

NOVEMBER 2018

SGN SCOPES MAGAZINE

IVAN PARKER

Dreams Come True



ALSO FEATURING



Zack Shelton and 64 to Grayson, Hutch Jordan of the Jordan Family Band, Jonathan Wilburn

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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

Welcome to the November edition of the Publisher's Point. As I write this, Creekside 2018 has just come to a close and we had an incredible time. God moved in amazing ways. C.T. Townsend was incredible, bringing the word of God in a real way.

With November comes thoughts of family, Christmas, and of course, Thanksgiving. How many of us really, truly take time to be thankful?

This year, I thought up something and I want to challenge you to do something the same. I want you to take time each day, between now and the first of the year, to list something unique you are thankful for on that day. I'm going to create a list on my phone and each day add one new thing. I've done this in the past and by the time New Year's rolls around I have a list of incredible blessings that God has bestowed upon me. It gets to the point we really realize how blessed we really are and how we really should be thankful. I'm sure you're over there saying, "But Rob, you don't understand my circumstances; you don't understand why I don't feel thankful." I understand I have been there.

But I've been reading the Bible lately and understanding more and more what God truly wants us to do when we feel we are in hopeless circumstances. He wants us to be thankful. There are some fantastic examples in the Bible. In the midst of what seemed like trouble, Daniel was thankful in the lions' den (Daniel 6).

Daniel was thrown into the lions' den because he obeyed God and continued to pray. How many of us have been in a situation when we've done what we thought was right, or made what we felt was the right decision, only to feel like we're being punished, like we are being thrown into our own lions' den.

Now Daniel had faith and he knew that even though sure death comes when you're thrown into the lions' den, God will be there. I can only imagine Daniel rejoiced when he woke up the next morning to find that he was still alive and that the lions had not eaten him.

Let me challenge you today: You might feel like you're in the lions' den, or like you're at the darkest point in your life, but let me reassure you, God is there with you; he loves you and he wants the best for you. When you wake up tomorrow morning, you'll realize that even though you have been thrown into the den of whatever



your problem is, God will be there and when morning comes you will rejoice.

Hey, I want you to make plans already for Creekside 2019, Oct. 27 - Oct. 31. This is going to be the biggest year ever. God had already begun moving in our plans for next year even before this year's event ended. 2019 is going to be special and you want to be there.

Call me and book your rooms today at 1-360-933-0741. In fact, I want to challenge you, if you are reading this, to bring your Sunday school class or your entire church to Creekside 2019. It is going to be a year you won't forget.

That's this month's Publisher's Point.

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Jonathan Wilburn

Passionate communication is part of who he is

By Derek Simonis

The clear and effective delivery of a message in a song is what every lead singer strives to do. Southern gospel music has had many wonderful vocalists throughout its history, but it has not, perhaps, had a more passionate communicator than Jonathan Wilburn. Before a successful solo ministry, singing as a duo with his son Jordan, and an award-winning, 12-year tenure with Gold City, Jonathan began his music career by singing with his family, the Wilburns. I had the opportunity to sit down with Jonathan and ask him some questions recently.

Derek Simonis: You grew up singing Gospel music. Share with us about your ministry heritage.

Jonathan Wilburn: My mom and dad (Jackie and Elaine Wilburn) were married right out of high school. They both shared a love for music. They passed that down to their boys: Jimmy, Jay and Jonathan. I have always loved music and singing. My early childhood was that of a normal kid growing up in a small town.

Mom and Dad traveled regionally as the Happiness Quartet. I would hop in the van and go when I could. In my eyes, they were the best singers in the world. Nobody was as good as my heroes. I followed them and not many others interested me.

I can't say I dreamed of becoming a gospel singer. When things really changed for me was when I got saved, and I realized what the Holy Spirit was all about. You can't base your salvation on emotions, but when the God of the Universe sets up residence in your heart and it doesn't cause some kind of feeling or emotion, you may want to check what really happened.

I didn't choose singing gospel music to be my occupation. I didn't will myself into a position but God placed me here. I could not do it if I didn't realize the eternal difference it is making in the lives of others.

In the Wilburn family, singing was not taught, but you just sang, period. It is simply a part of who we are.

Simonis: After departing from the Wilburns to join Gold City, you were their lead singer for 12 years. How did that impact your life and ministry?

Wilburn: When I went with Gold City, it was not about money. I had just built a new home in Carthage and bought a new car. God was blessing the Wilburns. I was home one day booking dates for the Wilburns when Beckie Simmons and I were talking on the phone. We were discussing dates when she just mentioned Gold City was going through another change.

I didn't think anything of it but as soon as I hung up



the phone, God spoke to my heart and said, "Pick that phone back up and give Beckie a call back and let her know you are interested in that position." I was not a lead singer. I told God I was not talented enough to do that. I gave him every reason not to make that call. I finally gave in and made that call and the rest is history. God gave me 12 awesome years with one of the best organizations ever in Southern gospel music. Gold City gave me an opportunity of a lifetime. I owe so much to Tim Riley for taking a chance on me when many thought he was crazy.

I have had some pretty awesome men and women invest in my career. My mom and dad, Tim Riley, Mark Trammell and many others who have encouraged me through the years.



Simonis: Your father, Jackie Wilburn, went home to be with the Lord just a few years ago. Share how you're honoring his memory through your ministry.

Wilburn: My dad, Jackie Wilburn, went home to be with the Lord in Nov. 2011. It doesn't seem like it, but it has been seven years. I think of him every day. My dad was a man's man. He was tough yet compassionate. If he was your friend, you had a friend for life. He was in tune with God and the Word of God. There will never be another Jackie Wilburn.

We have a great weekend to honor my dad every year in Carthage, Tenn., at the Smith County AG Center, "The Jackie Wilburn Memorial Spring Sing." It takes place every year on the last weekend in April.

Simonis: With all of the miles you've traveled, there are bound to be some humorous stories. Can you share one with us?

Wilburn: Well, there are lots of funny memories. There is one that stands out, though, and has become rather notorious. We were singing up in N.C. Great crowd with the balcony full at this church. We were nearing the end of the evening when Dad asked if anybody had a request. He was thinking prayer request but those in attendance were thinking song request. Well, we had a song titled, "Coming Out Of The Wilderness." It was being played a lot in that area.

So one person shouted out, "Coming Out Of The Wilderness." Dad said, "Yes, I hear that request." Then

another, another and another.

Finally I just started singing the song. As I began to sing I could tell something was wrong. Mom was visibly upset and Dad was really red in the face. We finished the song and went to the merchandise table. I knew something was up 'cause Mom and Dad did not come to the table. They went straight to the bus. Tony Gore was with us at this time, so I asked Tony to watch the table while I went to see about Mom and Dad.



I get to the bus and they were both up front. Mom was in tears and Dad was sitting there with his bible. They asked how could I be so disrespectful of Dad. Dad said, "That man Comer Wilkerson needed prayer and you thought it best to just skip the altar of prayer that I was going to have for him?"

Then I told them, "They were requesting the song, 'Coming Out Of The Wilderness!'" They were relieved I wasn't disrespectful, but more relieved I didn't let them get in the altar for a man that did not exist.

Simonis: The passion for sharing the gospel is evident with you. What is your motivation to continue after all of these years of singing?

Wilburn: My passion for singing is stronger than ever. I believe we live in a day and age where people need real. I don't want to be fake. I don't want to be a gospel music star or put on some kind of watered-down show. If I'm going to wear out this old body and spend my time out here on the road, I want to make an eternal difference.

Simonis: In closing, thank you so much for doing this. I know folks will want to connect with you. How can they do that?

Wilburn: Man, I love to connect with new and old friends. You can find me on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. My music is on iTunes, Apple and Amazon Music, and Google Play. Additionally, for tickets or music, call 256-459-4769 or log on to JonathanWilburn.com.

Melissa Smith Ministries



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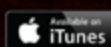


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Can You Handle The TRUTH?

The dress code for Christians with big buts...

