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# Scoops

digital

August 2012



## Greater Vision

Also In This Issue:

Lynda Randle, Charlotte Ritchie, Jaidyn's Call and Skyline Boys

# Publisher's Point

by Rob Patz



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August 2012



*Letter From the Editor*  
*By Rhonda Frye*

"God knows the hearts of men. He knows what the Holy Spirit is thinking. The Holy Spirit prays for those who belong to Christ the way God wants Him to pray. We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him and are chosen to be a part of His plan." I love those familiar words found in Romans 8:27-28. I also like the way the first part reads in THE MESSAGE. "He knows us far better than we know our selves." This month, I'm grateful that God knows me better than I know myself! He is the giver of all good things!

This August issue is the one year mark for me as Editor in Chief of SGNScoops Magazine. I am humbled, grateful and overwhelmed as I reflect over a year packed with excitement! What a great time I had at the National Quartet Convention, Dove Awards, Joyful Noise Premier and numerous concerts and events. My mind is chock-full full of wonderful memories to cherish forever. Although my life has been filled with great gospel music, it's the kindness of the people that has blessed me most.

I've been blessed by our staff. I believe we have the best in the whole world! This team of professionals opened their hearts and lives to me from the very beginning. There's not a week that goes by that I don't get a sweet message, text or email with encouragement, well wishes and prayer! We have truly become like a family.

I also can't say enough good things about Rob Patz! He's prayed with me more times than I can count, and has been with me AND for me every step of the way. I'm grateful for all the leadership training and years of experience he's poured into me. Best of all, he demonstrates his confidence in me and I am truly grateful. Now more than ever, I have the deepest respect for my mentor, publisher and friend.

Over the last year I've been blessed to interview MANY artists and work closely with industry professionals who work hard behind the scenes. All I can say is... Wow! We have an industry spilling over with absolutely wonderful, godly and incredibly talented people. My heart is flooded with gratefulness for the kind words of encouragement and affirmation that have been spoken to me by those I have admired from afar for many years!

My family has been incredibly supportive too. In fact, I couldn't do this without them- especially my husband! Eric Frye is the best man in the whole world for many reasons, but he is such a supporter of my work with Scoops magazine. He is my sound board, my photographer and my side-kick! Yes... I've turned him into a Southern Gospel Junkie like me!

One year is down and we have at least 34 to go! I love Jesus. I love gospel music. I love SGNScoops Magazine. I am blessed and grateful for the opportunity of sharing God's love story through gospel music! God truly knew me better than I knew myself and granted me far more than my I could have thought to desire! If any good comes from the work I do here, it is only by His grace, mercy and goodness! I give Him all the praise, He is good. He is the giver of all good things!

If I can serve you in any way, email me at [Rhonda@sgnscoops.com](mailto:Rhonda@sgnscoops.com). Also- I'd love to meet you! I'm counting down the days to this year's National Quartet Convention and the Creekside Gospel Music Convention in October. Please come by our booth and introduce yourself, I'd love to meet you and hear what God is doing in your ministry!

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## Our Mission

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

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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



Duane Allen & the legendary Oak Ridge Boys “A true LEGEND of gospel and country music” is the appropriate title for my longtime friend, Duane Allen, lead singer of the Oak Ridge Boys, famous country music performers who consistently honor their gospel music roots. In 1998, at the induction of the Oak Ridge Boys into the GMA Hall Of Fame, Nashville, their enthusiasm made the gospel industry genuinely proud of their spectacular country and gospel accomplishments. Duane Allen’s induction comments reminded me of the many years I have known and loved him. In the 60’s, when Duane was a teenager in Paris, Texas, he would come to our Wills Family Music Store in Arlington and talk about his dreams of singing gospel music. In fact, he made his first recording with our Sword & Shield label as a member of the SouthernAires. Dreams do come true, and in 1965, Duane joined the Prophets Quartet in Knoxville, Tennessee. Soon after, he was called into the Army. When Duane returned to civilian life, he had offers to become a member from three of gospel’s great quartets—Statesmen, Cathedrals and Oak Ridge Boys. His choice of joining the “Mighty Oaks” in 1966 has proven to be God-given wisdom. When Howard and I moved to Nashville in 1968, Duane Allen’s talent and business acumen had already become well known in “Music City”—and the Oak Ridge Boys were riding high on the charts. We can never forget hearing them sing their huge 1969 hit “Jesus Is Coming Soon.”

In 1990, the Oak Ridge Boys were guests on the popular Nashville TV show “Crook & Chase.” I made arrangements with Lorianne Crook and Charley Chase to “surprise” Duane on the show with a plaque advising him of his induction into the Texas Gospel Music

Hall Of Fame. After the excitement subsided, Duane graciously accepted the honor with loving remarks about those early day of music schools and singing conventions with the Wills Family. At the funeral of my brother Calvin in 2002, Duane’s thoughtful letter of condolences and memories brought sweet comfort. We are blessed by the friendship of Duane Allen and his talented wife, Nora Lee, and time spent with them is always delightful. Howard and I will be there October 3rd, 2012, for the SGMA Hall Of Fame Induction at Dollywood, when the Oak Ridge Boys will be presented the “James D. Vaughan Impact Award” in recognition of their contribution to gospel music. We will CELEBRATE this highly deserved award!

The Oak Ridge Boys—Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, William Lee Golden, Richard Sterban—known worldwide for their country music hits, have scored twelve gold, three platinum, one double platinum, more than a dozen national Number One singles, and over 30 Top Ten hits, since the late 70’s. They are regulars on the Grand Ole Opry and have appeared before five U. S. Presidents. Recently, the National Music Council appointed them the “Official National Anthem Singers.” The Oak Ridge Boys have earned a huge amount of honors in Country music, but they are quick to acknowledge their gospel heritage. As for me, they will always be my “gospel music” friends! Joe Bonsall and Richard Sterban were members of the Keystones when I signed them to a booking contract with my agency in Nashville years ago. My friendship with William Lee Golden goes back to the years the Oak Ridge appeared on the “Battle Of Songs” in Ft. Worth, Texas, with the Wills Family. No wonder Duane Allen is like a brother to all of us. “Oak Ridge Boys--A Gospel Journey”—a popular video

from the Gaither Homecoming series--is a testament to the respect the gospel music industry and the fans have for these legendary men. I remember, vividly, the huge Gaither taping at Opryland in 2007, when the Oak Ridge Boys led the way and set the tone for us, in a celebration that included more than 200 gospel artists. Of the five videos from this taping, "Nashville Homecoming" is my favorite. The comments at the beginning of the DVD by Bill Gaither and Duane Allen reveal a strong friendship. At this monumental Gaither taping, surrounded by the LOVE of precious friends, many of them LEGENDS, I silently thanked God for His blessings on my LIFE. A scripture kept coming to my mind, Psalm 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (My friend, Duane Allen, would say a hearty "amen" to that.)

Please join us in my "Celebration Of 75 Years In Gospel Music" on October 29, 2012, at Creek Side Gospel Music Convention, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, the Diamond Awards on the 30<sup>th</sup>, with gospel music and fellowship thru the 31<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is welcome and all events are ADMISSION FREE. For information, check with Rob Patz [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com)

May God bless you, dear readers, as you join us in spreading the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

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Photo above-NoraLee & Duane Allen with Lou and Howard Hildreth at GMA Hall Of Fame Induction



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# Diamond Awards Finalists!

## 2012 DIAMOND Awards



We are in the FINAL ROUND! This last and final round is open now through September 17th! Congratulations to the following 2012 Diamond Awards Nominees: Vote at - <http://www.sgnscoops.com/2012-diamond-awards>

### **JD Sumner Living Legend Award**

Lily Weatherford  
Tim Riley  
Ed O'Neal  
Ray Dean Reese  
Ann Downing

### **Female Vocalist of the Year**

Janet Paschal  
Charlotte Ritchie  
Taranda Greene  
Karen Peck Gooch  
Sheri Easter

### **Bluegrass Gospel Artist of the Year**

Dailey & Vincent  
Red Roots  
The Isaacs  
Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver  
Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder

### **Album of the Year**

THE SONG LIVES ON- Jason Crabb  
REACH OUT- Karen Peck & New River  
BLUE SKIES COMING- The Perrys  
LET IT BE KNOWN- Booth Brothers  
EXPECTING GOOD THINGS- Jeff & Sheri Easter

### **Sunrise Award**

Beyond The Ashes  
Red Roots  
Declaration  
Promise  
Logan Smith

### **Male Vocalist of the Year**

Guy Penrod  
Michael English  
David Phelps  
Ivan Parker  
Jason Crabb

### **Anthony Burger Instrumentalist of the Year**

Jeff Stice  
Kevin Williams  
Gordon Mote  
Greg Ritchie  
Kim Collingsworth

### **Video/DVD of the Year**

"She Still Remembers Jesus Name" Booth Brothers  
"The Song Lives On" Jason Crabb  
"Jubilee 2" Greater Vision, Booth Brothers, Legacy Five  
"Tent Revival Homecoming" Bill & Gloria Gaither, Homecoming Friends  
"The Old Rugged Cross" Bill & Gloria Gaither, Homecoming Friends

### **Mixed Group of the Year**

The Hoppers  
Karen Peck & New River  
Collingsworth Family  
Jeff & Sheri Easter  
The Isaacs

### **Christian Country Group of the Year**

The Isaacs  
Red Roots  
Wendy Word & Forgiven  
Dailey & Vincent  
The Amundruds

### **Dottie Rambo Songwriter of the Year**

Jim Brady  
Wayne Haun  
Rodney Griffin  
Christy Sutherland  
Gerald Crabb

### **Song of the Year**

"Celebrate Me Home" The Perrys  
"She Still Remembers Jesus' Name" Booth Brothers  
"I Believe" Brian Free & Assurance  
"Banks of the Promised Land" Karen Peck & New River  
"Hear My Heart" Jeff & Sheri Easter

### **Quartet of the Year**

Triumphant Quartet  
Brian Free and Assurance  
Ernie Haase & Signature Sound  
Gold City  
Gaither Vocal Band

### **Christian Country Female Vocalist of the Year**

Sonya Isaacs  
Wendy Word  
Sheri Easter  
Mary James  
Christy Sutherland

### **Christian Country Album of the Year**

REAL MEN, REAL LIFE, REAL GOD – John Berry  
BREATHE DEEP- Guy Penrod  
WHY CAN'T WE- The Isaacs  
RED ROOTS- Red Roots  
I BELONG TO JESUS- Jim Sheldon

### **Trio of the Year**

Booth Brothers  
Karen Peck & New River  
Greater Vision  
The Martins  
Jeff & Sheri Easter

### **Christian Country Male Vocalist of the Year**

David Bryan  
Jason Crabb  
Jim Sheldon  
Guy Penrod  
Chuck Day

### **Paul Heil Broadcasting Award**

Gene Peacock  
Daniel Britt  
Bruce Edwards  
Greg Goodman  
Jonathan Edwards

### **Duet of the Year**

Aaron & Amanda Crabb  
Josh & Ashley Franks  
Wilburn & Wilburn  
Jim & Melissa Brady  
Reggie & Ladye Love Smith

### **Favorite Industry Website**

Daywind.com  
Singingnews.com  
Absolutletyngospel.com  
Gospelmusictoday.com  
Gospelgigs.com

### **Favorite Artist Website**

Boothbrothers.com  
Karenpeckandnewriver.com  
Jasoncrabb.com  
Brianfreeandassurance.com  
Gaither.com



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Ray Cooper,  
Drummond Family,  
Jack Freeman,  
Jaidyn's Call,  
and more!



# EHA NASHVILLE



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A close-up portrait of Charlotte Ritchie, a woman with long, wavy brown hair and large hoop earrings, smiling gently. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue.

## "Simply Charlotte" Charlotte Ritchie

By Jennifer Campbell and Rhonda Frye

Some people are born with an innate love of music. Others are blessed with the talent to be able to share their musical talent with thousands of people. A select few have the gift of being able to also balance the responsibilities of being a wife and mother, all the while maintaining a busy schedule of traveling across the country. This artist is no stranger to Southern Gospel Music, having traveled with the Nelons for five years and then Jeff and Sheri Easter for 12 years. Now, she enjoys her third year traveling as a soloist. This special individual is none other than Charlotte Ritchie.

Charlotte says of her solo career, "I'm really enjoying the solo thing. It is different, but I am enjoying it!" She said you don't really realize how much planning goes into everything, since you are the only one planning your set, talking on stage, and seeming as if you have done all of this for years. She said, "It's a LOT! You can't turn to anyone else for help; you just have to do it."

Even so, she has definitely risen to the challenge. People are embracing her with open arms and she is grateful for their support. "It's

really been amazing because even though I've been in the industry for a long time, when you start something new, you're starting over," said Charlotte. "People have been so kind. We have just been busy since day one and that's a huge blessing! We've been very thankful for that."

If you ever have the opportunity to sit down and chat with Charlotte, you'll find out that her heart is as big as the state of Texas. Not only that, but her love for God is greater still. She gives God all of the credit concerning her solo ministry. "God has opened a lot of doors for us," Charlotte stated. "That has been our prayer from the beginning. God, You open the doors for us and we will go! And He has, so that's what we're doing."

Charlotte is very excited about her latest album produced by Ben Isaacs called "Windows in the World." It has 13 songs, featuring some older classics and some brand new ones as well. One favorite is a rearranged version of "Walk Right Out Of This Valley," a song she was well-known for when she traveled with the Nelons. She is thrilled to reintroduce this song on her album, only with a different twist and as she says, "a

cool arrangement.” It also includes “Consider the Lilies,” a beloved title written by the Hemphills, as well as an old Phillips, Craig, and Dean song called “There’s a Little Bit of Morning Outside.”

“I’m so excited about it,” Charlotte said, “because I feel like it is completely *me*. I think it’s a good representation of who I am and the message I’m trying very hard to get out. I’m just super excited about it. The whole record is just so special to me.”

Charlotte is also thrilled to introduce audiences to the very first song she has ever written, as it is featured on this album. She said she has just started writing songs and she is very encouraged by all of the positive feedback she has received after singing her original songs in concert. “It is an incredible feeling,” Charlotte shared. “I’ve wanted to write for a long time. I’ve always been just very afraid to put my thoughts out there. I guess I just didn’t have any confidence.”



Charlotte had a little encouragement from Sonya Isaacs, who helped her overcome her fear of writing her thoughts down. Charlotte said, “One day Sonya [Isaacs] and I were walking and I had this song - most of it written. She and I were walking one day and I was telling her about it. Actually, I had finally got the guts up to tell her

what I had written. She said, ‘Charlotte, that is really good! If you want some help finishing it, I’d be glad to help you.’ So we finished it and I am just thrilled! I hope to do more writing because I really enjoyed that whole process. You sing songs you’ve written from such a different place! It’s from personal experience. It’s something you feel from your toes.”

Needless to say, Charlotte is beaming with joy over this new project. She said, “This whole record is just so special to me. Each one of these songs are special to me but for different reasons. I just poured my heart and soul into it.”

