

November 2012

sgn Scoops digital



Canton Junction

Also In This Issue:

The Littles, Mercy's Well, Melody Boys & Creekside Gospel Music Convention



DIAMOND
& Awards

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OUR MISSION

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



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November 2012

Letter From The Editor

By Rhonda Frye



While driving recently, I began to pray- just listing things I'm grateful for. My list was pretty typical- my family, my health, church family, financial provision and so on. I usually remember to thank God for those kinds of things frequently- not just during the Thanksgiving Season, but for some reason, I was reminded to thank him for the "little" things in my life that day.

A smile came across my face as random "little things" crossed my mind. Cotton! I love my cotton t-shirts! I couldn't imagine life without cotton. My mind seemed to jump from one little random thing to next little random thing- like eye-lashes, fingernails, french vanilla creamer, coffee- and the list went on.

While driving and praying, my eye caught the most beautiful scene! To my right there was a pond with fog rising surrounded by gorgeous fall trees in full brilliant color. The blue sky was bright and clear. Wouldn't ya know it- "SAP!" My random mind blurted out- interrupting the peaceful scenery! "I'm thankful for sap!"

As I thought about those little things- God reminded me how there is nothing little about those things at all. Really- all the things I had thought about were miracles- all part of God's incredible and complex creation. I was overcome with emotion- just in total awe! At the same time, I felt heart-broken. "God, I asked, "how can people NOT believe?"

I think it takes more faith to NOT believe than it does TO believe. It blows my mind that people truly believe an explosion happened kicking life into action. I could understand maybe a few things falling into place- that's far-fetched- but wow- all these little

details? Come on! I then turned my thoughts to those people in this world that may believe in "God"- that He created the world- but how can they not believe the WHOLE Bible- what about Jesus?

Although part of me was feeling grateful that God had given me eyelashes, fingernails, cotton and syrup to top my pancakes, my heart was heavy for those that don't know Him. I began to feel that urge to work harder at telling people about the goodness of God and His wonderful plan of salvation! I truly believe- how grateful we are for those things will determine the extent that we share them with others.

I am so excited about a story in this issue of SGNscoops magazine! My dear friend, Kenna West tells of a recent experience of sharing the good news of Jesus with a complete stranger! I hope this story inspires you to live and share your faith as much as it has me! Evangelism is a direct result of gratefulness!

This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for big things- because there is NOTHING little that God does. The hymn below describes who God is to me, and I'm most grateful!!!!!! My prayer is... that you know Him, like I know Him!

The Lily Of The Valley

By Charles W. Fry

I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,

He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;

The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see

All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.

In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay:

He tells me every care on Him to roll

He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,

He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul

He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;

In temptation He's my strong and mighty tower;

I have all for Him forsaken and all my idols torn

From my heart and now He keeps me by His power

Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me
sore

Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal

He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,

He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He will never, never, leave me, nor yet forsake me here

While I live by faith and do His blessed will;

A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear

From His manna He my hungry soul shall fill

Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face

Where the rivers of delight shall ever roll.

He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,

He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul

Happy Thanksgiving!

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INTRODUCING SCOOPS ON THE ROAD



If you need an Emcee for a special concert or event, check with us about having Rob Patz or Rhonda Frye to host your next program! With more than 19 years experience in media, Rob is the owner of Coastal Media- parent company of SGM Radio and SGN Scoops Magazine and the host of the Southern Styles Show. Although Rhonda is fairly new to the industry, she is no stranger to the stage. She is a singer/songwriter, an associate pastor and the editor in chief for SGN Scoops Magazine.

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By Rhonda Frye

The 2012 Creekside Gospel Music Convention came to a close, Wednesday, October 31, but great memories are etched in hearts and minds forever! Friendships were made; achievements were celebrated as

well as awards were presented. We experienced an incredible three days and are already looking forward to next year's Creekside Gospel Music Convention! Dates for next year's event are October 28, 29, 30. We will gather again in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center.

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention got started off right with prayer and then announcements. Paul Danis of LIVE-IT spoke briefly about their work in Sevier County and expressed gratefulness for the raised awareness of the ministry and for the items donated. Channing Eleton then set the tone for the evening with a beautiful piano prelude.



Phil Cross, Chariot, Promise, Kingston Drive and Channing Eleton blessed the crowd before the Celebration for Ms. Lou Hildreth began. At 7:00, Channing started the Celebration with "Joyful, Joyful" and then the evening's host, Tim Lovelace was introduced. J.P. Miller, coordinator of the night's program shared a few comments regarding Lou Hildreth, and then Ms. Lou thanked everyone for attending.

Many friends and family gathered to honor Lou Hildreth for 75 years of outstanding service in the Gospel Music Industry. Many industry dignitaries were present including representatives from the Singing News, Christian Voice, Homecoming Magazine and Southern Gospel Times. There





was great music including performances by Phil Cross, Ann Downing, The Blackwoods, Clayton Inman, David Sutton, Jeff Stice, the Southmen and Ava Kasich as well as memorable video clip messages from Larry Gatlin and Bill Gaither. There were special presentations from Dr. Jim Moss, a founder of PTL, Rick Francis of Singing News Magazine and John Lanier of Christian Voice Magazine.

Smiling continuously, it was obvious Ms. Lou enjoyed every performance, every kind word spoken and each presentation given! Ms. Lou shares, "My heart is overflowing with THANKS to Rob Patz, President Coastal Media, and Rhonda Frye, Editor-In-Chief of SGNscoops, for honoring me with the "Celebration Of 75 Years In Gospel Music." JP Miller, my TV co-host, helped coordinate the event, and I basked in the fabulous artists, their music, and their tributes. Pat Mathis and her crew from Atlanta's TV 57, WATC, taped this memorable evening for a TV special to be shown later. Howard and I joined our son David, daughter Kathryn, and many family members who were there, in gratitude to all who joined us in celebrating. May the Glory go to our Heavenly Father who blesses beyond anything we can ask or imagine!"

There couldn't been a more fitting closure to the cel-

eburation than reading of scripture followed by worship. Ellen Moss, wife of Dr. Jim Moss held the crowd captivated as she read God's Word. Many artists and family members squeezed onto the stage for a finale of "Bless The Lord, Oh My Soul/ How Great Thou Art" medley.

Reflecting on the special celebration, J.P. Miller shares, "What a great time we had honoring Lou Hildreth. Artists, fans, and Industry professionals piled into Pigeon Forge to pay tribute to a founder of the industry we have today. Lou's life is a life lived to bless the Lord."

Great Gospel Music followed Ms. Lou's Celebration with performances by Declaration Trio and more. It was truly an incredible first day at Creekside!

Early Tuesday morning, a few brave souls braved the chilly weather and enjoyed a chapel service. John Mathis Jr. challenged participants with a message of "Being Faithful In The Small Things." By noon, Gospel Music filled the Convention Center once again with performances by Faith's Journey, Lindsay Huggins, Jim Sheldon, Logan Smith, Chariot, Shannon Knight and many more wonderful artists! Music continued throughout the afternoon, right up until time for the Diamond Awards Show.

Excitement filled the room as special guest performers arrived. It was truly a great time of fellowship and posing for pictures! Special Performances by Watts, Rowsey and Bean, Phil Stacey, the Griffins plus more kept the audience blessed and entertained leading up to the Diamond Awards Show.

After a few opening words from the owner of Creekside

penned the Diamond Award Song of the Year, "Hear My Heart." Sheri performed the song beautifully and flawlessly and the crowd loved it!

Throughout the night, final nominees and award winners were announced in 23 different categories. The Diamond Awards are fan based, fan driven! Be sure to read the complete list of 2012 Diamond Award Winners, located



Gospel Music Convention, Rob Patz, the hosts for the evening, Christy Sutherland and Daniel Ball took the reins of the program. The night included humor along with great performances from Christy Sutherland, The Ball Brothers, Promise, Phil Stacey, Declaration, Ann Downing, Watts, Rowsey & Bean, The Williamsons, Logan Smith, David Bryan, The Porter Family, and Faith's Journey.

The Diamond Awards in years past has taken a special interest in featuring brand new groups. This year's show was no exception. A brand new group, Crosby Lane made their debut and an incredible first impression. Crosby Lane was received well by the audience.

During the Diamond Awards Show, there was a special acoustic act by two special multi-Diamond Award Winners who are also songwriter/ artist plus father/ son. Gerald and Jason Crabb moved the audience with a tender performance of "Sometimes I Cry!" In fact, it was so special; they sang it twice and the crowd completely "ate it up!" What an experience!

A tearful, yet poised and composed Sheri Easter shared the story of how songwriters Joel Lindsey and Wayne Haun came to her home as she battled breast cancer and

in this issue of SGNscoops magazine as well as SGNscoops.com. The opening round of nominations will begin Monday, February 18, 2013. The winners will be announced during the Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2013.

Fellowship and more gospel music continued following the Diamond Awards bringing day two of the Creekside Gospel Music Convention to a close.

Wednesday morning, John Mathis Jr. encouraged hearts with a powerful message about the Power of the Gospel! He reminded us; the simple message of the gospel still penetrates hearts and changes lives.

On Wednesday afternoon and evening, many incredible artists claimed the stage and brought the house down! Creekside Gospel Music Convention presented fresh and new faces on Wednesday and other times during the three-day event. What talent was displayed and what sweet spirits rejoiced in the presence of God! There were several "God-bump" producing performances, for sure!

Ms. Saran Chumley of Renaissance Revival gave an astounding performance of "We Shall Behold Him" resulting in a standing ovation. Lindsey Huggins made us all proud

to be Americans as she sang "God Bless America" with conviction, beauty and power. Omega teamed up with Kevin Harry delivering a mighty "Midnight Cry" and Omega, Ally and Rhonda Frye joined Lisa Herald for a hand-clappin' foot

to Dale Burrell and Southern Style Praise for media coverage. Also special thanks to Pat Mathis of Channel 57 out of Atlanta for taping Ms. Lou's Celebration and the Diamond Awards!



stompin'"This Little Light of Mine."

During the Convention also performing was Bev McCan, Pine Ridge Boys, Hearts of Faith, Renaissance Revival, In His Image Quartet, Reflection of Grace, Promise, Tony Corner, Paul Parr, Ava Kasich, Ally & Rhonda Frye, Redemption Road, Truth Trio, and Mark Alred. Although there is not enough space to adequately describe each performance, it is safe to say each artist during the entire event gave 100% of their hearts and souls and performed with excellence!

To sum up the 2012 Creekside Gospel Music Convention...."sweet spirit" comes to mind. This was our first event, and the sweet spirit of cooperation, flexibility and love toward one another truly ruled. We believe 2012 was just the beginning and God has great things in store!

There are many people to be thanked! Thank you to Andrea Thone and the entire staff at Smoky Mountain Convention Center. This staff went over and above exceeding all expectations in the months leading up to the convention and extended excellence the entire three days!

Thank you to Paul Danis of LIVE-IT for allowing us to partner with your ministry. Also, thank you to each person that made a donation to this ministry, it was deeply appreciated!

Special thanks to Branham Productions for doing a great job with the difficult task of running the sound!

Thank you to Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today,

Thank you to our staff at SGNscoops- Angela and Tim Griffin, Holly May, Sandi Duncan Clark, Lorraine Walker, and Jonathan Edwards along with our friends, Faith Pearcey and J.P. Miller for working many hours behind the scenes to make the 2012 Creekside Gospel Music Convention a success!

Please make plans to be with us for the Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2013 on October 28,29,30 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge. Many artists have committed to return and we're already working together to make next year's event even better for all involved.

We'll see you there, but in the meantime, check our website frequently for updates at <http://www.creeksidegospel-musicconvention.com/> and please invite your friends and family to participate next year too! Also, check out our photo gallery on the SGNscoops Facebook page!

