home area. The college currently





has three venues with onsite, online, and teaching sites to train students in a bible college setting.

Effective in January of 2018, Dino stepped down from the president's role and is now the chancellor of Davis College. He has a desire to establish a family foundation through [DinoPedroneMinistries.com](http://DinoPedroneMinistries.com), with the purpose of spreading the gospel and helping other ministries.

Pedrone has authored more than 20 books and plans to develop commentaries, radio and television, life groups and other resources with his family as a living legacy for the future. This preacher has spoken in more than 30 countries and many of the states in America.

It all began with a faithful pastor touching a young boy's life that would never again be the same.





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# The Great Western Fan Festival.. Is Coming



Gospel fans from across the United States and Canada, as well as several foreign countries, will soon be making their way by plane, boat, car, camper and tour bus to Visalia, Cali., for the annual gospelpalooza gathering called the Great Western Gospel Music Fan Festival, from May 2-5.

More than 8,000 music lovers have come to adore this extraordinary event, designed especially for those who enjoy first-class gospel music. Several award-winning artists will be present with their special brand of excellence, which promises to make these days a celebration of endless praise.

Internationally-known groups such as the Collingsworth Family, the Hoppers, Greater Vision, Triumphant Quartet, Legacy Five, Liberty, and 2017 Solo Artist of the Year Joseph Habedank, along with Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame songwriter Ronny Hinson will be appearing. This event will be a historic musical gala in every way.

We are also excited to announce our special guest, Dr. David Jeremiah, will be returning this year to the Fan Festival.

It all begins on Wednesday, May 2, at 11 a.m. The fourth annual Hopper Heritage Foundation Golf Classic





will be held at the Valley Oaks Golf Course in Visalia. To sign up or for more information, call Rich Trimmer at 602-448-6995.

Then, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, the air will be filled with several hours of jubilant gospel singing. During the daytime on Friday and Saturday, the excellence will continue as we present California's finest groups in multiple showcases, and person-to-person moments with selected artists, which will make the daytime showcases a time of musical amazement.

Visalia has always been a red-carpet city for this event, and this year will be no exception. Because this is the only event of its kind on the West Coast, it has proven to be the perfect blend of classic gospel music combined with familiar toe-tappin' melodies that fills everyone's heart with joy and happiness.

Fans are advised to purchase tickets while there's still time. For more information, call 1-800-965-9324 or visit [www.fanfestivals.com](http://www.fanfestivals.com).

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# Patterson Promotions

**By Lorraine Walker**

The Southern gospel music industry, including promotions, radio, and media, used to be largely influenced by men such as J.G. Whitfield, J.D. Sumner, Jerry Kirksey and James Blackwood.

Very few women were entrepreneurial in this area in the early years, but those that were, like Lou Wills Hildreth and Beckie Simmons, were strong and courageous ladies who took the industry by storm.

Since that time, Southern gospel music and all of its many elements, has grown to an extent where women have become leaders, using their many skills and talents to expand the industry and their sphere of influence.

One such leader is Pauline Patterson, of Patterson Promotions, based out of Corbin, Ky. Singer, speaker, concert promoter and DJ, Patterson began her radio promotions company more than 13 years ago.

"I started promoting in 2005, after hearing in my spirit in concert one night these words, 'Why don't you do radio

promotions for them,'" recalls Patterson.

Some don't know exactly what her job entails.

"As a radio promoter we send our clients to national radio on Patterson Music Group compilations," Patterson explains. "They are available on our website, [pattersonpromotions.com](http://pattersonpromotions.com), on our DJ corner, for radio all around the world. We then promote that song to radio for airplay and or charting in the major charting publications."

With all of her background in Southern gospel music, many would think that promoting songs to radio would be a natural fit for this hardworking lady. It's not really, she says.

"Years ago, during my beginning couple years of promotions, I would just long to work for what I called a real promoter," says Patterson. "See, the way I came into this line of work was instantaneous, and I had, I thought, no training. I would sit around and think, 'if someone would let me come to work for them, I'd learn how to do this right.'"

