

DECEMBER 2020

SGN

# SCOOPS

MAGAZINE



## THE *Kingdom* *Heirs*

THREE BRIDGES | THE GIFT OF MUSIC | MARK WHEELER

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## OUR MISSION

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

Publisher- Rob Patz

Copy Editors- Joan Walker, Craig Harris

Feature Editor- Craig Harris

Layout/Design- Pete Schwager, Staci Schwager

Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley

Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**



It's the most wonderful time of the year. OK be honest with me, after you read that did you sing the song? As I wrote it, I did. We have finally entered the holiday season – Christmas is here.

I've been thinking about Christmases past over the last few days and reminiscing about the good ole' days. I guess as you get older, the good ole' days seem to be better than the current days. Today when I was praying, God reminded me that I need to live in the present. I need to live in today and for today so that I can experience what he has for me and what he wants me to do for him.

My devotion today was a very well-known verse, Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I think for many of us this year has been a difficult year to even make plans; but God is telling us that He knows what our future holds. This crazy year of 2020 did not catch God off guard – He knew exactly what was going to happen. And even in the middle of this pandemic, His plans for us did not change. His plans are still to prosper us. Our job is simply to walk with Him and trust in Him, regardless of what we may face each day.

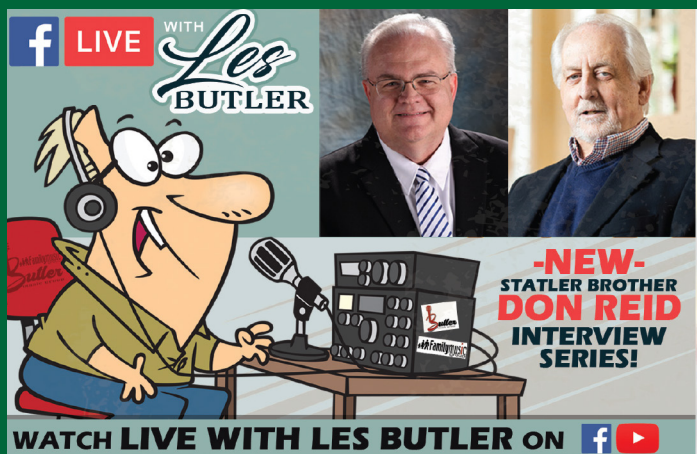
Let me encourage you today as you read this. No matter what you do – whether you're a Sunday school teacher, a worship leader, a pastor, a singer, or you sit in the congregation – God has a plan for you.

During this holiday season, I encourage you to enjoy every minute. Cherish your family and those around you and pray. Pray that God will bless your family. Pray that God will give you wisdom. And as you look forward to 2021, remember to seek God and ask what He has for you to do.

Speaking of 2021, I am already looking forward to Creekside Revival which I believe is one of the plans that God has put on my heart in the last few months. I'm excited to announce over the next 60 days the pastors

and artists that will be involved. Be watching our Creekside Revival page for information. We would love for you to be a part of this event March 24-27, 2021, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. You can contact us at [events@sgnscoops.com](mailto:events@sgnscoops.com). Also for all of my Alabama friends please join me at southern gospel weekend March 18-20, 2021, in Oxford, Alabama.

For many of us, 2020 has been an unusual year. I pray that you and your family are safe and healthy during this season. Merry Christmas from my family to yours and may this be a year filled with joy, peace, and memories that you'll never forget.



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# THE LOWE DOWN

## WITH JEFF LOWE



### **Katie Cudworth**

Christmas Time's a Comin'

Label: Mark Five Records

Producer: Rick Sandidge

Release Date: Available now

#### Songs on this project:

1. Christmas Time's A Comin' (Buck Owens, Red Simpson)
2. I Pray on Christmas (Harry Connick Jr.)
3. Silver Bells (PD)
4. Santa Claus Is Coming to Town (PD)
5. Breath Of Heaven (Amy Lee Grant, Chris Eaton)
6. Jingle Bell Rock Medley (PD)
7. Silent Night Medley (PD)
8. Come On Ring Those Bells (James William Sturr Jr.)
9. Mary Did You Know (Rufus Lee Greene, Mark Alan Lowry)
10. Winter Wonderland (PD)

The project kicks off with an upbeat rendition of the familiar "Christmas Time's a Comin'" in true country fashion.

Next up is a song that I don't believe I have ever heard called "I Pray on Christmas" – a song that reminds us of the things we should be praying for, not just on Christmas, but each and every day. A prayer for others, a prayer for guidance, and His leading and direction for our lives.

Katie delivers up a sweet rendition of "Silver Bells." This song, full of steel guitar and country flavor, fits Katie's voice. There is a ring to her voice as she holds out notes and phrasing that reminds you of a bell. It's one of my favorites from this project.

No Christmas project is complete without being reminded that the old man in the red suit is watching us. Checking that list for the naughty and nice. Katie's version keeps it light and full of country fun on "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

"Breath of Heaven" is a beautiful, touching song written from Mary's point of view; a prayer that could fit a lot of circumstances, a cry for mercy. It's another favorite for me.

Next up is an updated Brenda Lee version of "Jingle Bell Rock Medley" that features "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

"Silent Night Medley" follows and combines "Silent Night," "Away in A Manger," and "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."

A song you don't hear very often on Christmas proj-

ects – “Come On Ring Those Bells” – is one of my favorites. It’s fun to sing, but also holds true to what Christmas is about, the birth of our Lord and the start of God’s perfect plan of salvation.

Next is a song co-written by Mark Lowry that’s been recorded by almost every major artist across every genre of music, a song that never fails to give me chills at the line, “when you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God.” “Mary Did You Know” has become one of the most recorded Christmas songs. With every line of the song we are reminded that this little baby, born in the most humble and meager of ways was God Almighty, the Creator of all things.

Katie wraps up the project with “Winter Wonderland.” It’s difficult to review a Christmas CD, for the most part we’ve heard the songs hundreds if not thousands of times and quite honestly, it’s hard to do a lot with the songs to make them different between artists. So for me, it comes down to performance. How did the artist deliver the song, do they sound bored, like they just want to get through and on to the next. Well, I can say, with this project, Katie was anything

but bored. Her smooth alto has an almost youthful exuberance to it. She sings the slow songs with heart and feeling while the upbeat ones are full of fun and will make you smile. All of this is wrapped up in a country style, but don’t worry, there is no twang.

I enjoyed Christmas Time’s a Comin’ by Katie Cudworth and will add it to my playlist for Christmas, and I suggest you do as well!



An all male gospel group from Dalton, GA is seeking a tenor singer to join the group. Master Peace Quartet usually has about 70 appointments per year. The position will require some overnight travel. MPQ is praying and seeking the man God has for us. Applicants must be able to testify of their salvation and have a heart for ministry.

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# Reflecting on the Journey

by Dixie Phillips

The Kingdom Heirs, Dollywood's premiere quartet, started in 1971, because of a move of God among a few young people in Knoxville, Tennessee. Hoping to reach others for Jesus, these dedicated youth formed a gospel group and sang wherever the Lord opened the door. They weren't quite sure what to call their group until they read James 2:5.

"Has not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

Though the members have changed through the years, the group's mission and message has stayed the same—singing and sharing the Good News of Jesus to anyone who will listen. Current group members are Arthur Rice (lead), Loren Harris (baritone), Jerry Martin (tenor), Jeff Chapman (bass), Andy Stringfield (pianist), Dennis Murphy (drums), and Kreis French (manager and bass guitarist).

In 1982, the group began performing multiple shows at Silver Dollar City, in Pigeon Forge. Then in 1986, when the theme park's name was changed to Dollywood, The Kingdom Heirs were asked to become the resident quartet, and the mountains of East Tennessee have never been the same. People from all over the

world come to visit Dollywood, the biggest ticketed tourist attraction in the state. It is estimated that the group does more than 500 performances each year. After their nine-month performance schedule at Dollywood and the season closes, the group tours for seven weeks, January through March.

Their story should inspire any up-and-coming gospel artist. They have come a long way from their humble beginnings and God continues to bless them. The accolades and awards keep rolling in. They have received numerous nominations for The SGMA Awards, Dove Awards, Diamond Awards, and The Singing News Fan Awards. They are signed with Son-lite Records label, a division of Crossroads Marketing, and have garnered numerous chart-topping songs, 11 of them reaching the coveted #1 spot.

Arthur Rice joined the group in 1995. He shares some of his early memories. "In those days we sang a lot outdoors. So, people were just walking by the outdoor theater and they would catch a part of the music and slow down. Then pretty soon they would stop to hear more. It was and still is such an honor to introduce this music and message to people that normally wouldn't hear these songs."

The group is always encouraged when they hear from people that have been moved by the music. Arthur says, "Over the years we've heard many testimonies from people that came to Dollywood and "just happened" to hear us sing. Some had grown up in church and the Lord spoke to their hearts through our program. Many went home and rededicated their lives to Christ. We never get tired of getting those wonderful reports."

And there are testimonies to prove their method is working. When The Kingdom Heirs were on the road about five years ago, a lady came up to their table after a concert. She wasn't familiar with the group or their genre of music, but she was deeply moved by the songs. She went home and started searching for more southern gospel music. Later, after she gave her heart to the Lord she shared with the group, "When I saw you in concert, I listened to what you had to say, and the underlying message was this: Jesus is enough."



Each member of the group grew up in church and were greatly impacted by southern gospel music. In fact, Loren Harris and Jeff Chapman are preacher's kids. The group is united in their ministry hearts and determined to use whatever they can to win people to the Lord.

