

APRIL 2026

faith family music ministry

CHRISTIAN VOICE

magazine



Denise Edwards

A Life Scored by
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the Music God
Placed in Her Hands

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FROM THE EDITOR

A New Voice for a New Day

I want to take a moment to welcome my brother, Royce, as a new monthly columnist in our magazine. His column, "A New Day," will offer timely, Spirit-breathed insights drawn from God's Word - along with his perspective on Bible prophecy and the calling on the body of Christ in these last days. Royce is a preacher of the Gospel and currently a student in the School of Christ International, founded by the late B. H. Clendennen. He is a devoted husband and the loving father of three grown children. And on a personal note, he remains my most trusted Bible study partner - the one who sharpens me, challenges me, and helps me see the Scriptures with fresh clarity. I know his voice will strengthen and encourage you each month. Be sure to check out his first installment in this issue on page 18.

Living in the Power of His Resurrection

As we step into this season, my heart is drawn again to the foundation of our faith - the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection Sunday is not merely a date on the calendar or a tradition we revisit once a year. It is the blazing center of the Gospel, the moment when death lost its claim and the power of sin was broken forever. Everything we preach, everything we believe, everything we hope for stands on the unshakable truth that He is risen.

In a world that feels increasingly unstable, the resurrection anchors us. It reminds us that darkness never has the final word. It assures us that the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead now lives in us, empowering us to walk in victory, holiness, and purpose. The empty tomb is God's declaration that no chain is too strong, no night too long, no battle too fierce for the power of His Son.

This is why Resurrection Sunday matters so deeply. It calls us back to the triumph that defines our identity as believers. It lifts our eyes from the chaos of the age and fixes them on the One who conquered death and reigns forever. And it reminds us that we are not a defeated people trying to survive the last days - we are a victorious Church advancing with authority, carrying the light of Christ into a world desperate for truth.

As you read this month's issue, my prayer is that your heart is stirred with fresh hope. May the reality of the resurrection strengthen your faith, steady your steps, and renew your confidence in the God who still moves stones and breathes life into what seems lost.

Because He lives, we live.

Because He rose, we rise.

And because the tomb is empty, our future is full.

John

In This Issue

On The Cover

- 26 **Denise Edwards**
A Life Scored by Faith, Family, and the Music God Placed in Her Hands
by Jackson McKee

April Features

- 10 **Calvin Bridges**
The Voice God Anointed for the World
by Jackson McKee
- 16 **Rachel Taylor**
Rooted in Faith, Rising in Ministry
by Cory Parker
- 32 **God Report: 13-Year-Old Credits God for 'Miracle' 4-Hour Swim That Saved His Family**
by Howard Cooper
- 48 **Artist Spotlight: Alex Ervin**
by Teresa Schweinsberg

April Columns

- 8 **Crossfire Youth Ministries**
by Gabriel Swaggart
- 15 **Margie's Meditation**
by Margie Tanner
- 18 **A New Day**
by Royce Lanier
- 24 **Enjoying Everyday Life**
by Joyce Meyer
- 30 **On the Road with Gospel Music Today**
by Ken & Jean Grady
- 38 **A Preacher's Perspective**
by Jerry Roach
- 46 **Table & Testimony**
by Annie Ruth

Departments

NEWS & SCOOPS

- 22 **CVM Extra**
- 32 **CVM Reporter**

RADIO AIRPLAY SINGLES CHARTS

- 40 **Southern Gospel Top 100**
- 42 **Country Gospel Top 100**
- 44 **Contemporary Christian Top 50**
- Black/Urban Gospel Top 50**
- 45 **Bluegrass Gospel Top 50**

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 magazine



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CROSSFIRE

The Bridegroom Cometh, Go Ye Out to Meet Him (Part 3, conclusion)

Gabriel Swaggart

“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight, there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.” - MATTHEW 25:5-6

WILL THE RAPTURE REALLY TAKE PLACE?

There are some who do not believe that the rapture is a literal event, but rather figurative. They base their belief on the simple fact that the word rapture is not mentioned in the Bible. If truth be told, they are right. The word rapture is not found in Scripture, but let’s take a look at this word for a moment.

The word rapture means “a feeling of intense pleasure or joy.” I cannot imagine a greater feeling of intense pleasure or joy than to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and we will forever be with Him (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). The world in which we live is filled with violence, hatred, war, death, disease, and things that have brought so much trouble and heartache to the lives of untold millions of people. If you need proof, look at social media. Social media is a tremendous tool to interact and reach people whom you couldn’t reach through any other means of communication, but it is full of vileness and vulgarity. Long gone are the days of agreeing to disagree. Through social media, the idea persists that if there are opposing views on certain topics, the only option is hatred and vileness toward each other. If I disagree with you, then by today’s standards, there will be animosity, and even hatred toward me because I hold a differing viewpoint than you. That should never be the case, but yet, it’s all around us, and it has produced a toxic environment.

One could say that leaving a place like that will be a rapturous moment - a moment of extreme pleasure and joy. It is exciting indeed to know that one can leave a world of torment, problems, debt, sickness, disease, war, poverty, and heartache to spend eternity with our Creator in a place where none of these things exists. Believe me, saint of God, the rapture is going to take place, and it is the next great event on

God’s prophetic time clock. This means that there are no more prophecies left to be fulfilled in order for the rapture to take place. It could literally happen at any moment.

However, when we read Christ’s words concerning these ten virgins, He mentions that five were prepared, but five were unprepared. Could it be that throughout the world of Christendom at this present time, only half of God’s people are ready and prepared? Could it mean that half of Christianity is not ready? I don’t know, but I do know that there are many who simply are not prepared for the coming of the Lord. These five virgins had enough oil for the here and now, but they were not prepared for the future, which means that they were not really looking for the bridegroom.

It is the same presently with many Christians around the world. They have enough of a spiritual supply for the here and now, but that is all. They have started this Christian journey with much anticipation, but through the course of everyday life, they have become complacent, which leads to being unprepared. We, as Christians, need to live our lives as if we believe that Christ is coming back today. We cannot afford to become lackadaisical about our faith.



BEING PREPARED

So, what can we do to stay prepared?

First, we need to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (II Corinthians 13:5), which really means to prove that our faith is anchored in Christ and the cross. All faith must be tested to see if it can be proven as genuine faith, and if it’s genuine, it will be proven as such. Secondly, we must

have enough oil for the here and now, and enough for the journey ahead. I refer to being filled with the Holy Spirit. While we are here on earth awaiting the return of Christ, we need the help of the Holy Spirit to do what God has called us to do. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the one who walks along beside us to help. We need to be filled, and constantly refilled, which will allow our lights to burn bright continuously to a world that is full of darkness. Thirdly, our wicks must be continually trimmed. What does that mean? As we continue to look at these ten virgins, we see that when their lamps were lit, meaning that there was plenty of oil in their lamps, and their wicks were clean. However, there were times when the oil needed to be replenished, and the wicks needed to be trimmed to remove the charred portions. If, for some reason, the wick was not trimmed, it would produce more smoke than light, which would cause the light to eventually burn out.

As stated, this is where many Christians are - their lamps are producing more smoke than light, and they are on the verge of spiritual burnout. However, the trimming of the wick is a work of the Holy Spirit relative to our sanctification. It is imperative that the dead, charred portions of our lives be removed, and that can only be done through the means of faith in Christ and the cross. This allows the Holy Spirit to work in our lives to remove all traces of the flesh. To trim a wick involves cutting, which, spiritually speaking, is a violent

process. However, in order to produce more light, there needs to be pruning, cutting, and removal of that which is of the flesh.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

As we look at the latter portions of this passage, we find that when the bridegroom came, five virgins were unprepared, and they were standing on the outside, knocking on the door, desiring to enter. There came an answer that they were not expecting, "I know you not" (Matthew 25:12). Despite their profession, and despite what they once had, they had been excluded from this event. Once the door is shut, it will not be re-opened; and yet, there will be scores of people standing outside, trying to get in, but because they are unprepared, they will miss the rapture. They will be so close, but yet, so far.

If we are not prepared, then we will miss the single greatest moment in life - the chance to be with our Lord forever. We are to live as if Christ is coming back today, or as if this is our last day on earth. For some, today is your last, and even though you may not know it, you are about to breathe your last breath. Be ready and live your life as prepared as you can be. Time is running out!

Dale Rochell

Based in SW Oklahoma, Dale travels the country, singing and sharing God's Word and what He has done for us!

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Calvin Bridges

The Voice God Anointed for the World

By Jackson McKee

Calvin Bridges has spent more than four decades proving that Gospel music isn't just sung - it's lived. From Chicago choir stands to global stages, his voice has carried faith, fire, and a testimony shaped by miracles, milestones, and divine appointments. His journey is a reminder that when God anoints a calling, the world can't help but hear it.

Few artists embody the soul of Gospel music the way Calvin Bridges does. For more than forty years, he has stood as one of the genre's most innovative and influential voices - an artist whose ministry has crossed continents, cultures, and generations. His songs have been sung by legends, his compositions have traveled the world, and his testimony continues to inspire audiences from Chicago to Kenya.

But ask Bridges how it all began, and he'll take you back to a little boy who simply loved music. "As a child, I loved music - singing in the choir, listening to records, and regularly attending concerts of the great artists and choirs of Chicago. I started at age 9 as a church musician, not realizing how much I would grow to love Jesus, and establish a career in Gospel music lasting decades!"

A Journey From Chicago Stages to Global Platforms

Before the world knew him as a Gospel icon, Bridges was a sought-after musician in Chicago's vibrant music scene. After high school, he played in bands, recorded in studios, and worked alongside R&B royalty - Curtis Mayfield, Natalie Cole, Jerry Butler - and opened shows for B.B. King, Ike & Tina Turner, Richard Pryor, Bill Cosby, Don Rickles, and others.

His talent eventually led him to Philadelphia, where he signed as an artist and writer with Gamble, Huff & Bell, the powerhouse behind the Sound of Philadelphia.

But God had a different assignment.

One Sunday morning, Bridges heard his pastor say something that changed everything: “When we pray, we talk to God; but when we read the Bible, God speaks to us.” That single line ignited a spiritual awakening. Bridges began devouring Scripture, seeking God’s voice, and soon realized his calling wasn’t in R&B, but in ministry. “I realized the greatest gift that I have received from God is my voice. I want to use it to sing to the whole world of God’s love!”

He asked to be released from his contract. Miraculously, Kenny Gamble agreed. And Calvin Bridges stepped into the purpose that would define his life.

