

DECEMBER 2018

SGN SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



JASON CRABB

Revival of Love



ALSO FEATURING

Les Beasley , Lindsey Graham and Doyle Lawson

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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

Greetings everyone and I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas! We are in the month of December here at SGNscoops Magazine and wow, where has the year gone? It has gone by way too fast.

I can't believe we're already talking about Christmas and New Year. Of course, as you get older, it goes by faster; or perhaps there is so much more going on in your life that it just seems that way. I don't know, I haven't figured that part out yet, but I want to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas from all of us at SGNscoops magazine. We're excited about another year of growth and about the events that have taken place throughout 2018.

Speaking of seasons, we are in winter now and of course, the holidays, but life is a lot like that. We as Christians move through many different seasons in our life. So often we don't look at our experiences; we are always either looking back or looking forward. I want to challenge you today that whatever season you're in, wherever you're at right now in your life, that you take the time to enjoy that season.

I know a lot of people, when they go through a season that maybe they don't like - like perhaps a winter season in your faith - that you have to believe that the future, and your spring, is just around the corner. Try to believe that whatever God is doing in your life, whatever is challenging you right now, that God will move you into the next phase of the next season. We're not here for forever. You may feel like this season has gone on far too long but you also need to realize that God is just getting ready for the next thing.

Think about this: The shepherds out in the field that saw the star and then saw the angel who said that the Savior was born in a manger.

Now, think about their life. They were sheep-herders, they lived that life, they were out in the field; they probably didn't think anything about the next season of their life, or about what was ahead for them.

They didn't realize at that moment that up to this point - I mean think about how cool this was - their life as shepherds led to this point.

They didn't realize that they were going to go and see the King, that they were going to see the Savior, the King of the Jews.

It is incredible how their lives were prepared. It was like they were in a training for this day. They weren't at the point of fulfilling what they were going to do but they were in a training moment.



Then a star comes, the angel appears, they are told that the Savior was born and that they have to see the King! Their lives change at that moment. You can read the whole story about what happens to the shepherds but their lives change at that moment forever. If they hadn't been prepared as shepherds prior to this point, they wouldn't have been there that night, or been able to go to the stable.

I want you challenge you today to think about your life. Right now, this season. It may be a winter season in your spiritual life, or in your physical life, but I want to challenge you today that this moment is preparing you for what the future holds for you. Like the shepherds, I want you to be prepared for the next season, which could come at any moment. I want you to be ready.

A new year is coming for you, a new season is coming. After all, we already are thinking about spring, we're getting ready for it, preparing for it. I know I am. It's cold right now and I'm excited about what's to come. I'm excited about that next season.

We need to be excited, prepared, seeking and doing what God has for each of us in this season of life. One moment completely changed the lives and focus of the shepherds. It can happen just that quickly for you.

Hey, I want to invite you to come and be a part of Southern Gospel Weekend in Oxford, Alabama, on March 21 - 23, 2019. Three great days of gospel music in Alabama. We want you to be there.

Also, make plans to be a part of Creekside 2019, Oct. 27 - 31, for four great days of gospel music in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.. We are going to have a blast and we want you to be there. Email me for details about either of these events, or how the Lord is changing your life, at rob@sgnscoops.com.



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Les Beasley: A Gospel Music Pioneer

By Charlie Griffin

The President of the National Quartet Convention (NQC) Les Beasley passed away at the age of 90 on Nov. 17, 2018. He is best remembered for his many years as singer, manager and joint owner of the Florida Boys Quartet.

The Texas native was born in 1928. He served in the US Marine Corp., serving four years in the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division. He was among the first soldiers deployed to Korea after the Korean War began. He was active in the battles in South and North Korea.

In 1953, JG Whitfield hired Beasley to sing lead for the Gospel Melody Quartet. The group was renamed the Florida Boys in 1956, as Wally Fowler continually introduced the quartet at the all-night sings as the "Boys from Florida."

Beasley and Whitfield saw television as the new medium to reach the masses. Their first endeavor was a 30-minute TV show called "The Gospel Song Shop," in

1961. Beasley introduced and produced the hour-long gospel TV show, "Gospel Singing Jubilee," in 1964. The Florida Boys, Happy Goodmans, Dixie Echoes and Couriers Quartet were the flagship groups debuting this new show. At the peak of popularity, the Gospel Singing Jubilee was featured in more than 90 television markets across America. The Jubilee was a nationally syndicated television program, known as the longest running television program in the history of gospel music.

Since 1947, fans have flocked to see the Florida Boys. They appeared on the first gospel quartet concert ever held in New York's Carnegie Hall. To perform at Carnegie Hall is recognized as the zenith of one's career. With No. 1 hits like "Standing on The Solid Rock", "When He Was on The Cross, I Was on His Mind", "Lead Me to The Altar" and "I Lean on You Lord", this legendary group recorded some 100 albums and attained a following of devoted fans and listeners, including the late Elvis Presley. Beasley, along with Glen Allred and Derrell Stewart carried on the Florida Boys Quartet tradition until 2007,

when they retired from fulltime gospel music travels with their last song on the NQC stage.

Beasley remained active in the Gospel music scene even after retirement. He would show up at concerts, or a church singing in the south, or at the Memphis Quartet Show. He was at the NQC shaking hands and talking to friends old and new alike. He never met a stranger and his love of gospel music never waned.

Les was a quartet front person for sure but there is so much more to him in his gospel music involvement. He was active in the management and progressive development of the National Quartet Convention. Beasley, along with seven other gospel music veterans and business men, purchased the NQC from JG Whitfield in 1982. Over the next 36 years, the NQC grew tremendously with Beasley eventually serving as president. He was elected as the NQC president 28 times. His son Clarke is today the Executive Vice President/ Director of NQC operations.

Beasley worked diligently with Gospel Music Association as a life time member. He was the key influencer in creating, naming and designing the Dove Awards, Christian music's highest honor for outstanding artistry



in the world of gospel music. In later years, he worked to develop the Southern Gospel Music Association. He is also known for his support of the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame and the Gospel Music Trust Fund as a founding member.

Les was a man of many sides. You could see him playing softball with the Inspirations or Singing Echoes at their annual outdoor gospel sings. From telling a 'yarn' back-



stage to other singers and fans to cruising on the Singing At Sea or at the all-night sings at Bonifay and Waycross, Les would take time to talk to fans and aspiring gospel singers alike.

Writers note: I booked the Florida Boys at the Hallelujah Supper Club many times over those years. On one occasion Les called and said, "Can we get in early to set up and maybe practice some?" The group quickly set up and started practicing new songs for their upcoming recording. As they sang one song, I was off to the side setting up food warmers and noticed a tear being wiped from his eye. Les later said, "That song just does something for me." It was "When He Was On The Cross I Was On His Mind." He knew the "why" in that song. I saw it in his testimony.

This legitimate legend always had a kind word of encouragement to the younger generation. He was quick to comment on what someone did right and quick to help you when you were down too. As a young singer and promoter, I worked a concert with the Florida Boys and a couple of other groups. I did not have a good crowd. As I started to pay the group, Les said, "Let me help you out a little. We didn't draw you a good crowd, so let's cut the flat some." He will never know how much his concern meant financially or emotionally that day. I have never forgotten his kindness or friendship.

Les was also a family man. He was married to his wife Frances for 50 years and has six children, 12 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. He made Cantonment, Fla., home.

Gospel music lost a real pioneer with the heavenly graduation of Les Beasley. His impact will be felt for years to come, as he planted seeds while sharing the good news. Sewing those good seeds and deeds will help the generations to come who love the same music Les Beasley worked so hard to develop and grow.

The Beasley family appreciates your prayers in this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Gospel Music Trust Fund, P.O. Box 932, Brentwood, TN, 37024.

Les Beasley Achievements:



- Produced “The Gospel Singing Jubilee”, the nationally syndicated program that ran for years, originating in 1964
- President of the Gospel Music Association for two years
- Lifetime member of the Board of Directors of the Gospel Music Association (GMA)
- He, Bill Gaither and Herman Harper, as a committee, suggested to the GMA board that an awards program be a part of the annual meeting. The Dove Awards is the result of that suggestion.
- President of a Southern Gospel Music Association that later became the Southern Gospel Music Guild
- President of the National Quartet Convention Board that promotes the National Quartet Convention
- Member of the GMA Hall of Fame
- Member of the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame and the Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame
- Member of the Christian Music Hall of Fame

Tributes to a Pioneer

When I was growing up there were two programs that my parents watched religiously that introduced me to gospel music. One was the Gospel Singing Caravan with the Lefevres and the other was the Gospel Singing Jubi-

lee hosted by the Florida Boys and Les Beasley.

As a young child I dreamed of growing up and being in Gospel Music. The Lord allowed me to live that dream. In my career in radio which started in 1973 and eventually led to my being the Editor in Chief of the Gospel Voice Magazine, I got to meet many of my childhood heroes. None were any better to interview than Les Beasley.

He was always willing to give advice and encouragement and many groups today counted him as their go to man for advice. Les's full contribution to our favorite music and souls saved will not be told until we get to Heaven. Les is now there getting the quartets all lined up and ready for our entrance. God bless you Les Beasley. You will be missed but we'll see you soon on "Hallelujah Square" as we all see "The Scars in the Hands of Jesus." -- Garry Cohn, former Editor in Chief of the Gospel Voice Magazine

It is hard to imagine the void that lies ahead. It is going to be quite different without hearing Les Beasley say, “Brother Jones, you haven't gotten any better looking since the last time I saw you.”

The joy of seeing him grin like he had scored the winning touchdown for LSU has slipped away.

There's a painful twinge in knowing I won't be able to return his greeting with my standard response of, “I'll get to work on spiffing up for you right now.”

You see, Les was the friend who would encourage me, as well as the friend who would take me by the elbow, pull me to a corner, and tell me to listen a little more and talk a little less.

Likewise, Les was a tremendously kind-hearted man, and in ways most people will never know. Les quietly went to bat for me more than once, even when he had no real reason to. In fact, without Les and the chain of events he set in motion decades ago, I may have never landed in a role at Singing News.

But he did, and for that, I am grateful.

So, Les, until that day when you walk up to me again and say, “Brother Jones...” and I see that mischievous smile ... I'll get to work on spiffing up for you right now. -- Danny Jones, Publisher, Singing News

The passing of our dear longtime friend Les Beasley has brought back precious memories of great times Howard and I had with him and his wife Francis. He loved to tease me by saying I was older than him because I was one month older. He was born in Texas and was inducted into the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame long ago, and is a member of every Gospel Music Hall

Of Fame in existence. He was President of the National Quartet Convention 28 years. We served together on the GMA Board Of Directors and we both were honored with Lifetime memberships! Les Beasley's contributions to gospel music are beyond written words. Our love and prayers go out to his son Clarke and to Francis and all the family. -- Lou Wills Hildreth, Houston, Texas. Member of the Wills Family.



It started with a wrong number, the first time I spoke to Les Beasley. He needed a tenor by the next week and after he called a wrong number, someone told him about me. I'll never forget the night he called as I was sitting in my parents home. I was sneakily trying to hint to my parents who exactly was on the phone so I asked, "well,

where exactly do the Florida Boys sing?" It was the best sentence I could come up with that said Florida Boys. I remember my dad looking at my mom and mouthing "The Florida Boys!" Les began to laugh on the other end of the phone and then said, "Oh, I don't mean to laugh at you son, it just struck me funny as I tried to remember all the places I've sung in the last 50 years. Pig barns, car lots, people's living rooms, on the back of a lot of flatbed trailers." We both laughed at that.