By David Staton

We all know the song. If I sing, “What can wash away my sin,” everyone in the room will sing the next line, “Nothing but the blood of Jesus!” It is one of my favorite hymns. The message is strong and according to scripture, it is true.

We all say that we believe it, but I’m amazed at how many people that sit in church week after week who really do not believe this fundamental truth.

I was in a small group and we were studying 1 Peter 1:13-15, and when we got to verse 15 that says to “Be Holy, for I am Holy,” the question was asked, “What does it take to be holy?”

Good question. The answers I heard from many who have spent their lives in church shocked me. Many of them started with, “I know what Jesus did on the cross forgave me of my sin, but.....”

There I was in a room full of Christians with big buts!

Several addressed how they felt, and why they thought that, because of things they have done, there must be some kind of process they must go through to one day become holy and righteous. My heart broke for them.

Here sat several well-meaning, good people, who once

stood guilty before God, then Jesus walked into the courtroom and paid the price, released them from their sentence and set them free. Their shackles were removed, yet after hearing the verdict, instead of walking out the front doors into freedom, they went right back to the prison as if they had never been set free.

I tried desperately to let them know that according to 2 Corinthians 5:21 - and an ocean of scripture - that when they accept Christ, all things become new, the old man dies and a new man is raised up, and that God refers to his people as the righteous. You would think the response would have been a loud, “Amen!,” but instead, it was a round of big buts.

The next day I was talking to someone who does not go to church. He came right out and asked me how God could possibly let him into heaven knowing all that he had done in his life. There was a lot of guilt, and a lot of shame. I explained to him what happens when Christ comes to dwell in our spirit and radically transforms us into a new person. He actually makes us righteous in the sight of God.

His response started with a big “but.” I thought to myself, “I don’t know who has a harder time believing in the power of the blood of Christ, church folks or people

who never go to church.”

In Ephesians 6, where it talks about putting on the full armor of God, after all is read and studied, here is what it comes down to: You have to change your mind with the truth.

God has changed your spirit. It is done, sealed, and eternal, but only you can change your mind. Some will say, “Well if I’m going to heaven, why do I need to renew my mind, read my bible, and put the promises of God in my mind?”

Well, the first reason is obvious. Remember the guy who came into the courtroom and pardoned you from death row? He has asked you to work for him. I believe the bible calls it, “Your reasonable service.”

Second of all, if salvation was only about heaven, you would have been raptured up into heaven the moment you accepted Christ; but the truth is, you are here to make a difference for the kingdom of God. Changing

and renewing your mind with truth is the only way you will do that.

The battle is real and you are now a soldier. There are a lot of miles between the altar and heaven, and I refuse to let my “buts” get my butt kicked by the enemy all the way to the finish line. Too many people suffer for a lack of knowledge, and I believe this is at the core. Enough about butts.

What is the dress code for the church? Read Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

And there you go. You have been given a robe of righteousness. If we only understood this, we would know that the robe of righteousness covers all of our butts.

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Dreams Come True: a look at the ministry of **Ivan Parker**

By Justin Gilmore

It's almost that special time of year once again. Legendary Southern gospel artist, Ivan Parker, is gearing up for the holidays with a new album entitled "Christmas Dreaming". This project features many classic Christmas songs with Parker's smooth vocal touch and is available now.

Ivan Parker has had a long, storied career in the Southern gospel music field having sung with several popular groups. He has also been a staple of the Gaither Homecoming videos. Parker currently travels and ministers as a soloist, and is experiencing great success. From an early age, Parker always knew he wanted to sing. He has been blessed to be able to do what he loves and spread the Word of God through song.

Gospel music has been a major part of Parker's life since the beginning. Parker, while at his father's church, gave his heart to the Lord at nine years old and from that point, knew he wanted to sing.

"I started singing weekends with my brothers when I was 13 years old," says Parker. "My dad was a pastor so I grew up in church. Being from a large family of

seven kids, we all learned to sing early in life. My first full time position came in 1982 with the Singing Americans. Then I started with Gold City in 1983 and traveled with them for 10 years. I immediately started my solo career in January 1994, and also started with the Gaithers doing a few tour dates in February of that year, which continued for years on video and concert dates."

Parker's unique and powerful lead voice is easily recognizable. His great sound and style was influenced by several of the great pioneers of the Gospel music field.

Parker states, "Through the years of loving Southern gospel music, there are many influences. I have always loved the crooning vocals and personality of Jake Hess, the smooth lead singing of Duane Allen with the Oak Ridge Boys." He is now a part of that long line of incredible vocalists.

Gold City recorded some of its most popular hits during Parker's tenure, including: "In My Robe Of White," "I Think I'll Read It Again," "John Saw," and "Midnight Cry." The latter song became Parker's signature.



Following his departure from Gold City, Parker embarked on a solo career in 1994. He has been nominated for, and received, several national gospel music awards. Parker's music has resonated with audiences all over the world and captures beautifully the message of Christ. His latest mainline release "Dancing In The Rain" features his latest radio single which conveys a timely message.

Parker explains, "The latest radio single is called 'Take Me To The Cross,' written by Rodney Griffin. I had been looking for a song that was a mix of patriotic with a Christian message. Without Rodney and I talking, he emailed me this song and I knew God intended this song for me. It was the perfect blend of the two messages that I was wanting. I absolutely love this song!"

Parker is also very excited about his latest release "Christmas Dreaming." He explains, "I haven't recorded a Christmas project in several years, so I wanted to go all out on this one with full orchestration. Garry Jones, a long time friend from the Gold City years, did an incredible job arranging and producing the vocals and music. It touched on a classic sound that allowed me to reach back in time to some of the Christmas music I heard when I was growing up."

For Parker, it is all about the message and not about fame and awards. God has blessed him with the gift of song which has allowed him to experience many incredible things.

The vocalist recalls, "In my blessed years of traveling, there have been many incredible experiences that I am so thankful to God to have experienced. The most memorable would probably be singing at Carnegie Hall

with the Gaither Homecoming tour. It was the one year anniversary after 9/11 and we brought God and country to NYC. Bill had me sing, 'God Bless The USA' that night as many of the first responders and fireman were present. That gave me an opportunity to honor some great heroes and say thank you for your service."

Traveling all over the world has allowed Parker to minister to many people.

"It's always my prayer and desire for my music to be encouraging and to lift people up through a tough time in their lives," Parker explains. "In my concerts, I love to see and hear the audience laugh as well as worship. When it's all said and done, if I have helped someone separate from their situation for a few minutes I have succeeded in sharing joy and faith in Christ!"

Throughout his career, he has met many people who have been deeply affected by his music and the message of Christ.

"I did a concert one night in Illinois and it was a night full of laughter and fun," recalls Parker. "It was such a different concert than anything I had ever done. I remembered every joke I had ever told and just a lot of off the cuff things happened. After the concert I went to the CD table to sign a few things, and a lady came by and requested to talk with me. I said absolutely and she began to share that she had been clinically depressed for 10 years and she had not smiled or laughed and could barely get out of bed. But that night God healed her of depression!"

It is moments like this that put it into perspective for Parker.

The future is looking bright for this ministry minded legend. He remains dedicated to living out the call on his life from Christ.

"I have a desire to see the name of Jesus lifted up through praise," states Parker. "Gospel music is a praise to our Lord that can convict, uplift and unburden. I love people and they know it. Show them Jesus and the cross and change a soul forever."

Parker plans to continue traveling and releasing music for years to come. In addition to his newest album, he plans to have another album released shortly. He has been blessed beyond measure and praises Christ for his



hand in his life.

It is obvious that Parker loves doing what he does. It was his dream to sing and God has made that dream come true.

“I’ve always said that it’s (Southern gospel music) the greatest music in the world! The friends I’ve made and the stories I can tell will last a lifetime,” exclaims Parker. “I’m thrilled to be a part of this wonderful family of singers.”

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Step By Step

By Joan Walker

There have been many steps since I last met you here in SGNScoops. God has definitely been with me, and if I felt that he wasn't, it's because I was the one who chose to move away.

