

SGN

JULY 2018

SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



LIBBI PERRY STUFFLE: SHE CAN DO THIS

ALSO FEATURING:
LEGACY FIVE MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION, MARK MATHES & CHRIS GOLDEN



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OUR MISSION

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

Last month, we talked about “You can’t get there from here,” and if you missed it, go back and read last month’s Publisher’s Point. This month, we’re going to talk about: “How do we know when we get there?”

So many people in life are striving for something. They want to be the best. Don’t get me wrong, I think we should do our best and give our best to God, but that doesn’t mean you are always going to be successful, that you’re always going to be first. Sometimes, we have to come to the conclusion that we’re here, but this is the point that God wants us. That for this moment in time, this is the exact place that God wants us to be.



I know for people like me, it’s never easy to stop and settle down for a minute. We’re always doing something.

I had a friend of mine call me on a Saturday and he asked me what I was doing and I said I was working. He said, “It’s Saturday.” I said, “Well, it still has to get done.” So, I understand how hard it is sometimes to accept this place.

Now, that doesn’t mean that we can’t strive to the next location, or to the next promotion, but I think God - now, more than ever - expects us to be content in this current place. I’ve been dealing with that a lot lately.

The apostle Paul talks about running the race. My guess is that when he was describing this race in the timeframe of his reference, it was probably a marathon. If you’ve ever watched a marathon on TV, you know it’s not a short process. It’s over two hours, even if you’re an excellent runner, so you have to set your pace. It’s a decision you have to make, that even though it doesn’t seem like you’re going to finish right away, you are still going to finish.

A lot of people get discouraged around the mid part of the marathon, that’s why a lot of them drop out. But as Christians, we need to continue to strive, continue to press on toward the mark that God has set.

I was thinking of this today, that when I use the analogy about a marathon, even though I’ve never been a marathon runner, I can see myself in that last 200 yards, because that’s probably about as far as I could run without passing out. I could put myself in that 200 yards, where you see your family, you see the crowd around you, you hear them cheering for you and you know all the work that you’ve put in to the other 25-plus miles is now paying off.

You are just about where you need to be, just about home, but in that last 200 yards, rushing through your mind is everything that you worked on; all the training that has come to that point, all of the heartache, all of the sweat, all of the hard work, all of the discipline, to get you to that point. That's what's going through your head.

Now you see the finish line and you know that you have run as hard as you could, given it everything you have. I'd love in our scenario for you to be number one, but the reality is, there is not always that finish. Sometimes you'll be 56th, but you still accomplish something great. You have stuck it through to the end.

Whether you're a Christian or a Christian working in ministry, let me encourage you today. Continue on the race. It is not a sprint, it is a marathon. Believe that what God says is going to come true in your life, no matter if it's this minute, or at the 13-mile mark, or the 25-mile mark.

God is with you. He is going to take care of you today and undergird you with his strength.

Until next month, this is the Publisher's Point.



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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Neiman Davis

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin Stevens...

Head's up all you Jason Crabb fans - this one's for you. Behind the talent and passion of someone as acclaimed as Crabb, comes one very important thing...his band. It takes a bus full of musical masterminds to pull it together.

Today, it's my delight to introduce you to the dude who keeps it all 'in time.' Neiman Davis (Geron Davis' son), has been Jason's drummer for three and a half years, and has never missed a beat along the way.

Care to find out more about the crazy cool cat inside the drum cage? Right this way...

Erin Stevens: At what age did you begin playing drums? On that note, who was your inspiration from the get go?
Neiman Davis: I started playing drums when I was three years old. Being born into a musical family, I'd have to say my first musical inspiration was my dad, Geron Davis. He helped push me to find my unique sound while stressing the importance of being as versatile as possible. Through my dad's influence as a songwriter and producer, I have had the opportunity to learn from some incredibly talented musicians—guys like Chris Knight, Scott Williamson, Garth Justice and many others. Growing up in Nashville under these talented drummers has been a blessing. As a kid, I'd leave my dad's studio session and go straight home to practice so that I could try and replicate what I saw. These guys, especially my dad, all played a part in helping me become the drummer I am today. By listening to bands like Toto, Earth Wind and Fire, Tower Of Power, Chicago and being

surrounded by choral music, I've been fortunate to have a vast array of musical influence.

Stevens: Prior to joining Crabb, give us a brief summary of your career up until that point.

Davis: I came home from college at Lee University and spent about six months trying to figure out what I was going to do. One night, my dad invited me to dinner with Mark Lowry and some friends. Mark let me know that Jason needed a drummer and promptly directed me to Blaine Johnson, Jason's music director at the time and one of the most talented piano/organ players in the business. From there, the rest is history. A few weeks later I was on the tour bus with Jason and the band.

Stevens: In Crabb's current "Unexpected" set list, what are your top three favorite songs to play live?

Davis: No. 1. "He Made You," 2. "Love Will Have The Final Word;" and 3. "Chose To Be My Friend"

Stevens: Now that you have been married for a year, you and your wife still qualify as newlyweds. How did you



and Rachel meet?

Davis: Rachel and I met while we were both in college at Lee University. We were both in the same choir, the Lee Singers. Rachel is a couple years older than me, so when she came and sat down next to me on the Lee Singers' tour bus, I was just in shock. We talked all the way from Florida back to Cleveland, Tenn., and started dating about a month or so after that. She became my best friend. We dated for three years, and I proposed to her in September 2016, on stage after my show at the Grand Ole Opry. We got married on June 3, 2017, outside of Nashville. I honestly couldn't do what I do without the constant love and support she gives me.

Stevens: Besides drums, do you play any other instruments?

Davis: I wouldn't consider myself proficient in any other instrument; however, I do dabble a little with piano, and I know an honest four chords on the guitar. I do a lot of programming and sing BGV's (background vocals) for Jason. I would also classify programming drums as a totally different animal than playing a drum set.

Stevens: If you weren't a professional musician, what would be your second career choice?

Davis: This is a tough one...on one hand I couldn't imagine life without music. In fact, that kind of makes me sick. If I wasn't a professional musician, I would probably be in some sort of ministry position. I've always had a heart and passion for speaking to people, whether that's encouraging and sharing the love of Christ, or seeing people make the biggest and best decision of their life (to follow Christ). To be honest, music and ministry are all I know. Both my grandfathers were pastors, and my dad is a minister as well.

Stevens: From a spiritual perspective, was there one

particular person who helped guide and direct your relationship with Christ along the way?

Davis: As far as spiritual mentors go, I've had a few throughout my life, whether it be a teacher, friend or family member. God has always allowed a mentor-type relationship to be there, depending on the season of life. My dad has been a constant in being one of the best examples of how to be a God-fearing man. God gave him a gift with words, and I always admire the wisdom he has no matter what the situation looks like.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

Who is speaking into your life? Where does your inspiration come from? Do you gravitate towards wise, Christian counsel? These are valuable questions we



should be asking ourselves. Surround yourself with the sound advice and mentorship of those

grounded in their faith - they will be the ones to hold up your arms and guide you through life. Take it from Neiman's example and from God's Word that tells us, "Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise." (Proverbs 19:20)

And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin: Twitter: @photosforkeeps; Instagram: @photos_for_keeps





By Lorraine Walker

Pigeon Forge, Tenn., is gearing up to welcome the return of Creekside Gospel Music Convention to the Smoky Mountain Convention Center for the seventh year, from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1. In three months, Creekside will host keynote speakers, more than 40 musical guests, unique events and a large exhibit hall. Special rates for large groups and church buses can be obtained through the contact information below.

Gospel music artists appearing include the Jordan Family Band, the Williamsons, the Pine Ridge Boys, Mark209, Hope's Journey, Children of the Promise, Eagle's Wings, the Chandlers, Mercy Rain, Day Three, the Riders, the Coffmans, the Bates Family, Hazel Sain, the Connells, the Journeys, the McKay Project, Sacred Harmony, and many more.

The Creekside schedule is full each day, featuring musical showcases, evening concerts, the Jerry Goff Honors, the 2018 Diamond Awards and the Red Back Hymnal Choir. Midnight prayer is also planned for each evening.

