

# CCM

MUSIC to CHANGE your WORLD

# WHY GOD?

OWENS, ORTEGA  
AND NORDEMAN  
CONSIDER THE QUESTION

10 QUESTIONS WITH  
JEFF DEYO

THE STORY BEHIND DISNEY'S  
*THE ROOKIE*

THE WOMEN OF  
RAZE SPEAK OUT



## ALL ACCESS

- 11 Breaking the Silence**  
For the first time since Ja'Marc Davis' arrest, Raze's Donnie Lewis and Mizzie Logan talk about the trials of the last year.
- 14 10 Questions**  
With Jeff Deyo
- 16 Spin Control**
- 18 Music That Matters**
- 18 Page Turners**
- 19 Story Behind the Song**  
Bebo Norman talks about the difficult questions that led him to pen "The Hammer Holds."
- 20 Opening Acts**  
Get to know Phat Chance.



32

## COVER STORY

**22** Three artists share their views on the most important message of all time—the gospel. *by Lou Carlozo*

## FEATURES

**30 Jim Morris**, the inspiration for Disney's new movie *The Rookie*, learned that life isn't always what you'd expect. Sometimes, it's better. *by Cheryl Johnston*

**32** Gospel music's **Mary Mary** wants to be a part of the answer, working to help kids from urban neighborhoods realize their potential. *by Lisa Tedder*

**34** Find out the hottest places to be this summer with **CCM's 2002 Festival Listing**. *Compiled by Kristin DeMint*



34

## DEPARTMENTS

- 6 Foreword Thinking**  
From the editor
- 8 Feedback**  
Your letters
- 59 Shop Talk**  
Gear for aspiring musicians
- 61 In Review**  
A buying guide for albums, videos and books
- 67 On Tour**  
Concert reviews and dates
- 73 By the Numbers**
- 74 Consider This**  
Our last word from author/artist John Fischer



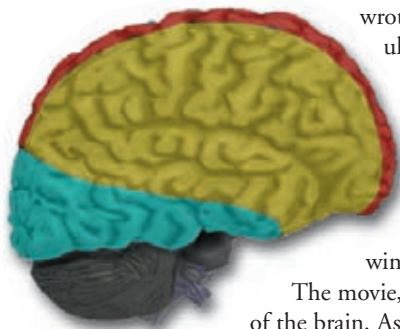
30

The mission of CCM MAGAZINE is to rock your world with the transforming power of the gospel as seen through the lives and music of today's best Christian artists.

## Peace of Mind

CCM's theme for April is "Why God?" It's a question that has baffled and intrigued humans for thousands of years. We as Christians believe the very root of our existence begins with a relationship with God. For many people the concept of the gospel is difficult to comprehend.

Think about it: We believe in a God who longs for human companionship, wrote and orchestrated Scripture, lived on Earth as God and man and ultimately died and defeated death for His people. This is simpler for the heart and soul to capture than it is for the mind to believe.



Only in the last several months have I begun to comprehend the power of the mind. It's the body's computer that saves, calculates and analyzes what I, as an individual, experience throughout my life. The mind computes both positive and negative thoughts that often war against each other in an effort to win my spirit.

The movie, *A Beautiful Mind*, has awakened many of us to the fragile aspects of the brain. As I watched John Forbes Nash (portrayed by Russell Crowe) endure an extreme mental battle between what is true and false in his reality, I couldn't help but see aspects of my own spiritual life. It's often very difficult for me to leave what I know is harmful thinking in the hands of my Savior.

The Bible gives clear direction on guidelines for the mind. In 1 Chronicles 28:9 it says, "Serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts." God also gives advice to those of us whose war zone is the mind. Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in You." Romans 12:2 urges believers to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind." These verses and many more are blessed reminders of how powerful and influential our minds can be, but also how our relationship with Christ weighs so heavy in navigating our thoughts toward "perfect peace."

I have to admit, I struggle with the concept of perfect peace. I want to experience peace, but it's a challenge for me to not be worried, anxious or doubtful at times over very small or non-existent problems. During these times I turn to God and ask, "Why do I feel this way?"

God is faithful with gentle reminders from people I know and love. I recently had a conversation with an old friend who shared his heart with me. He told me he thought I was a victim of fear and not fully grasping the idea of being a child of God. My mother also encouraged me to realize that God's best cannot be experienced and enjoyed if I'm giving in to anxiety.

My first victory came when I realized that trust isn't something I feel; it's something I live out. I want my actions to convey that I trust in God's faithfulness regardless of what my mind is telling me. John Nash's problem didn't go away, but how he responded to the situation changed. He understood what was true, and he banked his actions on truth. I want to do the same thing.

Having been a Christian for most of my life, I understand the big reasons for following and worshipping God. Every day, though, I find new reasons for trusting the Lord and new answers to the question, "Why God?"

Praying God's best for you,

mtturner@ccmcom.com



### Founder

John W. Styll

**Executive Editor** Rick Edwards

**Editor** Matthew Turner

**Managing Editor** Tracey L. Bumpus

**Associate Editor** Sarah Aldridge McNeese

**Administrative Assistant** Sue Halford

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Jerry Chamberlain  
Christa Farris  
John Fischer  
Kent Morris  
Tim A. Smith  
John J. Thompson

**Contributors**  
Debra Akins Steve Knight  
Andy Argyrakis David Mackle  
Beau Black David McCreary  
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**Account Executive** Pat McAbee

**Senior Administration Director—Advertising** Jo Anne Scaife

**Advertising Coordinator** Carol Jones

### Main Office

104 Woodmont Blvd., Third Floor  
Nashville, TN 37205  
615/386-3011 (phone)  
615/386-3380 (business fax)  
615/385-4112 (editorial fax)

### West Coast Advertising Office

6942 Quito Court  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
805/383-9150 (phone)  
805/383-9250 (fax)

www.ccmagazine.com

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## PLUS ONE FAN

I was so pleased to see Plus One on the cover of the February issue! The music of Plus One has deeply encouraged me, as well as many other people I know. I am in their official fan club, and the guys of Plus One are correct—all the fans are like family. We pray for each other and talk with each other about problems. Keep up the excellent work, CCM, and thanks, Plus One, for what you do!

Lauren Maze  
Titusville, FL

## NEW RESPECT

I just wanted to say thank you for your cover story on Plus One in the February issue of CCM. They are my favorite group, but now I have a newfound respect for what they're doing for the Christian community. Many artists tend to lean away from the Christian message and sugar-coat it. But your article showed the real guys of Plus One, and how they are striving to make their new album, *Obvious*, more down to earth. I truly believe [Plus One] will lead many souls to Christ through their music; and with magazines like CCM showing this to the world, many people will come to support them in this wonderful ministry of Christian music!

Taylor Leming  
Leesburg, VA

## HOLLYWOOD LIGHT

It is wonderful to read an article about a committed Christian actor in Hollywood ["Hollywood Light," February issue]. I have seen much of Jim Caviezel's work, and I have been impressed. It was a tremendous surprise to find out that he is a Christian. We are called to be salt and light in all aspects of our world. Hollywood is no exception.

James Rose  
Miami, FL



## NOT ENOUGH PETRA

I'm appalled by the one-page write-up on Petra's 30-year anniversary. Rarely has a Christian band, much less a rock band, made it to 30 years. When one such as Petra reaches that milestone, all we get is a one-page history lesson? No cover, no article, no interview—no nothing?

Not even a mention of long-time drummer Louie Weaver? While entertaining, surely you can do better than this.

Sue Dempster  
Sheboygan, WI

## WHERE'S LOUIE?

Thanks for your article on Petra, [including] some of the highlights from its 30 years. It would have been nice to hear from Louie Weaver as well, but the article was enjoyable nonetheless.

Randy Burke  
Richmond, BC, Canada

## IN DEFENSE OF STACIE

I am writing in response to a letter in your February issue [Feedback] criticizing Stacie Orrico. I beg to differ with the way the reader called Stacie "a good-looking pawn." Stacie has a lot more going on for her than her looks. What I see in Stacie is her incredible ministry to reach out to teens! Stacie's love for Christ and her peers shines not only in her album, but also in her book, *Genuine*, which every [Christian music] fan should read.

Amy Powers  
League City, TX

## KUDOS FOR SMITH

After I read the [February] article "Let the Winter Thaw," I was so moved. I began reading in Ephesians 3 and couldn't help but notice the correlation to verses 16-19. Scotty [Smith] is truly being filled to the

measure of all the fullness of God as he grasps how wide and long and high and deep God's love is, and he's grasping it together with all the saints. There's just something about being vulnerable with others that causes God's Spirit to do incredible things. The article was a great encouragement, example and reminder to me to continue being vulnerable and to continue letting God pull away those fig leaves that we so easily try to hide under.

Jamie Clark  
Tampa, FL

## NO KRAMER, PLEASE

Who would be so stupid as to ask the "Seinfeld" question ["Flying Solo," February 2002]? Sorta tells where they are at. Why watch a show that our Savior would weep for us when He saw us watching it?

Bob Hanley  
Pensacola, FL

## ROLE MODEL

It was inspiring of you to include the article in your February issue, "Rebecca St. James: Protecting Purity." So many times today we see girls... having sex before marriage and letting themselves fall prey to boys with only one thing in mind. It's inspiring to have a person young women can look to as a role model for sexual purity.

I [also] really enjoyed the article on Petra. I had never even heard of Petra until I read the magazine! [But] it was cool to learn about this group and see how they progressed through their musical career.

Nikcole Wiles  
Pensacola, FL

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We welcome your comments. Address letters to Feedback, CCM MAGAZINE, 104 Woodmont Blvd., Third Floor, Nashville, TN 37205; fax 615/385-4112, attn: Feedback. Or e-mail [feedback@ccmmagazine.com](mailto:feedback@ccmmagazine.com). Always include your full name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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# all access

CHRISTIAN MUSIC NEWS & HAPPENINGS

POINT OF VIEW

## THE WOMEN OF RAZE SPEAK OUT

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE JA'MARC DAVIS' ARREST, DONNIE LEWIS AND MIZZIE LOGAN TALK ABOUT THE TRIALS OF THE LAST YEAR.



Lewis, Hanebrink, Logan and Davis (l-r).

**W**hen Raze founder and group member Ja'Marc Davis was arrested in the spring of 2001 for charges dealing with a consensual sexual relationship with a female minor that started in 1998, it jarred the Christian music community. As news of the charges and the subsequent court appearances followed throughout the remainder of last year, very little was said publicly by those closest to Davis, including fellow Raze members Donnie Lewis, Mizzie Logan and Todd Hanebrink.

In mid-December, following a plea agreement with prosecutors, a Tulsa, Okla., judge suspended all but five years of Davis' sentence in a minimum-security Oklahoma prison, and set a date to reconsider Davis' sentence in one year, stating the possibility of release at that time.

In a recent interview with CCM MAGAZINE, Teresa Davis, former manager for Raze and Ja'Marc's sister-in-law, along with Raze

members Lewis and Logan, spoke out for the first time since Ja'Marc's arrest in March 2001.

"From the very beginning, long before Ja'Marc's arrest ever took place," said Davis, "he came forward to admit his actions and said, 'These are things I want to get right in my life, and whatever it takes, I'll do it.' He came forward to his accountability partner, to our pastors, to the girl's family and to me and the other group members."

Davis said Ja'Marc first came forward in mid-1999 and began an in-depth restoration process under the guidance of a pastor in Tulsa. As part of that process, Ja'Marc received treatment at an in-patient psychological counseling center while simultaneously undergoing Christian counseling, including counsel with his pastor. According to Davis, Ja'Marc came off the road and Raze members Lewis, Logan and then member Jd Webb completed Raze concert dates through the remainder of 1999 as a trio.

"It was a definite shock to all of us," said Logan. "It was sort of a jolt to our system, and we had to say, 'OK, wake up. None of us are

beyond this.' I have gone back over it a million times, asking, 'Lord, what did we do wrong? What did we not do?' And I don't know that I have the answer to that question. But I know that we looked at it biblically and sought counsel and prayer. We had a peace about how we handled the situation."

"I think we were all angry for a period of time," Lewis said, "but I had to remind myself that I sin and I know I'm not perfect, so who am I to cast the first stone? This was really a growing process for everyone."

According to Teresa Davis, an initial investigation by the Tulsa Police Department took place that summer of 1999, but Ja'Marc's attorney was eventually told the investigation had ended, and no charges were filed. Davis said Ja'Marc continued his counseling sessions with his pastor in 2000, and with the pastor's approval, went back on tour with Raze in the spring of that year, after eight months of treatment and counsel.

"It was hard to make that decision because no man is a judge of where a person's heart is," Logan said. "But when it was time to reevaluate whether or not Ja'Marc should come back out, we definitely made sure we all felt at peace about it. We sat and talked with him, and he was so open and honest. We talked to his pastors and counselors, and they all felt like he was at a really good place and that he could begin to perform again as he continued his restoration process."

Raze continued to move forward with a new album, *The Plan*, late in 2000, and a full tour was booked for the spring of 2001. While rehearsing for the tour in Tulsa on Feb. 28,

2001, Teresa Davis was notified that the Tulsa district attorney's office might be planning to file charges against Ja'Marc related to the events that were now nearly two years old. The following day, the date of the first concert on the tour, Davis' attorney contacted the district attorney to offer Ja'Marc's availability for any additional questions, but the offer was turned down. That evening, Ja'Marc was arrested following the concert in Tulsa.

"I always say that was the best and worst night of my life," Logan said. "It was the first show of our first headlining tour—something we had been working toward and praying for. We felt like we were doing exactly what God had told us to do.... I remember crying as we were all worshiping God that night. Then on the very last song, I looked over and saw the detectives waiting there. I remember bowing at the end of the show and realizing that was it. I knew it was all over."

Ja'Marc's arrest made public a situation that Raze members felt had been spiritually dealt with nearly two years earlier. And the events that followed not only impacted Ja'Marc but those closest to him.

"I definitely felt like we were being judged," Lewis admitted. "I felt like I was innocent in the situation, yet people looked at us all like we were guilty. This was a difficult time, and if I had not been a Christian, I don't know if I'd have been able to come through it. But regardless of where the fault was, I still know that God has a plan and a purpose for my life. I'm just working toward becoming a better artist, better performer and just becoming whatever it is that God wants me to be."

"Yes, I felt like we were all held responsible for someone else's actions," Logan said. "I've never gotten to talk to anyone about it. I've just seen the articles and quotes, and I've watched my life fall apart around me on the outside. But I've learned the peace of knowing that God's got my back. He's there with me, and He still has a plan for my life. This has taught me not to look at the future or the past, but to look at today because that's really all we are guaranteed. We can't change our past, we can only learn from it."

The remainder of the group's tour was canceled and late in 2001 Raze officially disbanded and left its record label, ForeFront. "Before we could announce our decision about the future of Raze at ForeFront," Greg Ham, president of ForeFront, said in a press release issued last November, "they came to us with their decision to go their separate ways. We wish Ja'Marc, Donnie, Mizzie and Todd well, and we pray God's blessing for their futures."

Donnie Lewis is living in Tulsa, writing songs and recording new demos to pursue a record deal. She is currently singing backup with Natalie Grant on the Plus One spring tour. Mizzie Logan hopes to sing again and is talking about putting a new demo together. She also lives in Tulsa and has plans to start a clothing line. Todd Hanebrink is currently living in Las Vegas working as a choreographer.

—Debra Akins

Send us your thoughts about this story by e-mail at [feedback@ccmmagazine.com](mailto:feedback@ccmmagazine.com).

## SURFTHIS WEB SITES TO EXPLORE

### [www.hollywoodjesus.com](http://www.hollywoodjesus.com)

Offering more than just reviews of recent flicks, this site dares to examine the deeper meaning of films from a Christian perspective and comments on their relevance in popular culture. Also included are critiques, in the same manner, of TV shows and general-market CDs. There are also plenty of "Easter eggs" to uncover if you stick around long enough.



### [www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org)

The avid student of Christian literature would be remiss to ignore the fathers of the genre who carved significant literary niches. The Christian Classics Ethereal Library Web site contains the public domain works of some of these authors in a free downloadable format and also boasts a virtual study Bible and other reference materials.



### [www.soupernaturalmovie.com](http://www.soupernaturalmovie.com)

You already know Kevin Max (dc talk) likes to dabble in writing poetry, but did you know about his foray into the acting world? Read about the film he's working on that's touted as "a story of God, greed and chicken gumbo" and find out a little more about the cast, storyline and even check out the upcoming movie's trailer.



—Christa Farris

# TEN QUESTIONS

WITH JEFF DEYO



Deyo

## 1. What's currently in your CD player?

Delirious' *Live & in the Can*, Ten Shekel Shirt, the *Gladiator* soundtrack

## 2. What's your favorite old hymn? "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

## 3. What movie has impacted you the most and why?

Most recently, *Gladiator*. For one, because of the intense commitment Maximus had to what he felt was right—life or death.... The music [also] really impacted me.

## 4. What was your first job and what did you learn from it?

Delivering newspapers as a kid in Indiana. I have this image of me pushing my bike through four to five inches of snow at four in the morning. [I learned] dedication and commitment to finish the job.

## 5. What's your favorite story from the Bible and why?

The story of David bringing the ark back from the Philistines. After Uzzah touches it and dies, they figure out how [God] wants them to bring it, and afterwards they have a big celebration. It illustrates what my job as worship leader is—to bring... people to the presence of God.

## 6. What are your nicknames?

When I was in elementary school, my friends used to call me "Boss"—for J.D. "Boss" Hogg from "The Dukes of Hazzard." My initials are J.D.

