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Our Mission

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Are We There Yet?

A couple of years ago I wrote a Publisher's Point entitled, "Are We There Yet?" It was a part of a series which talked about where God wanted us and how he was working to get us to the place we needed to be.

I thought it was appropriate to use the title and talk a little bit more about our walk with God this month since we are celebrating dads, and I had a fantastic one.

Are we there yet? I am sure this is a statement that many fathers have heard. I remember being in the backseat of our blue Ford LTD, pulling a travel trailer, and headed to the West Coast. It was an exciting time. We were headed back to Disney which was one of my favorite places on earth at that point. Traveling from Minnesota, this was quite a trip, so every once in a while – probably in almost every state – I would pop my head up and say, "Are we there yet?" and Dad would laugh and say, "No, not yet – but we're getting closer!"

As I think back on those times and how much I cherish them, my mom and dad in the front seat and me in the back, either listening to the radio or playing

with my hot wheels exploring the land.

Now I can tell you about every favorite stop along the way: Jackson Hole, Denver, the Grand Canyon. But that's not what the story is about.

I think of myself a lot like that little boy in the backseat asking God, "Are we there yet?" Is this the point you want me to be? Over the last two years since I wrote that article, many things in my life have changed and are going to change in 2021. I obviously know now that this is just another part of the journey. I'm not there yet.

But let me challenge you. Enjoy the moments. Enjoy the time that God has you in no matter what place you are in. If it is a time of rest, well then rest. Enjoy that moment. You may be in a time of planting. Enjoy the planting. You may not see the fruit for a while, but just know that where God has you at this moment is to plant. You may be in the harvest – well then, I'm jealous because I have yet to see that part of my life when we look over everything that we've toiled over and have seen what God has brought to fruition.

For some of us, we may never see the fruition part, but we may continue to be the little boy in the back-

seat popping up and saying, "Are we there yet?" I believe God has people whose job is to plant the seed. They may never see the harvest, but they are great planters. They are people that spend time working in the soil, creating new opportunities for those of us who are willing then to come alongside and water them.

So for all you dads out there who have answered the question 1 million times, "Are we there yet?" Thank you. Thank you for being a dad.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank my dad who instilled in me this love for ministry that, until a few years ago, I didn't realize the depth of. My dad was a planter, a waterer, and a harvester. And I miss him every day.

This year there is something that's going to happen that I wish he could be there for -- I get a chance to marry the woman that God created for me. Though he won't be there physically, he will be there with his fingerprints on several aspects of the ceremony.

I want to invite you to the event that started it all -- Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2021 taking place in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, October 24-28. It will be five days of gospel music that you don't want to miss. Call or text me at 425-754-1147 to book your hotel accommodations or reserve your VIP passes. Until next month, this is the Publishers Point.

**We also want to thank April Potter Holleman who wrote a great story called THE PARRACKS: FOUR GENERATIONS DEEP which ran in our February 2021 issue whose name was inadvertently left off of the article. **



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DJ Spotlight

Jack Armstrong



by Vonda Armstrong

This month we are shining the DJ Spotlight on Jack Armstrong from The Request Show on SGM Radio. We got to visit with Jack and ask him some questions. Hope you enjoy this interview.

his Sunday Night gospel show on WQST. WQST was a country station that played southern gospel on Sunday mornings and Sunday night. I was hooked from that point forward. I attended Hinds Junior College in Raymond, Mississippi, and had a part

VONDA ARMSTRONG: How did the Request Show come about? Tell us about the show, where it airs and when it's on.

JACK ARMSTRONG: The request show started in 2020 when everything was shut down during the pandemic and we had to stay at home. We set up the equipment at home to do the request show on SGM Radio. Requests are emailed to us in advance, and we enjoy conversing back and forth with the people who watch our live show while we play the best in southern gospel music. The show is on Facebook Live Monday from 6 till 8 pm CST on the SGN Scoops Facebook page.

VA: Any background in radio?

JA: Yes. When I was in high school, after church on Sunday night I would drive to Forest, Mississippi, and sit with my friend Harmon Jones during



time job as a DJ at WRKN & WRJH, a full time southern gospel station where my friend Jeff Steele did a daily afternoon show.

VA: Share Your testimony.

JA: I was blessed to have come from a Christian home. My mother didn't send me to church; she took me to church. I was a member of my high school choir, and from that, was asked to sing in a male quartet. The quartet only practiced, but from that experience, I went to some singings and later started with a group. The love of this music and the love of the Lord never left me, and I consider it an honor to stand on stage and sing about my savior, and tell people that he is the only way to have everlasting life.

VA: Other than doing the show, we hear you are an auctioneer. Ever done a song where you were auctioneering in the song?

JA: I am an auctioneer. I turned another part time college job into a career. I was working at a car auction, and I got fascinated by the guy talking fast and wanted to learn how to do it, and 32 years later I am still talking fast. Jan Buckner Goff won the JD Sumner living legend award recently and I called to congratulate her. She saw my name on her phone and instead of saying hello she answered, "What are you doing?" I told her I was in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, about to do an auction. She asked if I was aware that Wendy Bagwell was an auctioneer, and I told her I was not. Jan said that they had recorded a song with Wendy doing the auctioneer chant. We were in the studio at the time working on a project called "Subject To Change," and I reached out to my friend Charlie Sexton for a copy of the song. We just started singing it, and I assure you when I take off on my part of it I get some strange looks from the audience.

VA: Tell our readers about an event we are hosting in Laurel, Mississippi in 2022.



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JA: Vonda and I recently got a call from the dean of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi, about helping put together a three day gospel music event called Southeastern Gospelfest, April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd which will be held at The First Baptist Church of Laurel. We are excited about bringing so many friends to our hometown to sing. Laurel is where the TV show Hometown is filmed and that will be a busy weekend with the downtown festival during the day and gospel music at night. Thursday April 21 you will hear Hopes Journey, The Dixie Echoes, Jeff and Sheri Easter, and The LeFevre Quartet. Friday April 22 you will hear Josh & Ashley Franks, Michael Combs, The Perry's, and Tribute Quartet. Saturday April 23 you will hear The Bibletones, Tim Lovelace, The Guardians, and Brian Free & Assurance. Vonda and I would love for you to come see our hometown.

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More Than Just The Music



By: Kristen A. Stanton

More than the notes on the page.

More than the melodies that they sing.

More than the chart-topping songs.

The Hyssongs are more than just the music.

A family group that began more than twenty-five years ago, Dell Hyssong, Susan Hyssong, and Richard Hyssong have always believed in the message over just the music. They strive to live by example, to be able to stand on the stage night after night knowing that they live out the words that they sing. And they do it for one reason: to proclaim to the world, through both life and music, that the message is absolute – that there is a God.

Throughout their evolution from cassette tracks to live music and media, the Hyssongs ministry has been full of “God” moments. When they first began, it wasn’t because they decided that they were going to start a ministry – it was because God had a plan to launch a new ministry using them. “We started twenty-five years ago. A Bible conference had asked if we would consider coming and doing special music during Labor Day Weekend, and we

really hadn’t sung together,” Dell Hyssong recollected. “So we pulled some music together – we got some cassette soundtracks from a Bible bookstore, especially from The Cathedrals, and we practiced them and went out and sang them. And after that, people started calling to ask if we would consider coming to their churches to sing. We didn’t have a sound system, we’d never recorded anything – we started brand new.”

“So we prayed about it,” Richard chimed in, “and we started singing at these different churches. Our goal then and our goal now is to tell people about Jesus Christ.”

Out of their obedience and desire for excellence, their ministry was born. It was nothing that they chased. In fact, much of the current success The Hyssongs are experiencing had nothing to do with things they pursued. But rather, it has been as a result of those “God” moments – those times that God just does something unexpected.

After a year of being on the road Fridays and Saturdays so Dell could be home to preach at the church on Sunday, the group decided to record their first project, the self-titled album, The Hyssongs.



Over the next few years, The Hyssongs began to see God slowly growing their ministry. As the music progressed, The Hyssongs progressed with it while remaining the same at their very core. They added the horns in 2006 and watched their territory enlarge. "Music moves people and reaches them. It touches their heart. The message of a song is vital to us. If it touches us in a certain way, we know it will reach other people as well," Richard stated as he described some of their experiences.

And as they recorded projects, they walked through some of the very valleys they were singing about. But even in those valleys, they saw the faithfulness of God. They saw the power of God. Richard recalled how back in 2007 they recorded a song called 'God's In Control' and an album, *Through It All*, that seemed to focus on going through trials but coming out of them. About a year later Richard and Kelly's daughter was born. At three days old they discovered multiple tumors on her heart. At 13 days old they discovered brain tumors. "Obviously we were going through what was the most difficult

time in our life. And all of a sudden, those songs ministered straight to us through the difficult time we were going through."

Now 3 books and 36 albums later, God is expanding their ministry yet again – but this time into radio and television. And it's more than just the music.