A Career of Milestones, Miracles, and Music That Endures

Bridges’ Gospel career reads like a highlight reel:

- Grammy-nominated for his hit composition “Spread the Word”
- Featured performer on the 26th Annual Grammy Awards telecast with Albertina Walker
- Cast in the PBS National Special *Going Home to Gospel* with Patti LaBelle
- Performances at the 1996 Olympic Games, Michael Jordan Foundation Gala, Oprah Winfrey Show, and Umbria Jazz Festival
- Collaborations with Stevie Wonder, Patti LaBelle, and the Oslo Gospel Choir
- His classic *I Can Go To God In Prayer* recorded by Alicia Keys, Albertina Walker, Luciano Pavarotti, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, Jessy Dixon, and many more
- His first solo album, “Renew My Spirit” (1985), stayed on the Billboard Gospel Chart for 53 weeks, cementing him as a rising force in Gospel music.



But the journey wasn’t without hardship. “I was told by major labels that I was too traditional to be contemporary and too contemporary to be traditional... so God encouraged me and I continued to write and record songs that spoke to my faith.”

He faced financial scams, unpaid royalties, and industry betrayal. Yet even in injustice, God redirected his path. “I wanted to sue them. But God took me to Psalm 37: ‘Seek peace and pursue it.’ That connection opened a door for European touring for the following 20 years.”

The Patti LaBelle Connection: A Door Only God Could Open

One of Bridges’ most cherished memories began with a letter - an actual handwritten fan letter - from Patti LaBelle and her husband, Armstead Edwards. “When I opened the letter, I was shocked and delighted beyond measure!”

That letter led to Bridges being cast in “*Going Home to Gospel*,” where three of his compositions were performed. Patti sang *Come On In This House*, Albertina Walker delivered *I Can Go To God In Prayer*, and Bridges himself performed *Stand Up for Jesus*.

Years later, he found himself backstage at a Patti LaBelle concert without a pass, standing among fans hoping to get in. When the door cracked open, Patti’s assistant pointed: “You can go up... you, you, and you.”

Bridges laughs when he tells it. “It was good that I knew Patti LaBelle... but it was better that Patti knew me! That experience taught me something. It’s good if we know God, but it’s even better when God knows us!”

Songs That Became Global Anthems

Bridges' catalog is a treasure chest of Gospel standards:

- *I Can Go To God In Prayer*
- *Spread the Word*
- *Chosen*
- *In Your Arms* (now included in the Norwegian National Hymnal)
- *Celebrate*
- *Come On In This House*
- *So Much To Be Grateful For*
- *All About the Love*

His latest single, *All About the Love*, is crossing genres and continents - featured on Amazon R&B playlists, charting on Cashbox Magazine's Southern Gospel and Black Gospel charts, and surpassing 1.1 million Instagram views.

And he's not slowing down. "I'm currently in the studio preparing another single for late Spring and an album for release in 4th quarter '26."

A Testimony of Healing and Purpose

In 2020, while touring in Switzerland and Denmark, Bridges contracted COVID-19. His condition worsened quickly. "I talked with God saying, Lord, if it's my time, take me home... but if it is not, heal me and raise me up so I can finish my work!"

He was hospitalized and given an experimental drug. Even in weakness, he ministered to nurses and doctors. After five days, he was released. "The doctor said my recovery was remarkable... I'm still here, in Jesus' Name! And I'm not tired yet, running for Jesus!"

A Ministry of Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Global Love

Bridges' ministry has taken him to more than 20 countries, including recent work in Nairobi and Nakuru,

Kenya, where Chicago Praise Ministries supports the Displaced Peoples Camp - thousands living in extreme poverty.

His message is simple and universal: "People are just people. Everyone appreciates and needs love and being valued."

"It doesn't matter what church you belong to or denomination you are. What matters is that we are a reflection of the Father's love."

His concerts, affectionately called Gospel Church, draw audiences ages 8 to 80. They sing the classics, dance, laugh, worship, and hear new music with timeless messages.



Still Spreading the Word

Calvin Bridges stands today as a Gospel statesman, an artist who has lived the music, carried the message, and walked the miles. His life is a tapestry of divine appointments, global ministry, and unwavering faith.

"If I had ten thousand tongues, I would praise Him with every one!"

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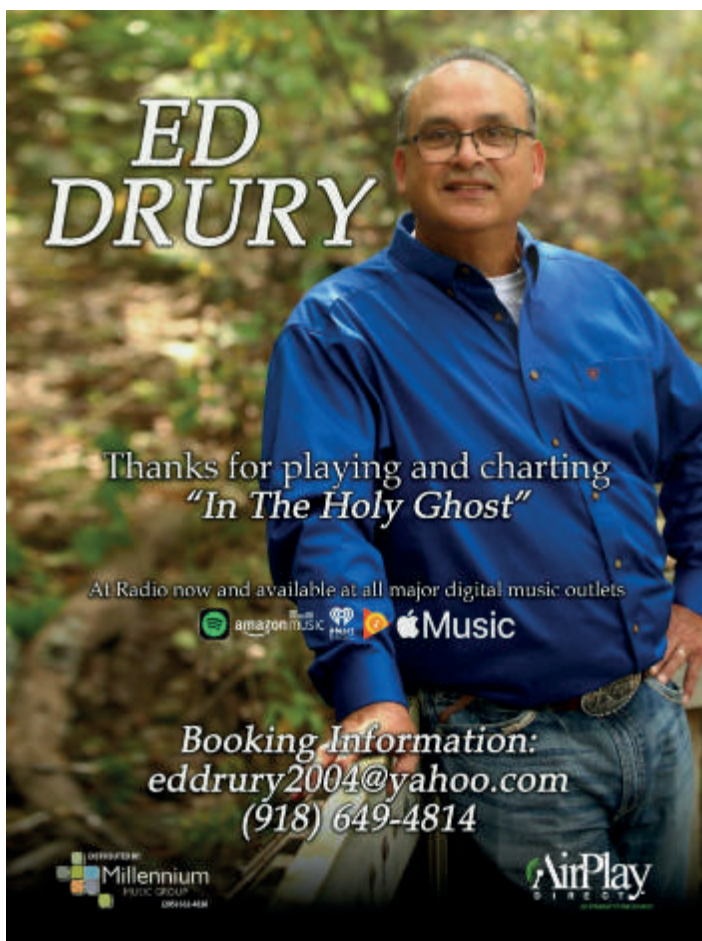
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MARGIE'S MEDITATION

Resurrection Power

Margie Tanner

“**T**herefore doth my Father love me because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” - John 10: 17 & 18

During Jesus’ earthly ministry, He proved that He had power over sin, devils, sickness, and even the elements of creation. And before He left this world and went back to the Father, He proved He had power over death. When He came out of that grave on the third morning He conquered the last enemy we have to face. That same spirit that brought Jesus out of the tomb will rapture the church and bring the dead in Christ out of their graves.

What awesome power, what a mighty God we serve!

There may be many reading this right now that need to experience that resurrection power! Maybe you feel that your life is over, that everything that can go wrong has gone wrong. Maybe you feel hopeless as if you have been pushed into a dark tomb of discouragement and despair. It may seem that Satan has bolted the door, and you see no way out. What you are feeling may be because of sin, or maybe sickness has caused you to be so tired of living with the pain, taking treatments that seem to only make you feel worse. Your tomb may be financial problems or family problems. You may have claimed bankruptcy or lost your job or your house.

The disciples were in their own tomb of fear and total despair. They did not know where to turn or what to do, they felt like their world had suddenly stopped. All their hopes and dreams for a future were now lying in a tomb. Even though they had heard his words about the resurrection, somehow the distress of the moment had silenced those words.

It’s in our despair that we should remember the words of Jesus concerning His resurrection. Satan wants us to get so

caught up in the circumstances, seeing only the negative so that we lose faith and begin to panic. Let’s be honest - we have all been there. My purpose in this article is to draw our attention away from the problems and back to the power that belongs to our God! A power that He has given to you and me! John 1:12 states, “But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

In John 11: 42-44, we read where Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” I want you to hear Jesus calling your name right now. It is time to come out of that tomb. The almighty power is present - this is *your* resurrection day!

I am talking to someone right now. I feel God is bringing someone out of a situation that they’ve been in for some time. It is time to get rid of the grave clothes you have been wearing!!!! Jesus said, “Loose him and let him go!” Satan can hold you no longer when Jesus speaks. Remember, you’ve got the power. He wants to give you beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3).

Jesus also instructs us in Mark 11: 22 & 23, “... have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall SAY unto this mountain, be thou removed and be cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart but shall believe that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH.”

It is time for you to start speaking right. Speak faith, speak the Word. Refuse to speak words of doubt or defeat. Allow that resurrection power to deliver you right now. Begin praising Him for your victory. His power is still the same as it was on that first resurrection morning!!!

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RACHEL TAYLOR

Rooted in Faith, Rising in Ministry

By Cory Parker

When Rachel Taylor steps onto a stage, she carries more than a microphone. She carries the sound of her childhood church, the lessons of faithful mentors, and a calling that took root long before her first professional recording. “Music was never just something I did,” she says. “It was how God shaped me, taught me, and eventually called me.”

Born and raised in Linden, Alabama, Rachel grew up surrounded by the warmth of a close-knit community and the steady influence of Linden Baptist Church. It was there, in the children’s and youth choirs, that she first learned what it meant to worship. Under the guidance of Bro. John Newman and Youth Director Bro. Joey Savell, she discovered that ministry begins long before a platform. “They didn’t just teach us songs,” Rachel recalls. “They taught us Scripture, service, and what it means to stand on biblical truth.”

Those early years formed the bedrock of her faith - a foundation that would later anchor her as she stepped into national ministry. “Everything I am doing today started in that little church,” she says. “That’s where God planted the seed.”

Performing today as Rachel Taylor Music, she blends the rich heritage of Southern Gospel with the storytelling soul of Country music. Her sound is warm, rooted, and unmistakably Christ-centered. “I want every song to point people back to Jesus,” she says. “Not to me - to Him.”

Her ministry is strengthened by an impressive academic background: a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Psychology, a Certification in Psychology with a concentration in Applied Behavioral Analysis, a Master’s degree in Special Education, and a Bachelor’s degree in Human Development. This unique combination of education and calling allows her to minister not only to the heart but also to the mind. “God uses every part of our story,” she explains. “My education helps me understand people, but the Gospel is what transforms them.”

Rachel's ministry has expanded far beyond her Alabama roots. She has appeared on Alabama Gospel Roots, Brush Arbor TV Show, Nashville Corner, and Texas Country Gospel, bringing her message of hope to audiences across the nation. She has also performed at major events such as Gospel Music FanFair, where she received the 2025 'Favorite Female Vocalist' Award.

In 2024, she was honored with the ICGMA 'Female Horizon Artist of the Year' Award, a milestone that affirmed her rising influence in the Gospel music world. "Awards are a blessing," she says, "but the real reward is seeing lives changed."

Her songs - including *Rise Above the Noise*, *Nothing No Nothing*, *Thank God for Mama*, *New Again* (with Jim Sheldon), and *Movin' On* - have charted across Christian and Country radio platforms. Each one carries a message of redemption, resilience, and the unwavering truth of Scripture.

