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magazine



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FROM THE EDITOR

The Harvest Is Not Just a Season - It's a Principle

October has always carried a certain weight to it. Not the heaviness of winter, and not the bright energy of spring. But the quiet, steady significance of harvest. It's the month when the fields speak, when the work of many months finally reveals its purpose, and when the unseen labor of long seasons comes into view.

Harvest is not just an agricultural moment. It's a biblical rhythm. A spiritual law woven into the fabric of creation. And whether we realize it or not, we are all living in the middle of something we once planted.

Some seeds were sown in joy. Some in tears. Some in obedience. Some in desperation. Some in faith that felt small at the time. But God remembers every seed.

The beauty of harvest is that it honors the quiet work - the prayers whispered when no one was listening, the faithfulness practiced when no one was applauding, the sacrifices made when no one understood. Nothing planted in God's name is ever wasted. Nothing sown in righteousness ever disappears into the soil unnoticed.

Harvest is God's way of saying, I saw what you did. I remember what you gave. And I am faithful to bring it forth in its time.

But here's the part we often forget: Harvest is not a season we wait for. It's a principle we live by.

We sow with our words. We sow with our choices. We sow with our generosity, our forgiveness, our patience, our worship, our perseverance. Every day, in ways we don't even realize, we are planting something that will grow.

And October invites us to pause and ask: What am I sowing now that I want to see later?

What seeds am I planting that will shape the future God is preparing? Because harvest doesn't just reveal what we planted, it shapes what we plant next.

As you move through this month, let the fields remind you of God's faithfulness. Let the season encourage you to keep sowing good seed, even in places that feel slow or quiet. And let October whisper this truth to your heart: The God who oversees the harvest oversees your life. He sees every seed. He honors every act of obedience. And in His perfect timing, He brings forth what only He can grow.

John

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 to the memory of our friend and mentor,
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"To God Be The Glory"

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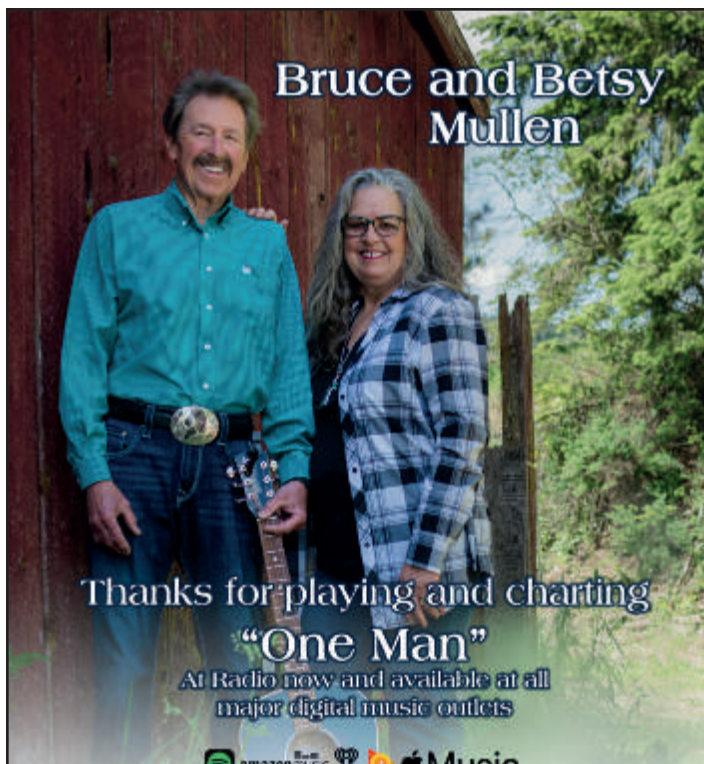
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CROSSFIRE

The Revelation of the Mystery (Part 2)

Gabriel Swaggart

“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.” - Ephesians 3: 4-6

Paul's Desire for the Church, including the Gentile population within the body of Christ, was to completely understand God's plan through Christ. Of course, this refers to the new covenant in Christ, which is the message of the cross. God had specifically called him to bring this message to the masses, including the Gentiles.

The message of the cross is not a message that is exclusive to one group of people, but rather inclusive and intended for all. Going back to the idea of the mystery that Paul presents, we need to understand that he is bringing to light the adoption of the Gentiles into the body of Christ.

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HUMAN RACE

It is critical to reiterate the idea of the cross being inclusive. The death of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross was a completed work meant for all, giving Gentiles equal access to God and His saving grace as He had given the Jews. There is no longer a difference between Jew and Gentile, and both groups stand on equal ground at the foot of the world's Redeemer. These two groups are now one body in Christ, with the Gentiles receiving the same benefits as the Jews when Christ is accepted. This was always the plan of God for the human race.

God's ultimate plan is broken down into four aspects: eternal, historical, spiritual, and prophetic. As Paul uses the word mystery, it refers to God's plan of redemption.

First, this plan is eternal in its scope. This plan contained God's everlasting counsel, decreed before the foundations of the world, declared as God's supreme knowledge, veiled to humanity but ultimately revealed through Christ.

Second, the term mystery is historical in its announcement. Historically, the announcement was made by God and is known as the “mystery of Christ.” Paul was tasked to proclaim this historical message that Christ is the hope of humanity and that anyone at any time can experience this great salvation. Historically, this new life was declared by God throughout time, and through Christ, all, both Jew and Gentile, can have this new life.

Third, it is spiritual in its perception. Paul retains the idea, as focused on the Gentiles as part of the family, that this mystery was revealed to the apostles and prophets.

And fourth, it is prophetic in its outcome. The divine consummation is still awaiting, as it refers to what God has done and is doing. As both Jew and Gentile have been brought together through Christ and His cross, neither has received the total benefits of the atonement, which will be realized at the coming resurrection.

SHOULD THERE BE DIVISION WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST?

In short, Paul is expressing that since we are now one in Christ, there is no room for separation. There is no room for those who claim to understand the mystery but do not practice it daily. This belief states that the church should remain separate until the eternal state overcomes the social state. It is the idea that because people might be different, they should remain on the outside looking in.



This type of philosophy should not be tolerated within the church, seeing that we all do not deserve to be in the family to begin with. Yet here we are. If God did not do that with us, why should we do that to someone else? The gospel is not exclusive, as proved by Paul; it includes anyone who believes in Jesus Christ. The cross eliminated the division between races, creeds, and socioeconomic classes, and it was in the mind of God from the very beginning. Instead of looking down on those who may not be in the family, we should encourage them to join the family. We do this by

practicing what we preach or living what we believe. No one should consider Christianity exclusive, nor should Christians look down on others for not being saved.

The church today should mimic Paul's teachings so that we understand the nature of God's new covenant plan, that Christ is the mystery of God, and that His church should be one body with one Lord and God.

It must be noted that Paul was sure to state that this revelation did not come from his personal conclusions but was revealed by the Holy Spirit that the church was united in Christ through His finished work. Through His blood, there is no Jew or Gentile, bond or free, but only sons and daughters of God through Jesus Christ. As a result, I will state again that there should be no division within the body. Unity must be our calling card. From all that was given through the apostles and prophets, it is clear that it was always in the mind of God for Gentiles to be brought into the family, and that our unity and togetherness now identify God's people in a multiethnic group with love for one another that is furnished by the Holy Spirit.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS

The purpose of Paul explaining this mystery is to express the fact that all are born outside of the family and hopelessly lost. We were on our way to a devil's hell when Jesus Christ found us, saved us, and adopted us into the family. We are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and we share in the

promises of God. The cross made this possible. The cross is God's walking plank from death to life so that whosoever crosses that plank can experience everlasting life (John 3:16).

The cross is the heartbeat of the gospel, and it is the most crucial aspect of the plan of God. Everything before the cross pointed forward to what Jesus Christ would do. Everything since the cross points back to what was accomplished. The cross is the foundation of God's redemption plan, for it was there that all sin was dealt with, and every stain was cleansed. The cross is where our victory was won, and the grip of sin was broken.

To conclude this thought, allow me to reiterate that those who have accepted Christ are now one body. Those who have wholeheartedly received the gospel of Jesus Christ are members of the same family, and we are all equal in Christ. The mystery revealed to Paul was that all who say yes to Jesus, no matter their racial identification, are now a part of a new race, a new community, and have new identities in Christ. Because of this change of heart, there should not be any division within the body, for we are all one in Christ.



A promotional image for Matt Barker's song "He Rescued Me". The image features a portrait of Matt Barker on the left, smiling. The background is dark with a cross visible in the upper right corner. The title "HE RESCUED ME" is prominently displayed in large, bold, gold letters. Above the title, the quote "It's not just a song, it's my story!" is written in a cursive font. Below the title, the credits are listed: Artist: Matt Barker, Writer: Johnathan Bond, Publisher: HIS Choice Music/BMI, Producer: Johnathan Bond, Engineer: Michael Lee, and Studio: LifeSound Studio TN. At the bottom, the website "www.MATTBARKERMUSIC.COM" is displayed in large, bold, gold letters.

"It's not just a song, it's my story!"

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Country Gospel artist Marty DeRoche brings a storyteller's heart and a worshipper's spirit to every stage he steps onto. His music blends faith, hope, and classic Country charm into songs that lift the soul and honor the God who carried his dream all the way to Nashville.

Marty + DeRoche

A Country Gentleman
Carrying the Gospel
to Nashville and Beyond

By Cory Parker

Award-winning Nashville Christian Country artist Marty DeRoche has a way of stepping onto a stage that makes listeners feel like they already know him. Maybe it's the smooth Country voice. Maybe it's the uplifting message. Maybe it's the unmistakable "Country gentleman" charm that seems to follow him wherever he goes. But at the heart of it all is something simpler and deeper: Marty sings because he believes God still uses stories to change lives.

Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Marty grew up with a dream that felt bigger than the world around him. He imagined one day standing in Nashville, singing on the legendary Grand Ole Opry stage. For years, that dream lived quietly in his heart while he served faithfully in pastoral ministry, wrote songs, and carried the Gospel through every avenue God opened. But in May 2024, the dream became reality. Marty performed his breakout hit *A Bullet and A Bible* during the ICMA Awards show, standing in the famous Opry circle - the very place where Country legends have stood for generations.

It was more than a performance. It was a moment of destiny.

Thirteen members of Sgt. James Hawkins' family were in attendance that night. Marty had dedicated the song to Hawkins, a U.S. Marine whose life was saved in World War

II when a bullet lodged in the Bible his pastor had given him before deployment. Marty remembers the moment he held that Bible - the bullet still embedded in its pages - and met Mrs. Hawkins and their children. "Recording *A Bullet and A Bible* was unforgettable because it was a true story," Marty says. "Meeting Mrs. Hawkins, holding that Bible... it meant everything."



That authenticity is the thread running through all of Marty's music. His voice carries the gritty warmth of Kenny Rogers and the smooth sincerity of B.J. Thomas, yet his sound remains completely his own - a blend of Country storytelling and Gospel conviction. Now living in Southern Illinois, Marty continues to travel, sharing positive, faith-filled music with audiences across the country. His songs carry messages of hope, encouragement, and redemption, delivered with the honesty of a man who genuinely believes every word he sings.

And listeners believe him too.

Every song Marty has recorded has reached the Top Ten on Radio Music DJ at some point. His single *Blood Bought Cowboy* climbed all the way to #1, while *Trade Your Story For Glory* is currently in the Top 50 on the CVM Christian Country Chart. His album, "A Bullet and A Bible," made the second round of the 2026 Grammy Awards, and his album, "A Cowboy and A Cross" - along with its title track - is in Grammy consideration for 2027. In 2026, Marty was inducted into the Indie Music Channel Hall of Fame, and he has received multiple Josie Awards nominations, marking him as one of Christian Country's rising voices.