After seven years of Creekside, regular attendees can't wait for this year's event. Vernon Murphy says, "My best memory is how great Creekside is. It is so organized and meeting new people and seeing people you already know is a blessing to me. We have church at Creekside, and the midnight prayer time is awesome. Love you guys and appreciate all you guys do."

Lottie Squires, of WCKB, has a special memory. "The first year I went to Creekside, I had lunch one day with

Paul and Jetta Roark. We spent a couple of hours at the Cracker Barrel, just laughing together. You know that Jetta always says exactly what she's thinking, and Paul was telling some wonderful stories—some about singing, some not. I can't remember every word, but I remember the laughter. It was just a very special time."

Kristen Stanton tells us: "There's something really special about Creekside, something that sets it apart from every other gathering of gospel music singers, and that's midnight prayer. Although I have a plethora of fantastic memories that span over the past four years, my favorite is from 2015. The very first year I attended Creekside, I skipped midnight prayer the first night. I had a boatload of excuses... but the reality was that I felt out of place. But I went the second night and that's when everything changed.

"I sat and listened to everyone around me singing songs that I didn't know and was just sure that was confirma-





tion that I was out of place. But as I bolted out, I had someone stop me, and prophesy over me. And then a second person came. And a third. My feelings were either clearly written on my face or God revealed it to them. And they reassured me that I belonged. God used that moment to allow me to see my differences as an asset—to embrace them. He has a special plan for us and He created us all with different gifts so that together we can reach the world.



Stanton continues, “Now, entering my fourth year at Creekside, I look forward to midnight prayer because I know how God used it to change me. And I know that he’s going to keep using it so long as we step aside and let him move.”



Jamie Britt says, “With last year being my first year, I really didn’t know what to expect. I was thinking I was going for a week of concerts; but, oh, I got so much more. The thing that touched my heart most was when I had two women come alongside me and pray as I was going through a situation. Since then, I’ve made some dear friends through social media that I’m looking forward to seeing once again. #wearefamily.”

“My favorite,” says Jeffrey Branam, “Is when I knew that I wanted to attend Creekside and just didn’t know how or if I would have the money. God knew my heart and Vonda, out of the blue, called me one day and said, ‘Jeffrey, you are coming to Creekside.’ My response, ‘what, when, how?’ Then she said that someone had anonymously paid for me to attend. Well, the tears of joy started flowing down my face. I felt a shout bubbling in my feet at just the thought of getting to share my ministry with so many and to also meet more artists. To say I was overwhelmed would be an understatement. On time God.

“Best venue I have ever attended,” continues Branam. “If anyone out there is thinking about going and you have never been, stop thinking, you will be so blessed. There are so many great groups, you will be amazed.



O yes, and Mr. Anonymous, I thank you and love you more than words could ever say. You, sir, made my week at Creekside."



Attendees will tell you that Creekside is about family, faith and fellowship. VIP tickets are still available and are \$25 for all 4 days. This is going to be a special year with exciting things going on all four days and fans are encouraged to purchase their \$25 VIP ticket early. At a little over six dollars a day, the VIP pass gives the holder great value, good music, preferred seating, special gifts, and other surprises. For more information on group rates and accomodations, call Rob Patz at 360-933-0741 or email at rob@sgnscoops.com.

For more information on Creekside 2018, visit www.sgnscoops.com or www.facebook.com/Creekside-gospelmusicconvention.

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Libby Perry Stuffle

Libbi's learning that she 'can do this'

By Craig Harris

Libbi Perry Stuffle has endured multiple challenges over the past five years.

However, the finality of the most recent of those challenges will leave her changed forever.

Libbi's husband of 30 years – Tracy Stuffle – died on Feb. 4 at the age of 51.

“The first five or six weeks, I didn't cry a lot,” Stuffle says.

“That first stage of trying to decipher what happened ... it was so out of the blue and so quick. It caught us totally off guard.

“If you asked us if anything would ever take Tracy's life, I would have said his heart or maybe another stroke ... but another seizure. He was notorious for always coming out it and bouncing back. I thought this would be the same way.”

Tracy Stuffle suffered a massive stroke in 2013, and despite recovering from considerably from the stroke, a series of ailments ensued over the next five years.

He suffered a grand mal seizure in late January and never came out of the hospital.

“All of this happened on a Monday night,” Stuffle explains. “On Thursday, the neurologist came. They had him hooked up to EEGs (Electroencephalograms) all week. The neurologist came in and said, ‘I have to honest with you ... I'm a little worried.’ For the last five years, I had never had a neurologist say, ‘I'm a little worried.’ At that time, he was already on a ventilator. He said, ‘You'll have to make a decision to put a trach in or take him off the machine, but you have several days to decide.’ That was on Thursday. Another doctor came in on Saturday morning and said, ‘we need a decision today.’ The other doctor had said I have several days. She said, ‘Nothing has changed. We need to make a decision on the trach.’ I said, ‘Ok, what's his quality of life?’ She said, ‘Just what you see right there.’ At that point, he was not responding.

“He had said that if anything else came up that he didn't want to be put on a machine to live. I had already gotten them to let him be put on a breathing machine at the Hendersonville Hospital. I told the nurse that he didn't want to live this way. That's no quality of life. If he had



been responding, it would have been a whole different ballgame, but he was giving us nothing. I told them to give us to 1:30. I called all the family in. About 2 o'clock, they took him off the machine. He lasted right at 13 hours (before he died)."

Understandably, it was the toughest decision of her life.

"That's one (decision) I hope to never have to make again," Stuffle emphasizes. "When you are having to decide on somebody else's life, that's a whole different ballgame."

Tracy Stuffle joined the Perrys – then consisting of



Libbi, her brother (Randy) and sister (Debra) – in 1985.

"Here's the thing, I don't grieve for Tracy, because he's healed," Stuffle shares. "I grieve for myself, but I don't grieve as those who have no hope. I do have a hope."

"I'm 54 years old, and I'm basically starting life all over again. That's not how I saw it happening. I just always thought we'd be 100 years old, that we'd grow old together."

Since his death, Stuffle admits that she's merely been surviving some days as the grieving process has unfolded.

"There's a process," Stuffle points out. "The first five or six weeks, I didn't hardly cry any. I was numb ... in a state of shock. The last probably six weeks have been ... it just hits at different times. You never know when it's going to hit."

"I'm pretty OCD about keeping my house clean. Since all of this happened, I don't really care. So, I decided one day, I thought, 'Ok, I feel very accomplished if I make my bed now.' So, I said, 'I'm going to set goals for myself now.' I said, 'I'm going to clean the bathroom.' So, I go in the bathroom and start at the sink and am scrubbing. I picked up the toothbrush holder, and there was mine and his toothbrush ... and I lost it. For about an hour, I stood there and bawled (cried). I'm thinking to myself,

'It's just a toothbrush.' After about an hour, I tossed it in the trash, and I started cleaning the toilet. These are just so minute things that you never dream would just swipe you in the face. That was a tough day."

She also points out that there are other days in which her heart isn't so heavy, but the emotions vary, not only from day to day but from moment to mo-



ment at times.

“There’s days that I do not feel strong at all,” Stuffle says. “There’s days that I could just really care less, and then, there’s other days that I wake up and I’m like, ‘I’ve got this. I can handle it.’ Then, it will slap you right in the face. It’s unpredictable.”

“If it wasn’t for God, I would be in a padded room somewhere or six foot under. My family has been my strength and encouragement. He’s been my whole source of peace and comfort.”

It’s been difficult for the other group members as well.

“It’s been something that we’ve all had to work out on our feelings,” Stuffle explains. “The guys helped me with Tracy. Andrew (Goldman, the group’s lead singer) would help me get Tracy up and get him dressed in the afternoon. That was a hoot. Tracy and Andrew’s big thing was that I don’t like brown shoes with blue or gray suits. Andrew’s big thing would be when we start to put his suit on him, he’d say, ‘hey boss, you want me to put those brown shoes on.’”

“We’ve all had to deal with it. We’re on the bus more than we’re with our actual family. They were around him as much as me and Jared (Stuffle, Libbi and Tracy’s son and the group’s bass singer) just about. It’s been a process for all of us. Each one of us has dealt with (Tracy’s death) in different ways. We’ll bring him up and laugh. In those moments when we’re just kind of missing him, we just talk about it.”