My struggle with weight loss and healthy living has definitely been that - a struggle. Have you noticed that as you struggle with something regarding your physical body, your spiritual life, your walk with God can deteriorate as well. I know we've talked about that before in Step By Step.

Over the past 10 months, my spiritual health has gone the gamut – from hardly there, and that's by my judgment not God's, to knowing that God is right there. In April of this year, the Lord provided a job and I just passed my six-month probation. Through different issues, I've known that God was right there; either protecting me as my brakes gave out on my car or providing a good wage with benefits.

When we know that God is right there, just a prayer away, why do we not take our human struggles to him? My weight and health are an ongoing stumbling block. He's there to provide strength and self control, yet every day it seems that I keep my spiritual life in one compartment and my physical health in another. Oh, I know God is just waiting for me to reach out and claim that strength and self control, yet I don't.

But, I do have better days than some, and I know what works. If I'm spending time in God's word – I have an audio version of the bible for listening in my car, as well as a great devotional book by Lysa TerKeurst – and

listening to him, talking to him daily, that consistency and discipline in that area of my life definitely strengthens the discipline and self control I need for my health.

I'm not perfect though, of course, and I know that sharing these days and these struggles with you here will help me, and I hope, if you need it, it will help you. Please feel free to contact me if you are struggling with similar issues as I am, and we'll continue on this journey together.... Step by step.

A promotional image for the CD 'Stronger' by Sacred Calling. It features three women smiling and posing together in front of a classical architectural background. The title 'Sacred Calling' is written in a cursive font at the top. Below the photo, text reads: 'Thanks for requesting our latest release, "You Never Cease To Amaze Me" from our latest cd "Stronger"'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'For bookings, contact 423-736-7272 or email penny@jubileetalentagency.com www.sacredcallingmusic.com'.

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ALONG WITH SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE



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

1. Beat Up Bible - The Down East Boys
2. Jesus Messiah - The Gaither Vocal Band
3. Jailbreak - Joseph Habedank
4. The Cross Is All The Proof I Need – The Triumphant Quartet
5. Rolled Back Stone - Greater Vision
6. Beyond Amazed - Brian Free And Assurance
7. Run The Race - The Hyssongs
8. When I Wake Up To Sleep No More - The Old Time Preachers Quartet
9. Faithful - The Whisnants
10. Watch and See - The Erwins
11. Power In Prayer - 11th Hour
12. Love, Love, Love - Gordon Mote
13. Sun’s Gonna Come Up - The LeFevre Quartet
14. Anything Less - The Taylors
15. Meeting In The Middle Of The Air - The Tribute Quartet
16. Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Mile - The Williamsons
17. Deep In My Heart - Legacy Five
18. What An Anchor - The Mylon Hayes Family
19. Be Brave - The McKameys
20. Grab Your Umbrella - The Talleys
21. Living In The Middle Of His Will - Sunday Drive
22. Never Changes - The Steeles
23. Lost - The Jim Brady Trio
24. You Better Get Right - The Jordan Family Band
25. I Know I’ll Be There - Karen Peck and New River
26. Don’t Underestimate God’s Grace - The Kingsmen Quartet
27. Mount Testimony - The Lore Family

28. Treasures In Heaven - The Mark Trammell Quartet
29. Running - The Martins
30. I'm Gonna Wish I Had Worried Less - Mark Bishop
31. Grace, Love, And Mercy - The 3rd Row Boys
32. He's Making Me - Amber Nelon Thompson
33. I Can't Explain It - Dean
34. Freedom Don't Come Easy - Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call
35. Every Day - The Dysart Family
36. Woke Up This Morning - The Guardians
37. The Ground Is Level - The Bibletones
38. I Want To Be The One - Tim Livingston
39. Good News Never Gets Old - Three Bridges
40. Peace Is On The Way - The Old Paths
41. Give Your Smile Away - The Wilbanks
42. You Never Cease To Amaze Me - Sacred Calling
43. By A Show Of Hands - The Carolina Boys
44. Longing For Home - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
45. Looking Through The Eyes Of Love - The Ferguson Family
46. Saved - Hazel Parker Stanley
47. Let Me Take You To The Cross - Ivan Parker
48. I Know Him - The Inspirations
49. Who Do You Know - Mercy's Well
50. Little Is Much - Michael English
51. That's Grace - The Primitive Quartet
52. Lily Of The Valley - Josh and Ashley Franks



53. When He Says Arise - Answered Prayer
54. The Calm At The Center Of My Storm - River's Edge
55. Don't Look Back - The Rochesters
56. Up To Something - Sacred Harmony
57. What Kind Of A Man - Surrendered
58. The Old Gospel Ship - Chronicle
59. The News Is Out - Georgia
60. Coming On Strong - Cami Shrock
61. You Can Get There From Here - MARK209
62. Because Of The Blood - The Shireys
63. All My Hope - The Dodrills
64. Let My Light Shine - Zane and Donna King
65. He Is The Only One - The Dixie Echoes
66. Pray For Power - Pauline Patterson
67. I Need To Trust Jesus - Paul James Sound
68. The Return - The Soul'd Out Quartet
69. I Went Down - The Spoken 4 Quartet
70. The Thing About A Valley - Steve Ladd
71. Always Better - Kevin and Kim Abney
72. Freedom - The Liberty Quartet
73. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
74. I Wanna Know - The Songsmiths
75. I Believe - Bros. 4
76. Gonna Take A Ride - Westward Road
77. Silhouette - The Wisecarvers
78. Lily Of The Valley - Josh and Ashley Franks
79. I Just Want To Talk To You Jesus - The Barber Family
80. All That Heaven Holds - The Bates Family
81. The Fight - Battle Cry
82. Testify - Cheri Taylor
83. By The Marks In His Hands - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
84. Everywhere I Go - The Heath Brothers
85. How Can I Doubt That - The Hinson Family

86. You Chose To Be My Friend - Jason Crabb
87. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff and Sheri Easter
88. Before You Change The World - Lindsey Graham
89. Why Don't We Just Sit And Talk - Mark Lowry
90. Small Lonely Hill - Matt Felts
91. So Many Ways To Praise - Justified Quartet
92. Where Is The Valley - Ricky Atkinson and Compassion
93. Standing In The Storm - The Sharps Quartet
94. God Told Me To Walk A Little Farther - The Porter Family
95. Choose Happy - Tim Lovelace
96. Long Gone - Victoria Bowlin
97. I Am The One - Walking By Faith
98. We Believe - The Troy Burns Family
99. If It Wasn't For The Valley - The Pathfinders
100. Broken Things - Avery Road

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Taking a gospel trip with **Zack Shelton** and 64 to Grayson



By John Herndon

Trying to find a place to pin Zack Shelton and 64 to Grayson along the musical road isn't impossible, but it's close.

There's some unmistakable country influence on this dynamic Christian band, but like all successful groups, the sound is one of its own. It can be progressive or traditional. Think anything from Chris Stapleton to George Strait to Hank Williams.

"I get this question a lot," laughs Shelton, the son of Thomas Shelton, a veteran of over 30 years in the gospel music industry. "It can sometimes feel lonely doing this style of music because there aren't a lot of other artists who tend to lean in our same direction."

Shelton put the band together while he was a student at Kentucky Christian University (KCU), which is located in Grayson, just off Interstate 64, hence the group's catchy moniker. Located in northeastern Kentucky, it is part of the general area that spawned the careers of country music greats Tom T. Hall, Bobby Bare, The Judds, Billy Ray Cyrus, Keith Whitley and Ricky Skaggs.

While none of the band's members grew up near Grayson, it is fitting the group came together for the first time at a distinctly Christian college that happens to be located in a hotbed of country music.

"My country music roots are showing, and I do try to keep my lyrics very realistic and genuine," says Shelton, who has had opportunities to play with Charlie Daniels, Josh Turner and the Gaithers. "People have called our style many things from Newgrass to God-country. I've stopped trying to place myself in a genre and just write what makes sense to me."

