



LARNELLE HARRIS

notes that shaped an extraordinary voice

**ALSO FEATURING:
THE PEYTON SISTERS, SAM COX AND TAYLON HOPE**



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OUR MISSION

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

Welcome to the April edition of the Publisher's Point. I know I've said this before, but I'm going to say it again ... I love spring. I love this time of year, because it is a sign of new beginnings. If you look around, the flowers are blooming. The sun is out longer throughout the day. It just feels new.

If you look back at the first few months of the year, I challenged you to begin this year as a "new you" and a "new year." How have you been doing? I wish I could say that I have taken all of the things that I wanted to implement into my new year and that I have successfully done that. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I have done some things, just not everything. However, I also feel that, besides the first of the year, spring is like a time of resetting things in your life.

I was thinking about new things lately, and I was challenged by the fact that, sometimes, when we start something new, we are the only one that can see it. Maybe God has given us a vision for something that, down the road, others will catch a hold of but haven't yet.

I think of Noah. He started building the ark one day before it started to rain. In fact, he was ridiculed for his actions, but he knew what God had in store.

There are times in life where we have to truly seek God and know that He has, and will, do a good work in us. The Bible reads in Philippians 1:6 (NIV), "Being confident of this, He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

I have to be honest with you. Lately, I have a new project that I desperately want to do, but at the same time, I have been very reticent to do it out of fear that those around me would think it was dumb or not worth doing. I know I should just take the leap of faith and do it, because I truly believe God has put it in my heart. At the same time, I'm not totally sure that I can pull it off, though I know the Word says we can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us.

I guess I look at it kind of the way I look at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention. When I started it, a lot of folks thought I was completely crazy. They said that there wasn't room for another event in our industry of the type I was suggesting. But God has allowed it to grow, expand and change.

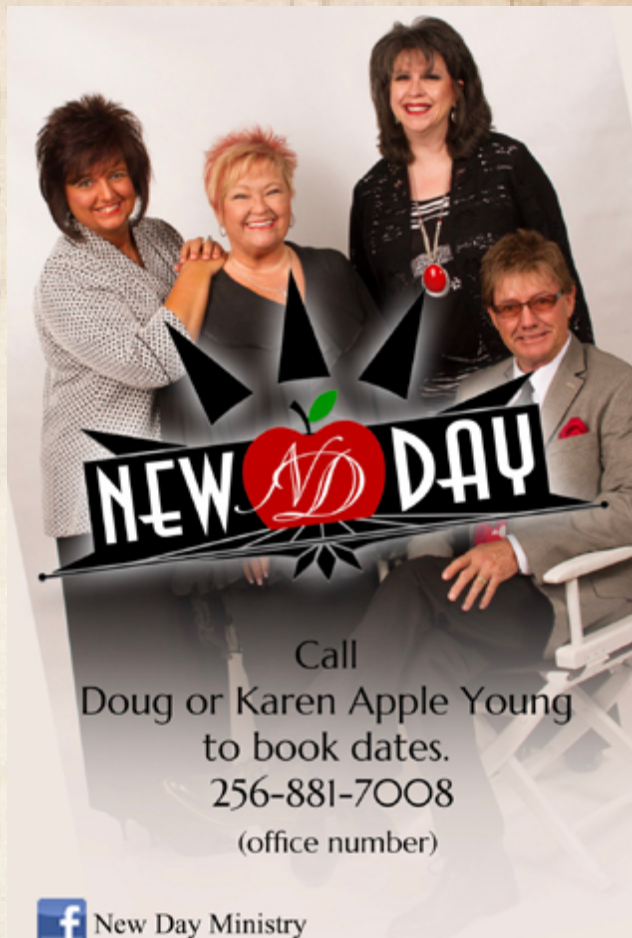


I find it interesting that God planted a seed of what I was going to do. Over time, that vision has changed or evolved. The truth of the matter is, a little over seven years ago when He wanted me to get started, He didn't give me all of the pieces. He gave me the vision, but He wanted me to put feet to that vision.


When I was a freshman in high school, my dad gave me a book by Robert Schuller. One of the quotes in the book that has stuck with me ever since is this, "Starting means you're halfway to the finish." What he means is, by putting the effort together to start a project, you are at the point where you are already close to completion.

So what vision is God giving you? What project has He laid before you, that you're worried that others might find ridiculous, funny, or strange? Let me challenge you ... it's spring 2018. Grab your vision and move forward.

That is the Publisher's Point.



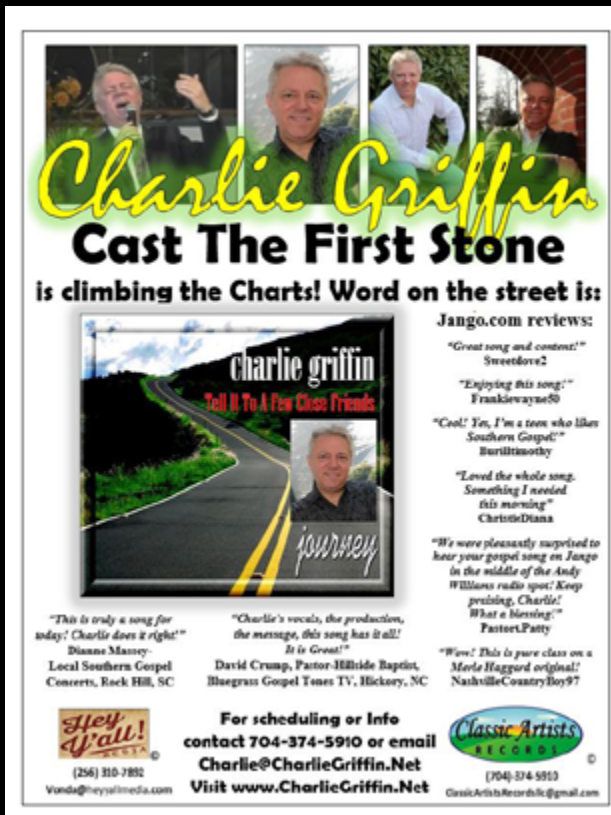
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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Danielle Allen of
The Allen Family

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin Stevens ...

I am delighted to introduce a face you may recognize and a humble heart that deserves a spotlight all her own. My friend and roommate – while serving in Uganda, Africa – Danielle Allen of the Allen Family is my special guest this month. Traveling on a bus with seven other people is not for the faint of heart, but this is a special girl with a profound call of ministry on her life. Now it's her turn to take a solo. Let's listen in ...

Erin Stevens: Beginning with some Allen history 101 – for those that may not know the story of the early days, share with the readers where and when your parents met and how they began their ministry.

Danielle Allen: My parents met in Hattiesburg, Miss., at William Carey College. When they first met, they didn't like each other at all. My dad was a country boy from Louisiana, and my mom was a city girl from Florida. They were both in the music department. With some clever matchmaking, they were thrown together with a trumpet and soprano duet. The rest is history. They were married seven years before they began this ministry. My dad was the pastor at a church in Michigan when he began to sense God was calling them into full-time evangelistic ministry. He was afraid to tell this to my mom. When he finally told her what he believed God was calling them to, she admitted she had been sensing the same thing and had been afraid to tell him. They sold their house, bought a motorhome, and hit the road with my four older siblings. I joined the scene a year later.

Stevens: Is there a place of ministry that you go to on a regular basis that is memorable to you personally? If so, what is the story behind it?

Allen: One of my favorite places to minister is Freedom Mission in Louisiana. We have been a part of their yearly bible conference for as long as I can remember. Freedom Mission is a ministry for recovering addicts. Throughout the years of being there, I have witnessed the power of God transform lives, I have been inspired by those who have given their lives to His service, and every year, I leave encouraged and strengthened to continue my own ministry.

Stevens: Is there a hobby outside of your music ministry you enjoy that the readers might find intriguing?

Allen: I love to sew. My interest in sewing began a few years ago when I had an idea for a cosmetic bag that was white on the outside and bright and colorful on the inside. It carries the message that real beauty comes

from within. I have sold these bags across the country. My sewing skills are still young, but I would like to eventually design unique, modest clothing. I believe we can point people to God even with the type of clothing we choose to wear. I would love to demon-



strate that belief with clothing specifically designed to honor God.

Stevens: Is there a book you are currently reading or recently have read that has impacted your life?



Allen: I recently finished reading, “If I Perish,” an autobiography on the life of Esther Ahn Kim. She was a Korean Christian who spent six years in a Japanese prison during World War II because of her faith. As an American, I am protected from the type of persecution she suffered. While this is a great blessing, it also comes with its disadvantages. I have never experienced the power and grace of God the way Esther Ahn Kim did. Though her trials were great, her God was greater.

Stevens: Is there a scripture you consider to be your life verse?

Allen: One of my favorites is Psalm 61:2 ... “From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” A life of ministry can be crazy and stressful. I love this verse, because it reminds me that when I am overwhelmed with the pressures of life, God is my Solid Rock. I can cry out to Him no matter where I am, and He will lead me to Himself.

Stevens: Since I’ve had the privilege to travel to Uganda with your family and share your heart for this country, I’d love for the readers to better understand what your role is behind the scenes in this missions outreach. Also, describe what this ministry means to you personally.

Allen: The mission work in Uganda is literally at the heart of everything we do. I am deeply passionate about ministering to teenagers and young adults. Last summer, while in Uganda, I was privileged to lead, with my brother, a leadership conference for young adults where I taught several young women how to be leaders in their generation. I am also very involved in a program we started called the Straightway Education Project to protect girls from trafficking. Ugandan girls are very much at risk for trafficking. By enabling teenage girls to stay in school, the Straightway Education Project protects them from that risk. Additionally, I am the accountant for our ministry. I know that sounds boring, but it is essential to the efficiency and integrity of the ministry. I am blessed that God has given me the opportunity to be involved in His work. He truly is an awesome God.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

I told you that reaching people and shining the light of Christ is at the center of everything she does. You never know what corner of the world you were meant to reach. Wherever God has called you, I urge you to live the life He gave you as vivaciously and passionately as Danielle Allen endeavors to live hers. May we be challenged to answer the call. “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

And that’s my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin on Twitter at @photosforkeeps and on Instagram at @photos_for_keeps.



