

JANUARY 2025

faith family music ministry

CHRISTIAN VOICE

— magazine

A man with brown hair and a beard, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a blue tie, is smiling and holding a gold saxophone. He is wearing a dark lanyard around his neck. The background is a dark blue gradient.

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FROM THE EDITOR

I hope your new year is off to a great start, and I pray this year will be one of the best for you and your loved ones. I pray that you will be in good health and that God will prosper you and pour out blessing after blessing all year long!

As my health continues to improve, I pray the Lord will allow me some opportunities this year.

Although my voice isn't fully restored, I thank God for the healing that has occurred and for the continual healing both in my voice and in my left foot (where I've had numerous surgeries due to infection). God knows my heart, and if it be His will, I look forward to getting back on the road and ministering once again around the country. I also can't wait to get back in the studio... I'm long overdue a new album!

But even more than those things, I am praying that the Lord will make a way for me to meet John Gerald in person.

Some time ago, I shared with you that I began sponsoring a child from the Philippines a few years back, just before my health issues began. I have maintained that sponsorship and have grown quite fond of John and his family. Through frequent correspondence, we have learned so much about each other and have grown to love one another like family. His letters are so sweet and kind, and he shares special moments through the pictures he sends. He calls me "Papa John" and I call him "Little John." His parents and siblings love to see his reaction when he gets a new letter from me, and that warms my heart! I wish Little John could see my heart swell when I read his letters to me!

Actually, Little John isn't quite so little anymore. This month, on January 12, he turns thirteen years old... becoming a teenager. He's growing into a fine young man and I'm so proud of him. According to his mother, he is well-behaved, very helpful with chores, and makes good grades in school.



John Gerald

As mentioned, I am praying that the Lord will make a way for me to meet John Gerald in person. All by faith, I am planning a trip to The Philippines before the end of this year. It's a big endeavor, financially and otherwise. But if it be God's will, nothing is impossible! Please join me in prayer that God will make a way.

Little John is so much more to me than just a "sponsored child," and I can't wait to hug him and tell him how special he is and how proud I am to have him in my life.

Thanks for allowing me to share my heart once again.

John

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faith family music ministry
CHRISTIAN VOICE
 magazine



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CROSSFIRE

A Study of Christian Character (Part 1)

Gabriel Swaggart

Few words in history carry as much weight as those spoken by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, yet they are often the least understood or obeyed. We live in an age of superficiality within the church, which always breeds shallowness and a lack of depth, and the reason is quite simple: much of Christianity fails to take the Word of God seriously. The Bible is our roadmap, guide, textbook, and sole authority, and it's time to rekindle our love for God's Word, open the Book of Life, and apply its contents to our lives.

As a direct result of the modern church's lack of adhering to God's Word, the church has become so intertwined with the world that distinguishing between the two has become somewhat difficult. However, as believers, we must remember that we are a part of a new community that should mirror Christ.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS COMMUNITY

As we have stated many times, the message of the cross deals not only with our sin problem but also our character. It is vital to understand that if we have a genuine understanding of the cross regarding our everyday life and living, then we should realize that our character matters. How we treat people matters.

lifestyle, and network of relationships - all of which are totally at variance with those of the non-Christian world. And this Christian counterculture is the life of the kingdom of God, a fully human life indeed but lived out under divine rule"⁽¹⁾

Before delving into the Beatitudes, some fundamental principles must be clarified. To begin, all Christians are to embody these characteristics. These characteristics are not reserved for an elite few, but every single child of God is to exhibit these traits all at once, which is impossible when we rely upon our strength. To display these attributes, a person must place his faith in what Christ has done for him at Calvary's cross.

The moment we look to the finished work of Christ, the Holy Spirit will work within our lives so that we might live these traits. None of these characteristics come naturally; they are the product of God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit within us. In other words, the Holy Spirit, acting within the framework of the cross, is required for us to exhibit these characteristics.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Let us now turn our attention to the first Beatitude: "*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew. 5:3).

“None of these characteristics come naturally; they are the product of God’s grace and the work of the Holy Spirit within us.”

I believe there is a problem within our message of the cross community that hasn't quite figured that part out yet, and if we do not allow the Spirit to work on our character, then we will descend into arrogance. I'm afraid that there are too many arrogant Christians who need to realize the damage they are causing to the body of Christ. Once again, we must allow the words of our Lord to penetrate our hearts so that we may be like Him, and we know that He was never arrogant in message or in character.

THE CHRISTIAN COUNTERCULTURE

There was a quote given by John Stott that I would like to share: "The Sermon on the Mount is the most complete delineation anywhere in the New Testament of the Christian counterculture. Here is a Christian value system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude to money, ambition,

There are some misconceptions about what it means to be poor in spirit. First, it does not refer to being poverty-stricken or lacking tangible wealth or financial resources. Poverty does not equate to spirituality, nor does it suggest that living in poverty is a means to please God. I personally do not believe that poverty pleases God or that poverty is intrinsically good. The Bible states the opposite. Take a look at Deuteronomy 28, and you will see that God's ultimate desire is to bless you in every way imaginable. The Scriptures instruct us that blessing will pursue us and overtake us; He shall command the blessings to come upon us and will make us plentiful in goods while opening unto us His good treasure and will make us the head and not the tail. There is nothing that speaks of being in abject poverty. In fact, the Word of God informs us that our God will "*supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*" (Philippians

4:19). So the Bible does not teach that being poor in spirit refers to being bereft of financial resources.

So, what does it mean to be poor in spirit? It denotes a total lack of pride, self-assurance, and self-reliance. It entails admitting that we are nothing in the presence of God and having a profound realization of our absolute insignificance when confronted with the Almighty. It is an admittance that we are spiritually and morally bankrupt. We are all sinners who deserve His judgment and have nothing to offer or contribute to earn His approval. Whatever we offer regarding our self-confidence and self-assurance is useless in God's eyes; they are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).



PRIDE AND SALVATION

The first Beatitude addresses humanity's fundamental issue: pride. Pride refuses to acknowledge our whole reliance on God and insists that we can save ourselves, which always leads to humiliation, death, and eternal separation from God.

Salvation, however, is reserved for those who understand their complete helplessness and place their faith in God's mercy and grace. It requires accepting the greatest gift in the world, the giving of God's only Son as a sacrifice for lost humanity. It is completely free and undeserved. Salvation cannot be earned or acquired but simply received and

accepted by faith. That might be hard for some to wrap their heads around, but it shows the love of God toward us. He gave His Son as a ransom for many, and if anyone comes humbly and recognizes his or her need for a Savior, then He will gladly accept them into His family. As C. H. Spurgeon posited, we must sink in ourselves before we can rise to the kingdom. (2)

SOURCES

- 1 John Stott, The Message of the Sermon on the Mount (IVP Academic, 1985).
- 2 Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom, 1974.

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ROACH EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

The Multi-faceted Outreach of Jerry & Barbara Roach

Photo by Shannon Dykstra ©2024

By Malik Riaz

Life often presents us with twists and turns that reveal a divine purpose, shaping our path in extraordinary ways. Such is the inspiring story of Jerry and Barbara Roach, whose resolute faith and dedication to ministry have touched countless lives. From revival meetings to pastoring churches across the United States, this dynamic couple has built a legacy rooted in love, music, and service to God.

A Foundation of Faith and Music

Barbara's story begins in a small town in West Tennessee, where she grew up in a home immersed in Christian values. Her father, a devoted preacher, ensured that Gospel music and revival meetings were central to their family life. These gatherings left a lasting impact on Barbara, who, even as a child, felt the pull toward a life of music and ministry. "I knew from the time I was very young, I was going to sing," Barbara recalls.

At the tender age of three, she sang her first song with her sisters as part of The Hodge Sisters, a Gospel group that soon became well-known in their community. One of her most cherished memories from those early years is the day her father brought home a piano. "An old upright that made beautiful music," she says fondly. Within three weeks, Barbara had taught herself to play *Rock of Ages*, a testament to her passion and God-given talent.

Barbara's life took a profound turn in August 1963 during a revival meeting, where she gave her heart to Jesus. "I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that my life belonged to Him," she says, reflecting on that pivotal moment. From then on, her faith and music intertwined, guiding her every decision.

Living a Dream: Singing with The Lefevres

Barbara's journey with The LeFevres marked a transformative chapter in Barbara's life, opening doors to even greater opportunities that showcased her remarkable talent and passion for Gospel music.

In 1972, at age 21, Barbara became a member of the famous LeFevre Quartet as the soprano vocalist for the Atlanta, Georgia based group. For a young lady aspiring to have a career in Gospel music, this was a dream come true. It was with The LeFevres that Barbara made her first appearance at Gospel music's largest annual event, the National Quartet Convention. The group also performed at a huge, prestigious anniversary event in Atlanta where many high-profile celebrities were in attendance. Barbara recalls, "Some of the performers included Ray Stevens, Burt Parks, and others. We sang with a forty-piece orchestra before thousands of people. It was an awesome celebration and an amazing experience."

Following her time with The LeFevres, Barbara was invited to perform with The Blackwood Singers, one of the most prestigious Gospel groups of their era. Sharing the stage with such celebrated musicians elevated her career to new heights, cementing her reputation as a gifted vocalist and dedicated servant of God.

These experiences laid the foundation for her next bold step. She, along with Jan Aughenbaugh, from Kenney, Illinois, formed the group, The Emeralds. With this venture, Barbara embraced not only the spotlight but also the leadership role of guiding a group dedicated to spreading the Gospel through music.

While her professional achievements continued to soar, filling her days with travel, performances, and heartfelt ministry, Barbara remained unaware of the profound and life-changing encounter awaiting her just around the corner. It was an encounter that would forever alter the course of her life, bringing a depth of love and partnership she had never anticipated and setting the stage for a shared ministry that would impact countless lives.



Early 1970s photo of the famed LeFevre Quartet. L-R: Alphus LeFevre, Barbara Roach, Urias & Eva Mae LeFevre, Rex Nelson, and Ron Dailey

The Unlikely Beginning of a Lifelong Partnership

In 1980, Barbara met Jerry Roach, a businessman from a large, non-religious family. Their first meeting was far from romantic Jerry admits his initial reaction to her singing was, "Sit on it!" Barbara laughs at the memory, but that moment marked the beginning of something extraordinary.

Jerry's life at the time was filled with questions and a deep sense of unfulfillment: "I was 36 years old, miserable, and searching for purpose," he confesses. Barbara, seeing his potential and need for faith, gave him her Bible, which was a gift to her from her father. This simple act of kindness became the catalyst for Jerry's spiritual awakening. "I read Ephesians 2:8-9, and it struck me that it's all about a relationship with Jesus Christ through grace by faith," Jerry explains.



Jerry served in the United States Air Force in the 1960s. He is a decorated military veteran.

Continued on page 14 >



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The Celebration Kids Children’s Choir, under the direction of Barbara Roach

This realization transformed his life, filling him with peace and joy he had never known. Overwhelmed with gratitude, Jerry shared his newfound faith with Barbara. “She did some shouting!” he recalls with a smile.

Building a Life Together

Barbara and Jerry’s whirlwind romance led to their marriage in December 1980. By February 1981, they were ministering together. At first, Jerry played a supporting role, humorously referring to himself as the “chauffeur and gopher.” But as time went on, he became an active participant in their ministry, sharing his testimony and even attempting to sing. “She says I’m tone-deaf, but I still try!” Jerry jokes.

Their marriage became a partnership in every sense of the word. Together, they embarked on a journey of pastoring churches and evangelizing, conducting revivals, and hosting crusades and camp meetings across the country.

Answering the Call to Preach

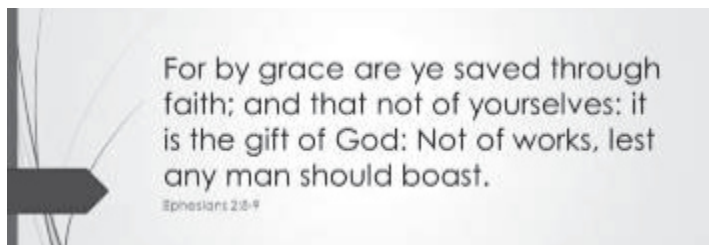
For Jerry, the call to preach was gradual but undeniable. “One day, God told me to ‘Preach the Word,’” he says. His first sermon led to profound spiritual breakthroughs, including the transformation of a pastor and the salvation of his mother, whom he later baptized.

The couple has since pastored five churches in Tennessee and North Carolina. Their ministry has also become a family affair, with their talented daughter, Becca, and grandchildren contributing through music and other forms of service.

Mentoring the Next Generation of Worshippers

Barbara’s love for music extended beyond performance to mentoring children. Over 40 years, she directed seven children’s choirs, instilling in young hearts a love for Gospel music and worship. Her efforts culminated in five albums, the most recent of which features original songs written by children and Barbara herself. “I believe in nurturing the gifts God has given these kids,” Barbara says.

Her latest project, The Celebration Kids, has received widespread appreciation and is even featured on Christian Voice Radio.



Expanding Their Ministry Through Media

In 2010, Jerry embarked on a new chapter of ministry by writing a monthly column titled ‘A Preacher’s Perspective’ for the widely respected Christian Voice Magazine. This platform became a powerful outlet for him to share his heartfelt insights, profound reflections, and spiritual wisdom with a much broader audience. His writings resonate deeply, offering encouragement and guidance to readers seeking a closer walk with God.