## 7. If you had to pick a song to be your theme song, what would it be?

I covered [it] on my record—"I'd Rather Have Jesus." I was sitting at a Billy Graham crusade, and George Beverly Shea sang it, and it was like it was the first time I'd ever heard it. The message was relevant... but I thought the music made it like it was written in another language. So I wrote new music for it.

## 8. What is the most meaningful present you've ever received?

My wife and I had just bought a small house, and I [had] an office and a computer but just this little desk. She bought this huge corner-type desk. I came home, and it was all set up for me. It took a lot of hard work and surprised me.

## 9. What's the most relied-upon spiritual truth in your life?

My favorite verse is Zephaniah 3:17.

## 10. Why God?

At the end of the day, I know that there has to be a God—something bigger than all this. It's hard for me to believe that all this came into being on its own. Once I follow that path, I have to believe....

—Beau Black



dc talk



CeCe Winans

# O BROTHER FOLLOWS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR WITH TOP GRAMMY WINS

## DOVES NEXT UP ON AWARDS SHOW CIRCUIT

As expected, the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Awards were good to super group U2. The unofficial band of the year went home with four wins. Newcomer Alicia Keys snagged five Grammys on Feb. 27. But it was *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, with its win for Album of the Year, that was the night's biggest upset. A large entourage of the CD's cast members joined an obviously surprised T Bone Burnett—who also won for Producer of the Year, Non-classical—on stage for the acceptance speech. The Americana album ended the evening five Grammys stronger.

In gospel categories, CeCe Winans took home her seventh Grammy as her self-titled project was deemed Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year. Dc talk's *Solo* EP won in the Rock Gospel category, bringing the group's Grammy tally to four. In other gospel news, Yolanda Adams (Contemporary Soul Gospel), The Blind Boys of Alabama (Traditional Soul Gospel), Bill and Gloria Gaither (Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel) and Hezekiah Walker (Best Gospel Choir or Chorus) all nabbed Grammy glory.

Grammy performances are as much a part of the evening as the awards themselves and to beef up the live music (17 vignettes in all) a half hour was added to the show. Pre-Grammy buzz was that Kirk Franklin would join U2 in its show-opening set. Back in 1999, before U2's big resurgence, Bono paired with Franklin in his Grammy performance of "Lean on Me." Unfortunately, despite Franklin being touted at the beginning of the show, the rematch did not happen.

In the most moving moment of the evening, country crooner Alan Jackson performed his Sept. 11-inspired "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)." "*But I know Jesus and I talk to God/And I remember this from when I was young/Faith, hope and love are some good things He gave us/And the greatest is love,*" Jackson sang.

Michael W. Smith, or Michael K. Smith, according to host Jon Stewart, announced the evening's final number, a vibrant medley of gospel tunes featuring a choir, along with Smith, Winans, Brian McKnight, Hezekiah Walker, Andraé and Sandra Crouch and Lifetime Achievement Award honoree the Rev. Al Green.

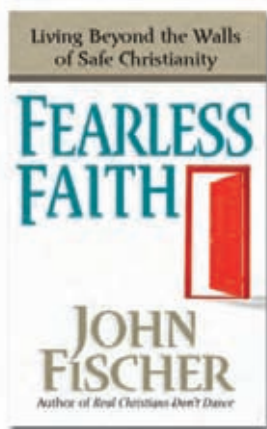
Now that the Grammys are over, don't miss your next music awards show fix: the Dove Awards on April 25. Check out [www.ccmagazine.com](http://www.ccmagazine.com) for special coverage all week leading up to Christian music's biggest evening.

PHOTOS: KEVIN WINTER/IMAGEDIRECT

—Sarah Aldridge McNeece

# Fischer Moves to Make a Practical Difference With New Book

As CCM MAGAZINE readers know, the Christian subculture, as longtime CCM columnist John Fischer sees it, has become something of a fortress. Built on sanitized versions of mainstream art and commerce, it's turned into a safety zone where believers comfortably retreat from the culture rather than engage it.



But in his newest book, *Fearless Faith* (Harvest House), Fischer not only describes this culture, but also begins to point the way out.

“Basically, it’s time for us to turn our eyes back to the world outside the subculture,” Fischer says. But how do Christians begin that journey? “Get back into the community and the neighborhood and to things we were really supposed to be doing all along,” he says.

Community involvement is a big theme with Fischer, and that very involvement sometimes lands him in hot water. For example, in *Fearless Faith* Fischer continues to encourage Christians to participate in Halloween—a stance that has drawn the ire of some believers.

“Christians are so taken up with the evil of Halloween that they don’t realize to the average neighbor it’s not evil,” he says. “They see it as a dress-up day for their kids. For many people it’s a time for the neighborhood to come out, and I just don’t feel that’s a time for us [as Christians] to be gone.”

*Fearless Faith* also has parallels to Bob Briner’s *Roaring Lambs*—relating to the idea that Christians can be effective witnesses by doing superior work in their daily lives. “Whatever it is that is our job in society, we do it really well so people come to us based on the fact that we’re the best at what we do. Then they find out we’re Christians,” Fischer explains. “In other words, our Christianity doesn’t go in front of us, it comes alongside us.”

Though Fischer’s basic message isn’t new, he says it has taken on new urgency since Sept. 11. “This is not a safe world, and guess what, we don’t feel safe anymore,” he says. “But that’s why Christ prayed for our protection, and that’s why we’re here in the middle of it.”

Fischer does face one big conundrum: most of his own work, not only as an author, but speaker and singer/songwriter, remains inside the very subculture he’s encouraging Christians to break away from.

“My main platform is in the Christian world,” he agrees. “That’s where my first music came out, and then my writing first came out. But at this point I don’t feel I’m to entirely go out, myself.”

“As people become Christians and discover the Christian subculture, it probably plays an effective role in helping them grow,” he says. “[People] then grow to where they mature, and they perhaps mature out of the Christian subculture, so I’m the guy pointing the way out. And that’s the way I’ve basically come to peace with it.”

—Anthony DeBarros

# Road Rules

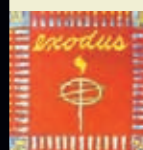
## ENTERTAINMENT FOR SPRING BREAK AND BEYOND

Spring break is a great time to catch up on your reading while you lay on the beach or immerse yourself in music as you cruise down the interstate. Our suggestions should keep you busy for *at least* a week.

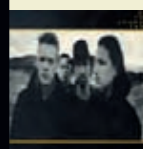
### CDs



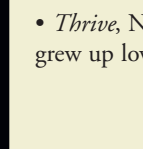
• *Down From the Mountain*, Various (Lost Highway)—The ultimate roots rock collection as you drive down America’s highways.



• *Exodus*, Various (Rocketown)—The quintessential various artist project—ideal for early mornings.



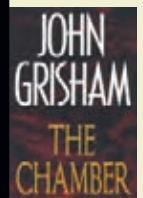
• *Jordan’s Sister*, Kendall Payne (Capitol)—This album will help you find your girl power attitude, even if you’re a guy.



• *The Joshua Tree*, U2 (Island)—“Where the Streets Have No Name” with the windows down—what could make for a better car ride?

• *Thrive*, Newsboys (Sparrow)—Hot off the presses. You grew up loving them, now see how they’ve gotten better.

### Books

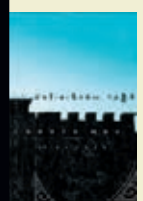


• *The Chamber*, John Grisham (Doubleday)—Guaranteed to provoke an intriguing round of discussion amongst friends.



• *The Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R. Tolkien (Houghton Mifflin Co.)—You’ve seen the movie, now read the book.

• *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis (Harper San Francisco)—If you’ve read it, you know it’s worth reading again. If you haven’t, now is your chance!



• *Unfinished Work*, Kevin Max (Thomas Nelson)—Dc talk’s K Max shares his life story full of mountains and valleys.

• *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L’Engle (Harold Shaw)—Great for creative types or anyone who wants to think about how faith and art intermingle.

—Andy Argyrakis



# Spin control



Salvador

## SALVADOR'S STILL KICKIN'

With the band's self-titled debut released back in 2000, fans may be wondering if **Salvador** is headed into the dreaded "Where are they now?" territory. While the boys behind the Latin-infused beats recently made a trip "down under" to New Zealand to play the Parachute

Festival for more than 20,000 fans and squeezed in some time for a little deep sea fishing off the coast of Auckland, Salvador has also spent countless hours working on its sophomore project called *Into Motion*. So hold off on looking for the VH1 special as the new album hits shelves June 4.

**NOMINATED** **Londa Larmond**, who turned many a head with her smokin' solo album on EMI Gospel entitled *Love Letters*, has been nominated for Canada's Juno Award, which is equivalent to our Grammy. The award ceremonies will take place in St. Johns, Newfoundland, on April 14.

## GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

They've released seven albums and traveled the world together over the past 10 years. But now, the members of **Point of Grace** (three of them at least) are going to share a new experience later this fall—diaper duty. Within five-and-a-half weeks of each other, **Terry Jones** will be adding a third child to her family when she gives birth in August, while **Shelley Breen** and **Heather Payne** will welcome their first additions in September. While she's the only non-pregnant member right now, **Denise Jones** will have plenty of advice for the new mothers as she's also the proud parent of two sons. And for those concerned about what their impending motherhood means for the ladies' touring future, Breen assures us they'll "do dates through the end of July, pop out three babies and start 'Girls of Grace' [conferences] the first weekend of October." Wonder how big their tour bus will have to be for that? For more Point of Grace baby info, check out the group's official Web site at [www.pointofgrace.net](http://www.pointofgrace.net).



Terry Jones, Breen, Payne and Denise Jones (l-r).

## DOUBLE PLATINUM SATELLITE

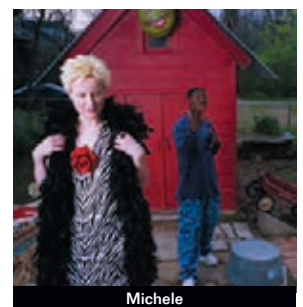
**P.O.D.'s** *Satellite* passed the two million sales mark in under six months. With the album still ensconced in the *Billboard* Top 20 album chart, and momentum still in the band's favor, the triple platinum mark seems like a real possibility. P.O.D. continues to credit the efforts and enthusiasm of its fans. Through [www.PayableOnDeath.com](http://www.PayableOnDeath.com) they sent this shout out to fans: "We want our warriors world wide to know that God is doing a great work in our hearts and in our peoples around the world. Thank you for your love and loyalty."



**MORE PRAISE** Special concept label, Harborwood Records, has released a project for those who enjoy their worship without words. Entitled *Worship & Praise, Vol. 1*, the project features some of the most popular praise & worship songs performed by today's top instrumental musicians. Songs include, "When the Spirit of the Lord," "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" and "In the Sanctuary," performed by such artists as guitarist **Jonathan DuBose Jr.**, keyboard players **Ralph Lofton** and **Derrick Jackson**, along with saxophonist **Donald Hayes**.

## FAR, FAR TOO LONG IN THE MAKING...

It's been nine years since her sophomore release *One Moment Please*, but at long last former **Adam Again** vocalist **Riki Michele** has unveiled her third solo effort. *Surround Me*, a "classy-funk, chill-out, electro-soul party," was produced and engineered by **Julian Kindred** (The Choir, *City on a Hill*) and features musical contributions by **Steve Hindalong** (The Choir), **Kevin Robinson** (Viva Voce), **Tim Chandler** (Daniel Amos) and **Marc Byrd** (Common Children). Though released independently through [www.RikiMichele.com](http://www.RikiMichele.com) for now, there is a building buzz that the spirited funkstress may end up signing a label deal soon.



Michele

BY TIM A. SMITH (URBAN), JOHN J. THOMPSON (ROCK) AND CHRISTA FARRIS (POP)

# PAGETURNERS

## WHAT YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS ARE READING

Like the rest of America, I've had to drop just about everything to read J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. I stayed up until about 4 a.m. the other

morning finishing *The Two Towers* (Houghton Mifflin Co.). Then I read part of *The Return of the King* (Houghton Mifflin Co.)—the last one—walking around airports, hoping I wouldn't run into anyone. I just couldn't stop reading it! I love how one person can create this entirely different universe and make it almost become real to you.

I began Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* (Mass Market Paperback) over Thanksgiving. I'd say that book is one of the best representations of the gospel—outside of the Bible—that I've ever read.

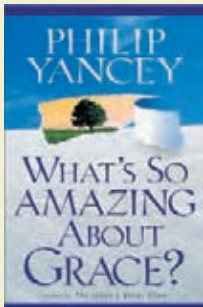
Another book I've read recently is Philip Yancey's *What's So Amazing About Grace?* (Zondervan). He looks at grace personally and internally, and then within the family, then the church body and then nations and the world as a whole. It was

inspiring, encouraging and devastating, as more and more of my sin was revealed to me.... The life of grace is so rich and free, and Yancey shows [the reader] that, although [the life of grace] is not easy, life without grace is no life at all.

—Andrew Osenga



Osenga and the rest of *The Normals* released their latest album, *A Place Where You Belong*, in February.



**LOST BAND EQUIPMENT? TRY eBay** If **Audio Adrenaline's** guitarist **Tyler Burkum** ever gets tired of his current gig, a career as a detective may just be the job for him. A month after the band's entire trailer was stolen just outside of Nashville, Tyler followed a hunch and logged onto eBay, where he discovered his extremely rare matchless amplifiers for sale, along with plenty of other gear that had turned up missing in the process. After Burkum's discovery, police traced the account, which led them to a house where they recovered about 75 percent of the band's stolen equipment. The remainder of the band's gear had already been sold to buyers across the country, but the suspects were identified and the case has recently been resolved.

**REMYXED** **Scott Blackwell**, the soul who is largely responsible for putting Christian dance music on the map, has resurfaced along with his Myx Records label. The first project to drop from the revived label is a contemporary worship album titled *Keepin' On*. The project features vocalists **Kayah**, **Ryan Biermann** and **Mark Coston**. Also on the horizon is a project from **Deeper Than Most (Maximilian and Minister RMB)**, entitled *Marinatin'*, as well as something from the label's latest signee, popular electronica dance crew **Sheltershed**. For more about what's happening at Myx, check out their new Web site at [www.myxrecords.com](http://www.myxrecords.com).

**THE NEW OLD SCHOOL** Galaxy 21 Records is keeping the flame of yesteryear burning brightly. In addition to scoring a Grammy nomination for **The Choir's** *Flap Your Wings*, the label is releasing brand new studio projects from two groundbreaking punk rock pioneers. **Mike Stand** (of **The Altar Boys**) and **Undercover** will both return to store shelves this June via Galaxy 21.



## MUSIC THAT MATTERS

My life was suddenly and radically altered when I joined the military in the summer of 2000. [In] the harsh realities of boot camp... I questioned the faith that I thought I had called my own. It is in times of turmoil when you realize just what something as small as a song can mean to you. When I was on "guard duty" late at night, I would write the lyrics to Vigilantes of Love's "Parting Shot," from *Blister Soul*, over and over for comfort. The song's first phrase, "*Words of wisdom quotable quotes/Reader's Digest sayings for those losing hope/Why do I feel so mocked by the hands of the clock/Well anchor me down to the solid rock,*" spoke volumes for the crisis of faith that I was experiencing. Were the things that I had been taught all my life just

"It is in times of turmoil when you realize just what something as small as a song can mean to you."



Alexander Caldwell  
Boston, MA

well-meaning *Reader's Digest*-type truths...? "Lord, anchor me down to the solid rock" was a prayer that was on my lips. Because I was widely known as a "religious type," I found myself leading prayer times and being approached to pray with people who were even more hurting and lonely than I was. In this way the Lord showed me that He was there and working behind the scenes. I still have a copy of the lyrics to the song that I wrote on those lonely nights. I keep it as a reminder of answered prayer.

What's your story? How has Christian music changed your world? E-mail us at [tellccm@ccmmagazine.com](mailto:tellccm@ccmmagazine.com) with a letter (300 words or less) that tells how a song, an album or an artist has impacted your life. Submissions must include your full name, address and phone number to be considered for publication.

# STORY BEHIND THE SONG

Bebo Norman: "The Hammer Holds"

Bebo Norman recalls his freshman year of college as probably the most pivotal time in his life. Feeling like he had been spoon-fed Christianity in his younger years, he found himself standing at a spiritual crossroads. "I was at a place where I struggled to find my own identity in Christ," he confesses. "For a year I wondered if what I believed was based on my own faith or what my parents believed. It was

a very difficult time for me."

One day while sitting in his dorm room, still grappling with spiritual uncertainty, Norman picked up a pen and began writing a song. He had been playing guitar and composing music for less than two years, but somehow this song just flowed out of him, almost effortlessly.

"A hammer pounds again, but flames I do not feel/This force that drives me helplessly through flesh and wood reveals/A burn that burns much deeper, it's more than I can stand/The reason for my life was to take the life of a guiltless man." Little did Norman realize then that "The Hammer Holds," found on his label

debut, *Ten Thousand Days*,

would later become his most requested concert number. "It's really one of the first songs that I ever wrote that strongly connected with listeners," Norman says. "Whenever people hear it, they tend to identify with the struggles and the pain. I've been approached by folks who said they were struggling with the death of a family member or with being critically ill themselves, and somehow they found comfort in the song."

The song's simple acoustic-guitar driven melody and Norman's soulful baritone delivery work together with lyrics to share a powerful message, in essence conveying that even the very nails that crucified Christ served as a part of God's greater plan.

"Regardless of how out of control we may feel at times, God is always in control and continuing to work in us.... I can't get past this song on a personal level," he says fervently. "No matter what I think, hope for or dream of, God is working out something in me that is bigger than I could ever imagine."

"This task before me may seem unclear, but it, my Maker holds."

—David McCreary



Norman



Matt Patrick

## THE BEST OF INDIES INDEPENDENT MUSIC BY JERRY CHAMBERLAIN

Spring has sprung. It's time for new tunes and swan songs.

