

November 2011

sgn **Scoops** digital

Rambo McGuire



Also In This Issue

Janet Paschal, The Booth Brothers, Russ Taff, The Akins



PUBLISHER'S POINT

sgn **Scoops** digital



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by ROB PATZ

November 2011

RHONDA FRYE

It's cold outside and that means hat weather! I'm a "hat girl!" I like hats- all kinds! I wear lots of hats in other ways too! Not only do I wear the Editor in Chief hat at SGNscoops, but I wear the Associate Pastor one at my church. I'll come back to that in a minute! But first, let me take my hat off and say....

"Hats off to the entire Scoops Staff for a job well done!" November's edition is packed full of good material! Make sure you tell our writers how THANKFUL you are for them. Each month, they spend time researching, interviewing, writing and editing all to bring you the best stories on your favorite artist and more! Also, our newest addition to the team is Pete Schwager and wow, what an amazing job he does with the layout design! I love being part of SGNscoops and I'm blessed to be part of the Southern Gospel Family!

Occasionally we do make mistakes and it is important to us to get those corrected. We do need to make a correction regarding the Collingsworth Family story from the October issue. Brooklyn actually sings the lead vocals on the song "Nothing's Worrying Me," not Courtney. We apologize for the error.

Ok...I would like to put on my "Sunday Church Hat" for just a minute and tell you about what's happening at Rock Pointe Church. A few weeks ago, we began a new Sunday Night Bible Study based on the book "Radical- Taking Back Your Faith From The American Dream," by David Platt. This Thanksgiving Season all I can think about is all the many things I have to be thankful for that I really don't need!

I too have had a "blind spot" in my life as David Platt describes. He explains on page 108, "Today more than a billion people in the world live and die in desperate poverty. They attempt to survive on less than a dollar per day. Close to two billion others live on less than two dollars per day! That's nearly half the world struggling today to find food, water and shelter with the same amount of money I spend on french fries for lunch." OUCH! For me, I spend that much to fund my diet coke habit each day!

I confess too! I have a blind spot and just because I don't see those living in poverty doesn't mean they don't exist. According to Platt, 26,000 children die daily of starvation and preventable diseases. Honestly, that makes me lose my Thanksgiving Dinner appetite!

I wrestle with the "Why Me?" question. Why am I the blessed one? Why am I not the one lying on the mud floor of a hut somewhere listening to my hungry children cry for food? No, I'm tucked in my comfortable bed under my electric blanket eating a bowl of chocolate ice cream reading about it. I'm finding myself asking "What's wrong with this pic-



ture?" In fact, our whole church is struggling with the "Why Me?" question and especially the "What now?" one. It's been a remarkable site to watch our church people humble themselves and seek God as to what He would have us to do now.

The hat I'm wearing today reminds me that Christ could return at the drop of a hat and I don't want to be caught with keeping the good news of Christ under mine. Platt says on page 74, "Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell." I owe Christ to the world. I have decided to throw my hat in the ring and to go make disciples at any cost. Will you join me?

Email me at Rhonda@sgnscoops.com.

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MISSION STATEMENT

SGNScoops exists to promote the gospel by unveiling what is intriguing and real about Southern Gospel and Christian Country music. With integrity, we aspire to strengthen Christians, highlight people who are fulfilling a call to minister and emphasize the music that inspires audiences and glorifies God.



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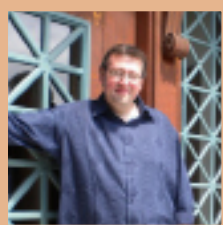
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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern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



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



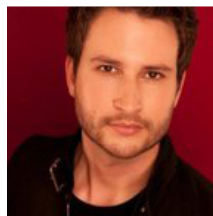
Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties, she was the first woman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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, spreading the message that there is joy around the bend. She serves as a

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



Rob Estep is a vital part of the ministry of the popular group, BEYOND THE ASHES. Currently serving as the Office and Road Manager, his wealth of experience in office management skills makes him a true asset to the group. His expertise of handling daily operations and road responsibilities go unsurpassed in quality. Rob has worked full time alongside of Anthony Facello for the past two years. Rob's Music Pastor Father exposed him to all genres of music growing up, therefore since childhood; he has had a rich love for Southern Gospel Music. Rob studied business at Columbus State Community College, is a HUGE Buckeye Football fan, and is single- but open to dating when the right one comes along. Email Rob at: robestep@sgnscoops.com



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops

Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at lorraine@sgnscoops.com



Evie Johnson-Hawkins is a native of Somerville, AL and has always had a passion for Gospel music and writing. She has written for newspapers and magazines and used her talents to develop EHA-Nashville, a management/consulting agency for the music industry. Visit: <http://eviehawkinsagency.net/>



Pete Schwager is a full-time web developer and also owns his freelance design business, Cre8able Media. He enjoys all things technology related and also loves learning more about Christ through Bible study and other reading material. He is married and has two small children. They live in Ringgold, GA. Find him on the web at <http://cre8able.com>



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Southern Gospel Celebrates Nov 2011

GOD'S GOODNESS by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK and ROB ESTEP

Psalm 145:7

"They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness."

Ann Downing is thankful!

"I'm so thankful for a sister who supports me with her encouragement daily. Lavern is 12 years older than I (there are no other siblings) and all my life she has been my 'second Mama,' but more than that, her unconditional love is an amazing comfort to me."

Dusty Wells gives thanks!

"The Thanksgiving and Christmas season is truly my favorite time of the year. More than any other time of the year I am always so reflective and ever so grateful for God's amazing, unconditional and ever-lasting love, grace and mercy that He has shown me....He chose me....He picked me....He was seeking for me, and for that I am eternally and always so thankful!"

Carroll McGruder is grateful for God's gifts.

"At this season, we recount all that we are thankful for throughout the year!! Among those things but certainly not limited to these; I am thankful for "The saving knowledge" of Jesus Christ! I am thankful to be an American, living in the USA!! A Natural Born Citizen of the greatest country in the world!! I thank God for my three Children, their spouses and the six Grandchildren they have given me!! I would be remiss if I failed to give thanks for the multiplied thousands of Friends I have; and, the blessings they have brought my way through their constant support of my Ministry!!!"

Duane Allen shared his thoughts.

"I am most thankful for health, a great job, a wonderful family and fans and friends who continue to support the Oak Ridge Boys. I am grateful for and humbled by the presence of God and His Blessings."

Sheri Easter is grateful for God's blessings.

"This Thanksgiving I am most thankful to have my sweet Mama staying with me for the week. She is bedridden at this point and whenever her husband visits his children, she stays with us. It just seems really special to host a Thanksgiving meal with her in my home after all the many wonderful Thanksgivings she's shared with us. I am thankful for good health, a wonderful family and the time to share with them. I am blessed."

Jeff Stice is happily thankful for family.

"And my Mom's dressing !!!!! Lol ! My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is getting to be with my family. We go to my Mom and Dad's every year, as do my sisters, their husbands and kids. BIG get together. After we eat we "draw names" for Christmas. Bottom line is I love just sitting around talking and watching my family. For this I am most thankful !"

Dr. Jerry Goff and Little Jan agree that God has been so good.

"When we stop to think about our blessings, we're glad that somebody took the time a long time ago to tell us the plan of salvation. Knowing Jesus provides the comfort and peace we can enjoy through His mercy and grace. I learned the joy of going to church from my parents. I am thankful that church was instilled in me from an early age; that fellowship and worship became a way of life for me at a very early age. Our church is like family to us. Jan said that since she was an orphan, the church WAS her family. And... thank God and technology, I'm alive and healthy!"

Southern Gospel Celebrates Nov 2011

GOD'S GOODNESS by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK and ROB ESTEP

Tori Taff is truly thankful.

"I have spent every Thanksgiving of my life with my parents in Arkansas. After Russ and I married and the girls came along, nothing changed; we happily made the annual holiday trek to Mom and Dad's house to spend several days and nights surrounded by thundering hordes of family. Usually all of my 5 siblings and their families make it there too-- my parents have somehow managed to miraculously produce 6 children that not only love each other, but are willing to travel long distances just to hang out together! The Saturday after Thanksgiving, we always head over to Hot Springs and have a whole 'nother Thanksgiving dinner with the Smedleys, Russ' family of the heart', that took him in when he was 17.

This year for the first time ever, we will have an empty chair. My beloved 95 year old Daddy died in April, at home with all 6 of his children under his roof. I know there will be some tears shed this Thanksgiving, but knowing us, there will also be lots and lots of stories, laughter, teasing and good food. Holidays with our loved ones are the best inheritance Russ and I will ever be able to give our girls. They have grown up knowing where they come from, and where they will always belong. They are proud to be connected to these crazy, colorful, funny people and a large part of their identity will always be wrapped up in these memories of our family."

Kelly Nelon is thankful she sings with her family.

"I am thankful to be able to do what I love (singing) and to be able to share it with my family is an extra blessing!"

Judy Nelon is thankful for a loving family.

"I have so much to be thankful for: my daughter Jamie has been cancer FREE most of the past 12 years. A small attack came two years ago; they got it early and no chemo this time. I am thankful for my life, the memories of the wonderful opportunities God has given to me. I love God, my family, my friends and I love people in general: All of God's creation is amazing and makes me very happy and grateful!"

Anthony Facello is thankful for God's care and protection.

"The word 'thankful' means to have a grateful heart. I honestly don't think this word can even encompass how we feel about God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and protecting hand. We are thankful that we are constantly made aware of God's awesomeness by how He takes care of us in EVERY situation."

David Staton is thankful.

"I'd have to say that outside of my relationship with Christ, I am most thankful for my wife and kids. I've been making several guest appearances on my new solo project but none more special than my two girls. Katherine (4) and Grace (9) both did the verses on a great song. I loved hearing them sing with me!"

GOD'S GOODNESS by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK and ROB ESTEP

Victoria Shirey is thankful for "life-time" friends.

"There's so much to be thankful for. There's no way to pick just one thing, but I am very thankful for my friends and family. You really find out who loves you and will be there for you when hard times hit. I was so overwhelmed by the love and support my family and I were shown back in August when my cousin passed away. You'll have some friends that will come and go throughout your life, but it's always cool to look back and be able to say, They've been there through it all. There are very few 'lifetime friends', but I'm so thankful for the ones that God has blessed me with."

Gerald Wolfe has much to be thankful for.

"I'm always thankful for lots of things, but this year, especially for my health. Going through sinus surgery earlier this year, helped me appreciate how gracious God has been to me, and how quickly things can change. I'm grateful for the experience of going through that difficult time, and thankful to be on the other side of it, looking back, and being reminded of how blessed I am."

Jeff Steel has words of Thankfulness.

"The older I get the more I am thankful for a wonderful family. I have a tremendous wife, three loving children, a great son-in-law and the two best dogs in the world. Thank God for friends but the ones who celebrate your victories the longest and loudest and will be there when you're sick and yes...bury you when you pass THEY are family."

Lily Isaacs is thankful for life and good health.

"Thanksgiving is a special time of reflection for all of us. I am so grateful every year for "Life"!! Being a 27 year breast cancer survivor has given me a reason to celebrate so many of the things in life that we all take for granted.

So, this year I'm Thankful for "my health, feeling the sunshine on my face, smelling the air after a rain, hearing my new baby grandson suck his pacifier, watching my granddaughter play basketball, cooking a meal for my amazing family, meeting so many wonderful people in our travels and most of all being able to sing and minister for our Lord Jesus Christ! YES... I celebrate LIFE and I'm so thankful."

Lily Fern Weatherford loves Thanksgiving!

"Thanksgiving time...My favorite time of the year because it reminds me once again how thankful I am for my wonderful children and grandchildren, as well as a host of family and friends. Also, I'm thankful for my Christian heritage, being born and raised in a Christian home with family prayer and devotions daily, which taught me the principals of a Christian life and the importance of accepting Christ as my personal friend and Savior. I am thankful that I accepted Christ as my Savior and for the call upon my life to sing for Him for almost 68 years and for allowing me at the age of 83 to be able to sing for him in many concerts each year. I cannot forget, though, that my faith in God came first from the fathers of our great country, America. Our forefathers brought to us standards and beliefs of which they had faith in God. It all holds true today, knowing that God is still in control of it all."

We appreciate Southern Gospel Artists and Professionals for sharing their grateful hearts with our readers this Thanksgiving Season! Keep celebrating and singing joyfully of the goodness of God!

Grateful, Giving...A Treasure

Janet Paschal by JENNIFER CAMPBELL

God's Word says "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Janet Paschal exemplifies this scripture through her compassion for others, ministry in song, and love for Jesus Christ, her Savior and Lord. For more than three decades, Janet has gratefully given herself to the call the Lord has placed on her life to minister to others. Janet Paschal truly is a treasure.

What started as a lofty childhood dream in Reidsville, North Carolina became a reality for Janet when she auditioned for the legendary group The LeFevres. Janet said, "I don't remember not singing gospel music because I was raised in church and I sang in my grandfather's church, so I got to sing a lot. I don't remember not singing. But my family all sang, so it was just second nature to us. When I turned 18, I had an opportunity to audition with the LeFevres. A pastor in my hometown knew them, and they were coming through, and they were looking for sopranos, so they auditioned me and hired me that night. And the rest, as they say, is history."

Janet has ministered in song for over thirty years. During our conversation, I asked her if there was one particular concert that stood out in her mind. She said there have been many memorable experiences, and she shared about one of the most memorable: "I

remember singing overseas. We had about 50,000 in a soccer stadium. They spoke Portuguese, and we sang in our English, and

layers of lessons to be learned there. I remember that fondly."

While there have been many



the tears would just roll down their faces. Watching them come forward when the invitation was given...it was life changing on a number of levels because it helped us to realize how blessed we were, and how fortunate we were to have materials available, to live in the country we live in, and to have all the things we have. And then to see these people and to understand that they are everyone just as important. The least of them is just as important to God as the best of us. So on so many levels; there were so many

positive experiences while traveling on the road, there have also been, well interesting ones. One time she performed at a rodeo arena with the Rex Nelson Singers. Janet said, "They had had a rodeo event. They packed up the horses, but they left the smell." While this was definitely a smelly situation, at least it wasn't a painful one. Janet tells the story: "Another time I did an outdoor concert on the coast and the backdrop for the concert was the ocean and it was in an amphitheater. When I got home the next day, I counted 46

Grateful, Giving...A Treasure

Janet Paschal by JENNIFER CAMPBELL

mosquito bites on my legs. That was pretty bad!"



Even amid the odors and insects, Janet has remained faithful to God through it all. She says her family modeled a godly lifestyle. She said her grandfather was very important while she was growing up. "He had a natural warmth that was very evident when he mounted the pulpit every week," Janet shared. "He also had a great sense of humor. He laughed quickly and easily." Having been raised in her grandfather's church, she says that their lives revolved around church. "I think it taught me early on that living for God is worthwhile, walking with Christ is worthwhile," Janet said. "I saw my family do it. So I didn't ever have to battle a lot of the hard places that a lot of people do with their faith. Now, I certainly have a time when I discovered Him for my own personal Savior in my own personal relationship with Him, but still, I feel so blessed to have been raised in a home where He

was number one."

Even today, her family remains an important part of her life. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approaching, Janet spoke of some of her family's traditions. "After the Thanksgiving meal, when we're sitting around the table, we start with my dad and we go around the table and everyone tells the thing for which they are most thankful for that year since the last Thanksgiving. We always do that. Then for Christmas, we always do "The Twelve Days of Christmas," and we strategically place the, let me just say, the non-singers, and we give them the five gold rings. The real challenging part is that we video tape it, so we have years of that."



