

NEW MUSIC: BUILDING 429, NICHOLE NORDEMAN, ANDREW PETERSON + THE RETURN OF PILLAR

CCM



BIG DADDY WEAWE

HOW PAIN LED TO REDEMPTION & VULNERABILITY PROPELS PROGRESS

P.O.D.
EXCLUSIVE!

SONNY: "WHEN WILL IT BE OVER?"



OCT 1, 2015

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LAURA STORY
WITH JENNIFER SCHUCHMANN

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FEATURES

BIG DADDY WEAVE

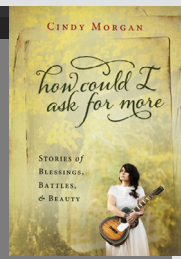
After huge success and penning the soundtrack to their restoration experiences on their last album, what's next for Big Daddy Weave? The band breaks to talk with us as they put the final touches on their new release, *Beautiful Offerings*.

**P.O.D.**

In Part 1 of a two-part story, P.O.D. lead singer Sonny Sandoval opens up to CCM Magazine about what matters most to him—family and faith.

**BOOK EXCERPT: CINDY MORGAN**

Enjoy the free chapter, "Treasure Box," from Cindy Morgan's new book *How Could I Ask For More: Stories of Blessings, Battles, and Beauty*.



DEPARTMENTSS

FROM THE EDITOR**PHOTOS****OUT AND ABOUT**

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

IN THE STUDIO**MODERN DAY CURE****REVIEWS**

BUILDING 429, NICHOLE NORDEMAN, ANDREW PETERSON + MORE!



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The timeless power of prayer | It's great to see the new **Kendrick Brothers** movie *War Room* smashing box offices across the country. It's cool how a good flick can stir up the conversation and bring about a renewed awareness within the body of believers across the nations. It certainly does seem that I have heard more sermons and homilies surrounding the subject of prayer since the release of the movie—and overall, this is another great thing.

Going one step further, I recently heard a pastor talking about some people who were moved by the power of prayer over 285 years ago, and their story lives on today. **John** and **Charles Wesley**, brothers who are credited with the foundations of Methodism, comprised a list of 22 questions that they and their fellow believers used as a daily method for critical thinking about faith. One could argue that all of them at least touch on the subject of prayer, but seven (or one-third) of the questions are directly linked to it:

7 and 8: (7) Did the Bible live in me today? (8) Do I give the Bible time to speak to me every day? (Note: As one who may read the Bible in prayer, and listens to God speaking through the reading of the Bible)

9: Am I enjoying prayer?

11: Do I pray about the money I spend? (Really, in the 1700's? Perspective!)

17: How do I spend my spare time?

19: Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?

22: Is Christ real to me?

Of course, we should always be praying, and we *should* be talking about prayer. However, when spiritual subjects experience crossover success, such as talking to God being the talk of Tinseltown, I sometimes worry that we can perceive the timeless as another trendy topic.

I pray that resources like *War Room* bring people into a real relationship with God, or in the least, help others experience a rekindling of their faith. I also hope that we allow prayer to remain timeless in our lives, after all, *we get to talk with God!*



Prayerfully,

Kevin Sparkman
Editor, CCM Magazine
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Andy Argyrakis

is a Chicago-based entertainment writer/photographer who appears in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Illinois Entertainer*, *Hear/Say Magazine*, *Concert Livewire* and more.



Andrew Greer is a

Dove-nominated singer-songwriter and writer. The Texas native and Nashville, TN resident recently released his first book, co-authored with Ginny Owens, titled *Transcending Mysteries* (Thomas Nelson). More info at Andrew-Greer.com.



Matt Conner is a

music writer for the *Indianapolis Star*, *Relevant* and *Metromix* and the founding editor of *StereoSubversion.com*.

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For fans of Christy Nockels, Brooke Fraser, and Natalie Grant...

MEREDITH KINLEIGH

BEAUTIFUL MESS

RELEASE DATE:
OCTOBER 2, 2015

Track List:

Beautiful Mess
My Foundation
Sail On
Healing Waters
Wait and See



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MeredithKinleigh.com

1



COMPILED BY
ANDY ARGYRAKIS

1 Emerging rock band **Above The Fall** chats with **Colton Dixon** after sharing the stage at Vine Fest in Vineland N.J. Pictured from left to right: **Zach MacGorman, Justin Meehan, Jesse Fryson, Dixon, Juan Vera, Matt Urgo** and **Ryan Ippolito**.

2 **Fireflight** connects with **Anberlin's Stephen Christian** prior to performing their chart-topping hit "Safety" during the "Small Town America Tour" in Albuquerque. Pictured from left to right: **Glenn Drennen, Wendy Drennen, Dawn Michele** and **Christian**.

2



3



3 Dove-nominated singer/songwriter **Laura Hackett Park** and fellow worship leader/husband **Jonas Park**, both of whom are featured on Forerunner Music's ***Onething Live: Shout Your Name***, visited Israel to take part in the ***OneKing*** young adult conference. Here the pair is pictured on the breathtaking Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem.

4



4 In support of her new EP ***No One But You***, **Natasha Owens** appears on TBN's popular "Praise The Lord," which includes a green room visit (from left to right) with fellow guests **Andrew Greer** and **Ginny Owens**, plus host **Jason Crabb**.