First up is an *apropos* solo set from Pegtop's **Matt Patrick**. *Change* is electric, energetic and a fitting forum to further showcase the multi-instrumentalist's many gifts. Shades of Pegtop surface on some of the more organic rootsy cuts, while elsewhere

Patrick flirts with harder and more experimental ground. A vast array of musical talent supports the Pegman's own smorgasbord of sounds including Adam Levy (The Honeydogs), Jeremy Ylvisaker, Matthew Custar, Bruce Balgaard and Chris DeWan. Randy Broughten tastefully adds touches of pedal steel for sweet ambiance. Patrick's biggest influences are Sheryl Crow, The Honeydogs and Buddy and Julie Miller. Check out [www.mattpatrick.com](http://www.mattpatrick.com) or send an e-mail to [info@mattpatrick.com](mailto:info@mattpatrick.com) for ordering info.

Indie popster David Dewese works a lot of overtime playing music with his two bands, **The Luxury Liners** and **The Foxymorons**. *Believe* is the latest EP effort from TLL, a refreshing power pop trio who actually covers the rip-roaring Cher title track. Former Lux Liner Chad Edgington has set sail since recording *Believe* with replacement Larry Wilstermann now on deck as bassist. Drummer Scott Carpenter is still pounding the skins incessantly. Taking their name from the 1967 Gram Parsons' country rock tune, the group explored that genre, moved through the Beach Boys and other pop icons, then switched to modern and indie rock. This band comes on like gangbusters bringing fun back to rock 'n' roll through two- and three-minute bursts of exhilaration. The three-song enhanced CD offers videos, photos, sound clips and images in a bright red package. It's all here: catchy melodies, rich harmonies and killer hooks. Set your course to [www.theluxuryliners.com](http://www.theluxuryliners.com), send e-mail to [info@theluxuryliners.com](mailto:info@theluxuryliners.com) or call 800/927-9848.

Dewese and Jerry James' low-to-mid-fi corks, The Foxymorons, hits town with its second album, *Rodeo City*. The duo's brand of eclectic pop rock runs the gamut from rough-edged Neil Young/Replacements style outings to soaring Brian Wilson-influenced smoothness. James holds down the fort in both lads' native Mesquite, Texas, while Dewese collaborates as a Nashville transplant via phone and snail mail. Saddle up and trot on over to [www.foxymorons.com](http://www.foxymorons.com) or send e-mail to [foxymorons@hotmail.com](mailto:foxymorons@hotmail.com).

Speaking of saddling up, it's time this cowboy rode off into the sunset as the writer for this column. I'd like to thank indie artists everywhere for giving me plenty to write about for the last three years. Keep the faith. See you in the funny papers.

Jerry Chamberlain is a freelance writer/musician/poet, co-founder of Daniel Amos and Boy-O-Boy, and a member of Swirling Eddies. The CCM editorial team would like to thank him for all he's contributed to our Indies column.

# OPENINGACTS

Get to know **Phat Chance**

**band 411** Bryan Nance (16, lead vocals, guitar); Brandon Johnson (19, vocals, guitar, keyboards); Brent Lain (18, lead guitar); Justin Morgan (18, bass) and Dallas Morgan (15, drums). **current digs** Band members reside with their respective families in their hometown of High Point, North Carolina. **new album** With a surprisingly mature pop/rock sound for such a young group, the band's debut *Without You* (Flicker) released last August. **favorite cut** "I think my favorite is 'The One' because it has a good hook and a good melody, but also captures who we are and our ministry," Nance explains. "It encourages teenagers not just to wait to have sex [until] you're married but to have a pure heart and mind while you're single and waiting for that special someone." **influences** Emphasizing they're not a boy band, Nance says their sound is similar to Third Eye Blind. But if you sneak a peek into the guys' CD players, you'll find a diverse mix of influences including Third Day's latest, Downhere's debut, Steven Curtis Chapman and a little modern rock by general-market artists Pete Dinklage and The Strokes. **backstory** With a love for music and no intentions of becoming professional musicians, elementary school students Nance and the Morgan brothers wrote songs together, while continuing to polish their musical skills. After four years of practice, the group (then including Lain and Johnson) decided on the moniker Phat Chance—an acronym for "praising Him all times"—and teamed up with former NewSong member, Scotty Wilbanks, to hone its sound for a five-song demo. With a new sound intact, the group began performing at youth events and eventually landed a spot on "Summer Jam 2000." After garnering positive response from their performances, the Morgans' father, Roy, a concert promoter, began contacting several record labels. After Phat Chance's demo landed in the hands of Flicker Records co-owner and Audio Adrenaline frontman Mark Stuart, the band was added to Flicker's roster. **on the road** The band is currently on tour with Plus One, ZOEgirl and Natalie Grant. **why God?** "All I can say is that I know God is real because I see Him and what He's doing with us," Justin Morgan says. "I see it every time we play because we're not the greatest musicians, we're not born rock stars, but He's using us for some reason."

—Christa Farris





# WHY GOD?

THREE ARTISTS SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE OF ALL TIME—THE GOSPEL. INTERVIEWS COMPILED BY LOU CARLOZO

Sometimes life can be difficult. It leaves us wondering about purpose and meaning. We find ourselves asking questions that are both practical and eternal. When your family is falling apart, where do you find a listening ear that you can count on? When your friends have hard questions about Jesus, where do you find answers? Why should you believe God has anything to say to you today? Why should you believe? Why should you follow?

In other words: Why God?

CCM asked three artists—Nichole Nordeman, Fernando Ortega and Ginny Owens—to talk about this very topic.

All of them acknowledged that explaining God's mystery and majesty is an impossible task for mere mortals. Yet they agreed that connecting a searching soul with a sovereign God is the most rewarding thing a Christian artist can do, whether through a timeless hymn or a stirring anthem that points the way to God's beauty, power and truth.

## SPEAKING THE TRUTH

A good artist is often able to see the questions raised by a hurting human soul. The Christian artist, however, has the ability to speak the truth and point to the source of hope, life and answers. The trick is doing all this while still attracting fans.

Owens took the challenge in stride. “I don’t think there is a huge tension between communicating a relevant message and keeping a huge audience. Hopefully, we can do both together. When I’m writing, there is a struggle to communicate in a clear, articulated way so that people can be uplifted and challenged.”

For Nordeman, speaking the truth means keeping it simple. “With Jesus, it’s not theology, not doctrine, but His teaching on the most basic of levels that has allowed me to simplify my faith. Time after time, He tried to hammer that home to His disciples.”

Speaking of basic levels, for those who find themselves wondering “Why God?” what does all this mean?

## TRANSFORMING POWER

Owens captured the simplicity of the message of the gospel: “God, who was perfect, created a world that was perfect. But when He created humans, humans chose to step out of what He had asked them to do. We disobeyed. In order to make that right again, God came to Earth as a human, because He loved us so much and wanted something to break down the wall between us—because He was perfect

and we were imperfect. And He chose to die for all of the things we had done wrong. Only a perfect person could make that right.”

The beauty of the gospel is its availability to anyone (see sidebar “Starting a Personal Relationship With God”). Once a person receives Christ and His forgiveness, God’s Spirit begins to make the person more like Christ.

The process of maturing can be painful, as Ortega explained, “The gospel devastates us, then transforms us. Someone said that to embrace God is to embrace an all-consuming fire. When we embrace that fire, then everything that is not of Him gets burned away. The experience is painful, but life-giving.”

## HOPE FOR THE REAL WORLD

Part of communicating the message of the gospel is to convey that living a life committed to Christ doesn’t exempt a person from suffering. This is an important message in Ortega’s music. “We can’t be escapist in our approach—only singing songs about blue skies and sunshine and happy days. We can’t shun the pain and struggle of being human and still expect to be heard by anyone.”

At the same time, these artists recognize that the Bible teaches that through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we can find real answers to the problems of life.

“In our hour of despair,” Ortega continued, “God calls us out by name. That is what the hope is, the

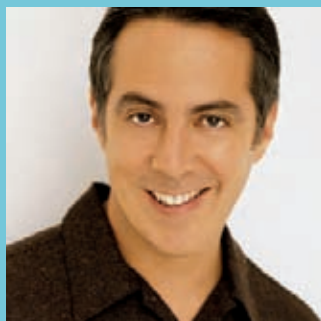
**“THE GOSPEL DEVASTATES US, THEN TRANSFORMS US. SOMEONE SAID THAT TO EMBRACE GOD IS TO EMBRACE AN ALL-CONSUMING FIRE. WHEN WE EMBRACE THAT FIRE, THEN EVERYTHING THAT IS NOT OF HIM GETS BURNED AWAY. THE EXPERIENCE IS PAINFUL, BUT LIFE-GIVING.”**

—FERNANDO ORTEGA



### NICHOLE NORDEMAN

Nordeman is scheduled for a new release sometime this fall. Her last, *This Mystery* (Sparrow), cemented Nordeman’s reputation as an artist capable of answering the hard spiritual questions. Her organic, piano-driven approach earned her a 2001 Dove award for Female Vocalist of the Year. Not bad for someone who got her start in Christian music by plunking down \$200 and entering the Gospel Music Association’s Academy of Gospel Music Arts contest. She won for her song “Why,” which tells the crucifixion story through the eyes of a child.



### FERNANDO ORTEGA

Fernando Ortega’s new album, *Storm* (Word), picks up where the moving and poetic *Home* left off. *Home* won Inspirational Album of the Year at last year’s Dove awards. One of the songs on that album, “Give Me Jesus,” is the “absolute favorite” of preacher Anne Graham Lotz, who says it comforted her when her son Jonathan was battling cancer. Starting in 1998, Lotz invited Ortega to lead worship seminars at the Billy Graham Training Center in North Carolina. Since then, Ortega has been the guest musician for every “Just Give Me Jesus” revival that Lotz’ Angel Ministries has sponsored.



### GINNY OWENS

Ginny Owens’ latest album, *Something More* (Rocketown), goes into edgier musical territory than her attention-grabbing debut, *Without Condition*. A Mississippi native, Owens began writing songs at age 9. Awarded a full scholarship to Belmont University in Nashville, Owens graduated with a music education degree. Soon after, a music publisher signed Owens to write songs and subsequently introduced her to Monroe Jones, who produced the demo that got her signed. Owens has received much attention in the mainstream press, including a lengthy piece that aired on National Public Radio.

**“TO ANSWER THE QUESTION ‘WHY GOD?’ WE MUST TRY TO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL IN ITS SIMPLEST TERMS....” —GINNY OWENS**

answer to the whole thing. We wait for God’s call and to hear His voice.”

Owens pointed to her dependence on God’s Word for answers. “For me, a lot of understanding has come from reading the Bible and going through guided studies.”

Owens, blind since age 2, went on to state that the gospel changes how you look at life and your struggles. “There’s finally a place to rest, there’s finally an answer, One who will supply your needs. Obviously we will all ‘run’ because we’re humans, that’s our nature. But, we finally have rest. This life is no longer the most important thing.”

So while Christians have the hope of eternal life with Christ that awaits them, what about living this life?

### **PEACE ON EARTH**

Jesus Himself said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). But what does it mean to have a full life?

For Owens, God’s love is essential to a full life.

“Love is a concept that young people are consumed with, whether it’s trying to please their parents or capture the heart of someone of the opposite sex. To answer the question, ‘Why God?’ we must try to communicate the gospel in its simplest terms and how much God loves us.... What I have to do is radiate the relationship I have with Him and the joy I have from the gospel and from embracing Him every day.”

Communicating why someone should follow Jesus is personal for Nordeman. “I would just start in a very personal place—who I am with Jesus, where I was without Him and how that level of hope and grace has been mind altering.”

Ortega sees life as a whole. God matters and makes a difference because He is involved and interested in each moment of every day. “I think the challenge for any songwriter is to communicate life—to make observations about the human condition,” Ortega said. “That’s what people resonate with, the task of bringing them to a recognition that their needs belong to God.” **CCM**

*(continued on page 26)*

For the complete transcript of our interview with Nordeman, Ortega and Owens go to [www.ccmagazine.com](http://www.ccmagazine.com).



### **STARTING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

Some people think a personal relationship with God is something only theologians can comprehend. Actually, God’s plan of salvation is simple enough for anyone to understand.

**Admit** to God that you are a sinner. Each of us has a problem the Bible calls sin. Sin is a refusal to acknowledge God’s authority over our lives. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Since none of us is perfect, all of us are sinners (Romans 3:10-18).

The result of sin is spiritual death (Romans 6:23). Spiritual death means eternal separation from God. By God’s perfect standard we are guilty of sin and therefore subject to the punishment for sin, which is separation from God. Admitting that you are a sinner and separated from God is the first step of repentance, which is turning from sin and self and turning toward God.

**Believe** that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and receive Jesus’ gift of forgiveness from sin. God loves each of us. God offers us salvation from our sins. Although we have done nothing to deserve His love and salvation, God wants to save us. In the death of Jesus on the cross, God provided salvation for all who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

**Confess** your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to others. After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, share your decision with another person. Tell your pastor or a Christian friend about your decision. “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved” (Romans 10:9-10).

*—Adapted with permission from LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tennessee.*

(continued from page 24)

## WHY, GOD?

Sometimes things happen that make you look up to heaven and ask, “Why, God?” When you don’t understand why God allows certain things to happen, you may then find yourself wondering why you should follow God. So you ask, “Why God?” The comma makes a difference. The question “Why, God?” can lead to the question, “Why God?”

One of the things that causes us to ask, “Why, God?” is the question of why good people suffer. The book of Job does not answer the question directly, but it does make us think about the subject. Such questioning is healthy as it encourages the believer to seek out the deep things of God. You only have to read the first two chapters before the obvious questions arise: “Why would God subject such a good man to so much pain? Why did God allow evil to enter the universe?” Such questioning may cause you to think, “If I were God, I would have never allowed Adam and Eve to sin.” But this is arrogant in that it implies you know more than God.

As for what God accomplishes in our lives through hardship, here are a few reasons found in the Bible.

**It humbles you** (Deuteronomy 8:2)—This is where God strips you of your pride, arrogance and self-reliance. There is nothing in the wilderness to rely upon but God.

**It tests you** (Deuteronomy 8:2)—This reveals what you’re really made of. “Now I know that you fear God...” (Genesis 22:12).

**It elevates the Word of God** (Deuteronomy 8:3)—The Word becomes the priority. There is nothing else you can live by.

**It disciplines you** (Deuteronomy 8:5)—God is in the process of taking away that part of you that does not look like Him.

**It prepares you to enter the land** (Deuteronomy 8:7)—The blessings follow the wilderness.

Suffering is never pleasant or fun. Nonetheless, God uses it to make us better people for Him. So, the next time you find yourself asking, “Why, God?” remember that God knows what He is doing. He has a purpose. This will also help you answer the question “Why God?”

—Mike Minter



## SO, WHY GOD?

Why should a person believe in and follow the God of the Bible? The answer is two-fold. First, a person should believe in Jesus Christ because He brings purpose, meaning and joy to life in this world. We live in a world damaged by the results of our sin. It’s not a perfect world. Because we have sinned, we need forgiveness in order to experience all that God has in store for each of us. That forgiveness is available only through Jesus. We also need help. We need answers. We need direction. Jesus provides this direction through the Bible and through His Spirit living within the Christian.

Second, a person should believe in Jesus because He brings us hope. This life is rather short. In time we will all die. Where we spend eternity

depends solely only on our relationship with Jesus. We can have all the best of this world, but without the assurance of eternal life, we will always live with the burden of knowing that the clock is ticking and time for us is running out. Only through Jesus do we have a hope for a life beyond this one that is filled with peace, joy and love.

Christianity is an intelligent faith. It makes sense. It is reasonable. But all of the intellectual explanations can’t really answer the question, “Why God?” In the end, the answer is quite simple. We need Him. We need the God of the Bible as revealed in Jesus to love us, forgive us and restore us.

—Rick Edwards



# DREAMS REALLY DO COME TRUE

JIM MORRIS, THE INSPIRATION FOR DISNEY'S NEW MOVIE *THE ROOKIE*, LEARNED THAT LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.

SOMETIMES, IT'S BETTER.

BY CHERYL JOHNSTON



## JIM MORRIS BELIEVES THAT DREAMS CAN COME TRUE.

His did, only much later than he thought possible and with more help from God than he would have allowed when he was younger. Morris, who started teaching high school science and coaching baseball when his own baseball career in the minor leagues ended at 25, devoted himself to encouraging his students to pursue their aspirations.

Little did he expect that at 35 his dream of playing in the major leagues would be resurrected by a spunky high school baseball team. He could never have guessed that he'd not only make the big leagues, but that others would find his story so inspirational that Disney would make a major motion picture about his life. *The Rookie*, starring Dennis Quaid, which opened March 29 in theatres, is all about Jim Morris' incredible story.

Morris played baseball in high school, college and the minor leagues in hopes of pitching in the major leagues. But after undergoing surgeries on his elbow and shoulder, Jim put his dream aside. By the time he turned 35, Morris felt he had come

to terms with the fact that he would never play major-league baseball. He had a good marriage, three young children and a fulfilling job and figured that was where the Lord wanted him to be. And yet, even though Morris had set aside his dream, he continued to tell his own high school players that they should strive to make their dreams come true.

Then in 1998, one of Morris' pitchers challenged him to not give up on his dream, and the team made a deal with their coach: If the team made it to the local championship game for the first time in their high school's history, Morris would try out for a major-league team.

Not only did the team go to the play-offs and Morris try out for professional baseball, but he threw faster than he had 10 years earlier, and he signed on with first the minor leagues and then the majors. The abrupt change in his life, including several months without seeing his wife, Lorri, made the decision to move forward with his baseball career a difficult one for the couple, but they felt he was being given an

opportunity by God to inspire his students.

