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MAY 2012



GUY PENROD

Also In This Issue:



Dove Awards, The Amundruds Union Street and Sheila Walsh



PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



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May 2012

Letter from the Editor



by Rhonda Frye

As I reflect over the last month's activities and look forward to the months ahead, my heart is FLOODED with excitement and gratitude! But...I can honestly say, I wouldn't be here without the prayers and support of my mom, Shirley Mitchell. My mom is the greatest woman in the world! She is humble and one the hardest working "behind the scenes" kind of person you could ever meet! She does so much for Jesus, but often He's the only one that sees all she does. My mom is my biggest fan and I'm so grateful for her this "Mother's Day Season!"

I'll never forget the day the Lord whispered my very first song into my heart a few short years ago. I scribbled words on the back of a Sonic receipt and then found a piano during my lunch break to play the tune I heard in my head. Knowing my "Momma" is the only person on earth that will be completely honest with me no matter what; I called her later that night. "Mom, I think I may have written a song today, would you listen to it and tell me if you think it's a real song?" I said. She confirmed it was and has promoted my music ever since. She keeps the radio request line hot and gives my cds away to people needing encouragement! Songwriting and singing was my ticket into this GREAT industry, but I know I would have never pursued recording without the push from my mother!

My mom has encouraged me on this journey- and loves what we're doing at Scoops! She passes out my promo-

tional and business cards to everyone, she shares our link and she prints copies to give away to her friends without computers. If anyone meets my mom, within five minutes they know all about me, my music and SGNscoops Magazine. What fun it was to introduce her to my publisher and friend, Rob Patz! It was cool to watch her listen intently as he explained how he became involved with Southern Gospel Music.

It was a blast having Rob in my home town the week of the Dove Awards! I haven't purchased Dolly Parton's new cd- sold exclusively at CRACKER BARREL, but I know the music so well, I can sing along! No... I didn't mind eating at Cracker Barrel 4 times in less than a week nor did I mind making a 5th trip just to shop! I understand that poor Rob lives in an area that is biscuit deprived while I live two minutes away from hash brown casserole heaven!

On a serious note, I do appreciate Rob for entrusting me with many opportunities. This past month I emceed for the first time and opened for Triumphant Quartet and Voices Won. Promoter, Robert York was awesome- even had a birthday cake for me! Wow, he bakes a mean Coca-Cola cake! All the guys supported and encouraged me making my first experience unforgettable! Another great opportunity was chatting with Guy Penrod on the phone! And... wow... the Dove Awards!

Now that I'm getting settled into this position and enjoying the opportunities, the best part now is that I'm building relationships. Last month, I attended Absolutely Gospel's FABULOUS Awards Show. After so many hugs and posing for pictures, I realized that night that I'm building relationships with some of the most wonderful people in the industry. The same is true for the Dove Awards experience. In that Red Carpet chaos and press room madness, it was awesome to greet our artists and share the feeling of "familiar!" Our Southern Gospel, Bluegrass and Country nominees and winners represented us well and I was thrilled to say- "Hey... I know those people... and they're the real deal!" It did my heart good to hear the "stars" in other genres brag on our industry in the press room!

I've always gotten the fact that it takes a team of people to get our music out, but it's really cool to build relationships with the whole team, especially with those who work so very hard behind the scenes and get so little recognition. I left the Doves impressed with our artists- but also their managers and publicists on a whole new level!

As I close, I'm on cloud 9 wallowing in pure bliss- loving what I do at SGNscoops Magazine. I'm also extremely grateful to my mom for encouraging me to pursue and experience God's plan for my life! Mom- you're the greatest woman in the world! Thanks for all of your love, encouragement, prayers and support. No one on this earth loves me like you do! Happy Mother's Day and I love you! Here's your edition of Scoops Magazine!

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OUR MISSION

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

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Easter Weekend Concert Tour

by
Sandi Duncan Clark



On Easter weekend Ann Bailey, Alicia Bailey and I were travel companions, attending Gold City's 24 Karate Gold concert in Gadsden, Alabama, and from there, a visit with our friend Jeff Steele and his church family in Vinemont, Alabama. While we missed our families during the celebratory holiday commemorating our Lord's death, burial and resurrection, we were spiritually blessed at both events.

Heritage House Promotions sponsored the Saturday evening event with a special Meet and Greet beginning at 4:00 PM at Cross Point Community Church. Jay Parrack and Vocal Event, Wilburn and Wilburn, Mark Trammell Quartet and Gold City were on hand for a special time of fellowship, fun and photos with fans. Wives and families of several of the performers were in attendance and we enjoyed a short visit with them.

The concert began at 6:00 PM and the auditorium quickly filled with fans anxious to hear each individual artist, and the second half performance of Gold City Quartet with former members Jay Parrack, Jonathan Wilburn, Mark Trammell and Tim Riley. These artists treated fans to three plus hours of excellent Southern Gospel music.

Each of these groups performed songs from their individual repertoire; some we're hearing on Gospel radio and even some songs from the Old Red Backed Hymnal we love so much. Following a short intermission, Tim Riley, Mark Trammell, Jay Parrack and Jonathan Wilburn took the stage treating us to "Gold City, 24 Karate Gold!" These men sang some of our favorite songs from their years on the frontline with Gold City.

While I must leave to your imagination of the songs, the sound and the reception, I will share the photos with you.

It was a thrill to share in this prodigious night of Southern Gospel Music.

(A Special thanks to Heritage House Promotions for allowing SGNSCOOPS.com to share this delightful concert experience.)



Following the Gold City Concert, we made our way to

Vinemont, Alabama, just outside of Cullman, to prepare for the Easter morning service at Faith Baptist Church with Pastor Jeff Steele and his church family. The Easter Morning music, performed in period costumes, depicted the events when our Lord was crucified, buried and resurrected, beginning with "Watch The Lamb." A highlight was hearing Brad Steele and Sherry Steele perform with the choir.



The music set the pace for Jeff's Easter message; "The Three Greatest Words in History, IT IS FINISHED." The Spirit of the Lord was definitely in the house on this Easter Sunday morning. Being a part of this service completed a weekend of fellowship with our travel companions, as well as with some of our favorite friends in Southern Gospel music.

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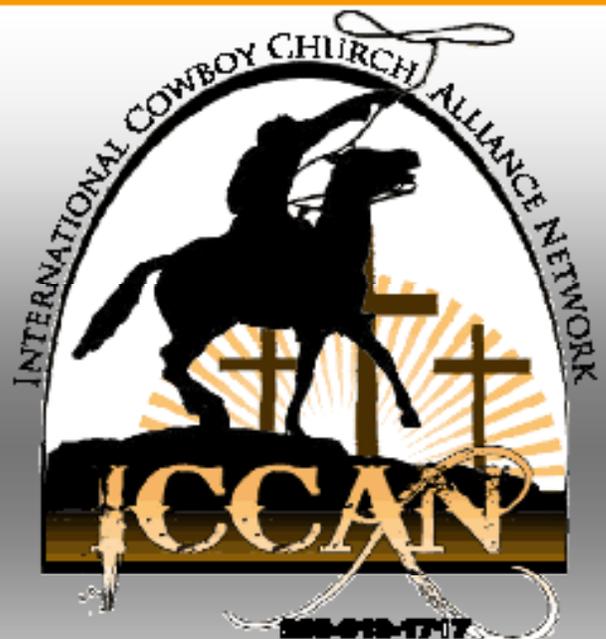


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A MEDIA MINUTE

BY ROB PATZ

I am passionate about technology and media! I am also passionate about spreading the gospel of Christ. Creatively using media to advance the gospel makes my heart skip a beat for sure! I have been blessed with people in our industry that share this same passion. Occasionally in the magazine, I will share our conversations and highlight other ministries that are BROADCASTING the good news of Jesus in song. This month I'm shining the spotlight on Ken and Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today.

Rob: "Tell our readers how you got involved with Southern Gospel Music."

Ken: "Neither one of us grew up with southern gospel music. Jean's father was a Southern Baptist preacher in Oklahoma, so the family was aware of southern gospel music, but not really involved with it. I grew up in New England, and didn't even know that southern gospel existed. We started watching The Statler Brothers on Saturday nights. That led us to the Gaither Homecoming programs, and before long our church choir, which Jean directed, was singing southern gospel, and we were inviting southern gospel quartets and groups to sing at our church in Rhode

Island."

Rob: "What are your backgrounds in broadcasting?"

Jean: "My background is in music, and my full time working background is in the computer services industry. Ken's broadcasting background began with college radio, and continued with American Forces Radio and Television in the Army. Ken returned to teaching high school in Rhode Island, still working part time in commercial radio, and built an FM radio station at the school. When he retired from teaching, one of his former students offered him a job at WLNE TV, ABC6, in Providence, and he worked there until we moved to Oklahoma."

Rob: "How did you come up with the idea for your TV show and when did you start airing it on the internet?"

Jean: "When we started inviting southern gospel groups to Rhode Island, we needed a way to promote the concerts, preferably one that would cost us little or nothing, since little or nothing was the budget. Cable television in Rhode Island had a public access channel devoted to religious programming, so we created Gospel Music Today and ran it on statewide cable to introduce Rhode Island-

ers to southern gospel singing. Shortly after the debut, we started running the show on the Gospel Music Today website."

Rob: "I love the set for your show. Who built it and how long did it take?"

Ken: "Thank you! When people ask about the set, I tell them I built it and they can build their own if they watch TV without the sound for a few days, and then go to Home Depot with \$75. The goal was to have a set that looked like a television program and not a home movie, but it is the result of quite a bit of work and tweaking, not a lot of money."

Rob: "What is your favorite feature on Gospel Music Today?"

Jean: "We like the "host chat" segment where we talk about concerts we've attended and concerts that are coming up, and show a live concert clip that we recorded on the road. Our main purpose in doing this show is to encourage people to go out and hear live southern gospel singing. It's also fun to record the interviews at NQC and have the opportunity to "catch up" with all the artists."

Rob: "If you could interview someone from southern gospel's past, who would it be and why?"

Ken: "When I interview guests on our show, I frequently ask who their influences were in southern gospel, and the number of times that they have responded with 'George Younce and Glen Payne' has gone beyond what I can count. Obviously, their legacy involves much more than singing and I wish I had had the opportunity to talk to them."

Jean: "I would have liked to spend the day with Vestal Goodman. I really believe she and I would have had a good time together."

Rob: "Beside the internet, I know you have a TV station in Oklahoma that airs your show. Are you planning on adding more stations?"

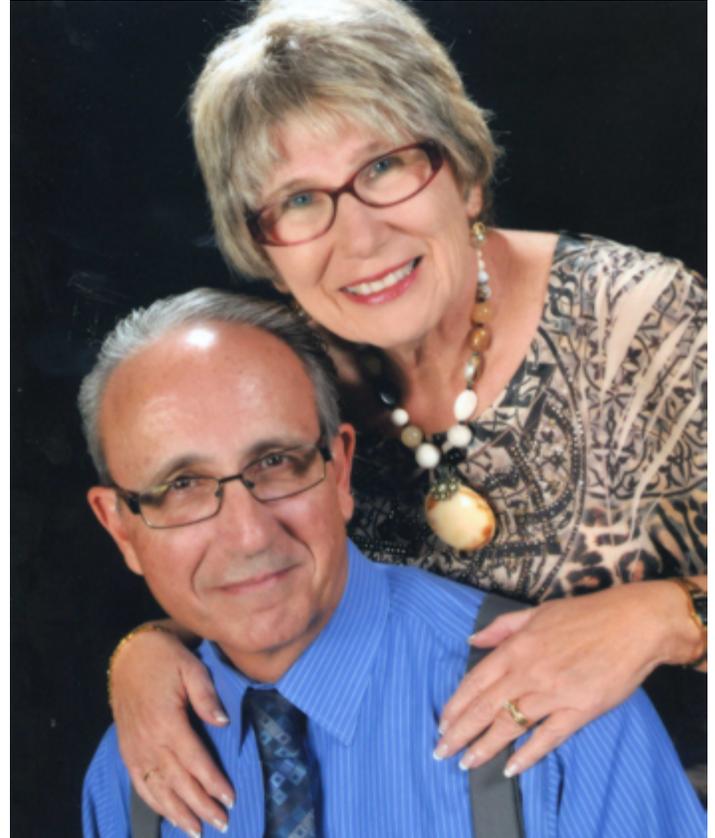
Ken: "We're on KWHB TV47 in Oklahoma. They have stations in Colorado, Indiana, and Louisiana and the managers have talked about adding us on those stations, but it's a slow and expensive process."

Rob: "I have noticed you are doing concert video production as a service. How is that going?"

Jean: "We are currently experimenting with the concert video production and hope to have it going within the next twelve months. We would like to provide the service to up and coming groups and know that their budgets are limited. We would like to provide high quality video production for them without either one of us losing money."

Rob: "What do you believe the future of broadcasting on the internet is?"

Ken: "The future of broadcasting is on the internet. Even now, the frequencies occupied by terrestrial radio and television are in danger of being auctioned off for other uses. Plus, listening and viewing habits have changed so much from the "old days" that the business has changed, too. There used to be a saying that owning a local television license was like owning a license to print money, but those days are gone. And the southern gospel fans know how to use the internet."



Rob: "What advice would you give someone wanting to get into broadcasting?"

Ken: "The first piece of advice would be to make sure you are well prepared for another career. Then, if broadcasting is where your talent lies, be ready to work very hard and not take "no" for an answer. I have former students who work in local radio, national television, and station ownership, and, in every case, it is a combination of their talent, hard work, and determination that got them there."

Hats off to the Ken and Jean Grady for the outstanding job they do! Check out their website at <http://www.gospel-musictoday.com/>.

