

MAY 2019

SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



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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



I have always said I love this time of year. Everything is new. Flowers are blooming and the sun is out and the grass is growing. So it was fitting for me to make my latest announcement during this time of year. If you haven't read it yet, I'm going to give you a brief synopsis with some of the story behind it.

As many of you know who follow me on social media I am blessed with the opportunity to be able to travel quite often. In fact, over the last two years I have averaged 115 days on the road and during that time I've met so many wonderful people and so many new artists I'm excited about where this industry is going.

This story all begins eight years ago when we launched an event called Creekside. We believed it was going to be a place not only for the Diamond Awards but a place to highlight many of your favorite artists. We learned during that time that there were many new artists coming along that you, our readers, needed to know about, and that helped shape our focus here at the magazine.

I'm excited to tell you that over the next two years, our company will be launching convention-style events in 12 states. It will be a large undertaking, one that cannot be done by just a few people. I'm excited to say God has assembled a great team of people. Do we have everybody we need? No, but we have the core.

Four years ago God gave me this vision and at the time I didn't see how it could ever be accomplished. In fact, I talked about it a lot and then, like most of us do, I parked what I believe was my idea. God kept reminding me of it and early this year, during a time of prayer, God clearly told me I needed to move.

I believe we are at an exciting time in our industry as we watch new growth with new artists. I truly believe that growth will happen at the grassroots; at the church down the street, at the high school in the next town over. I believe that as you read this if you are an artist, you're part of this movement. If you are a fan, you're part of this movement. If you're a pastor who loves this music, you're a part of this movement. I need you, I need your help, whether that is through prayer or through volunteer help. I need you. I can't do this move without you.

If you didn't get a chance to read the press release, another exciting part of this is the acquisition of the

Gospel Music Expo in Tupelo, Mississippi. I want you to be a part of this event, next year in April. It's going to be incredible and we are excited to be able to offer this event to our family.

As you read this, I ask that you will pray for me and my entire staff as we move forward.

Come be a part of the event that started all of this, Creekside 2019, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, October 27 through October 31. For more information, call me at 360-933-0741.

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Sam Butler
Down to the River





By Lorraine Walker

Creekside Gospel Music Convention returns to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in five months. Have you made your vacation plans yet? Hundreds of people will be traveling to the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, to stay for the entire five nights and four days of music, laughter and family, on Oct. 27 - 31, 2019. The Creekside Gospel Music Convention offers Bluegrass, Country and Southern gospel afternoon music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer.

Some of the popular artists already announced for this year are the Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, Sue Dodge, the Browders, and so many more.

The last Sunday of October sees the start of Creekside as the Kickoff Concert in the evening welcomes the Chordsmen and the Pine Ridge Boys. The Pine Ridge Boys are joining with Classic Records and Ken and



Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today to record Creekside Live! Join them for all the fun at the Mill Creek Conference Center, located in Pigeon Forge.

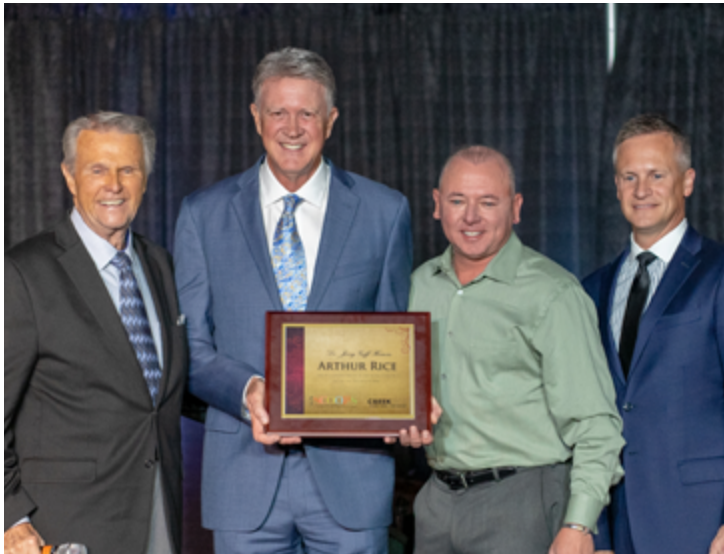


Monday, the load-in begins for the groups, as well as the first daily showcase. The evening concert hosts the Life Achievement award for one special music industry leader. Tuesday night is the prestigious Diamond Award presentations. Thus begins the week of Southern gospel, Christian country and Bluegrass gospel music, as well as all notes that bridge the genres. Music day and night, as well as special preaching, continues until Thursday night.

There is something new happening this year during Creekside in the Forge. This fall, the inaugural Chris-



Christian Country at the Creek, will be held on October 30 and 31, at Mill Creek in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Event organizer, Rob Patz, is thrilled to welcome Dennis and Leslie McKay as hosts for the two-day concert festival. “We are excited to begin this new event running along-



side Creekside,” says Patz. “Come hear more than 30 Christian Country artists during two music-packed days of concerts. My good friends, Dennis and Leslie, will make terrific hosts. Don’t miss it!”

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the 2019 Diamond Awards ceremony, the Kick-Off Concert, Christian Country at the Creek, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741. Make your plans today to attend Creekside Gospel Music Convention, taking place Oct. 27 - Oct. 31, 2019, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information or to book your hotel, contact rob@sgnscoops.com or call 1 (360) 933-0741.





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The Freemans

“Gospel Roots Run Deep”

By Jennifer Campbell



More than thirty years ago, Chris and Darrell Freeman began the family musical legacy known as the Freemans. Their name is synonymous with gospel music. Having recorded 25 albums and garnered seven number one songs, the foundation of their success has been the blessing of close-knit family ties paired with a passion for music that glorifies the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having been influenced by the very roots of gospel music at the young age of 10 years old, Chris Freeman said her earliest memories of gospel music stem from hearing gospel music legends like Andraé Crouch and the Disciples, the Speers, the Happy Goodmans, and the Oak Ridge Boys. Yet the biggest musical influence on her life would be none other than her dad. “My dad was a pastor and a preacher. In fact, he also sang. He made his kids practice. We hated practicing. I don’t regret it now, but I hated it then. But he’s probably been my greatest influence,” said Chris.

Although her dad pastored a church and was also a singer when she was a young girl, Chris always felt

down deep in her heart that there was more out there in the way of ministry. She auditioned more than once for positions singing gospel music, but rejection sent her home from Nashville, and back to California. Still, she now sees how God’s hand was working in her life all along, even from the very beginning.

“I’ve always felt (that) the Lord has a plan for everyone,” says Chris. “The fact that the Hinsons came into my life, I know God had a plan, especially the way that it all happened. I flew to Nashville to stay with some family friends. I went in to try out for the Speers and they couldn’t use me because I couldn’t read music, which killed me. I was embarrassed and humiliated, but after that, I tried out for the Gospel Singing Jubilee. The ones who listened said I had no charisma.

“As a teenager, I felt with all of my heart that I could sing,” remembers Chris. “Before I went back to California, I went to the National Quartet Convention. I was just in hog heaven because I got to see all of these groups, like the Rambos and the Goodmans. The very last group to come on that night was a group from



California, which excited me. When the Hinsons came out to sing, I felt sorry for them because they were going out to sing about 1:30 in the morning. But when they began to sing and the power of God anointed them, people were on their feet no matter what time it was. I thought, "This is what I want, Lord, I want to sing one day with family, my family." I went back to California discouraged and broken hearted."

When Chris returned home, her dad gave her some valuable advice to encourage her after this disheartening experience. He said, "Chrissy, God has a plan. Stay faithful, God has a plan."

Chris sat in her dad's church and prayed, "Lord, if this is where you want me, right here in this church, this is where I'll be. I want your will in my life." Little did Chris know that God's plans for her life would take her farther than she ever dreamed, beginning with that group she saw sing in the wee hours of the morning at the Quartet Convention.



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“What was so ironic was the fact that I went back with the Hinsons, since they were regulars on the Gospel Singing Jubilee. So when it was time to start the new season, I was there. I thought to myself, ‘well, I brought my charisma with me this time.’ It was a journey, an experience that I don’t regret. They were training grounds for me. I learned a lot from them and I believe that’s why, when I married Darrell, we were eventually able to start our own group, since his family retired and they didn’t want to travel anymore. That was the beginning of the Freemans.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” When Chris depended on the Lord and prayed for his will in her life, God honored her request and opened the door for her to pursue a family ministry, just as she had longed for as a teenager. Chris’ experience is the perfect illustration of how the Lord will give us the desires of our heart when we put our trust completely in him (see Psalm 37:4-5).