"As far as my high school kids go, it wasn't actually me making the big leagues, it was the fact that I had this opportunity that they had pushed me toward," he says. "And when that door opened, I felt that in order to teach them I had to step through that door and see what would happen, knowing that I could fall on my face or I could make it."

Morris saw the delay in the fulfillment of his dream as an advantage for him because the 10-year break gave his faith time to mature. "I don't think I fully trusted God until I turned 30. I think at that point when things started happening to me, I listened to my heart and where I was being led instead of questioning everything. It became easier then. And when they offered me the chance to go back and play baseball, I didn't think it had anything to do with my ability or me. I thought it was bigger than myself."

As one of the oldest rookies in baseball history, Jim Morris discovered that just about everyone wanted to hear how he had



**Jim Morris and Dennis Quaid**

**“I’VE HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE MY AGE OR OLDER WHO HAVE COME UP TO ME OR HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS TO ME SAYING, ‘I WENT BACK TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF YOU.’ ‘I FINISHED MY DEGREE.’ ‘I GOT THIS JOB,’ OR ‘I PURSUED A CAREER CHANGE.’”**

**—JIM MORRIS**

made it to the major leagues in his mid-30s. The more Morris told his story, the more he realized he could inspire people of all ages with it. “I’ve had a lot of people my age or older who have come up to me or have written letters to me saying, ‘I went back to school because of you.’ ‘I finished my degree.’ ‘I got this job,’ or ‘I pursued a career change.’”

Although Morris was throwing very well (his

time at home with his kids so much that at the start of the Dodgers’ 2001 spring training season, he walked into the team manager’s office and quit. He found that playing major-league ball for a short time was enough to satisfy that goal in his life. Morris realized that God could use him as a private coach for high school players, co-author of a book about his life also called *The Rookie* that was published March 1

itches were often clocked at 98 miles per hour), he had to undergo surgery again in 2000 and took the rest of the year off. He treasured the

and as the subject of a Disney film. Morris took being portrayed in a film about his life in stride. “I was able to distance myself pretty well with Dennis [Quaid] playing me.”

In addition to sharing his message through the book and film, Morris has been speaking to adults and children. “I think young kids are amazed that ‘Wow, he was in the major leagues.’ Most of them don’t know failures yet. They don’t understand that there are certain steps God puts in front of you and if you choose one way, it may not be the way He wants.”

Now, with his story inspiring so many others, Morris sees that God can use a stubborn athlete who thought his pitching days were over to show what God can do with believers who follow Him and the dreams He gives them. **CCM**

For a review of *The Rookie* go to [www.ccmagazine.com](http://www.ccmagazine.com).

## FYE CELEBRATES TODAY’S HOTTEST CHRISTIAN ARTISTS



1



2



3



4



5



6

**1**

**Avalon/o2**  
This limited edition release features upbeat remixes of ten #1 songs.

**2**

**P.O.D./Satellite**  
Dove Awards nominee for Group and Artist of the Year.

**3**

**Yolanda Adams/Believe**  
Check out the latest release from this Dove Awards nominee.

**4**

**Dove Hits 2002**  
16 hits from Dove Awards nominees including Third Day, Michael W. Smith, Kirk Franklin and more.

**5**

**The Normals/A Place Where You Belong**  
Featuring the hit single “Romeo on the Radio.”

**6**

**Zoegirl/Life**  
Dove Awards nominee for new artist of the year.

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TINA AND ERICA ATKINS (L-R).

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARY MARY

**GOSPEL MUSIC'S REIGNING DUO WANTS TO BE A PART OF THE ANSWER, WORKING TO HELP KIDS FROM URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL.**

**BY LISA TEDDER**

**One little girl was different that day.** It was nothing obvious or extreme. Maybe it was her very ordinariness that set her apart. She stood in line with hundreds of other fans who were eager to meet the artists. Her desire was no different from that of many other young girls there; she just wanted to say how much the music had meant to her. There was nothing in her face or appearance to make her memorable, no particular beauty or clothes or poise. She was just a typical fan: half eager and half embarrassed to meet her heroes, but determined to experience the encounter.

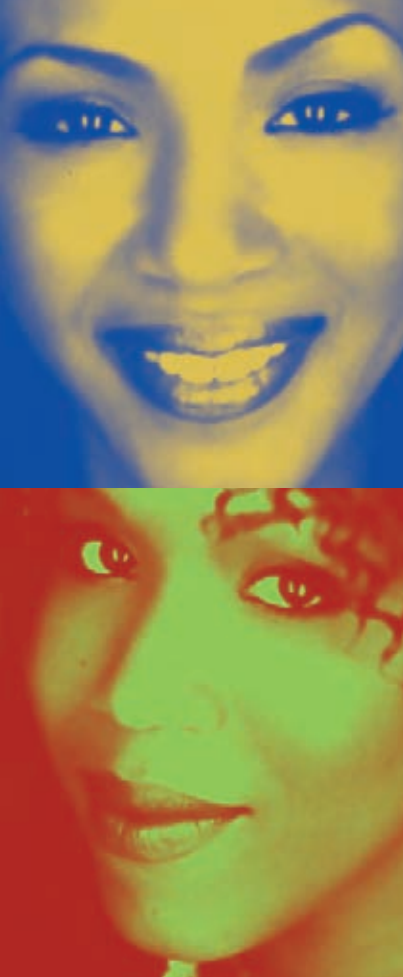
Erica and Tina Atkins, the two sisters who make up the gospel duo Mary Mary, don't remember what city they were performing in that night or how long they stayed afterward to shake hands and sign autographs. But they both vividly

remember that one little girl. She approached them hesitantly, head down and eyes averted, to tell them how beautiful they were and how much she loved their music. Something about the way she carried herself struck the two singers.

"She held her head down the entire time she talked to me," Erica remembers. "She never looked me in my eyes. I said to her, 'Honey, hold your head up! You're beautiful. You're just as beautiful as we are.'"

But the girl walked away with her uncertainty still evident, and the sisters were left wondering what it would take to convince her of her beauty and worth in God's sight and in theirs.

Experiences like that just add fuel to the fire of passion that



**“I DON’T WANT TO JUST BE ONE OF THOSE GIRLS WHO SANG GOOD SONGS. I WANT PEOPLE TO SAY, ‘SHE CHANGED MY LIFE. SHE TOLD ME HER EXPERIENCES, AND IT INCREASED MY FAITH AND CHANGED MY LIFE.’ I WANT THAT KIND OF STORY TO FOLLOW ME.” —TINA ATKINS**

Mary Mary has to share its hope-filled gospel message everywhere, especially with youth. Everyone who has lived through adolescence knows how difficult it is for teenagers to believe they’re worthwhile and important or that they can achieve something significant. It’s a time when all the fears of childhood and adulthood collide, and many teens get lost in the confusion. Those fears and difficulties are multiplied for kids who grow up in urban areas and poverty-stricken neighborhoods. Erica and Tina Atkins are familiar with the challenges of growing up in poverty because they experienced it.

“A lot of times in urban neighborhoods,” Erica says, “you don’t hear that it is possible to live for God or be educated and be successful.” Both sisters are quick to add that although they grew up in a poor area, they did receive the encouragement they needed to motivate them to pursue success. “God blessed us, and we had wonderful parents who put great things on the inside of us,” says Erica.

Tina also acknowledges the role their church community has always played in their lives: “Everything we got fed spiritually came, of course, from our parents, but we also got it from our church. There was nothing we could be in need of that they wouldn’t try to help out with.”

Everyone in their church had something to give to the Atkins sisters when they were young, and they credit much of their success today with the encouragement and motivation they still draw from that second family. Now they want to do their part by helping today’s children. “Any time we have an opportunity to give back just a portion of what was given to us,” Tina says excitedly, “we jump to it.”

That opportunity came when Evangelistic Church of Christ in Los Angeles, where the sisters grew up and are still members, decided to open a youth center to provide a youth empowerment program for their community. Tina and Erica were eager to be involved in any way they could. When they heard of the need to raise money to start the program, Tina suggested that they organize a benefit concert. The event, which included performances by Mary Mary as well as other gospel artists, raised enough money to enable the program to get underway. The Atkins are excited that the center was able to open so quickly, if only on a small scale at first; in December 2001 it started being open one day a week for after-school tutoring and counseling.

Even more exciting to Erica and Tina is the knowledge that they will

be able to have a long-term impact in the lives of kids in their own church and community. “I’m not just dropping some money in a program,” Erica says. “I know these kids personally. Some I was there when they were born and the first time they came to church. To know these children is a wonderful thing because you’re part of their lives. That’s a great thing.”

Tina adds, “This program will be another tool to win people in, to get people connected to the church. And meeting some of the new kids that are from the same community is gonna be exciting.”

Although the program is new, the experience of church-based community outreach is not novel for Tina and Erica. They have had a lifelong passion for relational ministry, for using all the tools available to draw people into relationships in the church and relationship with God. Ever since they were young, music has been their primary tool for service. “Before we even became Mary Mary,” Erica remembers, “we were in our church choir. We would go to the projects, to the worst of the worst neighborhoods, and we would sing and witness and pray with them.”

Today the success of Mary Mary is an example of how God entrusts more responsibility to those who are faithful with a little. The sisters feel that what they do at a concert today is hardly any different from the ministry of their old church choir in the projects of Los Angeles. “To do that at a young age,” Erica says gratefully, “and then embark on a recording career and still be able to do the same thing is wonderful. It lets me know that this is God’s plan for my life: to help other young people come to Christ.”

It’s a high calling, but Erica and Tina Atkins don’t consider it a unique one. “We should all be trying to help somebody,” Erica insists, “we should all be trying to love somebody, to bring somebody to Christ.”

Tina agrees. “If you don’t take the gifts and talents and blessings God has given you and share it with somebody,” she asks, “then what is your life really worth?”

With their first album now recognized by multiple awards, including a Grammy for Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album, and their much-anticipated sophomore release *Happy*, coming in June, the sisters of Mary Mary may have more gifts and talents than average. But neither fame nor album sales nor commercial success can give these women the sense of worth that they sing and speak about so confidently. “I don’t want to just be one of those girls who sang good songs,” Tina says humbly. “I want people to say, ‘She changed my life. She told me her experiences, and it increased my faith and changed my life.’ I want that kind of story to follow me.”

Judging by the many fans at concerts who stand in line to tell the gospel duo just those kinds of stories, the legacy that their music leaves in many people’s lives will be following the sisters for a long time to come. **CCM**



# THE HOTTEST PLACES TO BE THIS SUMMER CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVALS 2002

COMPILED BY KRISTIN DeMINT

You've waited a year, and now they're back! Here is CCM's guide to some of the summer's best Christian music festivals.

## East

### CREATION 2002 EAST

Agape Farm  
Mt. Union, PA

**JUNE 26-29**  
800/327-6921

[www.creationfest.com](http://www.creationfest.com)

**ARTISTS:** Michael W. Smith, Kirk Franklin, Newsboys, Delirious, Third Day, Audio Adrenaline, Point of Grace, Jennifer Knapp, Lincoln Brewster, The Supertones, Stacie

*Orrico, Mary Mary, Toby Mac, ZOEgirl, Phil Keaggy & Glass Harp, Cross Movement, Chris Rice, Switchfoot, Out of Eden, PAX217, Relient K, Salvador, Five Iron Frenzy, Lincoln Brewster, Jami Smith, Ten Shekel Shirt, Paul Baloche, Rock 'n' Roll Worship Circus, Circadian Rhythm, John Reuben, The Benjamin Gate, Grits, Superchick, Bleach, Thousand Foot Krutch, Calibretto 13, Beanbag, 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, Flight 180, Rod Laver, Hangnail, Pillar, Side Walk Slam, Denver & The Mile High Orchestra*

**SPEAKERS:** Craig & Jake, Anthony Walton, Jason Carson, Eastman Curtis, Ken Davis,

*Jeffrey Dean, Lakita Garth, Joshua Harris, David Nasser, Duffy Robbins, Rob Schenck, Mike Silva, Buster Soaries, Heather Mercer, Dana Curry, Laurie Polich*

### FISHNET 2002

Fishnet Life Center  
Front Royal, VA

**JULY 10-13**

800/228-2961

[fishnet@fishnetministries.org](http://fishnet@fishnetministries.org)  
[www.fishnetministries.org](http://www.fishnetministries.org)

**ARTISTS:** Artist roster was not available at press time.

## KINGDOM BOUND 2002

Six Flags Darien Lake  
Darien Center, NY

**AUG. 4-7**  
800/461-4485  
www.kingdombound.org

**ARTISTS:** Ten Shekel Shirt, Charlie Hall, Delirious, David Ruis, True Vibe, ZOEgirl, Salvador, Carman, David Crowder Band, The Supertones, Mary Mary, Audio Adrenaline, Chris Tomlin, Nicole C. Mullen, Mark Schultz, Third Day, Randy Rothwell, Viola, Stuart Townsend, Alicia, Robert Stearns, Paul Baloche, Alvin Slaughter, Robin Mark, Scott Krippayne, Lenny LeBlanc, Ceili Rain, Witness Protection Program, Capstone, John Reuben, Disciple, Skillet, Downhere, Cory Red, Bleach, Superchick, Relient K, The McClurg Family Singers, Joy Williams, Kindred 3, Pillar, Apologetix, PAX217, Andy Hunter

**SPEAKERS:** Dana Curry, Heather Mercer, Mike Skupin, Reggie Dabbs, Laurie Polich, Grant Jeffery, Dr. Kevin Leman, Frank and Linda Reich, Jeff Cavins, Mike Shreve, Bob Sorge, Rick Cua

## PURPLE DOOR FESTIVAL

Ski Roundtop  
Lewisberry, PA

**AUG. 16-17**  
877/PurpleD  
www.purpledoor.com

**ARTISTS:** Project 86, Relient K, PAX217, John Reuben, Bleach, Hangnail, Thousand Foot Krutch, Further Seems Forever, Ace Troubleshooter, Starflyer 59, Joy Electric, Two Thirty Eight, Slick Shoes, Craig & Jake, Jason Carson, among others

## THE INSIDE-OUT SOUL FESTIVAL

Loon Mountain  
Lincoln, NH

**AUG. 1-4**  
978/346-4577  
newsound@aol.com  
www.newsoundconcerts.com

**ARTISTS:** Michael W. Smith, Mary Mary, Delirious, Newsboys, Rebecca St. James, Toby Mac, Audio Adrenaline, Nicole C. Mullen, ZOEgirl, True Vibe, Sarah Masen, Skillet, Salvador, Relient K, Five Iron Frenzy, Virtual Frequency, Grits, The Electrics, Out of Eden, Jars of Clay, Justin McRoberts, Katy Hudson, The Elms, Randy Stonehill, Downhere, Pillar, Greg Walton, Sean Forrest, Nico, among others

## SYRACUSE FESTIVAL WITH LUIS PALAU

Clinton Square  
Syracuse, NY

**JULY 12-13**  
315/434-8830  
www.SyracuseFestival.org

**ARTISTS:** Kirk Franklin, The Tribe, Third Day, Avalon, The Katinas, Bibleman  
**NOTE:** Admission is free



# South

## ASHLAND YOUTHFEST 2002

Ashland Riverfront  
Ashland, KY

**AUG. 24**  
606/325-0556  
**ARTISTS:** Artist roster was not available at press time.

## ATLANTA FEST 2002

Six Flags Over Georgia  
Atlanta, GA

**JUNE 19-22**  
800/783-8839  
www.atlantafest.com  
**ARTISTS:** Jake, Bebo Norman, The Pull, Toby Mac, Souljahz, Audio Adrenaline, DJ Maj, Knowdaverbs, Grits, Apologetix, Metropolis, Ali Rogers, True Vibe, Skillet, Sarah Sadler, Third Day, Charlie Hall, David Crowder Band, Squirt, Waterproof Feat, Buck, Paul Colman Trio, John Reuben, Joel Goddard, Relient K, Downhere, Jars of Clay, Big Fat Jam, The Elms, Inside the Outside, The Pool Boys, Smalltown Poets, Delirious, Joy Williams, Michael W. Smith, By the Tree, Daily Planet  
**SPEAKERS:** Efrem Smith, Ron Luce, Louie Giglio, David Nasser

## BEACHFEST AT BROADWAY WITH LUIS PALAU

Broadway at the Beach  
Myrtle Beach, SC

**JUNE 7-8**  
843/445-7746  
www.beachfest.org  
**ARTISTS:** Kirk Franklin, Point of Grace, Toby Mac, Audio Adrenaline  
**NOTE:** Admission is free

## CELEBRATE FREEDOM

South Fork Ranch  
Parker County, TX

**JUNE 29**  
972/870-9949  
www.kity.com  
**ARTISTS:** Artist roster was not available at press time.

## ICHTHUS

Ichthus Farm  
Wilmore, KY

**APRIL 25-28**  
859/858-3001  
www.ichthus.org  
**ARTISTS:** Audio Adrenaline, Kirk Franklin, Five Iron Frenzy, Caedmon's Call, Bleach, Superchick, The Waiting, Polarboy, Salvador, Relient K, Pillar, Lincoln Brewster, Rhythm, Lost and Found, Ten Shekel Shirt, LaRue, Katy Hudson, Luna Halo, Toby Mac  
**SPEAKERS:** Lori Salierno, Darrell Scott, Louie Giglio, Dennis "Tiger" McLuen, Bronwyn Schweigerdt, Rich Van Pelt and more

