

A gospel-music world view

June 2010

sgn

Scoops
Always digital, always accessible **digital**



Gold City

30 Years, Still the Cross



This Issue: Singles in SG, The Last Word ~ Piano Man Dino
Spotlight on Columnists: Tom, Rhonda, Kelly, Ms. Lou, & JT, too!

THE PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE: A VIDEO MESSAGE TO READERS FROM ROB PATZ

Rob wants
to give
you prizes.
And for a
change, he's
REALLY
excited!



Click to watch Now

The website for Southern Gospel's #1 Internet Radio Station is ALL-NEW!



SGM Radio

*Join Rob Patz, a collection of insightful writers,
& all your favorite SG Music--*

SGMRadio.com



It's
new.
It's
ministry.
It's
different.



2010 SGN Music Awards Pacesetter of the Year

Branson
GOSPEL + MUSIC
convention
the **Spotlight** is on the **Message**

Featuring the fan-voted
Diamond
awards

June 28 - July 2, 2010

708 . 960 - 0111

BransonGMC.com



June 2010

COLUMNS

2 Publisher's Point Video Blog... Rob Patz

5 Greenish Me... Kelly Capriotti Burton

6 Ms. Lou's...Lou Wills Hildreth

8 Eyes Wide Open...Tom Holste

10 Faith Boost... Rhonda Frye

34 Christians & Time...Jerry Tinkle

NEWS & FEATURES

14 COVER STORY:

Gold City: 30 Years, Still the Cross

23 Diamond Awards: History & Highlights

30 Southern Gospel & Single, Part 3

36 Fitness: Secret Weapon for Busy Women

38 PREview of Booth Brothers' New Music

42 New Music: Brothers Redeemed

COMING IN JULY:

**A special first for SGN Scoops-
Our inaugural 'Annual Print Edition.'**

**Get it for \$3 at the Branson Gospel
Music Convention beginning June 28
- or online beginning July 1!**

For advertising, inquiries, or comments:
SGNScoops@gmail.com

Send news items to:
news@sgnscoops.com



Publisher:
ROB PATZ

Editor-in-Chief:
KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON

Features Editor:
LORRAINE WALKER

Contributing Writers
D. ANN BAILEY
EVIE HAWKINS
CHAD HAYES
LOU WILLS HILDRETH
TOM HOLSTE
STEPHANIE KELLEY
RHONDA FRYE
JERRY TINKLE

Additional Graphic Design:
STEPHANIE KELLEY

Layout & Design:
KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON

Founder:
ALLEN SMITH

WWW.SGNSCOOPS.COM

interact:
twitter.com/sgnscoops
facebook.com/sgnscoops
shoutlife.com/sgnscoops

SGN Scoops exists to showcase what is distinguished, intriguing, and real about southern & country gospel music. We seek with our stories to shed light on people fulfilling a call to minister - to make or support the making of music that excites an audience and glorifies God. And we seek to do it interactively.

in Christian Love

Yesterday, a friend asked me if I was discouraged.

My answer: Not today.

It happens to all of us, no matter how successful, how shiny, how easy our lives seem to outsiders; we all have stumbling blocks and conflicts and bills and stresses and issues. The difference, I think, is that some people like to talk about them, some people like to hide them, some people just go with the flow, and some people would rather focus on the struggles of others.

I'm pretty sure even southern gospel neophytes know that Gold City is a pretty big deal. What I'm not sure is obvious or known is that Tim Riley, himself an icon in SG, struggled with discouragement on the group's way to the top, as does his son Danny. Their journey has been long and winding and sometimes marked by strife and even tragedy, but they are pressing on, as you can read in our cover story this month.

Everyone, every group, every publication, every event, every recording company or promoter or booking agent or church pastor has to start somewhere.

And no one can make it alone.

We "good church people" often use the term "in Christian love" with a witty edge – because we know how it gets used in an attempt to take the bite out of something that is in fact not loving at all.

I wonder what would happen if we actually always conducted ourselves in Christian love.

I have seen a trend in Christian-based journalism and blogging lately that is discouraging to me: it's the set-up of competition and the putting-down of others. The reason for such banter is typically obvious: Perhaps someone is doing something differently than it's usually done. Or maybe someone is choosing not to get involved in practices that don't feel moral or Christianlike to him- choosing not to play the game, so to speak. In some cases, there is overt jealousy or arrogance, and in some, there

is simply a fundamental difference between two parties.

It's ok, you know, to be different. I have friends, close friends, life friends, who vote in elections differently than I do or practice religions that oppose my be-

liefs. I have friends who take a stance on issues dear to my heart that are so different from mine we can't even discuss them. But that, readers, is the thing. When it comes to friendship, to true fellowship, we should be mature and considerate enough to be our true selves, recognize differences of opinion and move on...without damaging a relationship, without attacking a person, without being mean.

It's not ok to be unfriendly, to be libelous or slanderous or insulting, to fellow Christians putting forth their best efforts and answering their own callings. What they do might not be what we would do, or how we would do it. But why do we assume our opinions matter so much? Why do we assume our way is better?

I believe there is one way to Heaven, and it's through Jesus. I also believe people have differing views on what Jesus is like, what "He would do" in modern human circumstances, and what minutiae is sinful in His eyes (I'm talking tattoos and make-up and drums, here, folks).

One thing about Jesus that cannot be debated with any foundation is Jesus' heart. He did not tolerate hateful treatment of anyone. He did not tolerate fraudulent business. He did not look down on people who were lesser in some way than He was...and you know, He's the KING of KINGS, so everyone was lesser than He was, and he didn't need statistics of any kind to show it!

We can put a lot of labels on our opinions and our words to try to make them look



KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I wonder what would happen if we actually always conducted ourselves in Christian love.

continues on next page>

Greenish Me | cont'd

One thing about Jesus that cannot be debated with any foundation is Jesus' heart. He did not tolerate hateful treatment of anyone.

shinier, but in the grand picture, which is our road to salvation and leading others there, there is no way to justify malice.

I have written here often about the vision of *SGN Scoops*, but this time, I will let you in on a bit of my own: I am a short-tempered, struggling, loyal, honest, sarcastic, hard-working, educated, sensitive Christian woman who happens to work in the southern gospel industry. Words can hurt me... and because God gave me a gift of words, I know how to use them to hurt others. But I am not going to, even if I feel I have righteous anger or a legitimate criticism, because that is not what I am called to do. We don't have time. We don't have the right. And we don't have a reason. And when it comes to covering gospel music, I will always choose what is true over what is popular. Because someone happens to sell a lot of tickets and CDs does not give them a higher place in the Kingdom – or as Gold City attests, an easier road to get there.

Let's stop asking ourselves what Jesus would do or how much He'll let us get away with. Let's just do our jobs, in Christian love. 🇮🇳



Ms. Lou Wills Hildreth: In Appreciation of Bill & Gloria Gaither

A few weeks ago Bill Gaither & the Homecoming Friends came to Fort Worth for their annual concert. It started at 3:00 PM on a Saturday afternoon at Tarrant County Convention Center, and the fans filled this huge arena, cheering wildly for their favorite singers. The audience got "rowdy" for our own Texans, Mark Lowry and David Phelps, members of the Gaither Vocal Band. Michael English of the GVB was on temporary vocal rest at the time but back singing the following week, taping a Gaither Thanksgiving video. Reggie Smith filled in for him superbly at Fort Worth. Wes Hampton was amazing, as always, as one of the most gracious and talented performers of our times. It was exhilarating to see the pleasure on Bill's face, singing with his fabulous Gaither Vocal Band 9as pictured above). I remember how it all began!

In the late eighties, Gary McSpadden stopped by my office on Music Row in Nashville and told us about the weekend in Florida with the Gaithers. He was a member of the Bill Gaither Trio at that time, and I will never forget the excitement on Gary's face as he described what proved to be the debut of the Gaither Vocal Band. At the concert, Bill had put together an impromptu male quartet from the backup singers with Steve Green on the tenor, Bill and Gary singing the middle parts, with Lee Young on the bass. The audience loved it, and the Gaither Vocal Band was born. Jon Mohr replaced Lee Young on the bass soon after, Larnelle Harris re-

placed Steve Green, and down through the years, the list of Vocal Band members is made up of absolutely the finest performers to grace a gospel platform. The Gaither Vocal Band is one of Bill Gaither's finest contributions to our world of gospel music.

At the recent Ft Worth concert, as I sat on-stage with the Homecoming Friends, my thoughts turned to the video of "Gaither Homecoming, Texas Style" we taped in June of



Onstage at 2010 Gaither Homecoming Concert in Fort Worth—Rebecca Isaacs Bowman, Lou Hildreth, Russ Taff, and Mylon LeFevre. Photos property of Lou Hildreth

1996 at this same arena. Oh my, the excitement level was over the

top because this video was being taped before a concert audience. It is still one of the all time favorites, and the DVD is one of the most requested items from our display at the gospel events Howard and I attend, and also from our website. Bill and Gloria Gaither have enriched our lives in so many incredible ways, and we can never thank them enough.

God has shown us favor at every season of our lives. This year Howard and I will celebrate our 64th wedding anniversary. We are spending our golden years basking in the love of our precious family and our treasured gospel music friends. We look forward to seeing many of you at the BRANSON GOSPEL MUSIC CONVENTION June 28th through July 2nd. 🇺🇸

Contact us: Lou Hildreth P. O. Box 271106
Houston, TX 77277 gosplvideo@aol.com
www.louhildreth.com

Down through the years, the list of Vocal Band members is made up of absolutely the finest performers to grace a gospel platform. The Gaither Vocal Band is one of Bill Gaither's finest contributions to our world of gospel music.

8-Time ASCAP Honoree
'Outstanding Songwriting
in Gospel Music'
LYNDA LYNN



Lynda's all new rproject is now available:

Reach Out For Him



Lynda Lynn Songs

Featuring Barbara Fairchild-
'Little Boys & Little Toys'
Produced by Bud & Lynda Lynn
On Angels Wings Publishing
PO Box 2258 Branson West, MO
417-338-2586

When in
Branson,
visit
Chapel Woods



P I X A R



Makers of the Best 'Adult' Movies Out There

Like many of the rest of you, I'm looking forward to the premiere of *Toy Story 3* this month. But it's more than just the usual reasons: that Pixar's stories are so inventive and imaginative, that their characters are so endearing, that the CGI is so visually appealing, and that this franchise in particular has already turned out two films as close to perfection as any films get.

All of those reasons are true, of course, but there's another reason that I look so forward to new Pixar movies. It's that Pixar films are the only movies these days that speak to me as an adult.

I'm not referring here to the pop-culture references and gags that may amuse adults while going over kids' heads, though that is also a plus. I'm referring to the thematic ground that the movies cover. Most of their movies speak eloquent and profound truths that one has to be older to really comprehend and accept.

Think about the basic plot of the first *Toy Story* movie for a minute. Woody gets jealous of Buzz because

Buzz is a shiny new toy and Andy is spending all his time with

Buzz instead of Woody. So, through some bad choices on Woody's part, Buzz gets lost and Woody has to save him.

