

CEEM

*Jason Gray*  
PEACE IN THE  
WAITING

**CENTRIC WORSHIP**  
FOR THE BRIDE AND KING

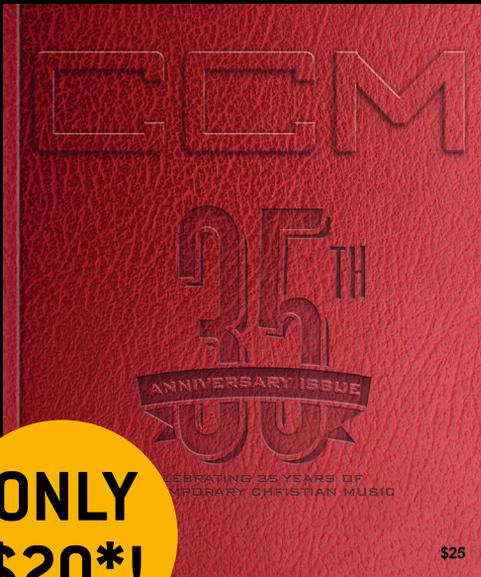
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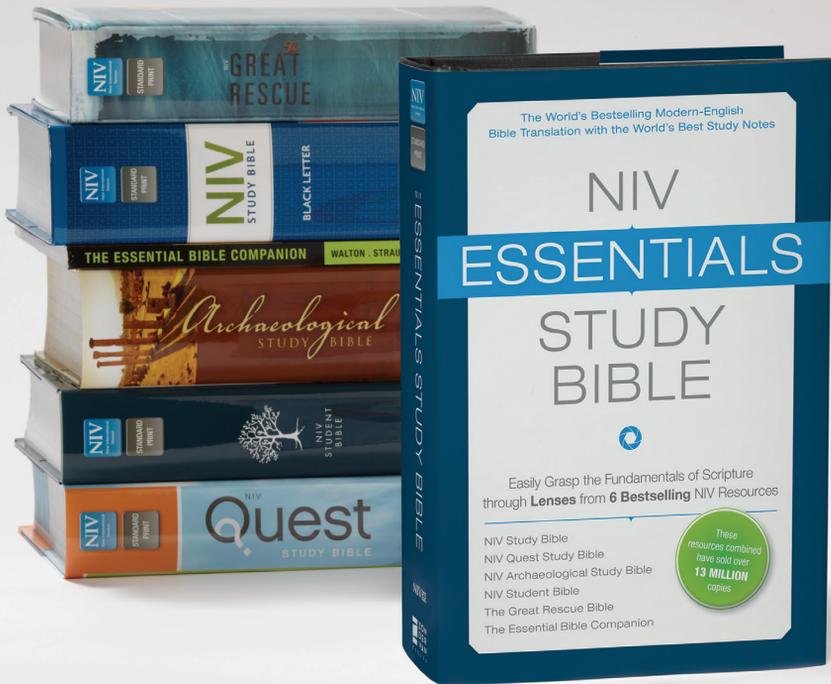
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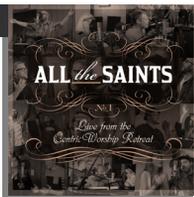


ON THE COVER:

**Jason Gray**  
Peace in the Waiting

### Centric Worship

For the Bride and King



### Vota

Love found them



### Shonlock

The night he'll never forget



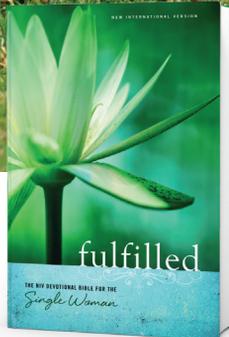
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Winter Jam Part 1



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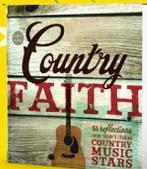
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**When I'm in pain, the last thing I want to hear is** that "God will work all things for good." "God has a reason." "God will use this."

When I'm hurting, I don't want to rationalize my pain away in view of a grander scheme. And somehow, I don't think God intends for us to do so.

In our fallen world, pain, sorrow and loss are guarantees. They are the result of sin, of humanity. I don't think God ever wants to see sin rationalized. Rather, He sent His son to reconcile and redeem.

For those of us in pain at this moment, perhaps we should shift our focus. Feel the pain. Sit in the ashes awhile. Job did. Jason Gray is. We can.

As Jason Gray's cover story reveals, he, too, is among the ashes. We can be among the ashes. We're allowed to need. And when we do, I believe that God meets us there, His tears mingling with our own.

As we crawl toward Jesus, meeting Him there, He comes to us—not to teach us a lesson, but to comfort us, wait with us and gently remind us that even this has already been won.

You don't need to figure out the purpose for your pain. God already has.

For now, it's time to wait and be. As Jason so beautifully says on his latest album,

*Just sit with me in the ashes heap/*

*Together we can pray for peace to the One acquainted with our grief...*



*Caroline Lusk*

**Caroline Lusk**  
Editor, CCM Digital



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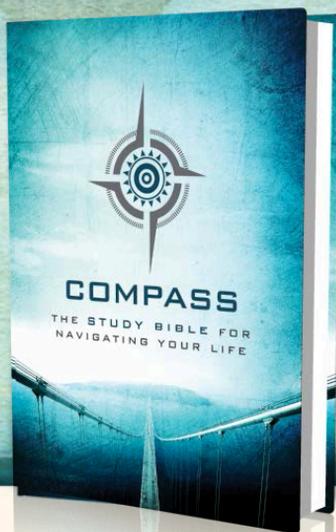


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Equally innovative, Grammy Award-winning rapper Lecrae turned in an electric set list of mainstream-friendly hip-hop grooves off *Church Clothes Vol. 2*, replete with messages of redemption after living out his younger years embattled in drugs and abuse.

From the inaugural 1995 tour, originally called January Jam, to 2014, NewSong proved just how timeless they are with songs from their most recent album, *Swallow The Ocean*, alongside the classic "Arise My Love."