## NIGHT OF JOY

Disney's Magic Kingdom  
Orlando, FL

**SEPT. 6-7**  
877/648-3569  
www.nightsofjoy.com  
**ARTISTS:** Kirk Franklin, Steven Curtis Chapman, Plus One, Mary Mary, ZOEgirl, Phat Chance, The Benjamin Gate, Natalie Grant, Michael W. Smith, Jaci Velasquez, Plus One, Audio Adrenaline, Stacie Orrico, Joy Williams, Petra

## ROCK THE UNIVERSE

Universal Studios  
Orlando, FL

**SEPT. 6-7**  
877/589-4783  
www.rocktheuniverse.com  
**ARTISTS:** Newsboys, Jennifer Knapp, Contagious, Jars of Clay, The Supertones, Relient K, By the Tree, Ali Rogers, Rebecca St. James, Out of Eden, Five Iron Frenzy, Third Day, Toby Mac, True Vibe, Paul Colman Trio, Daily Planet, Sarah Sadler  
**SPEAKERS:** Ron Luce, Jay Strack

## KSBJ'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Reliant Astrodome  
Houston, TX

**JULY 6**  
281/446-5725  
djonair@ksbj.org  
www.ksbj.org  
**ARTISTS:** Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Newsboys, Avalon, Nicole C. Mullen, 4HIM, Wayne Watson, FFH, Plus One, Chris Rice, MercyMe, Phillips, Craig & Dean, Phil Keaggy, Margaret Becker, Twila Paris, Greg Long, Nichole Nordeman, Ginny Owens, Natalie Grant, John Tesh, Shaun Groves, Joy Williams, Al Denson, David Meece, Kim Boyce

## TEXAS ROCKFEST 2002

Johnson Park  
Marble Falls, TX

**JUNE 28-29**  
512/264-2994

# Kingdom Bound 2002

## August 4-7

**“...Come, Now Is The Time To Worship”**  
Ps 95:6

Audio Adrenaline  
Delirious?  
Carman  
Third Day  
OC Supertones  
Skillet  
Paul Baloche  
Mary Mary  
Dayna Curry  
Heather Mercer  
Mike Skupin(SurvivorII)  
And More

\*Artist Subject to Change

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Amusement Park  
Water Attractions  
Kids Ministry  
CWF



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& Rochester, NY

At Six Flags Darien Lake

Kingdom Bound  
Ministries  
800-461-4485

www.kingdombound.org

iTickets.com

bball@swbell.net

www.appallingproductions.mailme.org

**ARTISTS:** Mercy's Wake, Axiom, Embless, Syringe, Black Obsidian, Fair Warning, Wrench, among others

### KINGS FEST 2002

Paramount's Kings Dominion  
Doswell, VA

JUNE 27-29

804/876-5000

www.christianconcerts.com

**ARTISTS:** Bleach, PAX217, Delirious, Newsboys, ZOEgirl, Sonicflood, Jennifer Knapp, Third Day, Relient K, The Supertones, Audio Adrenaline, Steven Curtis Chapman

### XTREME 2002

Greensboro Bats War Memorial Stadium  
Greensboro, NC

SEPT. 28

877/770-PEAK

www.xtremefestival.com

**ARTISTS:** Skillet and more.

**OTHER EVENTS:** Skateboarding, rock climbing and other extreme games



## Midwest

### AGAPE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bond County Fairgrounds  
Greenville, IL

MAY 3-4

618/664-1861

agape@greenville.edu

www.agapefest.com

**ARTISTS:** Joy Williams, PAX217, Switchfoot, Out of Eden, Audio Adrenaline, The Normals, For All the Drifters, Bleach, Seventh Day Slumber, L.A. Symphony, Pillar, True Vibe, Salvador

### ALIVE FESTIVAL 2002

Clay's Park Resort  
Canal Fulton, OH

JUNE 19-22

330/854-0011

alivefest@alive.org

www.alive.org

**ARTISTS:** Third Day, Michael W. Smith, Audio Adrenaline, Delirious, The Supertones, Kirk Franklin, Toby Mac, Five Iron Frenzy, Relient K, Out of Eden, ZOEgirl, Chris Rice, PAX217, Mark Schultz, Bebo Norman, The Benjamin Gate, Salvador, Skillet, Pillar, True Vibe, Beanbag, Phat Chance, Grits, among others

**SPEAKERS:** Josh McDowell, Ron Hutchcraft, Joshua Harris, John Piper, Louie Giglio, among others

### CORNERSTONE FESTIVAL 2002

Cornerstone Farm

Bushnell, IL

JULY 2-6

773/989-2087

info@cornerstonefestival.com

www.cornerstonefestival.com

**ARTISTS:** 121, The 77s, Ace

Troubleshooter, All Wound Up, Altar Boys, Carolyn Arends, Arthur, Beanbag, The Benjamin Gate, The Blackjacks, Bleach, Freddie Bruno, Cadet, Ceili Rain, Christafari, The Colemans, Cool Hand Luke, Crash Rickshaw, Crimson Thorn, The Crossing, Daniel Amos, Danielson Familie, Dead Poetic, Deepspace 5, Denison Marrs, Derri Daugherty and Steve Hindalong, Dogwood, East West, Element 101, John Fischer, Five Iron Frenzy, Flight 180, Furthermore, Glenn Kaiser Band, Hangnail, Derrick Harris, Havalina Rail Co., Headnoise, Brian Healy, The Huntingtons, Ill Harmonics, Iona, Joshua, Joy Electric, Jennifer Knapp, Left Out, Living Sacrifice, The Lost Dogs, LPG, Toby Mac, Phil Madeira, Mars III, Kate Miner, Narcissus, New Breed, Larry Norman, One Bad Pig, Over the Rhine, PAX217, Pierce Pettis, Pillar, Poor Old Lu, Project 86, Relient K, The Remnants, Rock 'n' Roll Worship Circus, Rod Laver, John Rueben, Scaterd Few, Side Walk Slam, Sixpence None the Richer, Slick Shoes, Lenny Smith, Soul Junk, Spoken, Squad Five-0, Starflyer 59, Stavesacre, Stretch Arm Strong, Terry Taylor, Too Bad Eugene, Tunnel Rats, Two Thirty Eight, Urban Hillbilly Quartet, Vigilantes of Love, Vroom, The Wayside, Whitecross, Zao, among others

### CROSSOVER 2002

Stoneridge Amphitheater

Camdenton, MO

JUNE 7-8

800/336-0917

crossover@spiritfm.org

www.crossoverfestival.org

**ARTISTS:** Rhythm, Jake, True Vibe, Nicole C. Mullen, James Clay, By the Tree, Apologetix, Rachael Lampa, MercyMe

(continued on page 40)

(continued from page 36)

### INDY YOUTHFEST 2002

Washington Park  
Indianapolis, IN

**AUG. 24**

317/826-2802

**ARTISTS:** Mary Mary and more

### LIFEST 2002

Sunnyview EXPO & Fairgrounds  
Oshkosh, WI

**JULY 11-14**

800/955-LIFE

info@lifest.com

www.lifest.com

**ARTISTS:** Steven Curtis Chapman, Newsboys, Five Iron Frenzy, Delirious, Pillar, Superchick, Burlap to Cashmere, Earthsuit, Fusebox, Justifide, among others

**SPEAKERS:** Reggie Dabbs, Bob Lenz, Tiffany Thompson and more

### SONSHINE 2002

The Civic Center

Willmar, MN

**JULY 11-13**

800/233-3378

sonshine@sonshinefestival.com

www.sonshine2002.com

**ARTISTS:** Steven Curtis Chapman, Newsboys, Audio Adrenaline, Delirious, Toby Mac, Five Iron Frenzy, Go Fish, Burlap to Cashmere, Salvador, PAX217, Superchick, Skillet, among others

### SPIRIT FEST MIDWEST

Soo Pass Ranch

Detroit Lakes, MN

**JULY 19-21**

800/493-3378

www.spiritfestmidwest.com

**ARTISTS:** Artist roster was not available at press time.

### SPIRIT SONG FESTIVAL 2002

Paramount's Kings Island

Cincinnati, OH

**JULY 11-13**

800/288-0808

www.christianconcerts.com

**ARTISTS:** Sonicflood, Steven Curtis Chapman, Knowdaverbs, Stacie Orrico, The Supertones, Audio Adrenaline, Ace Troubleshooter, Relient K, Jennifer Knapp, Delirious, Point of Grace, Newsboys

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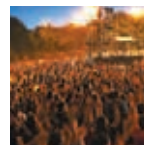
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NEWSBOYS  
AUDIO ADRENALINE  
DELIRIOUS  
TOBYMAC  
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GO FISH  
BURLAP TO CASHMERE  
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sonshine2002.com



## West

### CREATION 2002 WEST

The Gorge Amphitheater

George, WA

**JULY 24-27**

800/327-6921

www.creationfest.com

**ARTISTS:** Michael W. Smith, Plus One, Newsboys, Delirious, Jars of Clay, Audio Adrenaline, Jennifer Knapp, Point of Grace, Lincoln Brewster, The Supertones, Stacie Orrico, Mary Mary, Toby Mac, ZOEgirl, Skillet,



Phil Keaggy & Glass Harp, Cross Movement, Out of Eden, PAX217, Switchfoot, Relient K, Salvador, Jami Smith, Ten Shekel Shirt, Paul Baloché, Rock 'n' Roll Worship Circus, Circadian Rhythm, John Reuben, The Benjamin Gate, Grits, Superchick, Bleach, Thousand Foot Krutch, Calibretto 13, Beanbag, 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, Flight 180, Rod Laver, Hangnail, Pillar, Side Walk Slam, Brad Stine

**SPEAKERS:** Craig & Jake, Anthony Walton, Jason Carson, Eastman Curtis, Ken Davis, Jeffrey Dean, Lakita Garth, Joshua Harris, Ron Heagy, David Nasser, Duffy Robbins, Mike Silva, Buster Soaries, Heather Mercer, Dana Curry, Laurie Polich

## PUGET SOUND FESTIVAL WITH LUIS PALAU

Marymoor Park  
Redmond, WA

**AUG. 17-18**

425/820-6588

[www.PugetSoundFestival.org](http://www.PugetSoundFestival.org)

**ARTISTS:** Steven Curtis Chapman, Third Day, Avalon, Steve Green, Tait, The Katinas, MercyMe, Bibleman

**NOTE:** Admission is free

## SEMINAR IN THE ROCKIES/ PRAISE IN THE ROCKIES

Estes Park Center, YMCA  
Estes Park, CO

**AUG. 4-10**

615/242-0303

[www.gospelmusic.org](http://www.gospelmusic.org)

**ARTISTS:** Third Day, Jars of Clay, Audio Adrenaline, Crystal Lewis, Steve Green, Sandi Patty, Gary Chapman, The Martins, Chonda Pierce, The Katinas, Selah, Altogether Separate, Kim Hill and more

**SPEAKERS:** Charlie Peacock, Steve Brown, Lisa Harper and more

## SPIRIT WEST COAST

Laguna Seca Recreation Area  
Monterey, CA

**JULY 25-27**

888/GO-SWC-GO

[www.spiritwestcoast.org](http://www.spiritwestcoast.org)

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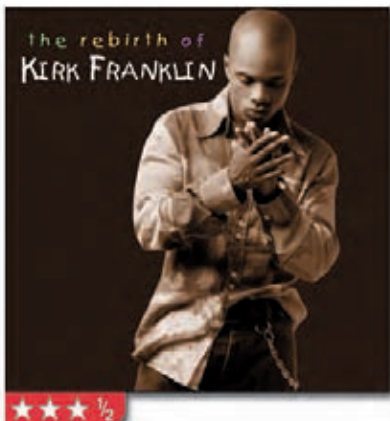
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## One to Watch



### *The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin*

Kirk Franklin (Gospo Centric)

A quick glance at the album cover—featuring a clean-shaven Kirk Franklin (his face and his head)—and you have to wonder what led to Franklin's drastic-yet-youthful transformation. As it turns out, his razor-and-shaving-cream job is more than skin deep. It's locked in step with his stated desire for innocence and pure focus on Jesus rather than on commercial success.

This new release indeed reflects that desire. Gone are the hilarious ditties where Franklin skewers trash-talkin' naysayers. The lyrics are all about Christ—His love, His sacrifice and His worthiness of worship.

*The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin* sports Franklin's well-known genre-bending tendencies—there are multiple blends of gospel, R&B, rap, funk, rock, pop, reggae and classical—giving this collection a more spontaneous gospel flavor than he's had in a while.

"He Reigns" begins with guest vocalist Papa San spittin' out reggae-styled vamps. The song then jumps to a samba version of Rich Mullins' "Awesome God" and ends with Franklin's own verses. "Caught Up," the album's most purely gospel tune, features Shirley Caesar belting out her heart and soul. The very talked about song, "911," is the most interesting selection. It showcases Bishop T.D. Jakes trading spoken word with Franklin over some elegant piano. "The Blood Song" is supported by Crystal Lewis, Jaci Velasquez and Donnie McClurkin, and proves a fine commentary on the meaninglessness of skin color: "Some say you're black, you're white/They question if you're real/We treat you like we treat ourselves/I wonder how you feel/To see your children fight in spite of the tears for us you shed...."

There are only two small missteps. The introductory horn arrangement for "When I Get There" is way too similar to Lionel Richie's '80s hit, "All Night Long," and the "hidden track" with Toby Mac of dc talk ("Throw Yo' Hands Up") makes a stab at hard rock, but it's too lightweight and over the top.

Overall, *The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin* more than delivers the goods—spin it and hear for yourself.

—Dave Urbanski



## Worship God

Rebecca St. James (ForeFront)



Just when you thought the worship wagon was full, Rebecca St. James presents a new offering for your consideration. This album begins with "Song of Love," based on Psalm 89. Co-written by

producer Matt Bronleewe (Jars of Clay, Natalie Imbruglia) and songwriter Jeremy Brose, St. James' take on "Song of Love" has that Darlene Zschech quality that makes it instantly familiar.

Unfortunately, St. James' other original contributions fall short of the glory of the aforementioned tune. In all, St. James delivers five, mostly up-tempo praise & worship choruses of her own, including the semi-industrial "Lamb of God" and the ironically loud "Quiet You."

The album's first single, St. James' remake of Vineyard's "Breathe, I'm Desperate for You," tops other recent versions (by Michael W. Smith and Acquire the Fire). St. James' pop/rock renditions of other modern praise & worship songs do not fare as well: "God of Wonders" (from the original *City on a Hill* project) gets a makeover, complete with a female lead vocal and a distracting "da-da-da" background vocal. And "Above All" (by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche) stands out for all the wrong reasons—not quite fitting in this eclectic mix.

While St. James deserves some praise for paying homage to worship music's rich history with her pop interpretation of the classic hymn "It Is Well," perhaps the strongest call to worship comes from the song "More Than the Watchmen." Penned by up-and-coming singer/songwriter Jeremy Casella, the chorus echoes the plaintive words of the psalmist, "More than watchmen wait for morning/My soul will wait for You."

Like the watchmen, St. James' die-hard fans have been waiting two years for *Worship God*, her fifth studio album, and they will aspire to own it. For the rest, it's probably safe to say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

—Steve Knight

## Cover Me

Brother's Keeper (Ardent)



It's not uncommon for a vocal group to associate itself with canned music tracks because, let's face it, the focus is on the vocals, not the instrumentation. But on its sophomore

release, *Cover Me*, Brother's Keeper decided to go in a somewhat different direction, creating more of a live band sound as the backdrop for its impressive harmonizing. The title track, for example, uses heavy acoustic and electric guitar strumming to fuel its chorus. Three songs later on "Be Like You," the guys actually pull off a laid-back rap song. Although the cowboy feel at the beginning of "Out of This World" only feigns toughness, the two-chorus combination, complete with its own horn section, easily makes up for the unusual intro. But on several of the album's remaining tracks, like "In His Love," "Out of My Blindness" and the album's first single, "Take Me to the Cross," the Memphis-based trio retreats back to vanilla instrumentation and churchy vocals.

While capable harmonies are the flagship of the group's sound, the vocal inflection of the different members on their solos often sounds forced. The result is an album that tries hard to appeal to younger listeners but would be better appreciated by a more mature audience.

—David Mackle

## E-Praise

E-Praise (BEC)



It seems Delirious isn't the only European outfit capable of producing cutting edge praise & worship music. In one of this year's most interesting collaborative efforts, a pair of

talented Swedes (Ultrabeat frontman Erik Augustsson and New Born Soul's Hannah Westin) fashion a techno/dance release featuring well-known modern praise & worship songs. The result is the aptly named *E-Praise* project, rife with up-tempo electronic beats, bouncy vocals and fresh renditions of everything from "God of Wonders" to "Shout to the Lord."

It is certainly no simple task to successfully blend Euro dance vibes with the reverent spirit of tracks like "I Love You Lord." That said, Augustsson pulls it off by meticulously exploiting the latest synthesizers and subsonic mixers, giving virtually every track the requisite skittering and pulsing effect. And whereas the vocals on many electronic-driven releases rely on over-production, Westin's perky alto is just fine by itself. Nowhere does she hold her own more effectively than on the Delirious-penned standout "Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble?" and on the bubbling sequences of "More Love, More Power."

Although it may take a while longer before Christian techno/dance music takes off here in the United States, *E-Praise* definitely offers a good representation of what's to come.

—David McCreary

## Scribbling in the Sand

Michael Card (M2.0)



Michael Card continues to bridge the gulf between the musician and the listeners moved by his art, recording an intimate evening with close associates in Nashville. Bearing the feel of a

coffeehouse or even a living room, *Scribbling* is a collection of Card's finest work and bears the bonus of two new tracks. Steve Green, Sara Groves, Phil Keaggy and Phil Naish are among the friends who join Card as he reflects on the importance of community setting the context for music.