"At that time I was working my first song for the Sons Fam-



ily, and it was a hit. That single, 'Waiting for My Ride,' written by Charlotte Sons Baker of the Sons Family, spent two months on (a national) top 40 chart at No. 36 and No. 32, moved into the top 20 and spent three months there. One day on the phone with Eddie Crook himself, (he called me, several times) I happened to mention to Eddie I'd like to work for a real promotions company to see if I was doing things right ... to see how they did things. He said to me, 'well, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"

Since that time, Patterson has accumulated quite a few clients. The original Sons Family was the first, and now she works with the Wilbanks, the Hoskins Family, Tim Livingston, the Hyssongs, Dean, the Bakers, Hazel Stanley, and more.

The Hyssongs hold a special place in her heart.

"They are my longest-running clients at 11 years now," Patterson points out. "We actually haven't missed a single month of promotions since they started. I'm very happy to see where they are today. They have been a big part of Chapel Valley (Music) for the last few years. I was with them from their first (national) top 80 until the last two No. 1 hits ('Let the Hallelujahs Ring' and 'I Tell Them Jesus')."

Patterson Promotions recently obtained the *Southern Gospel Times* online e-zine and its weekly top 40 chart. This is another hat sitting atop the blonde hair of this busy lady.

"I've always admired Pauline for the work that she does," says Rob Patz of SGNscoops Magazine and Coastal Media Group. "She is relentless and driven to help those around her accomplish their goals."

With her involvement and experience in the music industry, this small of stature but very strong lady could have based this part of her career in any genre. However, Patterson says that gospel music promotes Jesus Christ, and that is what makes it special.

"Music of all genres speaks into the heart of mankind," Patterson shares. "What it's saying varies. Gospel music is most important in that it is the good news."

Patterson holds another leader such as herself in great esteem – a vibrant and influential lady who played a great part in the history of Southern gospel and still is affecting music of many genres, singer/songwriter Dottie Rambo.

"I feel she had a call of God that took her to the world, and from what I see, she was faithful to that call," says Patterson. "Her music has reached this world for Jesus and continues to influence us to this day."

Family and faith play more than a huge role in Patterson's world ... they are her world.

"I am married to Ken Patterson, a retired coal miner, for 42 years on Jan. 30, 2018," Patterson points out. "We have two sons – Billy Ray, 45; Scotty Allen, 41; three grandsons and one granddaughter-in-law. Our children have been our lives. My heart's desire and constant prayer is that they serve the one I have spent their whole life teaching them about."

This year is expected to be an exciting one for Patterson Promotions.

"I will be going into my 13th year as a national radio promoter," says Patterson. "God has blessed Patterson Promotions with more success than I would have ever imagined. It's my desire for 2018 and beyond to reach more souls, and for me, that's getting more airplay for my family of clients. Many of them have a call to the nation and beyond. It's evident when you hear their music or are with them live in concert. I desire more open doors with our radio DJs out there. I need their help to reach the world for Jesus."

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# A Gospel Music Love Affair with Paul Belcher

By Charlie Griffin

In the early 1980s, I was working with the Singing Americans. As Ed Hill and I were working to fill some dates, Paul Belcher called the office to say he had heard good things and wanted to book the group.

“Whiter Than Snow” had just hit the top five on the music charts, and people were talking. As Paul and I talked, one date led to another. And as the story goes, the rest is history. That day a long-term friendship began with Paul Belcher Promotions.

Promoting gospel music comes easy to a man who has had a 45-year love affair with gospel music.

“Mom and Dad use to book artists in churches in Michigan,” Belcher said. “I went to an all-night singing in Detroit (with the) Blackwoods, Statesmen, Thrasher Brothers, and Speer Family in one package. I was hooked. I thought I would like to try this. I could not have done this without my mom. I wasn’t old enough to sign contracts.

“I started promoting gospel music in 1973. My first concert was in Detroit with the Hopper Brothers and Connie. I was 17 when I booked them the first time. This year makes our 45th year of promoting Southern gospel music concerts in a ticketed format.”

Belcher has been influenced by some of gospel music's most noted icons.

“I go back a long way,” Belcher said. “When you have

dealings with J.D. Sumner, James Blackwood, Hovie Lister, Brock Speer, Martin Cook, Howard and Vestal Goodman, Les Beasley, Wendy Bagwell, and Roy Carter ... there's history right there.”

