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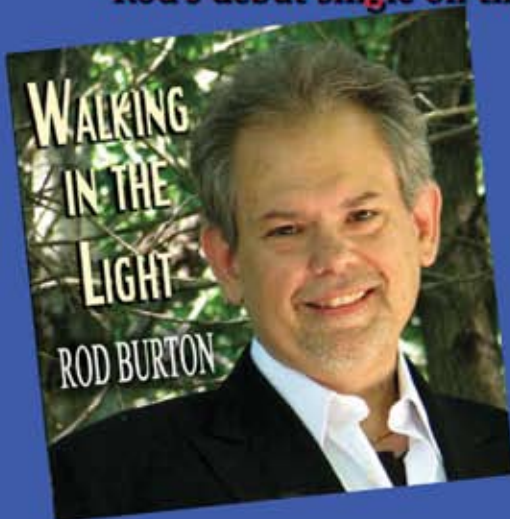
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SGN Scoops exists to showcase what is distinguished, intriguing, and real about southern & country gospel music. We seek with our stories to shed light on people fulfilling a call to minister - to make or support the making of music that excites an audience and glorifies God.
And we seek to do it interactively.

THANKFUL FOR THANKSGIVINGS PAST

Seven years ago, right around Thanksgiving, my life and my holidays and my family changed forever.

There was a gi-nourmous blow out in my extended family that was part personal, part spiritual, and in all ways ugly and sad (not in the sense of lame, though it kind of was, but in the sense of truly heartbreaking).

It was then that this holiday began to change for me. I had to come to terms with losing some people and traditions that had always been a part of my life. Truly, around that time, I had to decide what kind of Grown Up Woman I was going to be, and because this all coincided with my getting married to a man with two children, I also had to decide what sort of home I was going to have – because though the man is the leader of the home, the woman is typically the heart.

That first Thanksgiving as a 'grown-up' I made 10 pounds of mashed potatoes (for, ahem, four adults

while Thanksgiving is not a 'Christian' holiday in the way that Christmas and Easter are, it is most certainly a day for Christians to stand up and cheer.

and three kids), helped my dad stuff the turkey, and promised myself that I would never let anything come between me and the people around my table. Here we are seven years later, and there are three more people permanently seated around that same table (my sweet sis-in-law and my own two babies), hopefully more to come, and a rotating group of other friends and relatives who frequently make our company.

I can barely remember the person I was in 2002. When I look back it seems our lives have changed dramatically every year since! For Thanksgiving 2003, I was recovering from a ruptured appendix and pretty serious surgery (this thankfully did not become between me and chocolate cream pie). In 2004, we were dealing with an infertility diagnosis, and I was struggling to be thankful for much at all. In 2005, I was just finishing student teaching (the last legal form of slave labor) and making adoption plans. In 2006.. I ate turkey in the hospital after the one-week-early, surprise-C-section birth of our miracle baby, Miranda. In 2007, on Thanksgiving day, we celebrated her first birthday.. and I was bigger than a house waiting for our Kaity to arrive.

(I think 2008 was fairly low-key, even though Rod had just told me we were going to have, not another baby, but a gospel music convention).

Through these crazy years, Thanksgiving has become, in all ways, my favorite day of

the year. I love the cooking. I love the togetherness. I love the thought of taking a day to celebrate without any stress or decorations or presents or even having to dress up ('cause we gotta wear our eatin' pants!).

And I truly love taking the time with my family – the one I helped to create – to give thanks for the blessings, the grace, the lessons learned, the yummy and festive food, the new traditions, the good health, and the time we have together.

This year we begin another new tradition – our daughter Paige, now 16, is part of a Thanksgiving Eve concert with her public high school choir – and it takes place at a church! I am so looking forward to the sacredness and unity of that event.

We also have an ever-growing list of people to be thankful for this year, for 2009 has truly been one of dramatic change for our family as we have entered into full time ministry together – with Rod singing, he and I and Paige working on the convention, this magazine, and other endeavors that seem to be coming to us at a breakneck rate.

This also means that we have more people than ever in our lives who are invaluable to us – the ones who help us with our kids, the ones who look out for our house when we're gone, the ones who show us the ropes in a new venture or the best place to eat in a new town, the ones who write to say, "I prayed for you today" at precisely the most needed moment, and the ones who make home such a sweet place to be when we actually get to be here!

While Thanksgiving is not a 'Christian' holiday in the way that Christmas and Easter are, it is most certainly a day for Christians to stand up and cheer. Because even in the face of loss, trials, and circumstances we don't understand, we know where we're headed. And so, we have more than to be thankful for than anyone else.

We have eternal hope, eternal love, an eternal Father who never leaves, and an eternal feast in the home that awaits us.





Left: Ron Blackwood & Willie Nelson; Top: The Blackwood Quartet sings; Below: Grand finale with all Farm Aid 2009 musicians. Photos by Paul Natin/Photo Reserve Inc. 2009



By Jerry 'JT' Tinkle

The 25th annual Farm Aid concert was held at St. Louis, Missouri's Verizon Amphitheater recently to a crowd of over 40,000 music fans, and this year, it also hosted one of southern gospel's most celebrated names for the first time. Ron Blackwood and the Blackwood Quartet joined the stage with Dave Matthews, John Mellencamp, and Neil Young for the annual headlining benefit.

Willie Nelson personally invited Ron Blackwood and the quartet to be part of the 25th Farm Aid concert.

"It was an honor in and of itself just to be included," Blackwood stated. "We were the very first gospel group to be invited to Farm Aid, and I am very thank-

ful to have been chosen as the first from this genre of music."

With over 40 thousand people in attendance, this sized crowd represented what even the biggest groups in Southern Gospel would sing for in a year or even two, To share the gospel message in song to people who had never heard of southern gospel, or people who think of gospel music as solely as being Mahalia Jackson, is quite a big deal as well.

Nelson told Blackwood that his very favorite gospel song is "Hide Thou Me."

Carol Sanguinette-How

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It is good to praise the
 Lord and make music.
 - Psalm 92:1

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Willie said, "If you come, I want you to sing that song for me." He had heard a recording of John Rulapaugh singing that song on a Blackwood Quartet recording, and Nelson said it moves him every time he hears it, so he wanted them to do it especially for him. Of course, after accepting the invite, the group obliged him by doing the song during one of their two sets on stage.

Blackwood said he was amazed when he looked out at the crowd to see the people standing, hollering, and waving. But even more surprising, he says, was when he looked out and saw some of the people mouthing the words or singing along with the songs they were singing.

"When we left the stage and went backstage, several artists grabbed us and said, 'we've never heard such powerful voices and powerful messages before.'"

Blackwood shares that during a concert appearance right before Farm Aid, Bob Dylan put his shoulder on Blackwood's and said, "Are you a Blackwood? I'm a huge fan of The Blackwood Brothers. Their music always touched me"

Blackwood says, "If our music can touch Bob Dylan, then we really have something! And now, Farm Aid, Willie Nelson, and 40,000 new listeners have been touched by the music known as Southern Gospel!"

Many people at Farm Aid told Ron Blackwood that they'd never heard of southern gospel music before. Yet when the crowds were leaving Farm Aid that day, some were wearing T-shirts with a picture of Willie Nelson at the top and a picture of The Blackwood Quartet at the bottom.

Nelson came out to sing with Blackwood Quartet during their regular set early in the concert, and then invited the group back to sing three songs with him toward the end, according to Blackwood.

"On the final song," Blackwood recalls, "the other groups present came out and stood behind us while we sang with Willie. It was such an unforgettable time!"

The Farm Aid concert event was filmed for HBO and will be made into four TV specials. Air dates are not known at this time.

Farm Aid is held each year to help raise awareness of the plight of the American farmers, to raise money to help farmers pay off outstanding debts, and to hold off foreclosures of farm properties that in many cases have been passed down from one generation to another. Farm Aid was begun in 1985 by legendary musician Willie Nelson. Nelson has put on this event for all 25 years, and makes no profits for his efforts. Each participating artist gives of their time and talents without compensation, which Blackwood passionately highlights:

"What an opportunity for us just to share our ministry with so many people. Forget the money.

It's not about us; it's about taking our message to as many people as we can while helping our fellow man. What an opportunity. Willie could have chosen anyone, but he chose us to be the first gospel group. We are humbled, yet honored to have been selected."

Farm Aid was not the only time audiences could hear Willie Nelson and The Blackwood Quartet together. November 4th in Knoxville, Tennessee, they will appear together once again. Also in the works is a gospel recording featuring Willie Nelson, The Blackwood Quartet, and special guest Merle

Haggard.

Blackwood says he and the group have been the target of some criticism for participating Farm Aid, and shares a about a young man from Muncie, Indiana, who wrote to Blackwood saying he was upset with The Blackwood Quartet for sharing the stage with Willie Nelson. He felt that Willie Nelson was

not the kind of person that a gospel group should be singing with.

"I wrote him back, telling him about the event, what it was for, and about the opportunity that The Blackwood Quartet would have to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ with a brand new audience, many who had never heard the gospel message in song before."

The young man wrote back to Blackwood, apologizing for his "youthful" outlook at things.

"Christians need to seize every available opportunity to share the gospel in any way they can to whomever they can whenever they can," Blackwood says. Forty-thousand secular music lovers seems like a pretty good start!

Chuck Day:

The Wide Open Range

If one's life is a testimony, then the very actions of this beloved songwriter, performer, missionary, and all-around, music-mentor-nice-guy, says it all. Yet sometimes, the words of a man can speak his heart and touch the lives of those around him. Chuck Day seems to sum up a lifetime of service with only a few of those words, "I love the Lord, and all I do is driven toward my relationship with him."

Day's success in several Christian music genres did not happen overnight. This Hoschton, GA native, started out on a firm foundation built and maintained by a God-fearing mother, and the collaboration of his multi-talented family. At age 12, Day's mind-set was on his first recording project, and his heart and feet were set on a path that would take his music ministry into a worldwide arena. By the time he was 18, The Day Family had recorded 4 albums at the renowned Happy Goodman Studios. Traveling with several popular Southern Gospel groups and later with Country greats, Freddy Fender and Marty Haggard, proved to be instrumental in forming Day's unique and engaging style.

