

SCIN

DECEMBER 2017

# SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



## *Christmas with* **IITH HOUR**

**ALSO FEATURING:**  
**ED O'NEAL REUNION**  
**ELENA DUBBELD OF THE MARK DUBBELD FAMILY**  
**MATT FOUCH**



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## OUR MISSION

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

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



‘Tis the season. I wonder how many times this year I will actually say that, and I wonder how many people really understand what we celebrate during the season. As Christians, we celebrate the fact that God saw such a need that He would send His only son, knowing full well that His son would die on a cross.

I have to say that there are times where I forget to take in the full impact of what Christmas really means. We all get so busy sharing the holiday with family and friends that we forget the impact of a baby being born in a manger. No, we as modern-day humans don’t understand what a manger really is. A manger wasn’t a softly made bed like the paintings that we see. They say it was hewn out of stone and probably was very rustic. It’s difficult to think that the savior of the world was born under such conditions.

That should make us all reevaluate how we look at the holidays. I’m not saying you should take down your tree, and I’m not saying you should stop buying gifts, I’m just saying that maybe this year, during the holiday, you should sit down and read the Christmas story and reflect on the magnitude of this perfect gift, which we truly celebrate.

‘During the holiday season ...’ – that way I can work Thanksgiving in as well, since I’m writing to you before Thanksgiving – I spend a lot of time reflecting on life. I think we all do. Like everyone, I miss family during this time of year. There are those that have gone on before us, those who we don’t have the opportunity to call or see during the holidays, and then we have those who have – with time – drifted out of our lives. This includes my family as much as those that are close friends. During this time of year, I often wonder what they’re doing, or how they are. I usually take a few minutes, especially on Thanksgiving, to pray for them.

As you read this, for most of you, Christmas is in full swing. My family and I enjoy this time of year immensely. It's an opportunity to not only look forward, but to look back at the past year.

This was a year full of changes and challenges. As someone who embraces change, some of the changes were good ... some of them, not so much. As far as challenges, like everyone, I had different sets of challenges, but with challenges, we know we are moving forward. As much as we embrace change, we should also learn to embrace challenges.

What challenges are laid before you, and what does God have for you to do within that challenge? I learned that over this past year that sometimes God is creating the challenge to strengthen us. I recently heard a pastor say that without challenges we will see no growth, for in the challenge God creates in us the wisdom to move forward. I believe this year I have learned and gained new wisdom.

I'm going close this year's Publishers Point by challenging you to pray not only for our magazine, but for your church, your neighbors, and your family. I pray that this year you take time to specifically pray for each. I believe that 2018 is going to be full of new blessings.

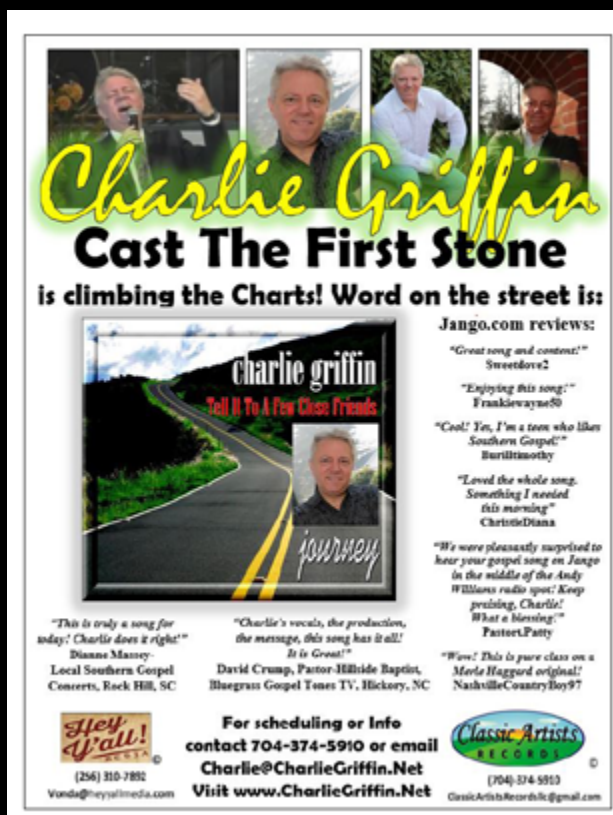
God has amazing things for you and for me. It's time to stop looking at the negative. I'm going to preach this throughout 2018 ... stop dwelling on the bad things and start praising God for the good things.

As I close this, I want to wish you all the best during the holidays, from my family to yours. I love you all.



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## Reunion of the Ed O'Neal University

By Matt Felts

Influence.

When talking about Ed O'Neal, that word comes up often. It would be safe to say that no other person in Southern gospel music has directly impacted as many groups as Ed O'Neal. Many of his former members have gone on to make their mark with top groups such as Gold City, the Cathedrals, the Mark Trammell Quartet, the Perrys, Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, Karen Peck and New River, the Dove Brothers, Greater Vision, and more.

Rodney Griffin affectionately nicknamed the group the Ed O'Neal University, in honor of how many singers O'Neal has helped groom. O'Neal's influence was on display at the Dixie Melody Boys Reunion, which was held at the National Quartet Convention in September, but the fans only got to see part of it. To see the rest of

his influence, you had to be there for the soundcheck that morning.

Several years back, I had the privilege of organizing a Dixie Melody Boys reunion that brought together more than 40 former members on stage to celebrate the group's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This reunion was different. This one was smaller and more intimate. Only 12 current and former members were there, including Rodney Griffin, Derrick Boyd, Nathan Widener, Jamie Caldwell, Dustin Sweatman, Larry DeLawder, Josh Garner, Jerry Skaggs, Willie Sawrey, myself and of course, Ed O'Neal.

Early that morning, one by one, alumni started rolling in. While we waited for the soundcheck to start, guys started telling old road stories. Guys such as myself and Dustin Sweatman wanted confirmation and first-hand





accounts of stories we'd heard O'Neal tell a hundred times that had now become legendary. Each guy had a story to tell. Each one had a memory that was recalled as if it had happened yesterday.

Before long, those stories centered around O'Neal and his late wife, whom we all called Mama Joy. Laughter mixed with a few tears that morning. I realized in that moment how much O'Neal had truly influenced all of us. More than singing, he had taught all of us how to be better men, husbands and Christians.



Once the concert started, the crowd joined in on the reminiscing. Each configuration of singers brought back memories of great lineups through the group's history. O'Neal stood out on his signature song – "Family Bible" – before the current group kicked off the group's biggest hit, "Antioch Church House Choir." Things really heated up when the band started into "When I



Cross the Other Side of Jordan," with Larry DeLawder on harmonica. That energy peaked as "Ride That Glory Cloud" left the crowd on its feet.

Now that the day's exciting moments have become cherished memories, I have to say thanks to the current lineup for putting this together. I want to thank Ed O'Neal for inviting me to be a part of the reunion, but more importantly, for calling me years ago with a job offer.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to a man whose influence will be felt on stages, buses and homes for many years after he's gone. All he ever wanted to do was sing a song ... but Ed O'Neal has done so much more than that.

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# HOPE TO THE HILL

By Nathan Kistler



In a culture where good has become bad, and bad, in turn, good, we find ourselves at a crossroads. It seems that everyday, we find ourselves facing a new battle for hearts and minds of a generation.



Washington is bent on keeping the current status in which it has lived, while the good folks who love God desire to bring America back to her knees.

It is in these moments that we as God's people must pray. Pray for wisdom for our elected officials, and for clarity in the midst of great confusion. Pray that God would give strength for the continued work that must be done.

I just returned from Texas where I spent a few days

with a member of Congress and his family. I was so encouraged by the conversation we were able to have and his desire to serve the Lord.

We need more men and ladies who love God and His Word, especially in the United States Congress. My prayer this Christmas is for people of all ages to choose to stand for what is right, no matter the cost.

I remind you again, to please call your member of Congress this Christmas and let them know that you are thankful for them. Tell them that you are praying for their families and for God to bless them. They need that encouragement this Christmas.



As we look forward to the coming year, we are preparing the largest year of ministry to date for us. I ask that you would pray for us as we continue to fight the good fight. You can also partner with our 501c3 ministry financially if you feel so led as well.

We are your missionaries in Washington and we are honored to serve the 115th Congress.

Merry Christmas.

Nathan Kistler, Hope to the Hill  
[www.hopetothehill.com](http://www.hopetothehill.com)  
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## CHRISTMAS WITH 11TH HOUR

By Sarah Murray

Christmas is exciting for a lot of people, especially Southern gospel artists, whether it is a time for rest, a time for family, a time to incorporate their favorite Christmas songs into their concerts, or just a time to reflect on the year and the goodness of Christ.

11<sup>th</sup> Hour is a well-known group that can be seen all across the United States bringing a unique sound and worship service to each destination it stops. With powerful vocals, vivacious delivery, edgy sound, and passionate hearts set on winning souls for Christ, Amber Eppinette, Grant Gibson, and Jaquita Lindsey are just what the next generation of Southern gospel music needs.

This popular group may not have any specific Christmas concerts planned that you can catch, as the group takes this time to rest, enjoy the season, and prepare for the New Year. However, you will be able to feel their Christmas spirit through their Facebook posts and other social media as each member holds a special place for Christmas in their hearts. They all agree that their plans consisted of family time, giving gifts, and eating until their heart was content.

There are some special traditions and meanings of Christmas for these group members.

Lindsey tells us of an annual hunting trip that happens on Christmas Eve morning, planned by her nephews. This year's trip will be in Branson, Mo.

"I'm not country and I hate it, but I'll do anything to make my nephews happy," Lindsey says light-heartedly.

Eppinette says that her father reads the Christmas story and prays over their family every Christmas morning. She recalls a song they sang called "Way in a Manger," on the Gather Round album.

"The statement is so true about the birth of Jesus. Without His birth there wouldn't be death, and without His death, there wouldn't have been a resurrection," Eppinette points out.

All of the members of 11<sup>th</sup> Hour are enthusiastic about the holiday season, but Lindsey seems to stand out as the Christmas fanatic by making sure her Christmas music is on months in advance. Her seasonal movies



begin as early as October. However, she did have a bit of competition this year as Gibson, who also is all about Christmas, actually put up his tree first.

While the members of 11<sup>th</sup> Hour take some time to spend with their families and friends and enjoy the holiday season, they also have a lot to look forward to as they begin a new year. Their new album – “Silence the Stones” – was just released and has an amazing soulful and upbeat feel to it.



