

MAY 2020

# SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



## 11TH HOUR

*is Better Together*



**ALSO FEATURING:** Zane & Donna King, HighRoad and Old Time Preachers Quartet

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	Publisher's Point by Rob Patz
6	Les Butler and Friends with HighRoad
10	Creekside Update by Lorraine Walker
13	11th Hour with Dixie Phillips
17	Gary McSpadden Tribute by John Herndon
20	SGNScoops Gospel Music Top 100
23	SGNScoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 10
23	SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40
25	Mile Markers on a Journey with Randy Miller by Andrew Ishee
28	DJ Spotlight by Vonda Armstrong
30	Old Time Preachers Quartet by John Herndon
34	Zane and Donna King by Jantina Baksteen
37	New Music Review by Justin Gilmore
41	Corona Age by Charlie Griffin
46	Editor's Last Word by Lorraine Walker
48	Contributors

## OUR MISSION

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

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



Welcome to the May Publisher's Point. I hope that this issue finds you safe.

We are living in unprecedented times. We have never seen unemployment at these levels, we have never known the hardship that is currently happening, but I will tell you this: If you study history, you know that out of hardship comes great victory.

I truly believe that for our industry, this is a time of reset. I believe God is using this time to get us ready for even greater things for gospel music. I believe our magazine is going to grow, I believe concerts are going to grow, and I believe that we are going to see more people come to know Christ in the next year than we have seen in a long time.

When I started Creekside, one of the things I prayed was that it would be a center for revival; that people would come and be restored and feel excitement to go back out into the community, to go and to reach those that may not know Jesus as their personal savior. I truly believe that this year at Creekside that will be our theme: A theme of revival, not only for our community, but for our country. I believe that!

If you haven't made your plans yet, I want you to join us for Creekside 2020. I think it's going to be a life-changing experience.

I think that for many of us the time at home has been a time of reflection about what used to be. That's good. We need to remember what the past was like but I'm going to challenge you, starting in May, to boldly move forward to what God has for us to do.

I think that if this is just the start of something great; I think we're going to start to see the Country come back to life.

I want to encourage you to seek out events that are still going to happen. I know there's been cancellations, and rumors of cancellations, but I want to encourage you to take time to go to a concert when there's one in your area. Please encourage your favorite gospel artist today.

It's so easy during this time to look at all the things in front of us that are daunting. There are so many cases in the Bible where we read the story of people, including the Israelites, when everything was against them, God brought them through. We can think of David and Noah, and we can realize at those times, people rose up boldly, making a stand: David took down the giant when no-one else could, Noah built an ark when there wasn't any rain. I challenge you today to be like them, to make a stand, even with those around you who might be saying that the world is crumbling. Today, we need to plant our flag as Christians and tell them the good news: We serve a God who is a God of restoration and hope!



As I talked about earlier in this Publisher's Point, I want you to come and be a part of Creekside 2020. We truly believe this year is going to be life-changing. We are already praying for just that! We want you to be there: October 25 through October 29. If you need information, please email me: [rob@sgnscoops](mailto:rob@sgnscoops).

Until next time, this is the Publisher's Point.



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# Les Butler and Friends:

# HighRoad



**By Les Butler**

I first saw HighRoad at a little café in middle Tennessee when they were an all-girls trio. Three great singers; playing a fiddle, piano and acoustic guitar. I didn't even notice they didn't have a bass player. You can't have a fiddle, piano, and acoustic guitar, and not have a bass. Well, they did and it worked.

My wife and I were blown away. I think the trio had two CDs at the time. I got them and started playing them on all of my nationally syndicated radio shows and I haven't stopped since. They're starting to stack up hit songs, awards and accolades, just like I knew they would. Oh, and at my prompting, they have since added an upright bass... you're welcome! Here's what you need to know about HighRoad...

**Les Butler: Who started HighRoad and when and where did the trio start?**

Sarah Davison: So, HighRoad began with two instruments actually: piano and fiddle. We just wanted to play hymns and write songs that encouraged people; (our trio) has grown and expanded now to what it is today over the course of about nine years.

**LB: Tell us about everyone in the band.**

SD: Everyone in our group are just friends; none of us

are family. Between us, we have Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Iowa represented, and we all grew up playing music in some way, whether it was country, bluegrass, classical, or gospel. We became friends through mutual friendships in Nashville and that's where we all live now.

**LB: How have you evolved as a group?**

SD: Now, we travel with at least four pieces, and sometimes six (upright bass and percussion), for the large venues that we need more rhythm on. We have started writing more of our original songs and I am really thankful for being able to do that. Of course, we will always love the old songs, too.

**LB: By the way, what kind of band are you? Southern gospel? Bluegrass gospel? Country?**

SD: Good question. We are all of those genres, I would say. Southern gospel - yes, Bluegrass - yes, but not necessarily because we have a piano, Country - yes, but more grassy than a lot of country styles. So, we just try to play good music, and be who we are, and stick to that.

**LB: What's the best thing about being an all-female**





**band?**

SD: You can share clothes if you forget your belt or necklace for a concert. And I remember once when not all of our luggage made it, so we just borrowed and made it all work. That's definitely a plus!

**LB: What's the worse thing about being an all-female band?**

SD: There's never enough plug-ins or mirrors in a hotel room or in the van.

**LB: What would you tell other ladies to prepare for if they would like to be in gospel music?**

SD: To keep pressing on and telling others about Jesus, even on the days it doesn't always work the smoothest or feel like anything has gone the right way.

**LB: To what do you attribute your recent runaway success?**

SD: Looking back, it's taken a lot of hard days of working on the music, the songs, etc., and we still have many goals yet to be accomplished. I would say a big thank you to the radio DJs for playing our songs, and to Daywind and their wonderful staff-- Jeff O'Neal is the greatest, Ray Flynn is like family to us, and a lot of the artists we have met along the way have been really encouraging. I am deeply grateful.








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**LB: Does the band enjoy mostly playing live or in the studio?**

SD: Definitely playing live. We love the interactions with folks!

**LB: What's the most requested song you must do in concert?**

SD: Probably, "Christ, My Hope, My Glory!"

**LB: Do any of you write? If so, do you have any of your original compositions on your latest project?**

SD: Yep. We wrote, or co-wrote, six out of the 10 songs

on the new CD.

**LB: When you're not picking and singing, what do each of you enjoy doing?**

SD: We all have things we enjoy-- cooking and baking, photography, hiking and biking, crocheting and teaching music lessons. We definitely stay busy all the time.

Find out more about HighRoad at [highroadmusic.com](http://highroadmusic.com).



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# *Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2020 Update*

By Lorraine Walker

Coastal Events presents Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2020, taking place Oct. 25 - Oct. 29, 2020, at the Grand Smokies Resort Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Creekside is an annual event, bringing hundreds of gospel music fans and over 50 artists to beautiful Pigeon Forge.

The convention presents Southern gospel music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer. Some of the great artists who are scheduled to appear at this time are the Hyssongs, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, the Browders, Josh and Ashley Franks, Mark209, and more. Due to rescheduling of many events this year, artists appearing may be subject to change. Keep watching this column for further details.

Families and church groups are encouraged to make plans now to attend this getaway into the Smoky Mountains. Not only can travelers expect each day to be filled with music, the Pigeon Forge area is host to many tourist attractions, restaurants, and shops, as well as the near-by nature trails, caves and overlooks of the mountains.

Plan on arriving Sunday night, Oct. 25, 2020, for the Creekside Kickoff Concert. On Monday, enjoy the daytime showcases, Singing at the Square outdoor concert, and evening concert featuring the Dr. Jerry Goff Honors. The day is completed with Midnight Prayer.

Tuesday will bring more showcases, special events, Singing at the Square and the evening concert, featuring the Diamond Awards.



## **2020 Diamond Awards Top Ten**

Coastal Media Group and SGNScoops Magazine are pleased to announce that the 2020 Diamond Award voting is now open on the SGNScoops website, and ballots have been included with the SGNScoops print magazine. The Top Ten nominees have been announced and appear on the printed and online ballots. Everyone is invited to fill out the ballot or visit [sgnscoops.com](http://sgnscoops.com) to enter the voting area and list their favorite picks for each Diamond Award category.

The 2020 Diamond Awards will be presented on Oct. 27, 2020, during the 9th Annual Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Many vocal performances and surprise guests will be included in the gala evening.

Wednesday and Thursday of Creekside week will be a presentation of showcases, special events, Singing at the Square, evening concerts, and Midnight Prayer.

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the Diamond Awards ceremony, Creekside





Bluegrass, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741, email [events@sgn-scoops.com](mailto:events@sgn-scoops.com) or visit the website [www.creeksidegospel-musicconvention.com](http://www.creeksidegospel-musicconvention.com).

### Bluegrass Gospel at Creekside

Keep watching this space for information on great Bluegrass gospel to be held during Creekside Gospel Music Convention.

### Christian Country at the Creek

Christian Country at the Creek 2020 will take place Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 at the Grand Smokies Resort Convention Center located at 2385 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The event will begin the day after Creekside ends, with a special kick off on Thursday night at the close of Creekside, followed by evening concerts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Special events and Mid-night Prayer are also being planned as part of Christian Country at the Creek.