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THE WALKERS

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie is holding a vintage-style microphone in his right hand and a gavel in his left. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a solid black. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text 'Can You Handle The' in a white, sans-serif font, and 'TRUTH?' in a large, red, distressed, stencil-like font.

Who Are You?

By David Staton

I have often said that if we as Christians could ever really grasp what happened on the cross, it would rock our world and change everything. Our impact on those around us and the results of our lives would be drastically different.

Have you ever wondered why the turning point for any championship sports team is the coaching staff? The leadership provided by the coach does not change the physical limitations of the team, but they do change the mental limitations.

A great coach makes his team realize who they are and who they can be. When a coach is successful in doing this, the results are amazing. The players become more than members of the team, or someone who just wears the uniform ... they become champions. They win.

The apostle Paul compared our Christian life to a sport. We all play, but the goal is to keep your eyes on what's ahead and finish well. We all finish, but some finish well.

Billy Graham finished well. My dad finished well. If heaven is your only goal, then one could say that we all win, but I believe that when we receive Christ, and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the deepest part of who we are, we get way more than just a ticket to heaven. I

believe – because scripture teaches it – that we receive power.

In fact, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in us. Do we really grasp what that means? I don't think we do.

Why do I think this? I don't see much power, transformation, earth-quaking, mountain-moving, hell-shaking results from the majority that wear the team uniform. I don't see much winning. This frustrates me.

As a matter of fact, it frustrated me to the point that I wanted a coach. If the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of me, then I don't want to cross the finish line worn out, defeated, clinging to my ticket to heaven. I want to finish strong. I want to win.

That means I had to expand my thinking outside of denominational barriers and absorb truth. I turned to scripture and prayer and God has sent coaches into my life that have convinced me that I can access that power. I can win.

2 Corinthians 5:21 reads, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

I have two beautiful daughters. Katherine is 10, and Grace is 15. Both have chosen to follow Christ and are saved, but for kids today, life is tough.

Peer pressure today is ending lives. Suicide, death from that first time trying drugs, and having sex even before your body is fully matured ... that's what kids today wake up with every morning.

When my girls were saved, I explained to them exactly how God made them (spirit, soul, and body), and explained to them what happened when they surrendered their lives to Christ. I'm amazed that you rarely hear this taught in most churches, but it is foundational to understanding who we are.

They memorized 2 Corinthians 5:21 and now every morning before they go to school, I ask them, "Do you know who you are?" They reply out loud, "I am the righteousness of God in Christ."

The other night, Grace told me that since she has been declaring that out loud every morning, something has happened. She went on to tell me that when she is about to make a choice, no matter how big or small, something inside her lets her know which one is the right

choice and which one is the wrong choice. She told me that making a wrong choice is now gut-wrenching.

So what happened? Rather than letting her behavior determine who she is, she is letting her identity determine her behavior. She is beginning to realize exactly who dwells in her spirit, and who she is because of it. Declaring it every morning makes her more and more aware.

There are only two times when we are not a threat to the enemy. There are only two times when we are not in the race – before we start (before we are a Christian) and after we cross the finish line (in Heaven).

What happens in between those two times is when we are in the game.

Run the race, don't just wear the uniform. Make a difference. Win. Finish well.

David Staton

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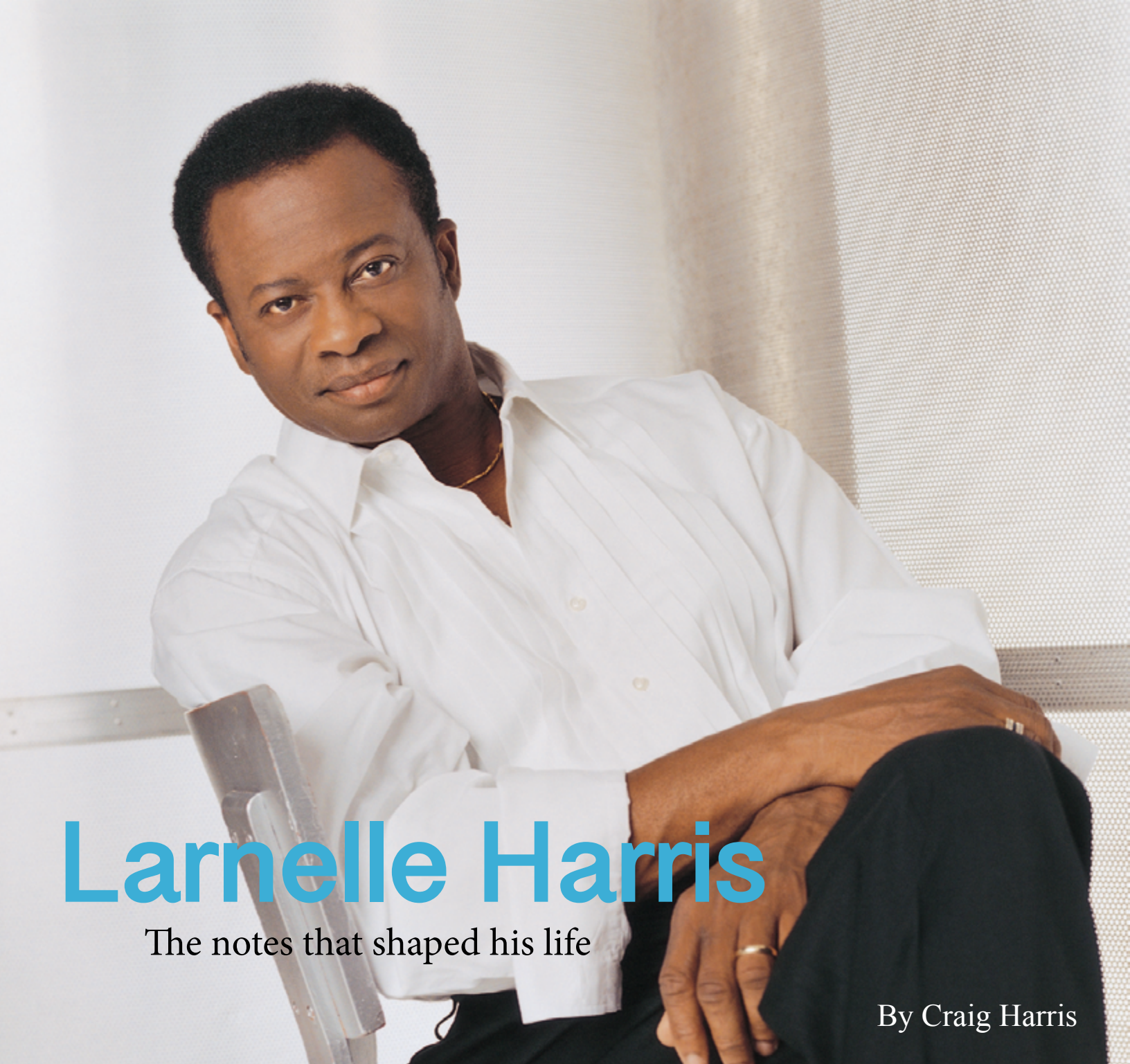
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Larnelle Harris

The notes that shaped his life

By Craig Harris

Larnelle Harris has a different perspective now than he once did.

“As I’ve gotten older ... I saw a picture in a magazine,” Harris shares. “It was a picture of a turtle on a fence post. When I first saw it, I didn’t think much about it. Then, I started to think about the people in Danville, Ky., and how they’ve spoke things into my life. Then, when I saw it again, I started thinking about it. The turtle doesn’t get on the fence post on his own. I started thinking about the people over the years and those who are still speaking, people who spoke a dream into

my heart as a little kid. I didn’t see it as a kid. As I got older, I began to see that.”

Now, Harris is speaking ... well, he’s letting his words do the talking anyway.

He released his first book on Feb. 6, “Shaped Notes: How Ordinary People with Extraordinary Gifts Influenced My Life and Career.” He wrote the book along with Christine Schaub.

“People who are close to me, who should be in the



book, have talked about that for years,” Harris says of writing a book. “What am I going to tell them? ‘My name is Larnelle Harris. I grew up in Danville, Ky. My parents’ names were’ ... there’s nothing to see here.

“I was at the Governor’s Mansion (in Frankfort, Ky.). I had been given an award. One of the ladies from Danville said, ‘Whatcha got coming up?’ I said, ‘I’m thinking about writing a book.’

She said, ‘You haven’t lived long enough to write a book.’ I said, ‘I know, but I want to take this opportunity to just say thank you to them, to those people who have spoke into my life.’”

One of those individuals who spoke into his life came along early on.

“Mrs. Georgia Donehy ... Mrs. Georgie played the piano and organ for the church choir,” Harris explains. “She taught piano lessons to every kid in town, whether they wanted them or not. I didn’t want them at first.

“She found out there was a little hidden boy soprano in here, and she started taking me around different places

to sing. I did a concert in our church when I was nine years old, and she played the piano. She didn’t want anything. Then, she passed on, and somebody else came along. It’s a wonderful exercise for everybody. We’ve all had those people.”

Larnelle summarizes the purpose of the book in two words.

“There are two little words we don’t use enough,” Harris points out. “It seems like as we go up in generation, we use it less and less. Thank you ... that’s what it’s about.

“Mrs. Georgie used to get on my last nerve. She said to my mom one time, ‘you should not let Larnelle play any sports out in the dust, because the dust will hurt his voice.’ But, now, I hope that every town, city, parish has a Mrs. Georgie in it.”

Harris attempts to honor Mrs. Georgie during his concerts.

“I do a package of songs in concert to Mrs. Georgie,” Harris notes. “I wanted to do some songs that I did in that first concert with Mrs. Georgie in the First Baptist Church in Danville, Ky.



“This book is very little about Larnelle, but it is about the process of God putting people in your life, to take you to the next plateau. It’s about those people who guide you who don’t want a thing. Mrs. Georgie had no idea what the future would be for me.”

The future consisted of a stint with the Spurrllows – a group of 8-10 vocalists along with a band – during his college years. The ensemble performed driver-safety

programs for the Chrysler organization and would then do a concert that evening in that same area. Harris initially played the drums for the Spurrllows.