During 2020 when the pandemic shut down the traveling aspect of the ministries, The Hyssongs felt the need to put a quick message out on Facebook to encourage their supporters. What they intended as a one time only message spiraled into a weekly Facebook event. "I read some scripture," Dell recounted, "and told them there was hope – just look to the Lord. So many people watched that Facebook message, we thought this can't be a one time thing; we had to keep doing it. It was incredible how many were watching it every week." Richard added, "So we kept on doing it week after week. And even though it felt like we needed to be encouraged, we knew we

needed to be an encouragement to other people. We serve such a mighty and powerful God. And we started to hear from neighbors and folks who were not going to church who were literally watching those devotions every week."



In February of 2021, that transitioned into a television show, Joy For the Journey, airing on the Now Television Network. After saying no three times, they stepped out in faith with nothing but a Facebook message series. Before they even announced anything, they saw the hand of God at work. In need of a monitor to use as a teleprompter, the family began praying for one. About a week or so later, after singing at a church, the pastor's wife came walking through the back door carrying a big monitor. A car had just stopped by and dropped it off, thinking someone at the church could use it. The pastor's wife then asked the Hyssongs if they happened to know anyone who could use it. Well – they've been using it ever since. "You could see God putting the right people in our path – just a small thing like that, like a little screen for a teleprompter. We started seeing God open doors we could have never opened for ourselves," Richard stated.

Not long after, in the middle of March, they received a call from a guy who asked them to consid-

er being on SiriusXM Family Talk, on channel 131. "At first I thought it must be a telemarketer," Richard joked. "But he looked at the Now Television Network, saw the program, went to our website, saw the devotional that was on the website and said we should consider doing this." And in June of 2021, their very first Sunday morning message aired at 8:30 a.m. Eastern on SiriusXM Family Talk.

And later this summer, they will also begin airing on Abundant TV.

It wasn't anything that they pursued. But God pursued them – He had bigger plans for The Hyssongs than just the music. "It's nothing you can manipulate, nothing you can push. You just stand there in amazement and wonder what God is going to do next," Richard expressed.

They've not only seen their ministry evolve but have watched their family relationship morph from a parent-child relationship to a ministry partnership. When the group began, Richard was a teenager – he was still in school and didn't have a lot of input. "I still don't have a lot of input," Richard quipped, to which his dad teasingly responded: "Boy would I like to go back to those days!"



Each member of the family has their own role. "It works because we've really divided up the ministry. There's a lot that we talk together about, but



On and off the road, they clearly do complement each other. They share a name (Dell Richard Hysong), a sense of humor, a business partnership. They share kindness. Generosity. A willingness to do what is right, even if it isn't popular.



he does his thing and I do mine," Dell explained. Jokingly Richard stated, "Our biggest argument is where we're stopping for lunch or if we are going to stop." On a more serious note he added, "As a son, I've always known there was a pecking order and the final decision was with my dad. We each have our own strengths and weaknesses which really complement each other."

But there is so much more. Even though they've had six number one songs, are working on a new live DVD, starting a new book, doing concerts nationwide, airing on television and radio, they will continue to strive for excellence.



Yes. The Hyssongs have had much success – but through it all, their goal of telling people about Jesus has never changed. And whatever the door may be that God opens next, you can already see The Hyssongs walking through it in faith. Because for them, it's about more than just the music.





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A Father's Legacy of Love and Music

by Lori Wise

Southern gospel music is infused with family harmonies and multi-generation road ministries. There is no better way to celebrate Father's Day than to honor three music industry legends. Although these southern gospel icons are now singing in the Heavenly Choir, their families are carrying on the music ministries. Three of these legends are Rex Nelon, Ken Apple, and Howard Hayes. And here are their stories:



Rex Nelon

Rex Lloyd Nelon (born January 19, 1932) enjoyed a southern gospel singing and publishing career spanning over 40 years. In 1955, he sang bass with The Homeland Harmony Quartet. In 1957, he joined the legendary group The LeFevres. In 1973, he assumed the direction of The LeFevres which eventually be-

came known as The Rex Nelon Singers. Today, they are known as The Nelons.

Established in 1977 in Smyrna, Georgia, the original Rex Nelon Singers was comprised of Rex Nelon (bass), Kelly Nelon (alto), Janet Paschal (soprano) and Rodney Swain (tenor). Rex, along with his group, recorded over 25 projects and received 5 Dove Awards, 3 Grammy nominations and numerous industry fan awards. The group is also credited with over thirteen "Top Five" radio singles. In 1999, Rex Nelon was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Rex was a publisher of some great music. He acquired several music companies through the years: LeFevre Sing, Stamps Quartet, along with Rex Nelon Music and RNS Music.

On the road, Rex loved eating at Morrison Café. When the bus headed towards Alabama, they would stop in Anniston so he could enjoy one of his favorite cucumber salads. He also loved their fried chicken and coleslaw. Kelly did not like the smell of that coleslaw, so she made sure not to sit too close! Kelly loved everything about bus life except when the bus broke down. In the summer months, they would always go to the pool and have lunch. They would also find a tennis court or golf course – they always had fun.



stage with her father. It was at a revival in Lexington, Kentucky, with T.T. May. Kelly was thrilled about this opportunity. Rex was the ultimate professional. No matter how sick and no matter what was happening, when he took the stage no one knew. He taught Kelly that “you always make the date.”

Rex Nelon passed away on January 24, 2000, in London, England, prior to a Gaither concert. He was so loved and is missed by all that knew him. Kelly described her daddy as tall, kind, a protector and someone she could always count on. Rex taught her to “always sing like it is your last chance to sing for the Lord.”

Rex loved to play golf. He always had the newest and best driver to ensure he remained at the top of his golf game. He enjoyed crossword puzzles and loved to watch John Wayne movies. On the bus, the family loved playing board games. While the others were setting up, Kelly and Rex would play Scrabble Boggle. These are some of Kelly’s favorite memories.

The group sang at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC before President Ronald Reagan spoke. It was such an honor. Singing at The Grand Ole Opry was a highlight for the group, but especially for Rex.

Kelly was only 13 years old the first time she took the

Kelly has worked hard to carry on her dad’s music vision. The Nelons current members are Kelly Nelon Clark (alto and founding member), Jason Clark (lead), Amber Nelon Kistler (soprano) and Autumn Nelon Clark (soprano). Kelly took over the group after Rex retired. Jason was already playing bass and singing. At age 12, Amber joined the group. Her first concert was in front of 5000 people at the Great Western Quartet Convention in California. Although terrified, she never missed a note. Autumn joined the group when, at a Gaither Cruise, Jason lost his voice. He brought Autumn up to fill in and she has remained on the platform since.

The Nelons are known for their unparalleled harmonies, masterful projects, audience communication, Americana tours, Christmas tours, platform delivery of the gospel, and the ability to engage all age groups.

Rex left a music legacy, which is now a 3-generational fan favorite group. He left them with the tools needed to succeed: zeal, integrity, work ethic, passion, and the desire to always do your absolute best. Kelly added, “I love and miss him terribly and look forward to that big hug when I see him in heaven. Happy Heavenly Father’s Day! I hope you are proud of us.”

For more information on The Nelons, you can visit their website at www.thenelons.com.

Ken Apple

The Singing Star Trio was established in 1952. Ken Apple was asked to sing and play for a concert, and he just did not feel comfortable performing alone. So,





he asked his then girlfriend (Ernestine – who later became his bride) and her sister, Margaret Tucker, to sing with him. It was then that the trio was formed.

Ken was a great pianist; he was mentored by the talented James D. Walbert and Rosa Neil Speer Powell (of the Speer Family). Early in his career, he played piano for both the Blackwood Gospel Quartet and The Toney Brothers. In 1966, the trio was joined by the Apple's children – Gary, Kevin, Karen, and Kimberly. They began traveling as The Ken Apple Family. Kim later joined The Speer Family.

Ken was not only a seasoned pianist and singer, but

he was also hailed as a successful songwriter. Songwriting was his life work, and sharing his songs through the family ministry was his calling and passion. Ken was nominated for a Dove Award for Songwriter of the Year. His songs were recorded by The Speer Family, Gold City, The Booth Brothers, The Florida Boys, The Hopper Brothers & Connie, Jerry & The Goffs, The Toney Brothers, The Lesters and several others. Ken was born on July 10, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan.

The family shared that their dad was a mighty prayer warrior. If someone had a need (whether he knew you or not), he would fervently pour out his heart to God on your behalf. Ken was a praying, faithful servant of God. He dedicated his life to serving the Lord.

He is described as loving, funny, and faithful. He taught at the Conservatory in Detroit, Michigan. But the thing that he taught and instilled in his children is to live a life in service to the Lord. Do not waiver. His favorite scripture is found in Psalm 91 and believed that "it's more important to know Him than to just know about Him."

