

SGN

SCOOPS

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2016



CANTON JUNCTION

ALSO FEATURING

SISTERS, MARK209, HOPE BOWLING AND KINGDOM HEIRS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Publisher's Point by Rob Patz
4	Dreaming of Christmas by Charlie Griffin
7	Canton Junction by Jennifer Campbell
11	Day by Day with Selena Day
13	Layke Jones of the Jim Brady Trio by Craig Harris
17	Creekside Update with Lorraine Walker
20	Sisters by Jaquita Lindsey
24	Hope To The Hill with Nathan Kistler
26	Kingdom Heirs by Justin Gilmore
29	Christian Country Top 40
31	Mark209 by Robert York
34	Southern Gospel Weekend Update by Lorraine Walker
36	A Younger Perspective on Logan Smith by Erin Stevens
40	DJ Spotlight on Bruce Edwards by Vonda Easley
41	What Love Looks Like: Hope Bowling by Fayth Lore
45	Steph's Travelogue by Stephanie Kelley
52	SGNScoops' Top 100
57	Randall Reviews It! by Randall Hamm
60	The LaFontaines by Sheri LaFontaine
63	Roger's Round Ups by Roger Barkley Jr.
65	Editor's Last Word by Lorraine Walker
66	Contributors

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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Have a SCOOP to share? For news consideration, email us at news@sgnscoops.com

PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz

Merry Christmas! I want to wish each and everyone of you a blessed holiday season. This is one of my favorite times of year, the space between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's a time where we have a chance to see all of our friends and family, to celebrate the joy of the year, and also to remember any sadness that may have happened. I pray that this year brought more joy than sorrow.

I love the Bible verse in Isaiah 9:6: "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Just think of that! Our Savior is not only our Counselor, but He is our Father and our Savior.

I often wonder what the three wise men thought as they stared at the baby Jesus. Obviously, the moment was incredible to imagine, as they were sitting or standing in front of the Savior of our world! Now we as Christians have an opportunity to do just that, at any point during the day or night. No matter if you feel you are alone, lost, or forgotten, you too can come to that same Savior who is no longer in a manger but is sitting on His throne.

This Savior loves you, cares for you and wants the very best for you. His desire is for you to be everything that He has made you to be. Trust me; I know that there are times in life when we wonder and question why things happened, or why circumstances concluded the way they did.

But know this: The Savior who was born in a manger, who died on the cross for your sins and for mine, is willing and able to listen to your heart's desires, your dreams, and your hopes. He wants to talk to you today. He wants to hear from you! He's never left you; He's always been right there. So if you've gone through a season of trouble, tribulation or trial; as you look at the Baby in a manger Who is now a King on the throne of Heaven, that same Jesus desires to hear from you!

I want to see all of you in beautiful Oxford, Alabama, on March 23 through the 25th for Southern Gospel Weekend at the Oxford Civic Center. Over 30 great artists will be there and it will be a great time of fellowship and fun. Please make plans now to be with us. We're just three months away from this exciting event!

I want to wish you and yours a *Merry Christmas* from my family to yours.



Dreaming of Christmas



By Charlie Griffin

Being reared in the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains, it is always my wish to have a white Christmas. I guess it is hard to forget the snow coming down in the mountains and having Mom say, “Boys, hurry and get to bed. Santa won’t come if he sees the lights on.” Those Christmas memories never grow old.



In the Stony Fork Valley in Deep Gap, NC

house on the road while Uncle Johnny and Aunt Juanita lived across the creek with my cousins, Steve, Sharon and Shane. Yes, we were all family on that one lane gravel road.

There were four boys in our family. Mom and Dad worked hard to provide for us. Now we were *stair steps*, just about a year and a month or two apart from each other. And when Christmas came, we always wished out of that Sears and Roebuck or the Montgomery Ward Catalogs. Of course, toys were the big thing! With the smells of homecooking in the kitchen and Mom humming Christmas carols, you knew Santa was on his way and soon. Winter frosts and crisp cold wind with snowflakes falling; it’s Christmas time in the mountains.

Now snow was commonplace in the mountains. I can hear Momma Doris saying, “The clouds are full and hanging low. It’s gonna snow!” She was usually right on the weather. As I have grown older, the toys may have changed but the excitement is still the same. But in those growing years, Christmas traditions were added and some were changed by life.



Stony Fork Baptist Church

I remember looking out the frosty window pane as the snow glistened on the hillside in the valley we called home: Deep Gap, NC. We lived behind Stony Fork Baptist Church and we were at the end of the road with other relatives. Aunt Bessie was the last



Smith Family Farmhouse

Christmas Eve was the day all of the Smith family gathered

at Momma Doris' (my Mom's mother) house. I remember the fireplace roaring in that old two-storey white farm house with the smells of Christmas drifting through the house. Freshly baked biscuits, cornbread, pies and cakes, turkey and dressing, glazed ham, roasted sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, coleslaw, potato salad, cabbage and ham, pintos, chicken casserole and so much more. Food fit for a king!

The Christmas tree was in the corner of the room. The huge cedar touched the ceiling and the TV was on the CBS evening news with Walter Cronkite. That was the only station we could get back then, as the house was nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountains and Parkway. As the fire crackled, scents of cedar, pine and cinnamon filled the room. It was Christmas Eve and all the family was home.



Looking over the valley off Lawrence Greene Road.

After the family had eaten, the kids gave out the Christmas presents. Being from a large family, we drew names. In a flash the wrapping paper was ripped from the boxes. Ribbons and bows were flying and the squeals of delight were heard outside on the porch. Smiles and laughter filled the house while Christmas music had replaced the evening news. Off the kids went to play, while all of the moms cleaned up the paper mess.

On Christmas Day, we all were in church for the annual worship service. The choir sang joyfully and the Pastor shared the Christmas message with a new zeal. Christmas traditions may change over time, but the hope for humankind and that Christmas message glows brighter today.



All In The Family!

Over time, locations changed as our family grew. Now, family drops by as we merge Christmas gatherings with the new family members to the family. But on Christmas Day, we all celebrate the gift of love and the birth of Christ.

When I graduated from college and moved away, there were times I just couldn't make it home for Christmas. But soon my own traditions began. I started attending Christmas Eve candlelight services in my neighborhood, singing Christmas carols with friends and neighbors, volunteering at a shelter or food bank, working with Toys for Tots and just having a quiet time of thankfulness for my blessings. Family gatherings with my in-laws and even my adopted family of friends became important.

Yes, our family still gets together, but as the makeup of family changes, so does the gathering date. That is part of life. Funny how those childhood memories live and the timeless message and music of yesteryear never changes. In some ways it is a magical moment in time. Fact: Christmas is more than gifts and food. To the believer it is an affirmation of faith and a living Christ-child.

So many of our Christmas traditions are mixed with music. Christmas Carols and hymns of the church ring with vibrancy in this festive time of year. Many of our favorite music artists record and stage the standard Christmas tunes, while others pen their Christmas memories.



JD Sumner and The Stamps

There are songs that have become holiday classics from Southern Gospel artists, such as Mark Lowry's "Mary Did You Know," Kirk Talley's "Fruit Cake Song," Cathedral's "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," JD Sumner and the Stamps' "Christmas Carol of Love," Roger Talley's "Winter Wonderland," The Inspirations "Going Home For Christmas," Anthony Burger's "Hallelujah Chorus," The Kingsmen's "Christmas at Calvary," The Nelons' "First Noel," Karen Peck and New River's "A Light In the Window," Gold City's "O Holy Night," or The Hoppers' "Mary Wrapped A Present." The list can go on and on.



The Hoppers singing Mary Wrapped a Present.



The Ridge Choir singing Silent Night

Church choirs and ensembles sing out the legacy holiday carols of "Joy to the World," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Hark The Herald Angels Sing," "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night" or, "O Come, All Ye Faithful." There is something to be said about those songs of hope and celebration.

The Christmas message is ageless, and is more timely today than ever before. The birth of the Christ-child has affected more people in the last two thousand years than any other individual. His birth changed mankind with hope and faith touched by grace, mercy and love. That tradition has not changed. John 3:16 spells out the simple life changing message. Just believe! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May your Christmas tradition shine bright for years to come.

Photo Credits: Charlie Griffin





Canton Junction

A Canton Junction Christmas

By Jennifer Campbell

Canton Junction refers to the crossroads of different subjects or regions into one gathering point. In June 2011, four individuals came together to form what is now one of America's top Southern Gospel quartets named Canton Junction. While they love to raise their voices in song, their greatest desire is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. Casey Rivers, Matthew Hagee and Tim Duncan along with Ryan Seaton bring their talents and passion together and wrap them in a present for all Junction fans in their latest release, *A Canton Junction Christmas*.

Canton Junction members come from a rich heritage of Southern Gospel Music. Rivers first learned of this God-given music from his parents, who would sing the time-tested songs of a little-known songwriter. He lightheartedly adds, "We learned of many of the songs through a guy named Bill Gaither. He's going to make it one day!"

Hagee has literally grown up in the ministry. A sixth-generation minister, Matthew is the son of John Hagee, founding pastor of Cornerstone Church. Gospel Music has been a significant influence on his life since he was a child.

Duncan has loved quartet music since a very early age. He says, "My dad would buy records and I fell in love with the four-part harmony with the tenor going high and the bass going low."

Rivers, lead singer for Canton Junction, resides in Lindale, Texas, with his wife, Doni, and their four children. "My wife and I just celebrated 10 years of marriage," he says. "We celebrate four healthy and beautiful kids every day. I'm able to balance [my time between family

and ministry] because we build on God's firm foundation. Plus, I have an incredible wife. We are a great team."

Before joining Canton Junction, Rivers appeared on stage with musical legends such as Kenny Rogers, Loretta Lynn, Neal McCoy, Sara Evans, the Gatlin Brothers, and others. He also performed on the Grand Ole Opry Stage and was runner up on season four of the singing competition television series titled, *Nashville Star*. While music is truly a part of his life, his greatest passion is sharing the love of Jesus Christ through song.



"I've been around music all my life and I credit my love for it to my parents," says Casey. "They sang in a Gospel group when I was a little guy and I knew at a young age this is what I wanted to do. Now I get to do it for a living and for God's glory."

A self-proclaimed *quartet man*, Duncan sings bass for Canton Junction. Having received the *Singing News*



Fan Award for Best Bass Singer, he was one of the original four members of the popular group, Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. Even so, he has not let his many accomplishments, including Dove Awards and Grammy nominations, cloud his view. His primary goal is to minister to others through song.

Duncan enjoys spending time with his family when he is not on the road traveling with the group. He shares, “I’ve been married 25 years and have two sons: Breck (23) and Brandon (22). I have a wonderful family and would be lost in this world without the love of my wife, Melissa.”



Hailing from the great state of Texas, Hagee sings tenor for Canton Junction. He is blessed to come from a family legacy of ministry. In addition to being a speaker, vocalist, and published author of two books, *Shaken, Not Shattered* and *Response-Able*, he is also a graduate of Oral Roberts University School of Business. When he is not on the stage, he enjoys working with cattle and horses, the heartbeat of a true Texan.

While ministry is the focus of his life, his role as a father has also captured a piece of his heart. He says the most incredible experience he has ever had was becoming a father. “There isn’t a thing in the world that replaces the joy of seeing your children being born,” says Hagee.



Canton Junction is proud to present their latest project titled, *A Canton Christmas*. Filled with songs that highlight the true meaning of Christmas, this album is the perfect way to light

up your holiday season. Rivers even says that there is not a song on this project that he does not look forward to sharing.

Hagee discusses his favorite song on the project: “Personally, I really enjoy what we captured with ‘Let There Be Peace on Earth.’ It is for absolutely selfish reasons that I say that because my children and my father are singing with me. I cannot tell you how special that moment was and will be for a long time.”

“We Three Kings” is Duncan’s favorite song on the project. He says the arrangement is the best he has heard in a long time. Plus, it is one of his favorite Christmas songs.

Another favorite that is being well-received even with mainstream country radio is “A Big Ole Texas Christmas.” Hagee adds that it is, “one of those songs that just seem to set the mood for joy and cheer.” Duncan adds, “It’s such a fun Christmas song. The lyrics mention locations that are well-known in Texas, but they are also city names from across the country.”

In addition to the ways people can relate to the lyrics of the song, Rivers believes it connects with a wide audience because it is fresh. “If a listener hears a song such as ‘A Big Ole Texas Christmas’ on Country radio and



they like what they hear then a door has been opened,” says Rivers. “That particular song may not mention Jesus, but it unlocks a project full of equally well-crafted songs drenched with the message and celebration of Jesus’ birth!”



Ten years from now, Canton Junction hopes to continue sharing musical moments with others. With vocalists like Duncan helping hold down the fort, they will definitely continue to carry on their musical journey. Tim’s favorite part of traveling is meeting and talking with long-time friends. He says, “All of us in Canton [Junction] are so thankful for our wonderful loyal fans and supporters. And being able to help a lot of hurting people through the Gospel expressed in the music we sing is a privilege we do not take for granted.”

Helping hurting people is a special calling of Canton Junction. Hagee gives the following advice for someone who needs encouragement today: “Don’t give up. There are a lot of days when quitting looks good. But the Bible says to press on regardless how difficult it is. Be willing to take the next step of faith.”

Rivers adds, “God is not set back or surprised at whatever we are facing. God is for us. If God is for us, then

who can be against us? No one or nothing. His plans are good and not for our harm. His plans involve hope and a future beyond our current circumstance!” (See Jeremiah 29:11).

