

CCCM

**PA
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ION**



**CHANGING
THE WORLD
ONE ARENA
AT A TIME**



**THE
MUSEUM**
THEIR LINE IN
THE SAND
**RUSH OF
FOOLS**
CARRYING ON

JUNE 1, 2014

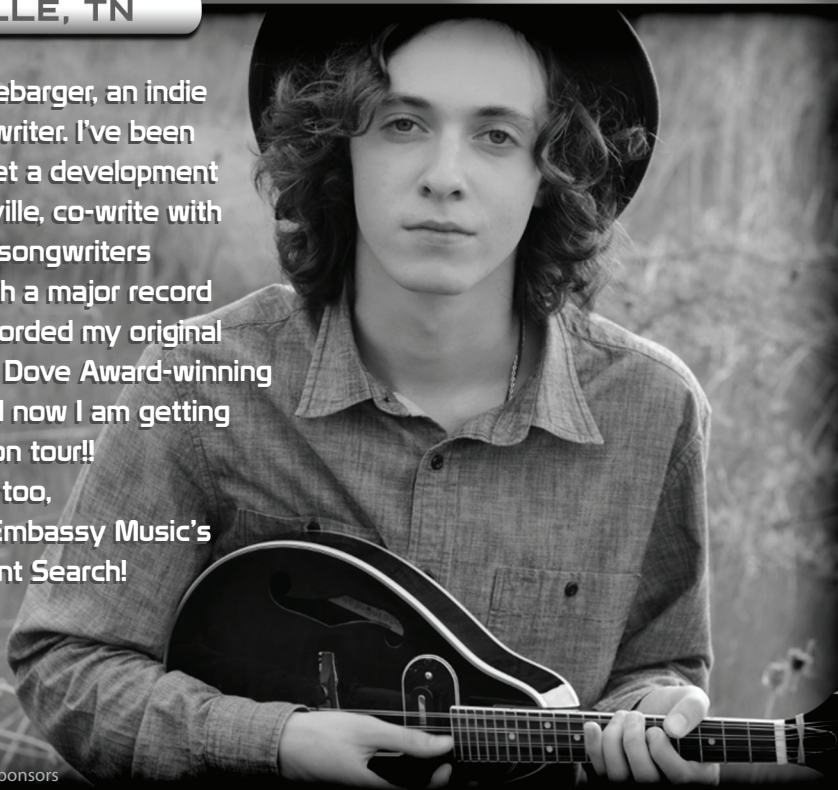


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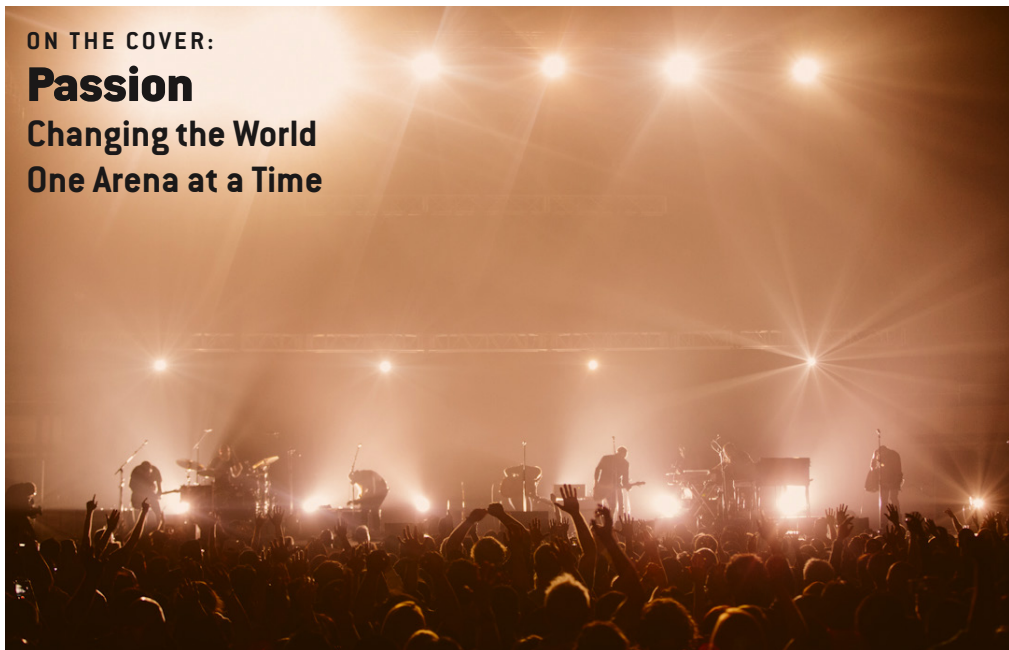
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FEATURES

ON THE COVER:

Passion

Changing the World
One Arena at a Time



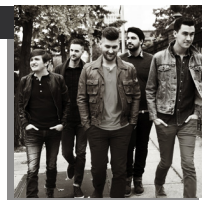
The Museum

Their Line in the Sand



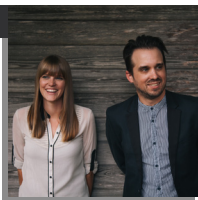
Rush of Fools

Carrying On



All Sons and Daughters

Chapter New





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DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE EDITOR

PHOTOS

TOUR SPOTLIGHT

Shawn McDonald



OUT AND ABOUT

Pix of your favorite Christian artists on the road, off the road and everywhere in between