One of the things that stood out was his sense of humor. He loved a good joke and he liked to tease and be teased by people he respected. If he traded barbs with you, he thought pretty highly of you.

Another was his private generosity. I can't tell you how many times I heard people say that Les had given to them when they were in need. The greatest part was I never heard about it from him. He didn't brag on himself, he never needed to, but he sure could have.

Once very early in my tenure, when I had mixed up the verses on a song and just made up the second verse, Les came up the mic laughing and said, "Son, that was so good, sing that second verse again just exactly as you just did." The scared look on my face sent him, Glen, Derrell, and Buddy into fits of laughter. Thankfully, he didn't make me attempt it.

I can't tell you how many times I heard that first year that I'd never make it cause Les would get rid of me, but that never happened. Les never once acted like my

job was on the line or threatened in any way. It wasn't until my wife came to me to tell me we were going to have our first baby, that I asked to leave. I told them I'd stay as long as they needed which ended up being 13 weeks and I've no doubt Les would have let me stay if I changed my mind.

He reminded me a lot of my father in so many ways and now that they have both passed on, the similarities stand out even more to me.

He was an honorable man, generous, hard working and loyal, and if you knew him, you are better off because of it. I know I am. -- Allen Cox, former tenor of the Florida Boys

Thousands of gospel music lovers have their own story of hearing Les Beasley hosting "The Gospel Singing Jubilee," each Sunday morning, which many of us used as clocks in getting ready to head out to Sunday morning church. That is where many learned the songs and the groups before we ever saw them in person.

Televisions had just come out: Large groups of people in our town would stand outside the appliance store to watch TV. We begged our daddy, a pastor, to buy us a television. He said that if we were ever going to get one of those things with the devil ears on it, then someone would have to give it to us. That Saturday night Les Beasley drew our sister, Sharon's, name at a Florida Boys concert in Columbus, Georgia (to win a TV). Of course he was our hero from then on.

Recently, the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame pulled out that old television set to use when TBN network hosted the Southern Gospel Music Guild



Harmony Honors with Les on the front row, receiving the Lifetime Honor from his son, Clarke Beasley, president of the SGMG. It was a great moment which they also spotlighted again at the National Quartet Convention in a afternoon showcase.

A few years ago, Les shared with Homecoming Magazine's Emily Sutherland, a heartwarming story: Les and Frances (his wife), had traveled back to South Korea where Les had been engaged in combat decades earlier. He rarely discussed those difficult memories — but when he went back to the old battleground, he found a thriving university campus located at the very spot where some of the fiercest fighting took place. As he witnessed the vibrancy of that campus, buzzing with optimism, he experienced some important closure as he saw firsthand the fruits of the sacrifice he and so many others had made for the sake of freedom.

Emily Sutherland ended her honor with a salute to Les Beasley for his patriotism, gritty courage, steadfast faith and long-term investment in the preservation and continuation of gospel music!

And without a doubt we all agree.

Les Beasley will never be forgotten or replaced. -- Judy Nelon, the Judy Nelon Group

We hope you enjoyed this look at the life of a legitimate legend, Les Beasley. Special thanks to those who sent us their memories and tributes. Les Beasley will be missed.

Thanks to Judy Nelon for photographs appearing in this feature.



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O Come, Let Us Adore Him!



By Jennifer Campbell

During the 13th century, one individual wrote down the words to what would later evolve into the lyrics of the beloved Christmas carol, “Adeste Fideles,” also known as “O Come All Ye Faithful.” While it is believed that John Francis Wade is the one responsible for bringing these lyrics to the Christian church, uncertainty remains as to who is primarily responsible for the accompanying tune. Still, one thing will always remain crystal clear: this song is a call for everyone to adore the king of kings and Lord of Lords.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

The year was 1745. Wade found himself in the midst of a battle between the Church of England and the Church of Rome. During this time, many Catholics were forced to hide their faith from those around them. Others fled the country, seeking religious freedom. Wade chose to leave everything behind on a desperate quest for freedom to worship the one true and living God.

Having found refuge as a music teacher for British Roman Catholic exiles in Douai, France, he worked diligently to preserve documents of the church and to transcribe sacred music that otherwise may have been lost forever. God rewarded his persistence by giving him the ability to write

many songs, including the much-loved Christmas carol, “O Come All Ye Faithful.”

Just imagine. Wade was surrounded by trouble on every side, being persecuted for his faith and eventually having to flee his home country. Yet, in the midst of this turmoil, he stood firm in his walk with God. He knew giving God praise and adoration was the key to having a meaningful and happy life. Despite the many trials he faced, he remained faithful to God.

In the fourth verse of Wade’s cherished song, the lyrics state, “O Jesus! Forever be thy name adored.” He did not write, at Christmastime be thy name adored. Instead, he wrote “Forever.” Most assuredly, Wade knew that we should adore the name of Jesus continually, every moment of the day, all year.

People often say they adore their parents, their children, their spouse, and their friends. They even adore their homes, pets, automobiles, smartphones, clothing, you name it. Think about the things you own and the people you know. If you were to answer the question above, what or whom do you truly adore?

While there is nothing wrong with loving your family or even your furry friends, we need to ensure we reserve our complete adoration for the only one who is truly worthy. Although the modern word, adore, may simply mean to be particularly fond of someone or something, the word adore originates from the Latin word adorare,

which means “to worship.” I love my family very much, but I would never worship them. Do you actually worship people or things? Let us be careful to reserve our adoration for the only one whom we should worship.

God is the one who deserves all of our glory, honor, and praise. Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only’” (Luke 4:8). God is our Creator. Psalm 100:3 states, “Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” Shouldn’t we desire to worship the one who created us? He is our heavenly father. Because of his great love for us, he sent his son, Jesus, to be born in a manger. Jesus lived on earth for 33 years until he was crucified for the forgiveness of our sins. He rose again the third day and is praying for us at this very moment. No one is more deserving of our complete adoration.

“O Come All Ye Faithful” was originally intended to be a hymn, sung year-round in the church. When I hear this beloved song, I can’t help but feel overwhelmed with a

renewed joy due to the gratefulness in my heart for the love that Jesus Christ has shown to me every day of my life. That is why I do not see this song as a Christmas carol, but instead, as an anthem for all seasons. We should give praise to Jesus Christ 365 days a year.

This Christmas season, let us remember to place our focus on the true reason for Christmas. Christmas is not a season solely meant for gift-giving, party planning, and cookie baking. This glorious holiday season centers on the birth of Jesus Christ, the king of kings and Lord of Lords. And so, I invite you to join me. “O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

Is there something in your life that is preventing you from praising the name of Jesus Christ continually? No matter what you are going through, Jesus Christ cares about you. This Christmas, remember to take time to thank him for his unending love and the sacrifice he made just for you and me. Give him the adoration and praise he is so worthy of receiving, not just on Christmas, but every day.



We would like to thank all Dj's for taking time on us and allowing our music to reach places that we may not be able to go and sing. We look forward to the future and we are excited to see what God has in store.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CALL YOUR LOCAL DJ AND REQUEST:

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A poster for Richard Lynch featuring a man in a cowboy hat playing an acoustic guitar. The text "RICHARD LYNCH" is at the top in large red letters. Below it, a quote from Digital Journal says: "Richard Lynch's 'Pray On The Radio' is an important tune for the times that we are living in." A list of radio stations follows: ICR, KSTV, WEIS, WGQR, WJLE, WRMV, WYKX, ARC ANGEL, KPKK, KJIR, KJNP, KROZ, KEYE, KORN, Country Barnyard, KPRO, KVMN, WBSA, WCHG, WFLO, WJFC, WJLS, WKAX, WKLF, WPPL, WSMG, KWXT, WFLQ, WNKS, WLRC, WBCE, WBTX, WFSR, WTSY. At the bottom left is the "MTS" logo (Mountain Top Talent Services) and at the bottom right is the "WTC" logo (Wayne Thang Country Radio) and the website www.richardlynchband.com.



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Jason Crabb

Praying for a Revival of Love



By Lorraine Walker

Jason Crabb and his wife, Shellye, were married 20 years ago. After two decades, they have grown a family, observed twenty Christmas Eves, developed a thriving career in Christian music, and celebrated many awards, including Grammy, Dove, and Diamond.

Jason, along with his brothers and sisters, still makes limited appearances as the Crabb Family, 22 years following their first concert. They get together as a family as often as possible.

This artist knows that the best things in life are the things that last. Things like faith, love and family. And gatherings during one of the most holiest times of the Christian calendar.

“We really like to get together with family,” says Jason about his Christmas traditions. “It’s just family time. The perfect Christmas for me, would be to go back home to Kentucky and spend it with my family. To go to one of those little bitty Christmas plays that the kids do, in one of those little country churches that I grew up in. Watch Mary drop the baby Jesus doll in the manger scene. Those things you just never forget. You know, the main thing for me is Jesus and family during that time.”

The Crabb family has been blessed with the ability to share their love for Jesus musically, and now Jason has started flexing his songwriting muscles on his latest award-winning release, “Unexpected.” Not every song on this recording is one he has written, however.

“The best song always wins, doesn’t matter if you wrote it or whoever else,” Jason states. “But how can we get up and say ‘this is me,’ if we didn’t have any part of the creation? I didn’t think I had it in me to create it.

“So I’ve gotten wise,” Jason grins. “I’ve got people around me to help me, you know, get with writers, to get with people that are a great help to put all the pieces together of what I want to say, to glue it all together, make a great piece of artwork. Instead of one holding the brush, there’s three, and then the band comes along and there’s numerous people.

“Music is a neat art form. At least, they call it an art form.”

Jason explains, “Usually when you see a painting it’s one person. But when you hear music, it’s multiple people pulling it together, as a team, which is good or it can be



bad, you know what I mean? If you give the brush to the wrong people, then you're in trouble."

A theme running through Jason's songs on the album, both his own and those written by other contributors, is that of water. "The Love In Your Heart Knows The Way," one of his accomplishments, contains liquid lyrics, like, "What would you do for a drowning man?"

Jason relates, "I wrote that song about the flood victims because they're in Texas, they were having riots in the streets, and everyone was angry and throwing stuff. Hate was going on. Now the flood happens and some of the same people that disagreed politically or whatever, are now helping each other get into a boat to save their lives. I'm thinking, 'Why can't we be that everyday instead of when a tragedy happens.'"

However, sometimes the best intentioned words can be strike the wrong chord.

"We were in Texas the other day playing," Jason recalls. "They were just telling me how they had remodeled their church (after the flood and hurricane) and suddenly every song I was going through was like, 'Washed By The Water,' and all the water songs. The next thing I know, I'm going, 'I'm so sorry, I'm singing all these songs about water!'"

Gerald Crabb, Jason's father writes the passionately personal, "You Chose To Be My Friend," that Jason calls the best "Pinterest post" of the plan of salvation. Whether the songwriting skill is passed down through nature or nurture, Jason says he's not at the place where he can pour out his private thoughts for public consumption.

Jason explains, "I heard Michael. W. Smith say something that was so profound, about a friend of his that came to him who said, 'I finally got to the place that I don't care what anyone else thinks. It's the most liberating place I've been.' Michael. W. Smith goes, 'Wouldn't it be nice to be at that place.'"

