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Jennifer Sides



FROM THE EDITOR

May is always a busy month with important holidays, observances, events, and special occasions.

May 8-10 will bring us the 21st annual Gospel Music FanFair, which includes the 2025 Gospel Music Fan Awards. If you are one who has never attended this event, I encourage you to be with us this year. Go ahead, take the leap... you won't be sorry! It's unlike any other Gospel music event, in my opinion. If you appreciate a camp meeting style atmosphere filled with old fashioned preaching, singing, and fellowship, then you'll love Gospel Music FanFair! Visit www.gospelmusicfanfair.com for all the details. I can't wait, and I hope to see you there!

May 11 is a special day to celebrate mom and all things motherhood. As I have shared before, my mother passed away in 2015 after enduring breast cancer. Of course, her memory lives with me every day, but I still celebrate her on Mother's Day. My siblings and I will usually get together and reminisce about all the fun times we had with her and all the wonderful things about her. Whether your mom is still here or has passed on, take the time this Mother's Day to remember and celebrate her.

May 26 is another day of remembrance. Memorial Day is a special time to remember and honor those who gave their lives while serving in the U.S. Military. May we take the time to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for each and every one who bravely fought to defend and protect life and liberty in America.

As I usually mention this time of year, many students across our nation will be graduating from high school this month. It marks the beginning of the next phase of their lives as they venture into higher education, a new career, or whatever path they may have chosen as they enter adulthood. I want to send hearty congratulations to the Class of 2025! We love you, we're praying for you, and we wish you success and prosperity in all your endeavors!

I discovered last year that May is National Foster Care month. It is a special time to bring awareness to the needs of children and youth in foster care. It is also a time to honor those foster and adoptive parents who have provided a safe, warm, nurturing home to children and youth who otherwise may have never known the love of a family.

While we have so much to pray about, we also have much to be thankful for and celebrate.

John

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PO Box 147 • 17911 Hwy 96 • Kennedy, AL 35574
 Phone: 205-596-4371 • Fax: 205-596-4375
 (Office hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm CST Mon-Fri)

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COVER PRICE

\$3.95 (U.S.) • \$5.95 (CANADA)

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

\$20.00 per year (U.S. Only)

Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express accepted

PUBLISHED BY



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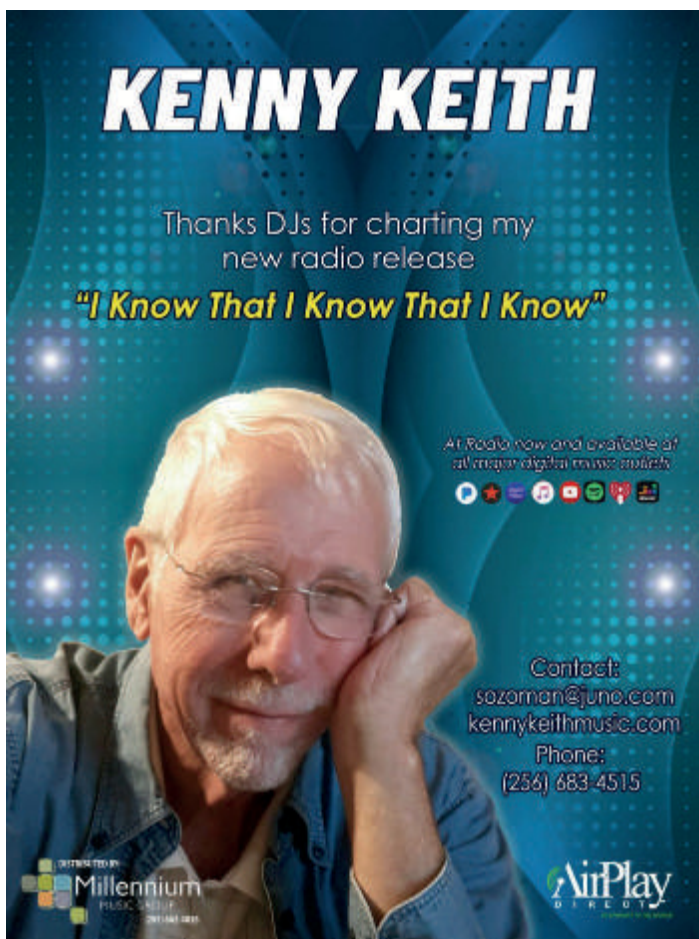
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CROSSFIRE

What the Bible Says About Divorce (Part 2)

Gabriel Swaggart

As we stated last month, God established marriage for humanity's good in Genesis 2:18, 21-24 as part of His plan. We see Him declare that it isn't good for man to be alone, and then He creates someone special to fill that void.

The idea of "one flesh" is an eternal bond designed by Him that endures until one partner passes away. This only adds more significance to this sacred union and underscores God's faithfulness and commitment to His people.

Yet human imperfection often results in brokenness, even within God-ordained relationships. Malachi 2:14-16 offers a stark reminder of God's position on divorce. In verses 15-16, we learn that "God hates divorce." These words encapsulate the grief and heartbreak associated with divorce. Still, we must acknowledge the reality of divorce, leaving individuals and families grappling with its repercussions.

As we explore this challenging topic, we must ask what the Bible says about divorce and reconciling God's design for marriage with human failure. By reading Scripture, we can try to understand God's heart regarding this topic and find His guidance for navigating situations with grace, truthfulness, and redemption.

DIVOREC IS NOT THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

While painful and not in accordance with God's ideal for marriage, divorce is not the unpardonable sin. Scripture makes this clear in Matthew 12:31-32 by outlining that only willful rejection of His saving grace (blasphemy of the Holy Spirit) falls beyond forgiveness. Divorce, like all sins or failures, may be redeemed through repentance and restoration by His grace. To judge someone for experiencing divorce is to misunderstand God's mercy and love for everyone. He excels at creating beauty out of broken relationships, even as opposed to condemnation. To condemn someone for going through a divorce is to misunderstand His mercy and the depth of His love - no one stands above His grace! No one stands above His grace when it comes to healing broken relationships.

As believers, we must resist the tendency to judge those who have experienced divorce and recognize that we all benefit from God's grace when dealing with our brokenness. Divorce should not define someone's worth or ability to serve God. Church leaders should use compassion, understanding, and support as a means of helping divorced individuals rebuild their lives with the aid of God's love.

Labeling divorce as an unforgivable sin misrepresents God and risks alienating those in desperate need of His healing touch. Remember that the Gospel offers redemption for everyone, including those whose marriages ended in

divorce. Our responsibility should be to extend the grace and hope that we have received, thus reflecting Christ's unconditional love.

A BILL OF DIVORCEMENT

In Deuteronomy 24, Moses introduces the concept of a bill of divorce as an attempt to control and regulate divorce rather than promote or encourage it.

Marriage had become chaotic at this point in history with divorce becoming a convenient practice. Two schools of thought dominated this discussion. The school of Shammai took an ultra-strict approach, teaching that divorce should only be permissible under extreme circumstances, such as severe matrimonial offenses involving indecency or something inappropriate in marriage.

The school of Hillel took an opposing view, accepting divorce for practically any reason, including burned dinners or a wife losing her physical attractiveness. This view became widely popular, particularly among Pharisees, who often saw women as disposable and treated marriage as subject to their desires and will.

Moses' intention in discussing divorce was to mitigate its harmful impact on women and children, who, unfortunately bore the brunt of such recklessness. Mosaic law sought to bring order and fairness into an otherwise chaotic practice by setting conditions for divorce. Still, Pharisees side-stepped its true intent with clever interpretations that undermined its purpose while disregarding marriage as a sacred institution.

When the Pharisees posed their question to Jesus in Matthew 19, inquiring whether it was legal for men to divorce their wives for any reason, they intended to trap Him. Instead, Jesus changed the subject by emphasizing how marriage was created as God intended it from its very inception. Jesus reminded them that marriage was more than a civil contract; it was a divine covenant wherein two became one flesh - an unbreakable bond ordained by God Himself. Moses permitted divorce due to the human hardness of the heart. At the same time, Jesus pointed out that this concession should not be seen as an endorsement but should emphasize instead the sanctity and permanency of marriage.

THE DEVASTATION OF DIVORCE

Divorce can upend the lives of both individuals involved and their families and communities as a whole, leaving an everlasting ripple effect that touches every corner of life. Divorce ranks among life's most traumatic events, second only to death itself, since it signals the death of a relationship built on trust, love, and commitment. Divorce often has

cascading effects that reshape the lives of everyone involved - emotionally draining experiences. Feelings of betrayal, failure, guilt, and grief can remain long after the legal processes conclude, while mental health challenges like anxiety, depression, and difficulty in trusting others are common results of divorce proceedings.

Divorce can have devastating and far-reaching repercussions for children who are involved, altering both their emotional and psychological development in profound ways. Children may feel abandoned, confused, and uncertain as their family structure shifts dramatically. Loss of stability can result in anxiety, depression, or behavioral issues for children of divorced or separated parents. Younger children often struggle to understand why their parents no longer cohabitate, while older ones may express anger or resentment toward one or both sides. Academic performance may suffer as children become distracted or overwhelmed by changes at home, impacting both their schoolwork and social relationships. Withdrawal from friends or exhibiting difficulty in trusting others, for instance, can potentially last into adulthood and sometimes perpetuate a cycle of brokenness in future relationships or commitments.

Divorce can create immense strain and disruption within families. Extended family relationships involving grandparents, aunts, and uncles can also become estranged as new dynamics shift within the family unit. Friendships or professional connections may deteriorate as those going

through divorce struggle to maintain social connections while dealing with the stigma attached to their situation. All of these effects can leave lasting emotional scars throughout the lives of all those involved.

Spiritually, divorce can test a person's sense of identity and faith. For believers, divorce may seem like an act against God that violates His expectations, leading to feelings of guilt and spiritual turmoil. That's why Jesus addressed divorce with such clarity and kindness. His teachings remind us of the consequences surrounding divorce while leading us back toward His ideal of marriage - one characterized by love, faithfulness, and lasting commitment.

By emphasizing the sacredness of marriage, Jesus sought to restore God's high regard for this institution and protect families from the potentially devastating effect of divorce. God intends for marriage to be a haven, providing emotional, physical, and spiritual support for spouses and their children alike. Marriage provides stability while supporting growth, its purpose exemplifying His will for His people. Upholding Christ's vision requires courage and dedication in a society that often treats marriage as disposable. Christ calls us back to divine standards of an unbreakable covenant reflecting His steadfast love for His people.

This article series continues in the next issue of Christian Voice Magazine.

Dale Rochell

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The Fortner Brothers

Harmonizing Faith and Country Music

By Malik Riaz

In the rolling hills of Rainsville, Alabama, a family band is making waves in Christian country music. The Fortner Brothers - Layne (22), Kyle (19), Kennon (19), and Konner (19) - have transformed their childhood passion for music into a ministry that reaches audiences across the nation. With a rich blend of Country instrumentation and faith-filled lyrics, their music not only entertains but also spreads the message of Christ.

With their father, Phillip, on keyboards, and their mother, Kayla, as their first harmony teacher, the brothers have created a dynamic sound that honors both their musical heritage and their Christian faith. From humble beginnings in their children's church choir to performances at major venues, their journey is a testament to passion, perseverance, and purpose.

Music has always been a part of the Fortner household. Their mother, Kayla, introduced them to harmony at a young age, leading them to church performances. But it was their growing love for playing instruments that led them to form a band.