Goldman fondly recalls those daily interactions.

“That was a real big bonding time for us,” Goldman acknowledges. “We really became buddies. I looked forward to that time. I’d put my (St. Louis) Cardinals hat

on him, and he was a (Atlanta) Braves fan. It’s different now.”

“We feel like we lost one of our best friends. People on stage saw him at times when he was joyful and funny. But we saw him when we could tell that he didn’t feel good. Now, we miss him, and he’s our best friend. But we cherish knowing where he’s at. We grieve for ourselves, but he’s so much better now.”

Troy Peach – the group’s emcee and baritone singer – helped Tracy Stuffle with his nightly routine, helping him into bed and with taking his medication.

“Every night, I would say, ‘I love you buddy,’” Peach shares. “He’d say, ‘I love you. Thanks for being my friend.’”

“I’d do it 100,000 times all over again.”

The group shared some special moments in Tracy Stuffle’s final weekend on the road.

“His last concert (in Canton, Ga.) he did with us, his whole family was there,” Goldman points out. “That was a God thing. He worked that out. He did great too.”

Peach adds, “He had that crowd in stitches.”

Libbi Stuffle points out how much that her husband loved to perform with the group.

“That was the last thing he said ... Monday was his day to sleep,” Libbi says. “Lindsay (Stuffle, Jared’s wife) would come in and talk to him. She came in from work and was standing there talking to him. He asked me, ‘am I going to get to sing tomorrow night?’ I said, ‘no, tomorrow night is Tuesday night. We don’t leave out until Thursday night.’ He said, ‘well, am I going to get to sing Friday night?’ I’d always tell him, that, ‘Lord willing, if the week goes good, you will.’ That’s the last thing he said.”

In attempting to explain how she feels at this point, Libbi made reference to something she read on social media.

“A lady – she’s a widow – she posted something ... I don’t know how I came about it, but I went to her Facebook page,” Stuffle explains. “It says, ‘The death of a spouse or a partner is different than any other losses

in the sense that it literally changes every single thing in your world going forward. When your spouse dies, the way you eat changes. The way you watch TV changes. Your friend circle changes or disappears entirely. Your family dynamic changes. Your financial status changes. Your job situation changes. It affects your self-worth, your self-esteem, your confidence, your rhythm, your mentality, the way you breathe. It changes your brain function (ever heard the term widow brain). If you don't know what that is, count yourself very lucky. Your physical body changes. Your hobbies and interests, your sense of security, your sense of humor, your sense of womanhood or manhood ... every ... single ... thing ... changes ... period. You are handed a new life that you never asked for and that you don't typically want. It is the hardest, most gut-wrenching, horrific, life-altering of things to live with.

"That sums it up."

However, Stuffle has been encouraged by the outpouring of concern the family and group has been shown.

"The support has been unbelievable," Stuffle emphasizes. "People have been going out of their way to make

sure we're okay and stuff. You always have that process after the funeral. For a couple of days, everybody hangs around, and then, everybody goes home and back to their life. Then, there you are. That's when reality steps in. You have to go through all of that.

"Right now, I think – myself and Jared – we're in that weepy stage. Jared is more quiet with his."

Despite their heartache, the group is moving forward with its mission.

"In November, when we had to have the talk before he had that major surgery, (Tracy) made me promise that I would keep on singing," Libbi shares. "I told him, 'I can't do this without you.' For 32 years, we did it together. It was always me and him. He drove the bus. He emceed. He sang. I'd sing and ride shotgun with him. It was our life.

"He kept telling me, 'But you can do this. You can do this. God created you for this. In a way, God's been preparing you to do this without me.' We probably talked an hour and a half. I finally said, 'Ok, I'll do the best I can for as long as I can, until God says something different.'"



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DAYTHREE

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

1. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - Clear Skies
2. The Mark Trammell Quartet - Go Show John
3. Old Paths - Broken People Like Me
4. Gold City - If Church Pews Could Shout
5. Karen Peck And New River - Gotta Be Saved
6. The Williamsons - Jesus, What A Wonderful Name
7. The Bowling Family - I Believe He's Alive
8. The Hyssongs - I've Seen Enough
9. The Kingdom Heirs - Heroes Of Faith
10. The Guardians - Woke Up This Morning
11. The Lore Family - Asking, Seeking, Knocking
12. The Steeles - Psalm 113
13. Greater Vision - God Doesn't Care
14. Jason Crabb - Washed By The Water
15. The Taylors - For What I Don't Know
16. The Kingsmen - Cost Of The Cross
17. The Triumphant Quartet - The Cross Is All The Proof I Need
18. Matthew And David Browder - Man I Am Today
19. The Lefevre Quartet - Sun's Gonna Come Up
20. Mark Bishop - Refrigerator Door
21. The Talleys - Look Up
22. Joseph Habedank - Jailbreak
23. Poet Voices - Extraordinary
24. Ivan Parker - A Little More Like You
25. HighRoad - Christ My Hope, My Glory
26. The Perrys - Find Me Faithful
27. 11th Hour - Power In Prayer
28. The McKameys - Be Brave
29. The Collingsworth Family - That Day Is Coming
30. Debra Perry And Jaidyn's Call - Rock Of Ages
31. The Hoppers - Be An Overcomer
32. The Mylon Hayes Family - What An Anchor
33. Tim Livingston - Waiting At The Top
34. Brian Free and Assurance - Beyond Amazed
35. The Jay Stone Singers - Just Receive It
36. The Wisecarvers - Somebody Here
37. Amber Nelon Thompson - Grateful
38. The Whisnants - He Never Moved
39. Canton Junction - When I Lift Up My Head

40. The Down East Boys - Beat Up Bible
41. The Wilbanks - You Are Good
42. Day Three - I'm Not A Failure
43. Chronicle - I'll See Him
44. Mercy's Well - Who Do You Know
45. The Pruitt Family - Love At First Sight
46. Brothers 4 - Leave Your Sorrows
47. Jeremy Cato - Things I know For Sure
48. Lindsey Graham - But God
49. Bibletones - That's Why His Grace Is Amazing
50. Blood Bought - Gospel Plow
51. The Inspirations - I know Him
52. The Greesons - I'll Put On A Crown
53. Tim Lovelace - Choose Happy
54. Billy Huddleston - Miracle
55. Jason Davidson - It Was The Cross That Got To Me
56. The Mark Dubbeld Family - This Joy Is Mine
57. The Frosts - That Which Cost Me Nothing
58. The Sharps - Standing In The Storm
59. Jordan's Bridge - The Bridegroom Cometh
60. The Bates Family - Rejoice
61. The Master's Voice - Without You, I Haven't Got A Prayer
62. The Dunaways - Somewhere Around The Throne
63. The Liberty Quartet - 'Til Mercy Sang
64. The Porter Family - When I Lay My Isaac Down
65. The Millers - Going Where He Lives
66. Michael Combs - How Do They Do It
67. The Diplomats - Nothing Less Than Grace
68. New Ground - There's Nothing He Can't Do
69. Charlie Griffin - Rise And Shine
70. Michael English - Love Is The Golden Rule
71. Jason Cooper - When I'm On My Knees
72. Steve Ladd - Living Water
73. Rachael Gill and Redeemed - Resurrection & The Life
74. Eagles Wings - King Jesus
75. Josh And Ashley Franks - Lily Of The Valley



76. The Joyaires - A Touch Of His Hand
77. The Songsmiths - The Best Is Yet To Come
78. Michael Wayne Smith - Lead Me Lord
79. Sisters - Another Day
80. The Down East Boys - Pray
81. Exodus - Open Invitation
82. The Nelons - Daddy And Son
83. The Carolina Boys - I Didn't See Him Rise
84. Purpose - I Know Me
85. Answered Prayer - When He Says Arise
86. The Gaither Vocal Band - Jesus, Messiah
87. The Chandlers - He Does
88. Cami Shrock - My God Will Always Be Enough
89. The Ferguson Family - Looking Through The Eyes Of Love
90. The Coffmans - If I have To
91. The Bilderbacks - Take Away The Cross
92. Beyond The Ashes - I'm Too Near Home
93. Misty Freeman - The Sermon
94. The Rick Webb Family - The Holy Hills Of Heaven
95. The Griffith Family - That's Who He Is
96. Common Bond - Don't Let The Devil Go To Church With You
97. The Sheltons - I Know You
98. The Justified Quartet - So Many Ways To Praise
99. The Walkers - What Jesus Did For Me
100. The Scotts - I Want To Be At The Meeting

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Mark Mathes

Sometimes it Takes a Songwriter

By Dixie Phillips

Few Southern gospel songs have impacted the gospel music world like the Dove Award nominated, “Sometimes it Takes a Mountain.” The powerful lyrics and heartfelt melody have ministered to multitudes and left them asking, “What is the story behind that song?”