“We saw many young persons come to the Lord as a result of hearing that music,” Harris recalls. “It was much different than most Christian music, and they gravitated towards it.

“We all sang and played these instruments. The band became a rock group called First Gear, but we were too out there to do churches.”

Harris became the front man for First Gear.

Then, he joined the Gaither Vocal Band in 1983 and remained there until 1987.

“It is still a fraternity,” Harris says. “Those guys are like brothers to me. I like to be a part of things that are way past music. Sandi (Patty) and I have that type of relationship. Bill (Gaither) and I have that type of relationship.”

He’s been in solo ministry for the last 31 years, performing approximately 40 dates per year.

“It can be difficult,” the 70-year-old points out. “It can be difficult physically, because there’s nobody but you. That’s a challenge, to stay in shape (vocally).

“It’s a very sweet, wonderful thing. You’re able to say exactly where you are, what you are dealing with and what you want to convey with the people that God has put in your influence.”


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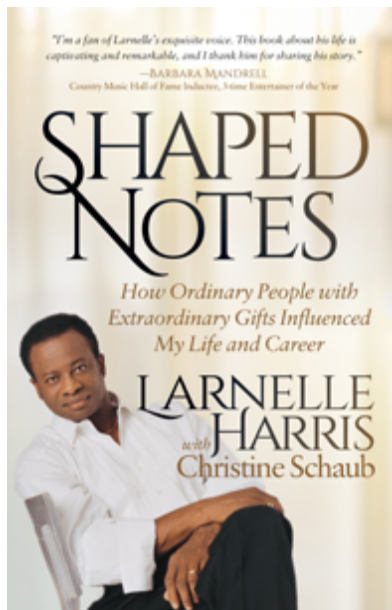
Following a scare earlier in his career, Harris places a heavy emphasis on his vocal health.

“I was a voice major in school,” Harris explains. “You just have to take care of it. If you understand the mechanics, you kind of understand the pitfalls.

“Years ago, I had the formation of nodules. I had sung myself to death. When we sung in these high schools (with the Spurrllows and First Gear), sometimes, we would do two or three concerts at the high school and then do the night singing. That’s a lot of singing.”

The wear on his voice took its toll.

“I had to rest a year,” Harris remembers. “I started going to doctors and speech pathologists. That was a very dark time. I really started bathing in the word and had a year to do it. At the end of that time, God began to reveal what that was all about. That wasn’t about voice. I was trusting in voice and singing. God wanted me to trust in him. It was during that time that I learned a great lesson. I learned that God is the source.



“Larnelle doesn’t have a source. I have a dependency on the Lord Jesus. He taught me that through that time. Near the end of all of that, I was able to say this ... ‘Lord if you are going to allow my voice to be taken, then, you must have something awfully good coming.’ That was the trust I needed. I believe God was preparing me, as he prepares all of us. This is a tough world.

“There’s nothing easy out here. We need to be dependent on him. We have no dependency on our own. It’s dependency on his own (sufficiency). From there until now, the Lord put something in my heart and teaches me how to give it away. I’m no longer hooked on singing.”

However, many have been hooked on the book. It moved to the top spot on the Amazon book rankings

within four days of its release date.

The writing process evoked a wide range of emotions at different times, resulting in details that he hopes readers will enjoy.

“I sat on the porch one night, and I was writing and doing some notes with Christine (co-author),” Harris – a Louisville, Ky., resident – shares. “I sat there and was writing something that had to do with my kids. They are grown. All of a sudden, it hit me. My parents, most of the time shortly after I graduated from college, had no idea where I was in the country. I thought about what that did to them. I was in a group traveling all over the country and doing Christian concerts. I wondered what that I did to them. I had to quit. I cried like a baby. It was one of those times ... I said, ‘I should have called them more.’ It’s what I would have wanted from my kids. I just took off. I know (now) how that affected me (as a parent).

“Then, there were fun times too though.”

DJ SPOTLIGHT

Marty Smith



By Vonda Easley

This month, we talk to Marty Smith from Heaven's Country. Marty has certainly won his way into the hearts of his listeners through the years. I asked him a few questions about his life. Hope that you enjoy reading about this popular guy.

Vonda Easley: When did you begin your career in radio? What is your current position, and where are you based?



Marty Smith: I started my radio career in 1990 at a small AM radio station in Kansas City, Mo. I've done just about every format you can imagine. My love is Christian country music. I now own Heaven's Country (www.heavenscountry.com), based out of Durango, Colo.

Easley: If you could interview anyone, who would it be?

Smith: I would love to interview Alan Jackson or Randy Owen from Alabama. (I) love their music.

Easley: Please share your testimony with us.

Smith: I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior in 1977 at Lake Powell (a reservoir in Utah located on the Colorado River). I lived in a little place called Bullfrog, Utah. I'll never forget that moment. I've had my ups and downs over the years. I've made my mistakes. The one thing I've learned is that no matter what, Jesus

loves me. He loves you. There's nothing you can do to change that. So many people carry baggage around saying things like, "He'll never forgive me." The fact is, He already has. He loves you so much (that) He died for you. It doesn't get any better than that. The greatest privilege a Christian can have is to share His word to the world.

Easley: Tell us about your family.

Smith: My wife and I live in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in Durango, Colo. We have two dogs and two cats. Our kids are grown. They live in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; and Knoxville, Tenn. We're having our adventure in Durango.

Easley: Out of all your years working in radio, is there a very special moment that stands out for you? Tell us about it.

Smith: The (moment) that stands out more than any other is when I was doing a live broadcast. A guy came up to me to thank me for being on the air. He went on to tell



me that he shined shoes for a living, and he tunes in to me every day as he shines shoes. One day, as I was on the air, I was talking about the joy of being saved, and a guy heard me on the radio. He asked the shoe shine guy what I was talking about, and the shoe shine guy was able to lead him to Jesus. It was awesome.

Smith is on the air every weekday morning on Facebook from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. For more information and times of programs, visit www.heavenscountry.com.

A promotional image for Ricky Johnson Ministries. It features a man, Ricky Johnson, standing outdoors in front of a stone wall. He is wearing a brown blazer over a red and blue plaid shirt and blue jeans. To his right, there is a white box containing text.

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Step By Step

By Joan Walker

It was one of those weekends. One day I ran out of time to do my devotions in the morning (of course, something that could have been avoided), while another day I was able to read my bible, pray, and even enjoy a couple of online church services. How does this apply to my journey to better physical health?

In one of my earlier articles, I mentioned how I feel your journey to physical health also greatly affects your spiritual health. Unfortunately, it goes the opposite way as well. If I haven't taken the time to pray, to read the word of God, to listen to what the Lord has to say to me, I can lose focus, both spiritually and physically. I look back at the weekend and what I ate, and I can see that I made better choices on the day I drew closer to the Lord than on the other day. Has this happened to you as well?

This month, I want to go back to the beginning of my journey. I am on a weight-loss program that is well-known, where you count points for everything you eat. Most of the fruits and vegetables are free, meaning they are zero points, so they don't count in your total points that you can consume in a day. Some clean proteins are also free, such as chicken breast, eggs, or shrimp. Each day you get a certain number of points. All foods, other than those mentioned above, have points assigned to them – based on portion – and as you eat them your number of points for the day diminishes.

My favorite thing of this program is exactly that. All foods, based on portion control, have points. So that means, theoretically, that I can eat anything. Of course, there is moderation involved. That chocolate cake at

Starbucks is permissible. I can calculate the points, but it won't be the most beneficial snack to my overall health. I originally started on the plan back in the fall of 2016 and successfully lost about 25 pounds.

I allowed the stresses of life to derail this new way of eating, and by March of 2017, I had to admit I was no longer following the plan. A huge new stress popped into my life in May. A job that I had for almost 11 years was suddenly gone. I allowed all the old and new problems of life to affect my weight. I let any remaining discipline I still had dissolve, and suddenly, chocolate was much more important to me than fitting into those jeans in my closet.

However, by the fall of 2017, I had made up my mind that I would once again join the program. Since October, I have lost almost 40 pounds, and those are pounds I never want to find again.

Not only is the program very doable, but I have great support through my family and social media. In between preparing for, and going to, job interviews, I get outside and move. Not only do I exercise and eat according to the plan, counting points for everything I eat, I also look at the spiritual portion of my journey.

I am reading a book called "Made to Crave," written by Lysa TerKeurst. There is a devotional companion to the original book, and they both have been an immeasurable help to me as I discover how my physical health and spiritual health are closely knit together. I highly recommend these two books to you while you are on your own journey of weight loss and spiritual wellness.

I would love to hear from you if you are on your own journey, because I know for a fact that having support and accountability with others when you are on a similar path is invaluable. You know where I am right now, so be sure to check back right here each month, as I will be updating you on my weight loss, and yes, even weight gain.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel to reach out to me via email at joan@sgnscoops.com



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Sam Cox: Brotherly Love

By Sarah Murray

Singing through the eyes of someone you love

Strong family bonds are one of life's treasures that you need in life to find purpose, motivation, and the strength to keep going. In Indian Trail, N.C., you'll find a family that fits the mold of holding one another up and serving God through music ministry.

Samuel Luke Cox, who goes by Sam, is a talented 13-year-old boy who lives a normal teenage life. Sam enjoys sports and being with his family, but when he was five years old, his talent of singing was discovered.

Sam's mother, Valerie, recalls hearing him sing "Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone," and thought it was a sweet moment, to hear her little boy singing. Soon other people began hearing Sam and said his voice was different than a normal five-year-old boy. People would ask Sam to sing for them, and although Sam would run and hide behind something, he would still belt his voice

out like he was performing for an audience.

At age seven, Sam began singing in his church. An inspiration to Sam, and to a vast majority of the Southern gospel world, pastor C.T. Townsend came to preach a revival at Sam's church.

When Townsend heard that Sam could sing, he asked Sam to sing that night at the revival. After hearing Sam's voice, he gave the boy some soundtracks to learn. Sam had found not only an inspiration but a role model.

That same year, Townsend wanted Sam to come sing at a revival he was holding, in Greer, S.C. The crowd of 600-700 people went wild as Sam performed "He's Alive." His knees were knocking, and his nerves were high. However, with the help of the Lord, Sam sang, and his passion for music was officially sparked.



