

SGN

OCTOBER 2017

SCOOOPS

MAGAZINE

ERIC BENNETT:

"Honored at Creekside 2017"

ALSO FEATURING:

JOSH TOWNSEND

BRIAN FREE AND ASSURANCE

CODY MCCARVER



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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

Like life, seasons change. Over this past year, I have experienced this more than I think I have ever in my life. Each season has created interesting moments and lifelong memories. It has also been a time of growth for me. I am thankful for what God has been showing me during this time.

As we go into the final quarter of 2017 and look back on the first three quarters of this year, do you remember any of your New Year's resolutions? To be honest, I didn't even write any down. I did look back at my journal and some of the prayers that I wrote as we started 2017.

I asked God to continue to grow our magazine and also Creekside, and I'm excited to tell you both of those things have happened this year. There are the things and prayers that I wrote that haven't yet come to fruition, but I do know that God has His hand on our lives.

The Scripture says that He works all things out for our good for those who love Him. I've had a hard time with that on occasions, because His good and my good have been different. Have you ever wanted something so badly that you would've done anything, but in the end when you look back at the situation, you realize that the thing that you wanted would not have been good for you?

This is where having faith and believing that our Father is watching over us comes in. I know for a lot of people, they didn't have a father figure in their life. But I did, and I'm thankful for that. My dad would watch over me. He would protect me, and at times, he would correct me if he saw that what I was desiring or wanting to do would not be for my own good.

When we look at the Scripture, we know that our Heavenly Father wants to do the exact same thing. There have been endless nights where I've prayed for things that I thought would be good, but in the end, God had a different plan ... or He hasn't revealed His plan yet, so I sit and wait. I believe He will – at some point in my life – reveal the things I've been praying for.

Let me encourage you. Each day His plan is revealed a little bit more, and much like seasons in our life, God reveals things in His time frame. So right now, it might feel like winter, but spring is coming. It might be spring in your life right now – and summer is coming when it will be warm – and you will feel peace and joy. Or it might be the fall of your situation. Then, you realize that the current situation is ending, and even though you don't want to go through it, winter might be coming.

Know this: During any season, your Heavenly Father is there with you. He knows and sees what season you are currently in with your problems in your life.



Let me encourage you. He hears. He sees, and He knows exactly what's best for you. He's not caught by surprise at any moment with your circumstance or situation. I will tell you this, that for most of us, the hardest thing is trusting in Him. I know this because at times I question what is about to happen, but I know that in any season I'm living in, God is there with me.

Hey, join me this month for Creekside in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. We are going to have an amazing time, and I want you to come by and say hello.

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



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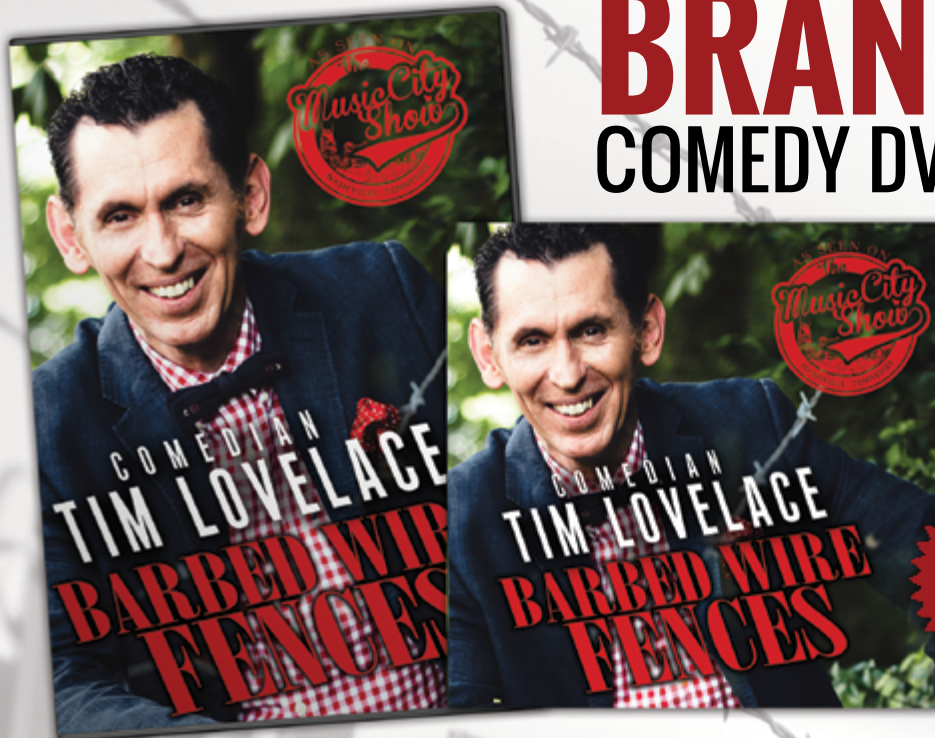
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A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris:

Photographs by Craig Harris



SGNScoops' photographer Craig Harris was able to catch two great concerts for the October photolog. Appearing at Liberty Baptist Church in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., on Aug. 17, 2017, were the incomparable Booth Brothers. Michael Booth, Ronnie Booth and Paul Lancaster were in top form on this warm night.

On another warm summer night, the award-winning Jason Crabb appeared at the Wilson County Fair. The crowd on Aug. 22, 2017 enjoyed this accomplished vocalist.





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Sherry Damron Ministries is excited to announce Sherry's new release, "God Bless America Again."

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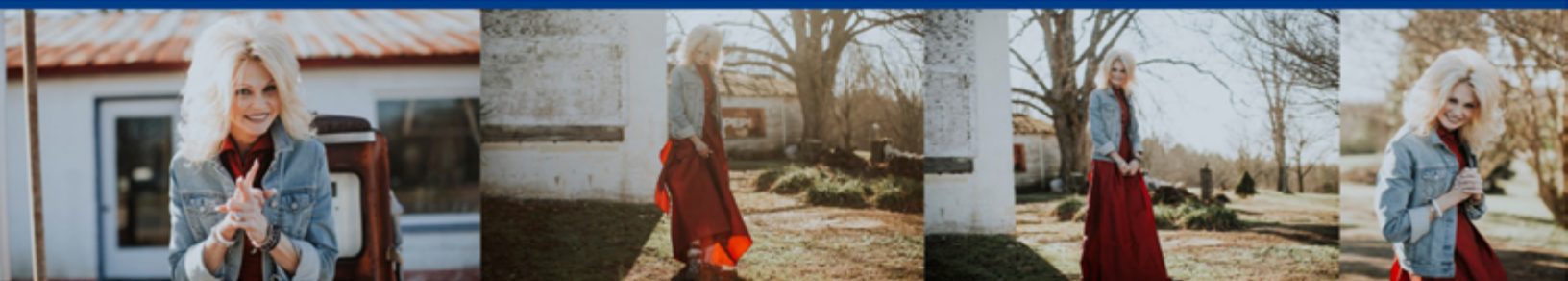
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Creekside 2017 begins this month



By Lorraine Walker

Featuring Brian Free and Assurance, the Nelons, Eric Bennett, Soul'd Out, more

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2017 begins on Oct. 30 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The event runs until Nov. 2, featuring daytime showcases, evening concerts and midnight prayer. Doors open at 4 p.m. for the evening concerts. Most of the events are free, but fans are urged to reserve their tickets at creeksidegospelmusicconvention.com. Rooms are going fast at the convention hotel, the Ramada Inn. For more information and reservations, call Creekside owner Rob Patz at 360-933-0741.

Some of the artists appearing include: Brian Free and Assurance, Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, the Nelons, the Hyssongs, Eric Bennett, the Browders, Soul'd Out, Pat Barker, the Pine Ridge Boys, Mark209, the Sneed Family, Eagle's Wings, the Williamsons, the



Bates Family, Jason Runnels, Hope's Journey, the Shireys, Day 3, the Drummond Family, the Connells, the Chordsmen, the Berry Brothers and Steve Bridgmon, in addition to Gospel Music Today and many more.

Highlights of the Week

Sunday, Oct. 29: The breaking news for this month's update is the inclusion of the Creekside Sunday night kick-off concert. Creekside will begin with a free concert at 6 p.m. Artists appearing include Ava Kasich, the McKay Project, the Bates Family, and the Pine Ridge Boys. More information can be found at the Creekside Facebook page at facebook.com/Creeksidegospelmusicconvention/.

Monday, Oct. 30: Creekside events begin during the day with an open-air event and breakfast. Veterans will





be honored with a free meal that morning. Daily showcases begin with more information being available on the Facebook page. Motivational speaker **David Ring** brings his presentation of resilience and hope during the evening concerts on Oct. 30 and Nov. 1.

Eric Bennett will be honored with the Life Achievement Award from the SGNScoops Magazine on Monday, Oct. 30, and it will be presented by Dr. Jerry Goff. Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff return to Creekside for the whole week. The pair will also host the 2017 Diamond Awards.



Midnight prayer time begins on Monday evening. More information will be available that evening.

Tuesday, Oct. 31: Daily showcases continue, with the highlight of the evening concert being the 2017 Diamond Awards. Voting for the 2017 Diamond Awards began with nominations in January and conclude with this ceremony. Fans, friends, artists and industry personnel are all invited to attend the gala event, when the awards will be presented. Held at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, the awards ceremony is a unique evening of recognizing the best in gospel music. Special guests include Brian Free and Assurance and the Hyssongs. Midnight prayer continues on Tuesday.



Wednesday, Nov. 1: The Pine Ridge Boys will be hosting a special breakfast for a nominal cost of \$10. Larry Stewart, Wayne Shuford, Ivory Luke and Steven Craps return to Creekside to delight one of their most appreciative audiences. For more information contact Creekside assistant Vonda Easley by calling 256-310-7892 or by e-mailing at vonda@sgnscoops.com.

Also on Wednesday, Pat Barker will present his Pat Barker University. The popular bass vocalist will offer training from vocal coaching to stage presence. There are still limited spots available for \$25 on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call Patz (360-933-0741) or Easley (256-310-7892) to reserve your seat today.

On Wednesday evening, Creekside will present the Red Back Hymnal mass choir.

Artists will gather on the stage to form a mass choir, singing from this time-honored songbook. Also, during the evening concert, Creekside will welcome the Nelons. Midnight prayer will again take place.

Thursday, Nov. 2: Daytime showcases continue on Thursday. Creekside 2017 comes to a close with the



evening concert with special guests the Browders and Soul'd Out.

VIP Bracelets: These special bracelets will provide entry into the preferred seating section at each event and much more. VIP bracelets can still be obtained from Easley by e-mailing vonda@sgnscoops.com.



Volunteering: Creekside organizers are always looking for volunteers to help spread the news on social media, be an extra hand during the event and also to pray that this will be more than just an event. Pray for all attending that God will turn this week into an incredible experience. Contact Easley by e-mailing at vonda@sgnscoops.com for more information.



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Brian Free and Assurance

Return to the Diamond Awards



By Lorraine Walker

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention has announced that Brian Free and Assurance will appear at the Diamond Awards on Tuesday, Oct. 31. The trend-setting trio's latest release, "Live Like We're Redeemed," has had three top singles – "That's Just What Grace Does," "Somebody's Miracle," and "He Will Carry You." With a new album just released entitled, "Beyond Amazed," the Creekside audience will be blessed with the group's unmistakable sound.

"I love attending events like the one at Creekside," says Free. "Being able to share the stage with regional and local groups that have amazing talent is always a joy. It's been years since we were able to attend the Diamond Awards, so it will be great to be back."

The Diamond Awards gala presentation will be filled with award-winning artists, great music and surprise guests.

"We have some great headlining talent at Creekside 2017, but one of my personal favorites is Brian Free and Assurance, or 'BFA' as we call them," Creekside owner Rob Patz shares. "There is just something about their sound that soothes your soul and yet lifts your spirits. I am excited that one of the best groups on the road today will be with us, and (we) invite everyone to join us at the Diamond Awards."

BFA has been on the road for 24 years, and they've made every mile count.

"We have been blessed to see so many people give their lives to Jesus over the years," says Free. "We've also been blessed to be booked into many places that have never booked artists from our industry. Doors have opened that we could have never imagined."

One of the reasons for these open doors has been this



trio's cutting-edge Southern Gospel style.

