



ALSO FEATURING

Scott Brand of Gold City, Jim Britton of the Britton Family & Josh and Ashley Franks

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OUR MISSION

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV)

How many times have you read that scripture and wondered, “God, if you have a plan for me, why am I right here, right now?” If you actually go and read the context of this scripture, you’ll realize it was not written in a time of great prosperity or joy. In fact, the people of Israel were being oppressed right in that era.

I truly believe that the scripture is meant to encourage us. It is meant to tell us that even if you’re right now in a place that you don’t feel you’re prospering, I truly believe, it’s more of a promise that maybe not now, but maybe tomorrow, or over the next few days, weeks, or months, that God is making your paths straight. He is putting together everything that you need, even in the times of struggle.

I also believe the scripture is meant to remind us to live in peace, knowing that God has everything in his control. I know for me, it is difficult at times to let go of all of the problems of the day and realize that God is in control, that he has seen this day before I even got here. I struggle with that. There are times where I want to micromanage God.

Have you ever been there? Have you ever wanted to help God along and tell him, “This is how we should do it”? As I get older, I realize, if I rest in the moment, even if the moment isn’t perfect, and allow God to unfold his blessing in front of me, I will be in a much better place, than trying to micromanage what God really has for me.

I love the last word in the scripture verse above: “future.” So many of us live much of our life by getting down in the present, that we don’t take time to really think about the future. We don’t even pray about things that are long-term future, instead of short term goals. I’m guilty of this. I will pray for the things of this week, or this month, but I forget the long-term things that I need to bring to the Lord, that I need for him to be able to hear my plea.

This week, I challenge you to start writing out your prayers; write out your weekly prayers, write out your

monthly prayers, and write out a yearly prayer, something for which you want to set a goal. Then, we as a community of believers can look back on in August 2020, and say, "This is something that God and I talked about for this year and it has finally come to pass. I know that right now your situation might not be what you wanted for today, but hold on because of what the above Scripture says. I truly believe that God has a plan for your future.

Hey, we are less than three months away from Creekside 2019. There are so many things that are going to be happening this year at Creekside as well as prior to the event. You are not going to want to miss this year. It is going to be a life-changing week and I want you to be there. Call me at 360-933-0741 for more information, or email me at rob@sgnscoops.com and we will get you all set up. Join us, Oct. 27 - 31, for Creekside 2019.

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

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Josh and Ashley Franks

By Robert York



There was a young man from Florence, Alabama who met a young lady from Anniston, Alabama in 2006 at the National Quartet Convention. They were both singing in a showcase. Was it love at first sight?

Ashley Franks says, “Absolutely not!”

Ashley has many childhood memories of making mud pies at her grandmother’s house. She was born in a musical household with her grandparents playing and singing bluegrass music.

“My pawpaw loved to pick and grin!” Ashley smiles.

Ashley has two brothers, Brad and Michael, and attended Cleburne County High School. Later in life she sang with New Desire from Aragon, Georgia. When she was a junior in high school, she and her mother (Vonda Armstrong) formed Hope’s Journey where she would stay until 2007.

There isn’t enough space for Josh Franks, an only child, to tell about his childhood years. He attended Hardin County High School.

“Both sides of my family has some musical talent,

however none of them ever did it professionally,” says Josh. “I was born into it. So I don’t know a life without music.”

God blessed Josh with the ability to play numerous instruments.

“Now I don’t claim to be the best, but I know a few chords and notes on most instruments,” says Josh. “I have so many wonderful people who have been a great influence in my life. I’ve been influenced by every day normal people, then there are church people, and of course many singers and musicians. Pastors and evangelist have also influenced my life. I am grateful for each person.”

Josh proposed to Ashley at Taco Bell with a sauce package that said, “will you marry me?”

They were married on December 8, 2007, at Liberty Hill Congregational Methodist Church, and began singing together as a duet known as Josh and Ashley.

“I got to sing background vocals on Josh’s last solo album,” Ashley says. “He recorded a song I wrote called ‘He Loves Me.’ We also sang on a couple of other



songs. We first performed together in Columbia, Tenn. on New Year's Eve 2007."

Lauren Talley has been a big musical influence in her life. However, Ashley states that if she could be like anyone, it would be Karen Peck, with Karen's heart and spirit.

A lot of milestones have been reached throughout their 12 years of marriage and ministry together. They have had two great children, Priscilla and Eli.

"A couple of years ago, Priscilla loved to watch a show with a character named Michael," says Ashley. "When she would play with her brother, she would pretend they were the show's characters and called him Michael. For several months, Eli was totally convinced his name was Michael. We got a good laugh."

They have had God's true blessings and God has given them the desires of their heart. They have been privileged to sing on many stages including N.Q.C., Singing in the Sun, Gospel Music Winter Convention, Gatlinburg Gathering and many, many more. Also, Josh has been asked to speak at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention this year.

In addition to singing, they are involved in several other ministries including being pastor at Peoples Tabernacle Church in Savannah, Tenn., where they are getting ready to start construction of a brand new sanctuary. They also work with gospel music promoter Bill Bailey promoting concerts while doing some promoting on their own.

"Pastor Bill has been a dear friend of our family," says Josh. "We are so much alike, yet we are 30 years apart in age. It is sometimes scary. We enjoy so many of the same things of life. I count it a high honor to be apart of such



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a wonderful ministry and share the same vision reaching people for Christ through Southern gospel music.”

The couple now have a regular TV program on WATC-TV that airs on Saturday afternoon, The Josh and Ashley Show.

What does the future hold for Josh and Ashley Franks? They don’t travel as much as they did. At one time they were up to 200 dates a year, but with their church and other activities they are only doing around 70 dates a year. This is still a great number for a pastor and his wife with all their church obligations where they try to be at every Sunday and Wednesday. They are thankful that God has given them a chance to do both.

“While we have a home base and wonderful church family who supports everything we do, I don’t ever see us off the road completely,” says Josh. “I think there

will also be a part of us that travels and ministers to other people outside our home church. Either way, whether we are on the road or on the platform of our church, we are going to sing for Christ and pray that our music and message blesses people.”

You can learn more about Josh and Ashley and keep up with them and their TV schedule at www.joshandasleyfranks.com



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Jason Dyess



By Vonda Armstrong

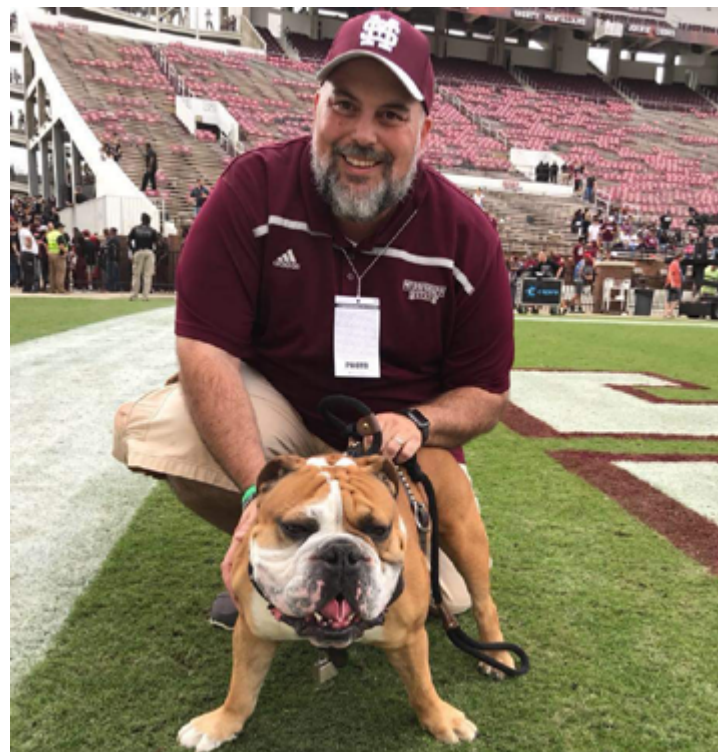


WMER AM 1390 and FM 91.3 is a radio station broadcasting from Meridian, Mississippi. The station airs gospel music, weather, news and community programs. In Meridian, you will love the sights and sounds of the city from the country music history and railroad heritage, to musical performances and outdoor activities. But, in the afternoon from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., the town of Meridian is tuned in to Jason Dyess and his gospel program. This month we are shining the DJ Spotlight on Jason. Join me as we get to know Jason and his ministry better.

Vonda Armstrong: At what age did you know that you would like to work in radio? Please give us your current radio position and station information.

Jason Dyess: That's tough to nail an exact age. I've always loved music of all types. I can remember making mix tapes from old cassettes and radio. I've always

dreamed of doing talk radio from current events to sports talk radio. It took me losing my job last year to finally get my chance with a Southern gospel radio station with music I was raised on. I now manage WMER 93.1FM/1390AM which is a Southern gospel music radio station in Meridian, Miss. I also have a talk show once a week entitled "Good News Meridian," where I bring in government leaders, civic leaders, pastors and other guests, so we can spotlight positive things going on in the city and area we cover. It seems people are tired of hearing negative news, and this is an opportunity for listeners to hear some positive news to go along with our good news gospel music.





Vonda: If you could interview any person alive, who would that be and why?

Jason: When I first read this question, three people came to mind. Pastor Jentezen Franklin, John Maxwell and President George W. Bush, because they all have so much information that I love learning from. I love to listen to Pastor Franklin; he's an awesome pastor and I admire him. Being an ordained minister myself, I have so many questions.

Then there's John Maxwell, with all of his leadership and management advice he gives. I learn so much from him and I think it's because of his past pastoral background. Thirdly, President George W. Bush because of the way he led this nation while still being a family man. I even gained more respect watching the way he led his family in grieving with the passing of his father in the public eye last year. I really cannot narrow this down to one.

Vonda: Please share your testimony.

Jason: At a young age, my mawmaw Jet and my parents always said I was going to be a preacher or politician. For a while as an adult, I ran from God's calling on my life. In July 2002, the Lord really grabbed a hold of my life. In April 2006, I finally surrounded to the Lord's calling in my life, and began the process of ministry schooling, becoming an ordained Assemblies of God minister in May 2017. I've been hoping to pastor a church. I have been bi-vocational by serving on ministry staff and a regular job in the past. The company I had worked at for 18 years left Meridian last year. We had opportunities to leave this area, but I felt the Lord was not done with me in my hometown. As a family, we felt this was the time to pastor a church. Although those doors didn't open, the radio station did and now gives



me a bigger platform to share God's word. My heart is to still serve and help people to get to know God on a more personal way. So my prayer now is that the Lord will use and guide me with the plan he has for me, and not what I feel is my own plan.

Vonda: Please tell us about your family.

Jason: My wife, Dawn and I began dating in January of our sophomore year of high school. Everyone in high school said that we were going to get married, and I proudly say I married my high school sweetheart. We've been married for almost 22 years. I almost lost my wife and daughter Katelyn during Katelyn's birth. Now, 16 years later, both Dawn and Katelyn are healthy. Dawn works for Mississippi State - Meridian campus, and Katelyn is 16 years old and is a junior in high school.

Vonda: When you are not behind a mic, what do you enjoy doing ?

Jason: When not behind the mic, I enjoy doing photography. I do freelance sports photography for newspapers, colleges and other media outlets. I also love opportunities to preach and visit other communities when being able to share God's Word. I also love deer hunting when the season is open. We are all big Mississippi State fans and we have season tickets to football and women's basketball. When not traveling to Bulldog events, we love traveling to NASCAR races, the Smoky Mountains and Gulf Shores, Alabama. Family is important to me, so any time all of our family can come together is important to me.

Thank you Jason for giving us a glimpse into your life of radio and ministry. When you are in Meridian, tune into WMER AM 1390 and FM 91.3 between 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., to catch Jason playing great Southern gospel music.



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Jerry Goff

I'll Meet You On The Other Side of Jordan

By Charlie Griffin

July 12, 2019 is the day Jerry Goff, affectionately known as “Mr. Gospel Trumpet,” “The Whipped Cream of Gospel Music,” or, “Mr. Gospel Music,” graduated to his heavenly home. One of gospel music’s most prolific artists, he was a highly sought-after speaker, teacher, minister, singer, emcee and songwriter. He was a mentor, encourager, and you can add friend, brother and husband, with Christian being at the top of that list. Today gospel music fans are saying “we’ll meet you on the other side of Jordan,” Dr. Jerry Goff.

