

sgn

A gospel-music world view

November 2010

Scoops
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Gospel Music Gives Thanks

with Kelly Bowling, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Legacy Five, & more

• **A New Chapter For The Perrys**

• **Our Columnists on Goodness, God,s Spell, & Glee**



THE PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE: A VIDEO MESSAGE TO READERS FROM ROB PATZ

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and
thanks.



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as we keep our SPOTLIGHT on the MESSAGE
and turn our focus to REVIVAL.**



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November 2010

We give thanks.

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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.

under God's spell

Every once in awhile, I poke my head up from the muddiness of having made a hobby a job (in Southern Gospel) and take a look around at the other art forms that are being used to praise the Lord in song.

This time, it was in the form of musical theater when we took our 17 year-old to a Chicago production of *Godspell*. (..at the Provision Theatre. It was her birthday gift. We have the coolest 17 year-old ever!)

I had heard of the play before and somewhat thought of it as forbidden or restricted or blasphemous, though I'm not sure why. I researched it before we bought our tickets and was pleased to discover that it is actually an interpretation of the gospel of Matthew, one that was received as somewhat "hippy-ish" in the 1970s when it premiered, but was actually just meant to be a simple and joyous celebration of the gospel message.

I watched a small, amusing cast, dressed in all the colors of the rainbow, act in childlike responses to a one-liner-for-every-situation Jesus. There was a lot of hand-holding and dancing and even a little pixie dust.

There were a lot of wide eyes looking in admiration at the Son of God whenever He would speak. They were, indeed, under God's spell!

I thought about what I give to Jesus on a daily basis. And I was a little ashamed. Because the characters in this play: they are giving Him the most simple, raw versions of themselves....their disappointments, their glee, their unbridled affection, and yes, their childlike faith and devotion.

I'd venture to say that on a daily basis, I do my best to give God attention. I look to Him for guidance, I repent to Him for my lack of patience or short temper or desire to control, I ask Him to help this situation and this person and that family, I even thank Him for everything from finding my keys to the sun shining when we have to

Sometimes it's ok to just shut up and bask in His loving arms...
Thoughts upon viewing *Godspell*

go to the grocery store.

But so rarely do I simply say, "Jesus, I love you!"

...with no tie to my personal status.

...with no thoughts of what He has given to me personally.

...with no thought of ME at all.

What was beautiful to me about the way *Godspell* presented discipleship to Jesus was that

it was always brought back to HIM, not them. So much about modern music – be it praise songs, gospel songs, or semi-secular music, is about the singer. *Jesus, this is what *I* bring to you. This is what *I* need from you. This is how *I* think of you. This is what *I* am feeling toward you.* Even if it's positive, it's still about us.

The simple, repetitive prayer of *Godspell* is Lord, let me "see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, follow Thee more nearly."

God will meet us where we are. He promises He will.

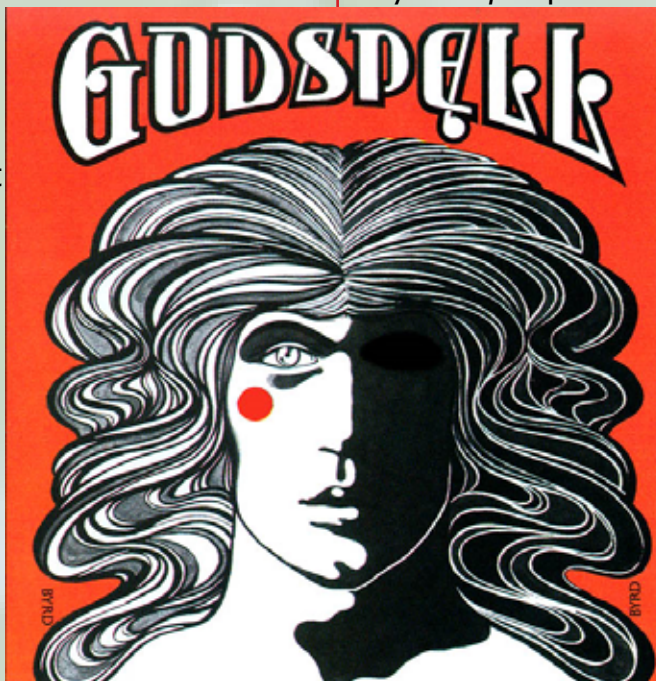
But what a gift it must be to Him when we go to where HE is waiting for us, just because we want to be at His side.

This month in *SGN Scoops*, we celebrate what we have to be thankful for. For some, it's been a hard year or they are in the midst of a season where there is little visible hope and happiness in their lives, yet they are finding that God has been true and faithful.

We invite you to be inspired by what you read here. Glean from the gratefulness and give some of your own. Regardless of gospel music, of whether we are strict Southern Gospel listeners or we taste from different genres to get our praise on, God wants to hear that we love Him. Just because.



KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Love, Life, & Legends with Ms. Lou:

Giving thanks for those who support the gospel

Howard and I have been blessed to work with kind, generous, and visionary people in our efforts to spread the message found in gospel music. We appreciate the commitment of Kelly and Rod Burton, Rob Patz, and Rhonda Frye, and we see results of their efforts wherever we go. We thank God for the privilege of traveling to major events, and our prayer is to be "salt and light" to both the industry and the fans.

Recently, we made the annual trip with my sister Betty Stephens and her husband Walt to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for the SGMA Hall Of Fame Inductions at Dollywood. Our first stop was the attractive Hall Of Fame & Museum just inside the entrance to Dollywood, where artifacts and gospel music history abounds. Betty and I felt honored and humbled at seeing the Wills Family display, and powerful memories came flooding as we touched the "faces in bronze" of friends who have been placed in the Hall Of Fame. To join the SGMA, call 865-908-4040

On a beautiful day in the mountains, Dolly Parton welcomed hundreds of Southern Gospel fans and artists to a fabulous Induction Ceremony and the Singing News Fan Awards at Dollywood.. Charles Waller, Executive Director, SGMA Hall Of Fame, assisted by Museum Curator and Office Manager DaLayne Pope, presented a smooth and successful show to an auditorium filled with artists and fans. Waller presented Dolly

with the "James D. Vaughn Impact Award" in recognition of her enormous contribution to Southern gospel music. Dolly delighted the audience with her comments, and especially when she said "my grandfather was a Pentecostal preacher and my roots go deep in gospel." Karen Peck Gooch and Ivan Parker kept the crowd excited with their expertise as emcees for the event.

Inducted into the SGMA Hall Of Fame for 2010 were Connie Hopper, Jan Buckner-Goff, the late Bill Hefner, Sam Goodman, Arthur Smith, and Danny Gaither. Those of us who are already in the Hall Of Fame joined Dolly, honorees, and performing artists, in a "walk on the red carpet" leading to the Induction Ceremony. We were

in alphabetical order, and I walked with Ed Hill. At intervals, our names were called out. This was a new experience for me, and I felt humbled by the huge crowds smiling and waving as we walked the quarter of a mile. I kept thinking about a time when we will walk together in Heaven, and there will be a red carpet for ALL of God's people as we gather around the throne of Jesus. May I encourage you, dear Saint of God, don't grow weary in your work for the gospel. 🇺🇸

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Opposite page: Ed Hill (2009 inductee) and Lou Hildreth (2007 inductee)

walking the red carpet at Dollywood Photo by Randall Franks/randallfranks.com

Clockwise from top: Dolly Parton joined MC's Karen Peck and Ivan Parker onstage with the Booth Brothers, one of several popular

groups who performed; Connie Hopper accepting her induction into the SGMA Hall Of

Fame; Dolly Parton receiving the "James D. Vaughn Impact Award" from Charles Waller,

Exec. Dr. SGMA Hall Of Fame; Marianne, Bill & Gloria Gaither, accepting the Hall Of

Fame Induction of the late Danny Gaither, after Lou Hildreth presented the trophy and

medallion Photos by Howard Hildreth



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Kurt Hummel doesn't believe in God, and a million moms are mad about it.

Actually, to clarify, OneMillionMoms.com sent out an e-mail on Oct. 18 in protest of a recent episode of Fox's *Glee*. (No, I'm not subscribed to a mom's mailing list, smarty pants. My own mom told me about the e-mail.) In this episode, the character of Kurt (a gay teen) was shocked when his dad passed out and wound up in a coma in the hospital.

Let's address the Moms' concerns about the episode, one by one.

On October 5, FOX's GLEE mocked Christianity and would have offended believers and left young believers confused or misguided with the false information that it projected. There is nothing more dangerous than messing with someone's eternal life. The tagline for this episode was "Gotta have Faith... Believe in GLEE."

There was indeed material in the episode that might leave young believers confused. But would such a cheesy tagline really stumble anyone's faith?

Last week's episode had statements like "God is a Santa Claus for adults" and "It is wrong to tell people to believe in a fantasy."

The first statement was made by Kurt after he was serenaded by several of his classmates with a song telling him to believe in God. The characters in question all know that Kurt is openly gay and should probably have expected that he wouldn't react well to their song. I don't agree with what he said, but his reaction was not surprising.

The second statement was made by hard-as-nails cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (played very touchingly in this episode by Emmy winner Jane Lynch). Earlier in the episode, Sue learns that Will, the leader of the glee club, has allowed his students to start singing religious and spiritual songs during class time. Sue protests, bringing up the concept of "separation of church and state." This point bears dwelling on for a moment. Sue, the most hard-bitten and (by design) unlikeable character on the series, takes the *opposite* position that most of the people reading this column would take. It's clear that the series writers

don't want us to take this statement at face value.

Later, when confronted about her views, Sue explains that her sister Jean has Down's Syndrome. As a child, Sue prayed for Jean to be healed, but God never answered. Later in the episode, Sue visits Jean in the sanitarium and admits her frustration with God for making Jean that way. Jean cheerfully responds, "God never makes mistakes." Sue confesses that she still isn't certain. Jean then offers to pray for her.

At the end of the episode, Sue comes into the auditorium where the kids are practicing the song "What if God Was One of Us?" Will stands his ground at letting the kids perform the song, and he asks Sue if she's going to try to protest. Sue can only offer a soft "No."

At this point, tears were running down my face. This story arc was beautiful. Why was none of this mentioned in the Moms' angry e-mail?

The openly gay student, Kurt, declares he is an atheist and states that he doesn't believe in God more than once. Kurt says, "God is like a jerk because he makes me gay and then his followers tell me I chose this and to be mocked everyday."

What Kurt specifically says that is that he doesn't believe that God could exist because if He did, then God would be a jerk for making Kurt one way and then telling His believers to hate Kurt for it. The logical fallacy is not in the "jerk" part, because it came from a hypothetical argument from an unbeliever. The logical fallacy is in the assumption that Kurt was "made" to be gay.

Granted, I don't believe that gay people wake up one morning and decide, "I think I'm going to subvert the Word of God today! I have nothing better to do." Every single person's particular area of brokenness comes from all of the complex elements that

make up anyone's life.