The issue with writing deeply introspective songs is that the audience begins to speculate about their meaning. Jason is concerned that this speculation could go too far.

"So I think, not trying to hide anything in my life, I just don't want to put any questions in anybody's head," he maintains. "Sometimes I look at songs and go, 'I don't know if I can do that or not.'"

The Crabb Family has sung very personal songs that Gerald wrote. "What about 'Please Forgive Me?'" Jason continues. "That song is so real and raw. 'I've Come To Take You Home,' is a great Biblical song my dad wrote, back some time ago. 'Come Down To Me.' So...I haven't got there yet. And probably will never ever write a song like that, that good."

"The cool thing was," he explains, "I was underneath the same roof as the man that held the pen. The thing that gets me, is I remember listening to the songs that we used to listen to that my dad would put on. And I would





hear the reflections in his lyric and in the style that he writes. I know all of those reflections are there because I was there.”

It's obvious Jason wants his songs to speak richly of how Jesus' love can turn a life around, like Gerald's lyrics explain.

“I love that style of music,” says Jason with a smile. “I love a story song that grabs ahold of you and takes you to that place, and paints that picture that you want to be painted. Versus, something like, ‘we're dancing on the streets of glory...’ It's like, wait a minute, how did I even get here. It was because God pulled me out of a ditch to make it to those streets.

“So I think, ‘Okay, what road were you on before you got to those golden streets? How did you get there?’ Because that's the thing that I think a lot of writers are missing writing. This is where I was... but this is what God has done for me. He's helped change me. And I'm still in the process of changing,” concludes Jason.

Sometimes, the artist feels he needs to speak out about world events.

“There's a song that's called ‘Love Will Have The Final Word.’ It deals with the hate that's in the world today. It comes from one thing: The enemy. He wants to destroy, kill us, make you and I start talking differences instead of seeing the likenesses of each other. Whatever the enemy can use to push us away from each other and be bitter, frustrated, or even get to a bad point of hate or disagreement, that's what he wants to do. But one day, he will have to bow a knee!” declares Jason.

Another thread that passes through the entirety of Jason Crabb's music and performance, is love. You hear it in

the lyrics, in his actions and speech on stage, and afterward, when he greets his fans with a hug and a perceptive word of notice. His humility and ability to relate to each one imparts significance and value.

This Christmas, Jason wishes that this love from Jesus Christ it is his privilege to share, could spread out and envelope the whole nation.

“For the country, I wish that there would be a great revival of love,” declares Jason. “I wish that the love of Jesus would just completely saturate this world. I think that it would be such a great thing. There are people that are so driven by hate.

“The Bible talks about deceivers,” Jason settles into this discussion. “What is being deceived? It's being wrongly opinionated. How did you get (wrong opinions)? Because you were deceived. How did (we) get deceived? Because we were not following what God wants for us or we were not being led by the Spirit or led by Jesus or the love of God.



“So the people that are being deceived don't even know they are being deceived. They think they're right. They think that's the truth. And the righteous think that they're so righteous, that they are all truth.” Jason pauses, then notes, “The love of Jesus breaks self-righteousness, religion, breaks those walls down, and breaks the (deception) down.

“Jesus was crucified because of religion. Religion and also hatred towards power. Religion and power. Have we ever seen religion and power in a war with each other like now? In the day of Jesus, they came and got Jesus because they used religion, twisted it, and said he's going to try to take your throne, he's calling himself King, King of the Jews, King of Kings, and the only King. They

twisted things. All of that is deception. Deception.

“We think we know what's right politically, what's right in the world today? No, we have opinions, but what's God say about what's right? What does he say about me that I need to fix, before I even start to judge who's right? Because if I don't fix myself, I'm not seeing through the right eyes to even make a great hypothesis on what is going on, in our country and in the world today,” expounds Jason.



“The only thing that I can do is what I know,” he continues. “And what I know is... It sounds to me like the very people, the very same people, who said, ‘Crucify him!’ because that's all that they knew to do.

“So I'm wondering today if the church would have been at the crucifixion, and the world would have been there too... I wonder if we would have all yelled, ‘Crucify him!’ Which words would I have said? Release him? Or crucify him? Because of all that I know,” Jason says sadly.

He leans forward to declare with intensity: “We need a revival of love!”

“The Bible says, ‘Love thy neighbor.’ So I pray for a big spiritual revival of love, the love of Jesus. Don't mistake me, not like a Woodstock (type of) ‘Peace, Love’... I'm talking about the love of Jesus, and loving each other. I would love to see racial tension dispelled, completely broken,” concludes Jason.

This Christmas Eve, as the Crabb family gathers together to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, Jason has another thought about what he would like to find in his Christmas stocking.



“For me personally, and my family, I would like to see...” He grins and says, “I would like to pull out of my stocking a bank statement that says, ‘Paid For,’ on everything that I owe! That

would be me dancing around the Christmas tree! And I would wear that stocking! For the rest of my life!” Laughter ends this declaration.

Merry Christmas and may God grant Jason both of his Christmas wishes!

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

1. Rolled Back Stone - Greater Vision
2. Jailbreak - Joseph Habedank
3. Jesus Messiah - The Gaither Vocal Band
4. Run The Race - The Hyssongs
5. Faithful - The Whisnants
6. Meeting In The Middle of The Air - The Tribute Quartet
7. Love, Love, Love - Gordon Mote
8. Watch And See - The Erwins
9. Never Changes - The Steeles
10. Anything Less - The Taylors
11. I Know I'll Be There - Karen Peck And New River
12. Deep In My Heart - Legacy Five
13. Treasures In Heaven - The Mark Trammell Quartet
14. Every Moment, Every Mountain, Every Mile - The Williamsons
15. Sihouette - The Wisecarvers
16. Grab Your Umbrella - The Talleys
17. Beat Up Bible - The Down East Boys
18. Longing For Home - Ernie Haase And Signature Sound
19. Lost - The Jim Brady Trio
20. You Chose To Be My Friend - Jason Crabb
21. Mount Testimony - The Lore Family
22. Don't Underestimate God's Grace - The Kingsmen
23. I'm Gonna Wish I Had Worried Less - Mark Bishop
24. Beyond Amazed - Brian Free And Assurance
25. Freedom Don't Come Easy- Debra Perry And Jaidyn's Call
26. The Cross Is All The Proof I Need - The Triumphant Quartet

27. You Better Get Right - The Jordan Family Band
28. Power in Prayer - 11th Hour
29. Grace, Love And Mercy - The 3rd Row Boys
30. Peace Is On The Way - The Old Paths
31. Good News Never Gets Old - Three Bridges
32. I Want To Be The One - Tim Livingston
33. When I Wake Up To Sleep No More - The Old Time Preachers Quartet
34. Let My Light So Shine - Zane and Donna King
35. Saved - Hazel Parker Stanley
36. By and By - The Hoppers
37. Heaven Just Got Sweeter For You - The Kingdom Heirs
38. Running - The Martins
39. I Can't Hardly Wait - Curtis Hyler And Jubilation
40. Mercy and Love - The Collingsworth Family
41. He's Making Me - Amber Nelon Thompson
42. The Ground Is Level - The Bibletones
43. Who Do You Know - Mercy's Well
44. The News Is Out - Georgia
45. The Old Gospel Ship - Chronicle
46. He Is The Only One - The Dixie Echoes
47. Yes He Did, Yes He Does, Yes He Will - The Master's Voice
48. We Believe - The Troy Burns Family
49. One of These Mornings - Avenue
50. Give Your Smile Away - The Wilbanks
51. It Carried Him - The Perrys



52. So Good To Me - The McKameys
53. God Fights On My Side - The Guardians
54. If He Hung The Moon - Eagle's Wings
55. That's What Happened At The Cross - Exodus
56. By The Marks In His Hands - Doyle Lawson And Quicksilver
57. Looking Through The Eyes Of Love - The Ferguson Family
58. You Can Get There From Here - MARK209
59. Love - HighRoad
60. Let Me Take You To The Cross - Ivan Parker
61. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff And Sheri Easter
62. I Will Not Be Shaken - Jason Davidson
63. All My Hope - The Dodrill Family
64. Before You Change The World - Lindsey Graham
65. The Thing About A Valley - Steve Ladd
66. He Set Me Free - Sunday Drive
67. The Return - The Soul'd Out Quartet
68. Wanna Be - Southern Raised
69. Don't Look Back - The Rochesters
70. Pray for Power - Pauline Patterson
71. The Calm At The Center Of My Storm - River's Edge
72. That's Grace - The Primitive Quartet
73. Where is The Valley - Ricky Atkinson And Compassion
74. Coming On Strong - Cami Shrock
75. I Know Him - The Inspirations
76. What Kind of A Man- Surrendered
77. Testify - Cheri Taylor
78. I Need To Trust Jesus - Paul James Sound
79. I Believe - The Bros.4
80. How Can I Doubt That -The Hinson Family
81. God Told Me To Walk A Little Farther - The Porter Family
82. Choose Happy - Tim Lovelace
83. Broken Things - Avery Road
84. On The Sea Of Life - Jeff And Sheri Easter

85. The Fight – Battle Cry
86. Everywhere I Go - The Heath Brothers
87. Power In The Blood/Are You Washed In The Blood - The Blackwood Brothers Quartet
88. Long Gone - Victoria Bowlin
89. Yours, Amen - Isaacs
90. It's Gonna Be A Great Day - Jason Cooper
91. Amazing Grace - Jeremiah's Call
92. By The Touch Of Your Hand -The Messiah's Call
93. In Jesus' Name - Michael Combs
94. Pictures - Jessica Horton
95. Did I Please God Today - Mike Upright
96. When Jesus Comes In The Clouds - The Anchormen
97. Back To My Senses - The Arenos
98. All That Heaven Holds - The Bates Family
99. Decided To Believe - Day Three
100. Let's Meet By The River - The Bakers

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Deborah Evans Price

“Country Faith” expands into the Southern gospel realm



By Craig Harris

Deborah Evans Price has been telling the stories of musical artists for decades.

However, she's recently been transitioning in a different form of delivery.

Price co-founded “Country Faith” with Bob DeMoss and Wildfire7, a multi-media content production, management and marketing organization.

“It is really exciting,” Price says. “It all started with the first ‘Country Faith’ book. It was 2013. My literary agent came to me and said Zondervan was doing a book about country artists and their favorite scriptures. They were looking for a writer who knew about country music.

“I met the publisher and got the job. I thought it would be really cool to have a companion CD. We did our first CD. Today, now the eighth CD has released in the music series. I’m the executive producer. Some of the songs

are big hits that everybody knows ... like Rascal Flatts’ ‘Changed.’ I also included some album cuts that maybe weren’t singles that everybody should hear. There’s a song called, ‘What’s a Broken Heart for You,’ that Wade Hayes wrote.”

Price has served as a freelance journalist who works extensively with “Billboard” since 1994, primarily focusing on feature writing and news pieces. She is also a contributing writer for “Redbook,” “People” and “Woman’s World,” among other publications.

“I feel like God put me here to help people tell their stories,” Price points out. “That’s a privilege. I love what I do.”