But for Marty, awards are not the reward.

"The greatest reward," he says, "is that I get to share the Gospel through song with a positive inspirational message." He tells stories of students at the school where he works approaching him with excitement: "Hey Mr. D, love your music on Spotify!" Their parents follow his music too. For Marty, those moments matter just as much as standing in the Opry circle. They are reminders that God uses every platform - big or small - to reach hearts.

His latest release, *Trade Your Story For Glory*, carries a message he believes deeply. "We all have a story," Marty says. "A time that other people may not know about. But no matter your story, God, through His grace, mercy, and forgiveness, can turn your story into glory." It's a message shaped by his own journey. After 35 years of pastoral ministry, Marty recently retired from the pulpit, but not from



Marty & Delora

ministry. "Now that ministry continues through music," he says. And it shows. Every concert, every event, every song is offered with the prayer that someone will be encouraged, uplifted, or drawn closer to Christ.

"My heart's desire," Marty says, "is that God continues to receive glory in every concert or event I get to sing at. I pray people will see I'm passionate about the One I get to sing about - Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior."

And behind that passion stands someone who prays just as fervently: Marty's wife, Delora. "Every concert I do," Marty says, "she comes to me before and takes my hands and prays for me - and more importantly prays that God will be lifted up, and someone may receive a blessing from the song. Nothing better than having a praying wife in your corner."

From Louisville to Nashville, from the pastor's pulpit to the Opry circle, Marty DeRoche continues to prove that faith and perseverance can carry a dream farther than anyone imagines. His music is warm, honest, and unmistakably Country. But his message is eternal. And as long as God keeps writing his story, Marty will keep singing it.



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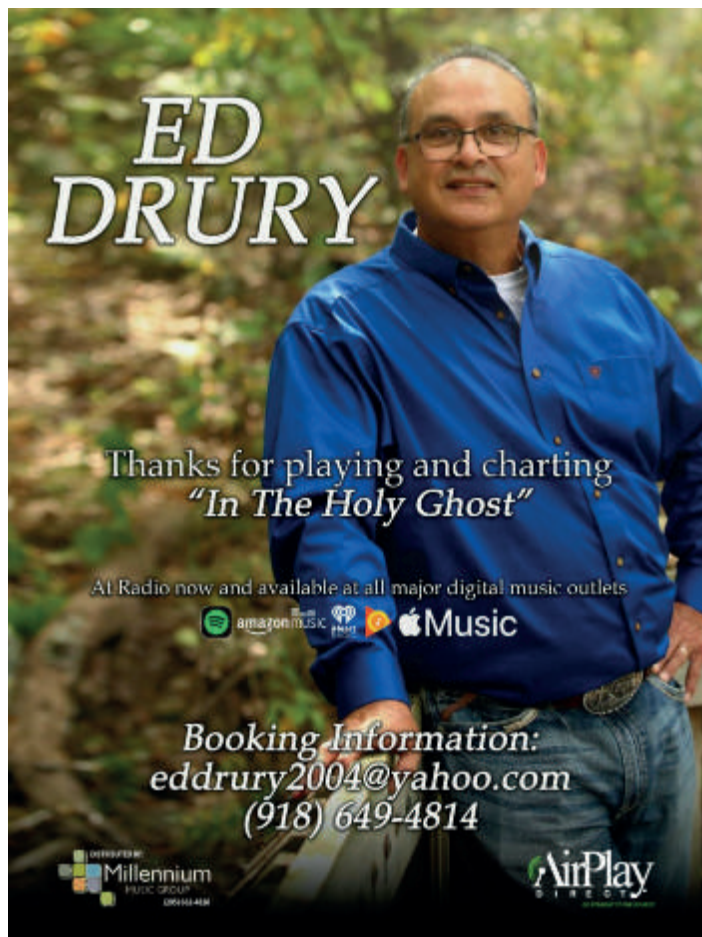


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MARGIE'S MEDITATION

Something to Give

Margie Tanner

We have all been wonderfully blessed by God, and we should always remember that we are only stewards over the things he has blessed us with. Our lives are not our own.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." If we are totally submissive to the Lord as our Master we should be willing to give of ourselves and our substance at any time to help promote the kingdom of God.

Stop and think for a minute: what special gifts or talents have you been given? Then ask, "Do I use those gifts only to benefit self or do I use them for ministry? It is true God can get by without us, but He chose to use us to carry on his ministry on this earth. He wants to use each of us, if we are willing to let Him use what we have. Let's look at some examples in the Word where people were willing to let Jesus use what they have been given.

Luke 19:29-34 - "And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying, go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither, And if any man ask you, why do ye loose him? Thus shall ye say unto him, because the Lord hath need of him. And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them. And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, why loose ye the colt? And they said, the Lord hath need of him. And they brought him to Jesus."

This is a very interesting story. As Jesus was preparing to make his entrance into Jerusalem, He choose to do so in a very humble way - the King would enter riding on a borrowed colt. Let us notice, Jesus knew where to tell them to go to find

the colt and was sure the owners would allow Him to use the animal.

Matthew 26:17-18 - "Now the first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus saying unto him where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover. And he said go into the city to such a man and say unto him the Master saith, my time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples."

This man was willing to give Jesus his upper room for the evening. Are we willing to allow Jesus to use our homes for anything he needs it for? Maybe you could use your home for a bible study, or prayer meeting, or there may be some needy person that could use a room for a while.

The New Testament church in the book of Acts was very willing to give, selling land or possessions to take care of widows and orphans.

In 1 Samuel chapters 1 and 2 we see Hannah praying to God for a child, and when God gave her that child she gave him back to God to serve in the temple. A little boy gave his lunch to Jesus and as a result thousands were ministered to. As you read this, I believe God will speak to your heart about something He needs you to do, something He wants you to give,

Yes, you have something the Master has need of. Pray about what He needs you to do. Maybe sponsor a missionary, help build a church, sponsor a hungry child or several children, volunteer at a homeless shelter, assist a church the desperately needs your talents.

Maybe there are elderly or handicapped people around you that need repairs done at home, or yard work done. Or just be a powerful witness for Him each day. Remember we serve Jesus by serving others.

I challenge you to ask God what He needs from you. You have been greatly blessed. BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!!

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THE VOICE RETURNS

Sandi Patty Steps Back Into the Spotlight With Power, Purpose, and a New 2027 Album

By Jackson McKee



For nearly half a century, one woman has stood at the summit of Inspirational music - not merely singing songs, but defining eras. Her voice has soared over symphonies, echoed through stadiums, and carried the weight of faith, patriotism, and artistry with a clarity few vocalists in any genre have ever matched. She is known by one name, one title, one legacy: “The Voice.”

And now, in a moment that feels both unexpected and inevitable, Sandi Patty is stepping back into the spotlight once again.

After a decade of quiet, the most awarded female vocalist in Gospel music history - five GRAMMY Awards, four Billboard Music Awards, three platinum records, five gold records, and an astonishing 40 Dove Awards, including 11 consecutive ‘Female Vocalist of the Year’ wins - is preparing to release a brand-new studio album in 2027, her first full-length project in over ten years.

It is, unmistakably, the return of a legend.

A Voice That Changed America

Sandi Patty’s story is already the stuff of American music folklore. Her discography, more than 30 albums deep, includes songs that have become generational touchstones: *Love In Any Language*, *Via Dolorosa*, *In the Name of the Lord*, *Another Time*, *Another Place*, and her iconic interpretation of Dottie Rambo’s *We Shall Behold Him*.

But it was 1986 that transformed her from Christian music royalty into a household name. When her breathtaking rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner* aired during the televised rededication of the Statue of Liberty, the nation stopped - and listened.

“You would never think of the *Star-Spangled Banner* as being a career-breaking song,” Sandi reflects. “Ellis Island was being refurbished and the producers asked me to record the *Star-Spangled Banner* for the project, but they wanted a new version... And I said to David, ‘Please don’t write me above a high B.’ When I saw the chart, the last note was a D-flat. He said, ‘Don’t worry, you’ll never have to sing it again!’”

History, of course, had other plans.

Her arrangement became a signature performance, carrying her to A Capitol Fourth, the Indianapolis 500, ABC’s

Fourth of July Special, and even the inaugurations of President Bill Clinton (1997) and President George W. Bush (2001).

From there, her reach expanded into symphony halls across the nation: New York Pops, Boston Pops, Cincinnati Pops, Dallas Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, and even a starring role in *Hello, Dolly!* with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. She was unstoppable.

Until she chose to stop.

The Quiet Years - And the Spark That Lit Again

In 2015, Sandi announced her Forever Grateful Farewell Tour, an 18-month global journey marking the end of full-time touring.

“What a privilege it has been to share my story and faith through song for so many years,” she said at the New York press conference. “My heart is full of gratitude... I could never have imagined my career taking me to so many amazing places.”

And then - silence.

The stage went dark. The voice rested. The world wondered if the curtain had closed for good.

But in 2024, something shifted. A milestone birthday. A reflective season. A stirring in the soul of a woman who has never stopped singing, even when the microphones were off.

On August 21st, she released *The Voice I Have Now*, her first new recorded song in over a decade. Written by Joel Lindsey and produced by Gordon Mote, the single is a deeply personal statement about aging, gratitude, and the evolution of her artistry.

“The privilege of turning 70 is that I have more years to look back and see God’s faithfulness,” Sandi says. “And the best predictor of God’s future faithfulness is to recount his faithfulness in the past.”

The chorus - tender, wise, and beautifully autobiographical - declares: *“Oh, it’s stronger than I ever thought it could have been... But I’m so thankful for the voice I have now.”* It was more than a song. It was a signal.

The Voice was awakening.

A New Album for a New Season

Now, Sandi Patty is preparing to release a brand-new studio album in 2027, a project insiders describe as “the most personal work of her career.”

While details remain closely guarded, sources confirm the album will explore themes of legacy, resilience, spiritual reflection, and the beauty of living - and singing - from a place of seasoned strength.

The project reunites Sandi with several longtime collaborators and introduces new creative partnerships that bring fresh color to her iconic sound. Early whispers suggest orchestral arrangements, intimate storytelling ballads, and at least one anthem destined to join her list of classics.

It is not a comeback. It is a continuation. A new chapter from a woman who has never stopped evolving.

Upcoming Appearances: The Voice Takes the Stage Again

To accompany the momentum of her new single and upcoming album, Sandi is set to make several high-profile appearances in late 2026 and throughout 2027, including: A symphonic Christmas event in Indianapolis, Select “Evening With Sandi Patty” concerts - intimate storytelling and song experiences, and a 2027 album launch celebration featuring live performances and behind-the-scenes conversations

These appearances are not a return to full-time touring - but they are a return to presence. A return to connection. A return to the stage. A return to the voice.



**Sandi Patty on stage with Bill Gaither
(Gaither Homecoming Farewell Cruise)**

The Legacy Continues

Inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2004 and named an Indiana Living Legend in 2007, Sandi Patty’s influence stretches far beyond awards and accolades. Her music has shaped worship services, inspired generations of vocalists, and provided the soundtrack to countless moments of faith and family.

She and her husband, Don, enjoy life in Indianapolis with their blended family of eight children and twelve grandchildren - a personal world as rich and meaningful as her public one.

And now, as she prepares to release her first full album in more than a decade, Sandi Patty stands at a rare intersection of legacy and renewal.

The Voice is not returning to reclaim a throne. The Voice never left. It is simply rising again - wiser, braver, stronger, and more grateful than ever.

