

OCTOBER 2019

# SCEN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



## THE WHISNANTS

*A family tradition*



### ALSO FEATURING

Jimmy Fortune, Kennedy Hayes of the Mylon Hayes Family, Josh Swift of Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver

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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



"For the man was more than forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was wrought." Acts 4:22 ASV

How long have you been waiting?

I'm sure most of us are familiar with the story from Acts from Sunday School and I'm sure you've heard countless sermons about the man who was crippled from birth.

As the story is detailed in Acts chapter 3, we see the crippled man continues to be faithful, waiting for someone to come along and help him.

I read this as I was getting on a plane headed from Columbus, Mississippi, to Atlanta, Georgia, I thought about him, a man who struggled from birth with a situation that in the time and era of the Bible, would've put him in a very vulnerable position. There are a few parts of the story that I really wonder about: I wonder about the people that helped him each day to get where he needed to go, and I wonder about his faith.

So back to my story for a second. Here I am, on a plane headed from Columbus, Mississippi. We've just finished a great event in Vernon Alabama, and I was headed back to Atlanta. The joke is that it takes a village to keep Rob going. That really is the case. I have a fantastic group of people, both on my staff, and in my personal life, who allow me to do exactly what God has called me to do.

There are some neat things that are happening with the magazine and with my company. As we took off and breached the cloud cover into beautiful sunny skies, I thought about some of those things, some of the opportunities I have prayed for, for 20+ years. I could have become discouraged, I could have given up and moved on, but instead I have done everything I can to hold fast to what God has promised.

Sometimes, in our Christian faith, as doers of the word and workers in his kingdom, we all need a Peter and/or John to come alongside us. There are times in life we have to be reminded that even though we are strong in the faith, it takes a community, it takes people that are willing to listen to what God has for us and who are willing to lift us up.

Over the last 12 months, I will tell you that I have watched God answer prayers that not only have I prayed about, but close family friends have also prayed about since I was a child. I'm excited to talk about those answers over the next year. As we continue our journey together, look around you for your Peter and John,



and your miracle could be today.

Just remember that this may not happen immediately. There must've been so many days of discouragement for the crippled man. However, I can only imagine the victory that this man felt when, after his healing, he could share the joy of his healing, not only with his family, but also with those who cared for him for all those years.

I pray that each of us who are in transition, waiting for our answers to prayer to occur, will remember that we need our community, our family and friends who support us. And that we each will have our own story of victory to share with each other.

Come be with our Creekside family at Pigeon Forge, Tenn., on Oct. 27 - 31. We want to share music, fun, fellowship, and prayer with you. If you enjoy Southern, Country, or Bluegrass gospel music, you need to join us. For more information visit [www.gospelmusicconvention.com](http://www.gospelmusicconvention.com) or write [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com).

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# Youth in Southern Gospel

## Kennedy Hayes

By Lindsey Chandler



This month's Youth in Southern Gospel is a young and talented girl named Kennedy Hayes. She is from Hudson, North Carolina and sings full time with her family, the Mylon Hayes Family.

Kennedy sings mostly lead and a little bit of everything in the group. She is 16, turning 17 very soon and has two older twin brothers, Conner and Bailey. Kennedy's favorite fast food is Chick-fil-a, and one thing on her bucket list is to visit the country of Israel. She plays the piano and says that shopping is definitely one of her hobbies.

If she wasn't singing and traveling, cosmetology/make-up is something Kennedy could see herself going into. Kennedy says that she doesn't have plans to go to college and really believes that music is what she is called to do. If she does attend college, it would be through online studies, so she can continue in full-time ministry with her family.

A day off from the road for Kennedy currently looks like school, school, and more school, plus cleaning the bus and getting things ready to go out singing again. When traveling, you can sometimes find yourself in interesting situations. When singing, many things can go wrong and sometimes funny things happen that are out of our control, and you just kind of have to roll with it. Here's a story Kennedy shared with me about a funny thing that happened to them while on stage:

"Not long ago we were singing, and a lady came walking in while we were singing an up-tempo song and she was dancing. We all looked at each other and completely lost it, we had to just end the song right there," Kennedy laughed.

The group has been traveling for eight years in full-time ministry. Kennedy has been traveling and singing almost since she was born. Kennedy's dad traveled and sang with his family, the Hayes Family for over 40



years, so Kennedy actually learned to walk while on a bus, which she says is not an easy thing to do.

The Mylon Hayes Family sings approximately 120 dates a year, sharing the message of Jesus Christ to all and any who will listen. They recorded their first CD in 2011, and say that they honestly just made it for themselves. They started getting asked to sing locally at churches, and that's when they decided to become full time in ministry.

Lauren Talley and Melissa Brady have had a huge influence on Kennedy's love for Southern gospel music.



Often times when traveling, it can get tiring just like everything else in life, so I asked Kennedy what is something that keeps her motivated to keep singing. She said, "When I get messages or letters and someone tells me their story, or how our music has in some way encouraged them or helped them, that's why we do

what we do. And that's what keeps me going.

"You're never too young to serve the Lord. Living for God doesn't come with an age limit. II Corinthians 5:15 says, "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. He died for us, let's live for him!" Kennedy states.

I trust you have enjoyed getting to know Kennedy Hayes. Please go check out [themylonhayesfamily.com](http://themylonhayesfamily.com) to find out more about her family and their ministry.

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# Coastal Media Events

By Lorraine Walker

Coastal Events and Rob Patz are preparing to bring the Creekside family experience to music fans everywhere during the next two years. From Michigan to Mississippi, from North Carolina to Ohio, all who enjoy gospel music will have a chance to be enveloped into the Coastal Events family. To discover what the #WeAreFamily experience is all about, fans are invited to attend the event that started it all, Creekside Gospel Music Convention.

## Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2019

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention is presenting over 50 artists at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in beautiful Pigeon Forge, Tenn. from Oct. 27 - 31, 2019. Bluegrass, Country and Southern gospel music showcases will be featured during the day, along with evening concerts, special events, and midnight prayer.

Admission is free to all events unless otherwise noted. Weekly VIP passes are available for evening concerts



for \$25.00. These passes provide attendees with special assigned seating in the front section for the entire convention. General seating will be available beginning behind the VIP section.



Among the artists appearing are the Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle's Wings, Bibletones, the Williamsons, the Browders, Josh and Ashley Franks, and so many more. Special guest pastors will present the word of God each evening.

## Sunday, October 27

The last Sunday of October begins the Creekside experience, with the Pine Ridge Boys and the Chordsmen headlining the kickoff concert. These two fine artists are joining with Classic Records and Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today to record Creekside Live! The concert begins Oct. 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mill Creek





Conference Center, 2772 Florence Dr., Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This is the first concert being recorded as a live Creekside DVD, and it is the very first live DVD being recorded by the Pine Ridge Boys in their 50 year history.

### **Monday, October 28**

Monday begins with Breakfast with The Pine Ridge Boys at The Wood Grill Buffet, 7:30 a.m. The Buffet is located at 2301 Parkway, Pigeon Forge. Cost for the event is \$12.

On Monday, the daily showcases begin. The Nashville Heartsong Showcase will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The doors open at 10:30 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center Showcase Hall.

At 1:30 p.m., Tiffany Noecker from Daywind, Vonda Armstrong from Hey Y'all Media, and Richard Hysong from Premier Promotions, will be teaching Radio 101 about Radio Promotions. The fee for this presentation is \$25 per person. For more information, visit [gospelmusicconvention.com](http://gospelmusicconvention.com).

One of the newest, most exciting additions to 2019 Creekside is Singing on the Square. Joy Holden is the first artist to open this new addition. On Mon., Oct.



28, she will bring the music of Creekside out to the people of Pigeon Forge. Singing on the Square will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., outside of the Main Entrance of the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. Holden will perform with her live band, bringing her original music to the forefront of the Convention Center outdoor stage. There will be a BBQ dinner served during this concert, which will be free to the first 100 attendees. Be sure to arrive early.

Each evening concert will begin at 5:00 p.m. Doors open at 4:15 p.m. for VIP holders and 4:30 p.m. for general admission. Join the Hyssongs, the Down East Boys, the Bibletones, and many more, this evening.