WHAT'S NEW

ALBUM RELEASES

SPOTLIGHTS

BECKAH SHAE



SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER

KIRK FRANKLIN

DEVOTIONAL

EXCERPT FROM

Praying Circles Around the Lives of Your Children by Mark Batterson

REVIEWS

ALBUMS, BOOKS AND FILMS

ONE LAST LOOK

TAKE THE PERFECT
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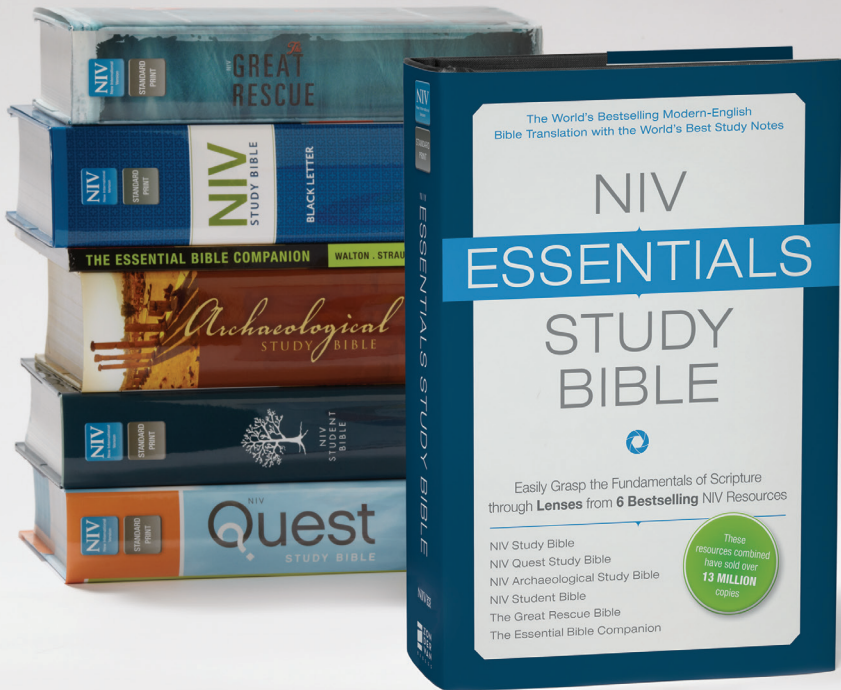
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What wakes you up in the morning, keeps you going and occupies your mind and life?

Year after year, thousands of college students gather at Passion conferences, sharing their passion to know Jesus and be Jesus to the world around them. Each conference generates an astonishing amount of donations from these students to aid causes such as the effort to end human trafficking and providing Bibles to countries like Iran.

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That's passion.

Read their stories within this issue and be inspired to discover your call to action.

Abandon your fear of inadequacy. God has a history of taking that which seems insignificant to epic proportions—fishes and loaves, some rugged fishermen, you and me.

Find your passion.

Share it.

Then, be willing to follow God's path through, around, over or under anything that stands in your way.

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Caroline Lusk

Caroline Lusk
Editor, *CCM Digital*



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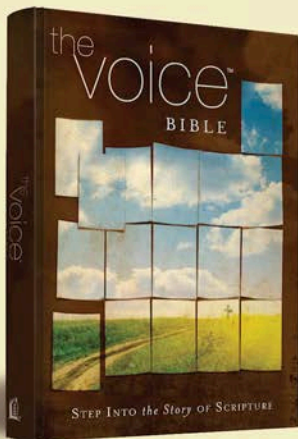
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SHAWN MCDONALD

WE ARE BRAVE TOUR

WIRE/ BERWYN, IL

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ANDY ARGYRAKIS

Critically acclaimed singer/songwriter Shawn McDonald is currently enjoying massive radio success with his electro-pop single “We Are Brave.” It was only fitting that the tour supporting the brand-new studio album, *Brave* (Sparrow Records), adopt that very namesake.

Along with a groove-saturated backing band, the veteran guy with a guitar intermixed tunes off the rhythmically vibrant and lyrically hopeful project with smash singles from his more acoustically minded past (“Take My Hand,” “Gravity,” “Closer”), which all took on a more soulful/bluesy flavoring in the concert environment.

As a performer, McDonald is one of Christian music’s most engaging and most versatile, able to confidently share his intelligent, spiritually-centered storytelling in a club (just days before legendary troubadours such as Edwin McCain and Hootie & The Blowfish’s Mark Bryan were slated to hit the very same stage).



TOUR SPOTLIGHT



It turns out some of the most meaningful cuts were also the most connective, including a celebration of God's infinite glory ("Mystery"), an electronically-tipped tribute to the grandfather who raised him ("Through It All") and the insecurity-shedding "We Are Brave," a title that truly summarizes McDonald's boundary-blurring career.



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1



COMPILED BY ANDY ARGYRAKIS

1 Paul Baloch leads worship with Stu G in India and also celebrates his 27th wedding anniversary with his wife, Rita, at both the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and on the slopes in Park City, Utah.

2



2 Singer/songwriter Eva Kroon Pike, who is promoting her current CD *Love Is All About You*, makes her inaugural appearance at the 2014 National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville with her husband, Johnny, and their son, Corey.

3



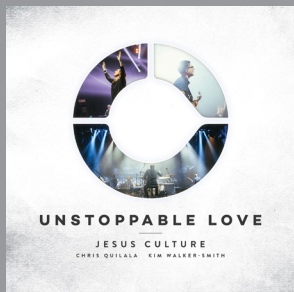
3 Group 1 Crew's Manwell Reyes and his wife, Anjelah Johnson, take in the breathtaking views at the Colosseum in Rome, Italy.

6.3.2014



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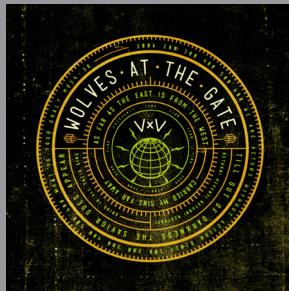


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STOWTOWN RECORDS/PROVIDENT

THE HAGEES
LOVE
DFG/CAPITOL

KIM DEXTER
REACHING
INDIE

MICHAEL JAMES BAND
THE ANTHEM OF A DESPERATE HEART
INDIE

HOLLY STARR
GOD IS (SINGLE)
INDIE





CHANGING THE WORLD ONE ARENA AT A TIME

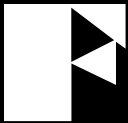
BY CAROLINE LUSK

All photos by Mary Caroline Mann © 2014 Passion Conferences



*PASSION IS NOT AN EVENT.
IT'S NOT A CONCERT.
PASSION IS SIMPLY DEFINED
IN ONE WORD BETTER THAN
ANY OTHER WORD, AND
THAT'S THE WORD 'JESUS.'*

– LOUIE GIGLIO



From its inception in 1997, Passion has striven to represent Jesus to people everywhere. Founded with a mission to awaken the 20 million-plus

college students around the world to the reality of a sovereign God, seventeen years later, Passion is one of the largest conferences in the world, reaching thousands of people around the globe every year.

