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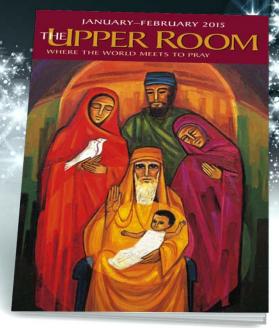
# The God of peace be with you all

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#### **NATALIE GRANT**

So, you think you know Natalie Grant? After reading her inspiring story of rediscovery, you might \U Y cbY UVci h yourself? Take heart, He has overcome the world.



#### **CHRISTMAS & COMMUNION**

In what is fast becoming a CCM Magazine tradition, one of our very favorite singersongwriter's and author's, Andrew Greer, invites us to sit in on his Christmastime conversations with fellow artists and friends.



#### **REND COLLECTIVE**

The Northern Ireland band is completing a very productive 2015, but for a group that's enjoyed their most successful year to date, are they beginning to lose their focus?



#### FROM THE EDITOR

#### **PHOTOS**

DEPARTMENTS

#### OUT AND ABOUT

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



#### REVIEWS

SARA GROVES, HOLLYN, SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER + MORE



#### **CHRISTMAS**

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

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**The Heart Of The Season** | As a media outlet, it's especially easy for us to get caught up in the Westernized view Christmas, and to further perpetuate the misguided hype. I am thankful for my friend **Andrew Greer**, and the message God has laid upon his heart—especially at this time of year. You may remember his featured series *When Christmas Hurts—Comfort In Waiting: The Story Of Advent* in the December 2014 editions of *CCM Magazine*. In them, Greer spoke with several artists on the painful memories that this season only seems to embellish.

Speaking of "holidays" and hyper-glorifications, Valentine's Day over-promotes the "heart," yet it rarely discusses getting inside-of, understanding, hearing and knowing another's heart. Furthermore, what unique challenges do we currently face as we ponder getting to know others heart, versus attempting to deal with all of the "issues" that seem to get in front of them?

This December, CCM and Greer will highlight six artist interviews surrounding the theme of **Christmas & Communion**. He brings it all back to Christ, and states, "It seems to me that Jesus' life was characterized by a sincere desire to be with people, no matter their issues. He looked beyond what they had done and affirmed who they are." Christ was all about just being with people, it's such a wonderful thing to think about, particularly as we begin to celebrate his arrival into humanity.

There are people all around us that are hurting—whether it is happening right now, or a past hurt is being brought to the surface again, via all of the Christmastime noises—pause, take note, be thankful, and spend time in connecting with someone's heart in communion this Christmas.

Merry Christmas,





**Kevin Sparkman**Editor, *CCM Magazine*KSparq@CCMMagazine.com



## 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 Transceding Mysteries (Thomas Nelson). More info at Andrew-Greer.com.



Matt Conner is a music writer for the *Indianapolis Star*,

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#### COMPILED BY ANDY ARGYRAKIS

Nashville's Johnny Cash Museum Café was filled to the brim for the Cindy Morgan & Friends concert featuring the Dove Awardwinning singer/songwriter, Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee Tom Douglas, GRAMMY and Dove Award winner Wayne Kirkpatrick, singer/songwriter/author Andrew Peterson and current Toad the Wet Sprocket player/fellow troubadour Jonathan Kingham. Pictured from left to right: Peterson, Douglas, Cindy Morgan, Kirkpatrick and Kingham (Photo Credit: KohlPhoto)

2 Relative newcomer to Christian music Jordan Feliz joins Kirk Franklin at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Dove Awards as part of the live backstage coverage for the Gospel Music Association.



#### **OUT & ABOUT**





- 3 Flashing back to another Dove Awards moment. Lauren Daigle proved to not only be the night's big winner, but also an incredible performer. In fact, she's on the road the rest of this year into the beginning of next, starting with the **Adore Christmas Tour** alongside **Chris** Tomlin and Crowder, followed by Winter Jam. (Photo Credit: Jamie Gilliam)
- 4 He may have first established himself in the mainstream with this year's breakout debut **Coming Home** (Columbia), but **Leon Bridges** wasn't one to shy away from his faith throughout the project or a sold out Chicago concert. The acclaimed soul/R&B/gospel artist hearkens back to the golden era of Sam Cooke, Marvin Gaye or Otis Redding, and like all of those artists, blends the personal with the spiritual throughout his stunning songwriting. (Photo Credit: Andy Argyrakis)

#### **OUT & ABOUT**

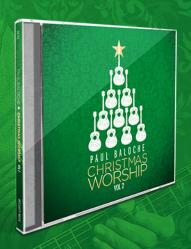


5 & 6 Planetshakers
Band members sign
#LETSGO CD jackets
following the Planetshakers
LIVE! Daystar event, which
was captured in this sweet
live shot of the troupe
performing contemporary
praise tunes from the
Integrity Music project.



# PAUL BALOCHE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

VOL 2



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The Secrets To Her Successes, And How A Simple Shift In Perspective Led To Authentic Freedom

BY KEVIN SPARKMAN

an artist who needs no introduction, thank you for allowing us to indulge with a brief reintroduction of **Natalie Grant** for you:

From the genesis of her solo career in 1999, to her 2013 release, *Hurricane*, she has garnered five Dove Awards for **Female Vocalist Of The Year** (four consecutive from 2006-09), four GRAMMY nominations, headline tours featuring fellow Christian artists such as **Bebo Norman**, **Jeremy Camp**, and **MercyMe**, has authored two books (*The Real Me*, in 2005, and a 30-day devotional *Dare To Be Devoted*, in 2012), starred in a movie (2011's *Decision*, featured on **Gospel Music Channel**), and recently hosted a reality TV-based game show (**GSN**'s *It Takes A Church*, which aired in 2014)—all of this, being a very small way to begin a very long list.

Now that we have proven our working knowledge of those "fancy Google machines," Grant is mostly interested in talking with you about her recent history. In fact, on a day she was to be on vocal rest, she graciously spent the better part of an hour with us at CCM Magazine, discussing her latest album, Be One (Curb Records, November 13, 2015, which debuted #1 both on Billboard's Christian chart and Soundscan's Christian AC chart), and the wonderful things that God is, well... rather, the things He has already done.

"A lot of people know that on my last record, I wrote a lot of songs as I came out

of postpartum depression from having my third child, and you know, over the last couple of years, I've really had such a shift of perspective in my life," says Grant. But this shift, as she calls it, wasn't a mere degree to the left, or right, while continuing to trudge ahead—it was more like a downshift, a look back, so that she could move forward, freely, and in full confidence.

"Instead of trying to think of all the things I needed God to do for me, I began to focus my perspective on what He has already done. The more I did this, the more I got along in getting myself healthy—internally, and externally," exclaimed Grant. "I think that just breathed a new life into my relationship with Christ, my marriage, how I mothered my children, and as a result, it's completely breathed a new life into my creativity."