On Monday evening, the Jerry Goff Honors will be conferred on one special music industry leader. Each year, this evening has been filled with memories from friends and industry leaders, special music and lots of laughter. This year's honouree is Troy Burns of the Troy Burns Family. The award will be presented during the Monday concert. Pastor Bill Bailey will present the word during the evening.

Midnight Prayer begins on Monday night. Artists and attendees gather at midnight for a special time of prayer and praise at the Ramada Inn, within the breakfast area of the lobby. This gathering will be hosted by Tim and Missy Kitchen.

### **Tuesday, October 29**

Creekside Music Showcase begins Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center Showcase Hall. Doors open at 8:45 a.m. Great music will again fill the hall for the day. Several artists will only be appearing during the showcases, so these events



are not to be missed.

Tuesday afternoon will bring the return of the Singing on the Square at 4:00 p.m. with Justified Quartet. This male quartet from Flint, Mich., is made up of Tim Caldwell, Mark Jacoby, Carl Ledford, and Dave Potts. They will be singing from their latest release, "Take a Stand." Free dinner for the first 100 attendees. Come early for a great meal and music.

Tuesday night is the prestigious 2019 Diamond Awards presentations. Doors open at 4:15 p.m. for VIP holders and 4:30 p.m. for general admission. Special music will be presented before the award celebrations. Guest hosts and award presenters will honor winners and entertain



the audience. Surprises and fun are always a part of the Diamond Awards. Pastor Josh Franks will be speaking prior to the awards this evening.

Christian Country at the Creek Kick-Off follows the Diamond Awards at 10:30 p.m. The Kick-Off will feature pizza and music with Jessica Horton, Tonja Rose, and the McKay Project. There will be a minimal cost of \$5 for this event, to be held at the Creek Stone Inn, located less than one-half mile from the Convention Center at 4034 S. River Road.



Midnight Prayer will be held again, immediately following the Christian Country Kick-Off. The Dodsons will be leading this informal service.

### **Wednesday, October 30**

Christian Country at the Creek - Mill Creek, 2772 Florence Drive

8:50 a.m. - 9:10 a.m. Worship with The McKay Project

9:10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Christian Country at the Creek Concert: Some of the artists appearing at this event include Sara Lewis, Jessica Horton, Bonita Eileen, Appointed2, Pardoned, Phoebe White, and more. More than 30 Christian Country artists will perform during two music-packed days of concerts, running alongside Creekside Gospel Music Convention.

Creekside Gospel Music Convention - Showcase Hall, Smoky Mountain Convention Center

Creekside Presents Bluegrass with Eagle's Wings and



## Friends

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Creekside Gospel Music Convention welcomes special host, Eagle's Wings, in the presentation of Bluegrass gospel music. The Smoky Mountain Convention Center will set the stage for the instrumental excellence and mountain harmonies of the Stevens Family Tradition, East Ridge Boys, and the Family Sowell.

### Gerald Crabb Songwriting Workshop

Gerald Crabb will present a songwriting seminar on Wednesday, from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Cost for this event is \$50 per person. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited and this seminar is almost sold out. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to contact Rob Patz at the number below.

### Hey Y'all Media Showcase

On Wed., Oct. 30, there will be a showcase hosted by Hey Y'all Media, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This free Creekside bash will be open to all, with music, favors, drawings, giveaways and free CDs. D.J.s are welcome. One lucky radio announcer will receive a pair of Bose earbuds. The gala also features music by Hey Y'all Media artists such as Eagle's Wings, Pardoned, and Mark209.

Wednesday, October 30, the evening concert begins at 5:00 p.m. featuring 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, and many more.



Midnight Prayer begins at midnight for the last night of prayer and praise in the lobby of the Ramada Inn. Tonya Rose, Jessica Horton, and Matthew Wilson will

lead this evening.

### Thursday, October 31

### Christian Country at the Creek - Mill Creek, 2772 Florence Drive

8:50 a.m. - 4:00 a.m. Worship with Gerald Crabb, followed by a full day of music by Christian Country artists.



### Creekside Gospel Music Convention - Smoky Mountain Convention Center Showcase Hall

Music Showcase begins at 9:00 a.m. Doors open at 8:45 a.m. for a day of music by special guests and showcase-only artists.

### Trick or Treat at the Creek

4:00 p.m. Community Trick-or-Treaters are invited to this brand new, festive event. Participating Creekside artists will be handing out candy in the Smoky Mountain Convention Center Exhibit Hall and parking lot areas, providing a safe place for area children to show off their costumes. Singing on the Square will welcome visitors with uplifting live music by Pardoned.

Creekside Gospel Music Convention's final evening concert begins at 5:00 p.m. The Browders and Eagle's Wings are among the gospel artists presenting a full evening of music and fellowship to end the convention on a high note.

Make your plans today to attend Creekside Gospel Music Convention, taking place Oct. 27 - Oct. 31, 2019, at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the 2019 Diamond Awards ceremony, the Kick-Off Concert, Christian Country at



the Creek, Creekside Gospel, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741, email [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com) or visit the website [www.gospelmusicconvention.com](http://www.gospelmusicconvention.com).

## Other Upcoming Coastal Events

### March 2020

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

### April 2020

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

### June 2020

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

### July 2020

**Gospel Music Weekend—Ohio** is coming to Mansfield, Ohio, July 16 -18, 2020. Some of the artists appearing in GMW--OH are from the Great Lakes Region, including Gloryway Quartet, Ezekiel's Call, The Bobby Jones Family, New Promise, Kristen Stanton, Justified Quartet and Matchless Grace, among others.

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

For more information on these events please visit [gospelmusicconvention.com](http://gospelmusicconvention.com) More information for VIP tickets, lodging, bus groups, and more, can be requested at [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com).



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# The Whisnants

## A Family Tradition

By Angela Parker

Imagine if you will, a teenage girl at a gospel sing in 1995. She's sitting on the right side, the middle pew, in a little Pentecostal church located in a small town in northern Florida. She's 17, and she wants to sing like them. She wants to be like the artists on the stage. She wants to be where they are. They are her heroes at this point in her life. She's ecstatic when she gets to meet them briefly and speak to them, but deep down, never knows if she'll ever be able to sing well enough to get where they are in gospel music.

Now, imagine that same girl 25 years later at a Southern gospel concert hearing that same group. She has witnessed them accomplish so many amazing things since that little town of Cottondale, Fla. However, no achievement will ever compare to the lives they've helped lead to the Kingdom of Heaven. This young woman, now a mom, is watching them on stage with tears. She sees a new dynamic on the stage that she didn't notice as a teenager because

she wasn't a mom yet. That young girl was me, and that group was the Whisnants.

The Whisnants have an incredible legacy and tradition that doesn't seem to be ending anytime soon. Both Jeff and Susan were born with it in their blood. Their sons, Austin and Ethan, have something special that came from both sides of their family, which will carry on for many years to come.

In 1970, around the old upright piano in John and Betty Whisnant's house, a family began singing in the Appalachian foothills of Morganton, North Carolina. The voices of children blended with their parents as the sound of a gospel song filled the house. From that time forward, they were known as the John Whisnant Family. Years passed as John, Betty, and their sons Jeff and John sang together, but as the family matured, change was on the horizon.



## John Whisnant Family Gettin' Ready



Susan started singing with her mother and father at the age of 12, and they were known as the Roland Dry Singers. She sang with them until she met Jeff when she was 20.

"My daddy's a pastor, so we did many revivals. There were a lot of Friday and Saturday night concerts and stuff like that. That's how I met Jeff," says Susan.

They were singing together in Whitesburg, South Carolina during their first meeting.

"Our hearts did not mesh there. Jeff had his girlfriend there. My momma would elbow me and go, 'Susan, you got to talk to him.' I'd say, 'Momma, he's got his girlfriend here.' I finally agreed, (and) on July 4th weekend of 1985 or 1986, Jeff and I went out for our first date, and then I knew he was it. I came home and I told Momma and Daddy that I was going to marry him. I told them there was only one problem. 'He doesn't know, and I don't know how I'm going to convince him to marry me.' Jeff didn't have that peace (at first). I had always prayed for God to give me that

peace, so I wouldn't miss who God had for me. That's how I started singing with the Whisnants. Jeff and I married in May of 1988," Susan remembers.

