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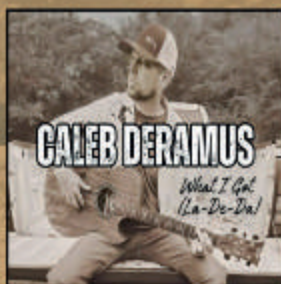
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FROM THE EDITOR

There are moments in the life of the church when a song becomes more than melody - it becomes a movement. For over thirty years, MercyMe has given us those moments. From the raw honesty of *I Can Only Imagine* to the holy urgency of their new album "Wonder & Awe," they have reminded us that worship is not entertainment, but encounter.

We live in an age of convenience, where everything is instant and nothing seems sacred. Yet Bart Millard's words cut through the noise: "This album reflects where I am right now... longing for wonder and awe - actively seeking the wonder of God and learning not to take it for granted." That longing is not just his; it is ours. It is the cry of a church that has grown numb and needs to be shaken awake.

MercyMe's story is not simply about a band's success - it is about a testimony that continues to call us back to reverence. Their journey from grief to glory, from small church sanctuaries to stadiums and film screens, is a reminder that God still uses ordinary voices to proclaim extraordinary truth.

As you turn these pages, may you be stirred not only by their music but by their message. May you be reminded that worship is not about novelty, but about holiness. And may you, like MercyMe, find yourself longing once again for wonder and awe - that holy reverence of the Lord God, Almighty.

Worship was never meant to be convenient. It was meant to be costly, holy, and filled with awe. MercyMe's journey reminds us that songs can be more than sound, they can be testimony, they can be prophecy, they can be a call to remember that God is not ordinary.

That is the challenge for us all in this new year - to leave behind the numbness of a world that entertains us endlessly, and to rediscover the wonder of a God who still speaks, still saves, and still stirs hearts to worship.

Remember, worship is not about us - it is about Him.

John

In This Issue

On The Cover

- 30** **MercyMe**
Rediscovering Reverence in an age of Convenience
by John Lanier

January Features

- 10** **Remembering...**
Glorya J. Wilson
Staff, Christian Voice

- 14** **Artist Spotlight:**
Rhapsody Praise
by Cory Parker

- 16** **Mark Umfleet**
A Warrior of God's Song
by Cory Parker

- 22** **Mark S. Dubbels**
Yielding to the Hand of God
by John Lanier

- 28** **When Worship Becomes Entertainment**
by John Lanier

- 40** **Violet Maynard Family**
A Legacy of Song, Service, and Spirit-Led Ministry
by Jackson McKee

January Columns

- 8** **Crossfire Youth Ministries**
by Gabriel Swaggart

- 12** **Margie's Meditation**
by Margie Tanner

- 20** **Enjoying Everyday Life**
by Joyce Meyer

- 34** **On the Road with Gospel Music Today**
by Ken & Jean Grady

- 43** **A Preacher's Perspective**
by Jerry Roach

- 50** **Table & Testimony**
by Annie Ruth

Departments

NEWS & SCOOPS

- 26** **CVM Extra**
38 **CVM Reporter**

RADIO AIRPLAY SINGLES CHARTS

- 44** **Southern Gospel Top 100**
46 **Country Gospel Top 100**
48 **Contemporary Christian Top 50**
Black/Urban Gospel Top 50
49 **Bluegrass Gospel Top 50**

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It's Different Now!

Gabriel Swaggart

“*Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*” – Ephesians 2: 11-13

The short book of Ephesians probably summarizes what it means to be a Christian more than any other book in the bible. New Testament scholar Clinton E. Arnold suggests that this letter outlines what it means to be a Christian better than any other book of the Bible. He writes, “It clarifies the heart of the Christian faith, explores the dynamics of a personal relationship with Christ, sets forth God’s overall plan for the church, and draws out the implications of what it means to live as a Christian.” (1)

As a result, the author of this article would strongly encourage every Bible-believing Christian to read the book of Ephesians and try to understand the heart of the apostle as he presents his theology to us.

One of the most exciting details that makes this epistle unique is that Paul is not writing to address any major problems within the Gentile church as he did with many of his other letters. However, unity is on the mind of the apostle. Truth be told, there is no love lost between the Jews and the gentiles as ongoing tensions continue to boil over.

Remember

In Ephesians 2:11, Paul begins with a literary term known as anamnesis, which means remembering things from a previous existence or experience. What did he want them to remember? He wanted them to remember that they were once godless and dwelt outside the covenant.

They were without Christ, aliens, and strangers, and they had no hope what soever. They were wholly excluded from the covenant and could not approach God the same way their counterparts could. However, something happened! These

same people outside of the covenant found the greatest gift they could ever know - salvation.

Take a look at this transition: Paul begins in Ephesians 2:11 by wanting them to remember who and what they were before they met Christ. Then, in verse 13, we read, “But now.” What a declaration! What a change! No longer are they without Christ, aliens, strangers, with no hope, and without God. No longer are they outside of the covenant. No longer are they far away, but now they have been brought near unto God through Jesus Christ.



Please think of the fortunate contrast of where the Ephesians used to be and where they are now. Everything the gentiles have lacked they now have in Christ, for they have been brought near through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. This is the most pivotal transition for the Ephesians because without the blood of Christ being applied to their hearts, they would never understand what salvation was all about. Take a moment to think about where you used to be. How lost were you? How far away were you? But take a look at where you are now and see just what God has done for you. You are no longer the same person that you used to be. Now, you are saved. Now, your whole life is changed for the better - all because of Jesus.

The only way for man to be brought into right relationship with God is through the blood of Jesus Christ. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. And with the blood of Christ being shed, the moment a person expresses faith in that finished work, he or she is instantly saved. It was the blood of Christ that bridged the gap between God and man. Man had nothing to offer, yet God, in His love, reached down and bridged the gap for man to have life and life more abundant.

The Sacrificial Work Of Christ

What is so beautiful about Ephesians 2:13 is that it contains two references about Christ - the only way we are brought near unto God is through Christ and the blood of Christ. These two details express the importance of who Christ is, what He has done for humanity, and why all believers everywhere should keep these two aspects front and center of their lives and ministries. Through the act of self-sacrifice, regeneration, reconciliation, and peace, access to God is granted to those who believe. By experiencing this great salvation, we share in a new life provided by Christ, which also means that we are no longer slaves to the evil nature. Liberty and victory are granted to all who are in Christ and washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Why did Christ have to die and shed His blood for mankind to be saved? First, man was set at variance with God due to sin. Humanity rebelled against God, turned on Him,

and worked all sorts of evil against Him. Due to the fall, humanity, as a whole, was separated from God both spiritually and physically. The only way for there to be restoration between God and man is through a perfect sacrifice, and man is anything but perfect. So, God provided the perfect man, Christ, to bring man back to God.

Second, Christ died to show man what love is. There is no greater way for one person to show another how much he loves than by laying down his life for that person (John 15:13). Not to mention that God revealed this love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

What Christ did at the cross was of the utmost importance, for without His sacrificial work, there would never be a way for man to approach God. Many believe that there are multiple ways to approach God, and most think it is through merit. However, the only way that a person can come near to God is through Christ. The Gentiles could not move themselves any closer to God through their means, and neither can we. The blood of Christ is the bridge that connected God to man, and through the simple act of faith in His atoning work, man can experience a right relationship with God.

¹ Arnold, Clinton, E. Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: Ephesians. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2010



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Remembering...

GLORYA J. WILSON

June 24, 1949 – November 16, 2025

Staff, Christian Voice Magazine

Glorya Wilson's life was a radiant testimony of faith, music, and ministry. Born June 24, 1949, in Dallas, Texas, to Charles and Joyce Julian, she grew up deeply rooted in family and Christian conviction - foundations that would shape every chapter of her journey.

After graduating from Sunset High School, Glorya pursued her calling at Christ for the Nations Bible School and Word of Faith Bible College, where she became an ordained minister in 1982. That same year, she founded The Mustard Seed Faith Ministries, launching a lifelong mission of evangelism and song. With a voice that carried both conviction and compassion, she traveled across the United States, preaching and singing in churches, bringing encouragement and healing through the Gospel. Her 1985 debut album, "I'm Healed, Set Free and Delivered," became a cornerstone of her ministry, and over the years, four of her songs rose to number one on the International Country Gospel Music Association Chart.

In 1993, Glorya married Robert "Bob" Wilson, and together they adopted their son Matthew the following year. Their shared vision for Gospel music led them to Hughes Springs, Texas, where they launched KNGR King Country Radio in 1995. Through this station, they created a platform for Christian and Country Gospel artists to be heard, nurtured, and celebrated. Their vision expanded in 2000 with the founding of Agape Fest, an annual Country Gospel music festival that grew into a nationally and internationally recognized event. Glorya's leadership and artistry were honored at the Southern Gospel Music Awards, where she became the very first recipient. Over the years, she received numerous accolades, including ICGMA 'Album of the Year,' 'Artist of the Year' (twice), 'Song of the Year' (four times), and multiple fan awards from CFM and TIMA.

Her influence reached beyond the stage. In 2006, the White House recognized Agape Fest and the traditions she helped elevate. President George W. Bush wrote: *"Music plays a vital role in exploring ideas, expressing emotions, and conveying the diversity of the human experience. Both Country and Gospel music are an important part of America's heritage... Today, we continue to be inspired by their message of courage, comfort, and hope... May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America."*



Glorya's gifts extended into writing, with several self-published books that reflected her faith and creativity. She cherished horses and horseback riding, and her warmth, humor, generosity, and compassion touched countless lives. Above all, her unwavering faith was the heartbeat of her ministry, guiding her work, her relationships, and the way she cared for others.

At age 76, Glorya (Neu) Wilson passed away on November 16, 2025. Her legacy is not defined by her passing, but by the countless lives she touched, the songs she sang, and the faith she lived. Her ministry continues to echo in churches, homes, and hearts across the nation - a lasting testimony of courage, comfort, and hope.

Carol Barham



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MARGIE'S MEDITATION

Christmas Prayer List for 2026

— Margie Tanner

As children, we all used to make a Christmas wish list. But growing up on a farm with ten kids in the family, we knew the list could not be very long. Usually, we would each get one special thing we asked for - and that could not be expensive at all. Then we would usually get some fruit or a little candy. Wow, how things have changed!! Nowadays the children's lists are very long and the items are very expensive.

I have not made a Christmas list in a long time, but thought I would make a Christmas Prayer List for this year.

The Bible tells us in James 4:2, "We have not because we ask not." 2025 has been a year of great unrest, destruction and violence, not only in our country but across the world. I ask that we all join together and earnestly seek God for the New Year.