The Ken Apple Family loved performing on PTL, The Grand Ole Opry and at Andre Crouch's dad's church



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in California. These venues were quite different from their normal platforms and allowed them to step outside of their comfort zone. They loved the challenge and were quite excited. The family did not travel the gospel concert “circuit” but instead sang primarily in churches for revivals and conferences. What they loved most about the road life is the friendships that have been established.

Today, the group resides in Huntsville, Alabama, and is known as New Day. Members are Karen Apple-Young (soprano), Susie Lanier (alto), Doug Young (bass) and Kim Apple (whatever is left). Doug Young was the last bass singer for the legendary Statesmen.

Ken transitioned to his Heavenly home in February of 2020. He left a big imprint in the hearts of many. He left a legacy of love; he left a legacy of faithful service; he left a legacy of songs too numerous to name that tell a story and, if you listen, these songs will draw you to the very throne of God. His was a life well lived. Music remains a vital part of their family and their goal is to continue carrying on the legacy started by their parents. The group felt that this is a new time, a new beginning, a New Day.

To learn more about New Day Ministry, please visit their Facebook page.

Howard Hayes

Sometime in the mid 70’s, the kids of Howard and Lucy Hayes would be called up on stage to sing as a family. Their parents were known as the Goodwill Trio. The trio consisted of their mom, dad and whoever they could find to fill the third part. The original

Hayes Family was Howard, Lucy, daughters Janet and Sharon and son Mylon. Howard had a strong desire to sing with his family but had to wait until the kids were old enough to carry the parts. Their first recording was in 1978 as The Hayes Family, but they had been singing for several years prior. Dad sang bass, Janet sang soprano, Sharon sang alto, Mom doubled the alto part (if she was not playing the piano) and Mylon sang tenor. The girls also played the piano and Mylon played bass.



Mylon shared a plethora of stages with his dad. Some of his favorites were the National Quartet Convention – because of the chance to visit with so many friends. The group was also blessed to perform on the Gaither stage. Howard loved the videos long before being invited to take part. He was thrilled to share the stage with many who had influenced his life as a young man. Another family favorite was The Brumley Sing. Howard was able to sing there a month before he passed, it was the most memorable evening. He gave it all he had, even though he was not in the best condition physically and mentally.

Howard was born in Boone, North Carolina, on April 4, 1936. He had a gospel music career of over 55 years. He was the chairman of the Watauga County Singing Convention and did the Saturday edition of the Radio Gospel Time of WATA Radio for over 23 years. He was a self-employed contractor/carpenter for 17 years, then retired from Appalachian State University after 20 years of service. Howard Hayes received his greatest reward – the Heavenly home he spent his life singing about – on September 6, 2011.

As a hobby, Howard and Mylon enjoyed old Ford

cars and trucks. Growing up, Mylon recalls doing restoration projects on some '55 and '56 Ford cars. Mylon still enjoys driving the '55 Ford that his dad purchased about a year and a half before he passed. Mylon said, "Dad was the same on stage or offstage. The only difference was on stage he had hair and off stage he didn't."



Howard had a humorous side. The family always kept cereal on the bus, and on Sunday mornings, after parking the bus late the night before, cereal was all there was to eat. On multiple occasions, whoever was responsible for putting milk in the refrigerator failed to do so. Howard would pour whatever was available onto the cereal. Sweet tea, orange juice, water....yes, it was gross. He would say, "I just need something to wet it."

The Mylon Hayes Family now consists of Mylon and his wife Wendy, twin sons Connor and Bailey and daughter Kennedy. Wendy and Kennedy sing the high part, Conner sings bass and baritone, Bailey sings lead and baritone and Mylon sings lead and baritone.

When Howard passed in 2011, the twins were 12 and

Kennedy was 8. Mylon and Wendy decided to make a CD with their kids because they simply loved to sing. The boys' voices were ready to change, and they wanted to preserve these precious moments. Susan Whisnant heard it, liked it, and said, "Let me put something out there to radio from that CD!" They agreed, and it received a good bit of airplay. That was at the beginning of 2012. With Mylon's mom and sisters not wanting to travel as much, it provided the flexibility for him to sing and travel more with his family. The Mylon Hayes Family is committed, called, and unified. With over 1200 documented tour dates, performances in 35 states, 94 songs recorded and over 283,000 miles traveled, there is no doubt that God is directing their steps. The family's desire is to lift up the Lord with the music they sing – always pointing people to the Cross.

Mylon stated that if his dad were here, he would challenge him to keep fighting the good fight of faith and not grow weary in well doing. Howard loved good harmony and true southern gospel music. He taught his children to Love God, work hard and always be honest.

Be sure to check out this ministry at www.themylonhayesfamily.com.

"Fathers are men who dared to place the world's hope and dreams in their children". – Author Unknown.
"A dad is more than just the sum of his parts. He is the very soul of the family." – Author Unknown.
Happy Father's Day Keep the music playing!





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Gerald Crabb

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Loved by Him

By Carrie Hofmeister

You know those pennies on the ground that we all just walk on by and maybe some of us even stop and flip it over to heads so that it's "lucky" for someone else? Let's be honest, almost all of us have done it, and we don't think twice about picking up that penny because it has no value to us.

You know the homeless people that we see standing on the street corner holding up a sign trying to raise as much money as they can just to be able to eat a meal that day? We all see them, and maybe even some of us stop and give them a dollar or two, or a bite to eat. But for the most part, let's be real, most of us don't think too much about them. Some of us have even had the thought of, "Why don't they just get a job? If I give them money, they are just going to use it to buy alcohol or drugs. They might not even be homeless; they are probably just using people." A lot of us just keep on driving by them because, well, they don't have any value to us.

Imagine being a little girl and you're driving down the road across a bridge. Just as you are getting

ready to drive over it, you look under it, and you see a little boy that's sleeping there. Imagine not being able to process how you get to go home to a beautiful house with a roof over your head, but some kids have to sleep on the streets.

Imagine being that same little girl and you're walking down the street with your parents. You look down, and you see all these pennies on the ground that people have dropped and never bothered to pick back up. You stop, let go of your dad's hand and you pick up the penny. You then go home and lay in your bed, and you stare at that penny. Then it hits you. Somehow, if you could collect all these pennies that people neglect, you could use them to help the homeless.

Sounds a little crazy, right? You're probably about to stop reading this article thinking I'm making this up, but oh, please keep reading.

Meet 18-year-old Koedi Nealy, just graduated from high school and residing in Houston, Texas. Koedi



is literally the young woman that you hope all your daughters grow up to become. You know the little girl that I just had you all imagine to be like? Well, that's Koedi. At just 8 or 9 years old, Koedi started asking family and friends to collect pennies for her as she felt called by God to do something with them for the homeless.

Not exactly sure what she was supposed to do with them, she collected them anyway. You know those big water jugs that a lot of people use to put their change in? Well that's what Koedi would use to put her pennies in and keep them in her closet. When Koedi was 12 years old, her church was going on a mission trip to Kenya to help build water wells. Koedi knew that she somehow wanted to help with this project, so she sent them with two of her water jugs full of pennies.

Shortly after, Koedi sat down with her principal at her Christian school and told her where her heart was. She had all these jugs of pennies and somehow wanted to get other students involved so they could work together to help the homeless. This was the start of Graced Ministries.

Koedi and her classmates got together for what they call "packing days" where they put together little "Graced Packs" which is a gallon size ziplock bag filled with a bottle of water, toothpaste, tooth brush, peanut butter crackers, and a card that tells them about Jesus.

Graced Ministries has volunteers that they call Graced Ambassadors ranging in age from 7 to a senior in college. These volunteers are mostly students at Cypress Christian School where Koedi attends, from church, or friends of friends. Every month at the same time, the Graced Ambassadors take their Graced Packs and go out and distribute them to the homeless. This is their chance to just love on people and share Christ's love. Through this ministry they have been able to build relationships with the homeless that Koedi calls her friends. After having conversations with these people, they have learned that there is so much more than just going out and getting a job. In order to get a license, they have to have an address. In order to get a job, they have to have an address. There are so many things behind it that most of us don't know.

In partnering with a couple of other organizations, Koedi and her team have been able to help people get a job, and eventually, their own apartment. She also has a big dream of one day building a house through an organization called H.O.P.E Haven that could house homeless women. She would call it, wait for it, Graced House. The Graced House would teach women life skills, provide them an address to get a driver license so they can then get a job, and teach them how to cook healthy meals.



That's not it my friends. Not only is she just 18 years old and running her own non-profit organization, leading worship at her church and school, snagging a lead role in her high school play, but she also wrote a book.



Say what?!?!?!?

This girl has done more than I have in my 33 years on this earth. In September of 2020, Koedi wrote a children's book called "Pennies From Heaven" about a little girl named Gracie who sees pennies on the floor and does something with them to make a difference. Sound familiar? Yes. Koedi is Gracie and she wanted to teach young children that you are "never too young to make a difference."

