

JANUARY 2020

SGTN S.O. OPS

MAGAZINE



JOSH AND ASHLEY FRANKS

Building the Kingdom



ALSO FEATURING: The Erwins, Andy Leftwich, Citizens of Glory

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OUR MISSION

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

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PUBLISHER'S POINT

by Rob Patz



Welcome to the January Publisher's Point. Can you believe it's 2020? As I get older, it is amazing to me how time seems to move so much more quickly, and how we need to cherish the moments that we have.

Over this past year, I dealt a lot with mourning, as my family dealt with the sorrow of death. Now, I will tell you that, as a Christian, I have said many times, that even though someone in our life has passed away, we will have the joy of seeing them again. I can also tell you that in the last year, those words seemed to ring hollow inside of me as I missed seeing family members.

Recently, I have found comfort in a song that I'm sure we've all sung: "Because He Lives, I Can Face Tomorrow." If you really think about it, facing tomorrow isn't always easy, but we know that because Christ died and rose for us - for you and for me - we can face tomorrow no matter what the struggle is.

Maybe you're struggling with your health, or with finances, or with finding a job; just know that you - like me dealing with mourning - you can face tomorrow because Jesus is going to be there with you. Just think of how amazing God is! He is not only here right now, but he is also already in tomorrow! Nothing catches him by surprise. Nothing will take him off guard. He knows your steps.

My dad used to reassure me about how much God loved me as a child, when he would tell me that God knows the number of hairs on your head. He would sit me on his lap and he would tell me that if God cares enough about you to invest the time in counting the number of hairs on your head, then he cares about your daily life, and He cares about your joys and your sorrows.

In 2020, my theme song is going to be "Because He Lives." Not only that "Because He Lives, I Can Face Tomorrow," but also, "Because He Lives," I have the hope that I will see my family and friends again. "Because He Lives," I know that he will take care of my finances, he will take care of my family, and he will take care of my job. "Because He Lives," I do have hope for tomorrow.

I know that in most years past, I have spent the first Publisher's Point talking about getting ready for the new year. But this year, it just feels different. This year, it feels like we need to talk about life, about what this year

is going to hold for all of us. I know one thing: that "Because He Lives," I can face tomorrow with joy, hope, and strength; that everything is going to be awesome.

Hey, I'd love to see you in Oxford, Alabama, March 19 - 21, 2020, for Southern Gospel Weekend. If you can't make that, I would love to see you in Tupelo, Mississippi, April 23 - 25, 2020, for Gospel Music Expo.

Also, watch the website for the opening of the Diamond Awards 2020. And let this be your special invitation to join us for Creekside 2020, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, October 25 - 29, 2020. For more information on any Coastal Events, email events@sgnscoops.com.



Eagle's Wings

Diamond Award Winners

- 2019 Bluegrass Song of The Year
- 2019 Bluegrass Group of the Year
- 2019 Female Artist (Debra Wilson)
- 2019 Male Artist (Matthew Wilson)

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YOUTH IN GOSPEL

Eli Fortner

By Lyndsey Chandler

I am pleased to introduce to you Eli Fortner, formerly of the legendary group, the McKameys. He is 25 years old and traveled with his family group which includes, his parents, grandparents, and an aunt, based out of Clinton, Tennessee. The McKameys retired at the end of November, 2019.

The McKameys are one of Southern Gospels most loved family groups. In 2019, they entered into their sixth decade of spreading God's message of love and hope through their music. If you are a true gospel fan then you may recognize songs that they sang like, "Right on Time," "God on The Mountain," and "There is Jesus." This group has been such a blessing through their many years of traveling. So, when I was making my decision on who to interview, I knew I wanted to talk with Eli; not only give honor to him, but to his family as well.

Fortner was around the age of five or six years old when his family first put him on stage. He was just three years old when his parents bought him a drum set for his birthday.

"I started guitar backstage at a McKamey concert," says Fortner. "My pop would carry two or three and one was laying backstage. I hollered at him from backstage while he was on stage and asked if I could play it. To be honest, I don't remember what he said, but I heard a 'Yes.' Then Pop saw I had an interest in it, so he gave me one of his the next day. I still have it and use it every now and then."

If he was not traveling, Fortner would probably be in construction. His papaw was a contractor and so is his older brother, Brad. It is kind of a family trait. One thing that is on this musician's bucket list is to play at

the Hollywood Bowl. His favorite fast food is Chick-Fil-A. Besides playing music, he is a bit of a collector of vintage music gear and instruments.

"If I'm not on the road, I'm in my home studio," Fortner says. "God's blessed me to do what I love for a living, so even if I'm not working for other artists in my studio, I'll still be making music. Other things you might find me doing is reading or detailing cars... I'm random, I know."

Fortner relates an incident that was a bit embarrassing. "I was on tour with Jeff and Sheri Easter, who I dearly love, and the second song was "Over and Over." I played the intro and all was fine and then I got a little too proud of myself and went to play the turnaround and completely bombed. Not just missed





a note, like it was an epic fail. Everybody had that ‘You’re fired’ look on their face, and Jeff went to sing the second verse and pointed his hand to me, making a gun shape with his index finger and thumb acting like he pulled the trigger. I was embarrassed but also laughing at myself and of course all that were on stage were laughing.

“Jeff and (the others) still won’t let me live it down, and a couple weeks after it happened, a friend, Jared Easter texted me and showed me it was on YouTube ‘cause the church live streamed the service that night... I’ll never be able to live it down. Moral of the story.. stay humble or you’ll fall flat on your face!” concludes Fortner.

Music is a passion for this young man. “Like I’ve never thought about setting it aside and doing something

else. And every time I hear something cool like on the radio or streaming I get inspired and I know inspiration comes from God (because) the Bible says so,” Fortner shares. “As I’ve gotten older I’ve realized that my gift is not my own, but that it comes from God and that it’s my responsibility to use it for him and give it back to him and hopefully I’ll inspire other people to do the same. So that’s my motivation.”

I asked Fortner what the message is that he would like to get out to young people. His response was: “Not only should you practice and learn as much about your talent as you possibly can, you should also learn as much about God as you can. Read and study. God reveals himself to those who want to learn about him.

Fortner continues, “However, talking from my own personal experience, nothing has taught me like my own personal life experiences. Everybody goes through something but you have to remember like Psalm 23 says, we go through paths of righteousness for his name’s sake, not ours. When you’re a gospel artist you’re representing his name. Not yours. Don’t forget that.”

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Chuck Bradford

WBTG



By Vonda Armstrong

Sheffield, Alabama, is known as the Center of the Shoals. It is centrally located between the cities of Florence, Muscle Shoals, and Tuscumbia, Alabama. The city possesses a small town friendliness with the amenities of a local university, hospitals, shopping, and an awesome gospel music radio station. This month, we are spotlighting WBTG in Sheffield, Alabama and DJ, Chuck Bradford.

Vonda Armstrong: Chuck, tell us about your current job in radio.

Chuck Bradford: I currently serve as Program Director for WBTG in Sheffield, AL. I build the daily logs for both of our stations, produce spots, keep the music rotation fresh, and manage our website (wbtradio.com) and social media presence. I also host a weekly Saturday morning show on our Southern gospel station. For years I've tried to learn as much as I could about everyone's job so I could keep things running smoothly during vacations or the occasional turnover. Each employee adds value to the station in different ways, and my true niche seems to be working in more of a behind-the-scenes way to ensure everyone else can shine.

WBTG stands for "We Broadcast the Gospel" and is now in its 42nd year of operation. It is both an AM and FM station, broadcasting 24 hours a day. Our FM is a Southern gospel format, providing what we call "life-changing music and Christ-centered teaching programs," and reaching northwest Alabama, southern Tennessee, and northeast Mississippi with 25,000 watts of power. Our AM station is home to a daily two-hour radio program called the "Party Line," and an Adult Standards music format branded as "Memory Music."

As a freshman in college in 1998, I started out on the AM hosting the Party Line and assisting with high school football broadcasts, and soon began hosting the afternoon drive on the FM where I fell in love with Southern gospel music. After college, I left the station to attend seminary in Texas, and after graduation I moved back to Alabama to begin pastoring a church. However, I still had the radio itch to scratch, and it wasn't long before I began working part-time at the station again while also serving as a full-time pastor. My twin passions for Southern gospel radio and church ministry often overlap as I've had opportunities to bring in artists such as the Kingsmen, the Hoppers, and the Talleys to our church.

VA: If you could interview anyone in any genre of music who would you pick?