Today, the Freemans continue to nurture their gospel music roots, as they travel across the United States throughout the year, ministering at many different churches and concert venues. The group is currently comprised of Chris and Darrell, along with their children, Misty and Caylon, as well as Darrell’s cousin, Joe. Musical talent certainly runs in the family, as Misty and Caylon are not only vocalists, but accomplished musicians as well. Joe adds to the family harmony with his unique vocal talent, and he also serves as the group’s keyboardist.

Although Chris may be the matriarch of this musical family, Darrell also brings his musical heritage, having

begun his gospel music career at the tender age of 13. He got his start singing with his family, the Pathways, from Sandusky, Ohio. When he was 20 years old, he met his future wife, Chris Hawkins, who had sung her way into the hearts of gospel music fans for seven years with the Hinsons. Darrell fell in love with this young lady who had been voted the Queen of Gospel Music two consecutive years. They were married over 30 years ago, and as they say, the rest is history.

As Chris and Darrell continue to carry on the family legacy, Misty realizes how blessed she is to have a family who is supportive of her as a wife and mother, as well as a member of the group. She said she was blessed to grow up in a family where God, family, and ministry all blended together in one accord. Misty is also striving to pass down these same values to her nine-year-old daughter, Adelaide, and her seven-year-old son, Lincoln.

“Though I may be tired and busy most of the time, I’m so thankful for my heritage and that my children get to experience full time ministry. I thank God that he has given me all the desires of my heart to also have a normal home life, too,” says Misty.

Maintaining a work-life balance is difficult, considering Misty’s husband of 13 years, Bryce, works a corporate job and is unable to join the family for the majority of concert appearances. Additionally, Misty has a salon business in Nashville during the week. Still, Misty says she wouldn’t change a thing, given that she wants to give her kids the best of both worlds, including the ability to experience life on the road while maintaining involvement in extracurricular activities, such as Adelaide’s recent lead role in a special musical performance.

The Freemans are excited about their latest single which has been released to radio stations nationwide. The song is titled, “Send An Angel By My Way” (also known as “King Jesus”), and was written by Darrell’s uncle, Joe Freeman. Darrell said the song is based on Psalm 91:11 (NIV), which says, “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” Because this song is so special to their family, they also filmed a concept video which will be released soon.

The Freemans latest project titled, “Tower of Song,” features this new single, along with many other songs which are quickly becoming fan favorites, such as “It Still Takes the Blood,” “Chain Breaker,” “When He Loves Me the Most,” and “Tears Will Never Stain the Streets of

That City.”

As the Bible says in the book of Ecclesiastes, the best is yet to come for the Freemans. Having recently celebrated their 23rd Annual Homecoming in Boles, Ark., on May 4, 2019, along with Jeff and Sheri Easter, and Gerald Crabb, the Freemans look forward to many more wonderful years of ministry to come.

The musical journey of the gospel singing family known as the Freemans may have had a bumpy start sprinkled with disappointment, but God knew what he was doing when he put Chris and Darrell Freeman together. Their family’s musical traditions and their love for one another has allowed this group to blossom into one of the most beloved musical families in gospel music. Without doubt, this group will continue to sing the Lord’s praises for another 30 years. Their dedication to gospel music and each other will ensure their musical roots continue to run deep.

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The Freemans



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Paula Probus



By Vonda Armstrong

WJCR 90.1 FM in Upton, Ky. was founded by the vision and sacrifice of Rev. Don Powell, Sr. and his wife Gerri. The station went on the air in February 1990. WJCR 90.1 FM is Kentucky's only 100,000 watt Christian radio station. It reaches 32 counties throughout central Kentucky, and parts of four other states. WJCR is where we find our DJ Spotlight for this month, Paula Probus. Take a look at the following conversation with this sweet lady from Upton, Ky.

Vonda Armstrong: Paula, how and when did you get your first job in radio? What is your current job at WJCR?

Paula Probus: I got my first job in radio at WJCR 90.1FM in Upton, Ky. Back in 2003, the station needed volunteers to handle the phones. So, I volunteered one day a week. Don Powell Jr. and his wife Lauree Powell were running the station and they asked me to DJ a 3-hour program in the afternoon twice a week, and that started my love for radio. I am currently working fulltime as the Music Director and afternoon DJ and I love it.

Armstrong: We understand your grandson is famous! Tell us all about Jake.

Probus: Yes, my oldest grandson is popular. His name is Jake Boone Logsdon, and it all started when my daughter videoed him helping her with her grocery list. He won America's Funniest Home Videos and he now has his own YouTube channel, *Life according to Jake Boone*. Jake is four years old; he loves feeding cows, hauling stuff on his flatbed truck and going fishing. He is just a little red-headed

country boy.

Armstrong: If you could interview anyone, who would it be? Why would you choose them?

Probus: I would love to interview Gloria Gaither. Gloria is a wonderful writer, and I am sure she has some interesting stories to tell on Bill. I know she is filled with wisdom about the Southern gospel music industry, while she has watched it evolve throughout the years. Gloria also seems to be a humble woman of God.

Armstrong: Tell us about something cool you have been able to do because of your position in radio.

Probus: One of my all-time favorite experiences as a music director for WJCR, was my recent visit to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn. My husband Tim and I walked the red carpet at the ICM awards. The experience was so fun. Being on radio has given me many great experiences, it is the best job ever.



Armstrong: Would you share your testimony with us?
 Probus: I am the oldest child of a General Baptist minister. My brother and husband are also preachers. God put me in a family who believes in the power of Jesus Christ. I was saved and baptized when I was nine years old. However, I was taught to sing with my mother and aunt when I was only seven years old. I have not always walked close with Jesus, but he has never left me and is always my refuge and strength. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.



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Randall Reviews It - May 2019

by Randall Hamm

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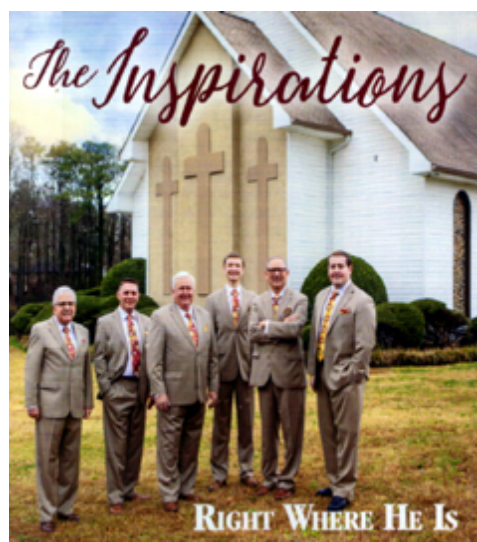
It's May, and we begin the second quarter of the year. There are still plenty of albums to review for the year. This month, those inspiring Inspirations are back from the mountains with a new release and an up-and-coming regional group will soon be known nationally with their latest release. Justified Quartet from Akron, Michigan wants you to "Take A Stand" and request it at your local gospel station.

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

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

Randall

Now...Let the Reviews begin



Inspirations

"Right Where He Is"

Producer: Jeff Collins

2019 Horizon records

Songs: "He's Coming Again" (Matthew Browder BMI); "There'll Never Be A Giant" (Roland Kesterson BMI); "Lord I Want To Be A Blessing" (Squire Parsons BMI); "Wouldn't Change The End" (Dixie Phillips-Mark Mathes BMI); "She Gets Another Prayer Through Again" (Steve Moss BMI); "His Hand Reached Further Down" (Don Johnson BMI); "Obey The Spirit of The Lord" (Joyce Croft-Colbert Croft BMI); "That's Right Where He'll Be" (Rebecca J Peck-Megan Sorelle Mulnix BMI); "The End of Time Is Near" (William Carter BMI); "Judas Kissed The Door" (Sandy Knight BMI)

This is now the second album with Archie Watkins

at the helm of ownership of the group. As you know, Martin Cook retired and sold all interest and ownership of the group to Archie, to lead the Inspirations and continue their brand of gospel music. This album brings Roland Kesterson to the front as their new lead singer, as Matt Dibler retired, and Wyatt Austin, former bass with the Chuckwagon Gang, was brought on as utility musician and occasional bass singer.

