

DECEMBER 2015

SGN **SCOOPS** MAGAZINE

*Merry Christmas*



**ERNIE HAASE**  
& SIGNATURE SOUND

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## OUR MISSION

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

Publisher- Rob Patz

Editor- Lorraine Walker

Feature Editor- Craig Harris

Layout/Design- Pete Schwager, Staci Schwager

Cover Design- Stephanie Kelley

Founder- Dr. Allen Smith

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# PUBLISHER'S POINT

**by Rob Patz**

Christmas is my favorite time of year! I enjoy every part of it, from the decorating of the Christmas tree, to the music, to the shopping; yes, I even enjoy going shopping during this time of year. There is nothing about Christmas that I don't enjoy. I also have an idea: If you're looking for a great gift for a friend or family member who loves Southern Gospel music, we have our Creekside hotel packages available at a great price. Just send me an email and I will get you all set up with a gift certificate that you can present at Christmas time.



Of course, the holidays also bring up memories of our past and those loved ones who have gone on before us to Heaven. I always think of my Dad during this time of year and how much he enjoyed the holidays. As a pastor, he loved this time of year, sharing the good news of the Gospel in a very plain and easy story, of a Savior who came to this world in a lowly manger, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for you and me. I hope that if you don't know Him as your personal Savior, that during the season you make the commitment to know Him as not only your friend, but as your Savior.

I hope you enjoy this edition of SGN Scoops magazine as we talk with Signature Sound. There are also some amazingly good articles in this month's magazine that you need to check out! So pull up a chair, and grab some hot apple cider with some red hots in it, and enjoy this month's edition. From my house to yours: A very Merry Christmas!

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# LIFE LOVE & LEGENDS

GLORIOUS GOSPEL MUSIC

BY LOU WILLS HILDRETH



The joy of sharing my LIFE in Gospel music, and my LOVE for the many friends gathered along the way, is on my mind as I write this article for SGN Scoops. Heartfelt thanks to our publisher, Rob Pat, and to Lorraine Walker, editor, of this great digital magazine. Lorraine has been so gracious and understands that I will no longer be writing this column on a monthly basis but will submit an article occasionally. I am always honored when she posts one of my earlier columns on Facebook.

only Father for blessing us with this glorious journey as we share our passion for the gospel and for gospel music.

Be sure to contact Lou Wills Hildreth at [gosplvideo@aol.com](mailto:gosplvideo@aol.com) or P. O. Box 271106 Houston, TX 77277.



Dear readers, God has shown me great favor in my 80 years of singing and working in Gospel music. I sang my first Gospel song onstage, at age seven, with Pop Wills, my

older sister and brother Rene and Calvin.

Howard and I married in 1946 and he has always been a strong supporter. Our 20 years in Nashville, where I was heavily involved in the gospel music industry, were extremely fruitful. Hosting a daily TV show, with LEG- ENDS singing our beloved gospel music, helped spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A paraphrase of Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine that others may see and glorify your Father in heaven," is a scripture I strive to live by. Thanks be to our Heav-



Photo A -- TV cast of "Wills Family Inspirational Time," pioneer Gospel series viewed across America in the '60's and '70's.

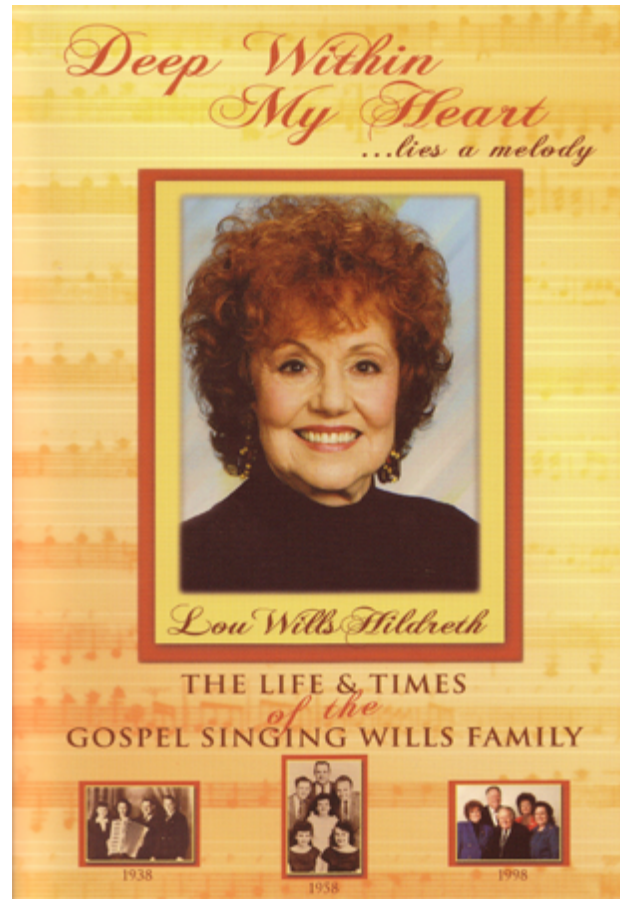
Photo B –Lou Hildreth with appreciation plaque as a member of Gaither Homecoming videos.

Photo C—Howard and Lou, Nashville Gospel Talent Agency.



Photo D—Lou with a table of trophies, and the Gaither KJV bible quoting her and HC Friends.

Photo E—Cover of “Deep Within My Heart” Lou’s Book about the Wills Family, Larry Gatlin, Fiddler Bob Wills, and others.



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# ERNIE HAASE AND SIGNATURE SOUND

## Taking Christmas to Europe



By Craig Harris

The more that things change, the more they feel the same for Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. However, Ernie Haase doesn't believe in being stagnant. "Our plans are our plans, but God's plans are always better," Haase says. "Whenever my vision has gotten off the path a little bit, that's what grace is for. It gets me back on (the path).

"In the beginning, it was about making quartet music that was out of the box that reached young people. It's a great community, a great family. It's amazing to see what that vision has brought. God put it there to begin with. Psalms 37:4 has always been my guiding force. The whole vision I had was His to begin with. I wanted to make people happy in serving the Lord. It's evolved. I don't jump as much as I used to."

However, his fans still jump at the chance to see his seven-member ensemble. The group has embarked on its annual Christmas Tour. However, it will include a

leg in an unfamiliar territory ... Europe. "I love that tour anyway," Haase emphasizes. "We're in our seventh year of it. Each year, we add an element.

"We've played Europe a lot, but we've never been in Europe around Christmas."

That evokes excitement amongst the group. "I love Christmas Music," lead singer Devin McGlamery points out. "It's a great show. It's a set list, unlike our regular list, which is in Ernie's head ... which we can't see.

"We're going to the UK (United Kingdom) for the majority of our Christmas Tour, and those people are absolutely wonderful over there."

Baritone vocalist Dustin Doyle adds, "Christmas Music is my favorite music. I listen to it year-round. Maybe once or twice a month, I'll pull up one or two specific

Christmas albums. So, I always look forward to the Christmas Music. A Christmas tour in Europe ... I've never been to Europe before, so I'm stoked out of my mind. The Carpenters' 'Christmas Portrait' is the greatest Christmas album ever."

Pianist Tyler Vestal shares the same affection for Christmas tunes. "I started listening to Christmas Music (in the fall)," Vestal notes. "Every couple of months, I like to bring it out. I am a big Christmas person. I go all out with the decorations. I love the movies, the music."

Vestal and Doyle are a part of the group's Christmas tour for the first time. "It's kind of surreal," Vestal says. "I'm still getting used to it. I remember not long ago buying tickets to (Ernie Haase and Signature Sound) concerts in Winston-Salem (N.C.). I actually had a ticket stub that I had left over, where everybody signed it – Ernie, (former group members) Tim (Duncan) and Ryan (Seaton)."



### A new Signature

Both Vestal and Doyle joined the group in July. "It's like they've been here from day one," the 33-year-old McGlamery points out. "Everywhere I've been for 16 years, I've always been the youngest person on the bus. That has changed ... and I don't like it."

Bass singer Paul Harkey adds, "They've jumped in, and we've gone (forward). It's been pretty seamless. It's amazing. What has really helped is that we already knew them. They were on the StowTown (Records) label. We've done cruises together. It was kind of destined to happen. They are both phenomenal in their own ways. Dustin and I quote movies all the time. We're



always laughing."

Previously, Doyle and Vestal were members of Stow-Town's Beyond the Ashes, a trio along with tenor singer Anthony Facello. "There was nothing difficult about the transition for me," Doyle notes. "This was where I wanted to be. This was me going after something and making a decision of, if I don't go for this now, I'll regret it for the rest of my life. When it all came down to it, there are so many other people they could have hired that would have done a great job. I decided that I was going to go for it. It had to be God."

Vestal adds, "Knowing the guys totally made it easier.



You know what you're coming into. You know the personality types. Devin had filled in with Beyond the Ashes before. It was coming into familiar territory. That was the big thing."

While the transition has been an easy one for the guys, the experience has been different than Doyle anticipated. “It’s been a lot different,” Doyle explains. “I underestimated it honestly. I underestimated what it takes to stand on stage with these guys. It’s hard to make that make sense. Basically, there is a level of intensity and professionalism and an energy with these guys, who are so comfortable in doing what they’re doing and confident. It was so much more than what I thought. “I’ve been on stage with them before. We’ve done



dates together, but to stand in that spot and say this is my position ... it was overwhelming. It’s still like that. It hasn’t worn off at all. I was used to singing in smaller churches, and there’s nothing wrong with that. It’s different when people are coming to see a show not because somebody dragged them along. Ernie’s fans are very intentional (concert-goers). He has this awesome, faithful following of really amazing people who have been behind me 100 percent. They have been completely supportive.”

The hard work is intentional as well. “My mom and dad were 18 when they had me,” Haase shares. “They owned - and raised me in - a 500-square-foot house. My dad worked a milk route. Then, my dad took a job in New York. He was gone for three months. He came back and surprised us on Christmas Eve. There wasn’t (typically) anything as far as presents. He had some toys, but I remember running into his arms and hugging him, saying, ‘Daddy’s home.’ I didn’t care what toy he had ... he was home. That’s to me the essence of who I am.

“My dad, he and his siblings were put in an orphanage. He made something of himself. He started his own heating and air business. I’ve taken that same Midwestern,

hard-nosed approach to my quartet. We work very, very hard. When we are on the road, we are rehearsing, signing, lifting weights, cleaning the bus.”

### **An honored veteran**

The transition may have more to do with the departure than the arrivals. “Some people think change is good,” road manager and bass guitarist David Griffith says. “Sometimes, it is under the right circumstances. Change is part of life. God has seasons in our life. One season will come to an end, and a new season will open. You just keep going on.

“I put everything in me in all positions that I take care of. It helps keep everything strong for everybody else.”

Griffith is the only original group member remaining other than Haase. Founding member and baritone singer Doug Anderson left the group in July. “The change is only hard for me because of the attachment I have to the guy,” Haase points out. “Doug, I was extremely attached to him. I still am.

“Change is good because it motivates me. Change is hard because of the personal attachment, but change for me is a shot in the arm. I don’t shrink at a challenge. It fuels me. When things are smooth, I enjoy it and embrace it. Embrace the change, because it’s coming anyway. It can make me better or make me bitter. McGlamery and Anderson share a close friendship. “It wasn’t bad the first month,” McGlamery explains. “We were on vacation together, Doug and I were.



“It has been tough. I hated (that) Doug had to leave, but I understand why he had to do it. If it had to happen, I couldn’t be happier with who we got. I’ve been a fan of Dustin for a long time, of his singing and him as a person. He’s a great guy.”

McGlamery isn't Doyle's only fan. "I've had my eye on Dustin for some time," Haase says. "It's like basketball. You have to have talent to get on the court, but talent alone won't keep you on the court. I recognize his tal-



ent, but there's something about his body language and his spirit that I like. He's like my little brother.

"He looked like us. He wanted to be there. You could see that. As much as I wanted to be with the Cathedrals, he wanted to be with us. When I traveled with Squire (Parsons), I had a picture of the Cathedrals on my bunk and said, 'I want to be there.'"

Those factors resulted in Doyle being a target when Haase learned of Anderson's forthcoming departure. "When the change happened, we were on a cruise (in February), and Beyond the Ashes was with us," Haase remembers. "I confided in Anthony (the group owner/manager). The next week, Anthony called me and said, 'I think I'm going to go in a different direction, and you'd be doing me a big favor if you'd consider Dustin. And while you're at it, take a look at Tyler.' Wayne has been needing to come off the road for three years.

"God worked it all out. I asked Doug who he would like for his replacement, and he said Dustin Doyle."

### **Stamp of approval**

Doyle admits to feeling some uncertainty about succeeding Anderson. "I wasn't sure of how I would be received," Doyle admits. "I mean, it's Doug Anderson. He was here 13 years. That's been the hardest part. It would be different if I came in and they just got rid of

all of the songs that Doug did. When people are used to hearing these songs that Doug did, it's difficult for me, but everyone has been so welcoming and supportive. I haven't heard a negative comment from anyone. That's a testament to the kind of fandom that Ernie has and how genuinely they love Signature Sound. I'm crazy thankful to be a member of it."

A simple act by Anderson may have aided Doyle's acceptance. "At our fan retreat, Doug put his stamp of approval on Dustin as well," McGlamery notes. "That helped with our close-knit group of fans.

"There's no hard feelings at all. I'm happy for Doug, and it's a great opportunity for Dustin."

Haase adds, "It's been embraced. I have to give credit to Doug. Doug took ownership of that position. We handled it in the most Christlike way I've ever seen a change in a position. God is honoring that now."

Vestal may have as big of a challenge in stepping into Haun's on-stage role. "That's my dream teacher right there, if I could pick somebody to learn from," Vestal says. "His mannerisms musically, he would be who I would pick. I've been a Wayne fan as long as I have heard of him as a producer. It's been cool to become friends with Wayne, learn from him and have him open to random questions I've asked."

Haun – the co-founder of StowTown Records – has served as the group's pianist, but he will now travel less while still serving as the group's musical director. "Personnel is going to change anywhere," Haun points out. "That's with your job. That's your favorite sports team. You can't ever replace anyone. You have to take the gifts of the ones you've chosen and make them shine.

"One thing that Tyler will do that you never saw me do is a piano solo. Tyler is a real piano player, and I'm not. Tyler comes as a piano player. I use that instrument as a tool to arrange (songs). Before I knew it, I was playing every night.

"Dustin has a wide range. Although he grew up around this music, Dustin comes from music study. Dustin and Devin blend well together, and if they flip parts, no one in the audience knows unless they really, really (hear intricately). Dustin has a great ear."

Vestal adds, "Without a doubt, it's a dream gig. I would



watch them at Memorial Auditorium, I would tell my mom, 'if I could make it to that level ... that's what I want to aspire that to be.' Everybody could be a dream group for any given person, but this is the one I would have picked if I had my choice of making it."

Doyle admits to being encouraged by what he's already experienced as a part of the quartet. "I'm very satisfied with being here in this position," the 30-year-old Doyle shares. "The fulfillment comes at the end of the night when you think back on this lady sitting in the front row who you could tell who was going through something and watch a song minister to her. At the end of the day, if your heart is not on delivering a message to the people, you might as well go home. You're wasting your time and wasting everyone else's time. The fulfilling part is when you're watching people's lives changed and watching people get in a better mood. It's just crazy (witnessing the impact)."

McGlamery adds, "We all try to be pretty transparent. We're just real guys. We have bad days. We have good days. We do what we feel called to do, which is to encourage people and encourage the body of Christ."

### **Role reversal**

McGlamery has quickly transitioned from being one of the young guys to one of the veterans. "It does feel that way," McGlamery admits. "It makes me feel invested in this. I want us to win as the group on that stage. If that means that Dustin is singing 'Redemption Draweth Nigh' to take us home, I'm for it.

"I feel like one of the captains. I don't need to be the

one singing the solos. Someone else can do that. I don't mind."

Besides Haase, Griffith has been the mainstay. "When I decided to start the group, he was the first person I called," Haase remembers. "It was back to that kindred-spirit thing. I knew I needed that stability and a hard worker. I hired him to drive the bus. Then, he became the soundman. Then, I needed a bass guitar, and he learned it.

"We have such respect for him. He's a big brother to all of these guys. If things aren't going right on the road, they don't come to me. They go to David. They know David will get it fixed. He's always gentle, and he's always kind."

Vestal echoes those sentiments. "David can back (an equipment) trailer better than anybody," Vestal begins. "He keeps everybody focused on stage. There's just an energy he brings. It's little things that David constantly does. There's not a question that David can't answer,



not to mention being a great player. He's a man of many talents."

Griffith recalls the group's infant stages. "I have grown up – I don't want to say in the industry – but I've been involved with it since I was 14 years old, through my family and through other local groups," Griffith explains. "It's just a music that's always been in my heart.

"I always sang in local groups around Ohio, one of which was called Lighthouse. I was in that group for about 15 or 16 years, and (then) Doug was in it (with



me) the last four or five years. It was a different season approaching. At the same time it was closing down, Ernie was putting something together. I sang bass for Lighthouse for 22 years. I gave all that up to drive the bus for Ernie. It was (for) the love of the music. I wanted to be a part of it. In a regional group, you can only push so far. I just felt I had done as much as I could in that realm. Who knew that it was going to take off the way that it did.”

The group’s rise was a bit of a blur. “In the beginning, everything was happening so fast,” Griffith points out. “You almost couldn’t keep up. You just had to ride. It was a little overwhelming at times. Ernie, being the person he is and the manager that he is, he knew how to balance everything out and keep everything under control.

“It’s been an awesome ride.”

It’s a ride that’s still rolling along. “I have everything invested in this,” Griffith notes. “It’s my life. I came into it trusting Ernie 100 percent. With the positions and things I have done since I was just the driver, I’ve invested a lot more. I play bass for the group now. I always manage all of our product. I oversee everything on the road (also serving as the product manager).”

### What’s new?

The group released *Happy People* in May, and then, a deluxe edition was released in October that contains four new songs and Doyle’s vocals replacing Anderson on four of the songs. “One thing I have loved about being on the road is that I’ve watched it, and all of those decisions you make in the studio ... is this in the right

key? Is it too long? Did we stop short? ... you question it,” Haun says. “But when it hits and you know you made the right decision, it’s been fun to see.”

The group has also released *Inspiration of Broadway* in May, and they began a Broadway tour in September.

“The one thing they love to do is they love to sing,” Haun explains. “They love to uplift the Lord. Obvi-



ously, when we are in places like NQC (the National Quartet Convention) or at a church, it’s a Southern Gospel thing. That’s what we do. That’s our main gig.

“Some of the changes that have come along are the opportunities they have gotten to sing to other audiences. We were just invited to do the Broadway tour. You’re singing to a much larger crowd. You’re singing to Christians, non-Christians, Jews. One thing those promoters are telling us is that they allow us to sing a Gospel song. If you’ve come to a Broadway show, you’re going to leave knowing it’s a Gospel group that loves God.”