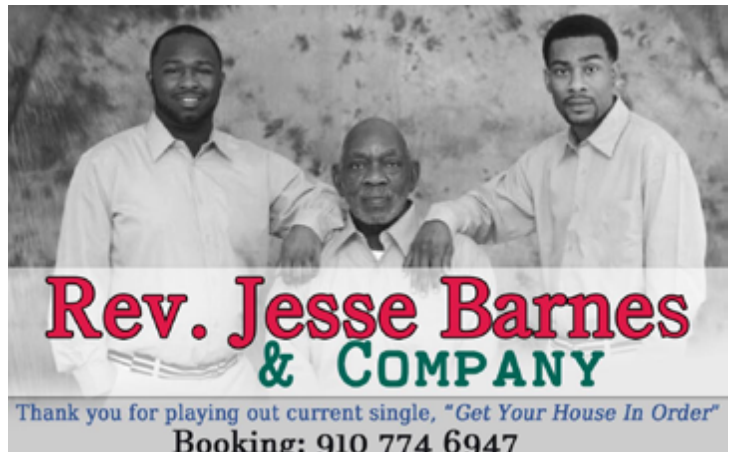
"This is an event you don't want to miss. We can't wait to showcase these amazing artists," says Rob Patz of Coastal Events. Admission is free to the public with VIP tickets available for just \$10.00 per night or \$25.00



for the entire weekend.

If you are an artist wishing to be included on the roster for 2020, or if you would like more information, please contact Rob Patz at (360)933-0741 or send an email to [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com). For reservations, you may contact the Spirit of the Smokies Lodge directly at (865)453-4106 and indicate the group code of CCC20 or Christian Country at the Creek to get the group rate.

We look forward to seeing all of our readers at the 2020 Creekside Gospel Music Convention, where we know that #WeAreFamily.





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# 11th Hour

## Better Together

By Dixie Phillips

Gordon Mote was producing a project for 11th Hour back in 2012, and immediately recognized their undeniable talent. He became an instant fan and was the first person I heard speak about this new cutting-edge vocal trio from Louisiana. Mote said, "They are one of the best young groups the industry has seen in a very long time. God has his hand on them. They are the group to watch."

Mote doesn't claim to be a prophet, but everything he predicted about 11th Hour has come true. Over the last 12 years of traveling on the road, 11th Hour has achieved status that most groups only dream of.

The trio signed an exclusive recording contract with Crossroads Music, received numerous awards, and scored five consecutive No. 1 songs within an 18-month period: "Jesus is in the House," from "Picture This," (Sonlite Records), "He Welcomes the Beggar," "Mountain Moving Faith," and, "Can You Burn,"

from "What a Moment," (Sonlite Records), and "Doin' What's Right," from "Silence the Stones," (Sonlite Records).

There is no doubt that 11th Hour is a powerhouse and has all the natural talent needed to succeed, but while they do their best to hone their gifts and strive for musical excellence, that isn't their main goal. Amber Eppinette Saunders, Jaquita Lindsey, and Logan Smith might be completely different in their disposition and personality, but they are solidly united in their purpose and mission to see people come to know the Lord. They are determined to ignite hope in the hearts of the hopeless and sing songs that usher in the presence of God.

You might be asking, "Where do they get this ministry bent?" The answer is in every fiber of their being. All three of them were raised in a parsonage. They are preachers' kids. They were born and raised for



kingdom work.

Saunders is the owner and soprano of the group. When she was 16, she attended a revival at her home church. The vocalist remembers sensing a deeper moving of the Holy Spirit that night.

“I was sitting on a pew when God changed my ‘hobby’ of singing into a ‘calling’ of singing,” confesses Saunders. “At that very moment, I just knew I was to start a gospel group. That was in 2007 and I’ve been singing in 11th Hour ever since.”

It’s been said that talent can take you to the top, but it’s godly character that keeps you there. 11th Hour has both. Whether on or off the road, they have consecrated their lives to bring glory to Jesus. As the leader of the group, Saunders takes her job very seriously. She genuinely believes in and lives for the God she sings about. Jaquita Lindsey tells us, “Amber never wavers in her commitment to Christ.”

Like so many other phenomenal gospel artists, Saunders learned to sing in church. She traveled and sang with her family while she was growing up, and is quick to credit her parents for shaping her heart for Jesus.

“I am very thankful for the family I have that not only taught me the importance of church and gospel music, but they taught me the foundation of knowing Christ and what having a one-on-one relationship with him truly means,” avers Saunders.

Her parents’ influence and ministry became the training ground for what God had planned for Saunders. If you’ve ever seen her in concert, you immediately recognize she was born for the platform and

very few singers can communicate a gospel lyric as well as she does. The full range of the soprano’s vocal power makes her voice one of the finest in gospel music today.

Greg Bentley, Director of Artist Relations for Crossroads Gospel Labels, says it best, “A voice like Amber’s doesn’t come often in a lifetime.”

Jaquita Lindsey has been singing alto for the group for six years. Like Saunders, she grew up singing in church with her family and learned how to harmonize when she was around nine. Every serious artist knows you cannot have a successful national gospel group without singers who have an impeccable blend. Lindsey has the keen vocal ability to match perfectly.

Greg Bentley says, “Jaquita does not get the recognition she deserves as being the glue that holds the harmonies together. Her ability to blend the three parts together sets her apart. You could easily hear three singers singing together, but instead you hear those tight harmonies.”

When asked how Lindsey learned to blend so well, she shares, “When I first started with 11th Hour, I started out in the studio. I had five days to learn 10 songs I’d never heard before. From day one, I had to really pay attention to Amber’s every vocal move because it was being recorded. Six projects later, I’ve learned to blend so well that there have been times





her own mama couldn't tell our voices apart."

Lindsey's talents don't stop there. She enjoys songwriting and a few of her original songs are featured on their projects. Saunders says, "Jaquita has many gifts. She has lots of personality and is definitely an asset to the group."

Logan Smith, the tenor of the group, has been singing with 11th Hour for almost two years. It's hard to believe, but this young man has been in full time ministry for 11 years. As a young child, he enjoyed watching Gaither videos, and years later, had a full circle moment when he sang on three of the videos.

Smith has released seven solo albums, performed with the Gaither Homecoming Tour and has been nominated for awards.

Bentley states, "Logan not only has the talent to blend in and not stick out, but he also has the energy that lifts the whole trio to another level. A great singer in his own right no doubt, but also someone who pays close attention when to shine and when to be an integral part of the trio. Put the three of these talented and committed people together and you have 11th Hour."

Smith genuinely loves what he is doing. He shares, "I've been raised on this genre of music and I'm grateful for that! I was singing harmony before I knew that's what it was called. I recorded my first album at 10 years old and have been blessed to sing this music full time ever since."

When asked what Smith brings to the mix, the two ladies agree, "Logan is happy to be anywhere at all times and people just eat him up. He is always smiling and can talk at the product table like nobody else."

Ask any three of these preacher's kids if they know they are fulfilling the call of God on their lives, and they will let you know that they have no doubt they are where they are supposed to be, doing what God has called them to do.

Bentley describes the group this way, "11th Hour is one of the most talented groups on the road today. With a fresh sound that pulls from a lot of different influences, they can do everything from straight

ahead Southern gospel to the edges of CCM-Worship."



There have been a lot of exciting things happen in the group over the years, but nothing quite as exciting as the wedding of Amber Eppinette to Garrett Saunders on November 30, 2019. Saunders shared a little of their love story.

"We met at a camp meeting in Florida. We have been going to this church for years, but it wasn't until a few years ago, I truly noticed Garrett. That, and the fact he wasn't there for a few years due to being in college. He is involved in music. He sings and writes, but more than anything, he is a supportive husband of the ministry and for that, I am grateful," says the new bride.

Audiences of all ages will be inspired by the songs on 11th Hour's highly anticipated project "A Lot With A Little" (Sonlite Records).

Saunders says, "It's one of the most personal that we have ever done. There are all kinds of different styles within this one project and we like it that way. The three of us wrote nine of the 11 songs on this album and we are thankful to hear the reports coming in about how the songs are touching lives." Their first radio single "Love Don't" from the new project is climbing the charts.

The group is very excited to announce they are going back to Israel in October. Saunders shared that one of her greatest highlights was singing "I Know Him," on the Sea of Galilee in Israel.

"We took a lot of folks last year and would love to take some more this year," says Saunders. "The trip is called Canaan Camp Meeting. Details can be found at [www.canaancampmeeting.com](http://www.canaancampmeeting.com) and if people want to know our tour schedule, they can go to our web-site at [www.11thhourgg.com](http://www.11thhourgg.com)."

As 11th Hour looks to the future, they continue to pray for more souls to be saved and the Lord to expand their influence. One thing is for certain, Gordon Mote was right—God sure has his hand on these three preachers' kids.



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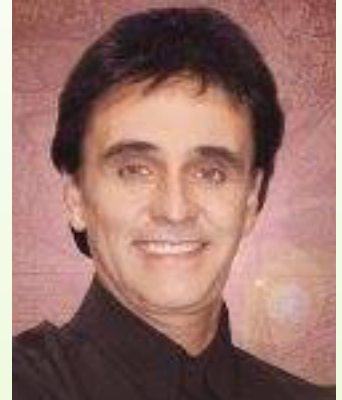




# GOSPEL GREATS REMEMBER

## Gary McSpadden

*A 'singer's singer' leaves lasting legacy*



**By John Herndon**

Gary McSpadden might have been one of the world's best-known gospel singers, but his legacy is much more than a beloved artist.

A versatile singer who bridged traditional quartet music and the contemporary sound, McSpadden was also an acclaimed producer for multiple Dove Award winners and worked as a television host. For more than 20 years, he had put together live gospel music shows in Branson, Mo., where he also pastored Faith and Wisdom Church.