Each song brings a new element of worship to the atmosphere they are preparing each time they perform. From songs talking about the power in prayer to songs that talk about God delivering his children, this new album is sure to capture the hearts of both Christians and

non-Christians alike.

“Silence the Stones” reminds all of us about of who God is and what he can be for us, day in and day out. The aspiration for this album is that listeners would hear praise to God, worship of God, and encouragement from God, for the new year.



11<sup>th</sup> Hour members have a mutual goal of relating to people when they sing. As vocalists step on any stage and look into a crowd, they don’t know what each audience member is going through or how they are feeling. However, music is a way to connect with people in a way like never before. The trio strives to use its music as a bridge for the message to reach its listeners.


“We would love get into the heart of each and every one we sing to, to show just how much God loves them and will help them in their time of trouble,” Eppinette explains.

Lindsey adds, “It doesn’t matter how much praise we receive or how many No. 1 (songs) we get, I want the Lord to anoint us. I want people to remember our music, not for how great it was, but for how it got them through trials in their lives.”

11<sup>th</sup> Hour is consistently on the charts and in the SGN-Scoops Top 100, proving that the group is achieving its goal of connecting with people. When asked about the one thing they want people to know about them, each member replied with this, “We want to always make much of Jesus.” A collective purpose for singing can’t get much better than that.



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# SOUTHERN GOSPEL WEEKEND

2018 Update

By Lorraine Walker

Southern Gospel Weekend 2018 is just three months away. It will be held from March 1-3.

Have you made your plans yet to travel to Oxford, Ala.? Southern Gospel Weekend will be held at the Oxford Civic Center.

SGW admission is free but must be reserved. Visit [www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com](http://www.SouthernGospelWeekend.com) for more information.

## Artists attending

This is a must-see event. Some of the artists appearing at SGW 2018 include: the Williamsons, Day Three, Pat Barker, Ava Kasich, Hope's Journey, ClearVision Quartet, the Dodrill Family, Annette Bingaman, Chronicle, Kelly Cline, David Gresham, the Connells, Appointed Quartet, Harley Madden, Darlene Battles, and many more.



For those who have never attended Southern Gospel Weekend, fans 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, which will be emceed by the well-known bass of the Second Half Quartet, Pat Barker.







### Pat Barker University

Pat Barker will again 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 '18 will also 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 VIP pass holders will also receive a special surprise at the event. Anyone interested in purchasing a VIP pass or who needs more information should contact Easley at 256-310-7892.



Remember, general seating tickets are free for Southern Gospel Weekend. If you are an artist that would like to participate in any of these events, please contact Easley.




For more information, visit [SouthernGospelWeekend.com](http://SouthernGospelWeekend.com) or [facebook.com/southerngospelweekend](https://facebook.com/southerngospelweekend).

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# Randall Reviews It - December 2017

by Randall Hamm

Friends, we find ourselves in December and the season of the Christ child and all that His birth has brought us, life and salvation and a hope of eternity with our Savior and soon-coming King. This month I feature three new releases from the Nelons, the Mark Dubbeld Family and Tribute Quartet. And don't forget, there's still a chance to get these releases as stocking stuffers for your favorite Southern gospel 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



Nelons  
"Americana Sessions"  
Producer: Jason Clark  
Label: Daywind

Gentle On My Mind (John Hartford); Colors of The Wind (Alan Menken-Stephen Schwartz); Coat Of Many Colors (Dolly Parton); You Needed Me (Charles Goodrum); Daddy & Son (Jason Clark-Dony McGuire-Reba Rambo McGuire); Bridge Over Troubled Water (Paul Simon); Oh Shenandoah (Traditional); Take Me Home Country Roads (John Denver-Bill Danoff-Mary Danoff); American Trilogy (Mickey Newbury); Mama Tried (Merle Haggard); Battlefield (Vince Gill-Sonya Isaacs Yeary);

What more can you say of the Nelons? After 40 years of singing Gospel music, what more can they accomplish? How about dipping into some of the greatest country songs ever written and doing them well? Yes, the Nelons dip into the Americana songbook and bring us nine of the greatest country songs ever written and sung and put their stamp on them. This 11-song CD



will definitely win the Nelons some new fans and open up new doors for their brand of gospel. This CD also features one new song from the pens of Dony and Reba Rambo McGuire, who teamed with Jason to write “Daddy and Son.” There’s also an offering from Vince Gill and Sonya Isaacs Yeary, “Battlefield.”

The CD kicks off with a big orchestral sweep and intro into “Gentle on My Mind.” From there, it’s a walk down memory lane, and you’ll find yourself humming these classic tunes and to quote a line ... and for hours, you’ll be humming these tunes, and they’ll be laying gentle on your mind. I’ve never heard the Nelons sing as well as they have in bringing back these songs. Also, the Nelons bring back mostly the original instrumentation, not straying far from the original, and that’s what I love. Tunes that evoke memories for us who grew up with the originals, from Merle Haggard’s “Mama Tried” through one of the later country tunes, Anne Murray’s “You Needed Me.” The Nelons have never sounded better, and I hope that Daywind pushes this album for a Grammy nomination ... it’s that great of an album. The choice to close with “Battlefield” is fantastic. It’s a cappella to start, and fiddles fill in the middle and continue to the end. The song is sung with conviction and heart and ends the CD on a fantastic note. Songs of faith and family, God and country all on one collection of unforgettable songs. Visit the Nelons to get your copy at [www.thenelons.com/](http://www.thenelons.com/) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thenelonsofficial](http://www.facebook.com/thenelonsofficial).

Strongest Songs: “Gentle On My Mind,” “Coat Of Many Colors,” “You Needed Me,” “Battlefield”



Mark Dubbeld Family  
“Joy”

Producer: Gus Gaches/Jeremy Peace  
Label: Song Garden/Garden Crown

Who Is On The Lord’s Side (Ray Smith SESAC); Keep On Believing Medley (Irving Berlin-Frank C. Huston-George A. Young); The Cross Won Its Victory (Janene A. Dubbeld-Dixie Phillips BMI); This Joy Is Mine (Janene A. Dubbeld BMI); Precious Jesus (Glenda Clay BMI); There’s A Way Back (Janene A. Dubbeld BMI); When You’re Broken (Janene A. Dubbeld BMI); Joy Comes In The Morning (Larry Hinson BMI); God’s Makin’ A Way (Dixie Phillips-Bernadette Nagus-Melanie Watson BMI); The Snakes In Trouble (Janene A. Dubbeld BMI) He’s Coming Again (Linda Stalls ASCAP)

The Mark Dubbeld Family is back with a new album and a new label home, the Song Garden Music Group. The group is signed to the Garden Crown label. It’s a new label, new CD and the best album the family has recorded. The family – consisting of mom and dad, Mark and Janene, and children, Elena, Channing and Britton – have brought new life to some old classics and some great new songs, and new Janene Dubbeld songs. The CD kicks off with a great rendition of “Who Is on the Lord’s Side,” imploring whose side you are on. Some of the favorite songs include “When You’re Broken” and “Precious Jesus,” both of which feature daughter Elena. “Broken” is a beautiful ballad written by Janene, while “Precious Jesus” will have you shouting hallelujah all through the song. I told Mark a few years ago that his sound would be right, to sing material from the Happy Goodmans and the Hinsons. When I talked to Mark at the National Quartet Convention, he said, ‘you’ll like this new CD’ and reminded me of what I had said. He said songs for them to record included suggestions of Happy Goodmans and Hinson material.

Among the songs covered is “He’s Coming Again” by the Happy Goodmans and “Joy Comes In The Morning” by the Hinsons. They take these classics, make them their own and will bring the house down in concert when sung. I’m hoping the family will record more of those groups’ material or songs similar to them in the future. One of the most interesting and intriguing songs is “The Snakes in Trouble.” It is a song that was written based on a sermon that Janene heard from Dr. Roy Lauter. It’s also one of my favorites on the CD. This family has come a long way since I first met them in 2010. Overall, this is one CD that DJs need to program and play and that gospel lovers need to grab. Visit the Mark Dubbeld Family web site to get a copy of “Joy” at [www.mjdubbeld.com/merch](http://www.mjdubbeld.com/merch) or on

Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MarkDubbeldFamily](http://www.facebook.com/MarkDubbeldFamily).

Strongest Songs: "Precious Jesus," "When You're Broken," "Joy Comes in the Morning"

## TRIBUTE QUARTET'S



## QUARTET TRIBUTE

volume one

Tribute Quartet  
"Quartet Tribute, Volume 1"  
Producer: Gerald Wolfe  
Label: Daywind

Songs: I'm Standing on the Solid Rock (Harold Lane); Over The Moon (V.B. Ellis); Every Question Will Be Answered (Chris Binion-Rodney Griffin); His Tomb Is Empty (C.A. Wright-J Wright); Come On Let's Go to that Land (Public Domain); Hide Thou Me (L.R. Tolbert-Thoro Harris); Move That Mountain (Joe Thomas); What a Meeting in the Air (Marty Phillips-Ann Phillips); I've Been With Jesus (Arthur Smith); Hold On (Jesus Will Come)

In this age of Southern gospel, amongst all the great songs that are being sung and released, the audiences and folks listening to the radio and seeing groups in concert still want to hear the classics that they grew up with. That is something that will never change. Tribute Quartet has released a CD that contains 10 great classics that have been recorded over the years by everyone from the Statesmen Quartet to the Cathedrals. Gary Casto and the group solidly sing these classics and with simple instrumentation and heartfelt singing, bringing these classics back. Kicking off with the Speer Family classic "I'm Standing on the Solid Rock" sets the listener in the proper mood, singing and humming and remembering the first time he/she heard it. I don't know how many groups have covered "Over the Moon," a tenor feature, but tenor singer Riley Clark does a wonderful job on it. And the rest of the

CD is well sung, and as I said, it will bring back a lot of memories for Southern gospel fans who remember the time and place they first heard these classics. The key to doing a CD consisting of classic songs is to keep it simple, to not re-invent the song and to sing the songs from the heart. Plus, it helps to not go overboard with instrumentation, keeping it simple so that the vocals can shine. Thanks to Gerald Wolfe who was handling the production chores, who did just that for this release. Visit Tribute's web site and get a copy of "Quartet Tribute Volume 1" by visiting [www.tributequartet.com/product-category/cd](http://www.tributequartet.com/product-category/cd) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/tributequartet](http://www.facebook.com/tributequartet).

