

AUGUST 2026

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FROM THE EDITOR

August always arrives with a certain shift in the air. The long, unhurried days of summer begin to tighten their rhythm, school buses return to the roads, and families across the nation step back into routines that had been resting since May. For many students, teachers, and parents, this month marks a new beginning - fresh notebooks, new classrooms, unfamiliar challenges, and the quiet hope that God will guide every step of the year ahead. As you read this issue, I invite you to join me in praying over them. May the Lord cover our children with protection, steady their minds, strengthen their courage, and surround them with voices that speak life and truth.

This month's cover features a man whose influence on Gospel music is immeasurable - Bill Gaither. His legacy continues to shape generations of singers, writers, and worshipers, and his impact is felt in nearly every corner of our industry. It's an honor to spotlight him in this issue, and I believe you'll find his story both grounding and inspiring.

We're also delighted to bring you two powerful feature stories. First, Sojourner Quartet, a group whose journey has been marked by miracles, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to sharing Christ through harmony. Their testimony reminds us that God still moves, still heals, and still prompts His people to step out in faith.

We also turn our attention to Jeff Hamilton, whose musical excellence and spiritual depth have made him a respected voice in Gospel music. His story is one of calling, craftsmanship, and the quiet strength that comes from walking closely with the Lord.

As always, our monthly columnists have poured their hearts into this issue. You'll find encouragement, challenge, and biblical insight woven through every page - reminders that God is present in every season, including this one of new beginnings.

August is a month of transition, but it is also a month of opportunity. Whether you are sending a child off to kindergarten, watching a teenager step into their senior year, or simply navigating your own changing landscape, I pray this issue meets you with hope. God goes before us. He stands beside us. And He continues to write stories through music, through ministry, and through ordinary people willing to say yes.

May this season bring fresh strength, renewed purpose, and a deeper awareness of His presence in every step.

John

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CROSSFIRE

The Effects of Prayer

Gabriel Swaggart

Prayer is one of the most essential tools that the child of God has. Through prayer, things can change. Prayer is the key to direction, health, prosperity, more abundant life, and spiritual growth. At the same time, it is the path for God to demonstrate just how powerful He is.

When you face an impossible situation, there is only one thing you can do - pray. When you are faced with insurmountable odds, pray. To explain this, I want to look at the early church and how it handled conditions that could have potentially ended badly. While Peter and John faced persecution from the religious leaders, the early church faced a critical moment in its infancy. How would they respond to the threats?

In the face of persecution, the church did not shy away, and neither did it cower in the face of pressure. Instead, it gathered together to do the only thing they knew to do, pray. They began to lift their voices unto heaven and declare that God was the Creator of the worlds and everything in it, and He was in control over everything.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The subject of the sovereignty of God is something that is not discussed anymore in most churches. God is sovereign, and it means that God possesses supreme power. It also means that everything that God does is right. We might not understand circumstances that are before us. We might not understand why certain things happen in the way they do, but we need to know that everything God does is right.

The situations we face are either caused or allowed by the Lord to happen. I understand this is something that is referred to often, but many people do not fully understand it. The reality of it all is that God is always right in everything we face in life. Everything is subject to the will of God, and when you are faced with impossible circumstances, and you do not know what to do, pray.

THREE REASONS TO PRAY

Prayer is one of the most critical disciplines that any Christian can develop and should develop. There are three significant reasons to pray: communion with God, consecration, and petition. Communion speaks of relationship, and anyone knows that it is inconceivable to establish any relationship without communication. God desires to talk with us, but He does not want this to be a one-way street, for He longs for us to speak to Him. Second, prayer is vital for consecration, which means “to make holy.” During the quiet moments shut in with God, He begins to point out to us what needs to be changed in our lives. Through Peter, the Holy Spirit writes, “*Be ye holy; for I am holy*” (1 Peter 1:16). Holiness comes through our faith in Christ and what he did at Calvary on our behalf. As we continue to seek the Lord through prayer, He will develop us into becoming holy. The third reason prayer is essential is that we petition the Lord for things we either need or want. Remember, what is either asked or desired must be in the will of God, and one cannot know the will of God if there is no relationship.

REQUESTS

Notice, Peter and John never once asked the Lord to destroy these men or even for the persecution to stop. Instead, they asked for boldness to press through and do what is right. The boldness mentioned here is not reckless impulsiveness or a blabbering of the mouth with no regard for consequences,

“The only way for revival to spread is through the act of prayer.”



but confidence and freedom in speaking openly without concealment.

Their request for boldness was to declare the righteousness of God in the face of severe discrimination. If there was ever a time for the church to become bold, that time is now. Now is not the time for the body of Christ to remain silent, rest on its laurels, or go along to get along, but to stand firm, be bold, and preach the Gospel in righteousness. We must proclaim that we are not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Their second request was for a confirmation for their boldness that the Lord would stretch down His hand and bring forth healing. Divine healing was prominent in the time of the early church, as signs and wonders helped show the power of God, not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles.

Some may wonder why we are not seeing the miracles that the early church saw in its infancy. I cannot fully answer that question. All I know is that the days of miracles are not over and that we will see a wave of divine healing flood this land one more time. I believe in the healing power of God, and I believe that we are going to see miracles, signs, and wonders, for these will follow them that believe (Mark 16:17).

earthquake, as some might think, but rather a physical demonstration of the power of God as it shook the very foundations of that chamber. This would not have happened without prayer. Prayer changes things.

If we, as the church, desire to see our city shaken, then we need to pray. If we long to see our families shaken by the power of God, then pray. If we thirst for a shaking within our lives, then pray. Pray until something happens.

The only way for revival to spread is through the act of prayer. I believe that America will see the most incredible move of God it has ever seen, but it will not come through any other means except prayer. When the Spirit of God fell that day, He gave them a refilling to continue to stand for righteousness and gave them the ability to speak with boldness.

Whatever the situation is that you are facing, take time to pray. Through the act of seeking the face of God, you will find direction, peace, comfort, and miracles. As we mentioned, pray until something happens, for prayer can change the outcome of the circumstance you are facing.

RESULTS

As they prayed, something beyond our scope of thinking occurred; the walls began to shake. This was not an





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Jeff Hamilton's story begins in the hills of Pike County, Kentucky - a place where faith is woven into the rhythm of daily life and where music rises naturally from front porches, church pews, and the winding roads of eastern Kentucky. Long before he ever stepped onto a stage or heard his songs on the radio, he was a boy sitting in church beside his parents, listening to his father sing the old Southern Gospel standards.

Jeff Hamilton

A Voice Raised for the Mountains and for the Master

By Cory Parker

“**I** never had a choice about going to church on Sunday morning,” Jeff says with a laugh. “No questions asked. I knew I had to. Back then I never understood why. Now that I’m older, I understand. I thank the Lord for my Mom and Dad.”

His father, who has sung for the Lord for more than forty-five years, became Jeff’s earliest musical influence. The sound of those Gospel songs settled deep into him, even when he didn’t realize it. “He still sings the old style Southern Gospel,” Jeff says. “I grew up listening to him.”

For Jeff, faith wasn’t just inherited, it became personal on April 16, 2017, Easter Sunday. “I gave my heart to the Lord that day,” he says. “My wife was also saved and baptized that day. My Dad helped baptize us.” It was a moment that marked the beginning of a new life, a new calling, and eventually, a new direction in music.

That day didn’t just change his eternity - it changed his purpose.

Years before his salvation, Jeff traveled and performed with a cousin in a local group. They played anywhere people

would listen - clubs, bars, weekend venues that kept him away from home and left him feeling empty.

“We were pretty good,” he says. “But there was something missing. Besides me being away from my wife and kids every weekend, it was awful. I was playing and singing in places I never should’ve been in.”

It took time - and distance - for him to understand what that missing piece was.

“Years down the road I knew what was missing in the songs: the Lord. I was meant for more. I had a job to do, and it wasn’t playing and singing in those places, it was for the Lord.”

Today, Jeff speaks with conviction about that turning point. “The Lord gave me this job I do, and I will do it as long as I have air in my lungs. We all have a job to do for Him. Mine is writing and singing. I’m the happiest I’ve ever been.”

Jeff never entered the music ministry to chase fame. “I never got into the music ministry to make it big or have my name in lights,” he says. “I just write songs about my life that everyone can relate to.”

His songwriting is deeply personal - stories of his own struggles, the experiences of friends, and the spiritual battles faced by everyday believers. "I love songs that tell stories," he says. "I think that's the best songs written."

His mission is simple, and he repeats it often: "If one song I write can touch the heart of one lost person and bring them to the Lord, then I'm doing my job."

Despite his humble approach, Jeff's music has resonated far beyond the mountains of eastern Kentucky. He has been named 'Best in the Mountains Singer,' an honor he doesn't take lightly. "Knowing the people here thought enough of me to even nominate me, that's huge. Like I've said before, it's all in His name."

He has also been the #1 artist in the tri-state area for many months, and his first two nationwide radio singles charted across multiple Gospel, Christian, and Christian Country Top 100 charts. "That to me is amazing," he says. "Praise the Lord."

Jeff's latest single, *I Pray*, follows his hit *Cherished Memories*. Both songs have charted nationally, but their meaning goes far deeper than numbers.

"*I Pray* is a song I wrote for my lost family members, friends, and coworkers," Jeff explains. "I have people in my life that don't know the Lord. This song is the prayers I pray every day of my life."

"*Cherished Memories* I wrote as a gift for Mom and Dad," he says. "Thanking them for everything they've done for me. But mostly it's about the time we are allowed to be together."



Jeff often reflects on a moment from his childhood, a sermon preached by his Uncle Sonny. Jeff was lying in the back seat of the church when he heard words that stayed with him for half a century: "Imagine the Lord can do anything He wants to... He can snap His fingers and your heart would stop right now, and you open your eyes standing in front of God. Are you ready to face Him?"

That question became a compass for Jeff's life. And now, for his ministry.

Jeff understands the weight of being a Christian in a watching world. "We are the only Bible some people will ever read," he says. "Sinners watch every move us Christians make. Waiting for us to mess up, and we do. No one is perfect. Just our Father."

But he also knows the beauty of grace. "When we mess up, we can always take it

to the Lord, drop on our knees, and say a prayer."

Today, Jeff Hamilton stands firmly in his calling. Not as a celebrity, but as a servant.

"My mission is clear," he says. "To help point the lost in the right direction. Help them on their journey. Help them find the Lord. Point them to the truth - Jesus."

He pauses, then adds the words that define his heart: "It's not about me. It's all in His name. I'm a nobody... helping the lost find their way. My songs can only take you so far - help lead you - but you have to do the rest."

And in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, his voice continues to rise steady, sincere, and full of purpose - carrying the Gospel to anyone willing to listen.



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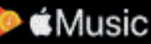
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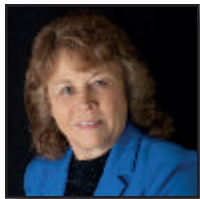
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MARGIE'S MEDITATION

Maintaining A Right Attitude When Everything Is Going Wrong

Margie Tanner

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. - *Philippians 4:4* This is a powerful statement made repeatedly by Paul when things in his life were far from perfect. He is writing this to the Philippians while he is a prisoner.

If you read through the life of Paul, you will discover he suffered much difficulty, great persecution, and knew all about the storms of life. However, you never find him down or depressed or having a pity party. Sure, he probably had his moments, but he is always giving thanks to God and encouraging his fellow Christians to rejoice in the Lord. "Well, easier said than done," you are probably saying.

It is easy to be cheerful and positive when all is well, but when troubles come and the unexpected storm hits, you become ill or maybe lose your job - that's a whole new ball game. We have all had the wrong attitude at times, yet it seems that some people live with the wrong attitude all the time. They never see anything good, they always speak negative, so to speak, they can't see the forest for the trees. This simply means they have spiritual tunnel vision. They can only see the problems, not the blessings.