Check out the rest of our coverage on Winter Jam 2014 in the very next issue of CCM!





COMPILED BY  
ANDY ARGYRAKIS

**1** & **2** Bethel Music's Steffany Gretzinger and Matt Stinton take a walk down the beach to prepare for the *Tides* album photo shoot on the coast of central California. During the same shoot, the worship troupe's Jeremy Riddle takes in the extraordinary views with his family.

**3** **4** & **5** Road-warrior singer/songwriter Dara Maclean performs with Casting Crowns, poses with fans wearing her T-shirts after a show and still finds some time to celebrate a snow day with her husband.



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# ELLIE HOLCOMB

BY CAROLINE LUSK

Learning to be free and walking in truth...

It's a life mantra to which Ellie Holcomb aspires. Daughter of legendary producer Brown Bannister, the gifted singer/songwriter is entering the music industry on her own

3.4.2014



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CAPITOL

accord with her debut album, *As Sure As the Sun*. Honest and compelling, the record reveals a young mother who continues to learn how to surrender, trust and be a daughter of the King.

### LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER...

Dad's been in the music business since there was a music business. I grew up in the studio and thought his job was so cool. I loved listening to the stuff he would bring home. But, the hours are pretty demanding. He missed out on a lot of our childhood; but halfway through his life, he realized he was missing out and moved his studio home. It changed the way he ran his life. God was restoring the years that the locusts had eaten. I love to be with him and respect him more than anything.

### PERFECTION REVELATION...

I'm kind of a recovering perfectionist. My natural tendency is to want to perform, which landed me in intensive counseling. I kind of became a liar—first to myself and then to everyone else. I always said, "I'm good, I'm fine," when I was falling apart on the inside. Eventually, I began to believe my counselor, who said that God sees all of me and loves me and it's okay not to be okay. Music exposed a lot of my dysfunction and helped me turn to God in the depths of sorrow. I hope I could play some part in helping anyone know the joy of being fully known and loved.

### DIVINE INSPIRATION

I think a lot of the songs on the record have come from walking through this hard season of learning to be free and walking in truth. My prayer and hope is that God's Word that is woven into these songs will accomplish the purposes for which it was sent. His Word is true. His heart is to encourage and refresh the hearts of His children.



**SEE THE STORY BEHIND ELLIE'S FIRST SINGLE, "THE BROKEN BEAUTIFUL," AND AN EXCLUSIVE LIVE PERFORMANCE HERE!**

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# Jason Gray

PEACE IN THE  
WAITING

BY CAROLINE LUSK

**S**o Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD, and afflicted Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

*Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity?" Job 2:7-9*

*Just sit with me in the ashes here  
Together we can pray for peace to the One  
acquainted with our grief*

—Jason Gray

Among the ashes... For centuries, the ash heap has been a place of mourning, repentance and waiting. It is where grief finds company, if not solace. It is where uncertainty waits for absolution; and, in this mound that remains after the burning, it is where the faithful retain their integrity as they wait for clarity.

Job waited there.

Jason Gray waits there still.

But like Job thousands of years ago, Jason is not wasting in the waiting. Rather, in this land of in-between, this land that offers shelter to those journeying to peace, Jason is watching, growing, learning how to love and—even more so—how to be loved. And he's putting it all to song.

His latest album, *Love Will Have the Final Word*, is a brutally honest reflection of pain, joy, disappointment and hope. It is a reflection of life. Of love...

"I hope people walk away from this record with a sense they are loved very, very deeply," says Jason.

When asked if he, too, feels loved, Jason pauses. Then, after several seconds, he answers, "I think I do. I talk like I do. Yes, I think I do. I think I'm a grace guy. My mentor has helped me to see ways in which I'm very legalistic in my thinking and the demands I've put on myself and the shame I so often feel. For years and years, I'd get to the church

where I was playing and would park in the furthest parking spot. In a way, it was a way for me to act out not being entitled, and for a season it was a significant and good thing for me to do. Now it's just not practical, but if I don't do it there's a part of me that feels pretty bad. It's a kind of legalism. It takes what was a humble, worshipful offering and makes it legalistic. It has to mean that I struggle with believing it [that I am loved]; but I think I do."

Love is the subject of deep exploration on this album, not unlike Jason's previous work. But here, there's something more raw and even painful about the revelations of what loving someone else really looks like.

"'If You Wanna Love Someone' is [a song] inspired by a Keith Miller quote: 'The way to love someone is to gently run your finger across the surface of their soul and when you find a crack, pour love into it.'

"I haven't loved that well in my life," Jason continues. "I've been better at pointing out the cracks than pouring love into them. I believe God is changing that in me. The most transformational thing is to simply allow ourselves to be loved. That's the goal of everything I do in this next year. I know that if I can participate in helping people open up their hearts to the possibility of being loved, so many things will happen."

Jason's own journey has been one of discovering the cracks in his heart and soul under the guise of his mentor, George.

"One of the things George told me three years ago was that I needed to get acquainted with my failure," Jason says. "In everything I've done I've tried so hard not to fail, clinging to a hope that I could justify myself. The problem with that is that everyone else is going to get measured the same way. A man acquainted with his failure is acquainted with Jesus and acquainted with grace. That man is able to give grace and love to others."

Through his own journey toward grace, Jason discovered all the ways he had attempted to cover or hide his inadequacies.

“I didn’t even know I had all these hiding places. I didn’t know I was hiding from the Lord in ways that I was trying to honor Him. In a way I was hiding from the intimacy of the Lord by being unwilling to fail and to need Him.

“I’m having to learn how to forgive in ways I haven’t had to learn before,” Jason continues. “I’ve had tricks to help me forgive. Usually if I could make myself understand why a person was doing something, I could get there. But right now, I’m having to understand how to forgive situations where I have no idea why someone would forgive.”

But as is often the case, life didn’t bestow upon Jason any rationale or explanation for the pain in his life. Rather, pain was pain, and it left its mark.