"At ages eight and ten, we started guitar lessons. We really enjoyed learning and asked our parents if we could become a band. Mom and dad surprised us that Christmas with a bass guitar and a drum set, so we could start the band. I decided to play the bass, and Kennon decided to play the drums," Konner recalls.

A Christmas gift sparked a lifelong passion, leading them to hone their skills at Chris Robert's School of Music. Kennon learned drums from Mark Herndon, Alabama's former drummer. Starting with church and school events, their 2015 performance at a family friend's church opened doors to invitations across multiple states and prestigious venues.

The Fortner Brothers' ability to blend classic Country sounds with faith-based messages quickly caught the attention of music industry professionals. In 2022, Nashville producer Rick Schweinsberg approached them about singing Christian Country music. It was an opportunity they didn't take lightly.

"We prayed about it and decided to take him up on his offer," the brothers shared. "We've always loved Country music, and this was a way to stay true to our sound while keeping our focus on Christ."

That decision led to a surge in popularity. In 2024, they were nominated for both 'New Artist of the Year' and 'Group of the Year' by the Inspirational Country Music Awards. Their album "No Future in the Past" was even considered in the first round of votes for a Grammy.

Their music isn't just about catchy tunes; it's deeply personal. Each song carries a message, often inspired by real-life experiences. One such song, *Numbered*, holds special meaning for Layne.

"One of my friends lost his life in a car accident. I didn't think about someone my age's life getting cut short until it happened. I learned that we are never promised another minute on this earth! We need to be right with Him and live every moment for Him! When we were pitched the song *Numbered*, it put into words everything I felt. I knew that we had to record it!" Layne recalls.

Their third album, "Things That Never Rust" debuted on February 22, 2025, and has already been receiving great feedback. The album maintains their signature classic Country sound, with a mix of Western swing and '90s Country influences.

"Mine might be *On Our Knees*," Konner shares when asked about his favorite track. "It has a powerful message with a very compelling story. I really like how it shows the power of prayer."

"I like them all in different ways," Kyle adds. They all vary enough in a Country flair that there should be something for everyone, but they are all about Christ and stay rooted in that classic Country sound.

KYLE



KENNON



LAYNE



KONNER





Beyond the stage, the Fortner Brothers see themselves as more than just musicians; they are messengers of faith. Their concerts are high-energy, but the focus remains on spreading the Gospel.

“We have played at the Ark Encounter three times. It has always been a wonderful experience! Everyone there is wonderful to work with, and it is great to be able to share the Gospel with so many people who are visiting the Ark. We have found that many who visit do not know the Lord,” Kennon shares.

For Kyle, the greatest challenge has been stepping out of his comfort zone. “My greatest challenge has been coming out of my shell and feeling comfortable singing solos, as well as pushing myself to become a better musician,” he admits. “The greatest reward is reaching people for the Kingdom.”

Their music is making an impact, with songs like *Jesus, Cause I Want To*, *Numbered*, *Keep Keepin’ On*, and *Honky Tonk Missionary* charting on Christian Country radio. Their latest album includes a tribute to their late grandfathers and a cover of Alan Jackson’s *Small Town Southern Man*.

When asked if they consider themselves role models, Kyle responds with humility: “I don’t want to be a role model as when someone sees me, they say, ‘Oh look, there’s Kyle!’ But I do want to be the role model that the Lord calls us to be, and that is to live like Christ. And when people see me, whether they remember my name or not, I want them to see Christ in me,” Kyle states.

The goal of the Fortner Brothers group is and has always been to take Christ to the world, and if you attend a concert, you should expect a fun, high-energy, spirit-led concert in a Christian Country style.

The Fortner Brothers' journey continues with a growing fan base, award nominations, and a mission to glorify God through Country music, whether on local or national stages.

As their journey unfolds, one thing is obvious: “The Fortner Brothers aren’t just creating music; they’re inspiring lives and leaving a lasting impact.”

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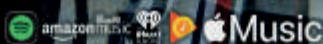


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MARGIE'S MEDITATION

The Ministry of Motherhood

— Margie Tanner

Mom, do you remember those indescribable feelings when you first realized that you were carrying a life inside you? Feelings of such joy, and an awareness of awesome responsibility. In those months that you carry that child before he/she is born, the bond becomes so strong. Perhaps, there is no love greater than that of a mother, except the love of God.

When God blesses us with a child, we are assigned the very important tasks to nurture, teach, mold and shape that life for adulthood. Many people may influence your child along the way, but none will have the influence that you will have as a mother.

Never feel that your job is unimportant because you are a “stay at home” mom, for you have one of the most important jobs on earth. I truly believe that those preschool years are the most crucial in molding and shaping a life. You can bend a tree when it is small and tender, but when it gets older it is nearly impossible to bend.

Consider the mother of Moses. To save Moses' life, his mother, by faith, hid him in a basket at the water's edge. When he was found by Pharaoh's daughter, his own mother was called to be the baby's nurse. She so instilled in Moses' heart the right way that, when he became of age, he chose to identify himself with God's people rather than rule in Pharaoh's palace.

The Word of God states in Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way that he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it.” That is a powerful promise! Some would say, “I trained my child in the right way and still he has gone astray.” But we must believe, by faith, that the Word that has been placed in a child's heart will bring him/her back to the right path.

The three Hebrew boys and Daniel were far away from home in a strange land. But they had been taught the law of God and they refused to sin. As long as our children are under our nurturing wing, it is our responsibility to raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. But after they leave the nest, as we say, we have to trust the Word to do the rest.



A mother wears many hats. She is a wife, housekeeper, cook, taxi driver, doctor, counselor, referee, teacher... and the list goes on and on. Our days can be filled with so much to get done that we forget that quality time with our children is so important. Someone wrote a song that says, “*I'm rocking my baby 'cause babies don't keep.*” It seems the years go by so quickly. Suddenly, our babies are grown, and we wish we could turn back the clock and do some things differently.

As a mother, I want to encourage you to realize that motherhood is a ministry. Don't take it lightly. This world we live in is such a mess, but we can make a difference one life at a time. You've heard it said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Mom, live a godly life. Be a light to your children, read the Word together, pray with them and they will never forget those times. Never let a day go by that you do not let them know how much you love them and how much God loves them.

I am so thankful that I had a mom that taught me about God and the right way to live. (I LOVE YOU MOM!)

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all mothers everywhere!

Her children arise up and call her blessed. – Proverbs 31:28

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Authentic Unlimited Welcomes New Band Member, Colton Baker



Authentic Unlimited is thrilled to announce a key addition to the award-winning band. Colton Baker, known for his exceptional musical talent and dynamic stage presence, joins Authentic Unlimited as a versatile instrumentalist and vocalist, and is expected to contribute significantly to the band's evolving sound.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome Colton Baker to AU," said AU band member, Jerry Cole. "Colton's unique style and musical expertise will bring a fresh energy to our performances and recordings. We have no doubt that our fans will love the new dimension he will bring to our music. Colton's passion for music and dedication to his craft align perfectly with Authentic Unlimited's mission to deliver memorable and authentic musical experiences to our audience."

Baker shared, "I am truly honored and excited to come on board with the AU team! This group has achieved remarkable success over the past few years, and I am eager to contribute my talents to build even greater momentum for the group! I am forever grateful for the experiences and friendships I gained during my time with Illrd Tyme Out. The lessons I learned and the friendships I formed with everyone in that band are invaluable, and I plan to keep those relationships strong moving forward."

Baker will replace John Meador who is leaving the band to pursue other opportunities.

Billy Blue Records' president, Ed Leonard, shared, "We are amazed at all that has been

accomplished by Authentic Unlimited in a very short time. The support of radio, retail, streaming services, promoters, and fans has been overwhelming. We wish John Meador the absolute best in his bright future and look forward to all the great music that will be created by AU with the uber-talented Colton Baker in the mix.

As Colton Baker joins AU, the band will head into the studio to work on new music. Fans can stay updated on the latest news and events by following the band on their social media pages and visiting the AU website at www.authenticunlimitedband.com.

The LeFevre Quartet Announces 20th Anniversary Concert Celebration

The LeFevre Quartet is excited to announce their 20th Year Anniversary Concert, "Celebrating the Journey," taking place this July at the Hosch Theatre in Gainesville, Georgia. This special evening will be a celebration of two decades of ministry and music, filled with powerful songs, cherished memories, and special moments fans will not want to miss.



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In addition to this unforgettable concert, the evening will also be a live video recording for Singing News TV, giving those in attendance the unique opportunity to be part of the live audience for this upcoming television special.

The LeFevre Quartet has invited special guests, including some familiar faces from their incredible 20-year journey, to join them on stage for this milestone event. Rodney Baucom, a beloved voice in Gospel music, will serve as guest emcee.

Admission is free, but seating is limited. Please RSVP to save your seat at www.lefevrequartet.com. A love offering will be received during the evening. Overnight accommodations are available in downtown Gainesville for those traveling from out of town.

The Museum of Christian and Gospel Music Set to Open Labor Day Weekend in Nashville

This Labor Day weekend, a dream decades in the making becomes a reality as The Museum of Christian & Gospel Music (The C&G) opens its doors in the heart of Music City. Nestled just steps from the legendary Ryman Auditorium, the Gospel Music Association presents this faith-filled celebration of the music that has uplifted, inspired, and transformed generations as an exciting addition to Nashville's vibrant Music Museum landscape.



From the soaring harmonies of Gospel greats to today's chart-topping Christian songs, The C&G will honor the full spectrum of Christian and Gospel music - past, present, and future.

"The Christian Music industry has been rooted in Nashville for decades and people have dreamed of this museum for just as long," said Steve Gilreath, Executive Director of The Museum. "Now, right in the heart of downtown, we're creating

a space where people can touch the music that has touched us all."

The Museum of Christian & Gospel Music will be an immersive, interactive experience where visitors will step into powerful stories of faith and transformation, hear music that moved mountains, and even create remixes of iconic songs on-site. More than an exhibit space, The C&G will be a living, breathing part of the industry -- offering live performances, workshops, interviews, and unforgettable artist encounters. The museum's rotating collections will feature music milestones, timeless memorabilia, and emerging moments in our time.

A variety of series for all genres will include Podcasts, Brown Bag Lunch Symposiums, Writers Workshops, and more to be announced. Visit The C&G website to learn more and follow on social media for behind-the-scenes content, sneak peeks, and exclusive announcements leading up to the grand opening.

Music that Floats Your Boat: 40 Days of Christian Music Festival Returns

The world's largest Christian music festival, 40 Days of Christian Music, is returning for its fifth exciting year at the renowned Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky. From July 29 through September 6, this major summer event will showcase an incredible range of musical styles, including contemporary Christian, Southern Gospel, Faith Country, and worship music, appealing to fans of all genres. All performances are included free with regular admission.

This year's festival boasts an extraordinary array of GRAMMY, DOVE, and KLOVE award-winning artists, including favorites like Crowder, Matthew West, Big Daddy Weave, Jordan Feliz, Katy Nichole, and Charity Gayle. Fans of Southern Gospel and Faith Country music will also be thrilled by legends such as The Isaacs, Jason Crabb, Karen Peck & New River, Gold City, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, and many others.

Ray Flynn, President & CEO of Abraham Productions, Inc., expressed excitement about the continued partnership and the impact of the festival, stating, "We are extremely honored and thankful to have the opportunity to partner with the Ark Encounter in Williamstown and Creation Museum in Petersburg in presenting this mega Christian Music festival at



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the top family destinations in America. We are also very grateful for our great supporters, many of whom are globally recognized."