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LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

LARRY FORD TAKES GOSPEL MUSIC TO THE WORLD

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH

The dedication of a gracious publisher, a passionate editor and a terrific team of writers, has elevated Sgn Scoops to a strong influence in the world of gospel music. I thank God for blessing our efforts, and for the privilege of sharing the journey of my 75 years in gospel music, the love and the legends. I am confident you will enjoy the story of my legendary friend, Larry Ford, who is known all over the world for his commanding voice and anointed ministry. Larry has sung in 48 of the 50 states and 27 foreign countries in a lifelong mission that began at age five. It warms my heart to remember producing Larry's first album when he was fifteen years old. This young tenor from Lubbock, Texas, made us proud at Sword & Shield Records, and the years have proven his extraordinary vocal ability and a "heart for the gospel" as big as Texas. Larry is a featured soloist on the Gaither videos, and I am blessed to be there often to see the respect given him by Bill Gaither and the Homecoming Friends. Years ago, after singing tenor for the Dixie Echoes, Larry joined the James Blackwood Quartet. In 2003, Larry's contribution to "A Tribute to James Blackwood" helped win a Grammy Award. Larry also participated in Bill and Gloria Gaither's Grammy Award winner "Homecoming At Kennedy Center" and multiple honors awarded the Gaither series. In my book "Deep Within My Heart" there is a photo of my brother Calvin Wills inducting Larry Ford into the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame in 1999. Other Texas Legends in this Hall Of Fame include Larry & the Gatlins, Guy Penrod, V. O. Stamps, Rangers, Chuck Wagon Gang, Plainsmen, Bob Wills & Inspirationalists, McDuffs, John Hall, Wills Family, and others. This beloved tenor has probably performed in more countries than any other gospel singer. He and his wife, Sherryl, are the parents of five children and seven grandchildren. Gaither DVD series "Best Of Larry Ford" is an excellent tribute to his family and ministry. The title song of Larry's recently released CD "Praise Him Anyway" was written by our mutual friend Kenna Turner West, daughter of famous bass singer Ken Turner. A personal encouragement on the CD is the song "Just Stand" expressing the sentiment

so needed by all of us in facing these troubled times. Hear this project at [HYPERLINK "http://www.larryfordministries.com"](http://www.larryfordministries.com) or Gospel Music Update. Yes, Larry Ford is taking gospel music to the world, and I cherish the day this LEGEND came into my LIFE. He and Sherryl consistently show LOVE to Howard and me. Thanks for sharing another "Life, Love, & Legends."



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gospplvideo@aol.com

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Pictured: Larry Ford (with Lou Hildreth) singing at a Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame Concert

ONE DAY

Can Change a Life

Sheila Walsh

by Jennifer Campbell



One day. That's all it takes to change a mind, change a heart, change a life. One day can truly change everything. This year, Women of Faith introduced something new: Women of Faith One Day events. These events feature inspiring stories and uplifting music with a message. The moment you step into the venue, you will know that you are loved beyond measure. You will be reminded that you are special in God's sight and that you hold value.

In one day, you will be captivated by the personal stories of author Angie Smith, Christian communicator Christine Caine, and speaker and novelist Andy Andrews. Or you will sit in awe as you hear of the challenges faced by Bible teacher and best-selling author Sheila Walsh, motivational and inspirational speaker Ken Davis, and American Idol finalist Scott MacIntyre.

Women of Faith decided that it was time for a change, especially if this change meant bringing Women of Faith to more women across the country. Sheila Walsh said, "I was part of the discussion really because we get response cards from women all the time and one of the issues that kept coming up was a

lot of women said, you know, we love the 2-day event, but during this season in life, A, it's a little expensive; B, I really can't take two days out of my schedule."

People began asking if there was any way they would consider doing a one day Women of Faith event. "As that question kept coming in over and over again," Sheila said, "we really sat down and said, Lord, just because we've always done things one way doesn't mean that we should always do it that way." Sheila says the one day events were literally born out of this discussion.

These events also allow Women of Faith to expand to other cities, since the one day events require a smaller venue with a more intimate setting. This way, women who may have never been able to attend Women of Faith before could get a taste of what Women of Faith is all about.

One person who knows what Women of Faith is all about is none other than author, speaker, Grammy-nominated singer, and television personality, Sheila Walsh. I had the pleasure of sitting down for a delightful chat with Sheila, and she graciously shared

her story of how she became involved with Women of Faith:

It was probably about 15 years ago. Steve Arterburn, founder of Women of Faith, called me at home, he and I had been friends for years, and he said, 'I don't know what your schedule's like at the moment, but I've done a couple of events with Barbara Johnson, Luci Swindoll, Marilyn Meberg, and Patsy Clairmont, and they seem to be going really well. I wonder if you would be interested in joining the team.' And I said, Steve, there's no way I could join the team. I was forty years old and expecting our first and only child. I said there's just no way I could do it. He said, 'would you at least pray about it?' And I said, absolutely. So Barry and I prayed about it, and we both felt very strongly that God said, 'this is a door that I have opened.' So I called Steve back and I said, Barry and I both feel this is something that God wants us to do, but we would need to be able to do it as a family. I need to be able to bring Christian with me. And so that's what happened. The first eight years of my work with Women of Faith, Christian traveled with me every single weekend, everywhere we went. It was awesome. And Barry came, too. I discovered that for children, home is really wherever their family is, be it a different city, a different hotel. As long as his dad and I were with him, he did great.

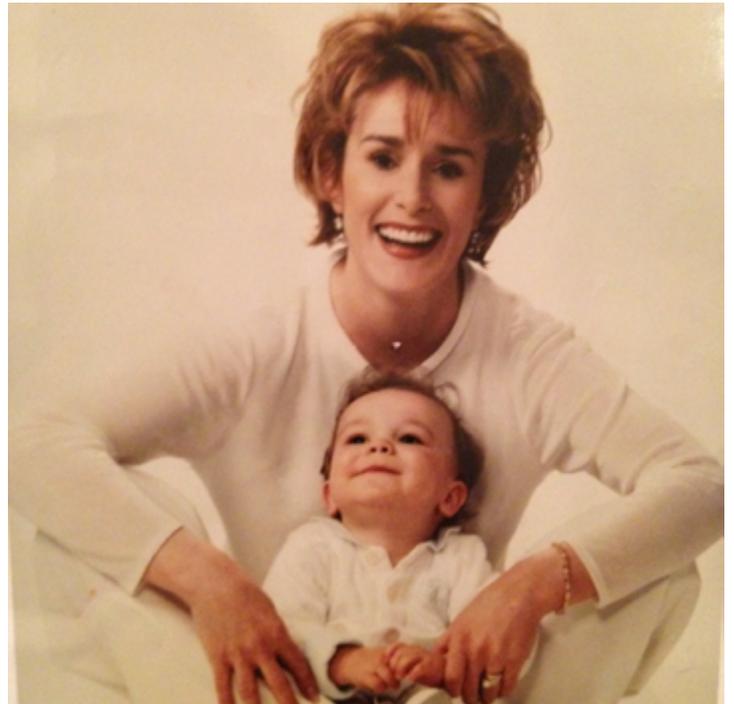
Sheila said the most rewarding aspect of touring with Women of Faith has been the core message of the organization. Sheila explained, "That it's never been about, here's ten things you can do to be a stronger Christian woman, or a better Christian woman. It's simply about this life-changing message of the grace and mercy of a God who loves you exactly as you are right now."

That's the beauty of Women of Faith. Everyone is welcome. You can come as you are, from wearing an elegant dress to t-shirt and jeans, walking tall or struggling underneath a heavy burden, wholeheartedly or brokenhearted.

"To be able to see people who've maybe gone

to church for years and never actually got the heart of the Gospel, never understood, and I understand that because it took me a real long time to actually begin to grasp the truth that I am not the Good News. Jesus is. We get to come as we are," Sheila stated. "And to watch that message resonate with women from coast to coast has really been life-changing for me."

One aspect of the one day events that differs from the 2-day events is that each speaker and artist has a longer session to share their heart, relate their personal struggles, and most important, to deliver the Good News. Sheila said of the longer sessions, "We can dig much deeper into God's Word, which is my heart." Sheila says that she wants ladies to know that the messages they share are not just something they believe. She said, "This is something that the Word of God teaches; this is where we can stand."



At the Women of Faith One Day event in Shreveport, Louisiana, Sheila asked women, "If you have dragged things around with you for years, that you just don't want to carry any longer, and if you saw your baggage and your baggage became visible, would you want to take it home or would you want to take Christ up on His offer of laying that down? To see probably two-thirds of the crowd stand in response to leaving behind the things that were holding them back; it was really a beautiful thing to see."

In March 2012, Sheila released her new book, *God Loves Broken People*. At the one day events, she shares an inspiring message

that tells those in attendance that it is okay not to be okay. Why? Sheila says, "Because Jesus Christ has made us all right through the Father."

Sheila's message reminds women that brokenness can be a good thing. "Brokenness is not a curse," Sheila said. "Brokenness can be a blessing. It can be a gift. It can be through the window of our brokenness that we really see the face of God, and it transcends what can simply be an ache. When we offer it to God, it can become a sacred ache, something beautiful that God will then use in the lives of others. It's just profound spiritual truth that nothing offered to God is wasted."



In addition to her Women of Faith tours, Sheila is also a wife and mother. She said she balances her time between family and ministry by being 100% engaged in whichever one she is doing. "It's very clear that when I'm on the road, I want to be very present to the women there. But when I'm home, I'm simply Barry's wife and Christian's mom. I take Christian to school every morning, and when we go to our favorite Starbucks, they know us so well, that as the guy shouts out our drinks, he'll say, 'hot chocolate for Christian, coffee for Christian's mom.' So that's just how I'm known. That's very important to me that when I'm there, I'm there, and I'm very present."

Sheila is working on many new projects, including a new series of Bible studies for women. She said they will even be doing some simulcast events, so ladies who are unable to attend an event near their city will be able to be a part of these special events.

Additionally, Sheila has a brand new CD coming out titled, "Beauty from Ashes." Sheila said, "This is probably the favorite CD I have recorded since I started recording when I was sixteen. I'm very excited."

If you have not yet made plans to attend a Women of Faith event in your area, I want to personally encourage you to make plans now. It's not too late to register. You will literally walk in and fly out. Even in a day, your life could be changed forever. If you feel that one day could not change anything at all, you are not alone. Sheila said, "I would understand that. I think it's very hard to imagine that one day could make a significant impact on anything and yet, not only do I believe that, but I've seen it with my own eyes in the events that we've had so far." As the Women of Faith One Day event byline proclaims, you will laugh louder, dig deeper, and grow stronger. All in one day, one day that can change everything, one day that can change a life.



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A Mother's Love

Sheri Easter

by
Jennifer Campbell



Sheri Easter

Mom. Mother. Mum. Mama. Mommy. These are all names given to an extraordinary individual who can love a child unconditionally. This woman can change foul-smelling diapers without wrinkling her nose, calm a child's fears after they awaken from a horrifying nightmare, and simultaneously make a gourmet meal while helping with homework and folding laundry. Without mothers, you and I would not be here today. When God created mothers, he broke the mold. And He most definitely broke the mold when He created Southern Gospel Music artist Sheri Easter. As the mother of three precious children, she passed Motherhood 101 with flying colors and is likely an expert in everything from diapers to Driver's Ed!

Sheri and her husband Jeff have one son and two daughters. Madison is the oldest child in the family. Having married his childhood sweetheart Shannon one year ago, Madison plays guitar, sings, and has recently begun writing and producing for the group. Of course, he's no stranger to Southern Gospel Music. Sheri said, "His first paying job was operating a camera on the Gaither crew for the tour for several years, and he still loves camera work and editing." His wife Shannon is almost finished with college to obtain a Bachelor's of Business Administration.

Morgan is 18 years old. Four years ago, she began singing the third part with the group.

She has recorded three solo CDs, including her most recent project, "Not Without Love." In 2010, she received the *Singing News Magazine* Horizon Individual Award. Morgan will graduate in May and is planning to attend Savannah College of Art and Design online in the fall. Morgan is very active in musical theater. "She's a natural," Sheri said, "and her directors always choose her for whatever role that features her comedic personality."

Maura is the youngest child. She is six years old. Sheri said she is like her Mama because she loves school. Sheri said, "[Maura] loves Kindergarten. She brings home 'smiley faces' every day and is always excited to go to school." Maura loves reading and learning, and she also enjoys ballet and tap dancing. Still, "her favorite pastime is swimming," Sheri said. "She loves to do flips off the diving board." Sheri says this is where she's just like her Daddy.

"I am amazed, seeing the gifts in each of my children," explained Sheri. "They're all so different in such beautiful and unique ways. I always wanted children even when I was a young girl. Being a mother was something that I yearned for. It is the most rewarding job I've ever held."

You may be wondering, what does it take to become a mom? How does someone achieve this

somewhat superhero status? Sheri attributes her success as a mom to her own mom. She said her mom influenced the way she raised her children in every way possible. “She was a nurturer, she filled me with a good strong self-esteem,” stated Sheri. “She challenged me to be the very best I could be and encouraged me to do things that might have been out of my comfort zone. She loved me so deeply that I never remember her failing as a mother. I pray every day that I can love my children deeply enough for them to forget my failures, too!”

When it comes to raising her family, Sheri only does one thing differently from her Mama. “She taught me how to smile through the toughest of times,” explained Sheri, “and the only thing I try to do differently than my Mama, is not to worry. She was a terrible worrier and never let us do things that might cause us harm, even common things like swimming or roller skating. I’ve taken my kids roller skating, snow skiing, boating, and swimming from the time they were babies, so that they learned early how to respect activities, be safe AND have fun. I can’t say I don’t worry, but I’m not quite my Mama in that respect. I do an awful lot of praying instead!”

I asked Sheri to tell me about the funniest moment she has ever experienced as a mom. Her answer? “Wow, this could take days!!!” Sheri shared several stories of her children showing their youthful innocence:

“I have been blessed to have three very funny children, so it’s an everyday occurrence for me to experience funny moments with my kids, but I’ll try to narrow it down to a few of my favorites. When Madison was in elementary school, he came home one day and I had heard Chicken Pox was going around. I asked him if anyone at school had Chicken Pox and he replied, ‘No Ma’am, we had rice with bologna!’ Morgan used to make up her own terrible jokes that made us giggle, like ‘Knock, Knock, Who’s there? Ketchup. Ketchup who? Ketchup on your face!’ She was also famous for using words like ‘Exkimo Kiss’ for our Eskimo Spitz puppy and she liked to ride the Excalator (escalator). Maura is always saying silly things, like a few weeks ago I explained to her not to wake her Daddy, but if someone knocked on the door of the

bus, she should get him to answer. A few moments later, she woke him up saying, ‘Daddy, Mama said not to wake you unless someone was at the door. Well, there’s no one at the door, but I turned off the TV and can’t turn it back on!’”

