



SINGING ECHOES

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**ALSO FEATURING:
MICHAEL LEE
CONNER AND BAILEY HAYES
THE SHARPS**



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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 month of May. I hope that you have had a fantastic spring to this point, and if you are a mother, I want to wish you a happy Mother's Day, as I want to wish my mom a wonderful, blessed day as well.

My mom has always taught me that 'nothing works unless you do.' She also says a statement that I have taken to heart, which is: If you don't act on your faith, God cannot move in your circumstance. Stop and think of that for minute. If you don't take steps of faith, God cannot move.

Put it this way: If you were a captain of a sailboat and you wanted to sail across the inlet, you wouldn't just untie your boat from the pier and sit there and hope that your boat will cross the inlet. The truth of the matter is, the captain has to have faith that with his action of unfurling the sail, the wind will carry him across. So if we look at our faith that way, it's great to say we have faith, but if we don't unfurl the sail of our faith, God cannot move us in the direction that we need to go.

I have to be honest with you. I thought by this point in my life, I would have everything handled. I would be able to tell you exactly what every detail of my life was going to be like for the next 10 years.

If you're one of those kind of people, my hat's off to you. But my life, which I have to say I am blessed to live, has had more turns in it and more changes than I ever could have imagined. I am so fortunate to realize that God is writing my history each day. Sometimes my story is much different than I would have imagined it to be, but every day I get up excited, realizing that my new story is even better than what I could have imagined.

I know many of us struggle with finding out where God wants us, or where he's leading us. Many of us have watched relationships disintegrate, or jobs disappear, and we sit there wondering what the future holds. Now I'll tell you this: If your life is the sailboat and you are the captain, it is time for you to untie your boat from the pier, unfurl your sail, and let God breathe into your situation. So many of us are worried to really, truly, pray God's will for our life, when in reality, if we do that, God will set us on the course to the other side of the inlet.

Hey, I want to make this your special invitation to join me for Creekside 2018 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. This



year, I am coming expecting a blessing, as we have C.T. Townsend preaching for us.

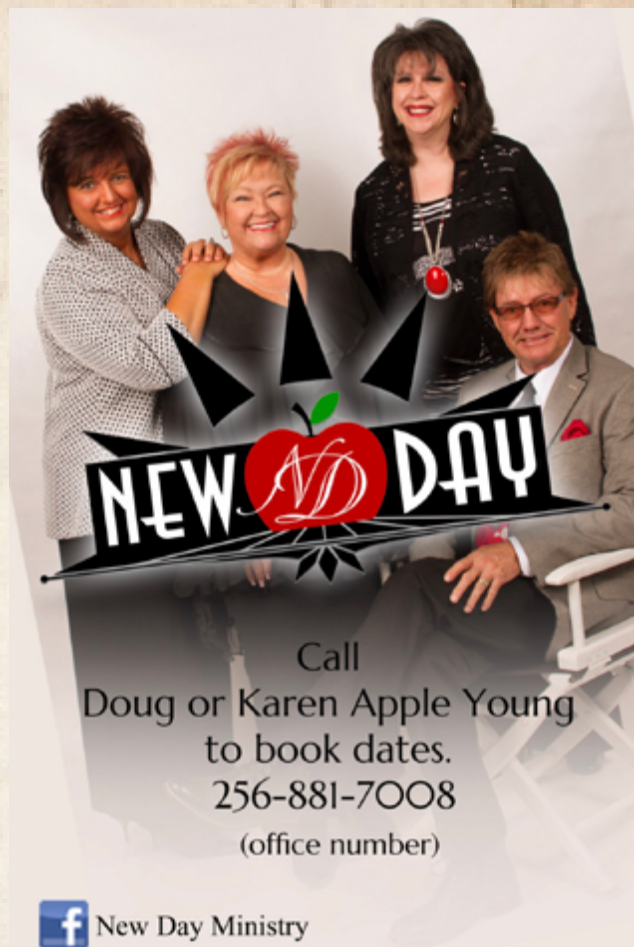
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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Conner and Bailey Hayes

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin Stevens...

What's better than one "younger perspective," you ask? How about two? It's a twin takeover, featuring the sons of Mylon and Wendy Hayes. Conner and Bailey's lights shine brightly for the Lord, as they travel and sing with their family. Today they share from their hearts as their individual personalities lead the way. Are you ready, guys? We're all ears.

Erin Stevens: For those that aren't a twin, are not related to a twin, or haven't spent much time around twins, what are some insights and fun facts you can share about being your own, unique self while still having a look-a-like to enjoy life with?

Conner Hayes: It really is fun to be a twin and have a built in best friend. We are very similar in many ways, but our personalities are sometimes complete opposites. I can be a very quiet and reserved person, while Bailey is a little more talkative and outgoing; we balance each other out well.

Bailey Hayes: Even though we are so alike, we are different—our hair parts on opposite sides; our vocal ranges are opposite, in the fact that he sings bass and I sing tenor. Whenever we are shopping, everything I pick out is always more expensive than what he picks out. Even without looking at the price tag, his purchases come out cheaper. Conner tells me I have expensive taste, but I prefer to think I enjoy the finer things.

Stevens: Who is older and by how many minutes?

Conner: I am the oldest, but only by one minute. I try to tell Bailey to respect his elder, but he doesn't seem to like that very much.

Stevens: From school subjects, to hobbies, musical interests, and even favorite foods, where are you different in these areas?

Bailey: In school, we had the same strengths and weaknesses. In our hobbies, we are really the same, so we're identical twins in those areas. But we are a little different in music; Conner is a drummer and I don't have enough coordination to drum, but I do play the bass guitar. My brother has no clue how to play a stringed instrument. When it comes to food, he hates cheese and I love cheese, he likes green beans and I don't necessarily care for them, but in almost all other foods, we like and dislike the same things.

Stevens: What are the most entertaining (and comical) comments fans have made to you two over the years?

Conner: It's a head scratcher when people come up and ask if we're twins. When Dad introduces us from stage, he mentions the fact that we are twins, but we still get that question every night.

Bailey: When fans come up and ask if we are brothers, I still have to laugh. We do get a lot of people asking which one is the smartest, to which I answer, "I am," and which one is the meanest, which I



answer, "He is," ...problem is, he says the same thing.

Stevens: Golf or baseball? Being at home or on the road? Neck ties or bow ties? Salty or sweet tooth? Biking or hiking?

Conner: Definitely baseball. I'm terrible at golf.



I love being on the road. I get excited to pack up and go somewhere new.

Neckties are my go-to.

I have a bad sweet tooth.

Candy and chocolate are my weaknesses.

I absolutely love to hike, especially with friends.

Bailey: I am a huge baseball fan.

I have to go with the road. I love traveling to new places and meeting new people. Living out of a suitcase is the best.

I love a good neck tie. I like to shop for unique patterns and colors in my ties.

Sweets. Kit Kats and Milky Ways are a bad weakness of mine.

I enjoy hiking. Hiking up a mountain or by a river are some of my favorite outdoor pastimes.

Stevens: Is there a song off your latest album that speaks to you personally? If so, why does its message specifically impact your heart when you sing it?

Connor: I love the song "God, Give Us Christian Homes"

off our "Hymns And Classics Vol. 2" record. I was very blessed to grow up in a Christian home, with parents who loved the Lord and strived to teach us kids to live for Jesus. I hope to one day follow in the footsteps of my father, raise a Christian family, and be the kind of man that God wants me to be.

Stevens: How would you encourage other teenage boys as they try to fit in, while still upholding a godly example to their peers?



Bailey: My encouragement to other teen guys would be: Don't compromise your faith or your convictions just to be cool. God has placed you where you are to be an example to others and shine a light for him. People may ridicule you for your faith, but you will make a larger impact on those people by walking the walk in front of them.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

We live in troubled times. Our faith is tested on every side. The temptation to give in to the ways of the world can be strong at times, but that is why we put our trust in the one who made the way straight for us to follow. Just as Bailey said, we may be ridiculed for our beliefs, yes, but we are striving to one day experience that great, eternal reward. Press on, friends. It will be worth it in the end.