Mark Mathes was facing a crisis. His heart was heavy as he traveled down Highway 65 toward Branson, Mo.. He looked up and admired the beautiful Ozarks and prayed, “God, how could anyone see the beauty of these mountains and not believe in the great Creator?” He sensed the Holy Spirit speaking back to him, “Mark, how can you face your own personal mountain, and not trust in your creator?” Immediately, conviction and faith filled his heart. Twenty minutes later “Sometimes it Takes a Mountain” was written.

Before Mathes’ mountain experience, Bill and Gloria

Gaither had been in Springfield to speak at Evangel University and Mathes attended the event. He had the chance to visit with Bill and mentioned “God’s Zoo,” the title cut Mathes had written for one of the Gaither’s children’s series. Mathes sent Bill a thank-you letter the following week and asked if he could pitch him some other songs. Bill graciously accepted, so Mathes sent him several. Bill responded back and was interested in two songs, but after some time passed nothing happened with them.

Mathes admits, “I didn’t want to be that guy who made Bill’s secretary wince every time she saw my name on the Caller ID, but after seeing how “Sometimes it Takes a Mountain” moved people, I decided to go ahead and pitch him one more song. Days later my church receptionist came into the choir room and told me that Bill Gaither’s office had called and asked me to call Bill.”

Mathes was nervous, but even more thrilled when Bill said, “I’m 90% sure we will record your song, but first I want to let the rest of the Gaither Vocal Band (GVB) hear it.” Bill also asked if Gloria could write a verse for the song. Mathes had no problem co-writing with his songwriting hero.

Bill invited Mathes to attend Gloria’s Songwriting Intensive weekend. When Mark arrived, Bill welcomed him into his office to hear GVB’s recording of Mathes’ song. Mathes says, “I never dreamed in that moment how God would use that song.”

Mathes’ musical talent showed up when he was just a few years old. Whenever his family visited his paternal grandmother’s house, he could always be found sitting at her old upright and picking out familiar melodies. “I hadn’t taken any formal piano lessons at that time, but I could play a few songs by ear.”

When he was five, Mathes’ parents, Bob and Minnie, moved the family from St. Louis to Salem, Mo., where his father helped run a family timber business. Soon after they moved, Bob and Minnie joined a local church in nearby Boss, Mo., where little Mark met a six-year-old green eyed beauty named Leisa.

A few years later at a Saturday evening church service several children gave their hearts to the Lord, including Mark and Leisa. The two grew up together, eventually fell in love, and were married in their home church.

“We were members there for three decades until I accepted a Minister of Music position in Salem, Mo.,” explains Mathes.

As Mathes grew, so did his musical talent and influence. Seasoned veterans of the gospel music industry recognized his gifts. He has traveled and ministered with a gospel group since he was barely 13. He and his cousin formed a group and needed some original material to sing. That was the start of his songwriting career.

Mathes says, “First, I would sing them to Leisa and if she approved, I’d present them to our group. If they liked the songs, we’d sing them locally, but I still never dreamed any professional groups would be interested in anything I’d written.”

The songwriter credits Leisa for being instrumental in

his success. “She would often tell me, ‘God did not give you these songs to sit in a piano bench.’ So, we began to pitch songs to any group that came our way.” Their pitching paid off. Mathes has had numerous cuts by gospel music’s finest professional groups.

For the past 12 years, Mathes has served as Minister of Music at Crossway Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo. “We have been blessed to watch God move and grow the church from around 400 people to an average of 2,000 people each Sunday.”

Mathes’ favorite pastime is spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He also enjoys attending songwriting conferences and retreats to hone his musical skills. “Lately I have been co-writing quite a bit with friends.”



His advice to aspiring songwriters to listen, look, love, and learn. Mathes says it best, “Listen to what God is saying to you as you pray and read his Word. Look for inspiration. Love the Lord with all your heart. Learn all you can at writer’s conferences and study hymns. No matter how long we’ve been writing we can always learn more.”

Most of the time, songwriters are hidden. People don’t even know their names or why a song was written, but sometimes God takes a songwriter and uses their story to bless the world. God breathes on the song and it hits the heart of the listener and ministers hope.

The next time you hear a song that moves you, check it out. Chances are Mark Mathes might have written it. He’s written some great ones and more are on their way.



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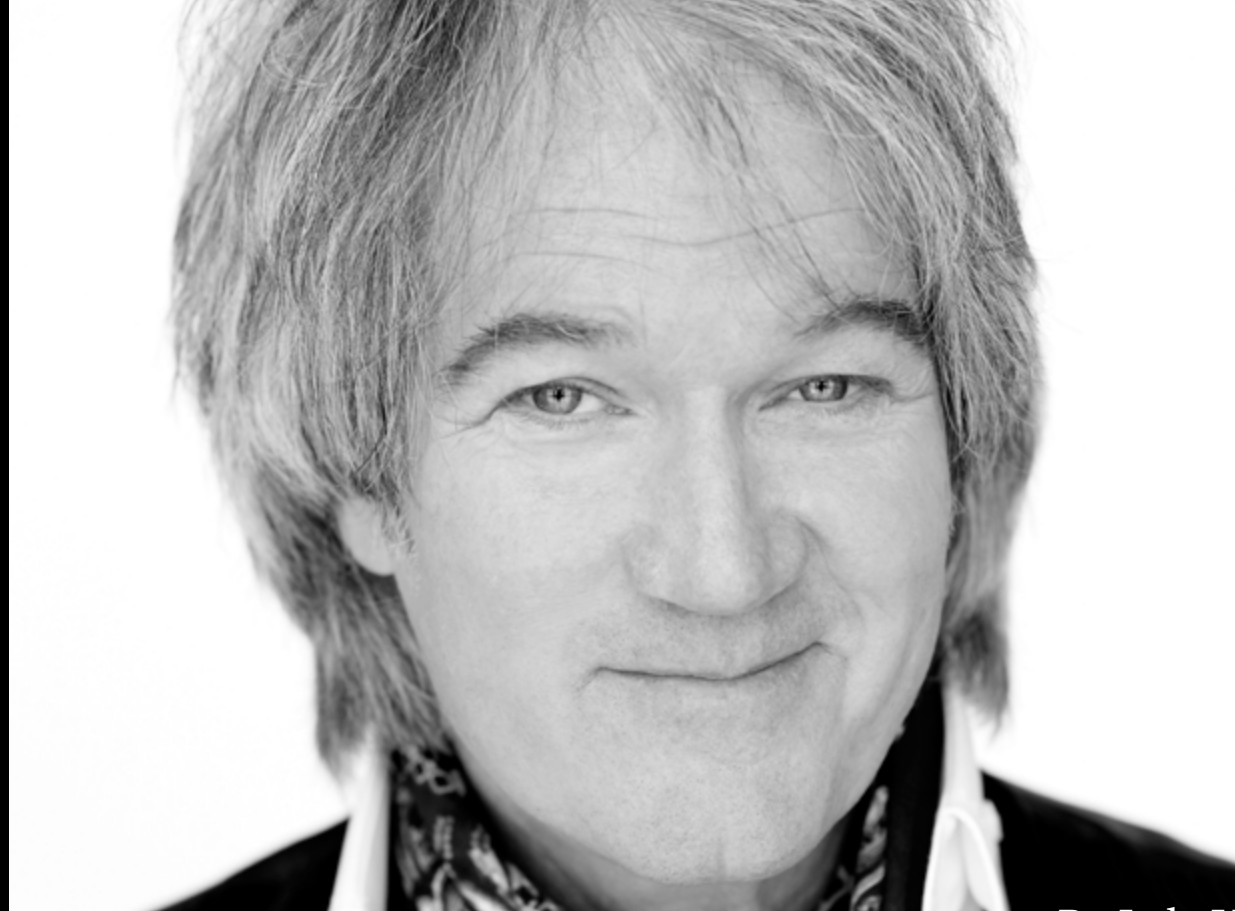
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Chris Golden

Applying the Golden Rule



By Jade Harrison

If anyone spends any time listening to, asking about, or reading over any material pertaining to Christian Country music, they will not get very far without discovering the name Chris Golden.