Sheri gives the following advice to mothers: “Bathe your children in prayer. Ask God to protect and lead them from the time they are in the womb. Love their father, and show them that love every day! Teach them scriptures and live a Godly life in front of them. Speak blessings over your children and tell them every day how good, smart and loved they are. Children will believe what you tell them. Tell them they are God’s gift to you and that they have a wonderful purpose in His plan.”

Undoubtedly, children are a precious gift from Heaven above. God entrusts mothers and fathers with these special treasures, and He creates a special bond between parents and children. Sheri related the moment when she first held her children in her arms. “I cried and realized for the first time, the incredible depth of God’s love,” Sheri said. “I was brought up in a loving home with wonderful parents, but nothing prepared me for the love I saw in my children’s eyes. Every time I held each of my babies for the first time, it was an assurance of God’s love for me.”

Sheri Easter loves her children with a special kind of love, a mother’s love. As a mother, wife, and daughter, she also dedicates her life to sharing the love of God with everyone she meets. Perhaps the greatest aspect of motherhood is the way that mothers love their children unconditionally, in the same way that our Heavenly Father loves us. Sheri relates God’s love to a mother’s love: “It is an unconditional love that transcends bad behavior, character flaws and mistakes. It is a love that takes root in the deepest places of the heart and never lets go. It forgives and offers second chances.”

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- 15.) God's Grace Is Sufficient For Me- HisSong
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- 17.) Highway 96- Chris Hester
- 18.) Jesus Did- Fresh Anointing
- 19.) I'm Gonna Sing- Porter Family
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May 2012 Top 20
from 770 AM radio

NEW MUSIC MAY 2012

SANDIDUNCANCLARK

I love variety. Never cared for a uniform in school or at work, and for anyone who knows me, you KNOW I love the "bling," bright colors, a hat every now and then, and cute shoes! That's my preference in style and I'm always on the lookout for reasonably priced accessories when we're traveling! But then I can't even IMAGINE my sweet sister, Sharone, wearing any of the afore mentioned items!

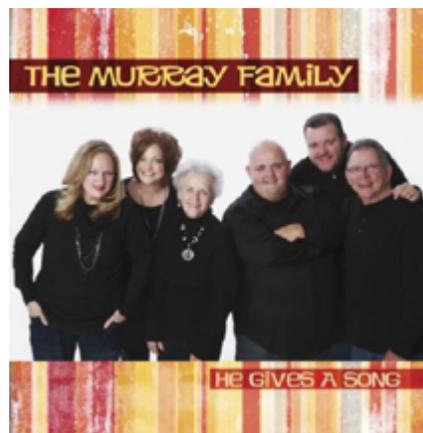
Wouldn't it be dull if we ate the same breakfast every morning; the same salad for lunch; the same dinner every day? Uggghhh! (That is, except for tomato sandwiches on wheat with Dukes Mayo, black pepper and a little salt... that I could handle that every day!)

The same goes for music. I do like a variety; Southern Gospel, some bluegrass, country Gospel as well as some contemporary. Listening to other forms of Christian music broadens our empathy toward Christians of other cultures, other age groups and other regions of the country. I have honestly been introduced to some fantastic people by giving their performance and CDs an opportunity. That being said, God has used a variety of music to touch my life, as well as the lives of many others, for His Kingdom.

This month, we looked at a variety of music and will share our thoughts with you. Remember, this is only the opinion of the reviewer, and I urge you to listen to your Christian radio station, visit any concerts in your area or share music

with your friends and family to broaden your musical horizon. You'll find the message of Jesus Christ in every style of music.

Happy May and to each of you, and to our Mothers; HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



HE GIVES A SONG
The Murray Family
Skyland Records
Producer: Jeff Collins

Any time I receive a recording produced by Jeff Collins I know that it will be an excellent project. Jeff worked with the Murray Family from Cincinnati, Ohio, on their first album with Crossroads Music on the Skyland Label.

Having been a traveling family Gospel group for more than fourteen years, the Murray Family has developed a following with fans who enjoy Country Gospel music. Their sound is comparable to the Isaacs and Singing Cookes and Connie, the Mom of the group, sounds a lot like Jeanette Cooke.

Along with Connie, her husband Ernie and two sons, Chris and Jason, along with their wives Cindy and Emily, respectively, make up this talented family. I must tell you, I love the family harmony, and the arrangements highlight the talent of each group member. Music tracks are a good foundation, well suited for the family's vocals.

I especially like "I'm Going Where He Lives," written by Karen McPherson. Other favorite songs are "Sufficient Grace," "He's Alive," and "Rise Up and Walk." The arrangements on the latter two are well suited to this family's style and talent. I'm now a Murray Family Fan!

For your copy, please check The Murray Family's website at www.murrayfamilymusic.com



PLAIN AND SIMPLE

Crystal Lewis

Metro One Inc

Producer: Solomon Ray for Citizen

Being unfamiliar with Crystal Lewis, this recording introduced me to her music and in no subtle manner, to her testimony. She is very strong in her statement of faith. Each song on the album has a message for the listener; directed at both the significance of the Gospel for those seeking the truth and an encouragement for the believer. Crystal Lewis wrote or co-wrote some excellent songs for this recording, centered on, as the title says, "the plain and simple truth and reality; that we are bought by blood and saved by grace." The first cut, "Plain and Simple" is an amazing song; solid lyrics all the way!

While I often do not listen to this style of music, I am happy that I gave this album a chance and I truly enjoyed it. The truth in the lyrics and strong vocals compelled me to listen to every line in each song several times in the past few days. Music tracks are distinctive with pop arrangements and a unique rhythm on a variety of instruments which compliment Ms. Lewis' vocals.

The title song along with "Even The Rocks Cry Out," "Name" and "Daughter" are songs that really impressed me. If you have a young person who loves music and loves the Lord I would recommend this recording. Crystal Lewis 'tells it like it is' in a style that our young people need to hear, and would enjoy.

Check it out her website at www.crystallewis.com.



AT THE CROSSROAD

The Amundruds

Independent

Producers: Buddy Hyatt & The Amundruds

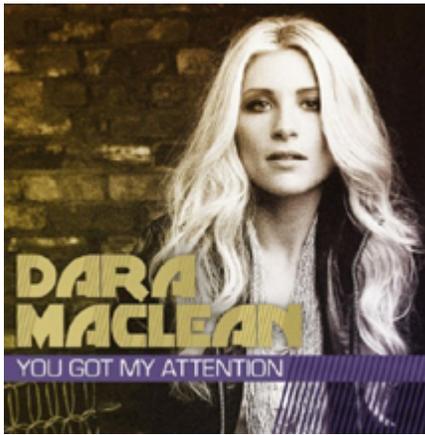
"Mercy and Grace," written by Ronnie Hinson kicks off an excellent recording by the Amundruds. I loved this song by the Bowlings, and this family makes it their own with a slightly slower tempo as well as their unique harmony and blend. It sets the pace for thirteen more solid songs, several of them written by group members Daryl and Gary Amundrud.

Two generations of Amundruds take the stage, both vocally and instrumentally. Brothers and sisters, Gary, Daryl, Lorilyn, Sheri and their dad, Glen, along with Amy Olson, are all vocalists. Each one is also a part of the band, playing piano/keyboards, drums, Gango, bass guitar, mandolin, fiddle, electric guitar and acoustic guitar. Mom, (Linda) rounds out the family band with the tambourine.

Fourteen songs are a premium on this CD. I love the song selection and vocal arrangements on each one. The Amundruds sing "The Real Me," written by Natalie Grant, "Changing Locations," written by Gerald Crabb, "The Road to Forgiveness," written by Suzanne Gaither Jennings, and "I'm Going Home With Jesus," written by Carroll McGruder, to name a few favorites.

"The Broken Ones," and the title song, "At The Crossroad" are two songs that will speak to each of us, and "Daddy Sang Bass" was a wise decision for the Amundruds, since the entire family is involved in their music ministry.

This album is a must-have for anyone who enjoys diversity in music. You may have your copy by contacting The Amundruds at www.theamundruds.com or by phoning 306-825-2593.



YOU GOT MY ATTENTION

Dara Maclean

Fervent/Curb

Producer: Ian Eskelin

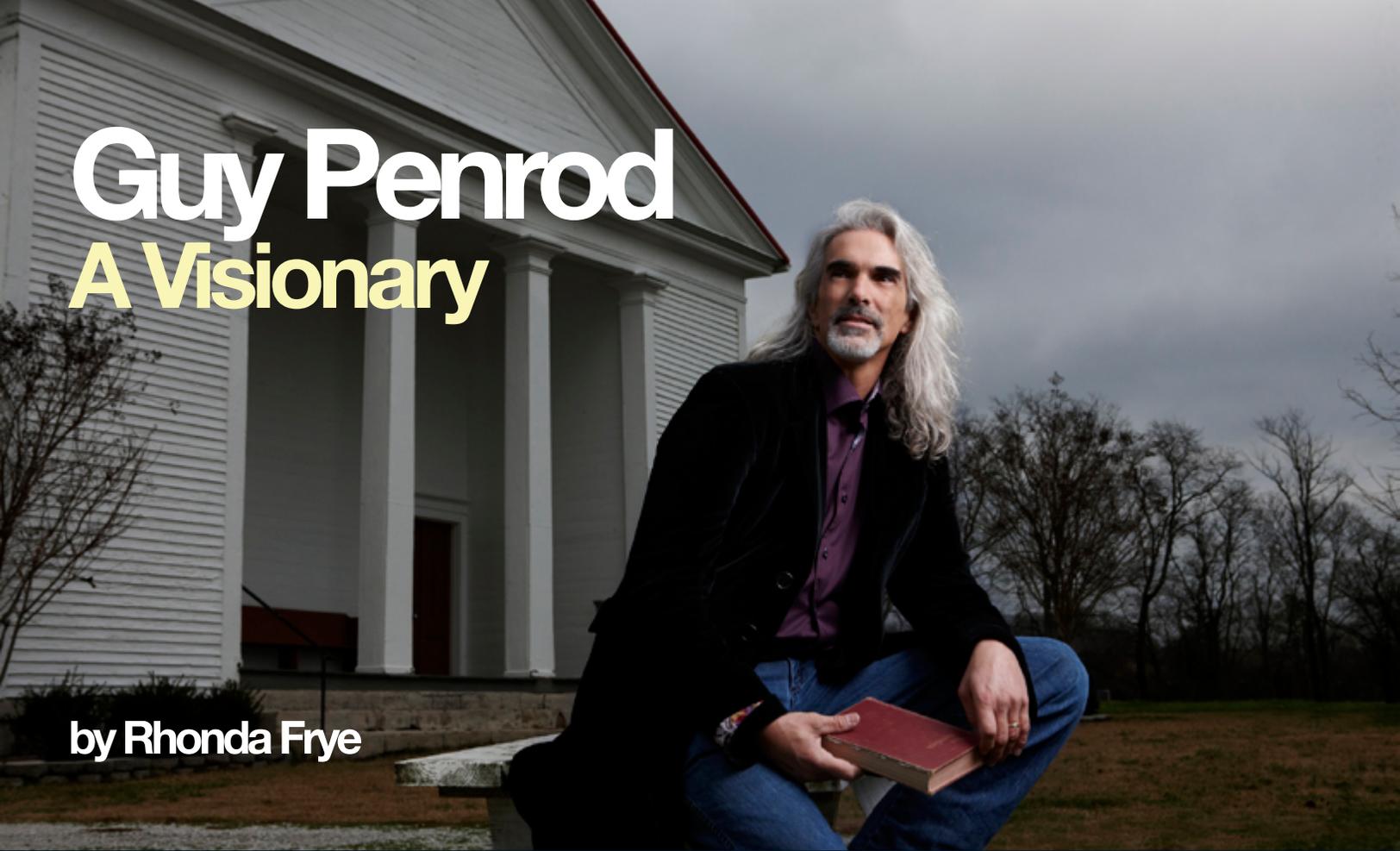
This recording is another of my musical adventures! I had never heard Dara Maclean before YOU GOT MY ATTENTION, and I can honestly say she 'got my attention' in a big, positive way! What an enjoyable experience!

The music introduces us to the song, however the lyrics are what grabs my attention. Some remarkable musicians have provided a foundation for the positive messages in this talented lady's songs. Ms. Maclean wrote or co-wrote the twelve songs here, and each one is something most of us need to hear.

The album begins with "Suitcases," which speaks of the baggage we sometimes carry and we need to just give it up. This sort of message is prevalent in all songs, with other themes as the goal. Personally, my pick from the entire project is the title song, "You Got My Attention." I love the music, the lyrics, the rhythm...the entire presentation.

"Unreachable" says 'you're not too far away, you can't fall too far to save, sounds too unbelievable, you're not unreachable...' now tell me, how many of us have felt that way? "So Good To Me," and "Had To Be You" are all messages that spoke to me.

For those willing to take a chance on something "outside the box" of what we are used to, I suggest that you give this a listen. Check www.daramaclean.com for your copy.



Guy Penrod

A Visionary

by Rhonda Frye

According to The Phrase Finder website, the phrase “Out of the Box” originated in the United States in the late 60’s or early 70’s. It means to think creatively unimpeded by orthodox or conventional constraints. The website states, “The ‘box’, with its implication of rigidity and squareness, symbolizes constrained and unimaginative thinking. This is in contrast to the open and unrestricted ‘out of the box’ or ‘blue-sky’ thinking.” Unfortunately, most people remain crouched in the confines of familiarity! Thank God for a Texas preacher-man dad, a dedicated school teacher and spirited visionary who encouraged a little boy turned student and then young man to think outside the box! By the grace of God, the world has been blessed and continues to be blessed by THE ONE.... and definitely THE ONLY....Guy Penrod!