This album is a marked improvement, over “The One In the Water,” the blend is tighter and the musical selection is a better choice as well. From top to bottom, this lineup of the Inspirations has struck pay dirt with this project. “He’s Coming Again” leads off the project with the traditional Inspiration sound we’ve all come to know and love, featuring Roland on lead. Eddie Dietz gets the lead on a Squire Parsons tune “Lord I Want To Be A Blessing” and shines as always. One of my favorites that I hope will be pulled as a single, “His Hand Reached Further Down,” features Archie. In his earlier days, he could not have sung this as he sings here. Archie’s voice has aged like a fine wine and with a little age, he sings this to perfection, and I’m thankful he reached further down for me.

The current single climbing the charts is “That’s Right Where He’ll Be.” From the pen of Rebecca J Peck, no matter where we are that’s “Where He’ll Be.” You’ll instantly recognize the single, as it has one of the catchiest intros on radio today. But my true favorite is a re-recording of “The End Of Time Is Near.” This classic Inspirations’ song, first recorded in 1969, sparkles as two of the current Inspirations were on this particular cut, Archie and Eddie. In 50 years the message of this song is even clearer and truer today. This is worthy as well of being a single.

Overall, the Inspirations and all those involved have crafted a CD that has not left my player for a while. Great songs, the classic Inspiration sound, and some great studio musicians make for an album that is a pure delight. Visit the Inspirations at <https://www.facebook.com/theinspirations/> and get a copy of “Right Where He Is” wherever and however you get good gospel music.

Strongest Songs: “Right Where He’ll Be,” “His Hand Reached Further Down,” “The End of Time Is Near,” “Obey the Spirit Of The Lord”



Justified

“Take A Stand”

Producer: Bob Caldwell

2019 Independent

Songs: “Take A Stand” (Scott Inman-Daryl Williams); “Come, Lord Jesus” (Dianne Wilkinson); “Don’t Be Caught Dead Without Jesus” (Mike Payne-Vic Clay); “We’ve Got Our Ways” (Rebecca Peck-David Jenkins); “It Should Have Rained” (Dianne Wilkinson-Rusty Golden); “We’re In The Same Boat” (Rebecca Peck-Kenna Turner West); “Heaven Is The Place Where Dreams Come True” (Dianne Wilkinson-Janice Crow); “Can’t Wait To Hear The Sound” (Carl Ledford); “It Took A Lamb” (Geron Davis); “I Still Cling To The Old Rugged Cross” (Marty Funderburk-Buddy Mullins)

For the past six years, this group has been Michigan’s pride and joy. Based out of Akron, Mich., Justified is about to no longer be Michigan’s secret. Lead, Carl Ledford; baritone, Mark Jacoby; tenor, Dave Potts and bass, Tim Caldwell, have crafted a album that is pure joy and straight ahead Southern gospel. The album produced by Bob Caldwell, who you may remember as the bass singer with Won By One, Brian Free and Assurance, and Kingdom Heirs, has brought the best out of Justified. By the way, Tim Caldwell is Bob’s brother. “Take A Stand” leads off this project, and in this day and age we must “Take A Stand.” This is their current single and could be the group’s first national Top 20.

Justified sings the fire out of “Come Lord Jesus,” the first of three Dianne Wilkinson songs on the album. “It Should Have Rained,” penned by Dianne, is an

absolute gem that deserves a possible single release. Featuring their tenor, this was formerly recorded by the Kingsmen, but changing the lead to tenor, markedly changes the song and makes it more powerful. Closing out the CD is another lead vocal for tenor Dave Potts on "I Still Cling To The Old Rugged Cross", a powerful song of where our belief lies. In between "Take A Stand" and "I Still Cling," is one of the best new projects of the year. You may not have heard of Justified, but in a few more single releases, you will remember their name. Take a stand and get a copy of this CD. Visit Justified at <https://www.facebook.com/JustifiedqtMI/> and get a copy of "Take A Stand" wherever and however you get good gospel music.

Strongest Songs: "Take A Stand," "I Still Cling To The Old Rugged Cross," "It Should Have Rained," "Don't be Caught Dead"



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Sam Butler

comes full circle



By Stephanie Kelley

The year was 1957. The Soviet Union launched the first satellite into space called Sputnik 1. Gas was only .24 cents per gallon and the average monthly rent cost was \$90. Americans crammed movie theaters to watch “The Bridge Over the River Kwai,” while “Perry Mason” and “Maverick” graced the small screen for the first time.

American children were gaga over Slinkys and Hula Hoops, while teens and young adults continued to Rock and Roll with an artist named “Little Richard.” And four-year-old Sam Butler, Junior, was traveling the country with his father, a minister, and guitarist for the Blind Boys of Mississippi.

“I remember sitting in the car and listening to the Boys rehearse,” says Butler. “At four years of age, I knew all the songs and would often sing along with them as they rehearsed for the next show.”

Archie Brownlee, lead singer of the Mississippi based

group heard young Butler sing and suggested that he take the stage at their next event. The crowd loved the addition of the young man to the show and he became a regular fixture during their concert events. Butler continued to sing with the group, who often traveled with the Blind Boys of Alabama. Butler’s family also had a traveling gospel group. Later, he would join the Blind Boys of Alabama as a full-time member.

When he turned nineteen, he had the opportunity to sing with Dorothy Norwood and The Norwood Singers. It was 1972 and Dorothy Norwood, a former member of the Caravans was the opening act for the Rolling Stones and Stevie Wonder tour.

“This is where I was introduced to ‘real sin,’” Butler said.

Thankfully, God spared Sam Butler from becoming involved with the sinful lifestyle he was witnessing.



However, Butler experienced a daily battle, both when traveling with secular groups and Christian artists. He became disillusioned with the lifestyle choices of performers who sang praises to the Lord from the stage, but then lived an entirely different lifestyle in their private times. This dichotomy was a constant battle in his heart, as Sam tried to live a Christ-centered life which was taught to him by his father, while he witnessed the contradictory life of those around him.

In the year of 1983, Sam Butler found himself on a very different stage. He was a part of the critically-acclaimed Broadway play, “The Gospel at Colonus.”

In 1989, Butler reconnected with his old pal, Steve Jordan of the Rolling Stones. Jordan had seen Butler in “The Gospel at Colonus” and decided to make contact. Jordan made his way to the backstage of the theater where he waited for Butler to get off of the stage.

“He wanted me to perform on Keith Richards’ new album,” Butler remembers.

In fact, Butler has been featured on many albums, both Christian and secular. In addition to performing on Keith Richards’ 1989 solo album “Talk Is Cheap,” Butler has performed with and contributed to projects with Steely Dan’s Donald Fagan and gospel legend Clarence Fountain.

Though Sam had been singing about the Lord and living relatively close to Him his whole life, he felt as if he had never really made a deep commitment.

“God was drawing me and I couldn’t sleep at night,” said Butler. “I slowly moved toward God.”

Twelve years ago, Butler truly turned his heart and life over to the God he had been singing about his whole life. He started attending church in his hometown of St. Paul, Minn. The pastor of the church and Butler had gone to school together in Vero Beach, Florida, as children.

In fact, as a child, Butler’s pastor had attended the church where Sam Butler’s father was a pastor. Now forty years later, rolls somewhat reversed, Butler attended his church and these two men grew closer to God.

Butler’s faith grew, along with a tugging on his heart to take a new step in his walk with Christ. About a year ago, Butler took the leap of faith and became a pastor. He now pastors his own church in Minneapolis, Minn. The congregation is small, but they are pro-active in helping their community by feeding the homeless and other service projects.

Another project that is near and dear to Pastor Sam’s heart is his documentary, “The Book of Clarence.” This film reveals the hard-core, honest truth behind the life of the legendary Clarence Fountain. The purpose of the film is to tell this truth.

“People who sing gospel are simply people who need





the Lord,” said Butler. “We (as gospel singers) need to start living what we are singing. You can only fool people for a while.”

Butler hopes that “The Book of Clarence” will help others who preach and sing the gospel, to really live it.

Butler continues to devote much of his time in music ministry. His new release, “Down To The River,” can be found on Revival Music Company.

“Down to the River,” is a beautiful southern gospel song written by James Tullio, and performed by Sam Butler and Clarence Fountain. Sam’s first single off of this project is a song that he wrote titled, “Do What The Lord Says Do.” Jimmy Swaggart loved the song so much, that he’s included it a song in his congregational lineup.

Though Butler is busy juggling his duties as pastor of a church, his music career and promoting his film, he still has time for family. Butler has been married to Dr. Val-

erie Butler, a Doctor of Education, for thirty-two years. Together they have six children.