Highlights of the evening include the gripping "Why" and its question/response examination of Jesus' crucifixion, the heart-breaking new song "Underneath the Door" that shares Card's memories of his father, and the Keaggy-filled "Poem of Your Life." Green amplifies the vocal power of "Immanuel," and a saxophone sweats passionately amid the wrestling-with-God images of "Know You in the Now." The studio-recorded title track, which asserts that Jesus' sand writing in John 8 "shouted volumes without saying a single word," is destined to become another classic for the industry's most theologically reflective musician.

—John M. De Marco

## Take Two

Ill Harmonics (BEC)



On its sophomore release *Take Two*, hip-hop act Ill Harmonics doles out smartly crafted rap flavored with enough jazzy funk to satisfy even the most selective listener. Talented emcees Blake

Knight and Playdough deftly inject gut-pounding beats, chunky bass lines and straightforward rhymes—and that is just the first song.

This is an album as lyrically complex and musically eclectic as anything general-market counterpart Busta Rhymes has propagated. From the flamenco-inflected timbre of "Destiny" to the '70s-style stutter of "Backside of the Sun," the thick, looping grooves and smooth, mid-tempo melodies are laid down right on time.

Curiously, the disc's themes meander from hypocrisy and romance to triumph and self-reflection. That's not to say the guys lack focus, just that they seem bent on tackling a multiplicity of subjects. In fact, there's nothing more impressive than the duo's proclivity to

bust out a serendipitous verse or wildly hilarious lyric at any given moment. Witness, for example, the wry ditty "Bowtie Jerks." Here's the gist: A woman who initially disses a cordial admirer changes her mind and says, "I been hantin' for your phone number... must have tossed it/I mean lost it/So please forgive me." Savvy stuff indeed.

—David McCreary

## Secrets of the Vine

Various (ForeFront)



After releasing the six-song *Prayer of Jabez* CD last year, it only seemed right to follow with this disc as a tribute to Bruce Wilkinson's successful *Jabez* follow-up *Secrets of the Vine*.

The CD is worth the price alone for the amazing tune that closes out the disc, "In Christ Alone," sung by Adrienne Liesching and Geoff Moore which sounds like a classic hymn set on the shores of Ireland. Composed by Irish actor Stuart Townsend and fellow Irishman, producer/arranger Keith Getty, this soaring tune of passionate commitment to Christ is brilliant.

Margaret Becker makes a worthy contribution with her performance and co-writing of the title track, but unfortunately a synthesized horn sound that should have been left in the '80s dates the song. Avalon's Janna Long steps out on her own to sing "Awakening," which together with Kim Hill's (however strangely titled) "Love By Degree" are the songs that seem most relevant to the book's theme.

Even though it's easy to be somewhat leery of a book-related music product, especially when the music is teamed with an amazing book, as is the case with this new project, there's enough good here to warrant a listen.

—Mark A. Smeby

## Army of Love

Jake (Reunion)



On their sophomore release, *Army of Love*, Jake goes in two different directions. During the first four tracks the three-brother band from Canada sets the pace for a solid pop/rock

album. But then the rock disappears for a while, and Jake essentially becomes a boy band minus the dance moves, not returning to an edgier feel until the final two songs.

Naming the band after a series of Jakes in their family line, the brothers each play their own instruments, but for some reason you hear them less and less during that five-track attempt to go pop. Included in that attempt are "Crazy," which feels like '80s pop idol Tiffany, and the youthful "Take a Ride," which features some Britney Spears-like attitude and an obvious Backstreet Boys slant. Of course Jake's positive lyrics and Christian faith certainly make it an ideal substitution for the aforementioned youth culture pop stars.

As far as the pop/rock tracks at the album's beginning and end, they make a strong statement on what Jake can do as a band. The title track and "Sparkling" feature prominent electric guitar and hook-filled choruses that should turn into radio hits. On "Free," a pile of samples and distorted drum loops reveal a Pop/Rock sound not unlike Jars of Clay. *Army of Love* certainly has its moments—some for rock fans and some for teen pop fans—but the album repeatedly tries to go in two different directions and, like any two-headed monster, will ultimately struggle to make headway.

—David Mackle

## Be Glad

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir (M2.0)



The key ingredient that enables any Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir release to teem with relevancy is the authenticity of the witnesses. Grateful voices released from drug

addiction. Singers who have tasted the deepest fruits of redemption and know that all perspectives changed once they yielded to the Spirit of God.

The choir's unmistakable pipes are nicely accompanied by piano and keyboard touches and a few horns, and the album offers a good mix of fast-paced gospel numbers and stirring ballads. "Be Glad" is a fitting opener, pleading with listeners to respond to God's mercy with attitudes of gratitude. When the singers belt, "He brought me out," you know that memories of life before grace are not carelessly erased.

A cover of "This Is How It Feels to Be Free" stirs a hunger for a fresh touch of Christ. And "Go Forth" is a suitable finale, encouraging listeners to share the gift they've received. This project is a clarion call for holding praise and discipleship together in dynamic tension.

—John M. De Marco



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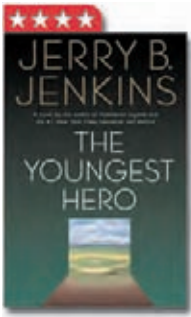
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## The Youngest Hero

Jerry B. Jenkins (Warner Books)



If not a fan of baseball, one might hesitate to read the latest from Jerry Jenkins, well-known for his *Left Behind* series. Yet, *The Youngest Hero* offers so much more than just a story about baseball. It revolves around the relationship between a mother and her young son and the sacrifices they endure for him to obtain an unlikely dream.

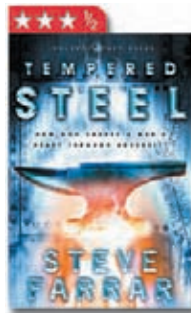
Leaving their small hometown to escape the influence and embarrassment of a self-destructive husband and father, Miriam and Elgin make Chicago their new home. Although alone and struggling financially, Miriam wants to provide Elgin with opportunities she never enjoyed. She realizes the rare talent her 11-year-old possesses for the game of baseball. Determined to beat the odds, they set out to make him the youngest baseball hero.

Cleverly written through the points of view of both Miriam and Elgin, the reader becomes intimately acquainted with the difficulties these characters face. Along with the challenges of proving to others that Elgin is a great ballplayer, issues of loneliness, forgiveness and the pain of letting go are all addressed. This book proves successful at celebrating the game of baseball while also focusing on the unconditional love a mother has for her son.

—Dawn Pharris

## Tempered Steel: God's Man Forged in the Fire of Adversity

Steve Farrar (Multnomah)



The kind of man God uses is a man who has been trained and tested. In *Tempered Steel*, Farrar sets the stage for what it takes to be a man of God. Understand that he's not talking about a casual relationship. He's referring to walking through the fire and allowing God to mold

you. Farrar takes the reader through his own personal experience and also shares the wisdom of many leaders of old, such as Moses, David, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, presenting the different methods God uses to make men of great character.

Farrar's book makes the point that it takes time to be ready for the ministry to which you've been called. One section, "God will test you before He promotes you," explains that God will put you through the refining fires until you resemble His perfect Son, Jesus.

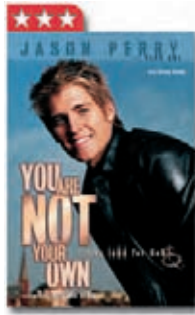
Realizing that God loves us too much to let us remain the way we are, it causes one to look at adversity in a whole new light. For when we have been tested, we will come forth as gold—or, as the book suggests, tempered steel.

—Jeff Schmid

## You Are Not Your Own: Living Loud for God

Jason Perry with Steve Keels

(Broadman & Holman)



Openly admitting to having rebelled in overt ways, such as drinking and pre-marital sex, prior to joining Plus One, band member Jason Perry looks back in his new book and details how things could have been different. With common sense, Perry tells readers how wise planning can pave a

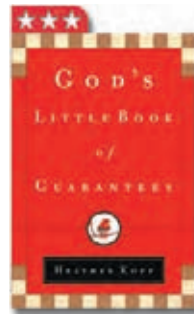
steadfast path toward greater maturity and consistent fruit-bearing for God. Perry suggests that teens who are serious about becoming sold out for God first repent, find a mentor, start memorizing Scripture, fall in love with God's promises and recognize the importance of choosing like-minded friends.

This Plus One member has traveled a path with the band that many aspiring musicians would give anything to emulate; but Perry is quick to dismiss his success as the end goal, recognizing that singing and ministering in this band is simply a conduit to sharing God's love with those who are searching.

—Michele Howe

## God's Little Book of Guarantees

Heather Kopp (Multnomah)



In today's society we don't have many definites, but through the Bible we can find there are certain guarantees God has given us: comfort, forgiveness and, most importantly, His unconditional love.

Kopp's book is unfortunately too short to be used as a devotional on a daily basis but still provides comfort for the

soul. Covering a wide spectrum of levels of Christian maturity, Kopp reaches the new believers in Christ with promises of everlasting life. For the mature Christian, there are guarantees of strength to withstand temptations and comfort during times of turmoil.

Everyone could use a little encouragement now and then, no matter how long he or she has been a follower of Christ. What better encouragement than reminders of God's promises? This book offers those guarantees while giving you a renewed sense of God's presence in your life.

—Amber Harris CCM

## COMING IN MAY'S CCM

- Amy Grant interview
- "Days of Our Lives" Austin Peck
- City of the Month: First Stop, Atlanta

## EDITOR'S PICK

### The Most Reluctant Convert: C.S. Lewis's Journey to Faith

David C. Downing (InterVarsity)



If you've read C.S. Lewis' portrait of the Christian life in *Mere Christianity* or the beguiling writings of *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, it would be easy to assume Lewis' rock-solid faith began at an early age.

With stories so deeply centered around the theme of faith in God, that assumption would likely be considered a given.

And while Lewis' works continue to inspire and impact the arena of Christian literature nearly 40 years after his death, readers might soon forget that Lewis' conversion experience could be described as "unlikely" and "impossible."

In *The Most Reluctant Convert*, David Downing takes readers down the long—and often winding—road in explaining Lewis' journey to faith. Using a format that reads like a historical timeline, Downing also provides an in-depth analysis of Lewis' life, inner struggles and bouts with unbelief.

For those who don't enjoy exhaustive biographical reading, the book's format may not be all that appealing. But for those who like meatier portions and are interested in knowing more about the author who has caused believers—and unbelievers alike—to consider their faith, this is an intriguing addition to your collection.

—Christa Farris

# Kate Campbell Meeting Grace House San Diego, California

by Dave Urbanski



Let's get one thing straight: discussing any aspect of this concert is simply unthinkable without also describing the "concert hall" in which it took place. The venue was unlike any I have ever encountered: white plaster walls, dark hardwood floors, ornate molding, candles spread throughout a warm living and dining room—even free coffee, tea, bottled water and homemade cookies and muffins.

That's right. Kate Campbell offered 90 minutes of her uniquely literate, acoustic storytelling in an honest-to-goodness house.

Standing just inside the front-door entryway—just a couple of feet from the outer fringes of a crowd of 40 or so fortunate onlookers—Campbell played her six-string and sang without a microphone, P.A. or lights. The intimacy this living-room show afforded was a pitch-perfect compliment to Campbell's friendly, genuine, unforced stage presence. (Even occasional strains of jumbo jets preparing to land at nearby Lindbergh Field sounded like delightful, homespun flaws.)

Campbell began this otherwise quiet Sunday evening with Gordon Lightfoot's "The House You Live In," the vibrant opening song from her latest album, *Wandering Strange* (Eminent). And given the lyrical content—"When you're out on the road and feeling quite lost/Consider the burden of fame.../Beware of strange faces and dark dingy places.../And the house you live in will never fall down/If you pity the stranger who stands at your door"—Campbell couldn't have scripted a more *apropos* start.

The veteran troubadour spent the rest of the night casually spinning yarns and telling tales between performances from *Wandering Strange* and her four previous recordings, *Songs From the Levee*, *Moonpie Dreams*, *Visions of Plenty* and *Rosaryville*. Highlights included the breaks she often took between selections to explain a song's origins. Sometimes humorous ("Jesus and Tomatoes," "Mississippi and Me"), sometimes poignant ("Rosa's Coronas," "Bear It Away"),

unlike many artists' between-song banter, her stories were interesting, multi-layered and complex.

In a moving moment, Campbell, the daughter of a civil rights-supporting Baptist minister from Mississippi, discussed how she felt after four little girls her age were killed in the 1960s after their Baptist church was firebombed. "I always thought that church was a safe place to be," Campbell told the hushed room. "That was my first memory of violence." And with that, she launched into the cry of "Bear It Away," based in part on author Flannery O'Connor's *The Violent Bear It Away*.

The show ended as it began—fittingly. "The Last Song," sharing an at once whimsical and profound idea that Jesus and His disciples sang a song on their way to the garden of Gethsemane, contains more subtle theology than most Christian music ditties, and Campbell's lone encore, "A Perfect World," doused the crowd with a shot of true love.

Don't miss Campbell in concert. It's an evening that'll leave you feeling richly touched. And if at all possible, catch her performances in intimate spaces. These house concerts are catching on (surf to [www.MeetingGrace.com](http://www.MeetingGrace.com) for more information). **CCM**

## set list:

- "The House You Live In"
- "Rosaryville"
- "Porcelain Blue"
- "Mississippi and Me"
- "See Rock City"
- "Rosa's Coronas"
- "Joe Louis' Furniture"
- "Fade to Blue"
- "Satin Sheets"
- "Heart of Hearts"
- "Jesus and Tomatoes"
- "10,000 Lures"
- "Signs Following"
- "Bear It Away"
- "In My Mother's House"
- "The Last Song"
- "A Perfect World"



**Jeff Mezzocchi**  
San Diego, CA

"I really liked Kate's mellow music—especially 'In My Mother's House.' I recently moved away from home, so it was touching for me."



**Rebecca Daly**  
San Diego, CA

"I grew up Catholic, and I've struggled with the Bible; to get past those who put their personal spins on it. But Kate's songs take a really fresh look at those things."



**Kathleen Reid**  
San Diego, CA

"I loved the intimate venue. It was kind of like VH1's 'Storytellers'—Kate talked about her songs, and we could find out where she received her inspiration."

# A FRESH LOOK AT LEWIS

C. S. Lewis's  
Journey  
to Faith

DAVID C.  
DOWNING

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RELUCTANT  
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In this book David Downing sheds new light on the tumultuous path of spiritual and intellectual exploration that beloved Christian author C. S. Lewis took before becoming "the most reluctant convert." Join Downing in investigating Lewis's personal journey to faith and the profound influence that journey had on his creative and spiritual life.

*"[Downing] has succeeded in writing a book that will satisfy the serious student of Lewis and also the general reader. I very much appreciate the elegant and sparing way that David writes."*

COLIN DURIEZ, author of the *C. S. Lewis Encyclopedia*

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19—Hudsonville, MI  
26—Atlanta, GA  
27—Charlotte, NC  
May 2—Madison, MS  
4—Knoxville, TN  
9—Savannah, GA  
10—West Palm Beach, FL  
11—Orlando, FL  
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2—Indianapolis, IN  
4—Valparaiso, IN  
5—Marion, IN  
7—Detroit, MI  
8—Kendallville, IN  
10—Lincoln, NE  
11—Minneapolis, MN  
12—Mt. Prospect, IL  
14—South Bend, IN  
615/662-7776

### OLETA ADAMS

April 27—Wilmington, DE  
615/963-3000

### YOLANDA ADAMS

April 2, 5—Houston, TX  
26—Inglewood, CA  
May 18—St. Louis, MO  
29—Washington, D.C.  
212/824-1795

### ANOINTED

May 5—Columbus, OH  
615/859-7040

### APOLOGETIX

April 13—Fairmont, WV  
26—Hanford, CA  
27—Sacramento, CA  
605/334-6652

### CAROLYN ARENDS

April 13—Lansing, MI  
615/467-3398

### RILEY ARMSTRONG

(see Circadian Rhythm)  
812/521-6420

### AUDIO ADRENALINE

April 11—Wichita Falls, TX  
12—Muskogee, OK  
19—Spokane, WA  
27—Wilmore, KY  
May 3—Greenville, IL  
4—Rockford, IL  
10—Bethany, OK  
11—Shepherdsville, KY  
18—Denver, CO  
615/963-3000

### AURORA

April 20—Mt. Berry, GA  
615/790-5540

### AVALON

April 2—Tulsa, OK  
4—Joplin, MO  
5—North Little Rock, AR  
6—Fort Worth, TX  
12—Sioux Falls, SD  
May 4—Cedarville, OH  
11—Santa Clara, CA  
615/963-3000

### BASIX

April 13—Visalia, CA  
28—Kearney, MO  
219/269-3413

### BEANBAG

(see Earthsuit)  
615/297-2021

### MARGARET BECKER

May 19—New Port Richey, FL  
615/963-3000

### THE BENJAMIN GATE

April 3—Silver City, NM  
5—Oklahoma City, OK  
6—Sherman, TX  
10—Aurora, MO  
12—Piqua, OH  
13—Glassboro, NJ  
14—Watertown, SD  
18—St. Davids, PA  
19—Knoxville, TN  
20—Fayetteville, GA  
26—Lisle, IL  
27—Florence, KY  
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### THE BLAMED

(see Living Sacrifice)  
773/561-2450

### BLEACH

April 5—Terre Haute, IN  
13—Glassboro, NJ  
19—Houston, TX  
20—Canton, TX  
27—Wilmore, KY  
615/297-2021

### RAY BOLTZ

April 11—Newnan, GA  
12—Tallahassee, FL  
13—Columbia, SC  
615/790-3300

### LINCOLN BREWSTER

May 3—Orono, ME  
18—East Stroudsburg, PA  
19—Absecon, NJ  
25—San Jose, CA  
615/790-5540