Charlotte is excited to be releasing a new Christmas CD this year! Charlotte’s husband, Greg Ritchie explains: “Last year, Charlotte released a Christmas EP and people responded well. We are completing a full length Christmas project this year. It is sort of a jazz album and it fits Charlotte’s voice so well. We have traditional Christmas songs like “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” and other songs like “Come On Ring Those Bells,” “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem,” “Jingle Bells,” “It’s Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas,” and “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town”.”

Greg added that the production of the Christmas album, *DECEMBER* is a collaborative effort of friends. “We are producing it, Gordon Mote has helped, and we’ve called on Kevin Williams as well as Ben Isaacs.” The album is scheduled to be released this holiday season.

When she is not traveling and singing, Charlotte is first and foremost a wife and a mother. She has two children named Landon and Jayna. Charlotte added, “I am just amazed. They are good kids, especially for what we put them through - all that toting them around and all that kind of stuff we do. But, they are good kids. They are opposite, completely opposite... Oh my goodness! That kind of gets crazy after a while! My daughter is three and it’s all I can do to keep up with her!”

In her spare time (when she has some!), Charlotte enjoys scrapbooking. She said, “It’s something my mom did and she was excellent at it! She was a crafty person - just made beautiful



scrapbooks. So I have continued that and really enjoy it!"

As she spends most of her time ministering to others, Charlotte shared how she personally gets fed spiritually. She said she and her family go to a church in Tennessee that broadcasts the services online, so she can still experience the service when she is away from home. She said she also listens to podcasts and music and reads books.

"A lot of times I will just lay down with headphones in my ears listening to either a great sermon or great music," Charlotte shared. "Everyone needs a chance to listen to others to be able to hear something from a different perspective. Even though it's the same message, hearing it from a different perspective makes you think of things you've never thought of before."

Even with her success as a solo artist, she still gives praise where praise is due. Charlotte said, "God has been good to me and blessed me so much! I am blown away when I look at my life! When I look at all things God has allowed me to do and allowed me to have that I couldn't have dreamed this good! I am so thankful! I am so, so,

so thankful! And as each year passes, I miss my mother terribly, but I've had a wonderful mom, and a lot of kids don't have that. So I'm thankful I had her for 31 years of my life. I'm thankful that she was able to teach me how to be a great mom and a great wife. I am overly blessed and I try not to take that for granted."

Charlotte said to be sure to check out her website at [www.charlotteritchie.com](http://www.charlotteritchie.com). While you're there, feel free to read her blog and find her on Facebook and Twitter. Oh, and be sure to check her schedule so you can see her when she is near you!

Charlotte Ritchie is one special woman. She is a wife, a mom, a friend, a singer, a songwriter, and so much more. Most importantly, she is a child of God. While her life has had its share of victories as well as its share of defeats, Charlotte continues to trust God and keep Him at the center of it all. She knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that God's plans are greater than our own. This is very true, for Charlotte, for you, for all of us. His plans are perfect. So follow Charlotte's example and keep your eyes on the King of Kings. If you do, you'll always know that something awesome is waiting on the horizon!

# INTRODUCING SCOOPS ON THE ROAD



If you need an Emcee for a special concert or event, check with us about having Rob Patz or Rhonda Frye to host your next program! With more than 19 years experience in media, Rob is the owner of Coastal Media- parent company of SGM Radio and SGNScoops Magazine and the host of the Southern Styles Show. Although Rhonda is fairly new to the industry, she is no stranger to the stage. She is a singer/songwriter, an associate pastor and the editor in chief for SGNScoops Magazine.

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# A Mathis Moment My Dad Gets Smarter Every Day!

By John Mathis Jr

I've had the privilege and blessing of not only having a great dad, but I got to work closely with him on a daily basis for many years. We had family painting business years ago, so every morning I'd climb into that old 76 Dodge work truck and we'd head off to the job site; his antics would begin as soon as I climbed in the truck. He was a happy fellow first thing in the morning, always excited about some new song or some new date he had booked where he knew he'd be hitting the road to sing, or excited about some new music business idea. I must admit, during those days he was sometimes just plain obnoxious! I smile thinking about it now; he couldn't talk to me in the truck without poking my arm with his finger, as if he were somehow transferring his wonderful idea through that point of contact. I used to say, "Pop, I can hear you just fine without you poking me!" He'd get a big kick out of that but it never deterred him for one second!

My dad was also full of many of his own coined phrases, sayings and stories from his experiences in life. I recall more than ever these days something he used to say to me quite often: "Son, my dad gets smarter every day, and he's been gone for over 30 years now." His dad, my grandfather, was a holiness preacher in East Texas and Louisiana for 43 years, and my dad admired him greatly.

I know more than ever what my dad was talking about as the years have passed. My own father suffered a massive stroke 14 years ago which left him greatly incapacitated (without speech or hardly any bodily control) and he passed away just last year. It's amazing to me that "my dad gets smarter every day" even though he wasn't able to communicate verbally (or poke at me) during these past 14 years!

In other words, my father was just like his father before him. He lived a lot of life, took the low road at times and took the high road at others. Through all that collective experience of mistakes, failures, successes, bad decisions and good ones, he was trying to save his son a few steps and tell me a thing or two to help me out every once in a while. Of course when you're young and your father is giving you a little "fatherly advice," all you see is a simple, life-loving old man who doesn't know what it's like to be young and want to do things. I'm laughing as I write that sentence now because the years are creeping up on me, I'll be 44 in September and man, "my dad gets smarter every day"!!! He used to say things like, "Son, you ought to not worry with that" or "Son, that won't turn out like you think it will" and sure enough, he was right.

I've always known how much my dad loved me

ever since my earliest memories. He was all about his boys and honestly embarrassingly proud of us. Many times I just wish he'd quit bragging on us so much. He loved us so much! Even after we were grown and married he'd show up on a job or at the house or just come find us wherever we were just to check in on us. Sometimes he had a little, short advice to pass along while he was visiting. While we were chasing our youth and doing what young folks do, "running the roads" as he would say, he still kept an eye out and would insert that little comment of direction at just the right moment to give us enough time to possibly change our mind. I realize now he loved us more than a child could ever imagine (primarily because I have kids of my own) and was watching as we were taking steps down a path he'd already traveled and knew the pitfalls and heartaches that could happen and wanted to try and save us some of the pain and disappointment he already found waiting down the end of some of those dead end roads.

Recently, I've been thinking about my dad, what a great father he was, and that even as good a father as he was how he still doesn't even compare to God, our Heavenly Father. If as a son I can't get the full depth of my own father's love, I think it's almost inconceivable to get an inkling of the magnitude of God's love and care for His children. Then I started thinking, "hmmm, if my dad gets smarter every day," where does that put my ever-expanding view of how smart God is? And I must confess, the intelligence of the Almighty grows in my perception by leaps and bounds each day!

I grew up with the impression that God's Word was a bunch of commandments. Just a list of do's and don't's to test us and perhaps keep us busy or that He was just waiting to dish out punishment for failing to follow. I've realized over the past few years that my dad's wisdom and "getting smarter" was born out of personal experience, the kind born of trial and error. I've realized he was trying to slip some hints in between my youthful zeal to "find my own way" or "do my own thing" that would be to my benefit. Then I've also realized God is just like a dad, EXCEPT, He didn't learn His wisdom from trial and error. He is the actual CREATOR of life. His knowledge of how life works out or doesn't work out comes from the simple fact He created it to work a CERTAIN WAY with certain laws of results for every action taken. He created the moon to revolve around the earth to control the tides and the earth to revolve around the sun so we have days

and nights and seasons. He created everything with a purpose and how we live life is no different.

Those "commandments" that I've tried to follow out of the thought that "I'm just supposed to" are actually KEYS TO LIFE and life more abundantly. Simple "fatherly words" that in times past we may have all grudgingly followed or ignored. *Treat others as you'd like to be treated. Bless your enemies. Pray for those the spitefully use you. Forgive others not just once, but seventy time seven. Do not worry. Do not judge. Love God with all your heart. Love your neighbor. Bring every thought into captivity. Set your mind on good things. You will reap what you sew.* All of these things and many more actually are life practices that even modern day psychologists have discovered bring better mental health, personal well being and positive life results. Things that Jesus taught 2,000 years ago! Teachings that when followed, will FREE people and allow them to avoid much tougher trials and hardships.

The other factor to all of this is that I saw the kind of life my dad lived. He wasn't wealthy, he had his regular day-to-day life challenges of paying bills and making ends meet, but he not only was practicing the things he remembered from his earthly father but he was putting into practice daily what he knew were words of wisdom from his Heavenly Father. The past few years God has also allowed me to witness other people who walk according to the KEYS TO LIFE that God has imparted to us all and I've seen that these people live FREE from the consequences others face who choose to "do it their way." They have peace, joy and contentment in their daily walk. Something we ultimately all desire.

I can also personally tell you that as I've changed my perception of God's Word and follow after it, as if I've learned some great secret, it has changed my life. No longer do I get up each day and try to will myself to follow commandments, but I view God's Word as if someone is letting me in some "inside information" about living and about purpose. Once you ever put just a few of these bits of "Fatherly wisdom" in practice and practice it long enough to see some results, you'll wonder why you ever trusted your own judgment on just about anything! You might even come to the conclusion that God "pretty smart!"

If Dad were living today, you better believe I'd pick up the phone and call him or go see him and

say, "Pop, I've got this particular situation right now and this is what I *feel* like doing about it, but what would you do?" But you know what, I actually have a Heavenly Father who created me, created this life and knows how it functions and works inside and out. He's given us a great volume of His Word to draw from and great teachers and preachers who represent it well.

Life can be fulfilling, joyous and abounding with contentment more than we can imagine. Not by avoiding the trials, hardships, wrongs, pains and obstacles that come our way, but learning what step to make in each of those circumstances that will give us the end result our hearts truly desire.

In Matthew, the fifth chapter, Jesus begins to teach some of the most basic subjects regarding life and daily living. He summed up these three chapters of wisdom in Matthew 7:24-27: **"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."**

If you want a life that will stand the rain, the flood waters, and the blowing wind, base your life on every Word that your Heavenly Father has given. You'll not only save yourself from those "great crashes" Jesus mentioned, but you'll be more contented and satisfied with the life you have than you can ever imagine!

Tomorrow is a new day, I look forward to each one I'm given and discovering and putting into practice a few more of those KEYS TO LIFE God has given... I want to know what my Heavenly Father has to say about the best way to live life.... and I also know that my dad will also get a little smarter.

John Mathis

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## Greater Vision: An Increasing Perspective Part One

By Lorraine Walker

Greater Vision, one of the best male trios to hit the stage in the history of Southern Gospel, has been winning awards and traveling extensively since 1990. Even after 22 years, Gerald Wolfe, Rodney Griffin and Chris Allman continue to hone their craft and pursue superior quality in their music. Their history and experience, combined with continued achievements and new levels of excellence are propelling these artists to an increasing perspective of ministry and spiritual maturity.

In this first segment of the Greater Vision interview, the members talk about the history of Gospel music, the changes they've seen and what it means to be consistent in their music, faith and personal lives. They are continuously gaining a new and better vision on what it means to be a Christian artist in a society of change. After all, the members themselves were initiators of change when Gerald Wolfe assembled a singing group of three men in a quartet world.

Greater Vision broke the mold of the traditional-quartet-style of Southern Gospel, becoming one of the most popular male groups in the genre. They've always been well-received by radio and live audiences across the nation. Randall Christy, president of The Gospel Station Network, says, "Greater Vision is a tremendous group and has been a force in Gospel Music for a long time. Greater Vision

is popular because of their great songs and great sound. Gerald Wolfe and the group have really made an impact with their ministry in song, with some of the most requested songs on our radio network through the years."

Music director Bruce Edwards of 770AM Southern Gospel WCGW, says, "[Greater Vision provides] excellence in recording new material for radio, a great vocal blend, great song writing, powerful lyrics, and first class presentation of the gospel in concert. They have been a listener favorite here in Lexington and Central Kentucky for over 22 years with plenty of number one songs!" Top-charting songs and accolades from radio and other industry members have been numerous for this trio. Each Greater Vision recording seems destined to garner even more nominations and honors than the previous releases.

In 2011, Greater Vision released *The Only Way* recording, arranged by Lari Goss, which has produced several charting songs and a nomination for Album Of The Year as well as Song Of The Year, for "I Know A Man Who Can". In 2012, the trio re-released their recording entitled *Hymns of the Ages*, remixed and remastered with the addition of Chris Allman's beautiful tenor. Allman's return to Greater Vision in 2010 brought the group full circle to their lineup of 15 years previous. He says there have been some

changes in the industry since he first began with the group, the time away giving him perhaps a different perspective than most.



"[There have been] a lot of face changes, but then again thankfully a lot of familiar faces are still around and we need those you know," says Allman. "The folks that hang in there make a way for the generation to come. Music-wise, there have been not a lot [of changes] stylistically I suppose. Some groups make changes but I suppose I could say the groups that tend to stick around stay with the same type of style. Even though the message never varies, we might try to say it a little different way here and there but we're sticking with the same style."



Rodney Griffin, baritone with the group since 1993, concurs with Allman that Greater Vision has

remained constant overall in their style, which has contributed to their longevity in the business. "What I've seen for 18 years here is a wonderful place for consistency. It's a blessing. Some groups, you never know from album to album what they're going to sound like, or their style of song. But hopefully we've stayed true to the traditional style that we started with and therefore we haven't lost too many listeners. We hope to have gained some and lost none. It's total fulfillment for me."



Gerald Wolfe is a proponent of the traditional style of Gospel music and has successfully piloted the group since its origins. Wolfe is a tremendous lead singer and pianist who had already made his mark in Southern Gospel with The Cathedrals and the Dumplin Valley Boys. His distinctive vocal style is unparalleled in the industry, as is his integrity and spiritual depth. His unique personality has garnered him many fans as well as close friends in the industry, including popular family group, The Whisnants.

Susan Whisnant, one of Southern Gospel's leading female vocalists, comments on another side of Gerald Wolfe, one that most fans may not see. "Gerald has always been a hero of mine, so to speak. I watched him when he started singing with The Cathedrals and now to call him a friend is a true blessing. Gerald is very talented; we all know that. But he is one of the smartest and funniest guys I've ever known. He's also a great mentor to me and Jeff. We've been in their home and Donna, his wife, is one of the most precious ladies I've ever met. We love them and are thankful to call them our friends."

Another friend of Greater Vision is Clayton Inman, lead singer with the award-winning Triumphant Quartet. Inman shares, "One of the greatest compliments one can give to describe another is that they are consistent. This could be used to describe Greater Vision. Their solid sound, lyrically strong songs, and being the same people every day are what make them great. Their sound is unique, in that when you hear them sing on the radio, you know it's Greater Vision. Chemistry is also something that can make or break a group. It's obvious Greater Vision is loaded with that as well. They have been with us a long time and we'll expect many more years of great music from this talented group."



Consistency and chemistry is a terrific combination in a musical trio that has already left their mark in the Gospel music industry. In a world of gray areas, this trio stands out with their black-

and-white approach to honesty and the Word of God. Wolfe comments that being the same every day and having an unvarying walk in all areas of life is a positive attribute in an industry of change.