Sam's ministry seemed to be beginning before his family's very eyes.

However, Sam's real ministry began just a few short months after he was born. Sam's family consists of his mother and father, an older sister (Logan, age 23), her husband, his nephew, a younger brother (Deacon, 10), and Sam's twin brother (Seth, 13).

Tragedy struck Sam's family when he and Seth were just nine months old.

Their mother received a desperate call from the babysitter and could hear Seth crying in the background. Once at the hospital, the doctors said that Seth had suffered a massive seizure.

As stunned as Sam and Seth's parents were, they soon discovered that they were being looked at as suspected child abusers. This was a time that only faith alone would get them through.

After much deliberation, testimony, and gruesome details, their worst fear was determined.

The babysitter had shaken nine-month-old Seth and had punched him in the head while he was in her care.

The next 48 hours were crucial for Seth. God continued to work in their family as Seth pulled through, and the babysitter received the maximum penalty of 25 months in prison.

As bitter as Sam and Seth's family could have been, they chose to forgive. They began to realize that their son's life had taken a huge turn from the plan they had

for him, but they knew without a doubt God spared him for a reason.

Sam and Seth are both currently in the eighth grade, but they are vastly different in functioning. Because of this tragedy, Seth functions around a third-grade level, and he currently has approximately 6-7 seizures a month.

The Cox family began sharing Seth's story wherever Sam would sing. Seth's story was as much a part of the ministry as Sam's singing.

Valerie began to question why Seth couldn't be like Sam. It wasn't until a mother of twins reached out to her that she understood. This mom wanted Valerie to know that she understood how twins communicated, and she helped Valerie to realize that Sam was in fact, Seth's voice. Sam's ministry was Seth's way of speaking to the world.



The family has received many messages of how Sam's singing videos that the family has posted have blessed viewers. Some have said that a viewer chose not to commit suicide because of the videos. They even heard that a prison guard would pull up Sam's videos and let the prisoners listen to him.

Sam's love for singing comes from his love for Christ. While he was saved at age 12, he has matured in his walk with Christ.

During one service, the preacher said, "God has breathed on this place this morning." Valerie remembers that afternoon, because Sam asked her what that meant. As she explained to him the presence of God, he stated that it must be like the cold breeze he had felt on his neck when he was singing.

Sam then began asking questions about Christ, and



shortly after his mother pulled the car over to talk to him, he accepted Christ as his Savior.

This young man doesn't take his talent for granted. In fact, even Sam himself will tell you that he has a voice because of Seth. Sam is fully invested in ministering to others and being able to share Seth's story with the world.

In 2017, Sam won the Bowling Family's talent contest that was held in London, Kentucky. Out of 51 contestants, Sam tied with another contestant as he played



piano with a broken arm. He received recording time with Daywind Records and tour dates with the Bowling Family.

Sam has released two CDs. The first

one, produced by Matthew Lawson, is titled "Seth's Voice." His most recent project was produced by Daywind and is called, "Sam Cox: Lord uSE THIs Voice."

Once, when he was asked to sing three songs in church, Sam kept singing after his third song. When his mother asked him why he kept going, he stated, "Because I saw someone in the crowd crying, and God told me they needed to hear another song." The man ended up sobbing at the altar.

When asked what they want the world to know about their ministry, Valerie's answer was heartwarming.

"We want the world to know that even when things look the worst, God is still good and he comes through," Valerie said. "We have to trust God and let his plan come together."



Now the family's mission is simple, to tell Seth's story through Sam's voice, to give praise to God through tragedy, to use a tremendous talent given to a young boy and let him shine Jesus to a dark and dying world.

If you would like more information on Sam Cox, you can find his ministry page at www.facebook.com/Sam-Cox-Ministries-129734543883349.



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Randall Reviews It - April 2018

by Randall Hamm

April showers bring May flowers, or in this case, new CD releases for April. This month, we bring you an up-and-coming group with its first national release and a group who has been blessing us with their beautiful harmonies for 13 years – Blessed By Grace and Sweetwater Revival.

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.



Blessed By Grace Trio "Turning Point"

Producer: Shane Roark

Label: Church House/Chapel Valley

Songs: When I Lay My Isaac Down (Billy Fields, BMI); Trust You in the Trial (Rachel McCutcheon, BMI); Song of the Redeemed (Marcia Henry, BMI); Once He Touched Me (Sylvia Merle Green, BMI); It's My Father's Pleasure (Regina Walden, BMI); Ain't It Good (Rachel McCutcheon, BMI); Your Love Brought Me Through (Cheri Jones Shafer-Zane King BMI); Just Yesterday (Dianne Wilkinson-Nick Trammell, BMI); Just Hold On (Gina Vera, BMI); The Touch of the Master's Strong Hand (Ronny Hinson)

Jonathan and Shellena Mullins, along with Deloris Mullinix, comprise the group known as Blessed By Grace, based out of Indianapolis. They have been singing for a number of years and have released two

projects.

A few years ago they signed with Chapel Valley Records and have now released their first project through this company. Entitled “Turning Point,” it is indeed a “turning point” in their career.

“Turning Point” is Blessed By Grace’s first national album, and their first charting single from the project is “Your Love Brought Me Through.” The song currently is just under the top 80 on national charts. The song, written by Cheri Shafer and Zane King, tells of our father’s strong love for us that will bring us through any trial or situation.

Deloris Mullinix’ singing will remind you of the style of the gospel music legend, Vestal Goodman. The trio’s version of the Hinsons’ classic “The Touch of the Master’s Strong Hand” will attest to that. They leave their stamp on this tune.

One of my favorite things on this album is that they are utilizing songs by up-and-coming songwriters such as Rachel McCutcheon and Regina Walden, along with established songwriters. “Trust You in the Trial,” written by McCutcheon, is a cut that I hope gets released as a single. Jonathan sings it so convincingly. In the trial I will trust Him with my life, as He is by my side.

This album is a spotlight for the group, which will soon be known outside of Indiana and no longer be the state’s best-kept treasure. Their musical future is bright. DJs, if you have not given a spin to “Your Love Brought Me Through,” please do so.

Southern gospel lovers looking for a new group to listen and add to their collection, be sure to pick up a copy of “Turning Point.” You will not be disappointed.

Visit Blessed By Grace at www.facebook.com/Blessed-By-Grace-Trio-420498394741469, and to get a copy of “Turning Point,” visit www.itunes.apple.com/us/artist/blessed-by-grace-trio/1241033495.

Strongest Songs: “Your Love Brought Me Through,” “The Touch of the Master’s Strong Hand,” “Trust You in the Trial”



Sweetwater Revival

“Storm Clouds”

Producer: Darren Rust

Label: Gospeltown Records

Songs: Shoutin’ in the Clouds; Happy as the Clouds Roll By; Day by Day; Come Church Arise; Treasure That Name; Fool’s Gold; God Makes No Mistakes; Tenderly You Tend Your Sheep; A Storm Is Coming; The Star Spangled Banner/The Blood Stained Banner (all songs written by Cathie Paxson, except for The Star Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key)

Sweetwater Revival, known as the female quartet of Southern gospel music, is based out of Minneapolis. They are one of the only all-female gospel quartets in the entire nation. Yes, you read that right, Katherine Paull, Kayla Krizek, Amy Ayash, Lisa Roers – along with their manager Cathie Paxson – have fashioned one of the most angelic and harmonious groups in Southern gospel.

Tucked up and away from the south where many quartets originate, these ladies have wowed many folks for over 13 years with their harmony singing. Paull is a lady you might remember from the short-lived New Speer Revival. She leads this quartet, which has been blessing audiences with their brand of Southern gospel.

Sweetwater Revival’s latest release, “Storm Clouds,” does not fail to disappoint in delivering heartfelt harmonies and strong message songs. Their current radio single, “Shoutin’ in the Clouds,” leads off the project and is their second release following “God Makes no Mistakes.” You’ll instantly find yourself singing along and tapping your foot to a message of what we’ll be doing following judgement day.

Prior to this release, their highest single on the charts was “A Hallelujah Homecoming,” which topped out in the mid-20s. This single, I expect, should do better than that.

This group has been singing for more than a decade, and on each project, they show off their beautiful harmonies by singing a cappella. The a cappella cut this time is “Day By Day.” As I’ve told Katie, this is what I think singing will sound like in Heaven, angelic harmonies with no music needed, just pure beautiful voices, singing in chorus to our savior.


The end cut, “The Star Spangled Banner/The Blood Stained Banner,” is our national anthem and the Christian’s national anthem. This will stir up emotions as you hear the anthem of the United States and the anthem of our faith.

The lyrics are, “O say, can you see that Christ died for us. How He suffered and bled, gave His life for our freedom.” Paxson has written a classic that should be sung in all churches and all faiths. It can be heard on Youtube.

The album is a pure delight, and you will enjoy for years to come. Warning ... if you purchase this CD, you will not stop with this one. You will want to buy several more in their catalog.

Visit Sweetwater Revival at www.facebook.com/SWRMinistries, and to get a copy of “Storm Clouds,” visit www.sweetwaterrevival.com/cd-s.

Strongest Songs: “Star Spangled Banner/The Blood Stained Banner,” “Come Church Arise,” “Shoutin’ in the Clouds”



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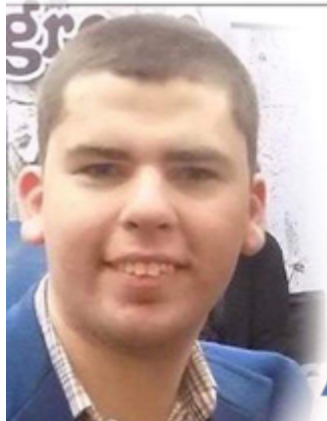
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A young woman with long, wavy red hair is sitting on a wooden bridge over a body of water. She is wearing a dark green hat with a light-colored band, a dark blue denim jacket, and blue jeans. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there are green trees and a small wooden barn under a blue sky with some clouds. The water reflects the sky and the surrounding landscape.