Strongest Songs: "I'm Standing on the Solid Rock," "What a Meeting in the Air," "Hold On (Jesus Will Come)"

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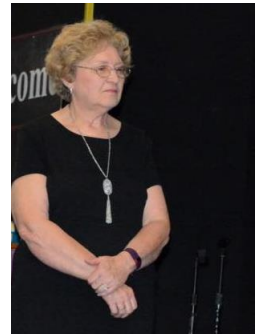
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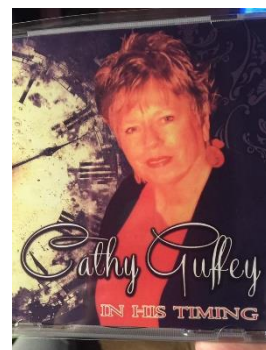
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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## *John Wishon*



By Vonda Easley

This month, we are spotlighting DJ John Wishon. We had a great time catching up on radio talk. I also enjoyed hearing about how God is blessing his group, River's Edge.

Check out what John had to say....



**Vonda Easley: Tell us about your radio job. What is your title, and where is the station located?**

John Wishon: Well, I have been the owner since 1994, so that means that I pretty much do whatever needs to be done. I produce commercials, call on clients, pay the bills, clean the toilets ... just a regular small business owner.

**Easley: How did you**

**get involved in radio?**

Wishon: I started in radio in 1987 doing a weekend shift on WJOS in Elkin, N.C. Soon after, I was hired to do afternoons while I was in college on the sister station WIFM in Elkin, N.C. In 1991, I moved to Albemarle, N.C., to work for Charlie Hicks at WABZ/WEGO. It was a Southern gospel powerhouse, and I learned so much during my time there.

**Easley: If you could visit anywhere in the United States, where would you go?**

Wishon: That's a hard question. My wife, Rebecca and I love to travel, and we especially love the Caribbean islands. We are very fond of the beach, so I'll say Hawaii.

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

Wishon: I do an air shift Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. Our station is on 1240 AM, 100.1 FM, with studios on Main Street in Wilkesboro, N.C., and online at [www.hometownchristianradio.com](http://www.hometownchristianradio.com).

**Easley: John, not only are you a fantastic DJ, you also have your own group. Tell us about River's Edge.**

Wishon: The biography on our web site says it best ... in ministry, the following words carry deep meaning: experienced, seasoned, talented, reliable, real, and anointed. When pastors and promoters are asked about River's Edge, those words are often used in some combination to describe this trio. But for these three who stand together on the platform, it's all about a joint passion to clearly communicate the Gospel and offer the hope only found in Christ.

John Wishon serves as lead and tenor vocalist for River's Edge, as well as handling the stage emcee work for the group. John sang with his parents for 32 years in their family group, The Wishons. John owns a Christian radio station in Wilkesboro, N.C., and is one of the most sought-after evangelists and revival preachers on the east coast.

John's wife, Rebecca has been singing gospel music for virtually her whole life. The daughter of a pastor, she began singing at a very young age. In the late 1990s, she performed for several years in the group Rejoice!. Night after night, Rebecca amazes audiences with her powerful, from-the-heart vocal abilities. Rebecca is a physical education teacher at Mountain View Elementary School in Hays, N.C. Rebecca and John have two beautiful children, Miles and Riley.

Tenor John Blackburn, is a seasoned veteran of the gospel stage. John has performed with New Direction and most recently with Fortify Trio. Audiences love John for not only his vocal ability but for his magnetic personality. John and his dad own a painting company. He and his wife Amber live



only 10 minutes from John and Rebecca in Wilkes County, N.C.



The members of River's Edge love the harmony they sing and the fun they have together on the road. The group's first five national radio releases have reached the top 50 on a national

their songs. However, at the heart of this group, you will find a passion for ministry. River's Edge is committed to boldly proclaiming that Jesus really does love you. He cares, and he understands.

**Easley: Would you like to share any closing thoughts?**

Wishon: I am a blessed man. I have a beautiful wife who I am madly in love with. We have two beautiful kids, Miles and Riley. I get to play the music I love every day and make a living at it. I have a fantastic staff at the radio station that works so hard. I have the honor of also singing this music that changes so many lives. Finally, my highest calling is as a preacher. I love the message of the Gospel, and I am more confident than ever that it is our only hope. I have made so many friends in this industry, and I have received much more than I will ever be able to give.

Southern gospel music chart.

John, John, and Becca are humbled by the success of

Thanks John for sharing with us, and congratulations on being our DJ Spotlight for the month of December.



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A portrait of Matt Fouch, a man with short brown hair and a friendly smile, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# Born and Raised

## A look at the New Recording from

# Matt Fouch

By Justin Gilmore

Southern gospel music is known for its incredible bass vocalists. George Younce, J.D. Sumner, James “Big Chief” Wetherington, Rex Nelon, and Tim Riley are just some of the men who have paved the way for the bass singers of today. All of these men serve as inspiration for Legacy Five bass singer Matt Fouch.

Fouch – born in Muncie, Ind., in 1982 – was raised on Southern gospel and country music, and he also sang in church. His family introduced him to many of the great groups and artists, such as the Cathedrals, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Johnny Cash and many others. Fouch points to Younce as his favorite bass singer and is honored to be singing some of his songs with Legacy Five. Before joining Legacy Five, he served as bass vocalist with Soul’d Out Quartet for eight years.

After all these years as the bottom anchor of groups, Fouch naturally considers himself to be a quartet man. However,

he has always wanted to record a solo project. This finally became a reality this year in the form of “Born and Raised.” Released on Oct. 27, the album is a collection of songs that Fouch grew up with, including “Wayfaring Stranger,” “Sixteen Tons,” and “This Old House.”

“I decided that I wanted to record a CD many years ago,” says Fouch. “When I was with Soul’d Out Quartet, I started the process of selecting songs, but then, I stopped after I joined Legacy Five. It just didn’t seem like the right time with switching groups and everything. So, I went ahead and put it on the backburner.

“For whatever reason, in this last year or so, I felt like now was the right time, so I decided to pull those songs off the shelf.”

“Born and Raised” features songs that serve not only as a tribute to many Gospel music legends, but also as a trip down





memory lane for Fouch.

“The album is titled ‘Born and Raised’ because I ... wanted to do a recording that featured some of the songs and some of the artists that I was born and raised on,” Fouch explains. “So you have songs on there that are from Tennessee Ernie Ford, from Johnny Cash, Josh Turner, George Younce, and J.D. Sumner.”

Fouch also included “I’d Rather Have Jesus,” which is his mother’s favorite song.

Former Legacy Five pianist Trey Ivey produced the tracks, and John Darin Rowsey produced the vocals. Both Rowsey and Paul Lancaster recorded the background vocals. Legacy Five appears on two tracks, the classic “This Ole House,” which stays true to the Cathedrals version, and “Led Out of Bondage.”

Fouch recorded many classic songs for this CD. Each song on the album resonates with Fouch, which makes it difficult for him to choose a favorite.

The recording process was also a great and unique experience for the popular bass.



Under songs like ‘I’d Rather have Jesus,’ ‘Hold Me,’ and ‘I Just Came To Talk To You Lord,’ I just felt vulnerable vocally.

When you do a solo CD, it’s just you, and there’s nothing else going on.

“I enjoyed all of the songs and enjoyed recording them. I did enjoy doing ‘Wayfaring Stranger,’ for sure. If had to pick one, it would be that just because of singing it in the upper range and then taking it down the octave and singing it in the lower range as well.”

Fouch’s impressive range is on full display with this recording as evidenced by the latter.

This album is not about the incredibly low notes but rather the message and experience.

“I hope that it puts a smile on their faces and that it takes them down memory lane with some of the songs,” Fouch says. “I hope that some of the songs are new to them and they enjoy hearing them. I hope they see Jesus in the songs, and (with) the album as a whole, and that they are encouraged spiritually.”

This CD is already uplifting many people. A fan recently messaged him about the song “Sixteen Tons,” saying that his dad loved that song and how hearing it again reminded him of listening to it together. That was the intention of this CD, showing evidence of how that those songs are timeless.

And audiences may hear some of the tunes live.

“I do hope to be performing some of these songs in concert with Legacy Five,” Fouch says. “I know Scott [Fowler] has mentioned putting a couple of them into the lineup and do them on stage. You never know, maybe you’ll hear me do a little set somewhere with three or four of them. If we have a few weekends off, you might see me do a solo concert somewhere.

“But I’ll tell you this, I am not a soloist. I have no intention or desire to be a soloist. I love singing with Legacy Five. I love singing bass in a quartet, and that is what I intend on doing for a long time.”





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# Day To Day

## The Gift

**By Selena Day**

There is a gift that we can give the world and ourselves, and this gift began on a cross, more than 2,000 years ago. It isn't Jesus, even though He is the sum total of the gift. The gift was and is love.

Paul wrote to the Galatian people summing up the whole law in one command, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Love is a gift that sheds light in the darkness. Love covers a multitude of sins. If you have ever done a word study on sin in scripture, you will find that the interpretation of sin means missing the mark.

The mark that we should be aiming for is a reconciled life with God through His son, Jesus Christ. Love covers the fact that we are missing the mark, and somehow, when we take our focus off the mark of perfection, God draws us to Him.

The word that has been translated "to cover" in the original Greek was *kalypto*, which means, to hide or veil, to hinder the knowledge of a thing.

Like an arrow being shot at a target, we aim to hit the round circles, but the bullseye is the best shot of all. It is the mark that we desire to achieve. God says that when we love, it covers up our mistakes. Not that we do not acknowledge those mistakes, but when we stop striving for perfection or making another live up to our standard of perfect holiness by extending grace and love, we are covering those mistakes. And somehow, every time we miraculously hit the bullseye of kingdom perfection. Together, we achieve all God's desires for our life.

Many years ago when my daughters were probably four or five years old, we were invited to a birthday party with some friends of our older children. The party was at our local putt-putt golf establishment. To be honest, my girls were too young to play, but I didn't want them to miss out on what the other children were getting to do. So, I decided to just let them try to play.

We started last so that we would not hold up the party. When it was their turn, they would hit the ball towards the hole. When I got tired and was ready to move to the next hole, I would say, "Okay, you have this many swings, so let us put the ball in the hole and move on to the next one." I just started putting down numbers of swings not thinking about what was too many or too small.

To be honest, I thought I was giving them a lot of swings. We were not trying to win the game. We were just enjoying playing with each other. At the end of the 18 holes, when we met back up with the group, they were tallying the results, and I gave them the girls' sheet never expecting that we would be anywhere near to winning. After they tallied up the total, Hannah and Morgan came in first and second place. I was shocked, and the parents laughed because the youngest children there had won the game. I told them what I had done and that it wasn't an actual account, but they said not to worry about it, that the older kids would never know. Hannah and Morgan were very excited to know think they kept up with the older kids.