CB: There are still quite a few Southern gospel artists that I've yet to meet and would love to interview. However, if we opened it up to other genres, I would like to



interview Sara Evans. I don't typically enjoy listening to country music, but she's definitely an exception. In fact, the way I met my wife was through our mutual admiration of Sara's music. We kept getting into bidding wars on Ebay over Sara Evans memorabilia, so I emailed her to ask if she would let me win once in a while! We soon began exchanging emails, then realized we had a lot more in common than just musical tastes, and the rest, as they say, is history. Oh, and if I ever do get to interview Sara, I'd love for her husband -- former University of Alabama QB Jay Barker -- to join in because he was one of my heroes growing up. Roll Tide!

VA: Will you share your testimony?

CB: I was raised in a Christian home and in a conservative, evangelical church in Muscle Shoals, AL where the pastor made a special effort to personally disciple me starting at a young age. I also had a Sunday School teacher who motivated me to memorize a verse of Scripture each week. Through the daily reading of God's Word, I became convicted of the sin that was present in my life, and of my need for a Savior. So, as a ten-year-old boy, I turned to Jesus in repentance and faith, trusting only in his shed blood for my salvation. At the time, I did not understand everything about the conversion experience, but I did know that I was not perfect, and with a child-like faith I clung to the One who is perfect, by whose stripes I have been made whole.

Five years after my salvation experience, the Lord began to reveal to me his plan for a future in ministry. I didn't know exactly what form that would take, but I just wanted to be obedient to his will for my life, so I publicly surrendered to the call to ministry. At the time, I remember hearing Dr. Charles Stanley preaching on the very station that I would grow up to work for, and he said if the Lord truly calls someone, he won't find joy or fulfillment doing anything else. During the time between receiving the call and accepting it, I became restless as I wrestled with what I knew to be God's plan for my life. I realized that I could not be happy doing anything other than exercising my spiritual gifts in the work of the ministry. Now, many years later, that call still rings in my mind, and I remain firmly committed to it, both through pastoral ministry and broadcast ministry.

VA: Tell us about your family.

CB: I have been happily married to the former Tiffany Dunaway of Houston, TX since 2003. My wife is my best friend and partner in ministry. Without her devoted support, I would have been unable to serve in vocational

ministry. Tiffany has worked as a pharmacy technician since early 2009. She is also quite handy with computers, and if I ever run into a problem with our PCs at the station, she's the first person I call.

VA: Tell us about a special day at the station. Is there one that stands out in your mind over the rest?

CB: Getting to work alongside long-time radio pros like Paul Slatton, Jerry Edgil, and Don McGee is still special for me. But one of the greatest thrills of working in Southern gospel radio, is the opportunity to interview my favorite artists. I have an autographed photo of the Cathedral Quartet on my desk that reminds me of their final appearance in Florence, AL as part of their Farewell Tour in 1999. We did a remote broadcast from the coliseum, and our station manager Paul Slatton allowed me to conduct my very first on-air interview, and it happened to be with the greatest quartet of all time. I still get nervous just thinking back to that moment, but they were so gracious to me as I fumbled through a page of questions that I had scribbled down in case I went blank. I had a chance to speak to Ernie Haase at NQC this past September and told him how much that moment meant to me as a 20-year old just starting out in radio.

Thank you, Chuck Bradford, for sharing from your heart while beneath the DJ Spotlight.



Building the Kingdom

By Jimmy Reno



As Vonda Armstrong walked out of Sunday school class, the choir director informed her that her daughter, Ashley, would be singing that morning for the service. Ashley Franks was just four years old at the time. She sang “Jesus Loves Me” during the invitational, and it was apparent to those in attendance that her voice touched people that day.

“I knew God had a special purpose for her life” Vonda stated.

After that morning Ashley knew singing was what she wanted to do with her life. Some things are by divine design and Ashley’s talents are no exception. She comes from a musically gifted family. Her grandparents played and sang bluegrass and her mother sings gospel music.

Josh Franks was born in Florence, Alabama and he can’t remember life without music. Having musical talent on both sides of his family, it was something that was a part of him from the beginning. He would gather his stuffed animals as a boy, and they served as his audience while he sang and preached to them. What he didn’t realize at the time was that he was being prepared for his ministry.

In 2006, Ashley attended the National Quartet Conven-

tion with her family to sing and Josh sang on the same showcase before them. “I remember thinking he had such a big voice inside such a small person,” she muses. After they both returned to their homes, Josh and





Ashley reconnected, and by the following February they were engaged. That December, they were married.

God had a purpose for their lives and it began unfolding. Just eight days after their wedding, Ashley and Josh recorded their first gospel album together. God began weaving together their ministry, guiding them like a tapestry where every thread was carefully laid in place. He used their love of music to help reach others that were lost and hurting.



When reflecting on the songs they have recorded, it is hard for Ashley to name a favorite. "Oh my, it's hard to pick a favorite. I don't think I have a favorite, per se. Right now, a song from our latest album that has really been ministering to me is called "Just As Blessed." It talks about how we are just as blessed in the bad seasons of our life as we are in the good ones. Such a great reminder that I think we all need," she shares.

Josh began feeling led to minister on a deeper level and accepted the position of senior pastor at his home church. "Josh and I, both at separate times, heard God say that he wanted us to go home and work there. When we finally had the conversation, we knew that was our next step. We did not know how it would even happen. Josh has never been affiliated with any denomination. But all the pieces just sort of fell into place," Ashley recalls.

"We started with around 12 people for our church attendance. It's grown now into around 125 per service."

The couple continues to travel and sing in addition to their duties serving as senior pastor for Peoples Tabernacle Church in Savannah, Tenn.



When Josh and Ashley reflect back on their ministry, there is something they desire for others to see.

Ashley shares, "For me, I would just want people to say that we were real. That we did not hide the ugly to keep up a good image...but that we gave Jesus even through tough times and that we gave everything we had, every time we had a chance."

The calling on their lives has been in building the kingdom. Like that carefully threaded tapestry, where each thread was divinely placed and held together by hundreds of other threads, their singing and preaching has touched others and brought them into the kingdom. They are helping to build it one soul at a time.

CAROL *Barham*

Carol Barham Ministries exists to touch as many lives as I can with my music. Helping people through life is one of my biggest goals.

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SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JUNE 2ND

@ FBC SEVIERVILLE

8:00 pm Concert The Isaacs (Registrants Only)
8:30 am Clinician Mike Speck
9:30 am Clinician Cliff Duren
10:30 am Clinician Tim Davis
12:00 pm Lunch
5:00 pm Registration
6:00 pm Doors Open
7:00 pm Meet & Greet - Clinicians
8:00 pm Concert - The Isaacs

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD

@FBC SEVIERVILLE/@ DOLLYWOOD

8:30 am Session 1 - Mike Speck
9:30 am Session 2 - The Isaacs
10:30 am Session 3 - Cliff Duren
12:00 pm Lunch - Comedian
1:00 pm Free time at Dollywood

THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH

@ FBC OR LECONTE CENTER

9:00 am Doors Open
10:00 am Clinicians Mike Speck & Cliff Duren
11:00 am Rehearsals
1:00 pm Free Time
6:00 pm Doors Open
7:00 pm Public Concert, Live Taping of Show
David Phelps & Band, Cana's Voice, The Isaacs, Special Guests, combined choirs



(as posted in December 2019 on SGNScoops.com)

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

1	What Kind Of Man - Legacy 5
2	The People That God Gives You - The Bowling Family
3	Going There - The Triumphant Quartet
4	This Is The Place - The Gaither Vocal Band
5	God Says You Can - The Hyssongs
6	Alabama Mud - Gold City
7	You've Arrived - Greater Vision
8	Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord - The Steeles
9	Come Sunday Morning - The Old Paths
10	A Rugged Old Cross - The LeFevre Quartet
11	Come To The Well - The Kingdom Heirs
12	You Are Loved - Jeff And Sheri Easter
13	The River - Karen Peck And New River
14	When The Answer Is No - The Talleys
15	This Storm - Brian Free And Assurance
16	Resurrection Power - The Mylon Hayes Family
17	Robes Of Pure White - The Williamsons
18	Live Like Jesus - The Collingsworth Family
19	Brave - The Browns
20	What Only God Can Do - Michael Booth
21	Set Your House In Order - Gordon Mote (with The Oak Ridge Boys)
22	Deeper - Gerald Crabb
23	Keep Me Close - The Whisnants
24	I'd Like To Tell It Again - The Down East Boys
25	When God Says Wait - The Browders
26	Sing In The Valley - The Perrys
27	I've Ever Been Glad - The Kingsmen
28	Heaven Is - Ernie Haase And Signature Sound