Because as she sings so beautifully: *“I’m so thankful for the voice I have now.”*

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A New Day

The Reprobate Mind of a Nation (Forgetting, Rejecting, and Hating God)

Royce Lanier

The Bible teaches that the decline of a people rarely happens all at once. A nation does not usually wake up one morning with a reprobate mind; it travels there by degrees. First, it forgets God. Then it rejects God. Finally, if left unrepentant, it comes to hate God and despise His authority. Romans 1 gives one of Scripture's clearest pictures of this downward path: people suppress the truth, exchange God's glory for idols, refuse to retain God in their knowledge, and are eventually given over to a debased or reprobate mind. Romans 1:28 says, *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind."* This is not merely a description of individual sin; it is also a warning about homes and public conscience.

The first step toward a reprobate mind is forgetfulness. This is not innocent ignorance, but spiritual neglect. People begin to live as though God is unnecessary. They enjoy His blessings but fail to honor the One who gave them. Deuteronomy 8:11 warns, *"Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments."* Forgetting God begins when His Word is no longer treasured, His commandments are no longer feared, and His goodness is no longer remembered. Psalm 9:17 declares, *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* This verse shows that national forgetfulness has national consequences. When a society forgets God, it loses the foundation for truth, justice, mercy, and moral restraint. What once was considered sin becomes acceptable; what once was honored becomes mocked; what once was sacred becomes ordinary.

The result of forgetting God is confusion. Proverbs 1:7 teaches, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge."* If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, then forgetting the Lord is the beginning of foolishness. Without God, a nation may advance in technology, wealth, and influence while declining in wisdom, character, and righteousness. Forgetting God soon leads to rejecting God. The heart that no longer remembers Him will eventually resist Him. Romans 1:21 says, *"When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful."*

Rejection begins when people choose ingratitude over worship and self-rule over submission. They may still use religious words, but their hearts resist God's authority. Romans 1:25 explains that they *"changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator."* This is the heart of rejection: replacing God with something else. A nation may worship money, pleasure, power, government, human reason, celebrity, or self-expression. Whatever takes God's rightful place becomes an

idol. The biblical result of rejecting God is that God may give people over to the path they insist on taking. Romans 1 repeats the solemn phrase "God gave them up" and "God gave them over." This does not mean God stops being sovereign; it means He allows persistent rebellion to experience its own consequences. When light is rejected long enough, darkness begins to feel normal.

The final stage is hatred toward God. Romans 1:30 includes the phrase "haters of God" among the sins that flow from a debased mind. This is more than unbelief; it is hostility. A nation at this stage does not merely ignore God - it resents Him. It resents His holiness, His commandments, His claim over human life, and His right to judge.



Jesus said in John 15:18, *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."* Hatred of God often appears as hatred of God's people, God's Word, and God's moral order. When truth exposes sin, the rebellious heart does not always repent; sometimes it attacks the truth-bearer. At this point, the conscience becomes seared and moral judgment

becomes inverted. Isaiah 5:20 warns, *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil.”* A reprobate mind does not simply commit sin; it approves of sin, celebrates sin, and pressures others to accept sin. Romans 1:32 says that such people not only practice unrighteousness but *“have pleasure in them that do them.”*

Scripture shows several results when a nation turns from God. First, there is moral corruption. Romans 1:29–31 describes people being filled with unrighteousness, envy, strife, deceit, pride, disobedience, and lack of mercy. Sin never stays private; it spreads into homes, institutions, relationships, and laws.

Second, there is spiritual blindness. Second Thessalonians 2:10–11 warns of those who *“received not the love of the truth”* and therefore are given over to strong delusion. When people refuse truth, they do not become neutral; they become vulnerable to lies.

Third, there is social disorder. Judges 21:25 says, *“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”* When God’s authority is rejected, personal desire becomes the standard. The result is disorder, division, and the breakdown of true justice.

Fourth, there is judgment. Proverbs 14:34 states, *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”* God is patient, but He is not indifferent. Nations are accountable to Him, and no people can permanently prosper while despising the Lord who rules overall.

“When light is rejected long enough, darkness begins to feel normal.”

The message of Scripture is not only warning but also mercy. God calls nations and individuals to remember Him, repent of sin, and return to His ways. Second Chronicles 7:14 says, *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

A reprobate mind is not the first step in a nation’s fall; it is the result of a long pattern of refusing God. The path begins with forgetfulness, deepens into rejection, and hardens into hatred. Yet the path back begins with humility. If a people will remember God, honor His Word, confess their sin, and seek His mercy, there is hope. The God who judges rebellion is also the God who delights in repentance, restoration, and truth. When the church falls into apostasy the nation no longer has a guide by light or is it preserved with salt. For a nation to repent, the church must repent first, because the condition of that nation is due to the disdained representation of God.

Keith Buchanan

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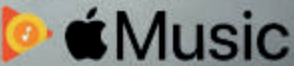


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RICKY PAUL

A Country Gospel Heartbeat

By Cory Parker

When Ricky Paul steps onto a stage, the atmosphere changes. The lights may be bright, the crowd may be lively, but what fills the room is something deeper - the unmistakable presence of worship. His voice carries the warmth of Louisiana soil and the sincerity of a man who has lived every lyric he sings.

Ricky's musical journey began in childhood, singing in his home church choir and performing in high school talent shows and plays. Those early experiences planted the seeds of a lifelong calling. As a young adult, he rededicated his life to the Lord, knowing that music would be the language through which he would serve. "Singing was always more than sound," he says. "It was how God spoke to my heart."

As his walk with Christ deepened, Ricky began receiving original songs - melodies and lyrics that seemed to arrive straight from heaven. Over the years, he has sung with church choirs across Louisiana and Texas, blending his love for Gospel with the storytelling soul of Country music. His influences range from the Jackson 5 and The Osmonds to Hank Williams, Sr., Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, and Ray Charles. "I grew up with a wide musical foundation," Ricky explains. "Church Gospel and legendary harmonies shaped my voice, while classic Soul and Country artists taught me how to tell a story."

That blend of styles became his signature.

In 2008, Ricky released his first CD, "My Life," featuring seven original songs. Since then, his discography has grown steadily - "Just a Country Boy" (2020), "Around God's Throne" (January 2026), and "Holy Ghost Loving" (April 2026) among them. Each project reflects a chapter of his spiritual journey, filled with heartfelt lyrics and melodies that lift the listener toward hope. His first Christmas single, *Holiday Season* (November 2025), added a joyful new dimension to his catalog.

One of Ricky's most cherished memories is sharing the completion of his early albums with his wife, Dianne, and his mother, Ms. Florence Puckett - the two women who encouraged him most. He later honored Dianne with a special tribute project, "Diana's Song," celebrating her steadfast love and support.

Recognition soon followed. Ricky has received multiple honors, including 'Album of the Year' for "Just a Country Boy" at the Prayze Factor Awards (Seasons 15 and 18), the Silver Honoree Award from WPGN Radio Atlanta, and a President's Founder Award from 2959 Publishing LLC for excellence in songwriting and soulful Country Gospel music.



In November 2025, East Texas Gospel Music Professionals presented him with a special award for his commitment to musical excellence and ministry.

Beyond the accolades, Ricky's heart remains focused on the mission. As a member of the East Texas Gospel Music Professionals, the TEXOMA Gospel Music Association, and the International Cowboy Church Alliance Network, he finds joy in seeing believers from every background unite in praise. "It's powerful," he says. "When God's children come together in worship, you can feel heaven drawing near."

Ricky's goal is simple yet profound - to travel to every country and nation, sharing the Good News through song. His desire is to inspire others to use their gifts for God's glory and to remind the world that worship is not just music; it's ministry.

At a typical Ricky Paul concert, fans can expect more than a performance. They'll hear professionally written, beautifully arranged original songs that span the full spectrum of Gospel styles, from soulful ballads to foot stomping praise. Audiences laugh, dance, clap, and sing along as Ricky creates an atmosphere of celebration and heartfelt worship. Each event becomes a moment of unity, joy, and spiritual renewal.

Ricky Paul's music tells the story of a man who never stopped singing: not for fame, but for faith. His voice continues to echo across churches, radio stations, and hearts, reminding listeners everywhere that the greatest song is the one that gives glory to God.

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Gold City Announces 2026 Christmas Tour

Gold City is excited to announce A Gold City Christmas Tour 2026. This 10-concert event will span seven states and feature the group's popular Band of Gold on all dates. Special guests, The Erwins will join the group on select concerts, and the group will be joined by church choirs in several cities as well.



Danny Riley says, "When we released our first Christmas album in over 20 years in 2025, we were excited about that and about touring during the Christmas season. However, we had no idea that our Christmas tour last year would be so fun. We enjoyed singing those songs and helping people usher in the Christmas season. We are getting excited for this year, as well, and we invite everyone to come be with us. There is no better way to celebrate Christmas than lifting our voices in praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

The tour runs from November 21 to December 13, with concerts planned in Georgia, Alabama, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Gold City and The Band of Gold will be at all events. Popular family group, The Erwins, will join the group for performances in Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina and Mississippi. Additionally, they will be joined by a choir in Houston, TX, Lebanon, TN, and Brookhaven, MS. Whether you are close in proximity to a concert venue or you want to take a Christmas season road trip, A Gold City Christmas 2026 is one event you will want to add to the calendar.

For more information, please visit goldcityevents.com.

'Song Revolution with John Chisum' Joins Television Network

The popular and long-running "Song Revolution" podcast, showcasing host John Chisum's heartfelt and insightful conversations with Christian recording artists, worship leaders and songwriters, has made the leap to the small screen. Joining Cornerstone Television Network's fall programming lineup, "Song Revolution with John Chisum" premiered Saturday, September 5 with "American Idol" runner-up and genre-spanning singer/songwriter Clark Beckham as the TV series' first guest.

A total of 13 brand-new "Song Revolution" episodes are set to debut on Cornerstone Television this fall. Welcoming a diversity of voices in Christian music and beyond, Chisum—an award-winning singer/songwriter and founder of Nashville Christian Songwriters—also sits down with worship pioneer Don Moen; Dove Award-winning composer and producer Tommee Proffitt; beloved songstress Kathy Troccoli; acclaimed singer/songwriter and worship leader Meredith Andrews; "The Voice" winner Jordan Smith; and Broadway actress and singer Laura Osnes, among others.

"Having the opportunity to bring the creative people I interact with daily to the world through this show is one of the most fulfilling things I could ever do," shares Chisum. "We've been podcasting since 2017, but leveling up to television brings exciting new dimensions to the people and music we love so much. Each guest has a unique angle on creativity, songwriting, and the music they make. I hope viewers will see that behind every song is a story, and behind every story is a real human songwriter who lived some part of that song."

"I'm so grateful to David Tucker and the entire Cornerstone crew for this opportunity to share how we glorify Jesus through the gifts and talents of these creators," he continues. "Our mission at Nashville Christian Songwriters is to empower Christian artists and songwriters worldwide, so this partnership is getting us one giant step closer to doing just that."

"We are thrilled to be picking up 'Song Revolution with John Chisum,'" states David Tucker, director of programming, Cornerstone Television Network. "The content is fresh and goes deeper than most with John's keen music insight to ask the compelling questions needed for an engaging interview."



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Joyce Meyer

For more than 45 years now, I've been studying God's Word and growing in my faith in Christ. Throughout these years, God has changed me so much! I'm still growing, but I've reached a place where I'm normally peaceful and stable in my emotions. I've also learned how to behave the same way when things are going well as when they aren't so good.

The journey hasn't been easy, and it's taken time. But developing faith and patience in the process has been more than worth it!

As believers in Christ, we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). This means we're not supposed to live according to how we feel or how our circumstances appear to be, but according to the truth of God's Word.

Second Corinthians 5:20 (AMP) says we "are Christ's representatives" to the world, showing others who God is through the way we live. We need to get out in the world and behave like Jesus, remaining peaceful and stable in good times and bad, patiently walking by faith.

The Bible tells us there are times we're going to have to wait on God. Being patient is not just waiting on God, but it's waiting in faith with a good attitude for God to do what only He can do in you. It's trusting that God will take care of you in His time and His way, because He loves you and He always has your best interest at heart.