After sixteen-plus years of singing, writing, recording, and touring, a span that has enjoyed numerous success stories—some mentioned in the brief introduction above—*Be One* could easily become album number one all over again for Grant.

"I've never set out to reinvent myself—I have never been like that. I'm sure of who I am, the kind of artist and singer that I am, and the music that works for me. But I think that is what's so different about this record. When people say they can sense 'freshness' in it, it's because there's a freshness in me, as a person, and that has translated into my music."

Playback of *Be One* confirms the mass response. Each track a reflection of her latest stories—momentum, victorious surrender, wholly trusting in God, His steadfastness—additionally, and appropriately, much of the album captures a jovial spirit, perhaps mirroring the fact that Grant strategically places family into her calling. Beyond the obvious musical collaborations with her husband and producer **Bernie Herms** (**Barbara Streisand**, **Josh Groban**, among countless others), Grant and team recorded

we have a lot of stress in our family—we're tired, overwhelmed, and it's just piling on—we say, 'It's time for a 30-second dance break!' My three girls even get their Daddy into it, and we dance our heads off!"

If you're one of the many thousands that "Like" or "Follow" Grant on her ever-growing socials, you're accustomed to seeing her children, in addition to her home and family life—and these, usually on a daily basis. And if you're like us, it's possible you may have also wondered just how Natalie Grant

"INSTEAD OF TRYING TO THINK OF ALL THE THINGS I NEEDED GOD TO DO FOR ME, I BEGAN TO FOCUS MY PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE. THE MORE I DID THIS, THE MORE I GOT ALONG IN GETTING MYSELF HEALTHY—INTERNALLY, AND EXTERNALLY."

NATALIE GRANT

the album in their Brentwood, TN home, also marking the recording debut of the dynamic duo's three daughters, twins **Grace Ana** and **Isabella Noelle**, and **Sadie Rose** (appearing on a cover of **Bethel Music**'s "Ever Be").

The record's second track, "Good Day," implies a challenge from Grant to her listeners. While the lyrics state, I'm gonna dance to the beat of amazing grace / Gonna hold to the promise, that You made / And I know whatever's gonna come my way / You're here with me, and it's gonna be a good day, the story behind the song tells of inspiration found in the faithful, and now family-favorite dance break. "I wanted to write a song my girls and I could dance to," said Grant, naturally grinning from ear-to-ear, at a **Live On Facebook** event airing the eve of Be One's release, drawing an audience of over 135,000 viewers across the duration of the streamed program.

"It doesn't make our problems go away, but I promise, if you dance for just 30-seconds, you can't help but smile and feel just a little better about your life," she encourages. "Whenever

balances it all? "A friend and Bible teacher in the U.K., **Charlotte Gambill**, really helped me to grasp the idea of, in her words, 'This is now your family's calling,' you know?

"She taught me how not to potentially instill into my kids the idea of, 'Mommy's going out to fulfill her calling,' rather, involving them in it so that they're actually blessing me as I go," says Grant. "As a family, we are taking the message of Jesus to the world. Right now, and as they grow, they will always feel like they were a part of this. I love that idea, we're doing just that, and it has really helped in balancing me." While this "balance" was on point, Grant timely chimes in to pay equal attention to the needs of her listeners—specifically, her female audience.

"I feel like the answer to the age-old question, 'How do we balance everything?' is one that everybody, especially women, are always looking for. In **Matthew 11:28-30**, **The Message** version, it says, 'Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.



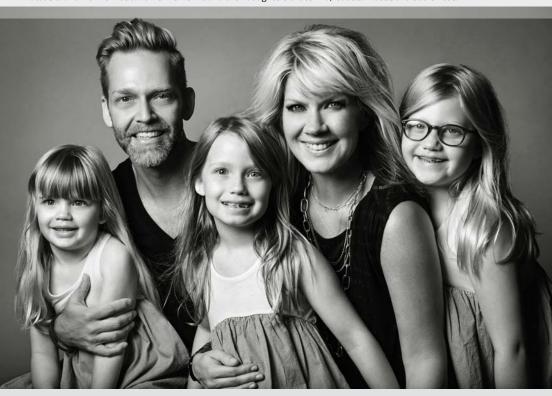
I'll show you how to take a real rest.' And then it says, 'Walk with me and work with me.'

"'Rest' and 'work' are together," illustrates Grant, "Which is kind-of funny, because most people are going to assume, 'If I'm resting, work is not going to be involved!' But when you look further, the Word continues, 'Watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.' That is a genius scripture," a noticeably moved Grant responds. "When your pursuits are ordered of

the Lord, you can still have rest in the midst of being tired, He can show you *real* rest."

As a wife, mother, and homemaker, an integral part of Grant's calling is to encourage the body of female believers. This is particularly evident in her easily accessible online persona, of which she boldly declares is the real Natalie Grant. "Some artists have both a 'public' and 'private' page on social media. I decided that I'm just going to be me—for better or worse—I'm going to invite people in to the real Natalie, not just the one holding the microphone on a stage," she states.

Natalie Grant with her husband Bernie Herms and their daughters Grace Ana, Isabella Noelle and Sadie Rose.



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- NATALIE GRANT

"I don't allow the team to post on my behalf—I'm the only person that posts on my socials. I feel like people are getting to know me, and now it feels like they're my friends, in addition to being fans. I have become trusted, and I think it has created a really interesting dynamic. Everyone does things differently, and I'm grateful that I decided Ito forego living two lives on social media]—I'm just who I am. My career, my calling, my family, marriage and kids—all of my pursuits are part of the same calling—to live a life that worships God, and loves people. To separate all of those things out," she pauses, searching for words, "I don't know—that just doesn't work for me. Instead of trying to compartmentalize everything, I invite my family into this journey. Interestingly enough, it's another one of the ways I actually find balance.

"When we're in step with the Lord, He will show us the 'unforced rhythms of grace' for our lives. I'm a wife, and God has called me to be a Mom—I feel that I have those things in the right order, and that is why you see me involving my family in everything that I do," she explains, honestly. "It doesn't mean that at times I'm not going to be absolutely exhausted, or even burned out. And my callings are going to be different than someone else's, but the same principles apply—stick close to the calling you have, and His pursuits for your life. When you're out of step, you're going to know it. I don't want to give this illusion that I've got it all figured out, that I've got everything completely balanced...thank God for grace! You can wake up the next day, and try it all over again, right?" [Laughs]

Despite the ever-growing tinge of a frog in her throat as we continue to converse, Grant's bubbly personality shines ever brightly, as you can sense this renewed purpose carrying over into her voice, her life. Just as she and her family are boldly taking the message of Jesus to the world, Grant also applies a new vigor toward her personal journey of living a healthy lifestyle—and she isn't afraid to tell anyone, or *show* everyone. Like the afore mentioned rhythms and orders, this is also a calculated strategy.