The Whisnants signed their first record deal with Sunlight Records, in September of 1988. They went



to the National Quartet Convention with Sunlight Records, and stayed with Sunlight Records until 1995. They then made a big move and started

United Independent Artists (UIA). Their very first song was 'I'll Stand for the Lord'. It went to No. 7, and it was their very first Top 10 song.



"God blessed us when we took that move. It was a total step of faith," recalls Susan.

Susan and Jeff have been together for

32 years. With a love story like theirs, it's easy to see that they have been truly blessed. Their family and their ministry are blessed immensely.

While at their concert in June of 2019, I noticed something fascinating on the stage. Long-time member Aaron Hise has been a part of the group for 19 years, so he watched Ethan and Austin grow up. As I watched them perform and listened to Austin and Ethan sing, I could see that Aaron looked on with pride as those two talented boys sang praises to







their heavenly Father also. It wasn't only Susan and Jeff that were so proud of how far they had come, but Aaron was just as excited to hear them.

It was great to speak so candidly with Susan about their ministry. I was amazed to hear about their rich family legacy and their love story. It was fun for me to be able to share with her what I experienced as I sat in the audience that night, as an adult listening and watching with fresh ears and eyes all over again.



As I told Susan what I had observed on the stage that night; she was astounded. This was unnoticed by Susan, and she mentioned she's unable to stand back and watch them all, or it might bring her to tears.



If you ever get the chance to go and listen to the Whisnants, make sure you go out and see them. They are unquestionably a blessing. I can tell you that they live what they sing. They are fun and personable.



You certainly won't meet a better group of people.

Both Austin and Ethan, and the whole group, have new releases available now. The Whisnants recording, "He will be God," was just released in September, 2019, along with "Man of Your Word," by Austin and Ethan.

If you would like to book the Whisnants for an event, you can find their booking information on their website at [www.whisnants.com/contact.html](http://www.whisnants.com/contact.html). Don't miss an opportunity to see them or have them at an event near you.



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(September 2019, pub Oct.)

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

1. Victory Shout - The Kingsmen
2. I Pray Every Day - The Taylors
3. Shame On Me - Joseph Habedank
4. I'd Like To Tell It Again - The Down East Boys
5. The River - Karen Peck and New River
6. Heaven Is - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
7. I'd Like To Meet The Preacher - 11th Hour
8. Uncommon Praise - The Guardians
9. The Ground Is Level At Calvary - The Whisnants
10. The People That God Gives You - The Bowling Family
11. Be Saved - The Mark Trammell Quartet
12. Day One - Jason Crabb
13. Set Your House In Order - Gordon Mote (with the Oak Ridge Boys)
14. Faith Like That - The Dunaways
15. Love All Day Long - The Nelons
16. From Dust To Glory - The McKameys
17. Resurrection Power - The Mylon Hayes Family
18. Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord - The Steeles
19. Like I'm On The Shore - The Erwins
20. His Cross Is Now Empty - The Lore Family
21. A Million Miles - Sunday Drive
22. You're Not In This Alone - The Browders
23. Live Like Jesus - The Collingsworth Family
24. A Bible And A Belt - Les Butler and Friends
25. Brave - The Browns
26. Send An Angel By My Way - The Freemans



27. The Lovely Name Of Jesus - The Kingdom Heirs
28. He Has - The Old Time Preachers Quartet
29. Everybody Come See Jesus - The Tribute Quartet
30. Before The Sun Goes Down - The Hoppers
31. A Rugged Old Cross - The LeFevre Quartet
32. Death Was Arrested - The Talleys
33. There Is A Healer - Adam Crabb
34. Alabama Mud - Gold City
35. Going There - The Triumphant Quartet
36. Deeper - Gerald Crabb
37. Hiding Place - The Sound
38. What Kind Of Man - Legacy Five
39. Take A Stand - Justified
40. Redeemed - River's Edge
41. On One Fine Day - Curtis Hyler and Jubilation
42. Safe - Lindsey Graham
43. I'm In Good Hands - Mark Bishop
44. I Need You That Way - Exodus
45. This Time Tomorrow - The Troy Burns Family
46. Sing In The Valley - The Perrys
47. Think About You - TaRanda
48. Come Sunday Morning - The Old Paths
49. Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet
50. His Eye Is On The Sparrow - Lauren Talley
51. In Desperate Pursuit - The Wilbanks





52. The Meeting In The Air - The Chuck Wagon Gang
53. No Other Name Like Jesus - Josh and Ashley Franks
54. His Eyes - The Rochesters
55. His Hand Reached Further Down - The Inspirations
56. When I Close My Eyes Here - Eagle's Wings
57. The Time Is Near - Ben Mcgalliard
58. He's The Foundation - The Hedricks
59. I Don't Have To Stay - Carolina
60. Victory In Jesus - The Ball Brothers
61. Little Prayers - The Arenos
62. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus - Hazel Parker Stanley
63. Born Again - Eternal Vision
64. My Home Sweet Home - The New Speer Family
65. This Is The Lamb - Westward Road
66. This Is The Place - The Gaither Vocal Band
67. What Only God Can Do - Michael Booth
68. Take Him To That Place - Tim Livingston
69. Beautiful City - The Bibletones
70. Call On Jesus - Dean
71. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
72. Wherever You Are - Melissa Evans
73. Six Feet - Tim Menzies
74. Jesus Saved Me - Doug Anderson
75. Crossing Over - The Alliance Quartet
76. My Kind Of People - Mark209
77. Anyway - Judith Montgomery and Family
78. I Need A Fresh Drink - The Liberty Quartet
79. I Got Saved - The Diplomats
80. Just Pray - Billy Huddleston
81. You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
82. You Are Loved - Jeff and Sheri Easter
83. Another One Like Him - The Master's Voice
84. Shoulder To Shoulder - The Blythe Family



85. Mercy On Me - Foretold
86. Happy As The Clouds Roll By - The Sweetwater Revival
87. What A Morning - The Port City Quartet
88. Better - The Chandlers
89. He Has Made A Way - Steve Ladd
90. I'm Gonna Move - Keith Barkley and Family Tradition
91. What Happened At The Cross - The Keystone State Quartet
92. Bass Medley - The Brothers 4
93. Leavin' - Messiah's Call
94. Everytime - Mary Burke
95. Cain's Blood - The Steel City Revival
96. Sometimes It's You - The Isbells
97. Reach The World - Avenue
98. Listen To My Heart - Answered Prayer
99. Life - Battle Cry
100. I Sing The Mighty Power Of God - The Blackwood Brothers Quartet

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# Les Butler and Friends: Josh Swift of Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver

By Les Butler

During the next few moments, you are going to get to know Josh Swift, the award-winning dobro player for Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver. This writer was with him as a young boy with Kevin McManus, Zion Music Group, Oak Valley Studio, even though he may not have known it. I knew then he was going to be in music and excel at it. I'm not always right, but I was then and I'm right now. Josh is a superstar and he doesn't even know it.

Josh, I thought you may have mentioned the day you drove me home after I jumped on the bus with Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver one night. And, during our drive from east Tennessee to Nashville, you got a phone call from another bluegrass superstar who wanted you to play dobro in their band. I really thought you handled that with class.

Let's learn more about Josh Swift:

**Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?**

Josh Swift: I remember being about two years old and

pretending to play drums. First, I would go out in the yard and find two similar sticks off the ground. Then, I would sit on the couch, facing the arm of the couch. I would then play the arm of the couch like a drum set and use the lampshades as cymbals. After destroying multiple lampshades, Mom and Dad bought me a youth drum set.

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

Swift: Drums. When I was six months old, my father heard what he thought to be static with the radio. It was in time with the music. When he turned the radio off, the noise kept going. He turned around, to find me keeping time making noises with my mouth. Loving rhythm is what explained our soon-to-come loss of lampshades.

**Butler: What instruments do you play now?**

Swift: (I play) drums, bass, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, piano, banjo, mandolin, dobro and pedal steel.





**Butler: If you could only have one instrument on a desert island, which one would it be?**

Swift: Probably an acoustic guitar, being that it is simply a versatile rhythm and lead instrument.