And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

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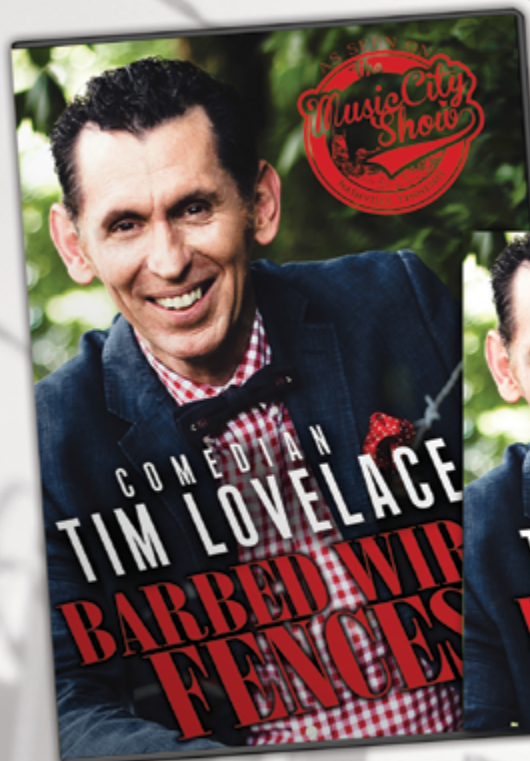
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When We Worship the Music Instead



By Guest Writer Paige Givens

“I just can’t worship the way I want to at that church.”

“I feel like I haven’t even been to church.”

“Their music is so boring. What would it hurt to add some drums? They hardly ever even stand up. I need some energy.”

“It’s too loud in that place. And I’m not singing off of a screen. They just sing the same words over and over again. I’m not doing that.”

“We don’t even talk like those hymns anymore. How am I supposed to worship with those words?”

Many who have grown up in the Bible Belt (and beyond) have heard the words mentioned above, or something similar. I once traveled to beautiful Brentwood, Tenn., for a writing conference, and I noticed that there were beautiful, large churches everywhere. They were down all the streets. That’s not an uncommon sight, especially in the Southeast.

I feel so wonderfully blessed to live in a nation where I can worship freely, at the church of my own choosing, the one where God tells me to serve. However, sometimes I wonder if we as a body of believers have become somewhat spoiled in our churchgoing acts and have used those acts to replace the real act of worship.

In some areas of our nation, we have so many churches of different sizes, music styles, and program offerings that we tend to sound and act as if we are at a church buffet, picking and choosing whatever fits our appetite at the time.

This is especially prevalent in the area of music. I’m

sure you know what I’m talking about here. Those comments above ... you’ve heard them. You may have even said them. I’ve said more than one of the lines myself as an excuse for my lack of a worshipful heart – not my style, not my brand, not my preference, not my decade, not my genre.

The Lord is constantly teaching me about worship, and it has taken years to get a few things through my thick skull. I’m vulnerable here, sharing these things that He has taught me. Because worship ... it’s what we were made for, and I think that I’ve had it all wrong at times.

Anytime that our focus, our preferences, our attentions, and our hearts shift from God to something or someone else, then our worship shifts as well.

When the music in our churches causes us to argue and fuss, then our focus is shifted from God to the music. When the music in our service dictates whether we feel like worshipping or not, then our focus is on the music and our feelings, and we start worshipping the music instead of God.

No one that I know loves singing more than me. I’m sure that many of you reading this are thinking the same about your own love of music. I love singing. I love listening to music. I love playing music on the piano. I teach a music class after school. I love music – oh my, yes I do.

I especially love music about Jesus. I grew up in the Singing Munchers, as our friends affectionately called my family, referring to our last name. We sang at all kinds of churches of all denominations, and we still do on occasion. My dad is a minister of music, and my mom is a choir director at church. I can’t imagine going

to church and not singing.

But friends, God has taught me – and it has been painful at times – that singing and music is not entirely what worship is all about. At many churches, we still have worship time and then preaching or bible study time. Aren't they both acts of worship though?

For such a long time, I equated our music and singing time at church as my weekly worship. But then, what did I do when it was over? And what if I didn't like the songs? Would I just miss the worship then and have to wait until next week to worship?

You have to be patient with me, I know. I thank my Father that He never left me and He continued to teach me in my ignorance and selfishness.

Worship ... it's not all about the music. Yes, singing praises to God is part of our worship, and it's an awesome thing ... but it's not the whole thing.

And here's another newsflash ... worship, it's not about me. That right there is a game-changer.

When the worship shifts from me and my preferences, it doesn't matter if I like the song or not. It doesn't matter how I feel.

When my focus shifts to the Lord, to His goodness, grace, mercy and power, every song becomes beautiful. Every beat hits the spot. Everyone's voice and spirit are in perfect harmony, and every word speaks to my heart. When my focus shifts to the Lord, the worship continues past the music and singing and to the offering of tithes and gifts – that's worship ... to hearing the preaching of God's Word – that's worship ... to the time of prayer and invitation to the altar – that's worship too.

At one pivotal moment in my life as a young adult, I came to the realization that when my focus shifts to the Lord, my worship continues past Sunday, on to Monday. When I roll out of bed, rub my eyes, and open my Bible for a daily devotion time, that's worship. When I hear Him telling me on Tuesday to go and encourage a lonely friend, to show them love, and I obey, that's worship.

It's not about the music. It's not about me. It's about Him and only Him. It's obedience, and it is a beautiful thing.

John 12:2-3 reads, "So they hosted a dinner for Jesus there. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. Then, Mary took about a pint of expensive perfume, made of pure nard, and anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

In this beautiful story of Mary and Jesus, I see an act of worship. Mary worshipped Him by offering up her most prized possession, a jar of oil that was about a year's worth of wages. She washed His feet with her tears and then dried them with her hair.

I also see Martha's worship, as the scriptures say that Martha served her Lord.

I see that Lazarus sat with Jesus, which is something that I love to do. Some of the sweetest times of worship that I have known have come from simply sitting with Him, hearing Him whisper to my heart.

I don't see a mention of singing as we know it today in this story, although it could have happened.

This story ... it's such a sweet reminder to my heart of what worship is and should be in my life.

I love Sundays. I love my church family. They are truly my family, and they love me like no other. If you need a church family to love you and take care of you, I encourage you to find one near you.

And I love to sing. I really love to sing.

But, sweet friends, I love God more. I am shifting my focus from the music to Him. I encourage you to try it, and I think that the more we shift from us to the Lord, we will find Him singing to us in ways we could have never imagined before.





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Singing Echoes

5 decades +4 generations = 1 purpose

By Lorraine Walker

Hippies, long hair and flower power were all the rage when Max and Lela Epperson stepped on a stage in Cleveland, Tenn., along with Charles Scoggins, and began the Singing Echoes. In 1969, the Eppersons' sons, Lynn and Gary, joined the group to create their signature sound, which would soon become known across the nation.

The Singing Echoes still have that familiar sound, reminiscent of the family groups traveling in the 1960s, such as the Speers or the Goodmans, combined with proficient instrumentation and strong, four-part harmony. They are known to light a fire under their audiences, providing an exciting, energetic experience. The exuberant Epperson brothers, when they are not attached to guitars or drums, are usually dancing across the stage, while the others put their all into their picking and playing.

"(I) told Mom and Dad that (I) would love to try out, so after the next Sunday service, Lela said they would just stay after church and practice and see how it went," Gary says. "Well, we sounded fairly good. Then, Lynn stepped up and said, 'if he's gonna sing lead, I'm gonna sing bass.'"

Then, Gary met and married Debbie, an accomplished pianist, and she joined the group 48 years ago. Then, the sound was complete. Thus began a story that will forever remain in the annals, or trivia contests, of gospel music.

"In 1972, (Lela) told us she had a song, and this is how we're going to sing it," Gary recalls. "The song was, 'When I Wake Up To Sleep No More.' We recorded it, and it took off. It hit the radio station in Clanton, Ala. The DJ was Marion Easterly, the very man who wrote the song. They say he shouted all over the station. He



said, ‘that’s not how I wrote it, but I like it.’

“The Inspirations were coming through Cleveland. I stopped them and gave them the album and a few weeks later. They released it, and it went No. 1 everywhere. Later in 1973, the Singing Echoes received a Grammy nomination for the recording and arrangement of ‘When I Wake Up to Sleep No More.’” The song is still noted for being the Inspirations’ and gospel music’s first No. 1 on national charts.

Does it bother Gary that the Singing Echoes didn’t get that first number one? With their large repertoire of charting hits and group nominations, after five decades, this type of notoriety doesn’t seem to be something he cares about.

“The Singing Echoes just want to sing the songs that uplift and bless their friends and fans, songs that get them to think how God has blessed them, songs that excite them for Jesus, songs that will convict and win the lost,” Gary shares.

They have won lots of fans and friends with these songs and many remember their first experience with these engaging artists.

Bill Bailey, pastor of Happy Gospel Church in Bradenton, Fla., has been a fan of the Singing Echoes for longer than he’s been promoting the Bill Bailey Concerts.

“I was 16 years old at the Lakeland Civic Center in Lakeland, Fla., when I first heard the Singing Echoes,”

Bailey remembers. “I had never heard that style of singing before, and it captivated me. The group was anchored in those days by their matriarch and mother, Lela Epperson. You could feel it when she sang.