It seems as though every song has some ties to this powerhouse of talent. In fact, there is a game in Hollywood called the “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon” (where the players attempt to link other actors to Kevin Bacon, within six steps of mutual works.) Maybe Nashville should consider playing “Six Degrees of Chris Golden.”

Golden seems to have at least an indirect relationship to so many of the songs in today’s Christian country radio. Those connections become even easier to make when one learns of the many roles Golden has in the music industry.

This son of William Lee Golden (Oak Ridge Boys) has

worn the hat of booking agent, promoter, publicist, producer, session leader, photographer, art director, videographer, engineer, driver, sound man, roadie, caterer web designer, travel agent, road manager, and merchandise wrangler. He also adds, “I even get to sing and play from time to time. “

Among the accomplishments of Chris Golden is that he has played with three of the longest running bands in country music: the Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, and Restless Heart. He also has mastered the ability to play an incredible number of instruments. On Golden’s past albums, he has played drums, piano, acoustic guitar, mandolin, electric guitar, organ, harmonica, and bass guitar.

Golden expresses how blessed he feels to be successful in the music industry. In 2017, he was given the opportunity to perform for every living U.S. President,



and was able to meet five of them. He has sung at the Ryman Auditorium, and Opry House.

This talented singer's mantle holds many awards. Among them are awards for Country Gospel Artist of the Year and Crossover Artist of the Year awards from various Christian music organizations, and Golden is even a GMA Hall of Fame Inductee for his tenure with the Oaks. Amidst all of that, Chris has had two No. 1 songs and three other top five songs on the charts.

Just how did Chris Golden become so multi-talented and saturated in Christian country music?

Music has been an ever-winding thread in the fabric of his life. When he was in third grade, he began his on-stage appearances. Chris played guitar and sang "Friends" by Elton John, played "Saturday in the Park" by Chicago on the piano, played "Proud Mary" on drums, and even did a ventriloquist act.

After many years of honing his craft of performing, Chris began to venture into the writing aspect of music.

"When I was 19 years old rolling through Detroit, Mich., in the back of a bus, I wrote 'Take Me Back To The Country.' The next year I performed the song on Hee Haw, making my vocal debut. A few years later it became the first single and video from The Golden's (my brother Rusty and I) 'Rush For Gold' album on

Capitol Records."

Growing up within a cornucopia of musical talent, Chris had an abundance of musical influence.

The ties of family and their love for music has stayed with Chris throughout his life. However, when asked what held the most significance, he says his brother, Rusty, had the biggest impact on his life.

Chris also recalls the advice of a local singer who once told him, "If you are in it for the money...get out."



Even though Chris was only 13 years old at that time, it left a lasting impression. “He was right. Do it for the love, and to make a difference, and if you take care of the music and take care of the business, it will take care of you.”

Not only was music a resounding theme for The Golden, Chris also was brought up in an environment of spiritual significance. His grandmother, Rutha Mae Golden, is given acknowledgement for her authority in his growth as a Christian.

Chris was called to give his heart to the Lord around age 13 at a revival in south Alabama. He recalls that the pastor, Brother G.W. Birdsong, was preaching when he went down to the altar.

As many adults sometimes do, Chris strayed from God’s path along his journey. However, Chris knew that God always had his hand on him.

“I re-dedicated my life and faith in 1997. I was 45 when I got baptized. Although I do not consider myself a minister, I have seen firsthand the power of a song minister to people.

“That being the case, I have known from a very young age that music came very easy and natural to me. It is my gift, and I know where it came from. I am a musician, singer and entertainer, not an evangelist, and I am aware there is a fine line when we sing, to not make it about ourselves, but about the one we are singing about.

“I do try my best to shine the light with songs and stories. I am not a preacher but I do hope people get the message. In 2010, I was told by what I believe to be an angel, ‘play for the one who gave you the gift.’ It has been my life’s mission since.”

Chris says that he would extend the same advice to aspiring artists. He would also add, “It is the music business. Learn as much about the business part as you can. There are many great resources available today. A great song will last longer than your career.”

When employing words to live by, what more fitting passage could Chris Golden apply to his life? He turns to his favorite verse. “The Golden Rule: ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’” (Luke 6:31 (NIV))



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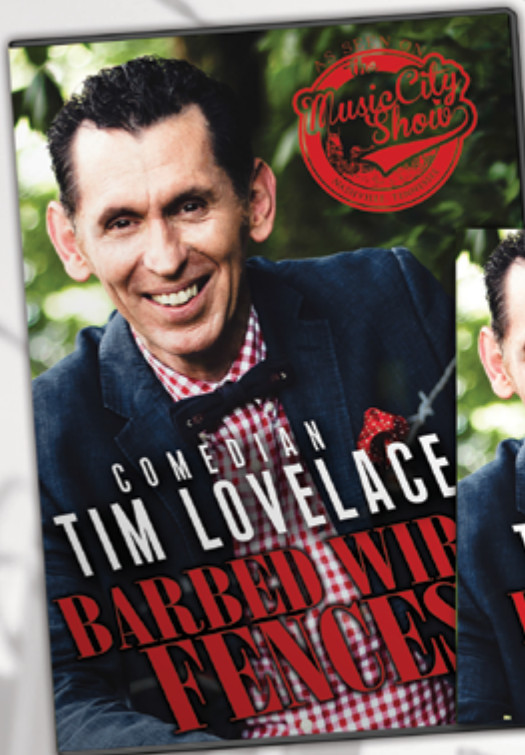
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SGN SCOOPS

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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. Christian Davis - Every Scar
2. Tina Wakefield - Over And Over
3. Chuck Hancock - One Pair Of Hands
4. The Reed Brothers - Holding On
5. Trinity Wennerstrom - Shine Big, Shine Bright
6. John Penney - In God's Hands
7. Mike Leichner - Don't Bring The Country Out In Me
8. Hunter May - Number One Fan
9. Jamie Lynn Flanakin - Free
10. Wade Phillips - Make Me More Like Jesus
11. Terry Davis - Braggin' On Jesus
12. Tonja Rose - When The Mountain Can't Be Moved
13. Bruce Hedrick - Wingin' It
14. Bloodbought - Gospel Plow
15. Justin Richardson - This Is Me
16. The Kendricks - I Could Be Leaving Right Now
17. Charlie Griffin - Rise And Shine
18. McKay Project - Taking Me Home
19. Kevin and Kim Abney - Broken Bread
20. Heather Van Derren - Come To The Table
21. Caleb Howard - Live Like That
22. Tommy Smith - Let's March On
23. Ava Kasich - Speak The Word
24. Kolt Barber - Send The Rain
25. Gil Magee - Climb The Sycamore Tree
26. Buddy Jewell - I'm There
27. Joy Roberts - Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus

28. Mary Fay Jackson - No One Compares To You, Lord
29. Mike Manuel - The Country Side Of The Cross
30. Heath Knox - Face To Face
31. Answered Prayer - When He Says Arise
32. Tony Alan Bates - Numbered
33. Shellem Cline - This Thing Called Life
34. Peter Christie - Two Ways To Sunday
35. Kali Rose - What's A Valley
36. Brent Harrison - This Side Of Sunday
37. Amy Richardson - Sweet Whispers
38. Gunner Carr - Take My Hand
39. Michael Knight - You Can Have It All
40. Lindsay Huggins - Not In This House



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Day To Day *The Journey*

By Selena Day

There is something quite wonderful about living your life as if you are on a journey instead of trying to reach a destination.