Both the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum continue to draw visitors worldwide. The Ark Encounter, home to a full-scale recreation of Noah's Ark measuring 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, has been voted the No. 1 Best Religious Museum by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards, with the Creation Museum finishing a close second. These locations have established themselves as premier family-friendly destinations, enhancing their appeal with the inclusion of this spectacular music event.

Last year alone, attendance records were shattered and nearly 2,500 lives were profoundly impacted. Organizers promise that this year's festival will exceed previous events in both scale and spirit.

For the complete lineup and additional details, visit www.40DaysOfChristianMusic.com.






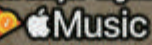
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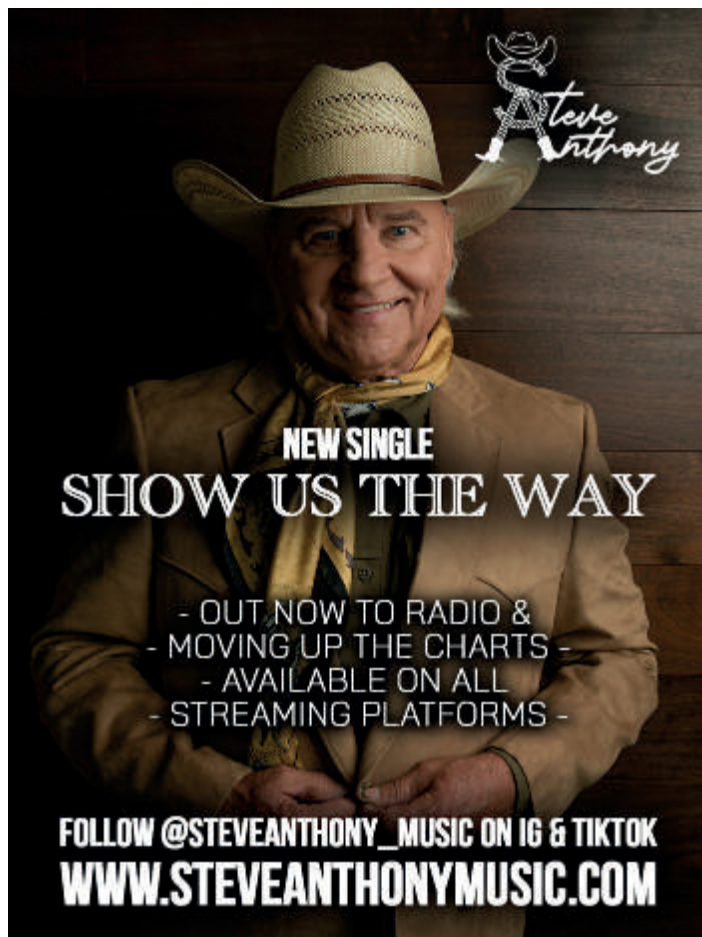
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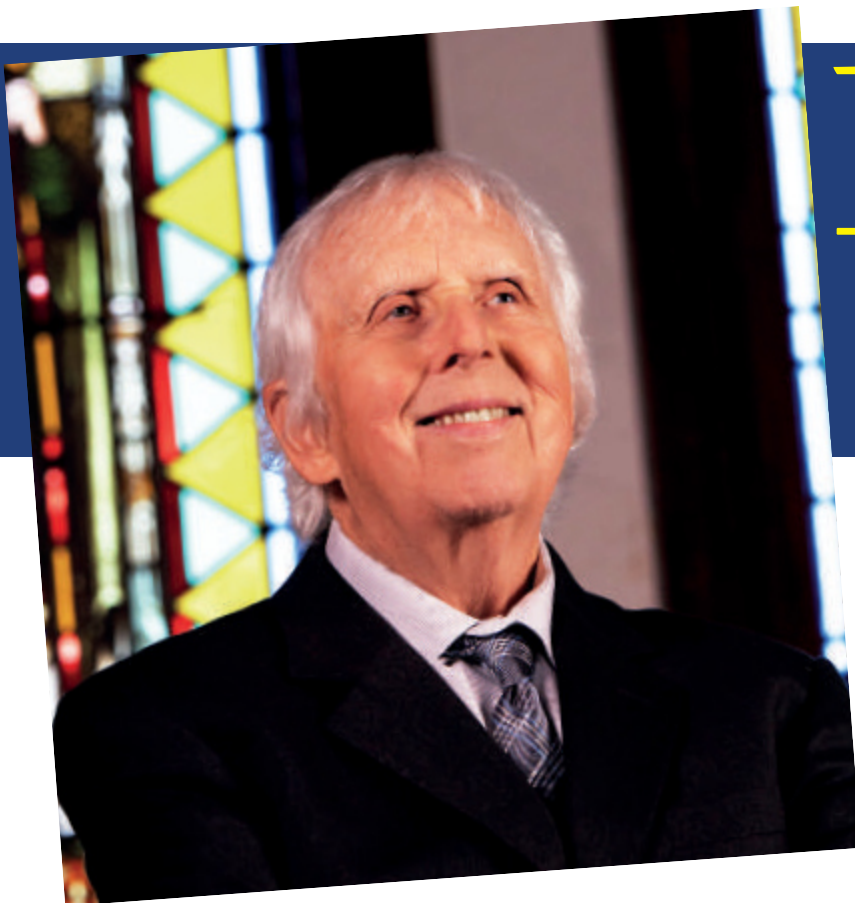
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RICK LANG

A Songwriter's Spiritual Journey in Bluegrass Gospel

By Malik Riaz

Rick Lang, a native of New Hampshire, has carved out a remarkable career as a Grammy-nominated songwriter in the Bluegrass and Gospel music world. With over 200 song cuts, multiple #1 hits, and a Grammy nomination, his music resonates deeply with listeners. But beyond his accolades, Rick's journey is one of perseverance, faith, and dedication to his calling.

In this exclusive feature, we explore Rick's journey, the challenges he overcame, and his mission to spread the faith through song.

A Late Start, But A Lifelong Passion

Rick Lang's songwriting journey began in the late 1980s when he first discovered Bluegrass music. The energy, storytelling, and faith-filled lyrics struck a chord with him. But what fascinated him most was Bluegrass Gospel, a genre he had never been exposed to before.

He was captivated by the songs he heard, especially Bluegrass Gospel. He started following groups like Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Bluegrass Cardinals, and the Lewis Family. Inspired by the heartfelt lyrics, he decided to try writing songs of his own.

Initially, songwriting was just a hobby. Living in New Hampshire, far from the heart of the Bluegrass world, Rick had few opportunities to collaborate with other songwriters.

"There were very few people in my area interested in co-writing, so I was pretty much on my own for a long time," Rick admits.

Despite these challenges, he kept writing. Eventually, artists began recording his compositions, and Rick realized this was more than just a pastime, it was his true calling.

A Leap of Faith: Finding Purpose Through Music

Rick's journey took a dramatic turn around 2008, during one of the lowest points in his life. Struggling with personal challenges, he felt like he was in a free fall. It was then that he turned to God with complete sincerity, praying for guidance.

"I made a promise to my Lord and Savior that if He could save me from myself, I would dedicate the rest of my life to

writing spiritual songs to praise His Holy Name,” he shares. That moment of surrender became the turning point in his life.

True to his promise, Rick poured his heart into writing Gospel songs. In 2010, he released his first all-Gospel album, “Look To The Light.” The album’s impact was profound, earning a GMA Dove Award nomination and setting the stage for his career in Gospel music.

Breaking Through: Grammy Recognition & Chart-Topping Hits

Rick Lang’s remarkable contributions to Bluegrass Gospel have earned him widespread recognition, including prestigious nominations and chart-topping hits. His dedication to faith-driven music continues to inspire audiences worldwide.

Major Achievements

2019 IBMA Gospel Recording of the Year

Gonna Sing, Gonna Shout (Title Track)

2019 Grammy Nomination

Gonna Sing, Gonna Shout (Best Roots Gospel Album)

Two #1 Chart Hits

Heaven’s Backyard and *Don’t Tune Him Out*
(Singing News Bluegrass Gospel Charts)

2024 IBMA Gospel Recorded Event of the Year Nomination

Just Beyond, the first single from “Blue Collar Gospel”

#1 Radio Airplay Hit

Just Beyond, topping multiple major
Gospel and Bluegrass charts

Rick’s extraordinary passion for Gospel music continues to shape his legacy, with each new release touching hearts and reinforcing his mission of faith through song.

The Challenges of Being a Songwriter

Despite his success, Rick acknowledges that the road to becoming an established songwriter was anything but easy. Living in New Hampshire, away from major music hubs, he had to work harder to make connections and get his songs heard.

His persistence paid off, as he built a reputation in the Bluegrass Gospel community. Today, he has been a three-time nominee for IBMA Songwriter of the Year, a two-time nominee for SPBGMA Songwriter of the Year, and a two-time nominee for IBMA Mentor of the Year.

A Morning Ritual: Finding Inspiration in Nature

Even after decades of songwriting, Rick’s creative process remains deeply spiritual. One of his most cherished

rituals is his morning walk with his wife through a wooded trail near their home.

“During COVID, when we couldn’t attend church, we started taking early morning walks along a trail that leads to a nearby lake,” he shares. “We found a beautiful spot where we could watch the sunrise over the water. We named it Nature’s Altar.”

It became a sacred space for Rick, where he would pray for inspiration. After almost every walk, he arrives home with two or three new song ideas in his pocket. This practice continues to this day, ensuring that his well of creativity never runs dry.



Music as Ministry: Spreading Faith Through Song

For Rick, songwriting isn’t just a career; it’s a ministry. He strongly believes that many of society’s greatest problems stem from a lack of faith and spirituality. His goal is to reconnect people with their faith through music.

He tries to write songs that resonate with everyone, songs that touch the heart and stir the soul. He has often been told that his music serves as a form of ministry, bringing listeners closer to God.

“Spreading the Holy Word of God through song is my mission in life and will continue to be so until my last breath,” he declares.

The Future of Rick Lang’s Gospel Music

With “Blue Collar Gospel” making waves in the music world, Rick shows no signs of slowing down. He continues to write songs daily, collaborate with some of the finest songwriters in the industry, and inspire new generations of musicians.

Looking ahead, Rick hopes to expand his influence in the Southern Gospel world while staying true to his Bluegrass Gospel roots. His unwavering faith, combined with his passion for storytelling, ensures that his music will continue to uplift and inspire listeners for years to come.

Final Thoughts

Rick Lang’s journey is one of faith, perseverance, and an unshakable commitment to his calling. From struggling in solitude to receiving a Grammy nomination, his story is a testament to the power of dedication and divine inspiration.



In a world where faith is often overlooked, Rick’s music serves as a guiding light that reminds us all of the power of belief, resilience, and the beauty of Gospel music.

As he continues to write, record, and share his songs, one thing is certain: “Rick Lang’s mission to spread the faith through music is far from over.”

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ENJOYING EVERYDAY LIFE

Experiencing God's Power in Everyday Life

Joyce Meyer

After I became a Christian, there were many years when I had no victory in my everyday life. I was miserable because I still had wounds in my soul from the past that made me insecure, angry, suspicious of others, and hard to get along with.

Even though I loved God and went to church every week, I had no idea that there was power available to me to overcome the hurts from the past and the struggles of daily life. And everything that came along that was hard to handle, defeated me.