There are a lot of good morals in here for kids: Petty jealousy and revenge don't pay off; own up to the responsibility of your actions; no "child" is more special than the other in the eyes of the "parent," so it's OK to share the spotlight. (For that matter, most of us adults need to be reminded of some of these truths daily ourselves.)

But let's dig a little deeper. At the time of the movie's release (and continuing on into today), a lot of old-fashioned toys were being phased out in favor of new, shinier, electronic toys. Many adults were complaining that the technological toys robbed the kids of using their imaginations, while toy manufacturers insisted that change was necessary, and that the new toys were very popular with the kids.

In this film, we have a cowboy with a vocal pull string—what better symbol of old-fashioned toys than the cowboy, an icon to every boy of the Boomer era?—facing off against a spaceman with lights and sound effects and a voice chip—a very relevant toy to any boy of the post-Star Wars era.

What do the filmmakers conclude? At the end of the day, it doesn't matter if the toy is high-tech or not. What matters is the pleasure and enjoyment that it gives a child. There's room for both the past and the future on the toy shelf.

In *Toy Story 2*, the situation is reversed: Buzz must rescue Woody. And there's a new theme for adults: Collecting a toy and keeping it in mint condition is far less important than having a kid play with and enjoy it.

But it's not just the *Toy Storys* that managesuch relevance; *Monsters Inc.* has a fabulous theme for kids: it tries to bring healing to kids who have night fears. (What other kid's film can you say that about?) But for adults, the film proved eerily prescient. Coming out just weeks after 9/11, the film cautioned about overreacting to what we don't understand, and giving in to a culture of fear. It would have been very easy to condemn and fear all people from the Middle East who are in this country, but indeed, many of them are Christians who were fleeing religious persecution.

Space considerations for this issue keep me from going on much longer, but: The lessons learned by the grown-ups in *Finding Nemo* and *Up* are far more profound than they are for the child characters. *A Bug's Life* is about using whatever talents you have to do what you need to do, rather than worrying about what you



At the end of the day, it doesn't matter if the toy is high-tech or not. What matters is the pleasure and enjoyment that it gives a child. There's room for both the past and the future on the toy shelf.

don't have. *Ratatouille* is about learning to live outside others' expectations. *WALL-E* is about the damages we inflict on ourselves as human beings, as only a robot could teach us.

Cars is about allowing yourself to get routed off your planned path, because the unplanned thing may turn out to be better anyway (another possible way to interpret that is, "Man plans the path, but it is the Lord's will that will be fulfilled").

As for *The Incredibles*, how many different meanings can one gather from the phrase, "When everyone's special, no one is"?

Meanwhile, the films supposedly aimed at "mature" audiences are anything but. I don't need to see another film pushing an environmental or homosexual political agenda on me. I don't need another film about how "restrictive" and "depressing" a traditional marriage is. And I definitely don't need a film with a young girl brutally murdering her opponents while spewing profanities that would make sailors blush (as in the recent Matthew Vaughn feature *Kick-___*).

Instead, sign me up for *Toy Story 3*—and, hopefully, many Pixar films thereafter. I want to watch movies that are suitable for grown-ups. 🇸🇨🇴

Dayspring Baptist Church



"The Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness." Luke 1:78

Pastor, David Ward

Growing with Maumelle

www.dayspringbaptist.org

501-803-0700

pastor@dayspringbaptist.org

Maumelle Boulevard and Highway 365

GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY
www.GOSPELMUSICTODAY.COM

ON THE ROAD

Join Ken and Jean Grady and their guests for southern gospel news, concert updates and much more on the internet at www.gospelmusictoday.com

Southern Gospel Television on your computer!

Rhonda Frye's Faith Boost >>

A new dream

Everyone loves the thrill when new dreams are birthed in our hearts. We fall asleep fantasizing about the end result and spend our waking moments planning how we can make our ideas realities. Sure, we pray -after all our desires come from God, right?

Of course, so we work hard to see our dreams come to fruition. Dreaming is a good thing. Well... not always! Sometimes we think we see the open door and charge it only to experience a collision with a glass door! As we see stars, we hear God's "NO" ringing loud and clear. At that point, devastation sets in. "This made so much sense, it had to be God's will," we say. Quick learners move on, but those of us hard-headed ones; we think it's just a challenge! We get up determined, back up for more speed and crash into it again full throttle like a bird smacking into a window. Ok, so that was a bit descriptive-written by one with a crushed beak and broken neck!

The Bible does say, "Ask and ye shall receive" and many times we take that to heart before we consider God's plan. Sometimes God says no because there is sin in our lives. Sometimes He says no for the sake of others, but sometimes God says no because He has a much better idea in mind.

An example of the latter is found in 2 Samuel 7:1-29. King David is experiencing rest and his Kingdom was at peace. He must have had time to reflect on the goodness of God as he basked in the luxury God

had afforded him. As David reflected on the goodness of God, he thought about his beautiful dwelling place as opposed to God's. King David lived in comfort as His God lived in a tent. This can't be right, he must have reasoned! Now he's inspired, the dream has been ignited. His imagination is running wild fueled by thoughts of how great it would be to provide a beautiful dwelling place for God. He can picture the gorgeous temple that will house the glorious presence of the God he adores. His dream was pure. He didn't want anything in return, he only wanted to bless and honor God. When we read the rest of the story, we hear God's "no" ring loud and clear. David responded with humility and obedience and the rest of the story tells us that God's better idea was to bless David instead of David blessing him. If God tells us "no" we can be sure He has something better in mind.

Oh, I had a big dream made good sense actually. God all over it. I had many of Early Childhood Educare law backwards and county could tell you I and many would say ev-class. I had a reputation ever I put my mind to. It that my church needed constructed daycare center in that field, but I was a serving in all areas. I was planning committee as Trust me- I was sure to every meeting and they out me! If someone had then, I'm sure it would

David, I had a great dream going on- one that made sense to me. God said "no" to David's dream, He said "absolutely NOT" to mine! David responded with obedience and humility. I responded with humility.

Hearing "no" in and of itself is difficult- but for everyone else to hear it is humiliating. Many times I didn't think I could go back to church- especially when the child care center was "pushed" on Sunday mornings. I wanted to disappear when the new director was introduced to the congregation. "What does she know?" I thought and "Why is everyone looking at me?" I remember tears trickling down my cheeks as the children sang in our regular Sunday service.

Broken, I had no choice but to give it to God. I remember carrying I Peter 5: 6-7 on a card in my pocket like a security blanket clinging to it like Moses clung to his staff. "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in His good time He will honor you. Give all your wor-

Sometimes
God
says no
because
He has a
much
better
idea
in mind

once! It made sense. It ally. I thought I could see years experience in the field cation. I knew state child-forwards. Any parent in my was the best teacher "ever" erylthing I touched was first at being the best at what-made perfect sense to me me to direct our newly ter. Not only was I great dedicated church member even asked to serve on the the center was being built. share all my knowledge in couldn't have done it with-measured my fat head back have broken a record. Like

Rhonda Frye ministers in song.
Photo courtesy of the author.



God gave me my first song. He planted HIS dream and spoke promises into my heart that I cherished like Mary.

ries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you." During this time of humbling myself before God, I fasted 40 days and prayed for direction and peace. I didn't have direction but I became emotionally stable. Several months passed and

quate and terrified- yet full of faith, I remember smiling and saying to myself- "They can have that stupid daycare!" Today, I lead worship, teach a music program and have an album of songs God has given me with more on the way! - God's dream- He gets the glory!

one Sunday there was a "trigger" that ripped the band aid off my bleeding heart and I went spiraling back down again.

Again, I cried, I prayed and begged God for direction. I remember crying the next morning as I pulled out of my subdivision. I remember thinking how I wished I was turning left instead of right. I didn't want to go where I was heading. I was crying out for purpose and meaning. All of a sudden my prayer was coming out of my mouth with a melody. Something told me to write what I was singing- and I did on the back of a receipt. Sobbing, I kept singing and as I got to work I wrote down words on construction paper. By lunch time, I found a piano and started playing the melody I could hear. NEVER in my life had I ever THOUGHT about writing a song, let alone dream about it. Playing keyboard/singing was what I did on my own- it was my fun thing I did for myself when everyone was asleep! I was a face tucked away in the choir- not a soloist. With no voice lessons, no songwriting classes, inability to read music and no thoughts or plans for music ministry- God gave me my first song. He planted HIS dream and spoke promises into my heart that I cherished like Mary.

I'll never forget going into the studio for the first time. Feeling inade-

Perhaps someone is broken hearted over hearing God's "no." Satan is an opportunist- there ready bombard with His lies, so here are a few truths: God knows you better than you know yourself. He sees the big picture. He has everyone's best interest at heart. He would never hold out on you- He's good. His dreams bring Him glory. He's proud of you! He is on your side, your biggest fan. He loves you! Keep trusting Him- That simply means- believe Him to do what's right. Get up! Get ready! Get set! BUT DON'T GO CHARGE THE DOOR, He will open the right one! 🇳🇮

firm foundation quartet
One of the youngest quartets on the road today...

270 314 6999 for bookings
steve@firmfoundationqt.com

Check out our newest project
"Footsteps of Life"
www.firmfoundationqt.com
download today at iTunes.com

CURTIS PRUETT MINISTRIES

CHECK OUT MY LATEST SINGLE:
"Children of Light"
WWW.CURTISPRUETTSR.COM



**August
4th, 5th
6th, 7th
2010**

**Cowan
Civic Center
Lebanon, MO**

Wednesday Aug. 4th - 7PM

GREATER VISION • PRIMITIVE QUARTET
KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER • DAILEY & VINCENT
DIPLOMATS • REGGIE SADDLER FAMILY • TIM LOVELACE

Thursday Aug. 5th - 7PM

BOOTH BROTHERS • ISAACS • TRIUMPHANT QUARTET
PERRYS • JEFF & SHERI EASTER • LESTERS • AARON WILBURN

Friday Aug. 6th - 1PM

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BOOTH BROTHERS

Friday Aug. 6th - 7PM

MCKAMEYS • INSPIRATIONS • CHUCK WAGON GANG
DIXIE MELODY BOYS • LITTLE ROY LEWIS & LIZZIE
HAYES FAMILY • DENNIS SWANBERG

Saturday Aug. 7th - 1PM

MARK BISHOP • TALLEY TRIO • FLORIDA BOYS

Saturday Aug. 7th - 6PM

DIXIE ECHOES • MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET
LEGACY FIVE • DOVE BROTHERS • TRIBUTE QUARTET
KINGSMEN • DENNIS SWANBERG



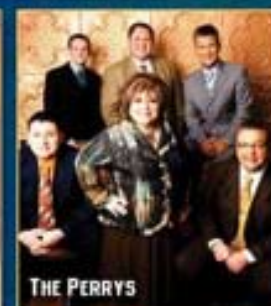
DAILEY & VINCENT



BOOTH BROTHERS



JEFF & SHERI EASTER



THE PERRYS



THE MCKAMEYS



THE ISAACS

RESERVED TICKETS: 4 Night Reserved Seat Package - \$70.00

GENERAL ADMISSION: 1 Night - \$15.00 • 2 Nights - \$25.00 • 3 Nights - \$35.00 • 4 Nights - \$45.00

Children 6 to 12 are \$4.00 per night in the general admission area.