Butler continues to travel and sing. He’d love to share the good news of Jesus with your church congregation. Interested in having Pastor Sam Butler minister at your event or to your congregation? Contact Jesse Wood, 757-239-9061, connect@revivalmusiccompany.com. For bookings, contact Terry Scott, 757-613-0597, drummertwin2@gmail.com. Find out more at www.revivalmusiccompany.com/sambutler.

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Sarah Reith

of Southern Raised

By Justin McLeod



Sarah Reith of Southern Raised is the first in a new series featuring younger artists in Southern, Bluegrass and Country gospel music. We hope you enjoy the journey as we travel into the lives and hearts of the new generation of gospel artists.

Southern Raised call themselves a Christian acoustic band and their sound certainly crisscrosses over all types of music, hitting Southern and Bluegrass a little more often than others, but you can hear a lot of influences in their style. The Ozark mountains cast their shadow as well as the infiltration of a Celtic resonance. The sibling harmony is sweet and the instrumentation is adept.

The members of Southern Raised are all close in age, but among family members Lindsay, Sarah, Emily, and Matt Reith, Sarah was chosen for this feature. She is the second oldest of the four, and has been nominated for her excellent vocals and banjo picking. Since the group

started in 2007, they have all received several nominations for songs, vocals and instrumentation, and Sarah plays a major part in this groups' popularity.

Justin McLeod: What was the first musical instrument that you learned to play?

Sarah Reith: I was eight years old when my older sister started piano lessons. She took them for a couple of weeks and of course 'lil sis wanted to take lessons if big sis was, so I started piano as my first instrument.

JM: What instruments do you currently play?

SR: I play banjo, piano, violin and a little guitar, but my true love is banjo.

JM: What are the positive things about being part of Southern Raised and what are the challenges?

SR: I love the opportunities we've had to meet so many sweet loving people and the friendships we've made over the years. One of the more difficult moments



behind the scenes is the all-night drives we occasionally have to do to make it to our next venue. Our bus is currently out of commission, so sleeping in a vehicle all night while someone is driving can be interesting. But the hardest part is being away from my fiancé and not getting to see him as often.

JM: What is it like to travel with family?

SR: I love traveling with my siblings. We were raised to be best friends and we truly all are best of friends. They're wonderful people to work with, and to do what you love with the people you love is great. Sometimes it can be challenging, working up new arrangements and ideas with siblings, since growing up we've all had the same musical influences so we end up having the same ideas. So we try to think out of the box and be creative.

JM: What song do you like the most, out of all the Southern Raised tunes?

SR: One of my favorite songs we sing is an original one that Lindsay co wrote, called "Letting Go." The message in that song really ministers and speaks to my heart every time I sing it. It's so encouraging that we can let go of the hardships, difficulties, trials or whatever it is we are holding onto and know that God will lead, that he never fails us and we can fully and completely trust him.

JM: Is there a song you've always wanted to record but never have?

SR: I've always wanted to do a hymns project. Some of my favorites are "Blessed Assurance," "I Love to Tell the Story," "Rock of Ages," and my very favorite hymn is, "It Is Well With My Soul." My fiancé just surprised me for Valentine's Day and taught himself the



right hand on the piano and played “It Is Well With My Soul.” It was so special. (Editor’s Note: Congratulations to Sarah and David Noland who got married in April!)

JM: If you could create a perfect musical group, who would be in it?

SR: I would put my musical inspirations together in a band: Alison Krauss, Jens Kruger, Mark Hall, and my arranger would be John Williams, he’s so phenomenal.

JM: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

SR: I love to read; you just can’t beat a good book snuggled up by the fire. I enjoy watercolor painting, quilting, sewing, kayaking, and hiking. Within the last year it’s changed to spending any spare time with a very special someone.

JM: What is your favorite scripture verse?

SR: My favorite verse is Psalms 66:16 “Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.” This became my verse after we started ministering through singing. This is why we do what we do, to declare what mercy and grace God has bestowed upon each one of us. It’s a joy to “declare” it

through singing.

JM: Can you describe a typical Southern Raised concert for our readers?

SR: We would love to see each one who is reading this at a Southern Raised concert down the road sometime. We have a wonderful time praising God together. We mix in our classical background with our current music and style. We’re also doing some songs off a new table project that is Americana in flavor. A couple of my favorites are an Armed Force patriotic medley we do and the lyrics to “Heaven’s Shore” to the familiar melody of “Shenandoah.”

JM: Do you have a dream you’d like to share?

SR: Yes. I have always loved old cars and trucks. It has been my dream for years to one day own one. My ultimate dream one is a 1950’s baby blue truck. I’ll just keep dreaming!

A special thank you to Sarah Reith of Southern Raised for candid and personal responses. For more information on Southern Raised, you can find them online at southernraisedbluegrass.com.



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Jessica Horton

Both Feet In



By Jimmy Reno

Jessica Horton's love of music and singing began 27 years ago when she was just three years old.

She would travel with her grandparents to old school houses and opy houses where they would sing for the people. People would leave donations, and later on, this would actually pay for her first year of college.

As Jessica got older she encountered others her age who began making fun of her for singing the classic country music and for dressing like a cowgirl for her family's concerts. This peer pressure led Jessica to focus on other interests during her high school years and put her dreams of a music career on hold. "Looking back, I would give anything now for some of those moments with my grandparents," Jessica says.

Jessica continued to dream of the day she would be singing professionally. As she began college she feared her passion and dream seemed unattainable and thought it may never be more than a hobby; but God had other

plans in store for her life.

She would go on to study classical voice in college and receive her degree in music education. She began teaching piano and voice. She discovered a new passion for her teaching when she began tutoring English to Chinese students online.

Musically, Jessica was influenced by the late Patsy Cline. She attributes much of her vocal warmth and tonal quality to her influence. Ministry opportunities began to open up for Jessica and she is currently serving as youth director for her church in addition to leading praise and worship.

During June of 2018, after some encouragement from her husband, David, Jessica reached out to M.A.C. Records. After hearing her sing, the label immediately knew she was a voice that should be heard. Leslie McCay of M.A.C. Records received a message on Face-



book from Jessica that said, “Ok...I’m ready to give this music thing a try.” Leslie states, “There were three song files attached. I opened the tracks and after listening to them took them to my husband Dennis. I told him to take a listen. When I asked who it sounded like, neither of us could think of anyone. That’s a good thing. “

“We were very interested in talking with her. Her sound was very unique and pure and not like anyone else that we had ever heard.” Dennis McCay of M.A.C. Records said. A meeting was set up at Studio 115A to talk about Jessica’s vision and how she wanted to pursue her musical dream. Dennis states, “Initially, she was interested in pursuing secular music with an old country sound. We began talking about recording cover songs, but we encouraged her to think about writing her own songs. Jessica had never written any original songs, but she started trying her hand at songwriting. It wasn’t long before she had ‘Love Wins’ and another song called ‘Mottown Song’. The songs just started flowing and she was on her way to writing and recording a secular project.”

However, there was another plan in the works; a divine plan. After some prayer and a series of events, Jessica decided that performing secular music was not the way she wanted to go. She decided that gospel/Christian music was what she was being called to do.

The focus shifted and Jessica’s efforts moved toward writing gospel music with a country, bluegrass, and Americana feel. Dennis says, “It was at that point that

we began discussions about her joining M.A.C. Records which is a label with all Christian music and artists. She signed and became a M.A.C. Records artist in August of 2018.”

Jessica would go on to write eight of the 10 songs on her debut album, “Both Feet In.” She shares that “Right Outside” was her favorite song from the album. She states, “ I wrote that song to describe the frustration and angst of depression and anxiety, which I have struggled with.”

Jessica hopes with her music, she can bridge a gap between some of the younger fans of country music giving them a viable alternative with Christian country. She keeps a variety of songs in her shows from older classics to her own newer original songs to provide appeal for fans of all ages.

Jessica loves various music genres from jazz to blues, country, and gospel. Her love of music is obvious when she sings with conviction and heartfelt emotion in her songs. She shares, “I love songs that tell our stories of humanity, and I love songs that tell about the Lord and our relationship with him.”

Jessica is moving forward in her music ministry with excitement, stating, “God loves me the way I am - with all my flaws and selfish ways, but he doesn’t expect me to stay that way. He expects us to pursue holiness as he is holy. And if I want to please him and look more like him so that others can see him more clearly, I have to put away my selfish desires and love others as extravagantly as he has loved me.” Her current radio single, “Pictures”, debuts on the charts at number 59 for the month of May and she’s been nominated for a 2019 Diamond Award for Sunrise Artist of the year.