A right attitude in a bad situation is a strong display of faith. Stand on Romans 8:28, "*And we KNOW that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.*" No matter what Paul was going through he knew that God was working all things for his good. God was at work getting Paul to the place he needed to be.

There is a song titled *He Had To Bring Me Here To Get Me There*. Wow!

Think about Joseph. Circumstances dealt him a bad hand. He was hated by his brothers, sold to be a slave, lied on, and imprisoned. Yet in all of the problems Joseph maintained a right attitude, and because of this God promoted him again and again and showed him favor. Although things looked pretty bleak at times, Joseph displayed the mark of a great servant by serving to the best of his ability. He gave 100%. God had a plan, and that plan was to save the house of Jacob and he had to bring Joseph to Egypt to get Jacob there.

In Genesis 45:5, he said, "*Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.*" In chapter 50:19-20, "*And Joseph said unto them fear not: for am I in the place of God. But as for you, you thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good to bring to pass, as it is his day to save much people alive.*"

Job is another example of someone who worshipped in spite of great trials. He did not like what he was going through but the Word says he never accused God foolishly. So we can learn an important lesson from these men of God. When the

difficulty comes, as it surely will, let's stand in faith and keep a good attitude, knowing that although the present is not pleasant, we always have much to rejoice about.

Remember God has a plan, and He is working all things for our good.





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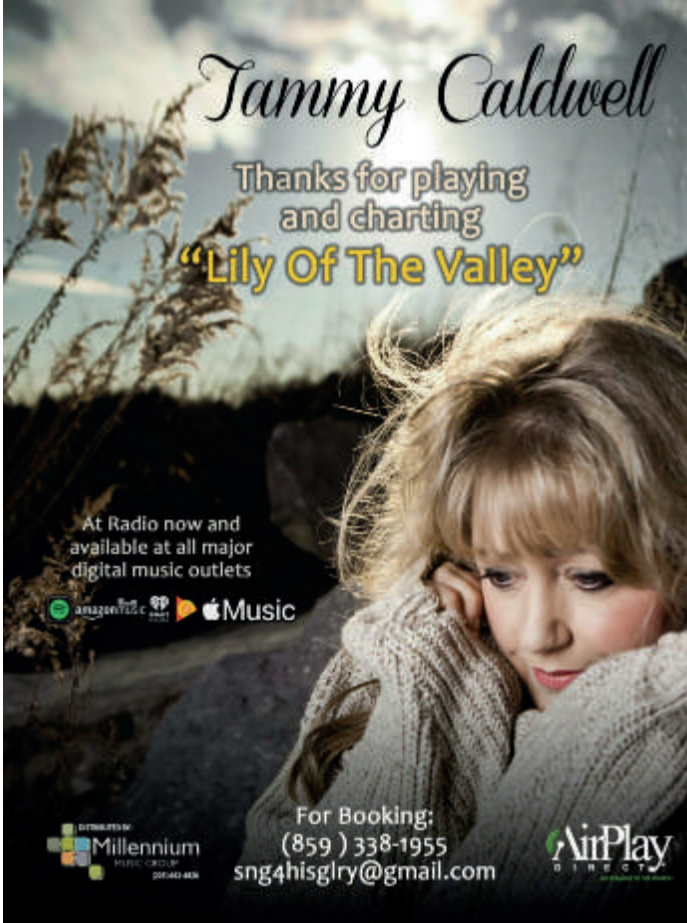

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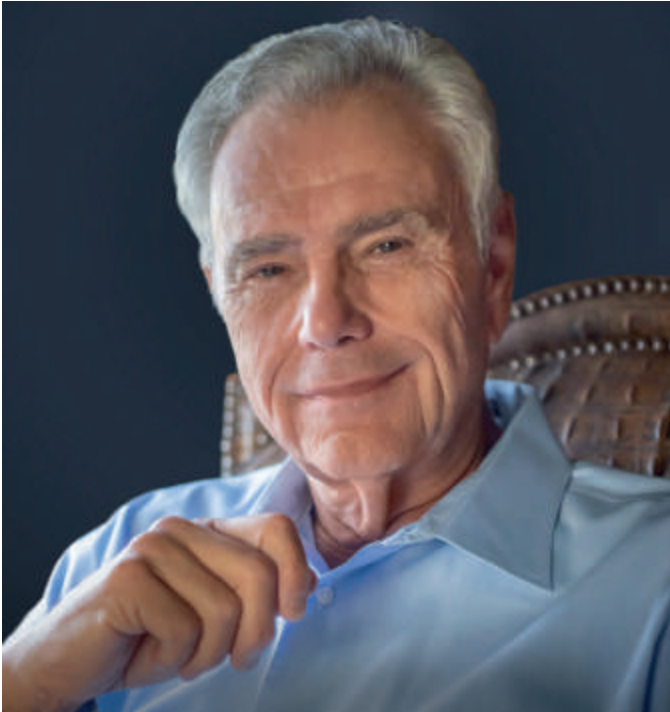
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James Robison

October 9, 1943 - May 16, 2026

In the world of Christian broadcasting, certain voices become more than familiar, they become formative. They shape mornings, guide hearts, and speak into living rooms with a clarity that feels both pastoral and personal. For more than four decades, James Robison was one of those voices. His passing on May 16, 2026, at age 82, marks the end of a chapter written across television screens, mission fields, and countless lives touched by his unwavering conviction.

Robison's story began far from the spotlight. Born in Houston under difficult circumstances, he rose from hardship with a fire that would define his ministry. By the 1970s, he had become one of America's most dynamic evangelists - a preacher whose sermons carried urgency, compassion, and a prophetic edge. But it was through television that his influence found its widest reach.

With "LIFE Today," the program he co-hosted with his wife, Betty, Robison created a space where faith felt intimate, honest, and deeply human. Viewers didn't just watch a show; they entered a conversation. He spoke with the warmth of a pastor, the clarity of a teacher, and the boldness of a man who believed every word he preached. His interviews were thoughtful, his monologues heartfelt, and his presence unmistakably sincere.

Yet his greatest legacy may be Life Outreach International, the humanitarian ministry he founded. Under his leadership, wells were dug, children were fed, orphans were rescued, and the Gospel was carried into places where hope felt scarce. Robison believed that preaching without compassion was incomplete, and he built a ministry that proved it.

Those who knew him personally speak of a man who carried both strength and tenderness. He was passionate, yes - fiery at times - but always anchored by love. His partnership with Betty became one of Christian broadcasting's most enduring images: two hearts, united in mission, walking decades of ministry side by side.

James Robison's voice is now silent, but his influence continues to speak. It echoes in the lives changed through his preaching, in the families strengthened through his broadcasts, and in the communities transformed through his humanitarian work. His legacy is not merely remembered; it is lived out daily by those he inspired.



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He leaves behind a world touched by his compassion, a ministry strengthened by his vision, and a generation of believers who found encouragement in his words. And now, the man who spent a lifetime pointing people toward Christ rests in the presence of the Savior he proclaimed with such conviction.

His voice may no longer fill the airwaves, but the message he carried still does: steady, clear, and enduring.



Steve Warren

November 4, 1951 - May 26, 2026

Southern Gospel has always been a music of voices - voices that rise, blend, and testify. Among them, few carried the unmistakable clarity, warmth, and lift of Steve Warren, whose tenor became one of the defining sounds of Gospel's golden generation. His passing on May 26, 2026, in Houston, Texas, marks the end of a chapter written across decades of harmony, heritage, and heartfelt ministry.

Steve Warren's journey into Gospel music placed him alongside giants. As the tenor for The Masters Five, he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with J.D. Sumner, Hovie Lister, Jake Hess, and Rosie Rozell - a constellation of voices whose influence shaped the genre itself. Warren's contribution to albums such as "The Masters V" and "Live at Murray State" showcased a tenor that didn't merely reach notes; it lifted them, sending them heavenward with effortless purity.

Later, with J.D. Sumner & The Stamps, his voice threaded through the quartet's signature sound - bright, agile, and unmistakably his. Whether soaring above the ensemble on *He Looked Beyond My Fault*, weaving gentle harmonies through *Sheltered in the Arms of God*, or adding brilliance to a classic like *I'll Fly Away*, Steve Warren sang with a sincerity that made every lyric feel lived-in and true.

But his legacy is not only musical. It is deeply personal. Those who traveled the road with him remember a man of humility, kindness, and quiet strength. He was the singer who encouraged younger tenors, the friend who never sought spotlight, and the gentleman whose laughter softened long miles on the bus. His faith was steady, his character consistent, and his devotion to the message he carried unwavering.

Southern Gospel is built on memory - on the way a voice can linger long after the singer has stepped off the stage. Steve Warren leaves behind a treasury of recordings, testimonies, and moments that continue to resonate. His tenor still rises from vinyl grooves, cassette tapes, digital remasters, and the hearts of those who heard him live. It is a voice that remains bright, faithful, unmistakably Steve.

As the Gospel community reflects on his life, one truth stands clear: Steve Warren sang not for applause, but for the glory of the One he loved. And now, the voice that once lifted harmonies toward heaven rests in the presence of the Savior he spent a lifetime proclaiming.

May his memory endure in every tenor who reaches for a high note with conviction, and in every listener who feels grace brush close through a song he once sang.



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A New Day

It's Time to Come Home

Royce Lanier

In Luke 15:11 - 32, Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son. While many have focused on the rebellion of the younger son, the heart of the story is the father. The father represents God: patient, merciful, watchful, and ready to restore what has been lost. The younger son's journey away from home, his wasteful living, his painful awakening, and his return to his father reveal a powerful spiritual message for our time. In many ways, the prodigal son can be seen as a picture of the modern church when it leaves the Father's house, misuses the gifts of God, and finally comes to itself with a desire to return to the kingdom of God.

Luke 15:11 - 13, *"And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living."*

The younger son asked his father for his portion of the inheritance and then left home for a far country. This was more than a physical departure; it was a rejection of the father's authority, covering, wisdom, and presence. **He wanted the father's goods without the father's guidance. He wanted the blessing without the relationship.** In the same way, the modern church is in danger when it desires the benefits of God but no longer wants the government of God.

When the church leaves the Father's house, it may still have religious language, programs, buildings, music, and influence, but it loses the intimacy of fellowship with God. The Father's house represents the place of obedience, worship, holiness, prayer, truth, and dependence on God. To leave that house is to trade divine order for human preference. It is to move from surrender to self-rule, from worship to performance, and from the kingdom of God to the systems of the world.

John 15:5, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

Luke 15 says the younger son wasted his substance with riotous living. The inheritance came from the father, but the son used it in a way that dishonored the father. This is one of the great warnings of the parable. A person can possess what came from God and still use it apart from God. Gifts, talents, resources, influence, knowledge, opportunity, and even spiritual language can be misused when they are separated from humility and obedience.

The danger for the modern church is not only open rebellion, but self-sufficiency. Riotous living is not just merely immorality; it is any life that spends God's gifts without seeking God's heart. The church misuses God's gifts

when it depends more on money than prayer, more on entertainment than the Holy Spirit, more on popularity than truth, and more on human strategy than divine direction. When the church says, "We no longer need God," even if it never says those words aloud, it has already entered the far country.

Revelation 3:17 - 19, *"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."*

The turning point of the parable comes when the son "came to himself." He came to his senses. He finally saw the truth about where he was and what he had lost. The far country had promised freedom, but it brought famine. It promised pleasure, but it produced emptiness. It promised independence, but it led him to bondage. Only when he was broken did he remember the abundance of his father's house.

This is where the church must awaken. The Father's house is the kingdom of God. It is the place where God rules, God provides, God restores, and God receives repentant sons and daughters. The world, by contrast, is the kingdom of man. It is built on pride, appetite, self-promotion, and temporary satisfaction. The kingdom of man will always end in famine because it cannot produce the bread of heaven. Only the Father's house has enough bread and to spare.

