

SGN

AUGUST 2018

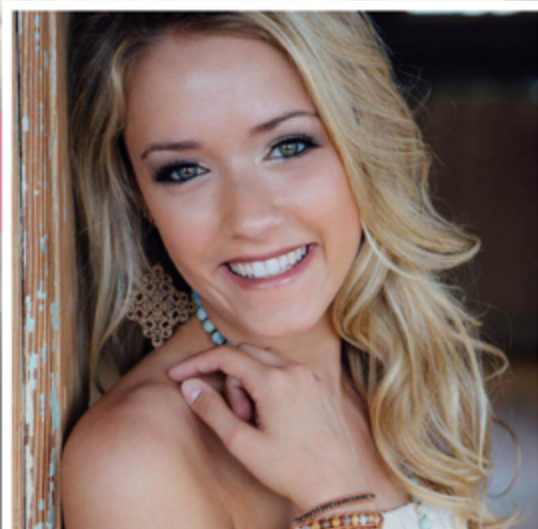
# SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



## HIGHROAD: TRAVELING TOWARD HOME

**ALSO FEATURING:  
EMILY ANN ROBERTS, DOWN EAST BOYS & LOU WILLS HILDRETH**





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## OUR MISSION

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

Publisher- Rob Patz  
Editor-in-Chief- Lorraine Walker  
Copy Editors- Joan Walker, Craig Harris  
Feature Editor- Craig Harris  
Layout/Design- Pete Schwager, Staci Schwager  
Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley  
Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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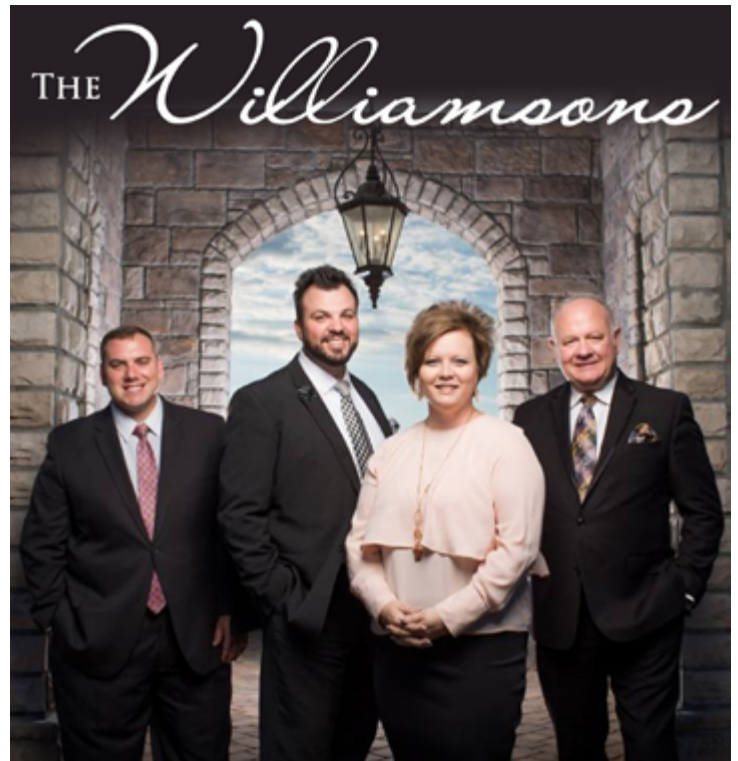
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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

It's the month of August, or as they call it, the "dog days" of summer. I hope that you're having a wonderful summer and I hope that God has blessed you richly during this season.

If you've been following the Publisher's Point over the last few months, I have kind of gone along with a theme of travel. For instance, we talked about how we know when we get there.

So, here we go with this month's installment and yes, it will include traveling. I recently had an opportunity to take a flight from Seattle to Atlanta, something I do about once a month. On this occasion, I got to sit next to a gentleman who was probably

in his mid-70's. He and I struck up a conversation. He asked me the normal things that you ask someone you sit next to on a plane; is Seattle your home and are you going to Atlanta on business? I said that Seattle is my home, Atlanta is where I'll be landing, and I'm headed to the radio station in Alabama that I am so blessed to own. We talked a little bit about life, about family, and about career; and he told me something that rang in my head throughout the rest of that day and into the night.

He said, "Don't ever let your current business circumstances affect your family and your friends." He said, "God has a plan and he is going to execute it."

I smiled at him because at this point, I had not said it was a Christian radio station. I said, "Thank you so much for what you just said. I truly believe that God has sent you."

He smiled and we had a chance to talk a little bit more about faith and family. He discussed his children and what they were doing, and how he and his wife were planning a cruise later this year. As we deplaned when we got to Atlanta, I shook his hand and thanked him for listening to God. I thanked him for an enjoyable four-hour conversation.

The next morning I was sitting there thinking about all we had talked about; about what wisdom he had to impart about life and business. Then I stopped for a second and realized how much God cared for me, that he wanted to encourage me. In his plan, he placed this man in a center seat next to me, and that man was open enough to what God was saying to him, to say it to me.

We realize that the plans that we have and the plans that God has can be completely different but God can then nudge us and remind us that his plans are greater than ours.





I want to encourage you today; no matter where you are in life, no matter what point you are at, that God cares about your daily life and your daily steps. He cares about your career and he cares about your future. He so desperately wants you to be obedient and to get close to him.

Over the last three months, that has been my challenge; I have such a desire to get closer to God and what he has for me.

I also want to encourage you that it takes faith to know that God has a greater plan for your life. I'm always reminded that we need to have the faith of a mustard seed. The bible says that if we had that little bit of faith, just that little bit, that we could throw the mountains into the ocean. I think how awesomely incredible that would be.

Sometimes our faith is tested, I know mine has been, to the point where we want to abandon everything that we know and turn around and head the other direction. At the same time, God is saying for us to press forward to do what he has called us to do.

Whether you're a singer, songwriter, a writer, or a fan, in our industry, you are important; so hold on to that and believe that this year you are an integral part of what is happening. Have faith that you have can move incredible obstacles and that God will show you what he has for you, and he will.

Hey, I want you to come and join me October 28 through November 1, for Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2018. It is a fun time. As the host, I want you to find me and tell me that you read my Publisher's Point and that you are there because of this article. I'll have a special gift for you if you do it.

Remember, join us October 28 through November 1, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center.

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



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# Life, Love and Legends

**By Lou Wils Hildreth**

It is always an honor to be included in this excellent magazine. It has been awhile since I have contributed an article, but be assured my desire remains the same as before - to share blessings and honor our heavenly Father.

Howard and I are living comfortably in a Senior Retirement Center in Houston, Texas. We are thankful that our daughter Kathryn and our son David live nearby. We have four grandchildren who visit us often. Yes, we are blessed!

One of my favorite bible verses is 2 Timothy 1:7, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind." The other scripture is Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine that others will see your good works and glorify God." And we know without a doubt, our salvation comes by our trust in Jesus Christ and the cross, not of works, lest we boast.

Dear readers, let me share a wonderful event that brought so much joy to this old heart. My brother, Bob Wills, carries on the Singing Wills Family legacy. He hosts a gospel music event every Friday night at Dove Creek Café in Roanoke, Texas, serving the Fort Worth-Dallas areas.

On June 22nd, a dear friend - Dr. Eddie Reynolds, Emmanuel Baptist University of N.C. - came to Dove Creek and presented Bob Wills, Curtis Elkins, Regina Huckaba, and me with beautifully framed "Honorary Doctor of Music" certificates. Mary Fay Jackson was there with her video camera to record this for the Jones Family Network.

This was such a great honor and I loved sharing it with my precious family and friends. My fabulous daughter Kathryn drove us to Ft. Worth and we had so much fun!

Thank you to my dear friends Lorraine Walker and Rob Patz for the opportunity to "let my light shine!"



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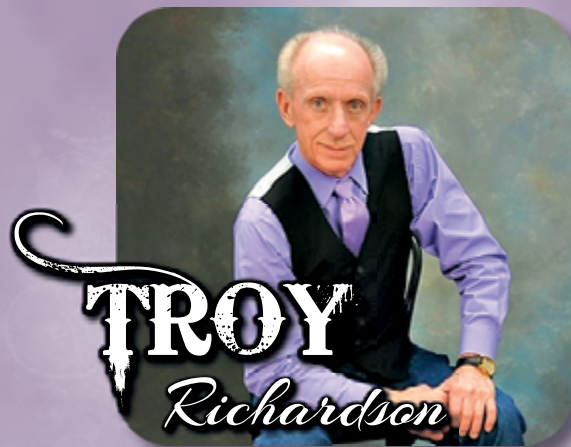
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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Rachael Shirey Flowers

**BY ERIN STEVENS**

A word from Erin Stevens...

We are cutting right to the chase today. I have with me the vocal diva herself, one of the strongest set of pipes in gospel music circles, Rachael Shirey Flowers. I've known this lady for years, and her talent never ceases to amaze me. I always find myself learning something vocally when she hits the stage with her family. Let's catch up with Rachael amidst the crazy that is her life. So ladies, kick off your heels; guys, pull up a chair and join our girlish chat.