"I look for music that feeds us as Christians," Free explains. "The style that we do is just what God has put in our hearts and a way to express our musical desires as an artist."

A new CD of fresh music has been released that Free says may be the best collection of songs in the group's history. However, fans shouldn't expect a big change.



"Our music will always stay the same – straight-forward lyrics, well-written songs and musically-challenging for us as artists," Free points out.

Prior to Creekside, Brian Free and Assurance is hosting its second Fan Retreat in Ridgecrest, N.C. One of the first groups to offer this type of event, Free says that the fans have really become enthusiastic about the retreat.

"We limited the amount of passes available the first year to 170 and this year have increased it to 200," Free says. "Both years God has blessed us with a complete sell out."

"My favorite thing would have to be the one-on-one time we have with all of the wonderful people who attend. Our families get to meet a group of amazing friends that support our ministry all through the year. It does seem like our retreat started a trend in Gospel music. We just wanted something different from the traditional Homecoming. It's a weekend of fun and fellowship like nothing else."



The fans are important to the group, not only for their support, but to remind Brian Free and Assurance why the group is on the road.

"God is always doing wonderful things in our ministry," Free says. "No matter how hard things get on the road,



He never fails to bless. Listening to the stories from our fans of how the songs have changed their life or helped them through a difficult time is what keeps us going.

“In my life and my family, God shows up every day and strengthens us to keep delivering His message. God is so good.”

This year’s Diamond Awards program will be a memorable one, and fans of Brian Free and Assurance are encouraged to be there to show their support for the trio. But for those fans and fellow artists that may not hear this group again, Free shares a special word.

“Stay strong Christian friends,” Free emphasizes. “Keep preaching, singing and telling the world about His love, grace and mercy. Stay true to His Word. Never compromise on the Word. Be a light to a dark world that needs Jesus.”



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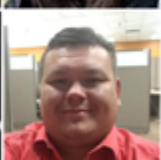
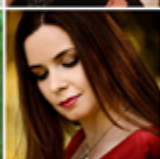
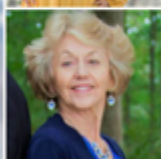
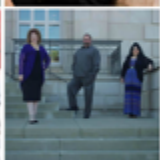
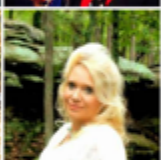
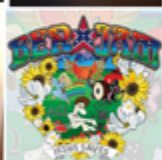
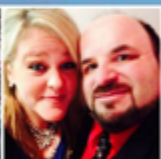
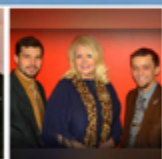
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HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



A Historic Night of Unity Through Film

I must say that my cup is overflowing today. After four months of intense planning and work, we held a historic film screening in the Rayburn House Office building on Tuesday, September 12.



I am more than grateful for the work of so many who made this happen. From the folks who prepared the food, to the congressional offices who paved the way for everything to run smoothly, it was truly a wonderful evening. A huge thanks is in line for Rep. Louie Gohmert and his amazing staff for their dedication and work.

Tears flowed all evening as folks watched the powerful film, “A Question Of Faith.” Members of the 115th Congress, ministry leaders and actors from the film filled the room, but what made the night so special was the midnight tour of the Capitol, Senate chambers and White House floor, given by Rep. Gohmert.

I have been on countless tours by Congressman Gohmert over the years, but this one was extra special. It was truly a privilege to lead in prayer on the House floor before we left the Capitol building.



Photographs courtesy of Nathan Kistler and Amber Nelon Thompson

Congressman Gohmert said something so powerful at the beginning of the evening that I will never forget. He said, "Congress is a mirror of the people in this great land. Revival will not start here in congress. Revival will only happen when the people of America get right with God. Congress will then only mirror what the people are."

I truly believe that God is doing something special here in Washington, but it is a mirror of what He is doing around this great land. I am forever indebted to Him for His care and mercy in my life. I am but a servant in His house, and that is enough for me.

This is just part of the ministry we are so blessed to do here in Washington. Continue to pray for us, and if you feel so led, partner with us in what God is doing.

Nathan Kistler, director at Hope To The Hill, Washington D.C.

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Eric Bennett: This is what I do

By Lorraine Walker

Eric Bennett, acclaimed bass singer for Triumphant Quartet, was surprised to hear that he will be presented an award by Creekside Gospel Music Convention on Oct. 30.

“I found that out, and I was incredibly honored,” says Bennett.

Then, he jokes, “Was everybody else busy?”

Dr. Jerry Goff will be presenting the Lifetime Achievement award to Bennett on that Monday night.

“When brother Jerry called me with that, I was just floored,” Bennett recalls. “Then, I thought, ‘if this is a lifetime achievement, is it the end of my life? Is there something I don’t know here?’ But, no, seriously, I was just humbled by it.”

Bennett points out that Triumphant doesn’t aim for awards.

“We do our own thing,” Bennett explains. “We just sing and just enjoy life, and (I’m honored that) somebody would notice that I love what I do, and I cherish the people that I get to sing to, and hopefully live what I sing. It’s huge to me that people would notice.”

Bennett grew up in the small town of Battleground, Ala., on a farm with three sisters and a brother. His parents raised him to go to church every time the doors were open, and he loved his upbringing.

“My cousins and my brother started singing when I was about 15,” Bennett shares. “When I was 16, my brother asked me to sing with them. I used to listen to records of the Kingsmen and Ray Dean Reese. (I) love Ray Dean. That’s how I got into it. He (my brother) brought home their live album, and I listened to it, just loved it. I started trying to sound like Ray Dean.”

At 12 years old, Bennett already had a low voice, which he says was weird. Then, at 16, he developed a bass-singing voice.



“My brother helped me learn the part,” Bennett says. “I cut a few CDs with them. Then, I sang with another local group for a while, and then, I pastored a church for a while.”

It was not easy for Bennett to accept that he was called to pastor a church.

“I’ll be honest with you ... I ran from it for a long time,” Bennett admits. “Even the preaching part of it ... ‘Lord, are you sure? You know who I am. Do you know what you are doing here?’

“I ran from it as far as I could, and I was told by people, ‘run from it if you can,’ but He finally caught up with me and said, ‘this is what you are supposed to do.’ So, I went looking for a church, and they called me, gave me a shot. It was just a little small country church. We started with maybe 30 people or so, and we built it up. God was good. He blessed and it grew greatly. I was there about two years, and then, I felt the push to move on. It just felt like it was time, and I didn’t even know why. Two weeks later, I got a call from the Kingdom Heirs. I just resigned, and boom, two weeks later they called.”

Bennett drove up from the home he shared with his wife, which was close to all of the rest of the family, to try out for the Kingdom Heirs.

“This is not cocky at all, but sometimes you just know when God is in things,” Bennett shares. “I told my wife on the way up there, ‘do you want to move to Tennessee? (Because) I know I’ve got this job, if it is something that would interest you.’ She said, ‘if you feel that is what God is leading us to do, then just do it.’ Sure enough, I got up there to sing, and they hired me. There was several other people they could have hired, but it was a God thing. He was in it all the way.

“I knew that pastoring was not necessarily my life-long job or whatever, but I knew that He was preparing me for this. So, I sang with the Kingdom Heirs for 11 years, and then, an opportunity opened up at a theatre, and we (Triumphant Quartet) did that for five years with Louise (Mandrell).”





In the mornings, Bennett's quartet performed a gospel set, and Mandrell joined them.

"She did her secular stuff at night, which was great, but we did all gospel," Bennett remembers.

Bennett says that the group loved Mandrell. They really appreciated (Louise Mandrell Theater marketing director) Sande Weiss and her giving the quartet a chance. Mandrell resumed touring, and Triumphant also left the theatre.

"God has been beyond good to us," Bennett emphasizes. "To keep (founding group members) Dave (Sutton), Scotty (Inman) and Clayton (Inman), all four of us together, is just a huge blessing. We have an incredible bus right now. And by that, I mean everybody gets along. We have a driver that is excellent, Jamie (Bramlett). Our piano player, Aaron (Dishman), if you've been around him, he's just an angel, prince of a guy. Our soundman (Adam Bradford) is wonderful. We have hardly any cross words at all, and when it is, it's usually Clayton and Scotty because they are father and son."

One of the reasons for the group's popularity is the music that they present and the lyrics that speak to hearts.

"God has blessed us with incredible songs that really minister to people," Bennett points out. 'Somebody Died for Me,' 'Amazing God' ... those songs were very impactful. And now, of course, (there's) 'Chain Breaker.' It's an incredible song. I think it's going to touch a lot of lives, because a lot of people right now are dealing with a lot of stuff."

The people hearing these songs often come to Bennett for counsel and prayer.

"We are so blown away by the people that entrust us with their problems and their life issues," Bennett shares. "I just had a lady that reminded me that a few years ago, when we were here, she had just lost her daughter, a baby. She just asked us to pray, and what a privilege it is to pray for somebody like that, that they feel comfortable enough and have confidence in you, to come and allow you into their life that way. It's incredible and very humbling."

While introducing the song, "Chain Breaker," Bennett will often tell the audience about a girl whose life was torn apart by drugs and how she heard the song, which convicted her heart and led her to come to know Jesus.

"We hear about the drugs of course, and 'our son's this,' 'our grandson's addicted' ... since we've started singing 'Chain Breaker,' and sharing the story, that's what I hear a lot," Bennett explains.



Bennett and his fellow vocalists find the road life a little wearing at times, and singing the same program can be difficult.

"We know every night when we get up there, even though we have sung those same songs hundreds of times, that there is a new audience, and 90 percent of the people are hurting," Bennett says. "We sing with a new freshness every night. God gets us there."

"Now is it tough sometimes, when you pull up to a place and unload the equipment, yes, that's a little tough. But once you hit the stage and once you see the crowd, see the response, see the need out there ... it's just a different ballgame."

As spiritually draining as it might be to minister to so many people night after night, to see the need and try to show the people the love of the Lord, Bennett always appears ready for the challenge.



“You know what I do ... I listen to sermons every day,” Bennett points out. “I hardly ever listen to music, unless it’s a type of praise song. Sometimes, I listen to sermons all day long. I love sermons. I know who I am. I know what I need. ‘There is none righteous, no, not one.’ ‘All have sinned and come short of His glory.’ I know who I am, I know I’m rotten at the core.

“That’s a problem with a lot of gospel groups. They all have good intentions. They get into the industry because they love it. They love the Lord. They love gospel music. But once you are out there and you are giving, giving, giving, and you are going from church, you don’t get it (back), because you are singing. I found myself years ago not replenishing. I was reading (the Bible), but you know, you read a little one day, maybe skip a day ... I felt like with who I was, and how serious it was to be filled when I get on stage, as much as I can be, to be filled with the Spirit and to be where I need to be, I have to read every day. I have to listen to messages every day. I have my favorite pastors I listen to.”

Bennett isn’t the only one of the guys who is serious about staying in the Word.

“We have Bible studies on the bus,” Bennett says. “We have to because we all know who we are. I lead the guys usually once a week in a Bible study, unless we are going to be home on Sunday and we can go to our church. And when we are home on Sunday, we are all

in church. That’s another thing that I am very proud of these guys for. We have to stay fed, because when you are empty, you are vulnerable.”

Sometimes, it is easy to doubt the path or calling one might have on their life. Bennett says he never doubts that singing with Triumphant is where he is supposed to be.

“I feel that this is my purpose,” Bennett points out. “A lot of people go through life and never know what their purpose is. I know what my purpose is. It’s what I am doing. Now, do I get tired of getting on the bus and leaving my wife? Yeah. Do I get tired of missing my grandbabies’ birthdays? Sure ... but that’s why, when we are gone, we make the best of it on the road. We have fun on the road. We try to make it as fun as we can. We go to malls. We go to ballgames. We do whatever we can to have fun, because it’s hard out here. The bus looks big on the outside, but on the inside, especially with Clayton – the guy’s pretty big – it’s just tight in there. About every day, we go to a mall, or somewhere, to get away from each other, and just walk and exercise.”



When their venue has a gym, the guys will often play basketball or another sport, just having fun together.

“But when we are home, we are zoned in and focused on our families – our wives, kids and grandbabies,” Bennett states. “My mom is still living. She is 86, so I try to go there once a month as she lives five hours from me.”