Luke 15:17 - 19, *"And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants."*

The beauty of Luke 15 is that the father does not reject the returning son. While the son is still a great way off, the father sees him, has compassion, runs to him, embraces him, and restores him. This reveals the heart of God. The Father is not waiting to humiliate the repentant; He is waiting to restore them. He does not celebrate rebellion, but He does celebrate repentance. He does not ignore sin, but He covers the returning son with mercy, identity, and renewed fellowship.

Luke 15:20 - 24, *"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called*

thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.”

Luke 15:25 - 32, “Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with



harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.”

The message of the prodigal son is a message for every generation, but it speaks with urgency to the modern church. We must ask whether we have left the Father’s house while still carrying the Father’s gifts. We must examine whether we have spent God’s blessings on our own desires instead of His glory. Most of all, we must come to ourselves and recognize that the world cannot offer what only the Father can give. The kingdom of man leads to famine, but the kingdom of God is full of life, mercy, truth, and restoration.

The Father’s house is still open. The Father is still watching. And the call of God to the church is simple and clear: COME HOME.

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Tim Lovelace's 'Green Rain' Offers Wit and Wisdom for Everyday Life

"Green Rain: Inspiring Short Stories from the Unique Perspective of a Humorist," is the debut title from GRAMMY®-nominated recording artist and bestselling comedian Tim Lovelace, from Pathway Press. A collection of 50 anecdotes brimming with wit and wisdom, the book features a foreword from author and speaker Anne Beiler, founder of Auntie Anne's Pretzels.

Inspired by Lovelace's popular 'Moments that Motivate' podcast and nationally syndicated radio series, "Green

Rain" piques instant curiosity with such chapter titles as "Lightsaber Duel of the Century," "The Tale of the Traveling Tomato," and "How to Train a Squirrel." Delivering equal measures of lighthearted amusement and earnest encouragement, Lovelace's ultimate goal is to bring joy, hope, and perspective - one story at a time.

"The truth is, I'm not here to teach you how to live," he explains. "Life is already doing that; daily, relentlessly, without asking permission. This book is a collection of life moments. My hope is that you are inspired to embrace the hidden treasures and opportunities that await us every day; moments to encourage others, love deeply, and live fully."

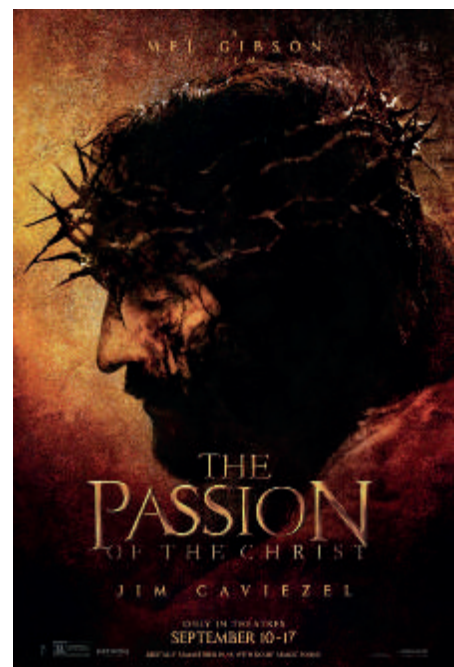
"I've had the privilege of listening to Tim Lovelace perform his comedy act, and the laughter comes straight from my gut," writes Beiler in the book's foreword. "Only God knows laughter is as important as good medicine is for the healing of our

bodies. The stories in this book will uplift your spirit and provide medicine for your soul. ...It feels like a collection of practical 'how-to's' for the 'ought-to's' in our daily lives."

Green Rain arrives on the heels of Lovelace's acclaimed January StowTown Records set, "On a Different Note." Showcasing his signature piano stylings across a thoughtfully curated selection of American classics and beloved sacred favorites, the instrumental project includes Lovelace's renditions of *You've Got a Friend in Me*, *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, and *This is My Father's World*, among others.

Back in Theatres - Nationwide Audiences to Experience Mel Gibson's Landmark Film 'The Passion of the Christ' September 10-17

As anticipation builds for Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Mel Gibson's long-awaited return to one of history's most influential stories, Lionsgate and Fathom Entertainment, the leading specialty distributor of content to theatrical partners worldwide, will bring "The Passion of the Christ" back to theatres nationwide. Newly remastered in stunning 4K with Dolby Atmos sound, the landmark film returns to the big screen September 10-17, offering audiences the opportunity to experience again - or for the very first time - the cinematic event that became a global phenomenon.



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The special theatrical engagement also marks the beginning of the journey toward Gibson's "The Resurrection of the Christ: Part One." His most ambitious filmmaking achievement - and the largest faith film ever brought to the screen - the epic arrives exclusively in theatres May 6, 2027. The re-release invites audiences to rediscover the film as an unforgettable, communal cinematic event before they return to theatres for the next film in 2027.

Audiences attending the re-release of *The Passion of the Christ* will see an exclusive, behind-the-scenes sneak peek of the highly anticipated new film, which tells the story of Christ's victory over death after His greatest sacrifice - a moment that forever changed the course of humanity and continues one of history's most consequential and enduring stories.

More than two decades after redefining the faith genre, "The Passion of the Christ" remains an iconic cinematic achievement from Academy Award®-winning director Mel Gibson (*Braveheart*, *Hacksaw Ridge*). Through visionary filmmaking, breathtaking scale, and bold emotional storytelling, the film brought one of the Bible's most enduring stories to life for millions around the world and became the highest-grossing domestic R-rated film of all time for 20 years.

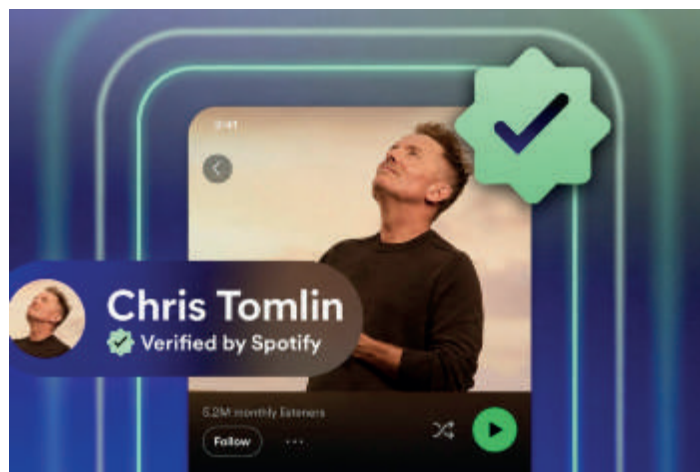
Starring Jim Caviezel as Jesus of Nazareth, "The Passion of the Christ" chronicles the final hours of Jesus' life, His trial, Crucifixion, and Resurrection in one of history's most enduring stories of sacrifice, redemption, and hope.

Upon its original release, the film became a worldwide cultural phenomenon, earning three Academy Award® nominations while inspiring audiences across generations. Its powerful theatrical presentation transcended entertainment to become a defining cultural moment at the intersection of faith, cinema, and popular culture.

Spotify Begins To Rollout Verified Badges To Combat AI-Generated Music

In a move that suggests AI-generated content is meeting its match soon, Spotify, the largest streaming music platform in the world, has begun rolling out "Verified by Spotify," a new badge displayed on an artist's profile and in search results when an artist meets defined standards demonstrating authenticity and trust.

Currently available on mobile only when an artist's "About" profile is selected, the badge goes in-depth to establish that the artist is authentic, active, and trusted. It's already showing up on many mainstream artists' profiles, and a handful of Christian artists as well. Chris Tomlin's profile confirms that he's "grown an active fanbase" and "has met Spotify's criteria for profile authenticity" to be eligible for review. It also confirms he's released music since 2001, with over 100 releases, has been playlisted by Spotify's editors on specific playlists, has had recent concerts listed, and has claimed their profile.



The music industry is currently in a high-speed race to ensure relevancy, and customer trust remains strong as a torrent of AI-generated artists flood streaming providers with millions of songs a month. Recent reports indicate that the number of AI-generated song submissions have jumped to 40 percent of total submissions - roughly 60,000 tracks per day as of March 2026. That's nearly two million AI-generated tracks being uploaded every month. In 2025 alone, Deezer detected and tagged over 13.4 million AI-generated tracks.

Fraud is a massive part of the problem for these platforms. In March 2026, a man in the United States pleaded guilty to flooding DSPs with thousands of AI-generated tracks and then boosting them with bots, resulting in billions of streams. In just a few years, he generated over \$12 million dollars in royalty payouts. In many cases, AI is not only making the music, but also the audience.





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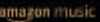
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By Jackson McKee

There are Gospel groups who sing well, travel far, and leave audiences smiling. And then there are groups like Sojourner Quartet - men whose voices carry not only harmony, but history; not only melody, but ministry. Their story is not a straight line but a winding road of calling, loss, miracles, and unwavering faith. And somehow, through every season, their sound has remained unmistakably theirs: warm, earnest, rooted in Scripture, and overflowing with testimony.

A Beginning That Became a Calling

Sojourner Quartet began in 1992 as a contemporary Christian group - four young men with instruments in hand and a desire to share Christ through music. But as the years passed and members changed, one thing remained constant: Mark May, the baritone from Findlay, Ohio, who carried the vision forward.

“God took me from talking the talk to walking the walk,” Mark says, reflecting on the youth retreat where he accepted Christ as a young adult. “He allowed me to use my musical background - from Rock bands in junior high all the way to today - to further His kingdom through Christian music.”

After recording at Gaither Studios in 1997, the group reorganized into the Southern Gospel quartet they are known as today. And with Mark as the only original member still standing, Sojourner Quartet entered a new era - one defined by harmony, heart, and Holy Spirit-led moments that shaped their identity.



The Men Behind the Music

Today, the quartet consists of four men whose stories weave together like the parts they sing:

- Mark May (Baritone) - Founder, owner, manager since 1992
- Larry Counterman (Bass) - Joined in 2010
- Brad Richardson (Lead) - Joined 2000-2002, returned in 2024
- Chris Horne (Tenor) - Joined in 2020

Each brings a testimony that deepens the group's ministry.

Larry, saved at age 13 in a small mission church, still remembers the night vividly. “The evangelist preached on hell. I knew I did not want to go there. I made my way to an old-fashioned altar and gave my heart to Jesus. One touch from the Master's hand and you will never be the same.”

Chris began singing at age six. Raised in a musical Christian home, he felt God's call early. “It is my desire to keep lifting up the name of Jesus and giving Him all the glory,” he says. “It's one of my greatest honors to be part of Sojourner Quartet.”

Brad's journey began at church camp, where he first learned four-part harmony. “I immediately fell in love with quartet singing,” he says. His path included singing with Sojourner in the early 2000s, forming a group called Exodus, and even singing with his sons. But in 2024, God brought him back full-time. “Getting together, praying for one another, and praying for the people we meet at our concerts has been the greatest blessing.”



Stories That Shape a Ministry

Traveling full-time brings challenges; late-night drives, early Monday mornings, and long stretches away from home. But the quartet agrees the sacrifice is worth it.

“When we look out at a smiling crowd,” Mark says, “and think about the people we've been blessed to minister to, those short nights become worthwhile.”

And sometimes, the road brings unforgettable moments, like the day their bus was stopped at the U.S. - Canada border. Larry recalls the officer stepping aboard and asking if they had anything to declare. When they said they were a Southern Gospel quartet, the officer grinned.

“If you're really a quartet, sing my favorite song, *Amazing Grace*.” They sang it right there on the bus. When they finished, the officer simply said, “Wow! You guys really are a quartet. Welcome to the United States.”





Miracles at the Heart of Their Calling

Sojourner Quartet does not merely sing about God's power. They have witnessed it.