But let's say that Kurt was sexually confused on some other issue. Let's say his mom was still alive, and he con-

fessed a sexual attraction to her. Or let's say that Kurt had a sister who was the same age as him, and he openly lusted after her. Would anyone be saying "God made him that way"? Or would the more compassionate among us try to find a way to offer him help? I'm sorry to have

Christian Audiences Less Than Glee-ful



to use such a horrible, creepy analogy, but the scientifically unproved theory of being "born that way" is so pervasive that I feel I need to point out the flaw in its logic in no uncertain terms.

Also, two other students state, "I fall asleep when I pray" and "I see God every time I make out with a new chick."

Neither of these characters was being held up as a role model. In fact, their reactions were portrayed comically, not as something to emulate.

Another student, Quinn, burns a grilled cheese and the burned image looks like Jesus and he calls it "Grilled Cheesus" and actually prays to it. He prays to move to second base with his girlfriend and winning football games which both end up happening.

The character in question is actually Finn rather than Quinn (the latter being a female). Finn's subplot is a spoof of the many "sightings" that people have, of seeing Jesus in an ink spill, or the Virgin Mary on the side of a subway, or so forth. (Didn't Jesus say something about a "wicked and perverse generation" looking for signs?) Finn mistakes the image on his grilled cheese for being Christ. The first two times he prays, he does indeed get what he asks for. The third time, he prays to be reinstated as quarterback. In the next game, the current quarterback gets a serious season-ending injury, and Finn is reinstated. Now Finn believes that he was responsible for his teammate having gotten injured!

Guilt-ridden, Finn goes to Emma Pillsbury, the school's guidance counselor. Emma—revealed last season to be a virgin in her 30s (and accepted by her boyfriend as such)—explains to Finn that God wouldn't have been the one to grant him the inappropriate touching of his girlfriend. Emma also ex-



The season one cast of Glee. By Kristin Dos Santos, Flickr.com

plains that God wouldn't have injured another player just to grant Finn's request. As Emma puts it, "God speaks to us in all kinds of ways, but I'm really pretty sure that most of the time, He doesn't speak to us through sandwiches."

Some of the cast do not believe in God and the majority of the ones that did have a twisted idea of what it really means to believe or have a relationship with Him.

No specifics are mentioned here to prove to disprove. What I can say is that, even after Kurt says that he doesn't want their prayers, several of the members of the group gather at the hospital to pray for Kurt's dad anyway. Kurt discovers them in his father's room and he angrily tells them to leave. Later, after being significantly moved by the caring of his believing friends, he confesses to his comatose dad that he was wrong to kick them out: "It's not about me. It's about what you need."

They end the program with the idea that it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you believe in something.

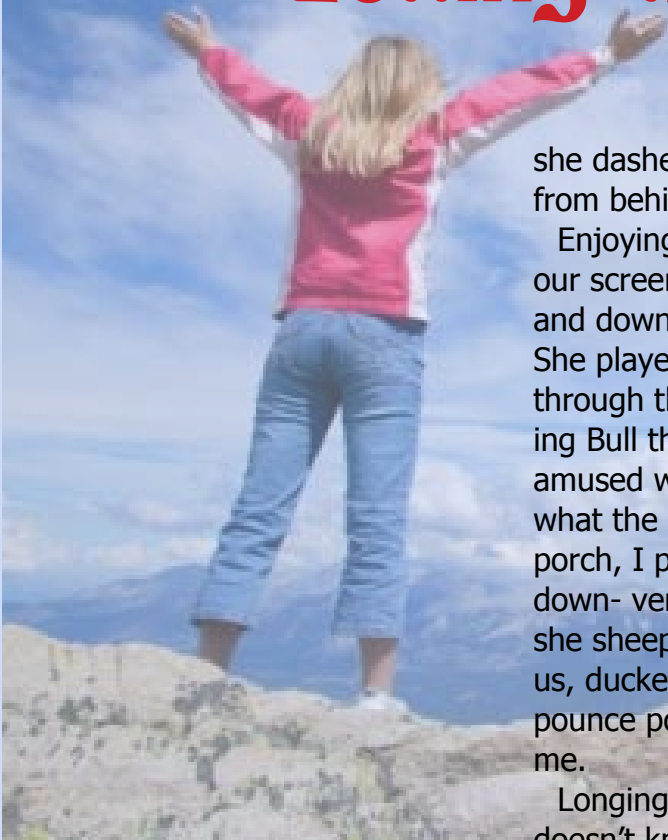
This is not the end of the program, but in fact about three-quarters of the way through. There are good points and bad points to this scene.

Mercedes, an African-American who is Kurt's best friend, confesses that since his tirade the other day in the classroom, she doesn't know how to talk to him anymore. She invites him to church, but encourages him to wear a frilly and flamboyant hat to show his pride in his homosexuality.

When at the church, Mercedes goes up to the pulpit. She asks the congregation for prayer for Kurt's dad. Mercedes then implores Kurt: "I know you don't believe in God. That's okay. To each his own. But you

Rhonda Frye's Faith Boost>>

'Getting' the goodness of God



she dashes like a streak of lightening and hurls a devilish sounding hiss from behind a tree.

Enjoying the autumn air one evening, my husband and I relaxed on our screened- in porch with Sophie, the pampered Yorkie. She was up and down out of our laps blissfully eating up the love and attention. She played and cuddled having a delightful time all the while Bull glared through the door. Of course, Sophie did her usual yappy thing making Bull think she was the favorite until Bull demonstrated she wasn't amused with her fluff by slapping her through the screen. Wondering what the cat would do if she had the opportunity to come onto the porch, I put Sophie back in the house, propped open the door and sat down- very still. Just as I imagined, curiosity got the best of her and she sheepishly tiptoed through the door. Once inside, she darted past us, ducked under the couch, flung an evil hiss then crouched into her pounce position locking an "I double dog dare you" kind of gaze with me.

Names carried significance back during Bible times. At the Frye house, we have named our pets as if we lived in Old Testament days. We have a Yorkie named "Sophie Caroline Grace" and a cat named "Bull." That's right, "Bull"- perhaps shortened from bull-headed. We didn't exactly choose Bull to be our pet, we found her under our back porch. Surely our neighbors think we are idiots due to our attempts of trying to get near her, but it's obvious, she's a wild cat that's never been lovingly touched by humans. We beg in the sweetest ways -"here kitty kitty" .. we meow..we stoop and even got on our hands and knees but she doesn't come. Every time we walk outside whether to get in our vehicles or to feed her,

Longing to shower my affection on her, I said to my husband, "She doesn't know what she's missing, does she?" If she only knew I have the power to make her life good. If she only knew about what it's like inside our house, she would know it's warm, safe and loving. If she only knew how good it feels to be touched. If she only knew inside I could protect her from the cats and dogs that chase her away and gobble the food I set out for her. How sad! Sophie is living the high life and Bull is living the scavenger life- both have the same opportunity to live an animal's life of luxury. When will she ever trust me? Day after day I provide food for that cat, but I could give her so much more if she would just TRUST ME!!!" Well, she does trust me to some extent or she wouldn't come around at all. It's like she wants to, but doesn't trust that I will be good to her." Ding Ding Ding... The spiritual bell began to ring. "Welcome to My World," God seemed to say- the cat has a warped view of you. Day after day I provide for my children but they keep their distance because they doubt My goodness too. If they were convinced, they would enjoy a sweet relationship with me."

We know the basic truth- God is good, the devil is bad. We sing songs about his goodness every Sunday, but not believing in His goodness is probably the biggest stumbling block keeping people from placing their faith in Him or as us "old timers" would say- Going all the way with God. Sinners struggle because perhaps they think God isn't good enough to allow any fun. If they forsake worldly pleasures they fear they are dooming themselves to a lifestyle of boredom. Others may truly desire



to be close to God, but doubt He's good enough to pardon their heinous crimes against Him and their fellow man. On the other hand, some of us are Christians, yet struggle with the mandate of holiness that requires total self abandonment. We fear if we surrender 100% of our time, talents, resources and wills, God will most likely require us to give away everything we own and ship us to the mission field of Ethiopia. Many times we are disappointed by other people drawing conclusions that God will behave or hurt us like a human, or maybe even blame Him altogether for the let down.

If we could ever stretch our eyes and wrap our minds around the goodness of God, we would feel so secure; we'd take more risks for Him and possess truly grateful hearts. "For the Lord is a sun and a shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly." The Sun is a powerful source of energy. A shield is for protection. The Lord- good, wise, kind (and the list goes on and on) is our protection! The Lord lavishes us with unmerited favor withholding what? NO GOOD THING!!!! God withholds NO GOOD thing from those walking uprightly. When we live life God's way, I can promise, we're never going to "miss out!"

English dictionaries define "good" with synonyms like moral excellence, worth, kindness, disposed to the well-being of others. In the English Bible, the word goodness is often translated from the Hebrew words "tov" and "tuv" terms referring to the quality in God that causes Him to bless, deliver and store up gifts. God reveals His goodness in many ways, but the most powerful way is through Jesus. I have Chip Ingram's example of this stamped into my mind from his book "God as He longs for you to see Him." He says: "If God has already loved us enough to give us His very best, don't you think He has the best in mind for our future? Put in simple terms, if someone paid a million dollar ransom to free you from a kidnapper, do you really believe you'd have to worry about who is going to buy lunch the next day?"

Just because God is good, it doesn't necessarily mean our lives are always going to be perfect according to our definition. If Sophie could talk, she'd say she's been stepped on more than once. Sometimes life doesn't appear fair, it seems evil prospers. Asaph struggled with believing in God's goodness until He got into God's presence and gained perspective. For us to understand His goodness, we need to spend time in His presence reading His word- but that is action on OUR part. It's been months now and Bull still runs away or prepares to pounce at our sight. Although I want to force her to come in, I know it's useless. Every morning when I leave for the day, Sophie is curled up in her soft bed in our cozy house and Bull is laying at the bottom of our cold wheel barrel. Those sights are enough to make me think- do I want the warm bed or the wheel barrel? The choice is mine, for God is good- it's just who He is, His character and it's up to me to believe Him.

During this Thanksgiving Season, it's my prayer to understand the goodness of God, for that is the root of appreciation. Every blessing truly comes from our good God! 🇳🇮

Glee cont'd

have to believe in something."

Mercedes is theologically inaccurate in this comment, of course, and in her support of Kurt's homosexuality, but what she says is not all that different from what's actually preached in many liberal churches. Her statement reflects what the writer (series co-creator Brad Falchuk) thinks rather than what the Gospel says. Still, I interpret this scene as Falchuk's clumsy but well-meaning attempt to provide a little balance to the episode.

This is no trivial matter. God is clear in 2 Chronicles 36:16 and Galatians 6:7.

True. But since when did we start turning to our entertainment shows to teach us the gospel? Believers need to discern what we watch, not expect that the unbelievers writing them are experts on the Bible.