But I was so grateful when I found out in God's Word that not only is He powerful, but He wants to fill us with His power. He promises in His Word that we can have abundant life in Christ because He has overcome the world (John 10:10; 16:33)!

The truth is, as believers in Christ, we don't have to live weak, wimpy, pitiful, pathetic, barely-getting-by lives. We can have God's power working in us to enable us to do whatever we need to do!

Some people have the misconception that when they give their lives to Jesus, they will no longer have any problems. It would be nice if this were true, but in this world, we WILL have trials and tribulations. The good news is we can cheer up anyway because Jesus has overcome the world.

In John 16:33 (ESV), Jesus says, "...In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

No one can promise you a problem-free life, but God promises that if you will put your trust in Him, He will give you a faith that enables you to rise above the problems you face. And when you get through them, you'll be stronger on the other side than you were before you had them.

Knowing you can have power from God to live in this world is one thing, but learning to believe this truth and walk in it is the key to having victory over the trials and suffering you face. I love Philippians 3:10 because it says we can actually experience the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

In this verse, the apostle Paul says his determined purpose was to "know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]" (AMP).

This is an amazing and encouraging promise from God, because we all face problems and have weaknesses we can't overcome in our own strength or effort. But if we are determined to trust God in every situation, all the time, we can fight the good fight of faith by HIS grace.

Romans 8:37 (AMP) says: "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us]." I love this phrase "more than conquerors." But what does it really mean?

Being more than a conqueror means that before you ever have a problem, you are confident that you have whatever it takes to overcome it through your relationship with Christ. In other words, you know you have the victory before you ever get the problem.

Now, in order to "qualify" for the power of God, we must first come to the place where we recognize that in and of ourselves, we are weak and we have limitations without God. If we didn't have any weakness, we wouldn't realize we need Him. And one of the best prayers we can ever pray is "God, I need You, and I'm nothing without You!" (John 15:5.)

It's so important for us to understand this because if we wait until we have a problem that's too big for us to handle before we rely on God's strength, then we're setting ourselves up to fail.

The best thing we can do to live this life in victory is to continually seek God with our whole heart, realizing we're desperate for Him all the time. Spend time with Him in prayer and studying His Word every day. Then, when the storms of life happen, you will be confident that in Christ, you already have everything you need to overcome them...and you'll experience the power of His resurrection as you rise above them!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource **Unleashing the Power of Faith**. 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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MEGAN BRIANNA

By Chloe Wright

Megan Brianna's journey in music began in church at the tender age of five and, through the years, her affinity for music deepened as she incorporated music in youth groups, choirs, and as a soloist. At fifteen years old, Megan felt called of God to make music her ministry and share the message of Jesus through song and testimony. Since that time, God has opened the doors for her to sing at such iconic venues as the Grand Old Opry House with Music City Christian Fellowship, the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, and NASCAR Day in North Carolina. "God opened many doors that I could have never dreamed of," she says.

Megan's musical inspirations include Contemporary Christian artists such as Anne Wilson, For King and Country, Lauren Daigle, and Lauren Talley. These artists inspire Megan to create music for the heart and soul.

She wears both the big performances and the more one-on-one moments close to her heart - The Grand Ole Opry House, where she sang and ministered to an audience, resonates as part of the pinnacle of the journey for her; the sharing of her testimony at Ark Encounter; and NASCAR day, along with that elementality of working in the studio with Rocky Smith to create music meant to minister to others, along with performing next to Debbie Bennett, Billy Myers, Rocky Smith and others. "It puts the biggest smile on my face to see the kids and youth in the audience singing along; those moments are just as important as the big stages," she says.

Three of her songs, *Fix It Jesus*, *The Journey Begins*, and *I Know That I'm Saved Melody*, have made it into the top 40 on Christian music charts. Her song *Fix It Jesus* secured her a spot as a Top 100 Artist for 2024 with Radio DJ, 'Female Horizon' nomination, and a Dove Award nomination submission.

Faith, Megan's latest single, is a beautiful original that teaches the importance of trusting Jesus through life's challenges. "This song talks about how sometimes it isn't about the mountains we go through; perhaps it is the deepening of our faith that makes the mountain worth it," Megan stated.



A recent spiritual lesson nurtured Megan's faith: trusting and obeying God when the plan is divergent from yours. She recalls a time when she had to check out from a group she was part of, realizing it didn't reflect the Christian testimony it was supposed to. It was tough: it drew her closer to God. "Follow what God's told you, no matter what," she teaches. "I lost relationships, but the one that mattered - my relationship with God - grew."

Megan's music career aims at ministry. "God gave me my voice to sing, and it's up to me to ensure that I use it for Him and spread His Word," she says. She hopes to continue to reach out to the youth and the young adult demographic through music and testimony and trusting that God's plans will further her journey.

Currently, Megan is majoring in psychology, while continuing with her music ministry. She is excited to take on leadership roles at college sites, research therapies like music therapy, and counsel those in need. Although busy with school, Megan is given opportunities by God to travel and sing at churches and various but specific venues, as she continues her ministry wherever she goes.

Megan Brianna's story embodies her faith and dedication to extending the love of God through music. She acts in every song and testimony to instill faith in Jesus and willingness to surrender their lives to Him.

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A portrait of Jim Sheldon, a man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a light-colored cowboy hat, a tan vest, and a blue and white patterned shirt. He is sitting in a black director's chair with his hands clasped. The background is a plain, light gray.

Jim Sheldon

*Christian Country Music's
'Positive Cowboy'*

Jim Sheldon is an award-winning singer, songwriter, minister, and TV personality affectionately known as 'The Positive Cowboy.' He believes in putting God first in every area of his life and, in doing so, he reaps God's abundant blessings and rewards.

By Cory Parker

Jim was born on a naval base in Illinois, raised in New Orleans, and lives in Scottsville, Kentucky. He was saved by the amazing grace of Christ on May 7, 1972, at the age of eighteen. He graduated New Orleans Baptist Seminary with an associate's degree in Church Music Ministry and went on to serve in music and youth ministry in several states.

To understand the man Jim is today, one would need a glimpse into where he came from. A failed marriage would cause him to feel worthless, deepened by those affirming that a divorced person was no longer useful in ministry. The fear of losing it all, simply trying to survive, and subconsciously trying to find his way back to God, Jim found Country music.

Feeling as if he were living the life of a sad Country song, Jim travelled and sang Country music for the next several years. It seemed things were looking up for Jim when he married Jeanette in 1992. It was during this time God's hand in his life became evident to him. He says, "After I repented and got my life straight with Jesus, I immediately started praying, seeking what God wanted me to do."

Although Jim enjoyed singing bass with a quartet for a while, he was still a little hesitant about his path choices. "I felt right at home and thoroughly enjoyed my time there, but I wanted to be certain of God's path for me, never wanting to go down the wrong path(s) like I had done before in my life."

It was in that moment God firmly planted Proverbs 3:6 in Jim's heart: "In everything you do, put God first; He will direct and crown your efforts with success." From that point on, Jim totally surrendered all his future plans and ideas over to God and has never looked back. Jim went on to sing lead, baritone, and bass for numerous other quartets.

While working jobs that didn't conflict with a singing schedule, Jim honed his craft, spending six incredible summers studying at the Charles Novell School of Music. Forever learning, Jim now has eight summers of study under his belt and has been part of the teaching staff for eight years.

Through the Charles Novell school, Jim would amass a wealth of influences in Charles Novell, Rob Novell, Danny Funderburk, Bill Baise, Ann Downing, Jeff Stice, Donnie Sumner, Billy Blackwood, Dan Keeton, Nick Bruno, Bev McCann, Jimmy Jones, Mary Fay Jackson, and Mark Fain. Pastor Bob Melvin gave endless encouragement, as well as Glen Payne of The Cathedrals, telling Jim to remember that God gave the talent and the desire, "Now go, sing and serve with a servant's heart."

All the while, staying positive has not always been easy for Jim. He admits, "There were many times when disappointment and frustration drove me to quit, but God would always open a new door for me."

One such new door was the opportunity to sing with The Keetons. Jim recalls, "Dan Keeton, tenor singer for Gold City, took a chance on me! He hired me to sing baritone for his group, The Keetons. Under Dan's wings, God brought fine-tuning to the training, hard work and experiences that would be required of me in the coming solo ministry. God knew what was coming!"

When The Keeton's disbanded for Dan to move on with Gold City, Jim decided not to sit at home and wait for another singing group to call. He would take that giant leap of faith, establishing a full-time, solo Country/Gospel ministry. 'Putting God first' was born, Sheldon gave total release for God to take charge.



God certainly did take charge with Jim's first project, "His Grace," with Donnie Sumner. Jim signed with Homeland Inspiration Group's Mont Eagle Records, releasing his first-ever charting single, *God Is Looking At My Heart*. He recorded two more albums with Scott Godsey, Bev McCann and Nick Bruno. His first music video, *I Belong to Jesus*, went viral. Jim has gone on to record several other videos that can be found on YouTube or TV shows ie: Family Friendly Entertainment on Roku and other streaming services.

Jim has continued to record and release several projects over the years with none other than Mark Fain, a multi-Grammy award winning producer and musician and award-winning Steve Chandler as his engineer.

Traveling and singing from coast to coast for more than twenty years, Jim's motto remains, 'Putting God First.' Along the way, Sheldon has held onto a very successful charting ladder with songs like, *I Would Crawl All The Way, I Saw A Man, I'm Going Home, Church Like We Knew, Old School, He's There, He's A Mighty Good Friend*, and *God Is Looking At My Heart*. Jim's latest project "Gloves" has resulted in more great radio hits, *Sin is Color Blind* along with his latest single and video, *Father of the Fatherless*.

In 2012, Jim became co-producer of The Music City Show along with Scott Godsey and Bev McCann. He was also a co-host and featured performer on the show. Here, viewers witnessed 'The Positive Cowboy' singing what was alive in his heart. Seven seasons of The Music City Show are still airing today on FFE and a few other outlets. Whether on TV or on stage, Jim sings of God's love and mercy - all with such a positive faith and a smiling face.

Currently, Jim is co-owner and co-producer of the Nashville 37201 TV network, which is under the FFE umbrella. Jim, along with the Music City Quartet appears weekly on The Nashville Corner TV show. Jim is also the owner of Positive Country Records.

For two consecutive years, Jim was awarded the IGGMA (International Country Gospel Music Association) awards for 'Male Gold Cross' and 'TV Show of the Year.' Jim has since received other awards for his singing and his effective ministry.

One of the benefits of ministry is the special moments and memories made along the way. One of the most memorable moments, for Jim, was a little boy standing in front of him asking for prayer, while sharing the heartbreak of parents going through a nasty divorce. The grandma tells of how a little boy went from crying to saying, "Grandma, I don't want to be sad and crying all the time. I want to be like that Positive Cowboy - joyful and happy in Jesus!"

For Jim, it bears repeating: Proverbs 3:6, "In everything you do, put God first; He will direct and crown your efforts with success." He says, "This verse has been my foundation of 'The Positive Cowboy' and it is a verse of promise to all God's children. I firmly believe this small verse has kept me focused on what is important in my life. I knew my love of music came from God; I knew that He had a purpose for my life in ministry. God's patience, long-suffering, love, and redeeming grace carried me from my sin, misery, and shame to who I am today."

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ON THE ROAD WITH GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY

Twelve Years, a Break, and Now Back Together

Ken & Jean Grady

In 1984, four high school friends began singing together as The Regals in local churches and venues. The next 12 years would take the group all over the country and into the popular ranks of the Southern Gospel Music industry.