During a Sunday morning concert in northern Michigan, a great-grandmother asked for prayer for her unborn great-granddaughter, who had a hole in her heart. Larry remembered a similar miracle from 23 years earlier, when a newborn scheduled for surgery was healed before the operation.

"I felt God prompting me to act," Larry says. "I invited her forward, we laid hands on her and prayed."

Three months later, the pastor called with news: the baby was born perfectly healthy. No surgery needed.

Months later, another baby in Ohio - same diagnosis, same prayer, same miracle.

"Through these experiences," Larry says, "I have learned when God prompts you to move, you must obey."

A Mission That Has Never Changed

Their audiences are primarily conservative individuals and couples, worshiping in Bible-believing churches across many denominations. But Sojourner Quartet is clear: denomination is not the point.

"Our mission is to share God's message through song," Mark says. "We want to clearly communicate where we stand on God's Word and remind people God is still performing miracles today."

They hold tightly to Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Their calling is simple: point people toward God's truth and His plan for salvation.

Every service includes prayer, testimony, and an invitation for people to share their needs. "We collect prayer cards at every concert," Brad explains. "And every Thursday night, we pray over them together."

A Legacy of Excellence

Sojourner Quartet has shared the stage with many top artists and earned recognition along the way:

- Listener's Choice Award for their album "All Along" from WETB Radio in Tennessee
- Placed 4th nationally in the Singing News Talent Search
- Multiple songs currently charting on radio
- Their latest single, *He Forgives*, is a powerful reminder that God forgives the sins we can't forget.

They also sing original music, including Chris's song *Get Out of the Boat*, inspired by Peter stepping out in faith. "God knows what He is doing in our lives," Chris says. "We just need to trust Him."

A Quartet Still on the Journey

More than three decades after its founding, Sojourner Quartet continues to travel, sing, pray, and believe. Their story is marked by loss - Mark's son, gone too soon at 22 - but also by healing, hope, and the steady hand of God guiding every step.

"We want to reach as many people as possible," Mark says. "To share the Gospel through our music and lead them to Christ."

And as long as there are churches to visit, families to encourage, and hearts ready to hear the message, Sojourner Quartet will keep singing: four voices, one mission, and a testimony that grows stronger with every mile.

www.sojournerquartet.com

Krystina B.

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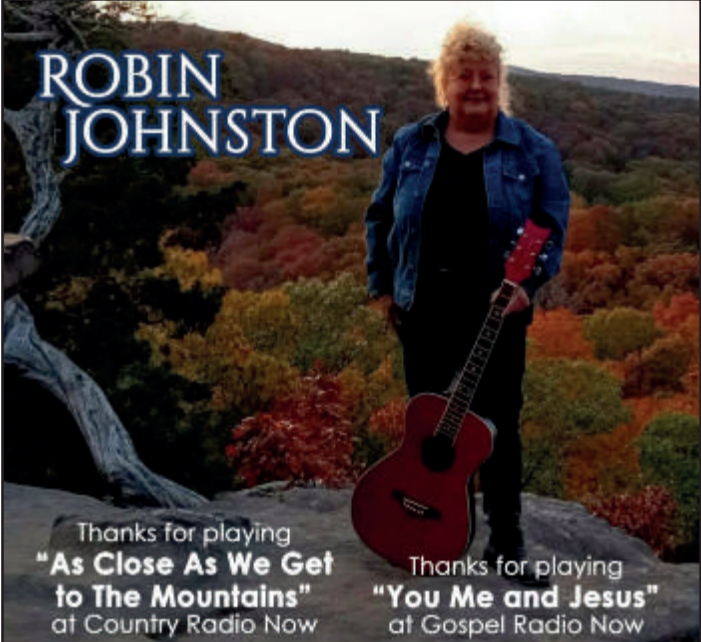
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ENJOYING EVERYDAY LIFE

The Rewards of Obeying God

Joyce Meyer

Many years ago when God called me to teach the Word full-time, my life was much different than it is now. We had three children at home and I was teaching one Bible study each week in our living room. Dave and I both had good jobs, and we were comfortable financially. But God began speaking to my heart about quitting my job so I could stay home and study the Word more to prepare for full-time ministry.

Now, even though I believed with my whole heart that God was leading me to make this change, and I had a strong desire to teach the Word and help people, it was scary to take this step of obedience. If I quit working full-time, we would be about \$40 short of what we needed just to pay our bills each month. Along with that, at that time, it wasn't popular for women to have a teaching ministry like this.

I kept my job until I was so miserable I couldn't stand it. Then I quit my job and got a part-time job so I still had enough money to take care of myself instead of completely trusting God and obeying His direction.

I'm a hard worker and a good employee, so it was amazing to me when I got fired! And it became obvious to me that God was saying, "I told you I didn't want you out in the work force, trying to take care of yourself. I want you to be home, studying and preparing by faith to do what I've called you to do."

This experience taught me how important it is to promptly and fully obey what God puts in my heart to do. When I finally submitted to His direction, somehow every month He provided the miracle we needed so we could pay our bills on time. And I had the time I needed to focus on studying the Word so God could prepare me to teach others how to have abundant life in Christ.

The truth is if I hadn't been willing to trust God and obey Him completely, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today.

Romans 12:1 (AMP) says, "I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship."

The apostle Paul is saying here, "I'm begging you to make a decision that you're not going to live a mediocre, half-baked, sloppy life!"

It's so easy to settle for less than God's best for us because we don't always feel like taking responsibility for our behavior or exercising discipline to do what we need to do so we can accomplish great things for God and help people. But the cost of settling for less is actually harder than being completely obedient to God's will.

You may be thinking, But Joyce, it's so hard to do the right thing all the time! It's hard to forgive the people who have hurt me. And it's hard to keep a good attitude at work when my boss is unfair. It's hard to be nice when people aren't nice to me. It's so hard to overcome the temptations I face every day...

The truth is, what's really hard is having no hope, peace, joy, or the righteousness of God. It's hard to be angry all the time and live with bitterness and unforgiveness. It's hard to be miserable and deal with the consequences of ungodly behaviors, like being sick, or having hangovers or addictions to things that are just killing us anyway.

I really want you to get this: Everything God tells us to do is for our good. Whether it's direction you find in His Word or something He's put in your heart to do in your situation, the best thing you can ever do is obey Him promptly and completely.

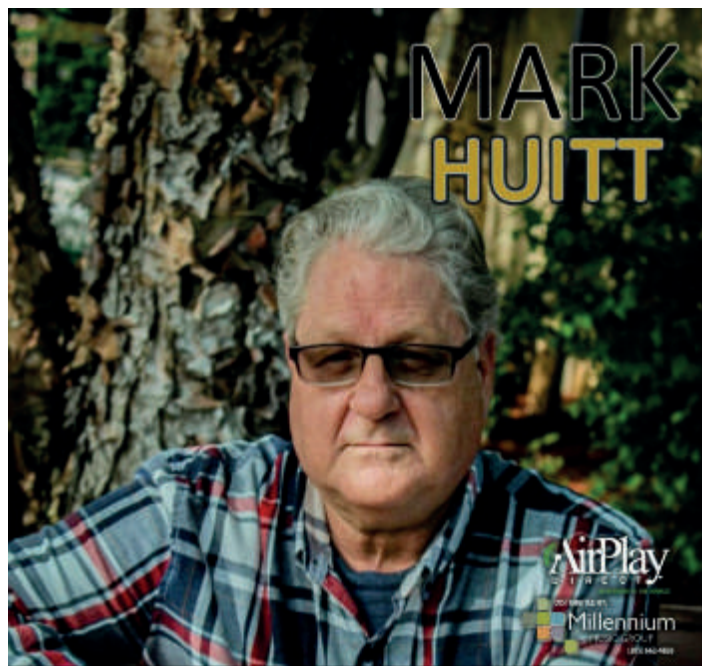
Obedience to God is the pathway to the life you really want to live. It's the answer to overcoming sin and any problem you face. It's the way we learn how to grow up and let God work in our lives, changing us so we can be what He created us to be.

When you feel like it's too hard to obey God, remember that He will never tell you to do something without giving you the grace and ability to do it. The key is to trust Him fully and depend on Him for the strength you need. God loves you and wants the best for you. Humble yourself before Him, and enjoy living with His peace, power, and joy every day of your life!

*For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Developing Discipline and Self-Control*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org*

*Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 150 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *HEALING THE WOUNDS OF REJECTION* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org*

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.



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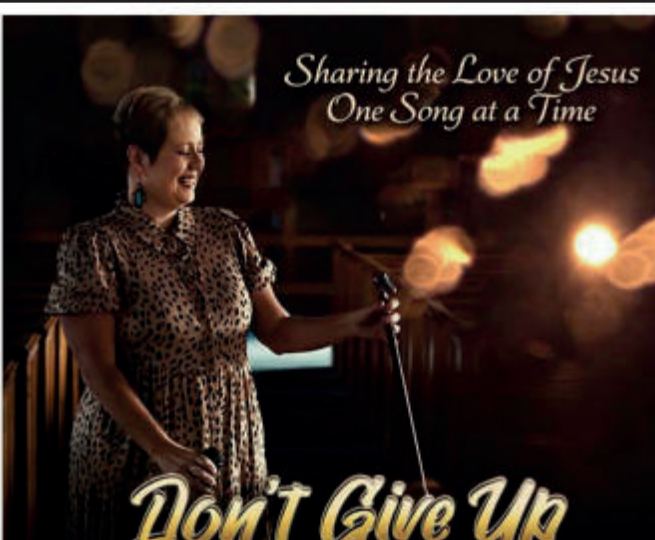
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Bill Gaither

A Life of Faithfulness, Song,
and Sacred Legacy

By Lydia Hartwell

Bill Gaither turned ninety earlier this year, and the milestone settles over his story like a warm, quiet sunrise. Though he hasn't spent ninety years in music, the decades he has given have shaped the sound and soul of Christian worship more than almost any figure of his generation. His life has flowed gently through the landscape of Gospel music - steady, humble, and full of grace - touching hearts not with spectacle, but with sincerity. And now, as he enters his tenth decade, the familiar melody of his influence still rises, carrying the unmistakable warmth of a man who has spent a lifetime pointing others toward Jesus.



Bill & Gloria Gaither

Bill Gaither turned ninety this spring, and the moment felt less like a birthday and more like a gentle pause in a long, beautiful song. His life has never been a series of disconnected chapters, but a single, unbroken melody - steady, warm, faithful, and unmistakably shaped by the hand of God. Even now, at ninety, he carries himself with the same familiar ease: the soft smile, the twinkle of humor in his eyes, the quiet conviction that the Gospel is still worth singing with excellence.

He was born in 1936 in Alexandria, Indiana, a place where faith was simple and music was sacred, where the church pews creaked with the weight of generations and the hymns rose like prayers stitched into the rafters. Bill often speaks of those early years with a reverence that feels almost pastoral. "I never set out to be famous," he says, his voice settling into the room like a memory. "I just wanted to write songs that helped people believe God was still with them." That desire, so humble and so honest, became the thread that would weave through every decade of his life.

Beside him through all of it has been Gloria - his partner in lyric, life, theology, imagination, and the quiet art of listening for God's voice. Their marriage is one of Christian music's most enduring stories, a partnership that feels less like collaboration and more like calling. Gloria often says, "Bill always believed that if you give people something true, something rooted in Scripture, it will last. He never chased trends. He chased truth." Together, they wrote more than seven hundred songs, many of which have become the

soundtrack of faith for millions. *Because He Lives* has carried believers through grief and resurrection hope. *He Touched Me* has become a testimony in melody. *The King Is Coming* still rings with prophetic anticipation. *Something Beautiful* whispers grace into broken places. These songs didn't simply chart - they became landmarks in the landscape of worship, sung in revival tents, sanctuaries, hospital rooms, and quiet living rooms where faith is lived out in the ordinary.