That style has been a welcome addition for Harkey, who has been a part of the group for three years. “I was trained in opera and that style of singing in college, so I feel at home doing it,” the 35-year-old Harkey points out. “It has allowed us to go in venues that would not have Southern Gospel groups. It’s allowed that door to be open so that we can spread the good news to people who would otherwise not allow us.”

### Keeping with tradition

The European door is the opening that’s currently awaiting the group. After the group concludes that leg of its Christmas tour, it will have just one more date

before the guys delve into their December rituals.

“It’s hunting season for me,” McGlamery notes. Vestal adds, “We all go see Christmas lights every Christmas Eve. There’s a place called Tanglewood (Park, in Clemmons, N.C.). We do things like that. We open one Christmas present on Christmas Eve. It’s typical things ... watching Christmas movies, having music



play throughout the house.”

Haun has a different tradition on Christmas Eve. “I usually shop on Christmas Eve,” Haun admits. “That’s the only time.

“We’re doing the pajama thing. Everybody wears the same pajamas, the flannels.”

Family is the common theme around Christmas for the group members. “Ever since we were kids, we’d make sure we do Christmas together,” McGlamery says of his family. “It’s kind of boring, but it’s what we do.”

Griffith adds, “It’s family time. That’s the most important. My wife (Karen) texted me (on Oct. 1) and said, ‘you know that in five weeks, our trees go up.’ My wife loves decorating. By the time she’s done with the house, it’s very homey. The most important thing about Christmas is just being with family and celebrating the moment. I’m sure everybody is like that.”

Fatherhood has left Doyle with a different perspective on Christmas. “As far as Christmas traditions, it’s just specific time with family,” Doyle explains. “All of my family’s (gatherings) are pre-Christmas up until Christmas. My wife’s family (gathering) is always around Christmas. It works out perfectly, but there’s no crazy traditions of, ‘oh, we have to do this again this year.’

That time of the year is all about family.

“I get very emotional. I get so nostalgic about past Christmases. The Christmas message – since I’ve become a father – has hit me much differently. There’s a song by Mercy Me on their Christmas album, ‘Joseph’s Lullaby.’ It’s from Joseph’s perspective. It hit me in



such a way ... God leaving heaven and coming down to do everything He did. That part of the Christmas message ... the idea that Jesus did that just because He loved us ... He would rather die than spend eternity apart from us. The way that started so humbly with a baby in a manger, that hits me much harder since I’ve become a father.”



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## *“Can You Handle It”*

**I Hope You Have a Mary Christmas**

By David Staton

You probably think I'm one of those people on social media who didn't do well in grammar and English class. You know the ones who never know which word to use when choosing between to, too, and two. Well, I know the difference between "Mary" and "Merry," and this year, while I hope you do have a Merry Christmas, I would rather you have a Mary Christmas. Let me explain.

There are so many incredible things in the account of the first Christmas found in Luke 2. Every time I read it, something new will always overwhelm me.

Every great story has the following elements; who, what, when, where, how, and why. From Mary's perspective, these were all answered through ancient prophecy and also by the Angel Gabriel.

### The First Christmas

Although the scriptures foretold that the Messiah would come, no one knew when. Then an angel came and that

prophecy began to unfold. Let's look at the main points that were announced on that first Christmas.

#### WHO:

"You will call His name, Jesus!" He is the focal point of this time of giving. We give and live because God gave His Son. You cannot look at this from Mary's perspective without realizing that God chose her to know when and how He would come to earth. What an incredible thing to be told that you would play a part in God's plan to save the world.

#### WHAT

The event and prophecy that would forever change the world was about to happen. The Messiah would come to earth through Mary.

#### WHEN

Child bearing has always taken about 40 weeks, so although Mary did not know the exact day, she knew that there would be labor pains and physical signs that would

let her know when Jesus would arrive.

#### WHERE

Although prophecy had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, Mary had to be more than overwhelmed that God would become flesh through her. Can you imagine her thoughts and feelings? She even asked the Angel why God would choose her. She obviously felt unworthy to be chosen, but the Angel said that she had found favor with God.

#### HOW

Jesus would defy the very nature He created by being conceived miraculously. The first time He came was absolutely, undeniably, marvelously, miraculously.

#### WHY

When I work and help disciple believers, I stress the importance of knowing more than just the talking points. It's not enough to tell someone that God loves them and that He sent His Son. You have to tell them why He came, suffered and ultimately laid His life down for us. The WHY is the Gospel. The Angel said, "He will save His people from their sin." That is WHY He came. That is WHY we celebrate Christmas!

### Christmas 2015

Here we are at Christmas 2015 and the account of the first Christmas still overwhelms us. However, since that first Christmas when the Messiah came to us the first time, we have been given another exciting promise. As Jesus ascended into heaven, fulfilling God's plan, we were told that in the same way He ascended, He would return again. If you have read the prophecies of His second coming and watch world events, this Christmas may take on a whole new meaning.

#### WHO

Christmas is still about Jesus, the promised Messiah coming to earth! But I believe in - and certainly all signs point to - the second return of Jesus. If you have received Christ, you have been adopted into the family of God. That means that you are just as much family to God as Mary, the mother of Jesus. Let that soak in for a moment.

#### WHAT

The birth of Christ set God's redemption plan into motion. The second coming of Christ will bring it all together as we live and reign with Him forever! We not

only celebrate the birth of Jesus, we look for His return any day!

#### WHEN

Mary did not know the exact day, but she was given signs leading up to His birth. Today, our headlines and works events are aligning with biblical prophecy, letting us know that the same Jesus that was born in Bethlehem, died and rose again is about to return in all of His glory!

#### WHERE

Until He returns, Jesus wants to make your heart His home. Every part of the Christmas story happened so that YOU could be adopted into the family of God. My prayer is that the Messiah is more than the Baby we see in movies and nativity decorations. I hope that He has moved from the manger, to the cross, out of the tomb and into your heart.

#### HOW

We know how Jesus came the first time, but let's look at how He will return the second time. The bible says that He will return in the clouds, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and every eye will see Him. He will put one foot on the land and one foot on the sea and declare that time will be no more.

#### WHY

From the very first Christmas to the one we are about to celebrate, God's plan has never changed. As the Angel said, "He will save His people from their sins." That is why there is a Christmas.

I hope that as you'll look at Christmas through Mary's eyes and realize that if you have heard the Christmas story and surrendered your life to Him, then you have found favor with God! I hope you have a Mary Christmas!



WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM!



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**CHRISTMAS**  
THIS SEASON

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*Merry  
Christmas*

from **THE GUARDIANS**

# YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

## Josh Allen of the Allen Family

BY ERIN STEVENS

A word from the writer...

Christmas time is here at last, folks. Well...it almost is! What better way to ring in the holidays than to hop on The Allen Family bus for a little while to see how this full-time family of eight celebrates the most wonderful time of the year? We're about to get an inside perspective from Todd and Michelle's son, Josh. It's taken schedules a few months to sync, but it finally worked out to sit down with Josh this month to talk about road life and all the happenings happening in his busy life. Let's get started!

*Erin: For those that keep up with you on Facebook and Instagram, it's widely known that in your spare time you are pursuing an acting career. What's the story behind how you got started, and what doors has the Lord been opening for you?*

Josh: I've enjoyed acting ever since I was little. My older brother, Caleb, and I would often spend hours making home movies together. Since we sang on stage all the time, things like expression, improvisation, and timing came naturally to us. Many years later, Caleb started working on Christian films, and through him I made several connections in the industry. However, I didn't instantly choose to become an actor. Many things contributed to my decision. I visited a Christian film festival in San Antonio, TX, acted in short films made by friends, and even worked as an art volunteer on a Christian film called *Polycarp*, (which is a fabulous film by the way), before I decided that I wanted to become an actor in Christian films. Last year I was offered a role in my first full-length film called *Providence*, which will be coming to select AMC theaters this February. I can't express how blessed I am. God is truly an

awesome God! I have resolved to praise Him whether or not I'm ever offered another role again. I ultimately want Him to speak through my portrayals and draw people unto Himself.

*Erin: Most bizarre road story right off the top of your head...and...GO!*

Josh: Wow! So many stories flooded into my head at once. Probably the craziest one I can think of is when



the transmission in our bus quit working. With no warning the transmission died as we were traveling to Odessa, Texas. We were told it would take about three weeks to fix it. So, for three weeks we traveled from West Texas to South Florida, all in a van and trailer we'd borrowed from the church in Odessa. It was one of the wildest adventures we had ever had as a family, but God provided for and protected us all along the way!



*Erin: In the past year, with your sister, Gabrielle, starting her new life out West with her husband, how did roles on and off stage begin to grow and change?*

Josh: Gabrielle was a powerful alto, and a very big part of our concerts. When she got married, my other two sisters, Danielle and Abigail, had to really step up, much like me and my brother, Jared, did when Caleb got married. The result was a much fuller sound that I personally think will continue to get stronger. Off the stage, we still miss both Caleb and Gabrielle. We see them occasionally, and they still join us for concerts every now and again. Obviously, we'd like them and their families to somehow be able to travel with us full-time again, but we are happy knowing that they are serving God where they are. And who knows what He has in store for the Allen Family down the road...

*Erin: The Christmas season has officially settled upon us once again. What does a typical, family Christmas look like on the Allen bus?*

Josh: Our family loves Christmas and we always get in the spirit early by practicing for our annual Christmas tour. We like to decorate as soon as possible, and yes, you can decorate for Christmas on a bus. There are lights hanging everywhere, a small decorated tree, and always Christmas treats coming out of the oven!

*Erin: What is your absolute favorite holiday treat to*

*partake of during December?*

Josh: Fudge! Fudge! Fudge! Chocolate is a given, but my favorite is my mom's butterscotch fudge!

*Erin: What passage of Scripture has been inspiring you as of late in your daily walk with the Lord?*

Josh: 1 Corinthians 13 is a passage that continually speaks to me. It is of course known as, "The Love Chapter." The more I study it, the more I seem to get out of it. In the chapter, The apostle Paul presents us with so many wonderful insights on love, and specifically how we as Christians are supposed to love. As a whole, the passage never ceases to inspire, comfort, fascinate, and challenge me. I've studied the passage in depth and found so many incredible things that I never would have seen at first. But even simply reading what love does and does not do reveals so much of how we ought to love one another, and how we are loved by God!

*Erin: Share with the readers some of the highlights from your last missions trip to Uganda.*

Josh: God did so many wonderful things during our last trip to Uganda. Our construction team was able to complete several projects on our orphanage property to help make it self-sustaining. Our medical team performed over 90 surgeries in five days. But best of all, many people gave their lives to Jesus through the preaching of the Word. A lot of what we did while we were there was preparing for our first missionaries, who will be moving to Uganda and working through our ministry this coming January. They will be helping run our orphanage by teaching the children and continuing the various building projects. We would appreciate everyone's prayers as we do God's work in Uganda.

*Erin: Where does Josh Allen see himself in 10 years?*

Josh: To be honest, I don't know. Not to say that I don't have goals of where I would like to be in 10 years, because I do. But in my 20 short years of living on planet Earth, even I've learned that God's plans are often different from our own. The closer we follow Him, the easier it is to see where He's leading us. In 10 years, I want to be where He has led me. So for me, the only way I can know His 10-year goal for my life is to follow Him closely day by day.

*Erin: At this point in the year, when the hustle and bustle is at an all time high, give us an example of how you might share the love of Christ with those you come in contact with?*

Josh: On the first Christmas the angels sang out, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!” We, as God’s children, have that peace. The world on the other hand, doesn’t know God, so its inhabitants do not have this peace, and therefore no real reason for joy. At this time of year when I am the happiest, it’s easy to look around and see those who are not. Maybe it’s a waitress at a restaurant, or a cashier at a store. Whoever they may be, I like to encourage them and let them know that Jesus loves them. They may give me plenty of time to talk to them after that, or they may not. But that little bit of salt may be enough to draw them to the water of life. During this Christmas season, I encourage everyone to share the Good News with a heart that needs the Prince of Peace.

Closing words from the writer...

It seems as though at this time of year, people are more open to hearing about Baby Jesus, the truths beyond our beloved Christmas story, and why we, as followers of Christ, cannot contain the heavenly joy that fills our hearts. Years ago, my parents wrote a Christmas song called “The Whole World Speaks His Name.” People who would normally take the Lord’s name in vain, are instead, during the month of December, sending Christ-

mas cards saying the very words Josh just quoted for us—“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!” Those around you may not even realize that our Savior’s name flows effortlessly off their tongues during these 25 days. Let’s take advantage of the time we’re given, and let the whole world know more about our mighty King of Kings!

Thanks for stopping by, Josh, I know the readers have enjoyed hearing from you today. And from your Younger Perspective writer, Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Until next year, Scoops fans...

*And that’s my take on it.*

\*Connect with Erin, your Younger Perspective writer, on  
Twitter: @photosforkeeps & Instagram: @photos\_for\_keeps.

Who would you like to see her interview next?\*

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## WISDOM FROM WELLS

by Dusty Wells

### **Guard Your Heart, Protect The Gift**

One of my greatest joys in my life is sharing my heart and my story of God's incredible relentless love and amazing grace. I love being able to sit down with people from all walks of life and conversing about God's and all He does for us.

It seems like in so many of these conversations, at some point in time, we will always end up talking about where we are on this journey of life, how we got there, where we are going or where we want to go or end up at...we talk about our struggles, issues, defeats...and then we talk about victories and the joys on the journey. We cover all kinds of topics and explore endless subjects. Always a bevy of emotions and usually there is great encouragement, challenge and deep heart-to-heart talks. And in all of it, I can honestly stand strong and say I absolutely love it, the good and the bad.

Dearly-loved Dottie Rambo would daily tell me for years

and years and years, "Darlin' Dusty, always guard your heart and protect the gift...you will pay a dear price for the anointing." She had been told that as a young child by her mama, when her own gift was first being brought forth and Dottie took these words to heart and she daily endeavored to live them out. I assure you, I have strived to do the same, as I have gotten older and began to speak more and more into people's lives and ministries.

Each and every one of us has amazing gifts and talents, and so to me, I always try to challenge others to "guard your heart and protect the gift". A few days ago after I had spoken at a songwriters' retreat, I had several amazing individuals come up to me and say, "Tell me what that really means". I have used these words and this saying for years, and all of a sudden, I had to really dig deep to remind myself and these precious ones of what I feel like this means. So here are my thoughts...

To me, and this is just my own personal belief, "guarding our heart and protecting the gift", simply means you

daily take a look at the condition of your heart and your attitude and you ask God to help you with good and Godly choices to guard it against anything that could cause you to stray, or allow anything into your heart that could cause distractions or destruction for you. Adding into the next part of “protecting the gift”, to me, you are doing just what it says. You do everything in your power while asking God to help you in protecting the amazing gift that He has so graciously entrusted YOU - yes YOU - with. That means you steward greatly over the gift. You don’t allow anyone to abuse the gift that you have been given. You lovingly nurture it and you daily hold it close. You don’t allow anyone to manipulate or control it, but you hold it close, and of course you always listen for His voice and hold onto His strong arms while keeping that gift close to your heart.

So my friends, no matter what gifts you have - and again, we all have them - always strive to live daily “guarding your heart and protecting the gift”. When you make the choice to strive to live those words out, it will help change your life for the better. You have been entrusted with so much, and there is so much ahead for each of you. Keep listening close...



A promotional graphic for a Christmas compilation. It features three people: a man on the left playing a saxophone, a woman in the center, and a man on the right. The background is a brick wall with greenery. Text includes "RPM Compilation # 18" and "Producer: Ricky Atkinson" at the top. Below that is "CHRONICLEGOSPELGROUP.COM". A red banner across the middle says "Merry Christmas to you all, Jesus truly is the Reason for the Season!". Below the banner, the word "CHRONICLE" is written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath that, another red banner says "Thanks DJ's for Playing and Charting our radio single!". At the bottom, the title "God Only Cries" is written in large, red, cursive font. On the right side, there are icons for a CD, Facebook, and Twitter. A QR code is in the bottom left corner.

# Featured Groups for December

Support Southern Gospel music and support these groups the next time they're in your area.

**Alex Inman**

<http://www.alexinmanmusic.com>

**Ascension Quartet**

<http://www.theascensionqt.com>

**Appointed Quartet**

<http://www.appointedqt.com>

**The Bells**

<http://www.bellsingers.com>

**Bev McCann and Friends**

<http://www.bevmccann.com>

**Blackwood Brothers Quartet**

<http://www.blackwoodbrothers.com>

**Bradford Ministries**

<http://www.facebook.com/bradfordministries1>

**The Bridgemans**

<http://www.thebridgemans.com>

**Bros4**

<http://www.bros4.net>

**The Bunkleys**

<http://www.thebunkleys.com>

**Cheyenne McIlvain**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/cmministries>

**Christy Sutherland**

<http://www.christysutherland.net>

**Clear Vision Quartet**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/clearvisionquartet>

**Collisons**

<http://www.collisontrio.com>

**Cross Pointe**

<http://www.crosspointemusic.com>

**Delivered**

<http://www.we-are-delivered.com>

**Divine Mercy**

<http://www.divinemercysingers.com>

**Eventide**

<http://www.eventidemusic.com>

**4 His Praise Trio**

<http://www.4hispraisetrio.org>

**Full Life Trio**

<http://www.fulllifetrio.com>

**Glad Heart**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/gladheart.com>

**Global Promo**

<http://www.globalpromo.org>

**The Goodin Family**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/thegoodinfamily>

**Gospel Harts**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/gospelharts>

**Gospel Messengers**

<http://www.gospelemessengersministry.org>

**The Helmsmen**

<http://www.thenewhelmsmen.com>

**The Heritage Quartet**

<http://www.theheritagequartet.com>

**The Inmans**

<http://www.theinmans.com>

**Jeff Steinberg Ministry Team**

<http://www.tinygiant.com>

**Jimmy Howson**

<http://www.jimmyhowsonmusic.com>

**Jim Sheldon**

<http://www.jimsheldonmusic.com>

**John & Dody Martin**

<http://www.martinministries.org>

**Ken Hornsby**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/kenhornsbymusicministry>

**Living Fountains**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/livingfountains>

**Lumber River Quartet**

<http://www.lumberriverministries.com>

**Mark Dubbeld Family**

<http://www.mjdubbeld.com>

**Masters City Trio**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/masterscitytrio>

**The Masters Men + 1**

<http://www.mastersmenquartet.com>

**Masters Promise**

<http://www.masterspromise.com>

**Matt Tollison Music**

<http://www.matttollison.com>

**Mercy River Quartet**

<http://www.mercyriverqt.com>

**Midwest Gospel Music Association**

<http://www.midwestgospelmusic.com>

**Midwest Gospel Music Promotions**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/midwestgospelmusic>

**One Voice Country Gospel**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/onevoicegospelquartet>

**One Way Quartet**

<http://www.onewayquartet.org>

**Persuaded**

<http://youtube.com/user/PersuadedVideo>

**Pine Ridge Boys**

<http://www.pineridgeboys.com>

**The Representatives**

<http://www.therepresentativesquartet.net>

**Robert Blankenship**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/rblankenship>

**Sacred Harmony**

<http://www.sacredharmony1.com>

**Servants Call**

<http://www.servantscall.net>

**Siouxland Gospel Promotions**

<http://www.facebook.com/SiouxlandGospelPromotions>

**Southern Plainsmen Quartet**

[www.southernplainsmen.com](http://www.southernplainsmen.com)