"WHENEVER WE HAVE A LOT OF STRESS IN OUR FAMILY—WE'RE TIRED, OVERWHELMED, AND IT'S JUST PILING ON—WE SAY, 'IT'S TIME FOR A 30-SECOND DANCE BREAK!' IT DOESN'T MAKE OUR PROBLEMS GO AWAY, BUT I PROMISE, IF YOU DANCE FOR JUST 30-SECONDS, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE AND FEEL JUST A LITTLE BETTER ABOUT YOUR LIFE."

- NATALIE GRANT

"It's a desire in every single person to look good, you know what I mean?" she poignantly asks. "I want to be really careful to not be a proponent of trying to be a certain size, or look a certain way to fit a cultural idea of beauty. That is not important," she emphasizes. "I think the reason I [talk about, and reveal my daily fitness journey on social media] is not for people to notice and say, 'Oh, she's losing weight,' what I want people to know is that I realized my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and I want to take care of what I have. More than that. I'm a better wife, a better mom and a better human being when I feel healthy, and feel good for taking the time for myself.

"I really want to bust this myth that a Christian woman is 'selfish' when she is actually taking care of herself. It's not selfish—It's smart. Women are caretakers, and they naturally take care of everyone else, often to their own detriment." Pointing out that there's a double standard when it comes to traditional roles and our cultural Christian response to a woman's cognizant and dedicated approach to personal fitness, Grant continues, "The Bible says, 'Love others AS you love yourself' (Mark 12:31), I think this actually means that we're supposed to love ourselves! [Laughs]

"Sometimes, we confuse the love of self with it being sinful, you know? If we're only looking out for ourselves, disregarding the needs of others, of course, that's sinful. But taking care of ourselves, loving ourselves, appreciating how God made us, and caring for that to the best of our ability, I actually think that's being Godly."

With having gone through very public admissions of her own struggles with these same subjects in the past, Grant's declarations alone have a meaningful impact. However, the visible witnesses to her tireless dedication—day in, and day out on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—there's no doubt her actions are tweeting louder than words.

As a summary of sorts to Grant's recent season, "King Of The World," the third track featured on *Be One*, was written in response to **1 Peter 5:10**. "It's hard to pick a 'life verse,' because there are so many scriptures that meet you at the point of your need in different seasons. But this scripture has been with me through thick and thin—and I've had a lot of thick, *and* a lot of thin!" says Grant, while laughing out loud.

"Sometimes in our American Christian culture, there's this kind-of 'name it and claim it,' prosperity-idea that God wants everybody to be happy, healthy, and wealthy. I don't

subscribe to this. I subscribe to the fact that He will never leave us in the midst of our strongest storms, and that in this life, there will be trouble—but take heart, for He has overcome the world.

"In the last couple of years I have experienced troubles first-hand, as I was coming out of a depression, and so unhappy. I was unhappy as a mother, I felt like I was failing at trying to keep it all together. I struggled with doubts, and questioned faith. I was having to realize that, here I was, this 'Christian artist'—at times not knowing how I even got to that place—while people seemingly held this 'super-Christian' status over me, of which I am not. Then, I felt like I couldn't be honest about that, because I was 'supposed to' be encouraging everyone else in their walk...

How could I make You so small
When You're the one who holds it all
When did I forget that You've always been the
King of the world
Just a whisper of Your voice can tame the seas
So who am I to try and take the lead
Still I run ahead and think I'm strong enough
When You're the one who made me from the

"I don't have it perfected, but I'm definitely in a better place than I was. Again, the change occurred when I discovered that I needed to shift my perspective off of my own struggles—I had to get my mind off of treating Jesus like Santa Claus—and say, 'Okay, this is what He's already done.' I can't control my circumstances, I can't control the issues and the problems of my life, but I can control my perspective."

I try to fit You in the walls inside my mind I try to keep You safely between the lines I try to put You in the box that I've designed I try to pull You down so we are eye to eye
When did I forget that You've always been the
King of the world?
I try to take life back right out of the hands of
the King of the world

Reiterating that 1 Peter 5:10 has held her through many of life's circumstances, Grant says, "I think this scripture really nails it, 'After you have suffered a while...' All of us will face suffering on different levels, and at different stages, but the God of all grace promises that He will sustain us through the struggle—He'll strengthen, perfect, establish, and settle us."

Perhaps you have a long list of accolades, but can't find a way to real answers in your life? Maybe your assets outweigh your ability to find, and experience true joy?

Whether you're in the midst of a storm, or even having a good day, take the occasional 30-second dance break. Sometimes, actually physically moving your feet and hands are the first steps to taking that stand, and when you're finished (with an inevitable smile), ponder Natalie's question, Why sit around, and wait for a miracle to come?





READ CCM'S REVIEW OF "BE ONE" IN THE NOV. 15, 2015
EDITION OF CCM MAGAZINE ON CCMMAGAZINE.COM.

**CHRISTMAS 2015** 





# ISN'T CHRISTMAS GLORIOUS?

I realize some jeer 'neath a Scrooge-like snarl at the suggestion that the most commercialized month on our calendars could also serve as the most wonderful time of the year. I get it. Our Western World culture has a tendency to go absolutely berserk over the holidays. Nutso. Loco. What's new? We're American. And if we are not careful, our ever-present inner cynics can smother our most positive thoughts of peace and good will with critical gestures of "bah-humbug."

But I'm still a believer in Christmas. It doesn't hurt that at least once a year, in the midst of a great deal of cultural conflict and confusion, the famous refrains of historic carols fill public places with sounds of hope. And peace. And love. I am still a believer in such things.

For most of us, our reality of the holidays lie somewhere between the utterly ecstatic, and the painfully depressing. Most of us are living in an in-between of daily circumstances that both beg our attention, while depleting our resources. Oh, and we have issues. You know, emotional and mental issues. The pesky kind. We are struggling with real life. Divorce. Cancer. Layoffs. We are

praying for miracles, or at least a sign, yet are left with a lot of anxiety and heartache.

"... He will be called Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God, Dear Father Everlasting, everpresent never-failing, Master of Wholeness, Prince of Peace." — Isaiah 9:6 (The Voice)

It seems to me that Jesus' life was characterized by a sincere desire to be with people, no matter their issues. He looked beyond what they had done and affirmed who they are.

We focus a lot on "issues." And though our conversations on how to solve each and every conflict are important, they pale in comparison to simply sitting with, listening to and seeing beyond each other's issues so we can connect with each other's hearts. Sounds a bit like communion, doesn't it?

The artists featured throughout the next few pages have long been known for connecting with the hearts of many through music. But in these conversations, they share how discovering communion in the day-today—family meals around the kitchen table, worship times with their community of faith, sharing songs on record and on the road—is inspiring their own hearts, especially this Christmas, □□M



# NATHAN COCHRAN, "GOD HAS ENTERED INTO THE HUMAN STORY"

After selling millions of records, receiving gobs of awards and instigating massive mainstream recognition

thanks to their impact anthem, "I Can Only Imagine"—a major multi-format radio smash that created an overnight national platform for the then little—known Texas band, it would be easy to assume the five fellas of MercyMe might have more on their mind these days than ministry through music. Yet over the past fifteen years of

national attention, the band's purpose to love God and others—has remained unchanged.