"Gary was and is a legendary singer, although I am certain he did not see himself that way. How can you be a copy when you are the originator," says Rick Evans, general manager of The Classic Imperials, who count McSpadden as a charter member.

McSpadden, 77, died from pancreatic cancer on April 15, ending an earthly journey that influenced numerous artists and impacted millions who heard his distinctive voice. A post on the Faith and Wisdom Church Facebook page said that due to circumstances with the COVID-19 situation, a celebration of McSpadden's life is being planned at a later date.

"Gary McSpadden was a singer's singer," says baritone Alan Kendall of The Kingsmen Quartet. "Honestly, he was one of only about four or five from his era who truly redefined the role of the baritone singer in a quartet. Gary not only knew that a baritone 'filled in the blanks' harmony-wise, but he was just as capable of delivering a commanding lead whenever called upon."

The son of a Texas pastor, McSpadden never forgot his roots or his mission, focusing on spreading the message of Christ regardless of the endeavor. His gospel music journey began with the Fort Worth-based Inspirationals in the early 1960s, but made a major jump when he was called upon to fill in for an ailing Jake Hess with the Statesmen for several months in 1962.

That Statesmen gig was McSpadden's first of singing with five different groups that have been inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. When Hess returned from a bout with nephritis, McSpadden joined Smitty Gatlin, Willie Wynn, Herman Harper and Tommy Fairchild in an Oak Ridge Boys lineup that was producing cutting edge gospel.

"Gary was part of that incredible Oak Ridge Boys group that recorded those historic Warner Brothers albums," remembers Oaks' tenor Joe Bonsall. "Those albums go down in history as some of the best ever and because Gary was part of that, he becomes a vital part of our long history."

And those albums left an impression on another young baritone, William Lee Golden, who was singing with The Pilot Trio in Pensacola, Fla. Some friends were raving about The





Oak Ridge Boys, so Golden says he bought an album. "It was 1962 and the album was called 'The Oak Ridge Boys With Sounds of Nashville,'" Golden remembers. "I had seen them a couple of years before but he was not with them at that time. Gary had a thing about him that he, to me, made the group, that set the group apart from the other gospel groups at the time."

"With Sounds of Nashville" is considered one of the greatest gospel albums of all time and included a cut that McSpadden wrote, "Who Put the Color in the Rose?"

It made Golden want to become an Oak Ridge Boy, a dream that came true when McSpadden's successor, Jim Hamill, left after a few months.

During his time with The Oak Ridge Boys (1962-64), McSpadden continued building the legacy that grew for over 50 years. "My first memory of Gary McSpadden was listening to my dad's record of 'The Oak Ridge Boys with the Sounds of Nashville,' one of the best gospel records of that era," says The

Kingsmen's Kendall. "Smitty Gatlin was one of the greatest lead singers of all time, but he gave many leads to Gary during this era and I feel now that allowed the Oaks' status in gospel music to go only higher."

But even before his time with The Oak Ridge Boys, McSpadden's stint with The Statesmen was branded in Hess' memory. When he left The Statesmen to form The Imperials, one of the first calls Hess made was to the young baritone. "He was hand-picked by Jake Hess to form what was then considered by many to be a super group," Evans says.

The Imperials of McSpadden, Hess, tenor Sherrill Neilsen, bass Armond Morales and pianist Henry Slaughter quickly became one of the most popular gospel acts in America with McSpadden making more impressions.

"They were awesome," Bonsall recalls. "Gary McSpadden was super cool. He looked like a movie star and his voice was

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great. He was not just a gospel baritone, but a real stylist. I don't believe to that point, I had ever seen or heard anyone quite like him and I became a huge fan. I tried to sing 'Glor-ryland' just like him and never came close. My version is recorded way back there in the mid-60s with The Faith Four Quartet out of Philadelphia and I hope nobody ever hears it. I repeat, Gary was just super cool."



From the founding of The Imperials until 1967, McSpadden's rich voice and faithful lifestyle lifted him to the top of the gospel music industry. Evans recalls, "Gary was an influence beyond The Imperials and was recognized world-wide for his rich, smooth sound and dedicated life."

McSpadden left the road to return to the local ministry with his father for 10 years. He then returned to touring with The Bill Gaither Trio in 1977 and continued to leave his mark on young singers.

"My parents introduced me to Gary's music, having listened to him with The Oak Ridge Boys, The Statesmen, The Imperials and The Bill Gaither Trio," remembers current artist Jim Brady. "From the first time I heard Gary sing, I knew his voice was special. You could just feel it."

And when Gaither brought in bass Lee Young and tenor Steve Green for an idea that became the New Gaither Vocal Band, it was a natural for McSpadden. The group's first album, released in 1981, included combined the sounds of Southern gospel, "Have You Made Your Reservation," and contemporary works like "Because of Whose I Am."

"Gary was certainly a transition singer," Evans says. "He helped establish the link that traditional and contemporary still maintain today. He was a true innovator and will always be part of the beginning of Christian music in this generation."

And it continues with today's top artists. "Those who know me well, know that one of my all-time favorite groups is The Gaither Vocal Band," Brady says, "and the very first recording I heard of the GVB was with Gary McSpadden. That

recording greatly influenced me and has remained one of my favorites."

McSpadden left the Gaithers in 1987, returning at times for solo work, videos, or Homecoming projects. He eventually settled in Branson to work with his church and stay involved with gospel music as a host and producer.

"He was iconic to me," Brady continues. "He was an amazing lead vocalist, with a big smile, but it didn't end there. When I finally got to meet him and sing on his TV show in Branson, I learned that behind the voice and the smile was a great man and an encourager. He could have left after the filming of the show, but I think he realized this young singer could use some advice and encouragement and he took the time to do just that for me. We sat in the dressing room for a couple of hours and I soaked up every bit of wisdom he shared."

Kendall says McSpadden's influence continues. "When I think of Gary, I immediately think of that smooth, yet commanding voice on songs like 'Until Then,' 'Jesus, I Believe What You Said,' 'I Am Loved,' and 'This is the Time I Must Sing.' A voice like his is not one that can necessarily be imitated but instead learned from."



It's the influence of the singer's singer.

"Gary influenced us all," Evans says. "Although I did not have the honor to sing with him as an Imperial, I did get to meet and work with him a few times during the last 15 years as the group lead singer and G.M."

And Golden says Gary McSpadden's heart was what made his voice legendary. "He delivered a song with great passion and feeling," he says. "He had great control of his voice. He was a great singer in the way he delivered it...He was not what you call a trained, operatic-type singer. He just had that heart and feel of a singer. He had a believability about his voice. He was a communicator with people."

"When Gary was singing, you could tell he was excited and he believed exactly what he was singing about."

POSITION SONG TITLE

ARTIST/LABEL

1	IT NEVER GETS OLD	PERRYS/STOWTOWN
2	CAN I GET A WITNESS	THE SOUND/NEW DAY RECORDS
3	WHEN GOD SAYS WAIT	BROWDERS/DREAM BIG MUSIC
4	I SEE REVIVAL	CRABB FAMILY/DAYWIND
5	THE GOD I SERVE	KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER/DAYWIND
6	I BELIEVE THE BOOK	LEGACY FIVE/DAYWIND
7	NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES	GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN
8	THE HEALER HASN'T LOST HIS TOUCH	TRIBUTE QUARTET/DAYWIND
9	WALKING THROUGH FIRE	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN
10	AWESOME POWER OF PRAYER	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN
11	YES	TRIUMPHANT/STOWTOWN/SONY
12	GLORIOUS GOD	LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS
13	GO DOWN AGAIN	WISECARVERS/CROSSROADS
14	I GOT THE GRACE, HE GETS THE GLORY	THE OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS
15	FOLLOW ME TO THE CROSS	JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND
16	GET ME THERE	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
17	JUST AS BLESSED	JOSH AND ASHLEY FRANKS/INDEPENDENT
18	THERE IS A GOD	HYSSONGS/CHAPEL VALLEY
19	WHEN I TURN TO YOU	JASON CRABB/DAYWIND
20	I REMEMBER THE FISH	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
21	TABLE OF THE KING	TIM LIVINGSTON/INDEPENDENT
22	IF GOD PULLED BACK THE CURTAIN	NELONS/DAYWIND
23	A SONG TO REMIND YOU	STEELES/STOWTOWN
24	IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY	MARK BISHOP/CROSSROADS
25	33	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
26	GRACE BECAME AMAZING	GORDON MOTE/NEW HAVEN/PROVIDENT/SONY
27	FOREVER SETTLED	INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS
28	LOVE LIKE I'M LEAVIN	GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC
29	MORE THAN ENOUGH	BIBLETONES/INDEPENDENT
30	I LEAN ON YOU LORD	DIPLOMATS/INDEPENDENT
31	CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THE SOUND	JUSTIFIED/INDEPENDENT
32	FOR YOUR GLORY	BATTLE CRY/INDEPENDENT
33	WHAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
34	READY TO KNOW	LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS
35	IF THIS ALTAR COULD TALK	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
36	LET'S CARRY ON	NEW GROUND/INDEPENDENT
37	SOMETIMES IT'S THE RADIO	JOSEPH HABEDANK/DAYWIND
38	HE'S ALREADY ON HIS WAY	LITTLES/INDEPENDENT
39	HOW ABOUT YOU	WHISNANTS/UIA
40	ALOT WITH A LITTLE	11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS
41	I WANT TO LIVE FOR JESUS	MYLON HAYES FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
42	THOSE SAME HANDS	GOLD CITY/SONY
43	GO ASK MOSES	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET/CRIMSON ROAD
44	KING OF KINGS	KINGSMEN/CROSSROADS
45	LEARNING TO DANCE IN THE RAIN	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
46	JUST A CLOSER WALK	HAZEL PARKER STANLEY/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
47	BLANK PAGE	DUNAWAYS/INDEPENDENT
48	HALLELUJAH FOR THE CROSS	RIVER'S EDGE/INDEPENDENT
49	NOTHING AT ALL	HIGH ROAD/NEW DAY RECORDS
50	DAYS LIKE THIS	MARTINS/GAITHER MUSIC