That's evident in the title track from the group's latest album. The band's three members incorporate lyrics from some of the great hymns — "Softly and Tenderly," "Amazing Grace," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," among others — for a reflective look at Christian growth. The chorus ends,

"Each melody, stanza, harmony note, and ancient word ever true
Are standing on the promises that echo between the pews."



The latest work contains some high energy country-rock along with rousing rendition of “I Saw the Light” and “I’ll Fly Away” and a soul-searching ballad, “Audience of One,” which Shelton says is his favorite song on the CD. “It’s a conversation I had with God last year which started a chain of realizations and decisions,” Shelton said. “I’m still working through it to this day.”

The second verse says,



“When I don’t feel that my faith has moved a mountain
That my song has changed a heart
That my story is worth telling, or that it even had a start
I think back, to how Jesus’ life began
He was here to die for me
Now I’m here to live for Him.”

Whether on a CD or in one of the group’s energetic concerts, the group seeks to live for Christ and challenge others to do the same. “As a Christian, we believe that everything we do is to be for the glory of God,” Shelton says. “Even a plumber has an opportunity to be a vessel spreading the gospel. Our skills have allowed us to hold the attention of acquaintances and strangers for an uninterrupted amount of time in concert.”

The vision to serve full time through music materialized six



years ago. “In early 2012, I started pulling my resources to book a tour for that summer,” Shelton remembers. “I sold my ‘97 Camry, bought a van and loaded it up with a small sound system and hit the road with the band. We played 60 shows that summer, recorded a studio album and after that, I went back to KCU to finish my senior year. After graduation, the momentum we had built gave us an opportunity to proceed and we have still been going since.”

The group is popular in churches which is understandable given the deep roots at KCU, but Shelton says the group is not limited in its travels and plays 200 events a year. The group is now based in the Cincinnati suburbs of northern Kentucky.

“We’ll go anywhere we are asked, within reason. We do play a lot of churches, but also fairs, festivals, schools, you name it,” Shelton says with a laugh.

“We’ve played birthday parties, wedding receptions, house shows, live streams, camps, we even pushed through a power outage once and played an acoustic gig in the pitch black. People literally held flashlights just so any of us could see.”

Zack Shelton and 64 to Grayson might not be on everyone’s radar just yet, but it’s likely just a matter of time. The band has been named one of the “Top 20 Most Prospective Groups” by Music Connection magazine in 2014 and has a loyal and enthusiastic following four years later.

The journey isn’t easy, but Zack Shelton and 64 to Grayson put their hearts into the mission every day. Says Shelton, “We use our opportunities to spread joy and grow the Kingdom of God.”

For more information see <http://www.64toGrayson.com>.



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joy, and the ministry,
which I have received of
the Lord Jesus,
*to testify the gospel of
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TOP 40

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1. There's No Place Too Far From Grace - Tina Wakefield
2. Send The Rain - Kolt Barber
3. Daddy I'm Home - Gene Reasoner
4. I'd Settle For A Dirt Road - Chuck Hancock
5. Living Proof - Wyatt Nations
6. Lord You Are Love - Sonshine Road
7. He's All I Need - Steve Warren
8. It's Gonna Be A Good Day - Christian Davis
9. I Know The End Of The Story - John Penney
10. Wonderful - Lisa Daggs
11. I'll Take It From Here - Bruce Hedrick
12. See You There - Freddie Hart
13. If The Bottle Was A Bible - Johnny Rowlett
14. Number One Fan - Hunter May

15. No One Compares To You Lord - Mary Fay Jackson
16. Call On Jesus - Ronnie Horton
17. Coming On Strong - Cami Shrock
18. Country As Cornbread - Shellem Cline
19. Don't Let The Devil Ride - Doug Corum
20. The Old Man Is Dead - James Payne
21. I Got Saved - Michael Knight
22. Family Ties - Barbara Fairchild
23. Always Better - Kevin and Kim Abney
24. Drinking New Wine - Michael Lee/Daryle Singletary
25. Love You Like Mary - McKay Project
26. Remember The Soldier - David Gresham
27. Just Because I Asked You - Gena Hamilton
28. When Grandma Prayed - Appointed 2
29. Cinderella - Trinity Wennerstrom
30. You Can Always Come Home - Steve Bridgmon/Allie Colleen
31. Take My Hand - Gunner Carr
32. It's Written In The Scars - Dan Duncan
33. Sweet Whispers - Amy Richardson
34. Oh, My God - Jami Lynn Flanakin



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- 35. Sunday Morning Meeting - Paul Winchester
- 36. Hey Brother DJ - Jimmy R. Price
- 37. I Miss Them All - Jordan Family Band
- 38. The Songs Will Never End - The Tiptons
- 39. Take Her Name Off The Prayer List - Mark Lanier
- 40. Hide Me Behind The Cross - Tonja Rose

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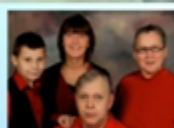
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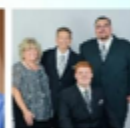
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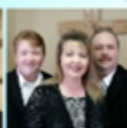
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Day To Day

Perspective on the Journey

By Selena Day

I just spent the past week in Northern Ireland with a crazy, wonderful group of women. During that week we decided to rent a car to drive, trying to see as much of the country as we possibly could. After several encounters with the curb and a close call with some Germans, we realized that our perception had to change and we needed to stay to the right instead of going to the left. "Think left, think left," became our mantra for the week. My friend would say to me while I was driving and she was navigating; "Turn right, think left."

Many times in our life we only filter our thoughts, or our convictions through what our mama, grandma or our pastor told us. If you only have friends that think the same way that you do, you are in trouble. We need to surround ourselves with people that have different perceptions than you.

Unity is a very important aspect in my heart. Unity not only in the body of Christ, or even in our nation, but finding unity within myself between my heart, my soul and my spirit. Unity is not just saying we all agree on the same thing, unity is choosing to celebrate those things which brings us together and not what divides us. Choosing to see through the filter of perception that another may have and being open to hear them and not just react to what is different in them.

My husband is in the singing ministry and because of this, I have found myself to be a part of this ministry as well even though I don't sing. I also speak at women's conferences and mentor a younger generation helping

them navigate their way through this passage called life. I have for the past 11 years worked with missionaries from around the world and have traveled to over 40 countries.

I give you my background only to make a point. My circle of influence is varied and diverse. We work with the very pro-right; family, faith and country; to the pro-left 'Jesus is inclusive for all' movement who march for their beliefs. Both would lay down their life for what they believe. Both sides have huge hearts and long to bring healing through Jesus to the world, they love Jesus with all that is within them.

Both want to see revival come and to see our world changed by the love of God. The big difference is in how they believe this will happen.

Recently I heard a statistic that resonated with me concerning the church. The statistic said that when a person is told that they have to make a major life change or die, 90% of them choose to risk death than to make that change to live.

When I heard that, I thought about the church in America. I thought about our ministry. Chuck and I are constantly seeking God on what direction we should take for our lives and for our ministry. This is our livelihood, so as the culture in the church is changing, we feel the pressure to change as well.

In my younger days, I would have followed the culture

in the church, but after finding myself on an island surrounded by a few that didn't want to change, but chose to stay separated away because of lack of nourishment while being disconnected, I discovered that I must follow God's voice in my life and not the voice of the popular leader of the day.

Right now following Christ means to be open to that which may be different than me. To go into areas that others may not understand. To choose to sit with people that may be completely different than me. I am choosing to hit a few curbs right now so that I can understand what it means to drive on what I perceived to be the wrong side of the road. I choose love. I choose love!

The bible says that love covers a multitude of sins. The purest definition of sin is to miss the mark. We all miss the mark, and choosing to stand on our side of the fence and point fingers in the name of our version of Jesus, is missing the mark in a big way.

Today as we begin to enter the holiday season spending Thanksgiving and Christmas with extended family members, let us be challenged to try to see through a different perception than our own.