Arthur speaks about the balance between entertainment and ministry, "There is a Ravi Zacharias' quote that really hit home with me: Laughter brings people to a good place and the closer you are to goodness the easier it is to hear God's message. Laughter opens people's hearts and they let their guard down. The entertainment part does that, but then we go a little deeper. God has given us the opportunity to present the gospel to people who normally wouldn't hear it. We can wear both shoes. We sing some songs that entertain and then we sing other songs that speak to people and minister to their needs."

Arthur was deeply moved by her words. He says, "I thought that is exactly what we want people to know that Jesus is enough for anything they go through or any problem they face. Jesus is enough!"

One of their biggest songs, "Forever Changed," was penned by Marty Funderburk. It was #1 on radio and continues to bless audiences whenever the group performs it. Arthur continues, "When Christ comes into our life, He changes us not for a day and not for a week or a month, but forever. People love this song and keep on requesting it."

In the past 25 years the group has recorded more than 70 Dianne Wilkinson songs and most of their #1 songs were written by her except for two or three. Her hit "What We Needed" is still a fan favorite. Arthur adds, "It is full of the gospel and has a timeless message."

Life changed for the group this year. Covid-19 forced them to come off the road on March 1, for a few months. Arthur shares, "On June 13, the park opened back up with limited capacity. All the indoor theaters were closed. It forced us to move back outside. We're singing back at one of the outdoor theaters we got our start in. It is a full circle moment for us. We started outside and worked our way inside and now we worked our way back outside, and we are enjoying it."

Arthur believes this move proved to be a great ministry opportunity for the group. "Once again people are walking by us on their way to the roller-coaster. They slow down and then come back and listen to us sing songs of hope in this hopeless time. We just give people Jesus and they are hungry for that. It's what our music does best—it brings hope. It's easy when everything is going great with your life, but when you don't know about tomorrow, where does your hope come from then? We all need Jesus."



The Kingdom Heirs are busy working on a new project and they are very excited about it. Their record company has gotten very creative during the unusual days. Normally groups record an album and then release singles to radio from the ten or so songs they record, but Crossroads decided to think outside the box. Arthur says, "In the midst of unprecedented times, our online streaming numbers have skyrocketed. We have recorded new songs on our new project

so far and we will be releasing one song to radio, but then every month we will release a new song to our online streaming platform. Then in January, we will go back in the studio and record the rest of the album and when those songs are done then the entire album will be released." The thing that each group member loves about their record company's new approach is that every song on the album will be featured and pushed. Arthur adds, "People will have a chance to hear every song on our album. I've always disliked the fact that some songs on a project get lost and don't get the recognition they deserve. This way every song will be heard."

Arthur invites everyone who can to come and visit Dollywood whenever they can, but he says it is really impressive during the Christmas season. "They know how to celebrate during the holidays, and I know people will really enjoy the festive decorations and great shows. Right now, people are craving some kind of normalcy. Dollywood is a perfect place to create memories with your family and friends that will last a lifetime."

Readers can learn more about The Kingdom Heirs and their music at [www.kingdomheirs.com](http://www.kingdomheirs.com). The group looks forward to meeting new friends and spreading the Good News of Jesus through testimony and song.

As the group moves forward, they do so with confidence in the One who called them to sing. God called, they answered. Step by step and song by song.



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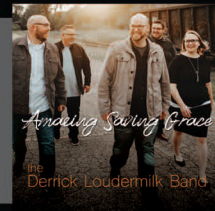
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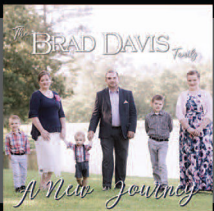
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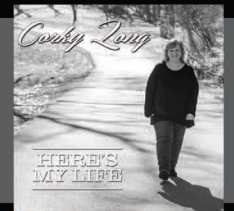
"Starboard Side"



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"A Real Word"



"Little Things"



"I Will Stand For Jesus"



"Written In Red"



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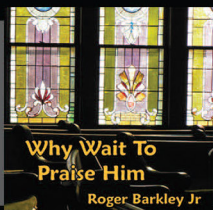
"I've Got Me A Home"



"I'm Goin' Back"



"The Man"



"Riding Through The Storms"



"When Jesus Comes Again"



"Here I Go Again"

# DJ Spotlight

## *Randall Hamm*



by Vonda Armstrong

The Sunday Morning Gospel Show began in April of 1983. It was one of the very first programs on WFLQ in French Lick, Indiana, as part of their Sunday morning programming.

Randall Hamm became the host of the show in 1995. SGN Scoops Magazine is shining the DJ Spotlight on Randall this month. Check out what he had to say.

VONDA ARMSTRONG: What is your current radio position and station?

RANDALL HAMM: I am currently Program Director and Gospel Program Director at WFLQ in French Lick, Indiana. 100.1 on your FM dial and 6000 watts. We reach a 6 county area from French Lick, Indiana, in the Northwest Corner of beautiful Orange County, Indiana. We are 55 miles Northwest of Louisville, a little over a 100 miles Southwest from Indianapolis. I have been employed at WFLQ for 25 years and have gone from LP to MP3 in airplay technology.

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

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

VA: If you could visit any place in the world, where

would you go?

RH: I would visit Nashville, Tennessee. I lived there for 5 years in the mid 80's and went to Lipscomb University. If I could choose a 2nd place, it would be the Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, area. I go there once a year but don't have time to see any attractions. I would love to get to be there a full week and just enjoy God's handiwork.

VA: Tell us about your family.

RH: I have a son who just turned 21. He is working at Arby's, and he loves it. I have two sisters who are younger than me. My parents and I live in Paoli, Indiana.

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

RH: Yes, I was around 8 or 9. 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 I heard overnight, when I would wake up. To me, those voices of those DJ's sounded like they were having fun and most of all, they got to play

music! I loved a little show called WKRP. It influenced me at 13 years of age, when I saw they were actually having FUN, and getting paid to do it.

This past year was filled with medical issues for Randall, but it was a nice surprise for him to win the Christian Voice Fan Fair Gospel "Personality of the Year" award. WFLQ also won "Station of the Year."

Thank you Randall for sharing with us this month. Congratulations!



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# The *Gift* OF MUSIC

by Charlie Griffin

*Music is the gift to the soul, heart and mind.*

Music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind and gives rest, heals the heart and makes the world flow from heaven to the soul.” -unknown

Who would have ever imagined a previously unknown virus would up-end the world the way Covid-19 has in 2020? In this pandemic sometimes known as the Corona Age, we have seen our world change completely. It seems we are evolving with new norms.

In our daily lives, many have found life curtailed like never before – work from home, home-schooling our children, limited visits to public places while doing more with immediate family at home in small numbers.

We have found our way of living changed. Holiday gatherings and celebrations are remaking themselves. Our way of church worship has changed to online or limited seating access in our worship centers, while Zoom meetings are now commonplace. Small groups are evolving with bible study, prayer chains and new friendships are being forged. Choirs are practicing on other social media platforms.

But what has not changed in this pandemic is our music. Music continues to be the glue of life in this Covid-19 world. In these ever-changing times, music offers joy, comfort, energy and hope. Music represents our emotions, good times, bad times and messages that tell our stories. It is a gift to the soul, heart and mind.

How we are getting our music is growing with these pandemic changes. Sure, we may be limited with in-person concerts, but the explosion of online concerts, Facebook LIVE streaming, YouTube videos and other interactive social platforms have given us new mediums of enjoying our favorite gospel artists and their songs. Unknowingly, we are growing our outreach to a new generation of friends making fans daily by using today's technologies.

Radio music listenership is up as more fans are tuning in to their favorite DJ's on their favorite gospel music radio stations, conventional, online, satellite or pay on demand.

More people are playing their music at home as they dust off their albums, cassettes and CDs while some



share they found an Eight-Track or two. More fans have watched their stored VHS music videos during this time.



Regardless of where and how the music is played, music is a gift to the soul, heart and mind. It will make those “having a bad day” change to a good day effortlessly. Yes, life’s perfect gift is music.



Gospel music gifts came through in recent conversations with southern gospel industry professionals. There were several gifts that kept coming up about how the gift of music has impacted their lives.

Crossroad Label Group Gospel Artist Relations Director, Greg Bentley shares “I guess I was bitten around the age of 12. Growing up in south Alabama, the area we were in had very little Gospel music, so not until we moved to North Carolina did I really get exposed to it. But it bit, and bit hard! My first concert was to hear The Hinsons. I knew from that moment

on this was what I wanted to do.”

He continues, “My beginning was probably like many, singing with family and in church. My grandfather on my mom’s side was very musical, as was that whole side of the family. So, we started singing in area churches. My first “job” singing came with a quartet called The Christianaires from Burlington North Carolina. From there I was hired by The Hoppers, at first to help Connie as she battled allergies, but then as the main tenor when Sharon Watts left before Dean and Kim got married. I was there for 5 years. When Kim joined, I moved to the Down East Boys for 3 years before coming off the road for a couple years in ’93 when I started working for Crossroads Music. It was during this time Squire Parsons asked me to join him which I did for 10 years before joining Crossroads Music on a full-time basis.”

Lowesville Gospel Concerts Promoter Carroll Cooke says, “Being born into gospel music, and raised singing the Stamps Baxter shaped note gospel songs, well it never leaves you. My dad was choir director at our church, and every year he would have V. O. Fossett from Dallas Texas, a great teacher and songwriter, come and teach a two-week singing school. As a family, we ate it up! This was the foundation for my love of gospel music that has gotten even stronger as time’s gone by.”

