

# SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



## The COLLINGSWORTH Family

*A view from the piano bench*



**ALSO FEATURING**

**HINSON FAMILY, LEGACY FIVE & TALLEYS**

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## OUR MISSION

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

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**

Welcome to the June edition of SGNScoops Magazine. Can you believe that we are almost halfway through the year of 2017? It's hard for me to imagine how fast this year has flown by. When we're younger, we think time moves so much slower than it really does, and when we get older, we realize how fast time really is moving.

As many of you know, I usually avoid talking about Father's Day during the month of June in the Publisher's Point. If you don't believe me, go back and read past years of SGNScoops. Now that I look back on it, it was not necessary, but each of us mourn the loss of someone in a different way. I'm coming to grips with that, so this month I want to tell you a story about my dad.

My father loved trains, and in fact, my grandfather worked for the Canadian National Railroad as an arbitrator, so trains are in our family. I can remember my father buying me my first train, which progressed to a larger train, and a larger train, and then a larger train. My father would lay on the floor with me, and we would play with these trains. To be honest, I think he was having as much fun or maybe more than I was.

I remember at about eight years old, my dad and I were laying on the floor playing with the larger model train that he had gotten me. Now, I know my dad ... he would never miss an opportunity for a life lesson. I think that was the pastor in him. As we were laying there on the floor, he said, "Our lives are a lot like a train. We are on a track to a destination. Unfortunately, some engineers push their train, and those trains derail. They are much like people who push life outside of the speed limit, go too fast for the tracks and miss their station. Then, there are people who stay within the recommended speed. They move along the tracks safely and get to their destination."

I remember him looking at me and saying, "Rob, that is much like people and our relationship with God. If we try to speed things up and move past what God wants, we are going to derail our life. If we listen to God, who is the ultimate engineer – and stay within the parameters that He has laid out for our lives – not only are we going to get to our location but we are going to get there safely."

Being a boy of eight years old, at first that story didn't sink in. In fact, it was many years later before the story really hit home with me. If I remember correctly, my first words after he made this great analogy were, "Hey Dad, can you set up my race car set now, because I can switch lanes, and we don't have to go around on the same track." I'm sure my father was wondering if I had listened at all. I wish more than anything he could read this and know that I listened and understood.

So many of us today want to rush to the destination. We want to get to the place that in our mind we think is the most important, sometimes cutting corners on our own convictions, much like the engineer who knows better but still gives



the train too much fuel and accelerates past the recommended traveling speed. He knows he's pushing it to the limit and probably hoping he doesn't derail. Unfortunately in life, if we cut corners or go past the recommended traveling speed, we more than likely are going to suffer derailment in our lives.

I'm thankful that I serve a God who watches over us even after we've derailed. Much like me as a child, when my train would derail because I would push it to the limit of speed, God is willing to reach His hand down and put our lives back on the track. He doesn't think twice about it if we ask Him and if we seek to move in the right direction.

So many of us rush through life. I think that's my biggest regret. I haven't taken the time to enjoy moments. If I could go back to that moment at eight years old, I would. If I could tell my father I loved him one more time, I would for all the money in this world. So if your dad is still with you, tell him you love him and tell him you appreciate what he has done for you.

I hope each and every one of you have an amazing month of June, and please join me for Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend, Sept. 8-9 in Vernon, Ala.

I also encourage you to be with us Oct. 30 through Nov. 2 for Creekside Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. It's going to be an awesome four days of Gospel Music and renewal for your soul.

And that's this month's Publisher's Point.

The graphic features a dark, textured background. At the top, the text "Hey Y'all!" is written in a large, white, cursive font, with "MEDIA" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. A horizontal grey bar with the text "PRESENTS THE BRAND NEW SINGLE RELEASE" in white, sans-serif font is positioned below the logo. Below this bar is a photograph of four men in dark suits and ties, smiling. At the bottom of the graphic, the text "Pine Ridge Boys" is written in a large, gold, cursive font, and "THERE'S A FOUNTAIN" is written in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font below it.



# *The Talleys:*

## **Singing through the struggle**

**By Sarah Murray**

Personable is a word that relates to the Talleys. With many fan awards and nominations, receiving a Dove Award for Southern Gospel Song of the Year in 2015 with their hit, “Hidden Heroes,” releasing multiple well-known CD projects, releasing a fan favorite song and music video for their song, “People in the Line,” and many more achievements, the Talleys have lots to discuss. Yet, what is one to do when their talking is cut short? What happens when the voice you’ve used with such talent for so long is now unrecognizable?

For the past five years, Debra Talley has struggled with a condition called muscle dysphonia. It is a common condition that can affect someone greatly. Muscle dysphonia is a condition that affects the vocal chords and cartilages connecting the chords. This condition is when a strain is placed on the vocal cord muscle area in such excessive amounts that can result in vocal fatigue, neck discomfort, altered vocal ability and quality, and complete loss of voice. The past two to three years have been the hardest on Debra and her singing abilities. She described her singing struggle as her “increasing scale being stuck.” When the struggle began, it was a matter she kept private, but just recently she has realized it was a struggle she was meant to share.

Debra has been treated and seen at multiple facilities, including Vanderbilt. Her most recent interaction has

been with an outstanding Christian doctor by the name of Dr. Tom Cleveland. We as Christians know that God works in mysterious ways. It just so happened that Dr. Cleveland became Debra’s doctor and has a background of music ministry. He not only became her doctor, but another voice of reason for her.

It was soon after the struggle began that Debra realized this was more of a spiritual struggle than a physical struggle. When nothing was helping and the problem with her voice persisted, Debra’s daughter Lauren began explaining to her that it was time to “accept what is.” Debra then began to work on herself, as well as her relationship with Christ. Her first step was beginning Christian counseling. This would be the place where she would soon learn that her personal struggle may have been caused by emotions she has kept in for so long.

Debra soon realized it was time to deal with those emotions. Emotions from home life struggles to a 10-year-long struggle with her husband Roger’s parents declining rapidly, all the way to the prayer requests she was receiving from the people they were interacting with through their music and concerts. All of these served as triggers that, as they increased, made Debra’s muscle dysphonia condition worse.



“What was affecting my voice was what was going on in the inside of me,” Debra says.

Since she was young, she has felt she has always been a fixer. When someone is struggling, Debra takes those things to heart and wants to fix anyone and everyone’s situations. People feel comfortable bringing their prayer requests to her, and she would instantly feel so burdened for people that she herself became disheartened when she couldn’t find their answer. During this process, her counselor gave her exercises, like journaling, to perform in order to regain her strength. Another great exercise she found was finding triggers. This resulted in a solution that all Christians can greatly benefit from. When approached by someone with a need, pray with them right then, but then give it to God completely. Realize that you were called to this moment for a purpose, so you must do what He is asking and then let Him have it.



Her advice from her counselor has also resulted in a routine that Debra has now adopted as the way she ends a performance.

“When I get back on the bus, I close the door behind me and I stand back and see that closed door as a message that I came and did what God would have me do, and then I know I am done there,” explains Debra. “I’m realizing it’s a way of managing my emotions and that Jesus carries all the weight that I can’t. This process has given me a voice, when I felt like I didn’t have one.”

Through this journey, the Talleys have all had to make adjustments. There were parts Debra physically couldn’t sing anymore and so the group had to switch some things up. In the eyes of Debra Talley, this struggle has been a whole new outlook on surrender. Debra surrendered her heart to Jesus when she was just nine years old, and at the young age of 19, she surrendered her life to music ministry.



“Surrender is not just today, or tomorrow, but it’s everything, even if that means my voice,” Debra points out. “When I said yes to God to do His will, He let me get in on what He’s doing, and it was for my benefit. If God gets more glory from my voice this way, then I need to accept that.”

With a career like music ministry, answering the call means being an encourager for those around you. Debra explained that she feels like she wants to “spill her guts out” when she takes the stage, because everyone is looking for encouragement. There have also been times she asked God why He put this in her path. However, she has quickly realized that no experience is wasted and that we as Christians will never arrive ... we just keep learning. Debra explained that she is still learning

that God is truly in control of everything.

Debra realizes that just because we are Christians, it doesn't mean we won't face problems. This journey has included learning lessons for the Talleys, but it still hasn't been easy. Debra remembers when she was given the song "I Need You More" by Bill Gaither. "It was written to the tune of 'Love Me Tender,' and



I remember listening to the words and not wanting to sing or record it," Debra shares. "I didn't like the way my voice sounded recording it, and I had a hard time with it because I was struggling very badly at that time. But then, it was like God was wanting me to say, 'I need my voice, but I need Him more.' I have realized that every time we take the stage, I need Him more each time."



Debra explains that empathy isn't a bad thing, but it can paralyze you. We must acknowledge our problems, and then move on from them. Debra is now in a place where

she is okay if her voice doesn't get any better, because she's not out to impress people but to bring God glory instead.

The Talleys have been singing together as a family for almost 21 years. Debra and her husband Roger have been singing together for 44 years. The Talleys feel their accomplishments during these years is God saying, "People are listening, and I am working through these things."

"I wouldn't tell the world anything about the Talleys," Debra says. "I would tell them that God is everything you will ever need. He's everything I'll ever need and that I'll ever want. Whatever your struggle is, reach out for help."

Keep up with the Talleys on Facebook, Instagram, or on their website at [www.thetalleys.com](http://www.thetalleys.com).

Photos courtesy of The Talleys and Craig Harris.





By Lorraine Walker

As many of you know, Creekside 2017 is approaching quickly, and the number of special guests and events is growing. Many of our artist friends are returning, and the rooms are going quickly at the Ramada Inn. For those that haven't heard, Creekside Gospel Music Convention runs from Oct. 30 through Nov. 2 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Tickets are free but must be reserved at [www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com](http://www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com).

### **The Nelons to appear at Creekside**

Rob Patz of Creekside Gospel Music Convention, is proud to announce the addition of the award-winning Nelons to the Creekside 2017 schedule.

"It is a joy for The Nelons to be at Creekside this year," says Kelly Nelon Clark. "We have been friends with Rob Patz for many years and can't wait to see him and all of you there."

Patz adds, "Kelly and her family are sweet people and great friends. We are thrilled to welcome the Nelons to Creekside, and we know our audience will love them."



### **David Ring, Mark209 and Pat Barker also appearing**

Creekside 2017 guests also include motivational speaker David Ring and Gospel artists Mark209, who are favorites in Pigeon Forge. They join more than 40 Southern Gospel and Christian Country artists for daytime showcases, evening concerts, midnight prayer and the 2017 Diamond Awards.

Bass vocalist Pat Barker – who has been a part of the Mark Trammell Quartet and Second Half Quartet – will be there to lead the Pat Barker University, offering training from vocal coaching to stage presence. The PBU is available to artists and attendees for a nominal cost on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call Patz at 360-933-0741 or Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892 to reserve your seat today. The fee is \$25 per person.

### **Red Back Revival returns to Creekside**

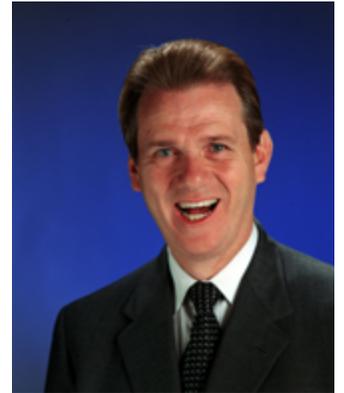
In 1951, the Tennessee Music and Printing Company in Cleveland, Tenn., released a Church Hymnal after realizing a definite need for such a songbook in the Church of God denomination, which owned the publishing company. Once released, this popular hard-back hymnal soon found its way into thousands of rural churches across America. In recent years, there has been an amazing resurgence in the popularity of what is now lovingly referred to as the Red Back Hymnal.

The Board Of Directors of Creekside Gospel Music Convention have once again invited Charlie Sexton, along with his co-hosts, Troy and Tammy Burns, to present the ever-popular Red Back Revival segment on Thursday evening of the event. All of the artists at Creekside will gather on the stage to form a mass choir, singing out this time-honored songbook. Make your plans to join them for a power-packed evening of fun fellowship and high-energy music coupled

with anointed lyrics.



reserved by visiting [creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com](http://creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com). Accommodation specials at the Ramada Inn can also be obtained by calling 360-933-0741. For more information on tickets, lodging and special VIP tickets, contact Patz at 360-933-0741.



### **Diamond Award Nominations**

Voting for the 2017 Diamond Award top 10 is now open on the SGNscoops web site. Visit [sgnscoops.com](http://sgnscoops.com) to select your favorites from the top 10 nominees. Fans, friends, artists and industry personnel are all invited to vote and to encourage their supporters to vote as well. To vote, visit [www.sgn-scoops.com/2017-diamond-awards](http://www.sgn-scoops.com/2017-diamond-awards).

The 2017 Diamond Awards will be held on Oct. 31 during the Creekside Gospel Music Convention. Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff will serve as the guest hosts. The awards ceremony is a unique evening of recognizing the best in Gospel Music.



### **VIP Bracelets**

We want you to be a Creekside Very Important Person. For only \$25, a VIP bracelet will be your entry into the preferred seating at each event, and you will also receive a Creekside gift bag and be the special guest at select backstage happenings. Purchase your VIP bracelet today from Vonda Easley by calling 256-310-7892 or by e-mailing at [vonda@sgn-scoops.com](mailto:vonda@sgn-scoops.com).

Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2017 tickets can be



**Eric Bennett to be honored by Dr. Jerry Goff at Creekside 2017**



Multi-award winning bass singer, Eric Bennett of Triumphant Quartet, will be honored with the Life Achievement Award from SGN Scoops Magazine this fall at

the Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2017. Hometown man Eric Bennett from Sevierville, has been with Dove Award and Grammy Nominated Triumphant since their beginning in 2003, at the same time being nominated and awarded Favorite Bass Singer many times from different Christian outlets.

Eric Bennett is a former pastor who still has a pastor's heart and has genuine compassion for both audience and artist alike. Bennett comments, "One of the highest achievements is to be honored by your peers. I am truly honored to receive the Life Achievement Award from the SGN Scoops Magazine." The Life Achievement award will be presented to Bennett at Creekside on Monday, October 30, by Rob Patz, Publisher of SGN Scoops Magazine and Dr. Jerry Goff.

Dr. Goff comments, "I am excited to participate in giving the SGN Scoops Life Achievement Award to a personal friend and a truly deserving artist and minister." Dr. Goff and his wife Jan will be at Creekside for the entire Convention, October 30 through November 2 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, Pigeon Forge.

"I am excited to be able to honor my friend Eric," says Rob Pat. "I invite all of our friends to join us at the end of October to show how much we appreciate everyone's favorite bass singer."



DENNISE NICHOLE DITTMAN

A portrait of Dennise Nichole Dittman, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a gold lace dress and a necklace. The portrait is framed like a Polaroid photo.

Dennise Nichole Dittman

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# The Collingsworth Family

## *Getting familiar with the family*

**By Erin Stevens**

You may think you know The Collingsworth Family, but did you ever wonder where it all began? When did Kim discover her passion for music? How did she and Phil meet? What was it like growing up in the Collingsworth household from the kids' perspectives? All your questions and more will be answered as Kim takes you through their journey. You may even hear from the rest of the family along the way.

Kim Collingsworth describes her childhood days and her encounter with her Heavenly Father at the age of three: "My earliest musical memories are of my mother playing the piano in our home. I have eight siblings, and she was very good at entertaining us or helping us find ways to entertain ourselves. I vividly remember her playing 'Chopsticks.' My siblings and I, upon hearing this song, would always run around the coffee table and chase each other.

"I loved it when Mother started playing. It was time to have fun. I was around three years of age when I first started to play. My dad was a minister. One particular Sunday evening, I remember my father preaching a message on the gift of wisdom that God gave to Solomon. I was captivated and drawn in by a statement my father made in the sermon. He said, 'Solomon asked for

a gift, and God graciously granted it.'

"That got my attention that night. I began to think immediately in my mind that I wanted to do the same thing. I remember thinking, 'I'm going to talk to God when I get home tonight.' Now keep in mind, I was about three years old. I didn't have the mental capacity to understand much of anything, but there was one thing I did believe. If I talked to God, He would hear me. I never doubted for a moment that God would answer my prayer.

"I went home that night, put my pajamas on, and knelt beside my bed. I began to plead with God in my childish way that He would give me a gift like he gave that king my daddy was talking about. I remember thinking two things. One, I would probably be the wisest woman in the world since Solomon was the only person like that and he was a man. Since there wasn't a woman that had been given that gift, I figured that woman would be me. That didn't happen.

