

July 2012

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**Rhonda Vincent**

**Also In This Issue:**

**Beyond The Ashes, Libbi Perry Stuffle, The Sneed Family & The Crist Family**

# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



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July 2012





# Letter From the Editor

Rhonda Frye

Congratulations, Miss Allison Haley Frye “Looks Like You Made It!” Graduation day at Heritage High School was “hotter than the devil’s armpit,” according to the class valedictorian. People sweated like pigs and some dropped like flies, but after many long speeches, the pivotal moment finally came. The tassel-transferred caps soared high in the air! Graduates shouted victory, parents sighed in relief and... Barry Manilow’s voice rang out from the speakers. I? Well- I shouted, “TWO DOWN AND ONE TO GO” and high-fived Hubby/Daddy! But... At that very moment, something NEW began! New is good! Wow- what a day that was!

I like new! New clothes, new shoes, a new purse, new recipe, new hair-do...and the list goes on. The bigger the new thing is, the more exciting it is too. Since my car was totaled last month, I’ve been looking for a replacement, but I admit- the new car smell is intoxicating! But yes, life offers a lot of BIG new things- new careers, new cars, new houses and the *big*-new list could go on too. One thing is for certain, life is full of new things- not just physical or temporary things, but spiritual new things as well.

God is a God of new things! We see in Genesis He spoke this world into existence. I wonder if any heavenly creatures resisted the change and yelled- “But God- we’ve never had an earth before!” I don’t

know, but I do know that God reassures us that He makes all things new! I love Isaiah 43:18-19! “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See? I am doing a NEW thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

So- what new things are you facing? A new song... A new album... A new single? Maybe you’re considering a starting a new group. Maybe it’s time your group embraces a new sound, a new look, or a new style. Perhaps it is time to step out into new territory! Maybe you’re facing something new in your personal life, but chances are sooner or later we all find ourselves either clinging to the boat or walking on the water. Embrace the new!

I hope you find July’s issue a source of encouragement to embrace new things. This edition highlights Ernie Haase stepping into new territory- click on the video link and see where they’ve been. In this issue, see which artists are releasing new albums. Libbi Perry Stuffle talks about her first solo album. And...Read about Breana Crist stepping into a new marriage. Also, be encouraged by Sue C. Smith’s article- she writes one new song after another! Read about our new event, Creekside Gospel Music Convention too! Also in this issue we celebrate America’s independence. Now- aren’t you glad our



forefathers got out of the boat and INTO another boat and sailed to something new?

Why do I encourage you to embrace the new? Because I believe Christians will experience the greatest new thing ever! God pushes us into realms of new because when it really comes down to it, everything in life revolves around a pivotal moment to come. It is His will that no one should miss the graduation ceremony!

"Then I saw a *new heaven and a new earth*, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for

these words are trustworthy and true.' He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'" Revelation 21:1-7

You know the rest of the passage. The jasper, pearls, jewels and gold... The life, love, glory, and presence! I imagine the scene to be like Ally's graduation day. I think the speech will be short: "Look kids, here's home!" I think I'll see *crowns* not caps tossed, I'll hear *shouts* not sighs of relief and people will be dropping alright- this time to their knees. And...I'm praying Barry Manilow is singing "Looks Like You Made It!" *in person*. I? Well...I'll break out in the boogie dance this time! One thing I know for sure: It will NOT be hotter than the devil's armpit *THERE!* Yes... New is Good! Wow-What a day that will be!

So... are ya with me? Let's get excited about using Gospel Music as a tool to lead people to the New Jerusalem! If I can serve you in any way, email me at [Rhonda@sgnscoops.com](mailto:Rhonda@sgnscoops.com).





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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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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

"AMERICA, THERE IS HOPE"

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



What a privilege to join Rob Patz and Rhonda Frye in this JULY issue of Scoops Magazine. I cherish the American flag, get excited at patriotic parades, and my heart overflows with appreciation for the men and women who have fought for our liberty. I love this country! The lyrics of "America, There Is Hope" were scribbled on a yellow pad while watching the inauguration of the first President Bush in the late eighties. Early in his address, the President stopped and prayed, asking God's blessing on America. I wrote it as a song of hope for our nation, and not necessarily a sermon, although the chorus refers to a scripture from 2nd Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land." Following is a verse and the chorus:

## AMERICA THERE IS HOPE

There is hope for America  
We need revival across the land  
There is hope for America  
United, we all must stand  
One nation, under God,  
Waves the red, white and blue  
America, we believe in you

## Chorus:

There is hope for America  
Lift your voice and sing  
There is hope for America  
Let liberty ring  
If we humble ourselves and pray,

God will heal our land today  
Home of the brave and true  
America, we thank God for you

Howard and I had moved back to Texas from Nashville the year this song was written. I was a consultant for The Sound, a young male quartet from Houston, when they recorded the song and it became a national hit. Recently, we were at a concert with Scott Fowler of Legacy Five, who sang on that recording. After a gracious introduction from the stage, he talked about our working together in the late eighties when he sang with The Sound. Scott joined the Cathedral Quartet in 1990 and made us proud with his steady rise to popularity. When the Cathedrals era was over in 1999, he and Roger Bennett formed Legacy Five with Scott Howard and Glenn Dustin. After Roger Bennett's death from cancer in 2007, Scott Fowler and these men have kept the powerful ministry of Legacy Five on the road. At the recent concert, former member of the group, Frank Seamans, received deserved recognition. Frank and his wife, Libby, have moved back to Houston, and we loved seeing them. Frank was the tenor for The Sound, in those early years, and our friendship has remained strong. Howard and I have incredible memories of our travels with both Scott Fowler and Frank Seamans. We are proud of their faithfulness to the ministry and to their families. Scott and Taryn Fowler, and their two sons, live in Nashville and present a shining example to the gospel music community.

We look forward to being at Creek Side Gospel Music Convention, October 29, 30, & 31, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I am honored that Rob and Rhonda are

planning a "Celebration Of My Seventy-Five Years In Gospel Music" at the convention on October 29. The exciting Diamond Awards are on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to all events, and admission is FREE. I am overwhelmed when I consider the blessing of God on my "calling" to serve Him, both within the industry and on the platform. It is the desire of my heart to spend these remaining years encouraging the men and women who are serving behind the scenes and to be an inspiration to the artists who are taking the message of Jesus to a desperate world.

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Photo: Legacy Five's Scott Fowler and Lou Hildreth



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## **Showcasing Beautiful Pigeon Forge, Tennessee** **By Lorraine Walker**

Preparations are underway for the exciting new Creekside Gospel Music Convention, to be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The Smoky Mountain Convention Center will host this musical event on October 29, 30 and 31, with three days of the best in Southern Gospel Music. The Convention will also spotlight the 2012 Diamond Awards Show, as well as honor Lou Hildreth, celebrating her 75 years in the gospel music industry. All of this and more will take place in Sevier County, one of the most beautiful settings that the Smoky Mountains has to offer.

Rugged mountain trails, trickling streams and fall foliage bursting with color are only one side of Sevier County that visitors to Creekside Gospel Music Convention will enjoy. Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg together form one of the greatest tourist destinations in Tennessee, showcasing the entertainment of theme parks and attractions, shopping malls and flea markets, and restaurants offering everything from home-cooking to fine dining. Convention attendees can participate in nature escapes and city experiences, as well as music and ministry, reveling in a retreat to rejuvenate body, mind, soul and spirit.

Among the many attractions Sevier County has to offer, visitors can experience:

**Pigeon Forge Restaurants:** So with varieties to suit every taste, you'll want to stay longer to try them all. A few of the restaurants include: Alamo Steakhouse, All American Pancake House, Dixie Stampede and Show, Genos Restaurant, Great American Steak Buffet, Log Cabin Pancake House, Mandarin House, Bellacinos, Sagebrush Steakhouse, Smokies Breakfast House, and many more.

**Sevier County Attractions:** When you aren't listening to the award-winning artists at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention concerts, Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg have a myriad of attractions to keep you and your family entertained. From ziplines and helicopter rides to comedy and musical theatre, attendees will need to plan ahead

to fit everything into a fun-filled schedule. Museums, adventure parks, Dollywood and miniature golf are a few of the vacation destinations in this County that promises good times for the entire family.

**The Great Smoky Mountains:** Nature lovers and city slickers alike will find their minds refreshed by spending time in the beauty of the Mountains. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), established in 1934, is home to the world's greatest variety of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. According to the National Park Service website, over 1500 bears live in the GSMNP, or approximately two bears per square mile. It is also the "Salamander Capital of the World," providing a home for over 24 species of salamanders. The park's streams host 60 types of fish. Nature trails and scenic overlooks provide visitors with a chance to park their cars, step outside and inhale the complete Mountain experience.

**History and Education:** For those who want to know more about the history of Sevier County, there are many original farm buildings, mills and churches that still stand in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Discover how the original land-owners were asked to leave their homesteads as the Park was established. Go further back into history and explore the land of the Cherokee nation, natives removed from the area in the 1830s. To learn more about the past dwellers of this lovely land, visit the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, an environmental education centre celebrating ecological and cultural diversity.

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention offers a terrific vacation destination and attendees should make their plans now to experience everything that Pigeon Forge and the Smoky Mountains have to offer. Embrace the beauty of God's creation in the majesty of the mountains, the fellowship of family and friends while participating in neighboring attractions, and the refreshment of a spiritual retreat as you enjoy the musical ministry that is Southern Gospel.

- For more information on The Creekside Gospel Music Convention, visit: <http://www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com/>
- For more information, and to register your vote for The 2012 Diamond Awards, visit: <http://www.sgnscoops.com/2012-diamond-awards/>
- For more information on the GSMNP, visit <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm>.
- For more information on black bears in the GSMNP, visit [http://www.nps.gov/grsm/naturescience/black-bears.htm#CP\\_JUMP\\_95932](http://www.nps.gov/grsm/naturescience/black-bears.htm#CP_JUMP_95932) ,
- Also visit the website for the Great Smoky Mountains Association, which is a nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to support the Park's educational, scientific, and historical programs. <http://www.smokiesinformation.org/>
- For more information on the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, a non-profit residential environmental education center, visit [www.gsmit.org](http://www.gsmit.org)
- You can get there from here! Easily accessible from major cities, find the distance from your city to Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg:
  - Atlanta, GA — 197 miles
  - Charleston, SC — 344 miles
  - Charlotte, NC — 215 miles
  - Memphis, TN — 433 miles
  - Nashville, TN — 221 miles
  - Raleigh, NC — 335 miles
  - Washington, DC - 489 miles



# Independence Day:

FOR THEN...FOR NOW...FOR TOMORROW

BY LAURA KENNEDY

"If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin." ~Samuel Adams, 1776

*"It ain't about how loud I cheer, it's all about what got me here!  
I feel an overwhelming sense of reverential gratitude for the service,  
sacrifice and hardships endured by those who have made America  
what it is ideally meant to be, coupled with gratitude to the Creator  
for His continued favor and the privilege of calling this nation, my home."*

~ Dale Golden

Then...

Being first subjected to government without representation from overseas, 13 colonies in North America joined together to break free from the Parliament of Great Britain. On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from Great Britain. Two days later the Declaration of Independence was presented to Congress where it was revised and approved that same day.

The United States of America celebrated its birth, as a body of persons, freely engaged as a republic nation, that year on July 4th. In his excitement, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, in part saying, "The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

More casually referred to as 'the Fourth of July', family events are organized amid patriotic displays, where

many also display the American flag on their homes, exemplifying the deep roots in the American tradition of political freedom. Southern Gospel historian and journalist, Sandi Duncan-Clark offers;

"I LOVE AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY! Our family always loves a picnic, and lots of watermelon! We spend time together, we play ball, visit, have hamburgers and hot dogs, then we pile in the van and head down downtown for the fireworks show."

After hearing nothing but turmoil on the daily news, over and over again, the reality of our freedom and independence always hits home! The July 4th Parade and fireworks are the climax to our Holiday here! The police lead the way, with red, white and blue lights flashing and sirens blaring! All the Cub Scouts, Boys Scouts and Girls Scouts follow next, with many flags flying. Several dignitaries, including the Mayor, follows, then the band brings up the rear. Down Main Street they come; in red, white and blue uniforms, playing "God Bless America," "God Bless the U S A," and when they get to "It's a Grand Ole Flag," my heart



swells with pride for the freedom God provides.”

We will soon have a new grandbaby in our family, and I want him learn what makes us great as a country, to be proud to be an American. I want him to know that God has His hand on our America, and our freedom comes with a price.

At the very end of the parade, the band will play our National Anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner” and everyone in our little clan stands tall with their right hand over their heart, belting out the words. Then thousands and thousands of flashing colors and loud “bangs,” “bams” and “booms” and horns and whistles and the big copper bells in the tower at Furman University begin to ring. Goose bumps creep up my arms as it all comes to life!”

Now...

I too, with much devotion enjoy the cool summer night of July 4th, shared with family and friends as we seek out a spot in town to hear the songs and ultimately to ‘ooh’ and ‘ahh’ over the fireworks. And the day now also brings more serious thoughts to mind. As in, when we look at our country today, do we know what we are celebrating any longer? Our country is unravelling before our eyes. Our most cherished values are treated with contempt by many of those with influence and power. And while we may not have done the best job upholding the allegiance the signers of the Declaration of Independence did 235 years ago, I believe we most assuredly have as much responsibility to do so as they did. It is OUR country. It is OUR liberty. It is OUR freedoms that they fought for, sacrificed for, bled and died for.

Like the flag that waves so proudly with its symbolic colors; Red for hardiness and valor, White symbolizing purity and innocence, and Blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice. The idea of an Independent America offered a greater chance at dignity, hope, and prosperity, more so than any other government ever offered its people. It must be preserved and cherished. In that light, the 4th of July can inspire us to imitate the 56 signers of the Declaration and flee from tyranny whether that is one tyrant 3,000 miles away, or 3,000 tyrants one mile away. One way to begin is with gratitude. On a recent visit to Washington D.C., our Editor In Chief, Rhonda Frye shares;

“A patriotic moment I’ll never forget happened recently when my family and I made a stop at the Lincoln Memorial. After our exploration and photo shoot, we climbed aboard our tour trolley and crammed close to strangers. The bus pick up/drop off area was bumper to bumper with buses. Because

of the traffic jam, we couldn’t move. As we waited, a large group of elderly veterans stepped off a tour bus. They were dressed casually, wearing matching caps. The men and a few women walked two-by-two with family members following behind. As they made their way across the street heading to the War Memorial Wall, the spirit of patriotism started to swell on our trolley. Although we didn’t know each other, we quickly united, clapped and cheered for these heroes. Our spirit quickly spread and soon everyone on the crowded street corner and the huge crowd gathered at the concession stand nearby joined us in a grand round of applause. In response, some veterans dropped their heads and wiped tears, some nodded their heads in acknowledgment, but all were moved by the spontaneous gift of gratitude from thankful Americans.”

And yet another... is to teach.

Tomorrow...

That Declaration of Independence, that Banner of Liberty represented within our Flag, that Pledge of Allegiance which affirms daily that we are united, indivisible, and under God’s willing hand of protection and providence are in considerable danger of being lost on the youngest in our generation today.

Patriot Activist, Philip M. Deans offers us a precious glimpse in servitude; one in which we see multiple generations within a family who have served our country. Men who have lived and breathed patriotism. Here is a part of what he shared with me...

“Patriotism was instilled in me from a very young age back in the 1950’s. We were taught the Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag in school every day. We had special celebrations in school of the National Holidays & the significance of why those days were set aside as Holidays, even the most important one: The Fourth of July, Independence Day.

I grew up during World War II and the necessary black-outs back in Wilson, NC. During those years 1941-45, I lost my father who had earlier served in World War I in 1943, before I was even six years old. So, I learned early on about sacrifice of life and I remember too the sacrifices we had to make at home during War Time; rationing of food, gas, allocation stamps and War Bonds sold at the United States Post Office and all the recruitment posters of “Uncle Sam Wants You to Serve Actively & At Home For the War Efforts!” So even though at a young age, I was exposed to the destruction and devastation of war and its tremendous losses, I also received a total apprecia-



tion of those great sacrifices by our young & patriotic men fighting & dying for our country and its freedoms promised by our Constitution!

After graduating from high school, my patriotism & service to my country began in the USAF/ROTC and later followed a commitment with NASA. My earlier flying goals were not accomplished, but my dedication to the challenges of manned spaceflight on Project Mercury, Project Gemini & Project Apollo superceded those earlier goals & I could never be prouder of achieving them!

