

NOVEMBER 2017

SGN SCENARIOS MAGAZINE

BILL GAITHER: *Magic Moments*

ALSO FEATURING:
JAMES RAINEY
ABIGAIL ALDRIDGE OF THE HOSKINS FAMILY
AND WATC TV



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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



It is hard to believe that it is already the month of November. By the time you read this, Creekside 2017 will almost be in the books. I want to invite you right now to make plans to be with us for Creekside 2018.

I was sitting here and pondering the month of November, the month with the holiday we celebrate here in the United States as Thanksgiving. I am thankful for many things throughout this year ... thankful for health and the health of my family, for the many blessings that God has provided throughout this year in so many different areas of my life. I'm thankful for the country that I live in and the freedom that I have to write to you without fear of it being censored. I'm thankful for those that have the right to protest. I'm also thankful for those who fight for that right for those to protest and for people like me to write what is on my heart.

In the society that we live in, we have to understand that the checks and balances that are there, are there for a reason. If we believe in freedom of speech, or the freedom of the written word, we also must allow those that don't agree with us that same right to be able to protest or write about their feelings. I think if you asked anyone who has served this country, they would tell you they fight for everyone, not just those that they agree with.

I know that it's popular right now to bash those who disagree with us. I find that to be very foolish. In any area of our life, if we don't learn to love and accept those around us, how are we ever going to reach them with the message of the cross? I think it's time that we stop making the world "us against them." It will take all of us together to create an atmosphere of love, not hate.

As I sit here and write this, my Thanksgiving prayer this year is for each and every one of us to stop and agree to disagree. To disagree is only natural. Each of us has been raised differently. We come from different socioeconomic backgrounds. We come from even different churches, but I want to challenge you today to stop looking for the negative and start looking for the positive. Start believing in your fellow man and in the person that lives next door. The only way we're ever truly going to be able to show Jesus to anyone is to first show

them that we care.

I hope that each and every one of you have a blessed Thanksgiving. I know I'm already excited about the pumpkin pie, and I'm also excited about Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Ala., from March 1-3, 2018. Come and be with us.



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Day To Day *Daily Practicing*

By Selena Day

As I am writing this article, we are mourning the loss of those shot and killed in Las Vegas. In a world that has become more and more turbulent, it can be easy to give in to the fear that has begun to permeate our society.

Not too long ago, a man walked into a church and opened fire on many parishioners. On that Sunday, I read about it as we were leaving a church where we had been ministering, and I thought of all the different churches across our country we have visited and the loss of innocence many are experiencing. This is causing some in the ministry to become hardened or even frightened.

Also, with the advent of social media, we are more connected than ever, and with this comes the heavy responsibility to carry each other's burdens.

How do we keep courage and kindness in our daily lives when every day we are bombarded with pain, anger, pessimism, and intolerance? We practice it.

One day I was shopping and I happened to pass a grandmother talking to her granddaughter. I just caught a brief fragment of her conversation, but that brief moment was enough to gain a huge insight into what the situation was.

The little girl was frowning and had tears in her eyes. Her mother looked as if she were about to strangle her, while the grandmother was saying, "you know we don't fall apart when difficult situations happen in our lives. We act calmly and hold ourselves together, because falling apart and going into hysterics never solves any problem."

That's sage advice that only a grandmother can give.

Romans 8:19-23 (VOICE) reads, "For all of creation is waiting, yearning for the time when the children of God will be revealed. You see, all of creation has collapsed into emptiness, not by its own choosing, but by God's. Still, He placed within it a deep and abiding hope that creation will one day be liberated from its slavery to corruption and experience the glorious freedom of the children of God. For we know that all creation groans in unison with birthing pains up until now. And there is more. It's not just creation – all of us are groaning together too. Though we have tasted the firstfruits of the Spirit, we are longing for the total redemption of our bodies that comes when our adoption as children of God is complete..."

It seems that, as a whole, the body of Christ is experiencing an unsettledness, a discontent that no one seems to be able to label. Many want to blame the other side of their agenda for this discontent, or the circumstances that life has put them in, but we all feel it.

I believe that what we are experiencing is our own thorn in the flesh that is causing us to slowly turn toward our Creator and begin to ask questions.

In the midst of this unsettledness, people on the whole do not seem to be displaying the fruits of the spirit, which we as believers should be exhibiting. This is what shows the world that we are different – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

In Galatians, Paul tells us not to live as the world does, and as believers in the modern day, I want to reiterate his charge. Don't live as the Republicans or the Democrats ... live a life filled with the Holy Spirit and daily practice living out the fruits of the spirit.

An athlete does not step out onto a field and immediately become a pro. An athlete practices over and over and over again until it become second nature to them. An athlete learns that it's not the one that wins the game. Instead, it is the sum total of the whole team.



When simulators were introduced into the training program for pilots, pilot error plane crashes rapidly decreased. In a simulator, pilots practiced all sorts of situations that they may never have to encounter in real life, but those practices have saved countless lives and helped pilots to truly become experts in their craft.

Also, the protocol for any trouble with the plane used to be that only the pilot would work to solve the problem, but after putting a team in the simulators over and over, it was discovered that when a problem arose and the pilot started leaning on his team in the cockpit, that as a whole they found a solution faster. Also, the risk was decreased in each and every situation. Now the FAA has changed its protocol to include that everyone in the cockpit has a voice when a problem arises.

I believe that we are entering into the greatest revival season the earth has ever known, and we believers are being trained for this season of great revival. As part of our training, we must learn to live a life practicing daily the fruits of the spirit.

We must learn that there will only be one to follow, and that is Christ. We as the whole body must learn to work together no matter what our differences are.

You must learn to love the hater and the hated. You must learn to love the lowly and the arrogant.

These are hard lessons, but our Father has great confidence in us and is cheering us on to better and greater things ahead.

Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. You may contact her at selenaday@me.com or at <http://www.queenliving.org> <http://facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday>. Photographs courtesy of Selena Day.

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Bill Gaither & The Gaither Vocal Band

Giving the World a Smile



By Craig Harris

Bill Gaither is having more fun than ever as the Gaither Vocal Band embraces change, releases “We Have This Moment”

Bill Gaither seems to be loosening the reins ... and at the same time, he's smelling the roses. The 81-year-old gospel music icon admits that he's currently having more fun than he's ever had.

“I’m having the most fun I’ve ever had in my whole life, not only on stage, but coming home and eating with the sweet lady (his wife Gloria) I’ve lived with for more than 54 years,” Gaither shares. “I’m singing with some of the greatest guys I’ve ever sung with. I love life.

“I encourage young artists all the time ... I say, ‘if the lights shine brighter on stage than they do at home, you’re in bad trouble’ ... but these are great days.”

Oct. 13 was one of those days as the Gaither Vocal Band unveiled its latest CD, “We Have This Moment.” Former Gaither Homecoming Tour pianist Gordon Mote produced the project.

“We had another change in personnel last spring with Reggie Smith (joining the group after the departure of tenor David Phelps), who is no stranger to our field,” Gaither points out. “He’s been around a long time with us. I’ve said this 100 times ... you don’t replace anybody. We’ve had some of the best singers in our industry I feel ... Marshall Hall, David Phelps, Michael English, Russ Taff, Mark Lowry, Larnelle Harris ... those are incredible singers. But this is one of the best blends we’ve ever had.

“I’m a pretty locked-down, control person as far as what it’s going to sound like. With this (CD), I went to Gordon (Mote), and I said, ‘maybe we’ve had too many



cooks in the kitchen in the past. We're going to put this in your hands.'"

Though he has served as a studio musician on previous projects, it was the first time that Mote had produced one of the Gaither Vocal Band's albums. Gaither, Phelps and Ben Isaacs handled the production work on the group's 2016 release, "Better Together."

"I think the songs are pretty smashing and have some pretty heavy messages," Gaither explains. "'I'll Worship Only at the Feet of Jesus' has a very heavy message. To sing that message nightly ... 'I'll worship only at the feet of Jesus; His cup alone; my holy grail; there'll be no other gods before Him; just Jesus only will never fail' it's great to see that message totally sinking in to people. So, the messages are very special.



there'll be no other gods before Him; just Jesus only will never fail' it's great to see that message totally sinking in to people. So, the messages are very special.

"The 'Chain Breaker' song, we got it from the contemporary field. With the addition of (lead singer)

Adam Crabb – who is fantastic – we said, 'you know what, we have to sing that song.' You add those kind of power songs with the production expertise of Gordon Mote, and you have a pretty explosive piece of equipment. Gordon said, 'thanks for handing all of those

vocalists to me to do whatever I want to with.' I think he's done a pretty outstanding job with it."

While Gaither is unconcerned about his impact on the gospel music landscape, he's admittedly still driven to maintain a high quality of music.

"I don't know how much of an impact I have," Gaither says. "All I can do is the keep the quality of what we're doing as high as we can keep it. I feel like we've done that with this latest production.



"'Hallelujah Band' ... we released the video on that, and we got a million and a half views on that (on the Friends of Gaither Music page on Facebook). Then, 'Chain Breaker' ... we got two and a half million on that (video). My job is just to keep the quality up."

Phelps – who was a Dove Award nominee as a soloist in



between stints with the Vocal Band – announced that he was leaving the group earlier this year.



“I had somebody come say to me, ‘I thought I was going to be disappointed, because I love David,’” Gaither recalls. “They said, ‘you know I love David, but I love what I heard tonight. I’ll go see David next time (he’s in concert).’

“I’m a coach. All I do is put the talent together. If the point guard isn’t hitting real well tonight, we’ll have to go to the power forward or to the center or the shooting guard.”



“We Have This Moment” is the group’s first project since the addition of Smith.

“Reggie enhances things tremendously,” Gaither emphasizes. “If there’s ever been a team player, it’s Reggie ... and (baritone) Todd Suttles is the energizer bunny. Wes (Hampton, the group’s tenor) is great, and then, you add Adam’s soul. It’s a great bunch of guys.

“I’ve sung with the best (over the years). They’re all my kids. I love all of them. I’ve had a great time with them all, but I’ve never had a group I’ve had more fun with than right now.”

Most of the Gaither Homecoming contingent recently appeared at the 2017 National Quartet Convention after a three-year absence from the week-long event, performing the Gaither Sing-A-Long on Thursday afternoon and with the Vocal Band appearing on the program later that evening.



“We had a wonderful time,” Gaither points out. “We had a blast. The people in charge were very kind to us, and they’ve done a great job with the production. The sound was good.

“I was only there on Thursday afternoon and Thursday night. The Isaacs are always wonderful. The Nelons



are a wonderful group. Of course, those are our friends. The things that I have encouraged the artists I talk to in that field is do not overproduce. I didn't buy a ticket to come hear heavy production. I just want to hear the singers sing. It's great voices."

The Gaither tour hopes to maintain approximately the same number of dates it has been performing in recent years.

"When were young and first married, we didn't go out that much," Gaither explains. "We did about 65 days per year. I wanted to make sure I didn't lose my family. This year, we will have done 60 or 65 days. (We have to make sure) doing a good thing and spreading the gospel does not destroy our personal life.

"I'm grateful to maintain what I have always had, and the internet and all of the television outlets are pretty amazing. We're trying to be wise and smart in what we do to advance the kingdom (of God)."



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“Can You Handle The Truth?”

