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PRAISE UNTO THEE.  
PSALMS 30:12

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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.

Publisher- Rob Patz

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Greetings and salutations! Welcome to the July's Publisher's Point. I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July, and as we look at the month of July, many exciting things are happening.

On the Fourth of July, I always think of the freedom that we as Christians have been given. To think that we have the opportunity to live the lives we do because Christ died on the cross for you and I! That is true *independence*. How we choose to live our lives through Christ is what's important. I challenge you during this month of independence to use the gift of your salvation. If you don't know the true independence of living a Christian life, email me and we can talk. [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).

I look forward to seeing all of you in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in August, for Christian Country Expo, August 24th through 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be four great days of Christian Country music, as well as celebrating the heroes who have sacrificed so we can enjoy the freedoms that we at times take for granted.

If you are from the great state of Alabama, I would love to see you on September 12! I have the honor of being the emcee for the Hope's Journey Homecoming. I will be there, along with the Browders, Josh and Ashley Franks, and of course the host group, Hope's Journey. It's going to be a great time and we would love to have you there.

Check out this month's edition of the SGN Scoops magazine and enjoy some outstanding articles, from what I believe is one of the *best* teams in Southern Gospel music!

NOVEMBER 2 - 5

# 2015

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# CREEK SIDE

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### EMCEES

VONDA EASLEY AND AVA KASICH

# SHOWCASES

## TUESDAY NOV 3RD

## THURSDAY NOV 5TH



COMMON LOVE TRIO

JOHN LANIER

SARA HAMBRICK

MALACHI

THE SHARPS



THE CONNELLS

ASCENSION QT

TERRY COLLINS

CLEARVISION QT

REVIVED-QT



REDEEMED TRIO

SONGS OF FAITH

EXODUS

BROKEN VESSELS

KEITH STAPLER



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ALLIANCE QT

DRUMMOND FAMILY

MCKAY PROJECT

THE BRANSCOMBS



THE WEBB QT

BILLY HODGES

NIKKI ELLISON

THE RIDERS

PINE RIDGE BOYS

## ARTIST APPEARING AT THE DAYTIME SHOWCASES

Common Love Trio-10:00am | John Lanier-10:11am | Sara Hambrick-10:22am | Malachi-10:33am

The Sharps-10:44am | The Connells-10:55am | Ascension Quartet-11:06am | Terry Collins-11:17am

ClearVision Quartet-11:28am | Revived Quartet-11:39am | Redeemed Trio-11:50am

The Songs of Faith-12:01pm | Exodus-12:12pm | Broken Vessels-12:23pm | Keith Stapler-12:34pm

From the Ashes-12:45pm | Alliance Quartet-12:56pm | The Drummond Family-1:07pm(TUE)

McKay Project-1:07pm(THUR) | The Branscombs-1:18pm | The Webb Quartet-1:29pm | Billy Hodges-1:40pm |

Nikki Ellison-1:51pm | The Riders-2:02pm | The Pine Ridge Boys-2:13

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# MIDNIGHT PRAYER

**CREEK SIDE**  
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*John 14:13-14* Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it



## **MONDAY NIGHT**

*The Williamsons will be leading music and worship at midnight*



## **TUESDAY NIGHT**

*The Drummond Family will be leading music and worship at midnight*



## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

*Rocky and Gail Smith have experienced tradedy through the murders of their two teenage sons, Gail and Rocky strive to encourage "Triumph Through Tradgedy".. They will will be leading music and worship at midnight*



## **THURSDAY NIGHT**

*We saved the best for last, on the last night of the covention we will be having a special prayer and worship service just for the kids at Creekside..we will begin at 9pm*



# A Letter From the Editor

By Lorraine Walker

As the temperature rises and summertime concert events move into full swing, it's a pleasure and an honor to bring you another edition of SGN Scoops digital magazine. Over the last few months our covers have highlighted the top new and established artists in Gospel music. This month we continue that tradition with the exciting members of Tribute Quartet.

I first met Gary Casto about 20 years ago when the trio he was with sang at a church not far from us. Gary was the consummate Gospel music professional even then, engaging with the audience as a gracious host, and effortlessly leading the artists through their program of music. He has only put the finishing touches on his leadership skills, managing the award-winning Tribute Quartet and teaching at the Steve Hurst School of music. The rest of the Quartet, Josh Singletary, Riley Harrison Clark and Anthony Davis, have each made their mark on the industry, fans and audiences in their own special ways.

Along with Tribute, we are pleased to showcase many artists who are touching lives. From the legendary Ronnie Hinson and Gold City to newcomers Sarah Davison and the Parsons, and including

the Hyssongs family and the family of artists at the Nashville Christ Church.

One group whose story deeply touches their listeners is the Freedom Singers, whose members escaped a terrible life and almost lost theirs in an attempt to reach freedom. Do we fully appreciate our freedom until it is challenged?

As I write this, I wonder if each of us are doing our utmost to make our mark on those whose lives we touch. Do those around us see us as generous, loving, hopeful children of God? Or do we spend more time huddled in our own backyards instead of learning how to love our neighbors?

We hope you can see how each of the artists featured in this issue have been influencing their world and how the grace of Jesus fills and overflows each of their lives. As the sunshine floods our summer days, let's all shine the love of the Son today. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)

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Help Spread the news  
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Back to the Rochester, NY Area



Introducing Bob and Joyce Spamer of Spencerport, NY. They have a mission to bring Southern Gospel Music back to the Rochester, NY area and are asking that you pray God's blessings on what they are doing. It has been a real struggle they say, as there has not been anyone in the area to promote Southern Gospel for years and with God's help and your Prayers they believe this will be a success. Do you know someone in area? Tell them about SGNY and join us in prayer for Bob, Joyce and Southern Gospel NY.



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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

THE POWER OF GOSPEL MUSIC

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



My heart is overflowing with thankfulness as I write this article for the treasured readers of this wonderful digital magazine. God is faithful, and Howard and I are determined to be a testimony to His goodness. July is the birthday month for both of us. My precious husband will celebrate his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I will admit to turning 87. God is indeed faithful, and we trust Him to give us wisdom in the choices we make at this season of our lives.



We are not able to travel as much, but we are always thankful when there is an opportunity to share our passion for Gospel music. I believe that our beloved music can be a powerful force across the nation, and is needed in our present culture as never before. I thank God for the huge number of people who share this passion for *God-centered* music and the message of hope it brings. Oh yes, my LIFE has been blessed by being a part of it.

I will forever be thankful for the privilege of working with Bill and Gloria Gaither in the years Howard and I lived in Nashville. When we moved back to Texas, Bill invited me to be one of the Homecoming Friends on the Gaither videos. I will never forget the 1993 taping in Alexandria, Indiana, home of Bill and Gloria.

The excitement and LOVE in that studio was on the faces of this huge gathering of singers and musicians there to celebrate Gospel music. A copy of *Turn Your Radio On* and *Old Friends* will give you an idea of the gospel music LEGENDS at the taping.

Many who were there have passed on: James Blackwood, Hovie Lister, Jake Hess, Howard and Vestal Goodman, Eva Mae LeFevre, Doug Oldham, Brock Speer, Ira Stanphill, Mosie Lister, Glen Payne,



George Younce, Rex Nelon, Doris Akers, Johnny Cook, Wally Varner, Jackie Marshall, Gordon Stoker, Jackie Marshall, Roger Bennett, and Danny Gaither. They are missed but we are thankful a host of Gaither Homecoming friends at that memorable taping are still traveling and singing the Gospel.

We can all rejoice knowing this taping was part of the beginning of the incomparable success of Gaither Homecoming videos, absolute proof of the power of a Gospel song.

My purpose for writing this article is to keep *shining a light* for Gospel music and to encourage those who support it. May God bless all of our combined efforts in sharing the good news of the Gospel.

*Write to Lou Wills Hildreth, [gospvideo@aol.com](mailto:gospvideo@aol.com), at P. O. Box 271106 Houston, TX 77277.*

PHOTO A. Gaither Videos Appreciation Plaque and birthday roses from Bill and Gloria

PHOTO B. Lou, Bill and Gloria Gaither at Homecoming Concert

PHOTO C. Bill Gaither presiding at Lou's 2005 GMA Hall Of Fame Induction



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# Featured Groups for July

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**Ascension Quartet**

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<http://www.appointedqt.com>

**Blackwood Brothers Quartet**

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

**Bradford Ministries**

<http://www.facebook.com/bradfordministries1>

**Bros4**

<http://www.bros4.net>

**Chris Himmel Ministries**

<http://www.chrishimmelministries.com>

**Christy Sutherland**

<http://www.christysutherland.net>

**Collisons**

<http://www.collisontrio.com>

**Cross Pointe Trio**

<http://www.crosspointemusic.com>

**David Clydes Haynes**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/davidclydehaynes>

**Delivered**

<http://www.we-are-delivered.com>

**Divine Mercy**

<http://www.divinemercysingers.com>

**4 His Praise Trio**

<http://www.4hispraisetrio.org>

**Full Life Trio**

<http://www.fulllifetrio.com>

**Global Promo**

<http://www.globalpromo.org>

**The Helmsmen**

<http://www.thenewhelmsmen.com>

**The Heritage Quartet**

<http://www.theheritagequartet.com>

**The Inmans**

<http://www.theinmans.com>

**Jeff Steinberg Ministry Team**

<http://www.tinygiant.com>

**Jim Sheldon**

<http://www.jimsheldonmsic.com>

**John & Dody Martin**

<http://www.martinministries.org>

**Ken Hornsby**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/kenhornsbymusicministry>

**Living Fountains**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/livingfountains>

**Lumber River Quartet**

<http://www.lumberriverministries.com>

**Mark Dubbeld Family**

<http://www.mjdubbeld.com>

**The Masters Men + 1**

<http://www.mastersmenquartet.com>

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**New Destiny Quartet**

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**One Way Quartet**

<http://www.onewayquartet.org>

**Persuaded**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PersuadedVideo>

**Pine Ridge Boys**

<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

**The Representatives**

[www.therepresentativesquartet.net](http://www.therepresentativesquartet.net)

**Robert Blankenship**

[www.gospelgigs.com/rblankenship](http://www.gospelgigs.com/rblankenship)

**Servants Call**

<http://www.servantscall.net>

**Siouxland Gospel Promotions**

<http://www.facebook.com/SiouxlandGospelPromotions>

**Soul Seeking Disciples**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/thessds>

**Southern Plainsmen Quartet**

[www.southernplainsmen.com](http://www.southernplainsmen.com)

**Southern Tradition**

<http://www.americanheritagemusic.com>

**Steve Jones**

<http://www.stevejonesgospelmusicministry.com>

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<http://www.gospelgigs.com/stephenwoodministries>

**Three Parts Grace**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/threepartsgrace>

**Unity 4 Quartet**

<http://www.theunityfour.com>

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# 24 Karats

A Look At The Legendary

## Gold City Quartet

By Justin Gilmore

In 1980, five men in Dahlonega, Georgia came together to form what is now one of the most celebrated and most beloved Southern Gospel groups, Gold City. The original lineup consisted of Bob Oliver (Tenor), Jerry Ritchie (Lead), Ken Trussell (Baritone), Dallas Gilliland (Bass) and Larry Goddard (Piano). Gilliland would be replaced shortly after formation with a man who has since become synonymous with the group, Tim Riley.

A multiple Singing News Fan Award winner and Gospel Music Hall of Fame member, Tim Riley is well known for his incredibly rich and clear bass voice. Riley became a stalwart member (until 2004, and later 2014) of the group whose lineup has experienced many changes over the years.

Many great vocalists have lent their talents to this popular group including: tenors Brian Free, Jay Parrack and Steve Ladd, leads Ivan Parker and Jonathan Wilburn, as well as baritones Mike LeFevre and Mark Trammell and bass singers Bill Lawrence and Aaron McCune. Each of these men has carried on the legacy of Gold City with their own groups, which include Brian Free and Assurance, Jay Parrack and Vocal Event, Mark Trammell Quartet, and Wilburn and Wilburn. Despite all of the changes, one thing remains the same: their desire to spread the

Gospel of Jesus Christ and their love of Southern Gospel Music. Each lineup maintains that distinctive Gold City sound and today's group does not stray from this at all.

Daniel Riley, one of Tim Riley's talented sons, has sung baritone for the group since the departure of Mark Trammell in 2002. He also serves as the owner and manager of the now legendary quartet. Riley's excitement for this group clearly shows, as evidenced by the following statement: "One of the all-time highlights has been traveling with my dad. This has been something I never thought I'd be doing." His father Tim Riley rejoined the group as the bass singer in 2009 after a brief retirement. Tim remained with the group full time until last year when he suffered a stroke.

Tim Riley is currently on the mend and is doing well. In his place, audiences are treated to the booming bass voice of former Mercy's Mark vocalist Chris West, who according to Daniel Riley, "came on as a long-term interim fill-in," but now has assumed the role full-time. Riley has high praise for West saying, "Since Dad is only doing select touring dates at this time, Chris has been a blessing and great addition to our group."

Following the departure of tenor Dan Keeton in 2013, former Palmetto State Quartet member Robert Fulton



joined the quartet. Fulton's clear, resonant tenor voice stays true to the classic Gold City sound and delights audiences all over the world.

Bryan Elliott, formerly of the Perrys, has served as the pianist for the group since 2010. Elliott's skill on the keys is comparable to Anthony Burger and Gordon Mote.

Rounding out the group is lead singer Chip Pullen, whose powerhouse vocals and great personality have endeared him to the fans. Pullen joined Gold City in 2013 after performing with the Anchormen for a number of years. In addition to the vocalists, another vital part of the group is road manager and sound man Chuck Howe.

Now in their 35th year, Gold City is still going strong. Dedicated to spreading the Gospel to all people, the quar-

tet continues to delight audiences around the world. The country of Brazil recently played host to the group as they performed in several cities. Riley had this to say concerning memorable trips, "We just got back from a very memorable trip to Brazil. We were also privileged to tour in Belfast, Northern Ireland, which was a great experience too." The quartet is also dedicated to producing quality recordings that feature great vocals and showcase the powerful message of the Gospel.

Speaking of quality recordings, Gold City's latest mainline effort *Hymn Revival*, released in 2014, is a powerful collection of treasured songs of the Church as only Gold City can sing them. Listeners will surely be blessed by songs such as the tender "He Hideth My Soul," the anthem feel of "Power of The Cross," and the fresh twist to "Farther Along," featuring Tim Riley's classic bass voice. The younger Riley states, "Gordon Mote and I co-produced it and we have been thrilled at the response it has been given. We released two singles from this project so far and both have reached the Top 20 at radio. 'Part The Waters' and 'Power Of The Cross' have both been met with much excitement by our fans."