In short, the Moms got some things right and some things wrong. Indeed, there are some troubling elements in Glee as a whole, and in fact there are some more troubling elements in this very episode that the Moms inexplicably don't mention. But I'm out of space again, so those observations will have to wait for another column. 🇳🇮

A note from the Editor 'cause I can't help it and Tom doesn't mind: There is another solution to this mom's concerns. Don't allow your child to watch the show. I know our kids can't live in a bubble, but as parent, we have the right and responsibility to control what is on the TVs in our own. You can say no to what is objectionable, even if it's popular, even if your kids get mad at you. The television industry is not going to get "more Christian" in its standards no matter how many letters angry Christians write.

Our SGN Scoops Staff is comprised of professional writers, singers, speakers, publicists, and ministers. Please visit their websites for more from them. **| CONTRIBUTORS**



KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON is a former teacher and IT project manager, and a current gospel wife, mom of 2, stepmom of 2, event promoter, and writer/editor, recently featured on www.incourage.me. She currently lives outside of Chicago sometimes and on a bus the rest, and survives to tell about it at mylifeastheglue.com



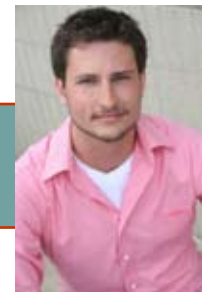
Born and raised in southern Ontario, Canada, **LORRAINE WALKER** has been interested and involved in Southern Gospel Music since the mid-80s. Since 2005, she has also authored the popular 'Reality Check' column and other features for sgmradio.com.



MS. LOU WILLS HILDRETH is always smiling, is married to Howard, is a member of the legendary Wills family, a member of the Gospel Music Association Board, and a television host, songwriter, publisher, journalist, an industry leader. Get to know her at louhildreth.com



RHONDA FRYE is a full time minister of music serving the Lord in at least three different ways: teaching preschool music, serving her local congregation as worship leader and associate pastor, and as a singer/songwriter/recording artist. Rhonda lives in Ringgold, Georgia and is supported by her husband, Eric and their three children. rhondafrye.com



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



ROB PATZ is the owner & publisher of SGN Scoops along with the owner & voice of SGMRadio.com & The Southern Styles Show. He resides in Seattle and loves Jesus, music, food, people, and talking as a job and hobby. sgmradio.com



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. tomholste.com.



SG enthusiast **D. ANN BAILEY** has written for a number of industry publications. Currently she works as a senior manager and is part of a four generation household. She also serves on the advisory board of Harvest Hope Food Bank., allowing her to reach out to the community showing God's love not only in spiritual ways but helping to meet the physical needs as well. twitter.com/DeeAnnBailey



Christian Fitness Expert and author **LAURETTE WILLIS** is the Director of PraiseMoves, offering fitness programs, DVDs, books and training for those interested in a Christian alternative to yoga, and fitness for spirit, soul and body at www.praisemoves.com
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CHAD HAYES is a pastor, husband, and father to an adorable one year old. He is also the resident CD reviewer for SGMRadio.com

| NEW CONTRIBUTOR



JENNIFER CAMPBELL returns to Scoops this month and we're happy to have her. She resides in Florida where she is a master English teacher and enjoys singing and writing gospel music. We invite you to read her rich testimony at her website.
jennifercampbell.net

| GUEST CONTRIBUTORS



ALICIA BAILEY, a full time college student and mom, has been around SGM all her life. Attending her first concert at 6 weeks old, she has maintained a love for the music as well as those involved in the music and is raising her daughter to love it as well. She is currently getting her Business degree and enjoys photography.

ROD BURTON is a a gospel singer, event promoter, Compassion advocate, and music fan. He prides himself on turning his Chicago-based wife into a country girl and is raising his kids to love great American music like that of the Oak Ridge Boys.
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The Perrys current lineup: Tracy Stuffle, Joseph Habedank, Libbi Perry Stuffle, Jared Stuffle, and Bryan Walker. *Photos Courtesy of The Perrys*

Through Blue Skies, Sorrow, & Singing for Jesus: Still The Perrys

By Dee Ann Bailey

"I Know What I'm Singing About" is a cut off The Perrys new project *Blue Skies* that is due out in late November. In 1970, their song began but it was born from sorrow. In the midst of that sorrow, they gathered around a piano and began to sing. And sing they did!

The talent roster that has passed through The Perrys as they have made this incredible journey is impressive. Of course, originally it was the Perrys themselves Randy, Debra and Libbi, "God's little people." Then as God began to move the family members in other directions and toward other ministries, Libbi Perry Stuffle and her husband Tracy continued to carry the banner.

Nicole Watts Jenkins, Mike Bowling, David Hill, Loren Harris, Justin Ellis, Nick Trammell, Matt Holt, and more recently Troy Peach and Bryan Elliot are some of the talented individuals that have helped make this group a fan favorite year after year.

But at the core, at 4'8" is a dynamic alto that has been here since the beginning, Libbi Perry Stuffle. As Tracy often says "What she is lacking in height God made up in vocal chords." Consistently nominated as fan favorite alto of the year, Libbi is still amazed when she is awarded that title.

"I don't deserve this but I'm so thankful." In 2009, Libbi stated at the awards that she often feels like

the problem child when it comes to the group and sound. "Having about 20% hearing means that I must have sound in my ear buds and when there are problems with the sound, I'm in trouble. At times it seems too difficult and I feel like giving up but then someone shares a song touched them or the fans bestow an award that lets me know they appreciate the message I'm trying to give. It affirms that I'm where God wants me to be."

The road hasn't been easy and there have been times when the valleys were too dark. In November 2003, The Perrys lost their #1 supporter as their dad left us to go



listen to the heavenly choir sing. He was a man loved not only by his family but by group members, past and present and the fans. His race was run and he was now on the other side cheering them on. Still they carried on.

Then on August 11, 2010 a time came that neither of them were really prepared for. Tracy was experiencing pain and once the doctors saw him, things began to move really fast. In addition to having multiple blockages Tracy learned he was a diabetic and also there was a small heart aneurysm. After determining that would this not be a problem, Tracy's surgery was set for August 13th.

What the hospital wasn't prepared for and what Tracy and Libbi didn't fully understand, was how much they were loved! The hospital switchboard was overwhelmed and the waiting rooms were overflowing. The love this couple had inspired was now surrounding them as gentle prayers were being whispered for them not only across the country but around the world.

This outpouring of love caused the hospital to ask them to begin a Car-ingbridge website to keep everyone updates as their lines could not handle the influx of calls. As he made it through the surgery and Libbi and Jared were allowed to see him, a collective sigh of relief was heard in many homes that had been praying for them.

"We didn't know that Tracy was diabetic and we thought the pain he was experiencing was from a hienal hernia, we had no clue he had anything wrong with his heart. But the doctors said that many folks in his shape, by the time they have a clue is already too late. The good

news is he was here and able to get better. The bad news, he had to get in better shape because the doctors were not giving us options if he didn't."

Over the next few days Tracy continued to improve and as happens in the southern gospel world, the 'show' must go on. Troy's wife Katy stepped in to filling for Libbi and the group traveled as a trio consisting of Troy & Katy Peach and Joseph Habadank. They filled the dates so Libbi could be where she belonged, by Tracy's side.

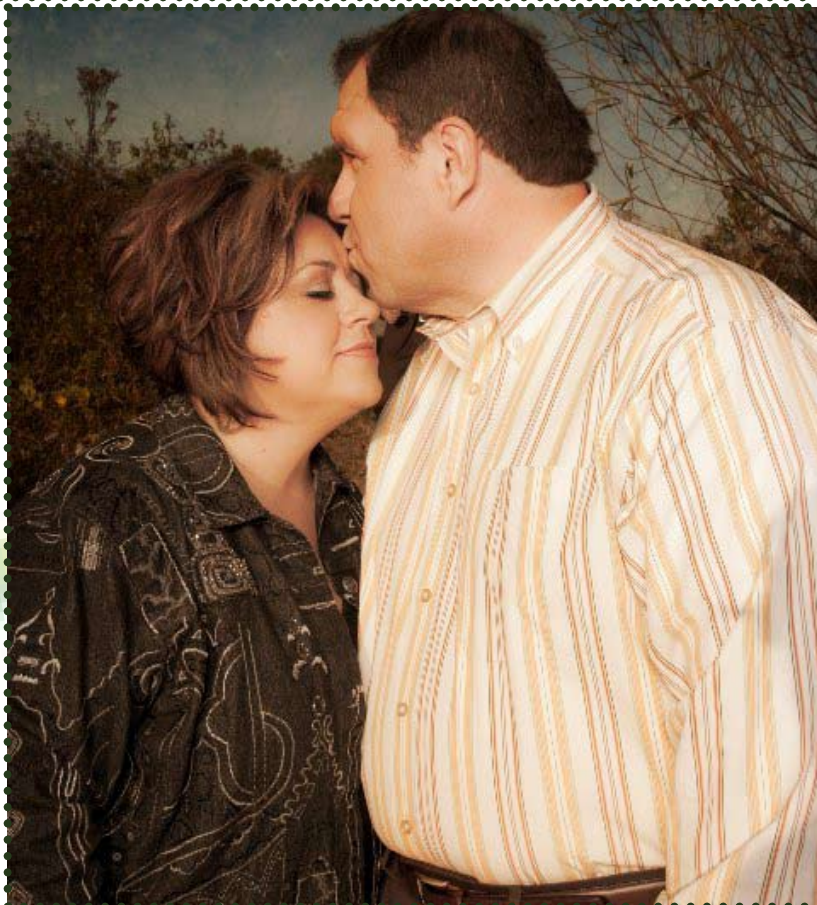
"Our vows said 'for better or worse, in sickness and in health' but I thought that would be later in life, when we were old and grey, I didn't expect it to be now. But she has not left my side, she encourages me and has been with me every step of the way" says Tracy.

"When they were wheeling him away from me, there were so many 'what ifs' that came to mind but there

was no time, they said we have to do this now. All I could do was put him in God's hands" Libbi adds. "Go'ds been good to us, we have felt the prayers and words can't express how much that means to us. Tracy is doing good and losing weight, his insulin keeps being reduced and we believe before long we can begin to control his sugar with just diet. His blood pressure is still giving us a few problems but the doctors are pleased with his progress."

Tracy was able to join the group at NQC and although he didn't sing the full sets each night he was there every night Monday-Friday. "At times we have to chuckle at what folks say to us. We asked that folks be encouraging and give Tracy sup-

When they were wheeling [Tracy] away from me, there were so many 'what ifs' that came to mind but there was no time...All I could do was put him in God's hands - Libbi Perry Stuffle



The Perrys \ cont'd

port. Sure enough before long we were hearing horror stories of what some folks had been through. But God was there with us through the good times and the bad; He hasn't failed, and we know He isn't going to."