"In a word, I hope [I will be remembered as] 'consistent,'" says Wolfe. "Because if you ever go to a good funeral, if there is such a thing, which there is, you sit there and listen to people get up and talk about a person and all the things they loved about them, it all boils down to that one word, 'consistency'. They don't ever get up and say, 'I'll tell you what I liked about that guy, every time I saw him he was different'. I've never heard that said at a funeral. What they say is, 'I'll tell you what I liked about that guy, he was always the same.'"

Wolfe continues, "So if I could just pick a word it would be consistent, and the reason is I got to thinking several years ago about what I like and why I like it, and here's what I came up with. The reason McDonald's (and I'm not endorsing McDonalds) sells more hamburgers in the world than anyone else is because they always taste the same. They don't ever mention anyone else in their advertising, they don't ever say 'we're better than Burger King, we're better than Arby's,' they never compare themselves with anybody because they're Number One. They don't criticize others; they don't even talk about hamburgers in their commercials. They talk about, 'We're your kind of place, bring your family,' or whatever. So, they're consistent." Whether it's Cracker Barrel or Coke Zero, there are things Wolfe enjoys because he says he knows he will always get the same quality. "What has made number-one companies in the world successful is their consistency."

"I think what made the Cathedral Quartet successful is not because they didn't reach out there sometimes," Wolfe states. "They recorded with the London Symphony, then they did an accappella album, then they did just a rhythm track album. But still, it was their consistency. When you saw them you knew what you were going to get. You knew George was going to be funny, Glen was going to be Glen, and [there would be] great singing. You knew what you were going to get. You didn't have to guess. So they built on that over 37 years. It was consistency."

Wolfe concludes, "So when I'm gone, and you go back to this interview, I hope you'll be able to say,

'You know what, he was consistent'. Because that's what I want to say about you." Still he says, changes in how we do what we do can be beneficial, as long as our reasons for what we do remain constant. Gerald Wolfe describes changes he has seen from his perspective of over 30 years in full-time Christian music.

"I'm the old generation [in Gospel music] now, you know," laughs Wolfe. "Mark Trammell, myself, Scott Fowler; a few of us have been around a long time. There are a lot of new folks, which is a good thing. We always need new folks, especially good new ones. There are a lot of good new ones coming along, like Promise and others that are going to do well. That's one of the changes I see."

"Our music is always [changing]," Wolfe remarks. "You can go back and listen to when this kind of music started, although there were no recordings in the first couple decades, but if you listen from the late 1920's on, like the Chuck Wagon Gang and the Speer Family and the LeFevres and on, it's always been an evolving type of music. The kind of music that people call traditional gospel music today is not what they were singing back in the 1950's. So there is always room [for change in] Southern Gospel - and I really hate the term southern gospel. But Southern Gospel is a huge umbrella, so there are all kinds of different styles. Sometimes that's a great thing, sometimes it's not, because people don't really know how to classify."

Wolfe continues, "When you go in and listen to a concert now, you will hear everything from bluegrass to country-influenced, to gospel, a little bit of jazz or pop. Or you hear what I call traditional quartet singing which is always four-part, and then you have what we do which is 'trio' which is kind of more 'church-ey', an inspirational type of music. I like a little bit of all of it, but it's getting harder and harder to pinpoint when you say 'I'm going to the National Quartet Convention'; it's certainly not just a 'quartet convention' anymore."

When he comments about the music he sings, Gerald Wolfe prefers terms other than Southern Gospel. Wolfe says, "I call it Gospel or Christian music. When somebody asks me what I do, I tell them 'I sing Christian music', because Southern Gospel was a term that was made up back in like 1978 by the board of the Gospel Music Association and Nashville to distinguish it from Black Gospel. Before that it was just 'Gospel'. We had Gospel and Black Gospel, and they wanted to get away from the term 'Black Gospel' because the black community was starting to use the term African-American to get away from the 'black' terminology. So they changed 'Black Gospel' to just plain 'Gospel', and then they had to come up with something different for our genre, so they came up with the term 'Southern Gospel'."

Wolfe continues, "It sounded good at the time but the truth is, our music is not just popular in the South, and it did not just necessarily come from the South. The first singing convention was in



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, more than 130 years ago, where they started the 'shape-note' craze. It started in Philadelphia, it didn't start in the south, and so that's why I don't like it."

"It pigeon-holes us in peoples' minds to being either southern-sounding, country-sounding, bluegrass-sounding, or hokey, instead of what it is. Our music has a broad range of tastes, so I just call it Christian music or Gospel Music. If somebody tries to pinpoint it, I just say it's traditional; it's what you would hear in your church. Well, not necessarily in the church anymore."

"We go overseas and over there they call it 'Southern Gospel' because of the Gaither videos. That's how they got to know us in Europe. We go there and the people love it and they pack those places. The first time we went to Belfast, Ireland, we got 1200 people on a Saturday night, which is amazing for us. The only way they knew us was because they had seen us on a Gaither video and they had seen us on Dr Charles Stanley's television program." As popular and talented as Greater Vision is, even this trio has seen a drop in the average concert attendance. This was specifically notable at the 2011 National Quartet Convention (NQC) in Louisville, Kentucky.

Gerald Wolfe comments on decrease in Gospel concert ticket sales: "I think it's a combination of a few things. Truthfully, in 2010 the [NQC] Exhibit Hall was sold out. [In 2011] it was not, so to me there are two things that caused that. One thing is certainly the economy. I know that in 2011, especially in August, people were so uncertain about the debt limit increase and all those factors playing into the economy and the unemployment numbers going up weekly, that people were holding on to their money and not planning things. It's hard to come up here and spend \$1000 on a hotel for a week and buy all these tickets, so people held on."

However, Wolfe comments that there was a silver lining to this cloud. "So in 2011, we saw an increase in the 'walk ups', people waiting until the last minute and walking up and buying a ticket at the door. It was unusual. [There was some] diminishing in the exhibit space, although it was not down as much as people seem to think it was, it was actually down about 40 booth spaces, out of the over 500."

"I think that was the result of two things," continues Wolfe. "One is the economy; groups don't necessarily have the money to spend, it's hard, and when the economy goes down all the groups suffer too. Another thing is, we cut back the number of artists on the stage in 2011 so some of those artists were not there. In some ways, I think that was a good thing, to try to shorten the program and to give some artists more time as we always get complaints about that. On the other hand it was not a good thing as we were missing some of the artists that we got used to seeing on the platform."

"So over the next several months I think you will see a little bit of a revamp of that, as we revisit it when we have our meetings, and I think you're going to see some positive changes in that area." Gerald Wolfe was elected to the National Quartet Convention Board of Directors in 2005. The NQC Board, along with its Advisory Council, coordinates the annual event, performing all strategic planning and event management necessary to present this massive undertaking.

Each member of Greater Vision is working toward a positive change in their world, whether it is through excellence in recording or performance, the songwriting of both Chris Allman and Rodney Griffin, or through the industry tasks undertaken by Gerald Wolfe. In all this activity, can these artists have time for home and family? Next month, the members talk about their personal lives, loves and relationships, and explain more fully their increasing perspective on what it means to have Greater Vision.

For more information:  
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Randall Christy, President, The Gospel Station Network. <http://www.thegospelstation.com/dyn/index.php>  
Bruce Edwards, Music Director at 770AM Southern Gospel WCGW <http://www.wcgwam.com/>



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# Catching up with Jeff Steele

by Sandi Duncan Clark



Mention the song “We Want America Back,” and one automatically recalls the family group, The Steeles. During the nineties, some of the most exciting Southern Gospel songs came from the pen of Texas native, Jeff Steele. Those songs, performed by his family group, as well as other artists, had a far reaching impact throughout the Gospel music industry and especially on the career of the Steeles.

At that time, the Steeles consisted of Jeff, his wife Sherry and tenor David White. In 1991 the group signed with Daywind Records, and recorded their first Daywind album, *HEAVEN’S CITY LIMITS*. Personnel changes came and during the height of their popularity, the line-up featured Jeff and Sherry, their daughter, Christy, Karen Akeman and Troy Peach. Other albums followed, about one a year, with special projects intermittently, and by the mid-90’s the Steeles were in demand on the concert circuit all across the country. They appeared on every major Southern Gospel concert stage; performed for every major concert promoter in Gospel music; took part in every featured Southern Gospel event, entertained on many Gospel cruises and various Gospel award shows and black tie affairs and appeared as guests on the Gaither Homecoming videos.

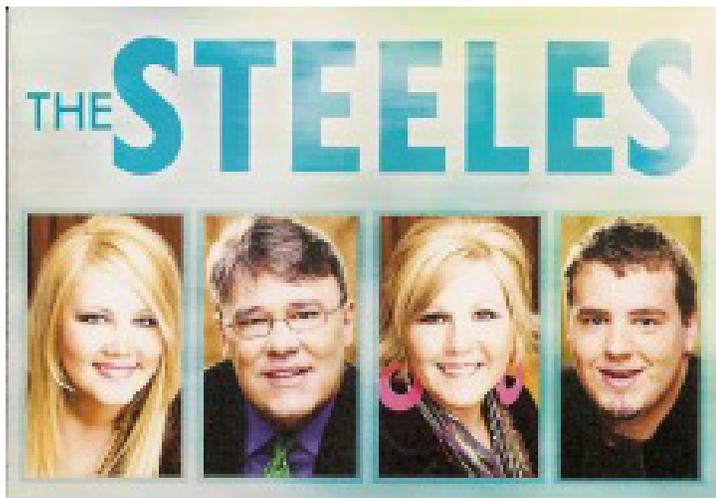
With these songs; “I Must Tell Somebody,” “God Kept His Promise,” “I Got Up and Went,” “Oh What a

Mighty God We Serve,” and the mega hit, “We Want America Back,” the Steeles became a household word and needless to say, Southern Gospel radio loved them. Their music touched hearts and created a major following for the Steeles which continues to this day.

In 1995 and 1996 Jeff was named BMI’s Southern Gospel Songwriter of the Year. Their 1996 album, *WE WANT AMERICA BACK* was voted Album Of The Year by subscribers of THE SINGING NEWS, which was presented at the National Quartet Convention in 1997.

I recall their performance of “We Want America Back” at the National Quartet Convention with hundreds of American flags waving and the entire audience on their feet. Being an election year, it was easy to see the politically charged performance as an opportunity for Christian fans to declare their allegiance to God and America, with the help of the Steeles.

Other awards and recognitions followed, including a number one status on THE SINGING NEWS charts for most of the Steele’s radio releases. In late 2005 the Steeles decided to downsize their road ministry and Jeff began concentrating on his preaching ministry. By 2006, Jeff and Sherry were invited to come to Faith Baptist Church in Vinemont, Alabama as their Senior Pastor.



As we have reminded you of the history of the Steeles, we will begin catching up with them, from a recent conversation with Jeff and Sherry. Earlier in the spring, I accompanied Ann and Alicia Bailey on a weekend Gospel music trip to Alabama. Following a late night concert on Saturday night, we traveled to Vinemont, to surprise Jeff and Sherry in the Easter Sunday Morning Service. It was a joy to catch up again with one of our favorite songwriters/singers/preachers, and enjoy the service with his church family.

While the Steeles did not sing that Sunday morning, Sherry and son Brad did sing with the drama team, which presented the Easter Morning celebration. We then enjoyed Jeff's message.

Along with their pastoral duties, the family continues to perform various special concert dates. They had recently returned from performing on a Gospel cruise, and Jeff stated, "Our life is so full of blessings, and we certainly are enjoying where God has planted us, and is using us."

Jeff has been Pastor of Faith Baptist for six years now and those six years have been amazing ones. "All during the time we were full time in the music ministry, I missed the opportunity to preach," Jeff said. "I missed the study of the Word, and the messages God gave me. I always knew I would never be the traditional pastor; but I am called to preach the Word, and I love my church."

"We accepted the church on the first Sunday in May, 2006," Jeff said. "We continue to sing but we're doing it in our church, with an occasional date we're invited to, but our church comes first."

Jeff continued the story, "Shortly after we came to

Vinemont, we realized that the church had a need for a new building program. We decided to record at our church with our choir and to use the proceeds from this to help with our building program. We recorded the CD *FAITH* with 10 songs, and what a time we had that night! It was a huge success and we now have the building in use!"

Most of the songs on the recording were written or co-written by Jeff with some of his friends. The church choir is phenomenal and the recording is really a blessing.

"When we were in the music industry full-time, I learned an awful lot about people and about my relationship with God, and how I dealt with people, and sometimes I didn't like what I saw. I learned how to let God deal with me and as the scripture says, to put myself under and let God come through. Some things I didn't do right, but I've learned and made those things right, and I'm a better person for it," Jeff said thoughtfully. "I can say from my heart that the more I grow, the more I realize I have a lot to learn, and God is teaching me."



Jeff feels that part of that learning happened on this past May 24<sup>th</sup>. He and his son Brad, along with two of Brad's friends were about to enjoy a ball game at home on TV, with refreshments and all that goes with game night. He explained, "I was looking forward to relaxing and enjoying the game with the boys."

Suddenly Jeff lost consciousness, fell down several cement steps and landed face first in some landscape bricks. Brad and his friends ran out to Jeff, and Brad

called 911. Within minutes, Jeff was being air lifted to the hospital. “Brad and his two friends did everything they were told to do, and that’s the reason I’m here today,” Jeff firmly declared. “I was unconscious and I was fighting the EMTs and don’t remember a thing. I was all messed up from the fall; cut and bleeding and still giving them a hard time. I honestly have to give credit to those three 18 year olds, for saving my life.”

After several days in the hospital, and numerous tests, Jeff still doesn’t have a clear answer to what happened. He shares, “At first they thought it might have been a stroke, and then they checked my heart. I have no definitive answer, but we’ve had to make some life changes. Our eating habits have changed, we’re going to the gym, and trying to eliminate the stress in our lives and I can’t drive for six months. ”

Jeff continued, “My buddy, Woody Wright, sent me a book and it has entirely changed my life style. Since I can’t drive, Sherry has to take me to the gym so she’s been working out too!”

This episode in May has caused him to readjust his thoughts. “I’m 53 years old, and my Dad passed away when he was my age, so I am trying to do the best I can to take care of my health. I love my church, I still love the music; I have a wonderful wife and family, and we’re expecting our first grandbaby, and I have so much to be thankful for, and so much left to do!”

Sherry Steele shared a little secret with us! On Social Cam this week, Sherry shared; “Following the incident Jeff had in May, the Cardiologist and Neurologist both told me that this would be a life change for both of us, since I would be taking him to the gym and fixing his food and all. So when I take him to the gym, instead of sitting in the corner like a fat rat, I’ve been

doing everything he does; walking the treadmill and everything. Well, Jeff has lost 50 pounds, and I haven’t lost that much. He said the other day, ‘Well, you’re not losing as much as I am.’ I passed it off to the difference in the male and female hormones and stuff, but I have a confession.”

“I have errands to run and one day Jeff called me when I was out. He asked what I was doing and said he heard Mexican music in the background. I told him someone was playing the music, and I’d be home in a few minutes. I didn’t tell him that I sometimes stop at Monte Vista for chips and dip, while I’m running my errands, and I didn’t tell him, but sometimes I stop at Dairy Queen for a Misty Freeze.”

Sherry laughed, “So I guess I’d better confess... That’s why I haven’t lost as much weight as he has!”