Now, patience is a fruit of the Spirit that grows under trial (James 1:2-3). People who know this don't like to pray for patience because they know they're likely to endure circumstances that test their patience. But it's so much better to have faith and patiently wait on God with peace and joy than to be anxious, upset, and confused when life doesn't make sense or you're not getting your way.

Hebrews 6:12 (NIV) says, "We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." This verse shows us that we do not inherit the promises of God just because we have faith...we also have to have patience.

Another word for patience is "long-suffering." Long-suffering means you're going to have to go through difficult things to grow in your faith. I've discovered through my own journey that the sooner you embrace them and let God do the work in you that He wants to do through them, the sooner you'll get to the other side of them.

I really want to encourage you to do this. Don't fight the inevitable or you'll just be miserable. James 5:7 (NIV) says, "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains." It takes a lot of faith and patience to be a farmer. You

have to give up your seed and then you wait...and wait...and wait. You wait for sun and rain, and for the right season to harvest your crop.

In the same way, we can plant our "seeds" of faith by choosing to trust God and His Word above anything else. We release our faith by believing He will do what He says He will do, waiting with confident expectation that it will happen at the right time and in the right way.

While we're waiting, we should stay busy being good to others, helping people in need as we have the opportunity to do so. Psalm 37:3 (NIV) says to "trust in the Lord and do good..." Nothing proves our faith in God like waiting for His timing with a good attitude, so let's focus on letting Him bless others through us.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 (NIV) says, "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." This is basically saying that the patient man waits on God, but the proud man tries to make something happen himself.

When we try to make things happen in our own effort, we just end up frustrated. We don't have the wisdom in and of ourselves to do what's right in the right way and in the right timing. Instead of trying to make life go the way you want it to, entrust yourself to God and walk by faith, trusting Him to work things out.

James 1:4 (NIV) says, "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Imagine how it would be if you were completely patient and it didn't matter to you when God did what needs to be done in your life. Think about how it would free you from the stress of trying to control everything (which you can't do anyway). And how you can overcome desires that drive you crazy because you can't get what you want all the time.

Pray today for God to work in your heart, helping you to grow in faith and patience. Let Him transform your life so you live in peace with joy, and experience God's promises for you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *When, God, When?* 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 *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org

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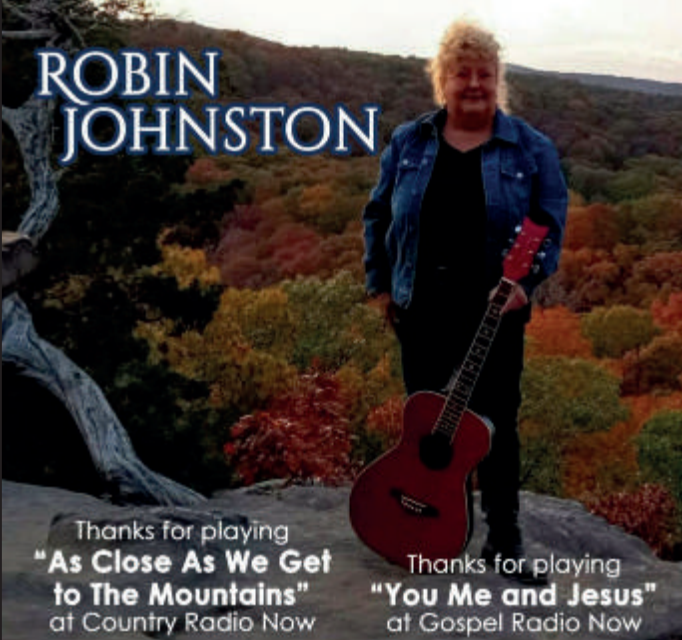
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AMANDA ROSALES

Finding the Song in Silence

By Chloe Wright

In the heart of South Carolina, where the roots of faith run deep, Amanda Rosales is revealing that the most powerful melodies of all time are those sung quietly. Rosales is a Southern Gospel artist whose voice embodies the weight of experiences combined with the lightness of grace. For years, she has developed a music ministry that grows not from the support of major labels but through her obedience to God's calling.

Music for Rosales is never a performance; rather, it is a personal response to the grace of God as manifested through song. Growing up surrounded by Gospel music, she is passionate about sharing songs that give hope and encouragement to those who feel helpless or searching for something in life. Her heart for service extends beyond the church to include her work in a classroom.

As a Math educator, Amanda spends her days dedicated to others by teaching children. She states, "Teaching children has taught me patience, compassion, and the necessity of speaking words of life into others." All of these characteristics are foundational principles in the ministry of Rosales' music, allowing her to connect with her audience on a deep level.

A rich tapestry of various styles of Southern Gospel and Contemporary Christian Music come together to create her sound. Influenced by heavyweight ministers such as CeCe Winans, Karen Peck and Charity Gayle; Rosales finds herself drawn to those who are more about ministry than show.

Hers is a consistent dedication to being authentic, which she attributes to producer Corey Harmon of Encore Music Suites out of Kingstree, South Carolina who challenged her to always give God her best, even if it required recording behind-the-scenes vocals over 100 times to attain the right feel.

While remaining an independent artist; her influence is now being felt on a national level, recently being nominated a Top 10 finalist for 'Female Horizon Artist' for the 2026 Gospel Music FanFair awards.

Her success is also reflected on the charts, where her song *Hallelujah Every Day* reached #37 on the Christian Voice Southern Gospel Top 100, and her most recent release, *It Should've Been Me* climbed to #11. In spite of the many recognitions, Rosales is still very down to earth. "Hearing testimonies from listeners who say a song helped them hold on, find peace, or reconnect with God means more to me than any award or recognition ever could," she says.

Her song, titled *Praise the Lord*, is a happy song that gets your feet tapping and hands clapping. The message is to lift



your voice and thank the Lord for His greatness, and to take a break from your burdens. The song is for the small congregation or revival that Rosales is very at home with; those are the celebrations she wants people to enjoy.

One day she was wondering whether she was making any kind of difference with her music and asked God if there would be a way for this to happen without His involvement. The answer to her prayer changed her life: "Be faithful where you are, I will handle the rest."

Amanda includes a blend of both genuine testimony and life-affirming music that relates to real-life problems facing humanity. The intent is to create an environment that will transition from performance to true acts of worship.

As Amanda looks ahead to expanding her ministry throughout the United States, her purpose for her ministry continues to be the same no matter if she is on a billboard or in a small-town church, to reassure people who have been hurt and/or forgotten by the world that there is still a chance for healing through Jesus Christ. If even one person experiences healing through anointed music performed by Amanda Rosales, then the praise and worship ministry has accomplished its purpose.



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The Million Heirs

*A Legacy Forged in
Faith, Fire, and the Unexpected*

They don't take the stage like a typical Gospel group. They walk out as men who have lived enough life, carried enough miles, and seen enough miracles to know that every night could be the night heaven breaks loose. And for The Million Heirs, that's the point.

Their story doesn't begin with a charting single or a viral moment. It begins decades earlier, in a singing family, in a ministry born in 1967, and in the long, winding road of a man who never planned to build a group - but who couldn't outrun the calling on his life.

Founding member Mike Garner grew up surrounded by harmony. His grandfather's quartet, The Supernals, shaped his childhood and set the trajectory for a life spent in ministry and music. By late 2002, Mike joined one of Gospel music's most iconic families, The Nelons, where he served in nearly every role imaginable - bus driver, mechanic, booking agent, road manager, and even occasional vocalist. "I functioned in whatever role was needed at the time," Mike recalls.

He stayed with the Nelons off and on until February 2020, retiring just weeks before COVID shut down the nation. "Great timing huh?" he jokes.

But the road wasn't finished with him yet.

Mike's journey took him briefly to Triumphant Quartet in 2011, then to a job with the State of California in 2014, before returning to the Nelons as production manager during their celebrated Americana era.

"In summer of 2015, I married my wife Deborah... I continued to tour with the Nelons during that time, and the entire thing just worked for us," he says.

But the relentless touring schedule wore thin. After a year of conversations with Kelly Nelon, Mike made the difficult decision to step away - a decision that proved providential.

"Just 2 weeks after I left, touring was put on hold for nearly a year due to covid."

Then came the tragedy of July 2024 - the plane crash that took the lives of Kelly, Jason, Amber, and Nathan. Mike speaks of it with quiet reverence. "I was both grateful, and very dumfounded with sadness... God doesn't deal in the 'what if' business. He's a definitive, on-time God that we can trust with each step of our life."

In early 2022, life shifted again. Mike and Deborah discovered they were expecting a baby - Dorothy - after years of miscarriages and heartbreak.

The pregnancy nearly ended one morning when doctors could find no heartbeat. But at that exact moment, Mike's phone lit up with a text from his friend, Pastor Brian Baer: "Whatever the doctor is telling you, always get GOD'S answer and go with that."

They refused the recommended procedure. A week later, at just five weeks, a faint heartbeat appeared - "almost unheard of that early on," Mike shares.

Dorothy is now "an almost 4-year-old, healthy, vibrant joy... the official princess of camp meetings all across America." Her miracle became the spark that reignited Mike's desire to build something new.

In 2022, while preaching revivals and camp meetings across the country, Mike began imagining a group that could travel with him - a team built not just on talent, but on unity, humility, and ministry.

The Million Heirs hit the road that spring and found immediate success. But like all groups, seasons changed, members shifted, and discouragement crept in.

Until one phone call changed everything.

Tommy Spencer's story reads like Appalachian folklore. He began performing as a toddler on the famed Cas Walker Show, later becoming host of Sunday Tradition, one of America's longest-running Gospel music programs.

That day, Tommy didn't call with demands or conditions. "He didn't ask for pay, didn't ask for recognition. His only statement was 'why don't you let me come and help.' It wasn't a statement, it was a request."

Tommy's arrival brought stability, experience, and a deep sensitivity to the Spirit, the kind that can turn a concert into an altar service.

Jake Gordon grew up in a musical family but initially had little interest in singing. He wanted to run sound. And drive a bus. So, he got his CDL.



Mike Garner

refuse jealousy, competition, or ego. “I don’t care who walks out on stage and hits a home run, it’s still a score for the team.”

And above all, they protect the altar. “It will never be an interruption for us when someone comes to the altar. That’s what we’re about.”

Their influences are wildly diverse - from Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin to The Primitive Quartet, Tony Gore, The Wilburns, Randy Travis, The Rambos, and Jazz vocalist Eileen Farrell.

This diversity birthed their most ambitious undertaking yet: a series of albums recorded over 18 months, across three continents, with six producers and multiple orchestras. The releases include: “A Night On The Town,” “1932” (honoring the final year of the vaudeville band era), “Christmas On The Town,” and a new live album. It’s bold. It’s nostalgic. It’s unlike anything in modern Gospel music.



Jake Gordon

tragedies, providence, friendships, and the unmistakable hand of God guiding every step.

They are not just performers. They are not just ministers. They are men who have lived enough life to sing with conviction.

And every night, they lift up Jesus with unity, joy, humor, and a sound that feels both timeless and brand new.

At 16, Mike took him on the road. One day during soundcheck, Mike overheard Jake singing - and everything changed.

“When Tommy entered the picture full time, Jake was eager to move to the front line... and the fit was perfect.”

Jake is now working on his first solo project, set for release this fall.

A magnetic personality with decades of TV and radio experience, JP Miller is the kind of entertainer who can win a crowd in seconds. He hosts Backstage With JP Miller, leads youth camps, and brings humor and heart to every service. He also penned what Mike calls “the best song on the project,” *Christmas Eve Down Sun Valley Road*.

JP steps in when Jake’s schedule conflicts, and sometimes all four men travel together, “which is even better,” Mike says.