As the years unfolded, Bill's influence expanded beyond songwriting. In the early 1990s, he did something no one expected: he gathered the legends. He brought together the voices who had shaped Gospel music - not for nostalgia, but for honor. The Gaither Homecoming Series became a sanctuary, a place where hymns were resurrected, testimonies were shared, and generations were bridged. Bill stood at the center of it all, smiling, encouraging, laughing, and reminding every artist that their story mattered. "I wanted people to see that these singers weren't just performers," he says. "They were ministers. They were faithful. They were part of something bigger." And they were, because Bill made sure of it.

His humor became part of his ministry, the gentle kind that disarms and invites. He has a way of making people laugh while teaching them something eternal. "If you can't laugh in church," he once said, "you're probably not paying attention. God's people are funny, and God loves them anyway." That humor made him approachable. It made him beloved. It made him family. He could soften a heart with a

smile, turn a moment of laughter into a moment of worship, and remind people that joy is not a distraction from faith but a companion to it.

But perhaps Bill's greatest gift is his ability to see people. He saw potential in young artists before they saw it in themselves. He saw value in older artists when the industry forgot them. He saw unity where others saw competition. Many of today's most respected Christian voices trace their courage, calling, or career to Bill's influence. Mark Lowry says, "Bill gave me a place to belong. He didn't just put me on a stage - he put me in a family." Guy Penrod reflects, "Bill saw something in me I didn't see in myself. He taught me excellence, integrity, and how to sing like I'm preaching a sermon." Lynda Randle shares, "Bill believed in me when I was still finding my voice. He gave me a platform, but more importantly, he gave me confidence." David Phelps adds, "Bill pushed me to be better - not for applause, but for the glory of God." The Isaacs say, "Bill treated us like family from day one. He honored our heritage and encouraged our creativity." And The Collingsworth Family writes, "Bill Gaither is a patriarch in every sense. His kindness and wisdom have impacted our family for decades." Gloria, with her characteristic gentleness, sums it up best: "Bill's greatest legacy is not his songs - it's the way he loved people. He built a community that feels like home."

At ninety, Bill is reflective but not retired. His voice carries the gentle authority of someone who has seen God

keep His promises. "I've lived long enough to know that God keeps His promises," he says. "Every one of them." He speaks of eternity with anticipation, not fear. He speaks of the next generation with hope. "There are young voices rising," he says. "Good voices. Faithful voices. God is not done with His church." And when he speaks of Gloria, his words soften into something tender and timeless: "She's the best part of every song I ever wrote."

Bill Gaither's life is not defined by fame, but by faithfulness. Not by success, but by surrender. Not by talent, but by trust. He has given the church songs to sing, stories to cherish, and a community to belong to. He has shown us that excellence is worship, that humor is ministry, and that legacy is built one life at a time. Christian Voice Magazine is honored to celebrate this milestone - not just of years, but of impact. Bill Gaither has not merely lived ninety years. He has given ninety years: to the church, to the music, to the ministry, to the people, and to the Lord.

And as he enters this new decade, his prayer remains simple, almost whispered: "May the songs keep helping people. That's all I ever wanted."

The melody continues.
The legacy deepens.
And the song... is still going

www.gaither.com

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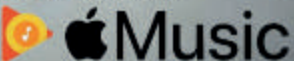
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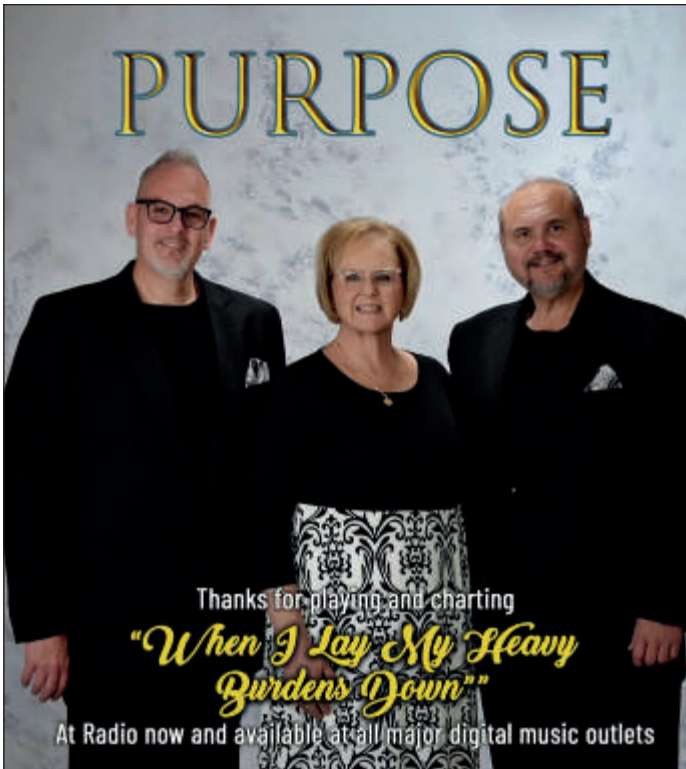
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ON THE ROAD WITH GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY

An Afternoon in the Atlanta Metro

Ken & Jean Grady

Getting back on the road after recuperating from surgery can be exciting and tiring, but at the request of Robert York, promoter for the North Metro Gospel Singing, we loaded the van and headed for Atlanta, so grateful to be on the road again and to be asked by Robert to tell a little of the history of Gospel Music Today. Much of the audience at Robert's concerts watch Gospel Music Today every Saturday on WATC-TV57 in the Atlanta metro area so it was great to meet them and share a little about our ministry.

Upon our arrival to the church for the concert, Robert asked Jean to emcee the program since his regular emcee was unavailable. It was an easy "Yes" because of the two great groups for the afternoon; Phillips and Banks and The Guardians. Not many in the audience had heard Phillips and Banks, who live in Bristol, Tennessee, and they were thrilled

to hear this mixed group of husband/wife Jacob and Carmen Phillips and Caleb and Autumn Banks. Phillips and Banks has won numerous showcases at NQC and Singing in the Sun.

As always, The Guardians were welcomed and loved by those who attended. Pat Barker does an outstanding job as emcee of the group, John Darin Rowsey writes and arranges most of their music, Paul Lancaster has an infectious laugh that brightens anyone's day and newcomer, Dale Forbes has joined the group after 25 years as a pastor but never left the ministry. He just changed the direction of the ministry that continues with the group.

Behind the scenes, Mark Hale travels with The Guardians as their sound engineer and Ken and Jean were on the cameras for a wonderful worship time with Phillips and Banks and The Guardians. Thanks for inviting us, Robert!



Jean as emcee for the concert



Robert York, promoter of the North Metro Gospel Singing



The Guardians



Phillips & Banks



Gospel Music Today is a Television/Magazine Format News Program featuring the latest Southern Gospel News, Interviews with your favorite artists, CD Reviews, Feature Groups, and videos from concerts across the country. The show is on WATC TV57 in Atlanta, GA and The Good Life 45 TV45 in Orlando, every Saturday at 1:30 PM, and on Roku on FFE TV Monday at 8:00 PM and AllNations TV Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Check local TV schedule for Louisville, KY, Lumberton, NC, Bruce, MS, Phenix City, AL, Pontotoc, MS, Beaumont, TX, Tyler, TX. Atlanta, TX, Morrilton, AR, Waycross, GA, Quincy, IL, The Dalles, OR, Yakima, WA, West Plains, MO, Morganton, NC, and Orlando, FL. The audio portion of the show is on Singing News Radio three times a week and on various radio stations across the country. The current edition of Gospel Music Today is online now at the Gospel Music Today website, gospelmusictoday.com.

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TOP 100 AUGUST 2026

CVM Southern Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	11	Hard Trials Will Soon Be Over	Gaither Vocal Band	51	67	Outside The Gate	Mike Keller
2	7	God Gives Good Answers	Karen Peck & New River	52	69	One More Testimony	Port City Quartet
3	9	When Sunday Morning Dawned	Kingsmen	53	66	Don't Get Me Started	Joyce & Glenn Chastain
4	4	So Many Reasons	Tribute Quartet	54	34	Thus Saith The Lord	Jennifer Leanna Phillips
5	15	He Did It All For Me	Ernie Haase & Signature Sound	55	36	God Shows Up	Wings Of Love
6	3	He's Still Writing In The Sand	Troy Burns Family	56	72	He's Got This	Lena Aldridge
7	8	Grace Is Sufficient	Jonathan Wilburn	57	73	I'm Gaining New Ground	New Ground
8	12	What Is Man	Carroll Roberson	58	71	You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet	Wendy Jones
9	20	To God It's Nothing New	McKamey Legacy	59	68	Jesus Is My Beacon	Gennie Ruth
10	17	Preach Jesus	Down East Boys	60	29	Come To The Water	Judy Kellar
11	1	In The Middle	Gold City	61	81	He Walked Upon The Water	Keith Barkley & Family Tradition
12	10	There's Coming A Day	Common Bond Quartet	62	100	Home	Mark Bishop
13	16	God Sees Your Storm	Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call	63	74	What A Glorious Day	Mark Huitt Sr
14	25	They're Holding Up The Ladder	Allen Baker	64	79	When I Was Saved	Eddy Mann
15	27	Symphony Of Grace	Austin Glover	65	-	Goodbye To Mercy	Believer's Voice
16	14	Sea Of Forgetfulness	Inspirations	66	55	Trail Of Tears	Dudley Evans
17	30	Friend Of Sinners	Derrick Loudermilk Band	67	86	Let Your Light Shine	Keith Buchanan
18	33	Wish You Were Here	Jonathan Bond	68	60	God Said You're Gonna Make It	Lore Family
19	59	Didn't Feel Like Faith	Todd Tilgman	69	82	The Light	Going Higher
20	21	Wayfaring Stranger	Debbie Bennett	70	90	If My People	Rick Towe
21	35	In the Holy Ghost	Ed Drury	71	77	It Is Well With My Soul	Susan Manion
22	5	Scars	Dean	72	85	The Fall	The Masseys
23	50	For What Earthly Reason	Mark Trammell Quartet	73	83	Oh Lord I Want You To Help Me	Jennifer Harris Gray
24	2	Don't That Sound Like Heaven	Porter Family	74	87	This Day God Has Made	New Salem
25	38	Now I'm On My Way	Poet Voices	75	80	A Special Kind Of Love	Miracles
26	44	It's What's Inside	Angela Seng	76	-	Songs Like Those	Debbie Mills
27	13	I'm Gonna Make It	The Freemans	77	84	Don't Give Up	Amanda Rosales
28	40	One Nation Under God	John Westling	78	89	Had It Not Been	Melissa Couch
29	46	Three Nails Instead	Nelons	79	92	Prodigal's Brother	Bruce Sechrest
30	18	Spread The News	Greg Sullivan	80	-	But God	The Hagers
31	45	He Will Carry You	Mark & Cindy Maynard	81	91	End Of The Tunnel	LizzyG w/Anthony Grubbs & Rebecca Hull
32	70	It Was The Cross	Mark S. Dubbels	82	93	Six Times Stronger	Lorraine Stevenson
33	47	You Me And Jesus	Robin Johnston	83	-	The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power	The Kapples
34	24	A Million Reasons	Perrys	84	75	It's Not Over	Craig Stone
35	48	At Calvary	Trinity Heirs	85	-	Smile	The Herstons
36	58	Sweet Holy Spirit	Singing Byrds	86	97	Waiting	Buck Oxendine
37	6	God, You've Done Me Good	The Knight Family	87	98	Wasting Your Time	Michael Walsh
38	76	Count Me In	ClearVision	88	-	There's Somebody Out There	Who So Ever Ministries
39	52	But I Believe	Ever Present	89	96	Holy Ghost Power	Wendy Jones & Marcus Ellis
40	37	I Stand The Tallest	Little David Wilkins	90	-	Son Of Thunder	Anne Rene'
41	57	He Wasn't Too Good	Lorraine Howard	91	-	Does God Really Care	Donna Burke
42	51	Address Change Notification	Susan Hicks	92	-	Sunday Morning Praise	Doug & Gina Green
43	56	Lord I Know You Are Able	Debra Schultz	93	-	I Choose To Trust You	Lori King
44	94	Pentecost Sunday	LaShanda Elliot	94	-	Small Town Someone	Greater Purpose
45	62	Do You Know My Name	Melissa Evans	95	-	When I Called Your Name	Jack Gibson
46	99	I Just Want To Make A Mark	New Road 2	96	-	Second Chances	Jennifer Phillips & But God Ministries
47	-	Life Hurts, God Heals	Kingdom Heirs	97	-	I'm Breaking Through	Jenny Dean
48	64	He's Still Christ	The Oxendine Family	98	-	He's The Only One	Joe Land
49	41	Turn To You	Dallas Dugger	99	-	He Is The One	Latrell Lindon Pharr
50	39	Let Me Tell Ya	Rhapsody Praise	100	-	Hey! Hey! U.S.A	Ma Bell