Let us choose to love those that think differently than us. To lay down our need to be right so that we can pick up Jesus' cross and love so much that we choose to listen, we choose to put our love into action and not reaction.



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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Marty Smith



By Vonda Armstrong

This month, we talk to Marty Smith from Heaven's Country. Marty has certainly won his way into the hearts of his listeners through the years. I asked him a few questions about his life. Hope that you enjoy reading about this popular guy.

Vonda Armstrong: When did you begin your career in radio? What is your current position, and where are you based?



Marty Smith: I started my radio career in 1990 at a small AM radio station in Kansas City, Mo. I've done just about every format you can imagine. My love is Christian country music. I now own Heaven's Country (www.heavenscountry.com), based out of Durango, Colo.

Armstrong: If you could interview anyone, who would it be?

Smith: I would love to interview Alan Jackson or Randy Owen from Alabama. (I) love their music.

Armstrong: Please share your testimony with us.

Smith: I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior in 1977 at Lake Powell (a reservoir in Utah located on the Colorado River). I lived in a little place called Bullfrog, Utah. I'll never forget that moment. I've had my ups and downs over the years. I've made my mistakes. The one thing I've learned is that no matter what, Jesus

loves me. He loves you. There's nothing you can do to change that. So many people carry baggage around saying things like, "He'll never forgive me." The fact is, He already has. He loves you so much (that) He died for you. It doesn't get any better than that. The greatest privilege a Christian can have is to share His word to the world.

Armstrong: Tell us about your family.

Smith: My wife and I live in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in Durango, Colo. We have two dogs and two cats. Our kids are grown. They live in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; and Knoxville, Tenn. We're having our adventure in Durango.

Armstrong: Out of all your years working in radio, is there a very special moment that stands out for you? Tell us about it.

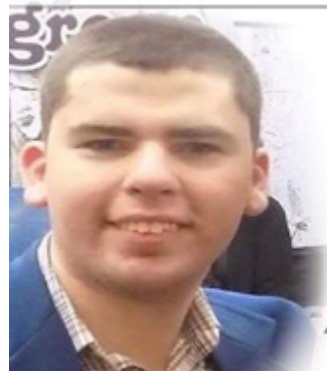
Smith: The (moment) that stands out more than any other is when I was doing a live broadcast. A guy came up to me to thank me for being on the air. He went on to tell



me that he shined shoes for a living, and he tunes in to me every day as he shines shoes. One day, as I was on the air, I was talking about the joy of being saved, and a guy heard me on the radio. He asked the shoe shine guy what I was talking about, and the shoe shine guy was able to lead him to Jesus. It was awesome.

Smith is on the air every weekday morning on Facebook from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. For more information and times of programs, visit www.heavenscountry.com.

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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Hutch Jordan of the Jordan Family Band

BY ERIN STEVENS

Musicians make the world go 'round...or at least they provide a catchy tune as it turns. Whether you are a musician or you have friends that are, you will know right off the bat that musical folk are just plain quirky, and definitely a breed all their own. Making music is a language unto itself, and today's guest speaks it quite fluently. A newer addition to the Southern gospel world, Hutch Jordan of the Jordan Family Band joins us today for a little pickin' and grinnin'.

Erin Stevens: How old were you when you chose your first instrument? What was it and can you tell us a little about those early days?

Hutch Jordan: I was eight. My Poppa bought me my first drum set for Christmas. I went through a plethora of sets through the years, but I'll always keep that set, as it is the sole thing that began my passion for music. I'm pretty sure the people in the neighborhood I was living in at the time got tired of hearing me bang on them every day after school.

Stevens: If you had to pick only one instrument to play the rest of your life, what would it be?

Jordan: Definitely guitar. That's such a hard choice, though. I love playing everything else just as much.

Stevens: What does a normal practice session look like for JFB?

Jordan: Most people might assume chaos, but in all reality, when Mom, Dad, and Alex get together with me playing acoustic, everything flows so naturally.

Stevens: When did you get into studio session work?

Jordan: I came into the overdub world about two or so years ago. But it was early this year when producers started hiring me for tracking day at different studios.

Stevens: Which do you enjoy more, playing on stage or in the studio?

Jordan: I enjoy both, but for different reasons. I love the energy of the stage, and I love the creativity in the studio.

Stevens: If you could hand pick your favorite musicians to play with on an album, who would make up your dream team?

Jordan: I think I've already done so. I've worked with so many great players including Mark Hill, Gordon Mote, Rob Hajacos, Jeremy Medkiff, Garth Justice, Stone Carter, Scott Sanders, Wanda Vick, Andy Leftwich, and many, many more.

Stevens: Is there talk of a Hutch Jordan solo CD in the future?

Jordan: I've given that a lot of thought. I will definitely do an instrumental record sometime in the future.

Stevens: Could you see yourself teaching private lessons someday down the road?

Jordan: Actually, yes. I would love to start Skype lessons, or something to that effect. I think it would go well.

Stevens: Knowing your talents come from God alone,



how do you give glory to him through your musical abilities?

Jordan: I try my best to take what he has given me to wherever he wants me to go. I know I couldn't ever give him enough praise for what he is allowing me to do, so, I'll just accept it, and let him guide me.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

Sometimes it's hard for us to just 'accept it.' We fight it, kick against the grain, and try to do our own thing. But really, the Lord gave each of us unique abilities, specifically designed to fit our very unique callings. Maybe you have been running from what or where he is calling you to. May Hutch and I urge you to simply 'accept it?' Do that crazy thing Christ is nudging you towards, take that job, return that phone call, take that leap of faith. Accept the calling, accept the Master's plan, and just do it.

And that's my take on it.

Until next month, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin via Social Media:

- Blog: erinfluence.wordpress.com
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Randall Reviews It - November 2018

by Randall Hamm

Dear 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. May I suggest these three new releases: Cami Shrock - "Strong," Troy Burns Family - "We Believe," and Les Butler - "Suits Me Fine." After reading the reviews, I hope as always... If you enjoy the reviews, pick up this music, or download it, wherever you get good gospel music.

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

Randall



Cami Shrock

"Strong"

2018 Independent

Producer: John Darin Rowsey

Songs: "Comin' On Strong" (Marcia Henry); "Hallelujah, What A Savior" (PD-Brian Sites); "Let's Take Freedom" (Amy Keffer Shelley - Jeff Steele - Twila McBride); "Rejoice" (John Darin Rowsey - Mike W. Harland); "Be Still" (Gina Vera - Ann Downing); "Should The Thorn Remain" (Belinda Lee Smith - Kenna Turner West - Jason Wayne Cox); "Living In Beulah" (Gregory S. Howard); "Live For Today" (Cami Shrock - Gregory Hensler - Ryan Hensler); "My Refuge" (Marcia Henry - Nathan Woodard); "The River (Come On Down)" (Jeff Pardo - Jordan Feliz); "That's What Makes Grace Amazing" (John Darin Rows - Marty Funderburk)

Introducing you to a new artist this month, Cami Shrock. Shrock hails from Greentown, Ind., just a few miles away from Kokomo, Ind. I first met Cami at a

Karen Peck and New River concert in Bedford, Ind., a few years back. She introduced herself and handed me her latest CD (then) entitled, “Stand In Faith.” Fast forward to NQC 2018, Cami has a new CD out and her first national single, “Comin’ On Strong.” The song, written by Marcia Henry, says that with God’s help, we can be “Comin’ On Strong” with his help, guidance, grace and love.

One of the standout songs on the project is “Let’s Take Freedom,” a song of taking God’s love and grace to help folks break their chains from their sin and addictions.

John Darin Rowsey has produced a wonderful CD and Cami closes with a John Darin Rowsey/Marty Funderburk-penned tune “That’s What Makes Grace Amazing.” God loved this old world so much, he sent his son; and yes, that’s what makes grace amazing. Overall, a great CD, and DJs looking for a new artist to spin, give Cami Shrock a chance. Visit her at [facebook.com/camishrockministries/](https://www.facebook.com/camishrockministries/) and get a copy of “Strong” wherever you get good gospel music.