**Southern Tradition**

<http://www.americanheritagemusic.com>

**South Star Entertainment**

<http://www.southstarlive.com>

**Steve Jones**

<http://www.stevejonesgospelmusicministry.com>

**Stephen Wood**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/stephenwoodministries>

**The Trio**

<http://www.sites.google.com/site/thetrio>

**Three Parts Grace**

<http://www.gospelgigs.com/threepartsgrace>

**Unity 4 Quartet**

<http://www.theunityfour.com>



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# Christmas Prayers

By Lorraine Walker



**Photo Courtesy of Randy Pertiet**

For a different look at Christmas, we asked artists what their prayer would be this Holy season. Here is what a few of them had to say:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for all You have done for us and for all You mean to us. Without You, we would have no hope; but because You sent Your Son, Jesus, as the perfect sacrifice for our transgressions, we can be reconciled to You. The Baby in the manger will soon come back as the conquering King to rule and reign over the whole world. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.” – Terry Blackwood, artist

“My Christmas prayer would be that the world would know Jesus in a personal way, that there would be no hungry people, no sickness and no dying. Also, that



this world would always be a happy place to live and raise our families. Sounds like Heaven!” –

Kelly Nelon Clark, The Nelons



“My Christmas wish is for people to stop including the wise men in the nativity. THEY WEREN'T THERE! Seriously, my prayer is for my kids to see the love of Christ in everything I do this season. That I can help

them realize the truest meaning of the season.”  
– Pat Barker, artist

“Funny you should write. Just a few days ago, I was digging out books to read about the stories behind Christmas carols in preparation for Christmas 2015. I came across a really old book of prayers by Peter Marshall who was Chaplain of the U.S. Senate from 1947 until his death in

1949 This is Peter Marshall’s prayer for world peace: ‘We pray for our troubled world. Impress upon the minds and hearts of our leaders that until we are at peace with Thee, we can be at peace with no one else, that freedom can exist nowhere unless it exists everywhere, that the strength of this nation does not lie in armies or navies but in the integrity of her people, that peace is born out of righteousness and nothing else, that the trouble with our world is still people, that peace is not possible until men’s hearts, our hearts, and the direction of our wills, are changed. Make us willing to be changed, whatever the cost to our self-sufficiency, whatever the price to our insistence on having our own way.’ Amen. The world events of November 2015 are nothing new to God. Human beings still suffer from the same sin-sickness that began with the first man and woman. Hosanna; save us now, Lord. We look for

the return of the Prince of Peace.” – Larry Ford [Editor’s notes: The Prayers of Peter Marshall by Catherine Marshall; Hardcover, Published January 1st 1954 by McGraw-Hill Book Company, In; original title The Prayers of Peter Marshall; ISBN 00070405980 (ISBN 13: 9780070405981)]

“Dear God, thanks for sending Your Son to earth as a baby so many years ago. Thank You that He paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross and that He rose again proving that death was defeated. Thanks for family and friends during the time we celebrate His birth and for our freedom to worship.” – Robert York of SGN Scoops



“My prayer is that we would always remember the true reason for the Christmas season. It’s so easy to be consumed with all of the commercialism, the store sales, the gift giving.

Don’t get me wrong; I enjoy all that goes with the season but may we not forget JESUS!” – Mike LeFevre, The LeFevre Quartet



“My Christmas prayers, and Christmas wishes, have changed many times over the years. As a child, of course my wishes and prayers were for something special under the tree. Then, in later years, as a young father, my Christmas wishes and prayers all became about my children;

their well being, their aspirations, their dreams and hopes. Now many years later, they are all grown and gone. I sit here on Thanksgiving evening 2015, looking ahead to the Christmas season. At this time in life, my Christmas wishes and Christmas prayers are solely about the hurting people around me. The older I get, the more people around me, including my loved ones and family, are dealing with spiritual struggles, physical health issues, emotional problems, financial struggles, and even death. My prayers and wishes this Christmas are for those who need help that only the Lord can

give.” – Ricky Atkinson of Ricky Atkinson and Compassion.



“My Christmas prayer for the season would be for a time of peace around our world and nation. I am a bit of a news junkie and some-

times I just sigh in disbelief at the things going on in our country. I would pray for peace among the different beliefs and races. I would pray for peace and love in broken families. I would ask God to give us a glimpse of His love for us, so that we would remember His love for us is not contingent on how we feel about ourselves. He loves us anyway! Merry Christmas everyone!” – Mark Bishop, artist, Forget The Sea

“My Christmas wish this year is that I will be able to put a smile on at least one person’s face. I have really caught the holiday *bug* and the Christmas spirit this year, doing more decorating of my small residence than usual and going all-out on gifts. I even bought a random ladies purchase at the dollar store. I really can’t say why or how I caught it, but this season has already been fun and if somebody gets a smile out of something I do this year, that’ll be worth it for me!” – Justin McLeod, blogger, writer for SGN Scoops



“This holiday season I think of the song I just released on my new Christmas CD: ‘Let There Be Peace on Earth.’ While I realize that complete peace is not possible as we enter the last days, I pray that people would find true peace in Jesus Christ, the One who

came to bring peace, not as the world gives, but rather a peace that surpasses our own understanding and brings comfort to a lost, hurting world. (John 14:27)” – Sherry Anne, soloist, writer for SGN Scoops



“It may sound cliché but I wish what the multitude of angels proclaimed that first Christmas night: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will

toward man.” – Arthur Rice, Kingdom Heirs



“My wish for this Christmas is that the Church will put off its despondency and reflect Christ to an increasingly desperate world. It’s time for Christians to unite. All Christians,

not just the Baptists or the Methodists, the Lutherans or Presbyterians, but *everyone* who is called by the name *Christian*. We have allowed worldly attitudes and ideas to separate and segregate the Church and it has taken a toll. There’s no better time for the Church to arise and boldly proclaim ‘I Am A Christian’ than right here at Christmas!” – John Rulapaugh, Freedom Quartet

“My Christmas Prayer would be that people would begin to see themselves as Christ sees them; to know that Jesus IS the Hope of the world. ‘Christ in us - the Hope of Glory.’ (Col. 1:27)” – Selena Day, motivational speaker, writer at SGN Scoops



“Our prayer is that for the next year it wouldn’t take a holiday to remind us that no day is guaranteed, life is short and loved ones are to be cherished.” -- Bryan and Y Hutson, Rescue Me Ministries



“The truth of the Christmas story is that on that long ago night, a Savior was born to save the world from their sins! This message of salvation and forgiveness, no matter who we are or how far in sin we’ve gone, is timeless in its beauty! But my Christmas Prayer for you this year, is that you will

fully realize in the midst of your daily struggle, in your time of grief, when feeling hurt or betrayed, while experiencing sheer terror because you don’t know what tomorrow holds and you simply don’t know what to do....you have a *Hope!* That beautiful, starry, Christmas night, in the form of a tiny baby Boy named Jesus... *Hope* was born! I don’t know where you are in your life right now, you may have run out of answers, but I pray that you’ll realize that when you’re right in the *middle* of hopelessness...that’s when *real Hope* is the closest to you. What a wonderful gift to us all, I pray you will unwrap yours this Christmas! Merry Christmas!” -- Sylvia M. Green, The Bradys



(Pictured: Bill & Gloria Gaither with their HOMECOMING Friends: Christmas Favorites. Celebrate the Christmas season with Bill and Gloria Gaither and the Homecoming family of artists! This timeless collection

includes 12 seasonal favorites performed by the Gaither Vocal Band, Jake Hess, David Phelps, Terry Blackwood, Kelly Nelon Clark, Larry Ford, Buddy Greene, the Christ Church Choir and more.)



“Our Christmas Prayer is that we be a light in a dark world and help those in need this season, whether it be by helping the poor, comforting the widows, or sharing the greatest Gift of all: Jesus!” -- Amber Eppinette, 11<sup>th</sup> Hour

*A silent night, A star above,  
A blessed gift of hope and love.  
A Blessed Christmas to you!*

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# Fast Now to Feast Smarter over the Holidays



By Laurette Willis, CHC

*“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly”* (Matthew 6:17-18)

While many look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas with joyful anticipation, others fear it will be a time when they will gain weight; unable to control the amount of holiday foods they eat. I was one of those people who had no control. Fasting helped me.

One of the most powerful tools I’ve found to train the flesh is fasting. For many years I would not fast. I was convinced I could not fast. The idea of going without food for even one day was beyond my grasp. Part of the reason I wasn’t obedient to Jesus’ words “And *when* you fast...” was because I was afraid I couldn’t do it. Yet, if the Lord excluded me from fasting, He would have said, “And *if* you fast...”

There are over 80 references to fasting in the Bible. It appears 30 more times than the word “food.” Fasting is a time of spiritual discipline during which you deny the body’s physical desire for food in order to devote yourself to prayer and communion with the Lord.

There are examples in the Bible of fasts lasting one day, three days, seven days, ten days, 21 days and 40 days.

Cautionary note: Anyone desiring to go on a fast for longer than three days would be wise to consult first with their healthcare provider. Those taking medication should see their physician before starting a fast. Please do not fast if you are pregnant or lactating. Toxins are

eliminated during fasts, and we don’t want a baby ingesting toxins into his or her little body.

## **Fasting is the Bondage Breaker!**

- To be freed from bondage and strongholds (physical, emotional, mental)
- To be freed from lusts of the flesh (greed, gluttony, covetousness, perversion)
- For clearer guidance and direction from the Lord on a specific issue
- During a season of intercession for others
- To strengthen your relationship with God
- To debilitate the power of the enemy against you
- To overcome temptation, confusion and frustration
- For physical cleansing and healing
- When seeking new focus and direction for your life from God
- To walk in greater strength and victory in every area of your life

I have found fasting to be a vital part of overcoming food addictions (sugar, caffeine, and overeating); destroying mental strongholds (negative patterns of thought); defeating the lusts of the flesh; and receiving clear direction from God when unsure what path to take.

Fasting doesn’t *win points* with God or enable Him to hear you any better. It does quiet your flesh and mind to help you hear from God more clearly. If your carnal nature has been in control, fasting will enable

your spirit (the real you) to gain the upper hand—if you fast as unto the Lord.

Fasting without prayer yields limited results beyond the loss of a few pounds which are quickly gained back when the fast is over. Fasting *with* prayer breaks strongholds at the root of overeating, depression, or whatever bondage is holding you back.

### **Physical Benefits of Fasting**

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that can yield profoundly positive physical results.

1. **Healthful Weight Loss** – In addition to losing several pounds, fasting will help you train your tastes toward more healthful foods.
2. **Fasting promotes the secretion of Human Growth Hormone** – HGH is important for burning fat. Fasting can also promote muscle building, while decreasing insulin levels. Fasting can actually transform your body into an effective fat burning machine.
3. **Fasting helps normalize insulin sensitivity**- When your body gets too many carbohydrates and sugar, it can become insulin resistant, which will then lead the way to a host of chronic diseases. It's important to help keep your body sensitive to insulin. Fasting is an effective way to do this. When insulin sensitivity is up, you can better prevent diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart disease.
4. **Fasting can normalize hunger hormone levels (ghrelin)** - Ghrelin helps your body know that it is hungry. When you fast, the ghrelin levels in your body normalize, so it actually becomes more accurate in telling you if you should really should eat or not.
5. **Fasting can slow the aging process** – Fasting can cause the body to produce more Human Growth Hormone. HGH is closely connected to the aging process. When the body produces less HGH, it tends to age faster. We can therefore conclude that fasting can help the body age more slowly.

### **How to Fast**

Plan ahead of time when you will fast. Begin by fasting one meal or for one day and devoting the time to prayer instead of a meal. When I fast, I like to have a particular prayer subject or reason why I'm fasting. During meal times instead of eating I devote that time to praise, prayer and reading the Word.

I recommend beginning a fast on the weekend or time when you can be at home without the everyday

stresses of the workplace. If you work at home, pick a time when you know you could rest if you needed to do so.

For those new to fasting, I recommend a fruit and vegetable juice fast instead of a water-only fast. Another option is what many call a “Daniel Fast.” The concept of the Daniel Fast comes from Daniel 1:8-14 when Daniel and his friends decided not to defile themselves with the royal food and drink of the Babylonians.

Daniel said, “*‘Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.’ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.*”

This type of fast means you eat only vegetables and fruits, abstaining from all meat and “pleasant bread” (breads and sweets).

### **Facing the Holidays without Fear**

A fast is a great way to overcome our flesh's cravings for heavier, processed fare. Your digestive system has had a cleansing, so you will find the taste and fragrance of natural foods more pleasing.

You can actually train yourself to desire purer foods this way. Fasting is how God broke my addictions to sugar and caffeine. I remember when I could not have imagined being able to pass by a sugary dessert without having one—or two! Now by the grace of God and the strength He's given me through prayer and fasting, I'm able to say, “No, thank you.”

I have also seen bondages will power could not break absolutely shattered and prayers answered during times of prayer and fasting.

Are you ready for a breakthrough in some area of your life – or in many areas of your life? Fasting IS the bondage breaker!

*“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness,  
To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free,  
And that you break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6)*

*Christian Fitness Expert and Certified Health Coach Laurette Willis is the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, Training, and Classes by Certified PraiseMoves Instructors on six continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>). ©2014*

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*Tribute to Lou Wills Hildreth:*  
Her Creed, Conviction and Confidence

By Sandi Duncan Clark

*Editor's Note: In 2012, we celebrated Lou Wills Hildreth's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Southern Gospel Music. This tribute to "Ms. Lou" was written by Sandi Duncan Clark and we have reprinted it below. We hope you enjoy this recounting of an extraordinary life as we say farewell to Lou and her monthly columns in SGN Scoops. She is retiring, but not completely, as she promises to pop in every now and again. Ms. Lou, the door is always open!*

This year, 2012, we celebrate with Mrs. Lou Wills Hildreth, her 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Southern Gospel Music. Seventy-five years of dedication and commitment to Southern Gospel music and the industry. "Ms. Lou," as she is affectionately known, began her career at the early age of seven with her family, The Wills Family, and she is one of the Southern Gospel Music industry's best-loved champions.

“I grew up in Texas and my family was always a musical family. I was singing in church when I was seven,” Lou shared. “My Daddy’s first cousin was Bob Wills and our family was very proud of him and his band, The Texas Playboys. The opportunity was there for us to sing other styles of music, however from the beginning, God had called my family to sing Gospel music and we were dedicated to that.”

“My Dad, Pop Wills, with my older sister Rene, my brothers Bill, Calvin and Bob as well as myself, sang as the Wills Family Quartet. For a number of years we were known as Texas’ First Family of Gospel Music,” Lou said as she fondly recalled those years with her family.



Over the years, Lou’s triumphs have been many, but most significant are her husband, Howard, her son, David, daughter, Kathryn, her son-in-law Michael, and her four grandchildren. “When we were singing as the Wills Family, family was important and all the kids rode the bus with the quartet when we filled our dates.

That love and blessing of family has been with all of us Wills children, and I’m so proud of my own family. I am blessed with the most outstanding husband in the world. I love working in the industry and traveling with Howard!”

I first met Lou and Howard Hildreth in Nashville, Tennessee at the National Quartet Convention. I had been in awe of her work and I had spoken with her by phone, yet we had never met and I so looked forward to meeting one of my heroes. Lou is one of my role models and I was thrilled to be finally in her company discussing

our mutual love; Southern Gospel Music and its people.

I met Lou through our mutual friends, Donna Rogers and Paul Boden. Paul was owner of radio station KNEA in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and also the owner and Editor of U S GOSPEL NEWS. He and Donna operated both businesses and knew Lou and Howard Hildreth from all their years singing together and working together in the mid-south.



Lou and Howard Hildreth and Paul Boden and his friend, Larry Wright attended the grand opening of the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Dollywood, in April of 1999 as part of media covering the event. The entire day was filled with the dedication, lots of ceremony, and then lots of music, food, visiting and fun. Lou recalls, “We were sitting in the area for media and Paul leaned over and asked if I’d be interested in contributing to U.S. GOSPEL NEWS. I was honored to be asked, and Paul, Donna and you and I all worked together to further the Gospel and Gospel music.”

I shared a story with Lou, and she urged me to share it in our story, so here we are! Dolly Parton sang and spoke at the ceremony, and mingled with the many VIPs and fans in attendance. Paul always traveled with his singing buddy Larry Wright, and one of the first stories they told Donna and me when they came home from the trip, was about meeting Dolly Parton. Paul noted that Larry certainly was taken with meeting and being around Dolly, and Larry came back with, “I just loved to hear her laugh, and all that...and by the way, I didn’t see you running away!”

We chuckled together as Lou said, “Sandi, I didn’t see

Howard running away either...he was probably right there with our buddies, Paul and Larry!”

Lou recalled “I was pleased to honor Paul with the Lou Hildreth Award in 2006, just prior to his passing away. You accepted that award for him, Sandi, since he was in the hospital in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He was a dear friend to both of us.”

Lou Hildreth is everyone’s friend and cheerleader. She never meets a stranger, and no one knows more about Southern Gospel music than Lou. From singing, to song writing and publishing, to recording both audio and video, Lou is experienced in every venue. She has earned that experience by working in each field, learning first hand, what works.

Lou got her basic training in the business with her family in Texas. She hosted the television program her family fostered, and along with her brother, Calvin, owned and operated Sword & Shield Recording Company. The Gatlin Brothers recorded their first albums with Lou and Calvin, as did Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys and Larry Ford of the Gaither Homecoming Series.

Every record she produced, every artist she mentored, every mile that she traveled to promote The Wills Family, or any of the other endeavors with which the Wills Family was involved, were all learning platforms for Lou to ply her trade and prepare for her role of leadership in the industry. One of Lou’s favorite Bible verses is 2 Timothy 1:7; “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Lou said, “That verse has always been an encouragement to me. I know that God is our help, and He wanted me to be strong in the power of His might in this work He has blessed me with.”

The Will’s Family TV show, *Wills Family Inspirational Time*, which she hosted, became a top priority for her. Lou knew that television would be the medium of the future to keep Gospel music alive and growing, and her intuitions proved correct. She also loved producing and

teaching the proper way to develop and record a great project at Sword & Shield Record Company. She said, “Calvin and I wanted everything that came from our studio to be top quality, and that’s what we worked on. When Howard and I moved to Nashville in the ‘60’s, Calvin took over the studio, and when Calvin passed away in 2002, his son Randy took over the studio and served as President of the Texas Gospel Music Hall Of Fame.”



Moving to Nashville was a family decision, Lou told us. “Howard sold his business and relocated it to Nashville, and the whole family moved. Kathryn, our daughter, went to work for Benson Music and our son, David, played bass guitar for the Stamps Quartet.”