Photos courtesy of April Holleman



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LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

“Counting Our Blessings”

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH

What a blessing to greet you via SgnScoops digital magazine. A huge “shout out” is due Publisher Rob Patz and his team of writers and technical staff. The gospel music world is indebted to Rhonda Frye, editor-in-chief, who blesses us with her energy and stunning talents in multiple areas of music and ministry. As I join you in celebrating Thanksgiving this month, we can all COUNT OUR BLESSINGS! My heart overflows with thanks to our Heavenly Father for allowing me to spend the past seventy-five years spreading the hope and joy found in the message of gospel music. The supreme BLESSING is the multitude of friends who share this passion. As you readers know, my favorite scripture is Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” What an incredible honor to have this scripture and my devotional comments included with those of 60 other Homecoming Friends, along with photos and biographical sketches, in the new Gaither Homecoming Bible, published by Thomas Nelson Company. Bill and Gloria Gaither have interspersed 75 hymns, poetry, and many inspiring devotionals in this phenomenal New King James text bible. I am extremely BLESSED to be included!

I will never forget the thrill of receiving the Gaither Homecoming Magazine “Hall Of Honor” last year. Emily Southerland, Homecoming writer, listed some of the recognition given me over the years. When I opened the magazine, it brought me to my knees. I vividly remember singing my first solo at church at age seven. After accepting Christ a few years later, the desire to reach people became an obsession. After all these years, my greatest joy is helping those who share my passion for the “gospel” of the music. Here is the



Homecoming list-- TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

- 1969: First woman to own a gospel artist agency (Nashville Gospel Talent)
- 1998: Inductee-Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame
- 2004: Recipient - Honorary Doctor Of Sacred Music, Louisiana Baptist University
- 2005: Inductee - GMA Hall Of Fame, Nashville
- 2007: Inductee - SGMA Hall Of Fame, Dollywood
- 2008: Inductee- Christian Music Hall Of Fame
- 2010: Recipient - Southern Gospel Music Guild “Lifetime Achievement Award”

My prayer is to be that “shining light” as taught in Matthew 5:16

Contact us—

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Photo: Lou Hildreth, devotional contributor to the new Gaither Homecoming NKJV Bible, shown here with a table full of “blessings” from her years in gospel music.



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Simple Graces

Finding God in Life's Random Inconveniences

by Kenna Turner West



Each year as Thanksgiving approaches, my heart tends to become more mindful of simple graces—

It was an overbooked Thursday: up at 5:30am, coffee and devotions, a little office work, get my family ready, drive forty-five minutes to Nashville and drop my son off at school, head downtown to shoot a promotional video at LifeWay for the new Daywind Easter musical at 9:30am, and then rush to a six hour co-writing session. It was wall-to-wall, indeed, but for fifteen minutes, I scheduled all to myself a second cup of coffee and a time of prayer before the video shoot. My day looked set, apart from the random inconvenience of leaving my favorite travel mug at a co-write the day before. All good. Plan B just needed to include a quick trip to McDonald's on the way to LifeWay for a freshly-brewed cup of "natural effervescence." That would still leave me with ten minutes to gather my thoughts before the shoot.

As always, our morning commute to school was spent listening to a podcast by one of our favorite Christian speakers, Ravi Zacharias. During the message, something he said in passing caused me to recall a verse of scripture that I had committed to memory years before though I could not remember where it was found

in the Bible—

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom."

Turning into the McDonald's parking lot, I immediately noticed a homeless man sitting on the curb near the door, crumpled, downcast, and dejected. I was taken by how much he looked like a cross between my cousin, Clayton, and Tom Hanks in the movie, *Castaway*, his skin brown and leathery and his unkempt hair bleached by the sun.

Sadly, from my vantage point in the drive-thru lane, I noticed those who were passing him by never looked down, nor did he look up. He just sat there, his eyes fixed on the black pavement beneath his feet. Mind you, this is in no way an indictment of the people who went to McDonald's that morning simply to buy a biscuit. It is quite possible that they cared deeply for the downtrodden but were merely in a hurry. Or maybe they were nervous, afraid that eye contact might lead to a conversation, which could lead to an awkward request for money, which would lead to inner conflict: *"What if I give this person money and they spend it on alcohol or drugs?"*

I understood. Really, I did. I have had all of those thoughts before, so as I inched forward in line, I didn't judge the passersby, but instead began to wonder what must have happened to cause this man's life to spiral downward to the curb at McDonald's. I began to pray, and as my van rolled slowly next to him, he momentarily glanced upward and I smiled. It was my way of saying, "I see you there, and you matter." Seemingly uncomfortable, he offered a quick nod before casting his gaze again upon the ground.

As I paid for my coffee, the verse of scripture again resounded in my heart—

"Your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom."

Where was that in the Bible? Pulling into the nearest parking lot, I reached for my Bible in the back seat and flipped to the concordance, which in turn directed me to

Luke 12:32. As I glanced through the chapter, verses 6 and 7 caught my attention.

**“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?
Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
Indeed, the very hairs of your head are
numbered.**

**Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many
sparrows.”**

Tears began to well up in my eyes as I remembered the man sitting on the curb. A man who was worth more than sparrows. A man in whom God delighted in giving the Kingdom. How could I have not seen such an amazing opportunity when it was only three feet away? Immediately, I put my van in reverse and headed back to McDonald’s, praying that the man would still be there. To my great joy, he was in the same place I had seen him before.

Remembering my own words from a book I wrote several years ago, when sharing our faith, we should always “keep it real.” That is what Jesus did. He shared from his heart. He asked leading questions. And He answered questions in word pictures so people could see what He was saying. He was tender. Approachable. Generous in spirit. Never religious, but utterly authentic, espousing a simple form of rhetoric: “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer sowing seed,” or “The Kingdom of God is like a pearl...” His is the model by which I have always approached the sharing of the Gospel, and that Thursday morning was no different.

Rolling down my window, I said, “Excuse me, sir. I drove by a few minutes ago and couldn’t help but notice that you look just like my cousin, Clayton. I haven’t seen him for years, so I couldn’t help but smile. I came back to say thank you and to tell you that you made my day!”

“Thank you, ma’am.”

(Was that a grin?)

“Say, can I buy you breakfast?”

“Thanks, ma’am, but I’m not hungry,” he said, looking back down.

“That’s okay! You can just take it with you and eat it later!” I quickly parked and walked back over to him.

“May I ask your name?”

“Gary.”

“It’s nice to meet you, Gary! My name is Kenna. What can I get you for breakfast this morning?” He told me, and when I returned with his order, I placed the bag beside him and sat down on the curb. “Where ‘ya from, Gary?”

“Alabama.”

(Great! An inroad! I can talk to him about football!)

“You must be a Crimson Tide fan.”

“No ma’am,” he said, facing forward.

“How can you be from Alabama and not a Crimson Tide fan?”

“‘Cause I am originally from Ohio.”

“Oh, so you’re a Buckeye?”

“No ma’am,” he said as a smile began to grow.

“Gary, since I am thoroughly confused, I’ll tell ‘ya what—since we are in Tennessee, I am going to make you an honorary Titan.” And in that moment, Gary let down his guard and received my friendship. “Where ‘ya headed?”

“I am just trying to get back home.”

“Where’s home?”

“Florence.” I did the mileage in my head. It was only a few hours away by car. “I need to get back there,” he added, fumbling through his pockets. “I only have one piece of paper left that tells me who I am.”

I was undone. One tattered piece of paper was all he had that told him who he was? It was becoming very clear to me why I was sitting on that curb.

“Gary, it’s a long way to Florence. Would it be okay if I prayed and asked the Lord to be with you and keep you safe on your way home?”

“Yes ma’am. I’d like that.”

I placed my hand upon his back and prayed, feeling the many layers of clothing draped over his spindly frame, mindful that he was probably wearing everything he owned.

**“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet
not one of them is forgotten by God.”**

I then shared with Gary part of my story—how, nearly thirty years ago when I came to Christ, I had a drink in one hand and a cigarette in the other, with nothing to live for but afraid of dying. I was empty, desperate, and broken when I sensed the Lord drawing me with His loving kindness. I told him that not only had the Lord redeemed my life, but He allows me to share His Love around the world, be it through the songs I write, in concert, in teaching, or through opportunities like the new Easter musical that I was on my way to talk about.

Gary began to brush his hair slowly with his hands. “I must look awful,” he whispered, but to my heart he was quite lovely. We continued to talk for a few more moments, and then I asked if he would like to pray with me and invite Jesus into his life, repeating the very same prayer that I had uttered all those years ago. There, in the McDonald’s parking lot at the corner of Fessler’s Lane and Murfreesboro Road, we bowed our heads before the Lord, and with tears streaming down our faces, the old things were passed away and all things became new.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom.”

I said goodbye to my new friend, and as I drove away, I was taken by how seemingly random the events leading up to that moment had been—from leaving my travel mug at a co-write the day before, to selecting the podcast we listened to that morning, to having an extra fifteen minutes in my day. No, it wasn't random at all. It was providence. A divinely orchestrated chain of events set in motion for the purpose of one lonely soul discovering that he was worth more than many sparrows.

Gary is no different than you and me. We are all just trying to get back home. Did he ever make it to Florence? I don't know. But I do know that one tattered piece of paper is no longer all that tells him who he is. There is an entire Book for that. I pray that Gary will discover that he is the Redeemed of the Lord. A new creation. A joint heir with Jesus Christ. A royal priesthood. A holy nation. Fearfully and wonderfully made. A child of God whose Heavenly Father has plans to both bless and prosper him.

No, I don't wear rose-colored glasses. I know that Gary's path will not be an easy one, but I am comforted in knowing that he won't have to walk it alone. And for that, I am most profoundly and wonderfully thankful.

To learn more about Kenna, including booking information, visit her website:
www.KennaTurnerWest.com.

For nearly thirty years, Kenna Turner West has blended music, devotional teaching, and humor into a ministry that has reached around the world, serving alongside Christian leaders such as Franklin Graham and Jerry Falwell, at venues ranging from The Pentagon to NASCAR chapels to the local church.

The three-time SGM and AGM Songwriter of the Year, three-time Dove Award nominee, and 2010 Diamond Award winner for Song of the Year has penned songs that have been recorded by some of our industry's most beloved artists such as Karen Peck and New River, Jeff and Sheri Easter, The Martins, Brian Free and Assurance, The Booth Brothers, Legacy Five, The

Talleys, Gold City, The Hoppers, The Bowling Family, Sisters, Ivan Parker, The Collingsworth Family, Lauren Talley, Best Of Friends (Karen Peck, Joyce Martin, Sheri Easter), The Lefevre Quartet, The Crist Family, The Lesters, Allison Speer, Larry Ford, and many more.

A staff writer at Daywind Music Publishing, her 2012 Easter musical, “Love Won,” was nominated for a Dove Award. Her second musical entitled “It Would Take a Cross” was recently released and is now available at www.LifeWay.com.

Kenna—a certified counselor and author of the book, *Finding His Good and Seeing His Glory*—has been married to sound engineer Kerry West, son of country music legend Dottie West, for twenty years. Their son, Graham, is a student at Trevecca Nazarene University, majoring in both physics and mathematics.



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“A Faithful Journey” Canton Junction By Jennifer Campbell

Have you ever encountered a crossroads in life? Sometimes in life, we may not plan out the course our lives will take. But God knows the path that we will travel down along life’s journey, and He knows where these roads will intersect. One Sunday morning, four individuals joined their voices in song, unaware of the harmony that would bring them together as a group. Matthew Hagee, Aaron Crabb, Michael Sykes, and Tim Duncan came to a crossroads. Instead of going four separate directions, they faithfully followed God’s footsteps. And His footsteps traveled down the road to Canton Junction.

Canton Junction was born from a special musical performance at Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas. As the group began to sing, it became clear that the harmony within the group, both literally and figuratively, was a rare find. The group’s name, Canton Junction, means “the crossroads of different subjects or regions into one gathering point.” On the day they came together to sing in one accord, that was their gathering point. The different regions where they live and diverse musical backgrounds they come from represent the crossroads of different subjects. Yet, no matter how different they may be, they sing for

one reason and one reason alone: to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While they are a quartet, Canton Junction represents so much more than four-part harmony. They have dozens of GMA Dove Awards, Grammy nominations, and other accolades between them. In addition, they have over 85 years of experience between them. Their styles of music range from traditional hymns to the Eagles and Southern Gospel to big band. Needless to say, there is something for everyone. And the best part of all is that every song is sung for the sole purpose of sharing God’s grace with everyone who hears them.