"The second thought I had came to me as I was being tucked into bed. I thought to myself, 'I wonder what I'll be when I wake up in the morning?' Looking back, I realize how powerful the faith of a child is. I couldn't

have understood it at the time, let alone have explained it, but I believe God saw the sincerity of a little girl's heart when I prayed and asked Him for a gift.

“Needless to say, the next morning when I awakened, I was very disappointed to discover that I was no different than when I had crawled into bed the night before. Nothing had changed. My faith was unshakable as a child. I kept wondering when my gift would come. I really did believe.

“Some weeks later, I heard one of my siblings who is five years older than me, playing the piano in our living room. It was at that moment, for the first time, I remember being interested and intrigued by the piano. I remember hearing the pitches in my head and thinking, ‘I can do that.’

“I waited until my sister got off the piano bench, and I went over and started finding the pitches that I had heard. Some moments later, my mother said she came into the living room thinking my older sibling was still playing, when to her shock, her three-year-old child was playing the recital piece the older sibling had just been playing.

“She immediately said to me, ‘How did you know how to do that?’ She said my response was, ‘She was playing it, and I wanted to play it, too.’ That was the beginning of my love for the piano. From that moment on, I

became almost inseparable with the instrument. Mother said I would play six to eight hours a day before ever entering the first grade. I do believe with all my heart, God heard my prayer and granted my request ... in a completely different way than I ever expected. I'm so grateful. All praise to Jesus.”

In fast-forwarding a several years, Kim recalls what the early days were like for she and Phil.

“I met Phil on Aug. 26, 1983,” Kim shares. “I had just started my freshman year of high school, and he was starting his sophomore year of college. Yes, we are four years and seven months apart. I was 14 years old and he was 19. It was an instant attraction for both of us. I was too young to date, so we wrote letters and talked on the phone – rarely talked on the phone, because it was too expensive back then – until I was 16.

“We had our first date when I was 16, and he was 21. Poor guy, he had to wait on me to grow up. We were so in love and really wanted to get married. So, I decided to cram four years of high school into three so I could graduate from high school in 1986. The same year he would graduate from college. That plan worked well.

“My parents really liked Phil. That was in my favor. So, they agreed to sign for me when I was 17, and we were married a few months later. Phil graduated from college in May of 1986, on a Friday night. I graduated from





high school the following Friday night, and we were married three months later. We have now been married for 30 years. Best decision I ever made, other than deciding to follow Christ.”

Once the children came along, the formative years consisted of a significant amount of musical training.

“Our home has always been full of music,” Kim points out. “We love music, kind of like how people love food or sports. So, it was natural that our kids grew up listening to Christian music, classical music, or music such as the Carpenters or crooners’ music, as long as the lyric was wholesome. Phil and I both have always loved beautiful music of different genres, so they were exposed to a lot of different styles early on. Because of that, music just happened naturally with them.

“I do remember discovering that our daughter, Brooklyn, could sing alto at the age of two and a half. She joined in on the alto part, along with a duet that was being sung around the piano in our living room. I was really shocked. I actually recorded that and still have it to this day. So, their training kind of evolved along the way. They developed a love for music early on, which was very instrumental in them wanting to sing and play an instrument.

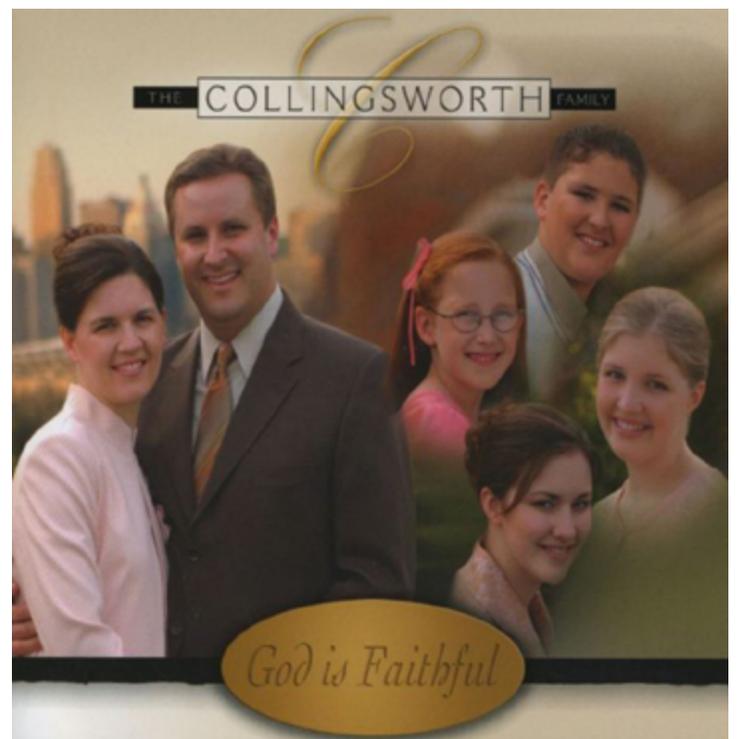
“Vocally, I began to lightly coach them along from the time they were two or so. The girls started their violin lessons when they were six and eight years of age. I always contracted outside teachers for their instruments. I don’t have a clue how to play the violin, drums or guitar.”

If someone had told Kim 20 years ago that their family

would make this kind of an impact on Gospel Music, her reaction would have been lukewarm. “I probably would have smiled and thought they were a little far-fetched in their opinion,” Kim admits.

“I never had a dream that we would do what we do today. Phil is the visionary in our family. He may have had a vision, in the back of his mind, that someday we would travel extensively as we do today, but not me. I just simply wanted to obey and follow God, whatever that meant. That was all. It was just day to day following God and listening for His voice in the mundane.

“He began to open one obvious door of music ministry at a time, and we walked through those doors as He opened them. All these years later, I realize that we have been, and still are, in the good, good hands of



Jesus. He had a plan all along. He has a plan for all of His children. The key is that we just have to give Him full reign and control. No demands on Him of what we want or require. He doesn't work that way. We just have to relinquish our families, our careers, our desires, and whatever else concerns us to God, and allow Him to use

night and David Foster ... again, just to name a few. "Needless to say, I've been a music lover since I was a little kid, and since then, I have been blessed to be able to play a small part in the music making process over the years with my family."

Olivia Collingsworth – the youngest sibling – recounts one of her fondest silly memories from days gone by.

"The times when we were under pressure on stage, and wanted to burst into laughter over something silly, are my funniest memories," Olivia remembers. "My mom would give us that look like, 'you had better stop it now.' That made it even harder to gain control of ourselves. There's something about being with your siblings on stage. When one of them starts laughing, it's like a rippling effect with the rest of us. It's hard to gain your composure."

"One time, my dad was talking to the audience, and started to say very emphatically, 'God is faithful.' It came out wrong and he, in a very loud voice said, 'God is fat.' No more holding our composure after that. We lost it."

Brooklyn Collingsworth Blair – the oldest sibling – plans to pass down the family's musical heritage to her children.

"I plan to surround my children with the music I grew up loving," Brooklyn explains. "However, they will be able to experience it first hand as well, by having a front row seat to this ministry. It is my desire that my kids not only grow up to love this music but also the message within it."

Phil has an overwhelming feeling of gratitude in knowing that his family is serving Jesus.

"There is no greater joy for a parent than to see your children embrace the love we personally have for Jesus and make it their own," Phil shares. "It's actually the fulfillment of our entire reason for existing as a family ... to take our family to heaven with us. We are so grateful to God and so blessed."

Photos courtesy of Courtney Collingsworth Metz, Erin Stevens

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us as He wishes. Then, and only then, can He work in and through us. That's when He can do some amazing things."

Courtney Collingsworth Metz – the second oldest of the four siblings – shares some of her childhood memories.

"I would have to say that some of my favorite memories in the music room were all the laughter and jokes," Courtney recalls. "We were very serious about our music and arrangements, but that doesn't mean we didn't have fun. We were always goofing off or laughing when someone sang the wrong part. Lots of funny memories were made during our rehearsals that I will remember for a lifetime."

Phillip Collingsworth – the third oldest of the four kids – talks about the impact of the music on himself as an artist and his greatest influences.

"Music had a large impact on me as a young kid growing up," Phillip says. "Gospel Music was what I always wanted to sing, and a lot of that was because of singers like David Phelps, Michael O'Brien and Larnelle Harris, to name just a few. These artists' talents and communication skills are what I would study mentally, and try to take away something from each of them to help form who I was as a singer. Other artists outside of Gospel music would be Michael Buble', Brian McK-



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# Great Western Fan Festival 2017

By Derek Simonis



## It's still about the cross

Since 1997, the Great Western Fan Festival has been bringing the sweet sounds of Southern Gospel to California. While the roots of Gospel Music may lie in the Eastern United States, the demand for it is alive and well in the West, and the Fan Festival is proof of that.

This was my first year to attend the Fan Festival, and I was privileged to be there. This grand celebration featured some of the best talent in Gospel Music, such as Triumphant, Karen Peck and New River, Tribute Quartet, Greater Vision, Liberty Quartet, the Guardians, the Mark Trammell Quartet, Southern Raised, Legacy Five, Lillie Knauls and the Hoppers. The three-day event ran from May 4-6 and was attended by thousands of people at the Visalia Convention Center in beautiful Visalia, Calif.

The festivities kicked off with a flourish on Thursday evening as Legacy Five sang "Great Day," and Visalia mayor Steve Nelsen welcomed the crowd. It was a wonderful beginning to a fantastic time of music, laughter, inspiration and blessing. The evening ended with

Greater Vision, the Hoppers, the Mark Trammell Quartet, and Triumphant each singing one of their previous No. 1 songs, and the crowd was delighted.



The Fan Festival has a unique aspect that attracts fans from around California and across the western U.S. Each year, the event prominently features regional groups from the West in the program. There is a special segment on Friday and Saturday mornings that is appropriately named the Best of The West. The 2017 program

included Evidence, the Taylors, the Mann Clan, the Shaw Family, Solid Ground, Reliance, the Freeway Quartet, the Regents, Chosen Vision, the Cornell Trio, the Lighthouse Boys, and the Rykers. These groups delighted and blessed the home crowd like few others could. Three other popular groups from the West – the California Melody Boys, Revised Standard Version Quartet, and the Herb Henry Family – were on the main evening program, and the audience was thrilled and blessed by their performance.



Throughout the day on Friday and Saturday, there were various events and showcases, but on Friday afternoon, there were two special events. Josh Singletary of Tribute Quartet hosted Blazing Pianos. C.J. Almgren, Gerald Wolfe, Herb Henry, Ken Hurley and Trevor Conkle of the Hoppers were featured in this incredible display of musicianship. Josh Singletary is an incredible pianist as well and did a superb job hosting the program.

The audience was then treated to a mini concert from the Second Half Quartet as well as a segment entitled You Can't Make This Stuff Up. This segment featured humorous road stories from Karen Peck Gooch, Mark Trammell, Gerald Wolfe, Eric Bennett, Dean Hickman, and Claude and Connie Hopper. As you can imagine, it was a wonderful time full of reminiscing and laughter.

On Friday evening, the artists picked up where the previous evening left off and the audience joined in. Shortly into the evening, a brand-new addition to the Fan Festival was introduced. Karen Peck and New River made its first appearance in Visalia. Just like fans across the country have done, the audience immediately fell in love with the music and passion of this group.

Next up, an odd ensemble mounted the stage. Mark Trammell, Royce Mitchell (the bass singer for Lib-

erty Quartet), Scott Howard (the baritone singer for Legacy Five) and Clayton Inman (the lead singer for Triumphant) stood on stage together, and Mark informed them they were going to be singing a song together. He proceeded to assign each of them a vocal part different than their normal one, except for himself. Clayton would sing bass. Scott would sing lead, and Royce would sing tenor. Clayton was the only one who seemed to enjoy his new role. It was truly a confused quartet, but the crowd enjoyed it immensely. The evening ended with a rousing rendition of "Statement of Faith" by Greater Vision, who was joined by the Mark Trammell Quartet, Karen Peck and New River, the Hoppers, Legacy Five and Triumphant.



Saturday afternoon featured a powerful patriotic program with a salute to the armed forces. Phil Brower emceed the program and led a pledge to the flag. Chris Allman sang a beautiful song written by Senator Orrin Hatch entitled "Blades of Grass." I believe this was one



of the most moving moments of the entire weekend. Southern Raised kicked off the final evening of the Fan Festival with a rousing instrumental that immedi-

ately engaged the audience. This set the theme for the evening as each group blessed the audience again and again. At the close of one set, Mitchell began to lead the audience in “Thank You, Lord, For Saving My Soul” and “Oh, How I Love Jesus.” The presence of the Lord settled down as that huge group of people began to sing together.



The evening was a special one, and the ending was special as well. There was an incredible grand finale of the artists each singing a fan favorite, culminating with all the artists on stage closing out the Great Western Fan Festival together. It was truly an incredible finish.

If all the events listed above were all that happened, the attendees at the Great Western Fan Festival of 2017 would have had a wonderful time, and almost everyone would be happy. However, I want to share with you another story from the weekend that caused rejoicing among the angels in Heaven.

Each year a group of people from the Northwest take tour buses for the trip from Boise, Idaho, to Visalia for the Fan Festival. This is hosted by Liberty Quartet. One lady, Sandy, who has done this for several years was almost unable to come this year due to serious health problems. However, she made up her mind to go, and she traveled to Visalia.

During an afternoon showcase, Sandy was sitting in the audience, and she felt the Lord say to her, “Go speak to that usher across the way about Jesus.” She looked

over and saw a young man standing at the bottom of the bleachers assisting people with finding their seats. Conflicted, Sandy brushed off the prompting and returned to her hotel room to rest.

When she returned later in the day for another performance, Sandy saw the young usher and again felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Obediently, Sandy walked up to the young man.

“With all of the music and celebration in this auditorium, has anyone talked to you about Jesus,” Sandy asked.

He respectfully replied, “No ma’am.”

Over the next hour he poured out his story of addiction

and pain, and in turn, Sandy told him about the only one who could remedy his heartache. Sandy carefully explained to him the plan of salvation. They bowed together in prayer, and he asked Jesus to save him. Sandy was then able to connect him with a Christian program and counselor that would help in his recovery from addiction. They exchanged numbers, and she promised to call him weekly to check on his progress.

Sandy spent two painful days on a bus traveling home, but she had joy in her heart. She had obeyed the Lord and helped lead a lost young man to Jesus. Friends, his decision to surrender to Jesus made the entire weekend worth it all. It is still about the cross.

We hope to see you next year.

Photos courtesy of JR Photos (Jefferson Russell) Used by permission.

# Father's Day with Kari Gooch



By Fayth Lore

Cancer. If a word could physically punch you in the gut and knock the wind right out of you, that one would. It's a word that sends shivers down your spine and pierces fear right to the heart. It knows no limits and holds back none of its wrath. It is no respecter of gender, age, race or status. Even now, as you read these words, at least one person will come to your mind that you know who has battled this relentless disease. It's a word that you wouldn't wish for your worst enemy, and you especially wouldn't want for your dearest loved one.

In 2015, the reality of that dreaded word hit home in the Gooch household. In this month's issue, Kari Gooch of Karen Peck and New River explains how that one of her family's hardest trials became one of its greatest triumphs.

February of 2015 was the month that the Gooch family found out that Rickey Gooch, Kari's dad, had cancer.



"After a neck scan, two biopsies, a CT scan and a PET scan, Rickey was diagnosed with squamous carcinoma, a type of cancer" (K.P. Gooch, 2015, <http://www.sgn-scops.com/an-open-letter-from-karen-peck-gooch/>).

In an open letter to KPNR followers, Karen Peck said, “Thank the Lord,” as they were relieved to find out the cancer was “confined to Rickey’s left tonsil area and had not spread anywhere else within his body.” In that same letter, Karen explained the difficulty of watching her husband suffer through all of his symptoms. It was certainly a trying time for all of them, including Kari’s older brother Matthew.



Sometimes, it can be difficult to see the light in dark situations, but Kari didn’t shy away from giving God praise when I asked her about her dad’s battle. Kari shared with me that when her family would go on the road for the weekend, she would stay home to be with her dad.

“It definitely drew us closer,” explains Kari. “My dad is the backbone of our family. When he got sick, it made us realize that we should never take each other for granted.”

Kari shared with me how her family experienced moments of encouragement in different ways.