“(Former Triumphant pianist) Jeff Stice said something one day. He said, ‘I don’t get tired of it. I get tired in it.’ I think it’s a very wise saying and it’s very true. I never get tired of what I do. I get tired in what I do.

The road life was always a dream for Bennett, one that has come true.

“I wanted to be (Gold City bass singer) Tim Riley so bad,” Bennett admits. “I wanted to be (Cathedrals bass singer) George Younce so bad when I was little. Ray Dean Reese is the guy I really heard as they came around a lot. But you know, after a while ... there was a Tim Riley. There was a Ray Dean Reese. There was a George. So, I had to finally come to the fact that I had to be me. But I’ve always wanted to do this since I was a kid, and I still want to do it. I want to do it as long as I can. I want to be getting up and down out of the bus, somebody helping me up on it, somebody helping me off of it ... until the voice goes, or the body goes, or something. I just want to be singing. I love it.

“This is not who I am. This is what I do. There’s a big difference. A lot of people get wrapped up in this being who they are, and this is not who I am. I am a Christian first. I love the Lord first. I am a husband. I am a daddy, and thank God, I have incredible kids that are serving the Lord. I want to be granddaddy of the year. So, that’s who I am. This is what I do ... big difference. You have to separate them. I really don’t try to live right because of gospel music. I don’t want to live right because it’s my duty for the fans. I just want to live right because it’s what I feel like God expects from me. He’s done what He did. I want to do what I need to do for Him since He gave His life for me. I want to live right for my wife and my kids. I think you have to separate the two.”

And he does.

Photographs by Craig Harris and Lorraine Walker

What others are saying about Eric Bennett

“I started watching Eric sing when I was 11 years old. He was with the Kingdom Heirs, and that was the first quartet I had ever heard or seen. He was always so kind and was a big encouragement to me through the years. I’m incredibly blessed to work for such a Godly man who I can honestly call a true friend.” – Aaron Dishman, Triumphant Quartet pianist

“Eric Bennett is my friend. I’ve always thought he could sing a solo better than any bass singer that ever walked. My fondest memory of Eric takes me back to my dad. My dad loved Southern gospel music and was very proud of Triumphant Quartet. My dad suffered a stroke about 12 years ago and passed away back in March, but shortly after he had the stroke, the group bought a new bus. Well, my dad had lost the use of his legs and had to be in a wheelchair. This was tough on him, because he was a man that loved to be on the go. Triumphant was in concert in Lebanon, Tenn., about an hour away from where he and mom lived, so my sister and mom brought him to our concert so he could see it. I remember them driving up and daddy smiling at the sight of our new ride. I remember the look in his eyes that told me he wished he could climb up the steps to see inside. I remember Eric looking at me, walking to my dad, and helping me carry him up those steps and on to our bus. I remember the look on my dad’s face. I remember Eric helping me carry him back down the steps and putting him back in his wheelchair. I remember my dad smiling and giving us the thumbs up sign. I remember how happy Eric seemed to be to have helped me. Sometimes, changes happen, and we move to different chapters in our lives ... but that memory of him helping me carry my dad will stay with me forever. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than my friend, Eric Bennett. I love him, and I always will.” – Jeff Stice, former Triumphant Quartet pianist

“Eric is one of the most consistent men I know. He has an even demeanor, willingness to serve, and he’s a pretty decent workout partner. We’ve been friends since he joined the Kingdom Heirs days, but the Triumphant days have created brothers. One of my favorite quotes ... ‘if serving is below you, leadership is beyond you.’ Eric is a tremendous leader.” – Clayton Inman, Triumphant Quartet lead singer

“What do I love about Eric Bennett besides his immense talent? His love for his family ... and his friends ... and his absolute kindness and professionalism throughout the years I worked with Triumphant. Congrats Eric. Well-done my friend.” – Donna King

“Eric Bennett has been a precious friend to Howard and me for many years. Not only does he sing fabulous bass for Triumphant Quartet, a group of men who are greatly respected in the gospel music industry and adored by the fans, but Eric never fails to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a tremendous honor to have the privilege of expressing our appreciation for our long-time friend.” – Lou Wills Hildreth

“It’s difficult to cover the many facets in the life of Eric Bennett in a sentence or even in a paragraph. From pastor, to singer, to evangelist, Eric is a true Christian gentleman, an award-winning singer that has guided his singing group, Triumphant, to pinnacles of success. His ministry, whether preaching or singing, is guided by his desire to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. His many, many years of devoted service is truly deserving of recognition by his peers. I’m proud to call Eric my personal friend and fellow minister.” – Dr. Jerry Goff, president of Sharing Christ Ministries, Inc.

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Cody McCarver

How an Outlaw can Change While Jesus Remains the Same

By Sarah Murray

In the small town of Dunlap, Tenn., you will find an average man who once had fame and a lifestyle that was nothing short of the place most good Christian folks try to avoid.

Cody McCarver is a 49-year-old man who built his life on music a long time ago. He's a man who spent most of his music career with the country music group Confederate Railroad selling six million albums, winning Academy of Country Music (ACM) vocal group of the year, having No. 1 Country Music Television (CMT) music videos, and even acting in the movie "Cole Younger and the Black Train" with the popular movie makers, Lions Gate.

Even with this kind of fame though, nothing seemed to make McCarver happy. He cruised through a lifestyle of alcohol and partying. Most people would be overjoyed

to see their name plastered on CDs in stores across the world. However, something was still missing from McCarver's life.

While McCarver vividly remembers growing up in church and sitting at his first church piano at the young age of nine, unable to reach the foot pedals even, his home life was very different. McCarver's parents lived a life of drugs, alcohol and prison. He recalls his dad murdering a man on his birthday and being sent to prison for 15 years. With not much left to turn to, McCarver then found himself at an old-fashioned altar. It was here he realized that God's plan for him was still music, but the setting would change a bit.

It was at that same altar in 2013 that McCarver asked God to help him stand and live for Him again. He asked God to remove the drinking and to physically show



him where to go next. McCarver began going back to church and seeking the will of God in his life. McCarver was and continues to be very real with God and about his own relationship with Him.

“I remember asking God to please help me free my father from prison, after hearing he had received

Christ in prison,” McCarver shares. “I just kept asking God to help me find a way to get him out.”

God quickly answered that prayer for him in a way that was very unexpected. McCarver’s father died of a heart attack while he was in prison.

The vocalist used this experience to write a song called, “The Lord’s Will.” The lyrics tell of McCarver praying

for God to deliver a way out and believing that even though His will was his father passing away, God was indeed answering his prayers and taking care of something he himself couldn’t physically do.

In such a life change, many onlookers are naysayers and skeptics. Some people don’t believe there could be such a life change or decision process. However, while McCarver has been living such a different lifestyle, he has only seen positive changes.



“I don’t believe God changes your personality, but He changes your ways,” McCarver explains. “I think people see me as the same guy. I just don’t deal in the nature of those same sins. Now, people see me as just saved.”

McCarver found some revelation after reading a book, “Beautiful Outlaw.”

“It was then I quickly realized that God doesn’t always call the qualified, but He does qualify the called,” McCarver points out.

McCarver remembers feeling so unworthy, but he knew that God had a plan for his music and for his ministry.

Shortly after giving his life to Christ and dedicating all he had to the One who had saved him, McCarver went to a nearby Lifeway store and bought numerous CDs of what today’s Christian music is like. He wanted to get to know the industry itself. With the Christian music genre being so diverse in so many ways, McCarver says



he hasn't quite found his fit yet.

"I jokingly described my music as Outlaw Gospel, and in ways, it has just stuck," McCarver says.

He explains his music as the type that people wouldn't come to a church to hear, but they will find Christ in the lyrics when they do hear him.

"My music reaches people that typically won't listen to a pastor," McCarver says. "I can honestly stand there and tell someone, 'I've been to jail. I've lived that life, but I've found the man who changes things. That's Jesus.'"

Because of the fact that McCarver can be so real with people, not only does his testimony grow, but so does his music. In our society today, people are just looking for someone to tell them they are wrong so they can build a defense. But what happens when someone can go toe to toe with you, may even have worse situations than you and still claim the blood of Jesus?

This is why McCarver wrote the song "Rise Up," which is currently sitting at No. 74 on the charts. The song talks about Jesus being taken out of our society and our world being in desperate need of a revival. In songs such as these, people are finding they can be as real as McCarver has been and continues to be. Sometimes, it's not about where you've been but where you're going. McCarver recorded a music video for his song "Rise Up" that currently has over 350,000 views.

"I want to grow my music ministry, and I want to learn more and more about this industry," McCarver explains. "But I want people to know that my music is literally just Jesus. The Bible tells us that we can't get to the Father without the Son, but the Son is who we are forgetting and leaving out. My music is about my testimony and how to get back to the Son."

When you have a testimony like this that, you can either choose to use it for good or for bad. It's evident who McCarver is letting guide him and mold him.

You may or may not always see McCarver performing in a typical church setting, but you will always hear him singing about Jesus. McCarver recalls being before crowds that don't portray your average church-goers but seeing them show up just to see what he's about and what his music is like. The result of his testimony is

seeing up to 144 people give their life to Christ in one setting.

This year alone, McCarver has performed more than 100 dates, consisting of churches, festivals, fairs, and even the Grand Ole Opry. McCarver may not be singing your typical Southern gospel music, but he's singing about a message of Christ that everyone can understand.

Not too long ago, a friend asked McCarver what made him make the change in lifestyle and change in music he was singing. His response was simple ... "I was literally dying, until I met Jesus," McCarver points out.

Because of McCarver's obedience and bold faith, he's now interacting with people who want to know how to obtain the same happiness he has, which is solely what this industry should be about.

To this day, McCarver is proudly four years sober and living completely for Christ. He also boasts with pride about his 24-year-old daughter, Raven.

McCarver's life has been far from easy. He's seen the highest highs in the music industry and he's seen the lowest lows in life in general. However, one thing has remained the same for this Outlaw Gospel singer ... Jesus is enough.



Hebrews 13:8 tells us that, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever." While McCarver was being transformed from the old man to the new, Jesus remained the same for him, just as He can for you.

"The music is about the message," McCarver says. "I can't take credit for any of my songs. It's just God be-



ing God.”

If you would like more information on McCarver or to hear his music, follow him on Facebook or at his web site www.codymccarver.com.

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Randall Reviews It - October 2017

by Randall Hamm

October ... it's the month of the pumpkin and all things pumpkin. The 10th month means that there's only two to go until we ring in another new year. Have you got your Christmas shopping done yet? Well, if you love giving music, may I suggest our three selections this month under review – Pine Ridge Boys' "A New Song," Misty Freeman's "Turn The Page," and the New River Bluegrass group's "Sunday Morning Rising." Get these selections wherever you get good gospel music.

Now on with the reviews.

Randall Hamm

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



Pine Ridge Boys

"A New Song"

Producer: Art Bain

2017 Classic Artists Records/Independent

Songs: I've Got a New Song to Sing; There's a Fountain; He'll Part the Sea; Sail On Over; Tell the Angels; Somebody Touched Me; That's What Jesus Means to Me; We'll See the King; I Can Almost See Heaven; I Can Take You to the Place; Sweet Hour Of Prayer

The latest CD from the Pine Ridge Boys is "A New Song." Many might not have heard of the Pine Ridge Boys, but this CD should change all of that.

The Pine Ridge Boys was organized in 1963 with the assistance of Wally Fowler, the original owner of the Oak Ridge Boys Quartet. Original members of the Pine Ridge Boys included Jim Stewart (bass), Charles Burke (baritone), Miles Cooper (lead), Wayne Shuford (tenor) and Darius Shuford (pianist). Darius Shuford passed away on Dec. 25, 1964, and Charles Abee became the pianist. In 1967, Wayne Shuford left the group to join The

Trav'lers from Greenville, S.C., where he stayed for the next 45 years.

In the early 1980s, Burke became the owner of the Singing Americans, and in the coming years, Jim Stewart became owner of the Pine Ridge Boys. In 2012, due to health reasons, Jim Stewart turned ownership over to his son Larry Stewart, who at that time was helping his dad operate the quartet and singing bass. Larry is also a former bass singer for the Singing Americans.

In 2012, The Trav'lers retired the group. In 2013, Larry Stewart needed someone to fill in the baritone spot, and Shuford agreed to fill in. Four years later, he is still filling in.