5



5 & 6 Former Press Play vocalist **SADA K.** (left) swings by Angel Stadium of Anaheim for the **Harvest Crusade** to guest host JUCE TV's coverage for their long-running show "Top 31!" In other **SADA K.** news, the singer/songwriter also made the performance rounds from her solo debut album **Long Story Short**, including a stop at Cornerstone Television Network's "Real Life!"

6



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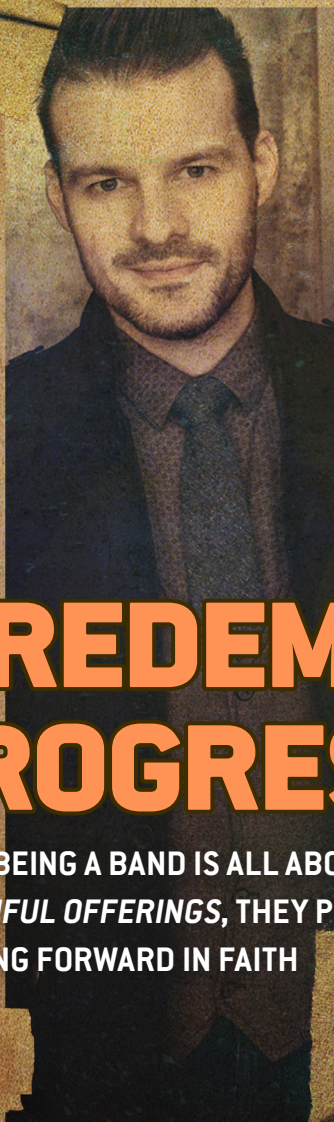


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POST-REDEMPTION PROGRESS

FOR BIG DADDY WEAVE, BEING A BAND IS ALL ABOUT EXPERIENCING
NEW LIFE—WITH *BEAUTIFUL OFFERINGS*, THEY PROVIDE A UNIVERSAL
SOUNDTRACK FOR MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH

BY LINDSAY WILLIAMS

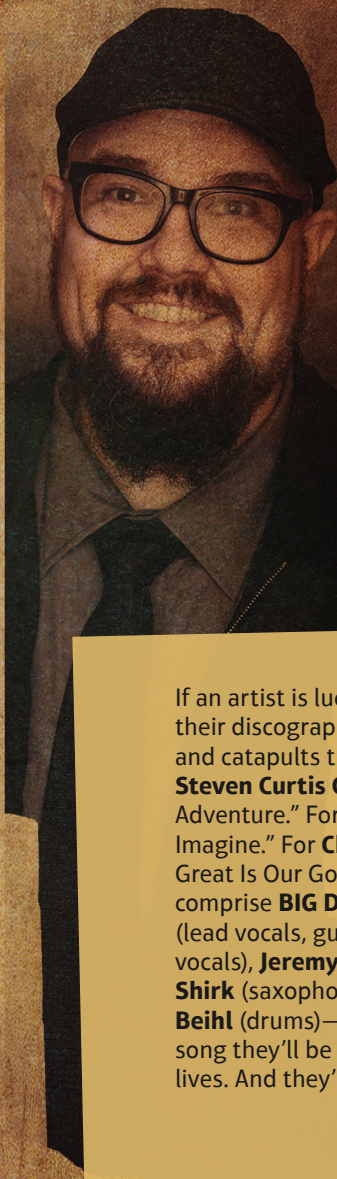


Photo: David Molnar

If an artist is lucky, there's one song in their discography that redefines a career and catapults them into new territory. For **Steven Curtis Chapman**, it was "The Great Adventure." For **MercyMe**, it was "I Can Only Imagine." For **Chris Tomlin**, it was "How Great Is Our God." And for the five men who comprise **BIG DADDY WEAVER**—**Mike Weaver** (lead vocals, guitar), **Jay Weaver** (bass, vocals), **Jeremy Redmon** (guitar, vocals), **Joe Shirk** (saxophone, keys, vocals) and **Brian Beihl** (drums)—"Redeemed" will be the one song they'll be singing for the rest of their lives. And they're okay with that.

BEAUTIFUL REDEMPTION

"I had hated myself for as long as I could remember."

Mike Weaver, the lead singer for Big Daddy Weave, makes this candid confession during an interview at band mate Jeremy Redmon's house just outside of Nashville on a muggy summer afternoon. A large clap of thunder unfurls and sheets of rain pelt the windows of Redmon's dining room as the band breaks for lunch (and an interview) in the midst of recording their seventh studio project, **Beautiful Offerings**. Weaver's admission comes in response to a discussion surrounding the band's unexpected runaway hit "Redeemed"—the biggest single in the group's 16-plus year history.

"We didn't initially submit that song [at first] because I wrote it just for me," the front man shares, adding, "The Lord really began a process of turning me loose from some old mindsets."

Once the band recorded the song and released it to radio, the message began to resonate with listeners just as much as it personally connected with Weaver. "Redeemed" spent an astounding 11 weeks at No. 1, and has now been certified RIAA Gold. In addition, the cut won "Song of the Year" at the first annual K-LOVE Fan Awards and garnered Big Daddy Weave Dove and *Billboard* Music Award nominations. But the story doesn't end there. "Redeemed" was one of four consecutive singles from the band's landmark release, **Love Come To Life (Fervent)**, which went straight to the top of the radio charts.