# SGN SCOOPS

HOME OF THE

# DIAMOND



AWARDS

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
51	REASON FOR THE RAIN	JAY STONE SINGERS/CROSSROADS
52	HOUSE OF GOD	TAYLORS/STOWTOWN
53	THAT LITTLE CROWDED ROOM	TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS
54	GOD HAS PROVIDED HIMSELF A LAMB	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET/CRIMSON ROAD
55	AFTER THE STORM	ERWINS/STOWTOWN
56	WITHOUT JESUS	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND
57	BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB	WILBANKS/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
58	COUNTLESS	ENDLESS HIGHWAY/CROSSROADS
59	HAPPY GLAD DAY	HEART 2 HEART/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
60	SING THE BLUES AWAY	EXODUS/INDEPENDENT
61	OVER THE NEXT HILL	PAULINE PATTERSON/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
62	HEAVEN	SOUL'D OUT QUARTET/CROSSROADS
63	JESUS PROVED HIS LOVE FOR ME	CHRONICLE/INDEPENDENT
64	CALVARY'S TOUCH	BARRY ROWLAND & DELIVERANCE/CROSSROADS
65	WE ALL NEED A SAVIOR	MCKAMEYS/CROSSROADS
66	I'LL NEVER GET OVER THE BLOOD THAT I'M UNDER	KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS
67	BUILD ONE FOR ME	ED MEADOWS/INDEPENDENT
68	LET IT BE THE CROSS	CAROLINA BOYSQUARTET/CROSSROADS
69	I'M GOING TO HEAVEN	DOYLE LAWSON QUICKSILVER/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
70	WATER WALKER	KRAMERS/STOWTOWN
71	I WILL GLORY IN THE STORY	AUSTIN & ETHAN WHISNANT/UIA
72	IT AIN'T OVER WHEN IT'S OVER	GRIFFITH FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
73	CHILDREN GO WHERE I SEND THEE	DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS
74	YOU DON'T WANNA MISS THIS	CANA'S VOICE/STOWTOWN
75	LORD, SEND ME A MOUNTAIN	PORTER FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
76	THE POWER OF AN EMPTY TOMB	ERWINS/STOWTOWN
77	GOD AT HIS BEST	MICHAEL COMBS/INDEPENDENT
78	I'M SAVED	THE HOPPERS/SPRING HOUSE MUSIC GROUP
79	BETWEEN THE PRAYER AND THE ANSWER	LEFEVRE QUARTET/NEW DAY RECORDS
80	PEACE LIKE A RIVER	MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS
81	A GREATER HEALING	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
82	SINGING MY SONG	ISELL FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
83	ALL ABOUT LOVE	ETERNAL VISION/CHAPEL VALLEY
84	A NEW LOOK	BLACKWOOD BROTHERS QUARTET/DAYWIND
85	I SANG MYSELF HAPPY	OLD TIME PREACHERS QT/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
86	WHAT HE'S DONE LATELY	MILLERS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
87	MY LAST DAY HERE	MARK209/INDEPENDENT
88	I'LL HAVE A NEW SONG	IVAN PARKER/UIA
89	GOOD BYE BLUES	TIM LOVELACE/STOWTOWN
90	ROBES OF PURE WHITE	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
91	ONE IN THE NUMBER	SACRED HARMONY/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
92	WE ARE NOT ASHAMED	HOPE'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT
93	HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO TELL	PHILLIPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
94	OLD FASHION WAY	JOYAIRES/INDEPENDENT
95	PEACE	SOULS HARBOR/INDEPENDENT
96	GUILTY	REIGN DOWN/INDEPENDENT
97	ANGELS SING MY VICTORY SONG	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
98	HE IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS	MESSIAHS CALL/CHAPEL VALLEY
99	BE THE WITNESS	CHOSEN/INDEPENDENT
100	THIS STORM	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND





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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	WHEN HE SPEAKS	BRITTON FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
2	WHICH THIEF ARE YOU	BAMA BLU-GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
3	PLACE NO WREATH	BALSAM RANGE/CROSSROADS
4	NOTHING AT ALL	HIGH ROAD/NEW DAY RECORDS
5	FOR A MOMENT OF GRACE	HEAVEN'S MOUNTAIN BAND/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
6	THE BACK OF THE CHURCH	JERRY SALLEY/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
7	TURKEY BUZZARD	EAST RIDGE BOYS/MANSION
8	UP ALL NIGHT	SOUTHERN RAISED/STOWTOWN/PROVIDENT-SONY
9	A BRIGHTER DAY	PRIMITIVE QT/INDEPENDENT
10	ONE SUCH AS I	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	THAT LITTLE CROWDED ROOM	TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS
2	GLASS HALF FULL	SHELLEM CLINE/TIRE SWING RECORDS
3	MY KIND OF PEOPLE	MARK209/INDEPENDENT
4	THANK YOU LORD FOR THIS DAY	CHRIS GOLDEN/INDEPENDENT
5	REGARDLESS	LISA DAGGS/SERENITY RECORDS
6	THE BACK OF THE CHURCH	JERRY SALLEY/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
7	WHEN I COME TO YOU LORD	HUNTER MAY/INDEPENDENT
8	WE WILL STAND	ROGER BARKLEY JR/INDEPENDENT
9	MY LAST DAY HERE	MARK209/INDEPENDENT
10	BE THE WITNESS	CHOSEN/INDEPENDENT
11	WHO I AM TODAY	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
12	PATIENTLY WAITING	STEVE BRIDGMON/INDEPENDENT
13	NEAR YOU	MICHAEL LEE & RHONDA VINCENT/RED HEN
14	BLIND MAN IN THE BLEACHERS	AARON WILBURN/INDEPENDENT
15	A DAY	CAROL BARHAM/MAC RECORDS
16	I'M NOT WHO I USED TO BE	TONJA ROSE/MANSION
17	I'VE COME TO FAR	TAMMY NORRIS/INDEPENDENT
18	PRAISE THE LORD	CARROLL ROBERSON/CRM RECORDS
19	HE IS THERE	JIM SHELDON/ZENITH RECORDS
20	MOVING ON	JORDAN FAMILY BAND/CROSSROADS
21	CLIMB	BLOOD BOUGHT/INDEPENDENT
22	ONLY THE BEGINNING	BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT
23	HOLY GHOST REACTION	KEVIN & KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT
24	BRIGHT NEW MORNING	MARTY RAYBON/INDEPENDENT
25	TOO FAST	MISTY FREEMAN/DAYWIND RECORDS
26	THE LITTLE WOODEN CHURCH ON A HILL	DENNIS JOLLY/INDEPENDENT
27	NOBODY IS TOO BAD	RHONDA RICHARDSON/MAC RECORDS
28	IN THE COOL OF THE DAY	MILES PIKE/INDEPENDENT
29	DOWN AT THE ALTAR	PARDONED/MANSION
30	NO WORRIES	SINGING BYRDS/INDEPENDENT
31	MOMENTS	WADE PHILLIPS/INDEPENDENT
32	WHEN I RISE AGAIN	APPOINTED2/INDEPENDENT
33	RIDING THE WIND	JACKSON HEIGHTS/CENTER STAGE MUSIC GROUP
34	I AM NOT AFRAID	DONNA ULISSE/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
35	THAT'S HEAVEN FOR ME	BRUCE HAYNES/DIRKWORKS RECORDS
36	GOD DID IT	GREG DAY/NEWSTEP RECORDS
37	I WON'T TURN AROUND	CARTER FAMILY BAND/INDEPENDENT
38	PREACHER'S DAUGHTER	PARDONED/MANSION
39	A GREATER HEALING	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
40	MY LORD IS TAKING GOOD CARE OF ME	DETTY SISTERS/INDEPENDENT





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# Mile Markers on a Journey Randy Miller



By Andrew Ishee

I first met Randy Miller when he was with the Kingmen in the mid 1990s. I met him first when I was a fan of the group and later got the great honor of sharing the stage with him. He is one of the greatest harmonica players in the history of music and he plays dozens of additional instruments well.

Miller is also an exceptional singer, studio engineer, and music producer, and he and I have played on numerous sessions together. He has his own full-scale studio in Beulah, Ala., near Auburn.

I have tons of road stories about Miller, including the time he and Bryan Hutson tricked me into eating Rocky Mountain Oysters at a restaurant in Colorado. All you need to know is, they are not fresh water oysters – as I later discovered.

Randy and his wife, Sherri, have a dynamic music ministry, but today we'll look into the life of a young Randy Miller – before he began his career in gospel music.

Miller grew up loving football, and he played Pee Wee football for the Bears; that's the famed Beulah Bears, and the Browns. If you're unfamiliar with Pee Wee sports, it's for young kids. I don't know if it's this way everywhere, but in the south you can start playing Pee Wee football at age five. Miller became an excellent athlete and patterned his career after his favorite player, William Perry, the Refrigerator, of Clemson University and later the Chicago Bears.