Ages 5 & Under are FREE - No ticket required.

MATINEE TICKETS: 1:00 PM Matinee tickets are \$15.00 each per day.

TO ORDER BY MAIL, SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: BRUMLEY SING • P.O. Box 100 • Powell, MO 65730

Mail orders must include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER ORDERS Call: 1-800-435-3725 (Mon-Fri, 8:30am - 4:30pm)

Brulé

**A NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE!
OF SIGHT, SOUND AND SOUL**

Enjoy the history and tradition of the Native American culture through music and dance in this powerfully spiritual celebration.

MARCH - DECEMBER
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
3PM & 8PM

For reservations: 417-332-2282 or rfdtv.com/theatre

RFD TV
The Theatre

4080 W Hwy 76, Branson, MO 65616

At the Intersection of W Hwy 76 & Shepherd of the Hills Expressway

**\$15.00
Discount!**
**ONLY AT
417.334.8880!**



- Award Winning
- Free Wireless Internet
- Deluxe Breakfast
- 100% Non-smoking
- For **\$15 Discount**
Call 417.334.8880 or bransonsuper8.com.



www.ChurchBus.com



2010 Models Available

Call for details

\$609 per month (No Money Down)



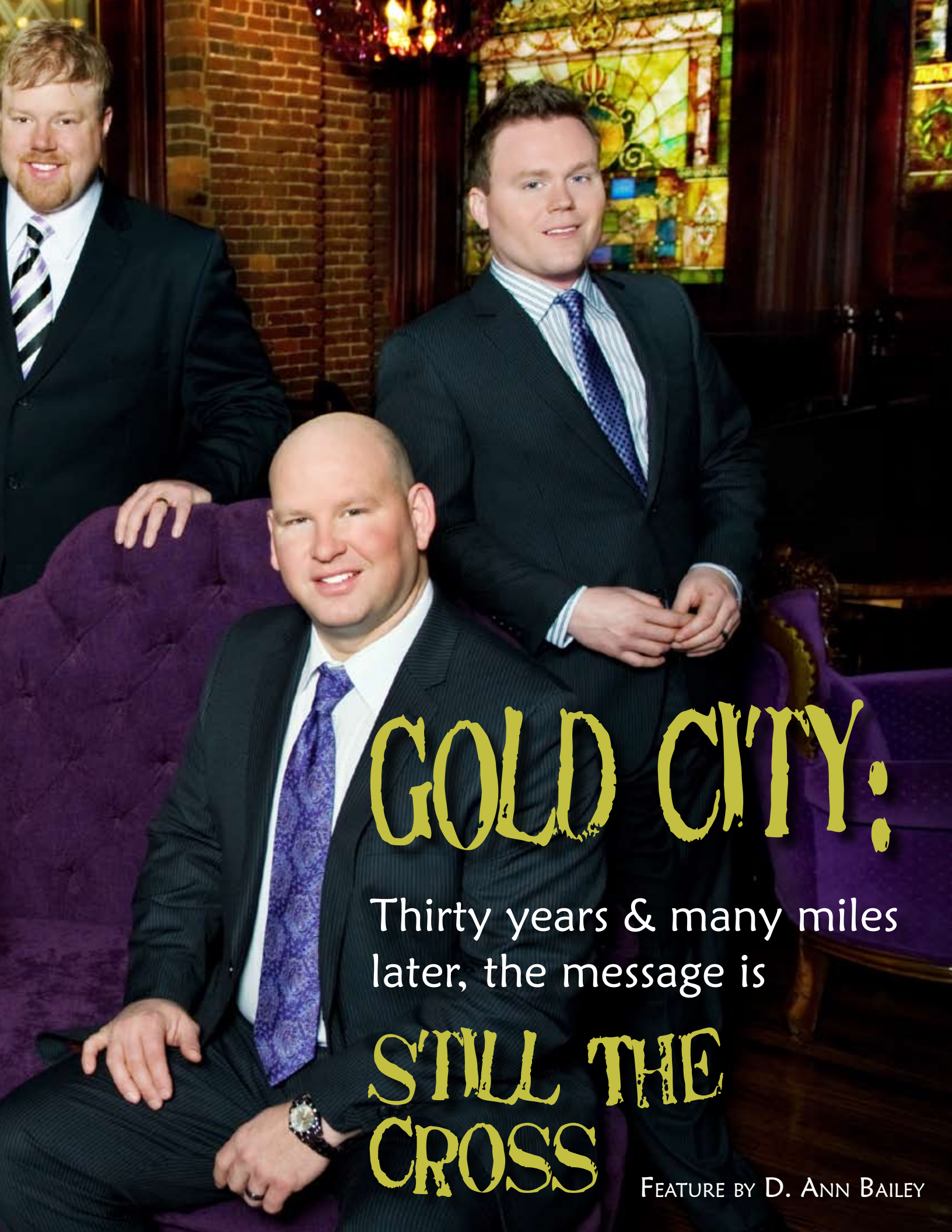
- * 14-37 Passenger buses
- * Van trade-ins welcome
- * Finance/leasing available
- * 200+ Buses in stock
- * Local service arrangements



(888) 353-2192

a division of Midwest Transit Equipment





GOLD CITY:

Thirty years & many miles
later, the message is

STILL THE CROSS

FEATURE BY D. ANN BAILEY



Floyd and MaryAnn Beck had a great love for Southern Gospel Music and a dream.

In 1980, Floyd a successful Dahlonega, GA businessman decided he wanted to be a part of the music he loved and purchased the group traveling under the name Christianairs. He then changed the name to Gold City, Dahlonega long ago was the home of several gold mines and he wanted his group to tie to the area. He also wanted them to have a distinct, marketable name.

Within months of the group purchase Tim Riley became the bass singer of the group, now consisting of Jerry Ritchie, Ken Trussell, and Bob Oliver. The group band had a number of changes in the first year but the 'Band of Gold' with Garry Jones, John Noski, Jerry Lloyd and Jeff Easter was quickly recognizes as one of the outstanding musical groups of their time.

Jeff recently said "Those were some great

times, great folks to pick with and gave me great education in how a group runs."

The first years were hard at times and filled with many changes and in 1984 Floyd Beck passed away. But the group kept going and by the end of 1985 Tim Riley had decided to move the group to his hometown of Gadsden, Alabama. By this time the group line-up of Brian Free, Ivan Parker, Mike LeFevre, Tim Riley and Garry Jones was considered by many to be a premier group and still today considered by many to be the best line up ever for the group.

Gold City had moved away from the more country flavor to the smoother and more exciting stylings of producers like Lari Goss. They captured the hearts of many Southern Gospel fans and in time the votes of many Singing News readers as both the vocals and Band of Gold began to accumulate awards. During this time Garry Jones came into his own as a noted producer as well as musician and he produced Gold City recordings until he left the group.

The mid-nineties brought change again as first the very popular Ivan Parker and talented tenor Brian Free left to go out on their own. Of his time with Gold City, Ivan said, "Wow, so much of where I am today comes from where I was there and what I learned."

Tim faced a time of discouragement and almost threw in the towel. He asked himself if it was worth the time, the effort and



All Through the Golden Years -

even at times the aggravation of running a group. But deep down, Tim knew he was a southern gospel singer, whether running a group or singing for someone else, this was what he was meant to do. Tim says, "You can have a great group but you have to keep them;,, that's not always so easy. You have to do what it takes to keep it on the road."

From these departures in 1993-1996 there were several moves in the group vocals and even the Band of Gold as long time musicians Garry Jones and Mark Fain left. Fain was replaced by Adam Borden and just on a personal note, in my opinion one of the best bass guitarist to play in this business. The piano position was not so easily filled as a number of talented men sat on that bench. On the production side Mark Trammell stepped into Garry Jones' role as producer like a hand into a glove, it was a perfect fit. Of his time with Gold City, David Hill replied "Tim Riley is one of the best bosses I have ever had, I have so much respect for him and I enjoyed my time with them."

In 1996 Gold City hit its stride again as what many contend is the group's second 'mega line up', Jay Parrack, Jonathan Wilburn, and Tim Riley. Each member in this line-up brought unique qualities and talents that brought about a blend that led to number one songs and even more group and individual awards. The group also began to feature Daniel Riley on what may well become his signature song "It's Still The Cross," a tremendous song delivered with a passion to express how critical it is for us to remember the reason

Opposite page: The group today. Clockwise from top: Jeff Easter, Bob Oliver, Jerry Ritchie, Ken Trussell, John Noski, Gary Jones, Tim Riley; Steve Lacey, Doug Riley, Ivan Parker, Mark Fain, Garry Jones, Brian Free & Tim Riley; Ken Bennett, Jerry Lloyd, John Noski & Garry Jones; Doug Riley, Tim Riley, Danny Riley, Mark Trammell, Jonathan Wilburn, Jay Parrack, Tim Parton, Adam Borden; Aaron McCune, Bruce Tallefeiro, Josh Simpson, Daniel Riley & Steve Ladd
All photos used with permission from Gold City

that we sing. Danny also ran the group's sound during this time. Gold City was truly a 'family affair' with Doug on the drums, Danny on sound with the "Cross" feature, and Tim holding down the bass part. Doug also was coming into his own as a prolific songwriter. Many of his songs are among the best loved of Gold City titles.

When Mark Trammell announced he was

continued>

leaving to form his own group, the natural move was Danny to baritone. Danny & Doug along with pianist Channing Eleton began to fill the producing role. Mark left to begin his own ministry because "Gold City was now doing many Sunday dates and I knew I was to preach, beginning my own ministry gave me the flexibility to preach and sing."

When Jay departed as tenor in 2004, the group took a small step away from the 'mega status' they had enjoyed for a number of years. Not because Steve Ladd and Daniel weren't talented but because SGM fans as a rule don't like change and it takes them a while to warm up to it. And when Tim decided to retire, to many people, Gold City as we knew it would never be the same.

Unfortunately over the next few years change was prevalent in the group. But no change or loss impacted the group as much as the untimely death of Doug Riley on January 31, 2006. Doug had not been able to sleep and decided to go to the studio. On his way Doug wrecked and was killed. I doubt that any of us can comprehend the loss this was for the Riley family but especially for Danny. In one accident he lost his brother, his partner, his best friend all the while being loaded with additional responsibilities. Within two weeks of his brother's death he was back on the road trying to minister when in fact his own heart was breaking. Kyle Strickland, Danny's brother-in-law joined the group to run sound since Doug was gone and they continued on.

When Jonathan Wilburn left the



group in 2008, this truly was a different group than the Gold City many of us had loved and enjoyed for decades. This was another loss that was difficult on Danny as Jonathan was not only a member of the group but a good friend. The group sound was good, the men were talented, many folks felt they sounded a 'too country,' which was amusing for those who were there at the beginning because the group had a definite country flavor. Many faulted them for what others declared was simply going back to their roots.