“At age 17 I began serving as a church minister of music for the first time, since then it’s been my pleasure to serve in that capacity for at least a half dozen other





churches. In 2011 my first wife passed away, and I was struggling with grief, when my sister approached me saying, ‘we need to start singing again.’ That was just what the Doctor ordered, I needed to sing. So Hazel, our cousin Melody Pugh, and I sang for several years. When Melody retired due to family illness, Hazel and I continued until Lowesville Gospel Concerts was born. When that happened, Lowesville Gospel Concerts became my passion. After 3 concerts in 2012, we began 2013 having concerts every 2nd and 4th Saturday evening. The concerts continue to this day, even through the pandemic. “



N’Vision CEO and President Bill Traylor comments, “I fell in love with gospel music soon after my accepting of our Savior which was on Feb. 14, 1972. Having been a “60’s Rocker” Gospel Music was new to me and I wanted to absorb it all. I was really bitten when I first attended the NQC in 1974 at the urging of a

friend. I knew God had something for me with this ‘new music to me’ but had no concept how important it would become. Initially, I was a youth choir director and then traveled a bit as a soloist. I was heard by The Downings and offered a position as lead singer for them. I also sang with Ben Speer, Joe Thrasher and Herman Harper initially and later with Jerry Sowards in the Homeland Quartet.”

Traylor states, “After leaving the Downings, I knew I wanted a career in Gospel Music, so I pestered Robert Benson of The Benson Company to hire me as the Southern Gospel Radio Promoter even though I knew nothing about radio promotion. He hired me and from there I progressed to head of the Radio Department, then to head of the booking agency, then to head of Heartwarming/Impact Records signing such artists as Sandi Patty, The Kingsmen, The Speers, Larnelle Harris, Carman, Phil Driscoll, The Hemphills, Gold City and the Cathedrals. Left Benson and started RiverSong Records and signed the Cathedrals, Singing Americans, Anthony Burger, Doug Oldham and others then sold RiverSong to Benson and ran the Benson Company for a few years and started Homeland Records. Now I have N’Vision Entertainment. The gift of gospel music is my life.”



Gospel Music Today host Jean Grady says, “In the early 1990’s, before Ken and I were married, we attended a Statler Brothers concert and loved the gospel songs they did. We started watching their TV show and also the Gaither videos. Soon after we were married, we went to Pigeon Forge for a gospel music convention, then Meramec Caverns and NQC, Louisville. We just fell in love with gospel music.” Jean exclaims, “When I was a music director in a

United Methodist Church in Rhode Island for 17 years, I introduced the choir to Southern Gospel music. It wasn't just the music that they loved, but the identification of the message in the music. I remember telling them that if they didn't believe what they were singing, there was no way they were going to get the message across to the congregation. That's why we spent quite a bit of time talking about the message in the songs as we learned them."



She continues, "During that time, we formed a small ensemble that sang around New England. I sang in that group while Ken took care of making us sound good. In time, we thought we would try to bring some professional groups to sing at our church in Rhode Island. We needed a way to advertise, so we leveraged Ken's experience in broadcasting to create the cable program that became Gospel Music Today. There's nothing like a good message and good gospel music. It is a true gift."

Writers note: "I sing gospel music because of the talent and commission placed within my life. Gospel music is the only music that gives hope, encouragement and can meet you at your point of need. It gives a positive message for today's world. It truly is a gift of life."

Music knows no boundaries of age, cultures or generations. The gospel music message is pure, simple and filled with hope. This gift of music is a lifetime gift. From the youngest to the young at heart, this music continues to impact, change, uplift, motivate and sooth the listeners ear and heart. Covid-19 pandemic or not, music is the gift to the soul, heart and mind.

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





There are times in life where we dream and plan. And there are times in life where those intricately laid plans lead us on a path to nowhere but a cry from the bottom of our heart out to God. And sometimes, when we cry out to God, he rewrites our dreams and redirects our plans. From the humble beginnings of a man with a dream to a series of chart-topping songs, Three Bridges has a story to tell.

The group's founder, Elliott McCoy, was in the auto business for several years and sang on the weekends. He recalls how his plans were different from God's. "I moved to Nashville to join the Statesmen Quartet but Hovie folded the group. So I got plugged into Cornerstone Church and began to seek the Lord for my future. After a couple years the Holy Spirit began to work on my heart to form a group. I was singing in the church choir on July 4, 2001, and as a young lady in the choir sang "Dear Captain" my spirit was quickened to that song. She said her Mom and step dad had written the song and pitched it to over 200 artists. I told her I wanted to record the song and started getting the sound track produced which was finished in August. Then on September 11 the tragic event happened. People began to say let's pray for our President. I realized the Lord had given me the song for such a time as this."

Rick Standrige, producer of a number of projects for Three Bridges recalls that very day. "Elliott McCoy and I have been friends before Three Bridges. We went to church together. One July 4th special at church I was running sound and recorded the service. Elliott was in the choir at the time. There was a song sung called Dear Captain. It was the first time the song had been sung in public. That afternoon Elliott called me and wanted to know if I had recorded the service. I said yes, and he came over and we listened to the song. Elliott said he wanted to start a group and record that song and the rest is history."

With music rooted in traditional southern gospel and black gospel music, Elliott McCoy formed Three Bridges in 2002, giving the group a unique sound. McCoy started Three Bridges with Steven Blanton and Michell Jon Kentizer. For the past ten years Jeremie Hudson and Shannon Smith have been with the group and are carrying on the same R&B gospel style of music.

Known for their tight harmonies and energy packed stage presence, the group's debut album entitled Soldiers resulted in packed houses and appearances on Gaither videos where they sang "I Am A Soldier In The Army Of God." The project also turned out their first charting song at number five, "I Am A Soldier."

The group has had multiple top ten songs and three number one songs “Cooling Water,” “In The Sky,” and “A Little Song Coming On.”



Rick Standrige states, “Elliott, Jeremie, and Shannon are not only some of the most talented people I’ve worked with, but also some of the finest Christian men I’ve ever worked with.”

Elliott McCoy and wife Terri have six children and 16 going on 17 grandchildren. They try to all get together on Thanksgiving.



Shannon Smith, baritone for the group, is from Syracuse, New York, and has been married to Kathryn for almost 34 years. They have two children, son Nicholas who is 20 and daughter Victoria, who is 27. She married Joshua Dixon a year ago.

Smith began his musical career when he was five

years old singing “After All” in church. In 1996 he filled in with N’Harmony and later the Blackwood Voices. In 2002 he began singing with the Imperials where he remained until 2008.

“Singing with The Imperials was a dream come true for me,” Smith explains. “Honestly, I don’t know that I have a lot of what most people would consider to be ‘highlights’ in my career, but just having the privilege of singing as a career and seeing the joy, peace and inspiration that we bring to people’s lives through song is one big highlight. My most memorable experience was performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City with the Imperials.”



Life with Three Bridges began ten and half years ago. “After I left the Imperials, I served as a worship pastor for a while in North Miami Beach, Florida. When I left that position I began doing solo ministry while I was seeking the Lord for my next assignment. During that time Elliott McCoy called and asked me to consider joining Three Bridges. We prayed about it for about three months and then felt that it was what the Lord had next for us.”

Singing the high part is Jeremie Hudson. He said he will always admire his parents Harold and Sandy Hudson. He sang his first song with his dad who is one of his biggest musical influences.

Hudson recounts a significant experience in his life. “I was saved at about the age of five at Jones Chapel Church of God in Cullman. I have always desired to



tell people about God and the freedom He gives. So that's what I've wanted to do most of my life. My Dad traveled about 13 years with the Churchmen and I derived from him the love of singing and sharing God, in song. When I was 16 or so, I sorta walked my own way for a while although God was always chasing me. When I turned 17 God really got hold of my heart and I moved for my senior year to a brand new school in Birmingham, to get away from what I had been so stuck in just a year earlier. I also decided to stop playing basketball for school. With my parents living in Cullman part time and me in Birmingham by myself for part of the week, I found myself only having God as a true friend. He and I really got close. After graduating I started trying to find what to do next. Playing basketball and singing was all I did. Finally I tried out for Southeastern and joined their music department and basketball team. It was there I found Amanda. We were married a few years later and I have been singing for 25 years plus."

Hudson had his own group, Fresh Anointing, for five years before joining The Imperials. Singing with the Imperials was an experience in itself but in 2008, he left the group really thinking he was finished on the road.

After exiting The Imperials, he got involved with a

local church ministry as interim Worship Pastor all the while trying to find the place God wanted him to be. Every path he explored seemed to not be the right fit for him. But when Elliot McCoy started communicating with him early in 2010 it seemed to click. And after praying about it for a month or so, he joined Three Bridges as tenor in May of that year.

Jeremie and Amanda have three children – Michael Eric, age 23, Brantley Clint, age 21, and Emma Brook, age 14 – all of whom seem to enjoy music.

"Let me say this," McCoy added, "Shannon and Jeremie have been part of Three Bridges for ten years and I must say they are both tremendous vocalists and they are ordained ministers. They are some of the finest men that I have had the privilege to travel and sing with."

The Three Bridges story is still being written by The One who orchestrated their paths and brought them together. Starting their 20th year they hope to do something special. Three Bridges current radio single is a Ronny Hinson song "Gonna Keep Living" off the album Our Story.

So when you're not sure where life is taking you, remember the story of Three Bridges. Remember how God took their plans and replaced them with



His own. And like Three Bridges, God is writing your story too.

You can find the group Three Bridges on face book, visit their web page [www.threebridges.net](http://www.threebridges.net) or book them through their agent Beckie Simmons Agency.

Elliott, Shannon, Jeremie and the entire Three Bridges staff and family would like to wish each and every reader a joyous and Merry Christmas.

