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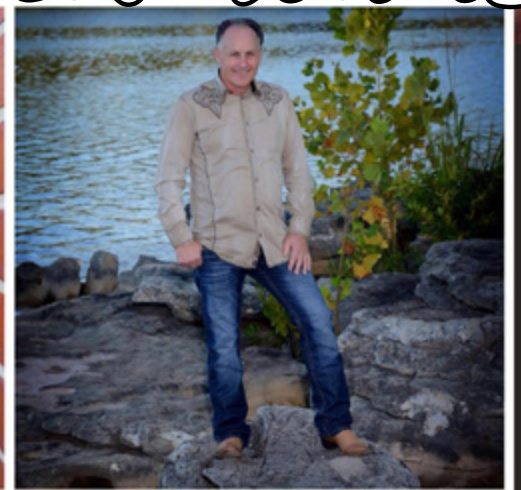
MARCH 2019

MAGAZINE



OLD PATHS

Walking down new roads



ALSO FEATURING

Tribute to Howard and Lou Hildreth, Jenna Faith & Roger Johnson

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OUR MISSION

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

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www.sgnscoops.com

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

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free." John 8 36

Welcome to the March Publisher's Point. Over the first two months of this brand new year, I'm sure you - like me - have noticed the word "freedom" being used by many. The society we live in is struggling with what "freedom" truly means and how our freedom affects not only us but those around us.

Of course the freedom that John is talking about is so much different than freedom in this world. I know people will tell you that freedom to them means "I can do anything I want." But the freedom John talks about is a freedom to choose to do things the right way, not just because it's something you can personally do, but something that is pleasing to your Savior.

We all know people who have said they don't feel they could be a Christian because it would actually impede their freedom.

I want to take you back to a couple of years ago, to a Starbucks in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. I was there for Creekside and I went to enjoy a little coffee in between sessions. I sat there alone at a table reading through some emails and not really paying attention to anyone around me, when a gentleman walked by. He laughed at me when I was taking a picture of my coffee for my Instagram. He said, "What are you doing?" I told him that I was from Seattle and so when I was here, it reminded me of home.

He laughed and it started the conversation about what I was doing in Pigeon Forge. I explained to him that my company does a gospel music event each year here in Pigeon Forge. He said, "So you're one of those Christians." I smiled and said, "Yes, I am."

He said, "I could never do that because I would lose all my freedom."

I got a chance to share with him that day that the freedom that he would lose would be far less than the freedom he would gain.

Unfortunately, I would love to say that he got saved that day but that wasn't the case. We agreed to disagree and he walked off.

But that moment has stuck in my head for a long time. In fact, I've written several Publishers Points that I ended up scrapping about this topic. But lately all we hear about is freedom. People's freedom of speech, freedom of choice, and all of those freedoms pale in comparison to the freedom that we find when we accept Jesus as our personal Savior. Please, if you're reading this and you don't know him as your personal Savior, and you feel the tugging in your heart, either write to me or anyone on my staff. They would love to talk to you about the freedom that you will experience when you give up the freedoms of this world for the freedoms found in Christ.

I want to thank each and everyone of you for making 2019 a record-setting year for the magazine and the website. I appreciate each and everyone of you.

I also want to see you this fall in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. for Creekside 2019. It is going to be an incredible year. Be watching the website for some special announcements, but please call me and book your hotel room now, at 360-933-0741.

Until next month, this is the Publishers Point.



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SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND

By Leslie McKay

Southern Gospel Weekend will take place March 21 - 23, 2019, at the Civic Center in Oxford, Alabama. This free event will feature 25 gospel artists like Mark209, New Ground, Josh and Ashley Franks, the Diplomats, the Williamsons, the Connells, ClearVision, Hope's Journey and many more. Call today to reserve a VIP Ticket or to inquire about the event: 256-310-7892.

Heroes Night will kickoff the event on Thursday night, March 21, 2019. The opening ceremonies will honor Oxford's heroes, including all veterans, military and first responders. Evening festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Everyone is invited to this free, three day Southern gospel event, especially every veteran, military, or first responder. This will be a special time for them as Faith, Family, and Freedom are celebrated.

The three days will feature daytime showcases Friday and Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. and nightly concerts at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, March 23, will feature a breakfast with ClearVision Quartet at 8:00 a.m. Tickets for this pancake and sausage meal, music and message by Pastor Donald DeLee are only \$10 and may be reserved by contacting Steve Dover or Suzanne Peoples on Facebook.

M.A.C. Records to host showcase at Southern Gospel Weekend

Southern Gospel Weekend is just a few weeks away. Mark your calendar for March 21 - 23 and make plans to be in Oxford, Ala. at the Oxford Civic Center. The

weekend will be full of great music. One of the highlights of the weekend will be the M.A.C. Records Showcase on Saturday, March 23rd beginning at 12:30 p.m.

"Leslie and I are very excited about M.A.C. Records being a part of Southern Gospel Weekend this year. We are looking forward to the showcase and the opportunity to share the M.A.C. artists with the folks at Southern Gospel Weekend. We have a great group of artists that we believe in and are very proud of. We hope everyone will make plans to check out the M.A.C. showcase on Saturday," comments Dennis McKay, Owner of M.A.C.



Records.

Artists of M.A.C. Records

Jesse Reece from Ethelsville, Ala. - Christian country singer/songwriter signed with M.A.C. Records. His newest self-titled project, "Jesse Reece," has been released and features all original songs written by Jesse with one song being co-written with Gerald Crabb. Jesse is a musician, singer and speaker that reaches across all generations and touches the hearts of all people from the youngest to the oldest. Check him out on Facebook at Jesse Reece @jesse.reece.7.



Jessica Horton from Columbus, Miss. - Americana/Roots singer/songwriter signed with M.A.C. Records. Jessica made her debut at the 2018 Vernon event and has been going strong since last year with radio releases

and appearances at various events. She is in the studio finalizing her first project, "Both Feet In," that is scheduled for release in spring of this year. Her current radio single, "Pictures," is currently in both the Christian country and Southern gospel charts. Check her out online at www.jessicahortonmusic.com or connect with her on Facebook at @jessicahortonmusic.

McKay Project from Columbus, Miss. - Award winning Americana and Christian country duet signed with M.A.C. Records (they own M.A.C. Records and Studio 115A in Columbus, Miss.). Dennis and Leslie McKay are a husband and wife duo that love Jesus, love each other, and love performing live music. McKay Project's newest radio single, "Love You Like Mary," is climbing the Christian country charts. You can find them on YouTube and all the major music outlets. Check them out on Facebook @mckayproject.



Carol Barham from Vernon, Ala. - Christian country singer/songwriter signed with M.A.C. Records. Carol has written a number of songs that have appeared in both the Christian country and Southern gospel charts. Her newest single, "God, Oral Roberts and Billy Graham," is climbing the charts and quickly becoming a fan favorite. Carol is in the studio working on new music and is scheduled to have a new project available later this year. You can find her music online at all the major music outlets. Find her on Facebook at Carol Barham Ministries @carolbarhamministries.

Rhonda Richardson from Columbus, Miss. - Rhonda is the newest addition to the M.A.C. Records family. She just launched her solo ministry this year. Previously, Rhonda was co-founder of the group, Trinity 3, and enjoyed five great years traveling, singing, and doing ministry with the group. She is currently working on



her first solo project at Studio 115A in Columbus with Dennis McKay of M.A.C. Records. Check her out on Facebook at Rhonda Richardson Ministries @rhondarichardsonministries.

Kenny Gardner from Columbus, Miss. - Southern gospel and Christian country singer signed with M.A.C. Records. Known to many as “Kenny G” and that happens to be the name of his latest project: “They Call Me Kenny G.” Kenny is a powerhouse singer that has been around Southern gospel music all of his life. His style reminds many of the late Kenny Hinson who was a dear friend to Kenny Gardner. Check him out on Facebook at Kenny Gardner @kenny.gardner.334.

Amy Richardson from Starkville, Miss. - Powerful southern gospel singer/songwriter with M.A.C. Records. Her original song, “Sweet Whispers”, has remained in the charts for several months. She and her husband, Bobby, own New Journey Radio and stay busy traveling and sharing the gospel through music and the word. She is on Facebook at Richardson Ministries @richardsonministry.

For more information about M.A.C. Records, visit them on Facebook at M.A.C. Records/Studio 115A (@musicstudio115a) or email info@macrecords.net. For more information about Southern Gospel Weekend events and lodging contact Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892.



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New Roads for The Old Paths

By Lorraine Walker

The Old Paths began as a trio in 2003 with a great sound but when they transformed into a quartet some-time later, this change led them to the top of the charts. “Battlestand” and “Love Them to Jesus” made the group popular until 2015, when the momentum of the group formed by Tim Rackley and Douglas Roark ground to a halt.

“Changes in life come at times when we least expect them,” explains Daniel Ashmore, bass singer with the Old Paths since 2011. “When we felt the Lord leading us to come off the road, we didn’t know where we would end up or how we would get there. I can remember feeling led to come off the road and wondering how my wife and I would make it. God had already done some amazing things through the ministry of the Old Paths and all of a sudden, he told us to go home. The hardest part about coming off the road was trusting that God would provide and open the door for the next step in my life. It was also difficult to see how God could

continue to use me without singing on a normal basis. It is easy to have faith when everything is going well, but even harder when that faith is put to the test.”

The group’s faith was certainly put to the test when Tim Rackley’s daughter, Brianna, underwent a kidney transplant in December, 2014. Just a few months later, the Old Path’s tenor, Jeremy Peace, left the group. In mid-2015, the group announced they would be retiring in December, 2015. Health issues and family obligations, as well as the knowledge that the Lord was asking them to hit the pause button, caused the members to decide to park the bus for awhile.