This recording joins a long list of incredible CDs recorded by the group over their long history. The current lineup is clearly inspired by the quartets of old. Riley exclaims, "[The] Blackwood Brothers, Statesmen, and everyone dad has been with, Dixie Echoes, Southmen, and Gold City have all shaped me musically."

This beloved quartet has experienced great success over their long career as evidenced by their many awards and accolades. Among these are Singing News Fan Awards for Favorite Group (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993), Favorite Traditional Male Quartet (2000, 2001, 2003), Album of the Year (1989 - Movin' Up; 1991





- Windows Of Home; 1993 & 1994 - Pillars Of Faith; 2001 - Are You Ready), Song of the Year (1987 - When I Get Carried Away; 1988 - Midnight Cry; 1993 - There Rose A Lamb), Favorite Band (1998, 2000), and Favorite Video (1988 - Moving Up To Gloryland; 1989 - Movin' Up; 1992 - KingsGold with the Kingsmen Quartet). They have also had several number one songs including: "Midnight Cry," "When I Get Carried Away," "I'm Not Giving Up," "In Time, On Time, Every Time," and most recently "Peter, James, And John."

Now in 2015, Gold City plans to continue to use their talents for the Lord. This year will be a monumental one for the quartet. "We are preparing for a new recording this summer, listening to songs and making plans to go into the studio soon. We are slated to do several tour dates with some former Gold City alumni as part of the Heritage of Gold Tour. We join Wilburn and Wilburn, The LeFevre Quartet, and Jay Parrack and Steve Ladd for those dates. We hope folks will keep an eye on our tour schedule for those," exclaims Daniel Riley. Tim Riley fans should not despair, as his son explains: "We also have several dates that will include my father. Tim Riley is still very much in demand and can forevermore still sing, even if I do say so as a biased son. He will be with us at Gadsden, AL on July 11th; at Silver Dollar City in August, and Springfield, MO in November, just to name a few of the dates he's confirmed to be at."

Even with this great success, Riley and the rest of the quartet are humble and stay true to the call. He states, "Gold City just wants to continue to bring to our audiences great Gospel music and the life-changing message of the Gospel. If we can help our audiences to escape the cares of the world for a couple of hours and encourage them that Jesus loves them and is for them, and wants to save their souls and be Lord of their life, then our day is

complete." These men truly love the Lord, believe the message of their songs, and delight fans with their incredible talent. This is what truly makes Gold City: 24-karat gold!

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By Lorraine Walker

It's July already and that means there is less than four months until Creekside Gospel Music Convention invades Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. On November 2nd through 5<sup>th</sup>, Southern Gospel and Christian Country artists and fans will converge upon the Smoky Mountain Convention Center for four nights and three days of music, music and more music!



If you haven't ordered your tickets yet, please do so today on the Creekside website (link below). Book your rooms and plan your travel, because time is slipping away! There will be daily showcases and nightly concerts, midnight prayer and fellowship with artists in the exhibit hall. Pigeon Forge has many restaurants and other fun ways to enjoy your days within a short distance of the Convention Center. If you are looking for a full, busy and exciting vacation, your destination is Creekside. If you are longing for a quiet,

spiritual retreat where you soak in God's music and Word, this is also the place for you! Take advantage of this opportunity today!

This month we have more news of special guests who have confirmed their appearances at Creekside. This does not include surprise artists who will show up for the Diamond Awards! Names recently added to our roster include: Mark209, 11<sup>th</sup> Hour, Mickey Bell, Hyssongs.



Artists already named include the Freemans, the Guardians, Jordan's Bridge, the Hoskins Family, John Lanier, Pine Ridge Boys, Ascension Quartet, Billy Hodges and many more. These artists will be performing during the daytime and in the evening. You won't



want to miss a minute.

Monday night is the Lou Hildreth Honors, where the legendary Lou Hildreth joins us to celebrate the life of a guest artist that has done great things in Gospel music. Tuesday night we will present the 2015 Diamond Awards where we honor the best in Gospel music. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jerry Goff and Little Jan Buckner-Goff as our hosts for this special evening. The Diamond Award voting continues now on the SGN Scoops website, so drop by to click on the link and vote for your favorites in The Diamond Awards Top Ten. Make sure your voice is heard and vote today! [www.sgnscoops.com/2015-diamond-awards](http://www.sgnscoops.com/2015-diamond-awards).



Wednesday and Thursday nights we continue with great music and special guests, as well as the Red Back Hymnal Choir.

Keep checking Creekside updates on Facebook and on the web. This year we have VIP Packages, which include lodging, tickets and special events. VIP guests will be invited to a special backstage party as well. Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2015 rates start as low as \$176 Per Person (Based On Double Occupancy.) Call Rob at 360-933-0741 to reserve your room today. Don't miss this time of great Gospel music, fellowship and fun. Artists and attendees, please call Rob Patz for more information at 360-920-4057 or email him at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).



### Final Notes

Creekside Gospel Music Convention would like to hear from you! Tell us what you want to see and hear in November. Creekside also needs your help. If you would like to volunteer through various promotional activities throughout the year, or with onsite tasks during the convention, please email Rob at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com). For more information, latest news and artists scheduled to appear, visit the Creekside page on Facebook here: [www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention](http://www.facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention). You can find Creekside on the web at [www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com](http://www.creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com).

**Fall Tree Photo Courtesy of Wolfgang Staudt**

# MIDNIGHT PRAYER

12

CREEKSIDE GOSPEL MUSIC CONVENTION

John 14:13-14 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it

	<h2>MONDAY NIGHT</h2> <p><i>The Williamsons will be leading music and worship at midnight</i></p>
	<h2>TUESDAY NIGHT</h2> <p><i>The Drummond Family will be leading music and worship at midnight</i></p>
	<h2>WEDNESDAY NIGHT</h2> <p><i>Rocky and Gail Smith have experienced tragedy through the murders of their two teenage sons, Gail and Rocky strive to encourage "Triumph Through Tredgedy".. They will be leading music and worship at midnight</i></p>
	<h2>THURSDAY NIGHT</h2> <p><i>We saved the best for last, on the last night of the convention we will be having a special prayer and worship service just for the kids at Creekside..we will begin at 9pm</i></p>



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# Tribute



*Preserving the Heritage and Promoting the Future  
of Gospel Music*

By Matt Baker

“Tribute: an act, statement, or gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect or admiration”. That’s the first definition that comes up in a word search online for the word *tribute*. Gospel music has all kinds of tributes. I was present in the side section with some of the artists in 2010 at the National Quartet Convention when they paid tribute to some of the notable artists in a celebration of 100 years of Gospel Music. Now THAT was a tribute! We see tribute tours of older artists in different genres, different styles of Christian music, and we see tributes to great athletes of years gone by. But one group of four men based out of Nashville, Tennessee, are spending their lives paying tribute to what Gospel music represents and who has been the theme of songs down through the years. We’re visiting with Tribute Quartet this month, and you’ll love what they have to say to us about their motto: “Preserving the Heritage and Promoting

the Future of Gospel Music.”

Tribute Quartet wasn’t formed by a pair of rookies to the Gospel Music world. Lead singer Gary Casto, along with baritone and pianist Josh Singleary, formed the group after spending time traveling with one of the most notable family groups in Gospel Music history, The Wilburns. Being with



such a seasoned group of singers can also be a learning time for a young artist. “I learned how to love the people. I’ve always loved people, but I really paid attention to *how* to love the people from the position I was allowed to have. It is a different experience because your attention is spread in so many directions. It’s one of the most exhilarating and rewarding aspects of what we do!” says Josh of his time with the Wilburns. Gary adds, “I learned to always give 110% when fulfilling the call God placed on my life. And always sing great songs, and remember that we are in the uplifting business”.

Groups like the Wilburns made their mark because of great songs. Probably their most popular song that they recorded was “Outside the Gate,” and Tribute, falling right in line with their name, paid “tribute” to them by re-recording it on a project called *Hit Replay*. Tribute has a unique way of staging this song and Josh recalls how it came about. “Tony Gore and Jonathan Wilburn were members of the group (The Wilburns) at the time that it was recorded and staged. Tony had the idea one night, to take off singing it a cappella whilst leaving the stage. It stayed in the group’s program from that point on. When Gary and I were members, we closed the program every night singing it a cappella and walking down the aisle. Tribute found it fitting to keep that tradition. It really is a beautiful moment”.

While “Outside the Gate” from their *Hit Replay* project was a great success, there are a host of other songs on it that you will remember, as well as a sequel to that project, titled *Hit Replay Again*. I asked tenor Riley Clark what it meant to him, as a young artist, to keep these songs

alive. “It’s so important,” he replies. “The songs of those projects were so beautifully written and have lyrics that are absolutely still relevant to our world today. I also love the way most of our audiences remember them and light up when we start singing them.” “I believe it is very important,” adds Gary. “I state this night after night: a great song is a lasting song. There have been many great songs over the years that people need to hear. That’s why we keep recording the *Hit Replay* series.”

When one looks at groups that made a lasting impact, like the Wilburns, you can’t help but realize that all of it hinges on the song. The song selection process is vital for artists. They have to find songs that fit them, fit their message, and then arrange them to meet the needs of the group vocally. Gary takes us through part of that process.



“We collect songs all year from writers and publishers. Then, we meet with our record company, Daywind Records, and our producer, Roger Talley. The sifting begins to ultimately settle on 11 songs to present to the public.” This is an often time consuming process, but a process that pays off when they see an audience moved and ministered to by the song’s lyrics, melody, and harmony. Tribute doesn’t stop at preserving the heritage left behind by so many great artists and songs. There are new roads to be traveled, new venues to sing in, new avenues to reach out to audiences and fans, and new songs to be sung and heard. One thing can be found upon a deeper look into the ministry of Tribute: they put action to their intentions.

One way to promote the future is to invest in young talent. That’s where tenor Riley Clark and bass singer Anthony Davis come in. One might say that Gospel music had an ‘arresting’ effect on Anthony from the start, as he was formerly a police officer who attended his first



Gospel concert by seeing a lineup of men whose talent and impact still are felt today: the Gold City lineup of Jay Parrack, Jonathan Wilburn (the Wilburn



heritage continues, and still continues today with Jonathan Wilburn and his son, Jordan, known as Wilburn and Wilburn), Mark Trammell, and Tim Riley. “I was hooked instantly,” Anthony says. “I sat amazed the whole time thinking, ‘if they can do

what they are doing, and I can do what they are doing, then why am I not doing what they are doing?’ I set out after this new dream, trying out for my first professional group in the local community center with the Dixie Echoes after Billy Todd had announced his retirement.



After traveling for many years with a part-time group in Kentucky, I was hired with this great group of guys and welcomed into the Tribute family”.

Investing in the young talent of Gospel music comes from *knowing* the young talent in Gospel Music. The men from Tribute have a front row seat to some of the finest youth in Gospel at the Steve Hurst School of Music, where they all serve as part of the faculty. At a concert with Tribute, you will hear Gary speak very highly of the school: “Foremost, I’m a fan of this music, and want to see it continue for many years to come. With that in mind, I can’t think of a better way to aid in that process than by investing in aspiring artists who have a desire to sing the Gospel,” he states. And their investment has proven to have a great return, as Riley Clark was a student for many summers at Steve Hurst School of Music before joining Tribute.

It would be difficult to promote the great future of Gospel music without having great songs to stage. For several years running, Tribute has found themselves in the mix for Song of the Year many times, along with scoring top plays on songs like “Good News From Jerusalem,” an effort from the mighty pen of Dianne Wilkinson and co-writer, Jerry Salley. “Good News from Jerusalem’ has probably been my favorite radio release that I have been a part of,” says Anthony. “It’s the whole Gospel story, rolled into one powerful song!” Riley adds, “I have a few songs that speak to me every time I sing them, one being ‘Homecoming Day’. I have friends and loved ones that have gone on to be with the Lord that I can’t wait to see, but I also have a Heavenly Father that I long for now like never before. Secondly, but equally as good, would be ‘God of All My Days’, from our newest album, *Journey of Hope*. It’s one that speaks to me frequently on and off the stage.



I try to remember those lyrics any time I'm going through something".

Of course, having younger men on a bus with you all the time provides an opportunity for a good story. Anthony Davis says, "Gary is quite 'jumpy', so even when we aren't trying to scare him, he scares easily. So, we instead gave up on not trying to scare him, and now ALL of us try often! We have many videos that *someone* might leak to the press and to various social media outlets."

That *someone* is Josh Singletary, and his presence online with their jokes and pranks makes for great entertainment, as well as a nice outlet for people to see a different side of Tribute. "We have reached a time in history where the population is more engaged visually and socially by technology than they are by any other form of media," says Josh, of Tribute's social media outlets. "We, as ministers of the Gospel, have been allowed the freedom

to make a positive presence and impact in a massive social sphere. The same goes for the business side of things. The cliché, 'out of sight, out of mind', plays a big role, as well. If it is not known you're there, how will 'they' know you even exist, much less have anything positive to say? So it plays a very big role by aiding in accomplishing any goals



we have with the public platform we've been given".

These men have been given gifts; they're using them vastly on and off the stage, to foremost give glory to God, but to also have a positive impact on the people they are around. So whether it's logging on to their website to see what they've been up to lately, or listening intently to the message of the Gospel in each song they sing, you can find yourself being blessed and encouraged by the ministry of Tribute Quartet. Preserving the heritage, and promoting the future of Gospel Music? Mission accomplished.





## *“Can You Handle It”*

**What They Want vs.  
What They Need**

By David Staton

*“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”*

*2 Timothy 4:3*

Most of the time when we hear this scripture, we think of slick televangelists who twist or distort the Gospel in order to gain crowds and financial gain. It's easy to look at people like that and know they are not adhering to sound doctrine and telling people what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear. This article is for Gospel singers and for the fans that love to hear them sing. I have spent my life singing with various artists, traveling all over and singing for crowds in audito-

riums and churches. I will be the first to tell you that if you are going to be effective in music ministry, you'd better have a good grasp on the entertainment aspect of what you do. If you don't, I doubt that you will be able to hold anyone's attention long enough to do them any good. At the same time, if you're standing in a pulpit or on any stage and claim to be a ministry, you'd better have a good grasp on ministering to the needs of people. That is what ministry is all about; meeting the spiritual and physical *needs* of people. In my years of singing, I've been in services and concerts where people's needs were met. I have watched people experience salvation, answering a call to ministry, deepen their relationship with Christ, and even experience physical healing. Those moments are priceless and have kept me

on the road for many years.

It's easy to think that since you're singing Gospel music, then you are ministering to the needs of the people you're singing to. After all, it's Gospel music, right? Well, not necessarily. I would challenge any artist to look at three things that may just make you reevaluate and look at whether or not you are telling people what they want to hear or what they need to hear.