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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
<b>1</b>	<b>MADE RIGHT</b>	<b>KAREN PECK &amp; NEW RIVER/DAYWIND</b>
2	GREAT GOD ALMIGHTY	THE SOUND/NEW DAY RECORDS
3	THREE MEN ON A MOUNTAIN	ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND/STOWTOWN
4	MY HOME	BROWDERS/DREAM BIG
5	MAKE THE LAST DAYS COUNT	TIM LIVINGSTON/DIAMOND MILL MUSIC
6	DEAR JOHN	KINGSMEN/CROSSROADS
7	EYE OF THE STORM	TRIUMPHANT/STOWTOWN
8	HEALER IN THE GRAVE	TALLEYS/CROSSROADS
9	I'VE BEEN WASHED CLEAN	GREATER VISION/DAYWIND
10	JUST DRINK THE WATER	KINGDOM HEIRS/CROSSROADS
11	TURN TO THE CROSS	HYSSONGS/CHAPEL VALLEY
12	I KNOW HIM BETTER NOW	JIM & MELISSA BRADY/DAYWIND
13	WHAT WE NEED	OLD TIME PREACHER'S QUARTET/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
14	NEVER A TIME	PERRYS/STOWTOWN
15	COME TO JESUS MEETIN'	GERALD CRABB/INDEPENDENT
16	I WISH I COULD TELL YOU	GUARDIANS/STOWTOWN
17	I'M TRAVELIN ON	CAROLINA BOYS QT/CROSSROADS
18	HALLELUJAH HOMECOMING	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
19	LOOK AT ALL I LOST	THE OLD PATHS/CROSSROADS
20	THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET/CRIMSON ROAD
21	FEAR NOT	TRIBUTE QT/DAYWIND
22	WHAT IF JESUS	STEELES/STOWTOWN
23	SEND IT ON DOWN THE NILE	JEFF & SHERI EASTER/GAITHER MUSIC
24	JORDAN	NELONS/DAYWIND
25	HEAVENLY MUSIC	MARK DUBBELD FAMILY/SONG GARDEN
26	YOUR HELP IS ON THE WAY	JASON CRABB/DAYWIND
27	A WRETCH LIKE ME	LAUREN TALLEY/CROSSROADS
28	WHAT LOVE	DOWN EAST BOYS/CROSSROADS
29	SEND REVIVAL	JOSH AND ASHLEY FRANKS/INDEPENDENT
30	ALL THE WAY TO THE GATES	KRAMERS/STOWTOWN
31	HE WILL BE GOD	WHISNANTS/UIA
32	1945	INSPIRATIONS/CROSSROADS
33	INTO THE FOLD	HOPE'S JOURNEY/INDEPENDENT
34	WE COME IN JESUS NAME	MYLON HAYES FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
35	I'M CHANGING MOUNTAINS	MARK BISHOP/CROSSROADS
36	THAT'S MY PREACHER	LES BUTLER/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
37	I'LL HAVE TO RUN	RIVER'S EDGE/INDEPENDENT
38	CHILD OF THE KING	GAITHER VOCAL BAND/GAITHER MUSIC
39	BEGIN WITH YOU	WISECARVERS/CROSSROADS
40	HAND ON THE PLOW	TROY BURNS FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
41	GIVE IT TO JESUS	3 HEATH BROTHERS/CROSSROADS
42	DON'T BE CAUGHT DEAD WITHOUT JESUS	JUSTIFIED QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
43	BETWEEN THE PRAYER AND THE ANSWER	LEFEVRE QUARTET/DAYWIND
44	BETTER OFF THERE	BROWNS/STOWTOWN
45	FAITHFUL IN THESE TIMES	WILBANKS/CHAPEL VALLEY
46	GOD IS GOOD	MCKAMEYS/CROSSROADS
47	GOLIATH	JOSEPH HABENDANK/DAYWIND
48	THEY'LL NEVER TAKE JESUS OUT OF MY HEART	MICHAEL COMBS/INDEPENDENT
49	KEEP PRAYING	LORE FAMILY/CROSSROADS
50	GIVE THEM JESUS	WILLIAMSONS/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP

# SGN SCOOPS

HOME OF THE

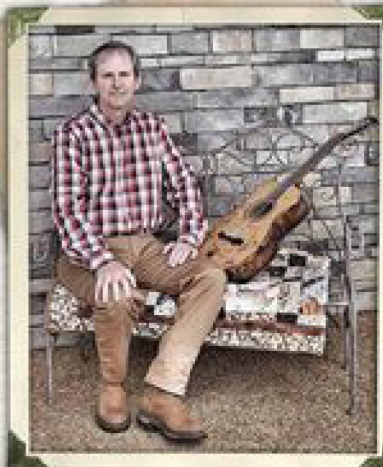


POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
51	BORN	SUNDAY DRIVE/CROSSROADS
52	GONNA KEEP LIVIN	THREE BRIDGES/CROSSROADS
53	KEEP LOOKING UP	ENDLESS HIGHWAY/CROSSROADS
54	LAND OF FOREVER	DYSART FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
55	HOPE FOR THE WORLD	JORDAN FAMILY BAND/CROSSROADS
56	LITTLE THINGS	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
57	THE LAMB	COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY/STOWTOWN
58	SALVATION SONG	TAYLORS/STOWTOWN
59	GOD OF SECOND CHANCES	HIGH ROAD/NEW DAY
60	LIKE HE'S ALREADY DONE	BARRY ROWLAND & DELIVERANCE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
61	I'LL PRAISE YOU	AUSTIN & ETHAN WHISNANT/UIA
62	BEGINNING AGAIN	GREG SULLIVAN/RESTING PLACE MUSIC
63	HE'S STILL THERE	LANCE DRISKELL/INDEPENDENT
64	MOUNTAINTOP FOR ME	CRABB FAMILY/DAYWIND
65	HEADED HOME/ALMOST THERE	HAZEL PARKER STANLEY/PATTERSON MUSIC GROUP
66	BEHOLD THE LAMB	BOWLING FAMILY/DAYWIND
67	I KNOW IT'S MINE	11TH HOUR/CROSSROADS
68	YOU ARE STILL FATHER	WALKERS/MANSION
69	RESCUE STORY	FIELDS OF GRACE/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
70	HERE I AM LORD	4 CALVARY QT/INDEPENDENT
71	THIS SAME JESUS	MASTER'S VOICE/CROSSROADS
72	COME ON BACK	PARDONED/MANSION
73	CITY OF GOLD	CHRONICLE/INDEPENDENT
74	TIL THE END	FREEMANS/INDEPENDENT
75	WHEN YOUR BACK IS TO THE WALL	BIG MO/INDEPENDENT
76	I'M SO SAVED	BUTLER BROTHERS QT/INDEPENDENT
77	MERCIFUL TO ME	SOULS HARBOR/INDEPENDENT
78	OUTTA THE TREE	A'MEN QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
79	HALLELUJAH WHAT A SAVIOR	SOUL'D OUT QT/CROSSROADS
80	WHAT GRACE CAN DO	PHILLIPS FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
81	YOUR SON	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
82	GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL AGAIN	PHILLIPS & BANKS/INDEPENDENT
83	HE PRAYED HER HOME	SOUTHERN PLAINSMEN/INDEPENDENT
84	STARBOARD SIDE	JUDITH MONTGOMERY & FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
85	NO LONGER SLAVES	BATTLECRY/CHAPEL VALLEY
86	STORM BEFORE THE CALM	HEART 2 HEART/INDEPENDENT
87	THE WILDERNESS	ISAACS/GAITHER MUSIC
88	TIME TO PRAY	GORDON MOTE/GAITHER MUSIC
89	WHEN I LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS	BILLY HUDDLESTON/INDEPENDENT
90	ALL THAT I NEED	PAUL JAMES SOUND/INDEPENDENT
91	PRAYING WHILE I'M WAITING	REAL TRUTH REVIVAL/INDEPENDENT
92	NOBODY	GLORYWAY QUARTET/INDEPENDENT
93	YOU CAN LIVE AGAIN	SUSAN WHISNANT/UIA
94	HOW GOOD DOES GRACE FEEL	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE/DAYWIND
95	STILL I WILL PRAISE YOU	SISTERS/INDEPENDENT
96	HERE I GO AGAIN	JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY
97	THE LOST SHEEP	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
98	PROOF IS IN THE SCARS	VERNON GREESON/INDEPENDENT
99	9 MAKES US 1	LEGACY 5 & WARDLOW BROTHERS
100	NEWS I DIDN'T GET	LINDSAY HUGGINS/INDEPENDENT

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1	<b>READY TO SERVE</b>	<b>ROCHESTERS/INDEPENDENT</b>
2	DON'T TUNE HIM OUT	WHITES/INDEPENDENT
3	I KNOW THE TOMB IS EMPTY	HEAVEN'S MOUNTAIN BAND/FAMILY MUSIC GROUP
4	IT'S AUTUMN	TIM DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
5	THERE'S NO DEPRESSION IN HEAVEN	CHUCK WAGON GANG/MOUNTAIN HOME RECORDS
6	THE LOST SHEEP	EAGLE'S WINGS/INDEPENDENT
7	WORRY NEVER DONE NOTHING	EAST RIDGE BOYS/MANSION
8	I'M GONNA WAIT ON JESUS	CAROLINA BLUE/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
9	GOD OF SECOND CHANCES	HIGH ROAD/NEW DAY RECORDS
10	GOD'S STILL IN CONTROL	MERLE MONROE/PIBECastle RECORDS