“As he went through his treatments, there were a lot of incredible people who would give us words of encouragement,” Kari remembers. “All of the songs we sing have different meanings. But, the song we sing, “I Am Blessed,” was a great reminder that no matter what we may go through, we still can count our blessings and see that we are blessed.”

Kari told me that the KPNR original, “Pray Now,” was similar to an anthem song while her dad was fighting

through cancer. The rest of the country also fell in love with the song. It reached the No. 1 position on the Singing News Magazine charts for the month of October in 2015. The album, “Pray Now,” won Southern Gospel Album of the Year at the GMA Dove Awards for 2015.

Thankfully, in July of 2015, Rickey Gooch issued another open letter to KPNR fans.

“Thanks everyone for your prayers,” Rickey wrote. “I have been overwhelmed by your kindness and support. The doctor says that the PET scan looks good and normal, and as far as he is concerned, I am cured.” (<https://www.karenpeckandnewriver.com/news/page/7/>).

“It was an answer to prayer to find out that he was cancer free,” Kari says.

She says that she “is so grateful,” and will “always continue to pray that the Lord will continue to let him be healthy.”

Most Southern Gospel fans are familiar with the incredible talent of Karen Peck and New River. Karen Peck, Kari’s mom, began her singing career in June of 1980. She is one of the most respected soprano singers in the Southern Gospel industry. Kari said that she has traveled on the road with her mom since she was three weeks old. Karen homeschooled both of her children while on the road, allowing them the opportunity to be with their family instead of having to live with babysitters.



Kari is now doing online studies for her college degree through Liberty University.

Being on the road from infancy to adulthood is not the

average lifestyle. I asked Kari what the benefits of road life were, as well as the setbacks.

“Since I was homeschooled, I missed out on going to prom and being a part of sports teams,” Kari shares. “However, I have had the opportunity to travel to different places that I would have missed out on if I had stayed at home.”

In fact, one of Kari’s favorite things about road life is getting to travel to new places, meet new people and eat the best kind of food around.



Kari became a Christian when she was seven years old.

“Growing up, my parents taught me about God and about the importance of following Him,” says Kari. “However, it was my decision to ask Him into my heart to be saved. The older I get, I can more clearly see why it is important for me to have a personal relationship with Him.”

Approximately four years ago, Kari began singing on stage with Karen Peck and New River.

“My mom got sick and lost her voice, so my aunt Susan asked me to help her sing,” Kari recalls. “I’ve been singing ever since.”

She now enjoys being on the road full time and singing on stage with her mom, Susan, Matthew, and friend Ricky Braddy.

Kari says that she enjoys road trips, because she, Matthew and Ricky are always joking around and laughing about something. One funny experience happened in

Honduras. Kari, Matthew and Ricky had the opportunity to go on a zip-line tour there. Unfortunately, their tour guide was afraid of heights.

“Every time we would go down the line, he would scream like a girl,” Kari explains. “Me, Matthew, and Ricky were laughing our heads off.”

Kari is an inspiration for us all. I had the privilege of seeing Kari while her dad was fighting cancer, and even then, she had a big smile on her face and was finding something to laugh about. For all of you who are having to watch your father face disease or sickness, please remember that we have hope in Christ. He will be your strength on the hardest of days, and He will always be there to comfort you.

Remember, that even in the dark times, God will provide a testimony when you see no way out. And, for all of you who are mourning the loss of a father, remember that you have a Heavenly Father who has never left you and never will. He stands today with open arms, ready to embrace you at any moment you need Him to. I am thankful for the Father we have in God.

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By Leslie McKay

**Where is Vernon?**

Through social media, folks have seen the fun we have at Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend, and they say, "Hey, I want to come to Vernon."

However, then, they follow it up with, "Where is Vernon?" I just have to laugh.

Every time I describe where Vernon is located, I always find myself thinking about the things I have come to love about Vernon. It is a wonderful town with southern charm and a down-home feeling of community that is just part of the South. It is the kind of town where everyone is your neighbor. It's the kind of town that is perfect for an event like Vernon Alabama's

Gospel Music Weekend, which will be held from Sept. 8-9. We are excited to host more than 20 Gospel artists from across the country for two days of great con-



certs, fun, and fellowship that can only be found in a community like Vernon. It's like magic.



Vernon is steeped in history, and I did a little checking to see just how far back the city of Vernon goes. Vernon is the county seat of Lamar County, but the county hasn't always been called Lamar. It started out

as Jones County and was abolished in 1867. Then, in 1868, it was established again as Sanford County, but that was done away with. Finally, in 1877, the county was named Lamar County. Just like the county, Vernon wasn't always the name of the town. It started out as Swayne but was changed to Vernon in 1868 in honor of Edmond Vernon, who also served as the first mayor. I found copies of old newspapers online with news and happenings for Vernon, and it has always been a thriving town with lots of life.

Fast forward to today, and the same holds true. The town square and historical courthouse dating back to the early



1900s is something straight out of a movie that is surrounded by wonderfully quaint shops, where you will find unique items both old and new. You will find historical bed and breakfasts in the area and a number of restaurants with great food where everybody knows your name.

There is the local radio station that broadcasts Bulldog high school football as well as the beloved Alabama (and Auburn) football. On Saturday morning, you can find the mayor hosting the beloved Party Line, where folks call in to sell all kinds of items, wish people happy birthday, announce events, tell about yard sales, share stories. You never know who might stop by for a guest appearance.

Vernon has a personal connection for us, because it is my husband Dennis' home town. He graduated from Lamar County High School, which is located in Vernon. When he went to high school in Vernon, the school was located in the middle of town at the intersection of Hwy. 17 and Hwy. 18. However, 2002 was the last year that a class graduated from Lamar County High School in that location. Shortly after, a renovation project began on the old Lamar County High School to restore it to its original architectural glory, a project that took approximately 11 years. The old Lamar County High School is now the Vernon City Complex, where Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend is held.

The Vernon City Complex houses city hall (the mayor's office), the police department, a small museum with a collection of historical items, a small art department, the city library, a genealogy department with family history dating back to the 1700s, and a beautifully restored auditorium and a stage for events like Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend.

The Vernon City Complex is a beautiful facility. I think the best way I know how to describe it is warm and comfortable. That also describes the support we have from the commu-

nity. We work closely with mayor Glenn Crawford and the events committee for the City of Vernon, and their support and enthusiasm is much appreciated. They always make us feel so welcome to their town.

“We are excited about Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend,” Crawford says. “It is a great event for our community, and we are thankful for what it means to the city. We are happy to welcome all the artists and visitors to Vernon for this weekend of fun. If you like Gospel Music, we hope to see you in September.”

We want to echo his invitation and invite everyone to join us for Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend. There will be free nightly concerts, starting at 6 p.m. on Friday and 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

In addition, we are pleased to announce a new event at 10 a.m. on Saturday. It is the songwriting seminar conducted by Dr. Jeff Steele. If you are a beginning songwriter or a seasoned songwriter, this seminar is for you. Steele will talk about song-

writing, how to get your songs published, and how royalties work. The fee for the songwriting seminar is \$25 per person.

To register for the songwriter's seminar or for more information on Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend 2017, contact M.A.C. Records by calling 662-312-4146 or 662-889-2829, or by e-mailing [info@macrecords.net](mailto:info@macrecords.net). You can also contact SGNScoops by calling 360-933-0741.

Find out more information on the event by visiting [www.facebook.com/macnightofworship](http://www.facebook.com/macnightofworship).

Sources:

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Barb Carruth: <https://walabamahistory.com/west-alabama-counties/lamar/lamar-county-alabama-history/>; Re-post with permission from The Alabama Lawyer

# Father's Day fondness for the Collingsworth clan



By Craig Harris

Phil Collingsworth doesn't fit the stereotype.

He is an example of the apple falling far – very far – away from the tree.

However, there have been no complaints by the rest of his tight-knit family.

“He's very tender-hearted with his kids,” Phil's wife Kim says. “He can cry at the drop of a hat. His father was the exact opposite. He was a military dad.

“He was not saved (for most of his life). He got saved five years before he died (in 2006). Grace changed a lot of things in his life.”

While taking a significantly different path than his own father, Phil has watched his musical gang swell into a traveling family of nine as they delight Southern Gospel Music fans across the country.

“There's probably nothing that brings me more joy than seeing my kids excel,” Phil admits. “Probably the one thing that brings me most fulfillment out of the experience we have is now seeing our four children and our three in-law children take ownership in this. They see themselves as concert artists. Everything is viewed through that lens. That internalization process feels like the fulfillment of me being a father. I was able to transfer my dreams from 30 years ago to my children.”

The group's progress has vastly exceeded expectations.

“I didn't envision this,” Phil points out. “It was not Kim's idea at all. Kim was brought along by the power of the Lord. She'd much rather be home, keeping house, cooking and cleaning and going to Walmart. She has absolutely no ambition in the concert realm, but she's one of the most talented people out there. She feels strongly about us doing it due to the calling of the

Lord.

“I did not envision that it would morph into a full-time entity. I didn’t think it would become a company. I never dreamed that all of this would happen, but the Lord has been a phenomenal blessing.”

Phil and Kim began performing together as a duet six weeks before they were married, which was 30 years ago. Now, they’re in their 18<sup>th</sup> year of full-time ministry.



Three of the Collingsworth siblings – 27-year-old Brooklyn Blair, 26-year-old Courtney Metz and 23-year-old Phillip – are married, leaving William Blair, Michael Metz and Sharlenae Collingsworth joining their spouses on the bus. The youngest Collingsworth sibling – 19-year-old Olivia – rounds out the crew.

“He has a neat gift of making the in-law kids welcome into the family,” Kim explains. “Those in-law kids just adore him. He treats them just like our kids.”

With those additional flourishing relationships, Father’s Day becomes even more special for the leader of the Collingsworth pack. They’ll celebrate this Father’s Day while performing at Central Church of the Nazarene in Flint, Mich.

The growth Phil continues to see in the family ministry may be enough of a gift.

“It’s a situation when it finally settles in to you that they’re getting it,” Phil says. “They’re understanding the atmosphere of the concert, and they learn to flow with the atmosphere. We don’t have a pre-set list. They know where we’re going to start and where we’re going to end, but they have no clue what’s in the middle. That all comes with maturity. They have the feel.”

He’s hopeful that they’ll spend several more Father’s Days together on a stage somewhere.

“I see (envision) that we will continue touring at least another 15 years, maybe 20,” Phil shares. “We love good preachers. We have made a lot of great relationships ... Dr. David Jeremiah, Charles Stanley, Jim Cymbala, Will Graham (Billy Graham’s grandson). I’d love to do some international touring with great preachers. That would be a wish for the future.”

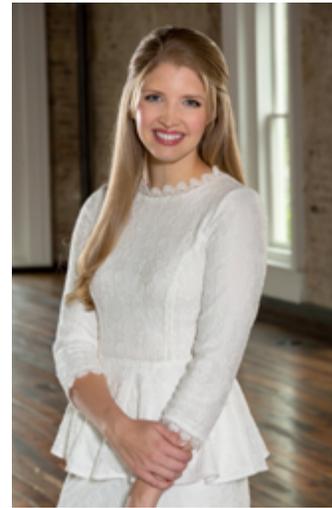




# Collingsworth Sound Bites Part One

## The Collingsworth family tells all about dad ...

By Craig Harris



**Courtney**

On her relationship with her father ... “Dad is a very business-minded guy. He told me I was the most like him. Dad flips houses, and me and my husband (Michael Metz) are flipping our third house. We are (both) techy people. That’s kind of our relationship.”

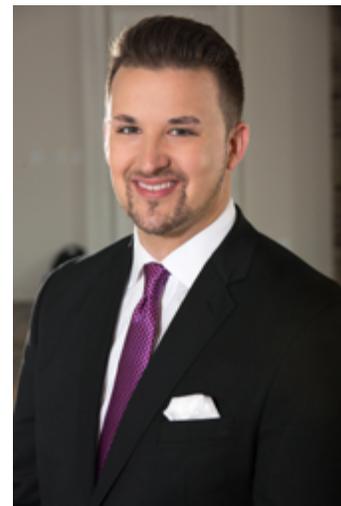
On what people might not know about her father ... “Dad plays the organ. No one knows that. He played when I was little, and he just stopped. He said, ‘I’m not playing anymore,’ so he doesn’t play now. Every now and again, if we are in a really good church with a good organ, he will play. He plays a mean organ.”



**Brooklyn**

On her relationship with her father ... “The other kids will tell you that Daddy spoils me, but I don’t think that’s the case. I was the first (oldest) kid. I taught him how to be a dad. I call him when I need to make a big decision, especially business decisions. He’s like my role model.”

On what people might not know about her father ... “My dad flips houses. He buys the house and turns them around. That’s what he does for fun. That’s his golf. He also has a dealer’s license, so he goes to car auctions and buys cars and fixes them up as well.”



**Phillip**

On his relationship with his father ... “We have common interests in the production side of concerts. I do it (in concert), but he helps me dream it up. We do cars together. There’s a lot of similarities.”

On what people might not know about his father ...

“He does not play sports. Instead, he shops for cars and buys houses. Those are his sports.”



**Olivia**

On her relationship with her father ... “My dad loves to take me out to breakfast to a place called Country Inn (located in the family’s hometown of Mt. Orab, Ohio). I’ve always been a daddy’s girl. We go shop for cars. We are very close in that way. He’s very loving, and he’s one of the most giving people I’ve ever met. Sometimes, he’ll go to Steak and Shake and get a milkshake, and I’ll ask, ‘Dad, can I have a drink?’ He’ll say, ‘you can just have it.’ He will give you the shirt off of his back.”

On what people might not know about her father ... “He does this every time we go to a restaurant ... he likes to get diet (soda) and Dr. Pepper and mix them together. He might even put cherry in it. Also, he likes little, tiny dogs. He’s definitely a dog lover.”



**Kim**

On Phil’s relationship with their children ... “When they were young, he was strong disciplinarian, but he was fun. He would tease the daylight out of them. When they became teenagers, I became the disciplinar-

ian, and he became the more relaxed one. He’s been an amazing daddy.”

On what people might not know about Phil ... “He’s always scheduled their dentist appointments. He hates golf. He says that is the biggest waste of time. He is in real estate. He has his car dealer’s license, and he has a fetish with light bulbs. He cannot stand for a bulb to be out anywhere in the house. He will drive to a store 20 minutes away (to purchase a replacement bulb). We were at Jonathan Byrd’s cafeteria (a restaurant located in Carmel, Ind., that holds concerts) when one of the bulbs on a three-tiered light was out. He was over there screwing in the light bulb trying to get it to come on.”



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# Collingsworth

## Sound Bites Part Two



### Phil Collingsworth talks about his children

By Craig Harris



Characterizing Brooklyn ... “Brooklyn is the oldest, but her personality is as if she is the second child. She is the most pliable child we have. She probably only had one spanking in her life.”

What people may not know about Brooklyn ... “Brooklyn is a naturally-

incredible mom. It’s all she wants to do, even though she’s a phenomenal singer.”



Characterizing Courtney ... “Courtney has the first-child personality, but she’s the second. It’s hilarious.”

What people may not know about Courtney ... “Courtney is an extraordinary designer and home décor manager. She’s been offered jobs to decorate other

people’s houses.”