“I do want to say that this incident has made both Jeff and me aware that we must take responsibility for our health. Jeff still has work left to do for the Lord and we have a grandbaby on the way! We are so very blessed,” Sherry finished.

So, for all the questions I get; at least once or twice a month, about have we heard from the Steeles, here you have it! They are happily pastoring Faith Baptist Church in Vinemont, Alabama, still singing and still serving the Lord. They have a brand new recording, *SONGS FROM THE WORD*, and a new radio single, “There Is A God,” playing on Jeff O’Neal’s Heritage compilation CD. You may contact Jeff and Sherry at Post Office Box 111, Vinemont, Alabama, 35179, to check up on them, and to get a copy of both albums: *FAITH* and *SONGS FROM THE WORD*.

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# New Music for August

by Sandi Duncan Clark

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!** Our little grandson, Levi Owen Duncan, made his entrance into the world on Friday, July 13! He arrived at 7:46 PM, weighing 7.29 lbs, is 20  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, with dark hair and blue/grey eyes. What a precious blessing this little man has brought to our lives. This first-time grandmother is learning just how precious Grandchildren can be. Thank you all for reminding me of that! We are so pleased.

Summertime...and the livin' is HOT, HOT HOT!!! Here in South Carolina, we have had some of the hottest days on record! We've also been praying for the folks out west who are experiencing the horrific fires and especially those who have lost their homes.

Not only does summer bring some enjoyable time, it also brings some unusual accidents. Just recently, two of the teachers on staff at the school where our son teaches, were on their way home from vacation. Then an unfortunate accident took the life of one teacher and her mother. The other teacher is in critical condition in the hospital. Please pray for ALL who are traveling, as well as our wonderful artists who cover thousands of miles to share the message of the Gospel.

We've been enjoying new music from several inspiring artists recently. A couple of them are new to me, but all are talented and each lifted my spirits with their music. Many times there are blessings in the songs, which I might not recognize the first time I listen. Then I play them again, and God demonstrates His greatness with a

blessing I missed the first time around! Thank you all, who allow us to introduce your music to our readers!



**ON WITH THE PRAISE**  
Mark Dubbeld Family  
Manor House Music  
Producer: Bill Traylor

This family's love for Gospel music of any style shines through in their church performances as well as on the concert stage. Mark Dubbeld has been singing Gospel music more than a quarter century, both as a soloist and as a leader in church music. He, his wife Janene, daughter Elena, 15; two older sons, Vincent, age 20 and Leighton age 18; as well as their two younger sons, eleven year old Channing and eight year old Britton, enjoy traveling as a family. The Dubbelds are actively involved in a Gospel music ministry and consider this their mission for the Lord.

I recently became acquainted with this family's music, and definitely have several favorites on ON

WITH THE PRAISE, their most recent recording on the Manor House Music label with Mansion Entertainment. This album was produced by well-known record executive, Bill Traylor.

With a little jazz, big band, country and traditional Southern style tracks, this CD is filled with compelling, original songs, most of which were written by Janene. Moreover, Mark and his sons, Vincent and Leighton also contribute to their song catalog, often co-writing with Janene. There is definitely something here for every music enthusiast.

Mark shares that Janene not only enjoys song writing, but has compiled several devotion books and contributes to several blogs.

The title song, “On with the Praise,” kicks off the album with exciting music tracks and the family singing unison, they then break in to harmony parts. While you’re enjoying the song, you will just have to do as they say, “Get on with the praise.” What a way to begin an introduction to this family!

“Forever And For Always,” a cute song featuring the Dubbeld’s two younger sons, Britton, age 7, singing the first verse and Channing, age 11 singing the second while the family joins in on the chorus. “Through The Eyes of Faith,” is such an incredible blessing, and “I Didn’t Buy It,” written by Janene and Mark tells us that we can’t buy this grace of God.

My favorite song on the project is the group’s current radio single, “Inside the Gate,” which talks about the place reserved for us! Call your local radio station and ask them for “Inside the Gate,” by the Mark Dubbeld Family!

Contact this family on their web site at [www.mjdubbeld.com](http://www.mjdubbeld.com) for a copy of this wonderful recording.



## GOD IS IN CONTROL

The Dills

Brookfield Music Group

Producers: Matthew Holt, Gene Walden, Eddie Harrison

When a family joins in praise together forming a music ministry, a number of exciting things develop. They learn more about each other as they travel together causing a closer bond. They share all the places they visit as a family, while sharing the joy of Jesus with their listeners and fans.

For me, one of the highlights of attending the National Quartet Convention several years ago was meeting The Dills of Jackson, Tennessee. Tim Dill, his wife Bridget, Tim’s brother, Shawn and his wife, LeeAnn have dedicated their music to taking the message of Christ wherever God opens the door.

GOD IS IN CONTROL has some remarkable music tracks. Matthew Holt played piano and co-produced with Gene Walden, who also did the orchestration. Eddie Harrison worked with the Dills on vocal production, accomplishing one of the best recordings I’ve heard from this exciting group.

Opening with the Dallas Holm hit, “Rise Again,” there are ten impressive songs. “God Is in Control” really spoke to me today and I needed the message! What a song of encouragement. “If You Had Only Seen Me then,” has your toes tappin’ and your hands clappin’! The song says ‘If you had only seen me then, you know it’s never too late to start again!’ AMEN!

“These Hands” says that our hands were made for clapping and praising and glorifying, and helping others, and most of all for loving God. If we learn to follow that, we know our blessings are coming!

Tim does an outstanding job on David Phelps' great song, "End of the Beginning." What a testimony! The remaining songs on the play list are all significant songs and have a great message. They are; "You Reign," "The Church Will Remain," "The Prayer," and "It's Only the First Time."

And last but definitely not least my favorite of all is "The Most Unlikely People..." like you and me! This song will let you know that YOU are special in God's sight! You must hear this album to really appreciate what a blessing The Dills music can be. Please contact them at [www.thedills.net](http://www.thedills.net)



## WORSHIP

Modern Hymns for Every Generation

Mercy's Well

Independent

Producer: Donna Beauvais-King

The talent, the song selection, the music tracks: everything truly came together for this wonderful new recording from Brad Strider, Kyle King and Greg Gainer. From the beginning, my senses were captivated with the message on WORSHIP.

When working on new music, I often have the recordings on continuous play, and so many times I hear something in the replay that I might not have heard before. This was my experience with Mercy's Well and their new inspirational music. The songs are all sung as worship to our Lord and Savior and by the end of my day, I was praising along with the gentlemen!

"Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing,)" is an excellent way to kick off an album dedicated to worship and praise to God. While these songs are some that we sing in church with our praise team, these arrangements are not just the typical style with which we are familiar.

I love the medley of "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Holy Spirit Thou Art Welcome," and "Standing On Holy Ground." What a humble, reverent way to tell our Lord how we feel when we are in His presence.

"How Marvelous" has always been a favorite church hymn, and hearing these men treat the song in such a special way thrilled my heart! Try beginning your day with this little chorus; and I promise; your day will go so much better!

"How Marvelous, How Wonderful, and my song shall ever be,  
How Marvelous, How Wonderful, is my Savior's love for me."

Several other songs are grouped in medleys and continue the awe of worship I felt while allowing Brad, Kyle and Greg to minister to me through this album! "The Rocks Shall Not Cry Out/Let The Rocks Keep Silent" is a favorite! And I sang with them, 'the rocks shall not cry out in my place; they will have to wait their turn!!'

"Blessed Redeemer/Oh How He Loves You and Me" has a unique arrangement, and the chorus is the perfect ending to the song. "In Christ Alone/His Strength Is Perfect" is a beautiful song and while I always love hearing Mike English sing it, Mercy's Well has stepped up to the plate with their version. Ending the song with "His Strength Is Perfect" completes Christ's promise that His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Other songs on the playlist are; "Blessed Be Your Name," "Beautiful Terrible Cross," "You are God Alone/Mighty to Save" and "How Great Thou Art." You may contact Mercy's Well at their web site [www.mercyswell.com](http://www.mercyswell.com) for a copy of this recording.



## BASED ON A TRUE STORY

The Akins

Sonlite

Producers: The Akins

What a wonderful concept for a beautiful recording! This is a very talented family, and their music is fascinating. They play and sing a progressive Country Gospel style and all ten songs are written by group members. These songs were written like a story and are arranged to create pages in a book; like days and events we all experience.

The group's current radio single is the first cut on the album. "Kneel," and was written by Nick Akin. The song says, 'when life is more than you can stand, Kneel.' I like the scripture references that Nick used to write this song. The other songs also have scripture to back up the message. What a blessing and what an encouragement!

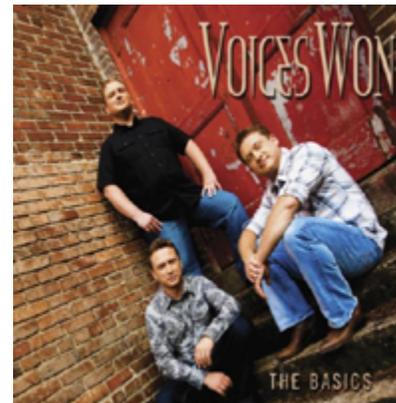
"Big God" shares how sometimes Satan can be deceptive in the form of someone who claims to be a religious leader and how that deception can cause others to turn away from our loving God. Whitney Akin wrote; 'My God is a real God, He's a world holdin', star breathin', all knowin', time keepin', great God. He ain't no grudge holdin', lighten' strikin', temper losin', finger pointin' fake God—He's a hope givin', Always livin, ... My God is a Big God!' (Taken from "Big God," written by Whitney Akin on Chris White Music.)

"Look Outside The Window," a song written by David (Father of the group,) and his son Nick, I think, pretty much sums up the Akins' music ministry. It speaks of how blinded we can become to the needs of others and that if we only look around, there are so many people to need our love and help, as a Christian.

Other songs are "Heaven Is A Lot Like This," (reminiscing of a loved one and what heaven must be,) "Too Far Gone," (no one is outside the reach of God,) and "He Is I Am," (where we fail, God is always there.)

The final song, "Based on a True Story," begins; 'When I need a pick-me-up cause the day's been long, I crank up the stereo with a good ol' Gospel song. A small reminder of how much God loves me, and the best thing about a gospel song; It's based on a true story.' The writer goes on to remind the listener of our Lord's death, burial and resurrection,' all based on a true story. This is such a distinctive, wonderful song.

Each song presents the story of a life-challenge, and, as the messages in these songs reiterate, only God has the answer. We all know sometimes music is the best way to get a message across when our loved ones won't listen to a sermon; often they will listen to a song. The Akins has touched my heart with this album, and I do recommend that you contact them for your copy at [www.theakinsonline.com](http://www.theakinsonline.com).



## BASICS

Voices Won

Crossroads Music

Producer: Jeff Collins

The theme of this recording is taken from the title song, "Basics of Life," written by Mark Harris & Don Koch. The remaining nine songs follow through this theme with lyrics which remind us of those basic morals we grew up living by. The song says 'we need to get back to the basics of life,' teaching the realities of Christian faith.

Family harmony is perfect here from Jaron, Shantell, and Staclynn Faulkner, Voices Won. Their song selection is encouraging, some of them taking me back several years, and featuring new arrangements.

The faith and morals these gentlemen learned at the feet of godly parents and grandparents are what they sing of today, and what certainly led them to the place they serve. Under the expert leadership of Jeff Collins, one of the industry's most recognized producers, Voices Won has done what they do best; sing solid songs, with feeling, anointing and excitement.

Music tracks on "Love Will Roll The Clouds Away" are unique, and provide a great foundation for talented vocals. Modulation on the verses delivers a more interesting sound. Musician David Johnson does a wonderful job on the violin on this song!

An old favorite from several years ago, written by Jimmie Davis and Fern Jones, and recorded by a number of artists; "I Was There When It Happened," is given new life with a fresh new arrangement.

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" and "Prayer Changes Me" are both expertly done and greatly add to this recording. "Follow Me," written by Rodney Griffin is a song with such simple edifying lyrics. Voices Won's unpretentious, professional style is most appealing and takes the listener from one song to another with pleasure and anticipation.

Other songs that are a blessing are; "Mighty To Save," "One True God," "Unseen Hand" and this trio's wonderful version of "It Is Well With My Soul." I highly recommend Voices Won and BASICS. Visit their website at [www.voiceswon.com](http://www.voiceswon.com) to procure your copy of THE BASICS.

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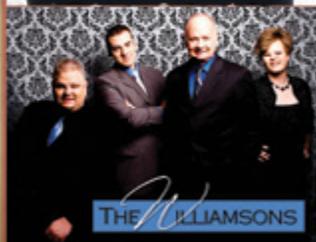
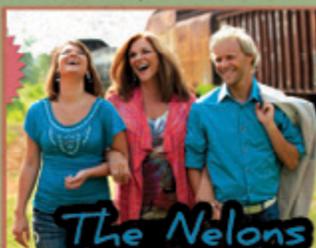
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A portrait of Lynda Randle, a woman with voluminous, curly brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a black top, a necklace with several blue and white stones, and a matching bracelet. The background is a plain, light color.

## Lynda Randle A Portrait of Storm Survival

By Charlie Sexton

You might think that being the middle child of seven siblings, raised in the shadow of the Capitol of the United States, Lynda Randle lived a charmed childhood. Not so. Hers was somewhat of a tumultuous upbringing. Her dad had survived a life of crime and eventually found Christ through the radio ministry of Dr. Oliver B. Greene. Lynda's mom had left him for a time, but God calmed their storm, and brought them back together. While things were much better for the family -- and even though she had become the daughter of an inner-city pastor -- young Lynda was exposed to terrible things in her neighborhood such as drugs, shootings, and prostitution. Her grades hit rock bottom in the ninth grade and she found herself smack-dab in the middle of her very own, personal storm. Yet, it was her faith -- shared with her by her father when she was 12 years old -- that later brought her through some traumatic and unspeakable things that happened to her. So, now, when you see this vibrant woman of God grace the stage, singing Mosie Lister's classic lyric, "Til The Storm Passes By," you can rest assured that she knows first-hand of the sustaining power of Christ, and that He can, and will, keep us safe in the hollow of His hand!

It's very apparent that Lynda has learned to effectively use prayer, faith and Bible study to weather each storm that has ever come her way. "You have to

have the Word of God in your heart. You have to have a personal relationship with the God of the Bible." She goes on to say, "Now, I've not walked through some particular tragedies that others may have walked through, but my own personal struggles are just as important to me as theirs are to them, so I can certainly relate in that respect with complete compassion. I've had to learn for myself; to learn to trust and believe Him when He says that, 'no weapon formed against me shall prosper,' and that I can 'cast all of my cares upon the Lord, for He truly cares for me.' You know, that really means what it says! One of my favorite scriptures is Psalms 55:22. 'Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved'. No matter what comes my way, in the midst of it all, I know that He hasn't forgotten me, and that He is there!"

"Now, as far as me, personally, we've had our share of storms to go through with in the last few years. For instance, my Mom came to live with us here in Kansas City. Now, understand, she is not the storm, but the struggles that come with caring for an aging parent certainly can be a storm. Sometimes, there have been nights when I've felt fearful, and even had some doubts in myself, but I've felt the effects of the prayers of folks out there who have committed to pray for us. They hold us up! We've had to

make changes in the face of a bad economy, but God has worked triple time to supply our needs in a way that only He can."