Employing the power of song to drive home their mission of love to listeners, the charismatic quintet is famous for marrying memorable melodies with eloquent, inspirational verses, creating a discography of substance and meaning—not just trends and hooks. And this Christmas, MercyMe strikes up the band to honor the season of love with a brand new yuletide recording, *It's Christmas!* (FairTrade Services)—a gladsome follow-up to their 2005 gold-certified holiday delight, *The Christmas Sessions*.

In this exclusive *CCM Magazine* Christmas conversation, the band's bassist, **Nathan Cochran**, shares why Christmas is so important to the men of MercyMe.



CCM: It's Christmas! begins with an epic amalgamation of carol lyrics ("Mild He lays His glory by / Born that man no more may die") with an ending of the Isaiah 9 foretelling of Jesus on repeat ("For unto us a child is born / Unto us a Son is given"). What was the design behind beginning your sophomore Christmas

set with such impactful lines?

Nathan Cochran: We celebrate Christmas for those reasons, so it seemed very fitting to begin the record that way. This first song, "Newborn," was pieced together as we were attempting to work on three songs individually. Sometimes songs work together in ways that surprise you. Each of those songs that turned into the first track spoke



directly to how we want to focus on the Christmas season. It seemed like the perfect way to set the tone for the rest of the record.

CCM: Christmas is the one season on our culture's calendar where Judeo-Christian worldviews are accepted, and perhaps even encouraged, at large—especially through music. Why do you think Christmas seems to get a free pass to express Christian spirituality in the mainstream?

NC: That's a tough question. I think the holiday is so entrenched into our culture that whether or not people are celebrating the birth of Christ, they enjoy the gift giving and benevolent attitudes adopted during the holiday. Maybe they don't want to mess that

up by arguing for an even more secular focus for the holiday?

CCM: The album cover is rather whimsical, no surprise to loyal MercyMe listeners who know the band's fun-loving personality. But for you personally, how does whimsy mingle with the more serious side of the season? How do you think the happy traditions of the season are important in our Christ-centered celebrations? NC: Well, Christmas is a time of celebration, and I don't think joy has to be separated from how seriously we take the holiday. It has always been a very fun time for our families and us, and that comes across in how we represent the holiday. If our intent is to truly celebrate the birth of Christ then our



reasons behind celebrating will be more important than what the celebration looks like.

For us, it is a time of focusing on family and being truly thankful that God has entered into the human story.

CCM: It has been ten years since the release of the band's first Christmas record. What inspired a second holiday installment? And with such an enormous catalog of classic Christmas records already in the books, is it intimidating to produce, perform and add yet another to the list?

NC: Our first Christmas record is one of our favorite records we have ever done. We have always enjoyed performing those songs when the chance comes around, but I'm not sure we thought we would do another one. So,

when the opportunity came up to do another Christmas record, it was very exciting, but it was tough, honestly. We felt like we had chosen our favorite songs the first time around, which made song choices harder.

Also, these classics or standards have become extremely important to people so there is a pressure to not mess them up while trying to make them our own. It's a balance of wanting to take ownership of a song, but still give people the chance to listen and enjoy it like they always have.

We ended up writing a few original songs, which proved even harder than addressing a standard. How do you write a proper Christmas song? We had never asked ourselves that before. But with our originals we went after honesty, and I think that made for some great new stuff.

CCM: In 2015 alone, our nation has struggled through intense human issues and conflicts. It's been a heck of a year. And Christmastime does not eliminate our many complexities and confusions. How do you think this eason speaks into our hurt and pain?

NC: I believe it speaks to our ultimate hope. That God himself entered into the human story so that real redemption could happen. All of our issues find their fix or answer in Christ and if we could keep that in mind consistently, like we do during the Christmas season, I think we would find grace doing work that could honestly change the world.

CCM: In these Christmas features we are talking about "Christmas and Communion." How does the crux of Christmas—Jesus, God with us—lead us into communion with God and with each other?

NC: Jesus Christ, God incarnate, has come and made the way for us to enter into real life. We are now sons and daughters in Christ and can look at each other as family. Familial bonds are always the strongest.





## EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US IN EVERY SEASON

Known for articulating mysteries of the faith through songs accessible to both major corporate worship song lists and personal devotional playlists, **Laura Story** has gradually grown into one of Christian

music's most favored singersongwriters.

Her poignant piano ballad, "Blessings," written in the confusing aftermath of her husband's brain tumor diagnosis, became a tender musical prayer for thousands of people struggling with unexplainable pain. Subsequently, Story became a number-one seller with

a handful of Dove Awards, a GRAMMY Award and a platform as one of gospel music's premiere artists.

And though "Laura Story" became a household name for thousands of music listeners across the country over the past few years, for her local congregation—Perimeter Church in Atlanta, Georgia—Laura is simply, and fondly, known as "worship leader." And it is in the context of sharing weekly

communion through the ministry of music with her home church that Story finds her inspiration to write songs that eventually connect with the world.

Her latest expressions of faith are captured on her first Christmas recording, God With Us (FairTrade Services), a worshiporiented combination of affective carols and original anthems highlighting yet another sensitive collection in Story's meaningful,

and growing, discography.

CCM: Christmastime is the one time in our calendar where the sacred and the secular seem to make peace. Worshipful lyrics like "O, come let us adore Him / Christ the Lord" stream from the speakers of everyday public places. Do you experience this unique

impact of Christmas music in your life as well?

Laura Story: Absolutely. One of the greatest things about the Christmas season is people who aren't normally interested in spiritual things are all of the sudden looking for an opportunity to celebrate the Christ of Christmas, which some of them don't even believe in. As a worship leader in a church, I love the thousands of visitors that come



during the holidays looking for a nostalgic experience, yet hopefully finding something much more meaningful.

CCM: With so many Christmas records already stocking the shelves, what inspired you to add your voice to the list?
LS: That is a great question. For many years, I was a firm believer that after Amy Grant's "Tender Tennessee Christmas," there was no need for any of us to ever do a Christmas album again!

Christmas has always been an important holiday to me. The idea of God being "with us," the word becoming flesh and dwelling among us has made all the difference in my life. I couldn't help writing songs about how the birth of Christ impacted me personally.

CCM: You speak candidly about tragedy in your recent book, When God Doesn't Fix It. In response to your husband's diagnosis with a brain tumor, you said, "In that moment, we think life as we know it is over. The truth is, life as we've yet to know it has just begun." It seems this statement relates to the entire human condition as we anticipate and experience the birth and life of Jesus.

LS: Absolutely. The birth of Christ is an event that literally split time in two. It is hard for us as Christians to fully comprehend what it meant for God to become man and to be born in a stable, but it was by far the greatest gift to all of humanity—that God saw our desperate need and sent Jesus.