After speaking with Koedi, I was astounded at what an amazing young lady she already is at just 18. Listening to God at such a young age, she has already made an impact on so many lives just by simply lov-



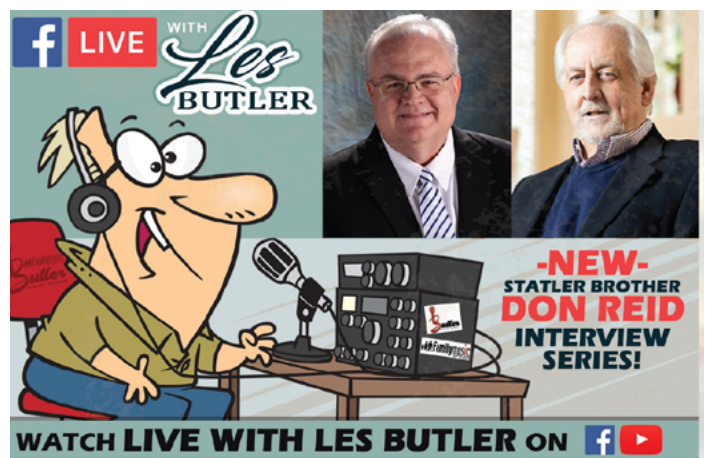
ing people as God commands us to do. She has truly inspired me through her ministry, and I hope that it touched some of you as well.

And to some of you who may be wondering, why Graced instead of Grace? Graced means loved by Him, which I also found so inspiring. Let's join Koedi in her mission "to unite youth and spread God's Word."



To purchase a copy of Koedi's book "Pennies From Heaven," you can go to gracedministry.org where you can also make a donation to the Graced Ministries organization. Any monthly donations go towards helping fund the Graced Packs and the outreach that they do. Anything outside of that goes towards the Graced House that Koedi hopes to one day be able to build.

You can also follow Koedi on her journey on Instagram at [@theofficialpennygirl](https://www.instagram.com/theofficialpennygirl) and on Facebook under Koedi Nealy.



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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	I CALL IT HOME	TRIBUTE QUARTET/DAYWIND
2	FIRST CHURCH OF MERCY	THE SOUND/NEW DAY RECORDS
3	HE WALKED OUT	TRIUMPHANT QUARTET/STOWTOWN
4	NEVER CHANGING GOD	KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS
5	START WITH WELL DONE	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
6	WHAT A DAY	LEGACY FIVE/DAYWIND
7	YOU'RE HOME TO STAY	GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN
8	MESSIAH OVERCAME	KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER/DAYWIND
9	PRACTICE WHAT YOUR PREACHING	LEFEVRE QUARTET/NEW DAY RECORDS
10	YOU GOTTA HAVE A SONG	JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND
11	LOOKS LIKE JESUS TO ME	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
12	JOY TO THE WORLD	MARTINS/GAITHER MUSIC
13	HOW GOOD DOES GRACE FEEL	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND
14	THESE ARE THE DAYS	KINGSMEN/CROSSROADS
15	THIS IS AMAZING GRACE	OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS
16	WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME	11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS
17	WALK ME THROUGH	PERRYS/STOWTOWN
18	HOME IS SOUNDING SWEETER	INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS
19	WAKE UP	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN
20	I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN	GOLD CITY/SONY
21	HARD TIMES	ZANE & DONNA KING/STOWTOWN
22	GLORY	STEELES/STOWTOWN
23	IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN
24	RAISED ON RED	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
25	YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND	LITTLES/INDEPENDENT
26	YOU CAN'T SAY HE DIDN'T LOVE YOU	MARK BISHOP/CROSSROADS
27	ANYTIME'S A GOOD TIME	HYSSONGS/INDEPENDENT
28	THERE'S A MEETIN'	JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS/INDEPENDENT
29	POTTER'S WHEEL	WISECARVERS/CROSSROADS
30	WHAT LOVE	DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS
31	HE WILL BE GOD	WHISNANTS/UIA
32	I LIKE SOUTHERN GOSPEL STYLE THE BEST	LES BUTLER/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
33	GET ON THE WHEEL	HOPE'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT
34	THE WAY	GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC
35	I'LL SOON BE GONE	OLD TIME PREACHERS QT/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
36	THE BEATITUDES SONG	RIVER'S EDGE/INDEPENDENT
37	TIME TO PRAY	GORDON MOTE/GAITHER MUSIC
38	HE'S LEADING THE WAY	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
39	HE WON'T JUST GET YOU BY	FIELDS OF GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
40	TO SAVE MY LIFE	CAROLINA BOYS QUARTET/CROSSROADS
41	THAT'LL PREACH	MERCY'S WELL/INDEPENDENT
42	I CHOOSE JOY	TAYLORS/STOWTOWN
43	HE RESCUED ME	ENDLESS HIGHWAY/CROSSROADS
44	GOLIATH	JOSEPH HABEDANK/DAYWIND
45	COME UP CLEAN	STEVE LADD/CROSSROADS
46	I'LL TAKE THE OLD HIGHWAY	SOUND STREET/INDEPENDENT
47	SING ABOUT GOING HOME	BARRY ROWLAND & DELIVERANCE/INDEPENDENT
48	GOD WALKS IN	FREEMANS/INDEPENDENT
49	ALMOST HOME	MICHAEL COMBS/INDEPENDENT
50	MY KING IS KNOWN BY LOVE	CRABB FAMILY/DAYWIND

SGN SCOOPS

HOME OF THE



POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
51	THAT SOUNDS LIKE HOME TO ME	BILLY HUDDLESTON/INDEPENDENT
52	BORN AGAIN	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
53	HOLD FAST	BIG MO/INDEPENDENT
54	I KNOW THAT WAS YOU	TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS
55	THE ROCK THAT NEVER AGES	LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS
56	THIS SAME JESUS	MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS
57	NEW DAY, SAME GOD	AUSTIN & ETHAN WHISNANT/UIA
58	REMEMBER HIS FAITHFULNESS	RILEY HARRISON CLARK/DAYWIND
59	WHEN YOU SAID PEACE	TIM LIVINGSTON/INDEPENDENT
60	PRAY 'TIL SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME	KRAMERS/STOWTOWN
61	LOVE WALKED IN THE ROOM	BATTLE CRY/CHAPEL VALLEY
62	THIS SHIP WAS MADE TO SAIL	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
63	SOON WE WILL BE GOING HOME	4 CALVARY QT/INDEPENDENT
64	BECAUSE I SAID SO	PHILLIPS FAMILY/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
65	GRACE AIN'T FAIR	NELONS/DAYWIND
66	KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE PLOW	BIBLETONES/INDEPENDENT
67	I'M MY FATHERS DAUGHTER	MARY BURKE/INDEPENDENT
68	PASSING IT ON	BROWNS/STOWTOWN
69	THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT	MARK TRAMMELL QT/CRIMSON ROAD
70	WHEN I PRAY	ISBELL FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
71	NO ROOM FOR HATE	MARK LOWRY/GAITHER MUSIC
72	I'M WORKING ON A BUILDING	TROY BURNS FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
73	THAT SOUNDS LIKE HOME TO ME	FOLENIUS/INDEPENDENT
74	GOING ON HOME	BUTLER BROTHERS QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
75	OVERWHELMING	MYLON HAYES FAMILY/UIA
76	I'M GONNA MAKE IT (EVA'S SONG)	CHARLIE SEXTON & HOMECOMING/INDEPENDENT
77	JESUS IN THE BOAT	A'MEN QT/INDEPENDENT
78	RUN TO HIM	JAY STONE SINGERS/CROSSROADS
79	SOMETHING'S GOING ON IN THE GRAVEYARD	VICTORIA BOWLIN/INDEPENDENT
80	THE GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES	LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS
81	SECOND CHANCES	PATHFINDERS/INDEPENDENT
82	HE STILL MOVES MOUNTAINS	PURPOSE/CHAPEL VALLEY
83	HEAVY	MCKAMEY LEGACY/CROSSROADS
84	HOLY ALL OVER AGAIN	FORESTERS/INDEPENDENT
85	WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR	JUDITH MONTGOMERY FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
86	A NEW THING	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
87	THE SAVIOR'S TESTIMONY	EXODUS/INDEPENDENT
88	CLOSER	VAUGHN FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
89	THAT'S WHY WE PRAY	HEART 2 HEART/INDEPENDENT
90	HE HAS	JOYAIRES/INDEPENDENT
91	WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES HERE	BOB SELLERS/INDEPENDENT
92	THIS IS WHO I AM	3 HEATH BROTHERS/CROSSROADS
93	I AM THE MAN	DIXIE ECHOES/INDEPENDENT
94	WHAT LIVIN' IS	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
95	OLD RUGGED CROSS	MARK DUBBELD FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
96	THERE IS LOVE	CANA'S VOICE/STOWTOWN
97	BREATHE IN BREATHE OUT	SACRED HARMONY/INDEPENDENT
98	THIS IS YOUR DAY	PHILLIPS & BANKS/INDEPENDENT
99	RELIGION ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE	JOSEPH HABEDANK/DAYWIND
100	EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT	JANET PASCHAL/GAITHER MUSIC