Mike insists that unity is non-negotiable. “We’ve honestly never had one internal issue with this bunch of guys. I’ve never had to ‘be the boss.’”

They tailor every concert to the crowd. They accommodate pastors, promoters, and fellow artists. They



Tommy Spencer

Their current single, *Better Than This*, is climbing with surprising momentum - especially considering they don’t know who wrote it. “I found it on an old cassette... and have been trying to track down the writer ever since.”

Crowds are growing. Bookings are expanding. Even secular venues out west are opening their doors to them for the first time.

And every night, they bring the same message: “We’re singers, not politicians... If we can get them there, He is more than able to do the drawing and saving.”

Ask Mike what people can expect at a Million Heirs concert, and he laughs: “Expect the unexpected.” Because for this group, the unexpected has always been the story - miracles,



JP Miller

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ON THE ROAD WITH GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY

A Drive to Daywind

Ken & Jean Grady

Every June, we drive to Memphis for the Quartet Show, and this year was no exception. On our way, we made a stop in Hendersonville, Tennessee to visit with the folks at Daywind. We met with Dusty Wells, who carved out a few hours of his day to show us around and let us meet some of the behind the scenes personnel.

Our first stop was to see Ed Leonard, President of Daywind Music Group and VP of New Day Christian Distributors. The first time that we met Ed, he was traveling with Brian Free and Assurance as they came to sing at one of our concerts in Rhode Island. We had some laughs reminiscing about that trip! It was great to catch up with Ed again and then we were off for the Grand tour.

Dottie Leonard, Ed's Mother, was the heart and soul of Daywind Records. She started it as a single mom in 1981 and built it into what it is today. Dottie saw a need to get music and items into Christian bookstores and that was her mission as she created New Day Christian Distributors. Needing more products of her own, she started Daywind Soundtracks and Daywind Records. She later added Daywind Music publishing which is now the predominant music publisher in Southern Gospel and Bluegrass music genres. Later, her business expansions included Daywind Worship, Spiritus Distribution, and Daywind Music Foundation (Tree Radio), which is a 24/7 broadcaster of Southern Gospel music. Dottie passed away in 2024 and Ed now is at the helm of Daywind.

We visited Dottie's office, which is kept just as she had it, including an old PC and a beautiful CD holder. There are many buildings in the complex because Dottie kept buying up buildings in the area. We toured the sales office areas and the warehouse, which was so fascinating to see all the products that are distributed.

The Daywind group is so special to us at Gospel Music Today and we love their heart for ministry and what Dusty Wells calls "heart music". He is absolutely right!



Dusty Wells with Ken and Jean Grady



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Dusty at Daywind Recording Studios



Ken gets shots of Dusty at the mixer



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CHRIS BLUE

The Soul Survivor Who Turned Pain Into Power and Faith Into a National Spotlight



By Jackson McKee

There are voices that entertain. There are voices that inspire. And then there are voices that feel like they were carved out of fire - forged in adversity, tempered by faith, and unleashed with a force that makes audiences rise to their feet before they even realize they're standing.

Chris Blue carries that kind of voice.

It is the voice that won *The Voice* in front of millions. The voice that rose from sickness, injury, and near tragedy. The voice that carried a young man from Knoxville church pews to a national stage. The voice that still trembles with gratitude when he talks about the woman who stood by him through every chapter.

But more than anything, it is the voice of a survivor.

And now, as he steps into the next era of his career - new music, new collaborations, new momentum - Chris Blue is proving that his story is not just about winning a television competition. It is about becoming the kind of artist whose journey matters as much as his sound.

This is the story of a man who almost didn't live long enough to sing... and then became one of the most electrifying vocalists of his generation.

A Childhood Marked by Miracles

Long before the lights of NBC, long before the standing ovations, long before the world knew his name, Chris Blue was a fragile child fighting for his life.

Born the youngest of seven children, Chris grew up surrounded by music - his brothers harmonizing in church, his mother encouraging every note, his father preaching faith into the walls of their home. But behind the joy was a shadow: a severe blood disorder that nearly took his life before he ever learned to walk. Doctors warned his family to prepare for the worst. His mother refused. "I shouldn't be here," Chris has said in interviews. "But God had another plan." It was the first miracle in a life that would be defined by them.

As he grew, music became both refuge and revelation. He sang with his brothers in The Blue Brothers, a family group that blended Gospel, Soul, and R&B with the kind of harmonies only siblings can create. He learned early that singing wasn't just performance - it was survival. It was testimony. It was calling.

But another blow was coming.

The Love Story That Changed His Life

Every great feature needs a love story. Chris Blue's is one of the most beautiful in modern inspirational music.

Before auditioning for *The Voice*, Chris stood beside his fiancée, Stephanie, as she battled bone marrow cancer. He watched her fight with courage that humbled him. He watched her endure treatments that would break most people. He watched her choose hope every single day. "She's my rock," Chris said. "She's the reason I'm here."

When he auditioned for *The Voice*, he dedicated the performance to her. It wasn't a publicity move. It wasn't strategy. It was love... raw, real, unfiltered.

And America felt it. The judges felt it. The audience felt it. Stephanie felt it. That moment became the emotional heartbeat of his season.

The Voice: A National Spotlight and a Spiritual Assignment

When Chris Blue stepped onto the stage of *The Voice*, he didn't just sing. He detonated. His audition was electric - a fusion of Soul, Gospel, and Pop that made Alicia Keys slam



The Injury That Nearly Ended Everything

In his late teens, Chris suffered a devastating injury that left him unable to walk. Doctors again delivered grim news. Again, his family prayed. Again, Chris fought.

He learned to walk again - slowly, painfully, determinedly. "I just kept thinking, 'If God brought me through that, He'll bring me through this,'" he shares.

The recovery was long. The lessons were lifelong. Pain taught him perseverance. Perseverance taught him gratitude. Gratitude taught him humility. And humility became the foundation of his artistry.

her button and turn her chair with urgency. She didn't just want him on her team. She wanted to mentor him, shape him, champion him.

And Chris responded with humility that made him instantly beloved. "I just wanted to give God glory and make people feel something," he said after winning.

Week after week, he delivered performances that felt less like competition entries and more like spiritual events. His rendition of *Take Me to Church* became a cultural moment. His version of *Love on the Brain* showcased vocal agility that stunned even veteran musicians. His finale performance of *Rhythm Nation* proved he was not just a singer - he was a force.

When he won Season 12, millions celebrated. But Chris didn't see it as a victory. He saw it as an assignment. Winning wasn't the end. It was the beginning.

The Evolution of a Modern Inspirational Artist

Post-Voice, Chris Blue didn't chase fame. He chased purpose. He released singles that blended Gospel roots with modern Soul. He toured nationally, bringing his testimony to churches, theaters, and festivals. He collaborated with producers who understood his unique blend of genres. He built a brand that was authentic, faith-centered, and emotionally resonant.

Chris Blue is not a CCM artist. He is not a Gospel artist. He is not an R&B artist. He is all of them - seamlessly, boldly, beautifully.

His music speaks to believers and non-believers. To young audiences and older ones. To people who love worship and people who love soul. He is a bridge - a rare, powerful bridge - between tradition and innovation.

The Present: Momentum, Maturity, and a New Chapter

Today, Chris Blue stands at a pivotal moment in his career. He is writing new music. He is collaborating with major producers. He is performing at high-profile events. He is building a catalog that reflects both his past and his future.

His upcoming projects - including a new full-length album - promise to be the most personal work he has ever

released. Insiders describe the sound as "soulful worship," "testimony-driven Pop," and "the kind of music only Chris Blue can make."

He is not chasing trends. He is creating them. And he is doing it with the same humility that carried him through sickness, injury, heartbreak, and triumph.

The Future: A Voice With Something to Say

Chris Blue's story is not about fame. It is not about television. It is not about accolades.

It is about survival. It is about calling. It is about gratitude. It is about a man who almost didn't live long enough to sing... and then became one of the most compelling vocalists of his generation.

It is about a voice that rose from pain and now rises with purpose. It is about a future that feels wide open, bright, and divinely orchestrated.

Chris Blue is not just a fresh face. He is a fresh fire. And as he steps into this new era... wiser, stronger, braver... one thing is clear: The world hasn't heard the best of him yet.



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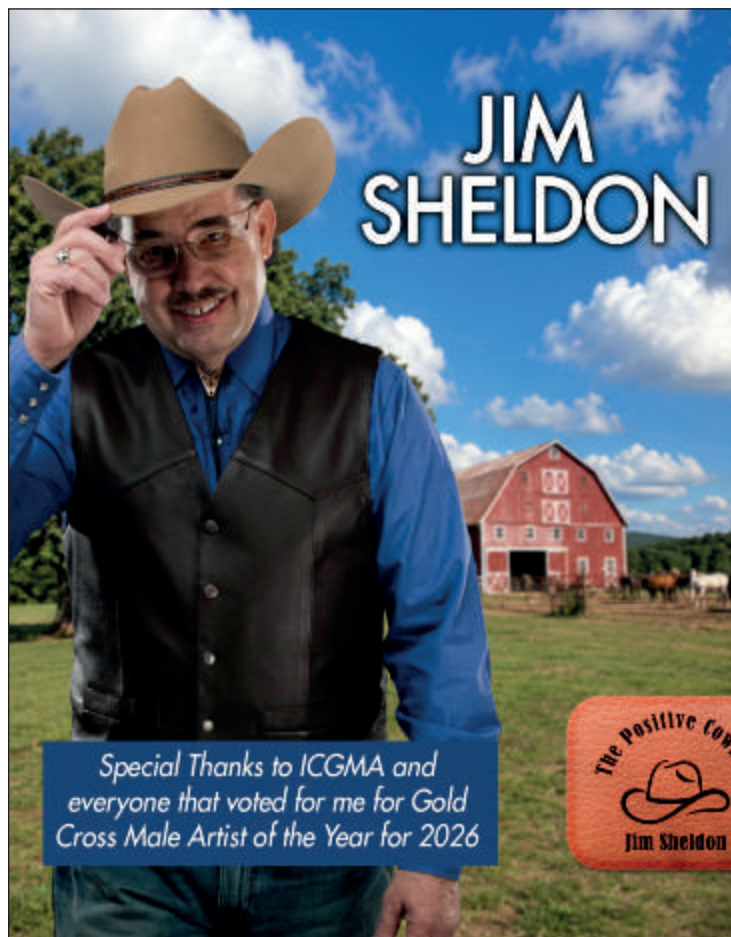
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National News from a Christian Perspective

Tools Instead of Teachers: Christian Leader Draws Line for AI Use

Steve Jordahl

Chatbots are quickly becoming Americans' indispensable sidekicks, but an association of Christian communicators is warning against getting too dependent on artificial intelligence (AI).

Pastors can find creative sermon illustrations or everything Matthew Henry wrote on Romans. Busy housewives can find a list of devotionals they may want to use to start their days.

Troy Miller, president of National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), know that AI chatbots can be very useful Bible study aids. "I use it as a tool to do research and other things that it can do more efficiently than me grabbing the concordance," he tells AFN. "But I also have to remind myself that I have nearly 40 years of experience in Bible training."

Though he sees AI's "great potential" in helping people with productivity and workflows, he cautions against getting too dependent on the technology or elevating AI bots to a much higher level than they actually are. "When we start to look at AI as being our teacher that disciples us, I think we have to step back," he says.

Miller points out that chatbots are notorious for being flat-out wrong. And even though they may be getting better, Miller recognizes that chatbots are built to engage users continuously, meaning their underlying codes and programmed algorithms reflect human biases. They are all trained to affirm users' self-image,

butter them up and make them feel good about themselves.

Users, in turn, put too much confidence in them. "We sort of put them on this super cognitive intelligence level, like all of a sudden we're talking with the brightest theological theologian in the world," he warns.