“That’s good for me,” Jason says. “I want to protect and preserve myself, but the only way you can protect yourself is being guarded and hardening your heart.”

As this record reflects, this was most definitely not a season of protecting and numbing; this has been a season of mining the pain, the truth, and trusting God to deal with what rose to the surface.

“A lot of these songs are very painful,” Jason affirms. “Pain is a very holy place in our lives because it is pain that drives our deepest wounds to the surface. The Lord sees and understands the pain that drives us to be the people we don’t want to be, and He has great compassion. I hope the painful songs will help people feel their feelings and begin to heal.”

The healing has begun in Jason’s life, but it is not a finished process. With tremendous restraint and respect, Jason has refrained from sharing details of this difficult season of his own. Prompted by words he once heard, he has chosen to allow this chapter to close before sharing it with the world.

“If you’re talking about it [pain] in the midst of it, it’s as if you’re asking your audience for something—to support you or feel bad for you,” Jason says. “I didn’t feel at liberty to write from that place yet, so I wrote around it.”

In so doing, Jason has preserved the integrity of the work God is doing in his own heart and allowed the authenticity of pain, healing, love and sorrow to shape his words and guide his steps.

“I believe now I’m becoming the man I’ve always wanted to be,” he says. “It’s costly.”

Much like Job paid a steep price to retain his own integrity and faith, so, too, is Jason. But with each lesson learned, each chapter begun, undone and begun again, among the ashes or among kings, the lessons of righteousness, the burden of integrity and the cleansing power of pain burn away the chaff, revealing the masterpiece of a soul God has been shaping all along. 



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# SHE *and* HIM

FOR THE BRIDE AND KING...THIS IS CENTRIC WORSHIP

BY CAROLINE LUSK

**R**everence is hard to come by today. In a world wracked with cynicism, poisoned by hypocrisy and governed by profit, the concept of faith and the foundations of Christianity are frequently marginalized.

But in a world that has distanced itself from God and truth, the promises of the Bible still stand true: "When you seek Me, you will find Me when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

Since 2005, Centricity Records has been doing just that. Earnestly seeking, tirelessly pressing the boundaries of creativity and artistry, they have stood apart within the Christian industry not only for their talented roster but for their diligence in creating music that bridges the gap between faith and a distanced world.

They understand that a darkened world isn't going to change without the truth. They know that the only way to serve the Kingdom is to get the word out about the King because they know that those who know Him, love

Him. Those who love Him, adore Him. Those who adore Him, can worship Him.

As with most things, the only way to reach and teach is to speak the language of those you're trying to reach. That's what Centricity has done from day one; and today, they are presenting their offering to a new audience, the church, through their new division, CentricWorship.

"Our goal is to publish songs that the church can and will use because the songs are applicable to their ministries," says music industry veteran and Executive Producer/CentricWorship Vice President Steve Rice, who took the helm of Centricity Publishing two years ago.

Rice neither minces words nor leaves room to question the intent of CentricWorship. It was created for the church—to enable her to better reach and teach and love. As with all things, the best way to do any of that is to speak the language of those who will hear. That's what CentricWorship and the writers

who have come together to create this new offering have sought to do.

These writers do not have a simple task, nor one to approach with anything less than the utmost humility, transparency and expectancy. Such qualities have imbued the many songwriters, worship leaders, lovers of God who joined hands to bring to life this vision of inspired worship.

For one week, Steve and twelve fellow songwriters, worship leaders and musicians, including Michael Farren (Pocket Full Of Rocks, writer of "Let It Rain"), Jared Anderson (Desperation Band, writer of "Great I Am" and "Amazed"), Henry Sealy (PlanetShakers), Seth Mosley (*Billboard's* No. 1 Christian producer of 2013 and No. 3 Christian writer of 2013), Anthony Skinner (writer of "Your Love Never Fails"), Mia Fieldes (Hillsong), James Tealy (writer of Kari Jobe's hit "We Are"), and others, retreated to the Cascade Mountains to pray, seek, worship and write. What was birthed there is but the beginning of a wellspring of songs for the throne room.

"Scripture directs us to walk in the Spirit," says Steve, "and if we are to daily walk in the Spirit, shouldn't we then be writing in the Spirit? But what does that mean? I think today we often refer to that as being in the presence of God. And that was our goal for the retreat—to invite the presence of God. 'Draw near to Me, and I will draw near to you.' We wanted to write songs from that place."

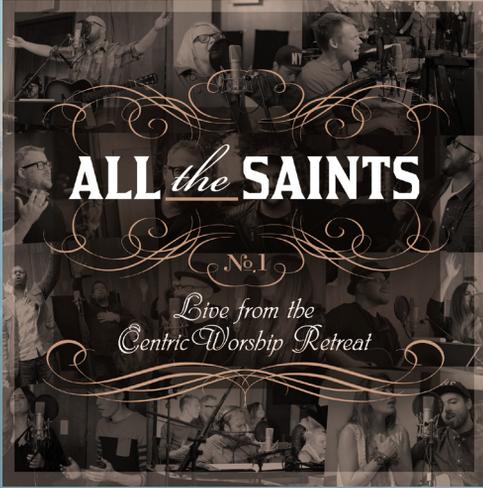


Which is exactly what they did.

"We were all in a studio together, threw a bunch of pillows on the floor and had a time of worship. *All The Saints* was birthed out of our time with God. We captured a real experience," says Steve.

Of the 18 new songs, plus a few recreations of classics that were all recorded in that week in the mountains, CentricWorship's first release, produced by Farren, contains eight tracks, including the title track, "All The Saints," written by Tealy, Farren and Seeley, which includes a powerful new chorus added to the rich hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy."

"When we heard this new rendition for the first time, all we could say was, 'Wow,'" says Rice. "The new chords underneath the hymn, combined with the new chorus, bring a modern freshness to this time-honored standard. It moves my heart every time I hear it."