In 1996, The Regals decided to come off the road and spend time with their families and to build their personal careers. Still the best of friends after 20+ years, these same guys from Spartanburg, South Carolina reunited the quartet, singing throughout the southeastern part of the country. Members of the group are Gary Hautamaki, Kim Lanford, Steve Woodard and Stephen Jewell.

Recently, the group started a concert series that will span 2025. It is their hope to bring groups into the area to introduce to those who attend the concerts. In January, they hosted The Perrys and in April, The Mylon Hayes Family. The Lefevre Quartet will be featured in July and Real Truth Revival in September. Finishing off the concert series for 2025 will be The Kramers in November.

The Regals' program is full of humor, praise and worship using their progressive blend of harmony and Southern Gospel roots. Their prayer is for God to use the music to share the message of His love and healing to the broken and weary and to show them there is hope only in Jesus.



THE REGALS



THE PERRYS



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Hegseth's Fitness Memo Could be Flank Attack on Women in Combat

Chad Groening, Billy Davis

A military watchdog that has pleaded for years for a more lethal armed forces, and warned about a weakened one, is praising new combat fitness standards announced by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that address a lingering issue: women in combat.

Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness, has waited a long time for the announcement Secretary Hegseth made when he signed a memorandum directing the military branches to implement tough gender-neutral standards for men and women.

"What he wants," she says, "is high, uncompromised standards in the combat arms units. We're talking about infantry, armor, artillery, special operations forces, Navy SEALs, Delta Force, and the like."

Donnelly and CMR witnessed President Obama hollow out the U.S. armed forces in 2012, now 13 years ago, when the radically liberal president opened up front-line combat units to women.

To follow through on Obama's order, the U.S. Army dropped its Army Physical Fitness Test and replaced it with the misnamed Army Combat Fitness Test. What was supposed to be a gender-neutral standard for men and women crumbled under the weight of real life, however, when women suffered predictably high failure rates.

At the elite, body-breaking Ranger School, for example, 100 women participated in a pre-training phase in January 2015 to get them ready for the school. By April of that year, however, only 19 had qualified for its first phase, a 15-day test known as the Darby Phase. By the end of Darby, in June of 2025, the remaining eight female Ranger School candidates had failed it on the first attempt.

In August of that year, the national media was celebrating the two female Army officers who passed Ranger School and got their Ranger tab. A story by People, however, cited multiple sources who said a Pentagon general had ordered the Ranger School to make sure a female candidate passed the course by giving them multiple chances not offered to men.

"Well, it turns out that that was a promise that could not be kept," Donnelly points out. "It didn't work. It has shattered the theories and promises about gender equality in the combat arms."

After stating as recently as last November he "straight up" opposes women in combat units, Hegseth has said more recently women can serve in those roles if they meet the same physical standards.

At his heated confirmation hearings, Hegseth was accused by livid Democrats of tip-toeing around the issue and having an "11th hour conversion" over women in combat.

In a post on X, filmed during a military flight from Japan, Hegseth showed the memo he was about to sign and said his goal is a more lethal armed forces.

"For far too long," Hegseth said, "we have allowed standards to slip. We've had different standards for men/women serving in combat arms, MOS, and jobs. That's not acceptable, and it changes right now."

State's Majority Party is Punishing Parents

Steve Jordahl

Little stands in the way of a trans rights bill the Colorado House has moved on to the Senate.

GOP Representative Jarvis Caldwell says Colorado HB25-1312, Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals, demonizes parents who want to protect their children from harmful drugs or surgeries. He calls it "Orwellian."

"If your child is confused about their gender identity, and you don't affirm that confusion, that delusion, then you are guilty of child abuse, and you can lose custody of your children," he summarizes.

Over the weekend in mid April, Democrats used a couple of House rules to immediately cut off debate and call for a vote on the bill, depriving Caldwell and others the opportunity to make their cases against it. They pushed through a slate of controversial gender and abortion bills on Sunday.

"It should alarm every American that Colorado's majority used a Sunday – a day typically reserved for family and prayer – to force through four of the most extreme bills of the session," Republican House Minority Leader Rose Pugliese told Fox News Digital.

While "weekend work" is a "tactic the majority uses to punish the minority," Pugliese said it was especially "unprecedented" this time because of the highly controversial nature of the bills.

"There was no filibuster, no delay – just a determined effort to shut down discussion on legislation that directly affects parental rights, public safety, and the use of taxpayer dollars," she said. "They know how much negative attention this has been getting nationwide, and so what they did was they silenced us," Caldwell laments. "They did not let us represent our constituents."

Curious about how much stakeholdering went on, he did ask the Democrats if they talked with any parents who opposed the bill when crafting it.

Rep. Yara Zokaie showed the disdain her party has for parents or other advocates for children, comparing them to

the Ku Klux Klan. "A well stakeholded bill does not need to be discussed with hate groups, and we don't ask someone passing civil rights legislation to go ask the KKK their opinion," she told Republicans during a committee hearing last week.

Monica Duran (D), the state House majority leader, says the four bills – SB25-183, which requires taxpayers to fund abortion services; HB25-1309, mandating insurers cover transgender procedures regardless of age; HB25-1312, which imposes state-mandated gender policies on schools and considers it "coercive control" in child custody cases when a parent does not affirm a child's gender identity; and SB25-129, which prohibits cooperation with out-of-state investigations on transgender procedures and abortion services – were debated on the floor for more than 12 hours.

The Democrats, however, believe the majority they hold in the state is a mandate from voters to shield them from the Trump administration's policies, which recognize biological reality and protect children from dangerous and irreversible medical interventions.

Democrats Called 'Insane' for Suing Trump Over Non-Citizen Voting

Steve Jordahl

An executive order signed by President Donald Trump to ensure honesty at the ballot box has been hit by yet another lawsuit, this time for requiring proof you are a U.S. citizen before voting.

President Trump signed "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" in a March 25 ceremony at the White House. That E.O. has been hit with four lawsuits so far, including one filed recently by 19 Democrat-led states.

"The President has no power to do any of this," the state attorneys general complained in the court document. "The Elections EO is unconstitutional, antidemocratic, and un-American."

A White House spokesman called the proof-of-citizenship requirement "common sense" and called complaints from Democrats "insane."

In addition to the attorneys general, the March executive order has been challenged in court by the Democratic National Committee; State Democracy Defenders Fund; Campaign Legal Center; Democratic Governors Association; Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; Democratic House Senatorial Campaign; U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; and U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

While it is true election laws are set by state legislatures, it is also true many Republicans sincerely believe Democrats routinely cheat in elections and have no plan to stop doing so.

On the issue of citizen-only voting, Democrats have not helped their case with their permissive stance on illegal immigration, even going so far as refusing to ever use the term "illegal" publicly. Democrats have also passed laws to permit non-citizens to vote, such as city elections in Vermont

and Maryland, for example, and school board races in San Francisco and Oakland, California.

During the Biden administration, the wide-open U.S.-Mexico border was viewed by many Republicans as a welcome mat for 12 million future citizens, who could eventually win the right to vote in federal elections and reward those who let them stay.

The executive order signed by President Trump gives the Department of Homeland Security access to state voter rolls and allows DHS to remove illegally registered voters, and prosecute any of those who have actually voted.

Gary Bauer, of American Values, says the issue might be more complicated than Democrats simply want non-citizens to vote. Even though that is true, he says, the attorneys general would be "pretty stupid" to openly admit it in court documents.

"What they may be objecting to is that you have to show proof of identification to prove that you're a citizen," he says. "And they are willing to die on that hill."

Looking back at the Nov. 5 election, and Trump's overwhelming win, Bauer suspects the Democratic Party is desperate to avoid another loss like that in 2028.

Study: 'The View' is Aptly Named

Steve Jordahl

While it's no surprise that the ABC talk show has had more liberal than conservative guests, the author of a recent study says the guest list is a reflection of how the cast is taking Trump's second term.

On most days, "The View" will invite guests to discuss current issues, usually politics. But the Media Research Center's (MRC) Nicholas Fondacaro says anyone who has been waiting for their favorite conservative pundit to debate with Whoopi, Joy, and the rest has been sorely disappointed.

"In the first three months of the year, they've had 63 guests come on to discuss politics in some way, shape, or form," he relays from his study. "Zero conservatives."

The fact that ABC News refuses to allow more than half the country to be represented, he says, is scandalous. "The View" ... does seem to ... only allow one view," Fondacaro observes. "The name is a directive."

He remembers that President Trump was often a welcomed guest before he ran for president. Now, however, the Trump Derangement Syndrome runs deep. "Ana Navarro said just the other day that she would prefer Biden in a coma over Trump," he notes.

Considering that is what the nation endured for the last four years, Fondacaro says, "It really comes down to the politics of it."

The last time "The View" spoke with a Republican politician who did not hate President Trump was former Gov. Chris Sununu (NH) on August 1, 2024. Before that, it was Rep. Nancy Mace on October 2, 2023. Both of those were in the show's 27th season.

"The View" is now in the second half of its 28th season.

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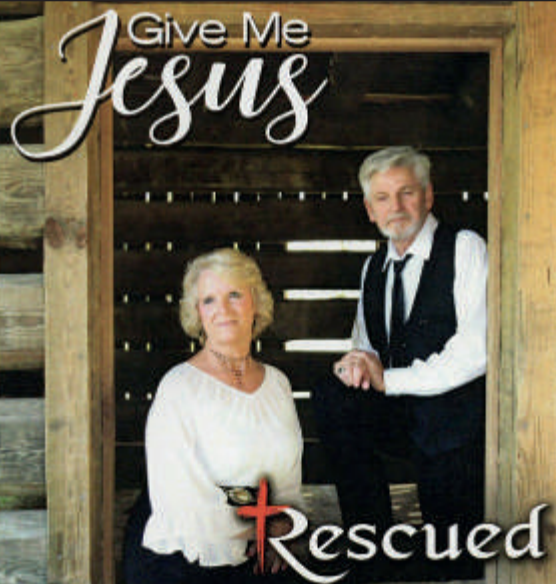
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REFLECTING ON THE SACRIFICE

Memorial Day's Enduring Significance

By Cory Parker

Each year, as the vibrant hues of spring begin to mellow into summer's warm embrace, Memorial Day calls us to pause and reflect on a legacy written in sacrifice. What may seem at first glance like a festive weekend of barbecues, parades, and pool openings holds a deeper meaning - a solemn tribute to the men and women who paid the ultimate price to preserve the freedoms we so often take for granted.

Memorial Day serves not just as a date on the calendar, but as a collective moment for an entire nation to honor its fallen heroes. It invites us to step away from the hustle of everyday life and into a space of remembrance. As flags flutter at half-mast and wreaths adorn graves, we are reminded of the valor and commitment shown by those who never returned home from battle. Their lives were woven into the tapestry of our nation's history, and their sacrifices secured the liberties that shape our present and future.

This day also challenges us to preserve the memories of those we honor - so they remain more than names etched into marble or granite. Each life lost represents not only courage but also families left behind, dreams unrealized, and stories

untold. It calls on us to listen to the echoes of these lives and to ensure that they inspire a spirit of gratitude in our hearts and communities.

Beyond personal reflection, Memorial Day fosters unity. It reminds us of the shared values that bind us as Americans - values rooted in resilience, freedom, and the willingness to stand for what is right. While the divisions of modern life often seem insurmountable, Memorial Day unites us in reverence for a universal truth: the high price of freedom and the countless souls who have shouldered its weight.