Thankful for the Miracle and the Promise

By David Staton

This has been a year of gratitude for our family. I'll be honest ... it has been one of the toughest years of our lives. There have been days when I have felt totally forsaken. I cried out to God, asking Him to let me know that He was even there.

But every now and then, God just hits you in the face with the reality that His word is true and that He is faithful to every promise. With every miracle, there is a promise. We want the miracles. We pray and pray for the miracle, but if we aren't careful, we will miss the promise.

When I was younger, I was singing with my family. We had been asked to sing in Greece. We sang and stayed at the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece. We had military escorts everywhere we went. It was the first time we had ever heard of a car bomb or a roadside bombing.

We only had one day with no performances, so our military guide, who happened to be a Christian, asked if we would like to see some sights. He took us out in the middle of nowhere and told us that our first stop would be the ancient city of Philippi. There is much written to and about this city by the apostle Paul.

One of the most recognized accounts is in Acts 16, where Paul and Silas were thrown in prison. At midnight, they began singing praise to God when an earthquake shook the prison and freed all of the prisoners. When I looked in that innermost cell, I was shocked to see the shackles still hanging on the walls. I still get goose bumps when I think about it.

After the prisoners were set free from the earthquake, the jailer asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved. They answered him and said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – and your household.” How did Paul and Silas know that the jailer's family would be saved? It's simple really. They knew what many husbands and dads need to hear

today, which is this ... your family will follow you wherever you lead them. It may not always feel like they are following, but trust me ... wherever you end up is where they will end up. Whether it is a rehab facility, skid row, or the cross, they will follow you there.

Through most of 2017 when I didn't feel like God was anywhere to be found, my youngest daughter Katherine, age 10, prayed and asked the spirit to come into her heart as she chose to follow Christ. Last month, I had the privilege to help baptize her. Katherine was the last of my kids to choose to follow the Lord. It was the fulfillment of the promise in Acts 16, “... and your household.”

While I was praying for miracles, wondering where God was, He was faithfully fulfilling His promise in my life. If you focus on the miracles, you'll miss the promise and faithfulness of God. Give thanks.

David Staton



A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris:

Photographs by Craig Harris



The National Quartet Convention

The National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, was a hive of activity from September 24 to 30, 2017. SGNScoops' photojournalist, Craig Harris, was on hand to capture many of the special moments that occurred during that week.





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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Abigail Aldridge

of the Hoskins Family

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin Stevens...

Is it November already? When did that happen? As we go into “the most thankful time of the year,” I specifically thought about our special guest this month. I had the joy of meeting Abigail Aldridge recently at a Michigan event where both of our families sang. She sings soprano with the Hoskins Family.

It was my first time being exposed to their ministry, and I have to say, there was such a sense of the Lord’s presence in that auditorium as they ministered. This vibrant young lady brings much to the table in vocal talent, but also a sweetness I picked up on from the moment we met. Now, it’s your turn to see for yourself.

Erin Stevens: At what age did you first pick up a microphone? And when did you discover your love of music?

Abigail Aldridge: I was on my first CD when I was two, so it was sometime around then. I really fell in love with music when I was asked to be on the youth praise team at my home church when I was 14.

Stevens: How often do you practice and find the time to better yourself as a musician?

Aldridge: I sing 24-7. Whether I am singing in the shower or in my room with my piano, I never stop ... you can ask my family.

Stevens: Share with the readers your experience at Teen Talent.

Aldridge: For those that don’t know, Teen Talent is a talent competition within the Church of God. Hundreds of teens come and use their gifts to glorify God. I ended up winning (top) female vocalist. What meant the most to me was that after I had finished singing, a woman came up to me and told me she had really been struggling. The song I sang, God spe-

cifically had me sing for her. No trophy can compare to that.

Stevens: What is a song in your current program that has a profound impact on you when your family sings it? Why is that?

Aldridge: It would definitely be “Silence,” the song I sang at Teen Talent. When I first heard this song, I fell in love with it because of the beautiful meaning attached. At this point, I had never truly known what it was like to try to hear God’s voice in the silence. We decided to record the song, and right before we went into the studio, I received terrible news regarding one of the most Godly, influential people in my life. I had found out that this person made a terrible mistake and had stumbled. At that point, I was questioning everything I once knew; I was upset with God that He allowed this to happen, and more importantly that He left me during this



time when I needed Him most. I couldn't hear Him. It wasn't until after our CD had come out that, while I was listening to it, I truly understood God was speaking to me the whole time. He was speaking through the silence.

Stevens: For the year 2017, has there been a passage of scripture that you've been pondering in your heart?

Aldridge: Psalm 30 has been a go-to for me this year. Verse 11-12 says, "You turned my wailing into dancing. You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent." I believe every single person can relate to this.

Stevens: Here's one for the ladies ... it's no secret what a girly girl you are. What are some of your favorite splurges when it comes to makeup, hair or wardrobe?



Aldridge: One thing not a lot of people expect from me is how frugal I truly am. If I can spend \$10 on founda-

tion versus \$40, I am going with the cheap one. But I will say I would pay an arm and a leg for a good pair of fake eyelashes.

Stevens: When home from the road, how do you spend your off days?

Aldridge: I am very involved in my home church. I am a youth leader and youth worship leader, so when I'm home, I'm typically doing something with the youth or the church. When I'm not doing that, I am most likely binge watching something on Netflix.

Stevens: Who are your top five musical influences?

Aldridge: Angie Hoskins (she has taught me everything I know), Jason Crabb, David Phelps, Steffany Gretzinger (from Bethel music) and CeCe Winans.

Stevens: Is there anything new the fans can be expecting from the Hoskins Family coming soon?

Aldridge: You didn't hear it from me, but we will be having a new CD come out in 2018.

Stevens: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Aldridge: In 10 years, I would like to still be traveling and telling people about my Jesus. I also wouldn't mind being married with a couple of kids.

Stevens: In a world where social media plays a huge role in young people's lives, how do you, as a Christian girl, keep the negativity at bay and choose to rise above the drama?

Aldridge: I am very careful who I allow to speak over my life. One piece of advice I would give young people is that not everyone wants to see you succeed. So when someone shows you their negative fruit, believe them, and block them. Also, watch what you post. When someone comes to my Facebook or Instagram, I want them to see positivity, not everything that has gone wrong with my day since my feet hit the floor.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

May our Christian witness be strong in person and in the corners of a social media-run world. Aldridge makes an excellent point in helping us remember to be uplifting in the posts we make. There is so much negativity lurking in the shadows. Why should we fuel the enemy's fire by joining in? Let's not attempt to be something we are not, but may our captions and posts be filled with the light of Christ. We are here on this earth to build each other up, not tear our brothers and sisters down. So the next time you post, think, pray, and ask the Lord if it is pleasing to Him. Now, hashtag that.

And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin on Twitter at @photosforkeeps and on Instagram at @photos_for_keeps.



Randall Reviews It - November 2017

by Randall Hamm

Friends,

It's November, the month of thanks. What are you thankful for? I am thankful that I can listen to and play the best music this side of heaven: gospel music. I'm thankful for the artists and their ministries. Today, I am thankful that I can bring you these three CDs that you might consider for your music collection.

This month I bring you one of the great soloists on the Chapel Valley roster – Michael Wayne Smith – one of Michigan's many contributions to the gospel world – Souls Harbor – and rising sister duo the Peyton Sisters. And, as always, get a copy of these releases wherever you get good gospel music.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Randall

Please send your latest releases for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.



Michael Wayne Smith

"No Time To Quit"

Producer: Shane Roark and Michael Wayne Smith
Label Sanctuary/Chapel Valley

Songs: Jesus Saves (Michael Wayne Smith BMI); You Are With Me (Michael Wayne Smith BMI); We Still Believe He Will (Gerald Crabb BMI); Lead Me Lord (Michael Wayne Smith BMI); He'll Be Holding Me (Michael Wayne Smith BMI); Lord I Thank You for the Valley (Michael Wayne Smith BMI); He Holds Everything (Nathan Chapman and Jimmy Yearly BMI); Remind Me of Your Grace (Michael Wayne Smith BMI); Been Changed (Michael Wayne Smith BMI); Lift High the Cross (Sue C. Smith-Lee Black-James Eric Myers ; How Great Thou Art (Stuart K. Hine)

Michael Wayne Smith is back with his sixth studio CD entitled, "No Time To Quit." It is appropriately titled as Smith is still going strong with no plans of slowing down.

Smith is a Christian singer/songwriter from Oak Ridge,

Tenn., and has been traveling in ministry with his family since 2009 proclaiming the love of Christ through his music. In December of 2016, he released this album with Chapel Valley, which includes 12 new songs, seven of which are his own originals.

One song in particular, “Jesus Saves,” which was released as a single to radio, was birthed out of a difficult time that Smith went through in the spring of 2015. He hadn’t written any new songs in more than a year and began to feel that God was moving him out of ministry. As he prayed for God’s direction, he wrote this song and believes it was God’s response. Through this song, Smith saw clearly that it was not time to give up but to keep pressing on.

The CD starts out with the radio single “Jesus Saves,” and ends with Michael’s rendition of “How Great Thou Art.” Favorites include the single “Jesus Saves,” “Lead Me Lord,” and “Thank You for the Valley.”

If you love Mark Bishop, you’ll love Smith’s style of singing, plus he writes most of his own material as well. It’s a great release that I hope you’ll check out.

Follow Michael Wayne Smith at [Facebook.com/mwxfanpage](https://www.facebook.com/mwxfanpage), and to get a copy of “No Time to Quit,” visit michaelwaynesmith.com.

Strongest Songs: “Jesus Saves,” “Lead Me Lord,” “Lord I Thank You for the Valley”



Souls Harbor
“Pray”
Independent 2017

Songs: When People Prayed (Thomas Pelphrey); Lazarus Come Forth (Mark Bishop); I Want to See Jesus (unknown); Going Home (Barbara Lister Williams); Who

Am I (Rusty Goodman); You Don’t Love God (If You Don’t Love Your Neighbor) (Shorty Sullivan-Thomas Coley); Unworthy But Made Worthy (Joel Ritchey); Gotta Go Back (Phil Cross); Take Your Troubles to the Cross (Barbara Lister Williams); I’m Forgiven (Rodney Griffin); The Lord’s Prayer

I bring you a group that is well known in Michigan, but maybe not so much out of that area. I bring you Souls Harbor and the group’s latest CD, “Pray.” Recently, the group scored its first charting song with “Saying Goodbye.”

The name Souls Harbor came from a song that was written by Ron’s cousin, John Everett Sanders, titled “Souls Harbor.” Part of the lyrics of the chorus of the song are, “I’m anchored safe in souls harbor, and there, I’ll ever abide.”