29	The Healer Hasn't Lost His Touch - The Tribute Quartet
30	From Dust To Glory - The McKameys
31	Take Him To That Place - Tim Livingston
32	No Other Name Like Jesus - Josh And Ashley Franks
33	Jesus To Me - The Wisecarvers
34	The Power Of An Empty Tomb -The Erwins
35	Uncommon Praise - The Guardians
36	A Lot With A Little - 11th Hour
37	Day One - Jason Crabb
38	Go Ask Moses - The Mark Trammell Quartet
39	Love Still Flows - The Taylors
40	He Has - The Old Time Preachers Quartet
41	Ready To Know - The Lore Family
42	Old Church Choir - Hazel Parker Stanley
43	Days Like This - The Martins
44	One More Reason - The Old Time Preachers Quartet
45	Sometimes It's The Radio - Joseph Habedank
46	When His Blood Fell - Les Butler And Friends
47	Let Your Light Shine- Sacred Harmony
48	Follow Me To The Cross - Jim And Melissa Brady
49	I'm Going To Heaven - Doyle Lawson And Quicksilver
50	Be That Kind - Zane And Donna King
51	My Kind Of People - Mark209
52	I Need A Fresh Drink - The Liberty Quartet
53	Who I Am Today - Melissa Evans
54	I'm Reminded - The Dodsons
55	Better - The Chandlers



56	I Got Saved - The Diplomats
57	He's Coming Again - The Joyaires
58	Hold On - Reliance
59	Better Things To Do - John Whisnant
60	Keeper Of The Well - Mercy's Well
61	Never Gave Up - Paul James Sound
62	He Is Mine And I Am His - The Hoppers
63	I've Got The Son In My Eyes - Endless Highway
64	Holy Fire - Barry Rowland And Deliverance
65	I Got Saved - The Fields Of Grace
66	Beautiful City - The Bibletones
67	Still - Riley Harrison Clark
68	God's Gonna Give You A Testimony - The Frosts
69	Everybody Ought To Praise His Name - The Chronicle
70	Good To Go - The Pathfinders
71	You May Feel Lonely - The Littles
72	Glorious God - Lauren Talley
73	I'm In God's Hands - Mark Bishop
74	3 Nails, 3 Days - Greg Sullivan
75	Shepherd Of My Soul - Faithful Crossings
76	Hallelujah March - Heart 2 Heart
77	The Joy He's Given Me - The Sharps
78	It Took The Cross - The Griffith Family
79	Black Sheep - Mary Burke
80	Another One Like Him - The Master's Voice
81	I'm Not Who I Used To Be - Tonja Rose
82	Shoulder To Shoulder - The Blythe Family
83	Worthy - BJ Jenkins
84	The Time Is Near - Ben McGalliard
85	Straight And Narrow Road - Blood Bought
86	What A Morning - The Port City Quartet
87	Love Always Finds A Way - Johnson Edition
88	Grateful - The Pruitt Family
89	Fearless - Jackson Heights
90	Rescue Was Made - Right Side

91	When I Close My Eyes Here - Eagle's Wings
92	Praise The Lord - Carroll Roberson
93	My Life In A Song - Dean
94	In Desperate Pursuit - The Wilbanks
95	The Flag - Carman
96	Blank Page - The Dunaways
97	Love Still Holds Our Scars - Blake And Jenna Bolerjack
98	He'll Do It Again - Ivan Parker
99	Turn - Fayth And Samuel Lore
100	My God Is Taking Good Care Of Me - The Detty Sisters

Southern Gospel NY

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





Les Butler and Friends: Andy Leftwich

By Les Butler

In 2001 I saw Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder at the Ryman Auditorium. They had added a young man since I had last seen them. That young man was Andy Leftwich. That night he played fiddle and mandolin, going toe to toe with fellow KY Thunder band members, Bobby Hicks as well as Ricky Skaggs himself. I turned to my wife and said, “Who is this kid?” Since then, I’ve been blessed to know him on a personal level and very blessed to produce him on many of my BMG and FMG record productions. Not only is he uber-talented, he is the kind of Christian that “puts his money where his mouth is.” He doesn’t just talk it; he walks it, even when it may mean walking away from money and some elements of fame. Andy Leftwich is the real deal.

Les Butler: What is your earliest musical memory?

Andy Leftwich: I was about six years old, and I vividly remember the day my dad came home with a fiddle. He tried his best to play it but after about 20 minutes of scratching around on it, he asked me to come see if I could hold it and move the bow across the strings. He had managed to show me the rhythm of the shuffle of “Boil Them Cabbage Down Boys” and as soon as I got it, he grabbed the guitar and we played that song all evening. I’m sure it drove my mom and sister crazy.

Dad could play rhythm very well on the guitar and every new song I learned, he would learn the chord changes and play with me. Having a sense of rhythm is vital in learning music and Dad was there every step of the way to play with me on each tune I learned.

LB: What’s the first instrument you tried to play?

AL: The fiddle.

LB: What are the instruments you play?

AL: Fiddle, mandolin, and guitar.

LB: If you could only have one instrument on a desert island, which one would it be?

AL: The fiddle.

LB: Who are your favorite musicians on each of the instruments you play?

AL: My first major influence on the fiddle was Mark O’Connor. I was nine years old when his record “New Nashville Cats” released and his version of the “Orange Blossom Special” was so cool. I had just learned how to play that song in my lessons that week and loved it. Later that summer, Dad took me to see him play in Nashville on the riverbank at The Music City Lights festival and I was hooked. I knew then that was what I wanted to do with my life.

When I was 15 years old, I heard and met Stuart



Duncan and my entire approach to playing the fiddle changed. Up to that point, I was playing fiddle contests trying to play as much as I could in a two-minute song. After hearing Stuart play, I realized he could say more in one note than a thousand notes in a two-minute song. His feel, tone, and taste blew me away and I just never got over it. My whole approach to music began to shift after that.

Later, I began to take notice of the greats of bluegrass music. Bobby Hicks became a huge influence on my life after I joined Ricky Skaggs's band, Kentucky Thunder. I learned a lot from him and will always be grateful for the kindness he showed me when we were in Ricky's band.

When I started playing the mandolin, my first influences were fiddle players. Because the mandolin is the same scale as the fiddle, I just took everything I learned from the fiddle and applied it to the mandolin. However, my first real influences on the mandolin would have been Sam Bush and Chris Thile. By the time I started playing the mandolin, Ricky Skaggs was still playing country music full time so I never quite realized how incredible he was on the mandolin until later when he started recording bluegrass records again. When I met Ricky and joined his band, I was blown away at how incredible he is on the mandolin and he quickly became my biggest influence, even to this day.

I never pursued playing guitar as much as I did fiddle and mandolin, but my biggest influences on guitar came from Ricky Skaggs, Bryan Sutton, and Cody Kilby. Standing on stage with Cody Kilby for 14 years in the Kentucky Thunder band was a front row view of his musicianship, and it always inspired me to want to get better, not just with guitar but with all my instruments.

LB: Have you ever had the desire to do something else? If so, what?

AL: I can't say there was anything I really wanted to do growing up other than playing music. I knew at an early age that's what I wanted to do with my life, and it really was the only thing I was good at. I was a decent student but I had absolutely NO idea what I was going to do after I graduated high school. When Ricky invited me to join his band at 19, it was clear to me that college could not teach me what I could learn from someone like him so I decided to enroll at Ricky Skaggs University...ha!

LB: Tell us about your time with Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder.

AL: I was 19 years old and straight out of high school when Ricky invited me to join the band, so you can imagine how inexperienced and green I was. The music was always a blast, but I had a lot to learn. I was introduced to some of the greatest players in the world overnight and battled a lot of insecurity. My first few years on the road were full of highs and lows. I was full of zeal but with very little brains. I remember if I had a bad show, I would feel so terrible and not want to talk to anyone. I was so upset with myself. One night I was feeling so bad that I prayed and asked the Lord why I was even in the band, and almost immediately I felt the Holy Spirit speak to me and say "You are doing this for yourself and to gain the respect of men, not for my glory and that's why you feel terrible". Colossians 3:23 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" The Lord reminded me that it was he that put things in place and it was he who I ought to be playing for and giving the glory to, not Ricky or the band. It was turning point for me not only spiritually but musically as well. Up to that point, I played every show full with insecurity and now I was able to play with freedom and creativity knowing that the Lord was in control, not Ricky, not the band, and certainly not myself. I was freed from the opinion of man.