Erin Stevens: Did you take vocal lessons and/or vocal coaching while you were growing up?

Rachael Flowers: I actually did take vocal lessons when I was around 12 years old.

Stevens: How do your vocal inspirations from your teen years differ from who inspires you now?

Flowers: Sonya Isaacs has always heavily been an influence in my life. I listened to every CD the Isaacs had growing up and I learned every word, but now I listen to all types of music, so there are a good many along the way that I've looked up to.

Stevens: How would you describe this new season of life? Between being a wife, mother, lead vocalist, and logging the miles you do to meet your folks week after week - how do you make it work to fit your lifestyle?

Flowers: It's all I've ever known as far as traveling, but being a new mother and wife, it's hard leaving the house, but thankfully my precious baby gets to go on the road with us every weekend. I've always stood in the shadows, so it's a little different being front and center, but it's helped me mature and grow spiritually.

Stevens: What are some tips and tricks you can give fellow artists on how to sing through sickness?

Flowers: Don't do it. No, I'm kidding. Lots of tea, honey and coffee always help me.

Stevens: What is your most embarrassing stage story you can share...or want to share?

Flowers: Probably when we were singing in a coffee shop where they had gospel music concerts, and I went to sing





my back ups. I sang into my hand instead of the mic that was in my other hand.

Stevens: List your favorite brands...and go.

Flowers: Hairspray: L'ange Hairspray; Lipstick: You-nique, of course; High heels: Jessica Simpson; Jewelry: Kays; Handbag: Love my Walmart bags.

Stevens: If you had your pick, what would be your dream venue to play and why?

Flowers: Grand Ole Opry and Winterfest. So many incredible artists have played on both of these stages and I would love to have the honor of performing on the same stage someday.



Stevens: What are some new things the fans can be expecting from the Shireys before the end of 2018?

Flowers: Well, we just had a brand new project come out

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with Crossroads in February that we are very proud of. We hope to see many souls saved through these songs.

Stevens: When you're getting your praise on, what sets the mood for you to worship the Lord freely?

Flowers: Prayer always sets the mood for me. When we have prayer before a service, it just puts me in a mindset of worship and helps me really preach the words of the songs.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

Prayer. Something so simple, something so powerful, and yet how often do we neglect to incorporate it daily? 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us to, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." If prayer isn't at the core of our being, tell me friend, what do we really have? I love how Rachael said that prayer puts her in the mindset of worship. It's not as simple as praying five minutes before you leave for work, but it's relying on that mainline of communication every moment, every minute of the day. A newer worship song says perfectly, "Your praise will ever be on my lips, ever be on my lips." Know-

ing that Jesus is as close as the mention of His name is reason enough to praise Him. This week, I challenge you to take your prayer life to the next level...and so will I. So, who's with me?

And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin:  
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WISE CHOICE PROMOTIONS





**By Lorraine Walker**

The 2018 Creekside Gospel Music Convention is going to be an exciting event with great music, seminars and showcases for all who enjoy good gospel music. Creekside runs from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Tickets are free but must be reserved at [creekside-gospelmusicconvention.com](http://creekside-gospelmusicconvention.com).

Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff will be at Creekside all week and will host many of the events. Dr. Goff has announced that Arthur Rice, lead singer of the Kingdom Heirs, will be honored on Monday, Oct. 29. "Dr. Goff Honors Arthur Rice" will feature stories, songs and people from Rice's history in gospel music. Rice has been with the Kingdom Heirs for over 20 years, during which time he has received numerous awards and nominations. Before the Heirs, he honed his skills with Squire Parsons and the Kingsmen Quartet. All of this experience plus a charismatic personality has made Rice one of the best-loved lead singers today. Family and friends are invited to join the Creekside audience as he is saluted by Dr. Goff and other gospel music personalities.

Creekside 2018 will feature a great variety of gospel music artists to satisfy every musical taste. Musical guests will include family groups, classic quartets, bluegrass and country-style bands. Chart-topping artists such as the Jordan Family Band, the Hyssongs, Mark209, the Williamsons, the Dunaways, the Pine Ridge Boys and other great artists are scheduled to appear.

First time attendee, Randa Jordan of the Jordan Family Band, says, "We are looking so forward to being a part of this event at Creekside this year. What a great lineup of amazing artists this year and JFB is thrilled to get to stand alongside them on stage. Praying that many hearts will be touched by the gospel through song."

"One great event that I was able to experience was Creekside Gospel Music Convention held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee," mentioned Larry Stewart of the Pine Ridge Boys recently. "This convention has something for everyone, especially gospel music fans. A highlight of the week for me was midnight prayer. Midnight prayer is an event that is held Monday through Wednesday, held for anyone in attendance of the convention. This Spirit-filled prayer service was nothing like I had ever experienced before. Lives were touched, hearts were blessed and the empty were filled. What an amaz-







ing way to end and begin each new day.”

“I love Creekside and all the family that we have grown to love,” says Lori Wise, whose husband Russell sings with the group Surrendered. “The midnight prayer gatherings are so powerful. Fellowshiping after hours brings about an amazing closeness. It was at Creekside that Surrendered received their very first Diamond Award... It was an evening never to be forgotten.

“However, the one thing that is so vivid happened behind the scenes,” continues Wise. “During 2016, I was not feeling well. My legs were aching and I felt down, something you never feel at Creekside. I was mad that I couldn’t shake it. We had brought our mo-



tor coach and we were staying at an area campground. The entire night I tossed and turned and was even late arriving to the convention center. What no one knew is that sometime in the wee hours of that morning, I had a large blood vessel pop in my leg and it was completely swollen, very painful, black and blue. It looked serious, to say the least.



“I wore my flats and tried to stay focused and see all our friends. It was Rob Patz that quietly approached me and said, ‘Okay my friend what’s going on?’ Tears filled my eyes and I slowly lifted my ankle length skirt to my calf. Immediately, Rob took both of my hands and began praying over me. I felt such a relief that I was among God’s people and that God had provided this beautiful hope for healing. Rob, who is so busy during this convention, still noticed something was wrong. Schedule didn’t matter, I did.” Wise exclaims, “Creekside is a singing convention. But, Creekside is so much more... it is love in action. It is faith in action. It is the hands and feet of Jesus.... In action!”

Don’t miss the fellowship and prayer time, as well as the specialty events such as the 2018 Diamond Awards,



the Red Back Hymnal Choir, daytime showcases, the Alabama Quartet Convention Road Revival and so much more. C.T. Townsend will also be speaking.

“One of my favorite memories is Dr. Jerry Goff’s bible study,” says Roger Harris of WPIL FM. “I could have listened for another hour. The music is always great.”

Creekside is offering a VIP bracelet for only \$25 for the week. This will provide entry into the preferred seating at each event, includes a Creekside gift bag each night, as well as other select surprise events. VIP bracelets can be ordered by calling Rob Patz at 360-933-0741.

Most Creekside attendees love to stay at the Convention hotel, the Ramada Inn, for the convenience of just walking from their room to the Convention. However, accommodations are disappearing quickly, so those planning to attend should make their reservations now. Call and reserve your hotel room at 360-933-0741.

Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2018 tickets can be reserved by visiting [creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com](http://creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com). Group accommodation specials may still be

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# Randall Reviews It – August 2018

by Randall Hamm

August is here and school will soon be in session. The next month brings us the National Quartet Convention and a slew of new releases. This month, two of the newest that have crossed my desk are Sunday Drive with “A Million Miles,” and Marcie Gray’s “Fall On My Knees.” (Editor’s note: Be sure to read an article by Gray elsewhere in this issue regarding the 2018 SGMA Hall of Fame Inductees and Awards Ceremony.)

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

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

Let the reviews begin!



**Sunday Drive**  
“A Million Miles”  
2018 Sonlite  
Producer: Jeff Collins

Songs: “Right Where You Want Me To Be” (Don Stiles BMI); “Born Again” (Andrew Culverwell ASCAP); “I’m Not Gonna Leave” (Jeff Treece-Ray Scarbrough BMI); “What Can Change The World” (Jeff Treece BMI); “A Million Miles” (Mark Bishop BMI); “He Set Me Free” (Misty Treece-Jeff Treece BMI); “Living In The Middle of His Will” (Dianne Wilkinson-Lee Black BMI); “Angels Sing My Victory Song” (Jeff Treece BMI); “Just Before The Dawn” (Jeff Treece-Steve Jones ASCAP); “It’s All About Me” (Jeff Treece-Jim Stover-Steve Jones BMI)

The follow up CD to “Special Edition” is “A Million Miles,” a ten-song collection filled with great music that picks up where “Special Edition” left off. To follow up “11:59,” a song that was Sunday Drive’s first Top 10 single is, “Living In The Middle Of His Will,” doing

what my Lord wants me to do. Not to the left nor to the right, but smack dab middle!

“11:59” was released a number of years earlier, when member Jeff Treece had his own band, the Jeff Treece Band. The single barely registered. If not for the push of a small market DJ insisting it be re-released, the Gospel world may not have heard “11:59” again.