For over a decade, the lead singer of Canton Junction, Aaron Crabb, traveled with the renowned group The Crabb Family. During this chapter in his musical journey, he sang and produced 19 number one gospel songs. This Kentucky-born individual has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Grand Ole Opry, and many other prestigious locations. Yet all the while, he simply loves the Lord, his family, and singing. Aaron holds a firm belief that God can use music to heal hearts and that the Truth gets us through the many obstacles that we may encounter.



Canton Junction is proud to have award-winning bass singer, Tim Duncan, on board with them. An original member of Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, Tim describes himself as a “quartet man.” He received the Singing News Fan Award for Best Bass in 2006. Tim said his earliest memories of music were of his dad buying quartet records. It was in these moments that he fell in love with the thrill of hearing long endings, the tenor soaring, and the bass booming. Bringing to the table 16 years of full-time singing experience, along with his involvement with Billboard-topping albums and DVDs, he still remains down to earth. For Tim, it’s not about the awards and honors, but instead, it’s about the reason he sings: he loves to make people happy by singing the best music in the world – music that communicates the Best News ever.

Continuing a six-generation legacy of ministry, Matthew Hagee sings tenor for Canton Junction. Matthew grew up singing around the piano with his family. He serves as Executive Pastor of Cornerstone Church, alongside his father, John Hagee, Founding Pastor. Having graduated from Oral Roberts University School of Business, Matthew is also a gifted speaker and author, in addition to being an accomplished vocalist. He has authored two books, “Shaken, Not Shattered” and “Response-Able.” When he is not on stage, he lives a truly Texan lifestyle, trading horses and cattle in his spare time.

The group’s baritone is no stranger to gospel music, having enjoyed a long and successful run in Nashville as a producer, songwriter, and business owner. Michael Sykes has produced award-winning albums for artists such as the Gaither Vocal Band, Russ Taff, The Martins, Jeff and Sheri Easter, and The Oak Ridge Boys. His love for harmony, along with his tenure with Ponder, Sykes, & Wright, makes him a natural group vocalist. Although Michael has received multiple GMA Dove Awards for producing and songwriting, he is a country boy at heart who has a gift for making music.

I had the opportunity to interview Matthew recently and found that he not only preaches what he sings, but also lives what he preaches. I pray you enjoy reading his responses to the questions I presented to him.

Matthew said that it’s hard to remember when he first heard Southern Gospel Music. He said, “It’s difficult to say when church music, family music, fun music was and is Southern Gospel Music. It wasn’t until someone told us what we were listening to that we knew what to call the music that was such a big part of our everyday lives. I have always loved Gospel Music of every kind and type. From an early age my family memories are around the piano singing the songs of the church. My father has always made it a point to pursue excellent, God-honoring music in our church, and as long as those two elements were first and fore-



most, then the style really didn't matter. From big band to bluegrass it all has a place."

Now that he is a part of a Gospel singing group, Mathew says that following in the steps of some of the greatest Gospel Music Legends is nearly incomprehensible. "To even be mentioned in phrases with people that you admire so dearly seems to be beyond anything we could have imagined for Canton Junction," said Matthew.

Mathew said his greatest influence has been his father, John Hagee. He added, "Outside of my father in music, there have been many – George Younce, Glen Payne, Lari Goss, Ben Speer, and Bill Gaither – not to mention the gentlemen I'm privileged to work with now."

As a singer, the lyrics of songs become a very important part of your life. Matthew said if he could write a song to describe his life so far, he would title the song, "Blessed." Concerning a song that has blessed him personally, he responded, "That is something that changes from day to day and season to season. Whether it is a season of joy or hardship, the greatest endorsement I can give to Gospel Music is that it always meets the needs of the moment."

Matthew is definitely a family man. Matthew said, "Anywhere my wife and kids are happy

is paradise to me." He and his wife Kendal are blessed with three children, Hannah Rose, John William and Joel Charles, and are looking forward to the birth of their fourth child in April 2013. He says he balances his time between family and ministry by purposely devoting his time to whatever it is he is doing. "When I'm with my family, I'm with my family," Matthew said. "When I am working, I am working. Whatever I am doing at the moment is what I am 100% invested in."



Matthew shared some wisdom to young artists who are just starting out. He said, "Always honor God; make worship a priority and endure." Matthew said, "God is alive and well and watching." Canton Junction follows this advice, understanding the fact that we should live our lives in honor of our Heavenly Father, making Him proud when He watches us along the road of life.

More About Matt

Most Encouraging Scripture: Jeremiah 1:5

Favorite Restaurant: "What are you hungry for?"

Favorite Book: Whichever one is in my hand at the moment. I love to read!

quite assuredly the other members of the group, the best part of traveling and singing as Canton Junction is the "opportunity to see people blessed by the message of the music that we sing and to enjoy singing with friends that mean so much." That is what it is truly all about: the message in the music, the music along the journey, and the faithful journey traveled by Canton Junction.

For More information, visit Canton Junction on facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/CantonJunctionMusic>



The group is excited to see what great things God has in store for them as they seek His direction on their musical journey. Their journey has literally taken them around the world with their tour of Israel where they performed for Prime Minister Netanyahu. Additionally, they recently recorded a live concert in San Antonio. "It was one of the most exciting musical events that I have ever been a part of," stated Matthew. "We are looking forward to sharing the evening in a video release very soon."

Canton Junction has experienced great success throughout the time they have been sharing the Good News through song. And it is certain that they will continue to have tremendous success for years to come. For Matthew, and

A promotional image for High Road Music. It features three women sitting on a wooden bench outdoors, smiling. The text "high road" is written in a cursive font at the top. Below the women, the text "country gospel at its purest" and "www.highroadmusic.com" are displayed. At the bottom, there is contact information for booking and social media links.

high road

sarah... piano
anna grace... fiddle
vickie... upright bass

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“The Power Of The Gospel”

By John Mathis Jr.

As anyone who has read my past writings knows, I grew up in church. Anytime the doors were open we were there and if we weren't at our home church we were singing or evangelizing somewhere. One thing about growing up in the church culture of America is that you can tend to become acclimated to it and possibly take it granted. You become accustomed to the routine of it all but often times lose sight or don't realize the very foundation of what you're a part of.

In essence, if you grow up in church in this country you become familiar with the process and aren't mindful of the purpose. It can become a routine gathering that you're “supposed” to do. Even the very nature of our outreach can become routine. In this day and time we are accustomed to witnessing to others by “inviting them” to our church. There's nothing wrong with that. Church is a great place to be if you're searching, hurting or realize something is missing in your life. But in some ways, it's as if the church has become the main vehicle for “witnessing.” Perhaps we feel people would “get” the whole “Christian thing” and it would be better explained if they could visit our church. If we read the early evangelizing of the church in the book of Acts it wasn't geared quite that way. Evangelizing happened one on one, door to door or right out in the streets. The “church” assembling was more of a gathering of believers, most often in homes, to worship, instruct, teach, and to equip and disciple those that were converted. As Christianity grew, we have built church buildings and gathering places and over time those buildings have become the focal point of much of our evangelism. And that obviously works, but we can't forget that the best method and most opportune is still that personal, one-

on-one presentation of the Gospel.

Several years ago my wife and I felt we were being placed at a church on the outskirts of Nashville, TN (Bethel World Outreach). I've personally been through a lot of life transitions and seasons in the past five years and being led to this church has been a big part of a healing and waiting-for-the-next-step process for me. I used to pick my churches according to the worship, the worship band or the music program (ok, I've been a music-oriented guy all my life) but this time was different. I was drawn to Bethel's focus on sharing the Gospel, making disciples, building the foundation of believers in their personal daily lives, and focus on personal attentiveness to God's Word and growing knowledge of Him. They have a great focus on challenging one-on-one, personal witness to others.

Another appealing aspect of the church is their focus on missions. Oh not like I grew up, where you put your offering in on the fourth Sunday of every month to support international mission efforts on “mission Sunday” but they challenge people each year to leave the country and go BE a missionary for about 10 days. They have a program at Bethel called Ten Days Missions. They invite people to travel to all areas of the world with a missions team and one particular trip was to Baja, Mexico. When my wife Angie heard about this, she was the catalyst for us taking a mission trip! We both felt like we should go, so we signed up and began to raise our money.

As we began to wind down the months and weeks before the trip, making plans and preparations, raising

the remainder of our funds and getting our passports we were also challenged with the thought “what are we going to say when we get there?” My friend George asked me when he found out we were going, “is this one of those mission trips where ya’ll get off the plane and look at the poor people as you drive by on the way to the resort where you’re going to sit in the hot tub and suffer for Jesus?” That still makes me laugh today, and no, it wasn’t that kind of trip. The reason we were challenged with what to say is we knew ahead of time how Ten Days operated. When you weren’t building a church building, you were hitting the poverty laden streets of the villages and inviting people to meet in five minutes to hear a special message which included you sharing your personal testimony for two minutes.

Okay, we live in America, even our poorest live better than 2/3rds of the world. We tend to not stop and think when we invite someone to church about what the enticement is for that. It’s church. It’s a good thing to do, right? We live in America. There is the hope of better jobs and better status and going to church is a good habit to have and it does help and instruct us to live a better life. But when you are faced with telling someone in a foreign country, who has nothing and probably will have nothing tomorrow and the next week and the next month; why they should listen to what you have to say, well, it made me think long and hard about what to say.

It was a good thing, though. It made me realize how we can feel the need to “dress up” the Gospel or depend on a church setting for the overall presentation. Perhaps it’s our American society and how we’ve been trained; we’re used to getting a list of amenities with whatever we’re presented. From our cars, to our technological devices, to our neighborhoods, schools and even our jobs we want to know all “the perks” or the “extras” or the “bells and whistles” that are going to come with it. So naturally we might be conditioned to feel the need to package the Gospel and put some nice shiny things and additional enticements around it. The thought of facing very poor people who live with no running water, no jobs, sometimes no food and hanging sheets for doors without providing some additional promises can make you think long and hard about the subject of “what do I say?”

The time came and we made the trip to Baja, Mexico where worked in a little community about two hours south of Tijuana. We would get up and travel there from our lodging each day and our group would rotate between building on a church building, visiting the kids in school or going out into the street, knocking on doors

and asking people to gather at a designated location near their home.

That first time we hit the street and started knocking on doors we began to invite people to meet in five minutes near a certain building that had been picked out as our meeting spot. By the way, five minutes in Mexico actually means 30-45 minutes, they don’t have the same hectic, urgent, go-go-go sense of time we have here in America. We’d canvass the neighborhood and return to our meeting spot about 30-45 minutes later and people would begin to trickle down the streets to wait for our little meeting to start.

I was so curious for that first meeting to take place. We were standing on a dirt street, it was hot and dusty, there wasn’t a nice air conditioned building to meet in, no padded pews to sit on (everyone stood), no PA system, no worship band or instruments... nothing. Here we were, waiting for the main speaker, Bob Sanders, to begin to speak.

Ten Days Missions partners with Baja Christian Ministries (BCM) for these mission trips and BCM was founded by Bob who began serving the poor in Mexico in 1984 before starting BCM in 1991. Let me say that Bob is pretty much your average white guy. He’s a humble man with a gentle spirit, nothing really stands out about him, well, except for the fact he has spent over two decades working in Mexico and his Spanish is ... let’s just say, not good. So he speaks through an interpreter. He doesn’t really do anything special when he speaks, no “preacher voice”, he’s not overly animated and he has old jokes he throws in... very old jokes. So to sum all that up, he’s no Billy Graham! But when you’re doing what God has called you to do, you don’t have to be Billy Graham! Probably another one of our perceptions in presenting the Gospel is our focus on the messenger and not the message.

I have told you all of that to set up what I witnessed on that first meeting and each day following. Bob took 10 minutes to share the Gospel with that group of people that day. Remember, no amenities, no worship band to get the crowd warmed up, no nice building, no programs to hand out, nothing but a simple, heart-felt presentation of the Gospel. As he spoke, an amazing thing happened. I watched the faces of some of the people listening and their countenance began to change! Their expressions told that they there were being drawn into what was being said, it was hitting a place in their heart that we all have. He stood there and gave them the basic Gospel message, “God loves you,” “He wants to know you and for you to know Him,” “He sent His son

Jesus to live on this earth, be crucified and resurrected again so that we could have the relationship with God that He wishes for us to have.” And it was powerful! Many were moved to tears!