One of Day's most notable songwriting achievements is Midnight Cry that he co-wrote with his well-known, songwriting brother, Greg, in 1986. The song is noted to be one of the most re-

corded and popular tunes in Christian music history. Songs Day has written himself or co-written, have resulted in 9 number 1's in the Christian genre. Artists that have recorded his material include Gold City, Clay Cross, Michael English, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, The Hoppers, Rebecca St. James, and many more. Awards too numerous to name are stacked in Day's favor, and a brief list includes 2 RIAA Certified Gold Video Awards for 2 of the Bill Gaither Homecoming Videos, ICGMA (International Country Gospel Music Association) -- Male Vocalist of the Year, Entertainer of the Year, Songwriter of the Year, Songwriter of the Decade, Induction into the ICGMA Hall of Fame in 2000, and honored as a Kentucky Colonel in 2000 by Governor Paul

Patton. Day is actually not simply, Day, but is Dr. Chuck Day! With a Doctorate in Divinity and Theol-



Promotional photo for Chuck Day.

Provided by Selena Day

ogy, he is an ordained minister who pastors his own church on the home front, Family Ministries of Hoschton, GA, a 501c3, nonprofit ministry. He also manages to travel worldwide on his singing tour, while continuing to do missionary work. Day and wife, Selena Brantley-Day, work alongside Adventures in Missions and The World Race, sponsoring training camps for youth that reach out to people in many countries such as Ireland, Turkey, Romania, Thailand, and more.

As a New Step Records artist, Day can be heard on Christian and Country radio, world-wide. His latest project was recorded at The Tracking Room studios in Nashville and produced by two-time Grammy Award winner, Adrian Payne. I'll Stand Up and Say so, truly has an inspirational story behind it and is another one of those stories within itself! To sum it up, Day notes, "The Lord just poured this verse & chorus in me." The song is sure to bless, as the lyrics have already been a blessing to this writer.

As though all that is not enough, Day's strides in Praise and Worship music have endured him to an



The Day family *Provided by Selena Day*

Giving to the givers

The Deep South Regional Quartet convention focuses on refreshing the warriors who use gospel music as their battle weapon.

The Deep South Regional Quartet Convention was established in 2001 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas and is hosted by The Crusaders Quartet. The Crusaders began it with a goal of bringing in quality quartets and groups for two days of great Southern Gospel music and the opportunity to receive ministry.

"Preparing [groups] for another year of service to the King of kings and Lord of Lords was vitally important

to us," says Penney Talley, organizer of the convention with her husband David of Crusaders Quartet.

The three concerts are free to the public, and a love offering is taken to support the ministries of the invited groups. It is the Talleys' prayer that each one in attendance will come to know the Lord a little better. Their prayer is that the Lord might lift a burden, dry a tear, or prick a heart, but more importantly, to save a soul.

The Crusaders have chosen four core groups to assist them on hosting the conventions for 2009 and upcoming years: Crosspoint Quartet, His Call Ministries, Velvet Ridge Singers, and Heaven's Echoes. Regional groups are also brought in to be featured artists. Groups are chosen from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma. Other artists are considered as well. The hosts are looking for weekend warriors who are seeking God to revive them and refocus them to continue in His work. The groups come for a minimum of fuel expense, lodging (if necessary), and meals. The Crusaders want to always be able to give back to each one's ministry, to help them continue to spread the Word of Jesus Christ

>continues

even larger, more global fan-base. His songs touch the heart strings of his audiences and are enjoyed by millions. Young, old, rich, poor...No matter which culture or race, Day is a universal artist, reaching fans of Southern Gospel, Christian Country, mainstream Country, Praise and Worship, and more. After a successful, full-time, 21 year track-record, he is still going strong, carrying his inspiring songs and voice into the wide open range... and by the look and sound of it, Dr. Chuck Day has only just begun.

For more info, booking, or to order his latest, sensational project:

Chuck Day, P.O. Box 602, Hoschton, GA 30548 / Email: CDCRY@WINDSTREAM.NET / Visit: <http://www.myspace.com/chuckdaymusic>

Hear him perform in November at: Christian Music Hall of Fame, Visionary Awards Show, 11/14/09 Frisco, TX, First Baptist Church.



Evie Hawkins's love for writing spun many articles that were read by music industry professionals and lead to the development of the Evie Hawkins Agency, in Nashville. Evie keeps residence in Alabama and Tennessee, and enjoys as much time as possible with her husband, their family, and the musicians whom she loves very much. Her website is www.eviehawkinsagency.net.

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>continued

through music and through the love offering.

Local churches are asked to host a group on Sunday morning or evening following the convention. Each group agrees to sing at those churches for a love offering.

What the public doesn't see behind the scenes is that the hosts try to meet the needs of the groups they invite to the convention. Besides aforementioned ministries, there is

fellowship time to get to know each group on a personal level. Praise and worship time is held on Saturday morning with the groups and a banquet and farewell dinner is held on Sunday. Spiritual as well as physical food is offered to all.

"The Deep South Quartet Convention is an event that reaches regional groups, the host church, and the community to revive them," Penney says. "Many discouraged groups and churches are ministered to during this weekend."

The DSRQC team arrives at the church on Wednesday to work and prepare the church for the arrival of all the other artists and audiences for the Friday night and Saturday night concerts.

Mike Goodwin, full-time missionary, preacher, and singer says, "For me the DSRQC is a time for renewal and encouragement. Since I spend most of my time out of the country I always look forward to the DSRQC. Most of my time is spent ministering to others, and the DSRQC allows me to be ministered to."

He continues, "The singing and fellowship has always brought about a revival to my life. Last year having the opportunity to emcee the event was one of the high water marks in my life. I am already excited about what

God is going to do this year at the DSRQC."

Brother Carol Pettigrew of Calvary Baptist in Mena, Arkansas, adds, "I have attended many Southern gospel singing events over the past 15 years, but none of them has blessed my walk with the Lord as much as this convention. It will always be an annual event for me, and I fully intend to bring a Greyhound bus load for 2009."

And amidst fears that the economy and culture are causing Southern Gospel music to die, there are plans in the works to expand this convention into new territories, such as Northern Arkansas, Mid-Arkansas, and the Ozarks. Talks are under way to even possibly take the convention to Alabama. The Crusaders have been also contacted about possibly starting conventions in Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

For more information concerning this event contact: David and Penney Talley - 870-904-3118 mobile - 870-234-7796 home - d-talley@sbcglobal.net



Jerry 'JT' Tinkle is the baritone for the Ministers Quartet from Muncie, IN. He hones his writing with their weekly newsletter, which he fills with inspirational stories from the road and from life. His mantra stands, "Just one more soul, Lord Jesus, just one more soul." Learn more at ministersquartet.com

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With Southern Gospel conventions, concerts and conferences spread throughout the United States and Canada, it's no wonder that Southern Gospel groups and fans alike spend a lot of time on the road. The old adage "Getting there is half the fun" can be very true if you actually take the time to exit the freeway and explore some of the great towns, villages and businesses that dot the horizon.

After many years of driving by these roadside attractions and small towns, I decided that this year would be different. I would see America. I would meet her people and taste her foods. I would experience my country rather than view it from a window traveling by at 70 miles an hour. What a great adventure it has been too! Please join me on my journey in my new series, America: A Great Destination

With so many Americans deciding to forego those expensive European vacations and Caribbean Cruises, for "Staycations" it is no wonder the foreign travel industry has seen a drop in revenue. But that is good news for domestic industries. With high fuel costs and a rocky economy, there is no better time than now to seek out those little, out of the way places you've driven by, but never bothered to stop and explore.

We're going to kick-off this series by exploring Coeur d'Alene Idaho. If you have never been to Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, you really owe it to yourself to make plans soon. I've always thought that Idaho was an under glamorized state. Many of you may have driven through Cour D'Alene along I-90, but next time, take the time to explore.

With the Museum of North Idaho, a host of fine art galleries and monthly cultural events, even if you are not an *outdoorsy* person, you will not be bored. Be sure to check out the downtown shopping

America: A Great Destination

Story & Photos By
Stephanie Kelley



by the lake or one of the malls. And rest assured: you will be able to find some familiar restaurants as well as unique local eateries.

Of course, no trip to Coeur D'Alene is complete without visiting Lake Coeur D'Alene. Once you see it, you will understand why it has been hailed as one of the world's most beautiful lakes. Typical water activities are popular here: water skiing, wakeboarding, fishing, jet

skiing, parasailing, boat cruises, seaplane rides, and kayaking. Or you can simply hanging out at City Beach will be sure to please. The pristine Lake Coeur D'Alene alone is worth the trip, but there is so much more to see and do.

Silverwood Theme Park / Boulder Beach Water Park is the Northwest's largest theme park, featuring over 200 acres of fun and over 65 rides and attractions. If you are a fan of theme parks like I am, you are sure to want to check this out.

While you are in Coeur D Alene, let me recommend the good folks at the Days Inn. I can honestly say that the staff is amongst the friendliest and most accommodating hotel staff I've met.

The hotel is clean and conveniently located. Tired and hungry after a day of travel? The Days Inn of Coeurd' Alene has snacks served every evening. The night we stayed there they were offering Nachos and Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches. What a nice touch to make your guests feel at home. If you travel with kids like I do, you know what a headache it can be to arrive late at a hotel and then have to find something for them to snack on before hitting the hay. I was delighted that I didn't have to worry about that! Oh, and the breakfast buffet was also very nice!

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 and has two children and lives in Washington State.

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The Culture War Part II: Go Ye Therefore

In my first column in September, I wrote about how Christians need to stop using boycotts as their primary means of interacting with the world around them. But it's not enough to stop using this strategy; we need to implement another. I propose that we start allowing Christian artists to do what they want to do—get involved in the arts, even if it means taking “secular” jobs.

I'm not sure how big of an issue this is in the Southern Gospel community, but my own experiences, as well as those I have heard from others, indicates that in general, many Christians do not support the idea of Christian artists working in “non-Christian” entertainment (incidentally, how is it possible for a song, a book, or a movie to be saved or unsaved?). I have heard many sermons on how (supposedly) the root of all evil in this country is the entertainment industry; I have not heard a single sermon about the Christians' need to engage the lost souls that work in it.

Many times I have been asked, “Why would you want to go to Hollywood? There are so many sinners there!” Can you imagine anyone saying the same thing about Africa or China? Of course there are many sinners in Hollywood. There are many sinners everywhere. Ought we not send out our warriors to the places where the battle is the heaviest? Especially if—and this is key—the

place in question is a primary values transmitter in the country? Many Christians who want to work in the entertainment industry have a nagging sense that tells them not to go, but I don't believe it's God who put that idea in their head.

But the artist who does go out to Hollywood, or the theater scene in New York, or in the “secular” music industry, etc., should not come with an attitude of “I'm going to teach the sinners a good lesson; I'll show them how it's done.” Rather, they should come with a humility and awe toward those who have worked hard and long, refining their craft, to get where they are.

Why would you want to go to Hollywood? There are so many sinners out there!
Can you imagine anyone saying the same thing about Africa or China?