The years that followed were some of the best experiences I could have imagined. I married my wife Rachel, got to meet and play for President Bush on several



occasions, and got to meet some great men of our day such as Billy Graham, play with legendary musicians from all over the world, and managed to win four Grammys and five IBMA awards with the band along the way. Every night we played, it was a chance to put a smile on someone's face and meet and talk with folks from every walk of life. My prayer has always been for folks to see the Lord Jesus and not me as I stand on a platform to play.

LB: What are you doing these days?

AL: After 15 years of traveling with Kentucky Thun-

der, I began to feel the pull to step away from the band and make myself available for other things, mainly the ministry. I fought it for about a year or so, and finally by faith stepped away from the band. It was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make, but I felt like the Lord was going to use me in another capacity than what he had before. The Lord has been opening up doors for me to play in different churches and special meetings, and from time to time, getting to play my own shows for folks with a few friends. I still record (alot) in Nashville and at my home studio and have plans for future projects. Being on your own is really exciting but very scary. You certainly learn to lean on the Lord and trust him.

LB: What is your favorite song to play and why?

AL: Lately, I've been playing a solo rendition of the hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". It's such a great melody and great truth. I'm so thankful that my salvation does not depend on me. On the days that I'm not necessarily faithful to him, I'm glad to know that he is faithful to me. Paul says in 2 Tim 1:12, "for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

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

AL: I love to play sports and mainly golf. If I have the time, I usually hit the links and sometimes I'll get to

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play some tennis with friends as well. My wife and I have a wonderful church family and some very close friends that we hang out with.

LB: Give us a brief testimony...

AL: My grandparents would take me to church when I was a kid and I never remember being around my grandmother where she didn't talk to me about Jesus. She would always pray with me and anytime I spent the night the them, they would read the Bible and say prayers with me at night. I knew who Jesus was and that he was the son of God and died on a cross. What I didn't realize is that I had never received him as my personal Lord and Saviour. When I was nine years old, I was in my Sunday school class and my teacher gave her testimony of how when you receive the Lord Jesus into your heart as your Saviour, he will give you a peace that passeth all understanding. Even at nine years old, I knew I wanted that peace. When my grandmother picked me up from Sunday School, I told her I wanted to be saved and I'll never forget the expression on her face when I told her. We met with the pastor and he lead me in a prayer to receive the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. However, It wasn't just repeating a prayer that saved me. It was putting my trust in what Jesus had done for me.

I certainly didn't know what being saved entailed, but I did know that I needed Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour and that he would take away my sins. I'm thankful that our salvation depends on the promise of the Word of God and not our feelings, but I certainly had a feeling come over me just before I was baptized of complete and wonderful peace that no matter what happened in my life, I now belonged to the Lord and no man, or anything in this world could ever take it away! "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom 8:38-39



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Bluegrass Top 20

2020 January SGNScoops Bluegrass Gospel Top 20 (posted in December 2019 on SGNScoops.com)

1	I'm Going To Heaven - Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
2	Here And Now - Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers
3	The Empty Altar - Heaven's Mountain Band
4	Heaven's Back Yard - High Road
5	He Knows My Name - The Rochesters
6	I'll Give You Grace - The Britton Family
7	Little Black Train - The Appalachian Road Show
8	Up All Night - Southern Raised
9	A Brighter Day - The Primitive Quartet
10	When Close My Eyes Here - Eagle's Wings
11	Lazarus - The Principles
12	Rescue Was Made - Right Side
13	More Than Enough - The King James Boys
14	Let's meet By The River - Craig Bell
15	Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton

16	Lonesome Mountain - The Chigger Hill Boys and Terri
17	Jesus, You're Always There - The Primitive Quartet
18	Letting Go - Southern Raised
19	I'd Like To Be Your Neighbor - The Churchmen
20	Turkey Buzzard - The East Ridge Boys



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Citizens of Glory

usher in a decade of youth

By Lorraine Walker



Citizens of Glory may seem like a heavyweight name for any kind of gospel group, but when this label is applied to eight fresh-faced, angelic looking siblings, it suddenly makes sense. Showcasing their proficiency in several different instruments, as well as in vocals, these Shaw sisters and brothers make their own type of music which is a blend of gospel, Americana, progressive country, and maybe a hint of southern rock. Their youthful enthusiasm and delightful personalities will have even the most jaded of church goers listening to their lyrics and entering into the music.

Citizens of Glory released their first recording in 2016 and have self produced three more since then. I believe the roaring 2020's will see the rise of youth evangelism and music ministry like never before, and this will be happening in every flavour of gospel music. The Shaw family are well on their way to leading this advance, calling themselves "musicianaries," singing a clear message of faith in Jesus Christ.

From Franklin, Tennessee, Holly, Macy, Justus, Elley, Amy, Lilly, Peter, and Daniel Shaw formed their band 10 years ago to share the gospel of Christ, after performing as a family for several years at different local events. Holly shares, "My mom started praying for us at an early age that we would use our gifts and skills to praise God and bring others to him. She really wanted us to be proficient in music and bless others but in her prayers, didn't know how that would play out." Each child began their musical education on the violin at age four, and were required to always be learning an instrument, because, Holly says, "playing an instrument builds character, brain development, and is a great way to bless others."

Teaching violin to eight children at one stretch must have been quite a project. "Our violin teacher, Martha Eads, would come to our home for years and spend several hours working her way through everyone," recalls Holly. "She was an amazing gift. We have also



been blessed to have had many mentors/coaches in our church community. We received a lot of encouragement and fine tuning from them. We also feel honored to have friends who are artists in the industry who have taken the time to support us, and who we have gained ideas and inspiration from, as well.”

Of course, the parents of the Shaw band have had a large part to play in the development and continued educa-

tion of their children. Kevin Shaw, the patriarch of Citizens of Glory, is a former highschool teacher and currently teaches seminars, and is a published author. Mom Wendy is also an author and homeschools the siblings, so it is easy to see why education is an important foundation for this family. Wendy started a business to distribute books for homeschooling, and Holly is now in charge of it.

“Mom and a friend actually started the business after seeing a need for extra handwriting copy work while they were homeschooling their kids,” recalls Holly. “And as I got older, I started helping with the business until eventually I took it over several years ago. Currently, our books are sold on our website and through two big homeschool retailers. The books were developed to combine handwriting practice with the desire for the students to copy something meaningful. So we have Character qualities, Presidents, Scientific Principles and Scripture to learn while practicing writing skills.”

Kevin now runs sound for Citizens of Glory and is the designated driver for their RV. Wendy handles the booking and manages everything else that needs to happen for the group. Together, they have guided the siblings through the self production of four albums. Holly notes that everyone in the family contributed to the making of the projects, to learn how everything comes together to produce a recording. Their latest CD is one especially for children, called “Kids of Glory.”

With four recent recordings, Citizens of Glory have many songs to choose from during a performance. They each have a favorite tune to perform.

Holly: “‘Stars and Stripes,’ an original song about our flag and written in honor of those who have sacrificed their lives for our country.”

Macy: “‘Love Never Ends,’ the message is so powerful.”

Justus: “‘Love Never Ends,’ it is my favorite original song that we’ve written so far.”

Elley: “‘Angels We Have Heard on High,’ it has a super cool part for three violins that we wrote for it.”

Amy: “‘Eine Kleine Nachtmusik/Jingle Bells,’ it is upbeat, (with an) amazing arrangement and has lots of choreography.”

Lilly: “‘Come on Home,’ because I play the piano for it.”

Peter: “‘Who You Say I Am,’ it has a cool beat.”

Daniel: “‘What a Friend,’ because I have a solo.”

Joshua: “‘Father’s Arms.’” Holly notes: “He loves to go out into the audience and shake hands with them.”

The family is well versed in the scriptures and grounded in the teachings of the Bible. “Our family has read through the Bible every day for the last 14 years,” says Holly. “It’s hard for any one of us to stay with one favorite Bible verse, because we are always finding a new Scripture that stands out for the individual based on what they are currently experiencing in life. But, our family theme is Proverbs 3:5-6.”

Citizens of Glory currently range in age from six to 24, and they each have a message to their specific audience.



Holly: "One: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and two, whatever season of life you are in and wherever you are - know and believe that God can use you."

Macy: "Work on yourself just as much as you work on your music."

Justus: "Music is an investment. All the years you put into it will pay off later in your life."