Building on this success, Jerry and Barbara expanded their reach even further by launching a dynamic radio program that seamlessly blends heartfelt preaching with soul-stirring Gospel music. Airing twice every Sunday, the program has become a beacon of hope and inspiration, bringing their message of faith, love, and perseverance into homes and hearts across America and abroad.



Pastor Jerry Roach proclaims the Word of God at The Church @ the Venue and is heard weekly on the radio in the United States, Canada , and the United Kingdom.

This new dimension of their ministry not only enriched their impact but also reflected their unwavering commitment to spreading the Gospel through every avenue available to them. “Our goal is to reach as many people as possible with the Gospel,” Barbara explains. The program has become a favorite among listeners, further solidifying their impact in ministry.

Full Circle: Returning to Their Roots

Barbara and Jerry’s journey recently came full circle when they began ministering at the site of their first pastorate, now repurposed as a crisis pregnancy center. Their congregation, known as “Church @ the Venue,” continues to grow, serving as a beacon of hope for the community. “It’s amazing to be back where it all started,” Barbara reflects.

Overcoming Challenges With Faith

The Roaches’ journey hasn’t been without challenges. Financial struggles were a constant in their early years of ministry, but their faith never wavered. “God always provided,” Barbara says, recounting moments when unexpected blessings met their needs.

One of the most significant challenges was Barbara’s struggle with infertility. Doctors told her she couldn’t have children, but Barbara held on to her faith. “God had the final say,” she says, celebrating the miracle of their daughter’s birth.

For Jerry, one of the most humbling moments was baptizing his mother after she received Christ. “That was the greatest blessing of my ministry,” he says, his voice filled with emotion.

Wisdom for Aspiring Ministers

Barbara’s advice for those considering ministry is both practical and profound: “Pray and be 100% sure of your calling. If God calls you, He will provide a way.” She also emphasizes the importance of guarding one’s heart and waiting on the Lord. “It’s not always easy, but His timing is perfect,” she adds.

Jerry echoes her sentiments, adding his favorite scripture, Isaiah 41:13: “*For I the Lord your God will hold your right hand, saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’*”

A Legacy of Faithful Service

At 73 and 80 years old, Barbara and Jerry show no signs of slowing down. They continue to homeschool their three grandchildren and remain active in ministry. “We plan on ministering until the Lord calls us home,” Barbara says.

Their favorite chorus, *Goodness of God*, perfectly encapsulates their journey of faith:

*All my life You have been faithful,
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God.*

Leaving a Lasting Impact

Barbara and Jerry’s story is more than a testament to personal triumph; it’s an inspiring narrative of faith and resolute commitment to God’s calling. From small-town beginnings to leading a nationwide ministry, their lives exemplify what it means to live for God’s glory.

As they continue their work through Roach Evangelistic Ministries, their legacy is clear: a life dedicated to serving others, powered by faith, and fueled by love. Their journey reminds us all that with God, anything is possible.

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MARGIE'S MEDITATION

When God Has a Different Plan

Margie Tanner

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. – 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Paul had a difficulty, possibly some type of physical infirmity that was hard to bear. He prayed for God to take the problem away and God said no. Sometimes it's hard to understand when God has a different plan or chooses to work another way. We, of course, always want the easy way out. "God just get rid of the problem," "Just take away the pain," "Just remove the trial."

But what if God desires to manifest His power and grace through your problems? If humans were never weak, we would never know His strength. God's grace that is always sufficient was seen on a daily basis in Paul's life and we see him dealing with the problems that came his way in a very positive way. He said, "Most gladly I will glory in my infirmities." We see Paul with a joyful attitude as he writes to other converts to rejoice and be glad in all things.

God's grace was seen by those who stoned him, supposing him to have been left for dead. God's grace was witnessed by all those on board the ship in the terrible storm. God's grace was seen by the Barbarians when Paul was bitten by the viper. God used all these circumstances to manifest

His power to the world. Paul was used as an exhibit to the all sufficiency of God's grace.

Notice Paul's thorn was also used to keep him humble, to prevent him from getting puffed up with pride because of what God was doing in his life. The thorn was a constant reminder that he needed God every day and could not make it without Him.

For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. – Romans 8:28

Sometimes we may have prayed for the healing of a loved one or a dear friend, and instead of the healing we prayed for God took them home to heaven. That is not what we wanted and maybe we questioned why God didn't heal them and restore their health. That is when faith must take hold and say, "I know God never makes a mistake, and all things that He allows has a purpose.

So, the question is when God has another plan other than what we are asking for, can we trust Him? God Gave me the words to a song years ago when I was going through a difficult trial. The title of the song is "Lord When I Don't Understand, Help Me Trust You." Friend, no matter what your day may bring remember God's Grace is sufficient. He will deliver you from it or deliver you in it.

The three Hebrew boys in the furnace went in but just think how the power of God was manifested as God brought them out unharmed. He will deliver and His way is always the best way, whether we can understand that or not.



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Public Voting Opens for 13th Annual We Love Christian Music Awards



The We Love Christian Music Awards, now in their 13th year, have officially announced their nominees, showcasing the brightest talents in Christian music. Forrest Frank leads with an impressive 7 nominations, followed closely by Brandon Heath, Terrian, and We Are Messengers, each earning 5 nominations. Other artists like CeCe Winans, Jordan Feliz, and Hulvey received 4 nominations, highlighting a diverse array of impactful music in the past year.

In a testament to its continued commitment to amplifying grassroots artistry, this year's We Love Awards celebrate a record number of independent artists among the nominees. A total of 74 artists have been nominated across 22 categories, including 31 independent artists - representing 42% of all nominees and setting a new record in the award's history. This unique feature sets the awards apart, providing a platform where emerging and established artists share the spotlight, reflecting the full spectrum of creativity within Christian music.

Public voting is now open through January 24, 2025, at nrt.cc/WLA13Vote, allowing fans to have their voices heard in celebrating these incredible artists and their work. As an added incentive, one lucky voter will win an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend the live awards ceremony on April 8, 2025.

The excitement culminates with the We Love Christian Music Awards Ceremony at the Factory at Franklin in Franklin, Tennessee. Speaking about the event, founder Kevin McNeese said, "We are planning for our biggest celebration yet that will honor all our nominees, announce who the fans have chosen to win, and enjoy special performances from over a dozen artists. It's going to be an incredible night that you won't want to miss."

Join us in honoring the artists shaping the sound and spirit of Christian music. Cast your vote and get your tickets to join us in person for this extraordinary event!

For more information, visit www.WeLoveAwards.com.

Gold City Announces Multiple-Day Events for 2025

Gold City is excited to announce two new multi-day events for Spring 2025. Missouri Gold Gospelfest and Carolina Gold Gospelfest will each be a two-day concert series with three scheduled performances at each location. Each event will feature the host group, Gold City, along with many of their friends in Gospel music, artists you know and love who will inspire, entertain, and uplift at each event.

Daniel Riley says, "Gold City is so excited to be a part of some new and different concert promotions in 2025 and we are honored to host these two ourselves. We enjoy working with so many of our peers in Gospel music, and these weekends are going to be amazing for our audiences and fun for all of the groups, too. I hope to see many of our friends at these events."

Missouri Gold Gospelfest, hosted by Duane Garren, will be held Thursday and Friday, April 10-11, 2025 at Calvary Church





TWO INCREDIBLE GOSPEL MUSIC EVENTS WITH GOLD CITY AND FRIENDS

Jeremy Camp Celebrates 6 RIAA Gold Singles

GRAMMY Nominated, 4x ASCAP Songwriter of the Year, and a Billboard No. 2 Artist of the Decade, Jeremy Camp, was honored with the achievement of 6 RIAA Gold singles on December 2, 2024. The milestone was celebrated in an intimate, private dinner at a Nashville steakhouse, attended by Jeremy's family, close friends, and team.

The event featured heartfelt speeches from CCMG Co-Presidents Brad O'Donnell and Hudson Plachy, Jeremy's manager Matt Balm, and Jeremy himself, who reflected on the significance of the recognition and his career journey.

Fredericktown, MO, just 90 minutes south of St. Louis. Thursday night's concert will feature special guests Greater Vision and The Mylon Hayes Family. Friday afternoon, Michael Booth and the Erwins will take the stage and that evening, the finale will feature The Hoppers. Gold City will perform along with their friends at each session.

Friday and Saturday, May 30-31, 2025, Gold City will host Carolina Gold Gospelfest in Taylors, SC. Presented by The Life FM and hosted by Rodney Baucom, this event will be held at Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Taylors, SC. Along with Gold City, the Friday night session features Mark Trammell Quartet and Jeff and Sheri Easter. On Saturday, concert attendees will enjoy Gold City, Karen Peck and New River and PromisedLand Quartet. That evening, Gold City will be joined by the Booth Brothers for the weekend finale.

For more information, visit www.goldcityministries.com and www.goldcityevents.com.



L to R: Brad O'Donnell, Jeremy Camp, Matt Balm, Hudson Plachy

The six RIAA Gold-certified singles honored at the event included some of Jeremy's most iconic and impactful songs: *Walk By Faith*, *Overcome*, *Same Power*, *Christ In Me*, *Keep Me In The Moment*, and *Dead Man Walking*

Jeremy Camp has made an indelible mark on Christian music, with a career spanning nearly two decades. In 2024, Camp released his album "Deeper Waters" via CCMG, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Christian Albums chart.

The six Gold singles reflect Jeremy's longstanding impact on the genre, showcasing his ability to craft powerful songs that resonate deeply with listeners. His music continues to inspire millions with messages of faith, perseverance, and hope.



Michael W. Smith Announces Spring 2025 Tour

Michael W. Smith has announced a new tour starting March 2025. The "Beyond The Far Horizon Tour" kicks off March 7 in Huntsville, Alabama.

Smith writes, "Excited to announce the 'Beyond The Far Horizon Tour' coming next Spring! This reimagined live

show will feature some of my brand-new music that ventures into new creative ground, while also including beloved hits and moments of worship... Can't wait to hit the road."

Michael W. Smith is known for the songs *Surrounded (Fight My Battles)*, *Waymaker* and *Place In This World*.

Tour dates and more information can be found at www.michaelwsmith.com.





ENJOYING EVERYDAY LIFE

How to Be the Bigger Person

Joyce Meyer

God puts us in relationships with all kinds of people. We think differently, and we have different personalities, interests, and ideas. God made us that way on purpose. And although everyone is not like us, He still wants us all to get along.

I love what the apostle Paul says in Philippians 2:2 (AMPC): “Fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention.”

To put this verse in perspective, Paul was dealing with people who seemed to be in continual disagreement. If you’ve raised two or more children, I’m sure you know exactly what he’s talking about. Sometimes you’d give anything for a little peace and quiet!

Oddly, the people we usually disagree with the most are the ones we care the most about - our spouses, family members, close friends, and coworkers. And if we’re asking God to bring healing into any of those relationships or make them better, we need to partner with Him to make it happen.

We need to learn how to control our emotions and stay out of strife. *Strife* is an old-fashioned word for bickering, arguing, or a heated disagreement, and it carries an angry undercurrent.

Have you ever been around someone who’s pretending everything’s okay, but you can tell that on the inside they’re seething with anger? Have you ever *been* that person?

Think about it. How long do you stay mad when someone mistreats you? How easy is it for you to get frustrated with someone? When you have a disagreement, do you have the need to always be right?

Strife is extremely dangerous. It can destroy marriages, families, relationships, and even churches. If it isn’t stopped, it will continue to go from person to person, causing all kinds of problems and unnecessary pain.

It’s not easy to hear, but the Bible says we are still under the control of the flesh as long as we are envious and jealous of others and there is arguing among us (1 Corinthians 3:3).

When the Bible talks about “the flesh,” it is referring to the parts of our souls and bodies that we have not yet surrendered to God...things like bad attitudes, selfishness, strife, anger, fear, unforgiveness, lust, addictions, and anything else that leads to sin.

The minute we begin to sense envy or jealousy within us or an urge to be offended, we need to make a decision to put our feelings aside and say, “I am not offended.”

If we don’t do this - and instead just stuff it down inside of us - little things become giants in our lives. Then before we know it, we’re angry, bitter, resentful people...going to

church every week but not acting any different than the rest of the world.

God wants us to care more about maintaining peace in our relationships than we care about being right. And He wants us to have a good attitude even when we don’t get our way.

Acts 13:22 says God is looking for those who will “carry out My program fully” (AMPC), and part of that is learning to forgive quickly, frequently, and thoroughly.

When you have a conflict, you need to do your part to resolve it no matter what the other person chooses to do. Someone has to choose to be humble and apologize first - and as a Christian, that very often means *you*.

If you’ve been through some tough times in your relationships, you probably know that being right is highly overrated. We’re not likely to agree with each other by accident because we’re all different, so we need to put a real effort into creating an atmosphere of unity.

And where there’s unity, there is blessing (Psalm 133). When people are unified and agree, it brings peace and power.

I can promise you there will be opportunities to be offended. You may even be tempted to have an all-out fit. But before that even happens, I encourage you to set your mind to be the “bigger” person. Why? Because when we do, we can have the healthy relationships God wants us to have.