“My wife and I just trusted God with His leading and just as he has always done, he provided more than I could’ve imagined,” Ashmore states. “He opened up a door for me to have a job where spiritual growth and serving others is encouraged. This, in turn, led to opportunities to talk with people on a everyday basis. Spiri-

tually, it helped me learn to trust God even more and once he did as he always does - provide - my faith in him grew stronger. Coming off the road also provided the rest and refreshment that I needed at that time in my life. During the time off the road, God grew me personally in ways I didn't know I could grow. God gave me a deeper passion to reach the lost through witnessing. I don't know that I would've grown the way I did had we kept singing when the Lord told us to come off the road. God used that time off the road to do a work in me that he could apply when we hit the road again."

As for the Rackleys, things have come full circle for their daughter. "Brianna is now 21 years old and since her kidney transplant she is doing 'super fantastic,'" says father Tim. "The Lord has really been real in her in all different ways. She is attending her first year of college and since back on the road I tell folks the best part is she has her first job."

"I am so excited to be back doing what I loved to do and that is singing the Gospel of Christ," Tim continues.



"I also am glad that I get to see the friends we have met over the years before we stopped in December of 2015. The biggest thing that has changed since we stopped touring in 2015 is I got more sleep since I was home every week and with being on the road every week you don't sleep as much."

Despite missing family and sleep, all of the Old Paths are enjoying being back on the gospel road again. With the addition of tenor Steve Ladd in 2018, the group has hit the refresh button on their sound.

"We have always been blessed to have incredible singers in this group and Steve is no exception to that," says

Ashmore. "He is such a joy to travel with and he's just another regular guy like us, with the same goal as we have, so he fits right in. He sings with passion and that's one of the things we like most."

"Having Steve Ladd now has definitely changed the group's sound," Rackley agrees. "Steve is a versatile singer and has the ability to sing all different styles which is good for me, so I am able to sing harmony more often than before. We still will keep the traditional four part quartet harmony but now will be able to do different types of songs."

For Ladd, the transition to full time with the Old Paths (TOP) seemed the right thing to do. "We had been doing select concerts for the past couple years and I got to really know the guys and their heart for what we do. I've been a soloist for almost nine years and was content in doing that along with several quartet dates a year. When they approached me about going full time this year, I prayed about it and felt it was time to be in a group again. Not a better bunch of guys to travel with. People really love TOP and I'm proud to be a part," asserts Ladd.

"Steve is definitely a fit and has a humor side to him I never knew existed," says Rackley. "Doug and Daniel were already like my brothers because we still stayed in touch by going out to eat and by phone while we were off the road since 2015."

At press time, Doug Roark was still recovering from recent health problems, but was eager to rejoin the group.

"Doug is the life of the group," states Steve Ladd. "He has so much energy on stage and is a great baritone and emcee. He loves people and it shows on and off the stage."

"Tim is an incredible lead singer and has a heart for what we do," Ladd continues. "He's also the one that takes the longest to get ready for a concert. Daniel is a great bass singer but is all about telling people about Jesus. Everywhere we eat or hang out on the road he's telling someone about the Lord."

Ashmore agrees that he has a renewed sense of the necessity of telling others about Jesus. "I do feel that my approach to singing and ministry has changed. I feel like God has grown me in so many ways since I first started singing with the guys. I can remember thinking



(that) singing (was) the only avenue to reach people, but God did a work in me while I was not singing that gave me more of a focus on relationships and interactions with people.

“The singing and music is just the foundation that gives me the platform to share Jesus with others,” continues Ashmore. “I have always desired for people to come to Christ and be encouraged through the songs we sing, but God intends for us to reach people by any means necessary. We meet so many people because we sing, and not just at concerts. During our time off the road, God really impressed upon me the need to take every opportunity to talk with people anywhere, not just those who come to hear us sing.”

For those who do come to hear the group sing, they will be enjoying new music.

“I’m excited for people to hear the new album, ‘It’s Real,’” says Ladd. “We are proud of how it turned out and feel we are finding our sound with this new music. ‘Come Sunday Morning’ is one of my favorites on the project.”

“When it Comes to Jesus,” written by Rodney Birch, is Rackley’s favorite. “(Birch is) no stranger to the Old Paths recording, since he has written three of our No. 1 songs. The line of the song that just speaks, is “all our fears turn to faith and our troubles just vanish away.” That has definitely been the truth in my family recently because it was faith in Jesus that got us through every step of the way.”

Greg Bentley of Crossroads Music, says, “‘It’s Real,’ by the Old Paths, is just that, “real!” We worked closely

with the guys in picking what we felt were the best songs for this new album and I think we hit the nail on the head. The messages in the songs and the delivery the guys did vocally are heartfelt and delivered with passion that comes from believing what you are singing.”

Bentley is enjoying the addition of Ladd to TOP. “No doubt Steve Ladd has brought a fresh new energy to the group,” he agrees. “Recognized as one of the best tenors in our genre, Steve has brought his edgy style with him to the group. The mixture of Steve’s style and the foundation of Doug, Tim and Daniel have made them even stronger than they were before. It’s hard to top multiple No. 1 songs, but the Old Paths have raised the bar one more time.”

One cut off of the EP that might head up the charts is Ashmore’s favorite, “The God I Know.” I really like all the songs, but this one speaks to me the most because of the message,” Ashmore confesses. “I talk to so many lost people in the course of my daily life that argue ‘God doesn’t care because He allows suffering to go on.’ They don’t understand that the reason for suffering is a result of sin, but they also forget that God made a way for them to have eternal rest in heaven through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. This song answers the question of whether God cares. The God I know sent his only son to bear the sins of the whole world and offers forgiveness and rest to anyone who calls on His name.”

Rackley is fully aware of the effect that physical suffering can have on someone and on their family. However, he knows that with his daughter’s journey through health issues has ultimately made them all stronger, and helped him cling even more to his favorite scripture, Isaiah 41:10, which reads: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

“This has got my family through since Brianna became sick and all through her transplant, also ongoing in the days ahead,” says Rackley. “The verse was brought to our attention right before Brianna’s surgery by a nurse that was taking care of her. She said the Lord told her to write that verse on the nurses message board in Brianna’s hospital room.”

The journey his family has been on to date has defi-

nately made a difference to Rackley's testimony. "I feel I am able to minister more effectively to people that are going through health issues and share that they have hope and the Lord can heal!" Rackley continues, "My most important reason to sing is to reach people that only music could reach with the gospel. Some people will never go to church but they would attend a concert to hear good four (part harmony.)"

The Old Paths definitely deliver good quartet singing, with some likening their latest release to the harmony of the Beatles. Their motive for getting back on that bus every week is for much more than the great delivery of a well-written song.

Daniel Ashmore is determined to keep his focus, and that of TOP, on Christ. His favorite verse, Colossians 3:1-4, states: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above,

not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

"This verse has meant so much to me lately," says Ashmore. "Things seem to move so fast in our busy lives and at times our gaze and focus can drift away from Christ. It is my hope that I will continue to seek those things which are above because of Christ, who is my life and the reason I have life. If I can do this, I will remain steady through everything I face."



We would like to thank all Dj's for taking time on us and allowing our music to reach places that we may not be able to go and sing. We look forward to the future and we are excited to see what God has in store.

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A promotional poster for Richard Lynch. At the top, his name "RICHARD LYNCH" is written in large, red, serif capital letters. Below the name is a photo of Richard Lynch, a man with a mustache wearing a white cowboy hat and a black vest over a patterned shirt, holding an acoustic guitar. To the right of the photo, text reads: "Richard Lynch's 'Pray On The Radio' is an important tune for the times that we are living in. - Digital Journal". Below this, a list of radio stations is provided: "Thank you for praying with us: ICR, KSTV, WEIS, WGOR, WJLE, WRMV, WYKX, ARC ANGEL, KPKK, KJIR, KJNP, KROZ, KEYE, KORN, Country Barnyard, KPRO, KVMN, WBSA, WCHG, WFLO, WJFC, WJLS, WKAX, WKLF, WPPL, WSMG, KWXT, WFLO, WNKS, WLRC, WBCE, WBTX, WFSR, WTYS". At the bottom left is the "MTS" logo with the text "Artist Management and Promotion". At the bottom right is a logo for "A Great Thing Country Radio WTTC" and the website "www.richardlynchband.com".



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

1. Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Mile – The Williamsons
2. Faithful - The Whisnants
3. I Know I'll Be There - Karen Peck and New River
4. Meeting In The Middle Of The Air - The Tribute Quartet
5. Love, Love, Love - Gordon Mote
6. Never Changes - The Steeles
7. Longing For Home - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
8. You Chose To Be My Friend - Jason Crabb
9. God Fights On My Side - The Guardians
10. Grab Your Umbrella - The Talleys
11. Heaven Just Got Sweeter For You - The Kingdom Heirs
12. Running - The Martins
13. It Carried Him - The Perrys
14. Treasures In Heaven - The Mark Trammell Quartet
15. By And By - The Hoppers
16. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff and Sheri Easter
17. Mercy And Love - The Collingsworth Family
18. So Good To Me - The McKameys
19. Revival - The LeFevre Quartet
20. Silhouette - The Wisecarvers
21. He Set Me Free - Sunday Drive
22. Joy On The Journey - The Mylon Hayes Family
23. Testimony Time - The Down East Boys
24. Anything Less - The Taylors
25. All My Hope - The Gold City
26. We Believe - The Troy Burns Family