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TOP 100 AUGUST 2026

CVM Country Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	3	When I Hear His Name	Victoria Steelman	51	-	Jesus Wouldn't Do	Jordan Davis
2	5	What I Don't Know	Paula Slow	52	82	Empty No More	Marty Denton
3	4	Looking For The Light	Delnora	53	85	The Eastern Gate	Ava Kasich & Martha Lambert
4	10	The Bridge	Daryl Baker	54	39	Picture This	Jessie Ritchie
5	12	Let Me Tell Ya' Bout My Faith	Kali Rose	55	76	Beverage Of Choice	Brother Daniel
6	11	This One's For You	Rocky and Tamie Smith	56	-	Building Bridges	Carolina The Band
7	13	Saving Grace	Krystina B	57	100	Man Down At The River	Gary Herd
8	14	Preacher Man	David Timms	58	-	Working On A Building	Justin Crank and Jessica Horton
9	16	Jesus Is The King	Ken Mobley	59	67	Wish You Were Here	Johnathan Bond
10	18	Healer	Allen Frizzell	60	89	Me And Jesus Gonna Get It Done	Norman Lee Schaffer
11	19	The Last Song	Terry and Debra Luna	61	94	High Tower	The Epps Family
12	21	The Good In Bye	Small Town Sunday	62	-	Jesus To The Rescue	Beverly Sims
13	6	The Turn	The Pauls	63	86	Where The Good People Go	Gavin Lee
14	9	When A Cowboy Prays	Brandon Lake & Cody Johnson	64	-	Never To Far Gone	Alex Ervin
15	26	Let's All Go Down To The River	Steve Bruce Band	65	84	Cherished Memories	Jeff Hamilton
16	12	Whiskey Road	Michael Tetrick	66	-	The Devil Cried	Jason Welch
17	29	If I'm Guilty	Thomas Brown	67	92	Real Good Day	Kevin Morris
18	15	What I Got (La-De-Da)	Caleb Deramus	68	-	When One Door Closes	Steve Anthony
19	27	Jesus Is The Way	Rachel Taylor	69	47	Heading Home With Jesus To Be	Lizzy G And Jeff Naper
20	33	At War With Myself	Cyndi Reynolds	70	-	Grace	Dawson Road
21	8	It'll Be Good To Be Home	The Journeys	71	97	Chandelier Angel	Danny Mullins
22	23	Somebody Bigger Than You And I	David Smith	72	88	Someday Things Are Gonna Get Better	Johnny Jones
23	37	God Is Good Ya'll	Wings of Love	73	90	Stand Up For The Flag Kneel At The Cross	Ray Epperson
24	42	That's The Way Mama Raised Me	Luke Hendrickson	74	-	We're Walking It Out	Shelly Fay
25	28	Three Nails And A Cross	George Strait	75	-	Redemption Story	Alexa Finney
26	46	There's Power In The Name Of Jesus	Jonathan Ray Smith	76	80	Angels Among Us	Dale Rochell
27	41	River Of Life	Sonshine Road	77	-	Can't Find My Way Home	Sisters Wade Revival
28	14	Say Hello To Heaven	Steve Warren	78	-	Talking To Your Chair	Marshal McKellar
29	55	I Was There	Jerry Weatherly	79	-	We Found Each Other	Troy Ervin
30	7	Why Me Lord	Richard Lynch	80	95	Green Pastures	Brayden Mullins
31	-	Let Him In Anyway	Blake Shelton	81	-	Let Go Of The Reins	Daryl Jorden
32	66	Georgiana Alabama 1939	Michael Ray Fain	82	93	The Storm	Jan Harbuck
33	50	In The Morning	Hunter Logan	83	-	Trade Your Story For Glory	Marty Deroche
34	64	America I Will Stand Up For You	Mike Leichner	84	91	You Got It	Royal Clark
35	56	Snowy Sunday Morning Biscuits and Gravy Band Indiana		85	-	I Just Walked	Gary Russ
36	53	Getting Back Up	Troy Richardson	86	-	You Won't Find My Bones	Day Three
37	30	Why Me	Jenny Dean	87	98	Drinking From The Fountain	Daryl Branson
38	77	I'm From The US Of A	Roger Barkley Jr	88	-	Without You (I Haven't Got A Prayer)	Frontier Brothers
39	81	How Much Grace	Liam Tysinger	89	-	If I Could Talk To Daddy Again	Roger Barkley, Jr.
40	82	Wayfaring Stranger	Debbie Bennett	90	-	My Grandparents Prayed	Brandon Hixson
41	61	Soldier Of The Cross	John Penney	91	-	If I Know Him	Kevin Kappler
42	65	Tell Me That There Ain't A God	Jon Brennan	92	-	Build Me An Ark	Caroline Owens
43	62	Somebody Here	Linda Lanier	93	99	What A Beautiful Day	Lester Feltner
44	71	It Didn't Stop There	New Day Revival	94	-	Hot Line	Bobby Gibson
45	71	The Promise	Charity Hamilton	95	-	Faith	Magnolia Brothers
46	70	Strength Of A Survivor	Aaron Justice	96	-	Not On My Watch	Darin Kinser
47	96	One Man	Bruce & Betsy Mullen	97	-	I Will Never Know The Desert Again	Eddy Mann
48	36	Get Out Of The Boat	Felicia Deramus Paul	98	-	A Prayer I Never Prayed	Tyson Leamon
49	78	Old Gravel Road	John Michael Ferrari	99	-	That's My King	Tonja Rose
50	83	Little More Like Jesus	Dave Edwards	100	-	Whiskey Lies	Kentucky Yoder



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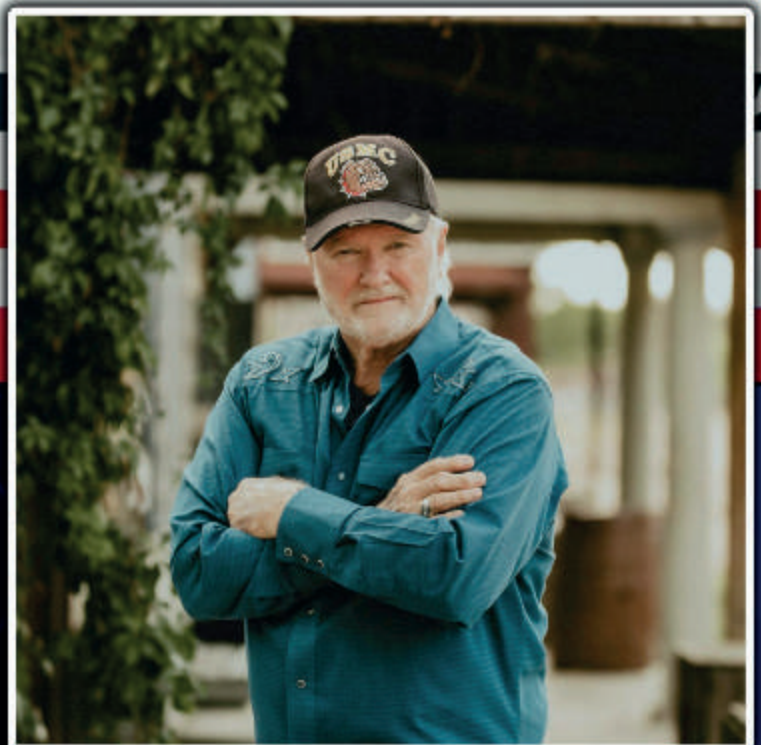
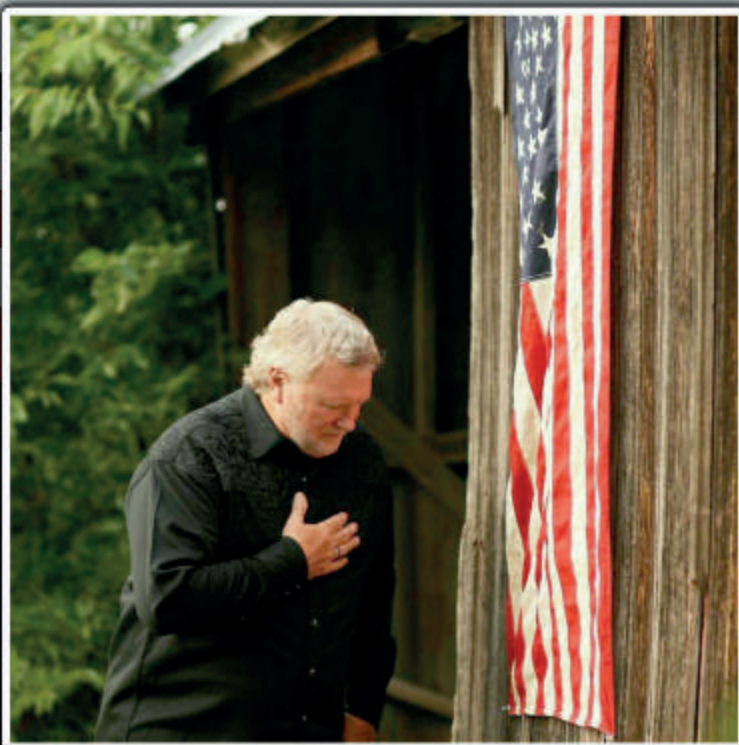
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CVM Contemporary Christian TOP 50 AUGUST 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	11	Worthy Of It All (Worthy)	CeCe Winans
2	4	What An Awesome God	Phil Wickham
3	8	Rescue Me	We The Kingdom
4	9	Desperate	Jamie MacDonald
5	16	Unashamed	Matthew West
6	18	When I Fall	Katy Nichole
7	15	Is This The Thanks I Get	Ashley Collins
8	14	Make It Well	MercyMe
9	17	God Are You Up There	Suisun New Intl Choir
10	5	For You	Ashes Awaken
11	20	Voices	Mack Holland
12	23	Praise The Lord	Micah Tyler
13	29	Where Would I Be	Peter Burton & Matthew West
14	3	That's Who I Praise	Brandon Lake
15	31	Lift Me Up	Blessing Offor
16	21	The Truth	Megan Woods
17	33	Breathe On It	Tauren Wells
18	34	Finished	Caleb & John
19	27	Get Behind Me	Emerson Day
20	1	Loves Got A Way	Andrew Ripp
21	28	Divinely Tailored	Michele Mundy (ft. Tee Mogano)
22	10	Hard Fought Hallelujah	Brandon Lake & Jelly Roll
23	39	Still Waters (Psalm 23)	Leanna Crawford
24	38	The Way	Jon Reddick
25	30	Mighty Name Of Jesus	Hope Darst
26	36	Testimony	Terrain
27	6	Praise In The Choir Stand	Brent Jones
28	41	God I'm Just Grateful	Elevation Worship (ft. Chandler Moore)
29	43	Place In This World	For King & Country
30	22	Let It Be A Hallelujah	Lauren Daigle
31	44	Wait For Me	Zach Williams & Ben Fuller
32	26	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann
33	19	How Good It Is	Chris Tomlin
34	40	God Has A Plan For Your Life	Michael B Kirksey
35	42	The Return	100 AKA The Messenger
36	48	Somebody Prayed	Crowder
37	35	Counting My Blessings	Seph Schlueter
38	45	Let The Church Sing	Tauren Wells
39	-	I'd Do It Again	Andrew Ripp
40	-	Demons	Josiah Queen
41	47	Holy You (Freligious)	Tye Tribbett
42	32	God Did It	Kenny Lewis & One Voice
43	49	Nothing Else	Forrest Frank & Thomas Rhett
44	-	It Really Is Amazing Grace	Phil Wickham & Crowder
45	50	Good News	PTTheGospelSpitter
46	-	Meet Me In The Valley	Tasha Layton (ft. Ben Fuller)
47	-	Nobody But Jesus	Josh Copeland
48	-	Up + Up	Colton Dixon
49	-	God Story	Anne Wilson
50	-	Faithfully	TobyMac