First, look at the rapidly changing culture that we live in and how the church is, or is not, impacting the world we live in. With social and moral issues tearing down the United States and what seems to be a silent church, our message to the church needs to challenge them to have a greater impact and influence on the world around them. Most gospel singers will tell you that since the only place they sing is inside the four walls of a church, their ministry is to the church. If that is the case, ask yourself if the church today needs to hear the same message they heard in the 1970s. Most will quickly say, "The message never changes! The blood, the cross, mercy and grace never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever!" Well, while that's true, that is the message that needs to be proclaimed to the 75% of the population that does not go to church. Remember, your ministry is to the church. They already know all of that. We have to decide if we are there to serve comfort food or give them something with nutritional value. They need to hear something that wakes them and shakes them to impact the lost around them.

Second, look at the lyrical content of your songs. If your message is limited to songs about heaven and how God will help them make it through another trial, 2 Timothy 4:3 may apply as much to you as it does the mega church pastor who is only presenting a portion of the gospel in order to grow his church and bank account. Is there anything wrong with those heaven songs and songs of encouragement? Absolutely not! I love to hear these songs. I also love Little Debbie Swiss Rolls, but a steady diet of them will make me fat, lazy and unhealthy. Welcome to most churches in the United States. While the world around us is crumbling, we like to gather in a sanctuary and hear what we want to hear rather than what we need to hear. Sing me a song about heaven, but don't remind me of the people around me who won't go to heaven because I'm too lazy or biblically illiterate to share the gospel with them. Sing me a song about how God will hurry and bring me through this trial, not about what He may be trying to teach me

in the trial. Sing me a song about the rapture so God will rescue me out of this cruel world, don't sing or talk about how I'm supposed to have an impact on the world. Are you seeing how 2 Timothy 4:3 can easily apply to all of us?

Third, I want you to look at how telling the church what they need to hear as opposed to what they want to hear may affect you. If your message is what the church needs to hear, it may be challenging and convicting to congregations, church staff and maybe even pastors. If that happens to be the case, you may not be invited back. One more date that you can't go back to is less income, less payroll, less prestige. However, if you go in and throw Swiss Rolls to the crowd, make them feel good, you may even book that date again next year before you tear down the sound system. Do you see how making the right decision may cost you? You have a choice to make. Let's look at the long-term results of both sides.

#### WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR

You arrive at the date, set up, go to the bus and get dressed. Thirty minutes before the concert you walk in as people are arriving. When you enter the sanctuary, you see a lot of white hair. You know that if you do what the crowd wants to hear, you'll sell CDs, you will get a good response and you'll probably be invited back every year. You'll sing your songs of encouragement so they will be assured that God will get them through the week and you'll sing some old songs about heaven and have what I call a Gospel pep rally. They'll sing along, many will cry and some may even testify about how thankful they are for their own salvation. After the concert, you'll sell a lot of those classic CDs that are full of what that crowd wants to hear. You made everyone feel good and the offering and sales were good. Everyone leaves happy thinking about how good God has been to them.

#### WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR

You arrive at the date, set up and walk through the auditorium praying for the people who will fill the seats. You go to the bus and get dressed and come into the sanctuary and see people. You pay no attention to age or gender. You see people who have gone to a church that probably hasn't seen significant growth in their lifetime. Many of them have heard the Gospel so much they're numb to it. For too many of them, Christianity is something they only do on Sunday and their idea of who God

is and what He can do is limited to an hour on Sunday morning. Each one of those people have family members who will not darken the door of a church and for whatever reason, they have never had anything move them enough to share the gospel with their lost family. Those songs you have sung for years about Jesus, the Judgment, Heaven and hell are real and if something doesn't motivate them to do something, many, many people will never have someone really share the gospel with them.

You take the stage and you forget about all of the corny jokes that have been told by generations of quartets, and you don't go for the standing ovation on that old classic song that always gets the same reaction. Instead you do music that speaks to the church with a message that is relevant and urgent. When you speak between songs, you say something that moves people. You remember the fields that are ripe for harvest that Jesus spoke of and you realize that your mission is to recruit workers, because they are few. You give a chal-

lenging presentation.

You may not get the crowd on their feet, the offering may not be as good, and the pastor may even feel threatened because in the last hour, you've challenged the congregation to make a difference more than he has in 15 years. When the concert is over, some people are so consumed with what they have just heard that they are in an attitude of prayer concerning their lost loved ones. They walk right by your product table and don't stop to buy your latest CD or package deal. However, in the coming weeks, God uses something you said or sang to move them to share the gospel with those people in their life and some of them accept Christ. You have helped to recruit and equip the church to do what they should be doing.

If you're going to have a ministry to the church, you have a choice. What they want or what they need. Choose wisely!

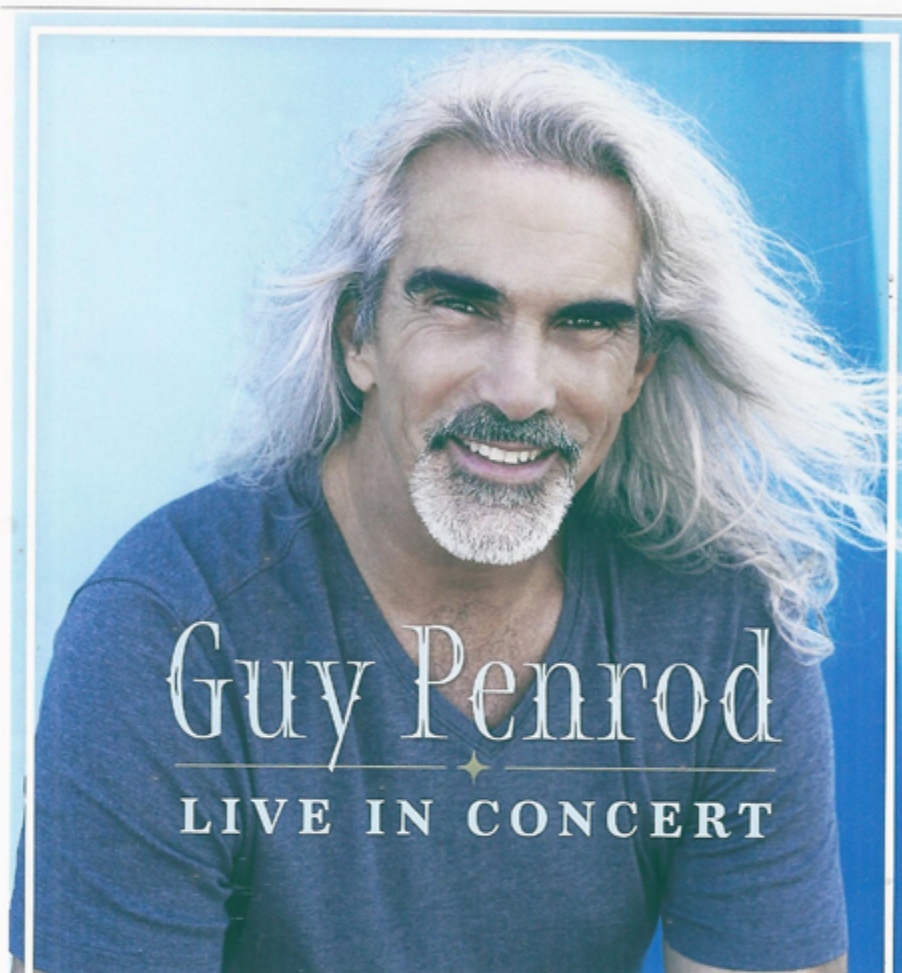


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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Sara Davison

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

As the heritage of Gospel music lives on in our hearts, it's the new faces answering the call that keep the dream alive. Such is the case with a newer group to many of us, the girls of HighRoad. I had the joy of meeting Sarah Davison, pianist and vocalist for the group back in April at Singing in the Sun. Sarah's love for the Lord and bubbly personality were the two things I quickly noted, along with her incredible, God-given talents on stage. So here we are, turning our attention to a sweet, born and raised Iowa girl, who just so happens to share in the same dream, to see this great music continue on from generation to generation. Take it away, Sarah!

*Erin: Share with the readers how HighRoad got its start.*

Sarah: HighRoad started after we graduated from college in Nashville. It began with just two of us doing home concerts and churches on Sundays, traveling in a little Honda all over the South! We took every chance to do it more, and now, we really feel that we are doing what we are called to do.

*Erin: What is the story behind the name of the group?*

Sarah: We decided on the name HighRoad back in 2010 when we first began singing and playing together. We brainstormed for a time and came up with this name after reading some scripture that said to set our sights on things above; to be 'heaven-minded and take the narrow path toward achieving the goal of seeing our Savior someday.' So the name HighRoad was a perfect fit - it says it all!

*Erin: What was it like for an Iowa girl to travel all the way to the city of Nashville, and to attend college at Belmont University?*

Sarah: Well, when I moved to Nashville, I had never even driven on an interstate. There are 180 people in the town where I grew up and we lived 10 miles outside that town! I was excited, yet terrified, but I knew that God had me here for a reason. I couldn't have done it without my supportive family back home and the care packages of cinnamon rolls from Mom! Attending Belmont was a huge blessing and opened many doors. Of course, that's where I first met the girls of HighRoad! I also interned at



Universal Music Group during my senior year and after graduating I began working for country artist George Strait, at his management. I learned so many valuable lessons by the work and people I met through school. I'm very thankful.

*Erin: What was it like working with the masterful Ben Isaacs in the studio on your latest recording?*

Sarah: We absolutely loved working with Ben. He is one of the most superb human beings and talented musicians I've ever met. Just being around him makes you want to do a good job playing and singing. We got to play our own instruments on this album too - that was a real treat for us. We look forward to sharing a lot more future memories with Ben and Mark in the studio.

*Erin: Any 'roadie mishaps' or embarrassing moments you'd like to share?*

Sarah: Oh boy! We've had a few and could probably write a short book. Last year, we actually drove to the wrong church in the wrong town. We pulled up and walked in the door and said, "Hi! We made it!" And their reaction was just a blank stare and finally someone said, "Who are you all??" We barely made it to the correct church down the road in time for the concert. But the biggest mishap that I've experienced was being left at a rest stop in West Virginia in my pajamas at 6:00am. No phone. No wallet. I had gone in for a bottle of water and walked out to see the bus rolling down the road. I ended up having a kind lady call the highway patrol and they found the bus on the road and escorted me out to it...in my pajamas. I was mortified. Lessons learned the hard way you never have to learn again!

*Erin: Who would be the top three musicians on your*

*Bucket List to share the stage with someday?*

Sarah: Patty Loveless, Sonya Isaacs and Vince Gill

*Erin: On your days off, what is your ideal, picture perfect afternoon?*

Sarah: I love to crochet and bake. I have always had this idea that someday I wanted to open a pie shop that had live 20's Ragtime music and homemade pies!

*Erin: A 'Younger Perspective' must-ask question... What is your can't live without, favorite food?*

Sarah: I can't live without my mom's cinnamon rolls. She makes them from scratch and it's an old recipe from our family.

*Erin: I'm sure the fans would love to hear about how you came to know Christ?*

Sarah: Absolutely! I grew up playing a lot of music with my dad who leads a Cowboy Church back home. I was baptized when I was really young and my parents always raised me to think of it more as a dedication since I couldn't remember it. They told me, "If the Lord lays it on your heart to go forward and be baptized, do it." And I did, one day when I felt the Holy Spirit so heavily. I knew what the Lord was doing in me and it changed me. It was the greatest day of my life and always will be.

*Erin: What has the Lord been speaking to your heart in your daily devotions recently?*

Sarah: Recently, the Lord has really been teaching me to trust. I lost my Grandma two weeks ago. I came home to see her one afternoon and she was in heaven by the next morning. It was really tough because she was so special to me; we were buds. I've been learning that it's ok to grieve the loss, but even better to celebrate the gain. God




has taught me a lot just in the last couple weeks since losing her. He has shown me that His plan and will are perfect. I need to trust Him in everything. Not just the little things that don't always matter, but also the big things that are near and dear to me.

As the song says, "You never know what someone's going through." You might be experiencing the same type of loss as Sarah is walking through, or you may be healing from a great loss that dates back years ago. From experience, I can assure you that over time, it becomes easier to cope, but especially when you love deeply, the hole left in your heart is one that never completely heals. I think that's a real picture of Christ's love for us. He went to the Cross, died for our sins, took our shame upon Himself, but one day when we see Him in heaven, He will still bear the physical scars where the nails were driven in. Through time and eternity, those wounds will be a constant reminder of His unending love for His own. May His peace pass all understanding no matter where you are coming from in your walk today. Thanks to Sarah for sharing with us. Until next month, Scoops fans...

*And that's my take on it.*

(Connect with Erin, your Younger Perspective writer, on Twitter: @photosforkeeps & Instagram: @photos\_for\_keeps. Who would you like to see her interview next??)



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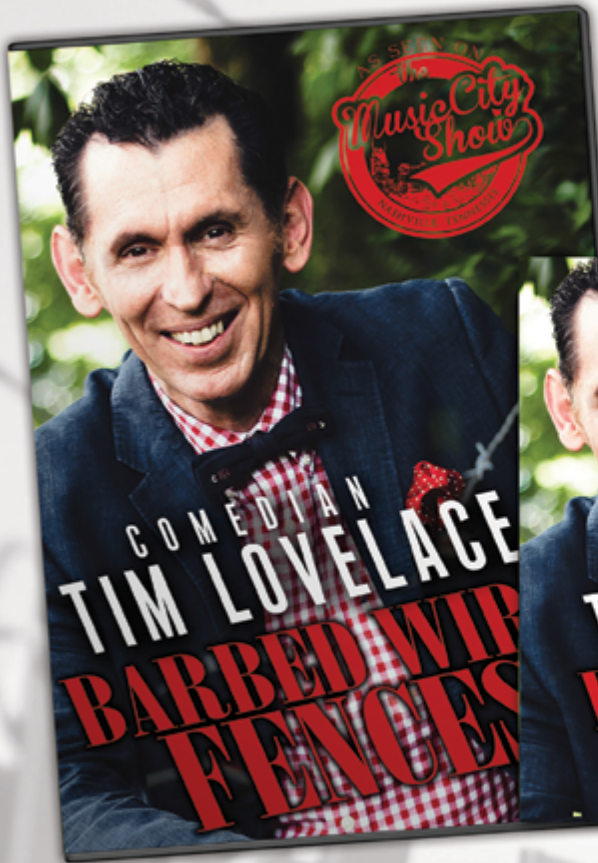
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# Don't Be "Sumo Girl!"



By Laurette Willis, CHC

Japanese Sumo wrestlers may be the world's top experts on how to gain weight. They are devoted to gaining as much weight as possible because the heavier the wrestler, the more likely he is to beat his opponent.

If you want to lose weight, you'd be wise to learn from the Sumo wrestler what not to do. Here is how an average 165 lb. man becomes a formidable 400 lb. contender. His day looks something like this:

He lives in a dormitory-style Sumo training center with other athletes like himself and awakens around 6:00 a.m. For the next four or five hours he trains and exercises without eating.