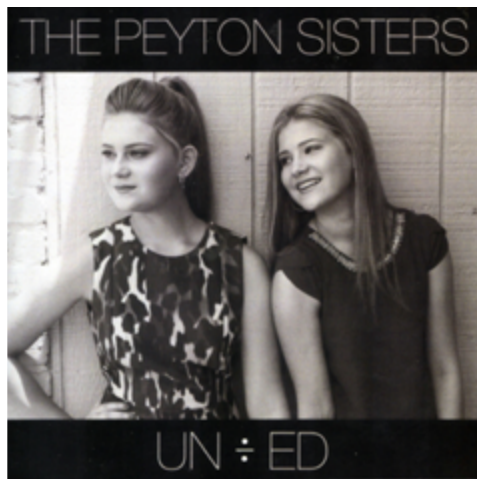
Souls Harbor’s ministry was mainly regional until 2015, when the group was encouraged to branch out. At that time, they began working with Susan Whisnant of United Independent Artists for radio releases. They have now released a new project titled “Pray” and have released the song “When People Pray” to radio. This song leads off the CD. “I don’t how we’re gonna make it, without the help of God. The only way is by His grace and when people pray.” It’s a strong statement, and oh, so true. Be sure to request it at your local gospel station.

Ron, David and Joy go back and bring back some classics like “Gotta Go Back,” “Who Am I,” and a fun favorite, “You Don’t Love God.” Special guest Darin Hebert, the bass singer for the Williamsons, makes this a fun song to listen and enjoy. One of my favorite songs features Joy and is pure straight-ahead southern gospel, “I Want To See Jesus.”

Souls Harbor is one of Michigan’s true treasures, and if you get a chance to see them in concert, please do so. Overall, it’s a wonderful CD and a great addition to your playlist.

To visit Souls Harbor, go to [facebook.com/pg/SoulsHarborMusic](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SoulsHarborMusic), and to get your copy of “Pray,” visit soulsharbormusic.com.

Strongest Songs: “Pray,” “You Don’t Love God,” “I Want To See Jesus”



Peyton Sisters
"Undivided"

Producer: Joyce Martin Sanders
 Independent 2017

Songs: Another Crown (Kenna Turner West-Anita Peyton-Rachael Peyton-Riley Peyton BMI); Eye Of The Storm (Ryan Stevenson-Bryan Fowler); You'll Never Walk Alone (PD); Diamonds (Jason Ingram-Matthew Bronleewe-Jonathan Steingard); Jesus Is in the House (Karen Gillespie-Rachel McCutcheon); Giants Fall (Francesca Battistelli-Jeff Pardo-Molly E Reed); Jesus Paid It All (PD); Fear Not, It's Yours Now, I Am There (Rachael Peyton-Riley Peyton-Anita Peyton BMI)

The Peyton Sisters are back with a brand-new release, "Undivided." The last time we heard from them was in 2015, with their "Footprints of Jesus" project. Since then, Rachel and Riley – now age 14 and 15 – have grown, and their voices have matured. This CD showcases their voices beautifully.

Once again, as on the last CD, the sisters show off their voices a cappella on the classic, "You'll Never Walk Alone," and on the hymn, "Jesus Paid It All." Joyce Martin Sanders (of a cappella experts, the Martins) is back as producer on this eight-song CD.

You might recognize the Peyton Sisters if you travel to any Bill Gaither Homecoming concert. Gaither has become of a fan of Rachel and Riley and has showcased them on some of the concerts.

This CD, in comparison to their first release, is like night and day. With a now more mature sound, they are truly going to be ones to watch in the future as they are certainly keeping gospel music's future looking bright.

The favorite of mine on this CD is the very first cut, "Another Crown," written by Kenna Turner West. If you love 11th Hour's sound, this in that vein and is very catchy. This would work very well as the sisters' first radio release.

Speaking of 11th Hour, the Peyton Sisters' version of "Jesus Is In The House," is just as good as 11th Hour's release. In fact, if you love 11th Hour, you'll love these talented sisters.

Another strong song, "I Am There," which was written by the Peytons and their mother, is a beautiful ballad and should grab attention at radio if released as a single. Making this CD sound even better is the addition of Kevin Williams and Mark Capps, who engineered the CD.

I am hearing not only the future but also the now of gospel music with the Peyton Sisters. Please, if you get a chance to see this duo on concert, please do.

Visit the Peyton Sisters at facebook.com/The-Peyton-Sisters-1518306251749951, and get a copy of "Undivided" at thepeytonsisisters.com.

Strongest Songs: "Another Crown," "I Am There," "Jesus Paid It All"



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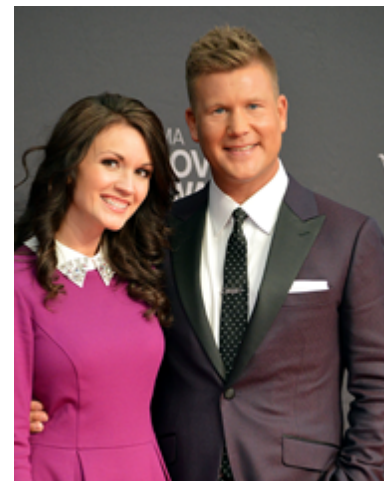


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A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris:

2017 GMA Dove Awards

Photographs by Craig Harris





Michael English: Love Is The Golden Rule

Michael English is one of the rare vocalists in Christian music who has a following in both the Southern gospel industry and in the Contemporary Christian market. Including stops with the Happy Goodmans, the Singing Americans and the Gaither Vocal Band, English has firmly established his roots in Southern gospel.

His subsequent solo career launched English into becoming a household name in the Contemporary market.

The latest album for English, “Love Is the Golden Rule,” was produced by his long-time friend and fellow artist, Jason Clark of the Nelons.

Clark points out that the intent of “Love Is the Golden Rule” was a return to the vintage English style of his past solo albums, like “Hope,” which was released on Curb Records in 1993.

“What an honor to produce and arrange this project for one of the world’s most legendary singers and performers,” Clark said. “As a lifelong fan, I suggested to Mi-

chael that we make this recording the one his fan base has long been waiting for. It is undoubtedly and unashamedly, vintage English. Production took over eight months as we assembled a cast of the world’s greatest musicians, writers, singers, engineers, from various genres of music. Michael worked extremely hard, and what he delivered on this recording, I believe, is some of his best work in his entire career.”



English’s foray back into the adult contemporary field has produced one of his best efforts to date. The project kicks things off with “My Love.” This mid-tempo number reassures us of His love

for us and that the sun will rise despite hardships we



endure.

“Little Is Much” is up next, and while it’s not the Kittie L. Suffield song of a similar title in 1924, it’s message is very similar. This is

a tender ballad that English sings with a lot of passion. Little definitely is much when our God is in it, a simple, powerful truth.

In 1988, Mike + the Mechanics released their second album, titled “The Living Years.” English has remade the title song from that album. English identifies with this specific number as he laments his relationship with his father. The song’s theme, about saying what you need

to say to your loved ones while they are still here, is a very thought-provoking truth. English excels vocally on this ballad.

“Finally Coming Home,” is another highlight of the album. This ballad, which English sings with conviction, is the classic prodigal son story.

“Hello Happiness,” is a fun, light, upbeat tune that is easy to tap your toes on.

Vintage can be defined as an exceptionally fine wine from the crop of a good year. English and Clark paired up with the goal of producing a project that meets this definition, and they have delivered.

This project harkens back stylistically to English’s early solo career. He sings with passion and conviction throughout the album. Listeners will welcome English’s signature vocal stylings as well as the excellent instrumentation.

“Love Is the Golden Rule,” is sure to be a favorite of English fans very quickly. This is a must-have project for fans of adult Contemporary Christian music.



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HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



What incredible days of ministry we are living in. I am constantly in awe of God's goodness to me. Every day is a new day of opportunity to share the good news. I wish I could tell you of all that God is doing in Washington, but there is just not enough time, nor could I betray the trust of those to whom I minister. Continue to pray for us as we do the good work.

It is always a joy when my former life and current one mix. I had the pleasure of having the Nelons in town recently, followed by Aaron and Amanda Crabb, along with their two sons. It was a privilege to show them around the city and to see them experience things for the first time. I love these dear people of God and I am thankful for their encouragement over the past few

years.

We just recently launched our emergency prayer team for members of Congress and anyone in government. To say that it has been a success would be an understatement. God is allowing us to minister to government officials over the phone and in person as they have need. I am grateful to be a part of this team.

I think it is important to remind ourselves that we are a part of a team. We are never on our own and we should never be on our own. Ministry is and will always be about Jesus and sharing His message.



We are called to do this together. I am finding that now more than ever we are seeing ministries that desire to do the work together and get more done. We are at the very beginning of something so incredible that God is doing and I cannot wait to see where He leads.

Continue to join us in prayer and if you feel so led, partner with us financially. We need your help to continue the work God has placed us here to do.

Be blessed.

Nathan Kistler

Find out more at www.hopetothehill.com and www.nathankistler.com.



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2017 Diamond Awards

By Lorraine Walker

A special part of every year's Creekside is the Diamond Awards ceremony on Tuesday night. The 2017 Diamond Awards were hosted by Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, with many artists presenting awards. Some of the guest artists who appeared during the evening included the Hyssongs and the Williamsons, as well as special speaker David Ring.

Special thanks to Jean and Ken Grady from Gospel Music Today for working with Rob Patz, owner of SGN-Scoops, to produce the 2017 Diamond Awards.

We so appreciate Pat Mathis and all of the WATC TV family from Atlanta, Georgia who came to film the Creekside event at Pigeon Forge. We look forward to the televising of the program, both on television and online at WATC-TV.



And the winners for the 2017 Diamond Awards are...

The J.D. Sumner
Living Legend:
Brian Free
Mixed Group of



the Year:
The Williamsons

Quartet of the
Year: Triumphant Quartet



Trio of the Year:
The Hyssongs
Duet of the Year:
Broken Vessels



Female Vocalist of the Year: Kelly
Nelon Clark

Male Vocalist of the Year: Jason Crabb
Sunrise Award: Matt Felts

Sunrise Trio of the Year: Sacred Harmony

Sunrise Quartet of the Year: Old time Preachers Quartet

Song of the Year: "Somebody's Miracle" - Brian Free
and Assurance

Album of the Year: "Nature's Symphony in 432" - The
Isaacs



Christian Country Group of the Year:
Mark209

Anthony Burger

Instrumentalist of the



Year: Jeff Stice
Dottie Rambo Songwriter
of the Year: Kenna West



Bluegrass Gospel Album of the Year:
"This Ole' House of Mine" - Heaven's
Mountain Band



Bluegrass Gospel Song of the Year:

"I'll Ride This Ship to Shore" -

Heaven's Mountain Band

Bluegrass Gospel Male Artist of the Year: Tim Maze



Bluegrass Gospel Female Artist of
the Year: Debra Wilson

Bluegrass Gospel Group of the

Year: Eagle's Wings

Gospel Music Today Video/DVD
of the Year: "Live in Bessemer" -
New Ground



Favorite Industry Website: WATC



TV Channel 57

Paul Heil Award for Broadcasting:

Mickey Bell - WXIC

Publisher's Choice Award: John

Whisnant

Congratulations to each of our Diamond Award winners and nominees. All of the artists that give of their time and talents to present quality music that glorifies the Lord are winners in our eyes. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Special mention goes to all of our award presenters, photographers and all who worked behind the scenes to make this evening possible.

Next month we will have the roundup of events and pictures from Creekside 2017. If you missed it, next year's event is Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, 2018 at the Smoky Mountain Resort, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information contact event convener and Coastal Media CEO, Rob Patz at 360-933-0741.