She’s worked with a variety of celebrities and artists, an extensive list of notable individuals that includes Dolly Parton, Don Henley, Bon Jovi, Smokey Robinson, Kiefer Sutherland, Carrie Underwood, Brad Paisley, Rascal



Flatts, Taylor Swift, Darius Rucker, Reba McEntire, Dennis Quaid, Tim Tebow and Blake Shelton.

Included among the Country Faith projects is a Christmas recording, which has a song by Carrie Underwood and Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

"It's kind of fun to have the hits on these CDs but also to introduce some brand-new artists," Price shares. "When you pick one up, you're going to see artists that you know and some artists that you ought to know."

The Christmas album was widely acclaimed.

"The first Christmas album, we got written up in 'People' (magazine) as one of the gifts you should give that year," Price recalls. "It's been great to see all these take off."

The first book – both of which were written by Price – was a 2013 release simply titled "Country Faith," followed by the 2015 release of "Country Faith Christmas," which consisted of 37 artists.

"We did the first book, and the publisher – Zondervan and Thomas Nelson merged – and the guy who championed the book was no longer there (DeMoss)," Price explains. "We decided to buy the rights to 'Country Faith' with another guy, Danny McGuffey. We ended up buying back the first book and dreaming about what all we could do with it."

The level of response was not expected.

"I am totally surprised and very thankful," Price emphasizes. "I thought, 'Well, we'll do a couple of books and a couple of CDs to go with it.' I think about all the great songs that have populated those collections ... I'm really surprised. The CDs have done great in Cracker Barrel (restaurants).

"To pinpoint why 'Country Faith' resonates is that most Country Music listeners are believers. People have been wonderfully supportive. That makes me feel good. There has always been a connection between country music and gospel music."

"Country Faith Southern Gospel" is the seventh release and includes songs from Jason Crabb, Janet Paschal, Michael English, Karen Peck and New River, Legacy Five,





Joseph Habedank, the Nelons, Mark Lowry, the Happy Goodmans, the Cathedrals, Greater Vision, the Crabb Family and the Oak Ridge Boys, among others.

“It just seemed like a natural extension of the brand to go into the Southern gospel field,” Price points out. “There’s so many great projects. I’m hoping this one does well and that there’s a volume two and three and four. These songs mean so much to me.

“I just love Jason Crabb. When he got inducted into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in May, he asked me to induct him. I got to stand up there and tell everyone how wonderful Jason is and give him his award.”

Price – who won the Country Music Association Media Achievement Award in 2013 – has been around the Southern gospel music landscape for a long while.

“I love Southern gospel music,” Price shares. “I’m old enough to have interviewed (long-time Cathedrals members) Glen Payne and George Younce. Jason Crabb ... I buy his CDs and give them away, because people need to hear it. Karen Peck ... I love the Nelons ... I grew up loving the Oak Ridge Boys. I used one of their songs in my wedding. I have gotten to know Duane (Allen, the lead singer of the Oak Ridge Boys). My momma passed away in the spring, and he called me and said he was praying for me. He sent me this and said I hope this helps me. It was (the group’s song) “Brand New Star.” How cool is that? It’s the first song on ‘Country Faith

Southern Gospel.’

“My parents growing up played Merle Haggard. They played the Cathedrals, the LeFevres. They played country and Southern gospel music in our house. My dad was in the air force. We moved around a lot. When you’re stuck in a foreign country as a teenager, music was kind of a lifeline.”

Price actually has an extensive list of Southern gospel favorites.

“Karen (Peck Gooch) sings like an angel,” Price points out. “We were listening to her today.

Joseph Habedank is amazing. He’s on the new CD. There’s so many ... Russ Taff will make you cry. He’s such an incredible voice. The Oak Ridge Boys and the Nelons ... Kelly Nelon is just precious. There’s so many amazing artists. The Bishops ... I love Kenny Bishop. I love Mark Lowry. I’m real excited about Canton Junction, and they are sweet people. The Isaacs and Jeff and Sheri Easter are also among the artists I’m a fan of hearing.”

Price has also written two other books, a 2010 release entitled “Country Music Association Awards Vault” and “Word Records 60-Year History.”

And there also should be more to come in the “Country Faith” series.



"We're hoping to put together a television special, a Christmas special, for next year," Price says.

"Television is a whole different ball game. I'd love to see the TV thing come to fruition.

"We're also talking about doing a 'Country Faith' cruise. Time Life does cruises now. Every January, they do a country music cruise. This will be my fifth year being a speaker on the cruise. I'll get on stage and interview artists about their career and how their faith impacts their life. This year, I'm doing seminars (on the cruise) with the Bellamy Brothers, Wade Hayes, Jimmy Fortune and Shenandoah."

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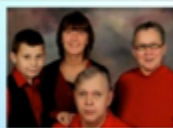
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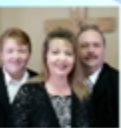
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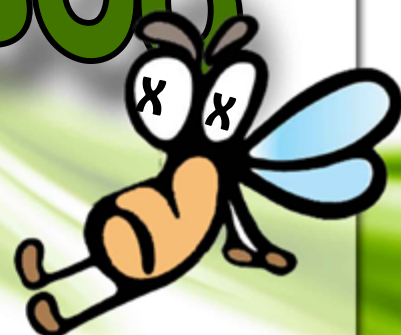
CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

1. **Wonderful - Lisa Daggs**
2. **There's No Place Too Far From Grace - Tina Wakefield**
3. **Send The Rain - Kolt Barber**
4. **Daddy I'm Home - Gene Reasoner**
5. **He's All I Need - Steve Warren**
6. **If The Bottle Was A Bible - Johnny Rowlett**
7. **Lord You Are Love - Sonshine Road**
8. **I'll Take It From Here - Bruce Hedrick**
9. **Living Proof - Wyatt Nations**
10. **I Know The End Of The Story - John Penney**
11. **See You There - Freddie Hart**
12. **Coming On Strong - Cami Shrock**
13. **Country As Cornbread - Shellem Cline**
14. **Don't Let The Devil Ride - Doug Corum**
15. **You Can Always Come Home - Steve Bridgmon/Allie Colleen**
16. **Call On Jesus - Ronnie Horton**
17. **Love You Like Mary - McKay Project**
18. **Always Better - Kevin and Kim Abney**
19. **When Grandma Prayed - Appointed 2**
20. **It's Written In The Scars - Dan Duncan**
21. **Family Ties - Barbara Fairchild**

22. I Got Saved - Michael Knight
23. I Miss Them All - Jordan Family Band
24. Take Her Name Off The Prayer List - Mark Lanier
25. Hide Me Behind The Cross - Tonja Rose
26. Oh, My God - Jami Lynn Flanakin
27. Take My Hand - Gunner Carr
28. Cinderella - Trinity Wennerstrom
29. Sunday Morning Meeting - Paul Winchester
30. The Songs Will Never End - The Tiptons
31. Sweet Whispers - Amy Richardson
32. Just Because I Asked You - Gena Hamilton
33. Remember The Soldier - David Gresham
34. Hey Brother D.J. - Jimmy R Price
35. The Old Man Is Dead - James Payne
36. Drinking New Wine - Michael Lee/ Daryle Singletary
37. No One Compares to You, Lord - Mary Fay Jackson
38. It's Gonna Be a Good Day - Christian Davis
39. Lord You Have - Jan Harbuck
40. Number One Fan - Hunter May

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Randall Reviews It - December 2018

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, salvation, and a hope of eternity with our Savior and soon coming King. This month I feature three new releases from Gold City, Ivan Parker, and the Collingsworth Family. 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... If you enjoy the reviews, pick up this music, or download it, wherever you get good gospel music.

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



Ivan Parker

"Christmas Dreaming"

Producer: Garry Jones

Label: Difference Media 2018

Songs: "There's No Place Like Home For The Holidays" (Al Stillman - Robert Allen ASCAP); "Christmas Dreaming" (Irving Gordon - Lester Lee ASCAP); "Angels We Have Heard On High" (Trad French Carol); "My Grown Up Christmas List" (David Foster - Linda Thompson BMI); "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year" (Eddie Pola - George Wyle ASCAP); "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" (Edmund Sears BMI); "It's beginning To Look A lot Like Christmas" (Meredith Wilson); "Christmas Time Is Here" (Lee Mendelson - Vince Guaraldi BMI); "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" (unknown BMI); "What Child Is This" (William Dix - Ivan Parker - Garry Jones)

It's been 17 long years since Ivan Parker recorded his first Christmas project. The wait was worth it. Ivan has released "Christmas Dreaming" and it's a dandy of a CD.

The CD kicks off with a Big Band arrangement of "There's No Place Like Home" and it showcases Ivan's warm baritone. It makes you long for more and Ivan delivers on this CD.

One of my favorites on the CD is "Christmas Dreaming" with Ivan crooning and making me wish I had his voice. Wow. Ivan slips in a few carols: "Angels We Have Heard On High," "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and "What Child Is This."

But the true highlights are the more modern Christmas material on this CD. "My Grown Up Christmas List," is for me the highlight of the CD, with Ivan crooning of longing for friendship, no war, and peace for all men, and that love would always win.

Overall the best Christmas CD in the past few years to have been recorded. Yes, the wait was worth it. Kudos to Garry Jones for the arrangements and pulling the best out of Ivan. Visit Ivan at facebook.com/ivanparkerofficial/ and get a copy of "Christmas Dreaming" at ivanparker.com/store_cds.html.

Strongest Songs: "Christmas Dreaming," "My Grown Up Christmas Wish," "Christmas Time Is Here"



The Collingsworth Family
"Mercy and Love"

Producer: David Clydesdale and Wayne Haun
Label: Stowtown Records 2018

Songs: "It Runs In The Family" (Daryl K. Williams - Kirk Talley ASCAP); "For What Earthly Reason" (Dottie Rambo SESAC); "God Still Delivers" (Marty Funderburk - John Mathis, Jr. BMI); "Magnify Him" (Kirk Talley BMI); "Mercy And Love" (Randall Garland - Rachel McCutcheon BMI); "Altar Of Grace" (Gina Boe - Rachel McCutcheon - Sue C. Smith ASCAP); "The Lamb" (Jeff Baumgardner - Joel Lindsey - Wayne Haun BMI); "Live Like Jesus" (Rebecca Peck - Dianne Wilkinson BMI); "Your Ways Are Higher Than Mine" (Rachel McCutcheon BMI); "Awesome Power Of Prayer" (Marcia Henry - Rachel McCutcheon BMI); "Bring It Broken" (Wayne Haun - Tony Wood SESAC); "Do You Know The Savior" (Karen Gillespie - Rachel McCutcheon BMI); "Casting Crowns At His Feet/Worthy The Lamb" (Gordon Jensen - Bill Gaither - Gloria Gaither ASCAP/BMI); "We Shall Behold Him/The King Is Coming" (Dottie Rambo - Bill Gaither - Gloria Gaither - Charles Millhuff SESAC/BMI)

The sign that you've been a DJ for awhile is that you played the Collingsworths when the group was only Phil and Kim. The children soon joined their parents around the year 2000 and the rest, as they say, is history.

Since 2012, they have won the Mixed Group of the Year nationally, for a total of six awards, and this album shows you why. It is a mixture of old and new material from established and up-and-coming songwriters, which combine to make one of the best Collingsworth CDs in recent years. Plus, on most CDs artists record only 10 songs, but on this CD you get 14 songs. They must have not been able to whittle the list down, and listening, you can see why. No filler on this CD.