27. Run The Race - The Hyssongs
28. Good News Never Gets Old - Three Bridges
29. Peace Is On The Way - The Old Paths
30. One Of These Mornings - Avenue
31. Yes He Did, Yes He Does, Yes He Will - Master's Voice
32. That Old Red Back Hymnal - Les Butler (The Williamsons)
33. Jesus Messiah - The Gaither Vocal Band
34. He's Making Me - Amber Nelon Thompson
35. I'm Gonna Wish I Had Worried Less - Mark Bishop
36. Lost - The Jim Brady Trio
37. Everything He Forgot - Brian Free and Assurance
38. Love - HighRoad
39. Jailbreak - Joseph Habedank
40. Let My Light So Shine - Zane and Donna King
41. In Jesus' Name - Michael Combs
42. The Father Knew - Susan Whisnant
43. That's What Happened At The Cross - Exodus
44. Even Me - The Triumphant Quartet
45. Put It All On Calvary's Hill - The Poet Voices
46. I Will Not Be Shaken - Jason Davidson
47. When Jesus Turns My Prison Into My Shouting Ground - The Inspirations
48. The Stone Is Rolled Away - TaRanda
49. I Want To Praise Him - 11th Hour
50. We're Gonna Rise - The Littles
51. Thou Knowest - The Arenos



52. Let Me Take You To The Cross - Ivan Parker
53. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
54. He Is Able - The Sound
55. Go Before Me - Billy Huddleston
56. Now I Can Sing - The Griffith Family
57. Mama Prayed - Mark Lowry
58. Live For You Today - Austin and Ethan Whisnant
59. He's Making A Way - The Pruitt Family
60. Power In The Blood/ Are You Washed In The Blood - The Blackwood Brothers Quartet
61. Did I Please God Today - Mike Upright
62. On The Other Side - The Journeys
63. Sin Is No Match For Grace - Jonathan Wilburn
64. Pictures - Jessica Horton
65. The News Is Out - Georgia
66. Runnin' - Sharon Stewart and Out Of Ashes
67. Don't Look Back - The Rochesters
68. Just Before The Dawn - Answered Prayer
69. He Took It Away -The GloryWay Quartet
70. Shouting In The Middle Of My Storm - The Jordan Family Band
71. I Will Pray - Blake and Jenna Bolerjack
72. That Wonderful Day - The Soul'd Out Quartet
73. Amazing Grace - Jeremiah's Call
74. Decided To Believe - Day Three
75. Least I Can Do - The Ball Brothers
76. Still - Sisters
77. Little Is Much - Michael English
78. Faith Is All You Need - Family Legacy
79. Power In The Cross - Battle Cry
80. For My Good - Hope's Call
81. Faithful To The End - Mercy Fell
82. By A Show Of Hands - The Carolina Boys
83. If He Hung The Moon - Eagle's Wings

84. This Is The Grace I Know - Endless Highway
85. Part Of Me - Covered by Love
86. He Is The Only One - The Dixie Echoes
87. Testify - Cheri Taylor
88. The Thing About A Valley - Steve Ladd
89. I Get Down - Charley Lucas
90. Let's Meet By The River - The Bakers
91. Where Is The Valley - Ricky Atkinson and Compassion
92. Broken Things - Avery Road
93. God Told Me To Walk A Little Farther- The Porter Family
94. Give It To You - Cana's Voice
95. It's Gonna Be A Great Day - Jason Cooper
96. The Way Of Love -Tiffany Coburn
97. By The Touch Of Your Hand - Messiah's Call
98. God Is Good – Charles Billingsly
99. Choose Happy - Tim Lovelace
100. Who Is On The Lord's Side - The Mark Dubbeld Family

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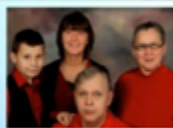
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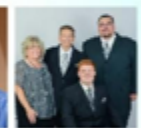
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The Schofields



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The Singing Byrds



The Singing Cookies



The Son's Family



The Steeles



Steve Warren



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Susan Hicks



Tommy Norris



Tina Wakefield



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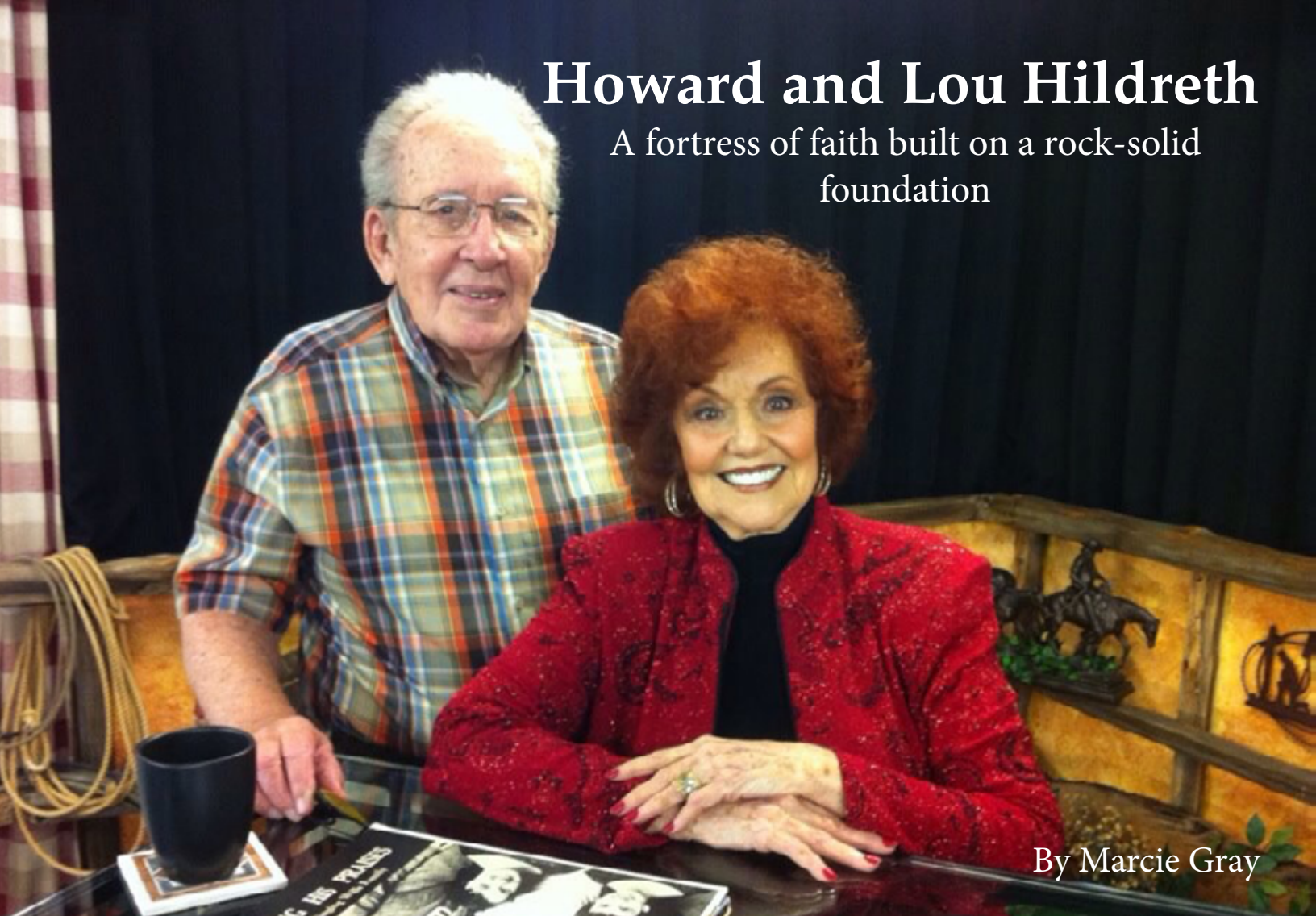
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Howard and Lou Hildreth

A fortress of faith built on a rock-solid foundation



By Marcie Gray

Imagine a time long before telephones could be carried in your pocket or purse; a time when letters were written on paper and mailed using a two-cent postage stamp. It was a simpler time in some ways, more cumbersome in others, yet the foundational truths we stand on today were just as true many years ago.

Several monumental firsts occurred in 1926, including the creation of Route 66, which ran from Chicago to Los Angeles. Kelly Blue Book published its very first edition, and radio network National Broadcasting Company (NBC) was launched. Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States. Marilyn Monroe was born and Annie Oakley died.

On July 26, 1926, another monumental occurrence took place in Mt. Vernon, Texas when Howard Elton Hildreth was born to Kathryn Louise and Howard Elton Hildreth, Sr.

Two years later in Memphis, Texas, Lou Wills was born on July 13, 1928 to Aaron Burr "A.B." (known as "Pop") and Leah Wills. Lou was the third oldest of seven chil-

dren, Eva Rene, Calvin, Lou, Bill, Betty, Bob and Norma Jo. In 1938, Lou became part of the Wills Family Quartet, which included her father, Eva Rene, Calvin and herself.

Ten years later, twin siblings Betty and Bob joined, followed shortly after by little sister, Norma Jo. The Singing Wills family was known as Texas' first family of gospel music. They sang at Stamps-Baxter singing conventions and the Wills children attended Stamps music school in the summertime. Each of the children were encouraged to sing and learn a musical instrument.

Howard was raised not far from Lou and joined the Army Air Corp Reserves while attending Arlington State College. He served in World War II before returning home to work at the Interstate Theater Organization where he fell in love with a ticket booth girl named Lou Wills in February of 1946.

It was love at first sight, although Howard's mother and Lou's grandmother conspired together, taking full credit for the love connection after instructing Lou "not to let



him get away” after their first date.

Lou shared how she and Howard met when interviewed by Emily Sutherland in 2013, which can be viewed on the Gaither.com website. At the time, she and Howard had been married 66 years. Lou said, “I was working as a cashier at a theater while attending college in 1946. Education was important, but we were gospel singers so we didn’t have any money.” She giggled contagiously as the conversation went on.

“Howard came back from serving our country and re-sumed his job as Assistant Manager at the theater. I was in this glass cage where you sell tickets and Howard just hung around that cage and visited with me. We never did get any work done after that. It was over. I knew he was the one! I got home that evening after meeting him and there were a dozen roses on the table. That was February. By November, we were married! Everywhere I go, I want to testify to the goodness of the Lord. If Howard and I can walk in and young people can see us out there, still loving God and loving gospel music, then that’s why we’re here.”