Sadly, every day spent with her family has not been quite as joyous of an occasion. In 2005, Janet's family stood beside her as she battled breast cancer. Through this valley, she discovered that God was using this trial to solidify her faith in God even

more. "I discovered that in the marrow of my bones, forever and ever and ever, deeply, I knew I had walked with Christ. I knew I had accepted Him as my Savior, I knew I prayed to Him, and I knew I felt He answered my prayers. I learned something about myself that I think I would not have learned any other way except to face my own mortality. And that is that I knew whatever happened, whatever the outcome was, I firmly believed that my life was in bigger hands. I believe God was policing the things that were coming my way. And forever and ever, I discovered, I believe."

Janet encourages those who are going through a similar situation to hang in there. Although she said the first regimen of chemotherapy was probably the toughest day she had ever been through, she added, "I would say even on the darkest days, there is an end to the toughest procedures and some of the toughest things about battling that disease. They do come to an end. So, hang in there, it does get better, I promise."

In 2008, Janet wrote and published a book titled, *Treasures of the Snow*. She said the inspiration behind this book were the conversations that Job had with God when he was telling him how faithful he had been. Janet gives more insight on these conversations and the book itself; "Job was explaining to God about all the great things that he had done. And then God said, well,

Grateful, Giving...A Treasure

Janet Paschal by JENNIFER CAMPBELL

let me ask you a question. Where were you when I decided how far the waters of the sea could come, and where were you when I told the mountain goats to give birth, and where were you when I did all of these amazing things? And then He asked Job, have you seen the treasures of the snow?"

Janet said this meant to her that God was asking Job if he had examined the snowflakes closely to see how they are all unique. She said, "I think as we examine the events of our lives, good and bad, these are the things that we see. I think, that as we gnaw on them and find God's perspective and just study the everyday things going on in our lives, we turn over these rocks and we find these wonderful, unique lessons that He has intended that we all learn and glean from. So I took that scripture, treasures of the snow, because that's what it means for me. And that's what the book is about. The first section of it is about my breast cancer battle, and then the other two sections are about finding God in our circumstances."

When she is not traveling and singing, she enjoys spending time with her family. She said that one of the best days in her life is a day spent with her parents. "They are both healthy, and I live 15 miles from them," Janet said. "I've often told my friends if I had to choose anyone to live forever on a deserted island with, it would probably be my parents because

they are funny, they are sharp, giving, generous, and loving. They are just great people to be around."

Of course, another important part of her life is her husband. "My husband is amazing," Janet shared. "He supports me, of course, in prayer, but he also does things kind of behind the scenes. He updates my website. He literally built my website all those years ago and he maintains it. He's helped me with all of the technical things I use in my concerts. He has been the chief operator of setting those things up. He doesn't want any kind of credit for that, he just does it because he believes in what I do, and that is a high compliment, being the person I live with."

Janet's childhood dream of being a Southern Gospel singer became reality. She has traveled all around the world. She has performed on countless television programs, at hundreds of concerts, and many other venues. Still, she said if she had to sum up her ministry in one word she said she would describe it as a humbling experience. Janet explained, "Because there are a lot of people who are great at what I do, and the fact that I get to do it and that doors have opened for me is very humbling to me."

Without question, Janet has definitely seen many doors opened for her. One of the most notable would be her involvement with Bill Gaither

and the Homecoming Tours and videos. "When the videos first began airing," Janet said, "we sang to people who had been away from gospel music for decades. Not only was it great to recapture that diverse audience, but it was great to share the stage with your heroes." Of course, sharing the stage with your heroes is not always an easy task. Janet relives one of unforgettable moments: "Possibly the most memorable moment is my blooper...singing with the microphone upside down. And of course, the cameras were rolling!"

Janet encourages aspiring Southern Gospel Music artists to keep at it. Janet advises, "Sing every chance you get. Make a big enough fire where you are - in your church, community, school, etc. - and the record labels will find you."



In 2009, Janet launched a brand new radio series, "Walking the Good Road," to promote

Grateful, Giving...A Treasure

Janet Paschal by JENNIFER CAMPBELL

cancer awareness. Now, Janet has since launched a daily version of this series, which airs on 32 radio stations and covers 17 states throughout the US, as well as Canada. Janet also holds a NQC Cancer Walk at the National Quartet Convention each year, thanks to the support provided by the National Quartet Convention, The American Cancer Society, and Joy FM Radio. Currently, she is excited about a new project that she is working on, to be released sometime next year.

Since Janet began her musical career Southern Gospel Music journey, there have been joyful moments and sorrowful ones. But through it all, she has remained true to her calling. She was named Favorite Female Vocalist in 2010 and 2011 at the Diamond Awards, and she has received numerous Dove Award, Singing News Award, and Visionary Award nominations. Yet even with her many accomplishments, she has remained grounded in her faith and always remembered the One who receives all of the glory and honor. She is grateful for the life God has given her. She has a

giving heart, sharing the message of Jesus Christ with everyone. Janet Paschal is a treasure to Southern Gospel Music, to her family, and to God.

All About Janet

Favorite Snack: Anything Mexican!

Phrase You Say Most Often:
Whatever....

Most Beloved Scripture: Psalm 139

Dream Vacation: The back porch
with a good book.

One Interesting Fact About You: I
cannot swim!

Most Exciting Event of 2011:
The most exciting thing that has
happened this year has been the
marriage of my only nephew. He's
a keeper, and his new bride is, too!

Best Advice Ever Received: Just
show up. Because a lot of times
its good to have relationships
and friendships with people and
because its just a good thing to

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expand YOUR
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Goff Reunion Is Huge Success Nov 2011

by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK with DUANE GARREN

One of most noted fall events in Southern Gospel music is always the Lester's Meramec Caverns October concert series. This year was definitely no exception. SGNSCOOPS informed you of the planned event for Friday, October 21, and this is our promised follow-up with Dr. Jerry Goff and the Emcee for the program, Duane Garren.



As we reported in September, Brian Lester took a comment Jerry Goff made at the 2010 concert and booked the Goff Reunion for October 21st this year. What an awesome idea this turned out to be! Fans came from Canada and some 35 to 40 states, to share in this "one time only" evening.

Duane Garren, Emcee for the evening, shared his thoughts and excitement. "This was a once in a lifetime event, and the auditorium in the caverns was filled to capacity," he stated. "Every one of the 1500 available seats were filled, and all the artists who were taking care of their product tables came inside the auditorium to hear The Goffs."

According to Duane, "Little Jan" opened the evening, singing "Walk Around Me, Jesus" and "I Firmly Promise You." He recalled, "The audience gave her a huge welcome, kicking off the evening, and setting an exciting pace for the Goffs. Jerry entered from the back with his signature trumpet solo, 'The Old Rugged Cross' brings the crowd instantly to their feet."

"The Goffs; Jerry, Tank Tackett and Bill Dykes sang for over an hour with very little talking other than

introductions. They were supported by Gene Jones on piano, Woody Beatty on the Hammond B3 organ, Ginger Pitchers playing bass and her son Evan on the drums," Duane stated. "The guys sang fourteen songs that fans remember from their extended career. After Jerry's exciting entrance, they moved to 'When I Get Home,' a medley of other songs, and finished with 'I'll See You In The Rapture' leaving fans begging for more. The guys must have encored this song at least four or five times before they could leave the stage!"

Jerry offered, "We were blown away by the audiences response and all I can say is that it was 'ecstatically great.' We're so glad that God gave us the energy to stand and sing and remember the songs. I can honestly tell you; I have a great smile on my face

when I think of the evening."

Duane stated, "This was a night to remember and the Lesters were so happy to bring the concert to the fans.

(Photos courtesy of Duane Garren)



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by LOU WILLIS HILDRETH

My heart is overflowing with love for our Heavenly Father. We have felt His presence daily and remain so thankful for the opportunities given us to glorify His name! Once again, we were thrilled to participate in a memorable event at the 2011 SGMA Hall Of Fame Induction at Dollywood. This year's inductees were Bob Brumley, Willie Wynn, Doris Akers, Roy Carter, Doyle Blackwood, Kenny Gates, and Jerry Kirksey. What an honor to be asked to present the medallion and trophy to our treasured friend Jerry Kirksey. Standing onstage brought a flood of memories as I recalled my own induction into the SGMA Hall Of Fame in 2007. The 2011 Induction proved again the expertise of Executive Director Charles Waller in producing a fabulous program. I have never missed attending this annual event and experiencing the excitement of gathering with cur-



rent industry executives and friends of the past who shared my dreams for Southern Gospel music. This year, Ed Harper, Harper Agency, Nashville was seated next to me. A video that included Herman Harper, Ed's father who sang bass with the Oak Ridge Boys, was shown at the induction of Willie Wynn. As Ed watched the video, the expression on his face is a memory to be treasured. We will never forget the response as Bill Gaither closed his induction comments for Doris Akers by leading us in her classic song "There's A Sweet Sweet Spirit In This Place." The finale of this monumental program of inductions, legends, Singing News Fan Awards, and stirring music was the presentation of the "James D. Vaughan Impact Award" to the Statler Brothers. Don and Harold Reid, Phil Balsley, and Jimmy Fortune accepted with genuine appreciation. Again this year, Dollywood rolled out the red carpet



for all of the Hall-Of-Famers and the performing artists to parade to the Celebrity Theatre for the Induction Ceremony and the Singing News Fan Awards. It was fun to ride in a golf cart with Les Beasley, Ed Hill, Eddie Wallace, and Jack Pittman. The fans along the way were so gracious, and love was flowing freely. Sharing this blessed event with you reminds us to rejoice at the promise that all of the Saints will join together (and it could be soon) in a "Heavenly Parade." Until then, let us be salt and light to a needy world.

Contact us at gosplvideo@aol.com
www.louhildreth.com

Photos by: Aaron@NelonPR.com

- Lou onstage at 2011 SGMA Hall Of Fame remembering her 2005 induction
- Bill Gaither with the Nelons--Jason, Kelly, Amber--and Nashville Executive Judy Nelon (D) Statler Brothers, recipient "2011 James D. Vaughn Impact Award" with Lou Hildreth



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Back To Their Grassroots: Nov 2011

A Moment With Rambo McGuire by LORRAINE WALKER

Rambo McGuire. The name is synonymous with brilliant, powerful lyrics, incredible vocals and unique style extending across the realm of Christian music. Dove and Grammy award-winning Reba Rambo-McGuire and Dony McGuire are today joined by The Rambos patriarch Buck Rambo, as well as children Destiny Rambo McGuire and Israel Anthem McGuire in Grassroots Rambos: the first in the Remembering the Rambos series. It's a special moment in time for the family of the legendary singer/songwriter Dottie Rambo to celebrate her music and her life.

Dottie Rambo, known worldwide for her music, began her career as a young teenager, dedicating her life to Christ at age 12 and determining to use her talents solely for Him. At 16, she met Buck Rambo and they began touring as The Gospel Echoes, later to become The Singing Rambos. Their daughter Reba joined the group at age 13, creating the special sound of Dottie's matchless alto, Buck's country baritone and Reba's soaring soprano. The Rambos presented Dottie's songs to all who would listen,



garnering many awards and paving the way for each member's solo careers.

The songs of Dottie Rambo have been recorded by the likes of Whitney Houston, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and many other secular and Christian artists. Rambo's personal website [1] states that she wrote over 2500 tunes. After her tragic death in May 2008, many fans mourned the loss of this great artist and wondered if those magical Rambo songs, performed in the unique Rambo style, would ever be heard again.

With the release of Grassroots Rambos, Rambo McGuire has

responded to Dottie fans and to their own desire of honoring this legend. The mix of bluegrass, country and gospel influences that inspired Rambo's songs is heard again in this three-generation family band. The songs that made this lady a household name are brought into a modern-day, fresh sound that is delighting both old and new fans. More than that, the family desires that the driving force behind Dottie Rambo's music, the great and redemptive power of God, be heard, seen and felt in every performance.

Dony McGuire, an award-winning songwriter in his own

right, as well as co-pastor with his wife Reba at The River Church, Nashville, Tennessee, remarks that this recording was not only for the fans, but for the family as well.

"This moment with Rambo McGuire is to sing songs that she wrote that still have great value," says Dony. "They are still as relevant to people's lives as they were when she wrote them, because she wrote those things out of experience." McGuire continues, "Another part of it was that in the days after the tragic loss of life that we experienced, we found there was a lot of great healing in her music. We'd find ourselves sitting around

Back To Their Grassroots: Nov 2011

A Moment With Rambo McGuire by LORRAINE WALKER

the piano, sitting on the floor singing Mamma's songs. It really became a soothing, healing ointment to our lives. That's what this moment with Rambo McGuire is all about."



Reba and Dony are joined on vocals by Buck and their daughter Destiny, creating a special blend of style with a definite bluegrass overtone. Reba remarks that this sound has an authentic place in the songs of Dottie Rambo. "When I was a little girl and we lived in the hills of Kentucky, that's how it all started," Reba says. "We lived in this little old house-trailer and the musicians would come out of the hills and hollows on a Saturday night. It was kind of like somebody sent out a news bulletin! I don't know how it happened, how they all knew, but they'd come and we'd

sing. Of course, Mother could play anything with strings on it. People would bring their mandolins, fiddles and banjos." Reba continues, "Our son Israel who plays drums

with the group loves bluegrass, and he kept saying, 'Mom, this sounds so much like how you've told us it all started.' We loved the sound and then some of our friends like the Isaacs started encouraging us. Ben Isaacs said, 'Hey, I want to play bass on that.' So it wasn't planned, it just kind of happened." "We've come full circle. The Rambos started this organic, mountain-type music and then we went somewhat contemporary. I went on my own, and then Dony and I married and the rest is history. Now to go back to the original, it's like we've come full circle. I love that our

kids are involved as well. They bring the kind of hybrid sound, bluegrass with a fun new twist. Destiny sings all those wonderful vocals and Israel plays the great rhythms on the drums. So it's a fun thing!" Reba gives her infectious laugh and continues, "I've determined at my age I'm going to have fun whatever I do! I'm not going to do anything I'm not going to have fun with!"

The decision to record and tour with Grassroots Rambos was not something that any of the family had planned. "Last year at NQC they asked us to do a 14-minute medley

honor Mom, but now we are just seeing where it takes us. We have the new project, Grassroots, and the new single, 'I Won't Ask For More,' so we are just saying, 'Here we go!'"

Daughter Destiny, a multi-talented actor/singer/songwriter, adds a beautiful high note to the presentation that audiences enjoy. With the Rambo heritage, this young lady came by her talent honestly and has worked to refine her skills. And, as is typically Rambo, she began early. "I can't remember not singing," Destiny smiles. "Lately I've been doing a lot of musical theatre. I recently was privileged to do a worship musical



on 'Remembering the Rambos' [2]," says Reba. "We came off the stage and we had promoters saying, 'How can we book you?' We just did that to

based on Ruth Graham's new book, *Fear Not Tomorrow*. So that has been something I've been working on, working in various

Back To Their Grassroots: Nov 2011

A Moment With Rambo McGuire by LORRAINE WALKER

theatres doing that. But my heart has always been worship and also singing with my family."

"Much of our heart and why we did this project is because my Grandmother wrote some amazing songs and it would be a shame that because she has passed away, her songs will pass away as well," says Destiny. "The songs need to live on and with as many songs as she wrote; there are countless projects that can be done to continue her legacy. Hopefully my kids will be doing Dottie Rambo songs and their kids will as well."

Destiny continues, "This is something we are setting in motion as a legacy to remember her music and the songs she pulled down from Heaven and delivered to the earth. We want to keep those songs alive. Between my brother and I, we already have thoughts on other side projects including individual albums of her songs, as well as other group albums with Rambo McGuire. These will include different takes and different styles of the songs. I believe this will be a life-long project for all of us, keeping that legacy alive."

Proud dad Dony adds, "Destiny tells a story that she showed Dottie the first song she had written at 13 years of age. Mom's comments were, 'You are a late bloomer!'"