As I write, Sunday Edition’s latest single was a top pick from DJ’s. According to Jeff Treece of the group, the next single will be a Mark Bishop written tune “A Million Miles,” the title cut from this recording. The album, if you listen, has a 70’s vibe. “Living In The Middle Of His Will” is the most Southern gospel cut on the album.

This reviewer’s favorite cut is “I’m Not Gonna Leave,” with verses dealing with Martha and the perfuming of Jesus feet, Mary and Jesus at the manger, and us, who are broken and crying, “I won’t let go, I’ll never complain, I won’t walk away no matter the pain with every breath and heartbeat I’m not gonna leave your feet.”

This CD is the best yet of Sunday Drive. A must have. To visit Sunday Drive go to [facebook.com/sundaydrive/](https://facebook.com/sundaydrive/) or to get a copy of “A Million Miles” go to [jefftreeceband.com/store](https://jefftreeceband.com/store).

Strongest Songs: “Living In The Middle of His Will,” “Angels Sing My Victory Song,” and “A Million Miles.”



**Marcie Gray**  
“Fall On My Knees”  
2018 Independent  
Producer: Arthur Rice

Songs (songwriters unavailable at press time): “Fall On My Knees” (Matthew Browder); “In The Name Of The Lord” (Sandi Patti); “Your Great Name” (Michael Neale-Kriten Norhoff); “In The Presence Of Jehovah” (Geron Davis); “On The Other Side” (Tom Botkin-Kevin Denney-Jimmy Fortune); “Finish Well” (Michael Farren-Karen Peck); “It Is Well” (Horatio G Spafford); “Where Joy And Sorrow Meet” (David James White); “Across The River” (Marty Funderburk-Beverly Lowry); “Jesus Loves Me/O, Love Of God”(PD).

Guest Performances: “Finish Well” and “Across The River” performed with J.P. Miller; “Jesus Loves Me/O Love Of God” performed with J.P. Miller and Dale Workman

Marcie Gray is back with her second release. “Fall On My Knees.” Her first release was released in 2014, “Carry Me Home.” Gray is tied in to the famous LeFevre line through “Uncle Alf” Alphas LeFevre and her cousin is Mike LeFevre of the LeFevre Quartet. I first met Gray when she was singing with Barbara Roach, in a group known as LeFevre Reunion, made up of former members who had sung with the LeFevres or groups associated with the LeFevres.

Since the release of her first CD, Gray has battled breast cancer and is a survivor, and is now getting back to working on her singing career. Gray is also a speaker and would love to speak at your Ladies Day, or any special women’s event. Also, she does management with her Graydove Ministries and manages groups, soloists and even this DJ.

This CD reflects Gray’s journey with cancer. When all she could do was “Fall On My Knees” and call on “Your Great Name,” and sometimes just praise God “In The Presence Of Jehovah.”

A portrait of a young man with short brown hair, wearing a blue jacket over a plaid shirt, smiling at the camera.

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This CD is one of comfort and hope. Gray's first CD was great, this one is even better. I popped this CD in to listen as I was driving, and the lyrics, and the mood had me praising God all the way home, for his goodness and his steadfastness. It also made me realize that I need to praise him more than I do. This CD is great for listening in the home or office, or for a quiet time; it's a great reflection CD.

To get a copy of this CD, or to ask Marcie Gray to be a speaker for your ladies group or church event, go to [graydoveministries.com](http://graydoveministries.com).

Strongest Songs: "Fall On My Knees," "In The Presence Of Jehovah," and "On The Other Side."




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# Somewhere I'm Going: A Look at High Road



By Justin Gilmore

“Home is not just somewhere I’m from. It’s somewhere I’m going.”

Life is full of hard times, but we find hope in Christ that joy will come. If we trust in God, He will make our paths straight and guide us to His home – our home – Heaven.

This lyric and truth moulds the mission of the talented Nashville-based group, HighRoad. Singer/songwriter Sarah Davison founded the group in 2010 and performs with her friends Lauren Conklin, Kristen Bearfield, and Kinsey Kapfhammer.

All four women serve as vocalists and play a variety of different instruments, including mandolin (Bearfield), piano (Davison), guitar (Kapfhammer), and fiddle (Conklin). Bearfield also plays the guitar and the banjo.

The women of HighRoad incorporate a variety of styles from bluegrass, country, gospel, and contemporary Christian music. This talented ensemble’s diverse background flavors their unique sound.

“We all have different backgrounds, which is so cool,” Davison says. “We all grew up playing different styles of music, including bluegrass, gospel, country, folk, etc. The Lord brought us all together through mutual friends a few years back, and we began writing and arranging together and just loved it so much. We feel blessed to get to do this as a group.”

Given their wide-ranging backgrounds, they have had several influences on their sound.

“We love the acoustic-feel groups and artists, like Patty Loveless, Sarah Jarosz, Flatt Lonesome, the Primitives and of course the Isaacs,” Davison shares.





The group also cherishes the classic hymns and always includes at least one on each of their albums.

Listeners can hear these influences on the group's most recent album, "Somewhere I'm Going." This exciting and powerful project showcases the beautiful harmonies and musicianship of the quartet.

Ben Isaacs produced the project, featuring the moving title track, as well as the single, "Christ My Hope, My Glory," which features guest vocals from Jason Crabb.

"'Christ My Hope, My Glory,' is a song I wrote with Kenna West after I woke up with the melody and part of the chorus in my head one morning," Davison says. "She and I wrote it together, and the tears were just flowing that day.

"At the time I wrote it with her, I was about to go through a valley with my health. So, this song really means so much to me. I truly believe the Lord gave us this song for a reason, and I hope listeners feel that way when they hear it too."

The title track is also a standout that truly evokes the heart of the group.

"The song is about going home to see friends and family, but a lot of our friends and family are not there anymore because they've gone on to be with the Lord," Davison explains. "I think every person can relate to

that who looks back on their childhood or those memories with aunts and uncles and friends who are no longer here with us. We can be assured we're going to see them again someday."

By delving into a variety of styles, the group reaches a wide audience and has garnered great success in their young career. Since the group's inception, they have already received six SGNScoops Diamond Award nominations. In 2016, HighRoad won the Diamond Award for Christian Country Group of the Year.

However, it is not about the fame or notoriety for these talented, ministry-minded women.

"We truly hope our friends and fans feel encouraged to keep the faith and fight the good fight," Davison says. "We want our concerts to be more worship than a performance ... and I hope it always comes across that way."

The good news of the gospel is very personal to the ladies of HighRoad.

"We wrote a song called 'Love' that we based around the woman at the well parable," Davison points out. "We really love that side of Jesus that we can see, showing a woman who didn't deserve mercy, grace, or even to be spoken to, yet He reaches His hand out to her. We are all that woman at the well and so undeserving, yet Christ chose to extend a hand to us even when



we were at our lowest.”

In its short career, the group has already had many memorable experiences. HighRoad has been blessed to perform all over the country and at several special events, including the National Quartet Convention, Gatlinburg Gathering, and Singing in The Sun.

HighRoad has also been able to perform with several other popular artists. Among Davison’s most memorable experiences are playing on Bradley Walker’s Gaither video, and their current tour called Girls and Guitars stands out.

Davison also considers the fans of their music to be extended family. She, along with the other members, cherish the opportunities to chat with fans at concerts and events. Davison recalls one such encounter fondly.

“We were just recently in Ohio when a lady came up to the table and asked where I was from, and I told her,” Davison recalls. “She grew up about 20 minutes from the farm in Iowa where my parents still live. I love it when things like that happen.”

These meetings extend to everyday life as well.

“I would say, when each of us are outside the concert setting, we try to use every opportunity we can when we meet and talk to people to show kindness and tell them about HighRoad,” Davison says. “Sometimes, the Lord just puts people in your path for a reason.”

The future is looking bright for the ladies of HighRoad.

In addition to the vocals and instrumentation, they each have other duties.

“I teach lessons to a few students during the week, and the other gals all have part time jobs too,” Davison points out. “Kristen works at the Country Music Hall of Fame teaching music to kids. Kinsey performs and writes a lot of original country songs that are great, and Lauren does a lot of string session work around town.”

Though they may be busy, they show no signs of slowing down.

“I definitely love my job, and I never get tired of singing and writing these songs,” Davison shares. “It gives me and all of us in HighRoad a lot of joy.

“Some exciting things are brewing – new album songs are being written – and the rest of this year is packed with places to go sing.”

In song and in life, the talented women of High Road continue to press on toward the goal. They firmly put their trust in Christ, knowing he will make their paths straight. Following where the high road leads, the group reminds us that home is not just where we’re from, but where we are going.