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

Swift: Drums - Jerry Kroon, bass - Nathan East, acoustic guitar - Bryan Sutton, electric guitar - Brent Mason, piano - Gordon Mote, banjo - Jim Mills, mandolin - Doyle Lawson, dobro - Jerry Douglas, and pedal steel - Travis Toy.

**Butler: Growing up in a musical family, did you ever have a desire to do something else? If so, what?**

Swift: Absolutely not. Music is the only thing I ever wanted to do.

**Butler: What's it like traveling with a legend like Doyle Lawson?**

Swift: Oh, it's a blast. Doyle is the real deal. What you



see on stage is exactly what you get off stage. I was raised by a perfectionist, and that's exactly what I am. I like things to be as perfect as humanly possible. Doyle has even told me in the past that I'll never be able to own a band, because I'm too hard to please. I said "Thanks, I think???" He has really helped me in that department. He has taught me to be patient, and to not get worked up when there are issues, especially on the road.

**Butler: Which do you enjoy the most, playing live or in the studio?**

Swift: I really enjoy traveling and playing live. That being said, there's nothing I love more in this world, musically, than doing studio work. I apprenticed under a guy named Kevin McManus when I was a kid. Kevin owned Zion Music Group and was/is one of the most respected audio engineers in history. Dad had a little studio as well, and in my teenage years, I found myself recording songs by myself for fun, nearly every day. I also learned the old school way on analog gear. I'm extremely thankful to have an understanding of the old way, because it really helped my learning curve in the digital world. The first two albums I did in my personal studio were Grammy nominated albums. I thank Kevin, my dad, and Doyle for their guidance in the studio world.

**Butler: What is your favorite song to play and why?**

Swift: I don't have a favorite song. I love playing any song that moves me. Those songs are always gospel, but not necessarily southern or bluegrass. For instance, when at my home church, they usually ask me to play drums. I love "Good, Good Father," and "Resurrecting." Some of the newer praise and worship songs really speak to me. That being said, there's nothing I love more than the old hymns. I absolutely love playing "Softly and Tenderly" on dobro.

**Butler: Do you write songs? If so, what's the favorite song you've written?**

Swift: I do not write. I have been known to help fix a lyric here in there, to make a phrase flow better.

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

Swift: I'm either working in my studio, working on my farm, volunteering at my home church, or camping with my family.

**Butler: Tell us about your family.**

Swift: I grew up playing music with my family. Randy and Rhonda Swift are my parents. I started touring with them when I was seven years old, playing drums. Even before then, my childhood sweetheart was a girl named Tobi Looper. We went to church together, and practically grew up together, being that both our families were



so close. Her grandfather, Coleman Looper, was part of an incredible and highly respected trio called the Looper Trio. When my dad was a kid, the Looper Trio was his favorite group. Needless to say, Tobi grew up in a gospel family just like I did. When I was five years old, and Tobi was three, we took a picture together on Easter Sunday, all dressed up for church. We took that picture in the kitchen of an old farmhouse. Today, we live in that very farmhouse. Tobi is my wife. We've been married since July 24th of 2008. On March 24th of 2011, our son Cager was born. He is all boy, and certainly the pride and joy of our lives.

**Butler: Give us a brief testimony...**

Swift: I grew up in church. I was saved at the age of seven years old. I'll never forget, even at that young age, laying in my bed and feeling God tug on my heart strings. I asked Jesus that night to come into my life. I was soon baptized. From age seven to 18, I toured with my family. I never got into any trouble. I never drank alcohol, or tried any sort of drug, and for that I'm thank-

ful. That's never been a battle I've had to fight. I've never had a desire to try it. I attended a Christian school from Pre K to 12th grade. Needless to say, I've had an extremely easy life, and have been blessed so much, that sometimes I feel guilty for how blessed I am.

**Butler concludes...**

I've never been one to judge folks, and I believe that's something we as Christians need to balance better. You know, I've never met a drug addict that likes being a drug addict. Those folks made one bad choice one time, and it created an addiction that a lot of us can't even comprehend. That's one of the things that lays heavy on my heart, and I pray especially for people battling any sort of addiction. I realize that the church is supposed to be a hospital, not a courthouse. I realize that I've never went through any sort of addiction issue, so it's hard for me to relate with those people and help them, but I do know that God has never ever failed me, and if the faith of a mustard seed can move a mountain, there's absolutely nothing he can't do. Please join me in praying for any folks battling addiction, that God will give them the strength, and put people in their lives that they can relate to.

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## Bluegrass

### Top 20

2019 October SGNscoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 20  
(released September)

1. Beside The Cross - Rhonda Vincent
2. Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet
3. When I Close My Eyes Here - Eagle's Wings
4. I Am Just A Pilgrim - The Appalachian Road Show
5. Acres Of Diamonds - Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers
6. I Start Each Day With The Lord - Britton Family and Friends
7. The Master's Standing By - The King James Boys
8. He Paid The Debt - Travis Alltop and Friends
9. Heaven's Back Yard - HighRoad
10. Lazarus - The Principles
11. How Great Thou Art - Steven Curtis Chapman
12. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
13. Letting Go - Southern Raised
14. I See God - Marty Raybon
15. Most Requested Prayer - Heaven's Mountain Band
16. On The Far Side - The Marksmen Quartet
17. A Brighter Day - The Primitive Quartet



18. Little Black Train - Barry Abernathy and Darrell Webb
19. Who But God - Eagle's Wings
20. Call On God - Tonja Rose



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# Chris Golden

## is Grateful

By Jantina Baksteen

Chris Golden was born into Country music as the son of William Golden of the Oak Ridge Boys. He was immersed in the music industry and developed an aptitude for all facets of the business, from producer to photographer to bus driver. The gifted vocalist, songwriter, and instrumentalist played with the Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, and Restless Heart, as well as with his brother, Rusty, as the Goldenes.

Chris has released eight solo recordings in the last decade, in both Country and Christian Country genres. These have been recognized by leading music magazines as well as the ICGMA and the ICMA. His latest recording, “Grateful,” has generated the top single of the same name. He talks about this song and why he desired to record it.

**JB: Your current radio song is “Grateful,” from the same titled album. Can you tell us something about that song?**

CG: I did not write it, but in those cases I always try to pick songs I wish I had written, songs that resonate with my core. I was listening to songs pitched to my father

by Dave Cobb (producer for Chris Stapleton, Jason Isbell, others) for the Oaks’ latest project. I knew at first listen I would record it but I actually shot the video before I even recorded the song. We have a family farm in south Alabama, and the cotton was in full bloom. I only had a small window before it was picked, so on a whim I gathered some cameras and tripods, rented a drone, and shot the video with help from my cousin Ron and a friend from Nashville. We filmed around the Holiness Church where I gave my heart to Jesus and where I first sang, and the little graveyard where all my people are, so it became a special project for me. I was grateful for it to receive Video of the Year at both the ICM Awards at the Opry House, and the ICGMA. At the time we filmed it, I didn’t even know who wrote the song because I thought it was named “The Road That Lies Ahead.” Turns out it was named “Grateful,” which has been my hashtag for the last several years. “Grateful” for each opportunity to sing. It was written by Bill DiLuigi, Troy Castellano, and Reed Waddle.

**JB: How is the song being received by Christian Country radio?**



CG: SGNScoops had it as the No. 1 Christian Country song a while back. It is a special song which seems to keep giving and I am glad it got its due. I am very humbled and “Grateful” to radio and all who made it happen.

**JB: Can you share your testimony with us?**

CG: I was raised in church and first gave my heart to the Lord at a revival in South Alabama when I was about 13 or 14 years old. Out of high school, I slipped away from my raising and started living the lifestyle that pleased me. You would have thought I had forgotten everything I had been taught. Sometimes a man has to take the long way around to come back to the things he holds

dear. I rededicated my life in 1998, but didn’t get baptized until I was in my mid 40’s. It was after - what I believe to be - an angel told me to “play for the One who gave you the gift.” I got baptized in the Jordan last year on a trip to Israel and a white dove landed 10 feet from me. I knew it was a God wink letting me know I am right where he wants me.

**JB: What’s your favorite Bible verse and why?**

CG: Luke 6:31 “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” because it is the great commandment, the golden rule.