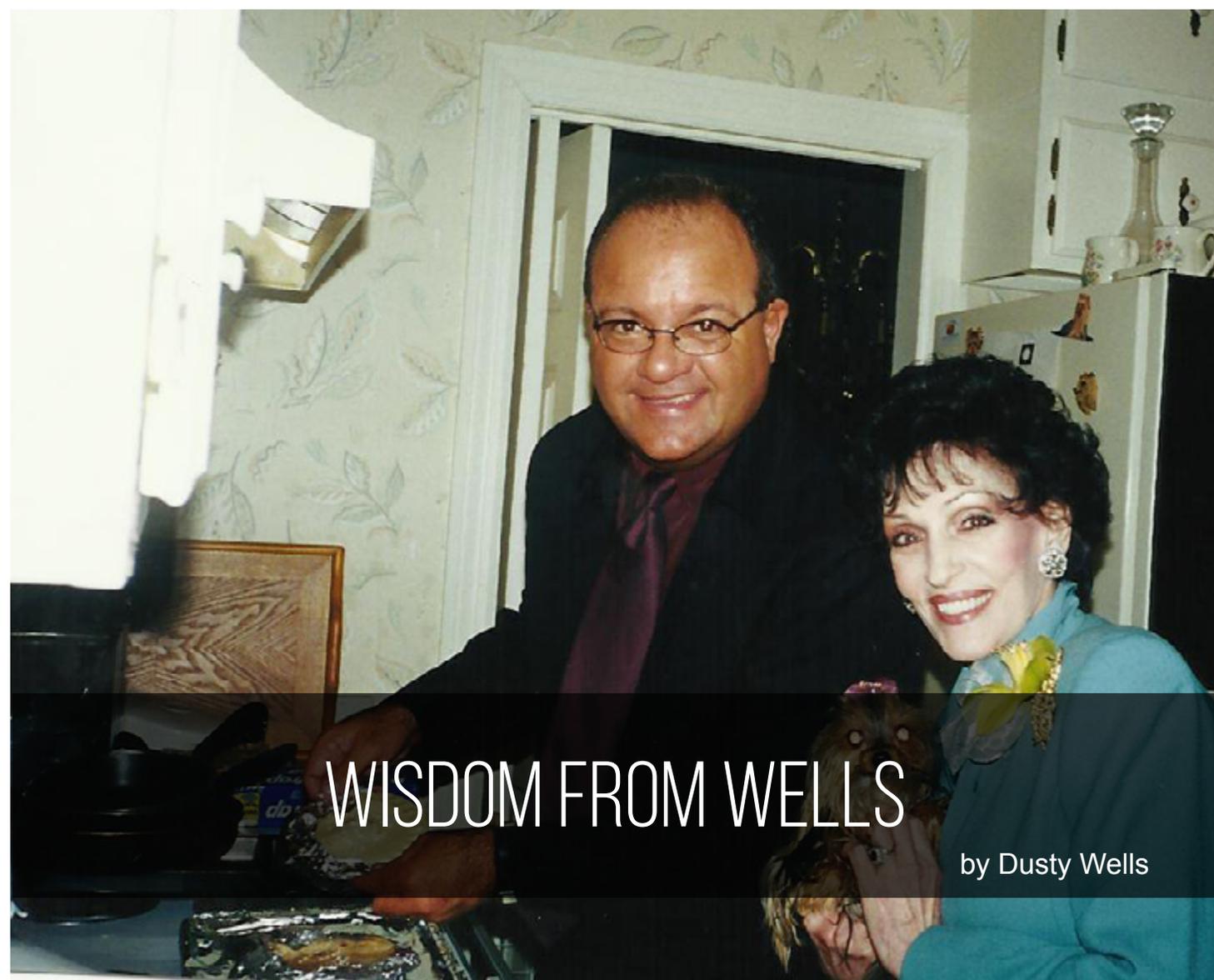
Characterizing Phillip ... “Phillip has always been the life of the party. He was singing Ernie Haase songs at the top of his lungs at 10 years old.”

What people may not know about Phillip ... “Phillip is an avid (Cincinnati) Reds (a Major League Baseball team) fan. He’s had baseball outfits of every size that they offer for kids.”



Characterizing Olivia ... “Olivia is very good at pulling tricks on the rest of us. She’s stored up quite a repertoire of them (that were) being done to her.”

What people may not know about Olivia ... “Olivia is into cars. At 19, she’s on her third car. She trades them on eBay.”



## WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

### “But in the Valley, He Restoresh My Soul”

I have sung about it from the time I was a young kid of 14 years old, right after I got saved. I have talked about it over and over with many troubled hurting people through the years. I have lived it, and I have been in the valley numerous times. I sure have, and I



am fairly certain each of you have had those times in your own life where you have been there. We’ve all been in the dark lonely valley of life. And if you haven’t, let me assure you, you

will in time. It’s just a part of the journey that we all have to go thru and deal with. It’s so painful yet so necessary for us to go to that new place in Him.

Precious mama Dottie Rambo penned her song, “(In the Valley) He Restoresh My Soul” during one of the darkest periods of her own life. There were many times when we would be out on the road traveling, or we would be sitting at her home when she would be in some of the most excruciating back pain, or as she struggled to understand the whys of her own journey, that I would sit there and be praying with her. She would start singing the lyrics to herself, almost as a prayer, and before I knew it, I would be joining in. Within a little bit of time, we both knew that we would come out of the valley.

Anyone who knows me well or follows me with my writing knows that I talk about change quite often

and the importance of change for each of us. Well my friends, I am one of those that hates change, but I know that it will come ... and I have to embrace it.

So in saying that, it's been about six months ago that I experienced a big change in my life and career with my day-to-day job change, and even though it has been good – and it will get better – it has been one the toughest chapters of my own story.

It has been one of those valleys that I have had the most difficult time of trodding through. I could go on and on about this valley of mine, but in the last few days, I have found myself being reminded of the learning part of this valley and change that I have to embrace to help me on my own journey and to help make me a better person. I have found myself quoting and singing this song with such power and meaning like never before.



“It’s dark as a dungeon, and the sun seldom shines, and I question, ‘Lord why must this be?’ Then, He

tells me there’s strength in my sorrow, and there’s victory in trials for me.” It goes on to say, “He leads me beside still waters, somewhere in the valley below. He draws me aside to be tested and tried, but in the valley He restoreth my soul.”

Even just writing those powerful timeless lyrics out, I feel His strength, His unconditional and unwavering love for me, and I can almost see the mountain top that is right before me.

I am not sure where you are on your own path. I have no idea what you are struggling with or dealing with. I have no guarantee that will help you feel better about your own valley. But what I do know and stand secure in, is this ... you will come out of that valley, and you will stand on the mountain top at some point. You really can make it out of the valley, and you will be stronger because of it. His Word assures us of that truth, with so many promises in regards to Him taking care of us with such tenderness, and He says He will never leave us nor forsake us.

So dear ones, start singing over and over to yourself, “but in the valley, He restoreth my soul.” He really will, and He really does.

*“(In the Valley) He Restoreth My Soul,” Dottie Rambo. 1970, New Spring, Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.*



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The album cover features the same image of Sherry Damron in the stable aisle. The text on the cover includes "HEY Y'ALL MEDIA WITH SHERRY DAMRON MINISTRIES PRESENTS.", "God Bless AMERICA AGAIN", "Sherry Damron", "Hey Y'all! WCTA", "VONDA EASLEY (256) 310-7892 vonda@heyallmedia.com WWW.HEYYALLMEDIA.COM", and "SHERRY DAMRON MINISTRIES 888-527-SDM97 ADMIN@SHERRYDAMRON.COM WWW.SHERRYDAMRON.ORG".

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# Anchormen: Strength Renewed



By Robert York

Terry Carter began singing professionally in 1972, when he sang with Michael English as part of the Singing Samaritans. In April of 1979, Carter, his long-time friend (the late Ray Bullard), and his cousin (Ron Crawford) started a new group. Other members of this group included Benny Smith, Gary Burdette and Jeff Riggan. After writing down several names, they decided to call the group the Anchormen, because they were all anchored in Christ Jesus.

In 1981, Carter met Tim Bullins, who was the drummer for the Singing Americans. The Anchormen needed a drummer, and Bullins was hired in 1984.

Down through the years, the Anchormen has consistently had top-charting songs. “Giver of Life” – written by Brian and Shauna Holt and Greg Hodges – became a No. 1 song in 1997. Other favorite songs they continue to sing include “Come On In,” written by Greg Simpkin and Chris White, as well as “I Feel Like Running,” which has been released on four different projects.

As with any Gospel group down through the years, they have seen many changes in terms of personnel. Carter,

Will Lane and Phillip Hughes left the group at one point and have since returned. Some other recognizable names include David Sutton, Steve Ladd, Derrick Boyd, David Hill, Jeff Chapman, Jamie Caldwell, David Hester and Bryan Elliott. Current members include Carter, Hughes, Lane and Chris Jenkins.

“The opportunity to sing with the Anchormen came at the best time and the worst time, at the same time,” Caldwell remembers of his stint with the group. “I had not been able to work for nearly a year due to a massive heart attack in April of 2013. It was the best time because while we had good insurance, we didn’t have disability coverage. Consequently, I had not drawn a salary for that entire time.

“(It was) the worst time because I had been struggling to get my strength back and was concerned I would not be able to hold up under the rigors of the road. While the road was just what I knew it would be, the pure joy of singing energized me to the point I looked forward to leaving each week, regardless of how I felt. Additionally, there was an instant rapport with Terry and Derrick, and when Will joined the quartet with sweet and low, I thoroughly enjoyed the year I spent with the Anchor Boys.



The ministry, the music, the miles, the fun, (and with those guys) the food will fondly be remembered for a long time to come. I will be eternally grateful to Tim and the rest of the guys for giving me just what I needed at precisely the right time.”



Bullins – the owner/manager – had a lot of experience prior to owning the group. He likes to see everyone win at the end of the day. Ed Hill told him 40 years ago, “Everyone from the custodian to the man who signs the check has an instrumental part.”

As a nine- and 10-year-old boy, he would walk around buses and talking out loud he said, “Lord, let me do this one day.” Bullins recalls, “He answered.”

Bullins adds, “During my early days with the Singing Americans (1982-84), I learned a lot about the running of a quartet from my hero, Ed Hill. I notice myself sort of being married to the date book. It all starts with a phone call. You have to be willing to answer the phone and make calls at any time and be consistent. The internet has certainly made it better. But picking up the phone and ‘digging’ through contracts is still the best.

“I do all the house booking, so it gets hectic at times. I travel with the guys probably 65 percent of the time, so I have to do a lot from the road. I handle payroll, all the office work, online sales, keeping the transportation ready and driving. Terry Carter handles most of the product, with Chris being a tremendous help with handling the web site and posting and advancing dates. Like any business, there are lots of surprises that come your way all the time.”

Carter, who sings baritone, spent 18 years with the group before taking time off, but now, he has returned to the group. The Cathedrals, Goodmans, and Statesmen have influenced his life the most in the music industry. He would also like to have dinner with Billy Graham.

“I was saved at age 13 in Wallace, N.C.,” Carter says. “I began singing at age 14, and I’m grateful that God has allowed me to sing and minister for 45 years. My most embarrassing thing was oversleeping and missing a river boat cruise (that) the Anchormen sang on at the (National) Quartet Convention (NQC) many years ago.”

Carter’s highlights of his career include his first time singing at NQC in 1982, as well as seeing souls saved at concerts. If he ever stops singing, you’ll probably see him in promotions and sales of some sort. However, in the meantime, he enjoys spending time with his wife – Kaye – and being in the studio producing vocals for other artists.

Hughes, the lead vocalist, became involved in Southern Gospel Music in 1986 and joined the Anchormen in 1997.

“Making three appearances on the Grand Ole Opry was a highlight of my life,” Hughes says. “An embarrassing time was when I sat down on a pew on stage (while singing with the Kingsmen), and it fell back into Brandon Reece’s drums.”

He left the Anchormen in 2001, later sang with the Kings-



men for six years and spent time as part of the Harvesters Quartet before returning to the Anchormen in 2015.

Doyle Lawson is his favorite musician, and Vince Gill his favorite singer. If Phillip ever retires, you might find him in Hawaii as that's where he would like to visit. If you visit Philip, you might find him out on the ball field with his sons Ross and Ryan or spending time with Starla, his wife.

Known for his rich, mellow bass voice, smile and personality, Will Lane joined the Anchormen in 2003. At age 20, he had already been with Lumber River for one year. Lane left the Anchormen at the end of 2006 and help form the group Driven. Then, in 2014, Lane returned to the Anchormen.

At age 16, Lane accepted Christ in a revival service conducted by Mike Holcomb.

“That was the day everything changed,” Lane points out.

As with many bass singers, Lane was influenced by George Younce. His most embarrassing moment was at one concert when his microphone wouldn't work. He hit the mic, which had a bad cord, and total chaos broke out.

Lane said that sharing the stage with the Oak Ridge Boys has been the highlight of his career. If you stopped by his home, you might find him out working in the yard, at the gym or just spending time with his wife – Mindy – and

family.

Rounding out the current group in the tenor position is the newest member, Jenkins. As a child, he was influenced by Gold City and Brian Free. Jenkins started out singing with his grandfather's group, the Bearons. Somehow grandfathers leave an influence on their grandchildren, and his grandfather is his most admired person. He then started his own group, the Vintage Quartet. During this time, he also served as the manager of a bank.

“I'd probably still be in the banking business if I wasn't singing,” Jenkins says.

In 2012, Jenkins started his full-time career in Southern Gospel Music by joining the Kingsmen, which is where he stayed until 2015. Then, in 2016, he joined the Anchormen.

Jenkins was really embarrassed at a concert in Savannah, Tenn., when he started singing “Oh What a Savior” with his earbuds in each ear and then realized he was hearing the wrong key. He jerked one out in the middle of the first verse and corrected the song to the right key. In his off time, he enjoys spending time with Stephanie – his wife – and their son, Ryan.

These men have experienced life in and out of the An-



chormen, but they have all returned to again sing together about the anchor of their lives. Their new recording, “Strength Renewed,” says everything there is to say about this group of men. Together again, this group shows a strength of purpose and a desire to share about Jesus through solid Southern Gospel quartet music.



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

|    |                               |   |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 1  | Karen Peck and New River      | I Choose Christ                               |
| 2  | Wilburn and Wilburn           | Living Proof                                  |
| 3  | The Hyssongs                  | Let The Hallelujahs Ring                      |
| 4  | The Lore Family               | Because Of Calvary                            |
| 5  | The Whisnants                 | Joy In The House                              |
| 6  | The Mark Trammell Quartet     | Already In Canaanland                         |
| 7  | Tim Livingston                | Headed For Higher Ground                      |
| 8  | Josh and Ashley Franks        | It's The Blood                                |
| 9  | The Bowling Family            | Praise God He's Alive                         |
| 10 | The Williamsons               | I've Got To Tell Somebody                     |
| 11 | The Isaacs                    | Rocks   |
| 12 | The Mylon Hayes Family        | It's Not A Problem For The Answer             |
| 13 | The Kingdom Heirs             | Never Made A Promise                          |
| 14 | John Whisnant                 | There He Is                                   |
| 15 | Shellem Cline                 | Why Can't Christians Share The Love Of Christ |
| 16 | The Taylors                   | We Are Not Ashamed                            |
| 17 | Joseph Habedank               | Here He Comes                                 |
| 18 | Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call | It's Time To Walk On Water                    |
| 19 | HighRoad                      | We Are Broken                                 |
| 20 | Jason Davidson                | He Came Searching For Me                      |
| 21 | Greater Vision                | Never Will I Ever Again                       |
| 22 | Dean                          | You Can't Tell Me I'm Dying                   |
| 23 | The Stephens                  | Send Me                                       |
| 24 | 11th Hour                     | He Welcomes The Beggar                        |
| 25 | The Triumphant Quartet        | Chain Breaker                                 |
| 26 | The Perrys                    | Cry No More                                   |

|    |                                |  |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 27 | Brian Free and Assurance       | He Will Carry You                        |
| 28 | Lauren Talley                  | I Hear A Song                            |
| 29 | The Talleys                    | There Is Coming A Day                    |
| 30 | The Kingsmen                   | They Don't Know                          |
| 31 | The Guardians                  | Packin' Up                               |
| 32 | Chronicle                      | I Believe When Jesus Died                |
| 33 | Battle Cry                     | I'm Amazed                               |
| 34 | The Pine Ridge Boys            | I've Got A New Song                      |
| 35 | Jason Crabb                    | If I Shout                               |
| 36 | The LeFevres                   | He Was There                             |
| 37 | Landon Villines                | It Must Have Been Hard To Resist         |
| 38 | Jonathan Dale                  | Still Standing                           |
| 39 | Doug Anderson                  | Little White Church House                |
| 40 | Rejeana Leath and New Grace    | Thank God For My Christian Home          |
| 41 | The Jim Brady Trio             | Homesick For Heaven                      |
| 42 | The Wisecarvers                | It Was Jesus                             |
| 43 | The Old Time Preachers Quartet | Waving This World Goodbye                |
| 44 | The Browders                   | Put It Into God's Hands                  |
| 45 | The Steeles                    | Meet Me There                            |
| 46 | Legacy Five                    | Still                                    |
| 47 | The Blackwood Brothers Quartet | When I Cross To The Other Side Of Jordan |
| 48 | The Inspirations               | What All The Shouting's About            |
| 49 | The Pruitts                    | Jesus Built This Church On Love          |
| 50 | The Tribute Quartet            | God Of The Storms                        |
| 51 | Children Of The Promise        | I'll Sing About The Blood                |
| 52 | Mark Bishop                    | That's When It's Time To Pray            |



