

25 OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE 25

FAITH in the SPOTLIGHT | CCMAGAZINE.COM

OUR BLOCKBUSTER LIST ISSUE

60

EXCUSES
TO LOVE
CHRISTIAN
MUSIC

A SALEM COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION

ccmmagazine.com

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COVER STORY 24

Simple Kind of Life

CHRIS WELL discovers during the course of an afternoon that **AMY GRANT** doesn't let her 25 years of "star power" interfere with what's really important—rediscovering her faith and loving her family.

FEATURES

32 Lists, Lists and More Lists!

Forget Dave Letterman's Top 10. We've got Top 25 lists of everything from "Christian Music's Most Unforgettable Performances" to "Must Have CDs" for your ultimate collection.

36 Artists

Sure, CCM reports on your favorites artists every month. But in this issue we're taking a new angle with a variety of lists like "5 Reasons Why We'll Miss Plus One's Boy Band Days," "7 Questions We're Frequently Asked About P.O.D." and many, many more.

48 Music

Music may be what brings people together, but have you ever thought about how coffee affects the lyrics to a few beloved songs? You're about to find out as we comment on these and many other topics.

54 Fans

In our tribute to Christian music fanatics, we've got the scoop on Christian music festivals, how to (and not to) track down an artist's autograph and even a few personal confessions from the CCM staff vault.

60 Jesus

In this special section, we dissect the spiritual context of classic CDs by dc talk, Amy Grant, Jars of Clay, rave about worship and youth group days, among other things.

IN REVIEW

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Here's to 25 years of *CCM Magazine*! Just five years ago, the comprehensive anniversary issue on the happenings and history of Christian music eloquently defined 20 years. Now five years later, we're going a little more tongue-in-cheek with the celebration in our first list issue. We hope you have as much fun reading it as we did putting it together. So sit down and enjoy the humor, insight and memories as we take a look at 25 years of Christian music.

In Christ,

Matthew Jones
Editor of *CCM Magazine*



**SIX
QUESTIONS
I'VE
BEEN
ASKED
SINCE
BECOMING
THE
EDITOR
OF
CCM
MAGAZINE**

4 THINGS I WANT TO SEE HAPPEN IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC BEFORE YEAR 2010:

1. Various artists remake Amy Grant's *Age to Age*, singing the classic tunes. Jennifer Knapp should sing "I Have Decided."
2. Superchick[k] should sing "Fat Baby" and Nichole Nordeman should sing "In a Little While." Please, someone make this happen!
3. The Dove Awards make it onto ABC, NBC, CBS or Fox. Heck, I'd settle for UPN or the WB.
4. That more people would hear the truth of Jesus Christ through Christian music.

4 OF MY FAVORITE CHRISTIAN MUSIC MEMORIES

1. Being on-stage with Sandi Patty and singing *The Friendship Company's* theme song with 200 other crazed kids. (I can't believe I'm telling you this. Go Sandi!)
2. Hearing "Kiss Me" on pop radio for the first time. (107.3 in Washington, D.C.)
3. Seeing P.O.D. live at Nation's Theatre in D.C. (I was almost killed in the mosh pit.)
4. Being front and center for a one-man Phil Keaggy show in 1999.

ThREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU'RE ON THE CCM EDITORIAL STAFF:

1. If you say the name "Jesus" more than three times in an interview with *Rolling Stone*, you will not get quoted. (But go ahead and say it anyway!)
2. Starbucks employees will know you by your first name—just in case that creeps you out.
3. The power in the message of Christian music still changes lives.

ONE WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC?
TWO CAN I HAVE YOUR JOB?
THREE WHEN IS CARMAN GOING TO BE ON THE COVER OF CCM?
FOUR WHAT DO YOU THINK OF BONO?
FIVE ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?
SIX ARE YOUR GLASSES REAL?



three things

**one MUST KNOW before continuing
to read this issue**

- No artist, song or album was hurt in the making of this issue. Umm, well, there may have been some mild bruising, but we are absolutely certain no one was fatally wounded.
- If you have little to no sense of humor, stop reading this issue now!
- Those who failed to heed the advice in point No. 2 and have been offended by the content in this issue of *CCM Magazine*, please e-mail your opinion to mturner@salempublishing.com.

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> ratio of males to females featured on the cover over the years is 185 to 62 with Amy Grant seizing >>

The mission of *CCM Magazine* is to move readers toward a closer walk with Jesus Christ. CCM celebrates the message of God through the ministry and impact of today's finest Christian artists using Scripture as our interpretive lens.

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Cover photo by Kerri McKeenan-Stuart



your feedback

"Shame on those who condemn and feel so self-righteous to not even open their hearts and eyes to the needs and ministries going on in Hollywood!"
—Diane Nicholson



'SHADY' MOVIE

I understand and can appreciate this article ["Bruce Almighty's Tom Shadyac Is Not Your Average Hollywood Director," May] for giving us the perspective of a Christian Hollywood director; but when I heard the films to his credit, I was shocked. The fact that this director is a Christian was a surprise to me. As Christians, we are to pursue righteousness and try to enhance the kingdom of God. But *Bruce Almighty* looks a little too far on the irreverent side to me.

—Brittany Stanley, via e-mail

Thank you, CCM, for your courage, [writer] Dan Ewald for your insight and director Tom Shadyac for being bold in the work God has called you to behind the scenes in Hollywood! We need more Christians like you! You are being salt and light. Shame on those who condemn and feel so self-righteous to not even open their hearts and eyes to the needs and ministries going on in Hollywood!

—Diane Nicholson, Black Forest, CO



Tom Shadyac asks, "What does it mean to be a Christian artist? What is the relationship between faith and art?" I ask, "When is art sinful?" Films like *Ace Ventura* include scenes that I doubt CCM would be willing to explicitly describe in print, let alone depict in still photographs. Merely calling such films "bawdy" seems to skirt the sin question. Is bawdy material ever *not sinful*?

—Jeff Bjorck, Pasadena, CA

So many of you wrote in with opinions about Tom Shadyac. Regardless of which side you fall on, we hope that the opportunity to at least hear from one of Hollywood's 'A-list directors helps you view all movies and the people who create them in a new light.

DISAPPOINTED WITH DMX

When CCM mentioned DMX ["The Insider," May] and that he was going to take time off to read his Bible, it blew me away. Give me a break! He's going to write with Eminem, and I suppose Eminem is going to take time off to do the same isn't he? I really think that sometimes you try to make CCM really wordly!

—Penny Bailey, via e-mail

I am getting sick and tired of people in *CCM Magazine* who are featured and are not living out the Christian life. In this month's issue, it talks about rapper DMX. He said he was going to take time off to get into

the Word but only after he releases a new CD that is going to have trash like all his others do. Until someone is earnestly seeking the Lord, can give his testimony and live it out in his life, he or she needs to be left out of the magazine. I do not want *these* people lumped in with a bunch of people who live hypocritical lives. Some of the individuals you feature are giving Christians a bad name.

—Matt Kidd, Scio, OH



Thanks for your letters Matt and Penny, it was certainly not our intent to offend.

EASY COME, EASY GO

I just wanted to say I am really glad you came out with the truth in your online story and denounced Evanescence ["In Review Music," May] like you should have!

—Jonathan Frank, via e-mail

I would just like to say that Evanescence should be very ashamed of itself. I read the *Entertainment Weekly* interview of Amy Lee and Ben Moody, and I felt sick to my stomach. These individuals wrote amazing, compelling music that showed a heart for God! They simply were recognized by pop culture [figures] and wrote off their relationship with God as a "youthful indiscretion," wrinkling ing their noses at the one thing that gave them their amazing talent: GOD.

—Marcus Hathcock, via e-mail

ticker continued on page 8

We, too, were completely disappointed by the comments in EW from Evanescence. We wrote the album review prior to the interview.

Your article on Third Day in the May 2003 issue should have been titled: "Third Day: 10 Years Of Mediocrity and Radio Saturation"
—Michael Durham, Nashville, TN



DON'T STEREOTYPE KEVIN

It was really nice for CCM to finally feature Kevin Max ["3 Hours, 59 Minutes in the Life of Kevin Max," May] because it's been two years since you've done a full-length article about him. For me, it is this very originality that makes him and his music so appealing—face it, he is certainly not like other Christian artists out there.

—Grace Carthey, Calmar, IA

Thanks, Grace! Kevin Max rocks!



CONSPIRACY THEORY #6

I am 15 years old, and I love Third Day. They are my favorite band. Thank you so much for the very insightful and encouraging story. Keep up the great work, CCM!

—Ryan Hubbell, Dallas, TX

"talked up" The Fish station that we have in Milwaukee. It's an awesome station, and we were all so thankful when an FM Christian station came to the area. But you wrote that it's 105.9. The dial number is actually 105.3. Oops!

—Molly Jasinski, via e-mail

Sorry for this mistake! Say hello to our friends, Danny, Dee and Colleen, at The Fish in Milwaukee!

IT'S ALL RELEVANT

I read your short comment on page 4 of the May 2003 issue on relevance ["From the Editor"]. Well done. If you think you can be irrelevant at 20, 30 or even 40, try being relevant at 52. There's no way! Yet, I

thoroughly enjoy praising God with upbeat music as much as I love worshiping with soft music to God. I guess when it comes down to it, relevance is in the eye of the beholder.

—Bob Loomis, via e-mail

SHOUT-OUT TO LIFEST

I'm just writing to thank you for talking about Lifest in your May issue! I went last year, and it was a great experience! It's also really great that you

NO 'ADORATION' HERE

For Christian artists, the main objective is to create an album that projects their love for our Lord. To question the sincerity of a fellow Christian's effort to express that love is uncalled for ["In Review Music," May]. Even if the Newsboys' album is "staggeringly unimaginative" or the songs are "extremely elementary and arid on all levels," it is not the writers' place to demean fellow believers. God is a God of variety. He even loves the dull, unimaginative way people praise Him.

This article would fit perfectly in a secular magazine because it is a critique on the artists' ability or apparent inability to manipulate their instruments to create music that is acceptable to a trained musician. Your magazine should be able to stand by every word as an indication of the love that we Christians hope and strive to show our neighbors.

—Briana Burk, Snyder, TX

How can you beat up on a band whose musical history is the very definition of originality, when it hits the shelves with an album that is composed mostly of conventional worship songs? I honestly don't think conformity is even on this particular band's priority list. We all know the Newsboys have been around the block more than once, so why not cut them a break and let them be a little traditional this time without getting on them about it?!

—Anna Elsey, Hooper, NE

Andy Argyrak is quite knowledgeable when it comes to music, so we can't help but respect his opinion! Just so you know, we don't ever attempt to judge an artist's heart or ministry intent.

We're just providing one opinion on its musical merit. But thank you, Briana and Anna, so much for your comments.

DEFENDING U2'S CAUSE

In the May "Feedback" section, Dwayne Jolly suggests that Bono's use of the "I" word at the Golden Globe Awards could be



"incredibly damaging to a Christian's testimony if it doesn't match what [he] believes." I don't know Mr. Jolly nor do I know what he considers to be the "fruit" as a result of his "faith." I do know that the documentation of U2's causes and charities would possibly fill an entire issue of this magazine and, I believe, speaks far more boldly of their testimony than the use of a word that may offend those in a "sheltered" culture.

—Bruce Thede, Cincinnati, OH

We welcome your comments. Address your letter to Feedback, CCM Magazine, 104 Woodmont Blvd., Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37205; fax 615/385-4112, attn: Feedback; or e-mail feedback@ccmmagazine.com. Always include your full name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Quebecor World

Quebecor World, Inc celebrates 25 years of printing with CCM.

Congratulations from the staff at Quebecor World in St. Cloud, MN

ticker continued on page 10

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF



You hold the 299th issue of CCM Magazine in your hands—the industry-leading magazine for what is now known as the "Christian music industry." It began rather naïvely, simply as a "Jesus music" start-up publication in July of 1978. *Contemporary Christian Music*, led by music editor **John Styll** (who less than a year later bought out the other CCM owners and became the publisher for the next 23 years), became a new spin-off from a Southern California newspaper *Contemporary Christian ACTS*.

Debuting with **The Boone Family** on the cover, the tabloid-size newspaper was distributed mostly to 12,000 Christian music retailers, radio stations and industry professionals. When it became obvious that more people outside of the intended industry professional demographic wanted to know what was happening in Christian music, the magazine became a consumer publication. As the industry flourished, so did the magazine. Who could've envisioned a near billion-dollar-a-year industry generating what is now frequently dubbed "CCM"?

THE INDUSTRY

A lot has changed in 25 years. Pop music—even Christian pop—tends to have a relatively short shelf life. Consider that the first five years of CCM covers reveal that only two of the cover artists continue to be significant figures (at least from a commercial standpoint) in Christian music today: **Bill and Gloria Gaither** and **Amy Grant**. In just five years since CCM Magazine's 20th anniversary issue, the entire Christian music industry has gone through more consolidation, downsizing, merging and purging than we ever dreamed possible during the economic boom of the '90s. At least three major labels (StarSong, Myrrh and Benson) have ceased operations, and the revolving door of Christian music executives seems to only speed up in the winds of change.

Though many of the familiar faces and places of Christian music have come and gone, the questions swirling around an industry in flux have not. *What is the role of the Christian artist in the church? In the world? Can music that is about an inherently offensive gospel*

message of sin and salvation succeed in popular culture? Should it? What is the proper balance of art vs. ministry vs. commerce? These and many other questions continue to provoke healthy discussion, angry accusation and controversy both inside and outside church walls.

THE MAGAZINE

Since CCM celebrated 20 years of existence in 1998, many changes have occurred here as well. CCM Communications was acquired by **Salem Communications**, the world's largest provider of Christian radio and media to the family-friendly, faith-based audience. In just the last two years, CCM Communications has become **Salem Publishing**, and the company has welcomed new publications to the family such as radio magazines *KLTYNOW*, *LouisvilleNOW* and *FaithTalk*. In addition, partnerships were formed between *The CCM Update* news weekly and *Radio & Records Magazine* as well as with Bill and Gloria Gaither on *Homecoming*. In May 2002, the magazine design evolved again with changes including the move to a larger page size, with even more design and department changes taking place in the past few issues thanks to a new art director.

Although the magazine has experimented through the years with everything from various logos, tag lines (watch for the August issue) and titles to expanding content that also included culture and entertainment, the focus has always come back to music. In the 20th anniversary issue, John Styll commented on a 1980's editorial shift: "It became clear that our audience wasn't really buying into the idea [of CCM being a magazine about pop culture from a Christian perspective]. They didn't want to read about anything other than music."

Over the past year and a half, CCM experimented to include other elements of Christian entertainment. But as CCM enters its 26th year, the editorial focus will be our first love: music.

Jim Cumbee, president of Salem's Non-Broadcast Division explains: "For 25 years, CCM Magazine has been the leader in using Christian music to help readers make their faith real and grow closer to Jesus Christ. We know that music is a culturally relevant medium that communicates timeless truths and connects faith with everyday life, and we look forward to many more years of doing just that through CCM!"

THE YEAR WAS 1978,

disco was king of the club and fashion scene, and the first issue of *CCM Magazine* released in its *Rolling Stone* size newspaper format with The Boone Family gracing the cover. At lot has changed in 25 years, including *CCM Magazine's* staff, who was on the younger end of the spectrum when the publication began. To get a grasp of exactly how young, we've checked in with the current *CCM* crew to see what they were up to a quarter of a century ago.



MATTHEW TURNER

In 1978 at age 4, Matthew Turner was king of the Big Wheel circuit in Maryland, where he challenged all the neighborhood kids to bike-offs, with matchbox cars serving as the prize of choice for the winners. When not trading up for the latest mini-Corvette model, Matt could be found in front of the TV set, wondering if Elmer Fudd would ever track down that wascally wabbit and contemplating how to survive in a household with three sisters.



CHRISTA FARRIS

At age 2, Christa Farris couldn't believe the hideous fashion statements made on "Sesame Street." Who told Oscar the Grouch that green was a good color for him anyway? While figuring out what colors would be more suitable for Ernie and Bert, she began brainstorming ideas for her first book: *Buddy Goes to A Birthday Party*, singing along loudly to The Beatles and dreaming of living with Smurfette, Brainy, Handy and Co. in Smurfland.



STEPHANIE OTTOSEN

Stephanie Ottosen, a precocious five month old, certainly had travel on her mind when *CCM Magazine* first hit newsstands. While her aspirations of heading from the crib to the living room certainly don't match her current world traveler status, it didn't stop her from daydreaming about when her formula would be replaced with rice cereal, a more delectable cuisine. Now if she could just get her sister Danielle to stop singing!



LEE STEFFEN

When Lee Steffen, just one week old, would lie back in his crib and stare at the ceiling, he was already thinking of how he could redesign the room to make it more palatable to his streamlined taste. And when the thought of adding more white space wasn't crossing his mind, he often daydreamed of moonwalking and singing just like his favorite rock star—Michael Jackson—one day would.

THE 'IT' LIST BY DAMIAN ALEXANDER

NOW



VACATIONING WITH CHRISTIAN ARTISTS ON A CARIBBEAN CRUISE

TWO WEEKS AGO



ROUGHING IT AT A CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

GONE



ARTIST-LED TRIPS TO THE HOLY LAND

ticker continued on page 12

>>> HAS GRACED OUR COVER ON SIX DIFFERENT OCCASIONS • REMEMBER THE GOODIE-GOODIE TV SHOW "FACTS OF LIFE?"



ON THE FLY: ARTISTS REVEAL FIRST CHRISTIAN ALBUM PURCHASES

Since *CCM Magazine* is waxing nostalgic this month on the past 25 years of Christian music, we thought we'd pry a little and find out which CDs (or 8-tracks and cassettes in some cases) your favorite artists spent their hard-earned allowances on back in the day.



GABRIEL WILSON OF THE ROCK 'N' ROLL WORSHIP CIRCUS:

"David Meece's *Count the Cost* was my first. If it were not for that record, I probably wouldn't have known what I wanted to be when I grew up. I was 8 years old, and I got my first walkman about the same time. So I'd wear my sweatpants with my velcro shoes, and I'd ride my BMX bike singing songs like 'Some People Never Believe' and 'Count the Cost.' I would sing along really loud and super flat, and all the neighbors would just stare at me."



TRICIA BROCK OF SUPERCHICK:

"I'm pretty sure the first CD I ever bought would have been one of the many Amy Grant albums because Amy and Twila Paris songs were sung frequently by my sister and me at church when we were growing up. And I haven't gotten to meet either one of them yet to tell them how they were role models to me. But to be a part of Christian music with artists I looked up to for so long has been an amazing thing."



NEWSBOY PHIL JOEL:

"The night before I bought my first Christian album, I went to a Luis Palau crusade, where I made my decision to follow Christ. The next day I caught the bus all the way into town, and I didn't even know what record I would buy. I looked through the records until I found a cover that I thought looked really cool. It was Rick Cua's *Wear Your Colors*, and on the back there were some super bass poses. I thought, 'This record must rock,' and it did."



RAPPER JOHN REUBEN:

"In 1988, I bought P.I.D.'s *Here We Are* on cassette. I remember being in the Christian bookstore listening to it and getting so excited because it reminded me of Run DMC."

ALSO MENTIONED:

Sonicflood frontman Rick Heil remembers picking up **Out of the Grey's** self-titled disc and "wearing it out," while funnyman **Bob Smiley** has fond memories of "proudly buying a **Holy Soldier** tape for \$6.99." Like **Phil Joel**, **NewSong's** Michael O'Brien's first Christian record was vinyl, namely a copy of **Dallas Holm's** *Rise Again*. And **Third Day's** Mac Powell and Mark Lee started their Christian music collection with a copy of **Whiteheart's** *Power House* after attempts to find a **Whitecross** album were unsuccessful. Solo artist **Charles Billingsley** also recalls four specific oldies but goodies that "made an indelible mark" on his life: **The Imperials' Let the Wind Blow**, **NewSong's** *Trophies of Grace*, **Russ Taff's** *Medals* and **Phil Driscoll's** *Instrument of Praise*.