Her current release, *Jesus Is the Way*, written by Gary Rayburn of Lonesome Road Ministries and produced by Jessica Horton and Dennis McKay at Rose Productions, Studio 115A, boldly proclaims the message of John 14:6. "In a world full of confusion, we need clarity," Rachel says. "This song reminds us that Jesus is still the only way."

One of the most distinctive elements of Rachel's concerts is her use of American Sign Language during select songs. It's not a performance technique, it's a ministry. "The deaf and hard-of-hearing community deserves to experience worship fully," she says. "Accessibility isn't optional. It's part of the calling."

Her heart for people extends beyond the stage. She has shared her testimony on the Lonesome Road radio program and in churches and venues across the country. Her song *Hands and Feet* reflects her own journey and the truth she has learned firsthand: "Genuine and lasting love can only be found through Jesus Christ."

Like many independent Gospel artists, Rachel knows the realities of long travel hours, financial sacrifice, and balancing ministry with professional responsibilities. But she also knows the joy that comes with obedience. "The testimonies



after concerts - that's what keeps me going," she says. "When someone tells me they found hope again, or their faith was renewed, that's worth everything."

In a culture marked by shifting values and spiritual uncertainty, Rachel remains steadfast in her mission. "Styles change, trends change, but the Gospel never does," she says with conviction. "My purpose is to glorify God, encourage believers, reach the lost, and minister healing through music."

From her small-town Alabama beginnings to national stages, Rachel Taylor sings with one unwavering purpose: to lift high the name of Jesus Christ. Her voice carries the sound of hope - steady, clear, and rooted in truth.

"I just want people to know that hope is still alive," she says. "And His name is Jesus."



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A New Day

Prepare for Labor

Royce Lanier

Therefore, he said to them, the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest - (Luke 10:2)

Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62).

Jesus taught his disciples many times with parables. Parables are stories that illustrate a moral attitude or a principle in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus would start a parable with “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” In Matthew 3:2,3 John the Baptist came preaching, “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand” and to ... “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Jesus is the Kingdom of Heaven.

His disciples came and asked Him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?” Jesus answered them saying, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use these parables, for they look, but they don’t really see. They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand. (Matt. 13:10-13).

The Kingdom came to earth to be planted into the hearts of man. There is a parable that we must look at so we can put our hands to the plow. The kingdom of heaven is at hand, we the saints must “**prepare for labor.**”

The laborers of the vineyard is a parable found in Matthew 20:1-16. In summary, the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning (6am) looking to hire laborers for his vineyard. The laborers agreed to work for a penny a day. The landowner searched for more laborers at the third hour (9am) and they too agreed to work the vineyard. He went again at the sixth hour (12pm) and the ninth hour (3pm) and found more laborers and he sent them to the vineyard. For the fifth and final time, the landowner proceeded to search for more laborers for his vineyard. He came out at the last hour of the day, which was the eleventh hour (5pm). These laborers worked for only one hour (until 6pm). This day had a 12-hour shift. The owner of the vineyard called for the laborers and paid the last laborers first and the first he paid last. He paid all laborers a penny. The first crew murmured and complained that they should’ve received more. The laborers and landowner all agreed to the pay, and he done right by the agreement. Lastly, Jesus ended the parable with “So the last will be first, and the first last.”

There are several interpretations of this parable. However, I want to share a perspective emphasizing the last crew that worked the one and only “last” hour of the day.

In this parable there is one landowner, one vineyard, five groups of laborers, a twelve-hour shift, and all laborers were paid equally the same. Let’s look at this parable as a timeline or a dispensation of time, starting from creation until now. The dispensation of time is the 12-hour shift. From creation to Christ is approximately 4,000 years. From Christ to now is at the year of our Lord 2026. Now, remember the law of the sabbath, “...six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, a holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.” (Leviticus 23:3). According to scholars and bible teachers we are in the sixth day of this dispensation. We are 6,000+ years from creation, 1,000 years equal one day. “But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.” (2 Peter 3:8)

We are soon to enter into the seventh day. This means rest is coming. Shabbat or the Sabbath, the day of rest starts at sundown. Nevertheless, there is one last harvest, and we only have one hour to labor. It is the eleventh hour in the day and night is coming. The modern world uses the term “midnight” to describe the beginning of a new day. The Jewish custom is that Shabbat begins at sundown and this begins a new day. We are almost there. **Prepare for labor.**

In John 9:4, 5 Jesus said, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” “The night cometh” has a twofold meaning. The first, if He is the light and night is coming, Jesus was telling His disciples that he was leaving soon. Before leaving, He commissioned the disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15).

Jesus came to be the holy sacrifice, a builder, and a planter. The work He came to do, He finished. His work was finished at the cross. Our work with Christ is in progress. Our place is on the other side of that cross. And He is the chief corner stone (Ephesians 2:20,21). The second meaning in “the night cometh” also refers to the end of the age. The “night cometh” when the saints leave this world. To prepare in leaving this world, is to “**Prepare for labor.**”

Jesus is the landowner. He is searching for laborers to work His vineyard. It’s 5pm and it’s the last call before night comes. “Therefore, he said to them, the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the

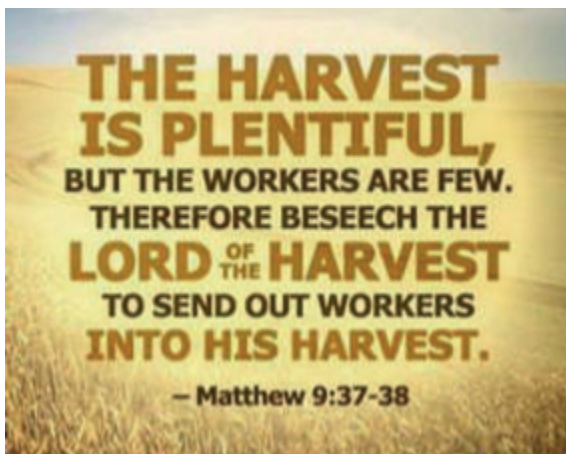
harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.” - (Luke 10:2).

The world is the vineyard and we are the laborers. The seed is the Word of God. (Luke 8:11). Some plant, some water, and others harvest. Two things to understand before going out for the harvest of souls. This is how we prepare for a harvest. First, Jesus is our example. “*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out*

of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (Matthew 3;16).

Second, “*... and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:3,4).*

“*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.*” (Acts 2:16-18).



It’s the promise that He would endue us with power. If we are to gather the harvest, we must be baptized in the Holy Spirit. If Jesus is the light and night cometh, He had a departure. Then, He sent the light of the Holy Spirit to us at Pentecost. We also have a night coming and we too have a departure. If you look at the spiritual landscape in its current condition, we will think that it is

impossible to gather a harvest in such a short time. Nonetheless, we have work to do.

Again, how are we to do the impossible? “*This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*” (Zechariah 4:6).

“*And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*” (Revelation 22:12).

The first time Jesus came **to** us. Next time Jesus is coming **for** us. Remember, today is the day of salvation.

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IMC Presents Freedom Gathering – Faith, Freedom, and History in the Heart of Our Nation’s Capital

This summer, embark on an extraordinary journey to Washington, D.C., where faith and history come together in one unforgettable experience. From July 1-5, 2026, travelers from across the country will gather in our nation’s capital for a powerful week filled with worship, inspiration and meaningful reflection. This exclusive Christian tour offers a unique blend of spiritual enrichment and patriotic celebration, culminating in a once-in-a-lifetime concert that honors America’s freedom and the courageous men and women who preserve it.

Uniting on stage will be the Prestonwood Choir and the Woodstock Choir, forming a stunning mass choir whose combined voices will echo through the majestic hall. Joined by some of Christian music’s most beloved artists, including TaRanda Greene, Charles Billingsley, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, Tim Lovelace and Uriel Vega, The Freedom Gathering Concert promises an evening of breathtaking music, heartfelt worship and stirring patriotic tributes.

This uplifting night is dedicated to celebrating God and country and honoring our nation’s veterans, recognizing their sacrifice and celebrating the gift of liberty. For those who love to sing, there’s an extraordinary opportunity to be part of the mass choir. If you wish to be in the choir, be sure to mention that while making your reservation!

Beyond the concert, the tour offers an inspiring journey through Washington’s most iconic landmarks, inviting travelers to experience the deep spiritual and historical roots of the United States.

Visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witness the solemn precision of the changing of the guard, a moment that stirs gratitude and reverence. Reflect at the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy. Stand in the heart of the National Mall, surrounded by timeless monuments such as the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and World War II Memorial. Each site tells of America’s story; one of

courage, hope, leadership and enduring faith.

The journey continues with a deeply enriching visit to the Museum of the Bible, one of the world’s most impressive museums dedicated to the history, impact and authority of Scripture. This immersive experience highlights the profound influence of the Bible on individuals, cultures and the founding of our nation.



The highlight of the tour takes place on the evening of July 3, at the world-renowned Trump Kennedy Center Concert Hall. This hallowed space, known for hosting the finest musicians and significant cultural events, will come alive with an extraordinary celebration of faith and freedom.



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For more information go to www.IMCConcerts.com or call 615-771-2665 and make plans now to be a part of this remarkable journey of faith, freedom and fellowship in Washington, D.C.

LeFevre Quartet Announce New Pianist

The LeFevre Quartet is pleased to announce that Jack Jordan has joined the group as their new pianist. At just 19 years old, Jack represents the next generation of Gospel music and brings remarkable musical ability and a sincere heart for ministry to the beloved quartet.



Jack's love for Gospel music is deeply rooted in his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He began playing piano and singing at just five years old and quickly sensed a calling to use his God-given abilities in service to the Lord. Known for his servant's heart and genuine love for people, Jack has already earned the respect of many in the Gospel music community.

Before joining The LeFevre Quartet, Jack spent the past two years traveling and ministering with the Troy Burns Family, gaining valuable experience on the road and growing in his calling to share the Gospel through music.

"I am truly excited and grateful for the opportunity to join The LeFevre Quartet," Jack shares. "Their ministry has been a tremendous blessing to so many, and I am honored to help continue that legacy. The men in this group are incredibly talented, but more importantly, they have sincere hearts for

ministry and a deep commitment to serving the Lord. I look forward to serving alongside them and helping point people to Christ through the music."

Group founder Mike LeFevre shared his enthusiasm about the addition. "We're thrilled to have Jack joining the group. He brings incredible talent to the piano, and it's exciting to see someone so young who genuinely loves Gospel music. Seeing the next generation step into this music with that kind of passion gives us confidence about the future of the genre."

Jordan LeFevre added, "From the moment we spent time with Jack, his maturity really stood out to us. He carries himself with humility and professionalism well beyond his years, and he has a sincere desire to serve the Lord through music."

With Jack Jordan stepping into the role of pianist, The LeFevre Quartet continues its legacy of sharing the timeless message of the Gospel while investing in the next generation of Gospel music.