"So, for that person who is going through a severe storm, I may not totally relate to their exact circumstances, but I can sure see a God that's big enough to carry them through anything that they face."



Wow. What an encourager Lynda is! One of her dear friends, Jane Cox from Atlanta, Georgia, certainly said it right, "Lynda's beautiful, shining face always shows how deeply her heart loves God, her family and her friends, as well as the many folks to whom she ministers. I know that with the release of her new CD, God has even greater plans to use her to help encourage so many hurting people!"

It has been a long four years since this beloved songstress has been in the studio. But, you see, even in the midst of what might be deemed as great success, interesting things can happen. While your calling will remain unchanged, the scope of it may widen, and your personal priorities may be shifted. Such was the case with Lynda. After a wonderful run of being a full-time part of

Bill Gaither's Homecoming Tour, Lynda and her husband, Michael, now find themselves heading up their own multi-faceted ministry based in Kansas City, Missouri. It encompasses preaching, pastoring, speaking, singing, writing, recording, mentoring, women's conferences and one-on-one counseling. To say that they are busy would be an understatement! Add in the personal effects of caring for an aging parent and raising their own two beautiful daughters, Patience and Joy. The Randles are constantly on the go. So, it's no surprise that it took some time for Lynda to craft out the details of this latest recording.

Fellow Homecoming artist, Ben Isaacs, was chosen to be Lynda's co-producer for these landmark sessions. Lynda handpicked each of the 12 tunes, but relied on the different creativity that Ben brought to the planning table, as well as the tracking sessions. "Ben's a good brother," she exclaims. "I couldn't have done it without him, but he couldn't have done it without me. And, we couldn't have done it without the Lord. We made a great team."

From beginning to end, these songs each take you on a spiritual journey. The CD opens with "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" and moves on to a time-honored hymn "Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus." Next comes the rousing "I've Got Jesus On My Mind" which is slated to be the first single released to worldwide radio. It's sure to get you up on your feet, your hands in the air, and your head thrown back singing "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Got him on my mind!" Drawing from a sentimental memory of a classic song that her late brother, Bill, used to sing, Lynda reminds us that there's "Somebody Bigger Than You And I." Buddy Greene suggested Mollie O'Brien's Bluegrass-flavored song, "He Lifts Me (With His Strong Arm)." It is definitely a catchy tune that you won't soon forget!

From there, Lynda, showcases her own songwriting with "Strength Of The Lord" and "He Is There." She diplomatically explained that, "Ben always has great musical ideas, but, to be honest, on 'my babies,' I had to ask him and the players to go to a little different place stylistically. It took a couple of takes to get exactly what I wanted. But, you know, they were so kind and patient and dedicated to getting them just the way I wanted them. We even waited for my brother, Michael, to come back off the road, so he could sing background vocals on them. He's The King of BGVs! It was a wonderful experience. I'd sure do it again!" For those who may not know, Michael Tait was formerly with DC Talk and currently performs with The Newsboys.

When asked about the title cut, Lynda shared, "For many years, I stood in the wings of the Gaither stage and sang back up vocals while brother Ben Speer sang 'Til The Storm Passes By'. You know, it always meant something, but since I've kind of made this song my own, the Lord has had to hold me close, and like I've already said, I've

had some storms to pass by, but He's kept me safe. Now, it was not without tears, not without trials, not without heartache, or sometimes doubting or discouragement. But He's been faithful to keep me, and my family – just keeps us! That's what's so really amazing, and I'm so grateful to be able to share that truth with folks with this timeless song."

She continued, "I've always like 'What A Difference You've Made In My Life' and wanted to record it. I also included another favorite, 'People Need The Lord.' We pretty much stayed true to the original arrangements of those."



Then, with a serious tone to her voice, Lynda related, "I told Ben that on 'I Have Decided To Follow Jesus,' I didn't want to present it in the traditional 'VBS song' style. There's so much more depth to this song. It's death. It's sacrifice. It's a cross ... we choose to follow the Lord. I think we captured the essence of it in our arrangement." It is, indeed, a haunting, emotional revisit that will captivate your ears, and challenge your heart to decide for yourself to make such a commitment.

The disc concludes with a bluesy version of "Wayfaring Stranger." It is a most beautiful rendition of this folk song, and is the perfect ending to this musical journey. It's been said that most folks are always in one of three places. You are going into a storm; you just came out of



one; or you are fighting for your life in the midst of a storm. No matter where you find yourself today, be encouraged and take Lynda's advice, "Stay close to Christ in faith, stay in the Word, and He will surely hold you close 'til the storm passes by..."

For more information on Lynda Randle's ministry, tour schedule, music or to order the new CD, visit [www.lyndarandle.com](http://www.lyndarandle.com).

A portrait of Ben Storie, a man with dark hair, wearing a white collared shirt, a dark tie, and a dark sweater vest. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

## People Behind the Music

### Ben Storie

By Rob Estep

Each month I enjoy sharing a conversation with some of the most important people in Gospel Music. Some of the hardest working people and most talented individuals are those working behind music itself. This month, I had the privilege of catching up with songwriter, Ben Storie. Sit back and enjoy the conversation!

**Rob:** Ben, every story has a beginning, so let's start there. Give us a little history behind Ben Storie.

**Ben:** I grew up just outside of Claremore, Oklahoma on forty acres that my family shared with my grandparents. I grew up attending church and have been a follower of Christ for as long as I can remember. I've always loved singing and music in general so when a friend of mine from college invited me to fill in for her brother in her family's Southern Gospel group I jumped at the chance. I eventually joined the group and married my friend; that was thirteen years ago this year. We toured for about ten years under the name Sweeter Rain. When Sweeter Rain retired in 2004 I continued to develop my craft as a songwriter. In 2005 I started working with Rick Shelton and Daywind Music Publishing in a song-by-song publishing agreement. And for the past four years I've been a staff writer for Daywind. I've had songs recorded by Gold City, The Talley Trio, Legacy 5, Brian Free and Assurance, The Anchormen, The Lesters, Ivan Parker, Beyond The Ashes, The Whisnants, Chris Hester and Three Bridges.

**Rob:** Now this question is always one of my favorites, what was the first song you wrote and how old were you?

I don't remember my first song. My parents tell me I was making

up songs at a pretty young age. I think there are some embarrassing stories of me singing my original material on a potty chair in the living room in front of company. Let's just leave it at that.

**Rob:** Where do you derive your inspiration for writing songs?

**Ben:** Everywhere. Newspaper headlines, catch-phrases, things my daughter says, life lessons, Bible verses, sermons, etc. I need to read more because that always inspires new ideas and thoughts. I think like most songwriters, my antennae are always up listening for that hook idea that will make for a great song.

**Rob:** If you could ever have a co-writer, past or present, who would it be?

**Ben:** Good question. I've never thought about dream co-writers in the past but I think writers like Fanny Crosby and William Kirkpatrick were brilliant. They wrote these timeless hymns that still have an impact on church music today. As for present co-writers, I feel like I'm working with them now. I really do feel like I'm getting to work with a lot of the writers I want to work with.

**Rob:** What artist has been the biggest influence on you and the way you write a song?

**Ben:** I don't know that there is one singular artist, but of course singer-songwriter artists like Steven Curtis Chapman, Cindy Morgan, Chris Rice and Nicole Nordeman have influenced my writing style. Also, at the time in my life that I really started pursuing writing I was a big fan of vocal groups The Martins and Avalon.

That challenged me to write music that would suit strong vocals and beautiful harmonies.

**Rob:** Ben, you are not only a song-writer, you also are a Christian Counselor. Tell us what lead you to this field.

**Ben:** I remember feeling called into Christian ministry work as a teenager, but I never felt compelled to be a traditional pastor or evangelist. As I explored career options in college it became increasingly clear that my gifts were a natural fit for the field of counseling, which is certainly a ministry in itself. And it's not really that big of a stretch to be both a songwriter and counselor. A lot of the insight and abstract thinking processes that work for me as a writer are also strengths in the counseling process. So I go home at night with the sense that I've made a difference in my part of the world.



**Rob:** You have a beautiful family, tell us about them and what a typical night in the Storie household is like.

**Ben:** My eight-year-old daughter Maggie is taking gymnastics, so when I get home the furniture is usually pushed back in the living room where she can practice cartwheels and backbends. My wife is usually holding our seven month old daughter Eva on her lap. There is always a lot of conversation, but I do live with 3 females... Besides that, every night has its own schedule and is different. We have a good life full of the typical chaos that goes with raising kids and making life work somehow. I can't complain.

**Rob:** Lastly, if you could give one piece of encouragement, what would it be?

**Ben:** Galatians 6:9 (NIV) "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Be encouraged that your efforts to remain righteous, fervent and faithful to the service of the Lord will have their time of harvest. God is aware of your diligence and the desires of your heart. He sees you, He knows you and he loves you deeply.

Thank you, Ben Storie for sharing your ministry with our readers. Be watching next month for another look at the people behind the music!



**Rob:** Ben, you wrote the title cut for Beyond the Ashes' CD "God Meets You Where You Are," what is the story behind this song that has such a powerful lyric?

**Ben:** My wife and I lived in Franklin, TN (just south of Nashville) for about three years in the early 2000's. We moved there so I could pursue songwriting professionally. Our first daughter was born there, but we decided that it was very important for Maggie to grow up living closer to her grandparents. It was discouraging to leave Tennessee at the time, but God repeatedly showed me that he was with us anywhere we were. He met us at the point of our need and there was no distance or situation to separate us from his love. And actually, I've had more success getting songs placed living in Arkansas than I did in Nashville. God is good like that.

**Rob:** Besides writing and being a counselor, what do you like to do in your spare time?

**Ben:** I change a lot of diapers these days. We are adopting a beautiful baby girl named Eva and she sort of occupies most of my spare time at the moment. I also like to jog and read, although I don't have much time for either one right now. And if I'm being honest, I watch a lot of the Disney Channel with my older daughter (We love Good Luck Charlie). And I still like spending every chance I get with my amazing wife.



## Union Street: "This Group Is Going Somewhere!"

By Rhonda Frye

It is exciting to feature a group in the magazine and then catch up with them on the road to see them in action! We're excited to share our experience of following up with UNION STREET along with friends, Roy Webb and Bruce Taliaferro. But first- let's take a look at how the group Union Street was formed.

In case you missed Angela Griffin's article in May's issue- she shared: It all started in 2011 with a solo concert by Ryan Seaton in his hometown of Evansville, IN. Ryan recalls: "I wanted to surprise the audience by putting together a quartet just for that evening as an extra bonus to the concert. I started to brainstorm the talent I would like to bring to the stage with me. On my brother's recommendation, I contacted Toby Hitchcock. He is a tremendous tenor. Toby has a recording studio in his house, so we put down a couple of tracks together. The blend was amazing but we still had to find the right baritone and bass who lived close by to complete the quartet. I remember calling Andrew Goldman and Aaron McCune and asking if they were interested and they jumped right in."

As they took to the stage that night, Ryan commented "it just felt right." Audience members posted videos of that concert on You Tube and also to their Facebook pages. It started a phenomenon and the requests to sing started rolling in.

As a matter of fact, an invitation from promoter Robert York rolled along and Union Street journeyed to the hot

South for the first time as a quartet. Including pianist Roy Webb and Bruce Taliaferro in the lineup sure gave the thermometer outside a little competition as the stage was now set for the hottest new music in Southern Gospel! The North Georgia crowd and fans from Tennessee, Alabama and as far away as Ohio, Michigan and Florida packed out Chattahoochee Tech in Acworth, Georgia.

With music from a new recording, *SHELTERED*, Bruce Taliaferro claimed the stage as a solo artist. With a strong voice he sang some familiar songs such as "Power In The Blood," "He Threw Out A Lifeline," and included selections from the new album too. "Givin' In To Givin' Up" was catchy and fun and the timeless song, "Sheltered" proved to be a comfort to the crowd. Everyone received Bruce well.

The Acworth crowd knew exactly what to expect from pianist Roy Webb. Roy dished out exactly what the people came for- and that was incredible piano music and side-splitting humor! He kicked off his set with "Just A Little Talk With Jesus," and then cranked his personality up to full-charm mode! The crowd hooted as he claimed his blood type is gravy and admitted he thought lard was a food group! He kept the humor going with a story about "Rose" from the Nursing Home as well as prank he and his wife once pulled while on vacation. He also announced he's not gay and eats Chik-fil-A! And... On a much more serious note, he reminded the crowd how Chik-fil-A does many great things for communities.

Roy connected well with the crowd as he guided

laughing into worship with a beautiful arrangement of "The Old Rugged Cross" and by leading the congregation to sing "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." Roy raised the crowd to their feet by an outstanding performance of "You Raise Me Up," but quickly seated them by saying, "Oh..Sit down, good grief... you're gonna make my wife think I'm good at this!" He then invited the crowd to his product table just so he could record their southern accents! Several people in the crowd slapped their knees giggling as everyone else clapped and literally laughed out loud!



Robert York brought Union Street on stage and let's just say.... "Oh My!" There's probably not a word in the English language that adequately describes the energy Ryan Seaton, Toby Hitchcock, Aaron McCune, and Andrew Goldman brought with them!

First impressions matter! Jolting off their set, Union Street opened with "God Is Good." The rockin' introduction to the next song, "Boundless Love" really kicked! The tune started off with a fun beat reminiscent of Queen's, "We Will Rock You!" The crowd responded enthusiastically! Keeping the momentum going, they grinned and beamed all the way through "Bread Upon The Water" and so did the crowd! Without a doubt, the first three songs reeled in the Acworth crowd- hook, line and sinker!

Ryan introduced the guys and then shared excitement regarding a new project funded by Kickstarter.com. Union Street expects to release their first album by fall of 2012. Ryan shared a little more about the project following the concert in a video interview with SGNscoops- View Here: <http://www.sgnscoops.com/2012/07/30/ryan-seaton-talks-with-rhonda-frye-of-sgnscoops-com/>

Union Street demonstrated exceptional vocal abilities one by one as they sat on stools singing solos. Toby sang "It Is Well," Ryan delivered "Had It Not Been," Aaron took "The Old Rugged Cross" and Andrew performed "Who Am I?" as

Roy accompanied. Each song showcased individual vocal strength and clarity as well as Roy's skill and flexibility on the keys.

Although the crowd was dismissed for a brief intermission, the concert was far from over! Bruce came back to the stage to sing "Sacrifice of Praise," and then Union Street provided a few more, including "He's In Control!" Wow! The delivery of that song proved their solo- quality- voices all mingled together- creates gorgeous harmony!

All good things must end, and so this night of excitement eventually came to a close. The night closed with a bang, for sure! Roy, and Union Street joined Bruce closing the night with "Midnight Cry" and the crowd responded in praise.

#### **Editor's Note:**

During intermission and following the concert, many people approached me with raving reviews of Union Street and the night's concert. One of my favorite comments was... "Make sure Bill Gaither knows about this group!" The general buzz was... "This group is going somewhere!" I collected a few comments from fans and I think it's best they speak for themselves!