Hope For the future: Taylor Hope

By Jade Harrison

Taylor Hope is a 12-year-old Christian Country artist with a big smile and a bigger voice, a comfortable demeanor and wisdom that seems to exceed her years. After hearing some of the profound and meaningful lyrics in the songs she has co-written, it is easy to wonder how her parents have helped her keep such a healthy and well-adjusted balance. In a world of confused and often misguided youth, here is a ray of light.

Hope is from the beautiful mountains of West Jefferson, N.C. She was saved at the young age of eight, in her hometown church. That is when she first felt a strong desire to share her love of Jesus with others.

In fact, she had already been using her love of music to do just that, since she was 4 years old. The first song she performed was “Happy Birthday, Jesus” at Christmas for the congregation.

Hope says that she had the support and encouragement of her family and church members, which has motivated her to work hard and practice daily. At age 7, she began to further her talents by learning to play guitar. She has also taken piano lessons and even recently is learning to play the mandolin.

Very quickly, the word of her tremendous gifts spread, and her calendar began to be filled with invitations to perform at festivals, events, and churches.

“I knew then, that God had given me music to share with others,” Hope says.

As her talent grew, Hope found herself with a strong drive to write songs. Once, while she was home for several snow days, she shared her desire with her mother. They worked together and wrote a song about a little

girl who persevered through all the things she encountered in life entitled, “She Prayed Anyway.”

That was just the beginning of Hope’s writing career.

In fact, her family found itself traveling back and forth from North Carolina to Nashville, Tenn., for performances and opportunities to work with her producer and co-writers. This led them to step out on faith and move to Nashville this year to foster her calling.

Throughout her adventures in music, Hope has not lost focus on her foundation. She says that her parents have been her biggest spiritual influence, by teaching her about Jesus and helping her keep Him first in her life. Her family attends church together, and Hope does devotionals with her mom.

As far as musical influences, Hope has a commendable list of motivational artists. She loves music by Dolly Parton, Hillary Scott, Carrie Underwood, and Mo Pitney. She aspires to perform with Parton and Scott. She enjoys performing some of their songs in church.

Hope also dreams of performing on the stages of the Grand Ole Opry and the Ryman. She tells of how excited she would be to have even a last-minute call of, “Taylon Hope, we need you tonight.”

Those ambitions have spurred Hope to work hard. In her achievements, she has earned much success and received many honors. In 2016, she was named one of the youngest artists to receive the Youth in Music award at the Inspirational Country Music (ICM) Awards. Also, that year, she received the award for Vocalist of the Year at the Josie Awards for Independent Artists and was invited to perform at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville.

The next year brought more honor as Hope was named Artist of the Year in the junior division at the Josie

Awards. She was also given the chance to live out a dream by performing on the stage of the Opry for Ralph Stanley, as well as performing as the opening act for Suzy Bogguss and Ned Ledoux.

Hope is also an on-going performer at Dolly Parton’s DreamMore Resort in Gatlinburg, Tenn. She recalls the memories she has about the fires that destroyed much of that area in 2016. Hope was scheduled to be a performer the next weekend after the devastation.



After much deliberation due to the lingering dangerous conditions, she and her family followed their hearts and decided to persevere. Hope remembers the emotional response as people thanked her for bringing a positive message with her songs, in the midst of despair.

There were many people who had lost their homes, everything they owned, and even loved ones, during the tragedy. One member of the audience was a girl near the same age as Hope. She and her

family were staying in a motel because of the loss of their home. The girl stayed and watched Hope sing for hours, thanking her for coming to help her family.

Hope marks this moment as something she will never forget. The two girls have kept in touch and have become prayer partners. Hope received a message from the girl when her family found a new home.

This year has found Hope planted firmly in her continued success as she turns 13. She is currently working on her third album, which will be full of country and just a taste of bluegrass, all with a positive message.

Hope can also be seen performing in many venues in Nashville, including the Bluebird Cafe and the Listening Room. She also works as a performer at Boot Barn and often sings at the Nashville Cowboy Church. In the next few weeks, Hope will be joining Rural Free De-



livery (RFD) Live and will be participating in Country Music Association (CMA) week performances.

Hope is very excited to be traveling and performing on the road as well. Booking information and an events calendar can be found on her website. There are also links to her social media outlets as well as more infor-

mation at www.taylonhopemusic.com.

“I want to be a country artist who can share great songs with the world,” Hope shares. “And through those songs, I think people will see my faith and learn about the amazing things God can do.”





Day To Day

An open letter to pastors...

By Selena Day

Dear Pastor,

Why should you have an outside guest come into your church?

Or better yet, why should you let a singer or singing group come into your church?

Over the past 29 years of traveling with my husband and doing our type of ministry, we have seen a decline in churches opening their doors for singers to come in.

Contemporary music is pretty much obsolete, being swallowed up by praise and worship music. I am not knocking praise and worship. I actually love it and listen to it a lot, but I also love to hear a song that tells me a story that I can identify with.

Recently, we received an email from a man asking how to purchase Chuck's music. He told us that he and his wife had just recently gotten back into the church and were working on their marriage.

His pastor had recommended that he begin listening to the Christian radio station in their area. He heard one of Chuck's songs about working things out in marriage. The man listened to the words of the song, and it touched his heart because of the season he was in with his family.

This is a regular occurrence for us. Many times after a concert, a man or woman will come up to us and begin

to tell us how one of Chuck's songs paralleled where they are in their walk in life and how it gave them hope and encouragement to trust that God had them and would not let them fall.

But back to my open letter....

Why should you have singing ministries in your church?

For one, it opens the door for the invitation. It has been discovered that many churches find that their new members come for a gospel concert after seeing it advertised. It sparks within them a remembrance of their mother, grandmother or grandfather's love for that old-time music, and something propels them to check it out.

While there, they discover that the church wasn't too big and dynamic with all the lights and smoke machines, or that Christians weren't actually judgmental and angry as society leads them to believe ... and the peace they felt there draws them back the next Sunday.

Secondly, it's the evangelism. People open up when they hear music. It unlocks something within us. Neuroscience is studying the effects music has on our brain. One study even showed that patients about to undergo surgery were split in two groups. One group was told to listen to music prior to surgery while the other group was given anti-anxiety drugs before surgery. It was found that the patients who listened to music had less anxiety and lower cortisol than the patients who took

the anti-anxiety drugs.

Scientists are still studying how the brain processes music, but they are finding that music affects many different parts of the brain. When humans are listening to music, not only the part that is auditory reacts, but other parts as well. It stands to reason that when a person hears a message in a song, they more easily accept that message than if it is given to them by words alone. So bringing in a singing ministry is quiet evangelical as well.

In these days of rediscovering what church means in the postmodern society, I would challenge pastors to not overlook the benefits of bringing in outside singers or singing groups to your church. There is a benefit to having them come.

Pastor, as a good steward of what God has blessed you with, I would encourage you to open your doors to those who have chosen the profession of travel while ministering through the gift of song that God has given them.

You, your church, and your community, may find healing from the music that is brought to you.

Blessings,
Selena Day

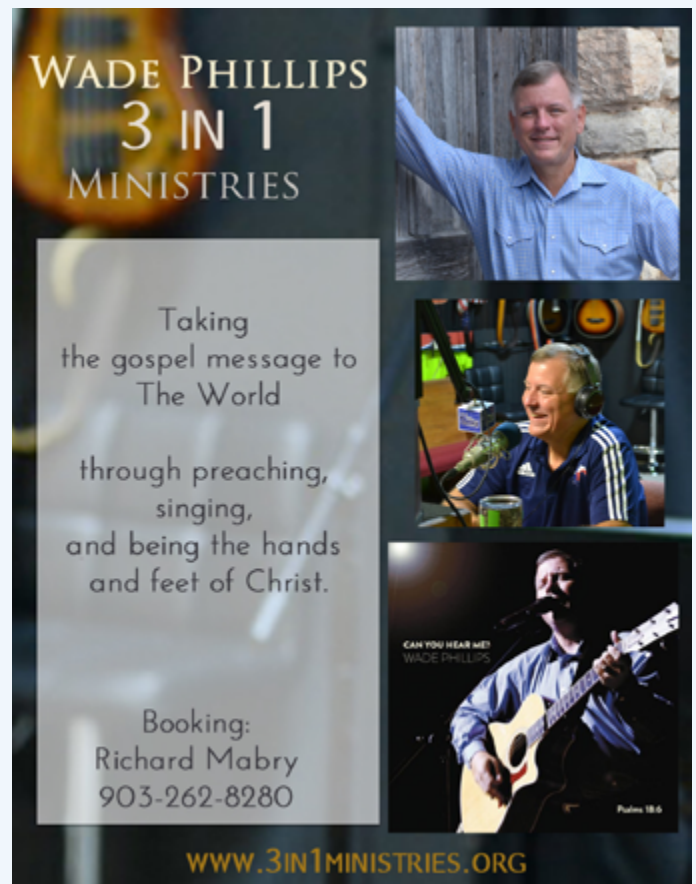
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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. Chris Golden - Less Of Me
2. Michael Lee - Ain't That Just Like Jesus
3. McKay Project - Taking me Home
4. Lisa Daggs - Love Found Me
5. Mike Leichner - I Wouldn't Trade America For The World
6. Chuck Hancock - One Pair Of Hands
7. Johnny Rowlett - Where I'm Going
8. Kolt Barber - Another Day
9. Ronnie Horton - Unclouded Day
10. Bruce Hedrick - Wingin' It
11. Caleb's Crossing - Someday
12. Jerry Branscomb - Hammer Down
13. Ava Kasich - The River Runs Red
14. Tina Wakefield - Over and Over
15. Debbie Bennett - The Blood He Applies
16. Ryan Watkins - Any Way The Wind Blows
17. Charlie Griffin - Cast The First Stone
18. Jeff Dugan - Dashboard Jesus
19. Mike Manuel - The One Who Holds the Pen
20. Tommy Smith - Let's March On
21. White River - Pardon Me
22. Jim Sheldon - Old School
23. Shellem Cline - Getting In The Word of God
24. Jamie Lynn Flanakin - Free
25. Corey Farlow - If Jesus Sang Country Songs

26. The Mercy Mountain Boys - Come On Back
27. Buddy Jewell - I'm There
28. Wade Phillips - Made Me More Like Jesus
29. Cami Shrock - My God Will Always Be Enough
30. Carol Barham - I Can't Praise Him Enough
31. Debbie Seagraves - I Still Believe In Amazing Grace
32. Cindy Tilkens Jennings - Let It Shine
33. Christian Davis - That's A Lot Of Praying
34. Dan Duncan - Church Out Of The Country
35. Kevin Rowe - Heaven Above
36. Les Taylor - If That Mountain Don't Move
37. Steve Warren - Forever Kind Of Love
38. Jonathan Dale - This Is Your Now
39. Molara - The River
40. Kevin and Kim Abney - Broken Bread

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SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND

2018 Update

By Scott Washam

Pure Revival

Southern Gospel Weekend (SGW) once again invaded the city of Oxford, Ala., and pure revival broke out. There is really no other word to describe it.