Just as with anything in our lives, change happens, and as they finish out this year and look forward to 2011, there are changes with The Perrys. They will not have a full time pianist, at least for a while. On select dates Matt Holt will come back and play with the group, but his full time job at Bethel University keeps him on the road a quite a bit as it is.

"I hope to do a few dates a month with The Perrys, but I'm also travel-

ing with the Renaissance program at Bethel so my travel time is somewhat limited," Matt explains.

One possible upside from the time Matt is available to travel with The Perrys, other than the fact that he is a phenomenal pianist, is he and Joseph Habadank may have the chance to pen a few more good songs. "Matt's my best friend and I'm always excited when he is able to travel with us."

Also, with the departure of Troy Peach, The Perrys have added a young man who is no stranger to SGM or many other Americans for that matter. Bryan Walker, formerly with the Dixie Melody Boys and *American Idol* contestant is their new baritone. Bryan was the Singing Cop on *American Idol*, and while

he did not make it to the final 24, he did make it to Hollywood week and his vocal ability was praised by judges Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," Bryan says. "I've spent time talking with Tracy and Libbi and I'm thankful that God is allowing me to be a part of this group. Pray for us as we are doing what God has called us to do. I know that gospel music is where I belong; it's where my heart is."

The song and the singers will still carry on. They know what they are singing about and that message resonates with those listening: It's not about being perfect, it's about allowing Him to perfect us. 🇳🇮

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What began as a **simple survey** sent out to **gospel music friends** became a **movement** we wanted to **embrace** this month. Not a new idea...but a **call** to say a **real, sincere 'thank you'** during this **season of gratitude**.

may it bring joy to **him** whom we praise!



Jeff & Sheri Easter:

Sheri- These days I'm thankful for the little things. The things you typically overlook. Holding my mama's hand, telling my husband I love him, hugging and kissing my children, laughing with my family, singing a song, and **simply breathing in and out**.

Morgan- I am thankful for **love**.

Jeff- I'm thankful that **I was able to go to my daddy's revival and watch him witness to lost souls**, and to spend quality time with my mom. I am thankful for every moment I get to spend with my wife and children. And I'm thankful for my road family.

Maura- Swimming, food, and **toys**.

Madison- I'm thankful for my family, my friends, and **my beautiful fiance**.

Kyle Calloway- I'm thankful for my little girl, my wife, my family and friends, and **my job**.

Shannon Norman- I'm thankful that **I am marring such a wonderful man** this December.

gratefulness.
pass it on~

♥story beings on
next page♥

As the Southern Gospel buses fly down country highways through the red and golden leaves of Fall, artists' thoughts invariably turn toward home, family and Thanksgiving celebrations. It has been a roller-coaster year for many, with exciting celebrations and award ceremonies on one hand and serious crises and home-goings of loved ones on the other. As we near the close of this turbulent year, we asked several industry personnel about what they are thankful for in 2010. We hope you thank God with them for His blessings this year.

- **Compiled by Lorraine Walker**

I'm thankful that our family and group survived our bus accident on July 1st. **God's mercy is amazing!** We are all together, and I can't even say how grateful I am for that. We received a miracle by walking away from the wreck. I thank God for it everyday! – *Kelly Bowling, The Bowling Family*

The Bible says, 'in all things, give thanks'. That's me in a nutshell. You notice it doesn't say, 'for all things'. I think we would be crazy to be thankful for trials, tribulations, and trouble; but in everything be thankful and live with a thankful attitude to still be in the game. At first glance, your request elicited a knee jerk reaction to say 'I am thankful for God, family, country, salvation,' etc. (I am, by the way). But, digging deeper and giving it some honest thought and reflection, there is too much for me to list here. I personally feel a sense of thanksgiving should permeate our lives every day, not just one day a year. However, it is good to kick back with a good turkey dinner and family and catch some football and a nap... **I would be more thankful if the football game didn't revolve around the Detroit Lions, but that is a topic for another story.** God bless you. - *Stephen Hill, soloist*

The Blackwood Quartet is so thankful that we have freedom and hope, and that **Jesus is who He says He is!** Happy

Mark Trammel

Publicity photo

Thanksgiving! - *Ron Blackwood, The Blackwood Quartet*

I'm thankful the Lord brought us through a painful year of losing our grandson, Braxton. I'm thankful the Lord gave us a beautiful new granddaughter, Zoe. **The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.** Blessed be the name of the Lord! - *Sally Quick, The Quicks*

I am thankful to see another wonderful autumn with maples and oaks exploding with color, pumpkins and pecan pie! I am thankful to have a family to share it all with. **My wife Carolyn and our two daughters are all in good health and we will visit with family and friends after watching a little bit of the**

Thanks-giving Day parades on TV.



The Bowling Family
Photo by Brenda Denney

I'm thankful

to live in a country where I can stand and pray to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, thanking Him not just on Thanksgiving Day but everyday for His blessings and comfort. - *Mark Bishop, soloist*

I am thankful for a **brand new healthy baby girl**, Ellie Katherine Stewart. Born Sept 18 at 3:01 pm 7lbs. 7oz. I'm also thankful for her healthy momma! – *Chad Stewart, Legacy of Faith*

I'm thankful for my wife and the unconditional love and friendship we have. I'm thankful that **the one who knows me best likes me the most.**

- *Ernie Haase, Signature Sound*

The thing that I am most thankful for is my family. I have two amazing and healthy children, a wonderful husband who supports me in everything I do, and of course my parents who raised me to trust in the Lord at all times. **All of my extended family are Christians and that to me is such a true blessing.** Then there's my home and friends and my salvation.

– *Amy Lambert, soloist*

The **goodness of God** that I see around me every day, in my family, the people we sing to, or just the people I meet each day! – *Shelly Brown, The Browns*

The Browns



I'm thankful that **I've been able to sing and travel with my dad for the past eight years.** It's something I'll never really, truly appreciate until the opportunity is over. – *Scotty Inman, Triumphant Quartet*

So thankful for a **loving husband and wonderful parents!!!** – Kasey Embry Inman, wife of Scotty Inman

I am thankful that **I got to hold my Mother's hand** and kiss her forehead and sing to her 'What A Day That Will Be' as she took her last breath. I'm grateful for His tender mercy that has kept me.

– *Sharron Kay King, soloist*

I'm thankful that my brother got through his brain operation and has recovered. I'm also thankful for **the world of Facebook and all the new friends** around the world that do their part in sharing the gospel with others. – *Johnmark Grant, soloist*

Wow, so many things to consider! Firstly, I'm finding **the more I learn about our innate depravity that I'm more thankful for Salvation.** Secondly, I am thankful for the opportunities to serve that have been placed in my path by the Lord and a wonderful wife and kids that support me in that service.

– *Jake Sammons, The Toney Brothers*

I'm thankful for my **wonderful wife, Christy, who supports me in what I do.** I'm thankful to God for allowing me to spread his word through song.

– *Chris Walton, Melody Boys Quartet*

I'm thankful for a loving wife and a family who supports us in all the ministry initiatives we're involved in. I couldn't do what God has called me to do without them! I'm also thankful that **prodicals come home.**

– *Rod Burton, soloist*

Freedom! Freedom to worship, freedom to vote, and freedom to love Jesus, family and friends. I pray we don't lose it! – *Bill Dykes*

The older I get the more **I find myself thankful for the simple things** that perhaps many take for granted. Things like the Bible and meeting with God's people at church. In June of this year, having never been sick, I had a cancer biopsy and then had a hernia that exploded destroying my left abdominal wall and requiring surgery. This all happened over about a 2 week period. I became very thankful all of a sudden for my health. When I visit church members in the hospital now, and I'm able to walk in and walk out

under my own power, I thank God because I now remember a time when I couldn't do that. I really try now to turn my thanksgiving into *thanksliving!*

– *Jeff Steele, Pastor, Faith Baptist Church*

I'm so thankful for salvation through Jesus Christ; God's grace and **His mercies that are new every day;** my wife Bobbi who puts up with me; family, friends, a roof over my head, clothes on my back, shoes on

my feet, food to eat and that the Lord would allow me to sing his praises.

– *Keith Plott, soloist*

I'm thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to live in a country where He is still the King. I'm a Vietnam vet and love the USA. I'm also very thankful for **being raised in**



Jeff & Sherry Steele

Publicity photo

a Christian home. I'm thankful for our four children and nine grandchildren. I'm also thankful to the Lord for the chance to sing and manage Celebration Southern Gospel Ministries. – *Jim Stephenson, Celebration Singers*

I'm grateful for the privilege to **live my dream of playing music.** I'm also thankful for the traveling mercies that God extends to us as we journey across the country. Happy Thanksgiving! – *Tim Parton, Legacy Five*

I am thankful that in the midst of so much unrest in our world, we still have the freedom to worship and proclaim the name of the Lord in our day. We are still able to promote the greatest music, Gospel Music. I am thankful for a Godly wife and family plus **my church family that stands for what is right no matter the cost.** – *Eric Melton, Homeland Entertainment Group, Riversong Records*

That God is forever our **Jehovah Jireh - My Provider.** – *Tara Holt Jackson, soloist*





**Sharron
Kay King**

Facebook Photo

I am so thankful that **God has allowed me to walk through doors and see lives changed.**

There is no better feeling than to see people's lives changed and to know God allowed you

to be a part of it. I am also thankful for a wonderful family, not only my wife and children, but a family of artists that is so wonderful and I love them all so very much.

– Ron Brewer, soloist

I am thankful for the songs that minister to His people and thankful that I can be a part of it in some way. No matter how unworthy, He allows me to hold the pen. **Thankful that He uses us, in spite of us.**

– Sheri LaFontaine, singer/songwriter

True Heart Quartet is thankful to be **celebrating its first full year back, together again.** Thanks to everyone who has come out to hear us, written us letters and emails, and prayed for us. – Joe Kantz, True Heart Quartet

My granddaughter, 7 year old Emma Grace Revelle asked Christ in her heart and was baptized.

– Dan Pitchers, The Lesters

I'm thankful for my children, thankful they know the Lord and **that my family knows the Lord.** I'm

thankful for the blessings that God has given. – Bo Hinson, The Hinsons

I am so thankful for **life, health and strength to keep doing what I do.** I am so grateful for the love of Jesus, my incredible family, and my precious friends. God has been so good to me! – Karen Harding, soloist

I am more thankful than ever before for the **constant blessings** in my life... Good Health... Great friends... A legendary career with the OAKS... My new book *From My Perspective* (blatant plug) ... My farm... My CATS... My Banjo... and MOST of all my SAVIOR and My FAMILY... – Joe Bonsall, Oak Ridge Boys

I'm so thankful for God calling me into a ministry not only of spreading His word through song but **seeing unbelievers accept it.** – Will Lane- Driven Quartet

I am thankful for life, family, friends and the **love and grace of God.** – Aaron Wilburn

I'm definitely thankful for my family. It's AMAZING the support I get from Melinda and my children. **They are my backbone.** – Jeff Stice- Triumphant Qt-

I'm thankful for the ability **to do what I love more than anything.. and support my family while doing it.** – Mark Trammell, Mark Trammell Quartet

I'm thankful for my family and **Him allowing me to sing.** – Joseph Brown, The Diplomats

We are thankful that, **no matter the situation our God is in control.** He has given us wonderful gifts and we are privileged to share them. We are also so thankful for our families that provide the support that allows us to spread the gift of the Gospel across this great land. – Jeremy Long, Committed Quartet

The end of this world seems to be coming closer and closer. None of us know when Christ will appear or the end on this earth will come for us. That is why this Thanksgiving I am especially thankful to know that my family is headed for heaven through the blood of Jesus Christ. We have nice family get-togethers here, but **that reunion in heaven will be more than we can imagine.** I am thankful for hope that is out of this world based on the promises of God.