|    |                           |                                 |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 53 | John Whisnant             | Had It Not Been                 |
| 54 | The Bowling Family        | Mourning Into Dancing           |
| 55 | Jeff and Sheri Easter     | More Than Enough                |
| 56 | 2nd Generation            | I Came On Business For The King |
| 57 | The Chandlers             | Somebody Give Him Some Praise   |
| 58 | The Terry Collins Family  | Jesus Make A Way                |
| 59 | The Collingsworth Family  | Gotta Get To Jesus              |
| 60 | The Tribute Quartet       | Never Forsaken                  |
| 61 | Amber Nelon Thompson      | Give It To Jesus                |
| 62 | The Diplomats             | Go Down To The River            |
| 63 | Gordon Mote               | Power In The Blood              |
| 64 | Faith's Journey           | Independence Day                |
| 65 | Adam Crabb                | Sometimes God Allows            |
| 66 | Steve Ladd                | One More River                  |
| 67 | Shane Mathis              | Old Amazing Grace               |
| 68 | The Bates Family          | That Day                        |
| 69 | Master's Voice            | How Long A Lifetime Is          |
| 70 | The Mylon Hayes Family    | I Choose To Stand               |
| 71 | The Gaither Vocal Band    | Working On A Building           |
| 72 | The Erwins                | He's Still Alive                |
| 73 | The Williamsons           | He Lived To Tell It             |
| 74 | Mercy's Well              | Thanks To You                   |
| 75 | Paul's Journey            | That's God's Story              |
| 76 | The Carolina Boys Quartet | Treasures In Heaven             |
| 77 | Sounds Of Victory         | A Know So Kind Of Feeling       |
| 78 | Pat Barker                | Ain't God Good                  |
| 79 | Great Day                 | Journey On                      |
| 80 | Surrendered               | You Don't Know The Half Of It   |
| 81 | The Browns                | Aim Higher                      |
| 82 | Sherry Damron             | God Bless America Again         |
| 83 | Watts Rowsey and Bean     | He Lives To Love                |
| 84 | The Journeys              | I Can Smile                     |
| 85 | Jeff and Sheri Easter     | Someone's Listening             |

|     |                                 |                                   |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 86  | Brian Free and Assurance        | Somebody's Miracle                |
| 87  | Ernie Haase and Signature Sound | Joshua Led God's Children         |
| 88  | The Triumphant Quartet          | Living In The Promised Land       |
| 89  | The Chuck Wagon Gang            | Pray The Power Down               |
| 90  | Zane and Donna King             | Beautiful Ever After              |
| 91  | The Sneed Family                | The News For Today                |
| 92  | The Drummond Family             | Water In The Wilderness           |
| 93  | The Rick Webb Family            | I Will Sing Of The Redeemer       |
| 94  | River's Edge                    | Let The River Run                 |
| 95  | Lindsey Graham                  | No Greater Song                   |
| 96  | Joseph Habedank                 | What A Day That Will Be           |
| 97  | The Spiritual Voices            | What A Time                       |
| 98  | The Parsons Redeemed            | Everything Is Going To Be Alright |
| 99  | Michael Combs                   | That Same Hand                    |
| 100 | Southern Raised                 | Another World                     |

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Help Spread the news  
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Introducing Bob and Joyce Spamer of Spencerport, NY  
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# Sight and Sounds of the Carolina Quartet

By Charlie Griffin

The Carolina Quartet is rich in talent and legacy. Most of the group members have been together off and on for 20-plus years. When you attend one of their concerts, you will enjoy energetic performances, great songs, clean vocals, enthusiasm and a true love for the people they sing for and the Lord they serve. Those Carolina characteristics are the ingredients of a professional music group that can only be said for a few in today's gospel music circles.

The group's sound is defined by the recognizable lead voice of Scott Whitener. Now, Whitener is no stranger to gospel music. His first singing experience was with the church trio where his dad pastored. He was an influential member of the regional powerhouse quartet the Regals for many years. In 1987, he joined the award-winning Singing Americans. His dynamic voice and interpretations really grabbed the attention of Gospel Music fans in this time.



**The 1989 version of the Singing Americans 1989 consisted of (from left) Scott Whitener, Clayton Inman, Greg Shockley, Dwayne Burke and James Rainey**

After leaving the Singing Americans, Whitener also sang lead with Jericho – which was formed along with Dwayne Burke of the Singing Americans – until 1996. This group was recognized for their smooth, focused vocals in a church ministry setting.

Subsequently, Whitener transitioned to the Melody Masters in the mid-1990s as lead singer. During that time, the group lineup of Chris Roberts, Whitener, Roger Burnett, and Richard Sanders achieved success with performances at the National Quartet Convention

and the Canadian version of the NQC, which was held in Canada's in Red Deer, Alta.



### Scott Whitener

As in life, things come full circle. After more than 20 years in full-time Gospel Music, Whitener is now an ordained minister, serving as senior pastor of Temple Baptist Church

in Gastonia, N.C., and as lead pastor of Gateway Cowboy Church in Stanley, N.C.

A graduate of Southern Wesleyan (S.C.) University and Wesleyan Fellowship of Leaders Acquiring Ministerial Education (FLAME), when you talk with Whitener you understand his philosophy of life.

“I am a simple guy, a husband, a singer and pastor,” Whitener explains. “I love blue jeans, T-shirts, boots and buckles. I love my friends. I can’t stand fake stuff or people. Just be real. I am blessed with Gospel Music, but I am more blessed with the love of Christ I experience every day.”



### Chris Roberts

Nobody sings tenor any better than Chris Roberts. He is able to interpret and deliver a ballad or barn-burner song with spirit, power and finesse.

His first Gospel Music experience came at the ripe age of four, singing with his mom and dad in church. Singing just came naturally to him growing up in the church. Later on, Roberts sang with the Chapel Grove Quartet, while serving as minister of music at Chapel Grove Baptist Church. His vocal credits also include singing with the Gardner-Webb (N.C.) University group Cornerstone.

In 1996, he joined the Melody Masters Quartet, playing piano. He later began singing tenor after the retirement of Jim McAbee. With the transition to Carolina Quartet,

he continues that same passion today.



### Carolina Quartet on stage.

Roberts is in his 14th year as pastor of worship and music at the 3,000-member Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville, N.C. He holds degrees from Gardner-Webb (a bachelor of arts in sacred music/1986/summa cum laude), the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (masters of church music/1988), and the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies (doctorate of worship studies/2015). In addition to local church ministry, Roberts currently serves as professor of music at Fruitland Baptist Bible College in Hendersonville, a position he has held since 2006.

“I love the blessings God has given me,” Roberts shares. “From the ministry of the church to singing with Carolina, it is exciting for me to see just how being available and using God-given talents can affect lives. Over the years, we have seen the lasting effects of our sharing Christ’s positive message.”



### Roger Burnette

Singing the baritone part is the familiar voice of Chesnee, S.C., resident Roger Burnette, who sang with the award-winning Melody Masters during the 1990s.

His first stint of Gospel Music came with his family at the early age of seven in the Burnette Quartet, then later on the Rebels Creek Quartet. For 17 years, Roger sang with the regional group, the Master’s Singers of Chesnee. Then in 1996, he formed the Melody Masters Quartet with long-time friends Jim McAbee, Richard

Sanders, Dennis Hughey, Earl Brownlee and Keith Cantrell, adding Whitener and Roberts as Brownlee and McAbee retired.

Still today, Burnette is always a fan favorite everywhere. He can harmonize with anything. Roberts, Whitener and Burnette have been together for 20 years. On May 6, 2017, Burnette was inducted into the South Carolina Gospel Music Hall of Fame, recognizing his dedicated service to the Gospel Music community.

“I am overwhelmed to have received the Hall Of Fame honor,” Burnette says. “I made God a promise when He healed and saved my son years ago, and today I am still singing and honoring God for what He has done for me and my family. To be honored like this is icing on the cake.”



### **Chris Parker**

Making his debut with Country Gospel music audiences is Chris Parker of York, S.C., whose rich bass vocals provide the foundation of the Carolina Quartet sound. Parker has made an immediate impact on

the friends and fans of the group. His energetic style is a refreshing addition to an already stellar lineup. Parker succeeded Lamar Levi, who stepped down after 10 years with the group.

Parker’s Gospel Music background starts with family. In the 1980s he played drums with his dad’s group, the Sojourners. Then, he played a variety of music styles over the years. However, most recently, he sang with his father again in Arise Quartet from the Raleigh, N.C., area. Gospel Music fans will also be familiar with Chris’ uncles, Dove Award-winning vocalist Ivan Parker and Danny Parker of the legendary Harvesters Quartet.

Parker is quick to point out his love of music and how it affects the generations.

“With the Carolina Quartet, we can really do some great Southern Gospel music, but it’s the group’s ability to pull from inspirational Country Music that allows us to sing a positive message to so many people today in

so many different places,” Parker explains. “From a church to fairs, street concerts or festivals, it is amazing to see how many people respond. This is an exciting time for me.”

With each touring group, there is the silent member or members of the group. With Carolina Quartet, their wives fill that role. You may see them at a concert, church sing or festival. If not, they are holding down the fort at home. They are supportive, encouraging, and the family rock for the group. Their love and devotion to their husbands’ hectic music and ministry schedule is second to none.

Scott and Judy Whitener are celebrating 38 years of marriage, Chris and Janet Roberts have been married for 29 years. Roger and Nell Burnette are enjoying 51 years of wedded bliss, and Chris and Holly Parker are the newlyweds with 16 years of marriage.

As you can imagine, a Carolina Quartet concert can be a buffet for the avid music enthusiast. Traditional Southern Gospel songs are mixed with powerful inspirational country tunes that lift up your life, God and country. Filled with energy, humor and just down-home, good singing, the Carolina Quartet inspires, motivates and generates excitement for young and old alike.

They are fan favorites everywhere they go, and for good reason.

“From an entertainment standpoint, we are committed to working hard every night to assure the fans that they get more than their money’s worth,” Parker says.

Whitener adds, “And most importantly, we want people to know that we are dedicated Christ followers and that the gospel of Jesus Christ is what we are all about.”



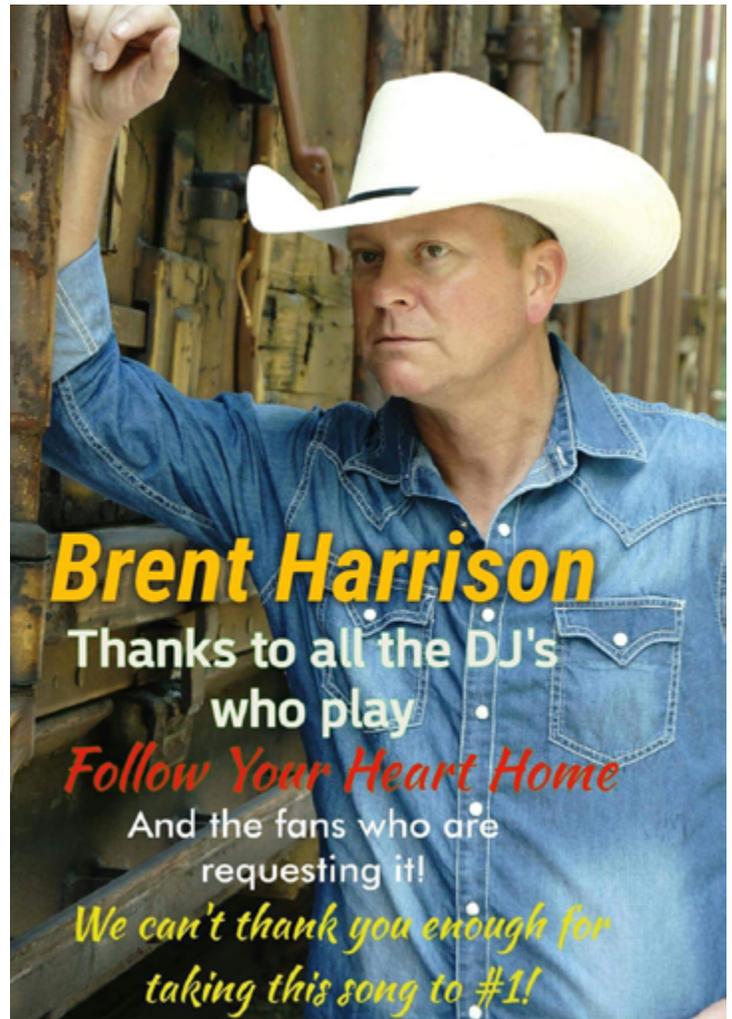
### **Carolina Quartet showcasing the CD, “Simple Christmas.”**

As a follow-up to their “Simple Christmas” recording, CQ has just released “Worship Country.” This record-

ing runs the musical gamut with a mix of praise and worship, hymns, and old-time gospel songs produced in the quartet's unique style, and the quartet can't wait to hit the stage with the new tunes.

Catch a Carolina concert and see for yourselves. The unforgettable sights and sounds of the boys from Carolina will take your appreciation of four-part, male harmony to another level.

You can find more information on the Carolina Quartet on Facebook. For scheduling or to obtain music, contact Whitener by calling 704-678-1683.



**Brent Harrison**

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# Wilmington Choir

has reason to Celebrate 20 years of ministry celebration at Homecoming concert in Wilmington, N.C.



By Lorraine Walker

The Wilmington Celebration Choir has a unique sound that is part worship choir, part Southern Gospel chorale. Led by Joey Gore, the choir has a tour schedule equal to many artists, and it is enjoyed by audiences across the Southeast, as well as Indiana and Connecticut and even South Africa. The group consists of both professional and volunteer singers and uses both accompaniment tracks and live bands.

“It all started when I came off the road [from the Anchormen] and started working with a church,” Gore begins. “Our first concert was in February 1997 with myself and seven friends. We put on a concert at Wrightsboro UMC (United Methodist Church) in Wilmington, N. C. Some of those same people still sing with me today. We called that event ‘Joey Gore & Friends.’”

Gore’s group of Friends began to grow.

“I had started doing some recording with local groups and decided to do a showcase-type concert to get them exposure in the local community,” Gore remembers. “At Christmas, we did a concert and put together a little choir. People loved it. Before long, we were doing the showcase of local artists along with the little choir backing it up.

“The more places we went, the more people liked the whole idea of the choir thing. So we started calling it the Pillar Record Family Choir. As things changed over the years, we just merged it all together into the Wilm-

ington Celebration Choir that people hear today.”

From Gaither Homecomings to major Southern Gospel artist concerts to INSP television, this isn’t your typical community church ensemble. The vocalists ride a 30-passenger bus and carpool to attend concerts four to five hours from home. Don’t look for old-fashioned robes either. This professional Christian music choir looks smart in black with colored scarves. They will lift you up with praise music, let you get down and shout with Black Gospel, and get your hands clapping to Southern Gospel.

Gore was well equipped to handle this project, as the Lord had been training him all his life for just such a position.

“I began playing piano at age eight and loved Southern Gospel music and was in my first group around age 14,” says Gore. “I also was very active in high school with band and chorus and was student director of both.

“My first professional group I played and sang with was Naomi and the Segos in the 1980’s, then later with the Anchormen Quartet. After that is when this all started, and I served in a local church for 18 years. I also have been playing piano with Lynda Randle for around 15 years and also with Karen Peck & New River on occasion when I can. The WCC has grown so much in the last few years that I felt the Lord leading me to leave the church position and work on this full time, along

with working in the recording studio quite extensively too. Plus, I'm doing a few piano solo concerts too."

Working with Wilmington Celebration Choir is definitely not the same as working with a Gospel music group.



"The biggest challenge we have is getting a lot of people where they need to be," says Gore. "Some venues we sing in are limited in space, and with the current group of around 65, that can wear you out. And it's just a lot of people with ideas and such. I try to be strict but not over the top. It's important to love and encourage people, and they will work harder. I've also learned (there's) some stuff you can't do anything about, so I just let it go. I've grown a lot in that area. If not, it will crush you."

After 20 years, you would think Gore could direct the choir with one hand tied behind his back. Apparently, life isn't like that.

"My biggest personal challenge is still trusting God," Gore explains. "It seems – at times – people will be sick, out, can't go, etc., and I start to worry how it's going to turn out. However, every time God makes a way, and we have just what we need. Now, that is amazing. So I'm trying to relax more and let God handle it. Listening to His voice and prayer is the key. I would do it all over again for sure."