A song written in 1986, which sounds like it was made for the Collingsworths, "It Runs In The Family," written by Kirk Talley and Daryl K. Williams starts things off. Their current single is "Mercy and Love" and could be their first No. 1 in a few years.

There are some powerful songs on this CD: "Altar Of Grace," "Your Ways Are Higher Than Mine," and "The Lamb," all sung in Collingsworth style, where family harmony and powerful lyrics join together to bless the listener.

A favorite of mine is "Live Like Jesus," featuring Phillip, with a catchy big band arrangement, makes for

tapping toes and snapping fingers and best of all, a song with a message. My recommendation to you, is to buy a copy and buy a copy to bless a friend.

Visit the Collingsworths at facebook.com/TheCollingsworthFamily/ and get a copy of “Mercy and Love” at thecollingsworthfamily.com/music-cd-s-downloads.

Strongest Songs: “Mercy and Love,” “Live Like Jesus,” “The Lamb”



Gold City

“Hope For The Journey”

Producer: Michael Sykes, Daniel Riley, Ken Harding

Label: New Haven 2018

Songs: “I Can Tell You Why” (Dianne Wilkinson); “Those Same Hands” (Rebecca Peck - Dianne Wilkinson BMI); “Someday” (Dianne Wilkinson BMI); “Same God” (Lee Black - Kenna Turner West - Tony Wood BMI); “I Will Not Be Shaken” (Jason Wayne Cox - Kenna Turner West ASCAP); “Alabama Mud” (Jason Wayne Cox - Tim Lovelace - Belinda Smith BMI); “Jesus Frees The Fallen” (Dianne Wilkinson - Lee Black BMI); “A Bible Loving Man” (Robert Fleming - Don McCrossan); “All My Hope” (Edmon Martin Cash - David Crowder ASCAP); “Resting Place” (Rob Johnson - Gene Pistilli - Michael Puryear ASCAP)

Four words to describe the new “Hope For The Journey” project: Gold City Is Back! It’s been seven long years since a full project with all new songs has been released by Gold City. Their last project was a hits compilation with three new songs. But this new

album with 10 all-new songs is a must have for Gold City fans, and if you’re not a Gold City fan, this album will make you one. This lineup with Scott Brand, lead, Thomas Nalley singing tenor, Daniel Riley on baritone and bass Chris West, has gelled into a powerhouse lineup equaling the great lineups of Gold City’s past.

The lead off song, “I Can Tell You Why,” sets the tone with its brass driven tone while Scott conveys what God has done. It’s a great Diane Wilkinson tune, one of five Wilkinson songs on this project.

Slowing it down for “Those Same Hands,” is a song about holy hands that blessed the crowds, were a part of miracles, washed a sinner clean, and were stretched out in love on a cross for me.

Other great songs include “Alabama Mud,” and what to me should be a big radio hit “Jesus Frees The Fallen,” in the style of, “If Church Pews Could Shout.” Other favorites include “Someday,” done in 50’s doo-wop style and sung so convincingly.

The absolute knockout song, that just blew me away was “Resting Place,” done a cappella. Before I could move on and listen to the rest of the project, I had to keep hitting the repeat button.

Overall, this project will become the standard on which all Gold City projects with this lineup will be judged. Friends, it’s just that good. Sykes, Riley and Ken Harding have produced a project that will stand the test of time.

Visit Gold City at facebook.com/goldcityqt/ and get a copy of “Hope For The Journey” through Itunes, or Amazon.

Strongest Songs: “Resting Place,” “Jesus Frees The Fallen,” “Someday”



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A photograph of Doyle Lawson, an older man with a white beard, wearing a white cowboy hat and a dark suit with a colorful, patterned vest. He is playing a blue mandolin and singing into a microphone. The background is dark with some star-like lights.

Inner Views of Doyle Lawson

Saved By Grace

By Cheryl Smith

While every single interview I have conducted for Inner Views has been distinctive and personally memorable to me, I must tell you that the Inner Views I am sharing with you today will forever hold an extraordinarily special place in my heart. Doyle Lawson, a humble man of God, is a legendary giant in the world of bluegrass music and is one of my biggest musical heroes, hands down.

Cheryl Smith: Could you share with us about your childhood? What are some of your favorite memories to recall from your time growing up?

Doyle Lawson: As far back as I can remember I have loved the sound of music. Radio was the vehicle of entertainment in those days and there was an abundance of local, regional and national programs to listen to. The ones I remember vividly are of course the Grand Ole Opry on WSM in Nashville and the Farm and Fun Time show heard daily on WCYB in Bristol, Tenn./Va.. In the early 1950's, my dad and mother, along with one of his nephews, started singing in churches locally, and I

loved to watch them work out the harmony parts, and I absorbed everything I heard them do.

After hearing Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys on the Opry, I was knocked out by Bill's voice and mandolin playing, and decided that I was gonna be a picker and singer...

When I was 11 years old, we were living in Hancock County, Tenn., and Dad was singing lead with the Clinch River Quartet, and I discovered that one of the men in the quartet (Willis Byrd) had a mandolin. I asked Dad to ask Willis if I could borrow it to learn to play.

In 1958, I got to meet the man who became my first professional boss in music. Jimmy Martin was from Hancock County, Tenn. and had gone to work for Bill Monroe in 1949. He went on to front his own band, the Sunny Mountain Boys in 1954, first teaming up with the Osborne Brothers.

On the 3rd day of Feb. 1963, I went to Nashville and auditioned for (Jimmy) to pick the banjo, and that started my 55 years and country music career.



Smith: Were you raised in a Christian home?

Lawson: Yes, I was brought up in a Christian home after my dad rededicated his life in 1950. He and Mom along with one of his nephews started singing in church as a trio and later added a bass singer. At the age of eight during a revival service, I realized that I was lost, and I went to the altar and accepted Jesus as my Savior...



The music business can be full of worldly trappings and it can be easy to lose your way. And I did for a good while. But on the 1st Sunday of May in 1985, I humbled myself and asked God to take control of my life because I had made a mess of it.

On the outside things looked - and were - going great, but inside me I was miserable. I didn't have the one thing I needed most of all and that was God. He never ever left me, I left him, but he was there when I truly asked for forgiveness. That was the best decision I have ever made as an adult.

Smith: Who has most influenced you, musically?

Lawson: Bill Monroe was my first musical hero and then came the first generation of what was to become

known as Bluegrass music: Flatt and Scruggs, Mac Wiseman, Jimmy Martin, the Stanley Brothers, Reno and Smiley, and the Osborne Brothers and more. Gospel music (influencers) would be: the Chuck Wagon Gang, the Statesmen Quartet, the Blackwood Brothers, the Masters Family, the Browns Ferry Four, and local and regional groups.



Smith: Can you share with us about a special highlight in your career?

Lawson: Oh my, there are many to draw from, but I suppose the first-time appearance at the Opry with Jimmy Martin was one of the standouts. I had always wanted to go see the Grand Ole Opry and as it turned out, the first time I saw it was from the stage. I was so nervous you could literally see my pants legs shaking. The National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship award is another treasured memory as well as being inducted into the IBMA Hall of Fame in 2012.

Smith: If you could go back and change one thing about your life, so far, what would it be?

Lawson: I wouldn't want to go back and change anything because it could be that I would make it worse the second time. My belief is that when you humble yourself and pray for forgiveness of your transgressions, it's done and one should not beat themselves up and be remorseful of their past mistakes. God forgives and forgets and we should be joyfully accepting of that. And I thank him for loving his children.

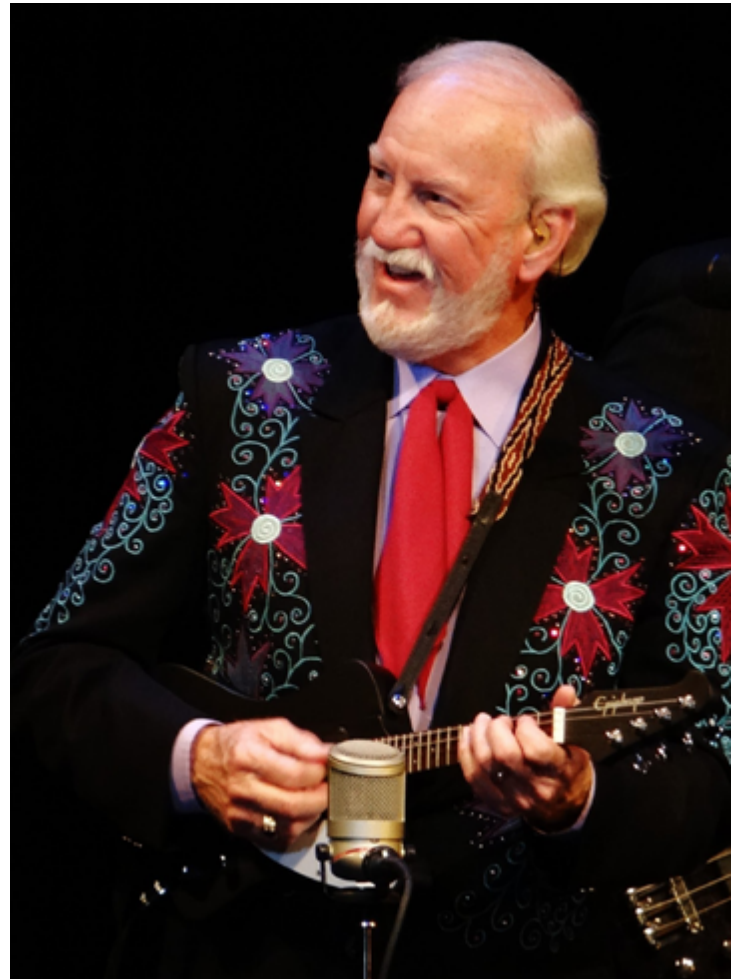
Smith: What advice would you give to the person who dreams of becoming a bluegrass musician/singer?

Lawson: It's not an easy thing to accomplish and one must have what I call the three P's: Practice, Patience,



and Perseverance. That applies to any genre of music one undertakes. And remember the first reason to play music is for the love of the music. Money is a neces-

sity but it should be the second reason for what one is doing. In my early days of music, I and most everyone else had day jobs to supplement our income. But the music was first.



Smith: How can we pray for you at this season of life?

Lawson: My hope and prayer is that the way I carry myself in the public eye is pleasing to God and the folks who see me. I appreciate your prayers as well.

If you would like to learn more about Doyle Lawson and his band, Quicksilver, go to www.doylelawson.com. The feature above is an abridged version of Cheryl Smith's interview with Doyle Lawson. For the complete interview, visit www.innerviews

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By Lorraine Walker

Creekside 2018 a Smash Hit

The Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2018 presentation was inspirational, unifying and energizing for the audience that filled the auditorium from Oct. 29 through Nov. 1. The Smoky Mountain Convention Center in lovely Pigeon Forge, Tenn., echoed to the sound of Southern, Country and Bluegrass gospel music, all day and night. The special speakers drew hearts to the Lord. At midnight, the sounds hushed, as the praying voices sought God for comfort, strength and direction. All in all, it was definitely a hit.

For those unable to attend this year, new writer Kristen Stanton provides a daily summary.

Creekside Diaries, Volume One: Sunday, October 28, 2018

The air is buzzing with excitement here in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.. Cars and buses are pulling into the Smoky Mountain Convention Center ready for a big week at the Creekside Gospel Music Convention.