Strongest Songs: “Comin’ On Strong,” “Let’s Take Freedom,” and, “That’s What Makes Grace Amazing.”



Troy Burns Family
 “We Believe”
 2018 Inspire/Chapel Valley
 Producer: Shane Roark

Songs: “I Want To Say Thank You” (Thomas Pelphrey, BMI); “I Was There” (Phil Morgan ,BMI); “Toe Tappin’ Turn It Up Time” (Mark Hawkins - Jason Ellsworth - Chuck Harmon, BMI); “We Will Stand” (Roger Barkley, Jr., BMI); “When He Calls” (Lisa Williamson, BMI); “This Time Tomorrow” (Jonathan Montgomery, BMI); “Grandma’s Front Porch” (William C. Cook - Jennifer McCallister); “Mighty Strong Hand” (Tracy Jones BMI); “God Is Still Good” (Tracy Jones, BMI);

“We Believe” (Collins Travis Ivan - Fike Thomas Richardson - Hooper Matthew James, ASCAP)

The Troy Burns Family has added two new members since last we reviewed a project with them. Added to the group is Cole Watson, who sings baritone and lead, and Ethan McNelly, who sings bass and plays instruments with the group.

The newest CD with this lineup is “We Believe,” and the Troy Burns Family is now truly a quartet and can handle such songs. Such an example is “Toe Tappin’ Turn It Up Time.” The addition of Ethan on bass makes this a wonderful song to spin and Tammy does a fine job of carrying lead.

The first single release is the title cut “We Believe,” an anthem for Christians everywhere. We believe in God, the Father and the Son; his death, burial and resurrection. Yes, “We Believe.”

One of my favorites on the CD is “Grandma’s Front Porch,” a song of remembrance and grandma singing her favorite songs, and feeling safe and secure on grandma’s front porch. A close second is “Mighty Strong Hand.” Troy takes the lead and the group joins in on the chorus. My pick for a single from the project later on.

Congratulations to Troy and Tammy on the additions of Cole and Ethan. Two young men who have a heart for the Lord and who add so much to the ministry of Troy and Tammy.

Visit the Troy Burns Family at [facebook.com/troyburnsfamily/](https://www.facebook.com/troyburnsfamily/) and get a copy of “We Believe.”

Strongest Songs: “Mighty Strong Hand,” “I Was There,” and “Grandma’s Front Porch”



Les Butler (And Friends)
 “Suits Me Fine”
 2018 Family Music
 Producer: Les Butler

Songs: “That Old Red Back Hymnal (with the Williamsons) (Larry Petree, BMI); “Power In Prayer” (Ronny Hinson, BMI); “A Bible and A Belt” (Rory Feek, BMI); “God Walks The Dark Hills” (Czarnikow, BMI); “When His Blood Fell” (Roger Johnson, BMI); “He Came Looking For Me” (Gerald Crabb, BMI); “He Didn’t Die A Thief “ (Mark Wheeler, BMI); “I’ll Fly Away” (Albert E. Brumley, BMI); “You Can’t Ask Too Much Of My God” (Mark Bishop, BMI); “Leavin’ On My My Mind” (Featuring Mark Wheeler) (Rusty Goodman BMI)

Les Butler is a producer, radio DJ, television host and so many other things, and somehow found some spare time to release a new CD and it’s a dandy. “Suits Me Fine” is the title, taken from the first single release “That Old Red Back Hymnal,” written by Larry Petree. Joining Les on this cut are the Williamsons. As the title and message implies, as much as I love the new worship music, don’t toss out that old red back hymnal, because it suits me fine.

Les brings in his own style, great readings of classics such as, “God Walks The Dark Hills,” and “Leaving On My Mind.” “God Walks The Dark Hills,” features the

Les Butler Trio and just leaves me wanting more of this trio’s singing.

“Leaving On My Mind,” features Mark Wheeler and brings a great country feel to the Goodman classic. “I’ll Fly Away” is instrumental gold featuring some great piano and picking on the strings, from some of the best musicians in Nashville.

My favorite song is one that Joey and Rory brought to us a few years back, “A Bible and A Belt.” A song that is powerful in its lyrics, says what America truly needs. Both made of leather, one came from England, one came from Sears. One taught the truth, and one was used when the truth wasn’t used. Rory Feek wrote a masterpiece when he penned this tune. I’m hoping that this might be a single pulled later from the project. No truer song could be played than this.

Overall, this is Les’ best CD effort, the production and musicianship is top notch and it is a CD that you will want to leave in your player for a while. Visit Les at [.facebook.com/buttermusicgroup/](https://www.facebook.com/buttermusicgroup/) and get a copy of “Suits Me Fine.”

Strongest Songs: “That Old Red Back Hymnal,” “A Bible and A Belt,” and “God Walks The Dark Hills.”



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Sweet Water: Created in the Image of God



By Amy Oxenrider

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV) Then God said, “Let us make man in our own image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Each individual has the ability to reflect the image and nature of God in our faithfulness, patience, kindness, compassion, and love for others. We have a solid base of self-worth knowing we are created in his image. We are not only made in his image but he has also given us a glimpse of his character that we can freely show to this world.

A positive self-perception/self-worth should not be caught up in possessions, achievements, physical attractiveness, or public acclaim. Accolades are very nice, but they are not who we are. Our worth is strictly based on being made in the image of God. Because we are created in his image, we can have a pure, positive perception of ourselves.

When we criticize ourselves and others, we are not only disrespecting those we are targeting, but also God and the abilities he has given each of us. Knowing you are a person of worth, and we all are, helps you love God, know him personally, and make a valuable contribution to those around you, especially your children.

How awesome is it to know that God loves you so much, he has literally given a part of himself to you, so that you can live your life in perfect unison with him?

Matthew 22: 18-21 (NIV): But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

This passage teaches us that we are to give God what belongs to him. When we look in the mirror each day, we see what God has created. The false belief that our bodies belong solely to us is a misperception. Yes, it is true we decide what we do with our bodies, but ultimately God has the final say.

Why does a child’s heartbeat begin before the brainstem is even formed? How do our organs work in perfect unison without our command? While sitting, doing perceivably nothing, our heart is beating, our liver is cleaning our blood from toxins, our brain is creating serotonin and dopamine so our bodies can think and function daily, as well as storing a very large amount of information by the second. Energy is formed. Cells are being created while others are dying.

We are God’s creation and he is constantly managing what belongs to him. The question we should ask ourselves is, “Have we stolen what belongs to God, or are we giving to him what is already his?”

While reading this article, take a moment to reflect upon your life and see if there is any area you have chosen to keep for yourself and have not allowed God complete control. In order to have peace that passes all

understanding, even in the darkest time of your life, know that God is managing his creation and continues to make his masterpiece into perfection, so you can pass through any trial with the knowledge of knowing you will never be alone.

And the one walking by your side, or possibly carrying you at times, is the creator of the universe and loves you beyond all measure.

Much Love.

Amy Oxenrider



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Gospel Singer Turned Congressman **Bill Hefner:** A Life Well Lived

By Charlie Griffin

A September Memory

Old timers say, "It's in your blood." To many gospel music singers, fans and workers, "we got it bad."

Over the years there are many that paved the way for others to follow in their footsteps. Bill Hefner was that man in the Carolinas. Yes, Bill Hefner was a man who truly loved gospel music. In his life, we find a man who lived it well and on his terms.

Born April 11, 1930, Willie Gathrel "Bill" Hefner in Elora, Tenn. Hefner's family then moved to the Sand Mountain area, and he was raised in Boaz, Ala., where his father was a farmer and a barber. Bill graduated from high school in Sardis, Ala. He attended University of Alabama but his love of gospel music kept him in line. His brother Jim had the singing bug too. Jim Hefner was owner/ singer with the Southmen Quartet of Albertville, Ala.