“Helping people has always been my heart, and I felt the need and desire to start something that would not only book artists, but helped to mold their career and provide leadership training,” Lou disclosed. “I wrote about some of this in my book, *Deep Within My Heart*. My goal has always been to help others develop to their full potential. It’s not just booking, but knowing how to represent themselves on stage, in press releases, and in bio information to submit to music directors and pastors. I was able to form Nashville Gospel Talent, the first Gospel artists’ management company owned by a woman.”

She continued, “I worked with Bill Gaither and Joe Moscheo, and we merged Nashville Gospel Talent and New Direction Artists, and began booking Gary McSpadden and Steve Green, original members of the Gaither Vocal Band, along with Doug Oldham,” Lou stated. “The Gaither Vocal Band was already in great demand and my time was spent scheduling performances with the larger churches. Fay Shedd began working with us, and we changed the name to Artists Direction. When Howard and I moved back to Texas in 1988, Fay bought the agency. Fay and I are lifetime friends,” She finished.

Believing that the Southern Gospel Industry needed an organization to foster the growth of the Southern Gospel music genre, several leaders in the industry

formed the Southern Gospel Music Guild. Lou Hildreth is a founding member and continues to be involved in all aspects of the Guild. (Editor's Note: See Awards and recognitions later in this feature.)



Lou continues to post monthly updates in SGN-SCOOPS.com, our digital magazine. She talked about her journalist history. "In Nashville, I worked with J.G. Whitfield booking some of his artists, and he and Jerry Kirksey developed the SINGING NEWS, to keep fans up to date on concerts and all the happenings in Gospel Music. They wanted me to do an update each time they printed, so I began writing then. Over the years, I've submitted articles to various publications, and thoroughly enjoy working with our friends, Rob Patz and (Lorraine Walker), here at SCOOPS.

Over the years, many artists have received counseling and support from Lou Hildreth. "I believe that God has given me the gift of being a good communicator," she said. "Whether it's been by music, on television, public speaking, or face to face with someone, I've been able to communicate God and His love to people. I'm thankful for that. I've talked to some younger singers who are married and their spouses stay home. It's tough to be away from each other, but God has to be the center of everything they do; their home, their music, their worship, everything. I pray that sharing that helps them realize that they both are a part of the ministry. Loneliness is something we all deal with at one time or other and staying close in heart, prayer and the music ministry will help tremendously."

Through the years, Lou has held these things in mind, "We must be passionate about God and about what we do. We must be focused on the work, and not stop until

it is complete, as God leads, and the last thing; we must be obedient to the Holy Spirit in all we do. With those goals, how can we not succeed?"

Years ago when Lou was born into the family of A.B. and Leah Wills, with the leadership of godly parents, she began a journey that would touch and influence many lives. God gave her the personality and drive to pursue that journey with everything within her, and provided a helpmeet in Howard Hildreth. Lou has been a criterion for many of us in the Southern Gospel Music industry to hold for the Christian banner, and prove God to be all that He promised.

Another of Lou's life verses is Matthew 5:16; "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." A comment from Lou states, "I've prayed, 'Father I've started on this journey for You. Please allow me to finish well, for You and Your glory.'"

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Lou Hildreth has been recognized for her many contributions and years of service to Southern Gospel Music. While these awards are a wonderful way for her peers to honor her and the calling, which God has placed on her life, her comment is always "To God Be The Glory!" She feels humbled that God has allowed her the years, the health, and heart to serve the Savior whom she made Lord of her life many years ago as a child. Please join the staff of SGNSCOOPS.com digital magazine in honoring the testimony and integrity of Mrs. Lou Wills Hildreth and her 75 Years In Southern Gospel Music!





As the daughter of A. B. (Pop) Wills, Lou was a major part of The Wills Family, known as Texas' First Family of Gospel Music. She was inducted into The Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2004 Lou was awarded the first ever James Blackwood Award, and received an honorary Doctor of Sacred Music from Louisiana Baptist University.

The Lou Hildreth Award, recognizing excellence within the Gospel Music industry, was created and is presented annually at the Diamond Awards, by SGNSCOOPS.com, digital magazine.

In 2005, Lou Hildreth was inducted into the GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2007, Lou was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame at Dollywood, Sevierville, Tennessee.



In 2008, Lou was inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame, Dallas, Texas.

Beginning in the 1960s, Lou, along with The Wills Family, hosted a television program, "Wills Family Inspirational Time," featuring the Wills Family and the popular male quartet, Bob Wills and the Inspirationalists. The program was available in more than 50 major television markets and was one of the first of the Gospel syndications to tape in color.

Upon moving to Nashville, Tennessee with her husband Howard, in 1969, Lou Hildreth became the first woman to own a Gospel artist agency, Nashville Gospel Talent. Through this agency, she was involved in every facet of her artists' careers. Mark Lowry was one of the first art-

ists she signed to her Nashville Gospel Talent Agency.

In the '70's and '80's, Lou hosted a daily TV show in Nashville, Tennessee, which was nominated for multiple Dove Awards. She also hosted TV specials for Family Friendly Entertainment Network.

In the early '90's, Lou was asked by Bill and Gloria Gaither, to join the Gaither Homecoming Choir and participate in the taping of the Gaither Homecoming Videos. She still is a prominent participant in this amazing video ministry.

Lou Hildreth has more than 20 years of service on the Gospel Music Association Board, and is founding member of the Southern Gospel Music Guild. The Southern Gospel Music Guild honored Lou Hildreth with the SGMG Lifetime Achievement Honor in 2010.

In 2012, Lou celebrated a milestone very few people will ever attain: her 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Congratulations, Lou Wills Hildreth, as you celebrate 78-plus years (in 2015) of service to the Southern Gospel Music Industry!

Gospel Music Today has generously allowed SGN Scoops to post the links to two wonderful videos featuring Lou Wills Hildreth: The Wills Family Reunion in Fort Worth <https://youtu.be/J3s4GZi6Bdc>; and Lou on Gospel Music Today <https://youtu.be/VXJco4d2kpw>

### **ROSES FOR MS. LOU**

"I still remember the first time I met Lou Hildreth. We were at the Christian Music Hall of Fame Awards in Texas. I was up for my very first award in Christian music and she was so encouraging and sweet to me and my husband Matthew. Here was this legendary, gorgeous, firecracker of a woman, loving on me and encouraging me in the ministry! From that day on, my husband and I have loved Lou and admired all she has been and is to the Southern Gospel music community. One thing's for certain: there will never be another Lou Hildreth!" -- Christy Sutherland, artist

"Ken and I have always enjoyed our visits with Lou and Howard, whether at the NQC in years past, at other Southern Gospel Events or the Wills Thanksgiving Concert in Ft. Worth. Lou is a very special person and

she makes anyone she meets feel that they are special. That is certainly a very special gift. She loves the history of her family and we've enjoyed reading about it in her book. We will miss her articles in SGN Scoops, but will continue to look for both of them at special events. We both feel very honored to have met Lou and Howard and to have had a peek into the Wills/Hildreth family." -- Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today

"When I was first named Publisher of Singing News Magazine, I would always ask for people to pray that I would use wisdom in my new position. Some folks didn't understand what I was asking for and why I would ask for wisdom. Lou got it! She always hears with a *spiritual ear*. I love that Lou's favorite word in the phrase Southern Gospel Music is... Gospel!" -- Les Butler, Butler Music Group, Family Music Group

"I met Lou and Howard several years ago. She was always willing to share her vast knowledge of Gospel music. Lou has experienced the industry from many angles - artist, promoter, agent, etc. She is always upbeat and her pleasing personality has won many fans to SGM. I will miss her monthly columns." -- Dean Adkins, SGN Scoops writer, Gospel music historian

"When I began my career as a booking agent in 1982, Lou Hildreth was a great mentor to me and was always very encouraging. In 1985, I really wanted to become more involved in some of the industry organizations such as the Gospel Music Association. Lou encouraged the GMA board to consider adding me as a vice present and now, 30 years later, I am still involved as a board of director of the GMA. Lou continues to this day encouraging me and she continues to be a blessing to all of the Harper family. We love her dearly." -- Ed Harper, president of The Harper Agency

"When I first came into the Gospel Music world, I was overwhelmed to say the least. All around me were people I had looked up to for years and all I wanted was to be a part of this great music. Lou was one of the first to truly make me feel like I belonged. Through the years Lou Hildreth has been a constant cheerleader and supporter. Despite all she has accomplished in her

career she is about promoting others, not herself. She means so much to me I and congratulate her for a race run well." -- Matt Felts, Butler Music Group

"Lou Wills Hildreth is one of the most special ladies I have ever met! From the first time I met her, nearly 15 years ago, even though I was an unknown singer, she has always known me by name every time I've seen her since. Not only has she known my name, I have always known she was genuinely interested in me and in my family. To me, Lou exudes the love of Jesus! Thanks, Lou! I love you!" -- Blessings! Shannon Smith of Three Bridges

"Lou Hildreth has always brought sophistication to our music genre. When she is in the wings, she stands apart for her warmth and professionalism. She is a hero!!" -- Janet Paschal, artist

"Lou Hildreth has been a wonderful friend of mine since around 1977. She is the Godliest, friendliest, sweetest, and most wonderful person that you will ever meet. She is a friend to everyone. Lou has been involved in Gospel music all her life by singing it, promoting it or just being there for anyone involved in music, and loves the Lord with all her heart. She is a true legend! Love her!" -- Pat Mathis of WATC TV, Atlanta

"Of course, everybody knows that Lou Hildreth is pleasant, kind, always smiling, a *mover and a shaker* in Gospel music. I appreciate all of that. Here's what stands out in my memory concerning Lou: Several years ago, there was an instance concerning a group of Gospel music personalities that was very unpleasant for me. Typically, I don't talk to anyone right then as to how I'm really feeling, but Lou was in this moment with me, so I just shared with her how hurt I was. I didn't hear an, "Oh, Ann, you're overreacting," or "Just get over it," (which would have been even more devastating for me at that moment). Instead she took my hand and looked at me right in the eye to say, "Ann, I'm so sorry this has happened to you...it's not fair." I have to say that in my book, Lou Hildreth has been a very good friend and was *Jesus* to me when I really needed



Him.” – Ann Downing, artist

“If there had been a *Nice Person Award* in Gospel Music, Lou Hildreth would have won it every year for the past 70 years. Her quiet dignity and decorum has been a classic role model of leadership for the Gospel Music community.” -- Dr. Jerry Goff

“I’ve always loved seeing Ms. Lou sitting in the audience at a Triumphant concert. She always stands out and always has a glow on her face. She has always been so kind to me and I’m thankful to call her my friend, supporter and encourager. Back when I sang at Dollywood with the Kingdom Heirs, Dennis Murphy, the drummer, and myself used to fish together all the time. Ms. Lou and JP Miller were doing a TV show at that time and did a show on Dennis and me, fishing. I’ll never forget the look on her face when we showed up at the TV studio to film the show; wearing our fishing gear and smelling like fish. We had gone fishing that morn-

into this crazy, wacky world of music 33 years ago, and when I first met her, I just absolutely loved her passion, her drive, her love for the music and artistry and above all her love for Jesus and people...and today every time I am around her, I feel that same love, respect and admiration. I absolutely think the world of her, and I know Jesus smiles really big, when someone mentions Lou’s name. She is a treasured friend and I adore her. “

– Dusty Wells, SGN Scoops writer, WMG

“Lou, retirement is not a word for preachers or Gospel music writers, lovers and singers. You have been an inspiration over the past several years. Always loved to be with you at World Premier of Gospel Music when it was televised from Pigeon Forge. You always had that beautiful smile. Gospel Music has been your life going back to the early days when you were a booking agent. All of the Wills family will always be a part of the Gospel Music industry. Best of luck in the many years you still have ahead of you.” – Robert York, SGN



ing before the show to get some footage on video for them to use. That poor little one fish that we worked so hard to catch, just to make a show! By the looks of the video you would have thought we caught many fish that day. That’s all I’ll say about that. Love you Ms. Lou!” -- David Sutton, Triumphant Quartet

“Lou was one of the first people that I met when I got

Scoops writer, promoter

“Lou: in the short while I have known you, you have been so supportive and encouraging to me! I pray the Lord continues to bless you mightily in all you do.” -- In His love, Sherry Anne, artist, SGN Scoops writer

“I look forward to reading Lou’s feature each month.

She gives us a glimpse of the *Legends*, old and new, and writes about those she *Loves*. We have been blessed to share your *Life*, Lou! God bless you!” – Joan Walker, SGN Scoops proof reader

“Lou you are such a jewel to Gospel Music. I wish you all the best. Continue on in your journey of excellence. We all love you so much! Blessings!” – Kelly Nelon Clark, artist, SGN Scoops writer

“You are a true Southern Gospel treasure. Thank you for paving the way for so many of us. We honor you. From one ginger to another....thank you.” - Sheri LaFontaine, artist, SGN Scoops writer

“Thank you so much for your service to the magazine! May God continue to bless you as you begin this new chapter in your life.” – Justin Gilmore, SGN Scoops writer

“Lou Wills Hildreth is and has been a wonderful encourager to me and Jerry, my husband. Twenty years ago when we were just getting our feet wet where Southern Gospel Music is concerned, she always praised us for the steps we were taking to promote local and national artists in the Ft. Worth/Dallas area. When I felt like I was not making any progress, Lou always had the right words to make me feel like I was making a difference. Early in our acquaintance with Lou, Jerry had gone to a songwriter’s conference with our good friend, Phil Cross. Lou approached Jerry, she called him by name and told him she appreciated that we are friends with Phil Cross and for the help we were giving him in the DFW area. Lou; always with a smile on her face and kind words to everyone she meets.” -- Vivian Belknap Director of Marketing for KKGAM AM 1630 and on air personality, SGN Scoops writer

“I am new to the Scoops team, but am thankful for people like Lou who have dedicated so much time to supporting great Christian music! Thank you Lou, and I pray that God will use you powerfully in your future adventures!” – Timmy Williamson, writer for SGN Scoops

“Ms. Lou, from the first time I heard about you, you have been one of my heroes in Southern Gospel. You blazed a trail for every lady in this industry, and indeed set the standard high for any one who is in ministry. When I met you, you were so kind and sweet, and I knew then that you were my role model. You work with

excellence and strive to do the most you can for the Lord with the many gifts and talents He has provided you with. You are always gracious and kind, without any of the *airs* you might have taken on, given your presence in the industry. I have never heard a negative word about you from anyone; you have always garnered respect from everyone. I hope someday that I will have the same things said about me that many have said here: She always gave God the glory for everything. Thank you, Ms. Lou, for the many ways you have enriched SGN Scoops and my life. God bless you and Howard.” – Lorraine Walker, Editor, SGN Scoops.

“One of my heroes in our industry would be Lou Hildreth. She has always handled everything that she has been a part of with class and dignity. That is something that I strive for in everything I do each day in Southern Gospel music. She is truly one of my heroes.” – Rob Patz, Publisher, SGN Scoops



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# Day By Day

By Selena Day

Can you believe that the year is almost over? This year has flown by! Christmas is my favorite time of year. I start to decorate our home right after Halloween. Don't judge! We travel so much and it is hard work getting all those decorations put up.

Christmas brings with it lots of joy and laughter, but it also brings with it some stress and conflict. Making your dollar stretch, or having to schedule different family activities can be hard. I believe the Christmas season is a great time to recheck where your heart is with Christ. Are you choosing to be a life giver in all situations or are you like the Grinch and see only the lack?

For the past nine years, Chuck and I have traveled to over 30-something countries, and many of these travels have been during the holiday season. I will never forget flying out on Thanksgiving Day one year to Turkey! I know, God has a funny sense of humor. We arrived just as they were finishing up a festival celebrating Ishmael's deliverance from being sacrificed on the altar by his father Abraham. They sacrifice a goat in honor of God delivering Ishmael.

Yes, I was confused too; this is same story of God delivering Isaac.

There was no evidence of Christmas since Turkey is a predominantly Muslim country. We were so busy during that trip that I literally had forgotten that the holidays were upon us. When we landed back in the USA on a Friday

evening, we were scheduled to sing in Texas on Sunday, a 13-hour drive from our house no less. Jet lag instantly became our friend. Loaded with children, sound equipment and product we headed for Texas. It didn't fully hit me until we were at lunch Sunday afternoon at a restaurant decorated with sparkle, twinkle and bows, as Bing Crosby sang "White Christmas" in the background, that I felt a little culture jolt to my system. I mean, just 48 hours ago, the call to prayer woke us up at 4:00 am in the morning, and women in burkas were the norm, with no sign of what we would traditionally associate with our sacred holiday.

I started to ask myself how much of the story of Christmas I filter through my own western view of the world.

Did you know that for half the world Christmas is a holiday spent having barbecues? That's right, for everyone south of the equator it is summer. So Christmas for them looks quite different. Some historians say that the wise men were actually astrologers looking at the stars that led them to Jesus.

Which leads me to another question. Who is God to you? Where does your salvation experience stem from? Did you know that most of our beliefs filter down from the Greeks and Greek philosophy? We like to call ourselves Judeo-Christians; but in truth we are probably more like Greco-Christians.

I surrendered my life wholly and completely to Christ on Dec. 6, 1987. I am so thankful that it was close to Christ-

mas. Before that time, Christ had the same power in my life as Santa Claus, except we paid homage to Christ once a week and not once a year. We gave him a little more attention at Christmas and Easter, but that was about it.

That first year it was as if my eyes finally opened and I saw that I had a REAL Savior that wanted a REAL relationship with me. He loved me and wanted to give me good gifts even if I wasn't good or perfect. I have NEVER been the same since. He has led me on a journey of love, and wooed me in ways that no other person could.

The One, who formed me and brought me into being from nothing, knows me like no one else. He sees my heart and soothes it when it's troubled. The bible says that in the last days He will write His Word on my mind and my heart. He is the best Teacher, the best Friend, the best Love I have ever known, and my heart during this Christmas season is that you will find that in Him as well.

He loves you, because He loves you, because He loves you, because He loves you. You cannot do one thing to make Him love you anymore or any less. God loves you and His desire is to lavish you with His goodness during this Christmas season.

If you've lost a loved one this year, know that God did not allow that to happen to punish you or them. Isaiah 57:1b says, "... and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil."

Trust God to love you through your pain. If you have gone through a divorce this year remember that God's mercies are new every morning. Life and goodness are just on the horizon.

If you have had a hard year financially, take this time to hear God's voice and give. Remember His promises. Your finances are not held to this world's economic system but to the Kingdom of God's economic system.

More than anything this Christmas season, know that you are valued. You are so valued in God's kingdom and He says your greatest days are ahead.

Merry Christmas from the Day household!

*Selena Day is a motivational speaker and is available to speak at your conference or event. You may contact her at [selenaday@me.com](mailto:selenaday@me.com) <http://www.queenliving.org> <http://facebook.com/queenismsbyselenaday>*



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By Lorraine Walker

### Creekside Wrap Up and Diamond Award Winners

2015 Creekside Gospel Music Convention is now in the books and plans are being made for next year. The 2016 dates are October 31 through November 3 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. Be sure to contact the Head of Lodging and Tours, Salina Clay, for more information at [hotels@sgnscoops.com](mailto:hotels@sgnscoops.com).