People are greeting each other with hugs or shouts from across the parking lot and it's clear that "We Are Family" is more than just a slogan – it's a feeling.

Now in its seventh year, this event has taken on an identity different from anything else in the industry.

Packed full of singing and special events, this year kicked off with a bang with Quartet Night. The Pine Ridge Boys, Chordsmen, and Common Bond Quartet sang to a standing-room-only audience that left the crowd excited for the Monday night concert. The capacity crowd filed in when the doors opened at 6:30 p.m. and stayed until the last note was sung.

The spark is in the air – and if you're here, you can feel it. The pastor at church this morning reminded us that God's presence changes everything. The three quartets that sang tonight certainly ushered in the presence of God.

Is revival starting? Maybe. I can't wait to find out!

Vol. Two: Mon. Oct. 29





Another fantastic day here at Creekside is in the books. At 9:00 a.m., artists began pouring in the Smoky Mountain Convention Center for booth set up. The buzz was still in the air as these artists were prayed up and ready to do ministry throughout the week.

Ministry begins not when an artist steps on the stage, but the minute the doors are opened. We believe that every person who walks through the door of the Convention Center is important. The needs that they have are important. The hurt that they are feeling is important. And that is why we sing — to tell them that we may not have all the answers, but we know a God who does.

It seems as though the message I heard so often today was about prayer and how it changes things. I heard the message about how God sees every tear that falls. The message resonated with me. I don't know if anyone else noticed it or not, but God has a way of arranging a



program to do the work he has for that day. The Epps Family sang a song tonight called “God Still Answers Prayer” — a powerful message for the masses — and a message that the Creekside family truly believes. We saw that same message carry forward into Midnight



Prayer where we heard how prayer has changed lives.

The singing was phenomenal —from the spotlight on the Smoky Mountain artists all the way through the Red Back Hymnal sing. But the power of God showed up through that one simple word, “pray”. God hears our prayers and he will answer us. God has started a work here at Creekside.

And God will finish it.

Vol. Three: Tues. Oct. 30

Tuesdays at Creekside. If you've ever been here, you know exactly what that means without any further explanation.



Tuesdays at Creekside begin at 9:00 a.m. with music in the Showcase Hall, followed by the evening concert at 5:00 p.m., then the Diamond Awards, and Midnight Prayer. This year was no different.

At 9:00 a.m. Pastor David Mathis from Living Hope Free Methodist Church in West Unity, Ohio, opened the day with prayer. Pastor Dave has been a friend to many of the Creekside artists including Hope's Journey, Southern Raised, Mark209, and Kristen Stanton.

The morning was filled with a non-stop rotation of artists which lasted until approximately 2:00 p.m.

At 5:00 p.m., Scott Roberts and the Five O'clock band hit the stage, playing some well-loved hymns and classic gospel songs which always gears up the audience for the rest of the evening. Tuesday night featured a lineup of great artists leading into a time of singing and preaching with C.T. Townsend and his wife Becky.

The atmosphere was electric and the crowd was talking well past the end of the evening about the message Townsend delivered. The message was a great reminder that God has already blessed us with what we need, so when we feel like we have nothing left, we need to go take another look. And when we've done everything we can, we need not fear because God will step in.

For many in attendance, the highlight of the evening were the Diamond Awards, hosted by Dr. Jerry Goff and Jan Buckner Goff.

Gloryway Quartet, who won the Sunrise Quartet of the Year, were asked to open the awards show. Justin Crank from Gloryway reported that it was an honor just to be asked to be part of the Diamond Awards.

"We didn't think we had a chance at winning. We just want to give God glory first and a thank you to all of our fans and family for their love and support," said Crank.

Winning multiple awards were the Jordan Family Band with the Sunrise Song of the Year, "This is the Day;" the Gospel Music Today Video DVD of the year, and the Sunrise Award.

Eagle's Wings also took home multiple awards with the Bluegrass Gospel Song of the year, Bluegrass Gospel Female Artist of the Year, and Bluegrass Gospel Male artist of the year.



Also walking away with awards were:

The Children of the Promise -- Sunrise Trio of the Year
 The Williamsons -- Mixed Group of the Year
 C.T. and Becky Townsend -- Duet of the Year
 The Kingsmen -- Quartet of the Year
 HighRoad -- Christian Country Song of the Year
 Vic Clay -- Publisher's Choice Award
 Jeff Stice -- Anthony Burger Instrumentalist of the Year
 "Chain Breaker" (Triumphant Quartet) -- Song of the Year
 Gerald Williams -- JD Sumner Living Legend Award
 Gerald Crabb -- Dottie Rambo Songwriter of the Year
 Lottie Squires -- Paul Heil Award for Broadcasting
 Robert York -- Mountaintop Industry Award
 Jeff and Sheri Easter -- Trio of the Year

Karen Peck -- Female Vocalist of the Year

Jason Crabb -- Male Vocalist of the Year

Blake and Jenna Bolerjack -- Sunrise Duet of the Year

The Freemans -- Christian Country Group of the Year

Southern Raised -- Bluegrass Gospel Group of the Year



The evening closed out with Exodus leading Midnight Prayer, once again centering on how prayer changes things. God has met with us in this place. And it's not over yet.

Vol. Four: Wed. Oct. 31

The third full day at Creekside began with a chapel service in the showcase hall led by Dr. Jerry Goff followed by a time of music with the Alabama Quartet Convention (ALQC) Road Revival featuring several Creekside artists who also perform at the ALQC.

Scott Washam from Day Three talked about the humble beginnings of their event. "We didn't have two pennies to rub together but we stepped out in faith."

Washam went on to explain how the Road Revival ended up with a show at Creekside. "One day I was talking to Vonda on the phone and she said, 'hey you should bring the Road Revival to Creekside.' I thought she was joking but here we are."

Several artists including Day Three, Living Faith, Gloryland, and Cami Shrock, performed for a packed house.

The evening concert included some first time artists from Indiana and Florida, showing just how far reaching the Creekside arms are extending. The Gibbs

Family, in their first trip, had the crowd on their feet in worship.

Eagle's Wings, winner of three Diamond Awards, was one of the night's featured groups. Always a crowd favorite, the group sang some of their hit songs.

The concert finished out with another riveting message from C.T. Townsend followed by the Browders who brought the house down.

Wednesday night at Creekside would not be complete without Midnight Prayer. The Chandlers led an intimate time of prayer and worship where over 50 had gathered believing they would leave this event different than they did when they walked in.

Creekside continues to change lives from night to night. We have one more day until the event wraps up.

Join us live on Facebook for Thursday's concert and make your plans to join us next year at Creekside October 27-October 31, 2019. For more information or to book your hotel, contact rob@sgnscoops.com.

Vol. Five: Thurs. Nov. 1

When the last day of Creekside Gospel Music Convention rolls around, there is still that same buzz in the air that the week started with. Artists flocked into the Showcase Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m., ministering to and entertaining the crowd into the early afternoon.



The afternoon was capped off with a time of food, music, and fellowship celebrating Eagle's Wings first No. 1 song.

The evening concert kicked off with Scott Roberts and the Five O'clock Band – a favorite year in and year out. Returning groups Chronicle and the McKay Project wowed the audience with their unique sounds, while Answered Prayer was embraced as they stepped onto the Creekside stage for the first time.

The night rolled on while more than 15 artists performed for another record-breaking crowd highlighted by Mark209, Children of the Promise, Sacred Calling, and the Dunaways.



Thank you to all of the Creekside artists participating this year: 4 The Right Reason, Angela Marie, Answered Prayer, Arthur Rice, C.T. Townsend, Children of The Promise, Chronicle, Day 3, Debbie Bennett, Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, Eagle's Wings, Gloryland, Gloryway, Harley Madden, Hazel Sain, Hope's Journey, Kristen Stanton, Living Faith, Mark209, Matt Felts, Mercy Rain, Peter Christie, Rachael Gill and Redeemed, Sacred Harmony, Sharon Stewart, the Bates Family, the Browders, the Chandlers, the Chordsmen Quartet, the Coffmans, the Connells, the Dunaways, the Dodrill Family, the Epps Family, the Gibbs Family, the Gospel Truth Trio, the Griffins, the Jordan Family Band, the Journeys, the McKay Project, the Pine Ridge Boys Quartet, the Riders, the Schofields, the Williamsons, Tonja Rose.

There was not even a best event at Creekside. Each day and each night held a unique flavor that distinguished it from every other day.

Every day and every event was bathed in prayer and planning. Every artist showed up ready to give their best and give the glory to God.

From soloists to family ensembles, and from first time Creekside artists to seasoned veterans, there was no shortage of talent for this event in its seventh year. But the talent, while phenomenal, is not what sets Creekside apart from all the other gospel music conventions.

This event is unique with the feeling of family that shrouds it from the first day until the last. When someone was down, another one of the Creekside family was right there to lift them back up. If someone needed prayer, the Creekside family was there to pray.

Whether celebrating a victory or staving off an attack, the Creekside artists and attendees truly are there for each other, encapsulating the meaning of the family of God.

Rob Patz, the founder of Creekside Gospel Music Convention, states, "It's exciting to watch how the concept of family has organically grown and to see returning artists and new artists coming in really embrace the slogan 'We Are Family.'"

We would love for you to be a part of our Creekside family. Make your plans to join us next year for Creekside Gospel Music Convention taking place Oct. 27 - Oct. 31, 2019, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For more information or to book your hotel, contact rob@sgn-scoops.com.

Creekside 2018 was inspiring. There was no best day.

YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

Lindsey Graham

BY ERIN STEVENS

As we close out another extraordinary year of Younger Perspective, there was a certain gal I knew would conclude things beautifully with her grace, poise, and all around love of the Christmas season. Let's get to know Lindsey Graham a little better, shall we?

Erin Stevens: What are some Graham family traditions you live for this holiday season?

Lindsey Graham: I am an only child so our Graham family traditions basically revolve around my mom's family traditions and my dad's. Christmas Eve is with Mom's side of the family, and Christmas Day is with Dad's. Since our family is in Kentucky, and we live in Florida, we just enjoy being together with extended family during the holiday season. I love being with family, listening to Christmas music, watching Christmas movies with my little cousins, and eating everything sweet: cakes, pies, cookies, and other sweet treat creations.

Stevens: As well as your impressive accolades and musical degrees, what forms of training have you received over the years?

Graham: Thank you. These accolades represent to me many tears and much frustration, incredible consumption of time, discipline and many days of me questioning if I am doing the right thing. Don't we all feel like that at one time or another? I have studied private classical voice for the last 10 years with Dr. Jeanie Darnell of Florida Gulf Coast University. I double majored my freshmen year in college at Belmont in Vocal performance and Flute performance. As a result, I studied flute with Conservatory graduate and Nashville Symphony flautist, Eric Gratton, for a year while in Nashville. I am currently learning violin from David Mastrangelo of the Naples (Florida) Philharmonic. In retrospect, I have always been a student of the Bible, religion, theology, relationship with God, and music. I see now more than ever God has placed together all these various pieces in my past to prepare me for

my present and future.

Stevens: What is your fondest ministry memory from this year?

Graham: I was invited to attend and sing for a Bible conference at a church in Maryland this October. It was a four-day conference. On Tuesday morning of the conference, I was invited to sing for an adult daycare facility, and that same afternoon I was invited to sing for a Good News Club in an elementary school. God reminded me of his love for his people regardless of age. He cares so deeply for each of us in whatever season of life we may find ourselves. He only asks us to acknowledge his presence.