Some of gospel music's best men mentored and coached Belcher in concert promotions.

“Martin Cook of the Inspirations gave me sound advice about promoting the right artist and was always suggesting ideas,” Belcher said. “Claude Hopper (was) very business minded, always a friend, but never shy about giving me pointers. Promoter W.B. Nowlin from Fort Worth, Texas, I bought a half interest from him in the Battle of Songs in the 80s. He taught me about packaging the right artists together, who to use, and who to stay away from.”

Over the years, the art of promoting concerts has truly changed.

“I’ve seen tickets go from \$2 to our current price of \$25,” Belcher said. “I’ve seen styles of dress, stage presentations, and radio change. Advertising has gotten more difficult. I used to buy a few newspaper ads, but now it takes thousands of dollars to promote a concert. I used to get the auditorium for \$300, now it takes \$6000 to \$12,000 to rent and pay all auditorium expenses. In the 90s, we were booking 50 dates a year. Now, I promote concerts numbering 8-12 annually. Today, I promote Chattanooga (Tenn.) and Knoxville (Tenn).”



When you talk with Belcher, you are quick to learn how he is using his abilities to make the largest impact.

“God has given everyone a talent,” Belcher said. “He did not give me a singing voice or a teacher's talent, and didn't call me to preach, but He did give me the talent to minister through promoting Southern gospel music. It's all I've ever done.”

There are some moments from the last 45 years that stand out to Belcher.



“I guess it was in Fort Worth, Texas,” Belcher said. “We had a concert with the Cathedrals, Talleys, Singing Americans and Masters Five, sold out a 4,000-seat auditorium and rented the building behind the auditorium and put 700 people in there. We shuttled the artists back and forth to the two auditoriums.

“I still have checks and contracts of those concerts that were signed, which are my treasures.”

The greatest of all memories would be how the concerts

have touched people.

“I have had people come up to me and say that they are in gospel music, because they attended our concerts over the years,” Belcher said. “If I can help somebody along the way, then my living is not in vain. That is what matters most.”

Paul and his wife, Helen, share the same heart.

“We had a lady that always bought one ticket for all Chattanooga concerts and always came alone,” Helen Belcher said. “She called me two days before a concert asking if I had one more ticket next to her. Low and behold, I had the seat next to her open. She was bringing her unsaved husband that never went to church.

“He came to the concert. She got up next morning to go to church, and he said he wanted to go. He said he couldn't get the concert out of his mind. Anyway, he went, got saved, and that Tuesday, he fell over dead ... gives me goosebumps every time I think of it. Now, that's why we promote concerts.”

Paul Belcher is still promoting, holding down a full-time job, and keeping up with a 100-acre farm. His goal is simple for any concert ... to be a spiritual uplift for those that attend.

The anchor to Belcher's life starts with his faith.

“I've lost it a few times backstage (laughs),” Belcher said. “But seriously, I was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ as a young boy. I don't know any other lifestyle than living for the Lord and being in church.”

The other pillar of his gospel music promotions is his







family.

“I have been married to Helen for 40 years and have two children and three grandkids,” Belcher said. “If it wasn't for my wife's support, I couldn't have made it this long promoting. She's my soulmate ... and takes out the garbage.”

Paul Belcher has had a love affair with gospel music that started in his teenage years. The joy he receives from a successful event is only exceeded by the encouragement received by the audience. When you attend a Belcher concert, you get to sample a little of Belcher's lifetime love affair with gospel music.



[thealqc.com](http://thealqc.com)

# DAY THREE

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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

I heard the birds singing louder than the traffic noise this morning, and I knew that spring must be just around the corner. The month of March is full of possibilities as I watch the bulbs start to send up their green leaves, and the rabbits come out of hibernation to try and feast on those sprouts. It makes me begin to wonder what new things the Lord wants me to do as I come out of my own winter hibernation. Is there something new for all of us this month, this week, or even today?

Let's all look at the chains that may be preventing us from attempting something different. Those chains may be fear, or indecision, or perceived inability, holding us down. Maybe we need to listen to Zach Williams' "Chain Breaker" one more time. That is one of my favorite songs right now, whether it is Triumphant or Gaither Vocal Band or Steve Ladd or Williams himself performing it. I confess that I have played Williams' and Triumphant's CDs until they have been worn thin. I may be the only person in the world still purchasing full CDs, but then, I still have boxes of cassette tapes as well. However, I digress.