Miller showed me a clipping from the newspaper when he was eight or nine, which shows him playing against Lemanski Hall, who went on to play for the Chicago Bears, Dallas Cowboys and others, and is now coaching at Clemson. The Millers were serious about their football, and Randy was doing great.

Church was always important to the Millers too. Randy grew up in a family of musicians and ministers. Some of his family members were pastors, and he didn't miss much church growing up. Church was one of the places Miller would begin to grow as a musician. He got his first harmonica at age 14, and Miller says that's when



his attention began to shift to music, but there were two turning points that would shape his future in a really big way.

First, Miller lost his cousin, and best friend, Jeff. Jeff was about the same age as Randy, and his death was unexpected. It was eye opening to Randy.

Through the heart-wrenching pain of losing Jeff and the surreal epiphany of his own mortality, Miller chose to make a fresh and enduring commitment of his life to ministry. This was the catalyst that brought him to decide that he needed to make a full surrender of his life to Christ. The second life-altering change guided him in how he would be used by God.

The Galileans (not the Four Galileans) were a regional gospel group that hired Miller to play harmonica and percussion. He was part of the group throughout his early teen years and all the way through high school. But near the end of his ninth grade year, Miller decided that he needed to give up being a weekend warrior with the group so he could focus on football and school. Miller figured that pretty soon he'd be getting his jersey for a college team, and then it'd be off to the NFL. Remember, he'd been playing football since before he could read.

Here is a side note: I think it's important to remember that not everyone has to commit to being a full-time minister, as an occupation, to serve God. Tim Tebow does a fair amount of ministry. And it looked like this might be the path for Miller. I'm personally glad it wasn't – because I probably wouldn't have wound up playing for the Broncos, and then I wouldn't have gotten to work with and know Randy Miller. But back to the story:

On the day Miller had decided to tell the Galileans that he was out of the music business, spring training started for the Beulah Bobcats. During the first day of training, Miller, while exercising some normal drills, twisted and broke his ankle. He took it as a sign from God, and instead of quitting the Galileans that day, Randy Miller quit football.

During high school and early college, Miller worked at Sanders Construction building houses, and at McCollum Auto Body, sanding and painting cars. He knows how to do almost everything.

Randy actually got the call from Eldridge Fox of the Kingsmen at McCollum Auto Body Shop on the business phone; he and I both pre-date cell phones.

Hear Randy give his full testimony and sing his heart out along with his sweet and precious wife, Sherri, at a concert near you. They're wonderful. And consider his







studio, Snippa Creek Studio, for your recording needs. You just won't meet a more talented or nicer guy. Find out more about Randy and Sherri Miller at [facebook.com/randysherrimiller/](https://facebook.com/randysherrimiller/) Snippa Creek Studio: [facebook.com/snippacreekstudio/](https://facebook.com/snippacreekstudio/)

**Ed MEADOWS**

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" "And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'"  
Romans 10:14-15 NKJV

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## *Richard Ferguson*

### *WOKK*



**By Vonda Armstrong**

97 OKK - WOKK FM 97.1 is a broadcast radio station from Meridian, Mississippi. This month, we are shining the gospel DJ Spotlight on Richard Ferguson from WOKK.

**Vonda Armstrong: Please tell us about your radio show.**

Richard Ferguson: WOKK 97.1 is a 100,000 watt country station that gives us eight hours of Southern gospel music every week. My show is every Sunday night, live from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. I call it "Sunday Night Gospel Show." I play the best in Southern gospel music. I have been on the air since 1992 at WOKK, and love playing SGM (Southern gospel music). 97OKK.com is the website that you can listen to from any device and call in a request at 601-693-3697.

**VA: Richard, will you share your testimony with us?**

RF: I was raised UPC (United Pentecostal Church) and grew up in church. I gave my life to the Lord at a young age and have been his servant ever since. From singing in church, to nursing homes, and everything in between. I just love SGM and sharing music with everyone.

**VA: Please tell us about your family.**

RF: I have been married to my wife Alexa for almost 32 years. We have two children, Kaylee, 25, and Kameron, 20. My wife was a school teacher for 28 years, and has supported me in all that I do to support SGM. My daughter has a Master's Degree in Clinic Mental Health Counseling, from Mississippi State University, and works as the Marketing Director at John O'Neil John-

son Toyota, in Meridian, Mississippi. My son, Kameron, is starting his third year of college, playing baseball at the next level. He has played two years at Holmes Community College as a pitcher and will start the fall at the MUW in Columbus, Mississippi, majoring in physical therapy and playing the game he loves, baseball.

**VA: If you could interview anyone, in any genre of music, who would you like to interview?**

RF: I have been a D.J. for 27 years, and have shared the stage with a lot of greats, and interviewed some of the best in the business: Wendy Bagwell, George Younce, Glen Payne, J.D. Sumner, Jim Hamill, Anthony Burger, Kenny Hinson, and lots of country artists; but the one person I would like to interview, that I can't, would be Elvis Presley. He loved all music and had a deep feeling for gospel music.







**VA: Richard, a little birdie told me not only are you a DJ, but you are a singer. Tell us about it.**

RF: I helped start a group in 1986, called New Heart. We changed our name to Common Ground, had our first top 80 song and had to change our name again, in order to be printed in the chart, because of another group with the same name. We changed it to 2ndmile, and 33 years later Reggie Lovorn and myself are still together, singing every place the Lord leads us. Our tenor is Brian Waddell, and the three of us have been together for the past five years. When we started back in 1986, we had a full band and we kept it together until

1996, then we went to tracks. Two years ago we put the band back together. We can now do concerts with a live band if we want to. Our keyboard player is Bryant Williams, Bob Sullivan plays lead guitar, Richie Lovorn plays the acoustic guitar, Reggie Lovorn plays bass guitar and sings baritone. Scott Lowrey, Mark McMillan, and several other guys, play drums with us from time to time. I do the bookings for the group - 2ndmile - check us out on Facebook at 2ndMileGospel.



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# OLD TIME PREACHERS QUARTET

## STAYING TRUE TO THEIR CALLING

By John Herndon

When we sat down to talk that night in early March, it was doubtful that Les Butler, Mike Holcomb, or I, had any inkling of the significance of what was intended to be an interview about the ministry of the Old Time Preachers Quartet.

We all met at the group's product table about 30 minutes before the group was to take the stage at Sand Spring Baptist Church near Lawrenceburg, Ky. A big crowd was on hand as the Old Time Preachers opened the 2020 season of the church's popular concert series.

As we brought our discussion to a close, I mentioned that due to some personal business and the fact that I anticipated being quite busy working quite a bit of high school basketball tournament action in the coming days and weeks, it might be a couple of weeks before I posted the interview. Life quickly changed and the interview was a piece that was never published.

A few minutes after we ended the chat, the Old Time Preachers Quartet brought the house down with a concert that included a mix of familiar old songs and new

tunes. And true to the group's name, there was a challenge to make Christ the Lord of one's life.

Life has sure changed since March 5. The COVID-19 crisis has sent just about everyone home, including the Old Time Preachers Quartet and this writer. In a follow-up, I asked Butler when the quartet's last performance as a group had been.

"Well, actually, it was at Sand Spring, the night we did your initial interview," Butler wrote in an email.

But the ministry has not stopped as Butler, Holcomb, Tim Owens and Adam Borden have continued to uplift in any way possible, including social media.

It's just in the DNA of the Old Time Preachers Quartet. "All four of us preach. All four of us sing," Butler said when we first talked. "We travel together as a quartet then all four of us have our own evangelistic efforts."

The group does not have a bus, opting to converge on venues like Sand Spring directly from preaching opportunities and then scattering to spread the gospel



again. Butler had been in West Virginia the day before, at a church he says was “literally five miles up a little one lane road in a holler....It was full every night. A hundred people every night. They came and wanted to worship.”

Owens and Borden had come from Tennessee, while Holcomb had been in Georgia, then drove to central Kentucky and was planning to head south to Florida and Georgia the following week. “It’s just us. It’s what we do and our calling in life,” he said.

Holcomb did quite a bit of preaching during his 41 years with the Inspirations, a tenure that saw him become one of gospel music’s most beloved bass singers.



“I was 24 years old,” he says of the time he answered a call to preach. “We are called to preach first. We are given an opportunity to sing. The gospel with music added to it puts wheels on it and puts us in places where people would never listen to a preacher but will come to a concert or a place where a group is singing. If you get the opportunity for them to listen to you live, then you’ve got their attention. So this is ministry for us, trying to reach hearts and lives for Him.”

The quartet relishes opportunities to combine music and preaching. “What we really like to do is a church will book us to hold a revival and sing,” Butler said. “I might preach one night and the quartet sings. Then Mike Holcomb might preach the next night and the quartet sings. The next night, Tim might preach and the quartet sings. And the next night, Adam preaches and the quartet sings. It just depends on the situation.”

Butler says that of the group, only Owens, who sings tenor, has any seminary training but, “I think I can speak for the other guys that we wish we had more, but when God called us, we just started hitting it right there.”

Holcomb smiled, saying his training was from “the school of hard knocks,” and that most of what he knows has come from “listening and letting God speak to my heart.”

Sharing the gospel from the heart is the group’s mission and has endeared the Old Time Preachers Quartet to gospel fans across the nation. An evening or a week with the OTPQ offers a respite from the pressures of the world and brings one to face the reality of Jesus and salvation through him.