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# TOP 40

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. Hunter May - Number One Fan
2. Reed Brothers - Holding On
3. Mike Leichner - Don't Bring The Country Out In Me
4. Sonshine Road - When Grandpa Sang How Great Thou Art
5. Terry Davis - Braggin' On Jesus
6. Lisa Daggs - Wonderful
7. Tonja Rose - When The Mountain Can't Be Moved
8. Chuck Hancock - One Pair Of Hands
9. Tina Wakefield - Over And Over
10. Christian Davis - Every Scar
11. Trademark - Tell Me That's Not God
12. John Penney - In God's Hands
13. Charlie Griffin - Rise And Shine
14. Mercy Mountain Boys - Better Way Of Livin'
15. Michael Knight - You Can Have It All
16. Brent Harrison - This Side Of Sunday
17. Trinity Wennerstrom - Shine Big, Shine Bright
18. Kolt Barber - Send The Rain
19. Gunner Carr - Take My Hand
20. Bloodbought - Gospel Plow
21. Justin Richardson - This Is Me
22. Ava Kasich - Speak The Word
23. Joy Roberts - Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus
24. The Kendricks - I Could Be Leaving Right Now
25. Lindsay Huggins - Not In This House
26. Answered Prayer - When He Says Arise
27. Mary Fay Jackson - No One Compares To You Lord
28. Tony Alan Bates - Numbered



29. Heather Van Derren - Come To The Table
30. Caleb Howard - Live Like That
31. Shellem Cline - This Thing Called Life
32. Peter Christie - Two Ways To Sunday
33. Amy Richardson - Sweet Whispers
34. Jamie Lynn Flanakin - Oh, My God
35. Heath Knox - Face To Face
36. Wade Phillips - Big Time Memories
37. Ronnie Horton - Call On Jesus
38. David Gresham - Remember The Soldier
39. Appointed 2 - When Grandma Prayed
40. Bruce Hedrick - I'll Take It From Here



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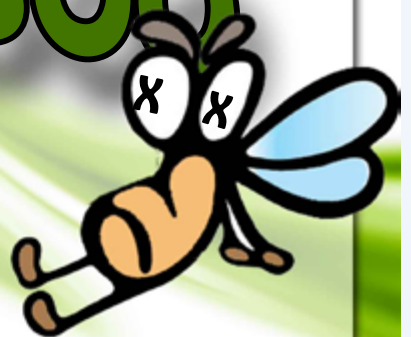
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# Day To Day Saying Goodbye

**By Selena Day**

The worst part of grief is also the part of grief that helps you heal. Life continues on. Another day comes and goes, you go to work, you watch TV, you cry, you catch yourself laughing. Depending on the depth of your pain, you may want to pass away with your loved one. But, if you just breathe in and breathe out, living each day as it comes, you will survive.

My mother-in-law passed away recently, and I'm not sure I was prepared for the way I would feel at her passing. For days I have wanted to write a blog in memory of her, but the words just didn't want to come.

For one, there is a real tension in the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship. All the married ladies raise your hand and say, "Amen!"

I think we tend to romanticize our past, only remembering the good and not allowing ourselves to fully see it uncensored; the good, the bad, the beautiful and the ugly.

I married Chuck when I was 22 years old. By today's standards I was just out of the cradle. We've been married for almost 30 years, so his mother had been in my life longer than she wasn't. She influenced the woman I am today.

When I first married, she wanted us - my new sister-in-law, who married Chuck's brother seven months before, and myself - to call her Mom. This was uncomfortable for me not because I didn't love her, but I had a mom and didn't think I needed another one. That 22-year old girl didn't realize she was the next best thing to my mother; she was my husband's mother.

I called her Mom until our daughter was born and then I began calling her Nanny. That's how I saw her from then on. She was a wonderful grandmother to our girls.

My mother-in-law was a strong willed, accomplished woman who began a downward slope after a fall three years ago. It was discovered that she had Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease during this time. Those first days, after being diagnosed, were some of the most special to me.

My mother-in-law never talked a lot about her life when she was younger, and the stories she told me were usually the hard ones, as she had a very tough life as a young girl.

After going into the nursing home she always greeted me when she saw me with a huge smile saying, "There's my girl!" At first I looked around wondering if she thought my daughters were with me.

She told us stories of her first days as a female preacher; how Rusty Goodman's mother was a preacher as well and she would come to her revival meetings to encourage her. She talked about how important handkerchiefs were to the women in those early days. She once told my daughter and I, a story of how the ladies gathered around her and prayed for her, each one laying their handkerchiefs in her lap. I didn't fully understand what this meant, but you could tell by the look in her face that it was something very important and a memory she cherished.

During those three years, Nanny became a little more vulnerable and would let things slip out that she may not have said before. After my brother and sister-in-law

divorced, she looked at me one day and said, almost as if in wonder, "Look at you and Chuck; it really is true love." I had to chuckle inside, not sure if she had thought Chuck and I would be the ones to divorce instead of them. Heck, I had to admit I had thought that a time or two myself.

I have heard that people who suffer from Alzheimer's are a shadow of their former selves, and I came to understand that statement over the past three years of her life. Nanny was perpetually stuck in the Christmas season. Every time we saw her she would tell us how next year she would be out of the hospital and she would fix us all our favorite foods.

She never understood that she was in a nursing home; she thought she was in the hospital.

My mother-in-law was a strong woman who began traveling by herself preaching when she was 16. She wasn't the type of woman to sit around doing nothing. When Chuck was younger, she worked for J.G. Whitfield, promoting gospel concerts. She sang and wrote songs herself, having many songs in the old camp meeting hymnals.

I didn't really know that person; by the time I came into the family, she was only preaching and occasionally writing songs with Chuck or Greg.

I knew Nanny most by the way she loved her family. She worked hard promoting our ministry when Chuck sang with his brother.

When I think of Chuck's mother I think of the word, "legacy." She left a legacy for each one of us in her family. By living her truth, she set an example for each one of us to follow.

I may not have always agreed with her and I may have had my differences with her, but I am very grateful that she was a part of my life and that she raised a wonderful man that I get to call my husband. She cherished and spoiled my daughters; blazing a trail before them of what an empowered woman really looks like.

Goodbye Nanny. I love you.

*Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. She can be contacted by e-mailing [selenaday@me.com](mailto:selenaday@me.com), by visiting [www.queen-living.org](http://www.queen-living.org), or at [www.facebook.com/queenismsbyselena-day](http://www.facebook.com/queenismsbyselena-day).*



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# The Inner Views of Emily Ann Roberts



By Cheryl Smith

We recently had the special opportunity of meeting the sweet young lady I am interviewing today. I can tell you that she is as friendly, down-to-earth, and kind as she seems during her concerts. You may remember her from season nine of “The Voice.” Emily Ann Roberts is 19 years old and is pursuing a career in music.

Let’s let her tell us something about herself:

Roberts: I’ve been singing as long as I can remember and truly believe God created me to encourage others through music. I grew up Knoxville, Tenn., and living so close to the Smoky Mountains really influenced my style as an artist. I first started singing in church and then singing in the choir at my middle school. Fast forward to my sophomore year of high school, I got an email from a casting producer with NBC’s “The Voice,” who found me singing a Carrie Underwood song called, “Something in the Water” on YouTube. The Lord opened every door. One thing led to another, and I finished runner-up on season nine of NBC’s “The Voice.” Since my time on the show, I graduated high school and have

been working in Nashville writing music for my upcoming country project. I also recorded my first album in August 2017, which is a Christian project named, “Bigger Than Me.”

Cheryl Smith: We would love to hear about your Christian testimony.

Roberts: I was so blessed to be raised in a Christian home. My mom and dad took me and my sister to church every Sunday and are very strong in their faith. I was in elementary school when I really started thinking about salvation and giving my heart to Jesus. I knew I was a sinner, and I knew without asking him into my life I would spend eternity separated from him. I was so convicted and knew I needed him in my life. So, in December, when I was in the third grade, I prayed with my parents and asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior.

Smith: When did you realize that God has gifted you to sing and that he wanted you to pursue that gift as a career?

Roberts: I don’t think it hit me all of a sudden, but with little



things that happened along the way, I became very confident that God had created me to sing. It took me a while to quit overthinking or doubting myself as a singer/artist, but when I finally realized it isn't all about me and my abilities, but about being obedient to the Lord and confident in the gift God placed inside of me, I became sure that this was what I'm meant to do. The Lord opening up the door to be on "The Voice" was also a huge sign that this was what he created me to do. The doors since then have just flown open.

Smith: Tell us about your life before and your journey to being a participant on "The Voice."

Roberts: I sang a lot in church and around Knoxville in competitions and restaurants before my time on "The Voice." My dad would record videos of me and post them on YouTube, and we never thought anything about it. A casting producer from the TV show saw me singing on YouTube and invited me to come to a callback audition in Atlanta. I never particularly wanted to be on a singing competition show, but since the opportunity fell in my lap I knew I had to at least go audition, and I'm so thankful I did.

Smith: What was the whole experience of being on "The Voice" like for you?

Roberts: I cannot say enough good things about my time on "The Voice." The production staff, wardrobe team, hair and makeup artists, camera crew, band, drivers, and the coaches were all so amazing to work with. I most enjoyed getting to know the other contestants on the show with me. We went through a crazy, life-changing experience together, and we became family during those months working on the show. I learned so much and was so inspired by the other contestants.