The current group consists of Larry Stewart (owner and bass), Shuford, Steven Craps (lead) and Ivory Luke (tenor). They currently record under the Classic Artist label, and Vonda Easley and Hey Y'all Media is in charge of their radio promotion. Their latest release, "There's A Fountain," is currently number 36 in the SGNScoops' Top 100 for September.

"A New Song" is a mixture of new material and classic Southern gospel tunes making this reviewer glad. There's no stacked trax, no overdubs, just straight-ahead Southern gospel singing at its finest. This type of singing is not found very often, four voices that meld and sound like they're all around one microphone. It's absolute heaven. The musical tracks do not distract from the pure singing you hear from the Pine Ridge Boys. A better album you will not find to pop in your player and hit repeat.

The group's recent popularity has generated several songs on SGNScoops' radio charts and on other gospel music charts nationwide. The Pine Ridge Boys travel across the United States spreading the good news and sharing God's love to a world that needs Jesus.

To find out more about the Pine Ridge Boys, go to [Facebook.com/Pine-Ridge-Boys-49457098559/](https://www.facebook.com/Pine-Ridge-Boys-49457098559/) and to get a copy of "A New Song," visit pineridgeboys.com/store, or get it wherever you get good gospel music.

Strongest Songs: "There's A Fountain," "Tell The Angels," "I've Got A New Song To Sing"



Misty Freeman

"Turn The Page"

Producer: Trey Ivey/Scott Godsey
2017 Daywind Records

Songs: New Beginning (Blake Bollinger-Sam Tinnesz-Danny Gokey SESAC); A Day in the Life of Jesus (Jason Cox-Lee Black-Dustin James BMI); The Sermon (Jason Cox-Brent Baxter-Michael Boggs BMI); Garden of Grace (Jason Cox-Kenna Turner West BMI); Too Fast (Kenna Turner West-Mark Narmore BMI); When God Speaks (Jason Cox-Lee Black-Kenna Turner West BMI)

"Turn the Page" is the fourth solo release from Misty Freeman of the Freemans and the first since 2007. Ten years between releases is too long to wait, but the wait is over. I have been a fan of Freeman's solo material since her first release off of "It's All True," the single "Lord I Can't Make It Without You." This is a six-song EP CD, and the six songs chosen contain great messages from some of today's top songwriters, including Jason Cox, Lee Black, and Kenna Turner West among others.

Freeman's latest single to radio is "A Day in the Life of Jesus." While we may have not made the blind to see, the lame to walk or the dumb to hear, that was just "A Day in the Life of Jesus." The song currently sits at the SGNScoops' Top 100 September chart at No. 93.

One of my favorites besides the latest single is "Too Fast," a song about making memories and making them last, written from a parent's view of watching their children grow up. They grow up too quickly, so please slow down and stop the hands of time ... they're growing up "Too Fast."

This CD is another great release from Freeman. Keep up with her at [facebook.com/MistyFreemanMusic/](https://www.facebook.com/MistyFreemanMusic/) and get "Turn The Page" at mistyfreemanmusic.com/store or

wherever you get good Gospel Music.

Strongest Songs: “A Day in the Life of Jesus,” “Too Fast,” “The Sermon”



New River Bluegrass
“Sunday Morning Rising”

Producer: Jeff Partin

2017 Mountain Fever Records/Independent

Songs: Old Highways (Kaitlynn Ingardia); Clinchfield Mountain Rail (Barry Long); Everywhere We Go (Randy Travis-Michael Curtis); Sunday Morning Rising (Chuck Price); Back to the Cross (J Martin); Highways (Kaitlynn Ingardia); Goin’ Home (Terry Newkirk); I Believe (Jimmy Fortune); I’m Going that Way (James Rowe); In the Sweet Bye and Bye (Sanford F Bennett); Fade (Kaitlynn Ingardia); I’m all Prayed Up (Vince Gill)

Delivering a blend of vocal harmony and acoustic music like no other, New River Bluegrass was born from a love of bluegrass music and the desire to share the love of Jesus Christ. The group began in 2004 with four members – Barry Long on banjo, Mike Johnson on guitar, Chuck Price on fiddle and Dwayne Brown on bass. They began by performing in churches, at fundraisers, and at small events. After the first CD entitled “Crying Holy,” the group added Mike Mullins on mandolin and bass vocals and later added Andy Smith on lead guitar and vocals.

This now brings us to the most recent release, “Sunday Morning Rising,” which includes 12 great songs from this group from the Greer, N.C., area. From the opening track – “Old Highways” – to the last track – “I’m All Prayed Up” – great pickin’ and singin’ abounds.

The current New River Bluegrass consists of lead singer and bass player Dwayne Price, tenor/lead singer and mandolin player Mike Johnson, lead/baritone singer and

banjo/dobro player Barry Long, lead/baritone singer and fiddle player Chuck Price, bass singer and mandolin player Mike Mullins, and lead singer and guitarist Andy Smith.

The CD kicks off with “Old Highways,” a great song of devotion about comparing the old-time Christians who are devoted and seek out the old paths to the newer Christians who are not as devoted. The true highlight is the single “Sunday Morning Rising,” which remembers the hard times of growing up and the Sunday mornings that came when all hard work and hard times were forgotten. Written by group member Chuck Price, this is the standout song on the project.

Their cover of Jimmy Fortune’s “I Believe” is also another great song. Covers of “I’m Going That Way,” “In the Sweet Bye and Bye,” and “I’m All Prayed Up” make this a project that’s worth giving a spin in your CD player. Great picking and wonderful singing make this an album you’ll want to add to your music collection.

Get to know New River Bluegrass at facebook.com/newriverbluegrass/ and get your copy of “Sunday Morning Rising” at newriverbluegrass.net/music-store or wherever you get good gospel music.

Strongest Songs: “Sunday Morning Rising,” “I Believe,” “I’m All Prayed Up”



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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Josh Townsend

of Legacy Five

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin Stevens...

This month, yet another member is being added to the Younger Perspective family. Josh Townsend is no stranger to gospel music. He has accomplished much in his short career as a pianist, and needless to say, the sky's the limit for this talented young man. Townsend was recently hired as the pianist for Legacy Five. His personality and musicianship round out the group perfectly. So, without further ado, let's get into the interview ...

Erin Stevens: When did you discover your gift for playing the piano?

Josh Townsend: I started playing piano when I was around the age of three, but I didn't get serious about it until I was 13. I didn't really recognize the gift I had until I started getting involved with music in school and at church.

Stevens: For those that may not know, tell us a little about your musical journey and the steps that have brought you to where you are now?

Townsend: When I was 15, I started playing professionally with the Old Paths. Nearly five years have gone by, and I have been blessed to play for some of Gospel Music's top artists, including the Bowling Family, the Erwins, the LeFevre Quartet, and now Legacy Five.

Stevens: If you could choose, who would be the top three pianists you would want to play a duet with?

Townsend: Josh Singletary, Trey Ivey and Blaine Johnson.

Stevens: How is road life different now with Legacy Five compared to your LeFevre Quartet days?

Townsend: I'm still traveling and playing the same music. The only difference is that I'm on a different bus with different people.

Stevens: What's the camaraderie like on the L5 bus?

Townsend: Everybody is always joking and cutting up. Scott Howard is probably one of the funniest human beings I've ever traveled with.

Stevens: Where do you draw your musical inspiration from?

Townsend: Anthony Burger and Roger Bennett were my heroes growing up. They were the reason that I wanted to start traveling.

Stevens: How do you stay sharp in your practicing? What does a normal week's practice schedule look like for Josh Townsend?





Townsend: I'll put it this way ... if I'm not practicing, I'm either sleeping or eating.

Stevens: Absolute, can't live without, favorite food of all-time ... go ...

Townsend: Pizza ... hands down.

Stevens: What's the weirdest thing a fan has said to you?

Townsend: Probably when somebody came up to the table after a concert and said, "I love your piano playing, but I absolutely hate your hair," then walked off.

Stevens: What has been your favorite venue to play thus far?

Townsend: My favorite venue has always been and always will be NQC (the National Quartet Convention). I absolutely love getting to talk with fans and friends throughout the week.

Stevens: How do you feel the Lord is stretching and growing you in your personal walk with Him?

Townsend: God has given me the opportunity to travel and meet a multitude of folks. I believe He continues to train me to offer hope to hurting people.

Stevens: How would you encourage young, aspiring piano players looking to you as their role model?

Townsend: If you have a talent that the Lord has given you, perfect it to the best of your ability. Never think that you're

just good enough and then stop practicing. Always try to get better.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

There is an excellent parallel to be drawn to what Josh touched on about bettering ourselves and what Scripture says we ought to do. Today, I was reading 2 Peter 3:18, "Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, now and forever. Amen." Our spiritual growth is dependent on growing closer to Christ. We cannot better ourselves for the Kingdom if we simply accept Jesus into our hearts and expect that to be enough. There has to be more. James 1:4 reminds us to be "mature and complete, lacking in nothing." It's a daily commitment to grow in the Word and glean from the wisdom the Lord has set before us in the Scriptures. I heard it said recently, "If you don't grow, you can actually regress." Let's dig in, draw closer, and hide God's Word in our hearts. Only then will we be bettering ourselves, giving glory to God through our daily living.

And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin ...

Twitter: @photosforkeeps

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Photos courtesy of Josh Townsend, Legacy Five and Lynn Mills of Exnihilographics.



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Proverbs 13:12 “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.” (NLT)

Proverbs 13:12 “Hope postponed grieves the heart; but when a dream comes true, life is full and sweet.” (Voice)

What a busy fulfilling season I have experienced recently. The Proverb: “when a dream comes true, life is full and sweet,” has been resonating in my heart, and it has filled me with joy and hope for the future.

I have spent the past year working on making our daughter’s dream wedding come true, and I learned so much about our Creator’s heart. We are taught in the Christian world that God will provide for all our needs, but sometimes we have settled for less because of our belief that He doesn’t care about our smallest, most trivial, even petty desires. If my life is a testament of anything, and I pray that it is, God cares about every tiny aspect of our life.

God loves us so much. Take a moment and just absorb this into your being ... God is love, and He cannot help but love you. At times in my life when I have been dealing with the adversity that comes with life, it hurt to feel God’s love, but He was still there, softly and gently pursuing me.

God loves us so much, and it is His greatest desire to pour out lavishly on His children. The One who formed you, taking the time to sculpt you into the magnificent

being that you are, cares enough to paint sunrises and sunsets just for you.

He is such a wonderful parent. He doesn’t reward our petulant, spoiled nature, but when we come before Him with open hands and open hearts, He smiles at us and says, “just watch what I can do.”

This past year, I have learned that you don’t need a lot of friends, but just a few good ones, and your life will be full and rich. I have learned that we are not to be ordinary, but we are called to be extraordinary. I believe all things come from our Creator, and the inspiration of superheroes is to compel us to believe that, through Christ, we can be super-natural.

Recently, we were at a church, and the pastor stumbled on his words while praying. He was trying to say that we pray without ceasing, but it sounded as if he said



that we pray without seizing.

I am concerned that in our culture, where everything has become so easy, that we have stopped believing that God answers our prayers and that He still works supernaturally. He still desires us to walk on the water, to lay hands on the sick, to see the dead raised, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear.