Elley: "Great things are really just small things that are done with love."

Amy: "You'll never regret learning an instrument."

Lilly: "Music is a great skill to have; just do it."

Peter: "Share your talents."

Daniel: "Whatever you do, trust in God."

Joshua: "Yes."

As this decade begins to open and reveal talented youth to the gospel music scene, Citizens of Glory are certain to be an integral part of the artists rising to the top of the charts and sharing their gifts across the world. Be sure to find out more about these "musicianaries" at www.citizensofglory.com.

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TOP 40

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY SONGS

(as posted on the SGNScoops website December 2019)

1	Put On The Whole Armor Of God - The Reed Brothers
2	Sky Full Of Angels - Kali Rose
3	God Did It - Greg Day
4	God, You're So Good - Mike Leichner
5	Six Feet - Tim Menzies
6	Tough As A Pine Knot - Jessica Horton
7	Down Side Up - Lisa Daggs
8	You're Not The Only One - Tim Livingston
9	I'm Reminded - The Dodsons
10	Riding Out On Faith And Prayer - Mary James
11	Down At The Altar - Pardoned
12	The Ultimate Veteran - Mike Walker
13	I Am Saved - Johnny Rowlett
14	Mama Said - Kolt Barber
15	Between A Church Pew And A Bar Stool - James Payne
16	This Is Not My Heaven - Heath Knox

17	Mom - Tim Atwood
18	No More Second Chances - Jenna Faith
19	If You Could Love Me Anyway - Perfectly Broken
20	Black Sheep - Mary Burke
21	Heaven Is Not That Far Away - Pam Blackstock
22	Who I Am Today - Melissa Evans
23	This Train - The Scott Brown Band
24	God, Oral Roberts, And Billy Graham - Carol Barham
25	Think Again - Hunter May
26	On The Inside - Wade Phillips
27	Til I Get Home - Billy Droze
28	Hand Of The Lord - Jan Harbuck
29	Let's Meet By The River - Craig Bell
30	Grateful - Chris Golden
31	Say A Little Prayer - Bruce Hedrick
32	Three Story House - Don Stiles
33	I'm Not Who I Used To Be - Tonja Rose
34	If I Were In Your Shoes - Chuck Day
35	You Are The Christ - Keven and Kim Abney
36	The Storm - Kane and Kelly
37	Straight And Narrow Road - Blood Bought
38	You're Looking More Like Your Father - The Journeys
39	My Kind Of People - MARK209
40	What A Friend We Have In Jesus - Greg McDougal

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A Legendary Emcee: Remembering Dr. Buck Morton

By Justin Gilmore

Southern gospel music has been showcased on many stages and has brought forward several delightful and memorable hosts. One such Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Buck Morton, who on November 25, 2019, passed away at the age of 88.

Born on September 1, 1931, Dr. Morton presented the music and gospel he loved for many decades. He became a faithful friend and mentor to many artists and fans. Dr. Morton was also a pastor, author, radio host, and teacher for over 60 years.

Morton was blessed to minister to people all over the world. He loved the nation of Israel and led over 20 study trips to the Holy Land and various other countries with Guiding Star Tours. He also served as a pastor, teacher and author at Life Ministries, Inc. He was a beloved pastor at the First Baptist Church in Portageville, Missouri, and in Camden, Tennessee. Dr. Morton's beloved wife, Annette, preceded him in death in 2012.

Morton's impact on the Southern gospel field was vast. He was not only involved with the National Quartet Convention but also with Gospel Music Expo as emcee and board member. In celebration of his life, several artists and friends remember him with kind words.

The following letter was posted on the Gospel Music Expo website on April 27, 2015, and it expresses the heart of Dr. Morton:

“Just a brief note to once again say, thanks for including us in this year's annual G.M.E. So very good to see all of you, visit, catch up on past days and enjoy your great singing. I feel this event was one of the better ones,

talent-wise, attendance-wise and otherwise. I periodically scanned the audience during the various artists' performance and they were very attentive to what was being projected from the stage. This is a plus and sends a positive message.

A note/up-date on Sarah (Dr. Buck's granddaughter). Chemo (is) almost over; (she is) still struggling with aftereffects, trying to return to a total positive stance. (Her) husband/family (are) very cooperative and supportive. I believe we will very soon begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel and it will be translated (into) total healing! My heavenly father is Jehovah Rapha, i.e. The God Who Heals, and I am petitioning him for this blessing on my granddaughter. Thank you so very much for praying with/for us and placing this request on your web page. It is deeply appreciated.



Please convey our love/regards to one and all, stay well, stay busy, and keep in touch.
Love you folks, Dr. Buck.”

“I just remember him as a great emcee. He was always a perfect gentleman to me. Much respect.” -- Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys

“I’ve (sung) at his church many times and remember many exciting N.Q.C.’s that he emceed. When I was with the Dixie Melody Boys it would get pretty wild and he would always join in with us. He was a man of God but also knew how important Christian entertainment was, and that ministry and entertainment could work together. He will truly be missed.” -- McCray Dove of the Dove Brothers.

“There were many events in which Dr. Buck was the emcee, that I tolerated the groups just to get to hear Dr. Buck emcee. Fact!” -- Les Butler of Butler Music Group

“I only knew him as an emcee, didn’t really know him personally. I will say, Dr. Buck Morton was one of the best emcees that ever stepped on a stage. He was always personal with the artists and conveyed that to the fans. He always kept a program rolling along on schedule without anyone realizing it was behind. A very first class person for sure.” -- Greg Bentley, Crossroads Music Group

“He preached in Portageville Missouri and was a good man. Loved hearing him preach at N.Q.C. He was a good man.” -- Gene McDonald, soloist, Gaither Homecoming Tour

Final Thoughts on Buck Morton by Charlie Griffin

I first met the larger-than-life man, Brother Buck Morton, at the N.Q.C. in Nashville, Tenn. It was my first year with the Singing Americans. Although I had been to N.Q.C. once before, I was green behind the ears in knowing people, so the Singing Americans manager, Ed Hill, introduced me to the movers and shakers of gospel music that year.

As we made the circle around the auditorium, I met so many Southern gospel icons face to face. Although I had spoken to them many times by phone, meeting them was so exciting. It was the highlight of my life at the time.

I met Herman Harper of Don Light Talent, (now Harper and Associates), Lou Hildreth of the Wills Family, Faye Shedd with Artists Direction, Dottie Leonard with New Day Distributors, and Bill Traylor with Priority Records, (later Riversong and Homeland Records). The list went on and on. I was in heaven.

As we entered the stage door entrance, the man came down the stairs, looked over at Ed Hill, and just grabbed him. It was Dr. Buck Morton, and it was (like) old times for sure. Ed looked at me, saying, “Buck, meet Charlie Griffin, he’s working with us and you’ll be talking to him a lot.”

Morton shook my hand, saying, “Welcome to our world. I think we talked not long ago when you booked the group at my church.” I was amazed that he remembered that interaction. We chatted for a few minutes and he spoke as if we had known each other all our lives. He was warm, friendly and so personable.

Later that week, I slipped in the back stage door when the Cathedrals were on stage. Buck came over to me. He said, “They sure can sing. I saw where you were awarded the George Younce Award at his homecoming sing.” That just floored me as we spoke about George and I both being from Lenoir, N.C., and gospel music. (I realized he knew his craft and he worked to know the people he met and would have interactions with.)

When he found out I sang a little, he offered some words of encouragement that still hold true for me today. “Charlie, just be who God made you. He made only one of you and that says to me you are special. Put Christ first and everything will work out just fine. You’ll see.” You know, his words are still fact for me today.

Over the years, I visited with him at the N.Q.C. and his church. He always reached out with compassion, sincerity and energy. He set the standard on every stage as the preeminent program host/ emcee. His excitement, passion, and very strong Christian witness still affect many today. From all those lives Dr. Buck Morton touched, we are truly thankful and blessed. I know I am.