When the idea was born to feature Williams on the cover of this issue, I was delighted. The writer of this hit is a Grammy Award winner, and his song has been covered by many artists from many different branches of Christian music. I am so glad that Justin McLeod was able to chat with this singer/songwriter, and I hope that you enjoyed every feature in our diverse look at

what is happening in the world of Christian music.

Moving to the genre of Christian country music, artist Jonathan Dale said something in my interview with him that has resonated with me ever since. He was talking about his new release, "This Is Your Now." He wants this generation to be aware that the time is now to do what you are called to do, not wait for another day, week, or year. We all need to look at this moment as our time, as we may not have another moment.

The writer Paul told his readers in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." He was quoting the prophet Isaiah from the Old Testament in Isaiah 49:8. The Bible is filled with the thread of urgency, reminding us time and again that our life here on earth is but a short blip in the eternal timeline. Where you spend the rest of your life depends on what you do now. Have you made the decision that Dr. Billy Graham probably preached thousands of times in his lifetime? Have you accepted the salvation of the Lord, put your trust in Him and given your life to Him?

Truly, "This Is Your Now." You may never have another chance to make that decision. And if you have been walking with the Lord, what has He been urging you to do with your life, that thing that has caused you to procrastinate? You have said to yourself that you would wait until you had a break in your job stress, or perhaps until you acquired a job, or until you were wiser in



your knowledge of scripture, or until whatever has been happening in your life had passed.

What better time than spring, than Easter, than today to reach hold of the hand of God and allow Him to lead you into a new land? God spoke to Isaiah and said through him, "Forget the former things. Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing. Now, it springs up. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18, 19)

Thanks so much for reading SGNscoops Magazine. If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to email me at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com). I hope to see you at some gospel music event this year.

Do that new thing today. This truly is your now.



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# Contributors

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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](http://SGMRadio.com). In 2009, Rob Patz acquired [SGNScoops.com](http://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](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).



Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://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](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)



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



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



Justin Gilmore, 22, a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share his love of this great style of music.



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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.



Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and review-

ing recordings whenever possible. The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



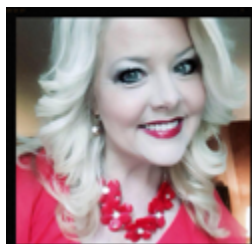
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



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

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

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Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and

I often went to The Joyful Noise for dinner and concerts. Every known name in Gospel Music sang there at one time or another. After I retired, we decided to start promoting concerts. Our goal was not only to promote our concerts, but also to promote any Gospel concerts in our area and attend as many as we possibly could. I came to a crossroads in December 2013 when my wife graduated to heaven, not knowing what to do. After much prayer God led me to continue promoting concerts. Have promoted around 100 concerts and can't tell you how many I attended. I still enjoy going to concerts and writing a little about the groups.



Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, and social networker. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. Along with running her own business, she is the official photographer for Abraham Productions (API). You will find her behind the lens at all API events, along with

working behind the scenes on their social media. She also travels full-time on the road with her family's gospel group, The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion and singing for Jesus is her calling. For several years, you have known her as our very own "Younger Perspective" writer. Check out her photography website [www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com](http://www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com) and her ministry website [www.stevensfamilymusic.com](http://www.stevensfamilymusic.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.



Hello, I'm Randall Hamm, Gospel Program Director of WFLQ French Lick Indiana, host of the Sunday Morning Gospel Show for the past 20 years on WFLQ French Lick Indiana and Singing News Top 10 Small Market DJ for the past three years. I now add something new to

my resume! Record Reviewer, ok... CD Reviewer. I'm Old School, having started in the days of LP's, 45's and Reel to Reel along with cassettes as the main form of music played. If you'd like to listen to my program, you can visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheSundayMorningGospelShow> and listen to archived programs, plus I post various Southern Gospel news updates, uplifting music and Gospel-related items. If you're in the six-county area around French Lick Indiana, in the heart of Southern Indiana, tune in every Sunday 6:00am-12:00pm and listen to the Gospel Greats with Paul Heil, 6:00am to 8:00am and the Sunday Morning Gospel Show with Randall Hamm 8:00am to 12:00pm.