NICHOLE NORDEMAN:

"I think the first Christian CD I owned (actually it was a cassette) was Amy Grant's *Age to Age*. I don't remember exactly how old I was, but I know that braces were definitely in the picture. It wasn't too long before I owned the songbook and had memorized every lyric to every song. Then came the choreography to her song 'Fat Baby.'"

ticker continued on page 14



TEN SHEKEL SHIRT

STUDIO BUZZ:

• **Ten Shekel Shirt** is taking a "risk" with its sophomore project by the same name as it's employed some new, sophisticated instrumentation to complete its previously acoustic-driven sound. Working with producers **Brent Milligan** (The Elms, Paul Colman Trio) and **Monroe Jones** (Third Day, Ginny Owens), frontman

Lamont Hiebert says the lyrics focus on creating a place where people feel free to meet with God. "So often we think that meeting with God has to happen in worship, but it can happen while reflecting on a loved one, spending time with good friends or reaching out to those in need," Hiebert comments. Look for *Risk* (Vertical) to drop on Aug. 26. • Working again with longtime producer **Howard Benson**, **P.O.D.**'s Sonny Sandoval and Co. are logging lots of hours in the studio these days as they prepare for the band's third major label release titled *Payable on Death* (Atlantic). At press time, there are 17 tracks planned for what they call their "heaviest and most revolutionary record yet." New guitarist Jason Truby elaborates by saying, "We feel like we are giving birth to a whole new race." While we have no idea what that means, you might be able to figure it out when the disc hits store shelves on Nov. 4.

• Coming to a music store near you the same day as **PC3**'s new project on Sept. 9 is **NewSong**'s first pop-oriented album since 2000. Produced by **Brian Tankersley** (Sawyer Brown, Carman), **Bill Baumgart** (4Him, Al Denson), **Bryan Lenox** (Michael W. Smith, Katinas) and **Michael O'Brien**, NewSong co-founder **Eddie Carswell** says they've "spent more time making this record than any in our history." He adds, "We believe the result is one of our best projects ever. The message of God's love is evident in each song, and the theme of life and God creating more life in each of our days is something we have experienced first hand."



OUT AND ABOUT:

• As usual, the multi-tasking singer/actress **Jaci Velasquez** is staying busy these days as she recently opened for Mr. "Living La Vida Loca" **Ricky Martin** at the Universal Amphitheater in L.A. While spending time in the celeb capital of the United States, Jaci also co-hosted the Imagen Awards, along with actor Hector Elizondo of TV's "Chicago Hope" and *Princess Diaries* movie fame. The Imagen Awards encourages positive portrayal of Latinos in entertainment. Afterward, she ventured to Arkansas for a Wal-Mart shareholders conference alongside platinum prodigy **Josh Groban** and country superstars **Rascal Flatts**.

• Joining the ranks of MTV "Total Request Live" mainstays **P.O.D.** and **Stacie Orrico**, rapper **KJ-52** got thrown into the limelight when his video for "Dear Slim" aired on the popular show. But the airing of the video, featuring a song he wrote for fellow emcee Eminem, wasn't without controversy, like most things Slim Shady-oriented. Not only did the VJ mispronounce KJ's name, but he was falsely described as a "new artist" who was coming out to "diss Em" to get recognition, like many artists including **Ja Rule** and **Benzino**. Uprock Records, the label home to KJ-52 encourages fans to request the video at mtv.com so the clip will be aired again in the future.

Photos, from top to bottom: Jaci Velasquez, Ricky Martin, Josh Groban



COLDPLAY'S CHRIS MARTIN

PHOTO BY JEREMY COWART/PIXELGRAZER

CHRISTA'S TOP 5:

We've made a multitude of lists in this month's issue, so why should you read another? Well, here's my hook: I'm going to name my top 5 list ideas that just didn't pan out for our 25th anniversary issue (for obvious reasons).

5

8 Ways Eminem Has Helped Raise the Profile of the Christian Music Industry

4

Christian Musicians Who Don't Count Coldplay or U2 as One of Their Influences

3

100 Single Christian Artists You Definitely Should Date If You Have the Opportunity

2

Artists With the Best Cameos in a *Left Behind* movie.

1

The 25 Best Christian Music Videos of All Time

tickler continued on page 16

back in 1997, a reporter asked Christian music industry officials: "What does God think of the Christian >>>



- New Rocketown artist **Alathea** recently returned to life as usual after a lifechanging, week-long trip to Ecuador with Compassion International. Alathea joined Compassion staff, Rocketown Records' president, Don Donahue, his wife, Laura, and fellow artists **Rebecca St. James** and **Caedmon's Call's** Cliff Young and Garrett Buell for numerous visits to Compassion project sites and the homes of sponsored children. One highlight of the trip came when Alathea was able to meet its sponsored child, 8-year-old Maritza Fernanda Rivera Llano.
- Finally, for the folks in the South Dakota area with nothing to do this summer, here's something cool to add to your social calendar that won't cost you one red cent. The annual Lifelight Festival, kicking off Aug. 29, will feature acts such as **Audio Adrenaline**, **Newsboys**, **Skillet**, **Joy Williams** and more. Check out the festival Web site at lifelightfest.com for more details and an updated schedule of artists.



RUBEN STUDDARD



KELLY CLARKSON



CLAY AIKEN



R.J. HELTON

WHAT DO "AMERICAN IDOL" AND AVALON HAVE IN COMMON?

As avid A.I. fans already know, America has chosen the soulful **Ruben Studdard** as **Kelly Clarkson's** successor in a tight race against North Carolina crooner **Clay Aiken**. But did you know that Clay and Avalon's **Jody McBrayer** have a musical connection? At least that's what Clay said in a recent issue of *PEOPLE* when asked who his favorite singer was. "I love **James Taylor**. And I think I sing like a Christian singer named Jody McBrayer." And from reports surfacing on the Web, it appears that McBrayer is a big fan of the show, too. Could there be a possible duet in their future? Remember, you heard the idea here first.

- In other A.I. news, urban gospel fans can look forward to a new album from last year's finalist **R.J. Helton** as he recently inked a deal with GospoCentric's B-Rite Music, also the label home of **Kirk Franklin**. Of his new recording deal, Helton says, "I am really excited that I am getting a chance to make the kind of record I have always wanted to make and happy to be with a label that understands my passion for music."

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

CCM Magazine has been spotlighting your favorite artists for a quarter of a century now; but when did they start reading our work, and what exactly did they think? We conducted an investigation and found the following:



1. CHARLIE LOWELL, JARS OF CLAY: Obscurity rules!

"I picked up *CCM* in early high school. I remember one of the first issues I got was when Sam [Leslie] Phillips was on the cover. I was particularly excited about the issues that covered some of the more obscure bands that I liked: Altar Boys, The Choir, Daniel Amos, etc."

2. NATALIE GRANT: Not Afraid of Negative Reviews

"I remember reading *CCM* while growing up in Seattle. It made me feel it was a way a kid from the Northwest could stay connected with what was happening in the Christian music industry. One of the things I respect about *CCM Magazine* is its commitment to giving honest, unbiased music reviews."

3. EDDIE JONES, RADIAL ANGEL BASSIST: Bring on the P.O.D.!

"I can't remember back far enough to the first issue I ever read, but I can remember my favorite article. It was the story about P.O.D. and how they were touring with mainstream bands and the effect it had on them. Overall, the magazine has been a great source for me to find out what is hot in Christian music. After reading and learning about bands through *CCM* for so long, it is very weird to see our band in *CCM's* pages. Maybe we will get used to that 25 years from now."

4. ANDREA BACA, OUT OF EDEN VOCALIST: Props to tobyMac!

"I first started reading *CCM Magazine* when my family moved to Nashville in 1990. One of the articles that I remember really making an impact on me was the interview with dc talk for *Free at Last*. I remember reading Toby's quotes and being blown away by his eloquence in expressing his vision for the group."

MORE ANNIVERSARY SHOUT-OUTS: Mark Millard's (from The Lads) most vivid moments of reading *CCM* involved seeing pictures of Stryper. After reading our CD reviews, Everman's **Brad Miles** picked up a copy of Guardian's *Miracle Mile* and promptly "wore that record out." And Aussie **Paul Colman** pontificates on his *CCM Magazine* reading experience by saying, "Growing up and reading *CCM* was like studying a brochure of another world for me. *CCM* was integral in keeping us informed of the Christian music world in America and further inspired me to be a part of it."

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MUSIC INDUSTRY? INTERESTING ANSWERS ENSUED • IN SEPTEMBER 1999, ONE OF THE HOTTEST TOURS WAS "THE 'A' >>>



KATERI DE MARTINO

'LIVE'-ING IT UP

"A friend called me the night before and told me about the open call. So I thought, 'Why not? I've always been a fan of Regis.'" Thousands of people and many hours later, **Kateri de Martino** became a finalist in the search for a new talk show host.

As a twist on "American Idol," the morning talk show "Live with Regis and Kelly" gave five finalists a chance to prove they should be a co-host of a talk show, with the winner chosen by audience vote. Although another contestant, Andy Beckman, won the contest, first runner-up de Martino is getting the attention of studio executives.

Buena Vista Entertainment signed de Martino to a development deal and is discussing potential possibilities for her own show. Management companies are

also calling. De Martino laughs, "People who wouldn't have paid any attention to me a few months ago will meet with me now." And what is her advice for handling the pressure of being judged on live TV? De Martino says the key for her was, "'Be not afraid, only believe.'" Mark 5:36 is pretty much how I try to live my life." Martino adds, "Without God, I would not be where I am. I struggled for many years to arrive where I am today, but God's delays are not God's denials."



SCENE FROM SEABISCUIT

SEABISCUIT RACES ONTO THE BIG SCREEN

"For all of his failures, Red lived exactly as he chose. I see a beautiful dignity in him as he cheerfully refused to be defeated by all that defeats the rest of us," says best-selling author **Laura Hillenbrand**.

You probably wouldn't think a blind-in-one-eye ex-boxer, an ugly knock-kneed racehorse and a millionaire entrepreneur would become best friends, much less make for gripping cinema, but *Seabiscuit*, based on Hillenbrand's book, might change your mind. The movie traces the unlikely journey of a down-on-his-luck racehorse and the down-on-his-luck jockey, Red Pollard (played by **Tobey Maguire**), who rode him to greatness as they became the most widely covered sports story of 1938.

And how does Hillenbrand feel about the big-screen adaptation of her book? "I think it's fantastic," says Hillenbrand, who served as an advisor on the film. "The scenes I've seen are just exquisite. Visually, it will be stunning." Critics seem to agree because the movie is already generating Oscar buzz. *Seabiscuit* opens nationwide July 25.

HOLLYWOOD CHRISTIANS VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Act One Writing for Hollywood, a coalition of Christian writers and producers on a mission to improve the quality of films and television programming, brought its cause to Capitol Hill by attending an event in Washington, D.C., called "What Hollywood Needs: From Individuals, From Washington, and From America." The group offered advice on how lawmakers and staffers can help improve the quality of film and television programming.

The event was sponsored by **Sen. Rick Santorum** (R-Pa.), **Rep. Mike McIntyre** (D-N.C.) and the Wilberforce Forum. It was organized in conjunction with The Voice Behind, a nonprofit communications group run by current and former Capitol Hill aides that promotes "goodness, truth and beauty in and through art, entertainment and media."

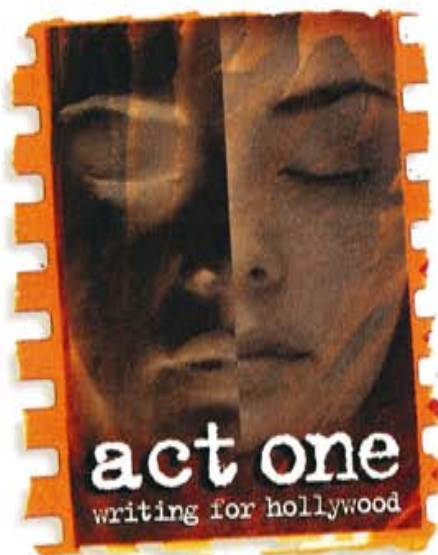
The writers and producers met with **Ed Moy**, White House assistant for personnel placement; **Sen. Sam Brownback** (R-Kan.); aides to **Sens. Bill Frist** (R-

Tenn.), **Joseph Lieberman** (D-Conn.), **Rick Santorum** (R-Pa.) and National Endowment for the Arts Chairman **Dana Gioia**, whom Act One director **Barbara Nicolosi** said is "very clear about what the relationship between the arts and the people of God should be."

Nicolosi is encouraging lawmakers to get involved by giving endorsements to quality, responsible television shows and movies—praise she believes will go a long way in inspiring writers and producers to generate more of the same.

Nicolosi said, "If you can inspire and make people long to be better than they are, then why don't you, if periodically you could have your bosses say, 'There was a great moment on 'Boombtown' this week?'" Nicolosi told the Hill aides, referring to the current NBC drama. "This is something [the writers] would eat up. They're artists. They want affirmation."

"Some in Washington may say about Hollywood: 'We want to weed out the evil people,'" Nicolosi adds. "We say, 'That isn't what God would want. We wouldn't want God to replace them with us. He would want us to reach out to them and, in essence, turn them into us.'" Source: rollcall.com



ticker continued on page 20

TOUR" With AVALON, ANointed and a brand new artist named NICHOLE NORDMAN • THERE IS A REPEATER: Keith >>



JADYN MARIA ONE BUSY LADY

CCM Magazine caught up with new Sparrow artist Jaydn Maria in the midst of packing up boxes and loading a moving truck bound for Spring Hill, Tennessee. Though this self-proclaimed "cheap shampoo freak" was recently disappointed when her Mary Kate & Ashley hair products were auctioned off for a mere 20 cents at the family yard sale, the 18-year-old Jaydn is staying occupied by writing songs, laying down tracks for her debut album, *Jaydn Maria* (Sparrow), which releases June 24, and thinking about switching to Matrix products on her next visit to the salon.

CCM: Say you're allowed to carry only one thing with you in the move. What would it be?

JM: A photo album. I take my camera everywhere. In the photo album I have got all kinds of memories. It helps me to remember where I was, where God has brought me from and what He's done in my life.

CCM: Call the movers or do it yourself?

JM: I do it myself. If it's breakable, no one's gonna handle it like me.

CCM: Fill in the blank. "I wouldn't be upset if ____ were lost in the move."

JM: Probably a pair of shoes. I usually get my shoes at Payless Shoes, so I could easily go and get another pair.

CCM: Are you a pack rat, or do you chuck the junk so there's less to load up?

JM: When I stay at home, I tend to keep everything. When it comes time to move, I take out everything I don't want and get rid of it. We just had a yard sale, and I made about \$25.

CCM: Would you rather stay in one place or be mobile?

JM: As the daughter of a pastor, I've been mobile for so long. We've had our share of moves, so I'm ready to settle in one place.

CCM: You just purchased a moving company. Name it.

JM: Careful & Quick.



(L-R) DONNIE VIZZINI, SETH GILBERT, TYLER JONES, JEFFREY GILBERT

SEVEN PLACES BROTHERLY LOVE

Seven Places, named for the places from which Jesus bled to cover the sins of man, is comprised of brothers Seth and Jeffrey Gilbert, on lead vocals and drums, respectively, and Donnie Vizzini (bass) and Tyler Jones (guitar). These southern Oregonians, who hooked up via the church youth group, released their debut album, *Lonely for the Last Time* (BEC), in May. Seth says the band's current dreams include opening for Switchfoot and sharing a tour bill with Audio Adrenaline. But in the meantime the guys have been on the road, where they sleep, listen to music and perfect practical jokes. Tourmates beware!

CCM: What's the first thing you did after signing your record deal with BEC?

SETH: My wife and I flew to Israel to hang out for two weeks. When I got back, the band hit the garage to start practicing. We had two days before we went into the studio to record the album.

CCM: How is it playing in a band with your sibling?

SETH: Jeffrey and I get along pretty well. He's my little brother, but there came a point when he wasn't so little any more. He kind of beats me up. I'm the verbally abusive one, and he's the physically abusive one.

CCM: So who usually wins when you're fighting?

SETH: It depends. If I have a good, witty comment to diss him pretty hard with, he won't win.

CCM: How do you pass time when you're on the road?

SETH: I wish I could say we were in the Word six hours a day. But every day we get in the Word together for an hour. We listen to a lot of music, we sleep, and it's pretty boring for the most part.

CCM: What's in the band bus CD player right now?

SETH: Holland. (*Photographs* and *Tidalwaves*) [Tooth & Nail]

CCM: What do you do in your spare time?

SETH: When we're home from touring, I work at a church. I'm a pastor and worship leader. I love hanging out with the kids and high school students. Two of the guys in the band are single, so they go on dates and to the movies—stuff like that. Our drummer is engaged, so he hangs out with his fiancée.

CCM: There are lots of new rock bands introduced in the market every day. What distinguishes Seven Places?

SETH: We feel like our offstage time is just as, if not more, important than our time onstage. We love meeting new people and connecting with the kids... We're always the last ones out of the venue.

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Green was the first artist to land on the cover again after his initial appearance in October 1978 • >>

a simple life

b y
C h r i s
W e l l





PHOTOS BY SAM JONES

In the 25 years since the fresh-faced teen released her self-titled debut, things have often been complicated for Amy Grant. When not pushing the boundaries to redefine Christian music, she was shouldering the enormous burden of representing an entire industry to the world at large. Growing up in the spotlight has been complicated, too, including a highly publicized divorce with singer/songwriter Gary Chapman and her marriage to country music's Vince Gill. But having reached the 25-year mark, Grant has come to a new point in her career and her life—and, on the release of her 18th record, *Simple Things* (Word), she seems determined to take a deep breath and appreciate the simple things in life again.

The Grant-Gill household is a bustle of activity on a particularly humid afternoon. Amy has just returned home from a workout, Vince is taking one of the kids to a swimming lesson, and Amy's teen nephew is out in the driveway—the current location of his car-detailing business.

Amy, 42, grabs two drinks from the fridge in the garage before heading into the backyard of the sprawling, early American home she shares with Vince and their 2-year-old, Corrina. Matt (15), Millie (13) and Sarah (10), from Grant's former marriage also call this home, plus sometime-resident Jenny (21), from Gill's previous marriage.

Grant says the Brady-bunching of the two families is going well. "Gosh, I'm crazy about Jenny." Not that the transition has been easy. Amy is quick to note her fear of the impact the divorce and remarriage will have on everyone. "I'm still kind of holding my breath to see how my children are going to turn out," she explains. Indeed, it's the complexity of her decisions and the impact on her family that have helped Grant rely on the Lord more than ever.

"A lot of good lessons learned the hard way"

Amy's relationship with the Lord has always found expression in the classic alto voice that millions have come to love. And many of those will appreciate that her voice is now carrying a happier tune than it has in some time. As shown in such tracks as the sweet "Out in the Open" and the bittersweet "Innocence Lost," throughout *Simple Things*, Grant shares a renewed but simple faith in God who loves, forgives, heals and restores.

The effort began on a mid-summer writing trip in 2000 and produced the songs "Simple Things" and "Happy"—songs noticeably cheerier than the dark, self-described "razors and Prozac" music of 1997's *Behind the Eyes* (Word), but no less personal.

"I have gone through periods of my life when I have not actively pursued my relationship with Jesus in any way. That's not the case right now, [but the *Behind the Eyes* period] was a pretty intense time for me." Amy's escape from that low point came when she began to experience forgiveness, grace and mercy in a way she'd never known before. "But even saying that out loud sounds trite to me," she says. "There's a part of me that's so aware of the human cynicism toward anything spiritual."

While she dislikes Christian music's penchant for placing its artists on pedestals, Amy is not embarrassed about her spiritual beliefs. "I've been so public about my faith, and I still am, but... it's different," she says, searching for the right words. "When I feel the time is right, I'm there 150 percent, telling people about the mercy of God."

For example, she's more than willing to share her faith with someone sitting next to her on a plane, but she's not so comfortable making grand faith proclamations from the stage—especially now that she's been through a divorce. "Here's the deal: I feel I'm so quiet about my faith because of falling flat on my face in front of everybody. To be very public about your faith and about God's ability to do miracles becomes very humbling when you go through a very obvious failure.

"But operating from [a place of] feeling forgiveness and from being drawn to the mercy of Jesus in a real way, I feel like I relate to a lot of wounded people I have met," she says.

Throughout her career, Grant's personal faith and spiritual pilgrimage have always found expression in her albums, and *Simple Things* is no exception. The record is full of personal explorations of regret, shame, forgiveness and healing.

"A lot of good lessons [are] learned the hard way," she says. "All these things to me are God's mercy."

This being her first introspective album since *Behind the Eyes*, Amy says the time was pivotal in gaining a new perspective on her present and past. "I'd been down for quite a while. In those three years, several things happened. I worked through a lot of shame that came after going through a divorce. I had forgiveness issues toward myself and other people." Sure enough, the theme of reconciliation permeates more than one track on the album. "I didn't sit down and say, 'Hey, I'm gonna write a song that's a reflection of Gary and me...' [But even] if you've made irreconcilable choices, you can still want to write a song about reconciliation."

"I remember..."

Much like Gill's most recent album, *Next Big Thing* (MCA), *Simple Things* also finds Amy grappling with life and a career in the wake of maturity and life experience, from the mid-tempo "Eye to Eye" (which balances the regret of a line like "I'd like to figure out a way to leave a troubled past behind" with the reconciliatory line "We could find a road to peace for you and me") to the title track, a light rocker with wistful overtones of earlier, simpler times.