“We hope that when they come to us, we give them some refreshment, that we give them some water,” Butler said. “That is one of our goals. Our main goal, of course, is to go into the highways and byways and compel them to come in, sinners and saints alike. When they get there, give them Jesus and then Jesus will take care of the rest. If they need saving, he can save them. If they need uplifting, then he can uplift them.”

When the world started shutting down the following week, the Old Time Preachers Quartet’s mission might have become greater.

“I believe I am speaking for every member of the quartet when I say we are excited to see how God is going to take care of his children,” Butler said in the followup on March 31. “And, based on the authority of God’s Word, he is going to take care of his children. So we feel strongly that we are going to have a testimony unlike any testimony we’ve had in times past. This is a serious and disconcerting time for sure, but it’s time we put into practice what we sing and preach about every week. Psalm 37:25, ‘I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread (KJV).’”

Like every other musical artist, regardless of genre, the life the OTPQ knew has come to a halt. There are no concerts. There are no preaching engagements. There



is nothing happening and that also means little to no income.



"I don't say this flippantly, but all we can do is pray," Butler said in his email. "All of our concerts and services have been shut down for the past three weeks and for the next two months or more. Singing and preaching makes up the overwhelming majority of the income for our four group members. Adam has some side things, as do I. However, speaking for myself, 90 percent of my businesses (Butler Music Group and Family Music Group) are shut down. All of the artists I work with are in the same boat as us: out of business, for now. So I've come full circle. I go back to my first comment, we are praying."

Like many other artists, Butler is also finding out that venues are often hesitant to reschedule, opting for a "wait-and-see" approach to the coronavirus crisis.

But even with no public appearances, the ministry opportunities abound.

"We have never seen businesses and churches shut down on a national and international level like this before," Butler said. "We've never been ordered to not leave our homes. This is uncharted territory for sure. However, I see the hand of God at work here on many levels. Ministry continues. I know my home church, Middle Tennessee Baptist, has been doing Facebook Live services with our pastor and a small group of preachers and singers (less than 10). And, there has been great liberty in every single service. We have preached and sung like there's a thousand people in attendance. This virus hasn't stopped the hand of God moving on his people! So until we get back together in service again, let's continue to push social media, using it for good, getting the message of the gospel to a lost and dying world!"

Butler has begun hosting a Facebook Live show from his home on an almost nightly basis, drawing on his 42 years in the gospel music business to share humor, interesting stories, interviews and more. "I have enough Southern gospel memorabilia to start my own museum," Butler said. "Sometime during the day or night, I go live with a piece of memorabilia and talk about it. I also play a song from my vast vinyl collection that ties into that piece."

"This has been a ton of fun. I always end each segment





by tying in the Word of God with the song I play or the piece of memorabilia. I am trying hard to turn it into a ministry tool. It's a different bent, but I believe God is going to use it."

It's what the Old Time Preachers Quartet is about.

And that connection to what Butler had said as we wrapped up our interview on March 5 can only be described as God at work. "In today's world, with what we see in the news and what we experience ourselves, it's easy to get beaten down badly," Butler had said. "We have to get ourselves up out of the ashes and follow the Lord."

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# Beyond the Song

## with Zane and Donna King



By Jantina Baksteen

SGNScoops is pleased to highlight the ministry of Zane and Donna King in this edition of the Beyond the Song. It was the song “God of Every Moment,” that caught the attention of Jantina Baksteen, so she talked to vocalist Donna King about this faith-filled melody.

**Jantina Baksteen: Please introduce yourself and your ministry to the readers of SGNScoops.**

Donna King: I’m Donna King and I am a full-time songwriter/producer/artist, along with my husband Zane, (Zane and Donna King), and I wear a few (trillion) other hats as well.

**JB: You are a singing couple. How and when did this all start?**

DK: Zane and I had known each other for years in a business capacity in the music industry. We hadn’t spoken for several years when God brought our paths together and placed us on one road that he planned for us. We began dating in 2010 and we were married in 2012. Soon after our marriage, we felt God tugging at our hearts to take our individual ministry work and become the team we are today in both marriage and ministry.

**JB: Do you both come from a singing background?**

DK: Actually, neither of us come from singing families.

However, Zane did have a big childhood of instrumental efforts and a musical family. He started playing steel guitar as a young boy and in my opinion, he’s one of the best players in the world today.

**JB: You have a song on radio called, “God of Every Moment,” from your album, “Beautiful Ever After.” Can you please share the message of the song?**

DK: We have, like most everyone, known many roads; joy, sorrow, grief, loss, hope, love, pain, peace, grace, mercy... all of it. The message in this song is that God is with us, in every moment, through every situation. He is our hope and our salvation. He never leaves or forsakes us. So, we pray that this song reminds people who may feel lonely or lost that they need not be either of those things. He is with us. What a wonderful God we serve.

**JB: Is it penned by your hand?**

DK: This song was written by Zane King, Sue C. Smith, and Joe Cirafici.

**JB: Why is the album called “Beautiful Ever After”?**

DK: Zane and I wrote that title song with our wonderful friend and co-writer, Sue C. Smith. It talks about heaven. Heaven is special to us. There are precious family





and friends there. But, most of all, our Savior is there. What we know is that once a heart surrenders to God, a life is redeemed and that is really when the “Beautiful Ever After” of our stories begins. We pray people feel uplifted and encouraged as they listen to each song on the record.

**JB: What makes a song a good song?**

DK: I think a good song does one of at least four things: It inspires the listener, it brings joy to the listener’s heart, it challenges the listener, it offers hope.

**JB: Do you have a testimony to share to the readers?**

DK: I wasn’t raised in a church-going home. I came to Christ as a young adult and I heard all the bible stories later in life than children who attended Sunday School in their early years. Though I was older, everything was so new and so full of hope. Maybe I appreciated those stories more because I had to wait for them. What I know is that the challenges that we have faced would have been impossible to bear without our God walking with us though it all.

Zane and I have children in recovery from addiction. God has worked miracles in their lives. He has been so faithful. His faithfulness has been the light and strength of our journey. Our songs come from many of our experiences. As we travel, make music, and share our hearts with others, we find that their lives and our lives are often similar, and that the love of God is our constant source. This is why we have to write songs. He is so faithful to us and we must be faithful to him and his

calling on our lives.

**JB: What is the Bible verse you love go back to?**

DK: My favorite bible verse is Psalm 46:10a “Be still and know that I am God...” This is a reminder that my heart often needs when I become anxious about life and its challenges; he is God. I can be still. I can trust him. I can remember he is in control.



**JB: What is in the near future for you as a duo?**

DK: We are working on a hymns recording as well as a new EP. We have wanted to do a simple hymns recording for so long. The hymns are special to us. As far as the new music for our new EP, we are in the process of writing those with our wonderful co-writers. I have to mention, as well, that I’ve recently signed a publishing deal with the amazing Sunset Gallery Music. I am so honored to work with Joel Lindsey, Wayne Haun, and Tom Snell who are the leadership at my publishing company. I am excited about what’s ahead.

**JB: Where can we find you on the web?**

DK: You can find us at [www.zaneanddonnaking.com](http://www.zaneanddonnaking.com) or on [facebook.com/zaneanddonnaking](https://facebook.com/zaneanddonnaking). On Instagram we





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Thank you, Donna, for sharing your ministry with the readers of SGNScoops. May your music continue to minister and uplift your audience.

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# Gilmore on Gospel

## New Reviews

By Justin Gilmore



### **Heart 2 Heart** "Pray"

Producer: Les Butler  
Label: Family Music Group  
Release Date: 2019

Songs: Happy Glad Day (Terry W. Wilkins, Reba Faye Rambo); I Will Praise Him (Larry Dean Madden, Jeanie Ann Cameron); God Can Hear Tears Fall (Chaz Bosarge); I Just Don't Feel Like Giving Up (Denny Livingston); Hallelujah March (Dave Clark, Christian Taylor, Gerald Crabb); That's Why We Pray (Adina Bowman); The Keys (Kris Miller, Jayron Weaver); Storm Before The Calm (Kristi Fitzwater, Joel Lindsey); God Will Finish The Story (Marcia Henry, Kyla Rowland); Voice Of Falling Tears (Sandy Blythe); Last Mile To Jordan (Rebecca J. Peck); When Revival Comes To Town (John Darin Rowsey); (Only Thing Left) Jesus Loves You (Jason Wyatt, Michael Todd, Stephen Christopher); Sons Of Uncle Sam (Chaz Bosarge)

High energy, cutting edge progressive Southern sound, and pure worship. This is what you will find on the latest album from North Carolina favorite, Heart 2 Heart. In 1998, this powerhouse trio was formed in a small suburb in North Carolina and now calls Cherryville,

N.C., their home. David and Deana Kiser and longtime friend Rhonda House have been blessed for over 20 years to spread the Gospel in song.

"Pray," features 14 songs of faith that are sure to bless listeners. This well-crafted and anointed album kicks off with the up-tempo, convention style, "Happy Glad Day." This fun tune looks forward to that wonderful day when we'll enter Heaven with Christ. "I Will Praise Him," is a tender mid-tempo track that simply says I will praise him no matter what. David Kiser takes the lead on, "God Can Hear Tears Fall," which reminds listeners that God can hear you even when you have no words to pray. Rhonda House shines on the powerful ballad, "I Just Don't Feel Like Giving Up," which encourages listeners to never give up for God is with them.