Dony has been involved in the music business since he began touring in the 1970s with various gospel groups, including The Downings. As a veteran of the industry, he understands what Dottie's songs meant to her audience, and he would like to see her masterpieces reach a new generation.

"We have had incredible response to Grassroots Rambos. Reba and I pastor a church in Nashville and Buck is staff pastor at another

church in Nashville. It's not like we need a touring itinerary to keep us busy! Our lives are already very busy." McGuire continues, "But this we feel is like a song

God put in our heart, which rings louder today than it ever has. We want to reach people and give them hope, to give them the good news that God's love for them is unconditional, right where they are. You can't run far enough to get away from Him."

"Dottie's music provides an incredible platform for us to share that message, which was her heart's cry. We feel like this is a God moment and we are going to let

Him lead." As a pastor, Dony's desire is for the audience to experience a personal relationship with the Lord. Both he and Reba have a heart to reach those who are

hurting, though Dony acknowledges that personal interaction with their audience might not always be possible after a Grassroots Rambos presentation.

McGuire comments, "A lot of [personal ministry] just depends on timing and where the venue is. Depending on how busy we are, if there is another place we have to be, that may limit some of the one-on-one time. When you study the life of Jesus, there are a lot of one-on-one encounters,

A Moment With Rambo McGuire by LORRAINE WALKER

but sometimes His itinerary didn't permit that, so He just healed them all. He just went ahead and ministered to them all."

"I know each of us in the group are people who have an incredibly deep relationship with Christ and Holy Spirit indwells us," McGuire continues. "Our goal is that no matter if it is a moment in one of our church services or a moment in a concert, where the purpose is to entertain or divert the minds of the people off of the mundane-ness of their day, Holy Spirit is going to lead us into a moment to effectively touch their lives. However that happens, we'll let Him be the orchestrator of all that."

The group acknowledges that a large part of the Dottie Rambo heritage is the ability to personally touch the hearts and lives of their audience. Granddaughter Destiny shares a favorite memory that magnifies that part of Dottie's ministry. Destiny shares, "I have a strong memory that stands out to me as one of the ways that she helped mold and shape me, not only as an artist and a singer, but also as a person who communicates with

other people. One of the first times she ever saw me sing on my own, as

She really taught me the importance of communicating the



I walked off-stage, she hugged me and she was sweet. Then she kind of lowered her head, shook it, and said, 'I'm really disappointed.' I was heartbroken!" "I asked her why she was disappointed in me and she said, 'You never opened your eyes one time. There are people in that audience that you need to see. How can you expect to minister to them and Holy Spirit to flow through you and to touch them, if you don't look at them and see them?' That stuck with me as strongly as any of my other belief systems.

songs. It's not enough just to open your mouth and do the physical motion of singing. Holy Spirit wants to move through us so we can see the people in audience and know that what we are doing has a lasting effect on them. I'll never forget that." Reba smiles as she comments, "What is so sweet, I was watching Des after an event this morning, and she was praying with a young man. I talked to the gentleman afterward and he said he told Destiny he was going through a divorce, while

trying to hide some of his emotions. Destiny said, 'I just think we need to pray right now.' He said that she prayed the most precious prayer."

Reba pauses to reflect and continues, "I think that was one of the things I loved about my mother, was her ability to see people and seize a moment. She wouldn't say, 'I'll be praying for you,' she would say, 'Let's pray right now.' She would see people right in that moment."

"I can't tell you how many people have come up to us and said, 'Let me tell you what your mother did for me.' It is always about a moment, it isn't just about a song. It's something like, 'I was at the table and she reached out and grabbed my hand and said, 'Darling, your heart's just broken. What's going on in your life?'' She taught us to actually see people and hear people." Smiling, Reba concludes, "To me, that's the greatest thing she taught me: to have eyes to see and ears to hear. More than all of the songs she wrote, that is the legacy she left me, the ability to see and to hear."

Dottie Rambo's legacy of ministry and music touched many, and her son-in-law Dony shares

A Moment With Rambo McGuire by LORRAINE WALKER

about working with her and honing his own song-writing skills. "Most of my special moments with Dottie came when she asked me to sit down at the piano and write a song with her, collaborating on music," McGuire comments. "It doesn't get any better than that when you are a musician, when you think you can write lyrics. Then you sit with Dottie or Reba or even Gloria Gaither – those moments are priceless. Those have to be some of my most wonderful moments with Dottie, centered around creating more of the music that God put her on the earth to write." Buck Rambo, relaxed and personable, shares his memories of the lady who was once his wife. Currently a pastor himself, Rambo shared Dottie's heart for ministry and love for music. However, Rambo never shared Dottie's songwriting ability and he still sounds in awe of her talent. He comments, "I have a lifetime of memories that I could share, but the great, phenomenal thing about Dottie was that a lot of times she didn't have any control over when she was going to write a great song." "I remember one time in

southern Ohio, we were going to sing that night for a tent revival," Buck shares. "We left where we were staying and the pastor came by to pick us up and take us to the venue. Within the time he picked us up and we got to the tent, she wrote on a napkin the song 'We Shall Behold Him.' To hear Sandi Patti sing 'We Shall Behold Him' and to know that it was written on a napkin as fast as she could write it down, is incredible. It only took her ten minutes to write it but it was a God thing." Rambo continues, "The difference between people who are good and people who are fantastic is 10,000 hours of practice. Dottie constantly worked on her skills, constantly practiced her talent. I'd be preaching or something and I'd just say a little simple line, like, 'My Momma's up in Heaven and she's probably teaching angels how to sing.' She would sit there in church and write a song, like 'Momma's Teaching Angels How to Sing.'" "She was a great listener," reflects Buck. "You might say a word to her that would spark her and it was like she didn't have any control over it at all. Then sometimes she

would work for hours and labor over a song. The great, great hits however, came to her like in a cloud, coming down to her. Somebody asked me once, 'Where does Dottie get all these songs?' I said, 'If I knew, I'd go get me some too!'" Buck laughs at the memory, then continues, "I'm not a songwriter, but I was Dottie's biggest fan. To me she was the greatest songwriter of this century. Most Christian writers will agree." "She touched all of our lives. I hope my great grandkids are singing Rambo songs! She left behind a legacy of something so powerful, so strong, that even my great grandkids will feel that pull of God that we felt as just young kids, to go and work for Him. It's the greatest retirement plan that anyone can offer in this world is when you spend your life working for God. It's worthwhile!" Buck Rambo is busy with pastoring and painting, but wanted to be a part of the Grassroots celebration. "There's an entire generation that have never heard me sing. For the last 20 years, I've been out of the industry. But if I can sing to them and inspire

them, that's what counts. I don't need anybody's applause and I don't need anyone to brag on me. I want to inspire some of these talented young people that are singing now." Buck finishes with words that encapsulate the music and life of Dottie Rambo and the Rambo McGuire family. "Be careful what you sing. Make sure you sing the Gospel. If you will honor God, God will honor you with success."

For more information and touring schedules, log onto the Rambo McGuire website at:

<http://rambomcguire.com>

Members can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

<http://dottierambo.net/bio.html>

This medley can be found on the dvd "100 Years: A Celebration of Southern Gospel", Daywind Records, Released 09/13/11. Distributed by New Day Christian Distributors.

My Favorite Dottie Rambo Story



as told by Dusty Wells

A story about Dottie Rambo and Rambo McGuire would not be complete without an inside look at the lady who was loved by so many. Dusty Wells, singer/songwriter and Marketing Director of Word Entertainment/Warner Music Group, worked with the Rambos for many years. Wells is thrilled about this new chapter in the Rambo family history.

"First of all I worked with all of the Rambos: Buck, Dottie, Reba and Dony throughout the late 80s and most all of the 90s," says Wells. "I traveled and took care of Dottie and her ministry for about eight years and they are just like family to me."

Wells continues, "I honestly feel like the new project Grassroots is just a small start toward getting the amazing legacy of Dottie Rambo's music out to a whole new generation. Of course, who would be better in presenting this music in a more traditional grassroots style, none other than Reba, Buck and Dottie's only child and one of the original members of The Rambos, along with Dony McGuire, Reba's husband, and their amazing daughter Destiny Rambo-McGuire, who is one of the most awesome new talents to come along in years. Add in a special appearance by Buck Rambo, and this project is just so sweet."

"This project will appeal to not only those many die-hard Rambo fans, but also the fans of classic southern gospel, blue-grass and country," states Wells. "A wide diversity of music lovers are showing such great interest in it. It has been a fun project to see come out and see the enthusiasm from the friends and fans of The Rambos."

Dusty Wells remembers his time with the Rambos fondly and enjoys sharing his stories of the family.

"I have so many road stories and office stories of my time spent with all of them, and I honestly learned so much from each one of them: Reba, Dony, Buck and Dottie," begins Wells. "I have been in the Christian music industry and business for close to 35 years and I tell everyone I meet that my college years and years of learning the most, were those times with them. They taught me so much about music publishing, the

power of the song, loving and respecting the fans, the importance of our names, sharing your heart and the list goes on and on. I truly believe that they lived what they sang and sang what they lived."

"Yes they were human like the rest of us and had many failures, but their hearts were so much for God, the music, the family and their fans and friends," continues Wells. "I learned how to represent the artists while working the record table. Dottie and Reba were the absolute best at that. They would stand there the whole time and they loved the people."

"I honestly think Dottie is standing on those 'Holy Hills of Heaven' that she sang and wrote about, cheering her family on as they breathe new life into her rich catalog of songs," states Wells. "They are working on another project that will be the classic Rambos and feature strings as well as those intricate vocal harmonies that were so lush. I know Mama Dottie would be so proud. She loved Reba's singing and was so proud of Destiny and her amazing gifts. She always would tell everyone that Dony was the most incredible musician-piano player-producer she knew."

"I have so many stories from the road with all of them and I am sure I will make more with Rambo-McGuire." Wells continues, "But my favorite story would have to be one concerning Dottie and I at a large church concert-conference in San Antonio. Dottie had just finished singing and I was leading her down the steps of the stage to the back of the large church. A precious elderly lady approached us and just began to weep and cry when as she shook Dottie's hand. She spoke very country and said, 'Oh Miss Dottie, I just love that song you sang about 'Build My Mansion Next Door To Jesus'.' Dottie was so sweet and kind, but kind of flippantly said, 'Oh darlin'...' Wells pauses and says, 'I loved it when she would call me and others darlin'!' "Oh darlin', that's just an old three chord song that the Lord gave me years ago."

"All of a sudden, the lady began to just weep and said loudly, 'Oh, no, no, no! That is my favorite song!'

My Favorite Dottie Rambo Story



as told by Dusty Wells

You see I am 87 years old and I just came to know the Lord after living a horrible life of alcohol and drug abuse about five years ago, while watching you sing that song on TV!"

Wells continues, "Dottie was so convicted and so loving to the lady. As we made our way back to the record table, she turned to me and whispered, "Well darlin', God just got me good and I will never ever apologize for my simple babies again."

Wells echoes the sentiments of Dottie Rambo's many fans, friends and family as he says, "She was the real deal and we all miss her so much. She was such a special lady."

Jesus with Skin On

By Reba Rambo-McGuire

You've seen them haven't you?

You know who I mean... those otherworld beings of light that embody earth-suits and just quietly make a difference wherever they go. As Mom used to say, "They don't preach – they just reach."

These living epistles of love and grace aren't afraid to sit among the lepers of society and show them Christ in blue jeans or business suits. These blessed ambassadors are the demonstration of the gospel, the good news, in a time when bad news runs rampant. They are the good Samaritans pouring oil and wine into the gaping wounds of bloodied and beaten souls trapped in the dark ditches of hopelessness. They aren't self-righteous Pharisees; they are the grateful ones who walk with a limp and remember the terrifying grave they were also rescued from.

They love much because they have been forgiven much.

Almost 30 years ago, my husband Dony and I were spiritual outcasts. He was a drug dealer, addict and abuser and I was a religious yet hopelessly tormented, bitter and shame-filled soul. Unfortunately, a lot of white robed priests walked by judging our sins....and our sins were MANY!

But to this day, every day, I remember the healing touch of a few precious, compassionate spiritual medics who picked us up, placed us on the feather bed of amazing grace, fed us on the chicken soup of God's Word and helped us find our way home to the Father of unconditional love. Thankfully, there is the sound of His beautiful healing body at last emerging on the earth.

I'm forever indebted to and grateful for these miraculous sons of God. Because they took the risk of love, Dony and I walk free and forgiven. We are so thankful for these brave soldiers of grace, who demonstrated to us the power of this glorious gospel. They showed us His heart by being "Jesus with skin on."

"Worry Never Done Nothing!" by JOHN MATHIS, JR

I've gone through many seasons in my life and moments of enlightenment. One of those moments or seasons in the past few years has been a horse pill to swallow: at times, I worry. Yes, I have choked on the concept and confession that, at times, I do worry. Not in the conventional sense of sitting around and wringing my hands, wondering "what will become of me"—that would have been easy to see a long time ago. You see, I'm a "get-it-done" kind of person, as well as a "fixer." When there are deadlines to meet or circumstances beyond my control or any stressful situation, my mind goes into high gear with plans or thoughts or schemes of how I can get something worked out, resolved, taken care of, etc. I constantly mull it over in my mind under the guise of "being concerned" or "trying to think of a solution" or "coming up with an answer." I will zone out, I will lay awake for countless hours, I will get carried away in all the rabbit trails of where a certain situation will lead. Then my final way of dealing with certain things was to just completely ignore

them and do nothing. Basically, the equivalent of covering my ears, closing my eyes and singing "la, la, la, la, la."

Those who have lived with me or worked closely with me have often said "you seem stressed" or "you seem worried about something" to which I'd get defensive at the mere implication! I have NEVER considered myself a person who is prone to worry. However, I had a few basic questions at these various stressful times in my life, questions that were going unanswered and even left me perplexed: "Why do I not have peace and joy?" "Why do I not feel free?" Then I began reading scriptures regarding worry and being anxious. One particular scripture that I've read, and heard more times than I can count, suddenly hit me, Matthew 6:27: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" Being a songwriter, the first revelation (a fodder for a 'hook') came to me, "WORRY NEVER DONE NOTHING FOR ME!" All of the lost sleep, deep thought, concern, constant mulling over ideas and solutions never, ever....

let me emphasize that... "NEVER, EVER!" changed one single thing about my circumstance.

I began to reflect back upon my life and remember how God worked ALL things out, good or bad. His answer in His timing was always far better than my countless hours of concern, anxiety and worry. He had better solutions than my mind ever could conceive during those times. It then dawned on me that I don't have a worrying problem, I have a "trust" issue! My wife Angie and I have discussed this countless times. We talk and laugh and wish that God would have followed all of his statements of "do not worry," "do not be anxious for nothing" with Romans 8:28. ("And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.") And it didn't dawn on me before that the times where he called out his disciples, or anyone else, saying "O, you of little faith" or "why did you doubt" could apply to me as well. That was for someone else, not me. I'm a person of faith, or so I thought.

In all of our discussions, my wife and I searched for a way to come up with a test to relate this lack of trust to our desire (or need) to worry and we found one. We both have children and our children are what we value the most in our lives. One day I randomly asked her to think of 4 or 5 people she would have babysit her 6 year old, Andrew, for an extended period of time. She named me four, then I asked her how she decided who was first on the list and who was last. She replied, "Because I trust that person the most who I named first." Ah, more light bulbs went off! Whatever we value the most, whether it be our children, our relationships, our health, our bank account, our jobs, TRUST is the number one qualifier as to whether we would place it in someone else's care. And our problems, circumstances and situations do become our children. They are our babies! We want to babysit them, nurture them, guide them and direct them to our desired outcome.