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.



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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.O. 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 Greenes, 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/>.



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](http://www.paigegivens.com).

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Nathan Kistler was born on the road and was singing at the age of three years old. He has had the opportunity travel with groups like Southern Gospel's beloved trio the Nelons, and most recently for almost two years with America's Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and

24 countries singing about the wonderful story of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has also been a part of three crusades on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and while there, he had the privilege of singing in the Pentagon courtyard twice. Through his father's ministry in Washington, Nathan began his work on the Hill as a ministry partner with different Christian organizations like Faith and Action and more. Nathan is a missionary to Washington and continues to work there during the week while singing Gospel music on the weekends around the country and being an artist in residence at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins, West Virginia.



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model. Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have been in the ministry for 26 years raising

three daughters and homeschooling them while they traveled together as a family. During this time God taught her how crucial intergenerational ministry is for the furthering of God's kingdom. Selena travels the world speaking at conferences with the emphasis on empowering a multi-generation of women to rise up and become everything that God has called them to. Encouraging the next generation of the church to break the walls of limitations in their mind and rise to their full potential. Selena and her husband are life coaches for The World Race, which is an extreme missions trip for adults 21 through 35. They travel every two months somewhere around the world to mentor these missionaries. She and Chuck have been pastoring a home-church for 14 years where they have experienced God moving in community and seeing the body of Christ in action through each other.



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

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



Logan Smith is a 20-year-old with a lot of miles behind him. At the age of three, he would stand in his room with a pencil as a microphone and one of his dad's handkerchiefs singing his heart out to one of the Happy Goodman's songs, such as "I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now." At the age of seven, Logan was asked to

sing at a senior's dinner at his grandparent's church. Logan recorded his first CD, "The Journey Begins," at the age of 10 and his latest release, "Hits Before My Time," at age 19. In October of 2008, Logan was invited to sing with The Gaither Homecoming Tour in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for Gaither Fest. Since that night, he has sung at many different venues with the Homecoming Tour. As of 2017, Logan has toured all across America, Canada, and has headlined two Norwegian tours. Logan is on the road more now than ever spreading the good news and has no plans of slowing down.



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Roger Barkley Jr. is an award-winning Christian artist and musical evangelist. With multiple charting songs reaching to the top 10, his goals remain the same: to win souls for Christ, use Gospel Music of any kind to reach the world with the Good News, seeing lives changed and being an encouragement to the saints. When asked about his

ministry, Roger said, "I can remember the first time singing with my dad playing the guitar and standing beside my mom when I was four years old. I have always loved all types of music." His vision is to lead as many people to Christ through preaching, singing, sharing testimony, comedy, drama and technology as possible. Having been labeled a Christian Entertainer, he believes it is possible to minister in an entertaining way, and in over 35 years of ministry has found that he can utilize all different types of music to let people know the love of Jesus Christ. Currently he is Artist-In-Residence with his wife, Dianna, and daughter, Chelsea, at Leestown Gospel Church in Frankfort, KY, and Redemption Road Community Church in Stamping Ground, KY where he leads worship when not spreading the Gospel across America.



Fayth Lore is a young woman from southern Ohio with a love for God and people. Although she enjoys chocolate, oldies music and spending time with friends around the bonfire, her passion is ministry. In January of 2014, after pastoring for 20 years, her family decided to follow God's call into music evangelism. In September 2015, they

launched into full-time ministry. The Lore Family travels the country, spreading the Gospel through songs, sermons and seminars. While Fayth loves to sing, she also has a heart for encouraging young women in Christ. She has spoken at various youth/women's events, as well as hosted her own blog for young ladies. To see more about The Lore Family, visit their website at [www.thelorefamilyministries.com](http://www.thelorefamilyministries.com). To learn more about Fayth's blog, visit [www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com](http://www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com).