Merriam Webster defines the word revival in many different ways, but perhaps most fitting for this event is, “a restoration of force, validity, or effect.” From midnight prayer, to the daily showcases to the nightly concerts ... revival.

Record crowds came out this year to attend the nightly concerts. Southern Gospel Weekend brought in some of the industry’s top groups, including Gold City, the Williamsons, Mark 209 and more than 20 of the region’s top ministries. Spectators drove as far as 500 miles to be a part of this event. There was a family atmosphere between the groups and the fans alike.

“There is such a spirit of family among the groups here, and we felt so blessed to be a part of it,” Stephanie Reynaud of Gloryland said.

This was all the gossip from all of the new groups making their first appearance at Southern Gospel Weekend.



“What was most impressive to us was the spirit of unity between all the groups,” Mark Byrd of Living Faith Quartet shared.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the nightly concerts was Saturday night’s Red Back Hymnal sing, conducted by Charlie Sexton. Those songs ... those arrangements ... somebody get my hanky. I was blessed just to be in the same room.

One of my favorite events was the most intimate setting of all, midnight prayer. This year’s version was held at Hubbard’s Off Main. Artists and fans alike met for





an hour or two of eating, fellowship, singing, sharing testimonies, and the word of God being delivered by Brandon Johnson of WPIL 91.7.

It seems the theme of revival flowed right into the devotions prepared by Johnson. We matter. Our ministry matters. It does not matter how big or small. No matter if we have a big bus, or a worn-out station wagon, a top 40 song or never even completed an album, we are all important to God. I am thankful for the answered prayers that we will never know about that took place these two nights in the midnight hour.



But the most talked about moment of the event was the Saturday morning showcase.

“The standout moment for me was the moving of the spirit of God during the showcases,” explained Donnie Williamson of the Williamsons.

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I must say I agree with him. For me, it all started when Southern Gospel Weekend’s only bluegrass group, Eagle’s Wings, sang, “If He Hung the Moon.”

I remember standing in the corner of what seemed at the time to be a stuffy room, and Debra Wilson began to sing the lyric, “If He hung the moon, I know He will help you.”

Things changed. It got real real. It was in this moment you could feel the cool breeze of the Holy Spirit move in and take over. I could only cry. Thank God that He understands our tears.

Southern Gospel Weekend was groups praying one for another, burdens being lifted at Calvary, addictions being abandoned, depression being overcome ... pure revival.

What others are saying...

“One of the most touching moments was at one of the showcases when a group told about a family problem. Then, the entire audience gathered around the group and had prayer for the situation. Southern Gospel Weekend is not only about singing. It’s main objective is to minister to people.” -- Robert York, SGNScoops Magazine

“Another year of Southern Gospel Weekend is in the books. What amazing talent and true revival we experienced.” -- Vonda Easley, Hope’s Journey

“SGW is more than just a weekend of singing gospel music. To me, it’s about spreading the Word of Jesus Christ through song so that maybe someone will come to know Christ. Although I was not in perfect health and was not able to attend everything that went on, I still thank God for allowing the Pine Ridge Boys to be a small part of SGW, and for all of you who have prayed for me, thank you.” -- Larry Stewart, Pine Ridge Boys

“This was our first time to attend SGW, and we see what all the talk has been about. The Holy Spirit moved in such a powerful way. We are so thankful to have been with so many people who were doing what they love for the Lord.” -- Stephanie Reynaud, Gloryland

“SGW has quickly become one of our favorite events. We get to see so many of our friends. There is such a freedom at this event to just lay everything else aside and worship. The showcase on Saturday was powerful. I think we all left rejuvenated.” -- Scott Washam, Day Three

“(I) loved to see the young folks involved in gospel music, especially when they do so well.” -- Donnie Williamson, the Williamsons

“Nothing is more powerful than when the spirit of God moves upon His people.” -- Louis Coffman, the Coffmans

“Our kids were so excited to have other artists their age at SGW. They loved it. We all enjoyed getting to spend time with old friends and make new ones too.” -- Yvonne Dodrill, the Dodrills

“We had a blast. What a blessing it was.” -- ReJeana

Leeth, New Grace

“(It was the) best one yet. Main stage ran smooth, and (the) showcases were true worship services. We had an awesome time at our breakfast. Thanks for entrusting us with it. (We are) already looking forward to 2019.” -- Steve Dover, ClearVision Quartet

“(I) sure enjoyed it, and appreciate you (Vonda Easley) and Rob (Patz) and crew for the invite to host the Red Back Revival segment once again ... truly humbled and honored.” -- Charlie Sexton

“It felt like revival.” -- Debra Busby Williamson, Eagle’s Wings



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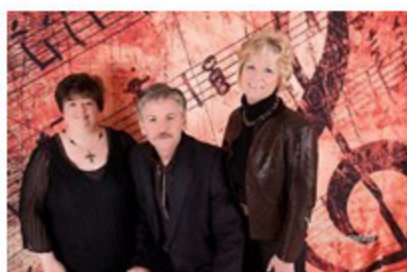
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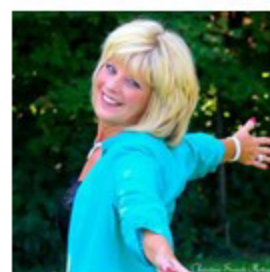
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Southern Gospel Sweethearts:

The Peyton Sisters

By Fayth Lore

It is said that when a girl has a sister, she'll always have a best friend. Not only are these sisters best friends, but they are also in pursuit of making a lifetime career out of their shared passion. Some of Southern gospel's most beloved groups feature sisters, including Sisters (Kim Sheffield, Heather Bennett and Valerie Medkiff), Karen Peck and New River (Karen Gooch and Susan Jackson), the Collingsworth Family (Brooklyn Blair, Courtney Metz and Olivia Collingsworth), the Isaacs (Sonya Yeary and Becky Bowman) and the Martins (Joyce Sanders and Judy Hess).

Rachael and Riley Peyton began singing when they were only 5 and 6 years old, respectively, at a local nursing home. They would help their mother by offering some songs for the residents, following a devotion that she would give.

Eventually, a staff member of the nursing home asked the young girls to perform at her church for a mother-and-daughter banquet. Some local pastors' wives heard the sister duo and invited them to their churches. And so, a career was born.

The Peyton sisters have been traveling and singing now for approximately four years. Based out of southern Illinois, the girls make most of their stops in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. They average 120 dates per year, with most of their performances happening on the weekend and an occasional concert during the week. While neither of their parents claim to be vocalists, the girls were raised with a rich understand-



THE PEYTON SISTERS



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ing of Southern gospel music.

“We were surrounded by Southern gospel music growing up,” Rachael says. “When Mom would clean the house, she would put (on) a Gaither video. Riley and I would sit on a blanket, play with our toys and watch Bill Gaither.”

Sanders, a Gaither regular, is an inspiration to the girls.

“Joyce is our vocal coach,” Riley points out. “She is also an amazing person and encourager.”

Sanders was the producer of the Peyton Sisters’ most recent album, and the Gaither Vocal Band laid the tracks for the project.

The ladies released the CD, featuring four original songs, at the 2017 Gaither Fall Fest. Rachael wrote two songs by herself on the project, one of which she feels has had a big impact in their concerts.

“My favorite would be ‘I Am There,’” Rachel shares. “I wrote that one, and I love it to bits. It has a beautiful message to it. Wherever you are in your life and your circumstances, He is right there. It is just an awesome reminder.”

These teenagers are eager to reach all generations. They want to span the gap between their peers and an older

audience, as is evident in their latest project, entitled “Undivided.” Half of the album is contemporary, while the other half is Southern gospel.

“So many times people put a line in between Southern gospel and contemporary,” Riley says. “They think you cannot listen to both. I think it’s good to span the generations. Let there be undivided unity.”

Rachel adds, “The thing that sets Southern gospel apart from other genres is the lyrics and the music. It’s not the singer that makes it different. Any artist can learn to sing any genre they want to.”

The two have some interesting advice on the best way to reach their generation.

“Making friends is the best way to reach our generation,” Rachael explains. “Social media, having a Facebook page, uploading videos is important, but mostly, making friends. When you make friends, they are interested in what you do and when you say ‘Southern gospel music,’ they’re going to want to hear what you sing because they will want to know more about you ... if they want to be your friend.”

Riley adds, “Don’t just stay in the box. You can mix genres. On our album, we did half lighter contemporary. It may be finding something they might like and putting it with the Southern gospel. Not staying so strict to one type of music is important.”

One issue that Rachael believes that girls like her struggle with is feeling like they are not good enough.

“They want to be prettier or better looking, but they are perfect just the way they are,” Rachel shares. “God made them special, and He loves them very much. One of the best things they can do is love themselves and find themselves. They should find out who they are and never lose that person.”

Riley adds, “You can’t love someone else if you don’t love yourself. You need to be who you are, because there is only one you.”

Reflecting on the accomplishments they hope to achieve, both sisters agreed that they see singing as being something that will last a lifetime, in whatever form it may take.

“The goal of the Peyton Sisters is to sing professionally, and love it with all of our hearts, and to have fun,” Rachael emphasizes.

Riley adds, “I want to sing and have fun and get to do it forever, whether it be us two or if we include someone else. I love it. It’s a passion.”

To find out more about the Peyton Sisters, visit their website at www.ThePeytonSisters.com.