The members of this popular group put their trust in God alone. They have come together to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through song. The ministry of Canton Junction has one primary goal, and that is to lead people to the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus. This Christmas, make it memorable season by putting your trust in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us all come together as we keep our eyes on Jesus, making this a Canton Junction Christmas!

Connect with Canton Junction online at <http://www.differencemedia.org/artists/canton-junction>

Photo Credits: Canton Junction/Difference Media, Craig Harris

A promotional graphic for HLE Radio. The background is dark blue with white lightning bolts. At the top, "HLE" is in large white letters, and "Radio" is in large, stylized blue letters with a cowboy boot as the letter 'R'. Above "Radio" is the text "Crank Down Christian Country". Below the main logo, there's a section for "The Morning Show with Hunter Logan" featuring a photo of Hunter Logan. To the right, it says "Download our App" with icons for iPhone, Android, and Amazon. At the bottom, there's a QR code, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube icons, and the website "www.HLERadio.com". A guitar graphic at the bottom right says "Unplugged Every Month".

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Day By Day

Light and Dark

By Selena Day

I'm sitting in a dark room halfway around the world. If I walked outside, the temperature would be in the 80's, but my heart is dreaming of cold, crisp weather with Christmas music echoing through the house. Maybe some of Chuck's good gumbo or beef stew filling up the house with smells that just make you feel that all is right with the world.

I am in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and jet lag has kicked in, so I'm up at 4:00am, writing to you instead of sleeping. It is funny how when you're up at night, your mind starts to drift in so many different directions. Many times our fears begin to get the best of us and in those dark moments we begin to feel hopeless, worrying if light will ever come to us again.

There is a Chinese philosophy called *yin and yang*. Wikipedia describes it as: "how seemingly opposite or contrary forces may actually be complementary, interconnected, and interdependent in the natural world."¹ Or to break it down to *southern speak*: two opposites designed to fit together to make a whole.

When we are counting days we don't just count the daylight hours as one day. Usually one day begins in the dark, has daylight, and ends in the dark making up a whole day.

Traveling has given me a bigger perspective on the dark seasons of our life. Flying around the globe your body feels as if you are experiencing just one day even though you may have traveled 36 hours. We flew out Sunday at 5:35pm and because we are in the autumn season, it was dark when our plane actually took to the air, and it stayed dark until we landed in China 24 hours later.

I left on Sunday and my new day began on Tuesday. I actually skipped a day. This has happened in the opposite as well; I flew out of Japan once at 3:30pm and arrived in Atlanta at 3:00pm on the same day arriving 30 minutes before I left. I can actually say I've time traveled. Many times depending on the time of day we fly out, we have followed the sun and only had one or two hours of night.



I hope I'm painting a picture that you are beginning to see? As I sit in this room with darkness all around me, I know that it is light at home. I know that my family is living in the light and I have actually talked to them on the computer and seen the light while I was still in darkness. Darkness and light can change by which direction you're traveling or by the journey God has planned for you.

There are times and seasons in our life when following the dark night is necessary because it catapults us to the next season of our life speedily. If we had not flown into the darkness when we left Sunday we would never have missed Monday to get to Tuesday.

Following the Son can keep you out of darkness, but even Jesus chose to go into the wilderness, or darkness, for 40 days so that He could come out in power. Don't judge a person who seems to be in darkness, thinking that they are not



following the Son, because God may have a plan for them that surpasses anything you can imagine. Don't look at a person that lives in the light and

say that life is easy for them because they have never experienced darkness. The travel can be just as hard and bumpy either way. God has a plan and His plan is for our good.

Christmas will soon be upon us and even though I am half-way around the world surrounded by darkness, I know that light is on its way and that soon I will be back home, and I can make those dreams of Chuck's beef stew and Christmas music a reality. I will not fear the darkness, because darkness is sent to bring rest and as you rest in it, it can transport you to greater places than you can ever dream.

If you are in a dark season of your life, choose to rest in the arms of our Savior and allow Him to surround you with that peace that surpasses all understanding. Know that life needs darkness to grow as much as it needs light.

If you are in a bright sunny season of your life, dance and rejoice that you can see. Don't take for granted this moment, because during the daylight season you must run, you must build, you must use that light to show another that darkness will not and cannot stay. I personally have come to believe that we need both in our lives to accomplish all that God has for us.

Even though I am sitting here in the dark, many of you are living in the light back in the USA. You are beginning to plan for the holiday season and you have that Christmas music drifting through your life. It's hard right now to imagine what a white Christmas is like, but I know that where I am right now is temporary, and while I am here I will do the work that God has called us to, and soon the light will filter through my life again and I will see all the moist fruit that grew in the dark. I pray that you will see it in your own life as well.

Merry Christmas from The Days.

Photo Credits: Selena Day

Notds: Yin and Yang, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yin_and_yang, November 23, 2016.

Southern Gospel NY

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Help Spread the news
We are bringing Southern Gospel Music
Back to the Rochester, NY Area

Introducing Bob and Joyce Spamer of Spencerport, NY. They have a mission to bring Southern Gospel Music back to the Rochester, NY area and are asking that you pray God's blessings on what they are doing. It has been a real struggle they say, as there has not been anyone in the area to promote Southern Gospel for years and with God's help and your Prayers they believe this will be a success. Do you know someone in area? Tell them about SGNy and join us in prayer for Bob, Joyce and Southern Gospel NY



Layke Jones of Jim Brady Trio Making An Impact



By Craig Harris

Rejection kept a door closed for Layke Jones. However, it also eventually led to an entryway for the aspiring performer.

“My sophomore year of college, when Mark Lowry left, I auditioned for the (Gaither) Vocal Band,” Jones explains. “Being a (former) educator, he (Bill Gaither) said, ‘I can’t in good faith take you out of college.’”

After graduating from Anderson (Ind.) University, Jones landed his current position as a vocalist with the Jim Brady Trio in June. “He’s the reason I have this job,” Jones says of Gaither’s involvement. “He’s backed it hard.

“A guy with a Rolodex his size, I’m not sure why he would give me the time of day. It’s a God thing.”

Unlike many in the Southern Gospel industry, Jones doesn’t have a musical heritage. “I have no family with any music background,” Jones points out. “I was in community choir and dance. I did show choir and marching band.”

However, his musical taste became more eclectic during his college tenure. “In college, I fell in love with classical music,” Jones shares. “I love quality music of any

genre. I did a lot of worship leading in college. When you see a room full of broken people, it changes lives ... Southern Gospel, Christian (music) in general. I want to make an impact. It keeps me grounded.”

Jones admittedly wasn’t well-versed in Southern Gospel Music before becoming a part of it.

“God has opened so many doors (that) I know that I’m where I’m supposed to be,” Jones explains. “The Gaither Vocal Band is my all-time favorite group. I’m a huge fan.

“I like quality music and music that makes an impact. That was a big influence in pursuing Southern Gospel. The Gaither Vocal Band was an influence on me both musically and spiritually.”

The 23-year-old was recently a part of a Gaither Homecoming video filming. “It was surreal,” Jones emphasizes.

Jones is only the fourth member of the Jim Brady Trio, succeeding Tim Parton and joining the husband and wife tandem of Jim and Melissa Brady. The group released its first project, *Promises*, following Jones’ addition in October.



“In some groups, it’s very evident that it’s a boss/employee relationship,” Jones says. “Jim has said from the get-go that we’re a team. He’s the one who is invested in that bus, but at the same time, he respects me. He values the fact that I went to college, and in some respects musically, I know what I’m talking about. I’m spoiled. I’m with two consistent individuals.

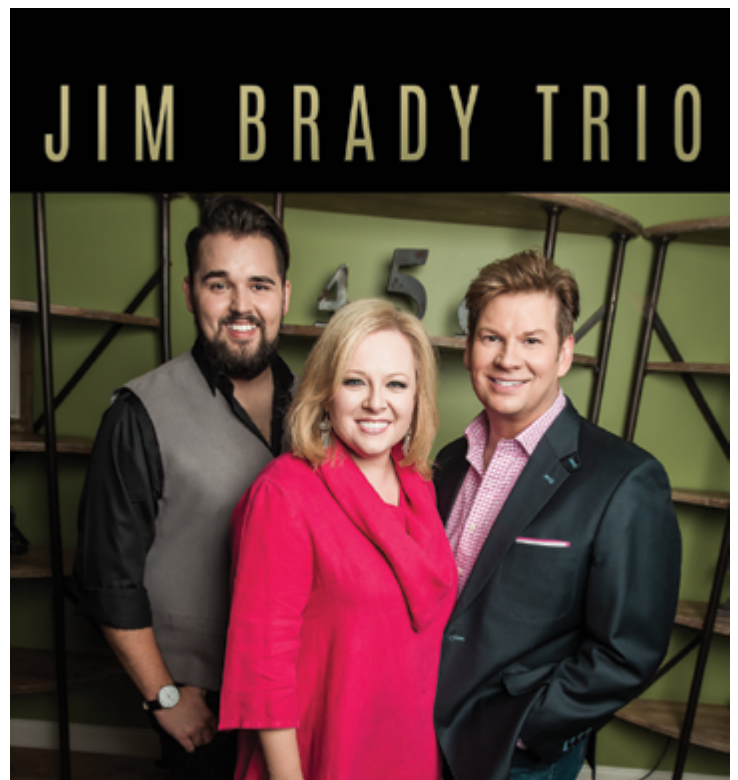
“I couldn’t have a better boss. Jim puts everybody ahead of himself. You couldn’t have a better guy. With the accolades and hand he’s had in this industry ... yet, he’s still as humble as he is.”

The fans have received him with open arms as well. “These people are loving,” Jones points out. “It’s been overflowing. To be honest, I was a little overwhelmed at first. With this being so new and me being 23, to have an audience who genuinely cares about my well-being, it’s good for me. It’s nice to have people in my court. Being away from family is difficult.” That has been one of Jones’ most formidable chal-

lenges. “That’s been the biggest adjustment (road life),” Jones says. “That bus gets small real quick. People see this job at glamorous. It’s rich in some ways ... but it’s work.



“I joke and say I sleep in my coffin (bunk) every night, and it’s being away from friends and family. It’s not being in a weekly church service. The road life has been hard, but I love traveling.”



When he’s off the road, Jones does choreography for high-school show choirs and is also a studio vocalist. And his taste for Southern Gospel Music is expand-

ing. “The Isaacs and the Vocal Band are two groups I listened to a ton in high school, any groups that were closely affiliated with the Vocal Band,” Jones shares. “This (music) is good news. ‘Show a Little Bit of Love and Kindness’ (performed by the Collingsworth Family) is a great song. I love it. “It’s a whole new world. I’m really enjoying it.”



His investment in the genre has quickly increased as well. “Having been raised with more contemporary music, I wish there was a way to keep the history of Southern Gospel alive while also figuring out a way to bridge the gap (between the genres),” Jones explains. “I’d love to find a way to keep sustenance with this industry. It’s why I love the Vocal Band. Bill Gaither is able to do nearly every style of music, and it all has the same message. I’d love to find a way to bridge the gap.

“This music is too good and too rich to let it fall by the wayside. If I’m going to invest my life in this industry, I want to help this music find its way to the masses. If I can do that, I’m in it for the long haul.”

Photo Credits: Craig Harris

A promotional poster for the "GOSPEL MUSIC NOW RADIO SHOW". The title is at the top in a serif font. Below it, two bullet points state: "PROUDLY SPONSORED BY SGN SCOOPS" and "PRODUCED BY GOLD RUSH MUSIC GROUP". In the center is a photograph of four men in suits sitting around a table, engaged in conversation. Below the photo, another two bullet points read: "HOSTS: CHRIS HESTER & CHRISTOPHER REED" and "AVAILABLE ON ITUNES!". At the bottom, a box contains the text "CHECK US OUT ONLINE" and the website "WWW.GOSPELMUSICNOW.COM".

An album cover for Peter Christie's "Take Some Time". On the left is a large photo of Peter Christie, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a blue patterned shirt and playing an acoustic guitar. The right side of the cover has a green background with white text. At the top is the name "Peter Christie" in a large serif font, followed by "Australian Country Gospel" in a smaller font. The title "Take Some Time" is in a large, bold serif font. Below the title is a small inset photo of Peter Christie standing next to a guitar. To the right of this photo is the text "FEATURING the TOP 10 HITS" followed by a list: "- My Father's House #6 Cashbox", "- When My Time Comes #3 CVM", and "- You Alone Are Worthy #2 Cashbox". Below the list, it says "TAKE SOME TIME is available online through itunes and CDBaby". Further down, it says "Please ring your local Christian Radio station and request the latest single: REST". At the bottom are two logos: "Download on iTunes" and "cdbaby DISCOVER MUSIC".

Hey Y'all!

MEDIA

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PAGE TRIO



DRUMMONDS



THE BATES FAMILY



ANNETTE BINGAMAN



TO THE END



LINDA FOSTER



THE WALKERS



By Lorraine Walker

Creekside Wrap Up and Diamond Award Winners

The 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention is now in the books and plans are being made for next year. The 2017 dates are October 30th through November 2nd at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. Be sure to contact the Head of Lodging and Tours, Salina Clay, for more information at hotels@sgnscoops.com or phone at 256 239 7716.