-Shelia Heil, Gospel Greats





Jay Stone Singers

Photo by Jordan Photography Deisgns

There are so many things for which we are thankful, good health, an amazing family, the best friends, more blessings than we could ever begin to tell. But what really comes to the forefront in my mind is the word **OPPORTUNITY**. At one point in this year it seemed that the well of opportunities was running dry. Doors were being closed rather than opened

The David Hill Trio:

David- I'm thankful that I am loved by my friends, my precious family, and the Lord Jesus. **It's good to be loved.**

Amanda Hill- I'm thankful for my Father God because **He always does what He says He'll do.** He is more than enough.

Stephanie Lindsey - I'm thankful for **true friendships**, my family, God's grace and the opportunity to serve Him.

and after 33 years, that was disheartening to say the very least. When we began to seek God's face for answers, what we found was that He was patiently, lovingly, waiting on us. He

wanted to know that we were really ready for what He was about to do. So today, we are so thankful not only for opportunities to sing, but opportunities to say an encouraging word to a weary Pastor, to hug a child whose daddy is in prison and just needs to hear that God, his Heavenly Father loves him, opportunities to pray with many to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. The opportunity to pray over a young couple who so desperately wants a child, to be able to tell them that God knows the desires of their hearts and He will

make a way for them. Opportunities to see my children put down their instrument and microphone to go pray with another young person in the altar. Every day God so graciously gives us another opportunity to make a difference and grow His kingdom and for that we are most thankful.

– Sharona Carter, Jay Stone Singers

This year, I am thankful for the awesome ministry opportunities that God has given and for the many new friends I have made. **I am especially thankful that my wife and daughters travel with me every weekend.** It is such a blessing having them with me on the road and to see God use each of us to bless others. –Michael Wayne Smith

I'm thankful for a **loving Savior**, a loving family and a brand new opportunity to reach the lost for Christ through ministering with the Perrys. – Bryan Walker, The Perrys-

There is so much to be thankful for. First off, for knowing that we are saved by the shed blood of Jesus and that He loves us unconditionally. I am so thankful for that, my family, my home, our great USA, even with its problems; the opportunity that I can offer my talent to sing and minister to churches and venues of all types.



Rick Alan King

Publicity Photo

The list could go on and on. We are all so blessed!

– Rick Alan King, soloist

Thanks to all the wonderful Southern Gospel personalities that shared their hearts and their thankfulness with SGN Scoops. We continually thank God for you and how your music leads us closer to Him. Happy Thanksgiving! 🇺🇸

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because we're writers, and we have to chime in: the scoops staff gives thanks.

Every time I worry about an issue - we *don't have enough stories*, we *don't have enough interesting stories*...it turns into "I don't have enough time to put all the great stories together!" **God is so faithful in the work of this magazine.** I love the amazing people I've been able to meet and in some cases befriend through this publication. I love hearing that people enjoy it, but even more so, that they are challenged or touched by something they read. I love the faithfulness of our contributors and their passion for teaching and storytelling. I love sensing God's anointing on tasks like interviewing, writing, even designing a page. I love my husband, children, family, and friends who support me, pray for me, laugh and cry with me, and give me a hand to hold or to get slapped with when I need it. I love my new baby niece, who so perfectly captures the promise of answered prayers! This has been one of the most surprising and wonderful years of my life, and the thanks is all to my Heavenly Father!

~ Kelly Capriotti Burton

I'm thankful for my salvation, my family, the good church God has allowed me to be a part of Victory Chapel Baptist. I'm thankful for the many years I've been around gospel music and the friends I've made. I'm thankful that God allows me to interact with many artists, promoters, and DJs as part of writing. And I'm thankful that **He blesses me with being able to write whether it be about Him or about those serving Him.** ~ Dee Ann Bailey

I am so thankful that **God doesn't ever give up on me!** He is really on my side - my biggest cheerleader and my encourager. He is pulling for me, cheering me on to finish the race well. When I am unfaithful He is faithful, to woo me right back on the right path and so patient, so kind, so merciful. I find His mercy irresistible. It makes me desire to keep trying to please Him and to lean on Him. ~ Rhonda Mitchell Frye

I am thankful for **God's continued provision after losing my job.** I am thankful that, though my sister is not completely better yet, she is at least receiving treatment for her condition. I am thankful for my many family members and friends, who continually inspire me. And I am thankful to live in a country where I don't get thrown in jail for saying that I love the Lord. ~ Tom Holste

My list of blessings is far too long for me to list all of my points of gratitude. Most of all this Thanksgiving season I am grateful that God IS faithful. Through every time of trial we have faced this year, He has walked with us, led the way when it wasn't clear, and most of all when we could not take another step **He carried us until we could stand again.**

I will never understand how or why someone would walk through life without the Lord unless they have never heard about Him. There's another blessing, we get to share the message of THE gospel and give others a reason to be eternally thankful.

~ Jimmy McMillan, McMillan & Life

When I started my small agency, I asked the Lord to send me the right people..those that have a heart for the ministry. I have been so blessed with just that. This has been one of the best years of my life, connecting



Clockwise from top left: The Frye family; Evie Hawkins; the Bailey family; the Burton family.



with old friends in Southern Gospel music and making new ones. Although this has been a good year for me professionally, my family has had their share of trials and health issues, but we're doing well and praising God for his many blessings! Having the *Scoops* staff as friends has been such a blessing, because I love to write, but the bigger blessing is that the staff feel like extended family. Today, I look back on this past couple of years with my *Scoops* family and those readers that have become close, as well...When you know what the writers stand for, and how they live their lives, it's just such an honor to be a part of that team. The writers of *Scoops* are the kind that when you give them a call will drop what they are doing and pray with you. I love it. **I love all of you and thanks to the many readers.** We have grown and with the Lord's help, I believe Rob and Kelly will continue to take the magazine to even greater heights. I hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving! You have all been a blessing to me! ~ Evie Hawkins 🇳🇮

Faith, Family, Freedom Celebrated in North Carolina

On Site Report & Photos by Dee Ann Bailey and Alicia Bailey

Friday, October 15th was a special day for a few thousand folks in middle North Carolina. Ray Flynn and the board of Abraham Productions had decided it was time to reach out and rally Christians together for a Faith, Freedom, and Family presentation. The evening began at 6:00 with a number of attendees being part of a meet and greet with Governor Mike Huckabee, of Fox News and a former presidential candidate. After briefly speaking to those in attendance, Gov. Huckabee then stayed to shake hands and have his picture made with the attendees.

The actual rally began at 7:00 with the audience standing and pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. This was followed by a video featuring Claude Hopper about our Bible and its place in our history. As this was finished TaRanda Greene took center stand with a magnificent rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." The colors before the song were presented by the Oak Ridge Military Academy.

TaRanda then sang the "Hallelujah Chorus" and "I Know My Redeemer Lives." She followed her last song with tearful thanks for all the thoughts and prayers for her and her family over the recent weeks, following the passing of her husband Tony.

The Piefiers were up next opening with "How Great Thou Art" featuring



John, Candy, and Mary Jane on the horns. John stepped out next to speak about how much the veterans meant to our country and took time to honor the veterans, asking first those that served in World War II to stand, then those from the Korean war, and on through

each conflict in which our troops played a valiant part. As the veterans continued to stand a tribute video was shown. The set ended with "This is America."

As the rally worked to cross not only political lines but musical lines as well, contemporary Christian music icon Carmen was the narrator of the next video that spoke on both the Bible and our Constitution. The Talleys took the stage next with a rousing medley that included "God Bless America" and "America." "Truth is Marching On" was their next number and they ended with Lauren featured on "He's Alive."

With little or no wasted moments between each artist, Ivan Parker moved quickly to the stage with "I Can Only Imagine" and "Midnight Cry." His final number was "God Bless The USA."

Ray Flynn stepped to the stage to introduce Gov. Mike Huckabee, who, in true Baptist preacher fashion, moved straight to the heart of the matter. The flavor of his speech: We as Christians must take a stand. We must realize and never stop defending that we have freedom of religion, not freedom from it! He urged everyone in attendance to vote and to vote for principles, not economy. He stated, "God has blessed our nation and He can straighten out any economy but we must do as the scripture told us and turn from our sin and seek His face."

Governor Huckabee said we needed a huge turn out on November's election day, how important it is that we realize that murder at any stage of life is still murder and that God cannot condone that sin. He promised to stay away from politi-



cal lines and he delivered on that promise. He spoke on principles and morality straight from God's word. His only venture that was somewhat political was the discussion of the ACLU using the town of King, NC to have the Christian flag removed from their veteran's memorial, which he had not been aware of this until asked about it by a television correspondent earlier that day.

Governor Huckabee said, "When atheists start sponsoring programs to help the needy and when they start building hospitals or funding organized relief efforts then they would have a right to expect the same recognition that 'religious' organizations ." As he finished, all the groups present joined him on the stage singing a few verses of "God Bless America."

After intermission a video of Steve Harvey was shown as he went through all the titles and descriptions that would be needed to 'introduce Christ to you'. The Whisnants followed on stage to sing "King Jesus is Coming," "I'll Pray for You" and "New Day Dawning."

A patriotic video was up next followed by Jeff Stice playing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Triumphant joined him as they sang "Every Day," "Old White Flag," and "He Is."

We must realize and never stop defending that we have freedom of religion, not freedom from it! - Gov. Mike Huckabee

"Jerusalem" was the Hoppers first song followed by "Something's Happening," a song from their new project. This song found Michael out front singing with the rest of the group. And as Dean told the crowd, "We just can't come to Winston-Salem, NC without doing "Shouting Time."

Brother Ralph Sexton from Trinity Baptist Church in Asheville, NC then brought the message. He tied his message into a number of points that Gov. Huckabee had already made. He referenced history to show how our founding fathers, while not perfect and often overtaken by temptation, were firmly convinced that without God our country would perish. He urged each one there to support men of principle and who respected God and His word. He asked that we support our churches and pastors as many sought to take away the very freedom this country was founded on. He pleaded with us to support those in any ministry that takes them on the road and away from home because, "No bed sleeps like your own, yet they give up that comfort to reach the lost and encourage the Christian." While he believes America has slid far away from the foundation it was built on, he did not believe it was without hope. The answer, he says, is Christians doing what is right, supporting those seeking to do right, and refusing to compromise with those that wanted our country to have no moral foundation.