## CHRISTIAN COUNTRY TOP 40 CHART

POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	<b>HIS NAME IS JESUS</b>	<b>TIM MENZIES/NEW DAY RECORDS</b>
2	COME TO JESUS MEETIN'	GERALD CRABB/INDEPENDENT
3	AMERICAN HEROES	HUNTER MAY/INDEPENDENT
4	MERCY CAME RUNNING	CHOSEN ROAD/SONG GARDEN
5	JAILBREAK	MARK209/INDEPENDENT
6	YOU'RE EVERYWHERE	SHELLEM CLINE/TIRE SWING RECORDS
7	PATIENTLY WAITING	STEVE BRIDGMON/INDEPENDENT
8	THE REST OF THE STORY	RAY WOLFORD/HMG
9	THEY TRIED	DOUG CORUM/INDEPENDENT
10	HALLELUJAH HOMECOMING	WILBURN & WILBURN/DAYWIND
11	JOY	BRANDED/INDEPENDENT
12	YOUR SON	CHRIS GOLDEN/24K RECORDS
13	CAPABLE HANDS	MICHAEL ROBERTS/INDEPENDENT
14	JONAH, JOB & MOSES	CAROLINA/INDEPENDENT
15	A DAY	CAROL BARHAM/M.A.C. RECORDS
16	GOD DOESN'T CARE	JACKSON HEIGHTS/CENTER STAGE MUSIC
17	ALWAYS ANGELS	DAVID TIMMS/INDEPENDENT
18	COME ON BACK	PARDONED/MANSION
19	LITTLE THINGS	MELISSA EVANS/CHAPEL VALLEY
20	HE WILL SEE ME THROUGH	DON STILES/INDEPENDENT
21	ROCK BOTTOM	KEVIN AND KIM ABNEY/INDEPENDENT
22	COME TO JESUS MOMENT	DONNA ULISSE/BILLY BLUE RECORDS
23	LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS	TONJA ROSE/MANSION
24	OH THE LORD HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO ME	DENNIS JOLLY/CHAPEL VALLEY
25	TOUGHER THAN NAILS	BEV MCCANN/INDEPENDENT
26	GOD IN THE GUITAR STRINGS	MITCHELL WHISNANT/INDEPENDENT
27	HERE I GO AGAIN	JOURNEYS/CHAPEL VALLEY
28	PROMISE LAND	SAM L. SMITH/INDEPENDENT
29	LAUGH OFTEN	KALI ROSE/INDEPENDENT
30	STILL A SPECIAL PLACE	TONY ALAN BATES/INDEPENDENT
31	TILL I HAVE NO STRENGTH TO GIVE	APPOINTED2/INDEPENDENT
32	COME ON HOME	TIM DAVIS/INDEPENDENT
33	GARDEN OF MY HEART	BARBER FAMILY/INDEPENDENT
34	HE HEARS MY EVERY PRAYER	JESSICA HORTON/M.A.C. RECORDS
35	MOUNTAIN MOVIN GOD	PURPOSE/CHAPEL VALLEY
36	EARTH TO GOD	JOHN RICH/INDEPENDENT
37	STARBOARD SIDE	JUDITH MONTGOMERY & FAMILY/CHAPEL VALLEY
38	HE DIDN'T THROW THE CLAY AWAY	GENE REASONER/INDEPENDENT
39	WE KNOW	JIMMY R. PRICE/INDEPENDENT
40	I'VE SEEN ENOUGH	NATHAN ARENO/INDEPENDENT

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POSITION	SONG TITLE	ARTIST/LABEL
1	<b>PRACTICE WHAT YOU'RE PREACHING</b>	<b>LEFEVRE QUARTET</b>
2	HOW GOOD DOES GRACE FEEL	BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE
3	I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN	GOLD CITY
4	RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION	BLACKWOOD BROTHERS QUARTET
5	BORN	SUNDAY DRIVE
6	OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS	TONJA ROSE
7	SALVATION SONG	TAYLORS
8	TIME TO PRAY	GORDON MOTE
9	SPARROWS & LILIES	CHARLOTTE RICHIE
10	HAVE YOU BEEN BENEATH THE FOUNTAIN	NEW GROUND
11	STORM BEFORE THE CALM	HEART 2 HEART
12	WORKING ON A BUILDING	TROY BURNS FAMILY
13	COME ON BACK	PARDONED
14	THAT'S WHY HE'S JESUS	COFFMANS
15	I'LL BE STANDING	PSALM 101
16	IT'S MY DESIRE	BRENDA DENNEY
17	THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED	DERRICK LOUDERMILK BAND
18	PEACE SPEAKER	NEW JOURNEY
19	LET THE VALLEY TEACH YOU HOW TO SING	SONGSMITHS
20	VICTORY IN JESUS	REDEEMERS OF FAITH

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# A RECIPE FROM THE HOME AND HEART OF *Ila Knight*

## A Recipe from the Home and Heart of Ila Knight

I have made this cake for Christmas for more than 40 years. In the long ago, strawberries were not ordinarily on the market at Christmastime. But I was able to get a whole tray from Ingles (special ordered) from Florida for about \$30.00. A lot of money in those days! We not only loved it but it was so beautiful we had one every Christmas until my children married and left home. I still make it and it was included in my Cookbook "Recipes From the Heart."



### **Strawberry Cream Cake**

This recipe has been modified and adapted from the original inspiration found in the April 1977 McCall's Cooking School Magazine.

## **Ingredients:**

6 egg whites

1-3/4 C sifted all purpose flour (sift before measuring)

1/2 tsp salt 1-1/2 C sugar 6 egg yolks

1/4 C fresh lemon juice 1 quart (or more if desired) strawberries, washed and hulled and sliced. Leave several whole for garnish.

1 large tub Cool Whip

## **Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350°
2. Sift flour with salt In a large mixer bowl, beat egg whites until foamy.
3. Beat in 3/4 C of the sugar, 2 TBSP at a time beating well after each addition. (I use an electric mixer on this). Beat until soft peaks form when the beater is slowly raised.
4. In a small mixer bowl, using the same beaters, beat the yolks until very thick and lemon colored.
5. Gradually add the remaining sugar to the egg yolk mixture.

6. Add the lemon juice and 2 TBSP water.
7. At low speed, gradually beat in the flour mixture, beating just enough to combine.
8. Using a wire whisk, gently fold in the beaten egg whites just to blend.
9. Pour batter into an UNGREASED 10 by 4 inch tube pan. Bake for 40 minutes or until the top springs back when gently touched with your fingertip.
10. Invert pan over the neck of a bottle until completely cool, at least 1 hour.
11. Carefully loosen the cake from the sides of the pan and remove the cake to the desired cake plate.
12. Divide the cake into thirds, making 3 layers. Cover the bottom layer with Cool Whip and a generous layer of sliced strawberries (sweetened if you prefer). Top with the second layer and repeat. Top with the top layer and repeat the Cool whip, the strawberries. Cover the entire cake with Cool Whip and garnish with whole berries.

If you would like to try more of Ila's recipes, her cookbook "Recipes from the Heart" is available on ebay at

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/-/153977145202> or by sending a check to Ila Knight at Box 277 Balsam NC 28707 for \$24.00 which includes shipping.

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# Beyond the Song

by Jantina Baksteen



Lance Driskell has a great song out on radio called, "He's Still There." His seasoned, passionate voice and the beautiful melody are the first things that draw the listener in to pay attention to the relevant lyrics. Here is the story of soloist Lance Driskell.

Jantina Baksteen: The first time I ever heard you was on New Journey Radio. My goodness. Where have you been? I want to know more about who's behind that incredible voice. So fire away and share with the readers about who Lance Driskell is?

Lance Driskell: I'm originally from Clanton, Alabama. I'm currently living in The Rocket City: Huntsville, Alabama. I'm married to my beautiful loving wife, Erin. I have two girls, Madison and Maecie, and one son, Parker.

JB: What is your history in Gospel Music?

LD: I'm a third generation gospel singer. My granddad began singing in old convention singings with his brothers and sisters. Through the years, it moved down to my mom and uncles and eventually to me. I'm the last in the line if one of the great-grandchildren don't take it up. I played drums and later sang with my family for most of my childhood.

In 1995, I believe, I met a wonderful man by the name of Donny Lewis, he allowed me to join his ministry team singing at youth events and churches. I met some of the best people doing that.

In 1997, I helped start a local gospel choir.



In 2000, on my 22nd birthday, a dream came true and I made my debut singing full time with Tony Gore and Majesty. I traveled with that group until 2002. I met some fantastic folks. One was the piano player, Byron Steward. He's my best friend to this day. One other guy I met and always loved to death was the best tenor singer to ever walk on stage, Jay Parrack.

In 2017, Byron called one day and asked if I'd be interested in singing baritone for Jay's group. No question! So, I tried out and we all picked up where we left off, having a great time and sharing the good news. We traveled until November 2019, when Jay took the job with the Lefevre Quartet. So here I am! Alone again. I'm just kidding. I believe we all end up exactly where God wants us if we're faithful. I have always had a few solo dates throughout the year. Having "He's Still There" get all this attention has made me realize God's not done. In some ways, He's just begun.

JB: What age did you start singing?

LD: Age five, (I sang) "Go Tell It On The Mountain" in the church Christmas play. I think I was a donkey.

JB: Who are your musical influences?

LD: The Cathedrals and Gold City. More specifically, Ivan Parker. Notice any similarities in his name and my son's?

JB: You have an amazing song on radio. Can you share how you received this song?