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The Kingsmen Quartet



Josh & Ashley Franks



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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	I HAVE A FRIEND	JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS
2	SOMEDAY	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
3	HEAR JERUSALEM CALLING	JOE MULLINS & RADIO RAMBLERS/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
4	I FOUND LIFE	TONJA ROSE/MANSION
5	SOMEBODY LOVES ME	REBEKAH SPEER/INDEPENDENT
6	I'M STILL HERE	TIM DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
7	MARCH AROUND JERICHO	CAROLINA BLUE/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
8	WHERE WOULD I BE	KING JAMES BOYS/INDEPENDENT
9	WHEN HE BLESSED MY SOUL	DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER/INDEPENDENT
10	TRAVELING THE HIGHWAY HOME	GRASCALS/INDEPENDENT

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	I FOUND LIFE	TONJA ROSE/MANSION
2	I'M MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER	MARY BURKE/CHAPEL VALLEY
3	HE WILL SEE ME THROUGH	DON STILES/INDEPENDENT
4	GOD CAN	SHELLEM CLINE/RED COUNTRY RECORDS
5	CLOSE TO HOME	BARRY LEE WHITE/INDEPENDENT
6	WHEN YOU PRAY, PRAY FOR AMERICA	MARK209/INDEPENDENT
7	I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU	LULU ROMAN/INDEPENDENT
8	COME UP CLEAN	STEVE LADD/CROSSROADS
9	ON YOUR KNEES	DOUG CORUM/INDEPENDENT
10	I KNOW THAT WAS YOU	TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS
11	I'M STILL HERE	TIM DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
12	THANK YOU LORD	MITCHELL WHISNANT/INDEPENDENT
13	JUST ANOTHER STORM	CALEB HOWARD/INDEPENDENT
14	COUNTRY GOSPEL IS ROCKING COUNTRY	DAN DUNCAN/INDEPENDENT
15	GOD'S LOOKING AT MY HEART	JIM SHELTON/ZENITH RECORDS
16	MOM	KEN HARRELL/MANSION
17	FIND JESUS NOW	LIZZY G/INDEPENDENT
18	REPENTANCE STILL WORKS	APPOINTED2/INDEPENDENT
19	LITTLE THINGS	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
20	I HAVE A FRIEND	JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS
21	THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED	DERRICK LOUDERMILK BANK/INDEPENDENT
22	WHY	CHOSEN/INDEPENDENT
23	KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE PLOW	BIBLETONES/INDEPENDENT
24	TOOLS OF THE TRADE	ROGER BARKLEY JR/INDEPENDENT
25	STANDING IN THE RAIN	BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT
26	STAND TOGETHER	WADE PHILLIPS/INDEPENDENT
27	HE GOT WHAT I DESERVED	DON STILES/INDEPENDENT
28	BEACON OF LIGHT	CAROL BARHAM/M.A.C. RECORDS
29	THIS SHIP WAS MADE TO SAIL	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
30	MAMA'S SOLDIER MAN	THE BARBER FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
31	WHAT LIVIN' IS	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
32	HEALING STREAM	CHUCK DAY/INDEPENDENT
33	A PLACE WHERE I CAN GO	DEBBIE BENNETT/INDEPENDENT
34	YOUR SON	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
35	TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS	FAITH'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT
36	DON'T GO DOWN	PAUL JAMES SOUND/INDEPENDENT
37	WE'RE AMERICAN PROUD	MIKE LEICHTNER/INDEPENDENT
38	WHEN HE CAME DOWN	PAUL WINCHESTER/INDEPENDENT
39	ROCK BOTTOM	KEVIN & KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT
40	WHEN GOD CALLS HIS CHILDREN HOME	AVA KASICH/INDEPENDENT

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	OVERWHELMING	MYLON HAYES FAMILY
2	THE FINAL WORD	WHISNANTS
3	PEACE IN TRUSTING	ISAACS
4	WHEN THEY ALL GET TOGETHER	MARK TRAMMELL QT
5	A NEW THING	LANCE DRISKELL
6	HEAVEN IN YOUR HEART	PHILLIPS & BANKS
7	HEAVEN	EPPS FAMILY
8	AIN'T NO ROCK	JOURNEYS
9	DON'T GO DOWN	PAUL JAMES SOUND
10	HE HAS OVERCOME	TROY BURNS FAMILY
11	THAT'S WHY WE PRAY	HEART 2 HEART
12	DAY BY DAY	SWEETWATER REVIVAL
13	ALL THE WAY	CHANDLERS
14	DEAR MOMMA	VONDA ARMSTRONG W/ASHLEY & PRISCILLA FRANKS
15	I AM THE MAN	DIXIE ECHOES
16	MILES OF MIRACLES	LIBERTY QUARTET
17	MANY SPARROWS	FAYTH LORE
18	ENOUGH AND THEN SOME	THE BAKERS
19	HOLY ALL OVER AGAIN	FORESTERS
20	YOU ARE THE SAME	JOHNSON EDITION

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Les Butler and Friends

Kevin Williamson Williamson Branch

by Les Butler

I was aware that Kevin Williamson was a member of the multi-award winning Farm Hands Quartet, but I had never met him. That changed when I was playing for Jeff and Sheri Easter at a restaurant in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, several years ago. The place was jam packed when he saw some friends of his come in and Jeff asked them to come up and sing a song. Well, they came up and stole the show. Soon afterwards, I got to know the patriarch of the family, Kevin Williamson. Man, what a talented singer, songwriter and musician. Add his family's mega talents to the mix and look out! Enjoy getting to know the runaway train known as Williamson Branch.

Les Butler: Who is Williamson Branch?

Kevin Williamson: Melody Williamson Keyes is our fiddler. Although we all share the lead singing, she sings most of the lead. In addition to her onstage duties, we fondly refer to our newlywed as the Merch

Maven. Kadence Williamson is our bass player and she mostly sings the high notes. She graduates high school this Spring. Since her slight stature allows her to stand up in the trailer, Kadence is our load-master on the road. Her makeup case is bigger than any suitcase we carry. Caroline Williamson plays mandolin & Cajon for the band. She is commonly referred to as "The Show Stealer" -- a title she has been living up to since she was 4 years old (she's now 12). Caroline has recently begun taking mandolin lessons from (IBMA) Mandolin Player of the Year, Alan Bibey. Anthony Howell is the only non Williamson in the bunch. He's been with us about 3 years playing banjo, mandolin, acoustic and electric lead guitar and doing some bass singing. He also is charged with making sure all the instruments are tuned and all the heavy equipment is lifted. Debbie Williamson plays the mandolin, sings beautiful lead and harmonies and handles all the mom duties -- which are numerous. In addition to her road



chores, Debbie does all the public relations and social media for the band. I am the guitar player, baritone, and sometimes bass singer for the group. I also do most of the driving and road management, set up the sound for the live shows, and book the family. Most everyone contributes original songs and has creative input.

LB: It seems like Williamson Branch is an overnight success. Is that an accurate thought?

KW: Well, if you consider 40 plus years “overnight” then, yes. Seriously, I have been involved in the music business since I was 15 years old. My dad played in bluegrass groups when I was a kid. He and I had a band called Redwing when I was a young man. Debbie and I married and started our own group. We got off the road in the late 90’s to start our family, but continued to do children’s performances and other local gigs to make a living. We started Williamson Branch in 2014. So, 7 years later (plus the 35 before that) here we are an overnight success.

LB: Most musical families pick and sing around the house for fun. At what point did it change from “just for fun” to a serious endeavor?

KW: For most of my life, and for all of our daughters’ lives, music has been a way of life for us. I often say (only half jokingly) that when you name a kid Melody you just hold your breath for the first year and half hoping she’ll be able to carry a tune. But we prayed that God would gift the girls musically and He did. Music has always been a serious endeavor for us.

LB: What do you feel makes Williamson Branch different from other family bands?

KW: I guess the main difference is an emphasis on

professionalism from day one. We’ve always taught our daughters to show up on time, dress with a level of respect for our audiences, pay attention to details, and pour our hearts into every performance. We have to understand that the performance that a particular audience member is seeing today might be the only time that that individual will ever see Williamson Branch, so we better make it memorable.

LB: Tell us about your big, new project with Pinecastle Records?

KW: Heritage & Hope is a 23 song, 2 volume collection of gospel music. It runs the gamut from bluegrass gospel, to country Christian, to southern gospel, to acoustic praise & worship.

LB: Why such an ambitious effort?