“For the past 30 years, I have been blessed to work with the Singing Echoes many times. The current group is doing a wonderful job of carrying on the tradition. Lela and Max would be proud of their boys and grandchildren, continuing in their footsteps.”

The original Epperson couple may no longer be here, but the group is still going strong and making their mark in gospel music.

“Lynn is (our) long-time bass singer,” Gary says. “He has been nominated many times by a national gospel music magazine as one of the favorite bass singers in gospel music.”

Lynn is also the original bass player and an ordained Baptist preacher.

Debbie is still the piano player and is accomplished on other instruments as well.



“She plays a mean organ, guitar, and bass,” Gary points out. “She has been nominated as one of the favorite piano players in gospel music, but she’s always been mine.”

Gary and Debbie’s son, Joshua, started singing on stage when he was 8 years old, and Debbie taught him the harmony parts. Joshua now plays 17 different instruments and has opened his own recording studio, Brook-



side Studios.

Matt, Lynn’s son, started with the Singing Echoes in 1996 at age 13. He plays mandolin and guitar, and he sings lead, baritone and some tenor.



“Matt, a couple of years ago, accepted his calling to preach the gospel,” Gary notes. “I’ll say this ... he



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preaches like he's been doing it for 30 years. I'm excited for him."

Adam, Lynn's middle son, joined in 1998, at 18. He carries the tenor part and can also sing bass, play the upright bass and drums, and does the sound for the group, as well as maintaining the equipment and building road cases.



"Adam is a multi-talented young man," Gary says. "He helps with repairing the bus at times. He and Josh both help drive the bus now, which is a big job and a big load lifted off the old driver.

"He has been preaching for over 17 years. I always enjoy hearing him. He does a great job."

Just when you thought that the Echoes' family band was complete, they added another Epperson.

"Jonah is our youngest member of the quartet," Gary points out. "He is Josh's son and our grandson. He is the fourth generation of Singing Echoes on the stage. He plays the guitar, upright bass, and also the cajon.

"I've been managing the Quartet and doing all their booking and taking care of the business end since 1989. God has blessed me over the years. I can sing any part. I play the guitar, fiddle, bass, and the harmonica."

Over the years, various members of the Singing Echoes have been recognized for their talents through award nominations. They have also been successful with promoting their anniversary concert since 1974.

Now called the Blue Springs Valley Gospel Singing, the event takes place at the site of Lela's homestead. The Valley provides camping grounds with electrical hook-ups, a large sheltered area for the audience, and even a Singing Echoes' museum in the cabin that Lela was raised in, which dates back to 1885. History buffs will enjoy walking through 48 years of the Echoes' past, with pictures, their first sound system, clothes, musical instruments and more.

This year, the Blue Springs Valley Gospel Singing will be held from July 18-21, featuring groups such as the Kingsmen Quartet, Gold City, Old Time Preachers Quartet, Tony Gore, Inspirations, Primitives, Diplomats, Freemans, Hope's Journey and more.

"In the 48 years, there have been many who've shared their testimony of how we came to town to their church, school or auditorium," Gary explains. "They've shared how God changed their life and saved their precious soul through the many songs they heard the quartet sing that night.

"We love to sing the songs that have that message that will just grab you by the heart and won't let go. That's





Jesus. Just being there and seeing the Holy Spirit of God move through the songs, makes all the break-downs, the struggles of getting there, feeling good (or) feeling bad ... it just makes it all worthwhile, even if it's just that one soul."



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Randall Reviews It - May 2018

by Randall Hamm

Dear friends and readers:

Welcome to May, the fourth month and just a month away from the beginning of summer. This month I bring you three new CDs from a family of 12, a re-formed group, and an established group with a new record label. The McNeills, the Sheltons and the Kendricks are all in the spotlight this month, in Randall Reviews It. Now on with the reviews.

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.



The Sheltons

"A Child's Request"

Producer: George Shelton, Jr.

Label: Independent

Songs: "A Child's Request" (Carter); "I'm Walking This Lonesome Valley" (Traylor); "I Know You" (Ann Downing-Dianne Wilkinson); "I'm Gonna Take A Vacation" (Buxton); "I'm Gonna See Jesus" (B.J. Thomas); "I Want To See Heaven" (Unknown); "Is My Lord Satisfied With Me?" (Suggs); "He Washed My Eyes With Tears" (Stanphill); "You Can't Fool The Lord" (Corbin); "Walk With Me" (Langdon)

It's a name you might not be familiar with today, but back around 1968, this family group emerged from Pickens, South Carolina. As the story goes, "Jesus Is Coming Soon," written by R.E. Winsett around 1942, had been recorded by the Sheltons on their Halo Records LP "Heart Felt Gospel." Halo Records was distributed by Mark V. Also recording for Mark V at the

time was the Inspirations. The Inspirations recorded the song as well, and eventually the song was recorded by the Oak Ridge Boys.

The Sheltons are in the history books as the first artist to record it, but did not get their copy out before the Inspirations, and the rest they say is gospel music history. "Jesus Is Coming Soon" was the very first No. 1 song on the first national Top 80 chart in 1970 and also won the first Dove for Song of the Year in 1969.

The Sheltons were one of the premier family groups of the early 70's that you may have forgotten about. Fast forward to today where George, Frankie and Sandra have put the Sheltons back together.

They say there is nothing like family harmony and it is evident on this recording. The blend achieved here is beyond superb. They cover a number of gospel classics such as: "He Washed My Eyes With Tears," "Is My Lord Satisfied With Me," and one of my favorites, "A Child's Request," first brought to us by "Little" Steve Sanders.

One of my favorites is "I'm Gonna Take A Vacation," and it just gets me in the mood to go right now to Heaven and my eternal vacation. The CD ends in fine fashion with George doing the lead on the classic "Walk With Me." This may be Larry Ford's signature song, but George does a great job with it as well, with his sisters joining him in the chorus.

A note as well: The Sheltons have been nominated for Sunrise Trio at the SGNscoops Diamond Awards. Go over to surveymonkey.com/r/695PYTN to vote for them.

An integral part of the Sheltons sound from the beginning was their sister Gail, who has since passed on, but the remaining three dedicate everything they do in honor of her.

Visit the Sheltons at [facebook.com/SheltonMusicPickensSC/](https://www.facebook.com/SheltonMusicPickensSC/) and get a copy of "A Child's Request" there as well.

Strongest Songs: "I'm Gonna Take A Vacation," "He Washed My Eyes With Tears," "Walk With Me"



The McNeills

"Right In The Middle"

Producer: Ben Isaacs

Label: Independent

Songs: "Right In The Middle" (Trevor Conkle - Karen Gillespie - Chris White, BMI); "He's Not Finished With Me Yet" (Caylie McNeill); "Pardoned At Calvary" (Caylie McNeill); "Let Me Tell You 'Bout Him" (Megan Sorrelle Mulnix - Gene Ezell - Jerald Hill); "Ride On King Jesus" (PD); "We Will Serve The Lord" (Chris McNeill - Michelle McNeill); "He Heals" (Jennifer Layne - Donald Poythress); "Wait On Jesus" (Caylie McNeill - Michelle McNeill - Megan Sorrelle Mulnix); "Believin' (Paul's Song)" (Caylie McNeill - Michelle McNeill); "We Are Washed" (John Mathis, Jr. - Jim Davis, BMI); "The Jesus Medley" (Bruce Broughton - Dennis Spiegel - Charlie Bancroft - Vikki Cook - Travis Cottrell - David Moffitt, BMI); "Be Still My Soul" (Katharina A. von Schlegel)

The McNeills have taken the world by storm with their "Silo Singing" videos and now have released another CD of their brand of gospel. No other family group can lay claim to the sheer number of people in their group. The family's matriarch, Michelle, and patriarch, Chris, and their 10 children, have recorded their finest CD to date.

The McNeills' latest CD is entitled "Right In The Middle," and is produced by the Grammy award winning producer, Ben Isaacs. Mom, Dad and the two older children, Caylie and Landon, have become dear friends of mine and I am rooting them on in their ministry.

This CD was released at National Quartet Convention last year to a big splash in front of their booth and now

they have released the first single. The song "Right In The Middle," tells us that no matter whether you are in your darkest night or in your biggest fight, Jesus is "Right In The Middle." It's a fun song about who's going to bat for us in those times. A must add for DJs.

They cover "Ride On King Jesus," brought to us by the Gaither Vocal Band, and do a wonderful job with it. One of my favorites is the "Jesus Medley," composed of "Alone Yet Not Alone," "Before The Throne Of God," and "Jesus Saves," and it is the masterpiece of the CD. Caylie lays down some Sonya Isaac-esque vocals and brings us to Church.