The birth of Christ was God's rescue plan for humanity, and I try to keep this in the forefront of my mind each Christmas knowing that He was compelled by His love for me.

CCM: Hard life does not disappear during the holidays. How does Christmas color the tragedy in your own family's life?

Let be some ways, it is a comfort that Christ.

LS: In some ways, it is a comfort that Christmas comes every December 25 no matter what kind of year we are facing. I can remember our first Christmas after Martin's [Story's husband] surgery and being thankful simply that we had him with us for another year.

This particular Christmas will, I am sure, contain joys that I don't even know yet celebrating with a three-year old and one-year old twins! But whether you find yourself celebrating Christmas during a joyful season or a hard season, the truth is the same—Emmanuel came to be "with us" in every season.

CCM: To listeners across the country, you are known as "singer-songwriter-touring artist." But at Perimeter Church in Atlanta, you are known as "worship leader." How does the weekly opportunity of facilitating communion through music for your congregation help shape the songs you write and record?

LS: I would go so far as to say that there is nothing about my songwriting or recording that is not impacted by my community at Perimeter. I have had the privilege of serving there for over ten years now, and anything that I do on the road is an overflow of what God is teaching me in the context of my church family at Perimeter. It truly is a blessing to serve there.



# LEIGH CAPPILLINO, "THE MORE HARMONIES, THE BETTER"

Point of Grace has long been known for spreading glad tidings of good cheer at Christmastime. Their dazzling holiday discography (three bestselling recordings to date) have filled the hearts of millions of homes thanks to the trio's timeless blend of sentimental yuletide track lists and dazzling vocal harmonies.

But for Shelley Breen, Leigh Cappillino and Denise Jones—the women that make up the legendary group—celebrating Christmas is much more than waxing nostalgia through music. A fervent love for God and people has driven their desire to create music together from the beginning. In this special Christmastime conversation, Leigh Cappillino explains how family, food and yes, music, create communion for the group, and for her family—especially during the holidays.

CCM: Point of Grace's holiday recordings have become a staple in folks' holiday celebrations across the country. They have also become a significant part of the group's career. How has the music of Christmas impacted you personally? Leigh Cappillino: Christmas music made an unforgettable impact on me at a very early age. Our small, country church would have the children and youth Christmas musical each year, and I was never too shy to sing or dress up like an angel. [Laughs]

Christmas music is played at our home starting November 1 and is sung loud and proud, even past the New Year. Since Christmas is also a busy touring time for Point of Grace, our kids have grown up traveling with us on the bus. This is an anticipated time for all of our kids. They still love it! We have collected so many wonderful memories over the years.

CCM: Point of Grace has three Christmas records to date, plus yuletide contributions on a plethora of holiday albums—including this year's An Angel Band Christmas by yours truly. What continues to compel you ladies to record and tour the sounds of the season?

LC: I think Christmas music allows artists—especially groups like Point of Grace—to exploit harmonies like never before. Often times in the recording process, too much harmony is considered "not cool," but for

some reason Christmas music doesn't take on that offense. The more harmonies, the better.

Point of Grace is known for its harmonies, so recording and touring Christmas music never gets old.

CCM: Life is tough. And life does not quit for the holidays. One of my favorite Point of Grace Christmas songs is "Immanuel." How does this "God with us" message resonate with you in the midst of day-to-day living—at Christmastime and all year long?

LC: The song "Immanuel" has meant as much to us as it has our audiences. No one is excused from pain and sorrow. My Grand-daddy died on Christmas day many years ago. I remember year after year trying to celebrate Christmas, yet feeling his absence and the absence of tradition with him. It was tough, and weird and very difficult.

So when we sing that song in particular, we not only relate to it personally, we also recognize that others need to be reminded of the comfort He brings—especially during the Christmas season.

CCM: You are a mother of a teenager and a toddler. As a parent, and a disciple of Christ, how do you help instill this idea of everyday communion with Emmanuel, "God with us," in the lives of your kids? LC: Wow. What a question.

Well, my husband **Dana** and myself are pretty transparent and vulnerable with our kids. Since we are *not* perfect, we appreciate God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and compassion on a regular basis, and thus we *try* to instill those same beautiful traits to and towards our kids.

I tell my 13-year old daughter before she goes to school (my toddler doesn't quite understand yet), "Be a light and make it count!" If we can be that light, then we are recognizing God's power is with us and in us day by day.

CCM: Lessons in communion begin at home, often around the dinner table. I personally have been a recipient of sweet food and company around your table. How does the dinner table fit into the Cappillino's Christmas traditions?

LC: I grew up having dinner every weekday evening with my family. Sunday dinner (lunch was called "dinner" on Sunday because it was always extra special) was a big deal. You didn't miss it! The food was outstanding. Granddaddy's cubed steak; Rara's roast; Aunt Billie Jo's macaroni pie, and Mom's chocolate pie. Those are just a few of my favorites I could count on (for more, see the *Gracious Cooking* sidebar in *Reviews*).

Mealtime meant people time. No one was in a hurry to get up, clean up or leave. We celebrated each other's company and talked about current and community events of the previous week. I wanted to keep that tradition as sacred with my family as it was for me growing up.

Dana and I love having people over, and our kids have become quite accustomed to it as well. Our family has recognized the importance of eating together. We get to review the day's activities—good or bad—and hear the heart of our kids. Staying connected is key. And if you need a piece of chocolate pie to help you connect, I say, "Eat up!"







REND COLLECTIVE Is Completing A Very Productive 2015—But For A Band That's Enjoyed Their Most Successful Year To Date, Are They Beginning To Lose Their Focus?

#### BY MATT CONNER

"Not every worship song needs to be a ballad."

hile Rend
Collective's Gareth
Gilkeson certainly

isn't against slow songs, given his own worship band has recorded plenty of their own, he is passionate about rounding out the worship experience with a broader range of emotions. For Gilkeson and the rest of the Northern Ireland quintet, a missing component is joy.

If you're familiar with Rend Collective, then you're well aware of the band's commitment to joyful expression in their songs. With albums like *Organic Family Hymnal*, *The Art of Celebration* or, most recently, *As Family We Go*, Rend Collective has gifted the church with energetic, vibrant songs filled with faith and hope, joy and strength.

"It's not about being happy-go-lucky. Rather, as



the scripture says, 'The joy of the Lord is our strength,'" says Gilkeson. "That's what sustains us through difficulties."

It's a facet to the worship movement that has clearly gained a strong foothold. With over 300,000 total album sales to date, Rend Collective is just scratching the surface on their success. When As Family We Go released, it hit the top of every iTunes Christian Albums chart around the world—from the U.S. and U.K., to Australia and South Africa. They've played Madison Square Garden and Red Rocks Amphitheatre. They've played Hong Kong, Brazil, Switzerland and Hungary. A fall tour with Chris Tomlin only accelerated the growth curve for their popularity.

It seems this whole joy-thing is catching on.