KW: At the beginning of quarantine we saw that people were scared. We felt the Lord was asking us to go live on Facebook everyday and bring them hope and joy. Most days that took on the form of an old hymn, a brief devotional and praying for their requests. We had already planned to record a project of original gospel material but we knew that our folks -- who had already been hearing us sing the familiar hymns -- would want to hear some of those songs. So, we did both! The first volume, Heritage, is made up of older songs that most of us sang in church. While the second volume, Hope, is made up of original songs from the band and other songwriters we know.



LB: Where is Williamson Branch headed?



Like The Chuckwagon Gang has remained as a family tradition through generations, that is my prayer for Williamson Branch.

LB: In your short time as a group, you've already started to have some very big moments. Give some early group highlights.

KW: As for early group highlights, we were just proud to pay the bills every month. But lately we've been recognized with a few special things. Melody was awarded the IBMA's Momentum Vocalist of the Year 2020. We won the Valley Star Family Vocal Group of the Year in 2020 for our work in South Texas. Blue Moon Over Texas spent 7 weeks atop the RMR Bluegrass chart. Walking in the Spirit featuring the Marshall Family was a #1 song on SGN Scoops and BluegrassToday Bluegrass Gospel Charts and our Video of Which Train is the current #1 Bluegrass video on The Bluegrass Standard's Video Chart.

Watch it at www.Facebook.com/williamsonbranch. Our Facebook page reached over 90 million people last year and is now followed by over 430,000 folks.

LB: What does your family hope to accomplish for the cause of Christ?

KW: Our primary goal is to carry the presence of the living Christ EVERYWHERE we go, whether that's a church, a festival, fair, truckstop, or restaurant. We might be speaking (or singing) to hundreds (sometimes thousands) or a single individual but we want the Holy Spirit to be evident in our speech and

KW: The Grand Ole Opry! (Ha!) We feel that there is no limit to the things God can and will do with folks who trust in him. As long as we honor him with our gifts and our intentions, I see a really bright future. Plus, I hope that Williamson Branch can be a legacy for our daughters and our grandchildren (someday).





actions. We pray that we will usher in redemption, healing, salvation and all the gifts of the Spirit through the unity of our family and our connection with the Lord.



LB: How can folks contact you?
 KW: 615-545-3526 williamsonbranch@gmail.com
 Williamson Branch, PO Box 332774, Murfreesboro,
 TN 37133

Learn more about Williamson Branch on their website
www.williamsonbranch.com or Facebook.com/wil-
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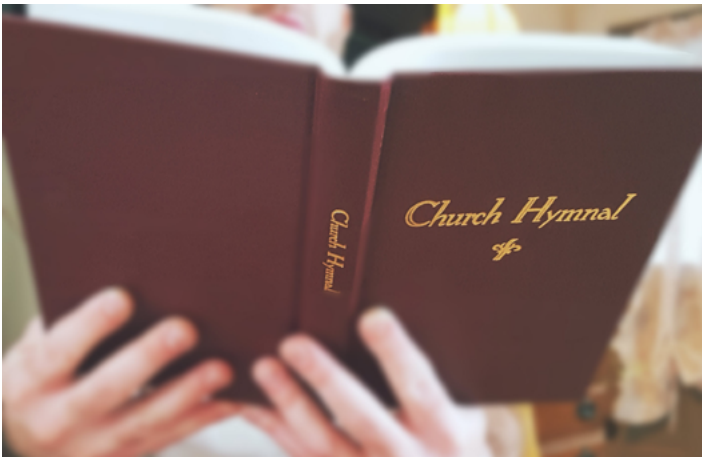


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Not Just Any Church Songbook It's the *Red Back Book* It's an Original

by Charlie Griffin



There will always be a debate as to what type of music to sing in houses of worship. With the growth of praise and worship music, there has also been a growing resurgence of songs many people refer to as traditional church music or hymns. The reach of the traditional church songs are usually traced back to one major songbook, the Red Back Hymnal.

The songbook published as the Church Hymnal, recognized to most singers and church singers as the "Red Back book," is the leader – even a staple -- in the majority of churches today. The Red Back songbook was conceived, compiled, and printed in Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1951 by the Tennessee Music and Printing Company.

Dr. Jerry Goff's father was instrumental in the development of the songbook. His knowledge of the church, worship, and connecting with church members is perhaps why the Church Hymnal became the most recognized song book in choirs or Pew book pockets over the last 70 years.

The Church Hymnal was made available to the public in November of 1951. With a price of \$1.50 per book, the initial printing consisted of 25,000 copies. The Hymnal was printed in shape notes only and bound with a maroon or green board cover. The maroon cover was the most popular choice and was the inspiration for the name "Red Back." Today the songbook is still published by Pathway Press.

The 70-year-old legacy of the iconic hymnal is the only permanent display at the Museum Center at Five Points in Cleveland, Tennessee. The museum opened in November 2015.



The exhibit explores the local history of the Red Back from its development and first printing in Cleveland to its widespread adoption and continuing influence on Christian music. Visitors to the exhibition will learn about influential figures in the history of the Red Back, the unique and easy-to-learn shape note system it uses, and the gritty, industrial mechanics



form a choir to sing traditional Southern Gospel music out of the "Red Back Church Hymnal." No one knew what to expect as there was no rehearsal before the service. Newton says, "As the musicians started playing, the choir started humming and then began singing softly. As their voices swelled, everyone was reminded of the wonderful songs of Zion they had sung at church in years past. Since that day, the excitement has been overwhelming and interest has grown in this new found group of talented singers, the church."

of its publication and production. More information can be found at the museum website redbackhymnal.com.

The acclaimed song book contains standard hymns, traditional gospel songs, and even Christmas and patriotic numbers. What sets it apart from other church hymnals are the addition of convention songs. The first 150 or so pages of the Red Back Hymnal are all time favorites of some great quartet and convention songs that were written in the 1930s and 1940s. Songs written by southern gospel notables as Albert Brumley, Vep Ellis, Luther Presley, Lee Roy Abernathy, and others.

The song book also helped many fledgling ministers and church leaders in finding just the right music to support any sermon or church event. The book includes a topical index that lists hymns appropriate to 14 different occasions including Baptism, Consecration, Funeral, Missionary, and Testimony. It also features a general index that alphabetically lists more than 400 classic hymns. The 410 pages of the Church Hymnal contain 429 songs.

To church members there is a musical relationship with the Red Book. Groups and organizations have sprouted up to remember the songbook legacy and to preserve its heritage.

There is a group of Red Back Hymn lovers and supporters in Georgia that work to educate, present concerts and preserve the history of the Red Back book. This group of singers began in an unusual way. The first time they sang together was at the Homegoing service of Dewey Newton, father of Lamar Newton. Lamar, former pianist for the Rex Nelon Singers, invited a group of close friends to

The purpose of this group of dedicated singers is to preserve the art of singing the old-fashioned Southern Gospel songs found in the "Red Back Church Hymnal." The songwriters, such as G.T. "Dad" Speer, Albert E. Brumley, and James D. Vaughan, were anointed by the Holy Spirit and penned their thoughts from personal experiences during difficult times. Even as these songs stirred the hearts of people long ago such as our grandparents and great-grandparents, they continue to challenge and encourage us today.



The popularity of the Red Book shows its impact. Newton shares, "You can find the Red Book in just about every small to medium church regardless of denomination, especially in the south. People identify with the songs. I am amazed at how many people come to the Red Book singings, but how many just sing along without the book. They know these songs and it touches them. You know it is good when you see people worshiping, tears streaming and people singing."

Even though this type of music is not prevalent in a

lot of churches this day and time, people are hungry to hear it. That is one reason the Gaither Video series has been outselling every type of music genre for several years. This very talented group of people likes to sing this music, and they sing it well. As in the past, we will also have special soloists, trios, and quartets to sing occasionally during the singing to give the choir a break.

More information can be found at redbackchurch-hymnalsinging.com or from their Facebook group with over three thousand members who love the songs from the Red Back Hymnal.

Another Facebook group "CHURCH OF GOD 'the old red-back book' CHURCH HYMNAL" pays homage to their singing roots. With over four thousand members, the purpose of this group is to be a blessing to those individuals who have special memories of the Church of God Church Hymnal, commonly referred to as "the old Red Back book."

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Tri-state region, Bill Hullander says, "Many of us have fond memories of Sunday morning church service wearing our Sunday best and singing from the Red Back Hymnals. Some of these classic songs reside in our hearts and souls through our lifetime. What makes this book so different or special? It could be the precious hymns contained inside or the shaped notes that are combined in each song. Year after year, the classic songs of the Red Back Hymnal are sung across our nation."

At the Chattanooga Hymn sings "well known piano players, Jack Clark and Sue Gray, are always there to play, and one of the people who helps in leading the old-fashioned shape note songs is Crandall Woodson from Stone Mountain, Georgia, who is the president of the National Gospel Singing Convention," organizers said.