As we gather this Memorial Day, let us pledge not to take lightly the inheritance we have been gifted. Let us honor not just the past, but also the responsibility to uphold its legacy. By striving for peace, valuing justice, and safeguarding the freedoms for which others have given their lives, we ensure that their sacrifices are not in vain.

Memorial Day is more than a holiday - it is a reminder. A reminder to pause, to remember, and to honor. And in doing so, we fulfill our duty not only to the fallen but to the ideals they gave everything to protect.



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Recently, we've been serving in Western North Carolina, providing medical care to those in difficult and stressful situations. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteer doctors, PAs, nurse practitioners, and nurses—who selflessly gave their time—we were able to serve many patients, addressing their physical needs and sharing the hope and love of Jesus. Our new medical trailer was a tremendous blessing and with your



giving, we were able to minister to both body and soul, offering care and compassion that we pray will have a lasting impact on their lives.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Together, we are making a difference, one person at a time.

-Dr. Pete Kunkle, Executive Director





A PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

God Goes with You

Jerry Roach

So many are going through most difficult and troubling times. As I write this, I think of individuals to whom we are ministering. One recently expressed these words, "I feel like I am drowning." Some of you identify with such a feeling. Perhaps you've been through deep troubling waters or a dark valley. Maybe you're in such a place right now. Please know God has not abandoned you nor has He forgotten you.

I'm reminded of Job, a man that God declared as "perfect and upright... and feared God, and eschewed (avoided) evil." (Job 1:1). Job lost his health, his wealth, his family... and he questioned where is God? He had lost everything, but he held on by faith. "..., I cannot see Him (God), but He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:9-10) And he did! Read the last chapter. "So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning." (Job 42:12)

Friend, take heart! God knows you, too and He knows what you may be going through and He goes with you! Here are some special scriptures that have helped us to hold on to God's unchanging hand through many storms.

Isaiah 43

2." When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

3." For I am the LORD thy God..."

5. " Fear not; for I am with thee..."

Isaiah:41

"Fear thou not: for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

13. "For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

Isaiah 40

28. " Hast thou not known? has thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding."

29. " He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

30. "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall."

31." But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."



Don't forget... He is our Shepherd. Psalm 23 is most special to me. He guides me and protects and provides for me. Verse 4 gives confidence, comfort and peace even when I face the darkest hours. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy Rod and Thy Staff they comfort me. " (Psalm 23-4)



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LISA DAGGS

No Turning Back

Lisa Daggs has been delighting and encouraging audiences for over 35 years. The award-winning singer, songwriter, and author shares her own story of loss, redemption, and hope to inspire everyone she meets.

By Robin Tanner

Growing up in California Lisa was raised around a musical family. “My brother, Larry had a beautiful voice and an all-boy band, called the Intruders while I was growing up. He was ten years older than me, so I thought that was the coolest thing ever. My dad also had a very beautiful voice. I never tired of him singing *Fly Me to The Moon* in the arrangement of Tony Bennett. I began singing in church. I was blessed to have a big speaker and a microphone at home, and I rehearsed along with Linda Ronstadt’s records. I loved her songs, and her range was the same as mine, so it exercised my vocal cords perfectly. (I’m an alto)”

Lisa’s influences range from Bonnie Raitt, Wynonna, Faith Hill and of course as she stated, Linda Ronstadt and the great Motown singer, Gladys Knight. She remarks, “I know that’s a vast spread of genres, but if you listen to my voice and the library of songs, you’ll hear what I mean. I’m a little bit Country, Soul and Blues. You can listen to all my music on any of the streaming stations. Just remember, if you would,

CDs have a much higher quality of sound than the streaming stations do. (Just a reminder, you help the artist out when you buy direct).”

Lisa launched her career by moving to Nashville in pursuit of her dream. She worked as a studio vocalist and sang in numerous showcases for local Nashville songwriters. She later left the Nashville scene to connect with new audiences on the West Coast.

After struggling through the challenges and temptations of an entertainer’s lifestyle, Lisa worked to rediscover the inner peace she had lost. “I was full of self-will, running my own show, and believing I knew what was best for my life,” she recalls. She struggled through the process of overcoming the severe consequences caused by her previous lifestyle. She turned her life over to the complete care of God, trusting Him for strength and guidance.

In a career that spans over three decades, Lisa has experienced many memorable moments. She was awarded ‘Entertainer of the Year’ at the Ryman Auditorium by the

Christian Country Music Association (CCMA). Lisa recalls what made this award so special for her. “Both of my parents were in the room! They had already announced ‘Female Vocalist’ in which I was also nominated, and I thought all chances were gone. There were only male soloists and boy bands up for the biggest award of the night. Then they called my name! What an honor!! And all in front of my mom and dad.”

Lisa was invited to travel with Bill & Gloria Gaither and the Homecoming Friends for several years. Many of their videos have hit gold status on the Billboard charts. She has 35 number one radio singles. The very first number one was *Be Like Noah* and it charted on the CCM Magazine’s Country chart. More hit singles include *Hands On the Plow*, *You Are My Ministry*, *Forgiveness is a Powerful Thing*, *Well Worn*, *Regardless*, *The Light* and *You Are Enough*, which gained 64K views in two weeks on the YouTube video.

She was awarded ‘Country Artist of the Year’ presented by The Diamond Awards in Nashville, Tennessee. The most prestigious award was ‘Entertainer of the Year’ from the Inspirational Country Music Association (ICMA) on the Grand Ole’ Opry Stage in Nashville. After that night, Lisa received a book deal through Salem Communications, entitled “No Turning Back, Regardless.”

Lisa’s current single is *Dear John*, which she co-wrote with her husband, Ronnie Horton and Gerald Crabb from the brand new CD project, “You Are Enough.” Lisa shares details on the single: “John the Baptist is a prominent force listed in the bible and this song describes his character, (rugged and odd), his relationship with Jesus, and his ultimate sacrifice of being beheaded. This song has a little throwback to the great Dusty Springfield, also one of my favorites. I was born on the West Coast and my parents loved music and often played Dusty Springfield, John Gary, Andy Williams and Tony Bennett. Most people reading this, unfortunately, won’t remember these incredible artists.”

The California native shares how God spared her life on numerous occasions. “There are so many stories I could share with you. I was supposed to be born a blue baby. I fell out of the crib at eight months old. I fell out of a moving car at the tender age of three. I almost drowned in the Sacramento River caught in an undertow, even though I swam on the swim team and was a strong swimmer. The miracle rescue is in my book, “No Turning Back, Regardless.” I was robbed at gunpoint not once, but twice. Obviously, the enemy was trying to take me out, but he lost. I’ve been in full-time ministry for 35 years! Thank you, Lord! Also, my sweet mama was a huge influence in my life. I dedicated chapter five to her, ‘Queen Ilene.’”

Lisa’s main goal in music and ministry is to keep going. “I want to continue to write great songs with

excellence in production as well as a strong and encouraging message. I made a promise to God to share the greatest news ever, until my final breath.”

What can one expect at a Lisa Daggs concert? She says, “A lot of energy and truth! Raw truth about my life and where I went wrong along with how God saved me and turned my ashes into beauty. Many songs have been cowritten by me and some amazing talent to weave my story throughout the evening.”

Lisa enjoys traveling with her husband, Ronnie Horton, harmonizing and ministering to all churches, all venues, and seeing lives changed through their testimonies. She mentions, “He has an amazing voice. I have 35 years clean and sober, and I share my story weaving the songs in between for more impact. Ronnie, never having tried ANYTHING, say’s we have something in common: we all need a Savior.”

Lisa is now a proud mother to a wonderful daughter, and a tireless ambassador for hope, renewal, and God’s love.

www.lisadaggs.com





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TOP 100 MAY 2025

CVM Southern Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	4	Grateful For The Gospel	Brian Free & Assurance	51	68	Angels In Flight	Singing Byrds
2	8	When It's Gone For Good	Gold City	52	55	Just In Time	Ava Kasich
3	5	Glory Up Ahead	Hoppers	53	92	God Won't	Nelons ft. Autumn Nelon Streetman
4	9	You Can't Hurry God	Perrys	54	88	Soldier	Singing Crowes
5	6	Things We Cannot Change	LeFevre Quartet	55	73	Thank You For The Rain	Ben Stone
6	10	The Sound Of His Voice	Debra Perry & Jaidyns Call	56	94	Sunshine On A Cloudy Day	Jeff & Sheri Easter
7	11	Throne	Knight Family	57	98	A Burden And The Bible	McKamey Legacy
8	15	Something Better	Mark Dubbeld Family	58	56	I Don't Care	Wendy Jones
9	19	I Just Stopped By On My Way Home	Kingsmen	59	72	I Don't Have To Go This Way Again	Wink Kelso
10	25	What Are You Waiting For	Tim Menzies with The Isaacs	60	82	Golgotha's Call	Bibletones
11	13	Big Ole Stone	Triumphant Quartet	61	83	Go To The World	Webster Brothers
12	18	One Day	Troy Burns Family	62	59	If You Can't Shout	Lorraine Howard & Lora Long
13	17	Jesus Walked In	Joseph Habendank	63	58	The Tomb Is Empty Now	Browns
14	20	Old Blind Bartimaeus	Jonanthan Wilburn	64	-	Big Mighty And Strong	Masseys
15	7	Keep Turning Your Eyes On Jesus	Booth Brothers	65	-	The Ladder	Freemans
16	3	You'll Find Him There	Ernie Haase & Signature Sound	66	78	God Reached Way Below	Sam Blankenship & Whosoever
17	32	One Touch From Jesus	Melissa Evans	67	-	When He Said It Is Finished	Debra Schultz
18	21	When I Pray	Donna Kilmurray	68	91	I Can Count On The One	Sacred Harmony
19	31	Bigger On The Inside	Legacy Five	69	-	We Shall Behold The King	Keith Barkley & Family Tradition
20	30	Right Where You Want Me To Be	Don Stiles	70	-	A Few Good People Left	Carroll Roberson
21	1	Jesus Put My Life Together	Carroll Roberson	71	86	Public Display Of affection	Rick Towle
22	2	Revival Broke Out	Gaither Vocal Band	72	-	Without Him	Barbara Jean
23	14	I'm Gonna Fly Away	Brian Burchfield	73	-	It Was For Love Of Me	Rick Alan King
24	29	I'm Not Afraid	Denise Edwards	74	87	Glorious Day	All About Jesus Ministries
25	36	I Pray About It	Shepherds	75	-	Armed And Dangerous	John D. Tingle
26	27	Come On Let's Go To That Land	Tribute Quartet	76	-	Can He, Could He, Would He	Mark Trammell Quartet
27	43	My Names Already There	Inspirations	77	96	Jesus Is A Friend	John Westling
28	35	The Mighty Word Of God	Chuck Wagon Gang	78	-	The Old Country Church	Bobby Jones Family
29	46	I'd Rather Hear Preachin'	Greater Vision	79	-	Give Me Jesus	Rescued
30	38	Family	Josh & Ashley Franks	80	-	Come On Down The Road	Journey N Faith
31	42	Because Of Who He Is	Mary Burke	81	-	God's Got The Box	Lori King
32	16	On A Day Like This	Derrick Loudermilk Band	82	-	He Keeps The Son	Rocky & Tamie
33	34	I Stand	Ashley Collins	83	-	I've Had Enough	Doug & Gina Green
34	66	God Has A Way Of Working It Out	ChronicleChronicle	84	-	Well Able	Ricky Luster, Sr ft. Darrell Luster
35	49	2nd Opinions	Master's Voice	85	100	Message To The World	Williamsons
36	24	In It For The Love (Live)	Scotts	86	-	Hallelujah Every Day	Amanda Rosales
37	48	Liberty	New Day Revival	87	-	It's Not Over	Beverly Simms
38	53	I Found Victory At The Foot Of The Cross	Billy Myers	88	97	Let Us Come Together	Browders
39	64	It Doesn't Seem Enough	The Journeys	89	-	I Know That I Know That I Know	Kenny Keith
40	69	Under The Atoning Blood	Judith Montgomery Family	90	-	No Better Time	Kingdom Heirs
41	61	Lily Of The Valley	Tammy Caldwell	91	-	His Name Is	Michael Walsh
42	76	Crimson	Gil Magee	92	-	Running To You	Robin Johnston
43	57	You Gave Me Mercy	Tamie Pernie	93	-	Jesus Guy	Jeff Arrandale
44	80	There's Only One Way To Grace	Mark Huitt	94	-	I'm Looking For Heaven	Joyce Chastain & Spirit Wind
45	67	Glory In The Sky	Trinity Heirs	95	-	Mercy River	Down East Boys
46	50	He Forgives And Forgets	Gordon Mote	96	-	Prodigal Son	Perry House
47	79	He'll Walk You Through	Hagers	97	-	Faith Song	Megan Brianna
48	45	Walk On Water	Crabb Family	98	-	Special Love	Hendersons
49	95	If Not For Christ	Whisnants	99	-	Till The Storm Passes By	Nortons
50	-	That's What Faith Looks Like	Karen Peck & New River	100	-	Let My Life Be A Light	Anointed