"On our last tour, we had a thing called the *Celebration Wall* where we got people to write their stories. It was amazing," recalled Gilkeson. "We read them every night when we got onto the bus, and so many were stories of people choosing to celebrate through the most difficult times. There's something about that which is more faith-filled than anything you can imagine."

"Not every worship song needs to be a ballad. [But] it's not about being happygo-lucky. Rather, as the scripture says, 'The joy of the Lord is our strength,' That's what sustains us through difficulties."

GARETH GILKESON
 OF REND COLLECTIVE



#### CCM's As Family We Go Review

Somewhere between the vigorous energy of **Foy Vance** and popular contemporary worship acts lies **Rend Collective**. Ever since the worship band from Northern Ireland released *Organic Family Hymnal* in 2010, they've added a vibrant intensity to congregational catalogs with songs of celebration and praise.

As Family We Go brings a communal theme to the table, a nod to both the familial bonds between the band members and the greater church family they are addressing. The songs themselves are vertical expressions filled with hope and joy rooted in the person and character of God. Slower numbers like "One and Only" are quite lovely, but Rend Collective's signature up-tempo tunes are the bread and butter. Don't miss the one-two punch of "Celebrate" and "Free as a Bird."

- Matt Conner, Aug. 15, 2015

In that vein, it was very a specific story that cemented their celebratory calling as a band after Gilkeson witnessed the testimony of a young couple who remained faithful in their joy, and continuous worship to the Lord, even as they grieved a tremendous loss.

"I remember a few years ago, there was a couple in our church who lost their three year-old son," says Gilkeson. "I have a two year-old boy, and I couldn't imagine how I would cope if something happened to him. I remember they were in church the week after his funeral. They were at the front of the service with their arms lifted high, worshipping God and choosing to trust and find their joy in Him.

"That's changed me forever. It's very much committed us as a team and community on that same path to draw that out of people. It's sometimes something that is lacking in worship in churches. Joy is a fruit of the spirit, so that's our focus."

The process of finding their specific vision has been an organic journey since the beginning. Gilkeson, whose wife, **Ali**,



is also in Rend Collective, was originally a pastor in the small town of Bangor, Northern Ireland. The band formed from the church community without any real mission or purpose, other than write music and have fun. Now, however, they've become keenly aware of a greater mission as they've continued to see their songs impact in unexpected ways.

"Maybe at the start, we were just having more fun with it," says Gilkeson with a laugh. "We were writing worship songs, but we were like, 'Let's make this a cool, funky bit.' Then it would be too hard for people to sing. We'd be leading concerts and people would just be standing there looking at us. As soon as that starts happening, we know that's not a song that we ever want to sing again.

"I think over the years, we've learned to develop who we are," he says. "We're writing songs for the church. We're a worship band. That's who we are and what we do. We also



#### CCM's Campfire Christmas, Vol. 1 Review

Fresh from the release of their chart-topping album As Family We Go, Rend Collective is putting the musical star atop a tree made of momentum with a holiday release entitled Campfire Christmas, Vol. 1. Already well known for their celebratory refrains and vibrant live shows, the band brings significant joy through their yuletide inventions (and reinventions). Christmas staples are turned on their head with the imaginative takes on "O Come All Ye Faithful (Let Us Adore Him)" and "Joy to the World (You Are My Joy)." Even more inspired is the band's more straightforward version of "O Holy Night (O Night Divine)." However the album's true highlight is its nod to the band's Northern Irish roots on the lone non-traditional track, a cover of Ash's "Shining Light."

Matt Conner, Nov. 15, 2015

want to do it in the most creative way possible, and in a way that makes sense to us and to our generation—also perhaps to those who are cynical of the church. We want them to come in from the streets and not feel like they don't get it. If they hear a song on the radio or at a concert, they could say, 'I'm not so sure about God, but I'm into this.'

While celebration is the primary theme for Rend Collective, Gilkeson is quick to point out the band's heart for a solid theology within the same breath. "Again, we're a church worship band. It's our responsibility to bring theology and things that matter in a context where they can sing it in churches or they can come to our concerts and experience the freedom and the joy in Christ.

"Being from Ireland, we've such a rich Christian heritage," he says. "We all grew up on hymns, but not on the most recent, current worship songs. Whenever we write songs, we write them from the classic hymns standpoint, whether it sounds like it or not. Theology is just so important to us. Somebody once said to me, 'You don't believe the church's theology by what the pastor says, but by what the people sing.' That really affected me.

"I want to make sure people are singing about a beautiful, expansive, wonderful, creative God, not some boxed-in version that we have self-made, but the God of the universe. I want to sing that salvation didn't come for free, but at the highest cost, and is available for everyone. That's what I want to sing about, we don't want to ever get away from that."





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#### IN THIS ISSUE



















#### **SARA GROVES**

Floodplain (Fair Trade Services) FOR FANS OF: Joy Williams, Nichole Nordeman, Andrew Peterson

Mom/wife/singer/songwriter (advertised in that order) Sara Groves has never been one to chase Dove Awards or radio airplay, though on her ninth album in 18 years, she takes an even more unvarnished approach than usual. Floodplain finds the acclaimed troubadour touching on "want and provision, personal struggles and empathy" after both a season of depression and anxiety, alongside her increasing role with International Justice Mission (where she and her husband advocate for victims of human trafficking). With all that in mind, the 13 pensive pop tracks have a heavy yet hopeful heart placed strikingly across her own production, plus tasteful touches from Steve Brewster. Matt Pierson. Scott Dente, Daniel Phelps and Brown **Bannister**. The title track is amongst the many beautiful ballads on the collection and also one of the most personal as she pleads for the Lord to sent a lifeboat for her struggles, while the chilling "On Your Mark" and the acoustic gallop "Second Guess Girl" add respective elements of embracing grace and increasing selfconfidence to this compelling new chapter.

-Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE: "Second Guess Girl"

AC ROCK





FOR FANS OF: Blanca, Michelle Williams, Fantasia

Many have been introduced to new Gotee Records artist Hollyn naturally through the auspices of **Toby McKeehan** (**TobyMac**). whether it be her collaboration on his latest album ("Backseat Driver"), or nightly on stage during the current \*\*\*THIS IS NOT A **TEST\*\*\* Tour.** If you like female-driven vocals overlaying bumping pop and hip hop tracks, then her superbly produced debut self-titled EP is for you. Hollyn is no one-trick pony, she can belt it out with the best, as heard on the finger-snapping "Hey Mama," and "Steady Me" featuring **Aaron Cole**. This initial offering is power-packed with all the ingredients of a superstar in the making, and we're already eager for more material!