The original members of Big Daddy Weave met and formed the band in college at the **University of Mobile** (front man, Mike, and bassist Jay are brothers). The group released their debut with **Word Entertainment** in 2002. After years of non-stop touring, as the five members began the recording process

for 2012's *Love Come To Life*, the album that featured "Redeemed," they considered throwing in the towel. With wives and kids at home, leaving for tour runs became increasingly harder, and the repercussions of constant road life were beginning to take their toll. In addition, the band members experienced a season of intense grief as they lost loved ones and Redmon's personal residence—which houses the studio where Big Daddy Weave records—caught fire and burned to the ground. The odds were stacked against them, and the men weren't sure if moving forward with music was even an option.

Then God did the unthinkable, and *Love Come To Life* became the biggest success story of the band's tenure. No one was more surprised with the success of their last album and acclaimed single than Weaver & Co. "You have no idea how God can use [you]," the front man says. "He can even use you when simply being transparent about your own brokenness. That, for me, was the biggest shocker."

BEAUTIFUL RECEPTION

The band continued to be surprised as they toured the country in support of *Love Come To Life*, and learned they weren't the only ones willing to share their vulnerable stories.

In fact, the band's interaction with fans became the impetus for the tracks that made the cut for this year's *Beautiful Offerings* (Fervent). As they've performed songs from their deep discography to audiences across the nation, they've found that believers who have identified with the message of songs like "Redeemed" have put their faith in Christ, yet they're still stuck in their old ways, drowning in the past and failing to move beyond bad habits that continue to yield unhealthy results. Thus, many of the songs on *Beautiful Offerings* address how as Christ

**“RELIGION ONLY CELEBRATES
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[CHRIST] LOVES EVERYONE, AND
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OF THAT IN MY ENTIRE LIFE. HE’S
SO KIND.”**

—MIKE WEAVER

followers, we don’t have to continue walking in our old ways. Once we’ve been forgiven, we can fully live in the freedom found in Christ.

The band has also begun leading intentional times of ministry at the end of each of their concerts. The five men descend from the stage and pray for people one-on-one, giving them a front row seat to seeing God work in the circumstances of His people. They tell story after story of the miraculous events they’ve watched unfold in the lives of listeners.

“When someone is literally touched, and they no longer have cancer because the Lord placed His hand on them; or someone who has been carrying a load of emotional baggage, and at a concert, they

leave it all there. Those are the things we are celebrating,” Weaver contends, noting that *Beautiful Offerings* is as much an acknowledgement of what God has done as it is an expectation of what He’s going to do.

In their countless conversations with fans, they’ve also realized there’s a significant difference between religion and a relationship with our heavenly Father that believers often overlook. “Religion only celebrates perfection, but God celebrates progress,” Weaver asserts, adding that God wants what’s best for His children. “He’s real, and He loves us,” the singer says with tears in his eyes. “He loves everyone, and I’ve never been more certain of that in my entire life. He’s so kind.”

“THE STANDARD WE HAVE TO LIVE UP TO IS, HOPEFULLY, OBEDIENCE. WE ARE LEARNING HOW TO BE MOVED BY HIM. AND I’M NOT PROFESSING TO BE GOOD AT THAT. I PROBABLY GET IT WRONG WAY MORE TIMES THAN I GET IT RIGHT. TO SEE HIM MOVE, DESPITE THE ‘MUSIC THING,’ THAT’S WHAT I WANT TO SEE.”

—MIKE WEAVER



Photo: Jim Scherer

BEAUTIFUL OFFERINGS

As they entered the studio to begin work on *Beautiful Offerings*, the band members began where their hit song left off. “So what does it mean to be redeemed now? What does a redeemed life look like?” Weaver muses, asking the questions the band posed as they started writing for their new album.

“We’ve weeded through and tried to gather a sense of which songs the Lord wants on the record,” he continues. “[We’re asking God], ‘What more do You want to say to people—first of all, including us?’

“We’ve [tried] to find songs that echo

where we are now—not necessarily anything that’s just a song for a song’s sake,” adds Redmon, who produced the group’s latest effort. “I went into this [process] trusting that the Lord is working out the details. Even in the sounds and parts that were chosen, He really [made] it happen.”

His band mates affirm this sentiment, adding that they’ve witnessed Redmon literally on his knees in the studio praying over these songs and seeking God for direction. For *Beautiful Offerings*, the band co-wrote with everyone from **Josh Wilson** and **Matt Maher** to **Matt Redman**, **Jason Ingram**, **Ed Cash** and **Tedd T.**, crafting songs stemming from personal experience. In addition, they covered a new **Bethel Music** tune, “The Lion And The Lamb.” The band says Bethel’s music was often playing in the background while they worked on this project, providing inspiration and truth-filled solace throughout the recording process.

BROTHERLY BONDS

The men gathered around the table all agree Big Daddy Weave is as much a brotherhood as it is a creative partnership. However, like real-life siblings, they also admit disagreements aren’t uncommon and that tensions inevitably ran high during their previous season of unexpected loss. “I think we know that we would be violating what God wants us to be about by leaving,” Weaver confesses. “So we stuck around, even through the ‘yuck.’ We still get mad at each other. This is just like my family. At times, there’s no one that I can get more upset with than my wife and kids [and] my brother. But there’s never anyone that I love more.”

“We still argue and fight,” Joe Shirk acknowledges, “but we are a lot healthier than we were years ago—there’s a lot more grace, mercy and forgiveness.” The mountains, the valleys—they’ve climbed

them all together; and now that they’re on the other side of it, their bond is stronger. “The truth of the matter is God really wants to grow us in discipleship with conflict,” Shirk continues. “God wants to use those valleys. He wants to work with us in the hard times.”