Considered one of the most powerful voices in Christian music, for 14 years, Penrod was at the heart of the Grammy and Dove Winning Gaither Vocal Band. As a GVB member alone, he sold over 18 million CDs and DVDs, stood on platforms all over the world and received numerous honors. His face is as recognizable as his voice and is seen weekly on many stations across the United States and Canada. He is the host of Daystar Television Network’s Gospel Music Showcase, is featured regularly in Homecoming Magazine and can be frequently seen on Gaither.com. Being true to the call upon his life, Penrod is carving a solo path as Christian music’s premier country recording artist. SGNScoops is pleased to present Guy’s

early years, his growing years and the latest happenings in his ministry.

Growing up in a preacher’s home in West Texas, Guy was encouraged to nurture his gift by his parents and other role models. “I didn’t chase *normal* as far as life was concerned, I was always a bit outside the box with different opportunities that came my way and I see it as positive to think outside the box and I credit some wonderful teachers along the way,” Guy explains. “I had a music teacher in high school that was very influential- just pouring into me the dreams that you can be whatever you want to be if you put your mind to it.”

“I loved my college experience at Liberty University and the close proximity that I had to Dr. Jerry Falwell because of my singing,” Guy continues. “We spent personal time together flying from date to date with me singing before he spoke. We had a lot of interaction, on a personal level, with him fostering this approaching life with vision and thinking outside the box. He also challenged the students on a regular basis to be *Champions for Christ*- To be people that did big things and to dream big dreams. That’s been poured into me and my family as well.” Speaking of family, Penrod met his wife, Angie at Liberty. “She went to Liberty for the same reason I did- It was the love of vision casting and that atmosphere that Dr. Falwell fostered to be visionaries,” he adds.

continued on next page

After college, Guy taught voice in Georgia, but soon moved to Nashville to pursue vocal performance. Penrod was an in-demand session singer working behind the scenes for country music legends. In God's timing, Penrod caught Bill Gaither's attention and joined the Gaither Vocal Band. Learning valuable lessons in the Gaither years, now he shares the advice: "I find myself repeating Bill and Gloria a good bit to folks who say 'how do you do what you do?' Bill and Gloria used to say, BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED!" Essentially just saying hone your talent, use all the resources around you, learn the language of music, learn to read it, how to write it, how to notate it, learn how to express your thoughts. Practice performing standing in front of others every chance you get."

"And," he adds, "We know according to the Word, wherever you find yourself in those circumstances, be content. It's real important because our faith then tells us that if we really believe this stuff, God knows how to get a hold of you. He can call ya, text ya... He knows your email. And.. He can show up at your house in many different forms and direct your steps in a plethora of ways because we know He does NOT exist inside of a box. His eyes search to and fro looking for those faithful ones!"



"That advice of blooming where you're planted is just very good advice," he adds! "It's solid and it takes the stress out! Looking back, I could not have written a path that in fact I actually took. I could not have thought to write it out. It has to happen in real-time organically. I think as we trust God, He gives us the strength to make the right decisions."

Following his heart, Guy departed the Vocal Band a few short years ago. Initially, performing as a soloist

was challenging, but with time and experience, Guy is adjusting. "The most compelling reason I left was to have the opportunity to express what God has put in me to say and sing," Guy explains. "It is most fulfilling, but it is a big responsibility. I don't do it perfectly and I sure wish I could. I don't know that I ever go on stage without being scared to death or come off stage thinking... ok- job well done. I don't think I have *arrived* by any stretch in my solo career, but I am learning as I go that each concert is an outcropping of what I learned from the last concert. The more and more I do it, the more respect (if it's possible) I have for Bill prior to doing it by myself."

The fans haven't noticed any imperfection. Penrod's tour schedule is packed and people are flocking to various venues selling out many concerts in the United States and Canada.

Penrod's Dove Award-nominated Gaither Music Group/Servant Records release, *BREATHE DEEP* was released in 2010. This solo country record so far has sold 85,000 units with tunes popping up on the mainstream country charts! When asked if he was pleased with the progress of his first record, Guy shared his thoughts:

"I have seldom felt like 'wow- job well done!' I try not to let that not get me down because it can be a negative thing to have goals that are so big and lofty that you can never reach them and yet I'm a guy that lives in fear of setting my goals so low that I might actually hit it. I will say I'm very pleased with the impact we were able to have with the first record. We were doing some math the other day and the total spins I believe we received on main stream country radio from the singles we released were around 70,000. Given the fact that I'm a gospel artist cutting country music as well and wanting to

have an impact there and this is my first foray into it, I felt like we made very good impact in that regard."

BREATHE DEEP is described as *just good advice for living*. In a previous Scoops interview, Penrod described the album as a *tool in the tool box*. This writer's description is: It's the application segment of a good sermon. A great sermon is grounded in great theology, but what good is it if the congregation walks away without *practical take-aways*? *BREATHE DEEP* is great music about life.

On March 27, 2012, Penrod released *HYMNS*, a Gaither

Music Group/Servant Records recording, and the response so far is amazing! According to a mid-April press release, *HYMNS* was the top seller on Nielsen SoundScan's Southern Gospel retail chart; #5 on the Current Contemporary Christian chart; and entered The Billboard 200 at #85! Why hymns? Guy explains:

"It's something that I've always wanted to do. At this point in life again, and I harken back to the reasons for departing the Vocal Band, life is short! To some degree, I *know* Country! It's my opinion that Country is the last form of secular music that still lifts up the good things of God."

Guy continues: "Also, it's just a logical follow up and it doesn't leave any question as to who I am and what I am and what my goals are. It just puts the nail in the coffin lid saying 'This guy is straight up Christian and ain't ever gonna be no different!'"

Selections include: "Amazing Grace," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," "He Hideth My Soul," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and more. Included is a duet with 103-year-old legend, George Beverly Shea on "Does Jesus Care?" Having *Bev Shea*, as Guy called him, on the record is a dream come true for Penrod! "I think George is just one of the gifts to mankind! He's a gentle spirit- and the good news is... he is just the same in person and on a personal level- just as you hear in his voice," Penrod tells. "He's gentle, he's humble, he's strong, and he's full of the Lord. I've been ministered to by him my whole life. I was a fan. I was a kid ordering the George Beverly Shea records waiting for them in the mail, and then I'd go put them down on the record player that dropped them down one after the other! I hope he's around a whole lot longer to sing one with me on the next one," he adds.

Mr. Shea says he enjoyed taking part in the album too! "It was a very special time as we shared a most memorable afternoon recording with Guy Penrod, followed by a precious time of fellowship, Mr. Shea says. "We pray that those who hear the song, and the rest of Guy's album, will be blessed by the music."

These songs are 100 years or older; however the message is relevant today. "It's pertinent information to the human condition. They're old, but familiar. I've put them in keys that people can sing along with and chose the verses that most people are familiar with because people want to.... again harken back to being a musical tool box for your truck.... People want to roll down the road or cook dinner listening to something that will provide good answers and that will bring peace, hope and joy," Guy comments.

Although *HYMNS* is still hot-off-the-press, thoughts of a new record are brewing in the Country direction! "My sophomore attempt at a country record will follow this *HYMNS* project. I'm going to take a biblical world view and approach to living, wrap it as beautifully and attractively as I can," Guy explains. "We'll offer it in the marketplace



as we'll to try to lift up the ways and the person of Jesus saying... 'This is who loves you most and this is the way life works best.' We'll come at all the different challenges the same way, but wrapped maybe a little edgier, but most definitely Country! The church has a plethora of choices to listen to musically, so what I want to do is affect a world that is definitely in need of truth. I think the goal is good and high and I want to shoot for it. I want to continue to lift up these ideas because they work," he adds.

Guy says that party songs should come from the church as well as love songs! How fitting considering Penrod's

home life! Penrod married the love of his life and since, they've added eight children to their home. There have been many occasions to celebrate; the Penrod farm is surely a happy place to be!

And...Mrs. Penrod will be celebrating ALL day this year for Mother's Day. "I couldn't have asked for a more beautiful, wonderful woman to go through life with," Guy shares. "She feels it's her calling to be a mom. She sees it as a high calling to train these great boys and my sweet girl hopefully in the ways of God as they make their own way. Obviously they'll make mistakes, but hopefully the foundation is strong and I know it won't be because of a lack of effort and love and time spent with them on her behalf. I can't say enough good about her and her patience and godliness as a mom. On Mother's Day, it's just a matter of formality that when we get up, Mother is waited on hand and foot with flowers everywhere. And...every whim she has, we try our best to fulfill. It's a day fully devoted to her ease of living," Guy adds!

To learn more about the Out of the Box, Visionary Guy Penrod, visit his website at <http://guypenrod.com/>. Guy's music may be purchased through various internet outlets such as Amazon, Gaither's online store <http://gaither.com/> and at retail outlets across the country. The newest HYMNS release is also found at Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores®.

Guy closes with these words for our readers: "Just keep on keeping and remember this quote from Francis of Assisi. 'We are not merely human beings who have spiritual experiences, but we are indeed spirit beings having a very temporary human experience.' May that temper all of our decisions and I include myself in that as we go through life. It's hard to sometimes, but I try to remind myself on a

regular basis of that truth that we are spirit beings and all these decisions just aren't human decisions they're spirit decisions that will translate as we leave this world and head into the next. Also I say, listen on, live on, be strong and love those around you!"



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How do you change a mind?

by John Mathis, Jr.

Photo courtesy of Thomas Quine

It seems every year tops the previous year on being a “debate-charged” year. We have a political race happening for the GOP choice to run for President. We also have all the debate regarding the upcoming Presidential election. Then there are other stories that have surfaced from the recent scandal with the Secret Service to the tragic shooting death of the youth in Florida. And guess what? EVERYONE has an opinion on them all! These stories and many more just feed our debate-driven society and seem to heighten the appetite we have for “debate.” Debate seems to be the central theme of our pop culture as it appears daily in national television, radio and online platforms.

With the advent and rise of social media, the debates spill over to our personal Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, YouTube, online forums, etc. We can all join in among the ranks of those weighing in with their opinions on everything from proposed National Healthcare to who got booted off American Idol last night and why it is all “so wrong.” It’s obvious that creating controversy for any subject will increase its popularity immensely and drive up ratings and viewership. It will rally the troops to one side or the other which is something else I’ve noticed; when it comes to our debate society you’re either one of “us” or one of “them.” There is no middle ground.

Topics such as choices for political offices, illegal immigration, abortion, same-sex marriage, national health care, religious freedom, taxes, atheism and racism all top the list as button-pushers that spark us to expressing our opinions. The debates ensue and they often times become heated. The ironic thing I’ve noticed is I’ve never seen one person change their mind! Not once have I watched a television show, listened to a call-in radio program or read an on-going debate in a forum where someone changed

from a “them” to an “us” or vice versa. Where someone stopped and said, “You’re right, why didn’t I see it that way before?!” I’ve NEVER seen that happen. It seems the only goal of debating is to dig in and hold on to our views and hope that our side will win. It seems the definition of winning means to completely alienate the other side and hopefully get our way.

As a follower of Christ, this has presented a quandary for me. How do modern Christians function in such a debate-oriented society and still change people’s lives with the Gospel? Christianity has itself become more than just a life-changing belief; it has become somewhat of a political party and a sought-after base of voters. We sometimes get painted into the “us-against-them” corner and I often wonder if we forget our goal is to make everyone a part of “us.” Our main focus is CHANGING LIVES and yet it seems we’ve been forced into trying to CHANGE MINDS.

One of my favorite stories is in Acts 17 where Paul was in Athens. In Acts 17:16 it says “Paul was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.” However, Paul displayed some great wisdom in this situation. He had seen all the statues and temples to all of the gods as he had maneuvered around Athens and he *could* have begun to debate with his audience how these things were erroneous and try to convince them of the fallacy of their beliefs; I think that is how our society would approach it today. We like to attack what’s wrong with a person’s views in an attempt to CHANGE THEIR MIND, not realizing it’s all they know, it’s all they’ve been offered to that point.

Instead of making an attack on the beliefs and mindset of the men of Athens, Paul opened the door to his presentation of the Gospel by saying: “I see that in every

way you are very religious.” He remarked how he noticed all the objects of worship and even noticed an altar with the inscription that said “TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.” Apparently, the people were so superstitious they made an altar to an unknown god just in case they missed one! Paul moved toward sharing Jesus Christ by saying “Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.” And proclaim he did!

I think the key to Paul’s wisdom and approach was realizing who his audience was. I think that is something missing in our debate-driven society today. First you have to realize who your audience is that you’re speaking to. Paul shared differently with the men of Athens than he did with the church. He addressed the “them” crowd differently than the “us” crowd. With the church, Paul attempted to edify, educate and mature their thinking. With the world, Paul started them at square one, giving the chance to know Jesus. On that day in Athens, Paul had some who sneered and scoffed at the idea of Savior who came to die as a sacrifice and be resurrected again for the salvation of man. But I’m also sure Paul changed some lives that day.

What I’ve noticed is that throughout the Bible, from Jesus with the woman at the well to Paul in his missionary journeys, that there was a CHANGE OF HEART *before* there was a CHANGE OF MIND. Paul, in his address at Athens, among a group who loved to reason and talk about everything under the sun, made an appeal to the HEART of men rather than attempt to convince them that their current way of thinking and reasoning was wrong. The first thing Jesus offered when he encountered a woman who had not previously been satisfied in life was “living water so that she would never thirst again.” Even when Paul and Silas were in jail, they sang praises at midnight rather than trying to reason with the jailer to release them. This gave opportunity, for the jailer had a change of heart through the events that followed. There are so many examples where a change of heart brought about a change of mind.

I still believe that we can change our society and our world, not by changing minds, but by changing hearts. The kicker is that sometimes in order to change the hearts of OTHERS, we have to make sure OUR hearts have been changed. That we still have a compassion for others to know the same grace and mercy we’ve been given.