I guess a little of the patriotic service rubbed off on my son, Jeffery Lynn Deans, as he learned to fly early & completed AFROTC, received his commission and has recently completed 22 years in the USAF. He also followed some of the same paths at Wright Patterson AFB, Edwards AFB, Eglin AFB, McDill AFB, Hurlburt Field Special Ops and Naval Patuxent Air Research Center, which was my second assignment in the summer of 1958 and I am so very proud of all he has & continues to accomplish in the USAF and far exceeded my military contributions.

I have and will continue to honor all the special Holidays of Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, and Veterans Day, as well as other Military celebrations of WWII Veterans in Europe & Asia! I still fly and will continue to fly the flag on every occasion, know & sign the National Anthem along with all the other American Patriotic Hymns, (Cap/Hat Off and Hand Over Heart), and all playing of National Anthems & Flag Display & Drill Teams. I have tried to teach my son & granddaughters that same patriotic heritage, love & respect for this greatest of nations: The United States of America, its Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence.

Unfortunately those patriotic teachings have either been taken out of our schools or not emphasized and we now have several generations that are losing that patriotism, love & honor, GOD, respect for & support of all our military services; Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard. As well as respect for the American flag, anthems, constitution & all that stands for... 'FREEDOM Doesn't Come FREE!'

My patriotism, love of GOD, Country & Family First principle beliefs are being lost in our current generation & with the dying of our WWII Veterans, the greatest generation will also soon be lost! WE THE PEOPLE, must stand UNITED to the end to keep that from happening!" ~ Philip M. Deans, USAF, Captain, Retired Reserve

The 4th of July's significance as a fight for justice

-fought and won- ought to bear witness in our minds today and also resound deeply in our spirits. There are most certainly alternatives to war. Let's ensure we teach and exhaust those means. But when principles dictated independence and a separation from tyranny (then) that concluded to just that: war, it is no different over 200 years later. We must know, must surely understand, that war is not fought solely on some distant battlefield, but among US and among our homes. Our children will learn of it and most undoubtedly see it with their own eyes.

When that happens, if it should happen again, I draw hope from our forefathers and our Creator, Father himself. I will recall in my mind's eye, the streaming colors of the red, white, and blue appearing just over the horizon, and as my heartbeat quickens, see the lone flag bearer appear. He knows their meaning as well. He wears their pride as the countenance upon his face, and I am no longer unsure. And as he draws nearer, he stirs other hearts toward liberation of the same belief. His representation, the Flag of our Country, is not just a material of red, white, and blue. It is a badge of honor. One whose sacrifice often included the ultimate price of death. Independence Day was... Is ... and shall ever be celebration of FREEDOM itself, a triumphant victory of any sacrifice; great or small.

America, we salute you and stand proudly in this great land. Today we remember the sacrifice and in gratitude we are moved to go forward and continue to make men free.

~ Happy Independence Day! ~

"Freedom is not free. I've actually been working on a song by that title, in light of these few thoughts... Our freedom is a direct result of patriotism and complete dedication to the cause, by devoted men and women. Many people often fail to respect and honor the sacrifices of so many in the past and present, that have provided the comforts we all, as Americans, enjoy in the word 'freedom'. Even if most of us never fully understand what it took for us to have our country's freedom, we should ever show real heartfelt appreciation and respect to those who have provided it." ~ Ricky Atkinson



"My cousin, Davie, fought for our country for several years and was never the same when he returned. He was stationed in Kuwait for a year and some other places overseas. He worked in the medical field over there and saw some things that he'd never tell. He dealt with some Post Traumatic Stress a few years after he returned. He passed away this past August at 33 years old, in his sleep. We should be thankful for the soldiers that literally go through a life change for us so we can be free. What an honor to live in a country where men and women sacrifice their lives for our freedom every day." ~ Victoria Shirey

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# Karen Peck And New River Host Annual Homecoming

By Sandi Duncan Clark

Outdoor summer sings are always a lot of fun when all the elements finely come together! Having just returned from a weekend with Karen Peck and New River, at their New River Park in Dahlonega, Georgia, we can safely testify that EVERYTHING came together beautifully for this special event!

On Friday evening, fans began arriving an hour prior to the concert, taking their time to enjoy a cup of coffee or a bowl of pinto beans and cornbread. The Traffic "controllers" (our fun name for the wonderful guys helping with the parking,) as well as shuttle transportation, made parking easy, if not fun! Rickey Gooch and his team built a "bus" of sorts, using a tractor, a long trailer and lining it with lumber to make "home-made" pews to help with shuttle transportation! It reminded one of hayride wagons we use every Fall! We met people from all across the country, who love Gospel music and Karen Peck and New River.

A cool evening outdoors, great Gospel singing, sweet fellowship with friends we only see occasionally made the occasion perfect. Add to that Karen's and Susan's pinto beans, cornbread, sweet tea, excellent Bar-B-Q and roasted corn on the cob, and your set

for the evening! All of the above was made perfect when the Holy Spirit made His presence known and He reigned that Friday evening. What a respite after a long day at work!

The Friday night line-up featured Voices Won, a wonderful male trio from Dalton, Georgia. Their part



of the program was exciting, and their sweet spirit added to their performance. I especially enjoyed "Basics of Life" which is the title of their latest recording.



Triumphant Quartet is always on their game when it comes to singing solid quartet music. David, Clayton, Scotty, Eric and Jeff can bring Heaven down when they sing, then make you smile, with their banter on stage.



Karen, Jeff and Susan are three of the most humble people in Southern Gospel music. They not only sing us to "heavenly places," but share their love for God and their fans. God's presence was almost tangible as Jeff, Susan and Karen shared their testimonies.



Just before the concert ended, Karen gave an invitation. Lives were touched as she led in the sinners' prayer. What a great blessing that God chose to pay us a visit that Friday night

Saturday night's concert began an hour earlier than Friday. We gathered early to visit with friends and enjoy the groups' sound checks. Parachute Parade, a band made up of Bryce Free, Matthew Gooch, Spencer Conner, Christian Booth and Stone Carter. Each of these young men grew up with a major



Christian music influence and Parachute Parade plays Christian Pop/Rock style. The crowd received them warmly.

Brian Free and Assurance took the stage to a rousing ovation from the crowd. They sang a number of our favorites from their nineteen year history,



which included my all-time Brian Free and Assurance favorite, "I Believe." Fans responded with many standing ovations and the quartet's product table was swarmed with fans waiting for music and autographs.



Rounding out the event, Karen, Susan and Jeff did a remarkable job, and were accompanied by the live New River Band. According to Karen, "Having the band back for the homecoming each year is one of the highlights of the event and allows us to enjoy a reunion with the guys who helped us get started."

Closing each night with a choir of all the groups on stage together, Karen certainly knows what her fans enjoy. New River is a dynamic host, and if you've never been to their annual "Christian Music Nights" homecoming, you're missing a genuine blessing. Make your plans to be there next June on Father's Day Weekend.



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A photograph of Rhonda Vincent, a blonde woman with blue eyes, smiling and playing a mandolin. She is wearing a white lace top. The background is a solid red color.

# Rhonda Vincent

Queen of Bluegrass Music,  
Records First Gospel Album

**SUNDAY MORNIN'  
SINGIN' LIVE!**

By Sandi Duncan Clark

Music has always been a part of Rhonda Vincent's life. She first sang in church at age three, and by the age of five, she was appearing on television and singing on the radio with her Mom and Dad; Johnny and Carolyn Vincent on the Sally Mountain Show in Queen City, Missouri.

Recalling how she began playing the mandolin, Rhonda says, "I always sang as part of the trio but there was a promoter who decided that if you

didn't play an instrument, you didn't get paid. One day Daddy handed me a mandolin and said, 'Here, the keys are C, G and D. Next weekend you're playing this mandolin for two and a half hours.' I learned my chords and I got paid for it!" From there, Rhonda went on to play the fiddle and the guitar.

"How Can I Refuse Him Now" was the first song Rhonda sang on stage. "The song is the old Hank Williams' song. By this time, I had been on stage

and sang in church so often, I don't remember being nervous. It was just natural."

Little brother Darrin was born almost eight years after Rhonda, and their baby brother, Brian was born some four years later. As they grew older both boys joined the family group, and it wasn't long until all the children were on stage, playing and/or singing. The Sally Mountain Trio then became the Sally Mountain Show.



Rhonda began a successful solo career in 1988, and then recorded two Country albums in the early/mid 1990s. In 2000, she returned to her Bluegrass roots, and attained national and international acclaim for her Bluegrass performance. She quickly gained recognition for her new Bluegrass record *Back Home Again*. Since that time, Rhonda has more than 80 awards for her Bluegrass vocals and her performances with her band, The Rage.

Darrin Vincent continued to play with his family for a while, before joining Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder. Currently Darrin is the "Vincent" of Dailey and Vincent. Brother Brian played with the Sally Mountain Show for several years; however, he currently works outside the music business.

"I miss singing with my parents and with Darrin," Rhonda said thoughtfully. "Right now it feels comfortable, but when we get comfortable we tend to lose something. A few weeks ago, during CMA week, I was able to join my parents at a local church for a service, and then Darrin came to town and we got to sing together. I love my family."

And it is no wonder that Rhonda Vincent is known as the New Queen of Bluegrass Music. Rhonda never meets a stranger and makes everyone feel as if they've known her forever. She never shies away from greeting the thousands of fans who come to see her and her band, The Rage, play a show. She is talented, funny; a down-to-earth performer and a person who loves her fans and loves Bluegrass music.

From her home town in Missouri to the extended United States, Canada and several European countries, Rhonda has enjoyed a wonderful life. She has a beautiful family, and has worked hard at her career. This hard work has paid off. She has had great success with recordings, and constantly stays busy. She works 11 months out of the year; being on the road an average of 250 days each year. "Working Bluegrass Festivals through the summer, and Churches & Performing Art Centers during the winter. Many Bluegrass bands come from a Christian environment," she explained. "Gospel songs are an important part of most Bluegrass shows."

Rhonda formed her own record label in late 2010, and released her first record on Upper Management Music Label. The title of the album is *Taken*, and Rhonda gained much attention with this album.

In 1986 Rhonda and her husband Herb Sandker welcomed a baby girl, Sally, into their home and their hearts. Rhonda took the baby on tour with her. Then in 1988, another daughter, Tensel joined big sister Sally. "Those were good years, and the girls would



travel on the bus with me," Rhonda shared. "I would pat them on their diaper and sing to them: 'How Much Is That Doggie In The Window,'" Rhonda reminisced with a smile. "Then, instead of asking them a question, I would sing it; 'Are you hungry Sally,' and she would sing back, 'Yes I am, Mommy.'" That's how we played on the bus, and they learned to love music this way."



"We were talking about this the other day and one of their friends said they had never heard that song. My girls said they thought everybody had heard that one," Rhonda laughed.

Being around the music as their mother toured, the

girls learned to sing and harmonize. Each girl could sing harmony and Rhonda was thrilled with their talent. Sally fell in love with Rhonda's fiddle player, Hunter Berry. The girls formed a band called Next Best Thing.

Sally and Hunter are active in their church, where she leads the music. Tensel works in marketing and loves what she's doing. Currently they both are happy working at other opportunities. Both girls graduated in December from East Tennessee State University.

Both Sally and Tensel joined their Mom singing "When the Bloom Is Off The Rose," on her *Taken* album. "Sometimes I just watch them and think just how blessed I am. I am so thankful for the wonderful young ladies they have become."

"I'm so proud of my girls," Rhonda said. "When you have children, you never know what direction their lives will take, but God has truly blessed us. Sally and Tensel, as well as Hunter are all a blessing.

The latest BIG NEWS from the Rhonda Vincent camp is *SUNDAY MORNIN' SINGIN' LIVE!!* This is a brand new CD, the first ever all-Gospel recording that Rhonda has done. "We've wanted to do a Gospel album for a while, and decided to do it at my hometown church," Rhonda said. "We recorded with the congregation at Greentop United Methodist Church in Greentop, Missouri and were thrilled to share our music with such a wonderful crowd of our hometown folks."

"A storm had taken out the power, and by the grace of God, we were able to get the power back and get set up for the recording," Rhonda shared. "When these things happen, you can't get discouraged. You just have to remember that God is in control. The evening went so well and after we got started, you could tell we were all having a great time!"

*SUNDAY MORNIN' SINGIN' LIVE!* has 16 songs, and each one has a special place in Rhonda's heart. The first song, "I Feel Closer To Heaven Everyday" was written by one of Rhonda's close friends. Rhonda shared the fact, "My friend, Thelma Wilson, wrote this song several years ago, and recently she had been very ill. When I called to tell her that we were recording the song again on this album, she was thrilled, and asked to hear the new version, since she was in hospice care. We took a copy to her, and two months later she passed away. This song was played at her funeral, and was her song of faith in knowing her ultimate destination."

Rhonda chose "Blue Sky Cathedral" and gave this explanation: "I've played at outdoor shows for most of my life, especially in the summer. I have always enjoyed the Sunday morning Gospel shows. There's an indescribable feeling of peace when you're in the midst of nature. This is the perfect confirmation that God is with us wherever we go," Rhonda concluded.

Traditional Bluegrass songs often reflect heavenly thoughts and goals. "Where We'll Never Say Farewell" is one such impressive song. Rhonda reflects, "We sang this song in my family band, 'The Sally Mountain Show.' I've always known that when I made an all-



Gospel project, this song was sure to be included." Rhonda then expresses her gratitude to writer Larry and Eva Sparks.

"Silent Partner," another song that really is so amazing was written by Jeff Barbra and Darrell Webb. Rhonda states, "Darrell called as soon as it was written and said he had a song I just had to hear. With one listen, I instantly loved it; what a clever way to deliver the wonderful message of our Savior Jesus Christ."

"Just As I Am" is an old song used as an invitation hymn in most of our churches, and Rhonda tells why she knew she must be included in the recording. "I was saved when I was eight years old and this was the song they were singing."

"God Put A Rainbow in the Clouds," "Walking My Lord (Up Calvary's Hill)," and "The Old Rugged Cross" are all favorite church hymns and songs that we've sung and shared for many years in our church

services," Rhonda stated.

"Joshua" is a song that the Lewis Family made famous. Rhonda explained, "It's a fun song to sing and a new vocal adventure for the Rage and me."

"Prettiest Flower There" takes me back to the loss of my Grandma Vincent," Rhonda reflected. "I was driving to the airport when I heard this song, and I just couldn't stop crying. With tear-filled eyes, I listened over and over. This song is the perfect tribute to anyone who's lost a special lady in his or her life."



"Fishers of Men" is done acappella and one of the group's most requested songs; it features the men of The Rage band and is a favorite with most everyone.

"Help Me to Be More Like Him" is a new song written by Rex Wiseman and Linda Grimes. "Rex sent it to me via an email message," Rhonda recalled. "He wrote, 'I couldn't wait to send it to you.'" Rhonda declared, "I hope I can be 'More Like Him' everyday."

Rhonda sang "The Last Best Place" at the funeral of Skeeter Davis, well-known Country artist. "I can't remember being any more nervous than I was that day, with artists like Vince Gill, and Martina McBride sitting in the audience. I've never known a more beautiful song about our journey through life into God's Embrace," Rhonda described.

"Homecoming" was added to the song selection as a song of hope for anyone who has lost someone dear in your life," Rhonda relates. "Each of us knows that terrible feeling of loss."



"Walking My Lord (Up Calvary's Hill)," is a song I sing in honor of Wilma Lee Cooper," Rhonda tells us. "I also sing it as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus endured to give us everlasting life."

"Nolin Jeffress wrote 'Where No Cabins Fall,' made popular by the Chuck Wagon Gang," Rhonda shared. "My family performed this in the old fashion call and answer singing style. We dedicate this song to Hal Boozer, who requests it at every show he attends."

"While these are just a few of the stories behind the sixteen songs we recorded on SUNDAY MORNIN' SINGIN' LIVE! I can truly tell you that this is a CD you will love if you are a Bluegrass fan," Rhonda said. "And I promise that you will learn to love them and come away blessed if you let the Lord take them to your heart."

In sharing Rhonda's thoughts with you regarding her song selection, I wanted each of you to be aware of the heart Rhonda Vincent and her band has for her music and the people TO whom she sings. At the same time, I wanted you also to know the love and devotion this lady has for the One OF whom she sings.