He refers to their bond, their ministry and all it encompasses as his “church family,” saying, “Big Daddy Weave is the best church I’ve ever been a part of.” Brian Beihl offers, “It’s been awesome to see what the Lord has done through this band.” As the newest member, he adds, “I am very blessed to be around a group of guys that I can share life with—we are on the same page of keeping God at the center of everything. It helps to keep me strong.”

NEW BEGINNINGS

Whether they’re writing songs behind closed doors, singing in front of thousands or using their post-concert ministry time to intercede for people, the men of Big Daddy Weave are learning to follow where God leads.

“I’m learning the less I have to-do with the whole thing, the better off it’s going to be,” Jay Weaver contends. “I’m just trying to let Jesus be who He wants to be, and out of that, everybody has the best shot because of who He is. That’s if I’m playing bass guitar, or if I’m loving someone we come in contact with... or if I’m sitting at home being a dad. In every instance, less of me is better.”

“We just want to share the love of God out there,” Mike Weaver adds, affirming their core mission as a band and as individual believers called to minister through song. “That sounds like a trite thing in this business, [but] I’m not kidding. It will change everything. This love is unstoppable when it’s unleashed on the source of the conflict.”

The sales numbers and accolades certainly affirm that people are hearing and responding to the message found in

their songs, but at the end of the day, Big Daddy Weave hopes listeners can join them in relishing what it means to live post-redeemed. While redemption is the ultimate catalyst that births new life, it's how we live that life moving forward that now matters. After all, His story is our story, and one certainly worth telling.

"The standard we have to live up to is, hopefully, obedience," Weaver adds, saying cultural pressures, numbers and charting stats doesn't stress out the band like they once did. "We are learning how to be moved by Him. And I'm not professing to be good at that. I probably get it wrong way more times than I get it right. To see Him move, despite the 'music thing,' that's what I want to see."

Outside, as the downpour dissolves into a drizzle and the clouds part making way for tiny rays of soft, golden sunlight to appear, Big Daddy Weave prepares to head back downstairs to Redmon's studio to put the finishing touches on what has become *Beautiful Offerings*. Allowing God to bring beauty from ashes, walking in obedience every step of the way...their music is a beautiful offering, indeed. **CCM**



READ OUR REVIEW OF "BEAUTIFUL OFFERINGS"
FROM THE SEP. 1 EDITION OF CCM MAGAZINE ON

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ACONVE

WITH P.O.D.'S SONNY SANDOVAL: THE INTRO



RSATION

IN OUR UPCOMING NOVEMBER 15 COVER STORY, P.O.D. LEAD SINGER AND FOUNDING MEMBER, SONNY SANDOVAL, TALKS WITH RAW HONESTY ABOUT FERVOR AND FRUSTRATION, SUCCESS AND STRUGGLE, MOTIVES, CRITICISMS AND THE FUTURE OF THE BAND. BELOW IS A POWERFUL PREVIEW OF THAT EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW. BY LENA ZIEGLER

With P.O.D.'s latest album, The Awakening, following a character's personal journey through sin to forgiveness and redemption, we asked Sonny Sandoval what advice he might give to someone struggling to find their way. This was his passionate response.

FOR ANYONE FEELING LOST: THIS GOES OUT TO YOU

“I can only speak from what I know and my own experiences. So many people have their hang-ups with faith, God and Christianity. But if you've never sat down and had a conversation with God and never sat down and told Him your heart and never expressed yourself, how do you know? You're basing that off of what you think, or what you've seen Christianity to be or religion to be. Because at the end of the day it is the only answer—the only answer is Jesus.

“I came to God broken. So when I'm talking to somebody, I can relate and say 'Hey, I understand brokenness. And the only person who can fix that is Jesus. The only thing that can fix that is God.' Because you're not broken necessarily physically; this is about your soul. And God is the creator of our souls. God knows our souls intimately. So He's the one that knows what we're going through.

“There's no one [else] you can go to, there's nothing you can take. There's no amount of success had that can fix that. Your soul is broken. Now whether they believe that or not, well that's when you have to give God the chance. You can either sit there and hate God for something you don't understand because you're depressed, because you're broken, but if you're not going to the main source, then how do you expect to be healed or fixed?

“And I know that's tough if you don't believe, but I challenge people to just do it. Challenge God. You don't have to come to God because you have a bubbly feeling

inside your heart, you know? You can be pissed. You can be angry. *Come to God.* Come to God angry. Tell Him how angry you are. Tell Him how broken you are. Tell Him how everything sucks! Tell Him! Tell Him you demand answers! Tell the God of heaven and earth that you demand answers, because until you do that, nothing is going to change.

“But I believe, if you're asking my opinion and my advice, I'm willing to bet everything that if you do that and you are sincere and real, you're in for a rude awakening, because God will answer you. He will speak to your heart; He will start to do things. And sometimes it might not be what you want, it might not feel good. It might not be the answer you were waiting for. But at the end of it, once we have a better knowledge and understanding of God, we'll see that God knows what He's doing and He loves us enough to take us through that.