"I remember that feeling of playing a sold-out arena when we'd start one of those songs that had been big on the radio," she recalls. "It almost felt like a tidal wave that would start at the back of the arena and whoooo!" Amy grins before going on. "Those years for me are gone. For one thing, my contemporaries are older and don't have that kind of energy. I wouldn't expect it."

However, at a recent performance at a high school in Atlanta, the young people in the audience were very enthusiastic. "That day in the Atlanta school reminded me of an earlier time in my life. I was singing and these kids were screaming and dancing!" But as Amy sang "Every Heartbeat," it hit her: "You know what? These seniors were in kindergarten when that song came out!"

Worse yet, she still winces when reminded of the time a few years back when *Entertainment Weekly* nicknamed Grant the "middle of the road queen." "Doesn't that sound awful?" Amy groans. "America was founded on renegades and people who pushed the envelope. The worst thing you could ever imagine, as an artist, is to feel like somebody would hear something you worked really hard on and their only reaction is to yawn."

"I loved being a kid"

Re-entering the house, Amy finds Vince wearing khaki shorts and a pale blue Oxford shirt that mirrors his eyes. Kissing him, she indicates that her husband is, indeed, a down-to-earth part of her life. "He's not a simple person; but yes, he is a simple thing," she smiles as he leaves.

As a parent, she loves having a job that doesn't force her to be a "stodgy adult," as she calls it. "I was always thinking how much I loved being a kid. Now that I've got a little bit of a budget, I'll try to create environments for my kids that will encourage them to do stuff. I feel like I'm always trying to springboard: 'Hey, this could be a neat thing.' And I don't know if it's better or worse. Maybe they go, 'I've got everything I need.'"

Amy walks downstairs to share a story that will better explain her quandary. Amidst the standard water heater, white-painted brick and exposed pipes lies a Pearl brand drum set in the corner of the basement. She talks







about how she had tried to get 15-year-old Matt into drumming—but he had wanted to sell the kit to buy a video game.

To entice him to play, Amy had dragged furniture into the basement, set up the drum set, plugged in the monitors, even cut speaker wire and then played. But Mom's demonstration seemed to do nothing to encourage her teenage son. That night, Amy had questions: "Vince, what's my problem? I try and try and try. Is it guilt? Is it that I wish I were still a kid?"

Several days later, when Grant called home from a singing function, her assistant, Deanna, answered the phone, asking, "Can you hear that racket?" Amy heard the distinct sound of drumming in the background. "Matt had a bad day," Deanna continued. "He called up a couple of his friends. They're downstairs." The next day, the pubescent band added some groupies. Sister Sarah and a friend gathered on the rustic wooden stairway to watch the young men play.

"You've gotta make it special. . ."

There are also songs on *Simple Things* about holding fast to what is important, like the vulnerable ballad "I Don't Know Why," in which Amy proclaims, "Hold my hand and hold this moment/Time sure feels precious don't it/ Life is always changing this I know."

At this new moment in her life, she's determined to celebrate this life that God has given her—even during the mundane moments. "What I enjoy is pleasure in the middle of the grind. The grind is thrilling to me," she says. "I want the kids to say, 'I knew some moments that were really magical.' It's hard if three days go by and nothing felt magical. What's the point of being married to somebody who I find incredibly interesting and that I'm very attracted to if a day comes and goes and we don't sit down, really look at each other, talk and kiss?"

"Sometimes days like that go by," she continues. "Then you go, 'What was the point? What's the point of being alive?'" Amy points out the fact that it's up to her to honor the moments in life she finds so exceptional. "For me, if it's grilling out, I'll go, 'What I want right now is to put Ella Fitzgerald on the stereo, open a window so I'll get a little bit of breeze and go light the grill.' It takes so little effort."

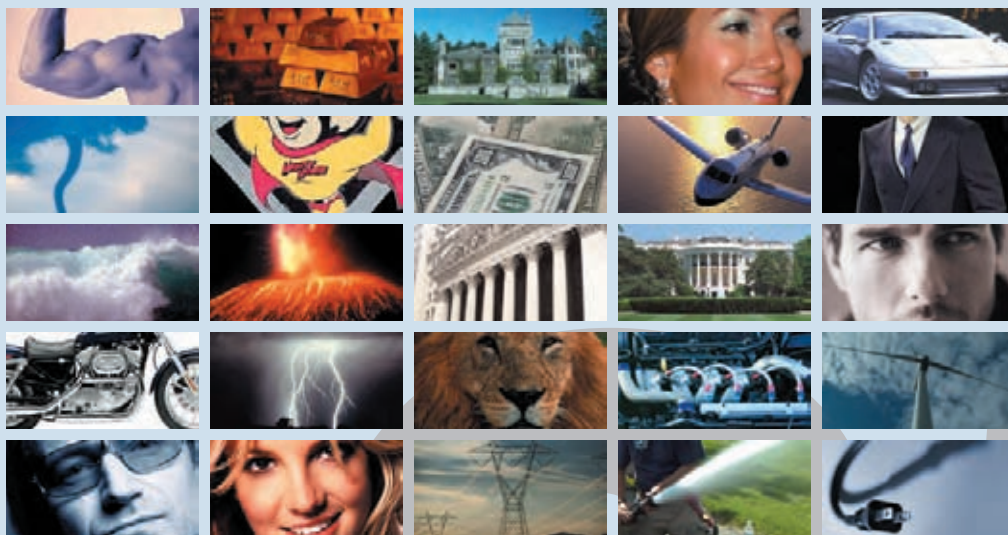
After 25 years, Amy is learning to appreciate the simple things in life despite her status. "When you get older, you learn how to nurture the sensory side of yourself in the midst of all these very practical things," Amy says, surveying her own home. "I have simple stretches of time every day. If you want life to be special, you've gotta make it special—whatever that thing is." **ccm**

ON THE RECORD 1978 *Amy Grant* (Myrrh) 1979 *My Father's Eyes* (Myrrh) 1980 *Never Alone* (Myrrh) 1981 *In Concert* (Myrrh) 1981 *In Concert Vol. 2* (Myrrh) 1982 *Age to Age* (Myrrh) 1983 *A Christmas Album* (Myrrh) 1984 *Straight Ahead* (Myrrh) 1985 *Unguarded* (Myrrh) 1986 *The Collection* (Myrrh) 1988 *Lead Me On* (Myrrh) 1991 *Heart in Motion* (Myrrh) 1992 *Home for Christmas* (Myrrh) 1997 *Behind the Eyes* (Myrrh) 1999 *A Christmas to Remember* (Myrrh) 2002 *Legacy: Hymns & Faith* (Word) 2003 *Simple Things* (Word)

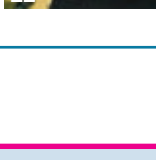
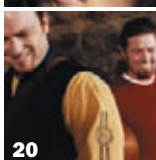
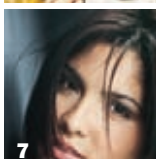
Of course, kids today listening to Jesus-infused punk metal bands have it easy. Most churches now actually accept the words “Christian” and “rock” being used to describe music. But in the '70s and '80s, many church people weren't sure what to make of this new “worldly” God music. Parents thought their kids had lost their minds the first time they heard them blaring Stryper from the bedroom. Youth leaders and pastors compared Amy Grant to Madonna to ensure that church kids came to “gym and pizza night” instead of attending Grant's “Unguarded” tour. Some preached that Michael W. Smith was a proverbial wolf preaching the gospel in '80s sheep's clothing. There's no doubt the pioneers of contemporary Christian music had their obstacles, yet they continued to proselytize their “new” sound in coffeehouses, stadiums, around campfires, at summer festivals and in contemporary churches everywhere.

In celebration of our 25th year, we weren't about to try to top our 20th anniversary issue with its amazing historical content, and besides, who wants to read the same stuff all over again? We wanted this issue to be humorous and fun. We wanted this issue to create some conversation and maybe some debate. So here it is! Our first ever List Issue. We hope you laugh, remember, cry (OK, so it's really not that good) and learn something new about Christian music.

WHO HAVE MADE CHRISTIAN MUSIC WHAT IT IS TODAY



12. JOHN STYLL Former publisher of *CCM Magazine* and *The CCM Update* (a trade publication), Styll helped propel the intellectual revolution that led to the acceptance of contemporary Christian music by the evangelical community at large. He's currently serving as president of the Gospel Music Association.



THE 25 MOST INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS

25 AND UNDER



25 ARTISTS

WHO'VE EARNED LEGENDARY STATUS

(not including Amy, Sandi, Petra and Bill and Gloria)



- 01 Stacie Orrico 02 Matt Thiessen (Relient K) 03 Rebecca St. James
04 Jaci Velasquez 05 Owen Thomas (The Elms) 06 Jason Wade (Lifehouse)
07 Paul McCoy (12 Stones) 08 Jump 5 09 Jeremy Camp 10 Kendall Payne
11 Tyler Burkum (Audio Adrenaline) 12 Tricia Brock (Superchic[k]) 13 Joy Williams
14 Josh Moore (Caedmon's Call) 15 Nic Gonzalez (Salvador) 16 Tim Hughes
17 Souljahz 18 Plus One 19 Rachael Lampa 20 Jill Phillips 21 Sanctus Real
22 Adrienne Liesching (The Benjamin Gate) 23 Jason Germain (downhere)
24 L'il IROCC 25 Jason Perry (formerly of Plus One)

1. Rich Mullins 2. Keith Green 3. Imperials 4. 2nd Chapter of Acts 5. Phil Keaggy 6. Andrae Crouch 7. Randy Stonehill 8. Leslie (Sam) Phillips 9. Stryper 10. Steve Taylor 11. Larry Norman 12. Mark Heard 13. Altar Boys 14. The Choir 15. DeGarmo & Key 16. Lamelle Harris 17. Adam Again 18. Whiteheart 19. Carman 20. Charlie Peacock 21. Rez Band 22. Shirley Caesar 23. Mylon LeFevre 24. Evie 25. Sweet Comfort Band



1. Sandi Patty and Larnelle Harris, "I've Just Seen Jesus" • 2. Nicole C. Mullen, "Redeemer" • 3. Keith Green, "Lord, You're Beautiful" • 4. Larry Norman, "I Wish We'd All Been Ready" • 5. 2nd Chapter of Acts, "Easter Song" • 6. Rich Mullins, "Creed" • 7. Sandi Patty, "How Great Thou Art" • 8. Charlie Peacock, "In the Light" • 9. Michael English, "In Christ Alone" • 10. BeBe and CeCe Winans, "Addictive Love" • 11. Crystal Lewis, "People Get Ready" • 12. Steven Curtis Chapman, "His Strength Is Perfect" • 13. Delirious, "Obsession" • 14. Sixpence None the Richer, "Within a Room Somewhere" • 15. Nichole Nordeman, "Every Season" • 16. Burlap to Cashmere, "B.I.B.L.E." • 17. Jaci Velasquez, "For God So Loved" • 18. Michael W. Smith, "Secret Ambition" • 19. Amy Grant, "Jehovah" • 20. Jars of Clay, "World Apart" • 21. Twila Paris, "How Beautiful" • 22. NewSong, "Arise My Love" • 23. Steve Green, "For God and God Alone" • 24. Stryper, "To Hell With the Devil" • 25. Petra, "Creed"

25 UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCES



25. Petra, "Creed"

13. CLAUDE AND VICKI MACK LATAILLADE Founders of Gospocentric/B-Rite Records, they opened previously closed doors and brought the industry artists including Kirk Franklin, God's Property, Trin-i-tee 5:7 and other successful, contemporary urban/gospel artists.

14. DON MOEN He's the executive vice president/creative director of Integrity Media, the most successful worship label in the industry. Moen also works as a renowned songwriter and worship leader.

15. CHARLIE PEACOCK Successful as a solo artist, songwriter, producer, author, Re:think Records founder and most recently as an A&R exec for ForeFront, Peacock deserves credit for helping to chip away at the sacred/secular dichotomy that was so prevalent in the Christian music community of the '80s and '90s.

16. ROBERT BEESON Beeson and his new label venture, Essential Records, won the bidding war that erupted over Jars of Clay after the band won a GMA-sponsored talent contest in 1994. Jars went on to have a double-platinum debut album and has now sold five million albums. Essential's signings have also included successful artists such as Third Day, FFH and Caedmon's Call.

17. NORMAN MILLER Manager of artists such as Avalon, Anointed and Twila Paris, Miller also is responsible for the remarkably successful "Young Messiah" tours.

18. STEVE TAYLOR As a solo artist, producer, songwriter and Squint Entertainment founder, he was a key player in breaking down Christian music's determination to live and speak in a "bubble" of Christianese.

19. BROWN BANNISTER Producer extraordinaire who seems to bring a new level of artistry out of almost everyone he works with. His resumé includes working with everyone from Whiteheart to Twila Paris to Point of Grace.

20. TERRY HEMMINGS He served as the visionary at Reunion Records for seven years with artists such as Michael W. Smith, Kathy Troccoli, The Prayer Chain and Rich Mullins on the roster. He's recently returned to Christian music as the CEO and President of Provident Music Group.

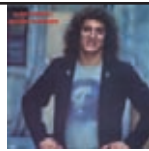
21. SCOTT HUGHES Hughes championed the successful "WoW" series until early this year when he formed his own company. Though sometimes accused of hindering artists' individual album sales, the "WoW" compilation series racked up millions of sales, many of them in mainstream outlets such as Wal-Mart to people who presumably did not previously purchase Christian music.

22. JOHN HUIE Booking agent with Creative Artists Agency who represented Amy for more than two decades, Huie helped secure gigs for Amy Grant in "secular" venues such as New York City's Radio City Music Hall and L.A.'s Forum, which was unheard of at the time for a Christian artist. And he did this well before Amy's pop radio successes.

23. PETER YORK Once a guitar player for 2nd Chapter of Acts, York went on to serve as vice president of A&R for Sparrow Records, signing such acts as Steven Curtis Chapman, Susan Ashton and Margaret Becker. He currently is President of Sparrow Label Group.

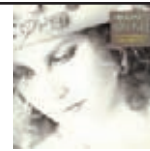
24. GREG HAM He's President of ForeFront Records, arguably the most influential CHR/pop label in Christian music and home to artists such as dc talk, tobyMac, Audio Adrenaline and Stacie Orrico.

25. DAN RAINES Working with Creative Trust Management, he has guided the very successful careers of Steven Curtis Chapman and Third Day, among others.



SOULFULLY **Andrae Crouch** • HOW THE WEST WAS ONE **2nd Chapter of Acts** • FATHER'S EYES **Amy Grant** • MIRROR **Evie** • NO COMPROMISE **Keith Green** • MYLON **Mylon LeFevre** • SAIL ON **The Imperials** • THE MASTER AND THE MUSICIAN **Phil Keaggy** • ONLY VISITING THIS PLANET **Larry Norman** • AWAITING YOUR REPLY **REZ Band** • FOR HIM WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR **Keith Green** • DANCE CHILDREN DANCE **Leon Patillo** • WELCOME TO PARADISE **Randy Stonehill** • MANSION BUILDER **2nd Chapter of Acts** • SANDI'S SONG **Sandi Patti** • WHITE HORSE **Michael Omartian** • DEPARTURE **Truth** • AMY GRANT **Amy Grant** • THE MELODIES IN ME **Honeytree** • SOMEWHERE LISTENIN' **Jimmy Swaggart** • THIS TIME THRU **DeGarmo & Key** • GLAD GLAD • HAPPY MAN **B.J. Thomas** • ALLELUIA **Bill Gaither Trio** • BLAME IT ON THE ONE I LOVE **Kelly Willard**

70s

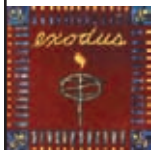
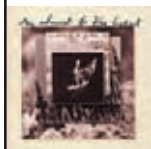


LEAD ME ON **Amy Grant** • I2(EYE) **Michael W. Smith** • MORNING LIKE THIS **Sandi Patti** • RUSS TAFF **Russ Taff** • THE TURNING **Leslie Phillips** • WATERCOLOUR PONIES **Wayne Watson** • TALK ABOUT LIFE **Kim Hill** • CHASE THE KANGAROO **The Choir** • IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER **Margaret Becker** • FREEDOM **Whiteheart** • MEDALS **Russ Taff** • FOR GOD AND GOD ALONE **Steve Green** • I PREDICT 1990 **Steve Taylor** • TO HELL WITH THE DEVIL **Stryper** • THE CHAMPION **Carman** • KINGDOM SEEKERS **Twila Paris** • AGE TO AGE **Amy Grant** • MORE POWER TO YA **Petra** • 77'S **77's** • DANCING WITH DANGER **Leslie Phillips** • KIM BOYCE **Kim Boyce** • DEGARMO & KEY **DeGarmo & Key** • OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET **King's X** • THE WIND AND THE WHEAT **Phil Keaggy** • OUR HYMNS **Various Artists**

80s



100 ALBUMS YOU NEED TO OWN

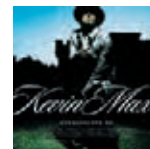
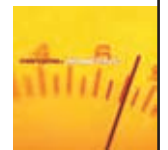
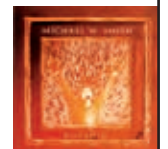
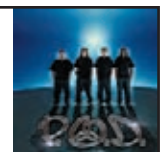


JARS OF CLAY **Jars of Clay** • JESUS FREAK **dc talk** • MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST **Various Artists** • KANSAS **Jennifer Knapp** • A LITURGY, A LEGACY AND A RAGAMUFFIN BAND **Rich Mullins** • IS ANYBODY OUT THERE? **Burlap to Cashmere** • GREAT LENGTHS **PFR** • EXODUS **Various Artists** • MICHAEL ENGLISH **Michael English** • ADDICTIVE LOVE **BeBe and CeCe Winans** • FREE AT LAST **dc talk** • SIXPENCE NONE THE RICHER **Sixpence None the Richer** • CAEDMON'S CALL **Caedmon's Call** • BEYOND BELIEF **Petra** • GOD'S PROPERTY **Kirk Franklin and God's Property** • GOING PUBLIC **Newsboys** • GO WEST YOUNG MAN **Michael W. Smith** • HEART IN MOTION **Amy Grant** • ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE **Sandi Patti** • OUT OF THE GREY **Out of the Grey** • WAKENED BY THE WIND **Susan Ashton** • SIMPLE HOUSE **Margaret Becker** • LOVE LIFE **Charlie Peacock** • FOR THE SAKE OF THE CALL **Steven Curtis Chapman** • CRY FOR THE DESERT **Twila Paris**

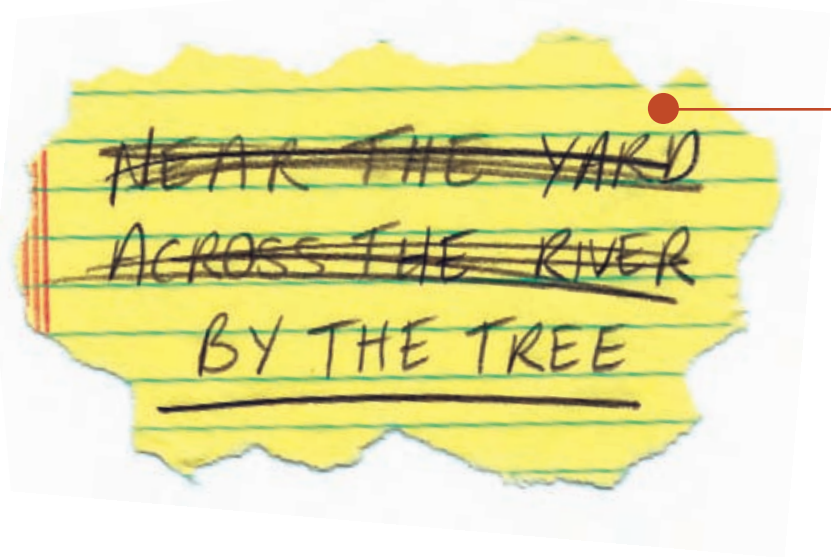
90s

00s

SATELLITE **P.O.D.** • TRUTH, SOUL, ROCK 'N' ROLL **The Elms** • EXODUS **Andy Hunter** • STEREOTYPE BE **Kevin Max** • MOMENTUM **tobyMac** • THE BEAUTIFUL LETDOWN **Switchfoot** • ALMOST THERE **MercyMe** • THE WAY I AM **Jennifer Knapp** • THIS MYSTERY **Nichole Nordeman** • CITY ON A HILL—SONGS OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE **Various Artists** • MYSELF WHEN I AM REAL **Bebo Norman** • COME TOGETHER **Third Day** • DIVINE DISCONTENT **Sixpence None the Richer** • THE ELEVENTH HOUR **Jars of Clay** • ALL RIGHT HERE **Sara Groves** • INVITATION TO EAVESDROP **Shaun Groves** • THE FAULT IS HISTORY **Souljahz** • STACIE ORRICO **Stacie Orrico** • THANKFUL **Mary Mary** • THE ART OF TRANSLATION **GRITS** • DOWNHERE **downhere** • THE MOON IS DOWN **Further Seems Forever** • WORSHIP **Michael W. Smith** • WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD **Matt Redman** • NICOLE C. MULLEN **Nicole C. Mullen**



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8 BANDS WHO COULD USE A NEW STAGE IDENTITY

BIG DADDY WEAVE.
Never trust a band that shares two-thirds of its name with an Adam Sandler movie.