"Worry Never Done Nothing!" by JOHN MATHIS, JR

Therefore, I came to the ugly conclusion that I trust myself to handle all of my problems more than anyone. Including God! In essence when I worry I'm telling the most loving, capable, wonderful Father that has ever existed that I do not trust Him to babysit my babies. It's humorous to me that many times in my life I have discounted the Creator of the oceans, mountains, rivers, stars, the universe and even my own living breathing existence as not being capable of working out any and all circumstances. I might as well have knelt down, folded my hands and bowed my head in serious reverence and prayed, "God, I know you've got a flawless track record but I just don't trust You."

Of course a song was born from all of this. Angie and I sat down with the guitar at the National Quartet Convention in 2010 and penned these words with a little bluesy melody, fitting for a song about worry:

"Worry Never Done Nothing"

Never brought me joy, or

one minute's peace
Never laid my head to
rest and gave me a good
night's sleep
Never put no money, in
my bank account
Never picked me up
when I was feeling down

(Chorus)
Worry never moved a
mountain
Worry never set me free
So I just trust and know,
that God's in control,
cause
Worry never done
nothing for me

I've seen the sparrows,
and the flowers in the
field
They don't get
concerned, bout how
they're gonna pay their
bills
No thought for
tomorrow, come rain or
shine
They're just living on the
promise that God will
provide

Angie Summar Mathis,
John Mathis Jr
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Yes, worry has never done one thing positive or good for me. In fact, it has robbed me of peace and joy and has opened the door for doubt, fear, anxiety, anger and a

host of other negatives in my mind, spirit and body. However, my new awareness and commitment is not to "stop worrying" for that is like telling someone "don't blink," but it has resolved me to raise my level of TRUST. If you raise your level of trust you will lower your level of worry for those two things cannot exist in the same mind.

This passage from



Phillipians 3, verses 6 and 7 has been a key for me: "(6) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." AND, a conjunction of condition, the "peace of God"

will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. IF you will TRUST God and take EVERYTHING to Him. Ah, that's where my peace and joy was at during all those times I questioned myself and wondered why I did not have peace or joy or why I was so unsettled. It's not our level of worry that needs addressing during those moments of stress in our lives, it is our level of trust in our Father!

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength." -

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THE BOOTH BROTHERS

Keeping the Gospel in Gospel Music by LORRAINE WALKER

Authenticity is hard to find in today's world. From diamonds to gold, everything that is real and precious has a cheap knock off that is almost good enough. In Christian music, it's good to find an artist that not only presents a clear message, but also believes the message and genuinely lives the faith they preach. Southern Gospel has one of the most authentic musical groups on the road today: The Booth Brothers. The award winning, Grammy-nominated Booth Brothers have been traveling full-time for 13 years and have seen their works tested by fire. The stage presentation their audience experiences today is not the same as it was in 1998. This doesn't represent a shift in belief system, a dilution in message or an absolute change in style, however. It does mean that the individuals are farther along in their journey with the Lord and more deeply into His Word than ever before. It is this growth that has strengthened their delivery of the timeless message of God's love. A few minutes of conversation with any of the Booth Brothers reveals a confidence in their relationship with God and intense desire to be used by the Almighty that is as authentic as it is inspirational. Ronnie Booth demonstrates compassion as he talks with the fans as if there is no one else in the room, remembers names and faces, and takes time to listen to needs. "Zig Ziglar once said that if you minister to everyone as if they were wounded you will be connecting with 90% of the people," Ronnie says. "So



many people are wounded and we don't realize it. You just don't know the hurt some people bear." It is this heart for others that characterizes the ministry of the Booth Brothers. Difficulties that they have faced are poured into their songs to touch their listeners. Their new album, *Let It Be Known*, has a song on the play list entitled "She Still Remembers Jesus Name." The lyrics tell the story of a lady with Alzheimer's who still recalled hymns and scriptures even while forgetting the names of her children. It is a song that is unique for Southern Gospel and strikes a chord with the Booth Brothers' audience. "Ronnie and I are familiar with Alzheimer's as my Grandmother had the disease, but we didn't realize to what extent our audience had experienced it within their families and friends. It's staggering really," Michael Booth says. "But like the song says, for those who are in Christ, there is always hope. Some way, some how, there is always hope." Instilling hope through the message of Jesus is one of the goals of the Brothers. In fact,

the power of this message is so strong that they don't want to dilute it with other chatter during their sets. The intent to present the clear Word of the Gospel is the reason today's Booth Brother concerts are different from those in the past.

"If you went to an old concert and compared the amount of talking and singing, it would be the same as we are doing now," Michael continues, "However, I think what we are saying now has more significance. In the past, it may have been a joke; now it might be scripture." Michael's emcee work during a typical Booth set is the straightforward message of Salvation, an alteration from the light, humorous patter, which touched the funny bone but not necessarily the heart.

Michael explains that the difference is a result of conversation with a family member. "It was actually a good Godly rebuke," he laughed. "It really was! It was my distant cousin, Darrel Toney. He laughs about it and he says he didn't rebuke me. I told him, 'Whatever you said, I remember God getting my attention.' I considered it a rebuke, but a loving one, not just from him but from the Lord through him."

"What he said was, 'If you are going to talk, say something that has power. And there is nothing more powerful than the Word.' The problem is that you can be a Gospel singer and not be in the Word. If you are not speaking the Word, that means you are not in it."

THE BOOTH BROTHERS

Keeping the Gospel in Gospel Music by LORRAINE WALKER

'From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks,' (Matthew 12:34). So the rebuke was that I was not in the Word enough. So I took that and started getting into the Word. It's amazing when you start reading it and it makes you alive and it starts coming out."

Listening to Michael expound on the Word in concert brings questions as to the direction of his personal ministry

Word, plus an author or two that he has come to appreciate. "Ronnie and I both love R.C. Sproul and I've studied a lot of John Calvin's writing. The reason I like Calvin so much is because he would break down the meaning of passage or word using the original language. When you get someone who can explain the language and the culture of the time also, you begin to understand

schedule. The Bradys will be scheduling more duet concerts in the next year as the Booth Brothers decrease their tour dates.

Michael grins as he tells a little more about his family. "My wife's name is Vicki and my oldest son is 16, his name is Christian. Jonathan is 12 and he just joined a hockey team. Imagine that, a southerner playing ice hockey! Our four-year-old, our 'little surprise', his name is Austin. He doesn't have to have a stick and puck to tear things up. He's very gifted at that." Michael sobers as he thinks of how he would like his children to think of their Dad. "I would like for my family to see me live Proverbs 3:5 and 6." This family scripture reads: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."

The Lord continues to direct the Booth Brothers' path in a direction that continually draws them and their audience closer to Him. When Michael reflects on how he'd like the Southern Gospel community to remember the Booth Brothers in the future, the humble response is hardly surprising. "What we would like to be with our music is a dim, faint memory that is overshadowed by a message. Bill Gaither wrote, 'You might forget the singer, but you won't forget the song.' That's what we'd like to be."

Michael continues, "We can't help people. We are insignificant. We try to tell people every night in some way or another, that if they have experienced anything good from



and whether he has considered getting behind a pulpit. "No, I haven't thought about being a preacher," says Michael, "Other than I think we have an opportunity now to make the Gospel the focus of Gospel Music. What a concept! But I don't feel led to be doing anything other than what I'm doing now, other than to study more and be prepared. Who knows what will happen in the future. If I'm not able to sing, maybe I can talk."

Studying the Word may be complex and even daunting to some, but Michael says his personal devotions are not complicated. He just reads the

the deeper meaning of the words. That doesn't mean you don't take things literally, but that there might be some more to the mystery of the Word. Some writers seem to dig deeper into such things."

Michael, Ronnie and Jim bring their personal study to the stage when they have time to introduce a song or share a testimony. They also share about their families and it is obvious that the faith they preach on stage is alive in their personal relationships. Ronnie shares his pride in his wife Kim and their ministry together. Jim talks about his wife, Melissa, and their concert

THE BOOTH BROTHERS

Keeping the Gospel in Gospel Music by LORRAINE WALKER

the program, then it has come from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If they want to they can have more of that, if they pursue the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - not a Southern Gospel Group." "The only thing that makes a Southern Gospel song good is if it reminds you of something you've learned in scripture, or it points you to scripture. When you hear for instance, 'Masterpiece of Mercy', it should remind you that 'The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.' (Psalm 145:8). It should remind you of scripture."

The incredible songwriting skills of Jim Brady have also

Kingdom truths.

As the Booth Brothers have seen growth in themselves as musicians and in their personal Christian walk, it is inevitable that this would affect their music. Some of their fans might not appreciate the deviation from simple, light-hearted entertainment with little of the Word. In fact, Michael often shares from the stage that the group has received complaints from concert attendees who 'didn't pay good money to hear preaching, but came to hear singing!' In response, Michael gleefully answers, 'The preaching part is free!'

A typical concert by these talented men still includes times

abilities that God has given us to entertain and to be used by Him ministry-wise. I think the whole industry is growing in that, in how to balance and how to focus."

"For example, my truck can probably do 100 miles an hour, but that doesn't mean it's always good to do that. And so, though we may have gifts and abilities to do certain things, it doesn't necessarily mean it's always good to use them. Sometimes it's good to hold back with some gifts and let God use other abilities."

As the Booth Brothers continue to make Gospel the focus of Gospel Music, God is using their talents and abilities to bless their audience. As they keep their focus and balance, these authentic artists will carry on with their desire to "Let It Be Known" to many more listeners for decades to come.



made a difference in the Booth Brothers' presentation. Strong, scriptural and well-crafted lyrics combined with interesting and innovative melodies, mix with the unique Booth harmony to create memorable tunes. These songs, as Michael points out, remind the listener of scripture and core

of laughter and the presentation is definitely entertaining, but the inclusion of a real message puts the 'Gospel' into their music. Michael notes that he is seeing this type of change throughout the realm of Southern Gospel. "I think we [the artists] are all learning better how to balance our

"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Psalm 95:1-6

"It's a bird...It's a plane...It's a... Who Cares, DUCK by RHONDA FRYE

I don't like birds. Actually, I'm pretty terrified of them. I'm really a big CHICKEN when it comes to anything that flies! I pretty much lose all sense of control and especially all sense of dignity if a flying object does a "fly-by" too close to my head! Let's just say I squawk and make a turkey out of myself! God has been teaching me about a bird lately. Not just any bird, but the eagle. God's "eagle lessons" began as I prepared a children's moment for my kids at church. Isaiah 40:30-31: "But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." During my preparation, the word "eagle" flew off the page and my eagle eyes have been spotting them everywhere. Okay, I've not been seeing real, live eagles, but I did turn on a football game just in time to catch a player holding up a picture of one. And... Pulling up to a store-front, my eyes landed on a three foot ceramic eagle staring at me from the window. The next day, I noticed the car in front of me had an eagle decal on the back window with

Isaiah 40:30-31 inscribed underneath. I caught the end of a sermon on the radio- and guess what it was about? At a concert I attended, the pastor read Psalm 103 which mentions the eagle too and you might know my daily devotion happened to be about that same passage. That's not all! I recently won door- prize at a writer's conference, a book titled, "Mount Up With Wings- A View From the Peaks," written by Evaline Gore Echols. These back - to-back eagle sightings prompted me to research eagles.

The eagle is amazing! Bald eagles can fly to an altitude of 10,000 feet and can achieve speeds up to 30 to 35 mph! They are known for soaring high above storms even in hurricane force winds. The eagle has incredible eyesight, seeing up to four to five times better than humans. Their vision is so keen; they can spot a rabbit miles away and also have the ability to fly directly into sunlight leaving their enemies behind. Eagles swoop at breath taking speeds up to 100mph in order to snatch their prey. They carry "dinner" weighing up to half their body weight! If dinner is too heavy to lift out of

the water, the eagle can hold on to it with their talons and swim to the shore using their wings. Impressed? I am! "Yes, God! I will place my trust in You! I want to be strong like an eagle," I pray! "Then keep researching," the Lord said in my spirit. I admit I was shocked to learn eagles aren't always strong! Although they are the most magnificent bird in the sky, every eagle will go through the molting process at least once in his life! Molting is scary stuff to the majestic bird!

to eat and isn't capable of hunting. During the process, the weakened bird will lie on a rock in the sun. If the eagle isn't RENEWED, he will die. The renewal process should be interesting to Christians! Researchers have observed older Eagles (that have already been through the molting process) flying overhead dropping food below to molting eagles. These older eagles will also "scream" as though they are sending messages of encouragement! Some molting eagles will roll



Experts say the molting eagle loses their feathers and claws and their vision also weakens. Calcium builds up in their beaks making it hard for them to hold up their heads. Unable to fly, lying in a secluded place, he also loses his desire

over and eat what's been delivered and some will roll over and die. The eagle that survives the molting process is the one that lays on a rock soaking in the sun, finds water and eats! As the eagle does those things,

"It's a bird...It's a plane...It's a... Who Cares, DUCK by RHONDA FRYE

a transformation takes place!

In due time, his feathers, claws and beak grow back! Once the eagle is healthy, he will anoint himself. He does this by squeezing oil from the preen gland (uropygial gland) located at the base of the tail and then he applies it throughout his feathers. The oil cleans, and serves as a repellent to water and feather parasites. Once the molting process is complete, the eagle that was stripped to nothing has now been restored to magnificent. It's interesting to note he doesn't take a running start, flap wildly and plunge off the side of a cliff now that he's healthy! No! That would be me! Instead, he waits to be lifted by the wind! Once in-flight, he soars above storms turning tricks through the air! "Yes, God! Renew me, I want to soar above my storms, want to soar above my storms," I pray! "But read the verse again, and notice I didn't promise to give you strength to just soar, but I give strength to RUN and to WALK too," the Lord said in my spirit. "But I don't like to run or walk, I want to fly," I respond. Who wouldn't rather fly as opposed to walking

or running? But, God didn't promise strength to fly INSTEAD of running or walking. Sometimes He will fight our battles and we don't have to do a thing but ride the wind and watch Him work. Sometimes He allows us to go through situations that will require endurance, perseverance and pain! Those are times we find ourselves running and panting! Sometimes He allows situations that require a slow walk because the burden is so heavy to carry. The Hebrew word for walk in this verse describes a man walking slowly because a heavy weight is on him. What God promised was His strength in each of those situations- Strength to soar, run and walk! I understand now why the eagle is the most talked about bird in the Bible! I've learned how valuable renewal is! I've learned in those times when life strips me bare, I have to soak in the presence of the Son, feast on the Word of God and drink living water. I also need to let my friends care for me and let them encourage me. I've also been reminded that if I'm not anointed by the Holy Spirit, I won't get very far! And a biggest lesson- I

shouldn't flap like crazy and jump off cliffs, I need to let the wind of the Spirit carry me where He wants me to go.

I think I like birds a little better now! At least I like eagles and I don't think I'll have to worry about a fly-by! I'm way too low to the ground for that even though I've been told I'm "wound up from the ground up!" But I am thankful this Thanksgiving Season that the King of Kings loves me enough to speak to me through His Word even if He used a bird to get my attention.

THE AKINS by RHONDA FRYE

David Akin has numerous blessings to count; he is indeed one blessed man. He ministers with his family and they are drenched in talent and personality. David and his three sons make up the band, "The Akins." There is something fresh and pure about this family group and audiences from age 5 to 95 love them.

own original tunes too. In fact, "I Want My Stage To Be An Altar" scaled all the way to the number one spot in May, 2010. The Akins have been 2-time Horizon Group of the Year- Singing News Fan Awards nominees and have received multiple nominations from the Inspirational Country Music Awards as well.