The Wilmington Celebration Choir is going to revel in their 20-year milestone at their homecoming from June 2-3 at Pine Valley Baptist Church in Wilmington, N. C. On Friday night, they will share the stage with Karen Peck and New River, and on Saturday, they have invited back some of their alumni to perform, including

Debra Hollis, Paula & Angie, and others.

Looking back on 20 years of travel, Gore remembers a few experiences that have kept him on his toes.

"I have missed planes, drove all night to make an event," recalls Gore. "I do remember a couple of times that we actually had choir members fall off of the back row. One girl stepped into an orchestra pit, and we have left a few people at places too. But everyone turned out okay.

"We sang on a golf course one time for a wedding. Now, that was an experience. As the bride left the ceremony, we sang, 'I'll Fly Away' ... hilarious."

The years have brought many special moments as well.

"We have been so blessed and never take any of the doors opening for granted," Gore points out. "I guess one highlight is always working with Bill Gaither. He always is so nice and enjoys the choir on his concerts.



"Another thing that is currently happening is that I received a call from Rick Shelton over at Daywind, and we have been asked to premiere a new Christmas musical in Gatlinburg this summer at the LifeWay Worship Conference. That is very exciting for us. I hope something further will come from that. People always are asking for our music and arrangements in sheet music, so we'll see what happens."

Many people sitting in the audience who love music will hear Gospel Music artists or the choir and want to become a part of it. To future members, Gore says, "The biggest thing with us is commitment. Singing I can work on, but if you are just interested on occasion,



and experience that Joey Gore has developed with the Wilmington Celebration Choir. However, Gore has no intention of leaving for possible greener pastures.

“I have no interest in secular choir,” says Gore. “I have done that, but this is (a) calling for me and these people. God has called us to spread the gospel to the lost person and bring encouragement and hope to the people that need it. In our world today, those things are needed sorely in the church and beyond.

“People need to laugh and have some joy also. It helps to press on in our walk with Christ. The end reward will be worth it.”

and not really committed, it won't work for either party. We sing a lot these days, and most of my people just absolutely love it.”

With chorale music becoming more popular and school groups as well as other types of choirs popping up, there is more demand for leaders with the abilities

**PETER CHRISTIE**

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# Randall Reviews It - June 2017

by Randall Hamm

It's June, and we're halfway through the year. Can you believe it? This month, I bring a true breakout CD from a sibling group, a project that's garnering acclaim from both the Bluegrass and Gospel Music world. A long-time family group releases its 53<sup>rd</sup> project. I bring you Southern Raised, the Little Roy and Lizzy Show, and the McKameys latest releases.

Remember friends to get a copy of these releases wherever you get good Gospel music.

Randall

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



Southern Raised  
"Up All Night"  
Stowtown Records 2017

Songs included: Up All Night (Wayne Haun-Joel Lindsey-Lindsay Reith); Instead (Jeff Baumgardner-Wayne Haun-Emily Reith); Miracle In Me (Mark Mathes); Letting Go (Wayne Haun-Joel Lindsey-Lindsay Reith); That's What Love Can Do (Jeff Baumgardner-Wayne Haun-Lindsay Reith); Beautiful Moments In Time (Wayne Haun-Lindsay Reith) Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> (Traditional); Another World (Jeff Baumgardner-Wayne Haun-Lindsay Reith); Wanna Be (Wayne Haun-Lindsay Reith); When Jesus Came Down (Larry Joe Cousin-Rachel McCutcheon); Like My Mother Does (Nathan Paul Chapman-Liz Rose-Nicole Williams); I'd Rather Have Jesus (George Beverly Shea-Rhea F. Miller)

The four siblings: Lindsay, Sarah, Emily and their brother – Matthew Reith – have garnered many nominations from different organizations, but never have any of their albums been as good as their latest release, "Another World."

The band, recently signed to Stowtown Records, has produced a true breakout project. From the catchy “Up All Night” – never lose sleep worrying about your problems but give them to God instead because He’s “Up All Night” – to “Beethoven’s 5<sup>th</sup>” like you’ve never heard it before, this is a true standout project that must be in your collection. “Instead,” which is the group’s current radio release, debuted on the July Singing News Top 80 at 64.

I first encountered these four siblings at the National Quartet Convention in Freedom Hall, dressed in their show clothes putting on a show outside the North Wing of the complex doing a great version of “I Go to the Rock.” I was hooked. You will be too if you get a copy of their latest release.

Kudos to Wayne Haun for crafting their breakout project. Get a copy of “Another World” at southernraisedbluegrass.com or at retail outlets.

Strongest songs: “Instead,” “Like My Mother Does,” and “That’s What Love Can Do”



Little Roy and Lizzy Show  
“Going Home”  
2017 Stowtown Records

Songs included: Going Home; Today Is Gonna Be a Brighter Day; The Church Bell; That’s the Power In the Blood; Dinner On the Ground; In a Whirlwind; Feels Like Rain; Coffee in the Morning; Free Free; When I Stop Dreaming; Traveling On

With their fourth release, “Going Home,” Little Roy and Lizzy have garnered acclaim from both the Gospel and Bluegrass communities. The album debuted in May in the top 10 of the Billboard Bluegrass albums chart.

The band, composed of Lizzy Long, “Little” Roy Lewis

and bandmates Nathan Stewart, Haley Stiltner, Tyler Biddix have hit their stride. The CD opens with the upbeat “Going Home.” It speaks of leaving where you are and “Going Home,” the place where you belong.

“Today is Gonna Be a Brighter Day,” is one of my favorite songs on the project. “God’s gonna roll the dark clouds away, and today is gonna be a brighter day.”

The Oak Ridge Boys make a guest vocal appearance on “Dinner On The Ground,” and Jeff and Sheri Easter are featured on “Traveling On.”

The whole CD is delightful and will please any Bluegrass or Gospel fan. Get a copy of the CD at [www.littleroyandlizzy.com](http://www.littleroyandlizzy.com) or at retail outlets.

Strongest songs: “Dinner On The Ground,” “Traveling On,” and “Today Is Gonna Be A Brighter Day”



McKameys  
“Be Brave”

2017 Horizon Records  
Producers: Roger Fortner and Jeff Collins

Songs included: One Thing I Know (Sheryl Farris BMI); Living For Eternity (Sheryl Farris BMI); Come Forth As Gold (Sandy Blythe BMI); Since When (Kristi Fitzwater-Timothy Parton BMI); It’s Mine (Rebecca J Peck-Dianne Wilkinson BMI); Be Brave (Sheryl Farris BMI); Jesus Passed By (Sheryl Farris BMI); So Good To Me (Tracy Lynn Jones BMI); =On and On (Sheryl Farris BMI); For the Record (Sheryl Farris BMI);

The McKameys are back with album No. 53 in their long career. One of America’s favorite family groups unveils “Be Brave,” which includes 10 songs in the familiar McKamey style. The street date for this project is June 9.

The CD opens with the uptempo “So Good To Me,” in the typical McKamey style we’ve come to enjoy, and it’s a toe tapper. One of the six Sheryl Farris-penned tunes – “Living For Eternity” – brings us the family with daughter Connie taking lead. “Come Forth As Gold” features Peg on this Sandy Blythe-written tune. “It’s Mine” features Reuben on this Rebecca Peck/Dianne Wilkinson collaboration. “Be Brave” features Sheryl singing one of her compositions. “On and On” ... he’s been so good to me, I could go “On and On” about His goodness.

The true highlight of the CD is the new Roger Fortner-featured tune, “For the Record.” The tune has a Don Williams-esque quality to it. The first two Fortner-featured singles, “Unspoken Request” and “Pure Satisfaction,” both rang the bell at No. 1 on the Singing News chart. This third single should do the same. With Fortner being so busy as producer and arranger, I can understand why he hasn’t put a full album of songs out, but when we do get a Fortner song, they truly are special.

“One Thing I Know” features Peg once again. In one of my favorite songs on the project, Peg is singing of the days when we have doubts. “One Thing I Know” is that He does all things well, and I know He is with me.

“Jesus Passed By” brings Sheryl back as featured vocalist. This song refers to the biblical account of when the blind man begged for mercy, and Jesus granted him his sight. The blind man cried, “A sinner was I, but then Jesus passed by, and I’m a changed man.”

Ending the project is “Since When,” which features Connie. Overall, the CD will not disappoint the truest of McKamey fans. There is truly something for everybody.

The only thing missing was an Eli Fortner-featured tune. Eli has been suffering complications from a kidney transplant that he received nine years ago. The doctors say he is need of a new kidney, and Eli is currently on dialysis until a new donor can be found. Continue to keep him in your prayers.

Get your copy of “Be Brave” at [www.mckameyonline.com](http://www.mckameyonline.com) or at retail outlets.

Strongest songs: “For The Record,” “One Thing I Know” and “Be Brave.”

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## *Catching up with the* **Hinson Family**

**By Jimmy Reno**

There are some names in the Southern Gospel Music industry that are synonymous with Southern Gospel. One such name is Hinson.

Weston Hinson and his wife Christy, along with daughter Jordan and newest vocalist Logan Smith, currently carry on the family legacy left by the original Hinsons.

We recently caught up with the group. Their feedback is as follows ...

**Jimmy Reno:** The original Hinsons were a legendary group in Southern Gospel and turned out numerous hits like “The Lighthouse,” “Call Me Gone,” “That I Could Still Go Free,” and so many others. Does the Hinson Family follow in the same style of songs and arrangements, or do you feel your ministry is moving in a different musical direction of its own while still reaching back to the roots laid by the original Hinsons?

**Weston Hinson:** I think it’s important to draw from influences while at the same time be true to who you are, and I believe if my dad were alive he would tell me, “be yourself.”

**Reno:** Kenny Hinson won numerous awards and impacted so many other artists with his voice and ministry, including myself. Growing up with your father achieving so much success in the Southern and Country Gospel genres, Weston, how soon did you know that your calling would also be in singing?

**Weston:** I think being in and around music and ministry my whole life, I may have looked over – or to be honest, didn’t take being called seriously – until I reached my early 20s. It would be easy to see the success of my dad and assume his children would want to follow in that, but I wanted to make sure success and accolades were not the reason I followed the call of God on my life. I can assure you it’s not why my dad followed the call either.

**Reno:** Christy, you write songs in addition to contributing vocals to the group. Where do you draw your inspiration for new songs, and how does that process work from the original idea to the finished piece when you’re writing?

**Christy:** Well I’m not really one of those give-me-a-



phrase-and-I'll-write-you-a-song-type writers. (That's) not to say I haven't done it, but I just tend to write from either experience or something that moves me. Uncle Larry (original Hinsons) calls me a heartfelt writer, and usually it all comes at once, the lyrics and music together. It may take two or more days to work it out, but it's usually just like God's downloading a song straight to me. I only have one song it took me three years to complete, and it's coming out on our next project. It's called "Say The Word." Be listening for it.

Reno: The Hinson Family music has a more modern country style in its arrangements and instrumentation. Do you feel that this style is the future of the industry moving forward?

Weston: Well, to say some of our music has a modern country feel would not be wrong, but as a whole, we are pretty diverse. We do a lot of throwback to our roots with some conventional and original family music. Let me say this ... we have many flavors, from bluegrass, classic country, modern country and just good ole' Southern Gospel. It's who we are; if you look back, my family did the same thing in their day, and we are just carrying on the tradition. I wouldn't want to speak for the industry, because everyone is different. That's a good thing. This is just the way we feel we should go.

Reno: You've recently added a new member to your group. Can you tell us a little about Logan Smith and what he brings to the Hinson Family?

Weston: Logan Smith and

our daughter Jordy were engaged in December of this last year, and because we didn't feel newlyweds need to be separated, we had to talk about what we would do. So, Logan decided to be a part of our group, and we were more than happy to have him. If you have heard Logan, then you know he has a phenomenal voice. He first made his appearance on tour with the Gaithers at the ripe old age of only 10 years old. He would belt out songs, and you thought Vestal Goodman herself just walked on stage. So how can you go wrong mixing Goodman and Hinson flavors together? It's pretty good stuff.

Reno: Jordan, was singing something you knew as a child you wanted to do? Did you envision this opportunity of singing with your family?

Jordan: I always loved traveling with my parents and grandparents as a child to hear Gospel music and listen to them sing, but I don't think I ever envisioned myself singing with the group one day. I was great in school and always wanted to be a nurse or veterinarian, but after a few months on the road with mom and dad when I was 14, I was hooked. I knew that this was what God had called me to do. I am so blessed, not only to get to sing and serve God, but I am blessed by all the lives

we see changed in the process. To me, seeing people's lives changed is worth every mile.

Reno: When the Hinson Family performs in concert, what do you want the audience to take





away from the program?

Weston: A life change and to know that God can take any situation, any broken heart and put it back together.

Reno: You have a brand new project, and the first release was a song penned by Gerald Crabb entitled "The Light Just Came On." The song says, "Mercy found where I was living." They are powerful lyrics, and you do a fantastic job on it. Are you seeing this song reach people and having an impact?

Weston: What can I say but, "awesome song by an awesome songwriter." And oh yeah, we have seen big ole' guys cry on this one. You can tell mercy found them where they were living.

Reno: What are the goals for the Hinson Family? Where do you see your ministry going, and what do you hope to achieve through your music?

Weston and Christy: Our goal would be to do music that reaches more and more people, and we see our ministry doing just that, so that broken lives can be mended and lost lives can be saved. Ain't that what it's all about?

Reno: You have been in the middle of a move to Nashville, Tenn. Christy has said she dreamed of moving there one day and changing the world with her songs. Can you describe what the move means for you as a ministry and how it benefits what you do?

Christy: For me, it gives me a chance to collaborate with other writers. It also moves us closer to most of our dates, which is a lot easier on my health ... well, every-

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one's health to be honest.

Reno: What upcoming events or things are you excited about that you want fans to be aware of?

Weston: We are so excited about our new project with Song Garden Music Group, called "Now Is the Time." There are some great songs. There are songwriters like Gerald Crabb, as we mentioned, and Kenna Turner West, Lee Black, Michael Farren, Chris Unthank, Jason Cox, Teri Wilkins, Larry Hinson, Jordan Honea – our daughter – and Christy and I, all wrote songs on this new project. And, of course, we would love for people to come see us at Silver Dollar City on Aug. 14 and 16.

If you have the opportunity to attend a concert in your area by the Hinson Family, I strongly encourage you to go. Their combination of ministry and powerful songs gives the Southern Gospel fan a memorable experience. As the original Hinsons before them, the Hinson Family shares their talents with the goal of serving Christ and answering the call on their lives. The more things change, the more they stay the same.



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# Day By Day

## Lessons on being a father and a husband

*By Selena Day*

When I was falling in love with my husband, I didn't stop and ask myself what kind of father he would be. After we were engaged, a woman told me to watch how he treated his mother. If he treated her well then he would treat me in the same manner. No words have been any truer, and I have extended this same advice to my own daughters.

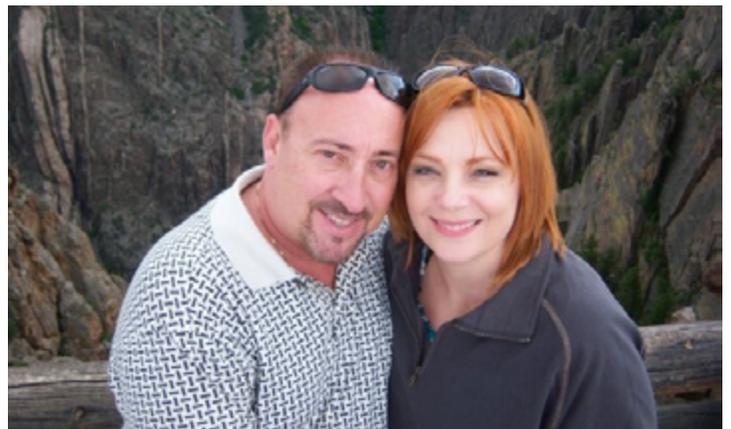
I am very lucky though that my husband has turned out to be a pretty amazing dad. He is the kind of father that helps when it is time for birthday parties. He is the kind of father that the night before Halloween or Thanksgiving, he's designing an outfit for the girls to wear to school. He is the kind of father that on our girls' 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, he took them all out to a very nice restaurant of their choice, bought them flowers and showed them how a man should treat a woman. When our girls went to prom, he not only drove them to the prom, he stayed in the area just to peek in from time to time to watch them as they danced and enjoyed their special night.

The greatest gift I believe that he has given them is his love for me. Men, if you really want to show daughters how they are to be treated, then treat your wife the way you want a husband to treat them. If you want your sons to know how to treat their wives, men, then set that example. And if you treat your wife in a manner contrary, then your sons should call you out.