The K-LOVE Fan Awards Returns to Nashville

The K-LOVE Fan Awards will return to Nashville's iconic OPRY House on May 24, with GRAMMY Award winner Lauren Daigle and podcaster, author and speaker Sadie Robertson Huff set to host the 13th annual fan-voted celebration.

The announcement was made live on the nationwide K-LOVE radio network, followed by an announcement at Billboard.com. The awards show will air exclusively on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) on Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. EST, with an encore presentation scheduled for June 5. Coca-Cola Consolidated will return as title sponsor of the annual event, which caps what organizers describe as the biggest weekend in Christian music.

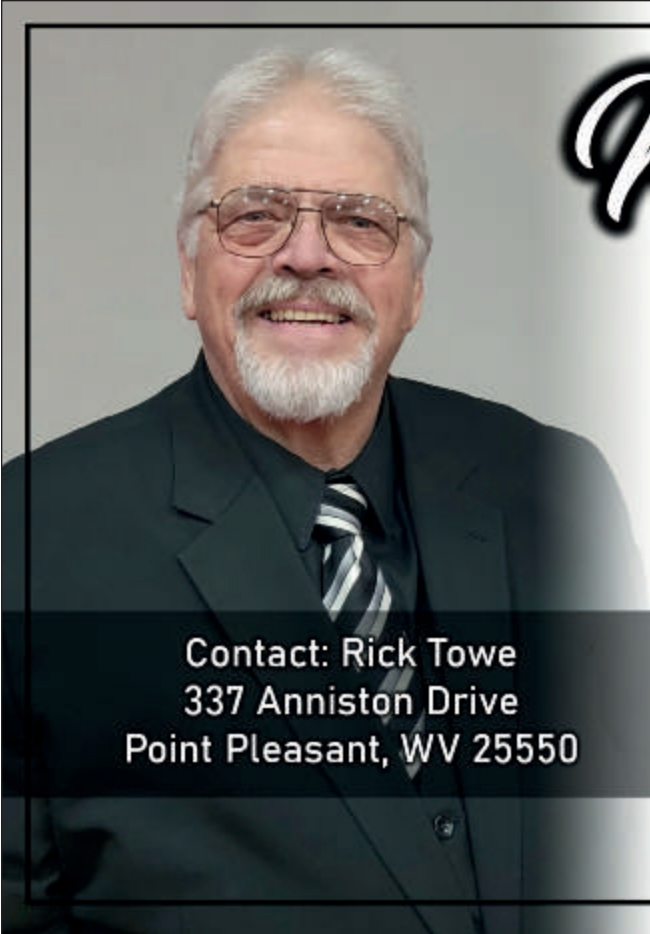
In addition to the host announcement, organizers revealed the first details of the 2026 K-LOVE Fan Awards Weekend lineup.

The Friday night kickoff concert will be headlined by CAIN and will also feature Leanna Crawford, Colton Dixon and Ben Fuller. The Songwriters Showcase will be hosted by Steven Curtis Chapman, joined by Andrew Ripp, Terrian and Matthew West.

On Sunday morning, the worship service will include Josh Baldwin, Pat Barrett and Zahriya Zachary. Additional weekend events will be announced. A full schedule is available at KLOVEFanAwards.com/weekend.

Each year, fans travel from across the country to attend the K-LOVE Fan Awards and the surrounding weekend festivities, which offer live performances, artist meet-and-greets and family-friendly experiences.





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Judi Kellar





ENJOYING EVERYDAY LIFE

Is God Angry?

Joyce Meyer

I grew up in an angry, unstable home. My father was very angry most of the time, and I didn't always understand what he was angry about. When I accepted Christ as my Savior, I took this experience with my father into my relationship with God. I believed God loved me and forgave me of my sin, but I still had this vague feeling that He wasn't pleased with me and He was just a little bit angry with me most of the time. I lived this way for years until I finally realized the truth: God is not mad at me!

I believe many people feel like God is mad at them. One day I put a post on Facebook that said, "God is not mad at you." Within a few hours, we literally had thousands of positive responses from people saying things like, "That is exactly what I needed to hear today." Obviously, this is a message we need to hear.

So where does this concept of God come from? Maybe it's because of an angry parent who was difficult to please. Or maybe it's due to the pain of rejection from parents or friends who didn't know how to give unconditional love. Or it could be the influence of a church or individual who has pressured you to follow rules and regulations in order to make you acceptable to God.

We want to be good and please God, and we may be able to follow the rules for a while, but when we mess up, we feel guilty and condemned again. Because we can't be good enough and do everything right in our own effort and strength. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NIV). Notice this says "while we were still sinners."

Galatians 3:10 (NIV) says, "For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.'" What are you relying on to make you right with God? Are you depending on rules and regulations that you follow or try to keep?

Now I realize you can't live a healthy, productive life without having some guidelines, but this scripture is saying that we will have serious problems if we think our worth and value as human beings are based on following rules and regulations. We are only made right with God through the blood of Jesus. And life is marvelous when you know the true character of God and who you are in Christ! That's when you feel good about yourself deep down in your heart, not because you do everything right, but because you know you are special to God and He loves you - unconditionally, constantly, completely.

I do want to be clear about something here: Although God loves us unconditionally, He does get angry at sin,

wickedness, and evil. But He is not an angry God. God hates sin, but He loves sinners! He will never approve of sin in your life, but He always loves you and wants to work with you to make progress in living a holy life in Christ.

Psalm 103:8 (NIV) says, "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." God is compassionate - that's His character. He's gracious - that means He's good. And God is slow to anger.

People who don't know the true character of God - who don't believe He is compassionate, gracious, and slow to anger - can never have a close, personal, intimate relationship with Him. It grieves me to think there are so many who live in the darkness of constantly feeling guilty and condemned when God is longing to have relationship with them.

The truth is God created us to have relationship with us. He wants to love us and take care of us, and He wants us to love Him. That's where our walk with Christ has to start.

We need to be obedient to God and do the good works He has for us to do, but first we need to understand and believe He loves us. Then we can have a relationship with Him and live by faith in Him with the power of the Holy Spirit in us, giving us the ability to live the way God is calling us to live.

I'm so grateful God opened my eyes to the truth! He has taught me to believe by faith that He is pleased with me, not because I do everything right, but because I believe in Him and trust Him. And this is just as true for you as it is for me. If you struggle with feeling that God is disappointed in you or angry because you don't do everything right, I want to encourage you to take hold of this truth today and believe it: God is not mad at you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource **God Is Not Mad at You**. 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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From a worn-out player piano on a homestead farm to international charts, Denise Edwards never stopped following the melody God placed in her heart. She didn't chase the spotlight - she chased obedience. And somehow, the spotlight found her.

DENISE EDWARDS

A Life Scored by Faith, Family, and the Music God Placed in Her Hands

By Jackson McKee

Some artists spend years searching for their sound. Denise Edwards was born into hers. "I come from a musical family of ten," she says with a smile that can be heard in her voice. "We all took piano lessons, some of us longer than others. I always knew from little on I wanted to play piano and was always musically inclined."

Music wasn't just a pastime in the Link home - it was the atmosphere. Before television ever entered the living room, the radio filled the house with Country classics, symphonic treasures, and the unmistakable harmonies of Gospel greats.

"My parents listened to a lot of Country music," Denise recalls. "My mother enjoyed symphonic music and artists like Tennessee Ernie Ford, The Oak Ridge Boys, The Gaithers... lots of Gospel music." And on Saturday nights, the whole house moved to the rhythm of polka. "Lawrence Welk was a big favorite and my mother never missed a show."

Her grandparents, who homesteaded the family farm, left behind an upright player piano - an heirloom that shaped her earliest musical memories. "It was played so much that by the time I was able to play it was pretty worn out," she laughs. But worn keys didn't stop her. They only made her press harder.

A Classical Foundation, A Growing Fire

Denise's talent blossomed quickly. Choir, band, All-State ensembles - she embraced every opportunity. But it was the piano that demanded her whole heart and thanks to her High School piano teacher who greatly encouraged and influenced her to continue on.

She remembers the thrill of tackling the greats: "Chopin Scherzo in B-flat, Beethoven Sonata, Grieg Concerto, Bach Partita... these pieces pushed me to my limit and helped me grow musically."

Her collegiate training led to a full-time accompanist position at Benson High School in Omaha, Nebraska - a whirlwind of rehearsals, musicals, competitions, and Christmas performances. "Our show choir would perform around 52 times over Christmas," she says. "We were chosen to tape a promotional video for the Omaha Public Schools. Our choir competed in the Worlds of Fun AAAA Choir Competition receiving first place. The judge from Texas expressed his approval of my accompanist skills which gave me confidence."

Teaching wasn't her calling, but accompanying was. After moving to Brandon, South Dakota, she found herself rehearsing more than 600 junior high students split into two days, with six rehearsals daily. "This was pure fun," she says. "We did mostly Pop music of all genres from the 60s on. My director and I worked great together and we put on amazing concerts."

But even then, something deeper was stirring.

A Door Opens - And a Calling Clarifies

"Probably the biggest challenge for me was figuring out how to break into the music industry," Denise admits. But God had already begun arranging the steps.

A friend needed original material for a trio. Denise wrote ten songs almost effortlessly. "She wanted to know how I did it," Denise says. "I had no explanation except that it came very easy to me."

Christian music had always been her heartbeat, even if the industry didn't immediately recognize it. A magazine ad titled YOUR MUSIC CAREER caught her eye at Barnes & Noble. She called. She recorded. She was invited to make a demo. A label showed interest - until she recorded Christian music. "That was the beginning of my journey," she says.

Radio Breakthroughs and a Defining Moment

Working with Don Reed, Denise recorded ten songs and pitched them to KISD in Pipestone, Minnesota. DJ Mylon Ray loved them - especially two that received heavy airplay.

She was invited to perform on their live radio show, pitched as the 'GRAND OL OPRY of the Upper Midwest.' But one of the secular songs troubled her spirit. "The content was secular and one of the songs in particular was not one I wanted to be associated with," she says. "Upon hearing it on the radio I decided right then that I would never be a secular artist."

That moment became a line in the sand.

Finding Her Voice in Christian Music

Denise returned to what God had placed in her heart from the beginning. She recorded five original Christian songs - "Lord Lift Me Up" - and later, with the financial support of my brother, completed a full ten-song album titled "Light of the World."

The project gained unexpected traction. "This CD was actually selected to be part of the Pepsi Points Promotion

online," she says. "I was told the music was chosen based on popularity. I was surprised and honored."

She kept writing. She kept recording. She kept trusting.

Her Christmas project "O What a Gift" earned her a certificate from the International Association of Independent Recording Artists, IAIRA for top 100 eligibility. She created a Christmas video with industry veteran Eric Straton. She arranged for her music to be recorded in Nashville - all while raising four children. "I believe God gave me the inspiration, motivation and support of friends and family which I needed to complete all of my music projects," she says. "He put the dream in me and stayed with me through the entire process."