“So I like to challenge people all the time. Not everybody's going to accept it. I mean, I'm sure they've tried every other way to feel better, but it doesn't last because you're dealing with a broken soul. Me personally, every time I go through stuff, I find myself with my faith on my knees asking God to save me if He can, and change my heart if He needs to change it. Because it has to be with Him to heal it.” **CCM**

+ [CLICK HERE TO READ CCM'S REVIEW OF P.O.D.'S NEW ALBUM "THE AWAKENING" FROM THE AUGUST 15 EDITION OF CCM MAGAZINE ON CCMMAGAZINE.COM](https://www.ccmagazine.com)

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HIM YOU DEMAND ANSWERS! TELL THE GOD
OF HEAVEN AND EARTH THAT YOU DEMAND
ANSWERS, BECAUSE UNTIL YOU DO THAT,
NOTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE."**

-SONNY SANDOVAL, LEAD SINGER, P.O.D.





Enjoy the free chapter,
“Treasure Box,” from
CINDY MORGAN’s new
book ***How Could I Ask For
More: Stories of Blessings,
Battles, and Beauty***



Treasure Box



I once read a story about a couple of guys who bought a dilapidated cottage as an investment in Long Island, New York, for about \$300,000. The investors hoped to fix it up and turn a profit of perhaps \$100,000.

When the two were looking over the cottage in the process of purchasing it, they found artwork piled in the back of the house. The men asked the sellers about their plans for the large pile of paintings, and the sellers confessed that they planned on throwing the artwork away. So the two investors asked if they could buy the pile of paintings. The seller quickly agreed on a price of \$2,500 and added it to the purchase price of the cottage.

In the end, the two men found they had acquired more than three thousand abstract paintings and drawings by an Armenian American artist named Arthur Pinajian, who had lived in the old cottage decades before. Time and money were spent having the paintings professionally restored, and when they were appraised, it was discovered that the total value of the artwork, once destined for the trash heap, was thirty million dollars.

This is, of course, one of those stories that make all of us *Antiques Roadshow* lovers drool. But it got me thinking about treasures in my life, things I have overlooked or simply not made time for.

One such thing was a box.

A box that sat in the back of my walk-in closet for close to a year.

It was my father's box.

Over the months, I would glance down at it as I was grabbing a pair of shoes or reorganizing a shelf of shirts and think, *One of these days, I'm gonna go through that box*. But it just sat and sat there 'til one day I knew it was the day.

Honestly, I still questioned whether I was ready to go through the box. Something about going through it made me feel the loss of him all over again, ripping open the wound that had finally healed over. Both my mother and sister had been the keeper of his earthly goods for more than fifteen years, but then they'd handed it over to me—now I was the protector of his papers and words and pictures, stuffed into a cardboard box in the back of my closet.

Shameful really, but I was afraid.

Maybe I was afraid of what I might feel; would I still weep at the sight of his handwriting or the smell of his shirt or the pictures of him as a young man in his Navy uniform, so strong and determined?

But if there is anything I have learned in my life thus far, things that are feared must be faced, so I did.

Sitting on the cold tile floor of my bathroom, still clad in my flannel pajamas, I opened the box.

It had photographs nearly a hundred years old of ancestors that I recalled my father telling stories about. A faded picture of my grandma Tannie, who died when my

dad was a teenager, a letter hand-signed from President Bill Clinton in grateful recognition of my father's service to his country for his years in the navy. Then, in a brown envelope that was torn at the edges, I found the pages of my dad's manuscript. The book he had always dreamed of writing, which he'd called *Quincy*.

Early on in my dad's life, writing songs was his great passion. As the years rolled by and his love for books grew, he found himself waking up in the middle of the night with the scenes from a novel running through his mind. His novel. With all the kids grown, my dad had found time once again to write.

I rolled over in the street and sat up best as I could. I spat a mouth full of blood into the dirt, hoping there were no teeth in it.

That's how it starts. I found a cover letter he had sent to the editors of several respected publishing houses, along with a few chapters. Signed, *Cova Morgan, December 1997*.

All this time, I'd had this in my closet and I had no idea it was no ordinary box. This was a box of treasures. A treasure sitting in a cardboard box gathering dust and sadness and then—as if I were a pirate cracking open the lid—there inside was the treasure I didn't even know I had been missing.

A part of the treasure was seeing him with a new pair of eyes—as a writer, an artist, not just as the man who tucked me in at night and woke me each morning with a warm

washcloth on my forehead. He was a man of dreams and thought and words and so much more than I ever knew.

Yet he managed to bottle up that part of himself and press play on the life he had walked into, and he seemed to do it gladly. But in these pages, I felt a sense of urgency, saw someone who knew the sand in the hourglass was running out and if he ever hoped to write his story and live the life he had longed for in his heart, that time was now.

I knew he was a writer all my life, a songwriter and a guitar player, a man of the arts disguised in a mechanic's blue shirt with a name that was perpetually misspelled by the company that did his shirts. It would be Kova or Kovi or Kove, never Cova. Like those misspelled name tags, there was a part of him I didn't know, and I now desperately wish I could have had the chance to know *that* man. Oh, the conversations we could have had.

I wonder, too, if there was an opportunity, one that I simply didn't take the time to explore in the chaos of my life and my touring schedule. I missed out on the living treasure, and now I must be satisfied with the smell of old paper and faded handwriting and a sense of loss.

When my daughters were small, I would tell them a story about my dad each night, in hopes this would somehow create a memory of him that they would never be able to experience in the usual way. I had no idea that there were new stories to be told, something yet to discover about someone I thought I knew so well.