Led by an all-star roster including founder and lead speaker, Louie Giglio, Chris Tomlin, Kristian Stanfill, Christy Knockles, Matt Redman, David Crowder and others, Passion boasts a caliber of excellence largely unmatched. More than skill, though, it is the heart of the movement that electrifies arenas from the United States to Africa to Europe and everywhere in between. It's that same heart that has played a hand in fighting for basic human rights and freedoms for women and men who are oppressed in far reaches of the world. Each year, as Passion reaches out to college students, it teaches them to also reach out.

As committed to social justice and empowering young people to affect change as they are to the music and speaking that has defined them, Passion enables young people to step up, give back and take a stand against some of the world's greatest injustices from human trafficking to religious persecution. In 2012, \$3.3 million was raised to fight human trafficking. 2013 brought in another \$2.9 million to the cause. In 2014, the 35,000 college students who attended Passion in Atlanta and Houston were challenged to give \$500,000 to send Bibles to Iran. That amount was exceeded by more than \$150,000, totaling \$670,000, which provides 65,000-plus Bibles for the people of Iran.

As radical as it may seem to get that kind of response from college students, it's not at all surprising given the faith of the founders of Passion. These are people who have committed their lives to loving young



people and showing God's love to them. And for every broken college student who walks through the doors at any Passion event, there is a prayer of promise, hope and expectation for him already in place, along with the steadfast belief in the potential of everyone to live in the fullness of Christ.

"Our God can make all things new. We're not holding out vain hope for you—some formula or some system," Giglio says. "We're



talking about the resurrection power of Jesus. Whatever you need isn't bigger than Jesus being raised from the dead."

The strength of that statement is reflective of the guiding Scripture that has shaped the vision of Passion from day one: "Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts" (Isaiah 26:8).

That desire resonates through every

Passion album, which captures the annual event live as only they could—powerfully and with the type of expertise that allows listeners to get lost inside the music and the praise wherever they may be hearing it.

Passion: Take It All is the 2014 offering, which tied the 2013 album, *Passion: Let the Future Begin*, at No. 4 on the overall *Billboard* chart and No. 1 on the Christian album chart. The single "My Heart is Yours," featuring Kristian Stanfill, is striking all the right notes on radio, as well.

Kristian, one of the newer members of the small Passion team, relatively speaking, has also been changed and impacted by the music and the mission of Passion.

"Chris [Tomlin] is so awesome and funny. It's been so cool to be a pastor with him," says Kristian. "He's such a great friend and mentor. To watch him lead our team like he does with such humility, and to let guys like me come up and stand with him, is so cool. It's the same with Giglio. All the people who are leading are the real deal. Integrity is all over their lives."

Apparently, it's contagious. As Passion continues strong in its mission of walking in the footsteps of the Lord, awakening the world to His presence and enabling others to be the hands and feet of Christ, it's not a stretch to imagine that each person who has a Passion encounter is made better, more alive, more passionate.

Seems like Louie Giglio was right. A concert won't save a soul. No event will stir the innermost workings of a heart. Only one thing does that, and that one thing is what Passion truly is—it's all Jesus.

"We are not obligated to live a life according to the Word of God," concludes Giglio. "But we may, because mercy has come and mercy sends us out." **CCM**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PASSION,
VISIT 268GENERATION.COM.**

THE MUSEUM THEIR LINE IN THE SAND

BY CAROLINE LUSK

When The Museum burst onto the scene in 2010 with their radio hit, "My Help Comes From the Lord," it was clear they had an anointing. Regardless of music style or lyrical direction, the band was unequivocally leading its audience in worship. This year, they release a new record that is, perhaps, their most vertically and congregationally-oriented to date. Inspired by a season of much-needed time off the road and back in their homes, the album is unapologetically all about worship, aptly titled *What We Stand For*.

CCM caught up with lead singer Ben Richter to learn more about their new direction, how their music is still inspiring them and others to take a stand for social justice and how they managed to work in a banjo and mandolin and come out with an album that's fresh, relevant and all about Him.

CCM: *It seems like when you released your debut record, you were on a tear with touring, writing, ministry... How were you able to step back to create such an authentic, focused album this time around?*

BEN: We took some time off in 2013. We had such a non-stop 2011 through 2013... we felt like we'd been gone for nearly two years. Now, we're trying to be home with our families more. We definitely feel refreshed and revived, and it's led to a new approach to writing music. Rather than be so rushed and write it on the road, we gave the record the time it needed to really be special. Being

able to take a step back allowed us to be intentional about who we want to be and what we want to say. I've been a worship leader since I was 20. That's a decade now. That's my heart. For this record, we decided that rather than looking at an audience of people, we would look at God as our audience. This is a much more clearly focused worship album. It's been great to draw a line in the sand.

CCM: *Your music seems to have also benefited from the strength of your stance. How did you approach this record creatively?*

BEN: We're really excited about the record. It's a little bit wider stylistically. Jason Hoard helped produce the record, and he incorporated bluegrass instruments—a banjo and a mandolin. Overall, we didn't want to take ourselves too seriously. There seems to be a lack of celebration songs in the church; so we intentionally made sure we were writing fun, uplifting, celebratory songs.

CCM: *Why did you think it was important to create this album for this time?*

BEN: My pastor was talking about how it's easy for people outside the church to know Christians for the little things they stand against—the things we bicker about and disagree on. We hope that the world can begin to know the church and followers of Jesus for what we stand for—what we believe in. Micah 6:8 states we are to love justice and





mercy and walk humbly with God. It's such a simple and clear commandment. It's what we want to be about and stand for—mercy, love and forgiveness.

CCM: *As far as justice is concerned, you guys have always made efforts to partner with various organizations that tackle immense injustice in the world. What have those partnerships looked like? Are you still working within that vein?*

BEN: We stand for justice. It's been a big theme of the band for the last three or four years. We were involved in the Not For Sale movement to fight human trafficking as well as with Compassion International. God has called us to look out for the poor and the oppressed. We still have a relationship with Not For Sale. We've been able to partner with Major League Baseball players

to help promote awareness for human trafficking. We've always had a huge heart for Compassion. They're working in 26 countries all around the world. We've sponsored a child from the Philippines, which we're still doing. We love to see kids' lives changed.