This year's event was superb and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Incredible talent, uplifting songs, enjoyable presentations and wonderful fellowship were all experienced during the four-day event in Pigeon Forge. Creekside had record-breaking crowds for day-time showcases and evening concerts, and the midnight prayer times were even more special than the previous year. The outdoor hotdog roast and talent show were big hits and many were expressing the hope that these events would return during Creekside 2017.

Creekside 2016 Reflections

Creekside 2016 was absolutely the best so far! Lots of singing and fun fellowship was had by all. I am looking forward to Creekside 2017. Thank you to every artist and helper that helped make this year so special. We are family! -- Vonda Easley

What an awesome time of music and fellowship with so many wonderful artists at Creekside this year! I abso-

lutely love the unity between all the artists that attended. Can't wait for next year. If you missed it this time, I suggest you make plans now to be there next year. Rob and Vonda did an awesome job putting this event together! -- Ava Kasich

We are so blessed that Creekside 2016 went beyond anything we had hoped for. The Convention was so well attended, the special evening events were a blast and we even had great weather for the outdoor event that started the week. I am so thankful to be working with such great people, and I'm excited already at what is in store for 2017. Be sure to join us! -- Rob Patz

2016 Diamond Awards

A special part of every year's Creekside is the Diamond Awards ceremony on Tuesday night. The 2016 Diamond Awards were hosted by Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, with many artists presenting awards. Some of the guest artists appearing during the Awards included The Williamsons, Mark209 and Eagles' Wings. We so appreciate Pat Mathis and all of the WATC TV family from Atlanta, Georgia who came to film the Tuesday night event at Pigeon Forge. We look forward to the televising of the program, both on TV and online at wadc.tv.

The 2016 Diamond Award winners:

The J.D. Sumner Living Legend: Ronny Hinson

Mixed Group of the Year: Karen Peck and New River

Quartet of the Year: Gold City

Trio of the Year: Karen Peck and New River

Duet of the Year: Josh and Ashley Franks

Female Vocalist of the Year: Sheri Easter

Male Vocalist of the Year: Jason Crabb

Sunrise Award: The Chandlers

Sunrise Trio of the Year: Surrendered

Sunrise Quartet of the Year: Freedom Quartet

Song of the Year: The Williamsons - "Shout"

Album of the Year: The Williamsons - "Tell Somebody"

Christian Country Group of the Year: HighRoad

Anthony Burger Instrumentalist of the Year: Jeff Stice

Dottie Rambo Songwriter of the Year: Gerald Crabb

Bluegrass Gospel Album of the Year: Canaan's Crossing - "Words"

Bluegrass Gospel Song of the Year: Eagles' Wings - "When I Wake Up To Sleep No More"

Bluegrass Gospel Male Artist of the Year: Tim Maze

Bluegrass Gospel Female Artist of the Year: Debra Wilson

Bluegrass Gospel Group of the Year: Eagles' Wings

Gospel Music Today Video/DVD of the Year: The Bates Family - "Louder Than Nails"

Favorite Industry Website: WATC Channel 57

Paul Heil Award for Broadcasting: Vonda Easley - WPIL FM

Publisher's Choice Award: The Pine Ridge Boys

Lou Hildreth Award: JP Miller

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

every one of you. We have reprinted some of the special Diamond Awards portraits by Rachael Shirey Flowers of Shirey Photos for your appreciation. We hope you also enjoy the live photographs taken by Michelle Drummond.

Thanks to all that participated in and attended the 2016 Creekside Gospel Music Convention. We appreciate you and hope to see all of you next year. Keep watching the SGNScoops and Creekside websites and Facebook pages for all the latest news!

Thanks to all of our Creekside photographers, including Michelle Drummond, Vonda Easley, Robert York, and others. We appreciate you!





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Jason Cooper's latest CD Project entitled "Grace" is now available!



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By Jaquita Lindsey

Musical talent can often be captivating to an audience seeking to be entertained. More often than not, the admirer, or fan, leaves the performance *blown away* after an in-person experience. Although there is still a certain level of enjoyment to be had when it comes to artists who share the Gospel of Christ, the most important aspect of their music is songs that minister to hearts. I believe Sisters has both.



With astounding harmony and a heartfelt commitment to convey the love of Christ, Kim Ruppe Sheffield, Heather Ruppe Bennett, and Valerie Ruppe Medkiff create an impacting sound that is reaching the hearts of all ages and musical tastes.

In 1974, Brenda Ruppe, alongside her husband Leo, began a music ministry under the name The Ruppes with Kim, then, age nine, and Heather, age eight. Valerie also contributed her part to the ministry at the young age of four. In 1975, the

group recorded their first album, *The Way, The Truth, The Life*. From that point on, the family has experienced great success through the years.

Their most notable song as The Ruppes, and one that still remains a noteworthy favorite to all, is the stunningly beautiful “Under His Wings.” The Ruppes had many other top songs including their first number one, “Angels In The Room,” from the album *Seasons*. Their 2001 album release *Born to Serve* yielded a Grammy nomination.

Leo and Brenda Ruppe committed themselves as Godly parents to raising their daughters to serve the Lord, using their vocal talents. Years of ministry brought many changes for the Ruppe girls, as they have gone their separate ways at various times. Through it all, they continued to minister and they remained very close as a family. Now, God has opened the door for them to come full circle and sing together as Sis-





ters. They love every minute of sharing the stage together.

“Sisters has been a dream of ours for a long time. We cannot really pinpoint a *time* when God put the dream in our hearts. It seems to have always been there, but the timing was never quite right. We always agreed that when God opened the door of opportunity, we would take the step of faith and walk through it. We have kindred spirits that family typically brings. And, musically speaking, we think so much alike. We are so excited to have the chance to minister to people together with our music,” says Heather.



Currently, Sisters are traveling all over the country sharing their melodious vocal abilities and personal experiences with Christ. Their magical combination on stage of moving songs and amazing harmonies is absolutely incomparable. For these inseparable sisters, dreams really *do* come true.

Recently, Heather shared a story with me about how Sisters almost disbanded about three years ago. I, personally, was so blessed hearing about how God kept them together that

I asked Heather to share it in this article: “One of my sisters was really weary of traveling and singing. It is all we have ever done since we were children. I started the process of searching for her replacement. I quickly realized that replacing the voice of my sister would never bring about the same sound.

“After much prayer, she decided that God was not through with her in our ministry. The day this decision was made, I received a phone call from a church that we had always dreamed of singing for, Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York. We had tried for years to get an

opportunity to sing there but it never happened. The pastor had seen a video on Facebook of “I’m Gonna Make It” and wanted us there to sing it the following Sunday. It was confirmation to us that we had made the right choice.”

Aside from traveling, each sister separately keeps busy schedules at home. Kim and her husband, Jerry Sheffield, live in upstate South Carolina and build custom homes. Valerie, along with her super talented, musician husband, Jeremy Medkiff, lend their musical abilities to a lot of studio work. Valerie also has her real estate license.

Heather and her husband, Blake Bennett, live in the Nashville area and both partake in various musical projects. Heather enjoys advising vocal arrangements and also lends her talents to studio work from time to time. Heather and Blake also stay busy with the vacation cabin that they own, “Under His Wings”, in Pigeon Forge, TN (underhiswings-cabin.com).



The latest venture that Kim, Heather and Valerie collaborated on was their women's conference *Never Too Broken*, held in Anderson, South Carolina on November 5th. They had been a part of numerous conferences geared toward women but always wanted to host their own. After years of procrastinating, they finally went for it and found their efforts to be successful.

"Women need each other. We need to be able to share our hearts, hurts, and struggles with other ladies that are just like us. We want our events to be a place of healing and of hope for these precious ladies," Kim explains.

Planned along with the theme of these women's events, Sisters has recorded a project titled *Simply Sisters*. This project was carefully thought out, with simple instrumentation but very strong lyrics. "*We too were wounded and defeated, so we know how you feel. But by the wounds of our redeemer, we believed and we were healed,*" is a line of lyrics from a song off their new project and what the *Never Too Broken* events are all about.

Sisters have been honored with numerous musical accolades and acknowledgements, such as Female Group of the Year, Dove Awards and Grammy nominations. But to these sisters, their music is so much more.

"God grants us a special anointing on our talents when we sing about Him. We never want to take the platform we have been given for granted. We know that in any given situation, the audience that we are in front of is full of hurting, broken people. We know that to be true because we have been *the*

audience many times ourselves," Valerie shares with us.

"We all have needs, questions and struggles. We are *all* living this life and sometimes it gets hard. If Sisters has a few minutes to share our music and our hearts, just to let people know how good and gracious God has been to *us*, what a tremendous opportunity that is for us. May we ever be mindful of that moment," Heather adds.

I personally have been a fan of the Ruppes over the years as they have led into being known as Sisters. Not only are they fantastic vocally, they have the heart to back what their music portrays. I am looking forward to hearing great things out of their *Never Too Broken* events in the future. For more information on Sisters and their upcoming scheduled appearances, visit www.sistersmusic.org.

Photo Credits: Sisters



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HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



The great thinker and writer C.S. Lewis once said: “Aim at heaven you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.”

These great words have been on my heart and mind over the past weeks and months. We have endured one of the most grueling election cycles in the history of this great nation.

Half of a nation is celebrating, while half is hurt and fearful for the future. I can understand their fears and hurt as just eight years ago I was in their same place. It was my first time voting and I watched the masses run to a man based on his skin color and rhetoric of *change*. I felt afraid for the future of this nation, just as so many did.

I remember the feelings so well. I read those words from Lewis not long thereafter and I remembered that prayer and faith were the keys to a victorious life. You see, we are not called to fear, but to faith. Not to hate, but to love. Not to worry, but prayer and supplication. If we aim high while being low, He will hear our prayers.

I was singing at a church just a few weeks ago where the special speaker spoke on being little in a big world. That caught me in a profound way. Letting go of our pride and repenting of our sin as it says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name,

shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”



We must be a humble people. Some think we have won, and some think we have lost, but without the help of a mighty God, we have all lost. There is nothing we can do without His aid.

So I ask you my friends as we enter this next season of leadership for this nation, that we lift our new President up in prayer and all those who would lead us. May we



remember that before we are black, white, or anything else that we are Americans and most importantly, Christians.

We should love those around us with the love of Christ, for we are in fact “little Christs” if we truly know Him. What a profound way to live, as Christ lived. I hope we will all strive through His strength to do that in the days ahead. During this Christmas season I hope and pray that we will remind our children of the real Reason for the season, which is Jesus.

That all being said, I would ask that you pray for our ministry in Washington in the coming weeks and months. We have great work to do in Washington, for the work is just beginning. A new Congress and new leadership in the White House means new friendships that must be made and cultivated.

I am so excited about what God is doing in this city. Pray for our opportunities to abound and for the necessary funds needed to be supplied for the coming year. Pray for our team that God would protect us through every moment of every day, for the enemy wants to silence us and stop this good work.

I am so thankful for each of you who pray for us, and I pray for you. If you would like to find out more about our ministry in Washington D.C. you can visit our website <http://hopetothehill.com/> or call us in Washington at 202-770-7300 . May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Your faithful friend in Washington, Nathan Kistler. nathankistler@gmail.com

Photo Credits: Nathan Kistler

Notes:

1. C. S. Lewis. BrainyQuote.com, Xplore Inc, 2016. <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/c/cslewis115352.html>, accessed November 23, 2016.



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A Holiday Conversation with the

Kingdom Heirs

By Justin Gilmore

Glory to God In The Highest

It's almost Christmas time! Dollywood's own Kingdom Heirs are back with a new CD to put us all in the Christmas spirit. In celebration of this new record, *Glory To God In The Highest*, and their annual Christmas concerts, Jeff Chapman (Bass), Kreis French (Owner/ Bass Guitar), and new member Loren Harris (Baritone) share their thoughts about this special time of year!

Justin Gilmore: Merry early Christmas Kingdom Heirs! What are some of the group's favorite Christmas traditions?

Jeff Chapman: I love going and doing the annual parade in Knoxville with the guys and our families. It's usually cold and everyone snuggles up.

Kreis French: I love making new memories during Christmas, with my wife Sonya and daughter Kristin. I also enjoy spending the day at annual Christmas parade when the Kingdom Heirs and family all get together and ride the float together and perform in front of all the people.

Loren Harris: Christmas Parade.

Gilmore: What are your favorite Christmas songs to perform, or just in general?

Chapman: My favorite songs to sing are "Mr. Grinch" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

French: "That Little Baby."

Harris: "Christmas Waltz," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Glory To God In The Highest."

Gilmore: Love those songs. What can fans expect from your Christmas concerts at Dollywood?

Chapman: When people come to our Dollywood Theater to see us, they need to sit back and enjoy some great classic Christmas songs as well as a little Gospel. We entertain as well as try our best to bless their hearts as God leads.

French: I guarantee you will enjoy the Kingdom Heirs when you come to Dollywood.

Harris: Good music and a lot of excitement.

Gilmore: Speaking of great music, tell me about your latest Christmas record?

Chapman: We've just released a new Christmas CD that has a big variety of different Christmas songs. Features everyone in the group. Even the band recorded a great big band Christmas song.

Harris: One of the best, if not *the* best album they've done. Mixture of traditional and new music.

Gilmore: What does Christmas mean to you?

Chapman: To me it's all about Christ and spreading



the wonderful news of His birth, and sharing great times with family and friends. Doing everything you can to let people know you have the joy of and love of Christ in you. Doing what you can to go the extra mile for everyone you can.