Clue: Skipping breakfast will not make you slender.

Most overweight people do not eat breakfast. I was one of them—until I realized I was becoming "Sumo Girl." Skipping breakfast makes one more likely to overeat later in the day. It also causes a 5% drop in metabolism. No wonder I was so sleepy!

Considering Sumo wrestlers exercise so much you'd think he'd be thin, but his eating habits ensure he keeps piling weight on no matter how heavily he trains for competition.

Clue: Exercise alone will not cause you to lose weight. You must change your eating habits.

The Sumo wrestler's first meal of the day is around noon, after which he takes a nap for three or four hours. His trainers want him to conserve as much energy as possible so that most of the calories he eats will be stored as fat.

Clue: Going to sleep after eating puts on weight. In order to lose weight, do not eat within three hours of bedtime.

To gain the large belly for which Sumos are famous, he eats only two meals a day.

Clue: Infrequent meals equal weight gain. Eat smaller amounts every three to four hours instead.

Some women have told me, "I shouldn't be so heavy. I only eat twice a day." So do Sumo wrestlers. You'd think they were non-stop eating machines to become so huge. But no, they eat just two meals a day—two huge meals a day. The average Sumo meal would feed five or more average people!

Clue: Portion sizes do count.

In order to train his stomach to eat those huge portions, he eats past the point where he is no longer hungry. He continually ignores his "full signal."

Clue: If you want to lose weight, stop eating when you are no longer hungry—NOT when you feel "full."

The Sumo wrestler's diet is surprisingly healthy and low in fat. He eats the same dish at every meal: chanko-nabe, a meat stew with rice and vegetables. This traditional Sumo dish is eaten with very little variation every day, twice a day.

Clue: Don't be a "boring eater."

I used to call myself a "boring eater" until I decided to stop calling myself names. We get into a rut with our eating sometimes, don't we?

Fitness experts agree it's important to vary our workouts because the muscles adapt quickly. If we continue to exercise the same exact way all the time, the body becomes accustomed to it and we won't experience the progress we'd like. Similarly, it's important to add variety to our food plans. This isn't just to fend off boredom at the dinner table. When you eat a variety of different foods you are more likely to get the broad range of nutrients your body needs. You also won't get that horribly deprived feeling of being on a diet and become tempted to go running into the arms of the nearest Keebler cookies elf.

To avoid becoming "Sumo Girl" remember:

- Skipping breakfast will not make you slender. You must eat breakfast.
- Exercise alone will not cause you to lose weight. Eating habits must change.
- Going to sleep after eating puts on weight. Do not eat within three hours of bedtime.
- Infrequent meals equals weight gain. Eat smaller amounts every three to four hours.
- Portion sizes do count. Use a measuring cup until you can "eye it."
- Stop eating when you are no longer hungry, not when you're "full."
- Don't be a "boring eater." Variety is the spice of life!

*Christian Fitness Expert and Certified Health Coach Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, Training, and Classes by Certified PraiseMoves Instructors on six continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>)*



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A portrait of Ronnie Hinson, a man with dark hair, glasses, and a goatee, wearing a black shirt with a white floral pattern. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a light-colored brick wall.

# Ronnie Hinson

## The Thread That Weaves It All Together

By Paige Givens

Ronny Hinson grew up in a home full of music. Folks from his little coastal hometown of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County, California, knew that the Hinson family had something special with their singing, but God knew just how far their songs would go and how many hearts would be changed by the message in them. Ronny Hinson's songwriting talents grew from this special musical beginning and have touched countless lives over the 48

years of his music career. Today Ronny writes music, instructs songwriters, and travels to sing and preach Biblical truths. No matter what he is doing, though, Ronny knows that there is one thread that weaves the many strings of his efforts into one lifeline: and that is the call to change lives for Christ.

Ronny recalls the special day that his family sang together for the first time. "All of my siblings



and I grew up singing in my father's little storefront church and in revival meetings that he would conduct. We would always sing as soloists or we'd do a duet, but never all together. It was on December 12, 1967, that we sang beyond the walls of our father's church as the group that the people came to know. It happened in a revival meeting in a little Church of God in Freedom, California, through great efforts of arm-twisting! We sang the old song that The Goodman family made famous called 'The Eyes of Jesus.' We were all familiar with the words and the melody but never had sung it together in four-part harmony. Our singing was so well-received that night and we discovered what God already knew: that we were called to sing. We were invited to sing at another church about 40 miles away two weeks later where we received our first love offering. It was the grand sum of five dollars. Being siblings, we didn't trust each other so we split it four ways outside on the church sidewalk. A buck and a quarter apiece!"

The Hinsons' popularity began to grow and the group eventually traveled all over the country, receiving many awards, including the Dove Award and the Singing News Fan Award for the 1972 Song of the Year, "The Lighthouse," which was written by Ronny. In later years, the group also won Singing News Fan Awards for the song "He Pilots My Ship" and for Favorite Group. The Hinsons were inducted into the Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame in 2006.

Ronny's songwriting played a large part in the career of The Hinsons, and it's played an integral role in his spiritual life as well. "I know that relationships with God are built through prayer and reading the word and attending the house of the Lord, but when I write a song, I believe it's an added dimension to my relationship with the Lord. When I'm doing all of these things and writing songs also, I am answering the call that God has placed on my life. Just like anyone who fulfills God's purpose for their life, I am blessed all the way around because I am pleasing my Heavenly Father. That makes for a better relationship with Him and empowers me to bless others, which is His call to me as a Christian."

With such a long-lasting career in an ever-changing music industry, Ronny has written many different types of songs, including Country Gospel, Southern Gospel, and Contemporary ones. "Hopefully my songs have improved because the writer has improved with the experience that 48 years of doing it has afforded me, along with the highs and lows and plateaus of everyday life that I apply as a Christian trying to overcome. No matter the tempo, melody, arrangement, or lyric, I have learned to take time with a song and not try to write it like I'm running to break a speed record! Not every song is instant. Not every song just flows out of the pen and I've learned that's okay. Time spent wait-



ing improves the song. There are many good paths from point A to point B in the writing of my songs, but only one best way. Although I don't always find it, the search for it has honed my skills, improving my songs."

Being the author of so many incredible songs, one has to wonder if Ronny has a song that stands out above the others. "Hands down, 'The Lighthouse.' Just about everybody in Gospel music has recorded it. It has



received a lot of awards, but what really stands out is that the years it's been out have allowed it to accumulate so many testimonies. Stories of how its message has been responsible for changing the lives of millions around the world. Truly it is an international song. To God be the glory! It still remains my personal favorite."

No one can argue the success of Ronny Hinson's career, especially as a songwriter. Ronny's desire is to share his gift of writing with other aspiring songwriters. "I work with songwriters by appointment. I try to impart into them some of the knowledge that I have acquired through the years in hopes of moving them along toward their goals as a songwriter. My intentions are not to co-write with a client, but rather to focus on good and bad habit patterns as it pertains to the songwriter. My input has contributed to several writers going on to become accomplished songwriters on their own. I hold sessions through the midweek in the Nashville, Tennessee, area in coordination with my weekly touring schedule. If someone is interested in my help they can contact me at [rh.lighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:rh.lighthouse@gmail.com) or call 615-851-9542 for information."

Not only is Ronny a gifted songwriter, but he is

a preacher as well. He explains, "I answered the Lord's call to preach in 1960 in a little Northern California town and I have been honored to carry it on even until this day. I feel that it is a separate call. I believe nothing can substitute for the preaching of the Word; but I can't help but feel like I am also called to write a message in song and sing it. I look at my songs as tools that I can use to get past the ears of those who may not listen to a sermon from the pulpit. Between songwriting, singing, and preaching, I have never been able to choose a favorite because it's never been my option. They are the gifts and callings of God and I would never want God to think I could live without any one of them. I know for me I must be willing to do with a whole heart what is needed for certain circumstances. I do know which one is His favorite, though: the one that is used in His timing and brings results for His kingdom and His glory."

The Lord is definitely using the songs and words of Ronny Hinson to change lives. Ronny keeps a very busy touring schedule. "I tour three to four days a week singing in concert settings in auditoriums across the country and in churches, camp meetings, and state and national rallies and conventions. I'm actively booking continually. I travel to wherever promoters and pastors want to hear those familiar Original Hinson songs and the new ones that God has given me. The most exciting event that I have coming up is a brand new recording project that is years overdue! I expect it to be completed toward the later part of this year, Lord willing. I was blessed to write about 85- 90% of the songs on all the Original Hinsons projects and many songs through the





years for some of the greatest artists in gospel music. Now I get to write for my own project!”

To find out when Ronny’s new project will be available, to visit his song shop that includes Original Hinsons Classic projects, or to book Ronny for your event, visit his website at [www.ronnyhinsonministries.com](http://www.ronnyhinsonministries.com), email to [rh.lighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:rh.lighthouse@gmail.com), or call 615-851-9542. You can also visit his Facebook page, Ronny Hinson Ministries.

Ronny asked God long ago to use him to change lives. “The Lord laid it heavily upon my heart that I would have a burden to reach many people. He didn’t

save us so that we could just gather once or twice a week and sing praises and feel good about facing the *mean old world* again for a few more days. He called us to share Him to the world. I am seeing the results of that prayer in so many ways. Through emails, letters, calls, and in person, I am seeing families and lives changed for Christ. That’s the thread that is woven through my entire ministry.”

Photos courtesy of Portrait Innovations.



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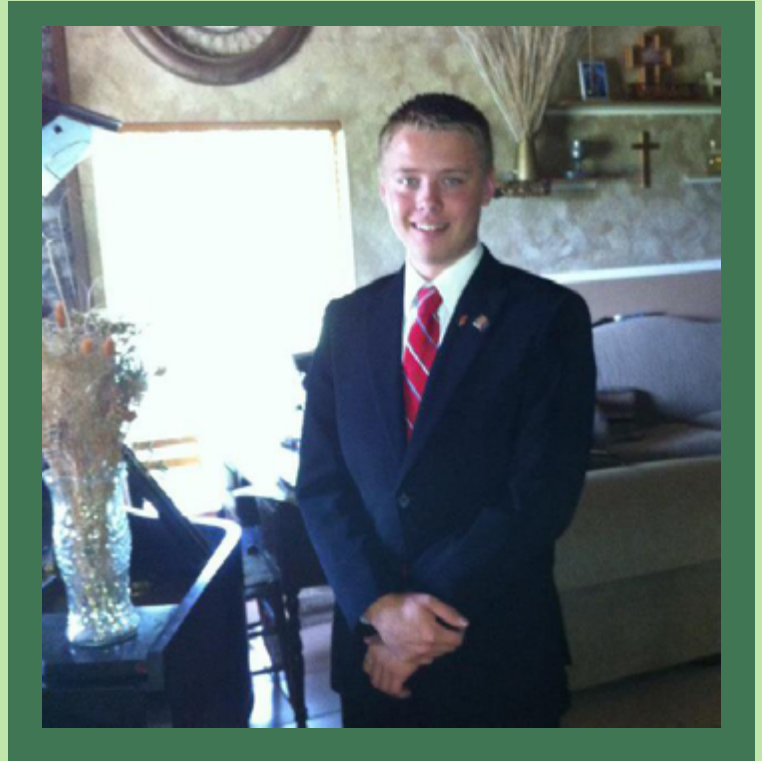
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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

Sean Vaughn



By Vonda Easley



Hey Y'all ! This month, we are shining the spotlight on Sean Vaughn at KJIC. I asked him five questions and we found out a lot about him with his answers. Thanks Sean for opening up and letting us get to know you better!

Vonda: Tell us what made you want to be in radio and what your job is at KJIC today?

Sean: My decision for being in radio was a slow process. All my life, I have been working at KJIC doing everything from cleaning to mowing the grass, and now the engineering and programming. I come on every weekday morning for *Rise and Shine*, then I place my next hat on by fixing any broken equipment, building our website, and running the transmitter. Now the Lord's opened the door for me to decide all the music and programming we play! God has bestowed upon me this job, and every day He grants me the wisdom to perform all the duties, to help grow and minister to Houston. God has placed in me the desire to minister to people through radio, and therefore I take on that awesome responsibility, and continue to pray for wisdom, because every day has a new challenge.

Vonda: Tell us about your family.

Sean: Talking about my family is best described in the history of KJIC. Back in 1979 my dad was called by the Lord to start a small radio station in his Community Church in Pasadena, TX. Now he had no knowledge of radio, communications, or broadcasting, but we all know, if the Lord says do something, you do it! That's

not to say he had no troubles. In the late '70's, Houston was already congested on the dial and there was no room to add anyone else. Everyone told him it couldn't be done; you can't have a 100,000w station or even a 100w. But he pressed onward and only by the hand of God he was granted a 118w station and KJIC was born. Throughout the years, KJIC has continued to grow in listeners, and coverage. Now we have a 36000w signal covering nearly seven million people. We thank God that He's bestowed upon us the great task of sharing with Houston the Gospel message through song and Southern Gospel, Christian Country and Bluegrass.

Vonda: Who is your favorite Southern Gospel Group and why?

Sean: This is a hard question for me to answer, because I love all the groups. I enjoy talking with the artists and promoters, but if I got to sit down and have dinner with anyone it would most likely be Brian Free and Assurance. They have this blend of voices that gives me goosebumps when they sing and I enjoy their harmonies. Maybe one day I'll get that privilege.

Vonda: If you could go on vacation, where would you go and who would you take with you?

Sean: I'll be honest I don't go on vacations much, so it's always a treat to go on any. I really prefer not having a destination in mind. Sometimes on the weekend, my Dad and I would just wake up and begin driving with no destination in mind. Before we knew it, we're

almost to Austin or Dallas, just enjoying the view. One day, I hope to just take my family on the same kind adventure.



Vonda: What are some goals you have for the future for KJIC?

Sean: Well, every goal of the Program Director is to make the station sound the best it can, so that is one of my top goals; but my main goal here at KJIC, is to pick music that will minister to the hearts and minds of our listeners. If we're just here to talk on the radio with no goal in mind, or to just make it our own way and not God's, we might as well just turn off the radio, and go home. I always remind myself, this is God's ministry, and He's placed in my hands the task of operating it. I am so thankful that we continue to grow, and with that growth comes more responsibility.

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Pray for KJIC, that it continues to bless Houston with the message of Christ. Listen every morning to hear Sean Vaughn on the Rise and Shine program, both on the air at 90.5FM and online at <http://kjic.org>. Thanks so much Sean for being a part of our DJ Spotlight!

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# High Notes

By Kelly Nelson Clark



Psalms 108:1, “My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul.”

Music makes the heart sing!