Rhonda's SUNDAY MORNIN' SINGIN' LIVE is set to be released on July 10, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.rhondavincent.com/>.



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# A MATHIS MOMENT “GRACE UPON GRACE”

BY JOHN MATHIS JR.

Photo by Anissa Thompson

You can say that I literally grew up in church, probably like most Southern youngsters. We were there on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday evenings and any other time the doors opened. And we had a LOT of revivals in those days, not the weekend kind either! Around nine years old I also started playing the piano in our “family band” and for congregational singing and it also around that time I also felt the call to preach.

The church background I grew up in would be termed as “holiness.” There was a lot of emphasis placed on the outward appearance of “holiness.” I won’t go into the litany of things that we followed or thought as a holiness group but I’ll give you a few examples. At one time, to become a bishop in our organization you had to abstain from chewing gum. This was to avoid being mistaken for chewing tobacco and to shun the very appearance of evil. Our General Overseer was asked many years ago how he felt about men wearing short sleeve shirts and he replied, “short subject.” So let’s say that in the sincere effort to be holy before God they definitely aimed to err on the side of extreme caution! And hey, they had loosened up a bit in my generation compared to the generations of my parents and grandparents!

I don’t say all that to put down or knock those paths others followed before me in the pursuit of holiness; in fact, many of the people were sincere and good-hearted followers of God. They had a strong

willingness to give up anything and everything they considered “worldly.” I say all that to say, that a person growing up in such an environment can be under a great deal of pressure to be “perfect.”

I also felt called to preach and I answered the call at the ripe old age of nine years old and that could weigh a lot of a young man’s mind to be “perfect” as well. Yet preach I did! We held revivals in East Texas and Louisiana for several years while my family traveled and sang. I remember attempting to fast and pray around 10 or 11 years old, unknown to my parents, and succumbing to the unexpected offer of a candy bar in the store! It makes me smile; it was rare that us kids would get a candy bar. We had tough times in those days. I was a kid and I liked chocolate, so I partook! I’d also feel terribly ashamed because I gave in and broke my fast. I had “failed” God. Even at such a young age I would pressure myself to live up to what I’d seen as a “holy life.”

To sum up all of that background information and add one more thought, our movement also believed in “backsliding.” It was a slippery slope that could catch you at any moment. As I heard one person say one time, “we believed in backsliding and practiced it quite often!” In our movement, even if you didn’t practice backsliding it was implied that you could have backslidden between weekly services and not even have known it! That backsliding stuff could just sneak up on a person! I often joke that I never heard

the song "Blessed Assurance" until we traveled around and sang in the Baptist churches because we just were never sure of our assurance in our organization! We did sing "Amazing Grace" ....a lot, perhaps we were so amazed that God kept forgiving backsliders over and over again so many times that we just loved that song.

Fast forward many years later to the present, I'm a grown man now of 43 years old now and as much as I know and have learned and been able to categorize about my faith I still have my times where I'm pressed by the pursuit of "perfection." I want to be the perfect everything ... perfect husband, father, employee, son, friend, etc, etc .... which by the way is a humanly impossible goal!

However, recently while reading in the Gospel of John I was reminded of the phrase "grace upon grace." John 1:16 says, "*And of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace*". Verse 17 goes on to say "*for the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth **came through** Jesus Christ.*"

So this month I want to reach out and speak to all of us that have a hard time cutting ourselves some slack. Regardless of whatever fault or failure or feeling you have, there is grace upon grace for you and me! As another translation reads, "*we have received grace in place of grace that was already given.*" Don't give up! If you're going to give up on something, give up on trying to be perfect!

I've realized over the years that my pursuit should not be one of perfecting myself because that would be a life-long effort of futility that will hold more failures and daily disappointments than I'll ever be able to count, but my life is to be one of a pursuit of God's grace, His unmerited favor and love.

God is truly a Father that loves us TREMENDOUSLY and UNCONDITIONALLY! He doesn't abandon His children over bad decisions or bad days or even just because they don't feel good enough today to be His child at some particular moment. He LOVES us! All of us!

I'm not recommending that we don't try and give God our best efforts. We should learn His word, we should find out what our Father has to say in every matter of life. It is the key to a better life and a key to

obtaining the eternal life to come. I simply think that too often we obsess over how we can be the "perfect Christian" when we should spend more time studying how God is the "perfect Father."

It truly is a peaceful, reassuring feeling to begin to understand that there is "grace upon grace" through Jesus Christ. No matter where we've been, who we are, or how we've failed, God STILL loves each and every one of us more than we could ever imagine.

If we practice trying to realize WHO God is and WHAT He has done for us through His grace, it will DRAW us nearer to Him! If we focus on WHO we are or WHAT we're not, it will only PUSH us away from Him!

"Grace upon grace"! It feels so good to say that ... we're talking a whole lotta grace here!

John Mathis

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# The Crist Family: Ministry Through Music

by Sandi Duncan Clark



There is nothing like smooth, close family harmony, and some of the best you'll ever hear comes from the Crist Family; Rich Crist, his wife Lisa, three daughters Breana, Jackie and Valerie, Rich's sister, Tami Crist Starkel, her husband John and their two sons, Lucas and Colby. This family burst on the Southern Gospel scene in early 2004, garnering a huge following all across the country. We caught up with Rich, Lisa and Breana as they were recouping from a weekend tour. They took time for a brief phone interview before loading up the bus again, heading out for another exciting weekend tour.

Earlier this year they enjoyed a 24-day tour out west; came home only long enough to pack up for their flight to Norway and their concerts there. It just doesn't get any better than this!

Tami's testimony describes how God actually "started the whole world singing" for her. "When I was 13 years old, we visited a different church, and for the first time I heard a Christian song, and my soul was so moved; I turned to my Mom and said, 'That's what I'm going to do.' From that day forward I took every opportunity I could to learn to sing for God."

Tami and her husband, John, (who testifies that God brought this tremendous lady into his life,) have two fantastic sons who also are part of the ministry. Colby and Lucas enjoy traveling with their parents where Lucas works the sound equipment while Colby and Valerie work at the product/ inventory table.

As history reveals, the family began singing part time in 1987 as the Crist Family Singers. God added spouses and children, thereby adding members to the group! He increased their faith with new opportunities, all the while increasing their boundaries. Breana said, "When we first took the step of faith to go full-time and move, for a while all of us lived in the same house. Even though we were all family, we REALLY got to know each other during this time and God taught us a new kind of love."

From their original home base in the Seattle, Washington area, The Crist Family had enjoyed an exciting music ministry on the West Coast. Their ministry grew as fans began following this family group. They not only shared their music, but their testimonies as well, and they sang wherever God opened a door. Then in 2004, as more doors were opened and they watched God work, the family knew God was moving them to a new harvest that was ready to accept the seed the Crists were sowing. After much prayer and seeking God's will for their lives and ministry, they moved to Maynardville, Tennessee.

"We knew that God was leading us to Tennessee, for a number of reasons, really," Breana said. "Each of us knew this was God's work, as a lot of things began falling in place."

"Since moving East we met and began working with producer Jeff Collins at Crossroads Music in

Arden, N.C.," Rich commented, "Jeff is just a joy to work with and is a great encouragement. It's been great to meet and work with someone who enjoys music as much as I do. And...Jeff also loves to play golf, almost as much as I enjoy playing!"

Jeff Collins is one of the industry's most prolific and professional producers. He states, "The enjoyment of working with the Crists is a mutual pleasure. Producing the Crist Family is always a treat because with any of their projects, I'll have a great variety of ways to be creative with music, track styles and multiple vocal combinations and arrangements. Plus, they are lovely folks to be around and are truly dedicated to the Cause of Christ."



The current recorded project from the Crist Family is titled OASIS, with "I Love Lovin' Jesus" as the first radio single. It quickly hit the SINGING NEWS National Charts. The current radio single, "Voice of the Father," written by Rebecca Peck, and shipped to radio the 1st of June.

Sometimes we forget that our Heavenly Father is the Almighty Creator, and His creation...all creation was made to praise God. The haunting melody stays with you long after the song has ended. We are reminded that the sun, the morning dew, the birds, thunder, and stars...all are exemplars of "Voice of the Father."

And just what are the Crists involved with, currently? "We're choosing songs for our new recording," Lisa shared. "Rich, Breana and Tami write music, and we get hundreds of songs to audition. Rich then narrows it down to about 100. We all listen to the songs, and pay close attention to the themes and messages."



"Once that's done, we work on the arrangements and decide who can deliver the song the way it feels and how the message touches us," Rich said. "The tough part is narrowing the songs down to 10 or so from that first 100."



Rich then works with Jeff on style, arrangements, music tracks and all the things that develop into a quality recording. Rich and Jeff have proven they KNOW the winning combination for the Crist Family.

Each member of the group has a certain mission; a work which God has placed on their hearts. "We all love our music and will always be involved as we pray over how God can use us as individuals and in the music ministry." Breana said. "However, Tami has a burden for those struggling to keep their marriages alive, from her family experiences growing up. Jackie and I both are concerned about the problems the youth are facing in our country today. As you see; we

are all anxious for those whose lives we touch and those to whom we minister. We pray that our efforts find root in their hearts."

The Crist Family will be singing on the main stage on Wednesday night of the National Quartet Convention. Of those of you who intend to be there, please check your program and make plans to come see them! "We hope when the fans come to spend time with us and hear our songs, they will hear our heart, and realize the joy of our ministry. We want to share with them the vision of what God has for them, through our music and our ministry."



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# Catching Ernie Haase & Signature Sound In Action!

By Rhonda Frye

In January 2012, we presented Ernie Haase and Signature Sound as our cover story. An excited Ernie announced plans to release a new project, *HERE WE ARE AGAIN* and plans for a new tour. With high hopes and new music in hand, the guys promised to not forsake the classics while in concert and to give the fans more of what brought Sig Sound to the party! I'm here to report; Ernie is true to his word! It was great fun to see Ernie and the guys IN ACTION living out their intentions for this new album and new tour exactly as stated in January's article.

Following our January interview, Ernie invited me to experience Signature Sound's *HERE WE ARE AGAIN* tour. On April 26, 2012, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I took him up on that offer! Ernie's administrative office and promoter, Bob Willey arranged for an early afternoon "catch up" interview.

I have to say, it was awesome to witness a little of the sound check. Dressed casually, Sig Sound performed to an empty church just as if it were packed with screaming fans! During a break, Bob Willey let Ernie know I was there. After a warm welcome from all the

guys, Ernie spontaneously asked if I wanted to tape a little of their sound check. After twisting my arm, I finally said yes! Ha Ha! They sang a little of "I've Been Here Before" and "Any Other Man." A personal mini-concert surprised this editor \*slash\* fan, but I did share the video with our readers. Check it out! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlirNxNNMq0>

Devin McGlamery, Ian Owens, Doug Anderson and the band members mingled with fans before the concert ever began. They greeted people with warmth and friendliness as they thanked them for being there. Right before concert time, Devin acknowledged everyone from the stage and then tossed EHSS T-shirts into the crowd.

In gray suits, hot pink ties and sneakers, the guys kicked the night off with "Singing In The Midnight Hour." Bass singer Ian Owens plunged really low to thrill the audience with "Stand By Me." Following up, they sang "Here We Are Again," and Ernie led the congregation to sing along on the chorus.

Transitioning into a lighter moment, the guys



hammed it up with "Moving Up To Gloryland!" Ernie offered the band members a chance to sing the fun melody line of "moo- ooo- oovin" then he gave the crowd a stab at singing it! Everyone laughed, especially when the band guys botched it! Then.... ERNIE sang BASS and IAN sang TENOR...The crowd went crazy!



After the excitement settled, the guys sat on their stools singing back-up while Ian serenaded the crowd with "I Believe." The crowd responded with a standing ovation. Next, guitarist Kelly Vaughn wowed the crowd with a guitar solo followed by a smooth solo by Devin on "I've Been Here Before." Wow, what a voice and interpretation!

After Ernie referred to themselves as *ambassadors of joy* and labeling acclaimed songwriter, Wayne Haun as *quality control*, Doug Anderson led the crowd to a more serious moment with "Sometimes I Wonder," a lovely song about heaven. Lingering in the stillness, they sang a sweet ballad called, "Thankful to You." Nearly overcome with emotion, Ernie continued worshiping after the song was over. "Don't be ashamed of your tears," he said. "When your eyes leak, your heads won't swell, George Younce used to say," Ernie recalled while wiping his eyes.

Kelly Vaughn fired things up again by leading off with electric guitar to another new tune, "Any Other Man!" The truth of the lyrics riding on top of the rockin' music made..... Well let's just say.... made it impossible for the crowd to sit or be quiet! One thing is for sure; the crowd responded in agreement as they rocked along because Jesus wasn't any other man!

He was totally God... totally man... Ok... back to the story!

Too caught up with enjoying myself, I missed the title of a song, but I sure remember the presentation. Ernie delivered the solo part, but stepped away from his microphone and just sang straight from his heart. The guys joined him with harmony -without

A personal mini-concert surprised this editor \*slash\* fan, but I did share the video with our readers. Check it out!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlirNxNNMq0>

microphones. Their non- amplified voices occupied the room. The natural acoustics and voices in the distant were beautiful! Ernie led the congregation to sing "In the Garden" and a sweet wave of worship swept through the crowd. "Each morning we have a choice to make," Ernie said. "We can decide to say, 'Father you are still in control. I am going to walk in grace.'" In a gentle voice he continued, "Freedom comes from walking with Him!"

Ernie continued to speak truth to the crowd, and then began "The Old Rugged Cross." He called Metro Tabernacle's worship leader to sing the rest of the song. Following the hymn, Sig Sound sang "Love Carried the Cross." The lyrics penned by Ernie Haase, Wayne Haun and Joel Lindsey are powerful! The crowd responded in praise as Ernie belted out the high notes and then the first half of the program came to a close.

Following intermission, Sig Sound's baritone, Doug Anderson claimed the stage- this time alone! The Dove Award winning soloist sang the title cut of his solo album, "Dreaming Wide Awake" and "Jesus Is Holding My Hand." His voice was as smooth and mellow *live* as it is on the Stow Town recording and he handled the stage *alone*, well!

When Sig Sound joined Anderson on stage, the party started! The second half of the concert could be described as electrifying! They kicked it off with "Step Into The Water." Ernie said, "Cut us and find that we bleed 4-part harmony, traditional gospel!" They rolled with "Swing Low" and then "Swinging on the Golden Gate." They were clearly having a ball on stage with their Signature moves!



Before the night was over, we witnessed a resurrected Elvis, (Ernie's impersonation) heard an ASTOUNDING rendition of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and was delighted by "This Ole House/ When the Saints." AND OF COURSE, the guys brought the house down with the classic, "Oh What A Savior!"

During this half of the program, Ernie admitted they were a band of *mis-fits touched by the grace of God* and then Wayne Haun sang "You are Welcome Here." As Wayne did an incredible job singing from the keyboard, my mind drifted back to the story-behind- the -song that Ernie shared with me in our January conversation. He told me a while back, he had

invited 200-300 friends to a retreat. Once there, the guests realized the invitation was conditional. Ernie boldly told the audience to LEAVE if they planned to pass judgment on anyone for anything. "If you're perfect and you've got it all figured out, please leave... because I don't," he said. Those who weren't perfect were invited to stay and the location was claimed as a safe place-as a hospital for the sick. Ernie's moving message fell onto the ears of Wayne Haun and resonated with his spirit. Up from the heart and off his fingertips came the song, "You Are Welcome Here."

"The church has to be held accountable for the culture and what's happening is... it's becoming less and less godly because we don't want to be challenged with the people who come to our church," Ernie explained. "It's not my job to condemn and try to figure everybody out and set them straight. My job is to write songs in such a manner that leads to God's Spirit" (January 2012 Issue SGNscoops Magazine).

"Leading people to God's Spirit" is exactly what I witnessed Signature Sound do on stage and off. Sometimes it is hard to judge a crowd, but it is safe to say, there were many hurting people in attendance that night. I noticed a lot of people with obvious frailties- some cancer patients, and several people including children in wheelchairs. It was a beautiful sight to see the men of EHSS be Jesus to these hurting people! They listened with genuine concern and extended dignity and love to those reaching out. Surely, there were many others in attendance whose *hurts* weren't as obvious. It was not my intention to over-hear any conversations, but it blessed me tremendously to hear fans tell the guys how their music had touched them and then see the guys respond sincerely with much grace and humility. Smiling to myself I thought...The guys are demonstrating what they just sang on stage by making everyone feel welcome AND precious in God's sight!