There was no piano playing softly, there was no altar or altar call, there was no ambient lighting, none of that. Just plain broad daylight in the dusty streets and people given the chance to accept Jesus Christ! And they did! We’d gather with them individually at the end of the meeting and pray with them as they made a life-changing decision. Then the Baja Christian Ministries team would gather their name and information in order to continue to follow up and train and disciple the new believers over the course of coming months and years on the foundations of being a follower of Christ.

That trip was one of the greatest experiences I’ve had in my life! It was eye-opening for me in regard to the true power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It reminded me that regardless of whether a person is rich or poor we all have that part inside of us that desires to know God, every man and woman in every country around this world, and there just needs to be someone to make the introduction.

It heightened my awareness to not judge the out-

side of a person and determine whether they would be interested in the Gospel, we do not have the ability to see the heart. It also raised my awareness as to just how POWERFUL the Gospel is....all by itself! God doesn’t require or need us to spruce it up or try to make it appealing, or to even spruce ourselves up or be a Billy Graham. He just asks us to share it with someone and He does the rest.

If you ever have the chance to make such a mission trip, I would tell you it’s one of the greatest experiences you can have. We all may not get the opportunity to make such a trip, but I’m pretty sure we all will get the opportunity to introduce Jesus to someone in our regular everyday lives. Always remember when you get that opportunity, and you will, that the Gospel is more POWERFUL than we can ever truly imagine! Don’t underestimate its power and others desire and NEED to hear it! God bless!

John Mathis

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Photo courtesy of chefranden



TMBQ

The Melody Boys Quartet
established 1949



Retires After 63 Year Career

By Sandi Duncan Clark

In the mid to late thirties, a number of Southern Gospel Quartets performed under the auspices of the Stamps Baxter Company. With this association, the quartets would travel, and participate in the Stamps Baxter Singing Schools and other concerts, selling the Stamps Baxter songbooks. They agreed to sing the music in the songbooks, exactly as it was written.

One such group was the Stamps Baxter Melody Boys Quartet. The quartet was owned and managed by well-known bass singer, Herschel Foshee, and "Smiling" Joe Roper. Roper played piano for the quartet, along with writing and arranging the quartet's music. His arrangements were often at odds with the original version of the song, which did not please those at Stamps Baxter.

When Joe and Herschel were drafted and went away to war, a number of other singers and pianists were part of the quartet. After their stint of service, Joe and Herschel came home, reorganized the quartet and in

1947 relocated the group to Little Rock, Arkansas. During the early years of radio, local stations did live studio broadcasts and Gospel music was welcomed by many sponsors as family entertainment. The group would incorporate comedy along with the music, appealing to a large variety of listeners. Southern Gospel Music was a big draw in the South, and The

Stamps Baxter Melody Boys Quartet was very well-known in the state of Arkansas. They took on three daily radio shows at the Little Rock station KARK, and worked a five night concert schedule as well.

Along with The Melody Boys, Herschel Foshee launched The Herschel Foshee Junior Quartet with four young, talented teenagers and hired a teenaged Gerald Williams, 16, to sing bass. Other members of the Junior Quartet were James Burleson, 16, Tommy Ashcraft, 12, and Freddy Holmes, 13. This was Gerald Williams' first regular stint with a quartet, and a dream come true for this young man. These young men's lives would

be intertwined for many years through their love for Southern Gospel Music.



CIRCA 1948
TOMMY ASHRAFT,
FREDDY HOLMES,
GERALD WILLIAMS,
JAMES BURLESON

Over the years, personnel changes were frequent, due to the economy. The senior quartet and the junior quartet often performed on the same program, and Herschel was impressed with the young Gerald Williams. Herschel trained Gerald to sing the low bass notes that Herschel, himself, sang. Herschel had heart and blood pressure problems, and was soon too ill to travel, so Gerald could carry the part. When Herschel was able to travel, he and Gerald would share the bass part, allowing Herschel to rest during the times that Gerald was singing.

In 1949, when Herschel passed away from a heart attack, the senior quartet asked Gerald to fill-in. They were concerned that his high school years would interfere with the quartet's touring availability. Due to the economy, Gerald had quit school to help with family obligations, and once the quartet knew that school would not be a problem, Gerald became the full-time bass singer with The Melody Boys Quartet.

From that time until now, Gerald Williams has been involved with The Melody Boys, with the exception of a very few years. Following his marriage to Martha Bevill and the birth of his children, Gerald's priority was to earn a living for his family. Several times he

had to take on other employment to provide for them, but eventually would rejoin the group. Gospel music was his life, and although he struggled a few years with his feelings that God was calling him into a pastoral ministry, Gerald learned during a horrific accident and time of healing, that his calling was to the ministry of quartet music.

In late 1995, on a trip passing through Nashville, Tennessee, The Melody Boys Quartet sang at a small Methodist church on the outskirts of the city. The quartet had issued an invitation to Zion Music producer Kevin McManus to come hear them. Kevin thoroughly enjoyed the quartet, and quickly offered them a recording contract. The group recorded their "Sing Me A Song" project with Kevin in February 1996.

In two short months following the release of their recording, Gerald buried his precious wife, Martha. His work with the quartet helped with the grief, and it was through one of their concerts that Gerald met his "second," Martha; Martha Chamblee, at a concert in Little Rock, Arkansas. Martha was one of the promoters of the concert, and the two struck up a friendship. Martha soon became Gerald's wife. His future was looking up, as well as the future of the quartet.





“During a break in my singing a number of years ago, I spent a few years in radio, and I will be doing commercial voice overs for radio and television,” Gerald finished.

Please join us in wishing the best for the members of The Melody Boy’s Quartet as they retire the group. And, if you in or around the Little Rock, Arkansas area, spending New Year’s Eve, be sure to take in the Melody Boys Exit 63 Concert on December 31 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, 12400 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72210. You will want to contact Mike Franklin at 501.920.8911 for ticket information. Be sure to call early, as tickets are expected to go quickly!

In 1996 the quartet made the decision to go full time, and recorded their second album, “Mercy Called My Name” in 1997, and their third, “Faith In My Savior,” in 1998. Their first radio single, “Faith In My Savior” was their first nationally charting song.

The Melody Boys Quartet has continued a very active, productive and enjoyable career, and continues to be one of the true Gospel quartets, singing pure Southern Gospel Music. When I want to hear old fashioned Southern Gospel Music, I pull out my Melody Boys Quartet albums, and spend an afternoon enjoying their music.

In early January, this year, Gerald and the quartet announced they would be retiring at the end of this year. On December 31, the quartet will complete 63 years of singing, with a concert that is being promoted as their “Exit 63 Concert” in their hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas.

In speaking with Gerald concerning the future of each member of the Melody Boys, he tells us that Jason Tapley and Chris Walton will be accepting positions with other quartets. “Mike Franklin may do the same, but hasn’t made a decision,” Gerald said. “As for me, I will still be singing, doing special guest appearances and the group will possibly do one or two classic appearances throughout the year.” He was quick to tell us that he will not be giving up Gospel music.



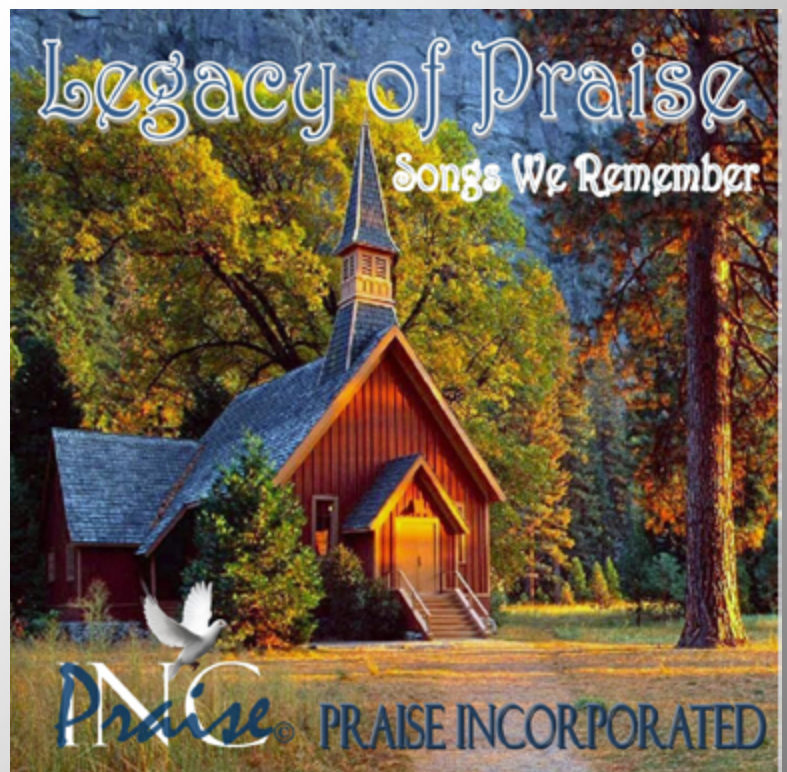
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Chronicles of a Singing English Teacher

By: Jeff Hawes



It has been an eventful and busy month for Karen Peck and New River. October is one of the busiest months for our group, yet is one of the most blessed times we have for revisiting some of our favorite locations in the country. We spent two days at Dollywood where we performed six shows. There's always something special about being in Dollywood. The crowds are FANTASTIC! It is a homecoming, per say, of southern gospel music lovers. With it being celebrated all month at the park, it is a great time for friends and supporters of southern gospel to unite and worship together. We love working for a place that allows gospel music to come to the forefront of the park. They do not tell us what to say or what not to say while we are there; they allow us to worship freely. This is definitely an establishment I want to invest my time and money in.

After leaving Dollywood, we were on a two week tour across the nation. We spent time in several states including Ohio, West Virginia, Missouri, and others. One of our favorite places to stop is at Meramec Caverns in Stanton, Missouri. Every year, the Lesters have their annual concert at Meramec Caverns, the hideout of Jesse James. I'll never forget the first time I entered the cave as I thought "We're gonna sing in this cave?" It has become such a treat to be able to come each year. The Lester family is one of the sweetest and most talented families we work with. Although we don't get to see each other often, I love being in the midst of their anointed singing and worship. One of my favorite songs as a young guy was "He Didn't Throw the Clay Away," which was made popular by the Lesters. If you have not gone to see them, please make plans to visit with them when they are in your area.

This trip also brought along the bright oranges and yellows—the colors of fall. No wonder it is one of my favorite times of year. It is almost as if the Lord has stretched his hand down to us, painting a new picture before us. It is absolutely breathtaking. It always amazes me that the one who created everything and changes the colors, who makes the planets align, who tells the sun when to shine, knows who I am and sent his son to die so that I might live.

One of my favorite songs is "Consider the Lillies." My aunt Brenda sang the song when I was younger, and she had a beautiful voice. She passed away in 2006, but I will never forget her interpretation of the song. She brought it to life. I was reminded of this song as I walked around the river at Meramec Caverns. To think that if God loves the flowers and animals enough that he created them with such care, love, and creativity, how much more does He love us? We are His grand design. He cares when we are weary, when we can't pay our bills, when our marriages are failing; when our kids have deserted all that they were taught. "He has eyes full of mercy and a heart full of love." To imagine his eyes looking at us with mercy, with forgiveness and redemption is astonishing.

The fact is: God loves you. Not only does he love you, but as Mark Lowry says, "He likes you." He wants the best for us so that we may bring glory to His name. As you walk outside and notice the beautiful colors of fall, be reminded of the glorious creation God has in you.

The Singing Cookes

After 50 Years, They Are STILL Cookin'!!



By Charlie Sexton

The huge 2002 Prevost XLII tour bus rolls into town. Everyone who sees it points and stares. Could it be some big name celebrity? Maybe it's some new 'flash-in-the-pan' country artist? Or is it the rolling home of some high profile political candidate? Perhaps, it's the Queen of Pigeon Forge, Dolly Parton, who is coming home for a few days to hold court at her wildly successful theme park in East Tennessee. No, it's none of the above. But to some – me included – the folks on this 45 foot coach are Southern Gospel royalty. It's none other than Mama Cooke and her boys! (That's what I've always called them as long as I've known them!)