I think of Jesus and His twelve disciples, walking along the dusty roads of Israel for hours and days and how much

talking and eating they did and healing the blind and lame, casting out demons and raising Lazarus from the dead and feeding the thousands ... and yet they say, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" (Matthew 8:27 NKJV).

They just didn't get it. Maybe they could have but they just weren't ready to open up their minds—and more importantly, their hearts—to what was really going on. Doing all of that takes time and patience and denying of yourself. I am really bad at denying myself.

That is what I know to be true down on the cold tile floor. What I would give to have the chance to do it over. But does that ever really work? We can't go back; we must make time for it now.

The treasures are all there, just like that pile of old paintings in the back room of that cottage, waiting for Monday morning's trash pickup. Sometimes we just can't see them for what they truly are.

I wonder about the life of that painter whose artwork was piled up in a dusty corner of an old house. I did a little digging and discovered that Arthur Pinajian was an Armenian American whose parents were survivors of the Armenian genocide. Arthur made his living as a comic book artist in the golden era of comics; he also served in the United States Army during World War II and received the Bronze Star for valor.

The side of him that few knew about were his paintings of portraits, landscapes, and abstract art—until a couple of guys stumbled on them and cared enough to see what

was hiding beneath the surface.

Maybe that's what matters most, really: digging beneath the surface and getting down to what really matters.

What really matters? People we love, people we want to love but don't know how to love, people we need to forgive, people who need us to forgive them.

There are so many ways to find the treasures ... Only you know what box is lying around in your closet or in your heart.

I used to think that life's treasures were things like success, critical acclaim, and financial security. Now I am beginning to understand that nothing could be further from the truth. Matthew wrote, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (6:21 NKJV). Where is my treasure? Where is my heart? Where is yours? It is a question worth asking.

Here is an answer. The apostle Paul wrote, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV).

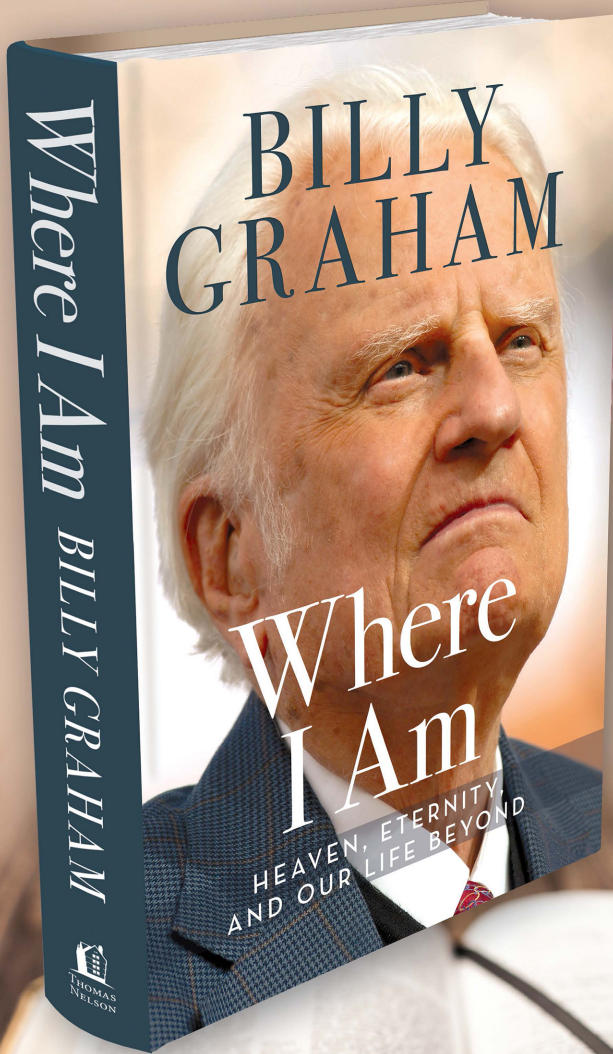
In jars of clay and in cardboard boxes.

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*Modern Day Cure, L-R,
Aaron Chipp (drums), Tamar Chipp
(vocals, guitars), and Tifani Autry
(vocals, keyboards)*



MODERN DAY CURE

BY KEVIN SPARKMAN



Album Title: *Promises*

[Self-released]

Release date: Scheduled for October 16, 2015

Producers: Tyrus Morgan, Jay Speight (Lift Music Co.)

Number of tracks: Four

Studio: Lift Music Studio, Spring Hill, TN

FAMILY & FRIENDS: The trio is comprised of husband and wife **Aaron** (drums) and **Tamar Chipp** (vocals and keyboards) with friend **Tifani Autry** (vocals and guitars). “She is like a sister to us,” says Aaron Chipp. “We have faced many trials together, but nothing has broken our bond. Our relationship is measured by **Ecclesiastes 4:12 (MSG)**, which says, ‘By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst... A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.’”

HOW DID MODERN DAY CURE FORM?: Aaron: “I experienced God speaking to me while attending a youth leader’s conference in Atlanta. At the time, I had no plans of being in a band and hadn’t played the drums in over six years, but knew the calling was real. Once I returned home to Michigan and explained my experiences to Tamar, she was on board. To gauge her interest, we then reached out to Tifani and she revealed that she had a dream about us serving together. That was confirmation. We continued to pray as God led us and painted the vision for Modern Day Cure. It’s been a life changing journey for all of us.”


MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: Tamar: “Most people are surprised when they hear us play. We’re often described as a ‘gospel group’ because of the color of our skin, but once we start playing, there’s no denying the rock-driven influence in our music. We love big, roaring electric guitars and our style is best described as contemporary worship with rock and pop elements. Over the years, we’ve found that no matter where we perform, our music transcends cultural and denominational barriers.”

THE DIFFERENCE: Tifani: “The music is secondary, having hearts that please God is our first priority. When we started the band, none of us were currently playing our instruments—Aaron hadn’t played drums since before going to college, Tamar had piano lessons as a kid, but never took them seriously, and I had never played guitar.” Tamar continues, “To us, ‘worship’ truly means living a life of surrender to God. He had a specific call on our lives, we are three unlikely people that have been given this great opportunity to

express our trust in God's power with a fresh and unexpected sound." Tifani concludes, "We know who we are, what we're not, and understand our primary focus."

REFERENCES: Aaron: "We derive our band name from **Hebrews 13:8**, which says, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.' To us, that makes Him the modern day cure. His power and relevance never changes and He's always the answer that this world needs so desperately. We drew our inspiration for the EP from **Psalms 138:2 (NLT)**, which says, '...I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness; for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.' What a promise, and such foundational truth!"

STAYING THE COURSE: Aaron: "Travel was particularly challenging, as we had to commute between Michigan to Nashville three times over the summer to complete the EP. Taking on this project was a huge step of faith, and we are extremely thankful for everyone who supported us through our crowd funding campaign. Our new producers, **Tyrus Morgan** and **Jay Speight**, pushed us to the limits to be better writers and musicians. It was challenging, but also made the recording process enjoyable. We all had some good laughs in the studio! God is faithful!"

PROMISES IN FIVE WORDS OR LESS: Aaron: "God keeps his promises." 



Producers Jay Speight (foreground) and Tyrus Morgan (background), producers for Lift Music Co., listen in on vocal tracking for Modern Day Cure's new EP, Promises



L-R: Lift Music Co. producer Jay Speight, Aaron Chipp, (front) Tamar Chipp, (back) Lift Music Co. producer Tyrus Morgan, Tifani Autry



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IN THIS ISSUE

**BUILDING 429****Unashamed**

(Provident)

FOR FANS OF:

Big Daddy Weave, MercyMe

★★★★☆

Ever since they took home the Dove Award for New Artist of the Year in 2005, Building 429 have established themselves as one of the top pop/rock groups in all of Christian music. Mega-hits like “Listen To The Sound,” “Where I Belong” and “We Won’t Be Shaken” all settled near the top of the charts in recent years, turning Jason Roy and company into a headlining act and one of Christian music’s surest bets.

Unashamed follows suit with a radio-ready 10-song set of encouraging songs for the church. “GO” moves the church toward the marginalized with a memorable mid-tempo refrain. The title track is a worshipful track that should find some congregational use, as should “Ocean Deep” as an inspiring song about the mercy and grace of God. “Eyes Up” is a Bruno Mars-esque number that’s a simple earworm to kick off the album.

Given the tremendous success of Building 429’s last few albums, it’s hard not to project the same for *Unashamed*.

–Matt Conner

WE LIKE: “Eyes Up”



NICHOLE NORDEMAN

***The Unmaking* (Sparrow)**

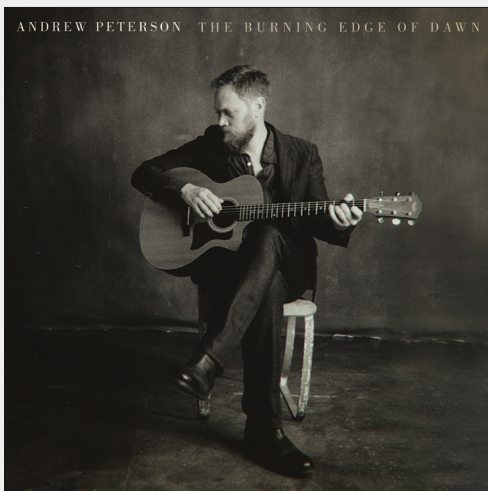
FOR FANS OF: Joy Williams,
Plumb, Francesca Battistelli

★★★★☆

In the ten years since Nichole Nordeman's last release, the singer/songwriter/piano player has flown somewhat under the radar aside from some spot touring, writing the *Music Inspired By The Story* concept collection, popping up on a few compilations and getting covered completely out of the blue by Prince. Despite *The Unmaking* EP clocking in at a mere six songs, it sure is wonderful to have her back to penning personal, pensive and sometimes challenging sentiments, accompanied by stirring contemporary pop arrangements. Throughout the short but sweet journey, Nordeman turns her attention to themes of brokenness and making the most of each moment, and regardless of the lengthy absence, she sounds even more seasoned than the last time around.

—Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE: "Name"



ANDREW PETERSON

The Burning Edge of Dawn

(Centricity)

FOR FANS OF: Rich Mullins

★★★★☆

After releasing *Light For The Lost Boy*, the obvious place for Andrew Peterson to turn was inward. The previous album's epic scope would be hard to follow, so it's not surprising the acclaimed songwriter partnered with producer Gabe Scott for a more intimate, confessional set of songs on *The Burning Edge of Dawn*. It's often plaintive, yet always vulnerable, and fits comfortably alongside much earlier albums in Peterson's discography. Of note, "My One Safe Place" celebrates Peterson's wife in a memorable refrain, and "Rejoice" takes the oft-sung Biblical command and gives it a new song. *Burning Edge* is a classic Andrew Peterson release filled with powerful analogies of God and a Godward faith meant to challenge and encourage the listener's journey.