Debbie Seagraves is a Gospel music soloist, songwriter and speaker from Hull, Ga. She and her husband, Mike have been married for 21 years and have five grown children, including four sons and one daughter that graduated to Heaven in 2009, as well as nine grandchildren. She loves singing, speaking, and writing her own songs. Debbie is

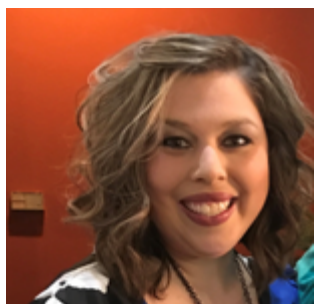
currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass Association) in 2016. She enjoys speaking at Ladies Events, sharing her testimony of how God spared her life from a near fatal motorcycle accident in 2011, how He brought her out of the depths of severe clinical depression, and through the death of her daughter in 2009. Also, Debbie is an avid Georgia Bulldogs fan and loves to fish, read, and spend time with her children and grandchildren. Debbie says: "No one can come as close as I did to dying and have it not change you. I am forever changed, blessed beyond measure, and just so grateful for every day that the Lord allows me to spend with those I love and to serve Him." She considers Micah 7:8 her life verse as she says that verse has carried her through some of the darkest times in her life. If you would like to have Debbie at your church or venue, you can reach her through her website: [debbieseagraves-music.com/](http://debbieseagraves-music.com/), on Facebook, or send her an email at: [fully-alive1956@att.net](mailto:fully-alive1956@att.net).



Jimmy Reno is from Birmingham, Alabama. He began singing in church at four years of age. Jimmy has sung with various groups over the years, until singing professionally for Mark209 and the Florida Boys. Jimmy is married with three children.

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Sarah Murray sings soprano for the Southern Gospel group Bless'd. The group is from Greenville, Tennessee and has been together for over five years. Sarah was born and raised in Jonesborough, Tennessee, but now resides in Greeneville with her husband, Chase. She has a

bachelor's degree in K-6 Education and a Master's degree in Human Resources Development. Her daytime job is being the Human Resources Director for a small company in Greeneville, Tennessee. Her passion outside of singing, writing, and crafting, is simply God's people. "I love the Lord and truly believe my mission in life is to reach his people, and that's both on and off the stage, behind my desk, and in my community. I just want people to see Jesus in me! I'm so honored to be a part of Bless'd and love our tight knit family group." For more information on Sarah, visit [blessdministries.com](http://blessdministries.com)



Kaleb Powell can be found in the small town of Greeneville, Tennessee. He sings baritone for the Southern Gospel group, Bless'd Ministries. Alongside Southern Gospel Music, Kaleb's passion is playing the piano. He started playing at the young age of 13 and for the majority, is self-taught. His style of piano

playing is inspired by artists such as Kim Collingsworth, Jeff Stice, and Gerald Wolfe. He has been singing and playing for Bless'd Ministries for the last six years.

Kaleb is currently the owner and operator of AKM of Tennessee, Inc., which is an organization that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. His life has been surrounded by taking care of others and for living out his passion through music ministry.

"I feel honored that God chose to give me the talent He did in playing the piano. I feel that if I can use this to serve Him more, I will perfect my talent to be used as only a vessel for Him. Being a part of Bless'd and traveling with our group is a lifelong dream of mine that I am forever grateful God saw fit to put together. On and off the stage, I want my talent to be only used for Him and to be a part of seeing souls saved." For more information on Kaleb Powell, visit [blessdministries.com](http://blessdministries.com).



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



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

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

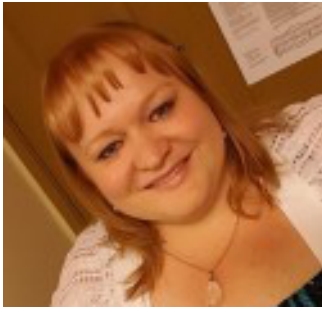
Over the past 40 years, Bill has become an accomplished gospel singer, having performed on 32 albums and produced over 200 albums for other performers. His extensive professional credits include singing with renowned gospel music groups including The Cathedrals, The Goffs, The Senators, and The Rhythm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

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



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Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped

since. Suzanne holds a bachelor of English degree from Columbia (N.Y.) University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tenn., she began writing for AFrontRowView.com before joining the SGNscoops.com team. She enjoys sharing the love of Jesus through volunteering, music, writing, and teaching.