The Akin's family harmony is delightful, but their talent doesn't stop with great vocals. Between dad and sons, they play thirteen different instruments! Their talent stretches beyond singing and playing, they write their

Why has David Akin been blessed with such a package? The story of the Akins is similar to the one of King Solomon. Because Solomon asked for wisdom, God blessed him with wisdom AND other treasures. David

Akin prayed to have the opportunity to minister along with his family, but God answered his prayer according to His exceedingly abundant resources which was more than David Akin could have thought to ask for. Ask.... And Ye Really Shall Receive! In 1988 while ministering at a youth camp, David had a heart-wrenching conversation with the son of a well-known evangelist who had just passed away. This young man tearfully explained how he never got to know his father because of his Father's demanding ministry schedule. Although the son harbored no bitterness, the pain of the non-existent relationship left him heart-broken. Once Akin returned to his hotel, he fell to his knees. "Oh God," David recalls, "I believe that if You are a big enough God to take an old ignorant country boy like me and give me something I can do to be a blessing, I believe You're a big enough God to call my boys!" David cried out for God to call his boys in the ministry alongside him because he couldn't bear the thoughts of them growing up not knowing their dad. David is sure God heard his prayer.

"I believe God reached down and touched two little yard -apes and a rug rat and changed their lives," David chuckled.

It wasn't too long after that prayer that God began equipping the boys for service. Although they had no formal instruction, they were able to play instruments with expertise. "I don't know how to explain it," says David "everything they pick up, they play." Without music lessons, they boys learned to play piano, bass guitar, drums, acoustic guitar, mandolin, electric guitar, saxophone and more. "These are three of the finest musicians I have ever known...much less worked with," David says with fatherly pride. In the early years, The Akins found a Christian school that would allow the boys to be homeschooled on the road and attend class when they were home. Initially there was concern the boys would miss out on activities in which other kids participated. Time would tell the boys didn't really miss out on anything, but learned how to minister to people and love God. They influenced hundreds of other kids

THE AKINS by RHONDA FRYE

to become musicians as a result of spending time giving music tips following concerts. The boys did better than just turn out ok, they have become what every Christian parent desires! David shares, "They love Jesus, they married wives that love Jesus and now I have grandbabies that will grow up to love Jesus!"

Through the years, the band experimented with musical flairs until they pin-pointed the style that suited them best.

Nick explains: "Basically our style is country music with a Christian message. We have some southern gospel elements because we have three- part harmony and at times we're kind of bluegrass."

"Now that we have found what works, we are reaching a broad audience. We can go in now and do a full concert and we don't lose hardly anyone," David adds. Self-titled album THE AKINS, produced by Crossroad Records includes the number one hit, "I Want My Stage To Be An Altar." Nick was inspired to write the song following a message preached from his pastor and it's truly the heart of their ministry. "It's probably the best song we've ever

had, but it's really our testimony," says Nick. "If you're in this business just to make money you shouldn't be- it's not all about making money; it's about the difference you can make with your music." Their latest project captures what the Akins are all about and shows what they're capable of! The recording includes 19 songs and is a live CD and DVD project recorded and filmed at their home church in Fayetteville, GA. An energetic crowd of over 2,000 packed the house and a couple hundred more fans listened from "over-flow" rooms. "We're excited about it because it's something we can use to show what we do, Nick shares, "and in our genre, not a lot of people play

instruments." The live cd/ dvd combo is available

now from the Akins website.

The only thing that matches their passion for music is their passion



for their families. The Akins spend all their free time enjoying their wives and small children. Eli has an additional passion involving power-tools and wood! In his woodshed, Eli builds a variety of things including GUITARS! Winning people to Christ is at the top of the Akin's priority



gospel music falls right behind. The family band ministers in concert settings, but they also conduct revivals. Samples of music and sermons are available on the Akins website: http://www.theakinonline.com/f_main.html. This Thanksgiving season, David Akin is counting his blessings. The Akins are certainly a blessed package! Thank you, David, Dave, Nick and Eli for visiting our booth during the National Quartet Convention. This industry is blessed by your testimony, your music and especially by your spirit.



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NEW MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER

SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we all have so many things for which to give thanks. One thing that truly blesses me is the wonderful opportunity to hear new music every month, from people who are serving God with their talent. This month is no exception, and every song reported here touched my heart. I pray that each of you enjoy this treasured season of Thanksgiving, if at all possible, with your family, and although we should be thankful and praise God every day for life, salvation and all the other things that bless our life, this season is a very special time to give Him praise.

I'm looking forward to the Christmas season, and looking forward to receiving more of your Christmas music to include in our December issue!

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HEADING FOR HOME

The Hinshaw Family
Independent

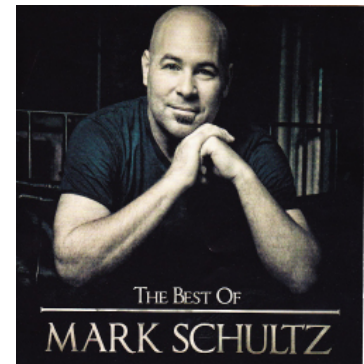
Producers: Debbie Hinshaw
Farmer, Sandy Hinshaw, Robin
Hinshaw

If old Southern Gospel favorites and traditional hymns is your favorite Christian music, this album is for you. Reading the song titles before listening to the album, I already knew I would enjoy it, however this family's unique sound was exciting! The Hinshaws have wonderful harmony and I enjoyed their arrangements on several of my all-time favorite songs. All ten songs have solid music tracks, with exceptional piano and organ. "Heaven's Jubilee" begins with a solitary piano reminding me of Eva Mae LeFevre's playing. Then the family dives right in with upbeat music and solid vocals. One of the lovely ladies in the group has a tremendous soprano vocal which reminds one of the Sunday morning choir when we used to have all-day singings and dinner at church. From there it just gets better!

I have several other favorites on the recording. "Beautiful Heaven" was written by group member Robin Hinshaw, and is a traditional Southern Gospel tune. "Jesus Saves" and "It Will Be Worth It All" will have you singing along, since they are both older, well-known songs. The Hinshaws also sing "Meet Me There," a song written by our friends, Ann Ballard and Paul Boden, Editor of U.S. GOSPEL NEWS, who is already home with the Lord.

The theme of this encouraging album is Heaven and our journey HEADING FOR HOME. It is a most enjoyable recording and I look forward to meeting this family and hearing more of their music. You

may have a copy of your own by contacting the Hinshaws at www.hinshawfamilync.com or phoning them at 919-765-5840.



THE BEST OF MARK SCHULTZ
Mark Schultz
Curb Records, Compilation for
Word Entertainment

A compilation of the "Best Of..." is one of my favorite types of CDs. A compilation will have a number of songs from an artist, recorded on his/her previous projects, which have been hits or top charting songs on the national scene. This CD has some of my favorite songs from Mark Schultz. Mark is a noted Christian contemporary artist with a dedication to reaching people for the Kingdom of God. These songs were previously recorded between the years 2000 through last year.

Many times we form an interest and love for a certain style of music, and forego the blessing we might receive just by giving other musical styles an opportunity to minister to us. This recording has a number of songs that will stir the heart of any one who gives it a chance.

Mark wrote or co-wrote and recorded these songs over the past ten years, many of them when

NEW MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER

SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

when he served as youth director in his home church. He is a story-teller, and as many of the seventeen songs unfold, they cover normal every day events and affairs we might encounter in our lives. From the birth of a child with a problem, to the prayer of a mother for her son gone to war, or the simplicity of not being able to keep up with our daily commitments, each one is a blessing.

There are several songs that are simply statements of Mark's belief in God and God's faithfulness. Some of the songs you'll remember, that are included on this compilation are "Broken and Beautiful," "I've Been There," "He Is," and "I Am the Way." Each song continues to bless the listener since its initial presentation during the first ten years of Mark's ministry.

If you're a fan of great songs with a story of life, something you can truly relate to, then this compilation is for you. It's an hour of good listening, and Mark is not only a great story-teller, but is also a great communicator. This recording is available at your local Christian music book store or at www.markschultzmusic.com

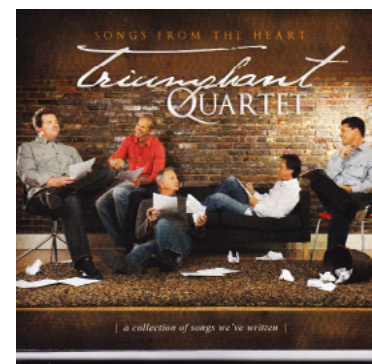


GRASSROOTS RAMBOS
Remembering the Rambos
Rambo McGuire
Rambo McGuire Records
Producer Dony McGuire

GRASSROOTS RAMBOS is a wonderful trip down memory lane! Many of us grew up listening to and singing Rambo's music, so this recording is definitely a "must-have" for us! Reba Rambo-McGuire, her husband Dony, their two children, Destiny and Israel, along with her father, Buck Rambo, have combined for a great musical treasure. GRASSROOTS RAMBOS features eleven Dottie Rambo songs, two that Reba wrote with her mom, one written by Reba and one that Dony McGuire co-wrote with Dottie. Good Gospel music with a country flavor doesn't get any better than this! Reba has a note in the CD describing how this recording came about. I'm quoting from her comments, "Several months after Mom's untimely and tragic death, my husband Dony, our daughter, Destiny, and I found ourselves sitting around singing some of the old Rambo songs we loved. Maybe it was because our pain and mourning was so fresh but when we began to harmonize a cappella, 'Things Are Gonna Be Better Afterwhile.' It struck a healing chord in our hearts."

The first cut on the recording, "Troubles Can Break You Or Make You A Man," introduces us to the smooth, close harmony we love from the original Rambos. With the legacy Reba and Dony have passed down to their children, the

style is as close to the "original" sound as you can imagine. From there the listening experience just gets better! I love hearing the family make music together! And, as Reba states in the liner notes, her son Israel, who has a penchant for bluegrass music, suggested when the project was in the making, that they record the songs, just as "GranDot" wrote them, when the Rambos were just starting out in the mountains of Kentucky. Israel played drums with all the fantastic musicians who gave life to this recording. Buck Rambo sings "Too Much To Gain To Lose" and his vocals are still just as strong as ever. You will remember "When I Lift Up My Head," "Remind Me Dear Lord" and "Mama's Teaching Angels How to Sing." Reba's "Sacred Treasures" along with Dottie's poignant "I Won't Ask For More" are precious songs, and as previously stated, you will bask in the blessings of Rambo music and memories. You may contact Rambo McGuire for a copy of the exciting recording at www.rambomcguire.com.



SONGS FROM THE HEART
Triumphant Quartet
Producer, Jeff Stice

NEW MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER

SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

I love quartet music, and this recording is some of the "best of the best." The unique and exciting thing about this latest recording from the Triumphant Quartet is that every song was written by a member of the quartet. This proves that not only can these men sing outstanding, traditional, male quartet music, southern style, but they also write with the best of them!

"Be Of Good Cheer" is an upbeat song of encouragement, written by Eric Bennett and Kirk Talley. The orchestration on this song is delightful. Clayton Inman wrote and is featured on "Thank You Lord." He also wrote "Goin' Up To Heaven."

Eric and Kirk wrote another excellent song, "God Works All Things for Good" while David Sutton contributed two songs; "Thank You For Praying" and "Let's All Stand For

America," a great patriotic song. Scotty Inman and Dustin Sweatman wrote "When It's All Said And Done," while Scotty contributed "Almost Home."

Along with his producing skills, Jeff Stice wrote "Streets of Gold" and "When The Rapture Comes My Way." Good music, good songs, excellent vocals all combine to make SONGS FROM THE HEART a compelling must-have for the most discriminating fan of Southern Gospel Quartet Music.

Contact Triumphant Quartet at www.triumphantquartet.com



A Conversation With Dustin Wisecarver by VICTORIA SHIREY

November is a month to reflect on things we are thankful for. When I was trying to decide who to write on this month, my good friend, Dustin Wisecarver came to mind. Dustin has a heart of gold that enables him to get along with everyone. He is very talented, and travels with his family, The Wisecarvers, singing, playing bass guitar, and playing harmonica.

Victoria: "Tell us Dustin, is there anything new and exciting going on within The Wisecarvers' ministry? Are there any new projects coming out soon?"

Dustin: "The family and I have been busy writing for a new project that we plan to begin recording this January. I'm excited about one song in particular I wrote called, 'Falling Into Place,' which will be the album title as well. It came out of a few different situations where it seemed one trial kept coming after another; I'd get through one and find myself in another! But now looking back, it's so true "all things do work together" and everything wasn't falling apart... it was falling into place!"

Victoria: "Congratulations are in order! I know you're dying to tell everyone the big news with you right now! You're getting married in a couple weeks! Tell us all about it and who the lucky lady is. When's the big day?"

Dustin: "Yes I am, and I can't wait! Her name is Kaila Martin, formerly of 'The Bradys.' She's extremely talented and does a little bit of everything. She sings, she writes, she plays multiple instruments, and is without a doubt, the absolute most amazing Christian I've ever known. Aside from meeting Jesus, she's the best thing that ever happened to me, and she's going to make a great addition to "The Wisecarvers." The big day is November 12".

Victoria: "Dustin, I'll never forget the first time we met. We were in Chattanooga, TN at the SGM Fanfair. We had so much fun and instantly hit it off as the best of friends. There are two kinds of friends, temporary friends and permanent friends. I would definitely consider you a permanent friend for life. As we were talking on the phone the other day, we just reiterated

the fact that we'll always have each other's backs in all things, especially in prayer. I know I can always count on you to pray for me in any situation. You do some preaching as well as singing and playing. How have your preaching engagements been going?"



Dustin: "Well thank you and I've always been able to count on your prayers too! I'm thankful God allowed our paths to cross! Well, the opportunities to preach have been increasing lately and I'm enjoying it more now! Yes, I still get nervous and will until the day I go home, because it is sacred, you can never take it lightly. But I am becoming more comfortable in the pulpit and learning how to really let God use me up there like never before. I recently had my first experience with the whole "instant" thing... and yeah I think it was my best sermon yet! I think it was because I had to rely more on God than I ever had and that's really what we have to learn... to 'lean not on our own understanding.'"

Victoria: "What are your future plans now that you're starting a new chapter in your life?"

Dustin: "Like I was talking about earlier with that whole "falling into place" thing, I feel that with Kaila coming on board, our ministry team is now complete. There was always something missing and seemed

A Conversation With Dustin Wisecarver by VICTORIA SHIREY

like was holding us back. I believe God's timing is perfect, and He brought her into my life at just the right time. Now with God's help, my family and I are planning to take our ministry to the next level and try and get out there and reach more souls."

Victoria: "Do you do anything on the side, other than traveling in the ministry?"

Dustin: "My father runs a paint & body shop. I work there through the week. It pays the bills, funds the singing habits, and buys the harmonicas!

Victoria: "On a more random note, what is your favorite place to eat on the road?"

Dustin: "I like to go to Dairy Queen and get one of those vanilla cones dipped in chocolate!"

Victoria: "What's your favorite Bible verse?"

Dustin: "Most people would say John 3:16, but my favorite is the one right after it! Verse 17, 'For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved', because He has every right to condemn me... but in His love He chose not to!"

Victoria: "Do you have a favorite place to sing?"

Dustin: "Ya know, I really don't... because to me there is no typical place to sing, each place is unique and has something different to offer. But there are those places you look forward to because there are sometimes quite frankly I need to be fed. I know that we are supposed to be the ones doing the ministering, but every once in a while, you need that service that'll help you out and give you strength for the journey."

Victoria: "What is your scariest moment from the road? I know a few years back, you guys were singing with us in SC, and your van caught on fire on your way home. By the time we got to you, the fire truck had just gotten there, but the van was nothing but a shell. I remember thinking, that's got to be one of

the scariest things to have to face. Thank God no one was hurt, and we were able to get you all in the bus so you could stay with us for the night at our home in Columbia, SC, where we weren't but 20 miles from."