We’re not ever going to be perfect like Jesus, but we can get better at loving imperfect people.

*For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource **Do Unto Others**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org*

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (Faith-Words). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org

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

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CELEBRATING

7 YEARS OF
BROADCASTING

By Cory Parker

“The best mix and biggest variety of Christian music from yesterday and today.” This slogan aptly describes what Christian Voice Radio is really all about. The station, which launched January 1, 2018, was designed for listeners who have a diverse pallet for multiple genres and styles of Christian music. This month, Christian Voice Radio celebrates seven successful years of broadcasting the Gospel.

In recognition of the station’s 7th anniversary, we caught up with station owner and manager, John Lanier. He shares a bit of interesting background, the station’s evolution to becoming one of the top Christian music stations, and what the station currently offers listeners.

Those who are familiar with John know he spent more than thirty years as a touring Christian recording artist. Many also know him as the co-founder and Executive Editor of Christian Voice Magazine. But few know that his professional music career began in radio. He mentions, “It’s amazing how God will sometimes bring us full circle, but it seems that is what He did with me. After I started touring with groups in the late 1980s, I never dreamed I’d be back in the radio business decades later! But it has been a phenomenal journey!”

Shortly after graduating high school in 1983, John was hired as a DJ for the night shift at WSSA 1570 AM, a small Gospel station in Morrow, Georgia (a metro area of Atlanta). Two years later, he began working as a production assistant at WVFJ 93.3 “The Joy” FM, a 100,000-watt Contemporary Christian music station then based in Manchester, Georgia

(now located in Atlanta). He later became a popular on-air personality for the station.

In 1989, he joined Southern Gospel group, Naomi & the Segos as the tenor vocalist. A few years later, he helped form the male trio, Tony Gore & Majesty. In late 1996, John stepped out to pursue an evangelistic solo ministry.

Although health issues brought his ministry to a halt beginning in 2022, John shares, “I am healing and recovering well from multiple treatments and surgeries, including triple by-pass open heart surgery in February of 2024. I feel great, and as God continues to restore my health, I pray He will make a way for me to hit the road once again - hopefully, this year - singing and preaching the Gospel. I believe with all my heart that God still has more for me to do for His glory.”

Although he misses the life of a singing evangelist, he does continue to keep up with his friends and supporters on Facebook. He explains, “I’m so thankful for the internet, as it has provided a way for me to maintain an online fellowship with so many I sang and ministered to. Occasionally, when I can, I go live on Facebook. So, I invite everyone to check my page and join us for some great fun, fellowship, and encouragement.” (www.facebook.com/JohnLanierMinistries)

Through all the previous years of traveling and recent years of overseeing a magazine publication, John says his passion and interest in radio broadcasting never faded. “By mid-2017, I began actively seeking any possible opportunity to somehow get involved in radio once again. After much prayer and research, I launched Christian Voice Radio on January 1, 2018.”

He adds, “Randall Wilds, CEO and founder of Wilds & Associates, partnered with me for this endeavor. So, the station was launched as a conglomerate of Wilds & Associates.”

Randall remarks, “John has done an awesome job of building this station. As I’ve watched it grow, it’s plain to see how God has blessed our efforts. I’m proud of what it has become, and I look forward to continued growth.”

Christian Voice Radio is a commercially supported internet station, streaming live 24/7. There are several reasons why John chose this form of media over terrestrial radio, with the greatest reason being the potential audience reach.

According to a report recently published by Statista, the reach of online radio in the United States has increased sharply in the last decade, with 68 percent of the U.S. population having listened to online radio in the past month compared to 34 percent ten years previously. Weekly online radio consumption among U.S. listeners has also increased, growing from 12 percent in 2007 to more than 62 percent in 2024.

The market for online audio in the United States is massive, with the average user spending well over 16 hours per week using these services. Incidentally, the impressive reach and usage time of these services provides companies, ministries, and other organizations with increased advertising possibilities and user engagement opportunities.

As part of the LIVE365 radio network, Christian Voice Radio is broadcast in the United Kingdom, Canada and, of course, the United States. The station can be accessed on Roku, on the web, and via the free Christian Voice Radio app for both IOS and Android.

As would be evident, John loves Gospel music – everything from Southern and Country Gospel to Inspirational



**Christian Voice Radio
Owner/Manager, John Lanier**

and Contemporary Christian. He also enjoys anointed preaching. This variety is reflected in Christian Voice Radio’s daily programming. So far, this format has been met with success as listeners indicate they enjoy the variety. John states the mission for Christian Voice Radio is to “entertain, inspire, AND inform” listeners.

Christian Voice Radio is approximately 95% music and 5% talk programming. The station plays a variety of Christian music, from Southern Gospel to Light Contemporary, from today’s hits to timeless classics. Music is generally played in “sweeps” by genre to create a smooth transition from one to another, thereby creating a pleasant listening experience. But rest assured, there is something for everyone. Well, almost everyone. John mentions, “We don’t rap, bang our heads, or scream.”

In fact, the music featured on Christian Voice Radio is “hand-picked” and very carefully curated to maintain a strict policy of “excellence in broadcasting.” Furthermore, as the founder and manager of the station, John says he feels responsible and accountable for how the name and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is represented by the music and other programming offered on Christian Voice Radio. (Yeah, he takes it seriously.) The talk programming on Christian Voice Radio features Biblical teaching and preaching, and news from a Christian perspective.

PROGRAMS AND RADIO PERSONALITIES

As previously noted, variety is a key element that attracts thousands of listeners from all over the United States and abroad every week. But, John explains, “Radio personalities are certainly vital to the overall energy and atmosphere of a radio station. DJs and/or radio show hosts turn mundane playlists into entertaining, engaging, and uplifting experiences. Generally, listeners look forward to tuning in to enjoy part of their day with their favorite DJ(s).”

Spotlighting some of the finest personalities on the air today, this is the current schedule of programming on Christian Voice Radio.

The Brant Hansen Show

*Hosts: Brant Hansen with show Producer, Sherri Lynn
Weekdays, 6am-9am (Central)*

Brant & Sherri bring laughter, fun, inspiration and plenty of music every weekday morning to help get your day started off on a light-hearted note.

Brant is a toast-obsessed nerd and an “Aspie” - diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome as an adult. And he’s happy about it. Brant is the spokesperson for



Brant Hansen



Sherri Lynn

CURE International, a network of hospitals serving the poor around the world. He is also the author of four best-selling books.

Known for her infectious laughter and sharp wit, Sherri is the co-host and producer of the Brant Hansen show. She's also an author, a playwright, an accomplished stand-up comic, and a broadcaster whose talents

have graced some of America's best known Christian stations. She holds degrees in Communications as well as in biblical studies. Sherri is also a former youth pastor whose stage plays and church comedy shows regularly play to packed audiences around the country.

Tune in to the Brant Hansen Show and discover why it's "refreshingly odd and oddly refreshing!"

The MidDay Mix

Host: Jon Goehring

Weekdays, 11am-1pm (Central)

A native of New York state, Jon Goehring was born and raised a west-sider. With deep local ties, Jon is a proud graduate of the mighty Greece Athena High School and Syracuse University. He plays a lot of tennis and is obsessed with Syracuse football and basketball.



Jon Goehring

He has a master's degree from the S.I. Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University. As an undergraduate student at SUNY Brockport, Jon learned video and audio production skills, as well as marketing and public relations.

As an accomplished, professional voice actor Jon says he can't believe he actually gets to talk for a living! His voice is heard on hundreds of radio ads, training courses, audiobooks, podcasts, radio imaging and more.

Even as a young adult, Jon is a veteran broadcaster. His down-to-earth, witty, sometimes geeky personality is like a breath of fresh air in the middle of a workday. He has definitely found a home at Christian Voice Radio. Tune in each day as Jon plays the best in Contemporary, Worship, and Inspirational Christian music.

Music, Memories, & More

Host: Keith Barkley

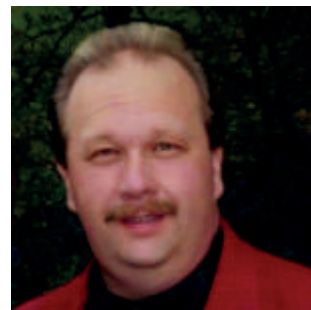
Weekdays, 1pm-3pm (Central)

For listeners who prefer the southern and country side of the music spectrum, Music, Memories, & More with Keith Barkley is just what the doctor ordered.

Keith was born into a musical family. His heart is filled with childhood memories of growing up in a tiny Kentucky

community, singing Country and Gospel music with his family. No longer just a pastime, The Barkley Family was officially launched in 1981 as a Gospel singing group who traveled throughout the southeastern states and, eventually, throughout the country. At age nine when the group was formed, Keith was the pianist. He later learned to play the bass guitar.

During his 22 years traveling with his parents and siblings, Keith assisted with the group's recordings and was mentored by some of the best producers and sound engineers in the music business. This knowledge and experience would later serve him well when he built his own recording studio and launched a record company, Cherith Music Group, in 2003.



Keith Barkley

It was also in 2003 that Keith stepped out with his wife and then one-year-old son to launch a new music and evangelistic ministry – Keith Barkley & Family Tradition. Today, they are an award-winning Southern and Country Gospel group, and one of America's favorite Gospel music families.

As if Keith wasn't busy enough as a singer, musician, evangelist, and record producer, he can now add radio personality to his resume. John was looking for someone to host an afternoon show, and he thought of Keith. It wasn't long before Music, Memories & More went on the air.

Within just six weeks, the 2-hour Southern and Country Gospel show gained such popularity that it went into syndication and is now carried on multiple stations. John and Keith both agree this was a "God thing!" And Keith adds a shameless plug, "If you're a station manager who'd like to add Music, Memories, & More to your programming line-up, give us a call!"

Music, Memories, & More is a well-balanced variety program featuring Southern Gospel, Country Gospel, and Bluegrass Gospel music and includes music trivia, artist spotlights and interviews, and even some down-home southern comedy.

Afternoon Overdrive

Host: Andy Youso

Weekdays, 3pm-7pm (Central)

In radio, the hours of 4pm to 7pm are typically known as afternoon drive time. This is generally when most people are listening to the radio in their cars, on their way home from work. After a long, busy workday, listeners certainly don't want to be screamed at. But they don't want to be put to sleep either.

Meet the incredible Mr. Andy Youso, a proud graduate of the University of Northwestern - St. Paul (UNW) who decided to return to his alma mater to embark on a fulfilling career in radio. With over a decade of experience in the radio

industry, he's become a familiar voice on airwaves across the United States. But that's not all - he's also the creative mind behind the popular podcast, "Manly with Andy." What makes Andy truly special is not just his talent, but also his boundless passion and remarkable humility. Every day, he shares the message of God with enthusiasm and sincerity through his radio work.

Andy's journey began when he enrolled at UNW, drawn by its Christ-centered environment and the opportunity to explore the media industry. Initially uncertain about his career path, everything changed when he joined the Radio Workshop, a class open to all UNW students. This class became his creative haven, where his ideas flowed freely, and he got to experience the thrill of being live on-air. It was here that he discovered his true calling, and as Andy puts it, dreams can indeed grow, transform, and evolve - just as his did.

Upon graduating from UNW, Andy took his first on-air job in Sioux Falls before venturing on to his second position in Oklahoma. Initially hesitant about leaving the Twin Cities, he soon realized that sometimes, life has different plans for us. Andy firmly believes in the importance of embracing new opportunities, and that's exactly

what he did. Despite the initial reservations, he and his family eventually found themselves in their current location, which they now adore.

When he's not on the air or hosting his podcast, you can find him at your local bowling alley playing the pinball machine in the arcade, at Wild Mountain on his snowboard, or camping at a State Park with his wife!



Andy Youso

Tune in to Afternoon Overdrive to catch Andy Youso in action, where he shares his warmth, wisdom, and love for his craft with listeners every day. He says, "My whole purpose is to put some good in your afternoon, with uplifting songs, stories, and reminders that God loves you!"

Morning Inspiration

Weekdays, 9am-11am (Central)

Following the Brant Hansen Morning Show each weekday, beginning at 9am (Central), Christian Voice Radio features two hours of insightful teaching and dynamic preaching programs.

FAMILY TALK - 9am (Central)

The Dr. James Dobson Family Institute (JDFI) is a Christian non-profit organization located in Colorado Springs, Colorado and produces his radio program, "Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk." He is the author of more than 30 books dedicated to the preservation of the family.

Dr. Dobson served as an associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Southern California School of Medicine for 14 years and on the attending staff of Children's

Hospital of Los Angeles for 17 years. He has been active in governmental affairs and has advised five U.S. presidents on family matters.

He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California (1967) in the field of child development. He holds 17 honorary doctoral degrees and was inducted in 2008 into The National Radio Hall of Fame. Dr. Dobson recently received the following awards: Winston Churchill Lifetime Achievement Award from the Faith & Freedom Coalition (2017), Daniel Award from AZ Christian University (2016), and the Defender of Life Award from the Justice Foundation (2015).

