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Faith, Family, &
New Dreams

Sandi
Patty

Women of Faith: Just Imagine!

Inside the Gospel Chicken House

Revealed: **2011 DIAMOND AWARDS Top 10!**

THE PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE: A VIDEO MESSAGE TO READERS FROM ROB PATZ



It's windy, & before Rob gets blown away, he wants to talk about lions, lambs, Diamonds, & fun at the Great Western Fan Fest!

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April 2011

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Publisher:
ROB PATZ

Editor-in-Chief:
KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON

Features Editor:
LORRAINE WALKER

Contributing Writers
JENNIFER CAMPBELL
SANDI DUNCAN-CLARK
JEFF HAWES
LOU WILLS HILDRETH
TOM HOLSTE
JT TINKLE
LAURETTE WILLIS

Additional Graphic Design:
STEPHANIE KELLEY

Layout & Design:
KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON

Founder:
ALLEN SMITH

WWW.SGNSCOOPS.COM

interact:
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shoutlife.com/sgnscoops

SGN Scoops exists to showcase what is distinguished, intriguing, and real about southern & country gospel music. We seek with our stories to shed light on people fulfilling a call to minister - to make or support the making of music that excites an audience and glorifies God. And we seek to do it interactively.

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news@sgnscoops.com

personAL changes



KELLY CAPIROTTI BURTON,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If there's anything as consistent in southern gospel music as harmony, buses, and post-concert trips to Steak and Shake (or your choice of mediocre, open-late fare), it's personnel changes.

People leave their group positions to pursue other interests or other ministries. They leave to spend more time at home with family. They leave for health reasons, job reasons, and quite often, reasons that are too personal to be expressed in a press release or a status message. The response usually comes with speculation. Who will take his place? What were the real reasons? What will he do now?

I have not counted, but I would venture a guess that we get between two and five notices a month in our news mailbox informing us of a personnel change in this group or that. Sometimes they are surprising, and sometimes they are not. And when it comes to publishing an online magazine, mostly all those notices make me grateful that we don't have to worry about catching changes before a print run!

There are probably certain groups in history that would not survive a personnel change. Bon Jovi without Jon? Doubtful. The Beatles with a substitute?

No way. Brooks without Dunn? Well, ok, you got me there. But in gospel music, for the most part it seems, the name, the legacy, the sound, and the songs of a group are more than the sum of their parts. After years of great acclaim, the Gaither Vocal Band consistently reinvents itself and does so successfully. Gold City, often looked to as the quintessential southern gospel quartet, has changed its roster numerous times through the years and is yet a mainstay. Groups such as The Stamps, Chuck Wagon Gang, The Lesters, and of course, The Blackwoods, with over 70-80 years in gospel music, have seen many changes as well, as that is the nature of gospel music longevity.

Rock, pop, and country groups, for the most part, do not last across generations. So while we might not see Rascal Flatts still warbling up the charts 40 years from now, we can expect to see any number of current favorite gospel groups (especially family ones)

being populated and even fronted by different faces as their beat goes on.

Personnel changes can be jarring, confusing, and even upsetting to fans. They can be awkward and frustrating for producers, managers, promoters, website designers, and editors. That doesn't begin to touch what changes are like for the members left in a group.

But personnel changes are to be expected, because we all have a path to follow and sometimes, it changes. Circumstances that seem ideal one day might feel like the inside of a pressure cooker a month from now. Seasons of life, relationships, working conditions, the entertainment landscape, our economy: all of these factors weigh into what makes a gospel group work.

What we can take solace in is the reason why we have gospel music; Jesus *never* changes. No substitutes will be offered. His words will always sound the same.

The subject of our cover story this month is a personal hero of mine because of her transparency in sharing some of life's most difficult changes. Sandi Patty's ride from hopeful Disneyland entertainer to international Christian singing star to a divorced mother "broken in the back row," (if you have not read her books, you can borrow my copies!) to the matriarch of a blended family and true Woman of Faith is a journey that gives me great inspiration. Sometimes our changes seem incredibly painful, disappointing, and overwhelming as they are happening, but as we look back on the story of our lives, we can see our Lord's gentle hand guiding us through them.

Jesus is not nearly as concerned with our earthly jobs, goals, and whereabouts as we are. He is concerned with our hearts. Are we growing in our service and love to Him? Are we seeking to be more like

Jesus is not nearly as concerned with our earthly jobs, goals, and whereabouts as we are. He is concerned with our hearts.

Honoring the past & celebrating the future

Love, Life, & Legends with Ms. Lou:



My heartfelt thanks to SGN Scoops Digital for the privilege of sharing my passion for gospel music. I thank God for His blessings on Rob Patz, Kelly Burton, and the staff.

An extraordinary talented native Texan, **Guy Penrod**, was recently inducted into the **Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame** in a memorable event held at Dallas Baptist University. Guy's acceptance comments, expressing total commitment to reaching young people for Jesus Christ, brought us a spirit of



encouragement and celebration! Randy Wills, President, Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame, presented Guy with his plaque following induction comments by board member Rudy Gatlin and me. Rudy is an integral part of our quest to preserve the heritage of gospel music and is delightful to work with. Both of us expressed our love and respect for our longtime friend Guy Penrod.

After 14 fabulous years with the Gaither Vocal Band, Guy Penrod is currently riding high in a solo ministry, garnering two 2011 Dove Award nominations—country album *Breathe Deep* and country single “Are You The One.” At the induction ceremony in Dallas, Guy’s “life music” expressed his devotion to family values and to ministering the gospel. The passion of this preacher’s son, born in Abilene, Texas, is destined to reach the younger generation and all levels of our culture for Jesus Christ! Angie, his wife of 25 years, came with Guy from their ranch in Nashville shared with their seven sons and one daughter. The audience celebrated with Guy and Angie as he gave his testimony and sang songs from his new album, including Gaither Vocal Band favorites.

Guy Penrod joins an impressive list of past Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame




personAL changes - cont'd

Him? Are we using our talents to glorify His name? Are we moving forward and building the Kingdom?

God made a personal change we cannot begin to fathom when He took the form of a man, left His throne, and came to earth to inevitably be persecuted, tortured, and executed. While many of the changes we choose to make are for the ultimate improvement of our lives, His was one of personal

sacrifice that would bring indescribable improvement to the whole world!

So if we must worry about changes, let us worry about our own personal changes. As this season of reflection is upon us, when we remember His suffering and His victory – the reason we do what we do! – let’s vow to serve Him better and love Him more. That, friends, is the best kind of change there is. 



Opposite page: (top) Guy & Angie Penrod with TGMHOF President Randy Wills, Directors Lou Hildreth & Rudy Gatlin. (bottom) Guy Penrod thrilling the audience with his singing and testimony at his TGMHOF induction. Above: Inductees Bob Wills & the Inspirations (onstage with Guy Penrod) Curtis Elkins, Bob, Ron Wills, Ralph Green, Don Wills. *Photos courtesy of Howard and Lou Hildreth*

inductees--Larry Gatlin & the Gatlins, Glen Payne, Cynthia Clawson, Duane Allen, Dallas Holm, Kurt Kaiser, Gary McSpadden, Les Beasley, Larry Ford, Walt Mills, Roger McDuff, John Hall, Billy Hamm, Billy Grable, Wills Family, Campbells, Chuck Wagon Gang, V. O. & Frank Stamps, W. B. Nowlin, to name a few. These and many other members have influenced gospel music in Texas and far beyond. I am humbled to be included on that list.

The 2011 ceremony, staged in the beautiful new Bo

Pilgrim auditorium, included other inductees Jack Davis (DJ/media), Jack Taylor (Musician), Pioneer groups--Plainsmen Quartet, Marion Snider's Original Imperial Quartet, Bob Wills & The Inspirations. Howard and I are thankful for every opportunity to help honor those who have gone before us and to encourage those who are on this gospel journey with us. May God be glorified in all that is done! 🇺🇸

gospvideo@aol.com www.louhildreth.com

P. O. Box 271106 Houston, TX 7727

It is the Lord's desire- and ours here at SGN Scoops Digital- that you become one of His followers. God has promised eternity in Heaven with Him for all those who accept Him as their Personal Savior.

Admit that you are a sinner.

Romans 3:23- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Believe that, because of your sin, you deserve to spend eternity in Hell. However, Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross of Calvary to pay the debt for our sin. He then rose from the dead three days later, proving His victory over death, Hell, and sin. He offers this as a free gift to all who will accept it in faith.

Romans 5:8- But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us....Romans

6:23- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Call upon Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart, forgive your sins, and make you one of His children.

Romans 10:9- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved... Romans 10:13- For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If you would like to accept God's free gift of salvation, then all you have to do is pray and ask Him. Then, you must believe this in your heart as well.

If you have any questions about salvation, or if you just prayed to receive Christ, please e-mail us at sgn-scoops@gmail.com. We'd love to rejoice with you! God bless you!