—Matt Conner

WE LIKE: "The Rain Keeps Falling"



CINDY MORGAN

Bows & Arrows (Lucid Artist)

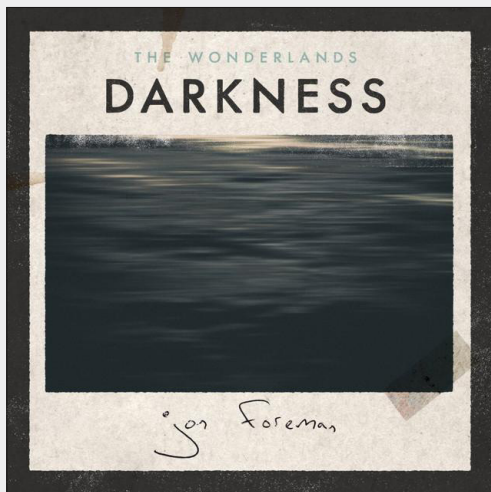
FOR FANS OF: Amy Grant, Susan Ashton, JJ Heller

★★★★☆

Between her own career as one of Christian music's most thought-provoking troubadours and penning hits for artists as widespread as Amy Grant, India.Arie and Rascal Flatts, it's always a given that Cindy Morgan has something of substance to say. Her latest individual offering continues on a path of meaty messages told with the eloquence of a poet, alongside an increasing affinity for earthy, bluegrass-tinted arrangements that are both casual and comforting. Even though the production is stripped down compared to her pop star past, *Bows & Arrows* is far from a sleeper, but rather shoots straight for the heart of the matter ("Can't Help Yourself," "Unbroken," "Do You Know Jesus?") propelled by Morgan's warm and often times chilling vocal delivery.

—Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE: "Unbroken"



JON FOREMAN

The Wonderlands: Darkness (lowercase people)

FOR FANS OF: Ben Rector, Switchfoot, Josh Garrels

★★★★☆

In the third installment of his *Wonderlands* collection, Jon Foreman continues his "opus of light and darkness" with the EP titled *Darkness*. Despite its name, this short set doesn't play like a musical dirge, rather, keeping the *Wonderlands* tradition alive with sonically diverse sensations and ongoing brilliance. Lyrically and vocally, songs like "Larger Than Life" bark a Switchfoot-like timbre, but the undertow of Foreman's new musical direction continuously pulls the listener into uncharted, but welcome waters. Like an island, "June & Johnny" is a perfect interlude within this seven-song offering, and features Sara Watkins of Nickel Creek fame. "Inner Peace" is the culmination of what sets Jon Foreman apart, as the vulnerability and emotion experienced in his vocal performance seems to connect with our very own inner voices and cries.

—Kevin Sparkman

WE LIKE: "She Said"

I'm a stay-at-home mom. My husband's company health plan no longer covers spouses, so under the new mandate we have to find separate healthcare for me. And from everything I've seen, we couldn't afford another policy.



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**7EVEN TH TIME DOWN*****God Is On The Move***

(BEC)

FOR FANS OF:

The Afters

★★★★☆

Expect to hear influences of numerous other genres make their way into the mix on 7eventh Time Down's third album, *God Is On The Move*. That means there's something for everyone on this latest release. "God Is On The Move" and "Hope And Dreams" start the album with an anthemic one-two rock 'n roll punch, "Revival" brings a country flair, while "Kingdoms" spins a pop yarn. Through it all, 7eventh Time Down proves their reputation true and should break through to new heights.

—Matt Conner

WE LIKE: "Pray It Down"

**PILLAR*****One Love Revolution***

(Pillar Music)

FOR FANS OF: Decyfer Down,

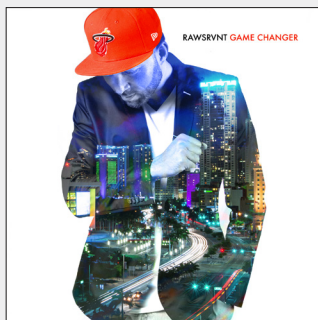
Disciple

★★★★☆

Christian rock icons Pillar have built a strong following with over one million albums sold on the strength of their arena-ready anthems. *One Love Revolution* loads the musical guns once again with surefire live hits in the making like the title track, "We Will Ride," and "Paratrooper." Tender cuts like "Don't Cry Forever" and "Unafraid" will undoubtedly turn into fan favorites as they connect at a deeper level. Overall, Pillar trods familiar ground on *One Love Revolution*, but there's no reason to mess with such a winning formula.

—Matt Conner

WE LIKE: "We Will Ride"

**RAWSRVNT*****Game Changer***

(Soul Deep)

FOR FANS OF:

Pitbull, Jason Derulo, Flo Rida

★★★★☆

Blending the best in dance club appeal, Eddy "Rawsrvt" Puyol offers *Game Changer*. His music is just as raw as both his stage name implicates and his personal life reflects—sold out for Christ, and blatantly unashamed to say it on record. The album takes a brief turn from its evangelical tones, as Puyol turns up the romance on "Light Up The Night" and the bossa nova-infused "Lost Without U," both suggested for your "after-the-kids-have-gone-to-bed" playlists.

—Kevin Sparkman

WE LIKE: "Go Hard"



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