Dr. Dobson is married to Shirley and they have two grown children, Danae and Ryan, and two grandchildren. The Dobsons reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



James Dobson

THE ALTERNATIVE - 9:30am (Central)

The Alternative is the radio ministry outreach of Dr. Tony Evans, a well-known leader in evangelical circles. He founded the Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas and served as the senior pastor for more than 40 years. As a teacher, author and speaker, he continues to serve the body of Christ through his unique ability to communicate complex theological truths through simple, yet profound, illustrations. While addressing the practical issues of today, Dr. Evans is known as a relevant expositor. New and veteran pastors regard him as a father in the faith.



Tony Evans

Dr. Evans was the first African American to graduate with a doctoral degree from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS). In his junior year, a collaboration with a Houston radio producer at KHCB and Dallas Theological Seminary, Evans was recommended by his professor to do the preaching radio content. Thus began the public broadcasting of Dr. Tony Evans.

Today, the daily radio broadcast can be heard on over two-thousand radio outlets throughout the United States, and in more than one-hundred-thirty countries. The Tony Evans free app has over sixty-million message downloads/streams occur each year.

Dr. Evans has authored over one-hundred-fifty books, booklets, and Bible studies, including his legacy work, 'Oneness Embraced,' as well as his vision work, 'The Kingdom Agenda.'

Dr. Evans was married to Lois, his wife and business partner, for over fifty years until her transition to glory in late

2019. Through the years, they were recognized with numerous awards and accolades. Dr. and Mrs. Lois Evans are parents of four, grandparents of thirteen, and great-grandparents of four.

DESTINED FOR VICTORY - 10am (Central)

Paul Sheppard has been preaching since his teens and has been in pastoral ministry since 1982. He served as associate pastor of West Oak Lane Church of God in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for seven years and as senior pastor of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship in Mountain View, California for twenty years. Presently, Pastor Paul serves as Senior Pastor of Destiny Christian Fellowship in Fremont, California.



Paul Sheppard

Paul is a native of Philadelphia. He studied at the University of Pennsylvania, the Center for Urban Theological Studies, and the Southern CA School of Ministry, from which he earned a master's in ministry degree and was later honored with a Doctorate of Divinity.

An effective communicator of God's Word, Pastor Paul is widely known for his practical

and dynamic teaching style which helps people apply the timeless truths of Scripture to their everyday lives. He serves as speaker for the radio and online broadcast *Destined for Victory*. He's also an author whose books include 'Rebuilding What the Enemy Almost Destroyed,' 'Why God Created Dads,' and 'Build a Bridge and Get Over It.'

He and his wife, Meredith, have been married since 1982. They are the proud parents of two adult children who work alongside them in ministry, Alicia Greer and Aaron Sheppard.

FOCAL POINT - 10:30am (Central)

Focal Point is the radio broadcast featuring the Bible teaching ministry of Dr. Mike Fabarez. The ministry began with a Sunday broadcast on two Southern California stations on July 24, 1998. Soon after its launch, Focal Point expanded to a Monday through Friday program and has since grown to over 800 radio stations across the United States.

Dr. Mike Fabarez is the founding pastor of Compass Bible Church in South Orange County, California and has been in pastoral ministry for over 30 years. He is committed to clearly communicating God's word verse-by-verse and encourages his listeners to apply what they have learned to their daily lives.



Mike Fabarez

Pastor Mike is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, Talbot School of Theology (M.A.) and Westminster Theological Seminary in California (D.Min.).

Mike has authored several books, including '10 Mistakes People Make About Heaven, Hell and the Afterlife,' 'Raising Men Not Boys,' 'Lifelines for Tough Times,' 'Preaching That Changes Lives,' 'Getting It Right,' 'Praying for Sunday,' and 'Why the Bible?'

Mike and his wife Carlynn are parents of three grown children, two sons and one daughter, and have four young grandchildren.

Sunday Morning Inspiration

Sunday, 9am (Central)

The weekend is filled with "more music, less talk" - except for one hour on Sunday morning, when *The Old Time Way* broadcast fills the air with revival style music and old-fashioned, evangelistic preaching.

The Old Time Way broadcast is the new radio outreach of Roach Evangelistic Ministries. When God joined Jerry and Barbara Roach together over forty years ago, their marriage became a partnership in every sense of the word. Together, they embarked on a journey of pastoring churches and evangelizing, conducting revivals, and hosting crusades and camp meetings across the country.



Jerry & Barbara Roach

Barbara is a successful recording artist, accomplished musician, and songwriter; Jerry is an ordained pastor and commissioned evangelist. Today, the ministry is indeed a family affair with their talented daughter, Becca, and grandchildren contributing through music and other forms of service.

In 2010, Jerry began writing a monthly inspirational column for *Christian Voice Magazine*. His writings resonate deeply, offering encouragement and guidance to readers. The radio broadcast is his and Barbara's latest endeavor. *The Old Time Way* debuted on *Christian Voice Radio* in early September of 2024. This further broadened their outreach as *Christian Voice Radio* is broadcast in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The program has become a beacon of hope and inspiration to many.

Continued on page 30 >>>

Ava Kasich



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Barbara's music career has included tenures with the legendary LeFevre Quartet, The Blackwood Singers, The Emeralds, The Roach Family, and even solo stints. Much of the music heard on the radio broadcast is taken from recordings produced in each of these eras throughout her career. Occasionally, Barbara and Jerry's daughter Becca is featured, as well as Barbara's Celebration Kids children's choir.

The messages preached by Jerry are recorded live as he ministers each week at the Church @ the Venue in East Tennessee.

Even at this late season of their lives, Jerry and Barbara show no signs of slowing down.

What Listeners are Saying

"This radio station is an awesome blessing" – Shelli (Toronto, Canada)

"I just discovered your station a few weeks ago. Now, I'm hooked! I own a small café and have Christian Voice Radio playing in the background every day!" – Alana (Jackson, Mississippi)

"I work from home, so I always have Christian Voice Radio on. Love the variety!" – Jerry (Lake City, Florida)

"Brant and Sherri are the best! I listen to their show every morning on my way to work". – Janelle (Lexington, Kentucky)

"After listening to Christian Voice Radio for over a year, it's hard to listen to anything else. Keep up the good work!" – Kyle (Forsyth, Georgia)

"Brant and Sherri crack me up and inspire me all at the same time." – Nikka (Bandon, Oregon)

"I have listened to Christian radio nearly all my life, and I can honestly say Christian Voice Radio is one of the best. You guys are refreshingly different." – Nancy (Joplin, Missouri)

John states, "I am grateful to the Lord for all the great talent and ministries God has sent our way, and for the loyal listeners who support us and pray for us. I didn't want to build a radio station that just made noise, I wanted to build a radio station set apart to boldly proclaim the truth of God's Word, and the Lord has allowed us to do just that. Through carefully selected music, in-depth Bible teaching, and powerful preaching, Christian Voice Radio is 'broadcasting the Gospel loud and proud!' Tune in to experience the difference!"

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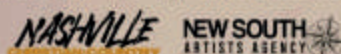
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Brandon Hixson, an award-winning singer, songwriter, and Worship Pastor, has made a significant impact on Contemporary Christian music. Known for his heartfelt lyrics and dedication to ministry, Brandon's story is a testament to faith, perseverance, and the power of music to bring people closer to Christ. His journey is one of transformation, from his childhood to his current role as Worship Pastor, where he continues to inspire countless individuals.

BRANDON HIXSON

*A Symphony of Faith,
Music, and Family*

By Malik Riaz

A Life Rooted in Transformation

Brandon's childhood set the stage for a remarkable life of faith. Raised by his grandparents in a non-Christian home, Brandon's life took a pivotal turn in 1987 when his third-grade teacher, Mrs. Thompson, extended an invitation that would change everything. "She invited me to church with her son Aaron," Brandon recalls.

"I went a few times, and then my grandparents started taking me. They didn't want me going through the discipleship process at church alone, they wanted to ensure I wasn't learning anything unusual. It was through this process that not only I but also my sister and my grandparents became Christians."

Brandon describes the transformation in his grandparents as one of the greatest blessings of his life. His grandfather, a veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, became an incredible role model. "Seeing their lives change was inspiring. It solidified my faith and gave me the foundation I needed to grow spiritually."

At just twelve years old, Brandon began leading music at his home church. This marked the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and music, intertwined in a way that would shape his destiny.

The Power of Music

Music has always held a special and transformative place in Brandon's life, shaping him in ways that words alone cannot fully capture. From an early age, it became more than just a form of entertainment, it was a language of emotion, connection, and meaning. One of his most vivid and enduring childhood memories involves a seemingly ordinary moment that carries extraordinary significance.

He recalls sitting in the backseat of his mother's car, a simple scene etched deeply into his heart. As the radio played, a particular song came on, and he watched as his mother was visibly moved to tears by the melody and lyrics.

This early experience planted the seeds of inspiration that would later bloom into his lifelong passion for creating music that resonates with others. Even as a young boy, Brandon started to see music as more than just a sound. It was a way to communicate feelings, share stories, and ultimately bring people closer to something greater than themselves.

"My mom started crying when she heard the song," Brandon shares. "We asked her why she was upset, and she told us that the music moved her. That was the moment I realized just how powerful music could be. It can touch your soul and bring emotions to the surface."

Although he initially dreamed of becoming a disc jockey, memorizing every Top 40 song from 1976 to 1993, Brandon's faith gave his love for music a new direction. "When I became a Christian, I realized I wanted to use music to draw people closer to Christ," he says. This realization set him on a path to becoming a Christian recording artist, a journey that would require years of dedication and growth.

Educational Foundation and Early Career

Brandon's passion for music led him to East Texas Baptist University, where he earned a degree in Music Education in 2001. He spent seven years as a high school band director, shaping young musicians and fostering their love for music. However, his calling to serve through worship proved too strong to ignore.

In 2013, Brandon became the Worship Pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Ennis, Texas, a position he has held for over a decade. To deepen his understanding of worship leadership, he earned a master's degree in Worship Leadership from Dallas Baptist University in 2018. These experiences helped him merge his musical talents with his ministry, creating a unique blend of faith and artistry.

Notable Moments and Challenges

Brandon's career as a recording artist has been filled with memorable moments. From 2010 to 2014, he was a member of the Christian band Racing Gravity, which had the privilege of opening for some of the biggest names in Contemporary Christian music, including MercyMe, Third Day, and Chris Tomlin.

"It was an incredible experience," Brandon says. "But it came with its challenges, particularly being away from my family." One weekend, his young son Caleb asked him to stay home because he missed him. That moment broke his heart. "I remembered my childhood when my mom worked multiple jobs and wasn't around much. I didn't want my son to feel the same", Brandon shares.

This realization led Brandon to leave the band and focus on his solo career. "It was the right decision," he says. "Since then, I've been able to write and record my music on my schedule, without compromising my family life."

Brandon's solo career has been marked by significant achievements, including having his songs featured in movies and commercials. His YouTube channels have amassed over 60 million views, and he has won several prestigious awards, such as the Independent Music Award for 'Contemporary Album of the Year.'

Family: The Heart of His Ministry

For Brandon, family is at the core of everything he does. He met his wife, Karen, in 1998 while studying at East Texas Baptist University. They married in 2000 and have since built a life centered on faith and music. Their two children, Caleb and Caylin, are following in their father's footsteps, each excelling in their ways.

"Caleb is nineteen and studying music with an emphasis on worship at Dallas Baptist University," Brandon says proudly. "Caylin, who just turned fifteen, is a freshman at Ennis High School. She's excelling in volleyball and music, and I'm so thankful to be her dad."

The Hixson family is deeply involved in the ministry at Tabernacle Baptist Church. "Karen helps run the cameras during services and occasionally sings with the worship team," Brandon explains. "Serving together as a family is one of the greatest joys of my life."

A New Album with a Powerful Message

A rising star in Contemporary Christian music, Brandon has captured hearts with #1 hits like *When I Finally Make It Home*, *Autumn Fall*, and *The World Is Your Stage*. His latest album, “Room With A View,” showcases eight new songs celebrating his faith, family, and friendships. Among them is the touching track, *Fifteen*, a tribute to his daughter Caylin on her 15th birthday. “It’s a special song for a remarkable young lady,” Brandon says. “I wanted to give her something meaningful that she could carry with her forever.”

This album also tackles challenging themes such as suicide, depression, and abortion. “I wrote, produced, and sang all the tracks myself,” he says. “These are tough topics, but they’re important to address. I wanted to create an album that speaks to people where they are and offers them hope.”

Critics have praised the album as a “stellar addition to Contemporary Christian music,” with Jason Reeves noting, “Hixson is more than a musician. He’s a storyteller and an inspiration.”

With his soulful voice, masterful songwriting, and the rich tones of his saxophone, Hixson continues to elevate Contemporary Christian music, creating songs that linger in the soul long after they’ve been heard.

Sharing the Gospel Through Covers

In addition to his original music, Brandon has been working on a series of cover albums titled “Songs That Shaped Me.” These albums feature reimagined versions of songs that influenced him during his formative years. “These projects are a way to connect with listeners who might not initially engage with Christian music,” he explains. “Through these covers, I can share my faith and my story uniquely.”

Brandon plans to release the next installment in this series this year. “It’s been a labor of love,” he says. “I hope these songs continue to inspire and reach people who need to hear the message of hope and salvation.”