Can you picture a Christian who wants to be a fireman saying, “I don't need to learn how the world puts out fires—I'll just trust God to guide me,” so he never learns how to work a hose properly? Or, even more ludicrously, setting up a “Christian” fire department in town to compete with the “secular” one? Yet this kind of thing happens all the time when

Christians try to produce mass media.

We must remember that, by and large, people in the world don't know all of our values by heart and then try to flaunt them as much as possible. Granted, some of them have a chip on their shoulder (and sometimes it's justified). But during my short time in L.A. a few years ago, I never heard anyone say, “Hey, let's get together and plot against Christians and figure out how to overthrow them!” On the contrary, most of the filmmakers are simply making films according to their own values (or lack thereof) as impressed upon them by society, their family, and so forth.

But instead of encouraging Christian artists to go into the industry and make entertainment according to our values, many Christians will make the artists in their fellowship feel guilty for even trying to express the gift God gave them, at the same time complaining when non-Christians make projects that reflect their worldview instead of ours.

As well-intentioned as they may be, Christian pundits have not been as much help to us as they may think they are in the culture war. Even though they often speak the truth, audiences can't separate the message from the frequently loud and uncivil manner in which it's delivered. Better if we correct our opponents with kindness and gentleness (2 Tim. 2:25).

We mustn't forget that non-Christians are not the enemy. Satan is the enemy. And he has these people chained up and suffering. We



We mustn't forget that non-Christians are not the enemy. Satan is the enemy.

shouldn't come at them with pitchforks and torches; we should be using the key (Jesus) to undo their chains, and provide healing and comfort for their pains, which are many.

Of course, one fear that remains in the believer's heart is valid: What if my Christian brother or sister is changed by the entertainment industry, rather than the other way around? So many are conformed to the world rather than transforming it.

Although I haven't done an empirical study on the causes for those who walk away from their faith, I can say from experience and observation that it's hard to stay strong (in the industry or anywhere) without the support of one's church.

When I left for L.A., I had people in the church telling me, "Ha! You'll

never make it! Six months from now, you'll be begging to get away from those weirdos." What kind of thing is that to say to a person about to enter a mission field (and Hollywood is as much a mission field as Russia or as your own neighborhood)?

If someone in your fellowship tells you that they want to pursue work in the entertainment world, please, for all of our sakes, lift that person up in prayer, both by yourself with the larger church body. If they move, keep in contact with them through phone calls and e-mail. (I would even suggest that financial support from the church would be worthwhile as it would for any other missionary, but I admit, as a penniless writer myself, that my opinion may be largely biased.) Keep reminding that person that Jesus cares about him or her,

and so do you.

If you want the artist from your home church to stay afloat, then please be prepared to be their life preserver.

For further reading, the author recommends Behind the Screen: Hollywood Insiders on Faith, Film and Culture, eds. Barbara Nicolosi and Spenser Lewerenz.

Tom Holste is a writer living in Chicago and a graduate of Act One, a screenwriting program specifically geared toward Christians. He has written and directed numerous short scenes for church events. His website can be found at tomholste.com.



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Oklahoma Spotlight:

BLAKE BOLERJACK

By Chandel Lewis

What do Troy Aikman, Will Rogers, and Vince Gill have in common? Oklahoma! Besides being known for football, cowboys and country music, Oklahoma is a hotbed for Southern Gospel Entertainment.

Throughout the last couple of years, my husband and I have had the privilege of hearing nationally recognized Southern Gospel Artists. As a treat, we were fortunate enough to get in on some regional artists as well. There are many groups and soloists in Oklahoma that are just waiting on the "Big Break" to become nationally known and to fulfill their dreams of sharing a stage with such greats as The Hoppers, The Greenes, Gold City or The Bowling Family just to name a few.

Within the SG realm lies the potential to become as well known as The Gaithers or The Goodman's, but without the exposure that places like Nashville offers, how is an artist supposed to get their name out there? Well, this question is one that I pondered recently when I made my first trip to NQC. There were tons of regional artists just trying to get some exposure but as I looked around at the crowd, they were flocking to the well known groups and leaving the regional groups behind. That is where my idea of highlighting the regional artists began to form.

Over the next few months I hope to unveil to you what I think are some phenomenal groups and soloists that just need that extra push in the media. I plan to get the inside scoop on what makes them tick. I want to know how they balance their road time with their other jobs that so many have and I want to know how they balance their family time with all their other obligations. I also can't wait to hear how they got their start in SG music. I want to delve into their personal and professional lives so that you, the viewers,



Blake Bolerjack performing "Prayer Force One" Theme song at the Oklahoma State Capital Building. By Paul Stevens, Prayer Force One

can have a better sense of the artist. After reading my article I hope you as a viewer can see the artist for something more than just another singer trying to make it.

At the age of 5, Blake Bolerjack understood that God loved him and he had to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior or he would be doomed to hell. As he sat on the kitchen counter, in one of 13 homes he lived in growing up, his dad explained Salvation to him. It was then that he asked Jesus to be his personal Savior.

Throughout his childhood and into his teenage years, Blake performed to his best ability in sports and academics but deep inside, he battled depression, anxiety, and anger issues. Feelings of worthlessness and not fitting in shadowed his life. As he shares his testimony, it's clear he offers a message of God's love and a story of hope.

At the age of 17, Blake's world came crashing down around him and that's when he attempted to take his own life. But, as God would have it, and with the help of Blake's praying Grandmother, God had other plans for him. It was at that very low moment that he realized the true meaning of God's unconditional love and rededicated his life to Christ. This set Blake on the journey that has become his life's testimony.

As a small boy, he knew of God's calling on his life to sing. It wasn't until Blake turned 18 that the doors began to open. Blake traveled a couple years with a group from Ventura, California called The Continental Singers. This helped prepare him to be the phenomenal soloist that he is today. Blake surrendered the

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SGMA Hall of Fame induction takes place at Dollywood



Barbara Mandrell and Lou Hildreth, backstage at the 2009 SGMA Hall Of Fame Induction in Dollywood. During the ceremony, Barbara was presented the prestigious "James D. Vaughn Impact Award" - Property of Lou Wills Hildreth

Southern Gospel's newest inductees into the SGMA Hall Of Fame at Dollywood, Sevierville, Tennessee, were welcomed by a host of gospel fans and friends on a beautiful October day.

Charlie Waller produced the annual induction show with fascinating vintage media, representative live music, and legendary presenters. Jerry

treme health problems. He was beautifully represented by the Gospel Harmony Boys, a group he helped organize many years ago.

Elizabeth "Lady" Mull was a favorite with the audience and the Chuck Wagon Gang was the perfect choice to sing the tribute to her.

Charlie Waller was greeted with a tremendous ovation at his induction and responded with genuine appreciation and his usual wit.

The Dove Brothers sang a tribute to inductee Bill Lyles who was killed in the 1954 airplane crash with R. W. Blackwood. Bass singer David Hester brought to our mind the smooth style of Bill's performance with the Blackwood Brothers.

The Dixie Echoes touched our hearts with a song for inductee Billy Todd, their former bass singer who died this year.

Bronze plaques of all the inductees were displayed and are being placed in the SGMA Hall Of Fame, along with those who have previously been inducted.

I will always cherish the thrill of being inducted into this beautiful Hall Of Fame in 2007. Newly elected President of the SGMA, Karen Peck, was exuberant as she closed the ceremony with a call for all of us to unite in our efforts to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Let's do it!!

Lou Wills Hildreth
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Goff was once again the smooth MC.

INDUCTEES FOR 2009:

Neil Enloe, who accepted with beautiful humility and thanked the other members of the Couriers, Dave Kylonen and Duane Nicholson, who were present. In tribute, the Mark Trammell Trio sang "Statue Of Liberty," one of Neil's best known songs. ED HILL expressed his thanks to God for a lifetime of blessing, and Greater Vision performed classic gospel music.

Don Light gave delightful acceptance remarks followed by a flawless performance of blue grass gospel by Daley & Vincent.

Harold Lane was present but did not speak due to ex-

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"We need to get the message out that Southern Gospel Music is alive and well!"

Karen Peck: Strong leadership for the SGMA



Photo by Lou Will Hildreth

By Lorraine Walker

Karen Peck Gooch, Daywind Artist and one of Southern Gospel's most popular sopranos, has been named the first female President of the Southern Gospel Music Association (SGMA), the non-profit corporation that was formed 15 years ago to preserve the heritage of Southern Gospel. Karen Peck and New River, winners of many awards for their music, have been ambassadors of the genre for almost 20 years. Karen Peck herself is a legend in an industry that is strengthening its roots even as it branches out into new territory.

Karen Peck Gooch joins the thirty-five members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board in the Association that maintains the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame. As President, her challenge is to promote the growth of the Southern Gospel industry in a time of unprecedented technological advances and entertainment alternatives. Gooch has loved this music since she was a young girl and is honored to become the first female president of the SGMA.

"I'm still in the beginning stages of learning what

my duties will be as the SGMA President," says Karen Peck Gooch. "So many people are e-mailing and calling, donating their time to help out. My main goal as President is to get as many people as possible to become members of the SGMA. We need to get the message out that Southern Gospel Music is alive and well!"

Joining past SGMA Presidents such as Maurice Templeton and Steve French, Ms. Peck Gooch will no doubt leave a mark on the Association in her own unique way. "There's no way to ever top the previous Presidents of SGMA," says Gooch. "Hopefully I can bring a new excitement to the organization."

Excitement and commitment are synonymous with the ministry of Karen Peck and New River. Karen began her ministry almost thirty years ago, when Alphus LeFevre asked her to join his group which later became The Nelons. Karen refers to both Alphus LeFevre and Rex Nelon, members of the SGMA Hall of Fame, as "two of the greatest men in Southern Gospel Music," artists who introduced her to the industry and

its audience.

"Rex Nelon recommended me to Alphus LeFevre," says Gooch. "Uncle Alph' was one of the sweetest and smartest men I've ever known. I learned a lot of things from him. He always gave more than a hundred percent each night. He also was a musical genius."

Gooch continues, "It was a thrill working with Rex Nelon. I also learned so many valuable lessons from him. He was always pulling practical jokes. Needless to say, he had a ball teasing me."

Ten years after her start with The LeFevres, Karen Peck Gooch, her husband Rickey, and sister Susan formed Karen Peck and New River. At that time there were few mixed groups that were fronted by a female. For Gooch, taking the lead in a traditionally male-dominated industry could be a challenge.

"I can see a few changes toward the groups with female leaders," says Gooch. "New River has been around since January 1991. I think most preachers and music ministers now feel comfortable with me doing the emcee work. It wasn't as easy 19 years ago."