The whole family, all 12, are featured on "We Will Serve The Lord," and what a fine job is done by the other eight members. Michelle told me, "We don't have to go looking for any replacements for singers, we have them right here in the family."

Landon takes the lead on "We Are Washed," and makes it truly his own. The McNeills have taken a giant leap in their music and ministry and they will be one of the families to watch this year in gospel music. If they come to your hometown or in concert near you, please go and attend, as this family will put a smile on your face and a song in your heart.

Visit the McNeills at facebook.com/TheMcNeills/ and get a copy of the CD "Right In The Middle," here mcneillmusic.com/index.php/buy/the-mcneills-cds.

Strongest Songs: "Jesus Medley," "Right In The Middle," "He's Not Finished With Me Yet"



The Kendricks
"The Kendricks"

Producer: Rick and Micah Schweinsberg
Label: 65/40 Records

Songs: "I Could be Leaving Right Now" (Johnny Kendrick); "Old Time Way Of Leaving" (Chuck Day - Johnny Kendrick - D. Johnson); "Country Road" (Johnny and Billy Kendrick); "As Soon As We See Jesus" (Johnny Kendrick); "Judgement Day" (Jay S. Deale - Johnny Kendrick); "When I Met You On The Other Side" (Johnny Kendrick); "Slipping Away" (Johnny Kendrick); "Show Me How" (Johnny Kendrick); "Nothing Without You" (Johnny Kendrick); "Now That's Love" (Bill Anderson)

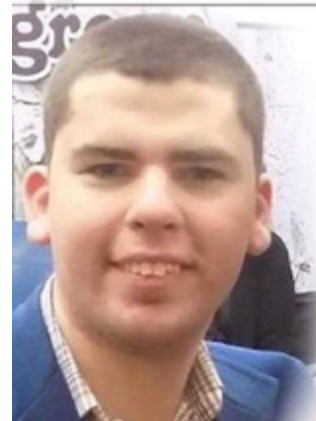
The Kendricks, Johnny Kendrick, Billy Kendrick and Sharon Lankford, are back with their debut CD on a new record label. The new label is 65/40 records and run by Rick and Micah Schweinsberg. Their self-titled CD, "The Kendricks," is produced by the brothers. The sound is pure country - tinged with southern gospel - and it is a fine debut for the new record label.

The Schweinsbergs have their fingerprints on this CD, but the sound is all Kendricks. I fell in love with this group from Alabama from their first note. Their last single "Ole' Piece Of Clay," was on the chart for five months and topped out in the 70's. The first single to Southern gospel is "I Could Be Leaving Right Now," and is once again Hinson-esque, as was "Ole' Piece Of Clay." This song would feel right at home on a Hinson record.

The Kendricks - once other DJs finally pick up on them - will be one the biggest family groups on the scene.

The brothers present a little different sound on "Judgement Day." If you love Charlie Daniels, you'll love it. The song is reminiscent of "Legend Of The Woolly Swamp." This song is being promoted to Inspirational/Positive country stations as their latest single.

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My favorite on the CD is, "When I Meet You On The Other Side," a personal favorite from the pen of Johnny Kendrick. Johnny Kendrick wrote, or co-wrote, nine of the 10 songs on this CD.

This CD is a must purchase for lovers of Hinson-type gospel, or if you love your gospel music on the country side. You will not be disappointed.

To visit the Kendricks go to facebook.com/thekendricksmusic.org and to get a copy of the Kendricks at thekendricksmusic.org/home.

Strongest Songs:
 "When I Meet You On The Other Side," "I Could Be Leaving Right Now," "Judgement Day"



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Through The Lens of Craig Harris: 2018 National Quartet Convention Spring Break

Photographs by Craig Harris



Sevierville, Tenn., was the site of the annual NQC Spring Break, Apr. 12-13. Held at the First Baptist Church, artists featured included the Kingdom Heirs, Hoppers, Triumphant, Tribute, Inspirations, Mark Trammell Quartet, Greater Vision, Second Half Quartet, Jim Brady Trio and Primitives.

A Look Through The Lens Continued..



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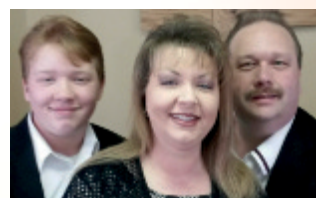
Debbie Bennett



The Freemans



Quintin McGinnis



Keith Barkley & Family Tradition



The Cupps



Tammy Norris



Mark209



The Schofields



The Perry Sisters



Chuck Hancock



The Oneys



Joy Roberts



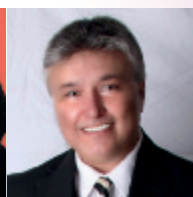
Violet Maynard Family



Steve Warren



Kindra Cole & New Harvest



John Lanier



Jerry Branscomb



The Roarks



Carol Barham



The Sons Family



Bobby Jones Family



The 'Riders



The Lear Family



Ava Kasich



Expectation



Roger Barkley, Jr.



LizzyG



Troy Burns Family



Troy Richardson



Sunday Drive



Tommy Smith



South Of Heaven



The Shepherds



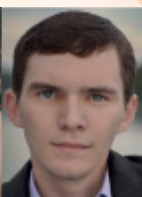
Family Heritage



The Scotts



Jordan's River



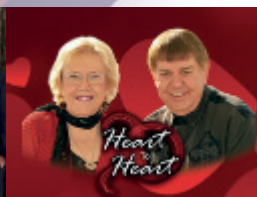
Dallas West



Rescued



Purpose



Heart To Heart



4 The Right Reason



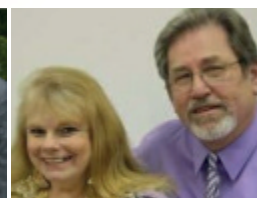
Eddie & Sherry Richards



Victory Trio



Trinity Heirs



The Cokers



Day To Day

Fear is...

By Selena Day

I wrote these first two words when I was beginning this article and I stopped and just looked at them. Fear is...

What is fear to you?

Many years ago, when the internet was in its infancy, I remember those childlike quizzes that popped up from time to time. There would always be one question asking what you were most afraid of.

I hated to sound super religious, but the scripture: "He has not given me a spirit of fear, but of might, power and a sound mind...(2 Tim.1:7)" would spring up to my mind. As believers, we are called to live differently. We need to preach to ourselves that we do not live a life controlled by fear, but by the love our God has for us.

If I said that I am not afraid, I would be lying. I am like any other person; I have those things that freak me out or scare me, but I choose not to focus on fear.

Chuck and I have traveled to over 37 countries. Most of those were Third World countries where we stood out as older, white, fluffy Americans, which to them equates to "Rich American." I have been afraid only once or twice, and those few times were never life-threatening, just an unease that I heeded to.

People sometimes ask me, "Aren't you afraid leaving the country with our world in the shape it is in?"

I hope that I have a healthy amount of fear, we need this to survive in our world, but I choose not to focus on my fear but on the king of this world, my king.

Who is the king of your world?

I'll never forget one of my first journeys overseas to Thailand. I had been out of the country before, but only to first-world, English-speaking countries. As the time drew near to go, I felt fear creeping into my heart, and with that fear came dread. I didn't want to go, I couldn't leave my children. So many doubts and fears.

One day while chatting with God, or more accurately, one day while I was worrying during my prayers, God asked me a question: "Selena, am I not the God of the universe?"

"Why yes, Lord. I know you are!"

"Do you ever worry this much when you are packing up to go on your trips across the U.S.A.? There are more car accidents per year than airplane crashes. Terrorism can hit you in the U.S.A.. Something can happen to your children in your backyard. You trust me with these familiar things. Can you not trust me with the unfamiliar as well?"

That conversation with God changed my heart and I decided to focus more on him and what he was saying to me than focusing on my fear and the 'what if's' of traveling overseas. I wish I could say that peace came over me and, bam, I was magically cured, but it didn't happen that way. It has been a faith walk.

Our first few times overseas I never left Chuck's side. I made him stand right beside me. I never strayed from where I couldn't reach out and touch him.

We discovered these wonderful night markets that we both loved to walk through, discovering so many beautiful handcrafted items. Like most couples, we liked to linger over different things; so those first few trips I enjoyed my time, though I never enjoyed them like I did when the fear finally left and I trusted God in the same way I trusted him in the good ole' U.S.A.. I could then wander off and discover the items that I loved and Chuck could go and buy me a little treat without me knowing it.

Leaving my comfort zone has taught me to really listen to the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit. This has taught me how to discern the difference between caution and fear. Traveling and overcoming my fears taught me who I am in this world and not just how my culture defines me. It has helped me see where and in whom my strength lies.