Hubert and Jeanette Cooke, along with their three sons, James, Ronny and Donny, collectively known as The Singing Cookes, have traveled the world for 50 years consistently sharing the Good News of Jesus to countless thousands, yea, even millions of fans. That's a staggering statement, especially given the humble beginnings of the two who sit at the helm of this time-honored ministry.

At a very young age, Hubert found himself employed as a coal miner in the hills of Virginia. Soon, he met and married a preacher's daughter, Jeanette. Before long, they felt God's call upon their lives to

carry the Gospel in song. With only two Gibson Hummingbird guitars, and a determination to succeed, Hubert left the coal mine, and he and Jeanette started singing to anyone who would listen. Before long, they had the opportunity to make their first recording. It's interesting to note that even in the studio, their staunch faith was very apparent. Why, they even ran the microphone cords through the pages of an open Bible, during the sessions. God must have surely blessed that act of obedience. This recording opened many doors for The Cooke Duet.

In a few years, eldest son James came to join Mom and Dad, on bass guitar, and was quickly followed by Ronny on piano, and eventually, young Donny on drums. James sang the third harmony part. By the late 70s, The Singing Cookes had gained national radio success with Kyla Rowland's very first composition, 'He Will Roll You Over The Tide.' That was just the first in a long line of hits that carved a place in Country Gospel Music for this wonderful family aggregation.

It's a rare thing to see a group maintain the same members for just a few years, anymore. Even for family groups. But, amidst the ebb and flow of a few auxiliary musicians here and there, the 5-piece family

unit has never changed. That's probably a record in any genre!

Jeff Brahnham, to capture the 50th Anniversary Concert on audio and video, respectively. The doors opened,



On Saturday, September 22, 2012, The Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN was the site for a very special day in the history of the Cooke family. A host of friends and relatives met together for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship during an informal 'Cooke Out' that featured a picnic buffet of hamburgers and hot dogs, complete with all the traditional fixin's. After everyone had enjoyed sitting around the tables, and had perused the massive photo displays that chronicled the lives and musical careers of The Singing Cookes, the attendees were treated to a private 'unplugged' concert. Hubert and Jeanette picked up the now legendary Gibson guitars, and poised themselves behind the original gold-plated Shure microphone that they had used so often in their early days. Laughs, tears, and shouts rang out for the next hour or so, as we were all transported back in time. Before too long, a question and answer session ensued. The question of the day was, "How old is Jeanette?" Of course, her trademark answer, "39 and holding", was met with thunderous applause, and full body belly laughs. Yes, Mama Cooke was the one holding court, and no one was gonna get anything on her!!!

A few hours later, the venue had been transformed into a high tech concert hall, complete with intelligent lighting, video projection screens, and top of the line sound equipment. Ronny Cooke had secured the services of long time friends, Alan Maggard and

and within minutes, the hall was filled with folks ready for more of The Singing Cookes, and, they weren't disappointed.

Song after song and memory after memory rolled off the stage and into the hearts of each of us in attendance. It was a sweet time of worship, mixed with a little reflection. The recurring theme, however, was that God had been faithful, and always true to His Word. The only break in the program was when Roane County Commissioner, Randy Ellis, presented The Singing Cookes with a joint resolution from the Tennessee House of Representatives and Senate, signed by Governor Bill Haslam, honoring their 50 years of service and dedication to Southern Gospel Music.

All too quickly, the night came to an end, but not before numerous handshakes and neck hugs were exchanged between old and new friends alike. After the crowds had vacated the premises, and the road crew had begun their dutiful task, Hubert and Jeannette could be seen walking hand in hand, and heart in heart, toward their bus. No doubt, they were reflecting on the blessings of life, and the joys of the day... and about "cookin' up" another 50 years of family ministry for the Lord.



Congratulations to 2012 Diamond Award Winners!

The fans have spoken! The 2012 Diamond Awards winners were named at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention on October 30, in Pigeon Forge. Congratulations to all nominees and winners.

Opening round for the 2013 nominations is scheduled for February 18. Next year's winners will be named at the 2013 Creekside Gospel Music Convention next October. We urge you to participate in voting from round one all the way through to the end, and then join us in Pigeon Forge for the Diamond Awards Show.

Christian Country Male

Guy Penrod

Christian Country Female

Christy Sutherland

Christian Country Group of the Year

The Isaacs

Christian Country Album of the Year

Breathe Deep- Guy Penrod

Favorite Artist Website

Gaither.com

Mixed Group of the Year

The Isaacs

Favorite Industry Website

Gospel Music Today, Ken and Jean Grady

Lou Hildreth Award

Rhonda Frye

Patricia Mathis

Bluegrass Artists of the Year

The Isaacs

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award

Jonathan Edwards

Favorite DVD/Video of the Year

Gaither's- Tent Revival

Male Soloist of the Year

Jason Crabb

Female Soloist of the Year

Janet Paschal

ANTHONY BURGER INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR

Gordon Mote

Sunrise Award

Beyond the Ashes

Duet of the Year

Wilburn and Wilburn

J.D. SUMNER LIVING LEGEND AWARD

Ann Downing

Trio of the Year

Booth Brothers

Quartet of the Year

Gaither Vocal Band

Dottie Rambo Songwriter of the Year

Gerald Crabb

Publisher's Choice Award

Lou Hildreth

Album of the Year

The Song Lives On- Jason Crabb

Song of the Year

"Hear My Heart" written by Sheri Easter, Joel Lindsey, Wayne Haun





Artist Spotlight: *Mercy's Well*

By Angela Griffin



The vibrant leaves of autumn are falling as we shine the artist spotlight down on Mercy's Well of Greensboro, NC. This Ministry started as a duet in 1998 but quickly transitioned to an all-male trio in 2001 under the direction of founder, Brad Strider. The group's first three single releases paved the way for their first Top 80 single in 2005. Throughout the past seven years the group has continued to produce chart topping singles.

The group's tenor, Brad Strider of Greensboro, NC has spent the past 23 years in some form of musical ministry. "The message and my Christian heritage is the reason I sing Gospel music today," says Brad. "My late grandfather was a shape notes singing school teacher and my parents were in a quartet back in the late 50's. It's in my blood!"

Another very talented member is Greg Gainer of Lockhart, SC who serves as baritone for Mercy's Well. He is an accomplished keyboardist who accompanies Mercy's Well on stage. He is versatile and a perfectionist.

Kyle King of Princess Anne, MD is the newest member of the group. Kyle joined the ministry in early 2010. "Kyle was a good fit for our ministry and is a good strong Christian young man," states Brad. "He also has a degree in Worship and Music Studies."

The group's latest release *MODERN HYMNS FOR EVERY GENERATION* completes the groups' "Hymn" series that began in 2005 and is loved by all. The new CD features modern worship songs like "You Are God Alone," "Blessed Be Your Name," and "In Christ Alone." "They are great songs that are

being sung in churches today and we feel they will become timeless classics,” Brad explains. “We also included the old song ‘How Marvellous’ and in my opinion the ultimate worship song ‘How Great Thou Art’.”

This project showcases the versatility that Mercy’s Well is known for. They are also known as being very blended, a group that reaches every generation. “We have sung ‘It Is Well with My Soul’ at every worship service for the past seven to eight years,” Brad shares. “It has a depth of theology that works for the young to the elderly. People can relate to our version. It’s almost like they’re hearing the song for the very first time.”

Dinner Concert” in Asheboro, NC on Sunday evening, November 25th. The event kicks off the Mercy’s Well Christmas Tour.

Mercy’s Well has a great sound and delivers great music, but they are very serious when it comes to ministry! Brad shares: “We take what we do very seriously. People are being encouraged as we deliver a message of hope. We come prepared to evangelize if there are lost souls, but more often than not, we’re singing to people who know the Lord. They just need to hear the message of hope. In fact, we’ve recently had people contact us that are going through some unbelievable circumstances in their life. Just to know that our music has ministered to them



Fall is a time when most artists tend to slow down, but it is quite the opposite for Mercy’s Well. “We actually kick it into high gear,” states Brad. In fact, the group is putting the finishing touches on their new Christmas project. “We are like little kids at Christmas,” Brad jokes!

Brad, Greg and Kyle are looking forward to their 3rd annual “Christmas with Mercy’s Well

in their time of need is very humbling for us. We have found this to be our niche. We are still ministering to God’s people.”

Please log onto www.mercyswell.com for a complete overview of Mercy’s Well ministries and to view their tour schedule.

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Leftovers for a Lifetime

By Scott Rhoades



It's the Saturday after Thanksgiving and I'm wondering just what will be on the menu for today... let's see...turkey, turkey sandwich, turkey soup, turkey-a-la-king...the possibilities are endless! It takes me back to those old post-holiday meals of kiddom and never wanting to see another re-heated bird as long as I lived...or at least for another year. It made me want to pull out a yellow flag and yell "foul!" Interesting enough, after years of experience and refined tastes, I find myself begging Kasey to secure a small stash on which to feast for many days to come!

Over the course of this Thanksgiving holiday season, I resolved to take a few moments each day to remind myself of all the perpetual goodness God has allowed to fall onto our plates. Of course there's the typical heap of McDondaldiliain food, folks, and fun; you'd be crazy not to include those! There's also the expected serving of faith, family, and health...ah yes, what would we do without them! But as I continue to reminisce about the blessings of the year, I find myself full of thanks for the leftovers – the tiny servings of "stuff" that, although small, continually build over time, contributing to what is the "here and now" of my life.

Do you enjoy the leftovers? You know, the habit, trait, or characteristic we adopted from those we've observed "getting it right". Perhaps the tidbits of wisdom from parents, teachers or mentors which we have included in our collective volumes on how we view the

world or the simple everyday courtesies of a smile, a handshake, a hug, a gesture of goodwill, or someone simply taking a few moments to sincerely ask you about your day, and actually sticking around to listen to more than just the highlights.

Jesus knew the value of leftovers. He took a mere serving of two fishes and five loaves of bread and not only fed a crowd of five thousand, but filled twelve extra baskets. Not only did these men, women, and children have the opportunity to walk away with extra food, their hearts were also filled with the leftovers of His mercy, love, and compassion – feeding their lives and those around them for years and years to come.

The next time you stop to count your blessings, don't forget the leftovers that have made you what you are, and don't forget to dish out those extra servings to those around you...you too could feed someone for a lifetime!

"So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained". Matthew 14:20

Photo courtesy of youngthousands



The Littles

By Lorraine Walker

There are many venues that represent success in Gospel music, but few are as respected as the Main Stage at the National Quartet Convention (NQC). The artists that perform on this revered platform are the best of the best. The Littles, a family group from Monroe, North Carolina, have been working hard to achieve their goals as Christian artists. This year they have seen their first single release to radio hit the charts and they were thrilled to be asked to perform on the Main Stage this September in Louisville Kentucky. Hard work, diligence to their craft and keeping their mind on ministry has allowed these artists to begin to see their dreams fulfilled.

Someday Soon is the latest CD from The Littles, recorded at Harvest Gospel Studios in Huntington, West Virginia. The project was arranged and produced by John Darin Rowsey and the single "I Know" debuted on the Singing News Top 80 Chart at #64. This was also the song The Littles chose to sing on the Main Stage of NQC, where they were asked to appear as the Top Showcase Group. "We each felt incredibly honored and excited, but at the same time humbled that the Lord would allow us the opportunity to share His love with so many," says Jack Little. "Just thinking of the potential doors God will open as a result of those few minutes on the main stage, and the hearts that He will be able to reach through us is something to be excited about!"

“We chose to sing “I Know” for a few reasons,” Little continues. “First and foremost, the message of the song is so important for believers. There are many things about life we don’t understand, but we can live with certainty that God has everything under control and He loves us so much! Secondly, it is our current release to radio, and not only are we proud of what the Lord is doing, but we also wanted to honor the hard work of the writers who so kindly allowed us to record their song, Ms. Tammie Herring, and Ms. Sheri Thrower.”