International Charts, Awards, and a New Season of Favor

Dixie of Triplestrand Productions out of Minneapolis, Minnesota heard Denise's album "My God Can" and immediately recognized something special. "She contacted me saying I had a hit, The song she chose to promote, *Though I Walk*, was being played heavily and DJs were loving it," Denise recalls. Her songs charted across Europe on the European CMA charts. Her Christmas single *The Real Meaning of Christmas* received so many spins that Dixie believed it "set a record."

She won a songwriter contest. She kept writing. She kept climbing.

In 2024, she released “Prepare to Be Blest” under the direction of Dennis Coker of Heartsong Pigeon Forge Music Group. The single *I Am Not Afraid* soared to #10 on the Cashbox Southern Gospel chart in April 2025 and entered the Christian Voice Magazine Top 100.

Then came the moment that stunned her. “In the spring of 2025 I would be one of the top 10 nominees in the Horizon Female category of the Christian Voice Magazine Gospel Music Fan Awards” held in Fayette, Alabama. She says. “WOW! That blew me away... TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!”

Her current single, *Work in Progress*, continues to climb, sitting at #19 on the CVM Southern Gospel Top 100 chart.

A Faith That Anchors Every Note

Denise’s musical journey is inseparable from her spiritual one. She grew up in a Christian home, but at 14, a summer camp invitation changed everything. “I made more of a commitment to live my life for Christ,” she says. Her parents modeled humility, scripture, and unwavering faith. “My dad never missed a church service... my mom believed pride was the worst sin in the Bible.”

She loved the voices of Evie, Amy Grant, Twila Paris, Sandi Patti, and 2nd Chapter of Acts. She listened to Billy Graham. She learned early that faith wasn’t just taught - it

“The only thing we can boast about is what Christ did for us on the cross.”

was lived. While studying the book of Matthew, one truth became her anchor: “The only thing we can boast about is what Christ did for us on the cross.”

Her mother’s words still echo in her heart: ‘Nothing is impossible with God.’ “Without my faith in God life would be very different and hard,” Denise says. “But with Him our burdens are light... He is always with us, guiding, leading, hearing and answering our prayers.”

A Legacy Still Being Written

From a worn-out player piano on a homestead farm to international charts and award nominations, Denise Edwards’ story is one of obedience, perseverance, and grace.

She is, in her own words, a “work in progress” - but one whose progress has already blessed thousands.

And she knows exactly where the credit belongs. “God put the dream in me,” she says. “And He stayed with me through the entire process.”



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ON THE ROAD WITH GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY

Worship with Molded Clay

Ken & Jean Grady

Ten years ago, a group was started out of Rock Hill, South Carolina, that wanted to be able to sing and share Jesus through worship. Darrell Duggins had a burden for starting a group and had a meeting in his driveway with Todd Sims which led to the creation of the group. Before it could even start, Todd was called to work in a church, so Darrell started the group with Joel Roberts, Merlin Powell and Wayne Langley. In trying to find a name for the group, Merlin suggested “Molded Clay” and the group began.



For ten years, the group has been singing throughout the Southeast U.S. with a strong focus on worship. As they travel, they take a bowl with some broken pieces in it as a reminder that we are all broken. At Bethel Baptist Church in LaGrange, Georgia, the pastor asked for a piece of the clay to place on the altar to remind the church to pray for the group. The next week, the church sanctuary was destroyed by a storm, but as the debris was removed, they found the piece of clay right on the altar.

Members of the current group are Darrell Duggins, Joel Roberts, James Beal and Jacob Mullinax. For 2026, the group is slowing down a little from their previous schedules to spend more time with their families. They will be spending about two weekends a month worshipping with churches.

One of the songs that they minister with is *He Didn't Throw the Clay Away* written by Gene Reasoner. “A vessel of honor, I am today. . . All because Jesus didn't throw the clay away”.



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

Krystina B.

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By Howard Cooper

13-Year-Old Credits God for ‘Miracle’ 4-Hour Swim That Saved His Family

In an impressive display of courage under perilous conditions, 13-year-old Austin Appelbee from Perth, Australia, swam for nearly four hours through rough, cold seas to summon help after his family was swept miles offshore - then humbly declared it was “God the whole time” who carried him to safety.

The dramatic rescue unfolded on January 30, in Geographe Bay near Quindalup, when Austin, his mother Joanne Appelbee (47), brother Beau (12), and sister Grace (8) were enjoying a family outing on kayaks and paddleboards.

Strong currents and deteriorating conditions suddenly pushed them more than two miles offshore.

As fading light and massive waves threatened their survival, Austin made a fateful decision. After attempting to paddle back on his kayak - which soon took on water - he abandoned it and began swimming toward shore alone, initially wearing a life jacket but later ditching it to move more freely through the choppy conditions.

For almost four grueling hours, Austin battled exhaustion, fear, and freezing waters. In interviews with outlets including the BBC and ABC News, he recounted how prayer sustained him every stroke of the way.

“I don’t think it was actually me [swimming]... It was God the whole time,” Austin told reporters. “I kept on praying, kept on praying. I said to God, ‘I’ll get baptized.’”

He sang Christian songs in his head, focused on good thoughts about his family and friends, and repeated to himself, “Not today (death), not today, not today. I have to keep on going.”

Austin alternated between freestyle, breaststroke, and backstroke, refusing to give up even as doubt crept in.

Upon reaching shore, the young teen ran over a mile to find a phone and alert emergency services. His urgent call to triple-zero (Australia’s emergency line) conveyed the dire situation: “We got swept out to sea, and we got lost out there,” he told the dispatcher, uncertain if his loved ones were still alive.



Austin (right) and his brother Beau, mother Joanne and sister Grace (left to right)

ABC News: Briana Shepherd

Rescuers described Austin’s effort as “superhuman.” Police Inspector James Bradley praised the boy’s “determination and courage,” which ultimately saved his mother and siblings, who clung to paddleboards for over eight hours before being located and brought to safety. All family members were treated for minor injuries and hypothermia but are recovering well.

Joanne Appelbee, originally from Ireland, expressed profound gratitude and relief. She had feared the worst for her son during the ordeal. “I had assumed Austin hadn’t made it,” she told the BBC.

Austin, however, deflects any notion of personal heroism. “I don’t think I am a hero - I just did what I did,” he said humbly in a BBC interview.

For this young believer, the real hero is clear: God answered his desperate prayers and gave him supernatural strength in the face of overwhelming odds. Austin’s vow to be baptized if he survived stands as a powerful testimony to the faith that carried him through the storm - both literal and spiritual.

One thing is certain: this 13-year-old’s faith will inspire others to look upward in their own trials.

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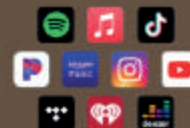
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Knight in Tainted Armor: Talarico Seeks to Rescue Christianity from Conservatives

Steve Jordahl

The Democrat candidate for the U.S. Senate from the state of Texas says he wants to rescue the Christian faith from conservatives.

James Talarico often leads with his faith on the campaign trail, although if you're used to evangelical Christianity, you might not recognize it. "There are many more than two biological sexes. In fact, there are six. God is both masculine and feminine and everything in between. God is non-binary," says Talarico, also a Presbyterian seminary graduate.

The Bible also champions abortion, has no problem with homosexuality, but opposes national borders, according to Talarico. He says as part of his senate campaign, he wants to rescue Christianity from conservatives. Thanks, but no thanks, says Christian apologist Alex McFarland, co-host of "Exploring The Word" on American Family Radio.

"Talarico makes much of his, quote-unquote Christianity, but all of his positions are counter not only to the Bible, but to historic Orthodox Christianity," McFarland told AFN.

A former sixth-grade teacher in San Antonio, Talarico entered politics in 2018 and gained attention for

walking the length of his district during his campaign. He has passed significant legislation, including capping insulin costs at \$25 per month and banning reality TV shows from filming police operations, known as Javier Ambler's Law.

Talarico is a 36-year-old Texas state representative and the Democratic Party's latest and greatest hope for winning its first statewide election there in more than 30 years," writes former conservative media figure now New York Times columnist David French.

"Talarico is one of the few openly Christian politicians in the United States who acts like a Christian, and by acting like a Christian, he reveals a profound contrast with so many members of the MAGA Christian movement that's dominated American political life for 10 years," French writes.

American Family Radio show host Jenna Ellis says French is blinded by hate. "His genuine hatred toward Donald Trump and the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement has informed his Christianity instead of allowing God to inform his viewpoint," she said.

That hate also blinds French to basic Christian theology. "To actually praise someone like James Talarico, who is openly advocating for homosexuality, saying that Jesus

himself was pro-abortion and claiming that type of politician is who represents an evangelical Christian in America ..." Ellis says.

Talarico trots out the "Christian nationalism" boogeyman as the target of his attacks, which McFarland says is odd from someone who seems to want to insert his own faith as the center of his campaign and policy prescriptions.

"What makes him very dangerous is that he is a political figure who presents himself as a minister. And he is a minister, all right, but he's not a minister of the Christian faith."

McFarland says that proves one thing. "The Democrat Party apparently is okay with religion, just not actual biblical Christianity. You can call yourself a Christian, but if you deny the Christian faith, you're not a Christian."

Chip Off the Old Ali: In Iran, New Supreme Leader Khamenei is Looking a Lot Like the Late One

Chad Groening

A national defense analyst says he is not surprised with who the remnants of the radical Iranian regime have selected as their new supreme leader.

President Donald Trump has expressed his disapproval over the naming of Mojtaba Khamenei, a son of Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as his successor.



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"Khamenei's son is unacceptable to me. "We want someone that will bring harmony and peace to Iran," Trump said.

He added a new leader "is not going to last long" without his approval.

Bob Maginnis is a national defense analyst and president, of Maginnis Strategies, LLC. "I'm not surprised because the No. 1 person was Khamenei himself. And as a result, he'll move forward with the same agenda as his father. Keep in mind that his father and he believed that God has called them to this time to do what they're doing."

Mojtaba Khamenei became an attractive candidate for Iran's supreme leader due to his deep ties with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), his role as a powerful behind-the-scenes gatekeeper in his father's administration, and his anti-Western hardline stance.

He built influence through control of the Basij militia, close relationships with key security and intelligence figures, and oversight of his father's political and security affairs, Reuters reports.

Not surprisingly, the IRGC strongly backed his candidacy, viewing him as a guarantor of continuity and ideological rigidity. His wartime service in the Iran-Iraq War and clerical studies in Qom bolstered his revolutionary credentials, while his marriage into the influential Haddad-Adel family strengthened political alliances.

Unconfirmed social media reports say Mojtaba Khamenei is hospitalized with severe injuries, incoherent and possibly on a ventilator. He has not made a public appearance or statement since being named his father's successor.