NRB views AI chatbots as powerful communication tools that carry significant moral risks, requiring careful oversight, strict data boundaries, and discernment.

A good rule of thumb, Miller says, is to make sure chatbots remain merely helpers - tools instead of teachers.

Hamilton: Massachusetts Treats Parental Opposition to Gender Transition as Child Abuse

Chris Woodward

A Massachusetts family continues to fight to reunite with their teenage daughter. Sophie Kutzko was removed from her parents' home by the state after her parents objected to a secret social transition at her public high school.

According to Fox News, the parents, who are Catholic, point to Algonquin Regional High School in Southborough, Massachusetts, for exposing their daughter to a gender ideology culture and blame a school counselor for the social transitioning of their daughter. They believe it was that counselor who called the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to report them for not affirming their daughter's "transition" into a boy because of their faith.

Abraham Hamilton III, general counsel of American Family Association, talked about this on the "Today's Issues" program, and warned that overzealous state agencies are treating parental opposition to gender transition like criminal child abuse.

"What's happening in states like Massachusetts is that they are using a child abuse standard to do this. So, they are treating - like the Kutzkos, for example - their refusal to call their daughter a boy, they are treating that as if the parents are actually physically abusing the child," Hamilton explains.

The 15-year-old was removed from Joseph and Arlene Kutzko's home in 2024 and has reportedly not seen her family in nearly two years. Currently, there is a restraining order against the parents and brother, as DCF has custody of Sophie.

Hamilton expects the parents to ultimately prevail in court but stresses the heavy toll of the legal battle. "I expect this to be corrected legally, ultimately, but at what cost? What kind of daughter will they have back with them by the time the litigation finishes? The abuse is being imposed upon the child by the state and imposed upon the family by the state," Hamilton states.

Legal advocacy groups are challenging the state's actions, while family advocates urge parents to stay closely connected and vigilant in their children's lives.

The Child and Parental Rights Campaign is representing the Kutzkos. The next court date is October 29.

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'How on Earth' can Government Fund \$5,000 Checks Without Adding to Debt?

Chris Woodward

A dividend promised by President Donald Trump has an economist asking a basic question: How would the federal government pay for it without adding to the national debt?

Markets are digesting the Federal Reserve's latest quarter-point rate hike, and people are debating a controversial proposal from the Trump administration to issue \$5,000 payments to adult citizens if Republicans win the House and Senate in the November elections.

The president says the dividend checks will "happen 100 percent ... because our country is taking in trillions and trillions of dollars."

Though the Trump administration has not yet provided a detailed funding plan, tariff revenue and other economic gains would apparently fund the proposed \$5,000 dividends.

But most voters are skeptical, with several dismissing the idea as unrealistic while pointing to Congress, the nation's debt and previous promises they said never materialized, and experts from both sides of the aisle still have questions.

E.J. Antoni, chief economist for The Heritage Foundation, has been blunt about the fiscal math. "I have no idea what's going on with the \$5,000 payment plan, to be perfectly honest with you," he recently told the "Washington Watch" program when asked to break down the numbers.

"No idea where that came from, where the money would come from to finance it - that is entirely unclear," he said. "How on earth you can spend another dime right now without increasing the deficit and therefore the debt is completely unclear."

Antoni also noted that the Fed's recent move on rates largely followed where the bond market had already gone - driven heavily by energy shocks and rising treasury yields since the start of the conflict with Iran.

The economist warned that policymakers are looking at the wrong tools to solve persistent price pressures. "The reason that prices have been rising recently is not a monetary problem; it's an energy problem," he explained. "You can't fix an energy story with monetary tools. A higher cost of capital is not going to bring another barrel of oil to market."

Until energy supply pressures and deficit-spending concerns are addressed directly, Antoni said consumers should not expect monetary adjustments to fix the broader cost-of-living squeeze.

Case Settlement in California Reinforces Parents' Rights to Opt Their Children Out of Certain Curriculum

Chris Woodward

A California school district has agreed to change its policies, offer parental opt-outs and pay an undisclosed settlement, ending a religious liberty lawsuit.

First Liberty Institute represented families whose fifth-grade children were forced to push gender ideology onto kindergartners. Nate Kellum, senior counsel of First Liberty, explains the core issue. "The issue is that we represent two families who have fifth graders in Encinitas Union School District (EUSD), and the school forced their fifth graders to indoctrinate kindergartners in gender ideology against their will and their conscience and their religion," Kellum says.

The controversy began when a teacher read the book "My Shadow is Pink" during a mentoring session. Students were

made to watch a video and help kindergartners color their shadows based on gender identity.

When parents asked for the right to opt out of future lessons, Kellum said the district refused. He notes that challenging the school took immense courage from the families.

"In order to change this, you have to challenge it, and that is much to the credit of these two families because it took an amazing amount of courage. They received a lot of pushback from the community, from the school. They were villainized for challenging this policy, and they were falsely accused of being bigots and being hateful," Kellum says.

Ultimately, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction, which, combined with a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling (Mahmoud v. Taylor), paved the way for victory.

The new settlement ensures parents in the district will receive proper notice and opt-out rights for controversial curriculum.

EUSD said they resolved litigation on September 14, 2026, and that their current policies were updated on August 19, 2025, to align with Mahmoud v. Taylor. They note this lawsuit came a year before their policy update.

"There are no winners when limited public education resources are diverted from classrooms to prolonged litigation," said Marisa Janine-Page, co-counsel for the EUSD Defendants. "That is why the District chose to resolve this case, so it could put the litigation behind it and move forward focused on its students and its educational mission."

However, according to the ESUD press release, the settlement "does not constitute an admission of liability or wrongdoing by EUSD or its employees." ■



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Recently, I came across a verse of scripture that leaped off the page into my heart and mind. Psalm 121:2 says, "My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." A few weeks earlier, I had preached from Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." I didn't have to plow through thousands of pages to try to understand what God could do to help me. In two short verses (21 words), God made it so very clear to me. He made everything! Including you and me! Is there anything too hard for God?

Why do we continue to look for government to take care of us? More government, more problems! Man cannot deliver us from the mess we find ourselves in. The middle verse of the Bible says, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man." (Psalm 118:8) The heart of the Bible expresses the heart of God. He wants us to turn to Him in our time of need. Some 2600 years ago, God pleaded with His people to, "call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show

thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

As a pastor, "in these last days." I come in contact with so many people who have so many problems. In counseling, I always attempt to point the hurting and hopeless ones to God and His promises to us. But it doesn't seem to register with some folks. I guess they feel there should be a more complex solution. Jesus invites us, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28,30) 1 Peter 5:7 reminds us, "Cast All your CARE upon Him; for HE CARES for you All Care Always "It is better to trust in the Lord..." (Psalm 118:8) Do you believe? Do you trust Him?

"Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

My mantra these days is simple and comforting to me... "My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:2) Let Him help you. He's waiting for you to call.



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THANK YOU

Thank you to **Mike Owens** and **Randy Fowler**
for writing The SCARS you Can't See.

Thank you to **Christian Hutton** for producing it,
and **Randall Wilds** for helping us get it
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TOP 100 OCTOBER 2026

CVM Southern Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	5	God Sees Your Storm	Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call	51	31	Outside The Gate	Mike Keller
2	4	What Is Man	Carroll Roberson	52	71	Smile	The Herstons
3	2	He Did It All For Me	Ernie Haase & Signature Sounds	53	75	Your Precious Love	Don DeGrate
4	9	Friend Of Sinners	Derrick Loudermilk Band	54	73	I Choose To Trust You	Lori King
5	8	For What Earthly Reason	Mark Trammell Quartet	55	-	Why Do I Sing	The Garmons
6	11	Now I'm On My Way	Poet Voices	56	69	Six Times Stronger	Lorraine Stevenson
7	14	Life Hurts, God Heals	Kingdom Heirs	57	87	When Believers Will Be Leaving	Down East Boys
8	6	When Sunday Morning Dawned	Kingsmen	58	98	Somebody Soon I'll Learn To Fly	Kenny Keith
9	22	I Just Want To Make A Mark	New Road 2	59	78	The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power	The Kapples
10	17	One More Testimony	Port City Quartet	60	70	Had It Not Been	Melissa Couch
11	23	Do You Know My Name	Melissa Evans	61	76	When I Called Your Name	Jack Gibson
12	24	He's Still Christ	The Oxendine Family	62	59	Don't Give Up	Amanda Rosales
13	1	Grace Is Sufficient	Jonathan Wilburn	63	-	The Old House	Bibletones
14	45	Ain't That The Truth	Joseph Habedank	64	86	The Gift	Gracie Strayer
15	7	Symphony Of Grace	Austin Glover	65	79	Small Town Someone	Greater Purpose
16	32	Goodbye To Mercy	Believer's Voice	66	-	There Is A Record Book	The Hagers
17	35	Oh Lord I Want You To Help Me	Jennifer Harris Gray	67	81	Son Of Thunder	Anne Rene'
18	72	Cling To It	Brian Free & Assurance	68	-	Take Away The Cross	The Bilderbacks
19	13	In the Holy Ghost	Ed Drury	69	82	Sunday Morning Praise	Doug & Gina Green
20	34	Let Your Light Shine	Keith Buchanan	70	-	Your Storm's Going To Run Out Of Rain	Powell Revival
21	40	I'm Gaining New Ground	New Ground	71	85	Second Chances	Jennifer Phillips & But God Ministries
22	15	He Will Carry You	Mark & Cindy Maynard	72	-	Hear My Voice	The Scotts
23	46	He Walked Upon The Water	Keith Barkley & Family Tradition	73	88	He Is The One	Latrell Lindon Pharr
24	19	He Wasn't Too Good	Lorraine Howard	74	-	Let Me Hold Onto You	Linda Gibson Johnson
25	52	What's It Like At Home	Mark Dubbeld Family	75	99	He Rescued Me	Matthew Barker
26	43	You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet	Wendy Jones	76	-	I Was On His Mind	Sharron Kay King
27	25	Lord I Know You Are Able	Debra Schultz	77	65	God Shows Up	Wings Of Love
28	21	There's Coming A Day	Common Bond Quartet	78	95	Are You Sure	Eric John Horsey
29	26	But I Believe	Ever Present	79	-	I'll Never Be Departed	Michael Bright
30	3	God Gives Good Answers	Karen Peck & New River	80	-	Pray On	Duncans
31	83	Jesus Is Coming Soon	Inspirations (w/Oak Ridge Boys)	81	90	Why Are You Here?	Battle Cry
32	51	The Fall	The Masseys	82	-	Better Than This	Million Heirs
33	18	He's Still Writing In The Sand	Troy Burns Family	83	92	I Press On	Amy Michelle
34	53	Songs Like Those	Debbie Mills	84	93	A Brand New Life	Cindy Moats And Psalm 98
35	50	Jesus Is My Beacon	Gennie Ruth	85	-	According to John	Sacred Harmony
36	56	If My People	Rick Towe	86	96	We Stand In Freedom	Heartland Quartet
37	55	A Special Kind Of Love	Miracles	87	-	It Ain't Over Yet	Candon Stevens
38	54	The Light	Going Higher	88	-	Good News From the Graveyard	Greg Sullivan
39	33	It's What's Inside	Angela Seng	89	-	You Won't Find My Bones	Day Three
40	37	Don't Get Me Started	Joyce & Glenn Chastain	90	97	Power In His Name	Jennifer Emard
41	58	There's Somebody Out There	Who So Ever Ministries	91	-	No One Else	Tim Livingston
42	57	Prodigal's Brother	Bruce Sechrest	92	-	If It Had Not Been	New Road 2
43	80	Mighty Good Way	McKamey Legacy	93	-	You Thought Of Me	Judi Kellar
44	62	This Day God Has Made	New Salem	94	100	When They See Me	Rhapsody Praise
45	84	Let Me Take You To Jesus	Charity Hamilton	95	-	Broken Crayons	Rivenbark Ministries
46	94	Prepare To Be Blessed	Denise Edwards	96	-	Heaven Changes Everything	Driven and Jessica
47	67	Does God Really Care	Donna Burke	97	-	Baptized	The Bilderbacks
48	68	I'm Breaking Through	Jenny Dean	98	-	Always Something	Garden City Quartet
49	42	What A Glorious Day	Mark Huitt Sr	99	-	Feel The Joy	The Dunnams
50	-	Anyway	Chronicle	100	-	Singing The Same Song	Wanda Osborne