Learning to overcome fear is an ongoing process that we face in our lives, and if we turn from our focus of the fear, towards the one that holds the very universe in his hands we will truly become 'more than conquerors.' We will become the kings and priests that he longs for us to be, ruling and reigning in this world instead of reacting to the circumstances that fall into our path.

Fear is...

What fear is holding you hostage today? I encourage you to turn towards our redeemer and ask him to redeem your heart and help you to have the courage to overcome, so that you can rise up as a conqueror and become all that God has designed you to be.

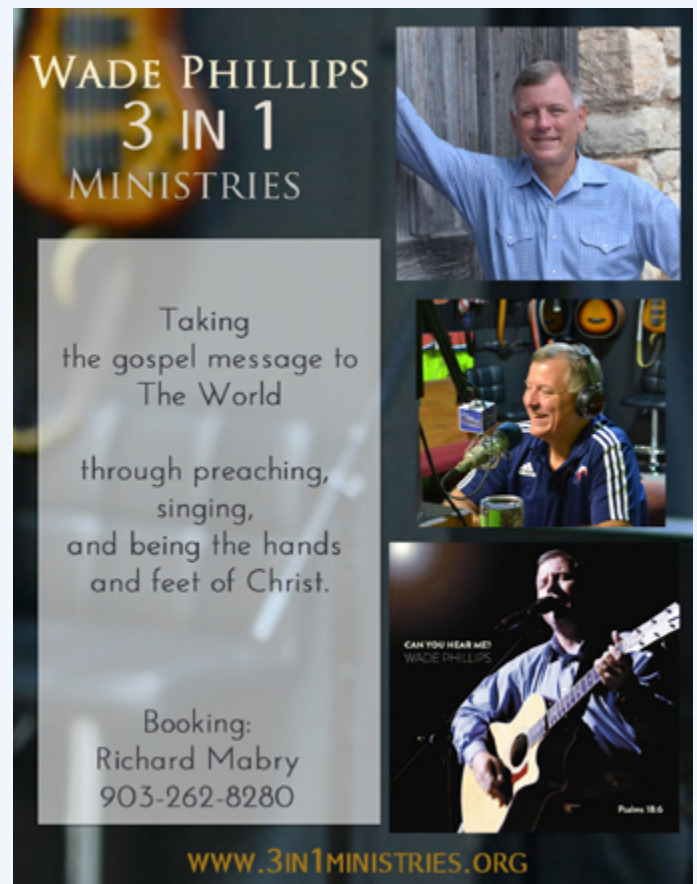
Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. She can be contacted by e-mailing selenaday@me.com, by visiting www.queen-living.org, or at www.facebook.com/queenismsbyselena-day.



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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. Mckay Project - Taking Me Home
2. Lisa Daggs - Love Found Me
3. Kolt Barber - Another Day
4. Chris Golden - Less Of Me
5. Michael Lee - Ain't That Just Like Jesus
6. Bruce Hedrick - Wingin' It
7. Mike Leichner - I Wouldn't Trade America For The World
8. Chuck Hancock - One Pair Of Hands
9. Johnny Rowlett - Where I'm Going
10. Tina Wakefield - Over And Over
11. Miles Pike - Don't Unpack Your Bags
12. James Payne - The Flag
13. Debbie Bennett - The Blood He Applies
14. Cody Mccarver - I'm Gonna Meet Jesus
15. John Penney - When The Thunder Rolls
16. Ryan Watkins - Any Way The Wind Blows
17. Ava Kasich - The River Runs Red
18. Debbie Seagraves - I Still Believe In Amazing Grace
19. Mike Manuel - Country Side Of The Cross
20. Tommy Smith - Let's March On
21. Jamie Lynn Flanakin - Free
22. Buddy Jewell - I'm There
23. Wade Phillips - Make Me More Like Jesus
24. Cami Shrock - My God Will Always Be Enough
25. Carol Barham - I Can't Praise Him Enough
26. Christian Davis - Every Scar
27. Shellem Cline - Getting In The Word Of God
28. Trinity Wennerstrom - Shine Big, Shine Bright

29. Tonja Rose - When The Mountain Can't Be Moved
30. Jonathan Dale - This Is Your Now
31. Charlie Griffin - Rise And Shine
32. Brent Harrison - This Side Of Sunday
33. Kevin Rowe - Heaven Above
34. Steve Warren - Forever Kind Of Love
35. Kevin And Kim Abney - Broken Bread
36. Terry Davis - Braggin' On Jesus
37. Gil Magee - Climb The Sycamore Tree
38. Blood Bought - Gospel Plow
39. John Lanier - There's Gonna Be Shoutin'
40. Kali Rose - What's A Valley



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Nailing It Down with Michael Lee

By Jade Harrison

Michael Lee Stancil is making waves and leading lives to the Lord. He may be one of the top Christian country artists, but his talent and humility are matched only by his genuineness to build the Kingdom.

It only takes a few minutes in the company of this well-mannered Georgia boy, to see exactly where his vision lies. He truly desires to give his talents back to the one who blessed him with it to begin with.

Stancil, who goes by the name of Michael Lee, has all the makings of a natural-born country star. He has the skill, charisma, fan following, accent, and even the southern charm. In fact, he may not readily brag about his accomplishments, but Lee was next in line for stardom, complete with a ready-to-sign working relationship with more than one major Nashville music label and publishing company.

However, God had already chosen Lee for a life of ministry. His life and music would evolve to fit that purpose.

Lee first felt the tug on his heart from God at the age of 14. He began to write music and perform publicly. His music was deeply influenced by Kenny Hinson, Keith Whitley, and Daryle Singletary. In fact, the first time he was on stage he sang “The Lighthouse,” by the Hinsons.

Lee spent many years declaring himself saved, but at the age of 30, he came to fully understand the true meaning of giving his heart to the Lord. Because of the influence of his parents, and eventually his wife, Julie, Lee made a real profession of faith and truly accepted Jesus as his Savior.

With his second birth, Lee began to realize his calling



to develop a Christian country ministry to glorify God.

“About eight years ago, I knew God had placed a special call and anointing on my life,” says Lee. “I ran for a while, but he ultimately drew me in.”

In fact, Lee is so sold out to using his God-given talents for the Kingdom, that he can hardly imagine his life with any other focus. When pressed to find something he may have done with his life, aside from music, Lee says vaguely, “probably (working) in the outdoors someplace.” Sharing his music really is that much a part of his life.

Lee not only sings and has been writing since he was 14 years old, but he also plays guitar and aspires to learn to play the piano, as well. He has accomplished a lot in his musical career over the years. He has not only earned a drove of fans, secured endorsements, turned the heads of nationally recognized music executives, he has also earned many accolades and awards along his journey.

Lee was named the 2017 CCN Male Vocalist of the Year, among various other titles to date.

However, as the ever-humble Michael Lee Stancil would tell the world, “Awards get dusty, rewards do not.”

Lee intends to keep his focus on the real prize, which

is living a life that is pleasing to God and that glorifies him. The singer has adopted this mindset as a moto for his ministry. His personal mission is, “Show the love of Christ, and bring people to be saved.”

Just as most artists strive to continuously progress and improve, Lee has big ideas for the future of his career. When asked what his aspirations are, in regards to collaborations, he says would love to sing with Sonya Isaacs. His dream venue, as shared by many Christian, country, Southern gospel, and Bluegrass artists, is to one day sing on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.

As far as Christian country music as a whole, Lee would love to see the genre have an undeniable, legitimate presence in Christian music. He expresses that he is seeing that happen even now.

As Christian country music evolves, Lee’s vision seems to be reinforced in his heart, through his favorite Bible verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things pass away. Behold, all things become new.”



In striving for a fresh start for this variety of music, Lee has advice for new and aspiring artists. “I would tell them: Stay true to Jesus and make him first.”

His second comment would be for new singers to concentrate on their vocal quality and how they relate to the audience.

“If you can’t feel it (the music), they won’t feel it,” says Lee.

MICHAEL LEE

Lee certainly held himself to those standards, while recording his latest CD, "Tattoos" under Red Hen Records, and he nailed it. Produced by Rick and Micah Schweinsberg, this project is quickly becoming a fan favorite as well as a staple in radio charts.

Christian country enthusiasts can find "Tattoos," as well as other Michael Lee merchandise, earlier CDs, and booking information on his website at 5one7music.com.



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The Invisible One

By Guest Writer, Dixie Phillips

“He persevered because he saw him who is invisible.” Hebrews 11:27 (NIV)

This scripture has been a tremendous blessing to me and has impacted my writing journey. In the life of every Christian writer, we keep pushing our pen because we have seen and been forever changed by the invisible one. As we look upon his face and spend time in his presence, we realize this truth—only those who see the invisible can do the impossible!