Harris: Christmas is my favorite time of year. The magical feeling in the air, my favorite music, and the joy of celebrating the birth of my Savior makes for lots of good memories with family and friends. *Gilmore: That's what it's all about. What is the best gift you've received on Christmas?*

Harris: My first 10-speed bike.

Chapman: When I was a kid and my dad was a preacher and pastor, we never had much money during Christmas it seemed. I'll never forget one year my sister, my brother and I got one gift apiece. My sister got a bride doll that Dad had found somewhere and Mom had made a wedding gown for it. My brother got a teddy bear my mom had made and I received a Raggedy Andy doll Mom had also made. It might not have seemed like much but

Mom and Dad gave all they had. That's the greatest Christmas ever to me.

Gilmore: What a great story. Handmade gifts are more meaningful than anything you can buy. Any special Christmas memories to share?

Chapman: Now I love being with my daughter Taylor, she's 21, my younger son is Sean and he's 12. My oldest son is 31, his name is Justin. He's married to Jamie and they've given me a beautiful granddaughter named Zaila. Love spending Christmas Day with all of them.

Harris: More of a tradition than a memory is my dad always read the Christmas Story before we opened gifts when I was a kid, and still does it to-day for my kids.

Find out more on the Kingdom Heirs and their new release at <http://kingdomheirs.com/>

Photo Credits: Craig Harris, Kingdom Heirs



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SGN **SCOOPS**
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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. Branded- Lay it Down
2. Christian Davis-Just Show Up
3. Mitch Pullen- What You Leave Behind
4. The Tacketts- And I Know
5. Carter Robertson Band- Little Yellow Seeds
6. Bryan Carroll- Forgive Me
7. Chelley Odle- Why Didn't I
8. High Road- Walk Beside Me
9. Mitch Pierson- Thank God I Can Still Thank God
10. Noah Hinshaw- Life's Rain
11. Shellem Cline- Hello Daddy
12. Rejeana Leeth- Walking Miracle
13. Bruce Hedrick- Gravy, Gravy
14. Terry Unthank- But For The Cross
15. JT Lewis – Shoot Straight
16. Red Letter Band- Sold
17. John Steed- The Cowboy Kind
18. Rosehill- Bible and a Gun
19. Sunday Drive-If There's a Rocking Chair in Heaven
20. Larry Ray-What A Glad Reunion
21. Southern Raised- Ravens Still Fly
22. 3rd Generation- Soldier's Last Letter
23. Caleb's Crossing- Good Things
24. Ryan Watkins- One More Time

25. Wade Phillips- He Was Standing
26. Mike Manual- Where's The Family
27. Shenandoah- Good News Travels Fast
28. Reed Bothers- I'll Make The Most Of It
29. Dan Duncan- Nobody Sang Amazing Grace
30. McKay Project- Get Saved
31. Butch Tinker- Drive
32. Trevor Bohannon- It's Time
33. Mike Upright- When My Last Song Has Sung
34. Doug Hudson- If They Could See Us Now
35. Mary James- Fearfully, Wonderfully Made
36. Randy Paul- Moonshine
37. Danny Ray Harris- It's All Good
38. Debbie Seagraves- Where You Could Be
39. Miles Pike- Hard
40. Kevin Woody- Up To Something

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Merry Christmas from

MARK209

By Robert York

WWW.MARK209.COM

A little over five years ago at the 2011 National Quartet Convention, a new group was introduced by the name of Mark 209. A reference to mile marker 209 in Nashville, Tennessee, the location of Music Row, the group's sound is straight from the Heart of Nashville.

Mark 209 has a style of music of its own. Audiences like the four-part harmony reflective of Southern Gospel, but this group also adds a Country touch with their music, using lyrics that reflect everyday life.

Jym Howe, lead singer, says, "We just wanted to do something different. Our vocal arrangements are a combination of each of our separate backgrounds, from hip-hop, to barbershop, musical theater and country, to classical. We combine these with our love for Southern Gospel to create our unique sound."

Tenor Nathaniel Justice, who previously sang with Mike LeFevre, says: "Looking back I loved Mike and the guys there, but coming to Mark 209, we have a much more mainstream Country sound. It allows us to not only minister in churches but also fairs, casinos, prisons, youth rallies and much more."

Ray Woconish has a deep, smooth bass voice and works to ensure the audience will understand each word. Ray previously sang with South Point Quartet and South-

ern Grace. He is also a great sports fan and gets very excited about his favorite teams. "I am very animated and like to yell when things go good or bad," says Ray. "One time on the bus, I was watching Ohio State against Michigan State, and Ohio State had the ball. Twice on the same possession of the ball Ohio State dropped a pass and without any warning I yelled. It startled the driver and did not go over very well. Later in the drive, Ohio State scored a touchdown. Being the fan I am, I yelled again. Needless to say I was banned from the front and now have to ride in the back of the bus when watching sports."

Jimmy Reno, baritone for the group, was in law enforcement for 10 years. If he wasn't singing he would go back to law enforcement. Jimmy has been married for 22 years to Christa and they have three children and one granddaughter. He is an original member of Mark 209 but due to a family illness he left the group for a while. He said, "I'm very excited to be back. Prior to returning to Mark 209 I was with the Florida Boys."

Mark 209 has had many memorable experiences in their short history. The first year they sang at Graceland for Elvis Week 35. They opened their set with one of their most popular songs, "Graceland." This was Ray's first event with the group. They have also sung for both



Christmas Eve. Nathaniel notes, “My special plans for Christmas are simply being with family; but this year we are taking Greyson, our three year old, to Disney World.”



Merry Christmas from Mark209, online at <http://mark209.com>.

Photo Credits: Mark209 and Michelle Drummond.

Presidents Bush (41 and 43) at their home in Kennebunkport.

Currently on their 2016 Christmas Tour, the group says this is one of their most exciting times of the year. Their Christmas show features original tunes and updated classic Christmas songs, and they have released many of these in an online album. Jym tells us: “My plans for Christmas are usually to recoup from the tour.” He wants his turkey and dressing (not stuffing) on the dinner table as it is his favorite dish.

Ray says on his table would be fried chicken, spaghetti and meatballs, ham, fried cauliflower and artichokes and all kinds of desserts. He adds, “We always had a huge family Christmas Party with my Mom’s side of the family on Christmas Eve. This was a tradition I loved and now miss.”



“We get together with extended family for a huge celebration,” says Jimmy. “I just enjoy spending time with my family. Another Christmas with my family healthy and safe is a blessing.”

At the Justice home they enjoy opening packages on



Looking forward to a great Summer and Fall of Worship Services, Concerts, Relaxing Trips and Family Time, and of course we'll climax the year with **SGNScoops Diamond Awards Nov 1, 2016!**



We had a great Winter with friends, ministers, and promoters during our stay in Florida.

We have a full schedule of church services, concerts, and senior programs for the remainder of the year. Lil' Jan and I have also scheduled personal times with two weeks in the Smokey Mountains, a week in New York, and a week in London, England. Please check our schedule for the times and dates of a program near you. We love sharing time with our Gospel Music Friends. (DrJerryGoff.com)

Check out our Singing at Sea Cruise for 2017. Make plans to go with us. It's the best vacation you'll ever have. - Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan

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SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND

Update 2017

By LORRAINE WALKER

Southern Gospel Weekend 2017 is just three short months away, March 23rd through 25th. Have you made your plans yet to join us in Oxford, Alabama at the Oxford Civic Center? SGW admission is free but must be reserved. Visit www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com for more information.



SGW 2017 Artists

You won't want to miss this event! Some of the artists appearing at SGW 2017 include: The Sharps Quartet, Mercy Rain, Surrendered, The Pacesetters, Inheritance, Debbie Seagraves, The Chandlers, The Singing Epps, The Pine Ridge Boys, Kristen Stanton, Purpose, Ava Kasich, Keith Stapler, Shane Cruse, Hope's Journey, The Connells, ClearVision Quartet, and The Drummond

Family.

If you have never attended Southern Gospel Weekend, you will be able to experience the large Exhibit Hall,



Daytime Showcases with Ava Kasich and Vonda Easley of Hope's Journey, Midnight Prayer time and Saturday Breakfast. Many solo and group artists will be performing during the three-day festival, emceed by the well-known bass of the Second Half Quartet, Pat Barker.

Pat Barker University



Pat Barker will also be offering classes to assist Gospel music artists. From vocal coaching to stage presence, Barker will touch on everything the artist

needs to present Christ, in the SGW version of the Pat Barker University.

SGW '17 will be providing a VIP seating section again this year. For \$25, true Southern Gospel fans can purchase a pass that will assure them the best view of all the concerts for the entire event. Not only will they



have the preferred seating, but also VIP pass holders will receive a special surprise at the event. Anyone interested in purchasing a VIP pass should contact Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892.



for more information.

If you are an artist that would like to participate in any of these events, please contact Vonda Easley. Please contact Salina Clay for hotel reservations at hotels@sngscoops.com or call her at 256-239-7716. For

more information visit: www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com or www.facebook.com/southerngospelweekend.



Remember, general seating tickets are free for Southern Gospel Weekend. Call Vonda Easley at 256-310-7892



Picture of Oxford Civic Center courtesy of Oxford Police Department [<https://www.facebook.com/oxfordpd/>]

Diamond Awards Portraits 2016 courtesy of Shirey Photos

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YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Logan Smith

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

Tis the season for yuletide cheer, *fa la la la*'s and Grandma's famous cookies. But it's also time to give a little more and be a little sweeter. There's a young fellow I thought of when I was preparing for this Christmas edition. Not a kinder, sweeter, more down-to-earth guy came to mind than Logan Smith. You may already be a fan of his pipes, but perhaps there are some things you don't know about him...quite yet. With that said, let's jump right in!

Erin: For those that might not know your backstory, when did your love for music begin?

Logan: My parents and grandparents raised me on classic Southern Gospel groups such as The Happy Goodmans, The Hinsons, The Rambos and The Speers. I admired them all, but the Goodmans brought an excitement to the stage like I'd never seen before. They inspired me to start singing this incredible music that lifts and encourages. I've been hooked ever since!

Erin: It appears you have successfully bridged the gap from being "the boy who sings like Vestal" to the talented young man you are now who has come into his own. How have you accomplished this and was it a smooth transition?

Logan: It's been very smooth. It's an honor to carry on the legacy of such a dynamic vocalist. I'm enjoying mixing in new songs from such talented writers of our time today, and still throwing it back and singing Goodman classics every night! The music never gets old. The singers fade, but the message in these songs is timeless.

Erin: What are some favorite Smith family traditions

that take place during the holiday season? And is there a specific Christmas dish or treat you can't wait to have every year?

Logan: Christmas is my favorite time of year! Mom and Dad have always made the holidays exceptionally special for my brothers and me. We always wake up every Christmas morning to see what Santa Claus has brought, then we make cream cheese biscuits. I'm excited to see what changes are gonna be taking place this year since my first nephew was born back in April. Oh, and my favorite edible tradition is Mom's dressing! I'm a little biased, but I believe it's the best there is.

Erin: Who are your top musical inspirations? How have they impacted you personally?



Logan: I'd have to say Jeff and Sheri Easter. They've had a huge impact and been so influential in my life. I sang with them for the first time when I was 10 years old at a church just a few miles from home. That night, Jeff called me up to sing,



and immediately called Bill Gaither and said, “You gotta hear this kid.” I did my first Homecoming concert two weeks later at Gaither Fest in Myrtle Beach, SC. They deserve so much credit for getting me where I am today, and I’m beyond grateful for them.

Erin: What is the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

Logan: “You need to cut your hair.” When I was younger, I had longer hair and a lot of elderly ladies would come up and tell me my hair was too long. I look back at pictures and laugh about it now!

Erin: Tell us all about your new CD. What is your favorite song from the album and why?

Logan: I’m so excited about the new record titled *Hits Before My Time*. It’s been four years since the release of a mainline project. I took 11 classic songs that I grew up on, and made them my own. Songs like: “Amazing Grace,” “Sheltered in the Arms of God,” “My Lord Will Send a Moses (feat. Jeanette Cooke),” “Go Rest High on that Mountain,” “He Set Me Free (feat. Vestal Goodman),” and many more. I’d have to say my favorite would be “He Set Me Free” with Vestal. It was such a surreal moment the first time I heard her vocal in the studio and I thought to myself, so many people would be stoked to get to duet with their musical hero. I’m ecstatic that Jeff Easter and modern technology made that possible.

Erin: What are some exciting things the fans can be expecting from you in 2017?

Logan: I’ll be going back in the studio in February to work on another new record. This album is gonna feature mostly all new material and I’m excited to say I’m writing a few for this album. I’m also celebrating 10 years of full time ministry as well next year. There will

be a “Decade” album and a select number of special tour dates aside from my regular touring schedule to celebrate.

Erin: Pick your favorites - Bow ties or skinny ties? Hot chocolate or coffee? Elf or Home Alone? Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Gift giver or gift getter?

Logan: Skinny ties/Coffee/Home Alone/Christmas Day/Gift giver.

Erin: As we celebrate the birth of Christ, in your own words, what does Christmas mean to you?

Logan: If it weren’t for the birth of Jesus, there would be no Christmas season. I’m grateful for the beauty He allows the human eye to see through all the lights and decorations and the excitement when we hear classic Christmas songs. It’s amazing to me the change in people’s moods, how light hearted they are, and the love we all share between one another. I have to believe God smiles down on us during this time of year. After all, God is love. It makes you wonder why the love, joy, and smiles can’t be shown year round.