Trump's threats aren't likely to make an impact with him because death doesn't matter to radicals like Khamenei, Maginnis said. "His father died as a martyr; he will live until he is martyred if that happens. They believe that they are righteous. These people actually believe in some of this radical stuff. They're willing to die for it. So be it."

Californians on Path to Trump Anti-ID Democratic Supermajority

Steve Jordahl

An attorney in California is optimistic about the momentum behind a voter ID initiative.

Reform California has reportedly collected 1.3 million signatures – exceeding the needed 875,000 to add the initiative to the November general election ballot with plenty to make up for the expected 20% or more that will be deemed invalid.

"The California Voter ID Initiative has an excellent chance of not just making it on the ballot, but actually being passed by Californians," says Brad Dacus of the Pacific Justice Institute.

In 2024, legislators passed SB 1174, a law prohibiting local jurisdictions from checking voters' identification

during elections. Governor Gavin Newsom (D) signed it into law, but this initiative would effectively trump that.

Opponents of voter ID laws call supporters racist, but Dacus says their logic is what qualifies as such. "There are obviously politicians who find it in their best interest not to have this kind of an anti-fraud measure passed. The Democrats like to use racism as their basic argument, contending that black people are not able to use voter IDs or may not have voter IDs or know how to get a voter ID," the attorney relays.

Thirty-six U.S. states require voters to show some form of identification when casting a ballot in person; fourteen states and Washington, D.C. do not require ID at the polling place

In California, identification is required to check out a library book, to get on an airplane, to drive a car, or to buy alcohol and cigarettes.

Citing polls showing 71% of Californians favor the initiative, Reform California believes the measure is on a solid path to bypass the Democratic legislative supermajority and amend the state constitution to require voter ID when casting a ballot, require election officials to verify the citizenship of registered voters, and require the state to maintain accurate voter rolls.

If the measure passes, Dacus thinks it will easily survive any kind of court challenges that may follow. "This is simply maintaining the integrity of the voting process," he asserts.



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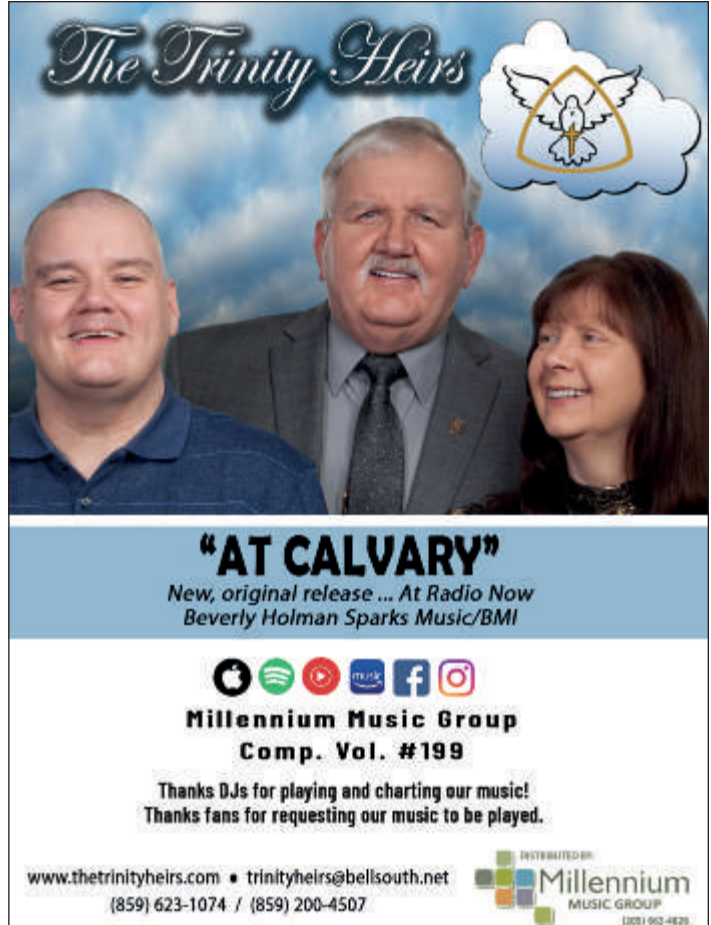














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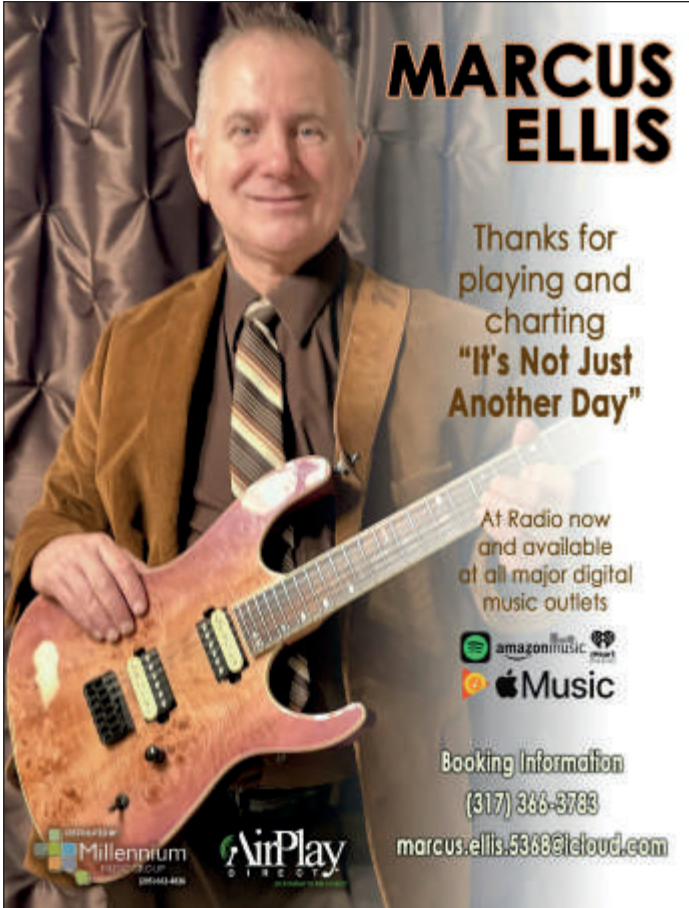
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A PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Wake Up, Church!

Jerry Roach

Have you ever heard anyone refer to the church in the USA as a “sleeping giant”? I’m not sure about the “giant” part, but it seems to me that we’ve become complacent, apathetic and lulled to sleep. Are we like the Laodicean church? Jesus said, “...because you are lukewarm and neither bold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:16 - NKJV).

In verse 17, He said that they “...do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.” Sounds harsh, but the Head of the Church speaks out of love in verse 19. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.” “Repent” speaks of change of heart, mind, attitude and actions. “Zealous” speaks of enthusiasm, passion and devotion. I don’t see a lot of fire in the church today. I do see a lot of empty programs and perfunctory performances that pass for worship.

Carnality is the #1 church killer. Where is the passion for Christ? Where’s the compassion for the lost? I hear revival

fires are burning around the world. At the same time, I hear North America is the only continent where the church is declining. God help us!

In Jeremiah 20:9, the “weeping prophet” said that the word of God was like a fire burning in him and he couldn’t contain it. Today, I have more fire in my belly than ever. I cannot be silent when I see my nation self-destructing. We look to D.C. and we see so much deception and arrogance. Our help and hope for changes comes from God. He alone can save us.

“Awake to righteousness and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God; I speak this to your shame.” (1 Corinthians 15:34)

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

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TOP 100 APRIL 2026

EVM Southern Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	7	That Somebody Was Me	Guardians	51	67	I Love The Lord	Greater Purpose Trio
2	6	Pray	Mark Trammell Quartet	52	70	Come To The Water	Judy Kellar
3	9	The Only Way He Knew How	Jeff & Sheri Easter	53	52	Highway To Heaven	Rick Towe
4	8	When Believers Will Be Leaving	Down East Boys	54	62	Carry Me	Lori King
5	11	All He's Ever Been	Chronicle	55	59	All Ready	Alan Frink
6	35	Behind My Praise	Brian Free & Assurance	56	44	I Surely Will Someday	New Salem
7	15	I Went Down	Kingdom Heirs	57	63	Fear Not	Gil Magee
8	13	I'm Gonna Make It	The Freeman	58	81	Grace Is Sufficient	Jonathan Wilburn
9	16	He'll Never Stop Being God	Sunday Drive	59	65	Walking Each Other Home	Gordon Mote
10	18	Where The Soul Never Dies	Joyful Sound Trio	60	87	I Just Stopped By On My Way Home	Kingsmen
11	24	Hard Trials Will Soon Be Over	Gaither Vocal Band	61	72	Count It All Joy	The Scotts
12	38	A Million Reasons	Perrys	62	56	The Big Move	The Masseys
13	20	Come Along Let's Fly	Keith Barkley & Family Tradition	63	66	I'm Not Worried	Jennifer Harris Gray
14	36	In The Middle	Gold City	64	75	Spread The News	Greg Sullivan
15	5	Be Sure	Shepherds	65	86	Sound the Alarm	Bibletones
16	1	I Speak Jesus	Karen Peck & New River	66	79	Saints	Kenny Evans
17	26	It Should've Been Me	Amanda Rosales	67	58	Where The Roses Never Fade	John Lanier
18	31	His Hand Can Reach Your Heart	Keith Buchanan	68	73	In Spite Of My Yesterday	The Kapples
19	33	A Work In Progress	Denise Edwards	69	76	Thus Saith The Lord	Jennifer Leanna Phillips
20	43	Say Something	Tim Menzies & The Isaacs	70	98	Wish You Were Here	Jonathan Bond
21	4	Deep Waters	Triumphant Quartet	71	57	Grand Homecoming	Lorraine Howard
22	14	All About The Love	Calvin Bridges	72	80	That's Who He Is	11th Hour
23	28	Overflowing	Kenny Keith	73	82	Show Me The Way	Going Higher
24	45	What's It Like At Home	Mark Dubbeld Family	74	85	We'll Understand It Better By And By	Collingsworth Family
25	47	Greatly To Be Praised	Melissa Evans	75	78	All That Glitters	Cathy Guffey
26	34	If The Good Lords Willin'	Doug & Gina Green	76	84	He Did It All For Me	Ernie Haase & Signature Sounds
27	64	Don't That Sound Like Heaven	Porter Family	77	99	One Nation Under God	John Westling
28	12	His Mercies Are Fresh Everyday	Carroll Roberson	78	71	When I Think Of Calvary	Violet Maynard Family
29	10	Soul Set Free	Kingsmen	79	83	Leave Me Alone	Greg Logins
30	68	Put Your Hand In The Hand	Ronnie Booth & Blackwood Bros.	80	90	God Shows Up	Wings Of Love
31	55	There's Coming A Day	Common Bond Quartet	81	--	At Calvary	Trinity Heirs
32	74	Sea Of Forgetfulness	Inspirations	82	94	Goodbye	Jenny Dean
33	2	More Than A Hollow Hallelujah	Isaacs	83	--	Symphony Of Grace	Austin Glover
34	19	On My Way Back	Donna Burke	84	92	They're Holding Up The Ladder	Allen Baker
35	53	You Can Sleep Tonight	Big Mo	85	88	Rise Up	Chris Perdue
36	42	Thank God For The Darkness	Barbara Jean	86	--	I'm Not Ashamed	Pearly Gates
37	46	So Many Reasons	Tribute Quartet	87	91	Address Change Notification	Susan Hicks
38	60	All I Need	Mark S Dubbels	88	97	Wayfaring Stranger	Debbie Bennett
39	30	Sent By The Father	Donna Kilmurray	89	--	Miracle Working Power	Latrell Lindon Pharr
40	51	God, You've Done Me Good	The Knight Family	90	89	Love From The Father	The Garmons
41	61	Let Me Tell Ya	Rhapsody Praise	91	96	You Me And Jesus	Robin Johnston
42	54	Lord Are You Busy	Loretta Jent	92	100	To God It's Nothing New	McKamey Legacy
43	77	He's Still Writing In The Sand	Troy Burns Family	93	95	Sweet Holy Spirit	Singing Byrds
44	3	Sow The Good Seed	Greater Vision	94	--	But I Believe	Ever Present
45	27	I Will Sing	Hoppers	95	93	It's Never Too Late For A Miracle	The Mayo Family
46	49	Bring Back The New Again	The Hagers	96	--	In the Holy Ghost	Ed Drury
47	37	Open Hands	Amy Michelle	97	--	It's Not Just Another Day	Marcus Ellis
48	25	Fired Up And Filled Up	Angela Seng	98	--	Victory Day	Anointed
49	69	Scars	Dean	99	--	It Is Well With My Soul	Susan Manion
50	32	I've Gotta Move	The Stones	100	--	I Am Saved	Tate Emmons