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Charlie Griffin
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is climbing the Charts! Word on the street is:

Jango.com reviews:

"Great song and content!"
Sweetdove2

"Enjoying this song!"
Frankiewayne50

"Cool! Yes, I'm a teen who likes Southern Gospel!"
Burilltimothy

"Loved the whole song. Something I needed this morning!"
ChristieDiana

"We were pleasantly surprised to hear your gospel song on Jango in the middle of the Andy Williams radio spot! Keep praising, Charlie! What a blessing!"
Pastor.Patty

"Wow! This is pure class on a Merle Haggard original!"
NashvilleCountryBoy97

"This is truly a song for today! Charlie does it right!"
Dianne Massey-Local Southern Gospel Concerts, Rock Hill, SC

"Charlie's vocals, the production, the message, this song has it all! It is Great!"
David Crump, Pastor-Hillside Baptist, Bluegrass Gospel Tones TV, Hickory, NC

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

1. Triumphant Quartet - Chain Breaker
2. Tribute Quartet - God Of The Storms
3. Joseph Habedank - Here He Comes
4. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - Give Me Jesus
5. Greater Vision - Still
6. 11th Hour - Ain't No Bones
7. Freemans - It Still Takes The Blood
8. Jason Crabb - Mysterious Ways
9. Canton Junction - God's Got A Better Plan
10. Hoppers - Life Is Good
11. McKameys - For The Record
12. Karen Peck and New River - Hope For All Nations
13. Kingsmen - Hear The Word Of The Lord
14. Amber Nelon Thompson - Give It To Jesus
15. Pine Ridge Boys - There's A Fountain
16. Perrys - Moses And Elijah
17. Hyssongs - I Tell Them Jesus
18. Mark Trammell Quartet - My Faith Still Holds
19. Guardians - Packin' Up
20. Lore Family - Joyous News
21. Tim Livingston - I Can't Erase The Message
22. Michael Combs - Carry Me Jesus
23. Sunday Drive - I Thank You
24. Gold City - I Will Stand
25. Wilbanks - When I Speak Your Name
26. CT and Becky Townsend - My God Delivered Me

27. New Ground - Make It
28. Zane and Donna King - Beautiful Ever After
29. Kingdom Heirs - The Last Big Thing
30. Bowling Family - Praise God He's Alive
31. Georgia - I've Been To The Bottom
32. Chronicle - Where Did The Wind Go
33. Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call - Somebody Pray
34. Jordan Family Band - My God Is Faithful
35. Gibsons - No Wonder
36. Mark Bishop - The Other Room
37. Inspirations - The One In The Water
38. Dean - Talk The Talk, Walk The Walk
39. HighRoad - Somewhere I'm Going
40. Soul'd Out Quartet - Holy Spirit Come
41. Villines Trio - Elijah
42. Woodsmen Quartet - The Cross Has Won Again
43. Spiritual Voices - Love That Led To Grace
44. Dunaways - Reassure Me
45. Millers - Take A Moment And Live
46. Stephens - He Said
47. Sneed Family - I've Never Seen A Promise
48. Susan Whisnant - I Prayed Through It
49. Children Of The Promise - Heaven Takes Care of It All
50. Down East Boys - Somebody Left The Door Wide Open
51. Barry Rowland and Deliverance - The Ark



52. Caleb's Crossing - I Promise You
53. Exodus - God of Always And Never
54. Misty Freeman - A Day In The Life Of Jesus
55. Purpose - Trust Him
56. Bibletones - Portrait Of Love
57. Ivan Parker - Walk My Way
58. Eric and Laura Ollis - I Won't Compromise
59. Rejeana Leeth and New Grace - Thank God For My Christian Home
60. Sharps - Endless Day
61. Jim Brady Trio - God Is With Me
62. Bates Family - Ready Or Not
63. Battle Cry - I'm Amazed
64. Bless'd Ministries - Come To The Cross
65. Journeys - I Can Smile
66. Shellem Cline - Getting In The Word Of God
67. Three Bridges - Livin' In The Lion's Den
68. Aaron and Amanda Crabb - Two Coats
69. Mark Lowry - What's Not To Love
70. Lakeside - Come On Home
71. Sisters - A Day Will Come
72. Bama Blu-Grace - In My Hiding Place
73. Pathfinders - We Shall See Jesus Someday
74. Wilburn and Wilburn - Prayer Is All I Need
75. John Whisnant - Had It Not Been
76. Talleys - This Thing Called Grace
77. Blake and Jenna Bolerjack - I've Got My Reservation
78. Carolina Boys - Faith In A Great God
79. Matt Felts - Trust Me With The Trial
80. Southern Raised - Instead
81. Summit Trace - You Love Me Anyway
82. Anchormen - I'm Gonna Run
83. Cavaliers- Forever Redeemed
84. Steeles - Prodigals

85. Day Three - Might Go Home Today
86. Browns - Aim Higher
87. Greenes - Send A Little Rain
88. King James Boys - Somebody Prayed For Me
89. Walkers - Holy Spirit Flow Through Me
90. Bates Family - You Are
91. Steve Ladd - All Things Are Possible With God
92. Dallas Rogers - Chasin'
93. Christian Davis - He Can't Stop Loving You
94. Mark209 - I Can Call Jesus Anytime
95. Jeff and Sheri Easter - More Than Enough
96. Lindsey Graham - A Little More Love
97. Daniel's Purpose - Jesus Loved Us To Death
98. Tim Marshall - Against The Grain
99. Journeys - Have Faith
100. Whisnants - Joy In The House

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Keith Brady



By Vonda Easley

This month I talked with Keith Brady at WVOB in Dothan, Alabama. If you know Keith well, you know this was a fun interview and we got to talk a lot about his grandchildren.

I hope you enjoy our conversation.



Vonda: Tell us about what you do at WVOB. What is your title and where is the station located?

Keith: I am Operations Director and on-air guy at Gospel 91-WVOB. We are located in Dothan, AL and I've actually worked here for about 27 years. It worked out great during the time our group, The

Bradys, was on the road because the management allowed me to book concerts as many days each weekday or weekend we needed to be on the road, even the week of NQC.

Vonda: How did you get involved in radio?

Keith: Our radio station is owned by Bethany Divinity College and Seminary where my dad was taking a few classes. He told me they were needing a DJ and although I'd never done that, they felt my emcee work on stage and my knowledge of Southern Gospel Music would help me qualify!

Vonda: If you could visit anywhere in the United States,

where would you go?

Keith: That's easy, any day, every day, I'd go to Nashville to see my grandkids. But it would be really hard to pick one place in general because we met so many great folks all across the country when we were singing; so can I just list them all?

Vonda: Well since you brought that up..... Tell us about those grands!

Keith: Grandkids. Do you have all day? And can you print the almost 700 pics of my grandkids that are currently stored in my phone? Cooper is five and Adele is one as of January 20th. My grandkids are adorable. I'm probably a bit jealous that my daughter in law's mom and dad live in the same town and get to see them almost every day. But I can tell you those plane rides to Nashville are becoming more frequent!

Vonda: When is your show on and can we listen online?

Keith: I'm actually off and on-air each several times each weekday. Normally 7:30am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 3:00pm. And of course Sylvia Green joins me for: "The Coffee-Break with Keith and Sylvia," at 9:30am. You can listen online at www.gospel91.com or if you have the tune-in phone app, you can listen there as well.

Vonda: Who is your all-time favorite group?

Keith: Now you know I can't pick *one* group. But I can say that the Original Hinsons, Original Rambos, and the Happy Goodmans started my love for great Gospel music.

Thank you Keith Brady and WVOB. We appreciate all you do for this great Gospel music that we all love!

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By Lorraine Walker

Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2017 ran from October 30 until November 2, with more than 40 artists performing during daytime showcases and evening concerts.

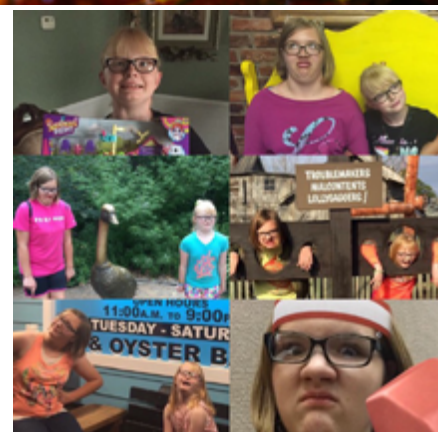
Held at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., Creekside is growing larger with each year that passes. This year, some of the artists took time to tell us what they would be thankful for this year when Thanksgiving rolls around.



I am thankful for my husband, Sean Cook, and my mother, Judy Dittman, for all of their unconditional love. Also, I'm thankful for all of the new friends and fans that I've met.

God has blessed me so abundantly. I love my home church and church family, I've learned that you don't have to be blood to be family. With that I'm surrounded by the people that I love, and that is such a wonderful gift from God. -- Dennise Nichole Dittman, soloist

Today, I'm thankful for our two crazy little girls, Sadie



and Olivia. These girls constantly keep us laughing. If there's one thing I've learned after being in ministry for so many years, it's that there's a time and a season for everything. There are times to be serious and ministry-minded, and there are times to just act silly and have fun. I've got two constant reminders of that. Smile, people. It won't crack your face ... or maybe it will. I dare you to look at these pictures of our girls and not smile. Our girls are the fulfillment of my favorite scripture, James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above." They're precious to me every day, but today, I'm just glad they haven't learned to take life too seriously. -- Lisa Williamson, The Williamsons



I'm thankful for my family most of all, my friends, the Godly men I travel with and what God has done in my life when I didn't deserve anything. I thank Him every day for all these blessings. -- Brian Free, Brian Free and Assurance



Day Three is thankful for the call God placed in our hearts one year ago to form Day Three. Together, Amy Dunnam, Bo Sullivan and myself get to blaze a trail for His kingdom work. God is faithful. It's been an

amazing one-year journey, and we are looking forward to many, many more. --Scott Washam, Day Three

I am thankful for my wife, Amy, my three boys, and all of my singing buddies that travel this country sharing the message of Jesus. God bless, from The Riders. -- Jason Oxenrider, the Riders

Gospel Truth Trio is thankful to God for me being one year and two months cancer-free. -- Kelly Carter, Gospel Truth

I am thankful for being able to be thankful. -- Dennis Cook, soloist

I'm thankful for all the people who support me in my ministry and for the songs God continues to give to me. On another scale, I'm thankful for the things we often take for granted – food, clothing, shelter, family, ability to walk, see, and hear – because, inevitably, nearly every day I'm reminded of all those who don't. Be thankful for the opportunities you have to bless others. -- Kristen A. Stanton, soloist

I am thankful to know I am a child of the King. That's the most important thing in my life. Then, after God, family, etc. -- Sheila A. Blackwell, Creekside volunteer administrator

I just want to say I am thankful that Jesus saved me and delivered me from the pit of bondage. I have to put Him first, because He won't come second to anything or anybody. Also, I am thankful for my wife and daughter and also to my parents and all my supporters of my ministry who always encourage me to do my best and don't let others get me down. This is the season to come together in unity as a family and friends and let Jesus be our everything in our lives. Happy Thanksgiving from

the Madden family to yours. -- Harley Madden, soloist

(I am) so thankful for you and the many friends who have shared this fabulous journey in gospel music. Let us keep on spreading the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. For my husband Howard, our son, daughter, and grandchildren, I am forever thankful and blessed. -- Lou Hildreth, member of the Gospel Music Association (GMA) Hall of Fame