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TOP 100 OCTOBER 2026

CVM Country Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	8	Healer	Allen Frizzell	51	63	Stand Up For The Flag Kneel At The Cross	Ray Epperson
2	7	Let Him In Anyway	Blake Shelton	52	62	Angels Among Us	Dale Rochell
3	6	The Good In Bye	Small Town Sunday	53	80	If I Know Him	Kevin Kappler
4	4	Preacher Man	David Timms	54	49	Man Down At The River	Gary Herd
5	16	Three Nails And A Cross	George Strait	55	43	In The Morning	Hunter Logan
6	10	If I'm Guilty	Thomas Brown	56	68	If I Could Talk To Daddy Again	Roger Barkley, Jr.
7	11	God Is Good Y'all	Wings of Love	57	70	Redemption Story	Alexa Finney
8	9	At War With Myself	Cyndi Reynolds	58	46	What I Got (La-De-Da)	Caleb Deramus
9	20	America I Will Stand Up For You	Mike Leichner	59	50	How Much Grace	Liam Tysinger
10	14	That's The Way Mama Raised Me	Luke Hendrickson	60	77	We Found Each Other	Troy Ervin
11	22	Strength Of A Survivor	Aaron Justice	61	48	When A Cowboy Prays	Brandon Lake & Cody Johnson
12	19	There's Power In The Name Of Jesus	Jonathan Ray Smith	62	76	Build Me An Ark	Caroline Owens
13	15	Snowy Sunday Morning Biscuits and Gravy	Band Indiana	63	75	When Was The Last Time	Chuck Day
14	25	Little More Like Jesus	Dave Edwards	64	87	Whiskey Lies	Kentucky Yoder
15	21	Georgiana Alabama 1939	Michael Ray Fain	65	58	Somebody Bigger Than You And I	David Smith
16	1	The Last Song	Terry and Debra Luna	66	81	You Won't Find My Bones	Day Three
17	24	It Didn't Stop There	New Day Revival	67	33	Saving Grace	Krystina B
18	3	This One's For You	Rocky and Tamie Smith	68	79	The Storm	Jan Harbuck
19	29	Soldier Of The Cross	John Penney	69	83	My Grandparents Prayed	Brandon Hixson
20	32	Old Gravel Road	John Michael Ferrari	70	-	Heartbeat	Barbara Fairchild & Marvin Harrell
21	5	Let's All Go Down To The River	Steve Bruce Band	71	78	Not On My Watch	Darin Kinser
22	27	Getting Back Up	Troy Richardson	72	92	A Little More Jesus	Daryl Baker
23	31	Somebody Here	Linda Lanier	73	74	Someday Things Are Gonna Get Better	Johnny Jones
24	28	Jesus Wouldn't Do	Jordan Davis	74	85	Hot Line	Bobby Gibson
25	59	Piano For Sale	Chris Golden	75	82	Songs Like Those	Debbie Mills
26	41	Building Bridges	Carolina The Band	76	91	A Prayer I Never Prayed	Tyson Leamon
27	38	The Promise	Charity Hamilton	77	-	Glory Whistle	Boone Creed
28	42	Trade Your Story For Glory	Marty Deroche	78	84	Drinking From The Fountain	Daryl Branson
29	2	The Bridge	Daryl Baker	79	96	The Great I Am	Steve Warren
30	39	Without You (I Haven't Got A Prayer)	Fortner Brothers	80	93	Squeeze Your Guts Out	Jimmy R. Price
31	44	One Man	Bruce & Betsy Mullen	81	-	Route 66	Donna Kilmurray
32	40	Empty No More	Marty Denton	82	73	Wish You Were Here	Johnathan Bond
33	13	Jesus Is The Way	Rachel Taylor	83	94	What Can I Say	Barbara Jean
34	45	High Tower	The Epps Family	84	100	Love Is All You Need	Joy LaVallee
35	47	The Eastern Gate	Ava Kasich & Martha Lambert	85	99	The Scars You Can't See	Debra Camp
36	23	Looking For The Light	Delnora	86	98	Try Jesus	Justin David Chapman
37	51	The Devil Cried	Jason Welch	87	-	No Funeral	Ken Mobley
38	12	Let Me Tell Ya' Bout My Faith	Kali Rose	88	-	Get Down On Your Knees	Angela Seng
39	89	I Know A Carpenter	Michael Knight	89	-	Jesus Takes Good Care Of Me	Brenda Gross
40	57	Talking To Your Chair	Marshal McKellar	90	-	That's When I Knew	Brian Shartzler
41	54	Grace	Dawson Road	91	-	Feelin' Good Again	Dallas Dugger
42	53	Me And Jesus Gonna Get It Done	Norman Lee Schaffer	92	-	Welcome Home	Jerry Grant
43	55	Cherished Memories	Jeff Hamilton	93	-	Ashes To Ashes	Kenneth Hall
44	30	Jesus To The Rescue	Beverly Sims	94	-	Look Up	Kimberly Goins
45	26	Whiskey Road	Michael Tetrick	95	-	Second Chance	Little David Wilkins
46	60	Never To Far Gone	Alex Ervin	96	-	Middle Of A Miracle	Rachel Taylor
47	61	I Just Walked	Gary Russ	97	-	Wait For Me	Richard Lynch
48	97	Raised In Nashville	Victoria Steelman	98	-	Holy Ghost Loving	Ricky Paul
49	64	Let Go Of The Reins	Daryl Jorden	99	-	Living Proof	Rusty Gilliam
50	65	I Will Never Know The Desert Again	Eddy Mann	100	-	I Know That Jesus Will Be There	The Singing Byrds.



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Gina White



Queen Of The Barflies
Luke Hendrickson



*Remember The Preacher
At The Alamo*
Mike McAdoo



That Glorious Day
Joy LaVallee



Think About You
Hammond Brothers



A Long Way For Nothing
J R McEntyre



New Creation
Jennifer Sides



One Heartbeat Away
The Journeys



Everybody Smiles
Greg Marlow

CVM Contemporary Christian

TOP 50 OCTOBER 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	2	Make It Well	MercyMe
2	12	Wait For Me	Zach Williams & Ben Fuller
3	11	God I'm Just Grateful	Elevation Worship (ft. Chandler Moore)
4	13	Praise In The Choir Stand	Brent Jones
5	14	Somebody Prayed	Crowder
6	9	Get Behind Me	Emerson Day
7	16	Lord It Feels Good	TobyMac
8	19	Dusty Bibles	Josiah Queen
9	18	Let The Church Sing	Tauren Wells
10	8	Worthy Of It All (Worthy)	CeCe Winans
11	1	Unashamed	Matthew West
12	23	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann
13	10	For You	Ashes Awaken
14	25	Holy You (Freligious)	Tye Tribbett
15	5	Lift Me Up	Blessing Offor
16	34	Counting My Blessings	Seph Schlueter
17	31	I Live (Savior Of My Life)	Unto You
18	28	Let It Be A Hallelujah	Lauren Daigle
19	3	Where Would I Be	Peter Burton and Matthew West
20	35	Meet Me In The Valley	Tasha Layton (ft. Ben Fuller)
21	32	How Good It Is	Chris Tomlin
22	7	Mighty Name Of Jesus	Hope Darst
23	30	Good News	PTTheGospelSpitter
24	36	Faithfully	TobyMac
25	4	Rescue Me	We The Kingdom
26	27	Demons	Josiah Queen
27	-	Made New	Jason Nelson (ft. Madison Ryann Ward)
28	17	That's Who I Praise	Brandon Lake
29	37	Up + Up	Colton Dixon
30	38	Your Precious Love	Don DeGrate
31	43	Washed	Elevation Rhythm
32	44	I Know A Name	Elevation Worship
33	41	God Did It	Kenny Lewis & One Voice
34	21	Voices	Mack Holland
35	42	The Author	Brandon Lake & Nick Jonas
36	45	Left It In The River	Jamie Macdonald
37	-	Homesick For Heaven	Phil Wickham
38	40	Working On Me	Zacardi Cortez
39	48	Mercy	PJ Morton
40	48	The Cross	Same Ol G
41	-	You Were There Too	Isaiah Matthew
42	-	Breathe On It	Tauren Wells
43	39	Divinely Tailored	Michele Mundy (ft. Tee Mogano)
44	46	Infinite God	Mark Sweeney
45	47	Heaven Down Here	Megan Woods
46	39	Hard Fought Hallelujah	Brandon Lake & Jelly Roll
47	-	Again	Jeremy Camp
48	50	After Tonight	Sensere
49	-	Gonna Be Alright	Matt Maher
50	-	Hear Me Coming	Pheyland & Natalie

CVM Black/Urban Gospel

TOP 50 OCTOBER 2026

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



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CVM Bluegrass Gospel

TOP 50 OCTOBER 2026

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

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TABLE & TESTIMONY

Where Food Meets Faith and Every Dish Tells a Story

— Annie Ruth

Harvest of Grace: When Thankfulness Fills the Kitchen

October always feels like a deep breath after the rush of summer. The air cools, the leaves turn, and the kitchen becomes a place of quiet gratitude. I love how the Lord uses this season to remind us that every harvest begins with faith - seeds sown long before we ever see the fruit.

I remember one autumn when our pantry looked thin and our hearts felt thinner. Yet somehow, every meal stretched farther than it should have. Friends brought baskets of apples, neighbors shared jars of preserves, and grace kept showing up in unexpected ways. That's when I learned that thankfulness multiplies what we already have - not by magic, but by mercy.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good." - Psalm 107:1

So this month, I'm sharing two dishes that taste like gratitude itself - simple, hearty, and full of the comfort that only October can bring.

"As those dishes bake, the house fills with a fragrance that feels like grace itself. Maybe that's the message for this season - gratitude doesn't wait for abundance; it creates it. When we thank God for what's already in our hands, He turns it into more than enough."

So gather your family, light a candle, and let October remind you that every meal can be a testimony."

Harvest Chicken Pot Pie with Thyme Crust

Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 cup peas
- ½ cup diced potatoes
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 cup milk
- 3 tbsp butter
- 3 tbsp flour
- 1 tsp thyme
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 pie crust (homemade or store-bought)



Instructions

Melt butter in a saucepan, whisk in flour, then slowly add broth and milk until thickened.

Stir in chicken, vegetables, thyme, salt, and pepper.

Pour into a pie dish, cover with crust, and bake at 375° for 35 - 40 minutes until golden.

Serve warm - it tastes like home after a long day.

Autumn Apple Cranberry Crisp

Ingredients

- 4 cups sliced apples
- 1 cup fresh cranberries
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup oats
- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Instructions

Combine apples and cranberries in a buttered baking dish.

Mix sugar, oats, flour, butter, and cinnamon until crumbly; sprinkle over fruit.

Bake at 350° for 40 minutes until bubbly and golden.

Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.





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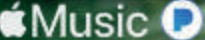
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The Quiet Giant

The Man Who Served a Town that Never Knew His Name

By Eleanor Vale

In every town, there are people whose lives echo louder than their voices. People who move quietly through the world, unnoticed by headlines, uncelebrated by crowds, yet carrying a weight of goodness that holds entire communities together. They are the ones who show up early, stay late, and never ask why. They are the ones who make life gentler for everyone else.