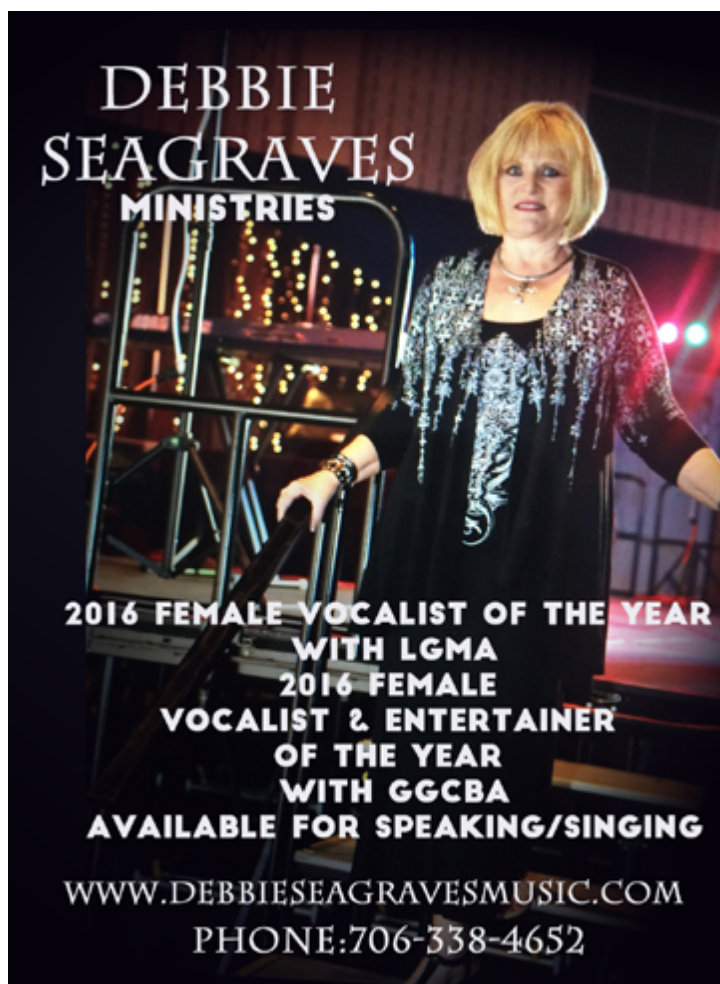
He wants to bring your dreams and desires to fruition. Do not be afraid to believe for the most frivolous or the impossible. God can and will make your desires come true. He has created you for a purpose, and sometimes, unanswered prayers are just road signs to help you find your way to your real destiny.

Meditate on the good news of God's Word. For many years, the only part of this proverb that I meditated on was, "hope deferred makes the heart sick," until one day God spoke to me and asked where the goodness was in that scripture. Where was my heart posture? Did I believe that God only created me to suffer so that through my suffering He could be glorified? Or did I have the courage to believe that He placed certain dreams inside of me, and when I took the chance to believe in those dreams, they could come true ... and that through my success, He would be glorified in me as well? Yes, weeping may endure for a night, but joy does and will come in the morning.

Start to believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that His salvation surrounds you. His sozo (or Greek word sometimes translated as salvation) – which means to keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger, to save a suffering one from disease, to make one well, to restore. This sozo salvation is for all God's children, so whatever your dream is today, believe that He is able to bring it to pass in your life.

Your best days are ahead of you.

Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. You may contact her at selenaday@me.com or queenliving.org or [facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday](https://www.facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday). Photographs courtesy of Selena Day.

A promotional image for Debbie Seagraves Ministries. It features a woman with blonde hair, wearing a black and white patterned cardigan over a black top, standing next to a microphone stand. The background is dark with some stage lights. Text is overlaid on the image.

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An advertisement for KJIC 90.5 Christian Music Radio. It features the station's logo at the top, followed by the text "Houston's Southern Gospel Station". At the bottom, it mentions availability on the App Store and Google Play, along with the website kjic.org.

KJIC 90.5 Christian Music Radio

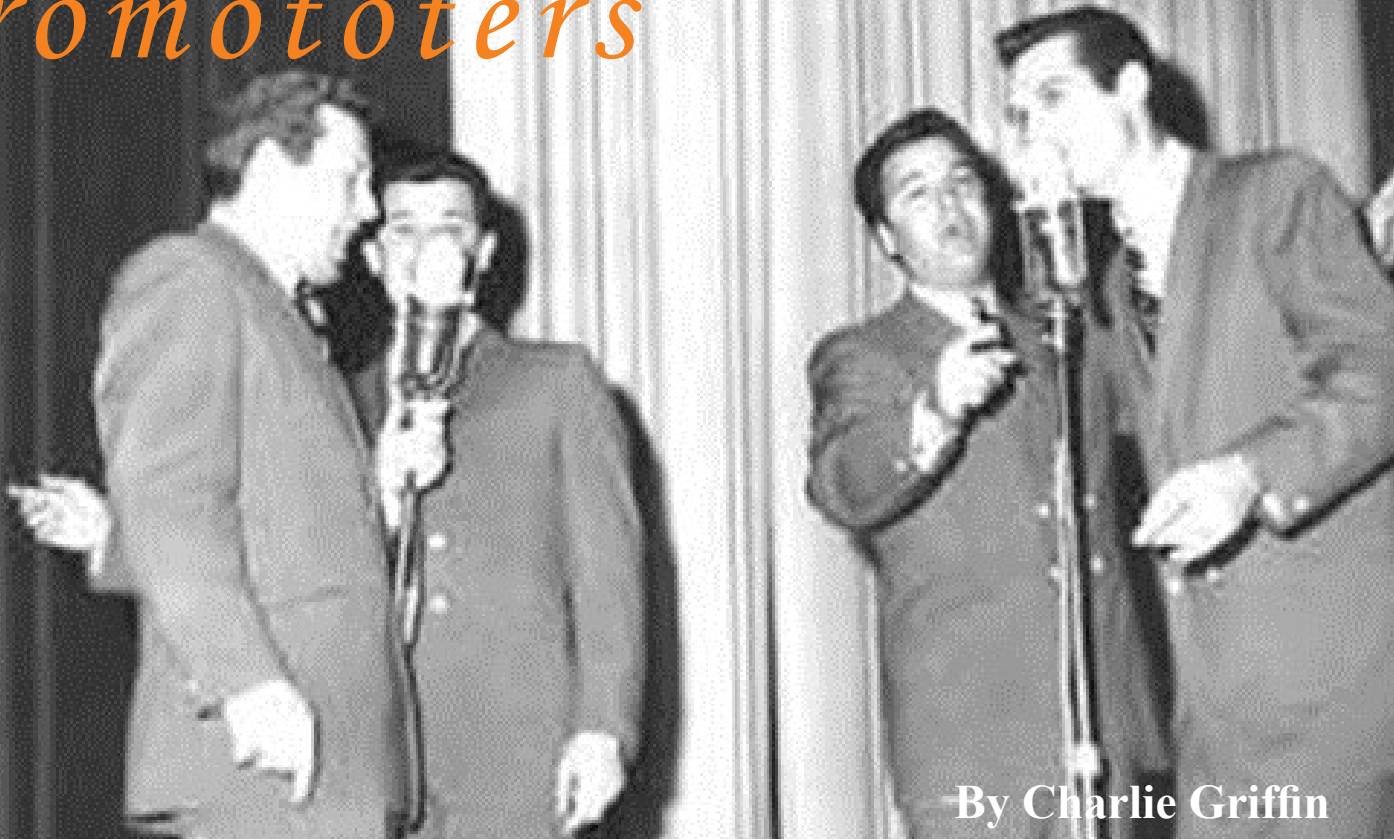
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Southern Gospel Music Promoters



By Charlie Griffin

Southern gospel music promoters: a stroll through history: part I

Over the last few months, I have written a number of articles on artists and their history while bringing you up to their current performing status. But in a recent conversation with a few artists at a typical Southern gospel concert, the topic turned to the big gospel sings of yester-year. The comment resonated with me. Who were those driven promoters who set the stage for today's gospel music?

After digging through my collection and doing more research, I have found that many gospel artists got their start on the concert circuits while being the house artists at local radio stations. Typically, most started with AM radio stations.

There are artists that were staff musicians starting in the 1930s. Most noted is the Carter Family, which became the second Chuck Wagon Gang, whose tenure spread from 1936 into the early 1950s. Before they ever set foot on stage as the Chuck Wagon Gang, they were

known as the world-famous Chuck Wagon Gang by radio only. According to CWG fanatics, the group's first concert was overflowing with people who identified with their radio group. Their radio sponsor was Bewley Flour Mills.

In the 1930s, the Stamps Baxter Company had groups that performed on a number of radio stations throughout the south, from KRLD- Dallas, Texas; KRAK-Little Rock, Ark.; KWKH-Shreveport, La.; WAPL-Birmingham, Ala.; WMAZ-Macon, Ga.; and WBBB-Burlington, N.C.. They also were featured on KGER in Long Beach, Calif.. This network of stations and the quartets promoted the Stamps-Baxter Songbooks on air and in person.

The James D. Vaughan Music Company did the same as Stamps-Baxter. It hired quartets to sign from their songsbooks to sell the books. From 1903 until 1909, Vaughan sold 60,000 songbooks monthly. He is considered to be the first to have a quartet sing to sell his books, starting in 1910. He would hire the quartets to sing his songs at singing conventions, churches and



concerts, most notably being the association of the Speer Family. Vaughan also was the first to purchase a radio station in 1922 (WOAN AM Radio), with the drive

to promote music and sell his music through the James D. Vaughan Music Company.

However, there were other artists who cultivated their national following on the large 50,000-watt radio stations. The Statesmen from Atlanta, Ga. got their start in 1948 on WCON Radio in Atlanta. Hovie Lister hand-picked the group members, and over the years, they proved their worth on radio and in radio concerts held in neighboring city and school auditoriums. The Statesmen later took artist residence at WSB in Atlanta.

The Speer Family, which was associated with the James D. Vaughan Music Company, started on WSFA in Montgomery, Ala.. The family later moved to WLAC in Nashville, Tenn.. The LeFevres moved to Atlanta after being associated with the Church of God in Cleveland, Tenn.. They were on WGST with sponsorship by Orange Crush and NuGrape Soft Drink Company.

The renowned Blackwood Brothers began their radio career with WJDX in Jackson, Miss.. Later they moved to the mega 50,000 KWKH radio in Shreveport, La. In 1957, the Blackwood Brothers forever changed Southern gospel Music. J.D. Sumner, Cecil Blackwood and James Blackwood started the National Quartet Convention (NQC), held in Memphis, Tenn.. Sumner bought the NQC in 1971, moving it to Nashville, Tenn.. In the early 1980s, the NQC was sold again to a group of investors (gospel artists and Christian businessmen). In 1993, the NQC moved to Louisville, Ky., and in 2014, the NQC board moved the event to Pigeon Forge, Tenn..

The Swanee River Boys took their home at WNOX in Knoxville, Tenn.. Later, they moved to WDOD in Chattanooga, Tenn.. Then, they moved to WSB Radio in Atlanta with a regular spot on the WSB Barn Dance.

The Sunshine Boys really got the plug in as they sang for country and gospel radio programming on WAGA and WSB Atlanta, Ga.. Later, the group was featured in the Wheeling Jamboree over WWVA Radio in Wheeling, W.Va.. The quartet garnered a very popular following with their radio tenure. Then, in 1945, they were regular features on the cowboy westerns with such stars as Lash Larue, Charles Starrett ("The Durango Kid") and Eddie Dean. In the movies, they would sing gospel or their popular light-hearted, cowboy western songs.

Meanwhile, the Rangers got their start in radio and concerts in 1936. As a publicity stunt, the group was going to ride bicycles from Texas to New York. Yet, when they reached Louisville, Ky., WHAS Radio offered them a regular spot in its programming. After the floods of 1937, the group moved to the 50,000-watt WBT radio in Charlotte, N.C., with sponsorship by BC Headache Powder while performing on CBS Dixie network.

In the 1950s, another wave of groups hit the radio and television airwaves. The Harvesters were regulars on WBT and WBT Radio in Charlotte, N.C., while across town, Arthur Smith and the Crossroads Quartet (or Cracker Jacks) were on WSOC TV and WSOC Radio. Just up the road in Hickory, N.C., on the 50,000-watt WHKY, the Spiritualaires (George Younce's first quartet) were regulars. In Augusta, Ga., the Lewis Family were regulars on WJBF TV after recording their first LP (longer-length vinyl recording) at WJAT Radio in Swainsboro, Ga..



The Lesters began a radio program in the 1940s, which continued into the early 1980s. In 1960, the door opened to begin a television program, first on KPLR-TV 11. Then, in 1963, they began a weekly program known as “The Lester Family Sings,” on KSD-TV 5.

Over the decades, the list of quartets performing for radio stations, and eventually TV, grew. Then, as time



rolled on, so did the programming and technology. The need for live commercials and programming gave way to recordings and tapes in place of the quartets.

Even as this change was happening in radio and TV, many quartets sang on the radio and would hustle off to a neighboring city auditorium for a concert in the evening or over the weekend. Later on, those artists began to sing in a few churches that were large enough to hold the crowds.