Dustin: "That would be the one! I remember it was late, and we had noticed that the van wasn't running quite right... later it started smoking. We got pulled over, opened the door and flames were just coming up the side. We literally jumped over fire to get out. At the time we didn't have full coverage or anything. We were pulling our trailer with every piece of equipment we had. I remember thinking 'God how do we go on now? There goes our transportation and our equipment!' You saw the van there was nothing left. I watched that trailer burn, but you know what? That trailer survived, and I was in shock. God did it again, and a few short weeks later supplied us with another van to pull it with! Yeah it was scary, and I'll never forget it, but God really showed up that night too!"

Victoria: "What is your funniest memory from the road?"

Dustin: "A few years ago we were up for the Newcomer Award at the Eddie Awards for the Eddie Crook Company. Our name was called, and we were walking up. I was all nervous about giving a speech and praying I wouldn't trip. Chase must not have been praying because we got to the steps, and he tripped and fell right up them!"

Victoria: "Since it's close to Thanksgiving, tell us what you're most thankful for."

Dustin: "Three things: Jesus, my soon to be wife, and my family."

Victoria: "Thank you for a great interview, Dustin! I know as the people read this, they'll want to get to know you more closely, as the great guy that you are. I wish you the best in all your future endeavors!"

Dustin: "Thank you and right back at ya!"

Next month, be looking for another great interview with one of your favorite, young Southern Gospel artists! Thanks for reading!

Eat-Smart Tips for the Holidays

by LAURETTE WILLIS

"When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; And put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food" (Proverbs 22:1-3 NKJV).

What can one little holiday dinner do? A lot. The average woman who eats 2,000 calories on a normal day may find herself indulging in 4,500 calories and over 200 grams of fat—at one huge meal! According to The New England Journal of Medicine, many Americans gain as much as five pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's. Often that extra weight is likely to stay with us longer than it took to put it on.

Some nutritionists suggest starting around mid-November by cutting 100-300 calories per day so you can splurge a bit over Thanksgiving. Do the same during the month of December so you can enjoy holiday parties and meals and still fit into your clothes on January 1st! It can be as simple as not adding the extra cheese on a sandwich, or forgoing the afternoon coffee drink. Have an apple instead.

Seven Quick Eat-Smart Tips:

- Decide you will not sample foods when cooking or wandering through the kitchen.
- Don't cook on an empty stomach. Instead, enjoy a good breakfast first to stave off hunger.
- Take your vitamins with a big glass of water after breakfast. Taking your supplements early in the day ensures your body is getting the nutrition it needs. Your body will be less apt to crave empty calories, and you'll have more energy, too.
- Have water or seltzer water with flavored stevia handy as you start cooking. I like adding a few drops of vanilla flavored stevia sweetener to a glass of seltzer water. It tastes just like cream soda, but without the sugar, calories or chemicals.
- During the day, pop some gum, a breath-freshener strip or brush your teeth to keep from snacking. One study showed that about 10% of the extra calories from holiday meals are consumed before the actual meal itself.
- Peppermint oil helps curb your appetite. A recent study by Dr. Bryan Raudenbush at the Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia evaluated

hunger levels and food intake of participants who inhaled peppermint oil and those who did not over a two-week period. Those who inhaled the peppermint oil consumed an average of 3,000 fewer calories per week (approximately 23% less than those who did not inhale the peppermint oil!). Those who used the oil indicated that their hunger levels were significantly lower, too. You can get peppermint oil at most health food stores (and toothpaste can work in a pinch).

- At parties, go for the brightly colored vegetable and salmon appetizers and steer clear from dips, creamy sauces and anything light brown (usually means it's fried).

It's best not to announce to everyone what you're doing if you want to "eat smart" during the Thanksgiving festivities. It only makes them uncomfortable,

and they may try to force you to eat something you know you'd be smart not to eat. This doesn't mean don't enjoy some of the special foods you only get to see once a year. Just be smart about it. It's said the first bite is usually the best, so choose carefully—and hopefully we won't need to put the butter knife to our throat in Proverbs 23 fashion!



Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry (<http://PraiseMoves.com> and on Facebook <http://facebook.com/PraiseMovesFan>). Get your free fitness kit at <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com> ©2011

Rising Above 'Media'-crity

Media And The Gospel Part 2 by LORRAINE WALKER

What role does Christian media play in spreading the word about positive faith-based music, film or other arts? As we mentioned last month, Christian media has long been in the background of what is happening in the world. It has been criticized for its lack of quality, professionalism and relativity. Is Christian media really just 'singing to the choir' or can it make a difference in the secular world?

We take a look at these questions and continue delve into the heartbeat of Christian media in this installment. Southern

the Gospel? Should that even be their focus? What role does the ever-changing technology play in the industry? Gerald Wolfe of Greater Vision has been a fixture in Southern Gospel since the '80s when he joined The Cathedral Quartet. He has seen a lot of changes in the industry, from the time when the monthly edition of The Singing News was the only source of information for fans, to present day tweets of information that fans can receive on an almost real-time basis. Wolfe comments, "I think the media has

thing. It helps us interact with people in ways that if we had to use physical print would be very expensive, so that has been a good thing."

"Print is diminishing, largely because of the economy. And it is true, younger people really don't look at magazines anymore, they are used to reading everything on their Ipads. But people my age, and I'm not old, still like both. I like Facebook, I like getting instant information, but I also like a physical something to look at, that I can hold on to."

The technology change has also had its downside to the industry. Wolfe says, "The record companies don't have the budgets they used to have to spend, because retail is suffering. As digital downloads continue to grow, physical CD sales decline. That affects their bottom line, so they don't have the money to spend on big media events anymore. The artists certainly don't have it." This could have been a factor in this year's National Quartet Convention, which saw a slight decline in booth sales as well as in media events.

Wolfe also comments about quality: "In general, I think the media and websites like yours, as well as some of the blogs are good. Some of the blogs I don't put much confidence in."

"Candidly, I think the media could have a more positive spin, rather than critiquing so much." Wolfe continues. "Not that albums and things don't need to be critiqued, but the thing about opinion is: everyone's got one. What digital media has opened up is the opportunity for everybody to share their opinion. With my generation of folks, anything you see in print is supposed to be the truth. So this person's opinion that wrote a piece has instant credibility because it's in print. It's there on the screen so it must be true, whether an album is terrible or a group is wonderful, it must be the truth." One person's negative opinion stated as unequivocal truth can be harmful to sales for an artist and greatly affect their livelihood.

Wolfe states, "I think we need to be more responsible in what we are doing. Instead of looking at something



Gospel artists comment on the present media condition and raise concerns of their own this month. Is it possible for the magazines, websites, blogs and radio stations that promote Southern Gospel to really reach their world with

been effective in what they have been doing for Southern Gospel. Of course it's changing and moving away from print into Social Media. Our interaction within areas like Facebook has exploded over the past year, which is a great

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through our own little vision, we have to look at it through the big picture."

"There's positive in anything that these artists do," Wolfe earnestly says. "Surely you can find something good in what they are doing. It's the Gospel. So whether it fits our particular style or taste, or whether we like that person or their suit or their hair, or whatever, surely we can find something positive to say about it. That's hard for me because I try to be honest and when someone asks me for my opinion I try to give it. But I have to keep in mind all the time that people listen to me. They

We have to be careful in the way we try to direct people's thinking." Wolfe concludes, "We need to filter everything we have to say through the Gospel. That's hard to do because we are flesh." This is a comment that can be applied to everything that is said, whether by media or anyone else. Michael Booth of The Booth Brothers concurs and adds that attitude can make a huge difference in how items are presented to the world. Booth says, "I think the media faces the same battles that the musicians and singers face, and that is: to stay focused. It is very easy to go down paths that are

within the industry in the many years The Booth Brothers have been on the road. He becomes very serious in discussing

writing a blog. You are associating yourself with Jesus Christ. You don't have to be perfect, but you need to be accurate."



this topic. "If it's good, if it's encouraging, if it's loving – and that can be a rebuke also or even healthy criticism – then print it," continues Booth. "I talked to one media representative and said, 'Criticism is a good thing if it is done with a heart of love and it is accurate.' If it's not accurate and it's not done with a heart of love, then it can cause confusion and it's not of God." Booth concludes, "You need to understand that when you say you are involved with Gospel Music, in any form or fashion, you are representing Jesus Christ. It's not something to take lightly. I don't care if you are on stage or

Speaking the truth in love is difficult at the best of times, but media needs to ensure that sources are checked and that their readers are aware when something is opinion or fact. How the media presents these facts can vary from a quick brainstorm on a Facebook status to a well-thought-out and researched feature article. However, someone, somewhere is judging everything the media presents. From punctuation and spelling to overall presentation and flow of information, the media should keep in mind its audience. On the web, that audience is everyone, everywhere. Clayton Inman of Triumphant Quartet has



listen to you [the media] too and they read you.

unnecessary." Michael Booth has also seen a lot

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Media And The Gospel Part 2 by LORRAINE WALKER

has tried his hand at media recently. Inman has been an occasional columnist on <http://www.sgmradio.com/>



and admits that it isn't as easy as it may appear. He compares the skill level needed for journalism to that needed for an artist in the industry. Inman says, "Gospel music, first and foremost, is ministry. Secondly, it's an art form, as is any other type of music. If we expect to take it to the world, it has to compare to the world; not in the way the artists live, but compare favorably to the world's music, so that people want to hear it. In the same way, in telling about the music, the media also has to

compete with the world's media, to the same level of professionalism." "When you are writing, you don't want to write

to the gospel music fan if you expect to speak to the world about Southern Gospel," Inman continues. "The world adheres to certain styles and they know what they like. If you are able to put your writing in a more contemporary fashion in a language they can relate to, they will show an interest in what you are doing. Then you are drawing the world into where you are." Attracting the world to what you do is exactly what Jesus did when He was on the earth. His words were not off-the-

cuff but He spoke what the Father wanted Him to speak. He also started His ministry at the age of 30, when He was ready. Inman notes that some in media, like some in the music industry, perhaps aren't quite ready for the world stage and should work at developing their talents further. "There are a lot of super writers in Southern Gospel, but then there are some writers who don't need to be writing," says Inman. "You can tell by the way they write that they haven't been doing it very long or perhaps haven't tried to hone their craft. However, because it's Gospel Music, it's accepted. But that doesn't help our industry." From his years of experience, Inman continues, "If we expect to reach the world and have them interested in us, to try to draw them in and present Jesus to them, our product has to compete with the world. Again, I'm not talking about the way we live, but our professionalism in the way we write or the music we perform." "Media professionalism can be seen in things as small as punctuation, the

way you write, or the way you word a sentence. You can tell with some writers that it really isn't their forte. Southern Gospel needs people who are professional writers that know Christ and know how to write well. That type of writing will get the attention of the world, drawing people to Christ and to Southern Gospel." Much has been said about how to expand the Southern Gospel audience, and Inman's comments are well noted. One way to bring in listeners is to introduce them to the artists by professional media that gets their attention. Radio can also be included in this media outreach discussion. The hard-working radio deejays often struggle to keep their timeslots due to reduction in listeners. Sheri Lafontaine is a singer/songwriter who also co-hosts a daytime drive program on WPOS in Ohio, called the "Ike and Sheri Show." She speaks from the dual role of artist and media personality. "Let me just speak from experience with our station at WPOS in Holland, Ohio," says Lafontaine. "One thing that Ike and I have done

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Media And The Gospel Part 2 by LORRAINE WALKER

is that we've looked at all the Southern Gospel music we've received and only played the high-quality, commercial-sounding cuts. There is a huge difference between something that sounds like it was recorded in someone's living room, and something that is has a professionally produced sound. There is no comparison."

Lafontaine continues, "Also, quality of vocals is important. Quality means the world to someone who is flipping through the channels on the radio and stops at a Southern Gospel station. If we want to broaden our listening audience, these are things we have to do." Production quality, good vocals and skilled musicianship are only a part of what makes a good Southern Gospel cut, however.

"On the spiritual side, we need to make sure the song has a strong message. If we don't have a strong message we are like any other type of music out there. Make sure the words are good." As a songwriter, Sheri is very aware of the power of words and is skilled in crafting a lyric. Her songs have been recorded by many artists,

including Kim Hopper, the Whisnants, LordSong, Brian Free and Assurance, and others. This talented artist speaks from experience.

Lafontaine continues in her encouragement to the industry, both artists and media: "We love the fact that there are groups in this industry raising the bar of quality. If someone is flipping



through the stations, they are going to stop at a Southern Gospel station when they hear good quality music. We know that because people are doing just that. It's happening because the deejays and artists are taking it to heart. They are saying, 'I will give my best to my King. I'm going to play skillfully on my instrument.' It's taken right out the Bible. So let's take it a notch above and do our best for the

Kingdom of God."

As artists and media both work toward raising the bar of professionalism and the level of skill they bring to the industry, it is also heartening to hear that improvements are being noticed. The artists are beginning to recognize the hard work of the media and they are grateful for the added publicity. As

fans feel more in touch with the artist, they will increase their support of the artists' ministry. This connection is assisted by the media, bringing information to the fan and allowing them to get better acquainted with the artist and the music. Scott Fowler of Legacy Five is an artist that appreciates what Southern Gospel media is doing to assist the artist. "I think you are getting our message to the fans," says Fowler.

"You are talking directly with the artists and allowing us to speak through the mediums that you have. You are allowing us to say what we want to say, and projecting that message to the people that we can't meet."

Fowler continues, "We can only be in one place at one time. The great thing about media is that you can be in the hands of whoever lets you in. You have an opportunity that we don't have and you are gracious to us by allowing us to say what we want to say. You let us tell people who we are and what we believe in, and we certainly appreciate your contribution."

Gary Casto of Tribute Quartet also appreciates the contribution of media and has positive things to say as well. "I believe that Christian media absolutely helps promote Southern Gospel. I don't know if there is much more they can do than what they are doing." However, Casto adds that there are some areas that can be tweaked to be more effective.

"I would like to see more attention on the internet when artists do national

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TV, to draw in our listening audience," Casto comments. "When an internet site or magazine lets people know about an artist appearing on TV, or when the media encourages the listening audience to watch a particular broadcast, that is reported back to that network. The network or organization then realizes that the music has a large audience and they can then decide to bring in more artists." "A few people may already be watching a particular network and occasionally see an advertisement about upcoming Southern Gospel program and decide to watch it. But the fans of Southern Gospel are on the internet daily. If you let readers know that a broadcast is taking place, they can tune in. An increased audience will also encourage the decision makers of the network to schedule more Southern Gospel." The circular effect of increased media attention is something that could be taken into account further by Southern Gospel journalists and bloggers. Casto continues, "I think everyone is doing a great

job and [the media] is doing a lot. We need to work together even more to let the world know more about us. I feel very confident in what [SGN Scoops] and the other media outlets are doing. I think it falls on the artists to direct their fanbase to the media outlets. You can let people know about the new material, the testimonies and the artists, but we need to do our job in letting people know about you." "As far as I'm concerned, if one artist succeeds, we all succeed," says Casto. "We are all in the same business and working for the same goal: to promote our music and to further the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all need to work together." "As far as I'm concerned, if it only changes one life, if only one non-believer out there watches or sees or hears it, it is worthwhile. We need to do everything to make sure that the world is told about our Lord and Savior."