Smith: What are some of your most memorable moments during your time on "The Voice?"

Roberts: Honestly, some of my favorite times were spent back at the hotel singing songs with the other contestants. We would have jam sessions at night where we would just pass the guitar around and sing together. I remember being so overwhelmed and amazed at the talent that was sitting around me. It was so inspiring. Working with Blake Shelton was amazing. He is so down to earth and normal. He encouraged me so much and truly helped me come out of my shell. He was always just so fun to be around.

Smith: How did your faith in God and your Christian walk influence and factor into your decisions and conduct while being a participant on "The Voice?"

Roberts: My faith was the one thing that got me through my time on "The Voice." It was a lot of change and pressure on me as a 16-year-old. It was truly an amazing opportunity that I wouldn't trade for anything, but there were a lot of long days and homesick nights. But I knew the Lord had brought me to the show and that he was opening all the doors, so I

held tight to the promise that he had good plans for it. I also wanted more than anything to be able to sing a gospel song on the show because I wanted to use the platform the Lord gave me to glorify him. Thankfully, I was able to sing one of my most favorite gospel songs, "In the Garden," during the live playoffs. It was amazing to hear stories of how that song touched people's hearts. I'm still so amazed that God can use someone like me to encourage others and lift the name of Christ.

Smith: What opportunities have opened up for you as a result of your being on "The Voice?"

Roberts: Blake Shelton introduced me to his management company in Nashville, and I have been working with the team there since I got home from the show. I am so thankful to Blake for making that connection for me. There have been so many amazing opportunities I've had since my time on the show. I was able to sing at a Salvation Army Gala in New York City, do the half-time show at Neyland Stadium to honor Pat Summitt, make my Grand Ole Opry debut, and play countless shows that have blessed my heart so much. My favorite part of what I get to do is connecting with the people who come to my events. I love hearing their stories and being able to connect with them through music. Another door that opened from "The Voice" is working with Abraham Productions and Ray Flynn Ministries. Ray Flynn saw me singing "In the Garden" on "The Voice" and reached out to have me sing at one of his events. I have been working with him ever since, and I'm so grateful to work with him. Ray was the executive producer on my first album "Bigger Than Me," and without him, I wouldn't have been able to make the record.

Smith: Who lays most heavily upon your heart? Who do you most long to reach through your music?

Roberts: I would love for my music to reach everyone and encourage all ages of people, but most of all, I would love to make an impact on young people. Middle school, high



school, and college are hard years for most kids, and I would love to be a light to them, whether it's with a song that reminds a girl of her worth, or a song that they can turn up on their radio that just makes them happy. I want my music to make people feel empowered and give them hope. I want it to inspire them to follow the passions the Lord has placed in their hearts and give them peace and encouragement in the in-between seasons of life.

Smith: When people come to hear you sing, what do you want them to take away from the experience?

Roberts: When people come to hear me sing, most of all, I want them to leave knowing they have a heavenly Father who loves them and wants a relationship with them. I also want them to be able to have a great time. I want for my shows to be a fun, safe place where people can forget about all the stuff going on in their life and just relax and enjoy music. I want them to be able to smile, laugh, cry, feel empowered, nostalgic, confident and loved. I want them to know that if God could use a small-town, simple girl like me, then he can use them too.

Smith: In a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile toward God, his Word, and his cause, how do you remain grounded and firm in your Christian faith?

Roberts: I cannot live without Christ and his word. I know that society is against God, but I can not stay silent about him. The Lord changed my life, and I want everyone to experience the life I have with Christ. My friends, family, and church have kept me grounded through my journey, and I'm so thankful for the support and prayer they give me.

Smith: What is your advice to teenagers/young people who are striving with all their might to remain true to Christ and swim upstream against such strong opposition?

Roberts: Lean on God with all you have. He will give you the strength to stand firm against temptation and worldly desires. I know it's hard to walk the narrow road, but it is so, so worth it in the end. All the things people chase after in this world will amount to nothing but destruction. Christ came to give life and give it abundantly. He is your portion and all you need. He satisfies every longing your heart could have. Keep reading his Word and trusting him in your life. Also, get involved in a Bible study with other believers your age. There is nothing like having friends to read scripture with you, hold you accountable, and encourage you.

Smith: Please tell us about your latest CD.

Roberts: My CD is called "Bigger Than Me," and it came out last August. It is a mix of old hymns, current songs, and a few original songs written by myself and some of my co-writers in Nashville. My favorite songs to sing off my album are "This Blood," "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow," and "Bless This Mess." Unfortunately, the only way to purchase one of my CDs is to come to my shows. We do not sell this

album digitally.

Smith: How can we pray for you during this season of your life and career?

Roberts: Please pray that I am able to reach the people who need encouragement and the truth most and for strength, peace, discernment to know where God is leading me.

For more of this condensed version of Inner Views with Emily Ann Roberts, visit [homespundevotions.com/2018/07/the-inner-views-of-emily-ann-roberts.html](http://homespundevotions.com/2018/07/the-inner-views-of-emily-ann-roberts.html).

Special thanks to Sarah McAffrey for the posed photographs included in this feature.



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# Beat Up Bible: A Spotlight on The Down East Boys



By Justin Gilmore

“We need more beat-up Bibles.”

This statement is the focus of the hit single by Southern gospel favorite the Down East Boys. The powerhouse quartet has delighted audiences for over 30 years with songs of hope and faith.

With hits including “Beautiful Valley,” the group garnered great success including being named Horizon Group of the Year in 1990. Ricky Carden joined the quartet in 1990 and in 1994 became the owner and manager.

Carden is also celebrating over 25 years in full time Southern gospel music.

Group member Doug Pittman explains, “I sing the tenor part. Our lead singer/manager/owner is Ricky Carden. He joined the group in 1990 and became owner in 1994. He is a veteran singer and a great leader.

“Baritone singer Daryl Pascal is celebrating 11 years with the group this year,” Pittman continues. “People frequently comment on his stature saying that he has

such a powerful voice for such a little guy.

“Our newest member is Zac Barham. He sings the bass, and joined the group in January of this year. At 30 years old, he already possesses vocal prowess beyond his years,” concludes Pittman.

Each of these men are dedicated to the group’s mission “to share the love of Jesus Christ through His Word in music.”

These talented vocalists are inspired by many of the genre’s legendary pioneers.

Pittman states, “David Phelps is one of my favorite singers. He had a huge influence on my early singing career.

“With the Down East Boys, if you were to walk onto the bus at any given time, you would eventually hear the classic Cathedrals Quartet. George and Glen were masters of their craft and heroes of the faith. They, along with the Hinsons, the Goodmans, and many others have paved the way and left a legacy that we strive

to live up to.”

In August, the quartet will release a brand new project entitled “One Day In The Past,” which is their latest on Sonlite Records. This exciting new recording features 10 songs and several different styles ranging from country-acoustic to traditional Southern gospel.

“We decided on this title from the common thread shared by most of the lyrics on this album,” Pittman explains. “From titles like ‘I’d Like To Tell It Again,’ ‘The Blood Remains,’ and ‘Beautiful Valley,’ each song tells a story of where we have been, but also reminds us of where we will be one day.”

With all the new material, the group still wanted to record a down-home tune. “Of course we had to include a traditional quartet song,” Pittman continues. “This time we chose a new song penned by Jeff Collins, ‘Beautiful Shining Happy Golden Shore.’

“We decided to explore a few different musical styles on this album, so there’s really something for everyone,” says Pittman as he begins to list each group member.

“Zac Barham, our new bass singer, does a great rendition of the old Cathedrals song, ‘Jesus Have Mercy On Me.’

“Long-time member Daryl Paschal takes the lead on a song about the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, ‘Lord I Need You To Show Up.’

“Ricky Carden, lead singer and owner, adds his unique vocal stylings to our first single ‘Beat Up Bible.’

“And it was an honor for me to be able to sing a classic

Down East Boys’ song, ‘Beautiful Valley.’ This album is sure to be a blessing to all who listen,” Pittman concludes.

The powerful single, “Beat Up Bible” was No. 40 in the July 2018 Top 100 and No. -- in the August chart.

“This song is something completely different for the group,” says Pittman.

“Musically, the song takes a country-acoustic form,” he continues.



“Lyrically, it tells the story of a family bible held by the hands of loved ones that have shared its message in love through the years. After the passing of a grandmother figure, the singer remembers the words they had heard as a child from the Bible, and realizes that’s

where they must turn,” he explains.

Pittman takes the lyrics of this song very personally. “I love this song. I think it paints a great picture, but also makes a good point. The bible is beat up and worn from use, from God’s word being poured over for answers and teachings. We need more beat up bibles.”

“We need more beat up bibles.” This statement reveals the heart of this group: leading others to Christ through the words on those beloved pages.

Pittman confesses, “Life is tough no matter who you are, and we want people to be encouraged.

“We hope that through our concerts and our albums people will realize that this Christian walk is definitely worth it all. We hope that people see the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ and that there is





nothing in this world worth trading your crown for,” avers Pittman.