In Blountville, Tennessee, there's a Sullivan County Red Back singing. Danny Stewart says, "The Bible tells us to make a joyful noise," He continues, "Sometimes when I solo in church and I'm really feeling it, I'll cry. We consider the church hymnal the Bible of singing. You feel something when you sing these songs. It's old songs, we're



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bringing the old songs back.”



Nowadays many a spirited church-goer attends contemporary Christian churches and services with music to match. There is nothing wrong about that. However, many such congregations do not sing

standard hymns such as “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder.” Most do not use hymnals that contain songs including “Precious Memories.” Again, fine. Gary Harlow said, “The thing that bothers us, I don’t see how you can move on and leave these songs in the hymn book. This music has the ability to raise you above your troubles and trials. It stays with you, dwells with you in your heart.”

Consequently, certain aspects of nostalgia attach to the hymnal sing events. Regardless, all ages are invited and encouraged to attend. Christians, non-Christians, those who can and those who can’t carry a tune will encounter an eager welcome upon entry for a Hymn Sing in Sullivan County.

Recently Charlie Sexton with WGS-TV Dove Broadcasting-Greenville, South Carolina, brought together several performing artists to record the station’s first ever “Red Back Revival” TV Show. Sexton, Linda

Foster, Troy Burns, the Pine Ridge Boys, Saxon Family, Roy Knight Singers, Exodus, Children of Promise, and others recorded a two-hour television special that has received praise through Christian music circles. Sexton states, “It was good to be with people who knew how to sing the music. The LIVE television show captured the spontaneity of the performance. What was fun really turned into church. We were led by the spirit, and it was really a wonderful night.”

Perhaps the most noted group to emerge in recent years is the Hymn Sing programs created by Gerald Wolfe and friends.



Wolfe’s website says, “The hymns of the church have been preserved down through the centuries by faithful Christians who have experienced the life-changing power of their message. With changing times, cultures, and styles, the next generation isn’t exposed to these great lyrics and melodies in most Churches on a weekly basis anymore, and those who know and love them don’t often have the opportunity to sing them in a congregational setting. What began as a simple ‘sing-along’ during a Gospel Concert in a small theater in Shippshewana, Indiana, eventually led to the first video recording of a ‘Gospel Music Hymn Sing,’ in the Summer of 2014.

Two local Church Choirs, along with 50 well-known Gospel Music Artists came together for the event at the First Baptist Church of Morristown, Tennessee, and a capacity crowd, with attendees from as far as 2000 miles away, filled the auditorium...for the Monday evening event. It was obvious to everyone in attendance that this was something really special, and there was obviously a real desire, a real hunger, for a revival of congregational Hymn singing. Shortly after the release of the first ‘Gospel Music Hymn Sing’ DVD, the Gospel Music Hymn Sing Foundation was

formed by four well-known Gospel Music Artists... Jim Brady, Rodney Griffin, Mark Trammell, and Gerald Wolfe."

The Gospel Music Hymn Sing Foundation exists to preserve and promote the value of the art-form of Congregational Hymn Singing through the promotion of Live Events, Video and Audio Recordings, Printed Materials (including songbooks and other materials), and Educational Scholarships. You can find more information at www.gospelmusichymnsing.com.

The Church Hymnal or Red Back Book. Just a songbook that has stood the test of time. Its songs have stood through wars, pandemics, economic upheaval, natural disasters and life changing moments. Songs of hope, promise and comfort are found in those printed pages.

In an ever-changing world, we need a little hope. Music, those church hymns of our youth, is a balm for today's problems. Not just any church songbook. It's the "Red Back Book" where you'll find those songs that are needed now more than ever. There is something to be said about an original.



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Jump for Joy!

Sidemen or Frontmen of the gospel Guitar Pickers!

By: Joy Holden

This month's column features some of your favorite guitar players of gospel music!

Please note I did not exclude female pickers, however the ones I had in mind are also lead singers too, so not sidemen (side players) such as Sonya and Becky from the Issacs or Kristen Bearfield from HighRoad, so they did not fit the format for this particular Q&A.

This was such an enjoyable interview and very enlightening.

Who influenced your playing style?

As a guitar player in a gospel singing group, what's the most important thing you've learned to complement the song?

How is playing live different from studio sessions?

Finally, how do you connect with the Holy Spirit when playing your instrument?

Your favorite rig is?

Joy Holden: Who influenced your playing style?
Hutch Jordan of the Jordan Family Band (Guitar):

I would say that the most influential playing for me came from a guitar player by the name of Brent Mason. I grew up listening to country records, and a grand majority of the records I listened to was Brent, or another fabulous guitar player, J.T. Corenflos. Those two guys brought so much emotion into each song they played on, and it resonated with my ears so much to a point where I knew at that point, that is what I wanted to do. As I grew older, I obviously expanded my variety of influential players from hard rock to bluegrass. As a studio musician, and a touring musician, I feel it is greatly important to be a "Swiss army knife" with your playing.





Matthew Gooch of Karen Peck and New River (Guitar):

I have a lot of people who have influenced my playing but I would say right now my top three influences would be: The Edge (U2), Noel Gallagher (Oasis), and Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin). These guys have taught me a lot about melody and textures to songs.

Austin Whisnant of The Whisnants (Bass Guitar):

I would say Kevin Grant. Back when I started playing the bass, he played on all of The Whisnants recordings so naturally, I listened to his playing a lot and he is still one of my favorites to this day.

Jared Easter of Jeff & Sheri Easter (Guitar, Pedal Steel, Mandolin, Banjo, Fiddle):

My hero and biggest mentor is my Dad. He's one of the greatest musicians; he was always there to get me started on the next instrument.

JH: As a guitar player in a gospel singing group, what's the most important thing you've learned to compliment the song?

Hutch Jordan: Great question. Letting a song breathe where it needs to breathe is greatly important. When playing live, it is extremely easy as a human to want to play every "lick" you've ever learned. The real beauty comes when you learn when 'not' to play.

Matthew Gooch: Well right off the top I would say

less is more. There is nothing more annoying than listening to a song and the musicians are overplaying like crazy on it. One huge thing that I learned when I started playing for KPNR is to know my lane with the harmonies. When you are playing for a soloist, you really don't have to worry about that but when you play for multiple singers that sing different parts, you really have to make sure you aren't stepping into their lane which I did a lot when I was starting out. Sometimes it might sound like I'm playing very basic stuff because I am letting the vocalists carry a lot of the melody, and I'm just holding down the rhythm side of things.

Austin Whisnant: Don't overplay a song. I catch myself throwing in WAY too many "licks" every now & then. I believe it's important, especially as a bass player, to keep it simple most of the time.

Jared Easter: It's all about the lyrics. Sometimes the most important thing is knowing when NOT to play and making sure we bring focus to what's really important

JH: How is playing live different from studio sessions?

Hutch Jordan: They are similar in certain aspects, but they do have their differences. Such as, when you're playing live, you don't have to think about it as much. You do have a little more room for error. There are different dynamics going on with a show that might cover up a mistake you've made. It comes and goes so fast that nobody would ever really notice it. On the contrary, playing in the studio requires a different muscle than playing live. It's not that studio guys are "better"



players than live guys. It's all about creativity. You're hired to be a creator in the studio, and sometimes that can prove difficult. I will add, when playing live, or in the studio, with whatever instrument you're playing; Play the song. Not your instrument. Serve the song. Hopefully that makes sense.

Matthew Gooch: I love playing live because you are able to be present in the room with everyone listening. There is nothing like it to feel the room. The studio is fun because you are able to create something for the first time that will be on a project forever. There is something really special about that. I try to always create something new in a live setting as well. It just doesn't always get noticed like a live setting does. The studio can be a difficult place because you are under a microscope and you have to play it perfectly. I still think it's fun to put yourself in that situation for the creative aspect.

Austin Whisnant: I have not done hundreds of studio sessions like most have, but I enjoy aspects of both. Playing live, I enjoy the energy. There is energy in the studio, but it's a different kind of energy as well. The creativity that takes place in the studio can be a special thing also.

Jared Easter: The majority of studio work I do is by myself, cutting full tracks for clients (one instrument at a time). On the road, I'm blessed to play with some of the most talented musicians that I know, Landan Smith and Jeff Easter. We feed off of each other's emotions and every night is a unique experience.

JH: Finally, how do you connect with the Holy Spirit when playing your instrument?

Hutch Jordan: I love this question. It's something I've continually learned throughout the years. Sometimes it's difficult to get away from the joy of playing your instrument for yourself. But, when you realize that you're playing for the glory of the One who so lovingly gifted you with your talents, all the noise becomes insignificant, and you can worship so freely however you are communicating through the song you are playing/singing.

Matthew Gooch: Since I'm not a singer, I try to let my guitar sing for me each night. I try to add something from my soul every night I walk on stage. The Holy Spirit is very important to me in my personal walk with Christ so I try to allow Him to shine through my guitar every single performance.

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Austin Whisnant: I really find it the same singing and playing. When you can look out in an audience and see The Lord touching people and helping them, it carries to the stage very quickly.