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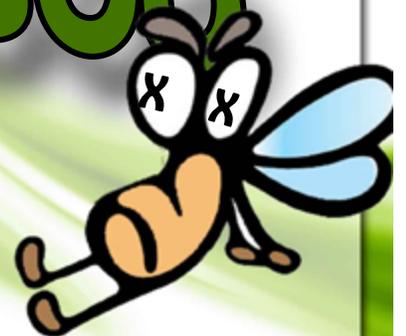
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JP MILLER

TWO DECADES OF MINISTRY AND SO MUCH MORE



By Marcie Gray

In the hills of Clarksburg, West Virginia, many moons ago, a carefree child was humming a tune as he walked from house to house, borrowing a cup of sugar for his mother from the unlocked neighbor's kitchen and returning the garden tool his Grandma Boots borrowed from another neighbor's unlocked shed. Those were simpler times, some might say, but others would retort that time seems to stand still in JP Miller's hometown. His love for music and people grew, and eventually, that small town boy decided to pursue a career in Southern gospel music. Now, when he leaves the Great Smoky Mountains to return home for a concert or a visit with family, he returns to that same friendly town he grew up in and is warmly welcomed by family and friends.

JP Miller was raised with strong Christian values, an appreciation for family tradition, and a heart for the hurting and needy in that small town. Twenty years of ministry haven't changed the heart of a West Virginia boy. Though he may be a few years older and a little bit wiser, Miller still carries the Godly values he was raised with as he takes his ministry all over the world. He genuinely loves people, especially the broken ones.

Miller graduated from Fairmont State University with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, and ventured to Sevierville, Tennessee, where he accepted a position working in the gift shop at the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame inside the gates of Dollywood Theme Park. He shares with a slightly sarcastic grin, "My parents were so proud that I was working in a gift shop for minimum wage after putting me through four years of college!"

It wasn't long before Miller was networking with the Gaithers and the Happy Goodmans, who recognized the incredible talent he had. His big break came when Gospel Music Television host, Lou Hildreth, discovered Miller and invited him

to co-host the show with her. Miller and Hildreth headlined the show for three years. Their success led them to other opportunities such as Bill and Gloria Gaither's Family Fest, Backstage at the Dove Awards, the Ryman Auditorium, and the National Quartet Convention.

That's not all God had in store for Miller. Doors opened for him to tour as a solo artist, singing for the Church of God Children's Home and traveling with a choir comprised of residents from the Children's Home. He recorded his first albums and began taping another television show with Amanda Crabb for Gospel Music Week, Crabb Fest and TBN.

Working in the Southern gospel music industry and singing for various events was exactly what Miller had dreamed of doing. His dream had come to life and was about to expand.



In the process of recording a new album, Miller had several background vocalists in the studio.

When Troy Peach and Katy Van Horn (Peach) came to track their parts, something magical happened. All three of them knew that God was about to do something special through the blend of those three voices, and it wasn't long before First Love became a brand-new Southern gospel trio. Miller relocated to Nashville, the bus was loaded and the new trio quickly made a name for themselves. Their recent reunion on the Smoky Mountain Gospel Jubilee was a well-attended event, drawing crowds from all over to hear the smooth blend of these three voices that were once called, "First Love."



Speaking of the Smoky Mountain Gospel Jubilee, that is where you can find Miller on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. The show airs live on WJBZ, Praise 96.3FM from the Ogle Furniture Outlet in Sevierville, Tennessee, and also airs four times per week on CTN and local Comcast stations. When corporate sponsors, Ron and Betty Ogle, asked JP to host a radio show, he never dreamed that almost nine years later it would be the success that it is.

Artists and special guests come from all over the world to appear on the show, and fans from as many geographic regions as one can imagine come to see it. The audience enjoys the show from recliners and can enter to win free door prizes that are given out each week.

Marcie Gray, Producer of the Smoky Mountain Gospel Jubilee shares, "It has been a wild ride producing the show for the last five years. I wasn't really sure what to think of JP Miller when I first met him. He's eclectic. He's one of those creative types that keeps you on your toes and everyone who knows him knows he's liable to say anything he's thinking. He is known for keeping it real and will stand in the gap for a friend no matter what. When someone is in need, JP and his children are at the door with a gift basket and a prayer. He's become a friend that is closer than a brother and I am so thankful God connected us!"

There are very few things that Miller isn't good at doing. He has worked nearly every southern gospel music event that has happened in his lifetime. If you haven't heard his name before now, it's probably because he's making everything

happen behind the scenes. He has been instrumental in fundraisers for the Southern Gospel Music Association and the artists that support the industry.

Arthur Rice, President of the Southern Gospel Music Association notes, "JP Miller has contributed so much to the Southern Gospel Music Industry. When he's not on tour with his own ministry, he's working behind the scenes to keep the SGMA alive and well. He does more for Southern Gospel than most people will ever realize. Not only is he incredibly talented, he is willing to use the skills God has blessed him with to help in any way he can."

Miller does a phenomenal job of acquiring artifacts from artists to display in the SGMA Hall of Fame and Museum. When the doors of Dollywood close for the season, the magic begins. He transforms the displays each season and keeps everything updated.

If he's not singing, Miller is emceeding or hosting an event. He is passionate about the ministry, but understands the business, as well and loves to honor the Lord with his time and his talents.

Clark Beasley, President of National Quartet Convention shares, "JP Miller is a great asset to the Southern gospel music industry. He understands the business side of things but is never too proud to jump in and lend a hand wherever needed."



Miller just celebrated his 20th year in Southern Gospel Music. He released a new album and had a very successful anniversary tour, ministering in several states as he reunited with old friends and made many new friends. His parents may not have been thrilled that their four-year investment in a Sociology degree resulted in a minimum wage job at Dollywood, but that was merely the launching pad that God used to connect a talented West Virginia boy with an industry he would grow more passionate about each year. His family

is supportive of his ministry, and that is a big part of what makes it successful.



When God made JP Miller, he broke the mold. There isn't another like him. Perhaps the world couldn't handle two of him, which is the case for many of us, but those who are blessed to call JP Miller a friend will all say that they are so thankful God made him!

You can learn more about JP Miller on his website: www.jpmlerministries.com. He is very active on Facebook, so be sure to visit his ministry page to learn the latest industry news: <https://www.facebook.com/jpmlerministries/>. Be sure to stop by and visit him at the Smoky Mountain Gospel Jubilee on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. (local time) at the Ogle Furniture Outlet and let him know you read his article in SGNScoops Magazine.

If you've never heard JP Miller's music, you can find him on iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, Amazon and Apple Music. Macee and Micah, his son and daughter, sing on several songs, and their angelic voices and sincere hearts are precious to hear.



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Guest CD Review

Beautiful Day by Mark Bishop

By Justin Gilmore

Mark Bishop

“Beautiful Day”

Label: Sonlite Records

Producer: Jeff Collins, Mark Bishop

Songs: “It’s A Beautiful Day,” “God Needs Ministers,” “Are You Ready For Perfect Love?” “It’s All Good,” “I’ll Just Keep Rowing,” “You Can’t Say He Didn’t Love Us,” “I’m Just Changing Mountains,” “Home Grown Tomatoes,” “The Man On The Other Cross,” “Lost, Lost, Lost”

One of Southern gospel’s most beloved singer-songwriters is back with yet another stellar recording. Mark Bishop hopes to lift spirits with his new CD entitled “Beautiful Day.” This recording features 10 songs that encourage people to trust in God and be witnesses to this lost world.

The CD opens with two great uptempo tracks “It’s A

Beautiful Day,” and “God Needs Ministers.” The title track encourages listeners to look on the bright side of life. Don’t let the gloomy days get you down. Jeff Chapman, Chris Allman, and Mylon Hayes join him to make this a fun quartet song.

Amber Eppinette of 11th Hour joins him on “God Needs Ministers,” which reminds us to shine God’s light in every situation. Be a soul reacher in everyday life. Eppinette also joins Bishop on the powerful ballad “Are You Ready For Perfect Love?” which praises Christ for his transforming love.

“It’s All Good,” is a fun, groovy tune that reminds us that with God in our lives, happiness is not hard to find. “I’ll Just Keep Rowing,” is a stellar mid-tempo track that simply says: Jesus is the captain of my boat. I will trust him and just keep rowing.

“You Can’t Say He Didn’t Love Us,” is a beautiful



ballad that simply reminds us that God loved us so much that He sacrificed himself to save us from our sins. Bishop picks the tempo back up with the fun “I’m Just Changing Mountains.” This clever tune tells of persevering through the trials of life. God has our best interests at heart and will always be with you.

Perhaps the standout track on the album, the cut “Home Grown Tomatoes,” tells the story of Brother Joe, a country preacher serving as a witness to everyone he meets. He visits churchgoer’s homes with a bible in one hand and a bag of home grown tomatoes in the other.

“The Man On The Other Cross,” a well crafted ballad, tells of the other men on the crosses next to Christ. This powerful song proclaims: I want to be like the man on the cross who found forgiveness.