At concerts, the group shares testimonies as well as their music. The Down East Boys want to leave the audience without any doubt about what Jesus Christ can do in a yielded heart. “We like to emphasize that when you become a Christian there is a change, a turning away from sin. We realize that we sing to a lot of church people and the sad truth is that there are many lost people that are church people,” Pittman states.

“I like to use the semi-truck analogy,” he continues. “Let’s say that I’m late for a particular event and you are the coordinator for the event. I come in and immediately apologize for being tardy. You ask why I was late, and I give the excuse that while on the way to the event I was hit by a semi-truck and that’s why I was late. You’d look at me and noticed that nothing about my appearance indicated that I had had any such encounter. You would think that I was crazy or lying. You might say, ‘Doug, there’s no way you can come in contact with something as big as a semi and not be changed.’ And I would agree. But how much more so, is it impossible for us to come in contact with the person that is Jesus Christ and not be changed?”

The tenor vocalist confirms this statement with a verse from the Bible. “2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are new.””

Pittman is thankful that God has used him and the group to bring others to Christ. He adds, “The greatest impact is seeing God make the biggest of all impacts on others lives as we endeavor to present the Gospel though the guise of music. The countless times we

have seen lives changed, families restored, and people encouraged from simply singing from the heart and presenting what we know to be true is astounding.”

Throughout their travels, the group has had many memorable experiences and fan encounters.

Pittman recalls, “Southern gospel’s self-proclaimed biggest fan, Jon Tucker, and his wife were celebrating their anniversary at the NQC in 2017. He asked if we would like to have dinner one day while there. Due to our schedule, we were unfortunately unable to have dinner, but still wanted to do something special for him. We picked him and his wife up from his hotel the morning we were there without telling them what we were going to do. He followed us into the convention center all the way to the stage. We began to sing, and then invited him onstage with us. It definitely made his vacation. Afterwards we had doughnuts and presented them t-shirts.”

It is experiences like this that really put things into perspective for the quartet. They realize the importance of sharing their faith and spreading kindness wherever they go.

“As a group we try to share and pour into each other spiritually,” explains Pittman. “That in turn, fuels us to be able to share our faith where ever we are. Truck stops, fast-food places, where ever we are, we try to be what the Bible says we are to be, the salt and light of the world.”

The Down East Boys show no signs of slowing down. The future is looking bright for this ministry minded quartet. Their newest album “One Day In The Past” will be released in August.

“We have powerful new songs we can’t wait to sing,” admits Pittman. “If you come see us, you’re sure to be blessed and encouraged. And maybe even laugh a little.

“We encourage everyone to keep up with us on Facebook. We frequently go live and share our lives with the people who make what we do possible, our family, friends, and fans.”

The world needs Jesus now more than ever. The Down East Boys are dedicated to spreading His Word so that there are more “Beat Up Bibles.”



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# 2018 SGMA Hall of Fame Inductees and Awards Ceremony

By Marcie Gray



Each year, the Southern Gospel Music Association (SGMA) welcomes new inductees into the prestigious Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame, located at Dollywood Theme Park in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The SGMA

is pleased to announce the Class of 2018 Hall of Fame Inductees: Ann Downing, Tracy Stuffle, Mark Trammell and Norman Wilson.

2018 marks Ann Downing's 55th year of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music. She is a Commissioned Song Evangelist with the Church of the Nazarene and a regular on the popular Gaither Homecoming Videos.

Raised on a cotton farm in rural Mississippi, Ann grew up dreaming of the day she'd sing gospel music all over the world. Right out of high school, Ann joined the Speer Family. Five years later, she met Paul Downing. Soon after Paul and Ann married, they co-founded the

Downings as a mixed quartet that included Paul and Ann Downing, Greg Gordon, Sue Dodge and pianist, Dickie Matthews. The group released 18 albums in eight years. Ann and Paul were voted favorite female singer and favorite bass singer respectively in 1973 in the Singing News Fan Awards. Ann won a Dove Award for Female Vocalist within a year of co-founding the Downings and went on to be inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame for her work with the Speer Family. The group disbanded in 1977. Paul and Ann were in the process of reforming the Downings when Paul passed away in 1992.

Today, Ann enjoys speaking at women's events and retreats, seniors' events and retreats, and lay retreats. Her favorite event every year is the women's retreat she and Paul were planning just before he passed way, Middle Tennessee Women's Retreat.



Tracy Stuffle was born in Morristown, Tenn. to George and Lucille Stuffle. An only child, Tracy spent much of his time listening to music and eventually formed his own



group, Living Water. He sang with Living Water until he joined The Perrys (Randy, Debra and Libbi) in 1985. That's where he and Libbi met, fell in love and were subsequently married in 1987.

Tracy's lifelong passion for singing led him to be named Christian Voice Living Legend and brought him many nominations throughout his career for the Singing News Fan Awards Favorite Bass Singer of the Year.

In addition to his love of music, Tracy was an avid sports fan and especially loved the Nashville Predators and Tennessee Vols. Tracy suffered a massive, debilitating stroke in 2013, but continued to sing from his heart until he was no longer able to travel. He was a hero and a saint to his family and many others. He was a faithful husband and an incredible father. He and Libbi were a wonderful example of God's love, in sickness and in health for more than 30 years.



For over forty years, Mark Trammell has been singing Gospel music. Over the years, he has carried the baritone part and won multiple awards with groups such as the Kingsmen, the Cathedrals, Greater Vision and Gold City. Mark and his wife, LaResa have one son, Nick. The Mark Trammell Quartet has been in ministry more than 10 years now, thrilled to see God's supernatural power working to do the impossible through those who are stubborn enough to simply believe He can.



Norman Wilson, mandolinist and tenor vocalist with Primitive Quartet, was born in Franklin, North Carolina. His

father was an old-time mountain preacher who knew music well and taught his children to sing shape notes, which is the traditional style that the Primitive Quartet still sings today. Norman traveled and sang with his father, singing at monthly singings and revivals for many years. In August of 1961, Norman felt God's Spirit convicting him and surrendered his life to Christ.

Norman and his wife, Kay (originally from Maryville, Tenn.) resided in Candler, N. C. He passed away suddenly during a hunting trip when he was 70 years old. The group of hunters had treed a bear and was deciding who would take the shot. Norman met Jesus that day, and his family and friends have no doubt he was ready. He was known to say, "Try Jesus, you will never be disappointed." Norman sang from his heart and made it his life's mission to share of God's great love everywhere he went.

"We were so excited with the response of the SGMA members nominating their choices for the newest inductees into the Hall of Fame. The official induction ceremony will take place Tuesday, September 25th at 1:00pm at the 2018 National Quartet Convention during a fund-raising concert held at the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee," stated Arthur Rice, SGMA President.

Individuals are nominated and selected for their contribution to the Southern gospel music industry. After their induction, a bronze plaque will be displayed in the Hall of Fame with a hand-carved portrait and a biography of their life devoted to our music.

You can order your tickets now for the 2018 SGMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Benefit Concert online at [nqconline.com](http://nqconline.com). Tickets are \$22.00 and proceeds directly benefit the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame and Museum, which preserves the history of the music we love.

Are you a member of the Southern Gospel Music Association? You can be a part of selecting future Hall of Fame Inductees by joining today. Your \$20 membership fee helps us keep Southern Gospel memories available for generations to come. Join online today at [sgma.org/store](http://sgma.org/store).



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

1. Gotta Be Saved - Karen Peck And New River
2. Broken People Like Me - The Old Paths
3. Jesus, What A Wonderful Name - The Williamsons
4. If Church Pews Could About - Gold City
5. Woke Up This Morning - The Guardians
6. Heroes Of Faith - The Kingdom Heirs
7. Sun's Gonna Come Up - The LeFevre Quartet
8. Washed By The Water - Jason Crabb
9. The Cross Is All The Proof I Need - The Triumphant Quartet
10. Go Show John - The Mark Trammell Quartet
11. I've Seen Enough - The Hyssongs
12. Find Me Faithful - The Perrys
13. Jailbreak - Joseph Habedank
14. Be Brave - The McKameys
15. Jesus Messiah - The Gaither Vocal Band
16. Beat Up Bible - The Down East Boys
17. Beyond Amazed - Brian Free And Assurance
18. Be An Overcomer - The Hoppers
19. Clear Skies - Ernie Haase And Signature Sound
20. Power In Prayer - 11th Hour
21. Man I Am Today - Matthew And David Browder
22. What An Anchor - The Mylon Hayes Family
23. God Doesn't Care - Greater Vision
24. Christ My Hope, My Glory - HighRoad
25. That Day Is Coming - The Collingsworth Family
26. Psalm 113 - The Steeles
27. God Of The Storm - The Freemans
28. Look Up - The Talleys
29. Just Receive It - The Jay Stone Singers
30. Love Them While They're Here - Susan Whisnant
31. Miracle - Billy Huddleston
32. Extraordinary - Poet Voices
33. The Refrigerator Door - Mark Bishop
34. There Is Nothing That He Cannot Do - New Ground