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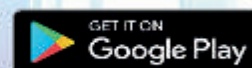
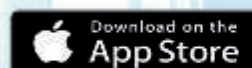
CWM Country Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	8	Sin Is Color Blind	Jim Sheldon	51	56	Let's All Get Together	Melissa Couch
2	6	I Wouldn't Be Surprised	Keith Buchanan	52	79	String Of Pearls	Eddy Mann
3	11	Let's Get The Devil Outta Here	Chuck Hancock	53	61	Horses In Heaven	Woody Winn
4	5	Going Home	John Penney	54	58	Gonna Be A Party	Michael Tetrick
5	16	Bright New Morning	Marty Raybon	55	-	Horses In Heaven	Randy Travis
6	19	Grace Never Has Failed Me	Kesha Parish	56	25	Going Down To The Church House	Terry & Debra Luna
7	22	Another Day	Wings Of Love	57	72	When The Son Comes Down	Sonshine Road
8	23	Only You	Bruce Minchey	58	44	Home	Dale Rochell
9	28	When I Pray	Donna Kilmurray	59	68	The Well	Michael Lee
10	18	Broken	Scott Peacock	60	47	Big Jesus Train	Brother Daniel
11	21	Blues And The Badge	Corey Farlow	61	60	Ready And Waiting	Chosen 4:13
12	31	Ain't No Future In The Past	Fortner Brothers	62	-	Believe	Brooks & Dunn With Jelly Roll
13	26	Jesus What Does That Name Mean To Me	David Smith	63	70	Wake Up Call	Cyndi Reynolds
14	24	Dead Man Walking	Paul Staggs	64	49	God Did That	Cody McCarver
15	43	The Hand Of The Man	Ed Bruce	65	75	Alone	Kevin Woody
16	7	When Jesus Comes	Jonathan Ray Smith	66	91	Jesus and Bocephus	Richard Lynch
17	30	It's Not Fools Gold	Mike Leichner	67	90	Harwood Church Pew	Kendricks
18	10	I'm Going Home	Richard Sprayberry	68	76	There Is Someone	Murphys
19	33	Spending Time With You	The Hammond Brothers	69	83	Ain't Gonna Lay It Down	Linda Lanier
20	2	Because He Changed Me	Carey Easley	70	87	Hey God It's Me Again	Chase Rice
21	4	Thank You	Todd Lee	71	77	Urgent	Darin Kinse
22	37	His Church Went Marching On	Troy Richardson	72	80	Things That Didn't Work	Judy Bailey
23	42	One Heart	Felicia DeRamus Paul	73	85	Thirst & Hunger	Rick Lang
24	1	Cast Your Cares	Jimmy R. Price	74	86	Better Felt Than Told	Brandon Rowell
25	32	Nothing Short Of A Miracle	The Pauls	75	97	I Surrender It All	Luke Hendrickson
26	38	Thin Blue Line	Kevin Kappler	76	-	One More Sinner Saved	Norman Lee Schaffer
27	3	God And Trump	Richard Lynch	77	92	Too Much To Gain To Lose	Rusty Gilliam
28	35	Friendly Fire	Angela Seng & Marty Smith	78	89	Saved By Grace	Ray Hollis
29	14	Plenty Of Time	Gayla Earlene	79	82	A Little More Sunday	Danny Hebert
30	39	Jesus Isn't Done Yet	Kenny Evans	80	93	I Don't Need A Mansion	Mary Fay Jackson
31	45	I Stand	Ashley Collins	81	84	I Don't Have To Go This Way Again	Wink Kelso
32	40	Do You Remember	Joy LaVallee with Johnathan Bond	82	81	No Fishing	Royel Clark
33	48	I'm Gonna Love You	Cody Johnson & Carrie Underwood	83	-	Right Where You Want Me To Be	Don Stiles
34	15	Washed	Debbie Mills	84	88	Jesus Saves	Cooper Alan
35	13	Just A Country Boy	Ricky Paul	85	-	It Doesn't Seem Enough	The Journeys
36	73	Stand	Anne Wilson	86	-	Angel Band	Waymasters
37	46	Saving My Place	Jason Welch	87	95	What A Gift	Gena Hamilton
38	12	Hell Don't Stand A Chance	Paula Slow	88	96	Be That One Today	Johnatha Bond
39	27	Hold The Line	Victoria Steelman	89	-	Beyond The Clouds	Christine Scott
40	51	Preacher Man	Marcus Ellis	90	94	Tell It Over And Over Again	Gennie Ruth Cheatham
41	57	Dash	Joe Arview	91	-	Little White Church Revival	New Covenant
42	50	I Wanna Be Found Faithful	Thomas Brown	92	-	Amazing Grace	Lady Redneck
43	55	Heaven Help Me	Aaron Partridge	93	98	Porch Swings In Heaven	Ma Bell
44	59	What Did I Do Today	Bill Baker	94	100	Pray For Me	Shellem Cline
45	29	Ink Stains	David House	95	-	I've Seen It Rain Before	Steve Roberson
46	53	Grandma's Bible	Debbie Bennett	96	-	God's Love	Marty DeRoche
47	66	If I Don't Have Love	Jennifer Sides	97	-	We Need Jesus	Kenny Evans
48	65	Forever Your Praises	Michael Walsh	98	-	I Thank God For Saving Me	Harry Claytor
49	63	They Laughed	Steve Warren	99	-	Fueled Up Fired Up And Ready To Go	Billy Gregg ft. Nikki Nelson
50	52	There's Power In His Name	Gene Higgins	100	-	More Than You Know	Tim Livingston



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CVM Contemporary Christian

TOP 50 MAY 2025

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	16	Praise	Elevation Worship
2	9	Counting My Blessings	Seph Schlueter
3	4	Won't He Do It	We The Kingdom
4	14	Miracle In Me	Ashley Gronholm
5	7	Still Waters (Psalm 23)	Leanna Crawford
6	11	Sunshine	Nia Allen
7	20	Place In This World	For King & Country
8	15	Again	Jeremy Camp
9	13	My God Is Amazing	Mack Holland
10	21	Loves Got A Way	Andrew Ripp
11	2	Call His Name	Kenny Lewis
12	17	Everything	Otis Kemp
13	25	The God You Are	Sound Street
14	6	Father In Heaven (Right Now)	Bebe Winans
15	42	Holy Forever	Chris Tomlin
16	22	Walk With Jesus	Consumed By Fire
17	41	All Because Of Mercy	Casting Crowns
18	1	Never Be The Same	Deitrick Haddon
19	32	All Yours	Kierra Sheard
20	3	Take It All Back	Tauren Wells
21	39	Up + Up	Colton Dixon
22	29	Era	Tory Lynn
23	18	Lead Me On	Chandler Moore
24	30	Send It Down	Karen Clark Sheard
25	8	The Jesus Way	Phil Wickham
26	28	Pray For Me	Tina Campbell
27	49	The Cross	Anne Wilson & Chris Tomlin
28	35	Made For More	Josh Baldwin
29	27	Let It Begin	Big Daddy Weave
30	24	Don't Give Up	Earnest Pugh
31	-	God Of Another Chance	100 A.K.A The Messenger
32	45	He Was There	Marvin Sapp
33	48	God Is	Melvin Crispell III
34	40	Hard Fought Hallelujah	Brandon Lake
35	26	Take You At Your Word	Cody Carnes
36	31	Somebody Like Me	Caleb & John
37	33	Clap My Way	Micah Lee
38	-	What He Says About You	Unspoken
39	47	Oh To Be Kept	Fred Perry & Second Generation
40	-	Goodbye Yesterday	Elevation Rhythm
41	-	When I Fall	Katy Nichole
42	-	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	Leilani
43	36	The Truth	Megan Woods
44	-	Nothin' Sweeter	Tobymac
45	50	Save Your Soul	Ptthegospelspitter ft. Preacher
46	-	Yahweh	Jason Nelson
47	-	Only One Way Home	Mississippi Mass Choir
48	-	Deserve To Win	Tamela Mann
49	46	Try Love	Kirk Franklin
50	-	Jordans	Blessing Offor

CVM Black/Urban Gospel

TOP 50 MAY 2025

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	9	Don't Give Up	Earnest Pugh
2	6	Like You	Mary Dailey
3	8	Let's Praise	Marvelle Cook
4	13	Pray For Me	Tina Campbell
5	11	Father In Heaven (Right Now)	Bebe Winans
6	12	In It For The Love (Live)	The Scotts
7	15	Take The Lord With You	The Rising Stars
8	10	Send It Down	Karen Clark Sheard
9	17	Oh To Be Kept	Fred Perry & Second Generation
10	18	God Had Been Good	Chanella Monroe
11	1	Never Be The Same	Deitrick Haddon
12	20	My God Is Amazing	Mack Holland
13	19	Musgrove	Kidratii
14	25	The Center Of Grace	Lillian Lilly
15	4	Sunshine	Nia Allen
16	28	Era	Tory Lynn
17	3	We Need God	Perishia Jones ft. Peigh Jones
18	5	Wait On You	Cindy Davis
19	29	Prazin' Amazin'	Durand
20	36	The Rock	Min Ceddy P& V2V
21	7	Great And Mighty	Dorinda Clark-Cole
22	32	Let It Rain	Predestined of Michigan
23	24	Without You	Jevon Dewand
24	2	Clap My Way	Micah Lee
25	33	Save Your Soul	Ptthegospelspitter
26	22	Move	Alex Sayles
27	34	Stand With You	Carlington Roberts featuring Talein
28	23	It's Time	Alexia Price Curry
29	26	Everything	Otis Kemp
30	43	God Is	Melvin Crispell III
31	14	Yahweh	Jason Nelson
32	-	Jordan	Blessing Offor
33	44	He Can Handle It	Crystal Aiken
34	27	No Weapon	Todd Dulaney
35	42	Hold On	Ricky Dillard
36	45	In Him There is No Sorrow	Donald Lawrence
37	35	Holy Ghost	Frozone Hayes
38	46	Just Wait	John Tillery & Voices II Voices Choir
39	31	Try Love	Kirk Franklin
40	47	He Was There	Marvin Sapp
41	37	Afterwhile	Pastor RL Bush & Revived Sons
42	39	Where There's A Will There's A Way	Ecclesiastics 5
43	-	Deserve To Win	Tamela Mann
44	38	Going On In Jesus Name	George Carter & Gentleman Of Faith
45	-	Working On A Building	Larry Hill
46	48	Only One Way Home	Mississippi Mass Choir
47	-	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	Leilani
48	40	Example Of You	Faith Hairston & The Chosen Vessels
49	-	God Of Another Chance	100 A.K.A. The Messenger
50	-	Church Doors	Yolanda Adams