PLUS ONE.
Why be "plus one" when you're *actually* down two?

DELIRIOUS?
Drop the question mark, and they could have a really cool name. However, we've never figured out if these Brit rockers were secretly wondering about their own state of mind.

ZOEGIRL.
Choosing a name that's hard to pronounce can be a marketing person's nightmare. Or Billy Ray Cyrus'!

PHAT CHANCE.
But we hear they're taking our word for it and have changed their name. Good thinking.

FFH.
Acronyms are a bad choice if you always have to ask what it stands for. **P.O.D.** could also take a cue here and never be confused for a pea's shell again.

BY THE TREE.
Definitely a better choice than Near the Yard or Across the River but still not very representative of these guys' style of music. It sounds more bluegrass than rock 'n' roll.

SANCTUS REAL.
It's better than Sanctus Fake, but a band that rocks this hard could stand to be a little less ambiguous.



8 BANDS WHO DESERVE A PLACE IN THE NAME HALL OF FAME



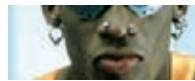
10
ARTISTS
WHO
ARE
SURPRISINGLY
TALL
OR
TALLER
THAN
WE
ANTICIPATED

- STEVE TAYLOR
- MICHAEL W. SMITH
- YOLANDA ADAMS
- CHRIS RICE
- NICHOLE NORDEMAN
- SHAUN GROVES
- DAVID CROWDER
- KJ-52
- JOHN REUBEN
- BEN CISELL FROM
- AUDIO ADRENALINE



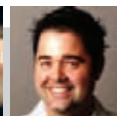
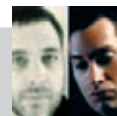
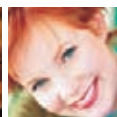
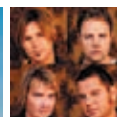
**3 ARTISTS
WE'D LIKE TO
ENCOURAGE TO
STICK TO
SINGING WHEN
PLAYING A
SHOW**

1. **Steven Curtis** no-more-long-stories-about-your-kids **Chapman**
2. **Bebo** no-more-armadillo-stories-ever **Norman**
3. **Andrew** no-more-diatribes-on-forgotten-pennies **Peterson**



6 CHRISTIAN ARTISTS THAT ALWAYS STIR UP ONLINE MESSAGE BOARD CONTROVERSY

Jaci Velasquez (the movie; style of dress)
Sixpence None the Richer (mainstream radio success)
Stacie Orrico (MTV)
Amy Grant (everything)
P.O.D. (Are they Christian?)
Kevin Max (for being "strange")



7 CHRISTIAN MUSIC FACES YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE BUT PROBABLY DON'T

U.K. WORSHIP LEADER MATT REDMAN

His face may not be familiar, but his songs certainly are. From "Better Is One Day" to "The Heart of Worship," Redman has penned most of the songs covered on worship compilations today.

ANYONE IN THIRD DAY WHO ISN'T

MAC POWELL The "other guys"—Brad Avery, Tai Anderson, David Carr and Mark Lee—readily prove that Mac isn't just a solo act.

KENDALL PAYNE She hasn't made her comeback yet after her phenomenal work on *Jordan's Sister* (Sparrow/Capitol), but this fiery redhead's music is something you're not going to want to miss.

THE DYNAMIC DUO OF JASON AND RONNIE MARTIN

No, they aren't superheroes, but for as much great music as they've made respectively, they should be. Jason fronts rock act Starflyer 59, while his brother is the visionary lead for electronic rockers Joy Electric.

BRANDON EBEL Not only was this guy the sharpest dresser at Gospel Music Week 2003, but he's almost single-handedly kept the rock in Christian rock since founding Tooth & Nail more than 10 years ago.

ANDREW PETERSON Now that Bebo Norman got his Dove nods, Andrew should be next in line as this singer/songwriter is a purveyor of great lyrical insight.

KJ-52 The latest Christian artist to make an appearance on MTV's "Total Request Live," KJ-52 proves that Eminem isn't the only gifted white rapper in the biz.

JARS OF CLAY. Very rock 'n' roll with a Scripture tie-in that's not cheesy.

JOY ELECTRIC. A perfect name for this crazy little outfit of pure drum-machine joy.

SIXPENCE NONE THE RICHER. It never hurts to be inspired by C.S. Lewis.

EARTHSUIT. What else would you call a hybrid of rock, reggae and the occasional revisit of the Police's era? OK, we wouldn't have thought of it.

STARFLYER59. A moniker destined to look great on a shirt.

MG! THE VISIONARY. It's always good to know what to expect before listening to an artist.

SMALLTOWN POETS. The name just makes you want to root for them.

THE ELMS. The before "the" bands were cool. Although, it wouldn't have worked as well if they'd picked a tree like birch, sycamore or apple.



8 ADVENTUROUS ARTISTS WHEN IT COMES TO FASHION

TOBYMAC—He's always on the cutting edge with his flair for funky hats, socially aware tees and love of stylish footwear.

NICOLE C. MULLEN—Whether her outfit is a homemade creation to sport at the Doves or just spunky stage attire, Nicole always has a knack for accessorizing and making her outfit the talk of an event.

MARTIN SMITH from Delirious?—OK, so those infamous tie-dyed pants weren't exactly the best move, but they *were* adventurous. But the suit and tie look of late proves again that Brits sure know how to dress.

KIRK FRANKLIN—*PEOPLE* noticed, and we have, too. His look is always smooth, polished and put-together without being too trendy or flashy.

KEVIN MAX—With his Burberry plaid fixation out the door, Kevin's look is pure rock star with vintage duds paired with eclectic accessories like those giant blue sunglasses he likes to wear. And don't forget the occasional eyeliner or angel wings.

STACIE ORRICO—Not "stuck" in any particular dress mode (trendy one day, classic the next), Stacie's look is always fun and flirty with a modern twist.

PLUS ONE When you go from being Christian music's resident heartthrobs to the punky almost aloof "we cut our own hair" state of late, that's certainly worth noting.

HEAD-TURNING FASHION TRENDS IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Amy Grant's leopard-print jacket (on the *Unguarded* cover)
O.C. Supertones' orange jump suits ("Chase the Sun" tour)
Newsboys' makeup on the CCM cover (February 2000) or the silver spacesuits of the mid '90s
Michael Tait's dreadful braids or his *Free at Last* eraser head 'do
Stryper... 'nuff said
Steven Curtis Chapman's mullet circa the "Great Adventure" days. And what was up with those bangs?



WILSHIRE



5 CHRISTIAN ARTISTS WHOSE ALBUMS RANK AS SOME OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC'S BEST. (AND IT'S HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD OF ANY OF THEM) 1. CHASING FURIES

This two-sister-one-brother trio's 1999 *Without Abandon* is breathtaking music, but we think the eyeliner, face piercings and the siblings' hard-to-relate-to presence may have gotten in the way of their success.

2. MICHELLE WAGNER As one of the women who "popped" in the early '90s, Ms. Wagner enjoyed a three-album deal with Benson Records. Her music was mostly self-penned expressions of faith and personal experiences. Unfortunately, poor sales and bad hair doomed this artist's career from the start.

3. CHRIS EATON This singer/songwriter has penned several songs for Amy Grant, but did you know that he released an album on Reunion records in 1986? His "rad" '80s pop flavor had a few people smiling, yet smiles are never enough to break a career.

4. PATSY MOORE If Christian music has ever had an artist worthy of being compared with the legendary Joni Mitchell, Patsy Moore is probably the one. Her first release in 1993 called *Regarding the Human Condition* is full of insightful lyrics, delightful folksy-pop melodies, warm vocals and a spiritual depth that was neither calculated nor market-driven. If you ever find one of Patsy's out-of-print CDs floating around, pick it up!

5. WILSHIRE Rocketown's first signee was the husband and wife duo of Micah and Lori Wilshire. The couple's powerful vocal performances and pop-worthy hooks never quite convinced radio of their amazing talent. Of course, the poorly designed cover of the duo's debut album did nothing to take advantage of Lori and Micah's striking model-like appearance.



8 OF THE MANY CAREERS AMY GRANT HELPED LAUNCH

MICHAEL W. SMITH. Nobody could have guessed just how successful her perm-sporting opening act would eventually become when he toured with her in the early days.

RICH MULLINS. Amy recorded his "Sing Your Praise To The Lord," "Doubly Good To You" and "Love of Another Kind" long before he ever did his own records. Mullins also served as her opening act during a leg of the "Unguarded" tour.

BLANTON AND HARRELL. Dan Harrell (married to Amy's sister Kathy) was working at a bank when he and close friend Mike Blanton (a youth leader at Belmont Church) began managing Amy's career over two decades ago. More recently joined by Jennifer Cooke and Chaz Corzine, the two built a career—and virtually an industry while they were at it—by strategically guiding Amy's career where no Christian artist had gone before.

BROWN BANNISTER. Amy's former boyfriend walked the blossoming artist through her formative years, producing her first eight studio albums, including the now-classic *Lead Me On*. Bannister continues to work with Amy on occasion; most recently he produced "Out In The Open" on her upcoming release *Simple Things* (Word).

KATHY TROCCOLI. Amy recorded several songs written by or with Kathy in the '80s, and an opening slot on the "Unguarded" tour helped break the artist—whose vocals were often perceived as too sultry—into the Christian music scene.

WAYNE KIRKPATRICK. Way before he collaborated with Eric Clapton or Faith Hill, Amy gave Kirkpatrick's thoughtful lyrics a lovely voice and helped elevate him to legend status as a songwriter.

TAMMY TRENT AND JOY WILLIAMS. Trent started singing because of her, and Joy sang her songs in church before even reaching kindergarten.



CHRISTIAN ARTISTS' FUTILE ATTEMPTS TO GO COUNTRY

KIM HILL's 1994 *So Far So Good* (including the song "Janie's Gone Fishin'") found its way into bargain bins and used CD stores quicker than most new artists in country music. We're so glad that Hill returned to Christian music. Her new release from Fervent records hits stores in September!

SUSAN ASHTON's 1999 *Closer* wasn't "awakened by" anything except bad reviews and poor radio support. Since then, Ashton has been rumored to be working on a new country record, but nothing official has been released at press time.

RUSS TAFF's 1995 *Winds of Change* blew so hard that it passed by most country music listeners in the process. Taff is now back in true form as one of the members of the Gaither Vocal Band.

APPARENT 'FANS' OF CREED



Jeremy Camp • Kutless • Strange Celebrity • Daily Planet • Sanctus Real



123456SEVEN

QUESTIONS WE'RE FREQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT P.O.D.

- 01 IS P.O.D. A CHRISTIAN BAND?
- 02 IS P.O.D. APPROPRIATE FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP TO LISTEN TO?
- 03 DID I HEAR A CUSS WORD IN P.O.D.'S SONG "BOOM?"
- 04 IS P.O.D. STILL A CHRISTIAN BAND WHEN THEY HAVE ALL OF THOSE TATTOOS?
- 05 WHAT DOES P.O.D. STAND FOR? (A PROBLEM THAT COULD'VE BEEN SOLVED BY HEEDING OUR NAME SUGGESTIONS LIST)
- 06 IS P.O.D. JUST A BUNCH OF BOB MARLEY-LOVING DRUG USERS?
- 07 WHY IS P.O.D. ON OZZFEST WITH OZZY OSBOURNE WHEN THEY SAY THEY ARE CHRISTIANS?

5

REASONS WHY WE'LL MISS PLUS ONE'S BOY BAND DAYS



1. We admit, we all liked "Written On My Heart" the first 20 times we heard it.
2. Hey, we hadn't seen this kind of Beatlesque devotion to a band since, well...?
3. No more hate mail controversies on whether Plus One is a group or a band.
4. Not enough Christian groups wear matching outfits.
5. Unlike 'N Sync, Plus One was smart enough to never have a video with all those scary puppets.



YOU CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON MICHAEL W. SMITH

1. "I WILL BE HERE FOR YOU" FROM CHANGE YOUR WORLD
2. "I BELIEVE IN YOU NOW" FROM LIVE THE LIFE
3. "I WILL BE YOUR FRIEND" FROM THIS IS YOUR TIME
4. "HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY" FROM I(2)EYE
5. "LET ME SHOW YOU THE WAY" FROM LIVE THE LIFE
6. "I'LL BE AROUND" FROM I'LL LEAD YOU HOME

style squad



steven curtis chapman
creation festival 1992

D.A.: Saddle up your horses...
C.F.: Wearing this flower power shirt is the "great adventure."
J.R.: And then Steven woke up from his nightmare and realized all of it was true.

StyleSquad
continued on
page 46...

D.A.: Kathie Lee stole my mom's drapes.
J.R.: Dolly, you rock, but save gold for the jewelry, OK?



kathie lee gifford & dolly parton
singing "Only My Pillow Knows"
dove awards 2000

D.A.: I'm not sure, but I think I have a matching couch to go with his suit.
C.F.: Yeah, baby, leave the crushed velvet suits to Austin Powers!
J.R.: Look out ladies, we be "stomp" in' tonight!



kirk franklin
stellar awards 2001

D.A.: Somebody call 9-1-1, I believe he's been shot!
C.F.: Hey hey, unless you're Madonna or George Strait, don't even try and make cowboy look chic.
J.R.: I'm not sure which is louder, his guitar or his shirt!



point of grace

D.A.: Did the climate change somewhere between Terry and Denise?
C.F.: Someone needs to give Cruella DeVille her coat back.
J.R.: Wasn't this the cover of the '87 J.C. Penney catalog?



owen thomas
the elms, 2000

The *StyleSquad* is: secret stylist to the stars Damian Alexander (D.A.), resident CCM fashion guru Christa Farris (C.F.), and introducing a new writer from San Francisco, James Robbins (J.R.).

nate cole
plus one, 2001

D.A.: Ooh, pick me!
Pick me!
C.F.: Memo: Unless
it's Valentine's Day,
never wear pink and
red together.
J.R.: I wish I could
wear my PJs to work.

C.F.: It's prom
night at the local
parochial school.
J.R.: My Cabbage
Patch Kid has
that dress.

more style squad



matt slocum
leigh nash
(sixpence none
the richer)
dove awards 1996

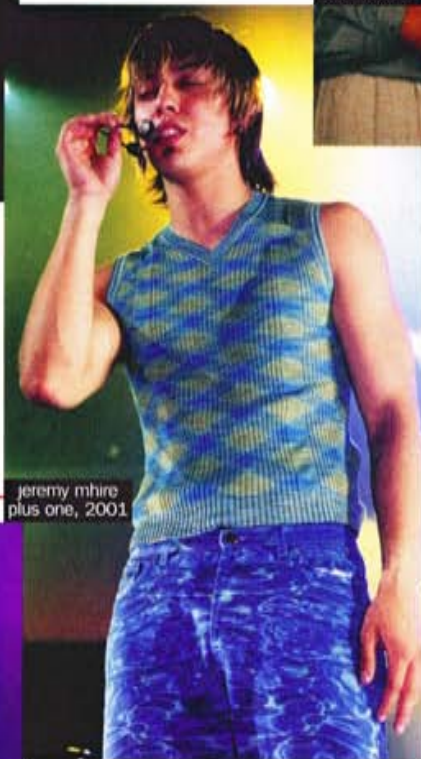


matt slocum
leigh nash
(sixpence none
the richer)
dove awards 2000

D.A.: Back from the
medieval festival,
Leigh barely makes
it onstage in time.
J.R.: It's the brand
new "Kiss Me" Heidi
doll from Mattel.

D.A.: They say wearing tie-dyed
takes off at least 10 years.
C.F.: At least his belt and shoes
match, now about that shirt...

Mark Stuart (Audio Adrenaline)
Dove Awards 2000



jeremy mhire
plus one, 2001

D.A.: And right in the
middle of aerobics class,
our instructor fell asleep.
C.F.: Closing your eyes
won't make this swirly
mess go away.
J.R.: Frat boy or rock star,
pick one and go with it.

D.A.: Ooh, wait! I think I see
my reflection.
C.F.: Wow! She's a pop star and
an astronaut? Who knew?
J.R.: Combatting the ultra-
violet rays of the spotlight

D.A.: Look Ma! Ringling Bros.
needed a guitar player.
J.R.: Anybody care to play
Twister on Gabe's pants?



gabe combs
plus one, 2001



kristin swinford
zoegirl, 2001





Driving



11 SONGS INSTANTLY RECOGNIZABLE BY HEARING THE FIRST FEW LYRICS

**"PACKING UP THE DREAMS
GOD'S PLANTED..."**

"Friends" (Michael W. Smith):
Michael W. Smith Project

"JE T'AIME, TE AMO..."

"Love in Any Language" (Sandi Patty):
Morning Like This

**"I MAY NOT BE EVERY MOTHER'S
DREAM FOR HER LITTLE GIRL..."**

"Father's Eyes" (Amy Grant): *Age to Age*

**"SADDLE UP YOUR HORSES,
WE'VE GOT A TRAIL TO BLAZE..."**

"The Great Adventure" (Steven Curtis
Chapman): *The Great Adventure*

"THE PAST IS BEHIND YOU..."

"This Time" (David Meece):
Learning to Trust

"I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER..."

"Creed" (Rich Mullins): *A Liturgy, A Legacy
and a Ragamuffin Band*

**"JESUS IS STILL ALRIGHT
WITH ME..."**

"Jesus is Still Alright With Me" (dc talk):
Free at Last

"LAURA LOVES HER LITTLE FAMILY..."

"Saved by Love" (Amy Grant): *Lead Me On*

**"IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,
WAKENED BY THE WIND..."**

"Ball and Chain" (Susan Ashton): *Wakened
by the Wind*

**"I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU LAY
YOUR HEAD OR WHERE YOU CALL
YOUR HOME..."**

"Big House" (Audio Adrenaline):
Don't Censor Me

"RAIN, RAIN ON MY FACE..."

"Flood" (Jars of Clay): *Jars of Clay*



4 SONGS we never want to hear sung in a church by anyone other than the original singer

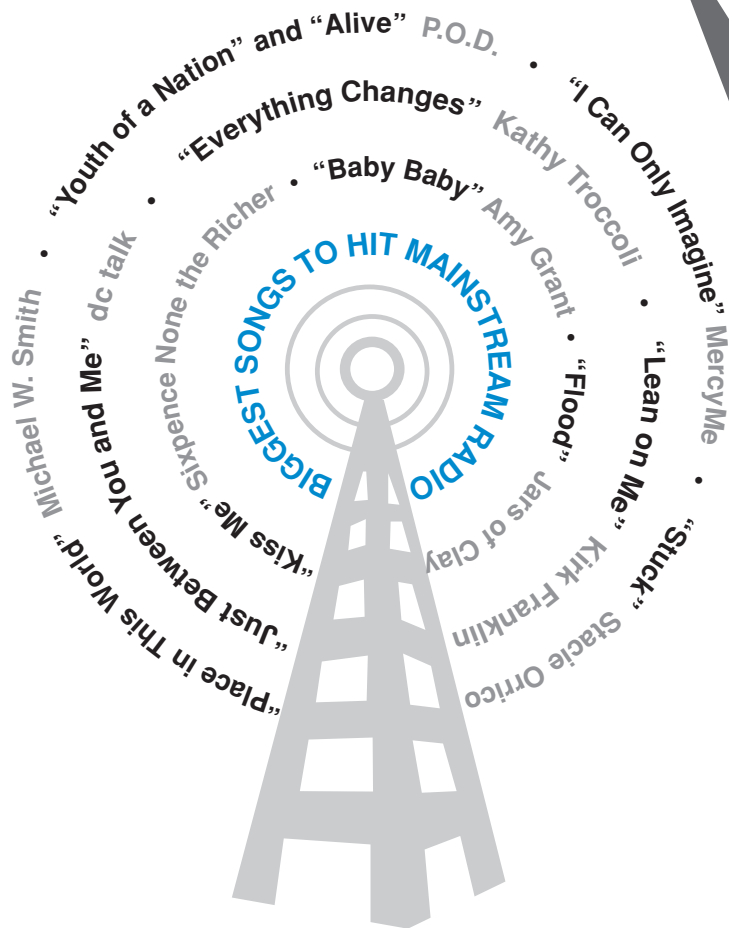
(And yes, that's even if you *think* you
can do it!)