The Doctor is

Later this month, *Doctor Who* returns to television in new episodes, and I for one am very much looking forward to it.

For the uninitiated, *Doctor Who* is the story of a 900-year-old extraterrestrial that can travel through space and time. Though the Doctor is from a race of beings known as Time Lords, he looks completely human. (Or, as he puts it, "No, I don't look human. *You* look Time Lord. We were here first!") He travels in a machine called the TARDIS (Time and Relative Dimension in Space) that should be able to change its outside appearance to fit in wherever the Doctor is landing—say, as a pyramid in ancient Egypt, or as a crater on the moon—but, comically, the disguise circuit is broken, so it always appears in the form of a 1950s British police phone booth.

A brilliant conceit of the show (and a large part of the reason why its popularity has endured since 1963) is that, when the Doctor is mortally wounded, he can "regenerate" into a new person—and thus a new actor can take over the role. The Doctor routinely has human companions accompany him on his adventures, to function as the eyes and ears of the audience. Old companions often leave and new ones arrive, making this series the intergalactic version of *Law and Order* with its similarly rotating cast.

In addition to being a funny and exciting show with interesting characters, the program occasionally hits on elements of eternal truth. Although the show's makers may not necessarily be believers, it seems that writing in the sci-fi or fantasy genres often just naturally touches on the truths of the unseen world.

For instance, because the TARDIS is not really a British police phone booth—that form is simply a disguise—the inside of the ship is actually bigger than the outside. This same fascinating paradox pops up in C.S. Lewis' *The Last Battle*, when the heroes find themselves inside a stable on Narnia, the inside of which is bigger than the whole rest of Narnia. As the character Lucy Pevensie points out, such a paradox has even been found here in reality on planet Earth: "In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world" (p. 141, Collier Books, 1970 edition).

Then there's the Doctor himself. Although probably not intended to be so, the Doctor functions as a strong "Christ type," that is, a character in fiction who imitates Christ in some fashion. Aslan is another example of this type. The Doctor's regenerations can be seen as analogous to Christ's death and resurrection. Also, the Doctor's last name is

not "Who." The Doctor has never revealed his true name. "Who" is meant to represent the mystery of the character, in the same way that calling him "Doctor X" would. He goes by "The Doctor" because no one could handle hearing his true otherworldly name. Does

IN

that remind you of anyone else? "He had a name written, that no man knew, but He himself" (Rev. 19:12).

In one 2007 episode, "Gridlock" (written by Russell T. Davies, the show's head writer at the time and a professed gay atheist), the entire population of a planet called New Earth spend their days comforting themselves by singing "The Old Rugged Cross." The spirituality of the characters is somewhat confusing (even gay characters and people who date across species sing the hymn), but the hymn is nonetheless presented respectfully and without irony, as thousands lift their voices in chorus,

The characters sing in spite of their captivity, and at the end of the episode, when released from their bondage, they sing a hymn of thanks.

and Martha (the Doctor's human companion at the time) sheds tears at the ineffable beauty of it all. The characters sing in spite of their captivity, and at the end of the episode, when released from their bondage, the characters sing a hymn of thanks. (My roommate is not an emotional person, but this episode reduced him to amazed tears.)

Elements of eternal truth can be found not only in the show's history established many years ago, or in individual episodes, but in major storylines across the seasons. **[Note: Major plot spoilers follow.]**

For instance, in the 2007 sea-



son finale, "Last of the Time Lords" (also written by Davies), the aforementioned Martha travels the world to save the Doctor from the Master, another Time Lord that is the Doctor's greatest enemy.



The Master has captured the Doctor and completely depleted his health, turning the Doctor into a frail old man. With no weapons that could kill the Master (he'd simply regenerate), Martha uses the only defense she has: She tells everyone she finds about the existence of the Doctor, and about the fact that although the people of Earth have never met him or seen him, he's always looking out for them. She reminds everyone that she's not important; she's just the messenger (a la John the Baptist).

In other words, Martha evangelizes the world—simply telling the truth of everything she's seen. As a result, per Martha's instructions, everyone across the world repeats the name "Doctor" at exactly the

same time, using the globally connected satellite system to transmit the words, causing the restoration of the Doctor to full health so he can stop the Master. Or, to put it another way, they "pray" for a "savior," because there's power in the "name." The Doctor soon sets everything right. But upon receiving all his strength back, his first act is not to beat the Master into submission, but to tell the villain, "I forgive you."


Evangelism and forgiveness. Does any person have two more powerful weapons at his or her disposal?

In the most recent season, now headed by the brilliant writer Steven Moffat, the trend towards truth (however unintentional) continues. In the season finale, "The Big Bang," a rip through the

fabric of space and time threatens to *un*-create the universe – not to simply destroy it, but to prevent it from ever having existed in the first place. The Doctor sacrificially gives of himself to stop the rip; essentially, he throws himself into the hole to plug it. Soon, the universe is back to normal, and even the Doctor's most recent companions, Amy and Rory (who have just been married), don't remember his existing at all, except as a childhood story, an imaginary friend that Amy used to have.

But then a number of things slowly spark Amy's memory, and she stands up at the wedding reception—to the mortification of her family—and announces to everyone there that her friend, the Doctor, is real, and that it doesn't matter if everyone else thinks he's just a story for children. She calls for the Doctor to re-appear, and sure enough, the TARDIS materializes in the middle of the reception hall, and the Doctor steps out, alive as ever. Everyone is shocked and in awe. Despite what science would seem to have said, Amy took a stand. She brought the Doctor back because she had faith, and the power of belief accomplished the seemingly impossible.

With a finale like that, is it any wonder that this viewer can't wait to see what the new season has in store?

Doctor Who returns on Saturday, April 22 on BBC America. Check your listings for local times. 

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Life-Saving Surgery

Encouragement by **J.T. Tinkle**

Recently I watched an episode of The Doctors while waiting to see a doctor of my own. It was about a young woman who was a dancer, but had had to give up on her dream of dancing professionally due to a disease that caused her to shake uncontrollably. This disease also was causing one of her hands to draw up into a fist and one of her feet to curl its toes, making it hard to walk.

Enter Montel Williams, the former talk show host. Montel had heard about the young woman, Alex, and asked to be on the show about her disease. He wanted to try to help her find a cure and even sponsored her once a doctor was found that could possibly help her.

Fast forward a bit. A certain doctor was having huge success with a surgery where an electrical device was placed in the chest wall with a cord up to the brain that went up the side of the neck. The impulses from this device gave signals to the brain that made the shaking all but cease, and Alex was able to flex her fisted hand openly and triumphantly, as well as have her foot to lie flat on the ground, enabling her to walk normally once again.

All this took time. The surgery was performed while Alex was awake. The surgeon made an incision in the chest (near the heart) and one in the top of her head. I won't go any further with the gory details, only to say that it was amazing watching the transformation right before your eyes.

Alex's shaking took a few weeks to totally go away, and the stiffness in her foot and hand took several months, but as Alex put it, baby step after baby step of progress was a blessing each and every step of the way. Alex had her life changed right before my eyes.

There is another life-changing procedure very similar to this one that I'd like to share with you.

A life spent apart from God may be compared to the disease that Alex was suffering from, called dystonia. The major difference is that this disease is a spiritual disease, not a physical disease. And the disease has a very familiar name to us: sin. Sin causes all kinds of things to happen to our bodies. Our hearts become like stone, our minds become contaminated with evil-producing thoughts, our eyes are blinded to seeing truth, and the list goes on and on. Suffice it to say, we are not 'healthy animals' any longer. We are full of that disease called sin.

Like Alex, who couldn't dance or do the other things she truly wanted to do, we, too, are unable to do the

things that God would love to see us do, such as serve Him with a glad heart, worship Him in exaltation, and sing praises to His holy name. Instead, we lead lives filled with blackness and coldness, so apart from God that we think, at times, that there is nothing wrong with what we are doing, as long as it doesn't affect those around us. The sorry truth of the matter is, though, that it DOES, and we may not even realize it.

Enter the Doctor. There is a Doctor who has the cure to all of this. And the amazing thing is, we don't need a Montel Williams to sponsor us by paying the cost of the surgery. No, that price has already been paid, by The Great Physician Himself, Jesus Christ, God's only Son. It's absolutely free to us. All we have to do is ask for the surgery and it will take place.

And like Alex, we will experience that life-changing transformation, right before our eyes, while we are still awake!! All we have to do is take a small step of faith and accept the free gift of salvation offered to us by Jesus Himself. Repent and be baptized, for the forgiveness of your sins, it says in the Bible. And the gift of everlasting life will be yours.

Yes, it may take awhile for you to feel different. The Bible in 1 Peter 2:2 refers to the spiritual milk that we need to partake of as infants in Christ. And as we grow in our spiritual newness of life, we will see the effects of living for Him grow within us, enabling us to do even more than we could before, like Alex overcoming her shaking and hand and foot problems.