As a member of the Crusaders Quartet, Bill Hefner took the plunge to expand. He moved to Charlotte in 1953 to establish the Harvesters Quartet. The quartet sang for a number of years on WBT Radio and WBTV with personal concert appearances across the nation. He left the group in 1966.

Shortly afterwards, Hefner became owner and president of WRKB radio in Kannapolis, N.C. There he continued his love of gospel music. He was instrumental in the all night sings that were held in Charlotte N.C., at Charlotte Coliseum and Ovens Auditorium. In later years he continued that Carolinas Song Festival relationship with Charlie Burke, owner of the Singing Americans.

Being known as an old-time gospel singer and entertainer, and someone who was as respected in the halls of congress as he was in the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) halls back home, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives for the 8th District for 24 years, from 1975 to 1999, and was a champion of veteran's issues in

Congress.

He was a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. He fought for funding for Fort Bragg in his home state when he was chairman and later, a ranking minority member of a military subcommittee that had say over most construction on US military bases.

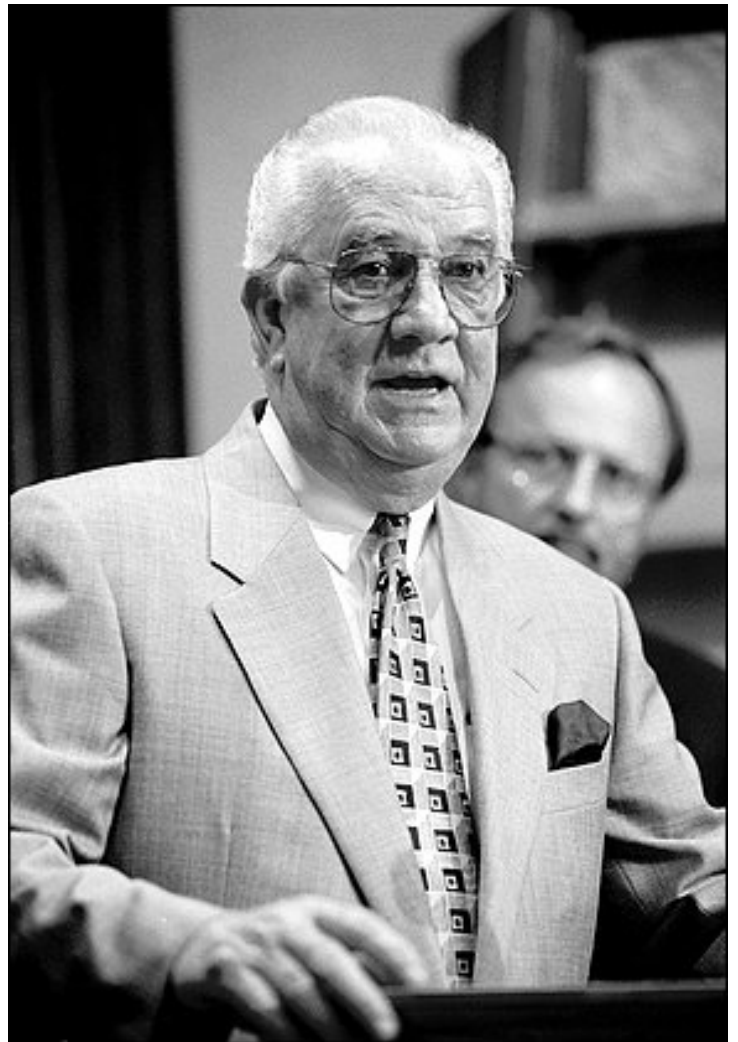
The singing Congressman moved up the seniority ladder, becoming a power broker who was called on by Democratic and Republican governors to get funding for state projects. Gov. Jim Hunt said he contributed to getting Interstate 40 completed from Raleigh to Wilmington, N.C.

One time Concord Mayor, Scott Padgett, worked on Hefner's first campaign in 1974. He remembered Hefner as a "blue-collar, man-of-the-people" candidate who would use his gospel quartet at campaign rallies from Concord to Fayetteville.

"When he decided to run for Congress, nobody gave him a chance," Padgett said. The way that campaign came about – it couldn't happen today – began with an idea and a few volunteers."



That included a young Padgett, who was in his mid-30s at the time. Padgett said that Hefner would mix entertainment with politics at his rallies -- staging his gospel quartet and captivating the crowd with jokes and stories.



At a rally in Union County, Padgett said he remembered he and Hefner helping a supporter whose car had died. "We were pushing the car up this hill, so he could roll it down and get it started," Padgett said. "Bill looked over at me and said, 'Is this what you have to do to get elected to Congress?'"

Among his noted concert stories comes this from the Harvesters Tarheel Live recording. On one Easter sing, Hefner proceeded to tell the crowd about his first airplane ride. He said the plane hit some turbulence and people began to get worried. They were told to stay seated and use their seat belts. Hefner said his belt was so tight that his face looked like "two cherries on a vaneller cake." As the plane hit some air pockets a man asked him if he wasn't that TV gospel singer. Hefner said yes. The man said well do something religious. So Hefner got up, took his hat off and took an offering. Of course the crowd is in stitches with Hefner's homespun delivery. Hefner was featured on their next song, "Lift Me Up Above The Shadows."

After 12 terms, Hefner retired from Congress in 1999,

and the VA hospital in Salisbury, N.C. was named after him the same year. Hefner, who had a history of heart problems, decided not to run again after hearing at Christmas that a family friend was diagnosed with cancer.

"I always counseled my staff to work hard, to take their responsibilities seriously, but to never forget their personal obligations to their families," Mr. Hefner said in 1998. "I have always thought that was good advice, and I am taking it."



Hefner moved with his wife, Nancy, to Ala. He didn't retire fully as he served from October 2001 until November 2002 as the District One commissioner for Marshall County, Ala. He made several appearances at the Grand Ole Gospel Reunion Concerts over the years.

With that Hefner smile, he said many times, "never met a stranger, but have met a few strange ones along the way." His personality, humor, love of family, friends with his faith and his gospel singing made him one of the Carolinas most beloved sons.

Bill fell ill the evening before his death while attending a county Democratic Party dinner in Guntersville, Ala. He died in Huntsville, Ala. on Wed., Sept. 2, 2009 after suffering a brain aneurysm.

At first glance you may think Hefner's impact on gospel music to be regional as he hosted with the Harvesters Quartet radio programs on WBT Radio and WBTW. Yet their personal appearances were nationwide with guest appearances on many regional TV and radio programs with their popular songs. He is one of the first quartet owners to promote all night gospel sings and develop a network with other promoters.

Working closely with noted long time promoter C.R. McLean from Winston Salem, N.C., they booked rotating concerts in Charlotte followed by Winston Salem the next day. He took time to talk to other aspiring singers and groups, encouraging them in their singing and music efforts.

In reality, gospel music helped Hefner make a lasting impact to those he served in the community and state of North Carolina.

Hefner was an entrepreneur turned politician, with a passion for gospel music on stage. His friendships with fans and other quartets cemented his music legacy.

Whether he was singing with the record company Tarheel Recording, as a radio station owner, or as a Congressman, Bill Hefner is remembered as one who lived life well, doing the right thing on his terms.

A promotional poster for the Avenue Trio. At the top, the word "AVENUE" is in large, white, serif capital letters, with "avenuetrio.com" in smaller text below it. To the right of the website is the word "TRIO" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the text is a photograph of three men in suits standing in a hallway. The man in the center is slightly taller and has his arm around the other two. They are all smiling. Below the photo, the text "NEW ALBUM" is in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, followed by "Songs For Every Mile" in a white, cursive script. Below that, in smaller white capital letters, is "LATEST SINGLE - ONE OF THESE MORNINGS". In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "Song GARDEN" with a small tree icon. In the bottom center, there are four circular icons for social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. In the bottom right corner, the text "SCHEDULING - DOMINION AGENCY" is in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, with the phone number "828-454-5900" below it.