God's economy works that way. My love for my girls and just wanting to have a good time with them covered their mistakes and made them somehow hit the mark and to win the day.

Shouldn't we try to love like this in our communities? I believe this is a powerful tool for the disagreements and divisions we are experiencing in our communities.

Isn't this what the season of Christmas is all about? For God so loved us that He sent His son, and that son was



sent not to condemn us, but to save us. Isn't this the very foundation for Christmas? We celebrate the gift that God gave to humanity through His son into this world and how it changed the very fabric of time.

The gift isn't just that Jesus came, lived, and died ... but, He died, and three days later, He arose from the dead so that we can live a resurrected life as well. God loved humanity so much that He didn't want heaven without us. He didn't want to live in paradise without us, His children, to fellowship with.

He loved. He loved. He loved. He loved so much that He sent humanity the greatest gift He could give, the gift of Himself in the form of human flesh and came to the earth living for 33 years. The Christian faith is not based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Christian faith is completely based on Jesus the man, Jesus the Christ, coming to the earth and living, loving and sacrificing Himself for all.

So, this Christmas, give yourself and those around you the greatest gift of all. Love. Loving yourself is not arrogance. If you can't ever learn to love yourself, you will never be able to love your neighbor. Forgive yourself for being human and making mistakes, for missing the mark. Forgive those that have missed the mark, in their love for you. Forgive those that have not covered you with their love.

In the process of forgiving, something miraculous happens. God redeems. God frees. God takes the arrow of our lives and pierces the darkness, and the love and light of Christ shine for all the world to see. Just like the North Star guiding the wise men to Christ, you become a beacon of hope for the world to follow and find a savior in a manger, on a cross, and as a King.

Merry Christmas from the Days.

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# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Cody McVey

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from Erin Stevens ...

Fa la la la la la la ... hey! 'Tis the season. Let sleigh bells ring, and don't forget the eggnog. Welcome to the last Younger Perspective of 2017. There are so many exciting interviews coming next year, but before I get ahead of myself, let's hang out in December a bit longer. The gentleman I'd like to close out the year with is arranger and producer, Cody McVey. McVey is no stranger to the gospel music community, but let's take some time to learn more about the man inside the control room.

**Erin Stevens: First off, where did your musical journey begin?**

Cody McVey: I came relatively late to music. Growing up, we didn't have a piano, but my grandmother did. So, I was always picking around on it whenever I was at her house. At around age 11, she told me that if I'd take piano lessons, she'd pay for them. So I did. Then a year or so later, my parents introduced me to the Gaither videos and Anthony Burger. I knew immediately that gospel music was what I wanted to do. My desire to arrange, produce, and orchestrate (even other styles of music) came years later.

**Stevens: Share with the readers what groups you've played piano for in the Southern gospel field, and how those working relationships came to be?**

McVey: My first job playing was with Monument, a primarily country group, back in 2008. We did a single summer tour before the group retired. That was probably the most fun I ever had on a bus. My next job was with the Kingsmen. While I was still with Monument, I had performed as a soloist at a concert with the Kingsmen. Ray Dean (Reese) told me if I ever wanted a job, to call him. A few months later, Monument retired, so I called Ray. I

got on the Kingsmen bus shortly after that phone call. I had no plans to leave the Kingsmen, that is until I met my wife, Leah. Around the same time that I met Leah, I began to be drawn toward arranging and orchestration. After Leah and I dated for about a year, we knew marriage was on the horizon, so I left the Kingsmen and moved to Chickamauga, Ga., to be close to her and to continue my education. I played the piano for the Ball Brothers while in college. (Leah is a sister to the Ball brothers).

**Stevens: Tell us about your family. How did you and Leah meet?**

McVey: When I met Leah, I was with the Kingsmen, (and) we were playing Memorial Auditorium in Chattanooga (Tenn.). I walked in from the bus, and there were



three girls standing way at the other end of the hall. For whatever reason, I remember saying to myself, “My future wife is at the end of this hallway.” Bear in mind that I couldn’t even see their faces. (It’s) kind of weird, I know. Leah came to the product table after the concert and took a photo with us. She later sent me a friend request on Facebook. We started messaging, and the rest is history. We now have a beautiful baby girl, Eliana Gabriella. She’s a year and a half old and the joy of our lives.

**Stevens: Who were/are your highly favored musical influences?**

McVey: This could easily be my longest answer of the article. Lari Goss would be the most special of my influences as he taught me to orchestrate. I studied under Lari for the last couple of years of his life. He’s certainly at the top of the list of my heroes. Other notable influences/heroes would be John Williams, Jason Webb (who is the single most talented person I’ve ever known,) David Foster, William Ross, Nelson Riddle, Chris McDonald and Jerry Hey.



**Stevens: When did you venture into the world of producing and arranging?**

McVey: It began to interest me when I first heard Lari’s work. Around 2011, my desire to produce and arrange eclipsed my desire to play the piano, so I got serious about it. At this point, I’d never arranged or orchestrated anything, so I had no idea if I actually could. Once I started arranging, I realized that I was much better at it than I am at playing the piano. My piano skills are very rudimentary, really.

**Stevens: Who are other artists you have produced for, and do you have current projects in the works you can share with the whole class?**

McVey: In one capacity or the other, (orchestrator or producer), I have worked with Greater Vision, the Mark Trammell Quartet, the Talleys, Steve Amerson and the

Kingdom Heirs. As a producer, one record I’m particularly proud of just recently released. It was a Christmas project I produced for the Wilbanks. They are enormously talented singers who aren’t afraid to step out of the box. It was fun and challenging. It’s not like any other Christmas record you’ll hear.

**Stevens: How long have you been on staff at First Baptist Church Atlanta? How did that come to be, and what is your official role in their ministry?**

McVey: I’ve been at First Baptist Atlanta for four years now. That job came about at a crucial time. I had recently gotten married and knew that I didn’t want to be on the road, but I didn’t have much work as an arranger. When I was playing for the Ball Brothers, we sang at First Baptist. I told Rodney Brooks, the minister of music, to give me a call if he ever needed any arranging done. At the end of 2013, I reluctantly decided to go into the insurance business, and in 2014, leave the road life behind. A few days before Christmas that year, I got a phone call from Rodney asking if I’d be interested in the arranger position at FBA. Of course, I was. Insurance was not a very interesting career for me. (It’s) funny how God times everything out.

**Stevens: In the midst of the holiday rush, how do you keep the reason for the season at the center of your life?**

McVey: As funny as it sounds, the holidays are my least busiest time, which I love. In all candor, it’s a year-round struggle to keep the main thing, the main thing. I have to constantly remind myself that it is not about me. None of it is. It’s about Him. Leah helps to keep me accountable, and sitting under the preaching of Dr. Charles Stanley doesn’t hurt.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

May Christ be the focal point of each and every one of our joyous festivities these next days and weeks to come. He came to this earth so that we might have hope and a future, lifting up His holy name is the least we can do, friends. Thank you, Cody, for reminding us that it’s never been about us ... it’s all about Him. Merry Christmas, one and all.

And that’s my take on it.

Until next year, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin on Twitter at @photosforkeeps or on Instagram at @photos\_for\_keeps.





# Bill Bailey

## Demonstrates his Lifelong Calling through Ministry and Gospel Music Promotion

By Charlie Griffin

J.G. Whitfield is one of gospel music's most legendary figures as a singer, publisher, gospel music lover and promoter. His impact is still felt today. In fact, the impact he had on a teenager in the early 1980s is still at work today. Bill Bailey attended many of Whitfield's concerts in the historic Southern gospel belt of south Georgia and Florida.

Bailey watched how Whitfield's concerts were organized and promoted. He fell in love with the music and the activity behind the scenes. Bailey then began promoting gospel music in Florida at the tender age of 16.

"J.G. Whitfield was very kind to me as young kid growing up," Bailey says. "He took time for me.

"My mom and I attended a J.G. Whitfield concert in Plant City, Fla., when I was 15 years old that featured the Hinsons, Paynes, and the Singing Perrys (as they were called in those days). The promoter bug bit me that night, and I thought I'd like to promote a concert. I booked the Perrys a few weeks later, and thus, my promotion career began. However, two months prior to that concert, I had the opportunity to book the Hinsons on a pass-thru date. They were probably my favorite group of all time – along with the Happy Goodmans

– and so, that night was a dream come true."

Bailey points to George Perry – the father of Libbi Perry Stuffle, Debra Perry Reed and Randy Perry – as being instrumental in his career as well.

"George Perry (father of the Perrys) was also instrumental in my beginning years," Bailey shares. "I'll always remember him giving me the advice, 'Book with your head and not with your heart.' He was a very kind and wise man to me over the years. I was honored to speak at his funeral."

One of the concerts stands out for Bailey.

"(It was) Nov. 15, 1996, in Ashburn, Ga., with the Happy Goodmans, Speer Family, Florida Boys, and Dixie Melody Boys," Bailey says. "We rewrote the occupancy code of the Turner County Civic Center. It was my first time working with the Goodmans, which were my childhood idols, growing up watching the Gospel Singing Jubilee. To have all of those legends on that same night was incredible. In that same building some years later, I also promoted the second-to-last road date of the original Speer Family. That was a memorable evening as well."

The coming year will mark the 32nd consecutive year that Bill Bailey has promoted gospel music. During this time he has watched the growth and evolution of Southern gospel music.



“Our industry is pretty much driven now by major events and church concerts,” Bailey points out. “The days of booking three to four groups in a high school auditorium are pretty much over.”

When you look at major gospel music events, Bill Bailey concerts are among the most attended in Southern gospel music. His attention to the attending fan is noticed in the continued concerts that are now mainstays in their areas.

The Bill Bailey concert promotion events currently being promoted include the Winter Gospel Music Convention in Palmetto, Fla., which is his largest event; the New Year’s Gospel Spectacular in Vidalia, Ga.; Mobile Sings the Gospel in Mobile, Ala.; the Biggest All-Night Singing in the World in Bonifay, Fla.; and several others. Bailey promotes 12 annual concert events in Southern gospel states, in addition to 50-plus church concerts.

However, Bailey’s story is more than just gospel music. Growing up, attending church was natural to him and the Bailey family.

“I was saved in vacation Bible school in Hendersonville, N. C., when I was eight years old,” Bailey shares. “Sally (my wife) and I grew up in our church. It is where we met. I was leaving to go to Jimmy Swaggart Bible College when the pulpit needed to be filled. I wound up staying and was eventually appointed the pastor.