Do you think it is wise to continue to suffer the afflictions that sin causes in your life? Alex didn't hesitate to make the decision to take that step of faith. She leaped at the chance to have a new life again, free of disease. We should want to 'leap' toward the Savior, too.

Alex has that electronic device imbedded inside her chest, as a constant reminder that she would revert back to her life before the surgery if it was to be turned off or taken out.

We, too, have a constant reminder that we could revert back to our old life: the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord promised that we would have that presence inside us once we chose to follow Him. And we also have His written Word that we can refer to every day, like a medicine or tonic to satisfy our bodies' needs.

Are you ready for the life-changing surgery that God offers you today? 🍷

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Diamond awards

2011 Top 10 / Round 2 Finalists!

FAVORITE ALBUM

Almost Morning, The Perrys
Besides Still Waters, The Nelons
Blue Collar Gospel, Mystery Men
Christy Sutherland, Christy Sutherland
Declaration, The Booth Brothers
Driven, Driven
Greatly Blessed, Gaither Vocal Band
...Naturally, The Isaacs
No Storm Wasted, McMillan and Life
Jason Crabb, Jason Crabb

FAVORITE SONG

"Count Me" Mystery Men
"Did I Mention" The Perrys
"Father Who Cares" Voices of Glory
"Mercy Saw Me" Driven
"One Voice" Gregg Busch/Lynda Lynn
"Please Forgive Me" Gaither Vocal Band
"See a Rainbow" Heart to Heart
"Story of My Life" Driven
"This Storm" McMillan and Life
"Wounded Hands" Gordon Mote

FAVORITE MIXED GROUP

The Bowling Family
The Collingsworth Family
Heaven's Highway
The Hoppers
The Isaacs
Jeff and Sheri Easter
Karen Peck and New River
The Lesters
McMillan and Life
The Perrys



The Isaacs

FAVORITE QUARTET

Brian Free & Assurance
Driven
Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
Gaither Vocal band
Gold City
Legacy 5
Mystery Men
Praise Inc.
Soul'd Out
Triumphant



Gerald Crabb

LIVING LEGEND

Ann Downing
Chris Freeman
Claude Hopper
Deon Unthank
Ed O'Neal
Gerald Crabb
Gloria Gaither
Joel Hemphill
Libbi Perry Stuffle
Ronnie Hinson

FAVORITE TRIO

2nd Generation
Beyond the Ashes
The Booth Brothers
The Bowling Family
Greater Vision
Karen Peck & New River
McMillan and Life
The Nelons
Talley Trio
Voices of Glory

FAVORITE DUO

Aaron and Amanda Crabb
Dailey & Vincent
Dale & Cheryl Golden
Hearts of Faith
Heart to Heart
Jon Saw
Josh & Ashley Franks
Marvin & Gracie Wilson
Reggie & Ladye Love Smith
Wendy Word + forgiven



The Bowling
Family



FAVORITE SONGWRITER

Aaron Wilburn
Christy Sutherland
Diane Wilkinson
Gerald Crabb
Jim Brady
Joseph Habedank
Kenna Turner West
Marty Funderburk
Rodney Griffin
Ronnie Hinson
Squire Parsons

Diamond awards

2011 Top 10 / Round 2 Finalists!

FAVORITE MALE SOLOIST

Alan Harris
Chris Hester
Gordon Mote
Guy Penrod
Ivan Parker
Jason Crabb
Mark Bishop
Mark Lowry
Rod Burton
Ron Brewer



Driven

FAVORITE FEMALE SOLOIST

Ben McCann
Charlotte Ritchie
Christy Sutherland
Janet Pascal
Kim Hopper
Lauren Talley
Lynda Lynn
Lynda Randle
Sharron Kay King
TaRanda Greene



Christy Sutherland

FAVORITE INSTRUMENTALIST

Brian Arnold
Bryan Eliot
Gordon Mote
Jeff Stice
Jim West
Jon Groves "2"
Kevin Williams
Kim Collingsworth
Steve Anthony
Tim Parton
Zack Swain



Voices of Glory

FAVORITE DVD/SHORT VIDEO

A Christmas Celebration by Heart to Heart
Better Day by Gaither Vocal Band
Count Your Blessings by Bill Gaither
Making Memories by The Bowling Family
Jubilee 2!
By Greater Vision, Booth Brothers,
and Legacy 5
One Voice
by Gregg Busch and Lynda Lynn Songs
The Ride by The Hoppers
Someone Like Me by Jason Crabb
Tribute to Cathedral Quartet
By Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
Who Prayed For Me by Mystery Men



Gordon Mote

SUNRISE

Beyond the Ashes
Christy Mynatt
Driven
The Harper Family
Heaven's Highway
Praise Inc.
Southern Grace
Steve Ladd
Turning Point
Voices of Glory

FAVORITE BROADCAST PERSONALITY

Andrew Phitts of Gospel Sing
Daniel Britt of Enlighten
Don Frost of Music City Gospel Showcase
Gene Peacock of KMHM, Missouri
Greg Hutchins of Solid Gospel
Jonathan Edwards of KWFC-FM, Missouri
Karen Berka of Branson Radio Live
Les Butler of Solid Gospel
Mickey Bell of This Week in Gospel Music

FAVORITE ARTIST WEBSITE

Brian Free and Assurance
(brianfreeandassurance.com)
Christy Sutherland (christysutherland.net)
Dove Brothers (dovebrothersquartet.com)
Driven (drivenqt.com)
Heart to Heart (hearttoheartmusicgroup.com)
Jason Crabb (jasoncrabb.com)
Karen Peck and New River
(karenpeckandnewriver.com)
Lynda Lynn (ozarktrailsandtreasures.com)
McMillan and Life (mcmillanandlife.com)
Sunday Edition (sundayedition.net)

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SolidGospel.com

Diamond awards

2011 Top 10 / Round 2 Finalists!

FAVORITE BLUEGRASS ARTIST

Dailey & Vincent
Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
The Isaacs
Jeff & Sheri Easter
Lipers Fork
Link Family
Primitive Quartet
Red Roots
Ricky Skaggs
Steve Anthony



Red Roots



FAVORITE COUNTRY ALBUM

Blue Collar Gospel
by Mystery Men
Breathe Deep by Guy Penrod
Christy Sutherland by Christy Sutherland
The Difference by Rod Burton
Evidence of Love by Chris Hester
Expecting Good Things
by Jeff & Sheri Easter
Get Ready by Heart to Heart
Leap of Faith by Turning Point
Reach Up
by Heart to Heart



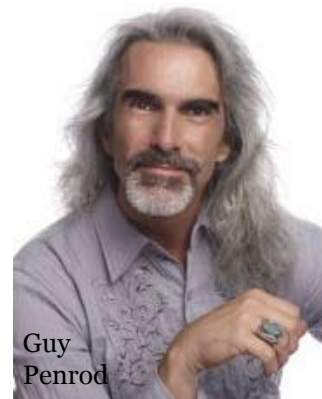
FAVORITE COUNTRY GROUP

Austin's Bridge
Driven
Fox Brothers
Heart to Heart
Heaven's Highway
The Isaacs
Jeff & Sherri Easter
Oak Ridge Boys
Red Roots
Sunday Drive



FAVORITE COUNTRY MALE ARTIST

Chris Hester
Darryl Douglas
Guy Penrod
Jack Stone
Jason Crabb
Jeff Easter
Jerry Mays
Marty Raybon
Randy Travis
Rod Burton
Shannon Bunch



FAVORITE COUNTRY FEMALE ARTIST

Amy Steed
Bev McCann
Christy Sutherland
Karen Peck Gooch
Sharon Mays
Sharron Kay King
Sharyn Kay Graham
Sherri Easter
Sonya Isaacs
Wendy Word



About the 2011 Diamond Awards:

WHAT:

An annual awards show honoring fan favorites in southern and country gospel music.

WHO:

Any fan wishing to express his or her voice may cast one ballot at SGNScoops.com

WHEN:

2nd Round voting, which takes each category from 10 nominees to 5, begins Monday, April 4 and continues through Friday, April 29

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In life, we do not always receive the dreams we may desire, at least not in the way we expect. Sandi Patty experienced this firsthand. Her ultimate dream was shattered when she was a teenager. Gradually, though, she began to realize that God had a dream for her life, and no matter what dreams may be shattered along life's journey, God's dreams for us are greater than anything we could ever imagine.



Faith, Family, & New Dreams: A Conversation with Sandi Patty

By Jennifer Campbell

Faith, Family, & New Dreams: A Conversation with Sandi Patty

As a teenager, Sandi Patty auditioned for her dream role at Disneyland in California. Sandi said, “I waited patiently, and no letter came.” She finally called to see if the letter had been lost in the mail, only to be told she didn’t have what it took to fill the role. “I was devastated,” Sandi recalled. “I know in the scheme of eternity and the life ‘stuff’ that so many of you deal with, not making Disneyland isn’t devastating, but to an 18-year-old’s heart, it was pretty life-shattering. I was disappointed in myself, and I cried and cried for three days, and finally, I said, ‘You know, I just gotta step up here.’”