Now as we fast forward from the history to 2010, Gold City is celebrating 30 years in southern gospel music and they have pulled out all the stops as they move into this momentous time. Tim Riley is back on bass and most fans feel that no one has ever filled that spot as well as he does. Bruce Taliaferro has proven himself to be a talented singer who can deliver a song or a message depending on the need of the mo-

ment. To fill the crucial piano position they have snagged Roy Webb, an extremely talented musician and a man always able to provide comic relief when needed. Probably the most surprising change though the choice of Josh Cobb as tenor. SGM fans recognize Josh's name quickly even though he had a relatively short tenure as a SGM singer. But that tenure had an impact, as the original tenor for Legacy Five Josh took home the Horizon Award from the *Singing News* shortly before he left the group.

Many folks were shocked at the choice for tenor; there were a multitude of reasons for that. When Josh left Legacy Five he didn't move to another group, in fact, he left SGM music completely at that time. That in many people's eyes is totally unacceptable. I interviewed Josh when he was with Legacy Five and I've spent time with him with Gold City: he has grown, he has matured

continued>

Thank you fans for our nominations in the 2010 Diamond Awards!!!

Heir WAVE
INTERNET RADIO
A combined ministry of Daniel Graves & Tommy D Mayo

SOUTHERN GOSPEL
24 HOURS A DAY
INDEPENDENT - PROFESSIONAL

Coming Soon:

Heir II WAVE

SONGWRITERS CHOICE RADIO

A place where songwriters and
industry professionals connect!



Come see us at the Branson Gospel Music Convention
Booth #435

WWW.HEIRWAVERADIO.COM
Broadcasting to thousands in over 70 countries

Family Friendly Entertainment Network

The Best and Only 24 Hour Southern Gospel Music Network



Family Friendly
Entertainment Inc.

For information about FFE call toll-free **1-800-665-2334**

or to WATCH ONLINE 24 hours a day...log onto: **www.FamilyFriendlyE.com**

on all levels; spiritually, mentally, emotionally and vocally.

He says, "You have to build relationships, you have to learn who and what to trust, you have to keep things in perspective, without that you can go somewhere different than where you were headed. But it is going good, I'm glad to be back and I've very glad to be with these guys."

Bruce has such a distinctive voice that has a 'soulful' quality. This gives just the right touch to so many of the Gold City songs. He doesn't smile much while he is singing, but the joy in his heart can be heard by anyone that bothers to listen! "I enjoy singing, these guys are nuts but it's a good kind of nuts, it's fun. I miss being at home but at the same time I would not trade it."

Tim Riley is undeniably one of the best bass singers in the business. He loves to sing, he loves sees the fans and friends that continue to come out to see them. With a foundation like that, there are no limits to what this group can do. I'm excited to see where the next 30 years will take them and hope I'm still around to hear them!

So on December 31, 2009 as this combination stepped on the stage even for sound check the anticipation was incredible. I had the privilege of standing at the back of the auditorium with many of the artists during that sound check and when the sound check was finished many of the artists broke into applause. The initial reaction to the sound was

You can have a great group but you have to keep them; that's not always so easy.

~Tim Riley

fantastic. I was standing by Karen Peck as she said, "Now THAT is Gold City." That is a comment I've heard both in person, on the phone and on the internet over and over in the last six months by artists and fans alike.

Is this group the next 'mega lineup' for Gold City? Only time will tell, however everyone in the group, in the seats as fans and the artists on the program with them see the potential this group has.

It would have been easy to throw in the towel after Doug died and in the last few years Daniel thought about it. He had opportunities to do engineer work on the back side of the business and forget about leaving his family each week and struggling at times to please the fans.

Danny said, "I talked to my dad and he understood, he said if my heart wasn't in it, we'd do what we needed to do." He could have done quit and I doubt most people would have blamed him, in some people's eyes this business had cost him too much already.

It could be said it cost him his brother because without the studio Doug would not have been on the road in the early morning hours of January 31, 2006. It costs him time with his wife and children; it costs him time to enjoy the fellowship of a local church on

a regular basis. During the times he was struggling with going on it had cost him his joy. The price has been high and at times the rewards have been few and far between. But deep down Daniel is aware the real rewards aren't here, they are part of the life that Doug is now living. He also realized that as Doug's songs were still being sung those rewards, not only for the ones now singing them but for Doug, were continuing to grow.

Danny knows that his heritage from his dad and the legacy his brother left are worth the sacrifice. He knew that this is what he was called to do and doing anything else would not fulfill that destiny.

If you have talked to Danny lately you may have noticed something, I know I did. The light in his eyes is back, yes there have been hard years and times even when he was just going through the motions. There are those that will criticize him for that I'm sure. But at least he was going through the motions; many sit and do nothing, many just quit!

He says, "I went through some bad times; everything just took too much effort. I wasn't managing so much as going through the motions. I'm so thankful for my wife Holly; she was there for me and encouraged me. She kept me going."

He is excited about this group and what they have the ability to do; he is excited about the future. "We have a new project coming out that Michael English is producing, he is so incredible. I've worked with Michael before when I did my solo album. Mike is excited about

Danny Riley knows from his heritage from his dad and the legacy his brother left are worth the sacrifice. He knows that this is what he was called to do and doing anything else would not fulfill that destiny.

this project; he is texting or calling every day. We can't wait! We are doing a remake of a song that we get requests for every night, "I Stand Redeemed" that Josh did with Legacy Five. We also have a project coming out that contains all songs written by my brother, Doug, a tribute to

him. Dad's cutting a solo project, something very new for him. Of course Roy is always working on a project!"

Of course it would be hard for him not to be excited when Gold City's biggest encourager and cheerleader is on the bus with him and sitting at the piano bench night after night. Roy has been an integral part the transformation that Gold City has had.

"These guys have so much potential, they are loving what they do which is half the battle. They enjoy being on stage together. I want the group see that potential realized." Roy told us. "Recently we have seen the nominations, the comments of encouragement, it means a lot. But that isn't what it is all about. We are reaching out in many different ways to reach new people while keeping our base. We want people to see us having fun, that we are human, that we laugh at the same things you do. We aren't this bunch of guys that all we do is sing gospel music. We do that but we also see something like Josh's broken toe as a chance to have fun and make people laugh. We want folks to come hear us and enjoy the music and laugh, just have a good time. The message of the music is going



View the group's comical take on a country favorite, inspired by Josh's recent mishap: 'God Bless My Broken Toe.'

to minister."

Gold City is once again very much a family ministry as Danny, Tim and brother-in-law Kyle travel together, but this group also has shown that you don't have to be born of the same parents to be family.

The music of Gold City will minister to your soul, their song's message has never changed- 'It's Still the Cross, It's still the blood of Calvary that cleanses sin and sets the captive free'. But today if you go to a Gold City concert you will see ministry, entertainment, good clean fun and all brought to you in a mix that leaves you wanting to hear them again.

"That song has always had an impact on me," Danny says. "It is powerful; it is really why we do what we do."

"Mega-Group" - who knows? But mega-talent is there; mega-commitment definitely there. Just as many from this group have moved on to successful ministries, Ivan Park, Brian Free, Jeff Easter, Mark Trammell just to name a few, this group continues to strive for excellent and to be a group on the cutting edge. 🇳🇮

ADVERTISEMENT

Rev
McCann
MINISTRIES

615-299-6659

www.bevmccann.com



...direct to
radio!

Come on over to Digital Airplay today and get your latest release out to radio in a split second!
No more waiting to hear who has it, or who's playing it as we have online tracking available!

Here's What you Get:

Artist Profile

Downloadable Press Kit

Unlimited Access

Unlimited Uploads Per Year

Bi Weekly Reports

*Additional Services Available Upon Request

Hey! MR DJ!

Check out Digital Airplay today
and get some of the latest and
greatest releases by Southern
Gospel, Bluegrass and more all
at one place! No more searching
site after site for that one song!

FREE ACCESS!



BEST PRICES!
BEST SELECTION! DVD-CD-CASS-VHS
SEE OUR WEEKLY FEATURES!

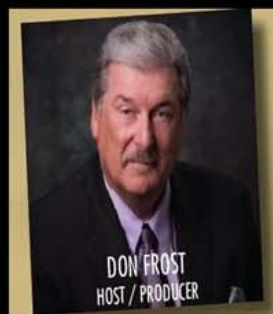
SOUTHERN GOSPEL - VINTAGE GOSPEL
BLUEGRASS - CONTEMPORARY
SOUNDTRACKS

www.gospelmusicwarehouse.com

Gospel Music Warehouse

Hendersonville, TN 37075

(615) 824-8025



It's the place to be seen
and heard! Join us this
June in Pigeon Forge TN
for 4 nights of GREAT
Southern Gospel Music
during the MCGS Annual
Awards and Convention!
June 16-19, 2010

Over 50 groups! Including legends Roy McNeil,
Bill Shaw and this years living legend
Henry Slaughter!

Call 1 800 472 1188

or visit us on the web:

musiccitygospelshowcase.com

HFMNET.NET Web Design and Hosting

FREE DOMAIN NAME
WHEN YOU MENTION
THIS AD!

Packages Start at \$149.95

615 -478- 8624



One of my favorite things to do when I visit a new city is try out their cuisine. Of course, trying local restaurants and out of the way café's is fun, but sometimes I'm just not up for the adventure. That's when I look for a familiar sign. If hunger strikes you while you are at the Branson Gospel Music Convention, Famous Dave's BBQ is just a short walk away at Branson Landing.

Follow your nose toward the river and look for the famous pig and flames sign. You'll definitely want to try Famous Dave's award winning ribs. It took twenty five years of cooking, tasting and perfecting to make this the best BBQ sauce you're likely to find anywhere. The sauce recipe is so top secret that even Dave's own mother doesn't know it!

Dave Jones of the Branson, MO Famous Dave's may not be the original "Famous" Dave, but he sure is known around town for his delicious BBQ and the outstanding service provided at the Famous Dave location. Able to accommodate a large group on as short a notice as an hour, Famous Dave's is a great place to go for your after concert cuisine. If your group consists of eight or more, please don't hesitate to make a reservation for faster, more seamless service.

The menu at this family friendly restaurant has a variety of items that will assure that every one in your party will find something to their liking. Even the littlest members of the family are taken care of with a special "Lil' Wilbur" menu. Or, take the safe bet and go with Dave Jones' favorite menu item, the Cajun Chicken Sandwich.

Dave Jones and the entire staff of Famous Dave's BBQ wish to welcome you to Branson and hope that you enjoy your time at the Branson Gospel Music Convention and the city. According to Jones, the only thing better in Branson than the BBQ is Branson's many lakes.

~Reporting & taste-testing by Stephanie Kelley

Classy Chassis

Limousine Service

Springfield, MO
(417) 379 - 2955

Welcome!

to Branson Gospel Music Convention & Missouri!

Let us provide transportation for you and your party !

Servicing Springfield, Kansas City & Branson

Airport Transfer * Large & Small Group Transportation * Tours Available

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

20%

book by June 15 & Receive
20% off your order!