There are many women in the Hall of Fame whose dedication and strong leadership qualities echo that of Karen Peck Gooch, women who also thrived in an industry that was heavily dominated by male quartets in the early years. Hall members include names such as Dottie Rambo, Lena "Mom" Speer, Lily Fern Weatherford, Vestal Goodman, Lou Wills Hildreth, Gloria Gaither, and Eva Mae LeFevre who recently passed away. There are a few names not mentioned, but there are still many more men in the Hall than Southern Gospel women.

Gooch says, "There are quite a few ladies who have

'Honestly, I do have blonde roots. However, I am a lot smarter than people think.' - Karen Peck Gooch

been inducted in the SGMA Hall of Fame. I think we'll see many more in the years to come. Just to name a few I think should be inducted: Little Jan Buckner Goff, Connie Hopper, and Jeanette Cook."

"Sometimes it's challenging working in a male-dominated industry," Gooch shares. "I've been here so long that most of the time I really don't think about it."

Karen Peck Gooch is known not only for her sweet soaring soprano voice and ability to communicate with an audience, but also as one of the most



The Southern Gospel Music Association was formed in 1994 to develop and maintain a Hall of Fame and Museum, seeking to preserve the history of Southern Gospel as

a musical art form and the accomplishments of its artists.

As a non-profit association of artists, songwriters, industry workers and fans, the SGMA is open to all who might apply for membership. Membership privileges include free CDs and gift shop discounts, as well as the ability to nominate deserving people to the Hall of Fame.

The Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum opened in Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on April 17, 1999. The Hall of Fame displays photos and plaques of those honored by the SGMA every year. The Museum contains Southern Gospel memorabilia and a gift shop, as well as an animatronic quartet, which sings gospel songs to visitors.

The SGMA holds yearly induction ceremonies for Southern Gospel pioneers who are being added to the Hall of Fame. Read about this year's induction ceremony from another member and Scoops contributor, Lou Wills Hildreth, on page __.

The present SGMA Board Executive consists of Karen Peck-Gooch, President; Arthur Rice, Vice President; Earl Eleton, Secretary; McCray Dove, Treasurer, and Charles Waller, Executive Director. The Board itself consists of 23 members responsible for the nomination and induction into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

The SGMA as an organization believes that Southern Gospel is evangelistic and non-denominational, and therefore is a means to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through the music, by all means available. For more information or to join the SGMA, log on to: <http://www.sgma.org/>.

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Promotional photo provided by Karen Peck & New River

beautiful women in Southern Gospel. In some industries, this could be a hindrance as old-fashioned ideas still abound regarding appearance and ability. However, Gooch says it was never really that difficult for her to enable others to look beyond the exterior. "I've always had an outgoing personality," states Gooch. "Honestly, I do have blonde roots. However, I am a lot smarter than people think. And I'm okay with it!"

After almost thirty years of ministry, Gooch's resume is beginning to resemble many of the women who are legends in the industry that she has committed to preserving through the SGMA. Most of the women spent their entire lives working for the Lord, some for five or six decades. Throughout these years they raised families, supported their husbands,

and became astute businesswomen. They used their talents for God and gained many fans while retaining their integrity and sweetness of spirit.

Gooch has also remained grounded and dedicated to God throughout the years of travel, children, and the usual occurrences of life. "I think the main way to stay committed to anything is to stay focused on the Lord," shares Gooch. "No matter the circumstances, I try to do what's right and pleasing to Him. I've made poor decisions at times, but I can honestly say that I've done my best."

"The Lord and His word keep me going," Gooch continues. "I believe when God calls us He always makes a way for us to fulfill that calling."

As she leads the SGMA into new frontiers, Karen Peck Gooch is thrilled with where the Lord has brought her after all these years. "The Lord has truly given me the desires of my heart. He has taken me beyond my highest dreams!"



Born and raised in southern Ontario, Canada, Lorraine Walker has been interested and involved in Southern Gospel Music since the mid-80's. Since 2005, she has also authored the popular 'Reality Check' column and other features for www.sgmradio.com.

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Thanksgiving with lost loved ones

Monthly encouragement
from one called to teach
& share Good News

By Rhonda Frye

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of family celebrations. Many families are related to each other spiritually speaking thus making the holiday more meaningful. Many Christian families will be celebrating with unsaved family members and this can put a damper on the occasion. Some cases, it can be a heartbreaking experience.

It seems easier to share Christ with complete strangers as opposed to our very own family. Why is that? It's not for a lack of love, but rather for fear of isolation, rejection and intimidation. Our families know us best including the good, bad, and ugly. Often times, they remember how we were before we came to Christ. Because of this, the tendency is to shy away from our responsibility and shift it to someone else.

Vince Johnson, staff member of Campus Crusade for Christ, says: "The Lord has sovereignly placed us in the families we are in. Somebody needs to tell them about Jesus, and I believe we have a stewardship because we are in that family as a believer. We have a responsibility to tell them." Just as our families know us best, we also know their needs best due to our position in the family.

On the opposite extreme, some Christians are so desperate to "win" the lost they try to force or manipulate loved ones into a decision. Often times, this leads to a disastrous family gathering igniting arguments, straining relationships and even causing permanent damage. The good news is: God understands your awkward position and He is on your side! I Timothy 2:3-4 tells us that God wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." Basic Biblical principles will assist in our efforts to share our faith with our families.

Be thoughtful. It's important to remember why our loved ones haven't received Christ. There are many reasons, but all could possibly be traced back to pride and a lack of faith. Many people struggle with self sufficiency and believe they can earn their salvation by performing good deeds.

People doubt the goodness of God therefore they are hesitant to place their faith in Him. Let's also not forget sin is pleasurable, attractive, and addictive. When people are considering becoming a Christian, Satan is trying to convince them they can't live without their sin and that the Bible isn't true. Our lost loved ones really don't realize they are in spiritual darkness and we have to accept the fact that only God can remove the blinders and open their eyes.

Be prayerful. Specific prayers will get specific answers. When preparing for prayer, I suggest visually picturing your lost loved ones as they would be if they were saved. Paint a mental image of them smiling, peaceful and free from addictions. Imagine them in church worshipping and serving others. Conceptualize their lives stable and content. Fantasize about spending eternity in heaven together. With those images in mind, carry your petitions to the throne room. Confidently ask God to remove the blinders, soften their hearts, grant them a genuine desire to repent from their sin and give an extra measure of faith to believe. Ask God to give you opportunities to share His love, grant boldness with sensitivity and to help you not become too emotional when you witness. The glory of God shining through us is an effective witnessing tool and can only come from extended time in His presence. It is also very effective to ask your close friends and church family to pray with you. Perhaps suggest to your church leadership, the idea of having a prayer vigil during the week of Thanksgiving.

James 5:16 says: "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Be planning ahead! Be creatively thinking of intentional ways you could possibly turn conversations toward God

long before you see your unsaved loved ones. If you are hosting the Thanksgiving meal in your home, you have an advantage in this area such as: using Christian music in the background, decorating coffee tables with Bibles and Christian books, writing personal notes of blessings to each guest, mentally preparing for the meal grace- (including expressing thanksgiving for salvation), child made laminated place mats including Bible verses, and putting various Christian décor throughout the home. Even if you aren't hosting the meal, ask God to help you be creative in ways that might turn conversations toward Him. Also, some churches will host a Christian movie night or babysitting services or even various outreach events during the Thanksgiving weekend. Invite your family to at

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There is a huge difference between convincing someone to repeat a prayer as opposed to one crying out from his heart for mercy from God and for forgiveness of sins.

continued

tend anything your church may have scheduled.

Be patient. Proverbs 25:11 says: "The right word spoken at the right time is as beautiful as gold apples in a silver bowl." The ONLY way we will know what to say and when to say it is when we're tuned in to the Holy Spirit. It's essential to follow Christ's model of being about His Father's business. Christ only did what the Father told Him to do. The same principle works with us through the Holy Spirit. Constant fellowship, dialog, and communion with the Holy Spirit will lead, guide and prompt when His timing is right for you to share.

Remember the goal is true salvation. There is a huge difference between convincing someone to repeat a prayer as opposed to one crying out from his heart for mercy from God and for forgiveness of sins. It's not best to be after quick decisions, but conversions leading to becoming true disciples. R.A. Torrey in his book "How To Bring Men To Christ" says: "We are too anxious for immediate results and therefore do superficial work. It is often wise to plant a truth in a man's heart and leave it to work." Salvation is a result of the free will heart responding to God's grace. Acts 2:37 says: "When the people heard this, they felt guilty and asked Peter and the other apostles, 'What shall we do?' The people were cut to the heart and asked how they could

be saved. That's the true goal isn't it? We want our loved ones to make a heart decision, truly giving Christ their hearts and lives.

Be persistent long after the visit is over. It's a great idea to follow up with notes, cards and calls but most importantly, NEVER stop praying! George Mueller once said "Never give up until the answer comes." When preaching on persistent prayer, Pastor Keith Jones of Rockpointe Worship Center recently reminded his congregation: "It ain't over 'til it's over!" Finally, remember to keep those visual images in mind of your loved ones loving and serving God, healed and free! Believe!

Rhonda Frye is a full time minister of music serving the Lord in at least three different ways. She teaches a preschool music program, she serves her local congregation as the worship leader and associate pastor and she is a singer/songwriter/recording artist as well. Rhonda lives in Ringgold, Georgia and is supported by her husband, Eric and their three children.



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Mental illness is a confirmed disease, invading our society, our churches and our leaders. Last month we discussed the prevalence of this disease and specifically, depression. This month we look at what happens when a Christian begins to look for help for their illness. We welcome back our Mental Health panel of Dr. Bob Nichols, Jimmy McMillan and Timothy Mills to discuss the connection between spirituality and mental health.

For many years and indeed centuries, mental illness has been shrouded in mystery. Often seen in religious circles as a manifestation of evil, the disease has caused the church to back away from those who have been struggling with this horror. This would add a burden of guilt to the sick who were told they were being punished or had failed to live up to another's religious ideal. To deal with a disease that is often wrongly diagnosed, misinterpreted and maltreated would be more than most of us could handle. To add to this the fear of being misunderstood or even condemned by a spiritual leader would be enough to keep the sick person from seeking help of any kind.

Dr. Bob Nichols, mental health expert, is aware that many spiritual leaders lack the training and knowledge to correctly identify mental illness. "Sad to say, most churches have very little participation in mental illness. Most pastors trained in evangelical seminaries have only one or two classes in pastoral counseling and most of the emphasis is placed on theology and preaching."