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me if I put him first, so I play for the One who gave me the gift. When I put my hands on a piano, guitar, drums, mandolin, or any instrument, or when I sing... I am giving God the praise.

**JB: Is there anything fans don't know about you?**

CG: Music has allowed me to go places I never dreamed I would go, and to perform for every living President. Although I play several instruments and have been fortunate to have always made my living playing and singing, I flunked band in high school.

**JB: What is on the horizon for you in the near future?**

CG: I sang on the Huckabee show recently, and at least three more singles off the new album before it is said and done. I plan to shoot as many videos as well. I have been busy in the studio producing Elaine Roy's (The Roys) new solo album, a band from Indiana, Faith Country, and also producing award winning singer/songwriter Greg McDougal. On the weekends I got out and do live performances, and will also be doing several select Christmas shows this year.

**JB: What would be on top of your bucket list?**

CG: That list is way too long for me. I need a bigger bucket.

**JB: You have a quote on the web page that says: "Music is my life, my gift, my love."**

CG: Music is who I am. I know where the gift comes from and I thank the Lord for it. He promised to exalt

You can find Chris Golden on the web at [chrisgolden.net](http://chrisgolden.net) and that will lead you to all his social media sites.

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# Jimmy Fortune

## Sharing hope and love

By Jimmy Reno

Jimmy Fortune is enjoying a new season in his singing career, something he knew he was destined to do when he was six years old singing with his family in church. It was an inherited talent that he took pleasure in and that others enjoyed hearing. He would go to school and the other children would even offer him a nickel to sing songs for them.

Fortune's dad played the mandolin and would go play for various events around his hometown of Staunton, Virginia, nestled in the Shenandoah Valley. On Sundays, his mom would insist they go to church to atone for the secular music the night before. She was a woman Fortune describes as a prayer warrior and she nurtured his talent by singing hymns to him. It's also where he would learn about hope, love and forgiveness.

He was influenced by the likes of Jim Reeves, Johnny Cash, George Beverly Shea, the Statler Brothers and Linda Ronstadt. He worked on his craft, but success took many years.

In 1967, at the age of 12, he bought a guitar with some money he saved up and began playing music for school functions, like Parent Teacher Association meetings, and eventually graduated to doing events at larger

places such as the local Elks lodge. When he was 26, Jimmy Fortune was hired by the Statler Brothers, after ailing tenor Lew DeWitt heard him sing.

The transition wasn't easy in some aspects at first. "Fans would want autographs and sometimes would pass by me to the next guy. But I understood; they didn't really know who I was yet," Fortune explains.

Fortune decided that to win the fans over, he needed to write some original songs. There was a tune he had been hearing in his head and he began to put the words to it. The song, "Elizabeth," was the result and it became the Statler Brothers' second number one hit on their 1983 album, "Today." He wrote two additional number one hit songs, with "My Only Love," and "Too Much On My Heart." He quickly became not just a talented vocalist to the fans, but a prolific songwriter as well.

The road can be hard and touring took its toll the Fortune family. "I look back now and see pictures of me with someone, and my kids in the background standing there. I didn't realize it at the time, but I wish I had done some things different there. Touring is a sacrifice on the family, but if we are doing it for the right reasons



and we know God has called us to do this, then I believe it all works out in the end,” he shares.

After the Statler Brothers retired in 2002, Fortune launched his solo career, and has been working diligently to share the values he was raised with and the hope that he has received from God.

Reflecting back on the songs he’s written over the years, Elizabeth stands out as one that’s impacted his career the most. But the song he describes as “the point of his arrow” for the past 15 years is one he penned titled, “I Believe.” It is very personal to the vocalist.

“I was there when my Mom passed away, holding her hand,” Fortune shares, “as well as my Dad. I include him in the song as well, so the song is written about



them.”

In 2015, the tenor released “Hits and Hymns,” which charted No. 10 in Billboard Country, No. 1 in Southern Gospel, and No. 6 in Billboard Contemporary Christian.

The success of the project on the charts of multiple music genres surprised Fortune.

“I was just floored. After (Bill) Gaither called and took a chance on me, I was able to connect with Ben Issacs to produce my albums. He has some of the best instincts of anyone in music. He has a feel for producing and arranging,” he says.

Fortune notes, “Being part of what Bill Gaither is doing has allowed me to see what a genuine Christian Bill is. He allows the Lord to guide him on everything he’s doing.”

With the 2019 release of “God and Country,” Fortune shares his patriotic side with his fans. One song, “Meet Me At Arlington,” is a powerful ballad about the loss of a child who sacrificed himself for our freedom. He talks about how the song originated.

Fortune was with his friend and fellow songwriter Dave Clark, when Clark played him a news soundbyte off his phone.

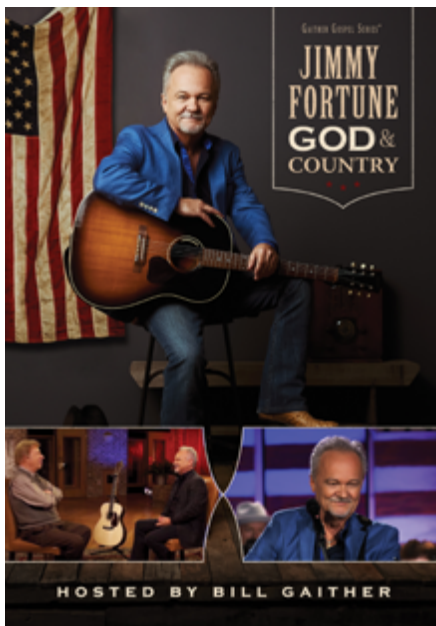
“There was a boy going to college in California and he was wearing a military shirt and this professor starts tearing him down for wearing the shirt. The boy wanted to be a soldier one day and this professor was just cutting him down,” he states.

Fortune continues, “The news program found a Gold Star mother who had lost a son in Afghanistan and they asked her how she felt about that clip. She said she wished that professor could meet her at Arlington [National Cemetery] so she could introduce him to her son and maybe then he would understand.”

This story made a significant impact on Fortune, and he and Clark then penned the song, “Meet Me At Arlington.” “We always ask the Gold Star moms to stand and be recognized when we perform this song,” he adds.

This singer believes God has given him a message for this season in his solo career. It’s a message of hope and love.





“There’s so much hate going on around us. I don’t get real political, but after the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, I wrote a song called ‘Love The Hate Away.’ That’s the only thing that’s going to change things in our world: Love,” he says. Fortune continues, “I look at what all is going on around

us and we need unity in our country; we need to come together and love will do that.”

In reflecting back on his career and looking ahead to what the future holds, Jimmy Fortune has come full circle and wants to be remembered one way: “As someone who lived a life full of mistakes but found his purpose in spreading hope, love and forgiveness.”

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SGN **SCOOPS**  
..... MAGAZINE

**TOP 40**

**CHRISTIAN  
COUNTRY SONGS**

**2019 October SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40**  
**(released September 2019)**

1. Grateful - Chris Golden
2. Arms Opened Wide - Corey Farlow
3. Six Feet - Tim Menzies
4. Sky Full Of Angels - Kali Rose
5. Mama Said - Kolt Barber
6. Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick
7. Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
8. You're Looking More like Your Father - The Journeys
9. Riding Out On Faith and Prayer - Mary James
10. If You Could Love Me Anyway - Perfectly Broken
11. God, Oral Roberts and Billy Graham - Carol Barham
12. Pretty - Jamie Lynn Flanakin

13. Down Side Up - Lisa Daggs
14. I Gotta Be Goin' Now - Scott Brown
15. Everytime - Mary Burke
16. I Am Saved - Johnny Rowlett
17. No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
18. Praise Looks Good On You - Kevin and Kim Abney
19. Mercy On Me - Foretold
20. Three Story House - Don Stiles
21. Wherever You Are - Melissa Evans
22. Not In This House - Lindsay Huggins
23. Crossing Over - Alliance Quartet
24. Living Proof - Wyatt Nations
25. He No Longer Signs My Paycheck - Chuck Day
26. The Storm - Kane and Kelly
27. Chasing After You - Brittany Morse
28. Winds Of The World - Tina Wakefield
29. Tell My Friends – Gena Roberts Hamilton
30. I Got Jesus - Randy Day
31. Small Stuff - Cindy Hughlett
32. You're Not The Only One - Tim Livingston
33. Sermon On The Mount - Tommy Brandt
34. Hand Of The Lord - Jan Harbuck
35. On The Inside - Wade Phillips
36. Something Pentecostal - Sandy Jarvis
37. Heaven Is Not That Far Away - Pam Blackstock
38. Mom - Tim Atwood
39. 'Til The Rivers All Run Dry - Gene Reasoner
40. This Is Not My Heaven - Heath Knox



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# Bob Sellers

announces departure from  
the Old Time Preachers  
Quartet



Gospel vocalist to  
focus on solo work  
by John Herndon

It didn't take Bob Sellers long to figure out exactly where his heart is. Now he's devoting all his energies to pursuing that passion.