This outstanding album closes with “Lost, Lost, Lost,” a tender ballad that tells the story of being found in Christ. I was lost, but then I found Jesus who gave me purpose and new life.

“Beautiful Day” is yet another powerful and well crafted album from Mark Bishop. This recording not only features fantastic vocals from Bishop, but deeply moving and anointed songs. A must buy for fans of Bishop and Southern gospel fans alike. 4.5 out of 5 stars.

For more information: www.markbishopmusic.com

Guest CD Review by Justin Gilmore of Southern Gospel Spotlight.

BJ JENKINS

Female solo artist, children’s author and speaker

Book Title: The Fruit of the Spirit is NOT a Coconut
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A photograph of four men in suits standing in a church aisle. The men are dressed in dark suits with white shirts and patterned ties. They are standing in a row, smiling, in the center of the aisle. The church has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams. A circular stained-glass window is visible in the background, and the walls are made of brick. The floor is polished wood. The title 'THE GUARDIANS' is written in large, yellow, serif font, with 'SINCE 1988' in a smaller font below it.

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Just a little talk with The Erwins



By Jantina Baksteen

The Erwins travel as a sibling group from the state of Texas. Their alliterative names are Keith, Kody, Kris and Katie. These artists have been steadily rising in the world of gospel music for several years, and have built a large fanbase as well as being honored with award nominations and charting songs. Starting from a tender age, each child sang with their parents as they shared the gospel in camp meetings and tent revivals. Now these adult children have a mature sound that is enjoyed across the states and the world.

Jantina Baksteen: Please introduce yourselves to the readers of SGNScoops.

Keith Erwin: 46 years ago, our father began his evangelistic ministry, traveling all over and singing and preaching the gospel. After 17 years of being single, he met our mother at a tent revival, and soon after that... we came along. Continuing in our father's ministry early on and even more so as we grew up, was just what we we loved. God birthed a passion for ministry in our

hearts and grew it through the years on the road. Now, God has broadened our scope of ministry to the concert halls, singing alongside many of our heroes, while still periodically serving with Dad in Sunday services, revivals, and bible conferences. We're having the time of our lives. We look back with wonderful memories and ahead with an anticipation that God has mighty plans.

JB: You were involved in the singing industry from your early years. How old were you all?

Keith: Well, as I touched on in the first question, we have literally never done anything else. I was actually in the recording studio for the first time when I was 16 months old, singing "Jesus Loves Me" on one of my dad's recordings. All of us really began our musical journey as young as that.

JB: What year did you decide to start as a sibling group?

Keith: I don't believe there was really a time of deci-



sion concerning that choice. It kind of just happened. For awhile there, it was just the three boys, as a male trio, but I guess it was 2011 or 2012, as Katie came along in her singing, it just became clear that she needed to be added to the group. As you can imagine, she changed every dynamic and made the stage look a whole lot better.

JB: What is it like to travel together so many miles?

Keith: It's special, it's stressful, it's an honor, it's challenging, it's exciting, it's the easiest thing we can ever do, but also, it's the hardest thing we can ever do. It's sometimes nasty, but always beautiful, and always worth each and every one of those miles.



JB: Your current radio song is, "The Power Of The Empty Tomb." What does the song say to you?

Keith: "The Power Of The Empty Tomb" says everything every person in this world needs to hear. That the tomb is empty. Our Lord is alive. The great Joel Lindsey wrote this lyric.

JB: Do you have a personal testimony that you'd like to share?

Keith: Well this one isn't directly personal but it does have everything to do with our single we were just talking about. A couple of years ago, Joel Lindsey was at a very low point in his life and even went so far in telling us that he honestly thought that he had written his last song (this coming from a man that has written songs like "Orphans Of God" by Avalon, and "Shall We Gather At The River" by Point Of Grace). He said that a close friend came to his house one afternoon and took a few hours just to speak life and peace into Joel's heart and soul. As soon as that timely interaction was over, Joel immediately went to his piano, and the words and music to "Power Of An Empty Tomb" entered his brilliant mind. Praise the Lord for good friends, a man that's open to listen, and pure restoration.

JB: Have any of you written a song?

Kris: I experienced the Nashville writers room for the first time about two years ago now. I was thrilled to co-write the title song on our "Watch & See" project with the incredible Kenna West and Jason Cox. They made it an unforgettable experience that I hope to do again in the near future. With the Lord's help and in his perfect time, we pray there are many to come.

JB: If you weren't a professional singer, what job would you do?

Keith: I've always loved sports, specifically basketball. I would probably be a basketball coach.

JB: With what famous or not famous person would you like to spend dinner with?

All of the Erwins: That's an easy one. The one and only Bill Gaither.



JB: Who decides what restaurant to pick when you are traveling the road?

Keith: It's always and forever a joint decision. But thankfully we don't have picky eaters on our bus.

Katie: We try to make it a joint decision on where we eat on the road. We stop at a lot of mall food courts so everyone can choose their own restaurant. That's an easy fix to living in harmony on and off stage.

JB: Where can we find you on the web?

Katie: You can find us on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook

or Youtube by searching "The Erwins" or our website is www.erwinministries.com

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Coastal Media Events

By Lorraine Walker

Many Southern gospel music fans are looking for destination events, which will provide plenty of music as well as seminars, unique presentations, and speakers, all in a family-friendly venue. Coastal Events is providing this type of family retreat experience in 2020, in special cities and towns that also provide tourist attractions and interesting places to visit.

Be sure to make your plans to attend at least one Coastal Event near you in 2020.

March 2020

Rob Patz, Coastal Events owner, is excited about the upcoming **Southern Gospel Weekend**, in which he is involved as a board member with Donnie Williamson and Vonda Armstrong. Southern Gospel Weekend, will



be held March 20 - 21, 2020, in Oxford, Alabama.

SGW will present Southern Country Grass, an exciting mix of some of the best in Southern gospel, Christian Country, and Bluegrass gospel music. Some artists already announced include the Freemans, East Ridge Boys, Master Peace Quartet, the Williamsons, Cross Ties Band, Hope's Journey, the Connells, New Ground, Eagle's Wings, Pardoned, ClearVision, Jessica Horton, the Bibletones, Mark209, the Dodsons, Melissa Evans, and Chronicle,

SGW will be held at the Oxford Civic Center. Host hotel is the Sleep Inn, Oxford at 256-770-4804. Please mention that you are a guest of SGW when you call for a special rate.





A \$25 VIP package is available which includes special seating, a free gift each night, and a private 30 minute concert each evening. For more information or VIP tickets call 360-933-0741 or 256-310-7892.

April 2020

Next on the calendar will be Mississippi, at the **Gospel Music Expo** in Tupelo, on April 23 - 25, 2020. Some of the artists appearing include John Penney, New Ground, and Masters Quartet, Day 3, Jessica Horton, The Defreitas Family, and others.

June 2020

Gospel Music Weekend—Michigan is coming to Ann



Arbor June 4 - 6, 2020. GMW -- MI will feature artists from the Great Lakes Region, such as Gloryway, Justified Quartet, Cami Shrock, as well as some of the Creekside family of artists including the Dodrill Family, Livin' Forgivin', Matchless Grace and Kristen Stanton.



July 2020

Gospel Music Weekend—Ohio is coming to Mansfield, Ohio, July 16 -18, 2020. Some of the artists appearing in GMW--OH are from the Great Lakes Region, including Gloryway Quartet, Ezekiel's Call, The Bobby Jones Family, New Promise, Kristen Stanton, Justified Quartet and Matchless Grace, among others. Look for more information at www.gispelmusicweekend.com.

Other states in Coastal Events' plans include: Indiana, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky. Artists in these areas who would like to become a part of these concerts, please contact Rob Patz at 360-920-4057. For more information on these





tion Center located at 2385 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The event will begin the day after Creekside ends, with a special kick off on Thursday night at the close of Creekside, followed by evening concerts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Special events and Midnight Prayer are also being planned as part of Christian Country at the Creek. “This is an event you don’t want to miss. We can’t wait to showcase these amazing artists,” Patz adds. Admission is free to the public with VIP tickets available for just \$10.00 per night or \$25.00 for the entire weekend.

events please visit gospelmusicconvention.com More information for VIP tickets, lodging, bus groups, and more, can be requested at events@sgnscoops.com.