Often small churches with only one or two pastors lack the resources necessary to provide additional counseling and sometimes the leadership relies on insufficient knowledge to inaccurately diagnose what is happening to the parishioner. This can result in many years of misery if that person does not look elsewhere for help but accepts the authority of the misguided

leader. Fortunately, many churches have alternate resources for counseling and leadership that will recognize the need for help from other sources.

Jimmy McMillan, southern gospel artist and one who suffers with clinical depression, comments on the church's involvement in mental health treatment. "Unfortunately the vast majority of churches I see have few resources beyond pastoral counseling to effectively handle the needs of those with mental illness," says Jimmy. "Often the pastor can and will refer someone for help elsewhere. Understandably it is often only the 'mega churches' that have resources within themselves."

"If you look at the percentages however this leaves a great number of Christians totally dependent on secular treatment," Jimmy continues. "It seems to me that where I have seen programs in place they were well promoted and readily available. One would like to think that if a church has a treatment plan or facility in place, there would be a spirit of understanding and compassion in that body. This would make the initial act of asking for help much 'more safe' for someone suffering with mental illness."

Often when the subject of mental health comes up in religious circles, the question arises regarding the connectedness between this disease and evil oppression or even demonic possession. As more study is done on the diagnosis and treatment of mental health, it is obvious that there is a connection between the spiritual, the physical and the emotional. However, the knee-jerk reaction of some to see depression as demonic possession can be not only exceedingly harmful but also life-threatening.

Timothy Mills, southern gospel artist and psychology student, has a firm response to this view. "What is happening in this manner, in my opinion, is that Christians are comparing apples and oranges. Do I believe in demon possession? It is in the Bible, so my answer is yes. Do I believe that mental illness exists? Of course, but the problem is that when similar actions occur people tend to think that the source of ailment is similar. We would not do this with other ailments, but jump in with both feet in regards to mental illness."

"The 'inter-connectiveness' of mental, physical and spiritual aspects of all things drives me nuts. The prob-

By Lorraine Walker
2nd of 3 parts
Originally published at
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Treating the Spirit and the Illness

Getting Past the Christian
Stigma of Depression

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lem lies in the perspective of the observer. Most researchers have a favorite area of expertise and while many acknowledge the connections, their prejudices cloud their data and research. A health guru acknowledges the spiritual, but primarily promotes the physical. A pastor promotes the spiritual while downplaying the mental. And the list goes on and on. Imagine traveling to Florence, Italy and observing 4 people admiring the statue of David. One person would say, 'This is a great work of art because of the technical perfection of Michelangelo.' Another would say, 'No! The statue of David is a great work of art because of the beauty of the stone!' Another would have a different opinion and argue over the validity of their point of view. All have different reason on why the statue is great; yet, their egocentric thoughts prevented them from seeing the merits of the other."

Dr. Nichols agrees that the three states are connected and yet many try to separate them. "This is obviously a huge issue of discussion in theological circles," says Dr. Nichols. "I wish I had an accurate brief answer. From my perspective, the three necessary areas need to be addressed simultaneously: spiritual, emotional and physical. The difficulty is the 'exclusiveness' of each expertise."

"I recently had a consult in the Pacific Northwest," continues Dr. Nichols. "The client was early forties and experiencing violent psychotic episodes. I advised her pastor to take her to a psychiatrist. Thus begins the incredibly difficult journey. They could not go directly to a specialist but had to first go to their family doctor, which they did not have. Then a 'referral' was obtained but they could not get an

appointment for two weeks. Finally when they were able to get in to see the psychiatrist, all he did was listen to her, performed no tests and prescribed Prozac. This simply appalled me. No blood work, no emotional evaluation, just a quick prescription and on to the next patient."

Dr. Nichols continues, "When I inquired about the psychological exams, the doctor responded that he did not do that sort of thing, they would need to see a psychologist. He made no referrals, so they began again to search for a psychologist to help. Desiring a Christian psychologist, I gave them a referral and finally they got in. After a couple of evaluations, the psychologist diagnosed 'Bi-polar 2.'"

"With this information, we went back to the psychiatrist, and he adjusted his prescription. Then we took this lady to a 'Christian counselor' who was experienced with disassociatives. Now with all three in place, we begin to see progress. The psychiatrist was looking after the physiological, neuro- and biochemical, the hormones, etc. The psychologist was watching and evaluating the emotional progress and the pastoral counselors were working weekly with the spiritual and emotional aspects."

Dr. Nichols adds, "In some states they practice 'tandem therapy' where the psychiatrist and psychologist work together developing a composite diagnosis and plan of therapy. What a beautiful plan, especially if the 'pastoral counselors' were added to the mix. Obviously the pastoral counselors would need training to intelligently interface with the other professionals."

Jimmy McMillan, who has dealt with his condition for several years and has seen his share of profes-

sionals, agrees that there is a connection between the spiritual, physical and emotional. He has heard often the question of whether or not mental illness is demon possession.

"I believe the question answers itself," says Jimmy. "Either

someone is demon possessed or they are mentally ill. If someone is possessed they need an exorcism and not Prozac. Once again mental illness is just that, an illness. Do we tie down the diabetic and stand over them with holy water, a crucifix and a prayer book? No we give them insulin! The same with the heart disease or cancer patient, we treat them. This whole subject is a big part of the reason people will not come forward for help within the church."

Jimmy continues, "With regards to spiritual and emotional connection, there is a huge one. When God gives you a blessing, yes, you will be on an emotional high. The same goes when one is under conviction for a wrongdoing. The difference is both of these are temporary and the latter is resolved by simple repentance. Yes, your spiritual situation can effect your emotional and at times your physical well being, the Bible shows us that. But unless we are willing to walk through the oncology ward looking down our noses and telling every patient there that their illness and long term prognosis is due to some

Do we tie down the diabetic and stand over them with holy water, a crucifix and a prayer book? No we give them insulin!

spiritual shortcoming, we must not attach this judgment to mental illness."

We have a long way to go in our understanding of mental illness and its diagnosis and treatment. The first step is for us as the Church to recognize its validity and then to find ways to provide the help that is needed for those who suffer its devastating effects.

In Part Three, our panel will discuss how the Church can provide effective help to those with mental illness and what each of us can do to reach those around us who may be suffering from this disease.

For More Information:

Dr. Bob Nichols is an expert on mental illness and works with pastors to assist them back to a state of mental health. He has a doctorate in theology and psychology and over thirty years in ministry. <http://www.drbobnichols.com>

Jimmy McMillan is a southern gospel artist with McMillan And Life, and is a Christian who suffers from clinical depression. <http://www.mc-millanandlife.com>

Timothy Mills, southern gospel artist with The Southern Brothers, is pursuing his degree in Psychology. Timothy can be reached through Southern Spin at sobros@southernspin.com.

For more information on mental health please log onto:

The National Institute of Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml>

United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/>



More to Life in Louisville (seriously).

Stephanie Kelley explores other attractions located in the host city of National Quartet Convention.

Another year of NQC has passed. I love the hustle and bustle of setup day, the greeting of old friends and the anticipation of all the fun things that the week will hold. My least favorite part of the week is Saturday when the booths start coming down, the convention center starts to empty and friends depart. If you are anything like me, you are already starting to plan for next year! If this is the case, let me encourage you to schedule in some time to see the interesting attractions around Louisville.

Our host city, Louisville, has a whole more to offer than a nice convention center and a host of great hotels. This is as much of Louisville that many NQC goers get to see. Let me encourage you to explore this beautiful city. Here are a few of my favorite spots in Louisville.

Six Flags: How many of us have driven by those great big roller coasters on our way into the con-

vention every year? This year, I decided to check out what the park looked like from the inside instead of the drive around to the NQC.

We got there in the morning when they opened at 11AM and were greeted by my childhood pals, Porky Pig and Sylvester the Cat. They not only provided a glimpse of the fun and entertainment we were about to experience inside the park, but they were gracious and allowed time for everyone who wanted to get their pictures taken with them to get the chance.

I was surprised that the park was a large as it is. The drive around the convention center gives a deceptive view of Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom. Our first stop was to the "Kiddie" area. My two little ones were thrilled and on sensory overload with the colors, sights and sounds! The Tin Lizzies were a great experience. My three year old son loved that he could actu-

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ally control the steering wheel and the gas pedal. My four year old daughter preferred the Roller Coaster. She gets her thrill seeking side from my husband who happily sits next to her on all those thrilling rides. Buy I think my children's favorite activity was the fun house. Imagine a large, three story room with hundreds of small foam balls, foam floors and large vacuums so the kids can vacuum up the balls. Not only can they vacuum them up, but when the crate at the top fills-up, a siren will sound and lights will flash and soon an avalanche of balls will fall from the ceiling. This of course causes squeals of joy from the little ones below. With unlimited access to the rides with the price of admission, we were happy to return to this Fun House periodically throughout the day.

Helpful Hints for a fun day at Six Flags:

1) Wear comfortable shoes as there will be a lot of walking involved.

2) Use a backpack (which will be searched at the door) so your hands are free to hold little hands and to take pictures (there are many great

photo opportunities)

3) Buy the Poppin' Cotton' Deal. Pay around \$9 and you can refill your bucket with popcorn and cotton candy all day. Sad to say, but we had cotton candy and popcorn for lunch that day. And not one of us complained.

Louisville Slugger Museum:

Louisville is known for a lot of great things: being the corporate headquarters for Kentucky Fried Chicken, horse racing and a famous boxer. They are also for their Louisville Slugger baseball bats, the official bat of Major league baseball.

The Louisville Slugger Museum is not only an interesting and informative museum, but a whole lot of fun. Centrally located in downtown Louisville, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory is a must see attraction.

We started our visit with a short film in the facilities theater. The film was informative and held the interest of our whole party. After the film, the curtain lifted and we were lead into a room to await the arrival of our tour guide.

I very much enjoyed the tour through the factory. I've never given much thought to the art of baseball bat making, but that is truly what it is... an art. We were allowed to pick-up a souvenir "nub" from the Grady Sizemore bats that were being produced that week. The "nub" as it is known is the part of bat that is used in production but is then cut off.

At the end of our tour, we were all given souvenir mini-Louisville Slugger bats. What a great way to end the tour!



Photos: Previous page: Chase and Chloe Kelley rest on a giant mitt; Bottom: The author and her kids at Six Flags; Above: The shiny floors of the Louisville Slugger Museum.

Property of Stephanie Kelly

But the fun didn't end there. We were allowed to stay at the facility for as long as we'd like and were allowed to explore the museum and enjoy the batting cages for the remainder of the day.

Art buffs will appreciate the baseball themed art (check out the largest baseball glove in the world sculpture) and the children's area will keep the little ones entertained.

A highlight for me was being given the opportunity to hold (and get a picture taken with) a game played bat. We were given the choice of several well known players, but I selected the Mickey Mantle bat to hold.