I was told this story from a couple – that during a difficult season with their son – he started being very disrespectful to his mother. The father one day took his son

out to his workshop and placing his arm around him, he softly and a little menacingly told him, “she may be your mother, but she was my wife first. I don't let any man treat her the way you have been treating her. Now that you are becoming a man, consider this your one and final warning.” Needless to say that their son's attitude got considerably better.

I am so thankful for the example that my father set for me with my own mother. I can always remember how my dad would go out in the morning during the wintertime and crank my mom's car for her while she was getting ready, so that she would get into a warm car for her drive to work.



If you are a true student of God's Word, you know that the father nature of God is to provide. I have seen this so many times in my own father and in my husband. Whenever our girls are in need, he does whatever he can to help. Having three girls, he has at times been stretched in their need for his time and attention.



To be honest, I have been struggling with parenting lately. I have found that this season of parenting adult children has been the hardest so far. So, I wanted to take the time to honor my own father and my children's father in this article.

No parent is perfect, and I think that is one of the hardest parts of parenting – your own imperfection and how it affects those which you most treasure. My own father had his faults, but to me, he is a hero.

I do have memories of times that my father or my husband may have missed the mark, but I choose not to remember those as much and to focus on the moments when they did. I believe that as our girls grow older, they will see that their father was an amazing example of the Father's perfect love in an imperfect vessel, just as I see this about my own father. How thankful I am of the reflection he has shown me over the years of God's grace and unfailing love. Even when I have hurt my daddy, he has always been there to extend grace and love, with consistency.

If it were not for my daddy's imperfect, perfect love, I would not have seen the true nature of God ... nor would I have sought out our heavenly Father to lean on during some of my formative moments in life.

I am very fortunate and grateful to have such amazing men in my life – men who are authentic and real. They are men who always try to be the best versions of themselves, men who have chosen to love me and my imperfections and who are willing to see the best version of me in all that I do.

Thank you, Chuck Day and Bruce Brantley, for loving me. And in the words of my grandmother, "thanks for being mine."

*Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. You may contact her at [selenaday@me.com](mailto:selenaday@me.com) <http://www.queenliving.org> <http://facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday>. Photographs courtesy of Selena Day.*

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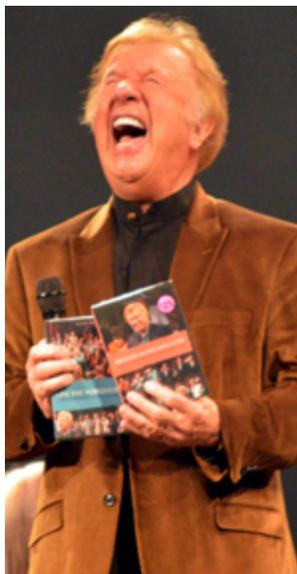
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# A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris: Gaither Family Fest

Photographs by Craig Harris



SGNScoops' photojournalist Craig Harris was on hand at Bill Gaither's Family Fest in the Smokies, which was being held at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. He captured images from Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday night. Dr. Jeffrey Frymire brought the Word after a great morning of music at Family Fest on Sunday. Some of the many artists that appeared included The Gaither Vocal Band, The Isaacs, Jeff and Sheri Easter, David Phelps, Mark Lowry, Jimmy Fortune, Lynda Randle, The Nelons, The Booth Brothers, and many more.



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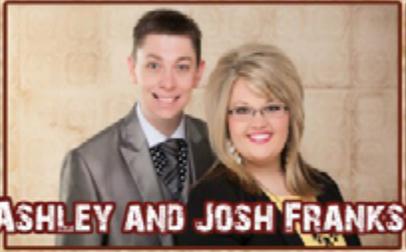
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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

## Elena Cragun

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin...

My heart is so full as I write to you this month. As I was putting the final touches on what you're about to read, I realized how deeply touched you will be by my special guest's heart for Christ and her love for His people. Elena Cragun of the Craguns is that special someone for you to get to know a little better, whether you're an old or new Cragun fan. I know you will be blessed. Here goes ...

*Erin: Growing up as a pastor's kid, what is your story of how you came to know Christ?*

Elena: I was 13 years old when I became a Christ follower. I don't remember the details of the message that was delivered in the evening service of the family camp I was attending, but I do remember the conviction that gripped my soul. I have no story to tell of terrible sins committed, but I can tell you that my heart was cleansed when I confessed my need of a Savior and received His gift of salvation. Being a (preacher's kid), I had a lot of knowledge on what it meant to be saved and how to live a life for Christ. That night, head knowledge became heart knowledge. It was the best decision I ever made

*Erin: When did you begin singing with your sisters?*

Elena: I began singing with my sisters when I was five years old. We sang for church services, camp meetings, and speaking engagements that my daddy held. We sang in both English and Spanish.

*Erin: How did you and your husband Jordan meet?*

Elena: Jordan and I met the first time at a family church camp in Oklahoma. I hung out with his older sister, and he seemed to be always hanging around. He was 11, and I was 13. Our love story, however, didn't really begin until five

years later when we met again at Jordan's cousin's wedding.

*Erin: How do you juggle being a mommy, wife, psychosocial therapist and singer?*

Elena: I no longer work as a psychosocial therapist. I loved working in the mental health field, but I became a full-time gospel singer in August of 2013. So it's juggling wife, mommy and singer. Basically, I survive by making lots of lists. I have two planners and a calendar that I live by, and I try to take it one day at a time. My favorite things to buy are Post-It notes, pens and notepads.

*Erin: Congratulations on the latest edition to your family. How has Scarlett adjusted to life with her baby brother, Grant? Better yet, how have Mom and Dad adjusted?*

Elena: Thank you. Grant is just the best. Scarlett took a few days to grasp that this was the baby (that) Mommy was talking about, but soon after we came home from the hospital, she was smitten. Now she's extremely possessive. I've heard her exclaim on several different occasions, "Hey, don't touch



him. Dats my baby Nant.” She’s adjusted quite well. Adjusting for Jordan and me hasn’t been so bad either. We get less sleep and drink a lot more coffee, but Grant is really sweet and cuddly. It’s all worth it.



*Erin: Are there any exciting happenings the fans can be expecting from The Craguns this year?*

Elena: We have a new album in the works we are very excited about. (It should be releas-

ing later in the year.

*Erin: Is there a particular Cragun concert in recent years that stands out as having a big impact on your life?*

Elena: The concert that stands out to me the most was in Oregon. A dear friend of ours was in the crowd. She was battling cancer. She was past the time limit the doctors had given her to live. She didn’t have much strength, but I remember her lifting her hands and praising the Lord with everything that she had left. Even at the very end, she was giving her all in praise and honor to the King. What an awesome testimony. That certainly impacted me. She went to heaven just a few weeks later.

*Erin: What’s a favorite blooper moment you can recall from being on the road?*

Elena: The most memorable blooper moment would have to be when I had to leave the stage in the middle of a concert to take care of Scarlett when she was a newborn. The babysitter was struggling big-time that night and could not get her calmed down. The way the venue was set up, infant cries could be heard inside. As a new mom, I couldn’t hardly handle it. It was not funny at the time, as I left the guys hanging for what I was told later was 20 minutes, but looking back it’s quite hilarious.

*Erin: Books or movies? Homemade or eat out? Heels or flats? Spring or fall? Coffee or tea? Night owl or early riser?*

Elena: Books. Homemade, especially since we eat out so much. Heels, I’m 4-foot-11 and need all the help I can get. Spring. I love this time of year. All the new birth and growth makes my heart smile. Coffee. It’s mostly cream when I make it, but I love me some coffee. Definitely, early riser.

*Erin: What is a Scripture that you’ve held tightly to that means a lot to you personally? Why?*

Elena: “The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart

trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy and with my song I praise Him,” Psalm 28:7. Life is full of surprises and setbacks, and I know I could not navigate through it all in my own strength. I am a weak, fragile, finite being. This fact was made very clear when I suffered a mini stroke on Christmas Eve of last year. I was still pregnant with Grant, and I was terrified. I had to lean on the Lord like never before, and I found that, with Him, I am indeed strong. I found that in this particular instance, He was my shield as the outcome could have been so much worse. Four months later, I am as healthy as can be, and I am beyond grateful. So, I will sing His praises and tell everyone what He’s done for me and what He can do for them.

*Erin: Is the Lord challenging you to deepen your walk with Him in 2017? If so, how?*

Elena: Yes. I have been challenged to deepen my walk with Him by committing to memory more of His Word and to teach my kids His Word. Scarlett is like a sponge. She literally repeats everything she hears. There’s no better time than now to teach her. I want more than anything for my kids to know what the Word of God says and for them to embrace it as the guideline for living this life.



Closing thoughts from Erin...

What did I tell you at the beginning? What a story this incredible woman of faith has to share. Thank you Elena for challenging us and for being so vulnerable with our readers today. My prayer is that we will take the truth of Psalm 28:7 with us into these next hours, days and weeks. No matter the circumstance, no matter the struggle, may His praise be ever on our lips.

And that’s my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans ...

Connect with Erin on Twitter (@photosforkeeps) or on Instagram (@photos\_for\_keeps).

Who would you like to see Erin interview next?

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# Legacy Five and Tribute Quartet in concert



By Justin Gilmore

Despite the rain, fans gathered for an amazing night of worship at El Cajon Wesleyan Church in El Cajon, Calif.. Local concert promoter Ruth Ann DeForest organized the concert, which featured two of Southern Gospel Music's leading quartets in Legacy Five and Tribute Quartet. Both groups were fresh off of performing at the Great Western Fan Festival in Visalia, Calif.

Before the concert, artist circle ticket holders were treated to a formal meet and greet/Q & A session with both groups. The two groups discussed their origins, tour schedules, mission statements, and memorable experiences in their careers.

Matt Fouch, the bass singer of Legacy Five, pointed me out in the crowd and said, "I bet you have a question." I asked both groups about their most memorable moments. For Scott Fowler, it is about the people they help more than anything else. Fowler told a story about a concert in which a person, who had a family member who was murdered, was blessed by their ministry. It put things into perspective for Fowler and for the quartet, that it is important to "take this seriously" and "to not be on autopilot."

Gary Casto of Tribute Quartet told a story about an

86-year-old woman giving her life to Jesus at the altar call during one of their concerts. This reminds us that it's never too late to live for Jesus.

Following the Q & A, we had some time to browse the product tables and talk with the artists. During that time I caught up, with Fouch and Legacy Five tenor singer Josh Feemster.

At 5 p.m., Tribute Quartet kicked the night off with the title track from their latest album, "Here For You." The group's harmonies were on display with the energetic convention song, "Jesus Saves," the chorus of which was reprised several times. The group then slowed it down with, "More Than Able," featuring Josh Singletary and Anthony Davis.

Casto thanked the audience for coming out despite the rain. He joked that they brought the rain to the usually sunny Southern California. Next, Feemster was featured on the upbeat, crowd pleaser, "Everybody Come See Jesus," which had the audience on its feet. Casto was featured on, "Meeting In The Middle of the Air," which also had the audience clapping and singing along. He then introduced Singletary and had him play "Power in the Blood," from his latest solo project, "Hymns From Home." Singletary is one of

the best piano players in Southern Gospel Music in my opinion, and this performance was truly impressive. He received a standing ovation.



Casto then introduced Davis and featured the bass singer on “That’s How I Know,” which showcases his smooth bass voice. Comedy ensued during the performance as Singletary and tenor singer Riley Harrison Clark raised the microphone stand so that the shorter Casto couldn’t reach it. Also, Singletary broke out in a dancing fit during the last chorus, which had the audience in stitches.

Clark took the lead next with the incredible mid-tempo ballad “God of the Storms.” He encouraged the crowd saying that Jesus Christ is our refuge from all danger and harm. “His voice calms the thunder. His whispers bring peace. Troubled waters of danger set a stage for His feet. Take shelter with the God of the storms.” Then, the quartet closed out its first set with “Never Forsaken,” “Grace At Its Best,” and the fan-favorite, “Good News From Jerusalem,” all of which were well received.



Legacy Five then took the stage and began the first set with “Deep In My Heart,” an energetic rendition of “He Made a Change,” and “What a Lovely Name.” Feemster and Fouch sounded incredible on their respective parts for both of those songs. Fowler was featured on “Still,” the group’s latest single

from the project “In The Hands Of A Carpenter.” This incredible song gives us comfort that no matter what happens in this world, Jesus loves us still.



Fowler introduced pianist Trey Ivey, who recently announced his forthcoming departure. Ivey played a classic Southern Gospel version of “Goodbye World Goodbye.” Following the performance, Fowler told a story about Ivey and how his family realized his gift. Ivey then played “Movement No. 2,” a classical sonata. This of course led to some comedy from baritone singer Scott Howard, who was in top comedic form as he joked about conservatory/crematorium, forgetfulness and growing old among other things.



Next, the group performed their hit “I Found Grace,” which was well received. Feemster was featured on “I Stand Redeemed,” which showcased his amazing range. Each time I have seen Feemster perform, he gets better and better. Fowler talked about the title track of their latest album before Ivey performed the thoughtful song. The group received another standing ovation. Fowler then discussed his passion for the American Patriot’s Bible and the preservation of the truth about this country’s founding. This was followed by an instrumental medley of patriotic songs. The group closed out their first set with a powerful

performance of the “Hallelujah Chorus.”



Following a brief intermission, Tribute returned to the stage with two classic Southern Gospel songs, “Unclouded Day” and “Living In Canaan Now.” Singletary then played another track from his solo project, “Everyday With Jesus,” which received a standing ovation. The group then performed one of my favorites, “I Remember The Day,” which featured some low notes from Davis and was reprised several



times. Clark was featured on “Mary Did You Know,” which is his most requested song. Clark blew the audience away with his incredible and powerful performance, which also received a standing ovation.

Singletary and Davis were featured again on “Somebody Sing Me That Song,” which Casto said was his favorite track on the group’s new album. Following this smooth performance, Casto spoke words of encouragement to the audience and led us in a sing-along featuring, “In the Garden” and “Because He Lives.” The group then closed its final set with a reprise of “Jesus Saves.”



Casto introduced Legacy Five once again, which then featured Fouch on the thoughtful ballad “Who Knew.” The group’s incredible harmonies were showcased on the classic hymn, “Well Done My Child.” They have been working on this song recently, and Fowler asked if they could “rehearse” it for us. This rendition had the audience on its feet and clapping along. Feemster and Fouch nailed their respective parts, with both hitting unbelievable notes. This song also featured a comedic moment in which Ivey pointed out that someone missed their part, which then led to Ivey taking over Fowler’s part. That blew the audience away. The chorus was reprised multiple times.



Next, the group sang the Cathedral classic, “Boundless Love,” and then featured baritone Scott Howard on “Lost In God’s Grace.” Howard is one of Gospel Music’s most consistent baritones, and his performance here proved it. The quartet closed out the night with a powerful performance of “I Trust the

Cross,” which reminds us that Christ is the only one who will never let you down. They also sang another chorus of “He Made a Change.”



During intermission, I had the opportunity to officially meet and take pictures with the men of Tribute

Quartet as this was my first time seeing them live in concert. Casto thanked me for my reviews and support, which truly means a great deal to me. This group is the real deal on and off stage ... great vocals and great people. I also took pictures with Legacy Five as well, which I have seen several times now. I am always impressed with the group, both in terms of performance and off-stage interaction.

Go out and see these great groups when they come to your area. You will not regret it one bit.

For more information, visit their web sites at [www.legacyfive.com](http://www.legacyfive.com) and [www.tributequartet.com](http://www.tributequartet.com).