CVM Black/Urban Gospel TOP 50 AUGUST 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	21	Let The Church Sing	Tauren Wells
2	11	Lift Me Up	Blessing Offor
3	5	I Can Count On You	The Group Fire
4	10	Nobody Knows	Prophet Yoshua
5	7	Give You All My Worship	Marvin Dexter Moore (ft. Leon McCrary)
6	16	Worthy Of It All (Worthy)	CeCe Winans
7	3	I'm A Child Of The King	Michael Gi
8	6	God's Prodigy	Jackee H
9	14	Blessings	Tanya Nolan
10	2	Make A Way	Vashawn Mitchell
11	18	God Has A Plan For Your Life	Michael B Kirksey
12	8	Your Name	Jovonta Patton
13	4	Rescue Me	Dr Leon Thompson
14	20	In The Room	James Fortune
15	1	Nobody But Jesus	Josh Copeland
16	19	Better Afterwhile	Donnie McClurkin
17	32	You Chose Me	Renee Spearman w/Montell Jordan, Kim Burrell
18	12	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann
19	25	Church	Tasha Cobbs Leonard (ft. John Legend)
20	35	The Way	Jon Reddick
21	39	Voices	Mack Holland
22	26	Count It All Joy	The Scotts
23	24	On The Way	Adia
24	13	Confident	Bri Babineaux
25	42	I'm A Soldier	Lady Reba & Redemption
26	34	The Love I Have For You	Colton Dixon
27	15	Praise In The Choir Stand	Brent Jones
28	22	Work It Out For Me	Zacardi Cortez
29	31	The Return	100 AKA The Messenger
30	9	God Did It	Kenny Lewis & One Voice
31	37	Misfits	Keylosophy
32	41	Praise The Lord	Micah Tyler
33	44	Read Your Bible	Mighty Peacemakers Of Tallahassee Florida
34	38	Pentecost Sunday	LaShanda Elliot
35	47	Divinely Tailored	Michele Mundy (ft. Tee Mogano)
36	48	Good News	PTTheGospelSpitter
37	23	I'm In A Change	Mack Holland
38	43	Breathe On It	Tauren Wells
39	27	Unspoken	Jackee H
40	29	I Can	Marcus Jordan
41	17	Church Medley	John P. Kee
42	30	Right On Time	Fantastic Spiritual Voices
43	45	Oh Lord I Want You To Help Me	Jennifer Harris Gray
44	49	One Way	The Gospel Originals
45	33	When I Think	Ricky Dillard
46	36	Do It Again	Kirk Franklin
47	40	Your Glory 2 C U	Earnest Pugh
48	50	Holy You (Freligious)	Tye Tribbett
49	46	Don't Faint	Jekalyn Carr
50	28	Vessel Of Mercy	Jennifer Harris Gray



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CVM Bluegrass Gospel

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TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	9	The Lamb, The Lion, And The King	New River Bluegrass
2	5	Master Carpenter	Lincoln Mash & Heather Alley
3	8	That Eternal Home	Eagle's Wings
4	10	I Can Pray	Daryl Mosley
5	11	Angels From The Realms Of Glory	Rrinaco
6	16	When Jesus Calls My Name	Don Rigsby
7	1	You Know What I Need	Authentic Unlimited
8	21	Calling Me	Eddie Sanders
9	15	Rock Pile	Dave Adkins
10	20	I Found It All In The Blood	Bama Blu-Grace
11	3	On The Battlefield For My Lord	Larry Sparks
12	2	The Outlaw	Becky Buller (ft. Becky Isaacs Bowman)
13	25	A God Thing	Chosen Road
14	17	No Need To Doubt Him Now	Ben Rochester
15	38	Lord I'm Thankful	Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers
16	23	Touchdown Jesus	My Brother's Keeper
17	30	He Took Your Place	Tidalwave Road
18	4	Blue Collar Gospel	Jerry Salley & The Oak Ridge Boys
19	12	In The Shadow Of The Cross	Right Side
20	27	It'll Be Good To Be Home	Journeys
21	33	On My Father's Side	Carson Peters and Iron Mountain
22	28	Learning To walk With Him	Kristy Cox
23	40	Living Waters	Eighteen Mile
24	6	Little White Church	Crandall Creek
25	14	These Old Burdens	Williamson Branch
26	47	Angel At The Crossroads	Adalyn Ramey
27	36	Reasons	Andrew & Mary Beth Jones
28	18	Are You Praying Hard	Gospel Plowboys
29	7	No Empty Chairs In Heaven	David Parmley
30	39	Journey On	Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers
31	37	Jesus Satisfies	Danny Roberts
32	43	You Don't Knock	Darin & Brooke Aldridge w/ John Cowan
33	22	That Sweet Land Of God Somewhere	Primitive QT
34	13	Jesus Sweet Jesus	Mark Houser & Bluegrass Drive w/ Rhonda Vincent
35	41	Walk In The Way	Pitney Meyer
36	45	I Will Someday	Newfound Road
37	29	In Spite Of My Yesterday	The Kapples
38	32	There Is A Rock	High Road
39	46	How Do I Know	Jessica Horton
40	44	Ready And Waiting	King James Boys
41	35	Can't You Hear Jerusalem Moan	Hammertowne
42	-	Long Time Traveling	Appalachian Road Show
43	24	How Can You Refuse Him Now	Rhonda Vincent
44	49	Rank Stranger	Ralph Stanley II And The Clinch Mountain Boys
45	50	You Made It Right	Larry Stephenson
46	42	More Than A Hollow Hallelujah	The Isaacs
47	-	What Mercy Means	Eighteen Mile
48	19	I Am The One	Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road
49	-	The Lighthouse	Mountain Heirs
50	-	Above The Clouds	Eighteen Mile




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A PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Our Greatest Need

Jerry Roach

“I will HEAR what God the LORD will speak: for He will speak peace unto His people...” (Psalm 85:8) Notice, not only does the psalmist speak to God, but he also wants to HEAR what God has to say. “I will HEAR what God the LORD will speak...”

In times of tragedy, I hear people say, “My thoughts and prayers go out for the victims.” I’ve often wondered to whom do they pray. Many who express such sentiments are secular humanists who claim no particular deity. As I understand secular humanism, there is no God and everything revolves around man, does that mean he prays to himself? Sounds pretty helpless and hopeless to me!

One TV personality recently spoke of a Christian man who stated that he not only prays to the LORD, but also HEARS from Him. The TV personality referred to that as “mental illness.” Quite the contrary. The Bible says, “He will speak peace unto His people.” The word peace is the Hebrew word, “shalom” which indicates health, wellness, wholeness, favor, safety, restoration, etc. in mind and body. I need to HEAR WHAT God has to say.

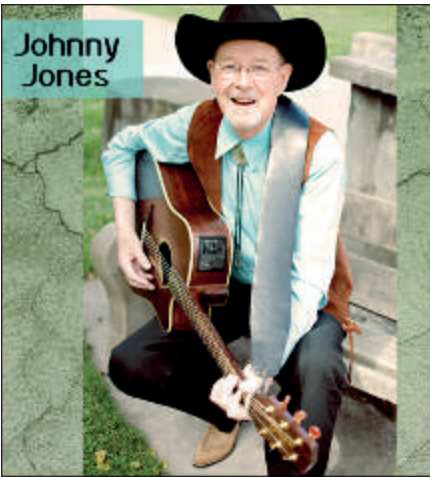
In this chaotic confusing world, I can go to the ONE who has all power in heaven and earth. Jesus said, “Come unto

me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) Only my LORD has power over demons, diseases, death and dangers that threaten. He comes to me in the midst of life’s storms and speaks “Peace.”

God speaks to us in too many ways for me to attempt to list here, but let’s start with what’s most obvious to me. I can remember as a young child looking at the beauty and splendor of nature and thinking that there must be someone who made all this. I knew there must be a God, but no one ever told me I could know Him personally. At age 36, I opened a Bible and began to read. God’s Word, which is active, alive and powerful, spoke to me and transformed me from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light. A couple of years later, I heard that small still voice deep in my spirit and surrendered to the call of God to preach His Word. Four decades later, I continue to hear His voice.

Do you HEAR Him? Are you listening? In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man HEAR my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him...”

Listen closely,HEAR Him calling your name.



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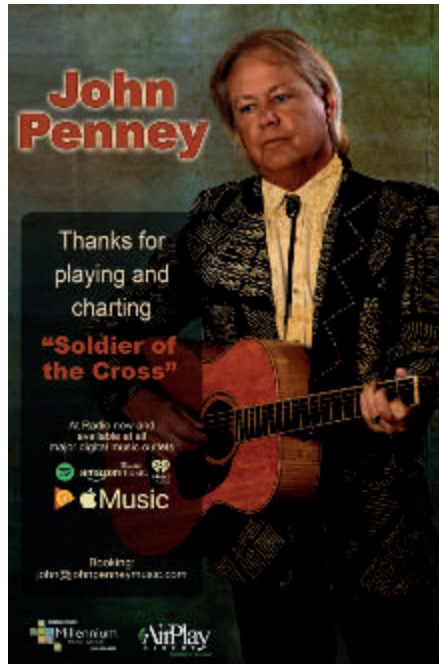


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CVM Reporter



National News from a Christian Perspective

Bringing Receipts, Rubio Dares West to Ignore Left-Wing Violence

Chad Groening, Billy Davis

Aware that Europe's globalist leaders seem to see a Nazi behind every tree, Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged an international audience to recognize and confront left-wing terrorism that is threatening the West.

At the one-day Washington summit held recently, Rubio opened the event with a speech that described radical leftism as a "poisonous resentment cloaked in the language of equality and justice."

The summit, which was attended by 65 foreign delegations, was formally entitled the "Ministerial on the Resurgence of Political Terrorism."

Rubio's challenge to foreign governments was akin to a direct confrontation. That is because many left-wing governments, which are filled with freedom-crushing globalists, treat populism and conservative parties like the resurgence of the Nazi Party.

"The very idea that far-left terrorism could be a serious threat is treated as a right-wing fever dream or, worse, as a dangerous fascist conspiracy," Rubio bluntly stated.

Aware of his audience, the secretary of state came with evidence, too. He cited the July 1 firebomb attack in Greece that targeted members of New Democracy, a conservative political party. That attack injured a parliamentary

candidate, and killed her mother, when the homemade bomb exploded under their parked car.

"You are here," Rubio said, "because two weeks ago, a 72-year-old woman was burned on over 80% of her body in her own home, in Greece, and she died, executed by a fire bomb because her daughter dared to stand for office!"

Two other recent incidents cited by Rubio included an attack on Germany's power grid last winter. That terrorist act, which caused a five-day blackout during sub-zero temperatures, was perpetrated by a left-wing group called "Volcano Group" to fight fossil fuels.

The second incident he cited was the fatal beating of a French activist, Quentin Deranque, 23, by a left-wing mob. Deranque was described as "far right" activist by the news media.