Helpful Hints for a fun day at Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory:

1) Allow a few hours for your trip to the facility. There are many fun activities and you don't want to feel rushed.

2) Bring some change for the parking meters.

3) Do not forget your camera! There are many wonderful photo opportunities that you won't want to miss!!

Join me next month as we feature more of the wonderful attractions in and around Louisville, KY.



The Wilburns: Then & Now

PART 2: Members of a true SG 'farm team' recall road life with an ever-changing - yet ever steady - group
By Jimmy McMillan

This month I would like to focus on Jackie and Elaine's family and the roll they played in the group. Their three sons Jimmy, Jay, and Jonathon each traveled with the group for some period of time. Although they went on to follow other careers and callings, there are many memories to share.

Also there is one former member many of you will remember who is still very much in the public eye today. This article wouldn't be complete him...

Jimmy Wilburn

In the eight and a half years that I sang with my family we managed to wear out two vans. Us boys were always pushing for our folks to buy a bus but it seemed almost impossible financially. Our group usually consisted of the family, two band members, at times a girlfriend or two and a sound man. With that many people in the road one van was NOT enough so we traveled in two. This could be confusing at times, not to mention doubling our fuel costs.

We had no idea that Dad was keeping his eye out for an affordable bus until the day he mentioned that Vernon Reeder, Naomi Sego's husband was selling the old Sego bus. Then he said that if we were going to get it in time for the following weekend we need to pick it up that night.

At that time we all lived in Carthage, TN which is about five hours from Memphis where the bus was. When Dad asked who wanted to go with him the answer was everyone. So we put bean bags, quilts, blankets and pillows in the back of one of the vans where we usually kept the PA equipment, we all piled in and off we went.

As we started out that winter afternoon it began to snow. (we all love snow) Dad was an expert at driving in snowy conditions since he had worked in jobs that required it all of his adult life. By the time we got to Nashville (an hour away) the snow was beginning to be mixed with ice. Mama kept encouraging Dad to turn around and go home, but he never was one to listen to her. (much)

In Memphis the roads were a solid sheet of ice. As we got onto the off streets, traffic really became a problem. I remember there were stalled trucks and a couple of cars that were stuck. Daddy just weaved that van in and out like it was an obstacle course that was just no big deal to him.

Daddy bought that old 4104!!! The ride home was rather chilly since there was NO HEAT! That bus worked out well for us. It took care of our desperate need for more

room. Believe it or not at one time the head count was up to 17 people. Mom made the statement once that she thought people would pay us more to watch us get off the bus than they would to hear us sing.

My wife Kathy and I stayed with the group until the first of 1987. Our son, Jim, was about to start kindergarten and we felt he needed a more regimented living schedule. I can tell you right now, traveling and singing in a gospel group is a blessed life but not a normal life style.

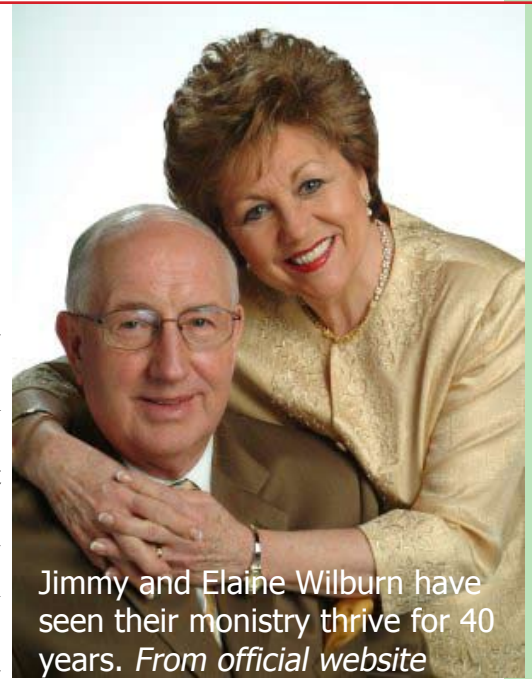
When I left the group in early 1987, my wife Kathy and I continued to live in Carthage near my parents. We also continued to help my parents handle the business side of the group.

After owning and operating Wilburns Jewelry for a number of years Kathy and I sold the business and these days run our real estate and development business. This business allows us more time to travel. More often than not our destination is Kings Park, NY where our son Jim lives with his wife and son. Jim answered the call to preach and then to pastor North Shore Baptist Church in Kings Park. So as many of you know, where the grandkids are there also shall be the grandparents.

I still work closely with Mom and Dad in preparing their weekly radio program on WUCZ - FM and WRKM - AM in Carthage. Kathy and I still live in Carthage and attend North Carthage Baptist Church.

Jay Wilburn

I traveled with the family from 1979 to 1986. At that time everybody was working or going to school all week and singing all weekend. The work was hard and tiring but always rewarding. When the Holy Spirit moves and takes over a service, suddenly the tiring hard work is worth it all. As the old song says, "when just one more soul walks down the isle... it is worth every struggle and every mile, a life time of labor is still worth it all, if it rescues



Jimmy and Elaine Wilburn have seen their monistry thrive for 40 years. From official website



Jackie Wilburn with son Jay

> continues

just one more soul.”

I have many fond memories from traveling with my family. One funny memory is of a service we sang in and a little man was emotionally happy. He shouted the whole service. While we were on stage he came and shook my hand so hard that I nearly fell off the stage. After we sat down he let us know that the reason he was so happy was that he had been healed from being constipated for two weeks. Now that is something to shout about!

The saddest time of the ministry was when I had to tell Mom and Dad that I was leaving the group to pastor a church. Our hearts were broken but God’s Will had to be done. Following the Lord is not always easy but it is always right. Jesus Christ our Lord said it best “Father not my will but thine be done.” Then He went to Calvary and paid for our sins with His blood. It wasn’t easy but it was right. And aren’t we glad?

There are so many good times, that I can’t pinpoint one above the rest. Seeing souls saved and lives changed forever by the power of the Gospel is a joy that can’t be explained. Being used of God to help hurting hearts or to encourage the discouraged is an awesome privilege that we should never take lightly.

I pastored for a few more years in Carthage, Tn. I also worked at keeping Dad’s radio ministries going until my family and I moved west to Erin, Tn. to pastor full time. This was in 1992. Singing is still a big part of my ministry. I have been pastoring in Erin for the past 17 years. All of my children are good singers. I now have a son in law that sings. God uses one of us in every service. Sometimes I go to Camp Meetings and preach and sing. I love to preach revivals and sing. While I am preaching, a song will come to my heart and I will sing it in the middle of the sermon.

We started Bible Baptist Church in Erin, Tn. over 10 years ago. Recently we had a Camp Meeting. Mom and Dad were able to come. They let me sing some songs with them and Heaven came down and Glory filled my soul! Momma got under the spout where the glory comes out and it was WONDERFUL!

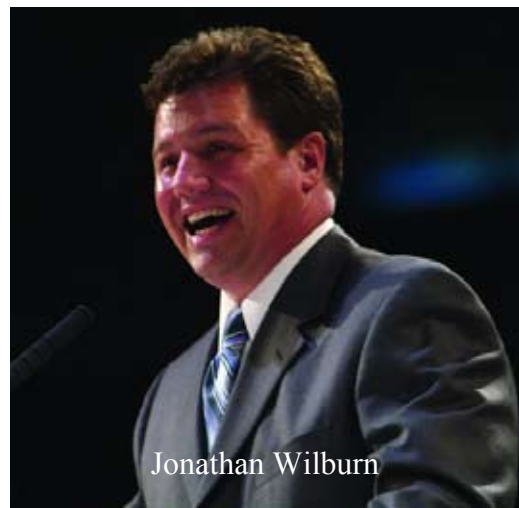
I wouldn’t take nothing for my journey now! What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see, when I look upon His face, the One Who saved me by His Grace!

Jonathan Wilburn, 1979 - 1996

Like my brothers, I was part of the family group from the beginning. This is the funniest memory I have from the time I traveled with my folks.

Tony Gore had only been with us for a short time when they were asked to go to the local funeral home to sing for a funeral. The singers were always located to the side of the chapel where the funeral is to be held, in what they called the music room. This room is open to the chapel but also has a door that opens into the casket display room.

Mom and Dad were already in their place in the music room but Tony and I were late so the funeral director had let us go in through the casket room. The room was dark except for the little bit of light coming through the cracks around the closed door to the music room.



I was a few minutes ahead of Tony and had the idea that it would be fun to scare him. I crawled in under one of the caskets that was sitting on one of those tall stands with a covering that came down to the floor. I could hear Tony making his way, very slowly, through the room and just as he reached “my casket,” I grabbed his leg and said, “BOY WHERE ARE YOU GOING!!!!” Tony jumped back and yelled, “HELP!!” It was loud enough that when I stepped into the music room, Mama was giving me that old familiar “Jonathan what have you done now?” look. You know, the kind where a Mama’s eyes get real squinty and her lips tighten. Daddy was doubled up laughing so hard he was crying. The service was about to start, and when Tony came through that door his eyes were as big around as saucers. As you can imagine I was FULLY AMUSED.

In 1996 Jonathan Wilburn took a position singing lead for Gold City Quartet. He and his family relocated to Gadsden, AL where the group is based. During his tenure with Gold City he received five Singing News Fan Awards for favorite lead singer. In addition he was part of many Gaither Homecoming videos and concert events.

In February of 2008 Jonathan resigned his position so he could be home more with his family. He took a job at Ronnie Watkins Ford in Gadsden where he is now known as the “Singing Salesman.”

Singing is still a big part of Jonathan’s life although these days the setting is a little different. He and his son Jordan are taking singing engagements in and around Gadsden. They are able to travel any distance that will allow them to be home Monday morning for Jonathan’s job and Jordan’s classes at Jacksonville State where he is a Senior. The family calls Cross Point in Gadsden their home church.

Tony Gore

From 1989 through 1993 I had the honor and privilege of singing with the Wilburns. My life long dream of traveling and singing with a “full time” gospel group became a real-



ity one night in Birmingham, AL. I was singing with The Southmen Quartet and we opened for a family group from Carthage, TN

called The Wilburns.

That night Jonathan Wilburn asked me if I would like a job with them playing piano. I thought, of course, this is my dream and I said YES!

Jackie and Elaine were so gracious to this kid from AL, who had barely been out of his home state. They were very loving and understanding of a young man who was still trying to grow up. Just like every young man at that age, I "thought" that I knew a lot more than I really did! I guess it was a good thing they had raised three boys of their own, cause they helped finish raising me.

Those were fun times filled with wonderful memories, wonderful songs, and GREAT friends.