The hit single, "Hallelujah March," is a catchy tune, telling us when the joy of the Lord fills your heart, you can't help but groove. "That's Why We Pray," features Deana and declares that Christ never fails and that's why we pray. David takes the lead once again on the groovy, "The Keys." This fun song simply reminds listeners that there is no problem that can't be solved with Christ. "Storm Before The Calm," "God Will Finish The Story," "Voice Of Falling Tears," and, "Last Mile To Jordan," all remind listeners of Christ's faithfulness and that he brings us through the hard times. "When Revival Comes To Town," is a fun, up-tempo song that tells of the return of Christ. "(Only Thing Left) Jesus Loves You," is a beautiful track reminding us that Christ loves us so much that he died and rose again for us. The album closes with the patriotic, "Sons of Uncle Sam," a song that reminds us that freedom comes with a cost.

Heart 2 Heart delivers a high quality CD that will truly encourage all who listen. Great vocals, powerful songs, and well-crafted tracks. This was my first experience listening to this group, but it certainly won't be the last. \*\*\*\*4 out of 5 stars

For more information: [heart2heartmin.com](http://heart2heartmin.com)



**Cheri Taylor**

**"Born To Sing"**

Producer: Les Butler

Label: Family Music Group

Release Date: 2020

Songs: I Feel A Blessing Comin' On (Toni Clay, Rebecca Peck); I'd Like To Meet The Preacher (Kenna West, Jason Cox, Amber Eppinette); Born To Sing (Dave Williford); Let's Stop For A Moment (Kyla Rowland); He Is Greater Than My Needs (Eric Homer); My Wants Been Changed (Sheri Lafontaine); He Is (Jeoffrey Benward, Jeff Silvey); Ready Or Not (Chris D. Unthank, Kenna West, Jason Cox); Said He Would and He Will (Twila LaBar, Kenna West, Dianne Wilkinson); One Day Soon (Dixie Phillips, Matthew Lawson); Living On The Hallelujah Side (Johnson Oatman Jr.)

Cheri Taylor has been blessed with a long career in gospel music. For 40 years, Taylor has traveled the country sharing the good news through song. Taylor's dynamic voice is on full display on her latest recording, "Born To Sing." This album features a who's who in gospel songwriters including songs by Rebecca Peck, Kenna West, Kyla Rowland, Dianne Wilkinson, Jason Cox, and more.

This project opens with the upbeat, toe-tapping tune, "I Feel A Blessing Comin' On." This fun song simply tells of the many blessings from Christ. The soulful ballad, "I'd Like To Meet The Preacher," thanks the long line of preachers that have helped lead people to Christ. The title track, which also is the project's first single, is an upbeat song that simply says that (we) were born

to sing his praises. "Let's Stop For A Moment," reminds us to slow down and reflect on the goodness of God. Stop for a moment and praise him. Taylor's voice shines on the tender, "He Is Greater Than My Needs," a beautiful ballad that reminds us that Christ takes care of it all. "My Wants Been Changed," is a groovy tune that tells of the transforming power of Christ. Jesus came in and changed my life. I used to want what the world could give, but now my wants have changed.

"He Is," keeps with the groovy feel and reminds us that Christ is worthy to be praised. He is the reason why (we) sing. The ballad, "Ready Or Not," encourages listeners to live for his Glory and trust in his Name. The upbeat, "Said He Would And He Will," reminds listeners that God's promises are true. He will never fail you. He will do what he says he'll do. "One Day Soon," looks to Heaven and longs for the reunion between loved ones there. This great album closes with a rousing rendition of the classic, "Living On The Hallelujah Side."

Cheri Taylor proves she was "Born To Sing," with this CD. Great songs, seasoned vocals, and stellar musicianship. Highlights include: "He Is Greater Than My Needs," "My Wants Been Changed," "Living On The Hallelujah Side," and "Born To Sing." \*\*\*3.9 out of 5 stars

For more information: [cheritaylor.org](http://cheritaylor.org).



**The Bledsoes**

**"Renewed"**

Producer: Rodney Bledsoe

Label: 65South Records

Release Date: April 3, 2020

Songs: Gabriel (Cathy McDaniels); God Gave Me Life (Barbara Jean Reece); I Believe It Could Be Today (Kevin B. Jones); Somebody's Praying For Me (Kyla Rowland); Where Is God (Kyla Rowland); On Top Of The Mountain (Karen Benton, Steven Benton, Whitney Benton Butler); In The Hands Of The Lord (Darlene



Shirey); You Can Trust Me Lord (Sandy Blythe); Bow The Knee (Brian Edwards); He Hears My Tears (Gary Casto, Barbara Huffman)

Southern gospel music has a rich tradition of family groups. The Bledsoes certainly carry on this legacy. Formed in 1992, this trio has been delighting audiences all of the country with their tight harmonies and the powerful message of the gospel.

Today, founding member Rodney Bledsoe is joined by cousin Robert Freeman and soprano Melissa Cates to form this powerhouse trio. "Renewed," marks the group's first recording on 65South Records and features 10 songs of hope and faith.

This new album opens with the mid-tempo tune, "Gabriel," which tells of Christ's second coming, encouraging us to be ready for his return. "God Gave Me Life," features stellar harmonies and reminds us that God is faithful. He gives us life and life more abundant. The first single, "I Believe It Could Be Today," is a fun, up-tempo track that states his return could be any day. Melissa Cates shines on this energetic and catchy tune. "Somebody's Praying For Me," featuring Rodney Bledsoe, is a mid-tempo country style track that reminds us of the power of prayer.

The Kyla Rowland penned tune, "Where Is God," is a highlight for me on this recording. This energetic

song, previously recorded by Gold City, reminds us that God is faithful and is everywhere we go. Melissa Cates shines on the poignant ballad, "On Top Of The Mountain." This powerful track encourages listeners to hold to God's hand and press on. Though it seems dreary, you will find yourself on top of the mountain again. "In The Hands Of The Lord," is an energy filled tune that encourages we as listeners to put our burdens in his hands. Bledsoe takes the lead once again on the mid-tempo track, "You Can Trust Me Lord," which is a beautiful declaration of faith in Christ. Robert Freeman is featured on, "Bow The Knee," a powerful ballad which praises Christ our almighty Lord. The album closes with, "He Hears My Tears," a tender ballad featuring Rodney Bledsoe. This powerful lyric, co-written by Tribute Quartet's Gary Casto and songwriter Barbara Huffman, reminds listeners that God knows our needs. He hears our prayers even when we are unable to pray.

I must admit that I was not familiar with The Bledsoes prior to this review. After listening to this CD, I count myself among their fans. This CD features great songs, incredible vocals, and top notch musicianship. Highlights include: "Where Is God," "On Top Of The Mountain," "He Hears My Tears," and "I Believe It Could Be Today." I highly recommend adding this CD to your music library!

For more information, visit: [thebledsoes.com](http://thebledsoes.com)



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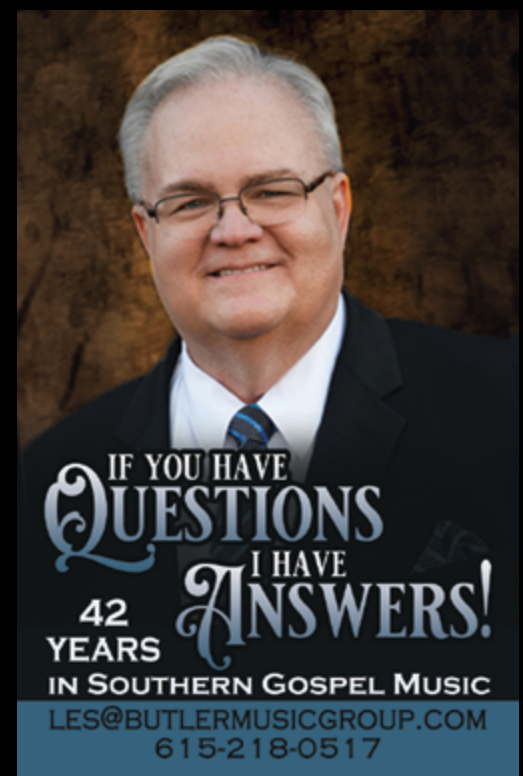
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# The Artist and the Corona Age

By Charlie Griffin



You are a big dreamer. In some ways you really work to live your dream. There's nothing wrong with having dreams. Now, think on this...perhaps it is more about how you get to your dreams than just the dream?

In this new age of the novel coronavirus, or, "Corona Age," as I call it, singers and musicians must come full circle, back to reality. Questions must be answered for the future. Is their music for fun, for ministry, or is music their career? In this Corona Age, almost every artist will be starting over. It seems we will be held captive by things we have no control over when we get going again.

Yes, we can lay a solid positive foundation as we move forward in the Corona Age. Now, let's face some reality. Nowadays, most people who sing or make music do it on the weekends. Most have no major noted success, and some may never see it, based on their dreams, economics or their expectations.

Now, that is hard. But I am a realist. I also believe there are always options and successes when you look for them, and pray for them. Where did I hear... "seek and you shall find, or, knock and the door will open?"

Weekend gospel warriors make up one of the largest demographic sharing the good news in music to people in all walks of life across America. Just think of how many groups are around you in your area.

The fact is, most artists work a 9-to-5 job that barely pays the bills. Your lights flicker on and off and you ponder if you paid your electric bill or not. Your refrigerator consists of water and iced tea and your pantry is stacked



with your favorite meal, Ramen Noodles. The kids get the new clothes, while we wait until we really need them. Sound familiar for the family man, musician or singer?