-Kevin Sparkman



#### **SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER**

Redline (VSR Music Group) FOR FANS OF: P.O.D., Disciple, Pillar ★★★☆

Though the last several releases have volleyed between rock and more worship-minded material, **Seventh Day Slumber**'s **Redline** EP tips the scales back towards an intentionally aggressive tone. But just because "Bring It On" and many of the other alternative tunes are jock jams in the making doesn't mean the group is any less committed to ministry. In fact, the scorching "I'll Bleed" screams of being on fire for Christ in the face of temptation, while the crunching monster ballad "Lost In The Lights" speaks of not succumbing to worldly distraction. As a bonus, fans of '90s grunge are sure to smile with a killer cover of **Temple Of The Dog**'s social justice-framed "Hunger Strike," which falls right in stylistic step with this joyfully frenetic return to form.

-Andy Argyrakis

WORSHIP





Michael English's first album since 2013, Worship, brings his incredible vocal ability to bear on a familiar set of congregational songs. "Relevation Song," "Blessed Be Your Name," "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" and "Let It Rain" are just a few of the favorites found here. The arrangements are straightforward, staying true to the original versions sung in churches around the globe, but therein lies the purpose. This is an album intended to aid the listener in personal times of worship, and a voice like English's is the perfect lead-in for those intimate devotional times.

-Matt Conner



CROWDER
Neon Porch Extravaganza
(sixstepsrecords)
FOR FANS OF: Brett Younker,
Matt Redman, The Digital Age
★★★☆

No other Christian artist can open a record with a snippet of **Rednex**'s "Cotton Eyed Joe," and get away with it, quite like **Crowder**. With music as fun and upbeat as **David Crowder** himself, the EP—an unannounced late-October drop by sixsteps/Capitol—highlights a live performance at Atlanta's **Passion City Church** that Crowder admits was, "Freaking stupid good." Don't worry, you won't feel dumb for picking up this release!

-Kevin Sparkman

WE LIKE: "I Am"



JOHN TIBBS

Dead Man Walking EP
(Fair Trade Services)

FOR FANS OF: The Alternate
Routes, Stephen Kellogg

★★★☆

Worship leader and performing artist John **Tibbs** whets the appetite for more with his new EP, Dead Man Walking, released in anticipation of a full-length in 2016. In this short five-song set. Tibbs shows off several facets—an impressive rootsrock foundation, impeccable taste with guests like **Ellie Holcomb**, a true gift for the memorable melodic turn. Songs like "Silver In Stone" and the title track show off these elements and more and signals one of the industry's brightest young artists.

-Matt Conner

WE LIKE: "Silver in Stone"

WE LIKE: "Revelation Song"



VARIOUS ARTISTS
Top 25 Gospel Praise Songs
(Maranatha! Music)
FOR FANS OF: Phillip Carter,
Israel Houghton
★★★☆☆

Two-time Stellar Awardwinning artist and producer Phillip Carter (Sounds Of **Victory**) helms the latest Top 25 in Maranatha! Music's series of releases. This selection brings together congregational worship favorites by a wide array of songwriters—from Andrae Crouch and Chris Tomlin, to **Israel Houghton** and **Charles** Jenkins. Carter's band and the Queen's Chapel UMC choir bring them all to life, including a few of Carter's own compositions, in this concise set of classic worship songs.

-Matt Conner

WE LIKE: "You Are Good"

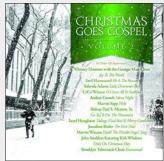


### DAVID BRITTON Christmas (Shadowlands Music) FOR FANS OF: Josh Groban ★★★☆☆

David Britton brings his distinctly powerful baritone vocal to a new set of holiday tunes this season on the aptly titled *Christmas*. Featuring two originals and a host of traditional songs, *Christmas* gives a heartfelt platform for the classically trained vocalist. "Sing Noel," which features Out Of The Grey's Christine Dente, inspires as it closes out this tender album that also holds beloved classics like "O Holy Night" and "Joy to the World."

-Matt Conner

WE LIKE: "Sing Noel"



### VARIOUS ARTISTS Christmas Goes Gospel Volume 2 (Rendezvous) FOR FANS OF: Marvin Sapp, Yolanda Adams, Jonathan Butler ★★★★

Gospel fans of any generation are destined to devour the second volume of this glorious Christmas compilation just as capable of reinforcing the good news for believers as taking it well beyond the church walls. From Whitney Houston with the Georgia Mass Choir's jubilant take on "Joy To The World" through the Brooklyn Tabernacle **Choir**'s emotive "Emmanuel," the highlight reel that also includes Andraé Crouch, CeCe Winans. Fred Hammond. Yolanda Adams and others is literally endless.

-Andy Argyrakis

WE LIKE: Andraé Crouch's "Silent Night"

### CHRISTMAS DVD



ANDREW GREER & FRIENDS
Andrew Greer Presents:
An Angel Band Christmas
(LightWorx/Lucid Artists) DVD, 60-minutes plus approx. 30-minutes of bonus features.

If you're an eager consumer of Christmas music year after year, there's no doubt that you've already become accustomed to mixing in several **Andrew Greer** favorites to your holiday playlists from his **Angel Band: The Christmas Sessions** recording, and even from the friendly collaborations on the new **O Come Emmanuel** (Lucid Artists, October 2015) album. With **An Angel Band Christmas** DVD, now available through LightWorx, Greer invites his band of angels, and several other friends, to the stage, and into your home theatre, with his signature

spin on the family Christmas concert.

Recorded live in Nashville, TN, the DVD features performances by Greer, Cindy Morgan, Point Of Grace, Jaci Velasquez and Nic Gonzales (Salvador), with special appearances by author Patsy Clairmont and Sandi Patty (a moving music video-style duet with Greer, of "Ave Maria"). Greer's song selections and intricate musical arrangements expertly mesh the celebratory Christmas traditions with the anticipation of Advent. "When I think about the season, what draws me in and begs my attention," Greer tells the audience, "Is this



### CHRISTMAS DVD



period preceding Christmas. When I think of Advent, in my hoping and waiting, I think of the perspective that's gained from heartache—how it suddenly finds meaning, understanding and hope in the waiting for Emmanuel, 'God with us.'"

So much of that anticipation and meaning can be felt on performances like "I Wonder As I Wander," as Cindy Morgan's eerie tones almost command your mind for a different perspective of the season, and Jaci Velasquez's emotional performance of "Heartbeat Of A Baby," singing alongside guitar-strumming husband, Nic Gonzales. In addition to the tasteful and welcomed cerebral shift—musically, think Americana-cool, minus an overly annoying hipster-vibe (with Clairmont, Point Of Grace, and a TBN'esque studio audience in attendance, this helps round to out the inclusivity, without it feeling like a hokie 'Homecoming'—so, twothumbs up for production and attention to detail!). Intermittent on-stage interviews and chatter are enjoyable ice breakers throughout, and the bonus features do add value-we encourage you to pick up a copy, as you'll be glad you featured this on your flat screen over any cheesy network television Christmas day parade.