This year's event was superb and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Incredible talent, uplifting songs, enjoyable presentations and wonderful fellowship were all experienced during the four-day event in Pigeon Forge. Creekside had record-breaking crowds for day-time showcases and evening concerts, and the midnight prayer times were even more special than the previous year. Souls were saved during the week and that makes it all worthwhile!

Here is what some of the Convention folk had to say about the 2015 Creekside GMC:

My favorite part this year was the Pine Ridge Boys being honored for their 52-plus years in Gospel Music. Thanks to Vonda Easley and Jason Runnels for putting this special time together for the fans and the groups that were involved. I thought all the groups sounded great and presented their ministry very professional. I especially enjoyed listening to 11th Hour, Troy Burns Family and The Williamsons. The newcomers who surprised me the most were Heartsong and Clearvision.

### *Fall Tree Photo Courtesy of Wolfgang Staudt*





I had never heard these two groups before and was very impressed with how they presented their program. The audience was great and very responsive. I would also like to say that I thought the sound was great. I know what it's like to run sound for several groups and I thought these guys did an outstanding job. Thanks to Rob, Vonda and all the folks at SGN Scoops for a wonderful week. Can't wait 'til next year. – Larry Stewart of the Pine Ridge Boys

Loved, loved, loved having Dr. Jerry Goff and Jan Buckner Goff as our emcees! Since I'm partial to the





backstage efforts, I was really impressed with how smoothly the evening went and how everyone just had a great time. – Jean Grady of Gospel Music Today

Creekside 2015 was an amazing experience. My favorite part was once again midnight prayer, but I enjoyed every part! It was an honor to be a part of an event where five folks were saved during the week. That is what it's all about. – Vonda Easley of SGN Scoops and Hope's Journey



A special part of every year's Creekside is the Diamond Awards ceremony on Tuesday night. The 2015 Diamond Awards were hosted by Dr. Jerry and Jan Goff, with many artists presenting awards. Guest artists during the evening included The Freemans, The



Guardians, The Hinson Family, Johnny Minnick and Roger Talley. We so appreciate Pat Mathis and all of the WATC TV family from Atlanta, Georgia who came to film the Monday and Tuesday night events at Pigeon Forge. We look forward to the televising of the events, both on TV and online at [wac.tv](http://wac.tv).

There will be a slight change in the Diamond Awards for next year. For 2016, the Country and Bluegrass Awards will be presented during the Christian Country Expo held in August. The 2016 Diamond Awards at Creekside will be for Southern Gospel artists. Nominations begin in January 2016!

The 2015 Diamond Award winners:

JD Sumner Award: Gerald Crabb

Southern Gospel Mixed Group of the Year: Karen Peck and New River

Southern Gospel Quartet of the Year: Brian Free and Assurance

Southern Gospel Trio of the Year: Jeff and Sheri Easter

Southern Gospel Duet of the Year: Wilburn and Wilburn

Southern Gospel Female Vocalist of the Year: Hannah Webb

Southern Gospel Male Vocalist of the Year: Jason Crabb

Southern Gospel Sunrise Group of the Year: Noah Henshaw

Southern Gospel Song of the Year: "Hidden Heroes" – The Talleys

Southern Gospel Album of the Year: "Songs in the Key of Happy" – Goodman Revival

Country Group of the Year: The Freemans

Country Female Vocalist of the Year: Chris Freeman

Country Male Vocalist of the Year: Weston Hinson

Christian Country Album of the Year: "Jesus Saves" – Three Bridges

Anthony Burger Instrumentalist of the Year: Jeff Stice

Dottie Rambo Songwriter of the Year: Gerald Crabb

Bluegrass Group of the Year: Canaan's Crossing

Gospel Music Today DVD of the Year: "Where I've Been" – The Freemans

Favorite Artist Website: Lefevre Quartet

Favorite Industry Website: [HarmonyroadTV.com](http://HarmonyroadTV.com)

Paul Heil Broadcasting Award: Les Butler – Harmony Road TV

Publisher's Choice Award: Jan Buckner Goff

Lou Wills Hildreth Award: John Lanier

Congratulations to each of our Diamond Award winners and nominees. All of the artists that give of their time

and talents to present quality music that glorifies the Lord are winners in our eyes! Thanks to each and every one of you.

Thanks to all that participated in, and attended, the 2015 Creekside Gospel Music Convention. We appreciate you and hope to see all of you next year. Keep watching the SGN Scoops and Creekside websites and Facebook pages for all the latest news!





## Precious Memories:

*Remembering*

# FAYE SPEER

By Justin Gilmore

The name of *Speer* has come to be one the most respected names in the Southern Gospel Music field. The Speer Family has made an indelible impact on Gospel music and paved the way for the artists of today.

Faye Speer was a major part of this incredible group for many years not only as Brock Speer's wife but a talented vocalist in her own right. Speer was born Faye Ihring on October 19th in Augusta, Kentucky. She attended Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville from 1946-1948.

After taking time raising her children, Faye returned to university and graduated with a degree in social work in 1974. Following her schooling, she married the love of her life, Brock Speer, the bass singer of his family's group, on August 31, 1948. Faye and Brock enjoyed 51 years of marriage and were blessed with three children Suzan, Marc, and Brian.

Faye joined the Speer Family as their alto singer upon her marriage to Brock. She traveled with the group during the 1960's and 70's. The Speer Family was the first to receive the Gospel Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition to this, the group received 14 Dove Awards and was inducted into both the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Later in the group's career, Faye and Brock along with Ben, Mary Tom, and Rosa Nell Speer appeared frequently on Bill Gaither's Homecoming videos and concerts. The family was instrumental in the development and popularity of the series as well. At the Grand Ole Gospel Reunion in 1997, Faye was given the Lifetime Achievement Award.

After 75 years, Brock's declining health led to the Speer Family's retirement at the National Quartet Convention in 1998. Following retirement, and



Brock's death in the subsequent year (1999), Faye continued to make occasional appearances on the Gaither Homecoming stage and videos with the remaining members of the family.

In 2014, she was inducted into the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame as an individual. In May of this year, Mrs. Speer was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters from Trevecca Nazarene recognizing her for her years of service to the university.

Even in her later years, Faye was actively involved in church ministry though her health began to decline. Two years ago, she was diagnosed with ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. At the age of 86, the beloved Faye Speer passed away on the morning of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, surrounded by her family.



Faye was a loving wife, mother, and great woman of God. Her dedication to Christ was evident in all that she did. Faye Speer touched many lives and had a profound impact on many of today's Gospel Music artists.

As you will see from the following messages, Mrs. Speer will be greatly missed and was truly loved by many. While she may no longer be with us, she will live on in precious memories. God bless the Speer Family.

*The following messages are from those who knew the late Faye Speer:*



"I got to go to the Grammy awards with them and she was the one that kept me reined in and made sure I didn't get in trouble. She was always kind and loving to me and always made sure I was doing what I was supposed to." –Gene McDonald, Gaither Homecoming Bass Singer

"We didn't work with the group very much, but when we did, I was so impressed with her friendly demeanor. She will be missed. The Speers were an important part of this industry for long time, and they are missed." - Ed O'Neal, The Dixie Melody Boys

"She and Ben were the class of Southern Gospel Music for decades. Faye will be missed." – Les Butler, Butler Music Group, Radio Personality

"There are many attributes that one could name when thinking of Faye Speer. Gracious and beautiful are two that immediately rise to the top for me." -Johnny Minnick of Goodman Revival



Her spirit was of the utmost humility. It was never about her, it was always about her Jesus and her profound love for Him. Thank you, Faye, for your example to all who were blessed to experience this thing called life with you. Even in your passing your spirit still says JESUS!" - Forever grateful, Lynda Randle, Christian music artist

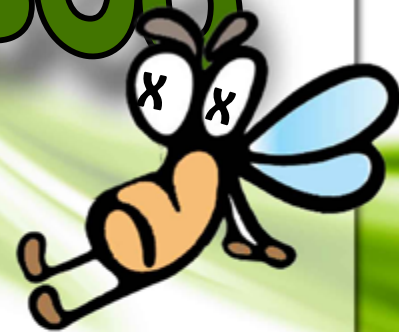
The publisher, editor and staff of SGN Scoops extend their sympathies to the family and friends of Faye Speer. She has indeed left an indelible mark in Gospel music.

"I've always loved Faye Speer--such a precious woman of God! I'm so glad that God allowed our paths to cross. I will never forget how loving and kind she always treated me when we had the opportunity and privilege to be at the Homecoming tapings together. What an angel she was then and always will be. Her smile simply said, 'Jesus in me, the Hope of Glory!'



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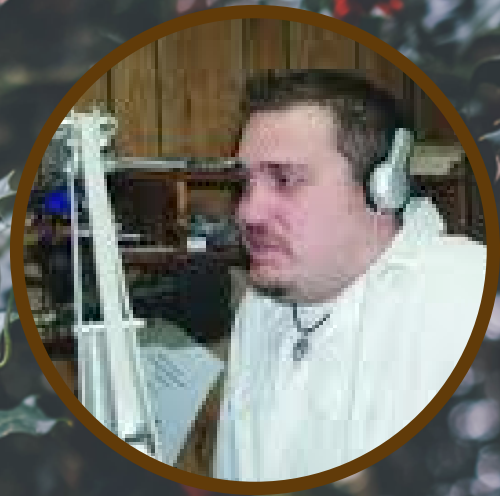


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# DJ SPOTLIGHT

## Phillip Greene



This month we shined the spotlight on Phillip Greene at WECR in Newland, NC. According to the WECR website, Phillip's station plays "Southern Gospel, Bluegrass and 'Heart Music.'" For listeners in North Carolina, the on air station covers Avery County including Newland, Banner Elk, Linville Ridge, and Grandfather Mountain.

Here's what Phillip Greene had to say!

*Vonda: Tell us all about your radio experience including your current title and station.*

Phillip: I am the Station Manager/Air Talent at AM 1130 - WECR AM in Newland NC – Glory 1130.

*Vonda: Tell us about a "special day" on the air.*

Phillip: The first day I became station manager and on air talent was Feb 27, 2012, a month after my father passed away, taking his place on the air and continuing the ministry that he was instrumental in starting here at the station.

*Vonda: Will you share your testimony?*

Phillip: I was raised in the church and came to an understanding for myself that Jesus was the way to God as a young man of 13. I've had ups and downs but thank God I serve a Lord who loves and forgives when I let myself get in the way of greater things planned for me. I have been in ministry since the age of 13, because we are all called to be ministers, but have been actively serving in the church for the last 14 years and am blessed to be able to share the Gospel on a daily basis. I can't even begin to describe how God took a young man with a heart for others from a struggling seeker to a truth speaker. He has given me the opportunity to

minister in many capacities.

*Vonda: Where is your favorite vacation spot?*

Phillip: Anywhere I can share the Gospel is a place where I don't mind going. I'm not so much of a beach person; I love to get away from things in the solitude of the mountains. Thank God I'm blessed to live in this solitude on a daily basis.

*Vonda: At what age did you know that you would love working in radio? Why?*

Phillip: At the age of 16, I knew ministry was my calling and at the age of 19, God opened the door for me to pursue radio and ministry in my life. He has been opening the doors in ways I never imagined. I have been blessed to see that call take shape over the past four years.

Thanks to Phillip Greene for introducing us to his work on WECR. You can find him online at [wecrglory1130.wordpress.com](http://wecrglory1130.wordpress.com). You can also hear Phillip live every day on 8:20 am EST during "Glory1130 Morning Devotion" with Phillip Greene.



**Written By**  
**Vonda Easley**



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# ROGER'S ROUNDUP

REFLECTIONS OF PAUL ROARK  
By Roger Barkley Jr.

I will have to say this is a bittersweet story I write this time around. I have to tell you about a man that called me a few days after my dad passed away. He could not say much because he was overtaken by emotion and told me he was praying and would call me again later. He actually called a few times in the same way.

He and Dad would sit and talk about the world, solve the world's problems, figure out how it would be better and usually end up preaching to one another. I recall when he and his family and my family and I would be at the some of the same places singing. When it was time for us take the stage and minister in the way God told us to, they were there, cheering each other on and shouting encouragement to us.

I was in the recording studio with him as we were working on a new project and trying to decide what genre of music we should call it. He told me, in that fatherly tone look-

ing over his glasses, "Son, there ain't but two different kinds of Gospel Music in this world: *Good* and *Bad*. Go sing the good and leave the bad alone."

I remember sitting with him after concerts, after everyone had left, sharing cold cut sandwiches and listening to his words of wisdom along with swapping stories of the road life we had to share.

The pains of Paul Roark's life have now been healed. Thank you for taking the time to help so many ministries blossom while you were here. There is a place in our hearts that is missing but what a joy it is, knowing that we will meet again one day.

[www.hopesjourneyonline.com](http://www.hopesjourneyonline.com)

# Hope's Journey



**"ON MY WAY BACK"**

written by: Ricky Atkinson

*"A song that is sweeping the nation and touching folks that are finding their way back"*



# THE MATTINGLY FAMILY

By Jaquita Lindsey

The Mattingly Family is a group that I had the pleasure of meeting back in April of this year at Singing in the Sun held in Myrtle Beach, SC. They were chosen in an artist showcase to sing on the main stage the night that 11th Hour was there. But that was not this family's first time of winning the chance of time on the bigger stage. The Mattingly Family has graced the main stage of the National Quartet Convention three different times due to their showcase winnings. Parents, Jim and Ruby Mattingly, along with three of their six kids, travel roughly 300 days a year, preaching and singing the Gospel.

Based out of Moody, MO, this independent labeled group is in the process of recording their twelfth album, with producer Nick Bruno. This anticipated project, Good Morning, will be released early January 2016.

The family's previous 2013 album, Anchored, contains the song that has landed them as showcase winners on

several events, "This Same Jesus." Although music is a very big part of their ministry, the Mattingly Family go a step further, helping in other areas, such as church building projects. "Our ministry began with a heart for discouraged pastors and their families. Our goal is to encourage and help them in any way we can," Jim Mattingly tells us.

The Mattingly Family, as they are collectively known, began with Jim and Ruby Mattingly singing together when they married in 1974. "Jim and I were singing in a mixed quartet two years before we were married. Over time, the group changed to only the two of us. We continued to minister as a duet until the children decided that they wanted to be a part of the ministry," Ruby says.

Jim primarily sings baritone and plays the guitar. Ruby now takes care of the soundboard while the family sings. "I believe our family is called to share the Gospel.



Sometimes being on the road continuously gets weary. We take a break at home in May for a month, and then we're home from Thanksgiving until Christmas. But, if one more soul can be saved or be encouraged in their walk with the Lord, every mile is worth it all," states Jim. They enjoy getting to spend time with their children, along with their 18 grandchildren, as much as possible.

"I love to travel, seeing the country and meeting new



people," says Ruby. "But Jim does not let me give directions. Five years or so ago, we were leaving NQC, headed to a church in Liberty, KY that we had been to

before. The trip should have only taken us two hours. We turned around three different times. Finally, we figured out that I had been reading the map upside down. So a trip that should have taken us two hours ended up taking four," she laughs.

Jeremiah Mattingly began singing at age six. Although he currently sings the bass part for the family, he can sing any part, including tenor. He learned to sing harmony by listening to groups such as the Blackwood Brothers and Gold City, and now, the Booth Brothers. When at home, Jeremiah enjoys carpentry jobs. Jim and his brothers had a construction business before traveling full time. Now, Jeremiah finds himself following his father's side of the family in the knack for building things.

Jonathan Mattingly sings lead for the family and plays the piano. His first time singing was at age two, along side his sister. His wife, Sarah, travels with them and takes care of the family's product table. Sarah also handles the Mattingly Family's website and other social media.

"Sarah and I met in 2008. Our family was singing in the area where her dad was the manager of a camp that had RV hookups. My family parked our bus there for two weeks. At the end of those two weeks, we had all become friends. Little did I know, Sarah was praying that we would not leave.

"Pulling out of the bus spot, our back tire sank in the mud. A tow truck had to come pull us out and caused a delay of about four hours. She apparently got what she prayed for," Jonathan laughingly tells us. That friendship proved to be true. The two were married in 2014.

Ruth Ann Mattingly switches between alto and soprano for the group. Her parents knew that they had a singer on their hands when Ruth Ann would stand up in her crib, singing instead of going to sleep. She started singing on the stage by age five. She enjoys making jewelry with her mom, which she sells on their product table.

Ruth Ann also loves to paint and do small DIY projects when time permits. She grew up being influenced musically by her parents, along with Janet Paschal, Vestal Goodman and Brian Free.

Every year, the Mattingly Family hosts a cruise with destinations from the Caribbean to Alaska. They are excited about next year's cruise in October 2016 to Belize.

Also, they will be hosting the first campmeeting at their base supporting church, Westwood Missionary Baptist Church, in Winter Haven, FL. Special musical guests will include Allegiance Trio and the Mylon Hayes Family. These are just two of the upcoming events that they would love for you to be a part of. Details of these events, as well as other dates, can be found at the group website [www.mattinglyfamily.org](http://www.mattinglyfamily.org).



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# High Notes

By Kelly Nelson Clark



## A STARRY NIGHT

Just the other night a friend and I were walking and we noticed that the stars were brighter than we had ever seen. It looked like diamonds twinkling across the sky. I started thinking about stars and ran across one of Vincent Van Gogh's most famous painting, *Starry Night*.



I wondered what was going through Van Gogh's mind as he painted? Being a deeply religious man and at one time thinking of becoming a preacher, he also suffered

from terrible depression and debilitating mental illness. After cutting off his ear, he admitted himself into a lunatic asylum, as they called it then. He would be there for one year, one of his hardest years but one of his most productive years as an artist.

He would look out his window at night and during the day he would capture what he recalled from the night. You might think of it as gloom and doom and sadness but I rather like to think that even though he suffered, he still had his faith in God, and the beautiful starry night he created represented hope for him, a hope that only comes from knowing the STAR Himself, Jesus Christ.

Van Gogh said that Christ was the ultimate Artist, creating not pictures, but people. Van Gogh painted through his sadness and through his great trial. He didn't paint as one who had no hope but with bright colors and happiness. He could do that because he knew the Maker of the universe.

The Creator of the universe thinks of you and I every second of the day. He longs for us to be near Him, to love Him, to trust Him and to give Him praise.

The little star of Bethlehem is still shining bright today. Yes, it's true, humans try to diminish it or extinguish it but He never fails us. Turn your hearts to that little Baby in a manger who became flesh so that we could have eternal life. He gave His all so we could have it all.

So when you look to the sky tonight and you see that beautiful starry night, be reminded that whatever your situation, God is always in control. He is always listening with arms open wide with hope and a future for you. Even when it seems you can't see the star, He's still there!

Thank You to all our family, friends, churches, pastors, and promoters for continuing to believe in and support our ministry. We look forward to what 2016 holds for The Drummond Family Ministry!!