Stevens: If you could share the stage with any musician (no matter the genre) who would it be?

Graham: Dolly Parton. She is a musical legend, amazingly gifted songwriter, wears high heels like I do, and is still spunky as ever. I chuckle, yet am deeply honored when people tell me I remind them of Dolly. She is a winner in my eyes.

Stevens: Thanksgiving or Christmas? Turkey or ham? White



Christmas or Holiday Inn? Cider or egg nog? Red or green? Giving or receiving?

Graham: Do I really have to choose?

- 1.) Christmas.
- 2.) Ham, but not just any ham, it has to be a Coke ham. Put your ham in the crockpot, pour a can of Coke over it and let it cook. Best ham ever.
- 3.) White Christmas.
- 4.) Cider.
- 5.) This year it is green. I like the idea of red, but am finding it hard to give up my pink lipstick.
- 6.) Definitely giving. There is no greater joy than to light up someone else's world through a gift.

Stevens: What can the fans be anticipating from you in the new year?

Graham: I am thrilled to be spending the new year in Sweden. I have been invited to sing for a three-day conference with Pastor Tommy Lilja, Evangelist Tommy Dahlman, and special friends, Joakim and Malin Sunnesson. Also be listening for my January radio release of "Safe," featuring a duet with Michael Booth. I am also hoping to create more of a presence via social media. So keep an eye out for likes, shares, and all that jazz.

Stevens: How do you keep Christ at the center of Christmas when you encounter downcast souls this time of year?

Graham: I try to practice this discipline year round, keeping Christ at the center of my life. I have encountered so many hurting people that it is quite often more than I can bear. God never promised he would not give us more than we can bear. If this were true, we would have no reason to look to him for

strength. It is a daily undertaking to place the Lord on the throne of my heart.

Nothing else should have that place including fear, worry, social status, money, and _____ (fill in the blank). God has been teaching me for years the importance of daily quiet time, Bible reading, journaling, and prayer. In this fast-paced season, I plan to read the daily Advent devotional from Christianity Today. I listen to Christmas music that points to Jesus and ask him for his nearness in every moment of the holidays. He is enough. Merry Christmas, all.

Closing thoughts from Erin Stevens...

Reader, may I ask you the same question? How will you keep Christ at the center of your Christmas when you encounter those in need these next weeks? May the light of Christ shine brightly in us all: Now, 'til Christmas Day, until Christmas of next year. Let us not get so caught up in the rush, that we neglect the people around us. Show them joy. Show them love. Show them Christ. Merry Christmas from yours truly... and to all a good night.

...and that's my take on it.

Until next year, Scoops fans.

Connect with Erin via Social Media:

- Blog: erinfluence.wordpress.com
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A Southern Gospel Christmas: Christmas Memories from Your Favorite Artists

By Justin Gilmore

It's that time again. Christmas is a time when family and friends come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift to humankind. While I enjoy opening presents, listening to music, and eating great food, I have realized more and more that none of that matters much compared to Jesus and family.

Over the years my family has struggled financially and experienced loss, but we always manage to have a fun and meaningful holiday season. I will always cherish being with family playing games, eating food, and going to look at Christmas lights. It is my hope that reading the following memories from your favorite Southern gospel artists will get you in the spirit of Christmas and remind you to cherish the time you have with family and friends.
Merry Christmas...

Matt Fouch (Legacy Five): "Being able to now be the head of my family and read the story of Jesus birth on Christmas Day to my family."



Matt Dibler (Inspirations): "My favorite Christmas memory was a tradition we had. Every Christmas Eve we would turn out all the lights and use only candles and the lights from the Christmas tree. We would sing Christmas Carols and read the Christmas story from Luke 2 and have family prayer. I think of it every year.."

Jeff Collins (Producer): "I have several great Christmas memories, as my parents made Christmas very special for my sister and I throughout our childhood. But there was one particular year that was extra special. I was around 11 or 12 years old and had asked Santa Claus for a minibike. After what seemed like years, Christmas Eve arrived, and I was hoping and praying Santa would make my wish come true. Lo and behold, on Christmas morning when Mom and Dad let us come down the hallway and around the corner to the living room, there sat my minibike. I was so happy. I was itching all morning to get outside to ride it, but first we had to open all of our presents, eat breakfast, and then finally go outside. We finally got the bike out in the carport and Dad says, 'Start her up, Jeff.' This minibike was a bare-bones kind of minibike with a basic Briggs and Stratton lawn mower engine. Anyhow, I started pulling on it, trying to start it. I pulled until my arm was like Jell-O. No start. My dad pulled on it for another 30 minutes. A neighbor was there by then, pulled on it for 30 minutes. Man, was I getting frustrated. I should mention here that there is an on and off switch between the

handlebars and the seat. We had it in the 'on' position. Another neighbor had showed up by now. It was getting close to lunch. He reached down and haphazardly turned the switch to the 'off' position, pulled the engine, and it started. Just like that. But finally... I got to ride my minibike. I was one happy 11 year old."



Arthur Rice (Kingdom Heirs): "In the fall of 1987, my dad had a brain aneurysm. I was with the Kingsmen at the time and they had folks praying all over the country. He came out of the surgery

great and the only paralysis was his memory. He didn't know who we were or what had happened. Just before Christmas he said it was like he heard a switch in his head go on and he started remembering us little by little. He was able to come home for Christmas and shortly after that all his memory returned. The Lord gave us 14 more years with him. It was a very thankful Christmas."



Mark Trammell (Mark Trammell Quartet): "The year my dad and mom went without Christmas so they could buy my first bass guitar. I didn't know it until years later. Priceless lesson in unselfish lifestyle."

Josh Feemster (Legacy Five): "I think it would have to be the last Christmas with my grandma. She was so much fun. This particular Christmas she stayed at our house. My dad, brothers and myself went to a Christmas event without my mom and grandma. She just wasn't feeling well so they decided to stay home. This particular trip was memorable because of the sleeting going on during the drive, kinda rare in Alabama in December. Anyway, it was Christmas Eve and when we got back to our house Santa had already been there. All of our presents were out and Grandma convinced me that she helped him unload them. She was



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the greatest. We had a great time and I'll never forget eating her chicken and dressing one last time the next day. Within a month she was in heaven. I don't really remember what toys I got but I'll always remember how happy she was to be with us."

Lisa Williamson (The Williamsons): "When I was 16, my family and I were going through a pretty tough time. My mom had broken her ankle so our spirits were down. We hated to even ask, but my sister Rachel and I really wanted a PlayStation for Christmas. We didn't want to get our hopes up, but we sure were hoping to see that thing under the tree on Christmas morning. A week or so before Christmas, Mom came into the living room on her crutches wearing a brand new tee shirt. The back of it had a very bright, colorful, and recognizable logo...PlayStation. We kept asking her where she got her shirt, but all she would do was smile. Needless to say, we opened a PlayStation on Christmas morning."

Randy Crawford (Formerly of The Kingsmen): "Not so much a memory as it is something I miss. My grandmother on my father's side always used to have a "sock" for us grandkids. It truly was a sock. But it was filled with fruits, candy, and old fashioned peppermint stick candy. We used to cut a hole in our oranges and suck the juice out through the peppermint candy. I miss my grandmother so much, and love she put into our 'socks'."

Maria Kramer Wolfe (The Kramers): "My favorite Christmas memory, or tradition, is putting up the Christmas tree while listening to traditional Christmas music and baking Christmas cookies. I love family time the most, so getting together with family during the Christmas season is a rich blessing."



Steve Ladd (The Old Paths): "My favorite Christmas memory is my first Christmas as a father. Christmas took on a whole new meaning to me since then... my children's face

and the excitement made me not care if I ever got another gift."

Tammy Burns (Troy Burns Family): "My favorite Christmas memory was 1974. My oldest brother got married right after Christmas and our whole family

was together for the last time on this earth. It seemed like it was the happiest time we had ever had with family and friends. That next year my little brother, Tommy, went home to be with the Lord after battling cancer for 12 years. He was only 12. I will always cherish that Christmas."

Judy Nelson: "Rex and I had been dating a while. We spent a few days with his 98-year-old mom and his other family members in his hometown Asheville, N. C., during Christmas. It was the sweetest time. We exchanged gifts and it was interesting - we gave each other exactly the same Christmas card, he bought his in Atlanta and I bought mine in Nashville. It said 'Only You.' We knew from the start we were a match. As he was driving me back to Nashville we stopped in Waffle House. He asked if I had expected a engagement ring for Christmas and I was honest and said. 'Yes, I did.' He said, 'Okay then, will you marry me?' He had plans for a ring but he couldn't wait. He was the funniest, sweetest and most unique man. I'll always love Rex Nelson."



Les Butler (Butler Music Group): "Christmas 1971, I was nine. My parents bought me an upright piano. Little did I know that instrument would play such an integral part in my life."

Riley Harrison Clark (Tribute Quartet): "Every year while growing up in Oklahoma, my family went to Silver Dollar City for Christmas. So many memories were made and even more funnel cakes were eaten. Going there is a Christmas tradition I will never forget."

Stephen Adair (Dixie Echoes): "One year my dad was in the hospital after a series of strokes during the Christmas season. He was still in the hospital on Christmas Day, so my mom and I packed up all of the gifts that were under the tree and took them to his hospital room. We had Christmas there complete with hot chocolate, the Macy's Christmas Day Parade, and the best hospital food we could find. We were together, and that's what made that Christmas so special."

Bob Sellers (Soloist): "When I was about 10 years old, my parents asked my sister and I to clean out our closets of any toys, clothing, etc. that we could live without (only good stuff), and we took it to this one

room cinder block home where a family with about six or eight kids lived. My dad had cut them a load of firewood and we gave them that, plus all the stuff my sister and I had put together. I'll never forget the look on those kids' and their parent's faces. They were about our same age, and although we were far from wealthy, they looked at us and my parents like we were angels or something. I guess to them we were, at least that year. I'm thankful for godly, loving parents who instilled the true meaning of Christmas in me."

Nic Holland (Poet Voices): "Probably my last Christmas with my mom before she died, 2003. We knew she didn't have long to live and enjoyed every second of just being together. I have no memory of one single present I got that year but my time with Mom I'll never forget."

Duane Allen (Oak Ridge Boys): "My wife gave birth to Jamie, our baby girl, on Dec. 13. Early on Christmas morning, Norah Lee slipped out of bed, dressed Jamie up real pretty, put her in her little portable bed and placed her under the Christmas tree. Then, Norah Lee came back to the bedroom, woke me up and led me to the living room to see my Christmas present."



Scott Brand (Gold City): "I couldn't possibly narrow it down to one. Christmas is my favorite time of the year. When I was a kid, my grandparents, along with my great grandmother, would come spend four or five days with us around Christmas. The Brand tradition was to cook a ham in Coca Cola all night on Christmas Eve. I can still to this day smell that cooking through the house. Just family getting together and keeping traditions alive would be my Christmas memories as a kid."