So yes, my follow up report from January's article declares Ernie is true to his word. Check Signature Sound's website to catch them in action too! Visit <http://www.erniehaase.com/> for *HERE WE ARE AGAIN* tour dates and destinations. Thank you to Michelle Gayhart, Bob Willey, Metro Tabernacle, Ernie Haase, Devin McGlamery, Doug Anderson, Ian Owens, Wayne Haun and the Sig Sound Band for an unforgettable night!





# Larry Ford:

## Little Is Much When God Is In It

By Sandi Duncan Clark

One of the nicest, most gracious couples in Southern Gospel music is Larry and Sherryl Ford. No matter where you meet this charismatic couple, they greet you with a smile, a hug and a warm handshake. This IS Larry and Sherryl Ford. More than forty years of marriage, six children and eight grandchildren, have melded this couple into a ministry of faith and family that God has used all around the world.

Larry's first performance was on the stage of his home church in Levelland, Texas. Standing on a chair, singing "How Great Thou Art," and accompanied by his Mom at the piano, Larry began an illustrious music career. Larry credits his mother for instilling in him and his brother, Bruce, a love for God and a love for music.

"Our musical training began at home and at church. We learned to sing shaped notes; the old fashioned way to read music. Mom saw to it that we were also trained by an Italian vocal coach, who began our formal, classical training" Larry stated. Later, Larry attended Eastern New Mexico University on a music scholarship.

During those years, the family; Larry, his brother Bruce, along with his Mom and Dad, would sing and his Mom would play piano. On Sunday mornings, they often sang for their church's live radio program before going to the morning service and singing. "More

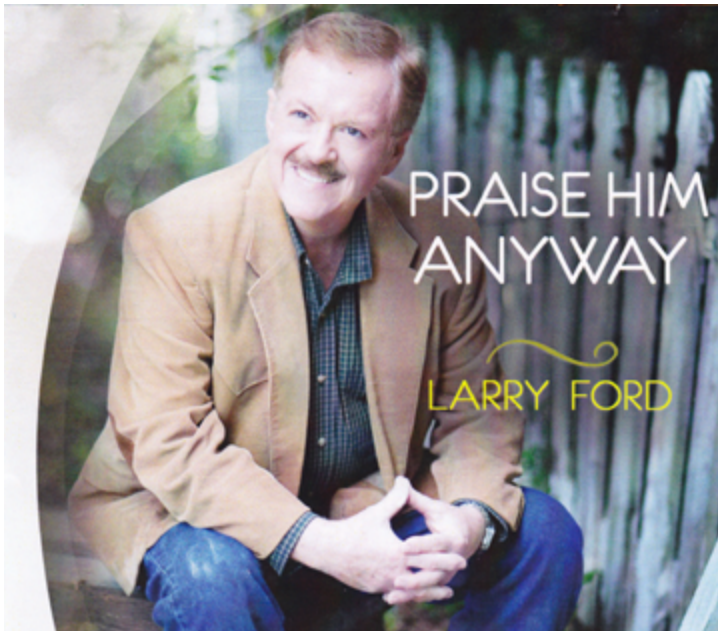
importantly, my mom and dad modeled for us a life of faith and trusting God." Larry adds.

From that early beginning to some of the grandest stages all around the world, Larry Ford has ministered and entertained thousands of people with his testimony and vibrant tenor voice. Larry has appeared at many Gaither Homecoming events and on a number of videos. As an ordained minister, former pastor and evangelist, he has shared the love of God and the plan of salvation wherever he is called.

He stated, "And I still sing 'How Great Thou Art.' Of course we know that this is one of the most well-known songs in Christian music and I'm often asked to sing it. As we've traveled all over the world, I've learned to sing it in Spanish, Swedish, Portuguese, Italian, Russian and German. It is one of my most requested songs." He always tries to report his "How Great Thou Art" stories to their good friend, Judy Nelon.

Singer, pastor, evangelist, pilot...these are some of the hats this gentleman wears. "The last church we served as pastors was in central Florida in 1980. Sherryl and I remain very involved in the ministry of our local church here. We especially love being in church together on Wednesday nights, because I am gone nearly every weekend for concerts, church services and conferences," Larry stated.

The venues where Larry performs are many, and varied. "People have seen the Gaither videos on TV or they've been to a Gaither concert all over the world, and because of that, I've been invited to churches of every denomination all over the country ~ actually, all over the world, from Alaska going east all the way to Japan, and from Norway in the north to Argentina" he shared. Because of the variety of churches and the areas where I'm called, I try to learn as much about the congregation as I can. This often includes learning a song in a new language. It's hard to put into words the experience of hearing 'Because He Lives' sung in five languages at one time as we did in Aruba."



"There is always worship music in the native language of the countries we visit, and I do my best to learn at least a chorus in the language of the country I'm in," Larry explained. "Just recently I was in a church where the audience was about half Hispanic. I was able to sing 'O, Cristo, Yo Te Amo' (My Jesus, I Love Thee) in Spanish, and the audience was able to enjoy the message in their language."

When asked how he adjusted to travel to a foreign country, he stated, "I do my best to find common ground with the worshippers; a common ground with which we are all familiar, and God never fails to lead us to that place."

Larry's appearances on the Gaither videos and events have introduced fans to his previous recordings and the songs he sings. He recently released a recording with some new music. "Sometimes we get comfortable, and

we need to try something new," he said. "Kenna Turner West, whom I've known since she was eight years old, produced my new album, 'Praise Him Anyway.' Kenna is an awesome song writer and producer. Actually, her father, Ken Turner, the famous bass singer for the Blackwood Brothers Quartet, was best man at our wedding."

"Anyway, Kenna wrote four of the songs that I recorded and I trust her completely," Larry further explained. "However some of the songs were a 'stretch' for me and I wasn't comfortable in the beginning. Of course, they do the music tracks first, and then we go back into the studio and do the vocals," Larry said. "When I went



back to do the vocals, I just thought I couldn't so some of the songs. They weren't *me*."

"There's a fine line between growing musically and singing what people expect to hear. After lots of discussions with Kenna and her husband, Kerry West and more talks Sherryl," Larry continued. "I began getting comfortable with the music and God brought it all together." Larry settled into the new music and has found that everywhere he sings the new songs, people love them. "I tell you, I just didn't know at first if this would work, but there are some great songs on this project by songwriters like Kenna, Marty Funderburk, John Lemonis and a friend from Northern Ireland, Keith Getty."

Kenna, John Lemonis and Sue C. Smith wrote a song that ministers to me every time I sing it. It's called, 'Take My Life'. Part of the lyric is, 'Take my life, every breath, let the sacred be all that's left.' I love that song."



Larry concluded, "When we totally trust God, He works things for our good, and His glory. I'm thrilled every time I sing "Praise Him Anyway" and another song Kenna wrote, "Red Letter Day" because the message excites me and I can see the same feeling on the faces of the audience. I'm reminded of the verse in Ephesians 6:13, 'His strength is made strong in our weakness,' and I'm so thankful for that."



in my heart. As Larry told of a recent revival, he shared the following story:

"When I finish a service or a concert service, I try to be aware of an opportunity for anyone to come forward for prayer, no matter what the need," Larry informed. "At the end of the service that night, a ninety two year old woman came forward to accept Christ. Her testimony was that she had been in church all her life, however during that revival she realized she had never had a personal relationship with God. His grace continues to amaze me!"

And what a blessing it was to this writer...to know that God loves every one of us, and His mercy is long-suffering.

Larry and Sherryl will continue to minister as long as God directs. "He is a God of forever, and if it's another ten or twenty years, I want to be found faithful and accountable," Larry testified. "I love being able to sense the Lord's pleasure. Eternity is a reality, and it's up to us to be accountable for our daily actions and for our ministry."

"Praise Him Anyway" is highly recommended for the enjoyable music and for the reminder the songs bring to us. It is available through Larry's website, where you may also learn more about Larry, his music and his ministry. Contact him at [www.larryford.com](http://www.larryford.com).



Talking with Larry and Sherryl was such a blessing, and while we laughed together and talked of God's goodness in their ministry, I must say that his testimony and wisdom brought tears to my eyes and a quickening



# THE HIDING PLACE

BY CHARLIE SEXTON

When she came to, she realized that something was terribly wrong. The last thing she really remembered was that she, and her husband, Dan, had stopped by her sister's house for a quick dinner on their way home from a weekend get-a-way to the mountains. Now, she was sitting in a recliner – and two weeks had passed. As her sister Debra tried to explain the situation to her, overwhelming pain, and an intense feeling of fear and uncertainty, gripped her lifeless body, as the horrible story unfolded.

She had suffered multiple grand mal epileptic seizures. There had been too many to calculate, and the family had even stopped counting, after the first 100. The violent shaking and jerking had left her unconscious, and she had no control over her body whatsoever. There was no recollection of the numerous visits to the doctors' offices and hospitals or of the continuous care given by her loving family over the last 14 days. She was rendered unable to feed, bathe or dress herself. Her memory had all but been erased. Her speech was gone. Her mind raced uncontrollably. Silently, she questioned, "Who is taking care of my two boys? What about Dan? And why am I in this recliner?"

For the next six long years, this woman lived in this condition, if you can really call that living. During the day, while Dan was at work, she read the Bible. It not only helped pass the time, it literally became a special place for her to hide from the terrible things that were going on inside her sick body. She read it through eleven times during that long, six-year period. She literally fell in love with Jesus and His blessed Word. It was her only source of strength during these dark, lonely days. The seizures typically started about 8 pm, and lasted into the early morning hours. Rest seldom came to her or the cast of supportive caretakers.

Because of some previous health issues, and because Dan had recently changed jobs, they had no medical insurance. Pharmacy bills were nearly \$400 each month. In no time at all, the doctor and hospital bills mounted to over \$100,000.00 Financially, things were growing as bleak as the health situation. Still yet, they clung to God's Word, and like King David of old, they made God their pavilion and hiding place.

Even though they were going through some of the most tragic things imaginable, they felt God's divine call upon their lives. They attended church as often as possible and started building a singing and preaching ministry. Because of their situation, they were met with constant opposition – even from so-called Christians – but they were sure of their calling, and they applied the Bible principles that they had learned in their daily lives.

One Friday, after Dan had put back their tithe money, he took the remainder of his meager paycheck to purchase much needed seizure medication. That left no money for groceries, and there was almost no food in the pantry. That night, four hungry people bowed their heads, and asked God to bless their little meal that consisted of a can of "pork-n-beans", a pack of crackers, and four pieces of sandwich bread. The next morning, there was a knock at the door, and there stood a sweet little lady from their home church. She said "Sister, about suppertime last night, I felt impressed to do something for you. Now, I don't even know if you need 'em or not – and if my visit offends you, I'll take my van load of groceries and be along on my way- I just know that I heard The Voice of God." Needless to say, that evening they had a feast complete with fried chicken and homemade biscuits that would rival that of any North Georgia Baptist Church Homecoming!





God had once again shown Himself faithful. They had learned to be content in whatever state they were in. They knew that God was able to heal and restore. They had often prayed that it would happen, but they had also resolved in their hearts that they would serve Him, no matter what. In time, they took their eyes off the healing, and placed them on The Healer. That's when things really began to happen.

Some days were a little better than others, but on one blustery February morning in 1991, the Holy Ghost just seemed to literally permeate their home. It was about 12:30 pm. This was a designated time when the lady faithfully prayed for others. As she went into her prayer closet, she took her list, and began calling the familiar litany of names. In closing, she said, "Lord, I pray for my healing in your time, but until then, use these seizures for your Glory!" As she stepped out of the little chamber, she heard a voice say, "You are healed. You can serve me now." Thinking that maybe someone may have entered the house unnoticed, she headed into the living room. She heard the voice again, and recognized it as The Voice of God. She began to scream and shout. Shortly, the telephone rang, and it was her sister, Dolly, who lived close by. "What's goin' on up there? Are you havin' a seizure?" The reply came back, "No! God just told me I was healed! PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME!"

Twenty-one years have now passed since her healing came. But within just a few years of it, they had repaid every last penny that they owed. That itself is nothing short of a miracle. Since that time, this special woman has written and recorded hundreds of songs, traveled thousands of miles singing and teaching at Women's Conferences all over the world. She has penned many best-selling books, including her latest effort, which has been released through LifeWay Bookstores. Ever pursuing academic excellence, she has received a Doctorate Degree from a leading theological institute. Her name is Brenda Robinson. She and 'Brother Dan' are the co-founders of New Desire Christian Ministries. Along with their son, Labron and daughter-in-law, Brooke,

they spearhead a multi-faceted ministry that includes singing, teaching, preaching, mentoring and sharing The Love of Christ with the World. I know how they live. I traveled with them for two years as pianist. They are quick to acknowledge that they've been truly blessed by God. Why? Not because they are really anything special. They just chose to make Him their hiding place.

Brenda's website is located at:

[www.newdesire.org](http://www.newdesire.org)

Watch a video about her upcoming book:

<http://bookstore.crossbooks.com/Videos/Book-Trailers.aspx?ContentID=4761860>







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# Southern Gospel Television on your computer!



A close-up portrait of Sue C. Smith, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a red scarf and a dark blue jacket. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

## People Behind The Music **Sue C. Smith**

By Rob Estep

Most people are familiar with artists, but sometimes the fans aren't as familiar with people that work behind the scenes of music. This month we are highlighting an amazing award winning song writer, Sue C. Smith.

Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing's staff writer, Sue C. Smith is a five-time Dove Award winner. Over

the years, she's received numerous Dove nominations as well as other prestigious nominations and awards. She has written six number one songs as well as award winning adult and children's musicals. The list of artists cutting her music is quite impressive and includes: The Crabb Family, Avalon, Larnelle Harris, Janet Paschal, Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Travis Cottrell, The Hoppers, The

Martins and many more.

Sue is obviously accomplished and successful with her writing career, but her friends say she is also beautiful inside and out! I'm excited to share my conversation with Sue C. Smith with our SGN Scoops readers.

Rob - Sue, everyone has a beginning to the story, let's start with yours. Tell the folks a little of your history.

Sue - I grew up in a Christian home. My dad was the part-time minister of music at our church and my mom was the world's greatest Sunday school teacher. Our home was always filled with lots of music and Scripture.



I married and had two little girls. When my marriage ended, I began writing songs seriously, mostly as therapy for my heart. The man God brought into my life a while later was playing piano for a part-time singing group, and I began traveling with them on weekends and writing songs for our kids to sing and then for the group. We occasionally booked southern gospel groups into the St. Louis area. We would open for them, singing some of the songs I had written. One such night, we had the Speer Family in town, and after the concert, their guitar player, a kid barely out of his teens, came to me and said he liked my songs and would I send some of them to him. That kid was Dave Clark, one of Christian music's greatest writers, who has turned into one of my dearest friends and the person who opened the doors for me into the music business.

Rob - What was the first song you ever wrote and how old were you?

Sue - When I was 8, I wrote a song called "Don't Leave The Christ Out of Christmas." The first song I ever had cut by someone other than our family was "Keep Rollin' On," cut by The Florida Boys.

Rob - Who would you say has been the biggest influence in your life?

Sue - My godly parents still inspire me. My husband has been my biggest cheerleader and encourager and provides me with the balance a creative person so often needs. He is a counselor, so I always tell people I married him because I was a songwriter and needed the free therapy!

Rob - I know that as a writer each one of your songs is like your baby, but if you had to pick a favorite, what would it be?

Sue - "Giving You Back To Jesus" and "He Thought I Was Worth Calvary" were two early songs that meant so much to me. "He Loved Me With A Cross" and "When Praise Demands A Sacrifice" are also both favorites of mine.

Rob - You host a conference called *Write About Jesus*. Tell me what made you start this and what it's like to have that much creativity under one roof?

Sue - When I became a writer full time, I wanted a way to somehow repay all the people who had helped me along the way. So *Write About Jesus* became a way to "pay it forward," a time each year where people who longed to write could learn from great teachers who also sincerely want to help. The 3-day workshop each October is part marathon, part obstacle course, part retreat, and part family reunion. I have met so many wonderful writers who have become dear friends through the workshop.

Rob - If you could have any co-writer, past or present, who would it be?