“I have been the senior pastor of our church, Happy Gospel Church in Bradenton, Fla., for 28 years. I became the pastor on Mother’s Day, 1989, at 20 years old. I don’t recommend

that young, but that’s my story.”

Today in the Bailey house it is still all about family and church.

“Sally and I have been married for 27 years,” Bailey says. “We have three grown children – Caleb (age 25), Chelsea (22), and Caitlyn (19) – and two grandchildren, Rowan and Jeremiah. We also foster-parent a set of eight-year-old twins, Ariel and Arianna. We’ve had the twins since they were six months old.”



The Bailey clan is in church when the doors open for a concert or worship. It just comes naturally to this family.

Of course, gospel music is huge in Happy Gospel Church. On any given week, you will find a rich night of worship and gospel music under the direction of Bill Bailey and Happy Gospel Church. The message never grows old. It is exciting and refreshing, and it shows in his church.

Bailey is a busy man – pastoring, promoting, and providing management consultation for the Perrys. But when you have a conversation with him, you will be quick to learn of



his passion for impacting people for Christ. Whatever his immediate task, Bailey can be seen demonstrating the love of Christ in today’s world. He is seeking to make a difference with the hope given through Jesus, actively fulfilling the call to go and tell through ministry and the promotion of gospel music.



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# A Look Through The Lens of Craig Harris:

Photographs by Craig Harris



## Gaither Vocal Band

On Oct. 27, Craig Harris attended a Gaither Vocal Band concert, with special guests Charlotte Ritchie and Gene McDonald, at World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.







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By Lorraine Walker

The 2017 Creekside Gospel Music Convention is now in the books, and plans are being made for next year.

The 2018 event will be held from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. Contact event coordinator Rob Patz at 360-933-0741 for more information.

Creekside was a great time of fellowship, music and ministry. The seats were full, and hearts were touched by the preaching of Eric Bennett, David Ring, Dr. Jerry Goff, Matthew Browder and more.

The music of more than 40 artists filled the halls of the Smoky Mountain Convention Center day and night. The altars were filled with people looking for a special touch from God. From the chapel services to the showcases to the evening concerts to the midnight prayer sessions, it was obvious that it was no ordinary musical event.

### Creekside 2017 reflections

Linda and I went up to Pigeon Forge, Tenn., for a two-night trip and to attend the Creekside Gospel Convention, and wow, God was there the entire week. The singing was made up with some of the big-name groups such as the Triumphant Quartet, Soul'd Out, the Browders, Jerry and Jan Goff, the Nelons and others. But, it was also filled with some amazing soloists and groups who maybe are not so well-known but whose talent is just as good as anything you'll hear at the NQC

(National Quartet Convention). These lesser-known folks brought their own songs, written out of their own life stories, and were just filled with the Spirit. I'm not taking away from the NQC, but Creekside's quality of singing is just as good, maybe even better. And the preaching/teaching by Dr. Jerry Goff, Eric Bennett, Matt Browder and David Ring was just amazing. God is good, y'all. The unwritten theme of the week, for me anyway, was "Are you doing all that God has instructed you to do?" This seemed to jump out in most of the songs and definitely in the sermons that we heard. And my answer is no, what is yours? As David Ring says, "Why what is your excuse?" Good job, Vonda Easley and Rob Patz. – Robert Reece

Rob, Vonda and the rest of the crew, you did one of the best jobs at Creekside this year. Another year or two, and you will have to find a larger facility. I love the slogan "We are family." It's just a blessing to be able to attend Creekside. Creekside was so good that I booked three of the artists that appeared for concerts in 2018.







I'm looking forward to Southern Gospel Weekend. – Robert York

On behalf of all the East Tennessee artists, we thank you for allowing us to come and do our showcase. We heard from many that they enjoyed the showcase. God bless you brother Rob Patz and sister Vonda Easley. -- Angela Marie Fayard

Awesome Creekside. Looking forward to next year. We are family. – Debbie Seagraves

Creekside is the best. I'm still kicking myself for having to leave early. – Donnie Williamson

Thanks for allowing Common Bond to be there. We had a great time. – Rick Melton

Creekside 2017 was absolutely the best so far. Lots of singing and fun fellowship was had by all. I am looking forward to Creekside 2018. Thank you to every artist and helper that helped make this year so special. We are family. – Vonda Easley

We are so blessed that Creekside 2017 went beyond anything we had hoped for. The Convention was so well attended. The special evening events were a blast, and the guest speakers made chapel time very unique. I am so thankful to be working with such great people, and I'm excited already at what is in store for 2018. Be sure to join us. – Rob Patz

Thanks to all that participated in and attended the 2017 Creekside Gospel Music Convention. We appreciate you and hope to see all of you next year. Keep watching the SGNscoops and Creekside web sites and Facebook pages for all the latest news.



We loved Creekside. Can't wait to be a part of it next year. -- Donna Journey

Gospel Truth Trio really enjoyed our first time at Creekside. We have already got our booth for 2018. We can't wait. – Kelly Carter

The Chordsmen Quartet had a ball. Can't wait till next year. – Stephen Williams







### **Creekside VIP 2018 for Christmas**

Are you looking for a last-minute, unique gift for the gospel music lover on your list? How about a VIP pass to one of the fastest-growing musical events in Southern gospel? The Creekside Gospel Music Convention will celebrate its sixth anniversary in 2018, and this year will be bigger and better than ever. A \$25 VIP pass for the best seats, best giveaways and best surprises Creekside has to offer will show that loved one how much you care. If you want your loved one to feel like



a very important person this Christmas, or if you are interested in purchasing your own \$25 VIP ticket, call Patz at 360-933-0741.

### **Coming Up ... Christian Country Expo 2018**

The Christian Country Expo returns in 2018, to show-

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Lodging and ticket reservation information will be upcoming. For more information, call Patz at 360-933-0741 or Easley at 256-310-7892. Hope to see you in 2018.





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Southern Gospel Sweethearts:

# Elena Dubbeld

of the Mark Dubbeld Family

By Fayth Lore

Elena Dubbeld is a 21-year-old young lady from Virginia, whose cheerful disposition quickly brings a smile to audiences across America. One of Elena's favorite holidays is Christmas. She loves enjoying all of the delectable Christmas cookies along with making sweet memories with her family. Some of her fondest memories include family caroling and ice skating. I hope this delightful profile of another Southern gospel sweetheart will bring as much Christmas joy to your heart, as it did to mine.

Elena is the soprano in her family's group, the Mark Dubbeld Family. The story of the Mark Dubbeld Family originates back to the high-school days of Elena's father, Mark. Mark traveled in a male quartet his senior year of high school to represent a Bible college. Over time the quartet disbanded. However, Mark couldn't shake his passion for music. Elena's mother, Janene, is also no stranger to music ministry. She sang in her father's church and felt called to ministry early on. Singing has always been a huge part of Elena's family.

Elena's mother not only sings, but she is also a gifted

writer. Janene writes almost all of the family's music. Thus, the Mark Dubbeld Family has a multitude of original songs in their repertoire. One song that has had a greater effect on the outreach of their ministry is "Inside the Gate." The lyrics have been an encouragement to the family, as well as helped them gain some national recognition in the radio world.







Six years ago, Elena's family could no longer resist the pull to travel full-time. They all felt like music evangelism was where they belonged. Elena tells us that while the transition was different, it didn't feel unnatural because she was so used to being involved in ministry.

"We have sung my entire life," Elena says. "We were always active in our home church a majority of the year, but during the summer months, we would sing in camp meetings and revivals."

Since this step towards a new journey, the family has traveled all over the country, including Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and many others. While singing full-time was a step in the right direction for this traveling family of five, Elena admits that her literal steps have not been as smooth.

"Early on in our full-time career, I happened to miss a step in front of me," Elena explains. "We were singing in a local church, and I was up in front performing a solo. I was wearing high heels and somehow missed that step. Thankfully, I landed on my feet in the middle of the phrase of my solo. I acted as if nothing had ever happened."

"Another time, I left my dress shoes in a Dollar General bathroom that I had (made) into a personal dressing room. I had to wear my brown clogs. The audience loved it."

Reflecting on her childhood years, Elena says that she was not as exposed to Southern gospel music as she is now. However, she has found a love for its unique sounds. Elena notes that there are distinct elements to Southern gospel music.

"I think what separates Southern gospel music from other genres is the heritage," Elena says. "It has been going on for years. It has been a loved genre for years. Southern gospel music features singers who are anointed, who love Jesus and who want to represent Him."

Elena remembers the first time that she ever heard one of the Southern gospel greats perform. She immediately fell in love with this power-house vocalist and still counts her as an inspiration today.

"I first heard Taranda (Beene) sing when I was 14 years old," Elena says. "Taranda Beene has always blown me away with her voice. She is a huge inspiration to me. I also love Hannah Webb. She is just so special."

"I do want to thank my parents for following the call that God placed on our family. They are always my inspiration in so many ways".

Not only is Elena using her voice to make music but to also speak up for young women like herself via her latest blog, "Breathing Room for the Soul." The blog has excerpts from both Elena and Janene. It offers words of Christ-centered encouragement for women from all walks of life. The two have recently booked one of their first women's speaking engagements in Iowa.

"A lot of young girls struggle with the fact that they are



not perfect,” Elena says. “They are looking at perfect lives on Instagram and Facebook and comparing it to their own imperfect life. But, everybody on social media has correct lighting and filters.

“I heard a quote one time that said, ‘Do not compare your Monday morning to someone else’s Sunday.’”

Elena also says that she thinks this problem could be resolved if girls could “... accept the fact that nobody is perfect and that everybody is going through something.”

One strong suit of this group is its element of family. Their group is comprised of Mark, Janene, Elena and Elena’s two younger brothers, Channing (age 16) and Britton (13). This summer, the family was able to start traveling in a new tour bus. As of October, Elena says her family may have been home a total of two months. The bus has been a tremendous blessing to the traveling family of five. Also in 2017, their group recorded a new album called “Joy,” and they signed with Song Garden



Music Group.

“I think it would be an amazing thing to continue in music ministry for many years to come,” Elena says. “I trust God’s plan for my life, and I will stay where He has put me until He says, ‘Move.’ I don’t know what the future holds, but I know what I love ... and I know what I’m called to do. I’m going to stay where God has put me right now. I plan to stay here for a while because

I am happy. I love what I do. I think a dream would be to have my future family travel with me, loving it and building our own heritage of 60 years getting to do this. That would be awesome.”

The Mark Dubbeld Family, and especially Elena, definitely has a bright future in its career and calling to music ministry.