A Life-Testimony

One of the most compelling aspects of Brandon’s journey is his testimony of finding worth in Christ. “I never knew my father growing up,” he shares. “He left when my twin sister and I were born. For years, I tried to find my worth in other people, but it wasn’t until I embraced Christ that I understood my true value.”

This revelation has shaped every aspect of Brandon’s life and ministry, giving him the strength and clarity to pursue his calling.

What Lies Ahead

Looking to the future, Brandon is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. In addition to completing his next cover album, he plans to continue leading worship and writing

music that glorifies God. “Music has the power to change hearts,” he says. “I’m honored to be part of that process, and I can’t wait to see what God has in store.”

Philippians 4:13 is Brandon’s life verse: “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*.” He says this verse has been a guiding light through every challenge and triumph. That verse has been my anchor,” he reflects. “It reminds me that with God, anything is possible.”



The Hixson Family

As Brandon continues to touch hearts and souls through his music and ministry, his journey stands as a shining example of how faith can transform lives in the most profound ways. His unwavering commitment to his calling and the resilience he has shown in the face of challenges are testaments to the strength that comes from trusting in God.

Through his heartfelt lyrics, powerful testimonies, and the deep connections he forges with his audience, Brandon reminds us that faith is not just a belief; it’s a force that can guide, uplift, and empower. His story beautifully illustrates how perseverance, rooted in a deep sense of purpose and devotion, can lead to a life filled with meaning and impact.

By dedicating his talents to serving others and glorifying God, Brandon continues to inspire people of all ages, encouraging them to seek hope, healing, and strength through the transformative power of faith.

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ON THE ROAD WITH GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY

Southern Gospel Music - Choir Style

Ken & Jean Grady

The Wilmington Celebration Choir was recently at the Lowesville Gospel Concert in North Carolina. It was a spirit-filled evening as these singers brought a bright choral style to the venue. The choir has an interesting history.

The Wilmington Celebration Choir, formerly The Pillar Record Family, was founded in 1997 by Joey Gore. The choir is based out of Wilmington, North Carolina and is still under the direction of Joey Gore. The choir is not a church choir, but a touring Gospel choir comprised of 48 members, and a crew of five. It is a multi-generational, multi-denominational group, representing churches and denominations throughout Eastern North Carolina. The diversity of this group lends to its unique blend of harmony and its passion for spreading the Gospel through song. Their mission is to fulfill the call through the powerful tool of

anointed music, bringing encouragement and healing to the Body of Christ, and more importantly, salvation to the unbeliever.

- The diversity of the choir also lends to the diversity of styles and arrangements. The genres include Southern Gospel, Praise and Worship, Traditional Hymns, Inspirational, Black Gospel, and beautiful anthems. The concert at Lowesville featured songs from each of these genres. We were ushered into the presence of God as they begin to sing along, praising, and swaying to the music. Each concert is unique but is always a life-changing experience.

- The Wilmington Celebration Choir has ministered in various venues across the country and overseas. We were certainly blessed to hear this great choir, and we hope that you will have the opportunity to hear them soon near you.



Joey Gore, Choir Director



Willing Heart Trio



The Wilmington Celebration Choir, under the direction of Joey Gore

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TOP 100 JANUARY 2025

CVM Southern Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	3	He Sent Him For Me	The Inspirations	51	27	Jesus' Hand	Don Stiles
2	4	Fall Into Place	Jeff & Sheri Easter	52	77	Glory Up Ahead	Hoppers
3	8	Walk On Water	Crabb Family	53	72	Come And See	Mylon Haynes Family
4	12	Something To Shout About	Down East Boys	54	88	Don't Stop Praying	Sisters
5	14	Standing Firm	Bibletones	55	34	Forever Changed	A New Beginning
6	28	Praying For The Prodigal	Kingsmen	56	46	That's What Really Matters	Paul Tuttle
7	20	Roll Back River Jordan	Southern Plainsmen Quartet	57	64	Heaven's Door	Shannon Ford
8	13	Jesus Put My Life Together	Carroll Roberson	58	50	Love Won't Let Me Go	Norman Lee Schaffer
9	19	There's A Hole In The Heart	Nelons	59	80	He Sat Down	Greg Sullivan
10	18	Big Tent Revival	Freemans	60	83	You Gave Me Mercy	Tamie Pernie
11	17	He Made A Way	Whisnants	61	90	Grateful For The Gospel	Brian Free & Assurance
12	40	Until Prayer Changes Me	Kingdom Heirs	62	-	I've Got More To Go To Heaven For	Believers Voice
13	2	Warmin Up	Perrys	63	41	It Still Has The Power	New Road 2
14	25	Where Shall I Be	Chronicle	64	51	It Will All Be Worth It Someday	Christine Scott
15	35	I'm Going There	Michael Combs	65	71	Ole Brother Noah	Dove Brothers
16	7	Be Ready	Karen Peck And New River	66	76	Change Of Heart	Robert Blankenship
17	1	Breaking Boundaries	Sunday Drive	67	78	Through The Scars	The Promise
18	31	Revival Broke Out	Gaither Vocal Band	68	87	I Stand	Ashley Collins
19	36	Take All Of Me	3 Heath Brothers	69	89	On A Day Like This	Derrick Loudermilk Band
20	6	Your Healing Is On The Way	Greater Vision	70	33	Sing The Glory Down	Singing Byrds
21	32	One Day	Troy Burns Family	71	42	Pray About Everything	Mark Huitt
22	10	Then Came Sunday	Austin Glover	72	85	When I Pray	Donna Kilmurray
23	11	After All	Mark Trammell Quartet	73	47	Jesus Is A Friend	John Westling
24	30	Grandma's Comforter	Bobby Jones Family	74	93	Love Remembers	Master's Voice
25	5	In His Hand	Shepherds	75	45	Victorious In The End	Donna Frost
26	38	I Don't Care	Wendy Jones	76	63	Old Stone Church	Barbara Jean
27	39	Behind The Stone	New Day Revival	77	82	Rise Above The Noise	Rachel Taylor
28	9	Giving It All To You	Violet Maynard Family	78	86	He Is Forever And Ever Amen	Garmons
29	15	The Rising Of The Son	McKamey Legacy	79	84	I'm Your Heavenly Father	Stones
30	16	I Just Want To Thank You	Judi Kellar	80	91	I Found Victory At The Foot Of The Cross	Billy Myers
31	43	If You Can't Shout	Lorraine Howard & Lora Long	81	-	When Its Gone For Good	Gold City
32	79	You'll Find Him There	Ernie Haase & Signature Sound	82	-	On The King's Shoulders	Steeles
33	57	The Tomb Is Empty Now	Browns	83	73	He Pilots My Ship	Tribute Quartet
34	48	Double Dippin'	Doug & Gina Green	84	94	Just In Time	Ava Kasich
35	62	Throne	Knight Family	85	96	Jesus Walked In	Joseph Habendank
36	58	He Forgives And Forgets	Gordon Mote	86	-	Because Of Who He Is	Mary Burke
37	65	In It For The Love (Live)	The Scotts	87	-	Things We Cannot Change	LeFevre Quartet
38	92	Keep Turning Your Eyes On Jesus	Booth Brothers	88	95	Thank You Jesus For The Blood	Lauren Talley
39	26	While I'm Waiting	Bise Family	89	97	Jesus Just The Mention Of Your Name	LizzyG & Jeff Napier
40	22	Kneel To Jesus	Journey 'N Faith	90	-	Liberty	New Day Revival
41	49	I'm Not Afraid	Denise Edwards	91	100	Big Ole Stone	Triumphant Quartet
42	29	In Spite Of Me	Debbie Bennett	92	-	Cross Over	Allens
43	55	Wave After Wave	Robin Johnston	93	99	Suppertime	Going Higher
44	59	I'm Gonna Fly Away	Brian Burchfield	94	-	Lily Of The Valley	Tammy Caldwell
45	37	Yes There's A Miracle	Kenny Keith	95	-	Praise	Taranda Greene & Jason Hoard
46	44	Jesus Can	John Lanier	96	-	Christians Never Quit	Greg Logins
47	68	Sheltered In The Arms Of God	Kim Hopper	97	-	Jesus You Are Everything To Me	Masseys
48	23	He's My Healer	Debra Schultz	98	-	What Are You Waiting For	Tim Menzies with The Isaacs
49	74	The Sound Of His Voice	Debra Perry & Jaidyns Call	99	-	The Mighty Word Of God	Chuck Wagon Gang
50	67	He Took My Place	Clear Vision	100	-	Thank You For The Rain	Ben Stone

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CWM Country Gospel

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	7	No Retreat No Surrender	Steve Warren	51	27	You're Worth It All	Ty Hodges
2	11	My First Dance	Stella Parton	52	72	Same God	Elder Dempster & Johnathan Bond
3	10	I'm Not	Pamela Blackstock	53	59	Wave After Wave	Robin Johnston
4	8	His Right Hand	Kali Rose	54	63	Go Out With My Boots On	David Wall
5	14	My Own Way	Delnora	55	61	Only You	Bruce Minchey
6	19	Goodness Of God	Greg McDougal W/ Barry McGee & Friends	56	66	Jesus What Does That Name Mean To Me	David Smith
7	9	Wrong Side Of The Cross	Marvin Harrell	57	70	Hell Don't Stand A Chance	Paula Slow
8	13	Impossible	Debra Camp	58	34	The Fingerprint Of Jesus	Carol Barham
9	12	Ink Stains	David House	59	69	On My Knees	Delnora Reed Acuff & Bruce Hedrick
10	17	Rust On The Golden Rule	David Timms	60	68	I AM	Suzzette Michaels
11	16	It Was His Love	Jan Harbuck	61	42	My Bottle Of Tears	Ina and Buddy Gore
12	18	Mama's Prayers	Cyndi Reynolds	62	56	I Know You're With Me	Danny Hebert
13	1	The Cross Says It All	James Payne	63	53	Turn To Jesus	Dave Adkins Trio
14	20	Until That Time	Joe Babcock & The Babcocks	64	84	The Humble Cottage By The Sea	Eddy Man
15	24	Plenty Of Time	Gayla Earlene	65	73	Sin Is Color Blind	Jim Sheldon
16	6	That's The Kind Of Love	Lisa Daggs	66	50	You Gave Me A Mountain	JC James
17	21	Joy When The Sun Goes Down	Luke Hendrickson	67	55	What Won't Be There	Joy Roberts
18	23	Going Down To The Church House	Terry & Debra Luna	68	76	You Ain't Wore These Boots	Michael Tetrick & Debbie Bennett
19	25	A Hill Called Calvary	Gina White	69	74	Amazing Love	Ray Hollis
20	2	I Say The Name	Mike Leichner	70	85	I Miss Front Porches	Tonja Rose
21	28	Going Home	John Penney	71	71	Water Grave	Caleb Howard
22	29	The Man On The Middle Cross	Nick Washburn	72	78	Hold The Line	Victoria Steelman
23	3	God's Doin'	Curtis Grimes	73	77	There's A Man In Here	Patti Workman
24	5	My Shepherd Man	Heather Van Deren w/ Woody Winn	74	87	Another Day	Wings Of Love
25	4	He Loves The Broken	Melissa Evans	75	65	In The Sweet By And By	Johnny Jones
26	32	Man On The Middle Cross	Scott Inman, J. Crabb, C. Ritchie	76	86	Jesus Isn't Done Yet	Kenny Evans
27	33	Home	Dale Rochell	77	81	Friendly Fire	Angela Seng & Marty Smith
28	37	God Did That	Cody McCarver	78	75	Trust In The Lord	Dan & Julie Krolow
29	54	Cast Your Cares	Jimmy R. Price	79	83	When Angels Fly	Fred Spencer
30	44	Thank You	Todd Lee	80	82	Grace Never Has Failed Me	Kesha Parish
31	46	Just A Country Boy	Ricky Paul	81	88	Outrun The Rain	James Lann
32	40	Washed	Debbie Mills	82	89	Show Us The Way	Steve Anthony
33	39	I Wouldn't Be Surprised	Keith Buchanan	83	90	Nothing Short Of A Miracle	The Pauls
34	60	God And Trump	Richard Lynch	84	80	Horses In Heaven	Woody Winn
35	38	I'm Going Home	Richard Sprayberry	85	98	I've Seen It Rain Before	Steve Roberson
36	15	In The Valley	Murphys	86	96	I Stand	Ashley Collins
37	45	Because He Changed Me	Carey Easley	87	93	Big Jesus Train	Brother Daniel
38	43	When Jesus Comes	Jonathan Ray Smith	88	91	Closer Than I've Ever Been	Daniel Crabtree
39	26	Goin Home	Jennifer Sides	89	99	Change Of Heart	Robert Blankenship
40	64	Let's Get The Devil Outta Here	Chuck Hancock	90	92	How Many Days	Doug Mathis
41	35	To You	Corey Farlow	91	94	I Wanna Be Found Faithful	Thomas Brown
42	57	Time	Ken & Kim Stull	92	97	Beyond The Clouds	Christine Scott
43	22	The Day I Got Saved	Shay And Michi	93	-	When I Pray	Donna Kilmurray
44	30	Get On Board The Glory Train	Sonshine Road	94	100	My Lord	The Gospel Friends
45	52	Momma's Song	Robert Ross	95	-	Dash	Joe Arview
46	49	Bring Your Faith To Life	Brandon Rowell	96	-	Bring Me Home	John Michael Ferrari
47	47	Pieces	Danielle Hargrove	97	-	Dead Man Walking	Paul Staggs
48	62	When All The Saints Get Home	The Journeys	98	-	Heaven Help Me	Aaron Partridge
49	31	Love Won't Let Me Go	Norman Lee Schaffer	99	-	I've Overcome	Lester Feltner
50	58	Rise Above The Noise	Rachel Taylor	100	-	Come To The Church Yard	Michael Deese