The Hoppers and then all the other artists took the stage to sing "We Are America." Greg Cooke stood at the corner of the platform waving a huge American flag. Perhaps some would find this rally somewhat cheesy or frivolous, but for those who share these values, we can only hope it lit a spark that will travel across our country and awaken the sleeping giant that lives in America- the Christian! Those bought by the blood and willing to stand for God, may that spark touch their hearts, may it send chills down their back as they stand and say 'We Are America' and we the Christians want our country back. You are welcome to come, you are welcome to joint us BUT do not expect us to forsake the God that has brought us this far!

Photos on following page

FINDING
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All the artists joined on stage for a grand finale.



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A Second Look: Daywind's 100 Years of Southern Gospel Celebration

By Dr. Allen Smith



Photo © Aaron Crisler / The Judy Nelson Group

It started Saturday, September 18th at 12 o'clock noon. People from all over had assembled into Freedom Hall in Louisville, KY in anticipation of what they were about to see and hear. Like myself, I am sure that many if not all were waiting to see how Daywind Music Group would present this program. How were they going to represent the groups and music

that covered a period of 100 years? In fact, if anyone was expecting exactly that, then they were sorely disappointed.

After all, how could 100 years be presented in 1 1/2 to 2 hours of time? But, if they came expecting a representation, then that is exactly what was presented, and presented well!

After a brief introduction by Daywind president, Ed Leonard, the program started with a warm round of convention style singing. This brought back wonderful memories to me. From that point, Les Butler was introduced. Les, a DJ with Solid Gospel, began to recite the history of Southern Gospel music. In case you didn't know, Southern Gospel Music dates back to the year of 1910 when James D. Vaughan started the first quartet. Their main purpose was to sell song books published by the James D. Vaughan Music Publishing Company. Les covered the important dates in Southern Gospel Music down through the years, such as the plane crash involving the Blackwood Brothers. Of course the history he covered brought everyone up to date to the modern era of Southern Gospel Music starting in the 1960s.

After Les left the stage, this program went into high gear! Immediately Lulu Roman came out to sing. You may say, "Wasn't she on an old tv show called *Hee-Haw*? Yes she was, but she has spent many years singing Gospel Music since, including performing on the Diamond Awards.

After Lulu sang, Karen Peck Gooch came out as an emcee for the program. Karen introduced one of the favorite groups within recent memory, The Rambos. This group of the Rambos featured Reba, her husband Dony McGuire, and their daughter, Destiny. After a

couple of Rambo songs, a familiar voice began to ring out as Dony stepped offstage. Out walked none other than Buck Rambo as the group began to sing "He Looked Beyond My Faults." What a blessing this was.

After the Rambos left the stage, out stepped the Nelons. As was the original Nelons, this group

was a quartet and not a trio. Next came Gerald Wolfe, as he led former members of The Cathedrals in well known Cathedral songs. To my surprise, The Singing Americans came out to follow The Cathedrals.

It didn't stop there, for right on their heels was one of my very favorite groups from the 1970s, The Downings. They sang several of my favorite songs, which I had actually forgotten about, which brought several fond memories to me.

Next on stage was my very favorite family group, The Speers, as the family as well as several of their former members joined them on the stage. What can I say, as groups that I remembered so well took the stage.

There was The Hinsons, Gold City, The Lewis Family as they were joined by Jeff and Sheri Easter. This was called The Lewis Tradition.

There were a few others that I could not pull off of my tear stained notes, but I did really enjoy the finale. Everyone began to walk on stage singing, "I Bowed on My Knees and Cried, Holy."

What a magnificent end to a wonderful afternoon. The audience slowly stood to their feet and began to

worship the One the songs were all about. 🇺🇸



Dr. Allen Smith is the visionary who founded SGN Scoops Digital magazine, Southern Gospel's first all-online magazine. With his wife Susan, he continues to preach and share his love of gospel music. Visit him at www.facebook.com/sgospel

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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Do ads for expensive fitness equipment, pricey gym memberships and overpriced weight loss programs have you down? No need to get bent out of shape financially just to keep in shape physically. Here are seven skinny tips to burn the fat without burning a hole in your wallet.

Make any fitness tip a "Christian Fitness Tip" by adding prayer or Scripture to anything you do! Pray and walk, recite memory verses on the rebounder; praise the Lord and dance; proclaim scriptural affirmations on the rebounder or treadmill; talk to the Lord and thank Him for your family and possessions He's blessed you with while cleaning house...

How many more ways can you think of to invite the Lord to help transform your workouts into worship?

1. The Journey of 10,000 Steps

An inexpensive pedometer at your local department store can help you meet that 5-mile recommendation for good health (10,000 steps = 5 miles).

2. Stepping Out

We've heard this before: take the stairs instead of the elevator and park further away from the entrance to the store. Such habits make fitness a

lifestyle (instead of something you're doing just to lose a few pounds).

3. Cleaning Up

Cleaning house can help you burn over 200 calories in 30 minutes. Want to really spruce things up? Moving furniture around can up the ante to about 450 calories per hour (but watch that back!).

4. Flashdance!

Turn up the radio, take out the Gospel music CDs, or crank up the mp3 and boogie (or baile!). Shake away that breakfast burrito by shaking the blues away, praising the Lord and burning calories for free at the same time!

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You don't necessarily need a personal trainer or fitness coach to motivate you - try the buddy system. Lucy had Ethel, Andy Griffith had Barney Fife. You and your friend can encourage each other to keep in shape and go the extra mile (whether Ricky and Fred want to go or not!).

7. Gym in a Bottle

Don't have the extra money or space for fancy gym equipment? No problem! Use the stairs instead of the StairMaster®. Gallon jugs with water can become inexpensive hand weights. A gallon of water weighs about 8.33 lbs. Too weighty? Try soup cans instead (just don't strap them on for leg weights-you'll look really silly).

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Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry Take part in her free monthly teleseminars at <http://ChristianFitnessTeleseminar.com>. © 2010

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Reaching People, Changing Lives:

WCGW Celebrates 25 Years of Southern Gospel Music Radio

By Jennifer Campbell

"Turn your radio on, and listen to the..." Since October 4, 1986, countless central Kentucky residents have been doing just that: turning their radios on. When people tune in to 770 AM Southern Gospel WCGW, they hear a musical message, filled with life-changing lyrics. For 25 years, this radio station's primary goal is not to play the largest quantity of chart-topping hits, but to play qualitative, heart-touching songs. Their mission statement describes their ultimate purpose: "Reaching People, Changing Lives."

"We believe to accomplish this goal, we need to provide a product that is God-honoring both in content and in quality," says Benson Gregory, Station Manager. "Since day one, WCGW has set out to provide quality Christian programming, in addition to the very best of Southern Gospel music, and we also provide for the everyday needs of our listeners by providing traffic, weather, news, sports, event information, and entertainment." Gregory explained that they do not want listeners to be forced to sacrifice station quality or content in lieu of a Christian format.

It all started with one program called the All Night Gospel Sing. Although the station has changed ownership over the years, Bruce Edwards and Ronnie Hupp, two current staff members, have been involved with the station since its beginning. They can attest to the fact that one thing has remained consistent: WCGW has always played Southern Gospel Music exclusively, along with select national and local ministry programs. Un-

questionably, their commitment to playing Southern Gospel Music has attributed to their unprecedented success.

The station's dedication to the community has also contributed to their numerous accomplishments. Gregory stated, "Community is the key to our success." Throughout the year, the station sponsors concerts, blood drives, fundraisers, food and toy drives, church events, and other community activities.

As a commercial radio station, WCGW does not rely on donations from listeners to help keep the radio station on air. Instead of hosting radiothons or pledge drives to meet financial needs, they host a pledge



WCGW's Bruce Edwards has been a consistent voice of the station for all its 25 years.



Clockwise from top left: Bruce with Karen Peck and New River at the 2010 NQC; Bruce, office manager Jessica Poulter, Benson, and Rod Burton with the station's Compassion child; the station booth is an NQC mainstay; Bruce on the air as Benson looks on. Courtesy of WCGW.



drive to benefit non-profit groups within in their community. Recently, the beneficiary, receiving 100% of donations, has been God's Pantry food bank (www.godspantry.org).

Another way they give back to the community is through their nonprofit organization, Send a Kid to Kamp, Inc. The mission of SKTK is to send underprivileged children to the church camp of their choice. During the first year of this organization's history, a concert was held in the parking lot of the radio station, and local artists gave their time and talent to raise money for this worthy cause. To date, over 4,100 children have been helped by this organization. (www.kidtokamp.com).

Because of their devotion to community, WCGW doesn't stop there. Each July, they host a month-long toy and clothing drive called, "Christmas in July." These items are delivered to Mission of Hope, a relief organization that assists underprivileged children in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia (www.missionofhope.org). And recently, the station worked with Gospel soloist Rod Burton to sponsor a child through Compassion International (www.compassion.com).

Furthermore, WCGW is very active with the Southern Gospel Music industry, serving as a reporting station for the Singing News Magazine for 25 years and being dubbed the voice of the National Quartet Convention. Each year, they literally build a studio inside the Kentucky Fair and Expo Center, broadcasting live every day. It provides an avenue for the very

latest in Southern Gospel Music to be heard on air immediately.

"If an artist walks up with a new project that just dropped, we can put it right on the air. We make interview time available to all artists, regardless of stature in the industry," shared Gregory. "At the 2010 National Quartet Convention, we talked to small family groups just getting started in their ministry, and we interviewed Bill Gaither and groups [who were performing on the main stage]."

In addition to their regular Southern Gospel programming, they are also proud of their Oldies Show, broadcast the third Saturday of each month from their host Har-

dy's BP station in Nicholasville, Kentucky. This broadcast features original programming hosted by the station's own John Wells. Gregory stated, "We believe this to be the oldest/longest running regular remote broadcast in Central Kentucky."

As to how many listeners they reach on a daily basis, Gregory states simply, "Good question..." He explains they reach 43 counties in the central Kentucky area. Their number of listeners is ever-changing and is likely to soar over the coming months, as the station is traveling down a new road on their broadcasting journey via the Internet.

On October 29, 2010, they embarked on a mission to provide online streaming to listeners around the globe. Listeners from all over the world are now able to enjoy the sounds of Southern Gospel via WCGW's online streaming. The station is excited about this new avenue of broadcasting, as it will allow them to broadcast 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Visit the 770 WCGW Facebook page to listen to WCGW, at home and abroad.

The World Wide Web has definitely been a driving force in their ability to expand their horizons, especially when it comes to interacting with their audience. Gregory shared, "We have exclusive contests for followers/fans. We find their feedback to be very valuable. It's fun for both the listener and our staff to see 'how the other lives.' You get an idea of their personality, see pictures of their family, and can interact on a much more personal level than a few minutes on the phone or at an event. Facebook and Twitter have provided the station another avenue to interact with our audience. They are, after all, the reason we are here."