When I left the Wilburns, I moved back home to AL and

started my own group called Tony Gore & Majesty. TG & M was on the road for ten terrific years. We were blessed with a number of hit songs including "Meanwhile in the Garden" and "Put on a Crown." I am blessed to still be traveling and singing with a solo career that began in 2002.

For the last three years, in addition to singing I have owned and operated my restaurant called Tony Gore's Smokey Mountain BBQ & Grill. Like the name says it is located in the Great Smokey Mountains near Pigeon Forge, TN. I am still traveling, still singing, still recording...and still cooking, of course! Ya'll come see me!

Authors note: I had a great time writing this and it was good to catch up with some of the guys. It never ceases to amaze me how God took a willing couple from a little town in Tennessee and made such a huge impact in the world of gospel music. And more importantly than the "industry" is the impact they have had for the kingdom.



Jimmy McMillan is a singer and songwriter who, with his wife Liz, owns the trio McMillan and Life. They are based in Symrna, TN and travel full time in gospel music ministry. He can be contacted at jimmy@mcmillanandlife.com



Call and request our newest song, "A Few More Miles", off our latest project, "It's All Good", on DJ Man Promotions Compilation #31



29:11

Glimpses into the future & hope for Southern Gospel!

- By Kelly Capriotti Burton

Author's note: Upon first experiencing this young mixed quartet out of Indiana, you will be impressed by their energy. After a song or two, you will be certain that what they have is more than that: it's a passion for music and a desire to heartfully share the gospel message..while including the audience on a great time!

The Disciples Quartet consists of twin brothers, bass singer Adam Howell and lead Daniel Howell, alto Courtney Jenkins Howell, baritone Josh Sharber, and new pianist Eddie Goble. The group began nine years ago when the average age of its members was only 14! Daniel took some time to answer our questions both informative and silly...

What kind of changes has the group undergone, particularly in regards to its members growing up?

We have only had 3 personnel changes over our 9 years of ministry including 1 singer and 2 piano players. Non personnel changes have been just trying to make Gospel music more fun and more exciting than the year before.

The hardest thing for us with growing up is dealing with the different demands that life poses for each member: marriage, job changes, members moving, etc.

What are some of the unique challenges and rewards of being a young quartet?

Sometimes it is difficult for churches and promoters to take us seriously. We get a lot of concern out of pastors when we call them, however, when a pastor takes a chance on us, it is rewarding to see how blessed they are as a result of God using our ministry. We love to see our "wiser" audience really getting excited about gospel music.

Who inspires you musically?

Many other groups inspire us musically, but my father



The Disciples Quartet

'TDQ' sings in Tuscon during a 2008-09 Arizona tour.

is the one who has really inspired our ministry to find new ways to reach the lost.

What sort of doors have been opened because of your being a youthful quartet?

We have been able to sing for some youth groups where we were well received and the youth group actually started using Gospel Music as a part of their worship.

What is next for you as a group?

I really have no idea, we are just gonna keep trying to go to places God allows us to go and keep dancing around while we keep Gospel music fresh and new for all our audiences young and old alike.

A few favorite tips for other young gospel singers:

Eat at Steak & Shake on the road, and use Magellan GPS!

Hear sound clips, watch video, and connect with this dynamic group at their official website:

www.TheDisciplesQuartet.com

Letter to the 'gospel widows'

The wife of a gospel singer reaches out to others who say goodbye on the weekends..

Each of us has a story. We all have backgrounds, experiences, challenges, and celebrations that have shaped us

to be the women we are today. The Bible says we are to uplift and encourage others. I think each of us can use our stories to help other women. So, here's a little of my story and I hope it will inspire and motivate you to share your story with others.

I am a 4-year rookie in this season of my life and still learning ... I'm the wife of J.R. of Gold Harbor. When I married J.R. 17 years ago, he was God sent and perfect for me! I knew about his ministry and that he was a retired gospel singer, but he was done.

I knew his momma had sang and played guitar in brush harbors and tent revivals! I am a PK (preacher's kid) and actually, both of my parents were and are ordained ministers. When I was growing up, my momma, daddy, brother and I

sang in church and I just always listened to gospel music my whole life, so that was right up my alley! I am so thankful that God chose my parents for me and growing up as a PK I felt like I had a good understanding how

I didn't know who to reach out to and even if I did, I was not comfortable admitting that I needed help...

Sometimes we do not recognize our gifts because they come so naturally

God places a call on our lives, that some calls on our lives impacts our families, and that sacrifices have to be made to pursue and walk in obedience to the Father.

So, the first 14 years of our marriage we spent almost every moment together; we had great jobs, we went to church, helped others with acts of kindness, had a coat ministry for salespeople in the car business (and other people who needed them), sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, and played a lot!

Then, J.R. felt he needed to do more. During all this time, I should have realized that "we" can retire, but when a call is on a life, it never retires. So, he went back into ministry.

It was a real change for both of us; I think it was as difficult for him as it was for me, just in different ways. It was hard, our lives changed from what we had known for 14 years, our finances changed, and we had many talks about these changes. He knew and I knew: you just do not interfere with God's plan unless you want a life of misery. We had already been there and done that, so together we surrendered to God's plan.

It was difficult for me because I was used to us always being together. Over the years, Jim and his mom talked about how challenging it was for the spouse at home; they called it the "Gospel Widow."

I had all types of emotions: excited, lonely, happy, sad, depressed, etc. Also, I had to adjust to little things, like routines. Before, we each had our little chores around the house. He fed the dog and I fed the cat. He checked the mailbox and I sorted the mail. I bundled up the trash and he took it to the street for pickup. The first few times when Jim would come home, he would ask me, "When I'm gone, do you mind checking the mail?"

I said, "Oh ... okay, sure," although in 14 years I hadn't checked the mail! And he said, "By the way, have you been feeding the dog?" Oops...hmmm...No? (I am not sure what would have happened had I been like many of you with children and all their activities!) Then there are more significant events like, something happens to the car, the faucet starts leaking, or the more urgent issues like when I got sick (thankfully my momma and friends were at the house when I passed

>continued



out and they rushed me to the hospital)!

And what about communication? When do you discuss family plans or concerns? When Jim traveled, I usually talked to him for a few minutes at all times of the day; early morning (when I was getting ready for work and running behind), middle of the day (when I was at work and couldn't talk), or very late at night (when I was asleep!). Sometimes he was so excited about how God had moved in the service and how many people gave



their lives to Christ! Sometimes they were sitting somewhere eating, laughing, all talking at the same time...

Although I was a PK, I was in unfamiliar territory and looking back now, I think I desperately needed a mentor: someone to help me, encourage me, and help me understand all of my emotions, someone who was experienced at this, someone that wasn't a rookie but a seasoned veteran.

I didn't know who to reach out to and even if I did, I was not comfortable admitting that I needed help. The few wives I knew had children, careers, very busy schedules, and their own circle of friends, and I'm sure they were trying to survive themselves and didn't have time to take on another project (me)! I understood. I was busy myself. I had family and friends, but they could not relate to what I was experiencing.

Four years have passed and I'm still learning and growing. There has not been a spectacular miracle to help me learn how to adjust! However, God continues to place people in my life to share their experiences with me. Like recently, I was talking with a couple of precious friends. We were talking about the moments when everyone leaves on the bus and you stay behind. I mentioned how I always cry. One of my friends said, "You really should not do that; it makes it hard on him when you do."

As I laughed, I told this friend, "It doesn't matter if it's him or me leaving town (in my career I travel a lot myself), I always cry!"

Weeks went by and one day as we were preparing for J.R. to travel, I remembered how he always sends me off on my business trips. He is always upbeat, and encourages me to have fun, enjoy my job and eat (he loves to eat)! I love the way he supports me and

makes me feel when I have to leave home.

Then the Lord recalled to my memory the words my friend had said to me. Because my friend shared her perspective and experience, now I do my best to encourage J.R. when he leaves: "Enjoy what you do", "Eat," and "Have fun" are spoken with lots of smiles and sincerity!

As I continue this journey, within the last year, I've had the opportunity to travel with J.R. a few times. I've seen "his" world (his workplace) and how God has ordained Gold Harbor, how people give their lives to Christ or they are blessed by the songs because Gold Harbor has been obedient to the call on their lives. Also I've seen all the hard work that goes into what they do: the long hours on the bus, the long trips, unloading and loading the equipment, the inconsistency of sleep, their hours, when and what they eat, the drain they have when they've been in service ministering to people, etc. It's been an eye opener for me!

There are no easy answers, but I encourage you to stay in prayer and study. Also, know that your steps are ordained of God and so are your husband or boyfriend's. (*Editor's note: or your wife's, guys!*) It isn't easy, but neither was the road to Calvary for Jesus and His dying for our sins. Each of us has a gift/call from God and we choose whether to recognize it and use it.

Sometimes we do not recognize our gifts because they come so naturally (please remember this includes being a mom), or our "call" does not seem to be important (like my husband sings for the Lord) or we want someone else's call (my best friends personally!). Psalm 139:14 says I am (You are, Your husband is) fearfully and wonderfully made! Let me ask you.... What is "your" gift/call and how can you touch others' lives (like only YOU can)?

In closing, God has a Master Project Plan and He has assigned each of us a "task" based on our gift/call, In order for His Master Project Plan to be completed, each of us must do our task, our part. You have your task and your husband/boyfriend has his task. Do you whine and complain when he uses his gift? Does he whine or complain when you use your gift? If this is where you are right now (and we've all been there),

take your whining and complaining to God and He will turn it into peace, beauty and sincerity.

I hope I have encouraged you today and if I can help by listening or encouraging, I am here. Love, Honor, and Praise the Lord Jesus Christ - Lavada Richards

goldharbormusic.blogspot.com



Singers. This helped prepare him to be the phenomenal soloist that he is today. Blake surrendered the call to go full time in his ministry 4 years ago. A lot of changes took place for this now 29 year old. A few months after going full time, he made Jenna, now his wife of four years.

A lot goes into each performance and he credits Jenna for keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes. He describes their relationship as "Partners in Ministry." Blake has the privilege of being full time with his concert ministry, and they spend nearly every weekend on the road ministering. Occasionally he is also able to use his talents as a studio singer to help out other artists, but Blake's true love is being able to encourage the body of Christ through his music.

Blake remembers the first SG song he ever heard, "Moving Up to Gloryland" by The Cathedrals. After that, he had an insatiable thirst for Southern Gospel music. He spoke of what a huge influence the music had on his life but also the man that was very influential to him: his dad, who had experienced a lot of the same trials that Blake did. His dad was the man in his life that led him to Salvation. They continue to hold a strong bond today.