When it all comes down, that's the goal. CentricWorship is about moving hearts toward Him and equipping those hearts with the words for the One who is worthy of our worship.

"I think the younger generation hears the term *worship* and immediately thinks of music. Thirty years ago, that's not what we thought of," Steve shares. "To some people *worship* has become a genre as opposed to a verb. Because of the way many worship songs have been taken to the stage, the younger church is tending to perform a worship song rather than using it in their worship. Lots of church-goers enjoy watching worship artists rather than worshipping. And while there are a lot of positives from music appealing to a wider spectrum of people, it seems that to

*“We see worship  
as an active verb,  
not a passive verb  
and certainly not  
a genre of music.”*

many people, worship has become a genre and not a verb.”

The heart for that younger generation played out with the very young writers who were invited to participate in the creative retreat. “Overwhelm Me” is a pure, captivating song written by 19-year-old Riley Erin, whose clear vocals penetrate the heart of the listener, regardless of age, inviting him or her to linger and soak in the presence of God. It’s not a performance; it’s an experience—it’s worship.

Echoed in “Nothing But the Blood,” written by worship leader Corey Voss, that notion of selflessness and vertical focus intersect with memorable melodies and time-tested hymn-like sonic nuances to make this an instant classic now and for years to come.

The sound of the album is both eclectic and Americana. It represents world-class musicianship, while remaining accessible to church musicians around the world. Doctrinally sound, the songs have substance.

“For us, this is about doing something that will serve the kingdom of God,” says Steve. “We see worship as an active verb, not a passive verb and certainly not a genre of music. We are simply Christian music publishers, and we want to publish songs that proclaim and exalt the name of the Lord we serve. The songs are applicable not because they’re the hot new songs but because they will help people worship and take them to a new place with the Lord.”

A place of grace instead of greed.

A place of surrender instead of skepticism.

A place of honesty instead of hypocrisy.

“If we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. If we’re not drawing near, we won’t be touched by Him. If we’re not touched, we’re not changed,” says Steve. “If we can take a step closer to Him in our worship services, He heals us, speaks to us, changes us. That’s how our week changes. It’s not just about Sunday. We want these songs to be sung in the shower, in the car, when waking up, when cooking...If we can put prayers and Scripture into people’s mouths and minds, people can take that step toward Him.”

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# Stonlock

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



# NEVER FORGET

## THE NIGHT THAT CHANGED SHONLOCK'S LIFE FOREVER

BY CAROLINE LUSK

**W**e have become a culture of memory makers. Everyone's taking pictures of, well, everything. We're amassing a dynamic living history, assigning meaning to every moment.

And while it can be a beautiful thing to retain those images of life, we run the risk of losing the impact of those points in time that are truly unforgettable and life-changing. Soon, even the greatest moments become another tweet, Facebook post or Instagram upload.

Shonlock is out to change that.

His faith journey has taken him from the pinnacle of mainstream music, working with artists such as Aaliyah and R. Kelly, to the passionate pursuit of painting the world a richer place through his creative gifts and faith.

And it all hinged on one moment—one perfect moment on a night that will remain imprinted in the memory of his heart forever.

"It was something I will never forget," Shonlock recalls.

The lead-up to that unforgettable night began years prior. While garnering the respect and attention of the music industry for his choreography, dancing and back-up skills, he got a call to work with a, at the time, little-known band in Atlanta called Grits.

"That was the first time I'd experienced what Christ could look like in the culture of hip-hop. Church had never looked like that to me," he shares. "I was on tour and had a conversation with Verbs, who shared the gospel. It was like a weight was being lifted off of me. God was speaking through him.

I know lots of people have lots of different experiences. But everyone knows that this is the moment when God met you. That is the heart of *A Night to Remember*."

From beginning to end, the album is a sweeping sonic tale, chronicling the journey of any person making his or her way to God.

"We all start somewhere. But we all eventually get to a point of saying, 'Ok, God. I'm tired. I can't do it on my own.' That is the heartbeat of the album, showing that we all have the same highs and lows."

That sentiment laid the groundwork for the first single from the record, "Walk on Water."

"Everyone has tear ducts," he says. "Rich, poor, high, low...we all experience pain. No one is exempt. The key is keeping your eyes on God, knowing He'll be with you."

From that point, the songs play out as though a storyteller is delivering an epic tale. The themes of disappointment and heartbreak, running from truth and ultimately finding salvation reconcile in a perfect cadence that coalesces into the kind of story that doesn't let you go. Which is exactly what Shonlock intends.

Over the years, as his personal ministry and solo career have grown and deepened, Shonlock has realized the potential he had to change the lives of other young men in need of the grace he has found. Listening to the prompting inside his heart, he began mentoring the young men in his church.

"God put it in my heart to be the middle ground between these young men and the elders," Shonlock explains. "There's an in-

between; a lot of them didn't have fathers or someone who could talk to them about the things they were dealing with. My goal is to help them avoid the pitfalls through Scripture and life lessons."

It's not just other young men he sees that compel him but the pieces of himself he sees within each of these younger guys.

"I was dancing and doing choreography and trying to master that gift and talent," he says. "TobyMac saw that gift and helped nurture it. Since I decided to give my life over to Christ, I get joy out of seeing people find their purpose."

Suffice it to say, his joy runneth over. As he transparently chronicles his path to freedom in Christ through song, he reminds himself and others of the awe of that moment when you realize your life is no longer your own,

but in the hands of One more awesome than any words can say.

Shonlock is helping others create a new history and new memories. Not just a random post, not a snapshot that disappears at the click of a mouse—these are the memories that become the building blocks of our lives.

With a passion and fire to share the story of the unparalleled miracle of salvation, Shonlock offers a sonic tribute to that moment when our hearts became part of an eternal kingdom—that moment that will stay with us forever, and change us for eternity.