Sue - Well, King David would be a good place to start. Fanny Crosby and Stuart Hamblin. Audrey Meier was a huge influence on me. Irving Berlin. Stephen Schwartz and Alan Mencken. Hugh Prestwood. Bill and Gloria Gaither.



Rob - You wrote a song that has spoken to me every single time I listen to it, entitled, "Everything To Me." To me it is a story of how someone much like myself who grew up in a Christian home, really comes to find what God means to them. Where did you get the inspiration for this song?

Sue - I wrote "Everything To Me" with Chad Cates, a wonderful writer who is young enough to be my son. We had so much different about us, and yet we shared the common bond of having grown up in Christian homes. The first verse really is both our stories of knowing all about Jesus but still being in awe that we are loved so much. We wrote the song just after 9/11, and that influenced what we said in the second verse about the times being uncertain and life being so brief and fragile.

Rob - What drives you to write the next song?

Sue - I can't imagine not writing. I am thankful every day that I get to. My husband says that when I am writing, an earthquake could take the house down and I wouldn't notice. My dearest friends are my co-writers, and when I hear the songs they write or some other great song on the radio, it drives me to try to write better, to share the gospel in a more powerful way, to give comfort and hope to people who are hurting, and to honor God with the way I pursue what He's called me to do.

Rob - What word of advice would you give to a songwriter that is just starting out?

Sue - Study God's Word passionately. Pay attention to what God is speaking into your life and the lives of those around you. Study the craft of songwriting. Listen to songs like a writer and try to figure out what makes them memorable and enjoyable. Go to workshops and seminars where you not only learn but meet other writers. At *Write About Jesus* we say, "You've found your people!" With technology today, you can co-write with people all over the world. Workshops are also a great way to meet people in the music business that can help you when your writing is ready. And go to lots of concerts!

Rob - Besides writing wonderful songs, what other hobbies do you have?

Sue - Between writing and doing *Write About Jesus*, there's not a lot of time for other things. I have six grandchildren in Nashville and Dallas that I love to spend time with. I love to travel to new places. This year, we took *Write About Jesus* to India and did two workshops there with writers from many different people groups. Combining writing with doing missions is a tremendous blessing that God has brought into my life.



Thank you, Sue for sharing your ministry with our readers! Be watching next month as we continue to shed the light on those that make things happen Behind The Music!

# New Music for July

by Sandi Duncan Clark

July 4<sup>th</sup> is one of my favorite holidays. I'm proud to be an American and I cherish our country and the liberties we have. I do not like, nor approve of, everything our leaders do that would make anyone think less of our country. I am praying to God for a change here, and I will continue to exercise my privilege to vote, and voice my opinion. I urge you all to do the same! Happy Fourth of July, everyone!

For most of us, the weather has been the major topic of conversation for the past six weeks. From the mild winter we experienced, to the early spring with heavy rain, storms and tornados all across the country, it seems our seasons are totally confused... or is it us??? We are currently moving into the throes of a hot sticky summer, with more to come as we approach August. Everyone seems to be running off on vacation, as I am anxiously awaiting the Clark's own R & R!

In the meantime we are visiting several of our favorite artists at their homecoming concerts and church services. Summer is the best time to hear some of your favorite performers as they host their fans; often in their hometown at their Homecoming concerts. Go out to see them and give them a hug. They surely can use one!

Enjoy the new music we have for you this month. We encourage anyone with a new project to submit them to us for review. You may send them to SGNSCOOPS REVIEWS, 477 Sandalwood Drive, Easley, S.C., 29640.



LIVE

Brothersake  
Independent

Recorded at South Eastern Sound Studios  
Producer: Buddy Strong

Caleb Baker, his wife, Kayla and Kayla's brother, Cameron Childs are Brothersake and this family trio sings a great variety of Gospel/Christian music. Caleb comes from a family of Gospel singers from South Carolina, and has been involved in Gospel music all his life. Charlie Baker, his grandfather, sang bass and managed the Melody Aires Quartet for years. Johnny Baker, Caleb's father, continues to sing lead with the well-known quartet.

Caleb, Kayla, and Cameron do an excellent job



on some original songs and a few exciting remakes, (Brothersake is awesome on Carroll McGruder's "Saved By Grace,") that we all remember. In a recent church event with Brothersake, the spirit they shared during the service enhanced their musical performance and acquainted us with their ministry. It was an outstanding evening of music and praise.

As a trio, each member of the group is capable of switching parts which allows each of them to be featured on one or more of the 10 songs on the recording. Kayla writes some of the group's material and is featured on "Livin,'" my favorite of her original songs. Her voice is the signature sound in the group; however, both Caleb and Cameron are strong vocalists in their own right.

Favorites are "Hide," "Gospel Plow," (Kayla does an awesome job on this song) and two of Ronnie Hinson's songs, "Just Like You" and "Soul Filling Station."

An exciting song is from one of my favorite Bible stories, found in 2 Samuel, chapter 9. "Carried To The Table" is the story of King David's desire to show loving kindness toward Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan. As a baby, Mephibosheth was dropped on his hip by his nurse, and was left lame. He was hiding in the town of Lodebar, afraid of what King David would do. Find out the "rest of the story," by reading 2 Samuel Chapter 9, for a blessing!

Other songs on the recording are "To Get to Me," "When I Speak Your Name" and "Why Not Today." I highly recommend this group and their music, and this new album is one you'll enjoy over and over again. Please contact them by phoning Caleb Baker at 864-313-8356.



### OUR GOD REIGNS

VineSong

VM Music

Producers: Martin Smith, Keith Hutchinson

I was recently introduced to VineSong and their music when they visited a local church here in our area. VineSong is a four-member missionary group, currently based out of England, but originating in South Africa, and taking the Gospel message throughout the world with Christian/Gospel music.

John Watson, the minister through whom God chose the necessary people to form this organization, has put together the right combination for the job and ministry needs. John is the son of missionary parents in Zimbabwe. He writes most of their music, much of which is taken directly from scripture. Their styles range from Gospel, to Praise and Worship, to Celtic and even a little country. There is music here for the most discriminating Christian music fan.

The title song, "Our God Reigns" is a call to remembrance for the Christian that God is in control of all things. This is such an awe-inspiring song, with great orchestration. The message in each song resonates to all nations where VineSong ministers.

"O Bless The Lord" has a solid guitar lead-in and a slight country arrangement. It tells the story of the blind man, who when he heard Jesus passing by, called out to Him for healing. "Prayer Anthem" has dynamic orchestration in the beginning and morphs into a calypso style as it progresses. This is a song your praise and worship team would relish.

This quartet sings an acapella version of the old hymn, "On Christ The Solid Rock." All four harmony parts are well pronounced and very well done. The recording concludes with another church hymn, "To God Be the Glory," and rounds out a quality, enjoyable recording. The four members of the group have tremendous individual testimonies of God's call on their lives. They share these testimonies in concert, as each is featured on specific songs. Their music, as well as their testimonies are available on their web site, [www.vinesong.com](http://www.vinesong.com), or by phone at 703-765-7625



TELL ME AGAIN  
Linda Foster  
Independent  
Producer: Charlie Sexton

Linda Foster's selection of songs is a stroll down memory lane! It's been a long time since I've heard some of these wonderful songs, and I love it! From start to finish, this is a keeper!

"Burdens Are Lifted Away," "An Unfinished Task" and "Don't That Sound Like Heaven" bring back so many good memories if you've been a Southern Gospel fan for any length of time. The theme here is the comfort God provides in our life; what the Christian life means to the believer, and our reward for faithfulness. Encouragement and assurance of God's blessings and mercies come through in each song.

I enjoyed the arrangements on "One Prayer At A Time," "One Way Flight" and the title song, "(Please) Tell Me Again." Linda's soft voice and unique style begs another listen to the album.

Many of our favorite groups from yesteryear have influenced this lady's vocal and musical style as well as her love for Gospel music. A cameo appearance by Bryan Walker of the Perrys, on "That Day is Almost Here," knocks the ball out of the park! A group of solid musicians and background vocalists provide the foundation for Linda's smooth vocals. Her personal charm and sincerity bring all these songs to new life.

TELL ME AGAIN is dedicated to the memory of Linda's sister, Debbie Storey, who passed away in November, 2010, especially, "Heaven's Sounding Sweeter All the Time." Debbie was Linda's biggest cheerleader while Linda's Mom and her fiancé, Charlie Sexton, are carrying on the banner of encouragement since Debbie's Home-going.

"When the Savior Wipes the Tears From Our Eyes" brings to a close a wonderful album. One of Linda's friends has created a unique insert in the CD case, with a thumbnail photo of 12 of Linda's favorite album covers, and Linda comments that these special performers are only a few of the ones who have meant so much to her. A number of the people on these albums have already gone on to their reward and this is testimony of their ministry in Gospel music.

You may contact Linda Foster by visiting her web site at [www.lindafostergospel.com](http://www.lindafostergospel.com)



BACK HOME AGAIN  
The Oak Ridge Boys  
Gaither Gospel Series  
Producer: Ben Isaacs



After hearing/reading various reviews of BACK HOME AGAIN, I couldn't wait to hear it and our purpose here to introduce you to new music and share our take on the project; my thoughts are what a GRAND idea, and why have they waited so long!

This new Oak Ridge Boys album is enjoyable, touching and fun! You'll hear how the group has progressed vocally through the years and you'll appreciate their song selection. It takes us back to sweeter times; to the first time we heard these songs. It also reminds us of why we love Southern Gospel music and the Oak Ridge Boys. It truly made my day.

Joe Bonsall kicks the recording off with "Lead Me to That Rock." This sets the pace for an awesome listening experience. For any fan of the "Mighty Oaks," this is a thrilling collection of some of our favorite songs. Ben Isaacs has developed into a great producer, and was right on the mark with the arrangements. Duane Allen commented, "We tried to choose great songs and sing them exactly the way they affected us when we first heard them." He continued, "While this didn't necessarily start as a Gospel album, when we began bringing one or two songs to a production meeting, things began to roll in that direction. Each of the guys brought something to the table, and we're all very pleased with how it turned out."

William Lee Golden's sings a song made popular by John Denver, "Back Home Again." As he sings he sounds very comfortable with the song and the message. Very shortly, you will sing right along with him. I have played this one song over several times.

"I Get To" sung by Duane Allen is the only newer song, and is something all of us will relate too. It's one of my favorites on the recording. Richard Sterban brings another old song to life with "Led Out Of Bondage," and you'll be hard pressed to keep up with him! Richard also does a good job on "Why Me?"

The song list continues with "River of Jordan," a song that William Lee Golden brought to the table, and one that (I'm telling my age here,) I first heard on the Grand Ole Opry years ago by the Louvin Brothers.

The Oak Ridge Boys do their own version of "The Love Of God," "If We ever Needed the Lord Before We Sure Do Need Him Now," and Dolly Parton's "Coat of Many

Colors." The mandolin has the 'lead in' on "Standing In the Need of Prayer," while other great instrumental bridges in the song are the fiddle, the banjo, piano and guitar.

"Great Gettin' Up Mornin'" and an old Oak Ridge standard, "Heaven Bound" finishes one of my favorite albums from the Oaks. The music is great, song selection is terrific and the fact that each man contributes a signature vocal lets you know immediately at first vocal sound, that this IS THE OAK RIDGE BOYS!



# Beyond The Ashes:

## BEYOND IT ALL... God's Blessings Proclaimed!

By Angela Griffin

Progressive gospel music doesn't get any better than award winning and Dove Award multi-nominated trio, Beyond the Ashes. Their rich blend gives the group a fresh, different and unique sound that gospel music fans have come to love.

I just had to ask Anthony, founder of the group, how they came up with the name, "Beyond the Ashes." Was it a group effort?

Anthony answered "No, it was me. I founded the group about 6 years ago and then God put the people in place throughout the years. There has been change, but God has refined us and keeps refining us. We've been traveling for about three years now. The name 'Beyond the Ashes' comes from experience; every one of us has been through different trials in our lives. What is an ash? It is something that once was. God has brought us beyond all of that. It's just a personal experience."

"The bus fire last year was a real struggle in so many ways; it has been a real test of faith," Anthony continues. "We've questioned; we've doubted and you know... that's ok! God always reassures us that He's got us in the palm of His hand and He is going to take care of us. It was hard to watch a beautiful bus we were blessed with, wonderful equipment we were blessed with and all the hard work and blessings go

up in flames. Just gone...It was really hard. The Devil did not steal our voices, he could not steal our praise and we're not going to let him get that kind of glory. Beyond our plans, beyond our own abilities, beyond our failures, beyond our own God-given talents, above and beyond anything we could ask or even imagine; God has a plan for each of us, to rise above the ashes and to live powerfully for Him."

It has been an exciting 2012 for Beyond the Ashes as they were nominated for two Dove Awards... "New Artist" and "Song of the Year." Anthony said "We had always dreamed about it of course but it just blew us away. It was such a humbling experience for us. We also had the honor of presenting several awards during the preshow."

Anthony Facello, the group's founder and tenor singer, is no stranger to Christian music. The Dove nominated male vocalist has been traveling for 18 years. He has toured with some of Gospel music's finest and even enjoyed being a part of the well-known Gaither tour on several occasions. He is deeply committed to his calling. He would rather see someone sincerely touched by the music than be recognized for his gifts. His incredible tenor voice is one of the best in the industry.

The multi-talented Casey Rivers sings, plays, and



writes music. Casey had every opportunity to be a successful solo artist in country music as he was the 1st runner-up on the National country reality series, Nashville Star. Casey knew that God had not called him in that direction. He abandoned his own dreams for those of God's. He knows now that God's hopes and God's dreams shine much brighter than the opportunity to be a star.

ple to see Jesus in everything that we do. We always want to strive for class and integrity. I always preach that to the guys. What greater reason to present yourself with class and integrity, pursuing your passion because we are representing the King of Kings."

The future certainly looks bright for this trio of young men! They are hard-working; they love the



Kellan Monroe is the newest addition to Beyond the Ashes, and comes from the great state of South Carolina. He is also a multi-talented individual who plays piano, bass, and the guitar and is a talented song writer. Kellan has always been surrounded by a love for music and ministry. Recently Kellan sang with a group based in South Carolina, The Melody Aires and had his own praise band.

"The vision for Beyond the Ashes is quite simple," says Anthony. "Really; honestly, the prayer of Jabez is always on the forefront of my mind. I want God to always enlarge our territory. I don't mean that in a boastful way, I don't mean that I want Him to make us popular; I don't mean it like that. We just whole heartily say, God, enlarge our territory, give us more people to minister to, give us more people with whom to share the greatest story ever told! That's what our heart is as a whole. We want to go places and just show people Jesus. We want to show people realness! People want to see that. Standing up with a microphone is great and awesome, but people want to know if we hurt as well, so that they can relate to it and they start to relate to our music along the way. The one thing I want people to know is that it is MORE than just music to us. It is ministry to us. We want peo-

Lord and gospel music. Dusty Wells of Word Records shares: "After being in this wonderful music business for nearly 30 years, I feel like I have a great pulse on amazing and anointed artistry. I've seen groups come and go...and I've been a part of great successes and I've seen those short lived dreams pass. I have watched my friend, Anthony Facello rise from a very desolate lonely broken place 7 years ago when he had hit rock bottom, and he felt like he would never sing or minister again. But God in all His greatness had different plans! I truly believe this is only the beginning for a long, illustrious and successful career for Beyond The Ashes. These guys, with Anthony's amazing leadership, are one of the hardest working groups out there, and their call to ministry is unsurpassed. They truly live what they sing, and sing what they live. I love their hearts, their passion and their call to make a difference in what they have been entrusted with. I am so proud of them and I do believe in them."

With a new project in future plans, produced by Wayne Haun, things are looking good for this young trio. To learn more about Beyond The Ashes, to order their music or to contact Anthony about booking, visit their website at [www.beyondtheashesonline.com](http://www.beyondtheashesonline.com).

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# What's Wrong With This Picture?

by Rhonda Frye

In June, my family and I visited Washington DC. Being observant as we wandered the streets, I found myself amused or sad at times asking myself... "What's wrong with this picture?" Some observations struck me funny: The flower pots outside the Environmental Protection Agency contained dead flowers?!

After waiting in line two hours, we made our way inside the National Archives. We listened to recordings of FDR's fireside chats and I literally laughed OUT LOUD reading archived letters to the President. Someone pleaded with President Eisenhower to NOT send Elvis to the service. "We think it's bad enough to send Elvis Presley into the Army, but if you cut his sideburns off, we'll just die," they claimed!