Singer/Songwriter Sheri Thrower says, “I sure wish I could’ve been at NQC this year, but I am so thrilled to hear all the good reports. I guess I’m especially glad to hear about The Littles who won the Regional Artist Show Case and were honored to sing on the main stage with a song Tammie Herring and I wrote called, “I Know.” They are Steve Hurst School of Music students and have worked so very hard. Their first single ever, in the first month, has hit the charts. More than that, this family is tight! They have been

Ministry is something that Jack Little, an ordained Baptist preacher, has been familiar with for over 17 years. Jack was introduced to Southern Gospel after becoming a Christian in 1987 and then began singing with his wife Jan in various groups. In 2006, their daughter Rebecca joined them and they began traveling locally as The Littles, while continually striving to improve their sound and performance. They also began to attend the Steve Hurst School Of Music. Director Steve Hurst says, “The Littles are a part of the Steve Hurst School family. We are so glad to be a part of their ministry. The Littles have worked so hard to reach the vocal level where they are now singing. Their love for the Lord coupled with their music abilities will take them far. We believe that many lives are changed each day by their ministry. Churches and promoters would be blessed by bringing the Littles to into their services and concerts. We are blessed to know them.”

Another Steve Hurst School Of Music staff member is Gary Casto of Tribute Quartet. “Over the years I have had the privilege and honor to work with



through very difficult circumstances and the Lord has raised them up. I think your readers would love hearing how this group can sing songs like “I’m Gonna Make It” and others on their project, because of their faith and strength in the Lord. It’s true that you can tell if a person or group has been broken by the way they sing. The Littles don’t just perform, they minister.”

great and talented artists,” says Casto. “The Littles are no exception. Their ministry is not only made up of individual talent, great harmony and blend but they use this talent under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Ministries like The Littles are what excite me, knowing that the future of Southern Gospel Music is bright.”

The respect that the Steve Hurst School of Music staff has for The Littles is obviously returned by the family. Jack Little says, “Steve Hurst School of Music has played a tremendous part in our ministry both spiritually and technically. The instruction and direction we have received over the past six years from some of the best in gospel music has been invaluable to us.”

“We cannot stress how important it is to continue to hone your craft,” Little continues. “Even those at the top of their field never think they have it all figured out. Just like the successful businessman is constantly thinking of new techniques to employ, the singer should never assume they have perfected their craft. There is always something new to learn, always something we can do better to improve what we do and again, it cannot be stressed enough how important it is to never be satisfied. The Lord tells us to work at what we do with all of our hearts as if we are working for Him. We think that continuing to improve your craft is part of that.”

As The Littles continue to improve their craft, their achievements are audible in their latest CD, *Someday Soon*. A delightful blend of traditional sounds, experienced vocals and close family harmony, this project will likely deliver more charting hits for the family. The single “I Know” has a great country/pop feel that

is reminiscent of The Martins. Rebecca comments, “It’s fun, energetic, full of God’s truth, and the audience seems to settle right into the groove with us. Although our future is unknown, we can rest knowing that God holds it, and He loves us!”

Jack Little’s favorite song from this CD is “The First Day of Forever.” He says, “This song reminds us that we are not home. It reminds us that very soon time will give way to eternity and we will step into our first day of forever where we will be reunited with loved ones who have gone before us. Most importantly it reminds us that we’ll be with the One who died for us!”

Jan and Rebecca both say that “I’m Gonna Make It” is their favorite. Jan says, “It reassures me of the promises that God has made to me, even in the midst of some of the most difficult times in life.” Rebecca adds, “I have to agree with mom. ‘I’m Gonna Make It’ is such a powerful tool for our ministry. It never ceases to challenge believers to hold fast to God’s



promises and encourage them that they can make it through life’s trials.” An encouraging song for believers, the group says this song always engenders a great response from their audience.

Encouragement is important for audience and performers alike, and Jack says he appreciates the heroes in his life that have found time to encourage the ministry of The Littles. “There are many who have helped me greatly over the past few years through



advice, friendship, support, and direction,” Jack says. “Steve Hurst, Gary Casto and Mark Trammel come to mind ... I remember Steve telling us several times over the past six years that in the Lord’s timing our ministry would flourish and doors would open. That statement has been a great encouragement to me as we have continued to work at our music ministry.”

Rebecca agrees with her father about the influence of their friends in Gospel Music. “Mark Trammel has played such an important role in my life from the very first time I met him six years ago,” says Rebecca. “He planted a seed in my heart that the Lord used to



bring me to salvation and I will forever be grateful for him. Mark truly is one of the finest singers in gospel music, not just because he has a wonderful voice, but because of the heart he has to see others come to know the Lord and grow in their relationship with him. He means what he sings and he is an example of Godliness and class that all in the ministry should learn from. He has given me many pearls of wisdom over the years, and I am so thankful for him in my life!”

Jan is also thankful for the groups’ friends and advisors that have assisted them over the years. However, she says, “My mom, Becky Luther, is my *hero* in gospel music. I grew up singing with her and my dad. She not only taught me to sing but she taught me how one should live their life in a way that is pleasing to our

God Who we sing about.”

Family is very important to The Littles personally and in their ministry. Jack and Jan have two other children, Carrie and Jackie, who travel with the group as often as they can, although they don’t sing onstage. “Family means everything!” Jack continues, “When it’s all said and done, when everyone else might have forsaken you, if you fail miserably...your family is there.” Jan concurs, “My family means everything to me. God has blessed us with three beautiful children and a grandson that we love dearly.”

“When I think about what my family means to me, I cannot help but think that I really do not know life without them,” says Rebecca. “I do not imagine that I would be where I am or who I am today without the love and support of family. It is so easy to take them for granted sometimes, but they truly are the ones that stick by me when it seems no one else does. They mean everything to me.

As the Littles know, family is there when everyone else leaves, and their tight-knit family unit is one many would envy. However, even their family has experienced their share of heartbreak. Jack says, “Everyone experiences difficult times in life. Our lives are no different than others. But, perhaps the hardest time for us was the death of Jan’s youngest sister a few years ago. While each of us lose loved ones, this was even the more tragic as she took her own life, in our presence. Fortunately, Jan was outside the room where all this took place.”

“While events like these bring far more questions than answers, the Lord has been faithful,” continues Jack. “And, we have simply chosen to trust His Word, believing the promise of Romans 8:28 where Paul wrote, ‘All things work together for good to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose.’ His Word, along with the love, support, and prayers of our church family sustained us through this dark time. Situations like this are what make songs like “I’m Gonna Make It” and “Hold Me”, from our previous CD, so special for us because we can tell our audiences from experience that no matter what life throws our way, we can make it and He *will* hold us when we feel we just can’t go on.”

The big and little trials of life form the fabric of family, and The Littles know it is important to share these experiences with their audiences from the

stage. They also share with their fans on their website, through a blog entitled 'Little Moments'. Heartfelt vignettes of daily life showcase the faith of the family members. Jack shares, "We created Little Moments out of a desire to share our lives with those we come in contact with in our ministry. Within the writing found on this page of our website readers will see some of the deepest parts of our hearts. It is important for believers to share both the good and the bad. Being able to walk

Of her early life, Jan says, "I was the daughter of a minister of music, and the granddaughter of my pastor, so there you have it. When the doors were opened I was in church, but I would not take anything for those years. I thank God that He chose me to be that daughter and granddaughter. My heritage goes back for many generations and so I can honestly say that the foundation was laid way before I was born. God used these years to show me that a head-knowledge doesn't



this journey of life with others who share in the same joys, hardships, and trials is one of the most precious gifts the Lord has given us. We never want to waste one minute of praise or chance to encourage, and it is our hope that anyone who reads Little Moments will leave feeling refreshed and encouraged in the Lord."

Encouragement and refreshment from the Lord can be experienced in the music and ministry of The Littles. One might almost think that each member has had a life-long relationship with Jesus, from the time they were small children, to have such strong faith. However, this is not the case. "I actually didn't really grow up in church," says Jack. "My family attended the usual times like Christmas, Easter, and Vacation Bible School. It wasn't until my high school years that I began to attend church with a girlfriend. Her parents said that if I was going to hang around their daughter I had to go to church! Looking back I see how this time was orchestrated by God to begin to draw me unto Himself. Once I met Jan, who had always been active in church, God's plan for me came to fruition as I trusted Christ as Lord and Savior in 1987."

equate to a heart-knowledge. Thankfully I realized this and trusted Christ as my Lord and Savior in November 1987."

"Preacher Jack" is all I have ever known," laughs Rebecca, referring to her father. "In fact, there were many times I thought about changing my name to 'Preacher Jack's daughter', which is what I was commonly referred to as I was growing up. I love my church heritage and am thankful for Godly parents that raised me in church. Many times as a young girl I would complain about being at church so much, because we honestly lived there, but now I would not trade it for the world. Although I was not saved until I was almost 19, being in church laid a solid foundation for my faith that otherwise would have not been there when I came to know Christ on a personal level. Now I see the importance of it as I am able to unite and fellowship with other believers in Christ. It is such a blessing."

The Littles believe strongly in the importance of doing their best for the King of Kings, honing the

gifts He has given and working hard to expand their ministry. However, they know their actual success is not in how many singles achieve the charts or how often they sing on the Main Stage at NQC, as great as these achievements are to any Gospel artist. When it comes to eternal success, they want to see more of their audience grow closer to Jesus Christ and make Him Lord of their lives. As Jack Little says, "Nothing in life is more important than knowing Christ as Lord and Savior, then following Him faithfully every day."

For more information on the Littles and their touring schedule, click on to: <http://jacklittleministries.com/home.cfm>

For more information on Sheri Thrower Ministries: <http://www.sherithrower.com/>

For more information on the Steve Hurst School Of Music: <http://www.stevhurstschoolofmusic.com/>

For more information on Gary Casto and the Tribute Quartet: <http://www.tributequartet.com/>

A promotional poster for The Gibsons. The top half features a photograph of the three members: a man on the left in a dark suit and red tie, a woman in the center sitting on a white ornate sofa wearing a red dress, and a man on the right in a dark suit and red tie. They are outdoors in front of a rustic wooden building with an American flag. The title "The Gibsons" is written in a large, stylized, cursive font at the top. The bottom half of the poster has a dark red background with white text. It says "Request our current radio release" followed by "Heal Our Land" in a large, stylized font. Below that is the website "www.TheGibsonss.com". At the bottom, it says "Please come by and see us at the National Quartet Convention booth # 877 pr at the the Regional Artist Showcase on Friday afternoon".

The Gibsons

Request our current radio release

"Heal Our Land"

www.TheGibsonss.com

Please come by and see us at the National Quartet Convention booth # 877
pr at the the Regional Artist Showcase on Friday afternoon

A promotional poster for In His Grip Promotions. The background is a brick wall. The title "In His Grip" is in large, bold, black letters with a white outline, and "PROMOTIONS" is in smaller, bold, black letters below it. Below that, "National Radio Release" is written in bold, black letters, followed by the website "www.facebook.com/inhisprippromo". At the bottom, "Contact Jason Brown" is written in bold, black letters. A small photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a light-colored shirt, is in the bottom right corner.

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By Laurette Willis,
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“I am the bread of life” John 6:48

Those words really put holiday overindulgence into perspective don't they? Perhaps the overindulgence we could enter into this Thanksgiving is filling up on the “bread of life” instead of the bread of this world, and then we would be truly thankful!

When we think of the bread of this world, do you think of physical bread? It can be that as well as what I call the “soul junk food” of this world. I'm referring to the PG-13, R-rated (and worse) so-called “entertainment” of this world (TV, movies, music, etc.).

Okay, now I'm meddling, right? It's just that I've found that if I'm filling up on the world's junk food through my eyes and ears, I also seem to want to satisfy my mouth with the world's processed junk foods for my body. Things of the flesh are connected, aren't they?

Likewise, things of a spiritual nature are often connected, too. When I'm taking in less *life* through the Word into my spirit, my spiritual discernment and choices in other areas of my life aren't as clear or focused.

Pick a Scripture Snack” Each Day

Fill up on *real* soul food! Pick one “Scripture snack” to chew on each day. Today my “snack” from the Word was the verse at the beginning of this article where Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”

Throughout the day I went back to that Word and asked the Lord to give me new revelation on it. I noticed my focus became clearer, I made better choices in a number of areas and I felt satisfied on the inside (not “stuffed” and numb from overindulging my flesh as I had so many times before).