When I was a little girl, my grandmother would load us children up in her car and play a game that she invented, called, "The Get Lost Game." When she came to an intersection she would let each of us pick which way she should turn and at each intersection we each took a turn choosing a direction.

She confessed later that because we picked so many turns, we usually ended up making a big circle. Because of this experience, she taught me that getting lost was an adventure and not something to be feared. She said that if you were just patient and waited you would usually end up somewhere familiar and things would work out.

We would set out on an adventure, but we never had a destination in mind, so the joy came in the people we were with and the excitement of what we would discover along the way.

I am in Greece co-leading a ministry trip as I write this article. We are a group of 10 women hiking the countryside in Naxos and Santorini in Greece. This week has been chocked full of life lessons God has shared with each of us.

There is something unique about leaving your ordinary

and choosing to allow yourself to be challenged. Anyone who knows me knows that I am not an outdoorsy girl, but I love adventure and this week has been full of it; walking til my feet hurt, getting lost and having to skirt through goat trails, laughing so hard with tears rolling down my face.

I have experienced beauty beyond measure that has had me in awe of all that God has created.

What if your life were a journey and not a destination? What if God created you just for the pure enjoyment of companionship? Someone he could love, someone to play with, someone to laugh with, or someone to walk beside and look out over all his creation, with a big smile as if to say, "I know...Right?"

What if life was about discovering who your creator is and why he put you here on this earth? What if it was about discovering those people you were meant to surround yourself with and building a kingdom that attracted those people?

What if he just wanted you to believe in his love for you? To trust that his love is so great and that he designed your journey so perfectly by placing you strategically in the world in order to make sure your life is a success? Could you trust that everything in your life 'does' work for your good and that if you pursue him, he will make your dreams come true?

That is what I am doing this week, spending time with

great women from all walks of life, from different socio-economic backgrounds, and we are all meeting together for one purpose: choosing to spend time with our Savior, to allow him to speak to us through this trip and re-align ourselves with the direction our creator has for each of our journeys.

You may have made some decisions that have detoured you on your path in life. But what if those decisions were exactly what you needed to bring you to the place he has you right now?

Today is my last day walking the trails of Greece and I am tired. There have been moments when I thought to myself, "Why did I choose this path?" I thought about turning around but the way back down was just as perilous as the way forward, so I chose to press onward. When I reached the top, I honestly was so tired that I didn't feel the victory, all I could feel was the pains and aches of walking the path I had been on for what seemed like forever. I had to sit in a quiet, cool spot for a long while, allowing my body to relax, allowing my breathing to regulate and then it wash over me: I climbed a mountain. It wasn't Mount Everest or anything, but it was my mountain and I was happy.

Your journey is worth it. Keep pressing on, trusting that



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your Savior has you, and when you reach the top or the bottom, look back and say to yourself, "Well done." Take a moment and reflect today on your own journey and rejoice for all the mountains that you have trekked.



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The Inner Views of Brackin and Lindsay Kirkland of **Sounds like Reign**



By Cheryl Smith

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.” (Psalm 98:4 (KJV))

My family and I dearly love music. We always enjoy coming across a new musical group who has the ability to draw our hearts into a closer walk with Jesus, and when that group also includes the element of good harmony and an acoustic sound, well, it isn't too long until we are hooked. I hope you enjoy getting to know Sounds Like Reign.

Cheryl Smith: Please introduce yourselves.

Brackin and Lindsay Kirkland: We are Brackin and Lindsay Kirkland. We have five boys. We've been married for 12 years, and we live in North Carolina. We write and record music (in the Bluegrass group) called Sounds Like Reign, and we have a weekly vlog (video-blog) on YouTube called “Tiny Notes From Home.”

Smith: We would love to hear your individual testimonies.

Brackin: I was raised in a Christian home, but strayed from the faith in my teenage years. The Lord drew me

to himself in my 20's after years of wandering in the wilderness.

Lindsay: I grew up in a Unitarian Universalist home, but I knew as a young child that Jesus was the only way to the Father. I made a profession of faith in high school, and the Lord has been my guide ever since.

Smith: How did you meet?

Brackin: We met at a mutual friend's house, in Pennsylvania, in our late high school years. We were immediately drawn to each other. We dated for a couple years and were married during our college years.

Smith: What is your favorite part of being parents?

Brackin: We love working together as a team to train our children. We love having separate but equal roles in the home, which gives us freedom to explore our God-given abilities as Mom and Dad.

Smith: What are some of your favorite things to do as a family?

Brackin: We enjoy playing music together, and spending time outdoors. And who doesn't love a good road trip. We love travelling together.



Smith: What is the significance of the name “Sounds Like Reign?”

Brackin: We describe “Sounds Like Reign” this way: These are the sounds of the reign of God in our hearts. These are songs born out of adversity, trials and triumphs in our walk as followers of Jesus.

Smith: How can we buy your music?

Brackin: Our music is available for free download (or you can purchase CDs) at our website, Sounds Like Reign. You can also show your monthly support on our Patreon page, and join a community of over 100 people who are invested in our music and videos.

Smith: Please tell us about your tiny house and what led you to choose to live there?

Lindsay: We have been living in “tiny houses” for about nine years. We started out in a mini-van, and slowly moved up to the 14x40 shed that we dwell in now. Our approach to life is to only have the basic necessities to take care of our family and do the work/ministry that the Lord has placed on our hearts. Everything else must GO!

Smith: If you were speaking to someone who is considering downsizing, what advice would you share?

Lindsay: Just do it. It’s never too late to simplify your life for the sake of the Gospel. Just keep in mind why you should downsize. Jesus said that we should live our lives for the sake of others. And Paul said that if we sell all we have and give to the poor, but we don’t have love, then we’re just making noise. Downsizing can be motivated by selfishness, but we should have love for others and live a simple life so that we can give our resources to those in need.

Smith: What do you define as one of the darkest

times of your life? How did your faith in God sustain you and give you hope?

Lindsay: Brackin’s darkest time was when I tried to end my life due to anxiety and depression. This was around the age of 18. God was merciful to sustain my life and give me a second chance. So now I give every breath to him for his service and glory.

Smith: We are living in the perilous times prophesied about in God’s Word. How do you stay encouraged in these dark days?

Brackin: We draw inspiration and encouragement from the early Christian testimonies of martyrs and those who have stood strong in the face of great evil. One story of particular interest is that of Michael Sattler from the 1500’s. He was being chased across an icy pond by an assailant who plunged into the icy water. Instead of leaving his enemy there to drown, he heeded the words of Jesus to love his enemies, and so he turned around and lifted the man from certain death. As a result he was apprehended and thrown into prison, but he lived in peace knowing that he had done what our Lord, Savior and Master would have wanted him to do. Love always prevails.

Smith: What advice would you give to a person reading this who has lost hope and is desperate, even to the point of considering taking their own life?

Lindsay: Talk. Find someone to talk to. Don’t hold it in. God cares, and he has provided his body (friends, family, even strangers) to help you. Don’t give up hope. This is just a short season in what will be an awesome life.



Thank you, Brackin and Lindsay, for taking the time to answer our questions and

share your hearts with us. For more of this condensed version of Inner Views with Brackin and Lindsay Kirkland, go to homespundevoations.com/2018/02/the-inner-views-of-brackin-lindsay.html.



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Robby Lynn



By Vonda Easley

Robby Lynn is the host of Sunday's Kind of Country, a syndicated radio program that delivers a weekly, three-hour show nationwide. More than a year ago, Lynn, who was at the time both radio host and producer, left Renegade Radio in Nashville to focus on this positive country program.



Vonda Easley:
How did you get your start in radio?

Robby Lynn: After a year of college

on a theater scholarship at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, I had to go to work. So, after a year in the industrial pipefitter workforce, and waiting tables at a popular food establishment with a lounge that had a disc jockey playing music, I became friends with the DJ, who was also the program director of a local country radio station whose overnight DJ had just quit. The irony of this: my first day ever in a radio station was a Sunday morning in April of 1984, and the first thing I ever did was play the vinyl version of the American Top 40 Country Countdown with Bob Kingsley. I remember thinking (that) I want a job like his. And well, the rest is history as they say.