Above all, I am thankful to be a child of the King. I am also thankful and honored to be used by Him as a vessel to touch the hearts of many. I am thankful for the gifts He has bestowed on my life with the amazing family I was born into, my two amazing boys, and the gifts of singing and playing my saxophone. Last but not least, I am so thankful for the many amazing friends I have made along this journey over the last almost six years now. -- Annette Wallender-Bingaman

(I am) so thankful for healing from third stage cancer. After that the chemotherapy and radiation cut the blood supply off from my hip sockets and they died – it's called necrosis or something – I was in the wheelchair three years. They said I'd never walk again ... but God. Then, during one major surgery, they paralyzed my vocal cords. I could only whisper. They said I'd never sing again ... but God. -- Sharon Outofashes

(I am) so thankful for my salvation and for my 95-year-old mom who is still with us and mostly thankful for God allowing me to be Ben's mom. Even though he is challenged in many ways with Autism, God has a plan. Ben is perfect in God's eyes. -- Donna Bledsoe Journey, the Journeys



I am thankful to be alive ... having almost lost my life in 2011 ... every day is a precious gift to me that I will never take for granted. -- Debbie Seagraves, soloist

I am thankful that God has allowed me the opportunity to live

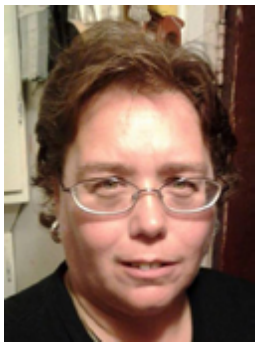


my dream of singing gospel music full-time. I'm also thankful for the three men I get to travel and stand with every

night and minister as God has called us to do – Larry Stewart, Wayne Shuford, and Ivory Luke. Thank you all for your love and support, and thank you God for your love and care for all your children. -- Steven Craps, Pine Ridge Boys



I'm thankful for my family, my beautiful wife Christa and my 3 children – Kaleb, Kristen, and Aaron, as well as our granddaughter Adelyn. I'm also thankful for the opportunity to serve in the ministry with Mark209 and thankful for all of our supporters. -- Jimmy Reno, Mark209



I am thankful for my Lord and Savior. I am also very thankful for my family, friends, church family and the group I sing with. I am also very thankful that the Lord is using my voice to reach the lost and encourage others. Most of all, I am thankful for the mercy that God showed towards me, that led to my salvation. We serve an awe-

some God. Happy Thanksgiving to all. God bless you. -- Sandy Joyce, Jordan's Crossroads



Every year, Thanksgiving is a horrible reminder of the loss of our two boys on Nov. 20, 2011. So not just this year but ev-

ery year, I am thankful for Romans 8:28. I'm thankful that even when we cannot see why God allows things to happen in our lives that He always has a plan. If not for the loss of our boys back in 2011, Gail and I would not even know what SGNScoops is. We would have never met all of the amazing people that we have come to know in gospel music. We would not be ministering with Bobby and Amy Richardson. I could go on and on. But in summary, I am thankful for Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." -- Rocky Smith, 4 the Right Reason

CAROL BARHAM

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JAMES MICHAEL RAINEY: DON'T GIVE UP

By Debbie Seagraves

James Michael Rainey is a well-known pianist in the Southern gospel music industry. He began his career playing for numerous groups, such as the Speer Family, the Hoppers, the Downings, the Rambos, the Bill Gaither Trio and so many others.

Life on the road was lonely for Rainey, and he longed to have someone to share his life with. Little did he know that there was a young lady in Fort Branch, Ind., that was thinking the same thing and had shared her heart with a pastor friend of hers about being alone and wishing God would send her someone. He told her to stop looking for her husband and that God had already picked him out for her, that it would be a quick, fast work, and for her not to let it scare her when it happened. Rainey was 1,200 miles away, also talking with a pastor friend who told him the exact same words on the exact same day.

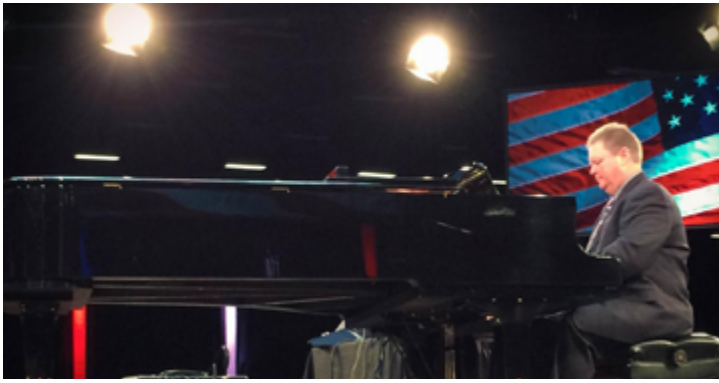
On Mother's Day – May 10, 2009 – Rainey was playing for the Stamps Quartet in Connersville, Ind. After the concert, he was at the record table when a beautiful girl came up and said, “hi, my name is Laura.”

Rainey responded by saying, “hi, I’m your husband.” Rainey says they were dating within two weeks of meeting each other, and he gave her an engagement ring on June 15. They were married on June 24 in Stamping Ground, Ky. Some people thought it was fast, but Rainey says that when God is in it – and when He puts it together – time is immaterial.

The Rainey's love for each other brought them together in marriage and also as a gospel duet. After a lot of prayer, they gave in to the call and started the Rainey's. They travel across the country declaring the gospel in song and from the piano. Rainey notes that instead of saying goodbye to each other each week, they plan, travel, and sing together. All of their accomplishments are made together, and it's greater than anything he ever experienced alone.

“I know (that) I have played with a lot of famous groups, and I’ve got to live a lot of childhood dreams, but never has my ministry been as powerful as when Laura and I started a ministry together,” he explains.

The Rainey's travel every weekend, operate a digital



recording studio and view everything they do as a ministry. They have expanded their personnel and now consist of pastor Paul Davis singing lead and Gary Voelker singing bass, along with James singing baritone and playing the keyboard, and Laura singing soprano. They have been singing for almost eight years.

James has had an extensive ministry, appearing with the likes of the Blackwood Brothers on Farm Aid with Willie Nelson, T. Graham Brown, Neil Young, the Dave Matthews Band, pastor John Hagee and Matthew Hagee, and he is a regular at the National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge. He is well-known for his years spent with the Singing Americans and Wendy Bagwell and the Sunlighters, the Dalton Gang, the Anchormen, Crimson River, and the Trailblazers, just to name a few. He is now the minister of music at Christ United Church of Christ in Belleville, Ill.

Aside from a wonderful life of ministry with some of Southern gospel's most prominent groups, there is a story James shares a personal story.

"As many of you know, I was previously married for 17 years," James points out. "I found myself at a McDonalds in Oklahoma City being told that the marriage was over. She didn't love me anymore, and that was pretty much it.

"In four short weeks, I found myself divorced and totally lost, wondering where I was to go next. A few short months after the divorce, I was then informed that my youngest daughter Brittney was not mine but fathered by someone else. Confused with all this, Brittney began to search for her real father, and I began to try to figure out where I fit in all this. Because of decisions I had to make to push forward with life, Brittney and I drifted farther and farther apart, until (our relationship was) eventually non-existent. There was no communication at all. Brittney's mother passed away while on a cruise ship at the age of 42. Brittney was now without her

mother, and her real father had absolutely nothing to do with her. So, her life was now turned upside down." Then, James turned to God for direction.

"Laura and I began to cry out to God for restoration of my relationship with Brittney," James shares. "Even though I was not her biological father, I raised her from birth. I held her all night, because if she were laid down, she would quit breathing. This lasted for several months. My heart was shattered with not having a relationship with my little girl.

"My wife helped me open some light texting with Brit-tany and thus started opening up some dialogue after seven years of silence. Light texting turned into an occasional phone call, which led to forgiveness. After much pain and heartache, there was finally conversation going on, but, this wasn't the best part yet. There is 16 hours between us, which made it nearly impossible for us to get together, but God had bigger plans."



Then, communication from a distance grew closer. "Brittney had to take a business trip to Kansas City, Mo., which brought her right by where we are currently living," James explains. "My daughter allowed the Lord to take away all the hurt and pain of the past and be willing to start a fresh relationship with me. Brittney agreed to meet us on her way through and let us buy her and her friends lunch. I read one of her Facebook posts that she had forgiven the past and claimed me as her father.

"My prayers were heard and answered. My wife took over the arrangements of us getting together. When we embraced each other for the first time after seven years, we both cried and just held each other. The love was

never lost, but stronger than ever. My little girl was back in my life again. She has a beautiful son named Logan, which now makes me a papa, and Laura a 'Lou Lou.' Brittney is stopping by on her way back to spend time with Laura and me before she heads home. We are going to make plans to get together with her soon in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., and enjoy our time together.

James points out that God's timing

"God is a God of healing and restoration, and it's not in our time but His," explains James. "This is all still fresh and still is a work in progress, but I hope our story gives others hope in their situations that God can and will do a restoration work in your broken relationships. He is still in control and in charge of everything.

"Don't ever give up. The Bible says, 'He will give you the desires of your heart.' Stay steady ... stay on course ... and above all, don't give up."

A promotional banner for MyGospelMusic.TV. The top section has a gold background with the text "MyGospelMusic.TV" in large, bold, gold letters, followed by "Most Unique Online Store Of Gospel Music" in white. Below this is a central image of a woman singing into a microphone, with flames around her. To the right of the image is the text "EZ KEY" in large, gold, stylized letters, with "Accompaniment Tracks" in smaller white text below it. At the bottom, there is a gold box with the text "KARAOKE GOSPEL HITS" in white, and below that, "Classic Southern Gospel & Christian Country" in white.A promotional banner for NewStep Records. The top section has a black background with the text "The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of" in a white, cursive font. Below this is a row of five album covers: "CHUCK DAY eleven" (a man in a hat), "The Reed Brothers HOLDING ON" (four men in suits), "Marcia Hudson" (a woman in a red dress), "Greg Day Gifts" (a man in a suit), and "Epp Mevin Wallis" (a man in a blue shirt). Below the album covers is the NewStep Records logo, which consists of a silhouette of a person walking on a path towards a bright light. To the right of the logo is the text "Let us help you with your next label or custom recording project! Accepting appointments now for 2017. The consummate Nashville recording experience with all the best to make your dreams come true! The Best Price, Experience and Excellence." Below this text is the website "newsteprecords.com" in white.