More Practical Tips

In addition to ensuring your heart and mind are full of the Word, here are 5 tips to help you spearhead the movement in your family to a healthier Thanksgiving, Christmas and beyond:

1. Make a difference in someone's life. Focus on one or two people you are going to get to know better over the Thanksgiving holiday. This can be a member of your own family, a friend, a neighbor, perhaps even someone at church who needs to be with a family at Thanksgiving (why not yours?).
2. If you don't move, you lose. Much of the weight gain during the holidays is due to a lack of physical exercise. Decide to get some exercise in early in the day before the hubbub of activity starts.
3. Make it a family affair. After the big meal, be the instigator behind a “Let's all go outside and walk off some of that delicious dinner before dessert!” I think you'd be surprised how many will thank you for it later!
4. Don't skip meals. Even if you think you may be eating more over the holidays, don't make the mistake of skipping meals so you can “stock up” later.
5. Drink plenty of water. Stay well-hydrated. It will also ensure you eat less. We often reach for a high-calorie snack when our body is really crying out for water.

Above all, stay focused on making sure your spirit is well-fed. You will sail through Thanksgiving, Christmas and into 2013 with your heart full, your mind clear and your body full of energy as a fit witness for Christ. He is able to do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Eph. 4:20).

Let's believe Him for it – and share our victory in Jesus, the Bread of Life, with others this holiday season.

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> and something brand new: www.MIRAdance.com – MIRA! is Christian Fitness with a Latin Beat! Hallelujah!!! ©2012

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FOCUS ON THE YOUNG

WESLEY COMBS

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

If you've never heard this kid sing, you're missing out! Wesley Combs sings with his family group, Southern Joy. The group consists of him, his two sisters, and their father. They are all outstanding singers! I first had the privilege of meeting this family while singing in Waldo, FL when Wes was only about 13 years old. Immediately I was blown away. Here's the scoop.

Victoria: Wesley, how long have you been singing with your family?

Wesley: I started singing when I was 11 years old. I have been singing with my family for 6 years since the inception in 2006.

V: Tell us more about your family.

W: My Mom and Dad have been married for 25 years, and I have two beautiful sisters Jessica (23) and Alicia (19). Jessica has a 9 week old baby girl named Gracie and Alicia has a 8 month old boy named Rylan.

V: Where are you guys based out of?

W: We are based out a little town called Baldwin, FL near Jacksonville.

V: How did Southern Joy get started? Were any of the group

members singing elsewhere?

W: Southern Joy got started after my Dad left a group called New Gathering. Jessica and I helped fill in for New Gathering for about a year, but my Dad decided it was time to start a family trio.

V: Where do you see yourself in 10 years from now?

W: In ten years I still see myself singing full time for the Lord with my family.

V: What are some of your favorite hobbies?

W: Basketball has got to be my favorite hobby. I have been playing basketball since I was 8 years old. I play for Baker County High School in Macclenny, FL.

V: What's your favorite part about traveling and ministering?

W: My favorite part about traveling and ministering has got to be seeing people coming down to the altar and having their lives changed forever.



V: What's the latest going on with Southern Joy right now?

W: We are about to be in the studio in the next couple of weeks to start our new CD.

V: How old are you?

W: I am 17 years old, but I will be turning 18 on October 10th.

V: For people to get more information about where you're going to be singing live and for booking information, where would you send them?

W: Visit our website www.southernjoyministries.com.

Thank you Wesley, for taking a minute to give us the scoop on Southern Joy! These people are the real deal and wonderful to get to know personally. If you've never heard this group, I highly recommend you going to see them live in concert! You will not be disappointed!

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New Music for November

by Sandi Duncan Clark

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYONE! When Fall arrives, I'm so ready for the "cool-down" in the weather and the changes in the air, that I sometimes feel I'm rushing the season. Fall and Winter are my favorite times of the year so bring on the Holidays!

We all have so many things for which to be thankful, and honestly I think we never tell our Lord "Thank you" enough! We are blessed with so many of life's greatest blessings, and often forget the small things. On a short trip, recently, we were in an area where the drinking water was not as fresh and sweet as it is in our up-state South Carolina home. When we returned home I was so grateful for the fresh water that I mentioned it in our morning prayers and realized that small remembrances should be part of what we do on a daily basis! Thank you, Lord, for our home, our little town and the small things in our life that matter so much!

This month we're sharing some wonderful music with you, and I challenge you to secure your own copies of these delightful blessings.



ME AND A PIANO
Jeff Stice
Jeff Stice Music
Producer: Jeff Stice

"Ok, now sit back, put your feet up and listen to...ME AND A PIANO!" These are Jeff's final words in a note on inside cover of this tremendous musical offering. Jeff has been one of my favorite instrumentalists since I first heard him play years ago. His note here also says that fans have often asked him to play something without 'background music,' hence the making of this album, and the title. It is a pleasure from beginning to end.

'There's Something About That Name' launches fourteen hymns and Southern Gospel favorites for the listener's enjoyment. We've all heard hundreds of artists and church choirs sing that great song as well as 'Wait 'Til You See Me In My New Home,' yet you haven't heard them quite as beautifully as Jeff plays them.

According to Jeff, 'Mansion Over The Hilltop' is the first hymn he ever played and he elected to include this song on the album. Jeff commented, "I even included the first "lick" I ever added to a song." One of the most requested pieces of music any Southern Gospel pianist is asked to play is 'Goodbye World, Goodbye,' and Jeff's version of this song is one of the best you'll hear.

He plays 'What A Friend We Have In Jesus,' 'Jesus Loves Me,' 'Amazing Grace' and 'When We All Get To Heaven' and you'll sing along with all these old favorites. Having just read an article about the talented song writer and arranger, 'Smiling' Joe Roper, I enjoyed hearing Jeff play one of Joe's best known songs, 'A Sinner's Plea.'

Jeff does Wally Varner proud, playing Varner's 'Bell of Joy,' and presents a fantastic version of 'When They Ring Those Golden Bells.' As a proud Kentuckian, Jeff finishes out the recording with '(My Old Kentucky) Home.'

You'll appreciate this recording many times over, just for the pure enjoyment of this talented gentleman's artistic abilities. You may contact Jeff at www.jeffsticemusic.com.



GREATER THINGS
The Gospel Harmony Boys
Clear Water
Vocal Producer: John Darin Rowsey

For true Southern Gospel quartet harmony, you won't hear any better than West Virginia's own Gospel Harmony Boys. Tenor and manager, Clacy Williams has been a friend for a number of years, and leads this quartet into their 61st year of spreading the Gospel in song. Mind you, Clacy didn't join the group until 1971, and although the group has had personnel changes, their sound and harmony remains much the same today as when they first organized. Twelve songs, written by some of the industry's most talented song writers are performed here by one of the best quartets in the business.

The material chosen for GREATER THINGS is an eclectic mix of some of our favorite older songs, as well as some newer material. The arrangements are wonderfully diverse and most enjoyable. Each member of the group is featured on one or more songs, displaying their individual talent as well as the harmony and blend of the entire group. (I'm tapping my toes to the title song, 'Greater Things,' which features bass singer, Henry Riffe, and lead, Scott Brooks.)

You'll sing right along with Clacy Williams, who does a super job on the classic 'When He Calls I'll Fly Away.' 'More Than You'll Ever Know' features Scott Mullins and is an exquisite song with smooth harmonies.

Other songs on the project are 'I'm Glad I Know,' 'Take Time To Pray,' written by baritone, Scott Mullins, 'That's What Grace Is For' and John Darin Rowsey's 'Morning Glory.' Be sure to contact The Gospel Harmony Boys at www.gospelharmonyboys.org for your copy of GREATER THINGS.



STANDING FIRM
The Cupps
Independent
Producer: Kevin McManus

Some fifteen years ago, producer Kevin McManus introduced me to this young family and I was immediately impressed with their sincerity and talent. At the time, Troy and Barbara had two young daughters, Charity and Sarah. The family has now grown to four daughters, Sarah and Hannah, who sing with Mom and Dad and baby Leah, who, no doubt, will follow in the family tradition as soon as she is old enough. Eldest daughter, Charity is now married to Michael Watson and presented Troy and Barbara with their first grandchild, Baylee in 2011! Did I say this is a talented family?

There are ten notable songs on the recording, each with a solid message, and arranged specifically for the Cupps. The family sings Southern Gospel with a country/mountain style. One of my favorite songs features their young daughter Hannah. 'Grace Steps In' was written by Melissa Dawn Kennedy and you must hear this one for the message in the song and the talented young singer.

Music tracks feature exciting guitars, fiddle, and mandolin while session leader, Gary Prim adds an awesome country style piano providing a wonderful foundation for the Cupp's family harmony. Daughter Sarah does a great job on 'It Won't Be This way For Long,' a song written by her aunt, Rhonda Christian.

Other songs that will touch your heart are 'At The Name Of Jesus,' 'Lift Your Voice To Jesus,' 'Pray a Little Harder,' as well as a song written by Barbara Cupp, titled 'God's Not Finished With Me Yet.'

If you enjoy good family harmony, songs with a testimony and Southern Gospel music with a country flair, you will thoroughly enjoy and be blessed with the Cupps' brand new recording, STANDING FIRM. Check their website at www.thecupps.org for your copy!



NOTHING BUT LOVE
Brian Free and Assurance
Daywind Records
Producer: Ricky Free

This very capable quartet has been one of the industry's top performing groups since their inception in 1994. Brian has personally been in the forefront of Southern Gospel since the early '80s, and continues to be a favorite with all Southern Gospel fans. As one of those fans, I have anticipated this new recording and was not disappointed! The title song, 'Nothing But Love' set the pace for thirty five minutes of sensational Gospel music with a more progressive style. Brian is featured on this song which has a unique and impressive arrangement.

Ricky Free, Brian's older son, arranged and produced the recording for the quartet, which showcases the talent of the group. Ricky also co-wrote four of the ten songs, and added drums and electric guitar on the music tracks. Bryce Free, Brian's younger son, contributed to the project as layout and cover designer.

Along with the title song, other strong songs are 'If The Lord Says Do It,' 'Guard Your Heart,' 'You Can Be A Bridge' and 'I Want To Be That Man.' While this recording leans to a more progressive style Gospel, the four part male harmonies still provide the same pleasure as traditional Southern Gospel with Brian Free, Bill Shivers, Derrick Self and Jeremy Lile. The appeal of this quartet is their love for the Lord, their harmony and blend and the excitement they bring to the stage. They have the knack for choosing songs that enhance these qualities.

NOTHING BUT LOVE is highly recommended and is available by contacting the quartet at www.brianfreeandassurance.com.



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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

BY LORRAINE WALKER

The Breakfast Club, renowned for over 25 years for providing food, fun and fellowship for active seniors, is still providing talented entertainment and innovative programs for attendees across Florida, Ohio and Indiana. Directors Dave and Irma Edwards were joined in this endeavor in 2011 by their daughter and son-in-law, Liz and Jimmy McMillan of McMillan and Life. Gospel music plays a huge role in this Club that travels to Clearwater, Bradenton and Lakeland, Florida from November through April, and in Sugarcreek, Ohio and Shipshewana, Indiana in the months of June, July and August.

In the past, the Breakfast Club has hosted southern gospel groups, comedians, memorable favorites from the Lawrence Welk Show, Grand Ole Opry and even The Flying Wallendas. The upcoming season of 2012-2013 at The Breakfast Club looks just as sensational. Christian music artists The Jay Stone Singers and McMillan and Life lead into the Christmas season with performances by Dave Boyer and Evie, along with a trip to Troyers Dutch Heritage. The winter months are packed with exceptional talent, featuring Tribute Quartet, The Lesters, Tony Gore, Dixie Melody Boys and

many more. Each presentation includes breakfast and although many patrons are the snowbird seniors, the Breakfast Club provides entertainment that the whole family will enjoy.

Jimmy McMillan explains that he and Liz became involved with The Breakfast Club ministry of Dave and Irma Edwards to assist with the day-to-day responsibilities such as booking entertainment and assisting patrons. Jimmy says, "There are so many behind-the-scenes details necessary to maintain a program like the Breakfast Club. We are glad to be able to relieve Dave and Irma of a good deal of them. We are very excited at what the future holds and we are blessed to be a part of it."