Sellers has announced that he would be leaving the Old Time Preachers Quartet to focus on his ever-expanding ministry as a solo gospel artist. "I have made the decision to step away from the Old Time Preachers Quartet, effective October 31. I anticipated that balancing the group with my solo ministry would be a difficult task, but I underestimated just how difficult that task would be," he wrote in a Facebook post dated September 16.

Sellers says his decision was not an easy one, but was prompted by changing circumstances.

"A couple of pretty important things changed from when I agreed to join the (Old Time Preachers Quartet)," he said in an interview over Facebook Messenger.

"Mainly, managing their dates and my schedule just got to be a taller order than I'd anticipated," Sellers said.

"When we first talked, the idea was to do 50-60 dates a year. That turned into more than 100 dates this year, which was more Thursday or Friday through Sunday trips than I preferred. If that pace didn't bother me, I would have never left the Kingsmen!"

Sellers noted that his desire, since leaving the Kingsmen, has been to spend more time with his wife and three teenage children. Sellers earned widespread popularity during a seven-year tenure as lead singer of





the legendary group. He added that juggling the solo and quartet schedules sometimes created unresolvable conflicts.

“Honestly, I’ve found that I enjoy traveling solo more than anything else I’ve ever done,” Sellers continued. “Thankfully, God has opened a lot of doors for me to be able to do that, so I missed a lot of Old Time Preachers Quartet dates and I never liked doing that either. My solo ministry is where my heart is at this point in my life, and I want to focus 100 percent on that.”

Sellers received a call from the Old Time Preachers Quartet just two days after announcing he would be leaving the Kingsmen. After much prayer, he decided to accept the invitation, with limited appearances in 2018 before the full commitment this year. “I wanted, most of all, to establish my solo ministry,” he said. “Also, I didn’t want to be perceived as one of those people that left one group in order to have more time at home and then jumped right into another group. I figured that not everyone would make the differentiation between 200-plus dates a year I was doing with the Kingsmen, and 50-60 dates a year that were planned with the Old Time Preachers Quartet.

“Some folks are designed to handle 200+ dates a year. I realized after doing it a while that I’m not one of them.”

During his time with the Old Time Preachers Quartet, the group released a CD, “Long Live Old Time Religion.” Sellers says it has been a big part of the year.

“I’m glad to have been a part of the CD,” he said. “It contains some great songs - a few remakes plus some new ones that sound like old ones, but that’s who the Old Time Preachers Quartet is. We cut the vocals last December. If I’d known things were going to change, I

might have held off but hopefully it will be a blessing for a lot of folks for years to come. That’s my prayer with every recording that I’m on.”

While Sellers made it clear he has loved his time with the Old Time Preachers Quartet, he also began to realize that his ministry goals were different from the rest of the group. “I would never want to do 100-plus dates with the group and always made that clear,” he said. “The rest of the group welcomed the added dates, however, so I didn’t want to be cause for any rub there. Once a fifth member (bassist and vocalist Adam Borden) was brought in, I felt like I could leave and they’d go right back to what they were before I ever joined them. So that’s when I really began leaning toward focusing exclusively on my solo ministry.”

Sellers’ solo ministry has certainly been blessed with 184 dates in 2019, but he says it’s much different than traveling with a group.

“People hear that and think I’m just as busy as I was with the Kingsmen, but I’m not. It’s no comparison,” he said. “A lot of those dates are within two or three hours of my home, so I can wake up (at home), go sing and come back and sleep in my own bed that night. I work to fill every Sunday morning and evening. If an overnight stay is required, I’ll try to find a Saturday night service.”

Occasionally, Sellers will make an extended trip. While most of his travels stayed relatively close to his home near Tuscaloosa, Ala., he’s been as far as Tampa, Chicago, Texas and even to Phoenix.

Sellers says he’s in the middle of recording a new solo







album. "I'm so excited about it and can't wait to have it finished," he said. "There will be some classics on there and a few of my favorites and most requested that I've never actually recorded, plus some brand new songs as well."

Bob Sellers' schedule is full for the rest of 2019, but he's booking for 2020. "I have always said that I will go anywhere God opens the door for me to go," he said. "I keep my overhead low, so I travel mostly on a love offering basis. When folks ask 'what would it take' to have me at their church, my answer is, 'An invitation.' If they invite me, I'll come."

Sellers can be reached through his website, [www.BobSellersMinistries.com](http://www.BobSellersMinistries.com) or through Facebook or Twitter.

Photographs by John Herndon. The Old Time Preachers Quartet at Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, on Sept. 12, 2019.

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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## *Richard Ferguson*



By Vonda Armstrong

This month we are shining the DJ spotlight on Richard Ferguson from WOKK, located in Meridian, Mississippi. I had the pleasure of catching up with Richard and asking him a few questions about radio, family, and singing. My favorite part of this interview was the answer to my question about who he would interview if he could interview anyone. We have the same answer!

**Vonda Armstrong: Richard, can you tell our readers about your radio show?**

Richard Ferguson: WOKK 97.1 is a 100,000 watt country station that gives us eight hours of Southern gospel music every week. I have been on the air since 1992 at WOKK, and love playing the best in Southern gospel music every Sunday night live from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. My show is called the Sunday Night Gospel Show. [97wokk.com](http://97wokk.com) is our website, and you can listen from any device or call in a request at 601-693-3697.

**VA: Please share your testimony with our readers.**

RF: I grew up in the UPC church. I gave my life to the Lord at a young age and have been his servant ever since, from singing in church to nursing homes and everything between. I just love Southern gospel music and sharing music with everyone.

**VA: Tell us about your family.**

RF: I have been married to my wife Alexa for almost 32 years and we have two children, Kaylee who is 25 and Kameron who is 20. My wife was a school teacher for 28 years, and has supported me in all that I do to support Southern gospel music. Kaylee has a Master's Degree in Clinic Mental Health Counseling from Mississippi State University and works as the Marketing Director at John O'Neil Johnson Toyota in Meridian,

Miss. My son, Kameron, is starting his third year of college playing baseball at the next level. He has played two years at Holmes Community College as a pitcher, and will start the fall at the MUW in Columbus Miss. majoring in Physical Therapy and playing baseball.

**VA: If you could interview anyone, who would you choose?**

RF: I have been a DJ for 27 years and have shared the stage with a lot of greats, and have interviewed some of the best in the business: Wendy Bagwell, George Younce, Glen Payne, J.D. Sumner, Jim Hamill, Anthony Burger, Kenny Hinson and many Country artists. But, the one person I would like to interview that I can't would be Elvis Presley. He loved all music and had a deep feeling for gospel music.





**VA: You've mentioned your singing career. Tell us more.**

Richard: I helped start a group in 1986 called New Heart. We changed our name to Common Ground, had our first top 80 song, then had to change our name again in order to be printed in the chart, because of another group with the same name. We changed it to 2ndMile, and 33 years later Reggie Lovorn and myself are still together, singing every place the Lord leads us. Our tenor is Brian Waddell and the three of us have been together for the past five years. When we started back in 1986, we had a full band and we were together until 1996. We started using tracks, then were able to put the band back together and now we do concerts with a live band if we want to. Our keyboard player is Bryant Williams, Bob Sullivan plays lead guitar, Richie Lovorn plays the acoustic guitar, Reggie Lovorn plays bass guitar and sings baritone. Scott Lowrey, Mark McMillan and several other guys play drums with us from time to time. You can contact me to book 2ndMile, so please check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/2ndMileGospel/>







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# Behind the scenes of Making a Live Recording

# Pine Ridge Boys

## Life and music goes on



By Charlie Griffin

The Pine Ridge Boys (PRB) and Classic Artists Records began 2019 with a renewed vigor in sharing the good news. The legacy quartet had just completed personnel changes that spanned retirement, health issues and just life. The year 2019 is special for the Pine Ridge Boys, as they continue a 56-year tradition handed down from Jim Stewart, Charles Burke, Miles Cooper, Wayne and Darius Shuford.