1. "Redeemer" by Nicole C. Mullen—
You need to have major pipes to sing
the chorus and ad libs toward the end.

2. Any song originally recorded by Sandi
Patty—Everyone reading this has a
horrid memory of one of your faithful
choir members attempting to sing
"Upon This Rock," "We Shall Behold
Him" or "In the Name of the Lord."
Let's be sure to pray really hard so this
never happens again.

3. "Friends" by Michael W. Smith—Most
Christian school graduation ceremonies
between the years of 1987 and 1995
used "Friends" as their theme song.
Although it was certainly a nice gesture
and a beautiful song, we declare this
custom officially retired!

4. "Jesus Freak" by dc talk—Even if you
nail this one, you still run the risk of
your church not allowing you to
"minister" to them ever again due to
rap and rock music being a double dose
of the devil. And go get your hair cut;
you look like a hippie!



HMM.

4 Interesting Steven Curtis Chapman Songs Titles

1. "Dancing With the Dinosaur": The SCC and Barney imagery we're getting here is just plain creepy.
2. "Got to B Tru": Is it just me or simple irony that the next track after this is called "Walk With the Wise"?
3. "King of the Jungle": It's always best to leave the jungle metaphors to Tarzan.
4. "The Great Adventure": Does anyone *not* like this kitschy song? Probably not.

OHH!

9 Extraordinary Steven Curtis Chapman Songs

(No Explanation Required)

1. "Speechless"
2. "His Strength Is Perfect"
3. "Dive"
4. "More to This Life"
5. "Not Home Yet"
6. "Fingerprints of God"
7. "Treasure Island"
8. "For the Sake of the Call"
9. "Treasure of You"



8 Great Gaither Songs 1. "At the Foot of the Cross" 2. "Broken and Spilled Out" 3. "Because He Lives" 4. "He Touched Me" 5. "I Am a Promise" 6. "The Family of God" 7. "There's Something About that Name" 8. "Upon this Rock"



STARBUCKS ANYONE? 4 SONGS WHERE COFFEE IS THE KEY LYRICAL COMPONENT

"Smelling Coffee" by Chris Rice "I'm smellin' coffee/Birds are singin' just outside/Here comes your mercy streamin' in with the morning light."

"The Coffee Song" by Jars of Clay "Oh cappuccino, double espresso/I need something with a really big kick/You ask me 'bout creamer you ask me 'bout sugar/I tell you those things make me sick."

"What Kind of Love" by Amy Grant "Pour me some coffee/I've got an hour before I go/Tell me a secret/Tell me something I don't know."

"I Just Don't Want Coffee" by Caedmon's Call "So sue me, sue me, if I just don't want coffee tonight/Back in this coffee house where we just met a week ago/Now we've been friends since we were young/But all our conversations are hitting walls we can't ignore."

**And one artist who actually shares a name with java itself: Coffee, who is one-half of GRITS



MUSIC

The 'Nature' of Christian Music

"There's nothing like the warmth of a summer afternoon/Waking to the sunlight and being cradled by the moon" from "How Could I Ask for More" by Cindy Morgan

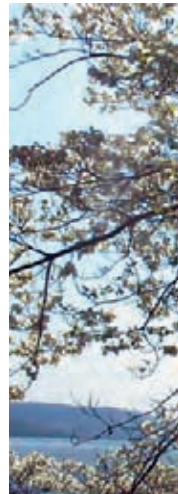
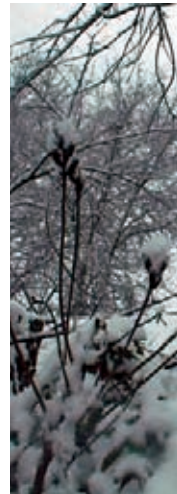
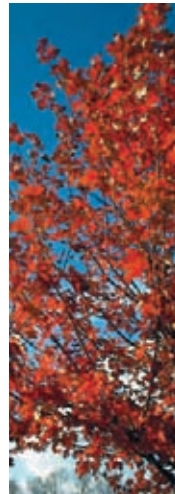
"His love is deeper than the ocean/Or a mountain high" from "The Promise" by Plus One

"Who taught the sun where to stand in the morning/Who taught the ocean you can only come this far/And who showed the moon where to hide til evening/Whose words alone can catch a falling star" from "Redeemer" by Nicole C. Mullen

"And even when the trees have just surrendered to the harvest time/Forfeiting their leaves in late September and sending us inside/Still I notice You when change begins and I am braced for colder winds/I will offer thanks for what has been and was to come/You are autumn" from "Every Season" by Nichole Nordeman

"Now I praise You, Lord of all creation/You ordain the sun to rise and fall/You scatter the stars across the heavens/You come close enough to hear me call" from "Holy Is Your Name" sung by Bebo Norman for City on a Hill—Sing Alleluia

"I wish I could crash like the waves/Or turn like the autumn leaves/In effort to praise You/I wish I could smell like the forest/The fragrance lifting a mighty chorus" from "Gloria" by Watermark



Nature photos by Jessica Folkins

TEN GREAT AMY GRANT DUETS



AMY GRANT AND MICHAEL W. SMITH, FROM THE 1988-89 "LEAD ME ON" TOUR

01 "NEXT TIME I FALL" WITH PETER CETERA IN 1986 **02** AMY GRANT AND VINCE GILL ON "HOUSE OF LOVE" IN 1994 **03** "SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW" WITH MICHAEL W. SMITH IN 1992 **04** "LOVE LIKE BLOOD" WITH GARY CHAPMAN IN 1988 **05** "YOU SLEEP WHILE I DRIVE" WITH MELISSA ETHERIDGE FOR THE "GIRLS WITH GUITARS" CHARITY EVENT IN 2000 **06** "UNEXPECTED FRIENDS" WITH SANDI PATTY IN 1991 **07** "COME YE SINNERS, POOR AND NEEDY" WITH FERNANDO ORTEGA IN 2002 **08** "EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE" WITH PATTY LOVELESS IN 1996 **09** "NEVER SAY GOODBYE" WITH RANDY STONEHILL IN 1985 **10** "YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO NICE" WITH KEVIN COSTNER IN 1997

SONGS THAT HAVE EARNED THEIR RETIREMENT

"Friends" (Michael W. Smith)
"I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever" (Sonicflood, Delirious or anyone else)
"Thank You" (Ray Boltz)
"Mary, Did You Know?" (Michael English or anyone else)
"Awesome God" (Rich Mullins or anyone else)
"My Father's Eyes" (Amy Grant)
"People Need The Lord" (Steve Green)
"We Are The Reason" (David Meece)
"Dying To Reach You" (Point Of Grace)
"Shine" Newsboys
"Big House" Audio Adrenaline
"I Will Be Here" Steven Curtis Chapman



OLD MEN YOU DON'T KNOW

5 SONGS THAT RAISED SOME EYEBROWS.



7 POP SONGS THAT EXPLAIN THE WELL-LOVED CHEESE FACTOR IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC

1. "Love Me Good" by Michael W. Smith: "Yeah, life is a three-ring circus with clowns and freaks and camels and such/And you never know when you might be attacked by the bears/Give me love, give me love, love me good." Umm, yeah, the whole camel and bear thing doesn't work.
2. "My Life" by Plus One: This boy band's attempt at being "larger than life" went "bye, bye, bye" with the lyric, "Wanna go with me? Do I have to wear a shirt and tie?/We can take a limousine/But everybody there will ask us why!"
3. "If This World" by Jaci Velasquez: When the first 12 words of your song are "Na," you know it's not looking good.
4. "Fill My Cup" by Paul Colman Trio: The chorus has a catchy, pop hook that grabs one's attention and has you singing along in seconds, but the verses are a bit trite. With the lyric, "Love is a lesson I never learnt in school/Sick in bed that day and so I play your fool," one certainly can see that this song was written in the early days of PC3.
5. "Breakfast" by Newsboys: We love the Newsboys, but its cute attempt to use Captain Crunch in a song was a soggy effort to play on the emotions of cereal fans everywhere.
6. "Island of Love" by Kathy Troccoli: "You're an island of love/And I'm glad I've been washed ashore." This song should have been shipwrecked on that island.
7. "Big Fish" by FFH: "Do de dum da digga dum dum da dum." Our thoughts exactly!

"Sing Your Praise to the Lord" (It had that classic but oh-so-tricky piano interlude.)
 "El Shaddai" (We may not know all the right words, but we've got the tune down.)
 "Thy Word" (Repetition is the key to understanding.)
 "Baby, Baby" (This is where all our pop-star dreams of grandeur began.)

4 AMY GRANT SONGS CHRISTIAN KIDS HAD TO LEARN FOR PIANO LESSONS

1. "KISS ME LIKE A WOMAN": Stepping out of his normal lyrical comfort zone, Charlie Peacock punched up his *Love Life* with a spicy little number for his wife, which included the line, "We can lie naked and unashamed." Boy, did this song get some Christians angry!

2. "CHAPERONE": Lisa Bevill turned a major corner with this little lyric: "You and me, the temperature rising/We're all alone in the heat of the night/S.O.S. temptation is trying me/Somebody help because I'm losin' the fight." The song went all the way to No. 7 on CHR (Christian Hit Radio) and got a new generation of Christians to call out to their "Chaperone."

3. "THAT KINDA GIRL": When it came to songs about "going too far," dc talk gets major props. Its obscure rhymes and simple imagery in lyrics like, "I walked her to the door to say good night/She said I am an apple, would you care to take a bite?" Dc talk helped revolutionize a Christian culture to wait until marriage for the big "it."

4. "S.O.S. (SICK OF SEX)": The daring singer/songwriter Julie Miller attempted to attack the over-saturated topic of sex with "S.O.S." and was not-so-surprisingly chastised by the critics.

5. "I DON'T WANT IT": Dc talk again raises the bar on talking about sex and innocence with the lyric, "Yo, s-e-x is a test when I'm pressed/So back off with less of that zest/Impress this brother with a life of virtue/The innocence that's spent is gonna hurt you." Leave it to these three Christian rap and rock guys to bring temptation and expectation to the Christian dating table. Relevance is beautiful.

6. "WHAT WOMEN WANT": Tonio K. didn't make any friends in the Christian market with this song. It was actually included only on the A&M version of *Notes From the Lost Civilization*. "I know what these women want, they want sex, yeah that's true, but... what they really want is love."





S

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CLASSIC ANTI-ROCK MUSIC ARGUMENTS THAT WE MISS FROM THE 1980S

"Studies" have shown that rock 'n' roll music has a melodic chord and rhythm structure that kills house plants if played for extended periods of time at a high decibel level.

"The beat" of Christian rock is the same drum beat used by cannibals in Africa when they are preparing to sacrifice their fellow villagers to a pagan god.

If you play a vinyl LP backward, it contains subliminal satanic messages, encouraging young people to worldliness and "the ways of the flesh."

The repetitive choruses of "Christian rock" are virtually identical to the mantras chanted by Buddhists, Hindus and adherents of other Eastern religions.

Rock 'n' roll always has been and always will be about rebellion; David Lee Roth even said so!

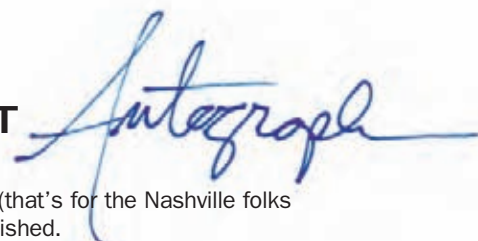
1. Appeal to his/her need to eat by offering to take the artist to get food following the show.
2. Volunteer to be on the loading in/out crew. Helpfulness in lifting heavy stuff is always appreciated.
3. Wait in line at the signing booth after the show.
4. Walk to the back of the venue and track down the tour bus.
5. Bake cookies for the artist. You'll get bonus points if they actually taste good.
6. Tag along with someone in a wheelchair.
7. Date the artist. OK, but would you really need the autograph then?



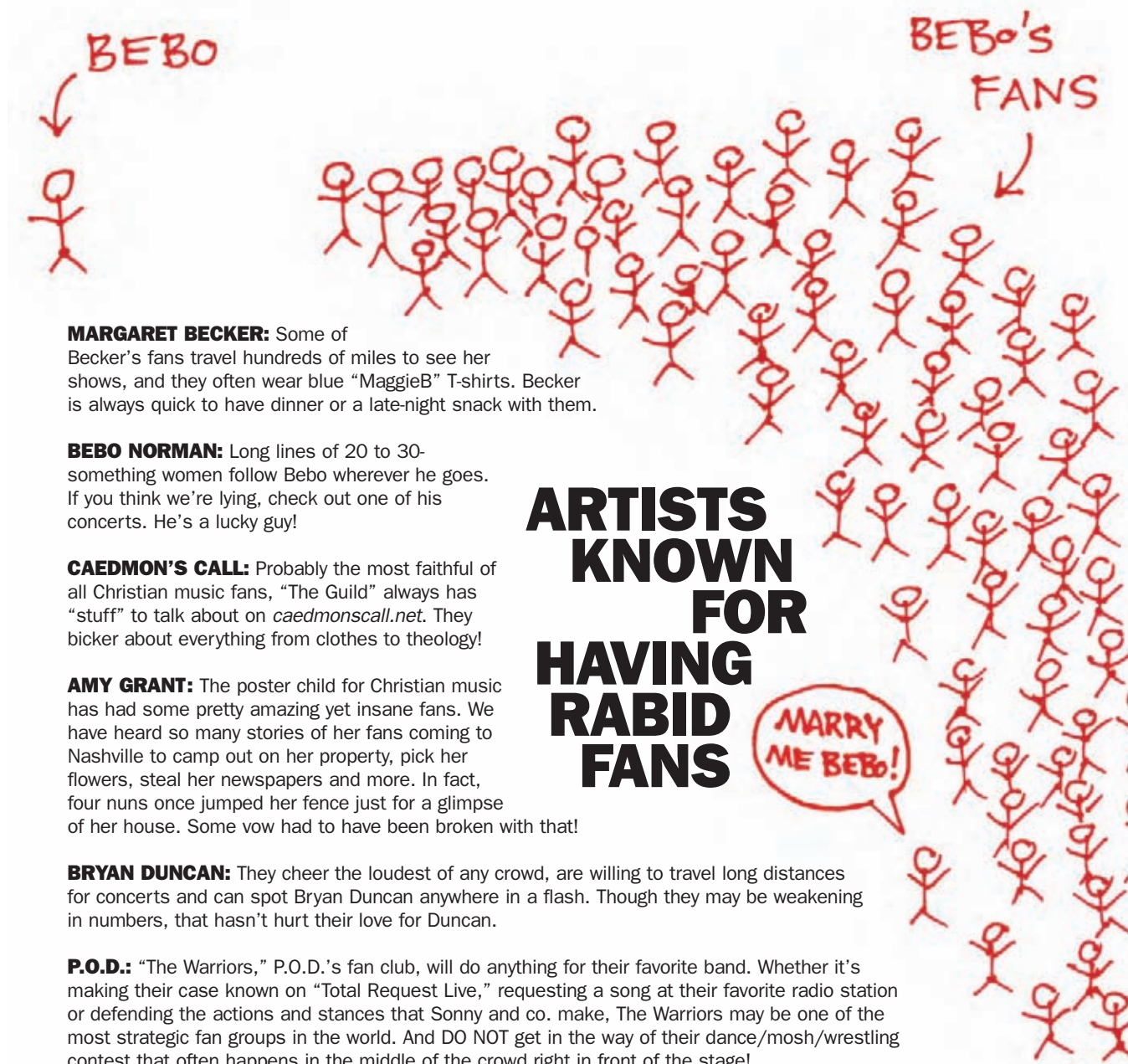
WAYS TO GET AN AUTOGRAPH AT A CONCERT



WAYS YOU'RE UNLIKELY TO GET THAT



1. Harassing him while he's sitting in church (that's for the Nashville folks mostly!) or the second after the sermon is finished.
2. Cutting in while she's chatting with her family or a significant other.
3. Asking him to sign someone else's CD because you won't or haven't bought his yet.
4. Walking up to the artist's front door at his/her house, ringing the doorbell and asking for an autograph.
5. Trying to date the artist.



MARGARET BECKER: Some of Becker's fans travel hundreds of miles to see her shows, and they often wear blue "MaggieB" T-shirts. Becker is always quick to have dinner or a late-night snack with them.

BEBO NORMAN: Long lines of 20 to 30-something women follow Bebo wherever he goes. If you think we're lying, check out one of his concerts. He's a lucky guy!

CAEDMON'S CALL: Probably the most faithful of all Christian music fans, "The Guild" always has "stuff" to talk about on caedmonscall.net. They bicker about everything from clothes to theology!

AMY GRANT: The poster child for Christian music has had some pretty amazing yet insane fans. We have heard so many stories of her fans coming to Nashville to camp out on her property, pick her flowers, steal her newspapers and more. In fact, four nuns once jumped her fence just for a glimpse of her house. Some vow had to have been broken with that!

BRYAN DUNCAN: They cheer the loudest of any crowd, are willing to travel long distances for concerts and can spot Bryan Duncan anywhere in a flash. Though they may be weakening in numbers, that hasn't hurt their love for Duncan.

P.O.D.: "The Warriors," P.O.D.'s fan club, will do anything for their favorite band. Whether it's making their case known on "Total Request Live," requesting a song at their favorite radio station or defending the actions and stances that Sonny and co. make, The Warriors may be one of the most strategic fan groups in the world. And DO NOT get in the way of their dance/mosh/wrestling contest that often happens in the middle of the crowd right in front of the stage!



Photo: David Fankhauser



SONGS WE WANT ARTISTS TO PLAY UNTIL THEY DIE

"Redeemer" (Nicole C. Mullen)
 "Jesus Freak" (dc talk)
 "Lamb of God" (Twila Paris)
 "Place in This World" (Michael W. Smith)
 "In Christ Alone" (Michael English)
 "We Shall Behold Him" (Sandi Patty)
 "Lean on Me" (Kirk Franklin)
 "Lead Me On" (Amy Grant)
 "We Will Stand" (Russ Taff)
 "Friend of a Wounded Heart" (Wayne Watson)
 "Flood" (Jars of Clay)
 "Stubborn Love" (Kathy Troccoli)
 "Kiss Me" (Sixpence None the Richer)





FANS

You keep the years of your life straight by remembering when Amy Grant released an album. (i.e. The space shuttle Challenger disaster happened the year of *The Collection*, you switched high schools the year of *Lead Me On*, and your grandfather died the year of *Heart in Motion*.)

You've been stopped before by people you thought were total strangers, and they say, "Hey, I know you, you're 'The Amy Grant guy'!"

You got into an argument with your church youth leader in high school—and won—because he believed that Amy had become a "heathen." (Hey, *Webster's* wasn't on his side.)

You drove to Nashville rather than Daytona Beach for your senior year spring break so that you could tour the Amy sights.

You asked a puzzled Michael W. Smith to autograph your copy of *Unguarded* because he co-wrote "Find a Way."

You started shopping at Target, wearing Treform tennis shoes and eating Sun Chips because Amy endorsed them.

SIGNS YOU MIGHT BE AN AMY GRANT GROUPIE



You bought all four of the covers for *Unguarded* because "they were all so good," and you couldn't choose just one.

Your friends and family all know who you are talking about when you simply say "Amy."

You entered Myrrh Records' 1992 "Ski With Amy" contest more than 250 times (and still didn't win).

You named a child, pet or car "Sharayah." (For those too young to know, see *Unguarded*.)



**8 SONGS
YOUTH
GROUPS
HAVE
ADOPTED
AS
ANTHEMS**

**"WAIT
FOR ME"**
Rebecca
St. James

"I am waiting
for/Praying for
you, darling/
Wait for me,
too/Wait for
me as I wait
for you."

**"CHILDREN OF
THE WORLD"**
Amy Grant

"For the
children of the
world/Every
single little boy
and girl/Heaven
plants a
special
seed/And we
must have faith
for these."

**"ONE GIRL
REVOLUTION"**
Superchic[k]

"I'll be
everything that
I want to be/I
am confidence
in insecurity/I
am a voice yet
waiting to be
heard/I'll shoot
the shot bang
that you hear
round the
world/I'm a one
girl revolution."

**"YOUTH OF
A NATION"**
P.O.D.

"Last day of
the rest of my
life/I wish I
would've
known/'Cause
I didn't kiss
my mama
goodbye."