Lou considered Bill and Gloria Gaither dear friends and was heavily involved in helping to promote their minis-

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try, appearing on many Gaither Homecoming videos.

Howard and Lou had two children, David and Kathryn. Though Howard had a successful career with Interstate Theaters, his desire to spend evenings with his family and become more active in his church, Sagamore Hills Baptist, led him to a career change when he accepted a position with Allied Iron Works in Fort Worth, Texas.

While Lou was on the road singing with her family on Sundays, Howard was at their home church working with the youth kids and teaching Sunday School. He accompanied many unruly teenagers on church bus trips and youth camps, and would often show up, kids in tow, to enjoy a fresh chicken dinner at mom Wills' dining room table after church.

In 1968, Howard and Lou relocated to Nashville, Tenn., to allow Lou to pursue her career in the gospel music industry. Howard was Lou's biggest cheerleader and was so supportive of Lou's career. In Nashville, Howard served as a Senior Deacon and Sunday School teacher for Beacon Baptist Church.

Those who know Lou Hildreth would share that she was one of the most kind-hearted souls they've met. Her musical talent was evident in her singing and songwriting abilities. Not only was she a natural performer musically, but she had a charisma about her that brought her incredible success in gospel television and in the gospel music industry.

Lou was a pioneer, paving the way for the women who have followed in her footsteps. She was the first woman to have owned a talent agency in the southern gospel music industry. President of the Nashville Talent Agency, Lou was Mark Lowry's first booking agent. She also represented The Hemphills, Gary McSpadden and many other well-known artists. She was co-owner of the Sword & Shield Recording and Publishing Company, publishing songs such as: "In the Shelter of His Arms," "Now I Have Everything," "I'm Gonna Walk, Talk, and Sing," and "There Is A River."

Lou is the writer of songs such as: "Keep a Happy Heart," "If I Didn't Have Jesus By My Side," "America, There is Hope," and "Bought By the Blood."

In the 1960's, she hosted Wills Family Inspirational Time. Lou became notorious for her personality and knowledge of the music industry, hosting shows such as Hill Country Gospel Television and Inside Gospel (with JP Miller, who now hosts the Smoky Mountain Gospel Jubilee radio/television show), Family Lifestyles and Nashville Gospel.



Lou was a Dove Award Nominee, and was inducted into the Texas Music Hall of Fame in 1998, the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2005, the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2007. She is the namesake for the Lou Hildreth Award, which is presented at Creekside Gospel Convention in Pigeon Forge each November. Lou was the first James Blackwood Award recipient.

Though the move to Nashville brought many years of success, Howard and Lou retired and moved back to Texas in the late 1980's to be more involved in the lives of their beloved grandchildren. Howard showered his entire family with love and showed them by example



what it meant to be a man of God, serving selflessly until his final breath. His love and dedication to his sweetheart, “Loudell” was evident as he selflessly supported the vision God gave her and encouraged her to use her talent to glorify Him.

After 72 years of marriage, Howard’s time on earth was finished. He went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 26, 2018. Just two months and two days later, Lou joined Howard and met Jesus beyond those pearly gates on February 28, 2019.

Lou was thrilled at the generosity of those who made donations to the Southern Gospel Music Association in Howard’s memory. If you wish to contribute in Howard or Lou’s memory, you can do so by visiting www.sgma.org.

Lou Wills-Hildreth will best be remembered for her contribution as a pioneer in the industry for a lifetime of dedication and hard work in Gospel Music throughout the nation. Howard’s support of her efforts made him a hero in the industry. Their foundation was built on their faith in God and love for their family and friends, which made them a rock-solid team as they worked together to promote the music we will enjoy for generations to come.

There is no doubt that the words, “Well done, good and faithful servants,” applies to both Howard and Lou, two very special champions of the faith and the gospel music industry. Thank you, Howard and Lou Hildreth!

Tributes to Lou Hildreth

By Lorraine Walker

For the last several years, the Diamond Awards ceremony has included a Lou Wills Hildreth award, presented to the person or persons that Lou deemed worthy of recognition for service by a “behind-the-scenes” Christian music industry leader who has contributed significantly to the expansion of Southern gospel music.

In the last few years, Lou Hildreth presented her award to very worthy recipients. These have included the following:

2011 - Kelly Burton and Rob Patz: “Ms. Lou is one of the most loving, classy, and generous people I have ever encountered - in Southern gospel, in media, in life. She had a way of making everyone feel like they belonged and the work they were doing was important. In a time when everything can be so competitive and isolating, she put the love of Jesus into being a hostess: providing a warm welcome, a seat at the table, a little background, a lot of encouragement, and always, her gracious smile. I am honored to have received the Lou Hildreth Award in 2011, which was a pivotal year in my career and my family's life. Our times spent with her and all I learned from her will always be with me.” - Kelly Burton
 “Lou Hildreth was the ultimate encourager, uplifter, and good friend. She was always a great supporter of SGN-Scoops and of everything I've done. She had a sweet, loving spirit and I will certainly miss her smiling face at Creekside. What an honor it was to be given her award but even more, it was an honor to be her friend.” - Rob Patz

2012 - Rhonda Mitchell-Frye: “Hearing of the passing of Ms. Lou Hildreth stirs bitter-sweet emotions in my heart. Bitter because she will be sorely missed by many. Sweet because Ms. Lou truly loved Jesus and is now in His presence. Ms. Lou always reminded me of the Apostle John because she talked so much about loving one another. I am thankful for how she believed in me, the wisdom and encouragement she gave, and the love she showed. She challenged Judy Nelon and me a few years ago to “Show up and shine!” and I am doing my best to keep that promise I made to her that day. Rest in peace, Ms. Lou!”

2014 - Tim Lovelace: “To know Lou Hildreth was to

love Lou Hildreth, and she was loved by both gospel music fans and industry professionals all across this country. She was such a pioneer and was extremely successful with her businesses over the years. I first met Lou in the 80s when I was traveling with the Florida Boys. Les Beasley introduced us and started talking about her musical family, her work in Nashville and Texas, and her television work. When Les was impressed with someone, that was saying a lot. But besides her impressive résumé, what I found out over the years was how kind and how consistent she was. She always spoke positively about everything and everyone. Her smile was infectious. Every time we saw each other, she wanted to know how my family was doing. That was just who Lou was...caring and loving. I was very honored to receive the Lou Hildreth Award a few years ago. Knowing Lou and receiving this award was very special to me. I have never met anyone who loved Gospel Music more than Lou loved it. The message was not only real to her, but she also allowed her love for the Lord to shine so bright, and we have been blessed to know this pillar of gospel music and the Kingdom.”

2015 - John Lanier: “I’m so thankful that God allowed me to cross paths with this angel many years ago. Lou was indeed a gracious and godly woman who had a deep and lasting impact on my life and ministry. With such a graceful demeanor and Christ-like humility she was a beautiful person that, to me, represented all that was good and pure. In all the years that I knew her, I never once heard her say even one negative word about anybody. She reached out with love and compassion and always had uplifting words to offer. She was a leader, a mentor, and a cheerleader – encouraging others to pursue Godly excellence in everything they endeavored. In my last conversation with Lou, she said, “John, we have to be about our Father’s business. There’s so much work still to be done, and Jesus is coming soon.” Those were the very last words I heard her speak. Sometimes, when I get a little discouraged, I hear those words echo in my mind that encourage me to keep going. I’m so thankful for Lou’s prayers and encouragement.

2016 - J.P. Miller: “Lou Hildreth was the first person I met in the industry. She was my mentor. She took me under her wing and hosted television shows with me for years. Lou was a true example of Christ. I’m so thankful my path crossed hers.”

Diamond Awards executive producer, Gospel Music Today: “Lou Hildreth’s photos have brightened many of the posts I’ve seen for the past two days. She made such an impact on all of our lives. I always loved to see Lou and Howard and loved reading about their courtship in Lou’s book. They are together again and one final word to Lou, FABULOUS!” - Jean Grady

“Lou was a guest on Gospel Music Today many times. We will miss Lou and Howard. Lou had thousands of friends and she had the gift of making each one of them feel special.” - Ken Grady

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Jenna Faith

On an amazing journey

By Lorraine Walker

Jenna Faith is a strong, grounded sixteen-year-old. “I know without a doubt, this is where I am supposed to be,” she says. “God has shown me confirmation after confirmation. And this definitely is not something that a 16-year-old from Floresville, Texas could have done on her own strength!”

In October, 2017, Jenna Faith participated in the Inspirational Country Music Association talent search, travelling to California to the final try outs. She wasn’t a newcomer to the the competition stage.

“I have auditioned for America’s Got Talent, The Voice, and American Idol,” says the raven-haired vocalist. “Every one was a learning experience but I left with complete peace. If I wasn’t chosen for a call back, it wasn’t from God. It didn’t affect me negatively. Then I heard about ICMA talent search and here I am on this amazing journey God has me on.”

Jenna Faith was not only chosen for a call-back, she went on to win first place, securing a prize package which included the recording and release of an original song. This led to her first single and charting song, “Shine On,” written by Corey Lee Barker and Ken Beam.

“It was the first song of many that were pitched to me,” Jenna Faith recalls. “In my heart, I kept going back to it even when being advised to have my first radio release a more up-tempo song especially as a new artist. I shared with them that this was my song and I had to record it after what my community just went through. The Sutherland Springs Church Shooting had just happened the week before and that is part of my community. Our whole county consisting of many small towns was affected. A classmate and friend of mine was wounded and her mother lost.”



“Although this song has ministered to so many everywhere, Sutherland Springs was my inspiration to record it,” says the teen. “In God’s perfect timing, I was able to share it with them 10 months later. I was asked why I waited so long to share it with them. I told them two reasons: First, I didn’t want the important message of the song to be lost in the haze of the grieving; and secondly, I didn’t ever want someone to think I used this tragedy for publicity.”