35. Open Invitation - Exodus
36. Living In The Middle Of His Will - Sunday Drive
37. When I Wake Up To Sleep No More - The Old Time Preachers Quartet
38. Rock Of Ages - Debra Perry And Jaidyn's Call
39. If It Wasn't For The Valley -The Pathfinders
40. You Are Good - The Wilbanks
41. Love At First Sight - The Pruitt Family
42. Leave Your Sorrows - The Brothers 4
43. But God - Lindsey Graham
44. I Know Him - The Inspirations
45. Choose Happy - Tim Lovelace
46. The Bridegroom Cometh - Jordan's Bridge
47. Standing In The Storm - The Sharps
48. This Joy Is Mine - The Mark Dubbeld Family
49. Somewhere Around The Throne - The Dunaways
50. Nothing Less Than Grace - The Diplomats
51. Rise And Shine - Charlie Griffin
52. Love Is The Golden Rule - Michael English
53. King Jesus - Eagle's Wings
54. Lily Of The Valley - Josh And Ashley Franks
55. When I Get Where I'm Going - Zane And Donna King
56. Another Day - Sisters
57. Meeting In The Middle Of The Air - The Tribute Quartet
58. And I Know - The Hoskins Family
59. Yours Amen - The Isaacs
60. Even If - John Whisnant
61. Daddy and Son - The Nelons
62. When He Says Arise - Answered Prayer
63. He Does - The Chandlers
64. If I Have To - The Coffmans
65. Take Away The Cross - The Bilderbacks



66. The Sermon - Misty Freeman
67. I Know You - The Sheltons
68. That's Who He Is - The Griffith Family
69. What Jesus Did For Me - The Walkers
70. I Want To Be At That Meeting - The Scotts
71. Back To My Senses - The Arenos
72. You Better Get Right - The Jordan Family Band
73. A Stone's Throw Away - The Hinson Family
74. I Can Trust Him - Michael Combs
75. Mount Testimony - The Lore Family
76. I Can't Explain It - Dean
77. I'll See Him - Chronicle
78. I'm Not A Failure - Day Three
79. I Didn't See Him Rise - The Carolina Boys
80. Rejoice - The Bates Family
81. God Against The Law - The Sneed Family
82. Go Tell - The Perry Sisters
83. Anything Less - The Taylors
84. So Many Ways To Praise - Justified Quartet
85. Wayfaring Stranger - Jeff And Sheri Easter
86. I Run To You - Hazel Parker Stanley
87. Don't Underestimate God's Grace - The Kingsmen
88. Watch And See - The Erwins
89. It's His Story - Endless Highway
90. The Ground Is Level - The Bibletones
91. I Believe He's Alive - Bowling Family
92. Resurrection and The Life - Rachael Gill And Redeemed
93. A Touch Of His Hand - The Joyaires
94. The Best Is Yet To Come - The Songsmiths
95. Who Do You Know - Mercy's Well
96. I Know Me - Purpose
97. I Hope You See Jesus - Jordan's Shore
98. I'm Ready - Jordan's River
99. Send Me - The Epps Family
100. I Believe - The Trinity Heirs



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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## *Dana Russell*



By Vonda Easley

The DJ Spotlight is shining bright on Dana Russell at WDYN 980 AM and 94.9 FM, out of Chattanooga, Tenn.. I tuned into his program and was extremely blessed.

Recently I spoke with Dana and asked him a few questions about his job in radio. He is a genuine person who loves gospel music. I am sure you will be blessed by hearing more about this month's DJ Spotlight, Mr. Dana Russell.

**Vonda Easley: What is your current radio position, station, and station website?**

Dana Russell: I'm the weekday morning host of "Sonrise," on WDYN 980 AM and 94.9 FM. We also stream online at our website, [www.wdyn.com](http://www.wdyn.com).

**Easley: At what age did you know you wanted to work in radio? Why?**

Russell: I didn't really plan to work in radio. God guided me there. I've been a licensed auctioneer since 1980. I began singing gospel music shortly after I was saved in December 1986, with a couple of local groups, but mostly as a soloist. You can't tell by looking at me, but I'd rather sing than eat. I sang to all kinds of churches and groups but had a passion for the elderly and shut-ins.

In the fall of 2012, a friend said I had a strong voice and was rarely at a lack for words, and asked if I'd like to volunteer for a little fill in DJ work for a Christian station in Ringgold, Georgia. That quickly turned into me volunteering every Monday morning for WBFC and sharing great gospel music.

All the time I was there, I was praying for the Lord for provide some financial stability for me to continue my ministering in song to many area healthcare facilities.

In August of 2016, General Manager Tom Sneed of WDYN contacted me and asked if I would be interested in taking over for the retiring Hall of Fame broadcaster Earl Freudenberg. I was shocked to say the least, with my limited experience in radio. But when I prayed about it and realized the hours would not interfere with any of my regularly scheduled appointments to sing for the shut-ins, from eight to 10 visits every month, I knew this was God's provision for me. I'd be able to



continue to minister to the elderly and add a whole new audience to minister to in a different way. He is an amazing God that answered

my prayers in a whole different way than I expected.

**Easley: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?**

Russell: I'd love to go to the Holy Land and walk some of the places my Savior walked. Everyone I've talked to



that has gone, has told me about the deepening of their faith from visiting the sites of Jesus' ministry on earth.

**Easley: Tell us about your family. Wife? Kids?**

Russell: I married the extraordinary Ann Pippin in July of 1980 and aside from my salvation, she is the greatest gift God has ever given me. I have two grown and married children, Andrea and Bryan. We are expecting our first grandchild in November of this year.

**Easley: What is your favorite restaurant?**

Russell: There are tons of really good restaurants in the greater Chattanooga area, but my favorite is a nice family restaurant in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., called Park Place. Their smoked pork tenderloin, creamed corn and baked apples are a little touch of heaven on earth!

Thanks so much to Dana Russell from Chattanooga for sharing with us this month in the DJ Spotlight. We especially appreciate finding out about a little restaurant we will all be trying out the next time we visit Fort Oglethorpe. Be sure to listen to Dana Russell on WDYN 980 AM and 94.9 FM, or online at [www.wdyn.com](http://www.wdyn.com) for some great gospel music.

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# The Joymasters: God and Love and Faith

By Robert York

It happened 50 years ago at Sunnyside Church of God in Canton, Ga., when Bob and Ardelle Bailey, and Bobbie and Jerry Forrester, got together and started a quartet. Not having a name, Bob came up with the idea of calling the group the Joymasters. Bobby would sing bass, Ardelle would play the piano and sing alto, Bobbie would sing lead and Jerry would handle the baritone part. Mike, the son of the Bailey's would play bass guitar. The five of them believed they were doing what God had called them to do.

In the beginning, the travel was in a Chevy van. Jerry recalls, "Later we realized we needed a more suitable means to travel in, so it was time for a bus. We considered ourselves part time but we were singing four or five times a week in churches, revivals, brush arbors, tabernacles, and any other venue the Lord led us to."

The Joymasters recorded their first album, "Sweeter Gets the Journey," in April 1970.

Band leader, Matt Burgess, joined the group in 1977. He shares, "My father was appointed as pastor of Sunnyside Church of God, the Joymasters' home church. Jerry Forrester asked my father if I could join the group, so,

after a family meeting, I was allowed to join the original Joymasters at the age of 16 and I played lead guitar. The vocals consisted of Bob and Ardell Bailey, Jerry and Bobbie Forrester. The band consisted of Mike Bailey on piano, Barry Forrester on bass, Billy Forrester on drums and yours truly, on lead guitar.



"The original group was like traveling with family. Not one uncomfortable moment ever came around. Mike and Barry were establishing themselves in the workforce, Billy, (the comic relief), and I, were trying to finish high school, and I was looking forward to college. This was a fresh, new experience for me. I had dabbled

with instruments and music, but this stretched me, and for the first time, the concept of how a band worked together finally made sense. This is on my short list of experiences that literally changed my life. Each week I would watch Mike Bailey play piano, and slowly but surely I began to comprehend the instrument. I would go home and practice, and eventually it came to me.

“The same basic theory, principles and concepts that the band used back in the 70’s are still used in today’s Joymasters’ band. Eventually, the group transitioned into an all-male quartet, and I’m honored to say that I was there when it happened. Jerry partnered with his lifelong high school friend, Billy Manous to form an all male quartet, and the rest is history. We would have a full rehearsal each Thursday night, and the vocals would go weekly for voice lessons with Leroy Abernathy. Back then, it was common to sing on Friday nights at the Joymasters’ restaurant in Rockmart, Ga. and various churches on Saturday nights, Sunday mornings and Sunday nights.

“The one interesting variable that has made the Joymasters successful is Jerry Forrester. Jerry is the constant influence that guides us all. Gentle praise and compliments are there along with soft spoken correction. Jerry is the E. F. Hutton of Southern gospel music. He lives for the group to be successful. He told me when I came back to the group, ‘today, we’re more of a ministry.’ For 50 years, Jerry has been able to build and maintain a

group with a live band, a very unique and rare thing.