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CVM Contemporary Christian TOP 50 JANUARY 2025

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	5	Somebody Like Me	Caleb & John
2	3	Working For Me	Tamela Mann
3	7	Home	Keyla Richardson
4	9	God Be Praised	Charles Jenkins
5	26	Somebody Prayed	Crowder
6	17	The Jesus Way	Phil Wickham
7	12	Nothin' Sweeter	Tobymac
8	16	That's Who I Praise	Brandon Lake
9	14	Take You At Your Word	Cody Carnes
10	1	Always Only Jesus	MercyMe
11	18	Let It Begin	Big Daddy Weave
12	2	Try Love	Kirk Franklin
13	8	That's My King	CeCe Winans
14	23	Don't Give Up	Earnest Pugh
15	4	Kings And Queens: Do You Remember?	Tony Marcel St. Clair Ball
16	24	Running Back To You	Seph Schlueter
17	29	Great And Mighty	Dorinda Clark-Cole
18	-	Send It Down	Karen Clark Sheard
19	25	Sacred Words	Soulchase
20	30	Place In This World	For King & Country
21	13	Don't Stop Praying	Mathew West
22	19	Nobody But God	Tim Bowman Jr.
23	11	Good Day	Forrest Frank
24	-	Lead Me On	Chandler Moore
25	6	Up Up Up	Anthony Brown
26	-	Planting Seed	Greaternity
27	-	Testify	C J Dixon
28	10	Holy Forever	Chris Tomlin
29	-	Wait On You	Cindy Davis
30	-	Beautiful Life	Pat Barrett
31	22	Same God	Elder Dempster & Johnathan Bond
32	-	You Carried Me	Jekalyn Carr
33	-	Let's Praise	Marvelle Cook
34	21	These Days	Jeremy Camp
35	-	Never Be The Same	Deitrick Haddon
36	-	No Weapon	Todd Dulaney
37	28	God Be The Glory	We Are Messengers
38	-	Still Waters	Leanna Crawford
39	-	The Truth	Megan W
40	15	Take It All Back	Tauren Wells
41	-	Clap My Way	Micah Lee
42	27	Praise	Elevation Worship
43	-	Sunshine	Nia Allen
44	-	Pray For Me	Tina Campbell
45	20	Won't He Do It	We The Kingdom
46	-	Yahweh	Jason Nelson
47	-	It Is Well	Monica Lisa Stevenson
48	-	Bless The Lord	Jamal J. Franklin
49	-	We Need God	Perishia Jones ft. Peigh Jones
50	-	Everything	Otis Kemp

CVM Black/Urban Gospel TOP 50 JANUARY 2025

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	4	Bless The Lord	Jamal J. Franklin
2	8	You Carried Me	Jekalyn Carr
3	5	Musgrove	Kidrati
4	9	Everything	Otis Kemp
5	11	Hold On	Ricky Dillard
6	7	Holy Ghost	Frozone Hayes
7	1	Try Love	Kirk Franklin
8	12	Nobody But God	Tim Bowman Jr
9	6	Working For Me	Tamela Mann
10	16	It Is Well	Monica Lisa Stevenson
11	25	Is It Really Me	100 A.K.A. The Messenger
12	2	Call His Name	Kenny Lewis
13	21	Lead Me On	Chandler Moore
14	3	God Be Praised	Charles Jenkins
15	24	Take It All Back	Tauren Wells
16	22	Kings And Queens: Do You Remember	Tony Marcel St. Clair Ball
17	27	Testify	C J Dixon
18	19	No Weapon	Todd Dulaney
19	17	That's My King	CeCe Winans
20	28	Without You	Jevon Dewand
21	-	Send It Down	Karen Clark Sheard
22	29	We Need Got	Perishia Jones ft. Peigh Jones
23	30	Church Doors	Yolonda Adams
24	-	In It For The Love (Live)	The Scotts
25	15	He Can Handle It	Crystal Aikin
26	-	Clap My Way	Micah Lee
27	10	My God Can	Katy Nichole
28	-	Shall Not Want	Ladson Boys
29	14	I See God	Maurette Brown Clark
30	-	Never Be The Same	Deitrick Haddon
31	26	Prazin' Amazin'	Durand
32	-	Don't Give Up	Earnest Pugh
33	-	Let's Praise	Marvelle Cook
34	-	Thy Blood	Soul Revivals of Ga
35	-	God Has Been Good	Chanella Monroe
36	-	Like You	Mary Dailey
37	-	Wait On You	Cindy Davis
38	20	Home	Keyla Richardson
39	-	Oh To Be Kept	Fred Perry & Second Generation
40	-	Great And Mighty	Dorinda Clark-Cole
41	23	He Answers Prayers	Irean Evon Henderson
42	-	Where There's A Will There's A Way	Ecclesiastics 5
43	-	Sunshine	Nia Allen
44	-	Precious Lord	Reggie Grantham
45	-	Take The Lord With You	The Rising Stars
46	-	Yahweh	Jason Nelson
47	-	You Are Holy	Keri Fraser
48	-	Pray For Me	Tina Campbell
49	-	Going on in Jesus Name	George Carter & Gentleman Of Faith
50	-	Let It Rain	Predestined of Michigan



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CVM Bluegrass Gospel TOP 50 JANUARY 2025

TM	LM	SONG TITLE	ARTIST
1	4	Go Spread The Gospel	Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers
2	3	Child Of The King	Daniel Grindstaff
3	19	On The Tips of Angels' Wings	Alecia Nugent w/Ben James & Jerry Salley
4	5	Little Eyes	Authentic Unlimited
5	15	Come To Jesus	Danny Burns w/ Sam Bush
6	9	Jesus Satisfies	Danny Roberts
7	14	Lay Em Down	Benson
8	17	Way Up On The Hill	Eagle's Wings
9	10	Redeemed	Ben Rochester Family
10	13	Someday I'm Going Home	Right Side
11	18	Let Me Be The Best Bible	Rock Hearts
12	1	When I Lift Up My Head	High Road
13	6	He Broke The Chains	King James Boys
14	8	Heaven's Getting Sweeter	Kristin Bearfield w/Darin & Brooke Aldridge
15	20	Old Rugged Me	Dave Adkins w/ Alecia Nugent & Jerry Salley
16	2	My Path Was Paved By The Blood Of The Lamb	Chigger Hill Boys & Terri
17	-	When Jesus Calls My Name	Don Rigsby
18	-	Church Bells-A-Ringin'Danny Paisley ft. Abernathy, James, & Walker	
19	11	Nothing New	McBride Family
20	-	In Remembrance Of Me	Po' Ramblin Boys
21	-	The Storm Still Knows His Voice	Chosen Road
22	7	Heavenly Gain	Chuck Wagon Gang
23	-	Dear Lord	Darin & Brooke Aldridge
24	-	Just Beyond	Barry Abernathy w/J. Meador, T. Raybon, B. Walker
25	-	The Banks Of The River	Edgar Loudermilk
26	-	There's A River	High Road ft. Jaylee Roberts
27	-	Here Comes Jesus	Jeff & Sheri Easter w/ Mo Pitney
28	-	Come Jesus Come	Grascals
29	-	You'll Find Me	Authentic Unlimited
30	-	Can't You Hear Jerusalem Moan	Hammertowne
31	16	That Sweet Land Of God Somewhere	Primitive QT
32	-	Are You Born Again	Cedar Hill
33	-	I'm Headed In A New Direction	Elaine Roy/Vince Gill
34	-	Rise Above It All	Becky Buller & Nathan Woodard
35	12	Never Too Lost	Troy Engle
36	-	He's With Me	Daryl Mosley
37	-	The First Time I Heard About Heaven	The Cox Family
38	-	Would You Carry Me	Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
39	5	Blue Collar Gospel	Jerry Salley & The Oak Ridge Boys
40	-	Catch Me When I Fall Alan Bibey ft. Magnolia Williams & Jerry Salley	
41	-	Please Don't Throw The Hymn Book Away	Eric Horner
42	-	Wings Of Love	Autheni
43	-	Biggest Part Of Living	Tim Davis
44	-	Jordan	Darin & Brooke Aldridge w/ Ricky Skaggs, Mo Pitney, Mark Fain
45	-	Leave It In The Hands Of The Lord	Darren Nicholson
46	-	God Knows	Balsam Range
47	-	I'll Meet You In The Morning	Becky Isaacs Bowman
48	-	Better Times	Heaven's Mountain Band
49	-	Baptism	Eddie Sanders
50	-	The Mighty Name Of Jesus	High Fidelity



Scott Peacock

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A PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Preachers, Go Preach!

Jerry Roach

“...in the last days perilous (dangerous, difficult) times shall come.” (2 Timothy 3:1)

“...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:13)

Does that not describe these days in which we live? There are evil forces taking over and destroying our once Christian nation. Among our nation’s leaders there are those “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...” (2 Timothy 3:5)

We as a nation are rapidly spiraling down that path to depravity and destruction described in Romans 1. What can we do? In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul said “Preach the word.” In Romans 1, Paul said, “I am ready to preach the gospel...For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...” (Romans 1:15, 16) Jesus said, “God ye into all the world, and preach the gospel...” (Mark 16:15) “...repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name among all nations...” (Luke 24:47)

Are we preaching the word? Recent Barna surveys indicate “Less than 10% of sermons preached in Evangelical churches even mentioned Hell, Sin, Salvation, or Heaven.” My first response is What?!

Barna’s survey also showed “57% of regular churchgoers say they have never had a religious experience that changed their life.” Also, “69% of churchgoers believe that everyone will go to Heaven.” “52% of all Christians believe that non-Christian faiths can lead to eternal life.”

Jesus declared, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” (John 14:6)

How did we get so far from the truth? I look back to another survey by Redbook Magazine of ministerial students

in 1961 which showed 56% rejected the virgin birth of Jesus. 54% rejected His bodily resurrection. 98% rejected His personal return to this earth. In 1984, 1/3 of professing Christians said Jesus didn’t rise from the dead and ¼ of them said that Jesus Christ committed sin. Today 44% believe Jesus sinned. I hear of pastors who are preaching such blasphemy. Some are saying that faith in Jesus Christ is not necessary.

Read the Bible! “...Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)



“Preach the word...all scripture...” I once had a conversation with a pastor who told me that in 30 plus years of ministry, he had never once preached about hell. My response to such is” why?” Jesus preached about hell more than anyone else in the Bible. Jesus came to die for our sins that we might not end up in Hell, but live with Him forever in Heaven.

Preachers, let’s go preach the gospel... the Word... Jesus Christ!

The Old Time Way radio broadcast is a weekly outreach of Roach Evangelistic Ministries. As an ordained Pastor and commissioned Evangelist, Brother Jerry has preached in hundreds of worship services, revivals, and camp-meetings throughout America for more than forty years. Tune in on Christian Voice Radio every Sunday morning at 8am (central) to enjoy uplifting music by Barbara Roach and Reunited and an evangelistic message from God’s Word as preached by Pastor and Evangelist Jerry Roach. (Christian Voice Radio is accessible at christianvoiceradio.com, on IOS and Android apps, and on Roku.)