The message of the song continues. “‘Shine On’ is in consideration for NRA commercials and for the movie they plan to do,” says Jenna Faith. “‘Shine On’ will always hold a special place in my heart because of the inspiration, the message and because it was my first radio release. And now to learn it is nominated in the top 10 Inspirational Country Song of the Year through ICMA has left me in awe.”

Jenna Faith’s career has also taken off in God’s perfect timing. Singing since the age of three, she sang all kinds of songs everywhere she could. Stephen Hill heard her, and suggested she attend the Ben Speer School of Music. She attended for six summers and has continued with professional coaching ever since.

This young vocalist’s second release is also climbing the charts. “‘No More Second Chances’ was my first co-write with Corey Lee Barker,” says this Big Catch Records artist. “‘No More Second Chances’ does not have a personal meaning behind it other than knowing the goodness of God and his never ending love. Being in music ministry, I have heard so many redemption stories that had struggles and failures along the way and God never said, ‘that’s it, you blew it this time.’”

“No More Second Chances” is number 24 this month on the SGN Scoops’ Christian Country charts, slowly inching its way up.

This artist is open to singing the right song for the right moment. “I would sing some Christian Country cover songs; Carrie Underwood, Randy Travis songs. I just love Christian music of all genres but I did lean towards Southern Gospel and Country. I still do change my set lists to accommodate the congregation or audience,” says the teen.

Some artists use Christian music as a stepping stone to the supposed fame and fortune of secular music. “I don’t know if I will cross over to mainstream country,” says Jenna Faith. “I have to work with my record label to see the direction they will take me in. My heart is true to singing for the Lord, but not opposed to having a larger following that I can bring Jesus to once they become fans. I was once told by one of my mentors that us Christians have a tendency to sing (insular)... We sing the message of Jesus to each other instead of to the lost. We need those platforms to gain trust of fans and bring them the message. But we will see what God’s plan is...”

This young lady has known Jesus personally for a long time. “I was born into a Christian family. I always loved Jesus but when I was seven years old, I told my parents I wanted to get baptized and commit to Jesus.

“I also started my music ministry at age seven. I sang at other churches, nursing homes, hospitals, and funerals. I continued to grow my music ministry. I took a vow of purity and wear my purity ring publicly and boldly. I spend time sharing with youth groups and telling them how God has been present in my life. That is also a large part of why I stayed in public school. I found it to be more effective when other teens know I live the same struggles of peer pressure and interactions they do.”

This young songstress is in earnest about sharing her faith with her generation, fearless about following where the Lord leads. It’s not surprising that her favorite bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6. “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. For the Lord your God goes with you. He will never leave you...”

Jenna Faith says, “I was given a cross with this scripture that I keep in my room. I find great comfort to



know God is always with me.” But she says that speaking the truths of God is not always the most effective way of reaching the hearts of your audience.

“The most important thing I can say is not with words but by actions...to live by example and acknowledging that my decisions are based on serving a real God,” says this young lady who is so full of potential. “I try to remember to say at the end of my concerts, speaking engagements and Facebook Lives..... ‘be kind to one another, but more importantly, be kind to yourself.’”

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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

2019 March SGNScoops' Christian Country Top 40

- 1. I'd Settle For A Dirt Road - Chuck Hancock**
- 2. Grateful - Chris Golden**
- 3. Sermon On The Mount - Tommy Brandt**
- 4. Hands Of A Working Man - Christian Davis**
- 5. I Miss Them All - The Jordan Family Band**
- 6. Days Are Numbered - Shellem Cline**
- 7. I Got Saved - Michael Knight**
- 8. Rockin' Of The Cradle - Arkin Terrell**
- 9. I Am - Robert Stowell**
- 10. Build My Mansion - Gene Watson**
- 11. He Is Here - Terry and Debra Luna**
- 12. God's Got This - Kelly Kenning**
- 13. I Am Saved - Johnny Rowlett**
- 14. Pictures - Jessica Horton**
- 15. Holding On To Jesus - Terry Davis**
- 16. It's Written In The Scars - Dan Duncan**
- 17. Victory Song - Cori and Kelly**
- 18. Lord, You Are Love - The Sonshine Road**
- 19. Going Home - Buddy and Ina Gore**

20. Sinner to Sinner - Jack Gafford
21. Heaven Is Not That Far Away - Pam Blackstock
22. God, Oral Roberts and Billy Graham - Carol Barham
23. Between A Church Pew And A Bar Stool - James Payne
24. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
25. Arms Wide Open - Corey Farlow
26. God, You're So Good - Mike Lechner
27. There's Still Time For A Miracle - Joy Roberts
28. Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick
29. Well Run Dry - Leslie Satcher
30. 'Til The Answer Comes - Mike and Doris Merritt
31. Hole In Her Heart - Linda Lanier
32. Love You Like Mary - The McKay Project
33. He Took Me In - Appointed 2
34. That's How Jesus - Rex Robards
35. I Love You Son - Hunter May
36. 'Til I Get Home - Billy Droze
37. I Believe - Mike Wellman
38. I Close My Eyes - Tammy Renee
39. There's One Man - Mitchell Whisnant
40. I'm Not Through With You Yet - The Sounds Of Victory

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Les Butler and Friends: Roger Johnson of Heaven's Mountain band

By Les Butler

I first met Roger Johnson and Heaven's Mountain Band in 2012. I'll never forget that day. They were so nervous to meet me. You will see in this article that they hold me in high esteem. Might I say they hold me in too high esteem. Without this knowledge, some of this article would sound self-serving. I promise you, I'm not the big wig they think I am. To quote my friend Aaron Wilburn, "bless their hearts."

I wanted to write about Roger Johnson and not the entire band for this article. We'll write about the band at a later date I'm sure. Roger is such standout songwriter and driving force for old-time religion and old-time gospel music, that I really wanted to shine the spotlight on him alone this month. I am proud to introduce you to Roger Johnson.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Roger Johnson: At 12 years old, I got my first guitar. It was a Western Auto Trutone acoustic guitar and they were on sale for \$12.50. If you purchased the guitar, they gave you a free set of Black Diamond strings. My

mother purchased that for me the Christmas of 1969.

Butler: How many groups have you been with, from the earliest to the most current?

Johnson: The only group I've been a part of is Heaven's Mountain Band. We started in 1986 as a Southern gospel group. We were part of the Eddie Crook Company. We changed from Southern gospel music to Bluegrass Gospel about the time we met you (Les Butler) in 2012. We had so much trouble keeping a live Southern gospel band and we could play our own acoustic instruments, so it was a natural move. We always loved the groups featured on Front Porch Fellowship, and we wanted to go more that direction.

Butler: When did you start writing songs?

Johnson: Around 1985. The first song I wrote was, "Latter Rain." This was the first song we took to the Eddie Crook Company and they liked it. The first month they released it, it made the Top 80.

Butler: What is your favorite song that you've writ-



ten and why?

Johnson: My song, "I'll Ride This Ship to The Shore." I'm glad all this new religion stuff got to me too late, I was already on board the old ship of zion, worshipping in the old-time way.

Butler: How many songs have you written?

Johnson: I'm guessing, around 200. I really don't know. I've written a lot of songs years ago and have forgotten I even wrote them. I frequently stumble upon songs that I wrote years ago that I've forgotten.

Butler: Is there a song that you've written that came to you in a very unusual way or during an unusual circumstance?

Johnson: "The Empty Altar." We need a burden for the lost. God has really used this song. When I wrote the song, I was just sitting at the house. We had just gotten off a weekend where folks just didn't seem to want to worship the Lord. We gave altar calls and saw no movement of any kind. It just seemed liked folks didn't care. I got to thinking about that and how much I missed seeing tears on the altar. The Lord just started to stir my soul, and he gave me the lyrics to this song.

Butler: Did you ever think you'd have a group that has had seven consecutive No. 1 songs that you have written, with parades and special days honoring you and Heaven's Mountain Band?

Johnson: I never thought we would have one. We just want to give God the glory. I still can't get over how much radio has responded to our simple message and the simple way in which we sing that message.

Butler: What other artists have recorded your songs?

Johnson: Rhonda Vincent recorded, "Momma and God," Paul Williams recorded, "That Ole Church Bell," Marvin Morrow recorded, "Somebody Prayed," the Primitive Quartet recorded, "Covered in Grace," Terry Terrell recorded, "Heroes of Prayer," and "Graveyard of Sin," the King James Boys recorded, "Super Water," and the Old Time Preachers Quartet recorded, "I'll Ride This Ship to The Shore," and "Empty Altar." You (Les Butler) recorded, "When His Blood Fell."



Butler: Who are some of your musical mentors in the gospel music industry?

Johnson: The Primitive Quartet have set the standard for what I believe a gospel group ought to be. And, to me, you (Les Butler) single handedly has kept this kind of old time gospel music alive in the gospel music world; radio, concerts, churches and TV.

Butler: What's your most special musical/ministry moment?

Johnson: I have two. Meeting you (Les Butler) at the Singing News Office in Nashville. We were nervous and excited. We've listened to your radio show for years. Secondly, my greatest memory to date is New Haven Baptist Church, Norwood, Ohio. Over 225 people came to the altar, praising and seeking God. I'll never forget that day.

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

Johnson: I'm writing songs mostly. I try to spend every possible moment with my seven grandkids. We fish,

play music, hunt, play follow the leader, climb trees, you name it. I also help our son, Rodney, at his business, Johnson RV Supply in Red Bay, Ala.

Butler: What haven't you done musically/ministry-wise that you would like to do before you hang it up?

Johnson: I would love to be able to play musical instruments like David Johnson. The first time we recorded with David he started playing the fiddle, then he played a second fiddle part, then a third fiddle part on "Good Shepherd." As he was doing that, all we could do was sit in the control (booth) and cry. Then he started adding other instruments like the acoustic bass, acoustic guitar, mandolin, dobro, banjo. He plays everything to perfection.