“Time and space doesn’t permit me to tell all the ways in which the Joymasters have influenced my life throughout the years. Jerry, Bobbie, Bob and Ardell had something very unique. They were accomplished professionals, yet still held true to their spirituality, friendliness, humor, concern for others and devotion to family, God and church. These attributes have been passed down through the years to each and every member of the Joymasters who have followed.

“It is a calling and sacrifice to be part of such a group. With the opportunities before the group, we miss a lot of home time. It is also amazing that over the last 50 years only three members have gone to be with Jesus: Danny Smith, Billy Manous and Jeff Eberhardt. God has truly had his hand upon the group and to him be the glory for protecting us with good health, safe travels and the opportunity to be a blessing to so many people.”

Third generation David Forrester says, “I don’t know what the future brings for the Joymasters, I just know what it has meant to me growing up in the Forrester family and The Joymasters. Both are intertwined. I grew up worshiping my Uncle Billy on drums, my Dad encouraging me to play music, and above all my grandfather Jerry’s selfless love of family, people, music, traveling and God.



“God and family are at the root of the Joymasters. Not just biological, but a spiritual family. For example I have no biological brothers yet my seven-year old daughter has 10 uncles because those God-loving supportive men in this group over the years. It’s real, the love is real. It’s not a show, it’s not about money, it’s not about fame or recogni-





tion. It's about the true, honest love that God has shown to us and our feeble attempt to repay him however we can.



"No one except God can know what the future holds. But, it's hard for me to imagine that such a foundation filled with God, family, and a profound love of music will ever extinguish. I'm immensely proud to be a Forrester. I don't deserve the name, nor do I take it for granted. The Joymasters are not about individuals or their families. They are about God and love and faith. With such pillars holding up this ministry I hold great hope for the future."

Other than family members, lead singer Tim Jennings has been with them the longest. He says, "Thirty five years ago, in April 1983, I joined the family of Joymasters Quartet. It has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. We have enjoyed some good times, sad times and some fun times. Most importantly we have witnessed souls saved."

Tracks are used by most gospel groups but the Joymasters didn't want to use them, so they started singing with

the piano and guitar. For 50 years they have stood with the tradition of not using tracks but always having a live band. Their desire was and continues today to do God's will delivering his message through the gift of music.

On August 25, at 6:00 p.m., the Joymasters will return to Sunnyside Church of God where it all started will celebrate their 50th Anniversary. All former members have been invited to join in that night as former member Don Williams will lead them in singing several of the old Joymasters' songs. The Church is located at 2510 E. Cherokee Drive, Woodstock, GA. [www.thejoymasters.com](http://www.thejoymasters.com)

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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's August already. This year is just flying by. I hate to see the summer go because it means that in the near future we will have coats, boots, mittens and snow. These are not on my list of favorite things. What I love about August is that there is still a sense of the slowness of summer, the sun is still warm on the flowers in the garden, and it's my birthday month. Lots of good things to come.

We have lots of good things in this month's issue as well, and I hope you've taken time to read every line. It was a pleasure to have HighRoad on the cover, just as it is a pleasure to listen to their music. I have never heard them play live, but I have been an interested onlooker, watching their career over the years. Thanks to Justin Gilmore for doing double duty this month, as he chatted with both the HighRoad ladies and also the Down East Boys. Great stories.

I also want to thank Marcie Gray for her story on the SGMA Hall of Fame. She was a regular writer for Scoops until life events pulled her away, but we are looking forward to seeing more of her writing in the near future. Also, Cheryl Smith, of Homespun Devotions blog, has now become a fixture in Scoops as she shares the Inner Views of various Bluegrass and Country music artists.

Lou Wills Hildreth also was a regular part of SGNScoops for many years, but is more well known for her part in the promotion of Southern gospel music for

many years, and singing with the Wills Family. What a blessing to have Ms. Lou here in our pages again. It would be lovely if all of our readers would drop her note at [gospplvideo@aol.com](mailto:gospplvideo@aol.com).

As I look at this list of writers and think of the artists and others their lives have touched, it amazes me to see the Lord's hand at work. I know all of these people are just human, like me, and like me, they are fallible. But sometimes it seems to me that the Lord has used them so often and in such big ways, they must be a lot more perfect than I am.

This last month I was finding myself fixated on negative things in my life: people I had let down, things I had said and done to let myself down, and ways that I had let my Savior down. Then I began reading Romans 8.

Paul, the Apostle who spent so many years persecuting and terrifying the Church before the Lord stopped him in his tracks, was led by the Holy Spirit to write: "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved



us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:33-39, NIV)

If you have had your heart, black with sin, washed by the red blood of Jesus through faith in what he did for us on the cross, become white as it is filled with the Holy Spirit of God, there is nothing that can separate you from the love of God. There is no one that can condemn you for your sin, once it has been confessed and washed away.

So, my friends, if you are like me and tend to fixate on the negative, tell your fear and failure that nothing, not even these darts from Satan, can make you become anything but a conqueror. Jesus loves you. As HighRoad sings, “Christ, My Hope, My Glory.” Questions? Write me at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)



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# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



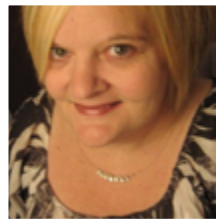
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://Queenoq.blogspot.com)



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



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



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



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



# Contributors

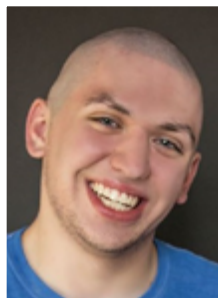
## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible. The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he

also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



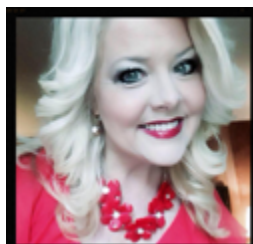
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and

enjoys living in the country with his family. You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



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

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



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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



Cheryl Smith describes herself as a "passionate disciple and follower of Jesus Christ." She says: "I am married to the sweetest, most patient man for over 30 years...Mama to one miracle son God sent to us after 12.5 years of infertility...Homeschool Teacher who learns way more than I ever teach. I love to spend time with my husband

and son in the mountains, sing and play Bluegrass music, and write. I am so thankful for your visit and hope you will visit my blogs: [homespundevotions.com/](http://homespundevotions.com/) and [biblicalminimalism.com/](http://biblicalminimalism.com/) It is my goal to encourage you in your walk with Jesus and to inspire you to let go of this world for the

sake of a higher call. It is His call that I hope you hear. So compelling, so intense, so far above anything this world has to offer. It is the call His disciples heard as they went about a normal, ordinary day, fishing. It is a call they could not refuse. A call that caused them to drop everything they had and walk away from life as they knew it, without a backward glance. Can you hear it? Are you listening?"



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

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



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

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

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



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://www.paigegivens.com).

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



Selena Day is from Atlanta GA. During her twenties she worked in the field of fashion, as both a make-up artist and model. Selena became a Christian in her early 20's and then quickly met her husband, Chuck Day, who is a songwriter and recording artist. Selena and Chuck have been in the ministry for 26 years raising

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



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

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas. Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed." His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is to give his all in the service of the Lord.



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

sing at a senior's dinner at his grandparent's church. Logan recorded his first CD, "The Journey Begins," at the age of 10 and his latest release, "Hits Before My Time," at age 19. In October of 2008, Logan was invited to sing with The Gaither Homecoming Tour in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for Gaither Fest. Since that night, he has sung at many different venues with the Homecoming Tour. As of 2017, Logan has toured all across America, Canada, and has headlined two Norwegian tours. Logan is on the road more now than ever spreading the good news and has no plans of slowing down.



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

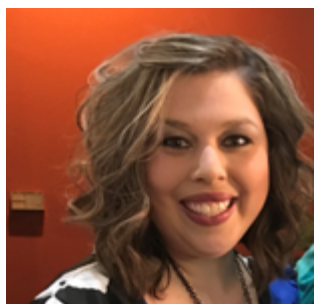
currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass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



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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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

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

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



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



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

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

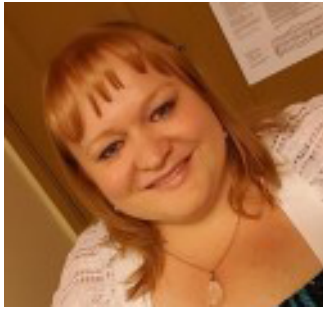
Over the past 40 years, Bill has become an accomplished gospel singer, having performed on 32 albums and produced over 200 albums for other performers. His extensive professional credits include singing with renowned gospel music groups including The Cathedrals, The Goffs, The Senators, and The Rhythm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

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



# Contributors

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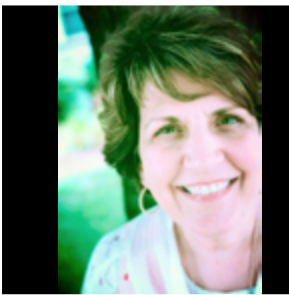
Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped

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



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

when words fail us, music speaks.



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

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