He had been excited all day about coming to the concert. For the first time in months, he was smiling. He remembered things. You see; my dear friend has Alzheimer’s. His memory lapses and sometimes he doesn’t know his own family. That day he was so excited to come see me.

His sons were not coming fast enough and he got a little agitated. So he got out of his chair to walk and get his jacket on. The only problem was he forgot he couldn’t walk. He fell pretty hard. He later told me, “I’m gonna be blue tomorrow.”

I have known this sweet man since I was 16 years old. He had been bringing us (to this venue) all these years. He arrived at the concert. I didn’t even know he was coming! I had been told that he was in a nursing home and his memory was really bad. As I was singing, I looked to my left and there he was, smiling as big as I had ever seen, singing every word to the songs.

As I walked toward him, I prepared myself. He probably wouldn’t remember me. The closer I got, the bigger he smiled. He said, “Kelly it is so good to see you!” I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. “I have known you since you were 16 years old. Your dad brought you here all these years.” I think his boys were as surprised as me. It was amazing the things he told me. He thanked me for

calling him when his wife died. She always made sloppy joes when we came. Funny the things you remember on the road.

I went back to the stage to finish the program and he sang with us the whole time. Our last song was, “Because He Lives.” People were standing everywhere in worship. He looked around and said to his sons, “I want to stand too.” As they helped him up I could only concentrate on my friend who can’t walk, wanting to stand for Jesus. As he did, my eyes welled in tears. Those of us with good legs sometimes don’t stand and praise the Lord, but my friend gave all he could give to stand.

After the concert they wheeled him past the product table so he could speak to me. He told his boys once again he wanted to stand so he could hug me and tell me goodbye. As I watched the struggle to stand, I couldn’t help but just cry. He hugged me and cried himself and told me once again that it meant so much to him that I called. I hugged him wondering if this would be the last time I would get to see him. If so, I know the Lord was there with us, and I saw what music can do. It opens minds and hearts and even brings smiles and tears.

My friend had been sad for months, but music awakened the very depths of his heart and soul, if only for the moment. I thank the Lord for the power of music and that He allows me to carry that gift to the world. I’m humbled.

I just wanted to call my father and tell him who came tonight.

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# Randall Reviews It - July

by Randall Hamm

*SGN Scoops would like to welcome Randall Hamm to the New Music Reviews monthly feature. Randall is no stranger to many of you. He is the Gospel Program Director of WFLQ French Lick Indiana, host of the Sunday Morning Gospel Show for the past 20 years on WFLQ French Lick Indiana and Singing News Top 10 Small Market DJ for the past three years. Be sure to read the rest of Randall's biography in our Contributors section at the back of the magazine. Artists, please send your CDs for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.*

Welcome in to my first Review Column. Hope all is well with you this month! This will be a work in progress, so let's begin. This month I will review three CDs: Sweetwater Revival's *Heirloom: Hymns and Harmonies* project; the latest from Carroll Roberson entitled *A Jesus Man* and ReUnited's *Timeless*.



Sweetwater Revival

*Heirloom: Hymns and Harmonies.*

2014 GospelTOWN Records GTR21127

Producer: Darren Rust and Cathleen Paul

Studio: GospelTOWN Records - Minneapolis, Minne-

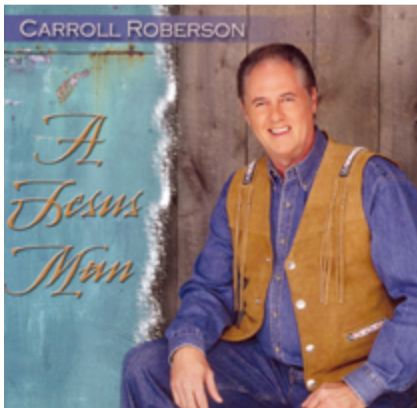
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Group Members: Katie Paul, Amanda Ellison, Kayla Krizek and Korissa Olson and songwriter Cathie Paxson

Katie Paul and her group are based out of the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area. Their latest effort is a hymns CD, entitled *Heirloom: Hymns and Harmonies*. If you ever wonder what singing will be like in Heaven, just listen to any of their a cappella selections. Pure, heavenly singing! There are 10 cuts, which you will enjoy from cut one, "Jesus Paid It All/Up From The Grave He Arose," all the way through to cut 10, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again," a great a cappella rendition that closes out the recording nicely.

Sweetwater Revival's latest single to radio, "Hallelujah Homecoming," is not on this project, it comes from their *Witness* project and reached #24 on the Singing News charts in April. But if you like "A Hallelujah Homecoming," you'll love "Dancing On The Golden Streets/When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder." The same Country upbeat theme is there that will leave you wanting more. And, by the way if you're driving, watch your speed when listening to this track!

Overall, my Top Tracks on the CD are: "Dancing On The Golden Streets/When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder," "Dry Bones," and a great a cappella rendition of "Blessed Assurance." Check out Sweetwater Revival at [sweetwaterrevival.com](http://sweetwaterrevival.com) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/SWRMinistries](https://www.facebook.com/SWRMinistries).



Carroll Roberson

*A Jesus Man*

2015 CRM 11392

Producer: Carroll Roberson

Studios: TMC Studio - Hendersonville Tennessee

Following Carroll Roberson's last studio release *Forever*, comes *A Jesus Man*. The title track is the first single release and is getting quite a bit of airplay. Carroll has been releasing material since 1985 and is celebrating 30 years of preaching and singing the Gospel. Carroll's biggest hit came 20 years ago with "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole," one of the Top 20 singles of the year overall for 1995. Carroll has been releasing his material independently since the late '90's and this is his strongest release in a number of years.

For this release Carroll once again writes a majority of the material; however, there's also a cut written by his brother Stan Roberson "Like A Child Of God," as well as other writers, including Beth Moore ("God's Battlefield"), Diane Bal ("In His Time"), and Killen, Baker and Whitson who wrote "When I've Learned Enough." Also, as on most of Carroll's projects, there's a cut by Carroll's wife Donna Roberson, entitled "In His Time."

The recording begins with "A Jesus Man," which has Carroll singing about how the world sees Jesus in him and how proud he is to be called a "Jesus Man." My pick for the strongest tracks are: "Cause The Lord To Smile On You," "Gods Battlefield," and the closing track, "When I've Learned Enough."

For me, listening to a Carroll CD is like putting on an old worn overcoat, your favorite shirt or pair of blue jeans. It's just *comfortable*. You can sit back and let Carroll minister.

Visit Carroll at [carrollroberson.com](http://carrollroberson.com) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/CarrollRobersonMinistries](https://www.facebook.com/CarrollRobersonMinistries).



ReUnited

*Timeless*

Ind CD10315

Producer: Mark Fuller, Exec Producer Rick Campbell

Studio: Lamp Music South - Whitesburg Georgia

Group Members: Barbara Roach – Soprano, Ron Dailey – Lead, Rick Campbell – Baritone, Joshua Philips

– Tenor and Mark Fuller – Bass and Piano. Special

Guest: Becca Roach on "Wake Up Church."

This is not the first studio CD for these artists, but it the first one under their new name *ReUnited*. Rick Campbell, Mark Fuller, Ron Dailey, Rick Campbell, and Barbara Roach have recorded under the *LeFevre Reunion* name. The new name says it all: *ReUnited*, and they truly are. Members that formerly sang with the LeFevres or forms of a LeFevre group are ReUnited to once again to bring us that great LeFevre sound.

Group members are Barbara (Hodge) Roach and Ron Dailey who sang with the LeFevres in 1972, Rick Campbell who sang with Uncle Alf and The LeFevres in the mid '80's, Mark Fuller who played piano for Eva Mae in her last 10 years of ministry and also Joshua Phillips make up ReUnited. A guest on the first single release, "Wake Up Church," is Barbara's daughter Becca Roach.

There are 12 great tracks on this project, many of which were recorded by the LeFevres over the years, including the classics "The Lifeboat," "He Pilots My Ship," "I Won't Have To Worry Anymore," and "I've Come Too Far." Their first single release going out to radio this month is "Wake Up Church," written by Sylvia Green of the Bradys. What a great choice for the first single! It is upbeat, peppy and instantly singable, but the song also has a great message as well. We have to get up, quit sleeping, because there's work to do. "Wake Up Church!"

Barbara Roach's unmistakable vocals along with guest, Becca Roach make this *the* late summer's pick hit of this DJ. Plus, add in Mark Fuller's unmistakable Eva Mae piano and you've got pure joy! This CD brings the LeFevre sound into the 21<sup>st</sup> century for a whole new generation to discover and enjoy. Visit ReUnited at [reunitedmusic.com](http://reunitedmusic.com) and on Facebook [facebook.com/reunitedsingers](http://facebook.com/reunitedsingers)

*Do you have a new project? Please send your CDs for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.*



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## Reflections with

Sherry Anne

“So Happy Together...”

If you have ever caught me off in a corner somewhere, covertly playing a game that looks like it was meant for a three year old, that’s because it *is* meant for a three year old. My precious three-year-old niece comes to visit me often. She loves to play this game that involves a talking animated cat. However, in order to earn points to dress the cat up, feed that cat and decorate the cat’s living space, you have to earn money. One of the ways to do that is to play games. While not extremely difficult, the games can be a bit challenging for my niece so I, in my spare time, play these little kid games to earn her money! When she comes over, she is thrilled at what she can do with all her points. I think this must be what parents feel like: secretly hiding or slaving in the background so that their kids can be more successful in the long run. I think God is like this in many ways, too.

The game I earn the most points on is *Happy Connect*. You simply connect all the happy smiling faces around the bad guys and it makes the bad guys go

away. Sounds like life to me! Sometimes, though, my fingers accidentally miss a smiling face and I don’t connect as many smileys as I need to and as a result, don’t clear as many bad guys. In fact, one wrong move and more bad guys pop up! This calls for a greater network of smiling faces around the bad guys to get rid of all of them.

*Is it just me, or is anyone else hearing a sermon in this???*

Anyhow, while playing and making a wrong move, I thought: “This is going to cost me the game!” But along came a super shiny smiling face that was stronger than the rest of them and it cleared the round once I connected to it. Round after round, the intruders came. As the intensity picked up, I needed to strategize and choose more carefully every move I made, including which smiling faces I was going to connect to.

As I cleared the challenging rounds, the board would reset and a new line up of happy faces and bad ones would take their place, wiping out the mistakes I made before. Each round: another chance to make better decisions and better connections. I began to see the parallel in life: this is what happens when we don't "happy connect." The bad guys take over and then, well, you lose. And really, because we are all connected, we all lose in some ways.

I call to mind the song we learned as children, that I jokingly sang as a student in Chiropractic College, "...the thigh bone is connected to the hip bone..." and I am reminded that we all come from the same source, our Creator— Our Father, who art in Heaven. (Romans 1:20-21, Matthew 6:9). I think about current pop stars, one in particular, who is drugging and sexualizing herself to death and how her former pastor, whom I met recently, lies awake at night, praying for her to return to her faith.

I don't think we realize enough that our actions, good or bad, go far beyond ourselves—that there is a ripple effect across the pond of eternity, into the lives



of others. I don't think we have fully grasped that we are really happier together than we are apart— together in our homes, our churches, and our communities. It starts with a common thread— a common Needle that breathed the breath of life into each one of us and intricately weaves us all together.

Yes, there will always be *bad guys*, and those that think they got here without The Needle, who find fault with the design pattern and go off on their own, seeking a new, hyped-up designer to put their faith in (Romans 1:22-24). But for those who "happy connect" to the "Original Designer" and the original pattern for creation, truly, they will successfully move on to the next round— where their mistakes are long forgotten (Psalms 103:12), where their connections are stronger and their faces are smiling (Hebrews, 10:25, Proverbs 16:20).

A promotional graphic for the Common Love Trio. The top part shows three people in a field with their arms raised. Below that is a dark banner with the text "Common LOVE TRIO" in white and teal. Underneath is a brown textured background with white text: "If there is one word that describes Common Love, it would be 'sincere'." Below that is more white text: "This amazing trio is seeking bookings for 2015! Will you book them today?". At the bottom, in red text, is "commonlovetrio.org" and "(678) 858-9849".



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# A STORY IN PICTURES: CHRIST CHURCH OF NASHVILLE

By Craig Harris



Goodman Revival and Solveig Leithaug were the featured performers as Nashville's Christ Church held a fundraiser on Sunday, June 21, for the Christ Church Choir's upcoming mission trip to Norway.

While Goodman Revival – a trio consisting of Tanya Goodman Sykes, Michael Sykes and Johnny Minick – brought the Southern Gospel element to the program, Leithaug – a Dove Award-winning recording artist who is acoustically-inclined singer and songwriter – followed that up with her vocal stylings.

Guest appearances were also made by Angela Primm and Shawn Tate, and Christ Church Nashville pastor Dan Scott also led a song, backed by the Christ Church Choir.

The Christ Church Choir performed numerous selections, with choir members Jaimee Paul and Shelley Justice among those who were featured vocalists. Choir member Sam Mayercik joined Christ Church worship leader Phil Nitz and Christ Church director of worship and arts Christopher Phillips as a trio on the song, "Sometimes It Takes a Mountain."



The Christ Church Choir performed a series of selections.



Jaimee Paul was one of the featured vocalists for the Christ Church Choir.



Sam Mayercik was one of the featured vocalists for the Christ Church Choir



Phil Nitz (at left) and Christopher Williams led the Christ Church Choir but also performed as a trio, along with Sam Mayercik.



Christ Church Nashville pastor Dan Scott was also a featured vocalist.



The Christ Church Choir performed several songs over the course of the evening.



Guest performers Angela Primm (at left) and Shawn Tate sang a duet during the concert.



Angela Primm was a guest performer.



Shawn Tate also made a guest appearance.



Johnny Minick (at left) and Michael Sykes sing together during Goodman Revival's set.

Goodman Revival performed several songs during the fundraising event.



Tanya Goodman Sykes leads a verse.



Goodman Revival comes together at the end of a song.



Michael Sykes powers into the ending of a song.



The members of Goodman Revival – (L to R) Tanya Goodman Sykes, Johnny Minick and Michael Sykes – hold the final note of a song.



Johnny Minick leads a verse.



Shelley Justice was one of the featured vocalists for the Christ Church Choir.



Goodman Revival brings the Christ Church Choir to its feet at the end of a song.

Solveig Leithaug performs during the fundraising concert for the Christ Church Choir's upcoming mission trip to Norway.