Butler: Please give us a brief testimony...

Johnson: Well, we never thought being raised poor, out in the sticks, that God would ever use us especially the way he is today. Everywhere we go, all we ever want to do is brag on him. What he's done is everything.

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SGN SCOOPS

Bluegrass

Top 20

2019 March SGN Scoops' Bluegrass Gospel Top 20

1. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
2. Let My Life Be A Light - Balsam Range
3. That's Grace - Primitive Quartet
4. Songs Like Those - Chigger Hill Boys and Terri
5. When The Storm Is In My Path - Heaven's Mountain Band
6. Super Water - King James Boys
7. Why Should I Worry - Canaan's Crossing
8. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
9. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff and Sheri Easter
10. Fill My Cup Lord - Stiff Family
11. Who But God - Eagle's Wings
12. Thinkin' Outside The Box - Dave Adkins
13. Most Requested Prayer - Heaven's Mountain Band
14. Little White Church By The Way - Rumfelt Family
15. By The Marks In His Hands - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
16. Water Grace - Chosen Road
17. Now I'm Here - Stevens Family Tradition
18. Hide Me Behind The Cross - Tonja Rose
19. Little Black Train - Barry Abernathy and Darrell Webb
20. Glimpse Of The Kingdom - Chris Jones and The Night Drivers

Social Animals

Documentary explores the dark side of social media

By Suzanne Mason

Social media keeps us connected to friends and family, with the news and celebrities, and up to date on current events around the world. It's an enhancement many of us feel we can't do without, but not everyone uses social media the same.

For today's generation of youth, it can—and often does—mean popularity, status, acceptance, fame, and/or self-worth.

A new documentary “Social Animals” explores the darker side of Instagram for teenagers in the U.S.

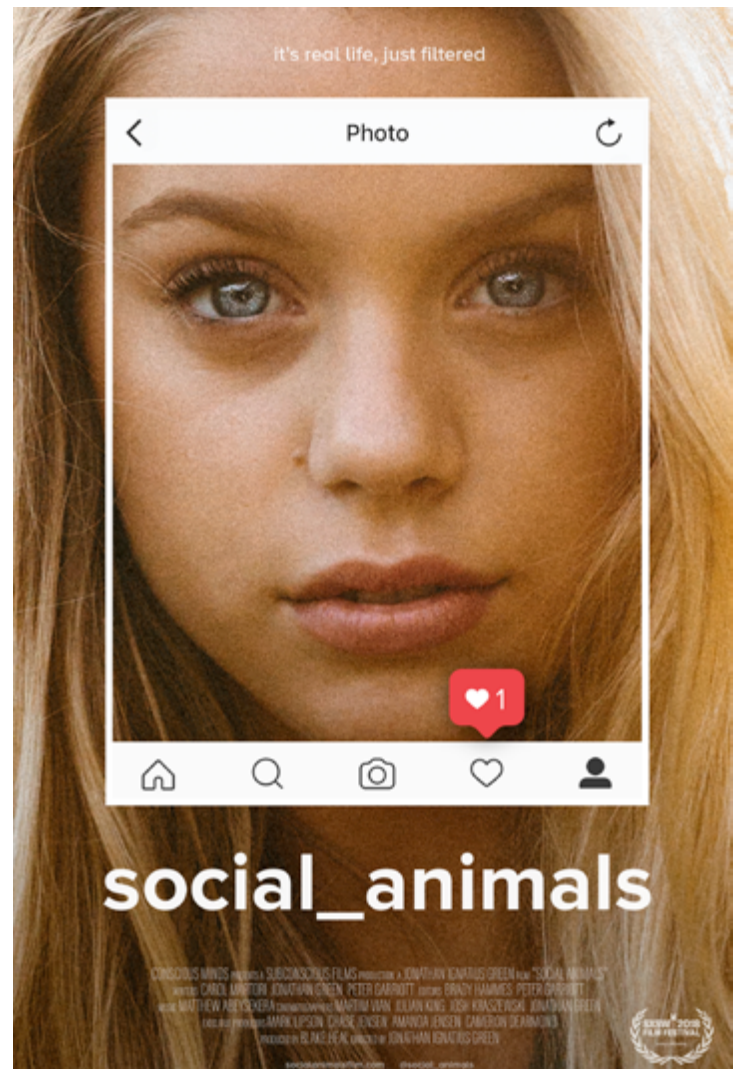
“Social Animals,” a film that gazes into the Instagram experience of three teens, explores what happens when love, self-esteem, acceptance, and fame become part of their social media experience. The film doesn't suggest social media is good or bad; instead, it lets the stories tell themselves, offering a peek into the lives of today's image-focused youth.

Kaylyn, an aspiring model, leverages social media, using it “kind of like a business,” to build a brand for herself now in the hopes of opening and modeling her own clothing line someday. With several thousands followers, she's well on her way to maximizing the potential of marketing her skills now, but popularity brings unexpected dangers.

A teenager from the projects, Humza began taking photographs around New York's boroughs, even scaling buildings and bridges to capture stunning photos that have earned him praise and fame. Through a strange series of events, he's become almost as unpopular as he

is famous for his photography, and he's had to learn how to deal with both extremes.

Emma uses social media on a smaller scale and the way most people do, choosing to document her life, laughs, family, friends, and fun. As a teen trying to manage





her image, self-worth, and relationships, social media becomes a way to gauge them, and she soon learns how dangerous and emotional it can be.

“On social media, you can edit yourself to who you want to be; meanwhile, in person you’re stuck with who you really are,” one of the teens explains in the film. “It’s a constant battle everyone faces.”

Yet even the fame of presenting an idealized version of oneself can create backlash.

Today, many people look at likes, follower counts, comments to determine their self-worth and lovability. “Social Animals” documents how these social media tools affect lives in tangible ways.

“Social Animals” is now available on digital and VOD. For more information, visit www.socialanimalsfilm.com.





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The music keeps turning for Victory Road

By John Herndon

If anything, Victory Road's path of sharing gospel music is a continuing revolution of a circle that just keeps turning.

And growing.



"I met David (Jones, the group's tenor) back in 1981 at First Baptist (Church in Taylorsville, Kent.)," says David Stevens, the group's lead singer and rhythm guitarist. "That was kind of the beginning of our quartet."

Stevens and Jones, who still work together in a Taylorsville grocery store, started singing at church as part of what Stevens calls "a pickup quartet," which then became the Gloryland Quartet. "We started going to a few churches in the area and things just took off," Stevens

says.

There have been a few changes over 38 years but things keep getting better for what started out as guys singing together at church.

Seven years ago, the group became Victory Road and is now one of the most popular Southern gospel groups in central Kentucky. Victory Road stays busy -- over 40 dates last year and over 50 in 2017 -- playing largely in the areas served by Louisville and Lexington, but the group has had dates in other areas of Kentucky, and often plays in southern Indiana. Several years ago, the group even made a trip to Virginia.



But on Sunday night, Feb. 24, the group was back home, hosting a concert with the Hilltop Trio, from nearby Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Stevens notes the group plays at his home church often and leads worship there several times a year. Stevens, Jones and pianist Tim Edwards are members of the church while other members of Victory Road worship in other churches in Spencer, Shelby or Anderson counties of Kentucky.

But the scope of the group's ministry is broad. In addition to the many church appearances, the group is sometimes asked to sing on "Great Day Live," a morning news and talk show that airs on WHAS-TV in Louisville. Stevens says the group has also appeared on several radio programs.



Their musical offerings are more diverse than the Southern gospel label would suggest. Victory Road performs anything from old hymns to gospel classics -- think the Blackwood Brothers or the Happy Goodmans -- to Glen Campbell's "Try a Little Kindness."

A highlight of many of Victory Road's concerts comes when baritone Larry Dennison delivers Stuart Hamblen's classic, "Until Then." It drew a standing ovation in Taylorsville.

Victory Road has recorded two albums, "Sweeter As the Days Go By" and the latest, simply called "Victory Road." The second album was produced by Jaydee Miller, who has toured with Kenny Rogers and the Gaither Homecomings.

Over the years, Victory Road has had relatively little



turnover, but has expanded from a quartet with a pianist to a full band that includes a bass guitar and drums. Stevens, on rhythm, and baritone Larry Dennison, on the lead guitar, add to the instrumental sound.

Bassist Carroll Ingram and drummer Freddie Sharp round out the group.

"It's been amazing how the Lord has brought people to us when we needed them," Stevens smiles.

He offers the addition of bass Jerry Franklin, a well-known gospel veteran throughout Kentucky, as an example. Victory Road had been without a bass singer for about a year and the remaining members were performing as a trio.

Stevens took a chance and called Franklin, who had not been with a group for several years. Stevens had no idea if Franklin would be interested, but he says, "Jerry said, 'That's an itch I have had that hasn't been scratched for a while.'"

Stevens can only smile with the story. He says Franklin's smooth, deep tones make him popular wherever the group goes. He often sings a song he wrote, "1951," which reminisces of attending Pigeon Fork Baptist

Church in rural Anderson County as a child.

Victory Road stays busy, singing somewhere nearly every weekend. The group sees the ministry as its calling. Any money received for the ministry is just a blessing, Stevens says. "Everyone we have is working full time so we don't care about that part of it. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways."

Every time they step to the microphones, Victory Road hopes to be a blessing to those attending their concerts. Chances are the group will be just that.



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Greg Goodman



By Vonda Armstrong

When Singing News Radio Network program director, Greg Goodman, accepted the 2018 Radio Impact Award on behalf of Singing News Radio at the Dove Awards ceremony in 2018, he said, "We are so humbled and honored to receive this award. Every day we go about the business of producing radio that engages our listeners. This validation from the members of the Gospel Music Association lets us know we are also serving the Southern gospel music industry well."