We appreciate the contribution and comments of the artists quoted in this segment! For more information, please visit their websites

at:
Gerald Wolfe, Greater Vision: <http://www.greatervisionmusic.com/>
Michael Booth, The Booth Brothers: <http://www.boothbrothers.com/>
Clayton Inman, Triumphant Quartet: <http://triumphantquartet.com/>
Sheri Lafontaine: <http://www.sherilafontaine.com/>
Scott Fowler, Legacy Five: <http://legacyfive.com/>
Gary Casto, Tribute Quartet: <http://tributequartet.com/>

**"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1**

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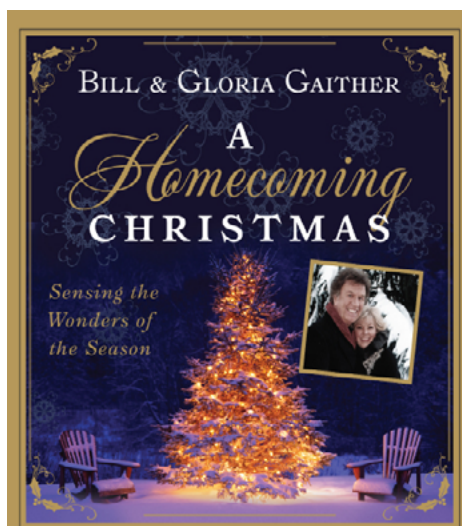
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by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

A HOMECOMING CHRISTMAS "Sensing The Wonders Of The Season"

Bill and Gloria Gaither
Worthy Publishing, 2011



For those of us who claim Christmas as our favorite holiday, this new book from Bill and Gloria Gaither contains everything we need to experience a wonderful holiday season! With the assistance of noted author, Calvin Miller, the Gaithers help us find the miracle of Christmas through the Sights, Sounds, Feel, Smell and Taste of Christmas. Joining the Gaithers are David and Lori Phelps, the Hoppers, Mark Lowry, Jeff and Sheri Easter, the Isaacs, Guy Penrod, Ann Downing, Wes Hampton, Russ and Tori Taff, Tanya Goodman-Sykes, John Gardner, Jason Crabb and other Homecoming friends offer their recollections of Christmas Past.

Many of these Homecoming artists relate their memories of special Christmases, memories of the last Christmas with family members who have passed away this year, and Christmases spent

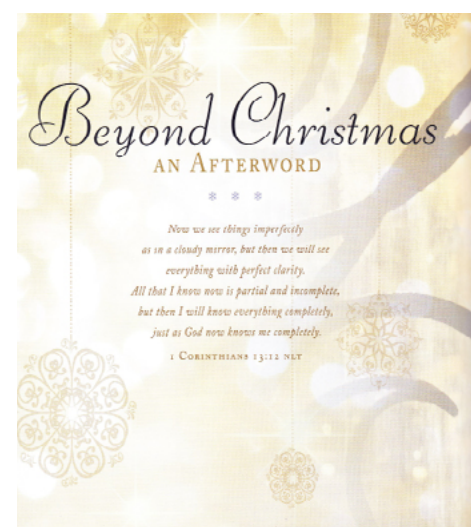
in special places. There are stories and pictures from some of their homes, their Christmas trees, their outdoor décor and why certain decorations are special to them. I love the recipes and have several already written down to try in the next few weeks. I'm looking forward to trying Gloria's Perfect Biscuit recipe, Gordon Motes' Aunt Martha's Chocolate Fudge and Rex Nelson's Favorite Date Nut Cookies, along with Jim and Melissa Brady's Snowball Cookies.

The many stories and pictures in this treasure allow the reader a quick glance into the lives of some of our favorite performers and their individual Christmas traditions. It was amazing to learn that Ben, Becky and Sonya Isaacs grew up with more than 100 cousins on their father's side of the family, and to read how Lily enjoyed her first taste of Christmas at the home of her college roommate.



Dean Hopper's story of his Uncle Charles was moving, as was Kim Hopper's memories of Christmas at her Grandmother Snow's. Bill Gaither recalls his last Christmas Eve with his mom. Mark Lowry

and Buddy Green share the story of one of my favorite Christmas songs, "Mary Did You Know." I always have tears in my eyes when I hear that song, as well as "Labor Of Love" written by Andrew Peterson. I love Russ Taff's story of his response to hearing "White Christmas" for the first time.



One of Calvin Miller's contributions, "Christmas...Eyes Wide Open" is an amazing piece, especially this one sentence; "The God of Christmas is the God of optic nerves."

The day this book arrived, I sat for hours reading, smiling, crying and totally moved by the contents. This is a "coffee-table book" with a colorful cover and beautiful pictures which foster many personal memories and shares the true meaning of Christmas on every page. The song lyrics and the stories behind some of our favorite Christmas songs and carols are interesting; some I had never heard before. I will treasure this work for years to come, and share it with my family.

by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

The book finishes with "Beyond Christmas, An Afterword." Emily Sutherland writes about the days following the "BIG DAY" and the feeling of sadness that we all sometime experience after all the festivities and the joyous celebration of the holiday. I really love the last paragraph; "He longs to celebrate with us—to hear us sing and tell His Story. He delights in seeing the beauty that we create for His birthday. He takes joy in our personal incense offerings whatever they may be, and sits at our feast as we share His abundance. And perhaps best of all, He delights to embrace us with His holy presence!"

Thank you, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Calvin Miller, Emily Sutherland and all those who contributed to this awesome work. Our senses were awakened through the memories you have shared, and our own memories will be more poignant, having read your work.

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"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name."

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

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CHRONICLES OF...

A SINGING ENGLISH TEACHER by JEFF HAWES
"We Are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

Nov 2011

It's hard to believe that October has come and gone. For KPNR, October is one of the busiest months of the year and is very exciting because it serves as a bridge between summer and fall, or as it has been lately.... WINTER!!! One of the definite highlights of the month is singing at Dollywood. We love supporting a park that supports gospel music. Dollywood celebrates the harvest season as well as southern gospel at its best during the month of October. We performed in six concerts within two days, but they seemed to be more like church services. Each service was unique in its own way, with at least one reaching record breaking attendance. The people overwhelmed us with their obedience to the Holy Spirit.



I was especially thankful and excited to see several families who live near my home town, most of which were complete surprises to me. It thrilled me to see and know that they stood in line (sometimes

for multiple shows) to support our group and ministry. One person in particular was a lady from my home town who used to play the piano for me when I was a young boy. I would sometimes visit her church and she always encouraged me to sing. Little did she know, she was fostering in me a love for gospel music and for serving the Lord. During one of the concerts, I felt led to thank her onstage as I spoke to the audience about what an instrumental role we each play in encouraging and supporting our youth to use the talents God has given them.

This leads me to what I felt I should share with you all this month. Especially in the last few weeks I have been overwhelmed by the number of young people

who are allowing the enemy to come into their minds and tell them lies. These lies are questioning their backgrounds and the foundations of their existence. For the past few weeks, several friends have come to me

with thoughts of giving up on life matters such as work, family, and marriage. The Word tells us that Satan roams around seeking whom he may devour. However, God is greater and bigger than any lie Satan may try to deceive us with.

As a young boy, I can remember sometimes feeling like I was always a 99, never a 100. I put so much pressure on myself to be liked by everyone and fit in with everyone and be the best at everything (although I was NOT), and so I began trying to measure up to worldly standards. I had to realize that Christ is the only perfect person in the universe. Although I should try to live as He lived, I will never reach perfection until I enter heaven. What a relief!!! Because I accepted Christ as my Savior, I never have to worry about being perfect; He's enough.

Recently, Psalm 139:14 has been weighing heavily on my mind. "I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and my soul knows very well." Isn't it amazing to think that the God of the whole world knows your name and loves you? He made us in the image of Him and we are precious to Him. One day when we enter heaven, we will be joint heirs with Jesus. We must remind Satan of these scriptures when he tries to infiltrate our mind with lies.

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Thanks DJ's for
giving us our 1st
national charting
song and for playing
our new single,
"Seek And Save"

CHRONICLES OF...

Nov 2011

A SINGING ENGLISH TEACHER by JEFF HAWES
"We Are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

My goal is that you will be uplifted and encouraged in your walk with Christ. That you may share these scriptures with as many young people as you can so that when life's circumstances throw them curve balls, they will remain steadfast in Christ. Our encouragement and support (especially with Biblical advice) is key when mentoring. Karen Peck Gooch and John Rowsey co-wrote a song we sing called "Ephesians Chapter One," and it

is a perfect example of what the Bible says we are: blessed, chosen, adopted, favored, redeemed, and forgiven. May you be more than a conqueror in Christ and know exactly who you are in the eyes of God.



TALK TO ME

with JONATHAN EDWARDS

AUDIO INTERVIEW WITH THE LESTERS



click above to play audio



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE MUSIC

FEATURE ON JOEL LINDSEY by ROB ESTEP

Rob: Joel, many people know you as a phenomenal songwriter, but let's start with a little history about the person that is Joel Lindsey.

Joel: I was born in Oklahoma, youngest of four, but my family moved around a lot because of my Dad's job. I spent many years in Indiana before moving to Nashville in the mid '80's. When I was 8 years old, my parents bought me a piano for my birthday and that really changed my life. A lady at our church taught me to play "Sweet Hour Of Prayer" using three chords and pecking out the melody. After that, it just all kind of made sense to me and I was playing in church a week later. It all just came very naturally to me. Later on, in my late teens and early 20's, my focus really shifted from playing music to writing it.

My dream had always been to write for The Benson Company because that's the company that all of my early influences had been affiliated with: Dottie Rambo, Lanny Wolfe, Tim Sheppard, Dallas Holm, Joel Hemphill and Phil Johnson. It was a dream

come true for me to sign there in 1993. Eighteen years later, I'm still there!

Rob: I would definitely say that writing was ingrained in you a very early age! How old were you when you wrote your first song and what was the title of it?

Joel: I was 8 years old. The song was "Why?" Trust me, you've never heard it and you never will! Haha!!

Rob: Well hopefully one day that song can be shared with us. Having cultivated your gift for songwriting more over the years, where do you find your inspiration?

Joel: Like most songwriters, I tend to always be on the lookout for that great idea or that great thought that moves me enough to latch onto it. I find inspiration from great books, great art, great music and from everyday conversations. But, really, I find that the best ideas just come straight out of life. I've had a lot of health issues and I've also lost both of my parents. Going through those kinds of things broadens your scope of experience in a



way that you can't help but draw from that. To write songs about faith or about hope in a very real, believable way really requires that you've been in places where those things were harder to find. Unfortunately, I think the best writers are those who have really been through a lot of difficult things in their lives and had to plow through some hard places and can look back on them with a new perspective. Many times, I can hear a song and pretty much know when the writer has been through a lot of "life" and when they haven't

Rob: Joel, if you could pinpoint one person as the one to have the most influence on you and the way you write. Who would that be?

Joel: Dottie Rambo, definitely! Even as a kid

growing up, long before I knew I wanted to be a songwriter, I was always drawn to her writing. "Remind Me, Dear Lord" was the first song I ever sang in church and I still have that sheet music. I love her writing because it was never predictable and was always very emotionally driven. She was definitely a great crafter of songs, but never at the expense of great emotion.

Rob: Dottie definitely wrote from the most inner parts of her and her experiences, and that is something that I think that you have definitely captured in your writing!

You host a yearly writer's retreat, tell the readers about this event.

Joel: I love songwriters. Many of my best friends are writers and so for years I had this dream of getting a bunch of

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE MUSIC

FEATURE ON JOEL LINDSEY by ROB ESTEP

writers together and throwing names in a hat and randomly selecting co-writers. About six years ago, I decided to do just that. I originally

Clay" by The Perrys and "Settled At The Cross" by The Nelons are just two of the great songs that were written at that first retreat. Many,



thought it was just going to be a one-time thing but it's turned into an annual event that is my absolute favorite thing to do all year. I limit it to 40 songwriters to keep it intimate. There are no classes or sermons, just short times of devotion following by our co-writing sessions.

I invite songwriters from all genres within Christian music, from all parts of the country and from all levels of success to the retreat, which really makes it fun and sometimes nerve-racking! It's fun to hear everyone's responses when their names are drawn with different co-writers!

"The Potter Knows The

many songs written at the retreat have been recorded by major artists and have been in choral projects. Trust me, there are some great songs that you're going to be hearing very soon that were written there. It really is a special weekend.

Rob: I love that you put so much stock in writers and their songs and help them become better! If you could pick a co-writer, past or present, who would it be?

Joel: I would probably have to say one of the great hymn writers like Fanny Crosby or Phillip Bliss, maybe Horatio Spafford. Or to go to the other end of the spectrum, it would be

very cool to be able to write a lyric to an original Burt Bachrach melody!

Rob: I know this may be a hard question, but if you could pick one of your many songs that you have written as your favorite. What would that song be?

Joel: Well, it's very true when people say that your songs are like your children...so it's really hard to pick a favorite because they all have a special significance in one way or another. Some of my personal favorites have never even been recorded yet but, as far as songs people might know, I

recorded by Sandi Patty is also a song that is very personal and dear to me. I really love "The Body And Blood" that I wrote with Janet Paschal.

Rob: "Orphans of God" recorded by Avalon is definitely one of the songs that has ministered to me in a very rough time in my life after I lost my father. Tell me how that song came to be.

Joel: It was inspired by a sermon by Stan Mitchell. He was preaching about how the church should be involved in our communities and he even handed out a list of local charities that



guess it would probably either be "Orphans of God" recorded by The Talley Trio and Avalon, or maybe "Calvary Answers For Me" recorded by The Perrys and Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. "You Set Me Free"

needed help. It was a very moving service and he was giving different examples of people whose lives were literally saved by different ministries and charities and, at some point in the sermon, I

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE MUSIC

FEATURE ON JOEL LINDSEY by ROB ESTEP

wrote on my bulletin
"there are no orphans of
God." I really thought he

talking through the idea
and sharing different
experiences. I had



had said that during the
sermon but later when I
went back to listen to the
service again, he hadn't.
Even though he didn't
actually say those words,
that was definitely the
point he was trying to
make; that no one is too
far gone, too hopeless
for God. The thought
really hit me like a ton of
bricks and I knew I had
to write it. The next day

forgotten that Twila was
adopted and so, for her,
the song even took on a
greater meaning. There
were more than a few
tears shed during that
writing session!
It's still a song that moves
me deeply when I think
about the concept and
I feel very humbled to
have been a part of
writing it.



I was scheduled to write
with Twila LaBar and
couldn't wait to get there
to tell her the idea. We
really spent a lot of time

**Rob: It seems that you
are quite busy with
writing many wonderful
songs, but what do you
like to do in your free**

time?

Joel: I really enjoy
reading and seeing
movies. I attend a lot
of plays and musicals in
New York when I can. I
love farmer's markets
and love to cook and to
eat! My absolute favorite
thing in the world to
do is to go to a really
wonderful restaurant
with good friends and
enjoy great conversation!

here that are beautiful
and inspiring. The bluffs
overlooking the ocean
right here by my house
were actually featured
last year in Runner's
World Magazine. I get a
lot of song ideas on the
running trail and it's not
uncommon for me to
work through a difficult
part of a song while I'm
out for a run.



I have amazing friends
and I really appreciate
the time I get to spend
with them.

I'm also a runner. I ran
my first marathon last
year and I'll be running
my second one next
month. I love the
discipline of training for
a big event like that. I'm
not a speedy guy, but I
still love the challenge
of finishing. Plus, I live
in Santa Barbara and
there are just amazing
running trails all around

**Thanks to Joel Lindsey
for a great interview and
be looking next month
as I continue to explore
behind the scenes of the
Music Industry!**

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON by STEPHANIE KELLEY

If you remember your geography class, you'll remember that Olympia is the capital of the State of Washington. Since we like to expose our children to historical and meaningful places, and we love having fun, of course, we recently made the trek to Olympia to visit the capital building. We were fortunate enough to have an informative tour guide who was patient with my many questions and knowledgeable



photo by Chloe Kelley

about the beautiful capital building. The most prominent visual on campus is the Legislative Building. It stands 287 feet high and is the tallest masonry dome in North America. The building was constructed between 1922-1928. We entered this impressive building through massive bronze doors and were amazed by the floor to ceiling marble inside.