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1. Doin' What's Right - 11th Hour
2. Thankful, So Thankful - Triumphant Quartet
3. He Can Take It - Brian Free & Assurance
4. Song of Moses - The Hoppers
5. Just When You Thought - Joseph Habedank
6. He's Never Moved - The Whisnants
7. I'll Ride This Ship To The Shore - Old Time Preachers Quartet
8. If That's What It Takes - The Isaacs
9. I Believe He's Alive - The Bowling Family
10. Hallelujah Band - The Gaither Vocal Band
11. 11:59 - Sunday Drive
12. Sing It Again - Jeff & Sheri Easter
13. Present In The Presence Of The King - The Guardians
14. Moses and Elijah - The Perrys
15. Clouds - The Erwins
16. Living For Eternity - The McKameys
17. Hallelujah and Amen - Zane and Donna King
18. God Doesn't Care - Greater Vision
19. I Will Stand - Gold City
20. Asking, Seeking, Knocking - The Lore Family
21. Clear Skies - Ernie Haase & Signature Sound
22. When The Prodigal Comes Home - Tribute Quartet
23. I Prayed Through It - Susan Whisnant
24. I Trust The Cross - Legacy Five
25. Hope For All Nations - Karen Peck & New River
26. The Last Big Thing - The Kingdom Heirs

27. Bless His Name - The Pruitt Family
28. Dying to Be With You - The Akins
29. Let The Church Rise - The LeFevre Quartet
30. Hear The Word Of The Lord - The Kingsmen
31. A Little More Like You - Ivan Parker
32. Might Go Home Today - Day Three
33. When They Ring The Bells Of Heaven - Goodman Revival
34. Go Show John - The Mark Trammell Quartet
35. I Wanna Be Somebody - The Music City Quartet
36. What Grace Looks Like - Summit Trace
37. We Are Christians - The Inspirations
38. Behold The Lamb - Exodus
39. I've Seen Enough - The Hyssongs
40. Holy Spirit Flow Through Me - The Walkers
41. You Are - The Bates Family
42. Bow The Knee - The Rochesters
43. For What I Don't Know - The Taylors
44. He Is There - Heart To Heart
45. Getting In The Word Of God - Shellem Cline
46. I Can Call Jesus - MARK209
47. Calvary's Cross - Jonathan Wilburn
48. Send A Little Rain - The Greenes
49. I'll Lay My Crown - Covered By Love
50. God Will Fight The Battle - The Page Trio
51. Living For The Call - The Ferguson Family



52. Anchor to The Power Of the Cross - Abby Paskvan
53. Our Song Will Be Jesus - Lauren Talley
54. Our Time To Shine - The Jordan Family Band
55. Should Have Been Three - Austin and Ethan Whisnant
56. Grateful - Amber Nelon Thompson
57. Same Hands - Cana's Voice
58. That's What Love Can Do - Southern Raised
59. Broken People Like Me - The Old Paths
60. Take Away The Cross - The Bilderbacks
61. Pray - The Down East Boys
62. Narrow - Paid In Full
63. Know So - The Coffmans
64. You Are Good - The Wilbanks
65. Shoutin' In The Clouds - Sweetwater Revival
66. Know You Now - The Browns
67. That's Who He Is - The Griffith Family
68. Sail On Over - The Pine Ridge Boys
69. He Does - The Chandlers
70. God's Been Good - Tammy Jones Robinette
71. But God - Lindsey Graham
72. Run On - Soul'd Out Quartet
73. He Stood Up - Jason Davidson
74. Old Piece Of Clay - The Kendricks
75. Let's Make America Great Again - The Georgians Quartet
76. I Didn't See Him Rise - The Carolina Boys
77. You Can't Make Old Friends - The Nelons
78. Help Me Make It - Barry Rowland & Deliverance
79. The Love Of God - Blackwood Brothers Quartet
80. He Can't Stop Loving You - Christian Davis
81. The Best Is Yet To Come - The Songsmiths
82. Joyride - Steve Bridgmon
83. This Joy Is Mine - The Mark Dubbeld Family

84. I'll See Him - Chronicle
85. There Is A Remedy - Judith Montgomery and Family
86. When God Speaks - Misty Freeman
87. How Do They Make It - Michael Combs
88. The Tomb Is Empty Now - Surrendered
89. I'm Not A Failure - Day Three
90. That's Why His Grace Is Amazing - The Bibletones
91. Without You, I Haven't Got A Prayer - The Master's Voice
92. I Rejoice - The Burchfield Family
93. Don't Let Me Miss The Glory - Psalm 101
94. It's Mine - The Spiritual Voices
95. Jesus Saves - Three Bridges
96. Restore Me - Aaron & Amanda Crabb
97. Going Where He Lives - The Millers
98. He Said - The Stephens
99. The Blood Stained Side Of The Cross - The Greenes
100. Born Again - Peter Christie

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A Tribute to Hubert Cooke

By ReJeana Leeth- Guest Columnist

Hubert Cooke was a great man of God. He grew up in the Virginia mountains, and in the coal mines, he provided for his wife and three children. However, God was calling him into the ministry.

God orchestrated it for Hubert and his wife, Jeanette, to start singing as the Cooke Duet. Later on, they had James, and then, God blessed them with two more sons, Ronny and Donny.



As the boys began to grow and use their talents, the group became the Singing Cookes. Hubert was always there to manage the group,

working on the bus, changing the oil and keeping it serviced. As they began to travel more and more, Hubert was always out front taking care of his family, while Jeanette Cooke handled the bookings.

As of 2018, the Singing Cookes have been traveling for 55 years. They never changed a group member, and it has always been a family group.

Hubert wrote a lot of their songs, and he loved to write about his mother. He wrote very powerful songs that let you know that God is real, and he served Him daily.

The patriarch of the Singing Cookes was very friendly. As they say, he never met a stranger. This man always had a smile, whether he was sick or feeling good. He trusted the Lord with his life and family.

I grew up listening to the Singing Cookes as a child. The very first time I met them was in Chattanooga, Tenn., at a Mull's concert. I was only 13 years old. The promoter told me to come backstage and meet them. I will never forget it ... there was Hubert and Jeanette.

The Singing Cookes were getting ready to go on stage



and sing, "I Want Us to Be Together in Heaven." They asked me if I knew the song, and I said yes. They gave me a microphone and said, "Young lady, you're gonna sing with us" ... what a honor.

Jeanette was sick one weekend that I had booked them in Alabama. She was in the hospital. I had booked the group for four dates that weekend. We talked a little, and they said, "You know mom's songs. How about you sing some of them, and we back you up?" Of course I said it would be an honor to stand by Hubert Cooke. What a weekend we had, people at the altar and (people) shouting. I was on cloud nine that God had opened that door for me.



I called Jeanette and told her that it was an honor to be a part of their family for a weekend.

Hubert and Jeanette Cooke are just like parents to me. I feel like family. My parents passed away in 1989 and 1990, and the Cookes would be around my parents' ages, or as Jeanette would say, "39 and holding."

What a great honor to work for them and call them my family.

Hubert and Jeanette love their fans. They love to sit and talk, take pictures, and plant a seed to a dying world. They just want you all to see Jesus in them and to see souls saved.

Hubert will be missed but never forgotten. He will live in our hearts and minds forever. If you ever have the opportunity to see the Singing Cookes, go and hear them. They are living legends in Southern gospel music. Let's keep it alive.



I have played their songs on the radio for 25 years now and will still continue to play them for another 25, if the Lord doesn't return.

If you would like to have the Singing Cookes to come and sing for you in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, or Florida, call me. I work the dates in that area. Call the office at 423-357-3565 or visit the website at thesingingcookes.com





cookies.com.

I know you will be blessed by having them. We all want to get the word out that Jesus is coming back. Are you ready?

Editor's note: We are pleased to have ReJeana Leeth write this tribute to Hubert Cooke. Hubert died on March 12, 2018, from heart failure. He was buried in Norton, Va. Hubert leaves behind his wife Jeannette, his sons James, Ronny, and Donny, and many gospel songs, including "He Rolls Me Over the Tide," "I Hope We Walk the Last Mile Together," "Moses," and "Earth's Loss is Heaven's Gain."



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Watch It with Suzanne Mason: “Steve McQueen” and “I Can Only Imagine”

By Suzanne Mason

True stories are often stranger – and more entertaining – than fiction. At least that’s what filmmaker Jon Erwin of Erwin Brothers Entertainment thinks.

With two new projects releasing within a month of each other and both detailing true events, he should know.

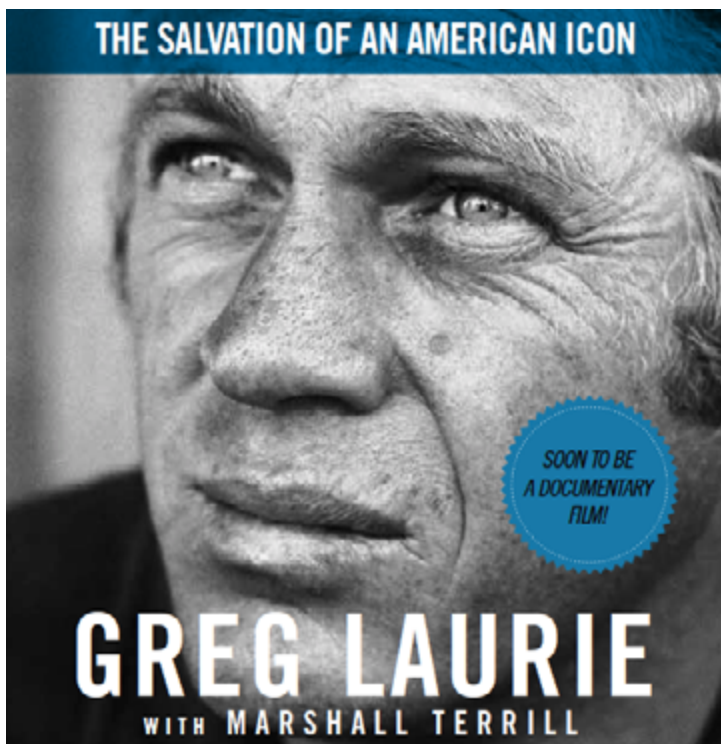
“One of the things we (he and his brother, Andy) look for are stories of redemption and transformation and hope,” Erwin said. “We’re always on the lookout for a great story.”