- ♦ Where were you the first time you caught a glimpse of the invisible one?
- ♦ When did you sense God calling you to write?
- ♦ Do you remember the first time someone was ministered to by something you’ve written?

One of my favorite old testament Bible stories is Elisha and the floating axe-head. Do you remember how the axe-head slipped off the handle, fell into the deep water, and would have been gone forever, but a man of God prayed and miraculously the axe-head floated to the top?

Broken spirits are heavier than iron axe-heads, but when one tiny sliver of Calvary’s cross is inserted into a bleeding heart, the hemorrhaging stops and

they rise with resurrection life and beat again. God wants to use your story to be that “tiny healing sliver” from Calvary’s cross.

Whether we are writing for children or adults, God wants to use our stories to change the world one soul at a time. Keep sowing those seeds and pushing your pen. Remember the invisible one is watching and if you listen you might hear him clapping his nail-scarred hands just for you.





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

1. The Whisnants - He's Never Moved
2. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - Clear Skies
3. Greater Vision - God Doesn't Care
4. The Bowling Family - I Believe He's Alive
5. The Kingsmen - Cost Of The Cross
6. The Lore Family - Asking, Seeking, Knocking
7. The Mark Trammell Quartet - Go Show John
8. Karen Peck and New River - Gotta Be Saved
9. The McKameys - Living For Eternity
10. 11th Hour - Doin' What's Right
11. Brian Free and Assurance - He Can Take It
12. Gold City - If Church Pews Could Shout
13. Ivan Parker - A Little More Like You
14. The Hyssongs - I've Seen Enough
15. Joseph Habedank - Just When You Thought
16. The Kingdom Heirs - Heroes Of Faith
17. The Hoppers - Song Of Moses
18. Canton Junction - When I Lift Up My Head
19. Jonathan Wilburn - Calvary's Cross
20. Legacy Five - I Trust The Cross
21. The Old Time Preachers Quartet - I'll Ride This Ship To The Shore
22. The Steeles - Psalm 113
23. Sunday Drive - 11:59
24. The Talleys - Look Up
25. The Taylors - For What I Don't Know
26. The Old Paths - Broken People Like Me

27. The Triumphant Quartet - Thankful, So Thankful
28. The Williamsons - Jesus, What A Wonderful Name
29. The Wisecarvers - Somebody Here
30. Amber Nelon Thompson - Grateful
31. Exodus - Behold The Lamb
32. The Gaither Vocal Band - Hallelujah Band
33. The Isaacs - If That's What It Takes
34. Jason Crabb - Washed By The Water
35. Lauren Talley - Our Song Will Be Jesus
36. Mark Bishop - The Refrigerator Door
37. Surrendered - His Tomb Is Empty Now
38. Sweetwater Revival - Shoutin' In The Clouds
39. Tim Livingston - Waiting At The Top
40. The Triumphant Quartet - The Cross Is All The Proof I Need
41. The Ferguson Family - Living For The Call
42. Covered By Love - I'll Lay My Crown
43. Austin and Ethan Whisnant - Should Have Been Three
44. The Bibletones - That's Why His Grace Is Amazing
45. Cana's Voice - Same Hands
46. The Jordan Family Band - Our Time To Shine
47. The Browders - The Man I Am Today
48. The Down East Boys - Pray
49. The Dunaways - Somewhere Around The Throne
50. Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver - He's Everywhere
51. The Greesons - I'll Put On A Crown



52. Georgia - I'm Getting Restless
53. Chronicle - I'll See Him
54. The Bakers - Why Should I Worry
55. The Collingsworth Family - That Day Is Coming
56. Day Three - I'm Not A Failure
57. Curtis Hyler and Jubilation - When God's All You've Got
58. The Greenes - The Blood Stained Side Of The Cross
59. Mark209 - I Can Call Jesus
60. HighRoad - Christ My Hope, My Glory
61. The Mylon Hayes Family - What An Anchor
62. Hazel Parker Stanley - I'd Do It All Again
63. The Blackwood Brothers Quartet - If That Isn't Love
64. Ben McGalliard - Clouds
65. The Guardians - Woke Up This Morning
66. The Brothers 4 - Leave Your Sorrows
67. The Troy Burns Family - When He Laid His Hammer Down
68. Battle Cry - You're All I Need
69. Ricky Atkinson and Compassion - The Harvest
70. The Mark Dubbeld Family - This Joy Is Mine
71. The Porter Family - When I Lay My Isaac Down
72. Judith Montgomery and Family - There Is A Remedy
73. Mercy's Well - When We Make It To The Other Side
74. The Sharps - Standing In The Storm
75. Michael Combs - How Do They Do It
76. The Songsmiths - The Best Is Yet To Come
77. Jason Davidson - It Was The Cross That Got To Me
78. The Millers - Going Where He Lives
79. 3rd Row Boys - Do It All
80. The Adams Family - Looking Forward To Looking Back
81. Blake And Jenna Bolerjack - He Lived To Tell It All
82. Beyond The Ashes - I'm Too Near Home
83. Poet Voices - Extraordinary

84. Three Bridges - Jesus Saves
85. Aaron And Amanda Crabb - Restore Me
86. Barry Rowland And Deliverance - Help Me Make It
87. The Burchfield Family - I Rejoice
88. Billy Huddleston - Miracle
89. Dean - At The Foot Of The Cross
90. Eagle's Wings - A Rugged Cross And An Empty Grave
91. The Wilbanks - You Are Good
92. Common Bond - Don't Let The Devil Go To Church With You
93. Encouragers - Royal Blood
94. The Frosts - That Which Costs Me Nothing
95. Heaven's Mountain Band - When The Savior Called Me
96. Jeremy Cato - Things I Know For Sure
97. The Kendricks - Old Piece Of Clay
98. Master's Voice - Without You, I Haven't Got A Prayer
99. New Dove Brothers - No Back Door To Heaven
100. The Bates Family- Rejoice

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Introducing Bob and Joyce Spamer of Spencerport, NY. They have a mission to bring Southern Gospel Music back to the Rochester, NY area and are asking that you pray God's blessings on what they are doing. It has been a real struggle they say, as there has not been anyone in the area to promote Southern Gospel for years and with God's help and your Prayers they believe this will be a success. Do you know someone in area? Tell them about SGNY and join us in prayer for Bob, Joyce and Southern Gospel NY.





By Lorraine Walker



Pigeon Forge, Tenn., will welcome the fans of gospel music this fall as the Creekside Gospel Music Convention returns to the Smoky Mountain Convention Center for the seventh year, from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1.

Creekside will host keynote speakers, more than 40 musical guests, unique events and a large exhibit hall. Among the speakers confirmed for the event is C.T. Townsend, a young preacher whose ability to reach people of all ages with the message of Jesus has brought comparisons with the late great Billy Graham.

Gospel music artists appearing include the Jordan Family Band, the Williamsons, the Pine Ridge Boys, Mark209, Hope's Journey, Children of the Promise, Eagle's Wings, the Chandlers, Mercy Rain, Day Three, the Riders, the Coffmans, the Bates Family, Hazel Sain,

the Connells, the Journeys, the McKay Project, Sacred Harmony, and many more.

One of the unique events th

is year is the Alabama Quartet Convention Road Revival, which is coming to Creekside on Oct. 31 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The event will be headlined by Barry Rowland and Deliverance and will also showcase other Alabama ministries.

The Creekside schedule is full each day, featuring musical showcases, evening concerts, the Jerry Goff Honors, the 2018 Diamond Awards and the Red Back Hymnal Choir. Midnight prayer is also planned for each evening.

SGNScoops recently announced the top 10 nominees for the 2018 Diamond Awards, to be presented on Oct. 29. The award evening is full of wonderful music, surprise guests and memorable moments, all made special





through the emcee talents of Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff. Fans can vote for their favorite artists from the top 10 nominees on the SGNscoops website, www.sgnscoops.com.

Creskide has special rates for church groups.



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



VIP tickets are available and are \$25 for all 4 days. This is going to be a special year with exciting things going on all four days and fans are encouraged to purchase their \$25 VIP ticket early. At a little over six dollars a day, the VIP pass gives the holder great value, good music, preferred seating, special gifts, and other surprises.



For more information on Creskide 2018, including keynote speakers, the Diamond Awards and other special activities, visit www.sgnscoops.com or www.facebook.com/Creskidegospelmusicconvention. For a \$25 VIP pass or other information, contact Rob Patz by calling 360-933-0741 or by emailing rob@sgnscoops.com.