**"JESUS
FREAK"**
dc talk

"What will
people think
when they hear
that I'm a
Jesus freak?/
What will
people do
when they find
that it's true/
I don't really
care if they
label me a
Jesus freak/
'Cause there
ain't no
disguising the
truth."

**"NOT
ASHAMED"**
Newsboys

"I'm not
ashamed to let
you know/I
want this light
in me to show/
I'm not
ashamed to
speak the
name of Jesus
Christ."

**"HANDS
AND FEET"**
Audio
Adrenaline

"And I try, yeah
I try/To touch
the world like
You touched
my life/And I'll
find my way to
be Your
hands."

**"BE
THE ONE"**
Al Denson

"Will you be
the one to
answer to His
call?/Will you
stand when
those around
you fall?/Will
you be the one
to take His
light into a
darkened
world?"



KILLER COMEBACK

ARTISTS WE MOST WISH WOULD MAKE A

- STRYPER** (spandex and all!)
- DC TALK** (with Toby, Michael and Kevin together again)
- STEVE TAYLOR** (the pre-record executive version)
- SUSAN ASHTON** (the pre-Capitol Records version)
- LESLIE PHILLIPS** (We love Sam, but miss our Leslie.)
- BEBE AND CECE** (together)
- RUSS TAFF** (the pre-country version)
- KIM HILL** (the Wayne Kirkpatrick version)
- CINDY MORGAN** (the *Listen* version)
- WHITEHEART** (the pre-Curb version)
- TIM MINER** (the Frontline or Motown version)
- FIRST CALL** (as a threesome)
- ANOINTED** (with three instead of two)
- THE ALTAR BOYS** (Punk it up!)
- MICHAEL W. SMITH** (the pre-*Worship* version)
- SHEILA WALSH** (the Euro dance-pop version)
- CHAGALL GUEVARA** (the same version)
- DENIECE WILLIAMS** (the Sparrow version)
- TONIO K** (the always witty, sarcastic, insightful version)
- THE CHOIR** (any post-Youth Choir version)

WHO DUNNIT?

Think you've done some embarrassing things before? You've got nothing on us! Take a look at our list of crazy Christian music moments and guess who on our staff is the guilty party.



13 SAD MOMENTS FOR A CHRISTIAN MUSIC FAN

- 1982** Keith Green dies in a plane crash.
- 1985** Whiteheart's lead singer (at the time) found guilty of sex-related crimes and jailed.
- 1987** Leslie Phillips exits the Christian music scene in a huff.
- 1992** Sandi Patty files for divorce from her first husband, John Helvering.
- 1992** Mark Heard dies after suffering a heart attack.
- 1992** Word artist/comedian Mike Warnke accused of fraud and financial misconduct.
- 1993** Vince Ebo, longtime sideman to Charlie Peacock, commits suicide.
- 1997** Rich Mullins dies in a car accident.
- 1999** Amy Grant files for divorce from Gary Chapman.
- 2000** Gene Eugene of Adam Again dies unexpectedly in his sleep.
- 2001** Ja'Marc Davis of Raze arrested and jailed on sex-related charges.
- 2002** Longtime songwriter for Avalon and A&R Director for Sparrow Records, Grant Cunningham, dies from a head injury.

A. At one Gospel Music week event, I stood up and screamed, "I LOVE you" to Christine Dente of Out of the Grey after her performance of "Deep." I saw them open for Steven Curtis Chapman the following week and went to the couple's table to tell them I was the freak who yelled "I love you" at GM Week. I thought for sure they would want to know! Then, they politely smiled at me and said, "That's really cool."

B. I once wrote Amy Grant a letter to warn her about Leslie Phillips, her "biggest competition." I'm sure Amy appreciated my 13-year-old self looking out for her career!

C. During my college years, let's just say I had an enthusiastic crush on a particular artist and wanted to get to know this person better. So I pretended to be "official media" with an actual assignment on more than a few occasions to have the opportunity to "interview" this artist. And it worked every time.

D. On the dc talk "Nu Thang" tour, I ran up to the stage, grabbed one of the big inflatable dinosaurs that adorned the stage and took off running through the crowd with my new souvenir.

E. Acting nuts or becoming a crazed fan of anything, let alone Christian artists? I don't think so.



Answers: A. Matthew Turner B. Michael TenBrink C. Christa Farris D. Lee Steffen E. Stephanie Ottosen

JESUS MENTIONS: 26

4 LYRICAL CLICHÉS:

"SO HELP ME GOD"

"VENGEANCE IS THE LORD'S"

"JESUS SAVES"

"JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME"

QUESTIONS THAT DC TALK IS APPARENTLY HOPING TO FIND ANSWERS TO:

WHAT IF I **STUMBLE**?

WHAT WILL PEOPLE
THINK WHEN THEY HEAR THAT I'M
A **JESUS FREAK**?

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE OF ME?
DOES IT MAKE ME A STRANGER THAT MY BEST FRIEND
WAS BORN IN A MANGER?

IS THIS ONE FOR THE PEOPLE? IS THIS
ONE FOR THE LORD?

WHAT IF I **FALL**?

DO THEY SEE THE FEAR IN MY EYES?
ARE THEY SO REVEALING?

WHY DO I DREAD MY TRESPASSES WILL LEAVE A DEADLY SCAR?

WHAT HAVE WE
BECOME?

AREN'T WE ALL HUMAN AFTER ALL?

NATURE REFERENCES:

"Environmental state of being" • "The sand that
He walked" • "A spiritual haze" • "Reaching
through the darkness" • "Shine like the
stars in the Heavens" • "Can you
catch the wind? See a breeze?" •
"Its presence is revealed by
the leaves on a tree"

THE TOP 20 SONGS YOU PROBABLY SING ON SUNDAY MORNING

1. "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"
2. "Shout to the Lord"
3. "Open the Eyes of My Heart"
4. "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"
5. "Breathe"
6. "You Are My All in All"
7. "As the Deer"
8. "I Love You, Lord"
9. "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"
10. "Awesome God"
11. "The Heart of Worship"
12. "Shine, Jesus, Shine"
13. "Majesty"
14. "Trading My Sorrows"
15. "Change My Heart, Oh God"
16. "You Are My King"
17. "Sanctuary"
18. "Draw Me Close"
19. "Above All"
20. "My Life Is in You"

Source: CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International)



ALBUMS THAT GET US THINKING ABOUT JESUS, GOD OR FAITH



JESUS

DISSECTING AMY GRANT'S LEAD ME ON



NUMBER OF TIMES
GOD'S NAME IS MENTIONED: **3**

PERCENTAGE OF SONGS THAT AMY CO-WROTE: **75**

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO MADE AN APPEARANCE ON THE ALBUM:

Michael W. Smith, Gary Chapman, Russ Taff, Randy Stonehill, Chris Rodriguez, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Jerry McPherson, Dann Huff, Chris Eaton, Keith Thomas

WHO THE ALBUM WAS DEDICATED TO:

MATT, Amy's firstborn son who had made his arrival shortly before the album was released

REASON WE KNOW AMY HAS BEEN "SAVED BY LOVE":
SHE SAID SO **34 TIMES** (IN "SAVED BY LOVE")

THEMES THROUGHOUT THE ALBUM: BELIEVING BY FAITH
AND NOT BY SIGHT, STRUGGLING WITH TEMPTATION, REDEMPTION THROUGH GRACE, LOVE,
FORGIVENESS, HEALING, LEARNING TO TRUST, BEING CONTENT AND HUMAN LOVE

Lyrics bringing to light the state of her
UNWAVERING FAITH:

"Somewhere we had crossed a big line/Down upon knees we had tasted holy wine..."
from "1974" • "Lead me on/To a place where the river runs into Your keeping... The
awaited deliverance/Comforts the seeking..." from "Lead Me On" • "Nothing I can
say/Nothing I can do/We're all just saved by love..." from "Saved by Love" • "It's
gonna be all right/I fall down on my knees/Tell me that it's all right/You give me what I
need..." from "All Right"

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE COMBINATIONS OF JESUS THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN MUSIC LYRICS

"Welcome Home" by Shaun Groves: "Welcome to this heart of mine/I've buried under prideful vine/Grown to
hide the mess I've made inside of me/Come decorate, Lord/Open up the creaking door/And walk upon the
dusty floor/Scrape away the guilty stains until no sin or shame remain."

"Common Creed" by Wes King: "It's a call to love, love and mercy/It's a call to give, and ask for nothing
in return/It's a call to give your love away/It's a call to hope, for the hope of glory/It's a call to live, grow
in grace and try and learn what it means to give your life away."

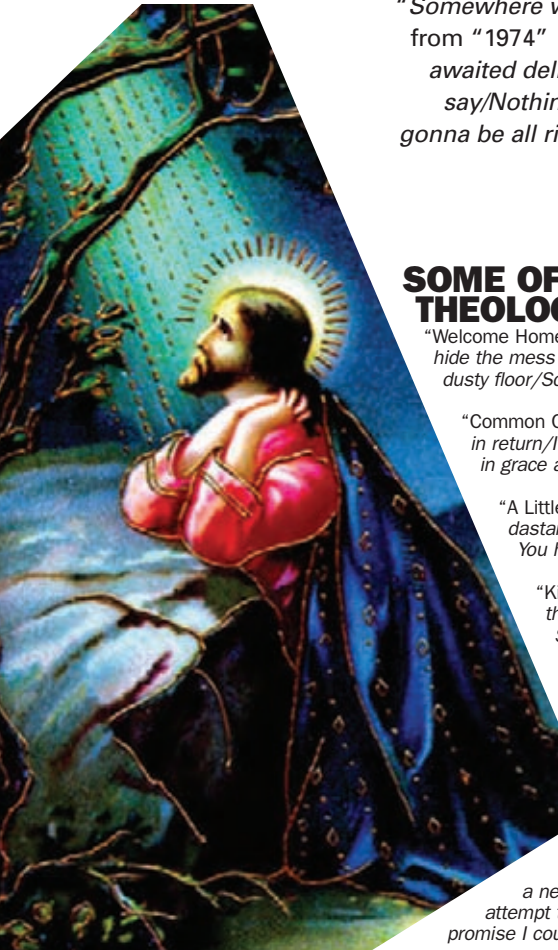
"A Little More" by Jennifer Knapp: "Turn Your eyes from on this way/I have proved to live a
dastardly day/I hid my face from the saints and the angels/Who sing of Your glory/What
You had in mind/My weakness shines/Show me grace."

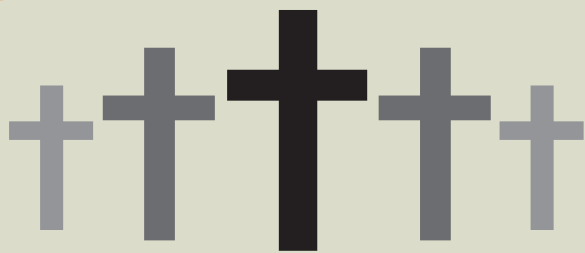
"Kirby Man" by Layton Howerton: "But I'm not a traveling salesman, no I'm not
the Kirby man/I'm not here to fix your cable, and I don't work for Uncle
Sam/I'm not a Jehovah's witness, or Mormon missionary/I'm not here to
ask if you're able, could you help me please/I came because My
Father sent Me/I came because you need Me."

"Free" by Ginny Owens: "You're free to dance/Forget
about your two left feet/And you're free to sing/Even
joyful noise is music to me/And you're free to
love/Cause I've given you My love, and it's made
you free/I have set you free."

"The Word" by Sara Groves: "I've done every
devotional, been every place emotional/Trying to hear
a new word from God, and I think it's very odd/That while I
attempt to help myself, my Bible sits upon my shelf/With every
promise I could ever need."

FOUR INTERESTING SPIRITUAL TIDBITS FROM THE LYRICS OF THE NEWSBOYS
"The church is rising, no compromising/Holiness is cool/Men laugh, in the end they'll die/Evolutionists will pay
the toll" from "In the End" on Hell Is for Wimps • "Oi. Boy. Got a new gig? It's jammin' your brain like a too-tight
wig. Stuff this new religious phase. Your home is here in the yellow haze. Oi. Boy. What are you doin'? Wearing
your faith like a new tattoo when friends and formers don't approve this. (Steele pads will not approve of his,"
from "I Cannot Get You Out of My System" on Not Ashamed • "Entertaining angels/by the light of my TV screen/
24-7 you wait for me" from "Entertaining Angels" on Step Up to the Microphone • "And try as you may, there
isn't a way/To explain the kind of change/That would make an Eskimo renounce fur/That would make a vegetarian
barbeque a hamster/Unless you can trace this about-face to a certain sign" from "Shine" on Going Public





TENBRINK REMEMBERS SWEET ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Those of you who rabidly read this column (and there are at least two or three of you out there) may lament the lack of a silly '80s picture of me this month, but I decided that if I were ever to delve into the serious, this was the time to do it.

Helping to put this 25th anniversary issue together has been a welcome trip down memory lane for me. I have fought to remember how exciting it felt to be a teenager who was in love with Jesus and who fed that love with Christian music. I can't speak for all y'all (as they say here in Tennessee), but being a teenager was a tough gig for me. Although I now sometimes cringe at how lame this sounds, the one consistent bright light in my teen life was Christian music. For some reason, God chose to use popular music to show me a Christian life beyond what I saw as a lifeless, institutional religion that was suffocating my teen spirit.

I don't know that I qualified as a "Jesus freak" in high school, but I was without a doubt a "Jesus music freak." I breathed, slept and ate Christian music. It's easy to point out that I took the obsession a bit too far, but that can miss the greater point, which is that this music profoundly affected my life. Artists weren't just artists to me; they were my philosophers, theologians and role models. Songs weren't just songs to me; they were mantras of hope, encouragement and spiritual sustenance. Concerts weren't just concerts to me; they were the mountains that dotted the landscape of valleys I melodramatically called my life. And CCM wasn't just a magazine to me; it was a lifeline that connected me to the world of Christian music—a world I cared so deeply about because it was changing me, and I wanted other people to be able to experience what I was experiencing.

I'm not sure why God chose to use pop music as the way to my heart, but He did, and I will never be the same for it. So to those who helped make it possible, this one's for you. To the artists who had an immeasurable impact on my life—Leslie Phillips, Russ Taff, Amy Grant, Stryper, Michael W. Smith, Margaret Becker, Patsy Moore, David Mullen, Charlie Peacock, Sandi Patti/Patty and so many others—thank you. To the former staff of Baker Book House in Grand Village Mall, to the former staff of WMAX-AM/Bay City, MI, and WJQK-FM/Grand Rapids, to the former editorial staff of CCM Magazine—thank you. None of you can ever know the difference you made in one kid's life in Grandville, Michigan.

I hope that in another 25 years, long after I've lost my relevance to this industry, someone else will close CCM's 50th anniversary issue with his or her own story of how early in the 21st century, life as a teenager in Omaha, Oakland or Orlando was forever changed through the influence of Christian music. Because that, my friends, is ultimately what this is all about. **MICHAEL TENBRINK**

Michael TenBrink has subscribed to CCM since 1986. His unending enthusiasm for Christian music prompted him to move to Nashville in 1994 to pursue his dream of working in "the industry." Currently, he is a marketing employee of Salem Publishing and regularly acts as an unofficial consultant for CCM.



BREAKING IT DOWN:

PERCENTAGE OF **ONE-WORD** SONG
TITLES ON THE CD—**50**

MINUTES OF MUSIC you hear
before multiple hidden
tracks—**40:15**

NUMBER OF TIMES THE PHRASE **"LIFT
ME UP"** IS SAID DURING "FLOOD": **23**

Instances where **GOD** or **JESUS** is mentioned by name: 5
Songs where the **CELLO** was used: **6**, **VIOLIN**: **4**, **RECORDER**: **2**

Random facts:

7 Things We Learn About Jesus Through the Album's Lyrics:

"He wasn't broken for nothing."—"Liquid"

"He didn't die for nothing."—"Liquid"

"But you see through my forever eyes lies and you are not believing."—"Sinking"

"You are forever healing."—"Sinking"

"He's more than the laughter or the stars in the heavens.

As close as a heartbeat or a song on her lips."—"Love Song for a Savior"

"Some day He'll call us, and **we will come running and fall in His arms** and the tears will fall down and we'll pray:

"I want to **fall in love** with You."—"Love Song for a Savior"

"He holds us in His arms."—"He"

**4 QUESTIONS JARS OF CLAY ASKS IN 3
AND 1/2 MINUTES DURING "LIQUID"**
(that's .875 questions per minute)

"**ARMS NAILED DOWN, ARE YOU TELLIN' ME SOMETHING?**"

"*Eyes turned out, are you looking for someone?*
"Blood-stained brow, are you dying for nothing?"

"Flesh and blood, is it so elemental?"

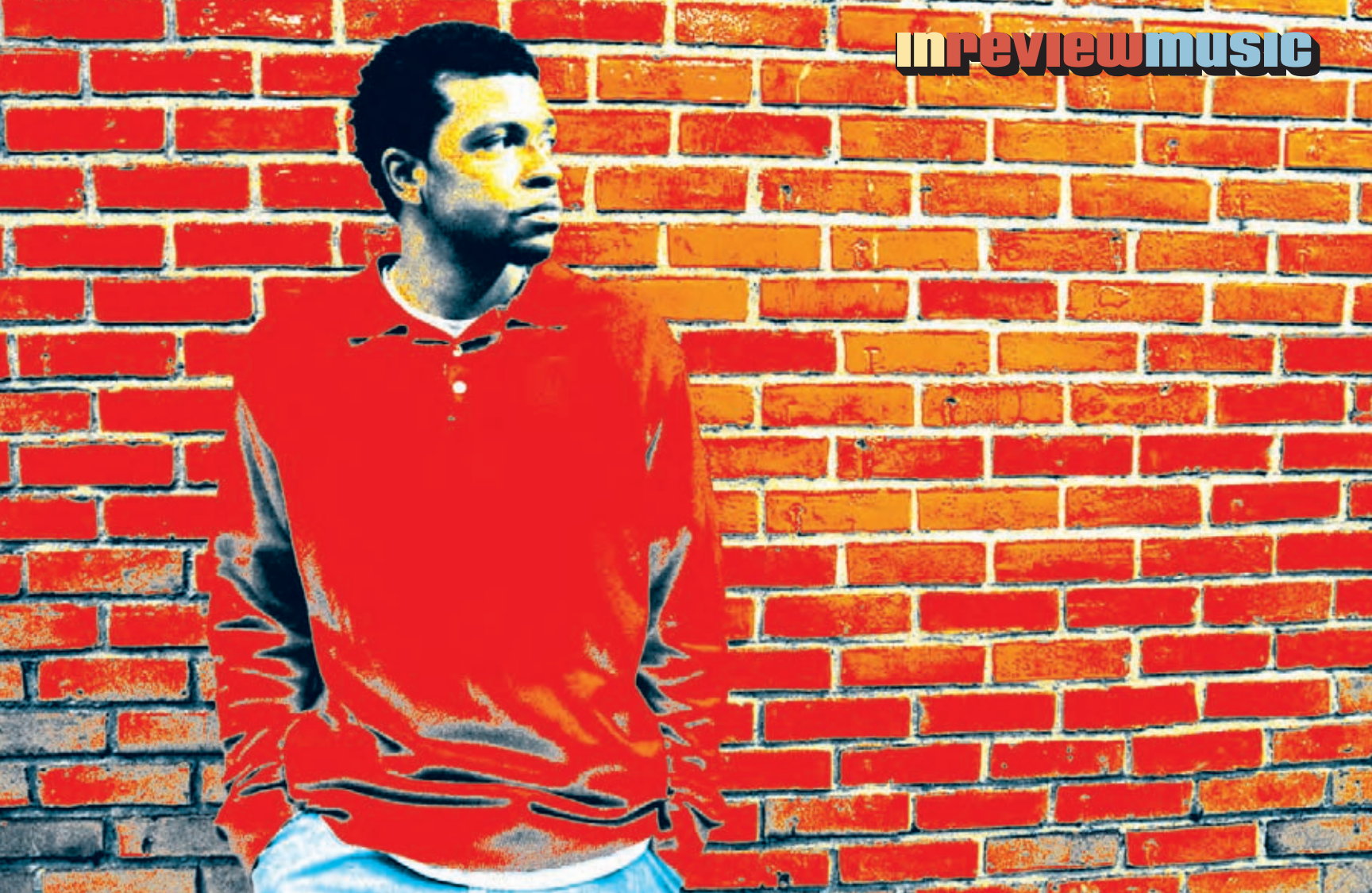
LYRICAL THEMES THAT RUN THROUGH THE CD:

CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION, OUR NEED FOR GOD DESPITE PLAYING A
"PRETTY CONVINCING ROLE," FALLING IN LOVE WITH OUR SAVIOR,
HAVING A CHILD-LIKE FAITH, EMBRACING CREATIVE INDIVIDUALITY,
CHILD ABUSE, STRUGGLING WITH FAILURE, SIN AND UNBELIEF.