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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

October 2017 Christian Country Top 40

1. Kevin Rowe - Heaven Above
2. Michael Lee - God's Country
3. Chuck Day - I Love You
4. Johnny Rowlett - Where I'm Going
5. Lisa Daggs - Love Found Me
6. McKay Project - Taking Me Home
7. Ronnie Horton - For You and Me
8. Ava Kasich - Looking Back
9. Debbie Seagraves - We're Not Gonna Walk, We're Gonna Run
10. Tina Wakefield - Why Should I Worry
11. Charlie Griffin - Jesus Take A Hold
12. Tony Bates - Ordinary Joe
13. Jeff Dugan - Dashboard Jesus
14. Butch Tinker - That's What It's All About
15. Bev McCann - God's Got A Miracle
16. Peter Christie - On Grace I Stand
17. Taylor Hope - Showin' My Roots
18. Shellem Cline - Getting in The Word of God
19. Christian Davis - Just Show Up
20. Gemma Adams - Path of Least Resistance
21. Eternal Vision - A Father's Prayer
22. Robert Stowell - I'd Die For You
23. Rachel Taylor - Lost In God's Grace
24. Mary James - Heart On My Sleeve

25. Jim Sheldon - Old School
26. Les Taylor - If That Mountain Don't Move
27. Steve Bridgmon - Joyride
28. Austin Zimmer - Quicksand
29. Bruce Hedrick - Winging It
30. Caleb's Crossing - Someday
31. Jordan's Crossing - He Will Come
32. Cindy Tilkens Jennings -Whom Shall I Fear
33. Gail Cogburn - I've Got A Bottle
34. Molora - The River
35. Tommy Smith - Let's March On
36. Ronnie Horton - Unclouded Day
37. Karen Harris - Don't You Think It's Time
38. Cami Shrock - My God Will Always Be Enough
39. Steve Bridgmon - Angels By Another Name
40. Sherry Damron - You Ain't Devil Enough

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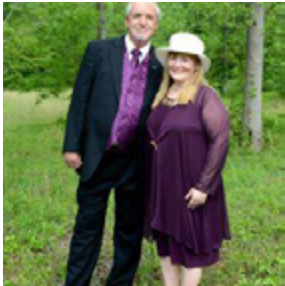
Inside: Biblical Times Theater

Location: Traffic Light # 2

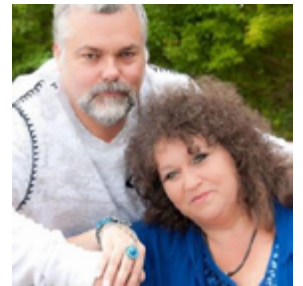
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Southern Gospel Music Promoters

By Charlie Griffin

Southern gospel music promoters: a stroll through history: part II

In the late 1940s, W.B. Nowlin booked artists into Ft. Worth, Texas, for his ever-popular "Battle of Songs." Coupled with the Wills Family, Stamps-Baxter Music and Chuck Wagon Gang, Dallas became a hotbed for Southern gospel music.

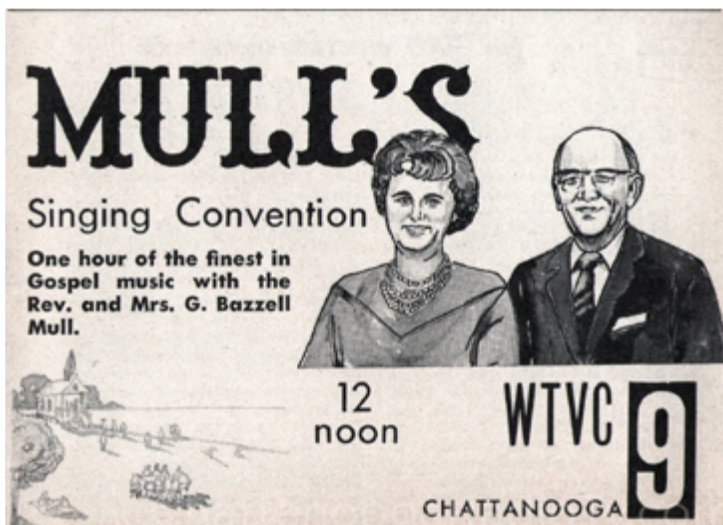
In Tennessee, the Oak Ridge Quartet was making a name for itself. After moving back to Nashville, Wally Fowler convinced WSM (Nashville, Tenn.) to broadcast some of his events live from the Ryman Auditorium, home of the Grand Ole Opry. By the late 1950s, Fowler's All-Night Gospel Sings were scattered across the south in approximately 200 cities.

In the 1960s, one of the most noted promoters was J.G. Whitfield. His love of gospel music generated the Florida

Boys and the Dixie Echoes. He was publisher of a popular Gospel music magazine for many years, but he was noted for promoting some of the largest all-night sings in the South, including in Bonifay, Fla., and Waycross, Ga.. He promoted his first gospel concert in Carnegie Hall in 1963.

In Knoxville, Reverend J. Bazzell and Lady Mull produced a radio program called the "Mull's Singing Convention." Airing over several 50,000-watt radio stations, he became the promoter of gospel music in East Tennessee, western North Carolina, North Georgia, and southern Kentucky. He was one of the first promoters to book the Chuck Wagon Gang. At that time, they had not travelled east from Texas for any concerts.

Fowler, Nowlin, and Mull were complemented by Dick Carper of Garden Spot Promotions, which booked artists in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Lloyd Orrell booked a



number of artists in Toledo, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Victor Seaton booked Detroit, Mich., while the Calvary-men Quartet promoted Flint, Mich., as well.

The Couriers and Don Baldwin were regular promoters of gospel concerts in the northeast. In West Virginia, the Gospel Harmony Boys continued concerts in Huntington and Logan, W.Va. Barbara and Sonny Sites were long-time promoters in Ashland, Ky., at the famed Paramount Arts Theatre.



Century Two Promotions promoted Charleston, W.Va., for many years, along with Ohio and Kentucky. The company became one of the largest promotions and booking companies for country and gospel music.

The Hoppers were regular promoters of the destination artist events at Watermelon Park in Berryville, Va. The

Journeymen (the Latimers) promoted southern Maryland and Delaware. C.R. McClain promoted Winston-Salem and Greensboro, N.C., among other local cities in the Piedmont area.



The Palmetto State Quartet's Jack Pittman continued promoting gospel music in the Greenville-Spartanburg, S.C., region. Across the state line, Hayne Tatum with T & T Promotions booked groups in Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

In South Georgia, Jimmy Benson and Norman Bonds kept concerts booked for more than 35 years, while Billy Hudson promoted Thomasville, Ga., and Tallahassee, Fla., for more than 40 years.



In the deep south, Roy Brookshire promoted Mississippi and Louisiana. Frank Arnold promoted Arkansas and Oklahoma, while Paul Boden promoted northeast Arkansas. The Lesters promoted St. Louis, Mo., and Jack Autry promoted San Antonio, Texas. Dave Rogers (of Prophets fame) booked Paris, Texas.

Heading west into California, Polly Grimes is noted for



booking artists on their California tours. Her first gospel concert was at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium in 1960, featuring the Blackwood Brothers and Statesmen. Over the years, she then expanded the concerts in 17 states and internationally. She has also presented gospel music at some of the most prestigious auditoriums in Israel, as well as producing a number of gospel music videos from the Holy Land. She was the first to present a gospel music cruise.

For the avid gospel music fan, these promoters – even in the early radio days – laid the foundation for the many artists who continue to sing Southern gospel music. There are many other promoters that have laid that foundation for gospel music concerts, churches, conventions and cruises. These mentioned are just a few that have impacted the music we love.

In the subsequent articles, we will experience the changes in today's



concert promotions and the promoters. December will feature one of today's most active promoters whose success record shows in attendance and the groups

waiting to sing for him. Bill Bailey will be the first promoter in the SGN Scoops' series featuring today's gospel music promoters and their events.

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Variety and the Gospel: A Look at Stephen and Marie Forester

By Justin Gilmore

There have been many great duos in Southern Gospel music, including the Happy Two; Aaron and Amanda Crabb; and most recently, Wilburn and Wilburn. Carrying on this tradition is a relatively new pair, Stephen and Marie Forester. Recently rising in popularity, the Foresters are a husband-and-wife vocal duo hailing from Michigan. The couple performs about 100 concerts a year, which feature not only their vocal and instrumental talents, but Stephen's ventriloquism and his gift of preaching the Word.

For the Foresters, Southern Gospel Music is definitely a family affair.

"I grew up in a family that had loved Gospel Music for many years," Stephen recalls. "My parents were introduced to it shortly after accepting Christ in 1978, thanks to the Calvarymen Quartet. My older brother Mark Forester had been singing it professionally since he was 17, so I guess I couldn't help but fall in love with it as well.

"I started taking piano lessons at age nine and took up the guitar at 14. I began taking voice lessons at 15. I added additional instruments later on. Marie grew up taking voice, piano, and accordion lessons. When I was 16, I attended the Charles Novell School of Music Conference in Murray, Ky. There, I received voice lessons, piano lessons, and a host of other valuable things from teachers like Danny Funderburk, Garry Sheppard and others. Much of that knowledge was critical to my future ministry getting started off on the right foot. When I graduated from high school at 18, I began traveling with my brother Joshua. We were known as the Forester Brothers for five years. When Josh got married, we reorganized as the Forester Brothers Family in 2013 and continued on with that name when I got married in 2014. In November of 2016, Josh and his wife Angela felt called to youth ministry and came off the road to join a new church and become their teen leaders. Since then, we have been traveling as Stephen & Marie Forester."



The couple grew up with this music in their blood and have dedicated themselves to carrying on the family tradition.

Vocally and professionally, the Foresters cite many influences that have helped them develop their own unique sound.

“I have many musical influences, but as far

as classic quartet music goes, my favorite would have to be the Cathedrals (especially from the 1980s and 90s),” Stephen shares. “My favorite group of today would be the Gaither Vocal Band (from any era of their career). I love the variety of styles in their music, their amazing arrangements, and their incredible blend of talented voices.

“Other music influences would include Dr. Charles Novell – the best piano teacher ever – Greater Vision, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, the Booth Brothers, and my older brother Mark Forester.”

These influences can definitely be seen and heard at a Foresters concert. Their latest recording is a great example of the unique sound and range of talents.

“Our latest CD was released in April 2017, and it was a massive jump forward in many ways,” Stephen says. “It was our first album as a husband-and-wife duet, and we took a lot of extra time to make our new sound the best it could be. It is also by far the very best mix of songs we have ever done in terms of variety. It had a great blend of old songs, newer ones, hymns, and our best instrumental ever.”

Stephen and Marie offer a little of everything at their concerts, ranging from comedy, great music, and most importantly the word of God.

“We sing and play a variety of different instruments,” Stephen points out. “I play piano, multiple guitars and ocarina. Marie plays the accordion and piano. Instrumentals are featured at every concert.

“In addition to our music, I am also a ventriloquist with professional puppets. Every concert features a puppet segment, which seems to delight not only the kids but the adults as well. It’s funny how everyone from the kids to their grandparents seem to enjoy them. I began doing ventriloquism when I was 11 years old. My influences include Paul Winchell, Edgar Bergen, Steve Taylor, Taylor Mason and Terry Fator. Finally, I am also an ordained Baptist preacher. This means I can preach for any service if needed ... and can talk for a long time.”

In their young career, the Foresters have had many memorable experiences that encouraged the young group.

“In nine years of ministry, we have made many memories,” Stephen says. “One that definitely stands out was in 2008, when I was starting out with my little brother Josh. We had only been singing for just a few months when we got a chance to open for a Greater Vision/Legacy Five concert. To a couple of 17- and 18-year-old kids, that was a big deal. We were so excited and had a great time. They were kind to us, but Rodney Griffin was especially gracious. That meant a lot to a couple of teenagers who were just getting started.”



Though the couple wish to entertain their audiences, it is their mission to share the Gospel with as many people as possible. They hope that people who attend their concerts walk away with three things: the Gospel, encouragement and a challenge to spread His Word.