That is the kind of memory to celebrate.  
That is the night to remember. [CCM](#)

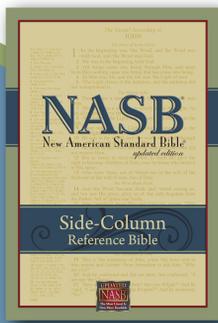


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# VOTA

## LOVE FOUND THEM

BY CAROLINE LUSK

In the last few years, *human trafficking* has become a buzzword of sorts within the Christian music industry. Nearly every artist seems to have ties to an organization committed to fighting this human travesty.

Unfortunately, the entire issue runs the risk of inducing compassion fatigue. In other words, as people are increasingly inundated with the term, it's likely that concern will soon become vague cognizance and the potential for action will deteriorate.

But what if the idea of abolition of human trafficking became more than words?

What if advocacy became more than a suggestion?

That's exactly what the band Vota is hoping for. When their latest album, *Love Found Me*, was nearing completion, the band encountered Tiny Hands International, a Christian organization committed to fighting poverty and injustice in the world.

As the band learned more about their work and, in particular, the realities of human trafficking, their hearts were broken; and they decided they had to do something.





“Traffickers are targeting the poorest families in Nepal,” says Bryan Olesen, the band’s front man. “They are convincing the parents to send their children to ‘get work.’ Then they’ll take these young girls across the border and sell them to brothels in India.”

Worldwide, nearly two million children are forced into sexual exploitation at the hand of traffickers. Nepal is one of the most concentrated areas of illegal trafficking in the world. Tiny Hands International has built several border patrol stations to monitor for the transport of slaves.

“Tiny Hands has set up border monitoring stations, which are essentially wooden shacks,” says Bryan. “They are allowed to interrogate everyone coming through, and the average station rescues about 200-300 girls a year. We knew if we were going to help, it would need to be in a tangible way; so we decided to help build, support and staff five border stations for five years.”

The campaign was simple enough. Vota released their album, *Love Found Me*, and offered it for free. The caveat: before anyone downloaded the



free album, they had to watch a short video (featured below) that explains the horrendous situation in Nepal. Those who then decided to donate to the cause received not only the free album but a second album available exclusively to donors.



“Ten months in, we hit our goal,” says Bryan. “It was just such a worshipful moment to see how God provided and blessed these ideas. We will rescue about 3,000 girls a year through these five stations. That’s 15,000 in five years. The problem is bigger than we can solve, but we are making a dent in it.”

For the “little band from Lincoln, Nebraska,” as Bryan self-effacingly describes the band, that dent will be the world to so many girls and families. In the fall, the band plans to visit the stations in Nepal,

documenting the experience and capturing the goodness of God firsthand.

“We’re going to take video of everything to be able to show people, ‘We did this. You are part of it.’ We can offer people something rarely seen. We’ll show them the stations. Maybe some of our fans will think, ‘If they can do it, maybe I can do something.’”

Through their music, faith and obedience, Vota has done something very few advocates ever see actualized—they have taken real steps, seen real things come to pass that save the lives of real people.

In a world with media hype and sound bites dictating the common cultural cause of the moment, reality easily gets lost. Statistics become mere numbers and no longer represent real people. Compassion becomes obligatory and borders on legalism. For all those reasons and more, people like the members of Vota provide a wake-up call to those lulled to sleep by slogans that come up empty.

Vota reminds all of us to bring our heart back into play and gives us a step-by-step guide to do just that. [CCM](#)



**FOR MORE ABOUT THE ONGOING CAMPAIGN,  
VISIT [LOVEFOUNDME.ORG](http://LOVEFOUNDME.ORG).**

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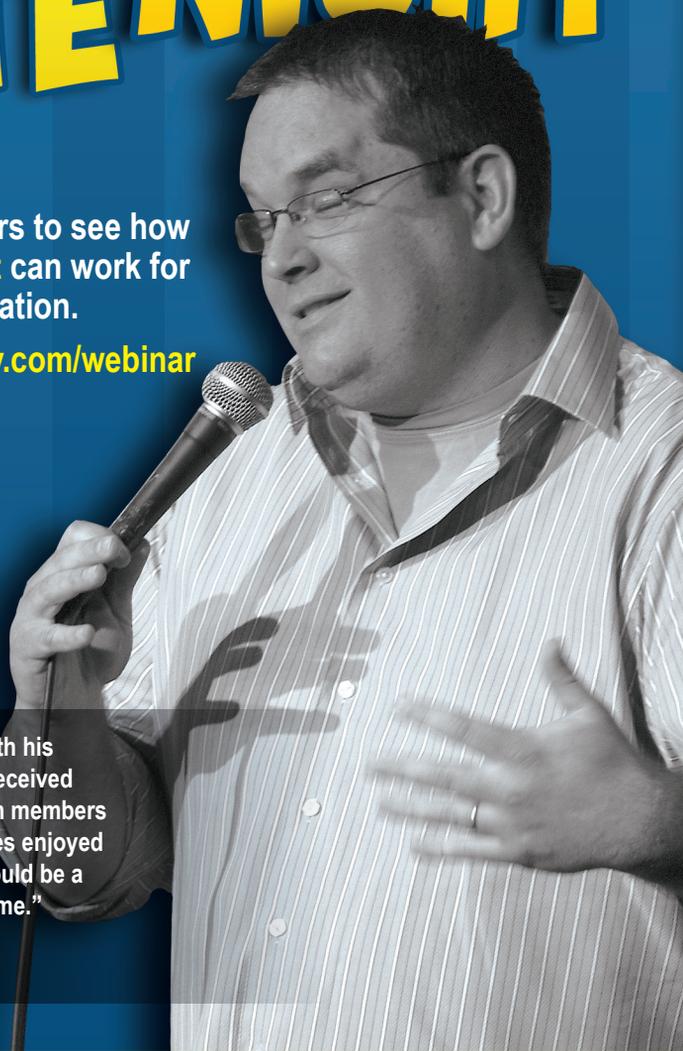
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*-Charles Davis, Place of Life Church*





# NUMBER ONE GUN

BY ANDY ARGYRAKIS

**O**ne of the most beloved post-millennial alternative/experimental rock bands has spent a lot of time apart (nine years to be exact), which makes the announcement of Number One Gun's new studio album, featuring the original members, that much sweeter.