Instead of getting wrapped up in Christmas paper this year, take time to wrap your arms around those you are closest to. It’s the little memories like caroling and Christmas cookies that mean the most. Love your family and give thanks to the one who is the reason for the season.





# TOP 40

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

### 2017 November SGNScoops Christian Country Top 40

1. Michael Lee - God's Country
2. Lisa Daggs - Love Found Me
3. Kevin Rowe - Heaven Above
4. Johnny Rowlett - Where I'm Going
5. Christian Davis - Just Show Up
6. John Steed - Born Again
7. Chuck Day - I Love You
8. Jeff Dugan - Dashboard Jesus
9. Steve Bridgmon - Joyride
10. Peter Christie - On Grace I Stand
11. McKay Project - Taking Me Home
12. Bev McCann - God's Got A Miracle
13. Taylor Hope - Showin' My Roots
14. Eternal Vision - A Father's Prayer
15. Jim Sheldon - Old School
16. Shellem Cline - Getting in The Word of God
17. Gemma Adams - Path of Least Resistance
18. Ronnie Horton - Unclouded Day
19. The Drummond Family - Just Let me Fall
20. Jordan's Crossing - He Will Come
21. Ava Kasich - The River Runs Red

22. Rachel Taylor - Lost in God's Grace
23. Sherry Damron - You Ain't Devil Enough
24. Mary James - Heart on My Sleeve
25. Les Taylor - If That Mountain Don't Move
26. Caleb's Crossing - Someday
27. Tommy Smith - Let's March On
28. Gail Cogburn - I've Got a Bottle
29. Cindy Tilkens Jennings - Whom Shall I Fear
30. Charlie Griffin - Jesus Take A Hold
31. Ryan Watkins - Anyway The Wind Blows
32. The Arenos - Back To My Senses
33. Corey Farlow - If Jesus Sang Country Songs
34. The Tacketts - Love Is Reaching Down
35. Cami Shrock - My God Will Always Be Enough
36. Bradley Walker - Sinners Only
37. John Penny - When The Thunder Rolls
38. Jeff Bates - Judgin' Judas
39. Jaysen Gold - Better For Each Other
40. Ava Kasich - Looking Back

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# Barkley's Business *Christmas Lessons*

By Roger Barkley Jr.

Many readers, and those that have heard us in concert, know that I have always loved Christmas. Some people say it brings out the kid in us. Some people say I never grew out of the first phase anyway.

Many also know from previous articles that one of the traditions we had as kids were treasure hunts. Dad would make little notes, some rhyming and some not, to lead us to our treasure, all the while trying to stump us with what seemed to us to be his twisted sense of humor. Sometimes what we perceived as twisted was really us just trying too hard and not reading correctly, or perhaps just not paying attention to the instructions.

It seemed that I could figure out everyone else's clues except for mine. Whether dad put more effort in mine to make them harder, or thought in a different pattern, just to make it more difficult, I don't know, but it always took me a little longer to get my clues than get my brothers' clues. These memories I would not exchange for any treasure today.

One particular memory that stands out was when the answers to the clues were so simple they seemed to be too hard. After stopping and looking again with a second (maybe even a third) look at the clues from the author, there it was. The treasure was lying out in the open. It was not really even wrapped. It was not even hidden. It was laying there in plain sight.

These treasure hunts have taught me that when reading the Bible or listening to God, just as when reading dad's written instructions, it has always been easy for me to look at someone else's situation and figure what they were doing wrong. We as Christians look at others in life and can instantly see their mistakes, mishaps, wrong turns, and almost want to explode with what seems the correct answer to us when it is not our life or turn at the clue.

When it comes our time to read and understand what was written or meant for us, it seems almost impossible to understand what to do. That's when it is time to go back to the instructions again without any distractions





and without any thought of the trials around you so that you are intent on listening to the instructor and master writer.

In Dad's treasure hunts at Christmas, he gave me more than just the gift of that pocket knife that I hold dear to this day. He taught me the life lesson that when you are continually having problems, when you are wondering why you can't find what you are looking for, when you can find everyone's answers besides your own, go back

to the master. Go back to the one writing the clues. Go to the one who has the answers and wants you to find every good gift that he has in store for you.

This Christmas, when you are searching for the right gift, I have a thought for you. Give the gift of your time and hold your family close. The present of precious memories will never get thrown away.



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# The Gift of Music

By Charlie Griffin

The holidays are upon us. Where has this year gone? Over the last few years, I have found the old saying, “when you get older, time moves faster,” to be true.

We all live lives that are filled with work, family, and volunteering in our churches and communities. We are busy in today’s world. Many of us have a part-time job, or if we’re in gospel music, we are weekend warriors. And we love singing, meeting new friends and sharing our experiences.

The other night, I was in concert with a dear pastor and his congregation kicking off their fall revival in Richmond, Va. They are a singing church with a choir and a rocking church band. Their love of music comes out in worship. You can tell what they believe in their music’s message.

After the evening concert, the church family enjoyed desserts and homemade ice cream. Everyone came to the fellowship building and just enjoyed fellowship and more singing. As the evening progressed, I met a couple that had just been to the National Quartet Convention. They were elated at their time in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.. They talked about the artists they met, the CDs they purchased and the new friends they had met.



As the ice cream social went on, I was introduced to an older gentleman, Lee Battles, who I learned had sung bass for one of the local quartets on the radio back in the 1950s. He was up in years, but his bass voice still had that quality of a seasoned singer.

At that moment, I sat down and listened to his stories. His face began to glow as he told about singing on WRVA-Richmond. He reflected that at WRVA he really loved Bertha Hewlett who played the piano and organ on the Sunshine Hour back in the day. That was the black gospel radio program.



Battles said he had sung with a few groups over the years, but his remembrance of his time with the Silver Star Quartet really influenced him. The group consisted of Wesley Harvey, Clarence Valentine, Harold Bates, Eugene Beard, and Hartwell McDaniel. But being on the program with the Silver Star Quartet and the Hopewell Jubilee Singers ... well, it was big back then. You see, WRVA was the big 50,000-watt AM station that people listened to in Southeast Virginia.

He talked about the radio station recording their music to play in a pinch. Back then, the recording was a transcription. The record was beeswax, and it was a one-take recording. Battles said, "If you messed up, well, you messed up. There were no do-overs."

Back then, radio stations programmed a variety to cater to everyone. WRVA had some Southern gospel music, black gospel music, country music, news, sports and commentaries. In later years, the stations would gravitate toward the rock and roll, and blues era with Elvis Presley, B.B. King and a host of legacy talents.

Battles shared an interesting story about WRVA announcer Alden Aaroe. He said, before there were Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes, Aaroe established an annual shoe fund to

provide shoes for needy children. They partnered with the Salvation Army and really made a difference in the impoverished South.

As I listened, I appreciated his candor. He talked about black gospel music and Southern gospel music. Battles loved George Younce and J.D. Sumner. He felt that the greatest tenor ever was Sherrill Nielsen. And nobody could hold a candle to Jake Hess.

He told me about catching a ride to go to the all-night sing in Greensboro, N.C., to hear Wally Fowler and the Oak Ridge Quartet in 1960. He talked about how he first heard the Fairfield Four and just knew gospel music of any kind was the best. Mr. Battles was beaming.

Battles took me by the hand and said, "Son, don't ever lose that song in your heart. You are singing the greatest music on earth." At that moment, all those miles and long weekend nights seemed to fade. I was on cloud nine as this gospel music forerunner had just shared with me the greatest gift ever – his memories and the history of gospel music.

I told him about the We Love Our Southern Gospel Music History (WLOSGMH) Convention coming up from March 26-27 in Murfreesboro, Tenn. He was so excited. He said he would give anything to be there.

Battles said, "The gift of music is exciting. So many people are just now learning of how it came to be. They are getting to know those you-should-have-been-there stories that are infamous."

The WLOSGMH Convention is that perfect gift.



The fourth annual WLOSGMH Convention is shaping up to be the largest and best yet. So, this year, give the gift of music and our history to yourself and that special someone.

Mark your calendars and plan now to be in attendance for this one-of-a-kind convention. For more information on admission, talent, booths and activities or reservations, contact



Harold Timmons on Facebook, e-mail [h.t@comcast.net](mailto:h.t@comcast.net), or call 615-885-8000.

So far, the list of talent includes: the Chuck Wagon Gang (a Monday-only appearance), Ann Downing, the Sheltons, Jeanne Johnson, Sue Dodge, Charlie Griffin, Jordan's Bridge, Joyce Black West (of the Speer Family), McCray Dove, the Administrators Quartet, the Collectors Quartet,

John Crenshaw, Hannah Kennedy, and Harold Timmons. Also, Rita Spillers will be providing dinner music at the piano.

For more information, contact Charlie Griffin on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cg28210](https://www.facebook.com/cg28210).



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# Kaleb's Kuts

THE WONDER OF  
CHRISTMAS



By Kaleb Powell

Artist: The Mylon Hayes Family  
CD/Album Title: The Wonder of Christmas  
Release Date: 2017  
Genre: Southern gospel

Songs: "Carol of The Bells" Peter J. Wilhousky / "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas" Meredith Willson / "The Most Wonderful Time of The Year" Ed-die Pola, George Wyle / "Birthday of A King" William Harold Neidlinger / "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" Traditional English Carol / "Best Time of The Year" Sandy Blythe / "Cherish That Name" Audrey Mieir / "Winter Wonderland" Dick Smith / "O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" Adger McDavid Pace, R. Fisher Boyce / "For No Other Reason" Diana Blythe / "Fear Not" Daryl Williams / "Underneath The Tree" Rebecca J. Peck / "Home For The Holidays" Al Stillman / "Full Of Wonder" Sandy Blythe

Initial Impression: The Mylon Hayes Family, a family group based in North Carolina, has quickly evolved into one of Southern gospel's favorite artists. This CD caught my attention from the very first note. The Mylon Hayes Family has a rich, family harmony sound. This family is carrying on a great legacy that began with the Hayes family.

This CD has a great blend of spirit-filled Christmas

songs as well as some great classic Christmas tunes. When it comes to picking songs for a CD, they know how to do it correctly so that each song fits perfectly together to create a project that will have you wanting listen until the last note is complete. I would highly recommend this CD to everybody.

My favorite song on this CD is "O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem." This song fills my heart with joy every time I listen to it. I love the tune of the song as well as the lyrics. My favorite classic tune would have to be "Winter Wonderland". This song has a catchy tune as well as the lyrics and is one of those songs you keep singing even when you are away from your music.