If you are the single aspiring artist, your personal life is in shambles due to your second job. Your second job is where you frequent church singings or open mic night at a local eatery, and become the street artist on street corners performing for change. You play or sing at weddings, funerals, store openings, or volunteer to open for another artist for nothing. The fact is, you just want to sing and share.

Those who play an instrument or sing (solo or with a group), have had that dream longer than they may want to admit. Perhaps you are that struggling recording artist with a dream to make it big.

Your daydream is interrupted by a telephone call. It's your spouse or mother on the line. You're dreading the conversation that is about to happen.

"Are you still making music," your spouse or mother asks. "Why don't you just get a real job? There's no money in making music. You pay more out than you make. You should know that by now." Sound familiar? How does it make you feel when your support system



doesn't support you?

To me, "the seek and you shall find" options start now, especially when you can't rely on the ones that should be your closest allies.

What if I told you that you can live your dream without a support system? What if I told you, your music is who you are? It is your calling? Well it is. Without the music you will be most miserable, lost even. Been there, done that; I know it well.

Here are some tools I have discovered for music and life:

### 1. Maximize your Vision

For you to thrive without a support system you need to have a vision. Your vision is loosely defined as the act or power of anticipation. What are you focused on? What do you like to do? What do your dreams look like? A vision is not a mission statement. Answer these questions so you can truly understand the things you are passionate about. You can also visualize what it would look like to have successfully pursued your dream, which will help you gravitate towards finding your ultimate purpose. Visualization also helps activate your faith. It becomes mentally tangible. You see your path clearer with a plan of action. When family members and friends try to squash your dreams, think about your vision. Remember, your vision is powerful and inspiring. Mark 11:22-24 is a promise you can claim and believe.

### 2. Have Faith

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Your vision motivates you







to activate your faith. Faith starts the process of doing, simply because you know and believe it can be done. Faith is rooted in God and yourself. God gave you the talent. Why? God has confidence in you. Have you heard these phrases before: Have faith in yourself. Believe in yourself. Your faith is strong. In order to live your dreams, you must have faith in what you're doing. You must see the light at the end of the tunnel. Then you need to activate your faith within. You must have confidence in you, your talents and in your vision, and

in the giver of those talents and vision. With confidence you apply action to move forward. Step by step, day by day...

### 3. Speak your Dream into Existence

You already worked on strengthening your vision and your faith/confidence. The next thing you need to work on is speaking your dream into existence. Utilize positive self talk every time your family members or friends try to minimize or cut down on your dreams. These people, no matter how much you love them, do not believe in your dream. It is up to you to believe in your dreams. Believe it in your heart and profess it with your actions. Understand the power of affirmations and use them throughout the day. But be realistic while you are in the pursuit of your dreams. They won't come true overnight. Who said Rome wasn't built in a day? Well they were right.

Here are some take-aways:

- \* You must have a vision. You must have faith. You must speak your dream into existence.

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- \* You will encounter people that will try to kill your dreams. Have the strength to remember your vision.
- \* Every song that you write or sing, every track that you record, pushes you one step closer to your dream.
- \* Every stage performance, every fan interaction, pushes you one step closer to your dream.
- \* Live your dream no matter what.
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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's the merry month of May and as I write this, I wonder how merry we are right now. I don't know what measures of restraint the coronavirus is still placing on you at this moment, but I do know that isolation like we have been experiencing can increase fear, depression, and anxiety. I hope and trust you are finding ways to combat this, as your mental health is as important as your physical health and shouldn't be ignored.

When I need to uplift my mood, music is one of the tools I use. I turn on music that uplifts, encourages, speaks of our Lord and his power, and usually something with a beat or groove I can't ignore.

One artist that always grabs my attention is on our cover this month. 11th Hour has carved a niche for themselves in gospel music and their releases continue to show a refinement in their musical talents. As well, Jaquita Lindsey is an SGNscoops alumni, sharing her writing abilities with us for years.

On a side note, Logan Smith was one of my first online interviews for SGNscoops TV in 2011. He was a lot more comfortable than I was, even though he was quite young at the time. I have to say right now that it was not well done on my part, as the camera seemed to deplete any conscious thought in my head at that NQC. The little red-haired boy I interviewed was already on Gaither videos at the time, and he, along with Jaquita and Amber, are doing a stellar job now as they climb charts and win awards.

I could not have foreseen then where Logan would be now, anymore than I can tell you now where any one of us will be tomorrow. Shortly after that interview, my life was changed forever with sickness. I know now that the fibromyalgia I contend with daily had its roots in that sickness.

May is Fibromyalgia Awareness month, so I want to send a prayer to all of you reading this that fight a similar war. This debilitating illness has no cure. Fatigue, pain, insomnia, mental health issues, gastrointestinal irregularities, headaches, and cognitive problems, are just a few of the battles those with Fibro face daily. We wear purple for awareness, and ask that you say a prayer for us today.

I wonder how many more people than usual found themselves praying to God in the last few months? In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone was praying they would be safe and that things would just go back to normal. We know that nothing in this world goes back in time any more than the earth can spin backward. To imagine that our lives would return to normal is equally as unrealistic.

We must be prepared for the new, as the old will never be again. That is not something to be feared, but accepted as part of life. Whenever we face a big change, we need to recall the events of the Easter season of last month. The power of the old and sinful died on that cross. The new and eternal was brought out of that tomb. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has promised us new life, and fresh mercy every day. He alone walks before and behind us, able to give us guidance through our new normal.

A seed planted in the ground has to die before becoming a new, fruitful entity. I pray that all of us will look with intelligent eyes at what needs to be left in the past, what needs to die, for us to prosper in our new day. Hold on to Jesus today, my friend. He is the maker of all things new. And that place where pieces of your life were laid to rest? Look at the place where Jesus was buried. He can turn graves into gardens.



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# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



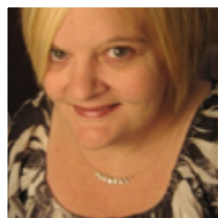
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://Queenoq.blogspot.com)



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



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



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

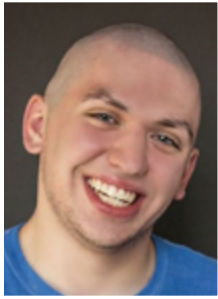


Justin Gilmore, 22, a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share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



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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 execu

tives 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.



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 SGNscoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at [www.CharlieGriffin.net](http://www.CharlieGriffin.net).

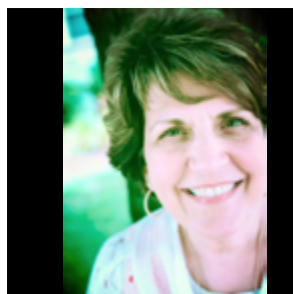
# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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.



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.



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.



Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The Mystery Men quartet, Florida Boys and Mark209. Off the road, he spends time with my wife, Christa, with whom he celebrates 25 years of marriage with this year. Jimmy

also enjoys spending time with his three kids and one granddaughter.



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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.



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.

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



Jantina Baksteen  
I live all the way overseas in the Netherlands. I'm married and I have three adult children. I grew up in a Christian home and knew in my early years that I wanted to belong to Him. I surrendered my life to Christ was baptized one day before I turned 11 years old.

Somehow, the seed of loving gospel music was planted by the style of music my parents played at home. Around 2006/2007, I was listening to Gaither homecoming music that I found on the internet. The song, "Oh, What A Savior," by Ernie Haase hit me with the so-called Southern gospel bug.

From there, I've been reading /studying all I can find. I found the digital SGNscoops Magazine.

As I was spending so much time reading and listening about this industry, I started praying for God to please give me a job in the Southern gospel industry. Sometimes, I commented to Lorraine Walker on her posts. How could she know the longing of my heart?

But last year she asked me if I wanted to do something for SGNscoops: the Wacky Wednesday posts online. Now I do the "Beyond the Song" article that really has my heart as I am reaching out to artists, asking about a current song and having a sneak peak behind the scenes.



My name is Lyndsey Chandler. I sing with my family, the Chandlers. I have wanted to get something started to promote the youth in Southern gospel for a long time. I want to say a huge thank you to SGNscoops magazine for allowing me the opportunity

to do this. I will be sharing exclusive interviews in an effort to showcase the abilities, talents and dedication of young artists in Southern Gospel music. I will be offering these monthly interviews to better acquaint you with young voices that are growing louder in our industry.

The Chandlers travel in a ministry of singing and preaching

conducting concerts, revivals, camp meetings and conferences. Their travels have taken them all over the United States, Canada, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia, and The Philippines. The group consists of Tim, Lana, and their two daughters, Tiffany, and Lyndsey. Their ministry website is [www.thehandlersmusic.com](http://www.thehandlersmusic.com).



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...Home-

school 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: [homes-pundevotions.com/](http://homes-pundevotions.com/) and [biblicalminimalism.com/](http://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?"



Andrew Ishee grew up playing gospel music in church and with local Christian groups. At age eight he asked his dad to show him some chords on the piano. That night Andrew prayed that God would bless him with the ability to play. Since that evening, he has played piano by ear.

Andrew began playing professionally at age 16 with the Dixie Echoes, a Southern gospel group from Pensacola, Florida. He then moved to Asheville, North Carolina to join the Kingsmen Quartet. Since then Andrew has worked with many of the top Gospel recording companies and artists producing and playing piano on countless recordings. And today the Andrew Ishee solo music tour has spanned the length and width of the United States. Andrew says: "There are two great things about what I get to do: Music and People. And I love them both."





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