After gaining tremendous support on Kickstarter, the guys hit the studio for the intentionally titled *This Is All We Know* (Tooth & Nail Records), picking up right where they left off, even finding a collaborative friend in Anberlin's Stephen Christian. Find out more from front man Jeff Schneeweis

about getting the wheels back in motion, his personal pre-hiatus highlight and just how permanent this comeback will be.

**CCM:** *What were you guys up to during the group's extensive time apart?*

**JEFF SCHNEEWEIS:** Well, each one of us has been



super busy either with work or other music projects. I also have been producing records full time and just moved to a different town.

**CCM:** *What prompted everyone to get back together?*

**SCHNEEWEIS:** You know, one night we were all just hanging out, and the

idea came up in a casual conversation. The next thing we knew we were making an album! The idea turned into reality so fast.

**CCM:** *How does your new music compare to Number One Gun's past, and what do you hope it will bring to the present?*

**SCHNEEWEIS:** We think *This Is All We Know* is a good representation of our ten years as a band. It has old and new sounds and is definitely our favorite album we have recorded thus far.

**CCM:** *What inspired the project's title?*

**SCHNEEWEIS:** If you stripped away everything and got to the heart of us as musicians, this album and sound is what you would find. It's kind of like an old, comfortable pair of shoes. It just feels right.

**CCM:** *What accomplishment are you most proud of from the group's pre-hiatus days?*

**SCHNEEWEIS:** We got to open for Jimmy Eat World, which was a huge honor and accomplishment for us as a band.

**CCM:** *Is the alliance of Number One Gun permanent or is this just a one-off reunion?*

**SCHNEEWEIS:** We are not sure at this point. We are trying to feel that out and see where this takes

us... **CCM**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CLICK HERE**

# JOSHUA JAMISON WORSHIP AT WORK

BY CAROLINE LUSK

**J**oshua Jamison has been all over the pages of *CCM Magazine* for the past few years. As half of the design team for the magazine, he has poured his talent and passion into these pages. At the same time, he has been leading worship at one of the largest congregations in Nashville, Tenn., participating with Campus Harvest ministries and, in his spare time, has become a husband and father.

The talented singer/songwriter and worship leader recently contributed the campaign song, "United," for *CCM's* Kickstarter effort. Now, it's his turn. He is launching a campaign to fund an EP that promises to open doors for him but even more, that will bless hearts and honor God.

*CCM* stole him away from his design work for a few minutes to get more details on the project.

***CCM: In your own words, describe what you're doing and your goal.***

**JOSHUA:** I'm hoping to join in God's work of Kingdom building through my music. The goal is that the new EP will open doors to more

worship opportunities around the world. I believe I can impact my generation for Christ through music, but I can't do it alone. I'm looking for people to partner with me to raise \$25,000 to fund the creation and release of the project.

***CCM: What's the one thing you hope people will grasp about worship through your ministry?***

**JOSHUA:** I want people to come into more freedom concerning the worship of God in the church. I think you truly get to know people's potential as worshipers when you see them at a football game or a concert. They come alive. I find that this kind of praise is not always found in the church or directed to God in light of all that He is, let alone what He has done.

We were created to worship God the Father freely, with our everything. The more revelation we have about Jesus Christ, the greater our worship will be. I'm not talking about head knowledge; I'm talking about life experiences with Jesus. Getting to "know" Him. I can always tell who knows Jesus

when I lead worship because they're free.

***CCM: Has becoming a father changed your perspective on your heavenly Father?***

**JOSHUA:** Yes! I remember realizing that I loved my daughter for no reason. At the time, she was still in the womb, and I hadn't seen how cute she was or anything; yet I found myself in love with her, thinking of her, caring for her, preparing for her. I asked myself why I loved her and concluded that it must be because of the image of God in me. He loved, thought, cared and prepared for me before I ever knew He existed. This made me marvel at His love for us. I loved my daughter because she was mine. It was unconditional love. *CCM*

**THE EP CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MARCH 25TH. TO JOIN THE EFFORT OR TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [JOSHUAJAMISON.COM](http://JOSHUAJAMISON.COM) OR [IGG.ME/AT/JOSHJAMSEP](http://IGG.ME/AT/JOSHJAMSEP).**



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## **LAURA TURNER** - [lauraturnermusic.com](http://lauraturnermusic.com)

With Laura's debut release on a major label, she thought she had it all – tours, videos, a loyal and growing fan base, great reviews -including this from Billboard magazine: "Laura Turner shows vast emotional range and crisp purity," But something was missing..until now. Read all about it at Laura's website.



## **CHAD MARVIN** - [www.chadmarvin.com](http://www.chadmarvin.com)

Chad Marvin is a singer / songwriter with a powerful story of triumph over addiction. He has written with UMPG's Final Four Music in Nashville and currently serves as Worship Pastor at The Summit Church in Boise. He releases his sophomore project this fall titled "PSALM"



## **THE HARDCASTLES** - [brittonhardcastle.wix.com/thehardcastles](http://brittonhardcastle.wix.com/thehardcastles)

Two spectrums of worship collide in Britton and Carrie Hardcastle's writing styles to create both an intimate and full-hearted worship experience. The couple has a three song demo out now and is working towards recording a full album of original corporate worship songs.



## **CASEY DANIELS** - [caseydanielsmusic.net](http://caseydanielsmusic.net)

I'm a regular guy from Panama City, Florida. What does my acoustic EP "When The Seas Awake" sound like? Think: harbors, ships, oceans. The songs believe that God is greater than our circumstances. My message to everyone who hears my music: Sorrows will fade, and GOD will stand forever.