IF our main goal as Christians is to reason with the world in an attempt to have them adopt our views on morality, then our goal is simply to CHANGE MINDS and we in essence are bringing back the Law of the Old Testament. It will only be an exterior display of precepts and sacrifices. Let’s just imagine for a moment a society where there were no murders, or lies, or theft, or acts of racism, or

abortions or any of those things contrary to our Christian beliefs all because we somehow forced everyone to live as we believe we all should live. Imagine that we changed the MINDS of our communities and our country to live as we do because we reasoned them into thinking it’s the “best view”. Yet, the hearts of men were never changed! How would that weigh out for eternity? How would that provide healing to the broken hearted or joy or peace or love for the soul? It wouldn’t! Would it really correct what is at the root of society’s problems and woes? It would not!

Imagine if our main goal was to CHANGE HEARTS and we reached heart after heart in our communities and eventually across this nation. Then many of the views and opinions we take issue with and debate would change. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he! Hearts that know love, joy and peace through Jesus Christ result in thinking and outward action that reflects the same!

The early church faced imprisonment and martyrdom simply for sharing the Gospel. Yet the desire to fulfill the Great Commission and spread the Gospel caused them to ignore the perils of their own lives in order to change the hearts of others. We can still change this world that we live in; not by changing minds but by changing hearts!

Exercising with Kids: It Can be Child's Play!

by Laurette Willis



Photo by Mike Baird

In honor of Mother's Day -- we all know how important exercise is to our child's growth and physical development. Lack of exercise is partly responsible for the growing childhood obesity epidemic in our culture.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the U.S., the percentage of overweight children aged 6-11 years has almost doubled since the early 1980's. The percentage of overweight adolescents has risen by nearly 300 percent!

Statistics show the startling frequency of weight-related disease in children:

- 60 percent of overweight children already have one risk factor for heart disease
- 85 percent of children diagnosed with type 2 diabetes are obese
- 25 percent of overweight children are already showing early signs of type 2 diabetes
- Approximately 20 percent of newly diagnosed cases of childhood diabetes are type 2, associated with obesity. This figure is up from 4

percent in 1990.

The trend seems to be affecting pre-school children, too. From 1994 to 2001, overweight among children aged 2-5 years, increased by 42 percent.

Considering that overweight children often become overweight or obese adults who model poor dietary and exercise habits to their children, the cycle continues until someone decides to break the destructive cycle.

What's the Answer?

Get moving!

In addition to eating more healthful unprocessed foods from a wide variety of sources, exercise is vital to growing bodies.

Children who are active on a daily basis develop stronger muscles and bones, and are less likely to develop health problems such as type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure in later years. Daily physical activity is also linked to regulating a child's mood and enabling her to sleep better.

It's been estimated that toddlers require 30 minutes of

structured physical activity every day. An additional 60 minutes of playtime is also recommended.

Since we all want to be good role models for our children, making fitness a part of our daily routine will benefit them – and us at the same time! You can break the cycle and start a new fitness tradition in your family.

Exercise helps adults maintain a healthy, consistent weight, and it can also help relieve stress and keep a balanced mood, sleep better, and combat some chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. The CDC says adults should participate in moderate physical activity (such as brisk walking) for 30 minutes at least five days a week.

Here are some fun and easy activities you can do as a family to help make fitness a habit and invest quality time with your children.

Activities with Infants and Young Children

Whenever possible, go outdoors and enjoy being active in the backyard, local neighborhood or park. This gives little ones the opportunity to interact with their environment, too.

Stroll-Along: Stroller exercise classes and groups are growing in popularity. A search on the internet will help you find a group near you. While it may seem that Mom is getting more of a workout than baby, it's also a great way for you to interact with other mothers in your area. StrollerFit has classes at YMCAs and other locations across the U.S. (see <http://strollerfit.com>).

Of course you don't need a group to stroll along! You can also take your baby out in a baby sling or carrier and take a brisk walk around the neighborhood.

I Can Dig It! Playgrounds with sandboxes enable baby to play outdoors in the sand with his own toys and you don't have to worry about him falling on the hard ground. Bring a bucket and shovel and help build the castle of your dreams!

Mommy and Me Exercise Classes: Check to see if there are exercise groups in your area that encourage mother/child participation. More areas are offering PraiseMoves classes ("The Christian Alternative to Yoga") for adults and children. If there are no Certified PraiseMoves Instructors in your area yet, work out to a DVD with your child or start a group in your area. Contact PraiseMoves for information (<http://praisemoves.com>).

If You Plant It, It Will Grow! Don't have a garden? Perhaps the local school has an area in need of some flowers. Does your neighborhood have a community

garden? Toddlers will enjoy watching the plants grow, and you'll get a good workout, too.

Catch, Jump, Bark and Dance! Indoor fun can be as simple as rolling a ball back and forth or playing "catch" or "kick the ball." Depending on your child's age, a mini-basketball game is fun, as is jumping rope to simple rhymes. Make believe you are different animals. Say the name of the animal, and then both of you move and sound as if you were that animal. Wanna dance? Turn up the music – and shake it loose (dancing is GREAT exercise and lots of fun, too)!

Incorporate Scripture: Faith and fitness are a great combination! Playtime is an ideal opportunity to include simple memory verses such as, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). A Bible promise book is a good resource.

While playing "catch," for example, whenever you catch the ball, say part of the verse for that day. Have your child complete the verse (and vice-versa!).

Act out different biblical accounts (Noah, Jonah, Daniel in the lion's den, David and Goliath, and the parting of the Red Sea) and Jesus' parables from the New Testament.

While doing sit-ups, toe-touches, push-ups, say scriptures aloud to help keep you "pumped up!" Several Christian fitness programs (such as PraiseMoves) include scripture with their workouts for children and adults – to help keep you fit in spirit, soul AND body!

Lastly, have fun! You have the opportunity to show your child that it feels *good* to move our bodies – the bodies God gave us to care for and enjoy. You can break the cycle of childhood obesity in your generation and see your grandchildren and great-grandchildren become fit witnesses for Christ!

Christian Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry (<http://PraiseMoves.com> and on Facebook <http://facebook.com/Praise-MovesFan>). Get your free fitness kit at <http://Christian-FitnessKit.com> ©2012



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CD Review: I AM A PROMISE – The Gaither Vocal Band

I love music! If I'm not writing it, singing it or writing about it, you'll find me in a preschool setting sharing this wonderful gift with infants and young children! Exposing children to music has many benefits! Children naturally LOVE music- it's just a universal truth! Music lifts and soothes the spirit and stimulates the mind! During the school year, I teach in preschools and daycares serving approximately 300 to 400 children each week ranging in ages from six weeks to five years old. I also work with schools with their special programs, teen mom groups and sometimes I even share music in special education classrooms. "Mini Music" is NOT a formal music instruction program, but more of an exploratory musical appreciation and experience!

I expose children to a wide variety of musical styles, and believe me my classes involve plenty of movement! We play rhythm instruments, dance with ribbons and scarves and so much more. I'm not sure who enjoys it most the children or this teacher, but I must say we have a BLAST experimenting. No matter what we do, I stress to the kids, "MUSIC IS A GIFT FROM GOD"... And... "GIFTS ARE TO BE SHARED!" Needless to say, I'm always on the hunt for good children's music! I LOVE to teach children about God using music as the tool!

I recently came across The Gaither Vocal Band's *I AM A PROMISE* CD produced by Bill Gaither and Ben Isaacs. Wow! It's a collection of 13 songs, most penned by Bill and

Gloria that are catchy and fun but are also faith-building messages shaping little minds! "It's *classic Gaither* ... great children's songs," explains Gaither Vocal Band's Wes Hampton. "It's Bill and Gloria... Their music, their lyric, so you know it's theologically sound, but it's also fun and beautiful music for kids."

In a recent interview with Bill Gaither, he shared the reason why he and the Vocal Band recorded *I AM A PROMISE*: "Gloria and I started writing when we first got married 49 years ago, and we've been writing ever since. In the late 60's/early 70's, we started writing children's material because we had little kids. Songs like "I'm Something Special I'm the only one of my kind", and songs like "I Am A Promise I Am A Possibility I Am A Promise With A Capital P" The people who've followed us said, "Hey, our kids grew up with that and we grew up on that. Do you have any new projects with those songs and would you re-record "I Am a Promise?" We re-recorded that one and "I'm Something Special" and put some new kids songs like "I've Got An Attitude of Gratitude a heart that's full and thankful." I think it's good for kids to develop a life of gratitude."

The recording process was a little different compared to most GVB projects, Wes Hampton explains. "It was interesting because we usually just go into the studio like everybody to record a CD, but this one we primarily did on the road! We have this portable studio that we take into arenas and we just recorded one or two of those per day before the concert. It was a very interesting process!"

I would have LOVED to have seen the recording process- just to see Mark Lowry in action! Mark brings this album to life with his vocal sound effects and ad-libbing! My students love his additions and animated vocals on "Only A Boy Named David," and "I Wonder How It Felt!" I find myself giggling too! I asked Mark if he had fun with the ad-libbing. "That's what I loved about it!" Mark admits. "Bill just let me get in there and just HOLLER stuff- and so that was a LOT of fun!"

then everybody gets excited! He really liked it! Then Benji {Benjamin Gaither} pulled out the guitar and we wrote it in the backyard of their Nantucket home that they had rented for the week," Lowry concludes.

I've been able to use the album in many ways. The song "I Am A Promise" is perfect for preschool graduations as is "My Father's Angels." The song "Jesus Hold My Hand" is great to teach the kids about *tempo*. They squeal with delight as the song gets faster! Before I leave the



CLICK THE PHOTO TO PLAY A VIDEO

Another favorite on the album is "Attitude of Gratitude" written by Mark Lowry and Benjamin Gaither. Being that I teach very young children, I had to break those two words down so that the children really understood what they were singing. The song allows me to teach children that all good things are of God. Also, when we have a bad day, if we start counting all the good things in our lives, our hearts will feel happy again. Needless to say, these are great truths for adults too!

"I was on vacation in Nantucket with the Gaither Family- Bill, Gloria and the grandkids," Mark explains. "I was watching TV and I heard some TV preacher say 'You need to have a gratitude attitude!' I'd always heard *attitude of gratitude*- everybody's heard that, but I didn't think there had ever been a song written with that title. So...I thought that it would be a good title for a song. I wrote the lyric and Bill was excited... And when Bill is excited,

classroom, I give each child a stamp on the hand for participating in music class. As I walk around, I play "You're Something Special." Also- in my infant classes, I play the whole CD and the babies are entertained as well as the teachers the whole time! I am LOVING this CD and so are my kids!

Just to prove how much my students love this CD, check out the video! The children are from Applebrook Country Day School in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and are mostly four (or close to four) years old. They are a precious group of music loving little darlings! Keep their age in mind and understand they are in the PROCESS of learning to sing on pitch and are also in the PROCESS of learning about rhythm! They have also learned that behind every song is a *songwriter* and they've learned the difference between a *verse* and a *chorus*. More than anything, they have learned that we should be thankful in all things!

Thank you, Mark Lowry for an AWESOME song! Thank

you Bill and Gloria Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band, we are loving your music! Special thanks to the students, parents, teachers and administrators at Applebrook Country Dayschool! (Video Clarification: Lyrics to the chorus: "I've got an attitude of gratitude a heart that's full and thankful. Through the good the bad, happy or sad, Dear Lord, help me be grateful!")

I highly recommend *I AM A PROMISE* for any children's



ministry, children's classroom, and especially for the home! Sharing the gift of music with children has too many benefits to list! Sharing the gift of *gospel* music with children will grant all the benefits of other music PLUS their minds will be shaped with facts about God and biblical principles that will stick with them for life! *I AM A PROMISE* has been kid tested and this music teacher definitely approves!

I AM A PROMISE can be purchased at Lifeway Christian Book Stores as well as the Gaither's website: <http://gaither.com/>. From the Gaither website, be sure to check out other children's products.

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A promotional graphic for Phil Cross. It features a purple background with a circular graphic behind the name 'philCROSS'. Below the name are the words 'singer songwriter worshiper'. A photograph of Phil Cross, a man with glasses in a dark suit, is on the right. To his left is a smaller photo of a group of four people, with the text 'with Sacred Harmony' overlaid. At the bottom, it says 'an inspiring worship event'.

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Charlie Griffin

with Curt Davis and Jeff Martin

From the CD release "Homecoming - Friends!"

704-552-9060 - Charlotte, NC

Charlie@CharlieGriffin.Net www.CharlieGriffin.Net

A promotional graphic for Charlie Griffin. It features a photograph of Charlie Griffin, a man in a grey suit, standing in front of a window with a diamond pattern. The text 'Sing, Sing' is in a large, red, cursive font. Below it, 'Charlie Griffin' is in a yellow, cursive font. Further down, 'with Curt Davis and Jeff Martin' is in a smaller yellow font. At the bottom, it says 'From the CD release "Homecoming - Friends!"', '704-552-9060 - Charlotte, NC', and 'Charlie@CharlieGriffin.Net www.CharlieGriffin.Net'.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

by Angela Griffin



Feed My Starving Children provides life-saving meals throughout the world to precious souls who need it most. Their meals are distributed in nearly 70 countries through missionary partnerships at orphanages, schools, clinics, refugee camps and malnourishment centers. Through networking with wonderful partners, they provide nutritious meals to countries affected by natural disasters and to those who are suffering from economic despair.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is nestled in the heart of Minnesota. A Christian 501 c 3 nonprofit organization was founded in 1987 through the efforts of a local Minnesota businessman, who felt the call of God to help feed the starving children around the world, after returning to the Twin Cities from a mission trip to Honduras. Upon his return to the United States, he began the developmental process of a nutritional product that could be used for large scale relief. This food product included rice, soy, vegetables, a vegetarian-based chicken flavoring, and a vitamin and mineral mix. In addition to creating this formula, FMSC sought to develop a cost-effective means of producing the meals in quantities that would make a real difference in alleviating world hunger. Initially, FMSC tested packaging machines, but this method proved to be expensive and cumbersome. In 1993, a church group stopped by the FMSC facility to pursue volunteer opportunities. That providential meeting gave birth to FMSC's volunteer-packing approach.