### BROTHER'S KEEPER

April 7—Texarkana, TX  
205/755-9077

### MATT BROUWER

(see Circadian Rhythm)  
909/684-3474

### BUCK ENTERPRISES

April 3—Amarillo, TX  
4—Abilene, TX  
5—San Antonio, TX/  
Austin, TX  
7—Houston, TX  
27—Lampe, MO  
248/478-6488

### BURLAP TO CASHMERE

April 13—St. Peter, MN  
615/383-8787

### BY THE TREE

April 6—Brownwood, TX  
19—Clemson, SC  
May 4—St. Augustine, FL  
16—Troy, MI  
615/790-5540

### CADET

April 19—Oxford, MI  
615/297-2021

### CAEDMON'S CALL

April 19—Evansville, IN  
20—Upland, IN  
26—St. Louis, MO  
27—Wilmore, KY  
615/297-2021

### CALIBRETTO 13

(see Buck Enterprises)  
615/297-2021

### MICHAEL CARD

April 11—Cedar Falls, IA  
12—Huntington, IN  
18—Grand Rapids, MI  
26—Philadelphia, NY  
219/269-3413

### CARMAN

April 13—Enid, OK  
15—Poplar Bluff, MO  
18—Springdale, AR  
19—Austin, TX  
26—Sarasota, FL  
615/771-2711

### STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN

April 5—Spokane, WA  
6—Redmond, WA  
7—Portland, OR  
8—Davis, CA  
11—Fresno, CA  
12—San Jose, CA  
13—Anaheim, CA  
14—Phoenix, AZ  
17—San Antonio, TX  
19—Plano, TX  
20—Spring, TX  
615/383-8787

### CIRCADIAN RHYTHM

April 3—Boynton, PA  
7—Absecon, NJ  
26—The Woodlands, TX  
615/297-2021

### CROSS MOVEMENT

April 14—Manheim, PA  
215/423-1800

### CLAY CROSSE

April 6—Elizabethtown, KY  
615/777-2227

### THE DARINS

April 5—Northville, MI  
13—Augusta, ME  
27—Belton, TX  
May 12—Des Moines, IA  
615/790-5540

### DC TALK

April 20—Atlanta, GA  
21—Greenville, SC  
615/383-8787

### DELIRIOUS

April 3—Salt Lake City, UT  
4—Arvada, CO  
6—Chesterfield, MO  
7—Peoria, IL  
12—Orlando, FL  
May 3—Tuscaloosa, AL  
615/383-8787

### AL DENSON

April 24—Cincinnati, OH  
717/627-1911

### JEFF DEYO

April 12—Rising Sun, IN  
18—Nashville, TN  
20—Boiling Springs, NC  
May 4—Athens, AL  
817/560-8179

### DOWNHERE

April 12—Souderton, PA  
219/269-3413

### BRYAN DUNCAN

April 6—Orlando, FL  
7—New Port Richey, FL  
20—Middleburg Heights, OH  
219/269-3413

### EARTHSUIT

April 4—Wichita, KS  
5—Bartlesville, OK  
6—Dallas, TX  
7—Abilene, TX  
12—Oklahoma City, OK  
13—Ottawa, KS  
17—Columbus, OH  
18—Kendallville, IN  
19—Clarkston, MI  
20—Toledo, OH  
30—Nashville, TN  
615/383-8787

### EAST WEST

May 11—Chicago, IL  
13—Kendallville, IN  
20—Blairsville, PA  
24—Poplar Bluff, MO  
30—Dallas, TX  
909/279-2500



## ELI

April 10—Indianapolis, IN  
May 10—Visalia, CA  
615/673-1398

## THE ELMS

April 5—Ellettsville, IN  
10—Olivet, MI  
12—Kirkwood, MO  
13—Pulaski, TN  
17—Owensboro, KY  
19—Edmond, OK  
21—Chagrin Falls, OH  
May 4—Mt. Vernon, OH  
11—Phoenix, AZ  
12—Riverside, CA  
13—Anaheim, CA  
18—Hertford, CA  
615/662-7776

## SCOTT FAIRCLOFF

April 3—Crestview, FL  
19—Greenville, MS  
205/755-9077

## FFH

April 5—Wilmington, NC  
6—Miami, FL  
27—Clinton, TN  
May 4—Charleston, SC  
10—Midland, TX  
11—Broken Arrow, OK  
12—Wichita, KS  
18—Mifflinburg, PA  
615/790-5540

## JOHN FISCHER

April 24—Elgin, IL  
25—Cincinnati, OH  
27—Nicholasville, KY  
May 3—Vancouver, WA  
661/325-6967

## FORTY DAYS

April 10—Pineville, LA  
12—Tahlequah, OK  
17—Grove City, PA  
19—Hanover, PA  
20—Dallas, TX  
28—Chesapeake, VA  
615/777-2227

## KIRK FRANKLIN

April 14—Gainesville, FL  
26—Wilmore, KY  
May 4—Valdosta, GA  
5—College Station, TX  
18—Battle Creek, MI  
615/963-3000

## FURTHER SEEMS FOREVER

April 1—Birmingham, AL  
2—Atlanta, GA  
3—Jacksonville, FL  
617/247-4287

## FUSEBOX

April 20—Nashville, TN  
615/859-7040

## GAITHER VOCAL BAND

April 2-3—New York, NY  
5—Wichita, KS  
6—Denver, CO  
12—Mobile, AL  
13—Birmingham, AL  
19—Greensboro, NC  
20—Greenville, SC  
26—Cleveland, OH  
27—Dayton, OH  
864/801-9266

## GOSPEL GANGSTAZ

April 20—Indianapolis, IN  
615/662-7776

## NATALIE GRANT

(see Plus One)  
615/248-0800

## STEVE GREEN

April 5—Clark Summit, PA  
6—Brookhaven, PA  
12—New Oxford, PA  
13—Clearfield, PA  
19—Upper Marlboro, MD  
20—Concord, NH  
21—Upper Marlboro, MD  
26—St. Louis, MO  
27—Defiance, OH  
615/662-0335

## GRITS

April 6—San Angelo, TX  
13—Ottawa, KS  
615/370-2980

## SARA GROVES

April 2—Lakeland, FL  
4—Memphis, TN  
5—St. Augustine, FL  
6—Montgomery, AL  
9—Wilmington, NC  
12—Derwood, MD  
14—Media, PA  
18—Hickory, PA  
19—Grove City, OH  
615/383-8787

## SHAUN GROVES

(see Jars of Clay)  
615/790-5540

## LARNELLE HARRIS

April 13—Bristow, VA  
20—Scotch Plains, NJ  
21—Hawthorne, NJ  
26—Houston, TX  
407/240-0048

## KIM HILL

April 2—Everett, WA  
5—Corinth, MS  
13—St. Simons Island, FL  
19—Fort Lauderdale, FL  
May 4—Dallas, PA  
615/777-2227

## JASON INGRAM

(see Sonicflood)  
615/777-2227

## JAKE

May 4—Bangor, ME  
www.jeffroberts.com

## JARS OF CLAY

April 1—Canton, MS  
2—Meridian, MS  
4—Mobile, AL  
6—West Palm Beach, FL  
7—Lake Buena Vista, FL  
10—Las Vegas, NV  
11—Wexford, PA  
12—Worcester, MA  
13—Lynchburg, VA  
14—Baltimore, MD  
16—New York, NY  
18—Hershey, PA  
19—Cleveland, OH  
20—Eureka, MO  
27—Oklahoma City, OK  
29—Grand Rapids, MI  
May 3—Tulsa, OK  
4—College Station, TX

7—Las Vegas, NV  
10—Visalia, CA  
12—San Diego, CA  
14—Sacramento, CA  
16—Medford, OR  
17—Vancouver, WA  
18—Seattle, WA  
19—Spokane, WA  
24—Denver, CO  
26—Kansas City, MO  
30—Ames, IA  
31—Villa Park, IL  
615/963-3000

## JUMP5

April 27—Oklahoma City, OK  
www.jump5.com

## JUSTIFIDE

April 1—Sikeston, MO  
2—Indianapolis, IN  
4—Valparaiso, IN  
5—Marion, IN  
7—Detroit, MI  
8—Kendallville, IN  
10—Lincoln, NE  
11—Minneapolis, MN

12—Mt. Prospect, IL  
14—South Bend, IN  
480/899-8846

## THE KATINAS

April 4—Williamsport, PA  
7—Camp Hill, PA  
9—Rockford, IL  
12—Westerville, OH  
13—Baltimore, MD  
26—Atlanta, GA  
27—Charlotte, NC  
May 2—Madison, MS

9—Savannah, GA  
10—West Palm Beach, FL  
11—Orlando, FL  
17—Palmetto, FL  
18—Jacksonville, FL  
615/963-3000

## CHERI KEAGGY

April 5—Minneapolis, MN  
7—Roseville, CA  
19—Memphis, TN  
27—Omaha, NE  
May 4—Scotch Plains, NJ  
10—Louisville, KY

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## ONtour

18-Lansing, MI  
615/777-2227

### PHIL KEAGGY

April 12-Murray, KY  
13-Brainerd, MN  
20-Lexington, KY  
21-Jenkintown, PA  
219/269-3413

### RON KENOLY

April 3-Washington, D.C.  
6-Englewood, CO  
8-Miami, FL  
11-Ontario, CA  
19-Dallas, TX  
20-Camden, AR  
21-Dallas, TX  
28-Tulsa, OK  
888/PRAISES

### KINDRED 3

April 20-Gulfport, MS  
615/963-3000

### WES KING

April 11-Dallas, TX  
27-Millsboro, DE  
219/269-3413

### JENNIFER KNAPP

(see Jars of Clay)  
615/383-8787

### SCOTT KRIPPAYNE

April 14-Avon, IN  
19-Matthews, NC  
21-Cypress, TX  
615/777-2227

### LARUE

April 6-Portland, OR  
7-Glendale, AZ  
12-Bemidji, MN  
25-Warsaw, IN  
26-Wilmore, KY  
May 4-Denver, CO  
11-Sebring, FL  
18-Tustin, CA  
19-Riverside, CA  
20-Anaheim, CA  
800/578-7984

### ROD LAVER

(see Earthsuit)  
615/297-2021

### RUSS LEE

April 19-Colonial Heights, VA  
May 4-Surprise, AZ  
615/859-7040

### NIKKI LEONTI

April 19-Palos Heights, IL  
615/963-3000

### CRYSTAL LEWIS

May 10-Fresno, CA  
11-Bakersfield, CA  
615/383-8787

### LIVING SACRIFICE

April 6-Bryant, AR  
501/343-2496

### GREG LONG

April 5-Branson, MO  
26-South Portland, ME  
27-Augusta, GA  
615/963-3000

### MARK LOWRY

April 3-New York, NY  
615/826-6119

### LUNA HALO

April 13-Glassboro, NJ  
20-Owensboro, KY  
26-Wilmore, KY  
615/297-2021

### TOBY MAC

April 5-Brainerd, MN  
7-Willmar, MN  
27-Wilmore, KY  
615/383-8787

### THE MARTINS

April 3-New York, NY  
5-Danville, VA  
6-Titusville, PA  
615/851-4500

### MARY MARY

April 12-Cleveland, OH  
615/383-8787

### SARAH MASEN

April 19-Ann Arbor, MI  
615/777-2227

### JUSTIN

McROBERTS  
April 16-Bluefield, VA  
615/297-2021

### MITCH McVICKER

April 5-Topeka, KS  
8-Wheaton, IL  
12-Rome, GA  
785/232-4189

### DAVID MEECE

April 14-Clinton, IL  
21-Herminie, PA  
520/891-1828

### MERCYME

April 4-Burnet, TX  
5-Shawnee, OK  
11-Jacksonville, FL  
12-Birmingham, AL  
13-New Orleans, LA  
15-Lynchburg, VA  
615/297-2021

### BUDDY & JULIE MILLER

April 2-Fayetteville, AR  
415/485-5100

### KELLY MINTER

April 19-Knoxville, TN  
27-Ellicott City, MD  
615/790-5540

### GEOFF MOORE

April 5-Honolulu, HI  
13-Augusta, ME  
14-Trenton, MI  
21-Nashville, TN  
26-Hume, CA  
May 11-Madison, WI  
15-Wyoming, MI  
18-Berkley, MI  
615/790-5540

### CINDY MORGAN

April 7-Branson, MO  
28-Riverside, CA  
615/963-3000

### NEWSBOYS

April 19-Indianapolis, IN  
May 4-Athens, AL  
770/736-5363

### NEWSONG

April 6-Myrtle Beach, SC  
27-Belton, TX  
May 4-Nashville, TN  
8-Dacula, GA  
615/859-7040

### NIFTY TOM FIFTY

April 1-Sikeston, MO  
2-Indianapolis, IN  
4-Valparaiso, IN  
5-Marion, IN  
7-Detroit, MI  
8-Kendallville, IN  
10-Lincoln, NE  
11-Minneapolis, MN  
12-Mt. Prospect, IL  
408/253-6545

### NICHOLE NORDEMAN

(see Steven  
Curtis Chapman)  
615/777-2227

### BEBO NORMAN

(see Third Day)  
615/297-2021

### STACIE ORRICO

April 6-Branson, MO  
615/383-8787

### FERNANDO ORTEGA

April 5-Grand Rapids, MI  
6-Waterloo, IA  
7-Lincoln, NE  
8-Ellisville, MO  
12-Fort Lauderdale, FL  
18-Bloomington, IL  
19-Raytown, MO  
26-Raleigh, NC  
May 10-11-Chicago, IL  
16-Hershey, PA  
17-Baltimore, MD  
19-Gaithersburg, MD  
219/269-3413

### OUT OF EDEN

April 5-Brainerd, MN  
6-West Palm Beach, FL  
7-Willmar, MN  
20-Gulfport, MS  
27-Norman, OK  
615/963-3000

### OVER THE RHINE

April 26-Gambier, OH  
513/731-6837

### GINNY OWENS

April 12-St. Paul, MN  
May 26-Nashville, TN  
615/771-2500

### PAIGE

April 12-Kirkwood, MO  
13-Clinton, IL  
27-Tacoma, WA  
May 10-Bethany, OK  
615/963-3000

### JANET PASCHAL

April 3-New York, NY  
5-Wichita, KS  
6-Denver, CO

7-Gastonia, NC  
12-Mobile, AL  
13-Birmingham, AL  
19-Greensboro, NC  
20-Greenville, SC  
26-Cleveland, OH  
27-Dayton, OH  
May 3-Nashville, TN  
16-Kansas City, MO  
17-Minneapolis, MN  
18-Indianapolis, IN  
615/851-4500

### SANDI PATTY

April 5-Washington, D.C.  
19-Jacksonville, FL  
May 4-Seymour, IN  
10-Humboldt, TN  
13-Chicago, IL  
16-Wichita, KS  
17-Murray, KY  
23-Alma, AR  
615/963-3000

### PAUL COLMAN TRIO

(see Third Day)  
615/662-7776

### PAX217

April 6-Azusa, CA  
12-San Diego, CA  
13-Tucson, AZ  
27-Tacoma, WA  
May 11-Santa Clara, CA  
615/297-2021

### ANDREW PETERSON

April 5-Raleigh, NC  
12-Indianapolis, IN  
13-River Forest, IL  
14-Bolingbrook, IL  
15-Sullivan, IN  
19-Green Bay, WI  
20-Chicago, IL  
615/297-2021

### PHAT CHANCE

(see Plus One)  
615/790-5540

### JILL PHILLIPS

April 21-Seattle, WA  
615/777-2227

### PHILLIPS, CRAIG & DEAN

April 11-Archdale, NC  
12-Greenville, SC  
26-Indianapolis, IN  
May 17-Dallas, TX  
615/777-2227

### CHONDA PIERCE

April 12-Tacoma, WA  
19-Salem, VA  
615/963-3000

### JONATHAN PIERCE

April 6-7-Washington  
Courthouse, OH  
615/777-2227

### PILLAR

April 24-Nashville, TN  
25-Odessa, TX  
26-Wilmore, KY  
615/847-9626

## PLUS ONE

**April** 1-Fargo, ND  
2-Billings, MT  
4-Spokane, WA  
5-Redmond, WA  
6-Portland, OR  
7-Boise, ID  
10-Sacramento, CA  
11-San Jose, CA  
12-Visalia, CA  
13-Las Vegas, NV  
14-Irvine, CA  
15-Phoenix, AZ  
17-Colorado Springs, CO  
18-Denver, CO  
19-Norman, OK  
20-Tulsa, OK  
21-Tupelo, MS  
26-Ann Arbor, MI  
27-Cincinnati, OH  
28-Columbus, OH  
**May** 2-Grand Rapids, MI  
3-South Bend, IN  
4-Wheaton, IL  
5-Cleveland, OH  
6-Charlotte, NC  
7-Columbia, SC  
9-Hershey, PA  
10-Baltimore, MD  
11-Doswell, VA  
12-Sewell, NJ  
14-Whitestown, IN  
16-Bangor, ME  
615/963-3000

## POINT OF GRACE

**April** 5-Kansas City, MO  
21-Kissimmee, FL  
27-Norman, OK  
**May** 17-Westerville, OH  
18-Indian Wells, CA  
615/963-3000

## LYNDA RANDLE

**April** 12-Mobile, AL  
13-Birmingham, AL  
19-Greensboro, NC  
20-Greenville, SC  
26-Cleveland, OH  
27-Dayton, OH  
864/801-9266

## RELIENT K

**April** 4-Houghton, NY  
5-Leesport, PA  
6-Hamden, CT  
13-Green Grove Springs, FL  
17-State College, PA  
18-Lancaster, PA  
19-Asbury Park, NJ  
20-Beaver Falls, PA  
26-Wilmore, KY  
27-Lampe, MO  
**May** 4-Endicott, NY  
11-Santa Clara, CA  
18-Cleveland, OH  
615/662-7776