“We have been greatly concerned by the number of Christians we have met who do not share their faith with others,” Stephen explains. “Romans 10:13 says, ‘How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?’ (KJV)

“We encourage everyone in our concerts to tell others about Christ and even offer free Gospel tracts on our table

to help them do so. Our two newest CDs also feature a bonus track at the end, which feature me telling people how they can accept Christ. We encourage people to give them away to someone who doesn't know Jesus, and (we) have even given them away for free to make that possible if necessary."

As 2017 is nearing its close, the couple is looking forward to what the next year will bring.

"We are very excited for 2018," Stephen emphasizes. "We have been blessed to do a little over 100 dates every year for the last several years, and we are expecting 2018 to be a record breaker.

"We have also been scheduling our first tours in Arizona and Florida, for three weekends each. That's a long way from home for Michiganders. We also have just begun work on our next CD, which we expect to release next spring. We honestly believe it will be our best yet. We try to make each new release better than the last, and we cannot wait to see what God does with this one. Finally, we hope and pray that more people than ever before will hear and receive the Gospel in this new year. That is what this ministry is all about."



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Kaleb's Kuts

THE COFFMANS



By Kaleb Powell

Artist: The Coffmans
CD/Album Title: Judgement Day
Release Date: 2017
Genre: Southern gospel

Songs: I Will Fear No Evil (Writer Unknown); Judgement Day (Jerry Salley, Jim Rushing); Ready or Not (Kenna West/Rebecca Peck); A Few Tears of Sorrow (Lisa Chesser Williamson); If I Have To (Darwin Hawkins); He Won't Give Up Easy (Dan Dean/Lanny Wolfe); Somebody Like You (Roger Duncan/Chris White Music); Know So (Tamra Coffman); Glory Train (Writer Unknown); Oh for a Thousand Tongues (Charles Wesley)

Initial Impression: The Coffmans, a family group located in Danville, Ky., are quickly becoming a well-known, full-time family group. This CD is definitely spirit-filled and spirit-led, from the first beat to the last note. I have listened to this CD multiple times in the short period I have had it. I would encourage anyone to purchase this CD and listen to it.

The Coffmans are currently affiliated with Butler Music Group. They started into full-time ministry this year. The trio travels with one purpose and that is to see souls saved for the kingdom of Heaven.

The overall theme for this CD is judgement day. I feel like this title is very relevant to the times we are living as I believe that the second coming of Christ is near and we will all stand before Him on judgement day. The Bible says, "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10 – KJV)

My favorite song on this CD is "If I Have To." What a great testimony for a parent to sing to and about their child. This song says, "I'll stay on my knees if I have to." For a mother and a father to have the privilege to sing this song with their daughter must be one of the greatest feelings a parent can have. There are so many parents willing to submit their full lives to praying for their children and teaching their children about the Lord.

It is imperative now more than ever that we all stay on our knees for each other. There is so much to pray for. So, I challenge you to stay on your knees, cause you have to.

Another one of my personal favorite songs is "Know So," written by Tamra Coffman. This song is just one of those songs that will cause you to clap right along



with it the very first time you listen to it.

I look forward to keeping up with the Coffmans and their ministry. If you have never heard of the Coffmans or listened to their music, I would encourage you to do so as I believe it would be as much of a blessing and uplifting to you as it is to me.

Visit The Coffmans at coffmanmusic.com and on Facebook at facebook.com/the-coffmans.

To send CDs for review, e-mail kalebs-kuts@outlook.com (for digital releases). For physical releases, please send your CD to Kaleb Powell, 245 Willow Ridges Dr., Chuckey, Tenn., 37641. I look forward to reviewing your CDs.




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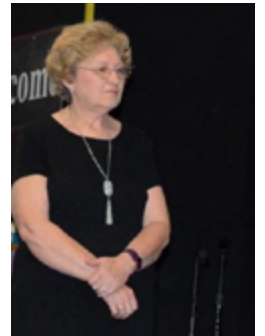
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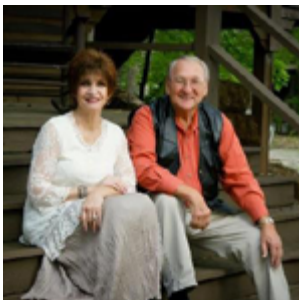
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Glory Bound Trio



WATC-TV Atlanta

By Robert York

You walk into your den, pick up the remote, hit a button and instantly have your favorite station on your television, WATC-TV Atlanta. Part of Community Television, Inc., this station was founded by James and Joanne Thompson.

Before the Atlanta station, the Thompsons successfully launched several Christian stations across America. They signed on the air in October of 1972, with WGGS-TV in Greenville, S.C. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted the construction permit for WATC to another broadcast group, but the Thompsons were to obtain it when the original group was unable to build. Work began on the station, and on April 14, 1996, WATC-TV signed on the air.

WATC-TV quickly became known to its viewers as being the home for Atlanta Live, the station's nightly live program. The station continued expanding its broadcast signals and is available to more than 2.5 million viewers in the Atlanta market. It is available throughout Georgia on various cable networks, as well as 24 hours a day on the internet.

In addition to producing Atlanta Live, some of the other programs produced on WATC-TV include Babbie's House, Enjoying Life, Friends and Neighbors, Josh and Ashley, Just Keep Singing, Seniors Today and Gospel Music USA. They even go on the road, taping specials for broadcast. For a few years, they have taped the SGNscoops Diamond Awards and the SGNscoops Life Achievement Award as well as some of the Creekside Gospel Music Convention for a special program for their audience.

The station has received numerous awards, including an Angel Award and a Telly Award, and was honored with its first Emmy Award in 2010. This year, the station received the Georgia Association of Broadcasters' Gabby Awards for Community Service, which recognizes the work of radio and television stations from all stations throughout the state of Georgia. Station vice president Patricia Mathis was on hand to accept the award.

Looking at what goes on behind the scenes, one of the faithful staff you will find working hard is Greg West, the president of Community Television, Inc. West looks after



long-term planning for WATC, as well as being involved in day-to-day activities and operations.

“I still work as the station’s program director and as producer for several of the station’s original series,” explains West.

He was working for WGGG in Greenville before moving to Atlanta and has been with WATC for 22 years.

West’s career began in Christian television production in North Carolina in 1984.

“Having worked in production and serving as a producer through the years, I still enjoy the creative process,” West says. “I love seeing an idea develop into a television program. I have been blessed to work in television, which was a dream of mine since the age of ten.”

Mathis previously worked for Dr. Jerry Goff in Nashville for 11 years. She then worked for two years at WGGG and



helped start the WATC station 21 years ago.

“During that time, I had to do just about everything,” says Pat. “Today, I continue to do the payroll and book-keeping duties. I also

produce the program ‘Gospel Music USA,’ and host and produce the program ‘Seniors Live,’ with Betty Cornett.”

She loves seeing folks blessed and saved through their television ministry.

One of the receptionists that greets you as you enter the station is 16-year employee Jane Fuller. Fuller also works the prayer line during the morning hour. Charlotte Courtney is on the prayer lines and is also part of the office staff.

Michael Vallone is the operations manager. He’s in charge of selling air time for new programs. He’s been with the station for 15 years, and prior to this, he worked as a part-time production assistant on “American Idol.”



The production crew is scattered all around the station. Scott Willis, director of engineering, has worked in all aspects of television and been with WATC-TV for 21 years. Damon Francisco assists Willis.

Willis’ reason for working at the station is simple.

“I enjoy giving viewers a break from the troubles of their lives,” he says.

Audio engineer John Tumpane has been at WATC-TV for 15 years.

“I like helping people who serve God to sound their best from a technical aspect of the production,” Tumpane explains.

In the studio and recording area, you will find Chuck Kemp as the production manager. Chuck does a little of everything, from making sure setup for taping is taken care of and assisting on the camera, as well as monitoring office production work.

Juawanna McGhee is the floor director, guiding the posi-



tioning of folks and giving them time-frame messages, as well as working the cameras.

Young people are also involved in the production at WATC-TV. Nicholas Cuneo and Dylan Mathis operate the cameras. Both are doing well, even though they hadn't been on the job long, learning all there is to know about filming.

"I like being a part of creating something that many people

will enjoy," Cuneo says.

Mathis studied video production in high school.

"Every day is different, and it keeps you on your toes," Mathis points out.

Youth studying media and television production can contact Chuck Kemp about becoming on an intern in the production department.

WATC-TV appreciates all the volunteers who serve on the prayer lines and encourages area churches to learn more about the prayer ministry. Many groups come out now to serve once or twice a month. Wanda Helms is the prayer partner coordinator and would be happy to share with anyone who might be interested in being a prayer partner.

The next time you hit the remote button and turn on the television, you may now have a little idea of what goes on at WATC-TV. Both the Atlanta and Greenville station are Christian-oriented and provide great family entertainment, as well as some of the best in Southern gospel music.

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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Happy Thanksgiving. This is a month full of giving thanks. I'm so glad for all the good gifts that God has given to me, but most of all, I'm thankful that He is God. In a world where people change and politicians sway from side to side, God is the same – yesterday, today and forever. He is always there, always protecting, always healing, and always providing. I urge you to thank God for who He is today.

I'm also thankful for gospel great Bill Gaither, our cover feature for this month. Gaither has done so much for Christian music. His songwriting with his wife Gloria, his artist promotion through the Homecoming series, and the way he can bring the gospel message to places it seldom goes, like the nearest Walmart, that amazes me. He remains congenial with fans and does not appear to have let his popularity affect his heart or his ministry. Thanks Bill Gaither for all you do.

This month we also have artists you love and artists you need to hear, and I'm so thankful that we see the message of the gospel carried on to all generations through gospel music. From the youngest who listen to the music of Abigail Aldridge, to my generation who so enjoy Michael English, and even to those who remember the past of gospel music that Charlie Griffin explores in his articles, thanks to all of the artists in this issue and all that proclaim the name of Jesus.

Special thanks as well to all of our writers: Charlie Griffin, Craig Harris, Debbie Seagraves, Derek Simonis, Erin Stevens, Fayth Lore, Jennifer Campbell, Jimmy Reno, Justin Gilmore, Justin McLeod, Leslie McKay, Logan Smith, Paige Givens, Robert York, Roger Barkley, Jr., Sarah Murray, Sheri LaFontaine, Vivian Belknap, David Staton, Dusty Wells, Leslie McKay, Logan Smith, Nathan Kistler, Randall Hamm, Kaleb Powell, Selena Day and Vonda Easley. I really

appreciate our copy editors, Joan Walker and Craig Harris. Then, there are those who work behind the scenes to make everything look so lovely – Staci and Pete Schwager and Stephanie Kelley. I'm also thankful for our terrific publisher and owner, Rob Patz, who keeps us on the right track. If you are also thankful for our team, please look them up on Facebook and thank them for their work. They do work hard, each of them, to do their best for the glory of God.

As we head into a busy festive season, I am reminded that being too busy can keep me from spending the time with God that I need to, to keep my relationship with Him fresh and strong. I need to hear from Him daily. People wonder how God talks to His people. I hear Him loudly through His word. He also speaks to me through the written word of His servants, the wise counsel of Godly friends, and through the special nudges and sense of His presence during my day. He speaks when His spirit is present in the gathering of His people, who are giving Him glory. Sometimes, He even speaks through the beauty of nature. I have heard Him in the whisper of the leaves on the trees. And sometimes, He whispers to me within my spirit when I am alone with Him. Has God spoken to you today? Are you thankful for His many gifts to you and especially for who He is?