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**Drummond Family**  
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# Legacy Five's New Tenor Josh Feemster

By Justin Gilmore

Last month, Legacy Five announced that Josh Feemster would be replacing Gus Gaches at the tenor position. This past weekend marked Feemster's debut with the group and he seems to be fitting in well with the quartet (based on what video footage I've seen).

Feemster previously sang lead with Mercy's Mark Quartet from 2004 to 2007. I recently contacted Josh via Facebook and asked him some questions, which he graciously answered.

So without further ado, here is my Facebook interview with the new tenor of Legacy Five!

**Justin Gilmore:** Hello Mr. Feemster! How did you get your start in Southern Gospel music?

**Josh Feemster:** Garry Jones called me after hearing a CD. He gave me my first job in the industry. I grew up in singing family. So I've always been involved in singing.

**Gilmore:** Who are your musical influences?

**Feemster:** Ivan Parker, Kirk Talley, Danny Funderburk, Ger-

ald Wolfe, Steve Lacey, Dave Phelps, and Terry Franklin.

**Gilmore:** What a great list of artists! Who is your favorite singer in Gospel or secular music?

**Feemster:** Too many to choose from. Wendy Moten amazes me. Bono blows me away. Phelps astounds me. Johnny Cash is just cool.

**Gilmore:** Speaking of Phelps, what is the highest note you can sing?

**Feemster:** No idea. I train with Brett Manning and he never tells me what I'm hitting. He did flip one time at an F above High C.

**Gilmore:** Who are your favorite groups? Past or present.

**Feemster:** The Cathedrals, Gold City, Gaither Vocal Band, Talleys, and The Martins.

**Gilmore:** Those are some of my favorites as well. You sang lead for Mercy's Mark Quartet eight years ago. What is your fondest memory of traveling with the group?

**Feemster:** Having my wife come to any program that was



within 150 miles of home. She's an incredible woman and loves to hear me sing.

**Gilmore:** So how did you come in contact with Legacy Five?

**Feemster:** Gerald Wolfe was helping me with a solo project and was convinced I was a tenor. He called Scott Fowler who then convinced me I was a tenor.

**Gilmore:** What are you looking forward to them most about traveling with L5?

**Feemster:** Hanging out with a great group of men who love to sing and love God.

**Gilmore:** They are a great group of guys! What is your favorite song to sing?

**Feemster:** I love "Blessed Assurance."

**Gilmore:** Classic! What is your favorite Scripture verse?

**Feemster:** Deuteronomy 33:27.

**Gilmore:** What is something that people might not know about you?

**Feemster:** I almost got arrested...but it was a joke executed perfectly by Garry Jones.

**Gilmore:** What is the most memorable experience you've



had in your years of singing Gospel music?

**Feemster:** Seeing Scott Howard set the stage on fire at the Jubilee Christmas 2015 videotaping.

**Gilmore:** Any advice for aspiring Gospel artists?

**Feemster:** Train your voice with great coaching. I recommend Brett Manning and Singing Success.

**Gilmore:** What can fans expect from the group this next year?

**Feemster:** Not entirely sure, but I can't wait to see what happens!

For more on Legacy Five, visit [www.legacyfive.com](http://www.legacyfive.com)





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

SGN Scoops Top 100 for December 2015

1	Bowling Family	One Glorious Moment Of Faith
2	Jeff and Sheri Easter	Jesus Loves You
3	Shellem Cline	Halfway Down The Aisle
4	11th Hour	Jesus Is In The House
5	McKameys	I Have A Home
6	Bev McCann	I've Seen What God Can Do
7	Brian Free and Assurance	Where There's A Will He Has A Way
8	Williamsons	Shout
9	Triumphant	Living In Harmony
10	Karen Peck and New River	Pray Now
11	Hyssongs	Lead Me To The Rock
12	Kelly Coberly	Because He Loved Me
13	Higher Ground	A Hill A Cross A Place Called Calvary
14	Jim Brady Trio	Good Lord Willin'
15	Bates Family	Jesus On The Mainline
16	Kingsmen	Cross Of Grace
17	Kingdom Heirs	The Chain Gang
18	Terry Collins	Out Of This World
19	Barry Rowland and Deliverance	Our Third Day
20	Greater Vision	As We Speak
21	Whisnants	Worry Ends Where Faith Begins
22	Page Trio	Difference Is The Cross
23	Jim Sheldon	I'm Going Home
24	Lore Family	I Lived To Tell About It
25	Hope's Journey	On My Way Back
26	Pruitt Family	Bring It All To Jesus
27	Wards	Bible Revival
28	Ernie Haase and Signature Sound	Jesus Changed Everything

29	Troy Burns Family	The Potter
30	Linda Foster	One Prayer At A Time
31	Browders	Time Machine
32	Mylon Hayes Family	The Sweetest Words He Ever Said
33	Legacy Five	That's A Hallelujah
34	Christy Southerland	Don't Blame Jesus
35	Old Paths	What Did They Call Him
36	Mark Trammell Quartet	I'll Take It To The Grave
37	Mark Bishop	He Can See My Tomorrow
38	Debra Perry and Jaiden's Call	Caught Up
39	Hoskins Family	Eternity
40	Lineage Of David	Stepping Out On A Limb
41	Calebs Crossing	Raised On Amazing Grace
42	Akins	Revive Us Again
43	Wilbanks	Song Of The Redeemed
44	Adam Crabb	I've Got A Right To Pray
45	Georgia	That's Why I Love Him So
46	Purpose Quartet	Under Grace
47	Campbell and Rowley	There's Still A Cross
48	Sounds Of Victory	You're Always There
49	Eagles Wings	When I Wake Up To Sleep No More
50	Keith Barkley and Family Tradition	It's Time
51	LeFevre Quartet	He Left No Stone Unturned
52	Guardians	Shoutin' Sounds
53	Hyssongs	There's Still Room
54	Pauline Patterson	Middle Of A Miracle
55	Sherry Anne	To Be Forgiven
56	Kirby Stailey	All The Proof I Need
57	Richie Rose	Walk With My Jesus
58	Terah Crabb Penhollow	Stronger
59	Chosen Vessels	He Outstretched His Arms For Me
60	Debbie Seagraves	Dream Big
61	Primitive Quartet	He Did A Surgery On My Heart
62	Inspirations	It's Not Long Until Forever
63	Gaither Vocal Band	Jesus Gave Me Water
64	Goodman Revival	The Sweetest Song I Know
65	Rachel Taylor	Live Loud
66	Talleys	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
67	Dixie Melody Boys	Praise The Lord, Hallelujah, Amen
68	Booth Brothers	Happy Rhythm
69	Freemans	Unwanted Crowns
70	Lori Jonathan Trio	No One Ever Loved Me Like Jesus
71	New Ground	I Can Still Pray Through

72	Chandlers	I'll Still Be Standing
73	Gibsons	Home At Last
74	Karen Peck and New River	I Am Blessed
75	Down East Boys	Beyond The Blue
76	Chapel Road	Pray About It
77	Tribute	Those Who Know Me
78	Joseph Habedank	Welcome Home
79	Rochesters	Move Along
80	Legacy Five, Blackwood Brothers, Brian Free and Assurance	Quartet Singing's Going On
81	Tim Livingston	More Than Enough
82	David Haynes	One More Mile
83	Rod Truman	Almost Home
84	Mark209	Graceland
84	Kevin Williams	Nosey Rosey
84	Coffmans	This Blood
87	Perrys	Keep On
88	Judith Montgomery and Family	God Provided
88	Jim Sheldon	New Again
90	Erwins	I Choose To Be A Christian
91	Georgia	Great Revival
92	Watkins Family	Making Me Stronger
92	Skyline Boys	More Than A Name
94	Down East Boys	Shed A Little Light
95	Collingsworth Family	It Matters To The Master
96	Chigger Hill Boys and Terri	From The Inside Out
97	Gold City	Victory In Jesus
98	Hoppers	Everything Is Beautiful/Jesus Loves The Little Children
99	Carolina Boys	Livin' Like I'm Leavin'
100	ReUnited	Wake Up Church



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# TEXAS GOSPEL MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM INDUCTION CONCERT 2015

By Vivian Belknap

The Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum was formed in 1985 by Calvin Wills, Lou Wills Hildreth, Tom Ellis and James Fudge to preserve and promote the heritage of Gospel Music in Texas, patterned after The Country Music Association and The Gospel Music Association. The first to be inducted were V.O. Stamps and R.J. Baxter in 1985.

Since then, more than 100 individuals or groups have been honored with the Texas-shaped plaque for their talent, service and contribution to Gospel Music. A major requirement is the candidate must be a native Texan, but some exceptions have been made simply because “they got here as fast as they could.”

Texas played a significant role in the early days of the rise of Gospel Music beginning in the 20’s with the establishing of the Stamps Music Company as well as the V. O. Stamps School of Music by V. O. Stamps. Later, he was joined by J. R. Baxter in establishing the Stamps-Baxter Music Company based in Dallas, Texas.

V. O. Stamps was a pioneer in the use of radio to promote Gospel music and quartet singing. He had a program on KRLD in Dallas, which was the beginning of a long history of gospel singing being featured on radio and TV stations

in the Dallas and Fort Worth area. W. B. Nowlin’s *Battle of Songs* was a mainstay Gospel concert venue in Fort Worth’s Will Rodgers Auditorium for over 40 years.

In a tour of the Museum, one can find traditional shaped note Stamps-Baxter song books and sheet music, also 8x10 photographs of Gospel singing groups, with an emphasis on Texas. A treasury of long play records, over 4,000, which includes 78 rpm, 45’s and 33 1/3 records are on display in the museum.

There is a collection of classic microphones from the early days of gospel concerts along with record players, reel-to-reel tape machines, antique radio equipment, quartet souvenirs, and so much more.

The 2015 Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held at the beautiful campus of Dallas Baptist University in the spectacular ballroom located in the John G. Mahler Student Center, where eight artists were inducted. Emcee for the evening was Bill Brooks. Hosts and award presenters were Randy Wills, Tom Ellis, Darrell Bledsoe, Ben Pegues, Lou Wills Hildreth and Joe Willis, all board members of The Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum.



The first recipient was Art Greenhaw, born in Dallas, Texas, and like so many talented artists, he showed talent at an early age and by the fourth grade he had his own band, *The Doodlebugs*. Art's talent continued to develop through a variety of musical styles including rock, country and classical. This journey helped to develop Art's talents and abilities that would make him a Grammy award winning recording artist, producer and mixing engineer. He won the 2003 Grammy award in New York City for the album *We Called Him 'Mr. Gospel Music'*, *The James Blackwood Tribute Album*, for the category, Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album of the Year.



Art Greenhaw is the founder of Greenhaw Records, an independent label; in addition, he is the manager for The Light Crust Dough Boys, plays many musical instruments and is the bassist for the group. Art has contributed his musical talents to some of the greatest singers of our generation including Ann-Margaret, James Blackwood, The Blackwood Brothers, Big John Hall, Larry Ford, Adrienne, The Light Crust Dough Boys, and many more.

The next inductee was Pat Hoffmaster, whose award was received by his wife and daughter. He joined The Blackwood Brothers in 1973 and was recognized then and still today as one of the greatest tenor singers in Southern Gospel music.

Following Pat Hoffmaster was Wayne Christian. Wayne was born in Center, Texas, but raised in nearby Tenaha, Texas, and has served in the Texas Legislature, Precinct 9. He organized his first singing group, The Singing Christians in 1970 and then later changed their name to The Mercy River Boys. Lou Wills Hildreth was responsible for signing him with Canaan Records and for helping launch his singing career. Wayne said he is living proof you can come from "Nowhere, USA, and be successful."

The fourth recipient was Jerry Oliver. He formed a trio known as The Calvary Singers, traveled for The Southern Baptist Convention as an evangelist and he also played keyboard for The Calvary Singers. Jerry was and still is famous for his signature red hankie, which he would wave while playing.



Jack Taylor was the next honoree. He was inducted in 2011 but was unable to attend due to health issues. He was brought to the stage to publicly receive his award. Eighty-seven year old Jack Taylor started in Gospel music in 1944 with the Lone Star Quartet before joining The Blue Ridge Quartet as their piano player in 1946. He worked with The Stamps Music Company and then with The Stamps Baxter Music Company for 35 years in the publishing division and also taught at The Stamps Baxter School of Music. Glenn Payne said while he was singing for The Stamps Quartet that of all the piano players they had, Jack Taylor was the best of them all. Jack shared his piano expertise with the audience after being inducted into The Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Mickey Vaughn, from Dallas, Texas, was a student of Jack Taylor, and was the next to be recognized for her talent and

contribution to Southern Gospel Music. She is an accomplished piano player, sharing her ministry over many years at church retreats and evangelistic meetings. She was often the piano player at First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas for the evening service. She worked frequently at Rainbow Sound Studio in Dallas, Texas as a studio musician. Jack Taylor and his former student, Mickey Vaughn, sat at the piano and played a “four hand” duet for us.



Orlando Randall received for her husband, Larry Randall, the induction into The Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Larry Randall, known across the nation and around the world as the “Sax Man,” has played with the likes of Tony Bennett, Al Hurt, Judy Garland, Pete Fountain and Bob Hope to name only a few. Larry formed The Joshua Experience after the Lord clearly spoke to him about using his musical talents for a higher purpose. Their music is the Big Band sound that brings honor and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Their goal is to bring unity and fellowship to the body of Christ and to bring the



message of Jesus to our world.

Jim Brady, a Houston, Texas boy was the final inductee. He was the baritone singer for The Booth Brothers for many years. Mosie Lister said Jim “sounded like a brother,” and Jake Hess said, “You fit.” Now travelling as The Jim Brady Trio, he is ministering with his wife, Melissa, an accomplished singer and songwriter, along with Tim Parton who sings and brings to the trio keyboard skills, production experience and vocal arranging.

Upon receiving his award, Jim noted that while his friends and siblings had heroes in the sports field, “all my heroes were gospel singers; The Cathedrals, The Statesman, The Imperials and The Blackwood Brothers.” If there were a



Gospel group anywhere near them, he would ask his parents to take him.

The Wills Family Singers were started in 1938 in West Texas by A.B “Pop” Wills. Since then there has been a continuous line of Wills singing the good news of Jesus Christ. The current group consists of Bob Wills, Sr., his daughter Angel Wills, his son Bobby Lee and his wife Annette. When their schedules allow, Don Wills, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Ft. Worth, Texas and his brother, Ron Wills join them. We were thrilled to hear all of them sing two songs written by Bobby Lee, “The Church Shall Forever Stand,” and “Grace Did Much More Abound,” after being inducted into The Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum.





The evening was three-and-a-half hours of history as we were shown vintage film clips and the hosts had many interesting stories to relate regarding each of the recipients. Along with the history we were blessed with some very powerful performances by singers and musicians who brought the audience to their feet several times. Randy Wills and all the members of the TGMHF are to be complimented for bringing together this event.



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# Randall Reviews It - December

by Randall Hamm

## Music for Christmas and Beyond!

This month, Randall takes a look at three new releases, one for Christmas and two for you to play throughout the New Year! A very Merry Christmas to you all and may you enjoy all the fine music this season has to offer. *Artists, please send your CDs for review to Randall Hamm, c/o Q-100 WFLQ-FM, P.O. Box 100, French Lick, IN 47432.*



Taranda Greene  
*Spirit Of Christmas*  
2015 Stowtown

Producer: Wayne Haun, Jason Webb & Geron Davis  
Executive Producer: Landon Beene & Ernie Haase  
Tracks Recorded: Omin Studios – Nashville Tennessee  
Vocals Recorded: kilowatt Studios - Murfreesboro Tennessee

Tracks: “Still, Still, Still/O Holy Night” (Traditional, arranged by Jason Webb); “Give Love On Christmas Day” (Berry Gordy, Alphonso Mizell, Christine Perren, Frederick Perren and Deke Richards); “Cool Yule!” (Steve Al-

len); “Who Would Imagine A King?” (Hallerin H Hill and Mervynn Warren); “Jesus What A Wonderful Child/I’m His Child” (Traditional); “I Wonder As I Wander” (Traditional, arranged by Jason Webb); “That Spirit Of Christmas” (Parnell Davison, Mabel John and Joel Webster); “Auld Lang Syne” (Traditional).

This Christmas, your first must-have album is *Spirit Of Christmas*, by Taranda Greene. This CD has not left my player for a number of days now. What a vocal performance! That, along with the arrangements, makes this CD so enjoyable.

It’s not your typical Southern Gospel Christmas CD of the same songs everyone sings at Christmas. Taranda stepped out of the box and hit a home run.

The first cut a mixing of “Still, Still, Still/O Holy Night,” starts off as a soft falling snow and by the end Taranda sings home the snowstorm. What an ending on “Oh Holy Night!” It is just one of the ‘Oh, Wow’ moments on the CD.

Not to be outdone, Taranda covers a Motown Christmas classic, “Give Love On Christmas Day.” Written by Berry Gordy and originally brought to us by the Jackson 5, Taranda makes this song her own and my favorite on the CD.

Once again, going outside of the box is a cover of Steve Allen’s, “Cool Yule,” last covered by Bette Midler in 2006. It’s a jazz lovers’ delight and Taranda sings it with conviction.

If you’re looking for something different Christmas-wise to listen to, this will fit your bill. Just Christmasey enough and just different enough, that you can listen to this CD all year long. Visit Taranda at [tarandamusic.com](http://tarandamusic.com).

Strongest Tracks: “Give Love On Christmas Day,” “Cool Yule,” and “Still, Still, Still/Oh Holy Night.”



Jimmy Fortune  
*Hits & Hymns*  
2015 Gaither Records  
Producer: Ben Isaacs

Tracks: “Elizabeth” with Ben Isaacs and Sonya Isaacs, “Life’s Railway To Heaven” with the Oak Ridge Boys, “Danny Boy” with Ben Isaacs, Gene McDonald and Reggie Smith, “More Than A Name On A Wall” with Becky Isaacs, Sonya Isaacs and Ben Isaacs, “Far Side Banks Of Jordan” with Ben Isaacs and Charlotte Ritchie, “Precious Memories” with Ben Isaacs and Charlotte Ritchie, “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” with the Gaither Vocal Band, “Rock Of Ages” with Mike Rogers and Sydni Perry, “I Believe” with the Whites - Sharon and Cheryl, “How Great Thou Art” with Mike Rogers and Sydni Perry, “In The Sweet By And By” with Dailey and Vincent, “Too Much On My Heart” with Ricky Skaggs and Sharon White Skaggs, “Amazing Grace” with Vince Gill and Sonya Isaacs, “If I Was God” with Mike Rogers and Sydni Perry, “Victory In Jesus” with Ben Isaacs, Gene McDonald, Reggie Smith

One of the many star-studded Gospel releases in the past few months to feature a multitude of artists to record with one single person, this time it’s Jimmy Fortune’s turn. Last month, I reviewed the T. Graham Brown release, *Forever Changed*, which was a star-studded release.

Jimmy, as the title proclaims, sings hits from his Statler Brothers days: “Elizabeth”, “More Than a Name On A Wall” and “Too Much On My Heart.” The rest of the CD features hymns.