## JOHN REUBEN

**April** 5-Brainerd, MN  
7-Willmar, MN  
13-Geneva, OH  
615/662-7776

## SALVADOR

**April** 5-Salinas, CA  
13-Memphis, TN  
17-Owensboro, KY  
21-Fayetteville, GA  
20-Richmond, VA  
26-Wilmore, KY  
27-Williamsburg, VA  
28-Ashburn, VA

**May** 16-Cudahy, CA  
19-La Puente, CA  
www.jeffroberts.com

## SATELLITE SOUL

**April** 19-St. Bonifacius, MN  
219/269-3413

## MARK SCHULTZ

**April** 2-Tulsa, OK  
4-Joplin, MO  
5-North Little Rock, AR  
6-Fort Worth, TX  
12-Sioux Falls, SD  
27-Clackamas, OR  
28-Aberdeen, SD  
615/790-5540

## SELAH

**April** 4-Northville, MI  
14-Lebanon, OH  
16-Findlay, OH  
17-Chesterland, OH  
19-Bath, NY  
28-Snow Hill, MD  
**May** 23-Camden, SC  
615/777-2227

## SIERRA

**April** 20-Chicago, IL  
615/859-7040

## SKILLET

**April** 3-Silver City, NM  
5-Oklahoma City, OK  
6-Tulsa, OK  
10-Aurora, MO  
13-Kansas City, MO  
14-Watertown, SD  
18-St. Davids, PA  
19-Knoxville, TN  
20-Fayetteville, GA  
26-Lisle, IL  
27-Tacoma, WA/Lampe, MO  
**May** 1-Grand Rapids, MI  
10-Rapid City, SD  
615/771-9996

## SLICK SHOES

**May** 11-Santa Clara, CA  
615/662-7776

## SMALLTOWN POETS

**April** 5-Marquette, MI  
13-Kirkwood, MO  
615/297-2021

## MICHAEL W. SMITH

**April** 27-Charlotte, NC  
**May** 10-Visalia, CA  
11-Santa Clara, CA  
615/383-8787

## SOLOMON'S WISH

**April** 27-Chesapeake, VA  
**May** 3-Flagstaff, AZ  
www.jeffroberts.com

## SONICFLOOD

**April** 4-Jacksonville, FL  
6-Waco, TX  
7-Woodward, OK  
10-Kidron, OH  
11-Clarion, PA  
12-Souderton, PA  
13-Virginia Beach, VA  
17-Northfield, MN  
18-Zanesville, OH  
19-York, PA  
20-Indianapolis, IN  
26-Jackson, TN  
27-Oklahoma City, OK

**May** 4-Flagstaff, AZ  
10-Dallas, TX  
18-St. Paul, MN  
25-Tampa, FL  
615/777-2227

## RANDY STONEHILL

**April** 28-Greenwood, IN  
**May** 4-Enumclaw, WA  
219/269-3413

## SUPERCHICK

**April** 5-Marion, IN  
6-Sellersburg, IN  
12-Phoenix, AZ  
13-Tucson, AZ  
14-Hesperia, CA  
19-20-Indianapolis, IN  
21-Lima, OH  
24-Cambridge, WI  
26-Taylorville, IL  
27-Wilmore, KY  
28-Coshocton, OH  
770/736-5363

## THE SUPERTONES

**April** 27-Woodbridge, VA  
**May** 11-Santa Clara, CA  
18-Federal Way, WA  
615/963-3000

## SWITCHFOOT

**April** 6-Branson, MO  
**May** 3-Greenville, IL  
19-Pine Village, IN  
615/963-3000

## RUSS TAFF

(see Gaither Vocal Band)  
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## JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

**April** 4-Houston, TX  
5-Austin, TX  
9-Shreveport, LA  
12-Wellington, FL  
17-Birmingham, AL  
19-Augusta, GA  
21-Canton, OH  
615/859-7040

## TEN SHEKEL SHIRT

**April** 12-East Greenwich, RI  
13-Glassboro, NJ  
18-Peoria, IL  
19-Canton, IL  
26-Wilmore, KY  
28-Clarksburg, WV  
**May** 18-Brooklyn, NY  
615/297-2021

## THIRD DAY

**April** 3-Kansas City, KS  
4-Minneapolis, MN  
5-Champaign, IL  
6-Villa Park, IL  
7-Omaha, NE  
11-Cleveland, OH  
12-Detroit, MI  
13-Grand Rapids, MI  
17-Louisville, KY  
18-Knoxville, TN  
19-Cincinnati, OH  
20-Nashville, TN  
27-Salem, VA  
28-Salisbury, MD  
**May** 3-Fort Myers, FL  
4-West Palm Beach, FL  
5-Jacksonville, FL  
9-Chattanooga, TN  
10-Birmingham, AL  
615/383-8787

## THOUSAND FOOT KRUTCH

**April** 1-Sikeston, MO  
2-Indianapolis, IN  
4-Valparaiso, IN  
5-Marion, IN  
7-Detroit, MI  
8-Kendallville, IN  
10-Lincoln, NE  
11-Minneapolis, MN  
12-Mt. Prospect, IL  
14-South Bend, IN  
29-Lampe, MO  
27-Bradley, IL  
615/297-2021

## PAM THUM

**April** 7-Berne, IN  
**May** 31-Canton, OH  
615/370-4700

## KATHY TROCCHI

**April** 13-Wichita Falls, KS  
27-Fishkill, NY  
**May** 4-Racine, WI  
7-Winston-Salem, NC  
31-Spokane, WA  
615/963-3000

## TRUE VIBE

**May** 4-Greenville, IL  
5-Conway, AR  
18-Federal Way, WA  
25-North Cape May, NJ  
615/383-8787

## MICHELLE TUMES

**May** 4-Milford, OH  
615/790-5540

## TWO OR MORE

**April** 20-21-Manchester, GA  
**May** 26-Riverside, CA  
205/755-9077

## JENI VARNADEAU

**April** 24-Tampa, FL  
**May** 18-Frankfort, IN  
29-Tampa, FL  
615/731-7422

## VEGGIETALES

**April** 2-7-Denver, CO  
10-14-Orlando, FL  
16-21-Kansas City, MO  
23-28-Detroit, MI  
30-Greenville, SC  
**May** 1-5-Greenville, SC  
7-12-Columbus, OH  
14-19-Rosemont, IL  
23-26-Atlanta, GA  
615/963-3000

## JACI VELASQUEZ

**April** 14-Gainesville, FL  
**May** 3-College Station, TX  
615/963-3000

## THE WAITING

**April** 25-Wilmore, KY  
**May** 4-Flagstaff, AZ  
770/736-5363

## SAMMY WARD

**April** 14-Harrisburg, IL  
**May** 11-Bethany, OK  
615/297-2021

## WATERMARK

(see Fernando Ortega)  
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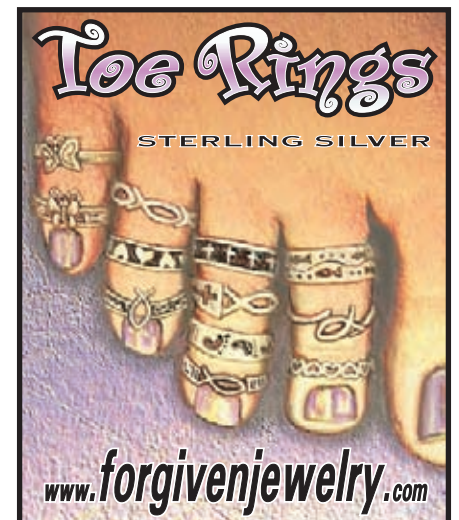


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14—Pikeville, KY  
19—Rockford, IL  
21—Venice, FL  
27—Schaumburg, IL  
29—Raytown, MO  
May 16—Visalia, CA  
18—Richmond, VA  
19—Dallas, TX  
24—Ocala, FL  
25—Steubenville, OH  
615/777-2227

**WHISPERLOUD**

April 6—Elizabethtown, KY  
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**STEVE WIGGINS**

April 5—Scottsdale, AZ

14—Bowie, MD  
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**JOY WILLIAMS**

April 2—Tulsa, OK  
4—Joplin, MO  
5—North Little Rock, AR  
6—Fort Worth, TX  
12—Sioux Falls, SD  
13—Bakersfield, CA  
17—Owensboro, KY  
May 17—Souderton, PA  
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**CECE WINANS**

April 12—Sacramento, CA  
May 3—Bossier City, LA  
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(see Plus One)  
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# BY the NUMBERS

Position	Position Last Month	Title/Artist	Label
1	1	<b>O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?</b> Various	Lost Highway
2	2	<b>SATELLITE</b> P.O.D.	Atlantic
3	—	<b>THE REBIRTH OF KIRK FRANKLIN</b> Kirk Franklin	Gospo Centric
4	—	<b>WOW GOSPEL 2002</b> Various	Verity
5	3	<b>BELIEVE</b> Yolanda Adams	Elektra
6	7	<b>WORSHIP</b> Michael W. Smith	Reunion
7	5	<b>ALMOST THERE</b> MercyMe	INO
8	4	<b>SONGS 4 WORSHIP: SHOUT TO THE LORD</b> Various	Time Life
9	6	<b>WOW 2002</b> Various	Sparrow
10	19	<b>WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED: WORSHIP 2002</b> Bishop T.D. Jakes	EMI Gospel
11	—	<b>OBVIOUS</b> Plus One	Atlantic
12	8	<b>COME TOGETHER</b> Third Day	Essential
13	9	<b>LIVE IN LONDON AND MORE</b> Donnie McClurkin	Verity
14	10	<b>DECLARATION</b> Steven Curtis Chapman	Sparrow
15	—	<b>THIS IS YOUR LIFE</b> Out of Eden	Gotee
16	12	<b>DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN</b> Various	Lost Highway
17	11	<b>LIFE</b> ZOEgirl	Sparrow
18	—	<b>STORM</b> Fernando Ortega	Word
19	—	<b>CITY ON A HILL 2: SING ALLELUIA</b> Various	Essential
20	21	<b>FREEDOM BAND</b> Bill & Gloria Gaither and Their Homecoming Friends	Spring House
21	15	<b>THANKFUL</b> Mary Mary	Myrrh/Columbia/C2
22	24	<b>AWESOME WONDER</b> Kurt Carr Singers	Gospo Centric
23	16	<b>CECE WINANS</b> CeCe Winans	Wellspring
24	—	<b>SONGS 4 WORSHIP: BE GLORIFIED</b> Various	Time Life
25	20	<b>TALK ABOUT IT</b> Nicole C. Mullen	Word
26	13	<b>SONGS 4 WORSHIP: HOLY GROUND</b> Various	Time Life
27	—	<b>WORSHIP GOD</b> Rebecca St. James	ForeFront
28	17	<b>MOMENTUM</b> Toby Mac	ForeFront
29	*	<b>OXYGEN</b> Avalon	Sparrow
30	14	<b>THE WAY I AM</b> Jennifer Knapp	Gotee
31	30	<b>OFFERINGS: A WORSHIP ALBUM</b> Third Day	Essential
32	22	<b>LIFT</b> Audio Adrenaline	ForeFront
33	29	<b>HYMNS</b> Shirley Caesar	Word
34	38	<b>FREE TO FLY</b> Point of Grace	Word
35	33	<b>SONGS 4 WORSHIP: GREAT IS THE LORD</b> Various	Time Life
36	18	<b>JUMP5</b> Jump5	Sparrow
37	—	<b>HOW SWEET THE SOUND—25 FAVORITE HYMNS AND GOSPEL GREATS</b> Charlie Daniels	Sparrow
38	—	<b>SPIRITUAL MINDED</b> KRS-One/Temple of Hip-hop	KOCR
39	*	<b>LET MY WORDS BE FEW</b> Phillips, Craig & Dean	Sparrow
40	—	<b>PURE HYMNS</b> John Tesh	Faith M.D.

(— chart debut, \* chart re-entry)

3



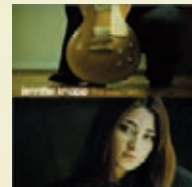
## THE REBIRTH OF KIRK FRANKLIN

Kirk Franklin wowed the Christian music community in February when his new album, *The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin*, debuted in the fourth position on *Billboard's* Top 200 Album chart. This was one of the highest debuts in the history of Christian music. For this new release, Franklin packed in the star power, with special appearances by T.D. Jakes, Jaci Velasquez, Shirley Caesar and many more. His gospel infused R&B hooks are both catchy and convicting. This new album dives into issues of insecurity, holiness and sacrifice. *Rebirth* will most likely keep Franklin and company on top of the charts for many months to come.

30

## THE WAY I AM

Jennifer Knapp



Jennifer Knapp's third album, *The Way I Am*, is the fastest selling album in Gotee Records' history. Released last November, Knapp's third disc further cements her as a singer/songwriter whose craft is comparable to Shawn Colvin and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Her wise-beyond-her-years lyrics make her a loud and motivating voice for her generation. Knapp is currently on "The Eleventh Hour" tour with headliners Jars of Clay and opening act Shaun Groves. After that, Knapp, along with her band, hits the festival circuit. Being one of the few female Christian rock guitarists, Knapp is often an encouragement for young women to pick up the guitar and not be afraid to rock.

## THIS MONTH FIVE YEARS AGO

### Top Christian Albums

- 1 **WHATCHA LOOKIN' 4**  
Kirk Franklin & The Family (Gospo Centric)
- 2 **WOW 1997**  
Various (Sparrow)
- 3 **JARS OF CLAY**  
Jars of Clay (Essential/Brentwood)
- 4 **SIGNS OF LIFE**  
Steven Curtis Chapman (Sparrow)
- 5 **JESUS FREAK**  
dc talk (ForeFront)



Leading the Dove nomination pack in 1997 with 13 nods was Toby McKeehan of dc talk (he went on to win five). Petra was on our cover, celebrating 25 years in the industry. To coincide with the release of their live album, *Let It Fly* (Tatoo), Steve Hindalong, Dan Michaels and Derri Daugherty shared with CCM how they came together to become The Choir.

## When God Is Not Enough

I can't remember when God has been more popular. If anything positive can be said about life after Sept. 11, it would be that there is a new openness to talking about God in the public sector. Movie stars talk of God. Pop stars sing about Him. Politicians pray. World leaders assume more humble poses. And those tongues that, prior to Sept. 11, wagged freely in unbelief, today lie silent. Religion is either sought after or feared, but it is definitely not ignored.

When people can no longer answer basic questions of human existence and human behavior, talk of God becomes more commonplace. When millions on the planet view incomprehensible acts of terrorism and large-scale death (in the name of religion, no less), people everywhere begin to ask a lot of questions. Instead of feeling more and more in control of our own destiny—something we presumed science and technology would give us—people feel increasingly helpless. *God* has suddenly become a household word in America. In such a time as this, how should believing Christians respond?

First, we welcome and encourage a general seeking after God. Paul commended the pagan worshipers and Greek philosophers of Athens for being very religious, even though the objects of their worship were idols. At least they were looking outside themselves for answers. They were looking for a God they did not know, though Paul knew the true God was not far from any one of them (Acts 17:27). The current spiritual climate has this much right. People are looking beyond themselves and hoping that someone or something out there bigger than themselves knows what is going on and can someday (the sooner the better) set things right.

But God alone is not an adequate ending point. Indeed, terrorists created a jet-fueled inferno in the name of Allah (their god). Just whose side is God on, anyway? A spiritual seeking after God is a good start, but as Christians, we must keep bringing up Jesus and the cross. This is where the difference becomes apparent. We can talk of God, and many can nod their heads in affirmation; but bring up Jesus, the God/man, the One who proved He was God because He died and rose from the dead, and suddenly we have a different story.

We need to remember that "Christ" is the most important part of our name as *Christians*. We are tied to the God-seekers

in many ways. We, too, want answers and someone to hold onto in times of uncertainty, but our God is not a vague deity we can fashion to suit our tastes or even our needs when the world seems beyond our control. He is a flesh-and-blood historic man whose life and words have been recorded and whose claims have known no equal. He was God in human flesh and is still, by His own words, God in heaven, at the right hand of the Father, interceding for those who believe. Make no mistake, our God is Jesus. We can talk of God to begin with, and we can enter into the discussion at any level, but we must at some point come out holding onto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who endured the cross for our salvation and the salvation of the whole world. This, and no less than this, is what makes us Christian.

Over my desk I have two photographs framed together—a work of art over which I take pride at having "commissioned." One picture looks up at three crosses on the edge of a cliff, reminiscent of Golgotha outside Jerusalem, the "place of the skull" where Christ died. Next to it, positioned almost identically on the edge of a similar cliff, is a photograph of two telephone poles with three cross bars that echo the sacred image next to it. These images were actually quite a distance apart on the side of a gorge that overlooked a camp I attended in Texas, but the similarity of the images intrigued me. I pointed this out to an amateur photographer who was attending the camp, whose work I had seen and who had already experimented

with the technique of framing poignant images side by side. She had already noticed the crosses and the poles, so my suggestion merely made sure she captured it. Indeed, she rendered it well and was kind enough to send me a copy.

I meditate on these poles often, wondering why it was such a powerful image for both of us. I realize now that what forms these poles into crosses and not telephone poles is what separates our faith from a general spiritual outlook. We can talk of God and end up with nothing but telephone poles, but you can't have Jesus without a cross. Jesus is the defining point of our faith. Without him, God may remain, for many, just a concept.



John Fischer is an author, speaker and musician (John@fischtank.com, www.fischtank.com). For booking information, contact Sheryl Giesbrecht at 661/325-6967 (SherylGiesbrecht@aol.com).