Randa Jordan (Jordan Family Band): "I was eight years old, and money was something we never had much of. I knew that Daddy and Mama didn't have enough money to go out and buy me and my brother new toys, and yet somehow I was okay with that. I was a dreamer, and I enjoyed the most simple things that surrounded me. We lived in what seemed like to me the most wonderful apartment in downtown Rome. Two stories, hardwood floors, a screened in back porch, huge living room, and the front yard was next

to the busy road where the town's bus and trolley would pass throughout the day. I loved that apartment so much. The staircase was huge to me and I loved dressing up and walking up and down them like a princess out of a fairy tale book. The morning of Christmas, 1989, I wasn't sure what to expect, but my brother and I woke up, and at the direction of Daddy and Mama, we waited on the big staircase till they instructed us to come into the living room. Bubbling with joy and wearing my little white gown and house shoes, I walked into a living room that was covered in gifts. Clothes, toys, games everywhere. The couches and chairs were covered, items set up all across the floor and gifts under the tree. It was like a dream. Dad and Mom had went "yard sale-ing" and "goodwill-ing" and loaded up without spending much at all. That was one of the best days of my life."

Sarah Davison (HighRoad): "When I was a young girl we had a huge snowstorm come through - probably 13-14 inches of snow - and it was so heavy that we lost power for several days including Christmas Eve and Christmas day. I remember Dad firing up the wood stove and Mom making homemade soup on top of the wood stove. We played board games and got some old hymnals out and gathered around the piano. It was the most quiet, peaceful Christmas I can remember and by far my favorite one too."



Amber Nelon Thompson (The Nelons): "My favorite Christmas memory is sitting around the table playing games with my whole family and grandparents at their house. Then eating the dinner my grandma cooked ...twice a year... Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Thank you to all of our artist friends who shared memories with us. We are sorry we didn't have room for all of them, but be looking on our website www.sgnscoops.com for more. What are some of your memories? Submit them with your photo and you might also be featured on SGNscoops website. Merry Christmas!

DJ SPOTLIGHT

Randall Hamm



By Vonda Armstrong

Every month, experienced D.J. and professional reviewer, Randall Hamm, delights the SGN Scoops Magazine readers with his views on new recordings that he has been spinning on his show. Now, the spotlight is turned on Mr. Hamm and he tells us about himself.

Vonda Armstrong: What is your current radio position and station?

Randall Hamm: I am currently the program director and



gospel program director at WFLQ in French Lick, Ind., 100.1 on your FM dial and 6000 watts. We reach a six-county area around French Lick, in the northwest corner of beautiful Orange County, Ind.. We are 55 miles northwest of Louisville, Ky., and a

little over a 100 miles southwest from Indianapolis. I have been employed at WFLQ for 23 years and have gone from LP to MP3 in airplay technology.

Armstrong: When you are traveling, what is your favorite restaurant?

Hamm: Most generally McDonalds, but if I have to time to eat, Cracker Barrel.

Armstrong: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?

Hamm: Nashville, Tenn.. I lived there for five years in the mid-80's and went to Lipscomb University. If I could choose a second place, it would be the Pigeon Forge area. I had only been there once in my life, when I was young. I now go there regularly once a year, but

don't have time to see any attractions. (I) would love to get a full week and just enjoy God's handy work.

Armstrong: Tell us about your family.

Hamm: I have a son who just turned 18 and is a senior in high school. He is getting ready to graduate. I have two sisters who are younger than me and my parents all still reside, as do I, in Paoli, Ind..

Armstrong: Was there a certain age that you knew radio was something you wanted to pursue? Tell us about it.

Hamm: Yes. I was around eight or nine. I always had a transistor radio under my pillow at night or in my hand. I was entranced with those faraway voices. I knew on the AM band where all the baseball teams were on the dial. I was entranced by a Creaking Door at Midnight, every night, the CBS Mystery Theater, and the trucking show hosts that I heard overnite, when I would wake up. To me those voices of those D.J.s sounded like they were having fun, and most of all, they got to play music! Plus, a little show called WKRP, even influenced me more at around 13 years of age, when I saw they were actually having fun - and I could get paid for that!

Be sure to catch Randall Hamm on air or online, and read his latest re-




views this month here in the SGN Scoops Magazine. We are thrilled that he would step into our D.J. Spotlight this month.



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ALONG WITH SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE



Rob Patz: Above and Beyond

By Angela Parker

I woke up one night thinking about what it means to go above and beyond. What does it really mean to go above and beyond in everything you do? It literally means to “do more than is required¹.”

What I took from that is this: You don’t stop when the job is done; you keep moving when you’re tired and exhausted because you know things have to be done; you do everything you can for others, every chance you get. Sounds like Jesus, doesn’t it? It also sounds like those who closely follow him.

I believe that we receive the biggest blessing from doing things for others. Life isn’t about material objects, watching TV, seeing who can come up with the most dangerous challenge or who can post the best selfie. In my opinion, life is about lending a helping hand, doing what we can to spread the message that Jesus saves to everyone that will listen, and being productive members of society.

We should all strive to go above and beyond in all we do. It should be our normal practice and not the exception to the rule, to try to be more like our Lord.

All this made me wonder, out of my acquaintances, who really stood out as the one person that goes above and beyond, and I could think of only one person, Rob Patz. Rob is the founder and CEO of Coastal Media. He

is also the owner of SGNScoops, SGMRadio and WPIL-FM in Heflin, Ala.

I have seen him work relentlessly during Creekside Gospel Music Convention and walking until he wanted to drop. However, he still made sure things got done.

He flies all over the country to different events and engagements. He works hard at a business that he built with his own sweat and tears. He’s labored extensively in gospel music for as long as I’ve known him, and that’s been about 15 years.

Not only does Rob pour heart and soul into everything



he does, he’s also a great teacher. He loves to see the potential in others, show them the ropes, and help them reach their goals. He makes people feel included and needed. He lets God use him to steer others.



I've always been amazed at Rob's ability to see everyone's strengths and weaknesses just by meeting them a couple of times. He's definitely got the talent of understanding people. He has taken time out of his busy schedule to teach

me things personally, so that I can exercise my own gifts.

So I can say that I am definitely one of those that has benefited from Rob's guidance. I have greatly appreciated it as I'm sure so many others have.

This is how Rob gives back without even knowing he's doing it. He teaches and encourages others to stir up their gifts given by God. They can then exercise those gifts in gospel music and use them to serve our awesome God.

Rob also believes in lending a helping hand. He knows that the bible says if your brother or sister needs prayer, you pray for them. If he sees that a friend or co-





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worker needs a hug, he gives them a hug. Rob is a great listener, and he usually knows the right words to say.

As you can see, Rob was the obvious person that popped in my mind. So many times I see him going above and beyond, answering the call of God on his life.

Before you turn on the TV, try that next internet challenge, or start snapping those selfies, see what you *could* be doing for God by going above and beyond for him. Whose life could you touch today?

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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Merry Christmas! I love this season and the way people seem happier and more open to talking about spiritual things. Yes, I'm that person who wears the shirts and sweaters and socks with all things Christmas on them. People have said that I even have reindeer antlers on my car...but that, of course, is just a rumour.

Our cover artist, Jason Crabb, also loves Christmas, and I hope you enjoyed his feature this month. I had such a good time talking with him recently when he sang at my church. We are both equally intense people and I so enjoyed digging into his thoughts on various subjects. What a terrific communicator, both on and off stage.

We featured other artists of course that I have also enjoyed, like Les Beasley, who recently passed. We were unable to feature a tribute to Ernie Phillips as it was too close to press time, but I know of his contribution to gospel music and that he has many family, friends and fans that mourned his passing. I became a Kingsmen fan after Ernie's tenure, mainly because of knowing Parker Jonathan, who joined when Garry Sheppard was the group's tenor. Ernie, however, was an incredible talent and will be greatly missed.

I was also thinking of the passing of seasons when I read Rob's Publisher's Point. I hope you have read it and gleaned the knowledge that this season of your life is God's way of preparing you for the next. I want to add to that with another piece that I am trying to learn and develop in my own life.

One of the buzz words lately seems to be "mindfulness." I know that can be used and misused in so many ways, and also taken to the extreme. I think some uses are not spiritually healthy for Christians. However, the literal meaning is great for all of us.

Mindfulness to me is living in the moment; not dwelling in the past or future, not thinking about what we should do or should have done. If we are being mindful or paying attention to each day, each moment, of each season we are in, both spiritually and physically, maybe we would be more relaxed as well as appreciating each other more.

Perhaps paying attention to each moment and more attention to those around us will make this season even more special. Maybe we will even notice others more, share more smiles, hold our loved ones closer, and be more aware of the special gift of Jesus this Christmas. God bless you this holy season!



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Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, SGMRadio.com. In 2009, Rob Patz acquired SGNScoops.com, including the all- digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at rob@sgnscoops.com.



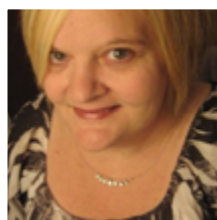
Stephanie Kelley is a public speaker and owner of Queen-O-Q, a blog featuring coupon match-ups, freebies, samples and information on frugal living. She is married, has three children and lives in Washington State. Queenoq.blogspot.com



Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at lorraine@sgnscoops.com



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



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



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

Contributors

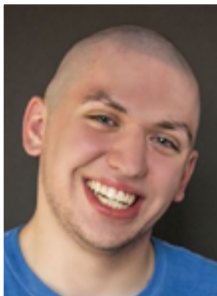
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Dusty Wells is a man of many talents and multiple skills, from his speaking engagements across the country, to traveling and encouraging various artists in the Christian music genres. Dusty has a passion that is evident from the moment you meet him.

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

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



Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible. The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he

also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



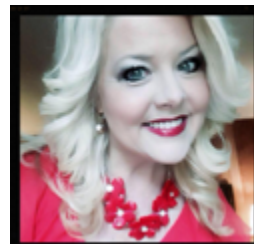
Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family.

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



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

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



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

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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

Contributors

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Contributors

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

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



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

Derek formerly served as a Youth Pastor and previously sang with Southern Harmony Quartet. For seven years, Derek also served as a Communications Repair Section Leader for the U.S. Army; he was member of the 1/160th SOAR (A) Night Stalkers and served several deployments overseas.

Derek is married to his sweetheart, Jana, and they have two boys, Daniel and Avery. The Simonis family resides in Boise, Idaho. Derek and Jana travel and sing gospel music, having recently released their debut album, "Blessed."

His life's verse is Romans 12:1 which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Derek's ultimate desire is

to give his all in the service of the Lord.



John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing The Prophets at his county fair when he was seven years old and

eventually, he became a huge fan of The Oak Ridge Boys, The Imperials and J.D. Sumner and the Stamps. John spent 20 years in the located ministry and during this time, he began writing local sports for The Anderson News in Lawrenceburg, Ky. For the last 16 years, he has been the full-time sports editor of that paper. John has won over 100 awards from the Kentucky Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and Landmark Community Newspapers.

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

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



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.

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

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



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

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



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.



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

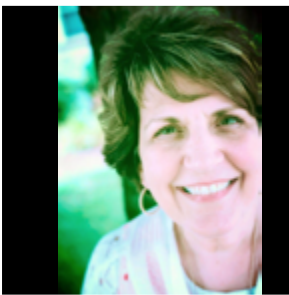
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Jade lives near Nashville with her husband, Brent. She is a mom of two incredible children and two wonderful bonus daughters. Jade makes a living in healthcare and strives to make her life about serving God. She loves being deeply involved in the world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

when words fail us, music speaks.



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

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



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

is now a member of SGNScoops.

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