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01/27-31 Singing At Sea Cruise

Austin Glover • 812-830-8805

01/12.....Trinity United Methodist.....Jensen Beach, FL 9:00am/11:00am
01/26.....Wabash Comm Church.....Vincennes, IN 10:30am

Bibletones • 615-649-8181

01/04.....Hurricane Creek Baptist.....Sandy Hook, MS 6:00pm
01/05.....Holly Grove Baptist ChurchBraxton, MS 10:00am
01/18.....First Baptist Church.....Childersburg, AL 6:00pm
01/19.....New Haven BaptistGreensboro, AL 10:00am

Browders • 615-595-7500

01/04.....Broodmoor Baptist Church.....Meridian, MS 6:00pm
06-11 Harmony At Sea cruise
01/26.....Old Plank Rd. Baptist.....Jacksonville, FL 10:00am/6:00pm
01/27-31 Singing At Sea Cruise

Carolina The Band • 615-595-7500

01/02.....Don Gibson Theater.....Shelby, NC 7:00pm

Debra Perry & Jady's Call • 615-595-7500

01/05.....Bible Baptist Church.....Petal, MS 6:00pm
01/06-11 Harmony At Sea Cruise
01/25.....Nocatee Church Of God.....Arcadia, FL 6:00pm

Dixie Echoes • 615-649-8181

01/10.....Mt. Zion Ind. Baptist.....Bonifay, FL 7:00pm
01/11.....Antioch Revival Center.....Perry, FL 7:00pm
01/12.....New Home Baptist Church.....Perry, FL 11:00am
01/13-18 Gospel Jubilee Cruise
01/19.....Wimauma Convention Ctr.....Wimauma, FL 6:30pm
01/23.....East Brent Baptist Church.....Pensacola, FL 10:30am
01/24.....Family Fish Camp.....Meridian, MS 6:30pm
01/25.....Vardaman Street Baptist.....Wiggins, MS 6:00pm
01/26.....Riverside Full Gospel.....Lucedale, MS 6:00pm
01/31.....Peace River Baptist.....Punta Gorda, FL 6:15

Down East Boys • 615 595-7500

01/03.....Westside Baptist Church.....Daytona Beach, FL 7:00pm
01/04.....Fellowship Bible Church.....Zephyrhills, FL 6:00pm
01/05.....Harvest Chapel.....Venice, FL 6:00pm
01/10.....Growing Oaks Baptist.....Reidsville, NC 7:00pm
01/12.....Kingdom Place.....Lumberton, NC 8:30am/10:30am
01/12.....Piney Grove Chapel Baptist.....Angier, NC 6:00pm
01/17.....Ninety Six Baptist Church.....Ninety Six, SC 7:00pm
01/19.....FL Holiness Camp Ground.....Lakeland, FL 6:00pm
01/19.....Shady Hammock Baptist.....Lake Wales, FL 10:30am
01/20.....Wimauma Convention Ctr.....Wimauma, FL 6:30pm
01/24.....Calvary Community Chapel.....Macon, GA 7:00pm
01/25.....Winter Haven Nazarene.....Winter Haven, FL 2:00pm
01/26.....Freedom Fellowship.....Wildwood, FL 9:30am
01/27-31 Singing At Sea Cruise

Griffith Family • 615-595-7500

01/06-11 Harmony At Sea Cruise

The Hyssongs • 615-595-7500

01/05.....Emmanuel United Meth.....Melbourne, FL 10:30am

01/12.....First Baptist Church.....Eagle Lake, FL 10:30am
01/17.....Peace River Baptist Church.....Punta Gorda, FL 6:15pm
01/19.....Sidney Baptist Church.....Dover, FL 10:30am
01/24.....Wimauma Convention Ctr.....Wimauma, FL 10:am
01/26.....Southside Baptist Church.....Sebring, FL 6:00pm
01/27-31 Singing At Sea Cruise

Jeff & Sheri Easter • 615-595-7500

01/04.....Victory Fellowship Church.....Dayton, VA 6:00pm
01/10.....Sharon Baptist Church.....Shawnee, OK 7:00pm
01/11.....Owasso Gospel Opry.....Owasso, OK 5:30pm
01/12.....Seaton Fellowship.....Dixon, MO 6:00pm
01/25.....Wimauma Convention Ctr..... Wimauma, FL 2:00pm
01/27-31.....Singing At Sea Cruise

Michael Combs • 615-595-7500

01/13-18 Gospel Jubilee 2025 Cruise
01/26.....Greenview Baptist Church.....Jacksonville, FL 10:15am/5:00pm
01/27-29.....Greenview Baptist Church.....Jacksonville, FL 7:00pm

Scotty Inman • 625-595 7500

01/11.....Ikedda Arts center.....Mesa, AZ 1:00pm/7:00pm
01/12.....Ikedda Arts Center.....Mesa, AZ 2:00pm/7:00pm

Shannon Smith • 615-595-7500

01/03.....Peace River Baptist Church.....Pinta Gorda, FL 6:15pm
01/12.....Rooted Church.....Albertville, AL 11:00am
01/24.....Three Rivers Assembly.....Moss Point, MS 7:00pm

Southbound • 615-595-7500

01/11.....Crestview Baptist Church.....Lakeland, FL 6:00pm
01/12.....FL Holiness Camp Ground.....Lakeland, FL 6:00pm
01/21.....Wimauma Convention Ctr.....Wimauma, FL 1:00pm
01/24.....First Assembly Of God.....Gastonia, NC 7:00pm
01/27-31 Singing At Sea Cruise

Southern Plainsmen • 318-663-4812

01/05.....First Baptist Church.....Pangburn, AR 11:00aam
01/19.....Baptist Temple Church.....San Antonio, TX 10:55am
01/19.....Lackland Baptist Church.....San Antonio, TX 5:00pm

Tim Lovelace • 615-595-7500

01/12.....Life Church.....Leesburg, GA 10:30am

Todd Tilghman • 615-595-7500

01/06-11 Harmony At Sea Cruise
01/12.....Country Tonight Theater.....Pigeon Forge, TN 10:30am

Trevor Thomas Ministries • 615-649-8181

01/05.....East Chelsea Baptist.....Tampa, FL 10:30am
01/05.....Berea Baptist Church.....Auburndale, FL 5:00pm
01/10.....Brandy Branch Baptist.....Bryceville, FL 7:00pm
01/11.....New Beginning Baptist.....Palatka, FL 6:00pm
01/17.....New Hope Baptist Church.....Englewood, FL 7:00pm
01/26.....Pleasant Grove Baptist.....Mayo, FL 6:00pm

Troy Burns Family • 828-454-5900

01/19.....First Baptist Church.....Silver Springs, FL 11:00am
01/20.....Wimauma Convention Ctr.....Wimauma, FL 1:00pm



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Musk's New Montessori School: 'The wave of the future'

Bronson Woodruff

The world's wealthiest man has gotten a permit to open Ad Astra (Latin for "to the stars") in Bastrop County, about 40 minutes outside of Austin, Texas. The pre-kindergarten Montessori school will reportedly teach children to sweep, draw, and explore.

This opening is said to be paving the way for the billionaire to build out his STEM-focused plans for K-12 schools and a college in The Lone Star State.

STEM learning is a student-centered approach to teaching that integrates the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Montessori method of education involves children's natural interests and activities rather than formal teaching methods.

Jeane Allen, founder and CEO of the Center for Education Reform, says successful education does not look the same for everyone; it is tailored and personalized and gives students the opportunity to explore, develop, and more. "It's not a surprise that Elon Musk would want to bring his innovative and entrepreneurial skills to education," she tells AFN. "He's been incredibly outspoken about the limitations of the U.S. education system and failure."

She says conventional K-12 education played very little role in Musk's success. "He's talked about ... how he was the square peg in a round hole," Allen notes. "He developed lots of skills because he was always learning on his own. If you look at the most successful education organizations, schools, [and] alternatives out there, they do precisely what Elon Musk is planning to do."

She calls that "an amazing development" and says parents should have the opportunity to decide between having their kids sit behind a desk and listen to social indoctrination – or more engaging, thoughtful, and interactive learning methods.

In her experience, Allen says most parents "actually want their kids to learn how to read, how to speak and communicate;" they want to know about

their country, about people around them, how things happen, and be set up for success.

Ad Astra, she says, is "the wave of the future" and the kind of school that everyone should welcome and embrace.

Pro-lifer Hopes for Return of 'Commonsense Protections'

Chris Woodward

Though he isn't ruling out the possibility, President-elect Donald Trump says he will not restrict the abortion pills.

When NBC's "Meet the Press" host pointed out that "more than half of abortions in this country are medication abortions" and asked if he will restrict the availability of abortion pills when he returns to office, Trump replied, "I'll probably stay with exactly what I've been saying for the last two years, and the answer is no."

He did not, however, commit to that, saying things change. "I do not like putting myself in a position like that," he told the host. "Things do change, but I do not think it's going to change."

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), says her organization would like to see the abortion pill severely restricted, but she does not know whether that will happen.

"What I am hoping is that the president will be willing to go back to the law that was in effect when he was POTUS, which were much stricter regulations on the pill from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)," she tells AFN.

Under those restrictions, women had to see a doctor and find out for sure that they were pregnant – and also undergo some kind of physical exam to check for an ectopic pregnancy – before getting an abortion pill prescription. After taking the pills, she had to return to the doctor to make sure that the abortion was completed and that the unborn child's remains had been expelled from the uterus.

If not, there could be severe consequences like hemorrhaging, sepsis, and worse. "We've seen women die in this country because they did not get proper medical care after taking the abortion pill,"

Tobias laments. "My hope, and what I think we can see happen, is that this new administration will at least require the FDA to put these commonsense protections for women back in place."

Canada's 'Soft War' Continues

Chad Groening

A Christian educator and traditional values activist in Canada says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is fueling the "explosion of Jew-hate" there.

The Free Press recently published the results of its extensive investigation into the alarming growth of antisemitism north of the border, showing a 670% increase in antisemitic incidents in Canada that began within weeks of the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

In Toronto, for example, Nazi swastikas were plastered over a poster of one of the Jewish hostages, and a window was shattered at one of the city's synagogues.

Dr. Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College, says Jews are afraid for their safety, and the government is not helping. "This is something we face every day," he accounts. "It's really a soft war against both Jews and Christians."

In his view, Trudeau has only made things worse. "Our prime minister, he chimes in and he says that he will agree with the International Court and arrest Netanyahu," McVety relays. "This just fuels the antisemites. It fuels the Hamas flag-waving supporters. They are emboldened, and it has to stop."

Meanwhile, as Fox News reported in October, Justin Trudeau is facing calls for his resignation and perhaps his toughest challenge yet as the Canadian prime minister. A year out from the election, a CBC News poll found that the Conservative Party, led by Pierre Poilievre, held a 20-point lead over Trudeau's Liberals.

McVety believes the election of a Conservative government would make all the difference.

Texas Pastor: Trump ready and raring to go

Steve Jordahl

One of Donald Trump's earliest evangelical backers from his first campaign

already sees the president-elect applying "lessons learned" as he approaches his second four-year term.

Only weeks away from his second term in the White House, Donald J. Trump seems more focused and a bit less volatile than the first time around. That's according to a pastor who was one of Trump's spiritual advisors in his first term.

In January 2017, Donald Trump blew into Washington like the proverbial "bull in a china shop," intent on cleaning up the town and kicking the "Deep State" to the curb. But his every move was met with resistance from the political establishment entrenched in Congress ... and – by his own admission – he was too new to Washington to know who to trust.

Dr. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of First Baptist Dallas, says this time around Trump is ready. "I think he is just as intent on fulfilling his agenda as he's ever been," Jeffress tells AFN. "But after the experience he's had in the Oval Office, I think he has probably learned some things that he is going to put into practice."

The Southern Baptist pastor recalls that Trump's 2016 campaign included an evangelical board of advisors, which was disbanded after he won. Jeffress, however, was one of several evangelicals who continued to have the president's ear and provided spiritual counsel when requested.

Jeffress shares that he still talks to President-elect Trump – and stands ready to advise if called on again. "There is no official 'board of evangelicals for White House consulting' – it's more informal ... and I have talked to him recently. He's in great spirits," he adds.

The evangelical pastor is especially pleased with some of Trump's Cabinet picks, with one in particular hitting the mark. "Who could be better as ambassador to Israel than Governor [Mike] Huckabee?" he wonders. "Governor Huckabee understands the geopolitical reasons that America should support Israel, but he also is cognizant of the biblical basis for supporting Israel."

Last month, Time magazine announced that Trump is its 2024 Person of the Year. He was honored in the same fashion by Time in 2016 when he was first elected to the White House.

Biden Admin Spent \$267 Million to Censor Critics

Steve Jordahl, Billy Davis

On its way out the door, the Biden administration is being ripped for spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a mission to fight "misinformation" during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was really an attempt to silence and censor critics.

Thanks to an extensive report by Open the Books, a government watchdog, the public has learned the one-term Biden administration was furiously trying to counter skepticism and opposition to the controversial vaccine, to forced mask wearing, and even the origin of the virus in China.

During the Trump term, the federal government was distributing approximately \$6 million to counter what it called "misinformation" at the time. Then there was an "explosion of cash" when the pandemic hit, and approximately \$267 million was spent over three years, from 2021 to 2024, the report states.

Where did those millions of dollars go? The biggest chunk of money (\$185 million) went to the Department of Health and Human Services, followed by the National Science Foundation (\$65 million), with the Department of State coming in third with a meager \$12 million.

According to HHS, the definition of "misinformation" is "information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading according to the best available evidence at the time."

For many, that definition summarizes the "trust the science" motto that was often repeated by the government and the media during the pandemic. It also mirrors the apologies that belatedly came afterward, such as masking children and the six-foot rule, which were often blamed on the "best available evidence" that was known at the time.

Curtis Houck, of the Media Research Center, read the Open the Books report. What stood out to him, he tells AFN, is that our own taxpayers' funds were used to censor social media comments our own government decided were inappropriate to share.

The chief co-conspirator behind that censorship was HHS, the recipient of the biggest block of money. It distributed that money to the Health Science Center at the University of Pennsylvania (\$2.3 million);

the University of Texas (\$2.1 million); and Michigan State University, \$348,000.

All three public universities used the HHS grant to study "misinformation" online. At the University of Texas, it researched an algorithm to detect and "mitigate the spread" of COVID-19 "misinformation." The research at the University of Pennsylvania was even more specific: It investigated how COVID-19 "misinformation" on social media influences black and rural communities.

"A lot of these smaller government agencies, that may not be as familiar to the American people," Houck says, "are absolute wastelands, apocalyptic wastelands, cosmic black holes, of taxpayer dollars."

Even though the pandemic is behind us, the report points out the "misinformation" label is still being used against critics.