#### **THE FANS SAY....**

"I noticed Ryan's heart in his singing even back in his days with Ernie Haase & Signature Sound. He just sings from a place of spiritual depth! I've enjoyed watching him grow- He's always stood out, always been exceptional. This group is going somewhere and will be recognized for a great sound and vocal quality!" ~ Helen and Sam Irwin



"I'm so glad Ann & I made the 75 mile trip down to Acworth from Rossville, GA to see Union Street, Roy

Webb, and Bruce Taliaferro. Bruce did a wonderful job. Roy is not only one of the very best piano players in Southern Gospel Music; he is quite possibly the funniest person I know. Union Street exceeded all expectations. Each individual is very talented and together they are even better than the sum of the parts. I'm looking forward to their first CD release in October so I can have their music around all the time. It was a terrific evening!" Big thanks to Bobby York for putting this evening together and thanks to Rhonda Frye and SGNscoops for all they do to promote the best music in the world." ~Dana Russell



"This was my first time to see Union Street in concert, and it was FANTASTIC! The friendship relationships these guys have off stage, certainly shows on the stage...it looks like they are having a ball!! I am looking forward to my next Union Street concert for sure! This group is certainly going places! As for Roy Webb, it was my first time seeing him in concert as well and I just loved all of his stories & the concert was AMAZING! He is so talented!! It is so nice to see him with Union Street! All in all, the night was great!! There was such a sweet spirit in the air and harmonies on the stage!" ~Veronica Vera

"The crowd roared when Union Street Quartet, along with Roy Webb at the piano, got on stage Saturday night at North Metro Tech in Acworth, GA. We had waited a long time for them to come to the South and they did not disappoint us. It was quite apparent that these guys enjoy performing together and have a passion for Christ, and delivering His message through their songs. We clapped our hands, tapped our feet, sang along with them, laughed at their jokes and jumped to our feet praising the Lord along with them as their voices soared. The only disappointment came when it was time for the concert to be over. I can't wait until Union Street's CD is available for purchase in October and hope to see them again soon performing in the South." ~Gloria Mitchell

\*\*\*Special thanks to Veronica Vera for taping the video interview with Ryan Seaton. Also, special thanks to Diana Brantley for contributing photos. And... Special thanks to Robert York for inviting SGNscoops to cover this concert in Georgia!



Congratulations to Sandi Duncan Clark! Sandi is the proud Grandmother of Levi Owen Duncan. Levi was born on July 13, 2012

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# Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call

## "A Celebration of Life"

By Laura Kennedy



"Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call purposes to bring honor first to the Lord God who enables us to sing His praises. Our second objective is to bring honor to our precious grandson, Jaidyn. Born with profound disabilities, we want Jaidyn's life to count for something and we want people to know him as we know him. He doesn't just exist but is a little boy who gives much love and joy to his family. We want you to celebrate with us, the life of a child that wasn't supposed to have made it... but did!" ~ Debra Perry Reed

Hydranencephaly (hi-dran-en-sef-uh-le) is a medical condition where the brain cerebral hemispheres are absent and replaced by sacks filled with cerebrospinal fluid. There is no identifiable cause factor to this very rare condition affecting less than 1 in 200,000 in the United States, and sadly, prognosis is quite grave. Unable to treat the disorder, doctors indicate death will usually occur within the first year of life. Though Jaidyn has no upper portion of his brain and is profoundly disabled without the

capability to walk, talk, crawl, as well as being blind - he is most assuredly alive! In this August issue of SGN Scoops, Jaidyn celebrates six years of miraculous living. Through his life and by his living, Jaidyn has brought more joy to people than you or I likely ever could. Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call wants to share this most special little boy with those whom they meet and sing to. They want you to know him and to join with them as they celebrate his incredible journey.

While the music ministry of Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call is relatively new, its individual members, Debra Perry Reed, Christopher Reed, and Grant Gibson, have deep roots in the Southern Gospel community, spanning over two decades. Debra offers; "Our message is a simple one...If you just trust in the Lord, who is the author and finisher of our faith...He will show just how faithful He is."

If the last name of Perry sounds familiar to you, you are indeed a Southern Gospel Music fan. Debra Perry Reed is from the original family group, multi-award winning The Perrys, and sang soprano with them for

18 years. Her beautifully smooth vocals have earned her two nominations in the Singing News Fan Awards for Favorite Soprano Singer. Sister, Libbi Perry Stuffle, was just featured in the July issue of Scoops magazine and brother, Randy, also from the original family group, encourages Debra to press on with the family name and tradition of singing. After having taken time off the road to raise her family, Debra has united with her husband to once again sing and share the testimony of God's provision in their lives.



Demonstrating one of the primary goals of Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call, she shares, "We also want to bring encouragement to the families we meet across the country who have special needs children. We have met many, many children that have similar problems like Jaidyn does but there is one little boy who will always be on my heart. His name is Aiden. We met his family at a small church in Knoxville, TN, and when we heard their story; our hearts were filled with compassion and love toward this little boy. While in the care of his babysitter, on two separate occasions, little Aiden fell into the sitter's swimming pool. After the first incident he came through great, but the second time he was not so fortunate and is now profoundly disabled. His story serves as reminder that when I think I've been through tough situations, there are always others that have been as well... What we are here to do during those times is to encourage and lift each other up."

No stranger himself to Southern Gospel, is Christopher Reed. Currently singing baritone for Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call, Chris has also sung and traveled with The Toney Brothers and Blackwood Legacy. Debra shares; "Being able now to travel with my husband is a great joy and honor." Growing up in North Carolina and spending countless hours listening to and imitating his musical heroes, Chris has cultivated a great ear for harmony. Additionally, Gold Rush Records, a division of Gold Rush Music Group was launched in 2010, by Chris.

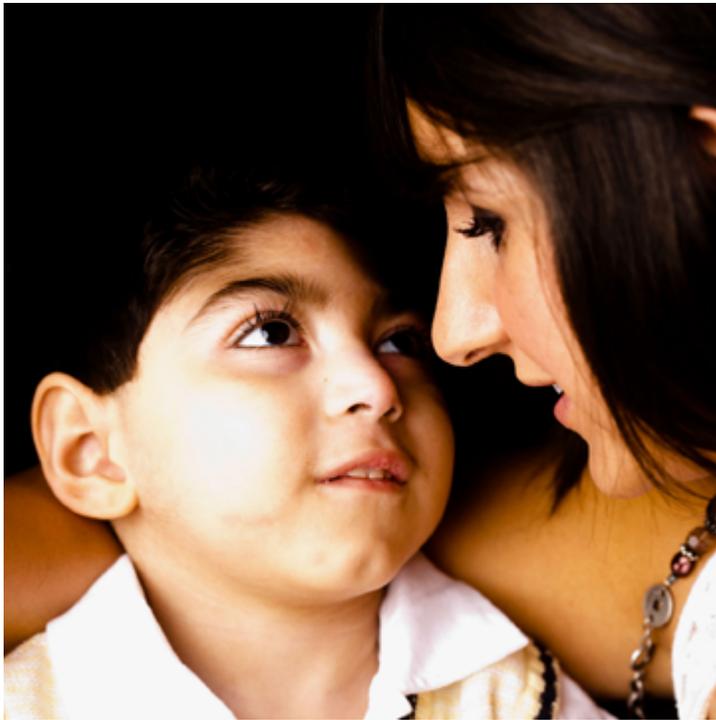
As owner and CEO, with over 20 years of producing and musical arrangement to his credit, Chris adds a most unique quality to his studio. He has a heart for the vision of the artist. "Anything, anything at all that I can do to help an artist or group fulfill their dream, is my primary goal." says Chris. Among others, Gold Rush Records, the label for Gold Rush Music Group, produced for Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call's project, *BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE*.

Grandfather to little Jaidyn, it is easy to see the depth of sincerity Chris has when sharing a testimony about him. He also uses video to allow us a momentary glimpse of Jaidyn and feel the light and love that comes from him. He is a beautiful little boy who is well cared for by a compassionate and loving family.

Introducing their lead singer, Debra shares; "Grant Gibson is one of the greatest young singers in the industry. With notable conviction, he sings from his heart and is not only a valuable asset to our group, but is a tremendous role model for young Christian



men everywhere we go." A graduate of Liberty University where he attended on a music scholarship, Grant sang with the Liberty Singers at his Alma Mater. Grant offers; "I've been singing with Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call for over a year and a half and I can tell you the Lord has His hand on this ministry." Sharing the witness of Jaidyn's life, Grant adds, "I believe if you come to a concert, you will not only hear great music, but be transformed by the powerful story of how God can turn tragedy into triumph. The title cut of our latest project is "Blessings in Disguise" and that is the testimony of this group. One of the things I like most about Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call is what you see is what you get. We are just ordinary people using our talents for the Lord. I count it an honor to stand beside Debra and Chris every weekend singing about the love of God."



As Grant mentioned the title cut from the September 2011 project, *BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE*, the song seems as if it was crafted perfectly for Jaidyn. As a mother myself, I find it extremely difficult to imagine what Ashley, Debra's daughter, and Jaidyn's mother, must contend with on a daily basis. The harsh realities of Hydranencephaly can take a heavy toll; emotionally, physically, and financially. Knowing that your child's delicate immune system is subject for putting him at risk of infection is one of the many day-to-day concerns that the whole family battles with. In fact, a very recent incident sent Jaidyn to the hospital where his condition was extremely critical.



Through the social media outlet of FaceBook, several prayer chains began and as a result of the faith builders of so many supporters, and by His tender mercy, God allowed Jaidyn recovery. I believe, with this family, in the power of prayer to an even more powerful and Divine Healer. And along with that is a very notable principle that Chris shared with me; "For too long, man has steadily taken the focus off of God for who He is and the many miracles He bestows. What a disastrous thought to consider that God would be so squeezed out of our lives that we fail to see His mighty works. Yet, when God sees He will (justly) receive glory, He allows great things to happen to His children."

Jaidyn's request for you to come to the altar of our Sovereign God is displayed quietly, yet its invocation rings loud and clear. Resonating from the songs and testimonies of Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call is his



message, his ministry, and his shout unto victory. It is intended for anyone willing to bow in surrender to our Lord Jesus Christ, accepting His gift of atonement for sins debt. And it is indeed a purposeful call; a summons to live life... just as that life is given.

If you would like to learn how you too can support Jaidyn and others like him, Debra would be happy to speak with you. She is also booking concerts and events for Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call and can be reached at (706)-265-8433. Or you may also visit online at [www.debraperryandjaidynscall.com](http://www.debraperryandjaidynscall.com)

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# You Are What You Eat

By Laurette Willis



GMO = Genetically Modified Organisms. Someone said that in light of man's attempts to "improve" on what God has created, GMO stands for "God, Move Over!" That seems like a very sorry recipe indeed.

I experienced food poisoning recently for the first and by-the-grace-of-God LAST time in my life. The topic of food purity suddenly became of great interest to me.

Genetic engineering of our food supply is being called "Cell Invasion Technology." It is estimated that GMOs are found in 80% of the foods we find in our supermarkets (including GMO corn, canola, soybeans and sugar beets).

Believe-it-or-not, up to 90 percent of all major U.S. grown crops are grown with genetically engineered seed, and can be used in our food with little or no safety testing or labeling.

Since being introduced into the food supply, multiple chronic illnesses jumped from 7% to 13% of the population and food allergies doubled. Coincidence? Many think not.

Abstaining from foods?

Scripturally speaking, 1 Timothy 4 speaks about the deception and "doctrines of demons" that will come in the last days. In part this includes "commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth" (1 Timothy 4:3 NKJV).

Notice the italicized "which God created." Genetically Modified Organisms invade the cellular integrity designed by God (much as bacteria or a virus would do). Injecting genes from cold water flounder into tomatoes so they can withstand colder temperatures (yes that is really done) is not my idea of food which God created.

This next verse of Timothy's many of us have used to bless the Triple-Decker Belly Bomber with fries we were about to eat: "For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

Doesn't that cover us? I believe if we are evangelizing in a foreign country, for example, and handed an unusual something to eat (such as a monkey meat sandwich), we are definitely covered when we sanctify/bless the food "by the word of God and prayer."

However, I question whether organisms man has "Frankensteined" into something else can qualify under the "every creature of God is good" category. Wouldn't it be wise to avoid such foods whenever possible?

What Can We Do?

Be proactive. Study about GMOs and support legislature to counter Genetically Modified Organisms being introduced into the food supply. You can shop at local farmers' markets, thus supporting your local economy, too. You may need to educate your commercial grocers, asking them to direct you to non-GMO foods, and to order more foods without GMOs.

What do you think? Is Genetically Modified Organisms in the food supply a good thing, bad thing, or "no big deal"? Share your comments. We'd love to know what you think!

Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry (<http://PraiseMoves.com> and on Facebook <http://facebook.com/PraiseMovesFan>). Get your free fitness kit at <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com> and something brand new: [www.MIRAdance.com](http://www.MIRAdance.com) – MIRA! is Christian Fitness with a Latin Beat! Hallelujah!!! ©2012



## THE SKYLINE BOYS SOARING HIGH

BY LORRAINE WALKER

The Skyline Boys from Northern Virginia, are soaring high with a strong album, line-up, sound and message. Dennis Powers has led this quartet since 1995, guiding them to two nominations for The Singing News Horizon Group of the Year and several charting songs such as "Until God Turns This Thing Around." Toby Siler, Chris Little and Jerry Skaggs add years of performance expertise, combining with Powers to create a group with tight harmony, energy and a style all their own.

'Til The Storm Passes By is the latest album from The Skyline Boys and Dennis Powers is proud of the song variety displayed on the recording. "When we were in the studio recording this project, our producer at Crossroads, Jeff Collins, said 'You know it really ought to be illegal to put this many good songs on one project,'" laughs Powers. "We recorded the Mosie Lister song, 'Til the Storm Passes By'. That probably would be my favorite song on the whole project. However, we went back and picked up a couple old Cathedral Quartet songs [including] 'Somebody Touched Me.' Great song, great message. I like every song on the project and in fact I have not met anybody [who has] heard the project who hasn't said there's not a song on there that they don't like."

Jeff Collins, Studio Production Manager and Co-owner of Crossroads Music, spoke highly of working with the Skyline Boys to create 'Til The Storm Passes By. "I've had the pleasure of producing the Skyline Boys for the past few years and always enjoy our time in the studio," says Collins. "They're a fine quartet. Dennis Powers and all the guys have always worked hard to get all that I ask of them as we

record the vocals. Producers certainly appreciate artists who actually let the producer do his job, which these guys do. Whether it is a fast tempo or power ballad, the guys can always deliver the song. I look forward to producing more great Gospel quartet music with them in the future!"

Hard work and great Gospel music are par for the course for Dennis Powers. He is the owner and manager of Skyline, but that's not the end of his responsibilities. Powers says, "I'm the bass singer, the bus driver and whatever else has to be done. We all drive the bus. We've got one of the most awesome tenors in the world, Jerry Skaggs from Ansted, West Virginia. Our lead singer, Toby Siler is a native of Dayton, Ohio, but since the group is based in Virginia, he packed up his family and moved to the state of Virginia to be with the group. Chris is our awesome piano player and baritone singer from Griffithsville, West Virginia. I'm from Percellville, Virginia."