When asked what this new season of ministry has meant for McMillan and Life Liz says, "Believe me we are still going strong. God worked all of this out in such a great way, we've simply scaled back our touring schedule during the Breakfast Club season, concentrating our national travel to the spring and fall months."

The Christmas Spectacular is a special part of the fall and winter season at The Breakfast Club, and



with the addition of “C’mon Ring Those Bells” artist Evie Karlsson, amidst the fantastic Christmas light display, snow, presents and over 40 Christmas trees, this year promises to be the best yet. “We’re thrilled to have Evie as our feature artist this year,” says Jimmy. “We had her with us last year and she was so well received we asked her to come back. She still delivers a song beautifully and is one of the kindest, most humble spirits I’ve ever met.”

Dave and Irma Edwards along with Jimmy and Liz McMillan, as well as dedicated volunteers and board members, work hard to present an inspirational and home-cooked ministry for hundreds of satisfied patrons every year. The Breakfast Club is more than just music, entertainment and good food; it provides the Bread of Life.

For more information on the Breakfast Club: <http://www.thebreakfastclubonline.com/>

The Breakfast Club on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Breakfast-Club/235687893385>

For more information on McMillan and Life: <http://www.mcmillanandlife.com/>

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TYLER HUDSON

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

I met a group of guys a couple years back. They were called the Men Of Music. From the first time I talked to Tyler Hudson, I knew we'd be great friends. They are all wonderful guys and so much fun to be around! Tyler has become a great buddy of mine, and I know you'll love him too! Here's the scoop...

Victoria: What's the latest going on with the Men Of Music?

Tyler: Well since we finished our new project, a few months ago, it just seems like the flood gates have opened from heaven! Our radio single, "If He Hadn't Gotten Out of the Boat" debuted in the Singing News charts at #59.

We have partnered with an organization called International Cooperating Ministries. They build churches (over 4300 to date) across the globe. ALL of these churches are 100% legal in the coun-

tries they are built in. ICM is sending us to Vietnam for a concert series in the beginning of next year. If you want to learn more about ICM and about how to donate to their ministry, please visit their website at www.icm.org.



Our schedule is filling up fast both for the remainder of this year and next year. We have a number of 7 to 10 day runs all of which take us away from our families a lot but, we know that we are out here doing the work that we are called to

do. We learned last week that we are up for two Grammy nominations this year. That's pretty amazing for three guys that are just out singing for the glory of God. We are just doing what we are called to do.

V: What would a typical day with the Men Of Music be like?

T: I don't know what a typical day for The Men Of Music would be, Vic! Let's see...it includes a lot of travel. I live in Florence, AL. Home base for the group is in Jackson, MS. So there is a LOT of travel involved just for us to meet up. I head down there, sometimes they come up here. And occasionally we meet at some point on the way to venues. There's also gonna be food in our typical days. We always, always eat! (hahaha) Then on the bus there is either silence because we are snoozing, lots of noise because there is a movie on, or lots of laughter because we are just a bunch of idiots having fun in a large steel tube with wheels. I guess maybe that answers your question as to what the typical day is like. But every day is far from typical to us.

V: You recently got married. Tell us about your new wife and family.

T: Back in November 2010, we had a concert booked on a Sunday night, in McHenry, MS. If you don't know where McHenry is, it's 20 minutes from the MS coast. From my front door, it's a 6 hour drive.

In the congregation that night was the prettiest girl I've ever seen. I somehow convinced her to call me later that night, and on February 4th, 2012, Kirsten Flurry became Mrs. Hudson. You asked me for a headshot of myself for this article, but I really felt like everyone needs to see my gorgeous bride. Plus, she is my support system, she is everything to me. She is the other half of my ministry. I couldn't send just a picture of me, Victoria, I had to include her too! Plus...she makes me look good!

She has a little boy named Nolan. I have known Kirsten since Nolan was 18 months old. I'm all he has ever known as Daddy, and in March he will become Nolan Hudson. He and she are my life. I can't imagine it without them!

I have to share this! Nolan knows every word, every sustain, swell, and inflection to every single song on our new cd! Kirsten can't listen to anything but The Men Of Music because Nolan has a fit to hear his Daddy, and Mister Matthew, and Mister Greg sing! It's precious!

V: Who does your group consist of?

T: Greg Colburn from Jackson, MS is the owner of the group and sings Baritone. Matthew Thompson sings lead and lives 45 minutes from Greg in White Oak, MS. I sing tenor and live 5 hours from the guys. I live in Florence, AL. If you're not familiar with it, I'm up in the north west corner of the state, 40 minutes from MS and 20 minutes from TN.

V: Okay, so I wasn't going to bring this up, but it's kind of a funny story between you and I. Just to set things up...When Tyler first got married, I had not talked to him in several months. So naturally, I had no idea when exactly he was getting married. Tell them what happened, Tyler.

T: Oh my goodness I can't believe you want me to tell this! Lol!

Okay so before I got married, the last time I saw Vic was in September at NQC. We chit chat every now and then, but we don't call each other every day. We just try to keep in touch. I asked Kirsten to marry me in December 2011, and we set the date for February 2012. Now, unless someone saw it on Facebook, they wouldn't have known because it wasn't a highly advertised engagement/wedding per say. People knew, but not everyone knew.

So Kirsten and I are on our honeymoon, and my phone rings...it's Victoria Shirey. Now I think to myself, I can just call her back later. Then I realize, my wife is asking who is calling, so it's going to look super shady if I DON'T answer this call. Soooooo I answered and Vic was like, hey what ya doin?! I very calmly replied that I was on my honeymoon only to hear her yell through the phone, Then Why Are You Answering My Call?! I didn't even know you got married!!!! Needless to say, you will never live that one down. In fact Victoria, when you get married one day, I am going to call YOU on your honeymoon just to pester you!

V: What is your favorite place to stop and eat on the road?

T: We generally try to stay away from chains and prefer local fare. We like places that are different or are known for an amazing dish. We like mom and pop burger joints, pizzerias, local seafood restaurants, if we are in a town known for seafood. That's what we prefer.

V: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

T: I only see myself in the center of God's will- wherever that may be. I am living a dream right now. As long as I can provide for my family, and as long as this is where God wants me, this is where I will be.

V: What has been your most rewarding moment since traveling with the Men Of Music?

T: I know this is going to sound cliché, but the most rewarding moments for me are seeing lives touched and changed. I didn't say salvation. People often forget that God's Word says that some plant the seed, some water it, but HE gives the increase. We are just vessels. We love to see souls saved, but ultimately as long as lives are changed, that's the best part. People may go home and accept Christ at a later date, people may accept Him at our concerts, or people may surrender to something that God has placed on their heart. It's not our call. Seeing lives changed, souls saved, and Christians re-invigorated...THAT is what's so rewarding to us.

V: What is one of the funniest things that has ever happened to you on the road. (My story doesn't count haha!)

T: There are so many stories! From bus breakdowns, to churches forgetting that we are coming, to stage blunders, to the craziness associated with three crazy guys on a bus, I don't even know where to begin.

I guess one of the funniest would be when I went in a service station one time to use the restroom. I got off the bus, and no one knew I had got off. And...they left me lol. So I took off running across the parking lot trying to chase them down. Luckily they didn't get far until they saw me waving and yelling.

V: Tell the folks where to go for a schedule so they can come see you live.

T: If you want to come see us, our schedule is on our website: www.themenofmusic.com.

If you would like to schedule us for a concert, please contact the Adoration Agency at [615-590-7453](tel:615-590-7453).

We are all on Facebook as well, both individually, and on the group's Facebook page. Check us out online and please come see us in concert!

You can also buy all three of our projects on iTunes. Give us a listen!

Thank you, Tyler for a great interview! If you ever get the chance to meet these guys and hear them live, please do. They're the real deal, and I know you'll love them as much as I do! Until next time, may God bless you richly!





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|--|---|
| 1- Good Things Are Happening Karen Peck & New River | 11- Back To Grace Kingsman |
| 2- Hold On Canton Junction | 12 - Lead Me To The Rock Oak Ridge Boys |
| 3- Guilty Of Love Beyond The Ashes | 13- The Harvest Channing Eleton |
| 4- Pouring Rain Poet Voices | 14- Love Mercy and Grace Ricky Atkinson & Compassion |
| 5- Voice Of The Father Crist Family | 15- I Know Who Is David Staton & TaRanda Greene |
| 6- I Know Littles | 16- If Not For The Blood Diplomats |
| 7- I Want To Be The Man Brian Free & Assurance | 17- Good News Is Coming Down The Road Shannon Knight |
| 8- Sunshine On A Rainy Day Atoned | 18- Expecting A Mountain Jim Mahalick |
| 9- It's Gonna Take Surrender Steel Bridge | 19- If It Wasn't For The Cross Freedom |
| 10- He's Going Places Adam Crabb | 20- Only Here For A Little While Doug Anderson |

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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>



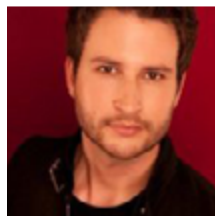
Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties, she was the first woman 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 Praise-Moves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves Instructors on four continents (<http://Praise-Moves.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>

Contributors

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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. Queen-noq.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.

www.themansionentertainment.com

www.avidgrouppublishing.com

www.thepathwayrecords.com

www.johnmathisjr.com



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, 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



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ.

On December 31, 2002 she married Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.

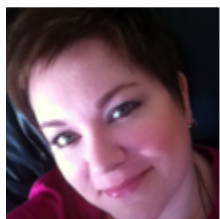
Contributors

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Janene Dubbeld is a freelance writer from Moneta, Va, where she resides with her husband and five children. She has written devotionals articles, children's stories, VBS material, greeting cards for Dayspring, poetry, and numerous songs. Her desire is to write for God's glory, inspire,

and encourage.



Laura Kennedy. Music moves me. Christ's loves inspires me. Mixing the two together in the beautiful array of the message of the gospel through Southern Gospel music is the purest of joys to me. Raised in Charlotte, North Carolina around the 5th Sunday night sings at church; that hand clappin',

foot stompin', spirit flowing rhythm of harmony stirs me to moments of Heaven on Earth. Believing it is still about the music, God has given me a heart for writing and a platform to learn from my heroes as well as sharing their ministry to expand their touch to others. Listen with your heart and hear the gentle, yet assured voice of our Father speaking to your heart, and be blessed!

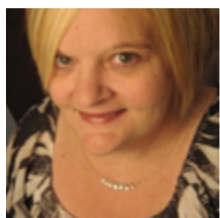


Scott Rhoades has a passion for writing, and enjoys sharing his experiences and interests through publication and speaking in public forums. After completing graduate work in 2006, he began to pursue freelance writing and continued public speaking. In 2009, he

took to the airwaves, joining the staff of WMUG in Indiana, Pennsylvania where he is the Program Host for Sunday Morning Light.

The owner of Ivory Hill Studios, he is the co-author of Legacy of Love: Memories from Ivory Hill - a collection of stories and poems highlighting the history of the Rhoades family and the small coal-mining town of Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania. Scott is also a songwriter, publishing his first song, I'm Under His Wings, with Asheville Music Publishing/Chris White Music in 2010.

Website: www.scottrhoades.net



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right place, she

enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



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

online at <http://peteschwager.com>



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

aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with. She also has a couponing blog with one of her best friends at <http://Craftycoupongirlz.com>



Charlie Sexton is a Minister Of Music near Atlanta, Georgia and possesses a passion for traditional Southern Gospel Music. His formative years were spent attending church with Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters. He credits them for instilling a love for exciting, entertaining, yet heartfelt music

presentations. An avid historian, Charlie has over 5000 vinyl Southern Gospel recordings, cassette tapes and compact discs, as well as vintage memorabilia. He is an accomplished pianist, having toured with several well-known groups like Liberty and New Desire. As a sound and recording engineer, Charlie was nominated in 2008 for an Emmy® Award for his work on a featured documentary on Kennesaw State University's Men's Basketball team. Charlie and his girlfriend, singer Linda Foster, have worked with singers, musicians, promoters and pastors over the years promoting Southern Gospel Music. Email: chsexton@mindspring.com www.sweetcreekpromotions.com