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

1	Kingsmen	Battle Cry
2	Karen Peck and New River	Pray Now
3	Old Paths	Ordinary People
4	Greater Vision	Put Out The Fire
5	Mark Trammell Quartet	God's Been Faithful
6	Ernie Haase/Signature Sound	Happy People
7	Wilburn and Wilburn	Nobody Like Jesus
8	Dunaways	Mercy Built A Bridge
9	Jim Brady Trio	Steppin' Out In Faith
10	Browders	Time Machine
11	Booth Brothers	Touch Of The Master's Hand
12	Hyssongs	Lead Me To The Rock
13	Zane and Donna King	Anything
14	Brian Free/Assurance	Where There's A Will He Has A Way
15	Shellem Cline	That Saving Song
16	Perrys	When He Comes Walking On The Water
17	Goodman Revival	What A Happy Time
18	Debra Perry and Jaiden's Call	He's All The World To Me
19	Guardians	Somebody Prays
20	Sunday Drive	American Heroes
21	Canton Junction	Dig A Little Deeper
22	Kingdom Heirs	Just Preach It!
23	McCray Dove Band	They Wouldn't Forgive Me
24	Tim Livingston	More Than Enough
25	Akins	Arise My Love

26	New Desire	When I Lay My Isaac Down
27	Williamsons	Shout
28	Mercy's Well	I'll Trade This Valley
29	McKameys	Pure Satisfaction
30	Watts, Rowsey and Bean	Faith
31	Heirline	He's God
32	Legacy Five	Who Is This Man
33	Renewed Trio	His Blood
34	Mark Bishop	He Can See My Tomorrow
35	Gold City	Power Of The Cross
36	Collingsworth Family	It Matters To The Master
37	Singing Echoes	I Know Him And He Knows Me
38	Diplomats	The Other Side
39	Bowling Family	One Glorious Moment Of Faith
40	Barry Rowland/Deliverance	Our Third Day
41	11th Hour	Jesus Is In The House
42	Changed 4	I'm A Believer
43	Erwins	I Choose To Be A Christian
44	Dennis Cook	One Pair Of Hands
45	Shellem Cline	Halfway Down The Aisle
45	McKameys	I Have A Home
47	Lore Family	The Only Way Out Is Through
48	Talleys	What You Leave Behind
49	Terry Collins	I Need To Pray
50	LeFevre Quartet	He Left No Stone Unturned
50	Matthew Hagee	Until Then
52	Three Bridges	When God Does the Doin'
53	Littles	It's A Wonderful Life
54	Big Mo	One
55	Freemans	Unwanted Crowns
56	David Haynes	One More Mile
57	Chosen Vessels	He Outstretched His Arms For Me
58	Bowling Family	That's What I Miss The Most
59	Tammy Jones Robinette	I Like Life
60	Tribute	I Will Rise
61	Gerald Crabb	He Loved 'Til He Died
62	South Of Heaven	When I Crossed That River
63	Bruce Hedrick	Jesus On My Mind
64	Jack Strong	Mama Said Read The Bible
65	Higher Ground	A Hill A Cross A Place Called Calvary
66	Tony Burchette	Better Hurry Up
67	His Heart Quartet	Sailing Safely In

68	John Bowman	Have Your Way
69	Talleys	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
70	Taylors	I Want The World To See
71	Anointed	I Have Been Sealed
71	Georgians Quartet	It's A Good Day
71	Campbell and Rowley	There's Still A Cross
71	Sounds Of Victory	You're Always There
75	Heavenly Sunrise	He Died A Savior
76	Gospel Truth Trio	Home
77	Jack Strong	I Have Jesus
78	Mark Bishop	An Old Stone The Lord Rolled Away
79	Ivan Parker	Til The Shackles Fall Off
80	Tim Menzies	I Was There
81	Inspirations	God's Word Will Stand
82	Soul Purpose Quartet	Bought With A Price
82	Hugh Culbreath	I've Got Jesus
84	Evident Call	I Love My Master
85	Randi and Wendi Pierce	Home Where I Belong
86	Heartline	I'm Out Of Here
87	Browders	He Took The Nails
88	Page Trio	Our Lord And Savior
89	Bontrager Family	God Can
90	Bama Blue Grace	He Arose
91	Carolina Boys	Livin' Like I'm Leavin'
92	Abby Paskvan	Only the Blood
93	Great Day	Great Day In The Morning
94	Primitive Quartet	God's Coloring Book
94	Change Of Heart	Joy For The Journey
96	Quintin McGinnis	Where the Heavens Meet The Sky
97	Sweetwater Revival	A Hallelujah Homecoming
98	Triumphant	Living In Harmony
99	Southern Raised	Good News From The Graveyard
100	Steeles	The Beatitudes Song

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# FREEDOM SINGERS

Something Good is Happening



By Brian Fuson

The Bible says in John 8:36: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." The Freedom Singers are a wonderful and unique illustration of that same freedom which is found in Jesus Christ. Based out of the Great White North, this Canadian trio is comprised of brothers Simon and Steven Ivascu, who sing the tenor and baritone parts

respectively, and lead vocalist Jake Losen. But there is more to this group than meets the eye. In fact, not only can they sing of the freedom they have found in Christ, but they also know another kind of freedom; liberty from a type of oppression that many of us can only imagine.

The Ivascus grew up in their native country of



Romania. Upon their graduation from high school, it was required of them, as it is in all young men in their country, to join the Romanian army. But doing so would change the brothers' lives dramatically. Christianity was forbidden so it would restrict their freedom to freely worship Christ. However, refusing to join the army would result in certain imprisonment and persecution. Their faith in Christ was such a great part of their lives that they realized that they simply could not join the army. So with great determination, the brothers, along with their friend Wesley Pop, made the decision to escape to freedom.

As documented in their book, *The Price of Freedom*, the young men faced much danger and many hardships in their journey. One of the most moving accounts that Simon shared is when they crawled into a container, their only way to travel safely. They were then locked, sealed, and placed aboard a container vessel. There they would spend two weeks in total darkness, baking in the heat for days before being loaded onto the ship, headed to an unknown destination. They ran out of food, water, oxygen and hope. As despair filled that container, it seemed that it had also become a likely tomb. But God provided miracle upon miracle in this incredible real life story of faith and perseverance against insurmountable odds. Miraculously, the Ivascus and Pop would even-

tually settle in Canada, where they reside today.

During their time in Italy, the brothers began singing together as a trio with Pop. Simon stated. "We were singing mostly hymns together, back when we were in Italy, but we started to sing Southern Gospel music in 2000, after we heard the Gaithers and the Cathedrals on television. It was a sound that we instantly fell in love with." The trio sang together with Pop on lead for several years, until Pop left the group a couple years ago.

The newest member to the trio of Simon (tenor) and Steven (baritone) is 21-year-old lead singer, Jake Losen. The Belleville, Michigan native came highly recommended to the Ivascus by Legacy Five's Scott Fowler. "Tim Parton filled in with us for over and year and a half while we were looking for a new singer. When he told us that he was leaving, we started looking around. Scott Fowler has known Jake since he was a child, so he told them we were looking for someone and to contact us, and Jake sent us an email. We brought him out for a weekend while Tim was still with us and his first date was in Branson. We were on the program with Legacy Five, The Collingsworth Family and some other great groups. We put him out there on the spot and he did great! He's a great guy and a perfect fit for us.

Simon also states that Jake has had a great effect

on the group's blend, which in this writer's opinion, is better than ever. "We feel we have a great blend with Jake, he's a quick learner and has a great ear for harmony. With us being in Vancouver, Canada and Jake in Michigan, we don't get to practice as much as some other groups do. In fact the only times we get to practice is in the van when we're on tour. But the three of us have really clicked and we're proud of this new project." The trio has just released their latest recording, produced by the one of the most talented producers in the industry, Garry Jones, entitled *A Living Prayer*. The project features a mixture of old classics and newer Gospel songs, with fresh arrangements to give them a unique twist.

The group has spent the last several years broadening their ministry, traveling and performing all over Canada and the United States. They've shared the stage with many of the top artists in Southern Gospel, such as Legacy Five, The Booth Brothers and The Collingsworth Family, and have also performed on the Gaither Homecoming Tour. The guys also recently completed taping an up-

coming episode of *The Music City Show with Tim Lovelace*.

Just talking with Simon, you can tell that something good is definitely happening with The Freedom Singers. But no matter what's going on with them, their mission as a group is clear. "We share our music and testimony in the hope that those who listen will be spiritually enriched and blessed," Simon states. To find out more information about the group, or to order their music, visit their website at [www.freedomsingers.com](http://www.freedomsingers.com)



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# The Ultimate Outsider

By Dr. Jeff Steele



I read an article recently that discussed the very real problem in Middle Schools and Junior High Schools with cliques. We all know what cliques are. They are a group of friends who band together and are a lot more concerned and excited about who they can leave OUT than who actually gets INTO the group. The article said kids were heartbroken and many of them actually contemplated suicide because of being left on the outside looking in.

I know how these kids feel (as do many of you) because we have all been “outsiders” at one time or another in our lives. All of us have had the experience of not being included in a group of which we really wanted to be a part. Many have felt the sting of being the last one chosen when sides are being determined for a pick-up game on the playground.

Adult men have sat in my office and wept at the remembrance of such times from their childhood. Being an “outsider” is painful and the vast majority of us have felt it at one time or another.

I want to talk to the outsiders. I want to offer you encouragement in the form of Hebrews 13:12. Here’s what it says: “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered *outside* the gate.”

Maybe I’m the only one but that verse blesses me. It says that Jesus suffered *outside* the gate! You know that’s the place where so many of us live, on the outside looking in.

The good news for every outsider is that Jesus is the *ultimate* outsider. He was not an award winner. Jesus was never voted *Most Likely To Succeed* by His classmates. When you think though about all the souls in Heaven because of what He accomplished, it seems like He did succeed.

The religious crowd left Him out. He was the King of Kings but He was the King of the Outsiders! I say HALLELUJAH because I’m one of them.

Jeff, what do you mean Jesus was the ultimate outsider? He was an outsider when He was born. After nearly nine months of care with the same OB/GYN his mother had to leave and go outside the jurisdiction of her “baby doctor” all the way to Bethlehem for Jesus to be born. They had to go there because there was a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed and they had to be registered for the taxing in the city from which they had originally come.

When they arrived they said, “...it’s time for the baby so let’s at least find a decent inn in which He may be born.” They were told there was no room for them in the Inn. Outside of the city where Mary’s doctor was practicing, outside the Inn and then they bedded down in a stable where animals took shelter. A stable! This was outside the place where any normal human should be born, but that’s all right because this is no normal human. This is the incredible God-man. He is 100% man and 100% God. As much God as

though He was not man and as much man as though He were not God. At His birth Jesus was a real “outsider.”

In His raising, He was an outsider. In Mark 6 we read an account of where Jesus got to go back to the town where He was raised and preach. I had a chance to preach in the church where I was raised once on a Sunday morning. I was already scheduled to preach in a much smaller church for the morning and evening services but I couldn't pass up the chance to preach in the church where I grew up. I called the smaller church and explained that I could come Sunday night but had something come up for Sunday morning.

While I was thrilled to be preaching at my home church where I had been raised I must confess to a more carnal motive. My home church was much larger and in addition to the “honor” of it all I thought “boy, when they pass the plates for the love offering it ought to be a lot better than the offering at the smaller church which I had cancelled.” I preached one of my “sugar stick” messages and when it was over they handed me an “honorarium” of \$25.00 because that's what they had budgeted for their Sunday morning speaker.

I went and preached at the smaller church that night and they passed the plate and took up \$379.22! If I had kept the date with them on Sunday morning I probably could have retired off the collection! I never forgot my experience preaching in my “home church” to the “home folks.”

When Jesus went back to preach to the people who had watched Him being raised there, Mark says they talked bad about Him. They said things like “who does He think He is, isn't He the one that was a carpenter when He was here, isn't this Mary's son?” It even says that they were offended at Him and that Jesus couldn't do any mighty works there because of their unbelief. See? Even in the town where He was raised Jesus was an OUTSIDER.

In His life He saw the birds with their nests and the foxes with their holes and each evening they both would return to their dwelling places. He said, “the Son of Man has no place to lay His head”. Again He was an OUTSIDER.

At His death He was crucified as one of three criminals. Even in death He was OUTSIDE the mainstream.

At His burial Jesus had no life insurance and no burial policy. He was a Funeral Director's worst nightmare. There was Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy man who had secretly become a follower of Jesus and he donated his family's tomb so this Outsider could be buried.

But this is where the ultimate outsider became an insider. For three days He was INSIDE a grave. But Matthew 28 reports that on the morning of the 3rd day after

He was crucified He became an outsider again when the stone was rolled away from the opening of the grave and He emerged on the OUTSIDE; triumphant over death, hell and the grave!

He's still on the outside. In Revelation 3:20 He says “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in and have supper with him and him with Me.” Many preach that this is a personal invitation, but it is an invitation to the Church, the Church that has allowed the entrance of worldliness to push the Maker and Lord of the church to the OUTSIDE.

There is no sadder picture than the Lord and Maker of the church knocking for admittance OUTSIDE the door of His own place. The miracle is that after being pushed out He still wants to come and He will come in if we will open the door.

So that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, Jesus suffered OUTSIDE the gate. He was the Ultimate Outsider so that we would never have to be OUTSIDE.

The Ultimate Outsider says “Come now let us reason together. Though your sins are as scarlet they shall be as white as snow. Come unto me all of you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest..” Because Jesus suffered outside the gate we never have to be outsiders. We can be insiders because of the Ultimate Outsider.

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# The Hyssongs

BY JAQUITA LINDSEY



This featured artist of the month comes all the way from the state of Maine. Currently living in the town of Rockport, The Hyssongs got their start Labor Day of 1996. They received an invitation to sing at a bible conference in northern Maine. Although this family was musical, they had never sung together as a group. So they quickly purchased soundtracks from a local Christian bookstore and learned a few songs. Little did this family know the ministry that was being formed! Numerous invitations began to pour in from pastors who were in attendance, asking them to come sing at their churches.

The Hyssongs were recently named the 2014 Singing News Favorite New Trio. They have a busy schedule, fulfilling as many as 250 dates per year. Dell, his wife Susan and son, Richard, strive to stay relevant and current with their music. "We believe that this ministry is a calling. We love what God has called us to do and want to continue to be obedient," Dell tells us. "Knowing that our presentation may vary, the message has and will always stay the same!"

The Hyssongs have graced the stage of many events, such as main stage of NQC, Creekside, Singing at Sea and the annual Christmas in the Smokies in Pigeon Forge, TN. They have had many top 40 songs including "Still Blessed," "Thinking About Going Home," "Is It Just Me" and "Jesus Stepped In." With more than 20 albums

recorded, their latest album, *Believe*, was released May 2015 under the Chapel Valley Music Group label. "We are so thankful that people have embraced our music. If we hear a song that touches our lives, then we know that it will touch others," says Richard.

Dell and Susan Hyssong have been married for 39 years. Dell was a voice major in college, while Susan majored in piano. Dell sings baritone and serves as the group's manager. He incorporates his trumpet playing ability into their music, along with Richard on the trombone. Susan adds her piano talent and alto voice. She also acts as secretary for the group. Dell and Susan enjoy spending as much time as possible with their grandchildren when not on the road.