To distribute the packed meals, the FMSC team began establishing partnerships with major global

distribution nonprofits and imbedded missionaries such as Salesian Missions, Love A Child, Cross International, Samaritans International, and World in Need. These partnerships allow FMSC to reach desperately needy children in remote parts of the world by leveraging the partner's in-country expertise. This expertise allows the partner to help ensure that the orphanages, schools and facilities for disabled children are provided hot, nutritious meals—and a ray of hope for the future.

In December of 2003, FMSC's Board of Directors voted to re-dedicate the organization to Christ. Since that moment, FMSC's growth has been virtually exponential. In 2003 FMSC produced 3 million meals with one packing site and 17,000 volunteers. Today, FMSC has produced over 133 million meals with six permanent packing sites, and a nationwide MobilePack program with more than 565,000 volunteers.

From its beginnings, Feed My Starving Children has worked to develop a food mixture that would be easy and safe to transport, simple to make with only boiling water, and culturally acceptable worldwide. FMSC developed MannaPack Rice, a formula consisting of: rice, the most widely accepted grain around the world, extruded soy nuggets, vitamins, minerals and a vegetarian flavoring to give growing children the critical nutritional elements they need and dehydrated vegetables for flavor and nutrition.

The organization also created MannaPack Potato for children 7-12 months. This formula is used as

a weaning food, designed to meet World Health Organization's recommended nutrient requirements. This product name was chosen to capture both the nourishing qualities of the supplement and FMSC's spiritual mission by using the word manna, which the dictionary defines as: In the Bible, the food miraculously provided for the Israelites in the wilderness during their flight from Egypt; Spiritual nourishment of divine origin; Something of value that



a person receives unexpectedly.

A single bag of food—which provides highly nutritious meals for six children costs around \$1.44 to produce, and 93 percent of all donations to FMSC goes directly toward the food program. If you have a heart for missions, get involved by volunteering your time to help package food for the poor at one of the FMSC's permanent sites located in Coon Rapids, MN (corporate headquarters), Chanhassen, MN, Eagan, MN, Aurora, IL, Schaumburg, IL, and Tempe, AZ. For teams who would like to volunteer but live a distance from one of the permanent sites, you can take advantage of their "MobilePack" events. The "MobilePack" events allow people across the United States to pack life-giving meals which are then shipped to impoverished countries around the world. They welcome volunteer groups such as churches, businesses, and youth groups to host an event that provides a unique volunteer experience to reach hungry children around the globe. For a complete overview of Feed My Starving Children please visit www.fmsc.org.

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SGN Scoops experiences the 43rd Annual Dove Awards

by Rhonda Frye

An excitement stirred on Peachtree Street in Atlanta Georgia Thursday, April 19, 2012. The escalating buzz in the early afternoon signaled something amazing was about to place! After much planning, the stage in the extraordinary famed Fox Theatre was finally prepared to celebrate Gospel Music's biggest night of the year! The 43rd annual GMA Dove Awards proved to be a night in which diversity was celebrated! Different denominations, multicultural backgrounds including bluegrass, gospel, urban, hip-hop, contemporary Christian and southern gospel united to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ and to honor those who have made a tremendous impact in the last year.

Before the night officially kicked off, there were other activities planned. In the afternoon, the pre-show began and it was marvelous! Several Southern Gospel and Bluegrass categories were covered in this portion of the show. Once the winner was announced and the Dove Award was received, the recipients were led to a packed out press room to pose for pictures and answer questions.

The Isaacs met the press first. Winning Bluegrass Recorded Song of the Year, with grace, the Isaacs answered questions and expressed gratefulness to the late Dottie Rambo. Since Rambo McGuire were next in line, they joined the Isaacs in honoring Ms. Rambo and posed for group pictures. Rambo McGuire received a Dove for Bluegrass Album of the Year. They all looked stunning dressed in black, grey and white.

A thrilled Karen Peck and New River received their very first Dove Award during the pre-show too and what a blessing it was for SGN Scoops to be there to share the joy! "We have been singing for 21 years and have been nominated numerous times! This just goes to show some things just don't happen overnight," Karen explained. Karen and

sister, Susan obviously impressed one reporter with their attire! The reporter asked where they got their fashionable outfits! Word had obviously spread about Karen's role in the JOYFUL NOISE movie recently, so Karen briefly answered questions about the Joyful Noise experience.

Stow Town Records recording artist, Phil Collingsworth of the Collingsworth Family greeted the group of reporters, but when his eyes landed on Rob Patz, Phil smiled and said, "HI ROB!" The Collingsworth Family claimed a Dove for Long Form Music Video of the Year.

Stan Whitmire made his appearance after winning Instrumental Album of the Year for *Unfailing Love: 20 Worship Songs Of Comfort And Peace.* In reference to the songs chosen for the album, Whitmire recalled something Bill Gaither had taught him. "Melodies alone just won't do it!"



The Martins performed during the Pre-Awards Show and wow.... They sang their hearts out in three part family

harmony making our Lord AND our genre SHINE! Also during the Pre-Awards Show, Beyond The Ashes presented an award. Both Beyond the Ashes and The Martins acknowledged the press with warmth, sincerity and professionalism making quite an impression.



Following the Pre-Awards Show, a massive crowd gathered to cheer on favorite artists as they strolled the red carpet. It was chaotic to say the least as people pressed their way to the carpet's edge. The stars were dressed in high-fashion- Ladies in beautiful formals and men dressed to a tee. True to the nature of a true artist, unique personalities in hair-style, dress and accessories flared! It was refreshing to see our "Stars" sporting their best bling, while honoring Christ with modesty!

The best part of the Red Carpet experience was connecting with "our artists!" As Karen Peck and New River connected with us, we were both relieved to see familiar faces! We exchanged hugs, posed for pictures and Karen thanked us for being there.

We tried to get a picture of Russ Taff and his beautiful



family, but just as we clicked the picture, some crazy looking man jumped out of nowhere right into the frame! Very funny, Jason Crabb! Our facebook fans loved the photo bombing!

The Isaacs were all smiles to see us too! It was awesome to see their influence expand right before our eyes into

other realms as they greeted press in genres that couldn't be more opposite of bluegrass! Over hearing a conversation, the reporters next to us were blown away to discover The Isaacs were family! They found it even harder to believe Lily is the mom!



The Martins took their leisurely pace down the red carpet, stopping for pictures and answering questions too! They were stunning! There was so much excitement in the air!

As always, Jason Crabb was friendly and affectionate with us, but we almost didn't recognize the way-cool Michael English wearing shades!

In reality, it's not like we are "best buds," with any of the red carpet artists, but in this environment, in this kind of setting, we realized how much our southern gospel industry is like family!

The Dove Awards Show, hosted by Chonda Pierce and David Mann, hurled into motion with an amazing opening tribute to the late Whitney Houston. Angie Stone, Yolanda



Adams, Crystal Lewis and Karen Peck belted "I Go to the Rock" setting the tone for the whole night!

Not long after, The Isaacs owned the stage with a stellar performance of "Walk On" resulting in a standing ovation. So much energy was put into their piece that even Chonda Pierce attempted a blue-grass jig! Unfortunately, Chonda

just wasn't quite as good at it as Sonya, but she tried and of course, she was hilarious.

Referring to this performance, later in the evening Mary Mary said in the press room, "We were blown away with the Isaacs! We're going out tomorrow to buy everything they have!" Also later in the press room, Karen Peck was mentioned for her opening performance. It's safe to say, Karen Peck and The Isaacs would wow the crowd for sure!

The night was a powerful demonstration of what happens when diverse people come together to celebrate and spread the message of Christ. There were many unforgettable performances including the tribute to Russ Taff honoring his life's work.

Jason Crabb kicked off the medley with "Ain't No Grave." Other songs included "Praise The Lord" and Russ finally joined Donnie McClurkin and Wess Morgan and Crabb on stage with "We Will Stand."

It was difficult to hear words spoken on stage by Russ, but in the press room, he was grateful and humbled by the tribute. He spoke tenderly about "falling in love with Jesus." He also mentioned how grateful he was that friends rushed to his side during tough times. He recalled how Bill Gaither and other friends flew out to his rescue when his world fell apart and he did the same for his friend, Michael English. "I walked through hell with him {English} and now He's working for Jesus again," Taff exclaimed with a smile!

With a sweet spirit, Russ acknowledged that every artist is important. "People singing in local churches are just as important as the ones packing out the music halls on Saturday night," Taff explained.

The most tender moment of the evening was when 20 year old singer/songwriter, Jamie-Grace accepted her Dove for "New Artist of the Year." Jamie Grace is a self-taught musician who plays 6 instruments. She was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome at the age of 11. She works diligently to share her testimony of overcoming obstacles. As her name was called, she burst into tears and accepted with sincerity and a sense of humor. In the press room, a reporter asked why she got involved with music. Recalling an encounter with Zoe Girl, she told that as she met them, she was twitching uncontrollably due to the Tourette's. That night, a member of Zoe Girl told her she was beautiful and

as a result, her greatest desire is to help other people feel exactly like they made her feel. Jamie-Grace's spirit was precious as she interacted with the press with maturity and confidence beyond her years.

The night presented performances from Kari Jobe, Mandisa, Mary Mary, Lecrae and so many more, but for the media- the action was in the press-room! It was a blessing to hear the hearts of artists we weren't as familiar with, but was obvious they love and serve the same Jesus as we do.

There was humor on stage with Chonda and David, but the press wasn't lacking for jokes either! Expectant mother and artist, Laura Story was adorable! She told us she had



photo: Aaron Crisler / The Judy Nelson Group

thought about going to Dick's Sporting Goods to buy a tent to wear for the event, and disclosed that she had just learned they would be welcoming a baby girl. "She'll be my new release!" she joked. Story has been touring with Mandisa and admitted they've become friends although their styles are different. "It's like glitter meets granola," Story laughed, "or bling meets Birkenstock."

Former mainstream rapper, Montell Jordan shared profound words. When asked why he became involved in Christian Music, he said, "I quit the music business and I became a minister." Jordan added, "I bring different cultures together. Different genres. We are opening the world up to all styles of music," he said. "There's not a white Jesus, a black Jesus, an Asian Jesus. We all come together, and when we do, we become closer to what heaven really looks like." He went on to say he thoroughly enjoyed Karen Peck and the Isaacs!

Natalie Grant accepted her 5th Female Vocalist of the Year award! "I am totally speechless," she said "I'm so hon-

ored to be in a category with some unbelievable female artists who all deserve to be standing here."

the activities of the 43rd annual Dove Awards. It was an unforgettable experience that we definitely want to experience again!



We would like to say "congratulations" to all nominees and winners and also encourage you to "keep on keeping on!" Galatians 6:9 "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

As the night came to an end, the reporters in the press room scrambled to the front of the room to congratulate the Male Vocalist of the year AND Artist of the Year, Jason Crabb! Sharply dressed in an outfit he picked out himself and with a familiar boyish grin, Jason spoke. He expressed his gratefulness as he explained his humble beginnings in Beaver Dam, Kentucky. He admitted he was living out his dream and encouraged everyone to pursue theirs. He also acknowledged his wife as his greatest companion in life and described her as the greatest woman in the world.

Clapping his hands with excitement, Jason gave a sneak peek into his newest project! "Ed Cash is producing part of the record so I'm excited about that and then and also Jacob Marcus which is also one of the Rascal Flatts is helping.... And also Wayne Haun is producing some on the record. So- it's going to be wide-spread and we're going to give it all we've got. I'm so thrilled because we've got some great songs and when I get back home, we're going into the studio."

Jason concluded sharing his favorite passage of scripture and its explanation. He reminded everyone of God's love and that God has a plan for everyone's life.

It was great to experience this special night with our artists and it was extra nice to see that they were excited we came out to support them. It was also a blessing to be introduced to many other amazing, talented artists in other genres that are working hard to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. I am also grateful for the many people that worked feverishly behind the scenes to make the night a success. Thank you GMA for allowing SGNScoops to cover

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GOSPEL MUSIC ALIVE AND WELL IN CANADA

The Amundruds

by Sandi Duncan Clark



For the most part, in America, we are blessed to have an abundance of Southern Gospel, Country Gospel and Christian Contemporary music available. Some areas are more saturated than others with a number of artists living in the area; the blessing of churches who say "Yes" to hosting a Gospel concert, a scattering of radio stations that play Christian/Gospel music, and some local TV stations programing the music. Yes, we are blessed!

Our neighbor to the North, Canada, also enjoys a good sampling of Gospel music, with artists who spread the Gospel in their country and often perform in the United States. Several of these visit the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Ky. each year in September and also the Great Western Fan Fair in Visalia, Ca. in the spring, as well as their own Gospel music concert each summer in Red Deer, Alberta. These artists tour extensively and record professionally, on a regular basis. With a solid following by Canadian Southern Gospel fans, they keep Gospel music alive and well in Canada!

The Amundruds, pronounced "A-mun-droods," who make their home in Lloydminster, which has the illustrious distinction of having part of their city in Alberta and the other part in Saskatchewan, is one Canadian group that I have enjoyed getting to know. Glen and Linda Amundrud have tremendous testimonies for God, and have reared their children to serve the Lord with their talent.

Glen was twenty years old, working in the Canadian oil fields, when God spoke to him. He shared his story,

"My Mom and older brother asked me to drive them to campmeeting. I REALLY didn't want to but did so as a favor to Mom. I didn't want to go in once we arrived, but the music sounded so good that I decided I would go in just for the music. God spoke to me that night, and as the altar call went into the early hours of the morning, I gave my heart to Christ."

That was only the beginning of Glen's conversion. "Working in the oil fields is a rough job, working with a lot of tough men. I had developed a dependency on alcohol and on the night after I had gone to campmeeting, the guys urged me to go out drinking with them again."