As doors have begun to open for Jessica, she’s decided to follow God’s calling and spread the message that’s been placed on her heart. She does so, remembering the special times spent those years ago with her grandparents, performing for opry and school houses to the present opportunities she has sharing her own songs with audiences.

She’s doing all this with an amazing God- given talent and with both feet in.

TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

2019 May SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40

1. Sermon On The Mount - Tommy Brandt
2. Hands Of A Working Man - Christian Davis
3. Victory Song - Cori and Kelly
4. Too Nice - Isaac Cole
5. I Got Saved - Michael Knight
6. I Miss Them All - The Jordan Family Band
7. Holding On To Jesus - Terry Davis
8. God's Got This - Kelly Kenning
9. Days Are Numbered - Shellem Cline
10. Grateful - Chris Golden
11. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
12. Pictures - Jessica Horton
13. Getting My Jesus On - Andrew Marshall
14. I Love You Son - Hunter May
15. Sky Full Of Angels - Kali Rose
16. Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick
17. God Did It - Greg Day
18. God, Oral Roberts, and Billy Graham - Carol Barham
19. It's Written In The Scars - Dan Duncan

20. Near You - Michael Lee (with Rhonda Vincent)
21. Why They Call It Heaven - Jayne Carter
22. There's Still Time For A Miracle - Joy Roberts
23. Who But God - Eagle's Wings
24. I See God - Marty Raybon
25. Hand Of The Lord - Jan Harbuck
26. Higher Than A Steeple - Brent Harrison
27. Hole In Her Heart - Linda Lanier
28. Speak The Word - Ava Kasich
29. Praise Looks Good On You - Kevin and Kim Abney
30. He Is Here - Terry and Debra Luna
31. He Took Me In - Appointed 2
32. Help Is On The Way - Jim Sheldon
33. Mama Said - Kolt Barber
34. In The Fire - The Dodsons
35. Till I Get Home - Billy Droze
36. American Christian - Bonita Eileen
37. Dependence - Bev McCann
38. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
39. Believe Me He Can - Blood Bought
40. Something Pentecostal - Sandy Jarvis

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Les Butler and Friends: Jeff Tolbert of the Primitive Quartet

By Les Butler

I've known Jeff Tolbert for many years, and I like him a lot. He's a great husband, father, musician and one of the all-time greatest singers I've ever heard. I thought I knew most everything about Jeff, but even I was surprised at some of his answers to my questions. For example, did you know that over the years he played for Jeff and Troy Tolbert, the Stanleys, the Easter Brothers, Jeff and Sheri Easter, and he filled in with the Lewis Family, Karen Peck and New River, the Isaacs and Ricky Skaggs. Of course, it feels like he's been a member of the Primitive Quartet forever. You'll enjoy getting to know my friend, Jeff Tolbert.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Jeff Tolbert: My earliest memories (for me) were singing with my dad. We sang everywhere; in our community, churches, outdoor festivals and at many radio stations. We were featured a lot on the Saturday Morning Merry Go Round at WPAQ in Mt. Airy, N.C.

Butler: What was the first instrument you tried to play?

Tolbert: I started playing the guitar and bass guitar about the same time, around the age of seven. After that, I started picking up other instruments. I remember my dad telling me when to change chords on the guitar. I couldn't wait for him to get home from work so we could pick.

Butler: What instruments do you play now?

Tolbert: I play the bass guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, harmonica, autoharp and a little on the dobro.

Butler: Who are your top three musician mentors?

Tolbert: I would definitely say my dad is my first musical mentor. He taught me so much about music as well as life. His spiritual influence and walk with the Lord started me on my journey many years ago, playing music and living for my Savior. I miss him dearly, but I know we will sing together again.

The Easter Brothers would be my second mentors as well as much of their family. The Easter Brothers were from my home town of Mt. Airy, N.C. Their music has



always been a part of my life. I still say, no one can sing three-part harmony like Russell, James and Edd. My third musical mentor would be Ricky Skaggs. From Ralph Stanley and JD Crowe until now, he's always been my favorite singer and musician. I grew up learning how to sing harmony with Ricky's records. After reading Ricky's autobiography that he published, I realized our upbringing was so much alike, as we were both raised in a godly home with a love for music. I cherish his friendship and appreciate his music.

Butler: If you could only do one thing; sing or play, which would you choose?

Tolbert: As much as I love to play, I would have to choose singing. Dad always told me, (when) you sing a song, listen to the words. If the song helps you, it will help others. I want to be a help and encouragement to someone. I want to be able to tell folks there's hope in a lost and dying world, and there's joy in knowing Jesus.

Butler: How long have you been a member of the Primitive Quartet? Did you ever see yourself as a member of

the Primitives and how did you get the job?

Tolbert: When I worked with the Isaacs, we did a lot of dates with the Primitives. Many times, they would ask me to play fiddle with them. I loved their music and they were some of the nicest gentlemen to be around. I thought it would be great to be a part of them. In the spring, I was working for Ricky Skaggs. I was having a blast, being on the Grand Ole Opry and getting to perform with some of the absolute best musicians and singers. Things were going great for me, but I realized God had let me do this for a short season.

I prayed, "God, if this is where you want me, you will let me know. If not, I'm willing to do what you want." I knew I had to sing gospel music. The call to go back on the road never came. Nothing was wrong, things were going great, God just had other plans for me. I planned a trip with some friends for the week of July 4th, then I got a call from Reagan Riddle with the Primitives. He wanted to know what I was doing and if I could play with them at the Hominy Valley singing the week of July 4th. I told him I had already made plans but Reagan made a few more calls to me after that and I told him, yes. Twenty-three years later I'm still here. What an honor it is to be with them for so many years now.

Butler: What do you enjoy the most; playing live or in the studio?

Tolbert: Playing live versus playing studio are totally different. To be honest, I love them both. To play live, I love the people and the acoustics. Most of all, which is the most important, I love the sweet spirit. In the studio, it tests you in so many ways. It makes you think more. Recordings don't lie, so it makes you stay on your game. Building a song from just a thought on a piece of paper to recording it, then listening back to what you have created, the process is amazing.

Butler: What's your biggest or most special musical moment?

Tolbert: The most special musical moment for me was when I sang for the first time to my beautiful wife on our wedding day. Of course, she had heard me sing many times but this was the first time I sang a song just to her. I sang "Walk Thru This World With Me." I remember her grandfather saying, "That is the most appropriate song you could have sung to my granddaughter." He prayed with us that day and gave us his blessings.

Butler: Tell us about your family. Are any of them musical?



Tolbert: I met my beautiful young lady, Shaytonya Morrow, in the concession line at the Hominy Valley Singing in 1999. We dated for three years. I love her and could not do what I do without her. Shaytonya is from Sweetwater, Tenn.

On September 27, 2004, we had our first baby, Briley Ryan Tolbert, weighing in at nearly 10 pounds. Eleven years later, on August 18, 2015, we were blessed with a baby girl, Ilah Ruth Tolbert. I'm so thankful for the family that God has given to us. Briley plays the guitar, mandolin and sings some. But like my wife who was very athletic and played college volleyball, Briley loves

the game of football. We are very proud of him and his love for the Lord.

Ilah is our little song bird and loves to sing and make up songs. She loves the stage and will take a microphone away from you.

I was born in Mt. Airy, N.C., on February 19, 1971 to Phyllis and Troy Tolbert. I can't say enough about my parents. They have prayed and supported me from day one. I pray I can be the parent to my children as they have been to me.

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

Tolbert: When I'm not on the road. I love to be with my family, no matter what we do. Just being together means so much. I love to be outdoors too. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and camping with my best friend Jimmy Earl Burchfield of the group Walking by Faith.

Butler: Give us a brief testimony...

Tolbert: At a youth camp in Asheboro, N.C., our church went on a retreat for a week. There were lots of activities during the day and at night we would have service. I remember the preacher asking the question, "If you didn't make it through the night, where would you spend eternity?" Even at a young age, it broke my heart, making me realize I was lost. God was speaking to my older sister at the same time. We both got saved that night. Since then, my sister has passed away. I thank God for the hope that I have. I will see her again. I'm so glad I have a time and a place where I can go back to where the Lord saved me.