CCM: *You've also mentioned over the years that you strive to remain humble, which isn't always easy for artists who needs to promote their music. What balance have you discovered there?*

BEN: We want to be known as people of humility. It's a funny phenomenon in Christian music. You want to promote your albums and your name; but, ultimately, we hope people see Jesus Christ. We have to keep that in the right order.

CCM: *With Christ as your primary purpose and focus, it's easy to see how worship songs would be natural for you to write and share. How do you define worship?*

BEN: Worship is our response to what we value most. Hopefully, that response will be to God for who He is and what He's done. But we don't always truly worship Him. Where you spend your time and money is a good testament of what you value the most. We are following after God, making Him our highest priority and giving Him our best. **CCM**



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CARRY RUSH OF FOOLS ON

BY GRACE ASPINWALL



There are certain things that only come with time. As life is lived, heartache, victory, joy, loss and peace shape the human heart. At times, the molding and development process is painful. But if it can be approached with even a thimble of faith, God has a tendency to create beauty from the darkest of circumstances.

Rush of Fools has been learning this truth through a season of heartache, grief and growth, all of which inspired their latest album, *Carry Us Now*. New stories, new songs and a new perspective have helped them craft what they say is the album they “were meant to make since the beginning.”

Four projects deep, ROF’s new-found maturity enables nuances of vulnerability and hope to shine through their latest batch of songs. As artistic, moving and beautiful as they are, however, the songs didn’t come without struggle and loss.

“Without a doubt, the past two years have afforded us great blessing and also great hardship,” explains Kevin Huguley (keys/guitars). “Most fitting to mention is the fact that we buried two of our parents within the past year. Jamie’s mother went to be with Jesus after a lengthy battle with cancer, and Jacob’s father passed at the young age of 48.”

Wes Willis (lead vocals) adds, “God gave us all a massive peace in the past two years. We clung to our families and church families, and we began writing the record. God is redemptive. We’ve seen it in our lives, so we wrote about it in this record.”

Huguley continues that thought saying, “This new record came at a time that allowed us to write from a perspective of reflection; we were getting to see God’s consistency. For us, we feel this record is likely the most telling of who we really are and, arguably, who we’ve always been. We feel like it’s taken us almost a decade to figure that out and flesh it out in our songs.”

One listen through the new project indicates that it was worth the wait. Sonically and lyrically, the band (comprised of Willis, Huguley, Jacob Chesnut, Jamie Sharpe and Patrick Sweeney) is confident, creative and intentional. Perhaps some of that is attributed to their third and current label partnership, Sony/Provident Label Group. Of course, revisiting their relationship with producer Jason Ingram also elevated the overall project.

“We’re still humbled to get to work with Jason again after all these years,” says Huguley. “Since meeting him back in 2006 and making a record together then, we’ve seen the Lord continue to grow him.”



Jason's growth parallels the band's, whose maturation was not without some growing pains. "We are eternally grateful for people who still believe in ROF," says Willis. "It's been emotional wondering if there was a future for us, if we would be able to make another record, even if people would remember who we are. Those are some questions we wrestled with. But God reminded us that it's His church, His ministry, His thing. That's a very sweet spot to be in."

"We feel we are at our healthiest physically, emotionally and spiritually," Huguley adds. "It was fun watching this project go from an unfinished idea to a completed piece."

Willis jumps back in, saying, "We always want listeners to be directed to Jesus. We also really feel like this record is a solid offering of who we are as a band. For a band that's been around as long as we have, we're grateful to be able to say that."

The gratitude is as tangible within the band as it is within their homes. Off the road, they are heavily involved in their local churches (Huguley serves as worship pastor

at his home church), which has lent a distinct congregational feel to the music.

"Our new songs are ones that we've been leading and testing with our local churches for many months," says Huguley. "We were reminded by a close friend that songs for the church are eternal. That's huge when you think of it that way.

"Jesus remains the centerpiece of our band's existence, and He is the only hero in our story," he concludes. "It's mind-blowing to recognize that the very hands of Jesus that carried the cross to Calvary are the very hands that carry us now. Through the good and the bad, He sustains. That's what this music is about."

Life will continue to press on. Heartache and loss are inevitable. But so, too, are the sovereignty, grace and compassionate arms of God who always has and always will carry us through. [CCM](#)



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ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS
CHAPTER NEW

BY MELISSA RIDDLE CHALOS



Music lovers worldwide are captivated, swept up in the surging wave of modern folk as heard from the likes of Mumford and Sons, The Avett Brothers, Neon Trees, The Civil Wars and others. Organic, acoustic and packed with live energy and freedom, it's the unpolished imperfection and open invitation to sing along that has catapulted these artists into the spotlight and up the charts.

For All Sons & Daughters' Leslie Jordan and David Leonard, these qualities are even more keenly experienced in music that connects broken people with their God. Worship leaders at Journey Church in Franklin, Tennessee, their critically acclaimed EPs, *Brokenness Aside*, *Reason To Sing* and *The Longing*, along with their full-length albums, *Season One* and *Live*, bear witness to the power of worship by the people, for the people and of the people. In the truest sense, the mesmerizing, soul-baring lyrics and acoustic styling of this talented duo are beginning to make an impact—inside and outside the church.

FRAGMENTS. CHANGE. GROWTH.

Released in May, All Sons & Daughters' self-titled studio album turns the page on a new chapter for the duo, a new season of leaning into their own musical and lyrical instincts.

"We've allowed ourselves to be more creative, more reflective of who we are, while still writing songs for the church," Leslie says of the album. The album's cover art—an incredible mixed-media piece created specifically for AS&D by artist Deeann Rieves—perfectly represents the fragmented beauty of growth and decay inherent in all of life.

"We asked Deeann, who is familiar with our work, to listen to the new record and paint a piece that fits what you hear. What you see on the cover is really unique. We feel



like we're standing on the foundation of the fragments and pieces, musically speaking, building on the changes we've encountered over the past few years," David says.