The National Archives building houses many historical records. We stared at hand written letters signed by George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. It's hard to describe the "awe" moment of seeing the original Declaration of Independence. Time has taken its toll on the document, but John Hancock's signature still stands out! After viewing the original draft of the Bill of Rights, I noted that the job of editing has changed!

Unfortunately I noticed we've come a LONG way

in other ways too- all in the name of "acceptance." I believe this acceptance explains our Nation's serious decline.

On a visitor's trolley, we rode past the sixth largest cathedral in the world, the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, popularly known as Washington National Cathedral. As we passed, the guide informed that Dr. Martin Luther King preached his last sermon there and added, "The National Cathedral is a house of prayer for people of all faiths and perspectives." Hmmm. "How's that workin' for ya," I thought.

At Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, I met my ancestors! How sad it was to me to see people watching films and exploring exhibits learning the theory evolution as fact, not theory. My stomach turned and I ended up leaving early asking... "What's wrong with this picture?" Just a few blocks away the Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights..." At some point our leaders believed we were created.

The fact our nation has rejected God sends chills up my spine and evidently Thomas Jefferson's too. Panel three's inscription of the Jefferson Memorial says: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the



liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just that His justice cannot sleep forever."

can't swear in public or disgrace the uniform or tomb in any way for the rest of their lives either.

Not only is their excellence demonstrated in



I over-heard a guide at the American History Museum lecture about the life of Abraham Lincoln. It was funny how he tip-toed around the word "God." He avoided His Holy name like the plague. He chose vague words that would slip right over the average person's head. As he beat around the bush, I thought, "I don't know if Abraham Lincoln was a Christian, but I do know he quoted Jesus and used the term "God's Will" in his 1865 Inaugural address.

I found this amusing-When it comes to death; God comes back into the picture! At the Arlington National Cemetery, a tomb guard honors the tomb of an American Soldier Known Only But To God 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!

Ok... now let me get this straight. God isn't smart enough to create us according to the museum, but He is the only one capable of knowing the identity of the unknown soldiers at the cemetery? It seems logical to me, the only person capable of seeing dust and recognizing it as a person- would be the one that created the person out of the same dust in the first place! Duh!

I was impressed with the tomb guard's dedication. For the first six months of training, the guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying about notable people laid to rest at the cemetery. The guards commit two full years of duty, live in barracks under the tomb, and can't drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives! They

dedication and behavior, but also in appearance. The tomb guard's waistline can't exceed 30 inches and they spend five hours preparing their uniform for duty!

Watching the changing of the guard is a moving experience. The ritual has never stopped since 1930! Rain, sleet, snow or sun has never caused the mission to be aborted. Cars overturned and trees were uprooted as a tropical storm pelted the city a few years ago, but the guards kept watch. I find myself again asking..."What's wrong with this picture?" I do admire this dedication and I end up speechless trying to find words of gratitude for the soldiers that gave their lives for my freedom. Yes, I'm grateful, but in the grand scheme of things, this freedom is still temporary as wonderful as it is!

Jesus, the King of Glory, came to earth, lived, died and rose again to give us eternal freedom and people can't muster up enough commitment to go to church consistently to say "thank you!" I don't mean to offend anyone- but I can't help but wonder what would happen if the tomb guards showed up for duty 15 minutes late with cappuccino in hand, looking like they just rolled out of bed like some do for church.

But yes, great men and women have died so that we could be free- free to worship as we please. I'm from Georgia, so I admit- I did stare when three Buddhist Monks walked down the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. At first, I thought they were escaped

prisoners because of their bright orange outfits. As they got closer, sadly I realized they are real prisoners needing truth to set them free.



I also noted, it doesn't matter if you're a fan of the current president or not, when he rolls through town, everyone stops and at least the office he holds is respected. Our trolley tour came to a stop due to a motorcade. The officer at the intersection saluted as the two black sedans followed by a host of vehicles sped by. Our guide informed us that we would know if it was a "Presidential Motorcade" if an ambulance was at the end. Sure enough, President Obama whizzed right by with his personal ambulance in pursuit. "What's right with this picture?" Although the siren was off, the ambulance screamed an important

message to me: "It is appointed for men to die, but after this the judgment." Kings live...Kings die!

As the motorcade passed, I thought of brevity of life and my mind raced back to Embassy Row. We saw beautiful Embassy buildings and foreign flags representing many countries from all over the world earlier in the day. In my mind, I pictured those Nations.. their Kings...their People... Every Tribe... Every Tongue confessing... "Jesus is Lord!!!"

Yes, some DC experiences made me sad, but others were amusing. Hoping to have a new cultural experience, we ventured into Chinatown to enjoy authentic Chinese food. I expected to hear ancient Chinese music in the background that would perhaps include silk or bamboo instruments with an occasional "gong." Boy was I wrong! Smack dab in the middle of Chinatown inside a Chinese restaurant out from the speakers came none other than Bocephus! Yes.... Hank Williams Jr.! We nearly fell out of our seats laughing! "What's wrong with this picture," I giggled! Nothing I suppose, it just struck us funny!

Overall, this trip was a serious WAKE-UP call! Our nation is in trouble and we should pray! We are in serious need of forgiveness and restoration. I ask you to join me in prayer. Let's make special effort to humble ourselves and pray for our country and our leaders and leaders to come.

A promotional graphic for 4 Ever Praise Ministries. It features a photograph of four people (three men and one woman) in professional attire. The text "4 EVER PRAISE Ministries" is at the top. Below the photo, it says "Thank You DJ's for playing 'I've Come Too Far' Patterson Promotions Vol. 6." and "And look for our new CD 'Going Back' in late May or Early June". At the bottom, the phone number "256-278-8565" and website "www.4everpraiseministries.com" are listed.

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# FOCUS ON THE YOUNG

LOGAN SMITH

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

A few years back, we sang at a church in Georgia. During the break, the pastor asked if we minded his little boy singing a song. We agreed, but when the kid opened his mouth, my mouth also dropped open. This cute little red headed boy had a voice bigger than his whole body, not to mention the fact that he sounded just like Vestal Goodman. Not long after that, Logan Smith started showing up on Gaither Homecoming concert lineups and videos. Their family has become like part of ours, and I know you'll love getting to know Logan as much as I did!

Victoria: Logan, what inspired you to love The Goodmans so much growing up?

Logan: My parents had all the Gaither videos when I was small, and they always stood out every time they took the stage. They always put so much energy and excitement in what they did, and I believe that's what made me want to listen to every note. They were so unique and different from any other group I had ever heard.

Victoria: Who is your favorite group?

Logan: There is no way I can answer a "Favorite." I love most all southern gospel singers/music. Groups like Jeff & Sheri Easter, The Hoppers, and The Perrys are definitely my style and I listen to their music on a regular basis.

Victoria: Who has been the most influential person in your life?

Logan: My parents of course. But, my grandparents have been a huge influence in my life. They have helped me more than most people know. Dad pastors a church in my

hometown of Covington, GA, so they are not always able to go out on the road like they would like to. Thankfully, my grandparents are always there with a smile on their faces ready to take me wherever I am scheduled to be.

Victoria: What's your favorite song?

Logan: I can't really say a favorite to that either. I love all kinds of music!

Victoria: How old were you when you first sang on a Gaither concert? How old are you now?

Logan: My first Gaither concert was in Myrtle Beach, SC in October of 2008. I was 11. I am 15 now. Time flies!!

Victoria: You have a new CD coming out. Tell us about it. What are some of the songs?

Logan: YES!!!! I am super excited; I have not chosen a name yet. There are some original songs on this album along with some Goodman classics, of course.

One song was written by Joseph Habedank of The Perrys called "There is a Peace." He is also singing in on a song with me, on an old classic "Child of the King." You wrote a great song of course titled "Joy in the Morning" that is going to be on it. Lastly, songs like "I Saw The Light," "Til' The Storm Passes By," "I've Been Changed" and several others will be on there too. Be looking for a release around NQC in September.

Victoria: What's your favorite place to eat?

Logan: I pretty much like any place. That's pretty obvious. LOL!

Victoria: If you could pick one person from past or present to share the stage with, who would it be?

Logan: Of course, Vestal Goodman. That would be above my wildest dreams.



Victoria: What's been your funniest memory on the road?

Logan: We love sitting around the table playing games. You have to have something to do to pass time. I love playing UNO with Granddaddy. He gets so mad and says people are looking at his cards. He's the worst sore loser I've ever met. It's one of those things you'd have to be there for it to be funny!

Victoria: What's been your most rewarding moment on the road?

Logan: The first time I got to sing on Main Stage at NQC in 2009. I sang "What A Lovely Name" with Ben Speer & Ivan Parker.

A special thank you goes out to Logan for taking the time to do this interview! If you've never heard him, you really need to try and see him live in concert! You will be blessed!

Visit Logan at <http://www.logansmithministries.com/>

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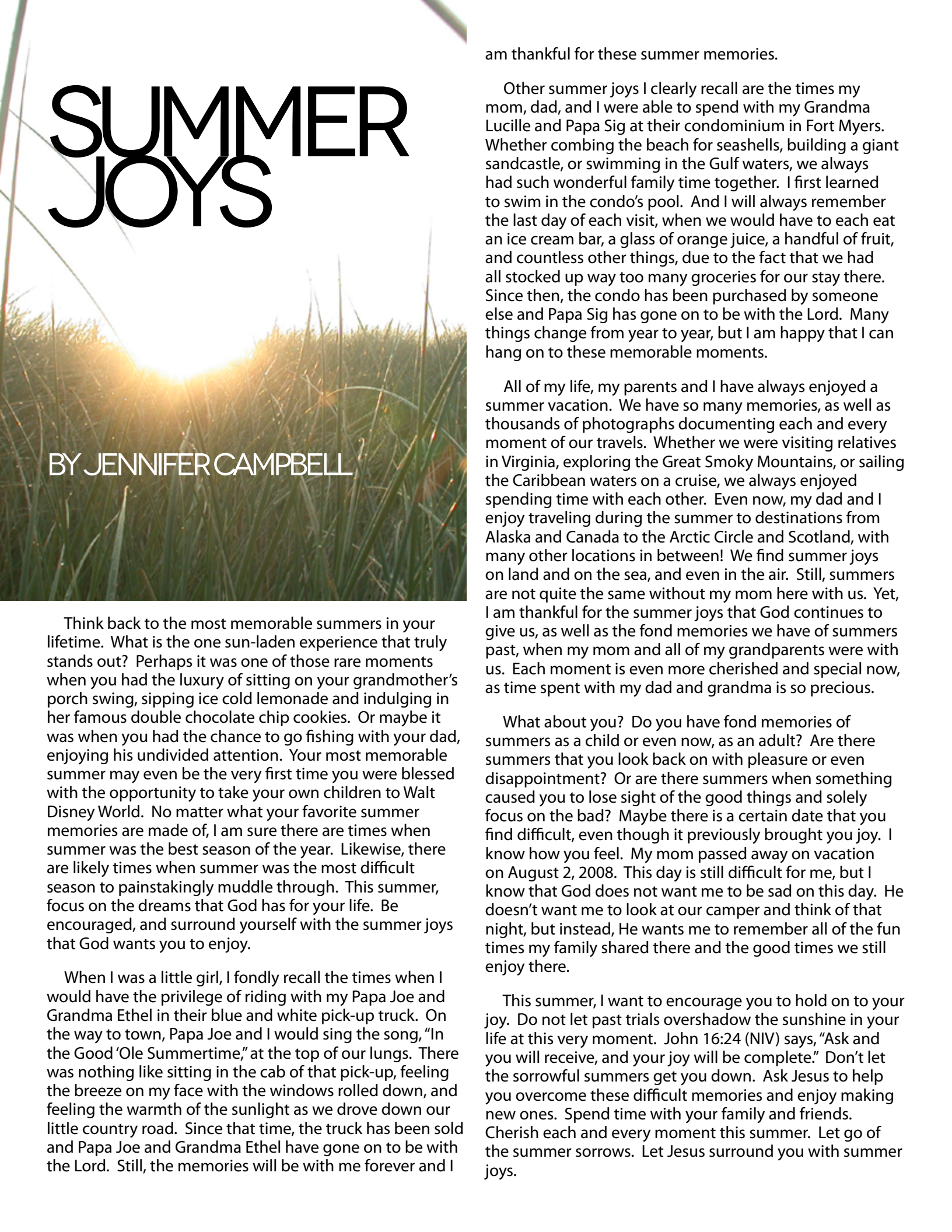
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# SUMMER JOYS

BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Think back to the most memorable summers in your lifetime. What is the one sun-laden experience that truly stands out? Perhaps it was one of those rare moments when you had the luxury of sitting on your grandmother's porch swing, sipping ice cold lemonade and indulging in her famous double chocolate chip cookies. Or maybe it was when you had the chance to go fishing with your dad, enjoying his undivided attention. Your most memorable summer may even be the very first time you were blessed with the opportunity to take your own children to Walt Disney World. No matter what your favorite summer memories are made of, I am sure there are times when summer was the best season of the year. Likewise, there are likely times when summer was the most difficult season to painstakingly muddle through. This summer, focus on the dreams that God has for your life. Be encouraged, and surround yourself with the summer joys that God wants you to enjoy.

When I was a little girl, I fondly recall the times when I would have the privilege of riding with my Papa Joe and Grandma Ethel in their blue and white pick-up truck. On the way to town, Papa Joe and I would sing the song, "In the Good 'Ole Summertime," at the top of our lungs. There was nothing like sitting in the cab of that pick-up, feeling the breeze on my face with the windows rolled down, and feeling the warmth of the sunlight as we drove down our little country road. Since that time, the truck has been sold and Papa Joe and Grandma Ethel have gone on to be with the Lord. Still, the memories will be with me forever and I

am thankful for these summer memories.

Other summer joys I clearly recall are the times my mom, dad, and I were able to spend with my Grandma Lucille and Papa Sig at their condominium in Fort Myers. Whether combing the beach for seashells, building a giant sandcastle, or swimming in the Gulf waters, we always had such wonderful family time together. I first learned to swim in the condo's pool. And I will always remember the last day of each visit, when we would have to each eat an ice cream bar, a glass of orange juice, a handful of fruit, and countless other things, due to the fact that we had all stocked up way too many groceries for our stay there. Since then, the condo has been purchased by someone else and Papa Sig has gone on to be with the Lord. Many things change from year to year, but I am happy that I can hang on to these memorable moments.

All of my life, my parents and I have always enjoyed a summer vacation. We have so many memories, as well as thousands of photographs documenting each and every moment of our travels. Whether we were visiting relatives in Virginia, exploring the Great Smoky Mountains, or sailing the Caribbean waters on a cruise, we always enjoyed spending time with each other. Even now, my dad and I enjoy traveling during the summer to destinations from Alaska and Canada to the Arctic Circle and Scotland, with many other locations in between! We find summer joys on land and on the sea, and even in the air. Still, summers are not quite the same without my mom here with us. Yet, I am thankful for the summer joys that God continues to give us, as well as the fond memories we have of summers past, when my mom and all of my grandparents were with us. Each moment is even more cherished and special now, as time spent with my dad and grandma is so precious.

What about you? Do you have fond memories of summers as a child or even now, as an adult? Are there summers that you look back on with pleasure or even disappointment? Or are there summers when something caused you to lose sight of the good things and solely focus on the bad? Maybe there is a certain date that you find difficult, even though it previously brought you joy. I know how you feel. My mom passed away on vacation on August 2, 2008. This day is still difficult for me, but I know that God does not want me to be sad on this day. He doesn't want me to look at our camper and think of that night, but instead, He wants me to remember all of the fun times my family shared there and the good times we still enjoy there.

This summer, I want to encourage you to hold on to your joy. Do not let past trials overshadow the sunshine in your life at this very moment. John 16:24 (NIV) says, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." Don't let the sorrowful summers get you down. Ask Jesus to help you overcome these difficult memories and enjoy making new ones. Spend time with your family and friends. Cherish each and every moment this summer. Let go of the summer sorrows. Let Jesus surround you with summer joys.

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# Memories

## LibbiPerryStuffle

by Laura Kennedy

One of six children, Southern Gospel's most beloved alto singer recently allowed SGN Scoops the privilege of some talk time. Singing, as Libbi is quick to share, has been her whole life; "I had just turned seven. We started singing on Christmas day, 1970 after the loss of my 13 year old brother, Johnny, that previous July 30, 1970. The Perrys decided to go full time after the loss of my baby brother George who was also 13 at the time of his death on June 5, 1982."