Closing words from the writer...

Maybe this year it will be different. Maybe this year, we will take that love and joy with us into the new year. It’s easy for folks to hit a brick wall as soon as the *Merry Christmas*’s cease. Reality swoops back in, and the frightening newness of the coming year can be a crippling thought. I wish I had the perfect answer for how to keep those thoughts at bay, but here’s a great

reminder from Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." We serve the same Lord on January the first as we do on December 25th. Don't get bogged down in the *what if's* ahead. Treasure those that you love, be thankful for what you have, and anticipate what the future holds while believing in the One who holds the future. May our festive spirit truly spill over into the next 12 months. Thanks for reminding us to keep smiling, Logan. A very Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good read!

Until next year, Scoops fans.
And that's my take on it.

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DJ SPOTLIGHT

Bruce Edwards



This month we are shining the DJ Spotlight on Bruce Edwards. Here is what he had to share with us, to help us get acquainted with this DJ. Bruce works in Lexington, Kentucky, a large market to cover with Christian programming and music. He is a busy man and works tirelessly to promote the Gospel.

Thanks Bruce for sharing with SGN Scoops!



93.3fm 770am (The Eagle) and afternoon drive announcer.

Vonda: Tell us a funny story that happened one day while on the air...

Bruce: Back in the late 70's working at a Top 40 station, when we played actual 45 and 33 rpm records on turntables, I left the studio for a quick Big Mac across the street from the radio station. I locked the station door, left the keys in the studio, then the record ended...with dead air... and I couldn't get back in the door!

Vonda: Where is your favorite place to eat?

Bruce: Pappys Bar-B-Q, St.Louis, any Texas Roadhouse nationwide and, of course, home with our family.

Vonda: If you could visit any place, where would you go

and why?

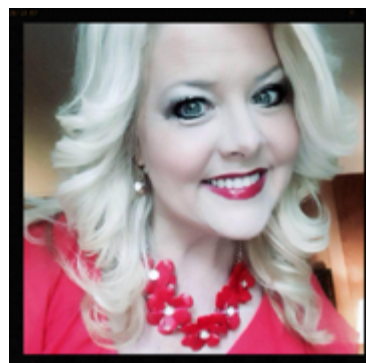
Bruce: Orange Beach Alabama, sugar white beaches, clear gulf waters and the most relaxing place on Earth.



Vonda: Have you ever won any awards in radio? Tell us!

Bruce: Gospel Station of the Year awards and various large market DJ announcer honors.

Be sure to log onto wcgwm.com and listen live to Bruce Edwards every afternoon. Great music and a great DJ; what more could you want? Oh yes, he does a Top Five At Five countdown. Sounds like a great combination. Listen to Bruce today! You can find 770AM on Facebook as well. Let them know that you heard all about Bruce here on the DJ Spotlight.



**Written By
Vonda Easley**



What Love Looks Like featuring *Hope Bowling*

By Faith Lore

Christmas has to be one of the most enjoyed holidays of all for many reasons. Of course, this is the season that we celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. In this celebration, families all over the country will find themselves nestled together by fireplaces, enjoying each other's company and reminiscing about Christmas traditions. Spreading hope and cheer by giving gifts is one of the most popular ways that we celebrate Christmas. It is only fitting that our featured guest in this month's issue is named Hope.

While Hope Bowling has not been singing very long with her family, The Bowling Family, she is no stranger to Southern Gospel music. Hope's father, Mike Bowling, sang with various groups and eventually went into a solo career. Hope's mom, Kelly, sang with one of Southern Gospel's most loved families, The Crabb Family, for years. After the birth of their third child, Mike and Kelly began to tour as The Bowling Family. Hope began singing with her parents four years ago.

I love seeing other young women singing for the Lord. So, I was so encouraged to see Hope standing on stage

singing with her parents. Every time Hope walks on the stage, audiences across the country can't help but fall in love with her humble and sincere spirit. Her voice blends perfectly into that family harmony that is unbeatable.

Hope shared with me that she had mixed emotions about joining the singing group. She was extremely excited to be sharing the stage with her parents, but it was also a bit scary for a 13 year old. Four years into road life, Hope says that her favorite part is getting to see the world and meet new people. Ironically, she says she is also a homebody, so there are moments when she really misses being home.

Hope has two younger sisters, Katelanne (13) and Gracie (10). The three sisters have begun to sing a song or two in Bowling Family Concerts across the country. When the three sisters take the stage, you can see their parent's faces light up with joy and pride.

Siblings have a special bond and Hope certainly shares that bond with her younger sisters. Hope said

that if she could describe Katelanne in three words she would say funny, talented and creative. Hope would describe her youngest sister, Gracie as being spunky, determined and smart.

If you have followed Southern Gospel Music for any time, you will remember about a tragedy that shook the lives of The Bowlings forever. It impacted the entire Southern Gospel industry, and sparked a national call to prayer. Recovery from their tragedy would have to be nothing short of a miracle. In 2010, The Bowling Family was heading down the highway in Belmont, NC, when all of a sudden their bus was hit head-on by a semi-truck going 60 miles per hour. This accident took a toll on the entire family, but Mike, Kelly and Katelanne suffered the most severe injuries. Hope was only 10 years old when everything happened, but she remembers that “It was a rough time.”

Some people ask, “Why do bad things happen to good people”? That question could be asked under the cir-



cumstances of what The Bowling Family lived through. I asked Hope how the accident affected her spiritually and mentally.

“I didn’t question, because I was a kid. I’ve been taught

that all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord. I have seen this first hand through our accident. I believe we are changed for the better.” Romans 8:28 has been a scripture that many Christians turn to in their time of suffering. As Christians, we understand that while not everything in life is good, God is working it all together for good. This biblical truth and promise of God is something to rejoice over.

First Corinthians 13:6 says “*Charity* rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth.” Jesus has told us through the Bible, that He is the way, the TRUTH and the life.



In him, we can find life and life more abundant. Even in the dark times of life, we can have a joy in knowing the truth. It seems like so many people in our world are desperate to find hope and fulfillment in their life. I asked Hope, how she felt that Christians could help spread the Gospel to unbelievers.





“I think showing the love of Jesus is really important, and something we as Christians can forget. I’m always reminded that actions speak louder than words.”

I have heard those words many times in my life too. Even Jesus spoke that faith without works is dead. It is obvious that in order to show the world what love looks like, it’s important that we live out our faith and rejoice in the truth. This Christmas season, enjoy the warmth of family traditions. But, don’t forget to spread the love of Jesus to a world in need of hope.



I love getting to know some of my most favorite Southern Gospel artists personally, and I’m sure you do too. So, I asked Hope some fun questions...

Fayth: Do you have any unknown talents or hobbies?

Hope: I play guitar. I love photography and playing around with makeup.

Fayth: Would you rather scroll through Instagram or

check out the latest snapchat stories?

Hope: Scroll through Instagram.

Fayth: Would you rather eat your meal first or dessert?

Hope: Meal first.

Fayth: Would you rather ride the merry-go-round or the Fire-Hawk at King’s Island?

Hope: I’ve never been on the Fire-Hawk, but I love roller coasters, so Fire-Hawk!



Fayth: Would you rather watch Pride and Prejudice or Tangled?

Hope: Pride and Prejudice.

Fayth: Would you rather DIY or just order from Etsy?

Hope: Order from Etsy. I’m a bit of an Etsy junky!

It is always a joy to chat with the young ladies in Southern Gospel music. If you enjoy reading words of spiritual inspiration and getting to know these girls more, be watching for the next issue of *What Love Looks Like*. Until then, have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Photo Credits: Candi Combs and Hope Bowling





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TRAVEL FEATURE UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

By Stephanie Kelley

There are so many wonderful places to see and things to do in our world. Travelling to see God's magnificent creation is one way to honor Him and to marvel at His love for us. His handiwork can be seen in the blues of the oceans, grays of the mountains and the greens of the valleys. His work can be seen in the lives of people in small towns and big cities.

In the Southern Gospel industry, travel occurs every day, whether it is on a bus with the rest of the band or in a car with a group of fans. Sometimes we get so focused on our destination, that we forget to enjoy the journey. I'd like to explore the journey with you in a new travel section of the magazine.

Stay tuned as we enjoy some of the most beautiful natural wonders on Earth. We will also explore some of the interesting sights and quirky places our world has to offer.

Footnote

Disclaimer: I may have been provided a complimentary service or product in return for my honest review. All thoughts and opinions expressed in the review(s) are my own and have not been in any way influenced by any person or act.

Steph's Travelogue: Universal Studios, Hollywood

We all love Southern Gospel Music in my household and much of our lives revolve around the music, the people and the industry. But once in awhile you have to step back from your normal life and let loose with those you love. My family and I recently did just that and took a trip to Southern California.

It was an overcast day in typically sunny California but the group had smiling and excited faces. We were about to experience Universal Studios Hollywood: The Entertainment Capital of LA. The film studio and theme park is located in the unincorporated Universal City. The park was originally created to offer tours of real Universal Studios sets. From that initial idea grew what is the first of many full-fledged Universal Studios Theme Parks located across the world.

Universal Studios Hollywood is split into two different areas on separate levels, connected by several escalators. This area is popularly known as "The Starway." The two areas, the Upper Lot and Lower Lot, house a variety of attractions.

Upper Lot

The sky was still gray from the rain the night before, and it created an appropriately eerie backdrop for our first visit to the *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter*.

The area, modeled after the *Harry Potter* franchise, adapts elements from the film into a life-sized, themed town, complete with cobblestone streets and endearing British accents. Visitors can't help but be whisked away to the Hogswart's castle or the Hogsmeade shops that they've read about in the award winning books or watched on the silver screen.

The next stop was the *Studio Tour*. The Studio Tour has been on my bucket list since I was a child. Even with a lifetime build-up, it didn't disappoint at all. The beginning of the tour provided an amazing view of the back lot with Burbank in the background. Our guide was well informed, and delivered the information in a fun and interactive way, including showing relevant movie clips and comments interjected by Jimmy Fallon. The tour is filled with a nice mix of real life information about your favorite movies and television shows, and special effects that make you feel like you are really a part of one of Universal's thrilling movies.

We rode the trolley through the front lot, where we had to be quiet because of filming that was taking place for *The Mindy Project*. We saw the Star Wagons where the stars go to get dressed and rode past some of Hollywood's most famous cars, including vehicles from hit movies such as *Back to the Future*.

One of the most interesting parts of the studio tour was the airline crash set of Steven Spielberg's *The War of the Worlds* starring Tom Cruise and Dakota Fanning. The airplane in the movie was a real 747 and the realistic look of the crash site was fascinating.

We were able to travel the world in our little tram, from the sets of *Little Mexico* to *New York City* and even traveled back in time to the *Wild West* and *ancient Australia*, before

becoming face to face with *King Kong 360 3-D* created by Peter Jackson.

The Studio Tour's grand finale was *Fast & Furious – Supercharged!* Here we rode along with the all-star cast from the hit movies, including *The Rock*, on an exhilarating high-speed chase that exceeds 120 miles per hour and catapults you into the high-stakes underworld of fast cars and international crime cartels.

After our tour, we decided to walk around *Downtown Springfield*. It is an authentic replica of the city featured in the animated series, *The Simpsons*. There you will find *Krusty Burgers* and donuts good enough and BIG enough to satisfy even Homer Simpson's appetite. We grabbed a quick photo with the friendly *Homer Simpson* before we headed into the highlight of the area, *The Simpson's Ride*, in which familiar characters lead you on an epic adventure through the fictitious town of Springfield, on a virtual roller coaster.

Next, we headed over to experience *Despicable Me Minion Mayhem*. Here we joined Gru, his daughters and the mischievous Minions on a 3-D ride. Guests start the adventure in Gru's home. Within moments, you're launched into an unforgettable trip through his super-villain laboratory. The laughs keep coming after the ride with an interactive, Minion-inspired dance party.

The re-creation of the first Minion film's memorable seaside carnival, *Super Silly Fun Land*, is adjacent to the *Despicable Me Minion Mayhem* ride. This Minion-inspired outdoor venue is a literal interpretation of the seaside carnival from the popular movie, *Despicable Me*. Nearby is the Minion-themed ride, *Silly Swirly Fun Ride*, which was my littlest daughter's favorite ride of the day. This swirly ride will soar and spin guests around for a 360-degree view of *Super Silly Fun Land*.

After this adventure, we made our way towards the *Shrek 4-D* attraction. On our way there, my girls spent some time with Fiona and Donkey. Fiona was beautiful and everything you think a princess should be and Donkey was hilarious. It was intriguing because though Donkey was a fully animated character, he was also interactive and had a nice conversation with my oldest about Seattle weather and even had a few one-liners to fit the occasion.

We headed to *Shrek 4-D™* — the attraction that puts you right into the action with hair-raising, eye-popping effects. You enter the ride by spending a little time in Lord Farquaad's dungeon.

Once the show begins, you will actually feel the action as the seats move along with the motion on the screen. Hold onto your seat during the race scene. You will also experience wind and a special surprise that will make you squeal and giggle.

There are plenty of shows to keep you entertained while at



Universal Studios Hollywood too. The *Special Effects Show* was especially interesting to me as it is an exclusive behind-the-scenes look into how some of the special effects from your favorite blockbuster movies were created.