This family has become one of my favorite groups, not only for their musical excellence, but also due their sweet spirit they show on and off the stage.

Visit the Mylon Hayes Family at [www.themylonhayesfamily.com](http://www.themylonhayesfamily.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/themylonhayesfamily](https://www.facebook.com/themylonhayesfamily).

To send CDs for review, e-mail digital releases to [kalebskuts@outlook.com](mailto:kalebskuts@outlook.com). For physical releases, please send your CD to Kaleb Powell, 245 Willow Ridges Dr., Chuckey, Tenn., 37641.




# Peter Christie

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## AFRICA? ME? NEVER SAY NEVER...

By Erin Stevens

“Go on a missions trip,” they said. “It will change your life. You will never be the same. In fact, your heart may never return.”

I’ve heard statements like this for years, and sure, I believed it for others. But I never once lumped myself into being one of the called. I thought, there’s so much to be done here in my own backyard ... why would I need to go overseas to make a difference? How wrong I was.

Through nothing sort of a miracle, this summer I made my first missions trip endeavor to Uganda, Africa. I partnered with Hope’s Cry International – an organization founded by the Allen Family – as their photo-journalist. Our 28-member team spread the good news through our words and actions.

Hope’s Cry International houses 16 beautiful orphans on their Ugandan property. I had the honor to work closely with those precious little lives. Our construction team finished building a medical clinic on the Hope grounds in the weeks we were there. The medical personnel of the team performed over 500 surgeries in that

short span of time.

We hosted children’s conferences where we would plan for a couple of hundred children, and in one instance, saw over 1,000 kids arriving and wanting to learn about Jesus.

I watched people come to accept Christ as their Savior as we evangelized through the poverty-stricken streets.

Our team visited a water source one Sunday after church. No one could have prepared me for what I saw. A muddy, filthy puddle was where I observed children filling containers to take back to their families. I watched as cows passed through the same waters. My stomach churned in agony as the children drank from the mud puddle.

Not long after we returned to the United States, we were thrilled to hear that a new well had been completed by our Ugandan colleagues. Thousands more now have access to clean water. These are just a few examples of the work our team conducted, but the stories are endless.



The Ugandan people are obviously not used to our Westernized technology. As the photojournalist of the team, I had a unique view of how men, women and children reacted to my camera. Children would surround me from all sides, pressing in to the point where I could barely breathe as I wildly captured every face my lens could find.

The beauty of turning my camera around to show these little ones their faces was a gift I will never forget. They screamed, clapped, and danced with joy as they pointed at the screen, while I fought back the tears clouding my vision.

It wasn't all happy tears and smiles. While I was in Uganda, I came down with what is called staphylococcal food poisoning. I will not make you endure the details of that process, but let's just say, I'm pretty sure I saw Jesus. Through what I would call the scariest 48 hours of my life, that illness gave me a heart for these people in ways I probably wouldn't have felt if I hadn't become sick.

Some studies show the average life expectancy to be only 59 years old in Uganda. Day in and day out, they are gripped with Typhoid, Malaria and food poisoning. They don't have the luxury of team members coming to their room with crackers, comfort and medication like I had. If they don't work, their children starve to death. If they don't provide, there is no hope for their families. Most Ugandans earn a little more than 3,000 shillings per day, which is less than one United States dollar. The fighting spirit of such a people is what drives them to keep going.

One story from the trip holds great meaning to me personally. After an authentic four-hour-long Ugandan church service, I stepped outside to get some air. While parents were still worshipping inside the small church, their children were playing outside in the dirt. I, along with some of my team members, began playing with

them, letting their laughter envelop us all. My camera and I were hard at work, not wanting to miss a single moment.

I noticed one young girl wrapped in a thin, green shawl, sitting all alone, away from the others. Without thinking, I headed straight for her. Most Ugandans speak some English, but there are still great language barriers. She seemed scared and shy, so I softly extended the Ugandan greeting I had been taught and waited for a reply. She smiled the most endearing smile I have ever seen.

I asked her if I could take her picture, affirming to her how "smart" she looked, which means "beautiful" or "handsome" in their culture. She nodded yes, and away I went. There was a deep sadness in her eyes, but when I showed her the back of my camera – revealing her "smarts" – she managed another heartfelt smile. We weren't together long, nor were many words exchanged, but I felt as if I knew her my whole life. There was a special bond I felt that I couldn't shake.



Later that day, I learned the backstory of her life. Her father had died, and her mother was raising her alone. Years before, the little girl had fallen out of a tree. The impact sliced her abdomen open and caused severe blood loss. Her mom spent every shilling she had to get her daughter help, which resulted in one botched surgery after another.

Her mother begged our medical team to look at her X-rays, to see if there was anything else that could be done. Unfortunately, another surgery would have been too risky and could have resulted in this little one's death.





So, she limps along every day, wrapped in her shawl, away from the other children, watching at a distance. When I realized this was the same girl I had felt drawn to hours before, I could hold back the tears no more. Maybe she needed me in those moments ... maybe I needed her.



Nevertheless, the Lord drew me to her side to remind her she wasn't alone. We will more than likely never meet again this side of heaven, but maybe someday, my little green shawl girl will greet me in the presence of her healer.

I voyaged to Africa in hopes to make a small difference, to make a change in the short time I had. But what



I didn't expect was that Africa changed me. I walked away with the blessing and passion to spread the word of a need that is so great. I will never be the same from the experiences I encountered on those African streets, nor will I ever be able to shake the dust off my feet. A part of me remains with those people and the children that stole my heart.



I am delighted to share that the door is opening for me to return to Africa in 2018. If I had it my way, I'd be on a plane tomorrow, but I will patiently count the days until I board one of several planes that will again wing me back to that land.

If you would like to partner with Hope's Cry International to sponsor a child or to give in any way you can, I urge you to make it a matter of prayer. Learn more at [www.buildingwithhope.com](http://www.buildingwithhope.com).



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

1. Tribute Quartet - God Of The Storms
2. Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - Give Me Jesus
3. Canton Junction - God's Got A Better Plan
4. Greater Vision - Still
5. Karen Peck and New River - Hope For All Nations
6. The Hyssongs - I Tell Them Jesus
7. Jason Crabb - Mysterious Ways
8. Joseph Habedank - Here He Comes
9. The Old Paths - Tangled In The Middle
10. The Lore Family - Joyous News
11. Mark Trammell Quartet - My Faith Still Holds
12. The McKameys - For The Record
13. Tim Livingston - I Can't Erase The Message
14. Gold City - I Will Stand
15. The Taylors - Worship You Again
16. The Kingsmen - Hear The Word Of The Lord
17. The Kingdom Heirs - The Last Big Thing
18. Michael Combs - Carry Me Jesus
19. The Freemans - It Still Takes The Blood
20. Debra Perry and Jaiden's Call - Somebody Pray
21. The Hoppers - Life is Good
22. Triumphant Quartet - Chain Breaker
23. The Mylon Hayes Family - The Coming of The Lord
24. CT and Becky Townsend - My God Delivered Me
25. The Rochesters - Keep On
26. New Ground - Make It

27. The Perrys - Moses and Elijah
28. The Collingsworth Family - You're About to Climb
29. The Bowling Family - Praise God He's Alive
30. The Woodsmen Quartet - The Cross Has Won Again
31. HighRoad - Somewhere I'm Going
32. The Steeles - Prodigals
33. Jordan Family Band - My God Is Faithful
34. Chronicle - Where Did The Wind Go
35. Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver - You Were Right
36. East Ridge Boys - I Know That Man
37. The Inspirations - The One In The Water
38. The Wisecarvers - Plain and Simple
39. The Carolina Boys - Faith In A Great God
40. The Blackwood Brothers Quartet - I'd Rather Have Jesus
41. Susan Whisnant - I Prayed Through It
42. The Dunaways - Reassure Me
43. Soul'd Out Quartet - Holy Spirit Come
44. Wilburn and Wilburn - Prayer Is All I Need
45. The Talleys - This Thing Called Grace
46. Spiritual Voices - Love That Led To Grace
47. Children Of The Promise - Heaven Takes Care of It All
48. Caleb's Crossing - I Promise You
49. Exodus - God of Always and Never
50. The Stephens - He Said
51. Mark Lowry - What's Not To Love



SGN **SCOOPS**  
MAGAZINE

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52. The Guardians - Present In The Presence of The King
53. Mark Bishop - The Other Room
54. The Sneed Family - I've Never Seen A Promise
55. Down East Boys - Somebody Left The Door Wide Open
56. Dean - Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk
57. The Isaacs - If That's What it Takes
58. The Millers - Take A Moment And Live
59. Sunday Drive - 11:59
60. Purpose - Trust Him
61. The Second Half Quartet - Gonna Shout Over Heaven
62. Barry Rowland and Deliverance - The Ark
63. Misty Freeman - A Day In The Life Of Jesus
64. The Jim Brady Trio - God Is With Me
65. The Hoskins Family - I Don't Wanna Lose That Feeling
66. Day Three - Might Go Home Today
67. The Greenes - Send A Little Rain
68. Shellem Cline - Getting In The Word Of God
69. Battle Cry - I'm Amazed
70. The Bibletones - Lord Lead Me Home
71. Rejeana Leeth and New Grace - Thank God For My Christian Home
72. The Goulds - Where Are The Voices
73. The Bates Family - You Are
74. Sisters - A Day Will Come
75. The Journeys – Have Faith
76. Matt Felts - Trust Me With The Trial
77. Hazel Stanley - You've Got To Serve Somebody
78. MARK209 - I Can Call Jesus
79. The Browns - Aim Higher
80. The Walkers - Holy Spirit Flow Through Me
81. Steve Ladd - All Things Are Possible With God
82. The Littles - Whole Lot Of Heaven In The House
83. The New Dove Brothers - No Back Door To Heaven
84. The Anchormen - I'm Gonna Run

85. The Pine Ridge Boys - Sail On Over
86. Master's Voice - Where My Savior Is
87. The Villines Trio - Elijah
88. River's Edge - Press On
89. John Whisnant - Had It Not Been
90. Bridget Taylor - One More Valley
91. The Forgiven Quartet - I Have A Story To Tell
92. Josh and Ashley Franks - While My Tears Are Falling
93. Reborn - What It Takes To Make It Through
94. Phil Cross - Miracle In Me
95. The Lear Family - Too Far From Home
96. Sunday Drive - I Thank You
97. Bev McCann - God's Got A Miracle
98. Jeff and Sheri Easter - More Than Enough
99. Lindsey Graham - A Little More Love
100. The Sharps - Endless Day

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# Christmas Once Again

By Jennifer Campbell

In my family, Christmas has always been one of the most cherished times of the year. My mom would make dozens of Christmas cookies. My dad would prepare a delectable dinner, and our family would gather together for a delightful holiday. There would be presents under the tree, and our entire house would be trimmed with tokens of Christmas joy in every corner.