Use code: SGN



www.classychassis417limoservice.com
ClassyChassis417@gmail.com

The DUTTON INN

THEATER • HOTEL • RESTAURANT



Two Nights,
Two Shows*,
Two People
and Breakfast is
on Us
All for
\$99.99 + tax!*

**(per person, double occupancy)*

It is time to make reservations for your best Branson vacation ever! Stay two nights at the comfortable and conveniently located Dutton Inn. See NBC's "America's Got Talent" finalists: The Duttons, and one of our other fantastically entertaining shows: The Cat's Pajamas, George Dyer and Island Fire! Complimentary breakfast included each morning of your stay. What are you waiting for? Call now to make reservations!

NBC's "America's Got Talent" Finalists

the DUTTONS

"I Loved it! I absolutely loved it!" Simon Cowell

888-388-8661 417-332-2772

www.theduttons.com

www.facebook.com/theduttons

The DUTTON Family
THEATER
Complex

3454 East 76
Country Music Blvd
Branson, MO 65616

Diamond
awards

Click the new logo to join the
Diamond Awards Facebook page.

History & Highlights

By Evie Hawkins

Originally, the fan-based Diamond Awards had a home with *Gospel Voice Magazine*. After the folding of the magazine, the awards were acquired by SGN Scoops Digital, owned by Dr. Allen Smith. During the National Quartet Convention week, the coveted awards were handed out and Gospel greats from the industry sponsored, hosted, and presented at the event. As the excitement built for the 1st Annual Branson Gospel Music Convention in 2009, Rob Patz, founder of Coastal Media Group (Bellingham, WA) purchased SGN Scoops Digital from Dr. Smith, and acquired the awards.

During Branson Gospel Music Convention week, Patz put together an all-star event for the awards ceremony. Lou Hildreth, Johnathan Bond, Jonathon Edwards, Rod and Kelly Burton, and other notables were instrumental in co-hosting the event. Southern Gospel groups and artists from around the nation were on hand to celebrate.

The move from the NQC venue to Branson will remain and the ceremony will take place Thursday, July 1 at 6:00 p.m. during convention week. This year the votes have been cast. The fans have made their decisions. The top five in all categories have been determined, and the winners have been chosen. The excitement has become contagious. The buzz is all over Facebook. Who will win? How do the artists feel about their nominations?

David L Cook (Male Country Artist)

"I am thrilled to be one of the nominees for this year's Diamond Awards! My congratulations go out to all of my fellow nominees. I am thrilled that the Diamond Awards has seen fit to place Christian Country into its format and we hope that it will be a happy marriage for years to come! What a privilege it is for me to be one of the first nominees for this new inroad!"

Mickey Bell of "This Week in Gospel Music" (Paul Heil Award for Broadcasting)



Above: SGN Scoops founder Allen Smith with Gaither Vocal Band. Photo courtesy of Allen Smith. Right: Rob Patz of Coastal Media and Diamond Award partner Lou Hildreth in 2009. Photo by Evie Hawkins

continued>



Members of the Florida Boys back stage with members of Jericho at the 2009 ceremony.

continued

"What an awesome feeling it is to know people love what you do and appreciate your work enough to go online and vote for your show. Either that or my mom really has got a lot more friends online than I initially thought. Either way we are honored to be in the Top 5."

Jericho (Quartet)

"We're excited and honored to be in the top 5 in the group/Quartet category. We are looking forward to seeing the fans at the Branson GMC and being a part of the Diamond Awards. Thank you to Jericho fans who put us there!"

Brenda Messaros of Hearts of Faith (Duet)

It's such an honor to be nominated for "Favorite Duet" once again. Our goal is to touch people's hearts with our music, and

this lets us know we're doing just that! God bless you and thanks for your support of our ministry!

Tony & Wendy Word (Duet)

"Can't wait to see everybody! Thank you for nominating Wendy Word + forgiven!"

Zack Swain (Instrumentalist)

"We're putting together a Piano Jubilee for the Diamond Awards ceremony. I hope everyone will come out and join us for a great time of fellowship and music. Thank you so much to all fans for nominating me for Instrumentalist of the Year!" 🇺🇸

GOLD HARBOR



Goldharbormusic.com 615-972-3207

Ministering from the heart to those
who need a change of heart



Hearts
of Faith
www.heartsoffaitb.biz

Thank you for the
2009
Diamond Award
Video of the Year
"Susie's Eyes"

7983 Waynesboro Way . Waynesville, OH. 45068
937.886.9512 Brenda Messaros 513.887.6939 Donna Strong
donna@heartsoffaitb.biz

Branson, Missouri is known for its great family fun, live theater and its outstanding live music. It shouldn't come as any surprise that this type of town should be the home of one of Christian music's most renowned musical geniuses, Dino Kartsonakis.

Known professionally as "Dino," Dino Kartsonakis was born and raised in New York City and is the grandson of first generation Greek immigrants. Dino credits his very existence to the strong faith of his mother and grandmother.

"When my mother was pregnant with me, the doctors told her I was going to be still-born, but my mother and grandmother wouldn't accept that," Dino explains.

"They did a lot of praying and dedicated my life to the Lord even before I was born, and God did a miraculous healing in my mother. My mother always knew that because of that instance, the Lord was going to use me but she didn't know how."

Dino sat down at the family's old broken-down piano and began picking out the melody to "At the Cross," a classic hymn he heard in church. He was only 3 years old. As his mother tiptoed up behind this little prodigy, it became clear to her that music was her son's God-given gift.

Dino was only 7 years old when he made a decision to dedicate his life to serving God through music. A decision Dino says was "simple, yet changed everything." His musical talent on the piano began to flourish through years of performing at Glad Tidings Tabernacle, in New York City where his family attended. Dino would go on to study at Julliard School of Music as well as conservatories in France and Germany.

The rest, as they say, is history. Dino's numerous re-

cordings have received many well-deserved accolades including a Grammy Award for his involvement on the soundtrack of the movie "The Apostle," starring Robert Duvall and a Grammy nomination for "Chariots of Fire." Dina has also received eight Gospel Music Association Dove Awards

Dino's appreciation for Southern Gospel music began when he was a child living in New York City. It all started with the Blackwood Brothers coming to his church. His love of the genre grew throughout his life. In 2006, Roger Bennett invited Dino to perform with him at the National Quartet Convention, held annually in September in Louisville, KY.

Little did anyone suspect, but this was to be Roger Bennett's last performance. "What a great night that was when he sang, "It is Well With My Soul," as I accompanied him. For me, that created a tie to the National Quartet Convention and I've been playing there ever since then." Dino remembers.

Dino's ties with Southern Gospel are solid to this day. He will be performing live at the Branson Gospel Music Convention this month in Branson, MO. If you can't make it to this event, take

Dino's advice: "Of course you can read about all the Southern Gospel news through *SGN Scoops Magazine*. It really helps keeps people informed and helps perpetuate the Southern Gospel genre to young and old."

Dino's piano talents have been known for years, but it is only recently that the world became familiar with his other talents. "A few years ago, at my home in

continues>

"DINO" KARTSONAKIS: at home in branson!



Dino is synonymous with Branson...pictured with (l-r) Chik-Fil-A founder Truett Cathy, Branson Mayor Raeanne Presley, and Western Taney County Commissioner Jim Straffuss. On the back wall is Dino pictured with wife Cheryl.

Photo by Brenda Owen Meadows

by stephanie kelley



Imagine for a moment... owning the perfect business.

A business that *thrives* during economic slowdowns ...

A business that *enables* people to get things they need *without* spending money ...

A business that enjoys the *freedom* of operating
within its own economy and with its own currency ...

A business that allows you to create a win-win
situation for both a buyer and a seller and
makes you a *hero* every day ...

We are Tradia.



TRADIA FRANCHISE
CORPORATION

TRADIA FRANCHISES AVAILABLE
START WITH A HOME-BASED OFFICE

503.656.7900 | franchise@tradia.net

continued>

Branson, MO, I went into the kitchen and cooked up a heavenly carrot cake. Baking is something I have loved to do since watching my parents create magnificent recipes over the course of my life. It is my second greatest passion," Dino explains.

He continues, "My friends Tony Orlando, Bobby Vinton and Daniel O'Donnell would come over to the house and sample my new creation. They loved it and recommended I market the cake to the public. At first I wasn't interested because my career takes so much of my time. It was my wife Cheryl who encouraged me to follow this passion and venture into the business of baking."

In 2007, Dino's 24Karrot Cake Company was born. Since then, Dino and his team have produced several other delicious cake recipes including: Chocolate Fudge, Strawberry Red Velvet, Italian Creme, Tropical Island, Orange Pineapple, and Lemon Zest. Besides his original 24Karrot Cake Company location in Hollister, MO, Dino launched a second location in Historic Downtown Branson, which opened on Valentine's Day, 2009. It has become a popular place for people attending the Branson Gospel Music Convention to congregate, as well as musical artists that perform at the convention of in Branson shows.

If you're in town for the Branson Gospel Music Convention, let me encourage you to stop-by one of the bakery locations and try some of Dino's goodies. If you can't make it to Branson, never



Dino's dynamic piano playing as captured by Whole Life Ministries. [More at DinoPlaysPiano.com](http://DinoPlaysPiano.com)

fear! Dino will have his 24 Karrot Cake creations shipped right to your door! 🇺🇸

Dino tells more to our staff writer Jerry Tinkle...read it in our SPECIAL ANNUAL PRINT edition, July 2010!

Patriot Quartet

to take a stand for "GOD & COUNTRY"



www.patriotquartet.com

**Trade what
you have**
to
**get what
you want**
**without using
money!**

*Advertising, accounting, legal
services, travel, auto repairs,
landscaping, contractors,
retail merchandise,
restaurants, catering, carpet
cleaning, massage, art
& décor, graphic design,
furniture and much more...*



Why Pay Cash When You Can Tradia?®



Tradia®
www.tradia.net



TRADIA FRANCHISE
CORPORATION

TRADIA FRANCHISES AVAILABLE
START WITH A HOME-BASED OFFICE

503.656.7900 | franchise@tradia.net

Have you looked around the pews of your church lately and noticed the number of singles sitting alone? Vibrant, victorious and often very busy, non-married Christians can often feel torn by the world's social customs and the church's expectations of marriage and family. Is this the same for Southern Gospel artists who move in the rarefied atmosphere of the entertainment industry?

Throughout this series we have heard from those who find it difficult to be single whether in or out of the industry. Issues such as trust, fame, morality and even respectability come into play with friends, fans and family. Whether never married or newly single, living true to God's word and walking in faith is as much a challenge as it is a necessity for the Christian.

Living Single in a Southern Gospel World

Third & Final in a series by Lorraine Walker

Josh Copenhaver is 21-year-old artist from Creston, Ohio. Traveling and singing with his family trio, The Copenhavers, Josh was described to this reporter as "Southern Gospel's most eligible bachelor."

"One of the best things about being single is not being tied down, the freedom you have," says Copenhaver. "But the challenges are not having encouragement and support, someone to lean on when it gets tough."

Copenhaver describes himself as 'just a normal guy,' someone who loves spending time on the internet perusing various social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Being single allows him the free time to enjoy this hobby and a traveling artist such as Copenhaver can find that free time is at a premium.