Jared Easter: More than anything I try to always play from the heart. It's easy to get caught up in trying to be "perfect" (I've never achieved that, by the way), but God has always honored me with the talent I have because I use it to uplift him. It's a special experience to use a gift given by God to praise him.

JH: Your favorite rig is?

Hutch Jordan: I have several pedal boards, guitars, amps, etc. I play with D'Addario NYXL 11-52s across the board for all my guitars except for acoustic.

For acoustic, I play Elixir Nanoweb 13-56s. If I were to have a "desert island" rig, it would have to be a Fender Telecaster, through a small pedalboard with a few great essential pedals, plugged into a Fender Deluxe Reverb.

Matthew Gooch: I play a sea foam green Novo Serus J guitar right now and I love that guitar dearly. The acoustic guitar that I play is a 1973 Martin D35 and it has a really cool story. When my mom, aunt, and

dad started KPNR in 1991, my dad played that guitar on stage every night for the first couple of years. Another interesting fact about that guitar is that my dad bought it from Rex Nelon in the 80's when he was dating my mom. Most people don't know that, and they always get a kick out of it when I tell them the story. I also play a couple of different amps on stage. I swap them out to give my ear a break and keep tones fresh. I play a Matchless Laurel Canyon and a Morgan MVP23. These amps are extremely different in their personalities, but they add a versatility that helps me be creative. I also play 9-42 string sizes. Eli Fortner is the one who gave me the idea to use that light of strings. It definitely gives the fingers a break by the end of a concert haha. I use a company based out of Nashville called Stringjoy for my strings.

Austin Whisnant: I have played a Warrior bass & Warrior strings since 2012. They are a fantastic company based in Roseville, Georgia. The rig I have played for about 5 years now is a TC electronics.

Jared Easter: On stage with Jeff & Sheri I play: Martin HD28V, Emmons LeGrande III Pedal steel, Davis vintage tone banjo, Webber Mandolin. I use blue chip picks and custom GHS strings.



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News from The Foresters

We recently completed a very busy winter tour that had us on the road four straight months. We sang in KY, TN, GA, FL, AL, TX, NM, AZ and NV. We were thrilled to see quite a few professions of faith along the way.

The summer and fall tours are very busy and we are grateful! We will be singing all over the place! Concerts, revivals, church services and more.

We are really excited to head back into the studio this summer. Our 2020 record "Living In The After", brought our first Top 25 song. We pray to build on the momentum and make our best recording to date. Our new recording will be produced by Scott Godsey (Crabb Family, The Sound) and will feature musicians such as Gordon Mote, Scott Williamson, Kelly Back and more. It will be mixed by Scott Williamson. We are looking for a December release. The first radio single from this project will release in September. Pray that things go smoothly and the message shines through.

God bless you all





A Special Treat for Dad!

Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Chips

What Dad wouldn't love a relaxing day on the porch, a nap mid-afternoon and a cool tasty summer treat with fresh ripened berries when he woke up? I know both my Dad and husband can't wait for their Sunday afternoon nap! I on the other hand, love to spend that time searching Pinterest, creating my shopping list and making meal plans during that time. Multi-tasking of course- all along the way and pinning new recipes, new chicken coop ideas and other various project ideas awaiting the return of my slumbering husband- who of course won't have any time to work on all of my brilliant "quick" project ideas until many months later. What would we honestly do without Pinterest? Not have chicken tables that's for sure! As I was searching a few weeks ago, I ran across this oh so amazing looking recipe and low and behold the next week at my Bible Study the host made it! Let me tell you...it was every bit of amazing and one that Dad would surely appreciate this Father's Day! Hope you enjoy it as much as I did! Until next time.....~ Staci

FRUIT SALSA WITH CINNAMON CHIPS

2 Kiwis
 2 Golden Delicious Apples
 8 oz Raspberries
 1 pound Strawberries
 2 tablespoons Lime Juice
 2 tablespoons Sugar
 1 tablespoon Brown Sugar

Chips
 8-10, 10 inch Flour Tortillas
 1 cup Sugar
 1 tablespoon Cinnamon

HOW TO MAKE CINNAMON CHIPS

Simply take a 10 inch round tortilla and slice it in halves 4 times. The easiest way to slice is to use a pizza cutter, but a knife will work well if that is what you have. Spread the chips out on a greased baking sheet and spray one side with cooking spray then sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Flip and repeat on the other side.

Bake the chips in a 375°F oven for 8-10 minutes, turning half way, until they are golden and crispy. Allow them to cool before taking a dive into the fruit salsa.

A Big Thanks to Sarah Alvord, from Feeding Your Fam for pinning and sharing this amazing recipe! Check out more at feedingyourfam.com



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Contributors

Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group.



Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show the southern styles show since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNscoops.com, including the all digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond

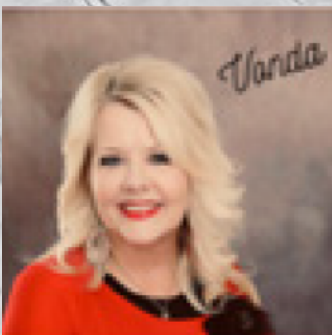
Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com

Stephanie Kelly is a public speaker and owner of



Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebie, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. QueenOQ.blogspot.com

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



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

Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian



college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back. But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.

Justin Gilmore is 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.

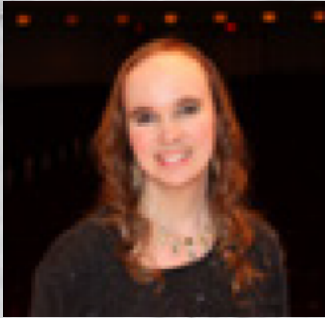


Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGN-Scoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at www.charliegriffin.net.



Contributors

Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middleschool English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion of teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony. To learn more about Jennifer visit <http://jennifercampbell.net>.



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer. He is behind the scenes making sure content is uploaded to the servers properly and that the monthly digital magazine can be properly downloaded each month. He and his family have a farm in East Tennessee. www.cloverleafhorses.com



Staci Schwager enjoys design work of all kinds.



Whether its graphic design layouts or interior design she loves and has an eye for color and layout. In her spare time she can be found usually with a paint brush in hand doing some type of project. She and her husband Pete enjoy their farm life in the East Tennessee

mountains.

Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The MysteryMen quartet, Florida Boys, and Mark209. Off the road, he enjoys spending time with his wife Christa, his three kids and one granddaughter.



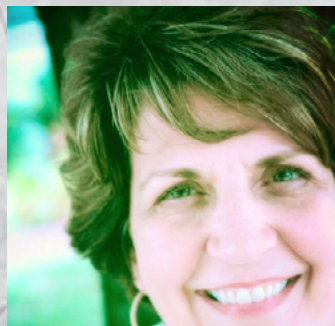
Robert York's love for Southern Gospel music began at a young age when his parents took him to Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosd by Warren Roberts. After retiring from USPS after 35 years, he decided to start promoting concerts. The goal was nit only to promote our concerts but to promote any Gospel concerts in our area. When his wife graduated to heaven in 2013, he was at a crossroad. After much prayer God led him to continue promoting concerts. He still very mush enjoys attending concerts and writing about the groups as well.



Jeff Lowe, from Massillon, Ohio, has been involved in Southern Gospel Music for 46+ years. In 1974, at the age of 14, Jeff started singing bass with The Soulseekers, a mixed group from his hometown. There have been several groups since that time, and in 2009, Jeff started Mercy River Quartet. Eleven years later, the group is still serving the Lord and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having written for other publicationsaJeff is excited to be a part of the SGNScoops family!



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by many popular gospel artists. Shis is also a Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.



Contributors

Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of The Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad.



Carrie Hofmeister is a staff writer for SGNScoops magazine, covering a wide range of stories that push her to step outside of her comfort zone. She has always had a passion for writing, whether stories, songs, feelings, or just what happened that day. When she isn't writing articles, she and her husband, Mitchell, write and sing their own music, traveling to wherever God opens a door.



Rachel Harris is from the Port City of Wilmington, NC. She began writing songs when she was 11 years old. She also enjoys writing poetry and feature articles. Aside from writing, she enjoys teaching and being a wife and mom.



Lindsey Sipe heard God tell her that she would work in country music when she was just 4 years old. Currently making her living as a publicist, artist/media consultant, and freelance journalist through her company LIT Nashville, telling stories is Lindsey's specialty, whether it's through writing, photography, social media, or on camera interviews.



April Potter Holleman is a 24-year veteran in music business serving in consulting, marketing, radio, publicity and most known for her booking and management agency April Potter Agency where she has had the privilege of working with numerous, multi award-winning artists and speakers. She joins SGNScoops as a speciality guest writer. You can follow her www.apotteragency.com, FB [www.Facebook.Com/aprilpotteragency](https://www.facebook.com/aprilpotteragency) or IG [april_potter_agency](https://www.instagram.com/april_potter_agency)