That is the key to the next plateau in gospel music, the promoters. For many years, it was all about the radio station and their sponsors. The concert schedule – or touring, as we call it today – was spawned by those radio-station concerts in their listening area.

Next month, we will look at these special people with a heart for artists and for sharing their music. Stay tuned for a closer look at the promoters of Southern gospel music.

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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

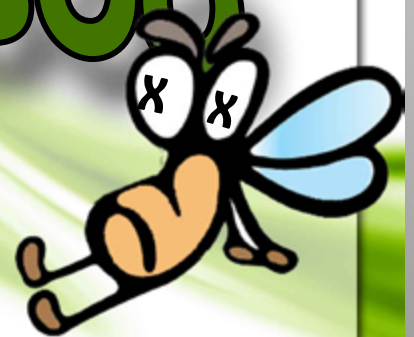
September Top 40 Christian Country

1. Christian Davis - He Can't Stop Loving You
2. Bruce Hedrick- Wingin' It
3. Kevin Rowe and The Prodigal Sons - Heaven Above
4. Michael Lee - God's Country
5. Johnny Rowlett - Where I'm Going
6. Chuck Day - I Love You
7. Lisa Daggs - Love Found Me
8. The McKay Project - Taking Me Home
9. Gene Hamilton - Good God
10. Ava Kasich - Looking Back
11. Debbie Seagraves - We're Not Gonna Walk,
We're Gonna Run
12. Jeff Dugan - Dashboard Jesus
13. Ronnie Horton - For You And Me
14. Ryan Watkins - Anyway The Wind Blows
15. Tony Bates - Ordinary Joe
16. Justin Todd Herod -That's What Jesus Would
Do
17. Tina Wakefield - Why Should I Worry
18. Butch Tinker - That's What It's All About
19. Chris Golden - On The Sunny Banks
20. Steve Bridgmon - Angels By Another Name

21. Bev McCann - God's Got A Miracle
22. Charlie Griffin - Jesus Take A Hold
23. Austin Zimmer - Quicksand
24. Kali Rose - What's A Valley
25. Taylon Hope - Showin' My Roots
26. Branded - Lay It Down
27. Rachel Taylor - Lost In God's Grace
28. Eternal Vision - A Father's Prayer
29. Chuck Hancock - Mustard Seed Faith
30. Bradley Walker - Sinners Only
31. Karen Harris - Don't You Think It's Time
32. Shellem Cline - Getting In The Word Of God
33. Gemma Adams - Path Of Least Resistance
34. Tammy Renee - Dreams
35. Jim Sheldon - Old School
36. Mary James - Heart On My Sleeve
37. Peter Christie - On Grace I Stand
38. Les Taylor - If That Mountain Don't Move
39. Christian Davis - Just Show Up
40. Robert Stowell - I'd Die For You

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Be sure to visit our website at KKGMAM.com to keep up with what is happening with Gospel music and local church events in the DFW area.



DJ SPOTLIGHT

Donna Journey

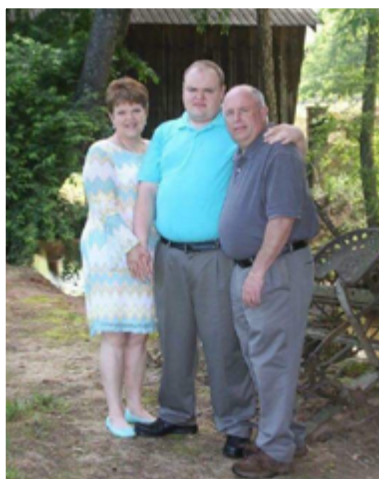


By Vonda Easley

For the month of October, our DJ Spotlight is shining on Donna Journey. Not only is Donna doing an excellent job at See the Vision, she is an excellent Gospel singer, wife to Greg, and mom to a special young man, Ben.

It was a joy to talk to this special lady.

Vonda Easley: What is your current position with the radio station?



Donna Journey: I am manager of KSTV, See the Vision Radio.

Easley: Was there a certain age that you knew radio was something you wanted to pursue?

Journey: My father was a Baptist minister and pastor, and in my teens, he was instrumental in changing a local country radio station to a full-

time Gospel station. I can remember going with him to the station and getting the music organized for him and putting records on the turntables for him. I was always amazed at the whole idea of playing the music and getting the music out to people who were hurting and had so many things going on in their lives. Daddy always took the time to care and talk to each one of them. He always wanted me to talk on the air, and I never would but loved helping him. He would always say to me, "One day you will talk on here."

Today when I do my show, "Homegrown Gospel Hour,"

I can still remember those sweet, sweet times with daddy, and I feel so close to him when I am on the air. My daddy passed in 1986, and I feel like I am carrying on his dream of getting the Gospel out in music to many people. God opened that door for me to do that in May, and I have never been happier. I think daddy knew long before I did that DJing was in my blood and in my future.

Easley: When traveling, what is your favorite restaurant?

Journey: Cracker Barrel.

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

Journey: I would love to visit Ireland.

Easley: Tell us about your family.

Journey: I am very fortunate to still have my mom, who will be 95 years young in November of this year. I also have one sister, Vickie, and my husband, Greg, who is the love of my life, and one son, Ben, who is my sunshine.



Greg and I were married in 1991, and Ben was born in 1994. Ben was diagnosed with autism in 1997 at age two and a half. We were basically told that he would never be able to communicate with us and (that) he would have a difficult time socializing and expressing



himself to others. We felt like our whole world had been torn apart.

For several months, we felt sorry for ourselves and tried to digest the autism diagnosis. Once we began to pray for God's will for Ben's life and turned it all over to

God, we began to see improvements and saw that Ben loved music and brightened up every time he heard music or saw a musical instrument, especially guitars.

From an early age, we tried to supply Ben with all kinds of musical instruments and encourage him to try them out. When Ben turned 16, a friend of ours purchased him a boxed set of CDs that were guitar lessons. We were amazed as Ben began to go from the first lesson all the way to the last and imitate what he had heard. By age 17, he had taught himself how to play guitar. I play piano, so I showed him some chords on the piano. He picked

them up quickly. He began to listen to music and go to the piano and imitate what he had heard. A dear friend of ours, Barry Scott, helped him with rhythm on the guitar and strumming, and within a few months Ben was playing anything he wanted to and picking most of it up by ear.

In early spring of 2012, we felt led to begin our ministry as a family, as the Journeys. It was scary for me because I had always sung with my family as a child and in groups and had never done solo before. We travel to churches or organizations who invite us to come and share our story and testimonies about raising a child with autism. Ben is amazing, and it is such an honor to stand on stages with him and let people see what God has done in his life, as he plays keyboard, piano, acoustic guitar and electric guitar.

My husband Greg also gives his testimony and often jokes about being our pack mule. We pray many lives will be changed and many lost souls will come to know Jesus as a result of our ministry. The journey for us has been a long and challenging one but well worth the trip, and we have loved our tour guide, Ben.

Thanks so much to Donna Journey for being our guest today under the DJ Spotlight.

Contact the Journeys by sending mail to the Journeys, 7612 Hwy. 268, Dobson, NC 27017, or by calling 336-710-3851.

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REFLECTIONS ON

Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend 2017

By Leslie McKay

September means football in most towns across the country, but it also means Gospel music, especially in Vernon, Ala.

Sept. 8 and 9 marked the third annual Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend. We couldn't have ordered a more perfect weekend. The weather was just right with cooler temps and a hint of fall in the air. All week long, you could sense an anticipation and a buzz in the air (and on Facebook) that just continued to grow.

The event was held at the beautifully-restored city auditorium in Vernon, which used to be the high school back in the day. There is such an amazing, warm feeling that you get when you step inside and see the rich golden wood floors, the large stage, and the photos of graduating classes from years gone by that line the walls in the hall. It's the same nostalgic feeling you get when you go back home.

The Southern hospitality and charm of the community of Vernon is second to none. Many of the artists stayed at local bed and

breakfasts like Willowbend, Southern Grace and Tin Top Inn. We heard wonderful compliments from everyone about how beautiful the B&Bs were and how much they loved their accommodations.



We also had a number of artists that brought their coaches and parked them at the venue. For those of you that do any kind of travel in an RV, motorhome or coach, you understand the value of not having to run the generator when you are at an event, but you just know that is part of the experience. So, when the mayor – Glenn Crawford – and the City Clerk – Don Dollar – started running heavy duty extension cords out to our coaches to give us power, we were so thankful and appreciative. You don't get that everywhere you go.





"I truly am blessed each time that I get the opportunity to be in Vernon for Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend,"

SGNScoops publisher Rob Patz said. "The community is so caring and excited about what we are doing, and that translates into a wonderful time of fellowship. I am already looking forward to next year."



both 'bye,' but we love and appreciate all you did to make this a wonderful event. I pray that God blesses you both. Thank you so much."

Pat Drummond of the Drummond Family Band echoed those sentiments.

"The Drummond Family Band was honored to be a part of this great event,"

Drummond said. "From the time we rolled into town, the city of Vernon treated us so kindly. It's great to have worked with so many artists this weekend. Special thanks to the McKays for your invitation to such a special event."



Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend featured some of the best in Gospel music in concert on Friday and Saturday evening. We had artists from several different states, including North Carolina, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi and Alabama. There was something for everyone ... soloist, duos, trios, family groups, live music, Southern gospel, Christian country and more.

"The talent level was amazing this year," said Dennis McKay of M.A.C. Records. "All the artists brought their A game. I had a number of people comment about how good the music was and how much they enjoyed the event.

There were a number of returning artists this year, including Ava Kasich, Purpose, Shane Cruse, McKay Project, Hope's Journey, Rocky and Gail Smith, Debbie Bennett, Carol Barham, and others. We were pleased to add some new artists to the event this year such as the Coffmans, the Connells, Day Three, Chronicle and the Drummond Family.

"(It was) great weekend," Louis Coffman of the Coffman's pointed out. "(I) enjoyed meeting some new friends at Vernon Alabama's Gospel Weekend. All the artists just flat tore it up. Dennis and Leslie McKay, Rob Patz, and Vonda Easley ... you guys did a terrific job. Thanks for having us." Chronicle's Missy Kinchen added, "I didn't get to tell you

One of the things that makes the Vernon event special is that all the artists set up their booths inside the auditorium where the concert is taking place. This allows the folks in the audience the opportunity to visit with the artists and never miss any of the music or any of the worship.



The Spirit moved both nights but especially Saturday night with folks standing, clapping, waving their hands and even shouting in the aisles. Some of the artists shared timely words of encouragement and testimony with the audience.

While the event was in full swing in Vernon, Alabama, so was Hurricane Irma as it bore down on Florida. Many at the event were concerned about family and friends. On Saturday night, we closed out the concert with a special time of prayer for those in the path of Hurricane Irma that was led by Rocky Smith of Rocky and Gail Smith Ministries. There was a sweet spirit in the place.

Amy Richardson, a M.A.C. Records artist from Southaven, Miss., told us about a lady in the audience that said, "Thank you for bringing this event to our community. It is really nice not to have to go to Nashville or Pigeon Forge to hear good Gospel music. Please keep doing this."

In addition to the nightly concerts, we added a songwriter seminar to the event this year. On Saturday morning, the

event was honored to have Dr. Jeff Steele of the Steeles conduct the songwriter seminar. Steele is an award-winning songwriter who has written or co-written 17 No. 1 Christian songs. He shared some very valuable information about songwriting technique, getting songs published, and collecting royalties. Those who attended heard a number of stories about Steele's experiences as a songwriter and publisher, plus they had the opportunity to ask specific questions.



"I was honored to speak at the songwriting seminar at Vernon's Gospel Music Weekend this past weekend in Vernon, Ala.," Steele said. "They took a different tact in that they had a

time where songwriters could hear about songwriting and then ask any question they had on their mind about songwriting. So many people are embarrassed to ask. It's funny, but when I'm the instructor, there seems to be no such thing as an embarrassing question. I hope the students at the seminar were able to glean as much as they said they did in our time together. I was honored to be asked. It is a first-class operation, and maybe, I'll be asked to come back. Remember guys, never spend a day not betting on yourself."

An event like Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend starts with a vision that you share with others and hope it catches fire and turns into something amazing. We can definitely say that that has happened, and we are thankful for our partners, Rob Patz and Vonda Easley, who caught the vision and got onboard to work with us.