Their focus is to benefit their listeners through a Christ-centered broadcasting experience. Gregory wants listeners to obtain "a closer walk with Jesus, a feeling of community, and opportunities to help others, or be helped themselves." It is his hope that listeners will find themselves "spiritually fed, informed, and entertained."

The station plans to commemorate their silver anniversary by hosting a year-long celebration on air,

which will include special contests and prizes for listeners, special content, and exclusive interviews from artists and former staff members. Gregory also unveiled plans in the works for an anniversary celebration that will likely feature a special concert in honor of this milestone. Check the radio station website for details as they become available.

WCGW is dedicated to providing Southern Gospel Music at its best. Through their dedication to their listeners, both near and far, it is certain that they will enjoy another 25 years of quality broadcasting. Over the next 25 years, they hope to see Southern Gospel Music continue to grow, recruit more fans of the genre, and encounter more upcoming artists.

This station focuses on ministry, and they know the focus of their efforts should not be charting songs, but changing lives. Benson Gregory said it best when he said that they want to "reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, change lives through His Word, and have a great time doing it."

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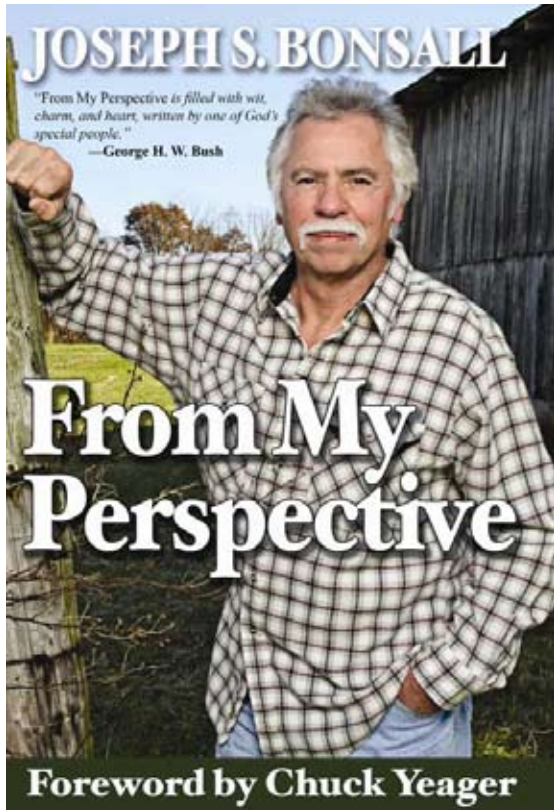
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He Reads & She Reads

2 reviews of 1 Book
By Rod Burton & Kelly Capriotti Burton

Editor's note: The book came in the mail for me to review, but since my husband snatched it before I could even read the back cover, I decided to put him to work...



Published by Journey Press
Click photo for ordering information

Rod: I'm a fan of Joe Bonsall. He's one of my favorite tenors singing for 40+ years with one of my favorite groups ever. It's easy to be a fan of Joe. He handles his craft well and cares about people in a genuine, non-pretentious way. But that's Joe Bonsall, "of the" Oak Ridge Boys.

I'm also a fan of Joseph Bonsall. He's a husband, father, grandpa, and now I see, a writer. *From My Perspective* is a collection of short story thoughts and ideas that Joe has put together over many years. These small glimpses into his very creative mind cover decades of experience, thoughts, hurts, and victories. It's as if a tree tap were inserted into the mind of Joe Bonsall and all this

stuff just leaked out. There's no chronological tie, thematic threads, or any other measure of order you can apply to how these stories are tied together. And that is exactly why it's such an excellent read.

This project gives the reader a sense of sitting down and having lunch with its author while covering a variety of topics that could be spurred by a thought, a news story, or a passing comment that sparks a memory. It gives you a behind the scenes look at a musical legend that has been blessed through the years in ways that some only dream of. To see the success of Joe Bonsall in the entertainment world, you'd expect him to be rather stuffy or perhaps one that takes himself too seriously. The reality is that Joe is a regular guy who knows he owes every element of success and his happiness to his Creator.

Joe has a deep seated faith that clearly is his anchor and grounding force. Joe is a Christian, a Patriot and a genuinely nice guy. He was raised by God fearing parents who had a major impact on this kid from

Philly. GI Joe and Lily are referenced regularly throughout this book and it's clear they maintain a large hold on Joe's heart. Joe's wife Mary and his kids and grandkids are the most important things in this life to him. All the outward success is kept in a *perspective* we can all learn from. The things we hold dear need to be things that matter, and Joe shares many of those in this book.

If you're looking for deep theological dissertation of the meaning and origin of life, this isn't it. If you're looking for a fun, touching, and insightful sharing of a spectacular life by an all around good guy, you'll enjoy *From My Perspective*.

Kelly: To be honest, I don't get a lot of time to read books these days, and when I do, they usually have a pinkish cover and involve a plot that takes place in New York City amongst the skinny, beautiful, and frustrated. "I LOVE 'chick-lit,'" the former English teacher guiltily cries. And to be

Yes, indeed. I have had many great experiences in my life in my day job as Joe Bonsall, thirty-year member of the Oak Ridge Boys. And I believe my mother is very proud of her little Joey from Philly.

But I'll tell you, being Joseph has certainly been a unique journey as well.

- From My Perspective

honest, if I were walking through the bookstore, likely with my two little girls in tow making a bee-line for *Fancy Nancy*, I probably wouldn't pause to pick up a book



From My Perspective review : cont'd

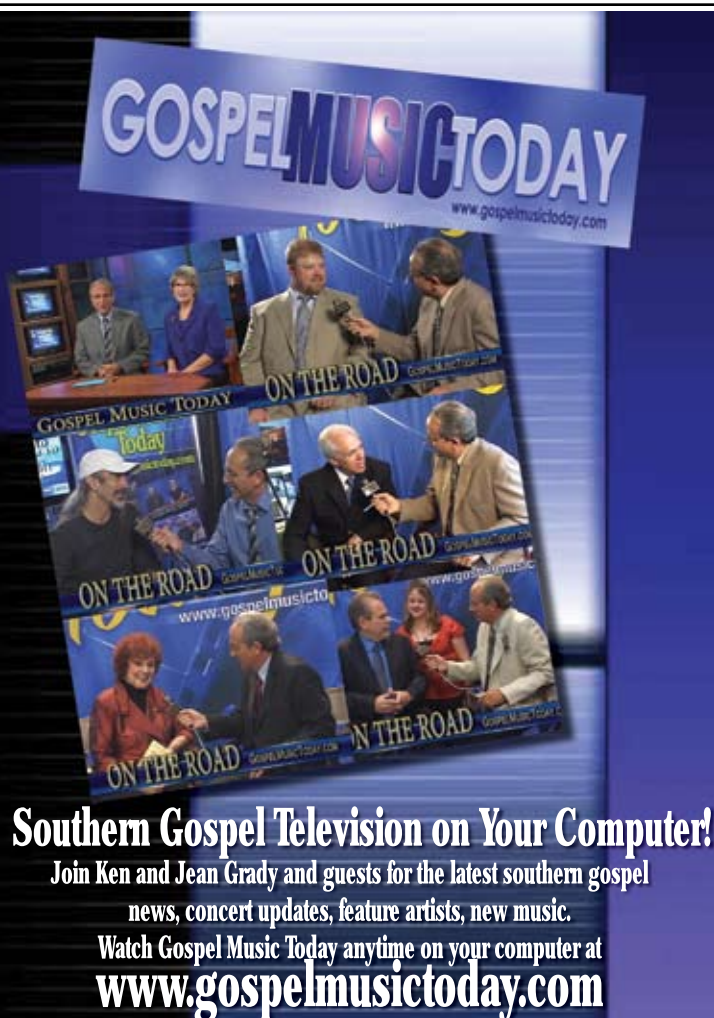
with a gray-haired guy and a tree on the front.

But, I also grew up listening to the Oak Ridge Boys, and I've come to love Joe Bonsall as much as the *Sho-paholic* books. I met him via Twitter, then got to know him through some interviews for this magazine. His extraordinary wit is matched by his big heart. And so I found exactly what I expected when I turned the pages of his book: charming words, zest for life, the wisdom of experience, and a general affection for people.

But I also found more than that: Joe has sung with the Oak Ridge Boys longer than I've been alive (he started really, really young!), but as an artist, music fan, and American, I totally get him. And I know this because he expresses himself so well on these pages, whether he is musing on his childhood daydreams of being Elvis, the talent of Taylor Swift, or a day of doing nothing (on which he pondered a missing dove and the 2005 tsunami that claimed over a hundred thousand lives in Asia).

Joe's words are not so carefully chosen that they read like a commercial novel, nor are they overly sophisticated, nor are they overly simplified. Joe on these pages reads like Joe across a cup of coffee talks. A story about hanging out with his friend President George H.W. Bush ("41") does not come across as braggy nor grand, but as a sincere and significant relationship in Joe's life. He does not apologize for connections like this, or for having a farm in the country as well as a home outside of Nashville or whatever we Average Joe the Plumber-types might find to be so far out of our own reach. Why should he? But Joe does not revel in being famous or wealthy or well connected; he celebrates that he is blessed.