From Virginia to venues across the United States, audiences enjoy the energetic performance of the quartet, but Powers says there is more to an evening with The Skyline Boys than just having a good time. "You can expect probably one of the most exciting concerts that you'll ever go to," says Powers. "Our lead singer Toby gives about 160% every night and you would think he needs to be on Ritalin! But he's a great guy and he puts everything he's got into it. We like to make [the audience] laugh and we like to make them cry, but our main goal is to touch lives for Christ. Our main goal is to minister and if we can't do that, I'll just stay at home."



Audience members enjoy meeting group members after the program, which is part of the ministry aspect so loved by Southern Gospel artists and fans. The Skyline Boys are thrilled to meet old and new friends at concerts, talking and praying with those who come to share their joys and troubles with group members. "We are a very approachable group," says Powers. "I know some groups head away just as soon as they're done singing, but we like to stick around. We like to talk, we like to laugh, we like to talk one on one. That's what we do. [People] have needs: physical, financial, spiritual, or whatever the need may be. We know that we can't reach everybody but in the churches we go to, we try to encourage the saints, we try to reach the lost and we want them to leave the concert feeling like, 'This is the greatest evening that we've ever had!'"

The Skyline Boys have a busy schedule and with ministry both on and off stage, remaining fresh and focused can be exhausting. This can take a toll spiritually and therefore Powers says it is important to keep a strong relationship with the Lord. "The only way that you can do that is by doing your own devotions," says Powers. "A lot of people think because we're up on the stage giving out

every night that it's endless. After a while you go through seasons of dry spells. Some of the churches that we go into the pastors say, 'Do you mind if I preach?' We say "Absolutely not, we do not mind all, because this is a great opportunity for us to refuel, to listen to somebody else, to just take some time and enjoy what the pastor has to say."

"It's really hard," Powers admits. "It looks all glamorous and everything, but if you're really, truly doing it for ministry, if you're really truly doing it to touch peoples' lives, it's a lot of work." Powers, celebrating 48 years in Southern Gospel continues, "This is what God has called me to do, that's the only reason I'm there doing it. I feel that I have to depend upon God to get me through this because we do suffer burnout. After a while you get tired of doing the same things, but I never get tired of touching peoples' lives for Christ."

The Southern Gospel industry and radio personnel agree that the Skyline Boys are making music that touches people's lives for Christ. Zane King of Flight Studio Nashville produced several Skyline Boys projects in the past. King says, "The Skyline Boys are truly doing the work of ministry whenever and wherever they go. I have had the privilege of working with Dennis Powers and his group for many years. I consider the work I have done with them as some of the best highlights of my career."

Danny Kramer of Great American Gospel says, "The Skyline Boys are a great quartet and we are proud to have them part of Great American Gospel and our new upcoming show, SoundStage. Dennis Powers and the boys are truly exciting, not only to work with, but exciting and inspiring ministry on stage. They bring to television a true unique quartet style that resonates with many fans and viewers of Gospel music and a blend of great harmonies



and heart-touching vocals that reach right into your heart. We are proud to have them on Great American Gospel and SoundStage.”

Radio and television are a major part of the life of a Southern Gospel artist, and after 48 years of being in the business, Dennis Powers has seen a lot of change in the media and presentation of Christian music. “I have seen the many changes, from standing around one microphone, the musicians all in the same room, everybody working on records,” says Powers. “They were then called projects,



now they're called CDs. We went from that kind of technology and recording to the new digital technology where everybody is singing on a track of their own. Now if somebody messes up, everybody doesn't have to go back and re-do it. So that's some of the greatest technology, that's some of the greatest changes we've seen.”

“We've seen the audiences grow older and we've seen just a lot of changes [in that audience],” continues Powers. “It used to be that the churches were packed when a singing came to town, now there's a lot of things for people to do, a lot of other things people want to do, so they don't come to church like they used to. I will have to say our crowds have been doing very well.” It is important for artists to increase their audience so their music will continue to grow and their message will be heard by hurting hearts.

The Skyline Boys are attracting more new listeners to their music by 'spreading this music around,' says Powers. “We touch a lot of young people. I've got some younger guys in my group and it's hard to believe but time after time after time, we see young people come and say 'Hey, we didn't even know we liked this music.' They are used to listening to rock and roll, rap and pop and stuff like that. Then when they hear the four-part harmony of a male quartet, they're absolutely just blown away. It's like I've always told them, 'What is there not to like?'”

Powers enjoys having younger men in his group, not only to carry the heavy equipment, but also because the younger sound attracts a more youthful audience. He has been able to bring guidance and direction to several younger artists, and tries to help them through the pitfalls of the bright stage lights. “My biggest word of advice and I try to instill it into the guys on the bus is this: 'Let God handle this and let's keep our egos out of it,'” says Powers. “The biggest thing that I see in Southern Gospel is the egos, and I like to think that nobody in this group has egos, they have a desire to please Christ.”

The Skyline Boys have a great desire to please Christ and to share His gospel of good news to all who will hear it. Dennis Powers says, “The message that we want to share is the message of Salvation. That is our number-one message. However, we [also] like to encourage Christians by the songs that we sing, and listen to their problems. That is what is so neat; even though everybody has a different problem, God has all the solutions. Sometimes we think we're not important. A school teacher may say that what they're doing is not all that important; well, it is, because you never know who you're going to encourage, you never know what you're going to inspire, and it may not show up until 20 years down the road. That's why we like to try to cover all aspects of it.”

“But the message of the Cross, the message of the Gospel, the Salvation message is the number-one priority of why we sing.” With Jesus Christ continuing to take priority over everything, the Skyline Boys can continue to soar high into a bright future.

For more information please contact:

The Skyline Boys <http://skylineboys.musiccitynetworks.com/index.htm?&loc=0>

Jeff Collins, Crossroads Music [www.crossroadsmusic.com](http://www.crossroadsmusic.com)

Zane King, Flight Studio Nashville <http://www.facebook.com/FlightStudioNashville>

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A photograph of Lari Goss, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie. He is speaking into a microphone and holding a large, clear, faceted award. To his right, another man in a suit and glasses is visible, looking towards the camera. The background is dark with purple and blue lighting.

# Lari Goss

## *The Man Behind the Music*

By Charlie Sexton

The timpani drum roll indicated that a magical night was just about to begin. The capacity crowd burst into applause as the majestic sound of The Nashville String Machine Orchestra filled the Trinity Music City Auditorium in Hendersonville, Tennessee on a rainy Monday evening, July 9, 2012. Just as the music hit its crescendo, The Maestro, Lari Goss, strolled across the stage, and took his place at the 9 ft. Concert Grand Piano. When his nimble fingers caressed the ivory keys of the massive instrument, everyone in attendance knew for a fact that the magic had most definitely begun.

For the next three hours, the very elite of the Southern Gospel Music community paid homage to a humble, diminutive man who, when seated at a keyboard, is bigger than life!

The emcee for the evening was none other than Mr. Gerald Wolfe, Lari's Number One Fan, and close friend. He kept the banter conversational, and informative, yet took the audience on a journey of passion, purpose and perfection – the hallmarks of this legendary “man behind the music.”

From humble beginnings in the quaint, rural town of Cartersville, Georgia, Mr. Goss began singing and playing Gospel Music with his brothers, James

and Roni. Often considered lightyears ahead of their time, The Goss Brothers just did things a little different. They carved out a niche that is still the benchmark by which many of today's current groups are measured. Lari has since become a much sought after producer, and regularly finds himself doing intricate arrangements featuring world-renowned orchestras all over the world.

The concert line-up read like a virtual “Who's Who of Gospel Music.” Groups like The Booth Brothers, The Hoppers, Greater Vision, The Mark Trammell Quartet, Legacy Five, The Nelons, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, and The Martins, along with soloists such as TaRanda Greene, Babbie Mason and Charlotte Richie each shared songs that were arranged or produced by Mr. Goss. Many other great talents, such as Karen Peck, Reggie and Ladye Love Smith, Bradley Knight, and the Christ Church Singers graced the stage during this star-studded gala event.

Of course, no party is complete without surprises, and this evening was no exception. There were some heartfelt video tribute segments from Bill Gaither, Larnelle Harris and Jim Cymbala, pastor of the famous Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York. The audience was chock full of “movers and shakers” from the world of Gospel Music, as well. A few notables



Clarke Beasley, Executive Director of The National Quartet Convention presented Mr. Goss with a lifetime achievement award. Upon accepting this, Lari gave a tearful testimony to the faithfulness of God, the ultimate Giver of Music.

Finally, a mass choir, comprised of all the artists who had performed, was assembled, and the evening concluded with a moving rendition of "Statement Of Faith." For an encore, they sang "We Shall Wear A Robe And Crown."

After the final note had been sung, and the lid of the piano closed, a lengthy time of fellowship ensued as folks from as far away as New Zealand surrounded the stage just to get a handshake, a hug, or a photo opportunity with this beloved man... Lari Goss... The Man Behind The Music.

were Dusty Wells, Judy Nelson, Rhonda Frye, Jim Murray, Donnie Sumner, Wayne Haun, Joel Lindsey and Dr. Jerry Goff. Last, but certainly not least, were many of Lari's family members, including his lovely wife, Carolyn, and his brother, Roni.





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# Media Minute

## Sylvia Green

by Rob Patz

**Rob:** Tell everyone a little about your background, a little history on Sylvia Green.

**Sylvia:** Oh goodness...I'm as old as dirt and I've been singing long enough that I'm just "dust" now...hahaha!! But seriously, when my dad (who was a minister) and my mom had a weekly radio program in the early "60's"...at the young age of three, I walked up while they were singing a duet and just started singing the third harmony part! I don't remember it but my dad says he broke down in tears when he realized I could actually HEAR a part at that age. From that point on he taught me to always use any talent I had, for the glory of the Lord! At the age of 14, my dad resigned the pastorate at the church he was at, bought a bus...and our family went on the road full time as a gospel singing evangelistic team. We did that many years and then when we came off the road it was just natural for me to make the transition to singing with other groups. In 1989 I joined a group called The Bradys...and I am still with them to this day traveling the road most weekends sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through song!

**Rob:** How did you get your start in radio?

**Sylvia:** I really had no training in radio at all, but when WVOB radio in Dothan, AL (the town The Bradys are from) decided to open a sister station in nearby Bonifay, FL, they asked me to fill the DJ and program director spot during

the week since I had such a knowledge of the ins and outs of southern gospel music so to speak. I actually had "on the job" training but things quickly fell into routine. I would work part-time in the Bradys office two days a week, work radio during the rest of the week, and sing on the week-ends. So southern gospel music became a seven-days-a-week thing for me...and it still is!

**Rob:** How do you balance life singing with a group and your time working in radio?

**Sylvia:** Both the Bradys and the station managers have so graciously worked with my time schedule and I am very thankful for this. At the time I began radio, we (Bradys) many times would leave on a Wednesday night and I would not be able to be in radio Thursday and Friday! But I explained to them when I took the job that my ministry with the Bradys would come first and as long as I could be off when I needed to be to go sing, then I could accept the job. Through the years they have respected my decision and have never given me one moment of trouble for not being at the station when I asked off to go sing! I have been blessed!

**Rob:** What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you on the air?

**Sylvia:** Well one morning as Keith (Brady...also a DJ at the same station) and I were doing the "Coffee-Break with Keith and Sylvia," which is a time set aside to talk, share what's happening behind the scenes in music, world topics, funny jokes etc....I was pronouncing a well known person's name...and I accidentally pronounced it QUITE differently than I should have! I won't tell you WHO it was or HOW I pronounced it but suffice it to say...we got phones calls about it....lol! Not one of my proudest on-air moments for sure!

**Rob:** What has been your favorite contest to do in radio?

**Sylvia:** Well, we actually currently have a contest called the "Word Game" where I give a word, spell it, use it in a sentence, then give options that best fit the sentence. We give listeners a chance to call in and guess the correct answer. All correct answers are put in a monthly drawing and we have a grand prize drawing to pick that month's winner...and of course there is a nice monthly prize for the winner! Our listeners love it and flood the phone lines every time we have it!

**Rob:** Who has been your favorite person to interview and why?

**Sylvia:** Probably Naomi Segó because she just said whatever came to mind and popped out of her mouth... didn't mind if it was politically correct or not as long as she got across the fact that she loved God and singing about

Him, and that He had been good to her...loved it! The interview our station did with Bill Gaither was also fun! Well...now that I'm remembering so many it would really be too hard to choose a favorite...lol!

**Rob:** Do you have a mentor? If so who is it and how have they helped you in broadcasting?

**Sylvia:** I didn't really have a mentor as for as "on-air" goes... but I learned so much from so many wonderful DJ's across the country by simply being interviewed by THEM while singing with the Bradys! I could name some names but if they read this they will know who they are when I say that I LOVE the DJ's who believe that although professionalism is very needed and is to be striven for....an interview or song that ministers to a person and changes a life forever means much more! I have learned so much of what TO do and what NOT to do from these interviews as an artist myself... and I hope it transcends to the artist I may interview!

**Rob:** What do you see as some of the challenges for southern gospel radio in the next five years?

**Sylvia:** There is much talk about southern gospel not being what it used to be or things to this effect, but as far as RADIO goes...not concerts etc...just RADIO...I'm strange I guess, in that I believe that if you make it INTERESTING, you will keep listeners and GAIN listeners...even if southern gospel music may not have been their favorite genre to start with. I think presentation matters just as much as what you play and the quality of music you play. An example of this is our "Coffee-break" on WVOB. We have gotten so many NEW listeners simply because they ran across this segment and enjoyed it...laughed a bit...learned a bit...HEARD some southern gospel songs and liked them. Now we are their favorite station! It IS a tough on-going battle with so many genres of gospel music readily available and probably a bit more publicized around the world, so to speak, so we have to keep up without compromising WHO and WHAT we are, and I believe it can be done! Most southern gospel stations do not have the ready funds that other genres may have readily accessible in order to survive, so we have to do all we can to stay in the competition so to speak- with the knowledge that

there too has to be a cut-off line as far as the lengths we can go without using that dreaded word "compromise." But I believe that the most important key to the success of southern gospel radio is the burden in the heart of the ones working there to see a ministry work done for the cause of Christ! Because if His hand is on it, and prayers are sent up, and a fire is kindled to encourage the saints and win the loss through southern gospel radio...Satan CAN'T shut it down until God says so..bottom line.

**Rob:** What has the Lord been teaching you lately?

**Sylvia:** Wow...now that would be a long list...lol! Most importantly though, here lately, through a series of "Not so pleasant" situations I faced, I learned that when you think that everything you've ever wanted may possibly be gone...when you realize certain dreams may never be... if you finally get to where God is enough...and feeling His presence and KNOWING you are in HIS care means more to you than anything else...THEN you have peace in the midst of the storm and it truly is like feeling a protective shield around your heart that HURT can no longer penetrate. When you get to that place, everything falls into perspective and you have a God given contentment with what you HAVE! AND at that point, your faith is actually increased that some of those dreams may still come to pass through His divine intervention and plan! Sorry, didn't meant to get so deep...but I've just been through that place and I just KNOW there are others reading this who may be there to...so I just want to say, "Don't give up...PRESS ON...when you learn that God is ENOUGH...you never know just what blessing he may have waiting for you"!