We at SGNScoops Magazine are excited to shine the DJ Spotlight on Greg Goodman this month.

Vonda Armstrong: What is your current radio position and station?

Greg Goodman: Singing News Radio, which is heard on 50 radio stations and at SingingNewsRadio.com. I am a Program Director/ Midday Personality.



Armstrong: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?

Goodman: I would love to go to England and Ireland one of these days.

Armstrong: Tell us about the moment you knew that radio was what you wanted to pursue.

Goodman: I was already a radio fan, but probably around the age of nine, I went to the Opryland Hotel, where they did a radio morning show called "The Waking Crew" on the legendary 650 WSM. This was in a restaurant environment. I went to ask the host, Ralph Emery, for his autograph. He told me to stay with him. The next thing I know a big red "ON AIR" light was on in the front of the room and Ralph Emery was talking to me on WSM! That was probably the moment that led me to a career in radio.



Armstrong: When you are traveling, what is your favorite restaurant?

Goodman: I definitely enjoy some seafood and those cheddar biscuits at Red Lobster!

Armstrong: Tell us about your family.

Goodman: I am blessed to have an amazing wife, Debbie. She is a teacher. We have two daughters, Maddie and Courtney. They absolutely light up my world. I'm known to play audio of them on the air. The audience



seems to enjoy that.

Please make sure you catch Greg at Singing News Radio, on one of 50 radio stations or at Singingnewsradio.com.



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Randall Reviews It - March 2019

by Randall Hamm

Friends:

March is here. The month of spring and my birthday month. So many things to celebrate...like these new arrivals of new music for you to discover, download and enjoy.

This month I bring you the latest release from the Isbell Family, Triumphant Quartet follows up their "Thankful" CD with their best album yet, and newcomer and bass soloist Johnathan Welsh formerly of Simple Faith of Ireland, sings across the seas.

As always, if you enjoy the reviews, pick up this music, or download it, 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.

Randall
Now...let the reviews begin.



Triumphant Quartet
"Yes"

Producer: Gordon Mote and Wayne Haun
Label: Stowtown 2019

Songs: "Going There" (Scott Inman - Lee Black BMI); "Even Me" (Jeff Baumgardner - Jason Cox - Kenna Turner West BMI); "Eye Of The Storm" (Ryan Stevenson - Bryan Fowler SESAC); "Ye's" (Scott Inman - Nathan Woodard BMI); "What He's Done For Me" (Scott Inman - Lee Black BMI); "Give You All The Glory" (Scott Inman - Lee Black - Sue C. Smith BMI); "Joy" (Scott Inman - Lee Black - Tony Wood BMI); "A Little Bit" (Scott Inman - Kenna Turner West - Tony Wood BMI); "All Things Good" (Scott Inman - Joel Lindsey BMI); "Only God Knows" (Kevin Wright BMI); "We Believe" (Richie Fike - Matthew Hooper - Travis Ryan BMI)

How do you follow up one of your most successful albums and most successful single thus far of your

career? Triumphant took two years and selected 11 strong songs for their new project “Yes” to be released March 23rd.

Their current radio single “Even Me,” was one of the last songs added to the project. The song penned by Jeff Baumgardner, Jason Cox and Kenna Turner West is based on John 3:16. It’s amazing that God so loved the world, and that means “Even Me.”

If you think the leadoff single is good, there’s even more material just as good or even better. “Yes,” the title track, is a fun upbeat song, featuring the entire group. “So glad that when I ran to him and confessed he said ‘Yes.’”

The last song on the CD features Eric Bennett, which could become an anthem and a song closer for Triumphant, entitled “We Believe.”

One song that had me going back time and time again was the song “Joy.” It is catchy and a song that will have you tapping toes, clapping hands and singing along. “You can take everything I have, but you can’t take my ‘Joy.’” This is my pick for the single for the late spring/summertime release period. The rest of the album will delight as well.

Overall, it pays sometimes to take your time to release an album. The wait was well worth it. This could garner the group Dove and Grammy nominations and that’s high praise. So far this is the best new release of the year. Visit Triumphant at <https://www.facebook.com/TriumphantQuartet/> and on March 23rd get a copy of this album.



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Strongest Songs: “Even Me,” “Yes,” “Joy,” “We Believe”



Isbell Family

“Singing My Song”

Producer: Shane Roark

Label: Sanctuary 2019

Songs: “Singing My Song” (Rachell Isbell BMI); “Cry” (Eric Isbell BMI); “A Love Like God’s” (Autumn Isbell - Eric Isbell BMI); “Blue Skies” (Rachel Isbell BMI); “He Chose To Live” (Eric Isbell BMI); “Cause To Believe” (Autumn Isbell BMI); “Sometimes It’s You” (Eric Isbell BMI); “I Want To Move On” (Autumn Isbell BMI); “Trust God With The Rest” (Eric Isbell BMI); “Come To Jesus” (Chris Rice BMI); “Tennessee” (Eric Isbell BMI)

The Isbell Family from West Tennessee (Savannah) is beginning to make their imprint in the world of Southern gospel music. They are Dad, Eric; Mama, Rachel; and children, Kaleb and Autumn. Their last release garnered them several nominations at the SGNScoops Diamond Awards. Since then, they have won a showcase at NQC and were featured on Main Stage to be seen by many, who may not have heard this talented family group before.

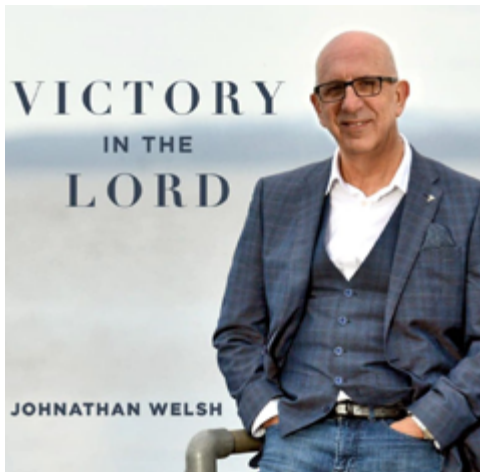
Their featured song and current release “He Chose To Believe” is a song that Eric had written a number of years ago. You can see the video at the Isbells’ Facebook page [facebook.com/TheIsbellFamily/](https://www.facebook.com/TheIsbellFamily/). The video has been viewed over 19,000 times.

All of the songs but one are written by the Isbells. Eric, Kaleb and Autumn play various instruments and feature

quite a bit of their brand of Bluegrass southern gospel during their concerts. “Singing My Song” leads off this release, a sing-able, hum-able song, that I hope will be the next single release. It features Autumn, and it’s a great song for spring and summer listening. Other songs that are worthy of a possible single release are “Blue Skies” and “Trust God.”

The Isbell Family close out with an ode to their home state “Tennessee.” This CD will surely garner new fans for the Isbell Family. I was privileged last year to hear the demos of this project when the family performed in concert in my area. I could tell then, that this project would be a very special project for the family. Visit the Isbell Family at facebook.com/TheIsbellFamily/ and get a copy of “Singing My Song” at isbellfamilymusic.com/product.php.

Strongest Songs: “He Chose To Live,” “Singing My Song,” “Blue Skies,” “Cry”



Johnathan Welsh

“Victory In The Lord”

Producer: Johnathan Welsh and John Johnson

Label: Independent 2019

Songs: “It’ll Be Joy” (Ann Ballard); “Beulah Land” (Squire Parsons); “Long Black Train” (Josh Turner); “Mansion Over The Hilltop” (Ira Stanphill); “One Scarred Hand” (Kyla Rowland); “How Big Is God” (Stuart Hamblen); “Farther Along” (W.A. Fletcher); “How Beautiful” (Twila Paris); “Under Control” (Jim Wood - Roger Holmes); “If You Knew Him” (Joseph Habedank - Rodney Griffin)

You may not know the name Johnathan Welsh, but you may soon. He is the former bass of the group Simple

Faith, based out of Ireland. Johnathan is now a soloist, and has recorded his latest “Victory In The Lord” during a visit to the U.S. to TuneDesigner Studios in Covington, Georgia.

If I were to describe Johnathan’s voice, it would be Tim Riley but with a Irish accent. His voice is so close in tone to Tim Riley’s, you probably couldn’t tell them apart, except for the small hint of an accent. On his CD, Johnathan covered “Under Control,” originally by Tim, and does a great job.

Kicking off the CD, “It’ll Be Joy,” is a joyful and upbeat way of getting the listener into the album and wondering what’s next. “Beulah Land” follows, leaving the listener wanting more.

Overall, the listener will not be disappointed with this CD. Johnathan’s version of “Long Black Train” is one of the best I’ve ever heard, matching Josh Turner’s version, note for note and voice for voice. Other songs such as “Farther Along” and “Mansion Over the Hilltop,” delve back into the hymnbook with Johnathan breathing life into these old classics. Where he excels is songs like “Under Control” and “How Big is God,” which have been bass classics.

My favorite song on the CD is a cover of the Perrys’ “If You Knew Him.” A great reading of this classic closes out the CD.

If you’re looking for a new artist to add to your playlist, consider this CD and artist. Visit Johnathan Welsh at facebook.com/Rufus64/ and message him how to get your copy of “Victory In The Lord.” You will not be disappointed.

Strongest Songs: “One Scarred Hand,” “Under Control,” “Long Black Train,” “If You Knew Him”

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A photograph of four men in suits standing in a church aisle. The men are positioned in the center of the frame, flanked by wooden pews. The church has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams and a circular stained-glass window at the far end. The title 'THE GUARDIANS' is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the upper part of the image, with 'SINCE 1988' in smaller text below it.

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Tribute in Concert at Spring Valley

By Justin Gilmore

On the rainy evening of Sat., Jan. 12, 2019, Casa De Oro Baptist Church played host to the talented, Dove Award nominated Tribute Quartet. This small, quaint church was packed with a very lively audience whose comments led to some hilarious moments throughout the concert.