Easley: If you had an opportunity to sit down and have lunch with anyone in the music industry, who

would it be?

Lynn: The answer to this question has changed through the years, but if I would have been given the opportunity to sit down with anyone from the business of radio and television, it would be Dick Clark and Casey Kasem. Why? Casey - because of him being a disc jockey, music historian, radio personality, voice actor. And Dick Clark, because of the knowledge he had on television and radio, and music, from so many different angles.

Easley: Tell us about your family.

Lynn: I'm unfortunately a divorced father with two sons, 16 and 14.



Easley: Please share your testimony with us.

Lynn: I have always had a God heart. Living very close to the church when very young, I would actually walk to church on many Sundays. However, the late teen and



early adult years were more challenging, so I drifted away from the church until my late 20's. I woke up one morning somewhere I didn't need to be and changed my life that day, and the challenges continue to present themselves as my Chris-

tian walk continues.

Robby Lynn brings the best in inspirational, uplifting country music with a strong Christ-centered message. You can find out more on his facebook page at /www.facebook.com/Sundays-Kind-Of-Country-Radio-TV-280017858403.

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Randall Reviews It – July 2018

by Randall Hamm

Dear Readers:

It's July, the month we celebrate our independence as a nation with fireworks and family picnics. Toward the end of July, for many school systems in our country, it is almost time to return to school.

This month I celebrate by bringing you two new CDs from a family trio, and from a established but swiftly rising group in Southern gospel music. The Hyssongs and the Williamsons are in the spotlight this month for Randall Reviews It.

As always, if you enjoy the reviews, pick up this music, or download it, wherever you get good gospel music.

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



The Hyssongs

"Running The Race"

Producer: Shane Roark

Label: Chapel Valley

Songs: Run the Race (DeWayne Adcock); Isn't that Just Like God (Dianne Wilkinson); I Know Where You Are (Shane Roark); Anytime's a Good Time (Kenna Turner West-Lee Black-Sue C Smith); Sounds Like a Promise to Me (Lee Black-Marcia Henry); Great Big God (Shane Roark); 'Til the Storm Passes By (Mosie Lister); God Works Like That (Dianne Wilkinson-Gerald Crabb); You've Been so Good (Amber Maxwell); We Need God in America Again (Sandi Bloemer)

Just a few years ago, when the Hyssongs were played on the radio, gospel fans were asking who they were; now everyone knows who the Hyssongs are. Thanks to back to back No. 1's with "Let The Hallelujahs Ring" and "I Tell Them Jesus," the Hyssongs have finally broken through with gospel music fans and gospel radio. Their new CD just released is "Run The Race" and has an appropriate title that every Christian should

aspire to - to run the race and fight the good fight and to finish strong.

Their latest radio single is "I've Seen Enough," which is moving fast up the charts, comes from their previous album "Still Moving Mountains." It is a song about the faithfulness of God. The latest CD continues the song picking ability of the Hyssongs. Their choice of material is from established writers such as Dianne Wilkinson and Gerald Crabb to up and comers such as Amber Maxwell.

Shane Roark scored his first No. 1 song as a writer when "I Tell Them Jesus" went to number one for the Hyssongs earlier this year. Shane has penned another possible top song, if the Hyssongs release "I Know Where You Are." Written from a grieving husband's perspective at the graveside of his wife, he is proclaiming "I Know Where You Are." Shane has written many songs over the course of his career with the Roarks but none finer than this one.

Another possible song release is "Great Big God," about our ever faithful God to get his children through the bad times and the good times.

Another fine CD release from the Hyssongs, who continue to be one of the top family trios in Southern gospel music. Visit the Hyssongs at facebook.com/TheHyssongs or get a copy of "Run The Race" at thehyssongs.com/shop/.

Strongest Songs: "I Know Where You Are," "Run The Race," and "Great Big God."



The Williamsons
"Give Them Jesus"

Producer: Les Butler-Donna King
Executive Producer: Donnie Williamson
Label: Family Music Group

Songs: Jesus, What a Wonderful Name (Gerald Crabb); Gravestone (Lee Black-Dianne Wilkinson); If This Altar Could Talk (Lee Black-Dixie Phillips-Sue C Smith); He's Leading the Way (Del Toler); Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Trial (Jeff Baumgardner-Joel Lindsey-Wayne Haun); What Calvary Says (Joel Lindsey-Karl Rice); Give Them Jesus (Lee Black-Gerald Crabb); He's Here for Me (Lisa Chesser Williamson); Robes of Pure White (Lisa Chesser Williamson); Message of His Coming (Robert E. Winsett)

How do you follow your last project "Tell Somebody," which gave the Williamsons their first No. 1 song, a top 10, and several top 30 songs? With another career project, "Give Them Jesus."

From start to finish, the Williamsons have created a masterpiece along with producers Les Butler and Donna King. This CD has no filler; all of the songs have a great message to convey to the listener. Their latest single is "Jesus, What a Wonderful Name" is moving quickly upward on the national charts.

Following this single will be a tough call for the Williamsons, deciding which song to release next. My pick is "Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Trial." It is straight ahead Southern gospel with a message that says, "yes Lord, although the struggles were hard, I would do them all over again as long as I have you."

Other tracks include two from group member Lisa Williamson "He's Here For Me" and "Robes Of Pure White."

Another possible single release is "Give Them Jesus," with an all-star cast of who's who in Gospel music today and of years past. Joining members Donnie and



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Lisa Williamson, Karl Rice and Darin Hebert, are Duane Allen, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Jim Brady, Jaquita Lindsey of 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Dunaways, Ronny Hinson, Jason Davidson, Sherman Andrus, Sue Dodge, Old Time Preachers Quartet, Ralph Green, Masters Promise and Matt Felts. In light of today's landscape and culture, more and more we need to "Give Them Jesus".

Donnie and the group have once again crafted another solid CD. The Williamsons have only been around as the name of the group for a short while. The group was formerly known as the Homesteaders for a number of years.

To get a copy of the CD "Give Them Jesus," go to williamsonsmusic.com/store and to visit the Williamsons go to facebook.com/williamsonssg/.

Strongest Songs: "Jesus, What a Wonderful Name," "Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Trial," and "Give Them Jesus."



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Church Corner: History of The West Unity Free Methodist

By Barb Crisenbery

West Unity Free Methodist, also known as Living Hope Free Methodist

The West Unity Free Methodist church (West Unity, Ohio), was an outgrowth of the Montpelier Free Methodist (FM) church in the early 1950's, with the Sunday School classes being held at a private home at first. The first service in the newly built church at 603 West Jackson Street was December, 1953. The church was designed to meet the individual needs of the whole person, and it has always been the primary objective to reach out to the community in friendship, caring concern and love.

The original church was built with sacrificial labor by church members who were from West Unity, and the church was dedicated on June 27, 1954. In April of 2012, a new building was completed and April 30 and May 1 (of that year), they moved the congregation to their new location at 1051 West Jackson Street.

A crew of church members did all the painting and cleaning as well as writing scripture on the concrete floor before the flooring was laid, so that every step taken in the building is under laid with God's word. The platform area of the church has the original altar

and communion table. The oak crosses in the center peaks of the fellowship room are handmade. The office furniture was donated.

This is only the first phase of the architectural design. As the church grows and is able, there will be an addition to the north of the church that will be a permanent 300-seat sanctuary for worship. The existing building is





for multi-purpose activities to best serve the ministries of this church.

Living Hope Free Methodist welcomes everyone to visit their Sunday morning services which begin at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School, 10:15-10:45 a.m. for the fellowship time and 10:45 a.m. for the worship service. There is a Sunday evening service held at 6:30 p.m. and various programs in the church during the week. Many individual small group sessions are held throughout the week in homes. For more information contact the church office Tues., Wed., and Thurs. mornings from 9 till noon at 419-924-2542.