Produced by Paul Mabury, *All Sons & Daughters* features a "wish list" of co-writers. Stu G (of Delirious), Derek Webb, Leeland, Sandra McCracken, Jack Mooring and Francesca Battestelli. "The beauty of co-writing," David explains, "is getting some new blood in to really push us to think differently about the lyrics."

***I WOULD BE A FOOL / IF I COULD BE MADE
NEW / COME RUIN, COME RIDICULE
RECKLESSLY I COME, I RUN TO YOU***
— "YOUR GLORY AND MY GOOD"

"Your Glory & My Good," co-written with Derek Webb, sets the tone for the album. "It was challenging but so invigorating to write, and it tells such a beautiful story," Leslie says of the song inspired by the story of the woman with a bleeding disorder in Mark 5.

"The older I get, the more I experience life, the more I experience my own depravity, the more I see my need for the kind of bold faith



this woman had. She was rejected by society; but she knew if she could just get to Jesus, He could heal her. We don't see that kind of faith much in today's society. That kind of faith is ridiculed. I've been really challenged by that. Even before we started writing, we knew this song would be special."

"You Will Remain" was the first song written for the record. Its melody led Leslie and David to the Gospel of John, where Jesus refers to Himself as "I AM."

"We were struck by the truth of it," Leslie says. "He didn't say 'I was' or 'I will be,' but 'I AM.' And He wasn't overstating anything... the constant, unfailing nature of God and His goodness. We never tire of leading this one."

BY THE MEANS OF GRACE AND THE HOPE OF GLORY / ALL HONOR AND GLORY FOREVER

— "WE GIVE YOU THANKS"

Inspired by a prayer of thanksgiving found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, the benediction that closes out each AS&D event, "We Give You Thanks" emerged with the co-writing help of Jason Ingram.

"It's just such a beautiful moment when we read that prayer as a congregation every night," David explains. "We were sitting around one night and thought, 'What if we wrote a chorus around this thing?' And it's just been such a cool part of the night,

connecting that prayer to the chorus and seeing the congregation catch on."

More joyful and celebratory overall, the album includes two songs previously recorded live, songs that are catching on with churches nationwide, now reinterpreted in studio: "Great Are You Lord" and "God With Us," both audience favorites and significant moments on their tours. In these and all the original worship compositions for this eponymous release, Leslie and David continue to pursue authenticity and honesty in the music they make.

With plans to tour with Crowder in October, All Sons & Daughters takes great care to make music that meets people where they are, to find the pulse of the people in the cities where they play, to serve and resource musicians and worship leaders. As always, their song charts are free online, and they continue to take advantage of any opportunity to start new conversations about what worship might look like when approached from an authentic place—worship as a true reflection of the heart...however fragmented, however weak, however strong. CCM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
ALLSONSANDDAUGHTERS.COM.**



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THE HEART OF A CHAMPION

BECKAH SHAE REVEALS HERS

BY MATT CONNER

Given that Beckah Shae has guested on albums for friends such as TobyMac, Montell Jordan and T-Bone in recent years, it's only fitting that some of them return the favor on her latest. The seasoned, soulful vocalist recently released *Champion*, her eighth album, featuring exciting collaborations with Israel Houghton, Crystal Lewis, and T-Bone, among others.

Not that Shae needs any help, musically speaking. The dynamic vocalist released an album a year over the last half-decade, and *Champion* is another hip-hop/dance-flavored project that audiences and critics will undoubtedly enjoy. We recently had the chance to ask Beckah about her creative process, ministry and longevity in the business.

CCM: *Eight albums in, are you surprised that you're still making music long after most artists have moved on to other careers?*

BECKAH: It's always been much more than a career for us. Songs and singing for

me have been the way that I communicate to God and express what's being poured into my spirit. Singing is what has gotten me through some of the loneliest and toughest times of my life from childhood until now. It is something that I was created and called to do, whether or not it seems successful to others. I do not define my success by the opinions and expectations of people but by the opinions and expectations of God.

What's so fascinating is that as genuinely authentic and relevant as this music is to my life, its relevance reaches right into the lives and hearts of so many others. We will never stop doing what we are doing, simply for the fact that we know this is what God has called us to.

CCM: *This makes four albums since 2010, as well as a Christmas album. It seems like you've enjoyed a prolonged fruitful period as an artist. Does it feel that way?*

BECKAH: I'm always thinking of planting seeds. We can't always wait around for the fruit. Growing takes time. So

in the meantime, I continue to plant! It keeps me busy. I have two young daughters I'm building a legacy for. They continually inspire me to make the most of my time. We've got several projects already mapped out for the years ahead! I don't count on seeing the fruit. I just try to stay focused on being grateful and faithful.

CCM: *Can you take us into the process of where the songs are coming from these days?*

BECKAH: Every song, every album I've ever made, has been a clear reflection of the journey I'm on in that season. These days I feel like I am in desperate need of keeping focused on the "Pioneer" and "Champion" of my faith more than ever. When I look around I see a majority clinging to conformity. It is very difficult these days to stand up, stand out and stand firm. Most of these songs are about keeping an eternal perspective, braving the unknown and finishing strong. **CCM**



VISIT BECKAHSHAE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER

BROKEN AND BOLD

BY ANDY ARGYRAKIS

F For its tenth studio recording in what's quickly creeping up on twenty years, Seventh Day Slumber inked a new record deal with VSR Music Group/Capitol Christian Distribution and shook up its hit-making formula. Though the group's commitment to ministry is overt as ever throughout *We Are The Broken*, the music is noticeably more aggressive than it's been in the recent past, perhaps most akin to

the band's earliest days. Find out what prompted this return-to-roots dynamic and how the Dove Award-winning, multiple *Billboard* chart-topping, nearly half-a-million-album-selling act stays so humble from a conversation between front man Joseph Rojas, guitarist Jeremy Holderfield and *CCM*.

CCM: To what extent does We Are The Broken sound like your past work and what

elements are different this time around?

JEREMY HOLDERFIELD:

For this record, we've returned to our rock roots. When I sit down and write music, mostly it comes out in big, heavy riffs. Over the last couple of albums though, we were pushed to write certain types of songs and told that it had to sound a certain way. This album had no strings attached [with] no one telling us what it had to sound like.