My mom and I would trim the tree, and my dad and I would set up the train set around the evergreen. The songs of the holiday

would ring through the house, including some of my favorites, such as Anne Murray's rendition of "O Holy Night," Evie Karlsson's festive song "Come On, Ring Those Bells" and many different artists singing "Away in a Manger" or "Silent Night." But the one thing that always remained the same was the fact that Jesus Christ was the center of this beloved annual celebration.

The greatest blessing God could have ever given me was the wonderful gift of loving parents who would introduce me to my best friend and Lord of my life, Jesus Christ. He truly is the reason I am alive today. Without His healing touch, I would have never made it home from the hospital when I was born. I was born without a heartbeat. The only reason my heart started to beat again was because my parents prayed, "Jesus, help." Jesus raised me to life. I will forever be grateful

to Jesus Christ for His healing touch of mercy and His wondrous love.

Throughout the years, Christmas has changed quite considerably. Ever since my mom left this world to be with Jesus, along with many other loved ones, the dining room table has fallen victim to several empty chairs. There are still dozens of Christmas cookies baked by yours truly, and my Dad continues to prepare a lavish holiday meal. Oh, and I still light the Christmas tree and deck the halls with boughs of holly, with the focal point being the nativity, the real reason we celebrate the Christmas season. But one thing drastically changed a few years ago.



For Christmas 2012, my Dad and I decided that we would do something different for the holidays. We have always listened to the anointed music of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, so instead of purchasing gifts that year, we made plans to visit New York City for the very first time. Our main goal was to attend a service at Brooklyn Tabernacle. We never knew just how much this visit would leave an indelible mark not only on our minds, but our souls as well.

Even before you walk into the lobby of Brooklyn Tabernacle, the presence of the Holy Spirit saturates the sidewalks outside, drawing people into God's house. Mere words cannot explain the way the spirit of the

Even before you walk into the lobby of Brooklyn Tabernacle, the presence of the Holy Spirit saturates the sidewalks outside, drawing people into God's house. Mere words cannot explain the way the spirit of the



Lord is so very real in this particular location in downtown Brooklyn. What a joy to be there for the first time during the Christmas season.

I vividly remember being escorted to the sixth row, amazed that God would give me this opportunity. Goosebumps covered my arms the entire time I was there, peace filled my soul, and joy flooded my heart.

Since our first trip to New York, we have had the honor of visiting Brooklyn Tabernacle many times since. Some people travel to New York for the Statue of Liberty or Empire State Building.



While these aspects of New York are enjoyable, nothing quite compares to being in the presence of Jesus Christ all day on Sunday and again on Tuesday evening. Hearing the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir sing and being there for the mid-week prayer meeting is glorious, as thousands of people in the congregation raise their voices in unison to glorify the name that is above every

name, Jesus Christ. I only wish I lived closer, for I would be there every week.

For several years, Christmas had lost a bit of its sparkle. My mom loved the holidays, so the void of her not being with us left a major dent in our holiday plans, despite our best intentions to make the holiday merry and bright.

Our first visit to Brooklyn Tabernacle was the first time I could remember being fully-invested, completely overjoyed about Christmas, since the last time my mom was with us for the holiday. I felt as if a weight had been lifted off of my chest the moment I walked through the doors. Christmas was Christmas again. It was certainly not a coincidence that the Brooklyn Tabernacle Christmas program that year was titled, "Christmas Once Again." God uses all sorts of things to speak to us, even three simple words written on a church bulletin.

For some people, Christmas is all about their wish lists and the gifts they will receive. Gifts are a special way of showing a person how much you care, but the greatest gift ever given in the history of mankind was not wrapped in the finest wrapping paper or tied with a fancy bow. The greatest gift ever given was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, inside a lowly stable. Jesus Christ was born more than 2,000 years ago on the first Christmas. That is why I celebrate this glorious holiday.

On the first Christmas night, there were no last-minute holiday sales or revolving Christmas trees adorned with twinkling lights. No one wrote Christmas cards to a hundred of their closest relatives or friends and no one wrapped gag gifts for the annual office Christmas party.

On that wondrous night, a bright star lit up the heavens, announcing the birth of the King of kings and Lord of lords. The first Christmas night, while quite unassuming compared to the fanfare we have today, was the moment that changed the world forever. Although Jesus Christ was born in a hay-filled manger, He grew up to be the Savior of the world.

To me, the greatest joy in giving a gift is sharing my love with someone else. It's not about where it was purchased or how expensive it could be. What matters is that a gift is given out of love. God gave us His only Son, Jesus Christ, as the greatest gift ever given in the history of mankind. Why, you ask? God gave His Son out of love (John 3:16).

Following in His father's footsteps, Jesus gave of himself by healing the sick, raising the dead, and performing many miracles. Jesus helped others more than we

will ever know. God's word says, "Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25 NLT). Then when Jesus was 33 years old, He made the ultimate sacrifice by giving His life, so that we could receive the gift of eternal life (I John 3:16).

Jesus' level of giving sort of makes that beautiful silk scarf you bought for your grandmother pale in comparison, doesn't it? That's the beauty of gift-giving. Jesus gave of Himself, expecting nothing in return. Even now, He doesn't expect any form of repayment. We have the freedom to either accept this priceless gift of grace or reject this precious gift that has been freely extended to every man, woman, boy, and girl.

While God gives us the freedom to choose, those who reject this precious gift will not live eternally. John 3:36 says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." Choose Christ today. It will be the best decision you have ever made.

This Christmas season, my prayer is that you will embrace the love of Jesus Christ. As you write your Christmas cards to family and friends, remember why we celebrate this holiday in the first place. Jesus Christ is the reason for it all. Without the birth of Christ, Christmas would not be Christmas. On that first Christmas night so long ago, hope was born, eternal hope found only through Jesus Christ. O come, let us adore Him ... let us celebrate Christmas once again.



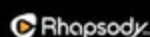
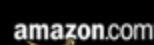
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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

The season of Christmas is upon us. I am one of those people who brings out the Christmas music and movies at the beginning of November. Before you roll your eyes, I will say that the tree doesn't go up until the end of the month. So, it could be worse. But I love this time of year, and so do our writers here at SGNScoops. I hope you have enjoyed all of the encouraging, enlightening and seasonal features this month.

We are proud to have 11th Hour on our cover once more. Since they last appeared in our magazine, they have had several charting songs and have grown in popularity. I so enjoy their music, as well as their antics on Facebook. I hope that if you aren't following them yet, you will. Jaquita Lindsey was a writer for us for some time before the schedule of the trio began to take up much more of her time. We miss her writing, but we are glad to fill you in a bit on the group.

I admit that this month's publication was delayed slightly because of my schedule. Between health issues and doctor's appointments, it is not always possible for me to find my way through the wonderful SGNScoops' articles in a timely manner. Sometimes, I get frustrated that things don't always go as I've planned, and I feel like issues in my life are out of my control. Many of you likely feel that way at this busy time of year. Just when you think you have everything on your calendar, something new pops up out of the blue. Inconvenient but unavoidable, you add it to your list of things to do.

It struck me that most of the events in the Christmas story happened at inopportune times for those involved. Zechariah was fulfilling his priestly duties – an older man, probably set in his ways and accustomed to life without children – when suddenly an angel tells him that his wife is expecting. Elizabeth, an older woman, was also probably complacent with her life as a priest's wife, but she still had a prayer in her heart for a child. Suddenly, her life is spun 180 degrees as she is with child.

There was Joseph, a hard worker, trying to put money aside for the day he would be married, told by the government that he has to make an expensive trip to Bethlehem with his fiancée, Mary.

Young Mary, living as an engaged girl, not only has to prepare for a difficult journey, but suddenly, told she will also have a child. Everything she had thought her life would be as a married woman is turned upside down.

The Christmas story is full of people whose lives are interrupted by God. Have you ever wondered what might have happened if they were not obedient, or if they railed against the plans of God? What if Elizabeth decided that having a child at her age was too risky for her health? What if Zechariah had refused to name the child John? Would we be reading about Bob the Baptist?

What if Joseph decided not to marry Mary? What if Mary couldn't handle the sideways glances and whispers of derision, and ran away from it all, to have the child in a far-off place, perhaps to be given to another couple? What if the shepherds had listened to the angels and then just shrugged it off as an advertising gimmick?

God likes to interrupt our lives still today. He knows if you are playing church, comfortable with showing up at your pew at Christmas and Easter, pretending you believe in Him when He knows you don't. He will interrupt you again and again, trying to get your attention. Maybe He will draw your attention by reducing your finances, dissolving a relationship, or by the actions of that pesky neighbor who always mentions His name.

Whoever you are, whatever you believe, now is the time to listen and respond to God's interruption of your life. The interruption may change your life 180 degrees. Are you brave enough or open to His challenge? He wants you to grow closer to Him. Each step towards the Christ child will change you in ways you never imagined. Each time you respond to God's interruption, the life of the resurrected Lord Jesus will be even more manifest in your life. Are you prepared to be interrupted by the almighty?

Merry Christmas to you and your family from all of us at SGNScoops Magazine. From my heart and from my family, I wish you a blessed holiday season. As always, I can be reached by e-mailing [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com).



# 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](http://SGMRadio.com). In 2009, Rob Patz acquired [SGNScoops.com](http://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](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).



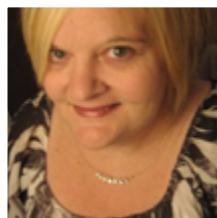
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. [Queenoq.blogspot.com](http://Queenoq.blogspot.com)



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](mailto: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](http://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.



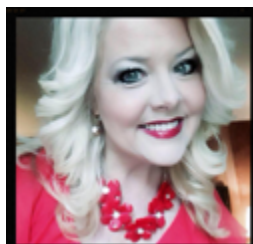
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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.



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

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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://www.paigegivens.com).

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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](http://www.thelorefamilyministries.com). To learn more about Fayth's blog, visit [www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com](http://www.truepurposegirls.weebly.com).



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

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



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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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

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

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



Charlie Griffin is an avid gospel music fan, soloist, teacher and speaker. He is a staff writer for SGNscoops featuring highlighting Southern Gospel Music history. You can follow Charlie Griffin on Facebook, Twitter or visit him at [www.CharlieGriffin.net](http://www.CharlieGriffin.net).