Another show worth seeing is the *Animal Actors Show*. The animals in the performance are the actual actors used in popular television shows and movies, including the real Beverly Hills Chihuahua and the owls used in the Harry Potter movies. You will see your favorite scenes from *The Secret Life of Pets* re-enacted, and watch exclusive film content.



Water World was my favorite part of the entire day. The live show is based on the movie, *Water World*, where the entire world has been engulfed in a Noah-esque flood. You will experience a tidal wave of explosive action and breathtaking stunts. The adventure surges to life with jumping jet-skiers, perilous plunges from high above your head, firefights, massive explosions with real fire, and an in-your-face plane crash you need to see to believe.

Be sure to keep your eye out for *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *Curious George* and *Scooby-Doo* with *Shaggy*. All these beloved characters hangout in the Upper Lot.

Lower Lot

There are plenty of things to do in the lower lot too. The main attractions are the *Jurassic ride*, *Mummy: The Ride* and *Transformers*. The Lower Lot is where we spotted *Dora the Explorer* and her beloved *Backpack*, whose eyes really moved.

My littlest and I were not able to enjoy the raft adventure to see the dinosaurs in their natural jungle habitat or experience the narrow escape from a 50-foot T-Rex on the *Jurassic Park Ride*. The rest of my party did and could not stop talking about it. The adventure continued just outside of the ride at *Raptor Encounter*. Guests are able to experience a live encounter with one of Jurassic Park's most famous inhabitants, a nearly nine foot tall *Velociraptor*.

One ride in the lower lot that my entire party enjoyed together was *Transformers: The Ride-3D*. Based on the popu-

lar movie franchise, this *Transformers* adventure puts you smack in the middle of the ultimate futuristic war zone. The ride fuses HD 3D media and flight simulation technology that is part ride and part virtual world. You will fight alongside *Optimus Prime* and will try to survive as you protect the *AllSpark* from *Decepticons* over four stories tall.

Revenge of the Mummy: The Ride is also located on the Lower Lot. Riders are catapulted at speeds up to 45 miles per hour in virtual darkness. Guests will also notice many Egyptian hieroglyphics covering the walls at various places within the ride, spelling out real words and ancient warnings.

Check out the website www.UniversalStudiosHollywood.com for more information and park maps.

Things that distinguish Universal studio from similar theme parks

We loved having the **Front of the Line** passes and would highly recommend them to anyone planning their own trip. They cost nearly twice as much as the regular ticket, but vacation hours are precious and you don't want to spend your time standing in line.

Another thing that Universal Studios, Hollywood does better than other parks is **keeping the theme** of each distinct area. The operators of the rides and attractions were costumed and in character. Universal Studios Hollywood offers a far more **authentic experience** than similar parks. The actors in the shows are from real television programs and movies.

Being a historian, I loved the **historic elements** of the Park. The Studio Tour was full of historical facts and relics, perfect for a movie buff or anyone interested in cinematography. There were also authentic movie props and artifacts on display.

Universal Studios is unmatched in their **special effects**. I loved the trickery of the effects and enjoyed the element of surprise. Most theme parks focus more on the ride, where Universal Studios concentrates on the overall experience.

I really appreciated the **clear descriptions** of the rides posted at the entrance of each attraction. As a parent (and a scaredy cat), I was able to easily see which rides would be appropriate for me and my family.

The **cooling stations** were refreshing. SoCal can get hot, and these stations, which are large fans and misting areas, are the perfect way to cool down.

We found the **staff more personable and friendly** than at similar theme parks. When you spend a lot of money to create a special day for your family, you don't want it ruined by grumpy employees.

General Tips

Save money by buying **Season Passes at Costco**. Although

they aren't available all the time, you can find a deal on Season Passes to Universal Studios. For about the same price as the one day admission, you can purchase a season pass at the big box warehouse store.

Buy the **Front of the Line** passes. These special tickets are good for one *front of the line* experience for each ride and show. You will be given a plastic card on a lanyard to wear around your neck.

Arrive ahead of park opening. Remember that parking and walking into the park, going through security and standing in line to enter will all take time, and you don't want to take that time away from your park experience.

If you want to see some **top celebrities** interviewed in person, check out a taping of EXTRA, a leading entertainment-news television show. Check the calendar on the Universal Studios website to find out which celebs will be in the park filming at the time of your visit.

The Starway, the series of escalators that connect the Upper Lot and the Lower Lot, is very long. It will take you about 10 minutes just to get from one lot to the other. Avoid multiple trips between the lots by **doing everything in the Lower Lot on a single trip.**

Head to the Studio Tour early. This is the most popular attraction in the park and will fill up quickly. Get there early to avoid the crowd.

Buy the popcorn bucket early in the day. For one low price, about six dollars, you can get free refills for the entire day. There are three different stands where you can refill your popcorn throughout the park as long as you hold onto your receipt. Same advice is true for the pop, if you are okay with your children loading up on soda.

If you want to **buy souvenirs**, consider buying your Universal Studio Hollywood gear at *Universal CityWalk Hollywood*. This area is open before the park and remains open well into the night.. CityWalk is a three-block area filled with entertainment, dining and shopping. You won't have to waste your park time looking for the perfect souvenir because you can always pick up something special at CityWalk.

Tips for going with little children

If you are visiting the park with small children, you will definitely want to **hangout with the Minions**. It is the most kid-friendly part of the park.

My six-year-old was only scared once during our visit, during a *Jurassic* moment on the studio tour. She doesn't scare easily, so if you have a child who does, you will want to assure them that **what they are seeing and experiencing is all special effects** and not real prior to getting on the studio tour. Otherwise, the rides are clearly labeled by height restrictions, which also takes into consideration the age of the rider.

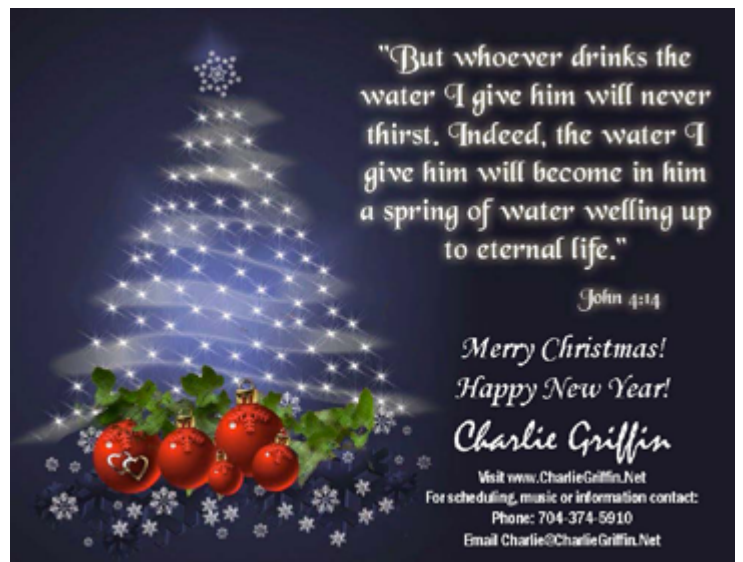
Bring a stroller. The biggest challenge for navigating the park with a stroller was The Starway escalators, but they were relatively easily to maneuver. The stroller parking is more clearly marked and more conveniently located than at other parks. The stroller became an asset when my daughter got tired.

Bring small snacks. Bringing food will help your day go more smoothly and will save you money.



Go to the **Animal Actors show**. Children can see the animals up close and may even be able to pet them. It's a nice break to be able to sit and relax while your child is entertained by cute and fuzzy little friends.

The next time you visit Southern California, whether it is to attend a concert or convention, or just for fun, plan a day to visit Universal Studios, Hollywood. It is a unique experience that marries history with the future, and excitement with old fashioned, family fun.





MIMI'S CAFE

By Stephanie Kelley

Steph's Travelogue: Mimi's Cafe

From the moment we walked into the front doors of Mimi's Cafe, we felt a warm welcome from the staff. It wasn't the type of welcome that you get when you walk into a fast food place, where an unenthusiastic worker flashes a weak smile and mutters a robotic, "welcome." This welcome felt genuine and set the mood for a fantastic meal that not only warmed our tummies, but also our hearts.

Originally headquartered in Irvine, California, less than 20 miles from the Anaheim location we visited, **Mimi's Cafe** now has 145 locations in 24 states. It serves French and American food that is homey with a flare. When you're traveling, there is nothing like a home-cooked meal to make you feel all warm and fuzzy. It features a modern decor that is comfortable yet eye-catching.

We were seated in a spacious booth that offered enough privacy to carry on conversation with our children. The decor hinted to the French-inspired menu, but blended well with the family friendly vibe of the restaurant.

We started our meal with a spinach and onion dip served with nacho corn chips. Mimi's Cafe's *Warm Spinach Artichoke Dip*, did not disappoint. The appetizer came with a large portion of rich and creamy dip made with aged Parmesan and chopped kale. It also came with a hearty amount of warmed house-made tortilla chips.



We had the opportunity to try the *Fried Chicken and Waffles* from the All Day Breakfast menu. I'm a northerner and am a little embarrassed to say that I've never had this southern favorite. But my friends in the South will be happy to hear that I am now a believer. I will no longer give you a funny look when you tell me you are going to have waffles and chicken after a Southern Gospel concert. It came with two large pieces of hand-



breaded chicken breast, two large buttermilk waffles and warmed maple syrup. It was delicious!



The *Slow-Roasted Turkey Dinner* was tender and melted in our mouths. The slow-roasted turkey was served with mashed

potatoes, gravy, cornbread dressing, fresh vegetables and orange-apple cranberry relish, which, by the way, was loved by my children who don't typically enjoy rel-

ish. The meal is large, but if you want to add a Mimi's House Salad, Caesar Salad or a cup of soup, you can make it even heartier. This is the perfect dinner for anyone looking for some *home cookin'*. It would also be a perfect holiday meal around Christmas or Thanksgiving for anyone not going home for the holidays.



My littlest daughter ordered the same thing she always orders whenever it is on the menu, *Chocolate Chip Pancakes*. To her delight, not only did she receive two large fluffy buttermilk pancakes with a gooey pile of chocolate

chips and a dollop of whipped cream on top, but the pancakes were shaped like Mickey Mouse's head. What a perfect way to start our week of Disneyland fun. Her meal also came with a cup of fruit, including melon and oranges. The portion size was large, so I felt comfortable stealing a bite. The pancakes were fluffy and tasted perfect and warm enough to melt the butter piled on top. Apparently she loved it too, since there wasn't so much as crumb left on her plate.



The ultimate comfort food, *Macaroni and Cheese*, is amped up at Mimi's. It is pure and traditional enough to please the

die hard mac-and-cheese lover, but unique enough to intrigue those looking for something special. The *Chicken Tillamook Cheddar Mac* is to die for and features pulled chicken in a rich Tillamook Creamery cheddar sauce with crumbled bacon, penne pasta and

Parmesan crust. Tillamook is a familiar brand from the Pacific Northwest and is considered to be a premier cheese. I knew, just by the name, that this was going to be a crowd pleaser. It was creamy, but also had a little bit of crispness, as it was baked. There was a hint of bacon, crumbled on top, but the predominant taste was the gloriously creamy cheese.



For dessert, we shared the *Creme Brulee Cheesecake*, which was amazing. The deep dish cheese cake featured French vanilla buttermilk and a flaky, hand-made thick graham cracker crust. After a hearty meal, we were only able to share one cheesecake, but the portion size was ample enough to fill in any empty spots in our tummies. I love cheesecake and creme brulee, so this was a winning combination for me. I particularly loved the caramelized sugar on the top.

The portion sizes were large on all the meals, which was perfect for these weary travelers. We went back to our hotel with very full tummies and even some food to spare.



I want to give a big "Shout-Out" to our server, Willy. He was the most attentive server I think I've ever had. He brought us plate after plate of piping hot food and didn't let our drinks go dry. He served with a smile and friendly anecdote, but didn't intrude on our privacy. He turned serving food into an art form. Even my 11-year-



old daughter was impressed with his service. She said that Willy was calm even though he was taking care of us and several other tables simultaneously, a fact that I was shocked at. His attentiveness made me believe that we were his only guests.

If you are visiting Disneyland for the Gospel History Music concerts in February or just having quality family time, consider making your way across the street to



Mimi's. You can sit down in an air-conditioned dining room and enjoy a little break from the hectic pace that is Disney. And with the prompt service and close proximity to the park, you will not feel as if you are losing a lot of precious time.

I'd like to personally like to thank Amy Freshwater for arranging our visits and the Manager for overseeing it. And thank you to Willy for outstanding service.

I wish there was a Mimi's Cafe in my home state of Washington. When we are looking for a place to eat, someone in our family will always say, "Mimi's," even though we know the closest one is over a thousand miles away.