"I debated with Satan about it, but finally went with them to a bar. Glen continued, "I began getting sick and didn't think about it being from the alcohol. By the next morning, I was so very ill, that I finally went to the doctor. They told me I had alcohol poisoning and over the next few hours, I became more violently ill."

Glen lost consciousness. "My kidneys failed; the doctors said my liver was really bad and I had ruptured my esophagus," He recalled. "The doctor said that if I got sick again, I wouldn't live thirty minutes because the stomach acid would come into my chest and I would die."

Glen said, "I didn't know if the doctor was right, but when I got sick about 1:00 in the morning, I got pencil and paper and began writing my will. I wrote that I was leaving everything I owned to Linda Rohr, (whom I was dating at

the time, and who would later become my wife.) I began sinking into a black hole, and everything kept getting darker and darker," he continued. "As I fell into darkness, for a moment I felt relief - no more conviction - then it felt like I was in a tunnel and I was falling fast. I realized I was leaving the presence of God but I was so strong-willed that I just didn't want to do what God wanted me to do. I was sinking and Jesus would call down to me, 'Just Surrender.' When I said 'okay,' I would rise back up. Then I thought 'no,' that means I have to do what He wants me to do, and I would begin to sink again. God was giving me every chance, showing His love to me."

testimony to us from God that He was in control of our lives and wanted us to serve Him."

At the age of two years, Gary was diagnosed with asthma, however with medical help, he is healthy and serves the Lord with his music. Gary testifies, "I enjoy serving God with my talent. I sing background vocals and play drums, electric guitar, violin or gango with my family. I am blessed to have been brought up in a Christian family where Dad led me to the Lord when I was only four years old. As I have grown up, I've grown in the ministry and the knowledge that through everything He is my Savior and my guide."



Another boy, Daryl, and two daughters; Lorilyn and Sheri soon were added to the Amundrud family. God honored the desires of Glen and Linda Amundrud, and as a family, they now serve God with their music.

"Our Dad led each of us to the Lord when we were very young," Daryl related. "We are blessed to have loving, God-fearing parents who told us about Jesus and His love for us." Daryl continued, "We grew up on a farm and one day I was riding with Dad in the tractor.

Glen had an out-of-body experience and when he finally said yes to God, he could see his body on the bed below, "I felt the strong desire to be reunited with my body, and the Lord granted that. That was when I turned it all over to the Lord. I want everyone to know that there is no greater love than the love God has for us."

Linda follows with her testimony, "I grew up in church, but did not know Christ as my personal Savior. Glen and I met before I became a Christian and we were married in 1974 and in 1978 we decided that we'd had enough of the world - we wanted to live our lives for the Lord."

Glen and Linda had been asking God for a family and after eight years of fasting and praying, God granted their desire. Their son, Gary, was born.

"He was born with a blood disorder; his blood was thick and we were afraid we would lose our baby boy," Linda recalled. "He had to be moved to another hospital and we were praying while he was enroute. When he arrived at the hospital and was checked out, he was okay. The doctors said if anything, his blood was too thin. God had once again answered our prayers. Gary's healing was a

He was telling me Bible stories and asked if I would like to ask Jesus into my heart. I said 'Yes,' and we stopped the tractor and knelt in the dirt and prayed. I was four years old, and I'm glad that I came to know the Lord at an early age and it has been wonderful to grow up in a Christian home. I love the Lord and am amazed at His provision in my life. I can't wait to see what He has in store for our ministry as He continues to open doors of service."

Lorilyn Amundrud Brassington echoes her two brothers' testimony of growing up in a Christian home. "Our parents would bring us to Sunday school and church, and they taught us about Jesus," Lorilyn said. "One night when Dad was praying for me before I went to sleep, and he asked if I wanted to ask Jesus into my heart. I said 'yes' and Dad lead me in the sinners prayer."

Lorilyn continued, "Jesus is my best friend and has blessed my life so much. I'm thankful that He died to forgive our sins so that we can live together with Him in Heaven." She related, "It's very cool to see Jesus' hand in my life; blessing me with a great musical family and a loving husband, Andrew. I'm so thankful that He continues to open doors allowing us to minister for Him."

Sheri Amundrud's earliest memories are of growing up in a Christian home where her Dad played guitar and her Mom would lead the children in Christian action songs. "When I was very young, I remember my Dad kneeling with me beside my bed and asking Jesus to come into my heart. I went around the house singing 'I have Jesus in my tummy.' Although I was young, I realized God had His hand in the direction my life was taking and God has continued to keep His hand in my life. It was the best decision I ever made. I am currently in my first year as a Grade One teacher in Lloydminster. Jesus has shown His love to me many times and I'm thankful for His mercy and grace in my



life."

Amy Olson joins the Amundruds playing violin and as a vocalist. Amy testifies, "I am so thankful for the privilege of growing up in a Christian home. I accepted Jesus in my heart when I was three, however I was fourteen when I truly began to have a deeper, stronger relationship with my Savior. It has always been my desire to minister to others through my music, and I played with Canada's Double Portion for four years before joining the Amundruds," Amy shared. "My testimony isn't one of hardships but one of God's faithfulness and grace. I know that God has spared me from a lot of grief in my life and I'm thankful to Him."

The Amundruds have found that the life of a traveling Gospel group is not without its complications. "We have had several things that have challenged us in our travels, but we've always found God faithful," Daryl said. "As everyone else who travels in a bus, we've had our share of bus problems. Canadian winters can be cold, to say the least, however this year has been quite mild. I do remember one year, it being so cold that the bus fluids began to freeze up."

He continued, "The heat stopped working and the

antifreeze was beginning to gel. We were stopped on the side of the road and the bus wouldn't start. We were freezing with no way to get help. Suddenly a 'good Samaritan' came along and offered to help. We were able to get the bus thawed and running again and after much prayer and shivering, we were on our way."

One of the most impressive events/places that the group has performed is Hope Mission, a men's shelter, in Edmonton, Alberta. Several of the group states that this was one of their favorite places to witness, and Daryl gives his reason; "One young man shared that his girlfriend had committed suicide shortly before we were there, and that another of his friends had been murdered." Daryl concluded, "These stories just go on and on and we know that God took us there to minister to the people."

The Amundruds musical influence has been Southern Gospel and Christian Country. "We all love having a band on stage, since a lot of groups don't have that," Daryl stated. "We're more flexible with what we do. I think the biggest influences on our group has been Canada's Quist Family and the Crabb Family. We have a lot of respect for these groups."

Along with a visit to the National Quartet Convention, the Amundruds have appeared at TBN in Nashville, Tennessee. "We've also worked in Montana, North Dakota, Kentucky and several other places in the United States," Daryl explained.

As the mother of a "travelin' Gospel band," Linda Amundrud, attests to the joys of a mother whose children are serving the Lord. "First, God granted Glen and me the desires of our hearts in giving us children. I'm so honored to be a Mother! I've been so blessed to have my children and Amy show the love of God to other people."

This May, Mother's Day, her children give credit to their Mother...and their Father, for the place they have been to serve. "While we travel and work, Mom always holds things together. And...she is a great cook!"

Linda revealed one of her family's favorite desserts, so that we could share it with our readers. It is her Matrimonial Cake and she advises serving warm, topped with Ice Cream! (Sounds like my kind of dessert!)

article continues on next page

Linda Amundrud's Matrimonial Cake



Linda Amundrud's Matrimonial Cake

2 cups pastry flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking soda
2 ½ cups rolled oats
¾ - 1 cup brown sugar
1 cup melted butter

Date Paste:

¾ lb. Dates
2 cups raisins
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ cup brown sugar
Cover with water and cook until thick.

Sift flour with baking powder, salt and baking soda. Mix in rolled oats, brown sugar (lightly packed) and butter. Spread ½ rolled oat mixture in greased 9 X 13 inch pan and cover with date paste. Spread over remaining rolled oat mixture on top. Bake at 350°F for 30 min. Serve warm with ice cream.

("It's a special treat in our home, especially warm and topped with ice cream!! J Mmmm..." Linda Amundrud)

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New Artist Spotlight: Union Street

by Angela Griffin

The Artist Spotlight shines brightly on the newly formed quartet, Union Street. The individual artists for this newly formed quartet, are no strangers to the gospel music genre. The members consist of Ryan Seaton, Aaron McCune, Toby Hitchcock and Andrew Goldman and are excited to announce the start of what they hope to be, a long and successful journey together!

It all started in 2011 with an upcoming solo concert by Ryan Seaton in his hometown of Evansville, IN. Ryan recalls: "I wanted to surprise the audience by putting together a quartet just for that evening as an extra bonus to the concert. I started to brainstorm of the talent I would like to bring to the stage with me. Chris Seaton, my brother and road manager for Union Street, recommended I contact Toby Hitchcock. He is a tremendous tenor. Toby has a recording studio in his house, so we put down a couple of tracks together. The blend was amazing but we still had to find the right baritone and bass who lived close by to complete the quartet. I remember calling Andrew Goldman and Aaron McCune and asking if they were interested and they jumped right in."

As the group took to the stage the night of the concert "it just felt right," Ryan says. The audience was on their feet so much that Ryan joked and said "You guys are just going to have to sit down!" Members of the audience started posting videos of the concert on YouTube and to their Facebook pages. It started a phenomenon and we started getting request to sing at other venues.

Union Street is such an unusual name for a quartet or is

it? The name Union Street was chosen by Ryan. "I begin to think about the faithfulness of God in my life and the new path he had set before me and that's when I came up with *Street*. I began to realize that we we're a group of unity and that's when *Union Street* was born!"

Those who knew Ryan Seaton as a small child would find it hard to believe he is now performing on stage night after night before thousands of people. This quiet, shy young man inherited a love for music from his mom, who sang in country Gospel groups and as a soloist most of her life. Ryan was always too shy to sing in public until a pretty girl coaxed him into joining the choir in the seventh grade. That pretty girl named Krista would later become Ryan's wife and serve as a constant encouragement to him as he continued to perfect his God-given vocal ability. After auditioning for several quartets, Ryan joined the Melody Boys Quartet. He traveled with the group for almost a year before receiving the call that would take Ryan's dream to the next level. "Ernie Haase called me and said, 'Are you ready to sing?' I didn't have to think about that question; I was ready," Ryan recalls with a big smile. Ryan went on to join Signature Sound Quartet where he continued to cultivate his music and vocal ability. This was the opportunity which opened doors to what God had planned for his future.

Toby Hitchcock fills the tenor position for the quartet and comes from a rich family heritage of music. Toby had a very lucrative career when he was asked by a friend in the music business, Justin Rivers, to join his new country Gospel group, Austins Bridge. Over the next two years, Austins Bridge went on to be nominated for several Dove Awards,

winning one, and then in 2010 went on to be nominated for a Grammy, for their latest album, which was produced by Jay Demarcus of Rascal Flatts.

Andrew Goldman holds the baritone position and is the youngest member of Union Street. In 2006, Andrew accepted the position as the lead singer with the same group his father sang with, the Conquerors Quartet, based out of Evansville, IN. During his college career, Andrew managed a gospel group that is sponsored by Oakland City University, called Earthlight. Many full-time gospel singers have been a part of former Earthlight groups, including: Dusty Barrett with Soul'd Out Quartet, Jeremy Lile of Brian Free and Assurance, Scott Fowler of Legacy Five, and Ernie Haase of Ernie Haase and Signature Sound.

"One important factor I have learned in my musical career is that Southern Gospel music is NOT just Christian entertainment," Andrew states, "but a tremendous opportunity to reach, not only the lost, but to uplift and encourage many Christians who may be hurting. If through this ministry, one soul is encouraged, then we have accomplished our goal. I'm honored to be a part of Union Street and to have the opportunity to share the stage with these incredibly talented men of God."

Aaron McCune rounds out the group and fills the bass position. Aaron at the age of 18 joined The Anchormen from North Carolina. They called him after hearing a tape that Aaron's cousin, Squire Parsons had given them. He stayed there for a few years until taking a job singing at a theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. He eventually joined Palmetto State Quartet from Nashville, and then Gold City. "I had a great time traveling full time, seeing the country, meeting people." Aaron says. "But, I just got burned out completely and wanted a regular life with a normal family. Then I got a call one day from Ryan, asking me if I'd like to sing a little bit with some friends, and the rest is history!"

Aaron's achievements include being nominated for a Dove Award, being nominated for Singing News Fan Awards several times and favorite bass four times. He has been honored by Governor Fletcher of Kentucky and has sung on five #1 songs on the charts. Aaron has backed up Willie Nelson and Wynonna Judd. And.... Aaron is actually in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame!

The group's first project will be released just prior to the National Quartet Convention.

Check out Union Street by viewing their website at www.unionstreetqt.com. You may also connect with them via Facebook and Twitter.

FOCUS ON THE YOUNG

PAUL HARKEY

BY VICTORIA SHIREY

My family and I have had the opportunity to sing with The Anchormen several different times over the years. They have had many different group changes, but I believe they have the best sound now that they've ever had. A couple years ago, I heard a new bass singer with them by the name of Paul Harkey. I immediately fell in love with that voice. He quickly made my list of favorites. So, when looking for someone to write about for the May issue, it was a no brainer. Also, I am excited to announce that Paul will be singing on a song with me on my newest solo project, coming out in September. Paul is a sweet guy that anyone would be lucky to call a friend. Here's the scoop:

Victoria: Paul, you're a newer face to most Southern Gospel fans. What lead you into this genre?

Paul: Well I grew up in a small Baptist church in Petersburg, TX and my mother was the church pianist so I was exposed to old hymns while still in the womb. My love for southern gospel music grew by leaps and bounds when she purchased our first Gold City album. On one of our annual trips to Corpus Christi, TX, I was introduced to Tim Riley! I fell in love immediately! Later on in life, I got the opportunity to be at the Homecoming Texas Style event with Bill Gaither. They did four five-hour concerts and I still wanted more. J. D. Sumner and George Younce were there and I was mesmerized. This was all before my voice changed and I KNEW I wanted to be a bass singer!

Victoria: How long have you been singing with The Anchormen?