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

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SGN SCOOPS

Bluegrass Top 20

2019 May SGN Scoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 20

1. In A Whirlwind - The Little Roy and Lizzy Show
2. Songs Like Those - The Chigger Hill Boys and Terri
3. Most Requested Prayer - Heaven's Mountain Band
4. Who But God - Eagle's Wings
5. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
6. Thinkin' Outside The Box - Dave Adkins
7. I Start Each Day With The Lord - The Britton Family and Friends
8. Let My Life Be A Light - Balsam Range
9. I Am Just A Pilgrim - The Appalachian Road Show
10. His Eyes - The Rochesters
11. Call On God - Tonja Rose
12. All My Tears - Jaelee Roberts
13. Acres Of Diamonds - Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers
14. A Brighter Day - The Primitive Quartet

15. When The Storm Is In My Path - Heaven's Mountain Band
16. Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet
17. Are You Ready To Go - Sally Berry
18. I See God - Marty Raybon
19. Heaven's Back Yard - High Road
20. Little White Church By The Way - The Rumfelt Family



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

1. God Fights On My Side - The Guardians
2. Heaven Just Got Sweeter For You - The Kingdom Heirs
3. Testimony Time - The Down East Boys
4. You Chose To Be My Friend - Jason Crabb
5. All My Hope - Gold City
6. Revival - The LeFevre Quartet
7. It Carried Him - The Perrys
8. So Good To Me - The McKameys
9. Even Me - The Triumphant Quartet
10. Joy On The Journey -The Mylon Hayes Family
11. By and By - The Hoppers
12. Mercy and Love - The Collingsworth Family
13. Everything He Forgot - Brian Free and Assurance
14. He Set Me Free - Sunday Drive
15. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff and Sheri Easter
16. I Know I'll Be There - Karen Peck and New River
17. Longing For Home - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
18. The Father Knew - Susan Whisnant
19. We Are all God's Children - The Gaither Vocal Band
20. That Old Red Back Hymnal - Les Butler (with The Williamsons)
21. He's Making Me - Amber Nelon Thompson
22. You're Not In This Alone - The Browders
23. He Is Able - The Sound
24. His Grave Wrote The Song - Greater Vision
25. That's What Happened At The Cross - Exodus
26. In Jesus' Name - Michael Combs

27. I Love You - Joseph Habedank
28. Just Across The River - The Steeles
29. He's Making A Way - The Pruitt Family
30. Finish Well, Finish Strong, Finish Empty - Mark Bishop
31. One Of These Mornings - Avenue
32. Mama Prayed - Mark Lowry
33. Sin Is No Match For Grace - Jonathan Wilburn
34. Yes He Did, Yes He Does, Yes He Will - The Master's Voice
35. I Want To Praise Him - 11th Hour
36. Love - HighRoad
37. The Stone Is Rolled Away - TaRanda
38. I'm Not Afraid To Go - New Ground
39. The Sweetest Story Told - The Wilbanks
40. The Ground Is Level - The Whisnants
41. Like I'm On The Shore - The Erwins
42. Lord Knows - The Old Paths
43. You're Not The Only One - Tim Livingston
44. Power In The Blood/Are You Washed In The Blood - The Blackwood Brothers Quartet
45. Be Saved - The Mark Trammell Quartet
46. Live For You Today - Austin and Ethan Whisnant
47. Shouting In The Middle Of My Storm - The Jordan Family Band
48. Face To Face - John Whisnant
49. That Wonderful Day - The Soul'd Out Quartet
50. Pictures - Jessica Horton
51. His Cross Is Empty Now - The Lore Family



52. I Pray Every Day - The Taylors
53. Death Was Arrested - The Talleys
54. I Walk With Jesus Each Day - The Gospel Messengers
55. When Jesus Turns My Prison Into My Shouting Ground - The Inspirations
56. He'll Make A Way - Hazel Parker Stanley
57. Now I Can Sing - The Griffith Family
58. Glory To Glory - Riley Harrison Clark
59. A World To Believe In - The Bilderbacks
60. Send An Angel By My Way - The Freemans
61. Give It To You - Cana's Voice
62. In The Fire - The Dodsons
63. I'm Not Ashamed - The Bibletones
64. Back To God - The Real Truth Revival
65. Did I Please God Today - Mike Upright
66. We'll Never Walk Alone - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
67. Blood Of Jesus - The Carolina Boys
68. Still - Sisters
69. Go Before Me - Billy Huddleston
70. Heal The Wound - The Martins
71. Power In The Cross - Battle Cry
72. Triumphantly - Bros.4
73. Dying Like I'm Gonna Live - Big Mo
74. Every Word Of God Is True - Chronicle
75. Live The Gospel - Three Bridge
76. Let Me Take You To The Cross - Ivan Parker
77. Let Your Light So Shine - MARK209
78. Love All Day Long - The Nelons
79. Who Is On The Lord's Side - The Mark Dubbeld Family
80. He Took It Away - The GloryWay Quartet
81. 40 Years And Forever - Georgia
82. It's Good To Be Alive - The Dodrill Family
83. He's Here For Me - The Williamsons
84. Leave My Trouble Behind - The Pathfinders

85. Love Is Gonna Win - The Sharps
86. Faithful To The End - Mercy Fell
87. Live For Today - Cami Shrock
88. Lean Over A Cloud And Wave - The Sons Family
89. Dining With The King - The Fields Of Grace
90. That's How You Know - The Shireys
91. Empty Chair - Jeff Bumgardner
92. Roll On Jordan - The Common Bond Quartet
93. Who Am I - The Kramers
94. More Blessed Than Burdened - The Frosts
95. I'm Glorybound - The Inspirational Quartet
96. I'm Holding On - Greg Logins and Revival
97. He's Not Finished With Me Yet - The McNeills
98. Choose Life - The Hyssongs
99. The Last Man Standing - Reign Down
100. Stand Strong In The Lord - The Sojourners Quartet

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Kristina Cornell:

Seeking more than
One Red Balloon

By Lorraine Walker



SGNScoops Magazine and Website has several great writers on staff, from those who interview artists to create feature articles, to those who dig deeply into their faith and creativity to craft opinion pieces that we call “devotionals.”

Joining the team is our new devotional writer, Kristina Cornell. Starting as a vocalist with “Victory Express,” Kristina developed into a sought-after songwriter, lending her talents to the fields of Christian and Country music. She has now come full circle, using her talents solely for the Lord.

Kristina is a prolific writer and has a lot to share about her life, her faith, and her Lord. Let’s get to know Kristina a little better.

Scoops: What is your first musical memory?

Kristina Cornell: I was four years old, I was cutting out Valentines with my mom. She was singing, like always, and she began to sing “Oh How I Love Je-

sus.” I was singing along with her, “because He first loved me;” I continued into a verse that she had not heard, “First, He died on the cross for me, first, He died on the cross for me, first He died on the cross for me, but now He’s living in me.” My mom asked where I learned that verse. I told her, “I made it up.” She hugged me so tightly, I knew it must have been a good thing based on her reaction. I continued to write as if it were as involuntary as breathing.

Scoops: When did you begin singing professionally? Tell us about this point in your life.

Cornell: I was 14 when my family began to travel about 150-200 dates per year. My family continues that ministry, Victory Express. We sang on the Jubilee At Sea cruises with Maurice Templeton’s, “Templeton Tours”. We attended the NQC annually singing in various showcases. We sang in hundreds of fairs and festivals. But my favorite was when we sang in churches that we knew did not get a lot of



Gospel Music. I LOVED the tent revivals. My father is an evangelist, so he would preach also. Those were fundamentals in my life in every facet. I learned things about business that I would utilize my entire adult life. I learned that like it or not, there is a political side. I learned sound and recording, I grew tremendously as a songwriter and vocalist. The greatest lesson that I learned was how to allow the Holy Spirit to have His way in every service. I learned that it is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me.

Scoops: When and why did you shift to country music?

Cornell: I have always had such a passion for songwriting. My family moved to Nashville when I was 22. I was determined to become a successful writer. I had already written with Ronny Hinson, became a charter member of the Southern Gospel Songwriters' Association (thanks to Phil Cross), (and) I believed it was my destiny. And write I did. I was signed to Daywind Publishing by Wayne Haun (when he started as head of publishing) within three months of my moving to town. After I left Daywind, I continued writing over

the next several years with some amazing talents and it was not always gospel music. I wrote with Billy Dean and Jimmy Lee Sloas, some phenomenal talents. I was writing with Dave Gibson and he asked if I would sing a demo for him because he wanted to pitch it when he took the stuff that we had written to the labels. That song was "Little Red Balloon." When Mike Borchetta heard it, he signed me to a country deal without even meeting me in person. He was into the vocals and the song, and wanted to release that song to country radio as soon as possible. So, we recorded that song first and while they shipped it to radio we recorded the other nine songs, six of which I co-wrote with some of the greatest writers. I made a deal with Mike that my music would not step over any of the boundaries of my beliefs. I refused to sing about things that I would not do. "Little Red Balloon" went on to chart in the top 40 and the video was nominated as GAC's video of the year. It also crossed over into gospel markets.