After Hurricane Helene hit, FEMA has used the "misinformation" label twice to falsely claim disaster victims are not still living in tents, and also to falsely claim its own aid workers did not avoid the homes of Trump-supporting disaster victims.

In another stark example, Open the Book pointed out MSNBC host Jen Psaki recently demanded a government crackdown on social media. Because there is no "accountability" on social media, and many people get their news from it, that is why Donald Trump was able to defeat Kamala Harris, she argued.

"Laws have to change," Psaki told a podcast. "I don't even know the entire answer to it but that seems to me to be a core issue."

Psaki, who was the truth-spinning press secretary for Joe Biden, also defended the federal government's crackdown on social media during the pandemic. "We're flagging problematic posts for Facebook that spread disinformation," she boasted to White House reporters in 2021.

Psaki made her post-election comments on the "Next Question" podcast, hosted by journalist Katie Couric, who herself famously got caught deceptively editing an interview with gun owners that made them appear dumb and uninformed.

Summarizing the Open Book report, Houck says it proves the Biden administration and its left-wing allies have "disgust" for a large portion of the American public.



CHOOSE LIFE



“...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”
Deuteronomy 30:19b

By John Lanier

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 ruling that secured a person’s “right” to an abortion. This means that individual states are now able to decide their own abortion laws. As a result, many states have severely restricted abortion access while others have banned access altogether. This ruling, known as the *Dobbs* decision, is considered a major victory and an answer to prayer by many pro-lifers.

But the fight to end abortion is far from over. We want to make abortion unthinkable in each and every state. We want legislators to recognize the sanctity of human life innately as they make laws regarding women’s health and abortion. We want better education. We want truth. We choose LIFE.

Regardless of what the liberal, left-wing media have led many to believe, at least nine states currently have no restrictions based on how far along a woman is in her pregnancy. I repeat, **NO RESTRICTIONS**. Let that sink in. Many have added amendments enshrining the right to abortion in their state constitutions.

Then, there’s the “abortion pill” - the common name for using two different medicines to end a pregnancy. As of June 2024, fourteen states have near-total bans on mifepristone. The other 36 states and Washington, DC, provide some form of legal access to the abortion medication. Make no mistake, this medication is **NOT** a form of birth control. To be clear, birth control pills *prevent* a pregnancy. Abortion pills *end* an existing pregnancy. This method of abortion rose to high demand after the *Dobbs* ruling.

Thus, the number of women getting abortions in the U.S. actually went up in the first three months of 2024 compared with before the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, according to data from several sources. A major reason for the increase is that some Democratic-controlled states enacted laws to protect doctors who use telemedicine to see patients in places that have abortion bans, according to the quarterly #WeCount report for the Society of Family Planning, which supports abortion access.

It seems that a mother’s womb is the most dangerous place in the world. People across the globe are destroying unborn babies in record numbers. Worldometers, the real-time statistics website, has been tracking abortion for a number of years and comparing those deaths to, for example, heart disease and cancer. The conclusion is abortion is the leading cause of death across the planet. Yes, you read that right. Abortion has surpassed heart disease and cancer to become the leading cause of death around the world.

The data on abortions displayed on the Worldometer’s counter is based on the latest estimates on worldwide abortions published by various sources, including the World Health Organization (WHO). According to WHO, every year in the world there are around 73 million induced abortions. This corresponds to approximately 200,000 abortions per day.

Pro-life leader Carol Tobias, of the National Right to Life Committee, says one reason for that statistic is a lack of respect for human life. “We are seeing that in our country, in our communities, and worldwide,” she says. “Human life just isn’t precious anymore and we don’t take those extra steps to protect it, and certainly not for preborn children when we can’t really see them.”

Bryan Kemper, who heads up Stand True youth outreach, admits he was surprised over the general reaction to his recent

post on X of a woman holding a sign that shows the real feet of an eight-week-old pre-born baby girl who was aborted. "She'll never learn to walk," the sign reads.

The post has garnered more than 16 million views, and most of the responses either deny its truthfulness or personally attack Kemper for pointing out that "abortion is an act of violence. Deadly violence."



Bryan Kemper

"They are so calloused, and... the wool is pulled over their eyes so much about what abortion is," he laments. "When you show the truth, they get angry; they get upset. They don't want the world to see the truth about what's happening to precious little baby boys and girls every single day in abortion mills."

The pro-lifer recognizes, though, that denying the truth and attacking the messenger are favored tactics of the Left. Still,

they are not enough to sway him. "I don't care what anyone says to me. I don't care if you put a gun to my head. I will never denounce Jesus, and I will never back off my pro-life position."

Pointing out that the lives of preborn babies are at stake, he says it is time for more pro-life people to take a stand for children in the womb, regardless of how the opposition reacts.

I wholeheartedly agree with Bryan - abortion IS a deadly act of violence. I will not mince words, abortion is murder, plain and simple. And don't let them fool you, most pro-abortionists know this even though they would never admit it. Because, in all too many cases, abortion is the answer for "inconvenient" pregnancies. I said what I said. It's also a multi-million-dollar industry.

They use words like "fetus" and phrases like "a clump of cells" to detract from the reality that it's a human life. But, unborn doesn't mean unalive!

And don't buy the 'rape/incest' and 'risk of the mother to lose her life' arguments often cited by pro-abortionists. The facts: According to the Lozier Institute, among other sources, the LEAST common reasons for abortion are rape and incest at only 0.4% and risk to the mother's life at only 0.3%. In contrast, 95.9% of abortions are chosen due to "inconvenience."

One physician who performed abortions in the past reveals, "This is the absolute truth. I did 1200 abortions, first and second trimester. One was for rape, two were for incest. About nine or ten were for genetic defects like Trisomy 21 (down syndrome), and all the rest of them were healthy moms and healthy kids. People believe what they want to believe, and they don't want to believe that, but that is the truth."

He adds, "I killed 1200 kids. How can you make up for even one of them? I can't. So, now I do everything I can to save as many as I can."

Abortion is demonic. Satan would kill God if he could, but he can't. So, he kills babies because he knows it wounds the heart of the Father and causes chaos. Abortion is not new, the practice goes way back to ancient times. It is a sacrament of Satan.

Abortion says, "You must die so I can live." But Jesus said, "I must die so you can live." He entered human history in a uterus, of all places! That's why the spirit behind abortion uses words like, "This is my body," but with the opposite, blasphemous meaning. Sound familiar? ("My Body, my choice.") Do you think it's a coincidence that the central phrase of the entire abortion industrial complex and the culture of death today are the same words of our Savior at the last supper... "This is my body?"

And by the way, Planned Parenthood is not only the largest abortion provider in the world, they are also the largest provider of transgender drugs. They call both of those mutilations 'healthcare.' They call trans-gender surgery 'gender affirming care' and they call 'abortion reproductive healthcare.' See, if they can't get the babies while inside the womb, they'll get them outside the womb. Again, they defend both practices using bodily autonomy arguments... "This is my body." It is not a coincidence that the argument for abortion is quoting the words of our Savior.

But the practice of abortion goes back even further, into early Old Testament times. Baal worship was a pagan, idolatrous practice that often entangled the Israelites. Baal, a term meaning "lord" or "master," was a title used for various local deities in the ancient Near East. The most prominent Baal was Baal Hadad, the storm and fertility god, who was believed to control rain, thunder, and agricultural fertility. This made Baal worship particularly appealing to agrarian societies like the Canaanites and, unfortunately, to the Israelites at times.



The worship of Baal was multifaceted and involved several key practices that were abhorrent to the God of Israel. Central to Baal worship were rituals designed to ensure agricultural productivity and human fertility. These rituals often included sacrifices, feasts, and various forms of sexual immorality.

One of the most notorious aspects of Baal worship was child sacrifice. The Bible explicitly condemns this practice, which was associated with the worship of Molech, another deity often linked with Baal. In Jeremiah 19:5, the Bible states that the people have built high places of Baal to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal.

As the story goes, Pagans would worship Ashera, the goddess of fertility, through orgies and unbridled sexual escapades which, nine months later resulted in unwanted babies - which were passed through the fire to Baal. Does this sound even vaguely familiar?

Planned Parenthood, as well as public schools, have used the same strategy for decades. They push pornographic, sexual titillating material and curriculum on to young kids to

break down their sexual societal mores and standards to reduce them to the most animalistic appetite so they can't govern themselves, thereby having more sex so the more unwanted babies will be produced which can then be passed through the fires of Planned Parenthood today.

This strategy has never changed. There's nothing new under the sun and as it was in ancient biblical times, so it is today. Remember the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Matthew? The government ordered the execution of all male children two years old and under. Today, different government, same demons.

You see, the fight against abortion will never be won until we realize that abortion is not a political issue, or even a cultural issue. It is a spiritual issue.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." – Ephesians 6:12

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." – 2nd Corinthians 10:4

We ARE winning some battles, but we cannot rest until the war is won and done. We must continue to fight the good fight of faith. We are more than conquerors. We overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.

I am reminded of one such testimony by Janelle, a young mother who had not one, not two, but three abortions. She recently shared her story at www.liveaction.com, an online news source that publishes pro-life news and commentary

from a pro-life perspective. I encourage you to go online and read her entire story. It is a wonderful testimony of redemption and restoration from abuse and sexual victimization.

Janelle says she wanted to share her story to expose the truth about abortion. She writes, "I am a Christian wife and



mother with a strong passion to educate others about the truth on abortion. I believe people deserve to know what happens in an abortion clinic and what a woman carries with her for eternity."

More importantly, she wants people to know there IS a way of escape through Jesus. "Through the years, the babies I aborted have always been on my mind. I found God along my journey, and when Roe v. Wade was overturned, I reached out to a pregnancy center for help. I attended a retreat where I found peace and forgiveness for my abortions. I then worked for the pregnancy center for a year; I learned so much and gave my heart and soul to that job!"

"One day while there, I got to witness an ultrasound. I was so shocked at what I saw on that screen! I asked the tech how far along the patient was, and she told me eight weeks. I saw the baby's head, a spine, arms and legs, and a heartbeat. I kept myself together until I went back to my desk, and then I broke down."

"I knew all along that Planned Parenthood had lied to me about my babies, but to see the proof on that screen brought me to my knees. I was never given options, and was told it was just a clump of cells."

I know God has forgiven me - and when I get to heaven, I will get to meet my beautiful babies again."

Today, Janelle is 46 years old, married to the love of her life, and together they have raised a healthy son who is now a flourishing young adult.

January is Sanctity of Human Life month. Let's spread the good news that God created humans with value, purpose, and worth from the day of conception to natural death. Let's also remember to thank God for survivors of abortion and pray for the "Janelles" of the world. May we all be warriors of mercy and grace!



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Jesus, Our Hope

Gina Ables

I've recently been a part-time caregiver to a friend with severe Parkinson's Disease. After several falls and hours being trapped on the floor with no help, he decided he could no longer live alone. Even having the Mobile Alert button, he was embarrassed to use it to call for help. He didn't want a fuss to be made over him at all!

Another friend and I are his emergency contacts and the "button people," (as we called them,) would contact us to let us know the situation and that help was on the way. He didn't want the "button people" to disturb either of us in the middle of the night. I lived closer, so I would go if he needed someone or was being taken to the hospital.

He moved into an assisted living facility this week. Along with change comes anxiety, fear, and with him,

hopelessness. Both of us caregivers are Christians and have witnessed to him. We keep praying that God will open his eyes to see how great God is in the middle of our worst circumstances.

Someone said that we can't expect the lost to think like Christians, act like Christians, or have the hope that Christians have. Our hope is a noun, not a verb! We can only show them in love and tell them what Christ did to change our lives.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (ESV).

Honey Apple Pork Loin in a Crockpot

(Tweaked from internet recipe)

- 2+ lb. pork loin
- 2 apples (sliced and divided)
- 1 onion (sliced)
- 1/4 butter (sliced)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme



Cut 1" slits on the top of the pork loin about 1" apart. Place a piece of sliced apple in the slits. Set aside.

Add onion and remaining apples in the bottom of the crockpot. Add slices of butter.

Place pork loin on top of butter. Sprinkle the loin with salt pepper, cinnamon and thyme. Drizzle honey over the top.

Cover and cook on LOW for 6 hours without opening the lid during the cooking time. When the cooking time is done, remove the pork to a platter and let rest for at least 5 minutes. Slice and serve.

Fried Potato Cakes

- 1 cup mashed potatoes (leftover and cold)
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 large egg (lightly beaten)
- Tony Chachere's (to taste)
- 1/4 cup onion (chopped)
- Enough oil for frying

Add potatoes, Tony's, and chopped onion until combined.

Sprinkle flour and lightly combine. Don't overwork the flour or it will become sticky.

Heat oil in cast iron skillet.

Form balls from 1/3 cup potato mixture. Flatten to about 1/4" and gently place patties in oil.

Cook 2 minutes per side or until golden. Drain on paper towel. Don't over crowd skillet.



Broiled Tilapia

- Tilapia filets
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/2 teaspoon each
- Old Bay Seasoning, paprika and oregano
- 1/2 stick butter (sliced and divided)

Mix breadcrumbs with Old Bay and oregano. Coat fillets. Place some pats of butter on parchment paper. Lay fillets on top and sprinkle with paprika. Broil until flaky.




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