The vision that Dennis and I had for the Vernon event was two-fold. First, we wanted to give back to the community of Vernon, which is Dennis' hometown. We have tried to encourage the artists and visitors that come

to Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend to eat, shop, and stay in the area. We are amazed each year at the local merchants that give of their time and money to sponsor the Gospel music event.

In this time of much political unrest in our country, there aren't many city governments that will get behind you when you plan a Christian event, but Vernon, Alabama is an exception, and for that, we are most grateful. Mayor Crawford and

his staff were incredibly supportive and willing to help us in any way possible to make the event a success.

Second, we wanted to reach across churches, denominations, and backgrounds to bring folks together for a weekend of good Christian music. You have probably heard the saying, "A Christian song is a three-minute sermon put to music." The artists that were part of Vernon Alabama's Gospel Music Weekend delivered their three-minute sermons with love, grace and excitement throughout the weekend. Our prayer was that through these sermons, folks would be encouraged and hear about Jesus.



As we close the door on the 2017 event, we hope that – as artists – we made an impression for Christ on the community of Vernon. Whether we were eating at Todd's after the concert late each night and interacting with the wonderful ladies that waited on us, or eating lunch at

the Polar Bear on Saturday when "Chain Breaker" broke out over green apple ice cream, our prayer is that we encouraged someone and hopefully showed them that Jesus is alive and makes a difference in our lives.

Photography by Joy Collins of Columbus, Mississippi.



Southern Gospel Sweethearts:

Abby Paskvan

By Fayth Lore

For the artist, singing is not just about the voice. It is more than picking a song and standing on stage for a 30-minute set. Singing is about heart. As Abby Paskvan puts it, “singing is more than just going through the motions. It’s about relaying the message of the song to the people who were intended to hear it.” Her inspiration to sing comes from God, but what keeps her singing are the lives she sees transformed by her music.

This month’s Southern gospel sweetheart was singing before she could even talk. Her first ever solo was sung in a children’s choir at age five. Today, Abby Paskvan has had multiple opportunities to sing on some of America’s biggest stages. While many may have not known Abby’s name, they sure did hear her voice on July 18, 2016. It was on this date that Abby Paskvan performed the national anthem at the Republican National Convention in front millions of viewers all across the world. I asked Abby to tell me about this unforgettable experience.

“Someone had heard me sing the national anthem at a Cincinnati Reds (baseball) game and called me about the convention,” Abby says. “After talking with this person, I have to admit ... I was pretty excited. In the days leading up to the event, the publicity I received was like nothing else I had ever experienced. There were numerous phone interviews,

newspaper interviews and television interviews. I had people all over the U.S. wishing me luck. I was lucky enough to be able to take my family along with my star-struck mother. We arrived at the hotel where I was then picked up by what looked like a Secret Service vehicle. We made the trip to the convention center through copious amounts of security checkpoints. There were three to be exact.

“Once inside, I went straight to sound check, and reality began to set in on the big stage. I felt fine until I realized



millions of people were tuning in across the world. The big moment was finally here, and I had never been more nervous to sing a song that I had sung hundreds



of times before. I took a deep breath and let it fly. I received hundreds of compliments and e-mails from all over the country. It is truly a day that I will never forget.”

While Abby has been blessed with a successful solo career for years, she has also been honored to sing as a fill-in for America’s favorite family, the Hoppers. When Abby received the phone call asking about filling in for Kim Hopper, she thought they were needing her to give a referral for someone else. Abby was asked to learn 20 songs within 24 hours and then head out for her first fill-in concert 48 hours after the call. She said that when she first learned they wanted her, she felt inadequate and feared that she wouldn’t be good enough. Abby has since then established a great relationship with the whole family, but the request was at first intimidating.

“Our first stop was in Shipshewana, Ind., at the Bluegate Dinner Theater,” Abby shares. “I had never met any of these people in my life, and my first interaction with Claude Hopper was him telling me that he wanted zero mistakes tonight ... I can’t make this stuff up. Little did I know (that) he was kidding at the time. I called my dad and told him I would be riding home with him and mom that evening and (that) this would be my first and last Hopper concert. Then, that’s when Jesus stepped in. We hadn’t practiced one song together, and we stepped on the stage that night and had one of the most spirit-filled concerts ever. We continued on a seven-day trip to Canada, and I learned just how much we all had in common. They are all just ordinary people with extraordinary talents. They love to laugh, eat, sing and sleep, just like me. I sang off and on for eight months as Kim’s mom healed, and I continue to fill in for Kim whenever needed.”

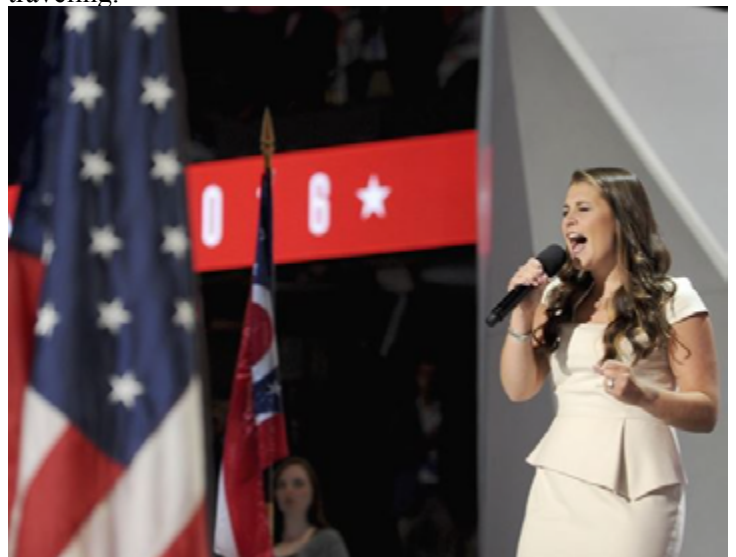
Remove the lighting, the stage and the fancy outfits and you will discover that artists like Abby are just regular people who love to sing for the glory of God. Abby enjoyed sharing with me about her life off of the road.

“I am from Bowling Green, Ohio,” Abby says. “My parents have always been my biggest encouragers, and they have made it clear that they will do whatever it takes to see me further the kingdom of God and win others to Christ. They don’t sing, but all three of us travel together.

“I started opera voice training at age eight. I began to take private lessons with a private vocal coach from Bowling Green State University. I’m still appreciative of the training from my opera coach and still take lessons once a month. I realized that I loved gospel music when I was 12 years old and started listening to the Gaither Vocal Band. There is just no greater singer than David Phelps. His appreciation for opera music and gospel is what really inspired me to use my talents for the glory of God. It was then that the music that I was singing began to have meaning. Ever since I have started singing gospel music, I have realized that singing is more than just sounding good ... it’s about portraying a message.”

Currently, Abby is enjoying her senior year at Bowling Green State University as a marketing student. She plans to graduate in May of 2018. She keeps herself busy with college, extracurricular activities and her singing career.

“I would like to state that I graduated in four years being a full-time student while traveling 70 singing dates a year,” Abby points out. “I recently met with a graduate adviser and will start my masters (degree) next fall, 2018. At school I am the president of my Christian service sorority. I am vice president of CHAARG, which stands for changing health, attitudes and actions to recreate girls. Health and fitness is very important to me, and I help lead 300 women to a healthier lifestyle. Lastly, I am a worship leader for my campus church of 500 students each Sunday when I am not on the road traveling.”



As a young person who travels in the Southern gospel industry, a popular question that is asked is, 'do you see yourself being in this long term?' Everyone wants to know what you are going to do with the rest of your life, and they have a right to ask that question. When given this question, Abby gave a very fitting response that is important for any young person to hear.

"People ask me all the time what I want to do with my life," Abby says. "They ask if I want to sing, if I want to use my master's of business administration degree, but to be quite honest, I have no idea. I used to be a planner. I had my life figured out by the age of 15. Then, God laughed at me. I threw my plans out the window, and He gave me even better ones. He told me to allow Him to mold my life, and I would never want for anything. That's just what I'm going to do. God has a plan for my life, and I know it will be nothing less than amazing. As far as singing, it will always be a big part of my life. I hope to one day have a family."



In her closing remarks, I asked if Abby could give any suggestions for young singers just like her.

"Being bold is one of the most important things I have learned, standing up for what is right and making it known when it is wrong," Abby shares. "This will win the respect of people around you."

Abby also shared an encouraging scripture that she felt would be good for readers to be reminded of.

Hebrews 12:1-3 says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Charlie Griffin Jesus Take A Hold

is climbing the Charts! Word on the street is:



Jango.com reviews:

"Great song and content!"
Sweetdove2

"Enjoying this song!"
Frankiewayne50

"Cool! Yes, I'm a teen who likes
Southern Gospel!"
Burilltimothy

"Loved the whole song.
Something I needed
this morning!"
ChristieDiana

"We were pleasantly surprised to
hear your gospel song on Jango
in the middle of the Andy
Williams radio spot! Keep
praising, Charlie!
What a blessing!"
Pastor.Patty

"Wow! This is pure class on a
Merle Haggard original!"
NashvilleCountryBoy97

"This is truly a song for
today! Charlie does it right!"
Dianne Massey-
Local Southern Gospel
Concerts, Rock Hill, SC

"Charlie's vocals, the production,
the message, this song has it all!"
It is Great!"

David Crump, Pastor-Hillside Baptist,
Bluegrass Gospel Tones TV, Hickory, NC



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

1. Triumphant Quartet – Chain Breaker
2. Freemans - It Still Takes The Blood
3. Tribute Quartet - God of The Storms
4. Joseph Habedank - Here He Comes
5. 11th Hour - Ain't No Bones
6. Guardians - Packin' Up
7. Bowling Family - Praise God He's Alive
8. Steeles - Meet Me There
9. Hoppers - Life Is Good
10. Greater Vision - Still
11. McKameys - For the Record
12. Kingsmen - They Don't Know (What The Lord Can Do)
13. Jeff and Sheri Easter - More Than Enough
14. Pruitt Family - Jesus Built This Church on Love
15. Browders - Put It Into God's Hands
16. Wisecarvers - It Was Jesus
17. Jason Crabb - Mysterious Ways
18. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound- Give Me Jesus
19. Amber Nelon Thompson - Give It To Jesus
20. Zane and Donna King - Beautiful Ever After
21. LeFevre Quartet - He Was There
22. Taylors - Worship You Again
23. Bowling Sisters - He Sees What We Don't
24. Mark Trammell Quartet - My Faith Still Holds
25. Rochesters - Keep On
26. Lore Family - Joyous News
27. Sunday Drive - I Thank You

28. Perrys - Moses and Elijah
29. Pine Ridge Boys - There's A Fountain
30. Christian Davis - He Can't Stop Loving You
31. Dallas Rogers - Chasin'
32. Terry Collins - Jesus Make A Way
33. Soul'd Out Quartet - Holy Spirit Come
34. Whisnants - Joy In The House
35. Susan Whisnant - I Prayed Through It
36. Bates Family - Ready Or Not
37. Battle Cry - I'm Amazed
38. John Whisnant - Had It Not Been
39. Jordan Family Band - My God Is Faithful
40. Bless'd Ministries - Come To The Cross
41. Villines Trio - Elijah
42. Page Trio - Perfect Redeemer
43. Steve Ladd - All Things Are Possible God
44. Georgia - I've Been To The Bottom
45. Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call - Somebody Pray
46. Tammy Jones Robinette - He Is God Alone
47. Austin and Ethan Whisnant - Steppin' Out On A Limb
48. Journeys - I Can Smile
49. Spiritual Voices - Love That Led To Grace
50. Millers - Take A Moment And Live
51. Second Half Quartet - Gonna Shout All Over Heaven
52. Chronicle - Where Did The Wind Go