Scoops: Tell us about your faith. When did you first begin to believe in Jesus? How has your faith grown throughout your life?

Cornell: I was saved at a tent revival when I was four. I will never forget that night. The evangelist, Brian Ruud, was from Canada and he was so charismatic about the Lord. It was exciting. I wanted whatever he had. His music team had a real B3 that they carried with them. I remember the way that Leslie cabinet looked (it was huge) and the sound was even bigger. The music was not just good but authentic.





These people clearly believed in what they sang and preached. We were there that night till after midnight, as they took time to pray with every single person. I got my first little Bible from Brian Ruud, it was one of those little New Testament versions. Throughout grade school, I would take that Bible with me and tell the kids at the playground about Jesus. The school called home many days trying to explain to my parents that I could not do that. Finally, in the sixth grade, I was taken from the public school system and began Christian schooling. I learned so much about the Lord through the next six years. I had teachings about Jesus at home and at school. It was great. I thank God for the foundation that was laid in my life. My parents sacrificed for my Christian education, and I cannot thank them enough. As I went into adulthood, even still today, those foundational truths remain in my heart. I admit, after a really heinous trauma in my life, I walked away from the Lord. I say it that way because I literally was so angry with Him that I told Him that I was walking away from Him. The Psalmist, David said it best when he said that he had hidden the word of the Lord in his heart, that he might not sin against God. The words that were written on my heart did not leave, no matter how far I tried to walk. Ultimately, I realized just like every other believer, that my only hope is in Jesus. Nothing fills or fixes but Him. My journey has been tough so far, but in my weakness, He is my strength, my ever-present help in times of

trouble.

Scoops: What made you desire to write about faith?

Cornell: I made a commitment to the Lord that if He would allow me to continue to write, and if I would ever have an opportunity to sing to anyone again, I will only write and sing Christian music. It is a personal decision. I do not think there is anything wrong with writing and singing other genres, as long as it does not condone sin. For me, I have been delivered so many times by the hand of God that any creativity that I have I only want to give back to Him. I really have nothing else to say, as I have learned that I have nothing of significance to offer of myself. I am just like everyone else, in need of a Savior. I write from my heart, I write devotionals, stories, songs, messages, even starting on a book, and all I have to offer is Jesus and what He has done in my life.

Scoops: What is your favorite scripture right now and why?

Cornell: This is really hard for me because I cling to many of them. The Lord spoke into my spirit, while I was asking to draw more closely to Him. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. Those words etched into my soul because shortly after that prayer I descended into one of the most brutal valleys of my life. Some days all I could do was cry out to God. I sought Him, I actively pursued Him. I needed His provision and protection, I needed His consolation and comfort. He added all I could ever need and so much more.

Find out more about Kristina Cornell at facebook.com/officialkristinacornell/



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Speaking to the Storm

A Look Back at the 2019 Dare to Be Tour

By Jennifer Campbell

Have you ever faced a storm in your life? Not a physical storm, like a hurricane, earthquake, or tornado, but a storm that sought to steal your joy, your peace, even your life. Even when your storm seems overwhelming, remember one important thing. God has given you the power to speak to your storm.

According to Luke 8:24-25 (NIV), Jesus “rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ‘Where is your faith?’ he asked his disciples.” Even though the disciples knew Jesus had the authority to speak to the winds and waves, their fear caused them to doubt. Luke 8:25 (NIV) says, “In fear and amazement they asked one another, ‘Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.’” Here they were, faithful disciples who traveled with Jesus, yet they lacked faith to believe that he could tell the storm to cease. May God help us all to have faith, believing that we, too, can speak to the storms of life.

Over the past couple of months, Charlotte Gambill and Natalie Grant teamed up to encourage women of all ages, from all walks of life, to “speak to the storm.” Through a masterful blend of worship music and messages from God’s word, along with powerful testimo-

nies of God’s grace and truth, these two ladies presented the 2019 season of Dare to Be, an event that seeks to give women the opportunity to encounter God and dare to see their true potential.

In her messages, Gambill encouraged attendees not to listen to what their storm says, but to what their Savior says. Gambill is the pastor of Life Church in England, along with her husband, Steve. In addition to her pastoral responsibilities, she is an author and speaker. Of course, her most cherished role is that of mother to her daughter, Hope Cherish, and her son, Noah Brave. Her messages are filled with wisdom, passion, and practical applications of Biblical principles, along with inspiring words that challenge the listener to be an ambassador of hope.

This year, the tour began in Philadelphia, Penn., and also included stops in Woodbridge, Virginia, Baltimore, Maryland, Fort Lauderdale and Tampa, Florida. These events are designed to give attendees the feel of a three-day conference, all in the short span of three hours. Along with time devoted to praise and worship featuring Grant’s angelic voice, ladies who attend are also uplifted by two full sessions of Gambill’s insightful Bible teaching.



One of the highlights of the evening was Grant's rendition of "It Is Well With My Soul," a song that is anointed by the Holy Spirit. Six-time Grammy nominated Grant is one of the top Christian and gospel artists, having sold over four million albums. She has been named the Gospel Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year five times. She is an author, fashion designer, and an advocate for human trafficking victims through Hope for Justice International, an organization she founded in 2005. Grant makes her home in Nashville, Tenn., along with her husband, Bernie Herms and their three daughters, Grace, Bella, and Sadie.

In addition to a night of inspiration, the event provides support for one special honoree. At the event in Tampa,



a precious woman of God named Vera was given financial assistance with medical bills, provision for a medical bed, and dental work. At 83 years old, Vera's story is one of faith in God. She was born in Ukraine at the beginning of WWII. Her family migrated from country to country in order to remain alive. Her mother lost her life during the conflict and Vera lived in a Displaced Persons Camp before she emigrated to the U.S. at the young age of 14. As an adult, she married and had four beautiful children.



Vera endured a lot of hardship throughout her life, including the loss of one of her infant children, and an unfaithful husband. When her ex-husband became paralyzed due to an aneurism, she cared for him for years. In 2018, her youngest son died unexpectedly at the age



of 44 years old and her son in law passed away due to ALS a few months later. Vera's granddaughter said, "She's been through so many trials, but she's never lost her faith through them. I've never heard her say 'why me.' She's concerned only for others."

Dare to Be was founded by Gambill and Grant in 2012. The first event was funded with their own resources. According to the event website, "The night is not just a speaker and concert, but a fully integrated program, including teaching, storytelling, worship, and inspiring moments of recognition and honor. The hope for the evening is to open up space in women's hearts, daring them to embrace all of who they're created to be in Christ."

For information on future Dare to Be events, visit www.daretobe.com.

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The Infinite Realm

Still playing after all these years



By John Herndon

There's a subtle irony in the way the Infinite Realm sings gospel music.

The group is a bit of a throwback, with a repertoire heavy on popular hits of the late 60s and early 70s. But when the group began singing those same songs, they were considered cutting edge or groundbreaking. That just might be the appeal of a group that might be one of Kentucky's best-kept secrets despite first coming together in 1969.

Fifty years ago, four students at Trimble County High School started singing gospel with a style heavily influenced by the Oak Ridge Boys and Imperials. "They were the hottest thing in gospel music," smiles Dave Taylor, a founding member of the group who is still singing and playing guitar.

Today, the world is much different, but the Infinite

Realm has much of the same sound.

"We do 'It Won't Be Long' and it is like the Oak Ridge Boys' arrangement," Taylor says of the great Andrae Crouch song from the Oaks' acclaimed "Light" album of 1972.

"I really liked the contemporary Christian music then," says Realm pianist and vocalist Neal Wright. "I loved Andrae Crouch, and the Second Chapter of Acts. I remember going to the Ichthus festival in Wilmore, Ky., where Truth played before 20 or 21 thousand people."

There are times when the Infinite Realm can be a trip back in time. And that's just fine with the group and its fans. There's no taped music as all seven performing members of the group play at least one instrument.

"I'm stuck in the past," smiles Taylor. "It's just hard to-



day to replicate those sounds from the Oak Ridge Boys or Imperials or the Statesmen.”

The Infinite Realm has been creating and delivering a unique sound most of the last five decades. They were originally called The Chordettes.

“There was no (specific) reason for that name,” Taylor remembers. “It was suggested by the mother of our piano player.”