A promotional poster for The Pathfinders' CD "Back Then". At the top, three people (two men and one woman) are smiling. Below them, the text "The Pathfinders" is written in a large, elegant script. Underneath that, it says "LISTEN FOR OUR LATEST PROJECT: Back Then" in a mix of serif and script fonts. To the right, there is a small image of a church with the text "The Pathfinders IN CONCERT" below it. At the bottom, it says "RELEASING 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY CD IN NOVEMBER 2018". The very bottom contains contact information: "Contact: 704.572.0692 | thepathfinders@thepathfinders.com", a Facebook icon followed by "FACEBOOK: THE PATHFINDERS MT HOLLY", and the website "WWW.THEPATHFINDERS.COM".

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

New Journey Radio



By Vonda Easley

Recently, I got to spend some time talking with Bobby Richardson at New Journey Radio. It was quite refreshing, hearing all about his love for family and radio. Here are the five questions I asked and his answers. Enjoy.

Vonda Easley: Tell us about your current radio job.

Bobby Richardson: Amy and I are owners and operators of New Journey Radio (NJR). At first, it was recommended by my wife Amy to start NJR primarily as a hobby. So, I started doing an hour during the morning called "Third Cup of Joe." I called it this due to the late start for the morning show which was 9:00 a.m., and folks were probably done with their coffee, or at least on their third cup.

Easley: At what age did you know you would one day work in radio? Tell us about it.

Richardson: While we were dating, I was a DJ at a local radio station and Amy knew how much I enjoyed it. You have those things that you want to do or be when you grow up and mine was to work at and eventually own a radio station, and to be a police officer.

I guess I can say that radio runs a little in the family. My father was a DJ as well as my uncle. Long after they finished their radio careers, I received a call to work at the same station they had worked.

Before that call came, I was working as a volunteer at the local university radio station (Mississippi University for Women) in Columbus, Mississippi. I was in 10th grade when the University offered "semi" college courses for students wanting to get a jump on classes or their career. I jumped on the opportunity to take Communications (because radio caught my eye). After faithfully volunteering for several months at the university radio station (88.9), I received a call that I'll never forget. I answered the phone and was asked, "are you the DJ?" and, "would

you like to come to work for Kickin' 103?" Kickin' 103 was the best country station around (of course - in our opinion). So I started working overnights for several months, then was asked if I would like the 7:00 p.m. - midnight shift that happened to come open. So, I became the 7 - midnight (entertainer) for Kickin' 103.

Easley: Would you share your testimony with our readers?

Richardson: One evening while on the air, I received a call. It was the new program director at Z100, Hot Rockin', Flame Throwing, Z100. This was the station all my friends who didn't like country listened to. So I made the jump from country to rock-n-roll. It wasn't that bad



due to the fact the I played heavy metal at the university station. It was more money, but I went back to the midnight shift. I stayed there for several months and the 7 - midnight drive came open. They had interviews and I thought I would throw my name in the hat.

I got the call one afternoon from the program director telling me that the 7 - midnight was mine if I wanted it. I took it. I worked it for about a year and Kickin' 103 called me and wanted me back. Money talks, so I went back to country. I learned that's the way radio works because several months passed and the guy that left Kickin' 103 and opened up the 7-midnight shift for me, well, he called me while I was on the air and asked if I was interested in moving and helping him start a radio station. Wow.

After a day or two of thinking it over, I moved to Tupelo, Mississippi, to help start Wizard 106. For the longest it was just me and my friend Mark running things. I became the music director and assistant program director, and we operated out of a single wide trailer. I hired and trained part timers. It was hard work, long hours, but rewarding in some way.

One night the studio door opened and it was Amy. We had been speaking on the phone some and when I saw her I realized how much I had missed her. Short story, I moved back to Columbus, we got married and I never returned to radio. After working as an auxiliary police officer with the City of Columbus for about three years, I finally got hired as a full time officer.

I worked in the traffic division and patrol division, but my most enjoyable work was as a DARE officer in the school system. I did resign as a police officer after 10 years (God saved my life) and went to work for our local television station for about four years as a cameraman, teleprompter operator and Master Control Operator. It was when I left the TV station that Amy and I moved to Natchez, Mississippi, to take our first full time ministry position.

Easley: Tell us about your family.

Richardson: Amy and I have three wonderful boys, whom we are very proud of. Robby is our oldest at 26, he is currently serving in the National Guard. Austin is 23, married to Randah and they have two fine looking boys, two years and four months. Taylor is our baby, he's 20.

Easley: Your wife Amy is an amazing singer and songwriter. What is your favorite song she sings, has written, or both, and why?

Richardson: Amy is my rock. We have been through a lot together and I wouldn't have it any other way. She is an incredible singer and songwriter. She plays the piano and has led worship for many years. Our friends and family would constantly encourage her to make a CD. One evening we ran into Dennis and Leslie McKay at a local restaurant and I asked him about what it would take to make this happen for her. With his help, Amy completed

her first project called, "My Journey." She wrote all but one song on the CD. She signed as an M.A.C. Recording



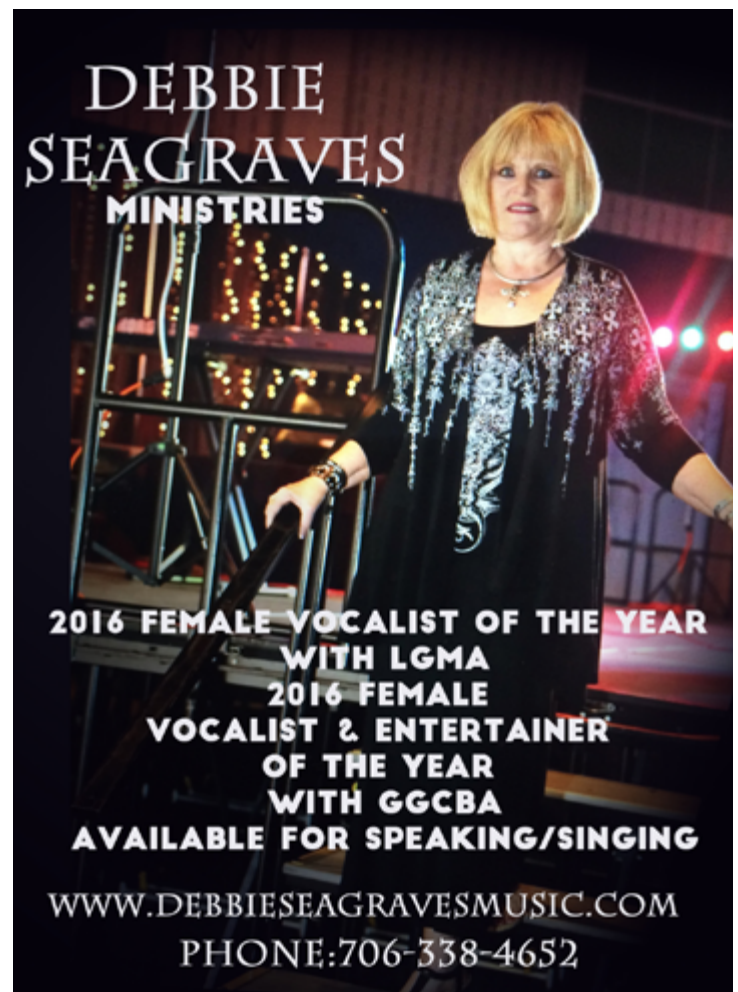
artist and her first two releases charted. My favorite song that she does is "Sweet Whispers."

It's real; you don't really understand, until you've been right at that place. Amy and I have been in ministry going on 28 years.

We have served as

youth directors, music directors and as lead pastors. New Journey Radio is an ministry arm of Richardson Multi-Media Group.

Special thanks to Bobby Richardson for sharing his story here on the DJ Spotlight. Be sure to find New Journey Radio on the web at newjourneyradio.com and listen to the "New Sound of Southern Gospel." Have a great month and we will see you back here in June on the DJ Spotlight.





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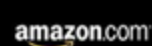
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Instruments of Peace: A Look at The Sharps

By Justin Gilmore

The first line of the Prayer of St. Francis says, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”

This prayer is the mission statement and title of the latest project from the family group, the Sharps. Hailing from Fort Payne, Ala., these men of faith are dedicated to spreading the gospel through song.

Andy Sharp and his son, Ben, lead the group as co-owners, carrying on the the legacy of Joel Sharp, the founder of the quartet.

“The Sharps is a family-based group that started in 1984 by Joel Sharp,” Ben shares. “Joel, having sung with gospel groups as early as the 50s, formed the Sharps that consisted of him, Andy and Janice Sharp, and Karen Sharp Twilley and her husband LaDon.

“Ben, son of Andy and Janice, was born and raised traveling with the group, and Mike (Leath) stepped in to fill

in for Joel due to his illness and has continued on with the group after the passing of Joel Sharp.”