Sandi soon made the decision to attend college at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. She sang with different groups and taught piano lessons to help pay her way through college. Little did she know that one of the groups she sang with would have the opportunity to sing for the Anderson University Board of Directors. She said she was very nervous, since she knew Bill Gaither served on the Board. Sandi recalls the days that followed “I got a phone call in my dorm and it was Bill Gaither. And he said, ‘Sandi, we’re looking for someone to travel with us over the next few years as a back-up singer, and we heard you a couple of nights ago, and we just wondered, would you be interested in being that person for us?’ So, I said, ‘Wow, Bill, let me pray about it, yes.’”

Sandi traveled with Bill and Gloria Gaither for a little over five years, an experience she describes as “incredible.” During this time, she was also given the opportunity to step to the front of the stage and sing a song that was brand new at the time titled, “We Shall Behold Him.” Since then, Sandi has captured the heart of people around the world with her powerful vocal ability, heart-stirring songs and personal stories, and practi-

cal words of wisdom. Through her music, ministry, and message, it is evident that God took a teenager’s broken dream and turned it into a masterful and complete work of art.

Since traveling with the Gaithers, Sandi has enjoyed much success in a variety of capacities - including but not limited to 39 Dove Awards, five Grammy Awards, four Billboard Music Awards and induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2004. She also realizes that the dream she once dreamed pales in comparison to the dream that God had for her life. Sandi said, “Maybe we all need to be challenging one another to look at our circumstances through different eyes; see them not as disasters but as an opportunity that something divine is going to come out of them.” It is clearly evident that God took the “disaster” of being rejected for the Disneyland role and turned it into a divine opportunity to travel the world, singing and ministering for His glory.

Most recently, Sandi has been traveling across the country with Women of Faith. “I started traveling with WOF about seven years ago and I was a guest at two or three of the events and I was just so amazed,” she shares. “I had heard of Women of Faith, but I had no idea of what it was all about. It just impressed me from the moment I stepped in the arena. To get to travel with them now on a regular basis is just one of the greatest blessings of my life.”

Sandi added that the most rewarding aspect of traveling with Women of Faith is the quality time she has with the other women on the team. “It’s kind of like my group therapy, honestly,” Sandi stated. “We chat and have lunch or breaks together.



‘ Mom, you’re kind of like a stay-at-home mom, except when you don’t stay at home. ’
- Sandi’s son, Sam

What are “Women of Faith?” When you hear this phrase, you may think of women in the Bible who put their trust in God, their faith unwavering despite the trial they were facing or of the saintly woman in your church that is somewhat frail, yet never misses an opportunity to share God’s love with those around her, or of the women involved with the Women of Faith organization itself. In truth, all of these ladies have a common thread: faith. All of these women have complete faith that God is over the top, and He will do more than anyone could ever imagine!

In 1996, Stephen Arterburn founded the Women of Faith organization. Little did he know that God would bless this organization and allow them to accomplish much more than they ever dreamed possible. Since their beginning, they have witnessed over 4,000,000 women attending more than 275 events in 88 different cities. Not only that, but they have also seen more than 350,000 women indicate first-time decisions for Christ at a Women of Faith event. Additionally, their

partnership with World Vision has given them the opportunity to facilitate the sponsorship of 160,000 children by Women of Faith attendees. A look at the numbers alone indicates that God is at the center of this uplifting, life-changing event focused on women.

Three short years later, Mary Graham became President of the Women of Faith organization. She knew this event was something bigger than any of them ever imagined. She believed in this organization, along with Luci Swindoll, Patsy Clairmont, and Marilyn Meberg, three of the original “Porch Pals.” Mary had faith that God would bless this event abundantly more than the four of them could imagine, allowing it to change lives all across the country. The message of Women of Faith is simple: “Beyond a shadow of a doubt, God loves you—regardless of where you are in life.”

Women who attend a Women of Faith event come from all different walks of life. Some are discouraged, some are brokenhearted, and some are even disappointed with life itself. There are women who simply expect an upbeat “girls-only” weekend, yet go away with a fully renewed perspective on life. Others may

Some of the older women are just wise beyond my years, some of the younger ones are coming up and have little children, and now my children are kind of grown... it’s just about being able to share life experiences with each other.”

When Sandi is not on the road traveling, she enjoys spending time with her husband and children. Sandi said, “My husband and I have eight kids between us; we’re a blended family. They’re aged 27 down to 14, so really, we just have one at home. What’s nice with traveling with Women of Faith is I can be a stay-at-home mom during the week, and then I leave on Thursday or Friday, and I’ll be gone on the weekend. In fact, my son, Sam, said, ‘Mom, you’re kind of like a stay-at-home mom, except when you don’t stay at home.’”

Every year, Sandi inspires thousands of women through the music

she sings and the words she speaks. But, who is it that inspires Sandi? “Luci and Patsy, Marilyn and Sheila,” Sandi quickly answered. “They just speak into my life constantly, whether I’m just listening to them, or watching them, or having a conversation with them. And I love Natalie Grant. She just knocks me out.”

From her first recording project titled, “Sandi’s Song,” to her most current CD titled, *The Edge of the Divine*, Sandi has chosen songs that ministered to the heart of the listener. Sandi commented on songs that minister to her throughout her life: “You know, that probably changes through the seasons in my life, but I would say, in general, it’s the songs that really speak to where I am in my own life right now. There’s a song on my new CD and it’s called, ‘Worthy,’ and it’s just a reminder to me that in God’s eyes, He sees us



differently than we see ourselves and He sees us as beautiful, worthy, and special.”

Sandi readily offers advice to others who have watched their dreams fall apart: “First of all, surround

Mandisa leads praise and worship at All Access.
Photo by Jennifer Campbell



purpose of finding a new friend, but may leave the event with a personal relationship with the most important Friend of all, Jesus Christ. Regardless of the reason why someone attends Women of Faith, one thing is certain: their life will be changed for the better.

“Someone tells us that God loves us and we immediately think of our worst thing,” Mary Graham stated. “He loves us with His whole heart. He wants us to have a relationship with Him. And that’s why this team travels week after week to say, ‘God has a dream for your life.’”

According to Nicole Fain, Women of Faith Promotions Manager, “Women of Faith is a weekend of refreshment, encouragement, and rejuvenation for women.”

The individuals who work closely with Women of Faith know that women who attend a WoF event have a special bond, and this special bond can form long-lasting friendships, prayer partners, and so much more. Because of this, they give women the opportunity to become Group Leaders for

come to Women of Faith to escape financial, marital, emotional, physical, or other problems at home, and then they may discover they can give their burdens to Jesus, returning home with their load much lighter. Some ladies may attend Women of Faith for the sole

yourself with other women. Whether it’s a Bible study or a coffee group, whatever it is, because being with other women lets you know you’re not alone. And then, second of all, challenge yourself to grow, maybe with a Christian counselor or a mentor, someone who will speak some truth into your life and say, ‘You know, one of the reasons that you’re miserable has been maybe as a result of some choices you’ve made, or maybe one of the reasons that you’re miserable is because you’ve kind of left some woundedness undealt with.’ Surrounding yourself with other women is so important.”

Sandi is also often asked about—During the conversation with Sandi for advice to aspiring speakers and artists who may have the desire to join the Women of Faith team or other platforms: “The best advice

‘ Maybe we all need to be challenging one another to look at our circumstances through different eyes; see them not as disasters but as an opportunity that something divine is going to come out of them. ’

I give is not advice a lot of people want to hear, and that is to just show up where you are. Be available in the opportunity that has been given you at this moment. If that’s teaching Sunday School, if that’s having a small group of Bible Study, if that’s being the alto in the choir, whatever that may be. Just show up in your life where God has you right now. Because very often, He will use these moments as preparation for something else, or He will use them to make you a better person. Too often, we look at the end, and forget that it really is about the process, and being all that God wants us to be today.”

Although Sandi did not initially see where God was leading her, she quickly developed a faith and

trust in God that He would lead her to the place where she should be. By following God’s call for her life, He has taken her to places she had never even imagined.

Sandi said, “When you look at life in the rearview window, sometimes you get a little more perspective. When I look back now at all of that Disneyland disaster, I can see it through different lenses. It wasn’t that God was saying, ‘No,’ to my dreams, it’s just that He had said yes to a dream for me that I couldn’t see yet. And it wasn’t that I was on this edge and that it felt very much like I had fallen into devastation, but really, I had fallen from the edge into the divine. I can see it now, and learning how God has worked in the past is one of the best indicators of how He is going to continue to work in the future.”

sandipatty.com
womenoffaith.com

Women of Faith.