Joining Jimmy on this CD is Ben and Sonya Isaacs, Vince Gill, The Whites, Dailey and Vincent, Oak Ridge Boys,

Gene McDonald, Reggie Smith, Mike Rogers, Sydni Perry, and Ricky Skaggs.

This is one of the Top 10 CD’s of the year in any genre. In fact, at the time of this writing in November, this CD debuted at #10 on the Billboard Country Albums chart, #6 on the Billboard Top Christian albums and #156 on the all inclusive Billboard Top 200 albums chart.

Jimmy shines on all cuts and when you add in the special guests, this CD makes for one fine listening experience. One of my favorite cuts on the CD is the first release, “I Believe” which features Cheryl and Sharon of the Whites. “And I believe there’s a place called Heaven, I believe in a place called Calvary. I believe in a Man, His name is Jesus, And I believe that He gave His life for me.” A stirring song that makes you Believe.

Another favorite cut is “Victory In Jesus”. By the end of the track, you’re singing right along and if you’re driving, watch your speed. Overall this CD is well worth the purchase, and I suggest buying a copy for a friend, because you may not get yours back! Also, there is a companion DVD of the album. Visit Jimmy at [www.jimmyfortune.com/site](http://www.jimmyfortune.com/site).

Strongest Tracks: “I Believe,” “Victory In Jesus,” and “Just A Closer Walk With Thee.”



Wilburn and Wilburn  
*Shoulders*  
2015 Daywind

Tracks recorded: Skaggs Place– Hendersonville, TN and Vocals at Laurel Wood Studios, Gadsden, AL

Producer: Ben Isaacs, Jonathan and Jordan Wilburn  
Executive Producer: Dottie Leonard Miller

Tracks: “This Wouldn’t Be The Same Song” (Lee Black; Chris Filer; Sue C Smith); “It’s What He’s Done” (Gerald Crabb; Jimmy Yearly); “Love Without End, Amen” (Aaron

Barker); "Sin Is No Match For Grace" (Gerald Crabb); "You Asked Him To Leave" (Gerald Crabb; Dennis Morgan); "Prayer Is All I Need" (Sue C Smith; Val Dacus; Randall Garland); "Living Proof" (John Darin Rowsey; Steve Marshall); "Shoulders" (Jason Cox; Gina Boe; Lee Black); "Where The Love Of God Is Gonna Go" (Jason Cox; Gina Boe; Lee Black); "The Old Rugged Cross Made The Difference" (William J Gaither; Gloria Gaither)

Wilburn and Wilburn, the father and son duo made up of Jonathan and Jordan Wilburn, have released three CD's as Wilburn and Wilburn. Their fourth is *Shoulders*. Each album has been a step above the other.

This album is *Shoulders* above all the others. The duo has produced – in my opinion - the best CD of their short career as Wilburn and Wilburn.

From the opening cut, "This Wouldn't Be The Same Song," to the classic, "The Old Rugged Cross Made The Difference," each song is sung with sincerity and each song draws the listener in.

The current single "You Asked Him To Leave," from the

pen of Gerald Crabb, should be the Duo's first Number One. It's a song that hits home for all of us. We blame God for tragedies, in the world and in our schools but how can we? We asked God to leave, a long time ago.

The duo also tackles the George Strait classic, "Love Without End, Amen". Jonathan and Jordan make this song their own, and bring the song to a new generation who may never have heard Strait's version. This song will never go out of style with the eternal love story between a father and his son.

If you've never bought a full length Wilburn and Wilburn CD, this would be a good one to purchase. Visit Wilburn and Wilburn at [www.wilburn2.com](http://www.wilburn2.com).

Strongest Songs: "You Asked Him To Leave," "Love Without End Amen," and "Sin Is No Match For Grace."

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A portrait of a woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red top. The background is a soft-focus green. The text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Reflections with

Sherry Anne

A Star is Born

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (Matt 2:1-2)*

Who did they come to worship? Him. The star? No Him—the Maker of the stars.

Within a few short weeks, our large Broadway-style theater, with a seating capacity of 2,963, sold out of tickets to see a psychic medium; in particular, one claiming to talk to the dead, or dearly departed. I have seen this individual on various television programs, and I am baffled how people find any sense of validation by this person or profession.

Repeatedly, answers are given that are largely general in nature and are basic words of comfort that most peo-

ple learn in Psychology 101. Then if one were to go a step further and pursue a degree in Psychology, such as I have, you would hear words of compassion that come from studying human behavior and having an understanding of human nature. Add years of life experience to the mix, and you have age-old wisdom. For good measure, add in Biblical study, or other spiritual study, and you have words of knowledge.

While I acknowledge that spirits are real, it must also be carefully noted that not all spirits are good: *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).*

Further, we are commanded in Scripture to *“Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God” (Lev 19:31).*

If you're still not convinced of what your stance ought to be on mediums, I offer Deuteronomy 18:9-14 *"When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you (emphasis mine)."*

There are many more Scripture verses that support

contempt for these "false prophets" not only in the Old Testament but in the New Testament as well, namely the Book of Acts, Galatians and Revelation. Jesus, himself, said: *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come"* (John 16:13).

Previously, in John 14:26, Jesus defined who that "Spirit of Truth" is, stating it was the "Holy Spirit" whom the Father would send to teach us all things.

Friends, we do not need to "look to the stars," when we can look to the Maker of the stars for our peace and comfort—in this, we are commanded. The wise men sought Him through the star in the East, but the disciple tells us they came to worship HIM, the "Star" that had been born.



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Hello to all our SGN Scoops readers. Lil' Jan and I are excited to have been asked to host the Diamond Awards in Pigeon Forge, TN on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. It's going to be a great evening of musical excitement as the winners are announced. Make your plans to be at this event in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge. Don't miss out on seeing all the lovely 'Fall Colors' in The Smokies.

Also, we are thrilled with our new television show, *ENJOYING LIFE WITH DR. JERRY AND LIL' JAN*. Jeff Stice orchestrated our musical theme complete with trumpets, piccolos and tubas. It's absolutely great! Paul Heil of The Gospel Greats radio program is our announcer. The show airs in the 8th largest television market in America - Atlanta, Georgia. It's currently airing in 6 other cities and can be seen streaming nationwide every Saturday afternoon at 4pm Eastern on [www.watc.tv](http://www.watc.tv). Tune in each week for a time of fun and conversation with our friends.

We are looking forward to our annual winter schedule and stay in The Sunshine State of Florida which includes a wonderful Christian Cruise, February. 15-19, 2016. Our friends at Templeton Tours lease the entire ship. The bars and casinos are all closed, and it is turned into *THE GOOD OLD GOSPEL SHIP* with singing and preaching by more than 20 nationally known groups and speakers. It is a great opportunity to enjoy some good Gospel Music, Christian Fellowship and make new friends. We'd love to send you a brochure. Contact us at [drjerrygoff@aol.com](mailto:drjerrygoff@aol.com).

God Bless You All,  
Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan



## Dr. Jerry & Lil' Jan Goff

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## ***Historical Christian Fiction Meets Southern Gospel***

By Lynn Mills

Every time we see Southern Gospel groups take the stage, host an event, or hear them on the radio, we appreciate the talent and dedication of each member to the ministry. Yet, because of the nature behind a ministry that is constantly on the road, we oftentimes are not aware of the talented members in the families who stay home every week. Some of them run the group office, homeschool the children or are involved in their home church or local ministries.

One of those talented people is Bethany Baker. We recognize Bethany's husband, Chad, as the product manager and bus driver for Greater Vision. This fall, Bethany released her first Historical Christian Fiction Novel – *A Light In Bailey's Harbor*.

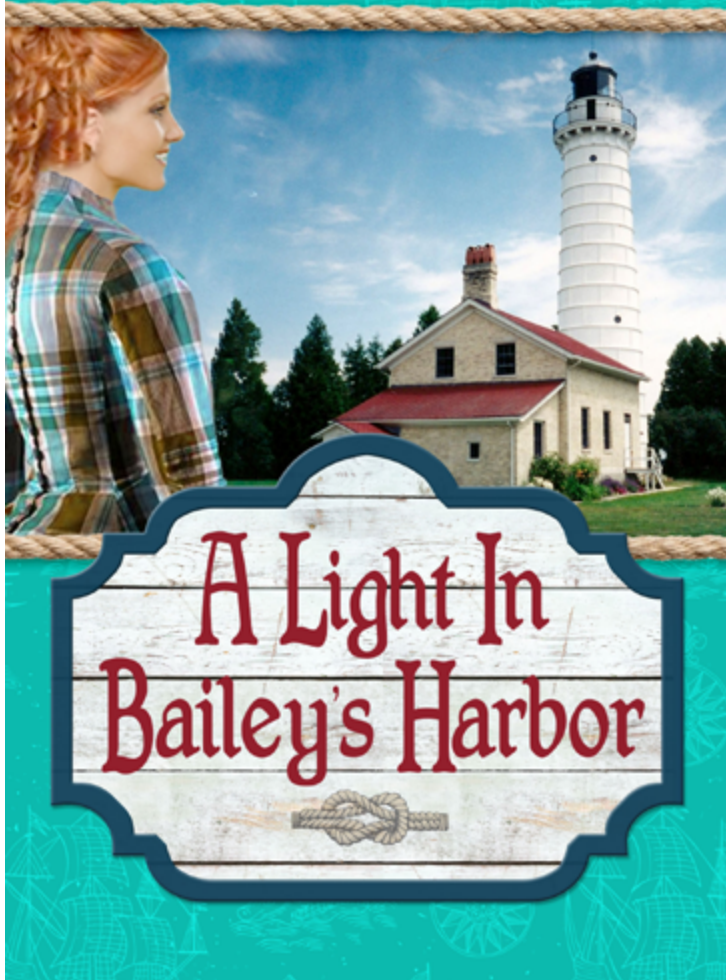
Bethany's journey to becoming a published author began when she was 16 years old. "Our family began taking vacations to Wisconsin to visit my best friend and her parents, who had moved to Wisconsin," says Bethany. "One year they introduced us to Bailey's Harbor and Cana Island Lighthouse. When I left, it was as if that

breeze that had swirled around us and the lighthouse had forced its way into my writer's heart. From then on, I was determined to write my story, the story of Katy Kipling, a girl impassioned by the idea of the lighthouse keeper, the lake, and her town of Bailey's Harbor."

From high school to college, teaching elementary school and marriage, Bethany kept working on her story when she had time and inspiration. In 2007, when Chad and Bethany were expecting their first child, he encouraged Bethany to take time off from work and complete the novel. The manuscript was finished in 2008 and the process of finding the right agency and people necessary to pitch the book to a publisher began. The long journey came to fruition in November of 2014 when Bethany signed a contract with Mantle Rock Publishing. Today, Bethany's book is published and available in paperback and Kindle formats.

That inspiration of a lighthouse in Wisconsin and many years of hard work is now a story that is Bethany's very own. A summary of the story is told in Bethany's own

# Bethany Baker



words, “*A Light In Bailey’s Harbor* is a Christian historical romance set in 1880 and centers around the heroine, Katy Kipling: a hopeless romantic with an exceptional amount of personality. Other characters include: Blake Strawberry, the new lighthouse keeper with an unfortunate last name, who is trying to heal the pain of his past, and Horatio Spafford, the writer of the beloved hymn ‘It is Well with my Soul,’ a life-long friend of Blake’s mother whose song plays a pivotal role in many of the characters’ lives. Through heartaches, laughter, distance, silly mishaps, and tragedy, the resounding message is clear: the Lord can work through every circumstance in your life, enabling you to say, ‘It is Well With My Soul.’”

Though the characters in *A Light In Bailey’s Harbor* are a work of fiction, some of the characters are based on actual people who lived in the town in the 1880’s. Some of these characters are the owner of the Bailey Harbor House Restaurant, Adem Hendricks; John Collins “the Teller of Tall Tales,” and the Brann Brothers who owned

the general store. Horatio Spafford is another character who appears in the novel and is based on an actual person. Spafford is also the writer of the hymn, “It Is Well With My Soul.”

When I asked Bethany her inspiration behind including the hymn writer into her story, she said, “I’ve always enjoyed hearing the stories that inspired the writers of the classic hymns. My uncle was the music minister at our church while I was growing up, and he would share stories of Fanny Crosby, John Newton, and other writers. The background stories made the hymns come alive and become so much more meaningful.

“My favorite has always been the story behind the writing of ‘It Is Well With My Soul.’ In *A Light in Bailey’s Harbor*, the main character often sings to her little brother, and hums to herself; so I wanted her to sing a hymn that is meaningful. When I began to research hymns of the 1800’s, the Lord just began to help me pull the pieces together.

“I learned that Horatio Spafford, the writer of ‘It Is Well With My Soul,’ grew up in the exact area in Massachusetts where my main character, Blake, grew up. Spafford also moved to Chicago at the same time as some other characters and even left America to journey to Israel at the same time that my novel ends. I truly believe the Lord wanted this song in my novel for a reason. I hope that both the hymn and the life of Horatio Spafford encourage my readers as much as they have encouraged me.”

In addition to the characters that are based on real people, Bethany’s family inspired some of the fictional characters that appear in the story. “Katy’s little three year-old brother, David, was based on my oldest son, Carson,” Bethany explains. “At the time I was editing and improving this character, Carson was the same age as David. He was so dramatic, verbal, and cute as a button, that I had plenty of inspiration.”

Mina Hendricks is another character that holds special meaning to Bethany. “She is based on my grandmother, Euleen Minor, whom we all call Mama. For a little girl with way too many words, Mama was a patient, loving listener and a true encourager. One of the hardest things for me right now is knowing that the grandmother who inspired the words in my novel now struggles to speak her own.

“Mama turned 85 in July and is in a nursing home, living

out good days and bad. She may never fully understand that I have become an author, but I'll never forget the lessons she taught me through the life she lived before me and the rest of her grandchildren. A Scripture that she drove deep into our hearts is John 21:22, 'And Jesus saith unto them...What is that to thee? Follow thou me..'

"She taught us to forget the petty comments of others, the worries that bog us down, and the roadblocks that



detour us from our God-given goals. Mama was, and still is, a gift."

Finally, we meet the inspiration behind Katy Kippling herself. Bethany shares that Katy, "...is loosely based on me and my sometimes over-the-top personality. When my husband Chad's friend was setting us up for a blind date, he told Chad that I had an 'abundance of personality.' Isn't that what you say about a homely girl? Amazingly, he still agreed to date me, marry me, and share this journey with me and my many, many words."

For anyone who enjoys a good Christian novel, *A Light*

*In Bailey's Harbor* is one book to add to your collection. Bethany takes a historical setting about a young woman who loves lighthouses and hymns to convey truths about life that readers can relate to even today. As Blake endured hardships and needed healing from his past and Katy learned to trust the Lord more fully; we too can draw from the experiences of these fictional characters to overcome situations in our day-to-day lives.

Support Bethany by purchasing *A Light In Bailey's Harbor* from her author website: [www.bethanybakersonline.com](http://www.bethanybakersonline.com), or from Amazon, and sing "It Is Well With My Soul" with Katy Kippling on the shores of Lake Michigan!

Bethany and Chad have two sons, Carson and Cole, and reside in Morristown, Tennessee. Bethany is a stay-at-home mom who uses her teaching skills to homeschool Carson and Cole. She also has a blog, *When the Write Door Opens*, where she shares interesting tidbits and behind the scene information from researching *A Light In Bailey's Harbor*, teaching and family. You can find Bethany online on her Facebook author page, *Goodreads* and on her website: <https://www.bethanybakersonline.com>.

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# Christmas changed the World

By Jennifer Campbell

As I sit here pondering my Christmas to-do list, I find myself wondering where all of this began. From Christmas cards to cookies and decorations to parties, all of the activity throughout the holiday season leaves little time to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. While I enjoy every aspect of Christmas, including all of these fun aspects of the holiday season, it is my hope and prayer that we can all slow down a bit, amid the busyness of Christmas, and remember that special night so long ago.

On the first Christmas night, there were no last-minute holiday sales or revolving Christmas trees adorned with twinkling lights. No one wrote Christmas cards to a hundred of their closest relatives or friends and no one wrapped gag gifts for the annual office Christmas party. On that glorious night, a bright star lit up the heavens, announcing the birth of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The first Christmas night, while quite humble compared to the fanfare we have today, was the moment that changed the world forever. Although Jesus Christ was born in a hay-filled manger, He grew up to save the world.

This Christmas, I am striving to keep my eyes on Jesus Christ. Even as I select special items to give to my family and friends, I want these items to remind them

of my love for them and in turn, the love that Jesus has for all of us. To me, the greatest joy in giving a gift is sharing my love with someone else. I truly believe that it is more blessed to give than receive. So did God. But He didn't give us another pair of socks, a gift card to our favorite restaurant, or a new smartphone. He gave us his only Son, Jesus Christ, as the greatest Gift ever given in the history of mankind.

Following in His Father's footsteps, Jesus gave of Himself by healing the sick, raising the dead, and performing many miracles. Jesus helped others more than we will ever know. God's Word says, "Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25 NLT). Then when Jesus was 33 years old, He made the ultimate sacrifice by giving His life, so that we could have eternal life (see I John 3:16).

Jesus' level of giving sort of makes that beautiful scarf you bought for your grandmother or the train set you picked out for your children pale in comparison, doesn't it? That's the beauty of gift giving though. Jesus gave of Himself, expecting nothing in return. Even now, He doesn't expect any form of repayment. We have the freedom to either accept this priceless Gift of grace or

reject this precious Gift that has been freely extended to every man, woman, boy, and girl.

This Christmas season, my prayer is that you will embrace the love of Jesus Christ. As you write your Christmas cards to family and friends, decorate sugar cookies with your sons and daughters, and enjoy shopping for all of the special gift recipients on your list, remember why we celebrate this holiday in the first place. Even amid the holiday hustle, Jesus Christ is the reason for it all. Without the birth of Christ, Christmas would not be CHRISTmas. Without Christ, the world would not be the same. The birth of Jesus brought love, peace, and joy to the world. On that first Christmas night so long ago, Hope was born. Eternal hope found only through Jesus Christ. That is how Christmas changed the world.

# JERRY Branscomb

branscombsqospel@gmail.com

facebook.com/Jerry Branscomb

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# The Editor's Last Word

By Lorraine Walker

It seems rather fitting to have my first Editor's Last Word at the end of SGN Scoops, in December, the end of the year. This has been a great year at Scoops and we thank all of you for sharing it with us. We've had wonderful artists, writers, advertisers and radio stations take part in Scoops 2015. We've seen the Lord increase our readership and the attendance at our functions. And now we get to end the year with one of the most popular quartets on our cover to wish you all a Merry Christmas!

I first met Ernie Haase back when he joined the Cathedrals. I remember being in Opryland Park, listening to all of the groups that were on the schedule. I was in the middle of a crowd that was headed for the concessions when the Cathedrals came on whom I had wanted to hear. I heard this tenor voice singing, "Oh What A Savior!" and I stopped dead in my tracks, as did many others around me. Ernie Haase continues to make an impression on his audiences, yet continues to be as humble and approachable to all, just like his mentors, George Younce and Glenn Payne. We hope you have enjoyed Craig Harris' look at Ernie and his group, Signature Sound.