-Kevin Sparkman

WE LIKE: "The Beginning Of Love" (Andrew Greer)



### CHRISTMAS RECIPE

"Billy Jo's Mackie Pie"
Provided by Leigh Cappillino of
Point Of Grace

This macaroni and cheese dish is another family recipe and a kid pleaser, too. It brings the goodness of home back to me every time I make it. Aunt Billie Jo doesn't have a recipe. She just "eyes it up" and our tummies enjoy it! Hope you will too.

Ingredients | 1 lb. box angel hair pasta - 1 stick butter, divided use - 16oz. package sharp cheddar cheese, divided use - 1 large egg - 5 cups milk - salt - pepper

### **Directions:**

- 1. Preheat oven to 350
- 2. Make angel hair pasta as instructed then drain
- 3. Spray a 9x13 glass dish with non-stick cooking spray
- 4. Begin the layering process: Layer ½ the pasta in baking dish
- 5. Sprinkle salt and pepper
- 6. Add pats of butter (4 T. per layer)
- 7. Next add a layer of extra sharp cheddar cheese (8oz. per layer)
- 8. Repeat same ingredients fore the next layer
- 9. In a separate bowl whisk together one egg with approx.. 5 cups of milk
- 10. Now it's time to "eye it up." Start pouring the milk/egg mix. You need this liquid to sit just under the top layer of noodles to keep it from boiling over during baking. In other words, don't fill it all the way to the top.
- 11. Bake for 40 minutes

### Serves 8-10

For more Christmas recipes from Point Of Grace, pick up a copy of their cookbook, *Cooking With Grace: A Cookbook From Point Of Grace* 



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B&H Kids will be conducting a major blog outreach to 500+ of our top B&H bloggers. B&H Kids will sponsor an online contest for moms of toddlers to show what words their toddlers are learning using the #littlewordsmatter.





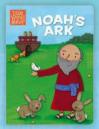
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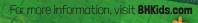


Interior Sample

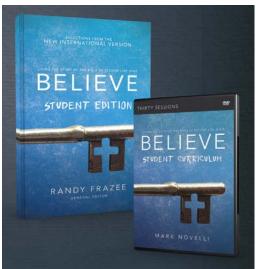












Your kids knows the story of the Bible, but do they know what it means? Join bestselling author and pastor Randy Frazee as he teaches children and teens how to think, act and be more like Jesus, through 30 Old Testament and 30 New Testament stories that highlight biblical truths, and answer big questions about God. The Believe Coloring Book gives even the youngest child a way to interact with the stories and lessons the rest of their family is following in the churchwide Believe campaign. With bold black line images for 60 Old and New Testament stories, this coloring book lets children have fun coloring the pages that encourage them to THINK, ACT, and BE like Jesus.

The Believe Storybook shows children the

60 Believe principles in a vibrant storybook Bible. Each story from the Bible showcases the themes, combined with captivating and dramatic illustrations by Steve Adams, children and adults alike will be inspired to become more like their savior and the person they were meant to be.

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Join bestselling author and pastor Randy Frazee as he shows children how to think, act, and be more like Jesus. Through 30 Old Testament and 30 New Testament stories that highlight biblical truths and answer big questions about God, kids of all ages will learn what it means to become more like their Lord in every way.



The Believe Student and Children's Curriculum helps you teach 30 big ideas found in Scripture, and contains 30 complete lessons each for twos, preschool, early elementary, and later elementary.

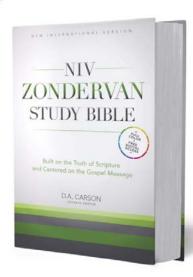












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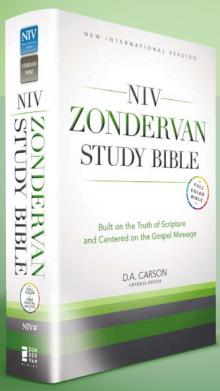
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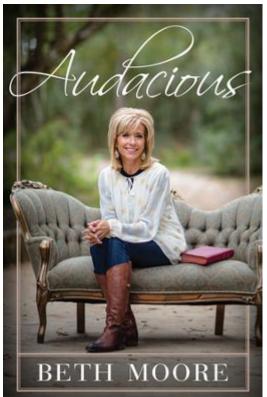
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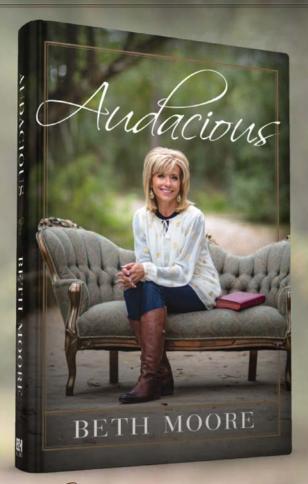


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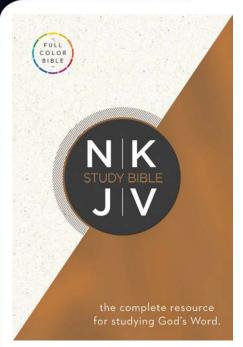
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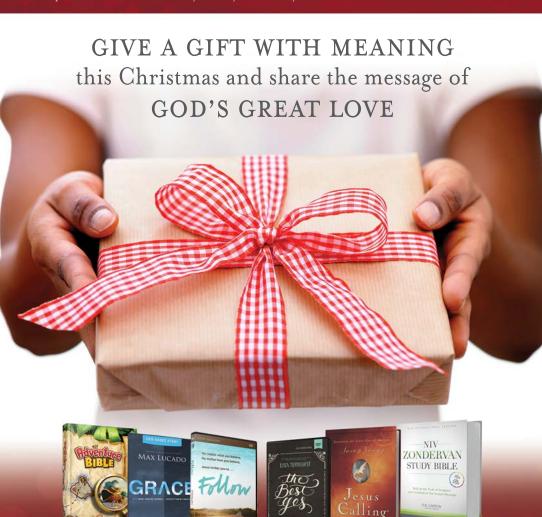
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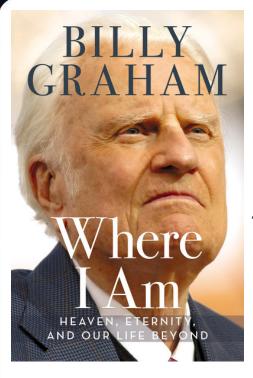












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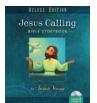
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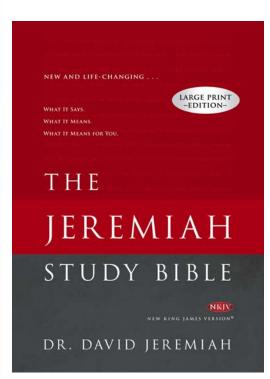
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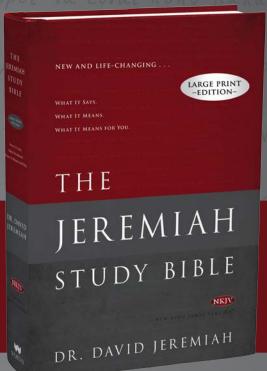
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