53. Caleb's Crossing - I Promise You
54. Shellem Cline - Getting In The Word Of God
55. Gabbards - The One
56. Master's Voice - Where My Savior Is
57. Exodus - God of Always And Never
58. Barry Rowland and Deliverance - The Ark
59. Gold City - I Will Stand
60. Jonathan Dale - I'm Still Standing
61. Misty Freeman - A Day In The Life Of Jesus
62. Three Bridges - Livin' In The Lion's Den
63. Hazel Stanley - You've Got To Serve Somebody
64. Mark Bishop - The Other Room
65. New Ground - Make It
66. King James Boys - Somebody Prayed For Me
67. Hyssongs - I Tell Them Jesus
68. Stephens - He Said
69. Goulds - Where Are The Voices
70. Messiah's Call - Hope For The Day
71. Tim Marshall - Against The Grain
72. Tim Livingston - I Can't Erase The Message
73. Canton Junction - When He Was On The Cross
74. Sneed Family - I've Never Seen A Promise
75. Purpose - Trust Him
76. Soul's Harbor - Saying Goodbye
77. Matt Linton- Now I'm A Christian
78. Gibsons - No Wonder
79. Mercy's Well - Thanks To You
80. Daniel's Purpose - Jesus Loved Us To Death
81. Karen Peck and New River - Hope For All Nations
82. Southern Raised - Instead
83. Matt Felts - Trust Me With The Trial
84. Browns - Aim Higher
85. Michael Combs - That Same Hand

86. Bibletones Quartet - Portrait Of Love
87. Lindsey Graham - A Little More Love
88. East Ridge Boys - I Know That Man
89. Spoken For - Lay It Down
90. Eric and Laura Ollis - I Won't Compromise
91. Sons Of The Father - I'm Ready
92. Ivan Parker - Walk My Way
93. Surrendered - You Don't Know The Half Of It
94. ReJeana Leeth and New Grace - Thank God For My Christian Home
95. Summit Trace - You Love Me Anyway
96. Jim Brady Trio - God Is With Me
97. Down East Boys - Somebody Left The Door Wide Open
98. Sharps - Endless Day
99. Anchormen - I'm Gonna Run
100. Cavaliers – Forever Redeemed

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



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Kaleb's Kuts

KEVIN MILLS



By Kaleb Powell

Artist: Kevin Mills
CD / Album Title: God, Family & Country
Release Date: 2017
Genre: country gospel

Songs:

“In God We Still Trust” (Kim Nash, Bill Nash, Robert LeClair); “This Side Of Heaven” (Chris August); “My Petition” (Ashley Gorley, Bryan Simpson, Wade A Kirby); “Long Black Train” (Josh Turner); “Three Nails And A Cross” (Bobby Boyd, Bubba Strait, George Strait, Dean Dillon); “God Only Cries” (Timothy Jon Johnson); “What God Has Joined Together” (Paul Overstreet, Paul Davis); “Soldiers” (James Otto, Chris Allen Wallin); “Chain Of Love” (Johnnie Barnett, Rory Lee); “Chain Breaker” (Jonathan Smith, Mia Fields, Zach Williams)

Initial Impression: This is the first time I had heard Kevin Mills, and I personally enjoyed this CD from beginning to end. Kevin has low, rich tones and presents his music with a country flair. Each song has a wonderful message that incorporates faith in God, family values, and a country style.

Kevin Mills was born Winnipeg, Canada, in 1985. Traveling is nothing new to this artist as he has traveled

practically his whole life. He had his debut appearance on stage at the age of eight.

Kevin is currently working with Song Garden Music Group out of Nashville, Tenn. This versatile singer has released multiple CDs during his music career as well as having music available on iTunes. He has been dedicated and worked within the music industry to keep serving Jesus. Also, Kevin was formerly a part of the Keepers of the Faith Quartet as their bass singer.

The songs on this CD are all centered around the project title. I enjoyed each song on this CD, and each message that talks about having God as the head of our great country, the United States of America.

My favorite song on this CD is “Chain Breaker.” This song blesses me every time I hear it from start to finish. This song reminds us that God cares for everyone and is big enough to intervene in any situation and break the chains and settle all our problems, while we get in the way causing havoc on our own lives, He is there waiting on us to ask for help for Him to be our only “Chain Breaker.”

Another one of my personal favorite songs is “In God We Still Trust.” This song has such a deep message



within and reminds us that God is the source of all strength. The song also says that there

are some who want to push Him out and erase His name, but we as Christians must stand up and let our voices be heard. I do not know of a truer statement than that during the times we are living in.

I look forward to keeping up with Kevin Mills and his ministry. If you have never heard of Kevin or listened to his music, I would encourage you to do so.

Visit Kevin Mills at www.kevinmillsusa.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kevinmillsusa.

Due to the great response I received from the last review, I have created an email address for new and upcoming CD Reviews. To send CDs for review, e-mail kalebskuts@outlook.com (for digital releases). For physical releases, send CDs to Kaleb Powell, 245 Willow Ridges Dr., Chuckey, Tenn., 37641. I look forward to reviewing more projects.



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PETER CHRISTIE
 God, Guitars and the Open Road



Southern Gospel Music Association

By Robert York

Have you ever dreamed? Did your dream ever come true? Several years ago, J. D. Sumner, Eva Mae LeFevre, the Blackwoods, Les Beasley, Jerry Goff and others had a dream. In 1994, these and other Southern Gospel singers, songwriters, industry workers and fans formed what we know as the Southern Gospel Music Association (SGMA). It was designed to preserve, protect and promote Southern Gospel Music, its history and heritage.

The dream of this group was to someday have a building to house the history and artifacts of the music. They worked hard to find and finance it, but all their labor and work fell short. In 1997, they started inducting members without facilities. The first induction honored 38 members, of which 23 were deceased.

However, then a great friend of Gospel Music stepped up to the plate. She is known as Dolly Parton. Parton and her associates at Dollywood provided a building to house the Southern Gospel Music Hall Of Fame and

Museum. The SGMA provides the upkeep, employees and necessary equipment for the building.

On April 17, 1999, the new home of the SGMA was opened just inside the main gate at Dollywood and next door to the Showstreet Palace, which is home to Dollywood's Southern Gospel artist, the Kingdom Heirs. Currently, Arthur Rice, who is the lead singer for the group, also serves as the president of the SGMA. Earl Eleton, who is a founding member, former vice president and one who played a critical role in preservation of the history, currently serves as the treasurer. Karen Peck, a former president, serves as the secretary, and Gary Casto is vice president.

Advisory board member Travis Bridgeman explained that the SGMA Advisory Board is elected by the board of directors to advise the board of directors on matters pertaining to the SGMA. They serve a one-year term, unless they are re-elected.



The SGMA Hall of Fame is composed of pioneers in Southern Gospel Music, who are selected and inducted annually by members. They are honored with a descriptive plaque and portrait in the facility.



The Museum contains thousands of items of memorabilia and a gift shop. At the entrance, visitors will find an animatronic quartet singing "Give the World a Smile." Around the corner is a replica of the Blackwood Brothers first bus. In the long hall are the plaques of the members. Throughout the building are exhibits of different members. This year the National Quartet Convention



set aside a showcase for the purpose of inducting the 2017 members into the SGMA Hall of Fame. These inductees are Troy Burns, Randy Shelnut, Tony Green and LaBreeska Hemphill.

Board member Richard Hyssong has always loved Southern Gospel Music. One of his first experiences

was a large event featuring the Hoppers, J.D. Sumner and the Stamps, and the Speer Family.



"That is why almost 25 years later when the president of SGMA, Arthur Rice, asked if I would be interested in becoming a board member, I quickly accepted the position," Hyssong says. "We have such a rich heritage, and it is nice to recognize the past. These men and women have made an impact on those that heard them, as well as impacting the future artists of our industry."

Martha Winstead is retail manager of the SGMA Hall of Fame and is excited for their first benefit and induction ceremony at this year's NQC.



"We are now looking forward to seeing a lot of you here at Dollywood for the Harvest and Southern Gospel Music Fest (from Sept. 30 through Oct. 28)," Winstead shares. "Lots of good Gospel Music, delicious foods, leaves changing, cool nights, and the park will be open seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. (There is) lots going on, but be sure to come by and visit us in the (SGMA) Hall of Fame and Museum and stay awhile."

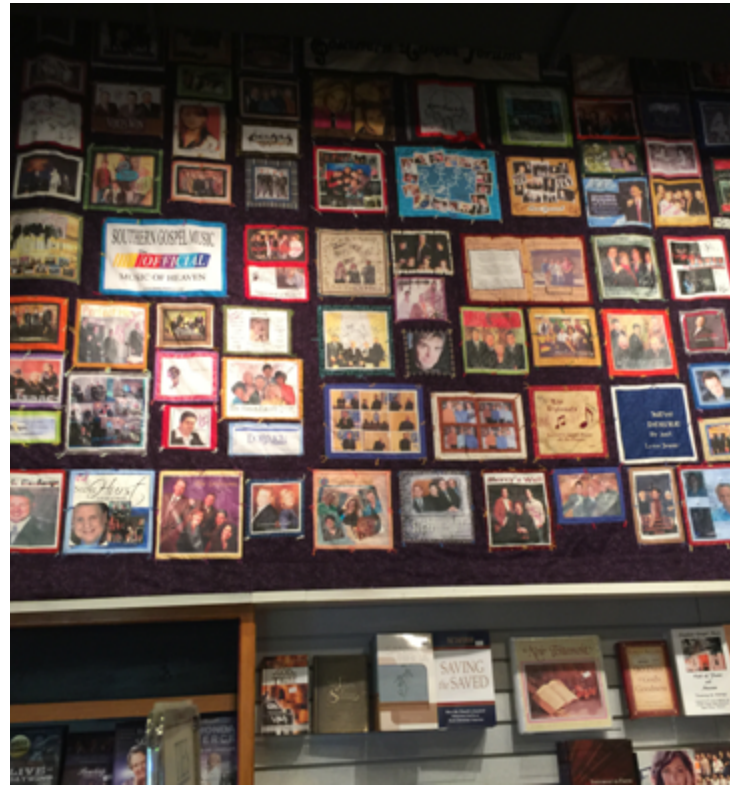
Hyssong adds, "I believe that we have a bright future in Southern Gospel Music. Young artists are getting into



the music ministry in record numbers, and crowds seem to be growing in many areas. We can learn from history, and these young artists can look at the success of the past groups and learn from them.”

One can support the SGMA Hall of Fame and Museum in many ways. By becoming a member, which only costs \$20 a year, you can purchase a memorial brick which will be placed on the porch and attend benefit concerts at all the various locations where the groups

donate their time, with all proceeds going to SGMA. If you are interested, you can call the SGMA office at [865-908-4040](tel:865-908-4040) or visit the website at www.sgma.org.



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ALWAYS.

The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Thank you for reading this issue of SGNScoops, and I hope that you have enjoyed each article and picture. Many of these artists that we have focused on are participating at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, happening at the end of this month. I especially enjoyed interviewing Eric Bennett for the cover story. What a deserving recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award.

October brings falling leaves and colder weather, darkening skies and the threat of winter weather. While I'm writing this, the world is talking about earthquakes, hurricanes, and the threat of nuclear war. Some people are anxious and dismayed because of world events, and some become so sad and depressed from the change of seasons that they require support.

God's Word tells us not to be afraid, yet, if you are like me, you have times of fear when you hear of frightful events, or you are in a situation that is overpowering.

Something or someone may be telling you that you are helpless and hopeless. I find myself sinking into that frame of mind from time to time. I must intentionally shut off the negative voice and remind myself that God is in control.

Fear does not have the upper hand. It comes from the devil, and he is a liar. In my times of fear, I go to the Lord. In times of sadness, His music lifts my heart. In times of anxiety, reading His Word – specifically the Psalms – calms my mind. Perfect love casts out fear. Jesus Himself is love perfected.

I do hope that you will find encouragement and enjoyment in the pages of this issue. I also hope that the love of God speaks loudly here and that our pages hold more words of hope than the web pages of world news hold today. I'm so glad that God and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever.

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.



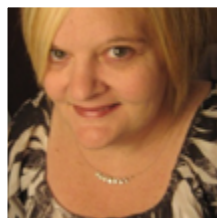
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



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



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



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

Contributors

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

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

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



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

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



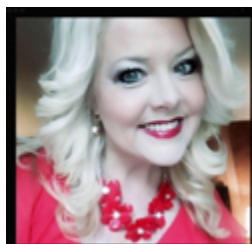
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



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

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

coming trend setters within the industry. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Contributors

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

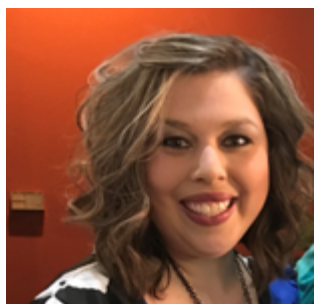
currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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