Paul: I came in Feb. 2008 so a little over four years.

Victoria: You've got such a rich bass voice, very soothing, and your range is incredible! You're definitely on my list as one of my favorite bass singers. Who has had the most musical influence on you?

Paul: Like I said before, Tim Riley, George Younce, and J. D. Sumner definitely were the first influences. Recently, I have had the incredible chance to become friends with Jeff Chapman. He has worked with me a lot the past few years and we have become good friends. He is probably the best, in my opinion, overall bass singer on the road today. He would hate to know that I am saying that because he is a very humble man. So, Jeff, if you're reading this I am sorry! haha



Victoria When did you get saved?

Paul: I was seven years old sitting at the edge of my parent's bed on a Wednesday night. My mom and dad led me down the Roman's road. I've been living for the Lord ever

since. I thank God every day for the parent's He gave me. They are some of the most amazing, Godly people I know.

Victoria: Have you always loved Southern Gospel music?

Paul: Definitely!

Victoria: When did you know traveling full-time in the ministry was something you wanted to do?

Paul: I filled in for Crystal River in Branson, MO during the Christmas season at Silver Dollar city in 2007. From the first second of the first song when we stepped on stage, I finally felt at home. I think I cried most of that concert! HA! I wonder what the guys in Crystal River thought they had gotten themselves into with me.

Victoria: Tell us about your family. Are you married? Do you have any children?

Paul: I got married almost two years ago in July of 2010 to the most wonderful woman I have ever met. It is unbelievable just how "made for each other" we are. She is very independent. As a hairstylist, and a great one, it is nothing for her to work eleven or twelve hours a day when I'm on the road. We both enjoy our alone time, but we are always really ready to see each other every time I return home. We have a step-daughter. Jennifer, my wife, had little Cameron from a previous marriage and she is just precious! She is quite the little princess with tons of energy and full of life. I love her as much as if she was my own.

Victoria: What's the funniest thing that's ever happened to you on the road?

Paul: Wow! There are so many of these little stories running through my head right now. The first thing I thought of was this one night driving through TX. We were switching drivers and Terry Carter (baritone) was in the passenger seat up front. He wasn't going to be driving but wanted to stretch his legs. I was in the back waking up for my turn at the wheel. Suddenly, I looked up and realized Terry had disappeared. I sat up and called out to him and there was only a moan in response. Apparently it had just rained in that particular part of TX and Karl Rice (tenor) had pulled a little too close to the ditch. Terry fell in a ditch in the middle of the night on some off-ramp somewhere in TX. We couldn't stop laughing...even Terry.

Victoria: What's the most rewarding moment you've ever experienced on the road?

Paul: There are a lot of these little stories, too. As cliché as it sounds, every time someone comes to know the Lord at one of our concerts is equally rewarding. It's the ultimate reward! We saw over 300 people walk the aisle and accept Jesus last year alone! That really is the reason we are all out here!

Victoria: Tell everyone where to go to find more information on how to come see you live in concert.

Paul: Just go to theanchormen.com and click on "Tour Dates." Come out and see us! We would love to minister to you!

Thank you, Paul, so very much for doing this article! It was my pleasure! If you have not heard the Anchormen lately, I highly recommend you doing so. They are awesome! I'm pretty sure that you will have a new bass singer to add to your favorites list as well. Well, that's the scoop! Keep reading every month for more information on your favorite, young, Southern Gospel artist!

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MOUNTAIN SIZED

STORMS

BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL

A couple of weeks ago, I was huddled under the awning on our deck in the Great Smoky Mountains. The rain was falling rapidly from the clouds, the thunder echoed through the mountains, and the lightning flashed brightly in the evening sky. Directly across from our deck, there is a breathtakingly beautiful mountain stream. Cascading down into the stream is a gorgeous waterfall. Even in the midst of a fierce and somewhat frightening mountain thunderstorm, the beauty surrounding the area remains truly indescribable.

In life, there are many types of mountain-sized storms. There are the physical ones that we can see and hear. In these storms, we can readily seek shelter from the rain and wind. Through the wisdom God has imparted to the men and women manning the weather stations, we often receive advance warning that a severe storm is approaching our area, giving us time to adequately prepare, which improves our safety in the midst of the storm. Other times, we are not so fortunate. Sometimes, there is not enough warning.

A close family friend once shared her experience as she and her family lived to tell the tale of the nightmarish storm named Hurricane Andrew that swept through Miami, Florida. She told us how she and her family huddled in the bathtub, praying and hoping they would all survive the howling winds, the torrential rain, and the endless debris. As their roof and the walls of their home were stripped away from the foundation, they wondered if they would survive. As

the storm moved on, it only left one thing behind: the bathtub. Though everything they owned was either destroyed or blown away, they were alive. Their family had been spared. God had granted them safety in the storm.

Sometimes, even the knowledge that a storm is in the area cannot prepare us for the devastation that lies ahead. A hurricane can be too fierce, a tornado can come upon us too suddenly, and a tsunami can overtake us before we have time to evacuate... Much like these physical storms, there are also emotional and mental storms that we must endure. And much like the aforementioned physical storms, there is not always adequate warning with regard to when and where these storms will strike.

At the age of sixteen years old, I went into my closet to change clothes. My dad and I were preparing to go see my mom who was in the hospital. I felt a piercing pain in my side. Within a few short hours, I was lying on an operating table, having been diagnosed with a perforated colon and peritonitis. If the doctors had not operated immediately and if my parents had not prayed for my healing, I might not have lived through the night.

My parents were very concerned and prayed diligently that the Lord would spare my life. I remember my words to them as I was about to be rolled into the operating room. I told them that I loved them and that God would make sure everything was alright. Even in the midst of this storm, I had assurance that

God would make it right. I knew that His promise in Romans 8:28 was true.

All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

As I sit here today, fourteen years later, I can still tell you with calm assurance that everything will be okay. Since that time, I have weathered many more storms, some of which have been much more ferocious. The night my mom had a heart attack was one of the most violent storms I have ever faced. Each time I walk in our living room in our camper in the mountains, I am reminded of the horrors of that night. For several years, I have questioned why God would take her at such a young age, and why He would allow it to happen there, at our beautiful place in the mountains. How could something so tragic occur in such a magnificent and peaceful setting?

While I do not have all of the answers, I have come to realize that these questions are not important. Instead, I am beginning to realize that instead of avoiding this place I used to love, I need to embrace it. Rather than dwelling on one single night, I need to focus on the fifteen years that we have spent in the midst of these majestic mountain landscapes. I need to be grateful for the memories that we have made there and enjoy making new memories each and every day that God allows us to be in the midst of His awe-inspiring Creation.

Why? Because even through my uncertainty, even through the storm that swept through my life nearly four years ago, and even through my emotional ups and downs relating to this place I find both peaceful and unsettling, God knows me and loves me without fail. In every moment I feel ill at ease there, He loves me. In every moment that I question Him, He loves me. In every moment I just need to feel loved, He loves me.

Friend, I want to encourage you and remind you that God loves you, too, with an absolute love that has no end. God will take everything that has happened in your life and use it for your good. You may not understand it yet. Perhaps you are still spinning around in a tornado of emotions, or maybe you are inundated by a flood of sorrowful tears. No matter what storm you are facing, God is standing with you.

He will ensure that you make it safely to the sunshine once more, where you will be able to enjoy the beauty surrounding you. Though the thunder may roll, the lightening may flash, and the rain may fall, God will be your Shelter from the storm.

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



Rhonda Frye is an ordained minister serving as the Associate and Worship Pastor at Rock Pointe Church in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. She is a recording artist, songwriter, preschool music teacher and sings with family trio, "Rhonda Frye & RiverSide." Rhonda is from Ringgold, GA and is supported by her husband and their 3 children. To learn more about Rhonda Frye Music Ministries, visit: <http://rhondafrye.com>



Lou Wills Hildreth appears on the Gaither Homecoming Videos, and is a founding member of Texas First Family Of Gospel Music, the "Singing Wills Family." She helped pioneer Christian television as host of "Wills Family Inspirational TV." After moving to Nashville in the sixties, she was the first woman to own an artist management agency. Lou is an inductee of the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, GMA Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, SGMA Hall Of Fame at Dollywood, and the Christian Music Hall Of Fame. She is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Of Sacred Music from Louisiana Baptist University. Recently, Gaither Homecoming Magazine named Lou in the "Hall Of Honor" series, and the Southern Gospel Music Guild gave her a "Lifetime Achievement Award." Lou is celebrating a 65th wedding anniversary in 2011 with Howard, and they live in Houston near son Dr. David Hildreth and daughter Kathryn Mumaw, and 4 grandchildren. Visit Lou at: <http://louhildreth.com>



Victoria Shirey first took the stage at 3 years old. Strong vocal abilities and harmonies are a God given talent that started in her at a very young age. Along with writing for SGN Scoops, she designs websites, is a Producer and Background Vocalist for Homeland Records out of Gallatin, TN and is a part-time cruise director for Paradise Tours & Travel. Victoria writes and arranges most of The Shirey's music as well. Most importantly, she loves the Lord with all of her heart and makes it her goal to let the love of God shine through her. Visit victoria at: <http://theshireysministries.com>



Sandi Duncan Clark and Cliff Clark make their home in Easley, S.C. where they enjoy traveling, gardening, and the beautiful South Carolina weather. Sandi has worked in journalism for more than thirty years, and she is thankful that her love for God and Gospel music provides a great opportunity to positively impact the careers of so many in Gospel music. Email Sandi at sandi@sgnscoops.com.



Through a series of events, Jeff Hawes has moved from the classroom where he taught high school English in Jackson county, Alabama to the tour bus of gospel great Karen Peck & New River. Jeff chronicles the fulfillment of his gospel music dreams and his road life exclusively for SGN Scoops. Learn more about him at <http://www.karenpeckandnewriver.com>



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Lorette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of Praise-Moves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves Instructors on four continents (<http://Praise-Moves.com>), on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/PraiseMoves>. Lorette invites readers to get started on the road to better health and fitness for spirit, soul and body. For a free, easy-to-follow 21 day program visit: <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com>

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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. Queen-noq.blogspot.com



John Mathis Jr's life and musical influences have given him years of experience in the music industry in the areas of songwriting and music publishing, radio, publicity, A&R and recording. Another influence in John's life has been ministry. His grand-father was a church-planter and minister for

43 years, his father was a national evangelist. John has spent a number of years as an evangelist, pastor, worship director and public speaker. Currently, John works with Mansion Entertainment in the aspects of media promotions, publishing and recording while continuing to write, manage his own music catalog and occasionally speak.

www.themansionentertainment.com
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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, spreading the message that there is joy around the bend. She serves as a group leader for

Women of Faith, designs websites, and writes an inspirational blog at <http://jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com> Learn more about Jennifer at <http://jennifercampbell.net>



Rob Estep is a vital part of the ministry of the popular group, BEYOND THE ASHES. Currently serving as the Office and Road Manager, his wealth of experience in office management skills makes him a true asset to the group.

His expertise of handling daily operations and road responsibilities go unsurpassed in quality. Rob has worked full time alongside of Anthony Facello for the past two years. Rob's Music Pastor Father exposed him to all genres of music growing up, therefore since childhood; he has had a rich love for Southern Gospel Music. Rob studied business at Columbus State Community College, is a HUGE Buckeye Football fan, and is single- but open to dating when the right one comes along. Email Rob at: robstep@sgnscoops.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



Jonathan Edwards was saved at the age of 5 in Humboldt TN where his dad was Pastor. He has served as Youth pastor, Music pastor and Senior Pastor, but his love for Southern Gospel Music keeps bringing him back to radio and Quartet singing. Jonathan contributes audio interviews for

SGNScoops and serves on the Diamond Awards Planning Board



Angela Griffin is an International Field Representative for Love A Child, Inc., a 501 c 3 humanitarian organization to the island of Haiti. A rich Christian family heritage guided her path to minister in song to the broken, to feed the hungry, and lead others to Christ.

On December 31, 2002 she married

Tim Griffin, an accomplished Southern Gospel pianist. Tim and Angela then combined their musical talents and formed the group "The Griffin's." They have traveled throughout the Southeast spreading the love of Christ.

CONTRIBUTORS

SGN SCOOPS



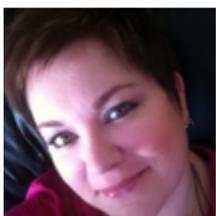
Denise Salchow grew up singing southern gospel music with her family group and continues to have a passion for the music and ministry. Denise works with the video production team for SGN Scoops and is the artist coordinator for The Diamond

Awards. Born and still making her home in Springfield, MO she works as an elementary school secretary and is the proud mom of two wonderful daughters, Colby & Kate.



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!



Laura Kennedy. Music moves me. Christ's loves inspires me. Mixing the two together in the beautiful array of the message of the gospel through Southern Gospel music is the purest of joys to me.

Raised in Charlotte, North Carolina around the 5th Sunday night sings at church; that hand clappin', foot stompn', spirit flowing rhythm of harmony stirs me to moments of Heaven on Earth. Believing it is still about the music, God has given me a heart for writing and a platform to learn from my heroes as well as sharing their ministry to expand their touch to others. Listen with your heart and hear the gentle, yet assured voice of our Father speaking to your heart, and be blessed!



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> and <http://cre8able.com>



Scott Rhoades has a passion for writing, and enjoys sharing his experiences and interests through publication and speaking in public forums. After completing graduate work in 2006, he began to pursue freelance writing and continued public speaking. In 2009, he took to the airwaves, joining the

staff of WMUG in Indiana, Pennsylvania where he is the Program Host for Sunday Morning Light. The owner of Ivory Hill Studios, he is the co-author of Legacy of Love: Memories from Ivory Hill - a collection of stories and poems highlighting the history of the Rhoades family and the small coal-mining town of Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania. Scott is also a songwriter, publishing his first song, I'm Under His Wings, with Asheville Music Publishing/Chris White Music in 2010.

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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. She also has a couponing blog with one of her best friends at <http://Craftycoupongirlz.com>