However, a single traveling artist can find that every stop is a new opportunity to meet people and Copenhaver is not immune to the female quotient of his audience. "Being on stage is a little more difficult when

there is an attractive girl in the audience," he admits. "But it also, at least for me, makes me sing with a little more incentive."

While on stage with his family, Copenhaver is often the target of jokes about his unmarried status. "This is a very common thing in our group since the group consists of my mom, my brother and me," says Josh. "The crowd loves it and responds well. My brother does the emceeing for the group and is unpredictable with what he says. I enjoy it; it brings some added excitement."

Copenhaver doesn't mind being the object of a joke as he doesn't like to take life too seriously and isn't overly concerned with his single status. "I have never been married, and have been without a steady girlfriend now for a couple of months," he says. "God has really been moving in my life the last couple of months."



Shawn



Casey



Josh

I know He will work it out in His time. God has a plan and purpose for everything, and His way is not always what we want, but we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

"I think it's very challenging to find a mate because of the public ministry as most of the time girls already have a pre-conceived idea of who I am," Josh shares. "I have never dated an artist, but I think it may be easier to date someone in the industry because they understand the 'behind-the-scenes' of singing, and the work, time and pressure that come with it."

Josh Copenhaver seems to have a well-balanced view of living single and shares some advice: "Be content and enjoy whatever stage of life you are in. 'The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him.'" (Nahum 1:7).

Another single, Casey Brandon, is 31 and well used to the spotlight of the Christian entertainment industry. Casey traveled, played piano and sang with his

continues on next page>

"I used to hate it when my pastor would preach on marriage. But now I listen to what's being said because later on I might find someone and I could use those messages in my life."

- Casey Brandon

family group for ten years. He was also with Appointed from 2001-2003 and is now playing the piano for the popular mixed group, The Greensons.

Brandon agrees with Copenhaver about the freedom of being single, but it's not a perfect life. "One of the biggest disadvantages of being single is going out with other couples and you're the only one without a date," he says. "A lot of times you get overlooked and left out when it comes to different activities." It's hard to imagine either of these two gentlemen without a date, but as Brandon relates, sometimes things just aren't the way you would like them to be.

"I would love to be married," Brandon admits. "But it's hard to find that special someone when you travel all the time. I really feel it would be easier to date someone who was in the industry. They already understand the schedules, plus there are opportunities to be in concert together." Finding a

compatible single in the industry isn't easy, as Brandon agrees with Copenhaver that, just as in the Church, married or attached people in Southern Gospel far outweigh those who are not attached.

The family is an institution of the Church and every pastor has preached their fair share of sermons on the joys of matrimony. Brandon remarks, "I used to hate it when my pastor would preach on marriage. But now I listen to what's being said because later on I might find someone and I could use those messages in my life."

Brandon is not desperate in his search for that special someone, as he is another victorious single, grounded in his belief of God's guidance in his life. "I have been content with being single for a while, but I would love to find that special someone. The verse that comes to mind is Psalm 37:4, 'Delight yourself in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.'"

"God knows what He's doing,"

continues Brandon. "He's in control of everything. Don't be discouraged about being lonely or left out. I've been there before. But, whenever you feel alone, always remember one of the greatest promises that has ever been given by Jesus, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.' He is always there when no one else is."

Shawn Shannon has a little more experience than either Copenhaver or Brandon. He sings with his part-time family group, The Shannons, based in Indiana. The Southern Gospel group has been traveling for 35 years, and Shannon says the road life is difficult for a single artist wanting to date. Traveling makes it difficult to find that someone, let alone find time to see them. He says, "You also don't know if the other person wants to date you for you or because you are an artist."

"Since I travel on weekends, I don't see people the normal way, like at the mall or local church functions," continues Shannon. "People



70,000 Listeners in 110
countries every month!
www.wvsgradio.com

WVSG RADIO



work during the week; so meeting someone during the week is harder to do. Also, when you do find someone to date, if they are not in the ministry, you sometimes worry that the person accepts you traveling for now, but once married may not want you to travel."

Shannon says he thinks the road life is easier on the unattached artist. "You don't have to rush back home or balance family life. You also don't have to worry about supporting the family, so you can make different choices than you would make being married."

Sometimes the fans can misconstrue the intent of the single artist. Shannon shares, "I have seen at times where being nice can sometimes lead to misunderstanding be-

cause of being single. They assume because you are single, then being nice to them means you are interested in them for a relationship."

Shannon has noticed as well that being single in Church gets more challenging as the unattached person matures. "Being in my 30s and single, it is harder in church. Activities are geared toward teens, older people and married couples. The sermons are geared toward the single teens and married couples as well. Something that would help is having a group for older singles and instead of only having couple dinners for holidays, have singles dinners too; basically more activities for the singles would be great."

Shawn Shannon is happy with his life as a single and rests in God's

plan for his life. "I know the Lord has someone out there for me. I am sure that in His time, I will find that person. For now, I am happy just doing the Lord's work." His advice for other singles is straightforward: "The Lord has a plan. We must be patient and in His own time the plan will be revealed. Until then, keep up the Lord's work. When it comes to activities, take the initiative to create new ones at church for singles like you."

We trust you have enjoyed this glimpse into the lives of some single Southern Gospel artists. Our thanks to Shawn Shannon, Casey Brandon, Josh Copenhaver, Johnmark Grant, Greg Bentley and all the Facebook friends who contributed their thoughts to this series. 🇳🇮

MCMILLAN & LIFE
call & request our new single
"these are the days"



JOIN US FOR BRANSON GOSPEL MUSIC CONVENTION



The
Minister's
Quartet

Ron, Danny, Larry, & JT
Muncie, IN · 765-661-1120
www.ministersquartet.com



Best Western BRANSON INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

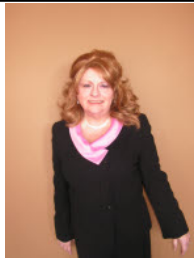


Peaceful
Nights
after exciting
Days in the
Ozark Mountains!

Next to
Silver Dollar City
Free Shuttle Service



AGAPE Fest



Hosted by: Glorya Wilson

The Best of Christian Country
You Don't Want to Miss This One!!

10th Annual
KING Country Agape Fest
June 23rd - 26th, 2010
REGISTER ON LINE TODAY!

www.kingcountryagapefest.com
Celebration Hall in
Granbury, Texas

682.422.3657

This year KING Country Agape Fest will be in Granbury, TX, a real COWBOY TOWN. Granbury has loads of activities, boat rides, beach on the lake, lots of great restaurants.... Agape Fest registered artists will be singing in these venues. We have special seminars planned to help you with your ministry.

www.thegardners.com

The Gardners

Gardner Music Ministry



New radio single
"I've Had Enough"

DJ Man Promotions Volume 32 / Zion
Music Group Volume 44

The Gardners
931-469-0215



Christians and Time

Our writer Jerry Tinkle reflects on a change in his group, Minister's Quartet, as one of its members prepares for transition - not retirement.

TIME. It can be your friend, it can be your enemy. One day, early on your life as a Christian, you look in the mirror and say to yourself, "I am a new creature. I have all the TIME in the world to do the Lord's work. I have a lifetime of service to Him ahead of me."

Every opportunity of service is met with eagerness and with a zeal that is unstoppable, unflappable, and at times, unbelievable. Our desire to do the will of the Father takes root in us in such a way that we can't wait to get up, get dressed, and get to it. Nothing is going to

get in the way of us reaching the lost for Christ. We KNOW that in TIME, we will win every soul to Christ that is lost. We just KNOW that we will be the best witness for Christ that there ever has been.

TIME marches on. Our witness for Christ takes on a new approach, as we realize that not every person we come in contact with has the same take on this Jesus as we do, and not everyone who hears the message of Jesus' saving grace will accept our offer of introduction to His eternal redemptive plan for each of us. We become frustrated at TIMES, and just cannot believe that our witness for Jesus could be compromised, or even rejected by those we come in contact with.

Over TIME, we begin to question our effectiveness, and at TIMES we even change our approach to the point that at TIMES we don't say the very things we need to say to those we come in contact with. Instead of saying, "Do you know this Jesus we sing and talk about?", we think quietly, 'well, they probably don't want to hear it anyway', and so we don't say anything. We stand in line at the movies, or at the grocery, and just keep to ourselves, smiling at the person waiting on us politely and without saying anything, such as "have a nice day". Our desire is still

there to witness for Christ, but we have lost some of our zeal.

TIME marches on. Sure, we teach Sunday school, attend mid-week services, sing in the choir, attend every service there is at our local church, but somehow we feel that maybe there is someone else that could or should be doing the witnessing instead of us. We age. Our bodies begin to malfunction at TIMES, and we find ourselves hurting, physically, in places where we've never ached before. It is time to slow down, take it

easier, and let the younger folks take charge of things a little more.

TIME marches on again. We find ourselves saying to ourselves, "I'm too tired to go to church today. It won't matter if I sleep in today. Nobody will miss me anyway." So, we compromise our witness once again. We listen to the devil say to us, "give in to this temptation, nobody will notice". So, we take a leave of absence from the choir, or we ask for a 'sabbatical' from

teaching the class at Sunday School, or we decide to let the younger ones in church take care of setting the chairs up for the special events.

After all, we've done our TIME as servants, it's TIME for someone else to step up and take the bull by the horns to get things done.

But, I'd like to shed some light on another problem some Christians have.

There are many people that are in service to the Lord Jesus that travel around week to week, riding on buses and in vans, calling themselves Southern Gospel quartets. Some of these groups have acquired quite a following over TIME, and have fan bases that rival large churches in attendance at their concerts. But, just like the previously mentioned Christians, they, too, tend to lose their 'edge' over TIME. People in Southern Gos-



Above: Larry Lambert and JT singing;
Larry greeting at the product table.
Property of Ministers Quartet

pel quartets age like the rest of us, and sometimes changes in personnel are required to keep the quality of sound going in the right direction. After all, TIME takes its toll on voices and bodies when you travel around the country as these groups do. And TIME is an enemy, of sorts, in this regard.

In some cases, however, there is a difference. Instead of saying, "I need to quit, because I know my voice is not the best", or "It's time to get someone younger to take my place, I'm just too tired to travel anymore" these people keep at it. I see people like Ed O'Neal of The Dixie Melody Boys still at it. I admire people who still want to do the Lord's work.

Yet, at the same TIME, there is a need by the group managers to make a change. Ours is one such group. We have prayed and prayed that Larry would be able to continue to sing on a full-time basis with us. His desire to serve has never wavered. He still has the desire to do the Lord's work on a full-time basis. He still feels the TIME is short until the Lord's return and eagerly looks forward to each practice, each booking, with the zeal of an 18 year old. His body tells him that TIME is not his friend, however, and his voice has suffered because of the TIME factor. That is why, after much soul searching and prayer, the decision was made to begin looking for another tenor singer in our quartet.