We ask you, Lord, for the peace that you came to bring to this world that will flow through our land and into every heart. And we know that this peace will only come as we walk in a right relationship and fellowship with you.

We ask for healing that you paid the price for with your precious blood. Healing for every sick body, and healing for our land.

We ask for comfort by your Holy Spirit to comfort the hearts of so many that have lost loved ones this past year.

We ask for your guidance and wisdom be given to all in leadership positions, that they will lead our country in a way that pleases you, Lord, and that they will stand for biblical principles.

We ask that love, which is the greatest of all Christian characteristics, be manifested in our land regardless of race or social statutes or political views. That we would love our neighbor as we love ourselves. And do unto others as we

would have them do unto us. Your Word declares one cannot love God and hate his brother.

We ask that the soul who is living in the bondage of addiction, and feels that life is not worth living, knowing that satan seeks to destroy them with his lies that he will never be free - Help them to somehow receive a message of hope from some Christian or preacher and reach out and get a hold of that hope and know that God can deliver.

We ask that you convict the hearts of the unbelievers and let them know that you so loved the world - which includes them - and thank God the sin debt has been paid for all humanity. Help them to realize that you are the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6) and as you said to Nicodemus,

"You must be born again to inherit the kingdom of heaven" (John 3:3).

We ask that people would discern the signs of the times and know that the bible is being fulfilled. And that people would prepare their hearts for your soon return. Your Promises are true and you said, "I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am you may be also."

We ask that you give Christians and preachers the boldness to stand up for the Word of God, and as Paul said "I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation." It is the Word of God that will judge all men and not the opinions or standards that men have set for this evil generation.

God grant these things we pray in the new year, in the powerful name of your son, Jesus Christ

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RHAPSODY PRAISE

By Cory Parker

In the quiet community of Clifton, nestled in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, a husband-and-wife duo discovered that their voices carried more than melody - they carried a message. Joe and Sandi Matthews, known to audiences across the Southeast as Rhapsody Praise, have become a beacon of encouragement through their heartfelt blend of Christian lyrics and Country sound.

The journey began in 2018 when Joe and Sandi first sang together at their local church. What started as a simple act of worship quickly revealed a calling. “We realized we had a story the world needed to hear,” they recall. That story - rooted in faith, resilience, and testimony - soon found its way into nursing homes, community events, and eventually larger venues across the Southeast United States.

Their performances are more than concerts; they are encounters with hope. Whether in small-town sanctuaries or bustling city stages, Rhapsody Praise delivers music that uplifts and inspires, reminding audiences that even in life’s ups and downs, God has always been good.

To date, Rhapsody Praise has released nine songs to radio - all charting in the Top 50. Their latest single, *Let Me Tell Ya*, is steadily climbing the Christian Voice Southern Gospel Top 100, a testament to their growing influence in Gospel music.

Blending soulful harmonies with uplifting lyrics, Joe and Sandi’s artistry reflects not only their musical talent but also their authentic love for God. Each song is a testimony, each lyric a reminder that faith can carry us through.

Rhapsody Praise’s impact extends beyond the stage. Every Monday evening at 8 p.m. EST, they invite listeners into their living room through a Facebook livestream called Musical Mondays with Rhapsody Praise. These sessions have become a weekly gathering for fans and friends, offering encouragement, fellowship, and a chance to hear the duo’s latest songs and stories.

Their ministry is deeply personal. Alongside the music, Joe and Sandi share their testimony - stories of trials overcome and blessings received. In doing so, they remind audiences that the Christian walk is not without challenges, but it is always marked by God’s faithfulness.

The duo’s sincerity has not gone unnoticed. Pastor Doug Goforth of Bended Knee Cowboy Church in Morganton,



North Carolina, offered this glowing review: “This is a very good and dedicated husband and wife team who love the Lord and sing from their hearts. We at Bended Knee Cowboy Church have had them come sing for us and they always are uplifting and inspirational.”

Such endorsements reflect the heart of Rhapsody Praise’s mission: to encourage, inspire, and remind listeners of the joy found in Christ.

For Joe and Sandi Matthews, Rhapsody Praise is more than a musical project, it is a calling. Their journey from a small church in Clifton to radio charts and regional stages is proof that when faith and music intertwine, lives are touched and hearts are changed.

As their voices rise in harmony, so does their testimony: that in every season, God remains good. And through their rhapsody of praise, audiences across the Southeast and beyond are discovering that truth anew.

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For Mark Umfleet, music has never been just melody, it has always been ministry. From his first childhood solo of *Little Flowers Never Worry* to his latest single *Warrior of God*, Umfleet's journey has been marked by faith, family, and a fearless commitment to share the Gospel through song.

A Warrior of God's Song

By Cory Parker

MARK UMFLEET

An ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church, Mark serves at The Point Church in Forsyth, Montana. He and his wife, Dori - his college sweetheart - have been married for 30 years. Together they have raised four children, welcomed two in-laws, and now delight in three grandchildren.

"Family is the heartbeat of my ministry," Mark reflects. "They've walked with me through every season, and their support has made it possible for me to answer God's call."

Though he had sung since childhood and traveled with a Gospel quartet in college, Mark's professional journey began unexpectedly. In 2002, a coworker invited him to karaoke. Choosing Country songs, he was met with enthusiastic praise. Two years later, a county fair talent show opened the door wider.

"I sang Josh Turner's *Long Black Train*, and the grandstands erupted in applause," Mark recalls. The following year, organizers gave him a 30-minute set, and soon he was recording albums and writing original music. By 2011, he was traveling professionally across the United States.

In February 2024, Bruce Meyers, chaplain on the Rocky Boy Reservation, had a dream. Burdened by the rise of cartel activity on Montana's reservations, Meyers prayed for a positive voice in Country music to help reach his people. In the dream, God revealed that the voice was in a church in Forsyth.

That voice was Mark Umfleet. "Bruce messaged me at 1:32 a.m.," Mark says. "We met weeks later, and since then we've been working together to share the Gospel with the tribes of Montana."

Mark's ministry has not been without risk. He has faced threats to his life while serving on reservations plagued by cartel violence. Yet the rewards have been profound.

He recalls a young Native American mother who, after one concert, pressed a crumpled dollar bill into his hand with tears in her eyes: "I don't have much, but thank you for what you are doing for my people." Mark still treasures that dollar as the most valuable he has ever received.

Another moment came when Sioux children asked to pray for him. The blessing of a four-year-old remains vivid:



Mark & Dori Umfleet with their children and grandchildren

“Heavenly Father, I bless Pastor Mark with joy and peace.” Mark admits, “I went back to my hotel room and wept for an hour.”

In June 2024, Mark prepared for a street concert near the site of a cartel murder. He recalled advice from another minister who had survived cartel threats by carrying a life-size cross. Inspired, Mark wore shirts emblazoned with the cross.

“When a tinted car drove by, I turned and sang the Gospel while displaying the cross,” he recounts. “I wasn’t hiding behind the cross, I was standing behind it. Perhaps the cross saved me that day.”

His message to peers is clear: “Be strong and courageous, stand tall behind the cross.”

Mark’s ministry has earned national recognition. In 2021, he was named ‘International Male Vocalist of the Year’ by the Country Gospel Music Association in Branson, Missouri. He has since added titles including ‘International Evangelist of the Year’ (2024), ‘International Producer of the Year’ (2024), and ‘International Favorite Artist of the Year’ (2024).

His songs have charted across Christian and Southern Gospel platforms, including *I Believe* (#31, CVM Country Gospel), *She’s Gone for Good* (#28, Cashbox Southern Gospel), and *The Sinner and the Saint* (#14, Cashbox Southern Gospel).

Mark’s latest single, *Warrior of God*, was inspired by tragedy but birthed in hope. “It is a song of hope for the church,” he explains, “calling men and women of God to stand tall and true and in victory, and to shine a light in a dark world with the love of Christ.”

For Mark, every concert is more than entertainment, it is an altar call. “My mission is to share the Gospel through music,” he says. “From beginning to end, my concert is a call for sinners to begin a transformational relationship with Christ, and for saints to deepen their walk with Him.” His invitation is simple yet urgent: “If it’s by grace then why not you, and if it’s by faith then why not now!”

Mark Umfleet’s story is one of courage, conviction, and compassion. From Forsyth to reservations across Montana, his ministry reminds us that music can be more than sound - it can be salvation.

As one Northern Cheyenne woman told him after a concert: “Thank you for coming. Please, we don’t want to be forgotten.” Through his voice, his testimony, and his unwavering faith, Mark Umfleet ensures they are not.

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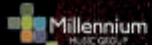





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Chapel Valley

The Violinaires have been an institution in Detroit gospel music since 1952, working along side names like Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, appearing under a variety of names; usually The Violinaires or The Fantastic Violinaires. The first version of the Violinaires was formed by Isaiah "Lil" Jones, Leo Coney, and Wilson DeShields in 1952 and led by a number of singers, including founder Willie Banks and Robert Blair, who led the group until his death in 2001. From the outset, the membership of the group changed frequently, but Jones, Coney, and DeShields were mainstays through the '30s.

Lil Blair established the Fantastic Violinaires in 2002, under the leadership of Colfounder, Michael Bue, subsequent to Robert Blair's passing. Robert Blair conferred his name upon Lil Blair due to their vocal similarity. Lil Blair proceeded to found his own group, Lil Blair and the Fantastic Violinaires, to commemorate Robert Blair's legacy, as well as J.C. Smith, Isaiah Lil Shat Jones, and Jesse McDaniel.




LIL BLAIR & The Fantastic Violinaires


He released his debut CD and partnered with Melvin Couch releasing a Rerally-themed record in 2004. A live CD ensued, followed by his "These are our Flowers" 2018 collaboration with Malaco Records on "Yes to Your Will", which earned a Dove nomination in 2011 and also a Living Legend Award. Lil Blair and the Fantastic Violinaires have performed alongside distinguished gospel groups. Lil Blair and the Fantastic Violinaires have embarked upon a novel venture in 2025, winning Male Artist of the Year 2025. They persist in performing across multiple states, anticipating the release of a new CD in 2026. Listen on your favorite radio stations for Lil Blair and the Fantastic Violinaires.

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ENJOYING EVERYDAY LIFE

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Joyce Meyer

We live in a very casual society today, and it's easy to carry this attitude over into our walk with God. Many are not as serious as they should be - allowing things in their lives that they really wouldn't want to be there if they thought Jesus was going to come back tomorrow. But God's Word is clear about what He expects of us.

Hebrews 12:14 (AMPC) says, "Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord."

Does that mean that if you're not living a perfect life, you're not going to heaven? No, of course not. It's what Jesus did on the cross - not our own efforts - that freely gives us God's favor. But if we don't live consecrated and holy lives here on Earth, we won't experience the abundant life Jesus died to give us (John 10:10), and we won't represent Him in a way that makes others hungry for a relationship with Him. *Pursue* is the operative word in Hebrews 12:14. To pursue something means you crave and go after it with all of your heart. So, this scripture is saying that if we are not *pursuing* holiness, we will not see the Lord. It has to do with how serious - or committed - we are in our walk with God.

If you have a deep personal, intimate relationship with God, you will want to change for the better. You won't be satisfied continuing to live the way that you were before Jesus, because the Holy Spirit lives in you - in your heart - and His job is to be your Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby (John 14:16 AMPC). "He will guide you into all the Truth" (John 16:13 AMPC), and as He does, you'll begin to see things in your life that need to change so you can be closer to God and become all that He created you to be.

I remember how my life really started to change after I got serious about my relationship with God and began studying the Bible. It's so wonderful to live with peace and joy and to have healthy relationships with my family and friends! It's made me want to continue spending every day trying to become a better person with His help.

God loves you, and He has an amazing plan for your life. The question is do you crave God with all of your heart and strength, or is He on the sidelines of your life while you continue living the way you want to live, regardless of what He wants? That's not the way to be happy and have the best life that God wants you to have.

Now, we all need Jesus because we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The word "sin" means to miss the mark - or God's standard - for us. But it also means to "miss" a reward. To miss the mark means you forfeit reward. It doesn't mean you won't go to heaven,

because your behavior isn't what gets you into heaven. But you won't enjoy the journey of your life here on Earth because you won't have God's wisdom and peace. And there will be rewards in heaven that you won't want to miss out on either. Have you noticed that you can catch the flu from somebody but you can't catch good health from them? Just like a healthy lifestyle is something we have to choose for ourselves, so is holiness. However, you can catch un-holiness by hanging out all the time with wrong people, willingly and repeatedly being exposed to sin. People who willingly live sinful lifestyles all week long but go to church on Sundays are not pursuing holiness.

God has a purpose for us, and that is to be a light in a dark world - to show others the love of God and what it means to live for Him. People can't see Christ in our hearts; they see what we do. That means we must make good choices even when everyone else is making a lousy choice. I'm not talking about putting on a religious attitude that is judgmental and critical of others. I'm talking about knowing who we are in Christ and living the life He showed us to live, over and over, until those who don't know God begin to want what we have.

We must remember that whatever God tells us to do, He always gives us the ability, by His grace and with His help, to do it. What sense would it make for God to tell us to live holy lives if He didn't give us a seed of holiness on the inside of us? So, when I teach on holiness, my hope is that it provokes you to get closer to God and not settle for anything less than His best for you. And He wants you to show others the love of Christ as much as you possibly can, wherever it's needed.

*For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource **Say Goodbye to Guilt**. 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

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

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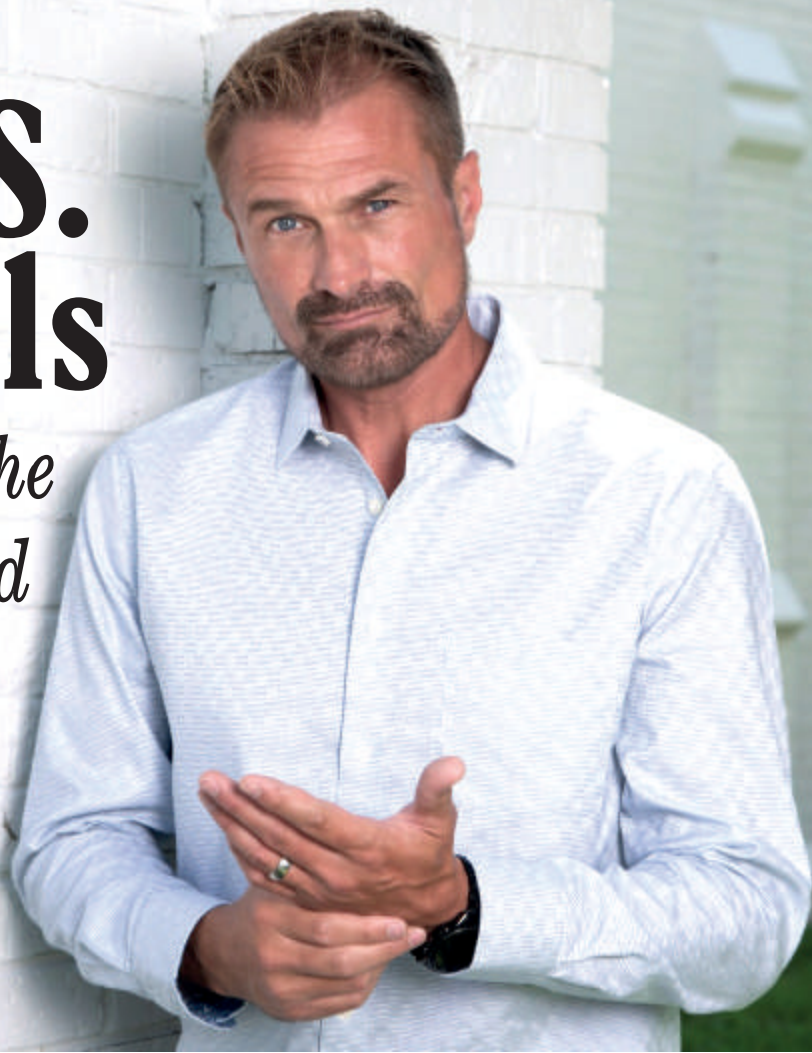

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Mark S. Dubbels

Yielding to the Hand of God

By John Lanier



From the pews of an Indiana church to the stages of worship gatherings today, Mark S. Dubbels has lived a life shaped by music, ministry, and obedience to God's call. His story is one of passion, perseverance, and a heart that longs to lead others into the presence of the Lord.

It all started with a solid foundation. Growing up in Indiana as a pastor's kid, Mark S. Dubbels was immersed in the rhythms of church life from the very beginning. He was in services several times a week, surrounded by the sounds of hymns and the cadence of Scripture. His earliest memories are filled with music ministry - playing keyboard, singing, and serving wherever he was needed.

From children's church to youth group worship teams, and even nursing home ministry, Mark learned early that worship was not performance but service. He recalls with a smile the church Christmas production where he played Young Scrooge, a role that revealed both his creativity and his willingness to step into whatever opportunity God placed before him. These formative experiences gave him not only skill but also a heart for worship that has never faded.

As the years passed, Mark's love for music deepened. He became a worship leader and a member of several teams, always with the same purpose: to lead people into the presence of God. Whether standing before thousands at a conference or gathered with a handful of believers in a small fellowship, his focus remained steady.

"I desire that intimate touch and fresh anointing that only God can give," Mark explains. "My prayer is that it will flow through my music and touch people to a point of life-changing relationship with God."

For him, worship is not about the size of the crowd but the sincerity of the encounter. Each song is an invitation to draw near to God, to experience His presence in a way that transforms hearts.

For many years, Mark resisted the idea of writing original music. "There are already plenty of songs out there to play

and sing,” he often said. But in 2019, he began to sense a nudge from the Holy Spirit - a quiet but persistent call to create.

Obedient to that prompting, he wrote his first song. What began as a single act of faith soon became a new chapter in his ministry. By December 2022, he released his first single, marking a milestone in his journey. Since then, he has written around 45 songs, each one born from prayer and reflection.

“If God will give me songs to write, I will be obedient and take the steps to make my music heard,” Mark affirms. His hope is simple yet profound: that someone, somewhere will hear his songs and feel the presence of God surrounding them.

Mark currently resides in the Indianapolis area with his wife. Together, they enjoy the outdoors, riding and training horses, and marveling at God’s creativity in nature. For Mark, these moments of quiet reflection are more than hobbies - they are sources of inspiration. Observing the intricacy of creation reminds him of God’s artistry and often stirs new melodies in his heart.

Marriage, too, has been a steady anchor. The partnership he shares with his wife reflects the same devotion he brings to ministry: faithful, nurturing, and rooted in love. Their shared life is a testimony to God’s goodness and a reminder that ministry begins at home.

Mark’s journey has not been without trials. He acknowledges his imperfections and the challenges he has faced, but it is precisely those experiences that deepen his worship. “I can sing and worship without reservation because I have encountered the life-changing love of God,” he says. “God is faithful beyond measure.”

This authenticity - passion refined by fire - resonates in his music. It is not polished performance but lived testimony. His songs carry the weight of experience, the honesty of struggle, and the joy of redemption.

Though relatively new to calling himself an “artist,” Mark S. Dubbels is no stranger to ministry. His songs, his worship, and his life reflect a simple truth: God is faithful in all things.

In a world often marked by uncertainty, his voice carries clarity and conviction. He represents a growing movement of worship leaders who are stepping into original songwriting, offering fresh expressions of faith that speak to today’s generation. His music is not about recognition, it is about obedience.



Mark’s journey reminds us that when we yield to the hand of God, He can take even the smallest offering and turn it into a song that touches lives.

From his childhood in Indiana to his present ministry in Indianapolis, Mark S. Dubbels has lived a life shaped by worship. His story is one of obedience, creativity, and grace - a reminder that God’s faithfulness is the true foundation of every song.

As he continues to write, record, and lead worship, his prayer remains constant: that through his music, people will encounter the presence of God and experience transformation.

Life is a journey. Passion is refined by fire. And through it all, God is faithful in all things.

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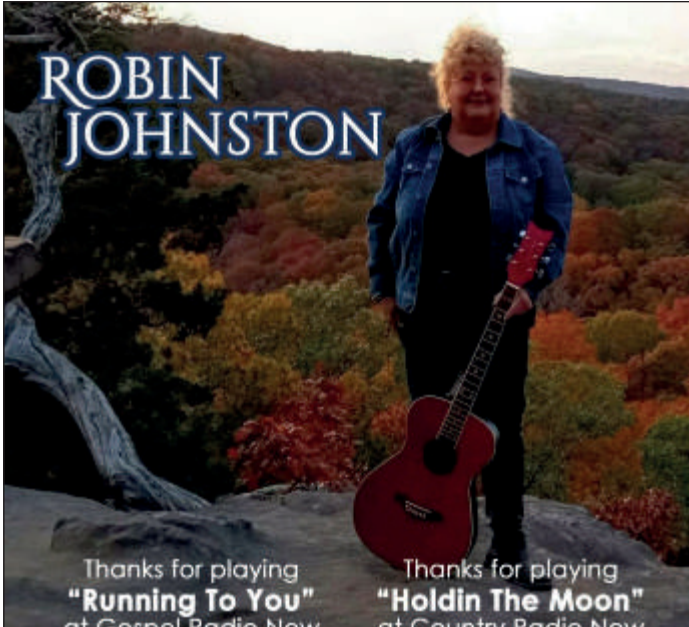
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Daywind Music Publishing Welcomes Adina Bowman

Daywind Music Publishing (DMP) is excited to announce the signing of Adina Bowman to an exclusive songwriting agreement.

Adina Bowman's songs have been recorded by a who's who of Southern Gospel music artists, including the Collingsworth Family, Nelons, Inspirations, Tribute Quartet, and many more.



Rick Shelton (Vice President of Daywind Music Publishing) and songwriter Adina Bowman

"I am truly honored and grateful to join the Daywind Music Publishing family," says Bowman. "I'm so thankful for the opportunity to create music that will encourage and reach people where they are, and I am very much looking forward to working with Rick Shelton and this incredible team."

Rick Shelton, Vice President of Daywind Music Publishing states, "We are delighted to welcome Adina to our songwriting

roster. Her talent speaks for itself, but it's her gracious, Christian spirit that makes her such a natural fit for our creative community. I'm grateful for the opportunity to champion her songs and help place them in the hands of artists and ultimately in the hearts of their audiences."

Daywind Music Publishing is home to an award-winning roster of songwriters including Lee Black, Jim Brady, Melissa Brady, Clint Brown, Riley Harrison Clark, Jason Cox, Adam Crabb, Natalie Cromwell, Marty Funderburk, Joseph Habedank, Mike Harland, Wayne Haun, Matthew Lawson, Tim Lovelace, Devin McGlamery, Karen Peck Gooch, John Darin Rowsey, Belinda Smith, Jonathan C. Smith, Sue C. Smith, and Barry Weeks.

Artist Chris Blue Unveils Artifacts at The National Museum of African American Music

Gaither Music Group and The National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) partnered on Wednesday, December 3rd, for a special evening honoring musical artist and DOVE Award-nominee, Chris Blue. Blue was the 2017 Season 12 winner on NBC's The Voice, and the first African American winner since Jermaine Paul's win in 2012 in Season 2.

Held at NMAAM's Roots Theater in downtown Nashville, TN, the evening featured an unveiling of newly donated artifacts from Blue's historic journey on The Voice, thus expanding the museum's permanent collection. The evening kicked off with comments from NMAAM Executive Director, Bill Jeffries, curator, Dr. Pierce, Sun Label Group's president, Paul Sizelove, and Chris. The evening also featured a LIVE concert with musical performances from Chris Blue alongside Byron Chambers (aka Mr. Talkbox), members from The Gaither Vocal Band (Adam Crabb, Todd Suttles, and Reggie Smith), and powerhouse vocalist, Tamara Bodie.

"Music is in my DNA. Sharing this moment with NMAAM and the Gaither Music team is something I could never have imagined or prayed for. It's a dream that transcends asking,"

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Pictured L-R: Artist Chris Blue, Paul Sizelove (President of Sun Label Group & Gaither Music), Bill Jeffries (Executive Director of the National Museum of African American Music), and Dr. Pierce (Chief Curator of the National Museum of African American Music)

said Chris Blue. "To have this honor woven into the fabric of Black Music History and to share it with a crowd of family and friends left me speechless. This donation represents that moment when my heart was also full of hope, trepidation, and ultimately thankfulness. My heart is overflowing with gratitude and thankfulness for or the goodness of God!"

"Chris Blue delivered an exceptional evening at NMAAM. Events like this showcase the strength of our continued partnership and the shared commitment to celebrating artistry, culture, and meaningful storytelling," said Paul Sizelove, President of Sun Label Group & Gaither Music.

Bill Jeffries, Executive Director of the museum, said, "At NMAAM, our mission is to educate, preserve, and celebrate the immeasurable impact of Black music. Our partnership with Sun Label Group and Gaither Music supports that mission, and Chris Blue reflects it. He captured the sound and soul of

Black music today. His performance is a powerful reminder of why NMAAM exists."

Carman Movie Casts Joe Chambrello as Lead Actor

A movie about the groundbreaking Christian artist is in the works.

Recently on social media, the team behind the upcoming feature film about the life of the late, groundbreaking Christian artist Carman announced that they have officially cast Joe Chambrello as the lead actor to play Carman Licciardello. The movie has been in the works for years, as it gets closer to production and has recently been picking up momentum.

Although no release date has been shared yet, the independent film's bio is stated as, "A street-fighting Italian kid from New Jersey in the 1960s who grows up to become Christian music's biggest performer of the '80s and '90s. This is the incredible life story of Carman Licciardello."

The film is being led as a passion project by YouTuber and producer Jack Vale, along with a team that is making this movie, as said, "the way he [Carman] wanted it to."

Follow CarmanMovie on social media or subscribe at CarmanMovie.com for more updates.



Carman, portrayed by the remarkable Joe Chambrello in the upcoming feature film "Carman: The Movie"



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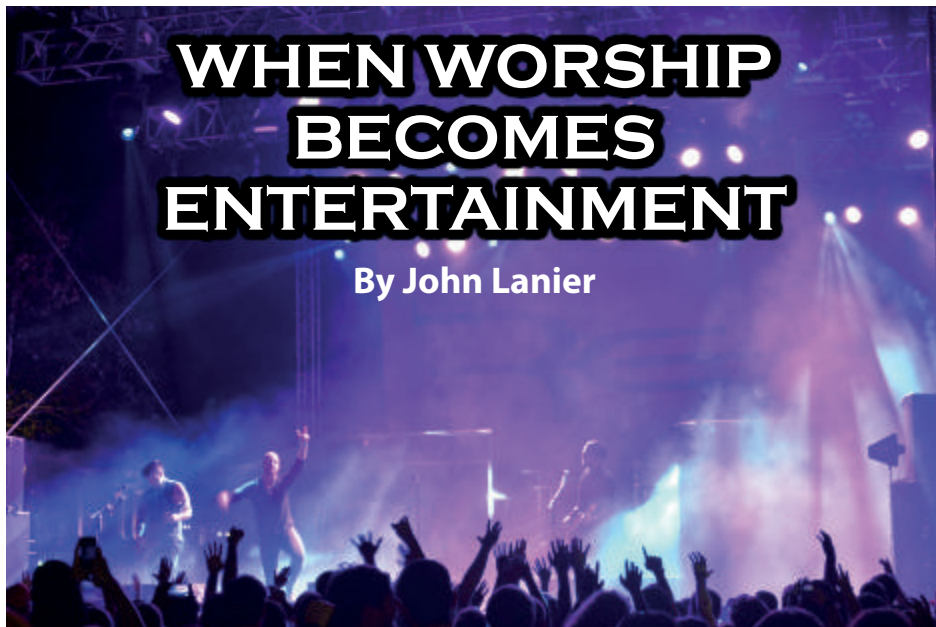
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WHEN WORSHIP BECOMES ENTERTAINMENT

By John Lanier



Contrast this with a band like MercyMe who, coincidentally, is our cover feature this month. For more than thirty years, they have resisted the pull of spectacle. Their lyrics are rooted in Scripture, their concerts feel more like church than show, and their mission remains clear: to point people to Christ. Bart Millard, the band's frontman, put it bluntly: "If people walk away from our music entertained, we've failed. If they walk away in awe of God, we've succeeded."

That statement should be a plumb line for the church in 2026. Entertainment is easy. Awe is costly. Entertainment fills seats. Awe fills hearts with repentance and reverence. Entertainment makes celebrities. Awe makes disciples.

There was a time when worship meant trembling before the throne of God. It meant reverence, repentance, and awe. Today, in too many places, worship has become something else entirely: a genre, a show. Lights, smoke machines, celebrity pastors, and chart-topping bands have turned sanctuaries into stages, and the holy into spectacle.

The danger is not simply aesthetic. It is theological. When worship becomes entertainment, the focus shifts from God to us. Songs are written not to exalt His holiness but to stir our emotions. Lyrics grow vague, designed to be catchy rather than convicting. Worship leaders become celebrities, their names bigger than the Name they claim to proclaim.

We see this trend most clearly in the rise of megachurch collectives like Hillsong, Bethel, and Elevation. Their music dominates the charts, but their theology often drifts into dangerous waters - prosperity gospel, modalism, and a fixation on "experiencing God's presence" through emotional intensity rather than truth-centered proclamation. Songs like *Reckless Love* or *What a Beautiful Name* may sound moving, but they blur the lines of biblical doctrine. And when churches sing them, they are not just borrowing melodies; they are endorsing ministries that spread confusion.

MercyMe's latest album, "Wonder & Awe," is a direct challenge to the entertainment-driven worship culture. Millard explained, "We live in a world where everything is convenient, everything is instant. But convenience can rob us of wonder. This record is about slowing down, remembering that God is holy, and letting that truth shake us again." That is the kind of worship the church desperately needs: worship that shakes us awake - not woke.

The truth is, worship was never meant to be about us. It was never meant to be a concert, a performance, or a brand. Worship is surrender. Worship is sacrifice. Worship is awe. When we trade that for entertainment, we lose the very heart of what it means to glorify God.

As we step into 2026, the church must decide: will we continue down the path of celebrity-driven worship, where spectacle replaces substance? Or will we return to the kind of worship that bands like MercyMe embodies - worship that confronts, convicts, and awakens?

The choice is ours. But let us remember: God is not impressed by our lights, our stages, or our charts. He is looking for worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. And that truth is never entertaining. It is holy. It is reverence. It is awe.

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MercyMe

*Rediscovering Reverence in
an Age of Convenience*

By John Lanier

There are moments in the life of the church when a song becomes more than melody - it becomes a movement. For over thirty years, MercyMe has given us those moments. From the raw honesty of *I Can Only Imagine* to the holy urgency of their new album “Wonder & Awe,” they have reminded us that worship is not entertainment, but encounter.

MercyMe’s story is not simply about a band’s success - it is about a testimony that continues to call us back to reverence. Their journey from grief to glory, from small church sanctuaries to stadiums and film screens, is a reminder that God still uses ordinary voices to proclaim extraordinary truth.

When Bart Millard first sat down to write *I Can Only Imagine* in the late 1990s, he never dreamed that a song born out of grief would become one of the most enduring anthems in Christian music history. “I wrote it in my bedroom after my dad passed away,” Millard recalls. “It was just me trying to process what heaven might be like. I never thought it would end up in stadiums and movie theaters.” Yet that simple ballad, released in 2001, went on to become the first Christian single to go platinum, now certified five times over, and eventually inspired a Hollywood film that reached millions beyond the church walls.

More than three decades after their humble beginnings in Edmond, Oklahoma, MercyMe is still here - not as a nostalgic act living off past glory, but as a band pressing forward with fresh urgency. Their latest album, “Wonder & Awe,” released in August 2025, is proof that they are not content to rest on their laurels. It is a record that confronts the spiritual malaise of modern life, calling listeners back to reverence. “This album reflects where I am right now,” Millard says. “I’m longing for wonder and awe - actively seeking the wonder of God and learning not to take it for granted.”

The timing could not be more relevant. In a culture where convenience and instant gratification dominate, MercyMe is sounding an alarm: convenience can rob us of reverence. The lead single, *Oh Death*, climbed to the top of the Christian charts in July 2025, a haunting reminder that mortality is not something to be avoided but a reality to be faced with hope. The album’s blend of Pop energy and stripped-down worship ballads feels both familiar and fresh, a deliberate attempt to shake listeners out of complacency. “We live in a world where everything is instant,” Millard explains. “But when everything is easy, we stop being amazed. This record is about slowing down, remembering that God is holy, and letting that truth shake us again.”

The band’s current tour has only amplified that message. MercyMe Live 2025 has crisscrossed the United States, drawing crowds in more than thirty cities and featuring collaborations with TobyMac, Matthew West, and Natalie Grant. At Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado, the band performed a sold-out show that doubled as a live taping for their upcoming film sequel, “I Can Only Imagine 2,” slated for release in March 2026. Fans describe the concerts not as entertainment but as worship. One attendee in Nashville put it simply: “It wasn’t just a concert. It felt like church. They reminded us that worship is about God, not us.”

That distinction matters. In an era when worship collectives like Hillsong and Bethel have been criticized for turning worship into spectacle, MercyMe has remained grounded. Their lyrics are rooted in Scripture, their ministry model tied to local church service rather than megachurch branding. They have avoided the controversies that swirl around celebrity-driven worship culture, choosing instead to focus on substance over style. “If people walk away from our music entertained, we’ve failed,” Millard insists. “If they walk away in awe of God, we’ve succeeded.”

The band’s story is rich enough to fill volumes. Formed in 1994, their name came from Millard’s grandmother, who once teased him, “Well mercy me, why don’t you get a real job?” That playful jab became a prophetic moniker for a group that would go on to define modern Christian music. Over the years, they have released twelve studio albums, earned multiple Dove Awards and American Music Awards, and been named Billboard’s Top Christian Artist of the 2010s. Yet for all the accolades, they remain focused on the mission that began in small church sanctuaries: pointing people to Christ.

Their upcoming film sequel underscores that mission. “The first film told my story,” Millard explains. “This one tells our story - how God used a band of ordinary guys to reach people we never imagined.” It is not just about revisiting the past but about showing how their music continues to resonate across generations.

MercyMe’s longevity is remarkable, but it is their relevance that makes them worthy of a cover story today. They are not simply icons of the past; they are prophets for the present, calling the church back to awe in a world that has grown numb. Their music is entertaining, yes, but it is also convicting, reminding listeners that worship is not about novelty but about holiness.

As Millard reflects on the band’s journey, his words carry the weight of conviction: “God can take our brokenness and turn it into something far bigger than us. That’s what He did with *I Can Only Imagine*. That’s what He’s still doing with MercyMe.”

Three decades in, MercyMe is still writing, still touring, still recording, and still reminding us that the heart of worship is not spectacle but surrender. And in a world desperate for wonder, they are offering exactly that.

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ON THE ROAD WITH GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY

A Week of Interviews - NQC 2025

Ken & Jean Grady

For many Gospel music fans, a trip to Pigeon Forge for the National Quartet Convention is a week filled with concerts, special guests, award shows and the opportunity to meet and spend some time with the artists. For Gospel Music Today, it's a work week at the On the Road Studio which usually includes about 60 interviews/CD Reviews.

The work begins on Sunday afternoon before the convention starts as we unload the van and haul our equipment to a special room designated for Gospel Music Today. Backdrops, lights, cameras, microphones, a table and seats are all placed in position for the week. The fun begins on Monday and for 5 days, there are interviews/CD Reviews beginning at 5 pm and ending at 9 pm at 20-minute intervals. Prior to arriving at the convention, the schedule has been made by contacts from publicists, recording companies and artists. Very rarely are there any available spots when we arrive. The week is set.



Lovely view of Pigeon Forge



On the Road studio all set up and ready!

A special guest at NQC this year was Elaine Wilburn, who sang for many years with her husband, Jackie, as The Wilburns. Their son, Jonathan, brought his mother to the interview and it was great to reminisce about the time that The Wilburns drove all the way to Rhode Island to attend one of our concerts about 20 years ago.

Another special guest was Reba Rambo, who was at the convention for a special Dottie Rambo tribute. Reba, Dottie's daughter, was part of the tribute and sang at a Daywind media event before coming to our studio to interview with Ken. She had some great stories about her mother.

Early in the morning each day, a notice is sent to the artists that will be interviewed, reminding them of the time and place for the interview. Upon their arrival, they are seated, mic'ed and given instructions as to which camera look at for the introduction. Approximately half of the week is interviews that Ken conducts and the other half is Jean doing CD Reviews.

Daywind artists are escorted to interviews by members of the Daywind staff; Dusty Wells, Tiffany Noecker and Kyle Johnson. One reminder for us next year is to bring them a chair to sit in. This year, they found the floor to be quite comfortable! Rebe's Cookies of Greenville, SC, made special cookies shaped like our camera clapper and they were given to artists and industry professionals.



Jonathan and Elaine Wilburn

Setting up the studio for no more than 4 interviewees became a challenge when Old Tradition arrived with 8 members. They chose 4 for the interview, but we did get a picture of all of them before they left.

Friday night, after the last interview, the On the Road Studio was torn down and Saturday morning, it was loaded back into the van and most of it stored and ready to go for the Memphis Quartet Show, which will be next June. Having enough interviews and CD Reviews to last for our weekly TV/Radio show is a challenge, but we are grateful to NQC Executive Director, Clarke Beasley, who allows us to do so much of it in a one-week segment. Until next year, so long, Pigeon Forge.



Ken interviewing Reba Rambo



Jean with all the members of Old Tradition



Jean with The Shireys



Ken putting mic on Danny Funderburk



Jean with Donna Journey



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Dem Who Wants to Help Parents with TikTok May Be Helping Himself for '28

Chris Woodward

A high-profile Democrat is bringing attention to a controversial age-restriction law in Australia because he wants the United States to adopt it, too.

Rahm Emanuel, a veteran Democrat politician, is applauding Australia for banning social media sites, such as TikTok and Instagram, for kids 16 years and younger. "I think it's time for America to pick up its game and do the same," Emanuel states in a minute-long video on X. The video published Dec. 9, the same day the Australian law came into effect.

When it comes to what he calls "our adolescents," referring to kids in the U.S., Emanuel claims either adults or algorithms will raise them. So, setting age restrictions, he argues, would help parents. "It's too much for a parent to push against Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, all the other social media apps," said Emanuel. "Our kids are way too vulnerable. It's too addictive, too alluring."

Emanuel's sudden advocacy on behalf of parents comes after he criticized the current state of public education, an unheard-of stance for a Democrat, back in October. The answer to "why" might be the former congressman, and former Chicago mayor, is positioning himself as a moderate for 2028 and the Democratic nomination.

Emanuel, 65, has stated publicly he is "looking at the field" in reference to potentially running for president. The longtime Democrat may be best known for his candid comment in 2008 about using political power. "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste," he said, referring at the time to the banking collapse and the related housing market crash.

In the X video, Emanuel compared the age restriction to schools yanking phones out of classrooms and laws restricting tobacco purchases. "Protect our children. Help our parents," he urged. "Strengthen our families and restrict all the social media when it comes to access to kids and adolescents 16 and younger."

Major California Hospital Group Set to End Gender Manipulation Procedures

Bob Kellogg

In the wake of a report from the Department of Health and Human Services on medical treatments for minors, a major California hospital has announced it's dropping gender treatment protocols.

Sutter Health has recently announced it will no longer provide interventions for gender dysphoria.

Greg Burt of the California Family Council says the HHS report thoroughly discredited such treatments of its peer-reviewed report. "Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who's the HHS secretary, you know, he called this not medicine. It's malpractice, and I'm glad the federal government is finally standing up to these really big medical organizations."

According to a 2025 ranking of U.S. health systems, Sutter, which serves roughly 3.5 million patients and employs more than 57,000, ranks among the top 20 health systems nationally. It's currently worth \$18.2 billion.

Burt reports California's Attorney General Rob Bonta is falsely contending California law protects such interventions. He says Sutter and other medical institutions aren't buying it.

"He's going around threatening healthcare facilities that they have to provide these treatments as some kind of equal rights issue. But really, these hospitals realize that the bigger threat is not from the attorney general. The bigger threat is from the children themselves."

At the same time, the pro-trans activist group Rainbow Families Action (RFA) has published an open letter condemning Sutter's decision, calling it "unconscionably cruel."

An announcement in late November left trans families little time to prepare for "an unnecessary and destabilizing disruption to essential, evidence-based medical care," RFA reported.



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Trump, Hegseth Being Condemned for Actions Presidents of Both Stripes Have Taken for Years

Steve Jordahl

Democrats and their media allies are raging against President Donald Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth for something their predecessors did routinely.

Back at the beginning of September, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth authorized a strike on a drug boat suspected of ferrying fentanyl to American shores. Two of the alleged narco-terrorists survived the first blast so the military send a second shot that allegedly killed the two survivors of the first strike.

Democrats are yelling "war crimes" from the rafters and the mainstream media is picking up the charge.

Former Pentagon analyst Col. Bob Maginnis says the boat was a legitimate target. "Article 2 gives President Trump the authority to do what was deemed appropriate here, and that is a shipment of fentanyl coming to the United States, and fentanyl, of course, is a weapon of mass destruction that kills tens of thousands of Americans every year."

Maginnis says he served at the Pentagon for 25 years and attended many of the types of meetings where Secretary Hegseth is alleged to have ordered the second strike with the command "kill them all."

"I have never, and not once, heard a senior Pentagon leader give an order that sounds remotely like what the Washington Post has claimed. Not in wartime, not in any crisis, not behind closed doors."

But Trump and Hegseth are far from the first military leaders to call for kinetic action against drug traffickers. Joe Biden was gung-ho for the idea in 1989. "Let's go after the drug lords where they live, with an international strike force. There must be no safe haven for these narco-terrorists, and they must know it," Biden said then.

Gary Bauer of American Values says Democrats are making accusations against Trump into a performative art of some sort. "Things that have been done for years by both Republicans and Democrats are now being called unprecedented. Nobody has ever done what Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth are doing," said Bauer, mimicking the calls of critics.

Chick-fil-A Caught in Another LGBTQ Controversy

Steve Jordahl

A Chick-fil-A in Orem, Utah, posted pictures on its Facebook page of a homosexual couple that had just been through a marriage ceremony, along with warm congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

The fast food franchise that champions Christianity shocked customers by posting warm congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple of a same-sex marriage, reports The Washington Stand. The caption above the two pictures of a gay couple hugging in the parking lot outside of the Chick-fil-A reads, "Dougie & Toby recently got married and we are so beyond happy for them!"

Chick-fil-A chains are run by individual operators, which were responsible for the post. However, it is very telling that company has not completely delt with the LGBTQ ideology that is responsible for the controversy and backlash they received several years ago.

Suzanne Bowdey, senior writing at the Family Research Council, tells AFN how she feels about it. "I can't imagine an owner operator would think, 'hey, it's okay to say I want to be open on Sunday.' So why can they say, 'oh, I want to embrace values that Chick-fil-A as a corporation does not?'" questions Bowdey.

She says that Chick-fil-A's fall from grace started years ago when they were bullied out of supporting the Salvation Army and Fellowship of Christian Athletes in 2019, instead sending money to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

"The disgraced racist organization (SPLC) inspired a gunman to come to our building, Family Research Council, and shoot Leo Johnson and try to murder as many staff members as possible for our marriage views," informs Bowdey.

Bowdey says that it is a complete about-face from the company that now-U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee went to bat for in 2012, when the franchise was the target of LGBT hatred. "Mike Huckabee has since come out in 2023 and said one of his biggest regrets of his entire career is rallying people behind Chick-fil-A," states Bowdey.

She says that the restaurant still puts Bible verses on its drink cups and is referred to as "God's Chicken" by many Christians. "This is a company that profits off of its Christian reputation. So, in my opinion, they should be held to a higher standard," concludes Bowdey.



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Violet Maynard FAMILY

*A Legacy of Song, Service,
and Spirit-Led Ministry*

By Jackson McKee

In a world where ministry often shifts with trends and technology, some families stand as steady reminders of what it means to serve God with purity, passion, and purpose. The Violet Maynard Family - comprised of mother-and-son duet Violet and Joshua Maynard, supported faithfully by husband and father Will Maynard as sound technician - embodies that kind of steadfast devotion. Their music is more than harmony; it is heritage. Their ministry is more than performance; it is calling.

Together, they form a family team whose sound is rooted in generations of faith and whose mission is anchored in the unchanging Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Childhood Shaped by Ministry

For Violet, the desire to travel and sing for the Lord began long before she ever stepped onto a stage. “I’ve wanted to sing for the Lord for as long as I can remember,” she reflects. Saved at the age of nine, she grew up immersed in ministry alongside her parents. Her father, Rev. Dave Bevins Jr., was both pastor and evangelist, and wherever he preached, Violet and her mother, Joanna, sang.

Those early years were formative. Violet was often called upon to play piano for churches they visited, accompanying her parents or stepping in wherever needed. “Being a preacher and pastor’s daughter, you get to fill a lot of the open positions in the church,” she laughs. “I enjoyed getting to work in the church with my dad. I loved working with the kids, and I especially enjoyed anything associated with singing and music.”

By age thirteen, Violet was already booking Gospel groups for her home church, an unusual responsibility for someone so young. She remembers the reactions vividly: “I always loved the shock factor when a new artist I booked found out that I was the person that booked them. They didn’t expect a young girl when they arrived at the church!”

Those experiences were more than tasks; they were training ground. Traveling, playing instruments, singing with her family, and working behind the scenes prepared her for the ministry God would one day entrust to her.

A Son Steps Into His Calling

Joshua’s story mirrors his mother’s in many ways. Saved at age nine, he too began traveling in ministry early. When he joined the family on the road, his sister Holly was already singing with their mother. Though Holly later stepped away from traveling, Joshua continued, and soon became an indispensable part of the ministry.

His musical curiosity emerged quickly. While drums were his first love, he began playing bass guitar for the family, eventually mastering several instruments. Over time, the acoustic guitar became his primary instrument of choice.

Joshua’s love for music runs deep. “Music is filled with a vast amount of possibilities,” he says. “It amazes me how many different sounds we can experience out of an instrument. For me, I love how music can help communicate our most complex emotions, even when words fail. There should be no reason why we can’t find so much meaning out of just vibrating wood and metal. It is truly a miracle we encounter every day, whether we realize it or not. Maybe most things are like that too.”

His ministry extends beyond the family stage. Joshua plays guitar for his church choir, assists with Bible Study and Sunday School, and teaches private guitar lessons - bass,

acoustic, and electric - both in person and online. His heart for discipleship is as evident as his musical talent.

A Family Ministry With Many Expressions

While Violet and Joshua share vocal duties, songwriting, and instrumentation, the ministry would not be complete without Will, who serves faithfully as their sound technician.

His behind-the-scenes work ensures that every note, every lyric, and every testimony is delivered with excellence.



Beyond the family band, Violet’s ministry continues to expand. She is a sought-after speaker at women’s conferences, hosts a weekly radio program called “The Violet Show,” and writes magazine articles. When she’s home, she serves as pianist for her church and participates in the ladies’ ministry group.

Their lives are full, but their calling is clear.

Recognition Rooted in Humility

The Violet Maynard Family has received multiple fan-voted nominations and awards, including Christian Voice Magazine’s ‘Southern Gospel Duet of the Year’ and ‘Horizon Southern Gospel Group of the Year.’ Violet says, “We are

very honored to receive these nominations and awards.” Yet, for this family, accolades are never the goal, they are simply affirmations of God’s favor.

Their music has also found national success. Their single, *Giving It All To You*, written by both Violet and Joshua, charted consistently in the Top 10. Their current single, *When I Think of Calvary*, also written by the duo, is climbing both the Christian Voice and Cashbox charts.

A Ministry With Eternal Purpose

For Violet, the heart of their ministry is simple: “We are blessed to travel and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Making a difference, touching lives and seeing souls saved is our goal. Everything else that we get, in addition to that, is a bonus blessing.”

Joshua echoes that sentiment with equal sincerity: “If a song we sing touches someone’s heart and helps them in their walk with the Lord, it makes it all worth it.”



Their music is not entertainment - it is invitation. Their concerts are not performances - they are moments of ministry. Their songs are not merely melodies - they are messages of hope, grace, and redemption.

A Legacy Still Being Written

The Violet Maynard Family stands as a testament to what God can do through a family fully surrendered to His call. From Violet’s childhood days traveling with her parents, to Joshua’s early steps into music and ministry, to Will’s faithful support behind the scenes, their story is one of generational faithfulness.

Their harmonies carry history. Their songs carry testimony. Their ministry carries the Gospel.

And as long as God continues to open doors, this family will continue to walk through them – together - carrying the message of Jesus Christ to every church, every stage, and every heart willing to listen.

www.violetmaynardfamily.com

Jerry Weatherly

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A PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

God Goes with You

Jerry Roach

So many are going through most difficult and troubling times. As I write this, I think of individuals to whom we are ministering. One recently expressed these words, "I feel like I am drowning." Some of you identify with such a feeling. Perhaps you've been through deep troubling waters or a dark valley.

Maybe you're in such a place right now. Please know God has not abandoned you nor has He forgotten you.

I'm reminded of Job, a man that God declared as "perfect and upright...and feared God, and eschewed (avoided) evil." (Job 1:1). Job lost his health, his wealth, his family...and he questioned where is God?

He had lost everything, but he held on by faith. "...I cannot see Him (God), but He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:9-10) And he did! Read the last chapter. "...So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning." (Job 42:12)

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

Isaiah 43

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

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

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

Isaiah:41

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

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

Isaiah 40

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

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

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

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

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



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TOP 100

JANUARY 2026

CVM Southern Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	3	I Will Sing	Hoppers	51	67	Peace In The Valley	Lil Blair & The Fantastic Violinaires
2	4	Satisfied	Jonathan Willburn	52	43	My Name's Already There	Inspirations
3	5	His Mercies Are Fresh Everyday	Carroll Roberson	53	62	A Work In Progress	Denise Edwards
4	8	I'm A Believer	Troy Burns Family	54	66	I've Gotta Move	The Stones
5	7	Troubled	LeFevre Quartet	55	81	Ain't My Jesus Something	Amanda Joy Powell
6	6	Symphony Of Grace	Austin Glover	56	84	Robes Of Pure White	Heartland Quartet
7	18	More Than A Hollow Hallelujah	Isaacs	57	68	Thank God For The Darkness	Barbara Jean
8	13	Turn To The Right	Greg Sullivan	58	70	Open Hands	Amy Michelle
9	19	Be Sure	Shepherds	59	72	Highway To Heaven	Rick Towle
10	16	There's A Miracle Comin'	Judi Kellar	60	77	It Should've Been Me	Amanda Rosales
11	26	Soul Set Free	Kingsmen	61	--	I Speak Jesus	Karen Peck & New River
12	37	Sow The Good Seed	Greater Vision	62	73	He Keeps The Son	Rocky & Tamie
13	1	You Can Know How It Feels	Dean with Ronnie Hinson	63	74	Where The Roses Never Fade	John Lanier
14	29	Ain't Lookin' For Trouble	Mark Dubbeld Family	64	82	The Big Move	The Masseys
15	24	Faith Song	Megan Brianna	65	90	Where The Soul Never Dies	Joyful Sound Trio
16	32	Home Is Always Where I'd Rather Be	Believer's Voice	66	--	Pray	Mark Trammell Quartet
17	36	Second Time Around	Port City Quartet	67	93	If The Good Lords Willin'	Doug & Gina Green
18	30	According To John	Mark & Cindy Maynard	68	69	When I Think Of Calvary	Violet Maynard Family
19	2	Tell The Devil	Joseph Habedank	69	79	Sailing Away	Mike Keller with Bob Sellers
20	31	On My Way Back	Donna Burke	70	--	That Somebody Was Me	Guardians
21	34	What A Friend	Oxendine Family	71	57	Thank God I'm Free	Applied
22	11	It Was The Cross	Bruce Sechrest	72	--	He'll Never Stop Being God	Sunday Drive
23	35	Go Ahead And Shout	Sacred Call	73	41	What I Need Today	Dave Melton Family
24	20	Hand On The Plow	Porter Family	74	75	All Ready	Alan Frink
25	25	Deep Waters	Triumphant Quartet	75	76	Carry Me	Lori King
26	12	Undeclared	Steeles	76	85	Overflowing	Kenny Keith
27	39	Fired Up And Filled Up	Angela Seng	77	95	Saved Delivered & Healed	Craig Stone
28	14	It's Still The Blood	Allen Baker	78	--	I Went Down	Kingdom Heirs
29	22	Come On Down The Road	Journey N Faith	79	87	Fear Not	Gil Magee
30	27	Jesus Guy	Jeff Arrandale	80	78	Not As Much As God Does	Donna Frost
31	53	I Surely Will Someday	New Salem	81	89	Bring Back The New Again	The Hagers
32	88	When Believers Will Be Leaving	Down East Boys	82	98	Upon A Cross	John Westling
33	17	I'll Never Get Over	Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call	83	--	A Million Reasons	Perrys
34	40	All About The Love	Calvin Bridges	84	--	The Only Way He Knew How	Jeff & Sheri Easter
35	21	Rise Up	Gold City	85	94	Take My Hand	Expectation
36	28	Rescue The Perishing	The Trinity Heirs	86	96	I'm Not Worried	Jennifer Harris Gray
37	59	Sent By The Father	Donna Kilmurray	87	--	I'm Gonna Make It	The Freeman
38	--	All He's Ever Been	Chronicle	88	86	Carried To The Table	Sandi & Kagan Ministries
39	49	Come Along Let's Fly	Keith Barkley & Family Tradition	89	99	Let Me Tell Ya	Rhapsody Praise
40	65	Grand Homecoming	Lorraine Howard	90	--	Loving You	Nelons
41	80	My Home In Glory	Jonathan Bond	91	97	I Love The Lord	Greater Purpose Trio
42	23	Pray Til Something Happens	Taylor Brothers	92	92	All That Glitters	Cathy Guffey
43	54	Trusting And Depending	Chosen	93	--	Behind My Praise	Brian Free & Assurance
44	15	We Need Revival	3 Heath Brothers	94	100	In Spite Of My Yesterday	The Kapples
45	50	The Name Is Jesus	Wendy Jones	95	--	So Many Reasons	Tribute Quartet
46	56	His Hand Can Reach Your Heart	Keith Buchanan	96	--	There's Coming A Day	Common Bond Quartet
47	61	Jesus Is Alive And Well	Lena Aldridge	97	--	Lord Are You Busy	Loretta Jent
48	44	I Blame Jesus	Ever-Present	98	--	All I Need	Mark S Dubbels
49	58	Father Forgive Me	Michael Walsh	99	--	Thus Saith The Lord	Jennifer Leanna Phillips
50	48	Lily Of The Valley	Tammy Caldwell	100	--	Stand Tall	Hyssongs



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TOP 100 JANUARY 2026

CWM Country Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	3	Somebody's Praying	Michael Knight	51	53	Thank You For The Rain	Ben Stone
2	5	That's When God Moves	David Timms	52	42	One Of These Days	Carol Barham
3	2	You Can't Box Me In	Fortner Brothers	53	37	Grandma's Bible	Debbie Bennett
4	7	Wake Up Call	Cyndi Reynolds	54	51	Blessed Is The People That Know	Jonathan Ray Smith
5	9	Father To The Fatherless	Jim Sheldon	55	74	Everything You Do	Norman Lee Schaffer
6	11	God Does Not Change	Cowboy Joe Babcock	56	21	When The Son Comes Down	Sonshine Road
7	16	Through Christ	Jimmy R Price	57	64	Don't Need A Stone	By Faith
8	26	Anyway	The Pauls	58	--	He Made It All	Dust And Grace
9	19	Mama's Old Chester Of Drawers	Marvin Harrell	59	60	Hannah Whooped The Devil	Jason Welch
10	13	Here's My Heart	Scott Peacock	60	63	My God Can	Valerie Ellis Hawkins
11	6	Heavens	Chris Hughes	61	94	Man From Galilee	Jennifer Sides
12	20	Country Sinner	Victoria Steelman	62	90	Honey In The Rock	Mary James
13	18	Back Pew Prayer	Woodie Kitchen	63	35	Thirst & Hunger	Rick Lang
14	14	Just Me	John Penney	64	80	My Everything	Tarrance Phillips
15	39	It's Never Too Late	Chuck Hancock	65	85	God Don't Waste The Hurt	Gary Russ
16	8	Right Where You Want Me To Be	Don Stiles	66	55	Why Me	Jenny Dean
17	22	Hallelujah	Dust and Grace	67	84	No Thought To Pray	Jerry Weatherly
18	23	When Love Arose	Joy LaVallee	68	89	Wish You Were Here	Johnathan Bond
19	1	Get On Board	Carl Ray	69	71	You're The Man	Judy Bailey
20	40	Looking In The Rearview	Daryl Baker	70	86	Shout Of Testimony	Mike Lechner
21	27	God Talks To Me	Dawson Road	71	79	What I Got (La-De-Da)	Caleb Deramus
22	12	It Matters To Him	Jan Harbuck	72	75	Don't Cry For Me	Teresa Johnson
23	30	If That Ain't True Love	Melanie Walker	73	70	I Feel New	J'Lee
24	50	I've Been Thinking	Waymasters	74	76	The Most Perfect Gift	Clare Cunningham
25	46	Hand In Heaven	The Murphys ft. Abigail	75	78	Thanks To Calvary	Greg Finch
26	52	Blood Bought Cowboy	Marty Deroche	76	57	His Church Went Marching On	Troy Richardson
27	28	Living Proof	Ken & Kim Stull	77	81	Somebody Bigger Than You And I	David Smith
28	33	I Felt God Today	Heather Thomas Van Deren	78	88	If That Isn't Love	Bruce Minchey
29	4	Gravel Gospel	Shellem Cline	79	77	Footprints In The Sand	Dwight Sanders
30	31	You Can Call On Him	Aaron Partridge and Steve Apirana	80	83	Meanwhile Back At The Cross	Ron Hemphill
31	34	Waiting In The Water	Debbie Mills	81	100	It'll Be Good To Be Home	The Journeys
32	47	Greatly To Be Praised	Melissa Evans	82	82	Country Church	Claude Davis
33	32	Always Enough	Dale Rochell	83	62	Find Your Way Back Home	LizzyG
34	36	My Home In Glory Land	Beverly Brown Simms	84	--	Why Me Lord	Richard Lynch
35	10	He Owns Both Sides Of The River	Terry & Debra Luna	85	92	He Lives	Ed Bruce
36	67	Even When I Fall	Thomas Brown	86	96	The Crossroads	Richard Sprayberry
37	48	New Man	Chuck Day	87	91	You Can Talk To The Father	Richard Strong
38	45	Footsteps Of My King	Todd Lee	88	95	The Journey	Joe Land
39	17	I Surrender It All	Luke Hendrickson	89	--	What I Don't Know	Paula Slow
40	38	Nothing No Nothing	Rachel Taylor	90	98	Love Like Jesus Does	Aaron Justice
41	66	Say Hello To Heaven	Steve Warren	91	--	It's Time, Lord	Eddy Mann
42	73	Bucket List	Daniel Wheeler	92	93	The Way You Do	Michael Walsh
43	58	The Colors And The Cross	Bobby Gibson	93	97	God's Great	The Messengers
44	54	Daddy's Hat	Debra Camp	94	--	Blessings	Steven Paul McCollum
45	44	I Saw A Miracle Today	Michael Ray Fain	95	99	That's The Least That I Can Do	Greg Marlow
46	49	Pushing You Away	Mike McAdoo	96	--	I Got A Friend	Ken Mobley
47	61	Where Are You Now	Ken Mobley	97	--	Warrior Of God	Mark Umfleet
48	68	In Times Like These	Bruce and Betsy Mullen	98	--	Picture This	Jessie Ritchie
49	59	Get Out Of The Boat	Felicia Deramus Paul	99	--	In The Morning	Hunter Logan
50	56	Take Over Me	Rex Robards	100	--	Heading Home With Jesus To Be	Lizzy G And Jeff Naper



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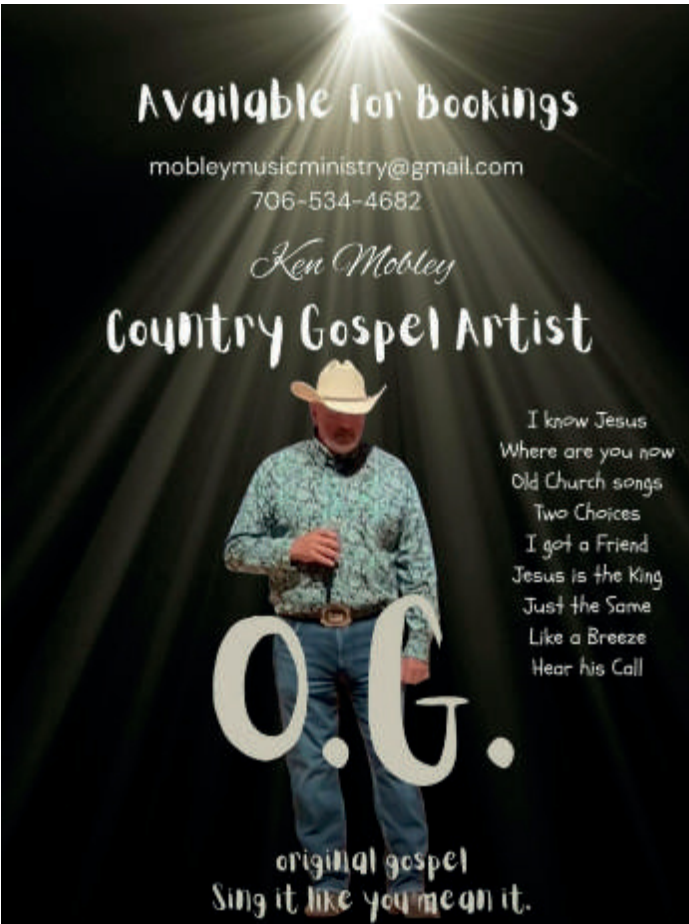
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CVM Contemporary Christian

TOP 50 JANUARY 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	8	A Thousand Times	We Are Messengers
2	16	Let The Church Sing	Tauren Wells
3	19	What An Awesome God	Phil Wickham
4	12	Do It Anyway	Tasha Cobbs Leonard
5	20	Jesus Loves	Zach Williams
6	27	Come Jesus Come	CeCe Winans & Cody Johnson
7	15	God Did It	Micah Tyler
8	1	That's Who I Praise	Brandon Lake
9	5	No Fear	Jon Reddick
10	11	All Yours	Kierra Sheard
11	24	Til The Horns Blow	Chaz Chesson Feat. Brian Angel
12	18	Your Way's Better	Forrest Frank
13	6	Pray For Me	Mark Anvil
14	9	I Was Not Alone	Terrill
15	25	Do It Again	Kirk Franklin
16	26	Amen	Pastor Mike Jr
17	2	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	Leilani
18	32	Yahweh	Jason Nelson
19	37	Can't Steal My Joy	Josiah Queen & Brandon Lake
20	13	Double	William Murphy
21	33	Work It Out For Me	Zacardi Cortez
22	--	Good It Is	Chris Tomlin
23	35	He's Alive	Keith Mitchell
24	--	Won't Start now	Seph Schluter
25	42	Honest	Leanna Crawford
26	--	Heaven On My Mind	TobyMac
27	38	Make A Way	Vashawn Mitchell
28	46	Somebody Prayed	Crowder
29	--	No Survivors	Jeremy Camp
30	40	Confident	Bri Babineaux
31	41	Trust And Obey	Erica Campbell
32	--	Your Glory 2 C U	Earnest Pugh
33	14	Clap My Way	Micah Lee
34	--	Don't Faint	Jekalyn Carr
35	44	Words	Donald Lawrence
36	--	I'm In A Change	Mack Holland
37	--	Blessings	Yolanda Adams
38	--	Dusty Bibles	Josiah Queen
39	39	Jesus Guy	Jeff Arrandale
40	--	Still	Crowder & Zach Williams
41	49	Place In This World	For King & Country
42	--	Give You All My Worship (ft. Leon McCrary)	Marvin Dexter Moore
43	--	Shine Like Heaven	Shekinah Grace Moyes
44	--	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann
45	--	Don't Stop Praying	Matthew West
46	34	God Still Working On Me	Carvin Winans
47	--	I Believe You	Megan Woods
48	--	Give Me You	Me'Kayla
49	--	Church Parking Lot	Otis Kemp
50	--	I Can Count On You	The Group Fire

CVM Black/Urban Gospel

TOP 50 JANUARY 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	9	Yahweh	Jason Nelson
2	5	Amen	Pastor Mike Jr
3	4	Double	William Murphy
4	11	Save Your Soul	Pttthegospelpitter ft. Preacher Man
5	27	Let The Church Swing	Tauren Wells
6	18	Searching	Anthony Reels
7	21	Come Jesus Come	CeCe Winans & Cody Johnson
8	12	King of Kings	Gods Son Orlando
9	8	Do It Anyway	Tasha Cobbs Leonard
10	15	Words	Donald Lawrence
11	19	Still A Long Way From Home-	George Carter & Gentlemen of Faith
12	20	Still Knocking	100 A.K.A. The Messenger
13	16	Making A Way	Higher Authority
14	2	Call His Name	Kenny Lewis
15	7	Clap My May	Micah Lee
16	9	All About The Love	Calvin Bridges
17	30	Let it Rain	Predestined of Michigan
18	23	Building Bridges Instead of Walls	Frozone Hayes
19	39	In The Room	Mr. Jae Tyson
20	26	Like You	Mary Dailey
21	28	Blood Of The Lamb	Ecclesiaster 5
22	1	He's Alive	Keith Mitchell
23	13	Blessings	Yolanda Adams
24	35	Work It Out For Me	Zacardi Cortez
25	31	God Has Been Good	Chanella Monroe
26	36	Working On A Building	Larry Hill
27	29	Peace In The Valley	Lil Blair & The Fantastic Violinaires
28	43	Grateful (Feat. Fridayy)	Dante Bowe
29	32	Give Me You	Me'Kayla
30	--	Do It Again	Kirk Franklin
31	33	Nobody Knows	Prophet Yohua
32	47	He Was There	Marvin Sapp
33	40	Misfits	Keylosophy
34	--	Make A Way	Vashawn Mitchell
35	49	I Can	Marcus Jordan
36	44	God Is Amazing	Dee Echols
37	--	Live Breathe Fight	Tamela Mann
38	28	Praise Anthem	Calandra Gantt
39	--	Your Glory 2 C U	Earnest Pugh
40	45	Right On Time	Fantastic Spiritual Voices
41	--	Trust and Obey	Erica Campbell
42	48	Somebody Touched Me	David Moore & Focused
43	46	I Prayed For You	Major
44	--	God Don't Cancel Me	Rudy Currence
45	--	I'm In A Change	Mack Holland
46	50	Rescue Me	Dr Leon Thompson
47	--	Church Medley	John P. Kee
48	--	Give You All My Worship (ft. Leon McCrary)	Marvin Dexter Moore
49	--	I Can Count On You	The Group Fire
50	--	Church Parking Lot	Otis Kemp

DENISE EDWARDS

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CVM Bluegrass Gospel

TOP 50 JANUARY 2026

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	19	No One But Jesus Can	Kristy Cox (ft. The Blackwood Brothers)
2	6	It Was Jesus	Right Side
3	5	Jubilee's-A-Coming	Little Roy & Lizzy Show
4	10	Come To Jesus	Amanda Cook
5	11	That's What We Did	Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road
6	8	Lay Em Down	Benson
7	24	The Truth, The Light, The Way	Darin & Brooke Aldridge
8	4	My Lord Is Taking Me Away	High Fidelity
9	16	Memories Of Mother	Junior Sisk with Ricky Skaggs
10	9	I Need Jesus	Carson Peters & Iron Mountain
11	3	Grace Carried Me Here	Ben Rochester Family
12	21	Ready And Waiting	King James Boys
13	17	Rise Above It All	Becky Buller & Nathan Woodard
14	18	Build Me An Ark	Caroline Owens
15	23	At Jesus' Feet	Eagle's Wings
16	13	Soldiers Of Heaven	Ashleigh Graham
17	32	Two Old Church Pews	Danny Paisley
18	29	Even Better When You Listen	Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers
19	1	The First Time I Heard About Heaven	Cox Family
20	33	Jesus Sweet Jesus	Mark Houser & Bluegrass Drive
21	34	Above The Clouds	Eighteen Mile
22	36	Come Jesus Come	Grascals
23	35	The World Came To Me	Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road
24	28	That Reunion	Tim Raybon Band
25	12	Child Of The King	Daniel Grindstaff
26	43	Follow The Leader	Nick Chandler & Delivered
27	30	More Than A Hollow Hallelujah	The Isaacs
28	40	Come On Home	Lakeside
29	20	When Jesus Calls My Name	Don Rigsby
30	7	The News That Never Changes	King James Boys
31	15	Rock Pile	Dave Adkins
32	41	Glory Land Is Just In Sight	Gospel Plowboys
33	49	I've Made It Home	Shelton & Williams
34	42	Get On Board	Williamson Branch
35	25	He's Gone	Jaelee Roberts w/ Ricky Skaggs, Sharon & Cheryl White
36	26	Let Me Be The Best Bible	Rock Hearts
37	31	Wings Of Love	Authentic Unlimited
38	45	Jesus Satisfies	Danny Roberts
39	--	I'll Never Feel The Fire	Tim Davis (featuring Jeff Tolbert & Josh Swift)
40	47	Can't You Hear Jerusalem Moan	Hammertowne
41	48	Blue Collar Gospel	Jerry Salley & The Oak Ridge Boys
42	36	Country Faith	Kristen Bearfield with Karen Peck Gooch
43	--	Master Carpenter	Lincoln Mash & Heather Alley
44	39	There's A River	High Road
45	50	In Spite Of My Yesterday	The Kapples
46	37	When I Get There	Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out
47	44	I Wonder What Mary Thought Of Jesus	Eddie Sanders
48	--	Good Time Get Together	Jesse Smathers
49	46	That Sweet Land Of God Somewhere	Primitive QT
50	--	No Empty Chairs In Heaven	David Parmley



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TABLE & TESTIMONY

Where Food Meets Faith and Every Dish Tells a Story

— Annie Ruth

Bread, Oil, and the Fellowship of Awe

There's something sacred about a table. In Scripture, meals are never just about food - they are about covenant, remembrance, and encounter. The Passover table told the story of deliverance. The wedding feast at Cana revealed Christ's glory. The Last Supper pointed to redemption. And today, in our homes, the table still speaks.

This month, as we begin a new year, we return to simplicity: bread and oil. These two elements carry deep biblical symbolism. Bread reminds us of Christ, the Bread of Life. Oil speaks of anointing, consecration, and the Spirit's presence. Together, they form a meal of wonder - humble, holy, and hospitable.

Set the table. Tear the bread. Dip into oil. And let your kitchen become a sanctuary.

Rustic Homemade Bread with Herbed Olive Oil Ingredients

For the Bread:

3 ½ cups all-purpose or bread flour
1 ½ cups warm water (about 110°F)
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons sugar or honey
2 ¼ teaspoons active dry yeast (one packet)
2 tablespoons olive oil

For the Oil:

½ cup extra virgin olive oil
2 sprigs fresh rosemary
1 sprig thyme
Pinch of coarse salt and cracked black pepper



Taste and See

Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." This is more than metaphor. It is invitation. When we break bread and share oil, we remember Christ's body broken for us and the Spirit poured out upon us.

This meal is not extravagant. It is elemental. And in its simplicity, it stirs awe.

Begin the year not with noise, but with nourishment. Not with spectacle, but with surrender. Let your table become a place of testimony - where bread speaks of grace, and oil whispers of holiness.

Instructions

In a large bowl, combine warm water, sugar (or honey), and yeast. Let sit for 5–10 minutes until foamy.

Add flour, salt, and olive oil. Stir until a shaggy dough forms.

Knead on a floured surface for 8 - 10 minutes until smooth and elastic.

Place dough in a lightly oiled bowl, cover, and let rise for 1–1 ½ hours until doubled.

Punch down, shape into a round loaf, and place on a baking sheet or in a Dutch oven. Let rise another 30 - 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Bake for 30–35 minutes until golden brown and hollow-sounding when tapped.

While bread cools, gently warm olive oil with herbs, salt, and pepper. Let infuse for 10 minutes.

Tear bread, dip into oil, and serve with reverence.

Allen Baker

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