Nicole Fain offers advice to new Group Leaders: “You can do it. It’s a big, big task. We have resources to assist you. You can do it. It backs up the call on your life to do this.”

One of those resources is All Access, an event exclusively for Group Leaders of groups of 50 or more. This event features training, concerts, and other informative and motivational sessions to provide Group Leaders with the tools they need to find group members and plan their group’s journey to the Women of Faith event in their region.

This year, Women of Faith will bring two tours, Imagine and Over the Top, to 29 different cities. The lineup includes an exciting mix of speakers and artists, including Andy Andrews, Patsy Clairmont, Henry Cloud, Amy Grant, Natalie Grant, Lisa Harper, Nicole Johnson, Mandisa, Mary Mary, Marilyn Meberg, Sandi Patty, Selah, Angie Smith, Luci Swindoll, Kim Cash Tate, Sheila Walsh, Brenda Warner, Lisa Whelchel, Deborah Joy Winans, and two talented worship teams.

In addition to the Women of Faith events, they also

maintain The Revolve Tour: Dream On, which focuses on meeting the spiritual needs of teen girls. This event shows the next generation that God has a dream for their life as well.

The overall goal of Women of Faith is absolute: to share the message with others. “We are all about the message,” said Mary Graham. “The message is amazing grace.” The individuals who work diligently within the Women of Faith organization know that this message is why they do what they do. They understand the impact this organization has had and will continue to have on the lives of people all across the country. They know that God has called them to serve this organization that is continuously changing lives.

Mary Graham beautifully sums up the mission of Women of Faith: “We have a mission to help women understand that God has a dream for their lives.” The Women of Faith organization is a beacon of hope for the hopeless, a shelter of joy for the joyless, and a fountain of faith for the faithless. Patsy Clairmont said it best: “Allow your heart to imagine, and remember, Honey, you are over the top!” 🇺🇸

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Tickling the Ivories with Zack Swain

By Lorraine Walker

Freedom Hall at the National Quartet Convention. A Gaither Homecoming Event. Diamond Award Instrumentalist of the Year Finalist. Zack Swain has accomplished more in his 23 years than most pianists twice his age. This brilliant young master of the keys is quickly gaining fans across the country and around the world as his music touches hearts of all cultures and languages.

Swain has played on many stages, in numerous venues and with a variety of artists. With such experience, one would think he might not remember his first performance in front of an audience. However, Zack remembers it all too clearly and wishes his memory wasn't quite so vivid. "The first time I played in front of a real crowd away from my home church was at Southern Nazarene University," says Swain. "It was a small piano competition with about 300 people in attendance. I had worked up my own arrangement of the Battle Hymn of the Republic and when I took the stage, on a piano valued at almost \$250,000, I was shaking from head to toe.

"As three judges told me to take the stage, the lead judge looked at me and said, 'What will you be playing today?' I managed to look at him and said, 'The piano!' Needless to say he didn't think it was that funny. I can now look back and laugh at the situation but at the time, it wasn't really that funny."

Zack Swain has accompanied many artists and has gained a favorable reputation

throughout the Christian music industry. Swain shares, "One of the most memorable events I ever got to take part in it was when I was filling in for the Kingsmen. I grew up on the music of the Kingsmen and of course Anthony Burger was one of my heroes. So when I got the chance to go on the road with the Kingsmen for a few weeks it was a time I'll never forget as long as I live." Still, even this experience did not cause Swain to focus on joining an established group.

"I consider myself a soloist," says Swain. "Accompanying has never been my strongest quality. But some groups still put up with me from time to time! Right now when I am not on my current Fresh Anointing tour I'm traveling with a group based out of Fort Worth Texas by the name of Praise INC. I love taking the stage with them because they never fail to let the Holy Spirit work. They truly have a heart and desire for ministry."

Swain has also been involved with other fine musicians over the last year. Last fall, Zack Swain and fellow pianists Shannon Bunch and Jeff Duffield began a new concert series called "Blazing Pianos". The three first played together at the Branson Gospel Music Convention in July, 2010 and the show which was then booked in several other venues moves from gospel to pop, country to American classics. Duffield has enjoyed working with Swain over the last few months. He shares, "He's a good kid. Sorry, but I have kids who are older! And [he's] a wonderful musician who takes his work very seriously. He's great to work with and is truly a wonderful, talented young man! Love him!"

Swain does take his work and ministry very seriously. For an artist who could make a career in any genre, Swain says he plays Southern Gospel music "because that is the call God has placed upon my life." Swain continues, "God has given me the gift of music and I know I'm far from being the best at what I do, but I plan on using every ounce of talent He has given me for His glory." His talent is certainly turning





At Freedom Hall in 2010.
Photos courtesy of Zack Swain

heads; enough that Swain is currently a part of the prestigious Mansion Entertainment, signed to their Manor House label.

John Mathis Jr., head of Media Promotions and Publishing for the company, says: "Zack has risen in a few short years to become one of Southern Gospel's most talented musicians. His talent will continue to take him across this country and around the world for many years to come. It's been a pleasure to have become acquainted with his music and to have worked with him."

Having the right contacts and being blessed with talent doesn't always make life simple for Swain. "I'm sure all artists have had that moment in their career when they question the direction of their calling, due to challenges that Satan throws our way. But God always provides a way and makes doors open in His time, not my time. I often jokingly say to people, 'Jesus forgot that I knew everything, and His plan still worked!' It is when we get to that point in our careers that we stop trying to do everything by ourselves and we let God work, that He gets us to where we need to be and starts working with our ministries in ways that we could never do on our own."

As Zack Swain encounters honors and challenges, he is learning to look to God for a way through. "The last couple of weeks have been quite the trial for my ministry," Swain shares. "My current mode of transportation is on its way out. We are not really sure what we are going to do yet. We don't know how we will get from venue to venue to proclaim the name of Jesus and share the gospel but I know that God will provide a way. I am just trying to be still and know He is God."

Just as he knows God will provide, Swain also knows that the Lord loves to give us good things and help us reach our goals. "Like so many other American artists, my dream is to take the stage as a pianist at Carnegie Hall in New York. I have many heroes that I dream of performing with someday. Inside the Southern Gospel world I'd love to play a duet with Gerald Wolfe someday. Outside the Southern world I'd dream of playing with Brad Paisley."

Swain's dream of playing with Brad Paisley may be in the future, but some of his dreams are coming true now. Performing on the NQC stage at Freedom Hall and being nominated for a Diamond Award are both huge honors for a pianist in Southern Gospel. The industry can be supportive and nurturing for new artists, helping them to achieve dreams like Swain has, and he's had many people offering advice and assistance.

Evie Hawkins of The Evie Hawkins Agency Nashville, is one of the industry professionals who have assisted this young talent. Hawkins says, "I first met Zack in Alabama at a Gospel music convention. I was impressed, and I started doing public relations for him. I love to see the younger generation involved in Southern Gospel music. He is full of energy and enthusiasm. My prayer for Zack is that he reaches his goals, gives his very best and is richly blessed on his journey!"

As he's made his way along this journey, Swain has also had the honor of receiving advice from some of the legends of Southern Gospel. "Anthony Burger was always a constant encouragement to me," says Swain. "He taught me more than I could ever imagine learning. Jeff Stice has always encouraged me and made me feel like I knew what I was doing even when I didn't have a clue! One thing Anthony once told me was that when you are accompanying a group, make sure to stay out of their way. Just fill the gaps. Truer words have never been spoken!"

Listening to the voice of experience, following the advice of others and above all, allowing God to work in his life, has brought Zack Swain to his current place of tickling the ivories for the Lord. Swain keeps working hard at his craft, by honing his talent and performing wherever he's asked to go. As for the immediate future, Swain says, "I have no clue where my music will take me in five years time but as long as God is the center of it, it can only go up. I'll be excited to see where He takes it!"



The Story of the

By Sandi Duncan-Clark

Gospel CHICKEN House

In the 1970s, '80s and '90s one heard stories of the Gospel Chicken House, owned and operated by Ray Pollard and his sweet wife, Mary, in their back yard in Montpelier, Virginia. The story actually began in 1973 and gained recognition as this unique venue hosted many of the nations' top ranked Gospel artists. The legend of the Chicken House was passed by word of mouth, from the fans who visited there, to groups who sang there. On a cold windy weekend in 1992, I was invited to ride the bus with one of my favorite groups, when they sang at the Chicken House. We saw first-hand, the excitement and joy Ray and Mary Pollard had for Gospel music, and for their Chicken House.

The Gospel Chicken House was just that; an old, converted chicken house renovated and dedicated to Gospel music. The story is simple. Ray Pollard sang bass, with Becky Mallory singing lead, Jeanette Brown singing alto, Henry Walsh playing guitar and Ralph Chilton singing Baritone, making up the Firetower Quartet. Ray and Mary were chicken farmers, and when they stopped raising chickens, the old chicken house sat empty in their back yard. The quartet needed a place to practice and Ray offered the chicken house. The quartet cleaned it up, built a platform for the quartet to stand on, and the rest is history! At their first practice more than twenty fans showed up to enjoy the music!





Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Firetower Quartet; Jackie and Wayne Adams, Vicki and Danny Bruce; Easter Brothers; THE Chicken. Above: One of the many walls of fame.

During the early years at the chicken house, Vicki Bruce became both a regular performer and volunteer. Ray and Mary claimed her as their "adopted daughter," and Vicki shares the story. "More and more people came to the quartet's practices and soon the entire chicken house was renovated to accommodate the crowd. There were plumbers, carpenters and electricians who volunteered to do the work. Everyone gave unselfishly to make the chicken house a success."

"In October, 1974, a board of directors was formed and within a short time, it became incorporated as the Gospel Chicken House, INC.," Vicki continued the story.

The old clapboard chicken

house had become a Saturday night gathering place to enjoy Gospel music, and before long groups from all over the country came to sing alongside the Firehouse Quartet and other local artists. Every Saturday afternoon, volunteers came to prepare the concessions and help Ray and Mary ready the building for God to visit them via Gospel music. Every wall of the chicken house became a "Wall of Fame" with pictures of all the groups who came there to sing. Gospel music played from the stage and echoed off the walls!

For more than 37 years - more than 1,924 Saturdays - the 20 plus acres of grass were cut, the pews and seats were dusted, snow was shoveled and the building was

cared for by Ray, Mary and more than a dozen faithful volunteers.

Over the years The Cathedrals, Gold City, Perfect Heart, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Carroll Roberson, the Easter Brothers, and the Speers are just a few professional, fulltime groups who sang at the Chicken House. Dr. Jerry Goff came to play his trumpet, while the Easter Brothers recorded their only live recording during an out-door sing at the Chicken House.

In 2001 Mary became ill and Ray cared for her until her passing in 2008. One day in August, 2010 while at his part-time job, 89 year old Ray fell from a ladder and began having other health issues. He went to live in a rehab center, and still managed to attend the



Saturday evening concerts. The last time he was able to attend his Chicken House was December 11, 2010 and for the final time he sang with his beloved Firetower Quartet.

On January 4, 2011, Edgar Ray Pollard went home to be with the Lord. A memorial service was held on January

15th at the Chicken House; just as Ray wished. Friends and family who had cherished the meetings at the Chicken House, made their way on that cold, blustery day, to pay honor to their friend and founder of their Saturday night gathering place, the Gospel Chicken House.

When Ray died, against his wishes and his will, the Pollard family closed the Chicken House and discontinued the Saturday concerts. Vicki Bruce and Jackie Adams along with their husbands and many other volunteers have elected to produce The Gospel Chicken House Express which will play at various venues around the area, continuing the heritage of Ray and Mary Pollard. The April "Express" concert, the second of its kind, will play at the Montpelier Center for the Arts, 17205 Mountain Road, on April 16, at 6:00 PM. gospelchickenhouse.org



Vicki (L) with Sandi.

I've only touched the highlights of this heart-warming story. Pictures will tell more of the legacy,

and I would welcome your comments, if you ever attended a concert at the Chicken House, or ever performed there. You may reach me on Facebook as Sandi Duncan Clark, and on Twitter as @sandidunclark. I look forward to hearing from you!

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Great Western Fan Festival: A little bit of Heaven in California

You love Southern Gospel and you love big music festivals where you can meet your favorite artists. But it's only April and the National Quartet Convention is five months away! What's a gospel music fan to do? Travel west to Visalia, California for the 15th Annual Great Western Fan Festival. According to Keith Waggoner of Liberty Quartet, the "GWFF" is "three days of 'heaven on earth'". This year, that taste of heaven is April 29 to May 1, 2011.

Liberty Quartet from Boise, Idaho, has also been around for 15 years and this band of men love the music they sing as much as they love the One they sing about. Traveling 75,000 miles a year across North America, they are great ambassadors for their Christ and for Southern Gospel. Liberty hosts the Northwest Gospelfest every September in Boise and then gears up to help promote the GWFF every spring.

Keith Waggoner, tenor for the Quartet, fills us in on the history of this exciting event: "The Great Western Fan Festival was originally started by the National Quartet Convention board of directors. They noticed a growing interest in Southern Gospel music [in the West] and also wanted to use it as a promotional tool for NQC."

Waggoner continues, "While I wasn't present at the first few conventions, I've heard about the great crowds that it originally drew. After a few years, the NQC board sold the rights to the Hoppers and Les Beasley. After the original years in Sacramento, it was moved to the Fresno convention center and later to the Save Mart Center on the campus of Fresno State University. In 2010 it was moved to Convention Center in Visalia, CA. The facilities are great and fit the needs of the festival. However, tickets have sold fast and it appears that it could be close to a sellout

this year."

Liberty Quartet has a very busy schedule, yet they take time each year to help ensure that the GWFF is a success. "Liberty has been involved with the Great Western Fan Festival since 2000 or so. The group first sang at the Fan Fest when it was based in Sacramento. After a hiatus of a few years, Liberty Quartet was back in 2006 and has been a part of the event every year since. We assist the Hoppers and Les Beasley with their promotion in the west. Due to our extensive traveling schedule, we're able to effectively promote the event in most of the states that are represented at Fan Fest each year.

"The Hoppers and Les Beasley have been faithful to bring in the big-name groups each year. As I look at the lineup this year, in addition to Liberty you'll find the Hoppers, Greater Vision, Legacy Five, Gold City, Triumphant Quartet, Jeff & Sheri Easter, the Beene Family, the Original Couriers, and several others.

"Legacy Five loves the Great Western Fan Festival," says Scott Fowler of Legacy Five. "We love coming to the west coast because the west coast fans don't get southern gospel music very much and as a result they are so fun to sing to. We really look forward to this event every year."

Waggoner enjoys the opportunity to minister with fellow artists he rarely sees, such as Legacy Five and other industry people he would otherwise see only at NQC. We asked him how the GWFF compares to its larger eastern cousin.

"Liberty has been privileged to sing on the main stages of both the Fan Festival and the National Quartet Convention," says Waggoner. "The Fan Fest is run in a similar fashion to the NQC. I see the Fan Festival as a miniature NQC. If you can't make it to the



Clockwise from top: Liberty Quartet; Keith Waggoner; the group singing at GWFF.

National Quartet Convention, you'll still be able to get a feel for what it's like by attending the Fan Festival."

"The audiences are very similar, especially in the age demographic," continues Waggoner. "I have noticed that the Fan Festival is attracting more of the 40-and-under age than they have in the past. Hopefully, this trend continues. The showcases offered by the Fan Festival are as varied and as entertaining as those found at NQC. The directors have done a great job of providing West Coast fans with new groups each year. There are some afterglow activities at the GWFF that give the fans a chance to mingle and interact with the various music artists. This wouldn't be possible at a larger event such as NQC."

Liberty Quartet is a strong supporter of the GWFF and also promotes the Great Western Fan Festival by bringing folks to Visalia who might not otherwise have the trans-

portation to get to this popular event.

"We operate bus tours from Idaho and Washington to the festival, something that has become very popular," says Waggoner. "AMG, our management

company, hosts the tours, taking care of every detail for our guests. We have several events with our guests throughout the three days, maintaining that personal touch. One of the more popular attractions from last year would have to be our after-the-concert snacks, where we join our guests for snacks and dessert. Several of our friends in other groups come over with us and we have a great time laughing and cutting up."

The Festival is about friendship, community and relationships, with a strong emphasis on family and family singing groups.

One of the regulars at GWFF is the popular Beene Family. Brandon Beene says, "The Beene Family are




thrilled to be singing again at The Great Western Fan Fest. This event is like a Homecoming for our family as our roots originate in California. It's always a great time spent with family and wonderful friends. It will also be bittersweet for us this year as it will be our final appearance together as the family as a whole retires from full-time touring."

Special events like farewells are what make the GWFF a unique and extraordinary time for attendees and artists alike. Keith Waggoner has a difficult time pin-pointing his favorite part of the Festival. "I enjoy the evening concerts, whether [we are] singing or listening to our friends," says Waggoner. "I also enjoy the various showcases. We've hosted several of these showcases in the past, including a breakfast concert, a patriotic concert and other like events. They do have chapel services. In fact, this year's services will feature Rev. Charles Stanley. It's my understanding that we will be part of this as well."

"Last year we received such a warm reception and ovation from our friends each time we sang in the evening concerts," Waggoner continues. "Another highlight was hosting the outdoor patriotic showcase. They

only expected 400 or so people, due to the weather and the time. Over 1,000 people showed up, waving their flags as we celebrated our faith and freedom."