Cross Pointe

"Angels" is on the new project
by Cross Pointe – "Act IV Scene 1"
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"They're all around us, angels.
Some of them just don't have wings"

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

1	Karen Peck and New River	Calling
2	The Hoppers	If We Ever Gotta Look
3	The Wisecarvers	Don't You Think You Ought To Worship Me
4	The Nelons	My Father's House
5	Tim Livingston	Without You
6	The Hyssongs	It Doesn't Get Better Than This
7	The Talleys	After All This Time
8	The Troy Burns Family	Somebody Go Get Jesus
9	The Bowling Family	Mourning Into Dancing
10	Wilburn and Wilburn	It's What He's Done
11	Josh and Ashley Franks	In The Midst Of It All
12	The Lore Family	World Of Hurt
13	The Tribute Quartet	Never Forsaken
14	Brian Free and Assurance	Somebody's Miracle
15	The McKameys	That's Why There's A Cross
16	The Mylon Hayes Family	I Choose To Stand
17	The Perrys	Did I Just Hear The Thunder
18	The Taylors	We Are Not Ashamed
19	Highland Park	Gonna Get Baptized
20	The Gold City Quartet	Farther Along
21	The Blackwood Brothers Quartet	When I Cross To The Other Side Of Jordan
22	The Browders	New Song
23	Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call	Promises Of God
24	The Isaacs	This Is The Year
25	The Chandlers	Old Time Meeting
26	The Kingdom Heirs	Saving Us A Place In The Choir
27	The Mark Trammell Quartet	Already In Canaanland

28	Shellem Cline	Yes Jesus Loves Me
29	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Someone's Listening
30	Legacy Five	Still
31	The Whisnants	I Love You This Much
32	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	Holy, Glory To The Lamb
33	The Erwins	Only Faith Can See
34	The Anchormen	I Heard About A Man
35	Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver	Best Friends
36	Cana's Voice	Heavenly Father
37	Landon Villines	Better Days
38	Mark Bishop	Pick Me Up And Carry Me
39	The Williamsons	He Lived To Tell It
40	The Woodsman Quartet	The Word Is Out
41	The Blankenships	It Had To Be God
42	The Arenos	Thinking About Me
43	The Pine Ridge Boys	I've Got A New Song
44	Faith's Journey	One More Beautiful Day
45	The Inspirations	Jesus Picked A Rose
46	The Triumphant Quartet	Living In The Promised Land
47	The Stephens	Lord Have Mercy
48	The Guardians	It Ain't Gonna Worry Me Long
49	Logan Smith	My Lord Will Send A Moses
50	Rejeana Leath	Walking Miracle
51	The Common Bond Quartet	God Made A Way
52	Christian Davis	Just Show Up
53	Gordon Mote	Oh The Blood
54	The Victory Trio	What A Time
55	The Broken Vessels	American Christian



56	11th Hour	Can You Burn
57	Dallas Rogers	Beyond The Gates
58	The Mark Dubbeld Family	This Is What I Know
59	Mac Holmes	White Horses
60	Ivan Parker	Mama's Rocking Chair
61	The Bates Family	That Day
62	Adam Crabb	That Whosoever Was Me
63	The Carolina Boys	For Every Goliath
64	Carla and Redemption	Goody, Goody Devil
65	Amber Nelon Thompson	God Is Always Good
66	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	Joshua Led God's Children
67	Second Generation	Mama's Rocking Chair
68	Shellem Cline	Why Can't Christians Share The Love Of Christ
69	Austin and Ethan Whisnant	There's Nothing God Can't Do
70	Larry Ray	What A Glad Reunion Day
71	The Chuck Wagon Gang	Pray The Power Down
72	The Taylors	He Won't Fail You
73	Sunday Drive	A Good Song
74	Cornerstone	What The Preacher Said
75	Canton Junction	When He Was On The Cross
76	The Singing Epps Family	Heaven
77	Oasis	Potter's Wheel
78	Watts, Rowsey and Bean	He Lives To Love
79	The Page Trio	My Light And Salvation
80	The Kingsmen	Here I Stand Amazed
81	The Spiritual Voices	He's Already Been There, Done That
82	Mike Manuel	Where's The Family
83	New Ground	Closer Than I Was Before
84	The Walkers	God Of Promises
85	Soul'd Out Quartet	God's Grace Is Never Ending
86	The Adams Family	That's The Sound Of A House Being Built On Love

87	Reborn	Can He Count On You
88	Larry Ray	American Family
89	Debra Joy Winans	The Master's Calling
90	Chronicle	Army Of One
91	Chris Hester	That's Good Enough
92	Jordan's Crossing	The Reason
93	The Sneed Family	The News For Today
94	The Second Half Quartet	The Prodigal Son
95	The Dunaways	When My Tears Wash The Scars
96	Watts, Rowsey and Bean	When Revival Comes To Town
97	Wilburn and Wilburn	You Asked Him To Leave
98	Michael and Delilah	Last Breath
99	Sweetwater Revival	Come Church Arise
100	The Blackwood Brothers Quartet	Forever Forgiven

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Randall Reviews It - December 2016

by Randall Hamm

We find ourselves in December and the season of the Christ Child and all that His birth has brought us: Life, salvation and a hope of eternity with our Savior and soon coming King. This month I feature three new releases from Rambo McGuire, Pat Barker and the Woodsmen Quartet. And don't forget, there's still a chance to get these releases as stocking stuffers for your favorite SG Fan. And from my house to yours, warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. May peace, love and prosperity follow you.

And as always, pick up a copy of these CDs wherever you get your good Gospel music.

Randall

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

Now...let the reviews begin.



Rambo McGuire
Rambo Classics
2016 Stowtown Records

“Build My Mansion (Next Door to Jesus)” (Dottie Rambo); “If That Isn’t Love” (Dottie Rambo); “I’ve Never Been This Homesick Before” (Dottie Rambo); “Sheltered in the Arms of God” (Dottie Rambo and Jimmie Davis); “The Holy Hills of Heaven Call Me” (Dottie Rambo); “I Go To the Rock” (Dottie Rambo); “For What Earthly Reason” (Dottie Rambo); “On The Sunny Banks” (Dottie Rambo); “There’s Nothing My God Can’t Do” (Dottie Rambo and Jimmie Davis); “One More Valley” (Dottie Rambo and Jimmie Davis); “(In The Valley) He Restoreth My Soul” (Dottie Rambo); “Precious Jesus” (Reba Rambo-McGuire); “Tears Will Never Stain the Streets of That City” (Dottie Rambo); “He Looked Beyond My Fault (And Saw My Need)” (Dottie Rambo)

In the mid-1960’s, a group that had been ministering for almost 10 years truly burst upon the national scene

and began churning out hit after hit after hit. The late Buck Rambo told me in an interview that they couldn't get anybody to promote Dottie's songs, so they started a publishing company to get her songs out there. Then one little song, "He Looked Beyond My Fault," and with a little help from a TV program called the *Gospel Singing Jubilee*, it became an immediate hit and the rest, they say, is history.

Now the legacy of The Rambos is being carried on by Rambo McGuire, which is comprised of daughter Reba Rambo-McGuire, husband Donnie McGuire, their daughter Destiny McGuire and their son Israel McGuire, and also Reba's dad, the late Buck Rambo.

The album *Rambo Classics* features the last recordings of Buck. I had a chance to talk with Reba, Donnie and Destiny earlier in the year about how they whittled down 2500 or more songs from the Dottie Rambo catalog to get the 14 on the CD. Reba said some songs were *givens*, and both (Reba and Donnie) would say this song or that song has to be on the project, but the 14 chosen here represent 14 of the best that have lived on in the Rambo legacy.

The CD kicks off with a rousing version of the 1970's hit, "Build My Mansion," featuring Reba, and then follows "If That Isn't Love," with Destiny taking lead. One of my favorite tracks on the project is the current single, "Tears Will Never Stain," which features Destiny on verse one and Donnie featured prominently in the chorus, Buck on verse two and Reba closing out verse three with the group on chorus. The original version was great, but Rambo McGuire knocked this version out of the park!

The CD closes out with Buck Rambo taking lead on what would become one of their first signature songs, "He Looked Beyond My Fault." Buck has never sung this song any better.

Overall these songs are given a fresh but yet familiar sound, keeping true to The Rambos. Kudos to the group and Wayne Haun, for one of the top five CD releases of the year. This album should garner some Dove nominations next year. To get a copy of this CD go to <http://www.rambomcguire.com/shop/> or get the CD where ever you get your good Gospel music.

Strongest Songs: "Tears Will Never Stain," "He Looked Beyond My Faults," and "Build My Mansion."



Pat Barker

The Singer & The Song

Produced by John Darin Rowsey and Pat Barker
2016 Harvest/Independent

"You Might Forget The Singer" (Gloria Gaither-Bill George-Billy Smiley-Gary McSpadden-Gary S Paxton BMI); "Ain't God Good" (Jeffrey Robinson BMI); "God's Amazing Grace" (Rebecca Peck-Dianne Wilkinson BMI); "It's A Miracle" (Sonny Lemaire-JP Pennington); "I Can See (Emmaus Road)" (Gloria Gaither-David Meece); "Just Yesterday" (Nick Trammell-Dianne Wilkinson); "More Reasons Than Words" (Anthony Facello-Daryl Williams-Sue Smith BMI); "Anytime" (Wayne Haun-Barbara Huffman BMI); "Heaven Is Real" (Nancy Banfield BMI); "Hitting The Road" (Dallas Holm SESAC); "Think On The Good Things" (Bill Gaither-Gloria Gaither-Gary McSpadden ASCAP).

Pat Barker is a *bass extraordinaire*, one you might remember from his time in the Dixie Echoes (2007 through 2010) and the first bass for the Mark Trammell Quartet (2010 through 2014). Pat has now embarked upon a solo ministry and this is his first CD. Titled *The Singer & The Song*, the project features 10 great songs, plus a bonus track.

The CD kicks off with: "You Might Forget The Singer (But You Won't Forget The Song)," which had me singing along and I won't forget the singer. Next comes "Ain't God good, to give us so many blessings.." This is a great rendition of this chestnut and one of the better in recent years.

"God's Amazing Grace" slows the tempo down with this Rebecca Peck- Dianne Wilkinson penned tune. It was by God's amazing grace that we are here. The next

track had me singing along and thinking that I knew this song. "It's A Miracle," is rewording of the Country group *Exile's* song. It's catchy and hopefully will be the next single released by Pat.

A Gloria Gaither tune is next with: "I Can See," a view of the miracles of Jesus as seen from a former blind man's point of view. "My list is longer than you can imagine, but somehow new mercies arrive..." Sometimes there "More Reasons Than Words" to describe how good Jesus is to us.

"Anytime," is a upbeat catchy tune that about praising Him anytime, in the bad and the good times. "Heaven is Real," finds Pat in a jazzy mood and crooning about heaven, talking about its splendors and joys that await us. Pat resurrects a Dallas Holm tune "Hitting The Road," about the travails of a traveling singer who is still finding joy in the message of the songs he sings.

The CD closes with a bonus track a cover of a GVB tune, "Think On The Good Things," with special guests The Guardians. Overall a great first effort from Pat and I'm looking forward to more music from one of today's best bass singers on the circuit.

Get a copy of *The Singer & The Song* at <http://howbigisgod2u.com/shop/> or get the CD wherever you get your good Gospel music.

Strongest Songs: "Ain't God Good," "You Might Forget The Singer," and "It's A Miracle."



Woodsmen Quartet
Somebody Sing
Producer: John Darin Rowsey
2016 Independent

"Somebody Sing" (Cindi Ballard-Mary Ann Ballard BMI); "The Word Is Out" (Phil Cross-Tony Jarman BMI); "Go Down To The Jordan" (Triplett SESAC); "By The Time They Find Me Missing" (Kenny Hinson BMI); "Trial Of The Heart" (Michael Lord BMI); "He's Everything You Need" (JD Rowsey-Susan Peck Jackson BMI); "The Cross Has Won Again" (Larry Gatlin BMI); "Shake The Master's Hand" (Jimmy Jones BMI); "Hurting Hearts Need A Helping Hand" (Elmer Cole-Phil Cross BMI); "One More River To Cross" (Bud Chambers BMI); "'Til The Storm Passes By" (Mosie Lister BMI).

The Woodsmen Quartet, based out of Columbus, Indiana has a new collection of songs called *The Word is Out*. The title song is their current radio release and debuted at #31 for the SN Top 80 chart. This is their highest debut ever on the national chart.

The Woodsmen are comprised of Lead: Jim Hutson; Baritone: Tim Woods; Tenor: Daniel Rivera; and Bass: Steve Waggoner. Eleven great songs comprising some of the newer and some classic songs in Gospel. The CD kicks off with a great version "Somebody Sing," and by the end I was asking them to sing it again.

Favorites on the project include "By The Time They Find Me Missing," the old Hinsons' favorite, and the title track "The Word is Out." But I absolutely love the old LeFevres' classic, written by Jimmy Jones: "Shake The Master's Hand."

One of the prettiest songs on the project is "Hurting Hearts Need A Helping Hand," featuring their tenor, Daniel Rivera. What a message is contained in this Phil Cross-and-Elmer Cole-penned tune.

This lineup that group owner Tim Woods has put together is the best the Woodsmen have ever sounded. If you get a chance to see them in concert, by all means do so. To get a copy of this CD go to <http://woodsamenquartet.webs.com/store> or get it wherever you get your good Gospel music.

Strongest Songs: "The Word Is Out," "Shake The Master's Hand," "Somebody Sing."

The LaFontaines:

Rich Heritage, New Beginnings



By Sheri LaFontaine

With the holidays upon us and family close at hand, it seems like the perfect moment to announce an exciting new venture involving myself and the ones I love most. It was about a year ago that I moved back from Murfreesboro, TN to my hometown of Toledo, OH. Technically I was born in AZ and raised in Canada but everyone knows that home is where family resides. Since being home, I have enjoyed being present for family gatherings, high school graduations, birthdays and of course the times when we all just get together and sing.