“2018 was a year of change. We had some group changes that really just took time. We were looking for the right persons to be part of our family organization. (We are) really thankful for these talented friends who stepped up vocally filling in when needed,” states PRB manager Larry Stewart. Chip McGaa, Mark King,

Stephen Williams and original member Wayne Shuford filled in throughout the year. And the Pine Ridge Boys never missed a beat.

With the renewed partnership with Classic Artists Records, both parties began looking for the right mix of recording projects and new music for the quartet. It had been some time since their last Classic Artists Records release, “I’ve Got A New Song.” So, a new recording was needed in early 2019.

The music was selected, and recording started in late January, with the full release completed and available at the PRB Homecoming Gospel Sing in May. “Something Old - Something New,” contains the group’s current single “Won’t That Be Glory.” Wise Choice Pro-





motions is the DJ/ radio interaction company of choice.

But the Classic Artists talks continued in more depth. Larry states, “We wanted to say thank you to our friends who have continued to support us. We wanted to share a real concert experience; the energy, emotion and spirit. So, we got to thinking where could this take place? Immediately, we said, ‘Creekside Gospel Music Convention.’”

The Pine Ridge Boys are one of the original artists at

the Creekside Gospel Music Convention. Rob Patz, Creekside owner-promoter says, “Larry and the guys have stood with us since the first Creekside Convention. I am so excited that the Pine Ridge Boys have chosen to shoot a live video at our Creekside Kick-off concert. It’s their very first live DVD and an event not to be missed. We are thrilled to be their venue for this historic event.”

The location and recording dates had been picked and signed off on by the promoter and event staff. There was a lot of discussion on who the recording partners could be, but conversation between PRB, Classic Artists records and Patz revealed a committed team with an artist-and-music-first mentality, Gospel Music Today. Gospel Music Today is the producer of the Diamond Awards presentation held at Creekside Gospel Music Convention. They are also the host of the nationally syndicated gospel music news TV show of the same name.

Gospel Music Today, Classic Artists and the Pine Ridge Boys have a special relationship, with all being based in the Carolinas. Once CEO/ president Ken and Jean Grady agreed to the recording, pre-Live concert arrangements started during the Easter Gospel Sing in April of this year.

In early summer, the program changed slightly. Classic Artists Music Group added the Chordsmen as the Chime Records cornerstone artist. As music family





discussions were made, the decision to add the Chordsmen to the Live recording concert fell into place. Jerry Jennings and the rest of the Chordsmen felt the time was right to broaden their music outreach and what a better way to experience a Chordsmen Quartet concert than with a live recording.

Jennings says, “With the partnership with Classic Artists Music Group, we are home. We know, and are good friends with the Pine Ridge Boys, Charlie Griffin and the Sheltons. It just felt right and then to be part of a live recording this year, this is truly a good thing.”

Now the music is being picked, arranged, performed, critiqued and worked over. Each group has a list of favorite songs, new songs and crowd requests. Working the list down to a complete concert that reflects the heart and music reach of each artist is an on-going

project.

However, bus wrecks in June for the Pine Ridge Boys and Chordsmen presented challenging circumstances to overcome for both groups. Yet within a few weeks of each accident, each artist secured new bus transportation.

PRB owner Larry Stewart says, “What could have been so much worse has been turned around and is a blessing for both groups. God knew exactly what we needed and when we needed it.”

Stephen Williams, of the Chordsmen, shares, “When the bus wreck happened, with just a couple of phone calls to family, friends and with some time we were on the way to meet our singing commitments in Virginia. Same thing happened with the Pine Ridge Boys. God knows what we need, and he supplies every need. He sure did with both our groups.”

As the PRB Live recording material is being chosen, Rob Shelton, who is under doctor’s care for vocal nodules, has taken a leave from the Pine Ridge Boys. But not missing a step, Wayne Shuford has stepped in and the music carries on. Auditions continue to find the right baritone vocalist for the group.

Stephen Williams is undergoing medical care.

“I had some complications from the bus wreck but that





is working itself out. I've had a really hard time with diabetes and spinal stenosis. That's why I walk with a cane some. I also suffer with neuropathy in both legs. Last but not least, I am having a few heart issues. But God is good and faithful," Williams shares.

Yet the group has not missed a beat. Every concert is fulfilled. Their faithfulness has positive results. Hearts and lives are being changed. Their heartfelt mission is contagious.

The Chordsmen Quartet have added a pianist to the group. Zachary Clark adds his special musical convention style and worship style to the group's songs.

The building has been secured, and the recording company is ready. Staging is being designed, VIP tour seating has been reserved. Last-minute details are being covered, and prior to recording there are rehearsals, new photo shots, project artwork proofing, new clothing, continued concert schedules, prayer, fellowship and sharing of the good news. It's all in a day's work and in the planning.

There is an old saying that the show must go on. But to the Christian, the show is more than a show. It is a

heartfelt worship experience with gospel music. It is songs that encourage, reach the downtrodden, uplift the spirit and provide inspiration to young and old alike on TV, radio, CD, DVD or at a Live concert. No other music provides the positive message like Christian or gospel music.

Regardless of what life circumstance comes our way, life goes on. For a gospel singer who shares the good news, the music goes on.

For the Classic Artists Music Group quartets, Pine Ridge Boys and Chordsmen, recording a Live project at Creekside is just one more way that the message and the music goes on any day, anywhere, any time.

Sunday October 27, 2019 at 6:00 pm. join us for the Live recording at the Mill Creek Center, 2772A Florence Dr., Pigeon Forge, TN 37863.

Sunday – Thursday, October 27-31. Creekside Gospel Music Convention is held at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center, 4010 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. For more information call 360-933-0741.



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LIVE FOR TODAY



# Special CD Review: Kingdom Heirs- Southern Vocals, Gospel Band, and Everything In Between

By Justin Gilmore



**The Kingdom Heirs**  
“Everything In Between”

Label: Sonlite Records

Producer: Arthur Rice and Jeff Collins

Group members: Arthur Rice (Lead), Jeff Chapman (Bass), Jerry Martin (Tenor), Loren Harris (Baritone), Dennis Murphy (Drums), Andy Stringfield (Piano), and Kreis French (Bass Guitar)

Song List: “Just Drink The Water” (Lee Black, Gina Boe, Jerry Salley); “Come To The Well” (Kenna T. West, Jason Cox, Devin McGlamery); “Everything In Between” (Janice Crow); “Crying In The Chapel” (Charles Artice Glenn); “I Have Overcome” (Dianne Wilkinson); “Nothin’s Gonna Keep Me Down” (Dianne Wilkinson); “Sweet By And By” (Sanford F. Bennett); “Ready For Glory” (Rebecca Peck, Dianne Wilkinson); “He Set Me Free” (Albert E. Brumley, Sr.); “I’ll Never Get Over The Blood That I’m Under” (Dennis Murphy, Trey Wilkins); “Holy, Holy Is What The Angels Sing” (Johnson Atman, Jr.); “High On Zion’s Mountain” (Dianne Wilkinson)

The Kingdom Heirs are back again with yet another stellar recording: “Everything In Between.” This exciting new project showcases several facets of the group’s incredible talent. Not only does this record include songs featuring the quartet’s signature harmonies, it also highlights the band. The award winning Kingdom Heirs band is featured on three classic songs that are sure to delight listeners. The group also includes a few a capella tunes as well. This record is sure to have something for everyone.

The album opens with an exciting new upbeat track, entitled, “Just Drink The Water.” The driving rhythm of this song is a nice backdrop for the great lyric that expresses the desire to be a witness for the Lord.