They’ve found a few to share.

Steve McQueen, still called the “king of cool,” remains one of the most iconic and intriguing movie stars. Embodying a rags-to-riches tale, McQueen had

a troubled and abusive childhood but worked relentlessly, rose above, and found success in Hollywood. From the outside, he had everything most people want – cars, money, relationships, fame – but none of it brought him peace. Then, after many lucrative films, he abruptly disappeared.





“Steve McQueen: American Icon” shares his journey of fame and fortune and finally to faith.

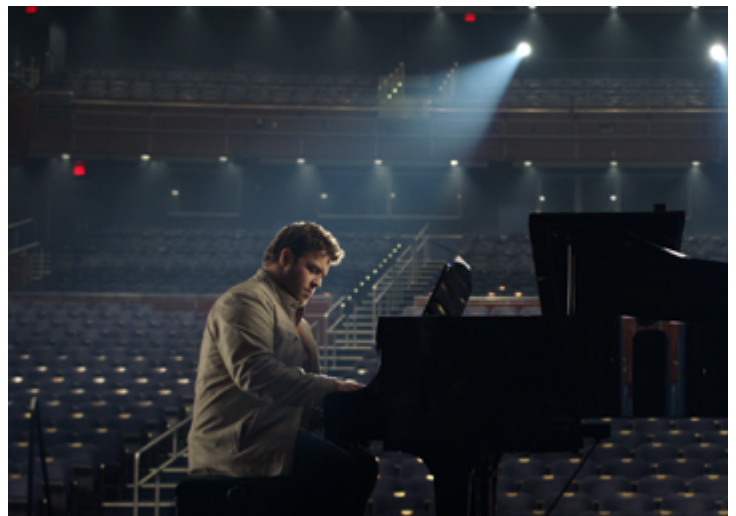
The documentary, narrated by Gary Sinise, follows pastor Greg Laurie as he details McQueen’s career, life, and ultimately his redemption as he accepted Christ. Though famous and still beloved, McQueen’s faith is not well-known.

“The goal of this film is to be the first complete biography on Steve McQueen,” Erwin said.

To help fully detail McQueen’s life and how he arrived at the redemptive feet of the Lord, Laurie interviews those who were closest to McQueen – actress Barbara Leigh, McQueen’s pastor, and Barbara Minty McQueen, his widow – as well as stuntman Stan Barrett, McQueen biographer Marshall Terrill, and actor/director Mel Gibson.

The film even includes a “tape that was an interview (conducted) two weeks before McQueen died ... that has never been heard by the public. He had everything he wanted and nothing he needed,” Erwin said.

That is until he met the Lord.



Much like “Steve McQueen: American Icon,” the Erwin brothers’ film, “I Can Only Imagine” is one of redemption and shares the true story of how the song of the same name came to be written.

“There’s something magical about this song, this story,” Erwin said. “This song touched the world. It transcended the Christian audience. It’s a rush of hope.”

Following the life of Bart Millard, lead singer of MercyMe, the film opens with his childhood, one filled with a vivid imagination but an oppressive, abusive home. By a strange turn of events, Millard finds faith as a child but struggles with his home life.



As a teenager, he turns to football, hoping to connect with his abusive father, but an injury sets him on a path he never could have envisioned and finds him running from love, his father, and the town he grew up in, pursuing a music career with his new band, MercyMe. The band – and particularly Bart – struggles to get recognition, until the power of God works miraculously in Bart’s life in the most

unlikely way.

Starring Broadway's J. Michael Finley, Trace Adkins, Priscilla Shirer, Madeline Carroll, Cloris Leachman, and Dennis Quaid, "I Can Only Imagine" illustrates how God's love prevails and brings hope during the hardest times and acts as a reminder that forgiveness is never out of reach.

"This is the most special film Andy and I have worked on," Erwin shared. "The mending and reconciliation (in Bart's life) inspired one of the greatest songs we've ever been given as Christians. And nobody is beyond hope. Nobody is beyond redemption."


"Steve McQueen: American Icon" is now available on Digital and DVD. For more information, visit www.stevemcqueenmovie.com.

"I Can Only Imagine" appeared in theaters on March 16. For more information, visit www.icanonlyimagine.com.



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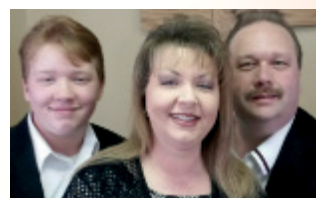
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The Cupps



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Mark209



The Schofields



The Perry Sisters



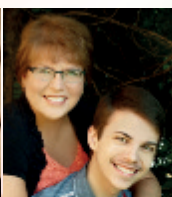
Chuck Hancock



The Oneys



Joy Roberts



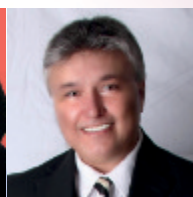
Violet Maynard Family



Steve Warren



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South Of Heaven



The Shepherds



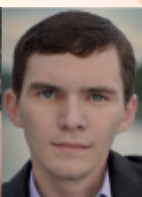
Family Heritage



The Scotts



Jordan's River



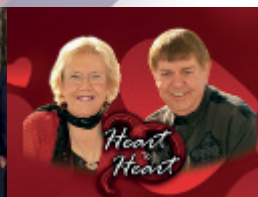
Dallas West



Rescued



Purpose



Heart To Heart



4 The Right Reason



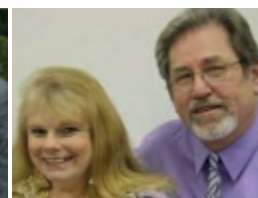
Eddie & Sherry Richards



Victory Trio



Trinity Heirs



The Cokers



The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's April. It's spring, and by the time you read this, we will have moved past the celebration of resurrection Sunday. We see it all around us – birth, growth, maturity, dying and death. Then, a seed or root that has been embedded in good soil bears a new being, and the cycle continues.

However, until Jesus arose, even the deepest believers had no actual proof that the same thing might happen with humans. Yet, some of our most beloved scriptures come from prophets, kings and psalmists who lived centuries before Jesus came to die and rise again. How much stronger should our faith be, now that we are living on the resurrection side of the grave?

I am thrilled that this magazine can promote those who believe in the one who rose. I remember hearing the Gaither Vocal Band with Larnelle Harris in the mid to late-1980s. What a powerful instrument of God. The fact that he is still singing and still engaging his audience is proof that God has His hands on this man. Special thanks to Larnelle for allowing us to feature your ministry as the cover story for SGNScoops this month.

You may have noticed that we have made a few tweaks to the magazine, and you may notice more in the future. We want to give our Christian country artists and fans more of a defined home in SGNScoops, a special section where you will find the Christian country top 40, an article by Selena Day – the wife of Chuck Day –

and a feature on your favorite Christian country artist. Did you read about Taylon Hope? This young lady is making waves in Christian county, and I know you will be hearing much more about her.

As always, if you see something you like, or something you don't like, we would like to hear from you. Do you have any suggestions for SGNScoops? Do you have any questions or comments? Please let me know. You can contact me directly by e-mailing lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

During the pre-Easter season, often referred to as Lent, I was reading a collection of writings by C.S. Lewis, prepared as a devotional book specifically for this time period. I am a C.S. Lewis fan, though I admit to having more of his books in my collection that have not been read completely, than those that I have perused cover to cover.

I am in awe of people like Lewis who use the same language I do, yet the way they put words together leave my feeble attempts in the dust. I know I shouldn't compare myself to anyone else, but I do. It is never positive. It is never uplifting. Frankly, it is demoralizing.

Someone posted something recently about how oysters experience pain while a pearl is forming. Then, they are killed to produce this expensive orb.

The thought that came to me first was, "Jesus is my

pearl of great price. You can take everything else away and leave me nothing but Him, and I would be fine.”

However, the Lord impressed the even more significant thought on me. “You are my pearl. I suffered and died that you might have life. If you were the only one that believed in my salvation, I would still have done it just for you. You are unique, precious, and worthy of my death.”

That certainly brought home to me, once again, who I am in Christ. I have no right to call “not good enough,” that which He has called “precious enough to die for.”

I trust you have accepted this amazing, personal, costly salvation. You are precious to Jesus.



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



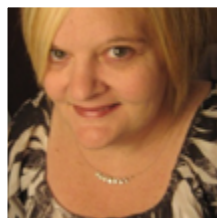
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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.

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

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

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



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

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



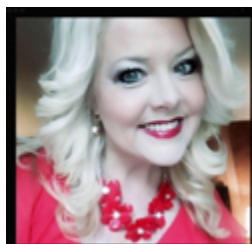
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action

photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

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

Contributors

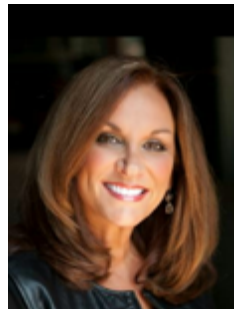
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David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great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

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.O. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

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



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

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

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

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



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

Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at www.paigegivens.com.

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

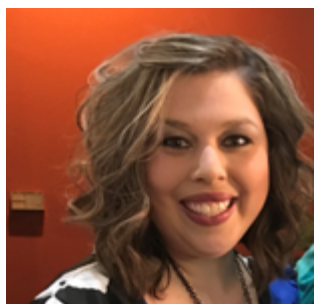
currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass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



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

Contributors

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

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



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

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

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

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



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



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

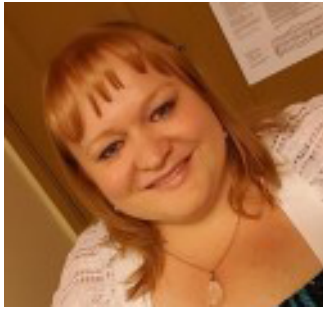
helping churches and ministries with areas of operation. This includes financing (construction, permanent financing, re-financing). In addition, many organizations need help understanding how to market their ministries and how important it is to promote their ministries properly through media and social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

Contributors

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

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



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.