Barb Crisenbery, Secretary of Living Hope FMC tells us: "My mother, Ann Moor, started coming to the old church in 1960, right after our family moved to West Unity. By 1970, my father Harold gave his life to Jesus for the first time. My husband Rick and I were married in the old church Dec. 21, 1963, but did not start attending until the early 1970's, after I saw such a change in my father. We brought our children up in this church and our sons are still attending with their families and have contributed much in service to Jesus here. Our daughter lives in Grand Blanc, Mich., and is also living for Jesus because of the ministry of this church in her growing up years. I am very blessed to be a part of this body of Christ."

Does your church have a special story, or do you have a story that demonstrates the work of the body of Christ in your life? Please write to us at lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's July and I think that both Canada and the United States are under a heatwave this summer. I hope everyone is safe with all of the stormy weather. I also hope you had time to get a glass of iced tea or lemonade and lots of ice, sit on your lawn chair in the shade and read all of this month's SGN Scoops Magazine.

Craig Harris had the blessing of a terrific chat with Libbi Perry Stuffle in the last few days and was able to share it with us for our cover story. What a great testimony of faith and perseverance Libbi is living out in front of a very large audience.

The Apostle Paul mentioned in his letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament that we as Christians are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Not only are those that have passed on before us witnesses to the lives that are led by Christ, but each of us has witnesses to how we live. We may not all have the great audiences that attend the Perrys concerts watching and listening to us, but we have family, friends, neighbors and strangers who pass by us, that notice how we conduct ourselves.

I recently heard another story about a Christian who was not acting justly, loving mercy or offering hope in their conduct. It hurt me to discover that this ordinary person, thinking no one was watching, was underhand in their business dealings. I'm sure you have heard those kinds of stories too and were saddened by them.

Would someone who is always with you for every moment of every day discover that you are true to your

label as "Christian," or would they wonder about your commitment when they saw you lie, cheat, or steal. It gives me pause to think that someone who knew me intimately would think that I wasn't being true to that which others assume I am because I claim to know Christ.

You know where I am going with this. There is someone who knows absolutely everything I do, say, think, and believe. Jesus is living in my heart and knows when I talk trash about someone behind their back or speak rudely to the cashier. He knows all of my business. He knows all of my thoughts. He even knows my deepest beliefs about God and all those around me.

What would you do differently if you kept in mind that Jesus knows everything? What would I have to confess if I really believed in the omniscience of the Almighty?

I hope and pray that we each grasp the reality of God in this world and in our lives. If you are unsure about whether you know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, please email me at lorraine@sgnscoops.com He wants to know you, inside and all, good and bad, and he wants to draw you closer to him. Trust his love today.



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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. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all-digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television 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.



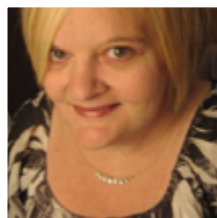
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



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



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



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

Contributors

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

Contributors

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

Contributors

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

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.O. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

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



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

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

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

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



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

Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at www.paigegivens.com.

Contributors

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Nathan Kistler was born on the road and was singing at the age of three years old. He has had the opportunity travel with groups like Southern Gospel's beloved trio the Nelons, and most recently for almost two years with America's Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and

24 countries singing about the wonderful story of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has also been a part of three crusades on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and while there, he had the privilege of singing in the Pentagon courtyard twice. Through his father's ministry in Washington, Nathan began his work on the Hill as a ministry partner with different Christian organizations like Faith and Action and more. Nathan is a missionary to Washington and continues to work there during the week while singing Gospel music on the weekends around the country and being an artist in residence at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins, West Virginia.



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model.

Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have been in the ministry for 26 years raising

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



Derek Simonis began singing gospel music at an early age, around the piano with his sister,s at home and in church. His mother, an accomplished pianist and music teacher, was his inspiration to sing. Derek was saved at an early age due to the influence of godly, praying parents and a faithful Sunday School teacher.

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas.

Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho, and Derek is the baritone vocalist for Liberty Quartet. His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is to give his all in the service of the Lord.



Logan Smith is a 20-year-old with a lot of miles behind him. At the age of three, he would stand in his room with a pencil as a microphone and one of his dad's handkerchiefs singing his heart out to one of the Happy Goodman's songs, such as "I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now." At the age of seven, Logan was asked to

sing at a senior's dinner at his grandparent's church. Logan recorded his first CD, "The Journey Begins," at the age of 10 and his latest release, "Hits Before My Time," at age 19. In October of 2008, Logan was invited to sing with The Gaither Homecoming Tour in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for Gaither Fest. Since that night, he has sung at many different venues with the Homecoming Tour.

As of 2017, Logan has toured all across America, Canada, and has headlined two Norwegian tours. Logan is on the road more now than ever spreading the good news and has no plans of slowing down.

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

bachelor's degree in K-6 Education and a Master's degree in Human Resources Development. Her daytime job is being the Human Resources Director for a small company in Greeneville, Tennessee. Her passion outside of singing, writing, and crafting, is simply God's people. "I love the Lord and truly believe my mission in life is to reach his people, and that's both on and off the stage, behind my desk, and in my community. I just want people to see Jesus in me! I'm so honored to be a part of Bless'd and love our tight knit family group." For more information on Sarah, visit blessdministries.com



Kaleb Powell can be found in the small town of Greeneville, Tennessee. He sings baritone for the Southern Gospel group, Bless'd Ministries. Alongside Southern Gospel Music, Kaleb's passion is playing the piano. He started playing at the young age of 13 and for the majority, is self-taught. His style of piano

playing is inspired by artists such as Kim Collingsworth, Jeff Stice, and Gerald Wolfe. He has been singing and playing for Bless'd Ministries for the last six years.

Kaleb is currently the owner and operator of AKM of Tennessee, Inc., which is an organization that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. His life has been surrounded by taking care of others and for living out his passion through music ministry.

"I feel honored that God chose to give me the talent He did in playing the piano. I feel that if I can use this to serve Him more, I will perfect my talent to be used as only a vessel for Him. Being a part of Bless'd and traveling with our group is a lifelong dream of mine that I am forever grateful God saw fit to put together. On and off the stage, I want my talent to be only used for Him and to be a part of seeing souls saved." For more information on Kaleb Powell, visit blessdministries.com.



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



During his 40 plus year career, Bill has developed expertise in commercial banking, retail banking, sales and marketing, media, and financial consulting. After years of being bi-vocational, he was able to merge his professional expertise and his passion for ministry. Since 2010, Bill has been

helping churches and ministries with areas of operation. This includes financing (construction, permanent financing, re-financing). In addition, many organizations need help understanding how to market their ministries and how important it is to promote their ministries properly through media and social networking.

Over the past 40 years, Bill has become an accomplished gospel singer, having performed on 32 albums and produced over 200 albums for other performers. His extensive professional credits include singing with renowned gospel music groups including The Cathedrals, The Goffs, The Senators, and The Rhythm Masters, which performed four songs that reached No. 1 in the gospel music charts. In addition, Bill has received nominations for three Dove Awards and a Gospel Music News Award. He is also known for writing and performing the Gold Record winning song, "No Greater Love." Bill also performed in events led by Jerry Falwell, Pat Robinson, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Dr. Paul Conn, and most recently, he performed with Governor Mike Huckabee.

Bill studied finance at the University of Cincinnati and vocal performance at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. He also attended seminary at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and he holds a Doctor of Divinity Degree at Heritage Baptist University in Indianapolis. Currently Bill serves on the Board of Trustees for Davis College in Binghamton, N. Y.

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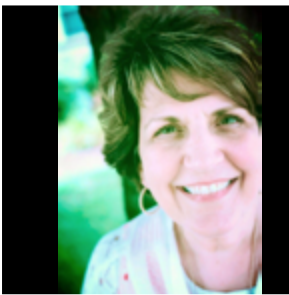
Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped

since. Suzanne holds a bachelor of English degree from Columbia (N.Y.) University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tenn., she began writing for AFrontRowView.com before joining the SGNscoops.com team. She enjoys sharing the love of Jesus through volunteering, music, writing, and teaching.



Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world of music that surrounds us. She believes

when words fail us, music speaks.



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by The Talleys, Gordon Mote, The Williamsons, Doug Anderson, Susan Whisnant, The Erwins, Jay Stone Singers, Master Promise, Three Bridges, Endless Highway, 3 Heath Brothers, Fortress, and many other gospel artists.

Dixie is also an Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.