One of my favorite aspects of the tour was viewing the magnificent chandeliers in the capital building.



I learned that they were made by Tiffany and Company of New York and the one in the rotunda was large enough to hold a Volkswagen bug inside. We were allowed into the State Reception Room to see the round table where the governor signs documents and meets heads of state. The room features the world's largest single-loom carpet. This beautiful carpet was made in 1928 by the Mohawk Company. We even got to visit the Governor's office to view the portrait paintings of the past governors. I enjoyed the visit to the Senate Chambers too. The architecture is amazing. While we were in Olympia we stayed at the Phoenix Inn Suites. It turned out to be one of the best hotel experiences we've had in a very long time. The place



was clean and the room was spacious and featured a flat screen television and leather pull-out sofa. I was happy to tumble into the comfy bed that night at the Phoenix Inn Suites. I had a good night's rest and enjoyed a delicious and ample breakfast that included eggs, sausage and our personal favorite, waffles. I observed a staff member down on her hands and knees scrubbing the inside of the cupboards in the breakfast room which confirmed to me just much effort invested assuring that the hotel was clean for their guests. The staff went beyond the call of duty to make sure that we were taken care of and happy with our stay. The lobby featured a chess/checkerboard for guests to use. My children loved to play chess, checkers and a game that combined the two game pieces that only they know the rules to. I was sitting in the lobby, watching them play, when the mentioned to my husband that I was going to get a cup of coffee. The maintenance manager overheard me saying this and offered to go and get it for me. This is only one instance where the staff went beyond the call of duty to make the guests feel like family, rather than customers.

I would highly recommend visiting Olympia, Washington and staying at the Phoenix Inn Suites.

THE BLESSINGS OF BEING IN GOD'S WILL

The Ministry of Russ Taff by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

"Exciting," "emotional," "thrilling," "most recognizable;" these are adjectives used to describe the voice of one of Christians music's most noted performers. Russ Taff, multi-award

winning soloist—both Grammys and Dove awards, has such a unique delivery that his music appeals to Southern Gospel fans, as well as fans of many other music genres.

before; of how I learned to love Gospel music by listening to those records. I remember one day when I was about 13 years old, I was listening to Rosie Rozell sing 'Oh What A Savior.' God



touched my heart and I was weeping listening to the music," Russ recalled. "God was preparing me for His calling on my life."

"When we were growing up in California, we would go to the concerts at the Fresno Civic Center and I remember when I was about 8 or 9 years old, I bought an Inspirational Song Book from Big Chief as he came down the aisle selling them," Russ said. "I was so excited! I had four brothers, and we would sing together from that book, singing the harmony; I learned to play guitar when I was around eleven and I would play and we would sing in our little church."

Russ formed a deep love for Gospel music lying on the floor in front of the family's stereo, listening to his mother's LP records. "My Mom loved Gospel music. She would save part of her pay from working in the fields, and once a month she would buy a long play record by Mahalia Jackson, the Five Blind Boys of Alabama, the Blackwood Brothers, or another of her favorite artists," Russ shared.

"I've told this story

Russ continued, "When I was about ten or so, Hovie Lister and the fabulous Statesmen came to town. Of course we had never heard of cordless mics! Hovie jumped up from the piano and Doy Ott slid onto the seat and started playing. Hovie was walking around singing with a cordless mic. We couldn't believe it!"

"I remember, we went to the Civic Center to do a Homecoming Concert after I became part of the Gaither tour. It was before Howard, Vestal and Jake passed away. That night, Bill let me introduce Jake Hess in the same concert auditorium that I use to hear them sing in when I was just a kid," Russ remembered. "That's one of my fondest memories."



"I'm thrilled to be following in the footsteps of people who carried

the torch for all of us who are out here today, singing God's message," he declared. "People like George Younce, Glen Payne and Jake Hess... people like Bill Gaither who mentors so many of us in Gospel music."

Russ' professional career began with the Imperials in the late '70s early '80s. He was with the Imperials for four years then toured Europe with Andre Crouch during the mid '80s and '90s. In 1991 Bill Gaither asked Russ to perform on a Homecoming Video. He soon joined the Gaither Vocal Band, singing baritone.

"I thoroughly enjoyed singing with the Vocal Band," Russ said. "But shortly after the passing of Jake, I felt that I needed to get back to my solo work. I still love

doing the Homecoming dates, and just came home from a three day

THE BLESSINGS OF BEING IN GOD'S WILL

The Ministry of Russ Taff by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

concert trip with them."

On October 31st, Russ and his beautiful wife, Tori, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. "In 1976, I married my soul mate," Russ disclosed. "In the early years of our marriage, Tori traveled with me while I was singing with the Imperials and Andre Crouch. As a wonderful writer she has contributed some great songs to my repertoire. We've also written together...did I say that she brings out the best in me?" Russ smiled.

"When our two girls were born, life changed for us. Both Madeline Rose, who is nineteen, and Charlotte, who is fifteen are the joys of our lives. I have three of the most beautiful women in the world in my life," Russ proudly stated.

Tori, a columnist for the Gaither Homecoming Magazine, has written a number of songs over the years. She wrote or co-wrote three of the songs on Russ' new recording, FAROE ISLANDS. For Russ, recording in the Faroe Islands was an awesome experience, something he never expected, but

God had placed in his future.



He shares the story, "After hearing some of my music from years ago when the record company use to send out samplers of their artists on roster, the promoter of the biggest Rock concert there, invited me to be on the program. I reminded him that I was a Gospel artist and he said that was what he wanted me to do...he wanted me to sing the music just as I always did when he first heard me," Russ explained. "He liked the passion of the early music and that's what he wanted me to do at the concert. They put together a band to play for me, and I certainly enjoyed it. The people seemed to appreciate the music and I've been back several times."

"Europe is different than the states," Russ explained. "Even on a rock concert, I sang the same program I always sing. I learned

when I was touring with Andre Crouch, how the people responded to our

music. We would sing on Saturday night at a concert, then on Sunday at a church. On Monday or Tuesday we often sang at clubs. I remember at the Metropol, one of the biggest clubs there, we would sing our Gospel music. I remember standing in the back and Andre came out singing 'Jesus Is The Answer.' Everything got quiet and people really listened."

Russ concluded, "I've learned that if you show them Jesus it makes all the difference. I do the same music with the same expression and emotion in a secular setting, as I do in any other venue. It's not about us, but about Him. Singing in that atmosphere is totally different than singing in a church filled with Christians."

"I mean, the music will touch the Christian audience," Russ clarified,

"but I'm telling you now, there's a different anointing when you minister to people who need the message and drink in the words of the songs. The older you get, the more it becomes all about Jesus. God has allowed me to pursue all different kinds of music, and to feel His presence and the passion of His love for us through it all."

Russ continued the story about recording the new album. "I had been planning this album for a while and wanted to do something different than what we had done in the past," he informed. "The guy promoting the concert has a recording studio in the Faroe Islands, and his friend has a studio in Copenhagen, Denmark. I enjoyed working with them on the concerts dates there, and asked about the availability of their studios," Russ remembered. "They both wanted to work with us, and opened their studios to us. That was just another of God's gifts. Both gentlemen helped produce FAROE ISLANDS, and although it took two years to complete it's all in God's timing."

In describing the recording, Russ

THE BLESSINGS OF BEING IN GOD'S WILL

The Ministry of Russ Taff by SANDI DUNCAN CLARK

explained, "It was so refreshing to have the freedom and the time to write and record and really enjoy it. We spent two weeks in the studio with just my guitar being creative, not watching

heralded by a number of credible people in the industry, as one of the best albums on the market in Christian music. The music, the songs and the passion is definitely there, and

to harvest, by helping these upcoming artists show Jesus in their music ministry."

And Russ Taff continues doing what God has called him to do, touching lives and ministering to others. And as his mentor, Bill Gaither, advised he's following his heart and enjoying it!



the clock, but following our hearts." Russ concluded, "I remember standing at the window in the studio looking out across the mountains, and experiencing such peace and feeling so close to God."

The music tracks are unique, with a Nordic flavor and he recorded some Norwegian hymns. There are Nordic chants, and some of the hymns are hundreds of years old. Russ and Tori wrote lyrics and music on several songs, and worked on arrangements with Ja'kup Zachariassen, O'li Poulsen and Kristoffer Morkore.

FAROE ISLANDS has been

the anointing can be felt even though it is a recording.

Through the years, God has had His hand on Russ Taff, from his childhood in California, through his teenage years after moving to Arkansas and throughout Russ's extended career. Today, Russ is thankful that now he has the opportunity to coach and mentor other performers coming up in the industry. "It's no longer about songs making the charts; it's no longer about choosing radio singles; it's not about having a big tour bus," Russ stated. "Now I see the difference...I see the future as a field that I can help bring



SCOOPS STAFF GIVES THANKS

by ROB PATZ

Wow! There is so much I'm grateful for! I'm thankful that God has allowed me to work in a field that is more of a calling than work. I honestly look forward to each day and what it will bring. I'm thankful for the best staff in the world that goes above and beyond and pushes me each day to do the best I can.

We collected our thoughts and wanted to share what we're most thankful for this Thanksgiving. In addition to the great staff at Scoops, I'm thankful for my family and friends and most of all for a Savior that loved me so much he died for me and gave me the most awesome gift of salvation."



Rhonda Frye

"I have been blessed beyond my wildest imagination. I know I could never manage all these blessings without

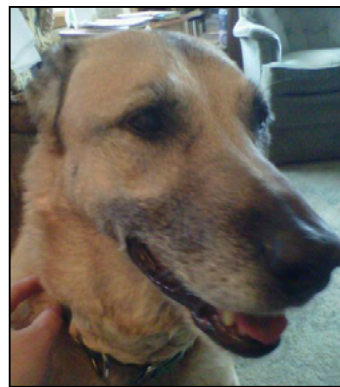
my dear husband of 23 years, Eric! He listens, supports and helps me in every area of ministry—no matter what it is! Our kids with their unique personalities have brought us tremendous joy. I am blessed by godly parents, a grandmother and a mother-in-law too. This year, Eric and our daughter, Ally began singing as a trio and let's just say I'm jazzed about that! God is moving at Rock Pointe Church, He has opened doors to expand Mini-Music and opened the SGN Scoops door for me too! I am grateful for how the Scoops Staff has gone above and beyond in welcoming me to the team. I am loved and I'm wallowing in it so I can give it away!

Lorraine Walker

"As a Canadian, I am privileged to celebrate Thanksgiving twice, once during October with my family and again in November with my American friends. Sometimes it's necessary to take time to ponder what we are thankful for, and to do that officially twice a year is a good thing! Someone once said that if we only had today the things we gave thanks for yesterday, some of us might not have anything.

So, now once again, officially, I give thanks for the many blessings that God has entrusted me with!

I am so thankful for my family. We have gone through a lot in the last few years, and though this year our wonderful Mom spent Thanksgiving in Heaven, we are thankful for her legacy of love and her Christian walk. I am thankful for my Dad, my sisters, and our dog Mickey who continues to bring joy and laughter and a lot of dog-slobber into our lives.



I am thankful for my terrific friends, far and near, including those that I am honored to spend time with regularly and those that are my text and twitter friends. There are some with whom you bond by heart even if you are separated by miles.

I am thankful for a good job in a Christian agency that does real work for real people, and a boss

that lives his Christian witness. I'm thankful for a roof over my head and a car that gets me where I need to go. I'm thankful to belong to a growing church body with faithful pastors."

I'm thankful for the opportunity to use the talents and gifts that God has placed in my to reach others with His love. He has opened the door to allowing me to write for SGM Radio and SGN Scoops, to work with others who have the same dreams and goals, and to be able to talk to so many artists and industry people who love the Lord with all that they have. You all are an inspiration to me. I'm thankful for a loving Lord who leads and guides, even though at times I may follow my own path. I'm thankful for His continued blessings and the way He shows me constantly that I am His. He continues to surprise and comfort, correct and teach, bless and gift me in ways that are amazing and wonderful. This is my short Thanksgiving list. I pray and trust that you, the reader, will dwell on your own list today and thank God for every good and perfect gift."



Rhonda Frye

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SCOOPS STAFF GIVES THANKS

by ROB PATZ



John Mathis Jr.

"I'm so thankful for my family! I lost my father this year; he was a great dad and left his children a lasting legacy of faith and unconditional love for which I am incredibly grateful. I also gained a grandson this year, my first! He has been a tremendous joy and blessing beyond what I could put into words. More than ever, my wife and our children mean so much to me. Not only am I thankful for them and the joy of sharing a life with them, but I can visibly see God doing something in each and every one of their lives! I'm thankful for that most of all as it proves to me God is faithful, dedicated and His mercy does endure forever!"

Victoria Shirey

"I'm thankful for my family and friends. God has really blessed me this year and given me far more than I could

ever think or ask for. He's opened so many doors and showed up right on time when I've needed Him the most. I'm so grateful for all of His many blessings!"



Laurette Willis

"I'm thankful for the blessed life the Lord has given us. We get to live in freedom, go where we want to go, eat food we like, worship God alone and with others-and enjoy precious little doggies like our 3 Poms: Chuffie, Mooshie and Tater!"



Sandi Duncan Clark

"This year has been especially wonderful for the Duncan-Clark family. Like everyone, we have

had our share of sickness, financial circumstances and problems, however we know Christ as our personal Savior, He takes good care of us, and we know that when this life is past, we will rejoice around the Throne with each family member who has gone on before."



Lou Wills Hildreth

"On November 3rd, 2011, Howard and I will celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary. I thank God for the good times and the tough times we have shared. My heart overflows with thankfulness for the Godly role model Howard is to our son and daughter and four grandchildren. I thank my wonderful husband for his unwavering support of my love for gospel music. God has blessed me with awesome favor in my "call" to glorify Him in service to the gospel music family of artists, industry, and fans. I can never praise Him enough for my precious family and the mul-

titude of friends on this "faith" journey with me."

Denise Salchow

"At this time of year when I stop and think of all my blessings, the first thing I think of is my Christian heritage. I'm also thankful for godly parents and grandparents that raised me in church and taught me how much Jesus loves me and to trust in Him. Today knowing with all my faults and failures, I know without a doubt that the same Jesus I learned about as a young girl still loves me and is there for me every second of every day. I am "greatly blessed & highly favored!"

Evie Hawkins

"I am especially thankful right now for peace that the Lord grants me daily. I am thankful for wonderful friends, family, and ministry-minded artists that I have the honor to represent. Thanks to Scoops for allowing me to be a part of an amazing team. I love you all!"

Pete Schwager

"I am thankful for the opportunities and for the skills God has given me to provide for my family."

SCOOPS STAFF GIVES THANKS

by ROB PATZ

Jennifer Campbell

"This Thanksgiving season, I am thankful for my family, my friends, and so many other things that God has blessed me with. Not a moment goes by that He is not pouring out His infinite blessings on me and my family. I am especially thankful for my dad, who I consider to be the best dad in the world. The adventures we enjoy together create memories that will

truly last forever. But the one thing I am most thankful for is a priceless treasure. No museum can put it on display. No television program can do it justice. And no one can ever take it away from me. I am most thankful for my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Jesus Christ died for you and I, so that we may have eternal life. He could have called ten thousand angels, but

He endured all of the pain and suffering just for you and I. And now, He sits at the right hand of God, praying for us. Just imagine, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, praying to His Father on our behalf. Jesus Christ loves us unconditionally. And for that, I am eternally grateful."

Rob Estep

Thankfulness is a term sometimes not used enough. Many times we

are thankful for things and don't even recognize it. So this year I am thankful for a wonderful job, a Savior that refreshes me on a daily basis, family that loves me and the ability and blessing to do something I dreamed of as a child. Remember to show your thankfulness even when it's not Thanksgiving.



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