Richard and his wife, Kelly, will celebrate 10 years of marriage this coming October. Together they have two children: Makayla age six and Richard IV age three. Richard had the privilege to sing at Carnegie Hall in New York City at the age of 15. When not singing, he markets the group, works on radio promotion and occasionally fits in a round of golf. Kelly also travels along and handles the trio's product.

This year, Richard and Kelly released a book, *Makayla's Heart: Moment By Moment*, telling of the miracle that God performed in their daughter. Makayla was born with over 20 tumors in her heart and masses of tumors on the



brain. The doctors told them that she would not survive. Makayla was never expected to walk or talk like other children. *But God* intervened! Here is her story:

Makayla Lynn Hyssong was born on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 4:44 am. The first-time-parent excitement that had been building, quickly turned to horror three days later. The doctors informed Richard and Kelly that Makayla had over 20 tumors in and around her heart. She had one tumor in the aorta that was blocking 75% of the blood flow! Being told that their baby would most likely not survive, Makayla was released to go home. **BUT GOD!**

A following appointment test showed that she also had tumors on her brain. "Makayla was three months old before the doctors knew the extent of her tumors. At that

point we were told that if she did live, she would never walk, talk or be like other children," says Kelly. Huge financial medical costs began mounting. So with broken hearts, Dell, Susan and Richard continued to travel, leaving Kelly and Makayla behind. **BUT GOD!**

Today, all 20-plus tumors in the heart are completely gone! No surgery or medication was necessary. Sound like a miracle to you? It sure does to me! Richard says, "Through the prayers of His people, we know that God healed our little girl! If you see her now, you would have no idea that she ever had any issues." Makayla will be seven in July and will enter second grade next year. Kelly tells us, "Makayla's reading, math and communication skills are well ahead of children her age!"

Their new book details this miraculous experience as a family. It explains Makayla's health situation and how the entire family's faith in God soared throughout the journey. The book also gives people a behind the scenes look of The Hyssongs ministry as a whole. "Everyone goes through difficulty and hardships," Richard states. "It is our prayer that this book will make an impact on many lives and is an encouragement to all those who read our story."

I am curious myself to read more about Makayla's miracle! The book and other product can be found at [www.thehyssongs.com](http://www.thehyssongs.com). Follow this family on their website and join them concert with when it's possible. If you are interested in having The Hyssongs to come be a part of an event or service, contact [www.dominionagency.com](http://www.dominionagency.com).

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## WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

I know there are many out there who have lived longer, walked the journey farther, have experienced more mountain top highs and valley lows and most definitely are wiser in so many ways than me. Yup, I am more than certain of that. But I do feel like after walking with the Lord for the last 42 years, I do know just a *tiny* bit, and hopefully that *tiny* bit will help someone along their own journey.

We all know about the four seasons that most all of us experience when it comes to climate and weather, and the changing of the seasons. Well I said most all of us, there are some of you who may live in one of those areas where you don't experience the different seasons, but I'm fairly certain you know the difference when it comes to the seasons and all that each one of them bring. For all of us on this journey of life, every one of us will have *seasons of life*, and these seasons will encompass all kinds of emotions and feelings, struggles and hardships, victories and joys, pain and hurt, life and

death and my friend, these **seasons of life** will challenge us, provoke us, then they will comfort us, and then they will push and pull us, up and down again and again and again over and over. It's life and the seasons will come and go, and for many of us, we will have definite drastic changes and then many will experience slow changes, and we all handle these seasons differently. I'm sure for many of you right now you are all in the midst of *seasons of life*. Good and bad. I so wish it was all good, but it isn't.

I would love to be able to sit with you, have a cup of coffee and tell you there is an easy, perfect, simple plan for how to deal with these *seasons of life*, but guess what? I really don't have an incredible mind blowing, powerful answer. But, what I do have is this.

For me, I have walked down many dark lonely paths with all kinds of junk, garbage and debris being hurled at me as the winds of life and the storms of change raged wildly around me, as the seasons would

torrentially invade my world. I have stood on mountaintops with beautiful rays of refreshing sunshine shining on my face and a million dollar smile that I thought would never fade, but then the *seasons of life* would push me down to that deepest dark valley where I would lay there in the mud of the storm, and cry and cry and cry causing the dirt to dim my vision even more. And then repeat the seasons of life over and over again. Yes, the seasons of life will come so unexpected and they will leave you with no warning. It's life and it's what God has for each of us, and we have to know that He is in control and He says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

For me, I have learned the best thing you can do for yourself and those around you, is this: You pick up, you press on, you accept the seasons of life and you learn to embrace the pain and experience the joy. You recognize that life is not going to be easy at times, but you focus on the good and learn from the bad. You snuggle up close to God, and you say to Him, "God I know you are with me, and you know what? I am going

to ride out this season of life, come good things or bad, and I will learn from it. Not always easy to say or pray, but let me assure you this: He is with us and He does care! He knows our hearts and He is the Master of all the seasons and His way is perfect.

My friend, you will be a better person as you walk through these seasons of life and you will make it. You really will. If I can make it through them, anyone can.

You are loved my friends. Let's keep on journeying together!



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# SAM PARSONS: MAKING HIS OWN FOOTPRINTS

By Vivian Belknap

Most people in Southern Gospel have heard the ministry and the songs of Squire Parsons, Mr. Beulah Land. This is the story of one of his children who didn't quite follow in the footsteps of his popular father. As he now sets off on his own ministry with his wife, he is making his own footprints.

Samuel Parsons, the youngest child of Squire and Linda Parsons, was saved at the age of 14. He knew the Lord was calling him to minister through music, but several people said to him, "those are mighty big shoes to fill." Sam used that as an excuse to back away from the call. By age 17, Sam began to run around with the wrong crowd, in spite of pleas from his parents and his pastor. Sam ran with gangs and started to use and sell drugs. His parents, his pastor and church family continued to pray for Sam. Sam says he could never figure out just how Pastor Sexton knew where to find him. His Pastor, Ralph Sexton, Jr. of Trinity Life Baptist lived next door to the Parsons, and was also the police chaplain. Pastor Sexton would get messages from members of the police force, who kept a watch out for Sam, in Asheville, North Carolina, and he would show up at the bar where Sam had been spotted, walk in and motion for Sam to come outside.

At 19, Sam was arrested for having two ounces of cocaine in his possession and was sentenced to three years in prison. As Sam looks back on that, he believes Father

God was looking out for him, because Sam was involved with heavier drugs.

Sam continued to run from the Lord for a year and a half while he was in prison. One day out on the prison yard, he was in conversation with another prisoner and they were discussing selling weed in prison. A correctional officer came around the corner and he ran because he did not want to be busted again. The building he ran into was the prison chapel, but he didn't know that. Sam said they were singing hymns, and it was like the Lord put His hand on Sam and he fell to his knees crying.

The prison chaplain stopped the service and asked everyone to leave. He told Sam, "I don't know who you are, but I have seen you on the prison yard." He told Sam he knew that God had a calling on his life and if he didn't do what the Lord was asking of him, He was going to "take him out." The prison chaplain told Sam he had been praying for him for a year and a half. At the time the chaplain was unaware that Squire Parsons was Sam's dad.

Sam started to sing in the choir and started a band called Already Freed. The band was made up of several prisoners. Sam wrote several songs as did another member of the band, Rick Lundsford, and they were able to leave the prison and minister in churches.

After Sam's release from prison, Squire asked Sam to fill in for a few weeks as the tenor singer for Squire's

group. The few weeks turned into 15 years. One day while getting ready for a concert, Sam told his dad he would really like a list of the songs they were going to do. His dad said, "I can make you a list, but don't count on our going by it." Sam said maybe they would sing one or two songs on the list, but Squire was following the list made by the Holy Spirit.



Squire Parsons has not always been a soloist. He has had a trio and also a quartet. Sam's older brother, Seth, sang with them 1993 through 1998, and left to answer the call from the Lord to preach. Sam started with the group in 1997 and left earlier this year to launch The Parsons' Ministry along with his wife, Leah.

Sam says that he and his dad talked ear-

lier this year about his dad slowing down his schedule, and maybe looking at semi-retirement. Sam realized this was a great opportunity to step out in faith and minister with his wife, Leah.

Sam and Leah Rouse met five years ago at National Quartet Convention through a mutual friend, Misty Freeman Calloway. Sam heard Leah's voice and was immediately interested in finding out to whom that voice belonged. He walked over to The Freeman's table and he asked her if she would marry him. Leah said to herself, "I'm not going to marry a Southern Gospel singer!"

Leah lived in Nashville and Sam lived in Asheville, North Carolina, so for the next two weeks they talked on the phone day and night and really got to know each other. They became best friends and discovered they had lots in common.

Leah is the youngest daughter of Billie Jo and Rhonda Rouse. Both her dad and mom are music majors. Rhonda is a Jeffers, and her family still has shape note singing schools in Arkansas, as well as still publishing a shape note music book. Leah's Uncle Marty wrote, "What a Meeting in the Air." Her dad sang with The Dixie Echoes and The Bibletones in south Mississippi.

When Billie Jo and Rhonda got married they were full time music ministers; they have also served as youth and associate pastors. At two years of age, Leah was singing three-part harmony with her six- and seven-year-old sisters. Leah says she thinks she was singing before she was talking. They traveled in full time evangelism for seven years, with Billie Jo preaching and Rhonda playing the piano. Their ministry revolved around teaching and minis-

tering to families to build strong Christian homes. Sam had a similar life with his dad being in full time music ministry. Sam says his dad and granddad were also involved in shape note singing, and taught shape note singing schools in West Virginia.

Sam and Leah talked on the phone for two weeks constantly, and then started to date. Three months later they were engaged and then 10 months after the engagement they were married. They will be married three years this coming October. They have been blessed with a son, Samuel Israel, otherwise known as "Gummybear;" he turned one year old in May 2015.

As Squire and Sam prepared to start these new adventures in the Lord, his dad opened the door of the bus and said to Sam, "Are you ready?" And Sam said, "Ready for what?" And his dad replied, "To step into the miraculous; just be ready to see what God has ready for you." Sam says he just threw it off, thinking that his dad was just trying to be supportive and encouraging. But the next day, Sam and Leah got a phone call from a church in Waco, Texas asking them to come minister. Sam called his dad and said, "We just got a date in Texas," and his dad said, "You're stepping out into the world of the miraculous; that's the way it was with me."

As they drove across Arkansas from Tennessee on their way to Texas, Sam was praying and trying not to stress because they only had one date, until he received a phone call telling them they had a Sunday morning date at First Baptist Church of Ft. Worth. Sam caught a glimpse of the miraculous. Then 30 minutes before church time that Sunday night, they got another phone call for them to minister again.



Sam shared his reflections concerning his rebellion. He says God has put on his heart to share his testimony of what the Lord allowed him to go through in his life, to make him into the man God wants him to be. He realizes God kept him from much more serious rebellion. Although Sam has scars, he calls them love scars because he knows God used His rod telling Sam, "You're going too far." We sometimes suffer consequences for our actions, but God never gives up on His children. Sam continues to share his testimony as part of his ministry, not only with the youth, but adults also. He says we all, both young and old, need to

know that God still answers our prayers.

Sam says his dad used to tell him, "You are not listening to a word that I am saying but I am going to say them anyway," and Sam would roll his eyes. He admits he was not listening to his dad's words of wisdom at the time. But later God would bring back to Sam's memory his dad's words.



On the nights when Sam was still in rebellion and had been out to the bars, he would get home and find his mom and dad praying at his bedroom door. He would say to them, "Stop praying for me." Sam admits at the time he loved to fight, and one night he came home with blood all over him. His dad asked what happened and Sam just said, "You should see the other guy." He went to his room, and again his parents were outside his door crying and praying. It bothered him then, but now he is thankful for those

prayers.

Sam now calls home often, just to tell his parents how much he loves them. As we sit talking with Sam and Leah, Sam was in tears because of all he put them through. Sam says it would have been easy for them to give up on him, but they never did. He wants his parents to know that what they did for him was not in vain. The song, "Hello Mama," written by Squire Parsons before Sam was born, is now his testimony.

Our visits with this young couple as well as seeing them perform left us impressed with them. The love that they have for each other and the love they have for the Lord was evident on the stage as well as off. Our genre of music is blessed to have Sam and Leah Parsons and there is a need for more youth in Gospel music. Sam states that they are trying to convince leaders to allow the youth to attend Southern Gospel concerts held in the church, instead of having them leave to have youth fellowship. They often have teenagers come by their table and tell them that they have never heard any music like this and they love it. Sam and Leah Parsons are available for ministry at your church. Their web site is [www.theparsonsministries.com](http://www.theparsonsministries.com).

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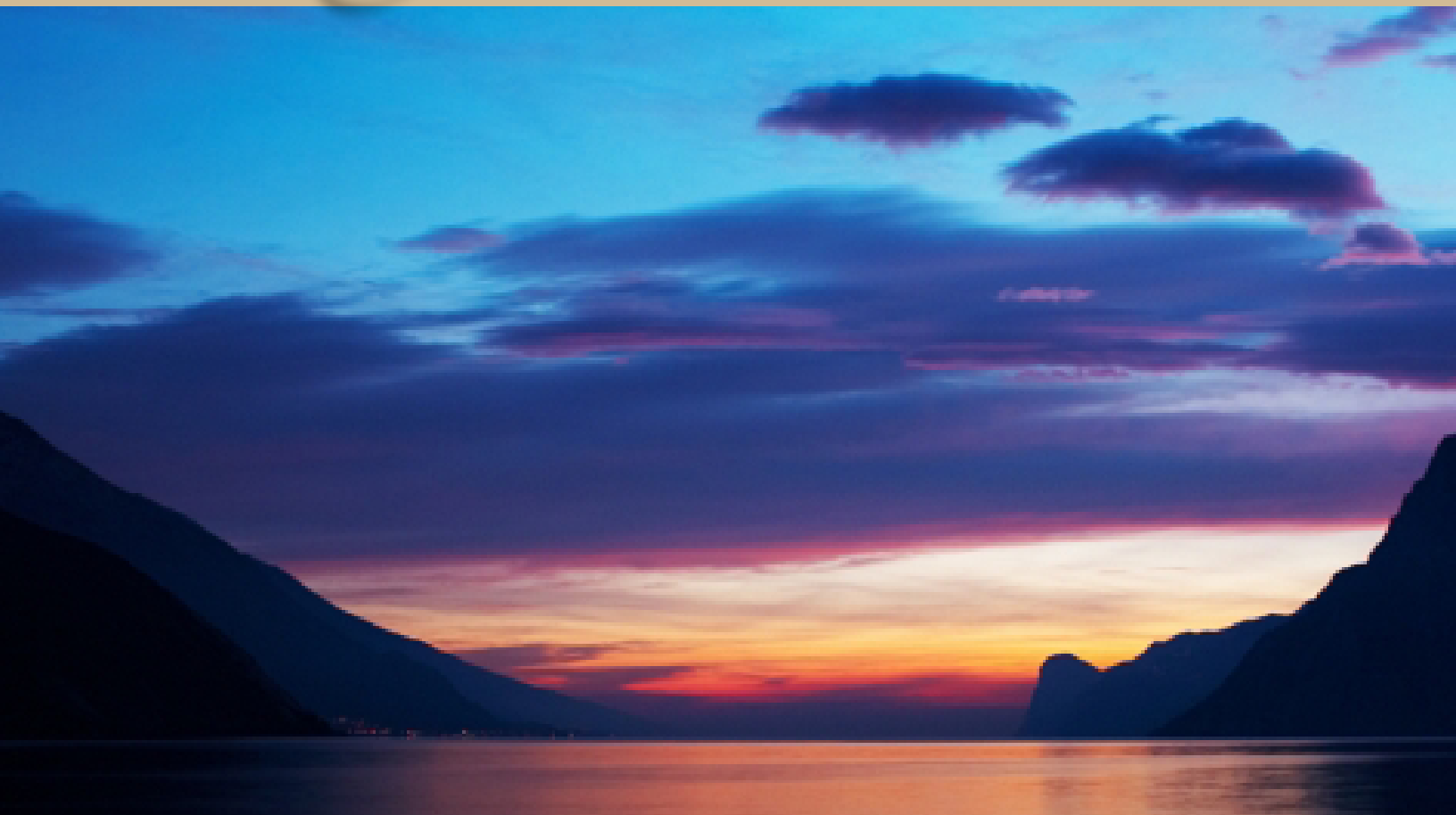
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# Southern Gospel Television on your computer!