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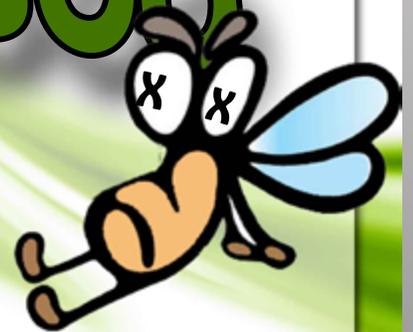
## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. Angels By Another Name - Steve Bridgmon
2. Follow Your Heart Home - Brent Harrison
3. That's What It's All About - Butch Tinker
4. Well Worn - Lisa Daggs
5. Quicksand - Austin Zimmer
6. Beautiful Messes - Hillary Scott
7. You Are Welcome Here - Bev McCann
8. My Place- Trevor Bohannon
9. Still Standing - Jonathan Dale
10. We Are Broken - HighRoad
11. Never Let Me Down - The Arenos
12. God Bless America Again - Sherry Damron
13. Greatest Love - The Tacketts
14. The Church Pew - Cliff Waddell
15. Looking Back - Ava Kasich
16. Heart on My Sleeve - Mary James
17. Days Like That - Kevin Woody
18. That's What Jesus Would Do - Justin Todd Herod
19. Living Right - Tony Bates
20. He's Coming Back - Debbie Bennett
21. Why Can't Christians Share The Love of Christ -  
Shellem Cline
22. Sweet Whispers - Amy Richardson

23. Get Saved - McKay Project
24. Father I Praise You - Greg McDougal
25. On the Sunny Banks - Chris Golden
26. The Other Side of Sober - Jacob Bryant
27. Old School - Jim Sheldon
28. My Favorite Singer - Kenny Gardner
29. Red - Ryan Watkins
30. He Never Changes - Taylon Hope
31. You Ain't Looking Hard Enough - Austin Zimmer
32. Drinking And Praying - Erica Lee Sunshine
33. What's A Valley - Kali Rose
34. Can't You See - Tommy Brandt II
35. If This Is All There Is - Arkin Terrell
36. Back To God - Reba McEntire
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# Eagle's Wings

## Bluegrass Gospel Band



By Debbie Seagraves

### **The road back home to Jesus is shorter than it seems**

Eagle's Wings is a Bluegrass/Southern Gospel band that hails from Jasper, Ala. The group consists of members Darryle Wilson, Debbi Wilson, Matt Wilson, Kevin Chambers and Jacob Patterson.

Darryle and Debbi performed secular music before they became Christians and then formed the group, Family Circle. In 2008, this band began performing under the name of Eagle's Wings. If you like Bluegrass family harmony, you will love Eagle's Wings.

Darryle is the patriarch of the group and has always been involved in music. He grew up in the church where his dad was a deacon and his mother was the head of the women's group. He was involved in music in high school and college and was faithful to the church until he went to college and got out of the habit of going to church.

Darryl married Debbi Busby, and they got involved in Country Music until 1979. After many visits from a member of the local church where they lived, he rededicated his life to the Lord, and about a month later, Debbi did the same. That is when they began attending church and started singing Gospel Music.

Since the couple only knew secular music, they had to listen to Gospel Music radio stations to learn what was

popular and know what they wanted to sing. Darryl said it wasn't long before they were being called to sing at revivals, homecomings and other events. They traveled around as Family Circle, and in 1982, the Lord called him to preach. Two years later, he pastored his first church, and in 1990, Darryl was called to pastor Central Baptist Church in Jasper, where they have been ever since. He says music continues to be a huge part of his ministry, and Eagle's Wings is a product of his family out of Central Baptist Church.

Debbi came from a family of musicians as well. Music was always the center of all of their family functions. Within two months of Debbi becoming a Christian, her mom, dad and sister also gave their hearts to the Lord. But since they didn't know any Gospel songs, her dad began to pray for the Lord to give him new songs to sing, and he quickly wrote three of his own. Debbi said it was a very sad day in December of 1987 when the Family Circle Band performed together for the last time. Since forming Eagle's Wings, they have continued to sing in their church and wherever the Lord leads them.

Some of their musical influences over the years have been the Inspirations, the Hoppers, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, the McKameys, the Hemphills, the Isaacs, the Crabb Family, the Goodmans, and many others. Debbi says that her dad – Floyd "Bill" Busby – also was a tremendous influence, and she thanks God for all the blessings He has



poured out on her family through the gift of music.

Debbi and Darryl's son, Matthew, was saved at the young age of five, and for as long as he can remember, his dad has always been his pastor. He says that even though he has never been away from church, it doesn't mean he hasn't been away from God from time to time. He is living proof that you can occupy the same spot on the same pew in the same church Sunday after Sunday and still be backslidden.

Matthew's prayer for Eagle's Wings is to see souls saved and backslidden Christians come back to the Lord, because the road back home to Jesus is shorter than it seems. All it takes is one step in the right direction.

Matthew began playing the piano at a young age, but never developed any talent with it until one day when his uncle, Kevin Chambers, helped him discover his ear for music. He started on a path that day that he would never turn from. When he was 18, Matthew learned to play the guitar, and he also met and married his wife, Jennifer. They have two beautiful girls, Anna Grace and Emma Faith.

Chambers was saved at a revival in 1976 at 10 years of age. His uncle preached a sermon about the scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites. He said he had always gone to church because his mama made him, but that night, he saw himself in that sermon of people playacting their religion and not being real. He didn't go forward but later asked his mom to stop by the preacher's house on their way home. They did, and Jesus saved him that night. He has never been the same.

This musician also grew up around music. His mother was the pianist in every church she ever attended. His brother plays guitar, and his sister is a Southern Gospel soloist, but Chambers felt like he got overlooked in the music department. He didn't seem to have any musical ability until he joined the school band in seventh grade and played

the clarinet. He then went on to play the drums and also learned how to direct music. Chambers soon began filling in as song leader in his church.

It was around that time that a new family came to their church, and Chambers' life was changed completely. The Busby family came from a very different musical background. Mr. Busby was a honky-tonk singer the Lord had saved, and he just couldn't find anything else to do with his guitar but use it for the Lord. So, that is exactly what he did. The Busbys had a daughter named Rhonda, who Chambers says was the cutest little blond-haired girl he had ever seen. Soon, he was working his way into their family by dating their daughter and playing music with them. Kevin and Rhonda eventually married. Then, he joined the Air Force, and they moved away.

After 10 years, the Chambers family returned home and joined Central Baptist Church and are still there today. Chambers serves as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and music director. He says he is so thankful for his mom, who showed him that reading and learning never stops, for Tommy Holland – his first band director – for Bill Busby – his father-in-law, whose acoustic style he still tries to emulate every day – and finally to Eagle's Wings for allowing him to join their band.



Patterson has only been with the group for a few months, and he comes to them from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Dennis, Miss. Eagle's Wings played there one night – along with Heaven's Mountain Band – and afterwards, Roger Johnson brought Jacob over to the group and said, "You all need to have him on banjo." They didn't have a banjo player at the time, so Patterson fit in really well with the group. Chambers says their banjo player is a kind of quiet but a solid Christian man, and they hope to keep him around for a while.

Some of the group's career highlights include opening for the Isaacs and singing on the main stage of the National Quartet Convention in 2013. Last year, the group was

nominated for three Diamond Awards and actually won in all three categories (Bluegrass Gospel Song, Group, and Female Vocalist of the Year awarded to Debbi). Its newest CD is entitled "A Rugged Cross and an Empty Grave," and there are plans to release a single from it soon. Also, for several months, the group has had at least one top-10 song in Bluegrass Gospel radio charts.



The group says it is a miracle that Darryle is still singing. Approximately three years ago, he collapsed in his living room. Debbi took him to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with complete respiratory failure. His lungs were not working to purge the carbon dioxide from his blood, and his lungs were literally poisoning him. He spent several days in intensive care, with machines keeping him from suffocating, and was told he would need to have a ventilator put in through a Tracheostomy Tube. He was also told he would never preach or sing again, and if he ever returned to church, it would be in a wheelchair with a ventilator on board. However, he was told wrong.

People began to pray for him around the world. The night before he was scheduled for surgery, God came on the scene, and by breakfast, he was breathing on his own, sitting up in bed and eating what he said was "the best popsicle ever made." The doctors couldn't explain it, but God had a plan all along.

Eagle's Wings website says it all ... "lifting up hearts by lifting up Jesus."

"We're truly a Southern Gospel group that uses acoustic instruments to help us keep time and sing on key," says Chambers. "We try to have fun and sing good songs with a message, and if this appeals to you, then please come and see us."

Photographs courtesy of Eagle's Wings.

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## Mickey Bell



By Vonda Easley

Recently, I had the opportunity to ask Mickey Bell a few questions. He is on the radio every evening and filling some pretty big shoes. Are you ready? Here are my questions and Mickey's answers.

*Vonda: What is your current radio position, station, and station website?*

MB: I am host of the Dixie Gospel Caravan on WXJC, [www.850wxjc.com](http://www.850wxjc.com) and by radio at 92.5 FM and 850 AM, The Truth.

*Vonda: Wayne Wallace was a great radio DJ. Any thoughts on being at a station where Wayne worked for so many years?*

MB: Wayne was probably one of the most respected men in Southern Gospel radio. Following him on radio is like someone following Tim Riley in singing bass. He put 40-plus years into this show and while I am not trying to replace Wayne. I simply want to build upon the great foundation he gave me.

*Vonda: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?*

MB: I would love to go into the mind of Chris West (Gold City), because I really don't think it exists...

*Vonda: Tell us about your church.*

MB: My wife Wendy and I planted a church in Bessemer, Ala., almost three years ago. I say, "we are the church for the messed up people," because this is the one place you can go and not feel the judgement stares or hear the whispers of someone talking about you. This is a place where you are loved and not judged (web site is [www.GraceChurchBessemer.com](http://www.GraceChurchBessemer.com)).

*Vonda: Mickey, you do a great job at radio. Was there a certain age that you knew radio was something you wanted to pursue? Tell us about it.*



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MB: My dad owned a carpet store when I was 14 years old, so I had a summer job without ever having to apply for it. He took me on a job estimation once, and little did I know that he had already talked to the potential customer about me. The customer was Bill Huber of WVSM in Rainsville, Ala. When I walked in, Mr. Bill started quizzing me on all the groups in the industry. Oh yeah, I was a Southern Gospel junkie. I knew every group lineup, where they lived and what color of bus the groups drove. At that time, I memorized the chart and could tell you anything you wanted to know. Needless to say, I had an answer for every one of Mr. Bill's questions. It was that moment that he hired me to be a DJ at 14. Between being a DJ and a musician, Southern Gospel music has always been a major part of my life.

Vonda: Do you have something to add?

MB: I choose to be different than all the others when it comes to Southern Gospel radio. I think Christians should have fun and laugh, which is why I work extra hard to make my shows fun and interactive. I help the audience understand the lighter side of the industry and get to know the artists on a more personal level than just knowing what their favorite song might be. Funny things happen on the road, and I think radio listeners enjoy hearing and laughing about those moments when I share it with them.

Thanks to Mickey Bell for sharing with us as we place him under the DJ Spotlight. Be sure to listen to Mickey on the Dixie Gospel Caravan, each evening from 7 p.m. until midnight at [www.850wxjc.com](http://www.850wxjc.com). Find out more about the station on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wxjcthetruth/](http://www.facebook.com/wxjcthetruth/), or listen on the air at 92.5 FM and 850 AM, The Truth. Let Mickey know what you think of the show by e-mailing [mickey@850wxjc.com](mailto:mickey@850wxjc.com).

Photos courtesy of Mickey Bell.

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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Thanks to you all for checking out the June issue of SGNScoops Magazine. Three years ago this month, I began my full duties as editor, not comprehending the breadth and scope of what it means to work in this capacity. As I have made my way through the labyrinth of SGNScoops, I have come to realize even more the heart of this organization.

I have written for Rob Patz and the SGMRadio and SGNScoops web sites since 2004 and this magazine since 2009. However, it wasn't until I gingerly took on the reigns of SGNScoops Magazine that I really began to interact with all of the writers, contributors, behind-the-scenes and creative/design people that work together to make every issue the best that it can be.

We strive for excellence. Whether we always reach it is debatable, but we are always reaching for the next rung on the ladder. The reason we do that is because we believe we are really working for the King of Kings. Therefore, we must give our very best. We also trust that you – our readers – will enjoy and be edified by our efforts.

Our cover artists this month also work hard to give its very best. The Collingsworth Family is known for its excellence vocally and with its musicianship. Erin Stevens brings us a close look at what makes the

family thrive. Craig Harris shows us how their family relationships reflect their faith in a good father. Respect, love and compassion as shown by our Heavenly Father will draw a family closer. We hope you enjoyed all of the features that emphasized the Father's Day theme sprinkled throughout this issue.

I'm so glad that I still have my father and that we as a family will be able to gather and celebrate him on Father's Day. I also have a close relationship with my Heavenly Father, and I know He is good. Is that something that you perhaps haven't come to understand in your life? That the almighty God would give His dear child just so you could have a relationship with Him, proves how good He is. He wants to give you every good and perfect gift. I pray you would draw near to Him today.

Thank you to all of you that have written to share your gifts and talents given to you by our Father. If you have an interest in becoming a part of SGNScoops, drop me a line at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com).

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



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



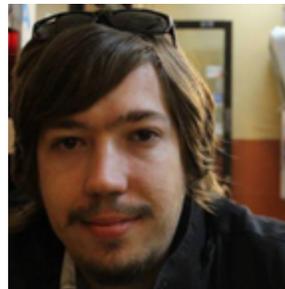
Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written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



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



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



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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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

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



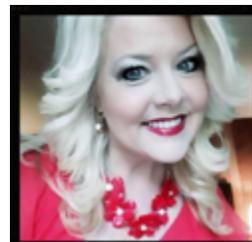
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



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

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

coming trend setters within the industry. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.0. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

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



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

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

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

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



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

Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://www.paigegivens.com).

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Marcie Gray was born and raised in sunny California, yet always dreamed of moving to Tennessee. She had planned to move to the south as a young adult and sing with a gospel group, after being inspired to do so by her Great Uncle, Alphus LeFevre. Though it took longer than she had expected, in 2011, her dream of moving

east finally came true when her husband, Don, retired from the CHP. They packed up their two youngest daughters, three dogs and two horses and headed east. What a blessing to finally be where the tea is sweet, the Southern Gospel music is plentiful and there's a Cracker Barrel on every corner!

Spend ten minutes with Marcie and you'll learn that she is rarely lacking for something to say. Her passion for Southern Gospel music, combined with her instinct to be behind the camera, makes journalism a very enjoyable outlet for that "Type A" personality she has been affectionately labeled with by her family and friends.

Marcie is a worship leader, vocalist and songwriter. She has directed choirs of all ages and given voice lessons for many years. Her solo CD, "Carry Me Home" was released in September of 2014.

Having family in ministry has given Marcie a desire to support those who are on the road sharing the gospel through song. Visit her website at [www.graydoveministries.com](http://www.graydoveministries.com) to learn more!



Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many

of my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.



Nathan Kistler was born on the road and was singing at the age of three years old. He has had the opportunity travel with groups like Southern Gospel's beloved trio the Nelons, and most recently for almost two years with Americas Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and 24 countries singing about the wonderful story of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has also been a part of three crusades on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and while there, he had the privilege of singing in the Pentagon courtyard twice. Through his father's ministry in Washington, Nathan began his work on the Hill as a ministry partner with different Christian organizations like Faith and Action and more. Nathan is a missionary to Washington and continues to work there during the week while singing Gospel music on the weekends around the country and being an artist in residence at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins, West Virginia.



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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Auke Bijlsma- I was born in Zaandam, The Netherlands on September 21st 1966. I'm Head of Operations for a major airline. My home is in the countryside of Holland where I live with my wife Patty, and our two kids: Jake who's 16, and Lexi who is 14, and our pack of dogs. My oldest children, son Jesse 23, and daughter Sarah 21, don't

live with me; they are all grown up building their own homes and lives.

In my childhood, I went to church with my family, and I fell in love with harmony singing. I sang in choirs, a Southern Gospel Trio, and made a few television appearances with that trio here in The Netherlands. At the moment I am not active in music anymore, but you never know what comes along.

In my teens, I started to listen to 50's Rock and Roll, and of course, Elvis Presley. Through Presley I was introduced to the great Gospel Quartets. I started looking for music by The Imperials, Jordanares, and J.D.Sumner and the Stamps at first, because these were the quartets that backed Elvis for many years. My first love is Gospel singing, particularly Southern Gospel. I love groups like The Stamps, The Imperials, The Weatherfords, The Rambos, The Hinsons, The Cathedrals and many more.

Besides being a music lover, I love vintage cars, architecture, books, movies and writing. I hold a Masters in Journalism and Communication. I will write articles about anything; music, faith and life in general. Hope you will enjoy the views of an outsider. Thank you SGNscoops for giving me this opportunity.



Sarah Murray sings soprano for the Southern Gospel group Bless'd. The group is from Greeneville, Tennessee and has been together for over five years. Sarah was born and raised in Jonesborough, Tennessee, but now resides in Greeneville with her husband, Chase. She has a bachelor's degree in K-6 Education and a

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