The list section was researched and compiled by the following:

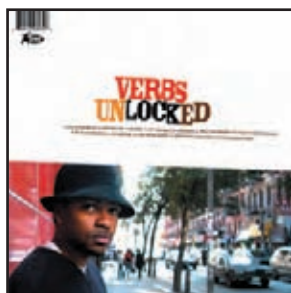
Damian Alexander, Kevin Sparkman, Christa Farris, James Robins, Stephanie Ottosen, Michael Tenbrink, Aaron King, Lee Steffen, Jessica Folkins, Lizza Connor, Matthew Turner

DISSECTING JARS OF CLAY'S SELF-TITLED CD



Don't Be Fooled by the Rhymes That He's Got.

Verbs may not be tackling the usual hip-hop syllabus, but he sure knows how to encourage and have fun!



File under:

Hip-hop

For fans of... fun hip-hop beats and meaningful rhymes without vulgarity.

Grade: B+

VERBS

Unlocked Gotee

Proving that great hip-hop doesn't need a parental advisory sticker

When listening to the artist formally known as Knowdaverbs' new CD, it's best to heed the advice given in the first few seconds of "Live to the Music" and crank the volume up as loud as you can handle. That way, you can enjoy the listening experience as Verbs probably intended: with the bass revved up to catastrophic levels and the catchy beats proverbially getting stuck in your head.

With its Nelly "Hot in Herre" vibe minus the steamy implications, "Live to the Music" gets things started with a fun, syncopated beat that makes for a great opening cut and a perfect summer party song. But it's songs later on like "She's Ms. Sin" and "Love Triangle" where you really begin to hear the distinction between what Verbs does in comparison to his general-market hip-hop counterparts.

Sure, there are plenty of tasty samples, dope rhymes and nifty guitar accents; but instead of the usual talk of babes, thugs and booty peppered with obscenity, Verbs uses his lyrics to cleverly communicate a message of purity and respect for women that's worth being praised.

An abundance of pop culture references also make this disc intriguing such as a reggae-infused modification of J-Lo's "Jenny From the Block" lyric on "Feelin' the Interlude." And props also go out for working *The Shawshank Redemption* into "My Neighborhood." Classy stuff.

My only minor concern on what's certainly a top-notch effort from beginning to end is more of a hope for Christian hip-hop in general. While our industry is continuing to make great strides, I'm still waiting for a disc to possess the kind of passion I hear in a single Eminem track. Regardless of how you feel about *what* he says, it's *how* he says it that's compelling. When you can literally feel a shiver down your back and an intensity that commands your attention when he raps, that's something not only memorable but truly extraordinary. **CHRISTA FARRIS**

ticker continued on page 68



File under: Pop/Rock
Grade: B+
For fans of... multifaceted rock with spiritual substance.

DOWNHERE

So Much for Substitutes

Word/Curb/Warner Bros.

These Canadians don't settle for the generic brand of rock.

The much-anticipated sophomore release from Canadian foursome downhere is an ambitious follow-up to the band's 2001 eponymous debut.

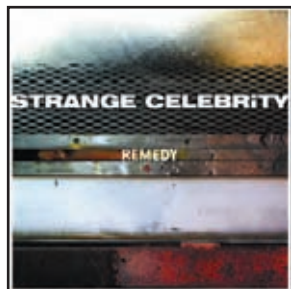
It's tough to ascertain *So Much for Substitutes*' richness in the first few spins, but repeated listens ultimately reveal an abundance of musical

diversity, lyrical depth and emotional intensity.

Sporting a wide range of influences from Coldplay to Pearl Jam to Kevin Max, downhere offers a refreshingly eclectic sound fraught with pop-imbued praise & worship, acoustic-driven folk and straight-ahead modern rock. No doubt some listeners will find the variegated approach irksome, but many will appreciate the spontaneity and unpredictability found here. Songs like "In America," a punchy indictment against egocentrism, and triumphant rocker "Feels Like Winter" make for an indelible aural and cognitive trip.

Elsewhere, buoyant track "Starspin" suggests that God's creation should evoke a sense of worship in all of us, while aptly titled "Comatose" issues a sober warning against spiritual complacency.

At the end of the day, here's one substitute that's well worth accepting. **DAVID McCREARY**



File under: Rock
Grade: B-
For fans of... good songwriting fused with radio-friendly rock.

STRANGE CELEBRITY

Remedy Squint

There's nothing so strange about strong songwriting.

Good songwriting is certainly a highlight of Strange Celebrity's debut. With *Remedy*, the quartet, led by singer/guitarist Luke Brown, plunges into the currently over-crowded room of edgy pop/rock. While not strikingly innovative, Brown's songwriting is still refreshing enough to carry the album.

Something is occasionally lost, though, between the writing and the final product. Brown's tunes are frequently let down by muddy instrumentation and missed sonic opportunities. This lost potential sometimes makes *Remedy* a little frustrating although not a disappointing listening experience.

Shining brightest as a bittersweet pop/rock band, Strange Celebrity makes the misstep of disguising itself as tough-as-nails rockers. While the radio-made "Free" and the heartbroken ballads "Dangerous" and "Perfect World" excel, the average is pulled down by the angst-ridden but lackluster "I Can't Breathe" and "Ruin." Though the project's final product has flaws, *Remedy* is a sufficient way to introduce a band with a lot of songwriting potential.

TYLER L. CLARK

MAKING THE GRADE

See where your favorite artists rank this month as our panel grades this month's CDs.

Title	Artist/Band
Unlocked	Verbs
So Much for Substitutes	downhere
Based on a True Story	Sandtown
Remedy	Strange Celebrity
Cheeses of Nazareth	Five Iron Frenzy
Bring It On	Oasis Praise
Everman	Everman
Shine Through My Life	Ultrabeat



File under: Urban-flavored modern pop/gospel
Grade: B
For fans of... something completely different for Christian music.

SANDTOWN

Based on a True Story Gotee

Jubilant sounds abound on Sandtown's national debut.

The collective vocal troupe Sandtown (comprised of West Baltimore's Sandtown-Winchester teens and youngsters) isn't your typical freshman act vying for industry and audience attention. Instead, this urban choir already has two critically acclaimed independent projects under its belt plus performance slots with the likes of

Grammy Award winners Patti LaBelle, dc talk and Bobby McFerrin.

There's a certain sense of innocence mixed with inspiration that resounds throughout Sandtown's major label unveiling, which features cuts that call for total rejoicing over bubbly dance beats and turntable scratches ("Walk With Me" and "Destiny"), along with scaled-back, worshipful contemplations ("Rescue Me" and "I Love You Lord"). Such examples fare far better than an awkwardly modernized version of patriotic classic "America" and an unbecoming, urbanized stab at U2's "Pride (In the Name of Love)" featuring Michael W. Smith. Even with those missteps, these youth can certainly be forgiven because of the rest of the disc's radiant energy and bountiful enthusiasm.

ANDY ARGYRAKIS



File under: Pop/Adult Contemporary
Grade: B+
For fans of... high-energy modern gospel.

OASIS PRAISE

Bring It On Word

A stop at this oasis may or may not be refreshing.

Recorded live at the 2,000-member Oasis Christian Center in Hollywood, Calif., this high-energy release features the church's talented and racially diverse worship team. *Bring It On* kick-starts with funk-laden opener "Are You Ready" and never lets up from there. Many of the songs on this disc are joyously tuneful, including piano-driven

ballad "Fields of Mercy" and soul-stirring gospel number "I'll Never Be the Same." At times, though, the album's improvisational feel wears thin, producing a track like "I Can Do All Things Through Christ," which is unable to transcend the live worship experience.

DAVID McCREARY

Matthew Turner CCM Magazine	Brian Mansfield USA Today	Christa Farris CCMmagazine.com	Andy Argyrakis Chicago Tribune Contributor	Robin Parrish CMcentral.com	Michael Herman Christianitytoday.com
B+	—	B-	—	—	—
B+	C	B+	B+	A	A
B	—	B	B	—	B-
A-	C	C	C-	B+	B+
B	—	C-	—	—	A-
B-	—	C-	C	B-	C
B-	B-	C	B	B+	B+
A-	—	A-	C+	—	—



File under: Rock/Ska
For fans of... Five Iron Frenzy.
Grade: B

FIVE IRON FRENZY

Cheeses of Nazareth 5 Minute Walk

And the frenzy lives on...

Five Iron Frenzy may be calling it quits this year after eight years together, but fans can enjoy two last studio swan songs, including this collection of B-sides and previously unreleased material.

Always known for its quirky lyrics and trademark ska sound, the band rocks hard and mixes it up genre-wise with a punkish vibe on "Dog Food" while adding a country twist to "Screams In the Night." While some tracks are so rough sounding that they feel almost demo quality, the songs' sense of humor on the likes of "Stinky Hippy," "That Tastes

Horrible" and "Donkey Basketball" should keep longtime fans in a happy frenzy, despite the fate of the band. **ASHTON BROOKS**



File under: Pop
For fans of... singable power pop with a retro twist.
Grade: B+

EVERMAN

Everman BEC

Another reason to not mess with Texas

Although this Lone Star State quartet may be new to the Christian music scene, Everman's sound contains a unique richness and maturity only heard in the industry's tenured bands. Named after a small Texas town, the musical road paved by their self-titled debut should lead them to bigger places.

Not typical of producer Todd Collins' (John Reuben, KJ-52) usual musical flavor, Everman brings powerful, guitar-driven pop and melodious ballads to the table.

Nostalgic harmonies reminiscent of classic '80s Christian

rock are also mixed in with moments of mid-'90s pop. What may stick with fans, however, is Pete Kipley's (MercyMe, Salvador) production on "You Are," which is sure to be the next Sunday morning classic.

Lyrical content runs the gamut as Everman ventures to include the dialogue of a hurting child suffering through divorce on "Still Waiting." You get the sense that lead singer Brad Miles almost becomes this child as he screams, "Don't want to hear you say that you never meant to hurt me/Because you did/And there's no getting past that now." "December" also beautifully connects the anticipation and excitement of becoming a new father, while "I Will Remember" displays grief over the death of a close friend. Poignant but relevant material like this is what sets this band apart. **KEVIN SPARKMAN**



File under: Dance/Pop
For fans of... worship music with a danceable beat.
Grade: A

ULTRABEAT

Shine

Through My

Life BEC

Finally! Christian dance music gets proper representation with Ultrabeat.

The third studio release from Ultrabeat

offers more all around—more creativity, more delicious beats and plenty of enchanting vocals. The music will definitely keep you awake and moving, which, by the way, also makes for an excellent soundtrack to even the most ordinary activities like cleaning your entire house or scrubbing down your car.

Of the 10 tracks, nine feature rich vocals by Erik Augustsson, a Swedish maestro who singlehandedly writes, produces and mixes everything [see "International Man of Rhythm," March CCM]. Nobody would confuse him for the best singer in the world, but the tone of his voice fits his style of music. Simple and straightforward lyrics add another dimension, like the worshipful "For You Forever," which says, "I wanna seek Your face, know You more as time goes by."

The album's mix is also superb as the vocals are neither lost nor do they overpower the music. There is a nice flow from song to song but also a unique flair to each track. "Going to the Danceparty" has a Spanish-influenced flavor, while "I Need You" is reminiscent of '80s pop. "Time Is on My Side" offers the most obvious computer-altered vocals, but the effect isn't overdone. The disc's one instrumental track, "Adventure," is rhythmically fast and furious, which also makes for another fun listen on a superb dance-pop album. **JESSICA ROBIN**

story behind the song

'SPEAKING IN TONGUES

by The Elms

With its fiery guitar intro, rumbling drums, pleading vocals and shrieking intensity, The Elms' "Speaking in Tongues" sounds like it came straight out of the vintage, classic-rock era when groups like The Who and The Rolling Stones reigned supreme. However, not only does it surface circa 2003, but the message stems much deeper than the rock 'n' roll excesses indulged in by such influences.

"I had this tribe-like guitar loop going through my head throughout [last spring's] tour, and I finally mapped the whole thing out one day."

"Sometimes you need militant riffs to drive home the message of a song," asserts The Elms' frontman/primary songwriter Owen Thomas. "I had this tribe-like guitar loop going through my head throughout [last spring's] tour, and I finally mapped the whole thing out one day."

The group's time on the road—particularly its performances at churches of various denominations—became the cut's thematic inspiration. "We've met a lot of wonderful people in the body of Christ who are innovative and effective in the way they reach out to culture," observes Thomas. "This song is a wake-up call to the opposite side of

THE ELMS



the spectrum that cares more about potluck dinners and Easter pageants than reaching beyond four walls so the world can relate."

Thomas equates non-accessible spiritual lingo and mannerisms to sounding like a foreign dialect for the unsaved, when in actuality, Christians should speak a language of love. "There's a really jarring line that says 'So put me in the water, put me in the fire/Put me in the world and I'll walk that wire,'" notes Thomas. "We need to step up to that responsibility on a daily basis. Loving people is risky, but God calls us to put ourselves on the line." **ANDY ARGYRAKIS**

message board: How has CCM Magazine had an impact on your life in the past 25 years?

"Being a 'rookie' in the sometimes fast-paced world of contemporary Christian music, I have found *CCM Magazine* to be an invaluable tool to keep our listeners informed. It is no doubt the premier magazine about today's Christian music. The in-depth articles allow us to really know the hearts of the artists so we can connect them with our listeners. Thank you for providing a great resource for us."

Tim Coats from 88.7FM "The Cross" in Monroe, LA

"There are so many articles in *CCM* that have challenged me about my faith. I think of the recent Brennan Manning article as an example. I like that you're not afraid to tell it like you see it—sometimes even when it could be controversial. In your album reviews, you've gracefully managed to strike a balance between artistry and being respectful of the hard work these artists certainly put in. Well done!"

Paige Griffin, Boston, MA

"My name is Africa Huffine, and I am 28 years old. I am an American who lives in Bosnia with my family. I want to simply say thank you for your *CCM* Web page. It is the only way I can keep up with the latest Christian music news in *CCM Magazine*. With your Web site, I find out about many different artists and their styles. This way I can find out what I would like and what music would help me in where I am spiritually. I send my family back home the list, and they try their best to send me the CDs I request. There are no Christian bookstores here, nor is there Christian radio; so as you can see, *CCM's* Web site is a big help to me."

Africa Huffine, via e-mail

"I remember being 19 and receiving my first copy of *CCM* in 1978. Wow, a magazine about my favorite Christian artists every month! Nothing could be better!"

Terry Liske, Regina, S.K. Canada

"Twenty five years ago, I was just 15. My favorite artists were Larry Norman, Keith Green, Phil Keaggy, etc. Now my favorites include Audio Adrenaline, tobyMac and Bill Gaither. I've always been pretty diverse in my musical choices, but *CCM* has always kept me in touch."

Cles Holbrook, Warren, OH

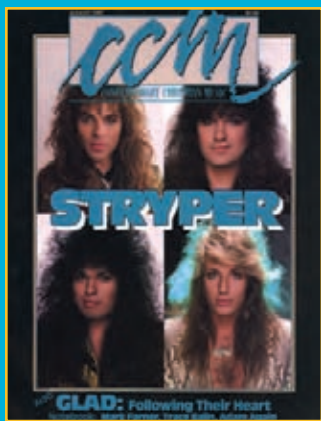
"*CCM Magazine* gives me a different perspective. I have changed my mind about more than one artist or group after reading about them in *CCM*!"

Alicia Arnold, Knoxville, TN

"I would say *CCM* has helped me know that the 'artists' who make the music are real people with real struggles. Knowing that they struggle to do God's will helps me as I struggle to do the same. Christian music puts feet to 1 Thessalonians 5:11: 'I pray that all of you will continue to be salt and light.'"

Joe Cantello, Marietta, GA

ticker continued on page 72



Then & Now

From big hair and spandex to hip-hop urban chic,
CCM Magazine has covered it all for you.

What did you miss?



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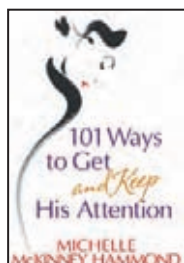
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101 WAYS TO GET AND KEEP HIS ATTENTION

Michelle McKinney Hammond

Harvest House



Michelle McKinney Hammond starts off strong, revealing survey results that show Christian men are just as attracted by beauty and sex appeal as non-Christian men (surprise, surprise). She even addresses why she

tackled the subject: "Relationships in the church are in trouble. Satan, who hates marriage, is busy keeping good single men and women apart or attacking marriage by keeping husbands and wives at odds."

But do women really need someone to tell them to shave their legs, brush their teeth and polish their nails? Probably not. After McKinney Hammond moves past "Grooming 101," she returns to valid discussions of communication, honesty, vulnerability and the fruit of the Spirit. But again, she stumbles slightly with far too many apple, grape and pomegranate analogies. The points she's trying to make are important, but her word choices often mar the end result, and the "girlfriend-to-girlfriend" tone distracts at times. All things considered, the book provides an intriguing premise, but it would likely keep the attention of more women if the page count were cut in half. **KATIE KROMPEGEL**



GARDEN OF DREAMS

Leslie Gould

Waterbrook

Readers be warned: You may want to have a box of tissues nearby when you're reading this book.

Poignantly capturing the joys and traumas of friendship, the book

introduces Jill and Caye: women who became fast friends after their first meeting. Through the years, they've been there for each other through everything and have strengthened each other's faith. But their friendship is rocked when Jill is diagnosed with a fatal disease. Through love and faith, the two friends and their families deal with the pain and the secrets that have been kept hidden in the past.

Unlike most stories, Gould does not spend a lot of time sharing background information at the beginning of the book. Instead, the reader

gets to know the main characters through a series of flashbacks from both Jill and Caye's memories. While the story moves quickly and is intriguing, the book feels unfinished, as if there really should be another chapter to make the story more complete.

SUZIE WALTNER



ANTONIA'S CHOICE

Nancy Rue

Multnomah

Making a good choice isn't always easy, but when it involves the life of a child, you must try to do everything you can to make the right one. In *Antonia's Choice*, a mother

learns she must deny herself and her dreams in order to save her son from tragedy.

Antonia (Toni) is a successful, single career mom, who is struggling to raise her 5-year-old son, Ben. When she learns that Ben has been molested and photographed by family members, she is devastated. Dealing with feelings of anger, helplessness and sadness, Toni gains strength through Christian friends and counselors who ultimately lead her and Ben to find God's healing.

Antonia's Choice sensitively addresses the disturbing subject of child molestation and pornography and concentrates on the sacrificial decisions a parent must make to help an abused child. The plot is intense but effective in revealing God's mercy and power in the worst of situations. **DAWN PHARRIS**



SOUTHERN STORM

Terri Blackstock

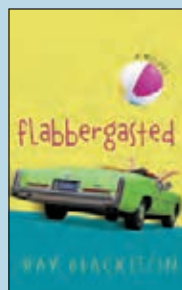
Zondervan

From the name of the town, to the Bible passage about the "cities of refuge," to the Man we find true rest in, the theme of refuge is sprinkled throughout the second book of Terri

Blackstock's "Cape Refuge" series. And refuge is precisely what lead character Blair Owens needs.

The town sheriff, Matthew Cade, has disappeared after hitting a pedestrian during a severe storm. Most of the townspeople, including the police, believe Cade is taking a break because of the guilt he feels about the man's death. Owens, however, does not believe he would abandon his friends and responsibilities. She believes something terrible has happened to him;

editor's pick PERFECT READS FOR THOSE SUMMER DAYS AT THE BEACH



Here's a novel concept: What if Christian thrillers were actually thrilling and Christian romantic comedies were both romantic and funny? I'm happy to say that a new day appears to be dawning, and Ted Dekker and Ray Blackston are leading the revolution!

Both *Thr3e* and *Flabbergasted* are filled with solid, fleshed-out, believable characters who live in a world as complex and challenging as the world you and I live in. These characters don't walk around cheesily quoting Bible verses at each other or hiding from reality behind tired Christian clichés. Like you and I, they laugh, cry, get angry, fall in love, pray, doubt and, ultimately, they believe.

THR3E Ted Dekker W Publishing

Thr3e's Kevin Parson may be an appealing young man studying to be a priest, but he is also a flawed individual with a painful and hidden past he has struggled to forget. As Kevin is stalked by a cunning, riddle-playing serial killer who demands that he own up to that past, you will likely find yourself engrossed in his terrifying ordeal while unknowingly facing up to your own past sins and shame. Filled with jaw-dropping plot twists, *Thr3e* has what so many Christian novels unfortunately lack: a great story.