There were humble beginnings for the man who became known as Mr. Gospel Trumpet. He was a preacher’s kid - a “PK” - born in Greenwood, S.C., before his family moved on. His early years were then spent in the western states.

Jerry was exposed to the church, gospel music and the

Word of God all his life. Only when his dad moved back to the south to pastor and work at Church of God Music Publishing, did he begin to enjoy the music of Southern gospel quartets.

Goff’s life’s accolades, though many, were never his focus. In addition to receiving a No. 1 Male Vocalist award in 1984, he wrote many gospel songs, some of them reaching No. 1 on the charts. Among those original songs are “I Am Blessed,” “Guilty,” “The Tree God Grew,” “Who Do I Know In Heaven,” “Please Search The Book Again,” plus many others that also reached the top ten on the national charts. So many of Goff’s songs were concert favorites including “I’ll Meet You on the Other Side of Jordan.”

His music legacy will be remembered as one of an innovator. Goff was a Southern gospel television pro-



ducer, producing the popular *Gospel Singing Caravan* television show for two years, as well as the *LeFevre Family Show*. He also performed with the LeFevres. He traveled with the Thrasher Brothers while producing their TV show *America Sings*, from 1967 to 1971.

Goff was a visionary, knowing that television would be the medium to reach the masses. In those formative years, his marketing acumen, love of gospel music and dynamic personality, hit the right tone with viewers on the many syndicated programs he produced and hosted. Always with a smile and a great lineup, he paved the way for gospel music, introducing more artists to eager fans.

This artist and gospel personality left the Thrashers in 1971 to begin his own group, Jerry and The Singing Goffs; with wife Andrea of the LeFevres, Don Burris, and friends Winston and Karen Miller. To many gospel music enthusiasts, there was nothing like a Goff concert.

Winston Miller, an original member of the Singing Goffs, shares, “Jerry had such talent, singing, playing the trumpet, and preaching, but he was a people person, a real Christian gentleman. He was just the cream of the crop. He taught Karen and I to step up our music and life to another level. His personality was so magnetic. His stage performance of any song or message was always so dynamic. When Jerry and Don would enter a concert hall playing those twin trumpets, it was like the rapture was taking place. People just loved that.” **

Although group personnel may have changed over the years, Jerry and The Goffs always presented gospel music with a positive message staged with excitement and energy. He will always be remembered for entering many concerts playing the trumpet to “The Old Rugged Cross” or having a concert climax with “I’ll See You In The Rapture.” Fans knew the encore was coming when Jerry would say, “My God, have mercy!”

As the group came off the road, retirement was not an option for Jerry Goff. Evangelism took center stage with singing and preaching. As a sought-after speaker, Dr. Jerry conducted three-day revival crusades, individual worship services, plus lectured on “Positive Spiritual Attitude,” a course he wrote. On the mission fields, he was instrumental in building orphanages, churches, schools and colleges in Haiti, Mexico, Brazil and other countries. As he often said, “We’ve got to share the good news.”



His love of the word drove him in so many aspects of life. As a Lee College (Cleveland, Tenn.) 1955 graduate with an Associate of Arts Degree, Goff later received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. He received additional degrees, including a Master’s degree from Vanderbilt University and a doctorate degree from the Emmanuel Baptist University, learning how to present that changeless message.

A believer in action, Goff served as Chaplain for the Senate of the state of Tennessee. Dr. Goff was also on staff at Christian Life College as professor of Church History and New Testament Documents.



Goff was a prolific writer, authoring many books, including “Led By The Spirit,” “Grace and Grit,” “Joy Comes In The Morning,” “Footprints and Memories,” and others. He was a noted writer of many nationally recognized poems; his most prominent being “The Pastor.”

Mr. Gospel Personality served as an emcee and host for many years at the National Quartet Convention. The SGMA Hall Of Fame added Goff’s name to their roll in 2002. He hosted dozens of “Singing At Sea” cruises and was host-emcee of, and honored at, Creekside Gospel Music Convention’s Diamond Awards, while emceeding countless gospel music concerts across the nation.

Goff experienced the loss of his first wife, Ina Mae Beck Goff, during his evangelism time. However, he was not to remain alone. Since meeting in 2004, Little Jan Buckner-Goff has been by his side and two were married in 2005. Together they continued their music legacies, reaching new people and rekindling many gospel music friendships.

Little Jan and Jerry chose songs from their background of Southern gospel and country gospel with prayer. As both have said many times, “We hope that the songs will touch people’s hearts and put a smile on their face when they hear them.”

Little Jan is also a member of the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame and a Grammy Award winner for her song, “Tell It Again.” She also has won awards for her voice, her albums and even for a television commercial. She is a member of the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. Both award winners, together they

shared some great music.

Jerry and Little Jan were regulars on Dove Broadcasting at WGGT TV, Greenville, SC and on WATC TV Atlanta, GA. Their popular TV show “Enjoying Life” featured ministers, singers, writers and offered positive life-changing messages.

Former employee and longtime Goff friend Patricia Mathis of WATC TV shares, “Jerry is known as Mr. Gospel Trumpet and Mr. Gospel Music, as well as being the best preacher and best Master of Ceremonies. No one could ask for anyone better. All his family, all my family, all the WATC family and all his dear, close friends will miss him terribly. He was a wonderful mentor to all of us. From a small town in South Carolina to the Hall of Fame; this is such an incredible legacy.”** Over the last few years Jerry and Little Jan slowed down somewhat. He began easing out of the spotlight, emceeding fewer concerts while becoming a mentor and encourager to the younger members of the Southern gospel music community. He encouraged many young artists to step forward, to do more, to become leaders of the faith and music.



There are so many things about Dr. Jerry Goff that just showed his heart. Goff’s kind words of encouragement and mentorship gave hope to many an aspiring minister or singer.

Jerry’s desire to help others was not new. It just grew larger. Beckie Simmons Agency talent agent Dixie McKeithen shares, “Jerry Goff had an amazing impact

on our lives when Tim and I started the McKeithens after our time with our family, the Hemphills, in 1976. He



invited us to spend the day with him at his downtown Nashville office. There Jerry shared his business model that we used for the next 40 years, introducing us to his lawyer and (accountant). Priceless. Also, through the years, Jerry's friendship was inspiring as his love of the Word...in scripture as well (as) in song, (blessing) so many over the span of his career. Often over the phone he would sing a new song that he had just written that brought joy to him. Our lives were indeed made richer for knowing Dr. Jerry Goff." **

Jason Clark of the Nelons shares a personal interaction about Jerry Goff. "In 2001, I felt God wanted me to further my Bible study and training to teach/ preach his Word. I began studying Theology and Pastoral Studies in college. Paul Heil mentioned this on the *Gospel Greats* radio program and Dr. Jerry Goff heard that episode. He soon after called me and donated an amazing library of books and materials, many of which I still use today. He was the first one in the music world to reach out and encourage this nervous, scary decision, and commitment that I had made. He was always that way. I want to be that way. We need more men like Dr. Jerry Goff."**

Charlie Sexton and Homecoming shares about four Dr. Jerry moments, "Jerry Goff loved to support gospel music. He taught me to be a cheerleader. There is the night he slipped into the Dallas Theatre in Dallas, Georgia, during the Nelons' Second Annual "Sing Atlanta," event just to support longtime friends.

"I recall the time when he showed up and sat in the balcony for a Red Back Church Hymnal Sing in Marietta, Georgia, hosted by Lamar Newton.

"Once, we went to Ellenwood, Georgia, together to hear the Lesters. He talked all the way there about how it was important, that if you wanted to advance in the gospel music industry, you needed to make a point to support other artists. He said he had been friends with the Lesters for years based on that very principle.



"In Nashville, Tenn., he discreetly sat down next to me at TBN during the *Lari Goss Tribute* that Gerald Wolfe hosted. He could have easily landed a front row seat, but instead he chose to sit in the back and, in his own words, 'be here for Lari'."**

On a personal writer's note, Jerry Goff became a friend to me when I was a teenager. He took a chance on a teenager who loved gospel music. He booked appearances at the Hallelujah Supper Club, churches and concerts with me. He always was an encourager in that time of my life, and since. I will always cherish the hour-and-a-half talk we had at Creekside 2018. We talked about music, ministry and he gave me so many sermon topic nuggets. We laughed, cried and truly found a blessing in just sharing the word.

Jerry Goff had that unique ability to talk to anyone, anytime, anywhere. His conversation with you was the only thing that mattered in the world to him at that moment. He was keenly aware of your needs and hurts. He never took for granted the time you gave him, the concerts you attended, the music you purchased. He wanted you to know how special you were to him. He truly made a huge impact to countless people, known or unknown.

A note: Dr Jerry and Little Jan Buckner Goff will be inducted into Tri-State Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame on August 3, 2019, at Parkway Baptist Church in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Other inductees that night will be Carolyn Cross, Milford Cushen, Debbie Epperson, Rick Fair, Roni Goss, Roger Horne, Mike Leath, and Jay Parrak.

Jerry Goff will be missed on so many levels. Many will miss his singing, preaching, teaching, his songs, his books. To those who knew him, we will miss his humor, Christian testimony, excitement and tireless energy. But more importantly, we will miss his friendship.



This wonderful gentleman is survived by his wife Jan Buckner Goff; her daughter Roneice and Phil Bradley; and grandchildren Erica and Morgan Pakluck and Tinian Stanley, and their five great-grandchildren; also his brother Wally Goff; his brother and sister-in-law Don and Janie Goff; his sister-in-law Nadine Goff; his four nieces Ginger and Gerald, Shelly, Natalie, Melanie and Curtis; and five great-nieces and great-nephews.

Gospel music lost an icon. But if we follow the path Jerry Goff told us about, we are singing his song for sure:

I'll meet you on the other side of Jordan,
With friends and loved ones we will ever be,
I'll meet you on the other side of Jordan
And there we'll spend all eternity.*

*Lyrics by Jerry Goff, recorded 1984.

** Used by personal permission.

Photos courtesy of Ashley Pope, Winston Miller and Charlie Griffin

Tributes to Dr. Jerry Goff

I loved brother Jerry. I called him often to run sermon ideas by him just to get his thoughts. He was full of such Godly wisdom and counsel. He was always there for me. A great man of God, mentor and friend. I will miss his humor, his preaching and his smile. We didn't lose him! We know exactly where he is. We will be there shortly, friend. -- Eric Bennett, Triumphant Quartet

I remember Jerry when he was with the Thrasher Brothers. I was playing drums for my family on the weekends. A year or so later he started Jerry Goff and the Singing Goffs. Through the 70's and early 80's, he always let me sit in with his group on drums and he never failed to give me a token for playing either. For a kid getting to do something he loved to do and then to be appreciated like that was truly special for me. I'll never forget (him). Thanks for the memories. --- Dean Hopper, the Hoppers (pic)

I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Jerry Goff several years ago. He always seemed to laugh at my jokes and was very gracious to me when we started Karen Peck and New River. Over the years, especially on the Singing At Sea Templeton Cruise, he would always tell a blonde joke before introducing us. There were several times that we were on the stage together telling funny stories. Jerry was a great leader/example in Southern gospel music. He stood in a class of his own. He had a way of communicating with an audience like no one I've ever seen. He could captivate a crowd with his humor and at the same time turn it around into something fulfilling and meaningful. It is an honor to call him friend. Dr. Jerry Goff will be greatly missed. -- Karen Peck Gooch, Karen Peck and New River

Jerry Goff was a cheerleader. A cheerleader for the gospel, a cheerleader for other artists, and a cheerleader for the fans. He took every chance he had to encourage everyone he encountered. He impacted as many off stage as he did on. I was blessed to call him a friend. -- Matt Felts, Carman Ministries

When I think of Jerry Goff, the words friend and encourager come to mind. Even as well known as Jerry was, he never failed to sit down and take time with me. Nobody was insignificant to Jerry, which is the way it should be. At one point, he gave me some of the best advice that I'll never forget. Jerry was a giver. I'll sure

miss him. -- Mike LeFevre, LeFevre Quartet

I first met Jerry back in the late 60's or early 70's. He later formed Jerry and the Singing Goffs and the Downings worked with them many times. The thing that always stood out to me about Jerry, and the way I want to remember him, is his contagious excitement over life. Not just on the platform, but standing at the record table, visiting on the bus, wherever. That carried over, of course, to the platform. A bundle of energy is a good way for me to describe the way he encouraged me, reminding me to always look at the top side of life. -- Ann Downing

The first time I ever remember seeing Jerry Goff it was in Kennett, Missouri. He sang "I'll See You In The Rapture." He played his trumpet on the song "Old Rugged Cross." I thought the rapture was happening. Over the years my hero became a friend. He was a huge cheerleader in gospel music and my career. He will truly be missed. -- Gene McDonald

Jerry Goff was a unique leader who led by inspiring and serving. He took the time to encourage and educate me. I love him. He will be missed. -- Phil Cross, Poet Voices

Brother Jerry was a friend to all. I'll never forget his encouraging texts and his words of wisdom he spoke into my life. He and Jan are the epitome of what every Christian should be, and all of our Creekside family will surely miss his teaching and emceeing at the event. -- Vonda Easley Armstrong, Hey Y'all Media and SGN-Scoops

When I began my solo journey in 1997, I needed some advice so I went to the top: Dr Jerry Goff. Valuable conversations. -- Mark Lanier

I have been flooded with memories about this man since I heard he entered Heaven on Friday. When I was just a child and he was a very young man, Jerry Goff and my father became fast friends. Dad was a pastor and Jerry and The Goffs were frequent guests at the churches he served. He was always an encouragement to me. About 25 years ago, we were playing golf in Clarion, Pennsylvania, one hot afternoon with Tracy Stuffle. On the first tee, Jerry proceeded to list all of his alleged physical challenges. He admonished Tracy and I to take it easy on "the old man." Well, you probably know how the story ends but I'll tell you anyway. Tracy and I were both pretty good on that particular day but

the "old man" beat us like a drum. Deana and I were guests on his and Lil' Jan's show, *Enjoying Life*. We had a wonderful time and it brings back sweet memories. I am feeling like I have heard others say as the years march sternly on: "there is truly more on the other side every day." Miss you, my friend but "I'll See You In The Rapture." -- Pastor Jamie Caldwell, Atlanta Street Baptist Church, Roswell, Georgia. Jamie sang gospel music several years with the Dixie Melody Boys and other groups.

Dr. Jerry Goff made every artist he crossed paths with feel loved and valued. I remember waiting in the wings for our first N.Q.C. appearance as Hope's Call. I remember Jerry Goff looking us straight in the eyes when he spoke words of encouragement to us. And, when he walked up and down the aisles at (NQC), he could have passed by those new and aspiring artists, but he stopped. He stopped, not based on a group's popularity, but because he loved Jesus and he reflected that love to every person he met. He didn't care about people based on how well known they were, but on how God knew and saw them and their desire to serve. He was an example to each of us about how to love God and others. He will be greatly missed. -- Donna King, Zane and Donna King

I sit here this morning thinking about the times I spent with Jerry Goff. He would come to concerts and always tried to buy a ticket, but it never happened, we would have a discussion and not charge him. Often I'd tell him his admission would be the opening prayer. Quite often a group would get him on stage to sing with them. On occasion, I would get a phone call and he would say, "Brother York, are there any singings in our area this weekend?" Don't know where he got it but he would often call me "Preacher." I would call him "Doctor," which he was. He was one of the biggest encouragers I've ever had. (He was) popular at Georgia Mountain Fair. I don't think he missed one up until the last couple of years. The first time I met him was at the fair when it was under the tent at the high school. Until we meet again, Brother Jerry, know I love (you) and will miss you and us talking. There will never be another like you. -- Robert York, North Metro Gospel Singers

Dr. Jerry Goff was the ultimate professional but most of all he had a calm ease of the Holy Spirit about him at all times. He has brought so much to us all that his legacy will outlive us all. -- Jonathan Wilburn, Wilburn and Wilburn

My favorite memory of Dr. Goff was a conversation that happened at Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2018. I was carrying some folders with me, he asked if I was studying on a sermon. I just had to reply back, "No sir, God hasn't called me to preach." He then in turn asked, "Well, has God called you to sing gospel music?" In which my reply was, "Yes, sir." His next reply has stuck with me ever since, "Well then, you've been called to preach." Wow. I guess I had always known that but I had never thought about it exactly that way before. Even we as singers have been called to preach if we are singing songs that portray the gospel message. -- Steven Craps, Pine Ridge Boys Quartet

Dr. Goff was always a blessing to me whether he was singing or speaking. My fondest memory of him was seeing him walking down the aisle at Meramec Caverns, playing his trumpet during The Lesters Fall Festival of Gospel Music. -- Allen Smith, SGNScoops founder

I first met Dr. Jerry as a student at Stamps Baxter School of Music. He was such a kind man and was full of knowledge. It never failed that every time we spoke I learned something new about this music that we all love so much. He will be greatly missed but his legacy will long outlive him. -- Grant Gibson, Karen Peck and New River

I met Jerry in the 80's; he was a great man of God. He was very encouraging to me throughout the years. He always told me to keep pushing onward, that one day we would be in a beautiful city called "Heaven;" no more crutches to walk around on, that I would run like I have never run and walked before. He also told me to never give up; always keep walking on for Jesus, as he has carried me through my days to trust him. No matter how hard it got for me to walk, to keep going. Don't let (anything) stop me from doing what God called me to do. I loved him and Mrs. Jan. They both inspired me in so many ways with their great talent. He will be missed but never forgotten in my heart or mind. -- ReJeana Leeth, ReJeana Leeth and New Grace

I met Jerry Goff twenty years ago when I started in the industry. He has always been kind and generous to me and our gospel music family. I learned how to emcee from Jerry. I learned how to do a product pitch from him. We worked several concerts together over the years. He was a true legend. I miss him already. -- JP. Miller, Gospel Music Television (pic) This was taken at

my first tv show I hosted at the SGMA awards in 2000. JP Miller, Dr. Jerry Goff, Co-Host Valerie Pearcey.

Dr. Goff was indeed one that could change the atmosphere in any room he stepped in. With his encouraging spirit and his bright smile, fans and artists alike were encouraged and inspired. Prayers for Little Jan and family continue this day and forever. -- Andrew Brunet, WOTG Radio

Dr. Goff is one of the true mentors I have had in my life. He was a man who loved our music but he loved those that work daily to spread the gospel through music. -- Rob Patz, Coastal Media

Just a little something for Mr Jerry Goff I have known Jerry Goff since a little knot head kid. I would watch the Thrasher Brothers and Mr Goff inspire and really excite many audience. My father, Eldridge Fox, booked them (and later the Jerry and The Singing Goffs) in Asheville at the old Asheville City Auditorium (now the Thomas Wolfe) along with other venues in N.C, S.C, Georgia and East Tennessee. He would always speak to this little fan and later introduce me to one of my all time drum heroes, Goldie Ashton.. As I began my career as a Kingsmen in 1976, I would watch from the wings of many an auditorium as Jerry Goff would start down the aisle from the back and start the group's set. Just incredible! And then it happened.... the Goffs were singing in a program with us (the Kingsmen), the Thrashers, and the Dixie Melody Boys Quartet in the Reynolds Auditorium (Winston Salem, N.C.). Mr Goff asked me if I would be able to fill in for their recently departed drummer. I was in total shock and gasped for breath as I said, "Yeeeeees Sir, I will go find out from Dad." I ran out to our Scenic Cruiser bus to find my father sitting in the buddy seat next to our driver and across from Big Jim Hamill. The conversation was short but wow, would have never in my most wildest dreams guessed the outcome.

"Dad, Mr Goff just asked if I would play drums for them tonight"

"Well son you know we're not supposed to go out on stage before our program, but it's fine with me. But you have to get the 'go' from Big Jim" Dad replied.

Almost before the words came from Eldridge's (my Dad's) mouth, Jim spoke up loudly:

"Foxie , let him do it. It would be a great experience and who knows, he might actually learn to play! Greg don't embarrass me and make a mess of it!"

Needless to say, I was overwhelmed with excitement.

I ran back and told Mr Goff: “Yes sir, I will be there at the start! I’m going to dress now.”

Away I went out, in my suit which at the time didn’t even match the other fellas anyway. When I began my career, I would wear little Ernie Phillips suit that others weren’t wearing that night. And into the wings I ran. What an incredible time learning and just fun I had. After the concert, Mr Goff came to me as I was helping carry out equipment and said, “Greg, you were on point tonight and thank you so much young fella. Then without a second breath he passed me a \$20 dollar bill and said, “Here’s some hamburger money.”

I know my mouth dropped and all I could do was stand in amazement of this honor that he bestowed on me.

It wasn’t the \$20, nor even the experience. It was a major man and hero that took time to give me a chance. Many years, concerts, fill-in opportunities later, I grew to have this finest of Christian heroes, Dr Jerry Goff, to call my friend and confidant. Many times before going to the stage, or on a boat, or in an amusement park, and on and on, Mr Goff would always take time to listen to this green horn. Especially after my Dad went down to strokes and even in death, he would call and check on myself and mother and family. A mentorship that I could never, ever repay.

He was and always will be one of the most admirable heroes and in closing I would just like to say:

“Mr Jerry, I don’t need any hamburger money, if only you’ll let me take the Heavenly Stage with you when I get there, or you come back with Dad and others to meet me!” “I’ll See You in the Rapture, Some Sweet Day.”

Prayers for Mrs Jan and big love from Lil’ Foxie --
Greg Fox



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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

2019 August SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40

1. Pretty - Jamie Lynn Flanakin
2. In God We Trust - Les Taylor
3. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
4. Worth It - Brad Henley
5. Chasing After You - Brittany Morse
6. Too Nice - Isaac Cole
7. Man On Monday - The Band Reeves
8. Rockin' Of The Cradle - Arkin Terrell
9. Higher Than A Steeple - Brent Harrison
10. No Place Too Far From Grace - Tina Wakefield
11. The Lie - The Cross Brand Worship
12. Beautiful - T.K. Brown
13. Near You - Michael Lee (with Rhonda Vincent)
14. God, Oral Roberts, and Billy Graham - Carol Barham

15. That's How Jesus - Rex Robards
16. Six Feet - Tim Menzies
17. Praise Looks Good On You - Kevin And Kim Abney
18. Sermon On The Mount - Tommy Brandt
19. Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick
20. Mercy On Me - Foretold
21. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
22. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
23. Well Run Dry - Leslie Satcher
24. Believe Me He Can - Bloodbought
25. Getting My Jesus On - Andrew Marshall
26. Victory Song- Cori and Kelly
27. I Gotta Be Goin' Now - Scott Brown
28. I Am – Robert Stowell
29. Too Much Jesus In Me - Linda Lanier
30. In The Fire - The Dodsons
31. Give - Gemma Adams
32. Everytime - Mary Burke
33. Here To Eternity - Cindy Hughlett
34. Something Pentecostal - Sandy Jarvis
35. American Christian - Bonita Eileen
36. Dirty Dishes - Shellem Cline
37. Wherever You Are - Melissa Evans
38. Downside Up - Lisa Daggs
39. Crossing Over - The Alliance Quartet
40. He Won't Leave Me In The Dust - Crystal Elam

A photograph of four men in suits standing in a church aisle. The men are positioned in the center of the frame, flanked by wooden pews. The church has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams and a circular stained-glass window at the far end. The title 'THE GUARDIANS' is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the upper middle of the image, with 'SINCE 1988' in smaller text below it.

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Scott Brand Of Gold City

Living his dream



By Jimmy Reno

Gold City is a name that is synonymous with Southern gospel music. Since the quartet's inception in 1980, the group has garnered numerous industry awards and a Dove award in 1992 for their single "There Rose A Lamb."

During the 1980's and the 1990's, the quartet dominated the Southern gospel landscape with numerous charting songs. This era saw much success for Gold City and one young man in particular was heavily influenced by the group and by the gospel music genre he loved.

Scott Brand began singing around the age of five years old in church. His parents sang locally in the Alabama area he grew up in. His childhood was steeped in gospel music and he developed a love for quartets and dreamed of one day singing in one. He was influenced by such artists as Ivan Parker, Arthur Rice and Mark Trammell. Growing up in Alabama, it was only natural Brand's favorite quartet would be Gold City and he loved hearing

the group whenever he could.

The young man would go on to become a loan officer in a bank in his hometown of Ashland, Ala. Soon, he met and married the love of his life, Caitlin.

"It takes a special woman to be the wife of a professional singer and my wife, Caitlin, has supported my dream from the beginning," says Brand.

Scott married Caitlin, and the couple finally had their first child, Brelynn, after some delay in starting their family. Family is very important to Scott and his wife's support allows him to pursue his dream. Plus, it gives the fans of Gold City a dynamic vocalist to enjoy.

The young artist performed with some local groups including the Southern gospel trio, New Ground, where he lent his talents on keyboard and vocals. It was at a New Ground concert that also included Gold City that

Daniel Riley had the opportunity to hear Scott sing his testimony song, “He Didn’t Throw The Clay Away.” When the lead singer position with Gold City became available, Scott had the opportunity to audition for the group.



“Singing with Gold City has been a dream come true. Ivan (Parker) was an idol of mine growing up. The first time we sang ‘Midnight Cry’ was a surreal moment. I worked hard for many years to reach this point in my ministry,” Scott admits.

When he’s not on the road traveling, Scott enjoys family time and watching Alabama Football and the New York Yankees. “Daniel (Riley) is an Auburn fan so it’s fun during football season,” Brand laughs.

When asked what his favorite song to sing with Gold City is, some may be a little surprised at his answer. “‘Midnight Cry’ is the group’s signature song and the song fans love. I love the song as well but my favorite song to sing is ‘There Rose A Lamb.’ As soon as the music begins playing I get chill bumps,” Brand confesses.



As Brand considers his present tenure with the group and what the future holds, he says, “I want to leave my mark here and contribute to the legacy of Gold City. I want to strive to be the best I can be. Winning souls for the Lord will always be the number one goal, but I also believe you have to have aspirations to be the best you can at what you do.”



The vocalist continues, “I want to be remembered as somebody that took responsibility of standing on stage seriously. Somebody that was faithful to God and to my calling. I want to be consistent in everything I do.”

As 2019 continues on, Brand says the group is looking forward to several events including a Squire Parsons Benefit on Aug. 20, 2019 at Trinity Baptist in Asheville, N.C. This event includes performances by several groups including Gold City, Jim Brady Trio and Greater Vision. The quartet will also travel to Canada twice this year.



With a lineup that has remained fairly consistent over the past few years, Gold City has once again shown that they are a mainstay in this industry and they are doing so with a talented young man who grew up to sing the music he loved with his fantasy group.



“God didn’t just allow me to live my dream but he allowed me the opportunity to do it with my favorite group,” says Brand. “Daniel Riley is one of the finest men I’ve ever known and being a part of this is a dream come true.”

Scott Brand is determined to make the most of this God-given opportunity. God willing, it will be a life-long dream with Gold City.

Concert photographs by Craig Harris.

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Meet the Pastor

Dr. Neal Weaver, President of Louisiana Baptist University

By Bill Dykes

Neal Weaver was raised on a small farm in rural southern Kentucky; his community did not receive electricity until he was approximately 10 years old. After completing high school in 1958, he enrolled in a small junior college in nearby London, Kentucky. He was able to complete three semesters of work but ran out of funds and had to drop out.

In the spring of 1960, he moved to Hamilton, Ohio and began to work for RCA Whirlpool with the intent to save enough money to re-enter college and earn his degree.

Neal had been raised in church, but dropped out for a while. After a few months, he came under conviction that he should find a church. He had no connection to anyone who attended church so he chose the 11th Street Baptist Church (Kentucky) because of its location.

In the spring of 1961, the Holy Spirit began to convict him concerning the ministry. After months of struggle, Weaver surrendered his life to the ministry, promising God that if he would provide the opportunity, Neal would preach anywhere and anytime. God took him at

his word!

He preached his first sermon the following week. Over the following 25 years, there was only seven weeks that he did not preach somewhere.

Two weeks after his surrender, Neal moved to Somerset, Kent., and enrolled in Eastern Baptist Institute. He continued to preach in churches, jails, rest homes and on street corners. After acquiring a set of bullhorns, he would travel to at least two or three communities every Saturday and hold street meetings. Most of the time a small, and usually friendly, group would gather, but he was also spit upon and threatened with arrest.

During this time, Weaver began to get a burden for his home community just 50 miles away. The community had only one church; it was a small Baptist church that only had service once a month and no Sunday School.

After locating a small vacant building, he decided he would plant a new church. After some cleaning up and repairs, services began with an eight-day revival. Since the young preacher had only been in Bible college for two months, he knew very little theology. Every mes-



sage was virtually the same with a different text and title, and every message was a message of salvation. The crowd outgrew the building after just two services.

The following day, he borrowed 75 chairs from the funeral home to set outside the front door. For the remainder of that week, he stood in the doorway and preached to the crowd both inside and outside. Twelve people were saved and baptized in a local farm pond, and over the next three months, 41 people were saved. The church was organized with 61 Chapter Members, most of them new converts.

After securing a four-room vacant school building and seeing the church stabilized, he accepted the pastorate of the Northside Baptist Church, Corbin, Kent. Northside was a failing church in a good neighborhood. It was just around the corner from the original KFC and next door to Col. Harland Sanders. The church grew rapidly, tripling in size the first year. In just three years, they were able to be debt free and secure a new location on a new four-lane highway.

In 1997, at age 27, Weaver moved to his third church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He would remain there for 18 years. During those years, the church went through a relocation and two major building programs.

While at Gospel Baptist Church, he became very involved in Southern gospel music. He was aware that it was very hard for groups to book a Thursday night, so every two months he would host a Thursday night concert. Groups were glad to come for a special offering and over the years, virtually all of the top groups sang at one or more of the concerts. Crowds also grew and packed the 500-seat auditorium and sometimes overflowed into the fellowship hall.

During this time, Neal's family group, the Weavers was formed. They cut their first album at Artist Recording Studio, with Dr. Bill Dykes as the producer. The group was well received and performed on Friday night at the National Quartet Convention in Nashville, Tenn. They were also the featured group for two summers at Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Dr. Weaver was founder and president of the Gospel Music Network radio program, which featured top 40 Southern gospel songs. It was a two-hour program heard on 120 stations in 20 states.



In October of 1992, Dr. Weaver became president of Louisiana Baptist University (LBU), Shreveport, La. The university had once been a thriving school but had fallen on hard times.

They were meeting in a small education building located behind the Baptist Tabernacle Church, with less than 50 students enrolled.

The university had one salaried employee, a young college student, Sandra Cory. She was finishing her degree in Education with plans to teach. Dr. Weaver convinced her to stay on at the university. She continued her education receiving both a Masters and Doctor of Education degree. She continues to serve the university as Executive Vice President of Administration.

Dr. Weaver, after having taken a couple of courses through distance education, believed that this was the future of education, so focused his attention in that direction. In 1992, only a very few Bible colleges offered distance education classes, and by getting ahead of the curve, LBU grew rapidly, topping 1,000 students.

The focus of the university is still online education, but they have also been able to build a beautiful \$3 million dollar campus and plan to be debt free in 2020. LBU now has over 5,000 graduates in Christian service around the globe. It continues to focus on training pas-

tors, missionaries and church planters.

Dr. Weaver will be 79 this August but continues to serve as president. He still travels to around 30 churches each year and participates in several conferences. He has written six books, most recent entitled, "Leadership Mentality" and is available on Amazon.

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

1. You're Not In This Alone - The Browders
2. His Grave Wrote The Song - The Greater Vision
3. Choose Life - The Hyssongs
4. Everybody Come See Jesus - The Tribute Quartet
5. Death Was Arrested - The Talleys
6. Victory Shout - The Kingsmen
7. I Pray Every Day - The Taylors
8. The Ground Is Level - The Whisnants
9. Just Across The River - The Steeles
10. We Are All God's Children - The Gaither Vocal Band
11. Be Saved - The Mark Trammell Quartet
12. Lord Knows - The Old Paths
13. The Father Knew - Susan Whisnant
14. Like I'm On The Shore - The Erwins
15. The River - Karen Peck and New River
16. Even Me - The Triumphant Quartet
17. Same On Me - Joseph Habedank
18. He's Here For Me - The Williamsons
19. His Cross Is Now Empty - The Lore Family
20. Heaven Is - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
21. Live The Gospel - Three Bridges
22. Faith Like That - The Dunaways
23. Everything He Forgot - Brian Free and Assurance
24. I'd Like To Meet The Preacher - 11th Hour
25. God Of Every Moment - Zane and Donna King
26. Send An Angel By My Way - The Freemans

27. The Lovely Name Of Jesus- The Kingdom Heirs
28. I'm Not Afraid To Go - New Ground
29. A Bible And A Belt - Les Butler and Friends
30. Finish Well, Finish Strong, Finish Empty - Mark Bishop
31. That's Right Where He'll Be - The Inspirations
32. Give It To You - Cana's Voice
33. Set Your House In Order - Gordon Mote (with Oak Ridge Boys)
34. All My Hope - Gold City
35. Glory To Glory - Riley Harrison Clark
36. I'd Like To Tell It Again - The Down East Boys
37. Day One - Jason Crabb
38. Revival - The LeFevre Quartet
39. The Sweetest Story Told - The Wilbanks
40. Before The Sun Goes Down - The Hoppers
41. More Blessed Than Burdened - The Frosts
42. Heal The Wound - The Martins
43. Take A Stand - The Justified Quartet
44. Uncommon Praise - The Guardians
45. The Little Things - Jim and Melissa Brady
46. There Is A Healer - Adam Crabb
47. I'll Meet You At The Gate - The Third Row Boys
48. Roll On Jordan - The Common Bond Quartet
49. I'll Be So Happy There - Mercy's Well
50. Leave My Trouble Behind - The Pathfinders
51. It Happened That Day - The Hinson Family



52. I Sing The Mighty Power Of God - The Blackwood Brothers Quartet
53. Believe Me, He Can - BloodBought
54. God Knows - Faithful Crossings
55. A Million Miles - Sunday Drive
56. Freedom Band - The Joneses
57. Composer Of My Life - Tim Lovelace
58. Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet
59. The People That God Gives You - The Bowling Family
60. From Dust To Glory - The McKameys
61. Said A Prayer - Sean Harris
62. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
63. Victory In Jesus - The Ball Brothers
64. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
65. Brave - The Browns
66. Wherever You Are - Melissa Evans
67. His Eyes - The Rochesters
68. When I Close My Eyes Here - Eagle's Wings
69. Let Your Light So Shine - Mark209
70. I'm Holding On - Greg Logins and Revival
71. Under Water - Joy Holden
72. Following In Their Footsteps - The GloryWay Quartet
73. Too Much Jesus In Me - Linda Lanier
74. Mercy On Me - Foretold
75. Reach The World - Avenue
76. Call On God - Tonja Rose
77. Hallelujah Meeting - Charlie Sexton and Homecoming
78. Resurrection Power - The Mylon Hayes Family
79. Praise Looks Good On You - Kevin and Kim Abney
80. Cain's Blood - The Steel City Revival
81. Back To God - The Real Truth Revival
82. I Need You That Way - Exodus
83. What Happened At The Cross - The Keystone State Quartet
84. Beautiful City - The Bibletones

85. Blood Of Jesus - The Carolina Boys Quartet
86. Crossing Over - The Alliance Quartet
87. This Is The Lamb - Westward Road
88. Call On Jesus - Dean
89. I Need A Fresh Drink - The Liberty Quartet
90. Safe - Lindsey Graham
91. It's A Highway To Heaven - Endless Highway
92. Six Feet - Tim Menzies
93. Leavin' - Messiah's Call
94. Anyway - Judith Montgomery and Family
95. In The Meantime- Goulds
96. Think About You - TaRandia
97. Let Me Tell You 'Bout Him - The McNeills
98. Better - ThenChandlers
99. Sometimes It's You - The Isbells
100. Meeting In The Air - The Chuckwagon Gang

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



Randall Reviews It - August 2019

by Randall Hamm

Dear Friends:

Welcome to August Randall Reviews It. We hope you have had a great summer and are looking forward to the fall concert series.

This month we highlight one of our favorite columns, as I bring you reviews of some great music that you may want to seek out for your collection. The New Speer Family was featured in the June 2019 edition of SGNscoops and here we bring you their latest release, "A Singing Heritage." Also, we feature a great album by the Talleys, "Finest Hour."

And 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.

Randall Hamm

Now, let the reviews begin.



New Speer Family
"A Singing Heritage"
Producer: Brian Speer
Label: Independent

Songs: "Heaven's Jubilee" (George Speer); "Sunset Is Coming" (Traditional); "I Feel It In My Soul" (George Speer); "I'm Building A Bridge" (Lee Roy Abernathy); "He Is Mine And I Am His" (George Speer); "The Old Gospel Ship" (Traditional); "My Home Sweet Home" (M.D. McWhorter - W.D. Paris); "Won't We Be Happy" (J.R. Baxter - Denver Crumpler - V.O. Stamps); "The Hallelujah Chorus" (Traditional); "Sweeter Each Day" (George Speer); "The King Is Coming" (William J Gaither); "I Never Shall Forget The Day" (George Speer)

Twenty years after the Speer Family retired, Brock Speer's son has put together a group to continue on the

Speer family heritage. Brian Speer (baritone) along with his wife, Allison (soprano/lead), Ben Waites (tenor/lead) and Mike Allen (bass), have put together a group that revives the sound and music of Brian's grandfather, George "Dad" Speer and Brian's father, Brock.

Around the year 2000 or so, Marc Speer, Ben Speer's son, launched "New Speer Revival" to continue the legacy, along with Karen Apple of the Speers, but that group was around for only a short while. This particular revival - I hope - will be around for a long while.

This recording contains 12 songs in all that the original Speers did and five written by Dad Speer. The album begins with a snippet of Brock introducing "Heaven's Jubilee," which then slips into the new group doing their version. Brian takes the lead and this group does the song justice and more.

"Sunset is Coming," is a pure joy to hear and has always been one of my Speer favorites. Allison sounds eerily like Mom Speer on this version, and it brought a chill hearing Allison sound so much like her.

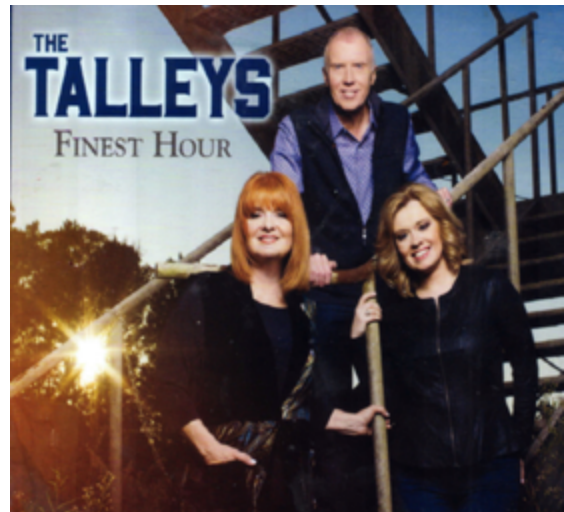
This album features one of the last songs written by Dad Speer: "He Is Mine And I Am His." A number of groups have cut this over the years including The Trio, composed of Kirk Talley, Ivan Parker, and Anthony Burger, who did the song on their debut album in 2000. Allison is featured and knocks the song out of the park. It is one of the most powerful songs that Dad Speer wrote and the group does it justice and more.

Other highlights are "Sweeter Each Day," "The Old Gospel Ship," "Home Sweet Home," and no Speer album would be complete without doing "The King is Coming." The song was first done by the Bill Gaither Trio and Doug Oldham in 1970. The Speers recorded their first version in 1971 and the song has pretty much become associated with them.

Overall, Brian has put together a group that does justice to the legacy of the Speers. A great first effort and hope they will continue to honor the legacy.

Visit the New Speer Family on Facebook at [facebook.com/NewSpeerFamily/](https://www.facebook.com/NewSpeerFamily/) and get a copy of "A Singing Heritage" at newspeerfamily.com/store.html.

Favorite Songs: "He Is Mine And I Am His," "The Old Gospel Ship," "Sunset Is Coming"



The Talleys
"Finest Hour"

Producer: Roger Talley/Lauren Talley

Label: Horizon

Songs: "Look Up" (Lee Black - Aaron Wilburn); "Jeremiah 29:11 (You Have Plans)" (Lee Black - Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West); "When The Answer Is No" (Bernadette Negus - Melanie Watson); "Joy" (Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West - Tony Wood); "We Are Witnesses" (Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West - Tony Wood); "Grab Your Umbrella" (Kristi Fitzwater - Eddie Harrison - Bev Herrema - Dixie Phillips); "Death Was Arrested" (Ryan Baltzglier - Adam Kersh - Brandon Koker - Paul Smith); "That's What The Teacher Taught" (Lee Black - Rick Shelton - Sue C. Smith); "Get Me There" (Lee Black - Jason Cox); "Home At Last" (Rebecca J. Peck - Dianne Wilkinson); "He Restoreth My Soul" (Lee Black - Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West); "Begin Again God" (Lauren Talley - Kenna Turner West)

It's hard to believe this is the 25th album of the Talleys with daughter Lauren, the first recording happening in 1996. Roger and Debra retired in 1993 from the Talleys so they could spend more time at home to raise daughter Lauren, and Roger's brother Kirk began a solo career. So much for retirement. Roger kept getting calls to produce artists, and he and Debra were asked to put on a concert in their hometown of Morristown, and by 1996, they were back on the road.

Twenty-two years later, the Talleys are still going strong and deliver "Finest Hour," 12 songs from some of the best writers in the industry.

The first single, "Look Up," was a Top 20 song with Roger doing the lead. "Look up toward the eastern sky,

our redemption draweth nigh.” “Looking for hope? Don’t look around, look up.”

The latest single is a fun song: “Grab Your Umbrella.” Catch those blessings falling down! Also make sure to visit the Talleys on Facebook and see the video for this song; it is pure joy.

Speaking of joy...my favorite song is “Joy.” Lauren, along with Kenna Turner West and Tony Wood, have crafted a song that does what the song title says.

A possible single release should be “We Are Witnesses,” a song created in the style of “He’s Alive.” Overall, the Talleys, after 25 albums, have not lost a step in their musical selections or style. “Finest Hour,” continues to deliver that unique Talley sound, straddling CCM and Southern Gospel.

Visit the Talleys at facebook.com/TheTalleys/ and get a copy of “Finest Hour” at officialtalleystore.com/.

Favorite Songs: “Joy,” “We Are Witnesses,” “Grab Your Umbrella”



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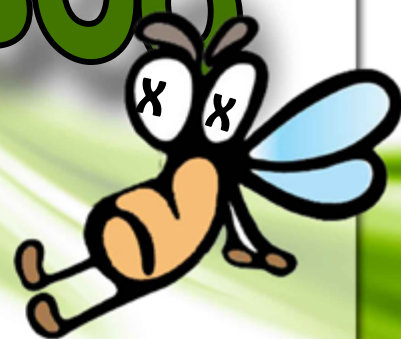
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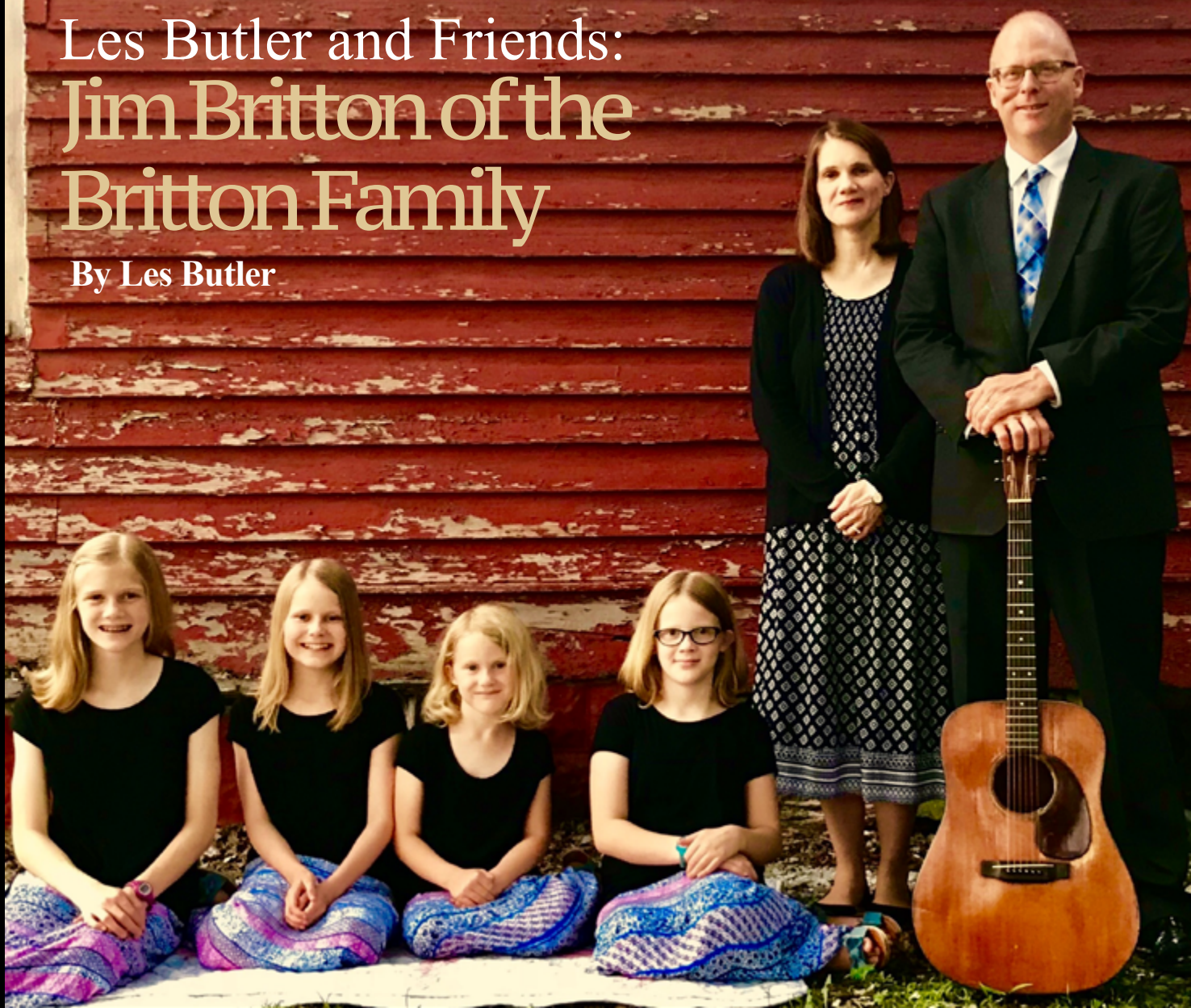
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Les Butler and Friends: Jim Britton of the Britton Family

By Les Butler



Jim is a new friend. I've met him once. He was hanging out with the Rochesters and that's enough for me. He gave me the latest CD from his family group, the Britton Family. I listened to it during my drive and was impressed with what I heard.

I was impressed with many things, including the singing from his young family. I was impressed by the playing, especially his banjo playing. I was thinking about this month's feature, and I thought of Jim. I interviewed him and I was blown away with who he is, what he's done, and what he's doing. Jim Britton is legit!

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Jim Britton: The first time I remember music grabbing my attention was in a seventh grade classroom. A friend had brought a cassette player and was playing a local gospel group called "The Community Singers." The acoustic music really caught my ear.

Butler: What's the first instrument you tried to play?

Britton: I started on the guitar. My cousin had shown me a few chords and I talked my dad into buying me a guitar from a local gas station. It was on sale for \$25. I still have it.

Butler: What are the instruments you play?

Britton: Banjo and guitar are my primary instruments. I play upright and electric bass as well.

Butler: Who are your favorite musicians/mentors on each of the instruments you play?

Britton: On banjo, there are several. I'm a traditional style player so Earl Scruggs would be at the top of the list. Other influences are J.D. Crowe, Sonny Osborne, Allen Shelton and others. I've been blessed to have one-on-one time with each of those men. On guitar, I'm mainly a rhythm player. I spent several years working with Larry Sparks, so I really enjoy his old school style of playing.



Butler: You recently told me that you're playing on a lot of recordings; folks like Travis Alltop, Andy Leftwich, Journey Home and the Chigger Hill Boys and Terri. Wow, what's going on?

Britton: Travis, Andy, and I do several things together throughout every year. We teach instrument lessons in a few churches around the U.S. and Canada. Travis pastors in Kentucky and has just finished his third bluegrass gospel project entitled "I'm Goin' That Way." Andy attends the church where I'm an assistant pastor, so we do things there as well, along with our wives.

I've been playing banjo with The Chigger Hill Boys and Terri for several years. We recently released the single "Songs Like Those for Days Like These." It really seems to minister to people. We also have completed a new project that will be out late summer or early fall. Mitch Galyon of Journey Home asked me to play the banjo on their latest CD, which will be out soon. Also, later this month I'm finishing up an instrumental CD of hymns in a traditional bluegrass style. Lord willing, we'll start on another Britton Family project this fall.

Butler: You travel with your family. Tell the fans a little about the group. When did you start to travel as a family, who sings and plays?

Britton: I remember hearing my wife sing at a church before we really knew each other that well and thought, "Wow...I like her voice..." Then I realized I liked her too. After we were married, we would sing from time to

time at church and around the house. Now with four girls, 14, 12, 10, and seven, there's always singing around the house.

Just in the last two years we have begun to travel around and sing as the opportunity arises. Chloe is 14 and plays guitar. Lindsey is 12 and plays piano and fiddle. Emily is 12 and plays upright bass and piano. Bailey is seven and is undecided at this point, but enjoys trying to play mandolin and piano. All the family sings. Our church has a music school every year with shape-note, round-note, theory instruction and much more.

Butler: Are you involved in ministry outside of your family's travels?

Britton: Being a full-time assistant pastor at Cornerstone Baptist in Carthage I have a "full plate" of ministry there. Since 2004, I've worked with the teenagers and am involved in numerous other ministries including Sunday school, jails, prison, nursing homes, radio, outreach media and others.

Butler: Do you write songs? If so, what's the favorite song you've written? Tell us about it.

Britton: Funny, I've written one song. Darrin Vincent had sent me a melody one day and said, "I need some words." Brad Price, my fellow assistant pastor, and I, wrote "Until At Last I'm Home," while running some errands. Dailey and Vincent put it on the Cracker Barrel release "The Gospel Side of Dailey and Vincent" from 2008. I also played banjo on the CD. But I'm not a songwriter.

Butler: When you're not picking and singing, what are you doing?

Britton: I very much enjoy time outside. I stay extremely busy so anytime outside is great. We live in a rural area, and a walk or bike ride down the road in the dark is always fun with the family.

Butler: Give us a brief testimony...

Britton: I trusted Jesus Christ at the age of 14. I spent many years pursuing music and eventually that led to a lot of travel and life on the road. In 1999, I surrendered to the ministry and left the music behind for a while, and became a janitor at a Christian school. I had become increasingly aware while sitting under Bible preaching, that for me, I was spinning my wheels for the world when I needed to live for the Lord. Some of my friends still don't understand why I walked away from regularly playing the Grand Ole Opry and numerous other places to mop a cafeteria floor, but I've not regretted it one ounce. The Lord has blessed me a hundred fold. Now I'm playing music to honor him with friends and the family he gave me.



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SGN SCOOPS **Bluegrass** **Top 20**

2019 August SGNscoops Bluegrass Top 20

1. Letting Go - Southern Raised
2. Who But God - Eagle's Wings
3. Most Requested Prayer - Heaven's Mountain Band
4. I Start Each Day With The Lord - The Britton Family and Friends
5. Let My Life Be A Light - Balsam Range
6. Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet
7. I Am Just A Pilgrim - The Appalachian Road Show
8. Acres Of Diamonds - Joe Mullins and The Radio
9. I See God - Marty Raybon
10. Call On God - Tonja Rose
11. A Brighter Day - The Primitive Quartet
12. Songs Like Those- The Chigger Hill Boys and Terri
13. Little Black Train - Barry Abernathy and Darryl Webb
14. Beside The Cross - Rhonda Vincent
15. Don't Turn Your Back - Lakeside
16. His Eyes - The Rochesters

17. Glory Bound Train - Carolina Blue
18. Thinkin' Outside The Box - Dave Adkins (with Jerry Salley and Tammy King)
19. Are You Ready To Go - Sally Berry
20. Heaven's Back Yard - High Road



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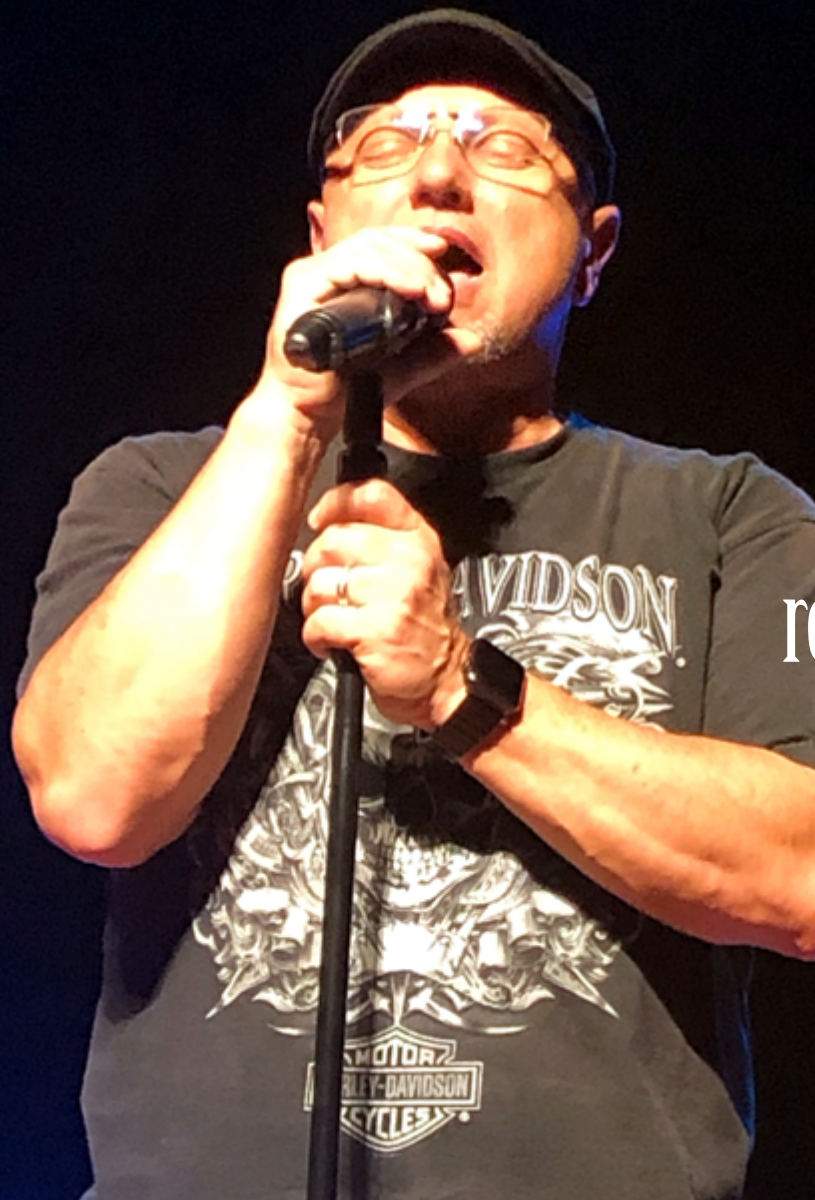
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Dale Brock

Former Poet Voices tenor resurfaces with Toto tribute band

By Craig Harris

Dale Brock has taken a unique musical path. Now, he's utilizing a unique idea in his musical approach as the former Poet Voices tenor singer's new band – Past II Present – launches.

"I'm so excited," Brock said. "Each one of these guys – as we all – have a unique testimony, a unique story. Our prayer and our goal is to be able to share that with those who come to the concerts and with other artists. I believe that God has put this together in a form where secular artists and secular fans will respect. The goal is to show the world that you can play excellent music without compromising what God has taught you to do." Brock encountered a wide variety of musicians after leaving Poet Voices in 2002 as he began to serve as a tour bus driver for various secular artists.

"As a driver, you get to hear a lot of stories ... the anger, the hurt, the bitterness," Brock said. "You can minister to them.

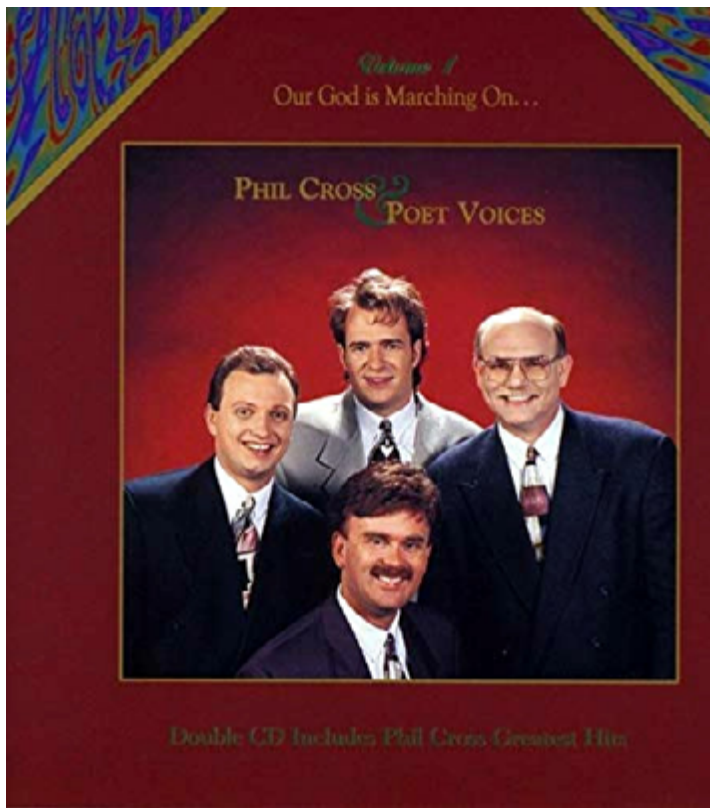
"I know these guys ... they'll keep me accountable, and I'll keep them accountable. It's something I've never

done before. I've talked to guys about it, but God's never let it come to fruition. The timing was right now, so we're moving forward. We're going to take advantage of it and represent him the best we can."

Brock's driving career was his first immersion into secular music.

"I grew up thinking that ... and I know that this is very judgmental ... with the impression that if you were a Christian that you could not sing any other music other than Christian music," Brock said. "It was all one-sided. That was one of the things that I struggled with those first three years. I can't drive a bus for these artists, because I'm a Christian.

"I was out with Michael W. Smith at a solo concert, and he came to Chattanooga. He made a comment, before I heard anyone else ever say it, 'I am a Christian, but I am an entertainer. I draw you in so that I can share God's word with you.' I was somewhat judgmental at that point, but I was thinking, 'Ok, that makes sense.' I'm not identified as a bus driver. That's not who I am.



Members of Poet Voices when the group released “Our God Is Marching On ...” included: (clockwise, from left) Dale Brock, Philip Hare, Harold Stewart and Phil Cross.

That’s what I do, but I’m still a believer. My first and No. 1 priority is to be a witness to the Lord regardless of where I’m at.”

Past II Present will perform as a Toto tribute band in its initial stages.

“We all just grew up in that era of music,” Brock said.

“Those are the guys you wanted to emulate back in the day. You hear a lot of the influences of Toto in (various musicians’) playing.

“I’m a huge fan vocally, and I’ve always wanted to do something a little different.”

The members of Past II Present played together more than 30 years ago in different combinations of a Contemporary Christian rock band, Secret Service, and also in a country band, Braveheart.

“Most of these guys I played with in a Christian rock band back in the late 1980s right before Poet Voices started,” Brock said. “Poet Voices started in late ‘88, early ‘89. Prior to that, we had a Christian rock band that we were playing around Chattanooga with. Then, we started Poet Voices and did that.

“All of us went to the same church. One thing came to another. When I left Poet Voices or we retired the group in 2002, it’s something I’ve always wanted to do. I’ve always liked a variety of music.”

Most of the band members live in the Chattanooga,

Tennessee, and the North Georgia area.

“We reconnected in September or October of last year,” Brock said. “I lived in Nashville. One guy lived right outside of Atlanta. We went kind of went our own separate ways. They played in other bands for other artists throughout the years.”

Brock faced some challenges after leaving the stage.

“When I was driving a bus for Hemphill Brothers (Coach Company) in 2003, for about the first two or three years, I struggled with the fact that I wasn’t singing,” Brock said. “The Lord grew me ... in that I could minister and be a witness without holding a microphone. I never knew I could. Since I was seven years old, I always dreamed of singing gospel music. I was a Kingsmen fan, an Inspirations fan and just gospel music (as a whole).

“One night while I was driving, I felt like the Lord spoke in my spirit and said, ‘If you’ll be quiet enough long enough, I’ll let you know why I’ve got you here.’ The Lord said, ‘I have you here to be a witness and show consistency.’ That’s what I did up until 2014. I was wanting to be a light.”

From 2003 to 2014, Brock drove tour buses for some marquee artists in the world of secular music, and he now serves as the safety director for Hemphill Brothers.

“My first gig was with the country band Lonestar,”

Brock said. “I drove for Casting Crowns. In 2007, I drove on my first Soul2Soul Tour. From there, I went to Dierks Bentley and Kenny Chesney ... Lenny Kravitz. It was the whole gamut. We went out with Madonna ... with a little bit of everybody.



Members of Poet Voices when the group released “Turn to the One” included: (from left) Dale Brock, Phil Cross, Tim Duncan and Scott Inman.



Members of Past II Present include: (from left) Jeff Parker, Rusty Duke, Ward Wilson, booking agent April Potter, Dana Harding and Dale Brock.

"I really wouldn't have (expected this), not outside the gospel music world. I spent five weeks chasing a plane, driving Joe Walsh of the Eagles. Just to be around someone so iconic and legendary, what a great opportunity that was. You hear these guys and hear of these people and get to meet some of them. They're older now, and they're a lot calmer than they used to be." At one point, Brock was able to perform on a limited basis.

"I was driving for Aaron and Jim Wilburn," Brock said. "I'd sing for about 15 minutes. He'd do his show, and I'd bring him out."

Past II Present launched its tour in July.

"A couple of weekends a month is what we've agreed to, because we all have families and all have jobs," Brock said. "We're going to try to be home on Sundays if at all possible. We're not going to limit ourselves to just Toto. We're going to do other bands eventually."

"Part of what I want to do on Sunday is to possibly do some worship in churches if the opportunity arises. We'd like to stay in a 300-500-mile radius."

The group will attempt to minister in those secular set-



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Former Poet Voices tenor singer Dale Brock is currently performing with a Toto tribute band, Past II Present.

tings. All of the group members are professing Christians who have a desire to show the world that people can play great music and still love the Lord without compromising one's core values and beliefs. The group believes God will provide a platform to share its faith both on and off stage, setting up divine appointments along the way.

"I'm good and comfortable with where God has me," Brock said. "It is unconventional. I truly believe God is going to open doors. Even if it's just one, it's worth it. I believe what we go through is for a purpose. Each of us have our own story. I just can't thank God enough for all he's done for me ... that's for sure ... and if I can honor him with the talent he's given me, that's what I'm going to do ... on whatever stage he allows."

April Potter Holleman served as a booking agent for the group during Brock's second stint with Poet Voices, when she was a part of the Harper Agency. He was with the group from 1989-94 and again from 1998-2002, first joining Poet Voices as a 22 year old.

"It was one of those things where I'll never forget our

first NQC (National Quartet Convention)," Brock said. "We were walking at that time with a No. 1 song, 'Jesus Built a Bridge.' We were still trying to figure it all out. My entire career in Southern gospel ... I was just in awe I stood three feet from George Younce, Glenn Payne, Jake Hess, Joel and LaBreeska (Hemphill), Vestal (Goodman) ... all the greats. Here, I get to go on the same stage. I just couldn't believe it."

"In elementary school, I would sit and daydream waiting for the Kingsmen bus to pull up. In 1989, to be able to perform with the Hoppers and Kingsmen and Gold City and the Stamps ... all these groups when they walked in the building, you knew (who they were). It was very humbling. I'm still a fan of Southern gospel. I love harmonies. I love singing harmonies. There's nothing like it."

Former Poet Voices baritone singer Harold Stewart had a hand in Brock joining the group.

"Howard Stewart actually introduced me to Phil (Cross, the owner of Poet Voices)," Brock said. "We talked and would have rehearsals and practices. I had sung with Howard in a Christian country band called the Rock City Boys. That's how I met Howard."

Brock has remained in contact with some of his fellow Southern gospel brethren.



“I keep in touch with a few, Troy Peach with the Per-rys,” Brock said. “Loren Harris and I stay in touch a little bit ... Danny Jones and Brian Franklin with the Singing News.”

Though Brock enjoyed his time in the Southern gospel industry and is still familiar with the music, he doesn’t necessarily anticipate returning to the industry.

“It would have to be the right situation,” the 53-year-old Brock said. “Everything would have to click. My brother-in-law (Jeff Pearles) and I have talked about it, but we haven’t talked about it in years. Nothing has ever materialized.

“As much as I love it, God would really have to be in it. I still love it. I still listen to it. When I was driving, I would spend a lot of my days watching old YouTube videos of the Hinsons, Goodmans and the Gaither videos.”

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The Noblemen Quartet

Back where they started



By John Herndon

Nearly fifty years after first coming together, the Noblemen Quartet is happy singing old style gospel music

After nearly fifty years, the Noblemen Quartet is back where it started.

And the group, and its fans, could not be happier.

“We are having a lot of fun right now,” says bass singer Dan Clark, one of the quartet’s founding members. “These guys love to sing. They are all great Christian men and we really try to uplift Jesus Christ. We are not entertainers. We are just singers and try to sing for God.”

A concert at David’s Fork Baptist Church underscored Clark’s assessment. While the accompaniment consisted of strong modern tracks arranged by Clark, the presentation was typically the old-fashioned gospel quartet sound, featur-

ing standards such as “Jesus is Coming Soon” and more recent Southern gospel hits like “I Rest My Case at the Cross.”

But the Noblemen Quartet is much more than a group just performing covers. “I can’t think of any group we are particularly like,” baritone Joe Hampton says. “We do have a unique style going back to some of the old songs, and we try to sing the old type quartet stuff.”

Tenor Rob Wagoner adds, “We are unique in that we do our own arranging. Dan does that for us. We take an old song and try to put a sound to it that is special to the Noblemen.”

If the packed house at David’s Fork was any indication, the group has succeeded. In a 35-minute opening for the Nelons, the Noblemen received numerous standing ovations. A quick glance at the audience revealed many joining the gospel veterans in their favorite songs.



It all went back to the encouragement several prominent groups gave the small-town Kentuckians as they embarked on their gospel music road. “The best advice we were given was to be yourself. Don’t try to copy what other groups are doing,” remembers lead singer Charles Hampton, who founded the group with Clark, his life-long friend.

Charles and Joe Hampton had been singing in a family group, The Hampton Brothers, until Joe enrolled at Kentucky Christian College (now University). Soon after, Charles and

Clark formed the nucleus of the Noblemen Quartet. “We sang until 1976, when Dan got offered a job and moved away,” Charles Hampton recalls. “Then he came back to Kentucky and we reorganized in 1978. Rob came in at that time. We stayed that way until 1986 when Dan’s job took him to Florida.”

Meanwhile, Joe Hampton had graduated college and was pastoring a church in Missouri. While there, he was part of a trio called Son Light.

Over time, life called and the Noblemen went their separate ways. Charles Hampton stayed close to Tollesboro, Kentucky, his childhood home. Joe Hampton left the ministry and relocated to Lexington, while Wagoner continued to play piano around central Kentucky and eventually entered politics. Wagoner is now serving his third term as mayor of Sadi-ville, Kentucky, a small town just off Interstate 75, north of Georgetown.

Meanwhile, Clark became a well-known name in Southern gospel, singing for the Nelons after Rex Nelon retired from touring in 1998. Dan held that spot four years before stepping away.

“Jason (Clark, Dan’s son) was playing bass and singing with the Nelons,” Dan recalls. “Every time I would go see them, Rex would get me up in front to sing a song. When I was a kid, I would listen to Rex. I would listen to the great bass singers: Rex, J.D. Sumner, George Younce, Big Chief (Wetherington), all of them. I would sit in a little rocking chair and listen for hours and I would try to mimic them.





“Rex always said that he liked my voice because I sounded a lot like him. I count that a great compliment.”

Despite a health scare earlier this year, Dan Clark is sounding as good as ever, just like the entire group. They are having fun while sharing the name of Jesus.

“I don’t think I have ever heard them sound better,” Jason Clark said while serving as master of ceremonies during the Nelons’ portion of the concert at David’s Fork on July 11.

The Noblemen Quartet often works with famed pianist Jeff Stice for tracks and Jason Clark produces the group’s newest material, including several solo projects by the members.



Jason, who now sings lead and plays guitar for the Nelons, might be responsible for the Noblemen’s resurgence in popularity. The group had been apart for over 20 years but the bond was still close. “These guys have been lifelong friends,” Dan Clark says. “Even though we weren’t singing together, we kept in touch, especially Charlie and me. We are like brothers.”

Several years ago, Jason, who was 13 when his family moved to Florida, approached his father. “He said, ‘I would like to get you guys back for a reunion concert,’” Dan Clark remembers.

Believing there was a market for old style gospel quartet music, the group reunited even though they lived miles apart. Eventually they hosted a Good Friday concert in Maysville with the Nelons. It has become an annual sold-out event.



But the Noblemen want to be known for simply telling the simple truth of salvation found in the Bible. “If I wasn’t singing, I would be playing in a church,” Wagoner says. “When we are not singing, I play for my home church, Corinth Christian in Corinth, Kent.”

The Sundays at home are limited. The Noblemen routinely play over 50 dates a year, taking the group throughout the Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. But while the venues change, the message never does.

“We are all about ministry,” Joe Hampton says. “It’s our desire that in our concerts, the audience sees Christ in our songs and in us. We don’t want people wondering about our group, ‘Do they know Jesus?’” The Noblemen do and continue to sing His good news.

Dan Clark survives serious health scare; Jason Clark fills in with The Noblemen

Jason Clark knew something was seriously wrong with his father's health when Dan Clark attended a Nelons concert in Bedford, Ind., on April 6. "We begged him to see the doctor and go in," Jason remembers. "He went to the E.R. and the doctor put him in the hospital. They started him on immediate dialysis."

Both of Dan's kidneys had stopped working, putting him in a New Albany, Ind., hospital for nine days. "My kidneys just quit functioning. There wasn't any filtration at all," Dan says.

Jason stayed with his father while the Nelons continued singing on the road.

While Dan's health was the most important issue, the Noblemen Quartet was scheduled to host its signature event, a Good Friday concert with the Nelons and the Old Time Preachers' Quartet (OTPQ) on April 19.

The concert went on as planned with Jason Clark stepping into his father's role with the Noblemen.

"I'm not a bass singer, but I sang with them," Jason says. "I didn't need to rehearse with them because I know all their music. I am too young to know all of their older music but I produced their new CD. It was fun. They needed me to step

in for Dad."

Charles Hampton, the group's lead singer, notes, "He knows every song we sing but he had never sung those songs with us."

Jason laughed when asked if he got some pointers from the OTPQ's legendary bass, Mike Holcomb. "I kind of gave him a microphone and said, 'Here, give us your low notes.'"

Dan Clark soon returned to the Noblemen Quartet and looks and sounds great. He undergoes nightly dialysis at home and goes in for bloodwork to put him on a list for a donor kidney later in July.

"Where I saw him three months ago when he was in renal failure to where God has brought him today is a miracle," Jason Clark says. "It is a miracle he is even alive!"

"By science and doctors and the gifts that God has given them, he is a new man right now. We are going to wait for a transplant but in the meantime, he's doing nightly dialysis. It's really made him a new man. Even in unforeseen circumstances, none of this catches God off guard. We have to learn to put our trust in the Almighty."

All photographs by John Herndon.



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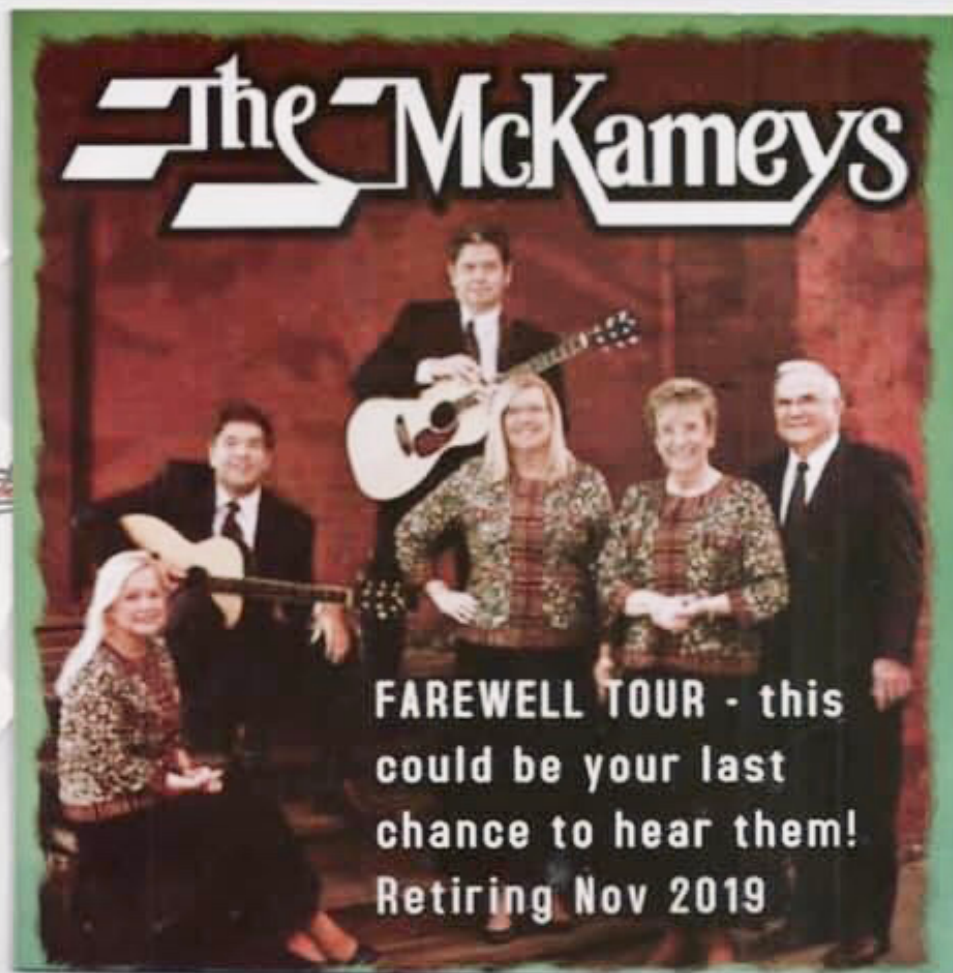
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Coastal Media Events

By Lorraine Walker

Coastal Events Update

Coastal Media and Rob Patz are preparing to bring the Creekside experience to music fans everywhere during the next two years. What is this Creekside experience that has people posting #WeAreFamily? Read on.

Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2019

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention is an annual event, bringing hundreds of gospel music fans and over 50 artists to the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in beautiful Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The convention will be held Oct. 27 - 31, 2019, presenting Bluegrass, Country and Southern gospel music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer. Some of the great artists already announced for this year are the Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, Sue Dodge, the Browders, Josh and Ashley Franks, and so many more.



The last Sunday of October begins the Creekside experience, as the Kickoff Concert in the evening presents the Chordsmen and the Pine Ridge Boys. The Pine Ridge Boys are joining with Classic Records and Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today to record Creekside Live! Join them for all the fun on Oct. 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mill Creek Conference Center, 2674 Florence Dr. Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

On Monday, Oct. 28, the showcases begin. At 2:00 p.m., Tiffany Noecker from Daywind, Vonda Armstrong from Hey Y'all Media, and Richard Hyssong from Premier Promotions will be teaching Radio 101. There is a fee for this presentation. For more information, visit gospelmusicconvention.com.

On Monday evening, the Life Achievement award will be conferred on one special music industry leader. Tuesday night is the prestigious 2019 Diamond Award





presentations. Gerald Crabb will present a songwriting seminar on Wednesday.

Concerts occur day and night, as well as special preaching, continuing through Thursday night. Special speakers and preachers include Josh Franks, Bill Bailey, Burl Cain and others.

Creekside Bluegrass

Creekside Gospel Music Convention welcomes special host Les Butler, in the presentation of Creekside Bluegrass, Oct. 28 - 31, 2019. The Smoky Mountain Convention Center will set the stage for the instrumental excellence and mountain harmonies of the King James Boys, Chigger Hill Boys and Terri, Golden Valley Crusaders, Bama Blu-Grace, Williamson Branch, Stevens Family Tradition, Family Sowell, and Walking By Faith.

The Creekside Bluegrass showcase, Bluegrass Gospel Extravaganza, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Les Butler will also be hosting a nightly Bluegrass Gospel Showcase on the main stage, featuring some of the excellent Bluegrass groups performing at the Extravaganza on Wednesday.



Christian Country at the Creek

The inaugural Christian Country at the Creek, will be held on October 30 and 31, 2019, at the Mill Creek Conference Center, 2674 Florence Dr., in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Some of the artists appearing at this event include Sara Lewis, Jessica Horton, Bonita Eileen, Appointed2, Pardoned, Phoebe White, and more.

This new event will be running alongside Creekside. More than 30 Christian Country artists will perform during two music-packed days of concerts. Among these are Pardoned, Jessica Horton, Sara Lewis, and Bonita Eileen.

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the 2019 Diamond Awards ceremony, the Kick-Off Concert, Christian Country at the Creek, Creekside Gospel, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741.

Make your plans today to attend Creekside Gospel Music Convention, taking place Oct. 27 - Oct. 31, 2019, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information or to book your hotel, contact rob@sgnscoops.com or events@sgnscoops.com.

Other Upcoming Coastal Events

“We are in the planning stages already for several events,” Patz explains, “and my team is working hard to bring high quality events to these states.”

Armstrong Promotions and Coastal Events present **All Roads Lead To Creekside** concert in Laurel, Missis-



ssippi, on Aug. 17, 2019, at Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 MS-15 Laurel, Mississippi. Eagle's Wings, Hope's Journey, and The Bibletones will appear along with emcee Rob Patz. A \$10 donation will be taken at the door. Call 256-310-7892, or 360-920-4057, for more information.

Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend 2019 is held every September. Coastal Events works with McKay Project and Armstrong Promotions to present Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend on Sept. 6 - 7, 2019, in the City Auditorium of Vernon. Artists include Amy Richardson, Gloryland, the Bibletones, Jessica Horton, Day Three, Hope's Journey, and more. For more information, please call 662-889-2829, 256-310-7892, or 360-920-4057.

Coastal Events will begin the new year with Donnie Williamson and Vonda Armstrong at the **Southern Gospel Weekend**, March 20 - 21, 2020, in Oxford, Alabama (call 360-933-0741 or 256-310-7892 for information.) Concert lineup to follow.



Next on the calendar will be Mississippi, at the **Gospel Music Expo** in Tupelo, on April 23 - 25, 2020. Some of the artists appearing include John Penney, New Ground, Southern Image, M.C. Dr. Buck Morton, and Masters Quartet, Day 3, Jessica Horton, and others.

Gospel Music Weekend—Michigan is coming to Ann Arbor June 4 - 6, 2020. GMW Michigan will feature artists from the Great Lakes Region, such as Gloryway, Justified Quartet, Cami Shrock, as well as some of the Creekside family of artists including the Dodrill Family, Livin' Forgivin', Matchless Grace and Kristen Stanton.



Other states in Coastal Events' plans include: Indiana, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky. Artists in these areas who would like to become a part of these concerts, please contact Rob Patz at 360-920-4057.

Patz believes that the strength of gospel music is lies at the grassroots level— the local church, the communities, the regional ministries who are on the frontlines everyday. "I believe that if we want to grow as an industry, we need to grow the support at the regional level first," Patz explains.

More information for VIP tickets, lodging, bus groups, please click on gospelmusicinvention.com or email events@sgnscoops.com.



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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

August is a lovely month in my part of the world. There are many flowers, as long as we have rain, plus it is time for sweet corn and peaches. It is also lovely because I get to celebrate my birthday. I have decided, as I learn more to live in the moment and embrace what God has for me today, that each day and each year is special. Instead of wishing for times past, or to relive a younger age, I am learning that I am who I am because God has brought me through mountains and valleys to teach me to closely follow him. Life isn't always sunshine and roses; as the song says, we have to have a little rain. That is how we grow, isn't it?

A little rain fell on the gospel music community last month as we mourned the passing of Dr. Jerry Goff. Charlie Griffin brought us a great overview and we are also thankful for the artists and industry personnel that shared their memories with us. He was a considerate, joyful, gentle and genuine man of God. He will be missed and we send our love, sympathy and prayers to his wife Jan and all of his family and friends.

We offered you quite an eclectic bunch of artists for your reading pleasure this month and I do hope you enjoyed reading about all of them. Our writers again did a fantastic job and I am so grateful. Our creative team presented this issue with excellence and we are so appreciative. Summer is a busy time and it is not always possible to delegate moments to our hobbies, such as writing for SGNsScoops. So we do thank you all.

As I was reading the Publisher's Point for this month, I was reflecting on how my attitude about prayer has been

shifted and focused by my experiences. Pain, death, friendship, love, joy and sadness all color our lives but also deeply affect our relationship with God. None of these things, or any other emotion or experience changes who he is, for which I am grateful. But they do affect the lens through which we see him.

For me, I have learned that he is close by, always interested in what I am experiencing, always listening to hear my plea and my praise. He wants such a close relationship with me that he will stop at nothing to lead me along the path that leads to sanctification. That includes experiences that cause me to hurt, even for an extended time, whether it is physical or emotional pain. He won't just lift me out of something I don't like. He may let me remain there. But he is a good Father and it is always for a good reason.

Sometimes, when we are in the midst of pain, it is hard to see the hand of God gripping our hand. That is why it is important to record our prayers to God, such as Rob was suggesting in his article. Then, when you refer to them later, you will see how God has answered and how far he has brought you along. It is faith building and trust securing.

Thank you to each of you for reading this month's issue of SGNsScoops Magazine. It has been my pleasure and my honor to present this to you and to God, month after month. May you find enjoyment and inspiration within these pages. As always, if you have a question or comment, please email me at lorraine@sgnscoops.com or find me on Facebook. I'd love to hear from you.

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



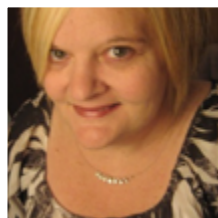
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



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



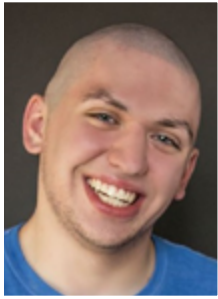
Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and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



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

Contributors

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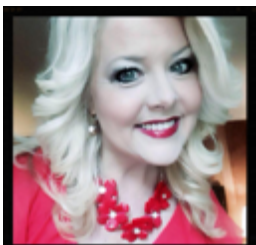
Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible. The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

tives 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.



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.



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

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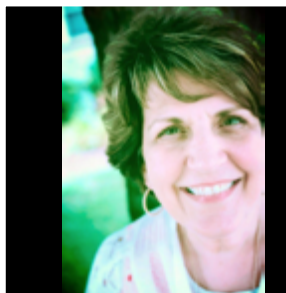
Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and

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



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.



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.



Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of the Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter

Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.

Contributors

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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.



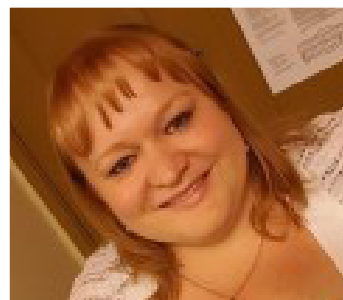
John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years old and

eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps.

John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

He loves listening to gospel music or playing one of his guitars.

John lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Stephanie, and 17-year-old daughter. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.



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. She holds a Bachelor of English from Columbia University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 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.

Contributors

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Angela Parker is a life-long singer and sings with her mother's group, Mercy Rain. She resides in Lexington, S.C. She's been happily married to her husband Jack for nearly 4 years. He's supported every decision Angela has made without fail.

Jack travels with Mercy Rain whenever he can and helps out where possible. He supports Mercy Rain continuously. Since Angela has recently been diagnosed with Lupus, Jack has done everything he can to take care of her.

Angela actively advocates for Autism Awareness. She feels education for all involved is the key to their success. She worked with Autistic children providing ABA Therapy up until her current illness forced her to have to quit.

She speaks out against Domestic Violence having been a victim of abuse for many years herself. Her constant battle today is healing from the mental scars that are left over after the physical and verbal abuse. Her personal testimony will help others see how God can deliver from abuse and help to heal the abused person.

Angela is very excited about writing for SGN Scoops and loves all of the SGN Scoops family. She loves the Lord with all her heart and has been blessed with awesome talent and love for others. You will be blessed by her talent and great spirit!



Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back.

But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second

solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.



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.



Amy Duncan Oxenrider, the daughter of Grant and Shelia Duncan, is married to Jason Oxenrider and they have three sons, Brady, Weston, and Rylan. Amy works as a psychometrist for the Mississippi Department of Education. She also writes for Pure Gospel Magazine and

is now a member of SGNScoops.

A former member of the Riders, Amy continues to minister through singing and speaking engagements. She is excited to see what her future holds and longs to uplift the name of Jesus Christ wherever the doors may open.

Thanks for Reading the
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...until next month!

-The SGNScoops Staff-