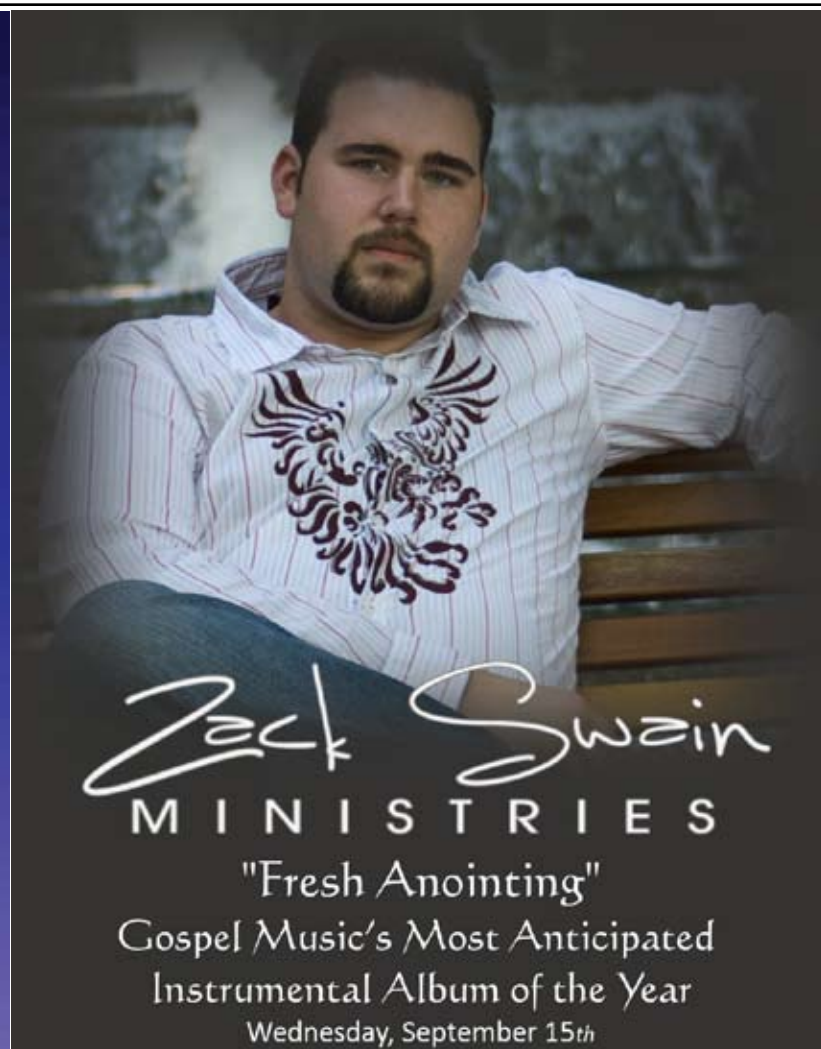
One of the things I enjoy most about *From My Perspective* is the slice-of-life, stream of consciousness way it is written. So many of us are used to grabbing our information from a 140-character blast or a three-sentence status. Joe's book is perfect for that mindset, because you can pick it up at anytime, read a few pages, and have a complete and often poignant or entertaining story. I'd venture to say that is why this man has been so successful in his life: he knows his audience, yes, but he knows himself, and shares the best of it with whoever wants to listen. I know I do. 🇺🇸



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Zack Swain
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Who's making new music...

CD Reviews by Chad Hayes

The Mark Trammell Trio has become the Mark Trammell Quartet. This is something that has had the Southern Gospel community excited for a while now. Group members are Joel Wood (tenor), Dustin Sweatman (lead), Mark Trammell (baritone), and Pat Barker (Bass).

Testimony is the group's first studio recording as a quartet. While produced by Lari Goss, the album does not have much of the "orchestrated feel" that Goss is known for. Rather, these 10 songs are done in a more straightforward, classic quartet style.

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It surprises me that the group chose to open the album with a slower song like "How Long Has It Been?" Maybe it's just personal preference, but a mid-tempo or faster song is better at the beginning of an album- it helps draw the listener in and generate excitement. Still, the vocals are nicely done. The tempo then picks up a bit for "Ransomed And Redeemed." Tenor vocalist Joel Wood takes the lead on the chorus, and the three lower vocal parts combine for a nice trio part on the second verse. The tempo then slows down again for the third song, "It's Almost Over." Mark Trammell is featured on the verses here, and the song slowly builds throughout to its climax at the end. I agree with other reviews, though- the addition of the lines from the song "Going Home" didn't really add anything. Song #4 is the album's title track- "Testimony." This is also the first truly up-tempo song on the album, and it ranks as one of my favorites.

The fifth song, "God Knows How Much Mercy I Need," is a mid-tempo song with a "jazzy" sound to it. This song features some of the nicest vocal blending on the entire album. New bass vocalist Pat Barker is featured on the next song, an old Southern Gospel standard called "I Want To Know." Barker has a

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Testimony

www.MarkTrammellMinistries.com

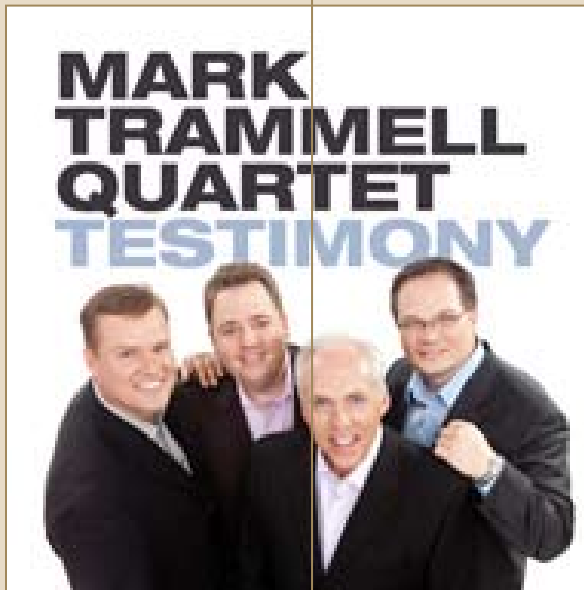
nice range, and his vocals are smooth on both ends of that range. Again, it's nice to hear a bass vocalist who knows what he can and can't do and is willing to work within those boundaries. Also, the contrast in styles between the first part of the song and the reprise after the final chorus is most excellent. Song #7 is actually a medley of songs about Calvary- hence the name "Calvary Medley."

"One Drop Of Blood," the eighth song, is probably the most "modern-sounding" cut on the album. It's also another of my favorites. Both Barker and lead vocalist Dustin Sweatman deliver solid vocals on their verse features, and the arrangement is fun to listen to. Song #9 is a mid-tempo number called "When Jesus Comes/" This is a simple, straightforward quartet arrangement that listeners should like. The album closes with another mid-tempo song called "I Believe, I Believe, I Believe."

This arrangement features horns prominently throughout, and the vocals are solid.

This album gives us but a glimpse of what this group can sound like. It's obvious that this lineup hasn't completely gelled yet, but that doesn't mean that this is a bad album by any means. This is simply a transition period for the group, and I look forward to hearing what more time singing together does to their overall sound. I do think that the songs could have been put in a different order on the album and that one of the slower songs could have been replaced by a faster song. I say this because, to me, the album seemed to drag at times- especially at the beginning. Still, switching from a trio to a quartet will not hurt this group at all. Pat Barker was the perfect choice to add the fourth part. Overall, I give this album a rating of *8 out of 10 microphones!*

Favorites: "Ransomed And Redeemed," "Testimony," "I Want To Know," and "One Drop Of Blood."



For the past few weeks, Karen Peck and New River has been on the move. During October we sang with the Bill Gaither Homecoming West Coast Tour. For an English teacher from Flat Rock, Alabama, I never imagined I would be able to travel to some of the most beautiful states in our country. As a young boy, I always dreamed of living in Montana, and for my birthday, October 13, we celebrated it in Great Falls, Montana. It is so neat how God knows EVERYTHING before we do!!

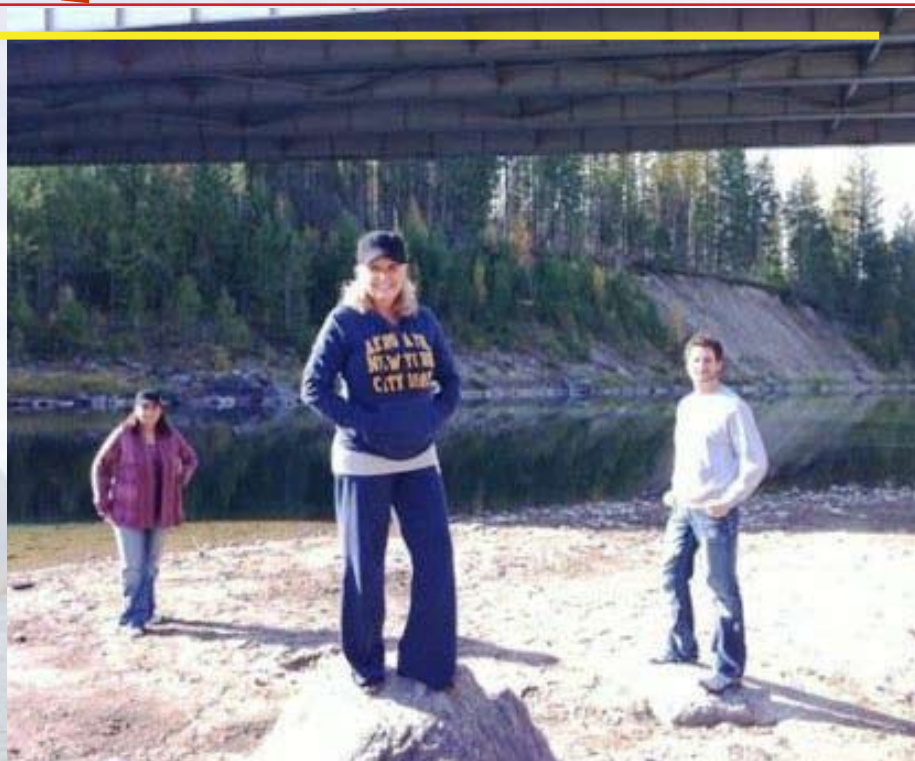
As we made our way toward Washington, we found ourselves thanking God for his marvelous creations and touches of His glory. One of the highlights of the trip for all of us was exploring Glacier National Park in Montana. To be able to describe the scenery to you is only a fraction of the beauty we saw. With mountain top glaciers covered in snow to yellow and orange trees winding around ice-cold lakes, the park was a definite reminder of our Lord and Creator.

While in the park, Matthew (Karen's son) and Tripp (our bus driver) bought authentic arrowhead knives made out of deer antlers, a hunter's dream weapon. Kari (Karen's daughter) brought back several colored rocks from the lake shore, ones that simply can't be found back home. She said they would be perfect in a fish tank. For Dawn (our product manager), this was a photographer's field day. Everywhere she turned, she found new shots to be taken and then uploaded to Facebook. How amazing is it that we can take pictures on our phones, upload them to Facebook, and share this masterpiece with the world within minutes?

We also stopped long enough to have a quick picnic by the lake. Can you imagine a giant Prevost bus parked by a lake in Montana, with New River tourists on board eating turkey sandwiches? It was too cold to eat outside, but what a view and time of fellowship we had!

Not only were we able to see God's beautiful creation, but we were witnesses to some of the most spiritual services to date. I found it so incredible that no matter how far away I was from home, I found people who love Jesus and need his mercy just as much as I do. We met people from so many different backgrounds and stories, but yet each one desired to be in the midst of God.

We were also able to travel to Yellowstone National Park, where we saw



As I looked out across the mountains, I was in awe of God's masterpiece.

elk, buffalo, and the Old Faithful Geyser. As I looked out across the mountains, I was in awe of God's masterpiece. It was if God has stretched his pen across the sky and painted the most beautiful sunset behind the ponds and hills.

As Thanksgiving approaches, God has reminded us of so many blessings we have been given while traveling these few weeks, and of decisions we make each day. For example, as we crossed a bridge across a creek, the road diverged into two directions. We went far enough down each rough, rocky, non-paved road to realize that we needed to turn around and take a closer look at our map. How many times does God command us to read our road map (the Bible) when we take paths that are dangerous and unknown? Funny, how I had to travel thousands of miles to fully understand my favorite scripture, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." — Proverbs 3:6

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