Liberty Quartet also appreciates the Great Western Fan Festival from a business point of view. Product sales are lively as fans find items that they may not be able to purchase at local retail stores. Artists are able to gain contacts for future endeavors and there is always the chance to reach one more person with the message of the Gospel.

"First and foremost," says Keith Waggoner, "This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the good news through Gospel music. The Great Western Fan Festival is also an incredible opportunity to introduce Southern Gospel music to new fans. This event is a way of bringing Southern Gospel fans from across the west together for three days of 'heaven on earth' music featuring the best the genre has to offer. We're honored to partner with the directors in providing an interactive weekend of encouragement and entertainment. It's a grand event! See you there." 

fanfestivals.com
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Frequent television guests, **Lynda & Bud Lynn**, are Country Gospel Music Association's International Media Personalities of the Year for 3 consecutive years. They also received a Publisher's Award from SGN Scoops Magazine.

Lynda & Bud with Gregg Busch honor the Purple Heart Recipients at Branson's Chateau on the Lake. Branson cares for our Veterans. Lynda & Bud performed Lynda's song *One Voice* at the Missouri state capital in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Photo George Kurlin

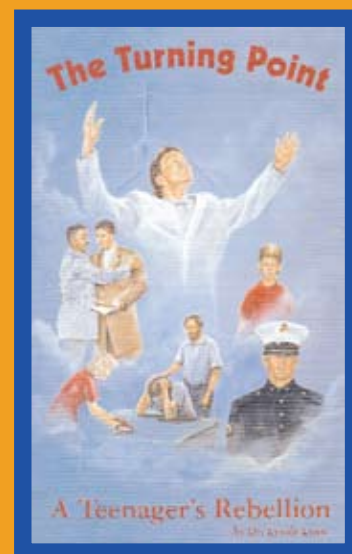


Dr. Lynda Lynn is a 14 time ASCAP award winning songwriter. Her latest CD, *Reach Out For Him*, features 16 Branson artists and 19 songs. Barbara Fairchild, Randy Brooks, Andrea Blackwood Carter, Glory-Anne Prophet and more. Gene Higgins' Powersource Magazine, Nashville, listed *Little Boys & Little Toys* by Barbara Fairchild at #7.



An Ozark winter wonderland at **Chapelwoods**, this was built to make a difference as Rod Burton stated. Rod chose this as an image for the front cover of his new CD titled *The Difference*. Come see and pray. God will "God Zap" you as you enter through the door of this quaint little chapel.

Lynda has co-authored a book with her son Rory titled, *The Turning Point, A Teenager's Rebellion*. The book focuses on trusting God to bring families with troubled teens through rebellious times allowing family restoration.



CHRISTIAN FITNESS-

By Laurette Willis

Transform Your Workouts Into *Worship*

Have you ever said this, “I don’t have *time* to exercise”? Some of us have said that more than once! In reality, it’s not about having time to exercise (we all have the same 24 hours each day); we need to make time to exercise if we want to be healthy.

Think of some of the things you already make time to do each day. Some of these things have been part of your daily routine since childhood and have become second nature, such as brushing your teeth, washing your face or fixing yourself something to eat. There are other things you do on a regular basis which have become habit, yet require a bit more preparation, such as going to church, remembering to acknowledge friends’ birthdays, and shopping for groceries.

Making fitness a part of your regular routine can

become a habit—especially if you combine it with something you are already doing, such as prayer, reading the Bible, or worshipping the Lord.

How Can You Combine Faith and Fitness?

Here’s a quick example. Take a brisk walk for ten minutes praying for your family, our country’s leadership, the peace of Jerusalem, God’s will for your life, and however the Lord leads you. At the end of ten minutes, turn around and briskly walk home praising the Lord.

There, you’ve just transformed your workout into worship! Tell me what part of your life the Lord does *not* want to make part of His life – and *add* life to that part. After all, He *is* the Author of Life! I believe that Jesus wants to be Lord over *all* parts of your life – even exercise!

The Surgeon General recommends 30 minutes of exercise a day to remain healthy – and more if you want to lose weight – so why not use that time to build your relationship with your Heavenly Father?

The foundation scripture to our Praise-Moves Fitness Ministry reminds me of the responsibility and opportunity we have to invite God to help us become what I call a “Fit Witness for Christ.” First Corinthians 6:20 says, “You were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit, which are God’s.”

What Can You Do TODAY?

No matter what time of day you are reading this article, you can do something to move your body and honor God at the same time. Even if it is just to reach your arms up right now as high as you can, take a deep breath and say with all your heart, “I praise and thank You, Lord!” There, you’ve done it! You have just transformed a workout into worship! Sure, it took





I believe that Jesus wants to be Lord over all parts of your life - even exercise!

less than a minute, but it's a start.

If you have more time, take a walk, get on the rebounder (mini-trampoline), or treadmill. Work out to an exercise DVD (such as PraiseMoves, where the Scripture and worship are already provided for you – just join in!). Ride your bicycle, jump rope, dance and praise the Lord – the choices are limited only by your imagination. Add prayer, singing praises, reciting Scripture, purposefully counting your blessings (“name them one-by-one!”) – anything that helps center your focus off the world and onto the Lord. He is worthy, able and faithful – and His Word will NOT return to Him void (empty or unfulfilled)!

Make the decision today that you will transform your workouts into worship! 🇳🇬

And now I'd like to invite you to get my free "Fit Favorites Devotional" and PraiseMoves FitNews. To get yours, go to praisemoves.com.

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Our SGN Scoops Staff is comprised of professional writers, singers, speakers, publicists, and ministers. Please visit their websites for more from them. **| CONTRIBUTORS**



KELLY CAPRIOTTI BURTON is a former teacher and IT project manager, and a current gospel wife, mom of 2, stepmom of 2, homeschooler, event promoter, and writer/editor, recently featured on www.incourage.me. She currently lives outside of Chicago sometimes and on a bus the rest, and survives to tell about it at mylifeastheglue.com



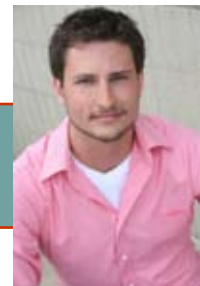
Born and raised in southern Ontario, Canada, **LORRAINE WALKER** has been interested and involved in Southern Gospel Music since the mid-80s. Since 2005, she has also authored the popular 'Reality Check' column and other features for sgmradio.com.



MS. LOU WILLS HILDRETH is always smiling, is married to Howard, is a member of the legendary Wills family, a member of the Gospel Music Association Board, and a television host, songwriter, publisher, journalist, an industry leader. Get to know her at louhildreth.com



SANDI DUNCAN-CLARK! grew up in Greenville, South Carolina as the daughter of a Baptist minister. For more than 30 years, it has been her joy to contribute to the ministry of those who serve the Lord singing Southern Gospel. With her husband, Cliff, Sandi makes her home in Easley, S. C., where she attends Westwood Church, does volunteer work, and spend time with her son and new daughter-in-law. [Sandi's Facebook](#)



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 karenpeckandnewriver.com



ROB PATZ is the owner & publisher of SGN Scoops along with the owner & voice of SGMRadio.com & The Southern Styles Show. He resides in Seattle and loves Jesus, music, food, people, and talking as a job and hobby. sgmradio.com



JENNIFER CAMPBELL has returned to Scoops and we're happy to have her. She resides in Florida where she is a master English teacher and enjoys singing and writing gospel music. We invite you to read her rich testimony at her website. jennifercampbell.net



TOM HOLSTE is a writer living in Chicago and a graduate of Act One, a screenwriting program specifically geared toward Christians. He has written and directed numerous short scenes for church events. tomholste.com.



JERRY 'JT' TINKLE is the baritone for the Ministers Quartet from Muncie, IN and a frequent guest contributor for Scoops.. He hones his writing with the quartet's newsletter, which he fills with inspirational stories from the road and from life. His mantra stands, "Just one more soul, Lord Jesus, just one more soul." ministersquartet.com



Christian Fitness Expert and author **LAURETTE WILLIS** is the Director of PraiseMoves, offering fitness programs, DVDs, books and training for those interested in a Christian alternative to yoga, and fitness for spirit, soul, and body at www.praisemoves.com twitter.com/Fit4Christ

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Behind the Music

Crawford Crossing
Turn Up The Music

Produced by: Terry Thompson ~ Willow Tree Records

Just when you think you've experienced the best, God sends something along and as my Daddy use to say, "It just blows your socks off!" That happened for me a few weeks ago when Willow Creek Records producer, Terry Thompson shared with us, the Dove Award nominated album from Crawford Crossing, *Turn Up the Music*.

Terry eagerly shared the story of this young family trio and their music. "I don't think I've ever been more excited about a recording or worked harder than we did on *"Turn Up the Music."*" Terry stated. That hard work has yielded several top forty hits and the Dove nomination for Crawford Crossing and Willow Tree Records.