I come from a long line of true Gospel music lovers. I grew up in a house that always had something playing on the large record player in the living room. Signature voices such as The Hemphills, The Hinsons, The Paynes, The Nelons, The Rambos, The Gaither Vocal Band and the Cathedrals rang through our house. We lived it, breathed it and embraced the sweet spirit that only a gospel song can bring. All of us were singing harmony by age five. We were soon writing our own songs and recording CDs.

This past year my family celebrated 50 years in Gospel music. It all started when a Church of God traveling evangelist fell in love with a Pentecostal preacher's daughter. I am the baby of their four kids that spent many years on the road ministering both in song and

sermon. With this rich heritage, I have always had a desire to do my part to promote the Gospel through song.

Many of you may know me from traveling with the Arnolds for four years, singing songs like, "When Nothing But a Miracle Will Do." I was a songwriter with Daywind Music for eight years, holding the pen for songs recorded by Brian Free and Assurance, Kim Hopper, Three Bridges, The Whisnants, Karen Peck and more.

For over four years, my brother Ike and I were Southern Gospel radio DJs during the morning drive time in the Toledo area. During that time I promoted concerts for Guy Penrod, Selah, Jason Crabb and many others. I even worked as a radio promoter for a while. God has allowed me to do what I love for so many years and is continuing to do so to this day, including scheduling solo dates for me to share my music.

I am pleased to announce that The LaFontaines, complete with a live band, will be sharing the stage with myself for many select dates this coming year. Believe me when I say, it is a true honor to stand next to these gifted and anointed people, I call my family.

Although the family has grown to 20 members who are all singers, the touring group is now made up of the

original four siblings; Paul, Sharon, Ike and myself, along with Sharon's husband, Henry and their daughter, Vanessa. We do a lot of mission work in the Philippines including preaching, doing concerts, teaching music workshops and also distributing musical instruments to churches and schools in need. This last year we were featured at the Gaither Fall Festival in Alexandria, IN and we have plans to perform in South Africa in 2017.

Paul LaFontaine is the pastor of Literal Life Church in Ottawa Lake, MI, where each member of the group attends. He is a wonderful husband and the father of four. He has penned songs that are sung all over the world. He has a powerful signature voice and is also the one you will see playing the keys on stage.

singing the alto parts. They are both gifted music teachers and songwriters. Sharon's strong voice is the key ingredient to the sound of the LaFontaines. Henry and Sharon have two children, a daughter in law and one grandchild, whom they adore.

Vanessa VanWyk, the youngest daughter of Henry and Sharon is the bass player for the group, as well as for her home church. At 18 years old, she is already an amazing musician and songwriter, as well as a beautiful singer. She is an extraordinary volleyball player, is enrolled in online college courses and is an employee at Chick-Fill-A.



Ike LaFontaine is a Telly Award Winning Producer and is known as the hardest working member of the group. He is a loving husband and the father of three. A man of many talents, you may see him driving the band to the next date, arranging the music, setting up the stage, running sound, playing drums, piano, bass or singing the only harmony part that's left.

Henry and Sharon VanWyk are faithful church musicians. You'll see Henry playing guitar and Sharon

This is indeed an exciting time for our family and the friends we met on the road so long ago. As I sit here celebrating the holidays with the ones I love, I have to say how thankful I am for a strong heritage of faith in God and The sweet presence gospel music has brought to my life.

Merry Christmas! Come see us in 2017. Visit www.lafontainemusic.com and www.sherilafontaine.com



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Barkley's Business

What is Success?

By Roger Barkley Jr.

Some say the success of a person is measured by their bank account. Some say it's the car they drive, the clothes they wear, the house in which they live or their status in the community.

I recently was made aware of some things that I count as success. It is a great thing as a Christian artist to be on the charts to hopefully reach different areas for your ministry or let new people hear the message God gave you in song. A list of awards and nominations can make you feel that you have achieved greatness. Some may say that is a success and though I will agree it is a great thing, I feel there are a greater successes.

I was told that there were children listening to my music on their PlayStation. Every large white van one child thinks is our ministry van. My niece would not go to sleep without my CD playing in her room. My nephew knows every word to my songs. My daughters and wife see that there is a need for help in this world so they are pursuing their degree in Christian Counseling. Chambers of Commerce are allowing Gospel Music to be performed in a secular event.

Other marks of success: Seeing your son and daughter-in-law make sure a child is cared for and not lost in the system. Seeing your niece come to know the Lord in one of your concerts. Accomplishing being married to a *Proverbs 31 Woman* for so many years without messing things up. Being able to perform with some of the people you used to listen to on the radio when you were a kid. Being named to board of directors, church boards, etc.

All of these things are great accomplishments, no doubt, and are by no means small tasks. They are also things that could not have been accomplished by myself. If not for the direction and power of the Holy Spirit, a praying wife, caring mom and dad, loving family and friends, none of this list would be achievable.

To me there are three major successes that go hand-in-hand with the above:

I know Jesus. That in itself is an understatement since all of hell actually knows who He is. We must not know Him in name only but know Him as a best friend. Know



Him not only as a Savior, but as Lord and a Leader of your life, someone you talk to all of the time, not just when you have a wish list or a *gimme* list. Someone not just to run to when you have a problem and then when things are fine never hear from again until the next crisis, as some bad weather friends we all know.

He knows Me. It is not like that phone call where you

have to give your name because they do not know your voice. When I call out He knows my voice. Just like any parent in a crowd of people who can hear their child cry out over top of all the noise when something is wrong. He knows my thoughts. He knows the situations I am going through and is there for me when no one else is. He loves me so much He gave His life for me.

One day He will say “Enter in thou good and faithful servant.” To me that tops any and all earthly success that I will ever accomplish here. That’s why I do what I do, why I go where I go, why I sing what I sing and tell what I tell. Jesus Christ is the Saving Power this world needs today and forever. These three things are the greatest successes a person can have.

So.... What is your success?



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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Merry Christmas! As I write this Editor's Last Word, it is dark and damp outside, and not looking at all like Christmas. However, it won't be long until the snow is falling and we pull on the heavier coats and boots. For those of you who live where winter means you move from hot to warm, I'm sure you make it look like Christmas inside your home. I hope Christmas is inside your heart as well!

Our writers have outdone themselves with providing edifying features for the Christmas season. I hope you have enjoyed reading about Canton Junction, and perhaps you have been listening to their new Christmas album as well. Or maybe you've heard the new yuletide music from the Kingdom Heirs as you've read their feature. From the family feeling of Sisters and the LaFontaines to the Country crooning of Mark209, be sure to request all the great music from our artists. Layke Jones and Logan Smith both have interesting thoughts to share this month. I hope you've read every page.

This issue, like all the others, is very personal to me as I've delved into each article and listened to the heart of the artist and the writer. I'm so glad our writers get personal as well, especially Selena, Nathan and Roger. We miss Dusty's feature but he will be back next month. Thanks so much to Stephanie Kelley who

shares a new column with us, detailing her vacation in Southern California. That should warm us all up!

Charlie Griffin wrote a nice seasonal feature about his boyhood Christmases. It reminded me of past Decembers with my mom leading the Sunday School play and my dad dressing up as Santa. Twinkling lights on the tree, outdoor lights on the snow, a spotlight on the silver star; so many of my memories have a backdrop of bright color or candlelight. I remember being told that we put lights on the tree to recall that Jesus is the Light of the World. Is He the Light of your world today?

So many people plunge into darkness at this time of year, facing so many issues of family, finances, relationships, or just the pressure of having to act like this is indeed the most wonderful time of the year - when it may be just the opposite for them. If this sounds like you, I urge you to talk to a trusted friend or pastor as well as your family doctor. Discover if you need further help to get through this time. Most of all, give it all to Jesus and lay it at His feet. He loves you so very much and wants to warm your soul with the light of His love.

Merry Christmas from my family to your family. May you bask in the light of the love of Christ today!

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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.



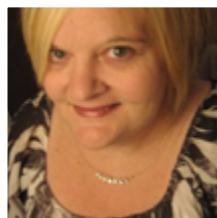
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



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 review-

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



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

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



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

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



My name is Tina Wakefield and I am currently Music Minister for Amazing Grace Worship Center in Alabaster, Al. I have led worship for over 18 years as well as teach adults how to live everyday life in Victory as a Christian. I enjoy playing and singing Gospel Music whenever and

wherever I am invited. I currently have three Cd s available on my website at www.tinawakefield.com and just released my first music video with Godsey & Associates called, "The Choice" available on YouTube. I write a lot of the music we sing at church and also record my original songs. My family is very ministry oriented with Pastors, Teachers, Musicians, and Singers. My heart's desire is to spread the gospel of Christ through any and all open doors that I receive.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



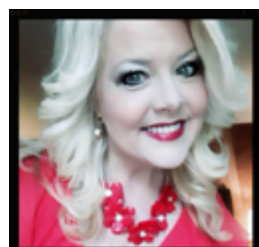
Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and

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.



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 be

coming trend setters within the industry. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGM in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over 10

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



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

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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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.

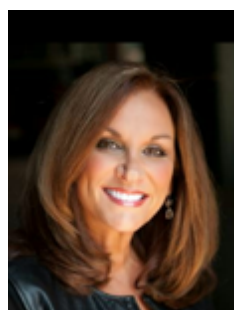


David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great friend!

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 4.0. 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 Greenses, 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/>.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Marcie Gray was born and raised in sunny California, yet always dreamed of moving to Tennessee. She had planned to move to the south as a young adult and sing with a gospel group, after being inspired to do so by her Great Uncle, Alphus LeFevre. Though it took longer than she had expected, in 2011, her dream of moving

east finally came true when her husband, Don, retired from the CHP. They packed up their two youngest daughters, three dogs and two horses and headed east. What a blessing to finally be where the tea is sweet, the Southern Gospel music is plentiful and there's a Cracker Barrel on every corner!

Spend ten minutes with Marcie and you'll learn that she is rarely lacking for something to say. Her passion for Southern Gospel music, combined with her instinct to be behind the camera, makes journalism a very enjoyable outlet for that "Type A" personality she has been affectionately labeled with by her family and friends.

Marcie is a worship leader, vocalist and songwriter. She has directed choirs of all ages and given voice lessons for many years. Her solo CD, "Carry Me Home" was released in September of 2014.

Having family in ministry has given Marcie a desire to support those who are on the road sharing the gospel through song. Visit her website at www.graydoveministries.com to learn more!



Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals,

Photos, Video and News tidbits. Keep up with Lynn online at <http://lynnschronicles.com> or on facebook @ <http://facebook.com/lynns.chronicles>



Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many of

my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.



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 Americas Favorite family of gospel music The Hoppers. Nathan has had the privilege to be in 49 states and 24 countries singing about the won-

derful 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.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



Sheri began singing while traveling with her abundantly talented family, led by her father John LaFontaine, a minister for over 48 years. In 1994 with Grammy nominated singer Jeff Easter producing, she recorded her first solo project, *Takin' My Place*.

Shortly thereafter, Sheri received a call from the top promoter in south-

ern gospel, Frank Arnold and was asked to join his group, The Arnolds on the road. After several years of traveling Sheri felt the Lord leading her to focus on her solo career and songwriting. In 2004 she signed a songwriting contract with one of the industry's top recording labels, Daywind Music. Her songs have been recorded by Kim Hopper, Karen Peck, Sue Dodge, Brian Free & Assurance, Misty Freeman, Three Bridges, The Whisnants, The Browns and many more.



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.



Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being crafty and spending time with

family and friends. She's been singing since the age of eight, but realizes that it's much more than just singing. "Anyone can show off their talent. I'd rather hear someone that shows that they are anointed!" For more information on Jaquita, visit 11thhourgospelgroup.com



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.

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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 inter-generational 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.



Timmy Williamson is a 24-year-old singer and actor from Virginia Beach, Virginia. He graduated from Liberty University in 2014 with degrees in Worship and Theatre. Over the past several years, he has been given the privilege of singing in many churches and events as well as performing in professional theatre productions. He has been enjoyed by audiences at NQC's

Artist Showcases, Gospel Explosion at First Baptist Church of Dallas, and in the Virginia Beach Gospel Music Festival. Timmy currently lives in Lynchburg, Virginia where he is pursuing a full time career traveling and singing. He would love to come and share his music with your church or special event! For more information, please visit his website, www.timmywilliamson.com.



Auke Bijlsma- I was born in Zaandam, The Netherlands on September 21st 1966. I'm Head of Operations for a major airline. My home is in the countryside of Holland where I live with my wife Patty, and our two kids: Jake who's 16, and Lexi who is 14, and our pack of dogs. My oldest children, son Jesse 23, and

daughter Sarah 21, don't live with me; they are all grown up building their own homes and lives.

In my childhood, I went to church with my family, and I fell in love with harmony singing. I sang in choirs, a Southern Gospel Trio, and made a few television appearances with that trio here in The Netherlands. At the moment I am not active in music anymore, but you never know what comes along.

In my teens, I started to listen to 50's Rock and Roll, and of course, Elvis Presley. Through Presley I was introduced to the great Gospel Quartets. I started looking for music by The Imperials, Jordanares, and J.D.Sumner and the Stamps at first, because these were the quartets that backed Elvis for many years. My first love is Gospel singing, particularly Southern Gospel. I love groups like The Stamps, The Imperials, The Weatherfords, The Rambos, The Hinsons, The Cathedrals and many more.

Besides being a music lover, I love vintage cars, architecture, books, movies and writing. I hold a Masters in Journalism and Communication. I will write articles about anything; music, faith and life in general. Hope you will enjoy the views of an outsider. Thank you SGNscoops for giving me this opportunity.