The group quickly took north central Kentucky by storm. By early 1971, The Chordettes had become the Infinite Realm. About the same time, Wright jumped at the chance to fill an opening. That quartet, Taylor, Wright, Tony Gossom and Steve Brown are still singing together today.

The following year, The Infinite Realm established itself as an up-and-coming group in Kentucky music circles, placing second out of 55 entries in a statewide contest at the Capital Plaza in Frankfort. Bookings in central Kentucky followed and by 1973, the group had recorded its first album at Rusty York’s famed Jewel Recording Studio in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“I still have about 25 copies of that album,” Taylor says of the first recording, which was all vinyl.

Four years later, The Realm group cut another album at Queen City Album (QCA), where J.D. Sumner and the Stamps recorded their “Elvis’ Favorite Gospel Songs” work and the group continued to branch out in its ministry, eventually going to Tennessee, Ohio and Indiana as well as the home state. Eventually the quartet and pianist became a full band, but life happened. In 1991, more than 20 years after coming together as a group, the Infinite Realm disbanded.

“We had jobs and responsibilities that made it difficult,” Taylor recalls.

Most of the band members stayed in the Madison, Ind., and Bedford, Ky., area, but Wright relocated to South Bend, Ind., for his job with the U.S. Postal Service. But the itch to sing and play never went away, and after a 14-year absence, the members of the band living near their hometown reunited. The reason was very simple: “We missed it,” Taylor says with a smile.

But being five hours away in northern Indiana, Neal Wright was oblivious to the band’s resurrection. “For a while, I didn’t know,” he says. “I was away but when I heard them, I thought, ‘Man, I would love to do that again.’” In 2009, he got the chance. The Realm’s pianist left and from South Bend, Wright answered the call, driving five hours one way to play with his old group. After his first wife passed away two years later, Wright, now retired, moved to Campbellsburg, Ky., just a few miles from his childhood home.



Over 50 years, the Infinite Realm has remained remarkably consistent. Taylor and Gossom have been there from day one. By 1973, five of the current seven musicians were on board. Since the reunification, Wright coming back as pianist and the addition of guitarist Dave Sherman have been the only changes. The music is largely the same. While the group wrote most of the songs on its “Healing” CD, released in 2012, the latest project, “Message of Love” from 2017, is heavy on traditional gospel favorites. Given the influences on the Infinite Realm’s music, it’s not surprising that longtime Oak Ridge Boys’ pianist Ron Fairchild produced both albums.



In concert, The Infinite Realm has begun bringing back other classics like Andrae Crouch's "Through It All" and Dallas Holm's "Rise Again" and "Jesus Got a Hold of My Life."

The group stays as busy as it wants, playing at churches in north central Kentucky and southern Indiana. It's also popular at community events and has been asked to sing the National Anthem at Trimble County High School basketball games and a football scrimmage at South Oldham High School in Crestwood, Ky. Being able to sing at school events led to a funny moment at a Trimble basketball game. Taylor, a retired newspaper editor, had taken his place under one basket to take pictures.

"During a timeout," he says, "one of the referees came over to me and said, 'You have been together since the 70s? Do you do anything by The Doors?'" Taylor breaks into a huge laugh.

The group plays as much as it can and a highlight of the schedule is being able to present the gospel at the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex near LaGrange, Ky.

The message has never changed. "What we do is ministry," says Taylor, who serves as the pastor of a small Baptist church. "We do have some entertainment value, but we try to leave the audience with the thought there is a better life for you. We know that in every audience there is someone hurting. It might be someone with a financial problem or sickness. It might be a relationship issue or divorce.

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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Thank you for reading this May 2019 edition of SGNScoops Magazine. With the publication of this issue, I will have completed five years of working as an editor for SGNScoops, although my association with SGNScoops began as a writer in our first issue in 2009. I have to admit, I began with much fear and trepidation, and that was before I grasped everything that was involved. Yet here we are, five years and 60 magazines later. Experience gained and still more to learn. Thank you for sticking with us. If you have any suggestions or concerns about any issue of SGNScoops, please remember to share it with me. My email is at the end of this article.

This is May and the month we celebrate our mothers and the women who have been important to us in our lifetime. Once again, I look at the calendar, and as I see the day approaching, I feel a rush of emotions. My mom passed away in 2010, yet it feels like yesterday. This may be you as well, or perhaps the day is a sad one because you do not have a child. My thoughts and prayers are with you, yet for those who are celebrating this month, we wish you a joyous day and the suggestion that perhaps you should celebrate your mom or your children every day this month.

We hope you enjoyed the look at the Freemans and Chris Freeman's interview with Jennifer Campbell. Chris has become one of the greatly esteemed ladies

in gospel music, making her mark in both Southern gospel and Christian Country. She has a lot of experience and wisdom which she has gained from decades of traveling and singing. As a mother and a grandmother, she makes a welcome cover story with her family this month.

I would like to take a moment and thank each of the writers who contributed to this issue, and to all those who work to make SGNScoops Magazine a distinct entity in the gospel music world, a publication that intrigues and informs, entertains and enlightens, while uplifting the reader. Our staff are dedicated and talented, and I am so glad to work with them. I'm also glad to work with Rob Patz, who has been my publisher and friend for more than 15 years.

Summer is quickly approaching and I find I want to do so much more in our yard and garden than I have strength and energy to accomplish. Many of you know that I developed undifferentiated connective tissue disease and fibromyalgia several years ago, and my functional limitations are very frustrating at times.

I was at a concert recently with Legacy Five and I wanted to record some interviews with them, as I don't often have the opportunity to attend gospel concerts, as there aren't many in our area. I found as the night wore on that I was unable to do the interviews due to pain and other factors. My friend, Sheila Jackson, of the

Chapelaire, reminded me that I need to be open with my condition as people cannot pray for an issue they know nothing about. So, as I explained things to Scott Fowler, he promised to pray for me, as well as complete a long-distance interview for an upcoming feature.

I mention all of this to remind each of you to tell people, praying people, if you have something that God can touch. And of course, he can and will touch any situation in your life. He can heal, save, and lead you. He knows what you are going through, but his word says, "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them."

James talks about healing as well, and many places refer to act of sharing your need with others so they may also lift it up. Maybe we need to learn to care about others' needs more than our own. Maybe we need to pray with others so we can experience the joy of Jesus being there with us. Maybe the act of lifting up his name in a small circle or large group, invites a rush of his Holy Spirit more powerful than when we pray alone.

Let's verbalize what is in our hearts today. Let's tell others not only our needs but also our answers to prayer, so that their faith may be strengthened. Most of all, let's mention the name of Jesus to someone today. It may be the only time they hear it when it is not taken in vain. Jesus is the most powerful name in heaven and earth. Say his name aloud today!

If you have any comments or questions about anything I've written, or anything in the magazine, please email me at lorraine@sgnscoops.com. Thank you for opening up our publication and giving us your time and attention today.



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



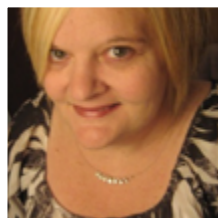
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



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



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



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

Contributors

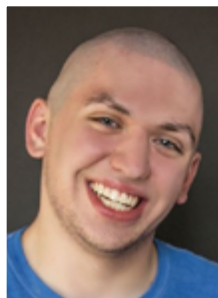
SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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

also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



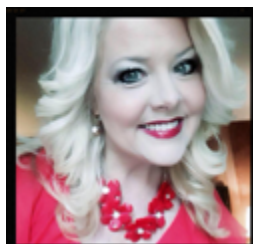
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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.

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

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



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

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas.

Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed."

His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is

to give his all in the service of the Lord.



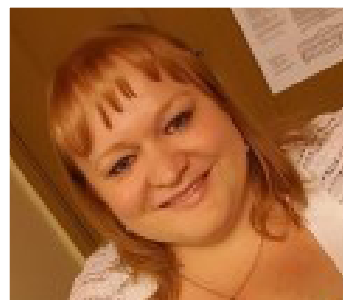
John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing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

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

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

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

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



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. She holds a Bachelor of English from Columbia University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 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.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

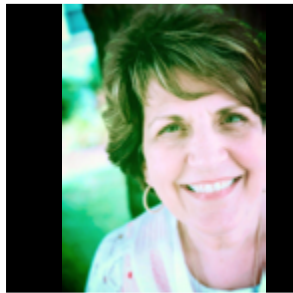
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Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world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

when words fail us, music speaks.



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

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



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

is now a member of SGN Scoops.

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



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

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