“Come To The Well,” is an incredible, up-tempo track co-written by Devin McGlamery (Ernie Haase and Signature Sound lead singer), Kenna West, and Jason Cox. Arthur Rice takes the lead on this song that invites listeners to come to the well of living water and never thirst again.

Jeff Chapman’s smooth bass is front and center on the title track which praises the Lord of everything. “Jesus is the first, the last and everything in between.”

Next, the band is featured on the classic Elvis Presley tune “Crying In The Chapel,” which definitely has that signature swing feel.

The full group and band are featured once again of the triumphant “I Have Overcome,” which reminds us that through God, we are all overcomers. We can face any trial with him by our side.

Chapman once again takes the lead on the groovy a

capella tune, "Nothin's Gonna Keep Me Down." This fun song reminds us that God is faithful. No matter how many times we stumble, He will reach down for us and pick us up.

The band shines once again on the classic hymn "Sweet By And By," featuring the excellent piano playing of Andy Stringfield.

"Ready For Glory," is a fun, convention style quartet song that looks to heaven, where I'll live forever. I'm ready to go where I'll be free from pain.

The band takes center stage once more for a rousing rendition of the quartet classic, "He Set Me Free."

Loren Harris is featured on the powerful, yet simple anthem "I'll Never Get Over The Blood That I'm Under." This well crafted lyric recalls that wonderful day one was saved. I will never forget that day. I'll never get over the blood that cleansed me.

The group's harmonies are on full display on the a capella hymn, "Holy, Holy Is What The Angels Sing." This beautiful hymn tells of the joy that salvation brings and when we join the angel chorus.

This incredible album closes with "High On Zion's Mountain," a tender ballad featuring Jerry Martin. Martin's crystal clear tenor fits this song of hope perfectly. This Dianne Wilkinson penned lyric looks to heaven and tells of that glorious day when we reach home.

The Kingdom Heirs have once again delivered in every aspect with this recording. Stellar vocals, excellent musicianship, and incredible songs and messages. I really enjoyed having the band featured along with a few a cappella arrangements as well. Highlights include: "Everything In Between," "Just Drink The Water," "Come To The Well," "Ready For Glory," and "High On Zion's Mountain." Definitely one of the best albums of the year so far.

A must buy for all Southern gospel music fans; five out of five stars. For more information: [kingdomheirs.com](http://kingdomheirs.com).

Be sure to read more reviews by Justin Gilmore on [tgilm66138.wixsite.com/sogospotlight](http://tgilm66138.wixsite.com/sogospotlight).



<b>Won't That Be Glory</b>	 <small>The Sheltons</small>	<b>Far From A Song</b>
 <small>Charlie Griffin</small>	 <small>Classic Artists Records CHIME RECORDS WCPA</small>	 <small>Pine Ridge Boys</small>
<b>It Could've Been Me</b>	 <small>Chordsmen Quartet</small>	<b>Not Across The River</b>

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[TheChordsmenQuartet.com](http://TheChordsmenQuartet.com)  
[ClassicArtistsRecordsllc.net](http://ClassicArtistsRecordsllc.net)  
[GospelMusicToday.com](http://GospelMusicToday.com)  
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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Here we are in the last quarter of 2019 and I know everyone is getting prepared for Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2019 in Pigeon Forge. I'm sure it will be a great week of music and fellowship. The artists and attendees come together as family, bringing a sense of community to our industry. What a great experience.

We hope you enjoyed the cover story on the Whisnants. They are some of the great artists that always greet you as family. The writer of this cover feature, Angela Parker, is a familiar face at Creekside, and another artist that will welcome you into the Creekside community.

Be sure you haven't missed any of the wonderful artists we have featured; from Kennedy Hayes, Bob Sellers, and the Pine Ridge Boys, to Chris Golden, Jimmy Fortune and Josh Swift. We appreciate all of our spectacular writers, design and creative people, and our copy editors. Everyone has been so busy this month and we acknowledge that all have gone the extra mile. Thank you.

Just the fact that we can all work together to produce this finished product every month is an acknowledgement of the community at SGNscoops. We share a bond through gospel music and also through our Christian faith. The indwelling Holy

Spirit in each Christ follower brings us together in the same way the family at Creekside is drawn close.

I was listening to a radio program and one gentleman mentioned the drop in average child enrollment at a certain type of sporting event. He went on to talk about how the practices, games, and travel all brought the parents together in a type of community that created long lasting friendships.

I remember years ago, when my family attended a small church in a small town, there was that same sense of community. The other congregants were your friends and you hung out at their houses, sang with them in choir, and had fun together at weekly clubs.

Just like the corner convenience store, these small churches are pretty much non-existent now. I attend a fairly large church where it is admittedly difficult to meet and really get to know others. Small groups and weekly programs help to create those bonds. But it is difficult to sense that family feeling.

That is why events like Creekside and Gospel Music Weekend are so important. They give opportunity to fellowship with others who enjoy



the same music and artists who take time to join in fellowship and prayer. All of that draws people of the same faith together. That creates an extension of the family of God, a family that lives and cares for each other as well as reaches out to welcome new members.

Wouldn't you like to be a part of the family? Write me [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com).



ANOINTED, SHEPHERD'S WAY QUARTET, THE BLANKENSHIP FAMILY, MARY BURKE, THE COKERS, RAY WOLFORD, THE FOWLER FAMILY, BRANDON HUGHES, LESTER WAYNE FELTNER, BOOGER SWAMP RHYTHM SECTION, THE LOUDERMILKS, SPIRIT FILLED, NEW REASON AND GRACE RENE'

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# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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



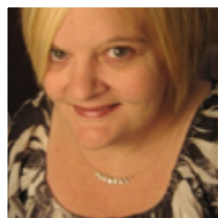
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://Queenoq.blogspot.com)



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



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



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

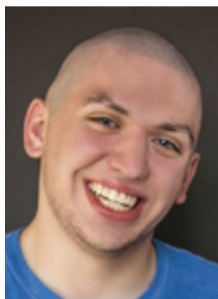


Justin Gilmore, 22, a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share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



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Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible. The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



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



Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



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

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



After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

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



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

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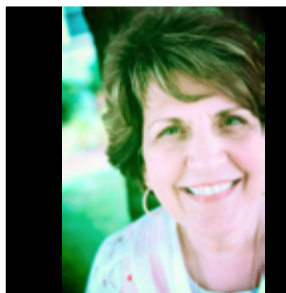
Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas.

Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed."

His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is

to give his all in the service of the Lord.



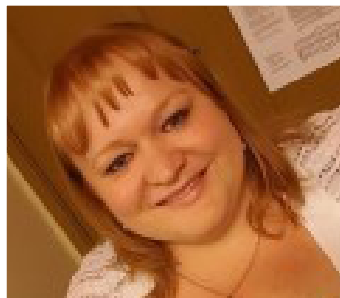
John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing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

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

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

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

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



Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and

short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped since. She holds a Bachelor of English from Columbia University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she began writing for AFrontRowView.com before joining the SGNscoops.com team. She enjoys sharing the love of Jesus through volunteering, music, writing, and teaching.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

is now a member of SGN Scoops.

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



Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The Mystery Men quartet, Florida Boys and Mark209. Off the road, he spends time with my wife, Christa, with whom he celebrates 25 years of

marriage with this year. Jimmy also enjoys spending time with his three kids and one granddaughter.



My name is Lyndsey Chandler. I sing with my family, the Chandlers. I have wanted to get something started to promote the youth in Southern gospel for a long time. I want to say a huge thank you to SGN Scoops magazine for allowing me the opportunity to do this. I

will be sharing exclusive interviews in an effort to showcase the abilities, talents and dedication of young artists in Southern Gospel music. I will be offering these monthly interviews to better acquaint you with young voices that are growing louder in our industry.

The Chandlers travel in a ministry of singing and preaching conducting concerts, revivals, camp meetings and conferences. Their travels have taken them all over the United States, Canada, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia, and The Philippines. The group consists of Tim, Lana, and their two daughters, Tiffany, and Lyndsey. Their ministry website is [www.thechandlersmusic.com](http://www.thechandlersmusic.com).