In the small town of Willow Creek, Alabama, that person was Samuel “Sam” Harlan, a man most people passed by without ever realizing they were walking past a miracle.

He never preached a sermon. He never led a choir. He never stood behind a pulpit. But he lived a life that preached louder than any microphone ever could.

This is his story.

For forty-three years, Sam Harlan unlocked the doors of Willow Creek Community Church every morning at 5:30. Rain, shine, sleet, or the thick August heat - he was there. He swept the sanctuary. He straightened hymnals. He checked the baptistry. He made sure the lights worked, the heat ran, and the coffee percolated in the fellowship hall.

Most people assumed he was paid staff. He wasn’t. He volunteered. Every single day. He never missed a morning. Not once. Not in forty-three years.

He didn’t do it for recognition. He didn’t do it for applause. He didn’t do it because someone asked. He did it because he believed God deserved a prepared place, even if no one ever knew who prepared it.

Sam lived alone in a small white house on the edge of town. His wife, Marlene, passed away in 1989, and he never remarried. He worked at the cotton mill until it closed, then took a job at the hardware store. He walked everywhere - to work, to church, to the grocery store, to the cemetery where Marlene rested beneath a willow tree.

He had no children. No siblings. No surviving family. But he had a town. And he had a calling.

People knew him by sight; the man with the soft eyes, the slow walk, the gentle nod. He didn’t talk much. When he did, his voice was quiet, almost apologetic, as if he didn’t want to take up space. But he took up space in ways no one realized.

There were stories - whispered, scattered, pieced together only after he was gone. The single mother who found groceries on her porch every month, never knowing who left them. The widower who discovered his lawn mysteriously mowed every Saturday morning. The teenager who received a brand-new Bible after his baptism, not knowing Sam had paid for it. The pastor who never knew who slipped gas money into his mailbox during the lean years. The church

pianist who found her broken porch steps repaired overnight. The elderly woman who swore an angel shoveled her driveway during the blizzard of '94.

It wasn't an angel. It was Sam.

On a cold January morning, Sam didn't show up at the church. At first, no one noticed. Then the pastor did. The lights were off. The doors were locked. The sanctuary was still.

He walked to Sam's house. Knocked. Waited. No answer.

Inside, Sam lay peacefully in his recliner, a blanket pulled over his legs, his Bible open on his chest. He had passed away sometime in the night.

The news spread through Willow Creek like a quiet shockwave. People cried. People whispered. People remembered. And for the first time in forty-three years, the town realized what they had lost.

They expected a small memorial service. They were wrong. The sanctuary overflowed. The fellowship hall overflowed. People stood in the aisles, lined the walls, crowded the lawn outside.

The single mother came. The widower came. The teenager came. The pianist came. The pastor came. The entire town came.

They came because they finally understood: Sam Harlan had been the quiet backbone of Willow Creek. He had held

them up. He had carried them. He had served them. He had loved them. And they had never known.

After the funeral, the church discovered a small envelope in Sam's locker, the same locker he used every morning for forty-three years. Inside was a note, written in his careful handwriting: "Thank you for letting me serve. It was my joy."

There was also a check - his entire savings - with a simple instruction: "Use this to help someone who needs it."

They did. And they named the fund The Harlan Help Fund, dedicated to quiet acts of kindness done in secret, just like Sam would have wanted.

Today, Willow Creek still tells Sam's story. Not loudly. Not dramatically. But gently, the way he lived.

Children learn about him in Sunday school. Teenagers hear his story at youth camp. New members discover his legacy during orientation. And every morning, at 5:30, someone unlocks the church doors in his honor.

Sam never preached a sermon. But his life preached one every day. He never asked for recognition. But he received more than he ever imagined. He never sought greatness. But he achieved it quietly.

He was the quiet giant of Willow Creek - the man who served a town that never knew his name until it was too late.

And now, they will never forget him.



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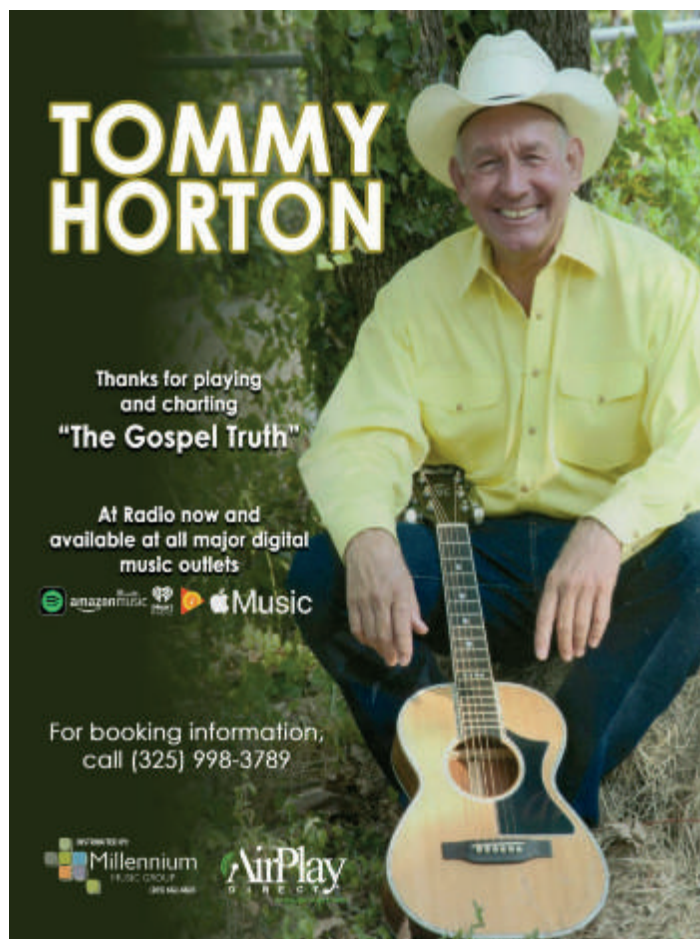
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DARYL BRANSON

By Chloe Wright

To Daryl Branson, music has always been more than a pastime; it has been a part of his heritage. He started playing bass guitar when he was only four years old and spent his formative years playing with his family in their band. By eight years old, Daryl was performing regularly at community and town events. This was the beginning of a lifelong journey for him that would take him from the stage of Country music to an unwavering devotion to the Gospel.

The music of legends like George Jones and Merle Haggard have influenced much of Daryl's upbringing; however, Daryl was also heavily influenced by his mentors, Rocky and Tamie Smith, as well as other artists such as Jeff Chapman, the Kingdom Heirs, Carolina the Band, and Quinton Mills.

Daryl's rise to fame was marked by several accomplishments, including opening for legendary Country band Alabama in 1981, performing with the Jody Brown Family and playing in the house band for soul singer Percy Sledge, but he cites the most important moment of his life did not occur on a stage. On February 14, 1976, he accepted Christ.

Daryl's life journey has had its share of darkness. From October of 1981 until 1991, Daryl embraced his calling to preach by sharing the Word throughout North Carolina. However, during that time he wandered from his purpose.

In 2017, Daryl faced one of the most difficult physical challenges of his life when he was told he would need to have his foot completely amputated. As a result, he was confined to a wheelchair and had a bleak medical prognosis. At this point, he anchored his hope in his faith. "God began to heal me," Daryl recalls. "I didn't have to have my foot removed. I have had to have several surgeries, and I have lost a few toes, but God has been faithful to continue to help me."

His determination was strengthened by this period of testing. Daryl now finds himself back in the studio after entering into an agreement with Grace Records Nashville LLC to produce music under their label through Debbie Bennett and Junior Bennett. He is preparing now for the release of a new original song entitled *Drinking From My Fountain*, which he wrote in 1997.



In 2013, Daryl and his wife Susan felt called to create Daryl Branson Ministries, which they have done by traveling as evangelists taking the Gospel to churches and assisted living facilities as well. The couple's ministry is not one-dimensional; Daryl tells others about Jesus through music and testimonies while Susan provides encouragement and compassion with her certification in Domestic Violence Counseling. The ministry has a mission to reach as many people as possible and show to them the same unconditional love that God has shown them.

When attending a service of Daryl Branson Ministries, Daryl assures everyone in attendance that they will receive an authentic experience with God. "People can look forward to hearing the Word of God through singing and testimonies. Be prepared to laugh, cry, and most importantly, Praise God!"






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October 11th 11:00 am
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October 18th 10:00 am
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Elizabethtown, NC

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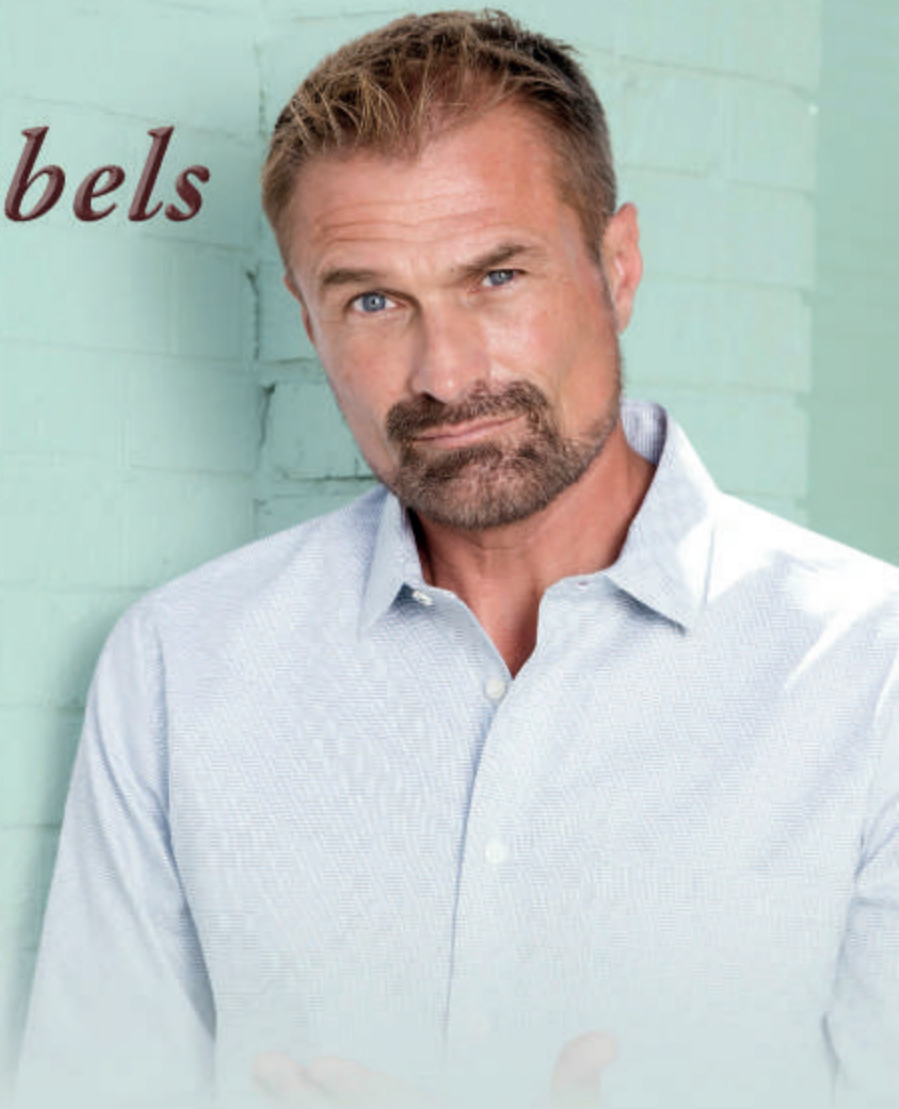
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