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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It's November and I'm not prepared for the cold winds and rain. I don't like the dark days at the end of fall. But there is something about this dismal weather that makes the lights of the Christmas season seem even brighter.

Flooding the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday time with fresh new music, our cover artist, Ivan Parker, releases his latest album this month. This gentleman has exhibited consistency and excellence throughout his years of ministry. What a great model for all of us.

The rest of our artist features and devotional columns are on point this month as well, and I am so thankful for all of our contributors. You are the reason we have a magazine to post. So a special thanks to each of you even as I thank God for you.

By the time you read this, Creekside 2018 will be in the history books and planning will have commenced on the 2019 convention. I trust everyone enjoyed their time in Pigeon Forge. I'd like to know what you thought about Creekside. Please send me a note about your experience. Write to Lorraine@sgnscoops.com.

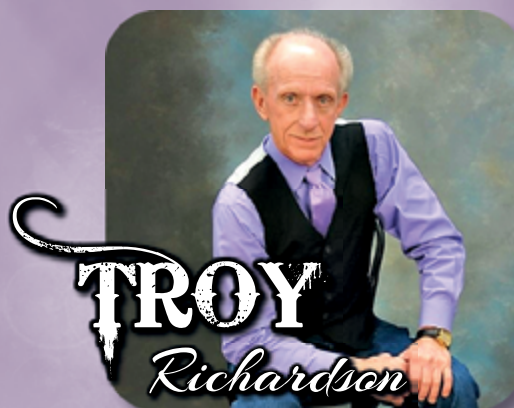
These November days leading into the Christmas season may be dark and cold, but it might be a good time to curl up with a hot drink and take stock of your year. Did you have plans that worked? Maybe goals you didn't quite reach?

Now is a good time to evaluate where you are and

where you want to be, then figure out a reasonable, attainable way to reach your goal.

Are there some things you think we could do here at SGNscoops to improve your experience? Is there a goal you think we should set, another way we can strive toward excellence? Write us. Meanwhile, light a candle, roast a turkey and bring out the hot chocolate!

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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.



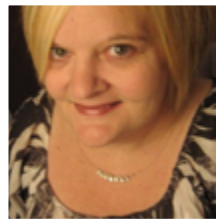
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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.

Contributors

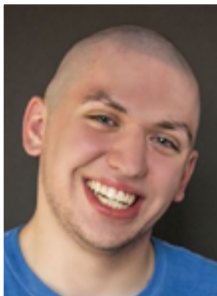
SGN SCOOPS



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 reviewing 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.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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.



Cheryl Smith describes herself as a "passionate disciple and follower of Jesus Christ." She says: "I am married to the sweetest, most patient man for over 30 years...Mama to one miracle son God sent to us after 12.5 years of infertility...Homeschool Teacher who learns way more than I ever teach. I love to spend time with my husband

and son in the mountains, sing and play Bluegrass music, and write. I am so thankful for your visit and hope you will visit my blogs: homespundevotions.com/ and biblicalminimalism.com/ It is my goal to encourage you in your walk with Jesus and to inspire you to let go of this world for the

sake of a higher call. It is His call that I hope you hear. So compelling, so intense, so far above anything this world has to offer. It is the call His disciples heard as they went about a normal, ordinary day, fishing. It is a call they could not refuse. A call that caused them to drop everything they had and walk away from life as they knew it, without a backward glance. Can you hear it? Are you listening?"



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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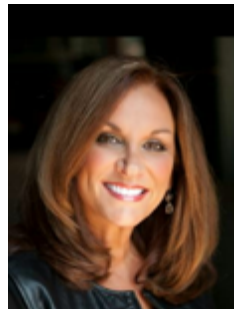
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David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great 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. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed." 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

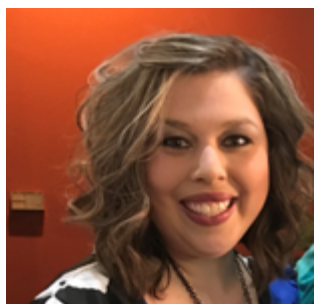
currently working on her third project. All of the songs on this CD will be songs that she has penned. She is an award winning artist, having won Female Vocalist of the Year with Lighthouse Gospel Music Association, and Female Vocalist and Soloist of the year with the GGCBA (Georgia Gospel Country Bluegrass 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.



During his 40 plus year career, Bill has developed expertise in commercial banking, retail banking, sales and marketing, media, and financial consulting. After years of being bi-vocational, he was able to merge his professional expertise and his passion for ministry. Since 2010, Bill has been

helping churches and ministries with areas of operation. This includes financing (construction, permanent financing, re-financing). In addition, many organizations need help understanding how to market their ministries and how important it is to promote their ministries properly through media and social networking.

Over the past 40 years, Bill has become an accomplished gospel singer, having performed on 32 albums and produced over 200 albums for other performers. His extensive professional credits include singing with renowned gospel music groups including The Cathedrals, The Goffs, The Senators, and The Rhythm Masters, which performed four songs that reached No. 1 in the gospel music charts. In addition, Bill has received nominations for three Dove Awards and a Gospel Music News Award. He is also known for writing and performing the Gold Record winning song, "No Greater Love." Bill also performed in events led by Jerry Falwell, Pat Robinson, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Dr. Paul Conn, and most recently, he performed with Governor Mike Huckabee.

Bill studied finance at the University of Cincinnati and vocal performance at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. He also attended seminary at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and he holds a Doctor of Divinity Degree at Heritage Baptist University in Indianapolis. Currently Bill serves on the Board of Trustees for Davis College in Binghamton, N. Y.

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Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped

since. Suzanne holds a bachelor of English degree from Columbia (N.Y.) University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tenn., she began writing for AFrontRowView.com before joining the SGNscoops.com team. She enjoys sharing the love of Jesus through volunteering, music, writing, and teaching.



Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world of music that surrounds us. She believes

when words fail us, music speaks.



Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter. Her songs have been recorded by The Talleys, Gordon Mote, The Williamsons, Doug Anderson, Susan Whisnant, The Erwins, Jay Stone Singers, Master Promise, Three Bridges, Endless Highway, 3 Heath Brothers, Fortress, and many other gospel artists.

Dixie is also an Christian Editing Services Editor and Writer. She is an award winning children's author and ghostwriter. She has been published by Abingdon Press, Standard Publishing, Eldridge Publishing, Gospel Music Publishing House, and Guardian Angel Publishing.



Angela Parker is a life-long singer and sings with her mother's group, Mercy Rain. She resides in Lexington, S.C. She's been happily married to her husband Jack for nearly 4 years. He's supported every decision Angela has made without fail. Jack travels with Mercy Rain whenever he can and helps out where

possible. He supports Mercy Rain continuously. Since Angela has recently been diagnosed with Lupus, Jack has done everything he can to take care of her.

Angela actively advocates for Autism Awareness. She feels education for all involved is the key to their success. She worked with Autistic children providing ABA Therapy up until her current illness forced her to have to quit.

She speaks out against Domestic Violence having been a victim of abuse for many years herself. Her constant battle today is healing from the mental scars that are left over after the physical and verbal abuse. Her personal testimony will help others see how God can deliver from abuse and help to heal the abused person.

Angela is very excited about writing for SGNscoops and loves all of the SGNscoops family. She loves the Lord with all her heart and has been blessed with awesome talent and love for others. You will be blessed by her talent and great spirit!



John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday.

He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years old and eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps.

John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

He loves listening to gospel music or playing one of his guitars.

John lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Stephanie, and 17-year-old daughter. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.

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Amy Duncan Oxenrider, the daughter of Grant and Shelia Duncan, is married to Jason Oxenrider and they have three sons, Brady, Weston, and Rylan. Amy works as a psychometrist for the Mississippi Department of Education. She also writes for Pure Gospel Magazine and

is now a member of SGNScoops.

A former member of the Riders, Amy continues to minister through singing and speaking engagements. She is excited to see what her future holds and longs to uplift the name of Jesus Christ wherever the doors may open.