The Perrys, in the mid 1980's, signed with former pianist for the Happy Goodman Family, Eddie Crook on his Morning Star Records label. Libbi later met and married Tracy Stuffle who would then become the group's longtime bass singer. For over 40 years and throughout various personnel changes, the group has not only been well received, but is one of the leading Mixed Groups in the industry today.

In my opinion, receiving awards and recognition is evidence of diligence to a skill and craft. In southern gospel music, the most important ingredient to the success of any writer, musician, or vocal artist is the rich indwelling and guiding force of the Lord Jesus Christ. And when the Lord allows, an artist can touch and deeply affect the spiritual walk or even awakening of their listener. Libbi is that kind of artist. And as such, has been awarded Singing News Fan

Awards for the 2005 Female Vocalist and Alto Singer Of The Year and the 2006 Alto Singer of the Year. While at the 2009 National Quartet Convention, Libbi was voted Favorite Alto in the 2009 Singing News Fan Awards. Both she and The Perrys received 11, Top 5 nominations in the 2010 Singing News Fan Awards for Favorite Artist, Mixed Group, Male Vocalist, Female Vocalist, Horizon Individual, Young Artist, Alto, Lead, Songwriter, Album, & Song. And most recently, Libbi was awarded Singing News Fan Awards, for the 2011 Favorite Alto of the Year.

Clearly, the traditional tone and strength of Libbi's voice is what makes her a fan to many. When asked how that particular quality speaks to her, Libbi replies; "It overwhelms me! I never dreamed in a million years that people would even consider my singing anything to be awarded for. To say that I am honored would be an understatement!"

Late last year, and with much encouragement from her husband, Libbi finally agreed to and has released her first solo album titled, JOURNEY. "I am excited about my first solo CD! At first when approached about doing it, I said absolutely not. I am not a solo singer, but after a lot of persuading from Tracy, I gave in." shares Libbi, "I finally got to sing with some of my heroes that I had dreamed of for so long! We all have

a bucket list and this was on mine. I got to bring in Gerald Wolfe, Mark Trammell, Dailey & Vincent, Randy Perry, Debra Perry Reed, Wayne Haun, Tracy Stuffle, the Sisters and Jeff & Sheri Easter. I was like a little kid on Christmas morning in the studio listening to my heroes sing on my CD! The CD is not fancy, but it's just me and who I am and the music I love! It's been a long JOURNEY, but I've always had a song!"



Upon asking if the music on Journey is similar to her group's musical sound, Libbi offers; "I'm more of a traditional style singer- I'm not a fancy singer. I've listened to a lot of other people's solo projects, just beautiful singers and then listen to mine and think, "That's real country." But you know, we all have our own style. I tried to stick with MY style- what's ME. I picked songs that "fit me!" Nor did I use a lot of orchestration. Sometimes I think our message gets lost in the music so I wanted a lot of stuff very traditional. I hope everybody likes it."

Under Daywind Records label, produced by Wayne Haun, JOURNEY is indeed doing very well. Perhaps it's the easy friendships she has with her heroes that lend such a comfortable tone to the project. Even more so is the conviction with which Libbi sings. A poignant moment on the project is the opening of "Reunited" when we hear the Perry children; Randy, Debra and Libbi singing, "Daddy Sang Bass" as children. With

deep family harmony, the story of the Perry Family takes a focal view.

It will most assuredly be difficult to pin down a favorite. When asked if she has one, Libbi offers, "There are 12 songs on the album and to pick a favorite is hard, but probably right now my favorite is a song when I first started singing with my family. My dad worked away from home and would be gone for two weeks at a time so my mom would have to take us to all of our singings. So on the way back home, my brothers and sisters would get in the back and try to go to sleep. Me and my mom would sit up front. While she would drive, I would sit on the armrest which we called the hump (this was in PRE SEATBELT LAW days). I would put my arm around her neck and we would sing "Jesus Hold My Hand" all the way home. We only knew the first verse and the chorus. And we would sing it over and over... My brothers and sisters would wake up and say, 'Could y'all please sing another song!?!' Or, 'Just learn the words to this one!' So, when I started putting the songs together for the album, the first one I thought of was "Jesus Hold My Hand." My mom had a massive stroke in 2000 so I wanted to do something for her. It's a little bluegrass so I brought in my friends Dailey and Vincent and they just did a killer job on it. We've sang it out and the crowd really seems to embrace it. It kind of throws them off because they don't think of me singing bluegrass, but I'm a BIG Bluegrass FANATIC! This was for my mom and you know what, I still don't know the second verse! So when we sing it out, I tell the people, 'I still don't know the second verse, so if I miss the words ...nothing's changed in 41 years!' It's my favorite song right now, but you go through seasons in your life where one song in this season may mean a lot to you. Then you go through another season and a song that maybe you didn't look at a whole lot before and it will take on a whole new meaning. For this season, this is my favorite."

Many of us have continued to be in awe of the health changes that Libbi and her husband, Tracy have woven into their lives. Tracy Stuffle experienced cardiac arrest almost two years ago. He had five blockages and needed to undergo open heart surgery, also discovering that he was suffering from diabetes as well. After Tracy's 7-hour surgery, he recovered sufficiently to return home less than a week after the cardiac incident. Libbi explains; "We have had to learn the hard way that your health is



important! We are not getting any younger and being on the road can be brutal to your body if you don't try to take care of it. So, we are trying to do our part to keep it in check!" She continues; "Eating healthy is the way that Tracy and I have lost so much weight. The food is low-fat, low-carb, low cholesterol and low sodium. Basically- a bale of hay and a glass of ice water. Haha We eat a lot of grilled food, a lot of fresh vegetables. He eats much like the way God really intended for us to eat to keep our temple in shape. It's a lifestyle change. We don't say the "d" word because when you say the "d" word, your brain starts freaking out saying 'Oh No! That means I can't have food!'. If you fall off the wagon, get back on it! Don't beat yourself up. Don't go back to eating; just get back on the wagon."

With NQC 2012 just around the corner, I always like to remember years past and all that is still ahead at the next convention. And after Libbi's great advice on healthy eating, I'm going to diligently resolve to bypass one of my favorite things at NQC... the waffle cones! But seriously though, there are those beautiful moments that the artists create for us that we take back home with us after NQC week. And there are also those impromptu moments that are just divine pieces of Heaven. Libbi shares one of hers with us; "My most memorable NQC was back when it was in Nashville, in 1991. One of my biggest heroes was Vestal Goodman. We had just recorded a Dottie Rambo song called, "Tears Will Never Stain The Streets of that City" and Dottie was at the convention so we asked her if she would come on stage to sing this song with us. She said, "Yes!" And it really shocked us. So, we're on stage singing and she's singing with us. It just so happened that Tracy looked at the side of the stage then said to me, 'Vestal Goodman is sitting on the side of the stage watching!' I was like, 'No she's not,' because he's always kiddin' me. But he said, 'I promise you Libbi. She is sitting over there watching.' So I just kind of eased over there and looked and sure enough, she was!! When we came off the stage from singing, Tracy said you need to go up and talk to her. I said, 'I can't. She doesn't know me.' I was bawling because she's like Elvis to me! So Tracy went up to her and said, 'My wife is so shy and the biggest dream she's ever had is to meet you.' She looked at me and said, 'Darlin', you come over here. Don't ever be afraid to come and talk to me.' She grabbed my hand and immediately prayed. I was crying. She didn't even know me but yet she was praying for me! She just

treated me like I'd never been treated before."

Libbi is ever moving forward, working to convey the message of Christ to as many individuals as possible. She offers, "There's an urgency to tell people that Jesus Christ is SOON returning and if you've not accepted Him as your personal Savior to please not wait until it's too late!! We don't know the day or the hour of His returning, so it's important to be prepared!!"



On the road with The Perrys, Libbi Perry Stuffle is taking care of herself and the boys as much as any moment calls for. "My boys are really a good bunch of guys. I don't have to pick up after them. Now, I do have a 20 year old son that I have to pick up after but as far as the other guys, they are very clean fanatics. I'm the mom though so when they get sick, I'm the Dr. When they pop a button off a suit, I'm the seamstress. So I wear different titles for whatever is needed, but it's not bad. I learn a lot. We sit and talk...a lot. It's really fun."

"And they take care of me too," Libbi continues; "When Tracy was sick the guys came together and just helped me with him and whatever I needed, they were there. They were like family and very thoughtful

to me." When not on the road, Libbi tells me they will do just about anything to get off that bus. "We watch hockey! We are big hockey fanatics! The Nashville Predators!!! If we have a day off, we will stop and go to the movies or if we're in Florida, we'll go to Disney. We're just like a family, where one goes, we all go together like the Partridge Family. We'll make anything fun!"



The Perrys are working on releasing a new album, but "Blue Skies", their current CD is still going strong! "It's had two number 1 songs; "Blue Skies" & "Celebrate Me Home." And also, "Celebrate Me Home" won a Dove Award in April for Southern Gospel Song of the Year! So with my solo CD doing great, and people seeming to really like it, I am happy, happy, happy!" says Libbi.

In April of this year, the Perry's released CELEBRATE ME HOME DVD recorded live in Nashville at Oak Tree Studios. Libbi offers; "It's something cool for the listeners. We're sharing stories behind the songs. We realize that sometimes when you know the story behind the song; it gives the song a whole new meaning. We even brought the pastor of our church in and interviewed him."

Thank you Libbi, for sharing your family, your music, and your heart for the Lord with us. And make sure to visit her at [www.perrysministries.com](http://www.perrysministries.com) to connect and say hello.

An advertisement for High Road Music. At the top, the text "high road" is written in a cursive font above a decorative swirl. Below this is a photograph of three women sitting together, smiling. They are wearing light-colored, sleeveless dresses. To the right of the photo, the text reads: "sarah... piano", "anna grace... fiddle", "vicke... upright bass". Below the photo, the text says "country gospel at its purest" followed by the website "www.highroadmusic.com". At the bottom, it provides booking information: "For booking information: 615.887.3145 highroadmusic@gmail.com". On the right side of the bottom, it says "follow us on" with icons for Twitter and Facebook.

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# A Media Minute

by Rob Patz

FEATURING:



I love technology and media! Every once in a while I get the chance to have great conversations with like-minded industry professionals. I believe radio is still a valuable tool for spreading the gospel. This month, I had the opportunity to talk to my friends at Good News Music Radio With Woody Wright. It is obvious these two men love God, gospel music and people. I believe Scott Kramer and Woody Wright are the “real deal” and I’m proud to call them my friends. To learn more about Good News Music Radio, check out their website at: [http://www.handsoflove.org/gnmr/?page\\_id=6](http://www.handsoflove.org/gnmr/?page_id=6).

**Rob: Give our readers a history about how “Good News Music Radio” came about.**

Woody: It is amazing how God works, and gives us the desires of our hearts, sometimes many years later! When I was in high school, I wanted to go to broadcasting school and be a radio guy. I got all the information, and spoke with some radio personalities in my hometown area. They mostly said not to be a broadcaster, as it was a very difficult profession to find a job that paid very well. So, what did I do? I became a Gospel singer! In hindsight, if I had done both, I might have made a good living! When Scott Kramer approached me about co-hosting Good News Music Radio with him, I was excited and thrilled. After all these years, I am able to broadcast on stations around the world every week, sharing music, scripture and encouragement to all who hear! Romans 8:28 - For we

know that He works ALL things together for GOOD to them that love the LORD and are the called according to HIS purpose.

Scott: In January, 2010, our Illinois-based ministry, Hands of Love Ministry, hired a new employee for the purpose of developing a new 1-hour gospel music radio program. As a result of announcing the upcoming new program, our local Moody affiliate station expressed an interest in airing the program and even reserved a Saturday evening time slot beginning in September, 2010. However, after several months, our new employee was unable to continue with our ministry due to health-related issues. Not wanting to lose the upcoming 1-hour time slot as well as the already invested time and resources used for program development, we began the process of looking for a host and it was also determined I would produce the program. I then contacted some friends in Nashville and sought their advice about contacting Woody Wright as our host. Everyone thought it was a great idea and after composing a lengthy email outlining the proposal, Woody graciously accepted the role as host. Our first program was aired on Saturday, September 4, 2010 and we are now being heard on upwards to 150 stations!



Woody  
Wright

**Rob: Tell our readers your backgrounds in broadcasting.**

Woody: I think #1 pretty well covers it . . . other than the fact that in my elementary and high school years, I sang on the radio, and in my Gospel and Country music endeavors, I have done interviews with most major stations and syndicated radio programs in both genres. As an A&R Director at Spring Hill Music Group, I was responsible for choosing single releases for our artists, and consulted with marketing on how to best present material to radio.

Scott: My background is primarily in the technical aspect of broadcasting. Before going full-time with our ministry in January, 2000, I was the Director of Communications for Grace Presbyterian Church in Peoria, IL. Grace is a 2300 member church with a weekly television and radio broadcast. For many, many years, I did the audio-remix for every program and for a while, even did the video directing and editing. From 2005 - 2007, I also edited and mixed a second radio program called, "Firm Foundation" for Bethany Baptist Church in Peoria, IL.

**Rob: Since you started "Good News Music Radio" who has been your favorite interview and why?**

Woody: I won't isolate a single interview for obvious reasons, but the most surprising ones were the ones with Country Music personalities who have a strong Gospel message for anyone who listens. Not that secular musicians have less faith, but it was a blessing to hear the testimonies of these folks, and how important Gospel Music is to them, and how central

their faith in Christ is in their daily lives!

Scott: All of the interviews have been incredible, but a few stand out. Bill & Gloria Gaither's interviews were amazing as we were able to hear never before shared stories from their early days and other inspiring aspects of the lives. I also greatly enjoyed our time with Russ Taff. Our guests love Woody's personality and love to laugh whenever they're around him. Russ was no exception and we all had many great laughs hearing their stories from the road!

Rob: If you could go back in history and interview someone, who would it be and why?

Woody: Wow, I would probably say Johnny Cash. With his huge persona, his undeniable faith, and his large collection of failures and shortcomings . . . I would love to have heard some of his testimony first hand.

Scott: It would have most likely been Elvis Presley. I would have enjoyed hearing about his gospel music influences as well as his love for southern gospel quartets.

**Rob: Be honest! Who has the longest blooper reel in the history of the show?**

Woody: The longest blooper reel is MINE!!! Between that and the bad jokes, sarcasm and butchering of the English language, I am certainly the king of the blooper at GNMR!

Scott: We've both had some long blooper reels! The funny thing about being on radio, is learning new things about how you talk. It's easy to get tongue-tied and so I always try to keep that fact in mind while scripting the programs.

**Rob: In addition to the show, you do concerts. Can you tell us about your next event and/or any upcoming projects?**

Woody: July 20, 2012 - Woody and Friends at the Madison County 4H Fair, in my hometown, Alexandria, Indiana - featuring Triumphant Quartet.....But the real story is October 27 in Louisville, KY, the Good News Music Radio Concert featuring Russ Taff, Buddy Greene, Woody and Vonnie, Palmetto State Quartet, Reggie and Ladye Love Smith, Rachel West Kramer, a live Good News Music Radio Band, and all of it will be a videotaped!!!!!! Can you tell I am excited?

Scott: When we started Good News Music Radio, we



thought it would be a great idea to have a concert series based on the weekly program. On Saturday, October 27, 2012 at the Palace Theater in Louisville, Kentucky, we're hosting our 2nd annual "Good News Music Radio with Woody Wright" concert. Woody already mentioned the incredible line up. Also, the evening will include many of the program elements found on each of our radio shows – including some funny segments. For our "Woody's Wayback Machine" segment we're even going to have a reunion of Willie Wynn and The Tennesseans! It should be a great evening and it will also be videotaped by Nashville-based, Yake Films. DVDs and CDs will be made available of the concert.

**Rob: What has God been teaching you lately?**

Woody: Beloved, Now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him. For we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3). Wow! How powerful is that? It is not clear what we shall be. We don't know what Spirit looks like. That is why we are required to have faith. When we know what God is, when we understand what Spirit is . . . When we see Him (or understand Him) as He is . . . We shall be like Him. We shall be like GOD! My, my, my . . . that is something I am willing to give my human life for! Willingly, unafraid and confident!