The current lineup features the lead vocals of Mike Leath, the soaring tenor of Andy Sharp (son of Joel), and rounding out the trio, Ben Sharp’s smooth baritone. For the past three years, Tony Lewis served as the bass vocalist, but he recently resigned.

Andy Sharp is the only original member still with the group. Leath was hand-picked by Joel Sharp to fill in for him during his illness. He has now been with the quartet for 11 years. Ben Sharp grew up traveling with the group and has played piano, drums and served many other roles as well.

The group has experienced great success over their 30-plus years. They have recorded more than 20 projects, have been honored with several awards, and several (of their) songs have charted on national gospel music



charts. Andy Sharp has been honored with a lifetime achievement award in 2016 for his 30 years in Southern gospel music. The group's unique sound was inspired by the Florida Boys of 1962, Glen Payne, Brian Free, Arthur Rice, and of course, Joel Sharp.

This group, steeped in Southern gospel tradition, shines on their latest CD release, "Instrument of Peace."

Andy is proud of this album.

"'Instrument of Peace' is a collection of songs with powerful words," Andy Sharp explains. "Regardless of the situation or struggle in a person's life, there is a song with a message of hope and encouragement that will, without a doubt, touch the heart."

"(It's) incredible music and powerful lyrics. We feel after recording over 20 projects since 1985, 'Instrument of Peace' is by far the most powerful one we have recorded as a group."

Some of these powerful lyrics are found in "Standing in the Storm," which is also the current radio single.



"'Standing in the Storm' was the very first song pitched to us for our new project," Andy Sharp explains. "Upon hearing the very first verse, I knew it was a song I wanted to do. It has a very strong message that, no matter what age, everyone can relate to. It quickly became one of our favorite songs off this CD."

"We have received incredible feedback on this song since its release from numerous people who have shared with us how this song and the message it shares has helped them through life's struggles, and that is what it's all about."

The Sharps share this message wherever they can. Though they mainly perform in a five-state area in the Southeast, the group travels full-time.



The mix of youth and experience makes the group engaging for people of all ages.

"People attend concerts for different reasons, and everyone, regardless of age, has something in their life – a storm, a struggle or a searching for peace and hope that is a part of them when they walk in," Andy Sharp shares. "We hope that while attending a concert of ours, not only do people have a fun time of worship but that in some way they are ministered to and leave with a feeling of encouragement or peace. That is our main purpose in doing what we do, and making new friends along the way is a huge plus."

Over its storied career, the group has had many special and meaningful fan encounters.

"In the early 90s, we were part of a benefit for an 11-year-old girl with terminal cancer," Andy Sharp explains. "The night of the benefit, we received word she was sent home from the hospital with no hope, being



told there was nothing more that could be done for her.

“In the mid-2000s, while talking with people after a concert in Trussville, Ala., a young lady approached me, along with her husband, holding her baby and asked if I remembered her. Of course, I didn’t and asked if I should. Becoming tearful, she told us she was the 11-year-old girl from the benefit we did in the mid 90s. She shared with us that from that night on, God started to heal her.”

Encounters like this truly put things into perspective. Ben recalls another memorable moment in their career.



“Each and every person we meet is so very important to us, but the most memorable moment was at Pop’s (Joel Sharp’s) funeral,” Ben Sharp recalls. “A woman approached Dad and I afterwards and shared with us how, as a young girl, she was saved while listening to the Sharps. Later in life, she had fallen away from God, and during her darkest hour, she came across an old cassette of the Sharps. While listening to a song featuring Pops, she rededicated her life back to God.



“Encounters like this remind us why we do what we do. While we may not know of every person God reaches through us, He knows when we ourselves need a word of encouragement. He sends them at just the right time to keep us from being discouraged and to continue doing what we do; to be a vessel for Him to use and reach others through, what we believe, is the most incredible music in the world, Southern gospel.”

The future is looking bright for this ministry-minded family group.

“God has really opened up some big doors for us this year,” Ben Sharp points out. “We hope that our fans and new fans see a reinvented version of the Sharps like they’ve never seen before. While we continue with the same message and the same purpose, we hope to reach more people than ever before.



“We are excited to be on this journey He has put us on, and we can’t wait to share His message through the incredible songs He has given us. We sincerely and humbly ask for prayers as we continue to go and share with others the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”



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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It is May and I want to thank you for reading this edition of SGNScoops Magazine. I do hope you read each article because I am sure there is something there that will edify, uplift, or at the very least, entertain you. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there, and to those who no longer have their mother, or are unable to be mothers, my thoughts and prayers are with you.

It was quite enjoyable for me to learn about the ministry of the Eppersons. Our cover page artists, the Singing Echoes, have been around longer than many of us have been alive. Their history is intertwined with the unique history of Southern gospel music. They have preserved their sound yet still draw thousands to their concerts and to their Blue Springs Valley Gospel Singing every year. If you have not heard this group, I suggest you look up their You Tube videos and then buy a ticket for their anniversary singing. I think it will be quite a spectacle this year.

We are also privileged to have the Hayes twins in our pages, as well as the Sharps and Michael Lee. Craig Harris has brought us images from the Spring Break concert, helping us feel like we've actually been there. Then of course, our terrific columnists, reviewers and radio chart experts have added significantly to this issue.

At the end of compiling each issue, I often reflect in amazement at the amount of time and talent that goes into every SGNScoops magazine. Huge thanks to each

and every one that is involved.

Each name that you see listed in the contents page has been given a special gift and has chosen to follow God's leading into extending that gift to us.

Have you ever really thought about the main gift you have been given by God and how you are meant to share it with others? We know from Jesus' parables that we are not to bury our gifts, but they are given to us in order to be used. And the main gift - the ultimate gift - that God gave each of us, is Jesus. How are you meant to share this gift with others?

I recently talked with a friend of mine who told me how she shares her gift. She and her husband go out for coffee a lot. Now, I can get into that, as I just cannot make my coffee as good as Tim Hortons. This couple has their favourite shops and they sit in the same spots. They engage with strangers daily. Soon the same people find them at their spot and begin to connect and share.

It's not rocket science, although we try to make it more difficult than it is.

I used to think I had no way to share my gift. I'm off work, I attend medical appointments and I volunteer with Scoops. That's it. That was my excuse for not sharing. Now I realize that every connection I make - the cashier, the lady walking her dog, the man holding the door, the barista at Starbucks - these are all a chance to shine the Light of the World. Of course, that means

intentionally leaving the house and resolving to engage with at least one stranger.

Now, it is a little out of my comfort zone to strike up conversations with complete strangers, but I'm getting better at it. Like anything else, it takes practice. But it reaps a great reward. Daniel 12:3 says: "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

People like Gary Epperson, the Hayes boys and Michael Lee have a platform to shine from daily, but so do the rest of us. Be wise. Shine.

A photograph of an older couple, Shane and Denise Jeter. Shane is on the right, wearing a brown jacket and glasses, with his arm around Denise. Denise is on the left, wearing a blue patterned top and glasses.

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A photograph of a family of four in formal attire. A woman in a blue dress and black jacket sits in the center, flanked by two young men in suits. A man in a suit stands behind her. The background is a decorative, paneled wall.

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A large banner with a black background and white cursive text. Below the text are five small images of artists: Chuck Day, The Reed Brothers, Marcia Hudson, Greg Day, and Epp Mevin Wallis.

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Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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



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



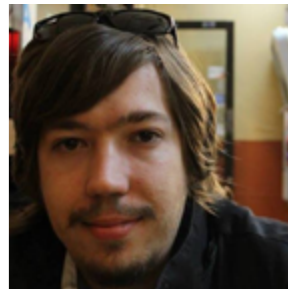
Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written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



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



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



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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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.

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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

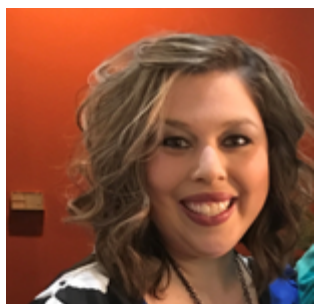
currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass 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.

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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

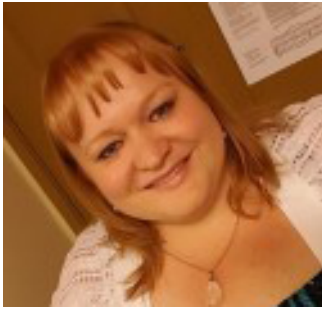
helping churches and ministries with areas of operation. This includes financing (construction, permanent financing, re-financing). In addition, many organizations need help understanding how to market their ministries and how important it is to promote their ministries properly through media and social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

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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.