Tell the Lord today how thankful you are that He came to this earth, died and rose again that we might have life. What a great and awesome gift, the gift of salvation through Jesus. Have you accepted this gift?

As always, if you have any comments or questions about this issue or about Jesus, please contact me at lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

Have a great month of giving thanks.

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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.



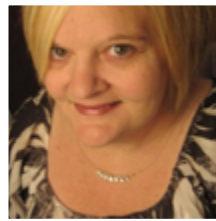
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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



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



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



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

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Dusty Wells is a man of many talents and multiple skills, from his speaking engagements across the country, to traveling and encouraging various artists in the Christian music genres. Dusty has a passion that is evident from the moment you meet him.

Dusty is a man who remains passionate and secure in the calling and destiny upon his life. He has come to realize the importance of finding purpose and clear direction for not only his life, but also the lives of those he comes in contact with, no matter what stage of life they may be in. Growing up in a very dysfunctional home, surrounded by all types of abuse, Dusty had every excuse to be a failure in life. He grew up on welfare, having to steal his daily necessities of life at times, being surrounded by drugs, alcohol and pornography. He was raised by a mother who was married multiple times, living in a housing project on the wrong side of town. But in the midst of what seemed to be complete devastation, God had different plans of success for Dusty. At the age of 14, a precious couple took time out of their own lives to invest in Dusty...thus leading Him to the Lord. His life is a testimony of God's relentless love and deliverance, and is one of the most triumphant stories told in modern Christianity. Dusty is confident in the fact that if God can do it for him, He can do it for anyone, no matter the situation.

Dusty and his wife of 33 years have four children, and two grandbabies with one more on the way. They make their home in Nashville, Tn.



Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and review-

ing recordings whenever possible. The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



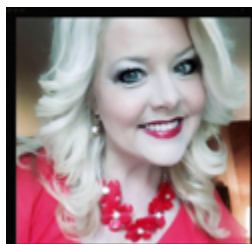
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



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

ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



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

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

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

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



Erin Stevens is a uniquely talented shutterbug, singer, guitar player, writer, blogger, and social networker. She is the owner/operator of Photos For Keeps By Erin. Along with running her own business, she is the official photographer for Abraham Productions (API). You will find her behind the lens at all API events, along with

working behind the scenes on their social media. She also travels full-time on the road with her family's gospel group, The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion and singing for Jesus is her calling. For several years, you have known her as our very own "Younger Perspective" writer. Check out her photography website www.photosforkeepsbyerin.com and her ministry website www.stevensfamilymusic.com.



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGW in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over

10 years beginning with Phil Cross and Poet Voices and later Sharron Kay King and Jerry Bennett to name a few. She has spent the past several years promoting Southern Gospel, Inspirational Country Gospel and Bluegrass in this area in order to preserve this part of our heritage.



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

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



After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action

photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

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

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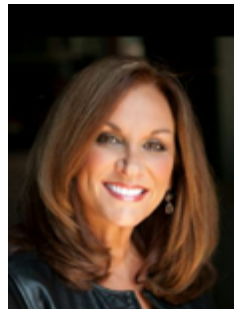
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David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great friend!

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.O. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

Through the years, artists like Gold City, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Kingsmen, Singing Americans, Dixie Melody Boys, Imperials, Dottie Peoples, Ball Brothers, LeFevre Quartet, Palmetto State Quartet, Priority, Trailblazers, The Greenes, Ivan Parker, Brian Free and many more have recorded David's music. From 2005 to 2013, Staton was the Executive Vice President for Song Garden Music Group in Nashville, TN. In recent years, the National Quartet Convention has asked David to be a part of an industry advisory panel to help artists who need assistance and training. Not only has David made a mark as an artist, he is passing on his talent and knowledge to new artists, influencing and shaping the future of Gospel music.



Kelly Nelon Clark is the daughter of Gospel Music icon, the late Rex Nelon. As part of her father's group, The Nelons, she blazed a musical trail bringing a fresh new sound to the traditional Gospel quartet style. That sound and style influenced a generation of Gospel music performers and can be heard today in the styling of

groups like the Martins, Point of Grace, The Crabb Family and more.

As The Nelons broke new ground, the Gospel Music industry repeatedly recognized their excellence. The group won four GMA Dove awards as well as multiple awards from readers of Singing News Magazine. Kelly was named female vocalist of the year on four occasions and received favorite alto vocalist award 3 times. At one time, Kelly was the most awarded artists in the history of the Singing News Fan Awards. The music industry at large also recognized The Nelons with 3 Grammy nominations.

Today, Kelly currently performs throughout the United States, Canada and Europe with her husband and two daughters as The Nelons. The group is featured in hundreds of churches and concerts each year. The Nelons have been part of Gaither Homecoming concerts sharing their music with thousands of Gospel Music fans in sold-out arenas across the country. For more information, visit <http://www.kellynelon.com/>.



Paige Givens is a Christ follower, wife, mother of two boys and kindergarten teacher to 18 five-year-olds. She is a writer, reader, singer, studier, and teacher of words. Paige lives in Hayden, Alabama with her husband of 10 years, Chris Givens, and their sons Parker and Peyton. Paige loves to blog about faith, writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the

Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at www.paigegivens.com.

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Nathan Kistler was born on the road and was singing at the age of three years old. He has had the opportunity travel with groups like Southern Gospel's beloved trio the Nelons, and most recently for almost two years with America's Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and

24 countries singing about the wonderful story of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has also been a part of three crusades on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and while there, he had the privilege of singing in the Pentagon courtyard twice. Through his father's ministry in Washington, Nathan began his work on the Hill as a ministry partner with different Christian organizations like Faith and Action and more. Nathan is a missionary to Washington and continues to work there during the week while singing Gospel music on the weekends around the country and being an artist in residence at the American Mountain Theater in Elkins, West Virginia.



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

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



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

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas. Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho, and Derek is the baritone vocalist for Liberty Quartet. His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is to give his all in the service of the Lord.



Logan Smith is a 20-year-old with a lot of miles behind him. At the age of three, he would stand in his room with a pencil as a microphone and one of his dad's handkerchiefs singing his heart out to one of the Happy Goodman's songs, such as "I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now." At the age of seven, Logan was asked to

sing at a senior's dinner at his grandparent's church. Logan recorded his first CD, "The Journey Begins," at the age of 10 and his latest release, "Hits Before My Time," at age 19. In October of 2008, Logan was invited to sing with The Gaither Homecoming Tour in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for Gaither Fest. Since that night, he has sung at many different venues with the Homecoming Tour. As of 2017, Logan has toured all across America, Canada, and has headlined two Norwegian tours. Logan is on the road more now than ever spreading the good news and has no plans of slowing down.

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Roger Barkley Jr. is an award-winning Christian artist and musical evangelist. With multiple charting songs reaching to the top 10, his goals remain the same: to win souls for Christ, use Gospel Music of any kind to reach the world with the Good News, seeing lives changed and being an encouragement to the saints. When asked about his

ministry, Roger said, "I can remember the first time singing with my dad playing the guitar and standing beside my mom when I was four years old. I have always loved all types of music." His vision is to lead as many people to Christ through preaching, singing, sharing testimony, comedy, drama and technology as possible. Having been labeled a Christian Entertainer, he believes it is possible to minister in an entertaining way, and in over 35 years of ministry has found that he can utilize all different types of music to let people know the love of Jesus Christ. Currently he is Artist-In-Residence with his wife, Dianna, and daughter, Chelsea, at Leestown Gospel Church in Frankfort, KY, and Redemption Road Community Church in Stamping Ground, KY where he leads worship when not spreading the Gospel across America.



Fayth Lore is a young woman from southern Ohio with a love for God and people. Although she enjoys chocolate, oldies music and spending time with friends around the bonfire, her passion is ministry. In January of 2014, after pastoring for 20 years, her family decided to follow God's call into music evangelism. In September 2015, they

launched into full-time ministry. The Lore Family travels the country, spreading the Gospel through songs, sermons and seminars. While Fayth loves to sing, she also has a heart for encouraging young women in Christ. She has spoken at various youth/women's events, as well as hosted her own blog for young ladies. To see more about The Lore Family, visit their website at www.thelorefamilyministries.com. To learn more about Fayth's blog, visit www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com.



Debbie Seagraves is a Gospel music soloist, songwriter and speaker from Hull, Ga. She and her husband, Mike have been married for 21 years and have five grown children, including four sons and one daughter that graduated to Heaven in 2009, as well as nine grandchildren. She loves singing, speaking, and writing her own songs. Debbie is

currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass Association) in 2016. She enjoys speaking at Ladies Events, sharing her testimony of how God spared her life from a near fatal motorcycle accident in 2011, how He brought her out of the depths of severe clinical depression, and through the death of her daughter in 2009. Also, Debbie is an avid Georgia Bulldogs fan and loves to fish, read, and spend time with her children and grandchildren. Debbie says: "No one can come as close as I did to dying and have it not change you. I am forever changed, blessed beyond measure, and just so grateful for every day that the Lord allows me to spend with those I love and to serve Him." She considers Micah 7:8 her life verse as she says that verse has carried her through some of the darkest times in her life. If you would like to have Debbie at your church or venue, you can reach her through her website: debbieseagraves-music.com/, on Facebook, or send her an email at: fully-alive1956@att.net.



Jimmy Reno is from Birmingham, Alabama. He began singing in church at four years of age. Jimmy has sung with various groups over the years, until singing professionally for Mark209 and the Florida Boys. Jimmy is married with three children.

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Sarah Murray sings soprano for the Southern Gospel group Bless'd. The group is from Greenville, Tennessee and has been together for over five years. Sarah was born and raised in Jonesborough, Tennessee, but now resides in Greeneville with her husband, Chase. She has a

bachelor's degree in K-6 Education and a Master's degree in Human Resources Development. Her daytime job is being the Human Resources Director for a small company in Greeneville, Tennessee. Her passion outside of singing, writing, and crafting, is simply God's people. "I love the Lord and truly believe my mission in life is to reach his people, and that's both on and off the stage, behind my desk, and in my community. I just want people to see Jesus in me! I'm so honored to be a part of Bless'd and love our tight knit family group." For more information on Sarah, visit blessdministries.com



Kaleb Powell can be found in the small town of Greeneville, Tennessee. He sings baritone for the Southern Gospel group, Bless'd Ministries. Alongside Southern Gospel Music, Kaleb's passion is playing the piano. He started playing at the young age of 13 and for the majority, is self-taught. His style of piano

playing is inspired by artists such as Kim Collingsworth, Jeff Stice, and Gerald Wolfe. He has been singing and playing for Bless'd Ministries for the last six years.

Kaleb is currently the owner and operator of AKM of Tennessee, Inc., which is an organization that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. His life has been surrounded by taking care of others and for living out his passion through music ministry.

"I feel honored that God chose to give me the talent He did in playing the piano. I feel that if I can use this to serve Him more, I will perfect my talent to be used as only a vessel for Him. Being a part of Bless'd and traveling with our group is a lifelong dream of mine that I am forever grateful God saw fit to put together. On and off the stage, I want my talent to be only used for Him and to be a part of seeing souls saved." For more information on Kaleb Powell, visit blessdministries.com.



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