Larry is still and will always be a vital part of this min-

God doesn't have a retirement plan... Perhaps once you could do something extremely well, and now you can't. But, there is another field of endeavor that you may not have considered....the field of experience.

istry. He still can preach, he still can tote equipment like someone 18 years old. He still loves people in a way that will shame most

other Christians. He loves his Lord to the point that he will do anything he can to please his Lord, on a daily basis. My hat is off to him.

God doesn't have a retirement plan. There is no car lot that you can take an old Christian to and trade them in on a new model. Perhaps once you could do something extremely well, and now you can't. But, there is another field of endeavor that you may not have considered....the field of experience. You may know how to do something that someone else cannot do, and you can show a new Christian how to do it. You can lead by example, too. Show these new beings in Christ, take the time to explain why something is done, or how it is done, hands on. Don't take a back seat. Take the driver's seat. Lead on!

Larry is going to do just that. We know that he will still sing a few songs each time we take the stage. We know that he will be there bright and early to make sure the oil pressure is ok, that the belts are tight on the bus, that the lights are all working, and so on. We know that he will be out there in the audience smiling and shaking hands with everyone he can reach out to. We know that God is still going to use him in a mighty way.

Can you say the same? 🇺🇸

To check available dates and book for your ministry, call 239-404-7675

www.BillDykes.org

Bill Dykes

Now available to minister
to your church in
song!

- * Over 40 years in Gospel Music
- * Formerly with The Cathedrals, Jerry & The Singing Goffs, & The Rhythm Masters
- * Wrote & performed the Gold Record winning song "This is Love"



CHRISTY
SUTHERLAND

Secret Weapon For Busy Women

"Christian Fitness" by Laurette Willis

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" Deuteronomy 30:19

Choose Life =

Spiritual Shorthand for the Busy Christian

What's one of the quickest ways to experience positive change in our lives? Choose life. How about for weight management, fitness and vibrant health? Yes, the "choose life" decision can be made in a minute and lived moment-by-moment one day at-a-time. Choose life.

How can a scripture and spiritual directive to "choose life" assist us in our goals to be fit witnesses spiritually and physically? As busy people, we need some practical, proactive tools we can use at a moment's notice to help us handle decisions, challenges and temptations.

I have found these two simple, yet startlingly powerful words have kept me from falling prey to sudden urges for "just one" (bite, cookie, candy bar, soda, binge or foray into Debtville). You may be different, but for me "just one" rarely ends with just one.

Whenever I simply stop and say to myself, "I choose life," my spirit (the real me) rises up with strength to overcome the flesh and I'm suddenly able to say "No" to the temptation.

These two potent little words from scripture can also help us get moving when our flesh wants to "veg out" in front of the television or skip the fitness break we've committed to taking that day.

"I choose life," I'd say as I laced my running shoes and headed for the door or mini-trampoline.

"Choose life" I'd say to myself when I wanted to pout and "punish" my husband for hurting my feelings instead of forgiving him. Choosing to follow those two little words would often turn the whole situation around.

What IS "Life"?

Jesus said His words are life.

"The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life," He said in John 6:63.

Is "choose life" some sort of "magic incantation" or "lucky charm?" No, certainly not! Both magic and luck are part of the enemy's bag of tricks. When you have the blessing and favor of God through your relationship with Jesus Christ, you want nothing to do with capricious fortune, magic or luck. God's promises are based on truth, not happenstance.

When you meditate on and speak God's words, you

[continues]



The Concorde's

Request our new single
"In My Weakest Moment"
today!!

www.concordsmusic.com



Luv2 VIDEO PRODUCTIONS MINISTRIES

www.luv2videoproductions.org

Reaching out to other's through
Christ's eyes with Video!

THE STAMPS QUARTET

Contact us for all your Video Production needs.

Ricky R. Renfro

ricky@luv2videoproductions.org

are being "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). As your mind is renewed on the Word of God, you will be transformed, and part of that transformation process relates to the choices and decisions you make.

We are presented with hundreds, even thousands of choices every day which affect the health and fitness of our spirit, soul and body. How well I know the cry of the flesh, "I want it and I want it NOW!" I had to have my favorite snack, drink, a second helping--my "fix." Like a child, I thought only of the desire of the present moment and wanted to have my way. Let the grown-ups deal with the consequences. It didn't matter how strong my will power had been or how solid I thought my commitment was, my flesh would scream and I'd cave in like a startled soufflé.

"Choose life." Again and again those words would come to me. I'd be faced with a temptation to forgo my food plan for the day, or neglect the exercise I'd purposed to do and the words would come to me: "Choose life." I'd want to blow off a commitment I'd made, or stay in bed instead of getting up early to invest in my relationship with the Lord, and the words would come to me, "Choose life."

A third-party report (i.e. gossip) would come to me and I'd want to share the "news" -- then I'd hear the words in my heart, "Choose life" calling me to make a godly choice.

To choose life is to choose God's way of doing things. Can we override the gentle nudge of the Spirit of God bringing His Word to our remembrance? Yes. The Lord's still, small voice doesn't come with a two-by-



four to enforce compliance. While we may try "reasoning" or bargaining with the Lord, the more time we invest in reading, meditating and speaking His Word, the more we will want to heed His gentle reminder to "Choose LIFE" -- it IS the secret weapon for the Busy Christian. 🇵🇷

Carol Sanguinette-How

Carol's Music Ministry is a God-inspired ministry of Gospel Music and testimony! A breast cancer survivor, she is full of the desire to serve the Lord! Allow Carol to encourage your group with song and testimony!

Member of the:
SGMA
(Southern Gospel Music Association)
MAGMA
(Mid-America Gospel Music Association)
CGMA
(Country Gospel Music Association)
I.A.M.M.
(International Association of Music Ministries)
BGSSA
(Branson Gospel Singer Songwriter Association)



It is good to praise the
Lord and make music.
- Psalm 92:1

636-937-9704
or 314-640-1631

email: sanghow@yahoo.com

Website: www.carolsmusicministry.com



"Serving God in Music and Testimony"



A PRE-view of Booth Brothers' Declaration

Guest writer **Jerry Anderlik** spent the a weekend in April on the bus with the Booth Brothers when they were in Minnesota...and had the special opportunity to hear their new project, *Declaration*, scheduled for release in June.

Due out in less than a month, the new Booth Brothers CD, *Declaration*, is nothing short of amazing, arguably a new "personal best" times three and entirely in keeping with what their audiences have come to anticipate. This project takes full advantage of Ronnie, Michael, and Jim's versatility and passion. Orchestrations by Barry Weeks are at times soothing, at times bold, always appropriate to the lyrics, energize the vocals and capture the essence of each song's soaring emotion. Just when you thought they couldn't be topped, reprises on two songs take the listener from thrill to greater thrill, underscoring the timeless truths of their texts. The song selections are as diverse as their voices, showcase every nuance of each one's gifts, and proclaim what the Booth Brothers believe down to the very marrow of their bones.

The 45-minute project opens with a fresh approach to a Steve Green Classic, "All Over the World," the influence of Hispanic style easily identifiable and the rhythms impeccable, as if Desi Arnaz and his band were distributed among the studio instrumentalists. It features lead vocals by Jim Brady.

Precision three-part a cappella chamber vocals introduce the second cut, "Before the Cross." The instrumentation joins and becomes more prominent, converting it to a ballad and driving home the lyric.

A new and exciting Jim Brady original, "I See Grace," cuts through any listener stoicism and celebrates the beauty of a life changed, multiplied as God adds the increase. It would be impossible to be lacking in joy when this selection is through.

Their version of "In Christ Alone" takes each stanza to a new level of certainty, reminding the listener of who he is in Christ and his standing before the Father.

With an Easy Listening style, "Absolute Peace" just puts an Amen where it ought to go, adding that there is no reason to be disturbed or unsettled by the world's circumstances.

Then comes a thrilling, unblemished diamond, a fully-orchestrated treatment of the Mosie Lister classic, "Then I Met the Master." Opening with Ronnie's gentle finesse, this song builds over its several minutes of growing instrumentation and embellished by studio background vocalists, by the end leaving the listener breathless, awash in the simple but eloquent truth that "Then I met the master; Now I belong to Him." The song's climactic conclusion with Michael's trademark soaring highs fulfills its promise. This cut begs to be followed by several moments of silent meditation.

The exciting "Higher Throne" casts the full spectrum of color and ra-


diance, glorifying the only One deserving praise, reciting His attributes and ascribing eternal praise to Him in a musical and textual setting befitting heavenly beauty and splendor.

Next is the brilliant and unapologetic statement in so many words that, "God Did it All," a text which draws stark contrast between the finite wisdom of man versus the infinite and awesome capacity of God to envision and then speak into existence all that is.

"I Still Believe in the Church," with its progressive, driving rhythm, reminds the listener that the work of His resilient bride continues on, "empowered by the strong arm of God."

An equally driving rhythm carries "This is the Day," with its lyrics paraphrased from the Psalms. This song is unabashed praise and showcases Jim's vocal agility, enhanced by some bright brass.

There are some songs that are timeless and simply should not be allowed to fall by the wayside. A second classic on this project that is associated with Steve Green, "I Believe" eloquently declares the fundamentals of the faith. Fresh orchestration and passionate vocals fully deliver this anthem with elegant firmness and bring this project to its conclusion with an exclamation point.

I smell a Grammy with this one. If a shrinking household budget leaves room for only one CD purchase this year, make it *Declaration* by The Booth Brothers. 

It is the Lord's desire- and ours here at *SGN Scoops Digital*- that you become one of His followers. God has promised eternity in Heaven with Him for all those who accept Him as their Personal Savior. It's as easy as "ABC":

A: Admit that you are a sinner.

Romans 3:23- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

B: Believe that, because of your sin, you deserve to spend eternity in Hell. However, Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross of Calvary to pay the debt for our sin. He then rose from the dead three days later, proving His victory over death, Hell, and the grave. He offers this as a free gift to anyone who will accept it in faith.

Romans 5:8- But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Call upon Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart, forgive your sins, and make you one of His children.

Romans 10:9- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13- For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If you would like to accept God's free gift of salvation, then all you have to do is pray and ask Him. Your prayer might sound something like this:
Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I know that I deserve Hell because of it. However, I believe that you died on the cross and rose again in three days to pay for my sin. I ask you to come into my heart, cleanse my sin, and make me one of your children. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Please remember that simply saying a prayer doesn't save you. You must believe this in your heart as well.

If you have any questions about salvation, or if you just prayed to receive Christ, please e-mail us at sgnscoops@gmail.com. We'd love to rejoice with you! God bless you!

Absolutely Gospel

(formerly SoGospelNews.com)



Same Company
Same Vision
New Name

Get to know us all over again!

Artist Interviews • Feature Articles • Top 40 Weekly Chart • Breaking News
Message Boards • MP3 Features • Editorials • Blogs • AG Music Awards
Annual Music Fest • Industry Insider Articles • Much More!

absolutelygospel.com

advertising information: deon@absolutelygospel.com



Who's making new music...

CD Reviews by Chad Hayes

BROTHER'S REDEEMED

Quartet from Hickory, North Carolina

Turn It Up

www.tbrqt.com

Brothers Redeemed has been singing together since November, 2001. Current group members include Rusty Townsend (tenor/manager), Cameron Woods (lead), Keith Hendrix (baritone), and Doyle Hopper (bass).