To continue with the Christmas spirit, we hope you didn't miss the seasonal articles from Jennifer, David, Dusty, Kelly, Laurette, Sherry Anne and Selena. Take another look at the feature on the artists who contrib-

uted their Christmas Prayers and read what Randall said about TaRanda's new Christmas album. I hope you didn't miss the features on more great artists like Josh Allen of the Allen Family, Josh Feemster of Legacy Five, The Mattingly Family, and the late Faye Speer and Paul Roark. Lynn Mills introduced us to author Bethany Baker and Vivian took us to the Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Vonda shone another DJ Spotlight and we wrapped up the 2015 Creekside review with a listing of the Diamond Award winners. Did you see who was number one on the December 2015 Top 100 as submitted by our radio station partners?

On a sad note, this month we say goodbye to Lou Hildreth and her monthly column, Life, Love and Legends that we all so enjoy. Lou has decided to retire from regular writing, although we understand that she might visit Scoops occasionally. We do hope you spent some time in the tribute section to Ms. Lou. For those unacquainted with the amazing history of this wonderful lady, we reprinted an all-encompassing story of her life, written by Sandi Duncan Clark in 2012. There are many pictures of the Southern Gospel personnel that are privileged to call Ms. Lou their friend. It's a veritable Who's-Who of the industry. Ms. Lou has made quite an impression on us all. We hope this lovely lady doesn't stay away too long!

In conclusion, I would like to wish you all a very Merry

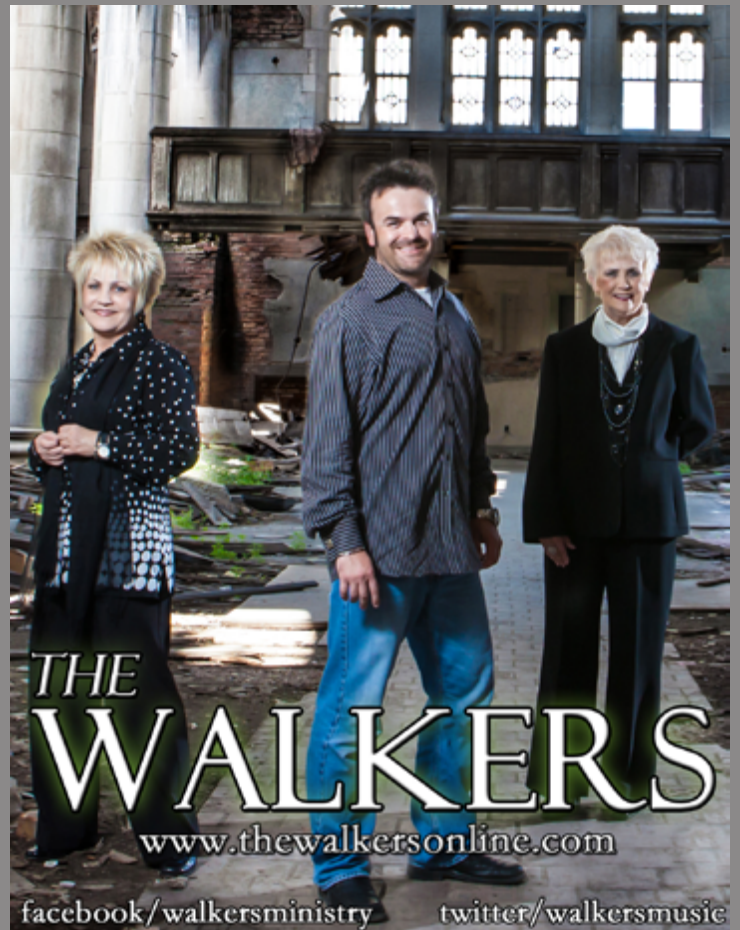
Christmas and a Happy New Year. My prayer for each of you is that you experience the peace in your heart that only Jesus can give. Our world may be full of unrest, but you can experience the comforting presence of His Holy Spirit today. May God richly bless you and yours this holy season. If you have any comments, suggestions, concerns or even just want to send greetings, please email me at [lorraine@sngnscoops.com](mailto:lorraine@sngnscoops.com). I look forward to hearing from you now and in 2016!



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



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



Christian Health & Fitness Expert Laurette Willis is an author with Harvest House Publishers, and the Director of PraiseMoves Fitness Ministry with DVDs, a training program and PraiseMoves

Instructors on four continents (<http://PraiseMoves.com>), on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/PraiseMoves>. Laurette invites readers to get started on the road to better health and fitness for spirit, soul and body. For a free, easy- to- follow 21 day program visit: <http://ChristianFitnessKit.com>



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



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



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

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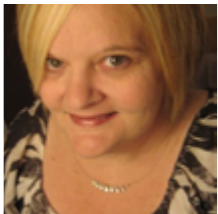
## SGN SCOOPS



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

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

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



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!



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.



My name is Tina Wakefield and I am currently Music Minister for Amazing Grace Worship Center in Alabaster, Al. I have led worship for over 18 years as well as teach adults how to live everyday life in Victory as a Christian. I enjoy playing and singing Gospel Music whenever and

wherever I am invited. I currently have three Cd s available on my website at [www.tinawakefield.com](http://www.tinawakefield.com) and just released my first music video with Godsey & Associates called, "The Choice" available on YouTube. I write a lot of the music we sing at church and also record my original songs. My family is very ministry oriented with Pastors, Teachers, Musicians, and Singers. My heart's desire is to spread the gospel of Christ through any and all open doors that I receive.

# Contributors

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Dr. Jeff R. Steele is a pastor, conference speaker, singer, songwriter, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is currently the Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Their services are webcast worldwide; they have a weekly television program and host

an annual Jubilee each August that attracts hundreds from around the southeast. Dr. Steele is beginning his eighth year there. As a songwriter Jeff has been credited with 17 Number One songs in Christian music as well as four BMI Gold Medals for Great National Popularity as measured by Broadcast Performances. He has also been recognized by BMI as Christian Songwriter of the Year on several occasions. The group, The Steeles was featured across the nation and was seen on numerous magazine covers, feature articles, television and radio programs during their ministry on the road. Jeff is still writes songs and articles, sings on occasion and speaks in conferences and revivals. Jeff is married to Sherry, his wife of 31 years and they have three grown children. Visit Jeff on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and at [www.jeffrsteale.com](http://www.jeffrsteale.com).



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

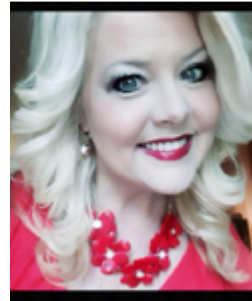
working behind the scenes on their social media. She also travels full-time on the road with her family's gospel group, The Stevens Family. Photography is her passion and singing for Jesus is her calling. For several years, you have known her as our very own "Younger Perspective" writer. Check out her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



Sherry Anne Lints, a Doctor of Chiropractic, singer, speaker, actress, writer and fitness trainer, was born with a bilateral hearing and speech impairment. She appeared in the films, Clancy and The Perfect Gift and was a special guest on 100 Huntley Street, in Ontario, Canada. She is a contributing author for the book, Modern-Day Miracles and

released her second CD, Keep on Prayin', July 2012 and has

opened for many of the Gaither Homecoming Artists. Additionally, Sherry Anne helps lead worship and drama at her church. For more information, visit: [www.SherryAnne.com](http://www.SherryAnne.com).



Vonda Easley is the owner of Hope's Journey Christian Ministries and the voice of "The Strictly Southern Show" at WPIL 91.7 in Heflin, Alabama on Fridays



Vivian is the marketing manager at KKGW in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, as well as hosting a program on Sundays where she features national, regional as well as local artists. She also brings news of upcoming concert events in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding area. Vivian has promoted various artists in this area for over 10

years beginning with Phil Cross and Poet Voices and later Sharron Kay King and Jerry Bennett to name a few. She has spent the past several years promoting Southern Gospel, Inspirational Country Gospel and Bluegrass in this area in order to preserve this part of our heritage.



Jonathan Edwards began his radio career on KWFC 89.1 FM in Springfield, Mo. At KWFC he worked in news, sales and was an on air personality, creating the very popular Ozark Gospel Showcase. He has been nominated for two Singing News Fan Awards and garnered the coveted Paul Heil Award from the 2012 Diamond Awards. He

travels full time with Faith's Journey and currently hosts the syndicated radio show SGN Scoops Radio.

# Contributors

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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.

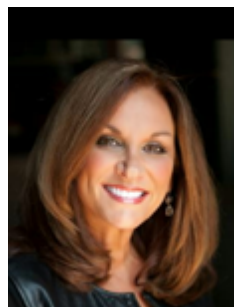


David's distinctive sound and his ability to blend perfectly with a variety of vocalists has made him a valuable commodity on live events as well as in the studio. His compassionate and gentle spirit makes him more than an artist, it makes him a great friend!

David began singing at age 6 with family. In 1990, he filled in for the Speer Family and later that year he became the lead vocalist for The Trailblazers. In 2002, Staton filled the lead position with Priority. While with Priority, the group was the resident gospel group at the Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, MO and they performed for over one million people in one year. After the group disbanded in 1995, David continued to write for artists in many different genres of music while occasionally performing solo. It was during this time that his song, "Every Knee Shall Bow", recorded by Dottie Peoples, was nominated for a Grammy Award. His song, "Together We Can" was adopted as the national theme song to bring awareness to violence in schools. The music video (Together We Can) that featured many Atlanta based artists was shown at the 1999 Grammy Awards show, which helped launch the careers of artists like R&B's Jagged Edge, India Arie, and 4.0. In 2004, David partnered with Mike LeFevre to form The LeFevre Quartet. During the seven years that he was the lead vocalist, the group had many hit songs and won many awards. After leaving the LeFevre

Quartet in 2011, Staton began working on a solo project and also began singing with Palmetto State Quartet. The group appeared on television and toured with country music superstar, Wynonna Judd while Staton was there.

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



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

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

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

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

# Contributors

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Marcie Gray was born and raised in sunny California, yet always dreamed of moving to Tennessee. She had planned to move to the south as a young adult and sing with a gospel group, after being inspired to do so by her Great Uncle, Alphus LeFevre. Though it took longer than she had expected, in 2011, her dream of moving

east finally came true when her husband, Don, retired from the CHP. They packed up their two youngest daughters, three dogs and two horses and headed east. What a blessing to finally be where the tea is sweet, the Southern Gospel music is plentiful and there's a Cracker Barrel on every corner!

Spend ten minutes with Marcie and you'll learn that she is rarely lacking for something to say. Her passion for Southern Gospel music, combined with her instinct to be behind the camera, makes journalism a very enjoyable outlet for that "Type A" personality she has been affectionately labeled with by her family and friends.

Marcie is a worship leader, vocalist and songwriter. She has directed choirs of all ages and given voice lessons for many years. Her solo CD, "Carry Me Home" was released in September of 2014.

Having family in ministry has given Marcie a desire to support those who are on the road sharing the gospel through song. Visit her website at [www.graydoveministries.com](http://www.graydoveministries.com) to learn more!



Lynn Mills is a talented writer who has a passion for music, specifically Gospel music. Lynn authors the site Lynn's Chronicles where she shares her experiences attending various concert events and what people can expect should they want to attend. Also featured are CD & DVD Reviews, Devotionals,

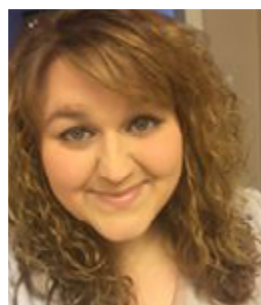
Photos, Video and News tidbits. Keep up with Lynn online at <http://lynnschronicles.com> or on facebook @ <http://facebook.com/lynns.chronicles>



Hi, my name is Dean Adkins and I am honored to be a part of the SGN Scoops family. Perhaps some background information would be beneficial. I am sometimes called "Professor" because I was a Biology professor at Marshall University for 31 years and I retired in 2004. I grew up listening to gospel music (or as it is now termed Southern Gospel Music) and many of my relatives (Adkins, Toney, Booth families) are gospel singers/musicians. I collect records, primarily LPs, and SGM related items. Over the years I have studied the history of this genre. I would like to use these articles to describe events and the mind-set of the 1950s and 60s – sometimes called the Golden Age of Gospel Music.



Alpha Source Media Group is lead by Candi Combs and was born out of a strong desire to support the ministers who share the gospel on the highways and byways of life. Combs says, "These artists and their families spend their days selflessly bringing the life-changing message of Jesus to crowds large and small. We want to do all we can to support them!" In 2015, Candi will have a law degree from Liberty University and will provide a full range of legal counsel. This component will bring the highest level of support to those who also desire legal representation.



Bethany Cook is a 26-year-old from the great state of North Carolina. In her early years, Bethany grew up on the road as the daughter of an evangelist. In her teen years, the family came off the road and made their home in Burlington, NC where her father is now a pastor. Being an avid Southern Gospel fan from an early age has enabled Bethany to meet many different artists and make many friends along the way. With a history of devotional writing for family and friends, she looks forward to sharing her writing and allowing her readers to see a little more into the lives of Southern Gospel Music artists. Bethany is a Medical Assistant for a large Cardiology Practice in North Carolina.

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



Sheri began singing while traveling with her abundantly talented family, led by her father John LaFontaine, a minister for over 48 years. In 1994 with Grammy nominated singer Jeff Easter producing, she recorded her first solo project, *Takin' My Place*.

Shortly thereafter, Sheri received a call from the top promoter in south-

ern gospel, Frank Arnold and was asked to join his group, The Arnolds on the road. After several years of traveling Sheri felt the Lord leading her to focus on her solo career and songwriting. In 2004 she signed a songwriting contract with one of the industry's top recording labels, Daywind Music. Her songs have been recorded by Kim Hopper, Karen Peck, Sue Dodge, Brian Free & Assurance, Misty Freeman, Three Bridges, The Whisnants, The Browns and many more.



Paige Givens is a Christ follower, wife, mother of two boys and kindergarten teacher to 18 five-year-olds. She is a writer, reader, singer, studier, and teacher of words. Paige lives in Hayden, Alabama with her husband of 10 years, Chris Givens, and their sons Parker and Peyton.

Paige loves to blog about faith,

writing, music, and teaching. Her goal is to serve the Lord by inspiring others to be who He has called them to be. You can listen to her music and read her devotionals at [www.paigegivens.com](http://www.paigegivens.com).

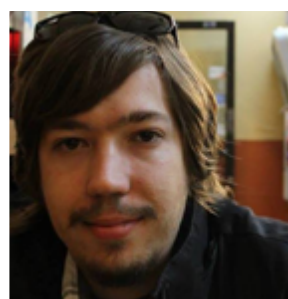


Jaquita Lindsey holds the alto position for the Southern Gospel group 11th Hour. The group was originally based out of Monroe, LA but recently relocated to Hendersonville, TN. She comes from the small town of Camden, AR. She is also a licensed cosmetologist. In her spare time, she enjoys being crafty and spending time with

family and friends. She's been singing since the age of eight, but realizes that it's much more than just singing. "Anyone can show off their talent. I'd rather hear someone that shows that they are anointed!" For more information on Jaquita, visit [11thhourgospelgroup.com](http://11thhourgospelgroup.com)



Matt Baker resides in Lenoir, NC with his wife, Ashley, and children, Bella and Bennett. A gospel music lover, Matt spent time on the road full-time with Promise of Murfreesboro, TN, before moving into church ministry as the music minister at Ambassador Baptist Church in Hudson, NC.



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.

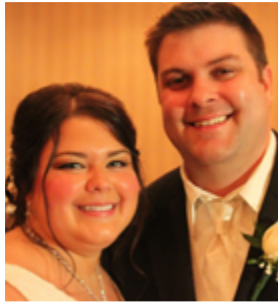


Hello, I'm Randall Hamm, Gospel Program Director of WFLQ French Lick Indiana, host of the Sunday Morning Gospel Show for the past 20 years on WFLQ French Lick Indiana and Singing News Top 10 Small Market DJ for the past three years. I now add something new to my resume! Record Reviewer, ok... CD Reviewer.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

# Contributors

## SGN SCOOPS



Brian Fuson is from the great state of Michigan, and although he is a Northerner, he certainly knows his Gospel music. He's been promoting concerts since he was 15-years-old and has worked with a diverse group of artists. He has been blogging about Southern Gospel music for the last few years on his site called Fuson's Findings. And

most recently, Brian has started singing with his wife Crysta and her parents, The Sammons Family. All of this information and more can be found on his website, [brianfusonmusic.com](http://brianfusonmusic.com).



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 inter-generational 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.



Timmy Williamson is a 24-year-old singer and actor from Virginia Beach, Virginia. He graduated from Liberty University in 2014 with degrees in Worship and Theatre. Over the past several years, he has been given the privilege of singing in many churches and events as well as performing in professional theatre productions. He has been enjoyed

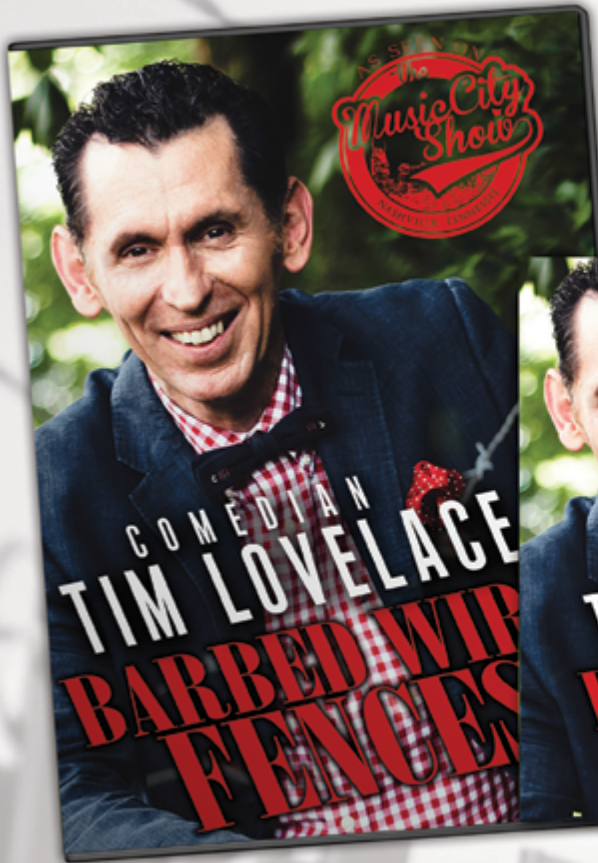
by audiences at NQC's Artist Showcases, Gospel Explosion at First Baptist Church of Dallas, and in the Virginia Beach Gospel Music Festival. Timmy currently lives in Lynchburg, Virginia where he is pursuing a full time career traveling and singing. He would love to come and share his music with your church or special event! For more information, please visit his website, [www.timmywilliamson.com](http://www.timmywilliamson.com).



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

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

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