LD: Thank you. Back in 2019, Jay Parrack and Vocal Event decided to cut a record. We searched and searched and found nine songs. We were about to settle on the 10th when Belinda Smith called Jay, and said that Joseph Habedank, Kenna Turner West, and she had written a song ("He's Still There"), and it had just come off hold from another group. She sent it. Jay called (me), going crazy. We all fell in love with the song, obviously. So, we cut the rhythm tracks and began the vocals, when the Lord opened the door for Jay to go back on the road full time (with the LeFevre Quartet).

JB: What is the message of "He's Still There?"

LD: "He's Still There" - Regardless of the situation, circumstance, or position you're in, God has, is, and always will be, there. "Even when it's hard to be strong, God is still on the throne." How can that line not make you thankful?

JB: Is there a personal testimony you could share with us about this song?

LD: After Jay started with the Lefevre Quartet, we let all the songs lay. In March, when the COVID-19 pandemic started, I was driving home with my family one night. I was thinking how scared people are. I began thinking about all those folks that were no longer working. How dark it must have seemed. And I literally

started humming this song, after not hearing or thinking of it for five months. I got home that night and cut some scratch vocals to it. It literally took off by itself and we ended up here.

JB: What message of hope do you share with the crowd you sing to?

LD: You know, I hope the Christian hears this, the Christian who can't seem to understand why they're in this valley, who can't see to the other side of the valley, and the one who feels completely alone: You have to know God is still there. Just remember that. Then I hope the non-believer hears it, and it causes them to search out who I'm singing about.

JB: What keeps you busy when you're not on the road?

LD: Well, I'm a project manager for a civil construction company.

JB: What is your favorite scripture you always seem to turn to?

LD: Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (NIV)

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (NIV)

Ezekiel 36:25-27 "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." (NIV)



JB: What was your greatest challenge over the last 12 months?

LD: Figuring out what God wants from me. I've always made things happen. I've had a hard time getting out of the way, letting God lead. He's shown me that all I need is Him. No one and nothing else compares. This entire 2020 has been an eye opening. Anyone should see, in an instant, everything you think is important could be gone.

JB: If you could see two years ahead in time, what would you like to see happening in your music ministry?



LD: You know, I've lived my dream, I've traveled 200+ dates per year. I've met all of my heroes. I want my music and message to touch people. I want my ministry to soften the hearts of the hardest folks so the word can reach them and change their life. I don't care about No. 1's or traveling full time. I want to be exactly what God wants me to be. Nothing more. Whatever that may mean.

JB: Jesus often spoke in parables so that his audiences would understand his message. What personal stories do you use while explaining to your audience about the love of God?

LD: Romans 5:8 says "while we were YET sinners Christ died for us."

I may get something different out of this verse than most folks. I spent years trying to do things myself, ie: Fix relationships, Minister, Raise my children, love my wife. When I was the farthest from God, I tried to fix that and get back to where I needed to be, using my own idea of what God wanted me to be. One day at my very lowest, I didn't have one more idea or suggestion on getting what I needed to do. I didn't have one ounce of strength left to

fight.

Standing at the foot of my bed one day, I just said, "Jesus." He whispered into my heart, "I've been here waiting." The most amazing peace came over me. Peace I have to this day. He has begun his fix on my heart and life. See, He don't want us (already) fixed, He wants to fix us. While we were still broken, still confused, and yet sinners, he died for us.

JB: Where can folks find you on the web to book you for a church service?

LD: I'm on Facebook. That's about the easiest way or by email. Those 2 addresses are, [www.facebook.com/lancedriskellmusic](https://www.facebook.com/lancedriskellmusic) and [lancedriskellmusic@gmail.com](mailto:lancedriskellmusic@gmail.com)

Thank you for your time and sharing your ministry with SGNscoops. Hope you are back on the road soon to share the gospel in song!

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# Deeper Things for Kids



By BJ Jenkins

When I asked the students in my Sunday school class if they could tell me what the Fruit of the Spirit was, not a single one of them knew the correct answer. Well, one thing we did find out, it's not a coconut!

Actually, the Fruit of the Spirit is not a fruit at all but something that can grow in you even when you're small. This special fruit is something that you cannot grow or buy or even make it on your own no matter how you try.

So, what is the Fruit of the Spirit, and how does it grow?

The Bible says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." Galatians 5:22-23.

OK, so we know the names of them – but how much do we really know about the Fruits of the Spirit? Are they really all that important? Where do they come from? Can just anyone have the Fruit of the Spirit? Let's look at what the Bible says about them.

First, fruit is important! Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit...and so proves to be my disciples." John 15:8

When you bear good fruit, it proves you have been

born again. Jesus himself said that it was ALL about the fruit. He said everyone will produce some kind of fruit in their lives, either good or bad. The ones that produce the good fruit belong to Him. The ones that produce the bad fruit do NOT belong to Him and will be cast in the fire (hell).

So what makes the good fruit grow? Good fruit begins to grow when you are born again. The Holy Spirit Himself comes and lives inside of your heart. He starts out like a tiny seed. Then, as you water and fertilize Him, He grows larger and larger. It won't be long before He starts to bloom and begins to grow fruit. This fruit may be small at first, but it will keep growing until it's beautiful, tasty, and ready to share with others.

How do you fertilize Him, you ask? The best way to fertilize Him is to spend time talking with Him, to praise and worship Him, to learn about Him, to listen to Him, and to always obey God's Word.

What is bad fruit? Bad fruit would be the opposite of good fruit. This would include hate, sadness, worrying, a bad temper, being mean to others, doing bad things or breaking the law, lying and not keeping promises, being rough and rowdy, and having no self-control. When you see someone who acts this way all of the time, the Bible says, they are not followers of the Lord Jesus, and they are not going to Heav-

en. So, if you want to know who is really a follower of Jesus today, just look for their fruit, because the FRUIT NEVER LIES!

Note to Parents: Teach the deeper things of Jesus. They're not too young to start, for their childlike faith will open the windows of their heart.



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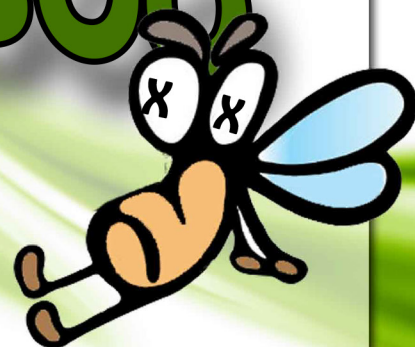


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# Using TikTok To Reach The Lost



by Carrie Hofmeister

Remember back in the day when there were no cell phones and you and your brother would literally fight over the home phone? Remember how you had to lock yourself in the bathroom just to be able to get 5 minutes of peace and quiet to be able to talk to your best friend and get the latest scoop? Remember when we had dial up computers and it would take 10 minutes to get connected to the internet and no one could get through on your land line while you were on it?

Ahhh yes, the good ole days, some of you would say. The days when Facebook was not even thought of and you had to call someone if you wanted to talk to them.

Fast forward several years, and now we have so many social media platforms that it has become a full-time job trying to keep up with all of them. Facebook, Instagram, and even Twitter I can handle, but TikTok? All I would picture when I heard that word was a bunch of teenagers doing these one-minute dances that would take me a year to learn. I could not get down with it. I honestly had a bad taste in my mouth with it and was wondering what was happening to our next generation.

I never imagined that TikTok could be used as a platform to tell others about Jesus, but this is not the first time that I have been proven wrong. When searching through TikTok, I searched #chris-

tians and was floored by the number of videos that I found of people of all ages, using their platform to spread the Gospel. Whether it was by just praying, playing Christian songs, or funny little skits that had a Christian meaning, these videos were getting thousands to millions of views. Wanting to know more, I reached out to a couple users, and let me tell you, after hearing their stories, I came out receiving a blessing.



Cristina Baker, 35, currently resides in Texas, with her husband Ryan, and their teenage son Evan. She

quickly became the sister I have never had. Having suffered from abuse as a child, and living a life of drug and alcohol addiction, Cristina was headed down a path to destruction.

Being a counselor by day, a man at work approached Cristina and told her that he had a word from the Lord for her. He proceeded to tell her that they had prayer meetings every day at noon on the third floor in the break room. After attending one of those prayer meetings, Cristina came to know Christ, and He saved her from a life of brokenness and pain.

Fast forward to March of this year, Cristina had a very vivid dream about TikTok. Not big into social media, she sought counsel with some close friends and mentors to process what she felt the Lord was telling her to do. While speaking with a friend, she was told to post a video on TikTok. Having the same thought as I do about it, she was not going to dare post a dancing video on there. Her friend said, “No, post a prayer.” So, Cristina did just that.

She never thought or imagined that anything would become of that prayer, but God had bigger plans and the video went viral. Since March, Cristina now has over 497 thousand followers and 5.9 million likes on her videos on TikTok.

Now posting several times a week, Cristina is reaching people all over the world, giving them hope that there is something more out there than just all the chaos going on in the world right now. She and her husband pray over each video, and although they are not able to reply to every comment, they take them before the Lord and pray over every person—that they find hope through Jesus Christ.

One encounter that Cristina has had was a man who had went through nine operations for throat cancer. He had sent Cristina a message, and that night she and her husband prayed for him. When they finally heard back from him, he told them that they were able to get 100% of his cancer, and he walked out of his doctor’s office cancer free! Praise the Lord!

After speaking with Cristina and getting to know her heart, I felt closer to Jesus. I can honestly say that God is using her and her husband to bring hope in a world full of hopelessness.

People come across her page, and they can feel the Holy Spirit in her prayers. They can relate to the brokenness that she came from, and they feel a sense of purpose that they have struggled with for so long. Cristina has been able to take a social media platform, whose main goal is to provide entertainment to the millennial generation, and show the power of prayer. Even if it is for just one person that sees one of her videos and comes to know Jesus, Cristina believes that “it’s for that one person.”