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TOP 100 APRIL 2026

GVM Country Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	5	If That Ain't True Love	Melanie Walker	51	86	Let Me tell Ya' Bout My Faith	Kali Rose
2	6	Blood Bought Cowboy	Marty Deroche	52	--	Whiskey Road	Michael Tetrick
3	8	Hand In Heaven	The Murphys feat. Abigail	53	69	The Journey	Joe Land
4	12	Get Out Of The Boat	Felicia Deramus Paul	54	77	He Lives	Ed Bruce
5	9	I've Been Thinking	Waymasters	55	95	When I Hear His Name	Victoria Steelman
6	16	New Man	Chuck Day	56	80	Build Me An Ark	Caroline Owens
7	13	Hannah Whooped The Devil	Jason Welch	57	73	The Way You Do	Michael Walsh
8	11	You Can Call On Him	Aaron Partridge and Steve Apirana	58	88	Give It All You've Got	Steve Anthony
9	14	Say Hello To Heaven	Steve Warren	59	49	Somebody's Praying	Michael Knight
10	18	Honey In The Rock	Mary James	60	78	Why Me	Jenny Dean
11	17	Living Proof	Ken & Kim Stull	61	59	If That Isn't Love	Bruce Minchey
12	20	Why Me Lord	Richard Lynch	62	85	Saving Grace	Krystina B
13	35	Three Nails And A Cross	George Strait	63	99	This One's For You	Rocky and Tamie Smith
14	27	Shout Of Testimony	Mike Leichner	64	--	The Bridge	Daryl Baker
15	23	Everything You Do	Norman Lee Schaffer	65	64	Don't Cry For Me	Teresa Johnson
16	3	Country Sinner	Victoria Steelman	66	81	God's Great	The Messengers
17	26	Pushing You Away	Mike McAdoo	67	82	Picture This	Jessie Ritchie
18	33	My Everything	Tarrance Phillips	68	91	God Is Good Ya'll	Wings of Love
19	29	In Times Like These	Bruce and Betsy Mullen	69	--	The Turn	The Pauls
20	4	Mama's Old Chester Drawers	Marvin Harrell	70	92	Brothers And Sisters	Ken Lehning
21	10	When Love Arose	Joy LaVallee	71	--	The Last Song	Terry and Debra Luna
22	55	God Don't Waste The Hurt	Gary Russ	72	65	Always Enough	Dale Rochell
23	31	Man From Galilee	Jennifer Sides	73	71	One Of These Days	Carol Barham
24	38	I Saw A Miracle Today	Michael Ray Fain	74	89	In The Morning	Hunter Logan
25	1	Anyway	The Pauls	75	98	Jesus Is The Way	Rachel Taylor
26	42	What I Got (La-De-Da)	Caleb Deramus	76	63	Waiting In The Water	Debbie Mills
27	2	Hallelujah	Dust and Grace	77	--	When I Hear His Name	Victoria Steelman
28	21	Footsteps Of My King	Todd Lee	78	--	At War With Myself	Cyndi Reynolds
29	45	It'll Be Good To Be Home	The Journeys	79	87	That's The Least That I Can Do	Greg Marlow
30	51	What I Don't Know	Paula Slow	80	93	Walking Out Of Egypt	One Voice
31	47	Somebody Bigger Than You And I	David Smith	81	--	There's Power In The Name Of Jesus	Jonathan Ray Smith
32	7	Even When I Fall	Thomas Brown	82	75	Country Church	Claude Davis
33	50	Warrior Of God	Mark Umfleet	83	--	Jesus To The Rescue	Beverly Brown Simms
34	36	Greatly To Be Praised	Melissa Evans	84	94	Tell Me That There Ain't A God	Jon Brennan
35	66	Blessings	Steven Paul McCollum	85	--	Let's All Go Down To The River	Steve Bruce Band
36	46	My God Can	Valerie Ellis Hawkins	86	--	Jesus Is The King	Ken Mobley
37	19	It's Never Too Late	Chuck Hancock	87	76	I Felt God Today	Heather Thomas Van Deren
38	34	Wish You Were Here	Johnathan Bond	88	96	Heading Home With Jesus To Be	Lizzy G And Jeff Naper
39	52	Take Over Me	Rex Robards	89	--	Getting Back Up	Troy Richardson
40	30	Daddy's Hat	Debra Camp	90	--	That's The Way Mama Raised Me	Luke Hendrickson
41	53	Meanwhile Back At The Cross	Ron Hemphill	91	--	If I'm Guilty	Thomas Brown
42	60	The Most Perfect Gift	Clare Cunningham	92	--	Just A Little Talk With Jesus	Ray Epperson
43	58	You're The Man	Judy Bailey	93	--	River Of Life	Sonshine Road
44	61	The Crossroads	Richard Sprayberry	94	97	Cherished Memories	Jeff Hamilton
45	43	I Feel New	J'Lee	95	--	Beverage Of Choice	Brother Daniel
46	68	You Can Talk To The Father	Richard Strong	96	100	Someday Things Are Gonna Get Better	Johnny Jones
47	39	No Thought To Pray	Jerry Weatherly	97	--	Snowy Sunday Morning	Biscuits and Gravy Band Indiana
48	67	Footprints In The Sand	Dwight Sanders	98	--	Somebody Here	Linda Lanier
49	--	Looking For The Light	Delnora	99	--	You Got It	Royel Clark
50	72	Love Like Jesus Does	Aaron Justice	100	--	Wayfaring Stranger	Debbie Bennett



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Name Of Jesus*
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Delnora



At War With Myself
Cyndi Reynolds



*Let's All Go Down
To The River*
Steve Bruce Band



The Last Song
Terry and Debra Luna



*That's The Way Mama
Raised Me*
Luke Hendrickson



Snowy Sunday Morning
Biscuits and Gravy Band
Indiana



River of Life
Sunshine Road



The Turn
The Pauls



*Just A Little Talk
With Jesus*
Ray Epperson



You Got It
Royel Clark



Beverage Of Choice
Brother Daniel

CVM Contemporary Christian TOP 50 APRIL 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	9	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann
2	14	Trust And Obey	Erica Campbell
3	19	God Story	Anne Wilson
4	13	Confident	Bri Babineaux
5	23	How Good It Is	Chris Tomlin
6	17	Words	Donald Lawrence
7	1	No Survivors	Jeremy Camp
8	18	Give You All My Worship (Ft. Leon McCary)	Marvin Dexter Moore
9	24	Your Glory 2 C U	Earnest Pugh
10	22	I Believe You	Megan Woods
11	3	Heaven On My Mind	TobyMac
12	20	Grateful (Ft. Friday)	Dante Bowe
13	29	Still	Crowder & Zach Williams
14	21	Place In This World	For King & Country
15	7	Don't Faint	Jekalyn Carr
16	6	Dusty Bibles	Josiah Queen
17	31	Don't Stop Praying	Matthew West
18	26	Give Me You	Me' Kayla
19	44	Praise In The Choir Stand	Brent Jones
20	16	Come Jesus Come	CeCe Winans & Cody Johnson
21	5	Jesus Loves	Zach Williams
22	30	Unspoken	Jackee H
23	4	Honest	Leanna Crawford
24	--	That's Who I Praise	Brandon Lake
25	15	I'm In A Change	Mack Holland
26	35	I Can Count On You	The Group Fire
27	40	Breakdown	Andrew Ripp
28	43	Let It Be A Hallelujah	Lauren Daigle
29	46	I've Just Seen Too Much	Big Daddy Weave
30	45	God Did It	Kenny Lewis & One Voice
31	--	Desperate	Jamie MacDonald
32	42	Church Medley	John P. Kee
33	39	Three Kings	We Are Messengers
34	12	Do It Again	Kirk Franklin
35	48	For You	Ashes Awaken
36	--	I Know A Name(Ft. Brandon Lake)	Elevation Worship
37	41	Church (Ft. John Legend)	Tasha Cobbs Leonard
38	37	Have Your Way	Katy Nichole
39	--	Goodbye Yesterday	Elevation Rhythm & Gracie Binion
40	25	Can't Steal My Joy	Josiah Queen & Brandon Lake
41	50	God Did It	Micah Tyler
42	49	Is This The Thanks I Get	Ashley Collins
43	47	Our King Has Come	Katy Nichole & Matt Maher
44	--	What An Awesome God	Phil Wickham
45	--	I'm Coming	Eddy Mann
46	--	Up + Up	Colton Dixon
47	28	Let The Church Sing	Tauren Wells
48	--	Counting My Blessings	Seph Schlueter
49	--	Thankful	Forrest Frank
50	8	Shine Like Heaven	Shekinah Grace Moyes