Blake and Jenna Bolerjack
By Christain Traina, Traina Photography

a little Inspirational/Contemporary thrown in the mix. He states, "I like to mix it up and have a little bit for everybody."

Picking favorites from old hymns and classics seems like it would be an easy task but Blake says, "After narrowing it down to about 80, I had to pick the ones for the project. There are so many good old hymns that have such a great message in them."

Experiencing turmoil in Blake's own life helped him to relate to his favorite song from the project. "It Is Well" has a great testimony behind it and although the writer, Horatio Spafford, was experiencing

unimaginable things, he held on to his faith in God and went on to become a missionary in Jerusalem.

Blake has a very strong grasp on God's unchanging hand, and he hopes to share his story as one of hope and love.

Chandel Dobbs makes her home in Stigler, Oklahoma. She is a Registered Nurse by trade and attends Cass Freewill Baptist Church. She loves to sing and listen to southern gospel music and is married to Mitch.



Fun Facts on Blake Bolerjack

Hometown: Originally Perryton, Texas, no Oklahoma City, OK

On the Road Favorite Restaurant:

Fast Food-Subway,

Dine In-Cracker Barrel

Favorite Motel-Anything by Marriott because none of their rooms allow smoking

Home Church: Venue-Emmanuel Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. ("They are like family there and it was my first concert that I got to bring my wife to")

Most embarrassing moment "There are so many.: Hint: Just make sure you don't have a carport he has to drive his trailer under.

For booking information, music samples, and to order his latest project:

www.blakebolerjack.com

Blake's excitement is obvious when he speaks of *Uncolored Day*, his recently released album, a blend of hymns and classics heavy with piano and string instrumentation. He has difficulty describing his style of music, but manages to narrow it down to Southern Gospel with

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PECAN PIE MUFFIN RECIPE

- 1 Cup Chopped Pecans
- 1 Cup Brown Sugar
- 1/2 Cup All Purpose Flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 stick Melted Butter

Mix first three ingredients. Whisk together eggs and butter and add to dry mixture. Mix together, put in muffin tins sprayed with Baker's Joy and bake for 20 to 25 minutes. (I bake for 20. I like them moist.) This recipe also doubles well.

Don't have pecans? Use walnuts! I also added a tsp. of vanilla flavoring just because my mama taught me it makes almost all baked goodies even better. These are so yummy! - Lisa Davis Hildreth / adapted from Amy Brown Swain



Lisa: pleasepasstheveggies.blogspot.com



This recipe is unusual but VERY good. Try it before Thanksgiving if you like squash. It is so easy! Many Blessings! - Renee' English

SQUASH DRESSING

- 2 c. cooked and drained yellow squash
- 2 c. crumbled cornbread
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 sm. onion, chopped
- 1/2 c. melted butter
- 3 eggs, beaten
- Sage to taste or other seasonings


Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients and pour into a greased 8-inch pan. Bake about 40 minutes or until browned lightly. Makes about 6 servings



Renee: englishfamilyonline.com

www.thegardners.com

The Gardners

Gardner Music Ministry

New radio single

"I've Had Enough"

DJ Man Promotions Volume 32 / Zion
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Girls' Morning In: Encouraging Today's Women provides an NQC-week event to uplift females in ministry

On site report

God was magnified and souls were electrified through the power of the Holy Spirit as Karen Peck-Gooch joined Annette Herndon and Encouraging Today's Women in the Elliot Room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Wednesday morning during the week of NQC for a women's chapel service.

Annette opened with her personal testimony of how God led her to write the very dynamic "Hope For Today" devotional. She also sang two original songs that included powerful videos. Annette encouraged each lady to run to Jesus as he waits with "Arms Wide Open" and to "Help Me Be Still" and know that He is God. A time of praise and worship followed that included "There's Just Something About That Name."

Stacy Pennington of the ETW organization ministered with a word from God encouraging the ladies to remember Jesus' words to Martha in the gospel of Luke: that one thing is needed and that is to sit at the feet of our Lord. She reminded the ladies that they shouldn't try to fit into someone else's mold, but instead be what God wants them to be. Stacy led a powerful prayer asking God to give renewed strength, fresh vision, and a new anointing to all those who minister in the name of Jesus.

Next, Karen spoke to the ladies about Paul and Silas in prison and how we are to learn from them and praise God in the midnight hours of our lives. Karen motivated the ladies to continue to share the gospel of Christ with others around them no matter what circumstances may be. Karen sang a poignant song and prayed over the ladies.

Brenda Lewis-Williams closed out the mini-conference with an effective visual of Karen's presentation. While holding up a prison uniform, wrist and ankle cuffs, Brenda asked the ladies to loose the shackles that have them bound and prevent them from serving God to their fullest potential.

"Encouraging Today's Women is dedicated to offering Christian women of all denominations encouragement, hope, and renewed strength in Jesus Christ that most certainly includes women who serve in ministry week after week," says ministry founder Annette.



Karen, Annette, and Stacy before the service.
Property of ETW

Heather Stutzman of The Stutzman Family was in attendance at the service and says, "According to the tears in the room that morning, hearts were being touched, I know mine was. We had a very rough summer and it seemed like the message that day was just for me. I hope that this will become an annual event!"

According to Annette, Encouraging Today's Women will be at NQC in 2010 as well as the Branson Gospel Music Convention in Branson, MO.

Encouraging Today's Women offers conferences in churches across America that refresh and encourage each lady in the LOVE of Christ with the conference goals as follows:

- L = let go of your past
- O = offer up your present
- V = visualize your future
- E = Edify one another with the word of God

Edification takes a deeper meaning when each conference attendee brings a non-perishable item that will be given to a local charitable organization. "Our goal is to reach out to women in the community who are recipients of TANF through the local DHR, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Women's Homeless Shelter, or Battered Women's Shelter," Stacy Pennington states, "And Encouraging Today's Women supplies NIV witnessing Bibles that are included in each bag of items that are given away."

Annette says, "As we all work together, ladies who attend will be encouraged and renewed in their faith, and those in need in the community will be shown the love of Christ through gift bags of needed items and Bibles."

To learn more about this exciting ladies ministry call 678-863-8513 or visit www.encouragingtodayswomen.com.

To learn more about Annette the songwriter, author, pro-life advocate, conference speaker, and Garden Music Group recording artist, call 770-868-9847 or visit her website at www.annetteherndon.com.

To learn more about Stacy Pennington visit www.stacypennington.com.

It is the Lord's desire- and ours here at *SGN Scoops Digital*- that you become one of His followers. God has promised eternity in Heaven with Him for all those who accept Him as their Personal Savior. It's as easy as "ABC":

A: Admit that you are a sinner.

Romans 3:23- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

B: Believe that, because of your sin, you deserve to spend eternity in Hell. However, Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross of Calvary to pay the debt for our sin. He then rose from the dead three days later, proving His victory over death, Hell, and the grave. He offers this as a free gift to anyone who will accept it in faith.

Romans 5:8- But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Call upon Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart, forgive your sins, and make you one of His

children.

Romans 10:9- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13- For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If you would like to accept God's free gift of salvation, then all you have to do is pray and ask Him.

Your prayer might sound something like this:

Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I know that I deserve Hell because of it. However, I believe that you died on the cross and rose again in three days to pay for my sin. I ask you to come into my heart, cleanse my sin, and make me one of your children. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Please remember that simply saying a prayer doesn't save you. You must believe this in your heart as well. If you have any questions about salvation, or if you just prayed to receive Christ, please e-mail us at sgnscoops@gmail.com. We'd love to rejoice with you! God bless you!

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Who's making new music...

CD Reviews by Chad Hayes

VOICES WON
Something For Everyone
www.voiceswon.com

"Three brothers raised to know and accept Christ, along with their genuine love and respect for Gospel Music, make up the members of Voices Won. Families sing together, but it was evident from the start that God worked out many details and, in fact, His hand was upon this Ministry." This is the introduction that you'll find on the bio page of Voices Won's website. Based in Dalton, GA, the group was formed in 2000 by brothers Jaron, Shantell, and Staclynn Faulknor. Oldest brother Jaron sings tenor, middle brother Shantell sings baritone, and youngest brother Staclynn sings lead.

"Something For Everyone" is the group's latest album. It contains 10 songs, 3 of which were written by Jaron Faulknor. Voices Won definitely has a progressive style, and that is reflected by the arrangements found on the album. I was pleased to note that the group included the song lyrics inside the cover jacket.

Now, the moment you've all been waiting for: THE SONGS!

The album starts out with the first song written by Jaron, the up-tempo "Tell Your Story". This song features the guys singing together with a tight blend and smooth harmonies. Next up is another up-tempo song with a bit of a driving beat. "Sometimes When The Wind Blows" is a song that would do VERY well at radio, in my opinion. This is one that will make you hit the repeat button on your CD player. The tempo then slows down just a bit for the medium-to-up-tempo "Knowing You". This song has a very smooth arrangement that is a nice contrast to the preceding song. The fourth song slows the tempo down even more as the group sings "Something For Everyone". This ballad is the album's title track, and is also the second of Jaron Faulknor's songs from this album.

Song #5 is a cover of "The Voice Of The Lord", the Praise & Worship song made popular by Phillips, Craig, And Dean. The group's version of this song is very similar to PCD's, but I think that PCD still has a bit of

an edge. Still, the guys pull off some nice harmonies here. The sixth song is the third and last song on this album penned by Jaron Faulknor. It's a slower ballad entitled "Give Him Room". This song has a smooth arrangement and an encouraging message. Next up is a medium-to-up-tempo, driving song called "I Go With The Lord". This is another one that, in my opinion, would do well at radio.

Song #8 is a medium-tempo ballad called "He Came To Me". This is the same one that is recorded by the Liberty Quartet on their newest album, "The Journey". The arrangement performed by Voices Won is very similar, with just a few different chords here and there. This is another song with a powerful message, and the guys do a good job with it. The ninth song is, without a doubt, my favorite song on the album. "Guess What Zacchaeus Found" is an up-tempo song with a modern bluegrass/country flair, and it's yet another song that I would highly recommend for release to radio. The album ends with a slower, country-styled ballad called "Road Less Traveled". This song does a fine job at bringing a feeling of closure to the album.

This is my first exposure to the music of Voices Won, and I wish that I had heard them way before now. I was impressed with this album all around. The vocals are smooth and tight, and the arrangements are nicely done. If you have never heard these brothers sing, then you are missing a great blessing. Overall, I give this album a rating of 9 1/2 out of 10 microphones!

Favorites: "Tell Your Story", "Sometimes When The Wind Blows", and "Guess What Zacchaeus Found"

Chad Hayes is also the resident CD reviewer for SGMRadio.com More reviews of your favorite artists can be read there.



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