# Looking Beyond

By Jennifer Campbell



Ever since I was a little girl, I have had a burning desire to tell others about the love of Jesus Christ. As an adult, I yearn for God to swing wide the doors of opportunity for me to minister even more to people around the world. What about you? Do you long for something more? Is there a tugging at your heart to accomplish something bigger than yourself? Beyond our occupation, our family, our friends, we are all here for a greater purpose. God has placed us on this earth to fulfill a divine calling in our lives. We are here to tell others about Jesus Christ and His love. Just as we look beyond a picturesque sunset and anticipate the dawning of a brand new day, we must look beyond our current circumstances and fix our eyes on Jesus Christ.

Recently, I read the story of how the song, “Beyond the Sunset,” was written. Virgil Prentiss Brock penned the words one evening in 1936 after a conversation at the dinner table. The topic of conversation was an unusually gorgeous sunset at Winona

Lake in Indiana, despite the storm clouds looming overhead. Virgil’s blind cousin, Horace Burr, commented that it was the most beautiful sunset he had ever seen.

Virgil said to his cousin, “People are always amazed when you talk about seeing.” Horace replied, “I can see. I see through other people’s eyes, and think I often see more; I see beyond the sunset.” Virgil said the phrase *beyond the sunset* and the striking inflection of his cousin’s voice struck him profoundly. He immediately began singing the first few lines of the song. Before they had even finished their meal, the entire song was written.

I must say that this story left me speechless. This gentleman who could not see ultimately had greater vision than those with perfect eyesight. He did not focus on the impending thunderstorm. Instead, he focused on the true beauty. He saw more than a lake, a sunset, and storm clouds. His sight was

not limited by the horizon. He could look beyond the physical limitations of this world in order to catch a glimpse of something that was seemingly Heavenly.

How many times in life do we look at our current situation and begin to succumb to a state of hopelessness and despair? Perhaps you see your children hanging out with the wrong crowd. Instead of asking God for help, your mind first goes into a tailspin of all of the possible outcomes. Will they try drugs, participate in underage drinking, have sex before marriage, or even get arrested? Once the myriad of possibilities stop running through your mind, that's when you finally stop to pray about it. Since when did prayer become the last possible course of action? Prayer should be our first line of defense, not our last resort.

We should strive to stop dwelling on the problems of this earth. Instead, we need to pray and have faith that God is working all things together for our good (see Romans 8:28). Jesus Christ is the answer to every problem in life. Hebrews 12:2 says we should fix our eyes on Jesus. It does not say to look around the world to see if there is a better alternative. It clearly says to look at Jesus, "the perfecter of faith." Even when we do not see a way out and our own vision clouds our view, He will strengthen our faith and help us see the way out. Every day, we need to stay focused on Jesus. Only then will we be able to fulfill the calling that the Lord has placed on our lives.

You may be thinking that you don't have a calling. You may not be a pastor, a Sunday school teacher, a musician, a singer, a choir director, or a deacon. However, as Christians we each have a calling on our lives. This calling may not require us to have a leadership role within the church. Our mission may be to write notes of encouragement to those who are grieving, to help serve meals at the local homeless shelter, to volunteer to clean the church, or countless other ways we could serve the Lord. God may be calling you to be a prayer warrior, going to the throne of grace on behalf of people who are sick, battling addictions, or enduring heartache of some kind. Ask God to show you what He wants you to do.

When we get to Heaven, individuals who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23). What does a servant do? They work. In the same way, we should devote our lives to the work

of the Lord. The Bible says we should do everything we do as unto the Lord. That means everything we do should be done for God, not for man. So whether you are mowing the lawn for your neighbor, donating clothes to the church clothes closet, or helping collect items for someone who lost their home due to a fire, always complete the task as if you were working for our Heavenly Father. He gave His only Son to die on a cross for our sins. He gave His best. We should strive daily to give our best to Him in return.

The Hoppers, a Southern Gospel singing group, sing a song titled, "We'll Work 'Till Jesus Comes." That is exactly what we are called to do. We are called to share the Good News with everyone we meet, whether we are standing on the platform at church or standing in the checkout lane at the grocery store. Looking at the headlines, it is imperative that we tell people about Jesus and how He died to save them from their sins and to give them the gift of eternal life. The return of Jesus Christ is closer than ever before, yet there are so many people who do not have this blessed hope. We need to be "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). It should be our primary goal in life to share this blessed hope with everyone we meet.

Perhaps you think this is the Pastor's job. Or maybe you feel an evangelist would be able to explain the Gospel more eloquently. But what about the people who will not go to church or attend a revival? How can someone hear about the Lord unless someone tells them? Will you be the one to answer the call that God has placed on your life? Will you take time to visit someone, to write to someone, to talk to someone and tell them about the saving grace of Jesus Christ? You are the only Bible some people will ever read. If you do not tell them about Jesus, they may never be able to look beyond their circumstances. They may never know the joy of looking beyond the sunset.

Don't let the impending storm clouds get in your way. Set your eyes on Jesus Christ. Allow Him to use you according to His perfect will. I can guarantee that your life will be forever changed when you start looking beyond the shortcomings of this world and begin focusing on the amazing plan God has for your life!

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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).



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>



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Loretta Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves

Instructors on four continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>), on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/PraiseMoves>. Loretta 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>



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



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



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

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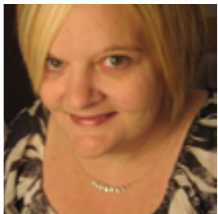
## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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.



My name is Tina Wakefield and I am currently Music Minister for Amazing Grace Worship Center in Alabaster, Al. I have led worship for over 18 years as well as teach adults how to live everyday life in Victory as a Christian. I enjoy playing and singing Gospel Music whenever and

wherever I am invited. I currently have three Cd s available on my website at [www.tinawakefield.com](http://www.tinawakefield.com) and just released my first music video with Godsey & Associates called, "The Choice" available on YouTube. I write a lot of the music we sing at church and also record my original songs. My family is very ministry oriented with Pastors, Teachers, Musicians, and Singers. My heart's desire is to spread the gospel of Christ through any and all open doors that I receive.

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## SGN SCOOPS



Dr. Jeff R. Steele is a pastor, conference speaker, singer, songwriter, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is currently the Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Their services are webcast worldwide; they have a weekly television program and host

an annual Jubilee each August that attracts hundreds from around the southeast. Dr. Steele is beginning his eighth year there. As a songwriter Jeff has been credited with 17 Number One songs in Christian music as well as four BMI Gold Medals for Great National Popularity as measured by Broadcast Performances. He has also been recognized by BMI as Christian Songwriter of the Year on several occasions. The group, The Steeles was featured across the nation and was seen on numerous magazine covers, feature articles, television and radio programs during their ministry on the road. Jeff is still writes songs and articles, sings on occasion and speaks in conferences and revivals. Jeff is married to Sherry, his wife of 31 years and they have three grown children. Visit Jeff on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and at [www.jeffrsteale.com](http://www.jeffrsteale.com).



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

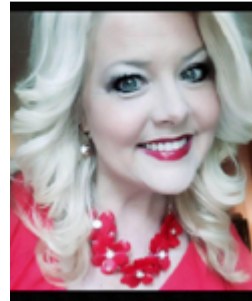
working behind the scenes on their social media. She also travels full-time on the road with her family's gospel group, The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion and singing for Jesus is her calling. For several years, you have known her as our very own "Younger Perspective" writer. Check out her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



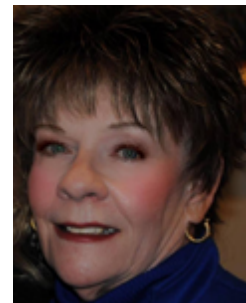
Sherry Anne Lints, a Doctor of Chiropractic, singer, speaker, actress, writer and fitness trainer, was born with a bilateral hearing and speech impairment. She appeared in the films, Clancy and The Perfect Gift and was a special guest on 100 Huntley Street, in Ontario, Canada. She is a contributing author for the book, Modern-Day Miracles and

released her second CD, Keep on Prayin', July 2012 and has

opened for many of the Gaither Homecoming Artists. Additionally, Sherry Anne helps lead worship and drama at her church. For more information, visit: [www.SherryAnne.com](http://www.SherryAnne.com).



Vonda Easley is the owner of Hope's Journey Christian Ministries and the voice of "The Strictly Southern Show" at WPIL 91.7 in Heflin, Alabama on Fridays



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGW in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over 10

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



Jonathan Edwards began his radio career on KWFC 89.1 FM in Springfield, Mo. At KWFC he worked in news, sales and was an on air personality, creating the very popular Ozark Gospel Showcase. He has been nominated for two Singing News Fan Awards and garnered the coveted Paul Heil Award from the 2012 Diamond Awards. He

travels full time with Faith's Journey and currently hosts the syndicated radio show SGN Scoops Radio.

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

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

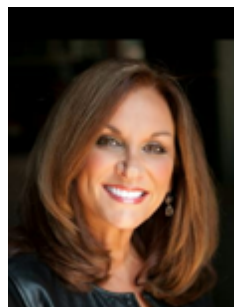


David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great friend!

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

Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

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



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

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

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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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

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

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



Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals,

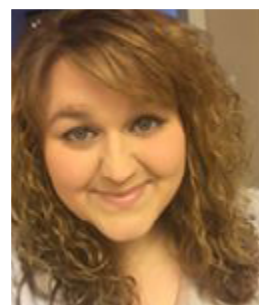
Photos, Video and News tidbits. Keep up with Lynn online at <http://lynnschronicles.com> or on facebook @ <http://facebook.com/lynns.chronicles>



Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many of my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.



Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and small. We want to do all we can to support them!" In 2015, Candi will have a law degree from Liberty University and will provide a full range of legal counsel. This component will bring the highest level of support to those who also desire legal representation.



Bethany Cook is a 25-year-old medical student from the great state of North Carolina. In her early years, Bethany grew up on the road as the daughter of an evangelist. In her teen years, the family came off the road and made their home in Burlington, NC. where her father is now a pastor. Being an avid Southern Gospel fan from an early age has lead Bethany to meeting many different artists and making many friends along the way. With a history of devotional writing for family and friends, she looks forward to opening up her writing and allowing you to see a little more into the lives of Southern Gospel Music artists. Bethany is set to graduate from college in June 2015 with a degree in Medical Assisting.

# Contributors

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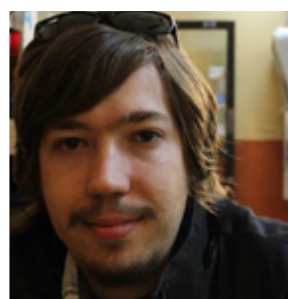
Sheri began singing while traveling with her abundantly talented family, led by her father John LaFontaine, a minister for over 48 years. In 1994 with Grammy nominated singer Jeff Easter producing, she recorded her first solo project, *Takin' My Place*.

Shortly thereafter, Sheri received a call from the top promoter in south-

ern gospel, Frank Arnold and was asked to join his group, The Arnolds on the road. After several years of traveling Sheri felt the Lord leading her to focus on her solo career and songwriting. In 2004 she signed a songwriting contract with one of the industry's top recording labels, Daywind Music. Her songs have been recorded by Kim Hopper, Karen Peck, Sue Dodge, Brian Free & Assurance, Misty Freeman, Three Bridges, The Whisnants, The Browns and many more.



Matt Baker resides in Lenoir, NC with his wife, Ashley, and children, Bella and Bennett. A gospel music lover, Matt spent time on the road full-time with Promise of Murfreesboro, TN, before moving into church ministry as the music minister at Ambassador Baptist Church in Hudson, NC.



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

love of this great style of music.



Paige Givens is a Christ follower, wife, mother of two boys and kindergarten teacher to 18 five-year-olds. She is a writer, reader, singer, studier, and teacher of words. Paige lives in Hayden, Alabama with her husband of 10 years, Chris Givens, and their sons Parker and Peyton.

Paige loves to blog about faith,

writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://www.paigegivens.com).



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

CD Reviewer. I'm Old School, having

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

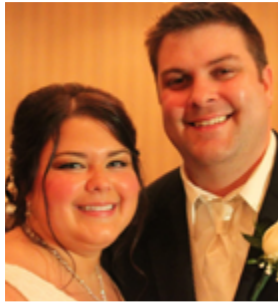


Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being crafty and spending time with

family and friends. She's been singing since the age of eight, but realizes that it's much more than just singing. "Anyone can show off their talent. I'd rather hear someone that shows that they are anointed!" For more information on Jaquita, visit [11thhourgospelgroup.com](http://11thhourgospelgroup.com)

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Brian Fuson is from the great state of Michigan, and although he is a Northerner, he certainly knows his Gospel music. He's been promoting concerts since he was 15-years-old and has worked with a diverse group of artists. He has been blogging about Southern Gospel music for the last few years on his site called Fuson's Findings. And

most recently, Brian has started singing with his wife Crysta and her parents, The Sammons Family. All of this information and more can be found on his website, [brianfusonmusic.com](http://brianfusonmusic.com).