After a word of prayer, Tribute took the stage and opened with the classic quartet tune, "I've Been With Jesus," which featured Josh Singletary, as well as new member Gus Gaches, who joined this month following the departure of longtime tenor Riley Harrison Clark. It was great seeing Gaches on stage again after his several year absence from full time ministry. Gaches's powerful tenor fits with the quartet perfectly, in my humble opinion.

Next, the groups kicked it up a notch with the fun,

bouncy, rhythm filled, "Move That Mountain," which featured Gary Casto, Singletary, and Anthony Davis. This song had the audience clapping along and set the tone for the rest of the evening.

Singletary took the lead next on the energy-filled "Everybody Come See Jesus," which is one of my favorite tracks from their latest mainline release "Here For You." After Casto's group introductions, Anthony Davis was featured on "Let's Go To That Land," which showcases both his lower and upper registers. The song, that looks toward Heaven, along with Davis's smooth bass voice, was a hit with the audience.

Singletary made his way to the piano next to play a rousing rendition of "Power In The Blood." Wrongly timed applause and other responses from the audience led to some hilarious moments of



natural comedy from Singletary, who was in top form throughout the concert. His antics have been a highlight for me personally both times I have seen the group in concert.

Next, Gaches was featured again on the classic tenor track “Over The Moon,” which showcased his incredible control and range.

Gary Casto’s powerful lead vocals were showcased on the incredible “His Tomb Is Empty Now,” which tells of Christ’s resurrection. Gaches was featured once again on the powerful anthem “Who Am I,” which reminds us of Jesus’ sacrifice for us, even though we are unworthy. I was blown away by his performance. In my humble opinion, he sounded better than ever on this track and throughout the entire concert.



The first half of the concert came to a close with the Tribute classic “Good News From Jerusalem,” which had the audience on their feet in praise. The second half began with a rousing rendition of “I’m Standing On The Solid Rock,” followed by the cruise-inspired “Those Who Know Me,” featuring Singletary and his antics once again. Next, the group sang one of their most popular songs and one of my personal favorites “Homesick Angel.” Gaches is still relatively new to the song so Casto advised him to “make it up if he had to” in case he forgot the words. He did very well, missing only one phrase which led to another funny moment.



Casto then talked about his family and his grandfather whose favorite song was “How Great Thou Art,” which Singletary then played beautifully. Casto went on to tell of a concert turned memorial service for which Davis had to quickly learn the classic “Leaving On My Mind,” which Davis then performed. I really enjoy his rendition of this Rusty Goodman standard.

Casto went down memory lane singing several hymns (including “In The Garden,” and “Because He Lives,”) as well as sharing from his heart and giving



words of encouragement. The group then closed the night with another rousing chorus of “Let’s Go To That Land.”

Afterward, I was able to chat with each member of the group. I was shocked that Gaches remembered me as it was at least six or seven years ago since I had seen him. I had a nice chat with Casto about upcoming concerts as well as the upcoming CD. I also had a blast talking to both Davis and Singletary.



Tribute is one of the best quartets on the road today, in my opinion. This concert showcased not only their incredible vocal ability, but also their professionalism and love for the Lord and their fans. Gaches is a fantastic addition to the group and I look forward to the first project featuring this new lineup. They are the real deal both on and off the stage.

For more information and tour schedule visit www.tributequartet.com.



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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

We made it to March! What a winter of storms it has been. I pray all of you are safe and sound as you are reading this. Spring is in sight; at least, on the calendar it is. Thank you so much for reading this issue of SGNscoops. I hope it makes you feel warm inside even if it is still cold on the outside.

I was excited and honored to have the chance to interview the Old Paths. Years ago, a friend of mine down in Florida said they had heard them as a trio and they were terrific. Fast-forward to 2019 and they are one of the quartets who will be burning up the charts with their new recording. I hope you enjoyed the feature and that you could hear their heart for the Lord, their families, and their music.

We were all sad to hear that our friend, Lou Wills Hildreth, had passed away. She didn't want to be away from her husband, Howard, any longer, I guess. What a force for God she has been all of her life and a force for Southern gospel music. Many thanks to Marcie Gray and J.P. Miller for the terrific feature detailing her life. There aren't many women who have done what she accomplished in this genre. I see her as a role model of grace, love, persistence and enthusiasm for the gospel.

A special thanks to all of our writers this month who have worked hard to share their talents: John Herndon, Justin Gilmore, Suzanne Mason, Les Butler, Marcie Gray, Vonda Easley, Randall Hamm, Leslie McKay, and of course our fearless leader, Rob Patz. We so appreciate all of the artists who have shared their hearts: Old Paths, Victory Road, Roger Johnson, and Jenna Faith, a lovely young lady with a great voice, one we will be hearing a lot more from and seeing more often on the Christian Country charts. And we are so grateful to you, our readers, who faithfully watch our website

and download this magazine. Be sure to check the website every day as more of our writers share special features there.

For many Christians, March is the month of Lent, where some type of fasting for God takes place. Fasting could be refraining from eating a meal, a certain type of food, or even just taking a break from technology or social media for a time; all of these things are great ideas as long as they are replaced by something that reminds us of what Jesus Christ did for us at Calvary. We all need reminding that he went through much pain and suffering, then death, before rising from the grave to radiant life.

When we look at the life and death of our Lord, it rather puts into perspective a lot of our concerns. The apostle Paul told young Timothy, in his second letter to him, to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. I once heard someone's description of grace as God's riches at Christ's expense. The Lord extended grace - favour we did not earn - even to those who brutally killed him. We are to extend that grace to others and remember that it is strength to our spirit.

In the same letter, Paul told Timothy over and over not to get into foolish arguments. I find this relatable because a lot of what I see on social media is foolish arguments. I find it hard to extend grace, especially to those who aren't what they appear. But I guess, like forgiveness, we aren't to pick and choose when we bestow it. I'm so thankful my Lord extended his forgiveness and grace to me. He is my joy and strength.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about this article or anything you have read in this issue, please contact me at Lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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



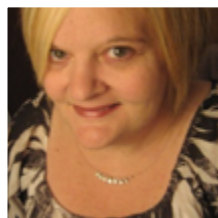
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony of how she was born lifeless and how Jesus raised her up to live for Him. Jennifer is a member of the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra and has performed with them at Brooklyn Tabernacle, Carnegie Hall, Central Park, and Times Square. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <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.



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.

Contributors

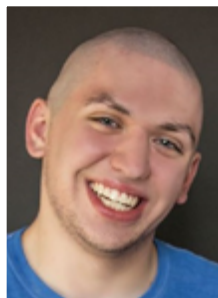
SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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 reviewing 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.



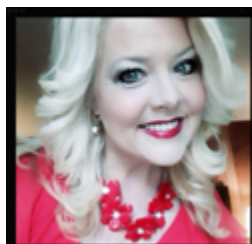
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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 Armstrong is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Vonda draws on a vast knowledge of Southern Gospel Music for her expertise in the field. In addition to her many personal friendships 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.



Cheryl Smith describes herself as a "passionate disciple and follower of Jesus Christ." She says: "I am married to the sweetest, most patient man for over 30 years...Mama to one miracle son God sent to us after 12.5 years of infertility...Homeschool Teacher who learns way more than I ever teach. I love to spend time with my husband

and son in the mountains, sing and play Bluegrass music, and write. I am so thankful for your visit and hope you will visit my blogs: homespundevoations.com/ and biblicalminimalism.com/ It is my goal to encourage you in your walk with Jesus and to inspire you to let go of this world for the sake of a higher call. It is His call that I hope you hear. So compelling, so intense, so far above anything this world has to offer. It is the call His disciples heard as they went about a normal, ordinary day, fishing. It is a call they could not refuse. A call that caused them to drop everything they had and walk away from life as they knew it, without a backward glance. Can you hear it? Are you listening?"



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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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. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed."

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.



John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years old and

eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps.

John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

He loves listening to gospel music or playing one of his guitars.

John lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Stephanie, and 17-year-old daughter. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.



Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGNscoops 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).

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Angela Parker is a life-long singer and sings with her mother's group, Mercy Rain. She resides in Lexington, S.C. She's been happily married to her husband Jack for nearly 4 years. He's supported every decision Angela has made without fail. Jack travels with Mercy Rain whenever he can and helps out where

possible. He supports Mercy Rain continuously. Since Angela has recently been diagnosed with Lupus, Jack has done everything he can to take care of her.

Angela actively advocates for Autism Awareness. She feels education for all involved is the key to their success. She worked with Autistic children providing ABA Therapy up until her current illness forced her to have to quit.

She speaks out against Domestic Violence having been a victim of abuse for many years herself. Her constant battle today is healing from the mental scars that are left over after the physical and verbal abuse. Her personal testimony will help others see how God can deliver from abuse and help to heal the abused person.

Angela is very excited about writing for SGN Scoops and loves all of the SGN Scoops family. She loves the Lord with all her heart and has been blessed with awesome talent and love for others. You will be blessed by her talent and great spirit!



Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back.

But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing

songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.



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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Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world of music that surrounds us. She believes

when words fail us, music speaks.



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by The Talleys, Gordon Mote, The Williamsons, Doug Anderson, Susan Whisnant, The Erwins, Jay Stone Singers, Master Promise, Three Bridges, Endless Highway, 3 Heath Brothers, Fortress, and many other gospel artists.

Dixie is also an Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.



Amy Duncan Oxenrider, the daughter of Grant and Shelia Duncan, is married to Jason Oxenrider and they have three sons, Brady, Weston, and Rylan. Amy works as a psychometrist for the Mississippi Department of Education. She also writes for Pure Gospel Magazine and

is now a member of SGN Scoops.

A former member of the Riders, Amy continues to minister through singing and speaking engagements. She is excited to see what her future holds and longs to uplift the name of Jesus Christ wherever the doors may open.



Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of the Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.