CVM Black/Urban Gospel TOP 50 APRIL 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	5	Do It Again	Kirk Franklin
2	12	Your Glory 2 C U	Earnest Pugh
3	7	He Was There	Marvin Sapp
4	8	Give Me You	Me' Kayla
5	22	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann
6	10	Church Parking Lot	Otis Kemp
7	9	Work It Out For Me	Zacardi Cortez
8	14	I'm In A Change	Mack Holland
9	4	Come Jesus Come	CeCe Winans & Cody Johnson
10	13	Trust And Obey	Erica Campbell
11	18	When I Think	Ricky Dillard
12	35	Praise In The Choir Stand	Brent Jones
13	29	I Can Count On You	The Group Fire
14	2	Grateful (Ft. Friday)	Dante Bowe
15	27	God Did It	Kenny Lewis & One Voice
16	17	I Can	Marcus Jordan
17	6	In The Room	Mr.Jae Tyson
18	24	Church Medley	John P. Kee
19	1	Still Knocking	100 A.K.A. The Messenger
20	23	Make A Way	Vashawn Mitchell
21	32	Unspoken	Jackee H
22	28	Blessings	Tanya Nolan
23	36	Nobody But Jesus	Josh Copeland
24	33	I'm A Child Of The King	Micahel GI
25	3	Let The Church Swing	Tauren Wells
26	40	Give You All My Worship(Ft. Leon McCary)	Marvin Dexter Moore
27	30	Right On Time	Fantastic Spiritual Voices
28	11	Words	Donald Lawrence
29	44	Don't Faint	Jekalyn Carr
30	19	Peace In The Valley	Lil Blair & The Fantastic Violinaires
31	15	God Don't Cancel Me	Rudy Currence
32	17	Yahweh	Jason Nelson
33	43	Nobody Knows	Prophet Yohua
34	21	Building Bridges Instead of Walls	Frozene Hayes
35	42	Your Name	Jovonta Patton
36	37	Rescue Me	Dr Leon Thompson
37	25	Misfits	Keylosophy
38	46	Confident	Bri Babineaux
39	41	God's Prodigy	Jackee H
40	48	In The Room	James Fortune
41	31	Like You	Mary Dailey
42	45	Count It All Joy	The Scotts
43	47	Lift Me Up	Blessing Offor
44	26	Still A Long Way From Home	George Carter & Gentlemen of Faith
45	49	Vessel Or Mercy	Jennifer Gray
46	39	All About The Love	Calvin Bridges
47	--	On The Way	Adia
48	--	Better Afterwhile	Donnie McClurkin
49	50	Church (Ft. John Legend)	Tasha Cobbs Leonard
50	--	God Has A Plan For Your Life	Michael B Kirksey



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CVM Bluegrass Gospel TOP 50 APRIL 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	4	Above The Clouds	Eighteen Mile
2	5	More Than A Hollow Hallelujah	The Isaacs
3	6	Even Better When You Listen	Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers
4	8	Follow The Leader	Nick Chandler & Delivered
5	9	I'll Never Feel The Fire	Tim Davis (Ft. Jeff Tolbert & Josh Swiff)
6	12	How Can You Refuse Him Now	Rhonda Vincent
7	1	That Reunion	Tim Raybon Band
8	10	Can't You Hear Jerusalem Moan	Hammertowne
9	7	Come On Home	Lakeside
10	11	Jesus Sweet Jesus	Mark Houser & Bluegrass Drive w/ Rhonda Vincent
11	21	That Sweet Land Of God Somewhere	Primitive Quartet
12	17	Jesus Satisfies	Danny Roberts
13	19	Good Time Get Together	Jesse Smathers
14	24	In Spite Of My Yesterday	The Kapples
15	26	There Is A Rock	High Road
16	2	Ready And Waiting	King James Boys
17	30	Are You Praying Hard	Gospel Plowboys
18	28	These Old Burdens	Williamson Branch
19	23	Blue Collar Gospel	Jerry Salley & The Oak Ridge Boys
20	25	No Empty Chairs In Heaven	David Parmley
21	32	The Outlaw (feat. Becky Isaacs Bowman)	Becky Buller
22	43	On The Battlefield For My Lord	Larry Sparks
23	27	Master Carpenter	Lincoln Mash & Heather Alley
24	3	Come Jesus Come	Grascals
25	42	I Am The One	Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road
26	16	I've Made It Home	Shelton & Williams
27	40	Little White Church	Crandall Creek
28	38	I Can Pray	Daryl Mosley
29	35	Heaven Is Your Hometown	Wilson Banjo Company
30	13	Build Me An Ark	Caroline Owens
31	18	Two Old Church Pews	Danny Paisley
32	39	I'm Just A Nobody	Eric Horner
33	22	Soldiers Of Heaven	Ashleigh Graham
34	46	That Eternal Home	Eagle's Wings
35	41	Angels From The Realms Of Glory	Rrinaco
36	44	I Found It All In The Blood	Bama Blu-Grace
37	20	Lay Em Down	Benson
38	--	Wings Of Love	Authentic Unlimited
39	37	Child Of The King	Daniel Grindstaff
40	45	When Jesus Calls My Name	Don Rigsby
41	34	My Lord Is Taking Me Away	High Fidelity
42	49	The Lamb, The Lion, And The King	New River Bluegrass
43	--	You Know What I Need	Authentic Unlimited
44	47	Rock Pile	Dave Adkins
45	--	Walk In The Way	Pitney Meyer
46	50	In The Shadow Of The Cross	Right Side
47	31	Jubilee's-A-Coming	Little Roy & Lizzy Show
48	29	The Truth, The Light, The Way	Darin & Brooke Aldridge
49	--	Touchdown Jesus	My Brother's Keeper
50	--	It'll Be Good To Be Home	Journeys

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TABLE & TESTIMONY

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Annie Ruth

Resurrection Sunday at My Table

April always brings a quiet joy into my kitchen. I believe Resurrection Sunday is a reminder that God still brings life out of places we thought were finished - and somehow, every year, my cooking carries that same message. Sweet potatoes roasting in the oven, pecans toasting in a skillet, sunlight warming the counter... it all feels like a small echo of renewal.

This month, I'm sharing two of my Resurrection Sunday staples: my Sweet Potato Casserole and a bright, comforting Southern Green Beans with Smoked Turkey - a perfect balance of sweet and savory on the holiday table.

Sweet Potato Casserole

Ingredients

- 4 large sweet potatoes, baked
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Topping:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/3 cup softened butter
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Mash sweet potatoes until smooth.
- Add sugar, butter, eggs, milk, and vanilla.
- Pour into a greased baking dish.
- Mix topping ingredients and sprinkle over the top.
- Bake 30–35 minutes until golden.



From My Kitchen to Yours

I always say, "The Lord knows how to raise things up - even what's been simmering a long while."

So as you gather around your table this Resurrection Sunday, may your home be filled with warmth, gratitude, and the quiet confidence that God still brings sweetness out of seasons that felt buried.

He is Risen!

Southern Green Beans with Smoked Turkey

A savory, slow-simmered side that balances the sweetness of the casserole.

Ingredients

- 2 lbs fresh green beans, trimmed
- 1 smoked turkey wing or leg
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- Optional: a splash of apple cider vinegar for brightness

Instructions

- Place smoked turkey, onion, and garlic in a large pot. Add broth and bring to a boil.
- Reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes to flavor the broth.
- Add green beans, salt, and pepper.
- Cover and simmer 45–60 minutes, until tender.
- Remove turkey, shred the meat, and stir it back into the beans.
- Add a splash of vinegar if you like a little lift.



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By Teresa Schweinsberg

Meet new Nashville Christian Country artist, Alex Ervin. At 19 years old, Alex has a maturity not often seen in ministry. With a pastor who was also his dad, Alex says, “I never knew life outside the church.” Alex says he grew up in a very stable household with Christian parents and was protected from a lot of outside temptations.

However, being a PK (Preacher’s Kid) has its own trials. “When your dad is a pastor, you are held to a higher standard than others. It took maturity for me to realize I’m going to mess up sometimes. I don’t have to be perfect,” says Alex.

Being in church all his life, Alex says he went to the altar several times as a boy when he felt he should go pray, but at the age of twelve, in a youth service, he asked the Lord to come into his heart. He grew up doing “normal” things outside of the church, like showing horses in 4-H and playing both football and basketball in high school. He was All-State in Ohio in both sports. He got a full scholarship to Wittenburg University in football, but de-committed and went to Ohio Dominican University instead. When he got hurt, he did not know what to do with his life without football, so he dropped out of college and started working in logistics as a broker in training.

Alex’s pastor is Troy Ervin, another Nashville Christian Country artist (*Preachers in Hell*), so Alex grew up around music his whole life, too. He even wrote his first song in third grade, which he noted as “a ridiculously stupid song with no rhyme.”

The Ervins have a baby grand piano in their home and with his father playing it, Alex, too, learned to play both piano and guitar. “Of course, with my dad playing Country and Southern Gospel,” shares Alex, “I have that influence. I also enjoy musical theater, Pop, and Christian Rap. I like great musicians like Ray Charles and Jerry Lee Lewis. My musical inspirations, besides my dad, are Ty Myers, Braxton Keith, and Morgan Wallen with newer Country components, but I miss the uniqueness in today’s Country. I sing a lot of Jason Crabb songs in church, like *He Came Looking for Me* and *Through the Fire*. On Father’s Day, I sang *Seein’ My Father in Me* by Paul Overstreet, a Country song in church. I am a mixture of a lot of musical styles. I like a lot of new Christian music, but my dad playing old Country hymns makes me still love them more than anything.”

Alex says, “The combination of Christian and Country music is me. *Never Too Far Gone* is really the first song I’ve written. I grew up in church and never missed a service, yet I could still feel like I was not perfect and far from God.”



Alex continued, “One of my favorite stories my dad tells when he preaches is about a man who was dirty and smelly but came to the Salvation Army wanting to be a part of it. The pastor at the Salvation Army was worried about the man representing them well, being so dirty, but the man begged him to be a part. Finally, the pastor gave in and gave him a uniform, telling him he must keep it clean or he would have to return it.

“The first Sunday the man came to church, the uniform was clean. The second Sunday, it was also clean. The third Sunday, the man came in with his uniform as filthy as he had been before. He was asked to give the uniform back. What the pastor didn’t know was that the man had been out in the woods all night chopping wood for a widow and got it dirty. The pastor realized the Salvation Army was built on helping people, not on legalism or keeping the uniform clean by being perfect. He allowed him to keep it.”

Alex says, “I want anyone who hears this song to know, no matter what you’ve done and where you’ve been, the Lord is always there. When you’ve lost your way, the Lord will still forgive you. You might mess up, but He never stops coming after you and loving you.”

Alex’s first release, *Never Too Far Gone* dropped on January 23, 2026, to all streaming platforms and radio stations. You may download it from your favorite music app or add it to your playlist on streaming platforms.

If you like Morgan Wallen’s music - but not his lyrics - and want a family-friendly song in that style, you have found that in Alex Ervin. This will not be the last you hear of him!

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