Michael Farley, a husband and father, also resides in Texas, has a love for music but even a bigger love for the Lord. After reading Michael’s story, my heart was so broken.

Suffering from sexual abuse as a child, he watched his dad repeatedly abuse his mom. He had to knock on neighbors’ doors just to ask for some bread because he was so hungry. He was desperate. Attending 13 schools before he graduated, Michael had no hope, no goals, no passions, and more insecurities than he knew what to do with.

What he did have, was a love for music, and at 10 years old he and his friends would pick up coat hangers or broomsticks and would dream of having a band one day. Eventually, that dream became a reality and was the only thing that gave him hope.

One Christmas, Michael was invited to church, and

he accepted Christ that day. That day changed his life, and the Lord slowly started healing his heart. His love for the Lord was so strong that he felt convicted about the songs that his band were singing, and he eventually quit. At just 18 years old, Michael knew he needed to put the Lord first but begged God to allow him to play for His glory. He later got an opportunity of a lifetime to play for a Christian band where they toured all over and got to share the love of Jesus. How amazing is that!

In just June of this year, Michael's son-in-law introduced him to TikTok. Not sure what the app was or how to use it, he thought maybe it would be a good way to spend some downtime due to the pandemic going on. At first, his intentions were not to spread the gospel or tell about Jesus. His first videos were just him goofing around. However, he ended up posting a video of arranged hymns for acoustic guitar and it started to gain some interest. Because TikTok only allows one minute videos, he started posting one

minute guitar lessons and the interest grew larger. He then started sharing some Psalms and combined it with playing hymns on his guitar. He is now able to do regular live concerts and tell of Jesus during these as well.

After just five months of being on TikTok, Michael has gained over 86 thousand followers and has 543 thousand likes on his videos combined! He also has been able to witness people coming to know the Lord through his videos and has helped people find their purpose in the One that created them.

After interviewing both Cristina and Michael, I saw a pattern. God took two incredibly broken people, who at one point, felt worthless, ashamed, insecure, and felt no purpose in life. He picked them up, and He made them whole.

God reminded them that He made them in His image, and He took their stories and turned it into a beautiful ministry. Through TikTok, they can minister to those who may feel inadequate and have lost sight of the One who created them. They can provide hope and peace through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I love how God always seems to use the most broken people in the mightiest of ways. Let this be a reminder that it does not matter where you came from or what you have done. God can, and He will use you if you let Him.

In Him, you are enough.

If you would like to check out these two on TikTok, you can find Michael Farley with his user name, @jesusandmeproject1, and Cristina Baker with her username, @cristina.baker. You can also find them both on Facebook by searching Michael Farley and Cristina Baker. On Instagram, search @itscristinabaker and @michaelliefarley.

Although the times have changed tremendously and we have had to learn how to adjust to the new normal, I admire these two for figuring out a way to use it for the Lord. Providing hope in a world of hopelessness, TikTok is more than just one-minute dance moves, it is reaching those that are searching for something to believe in.



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I started singing in 1964. This year I will celebrate fifty-five years of singing Gospel Music it has been a great privilege to do so over these years. I remember writing my first song in 1973 entitled, "Tower of Strength". George Younce was a mentor and he helped me with the process while I was with The Cathedral Quartet. It was recorded by twelve other groups and was used on The Cathedral's "Town & Country" Album.

In 1974, I joined Jerry & The Singing Goffs. Jerry was one of the greatest songwriters in gospel music. He authored countless songs and was another mentor to me both in music and in business. That is when I wrote my second song entitled, "This is Love".

Jerry liked the song so much that he made it the title song of our first QCA Record Album. QCA was a label out of Cincinnati and well known at the time. It was a great honor for Jerry Goff to pick my song to title the album. It was somewhat progressive back in 1974 and the words to this song still speak to me today. It's about the greatest love that can be experienced - the wonderful, unconditional, forgiving and peace giving love of God that is what brought me to the title of "This Is Love." Go to [www.HopeWorthHaving.com](http://www.HopeWorthHaving.com) to hear these songs.



# LES BUTLER AND FRIENDS



## *Behind the Music of Mark Wheeler*

by Les Butler

LES BUTLER: What is your earliest musical memory?

MARK WHEELER: Well my earliest musical memories would be in church, of course, and hearing my daddy sing with the Marksmen. They were singing at that time on the all-night singing circuit with groups like the Hinsons, Inspirations, Segos, Florida Boys and the Goodmans. I remember the Atlanta all-night singings and the Singing in the Smokies as a boy. I sang at the Singing in the Smokes as a child.

LB: State the instruments you play and which came first.

MW: I mainly play guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass. Guitar was my first love.

LB: Who are some of your favorite musicians?

MW: Some of my favorites through the years are Doc Watson, Jerry Reed, Larry Sparks, Ron Block, Tim Stafford and Kenny Smith.

LB: Growing up in a musical family, did you ever have a desire to do something else? If so, what?

MW: Yes, I had a desire to play baseball. I had offers from scouts and for scholarships, but the Lord and bad knees guided me toward music.

LB: You are a great singer as well. Do you recall the first song you ever sang in public?

MW: No, I can't remember the first time I sang in public.

LB: Who are some of your favorite singers?

MW: Most of my singing heroes have already passed. I guess Kenny Hinson would be my all-time favorite singer. Another one would be my friend and hero, Steve Gulley.

LB: Tell us about this new album. It's different from past albums, in that it includes new and remade old songs.

MW: Well, this album has 2 new songs on it, one is "He Has," a song that has already been recorded by the Old Time Preachers Quartet, the Talleys, and others. The other new one is a song that I wrote with my dad about the town of Bethlehem called "Bethlehem Judea." The new album is different in the fact



I couldn't sleep so I went downstairs, got my guitar, and wrote a song for my friend. I posted it on Facebook, and my friend Barry Abernathy called me and said "let's get some of Steve's friends together and cut this song!" So, he called Doyle Lawson, Tim Stafford, Jason Moore, Phil Ledbetter, Jim VanCleve and Vince Gill. We all met, except for Vince, at Sound Biscuit Studios, in Sevierville, Tennessee. and recorded the song. Barry, Vince and I did the singing. The song has been released and doing well on SiriusXM radio. All the proceeds will go to Debbie Gulley, Steve's wife.

LB: When you're not picking and singing, what are you doing?

MW: I'm usually preaching, teaching, hunting, fishing or spending time with my family on the farm.

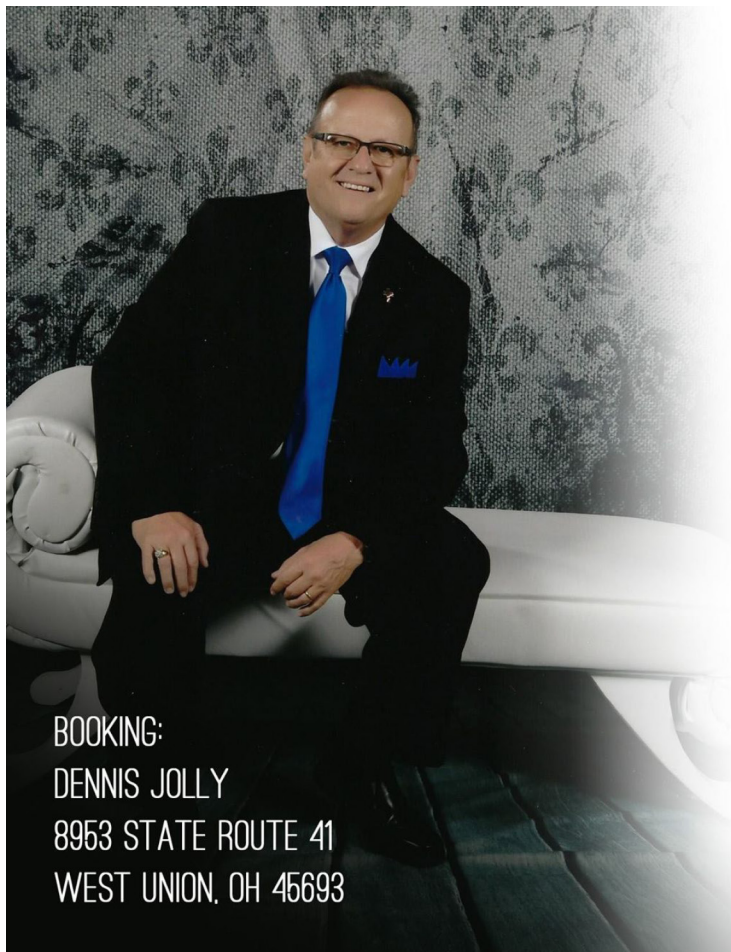
LB: Give us a brief testimony.

MW: I was saved at a little Baptist church in Chestnut Mountain, Georgia, at the age of six. We were at a Saturday night singing and the old preacher got up and preached a little and gave an invitation. The Holy Ghost convicted my heart that night and I went up to an old "mourners bench" and was gloriously saved that night.

that there are older songs and some new songs that I wrote or co-wrote and sang lead on. I also tell the stories behind the songs.

LB: Your tribute song to Steve Gulley has really taken on a life of its own. Give us the entire story.