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# FOCUS ON THE YOUNG

REBECCA REYNOLDS

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

About 5 or 6 years ago, I met a very talented young lady at a Crabb Family concert. A day or two after I got home, she requested to be my friend on Myspace. Her name is Rebecca Reynolds. We found out we had a lot in common by both singing with our families. Through the years we have become very good friends, and I am honored to have her and her husband, Adam singing a song with me on my new solo project coming out in September! Adam and Becca are traveling as a duet now called Freedom's Crossing. Here's the scoop...

**Victoria:** When did you start singing?

**Rebecca:** I began singing when I was three years old with my family group, "The Duncans", made up of my dad, mom, sister & I. We were based out of TN, and we traveled & sang gospel music full time for 10 years, ministering around the world. I couldn't have asked for a better childhood!

**Victoria:** When did you feel like it was time to step out as Freedom's Crossing?

**Rebecca:** I met Adam when I was 15 at a church convention that my family group was singing at in Virginia, which is where Adam lived. After dating for about 2 years, Adam began singing with my family, The Duncans. In December of 2005, Adam & I were married, and we made our home in Virginia, which made it difficult for us to travel with my family full time. We still sang with them occasionally, but Adam & I began to feel the calling to branch out on our own and begin ministering together through both Word and song.

**Victoria:** How did you come up with the name, Freedom's Crossing?

**Rebecca:** We have a vision to cross through many cities and many countries, sharing the freedom you can receive through Jesus Christ! That's how we came up with our group name, "Freedom's Crossing".

**Victoria:** You have the cutest little girl. Tell us a little bit about her. Do you think she'll be singing with you one day?

**Rebecca:** God has richly blessed us with our precious girl, Jeslynn. She is four years old and loves to sing! We definitely think she will eventually end up on the stage with us all of the time! She already sings a song or two with us on stage and man does she have some lungs! God is already creating a special ministry in her life, even at age four. One of her favorite parts at our concerts is praying for people! She truly is our little angel sent from Heaven!

**Victoria:** What has been one of your funniest memories on the road?

**Rebecca:** One thing is for sure, when you're on the road with Adam & Jeslynn, there is never a dull moment! It's hard to pick one of the funniest moments because they both keep me laughing all of the time! If I had to pick a moment to tell about, it would probably be our first one month tour we went on. We started out traveling in a small Hyundai Sonata, and we were so cramped! We squeezed all of our equipment in the trunk and all of our luggage, hang-ups, food, etc., was piled in the front of the car! Poor Jeslynn could hardly see out of the windows! It might have been a long cramped trip, but it was one of the best tours we've ever had! Thank God He made a way for us to get a Suburban!

**Victoria:** What's your favorite place to eat when traveling?

**Rebecca:** I think we, along with a lot of other gospel artists keep Cracker Barrel & Waffle House in business! There's nothing better than some good ole' country cooking & some chicken & waffles!

**Victoria:** What is the main purpose and focus on your ministry?

**Rebecca:** The main purpose and focus of our ministry is to try and reach as many souls as we can for Jesus Christ! Our



mission is to impact people & to ignite the world!

**Victoria:** Where are you guys based out of?

**Rebecca:** We are based out of Roanoke, VA.

**Victoria:** What has been your most memorable service?

**Rebecca:** The most memorable service for me: There was a little girl at one of our concerts who was crippled in a wheel chair and could not communicate well. This precious little girl soon caught Jeslynn's eye and Jeslynn said, "Mommy, I want to go pray for her!" Tears began to fill my eyes as I watched God work through my little girl as she got on her knees and laid hands on the crippled little girl. Jeslynn prayed with such faith and after the prayer, the crippled girl looked up at Jeslynn and had the biggest smile on her face, as if she was trying to say, thank you. It was truly a precious moment!

**Victoria:** How can people get in touch with Freedom's Crossing to either book you or check your schedule so they can come see you in concert?

**Rebecca:** To book Freedom's Crossing or to view our tour dates, you can go to our website, [www.freedomscrossing.com](http://www.freedomscrossing.com). We would love to come minister to your church and community!

Thank you, Becca for a great interview! Check out their website, and if they're singing near you, go hear them! They are awesome and very anointed! That's it for this month. Blessings!

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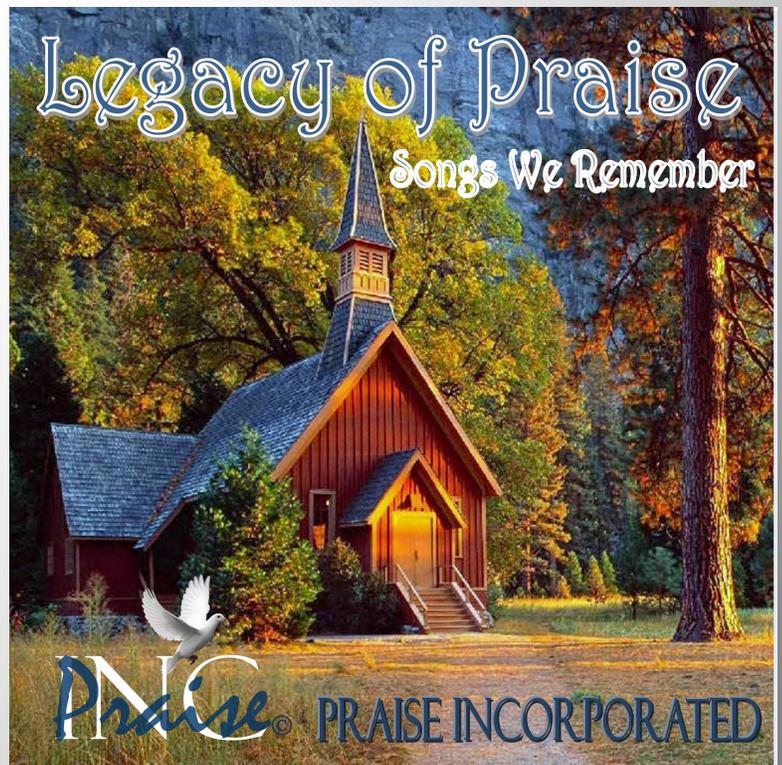
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# Chronicles of a Singing English Teacher “Enjoying the Simplicity of Life”

By Jeff Hawes

I can't imagine living life without the hope of knowing everything is in God's hands. Being able to throw my hands up and turn any crisis over to Jesus is something I never want to take for granted. The truth is: life is tough, but you can't give up. One misconception of Christianity some people have is that once you accept Christ, life's problems cease. Having been saved (accepting Christ) at an early age, I don't really remember much of life before, but I do know that all of life's really tough moments and trials have come since I became a Christian. However, the blessings that came after those moments are priceless.

Although some days are difficult and we want to “throw in the towel,” God provides ways of escape from the madness, and particularly for me, it's a local gas station in my home town, where the chaos of life comes to a halt and the memories begin. The station is called a “mom and pop” store--one of kind where I live in Alabama. Most small businesses have closed their doors over the last few years, but Shotgun's has never been stronger. Each time you enter, Dorothy will say “Hello, hello!” As you leave, she says “Thanks and hurry back!” There are pictures of all the local men who have spent countless hours hunting the biggest buck and catching the prize winning bass. Today, the older men who once lined the bench out front of the store have

passed away, but the times Dad and I spent with them will forever live on.

Most evenings when I was younger, Dad would take me to the store to pick up a few necessary items: ice cream, pepsi with peanuts, and candy bars (a father/son secret). After we made our purchases, Dad would always insist that we sit outside on the bench with all the older men. I HATED having to do it. I was young; they were old. I knew everything; they knew nothing. Oh, how I never realized it was the other way around. I would listen as they talked about politics, farming, rising gas prices (then it was around \$2.00), and just life “stuff.”

I remember coming home one weekend from college, and Dad wanted to drive to the store. I thought I would die if he suggested sitting out front again. Several years had gone by since I had made time to grab a candy bar with Dad, and this time would be different. We bought our usual and made our way out to the bench, but I noticed two of the men who always sat out front were no longer there.

“Where'd they go, Dad?” I asked.

“They passed away a couple summers ago, Son.”

I couldn't believe that these men who had always had their spot reserved at Shotgun's were no longer there. The stories that day were not as long, not as colorful, and surely not as light-hearted. Something changed in my life that day. I no longer dreaded visits to Shotgun's, but couldn't seem to wait to get back to my "spot" on the bench. When times were tough at college, times that I felt like I would never succeed, that I was somehow all alone- five hours away from home, all I could think about was the next time I would get to leave the madness and chaos of college life to eat a candy bar with Dad and talk about politics, mowing the lawn, and rising gas prices.



Today, as I travel the world with Karen Peck and New River, I love my job and part of this ministry. No doubt, I know I am exactly where God has placed me, but there are times when I miss home, miss family, and miss chances of spending time with Dad. Recently when I was home for a couple of days, Dad suggested going to Shotguns for an ice cream. He didn't have to ask me twice. I hopped in the truck, windows down, and headed for my spot. This time when we arrived, there were no men sitting out front. All had passed, like the vapors of gasoline out front. Yet memories of their lives, their ball caps, their old spice smells, their

chuckling voices live on in my memory. I thank God for places like Shotgun's. The small town feeling of acceptance, love, and first name basis keep me coming back year after year, decade after decade. Perhaps one day I will bring my son and Dad along as we sit, 3 generations, side by side, drinking a Pepsi with peanuts and talking about the days back when. Life is precious; take time to enjoy the simple moments before the chances are gone as fast as the flowers of spring.

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# POST-TRAUMA EVANGELISM: IS IT DIFFERENT?

By AJ Rinaldi



## Editor's Note:

Like many of you, I was stunned at the news of the recent shooting in Colorado. Although I don't watch much TV, I was glued to the story and saddened to hear the victims recall the terror they experienced. As I listened closely, my heart was troubled as I realized that some obviously didn't have the same hope in Christ as I have. The thought crossed my mind, wow... "If they only knew Jesus, there would be hope!" I also thought about how quickly lives ended and especially how unsuspecting they were. It dawned on me that in a situation like this, there is little to no time to make things right with God. What started out as a night of going to the movies ended up as a night of slipping into eternity for some. Only God truly knows who was prepared for the encounter. For others, worlds as they knew it have been turned upside down. In tragic situations like these, most Christians simply don't know what to say or do. I'm haunted by images of despair, pain and confusion. My heart truly goes out for the families of everyone involved.

God amazes me with His timing! We received a great

article at SGNScoops News from B&B Media Group along the lines of how to share our faith in crisis situations. The article was really helpful to me personally; therefore I acquired permission to share the article with you, our SGN-Scoops magazine readers. The author is AJ Rinaldi, director of EvanTell Ministry. For more information about EvanTell, visit: [www.EvanTell.org](http://www.EvanTell.org).

## Post-Trauma Evangelism: Is It Different

By AJ Rinaldi

The past decade has been very hard on many people for a variety of reasons. Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes and other tragedies shatter lives throughout the world. In addition to natural disasters, the threat and wake of terrorism has become commonplace. Understanding the unique dynamic of these situations— and how and when to communicate the gospel within them— has perhaps never been as relevant as it is today.

L.I.V.E.

To help identify and remember some of the complexities related to evangelism in the wake of trauma, we can use the acronym L.I.V.E.

**Loss:** Regardless of the circumstances, when disaster occurs, there is loss. It could be material possessions; homes, photos, keepsakes— or worse—the loss of a loved one. It is vital that the relief volunteer understands that the sense of loss won't be magically wiped away. Promises should never be made concerning (spiritual) intangibles replacing the tangible losses victims are still recovering from.

**Intrusion:** Despite the well-intentioned efforts of all relief volunteers and professionals, any victim will feel a sense of intrusion following a disaster. Their lives have been laid bare—including all the pain associated with the trauma. And into that void walks strangers on whom they now must rely for even the most basic of necessities.

**Vulnerability:** The loss and sense of intrusion will naturally result in the intense feeling of vulnerability during the time of recovery and possibly long after. It is particularly important that any relief worker with a desire to share the gospel avoid any behavior that could hint of even the slightest manipulation.

**Escape:** It might be tempting to offer the gospel as an escape from the inevitable suffering in this life. This is particularly true when walking through such a traumatic time as post-disaster. However, we must avoid using the promise of eternal life as a panacea that will gloss over the immediate concerns of the day.

## Roles and Responsibilities

So practically, what are our roles and responsibilities for evangelizing victims of tragedy? Consider the following five guidelines:

- Assist them in any capacity for which you have been trained and are competent.
- Assure the victims you are there to provide help without remuneration (Not "quid pro quo").
- Avoid using manipulative language or actions.
- Assert the reason why you serve, and
- Allow time for questions, conversation and the possibility of follow-up by you or someone else.

Finally, always remember—you do not have to take the weight of a soul on your shoulders. Sometimes all you can do is be there for someone who is hurting.

Remember the differences between our role and God's role in evangelism.

We are responsible for contact. Ultimately, God is responsible for conversion.

For more information, visit for more information on Evan-Tell visit [www.EvanTell.org](http://www.EvanTell.org).



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8. DAYS
9. JESUS WILL
10. THE WILDEST PLACES
11. LORD OF LIFE
12. YOU GAVE IT ALL
13. FUNERAL PLANS
14. THOU OH LORD
15. HE STOOD BY ME
16. EVERY TIME I NEED HIM
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# NQC HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011

Looking Forward To 2012! Come See Us AT The SGN Scoops Booth



# NQC HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011 (CONTINUED)

Looking Forward To 2012! Come See Us AT The SGN Scoops Booth



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



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

43 years, his father was a national evangelist. John has spent a number of years as an evangelist, pastor, worship director and public speaker. Currently, John works with Mansion Entertainment in the aspects of media promotions, publishing and recording while continuing to write, manage his own music catalog and occasionally speak. [www.themansionentertainment.com](http://www.themansionentertainment.com)  
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Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, spreading the message that there is joy around the bend. She serves as a group leader for

Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>



Rob Estep is a vital part of the ministry of the popular group, BEYOND THE ASHES. Currently serving as the Office and Road Manager, his wealth of experience in office management skills makes him a true asset to the group. His expertise of handling daily operations and road responsibilities go unsurpassed in quality. Rob has worked full time alongside of Anthony Facello for the past two years. Rob's Music Pastor Father exposed him to all genres of music growing up, therefore since childhood; he has had a rich love for Southern Gospel Music. Rob studied business at Columbus State Community College, is a HUGE Buckeye Football fan, and is single- but open to dating when the right one comes along. Email Rob at: [robestep@sgnscoops.com](mailto:robestep@sgnscoops.com)



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



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ. On December 31, 2002 she married Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.

# Contributors

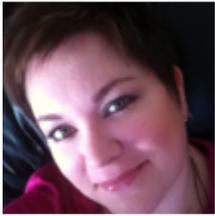
## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



Laura Kennedy. Music moves me.

Christ's loves inspires me. Mixing the two together in the beautiful array of the message of the gospel through Southern Gospel music is the purest of joys to me. Raised in Charlotte, North Carolina around the 5th Sunday night

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



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

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

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

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

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



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she

enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



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

online at <http://peteschwager.com>



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

aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with. She also has a couponing blog with one of her best friends at <http://Craftycoupongirlz.com>



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

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