October 2020

Creekside Gospel Music Convention

The cornerstone presentation of Coastal Events is Creekside Gospel Music Convention 2020, taking place Oct. 25 - Oct. 29, 2020, at the Grand Smokies Resort Convention Center, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Creekside is an annual event, bringing hundreds of gospel music fans and over 50 artists to beautiful Pigeon Forge. The convention presents Southern gospel music showcases, evening concerts, and midnight prayer. Some of the great artists who appeared in 2019 were the Hyssongs, Down East Boys, 11th Hour, Gerald Crabb, Eagle’s Wings, Bibletones, Sue Dodge, the Browders, Josh and Ashley Franks, and more. Keep watching this column for announcements regarding artists appearing in 2020.

For more information on the Creekside Gospel Music Convention, the Diamond Awards ceremony, Creekside Bluegrass, as well as accommodations and VIP tickets, contact Rob Patz at 360-933-0741, email events@sgnscoops.com or visit the website www.gospelmusicconvention.com.

Christian Country at the Creek

Christian Country at the Creek 2020 will take place Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 at the Grand Smokies Resort Conven-

If you are an artist wishing to be included on the roster for 2020, or if you would like more information, please contact Rob Patz at (360)933-0741 or send an email to events@sgnscoops.com. For reservations, you may contact the Spirit of the Smokies Lodge directly at (865)453-4106 and indicate the group code of CCC20 or Christian Country at the Creek to get the group rate.





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The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

Happy New Year! Here we are at the beginning of another year, and I find myself repeating words I often heard my mom say, "Where did all the time go?" I hope you enjoyed all of last year's issues of SGN Scoops. We had a lot of amazing artists on the outside and inside of the covers. As we look at the planning for the new year, we always ask ourselves whose ministry should be highlighted or who has a great story to tell. So be looking for some great features this year.

Our January cover is usually reserved for an up-and-coming artist or group that we think is poised to take the industry by storm. This month we look at Josh and Ashley Franks, who have been nominated for awards, and have seen radio airplay music increase over the last few months. Josh is also a strong promoter of gospel music as well as being a pastor. Ashley is one of the leading sopranos throughout all of gospel music and beyond. We hope you enjoyed this feature by Jimmy Reno.

The other young artists whose pictures were placed on the cover also are very talented. Jantina Baksteen had a good talk with the Erwins, Les Butler introduced us to Andy Leftwich, and I was delighted to find a new family band with amazing talents. I think you will be seeing more of Citizens of Glory in the near future.

Special thanks to Marcie Gray for talking with JP Miller, and giving us some of his highlights of his 20

years in gospel music. Justin Gilmore did double duty for us this month as he reviewed the latest release from Mark Bishop and also wrote a tribute to Dr. Buck Morton who recently passed. Thank you as well to Vonda Armstrong who always keeps us up to date on the radio world with DJ Spotlight.

I hope you took time to read Rob Patz's Publisher's Point, and gained encouragement by knowing that Jesus is not only with you today but he is also in your tomorrow. Just as Rob talked about picking a theme song for the year, I have been considering my word for the year.

Last year, my theme word was "completion." I think time will tell the number of things that were completed in 2019. This year, everywhere I look, I see the word "Joy." What does that word mean to you? Is it deeper happiness? Is it happiness in spite of circumstances? Or is it a deep sense of the presence of God that only comes through continuously drawing closer to him? The Bible says that in His presence is "fullness of joy."

I think Joy will be my theme word for 2020. I have been fairly open with my physical and emotional struggles, and I have to admit, at many times, joy has been elusive. But I am learning that there are ways to cultivate this fruit of the Spirit. I want my life to be fertile soil for the growth of all the fruits of the Spirit, so that others may be drawn to my Savior. And what is more attractive in a person's life

then deep, authentic joy?

May 2020 be the year that your faith is deepened, your load becomes lighter, and you spend so much time in the presence of God, that the fruit of the Spirit abounds in your life. In this new year, I wish you Joy.



ANOINTED, SHEPHERD'S WAY QUARTET, THE BLANKENSHIP FAMILY, MARY BURKE, THE COKERS, RAY WOLFORD, THE FOWLER FAMILY, BRANDON HUGHES, LESTER WAYNE FELTNER, BOOGER SWAMP RHYTHM SECTION, THE LOUDERMILKS, SPIRIT FILLED, NEW REASON AND GRACE RENE'

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*Happy New Year from
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Nominations Ballot

Thanks DJs for
playing and charting
"3 Nails, 3 Days"



Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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



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



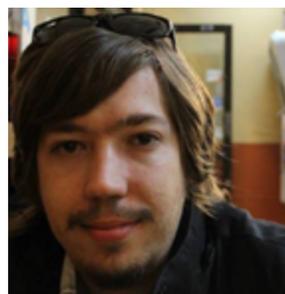
Canadian-born Lorraine Walker has a love for Jesus Christ, music and writing. The combination of these passions has produced artist features and monthly columns for Southern Gospel publications including SGM Radio website and SGN Scoops Digital magazine. Lorraine desires that the power of the written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



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



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



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

Contributors

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Justin McLeod is the founder of the Justin's World of Softball website, a site that he has built into one of the premier news outlets in the sport. Justin is a longtime Gospel music fan and enjoys researching the history of the genre, attending concerts, and reviewing recordings whenever possible. The son of a Southern Baptist pastor, he also works for a law firm as a legal secretary and is active in his local church. Justin is a native of Memphis and now resides in Northeast Louisiana.



Pete Schwager is a web developer and graphic designer with a passion for Christ. He was born in Santa Rosa, California and moved to Oregon where he spent most of his life. He now lives in the quiet town of Ringgold, Georgia and enjoys living in the country with his family. You can find him online at <http://peteschwager.com>



Staci Schwager helps with marketing and communication with her husband's web design company, Cre8able Media. Together they make a great team! Staci being the "talkative" one, loves being able to communicate one on one with clients and organizing ideas. While Pete on the other hand is diving into the design and coding aspects to make the real masterpiece! Most of Staci's days are filled with preparing homeschool lessons for her kids, couponing, gardening, tending to her chicken flock and spending as much time on the beautiful, country land God has blessed them with.



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

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



After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Mass Communication degree, Craig Harris has been in the journalism field for more than 15 years, working daily as both a photographer and writer at one of the largest non-daily publications in the state of Tennessee. He has experience in feature writing, news writing, action photography, portrait photography, web-site maintenance and layout. Craig has been a part of numerous awards, both collective and individual honors in the journalism field. He has had articles published in numerous newspapers and magazines on a variety of subjects, most notably in the world of sports.

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



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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

Contributors

SGN SCOOPS



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

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



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

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

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

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

to give his all in the service of the Lord.



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

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

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

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



Suzanne Mason, a pastor's kid and native Californian, began singing with her guitar-playing father at an early age and spent her teenage years singing and acting with her youth group. She started writing personal poetry and

short stories in junior high and hasn't stopped since. She holds a Bachelor of English from Columbia University and has interned with both literary agents and a publishing house. While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she began writing for AFrontRowView.com before joining the SGNScoops.com team. She enjoys sharing the love of Jesus through volunteering, music, writing, and teaching.

Contributors

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Angela Parker is a life-long singer and sings with her mother's group, Mercy Rain. She resides in Lexington, S.C. She's been happily married to her husband Jack for nearly 4 years. He's supported every decision Angela has made without fail.

Jack travels with Mercy Rain whenever he can and helps out where possible. He supports Mercy Rain continuously. Since Angela has recently been diagnosed with Lupus, Jack has done everything he can to take care of her.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Contributors

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

is now a member of SGNScoops.

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



Jimmy Reno began singing at the age of four with his family group. He has sung for The Mystery Men quartet, Florida Boys and Mark209. Off the road, he spends time with my wife, Christa, with whom he celebrates 25 years of

marriage with this year. Jimmy also enjoys spending time with his three kids and one granddaughter.



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

day before I turned 11 years old.

Somehow, the seed of loving gospel music was planted by the style of music my parents played at home. Around 2006/2007, I was listening to Gaither home-

coming music that I found on the internet. The song, "Oh, What A Savior," by Ernie Haase hit me with the so-called Southern gospel bug.

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

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

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



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

will be sharing exclusive interviews in an effort to showcase the abilities, talents and dedication of young artists in Southern Gospel music. I will be offering these monthly interviews to better acquaint you with young voices that are growing louder in our industry.

The Chandlers travel in a ministry of singing and preaching conducting concerts, revivals, camp meetings and conferences. Their travels have taken them all over the United States, Canada, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia, and The Philippines. The group consists of Tim, Lana, and their two daughters, Tiffany, and Lyndsey. Their ministry website is www.thechandlermusic.com.