MW: The night my friend Steve Gulley passed away,



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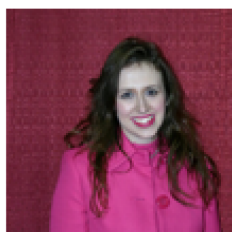
# Contributors

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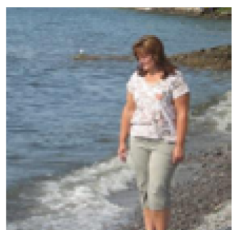


Rob Patz is the President and CEO of Coastal Media Group. Rob has an 18 year history in radio hosting the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Southern Styles Show" since its beginning in 1993. Rob is

also the owner of the internet's #1 Southern Gospel station, [SGMRadio.com](http://SGMRadio.com). In 2009, Rob Patz acquired [SGNScoops.com](http://SGNScoops.com), including the all-digital Scoops Magazine and the Diamond Awards. Rob has taken part in several Christian television projects working in front of the camera and also has helped create several syndicated television programs as well. Rob does voice work for various outlets including fortune 500 companies as well as emceeing concerts and special events. Email Rob at [rob@sgnscoops.com](mailto:rob@sgnscoops.com).



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



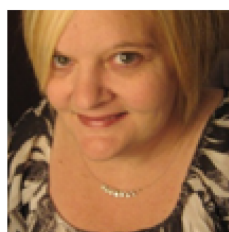
Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including

SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written word will glorify her Lord and bring readers closer to the love, peace and majesty of the Almighty. Email Lorraine at [lorraine@sgnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sgnscoops.com)



Jennifer Campbell is a singer, songwriter, musician, and middle school English teacher from McAlpin, Florida. Along with her passion for teaching, she has an even greater passion for ministering to others, sharing her testimony of how she was

born lifeless and how Jesus raised her up to live for Him. Jennifer is a member of the Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra and has performed with them at Brooklyn Tabernacle, Carnegie Hall, Central Park, and Times Square. She serves as a group leader for Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jennifercampbell.net/blog.htm> and a food and travel blog at <http://jennifersjourneys.net> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net> and [www.christwillreturn.org](http://www.christwillreturn.org).



Joan Walker grew up with music in the house and first heard Southern Gospel in her early teens. With almost a quirky (some may say 'weird') need to make sure words are spelled correctly and the apostrophes are in the right

place, she enjoys proofreading the articles for the SGN Scoops magazine each month...and looks beyond the letters and commas to the wonderful words each writer has written. Joan counts it as a blessing in her life to be part of SGN Scoops!



Justin Gilmore, 22, a resident of San Diego, California, graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a B.A. in History in June of 2014. Passionate about Southern Gospel music and its history, he decided to venture into

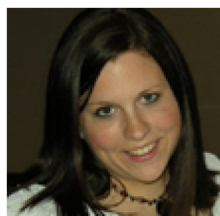
the blog world in January starting Southern Gospel Spotlight in order to share his love of this great style of music.

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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>

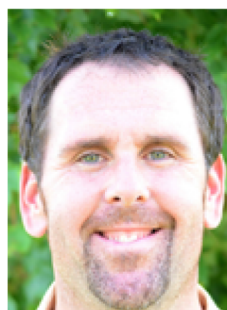


Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the 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 Armstrong 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 execu

tives 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.



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.

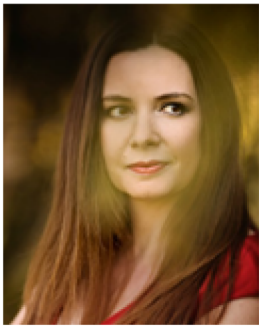
Craig's Southern Gospel interest dates back for approximately the same time span, having closely followed the industry since the later portion of the 1990s. He also performed for seven years with a local trio prior to joining the SGN Scoops staff.



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

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Kristen Stanton is a dynamic singer, speaker, and writer. From discussions on Facebook, to live concerts on any stage, Kristen's main focus is to share her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She says: "I was saved when I was four years old. I've been in church my whole life. I went to a Christian college. I don't have the experiences of walking away from God and how He brought me back.

But I do have the experience of how God continuously reveals Himself to me... of how He answers prayer. I want people to understand who God is so that they can be more of a reflection of Him. My goal is to help others see God in a way that meets every need in their life."

Following a trio of No. 1 songs from her debut project, "Destiny by Design," Kristen recently released her second

solo project, "Love As Jesus Loves" and is currently writing songs for her new album. Kristen is also an Attorney-at-Law, serving clients in Northwest Ohio.



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.



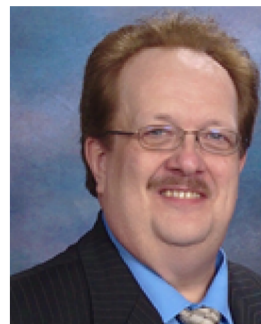
John Herndon is a Kentucky native who was raised listening to gospel music. As a child, the Sunday morning routine always included the Gospel Singing Jubilee and his summers were filled with all-day-singings-and-dinner-on-the-ground listening to local groups just about every Sunday. He remembers seeing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



Jeff Lowe, from Massillon, Ohio, has been involved in Southern Gospel Music for 46+ years. In 1974, at the age of 14, Jeff started singing bass with The Souleseekers, a mixed group from his hometown. There have been several groups since that time, and in 2009, Jeff started Mercy River Quartet. Eleven years later, the group is still serving the Lord and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

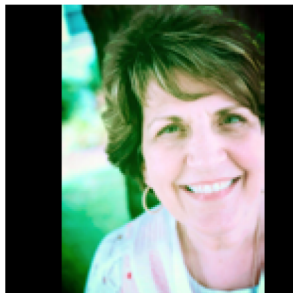
Having written for other publications. Jeff is excited to be a part of the SGNscoops family!

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Robert York- During my childhood days my parents took me to the Atlanta City Auditorium for concerts hosted by Warren Roberts. That was the beginning of my love for Southern Gospel music. After 35 years I retired from USPS, during which time I got married. My wife and I often went to The Joyful Noise for dinner and concerts. Every known name in Gospel Music sang there at one time or another. After I retired, we decided to start promoting concerts. Our goal was not only to promote our concerts, but also to promote any Gospel concerts in our area and attend as many as we possibly could. I came to a crossroads in December 2013 when my wife graduated to heaven, not knowing what to do. After much prayer God led me to continue promoting concerts. Have promoted around 100 concerts and can't tell you how many I attended. I still enjoy going to concerts and writing a little about the groups.



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.



Les Butler has been actively involved in Southern Gospel Music for 40 years as a musician, producer, manager, former publisher of the Singing News, and as a nationally syndicated radio host. Butler started Butler Music Group in 1978, and purchased Family Music Group in 2003. He is a past March of Dimes AIR award, as well as winner of the

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award in 2011. Butler's syndicated radio show, Les Butler and Friends, is heard across America and abroad. Butler's playing and production credits include Palmetto State Quartet, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers,

Fairfield Four, Steeles, Dunaways, Crabb Family, Easter Brothers, Marksmen Quartet, Earl Scruggs, Bowling Family, Jimmy Fortune, Marty Raybon, Larry Gatlin and many more. Butler's publishing companies are Hurry-Up Publishing/BMI and Hush Jean/ASCAP.



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.



Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The Mystery Men quartet, Florida Boys and Mark209. Off the road, he spends time with my wife, Christa, with whom he celebrates 25 years of marriage with this year. Jimmy also enjoys spending time with his three kids and one granddaughter.

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**Jantina Baksteen**  
I live all the way overseas in the Netherlands. I'm married and I have three adult children. I grew up in a Christian home and knew in my early years that I wanted to belong to Him. I surrendered my life to Christ was baptized one day before I turned 11 years old.

Somehow, the seed of loving gospel music was planted by the style of music my parents played at home. Around 2006/2007, I was listening to Gaither homecoming music that I found on the internet. The song, "Oh, What A Savior," by Ernie Haase hit me with the so-called Southern gospel bug.

From there, I've been reading /studying all I can find. I found the digital SGNscoops Magazine.

As I was spending so much time reading and listening about this industry, I started praying for God to please give me a job in the Southern gospel industry. Sometimes, I commented to Lorraine Walker on her posts. How could she know the longing of my heart?

But last year she asked me if I wanted to do something for SGNscoops: the Wacky Wednesday posts online. Now I do the "Beyond the Song" article that really has my heart as I am reaching out to artists, asking about a current song and having a sneak peak behind the scenes.



**My name is Lyndsey Chandler.** I sing with my family, the Chandlers. I have wanted to get something started to promote the youth in Southern gospel for a long time. I want to say a huge thank you to SGNscoops magazine for allowing me the opportunity

to do this. I will be sharing exclusive interviews in an effort to showcase the abilities, talents and dedication of young artists

in Southern Gospel music. I will be offering these monthly interviews to better acquaint you with young voices that are growing louder in our industry.

The Chandlers travel in a ministry of singing and preaching

conducting concerts, revivals, camp meetings and conferences. Their travels have taken them all over the United States, Canada, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia, and The Philippines. The group consists of Tim, Lana, and their two daughters, Tiffany, and Lyndsey. Their ministry website is [www.thehandlersmusic.com](http://www.thehandlersmusic.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...Home-

school 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: [homes-pundevotions.com/](http://homes-pundevotions.com/) and [biblicalminimalism.com/](http://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?"



**Andrew Ishee** grew up playing gospel music in church and with local Christian groups. At age eight he asked his dad to show him some chords on the piano. That night Andrew prayed that God would bless him with the ability to play. Since that evening, he has played piano by ear.

Andrew began playing professionally at age 16 with the Dixie Echoes, a Southern gospel group from Pensacola, Florida. He then moved to Asheville, North Carolina to join the Kingsmen Quartet. Since then Andrew has worked with many of the top Gospel recording companies and artists producing and playing piano on countless recordings. And today the Andrew Ishee solo music tour has spanned the length and width of the United States. Andrew says: "There are two great things about what I get to do: Music and People. And I love them both."