## **DOUG MATHIS** - [dougmathismusic.com](http://dougmathismusic.com)

Doug Mathis is an American Original with a heart to write and sing songs about his beloved country, his family and his faith. Performing all over America, Doug has a deep appreciation for our nations heritage and the sacrifices made to make us free.



## **RECKLESS MERCY** - [recklessmercy.com](http://recklessmercy.com)

Reckless Mercy is unleashing a fresh and powerful Americana/Folk Rock sound upon the Christian music scene today. It's raw, yet refined. It's confronting, yet comforting. It's the sound of truth, the sound of vulnerability, the sound of the reality of our lives confronted by the reality of who Jesus is.

AC

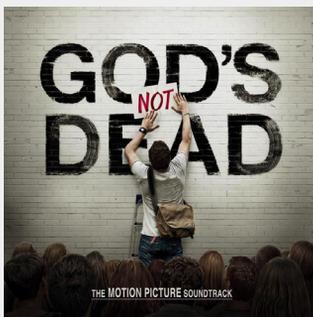
**JASON GRAY*****Love Will Have the Final Word****(Centricity Music)*FOR FANS OF: Josh Wilson,  
Shaun Groves

★★★★☆

Redemption resonates through this project with beautiful results. Jason's vocal is spot-on and hopeful. The lyrics are rich and theologically sound, nuanced by the presence of co-writers such as Jason Ingram and Nichole Nordeman. By far his strongest work, the record is steeped in love and hope, finished off with a fresh fervor for truth, compassion and grace.

—Grace S. Aspinwall

WE LIKE: "Even This Will Be Made Beautiful"

**VARIOUS ARTISTS*****God's Not Dead: The Motion Picture Soundtrack****(inPop Records)*FOR FANS OF: newsboys, Tricia,  
JJ Weeks Band

★★★☆☆

Movie soundtracks tend to be hit and miss; and, unfortunately, this one is the latter. The lackluster collection of songs fails to impress, while the remix of the newsboys' "God's Not Dead," is rather awkward with interspersed movie clips. The track from the JJ Weeks band; "Save Us," is the high point, but otherwise listeners may want to skip this album that's more random than it is riveting and more scattered than it is satisfying.

—Grace S. Aspinwall

WE LIKE: "Save Us"

WORSHIP

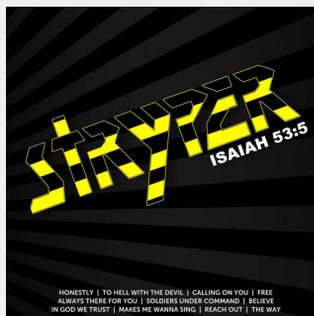
**KUTLESS*****Glory*** (BEC Recordings)FOR FANS OF: Hillsong,  
Building 429, Jeremy Camp

★★★★☆

With a goal to create a more "congregational-style" worship album, Kutless maintained their signature rock style in this collection that is as accessible to the everyday worship leader and player in small-town America as it is to the players on Music Row. "Never Too Late" and "We Will Worship" will get any congregation on its feet, while songs such as "In the City" tone things down a few notches, lending an intimacy that doesn't feel manufactured.

—Grace S. Aspinwall

WE LIKE: "Restore Me"



**VARIOUS ARTISTS**

***iWorship Now/Next 2014***

(Integrity Music)  
 FOR FANS OF: Planetshakers,  
 Darlene Zschech,  
 The City Harmonic

★★★★☆

With fifteen different artists performing seventy-one minutes of praise and worship songs (live and studio tracks), this collection has enough variety to satisfy any listener's musical palate. A veritable who's who of influential worship writers and leaders, Darlene Zschech lends an element of grandeur, Planetshakers keeps things rocking and Martin Smith offers a touch of nostalgia with a subtle hint of disco.

—Bert Saraco

WE LIKE: "Limitless"

**NUMBER ONE GUN**

***This Is All We Know***

(Tooth & Nail)  
 FOR FANS OF: The North Pole  
 Project, Ivoryline

★★★★☆

Despite a confusing history for long-time fans that included a break-up and identity shift from one name to another, Jeff Schneeweis has retained the Number One Gun moniker for his tight alt-rock compositions. Now the original band is back for a brand-new album that has been years in the making. *This Is All We Know* shows Schneeweis as a strong, veteran songsmith through the emotion of "Heartbeats" and the flawless delivery of "Disappear," featuring Anberlin's Stephen Christian.

—Matt Conner

WE LIKE: "Heartbeats"

**STRYPER**

***Icon*** (Hollywood Records)

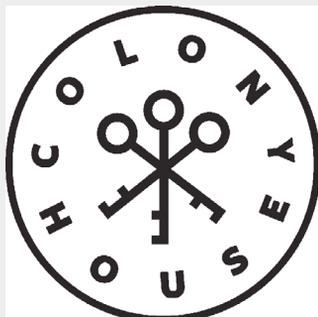
FOR FANS OF: Petra,  
 Motley Crue, Poison

★★★★☆

Christian rock's iconic masters of metal earn a new career retrospective as part of its record label's ongoing *Icon* series. Clocking in at eleven tracks, including classics "To Hell With The Devil," "Honestly" and "Free," it's a concise overview of the band's history-making career, though fans looking for the most comprehensive compilation on the market should turn to *7: The Best of Stryper*, the 2003 project filled with eighteen tunes.

—Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE: "To Hell With The Devil"



### COLONY HOUSE

**Colony House** (Independent)

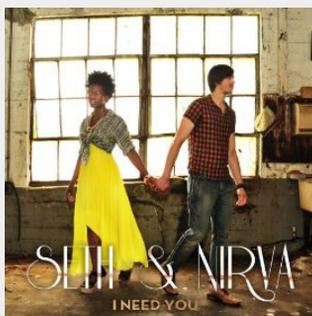
FOR FANS OF: Caleb, Leagues

★★★★☆

After setting out under the name Caleb, the Franklin, Tennessee rock trio fronted by Caleb Chapman is now known as Colony House. While some changes are merely superficial, this inventive, self-titled EP shows that the potential of this once-promising outfit has been realized. Consider this a strong sampling that whets the appetite for a full-length due later this year.