Turn It Up is the latest Brothers Redeemed album. It contains 10 songs, most of which are old Southern Gospel favorites. However, there are a couple of songs on there that I had never heard before. The style of the album ranges from traditional to slightly progressive.

Now, the moment you've all been waiting for: THE SONGS!

The first song is the first radio single from the album. "The Hand Of The Lord" is a slow-to-medium-tempo number that features some nice blending in the group's vocals. There are also some nice pickups in the chorus by bass vocalist Doyle Hopper. Song #2, "Come Fly With Me" is an up-tempo song that I think listeners will enjoy. I can't help but compare it to the Stutzman Family's version though, and it admittedly falls just a bit short. The rhythm of the last part of the chorus sounds just a little bit forced instead of flowing as smoothly as it should. Next up is an old standard- "Living In Canaan." This up-tempo toe-tapper is one that should be considered for the next release to radio; it's a fun song both to sing and to hear. My only complaint was that tenor vocalist Rusty Townsend was a bit hot in the mix, which affected the blend somewhat. The fourth song is a medium-tempo number called "Crossroad." I enjoyed the message in this song very much. However, there is still some work to be done on the vocal arrangement. There were a few spots where I heard another part doubling the lead vocal.


Song #5, "Walls Come Down," is a medium tempo number that features bass vocalist Doyle Hopper. This is an excellent song that I enjoyed very much, but it also illustrates one of my personal pet peeves- bass vocalists not staying within their normal range. The lower Hopper sings, the quieter he gets. This is indicative of not singing with a full voice, which means that when the rest of the group comes in, it sounds a

bit louder and can be a shock to the ear. Hopper has a good bass vocal as long as he's within his normal range, and I would have liked to hear the arrangement changed a bit or the key changed a bit to allow him to stay in that normal range.

Next up is another up-tempo song, "When The Power Of God Came Down." This is truly one of the better songs on the album. The tempo stays the same for another old Southern Gospel favorite, "Put On A Crown." This is another well-done song- simple and clear.

The tempo then slows down a bit for a song that I've sung many times myself- "Sweet Beulah Land." Overall, this is a solid rendition of a popular song. Next is medium-tempo song that I first heard done by the Liberty Quartet- "There's A Testimony." Brothers Redeemed uses an arrangement with lots of brass and piano, and it has a slightly swing feel that I think listeners will like. I also like the no-frills ending.

Finally the album ends with the album's title track. "Turn It Up" is a medium-to-up-tempo song that closes out the album solidly. However, it sounds like tenor vocalist Rusty Townsend is very much in a falsetto range on some of his pickups, and the tone doesn't quite fit with the full-voice tones of the rest of the group. Again, maybe the vocal arrangement needs to be edited slightly.

This is, when it's all said and done, a solid album. Brothers Redeemed still has some growing to do vocally, but a number of the songs on this album suggest that they're on the right track. Arranging the songs so that all the vocalists stay within their normal range the majority of the time will be a big help. The low growling bass notes or the high falsetto tenor notes are fine as accents here and there, but the bulk of the singing should be done in full voice with a focus on a strong blend- much in the vein of "The Hand Of The Lord" and "When The Power Of God Came Down." These guys have potential, and I look forward to seeing the progress they make towards realizing that potential. Overall, I give this album a rating of 7 out of 10 microphones! 

Our SGN Scoops Staff is are comprised of professional writers, singers, speakers, publicists, and ministers. Please visit their websites for more from them. **| CONTRIBUTORS**



Ms. Lou Wills Hildreth is always smiling, is married to Howard, is a member of the legendary Wills family, a member of the Gospel Music Association Board, and a television host, songwriter, publisher, journalist, an industry leader. Get to know her at louhildreth.com



Rhonda Frye is a full time minister of music serving the Lord in at least three different ways: teaching a pre-school music program, serving her local congregation as worship leader and associate pastor, and as a singer/songwriter/recording artist. Rhonda lives in Ringgold, Georgia and is supported by her husband, Eric and their three children. rhondafrye.com



Kelly Capriotti Burton is a former teacher, project manager, and tire queen, and a current southern gospel wife, mom of 2, stepmom of 2, event promoter, and writer/editor. She currently lives outside of Chicago sometimes and on a bus the rest, and survives to tell about it at mylifeastheglue.com



Born and raised in southern Ontario, Canada, Lorraine Walker has been interested and involved in Southern Gospel Music since the mid-80s. Since 2005, she has also authored the popular 'Reality Check' column and other features for sgmradio.com.



Tom Holste is a writer living in Chicago and a graduate of Act One, a screen-writing program specifically geared toward Christians. He has written and directed numerous short scenes for church events. tomholste.com



Rob Patz is the owner & publisher of SGN Scoops along with the owner & voice of SGMRadio.com & The Southern Styles Show. He resides in Seattle and loves Jesus, music, food, people, and talking as a job and hobby. sgmradio.com



Evie Hawkins's love for writing spun many articles that were read by music industry professionals and lead to the development of the Evie Hawkins Agency, in Nashville. Evie keeps residence in Alabama and Tennessee, and enjoys as much time as possible with her husband, their family, and the musicians whom she loves very much. eviehawkinsagency.net



SG enthusiast D. Ann Bailey has written for a number of industry publications. Currently she works as a senior manager and is part of a four generation household. She also serves on the advisory board of Harvest Hope Food Bank., allowing her to reach out to the community showing God's love not only in spiritual ways but helping to meet the physical needs as well. twitter.com/DeeAnnBailey



Christian Fitness Expert and author Laurette Willis is the Director of Praise-Moves, offering fitness programs, DVDs, books and training for those interested in a Christian alternative to yoga, and fitness for spirit, soul and body at www.praisemoves.com twitter.com/Fit4Christ facebook.com/praisemoves



Chad Hayes is a pastor, husband, and father to an adorable one year old. He is also the resident CD reviewer for SGMRadio.com



Presleys' Country Jubilee



Pierce Arrow Show



Ride The Ducks

SPRING Into The Fun of...

Branson

A Picture Perfect Getaway!



The Island Fire Show

From March to May, the spring fresh air in Branson blossoms to the new sounds of music show openings, golf balls in flight, boating & fishing, hiking & biking, and more! Area lodging properties & resorts offer great discounts during the spring season. Check out all that's new to see, hear, taste and touch in Branson's music shows and attractions, shopping & dining!



Factory Merchants Branson

Get the latest Branson news instantly at:
travelhost.com/branson
then click on "read magazine."

GET YOUR 2010 BRANSON PLANNER MAP WITH COUPONS!

Explore a full color planner with shows, shopping,
dining & attractions...PLUS COUPONS!
(Allow 4-5 weeks delivery time)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

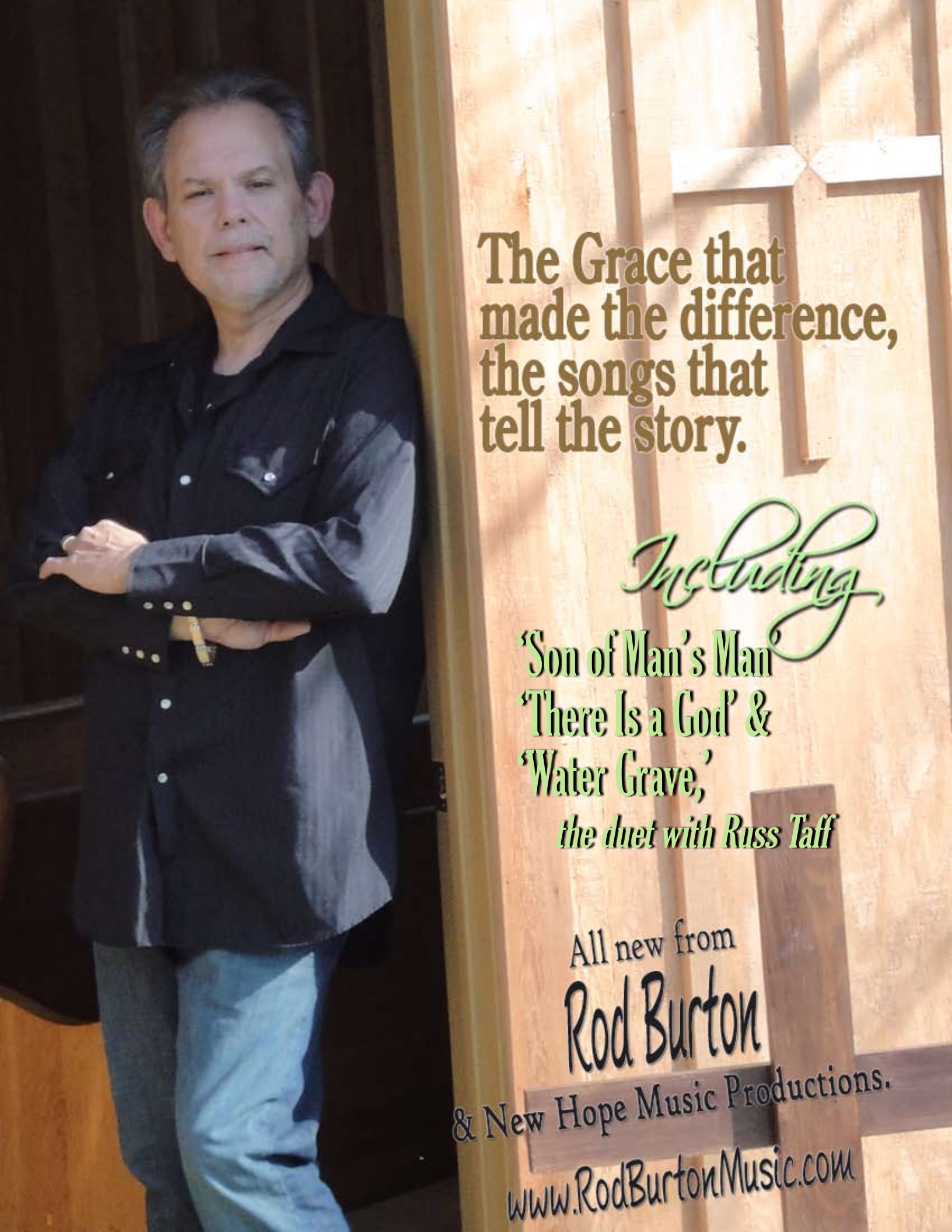
State _____ Zip _____

Mail this form to: Travelhost Magazine of Branson,
1440 State Hwy. 248, Suite Q, PMB 402,
Branson, MO 65616

CLIP & MAIL!



Dolly Parton's
Dixie Stampede

A photograph of Rod Burton, a man with grey hair, wearing a dark button-down shirt and light blue jeans. He is standing with his arms crossed in front of a large wooden cross. The background is a wooden wall.

The Grace that
made the difference,
the songs that
tell the story.

Including,

'Son of Man's Man'
'There Is a God' &
'Water Grave,'

the duet with Russ Taff

All new from

Rod Burton

& New Hope Music Productions.

www.RodBurtonMusic.com