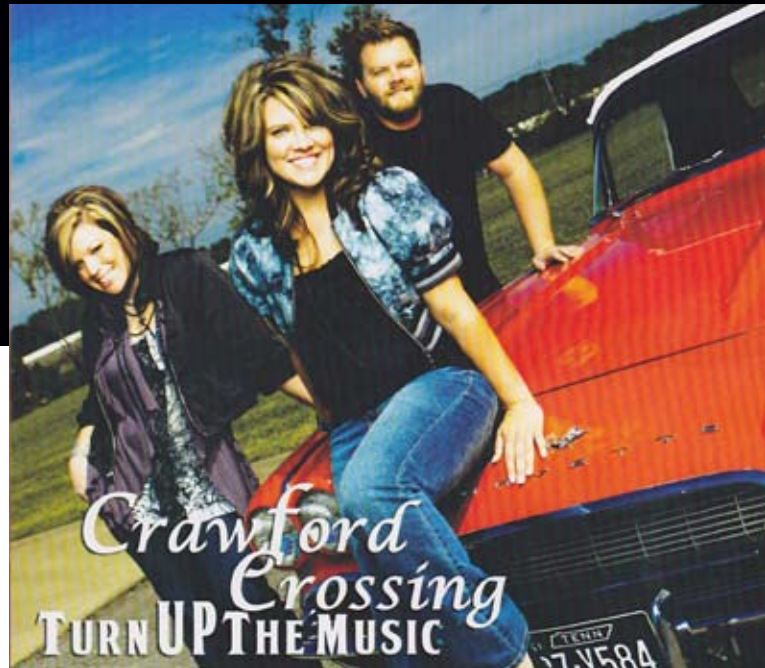
Tabitha Crawford Wheeler, her brother Israel Crawford and his wife Whitney hail from Gate City, Virginia. Tabitha and Israel have been singing all their lives. "We grew up singing together in church," Israel said. "My wife, Whitney, didn't sing until we formed the group a little over two years ago."

While Crawford Crossing's musical style is country Gospel, several songs on *"Turn Up the Music,"* have a more traditional Southern Gospel sound. Response from Southern Gospel fans and radio has been phenomenal, according to Terry and Rhonda.

Rhonda Thompson, whose company, Rhonda Thompson Promotions, does radio promotion for Crawford Crossing, reports DJs all across the country are playing their music, and are excited about their current single, "The Heaven I'm Headed To."

Rhonda told us, "This current song was co-written and recorded by country artist Dierks Bentley. The lyrics are strong and will speak to anyone. This song has become popular with a lot of DJs and their audiences."

Tabitha, who's strong, expressive voice is Crawford Crossing's trademark sound, is extremely happy with



the project. She said, "The song selection and entire recording process was very important to us and we prayed over our song choices. We have been blessed to work with Terry and Rhonda before and we knew that Terry knew our hearts for the music and ministry."

Of the song selection, Tabitha shared, "Some of the songs will be familiar to the listener because other artists have sung them, but we chose to record them because the message in each one is important to us. I think everyone will relate to the songs and we love watching people respond when we sing them."

Two songs that will touch everyone are "You'll Always Be My Baby" and "I Love You." Both are unique stories about the love of God and the love and responsibilities families. Tabitha does an awesome job on one of my favorite songs, "He Could Never Ask Too Much Of Me," written by Joel Lindsey and Jeff Silvey.

"We have found that our songs really touch young people in our audience," Tabitha said. "The first time we ever sang 'You'll Always Be My Baby' at church was a little church in Ohio. The lyrics are so poignant and when we finished, the altar was filled with young people and their parents. We knew we had fulfilled our mission." Excellent music tracks and solid song arrangements on the album make for hours of great listening. Crawford Crossing can be booked for your next music event by calling 615-265-8179.

As a fan of Gospel music I highly recommend this recording. The Doves will be handed out on April 20th, we're hoping to hear that Crawford Crossing has won the Dove for Country album of the year!

Last month we eagerly told you the exciting news that Tim Greene would be returning to Gospel music with the Tim Greene Trio and about their up-coming recording. This month we are pleased to share that new album with you, our fans!

Following the death of Tim's brother, Tony Greene, Tim felt God leading him to continue on the musical ministry of the family. Marc Ivey and Stacy Saunders joined Tim and have been on the road for several weeks. This new recording is the culmination of excitement, hard work, great songs- some we remember from the Tim's family, The Greens, and some wonderful new ones!

Kicking off this new album is a song that was one of the Greens biggest hits, "It Sure Sounds Like Angels To Me." This marks the beginning of a wonderful listening experience. Tim, Marc and Stacy's voices blend so well, the harmony is tight and smooth and provides a very close sound to that of the Greens.

"Family Business" is a song that speaks of Tim's determination to follow the dream of their father and their family. This music reminds us of the Greens sound, and indeed carries on that "Family business."

Tim wrote a couple of songs on this recording, including "We Are The Church," and he co-wrote a beautiful song with Phil Cross titled "I Have Been Baptized." An exciting up-tempo song is next titled "If You'll Move Over Just A Little Bit" and has us clapping our hands and tapping their toes.

Although I love the song, "There's A Miracle In Me,"



The Tim Greene Trio
It Sure Sounds Like Angels to Me
 Produced by: Tim Greene and Ronnie Brookshire
 ACA Records

Behind THE Music cont'd

when Tim, Stacy and Marc began singing it my eyes fill with tears and my heart fills with emotion. That will always be my favorite Greene song.

"Cost of the Call" was written by Joel Hemphill and the anointed message and arrangement just fit this trio. This

awesome "must hear" song has a wonderful message and was a great addition to this album.

The Tim Greene Trio sings a great old song, made famous by the Speer Family, "Some Glad Day." It reminds us so much of what we can expect when we reach heaven.

Two songs written by Tim, round out this this delightful recording. The first, "One Cross" has such powerful words and describes what the cross means to each Christian.

The last song will always cause us to remember Tony, Tim and TaRanda, The Greens. This was one of the first songs that Tim wrote for his family. "When I Knelt The Blood Fell, became one of the groups most requested songs. The Tim Greene Trio does an outstanding job on this song, one and brings back so many memories for the fans.

I highly recommend this recording! The CD is available from the trio's website, at timgreenetrio.com, at the trio's concerts, or by phoning their office at 256-586-0515.



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"You must have the best job in the world... because... you get to tell the world about Jesus!"

A sweet lady from Texas reminded me of this just a short while ago before we sang at her church. She had seen us several times on the Gaithe Homecoming Series on television and she couldn't wait to see us in concert. As I was setting up the sound equipment that evening, she caught my attention and asked the question, I'll never forget: "Do you love what you do?" Wow! For once, I asked myself this question, and before I could answer it, she said "You must have the best job in the world... because you get to tell the world about Jesus!"

Honestly, I had never thought about it like that before. What a shame, you must be thinking. Before this night, I had thought a million times why I love my "job," but I had never imagined it as she did. You should have seen the smile on her face when she asked me. She could have thought of a million reasons why I would love my job such as traveling, singing, meeting people, and living my dream, but instead, she focused on the main reason, telling people what Jesus has done for me.

Since that night, I have thought about this over and over again and I often share with audiences around the world, the question she asked me that night. Then it made me think about our purpose in life. No matter our profession, we should be telling people about Jesus. Yes, some career choices are easier than others when it comes to sharing the gospel, but as the old cliché says, "actions speak louder than words."

I remember when I taught high school English, and a student came to me after class one day and asked me to pray for his parents. While at school, I never went around shouting that I was a Christian, but hopefully because of my responses to his questions and my attitude each day, he knew



Jeff and friend in Owensboro, Kentucky.

that something was different about me. Until this moment, I never really thought about how much my actions impact those around me.

As Easter (my favorite time of the year) approaches, I can't help but get excited about what God has done for me. One of my favorite KPNR songs is "Last Night," and I especially love singing the song during this season of the year. The song describes the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ--"What a difference God made between now and last night!"

Just this lyric alone should ignite a fire within us to tell everyone we know what difference God made in our lives from yesterday to now. Simply think about where you were the day before you accepted Christ as your Savior. You were a different person weren't you? Your course in life became enormously altered. Don't you want everyone to know that they can have the same joy? If you are like me, you want them to


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know that you are saved, but just unsure of when or how to tell them. Just be obedient to the Holy Spirit. He will direct your paths and open doors that you never imagined he could.

Recently, I finished reading a book that would forever change my perception of what it means to win souls to Christ.

Beth Moore's book, *To Live Is Christ*, is a must-read. It follows the life of Paul and his many adventures as he is transformed from a Christian killer to a Christian winner. What courage he had! Always having to live by faith, he never knew if today would be his last, but yet he focused on the difference Christ made in his life and how he wanted everyone to know about it. Even while in jail, he praised the Lord and witnessed to those around him. **What a difference God makes in our lives!** 



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