—Matt Conner

WE LIKE: “Keep On Keeping On”



### SETH & NIRVA

**I Need You** (Independent)

FOR FANS OF: TobyMac, Mandisa, BeBe and CeCe Winans

★★★★☆

The seven-track pop/hip-hop debut of husband-and-wife duo Seth and Nirva is the perfect musical meeting point between lowercase all the genres. The sometimes back-up singers for the likes of TobyMac (Nirva) and Kirk Franklin (Seth) keep things polished, perky and soulful with the help of guest artists TobyMac, Byron “Mr.Talkbox” Chambers and Diverse City artists GabeReal and Shonlock.

—Bert Saraco

WE LIKE: “Praise Him”  
(featuring GabeReal)



### VARIOUS ARTISTS

**WOW Gospel 2014**

(RCA Inspiration)

FOR FANS OF:

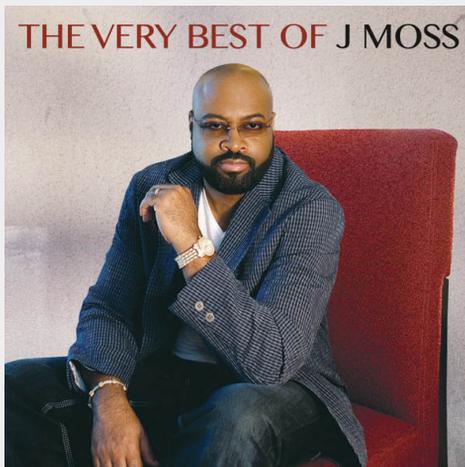
Modern Gospel Music

★★★☆☆

Nearly fifteen years in circulation with gold and platinum certifications and an eager consumer base, the *WOW Gospel* series' fourteenth compilation features more of gospel's most accessible hits by the genre's hottest talent. From legendary VIPs Andrae Crouch and Shirley Caesar to modern moguls such as Tye Tribbett and Lecrae, *WOW* covers all the bases for gospel music aficionados.

—Andrew Greer

WE LIKE: “A Little More Jesus”  
(Erica Campbell)

**J MOSS*****The Very Best of J Moss*** (RCA Inspiration)FOR FANS OF: *Mary Mary*, *James Fortune*

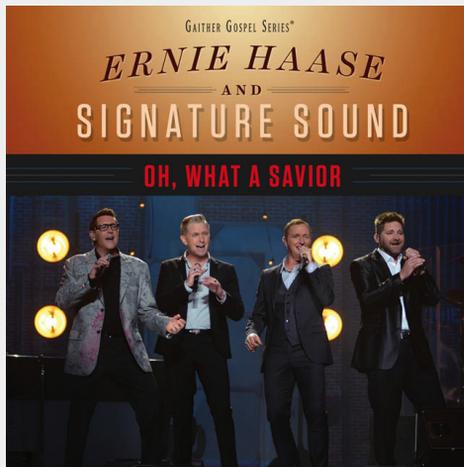
★★★★☆

With over a half-million records sold and a string of single hits, the golden-throated vocalist, hit-making songwriter and veteran urban-hip-hop-gospel-fusion producer releases his first compilation of solo career hits. The Musical finesse is nothing short of extraordinary on this discography of slick beats, contagious melodies and God-centered messages. There are no new tracks; but if you're looking for a one-stop Moss show, look no further.

—Andrew Greer

WE LIKE: “Good Day”

(ft. Kierra Sheard &amp; Karen Clark Sheard)

**ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND*****Oh, What A Savior*** (StowTown Records)FOR FANS OF: *Gaither Vocal Band*

★★★★☆

The latest release from Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, *Oh, What A Savior*, is a CD/DVD bundle capitalizing on their strong harmonies and live showmanship. Featuring several standards and fan favorites, Haase and company deliver a stellar vocal rendition of “When The Saints Go Marching In,” and keep the momentum alive through the final heart-stirring title track. A nice addition for longtime EH&SS fans.

—Matt Conner

WE LIKE: “Glorious Day”

## “THE BROKEN BEAUTIFUL”

ARTIST: ELLIE HOLCOMB

Ellie Holcomb describes herself as a “recovering perfectionist.” The beautiful, blonde mother of one has lived her life surrounded with music and the redemptive work of God in the lives of those around her.

As the daughter of Brown Bannister, who came to fame producing artists such as Amy Grant and others who have laid the foundation of the CCM industry, Ellie has grown up with a sense of expectancy, eyes wide open for the work of God around her. As she became a wife, a mother and simply spent more time breaking in the shoes of life, that expectancy became need, and the God of stories became the God of her reality. “The Broken Beautiful” is an honest heart-cry of gratitude to the God who takes that which is fractured and puts it back together, fragment by fragment, into a new masterpiece.

*“One of the things I’ve seen in my life is that God has taken the most broken and most shameful, darkest parts of my life. He has brought healing and redemption into those places, and I have seen Him do that in the lives of my friends through trials that were so intense. He always does. He takes those broken things and meets you in the middle of that. He’s done that before, and He will again.” – Ellie Holcomb*

**ELLIE PERFORMS “THE BROKEN BEAUTIFUL” LIVE AT THE CCM STUDIO IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.**



# TINY HANDS INTERNATIONAL THE TRUTH ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BY CAROLINE LUSK

Human trafficking is at the forefront of social justice causes as of late. It is also one of the most misunderstood crimes, ranked second only to drug activity in the rate of crime worldwide. More than two million children are currently enslaved for sexual exploitation. Thousands of other men and women are also captive in this gruesome trade.

Since 2004, Tiny Hands International has fought against human trafficking and other injustices around the world. Below, watch their film about the realities of this abomination and be inspired to join the fight. [CCM](#)



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