Scott: To walk by faith and trust Him wholeheartedly. As followers of Christ, it's important to remember our plans will fail if we attempt to be independent of Him. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:4-6

**Rob: What are three things you can NOT daily live without?**

Woody: Sorry, only two.....

I cannot live without the love of my wife, the love of my life Vonnie.

I cannot live without the Mercy, Forgiveness and Grace of God.

If I had to list a third one, it might be Shredded Wheat  
....

Scott:

1. The LORD, His Grace, Forgiveness, Mercy and Love.
2. My beautiful wife, Rachel and wonderful children, Maria & Weston.
3. Great Gospel Music!!!

**Rob: What is the one thing you want your listeners to take away from your show each week?**

Woody: The one thing I hope to do for listeners is give



them ENCOURAGEMENT.

Scott: Major encouragement through the music, message and gospel invitation!!!

**Rob: What are your goals for "Good News Music Radio" in the next year?**

Woody: To keep building on our strong foundation of keeping the message strong, the music excellent and the motives pure!

Scott: We have several, but mine are to become faster at producing each show and to continue adding stations!

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## THE SNEED FAMILY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN MINISTRY

By Angela Griffin

The Sneed Family is celebrating 30 years in the music ministry this year. Pianist and vocalist Jeff Sneed founded the group as "Glory Bound" in 1982 as an all-male quartet shortly after graduating high school. Three years later, Jeff married Pam Saylor who became his singing partner. Today... "The Sneed Family" is one of the most talented and gifted groups in the Southern Gospel music industry. Jeff and Pam are living their dream, standing on stage proclaiming the love of Christ with their family night after night.

In 2008 Jeff launched a new TV program, "The Glory Bound Jubilee" which is viewed in over 100,000 homes in South Central Kentucky and Tennessee. A segment on the show bearing the same name as their current project, "Telling the Story" is a segment where an individual shares how they came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The shows can be viewed on YouTube by searching "Glory Bound Jubilee."

*TELLING THE STORY*, the group's latest project showcases a mixture of old and new songs! The album was produced by Adam Wagner and Jacob Danieleley of Big Blue Skies. Adam Wagner shares:

"God has blessed me with many abilities, and one of those is to recognize great talent! My partner in Big Blue Skies, Jacob Danieleley and I went head first into this project not knowing what we'd find.

"The goal at Big Blue Skies is to give quality from day one. Being that Jeff and the family took a chance on us, we were determined to give them our best. Our best is what we strive to give all of the artists we work with! By them opening up and allowing us into their home and lives, I found a rich heritage of Gospel music and some new signature voices that I believe will become household names."

"I remember asking Jeff if he would think about letting us produce a budget project for him, because we were not well known enough to do a bigger scale mainstream album. Little did I know that he would have enough confidence in us to take the reins and take this record to the limit! And that's what we did!"

"In just a few weeks we will begin a Christmas record with selections including classics and new Christmas songs for the old and the young. We are excited!"

"All in all, the Sneed Family is grounded in their faith and love of gospel music. They have made us a part of their family and we love them as our own. I believe the future is bright for this family! Be watching for great things from the Sneed Family!"

Song selections on *TELLING THE STORY* will include



"Turn Your Radio On," "God Is Still God," "When He Spoke," "Home" and the title track is "Telling the Story." The first single to be released will be "Victory is Sweet" which features the oldest son, Seth. A "God moment" happened while putting the finishing touches on the project in the studio. The recording was complete so they thought when Seth turned to the producers and said... "I want you to hear a new arrangement I came up with for "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow." After hearing Seth's arrangement, Adam said "Let's record it as a bonus track, giving the project 12 great songs." They recorded it without a proper rehearsal and in the raw with just the vocals and a guitar. It turned out to be one of the most requested songs from the project.

Amanda, the Sneed's oldest daughter made her debut recording at the early age of four. She is a very talented individual who was inspired to sing at an early age by country legend Dolly Parton. Amanda has a unique style all her own and is an accomplished mandolin player. In August 2009 she married Caleb Cowan and graduated from Cosmetology School in November 2009. When Amanda isn't on the road with her family, you will find her at their hair salon, Cowen & Co. In spring of 2011 Amanda and Caleb launched their own exclusive skin care line.

Amanda's husband, Caleb Cowen is no stranger to gospel music fans across the county. Caleb traveled with Legendary Naomi and The Segos for four years before joining the group. While with Naomi, he traveled with the Gaither Homecoming Tour across the nation and was privileged to sing on the main stage of the National Quartet Convention. He was



nominated two years in a row for "Favorite Baritone" and one year for "Excelling Individual." A highlight to his musical career was singing for President Jimmy Carter at his special Father's Day Celebration in Plains, Georgia.

Jeff and Pam's oldest son, Seth is a very talented young man and is an outstanding vocalist for the group. He also plays bass and rhythm guitar and loves working in the studio. He also teaches private guitar lessons at home. Jacob is the youngest of the Sneed family and started playing drums for the group at age nine. He also plays bass and serves as a vocalist for the group.

The Sneed Family wishes above all that their ministry will touch lives and lead the lost to Christ.

Log on to [www.sneedfamily.com](http://www.sneedfamily.com) for a complete overview of the Sneed Family.



# Chronicles

of a Singing English Teacher  
by Jeff Hawes



With our nation's birthday this month, I wanted to share a few thoughts about FREEDOM! I love July, especially the fourth day of the month. Ever since I was a young boy, I loved getting to eat all the hot dogs and watermelon I wanted while also getting to experiment with fireworks. I know every kid loves playing with them but every parent cringes at the mere mention of the word sparkler.

It seems like this is one time a year when everyone comes together to celebrate freedom and independence. As young kids we are taught at school the importance of what freedom means and that our national flag is a symbol of that freedom. Although freedom isn't a concrete noun, meaning that we can touch it, we can, however, feel it in our spirit. It may mean something different to each person who feels it, but yet all the while somehow united.

As you know, I travel the world with Karen Peck and although she has many signature songs, one that always brings down the house and me to tears is her rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner." As she begins the first note, all talking, giggling, and whispering comes to a hush. Each night that she sings it, I wonder if she can possibly get any higher than the night before, but she does and nails it every single time. There's a difference in just singing those lyrics and feeling the freedom that it brings. When we scan across the crowd to see veteran after veteran standing to be recognized, chills run up and down our bodies--to think that because of them, we are able to stand here and worship as we want, proclaiming that Christ is Lord and He is ALIVE!

One of my favorite parts of celebrating freedom is that we can worship whenever and however we may choose. God is amazing, and if I wanted to, I could shout it to the top of my lungs at the Wal-Mart parking lot I am currently parked in. I don't know about you guys, but when my favorite song comes on the radio in my car or on my ipod while I'm walking, I can't help but praise the Lord. I'm sure everyone around me thinks I've lost my marbles, but the freedom in the lyrics of gospel music changes lives.

My favorite song of all time is "Redeemer" by Nicole C. Mullen. It proclaims that Jesus is alive and that he is our Redeemer. I especially love the line that says "and those same gentle hands that hold me when I'm broken, they conquered death to bring me victory." WOW!!! Okay, just typing those words made me want to shout! To know that we have the same power living in us that conquered the grave is the ultimate freedom. It is the freedom from the bondage of sin and separation from God. Christ died so that we could experience true freedom and live in righteousness.

No matter what you are going through in this season of your life, know that you will make it through. And know that you have freedom from whatever bondage or stronghold that has you captive. Through salvation, God has given us the power to conquer and live victoriously! Amen!





*Where Truth Goes Forth*

## WTGF June 2012 Chart

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Just Speak                        | Leah Page                       |
| 2. The Part Where You Come In        | Brian Free & Assurance          |
| 3. I Want To Know                    | Mark Trammell Quartet           |
| 4. We'll Cast Our Crowns At His Feet | The Crawford Family             |
| 5. Something's Happening             | The Hoppers                     |
| 6. Almost Home                       | Triumphant Quartet              |
| 7. Please Forgive Me                 | Gaither Vocal Band              |
| 8. I Know My Way                     | The Freemans                    |
| 9. Homecoming Day                    | Tribute Quartet                 |
| 10. Jesus Hold My Hand               | Libbi Stuffle                   |
| 11. I'll Trust The Potter's Hand     | Whisnants                       |
| 12. Crumbs From The Table            | Dixie Echoes                    |
| 13. Threaten Me With Heaven          | Vince Gill                      |
| 14. Lord Of Life                     | Gold City                       |
| 15. I'm Coming Home                  | Jessica King                    |
| 16. I've Been Here Before            | Ernie Haase and Signature Sound |
| 17. No Place Too Far From Grace      | Palmetto State Quartet          |
| 18. Hold Me Up                       | Gordon Mote                     |
| 19. I Get To                         | Jeff And Sheri Easter           |
| 20. Mighty Big God                   | Karen Peck And New River        |





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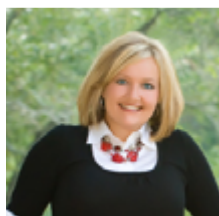
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# CONTRIBUTORS

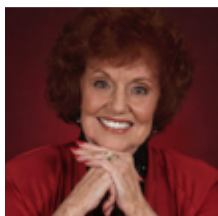
## SGN SCOOPS



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



Rhonda Frye is an ordained minister serving as the Associate and Worship Pastor at Rock Pointe Church in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. She is a recording artist, songwriter, preschool music teacher and sings with family trio, "Rhonda Frye & RiverSide." Rhonda is from Ringgold, GA and is supported by her husband and their 3 children. To learn more about Rhonda Frye Music Ministries, visit: <http://rhondafrye.com>



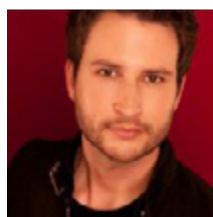
Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties, she was the first woman to own an artist management agency. Lou is an inductee of the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, GMA Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, SGMA Hall Of Fame at Dollywood, and the Christian Music Hall Of Fame. She is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Of Sacred Music from Louisiana Baptist University. Recently, Gaither Homecoming Magazine named Lou in the "Hall Of Honor" series, and the Southern Gospel Music Guild gave her a "Lifetime Achievement Award." Lou is celebrating a 65th wedding anniversary in 2011 with Howard, and they live in Houston near son Dr. David Hildreth and daughter Kathryn Mumaw, and 4 grandchildren. Visit Lou at: <http://louhildreth.com>



Victoria Shirey first took the stage at 3 years old. Strong vocal abilities and harmonies are a God given talent that started in her at a very young age. Along with writing for SGN Scoops, she designs websites, is a Producer and Background Vocalist for Homeland Records out of Gallatin, TN and is a part-time cruise director for Paradise Tours & Travel. Victoria writes and arranges most of The Shirey's music as well. Most importantly, she loves the Lord with all of her heart and makes it her goal to let the love of God shine through her. Visit victoria at: <http://theshireysministries.com>



Sandi Duncan Clark and Cliff Clark make their home in Easley, S.C. where they enjoy traveling, gardening, and the beautiful South Carolina weather. Sandi has worked in journalism for more than thirty years, and she is thankful that her love for God and Gospel music provides a great opportunity to positively impact the careers of so many in Gospel music. Email Sandi at [sandi@sgnscoops.com](mailto:sandi@sgnscoops.com).



Through a series of events, Jeff Hawes has moved from the classroom where he taught high school English in Jackson county, Alabama to the tour bus of gospel great Karen Peck & New River. Jeff chronicles the fulfillment of his gospel music dreams and his road life exclusively for SGN Scoops. Learn more about him at <http://www.karenpeckandnewriver.com>



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Lorette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of Praise-Moves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves Instructors on four continents (<http://Praise-Moves.com>), on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/PraiseMoves>. Lorette invites readers to get started on the road to better health and fitness for spirit, soul and body. For a free, easy-to-follow 21 day program visit: <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com>



# CONTRIBUTORS

## SGN SCOOPS



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. [Queen-noq.blogspot.com](http://Queen-noq.blogspot.com)



John Mathis Jr's life and musical influences have given him years of experience in the music industry in the areas of songwriting and music publishing, radio, publicity, A&R and recording. Another influence in John's life has been ministry. His grand-father was a church-planter and minister for

43 years, his father was a national evangelist. John has spent a number of years as an evangelist, pastor, worship director and public speaker. Currently, John works with Mansion Entertainment in the aspects of media promotions, publishing and recording while continuing to write, manage his own music catalog and occasionally speak.

[www.themansionentertainment.com](http://www.themansionentertainment.com)  
[www.avidgroupublishing.com](http://www.avidgroupublishing.com)  
[www.thepathwayrecords.com](http://www.thepathwayrecords.com)  
[www.johnmathisjr.com](http://www.johnmathisjr.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, spreading the message that there is joy around the bend. She serves as a group leader for

Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational

blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>



Rob Estep is a vital part of the ministry of the popular group, BEYOND THE ASHES. Currently serving as the Office and Road Manager, his wealth of experience in office management skills makes him a true asset to the group.

His expertise of handling daily operations and road responsibilities go unsurpassed in quality. Rob has worked full time alongside of Anthony Facello for the past two years. Rob's Music Pastor Father exposed him to all genres of music growing up, therefore since childhood; he has had a rich love for Southern Gospel Music. Rob studied business at Columbus State Community College, is a HUGE Buckeye Football fan, and is single- but open to dating when the right one comes along. Email Rob at: [robestep@sgnscoops.com](mailto:robestep@sgnscoops.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)



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ.

On December 31, 2002 she married

Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.

# CONTRIBUTORS

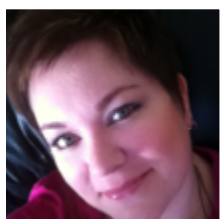
## SGN SCOOPS



Denise Salchow grew up singing southern gospel music with her family group and continues to have a passion for the music and ministry.

Denise works with the video production team for SGNscoops and is the artist coordinator for The Diamond

Awards. Born and still making her home in Springfield, MO she works as an elementary school secretary and is the proud mom of two wonderful daughters, Colby & Kate.



Laura Kennedy. Music moves me.

Christ's loves inspires me. Mixing the two together in the beautiful array of the message of the gospel through Southern Gospel music is the purest of joys to me. Raised in Charlotte, North

Carolina around the 5th Sunday night

sings at church; that hand clappin', foot stompin', spirit flowing rhythm of harmony stirs me to moments of Heaven on Earth. Believing it is still about the music, God has given me a heart for writing and a platform to learn from my heroes as well as sharing their ministry to expand their touch to others. Listen with your heart and hear the gentle, yet assured voice of our Father speaking to your heart, and be blessed!



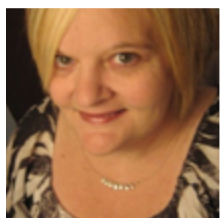
Scott Rhoades has a passion for writing, and enjoys sharing his experiences and interests through publication and speaking in public forums. After completing graduate work in 2006, he began to pursue freelance writing and continued public speaking. In 2009, he took to

the airwaves, joining the staff of WMUG in Indiana, Pennsylvania where he is the Program Host for Sunday Morning Light.

The owner of Ivory Hill Studios, he is the co-author of Legacy of Love: Memories from Ivory Hill - a collection of stories and poems highlighting the history of the Rhoades family and the small coal-mining town of Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania. Scott is also a songwriter, publishing his first song, I'm Under His Wings, with Asheville Music Publishing/Chris White Music in 2010.

Website: [www.ivoryhillstudios.org](http://www.ivoryhillstudios.org)

Blog: <http://ivoryhillstudios.wordpress.com/>



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!



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. She also has a couponing blog with one of her best friends at <http://Craftycoupongirlz.com>



Charlie Sexton is a Minister Of Music near Atlanta, Georgia and possesses a passion for traditional Southern Gospel Music. His formative years were spent attending church with Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters. He credits them for instilling a love for exciting, entertaining, yet heartfelt music

presentations. An avid historian, Charlie has over 5000 vinyl Southern Gospel recordings, cassette tapes and compact discs, as well as vintage memorabilia. He is an accomplished pianist, having toured with several well-known groups like Liberty and New Desire. As a sound and recording engineer, Charlie was nominated in 2008 for an Emmy® Award for his work on a featured documentary on Kennesaw State University's Men's Basketball team. Charlie and his girlfriend, singer Linda Foster, have worked with singers, musicians, promoters and pastors over the years promoting Southern Gospel Music. Email: [chsexton@mindspring.com](mailto:chsexton@mindspring.com) [www.sweetcreekpromotions.com](http://www.sweetcreekpromotions.com)