Rubio's summit speech comes after the State Department designated four left-wing foreign organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists, Fox News reported.

The four organizations targeted by the administration are Antifa Ost; the Informal Anarchist Federation / International Revolutionary Front (FAI/FRI); Armed Proletarian Justice; and Revolutionary Class Self-Defense.

Those groups operate across Germany, Italy and Greece, where they have conducted violent attacks.

"A bomb planted by a neo-Nazi group was a nefarious and murderous act of evil. It is," Rubio said. "But a bomb planted by a Marxist revolutionary? Well, that's just merely a tragic excess of idealism."

OMM Says Christian Families Have 'No Choice' but to Avoid Disney's 'Hexed'

Caleb Castile

A conservative group of parents is concerned about Disney's new "magical adventure."

With the box office flops of "Strange World," "Wish," and "Lightyear" in recent years, Disney seems to have lost the ability to enchant audiences in the wholesome way many kids of yesteryear remember.

Walt Disney Animation Studios hopes to redeem itself with its 65th feature film, "Hexed," set to release in theaters on November 25, 2026.

The story features Billie, an unconventional teen who discovers she has magical powers. She is whisked away to a hidden, magical realm of witches called Hexe, bringing along her cautious, Type-A mother, Alice, to uncover long-held family secrets and navigate the world of magic together.

Because magic is not being used as a symbolic storytelling device like in "The Chronicles of Narnia" but portrayed in a way that glorifies witchcraft and spell-casting, the project has caused concerns



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over at One Million Moms, a division of the American Family Association (AFA) that aims to "stop the exploitation of our children, especially by the entertainment media."

"We are concerned because, as scripture says, we're not supposed to have anything to do with witchcraft," explains Director Monica Cole. "We're supposed to avoid it in all forms."

She cites Deuteronomy 18:10-11, which reads, "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."

One Million Moms is alerting parents to the themes in the new movie and is asking them to sign the group's pledge to not support the new film.

"I disagree with the dark nature and theme of witchcraft you are pushing on families in the cartoon film 'Hexed,'" it reads. "This type of content is dangerous for children. Disney has left conservative and Christian families with no choice but to avoid 'Hexed' since it goes against our beliefs and values. I urge Disney to cancel this dark movie immediately."

Within two days, more than 9,400 people had signed the pledge.

AI to Help Diagnose Heart Problems Previously Unseen by Doctors

Steve Jordahl

Researchers, using artificial intelligence (AI) to analyze hundreds of thousands of heart electrocardiograms (EKG), have found a warning sign for

sudden cardiac deaths that they had never seen before.

Fox News reports that AI can help doctors find heart problems recently overlooked because the heart looks normal in common tests. An EKG measures the electrical activity of a person's heart.

Dr. Brick Lantz, vice president of advocacy and bioethics, of Christian Medical and Dental Association says researchers at University of California, Berkeley, let AI read hundreds of thousands of EKGs from Sweden.

"They had artificial intelligence examine these over 400,000 EKGs and see if there was any anomaly or difference from the general population that would be an identifying marker of someone that died from sudden cardiac death," Lantz says.

The AI model was trained by looking at the Sweden EKGs then tested on patient data from the U.S. and Taiwan. AI pointed at one of the readings of the heart's electrical activity and found a link between one possible reading and a statistically significant number of cardiac deaths.

Lantz says doctors had never made the connection before. "This is what's interesting. It's a new finding," Lantz continues.

By comparing low-risk and high-risk EKGs, a visible feature was found in an area called aVL, which was a strong signal that predicted cardiac death.

Further testing will be needed, but it's likely that people with the marker will be fitted with pacemakers, thereby, perhaps, saving their lives. Lantz says that kind of analysis is the strong suit of artificial intelligence.

"Taking large volumes of data - and we're talking very large volumes of data - process that very rapidly and give us at least some information," Lantz states.

AI has already made similar strides in cancer research, he says, and has the potential to revolutionize medicine as it's practiced.

"I think that's going to be a useful tool for AI in the future, particularly in the field of data collection," Lantz says.

Texas Law Survives Challenge, Strengthens Digital Security for Minors in State

Robert Thornton

In a major blow to Silicon Valley, the U.S. Supreme Court denied an emergency application by Big Tech trade associations to block enforcement of the Texas App Store Accountability Act. The case was Computer & Communications Industry Association v. Ken Paxton.

The Texas law requires parental consent before a child can download an app. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation or NCOSE, submitted amicus briefs in December 2025 and May 2026 detailing how predatory app marketplace designs leave children highly vulnerable to grooming and commercial sexual exploitation.

The Supremes let stand a 5th Circuit decision that forcefully rejected the industry's demands for total immunity, focusing on the state's urgent interest in protecting children from predatory online ecosystems.

The decision establishes a framework for state-led digital safety standards nationwide.

Ohio, Oklahoma, and Utah are among other states working on similar legislation like Texas.



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Where Food Meets Faith and Every Dish Tells a Story

— Annie Ruth

Peaches & Promises: God's Faithfulness in the Ripening Season

August has a way of slowing the world down. The sun lingers a little longer in the evenings, the cicadas hum their steady chorus, and the peach trees - heavy with fruit - seem to bow under the weight of their own sweetness. It's the month when the air feels warm enough to soften even the hardest days, and the kitchen becomes a sanctuary of fragrance, memory, and grace.

I've always believed God preaches through the seasons, and August is one of His clearest sermons. Nothing rushes in this month. Fruit ripens when it's ready. Blessings arrive when they're meant to. And the sweetness that finally comes is worth every day of waiting.

There was a time in my life when I prayed for something so deeply, so earnestly, that I expected God to answer immediately. But He didn't. Not for months. Not for years. And in that waiting, I learned what every peach tree already knows - the ripening season is part of the promise. God doesn't withhold; He prepares. He doesn't delay; He develops. And when the blessing finally comes, it carries a flavor no rushed miracle could ever match.

"In due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

So today, I'm sharing two dishes that taste like August itself - warm, refreshing, comforting, and full of the kind of sweetness that only comes after patience.

As that cobbler bakes and the blessing bowl chills, the whole house fills with a fragrance and freshness that feel like promises kept. And maybe that's the message for someone reading today. You've waited. You've prayed. You've wondered if God forgot. But just like August peaches, your blessing is ripening - quietly, steadily, perfectly - in God's timing.

Hold on. Don't faint. Don't lose heart. The sweetness is coming.

And when it does, you'll understand why God didn't let it arrive a moment too soon.

Warm Skillet Peach Cobbler with Butter Crust

Ingredients

6-7 ripe peaches, peeled and sliced
1 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp cinnamon
1 stick butter
1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup milk

Instructions

Melt the butter in a cast-iron skillet.

In a bowl, stir together flour, sugar, milk, vanilla, and cinnamon until smooth. Pour the batter over the melted butter - don't stir.

Spoon the peaches evenly across the top.

Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes, until the crust rises beautifully around the fruit and turns golden brown. Serve warm, preferably on a porch where the evening breeze can join you.



Chilled Peach & Mint Blessing Bowl

A refreshing counterpoint to the cobbler - cool, bright, and perfect for August afternoons.

Ingredients

4 ripe peaches, diced
1 cup sliced strawberries
2 tbsp honey
Juice of 1 lemon
6-8 fresh mint leaves, chopped
A pinch of salt

Instructions

Combine peaches and strawberries in a chilled bowl. Drizzle with honey and lemon juice. Add mint and a pinch of salt. Toss gently and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Serve cold. It's simple, beautiful, and tastes like joy in a bowl.



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Barbara Jean Smith

A Kentucky Voice Carried by Faith, Family, and the Call of God

By Cory Parker



Lexington, Kentucky, may be the city on her birth certificate, but the heart of Barbara Jean Smith was shaped sixteen miles down the road in the small, storybook town of Wilmore. With a population of barely a thousand in her childhood years, Wilmore was the kind of place where neighbors were family, the front porch was a gathering place, and the rhythms of life were set by church bells, camp meetings, and the warm hum of community.

Wilmore held two landmarks that left their imprint on her spirit: Asbury University and The Wilmore Campgrounds. She remembers the campgrounds vividly - people traveling from all over to worship under open skies, families filling the grounds with laughter, testimonies, and song. "It was a warm town with loving families and friends," she recalls. "Those memories shaped me."

Long before she ever stepped onto a stage, a little Kentucky girl spent her weekends at the Grand Ole Opry, watching legends who are now etched into the golden era of Country Music. "To me, that was real Country music," she says. "And I loved how every show ended with a Gospel song."

But her greatest musical influence wasn't on the Opry stage. It was sitting right beside her. "My daddy was my music hero," she says. "He'd play rhythm guitar, and he always had me singing."

Saturday night and Sunday afternoon singings became her classroom. Under shade trees and on front porches, surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, she learned harmony - the kind that comes from family, faith, and the joy of singing together.

Barbara Jean and her husband, Danny, have been married nearly 53 years, raising three children - Eric, Ryan, and Stefanie - and building a life anchored in love, perseverance, and ministry.

Danny is more than a husband; he is her encourager, her steady hand, her God-sent nudge. For two years, Barbara Jean sat in church too afraid to sing, despite a lifetime of music. "I was scared to death," she admits. "I was terrified of making a mistake." But Danny kept nudging: "God has given you a gift. You need to use it."

He would arrive early at church, set up soundtracks, and gently push her toward the calling he knew God had placed in her. One morning, a church member overheard her practicing, and everything changed. “Now I sing,” she says. “Now I let God move. I never sing without praying for His grace and guidance.”

Though she grew up around church, Barbara Jean didn’t fully surrender her life to Christ until adulthood. For years, she took the children to church alone while Danny worked long, exhausting shifts to provide for the family. She loved God, but she believed she had to be perfect to receive Him. “A big wrong,” she says now with a smile.

Through prayer, conviction, and the relentless love of God, she came to Christ and a few years later, Danny did too. From that moment forward, they became a team for life and for the Lord.

Barbara Jean served as an Environmental Secretary at the local Health Department for twenty-two years before retiring. During those years, her singing ministry stretched across Kentucky and into Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois = wherever vacations and holidays allowed.

Now, with retirement behind them, the road is wide open. They’ve traveled to West Plains, Missouri for the ICGMA Awards Convention and to Texas for the Texoma Convention - gatherings that reaffirmed their calling and connected them with fellow believers spreading the Gospel through music.

“Our country needs a great revival,” she says. “And we want to be part of it.”

Barbara Jean’s music has traveled farther than she ever imagined. She was honored as: Horizon Female Artist at the 2023 Gospel Music Fan Awards and ICGMA Top 5 Horizon Female Artist (2023)

Her voice has reached seven states in person, and countless more through radio.

From her most recent album, “Pathway to Heaven,” two singles have been especially impactful: *Thank God for the Darkness* - a song that has been circulating nationally and resonating deeply with listeners who understand that God often works His greatest miracles in the shadows. *What Can I Say* - this single continues to gain traction on Gospel and Christian Country stations, strengthening her presence on national airwaves.

Both songs reflect Barbara Jean’s signature blend of heartfelt testimony, traditional Country warmth, and Gospel truth - the sound of a woman who has lived what she sings.

Barbara Jean approaches ministry with reverence and readiness. “I’ve learned that a Christian has work to do every day,” she says. “We must read the Word, be a witness, and be ready, because Christ is coming again.”

Her life verse is Hebrews 11:1: “Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see.”

And her message to others is simple, powerful, and lived: “Let go of the gift that is within you - and let God use it as He wills.”



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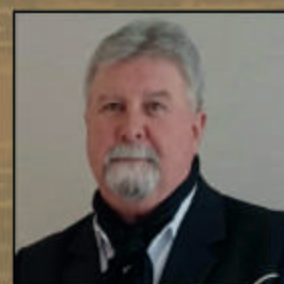
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