When you hear it, you'll say, "That's the Seventh Day Slumber I remember!" There's a realness to this record. It's authentic.

CCM: *What's inspired you to remain wholeheartedly committed to ministry, even though your sales and success could've easily warranted an opportunity to cross over?*

JEREMY: Ministry is why we exist as a band. We have

plenty of accolades for our music and lots of memories from playing concerts all over the world. The truth is, success and the feeling you get while rocking out on stage isn't enough to fulfill you. It will never be enough! There's a higher calling. God has given us an opportunity to bring hope to hurting people. We get the chance to help someone give his life to Jesus. We get to be a part of families being reunited after

coming back to Christ at our concert. We get to share in people being delivered from addictions because they heard from God at our concert. Bringing hope to the hopeless is fulfilling. Getting to do that while playing music is an honor.

CCM: *In the past, the group's message has revolved around deliverance from drugs and other personal demons. How much of that theme continues these days?*

JOSEPH ROJAS: *We Are The Broken* is a record about people who have been considered broken and empty—people who have been discarded or didn't fit the mold and people who have been hurt and felt like they had no hope. It's about people who have been doubted and have doubted themselves. We go from that definition to those very same people surrendering their lives to Jesus. The same people crying out for Him to break them and put them back together in any way He sees fit. Being broken for Christ means free-falling into His arms and completely trusting Him! **CCM**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
SEVENTHDAYSLUMBER.COM.**



THE AMERICAN BIBLE CHALLENGE

SEASON 3 KICKS OFF WITH KIRK!

BY CAROLINE LUSK

In its very first season, *The American Bible Challenge* brought in the highest viewership of any show on the Game Show Network, which launched the Bible-based competition in 2012. Hosted by Jeff Foxworthy and Kirk Franklin, the show kicked off Season 3 on May 22. *CCM* talked to Kirk about the new season, working with Jeff Foxworthy and just exactly what he's bringing to the table this time around.

CCM: Going into Season 3, what's the vibe on set?

KIRK: We're very excited to go into another season. It's going really well. The show was Emmy-nominated and the No. 1-rated show on the Game Show Network. I'm very proud to be a part of it.

CCM: How did your co-hosting gig come about?

KIRK: I already host a couple of shows on BET; but when GSN called me, at first I said no. I didn't think I could add anything to it. But

their team was diligent and listened to my ideas, and I came to see it as a great opportunity to see if we could do something really special.

CCM: So what does Kirk Franklin, the host, look like? What are you hoping to bring to the show this season?

KIRK: I think I just try to be me...just trying to bring a little swagger and fun. We want people to continue to be excited about it. The live music and interaction with the audience and choir and Jeff just makes it all so much fun.

CCM: You and Jeff make a great team. What is it like to work with him?

KIRK: He is a really cool dude. He's just opened up his world, and it's been really exciting to be a part of his life. He's very gracious with his space.

CCM: Have you learned any new Bible facts along the way?

KIRK: I learned that I don't know as much as I thought I did! If you think you know the Bible, you'd be surprised! *CCM*



CATCH SEASON 3 OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE CHALLENGE ON GSN. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE!](#)

PRAYING THE PROMISES

AN EXCERPT FROM *PRAYING CIRCLES AROUND THE LIVES OF YOUR CHILDREN*

BY MARK BATTERSON

PUBLISHED BY THOMAS NELSON

If you are feeling overwhelmed or you don't know where to begin, pray the promises of God. It's almost like downloading updates to your operating system. You are simultaneously upgrading your conscience so it is fine-tuned to the Holy Spirit and Holy Scripture. And that's what enables you as a parent to let go and let God—when you are confident that your children will let their conscience be their guide.

Our most powerful prayers are hyperlinked to the promises of God. When we know we are praying the promises of God, we can pray with holy confidence. We don't have to second-guess ourselves, because we know that God's Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11). This doesn't mean we can claim the promises of God out of context or claim them for someone else. But our problem as believers isn't over-claiming the promises of God; it's under-claiming them. But if we stand on God's Word, God will stand by His Word.

I've prayed Luke 2:52 thousands of times for my children. And while I don't always notice the tangible evidence of God answering those prayers, I know that what goes around in prayer comes around. So I'm not surprised by the favor my kids have found at critical junctures in their lives. That's their destiny! They have to choose the straight-and-narrow path, but God is preparing good works in advance for them. My son, Parker, recently co-led a mission trip to South Africa. During the trip, one of the team members sent me a short e-mail commenting

on Parker's prophetic anointing: "Just wanted to let you know that some of your Luke 2:52 prayers are coming to fruition with Parker. Awesome being on this mission trip with him. Love that guy!"

As my children mature into adulthood, I fully expect them to experience ridiculous favor for which there is no earthly explanation. I've asked thousands of times; I expect thousands of answers! **CCM**



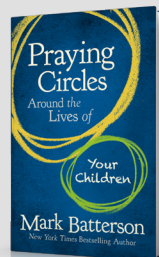
Pastor and best-selling author Mark Batterson has a surprising secret weapon to parenting: prayer.

Batterson shares a perfect blend of biblical yet practical advice that will revolutionize parents' prayer lives by giving them a guide describing seven important ways to pray for their children, such as praying for a hedge of protection and forming prayer circles.

As Batterson says, "I realize that not everyone inherited a prayer legacy like I did, but you can leave a legacy for generations to come. Your prayers have the power to shape the destiny of your children and your children's children. It's time to start circling."

+ LEARN MORE AT
**MARKBATTERSON.COM/
PRAYINGCIRCLES**

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AC

WORSHIP



CARMAN

No Plan B

(Norway Avenue Records/Capitol Christian Distribution)

FOR FANS OF:

Classic Carman, Bryan Duncan, TobyMac
★★★★☆

Following a ten-year break, Carman returns with a bang as he channels his recent cancer diagnosis into one of his most inspired efforts ever. The multi-platinum, stadium-filling pioneer sounds vocally potent and lyrically uplifting as he switches effortlessly between personal narratives, witty character songs and emotive worship, all tied together through the winning production team of the singer/songwriter himself, Ted T and Tre' Corey.

—Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE: “No Plan B”



MIKESCHAIR

All or Nothing (Curb)

FOR FANS OF:

Rush of Fools, Tenth Avenue North
★★★★☆

With hits in the rearview mirror such as “Let The Waters Rise,” Mikeschair fans have known there were more great melodies ahead. Several show up on the band’s latest album, *All or Nothing*. With strong pop constructs like, “Everything You Say” and “All or Nothing,” Mikeschair is destined for further radio success; yet intimate tracks such as the Matthew West collaboration “People Like Me” give the album considerable weight as well.

—Matt Conner

WE LIKE:

“People Like Me”



VARIOUS ARTISTS

Passion: Take It All

(sixsteps records)

FOR FANS OF:

Bethel Music, Chris Tomlin, Jesus Culture
★★★★☆

The most sought after worship recording each year due to a gold-certified roster including Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Matt Redman and Kristian Stanfill, *Take It All* incorporates hip-pop elements (albeit occasionally too “trendy” for the context) and delivers another sing-along set list destined to become tomorrow’s modern church standards. Helmed by Nathan Nockels, *Passion* translates the presence of live worship to tape better than any corporate recording available.

—Andrew Greer

WE LIKE: “Never Gonna’ Let Me Go” (Kristian Stanfill)



FELLOWSHIP CREATIVE

Running To Follow

(Fellowship Creative)

FOR FANS OF: *Passion Worship, Desperation Band, Hillsong United*
★★★★☆

The latest offering from the group based out of Fellowship Church, gives a lot of heart but fails to come together musically. “Jesus My King” displays creativity and passion, but “Future Back” is awkward and feels juvenile. On “Home,” the style is better, but it falls short lyrically. There are a few good moments on this record; but as a whole, it feels incredibly disjointed.

—Grace S. Aspinwall

WE LIKE:

“Jesus My King”

**THE MUSEUM*****What We Stand For***

(BEC Recordings)

FOR FANS OF:

One Sonic Society, Luminate, Esterlyn

★★★★☆

Authentic and beautiful, the newest project by The Museum is perfection. The band's lyrical maturity has grown since their previous record, especially evident on, "Forever Free," where the bridge is the strongest moment on the album. The Atlanta-based band also finds their niche on "Carry My Heart" and "Give Me Faith," proving they are no one-hit wonder.

–Grace S. Aspinwall

WE LIKE: "Forever Free"

**SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER*****We Are the Broken***

(VSR Music Group)

FOR FANS OF:

Red, P.O.D., Disciple

★★★★☆

Rocking and with a definite sense of purpose, *We Are The Broken* offers a wall of heavy sound and lyrics designed to reach hurting souls. The early P.O.D. influence and street-level urgency manage to make this project more than just another generic heavy Christian rock album. Plenty of sound, a little thin on artistry, but an album with a healing message and head-banging rhythms.

–Bert Saraco

WE LIKE:

"We Are The Broken"

**WE ARE THE MONKS*****We Are The Monks***

(Independent)

FOR FANS OF: Mumford

and Sons, Matt Maher,

★★★☆☆

Formerly half of independent duo Monk and Neagle, Trent Monk returns with his wife, Shellie, as new duo We Are The Monks. Their folk-infused acoustic style is pretty, but the album is slightly boring and lacks the lyrical intimacy of Monk and Neagle's previous efforts. The duo does show some flair and creativity on the Ed Cash-produced "Rise," which is the standout track on the record.

–Grace S. Aspinwall

WE LIKE: "Rise"

**KYE KYE*****Fantasize*** (Valga)

FOR FANS OF:

Polica, Wild Ones

★★★★☆

Kye Kye set high expectations with their dreamy synth-pop on the band's 2011 debut, *Young Love*. Now they've bested themselves with the stellar follow-up, *Fantasize*, a well-produced set (Chad Howat from Paper Route) that calls to mind Wild Ones or CHVRCHES. The winner here is the whimsical "Honest Affection," but the band haunts on songs like "Dreams (2am)."

–Matt Conner

WE LIKE:

"Honest Affection"



KB

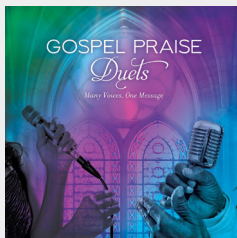
100 EP (Reach Records)
FOR FANS OF:

Trip Lee, Lecrae, Flame
★★★★☆

A mainstay collaborator with label-mates Trip Lee, Lecrae and Pro, the Florida-based Reach Records rapper further colors a developing discography with his poignant personal testimony from the brink of suicide to the pinnacle of Christian hip-hop. Lyrically, *100* explores the broader Kingdom of God perspectives, while musically, KB's modern mix-tape projects chic urban manipulations securing his place as one of gospel music's burgeoning in-demand artists.

—Andrew Greer

WE LIKE:
“Kamikaze”
featuring Prisca



VARIOUS ARTISTS
Gospel Praise Duets:
Many Voices, One
Message

(Rendezvous Music)

FOR FANS OF:
Mary Mary, Jonathan
Butler, Tamela Mann
★★★★☆

A dozen multi-artist collaborations grace this gospel compilation. Winning combos include vocalist/guitarist Jonathan Butler with sax-man Kirk Whalum on “Falling In Love With Jesus,” along with David & Tamela Mann’s “Heaven (The Love Song).”

—Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE:
“Praying For Peace” by
Richard Smallwood Ft.
Lalah Hathaway



THE OAK RIDGE BOYS
Boys Night Out

(Cleopatra Records)

FOR FANS OF:
Gaither Vocal Band,
Ronnie Milsap, The
Charlie Daniels Band
★★★★☆

Believe it or not, The Oak Ridge Boys have never released a full-length concert CD of the quartet’s greatest hits, which, considering their six-decade stretch that’s logged more than 40 million album sales, is certainly long overdue. But the country/southern gospel stalwarts more than make up for lost time thanks to superb performances of “American Made,” “Thank God For Kids,” “Elvira,” “Bobbie Sue” and many other classics clad in their textbook harmonies.

—Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE:
“American Made”



CELTIC WOMAN
Emerald: Musical Gems

(Manhattan Records)

FOR FANS OF:
Enya, Clannad, IONA
★★★★☆

Standards, hymns, show tunes and inspirational classics abound on the latest Celtic Woman release, which once again finds the Irish troupe soaring with ethereal vocal harmonies and classically inspired arrangements. “Amazing Grace” and “You Raise Me Up” are among the spiritually-minded highlights, though the ladies send shivers with an impassioned performance of Simon & Garfunkel’s bedrock, “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

—Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE:
“Bridge Over Troubled
Water”

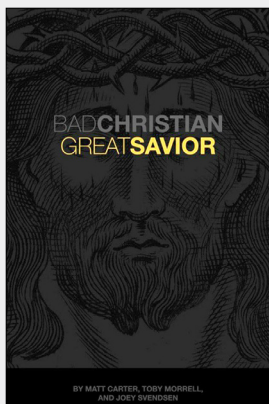
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BAD CHRISTIAN, GREAT SAVIOR

Written by *Matt Carter* (Emery Guitarist), *Toby Morrell* (Emery Guitarist/Vocalist), *Joey Svendsen* (Seacoast Church Pastor)

Emery fans are already clued in, and the rest of us are likely to catch up soon on the

band's exciting activities. *BadChristian* is the name of the new website and record label from Matt Carter, Toby Morrell and Joey Svendsen. Now their creative ventures include a new book, *Bad Christian, Great Savior*.

Don't be put off by the name. The book, like the rest of the trio's ventures, is inviting, vulnerable and meaningful for anyone who longs for more than the routine of religion. In fact, as Svendsen explains, the hope is that the book might become a resource for the church to encourage real community and life change.

CCM: Do you remember when you first wanted to become this vulnerable on a large-scale level—to just open up about your story and life and do away with industry concerns of image and so on?

Joey: I'm not sure if it's safe to say that we "always want to be vulnerable on a large-scale." It's often scary, humiliating and not "politically correct." We just can't get it out of our heads that this is what we are supposed to do. Second Corinthians 11:30 says, "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness." Later in the same letter, Paul says, "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). This is after he asked God

to take something away that God specifically sent to keep him from being conceited.

Honestly, as we set out to do *BadChristian*, our vision was continually refined; and these things went on the top of the list: we don't want to be guarded, keep our sins hidden and not be willing to make mistakes on our podcasts and blog posts. Why would we? So we could keep looking good so people will be drawn to us more than our Savior? That doesn't do anyone a bit of good. We may be a little extreme with this, but we are hoping to be used for major change in the church. The "system" needs a major jolting, and we're ready to take one for the team. At least, we hope we're ready.

CCM: Where did the name *BadChristian* come in?

Joey: We got some marketing advice when our blog was still titled "Un-learning." The fella read through our old blog posts and said, "Seems like a common theme is Jesus is good, Christians aren't so good. Why not call yourselves 'BadChristian?'" Right when he said this we knew that was it. It was kind of one of those "Why didn't we think of that? That's so obvious!" moments.

CCM: A lot of times it seems vulnerability invites other folks to be just as open. Are you hearing similar stories once you begin to share your own?

Joey: Yes, you just wouldn't believe it. The emails pour in, and it seems to be quite freeing for people. People who have accepted Christ only think that they want to hide their sin. Deep down, they do not. That's contrary to what God would have. We have such a great Savior who was made a public, grotesque spectacle of all the sins of the whole world, triumphing over sin once and for all. And we're supposed to cower in the dark, keeping things hidden so we can steal some of Jesus' heroics? No thank you.

—Matt Conner



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EMERY AND BADCHRISTIAN, VISIT BADCHRISTIAN.COM.

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IPHONE ONLY DAVID MOLNAR SHARES TIPS FOR TAKING THE PERFECT IPHONE PHOTO

BY CAROLINE LUSK

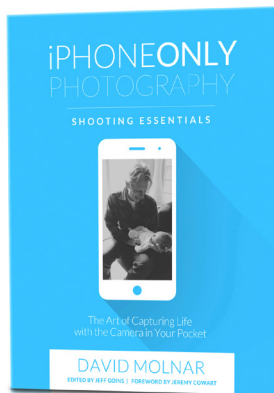
If you own any Christian albums, chances are good that David Molnar is the photographer behind many of those album covers. MercyMe, Skillet, Hawk Nelson, Colton Dixon (the list goes on!) are but a few of his photo credits. Now, the seasoned photographer is sharing his secrets to capturing the perfect photo, using nothing but an iPhone.

"I believe we all have an important personal story to share. Maybe our stories aren't for the masses, but they are certainly for our loved ones and their future generations. If we don't document our personal story, those memories may slowly slip away and be forgotten," says David. "The best camera in the world is the one that's always in your pocket. I wrote *iPhone Only Photography* to help people tell a better story with the camera they most likely already have."

David has made available a condensed, free version of the book. A portion of proceeds from the sale of the full version will aid KnowThinkAct, a non-profit organization that develops and empowers community leaders to end extreme poverty in their communities. [CCM](#)

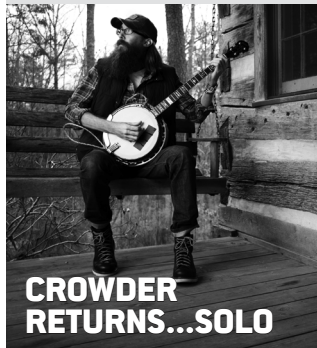
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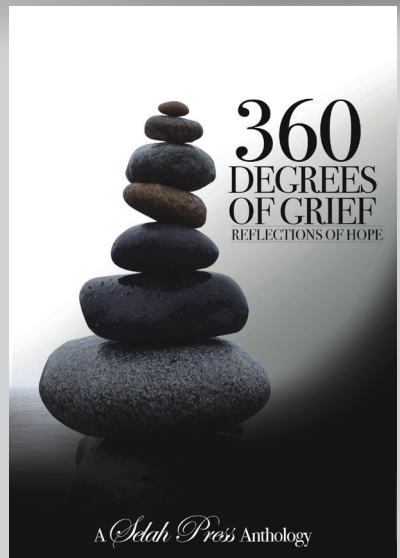
- GOTEK RECORDS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS
- DANNY GOKEY
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David Sanford, Corban University ”



360 Degrees of Grief is available in Paperback, Kindle and Nook editions from 360DegreesBooks.com, Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

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