FLABBERGASTED Ray Blackston Revell/Baker

Flabbergasted is far from the suspenseful shadows of *Thr3e* but is equally worthy of praise. A fun, lighthearted and thoroughly enjoyable "relational gumbo" of a novel, *Flabbergasted* traces the "I-sure-hope-they-end-up-together" relationship of Jay Jarvis (who works for a brokerage firm) and Allie Kyle (who "works for God"). Funny, quirky and very satisfying, this novel is an excellent debut from Blackston. **AARON KING**

ticker continued on page 74

and because no one else seems too concerned, she conducts her own investigation, hoping he is still alive.

While the plot is occasionally predictable, *Southern Storm* is captivating, with a story that moves along quickly. Another plus is how Blackstock informs the readers of events that took place in the first book without giving away the secrets. In fact, readers who inadvertently pick up the second book first will probably be ready to read the first book when they are finished. **SUZIE WALTNER**

SCALE DOWN Danna Demetre

Revell

With *Scale Down*, Danna Demetre joins the growing list of Christian women (including



with a spiritual foundation.

Demetre's wealth of medical and health/fitness experience, combined with her own past struggles with bulimia, elevate this book to a level of valuable practicality. The book is written specifically for females, but certainly men who desire to lead a healthier life will also benefit from reading it.

JESSIE HAHN

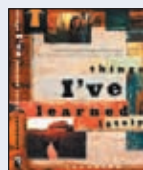
Ruth McGinnis and Stormie Omartian) writing sensible, realistic guides to weight loss brought about by a lasting lifestyle change. *Scale Down* offers nutrition and diet tips, self-evaluations and health and fitness plans

characters as a terrorist plot is revealed and the good guys swing into heroic action. However, this well-researched page-turner suffers from lame metaphors ("Her accent was exotic, like an actress in a Spielberg film.") and sermonizing CIA agents ("Sunday is supposed to be the day of rest," he said, "but, unfortunately, terrorism never sleeps!"). But the real kicker is the frightening combo of God and guns. (Alstead taught his 4-year-old to fire a gun!) The stereotypical depiction of Muslims as the ultimate evildoers doesn't help either. These lapses in quality and better judgment unfortunately diminish an otherwise thrilling summer read.

KEVIN D. HENDRICKS

QUICK PICKS:

A SNEAK PEEK INTO A FEW OTHER TITLES WORTH CHECKING OUT:



THINGS I'VE LEARNED LATELY Danae Jacobson

Multnomah

Devoid of the cheesy conclusions you might expect

from a book like this, Danae Jacobson finds deep meaning in her everyday observations like: "Chocolate chip cookies taste better as dough," and, "Country music isn't so bad after all."



A TREASURE OF MIRACLES FOR TEENS Karen Kingsbury

Warner

This isn't simply a *Chicken Soup for the Soul* book. Instead, this captivating book tells the

real-life stories of teens in the clutch and how God provided a miracle right in the midst of their struggles.



HIGH STAKES Kathy Herman

Multnomah

The plot may seem implausible in parts, but the story is certainly intriguing.

Check out this fast-paced read

and discover what happens when extreme teen Angie Marks gets involved with dangerous rattlesnakes and how that coincides with a prestigious upcoming trial.

SYDNEY ALEXANDER



FIREFLY BLUE Jake Thoele

Tyndale

Firefly Blue is Tom Clancy meets Jesus. But instead of Jack Ryan, you've got Steve Alstead: former Navy Seal, husband, father and member of a top-secret counter-

terrorism unit, Chapter 16 (named after Revelation 16).

The second installment of the "Chapter 16" series covers a nearly too-large cast of



ONE TUESDAY MORNING Karen Kingsbury

Zondervan

Karen Kingsbury is incredibly brave to have written a fictional book based on the events of Sept. 11, considering the still-fresh memories from the tragedy.

But, with a sigh of relief,

I can say that Kingsbury handled the plotline with honesty, emotion and respect. Her story revolves around the lives of businessman Eric Michaels and fireman Jake Bryan and their respective families. While their backgrounds are different, both find themselves in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. The story that ensues is wrought with the pain, fear and faith-wrestling, and relates how one man rediscovers his faith in God. **STEPHANIE OTTOSEN**

Authors in the Spotlight: Robin Jones Gunn



Like many 15-year-old Christian girls, I was once thoroughly enthralled with Gunn's now infamous "Christy Miller" series before graduating to the "Glenbrooke" series, where the stories were even more complicated. With my tendency to speed-read, I could never get my hands on the latest book fast enough.

When I think about it now, I can't fully explain my attraction to these books, but I have a few theories. Maybe it's because Christy shared my home state of Wisconsin or because the stories read like a juicy, sanctified soap opera with enough real-life drama to make a diva jealous. Will Christy end up with her true love Todd or one of the toads along the way? What would her crazy friend Katie do next? How

would Christy's plaguing insecurities play out to her disadvantage? And lastly, what did she learn about God in the process? These questions were always addressed honestly without the usual church-speak to clutter it up.

Best-selling author Robin Jones Gunn, a Portland, Ore., resident, simply has the ability to communicate in an entertaining way that women of all ages can relate to. In her new series of "chick-lit for Christian women," Gunn has penned *SisterChicks on the Loose!* (Multnomah). Look for a review of the new project in next month's magazine.

For more information about Gunn, check out her Web site at robingunn.com. **CHRISTA FARRIS**

ticker continued on page 76

INSTRUMENT AMPLIFIERS

GETTING THE SOUND OUT PROPERLY CAN MAKE OR BREAK YOUR PERFORMANCE.



LINE 6 SPIDER 112

From the fat daddy of amp modeling simulators comes a real guitar amplifier. Though the company's POD units contain no amplifier or speaker, they have been heard on countless stages and recordings over the past few years. Line 6 has taken the POD technology and given it a voice with this 50-watt, single 12-inch design. The Spider sounds great at any setting since it effectively recreates the tone of popular amplifiers such as Marshalls and Fenders. Two new features are worth noting: the Smart Control FX and the improved tone controls. With a bewildering array of onboard effects, the engineers at Line 6 had to develop a simple way to control what effect goes where. The Smart FX brings the most important parameters of each effect to the front panel. Time and depth, for example, are readily available for tweaking time-based effects. Meanwhile, the new tone controls sound smoother during adjustment and go further in range than their predecessors, making them more akin to the amplifiers they are trying to emulate. Line 6 continues to push the envelope of tonal letters and deliver them to players with Priority Overnight precision. **\$549**
line6.com

AURALEX GRAMMA PLATFORM

It's not enough to create great tone—you have to preserve it. That's what the GRAMMA is all about. By isolating the instrument amp or stage monitor from the stage floor, the true sound of

the speaker can be heard. Auralex uses a solid base and sections of their acoustic foam to divide the wanted signal from the unwanted noise. The platform is lightweight and features a built-in handle, making it easy to set up at every venue. Once you have heard the difference it makes, you will want to take the GRAMMA with you wherever you go. **\$75**
auralex.com

HARTKE 1415 COMBO

Aluminum speaker cones may be the hallmark of Hartke bass amps, but there's more here than meets the eye. From the extended cabinet depth to the rear port on the housing, this amp is all about tone. Hartke is known for a solid bottom end, and the 1415 doesn't fail. With 140 watts pushing the 15-inch speaker, the 1415 is large enough to carry its own weight without a PA, small enough to fit in the back of a hatchback and tough enough to make the trip dozens of times. The 1415 shows why Hartke is a staple in the professional bassist's diet. **\$599**
samsontechnologies.com

BEHRINGER GX112 BLUE DEVIL

Should a Christian guitarist use an amplifier with a setting labeled "hell"? If personal ethics allow it, the acquiescing player will find this amp delivers a sophisticated sonic punch across the entire musical spectrum. From blues to metal, the Blue Devil

handles every task with an ease reminiscent of a Nashville studio pocket player. And just like the best studio players, the Blue Devil comes prepared for anything, with an extensive effects section, MIDI in connector, headphone jack and a channel-selecting footswitch. It's just that pesky "hell" and "devil" reference that causes an issue. However, to be fair, Behringer does include a setting for "heaven" to balance the scales. **\$299**
behringer.com

PEAVEY TRANSTUBE 258 EFX

The little amp that could is finally here. It can deliver screaming leads through the Hi-gain setting and air-ride smooth rhythm chops on the programmable clean channel and other tonally complex effects via the WYSIWYG interface. TransTube circuitry means the amp pushes back like a tube model but doesn't pull money out of your pocket for tune-ups as the aforementioned are apt to do. It even lets you leave your big amp at home when the gig is on the third floor and accessible only by a winding staircase. In all, this is one cool little amp. **\$259**
peavey.com

ULTIMATE SUPPORT GENESIS AMP STAND

It looks like a guitar stand but is designed to support amps weighing up to 75 pounds. By raising and tilting the amp, the Genesis places the sweet spot of tone right at the player's ear. A handy built-in boom arm mount makes mic-ing the amplifier a simple process, while the flip-down legs and extension arms are responsible for a quick 30-second set up. Throw one in the back of your amp, and you're good to go. **\$39**
ultimatesupport.com



ticker continued on page 78

by DAVE URBANSKI

25 OPTIONS FOR YOUR HIGHER EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS ISSUE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY, WE'RE ROLLING OUT A QUICK LIST OF 25 GREAT CHRISTIAN COLLEGES. (NOTICE WE SAY "GREAT"—NOT "THE GREATEST" OR "THE TOP 25.") THIS ALPHABETICAL PROFILE OWES A DEBT TO *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT*'S 2003 RANKING SYSTEM, WHICH SIGNIFIES HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPETITION WITH GENERAL EDUCATION COUNTERPARTS. TUITION FIGURES ARE ANNUAL.

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY (anderson.edu)

Where: Anderson, Ind.
Enrollment: 2,231 undergrads
Tuition: \$13,990

ASBURY COLLEGE (asbury.edu)

Where: Wilmore, Ky.
Enrollment: 1,338 undergrads
Tuition: \$14,767

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY (apu.edu)

Where: Los Angeles
Enrollment: 6,000 undergrads
Tuition: \$17,140

CALVIN COLLEGE (calvin.edu)

Where: Grand Rapids, Mich.
Enrollment: 4,300 undergrads
Tuition: \$16,775

CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY (cedarville.edu)

Where: Cedarville, Ohio
Enrollment: 3,000 undergrads
Tuition: \$13,696

DORDT COLLEGE (dordt.edu)

Where: Northwest Iowa
Enrollment: 1,400 undergrads
Tuition: \$13,350

EASTERN UNIVERSITY (eastern.edu)

Where: Philadelphia
Enrollment: 1,300 undergrads
Tuition: \$14,560

GENEVA COLLEGE (geneva.edu)

Where: Beaver Falls, Penn.
Enrollment: 1,500 undergrads
Tuition: \$13,350

GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY (georgefox.edu)

Where: Newberg, Ore.
Enrollment: 1,400 undergrads
Tuition: \$17,300

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

(grand-canyon.edu)
Where: Phoenix
Enrollment: 1,500 undergrads
Tuition: \$10,500

GREENVILLE COLLEGE (greenville.edu)

Where: Greenville, Ill.
Enrollment: 900 undergrads
Tuition: \$12,954

GROVE CITY COLLEGE (gcc.edu)

Where: Grove City, Penn.
Enrollment: 2,300 undergrads
Tuition: \$7,780

HUNTINGTON COLLEGE (huntington.edu)

Where: Huntington, Ind.
Enrollment: 942 undergrads
Tuition: \$15,030

JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY (jbu.edu)

Where: Siloam Springs, Ark.
Enrollment: 1,400 undergrads
Tuition: \$11,492

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY (letu.edu)

Where: Longview, Texas
Enrollment: 3,300 undergrads
Tuition: \$13,240

MESSIAH COLLEGE (messiah.edu)

Where: Grantham, Penn.
Enrollment: 2,800 undergrads
Tuition: \$15,830

MOUNT VERNON NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

(mvnu.edu)
Where: Mount Vernon, Ohio
Enrollment: 2,000 undergrads
Tuition: \$12,736

NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY (northpark.edu)

Where: Chicago
Enrollment: 2,300 undergrads
Tuition: \$18,680

NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

(nwcc.edu)
Where: Eugene, Ore.
Enrollment: 490 undergrads
Tuition: \$13,905

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY (okbu.edu)

Where: Shawnee, Okla.
Enrollment: 2,000 undergrads
Tuition: \$9,500

ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE (roberts.edu)

Where: Rochester, N.Y.
Enrollment: 1,500 undergrads
Tuition: \$14,220

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY (tayloru.edu)

Where: Upland, Ind.
Enrollment: 1,843 undergrads
Tuition: \$16,572

TRINITY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (trnty.edu)

Where: Palos Heights, Ill.
Enrollment: 723 undergrads
Tuition: \$13,240

UNION UNIVERSITY (uuu.edu)

Where: Jackson, Tenn.
Enrollment: 2,000 undergrads
Tuition: \$11,550

WHEATON COLLEGE (wheaton.edu)

Where: Wheaton, Ill.
Enrollment: 2,386 undergrads
Tuition: \$17,320

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DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS.

BY RICK WEBER

FIVE YEARS AGO, RUSSELL DAVID HOBBS OPENED THE DOOR.

It was the first Christian-oriented club in Deep Ellum, the east Dallas area he called home back in 1984, when he was a beatnik who had not yet accepted Christ. People expected the club to shut down quickly amid the competition of popular dance halls and tattoo parlors. But contrary to these expectations, The Door is now the most successful club on perhaps the nation's most fertile Christian rock music soil, and a sister club has also opened in Fort Worth.

"We talk to all the band [members] on tour, and they say The Door is their favorite place to play," Hobbs says. "But the local scene is what's really significant and unique. All these local Christian bands have built up huge followings. This area has broken more bands into the national scene than any city I know—most recently By The Tree, Forty Days and MercyMe."

Dallas' dynamic atmosphere has developed by a convergence of four factors: the clubs and their ability to showcase young bands, the proliferation of churches with high-tech worship centers, KLTY, the largest Christian music station in the world and KTPW 89.7 Power FM, the only 24-hour alternative Christian music station. Also a factor is Origin magazine, a free publication that spotlights local independent Christian bands on the cover of each issue.

"Being in the Bible belt doesn't hurt," adds Dallas area promoter Jimmy Swan, who represents 17 bands.

"It's the kind of thing that feeds off of itself because you have so many people who love [Christian] music," says Chuck Finney, director of programming for KLTY, whose yearly "Celebrate Freedom" concert draws more than 175,000 people annually.

The Door showcases at least 20 bands each weekend and as many as 50 if it opens during the week in order to accommodate a national act. Nichole Nordeman recently chose the location to record Live at the Door (Sparrow), which released in May.

It is, in Hobbs' words, "a no-nonsense, no-frills, original music showcase hall." The cinder-block walls are painted black, and tunnels take patrons from the 950-person capacity main hall to the 400-person capacity theater room or to the lounge, a couch-adorned area where acoustic acts play.

According to Hobbs, it is "an interdenominational meeting place for people of all churches in the Metroplex" that has not been without controversy.

"A lot of Christians don't even think we should be in Deep Ellum or have non-Christian bands," Hobbs says. "But we're doing what God told us to do. He said, 'Open the door and don't be Pharisees. Promote Christian bands, but if other people want to play there, let them because light is greater than darkness.'"

Before The Door, local bands played mostly at churches. And even that scene has become more energized in recent years.

Irving Bible Church holds a free concert every Thursday called "Mezzanine Floor" in its 2,000-seat facility, with recent acts including Shane Barnard and Shane Everett and Charlie Hall. A monthly Friday concert features local and national acts. And on Sunday nights, Power FM brings its "Spin 180" show to the church's coffee shop and showcases local bands and performers.

Prestonwood Baptist Church recently built a 1,200-seat auditorium (with a \$1 million sound-and-lights system) that's devoted every Saturday night to a concert.

The Church at Burleson, located in the suburb of Burleson (made famous by "American Idol's" Kelly Clarkson), has free "Café Friday" concerts in a 230-person capacity upstairs coffeehouse.

"Our encouragement is for people to bring lost friends," says Rick Harrison, booking manager for the church. "We want it to be a positive place to hang out. We try to keep it as ministry oriented as possible."

Other gathering spots include: Apostle Credo in Fort Worth, Insomnia Coffee Bar and The Upper Room in Dallas and Club Red Letter and Gloria Dei Nights in Garland (a suburb of Dallas).

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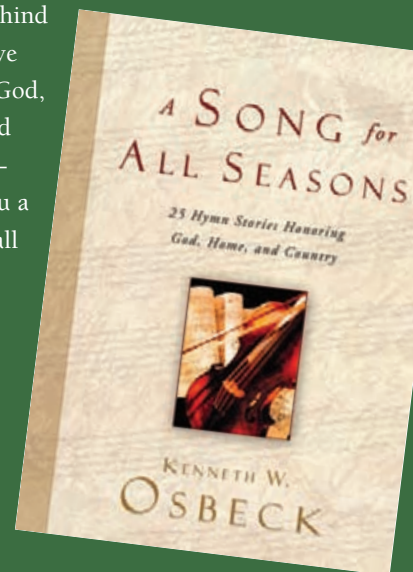


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and Country
By Kenneth W. Osbeck
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PAUL LOGSDON MAY BE THE MOST DEVOTED SUBSCRIBER (25 YEARS). NOW, HE DIVULGES HIS FAVORITE CHRISTIAN MUSIC MEMORIES FROM OUR 25 YEARS. BY MATTHEW TURNER

Were you really a subscriber when the first issue of CCM Magazine hit newsstands?

Technically, when *CCM* first came out, it was a trade publication. I was on the list to get one of those first copies because I was a talent agent for Christian musicians. I *did* subscribe immediately, and I still have every issue in my archives.

What is your all-time favorite Christian album?

GLAD's 1983 release, *No Less Than All*, because it contains the song "Variations on a Hymn." That progressive song sequence went a long way toward breaking down the barriers that stood between churches and contemporary Christian music.

Do you have a favorite concert or festival moment?

The first time there was a candlelight service at the Creation Festival in the early '80s. The power went out while Amy Grant was on stage, so she picked up her acoustic guitar and continued to sing. While flashlights lit up the stage, somebody found a box of candles and passed them out. The candle-lighting tradition continues each year at Creation. Now 60,000-plus candles light up the hillside as festival leaders lead worship from the main stage.

In the last 25 years, who has had the most influence on the current state of contemporary Christian music?

Amy Grant. She was the first to make the crossover [to mainstream], bringing exposure and credibility to our movement and hope to a whole generation of young Christian musicians.

In your opinion, what is the biggest difference between the Christian music industry in 1978 and the industry in 2003?

Today's artists are living out our dreams. In the early days, we were a bunch of hungry artists, agents, promoters and converted hippies with a burning desire to minister through this new music and a dream of widespread acceptance in Christian culture.

Has anything made you angry about Christian music?

Not angry, but I do get more than a little frustrated at the escalation of costs to produce concerts. Fees have skyrocketed, and the majority of the risk is put on the promoter.

Petra or Stryper? Petra.

Have we seen the best days of Christian music, or are we still growing?

No. Yes. Maybe. Actually, I think the best days are still ahead of us.

What is your wish for the next 25 years?

I'd like to see us establish trends rather than follow the lead of mainstream music.

What is your favorite Phil Keaggy moment?

Although I had many opportunities to see him in concert and even work with him at the Creation Festival, my favorite "Keaggy moment" was just a few years ago when I booked him at Evangel University and spent the better part of the day with him. I'll never forget as I drove Phil to a radio station for an interview, he pulled out a cassette and asked if I'd like to hear the rough mixes of some things he was working on. Needless to say, it was a cool moment.

Point of Grace or Plus One?

Point of Grace. I'm a little too old to appreciate "boy bands," even though Jeremy Mhire is from here in Springfield [Missouri].



From top to bottom: Paul Logsdon, 1978; Backstage at Creation Festival; Logsdon interviewing Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Where have you seen Christian music have the most influence on people?

Creation Festival in Western Pennsylvania. Over the course of 20 years, I've seen families return year after year because the music and ministry made a difference in their homes. Many of those kids are now in the ministry—some in music, some as youth leaders and many as volunteers in their home churches.

I2(Eye) Michael W. Smith (Reunion) or Worship Michael W. Smith?

I2(Eye). The groundbreaking production and sonic quality raised the bar for all of us.

Who do you think should be on the cover this month to celebrate our 25 years?

Amy. When her first album came out, people said she would be "the next Evie." Since then, a whole generation of young Christian girls have grown up wanting to be the next Amy Grant. That's worth a cover.

Paul Logsdon is the Director of Public Relations at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri.