

October 2012

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Lou Hildreth

Celebrating 75 Years

in Gospel Music

Also In This Issue:

**Larnelle Harris, Wilburn & Wilburn,
Gaither Homecoming Bible & Voices Won**

2012

 **DIAMOND**
Awards

**CREEK SIDE
GOSPEL MUSIC
CONVENTION**



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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



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October 2012

Letter From The Editor

Rhonda Frye



The National Quartet Convention 2012 is over, but my goodness- my heart is still full of joy and thanksgiving! Someone said- "Our industry is like a church within itself." In many ways, that is true. We are a group of brothers and sisters that fellowship together, encourage one another and show the world how to become disciples of Jesus Christ. That's pretty much the basic function of a church organization, isn't it? The body of Christ is truly beautiful!

At NQC, I couldn't be more proud of our SGNscoops Staff. Not everyone could be there to help out in our booth, but the ones at home were praying for us and we sure felt it! Staff writer, Angela Griffin and her husband Tim were amazing! Everyone needs a "Tim & Angela" on their team! They are the kind of people that roll up their sleeves and do whatever they see that needs to be done- with a smile! Special thanks to Charlie Sexton for conducting interviews and Holly May for being an extra set of hands and feet! Also- thanks to Tracy Kelly for shooting some video during the week as well. And- to Rob Patz...well...Isn't he the greatest? He is solely responsible for setting the tone and spirit in our booth for the week. There was a spirit of joy there all week long, thanks to Rob's fun-loving personality and love for people. Also, thanks to Kenna West for the most fun interview of all! Kenna's interview with Karen Peck & New River was the

highlight of the week. The pictures of our NQC week back me on this.... The SGNscoops Booth was a very happy place to be!

I'm sad that NQC is over, but I'm looking forward to seeing our friends at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention! Honestly, I'm a little nervous because it's my first time to plan an event such as this, but I am excited to meet friends, see old ones and celebrate Gospel Music! Please make plans to join us in Pigeon Forge on October 29,30 and 31 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. We're honored to celebrate 75 years of Gospel Music with Lou Wills Hildreth and we're excited to reveal this year's Diamond Award winners! Remember, all events are free to the public, so let's pack the place and share the good news of Jesus!

I'm excited about another event coming up in October too! I will be attending Sue C. Smith's "Write About Jesus" workshop in St. Louis. I have heard so many wonderful things about this song-writing conference and I'm thrilled to participate this year. The Workshop- Instructors list is amazing: Jennie Lee Riddle, Michael Farren, Belinda Smith, Tony Wood, Joel Lindsey, and more. It is not too late to register, just visit <http://www.writeaboutjesus.com/> for more information. I would love to see you there!



Have I said just how much I enjoy what I'm doing at SGN Scoops? I am totally convinced that Gospel Music has the power to change lives. It honestly doesn't matter to me if I'm the one on the stage singing it, at the piano writing it or the one encouraging someone else who is doing the same. It truly blesses my heart to have the opportunity to be involved in spreading the gospel through gospel music in many ways. With that said, don't ever think that YOU can't make a difference in the world too. God didn't design everyone to sing, play or write, but I guarantee, He gave you a gift to share!

This past month, I had the privilege to talk with one of my all-time favorite Christian artists, Larnelle Harris. We talked extensively about this Priesthood of all Believers' issue. He said, "Some guys know how to do with a wrench that I could never do. Some guys and gals do things on the computer that I could never do. Some people have the gift of cooking and some have the gift of service. The Bible talks about these gifts, USE THEM! Ministry is not just done from the stage or the pulpit- much of it is done off of it!" Isn't that awesome?!?!

The Body of Christ is truly a beautiful thing! I just want to encourage everyone to find your place and work hard! The Kingdom of God is at hand! I hope to see you all again very soon! Until then, may God bless and keep you!

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Creekside Gospel Music Convention Outreach Project and Update

By Rhonda Frye

I am very excited to see one of my dreams become reality! From day one of planning the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the idea of being more than just a music convention was heavy on my heart. It's my conviction that if a great number of Christians are gathered in a city, then surely there is something we can collectively do to leave the community better than it was when we arrived. Of course, our goal is to spread the gospel in song, but putting our music into action has been close to my heart.

The 2012 Creekside Gospel Music Convention will partner with a local non-profit ministry called "LIVE-IT." I love their tagline- "Taking the Bible Out of the Box!" That's exactly what the fine folks at LIVE-IT are doing in their community as well as the surrounding ones. LIVE-IT works with churches, community organizations, businesses, local government and neighborhoods to minister to widows, orphans, single moms, veterans, the handicapped, in many ways. Sometimes the ministry involves helping the less fortunate with providing necessities and food or with home repairs, yard maintenance, car repairs and more. LIVE-IT has a "pay it forward" focus that helps those on the receiving end give back to the community by using their unique gifts and talents.

As we all know, it takes money to run any ministry and LIVE-IT has been creative in the area of project fundraising. LIVE-IT runs a "department store"- type thrift store and proceeds made there are funneled into buying supplies needed for ministry. AND... THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN! We are asking all of the artists participating as well as all those attending Creekside to dig in your closets, look around your house and plan to

bring SOMETHING with you to donate. LIVE-IT will be parking a truck to gather donations for the 3-day event. Items needed are: building supplies, housewares, good working appliances, clothing, shoes, purses, belts, hats, coats, toys, children's clothing, books AND music CDs! Let's stock the store!

I realize many of our Creekside guests will be traveling long distances and hauling a washer and dryer would be out of the question- BUT... I'm sure there is room to pack small items. We are asking that no one come to Creekside empty handed, so plan ahead, pack now so that you don't forget! This is our chance as a music industry to live out the songs we sing in a practical way! As Gloria Gaither said to me recently, "For every vertical commitment we make, the scripture says, 'How then shall we live?' Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give a cup of cold water in my name, take care of the widows and orphans. Read the book of James. If you have faith, it will come out in something. You'll get involved with your neighborhood; you'll rescue a child or take dinner to somebody who just lost a loved one. You can't love God and not live that out on a personal testimony level. You can't love Jesus without loving your brother."

With that said, I realize many if not all of those that will be attending Creekside are already involved with outreach programs through their local church. And no doubt our participants and crowd are already generous givers. But if we all participate, we can leave a lasting impression on a community and they will know that we live what we sing. We are simply asking that you look around your house and donate something that you're not using. All of those small donations will surely add up and will speak volumes about God's love to a

community that needs Jesus. To learn more about LIVE-IT, visit <http://www.live-it.tv/index.html>.

We hope you're making plans to be with us. We will celebrate 75 years of Gospel Music with Lou Wills Hildreth Monday, October 29 and the annual Diamond Awards Show will be Tuesday, October 30th. We are also very excited to debut a brand new group called CROSBY LANE. They will make their debut performance at the Diamond Awards.

We're thrilled to have The Ball Brothers, Phil Stacey, The Williamsons, Channing Eleton performing and many others as well. We'll have chapel services with John Mathis Jr in the mornings, musical matinees in the afternoons and lots of gospel music and family fun on Wed, October 31. Be watching our facebook and website for more information regarding the line-up of artists. It's looking awesome!

There are still rooms available at the hotel on site for just \$54 per night. Reservations can be made by phone or online. By phone, call toll free at Toll Free: [1-800-223-6707](tel:1-800-223-6707) or local call [865-908-3015](tel:865-908-3015). Online Reservations- go to <http://www.smokymountainconventioncenter.com>. Click "Book My Room" then Click "SGN Scoops."

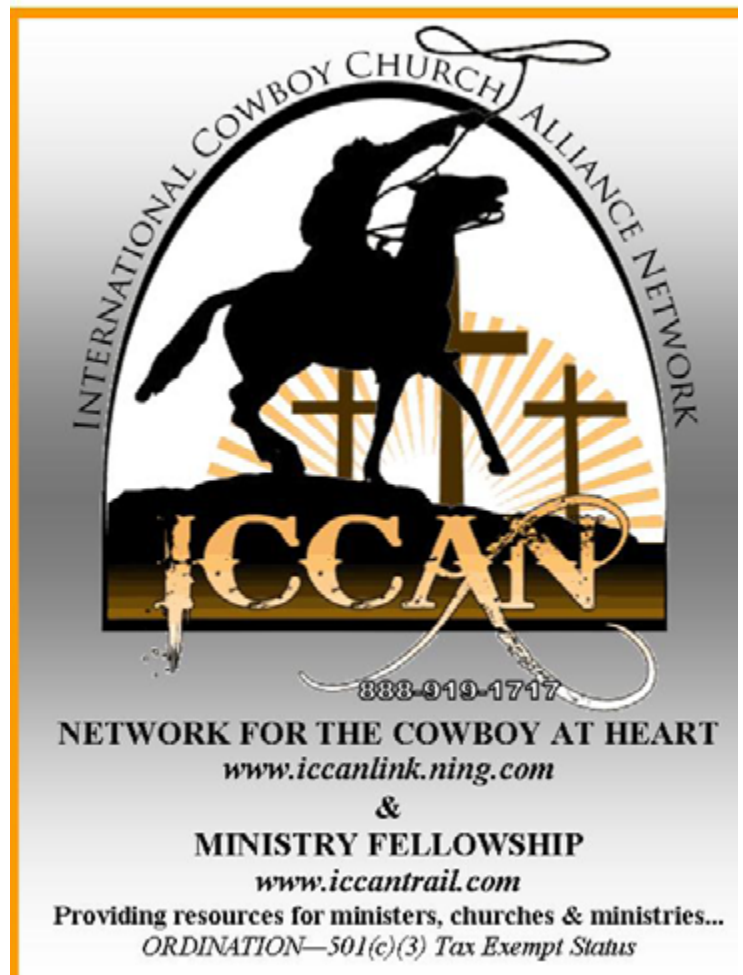
Please email me, rhonda@sgnscoops.com or rob@sgnscoops.com if you have any questions! See you later this month and remember- don't come empty-handed! Any donation is greatly appreciated! We're expecting a great time of worship, fellowship, celebration and being the hands and feet of Jesus is just icing on the cake! Help us pray that many lives will be touched, encouraged and changed!



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LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

75 Years in Gospel Music Celebration

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



We are counting the days until we see you at Creek Side Gospel Music Convention in Pigeon Forge, October 29th, 30th, & 31st at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. Rob Patz and Rhonda Frye are working hard to make this event a glorious occasion. JP Miller, Faith Pearcey, Jim & Ellen Moss, some of my dearest colleagues who reside there, are helping roll out the welcome mat to this gathering of gospel music artists and fans. Everyone is welcome, and admission is FREE. A great lineup of performers is scheduled for my "75 Years In Gospel Music Celebration" on Monday 29th, for the Diamond Awards on the 30th, and the concert on the 31st.

After presenting the "Lou Hildreth Award" at the NQC for years, I began presenting it at the fabulous DIAMOND AWARDS at the request of Dr. Allen Smith, founder of Scoops. His award, for outstanding service to the gospel music industry, was established in 1986 by a Nashville publication to recognize the significant impact of a behind-the-scenes person. Bill Traylor, a Nashville record executive, presented the award to me that year. Since that time, I have had the thrill of passing it on to an impressive list of people who have helped make our wonderful gospel music effective world wide. In 1987, the "Lou Hildreth Award" was given to Joe Moscheo (GMA Chairman). After a brief hiatus, we began presenting the award annually beginning with Dottie Leonard Miller (Daywind Music) Fay Shedd (Artist Direction) Beckie Simmons Bates (BSA) Clarke Beasley (NQC) Judy Nelon (Nelon PR) Paul Boden (U. S. Gospel News) Ed Leonard (Daywind Music) Ed Harper (Harper Agency) Jim Black (Radio & TV Host) Brian Hudson (Showcase Management) Dr. Allen Smith (founder, Scoops) Family Friendly E (TV network) Bill

Traylor (Mansion Entertainment) Kelly Burton (Branson GMC) and Rob Patz, (Coastal Media). Come share the excitement of presenting the 2012 Award at the Diamond Awards, October 30th. It is my heart's desire that the "Lou Hildreth Award" will encourage and inspire young men and women to choose a career in Christian music and serve the industry with excellence and passion to the glory of God!!

Lou Wills Hildreth
P. O. Box 271106
Houston, TX 77277
www.louhildreth.com
gosplvideo@aol.com

Photo: Ed Harper (Harper Agency) & Ed Leonard (Daywind Music Group) receiving the "Lou Hildreth Award" 2008

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NQC 2012

Pictures Say It All

The 2012 National Quartet Convention has come and gone, but we have a sneak peek of inside our booth just for you! It was truly a wonderful week of seeing friends and making new ones. As you can see from the pictures, there was a spirit of joy present all week. Thank you to all who stopped by to share your ministries with us. Be watching every Thursday as we post new video interviews from NQC 2012. And.. please share!

Thanks again- SGNScoops Staff





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The Man On The Street...

NQC 2012

By Charlie Sexton

As I stated in last month's article, attending the annual National Quartet Convention can mean many different things to many people. It can be a launching pad for your career, or a place to showcase your growth as a seasoned performer. It can be a place where life altering business deals are made, or it can simply be a place to rub shoulders with the elite. But, without question, the NQC has the keen ability to draw in some of the most devout fans that any music genre or religious organization could ever hope to have.

As I strolled through the cavernous exhibit hall, I watched the faces of many different folks, and wondered about where they were from, and what drew them to NQC. Finally, my curiosity got the best of me, and I decided to take a couple of hours or so to do some random 'man on the street' type interviews. I was thrilled by the honest answers, and entertained by the down home humor of many of these kind folks who took a few minutes of their time to share their thoughts with me. Here are just a few 'snippets' I gleaned from some wonderful Southern Gospel Music fans!

I quickly found that the best place to strike up a conversation was in the Erhler's Ice Cream kiosk line. My first 'victim' was Mr. Nelson Rupp. "Here in Louisville, they call it 'Rup', kinda like it's spelled, but up North, we call it 'Roop' – You know like the 'Ruppe' girls that sing." Mr. Rupp and his mountain dulcimer-playing wife, Lois, have been coming to NQC for almost 20 years!

One sweet lady named Mary Seiner couldn't say enough nice things about 'them Booth boys'. She said that they reminded her of another great trio from her hometown of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. That would, of course, be the legendary Couriers. She was next in line for a strawberry cone, so, she didn't hang around to talk too long!!!

A couple of stately gentlemen, named Ed and Paul from St. Louis were resting comfortably to the side of the ice cream stand, and were enjoying what was left of their recent purchase. Looked to be butter pecan, but at this point, it was hard to tell. But, I digress. Anyway, in between trips

from the cup to their mouth, these two didn't hold back on sharing their feelings about their favorite groups. They both agreed that the Triumphant Quartet was tops. Ed mentioned that if the 'Booth Boys' were a quartet, that they would be the best male quartet going. Paul muttered something about they could take a page from Mark Trammell's book about hiring a bass singer. Then, Ed reminded him that they would be a quartet for a day in Memphis at 'Stewart's thang'.... I'm guessing he meant the Memphis Quartet Show coming up in June of 2013. I tried to veer the conversation back to NQC, but they were going at it hot and heavy over whether or not Gene McDonald was really the best choice to be the Booth's bass singer for a day. I figured I was about to get into a mess, so I thanked them for their time, and left them to settle that dispute on their own. As I walked away, I did hear one of them say, "Well, tarnation, man. They could've hired Claude Hopper". Again, I digress.

I decided to have some more fun, so I journeyed over to yet another long line – the one forming outside of the ladies restroom. With an exasperated tone, I said, "Excuse me, ladies. Is this the line for the Erhler's Ice Cream Stand?" About 4 or 5 ladies turned around, and, lo and behold every one of them had either a cone or cup in one hand, and a Booth Brothers CD in the other. Not one of them would agree to give me their names or an interview, but one lady did say that I should talk to her husband. She said that he was the one holding the blue sequin purse that said "I Love Guy Penrod" on it... I turned around, and sure enough, there he was. He, too, refused to give me his name. I totally understood.

After having more fun than a man should have standing in the line for the ladies restroom, I decided to get a serious interview. I ran smack-dab into a guy that I had met a few years ago on one of the gospel music online forum boards, and I instantly knew he and his son would be perfect!! His name is Jeff Foster. He and his son, Jeffrey are from Melbourne, Kentucky. Jeffrey was born with a mild form of autism, and was diagnosed a few years ago with Multiple Sclerosis. Brother Jeff related that his favorite NQC was seeing the huge smile on Jeffrey's face when he first met Legacy Five about 4 years ago. "We love many groups like Greater Vision and Triumphant, but Jeffrey's favorite is Legacy Five, for sure!" Jeff also noted



that he was thrilled to see an increase in the amount of young folks not only on the stage, but in the seats, as well. "I think we're in good shape for the future." Me, too, Jeff. Me, too.

As with many who have attended for many years, Sam Mize, from Rome, Georgia related that his fondest NQC memory was the famous phone call from a hospitalized Glen Payne to George Younce during The Cathedral's final main stage performance. After a few moments of friendly banter, George humbly asked Glen to sing to him. Though weak in body, Glen was strong in voice, as he sang "I Won't Have To Cross Jordan Alone". No doubt, that there was not a dry eye in Freedom Hall at that moment.

Sam also affirmed that while NQC tends to be a place where the entertainment factor is second to none, that sometimes, The Holy Spirit is allowed to do His work. Such was the night that The Ruppes solemnly stepped to center stage and delivered a powerful and stunning rendition of their signature song "Under His Wings." For a few moments, no one cared who had the Number One song on the charts; who had sold the most CDs that year; or who had gotten the most applause after they sang their mega-hit. No, for a few minutes, the atmosphere was one of total praise, worship, and of thanksgiving to Jesus, who offers a place for us to hide, when the storms of life come our way.

Well, I had been away from the SGN Scoops Booth long enough, and I knew that there was a huge, marbled birthday cake just waiting to be cut in honor of our very own Rob Patz. So, as I headed back to the exhibit hall, I had a spring in my step, a smile on my face, and the love of Jesus in my heart. I had been energized by my little chats with just a few of the thousands who had made their annual pilgrimage to Louisville. Just wish that I had thought to bring us a cup or two of French Vanilla Ice Cream from Ehrler's... Oh, well. Maybe next year, Lord willing!!!

Photos Courtesy of Ben Wolfe and Dani Lintzenich



WILLS FAMILY QT.

LOU HILDRETH: 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC

Her Creed, Conviction and Confidence

By Sandi Duncan Clark



This year, 2012, we celebrate with Mrs. Lou Wills Hildreth, her 75th Anniversary in Southern Gospel Music. Seventy five years of dedication and commitment to Southern Gospel music and the industry. “Ms. Lou,” as she is affectionately known, began her career at the early age of seven with her family, The Wills Family, and she is one of the Southern Gospel Music industry’s best loved champions.

“I grew up in Texas and my family was always a musical family. I was singing in church when I was seven,” Lou shared. “My Daddy’s first cousin was Bob Wills and our family was very proud of him and his band, The Texas Playboys. The opportunity was there for us to sing other styles of music, however from the beginning, God had called my family to sing Gospel music and we were dedicated to that.”

“My Dad, Pop Wills, with my older sister Rene, my brothers Bill, Calvin and Bob as well as myself, sang as the Wills Family Quartet. For a number of years we were known as Texas’ First Family of Gospel Music,” Lou said as she recalled fondly, those years with her family.

Over the years, Lou’s triumphs have been many, but most significant are her husband, Howard, her son, David, daughter, Kathryn, her son-in-law Michael, and her four grandchildren. “When we were singing as the Wills Family, family was important and all the kids rode the bus with the quartet when we filled our dates. That love and blessing of family has been with all of us Wills children, and I’m so proud of my own family. I am blessed with the most outstanding husband in the world. I love working in the industry and traveling with

Howard!”

I first met Lou and Howard Hildreth in Nashville, Tennessee at the National Quartet Convention. I had been in awe of her work and I had spoken with her by



phone, yet we had never met and I so looked forward to meeting one of my heroes. Lou is one of my role models and I was thrilled to be finally in her company discussing our mutual love; Southern Gospel Music and its people.

I met Lou through our mutual friends, Donna Rogers and Paul Boden. Paul was owner of radio station KNEA in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and also the owner and Editor of U S GOSPEL NEWS. He and Donna operated both businesses and knew Lou and Howard Hildreth from all their years singing together and working together in the mid-south.

Lou and Howard Hildreth and Paul Boden and his friend, Larry Wright attended the grand opening of the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Dollywood, in April of 1999 as part of media covering the event. The entire day was filled with the dedication, lots of ceremony, and then lots of music, food, visiting and fun. Lou recalls, “We were sitting in the area for media and Paul leaned over and asked if I’d be interested in contributing to U.S. GOSPEL NEWS. I was honored to be asked, and Paul, Donna and you and I all worked together to further the Gospel and Gospel music.”

I shared a story with Lou, and she urged me to share it in our story, so here we are! Dolly Parton sang and spoke at the ceremony, and mingled with the many VIPs and fans in attendance. Paul always traveled with his singing buddy Larry Wright, and one of the first stories they told Donna and me when they came home from the trip, was about meeting Dolly Parton. Paul noted that Larry certainly was taken with meeting and being around Dolly, and Larry came back with, “I just loved to hear her laugh, and all that...and by the way, I didn’t see you running away!”

We chuckled together as Lou said, “Sandi, I didn’t see Howard running away either...he was probably right there with our buddies, Paul and Larry!”

Lou recalled “I was pleased to honor Paul with the Lou Hildreth Award in 2006, just prior to his passing away. You accepted that award for him, Sandi, since he was in the hospital in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He was a dear friend to both of us.”

Lou Hildreth is everyone’s friend and cheerleader. She never meets a stranger, and no one knows more about Southern Gospel music than Lou. From singing, to song writing and publishing, to recording both audio and video, Lou is experienced in every venue. She



has earned that experience by working in each field, learning first hand, what works. Lou got her basic training in the business with her family in Texas.



She hosted the television program her family fostered, and along with her brother, Calvin, owned and operated Sword & Shield Recording Company. The Gatlin Brothers recorded their first albums with Lou and Calvin, as did Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys and Larry Ford of the Gaither Homecoming Series. Every record she produced, every artist she mentored, every mile that she traveled to promote The Wills Family, or any of the other endeavors with which the Wills Family was involved, were all learning platforms for Lou to ply her trade and prepare for her role of leadership in the industry. One of Lou's favorite Bible verses is 2 Timothy 1:7; "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Lou said, "That verse has always been an encouragement to me. I know that God is our help, and He wanted me to be strong in the power of His might in this work He has blessed me with."

The Will's Family TV show, *Wills Family Inspirational Time*, which she hosted, became a top priority for her. Lou knew that television would be the medium of the future to keep Gospel music alive and growing, and her intuitions proved correct.

She also loved producing and teaching the proper way to develop and record a great project at Sword & Shield Record Company. She said, "Calvin and I wanted everything that came from our studio to be top quality, and that's what we worked on. When Howard and I moved to Nashville in the 60s Calvin took over the studio, and when Calvin passed away in 2002, his son Randy took over the studio and serves as President of the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame."

Moving to Nashville was a family decision, Lou told us. "Howard sold his business and relocated it to Nashville, and the whole family moved. Kathryn, our daughter went to work for Benson Music and our son, David played bass guitar for the Stamps Quartet."

"Helping people has always been my heart, and I felt the need and desire to start something that would not only book artists, but helped to mold their career and provide leadership training," Lou disclosed. "I wrote about some of this in my book, *'Deep Within My Heart'*. My goal has always been to help others develop to their full potential. It's not just booking, but knowing how to represent themselves on stage, in press releases, and in bio information to submit to music directors and pastors. I was able to form Nashville Gospel Talent, the first Gospel artists' management



company owned by a woman.”

She continued “I worked with Bill Gaither and Joe Moscheo, and we merged Nashville Gospel Talent and New Direction Artists. and began booking Gary McSpadden and Steve Green, original members of the Gaither Vocal Band, along with Doug Oldham,” Lou stated. “The Gaither Vocal Band was already in great demand and my time was spent scheduling performances with the larger churches. Fay Shedd began working with us, and we changed the name to Artists Direction. When Howard and I moved back to Texas in 1988, Fay bought the agency. Fay and I are lifetime friends,” She finished.

Believing that the Southern Gospel Industry needed an organization to foster the growth of the Southern Gospel music genre, several leaders in the industry formed the Southern Gospel Music Guild. Lou Hildreth is a founding member and continues to be involved in

all aspects of the Guild. (Editor’s Note: See Awards and recognitions on this page.)

Lou continues to post monthly updates in SGNSCOOPS.com, our digital magazine. She talked about her journalist history. “In Nashville, I worked with J.G. Whitfield booking some of his artists, and he and Jerry Kirksey developed the SINGING NEWS, to keep fans up to date on concerts and all the happenings in Gospel Music. They wanted me to do an update each time they printed, so I began writing then. Over the years, I’ve submitted articles to various publications, and thoroughly enjoy working with our friends, Rob Patz and Rhonda Frye, here at SCOOPS.

Over the years, many artists have received counseling and support from Lou Hildreth. “I believe that God has given me the gift of being a good communicator,” she said. “Whether it’s been by music, on television, public speaking, or face to face with someone, I’ve been able to communicate God and His love to people. I’m thankful for that. I’ve talked to some younger singers who are married and their spouses stay home. It’s tough to be away from each other, but God has to be the center of everything they do; their home, their music, their worship, everything. I pray that sharing that helps them realize that they both are a part of the ministry. Loneliness is something we all deal with at one time or other and staying close in heart, prayer and the music ministry will help tremendously.”

Through the years, Lou has held these things in mind, “We must be passionate about God and about what we do. We must be focused on the work, and not stop until it is complete, as God leads, and the last





Another of Lou's life verses is Matthew 5:16; "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

A comment from Lou states, "I've prayed, 'Father I've started on this journey for you. Please allow me to finish well, for you and your glory.'"

thing; we must be obedient to the Holy Spirit in all we do. With those goals, how can we not succeed?"

Years ago when Lou was born into the family of A.B. and Leah Wills, with the leadership of godly parents, she began a journey that would touch and influence many lives. God gave her the personality and drive to pursue that journey with everything within her, and provided a help meet in Howard Hildreth. Lou has been a criterion for many of us in the Southern Gospel Music industry to hold for the Christian banner, and prove God to be all that He promised.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Lou Hildreth has been recognized for her many contributions and years of service to Southern Gospel Music. While these awards are a wonderful way for her peers to honor her and the calling which God has placed on her life, her comment is always "To God Be The Glory!" She feels humbled that God has allowed her the years, the health, and heart to serve the Savior whom she made Lord of her life many years ago as a child. Please join the staff of SGNSCOOPS.com Digital magazine in honoring the testimony and integrity of Mrs. Lou Wills Hildreth and her 75 Years In Southern Gospel Music!

As the daughter of A. B.(Pop) Wills, Lou was a major part of The Wills Family, known as Texas' First Family of Gospel Music. She was inducted into The Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2004 Lou was awarded the first ever James Blackwood Award, and received an honorary Doctor of Sacred Music from Louisiana Baptist University.

The Lou Hildreth Award, recognizing excellence within the Gospel Music industry, was created and is presented annually at the Diamond Awards, by SGNSCOOPS.com, Digital magazine.

In 2005, Lou Hildreth was inducted into the GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2007, Lou was inducted into the Southern



Donna Rogers, Paul Boden, Lou Hildreth and Sandi Duncan Clark shared a wonderful friendship. Paul was awarded the Lou Hildreth Award in 2006, and passed away from cancer shortly after.



Lou along with J.P. Miller interviewing Brian Free and Assurance on the Daywind River-boat Cruise.



Gospel Music Hall of Fame at Dollywood, Sevierville, Tennessee.

In 2008, Lou was inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame, Dallas, Texas.

Beginning in the 1960s, Lou, along with The Wills Family, hosted a television program, "Wills Family Inspirational Time," featuring the Wills Family and the popular male quartet, Bob Wills and the Inspirationalists. The program was available in more than 50 major television markets and was one of the first of the Gospel syndications to tape in color.

Upon moving to Nashville, Tennessee with her husband Howard, in 1969, Lou Hildreth became the first woman to own a Gospel artist agency, Nashville

Gospel Talent. Through this agency, she was involved in every facet of her artists' career. Mark Lowry was one of the first artists she signed to her Nashville Gospel Talent Agency.

In the '70s and '80s, Lou hosted a daily TV show in Nashville, Tennessee, which was nominated for multiple Dove Awards. Currently Lou hosts TV specials for Family Friendly

Entertainment Network.

In the early '90s, Lou was asked by Bill and Gloria Gaither, to join the Gaither Homecoming Choir and participate in the taping of the Gaither Homecoming Videos. She still is a prominent participant in this amazing video ministry.

Lou Hildreth has more than 20 years of service on the Gospel Music Association Board, and is founding member of the Southern Gospel Music Guild. The Southern Gospel Music Guild honored Lou Hildreth with the SGMG Lifetime Achievement Honor in 2010.

This year Lou celebrates a milestone very few people will ever attain. Congratulations, Lou Will's Hildreth, on celebrating 75 years of service to the Southern Gospel Music Industry!





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The Gaither Homecoming Bible

By Rhonda Frye

The Gaither HOMECOMING BIBLE

BILL & GLORIA GAITHER
General Editors

Inspiring Hope Through Scripture, Song, and Story

I'm at a loss for words as I attempt to introduce this story! What on earth can I say to introduce Bill and Gloria Gaither properly in just a few short lines?! Over the years, the treasured couple has produced more than 700 songs, hundreds of recordings, numerous musicals, plus books for adults and children. They are members of the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame and the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame. The Bill Gaither Trio and the Gaither Vocal Band have been awarded numerous awards, but Bill Gaither himself has won six Grammy and 41 Dove Awards. They have been recognized as "Songwriter of the Year" many times, but wow- the Gaithers were named "ASCAP Songwriters of the CENTURY" in 2000! Their record and DVD sales along with television viewing statistics prove that Bill and Gloria Gaither have influenced people by the millions!

What a blessing it was to talk with Gloria recently. One could spend a few minutes in her company and quickly see she is passionate about many things. She is passionate about education, music and poetry. She deeply loves her family and is passionate about traditions, leaving legacies and making memories. Perhaps most of all, she is passionate about learning the things of God and especially His Word. In fact, at her very core, there is a deep rooted

love for God's Word. The Bible is more to her than a collection of stories and poetry. It is more than an account of history or a self-help guide to being a better person. For Gloria, the Holy Word of God is her foundation to stand on, her compass to live by as well as a cherished loved letter from God Himself. How fitting for the Gaithers to partner with leading Christian publisher, Thomas Nelson, Inc. and release the beautiful Gaither Homecoming Bible!

Before we discussed the details of the Gaither Homecoming Bible, Gloria shared how the spiritual discipline of reading and applying God's word was the central focus in her home as a child as well as in her home after marrying Bill. "I grew up in the home with spiritual disciplines. My mother was a speaker, an artist and a writer. My dad loved the word of God. He loved studying and connecting the dots with the Old Testament Prophecies as they are fulfilled in Christ. We talked about it at our dining room table. We had lots of conversations about those things in those days. Being that my father was the pastor of a small church in Michigan and there weren't a lot of hotels, we kept all of the evangelists, song evangelists, missionaries, traveling people and singers. Our table was the place to be. We also took in a lot of kids who were in trouble; those struggling with alcohol, pregnant teenagers, so we had this balance, of how ministry was lived out on a daily basis. We lived a philosophy of what God requires of us."

As a young couple, Bill and Gloria continued to explore into the depths of God's word together. "Most of our devotional life was tied up around writing songs. When we would read the scriptures or sometimes hear a line from a sermon we'd end up in a discussion about that between us. Often as we would read the Bible, something new would jump out every time," she explained. She went on to say, "For Bill and me, when we read the Bible together, something new will pop out and we say... 'Ooooooh... there's never been a song that says THAT!'"

When children came into the Gaither household, Bill and Gloria started writing children's songs that would instill a love for the Word as well as teach biblical principles. And as their children grew up, Bill and Gloria wrote songs for those seasons as well. "As we have grown in our own personal lives, Bill and I have always written out of the gut

of our life- we're not good assignment writers. Nobody gives us an assignment and says, 'Will you write a song on...let's say- Go Make Disciples' or something because-we write out of a real life."



Writing out of a "REAL LIFE" is something Gloria has done in a variety of ways over the years. She has written songs, poetry, scripts for musicals, books, articles and more. She enjoys all types of writing, but confesses writing the lyric requires the most discipline. "I really love writing, but I will say this at our Songwriting Intensive here in Alexandria to potential songwriters: Songwriting is the most intense and condensed of all kinds of writing because you have restrictions. You have three verses at the most and a chorus. If I have written 500 pages, I should be able to get something said eventually. If I'm writing poetry, I can write a sonnet or write it however I want! But- If you're writing songs, every phrase has to fit the music- you can't fight against yourself. So- in music, there are all kinds of restrictions in the lyric, but you have to make it sound as if there are no restrictions at all," she explained.

The Gaithers certainly have a collection of written masterpieces- all inspired by the Word of God. Not only does the Gaither Homecoming Bible include Gaither's

original poetry and devotions, but it includes 230 exclusive devotions written by Homecoming artists including two of our SGNscoops staff writers, Lou Wills Hildreth and Jeff Hawes, plus Jeff & Sheri Easter, Mark Lowry, The Isaacs, The Hoppers, Ernie Haase and more. The Gaithers collaborated with 60 friends and homecoming artists to select 75 hymns and gospel songs to be dispersed throughout the trusted New King James text.

A Gaither Homecoming Bible was a brilliant idea, but surprisingly, the notion didn't originate with the Gaithers! Gloria shared the story of how it came to be as well as disclosed details about the included features:

THE IDEA

"Actually Thomas Nelson Inc. came to us with this idea and at first we said... ah...no...Bibles... because there are many of them out there already and they're written by authorities who want to tell you what every scripture means and we're not spending our lives doing digs in Jerusalem or anything- we don't feel qualified for that. But, that was not what they had in mind and the longer we listened to what they thought could happen, for us something in us began to take shape and it was a many-component idea."

Continuing, "Our ideas have been realized and I just love it! First of all, these artists that we travel with and work with are regular people and everyday people very normal regular people- not all of them are highly educated although some are, some have college degrees and masters and are very educated. Others are people that started right out of high school traveling with their families- so that's a good mix of people. And they are all regular people. They have kids, they juggle careers, they juggle careers on the road, and they're trying to keep their marriages intact, they're trying to make sure their kids are schooled. They have all kinds of issues just like regular people do. So, we thought it would be really good for them to write stories of how and where the Bible really hits the pavement for them. And, so, these artists did that and these stories appear in the scripture that they reference and you'll read about a time and juncture where that particular passage spoke into their lives. It's really fun to read and exciting. You can go from devotion to devotion or you can just read the Bible and bump into them."

THE HYMNS AND GOSPEL SONGS:

"We wanted to include a collection of great hymns, so I surveyed several people to get this list of the 20 greatest hymns ever! We've put in beautifully done lyrics of all time and the stories behind those hymns. We did the same with Gospel Songs- which are personal testimony songs about how God interfaces with our lives. We wanted to choose a collection of all-time great gospel songs and then

Thomas Nelson Publishing asked us if we would include a collection of everybody's favorite Gaither Songs. There are stories behind of each of these songs. All of those components are beautifully done. The songs appear in the copy nearest the scripture that probably most inspired that song. We also included some great quotes from great Christians from years past and from today. Those quotes are lovely and are sprinkled throughout the text."

THE POETRY:

"I always write poetry and they {Thomas Nelson, Inc.} wanted to know if they could include it. I didn't know how relevant it would be, but they said that's very relevant because my poetry tends to be very practical. It really isn't all that sacred- like religious poetry, but it is about regular, normal things such as the love I have for my husband. The poems aren't necessarily what I would say are churchie but the older I get, I cannot separate my secular life from my sacred life. If I believe what God says, everything is sacred, there is no such thing as secular."

THE QUOTES:

"We also included some great quotes from great Christians. We went all the way back to John Wesley, Martin Luther and all the way to Henri Nouwen! We used quotes from people of our day, but also from way back, like Spurgeon, who talk about how music has formed their spiritual life. Those quotes are lovely and kind of sprinkled throughout the text."

THE DESIGN:

"One of our requirements was that the Bible to be beautiful! We wrote a song a while back called 'Something Beautiful' because I believe He brings beauty into our lives. He brings peace, order, love, mercy, emotion and reconciliation. All those things contribute to beauty. I wanted the Bible to be beautiful so when you pick it up it is an experience in itself just to hold it in your hand and look at it. I think God is a God of beauty and we live in such an ugly and rude world. I thought since it's the Word of God, it needs to be beautiful. I hope that everybody loves it!"

THE PURPOSE:

"It is our hope that the stories and experiences we and the Homecoming family of singers, writers and musicians share will encourage and inspires others to find the Word of God to be a living, vital force in our real, walking-around lives! Most of all, we hope a developing love for the Scriptures will lead those who read it to the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life."

"I also have grandchildren now- seven of them from the ages of two to 20! I want every one of my grandkids to have this because the kids today are growing up without



the great Hymns and the great Gospel Songs. They are growing up without insights from Augustine and some of the great writers that have said things about how music speaks in a different way than speeches, sermons or books. I wish that wasn't the case because I write books and I speak, but it's really a song that rescues you when you're going down...it's a line from a song! It's because these great lyrics are married to music that can bypass your crazy brain and go straight to your understanding- to your heart, soul. I just want my kids to have this collection in their hand because they may not get it anywhere else! And of course, I want them to have God's Word!

The Gaither Homecoming Bible is truly a legacy project- one to be treasured for years to come and is now available in retail stores as well as <http://gaither.com/>. I personally have added the Gaither Homecoming Bible to my collection and have been inspired by the stories of so many of my friends to press on in my pursuit of know God and His word! Thank you to Gloria for giving our readers the inside scoop on yet another masterpiece!

A photograph of Larnelle Harris performing on stage. He is wearing a blue suit jacket over a pink and blue striped shirt. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. The background is dark with blue and purple stage lights.

Larnelle Harris: Standing The Test of Time

By Rhonda Frye

With a larger than life voice and larger than life spirit, Larnelle Harris will no doubt go down in history as one of the best musical communicators of all time! During his thirty year ministry span, Harris has ministered in many prestigious places including the White House and literally around the world. He was the very first Christian artist to perform inside the Kremlin after the fall of the Soviet Union. He is also one of a few personalities to receive the Ad Council's Silver Bell Award for Distinguished Public Service in acknowledgment of "Mighty Spirit" as the theme song for the longest-running Public Service Announcement in the history of television. Larnelle has received numerous awards, honors and accolades including five Grammys, 11 Doves, and a Stellar! In his career, he has composed more than 30 songs, garnered 19 #1 singles and numerous top 10 hits over the years. He is also a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. In many homes, he's known by his first name only!

In addition for being known for his powerful, yet tender tenor voice, Larnelle Harris is respected by his fans and peers for his level of integrity. Larnelle's ministry has stood the test of time. So how does one gain this level of success in music and ministry- AND keep going after 30 years? Author, Singer/Songwriter Judy Jacobs once said, "Anointing and calling will take you places, but only godly character will keep you there." Through the years, Larnelle has consistently developed in the area of godly character by having a teachable spirit and thorough accountability. God-given talent plus anointing- balanced with godly character explains the enormous level Larnelle's success.

Larnelle recalls how the Lord prepared his heart for ministry: "At nine years old, I was taking piano lessons from Ms. Georgia Donehy. She taught piano lessons to every kid in town whether they wanted them or not! I certainly didn't want them, but my mom wanted me to, so I took piano lessons. Ms. Georgia found out

that I could carry a tune. After a while, she started teaching me hymns and would take me around to various functions and also in my own church. I sang some of the old hymns like "How Great Thou Art," "The Lord's Prayer," "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and others like that. As I stood there singing, I understood the words, but there was something else going on behind the scenes. As I've grown older, I know now that was God touching my little heart in a way I didn't understand. It was the Holy Spirit working in my heart. Tears were coming out of my eyes – I really didn't understand why, but in those days, God was speaking into my heart and tenderizing it- preparing



me for if I would accept the challenge *not to sing*but accept the challenge to be His!"

At that time, there was no way for young Larnelle to grasp that his assignment would be global! "Being a kid, I didn't understand *all* of what was going on," Larnelle explains, "but my parents made sure I understood *some* of what was going on." Continuing, "They created a place where I could be a child, but no...I didn't have any idea- and you know what- I still don't have any idea of the immenseness and far-reachingness of God in my own life. All I can do (and all I've done over the years) is to put myself in the place where God can do His work in my heart and in my life."

Larnelle pursued music education in college and has used Christian Music as a tool to minister. His goal has always been for his music to be used in a way so that people are drawn to Christ. "Music is a strong tool," Larnelle shares. "My degree is in music-in voice. I've always believed it was a strong tool. It is something that is in its essence almost non-threatening. It weaves its way into people's hearts in a non- threatening manner."

Larnelle continues: "It's like we are planting a

little seed that God will hopefully come along and water because we have the responsibility and the opportunity to put ourselves in the place for God to do His work in hearts and lives such when we speak and sing. Music is not anything on its own. It's the set up, it's the backdrop, and it is part of the foundation for the Word of God! It's about people being deepened in their relationship with Christ. We desire to have them moving from the next plateau to the next going higher up in their relationship with the Lord."

In 30 years of ministry, Larnelle has many cherished memories. Those dear to his heart are experiences with the US Military and overseas. "God gave me the opportunity many times both here in the United States and in South Korea- I was there to not just entertain, but to encourage and to be Christ's representative to them," Larnelle says. "The armed forces took a CD of mine called, *The American Spirit*- it has Patriotic songs on it like 'Let Freedom Ring,' and 'The Statue of Liberty.' The army took that CD and duplicated it about seven or eight thousand times and gave to the troops. I get emails from these guys and gals that have been encouraged at a time they say they needed it most."

"I also had the opportunity to talk about freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ right after the coup in 1991 in the former Soviet Union," Larnelle recalls. "I had the opportunity to be a part of passing out four million Bibles provided by the International Bible Society. We were able to take hands full of them and pass them out to people on the street." Larnelle continues, "We gave them away and those people would take the Bible and hug it to their chest. The kids would take



their Bible and rip it up and that concerned us! We didn't know what they were doing and had no way to stop it. But they were tearing up their Bibles so that they could pass the pieces around to friends of theirs and then trade the parts so that everybody in their

sphere of influence would get the opportunity to read the Bible. There was a couple that followed us from St. Petersburg to Helsinki and all they wanted was a Bible- not a song...not a concert... All they wanted was a Bible!"

The demands of juggling a world-wide ministry along with raising a family can be challenging at times. Nonetheless, Larnelle and wife Mitzi celebrate over 40 years of marriage! "God allowed us to make



some absolutes from the start," says Harris, "The start wasn't the marriage ceremony- that was nice, but quite frankly, I was glad when that was over... But- the absolute we started with was that Christ was our center and we ain't got no options!"

Harris says no marriage is perfect, but with the Lord's help, he and his Mrs. have worked out issues through the years. "I don't want to appear that I never have problems in my marriage. First of all EVERYBODY has problems in their marriage. My wife has a master's degree in special education, she is a brilliant woman. I am an artist that travels, and I try to be well read... So you have two people together who can in their own right live life on their own. So, you put them together and of course you're going to have issues from time to time. Praise God, He has allowed us to walk through the minefields together." He went on to explain that the Word of God is the barometer in which they live their lives by.

Accountability and serving in the local church has kept Larnelle on track spiritually through the years. He shares: "You know, this is serious... sometimes we think this is fun. We enjoy getting on the bus and getting on the plane. People are clapping and telling

us how good we are--you can get caught up in all that and miss what this is about. Sandi Patty sings a song- but Gloria wrote it and it says... "When the stage is bare.... That's when we find out who you are! When nobody's watchin' who are ya?"

Continuing, "You know the Bible says... Seek first the KINGDOM of God. For me it has been very important to serve in the local church. We joined our church over 30 years ago- we're still there! My wife sings in the choir and teaches kids and I'm involved with the deacon board. My cup runneth over. I share out of a saucer. If my cup isn't running over, I have to find a way to get it full again! And that's something you and God are going to have to work out because we are all different and we all have a personal relationship with Christ. We have to find a way to keep that cup filled! There are people that don't have a daily devotional life. I wrote a song a while ago called "I Miss My Time With You." It was the "professional" people- ministers, ministers of music, radio station executives that kept that song on the charts for so long. We get busy doing God's work! Sometimes we get busy doing God's work and you know what- sometimes God's not in it! I think my own involvement in my local church helps me. It helps me stay in touch with what I'm supposed to be about and what I'm doing. It censors me. I don't expect everyone else to do it like I do it, but we just can't share out of an empty cup!"

Larnelle is grateful for the people who have mentored him along the way. "There have been a number of people that have spoken into my life", Harris shares. "A lot of them are people that you would know, but most of them are people that you wouldn't. I remember years ago when my wife and I were looking for a church. After we had been there a while, one of the deacons came to me one night. He knew I traveled the world and sang, and I had awards and all of that stuff. That night he said to me, 'When was the last time you took Mitzi out to dinner?' At first, I was a little miffed about it and he didn't care. He was being God's agent to speak something to my life that was already there, but needed to stay."

Harris continues, "There's one guy everybody knows, that has spoken into my life, Josh McDowell. Every time he sees me, the first thing he asks is 'Are you being true to your wife?' And he expects an answer! I used to think that was the most intrusive thing that anyone has ever said to me. Both the deacon and Josh McDowell expected an answer. That's accountability. I'm happy for that! They thought enough of me to ask those hard questions of accountability and all of us need those," he concludes.

Just as Larnelle aims for excellence in his personal life and ministry, he has pursued excellence in music as well. Many of Larnelle's songs have become classics! Songs like "How Excellent Is Thy Name,"

"I Miss My Time With You," and his signature song, "Amen" are all-time favorites. Songs recorded with award winning artist, Sandi Patty, certainly have impacted the world. Larnelle tells the story of how he and Sandi Patty started singing together:

"Producer Don Marsh, along with a couple of other producers were working on a Christmas project along with a writer named Lanny Wolfe- who wrote "More than Wonderful." They had already recorded this project and were in the process of recording songs. They had actually already done "More Than



Wonderful" as a solo. Somebody suggested- why don't we try to do this as a duet and why don't we ask Larnelle and Sandi if they would like to do that together? I wish I was smart enough to say Sandi and I came up with that idea and it was great, but I believe it was God ordained. Through these men, somebody called her and asked her if she would like to try it. They called me and asked me. I said- we pray about things around here, let me pray about that... YEAH! So, we went into the studio- in fact, we didn't even do it together. I sang my part, and then Sandi came in and put her part on it. The second one we did was, 'I've Just Seen Jesus', and we were looking for a song to do. 'More than Wonderful' was recorded on her CD, and "I've Just Seen Jesus" was recorded on mine.

Larnelle continues to make new music and travel world-wide! He performs solo dates and appears with various Gaither Homecoming Tours and the Sandi Patty & Friends tour. New music has been released

too! Recently, Larnelle was featured on TBN. The television special featured a documentary and live concert previously filmed in Nashville. The concert features special guests Sandi Patty, Steve Green and Steve Amerson. Larnelle and Sandi debut a new duet called "Then Came The Morning " and "I've Just Seen Jesus," and "More Than Wonderful " are featured as well. The television feature is available as a CD and DVD entitled, *LARNELLE LIVE* and is available in retail stores as well as www.Larnelle.com.

Larnelle says that after 30 years of singing the gospel, his prayer hasn't changed! "Lord, now that I have your love in my heart, teach me to give it away," he prays! He also says that he's not done! "I'm still learning how to be a better husband after 40 years; I'm still learning about that, I am still learning how to be a good father," he says. "I have grown kids that are happily paying their own bills and God is still teaching me how those relationships work. I'm still learning how to serve in my church and this has nothing to do with stage or performing or music! God's still teaching me to serve. We are doing our best to influence our grandchildren who are young- showing them the basics of how to live life through our obedience to Christ and obedience to fellowship in a good local church."

"We're not finished... we're not done... and the people who read this are not done either," he goes on to say. "One of the misnomers is that ministry happens by the professionals. That's ridiculous! God has given each one of us something to do. The body of Christ works through individuals! Whatever talent you have- USE IT! Ministry is not just done from the stage or the pulpit, but much of it is done off of it!"

God-given talent and anointing balanced with godly character has been the formula for Larnelle's success for the last 30 years. With a voice and spirit that is still larger than life, Larnelle says, "It's not over until HE says it's over!" So how does he plan to keep going? He says, "There are times when my humanness takes over. I'm reading about God's grace now and trying to live the Beatitudes. It seems impossible, because it is! I wish I had the ability within myself to keep the Ten Commandments, but I don't. You know what I do? I do what you have done and what I hope others will do as they hear the music and as they sense my heart. I hope they catch it and that is... WE NEED JESUS TO GET THIS DONE! Were it not for Christ in my heart, I would have nothing."

To find out more about Larnelle Harris, visit www.larnelle.com

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A Mathis Moment Your New Identity Is Your True Identity

By John Mathis Jr.

To say that we live in a society that likes to cultivate identity, image, branding, marketing, etc would be an understatement! “Identity” has gone into hyper drive these days. It seems “image IS everything” in this day and time. Add every cliché you can think of here; clothes make the man, perception is reality, etc., and even make up a few new ones if you like.

I don’t think there has ever been a time in history where branding of identity is so prevalent. Branding is a marketing term for promoting, identifying and marking a product or person to where they are instantly identified and associated by one word, phrase or image. There seems to be no middle ground. We are pushed to proudly proclaim and label ourselves with our political affiliations, our church associations, or careers or professions, where we live, what we drive, what we wear, etc, etc. We tend to be pressured by all societal groups to identify ourselves with a variety of entities, philosophies or social trends. Pick a side and be identified! It’s actually become kind of crazy.

It’s as if a whole collection of identity boxes exist now so we can be tossed into one or the other. I started this article by saying this trait of humanity is more

prevalent than ever but the identity boxes have existed for as long as human beings were put on this planet. We actually can’t blame this push to classify people according to their identities on “society”; as if “society” is some third party, self-thinking entity. As individuals we all desire to be identified uniquely in some way, form or fashion. This is in some way part of our human nature to be accepted, to be part of a group, to validate our worth or intelligence or value.

Even in Jesus’ time when He walked this earth doing His Father’s will, there were many groups who invested more time in trying to pin Christ down about religious or political identities rather than listening to what He actually had to say. Jesus was popular among the people during that time and to have him “identify” with your group would “validate” your group and its identity or if He didn’t “identify” with that particular group they could discredit Him. However; He was the Christ, the Son of God, and He answered each and every test with great wisdom and kept His identity with His Father in place and His mission of sharing the Good News and doing His Father’s will first and foremost.

In this day and time, I believe we’re faced with

the same challenges of identity, maybe even on a more heightened level. Christians have been in public view since they began to go out and fulfill the Great Commission just after Christ gave the commandment. After 2,000 years we've come to a place where the world wants to know if we're going to identify ourselves with them. They still want to know our identity. I think during those times we should have a great awareness about our own personal Christian "identity". Our true identity is that we are no longer our "old selves" but now a reflection of "Christ" living within us. Galatians 2:20 says, *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* No matter how many times we're pressed to pick a side in many of the issues of today, the real side for a Christian is that he is a "new creature" and his life has been changed and his greatest desire and compassion is that the same God who gave His Son, Jesus Christ, (out of the greatest act of love in history) would in turn change the lives of those around Him.

In essence we do have many "titles" and "statuses" in life. I'm a son, a father, a husband, a brother, a friend, a songwriter, a musician, a citizen of the United States, and many other things but that new creature (or person) I became in Christ is *my true calling and purpose and my one true identity. It should determine how I act or react to all other facets in my life.* At the end of the day I personally don't care if the world knows me by my church affiliation, my political choice, my opinion on social issues, where I work or live or any of those things that are temporary, I want them to know me for what will be eternal; THAT is what will matter the most.

1 Peter 3:15 *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."*

If I had a challenge for my fellow believers today it would be to NOT define or identify yourself by anything other than this one simple fact: does each person you come in contact with in your neighborhood, in the grocery store, at a restaurant, on your job, in your social media postings, etc., SEE CHRIST IN YOU?! The

people around you have plenty of identities to choose from every day, that's nothing new, but seeing Christ in you is the ONLY thing that WILL actually change and impact their life!

John Mathis

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www.pebn.org

www.johnmathisjr.com

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Photo courtesy of davida3



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Meet The Hinshaws

By Sandi Duncan Clark

About eight months ago we received CDs from the Hinshaw Family of Bahama, North Carolina. One CD was the family group; the other was the Hinshaw Family Trio. Floyd and Connie Hinshaw are joined by their daughters, Debbie, Sandy and Robin. When a promoter or church books the Hinshaw Family, they get an extra blessing; because they get the Hinshaw Trio (the sisters) as a bonus!

Debbie, Sandy and Robin did a question and answer interview with us to bring us information on the group. I have been impressed with their harmony, the song selection and the music tracks on each CD. To put it mildly, I have become a fan of the Hinshaw Family and the Hinshaw Family Trio. Please sit back, learn more about this family, then call and have them come visit your church sometime soon. Make sure you visit their website for more information at <http://www.hinshawfamilync.com/>.

Sandi: When your Mom and Dad began singing, how old were you ladies before you joined them?

Hinshaws: Our Dad actually sang and traveled for several years with the Harmony Masters Quartet. Mom saw him for the first time when she and her mother went to hear the quartet. They met again later, and began singing together in a quartet in their home church. Shortly after, they were married in 1958. They began teaching us to sing at a very early age. Mom and Dad continued singing in the church quartet, but started teaching us to sing as soon as we were old enough to talk. We've sung together as a family as long

as I can remember. When we started singing as a family at other churches, Debbie was nine years old, Sandy was seven, and I was three.

Sandi: What instruments do each of you play? Who plays piano on your recordings?

Hinshaws: Dad always played the acoustic guitar and bass guitar. Mom plays piano and organ. Debbie plays harmonica; Sandy plays piano, organ and keyboard, and I play drums, trumpet and bass guitar. We have had various piano players on our recordings.

Sandi: Do your parents still travel and sing?

Hinshaws: Mom and Dad still travel and sing with us, but within the past year or so, they usually sing only during the first half of our concerts. Dad turned 82 in April and Mom turned 75 in August, so they don't sing as much as they used to. The three of us girls have started singing more as a trio and have also recorded as a trio.

Sandi: Is anyone in the family a song writer?

Hinshaws: I (Robin) have written a few and plan to write more.

Sandi: How many recordings do you have?

Hinshaws: We have three family recordings and two trio

projects done at Hitmaker Studios in Ohio, and I (Robin) have a solo recording that I did at Gaither Studios, in Alexandria, Indiana.

Sandi: What is the radius that your family would travel for church services or concerts?

Hinshaws: We are willing to go anywhere the Lord leads us. We are based out of Bahama, NC (near Durham/Raleigh NC) and have traveled as far as northern Ohio and Indiana.

Sandi: How many dates do you average annually?

Hinshaws: It varies, but our bookings have certainly increased during the last couple of years. I think more and more people are hearing about us, so more churches are calling to schedule us. We usually average at least five or six a month...sometimes more.

Sandi: What record company do you record with?

Hinshaws: The family and trio record at Hitmaker Studios in Wheelersburg Ohio. We feel comfortable there. My solo project was recorded at Gaither Studios in Alexandria, Indiana, and I enjoyed working there.

Sandi: Do you have a new recording in the planning stages?

Hinshaws: Our last two projects were just released in late May 2012. However, we are already looking and thinking ahead for our next one!

Sandi: Have you had any radio releases that have reached the national charts?

Hinshaws: None as of yet, but we just released a single to radio with Crossroads Music a week or so ago.

The Hinshaw daughters each shared their personal testimony with SGNSCOOPS:

Debbie Hinshaw Farmer is the eldest daughter of Floyd and Connie Hinshaw and states, "I grew up always in church. Mom and Dad took us every time the church doors were open. We went to Sunday School, worship, Sunday night services, Wednesday night prayer meeting, revivals (we went every night!), Bible School and Sunday School class meetings. It was 'easier' becoming a Christian in that atmosphere. Mom and Dad sang in the church choir and were in the church quartet. I began singing with them at the age of six. As I got older, I sang in the adult choir and by the age of 18, I became an assistant choir director. I've always loved Southern Gospel music and it was always on the radio at home. It's what we listened to as we got ready for church

on Sunday morning."

"I accepted the Lord at an early age but it wasn't until my middle 20's that I really began to 'notice' more of what God was doing in my life. After I married and had children, I began to rely more on Jesus Christ than ever. I have four sons and three of them serve in the military. I don't think I could have coped with their being gone and being in so much danger if it hadn't been for the comfort of the Holy Spirit. I guess it's taken those kinds of things to happen in my life to bring me to the level of trust that I have in the Lord."

Sandy Hinshaw is the middle daughter and she echoes Debbie's comments about church. "I remember getting up every Sunday morning to get ready for church and my Dad would already be dressed and reading his Sunday School lesson for the second time. We never had to ask if we were going to church. We always knew that we were. My sisters and I were dressed in matching dresses that our Mom had sewn. We had shiny patent leather shoes that Dad had shined with his shoe kit."

"I was about seven years old when I sang with Mom, Dad, and my sisters for the first time. We sang 'Do You Know My Jesus?' and we've been singing ever since. I know that if it weren't for Godly parents and being brought up in church, I wouldn't be where I am today. God has always been there for me, to see me through all kinds of 'messes' even when I forgot to acknowledge Him. I hope that through our music, others will be lead to know Jesus Christ."

Robin Hinshaw is the younger Hinshaw sister and has been my contact with the Hinshaws. She states; "I grew up in Durham, N.C. in a Christian home, for which I am so very thankful. My parents instilled in me and my two sisters at a very young age, the importance of loving and supporting each other as well as the need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We were always involved in our church, especially the music."

"I was 12 when I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and my personal relationship with Him began. We have watched God open doors for us to minister in various venues and have always dedicated our lives and music to Him and His Kingdom. Being the youngest of the three girls, I realize how blessed I have been to sing and travel with my parents and sisters for so many years. I look ahead with great expectations and excitement at what God is going to do next in our efforts to serve Him in this capacity."

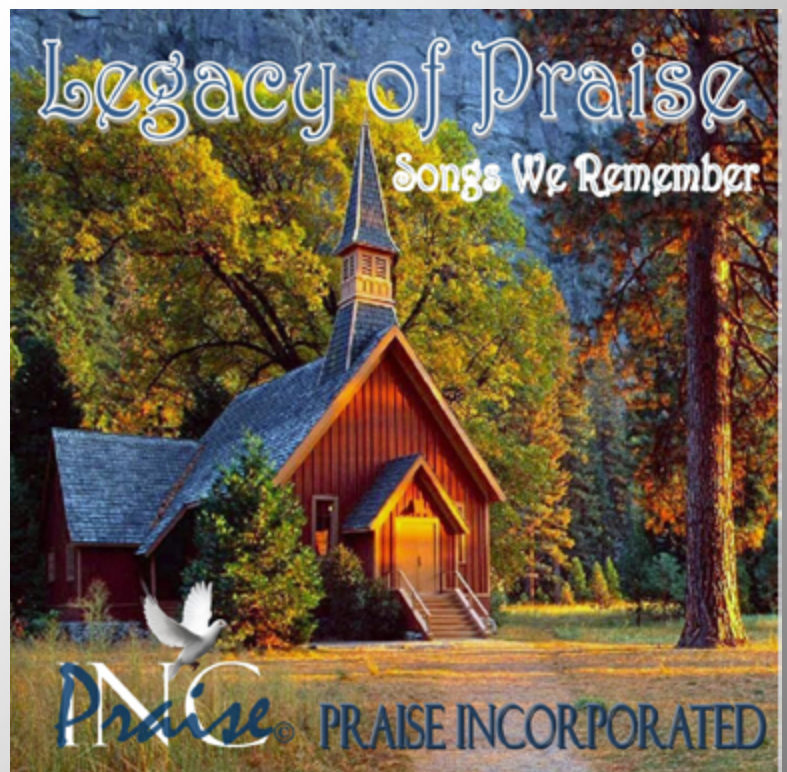
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New Music for October

by Sandi Duncan Clark

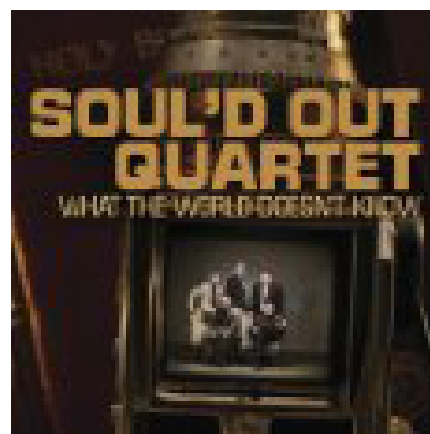
A cool fall morning, blue skies, void of rain clouds, a huge cup of my husband's fabulous coffee, and I'm ready for a wonderful October day! Been thinking about the Lord's blessings and thanking Him for love, mercy and forgiveness. I am truly blessed!

Most of us have read or heard the scripture in 1st Samuel of how God's Spirit left King Saul. God had ordered Samuel to anoint David, son of Jesse, and King Saul became afraid of David. God caused a troubled spirit to come over Saul. Whenever David played for King Saul, David's music soothed Saul's troubled spirit.

We've also heard it said; "Music Soothes The Savage Beast," and many Health and Fitness Gurus have proven that anxieties and pain can be relieved by comforting music. Many of us can attest to the fact that listening to our favorite Gospel music relieves stress and calms us, often reminding us of God's Grace, Love, Mercy and Healing. As I listened to each CD discussed in this month's column, I found that to be true more than ever.

As we go about our daily duties; family needs, jobs, church services and other things that consume our time and efforts, often a song reminds us that the peace of God will quite the stress and will comfort us. God is so good to do that for us! Aren't we thrilled that He loves us so much?

I do hope as you read our introduction of this month's music you'll be encouraged to get your own copy and be blessed!



WHAT THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW

Soul'd Out Quartet

Crossroads Music

Producer: Jeff Collins

Soul'd Out Quartet has a pure Southern Gospel four part quartet sound and this album allows one to relish every note; every exciting sound of the music! Jeff Collins is one of the most talented producers in the business and he knows what works for this exciting quartet. With ten original songs written by Matt Rankin, along with some help on a couple of songs by group members, Michael Howard and Dusty Barrett, they have a top notch recording. I have heard so many great things said about the album, and have been anxious to hear the songs and share the spirit.

This recording is Soul'd Out's debut album with Bryan Hutson. Just a week or so prior to the National Quartet Convention, Soul'd Out and Legacy Five announced that Matt Fouch would be leaving Soul'd

Out to join Legacy Five to sing bass. I love the sound of Soul'd Out with Matt, and I'm anxious to hear them with a new bass singer. I'm praying for an amazing transition for both quartets.

While the quartet's musical style is Southern Gospel, the song arrangements are unique and appeal to a cross-section of Gospel music fans. One such song is 'That'll Be A Great Day,' which features Matt. I will be interested to hear a new bass singer do this song.

'What The World Doesn't Know,' the title song on the album, quickly became one of my favorite songs. Producer Jeff Collins and Soul'd Out has unique arrangement. The Gospel is explained clearly and seriously with enjoyable music tracks. 'Thank You, Lord' is another incredible Matt Rankin song. I, for one, can say that no matter how much I thank Him, God is way ahead of my praise, and on occasion, just taking the time to give Him praise, results in a powerful anointing in my heart and my spiritual life. Thank you, Sweet Lord, and thank you, Matt, for a song that ministered to me.

'Worthy The Lamb is He' is a great praise anthem with big orchestration, while 'When They Had Prayed' is a "good ole" Southern Gospel song; easy to enjoy, great to clap your hands and tap your toes to!

I guarantee you will have more than one song on this recording that sticks with you throughout the day! Contact Soul'd Out Quartet at www.souldoutquartet.com, or 937-378-1674. You'll want to subscribe to their Email newsletter and order your own copy of WHAT THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW.



A THOUSAND LITTLE THINGS

Point Of Grace

Word Music/Curb Records

Producer: Ian Eskelin

While I have a number of favorite Southern Gospel groups, I also enjoy several artists who sing a more contemporary style of Christian music. Point of Grace has been one of the latter, for almost twenty years now! A THOUSAND LITTLE THINGS is just crammed full of a 'thousand little things' that touched me in a special way. Each song, many of them written or co-written by group members, had a distinctive meaning for me at this place in my life, or at a past stage that prompted me to make certain changes for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The title song, written by the group along with Cindy Morgan and Steven Dale Jones, speaks about things that bring pressure in our lives; the things that cause stress, those things we cannot seem to leave to His care and His never-failing love. That love is more than we can even imagine, yet, it's ours for the taking, freely given, and washes away all the stains of our brokenness and lack of faith.

Another song that truly ministered to me is 'Might Be Today.' It begins; *'So you've had yourself a bad break, I know that you're feeling down about it. It may not seem like it now...But things can change in an instant...'*

Each of the women in Point of Grace have testified that they too, have had doubts, problems, and lack of confidence in allowing God to move the mountains in their lives. Each lady has spoken to that effect and shared their stories in church services, ladies conferences and concerts, just following the leadership of the Lord. Each has testified to watching God work,

and standing in amazement as lives have been changed; including their own!

A THOUSAND LITTLE THINGS speaks to the needs, the problems in our lives, the “fixes” God often performs right before our eyes, if we only believe and trust Him. Please contact www.pointofgrace.net to share the encouragement in their latest recording.



SING A NEW SONG; Psalms 96

Charlie Griffin

Classic Artists

Producers: Christopher Sutton, Charlie Griffin

From start to finish, SING A NEW SONG is filled with blessings, delight and nostalgia. Charlie Griffin does a great job on each song—all twenty of them! The album speaks through the songs, and you will truly enjoy the message it delivers!

Charlie Griffin came into my life when I was new to the Gospel music industry. He, along with a number of mutual friends, had confidence in my ability; my heart for God and His music and the people who create it. These people became steadfast friends and encouragers. Charlie has sung to my family for more than thirty years and each song on this album brings back a memory!

The occasion to sing in a number of different venues; not only churches, concert halls, etc., provides Charlie the opportunity and freedom to share the Gospel wherever he appears. Reunions, homecomings, banquets and other settings allow him to provide entertainment, share his music and the Gospel. The first song on the recording is one of my all-time favorite songs of any genre of music. “What A Wonderful World” is a song we’ve heard on radio, television, in stage productions and other situations.

One of my favorite songs from a few years ago is ‘Citizen of Two Worlds.’ The thought is so real, and the melody is smooth and easy to sing. I love Charlie’s version of this song!

You’ll sing along with the older songs; ‘Love Lifted Me,’ ‘Someone To Care’ and ‘When He Reached Down His Hand.’ Growing up in the south, we attended many out-door Campmeetings during the summer months. ‘Canaanland Is Just In Sight’ and the ‘Camp meeting Medley’ brings back many memories of hot Sunday afternoons and cool summer evenings under the brush arbor at Camp Meeting.

Charlie performs ‘I Didn’t Come Here,’ and Rusty Goodman’s hit song, ‘Who Am I’ with perfection. ‘Jesus Is Alive and Well,’ and ‘River of Grace’ are impressive songs, and Charlie introduces them with solid vocals. The musicians deliver inspiring music tracks as a foundation for his smooth vocals.

The songs here invite your attention, so contact Charlie Griffin at 704-374-5910 for concert information and a copy of SING A NEW SONG.



DECADE

A Landmark Celebration

HisSong

Vine Records for Crossroads Music

Producer: Wayne Haun

Ten years...it’s difficult to believe these guys have been touring and singing Southern Gospel music for a DECADE! Wayne Haun has created a masterpiece of thirteen exciting songs and some truly incredible music tracks for Dennis Humphries, Adam Elrod and Michael Frost.

The album begins with an extraordinary song, 'Just Over The Horizon (we'll be home),' written by Wayne Haun and Joseph Habedank. Wow, what a blessing! Wayne and Joel Lindsey contributed two songs; 'One Simple Touch' and 'A Reason To Start Again.' The latter especially ministered to me.

HisSong did an older song, 'I Know He Heard My Prayer,' written by Vep Ellis and did a fantastic job. An orchestra was a great contribution on such an amazing version to this wonderful old song! Group member, Michael Frost wrote 'That's God,' a remarkable song that blesses the hearts of believers and encourages the listener who needs a touch from God.

Other songs with a special message are 'What I'm Really Waiting For,' 'He Will Provide,' 'My Last Battle,' and 'Midnight Oil.' If these songs are a product of the first decade of HisSong's ministry, I can't wait for the celebration of another milestone!

Contact HisSong at www.hissongmusic.com for your copy of DECADE! It is truly a celebration of God's Grace and Mercy.



KEEP ON PRAYIN'

Sherry Anne

Independent

Producer: Gordon Mote

Sherry Anne Lints personal testimony on her website, www.sherryanne.com, filled in the years and situations that contributed to her music ministry for the Lord. Sherry Anne was born with bilateral hearing loss which contributed to speech impairment it is truly a joy to hear Sherry Anne sing.

Sherry Anne has chosen twelve songs which compliment her vocals and musical style. 'I Only Know To Pray' is her own composition, and she and the background vocalists deliver this song with passion. Other songs on the recording are 'Keep On Prayin',' 'Lift Up The Name,' 'Wonderful, Merciful Savior,' and 'Grandpa (Tell Me 'Bout The Good Old Days,' to name just a few.

The first song mailed to Gospel radio is 'God Made A Way,' written by John M. Robinson and Twila LaBar. A unique drum intro to the song grabs your attention immediately and the upbeat tempo and the message will be a positive song for radio. Be sure to call your local DJ and request 'God Made A Way' by Sherry Anne.

If you ever have a chance to hear this young lady, please take the opportunity to do so. You will be blessed. Visit her website to purchase your copy of KEEP ON PRAYIN' and to hear her testimony via video.

Voices Won

By Jennifer Campbell and Rhonda Frye



Every once in a while, you can find a group of individuals whose hearts are in the right place. A group of individuals who have their sights set on things above. Voices Won is a trio of three brothers hailing from Dalton, Georgia, who are proclaiming the Good News through song. They are proudly singing for the One; they are Voices Won.

Growing up, these three brothers sang in church quite often, yet they didn't sing together as a trio. Jaron said, "When we first started, there were five of us. There were us three [Jaron, Shantell, Staclynn] and our mom and sister. We were traveling a little more than we really wanted to. First, [our] sister came off the road; then about a year later, our mom did."

In 2000, Jaron, Shantell and Staclynn began traveling and singing as Voices Won. Jaron sings tenor, and he is also a musician and preacher. Shantell is the middle brother and sings baritone. Staclynn sings Lead and is the youngest brother in the family. Before traveling with Voices Won, he sang with Malachi and Jericho.

During the interview, the group was asked who had been the greatest influence on their musical style. Staclynn said, "As far as Southern Gospel goes, hands down: the Bishops! Probably was our biggest influence." Jaron added, "I was a huge Cathedral fan. Staclynn was a huge Gold City fan. Also the Singing Americans. Our biggest secular influence: the Gatlins all the way!"

"Not only are the guys in Voices Won great singers, they are great writers," said Channing Eleton. "Most importantly, they well represent the Jesus they serve. I love these men."

As aspiring songwriters, they continuously write new lyrics and often sing the songs they write. "We've all written something that we have recorded," Jaron said. Shantell even wrote a song that the group Revelation from Ireland recorded. They draw their inspiration from sermons they hear preached.

Currently, they are writing songs for a new album. Jaron said they do have a new single out from their current album titled, "The Basics." The

song is titled "Follow Me" and was released a couple of months ago.



Off the stage, all three guys enjoy having a little bit of fun every now and then. Shantell said he likes to play golf. But when asked if he is good at the game, he laughed, "No! But- my son is getting old enough now that he likes to go with me and play."

Staclynn says he sings for fun. "I have a seven year old girl, a five year old girl, and an eight month old son," he shared. "Our time is consumed with trying to do things with them. We like to do bonfires in the yard. We took a recent trip to Pigeon Forge... You know, it's really just the little things that we can make happen."

"Sandy and I love the beach," Jaron stated. "Our youngest son is a senior this year. On Friday

nights, we're on the sidelines at Heritage High School in Ringgold, GA. We're gone so much, that when we're not gone, we like to be home. We like to spend good quality time with the family."

Of all of the places they have traveled, the most memorable experiences have been quite varied. Staclynn said, "For me, it's maybe more venue related. We sang at the Tivoli Theater two years ago with the Collingsworth Family. It was really cool because we used to go to the Tivoli when we were kids."

Jaron stated, "In 2011 at NQC, we were selected to sing on Main Stage. It was one song, but such a neat experience for us."

Shantell said, "We were singing in a revival service in our home church and my son actually came forward and got saved. He came forward while we were singing."

That is what ministry is all about. Seeing souls saved. What a wonderful testimony these three men have. They sing their hearts out with one primary goal. "We want to take advantage of every opportunity," Jaron said. "We sing to small crowds sometimes. We want to bring a good quality product, but we want to share Jesus with them in every way. We want the ministry to grow, but we just really want to encourage folks. We sing to some believers that have been believing for years, but we want to encourage them to keep believing. To win the lost is the ultimate goal."

"What you see is what you get," said Jaron of Voices Won. "We love people. We always want to stay genuine. That is a goal of ours. We just want to be transparent and genuine."

Voices Won is very excited about their 11th Annual Anniversary Singing on November 9



and 10, 2012, at Crosspointe Christian Centre, in Dalton, GA. On Friday night, the featured groups will be Voices Won, Karen Peck and New River, and Greater Vision. On Saturday night, the artists appearing will be Voices Won, the Crist Family, Mark Bishop, and the Nelons. And the guys say they are cooking up something fun for the second half of the concert with Danny Jones of the *Singing News Magazine*. Make plans to attend this amazing weekend of Southern Gospel Music with Voices Won! Visit their website for more information: <http://www.voiceswon.com>.

What Others Are Saying

"I have had the privilege to share the stage with many wonderful and talented groups that sing this great music. I became impressed with Voices Won when I heard their close family harmony. When I was able to have a conversation with them, I discovered that they were my kind of people. They loved this music; they loved to laugh; they were kind to the people who came to hear them sing and most of all, they loved to tell the audience about the good news of Jesus. I guess that I have always been a big fan of family harmony (big surprise!), but these guys could write, sing and minister in a great mix of musical styles. I feel

good about our kind of music when I hear groups like Voices Won who are coming along." – Mark Bishop, Singer/Songwriter

"We are excited about the success of our good friends, Voices Won! Their love for the Lord not only shines through their music, but their lives as well. We are honored to be at their homecoming this year and it's one of our favorite places to minister. We LOVE those guys and their families!" – Karen Peck and New River

"I am truly honored to call Voices Won my friends. Their faithfulness to the Lord and their ministry is an example of what God can do when you follow his leadership." – Ken Hicks, radio personality US101

"I have been impressed with Voices Won from day one- well from the day I met them. Their family harmony shines best when Jaron plays guitar as they sing spontaneous requests from the audience! These guys' voices are clear, smooth and mellow and their spirits are warm and gentle. I'm excited to see what God is going to do in the lives of my friends for the Kingdom!" – Rhonda Frye, Editor SGN Scoops

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Moving Heaven & Earth

By Scott Rhoades



When it comes to reading books, I consider myself a “picky” consumer. I look for more than a good story; I look for material relevant to my life and subject matter that, well, matters. I need to put down a book knowing I can apply a lesson or truth to smooth out my rough edges and inspire my spirit to walk harmonious with my God, myself, and my fellow man. Perhaps that is why I love the book of Job, especially the last few “so tell me” chapters.

We’ve all had those moments where life has tossed us an abundance of “stuff.” We try to sort through it, organize it, compartmentalize it, understand it, deal with it, and move on. We employ a variety of tactics to process the mess. Most of the time we want to flaunt our meager independence, put on a brave face, and take the heat. Other times we enlist the help of a friend, mentor, or colleague to help shoulder our cares. In our moments of desperation, we humbly take a knee and say a prayer, but more often than not, we look around and wonder where God is and if anyone actually cares.

The other day I was thinking about my life and how matters have unfolded over the past twelve months. Overall, it’s been a good ride; plenty of adventures, memories, and growth to move me in the directions I believe are right for my life. There are

however, two memorable moments that stick out; moments where the stuff accumulated, moments where I wondered who cared, and moments where God actually moved heaven and earth and whispered “so tell me Scott.” The first would occur during a trip out of town.

It was a warm evening in Florida as I lay across the bed. Weary and somewhat disappointed from the events of the day, I was looking for something to lift my spirits. I had just experienced a week’s worth of stuff and was looking forward to my time away and the change of venue. I was on assignment as a medical reservist at Kennedy Space Center, assisting in the provision of medical support for the final launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Although weather threatened to postpone the liftoff, it was a technical glitch that actually halted the entire operation. It would take weeks before another attempt could be made, so here I was with some extra time on my hands.

I must confess I’m a bit skeptical of any attempt to randomly flip open the Bible to find the perfect verse for a given situation. Statistically, it’s never worked out for me. But here I was in a moment of weariness and as I opened my Bible, I blurted out, “God, please give me something!” Now I have a sneaky suspicion God knew what was up long be-

fore I submitted my verbal request; after all, He knew about the previous week, the events of the day, and He knew just what I needed. I can see it now, as He turned to the angels, winked, and said, "He wants something? He's got it!"

The pages of the scriptures fell open unintentionally as I turned onto my stomach to get more comfortable. I rested my chin in the palms of my hands and stared at the paper in front of me. Wait, no, this couldn't be! Surely not! My eyes widened as I read the text; First Samuel, chapter 10, and verse 16 to be precise. "And Saul said to his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found..." I began to snicker and then giggle like a little boy carrying out mischief in the church pew. I tried to muffle it, but my laughter grew and soon I rolled off the bed onto the floor, tears streaming down my face as I pictured every bit of stuff and everyone who generously contributed their part to my rising stress levels of the previous week. In fact, it was so good, I had to pick up the phone and share it with Kasey. She simply shakes her head every time I mention it, but to this day, I raise my hands toward heaven and claim it as my humorous life verse. God moved heaven on my behalf, giving me a moment of pure joy and while I love God's sense of humor, I'm fully aware He uses other means to convey His presence and the next moment would be downright sobering.

It was an ordinary, August day as I hopped in the car and drove to the local gas station to offer up another arm, leg, and firstborn for a few gallons of fuel – perhaps the reason there are no children roaming our house! I can't say I recall the specific circumstances that led my mind to wander where it did, but I do know that life had once again dished out an unhealthy serving of more stuff. I was at my wits end, and I couldn't see an option in sight. I hung the gas nozzle back on the pump, secured the cap, walked around the car and got in. I remember sitting there, staring forward, securing my seatbelt, when all of a sudden, out of nowhere, the words just poured out of my mouth - "God, are you for real?"

Now I've heard my share of faith-shaking experiences where individuals (even some pastors, authors, musicians, and other inspirational speakers) found themselves asking God where He was or if He existed, but I fancied myself mysteriously immune to the concept. Certainly I'd never ask that! After all, I had been around the religious block enough to know

what I thought about God and nothing would change it...or so I thought. I sat in the driver's seat taken back by what I had just said; I exhaled deeply and simply prayed for a sign.

A few days later I found myself sitting in a meeting at our local hospital. We were just about forty-five minutes into an important discussion when I heard some odd sounds from the ceiling above and began to experience some dizziness. The room started to spin and I felt as though I would fall from my chair, but just as quickly as the symptoms had appeared, they soon vanished. I looked around the room; no one seemed to notice anything odd about me and all appeared to be well. The conversation had continued and was coming to a conclusion when cell phones began to ring...earthquake!

As we exited the building I looked around. It was a beautiful, sunny day; not a cloud in the sky. I doubt anyone climbed out of bed that day expecting anything quite like it; an earthquake in western Pennsylvania is not a routine phenomena. After reporting to our emergency operations center we soon learned what had transpired across the east coast, and waited until our situation was deemed safe. As I left the hospital and walked towards my car, I heard that soft voice whisper once again, "So tell me Scott." Now I am in no way claiming that an earthquake was meant as a personal message, but God used it to remind me He was for real and all was well.

Thinking about these two incidents of the past year reminds me of the days in between. We often take notice of the largest, the loudest, and the spectacular, but more often than not we miss the "so tell me" signs that come our way on the most ordinary of days: a quiet and holy hush, a sunrise, a twinkling star, a smile, a baby's cry, a hug, a handshake, a kind word, or a generous deed. Feeling overloaded? Is life handing you more stuff? Having your moments of doubt? Look, listen, and feel God's presence encompassing your daily life. He's moving heaven and earth just for you.

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Wilburn and Wilburn: Continuing The Family Tradition

By Lorraine Walker &
Rhonda Frye



The Wilburn name is synonymous with family gospel harmony, an evangelistic message and the familiarity of Sunday-dinner conversation. Jonathan and his son, Jordan, are continuing the tradition that Jonathan's parents, Elaine and Jackie Wilburn, began more than 40 years ago. As Wilburn and Wilburn, this father-son duo is igniting interest across the nation with their country-style ballads, seasoned vocals and catchy lyrics.

Wilburn and Wilburn released their debut CD, *Family Ties* in 2011 to rave reviews. Their first single release "I Ain't Giving Up On Jesus" garnered heavy radio airplay and brought this new duet to the forefront of Gospel Music. After such a short time on the road, the men were nominated for the 2012 Singing News Fan Awards for Horizon Group of the Year. Jordan Wilburn was also nominated for the Young Artist and Horizon Individual Fan Awards.

Most fans had their first glimpse of Wilburn and Wilburn at the National Quartet Convention in 2011. After enjoying the talents of Jonathan at the lead position of the mighty Gold City Quartet for 12 years, fans were eager to hear this new duet. A year later, Jonathan and Jordan agree that it's been a very good year for them. "I would say we had a great initial

response," says Jonathan, referring to NQC 2011. "I think a lot of people were waiting to see how we would handle ourselves onstage during a live performance. Based on our sales and the bookings we received, things were very favorable."

The audiences and media at the 2011 NQC were very positive about the new venture by Jonathan and Jordan. Ken Grady of Gospel Music Today says, "We have known Jonathan for a while, but we first met Jordan, and Wilburn & Wilburn, at NQC 2011. We talked to them this year about the incredible year they have had. We knew the singing would be good, but the energy level and song selection makes them the dynamic duo of gospel music. They know how to communicate the message in their songs."

"We have found them to be delightful to work with," Ken continues. "When they visit us for an interview, they act as if it is the most fun they have had all day, and that makes us feel like we are visiting with old friends."

"I had so many people say they were glad that I was back singing, and that I was singing with my son," Jonathan continues. "Many had heard Jordan through the years with my family, The Wilburns, at several

events around the country. The fans love the concept that we are father and son, singing about the Father and the Son.”



One of the appeals of Wilburn and Wilburn is the sense of family that is so prevalent in Southern Gospel. “Family harmony has always been a great thing,” says Jonathan. “I believe folks love to see families in this music that are together, as one, on stage. There is just something special about families in one mind and one accord, singing songs about Jesus.”

Jonathan’s son Jordan is not a Southern Gospel novice by any means. Singing at the National Quartet Convention for the first time at the early age of seven with his family, The Wilburns, Jordan is a seasoned performer at 26. At the 2011 NQC, performing with his Dad as Wilburn and Wilburn was a walk in the park. “I grew up on a bus and I’ve known these people my entire life,” says Jordan. “It was a blessing to be able to sing at NQC again.”

At the 2012 National Quartet Convention, the fan base of Wilburn and Wilburn has obviously continued to expand. For Jonathan, the transition from quartet member to part of a father-son duet has given him an unexpected gift: the gift of time. “In our ministry, we are our own boss,” says Jonathan. “So we are able to dictate our time, as to when we are gone and when we are home. As far as my home time and Jordan having a normal social life, it has been a blessing.”

“We have had a lot of favor from God in

the response to our music and ministry,” Jonathan continues. “It has allowed us to do the things we love to do. The biggest adjustment is that I’ve had more free time than I’ve had in a long time! God has blessed me as a father, a husband and a person. I’m one of those types that always has to be doing something. God just nudged me and said, ‘Hey! You need to rest. I’m giving you this time and you need to take it.’ I’ve had to learn to just sit back and say, ‘Okay God, it’s in Your hands.’ So the biggest adjustment is to completely trust in the will of God and rely on Him.”

Resting in His Father’s care and enjoying a little more free time, means spending more quality time with the rest of the Wilburn family. “My wife, Sandra, is a realtor, and her income helps us to be able to do some things we couldn’t do if we were just a group with no other source of income,” states Jonathan. “It helps us be able to travel and do some things we wouldn’t be able to do otherwise. Thank God for my wife, she works very hard to help support us in what we do, to help keep us from being stressed out.”

“My daughter, Jessica, got married July 28, 2012, and she is going to Auburn University with her new husband. She is studying to be an accountant, so hopefully she is going to help us count our income! I’m just kidding,” Jonathan laughs and continues, “Jessica helps us in a lot of ways.”



With one daughter married and a son in his twenties, many would think that Jonathan and Sandra’s parenting days are coming to a close. However, Jonathan is thrilled to have this time of ministry with

his son and says that it relieves some normal parental worries. "Traveling with Jordan is a blessing because when I look over and see my son singing Gospel Music and singing about the Lord, it does my heart good. That's the best thing! I know where he is and I know what he's doing!"



"One of the greatest challenges for us, is that it might not be really normal for father and son to spend this much time together, especially in the way that we travel," Jonathan admits. "We need to make sure we don't get on each other's nerves since we are in such close quarters all the time. But we've been doing all right with that. No major problems. It gives me an opportunity to really find out who he is and pound out all the rough edges on him!" Jonathan laughs and then exclaims, "Plus, Jordan's getting married on March 23, 2013! And that will be another adjustment!"

Jordan may be used to the bright lights and big stages, but being part of a full-time traveling duet ministry is a first for this young man. He is proud of his Dad, and glad that Jonathan is with him on this exciting journey. "My Dad has done this for a long time, so he is a fount of knowledge about what to do and what not to do..." Jordan laughs at his father's shocked expression and continues, "...And when to do it and when not to do it, which is always important. So that's a great plus." Jordan won't say much about the road challenges of traveling with his Dad, just laughs and adds, "Dad is really good at constructive criticism."

Jonathan is equally proud of his son, who continues to hone his vocal ability. Jordan cut his teeth on Gospel Music and his influences flavor his country sound. Jonathan says, "Jordan first started singing with us on the bus at about three years of age, singing along with folks like The Perrys and Charles Johnson. Jordan's voice has really matured into a special - what I would call a very marketable - sound, because he's so different. Jordan sings very well on pitch and he has a unique sound."

"In Gospel Music you can often define people by their voice," Jonathan continues. "You hear Joel Hemphill, George Younce, Glen Payne, Mark Trammell or Tim Riley, and when you hear those voices on the radio you don't have to wait for the announcers to say who they are. Jordan is the same way. You hear his voice and you know it's him because you can't compare it to any other young artist in Gospel Music. I really don't believe you can."

"He's fashioned that over the years, just like I did," adds Jonathan. "I listened to singers like Jim Hammill, Kenny Hinson and different ones, and I took a little bit of everything. Jordan has done the same thing with singers like Jason Crabb and others that he loves. He's been able to put it all together and come out with Jordan Wilburn. You put it in the blender and that's what comes out!"

Wilburn and Wilburn have only just begun this ministry journey, a new phase that they've been preparing for all their lives. When asked what God has impressed upon them lately, Jonathan sums up the hearts of the two men. "[We need to] just keep on keeping on, just keep doing what we're doing. Jordan can vouch for me that this is something that God has laid on my heart. We are always looking for the bright lights, the bigger stage, the better music, the huge orchestra, this background, this producer, this website...something greater and bigger. One day I was driving down the road and I thought of Billy Graham and George Beverly Shea. Billy Graham stood behind the podium and preached Jesus. George Beverly Shea had a piano, and sang, 'How Great Thou Art'. And millions filled arenas because those men had a purpose and were called of God. The Spirit of God and the favor of God was on them. They didn't need anything else. It was just that. And millions came to Jesus."



“And what God has been impressing on me lately is, ‘Jonathan, don’t look for the next biggest, greatest thing, because you possess the Greatest Thing of all; that’s the salvation of Jesus Christ, God’s only Son. His Spirit is with you. Little is much when God is in it and if it’s just two guys singing Gospel Music, just keep doing what you’re doing. I’ll take care of the rest.’”

Wilburn and Wilburn are carrying on the family tradition, presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an entertaining atmosphere that promotes the acceptance of truth, ministering to many as they let God ‘take care of the rest’. If there is anything more they could share, they both agree it is: “Jesus Will!”

For more information on Wilburn and Wilburn:

<http://www.wilburn2.com/>

Catch them on Facebook:

Jordan Wilburn <http://www.facebook.com/jordan.wilburn.96>

Jonathan Wilburn: <http://www.facebook.com/karter.hollins>

Jonathan and Jordan Fan Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jonathan-and-Jordan-Wilburn-fan-page/172353149444351>



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Time to Wake Up

By Janene Dubbeld



Wake up! Wake up! The shrill sound of the alarm penetrated the air with its call. We heard it in the other room, and waited for a response. The continuous ringing let us know more than an alarm was necessary. It was going to take a physical voice and shoulder shake to awaken our child.

When I look around at the current state of affairs in our country, it seems to me an alarm is being sounded loud and long. This isn't the first time we have heard its call – I pray it isn't the last. Morally, economically, and most of all spiritually we as Americans need to WAKE UP!

The Word of God gives us ample instructions for restoration. The amazing thing is, the instructions are given to HIS people. Those who are called by HIS name! We, who call ourselves Christians, have a vital responsibility to the restoration of America. It begins with us.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14

gives us the steps. First, we are to humble ourselves. Secondly we are to pray and seek God's face. Thirdly we are to turn from our wicked ways. Obedience results in the reaction of a redemptive God. He will hear from heaven. He will forgive our sin. He will heal our land.

Humbling ourselves before God first calls for personal recognition of a need. Sitting back and considering ourselves to be in need of nothing is in itself the root of lukewarmness and brings us to a serious state of spiritual pride.

The apathy that sweeps our Christian world is an alarm – but can it be heard? Can we rouse our sleepy minds – tainted with the world's words and shake ourselves to hear beyond to what the Holy Spirit has to say? It is imperative that we WAKE UP!

It takes this first step to effectively come to the second. Prayer is the privilege of the human race to commune with a Holy God. Unless we are awakened spiritually to desire Him, we won't pray. Prayer is our privilege, and our duty. It takes seeking the face of God, and hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit to pray within His will and not our own desires. When we pray, "His Kingdom

come, His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven," we know He hears us and can expect His answer. We must wake up and pray!

It is in communion with our Heavenly Father we are brought to continual hunger after righteousness. See, Proverbs 14:34 tells us that, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Step number two, brings us to step number three – turning from our wicked ways. Prayer brings a revelation of ourselves as HE sees us. The honest soul is brought to repentance, forgiveness, cleansing, and fullness of living in Him. We must WAKE up and HEAR His voice – and turn from our wicked ways!

See, the problems in our country have evolved from her heart and soul – and we are the heart and soul of America. We must not be apathetic about her future. Freedom is too costly, and many have paid the price. It is our turn. We must WAKE UP!

There is no cost so great – there is no price so worth sacrifice as the price of freedom. The alarm is sounding – please don't push snooze, or lethargically sleep past the shrill sound of its call. We are HIS ambassadors.

We must not sit back and do nothing. Head for the prayer closet, then head for the polls. This country is worth it! Your children and grandchildren will thank you.

Photo courtesy of chellseeey





Artist Spotlight: "Freedom"

By Angela Griffin

This month's "Artist Spotlight" is set on "Freedom", a group based out Sevierville, TN). Owners, John Rulapaugh and Josh Garner, developed a fast friendship in the late 90's. They quickly realized they had a lot in common and were very close in age. Both had lucrative careers in the Southern Gospel music genre no doubt. Through the years they each had the opportunity to be vital parts of a few prestigious groups in the industry. Having spent a combined total of more than 30 years singing the Gospel, these young men have joined forces to create a new standard in Christian Music. Since their formation in 2010, Freedom has been featured on major concerts including The Suwannee River Jubilee, Grand Ole Gospel Reunion, National Quartet Convention, Lake Country Jubilee, and many more. Their first radio single "Come On In" peaked at #39 on Singing News monthly chart and #25 on PowerSource.

"In March 2010 we finally had the opportunity to start our own group. Everything was falling into place. We added a baritone singer, had a great album with great songs and lots of interest in booking the group. The only problem was...we didn't have a name. Selecting a name for the group was the hardest thing we tried to do. John and I

would toss names back and forth. This went on for two to three months! I remember as if it were yesterday. My wife and I were headed on vacation and I think she had heard us talking about a group name one too many times. She said... "Why don't you call the group 'FREEDOM'?" For me... a light bulb went off! Since that day, we have been able to adapt it in many different ways. Freedom to sing! Freedom of worship! Freedom to share our deep love for God and country!"

John Rulapaugh is one of the most talented tenors today. In 1998, John started his professional career with the Dove Brothers Quartet performing on the group's early hit radio singles "When I Move to Hallelujah Square," "Get Away Jordan," and "Didn't It Rain?" During his tenure, the group attained the award "Favorite Horizon Group" and "Favorite Male Quartet". He also received a nomination for "Male Vocalist of the Year" from the Southern Gospel Music Association (SGMA). Fans may also remember John for his time with the Palmetto State Quartet... performing on songs such as "When It Pours, God Reigns," "Knock, Knock, Knock," and "Old Fashioned Altar Call." John also provided the tenor vocal for Hovie Lister's final recording, "If We Never Meet Again". He has also been



featured on Bill Gaither's Homecoming videos and concerts, the National Quartet Convention, Farm Aid, and countless other concerts and events throughout the United States and Canada.

The lead vocalist, Josh Garner, began his professional career with Poet Voices in 1999. He also held the lead position for eight years with The Florida Boys until their retirement in 2007. He was honored in 2001 with the "Favorite Horizon Individual" award. Josh helped to produce and was featured on the Florida Boys chart topping songs... "I'm Forgiven", "Declaration of Dependence", and "For God So Loved". Josh has also been a featured solo artist on the Bill Gaither Homecoming videos and concerts, the Grand Ole Opry, and the National Quartet Convention. Garner spent the majority of 2008-2009 as a soloist artist and released three solo recordings during this time.

The newest addition to Freedom is Tyler Vestal. Tyler fills the baritone position for Freedom and is an accomplished pianist. Tyler

previously toured with Rejoice of Greensboro, NC before joining Josh and John. "Tyler has added a whole new dimension to our ministry and greatly improved our performance with the ability to do "live" music again. That has already changed the complexity of things completely" shares Josh.

These three men are passionate about sharing the love of Jesus throughout an increasingly hurting nation and around the world. They are also passionate about patriotism and the freedom we have in this country.

John, Josh and Tyler are currently working on a new project. To keep up with the release date of their new CD, log on to www.freedomtrio.com. There you will find all the latest news, tour dates and can access the video blogs for "Freedom Back Stage" by Josh.

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DEAN ADKINS

The Professor

By: Laura Kennedy



“To me there is something almost magical about finding a ‘gem’.” ~ Dean Adkins

Networking among the community of the Southern Gospel industry is incredible to watch. God is continually calling men and women to further the kingdom of Heaven by spreading the good news of the gospel, through the harmonic blend of voice. While individual artists move along different areas of their ministries and join, re-join, or re-form groups, there is a consistently visible thread amongst them all. It is called “heritage”. And as those changes occur, there is a man who knows the who, what, when, where and how to almost all of them. His name is Dean Adkins and we have lovingly dubbed him...*The Professor*.

Dean’s love of Southern Gospel music is visible. There is hardly, if ever, an event or gathering that he misses and uses all those resources to do something very unique and special all unto its own. A true academic professor by trade, now retired from Marshall University, it is why I am honored to call him my friend.

You see, Dean has a passion to share what he loves. If you want to know who first recorded a song

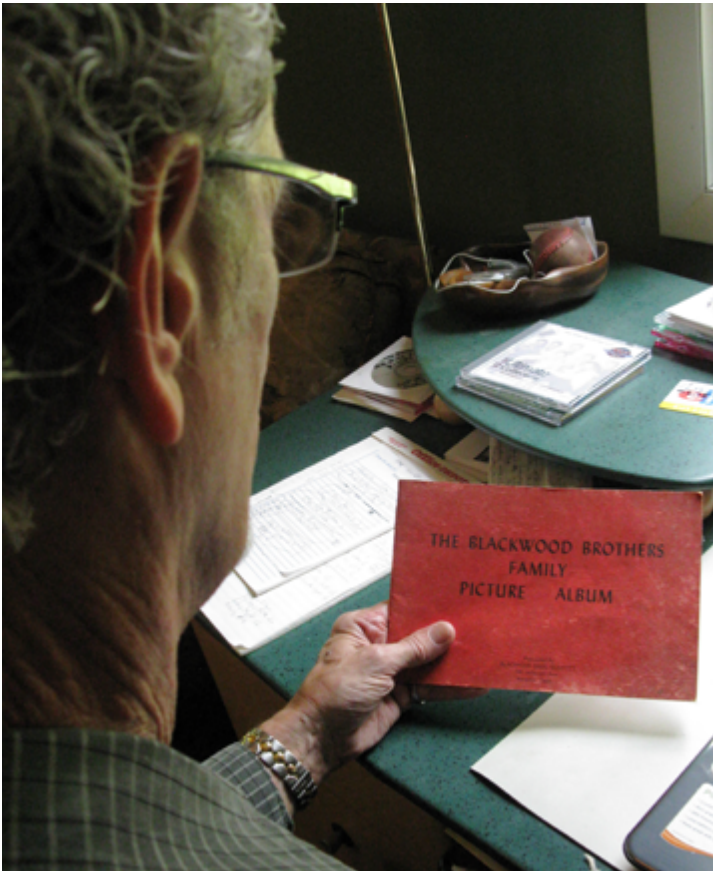
...Dean knows. Or who and where, ‘that guy’ came from. Again, Dean knows. Memories, experiences, funny stories about and from the artists; he knows so many of them and a lot of the time, it’s first hand.

I learned a very long time ago that if I was ever gonna quote anything about our music history, I’d better get it right...‘cause, he knows! A gracious man, Dean Adkins has taken his love of Southern Gospel music and over many years, has built a collection of vinyl records that now numbers in the thousands. Everything from original group members, tenure, compilations to family members, Dean Adkins is a walking virtuoso of our genre. Pull up a chair and listen in as he shares it with us...

Q. First of all Dean, I’d like to hear you describe your Southern Gospel music collection.

A. I have several different kinds of items in my collection. I have somewhere between 5-6,000 LPs. The groups that I prefer, sort of my A team or varsity, are in my family room. There are about 1,700 I keep on a shelf that I found at IKEA that is perfect for LPs. That includes my favorite groups; Statesmen, Blackwood

Brothers, Oak Ridge Quartet/Boys, Cathedrals, Speers, etc. Practically all are male quartets, which are my favorites. The remainders of my LPs are downstairs in a room with more of my other collections and memorabilia. One wall has a shelf with LPs. These are good groups but just not my preference...includes Hoppers, Goodmans, Gaither Trio as well as a lot of lesser known and regional/local groups. On another wall are duplicates – I use these for trading or I sometimes sell a few on eBay or to other collectors. Also in that room I have 45s, 78s, 8-track tapes and VHS videos. I have a shelf of songbooks and sheet music. There is a shelf of cassettes as well. I have a shelf with all the issues of the Singing News and also other gospel publications (Good News, Voice, and Christian Voice).



Q. And how do you keep track of and categorize such a vast collection?

A. My primary love is LPs and I keep a database of them which includes; artist, album title, label & number, and group members (if known). There is something special about an LP. The vinyl has a warmth when played that is missing on a tape, CD or MP3. I also love the covers – the information on the back liner and the pictures on the front, including the fashions that

range from classy to gaudy!

Q. Share how it started... and why it started as well. Did you plan on it growing to this magnitude when you began?

A. When I was a boy, I would listen to records that my Dad had – Statesmen, Harmoneers, Blackwood Brothers (mostly 78s). When I started going to concerts, these were sponsored by the Gospel Harmony Boys, I would buy albums of the groups that I liked. I mostly bought the bargains – “3 for \$5” – since I didn’t have a lot of money.

I never intended to be a “collector”; I just bought records for their enjoyment. I also subscribed to the Singing News and I would order records from the groups or record sellers. Over the years it grew larger and larger.

About 15 years ago my brother was singing with the Gospel Harmony Boys and met a guy who was into records and gave him my number. That was David Miller and over the years we became close friends. He and I would exchange records back and forth, though we never kept track of the numbers. Sometimes he would send me 10 and I would send him three and vice versa. He was more into mixed groups but he also collected others as well. As a result, I began to meet others who collected and further exchanges took place.

I never imagined it would grow to this extent. But there is something exciting about going through a box of records at a flea market or garage sale and finding a record that you have been looking for.

Q. I understand that you copy some of your albums over to MP3’s. Can you share the process for doing so, for anyone else who’d like to give that a try?

A. I have a stand alone CD recorder that is hooked to my turntable. I use it to copy records to CD. If the record is clean, I convert the CD to MP3 via Windows Media Player. If the record is scratchy or distorted, I clean it up using a program to filter out pops and hisses before I convert it. I also have a USB turntable that I can hook directly to my computer and using the program Audacity, I can filter it and convert it directly to MP3. It is a relatively simple process and directions

for doing this are readily available via the web and on YouTube.

Q. Where do you look for your additions to your collection? Do you have those ‘amazing finds’ where the seller has no idea what they have? Or do you have to pay top dollar? If you feel comfortable doing so, what is the least and most you have paid for something in your collection.

A. I find my records and other memorabilia in a variety of places. There are three flea markets nearby and I go to them often, sometimes every week. Many of the vendors know that I look for gospel records and if they have any they will flag me down. Occasionally I will go to an estate sale if the newspaper ad indicates they have records. A lot of these don't have what I want, but sometimes I find a 'jewel.' As I indicated earlier, I traded a lot with David Miller and as I became acquainted with other collectors, I would trade or buy from them. In the past few years, people have offered me opportunities to buy their collections as they learned that I was a collector.

I have paid top dollar for a few records but mostly I have been lucky and I have gotten them pretty cheap. One of my best bargains wasn't a gospel record; it was

an early LP by the group Alabama when they were known as Wildcountry and singing at Myrtle Beach, SC. They had a recording on Tar Top label. I bought it for thirty-three cents and sold it for \$160.00.

I paid \$50 for an early Kingsmen LP; the most I have paid. Another bargain I found was 10 sealed copies of Black and White LP by the Singing Americans and many consider this to be one of 'the' top gospel LPs.

Q. What is one of your most treasured additions and why?

A. Well, to me there is a difference between most treasured and most valuable. My most valuable is probably 10" red vinyl Rangers Quartette (that's how it's spelled on the LP) and it was a gift.

My most treasured are LPs that include my family members. Family is important to me and this is a way I can connect with them, even those who have passed on.

Q. Undoubtedly you are the top collector of albums in the industry.. how do you feel about that?



A. That is flattering but I am far from the top collector. A number of individuals have more extensive collections than I. One of my joys is to be able to exchange information with other collectors and also to help new collectors get started. It is also satisfying to provide LPs to artists – many like to collect and I enjoy trying to help them.

Q. What does your collection mean to you?

A. To me there is something almost magical about finding a “gem” – an album that one has sought for a long time. Also I like finding LPs of regional groups that contain a member who later becomes a well-known name in the genre. I suppose one of the joys is that the LPs transport me back to a simpler time – when the harmony and the dynamics of the recording transported me mentally to a higher plane.

Let me add something that just came to mind...

When collecting anything, one has to be careful that it doesn't become an obsession. There was a period of time when I was so consumed with looking for a particular record that I would spend an entire weekend going to garage sales, flea markets, estate sales etc. trying to find it. Also I would buy records whether I needed them or not. I finally realized that I needed to focus more and be more selective.

Q. Are you still collecting? And what do you plan on doing with your collection?

A. I am still looking for records but I am more selective now since I have many that I want. There are some that are still out there! Plus, I play my records and some are worn or were worn when I got them, so I also look for upgrades.

I have a list of people who collect and they will be contacted to see if they are interested when I decide (or my heirs decide...lol) to get rid of them. None of my family has yet expressed an interest in keeping them, so if they can't find a buyer, perhaps they can donate them to SGMA Hall of Fame.

If you truly want to know something, you'll ask. If you honestly love what you've learned, you'll want to share it. Just as the Holy Spirit reveals itself to a child of God at the moment of salvation, music moves the spirit. It instantly captures our thoughts and feelings into a plethora of emotion. As a language of the heart it is meant to be treasured, collected in and then given away. Thank you, Professor for sharing the history of our genre. Thank you, Dean for bestowing us with those precious memories as we move along in this life toward our eternal treasure in Heaven.



The graphic features a blue oval in the center containing the text "Featuring the single: River Of Grace". To the left of the oval is a CD cover for "Sing: A New Song" by Charlie Griffin, with "Psalms 96" written at the top. To the right is a portrait of Charlie Griffin, a man with short brown hair, wearing a grey jacket over a dark shirt. Below the oval, the text reads: "For more information: www.CharlieGriffin.Net Charlie@CharlieGriffin.Net or 704-374-5910". At the bottom, it says: "For immediate DJ single release downloads <http://www.radioactiveairplay.com/members/2165/>".

TALENT SEARCHES WITH GREG BENTLEY

BY SANDI DUNCAN CLARK



Several years ago, one of the best means Gospel artists had of generating attention for themselves, was competing in the many various talent searches around the country. This allowed them to sing in front of various people in the industry, work on improving their presentation and their stage presence while gaining self-confidence and, if they were successful, earn prizes including recording time with a record company. For 10 years or so, any one could participate in a talent search

just about every weekend. You could also come to watch while the artists performed, and enjoy their music.

I was privileged to judge many of these talent searches, representing the publication to which I contributed. It was during these events that I met and worked with many artists, record company executives, Radio DJs and Talent Agencies, while serving on the judging panel for quite a number of the talent challenges. It was a wonderful learning experience and a great opportunity to hear many new artists. We enjoyed it but also learned a lot and had a lot of fun. Each judge looked at the talent performances from a different point of view and we definitely tried to make positive comments on the score cards of each entry.

One of the most talented and respected people I ever had the pleasure of working with was the multi-talented Greg Bentley, director of Publishing and Artists Relations for Crossroads Music. We were often paired together with other industry individuals. Score cards provided by the talent search promoter, set forth the standards by which the artists were judged and provided space to share our constructive pointers to encourage and challenge the participants.

Greg's experience is both in singing as well as the recording business. His singing experience dates back to singing in church, singing with the Hoppers, the Down East Boys, Squire Parsons, and his current group, Message. Greg's industry experience is the eighteen plus years working with Crossroads. Along with his work at Crossroads, and often singing one weekend a month, Greg works the sound equipment for his church, Trinity Baptist in Asheville, North Carolina.

My experience is from the years of writing experience in college, being a contributing editor to a local newspaper, growing up in Southern Gospel music and attending hundreds of concerts and closely observing the performances of the top professionals in the industry.

As we talked for this article, neither Greg nor I could recall any encounter or disagreements with any artists, and only one or two questions pertaining to our

comments at the end of the score sheet regarding the artists individual performance.

There were, however, times when EVERYONE would be laughing, and we would later learn why. One instance was when a young blind girl was singing and during her song, a bug flew into her mouth. Without missing a beat, she finished her song, she later shared what happened.

Greg told of having a soloist approach him with a problem. “We would have the artists lined up: one on stage performing, one standing in the wings of the stage, and the third sitting on the front seat, ready to move into the next position,” he recalled. “This lady leaned over my shoulder and said she had a problem, the individual on stage singing at that time, was singing the song she was singing. What would she do?”

“I just told her she had three options; go on stage and sing her heart out and do the best she could; change her song, or just not compete and lose her money. She went on to win the contest!”

In conferring with Greg, we agreed that the problem we most often encountered with a contestant is often staying on pitch. “I personally had to work on staying on pitch,” Greg said.

As we were concluding this article, we decided to add a few pointers for artists who are considering competing in a talent search:

You will be judged on the total performance; Stage presence and musical ability. If you have a band they will be included in the judging of your entry. The person in charge of the talent search may tell you that you may ask questions of the judges afterwards, but that does not give one the right to accost the judges and cause a problem.

1. Consider your approach to the stage:
Many times an artist will take the mic from the stand, and never move the stand. More than one or two had the mic stand blocking the judges’ view of their face. No talking!!
2. For the most part, you only do one song, so make it your best. Know your song up, down and around. Know the words, the rhythm, the music- all of it.
3. If you have a band, or a musician who

plays with performance tracks, make sure the musicians are tight. When a musician is off, it’s as bad as the singer being off.

4. Dress appropriately. Know the setting and dress as a representative of Whom you sing. Make sure that everyone in the group does the same!
5. If someone else DOES sing the song you have chosen, then make the decision to perform your song and do such a good job that you win the challenge; change your song or decide not to compete and forfeit your money.
6. Don’t look up to the ceiling or down at the floor. Make eye contact with your audience. Communicate!

Thanks, Greg for sharing the time and your comments. It was good to talk again. You may contact Greg Bentley or Message at 1-828-712-1663. gregbentley@me.com. www.messagetrio.com

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ST. LOUIS, MO - October 11-13, 2012

Jim Mahalick Returns

By Lorraine Walker



The Gospel Music world may be referred to as a swinging door, but audiences are always eager to welcome the return of talented artists who have left the stage in the past. Jim Mahalick's strong, melodic baritone once completed the powerful sound of The Hoskins Family until the mid-2000's. He stepped away from the group stage into a church position in his native Chicago. Now Jim Mahalick's liquid country vocals are back on the airwaves with a new single, "Expecting A Mountain", as he returns solo to the Gospel stage and to a warm welcome from old and new fans alike.

SGN Scoops was thrilled to hear of the return of Mahalick, who this writer last interviewed at the National Quartet Convention in 2006. "Where has time gone?!" says Mahalick. "It seems like only yesterday when we spoke last and that's been years now. Well, to be honest, a lot has changed since then and for the better. I have been married now for six years to a wonderful girl from Virginia, named Danielle. We met when CrabbFest came to Owensboro, Kentucky, in the early 2000's and kept in contact. In 2005 we began dating and it didn't take long to realize we were meant for each other. We now have a 15-month-old boy who has absolutely rocked our world! He's the joy of our lives; his name is Matthew Joseph Mahalick."

"My wife and I still live here in Chicago where I was born and raised," Mahalick shares. "I love this city! Over the past six years, I have been leading worship at Free Christian Church in Monee, Illinois. I have still been involved in some touring, but mainly working in the church. I feel that's where God wants me at the current time. I am planning to begin touring more often when the new project comes out toward the end of this year. Look for dates to come in spring of 2013 on my website."

The single just released from Mahalick's new project is entitled "Expecting A Mountain", a message he can relate to and share easily with his audience. "This song was written by Barbara Huffman and Twila Labar," says Mahalick. "The first time I heard this song I knew I had to record it. We can agree these past few years have been a challenge for many people. This song talks about the valley of trials many of us have been in and how any day now we're expecting a mountain top by faith! I've performed this song a couple of times live and it has really moved the crowd with its message. I myself have seen challenges that God has brought me out of recently. I can't wait for everyone to hear this song!"



Jim Mahalick's single is receiving a lot of airplay from Gospel stations across the country. Gospel DJ Lottie Squires of WCKB 780 out of Dunn, North Carolina, is glad to see the return of such a talented artist. "I was so excited to see a new single by Jim Mahalick arrive at WCKB!" says Lottie. "I've been a fan since I first heard that wonderful voice on a Hoskins Family CD, and since then I've grown to love not just the voice, but the sweet guy behind it. It's great to have Jim back on Southern Gospel radio again, and I'm looking forward to many, many more great songs in the years to come!"



Another DJ and fan of Jim Mahalick is Brad Lee. Brad hosts Gospel Sing Time on WRJM in central Illinois. He says, "Jim Mahalick is a very sincere

and talented, Christian young man. His Christian upbringing can easily be recognized as soon as you begin a conversation. He has a great family and is definitely an asset to all areas of Southern Gospel Music. Whether it's producing or performing, Jim is a class act. Southern Gospel Music definitely benefits with Jim Mahalick's influence."

Mahalick's new album, entitled Expecting A Mountain, is slated for release on November 26, 2012 through New Day Distribution. "This project has been a joy to work on," says Mahalick. "I just went back to my roots and recorded a project that reflects me as a southern gospel singer growing up with a black-gospel-influenced city. Being raised in the Chicago-land area, I have learned to adapt to many types of gospel music, and you will notice that on the new project. Some great players and songwriters have also surrounded me on this project. As I own a recording studio here in Chicago, I was able to bring players in and mix Nashville players along with some players from Chicago. The combo was such a cool change in sound!"

After all the hours of hard work, Mahalick is proud of this new album. "I would have to say my favorite tune on the record is called 'Heaven's Boulevard' written by Jerry Kelsey and Barbara Fairchild. This is a ballad that has such a strong message about what really looks like glamour to many, can be a life of broken dreams. This song doesn't apply to everyone but is so cool. It starts out in a small cafe in Hollywood and the broken dreams there. It ends up taking you to Heaven where dreams really come true. It's a very unique southern gospel tune, I loved recording it and can't wait for folks to hear it!" This tune along with several others can be heard currently on Mahalick's website. Past Hoskins Family audiences will be thrilled to hear the new material being presented by this artist who has been absent from the airwaves too long.

Mahalick fondly recalls his years on the road with The Hoskins Family. "During my time with The Hoskins Family, I learned so much from the group. I was a young man who went from singing in a small church atmosphere to, just months later, singing on the main stage of the National Quartet Convention. In all fairness, I really walked into a ministry that they had worked very hard to build. By the time I joined

the group, they had just signed with Daywind Records and things began to really move for them. Within the first year we sang at the GMA Dove Awards, NQC, Gaither Homecoming Tour, and had a Singing News number one song, "Safe Thus Far". Here I was living out all my dreams in just a year's



time!"

"I am so thankful to the Hoskins Family," continues Mahalick. "Rick, Reva, and Angie were the first ones to give me a shot and I will forever be grateful to them. I can honestly say these folks were on stage exactly what they were behind closed doors. This was something I learned from them. I will never forget the night we sang at the Dove Awards. I was a nervous wreck. I had grown up around the contemporary music field and I peeked out from behind the curtain and saw all the people I looked up to for years sitting on the front row waiting for me to sing. I turned to Rick who always was as calm as could be and said, 'Do you think they will like us?' He said, 'Jim, the Lord will always let you rise to the occasion.' I never forgot that, no matter where you are singing or ministering God will bring you to where you need to be that night."

Now that he is returning to the Gospel Music stage, Mahalick admits that move from being an integral part of a popular family group to a church ministry was daunting, but God rose to the occasion there as well. "I have to be honest it was quite a change coming off the road in the beginning," says Mahalick. "I had been traveling full time with

The Hoskins Family since 2001 and went to not singing publicly at all. At first this was quite an adjustment. During this same time we had just settled down and married, so I was dealing with two different big changes. I was trying to start up a solo career and get settled in life at the same time. What really ended up happening was that I got back involved in our family business here. This is a graphic arts business where we deal with large retail company displays. I still am very involved in the business."

Mahalick continues, "Over the past six years I have really grown as a person and really feel I understand God's leading for my life in a way I never have before. I began leading worship at Free Christian Church in Monee, IL very close to where Jessy Dixon lived. I have been enjoying leading worship there for the past six years. Right now, I just really feel that God's plan is for me is to work in the church. I will be touring some next year but will stay very involved in church work. I have a pretty full plate right now so please pray that God will lead me in the path He sees best for me."

Mahalick's decision to return to a light touring schedule was not one that was made lightly. "It has really been through a lot of prayer that I feel God has called me to work both inside and outside of the church. My heart is in the church yet as I have



learned over the past few years that God has work for me to do outside those walls. For example, there is a ministry in South Africa that has been very involved in my music, and I am excited to say I am working

with them to plan a South Africa church tour. This is very exciting to my family and I will keep you updated on this. Also, in the past year I have really felt people reaching out to me, whether through requests to do concerts or radio DJ's calling me. I think God was just trying to tell me I needed to get back out there."

Mahalick's family is behind this decision completely and is in full support of his music ministry. "My wife Danielle is the backbone of my ministry," Mahalick shares. "Honestly, she is always there to encourage me to get out there and sing. She handles emails and post office trips for me too. It takes a group effort to make a ministry happen. You know we all need a pep talk once in awhile and she's great for that."

"My parents have always played a big part of my ministry as well," continues Mahalick. "In the beginning, they were the ones to encourage me to use my talent for the Lord. At 17 years old, they paid for me to go down the road to Gaither Studios and make my first record. That's where it all started. Without their encouragement and help this would have never been possible. I occasionally still do concert dates with my mother Janine Mahalick, who also has a music ministry."

Mahalick knows it is not only through the encouragement of family and friends but also through the blessing of the Lord that his ministry will



flourish, enabling him to set God-honoring goals for the years ahead. "I guess my main goal is to just get back out there and work for the Lord," says Mahalick. "To me traveling is not about money or recognition. I have been blessed to have a steady income from our

family business so my touring will be solely based on ministry. My number one goal is and will always be seeing souls won for Christ. Whether the response is salvation or just lifting someone up who needs a boost, that's what this ministry is about. I am very excited about this coming year and what God has in store for my ministry."



Reflecting on the differences between traveling with The Hoskins Family and now traveling as a soloist, Mahalick admits there are pros and cons to each situation. "Traveling in a group is easier on stage, but harder off stage," says Mahalick. "The opposite is true for being a soloist. You work hard on stage, but it's easier logistically speaking to travel as a soloist. I enjoy both very much. Harmony is something I really enjoy and miss as a soloist. Plus, if you are fortunate enough to travel with great singers it is a joy to hear them minister every night. Angie Hoskins is hands-down one of the greatest singers to sing this music, in my opinion. I miss hearing that girl sing. However, I do feel that I have been able to offer more personally as a soloist. This is due to the fact I have more time to speak and share personal stories and songs."

This personal touch is important to Mahalick, both in his church ministry and in his music as well as in his a recording studio where he likes to mentor young vocalists. "I bring in artists and walk them through the process of recording," says Mahalick. "This usually starts with song selection and a discussion of

their ministry goals. The process continues up to the vocals and final mix of a record. I really enjoy helping groups and soloists get started."

Assisting new artists includes imparting advice learned personally through experience. "I always tell everyone the same thing, sing anywhere you can and God will open doors for you. Most people just don't know how to get started. You just simply start singing, anywhere you can. Another thing I tell new artists, is: Don't expect things to happen over night. God will bring you to where He wants you in due time. Just be patient and keep working! My studio is called Cedar Ridge Recording Studios Lockport, Illinois."

Understanding the value of patience, hard work and trust in God has assisted Mahalick greatly in all the transitions of his life, including his stint as worship leader in his church. Mahalick's involvement in church leadership is a family legacy passed down from his father, who is a pastor in Chicago. "Being a pastor's kid (or PK) is what most likely got me involved in singing in church to start with. My dad is probably the single greatest good influence on my life! He is solid as a rock and was never afraid to tell me the truth. I am so thankful for that. I remember times as a PK when I'd get a little off course. He would sit me down and say, 'Jim, I want to talk to you about something.' I always thought, 'Oh boy, what did I do now?'"

"Honestly though, my upbringing in church drove me to work for the Lord," Mahalick admits. "My father has worked hard in the ministry for over 35 years. Dad always said, 'Never put yourself in a situation where Satan can get into something, no matter what it be.' I have never forgot this and always applied this to my life! Stay far from the edge of the gray areas of life and you'll always win."

Jim Mahalick is working hard toward being the best he can for the Lord and letting Him take care of his ministry, his family and his road ahead. As he returns to the Gospel stage, he brings the message of a saving God who is there in every circumstance and every curve in the road. He is determined to follow

the Lord's path at every intersection. "I really feel God speaking to me about getting back to where He wants me to be and about being in His perfect will," Mahalick concludes. "It is so easy to do our will, but God's will is not always the easiest. But it's the best!"

For more information on Jim Mahalick click on to <http://www.jimmahalick.com/>

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Fast Now to Feast Smarter over the Holidays

By Laurette Willis



“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:17-18)

While many look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas with joyful anticipation, others fear it will be a time when they will gain weight, unable to control the amount of holiday foods they eat. I was one of those people who had no control. Fasting helped me.

One of the most powerful tools I’ve found to train the flesh is fasting. For many years I would not fast. I was convinced I could not fast. The idea of going without food for even one day was beyond my grasp. Part of the reason I wasn’t obedient to Jesus’ words “And *when* you fast...” was because I was afraid I couldn’t do it. Yet, if the Lord excluded me from fasting, He would have said, “And *if* you fast...”

There are over 80 references to fasting in the Bible. It appears 30 more times than the word “food.” Fasting is a time of spiritual discipline during which you deny the body’s physical desire for food in order to devote yourself to prayer and communion

with the Lord.

There are examples in the Bible of fasts lasting one day, three days, seven days, ten days, twenty-one days and forty days.

Cautionary note: Anyone desiring to go on a fast for longer than three days would be wise to consult first with their health care provider. Those taking medication should see their physician before starting a fast. Please do not fast if you are pregnant or lactating. Toxins are eliminated during fasts, and we don’t want a baby ingesting toxins into his or her little body.

Fasting is the Bondage Breaker!

1. To be freed from bondage and strongholds (physical, emotional, mental)
2. To be freed from lusts of the flesh (greed, gluttony, covetousness, perversion)
3. For clearer guidance and direction from the Lord on a specific issue
4. During a season of intercession for others
5. To strengthen your relationship with God

6. To debilitate the power of the enemy against you
7. To overcome temptation, confusion and frustration
8. For physical cleansing and healing
9. When seeking new focus and direction for your life from God
10. To walk in greater strength and victory in every area of your life

I have found fasting to be a vital part of overcoming food addictions (sugar, caffeine, and overeating); destroying mental strongholds (negative patterns of thought); defeating the lusts of the flesh; and receiving clear direction from God when unsure what path to take.

Fasting doesn't "win points" with God or enable Him to hear you any better. It does quiet your flesh and mind to help you hear from God more clearly. If your carnal nature has been in control, fasting will enable your spirit (the real you) to gain the upper hand—if you fast as unto the Lord.

Fasting without prayer yields limited results beyond the loss of a few pounds which are quickly gained back when the fast is over. Fasting *with* prayer breaks strongholds at the root of overeating, depression, or whatever bondage is holding you back.

Physical Benefits of Fasting

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that can yield profoundly positive physical results.

1. **Healthful Weight Loss** – In addition to losing several pounds, fasting will help you train your tastes toward more healthful foods.
2. **Fasting promotes the secretion of Human Growth Hormone** – HGH is important for burning fat. Fasting can also promote muscle building, while decreasing insulin levels. Fasting can actually transform your body into an effective fat burning machine.
3. **Fasting helps normalize insulin sensitivity** - When your body gets too many carbohydrates and sugar, it can become insulin resistant, which will then lead the way to a host of chronic dis-

eases. It's important to help keep your body sensitive to insulin. Fasting is an effective way to do this. When insulin sensitivity is up, you can better prevent diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

4. **Fasting can normalize hunger hormone levels** (ghrelin) - Ghrelin helps your body know that it is hungry. When you fast, the ghrelin levels in your body normalize, so it actually becomes more accurate in telling you if you should really should eat or not.

5. **Fasting can slow the aging process** –Fasting can cause the body to produce more Human Growth Hormone. HGH is closely connected to the aging process. When the body produces less HGH, it tends to age faster. We can therefore conclude that fasting can help the body age more slowly.

How to Fast

Plan ahead of time when you will fast. Begin by fasting one meal or for one day and devoting the time to prayer instead of a meal. When I fast, I like to have a particular prayer subject or reason why I'm fasting. During meal times instead of eating I devote that time to praise, prayer and reading the Word.

I recommend beginning a fast on the weekend or time when you can be at home without the everyday stresses of the workplace. If you work at home, pick a time when you know you could rest if you needed to do so.

For those new to fasting, I recommend a fruit and vegetable juice fast instead of a water-only fast. Another option is what many call a "Daniel Fast." The concept of the Daniel Fast comes from Daniel 1:8-14 when Daniel and his friends decided not to defile themselves with the royal food and drink of the Babylonians.

Daniel said, *"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.*

This type of fast means you eat only vegetables and fruits, abstaining from all meat and “pleasant bread” (breads and sweets).

Facing the Holidays without Fear

A fast is a great way to overcome our flesh’s cravings for heavier, processed fare. Your digestive system has had a cleansing, so you will find the taste and fragrance of natural foods more pleasing.

You can actually train yourself to desire purer foods this way. Fasting is how God broke my addictions to sugar and caffeine. I remember when I could not have imagined being able to pass by a sugary dessert without having one—or two! Now by the grace of God and the strength He’s given me through prayer and fasting, I’m able to say, “No, thank you.”

I have also seen bondages will power could not break absolutely shattered and prayers answered during times of prayer and fasting.

Are you ready for a breakthrough in some area of your life – or in many areas of your life? Fasting IS the bondage breaker!

*“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6)*

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

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Chronicles of a Singing English Teacher

By Jeff Hawes

Chronicles of a Singing English Teacher
By Jeff Hawes

October is my absolute favorite month of the year. No, it isn't only because it's my birthday month, but because of it being the official start to fall. There's just something about smelling burning leaves, cotton candy and funnel cakes at the fair, and football season in full swing that makes October so exciting.

October is also one of the busiest months for Karen Peck and New River. In a sense, it's almost like the beginning of a new year although we still have a few months until 2013. Maybe it feels this way because I used to be a teacher and October always felt like school was in full swing by this time. It is the end of first-of-the-year meetings and schedule changes, the end of introductions to classes, and absolutely the end of summer. Most people would say that Labor Day is the official end of summer, but for me, it's October. Another great reason would be that it is time to close the swimming pools. However, if you feel the need to jump in, go ahead, but as for me, I will wait until next May.

We have had such an exciting summer on the road, and I wanted to share a special moment with you all. We had the privilege of traveling to Sweden once again this summer for their Homecoming Festival. Before we arrived in Sweden we thought it would be great to stop off in London for a couple of days. It seemed more like a couple of hours to me. We were only there for a day and a half, but most of the time my body still had not adjusted to the time change or the temperature change. I absolutely loved the bus ride we took through the

city, but why did I have on shorts, flip-flops and short-sleeves? I'm almost positive someone warned me, but when I left home it was 100 degrees.

We were able to get in quite a bit during our brief stay. We saw Buckingham Palace, London Towers, The London Eye, Westminster Abbey, the London Bridge, and Big Ben. My favorite was definitely Westminster Abbey. It is the where most of the notable people of London are buried, such as kings and queens, writers and poets, and other important ones. It will honestly give you chills as soon as you enter. One of my favorite parts was seeing William Shakespeare's name written on a "pretend" grave inside. He is actually buried at Stratford On Avon, but to see his name there was pretty neat.

Traffic in the city was unreal because we were there during the Summer Olympic Games. We weren't able to see any of the games, but we were able to see several athletes roaming around town, mostly shopping. This leads me to another interesting fact. Karen and Susan can SHOP if you didn't already suspect this. They basically went to every store in England, most of which I was right behind them. Yes, they have converted me into a shopaholic as well.

When we left London we headed straight for Sweden. What a wonderful time we had. This year we sang with Wes Hampton, Charolotte Richie, the Taylors, Joey Gore, and Woody Wright. It was such a blessed weekend and we will never forget our Swedish friends.



I told the audience one night that I would be completely okay with the idea of moving to Sweden.....they have the most beautiful girls!

As this new season approaches, I pray that you too will have a blessed last few months of 2012. I pray that you know it is okay to put away things in your past and start fresh today with the Lord. He is concerned with your present and your future. I pray that he showers new blessings upon your life and that you will cling more to him now than ever before!

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WBTV 1470 – Top 40 provided by Jim Snavelly

1. I'm Still Amazed - Legacy Five
2. Broken World - Talleys
3. Voice Of The Father - Crist Family
4. Good Things Are Happening - Karen Peck & New River
5. Lord Of Life - Gold City
6. Masterpiece of Mercy - Booth Brothers
7. It's In The Savior's Hand - Inspirations Crossroads
8. God Builds Churches With Broken People - Mark Bishop
9. Dream - Browders
10. Battle Stand - The Old Paths
11. Just Another Rainy Day - Collingsworth Family
12. Unspoken Request - McKameys
13. Let's All Stand For America - Triumphant Quartet
14. He's Alive - Gaither Vocal Band
15. Does Jesus Care- Guy Penrod & Bev Shea
16. Kneel The Akins - Crossroads
17. Back To Grace - Kingsmen
18. I Want To Be That Man - Brian Free & Assurance
19. The Best Is Yet To Come - Chuck Wagon Gang
20. Over The Mountain - Jeff & Sheri Easter
21. The Call Is Still The Same- Dixie Melody Boys
22. Goodbye Egypt - Blackwood Brothers
23. We Will Stand Our Ground - Kingdom Heirs
24. Forever Changed - Skyline Boys
25. Way Past Ready - Mark Trammell Quartet
26. He Didn't When He Could Have Passed By - Greater Vision
27. Any Other Man - Ernie Haase & Signature Sound
28. Count Me In - Hoppers
29. Jesus Hold My Hand - Libby Stuffle & Dailey & Vincent
30. Because Of The Blood - Eighth Day
31. Hold On - Canton Junction
32. Just Preach Jesus - Kingdom Heirs
33. Follow Me - Voices Won
34. I'll Stand Up And Say So -The Hyssongs
35. Lead Me To That Rock - Oak Ridge Boys
36. Waiting On The Water - Isaacs
37. Jack Of All Trades - Doyle Lawson
38. Mama - Wilburn & Wilburn
39. I'm So Saved - Lefevre Quartet
40. He Took My Case - Barry Rowland & Deliverance

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Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. 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.



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



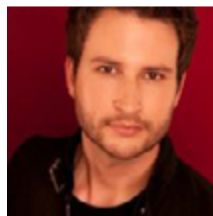
Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties, she was the first woman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



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



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



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



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

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



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

and minister for 43 years, his father was a national evangelist. John has spent a number of years as an evangelist, pastor, worship director and public speaker. Currently, John works with Mansion Entertainment in the aspects of media promotions, publishing and recording while continuing to write, manage his own music catalog and occasionally speak.

www.themansionentertainment.com

www.avidgrouppublishing.com

www.thepathwayrecords.com

www.johnmathisjr.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, spreading the message that there is joy around the

bend. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>



Rob Estep is a vital part of the ministry of the popular group, BEYOND THE ASHES. Currently serving as the Office and Road Manager, his wealth of experience in office management skills makes him a true asset to the group.

His expertise of handling daily operations and road responsibilities go unsurpassed in quality. Rob has worked full time alongside of Anthony Facello for the past two years. Rob's Music Pastor Father exposed him to all genres of music growing up, therefore since childhood; he has had a rich love for Southern Gospel Music. Rob studied business at Columbus State Community College, is a HUGE Buckeye Football fan, and is single- but open to dating when the right one comes along. Email Rob at: robestep@sgnscoops.com



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



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ.

On December 31, 2002 she married Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.

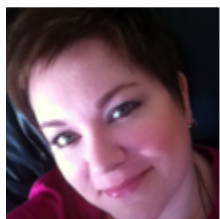
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Janene Dubbeld is a freelance writer from Moneta, Va, where she resides with her husband and five children. She has written devotionals articles, children's stories, VBS material, greeting cards for Dayspring, poetry, and numerous songs. Her desire is to write for God's glory, inspire,

and encourage.



Laura Kennedy. Music moves me. Christ's loves inspires me. Mixing the two together in the beautiful array of the message of the gospel through Southern Gospel music is the purest of joys to me. Raised in Charlotte, North Carolina around the 5th Sunday night sings at church; that hand clappin',

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

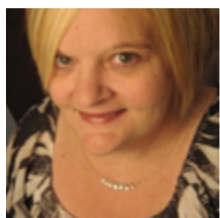


Scott Rhoades has a passion for writing, and enjoys sharing his experiences and interests through publication and speaking in public forums. After completing graduate work in 2006, he began to pursue freelance writing and continued public speaking. In 2009, he

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

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

Website: www.scottrhoades.net



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

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



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

online at <http://peteschwager.com>



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

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



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

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