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 Calhoun's • Called • Cheryl Stone • Crimson Chord
 Going Higher • Harvey Perdue • Higher Calling • Jay Cummins
 John Westling • Joyful Sound Trio • Karls Young • Lighthouse 3
 Michael Walsh • One Voice • Perfect Grace • Perry House
 Peyton Cathey & New Generation • Phil Smith • Rhythm Reign
 Robert Blankenship • Spirit Filled • Wendell Hilderman
 Wendy Jones

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CVM Bluegrass Gospel

TOP 50 MAY 2025

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	14	That Reunion	Tim Raybon Band
2	5	The First Time I Heard About Heaven	The Cox Family
3	4	I'll Meet You In The Morning	Becky Isaacs Bowman
4	9	Jordan Darin & Brooque Aldridge w/ Ricky Skaggs, Mo Pitney, Mark Fain	
5	7	There's A River	High Road ft. Jaylee Roberts
6	11	Are You Born Again	Cedar Hill
7	13	Country Faith	Kristen Bearfield with Karen Peck Gooch
8	12	The Word	Teddy Barneycastle
9	19	Get On Board	Williamson Branch
10	1	Rise Above It All	Becky Buller & Nathan Woodard
11	26	Baptism	Eddie Sanders
12	23	Still The Solid Rock	Daryl Mosley
13	2	In Remembrance Of Me	Po' Ramblin Boys
14	3	Church Bells-A-Ringin'	Danny Paisley ft. B. Abernathy, B. James & B. Walker
15	24	The Mighty name Of Jesus	High Fidelity
16	6	At Jesus Feet	Eagle's Wings
17	8	Redeemed	Ben Rochester Family
18	33	Come To Jesus	Amanda Cook
19	42	You'll Find Me	Authentic Unlimited
20	16	Leave It In The Hands Of The Lord	Darren Nicholson
21	29	Come Jesus Come	The Grascals
22	27	Even Better When You Listen	Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers
23	21	Lay Em Down	Benson
24	17	Old Rugged Me	Dave Adkins w/ Alecia Nugent & Jerry Salley
25	20	Can't You Hear Jerusalem Moan	Hammertowne
26	22	Just Beyond	Barry Abernathy w/ John Meador, Tim Raybon, Bradley Walker
27	31	Water Grave	Caleb Howard
28	36	Just Believe	Route 3
29	18	Here Comes Jesus	Jeff & Sheri Easter w/ Mo Pitney
30	40	The First Time I Heard About Heaven	Cox Family
31	15	Jesus Satisfies	Danny Roberts
32	35	Blue Collar Gospel	Jerry Salley & The Oak Ridge Boys
33	50	God Never Made A Mountain	Kristy Cox
34	38	When I Get There	Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out
35	41	Somewhere Down The Road	Steeldrivers
36	30	On The Tips of Angels' Wings	Alecia Nugent w/ Ben James & Jerry Salley
37	44	That Sweet Land Of God Somewhere	Primitive QT
38	45	What Are You Waiting For	Tim Menzies with the Isaacs
39	28	God Knows	Balsam Range
40	36	Come To Jesus	Danny Burns & Sam Bush
41	43	Heavenly Gain	Chuck Wagon Gang
42	46	Numbers On A Stone	Mark Houser & Bluegrass Drive
43	-	Somewhere Down The Road	The Steeldrivers
44	39	Child Of The King	Daniel Grindstaff
45	-	Let Me Be The Best Bible	Rock Hearts
46	37	The Storm Still Knows His Voice	Chosen Road
47	-	Come Jesus Come	Grascals
48	-	He's Gone	Jaelee Roberts w/ Ricky Skaggs, Sharon & Cheryl White
49	-	Higher Than I	Adam McIntosh
50	-	When Jesus Calls My Name	Don Rigsby



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PSALM 96:1



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Denise Edwards is a singer/songwriter trained in classical piano from Brandon, SD. She has recently released her 4th album of all original material this year 2024. She has charted multiple times on the CMA European charts through promotions by TRIPLESTRAND PRODUCTIONS and received a Certificate of Eligibility from IABR for her Christmas CD "OH, WHAT A GIFT". She plays keyboard and organ for several local churches and continues to write Christian music.

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Come, Lord Jesus

Gina Ables

Look how far America has strayed from God as the basis on which our country was founded. When we think things can't get much worse, it does. Just leave the bathrooms alone! They need to remain separate. We do not need to make things easier for evil people. It's scary enough to be traveling like most of us do and have to stop at rest stops along the way. God help us in this godless world!

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. Have those who work evil no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon God? There they are, in great terror, where there is no terror! For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you; you put them to shame, for God has rejected them. Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When God restores the fortunes of His people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad. (Psalm 53:1-6 ESV)

Our prayer is: Even so, come, Lord Jesus. - Revelation 22:20b (KJV)

Cornish Hens

2 Cornish game hens (thawed)
1/2 – 1 stick butter (divided)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder



Mix seasoning in small bowl, divide in half and set aside.

Clean hens and pat dry. Place hens on a rack inside a foil lined pan with breast side up. Put 1 tablespoon butter and 1/2 seasoning inside each hen.

Melt remaining butter and stir in remaining seasoning. Brush over outside of hen and bake at 350° for one hour. Baste with butter throughout baking every 15-20 minutes. Skin should be crisp and golden. Juices run clear when meat is pierced.

Gina's Cabbage Soup

1/2 head of cabbage (chopped)
1 cup onion (chopped)
1 cup baby carrots (sliced)
1 cup celery (sliced)
8 oz. white button mushrooms (sliced)
2-3 cloves garlic (minced)
1 colored bell pepper (chopped)
1 can diced tomatoes
1 teaspoon basil
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
6 cups water
2+ tablespoons tomato/chicken bouillon crystals

Sauté onions, carrots, celery, mushrooms, garlic and bell pepper in olive oil until almost tender.

Add cabbage and canned tomatoes. Mix water and bouillon and add. (Adjust if it looks like you need additional water.) Bring to a boil; then reduce to medium heat until cabbage is tender.



Cheese Grits

1/2 cup grits
2 cups water (or 1 cup milk and 1 cup water)
Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
2-4 tablespoons butter

Bring water to boil. Add seasoning. Whisk in grits over medium heat. Whisk for 5-7 minutes or until done and desired thickness. Stir in butter and grated cheese. Serve hot.

Banana and Pear Cake

1/2 stick of butter (softened)
1 cup sugar
1-2 well ripe bananas (mashed)
1 pear (peeled, cored and chopped)
2 eggs (beaten)
1 1/2 cups self-rising flour
1 teaspoon vanilla

Beat sugar and butter until creamy. Add eggs, vanilla, and flour. Beat until blended. Stir in fruit.

Pour into greased loaf pan and bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Insert toothpick to check for doneness.

*"Surely I come quickly."
Revelation 22:20*

Jon Michaels

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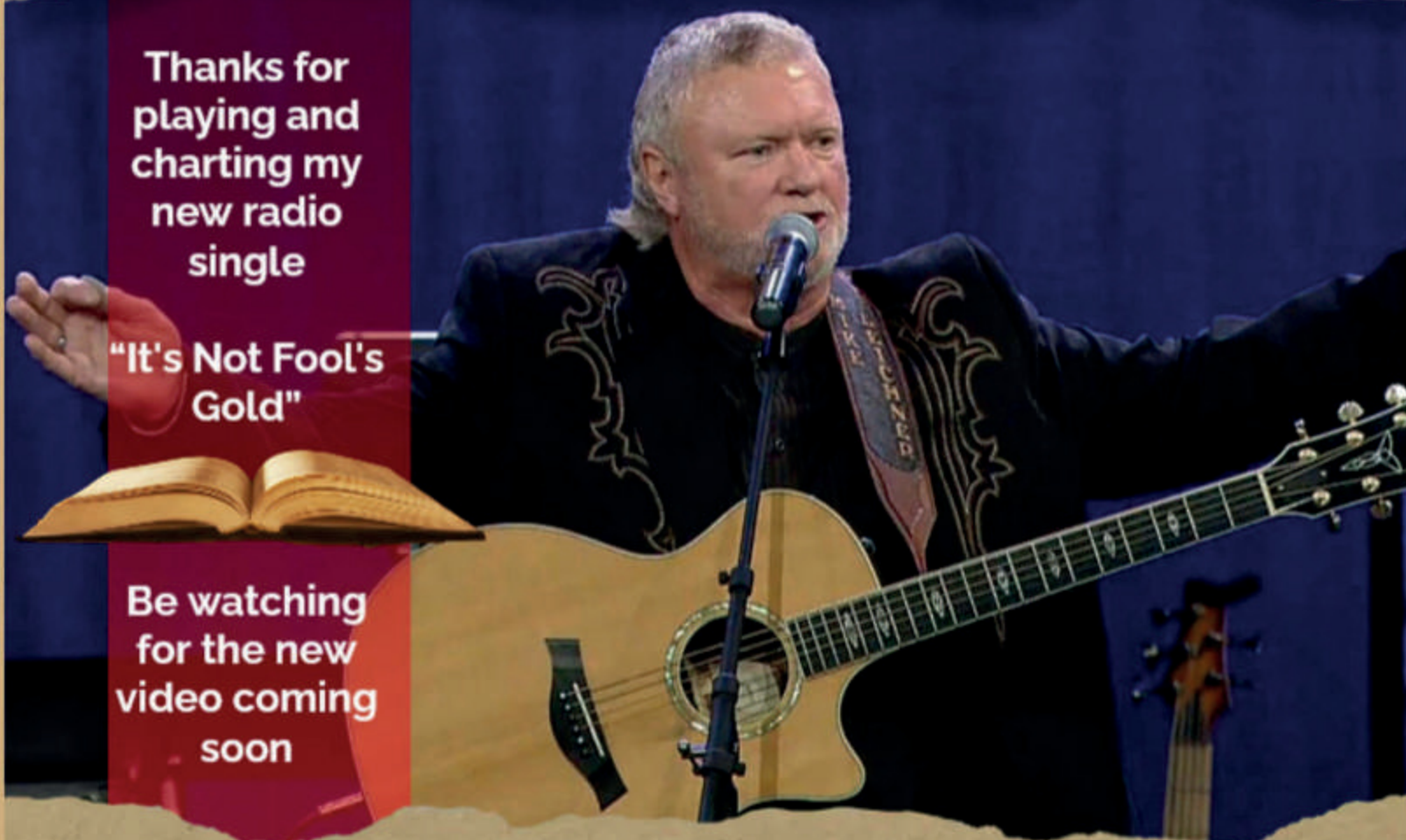


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