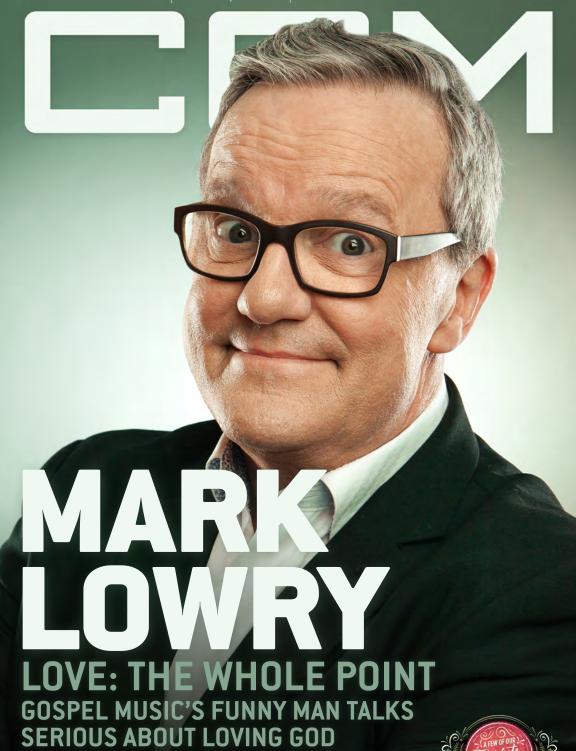
VASHAWN MITCHELL | CHRIS QUILALA | IN REVIEW: MORE CHRISTMAS MUSIC!



# STUDY BIBLE

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#### From the Editor

#### **Out & About**

Exclusive pics of your favorite artists!

In this issue: Lecrae, Stryper,
Audio Adrenaline, Ricky Skaggs,
Aaron & Amanda Crabb + more!



#### Mark Lowry

Andrew Greer sits down with the man behind "Mary, Did You Know?," + expected antics & more in this cover story (video in CCMmagazine.com).



#### **Ginny Owens**

**ONLINE-ONLY!** The intrepid singersongwriter returns from near careerending surgery & vocal modifications to release her best work to date.



#### **VaShawn Mitchell**

Having traversed the globe to aid audiences in raising their praise, the Chicago native's ministerial spirit is as alive as ever.



#### **Chris Quilala**

Known for fronting West Coast worship troupe Jesus Culture, the singersongwriter steps into the unknown of releasing his first solo project.



#### Reviews

New music from Christy Nockels, Ginny Owens, VaShawn Mitchell, Chris Quilala + more!







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**Silent Nights** I We have finally reached December, the last month of 2016 and the unofficial first month of Christmas. Of course, retail America seems to inch Christmas-related promotions and celebrations ever closer to the end of Halloween, but I digress.

As you may know by now, I've never been a huge fan of Christmas—well, the westernized version that has seemed to all but swallowed us up, anyway. Since my role here at *CCM Magazine* began, however, getting to hear and read first-hand accounts of God moving in the midst of the artists we cover and why they choose to sing at this time of year have been touching, to say the least.

As I've mentioned before, a big part of this revelation for me has been the contributions of our friend, singer-songwriter-author **Andrew Greer**, and his **Christmas & Communion** series that have appeared in this publication. Andrew brings a heartfelt perspective and much needed reality check to the holiday season—gently surfacing what some people and families have to face while the rest of us are distracted by hot cocoa and "Fa-la-la'ing." More from Andrew in our December publications and posts (as always, stay tuned to CCMmagazine.com and our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feeds—please "friend" and "follow" us today!).

My prayer is that we move ever closer to Christ and His love versus the things of man—after all, it was He that came to earth that first Christmas, just to be with us. In this issue, you will be blessed by **Jesus Culture**'s **Chris Quilala** as he goes into more depth about the loss of his son at this very time two years ago—despite the pain, you can bet he and his family will be singing louder than ever this year.

For perspective, I'll close with a brief excerpt from a dear friend, former musician-worship leader, and now, due to hereditary condition, completely deaf pastor-teacher-author:

Today what I experience, when the lights are off, are the sounds of silence lingering there in the dark. When I cannot see her face, there are no conversations, no telling jokes, no last-minute reminders to discuss, not even the words, "I love you, goodnight." What was once the day's highlight has now significantly changed, for the sweet sound of my loved ones voices has been replaced with a piercing silent night.

Let's be more than thankful. Let's be mindful. Let us be ever so closer to Christ this Christmas.













army of mechanical men!

Once a beautiful land, Aethasia is now covered by a sickly pervasive fog that corrupts everything it touches. But all is not lost. Rumors are spreading of a fledgling Resistance, who have the courage and audacity to try and restore Aethasia to its former glory, and to reinstate the The Great Engineer back to the throne of Aethasia.

And that Resistance needs you!







### Mark Lowry — How He Loves

By Andrew Greer

Mark Lowry is one of gospel music's greatest gifts. From his Dove Award-winning musical recordings to his GRAMMY-winning run as a member of the **Gaither Vocal Band**, his celebrated songwriting prowess—evidenced especially this time of year thanks to the phenomenal impact of his composition, "Mary, Did You Know?"—and of course his infamous side-splitting antics, Lowry has inspired audiences for decades through one of the industry's most fascinating and multi-faceted careers.

But no matter the medium, Lowry says his goal for his audiences, and for himself, remains the same: to serve God, and to serve each other, in love.

Following his cheered 2015 recording, *How We Love* (Spring Hill), with a full-blown live humor-and-song shindig on his new *Billboard* chart-topping DVD, *Dogs Go To Heaven* (Gaither Music), Lowry sits down for a transparent talk about the realities of life, the mysteries of faith and the possibilities of love. Dig in as we engage the recent Gospel Music Hall of Famer in one of the most thoughtful conversations to transpire inside the pages of *CCM Magazine* in recent history.

Dig in for one of the most thoughtful conversations to transpire inside the pages of *CCM* in a long while.

## CCM Magazine: You are a singer. A songwriter. A comedian. Thinking through all of the facets of your career, it originally began with singing, right?

Mark Lowry: [It started] with my mama. When I was little, I was hyperactive and wasn't athletic, so she put me in music. Our church was a big singing church—the Berean Baptist Church on 11th Street in Houston, Texas. Independent, fundamental Baptist, but they loved to sing. I'd always sing in this little voice. But when I was home, I'd have another voice that was big and loud. My dad said, "Mark, I'll give you five dollars if you'll sing in your big voice." So the next Sunday I sang in my big voice.

All the little old ladies were hugging me. I've always loved old people and young people. Young people are a clean slate. Old people are cleaning their slate. Mama said I came home from church and my pants were full of nickels and dimes from the old ladies. So I realized there's gold in them hills, and I never sang in that little voice again.

### CCM: "Gold in them hills." That's good. [Laughs] Where did humor begin to play into your platform?

**ML:** Honestly, the Lord did call me to sing. I was in college, it was Sunday afternoon and I was lying on my bed. I was too awake to go to sleep, and too hot and tired to get up. Whenever I can't go to sleep, I always pray because I know the Lord's upset about something. It seemed like I needed to confess a few things, so I prayed, "Lord, what have I done now?" It's like the Lord spoke to me and said, "Why won't you do what I want you to do?" And I said, "What's that?" And the Lord said, "Go into music."

So when I started traveling and singing, **Roy Morgan** with **Premier Productions**, called me up and said, "I want to book you." I didn't know him. His job was to clean the dorms [where

we attended school at **Liberty University**]. He was a student. Come to find out, he could book a pork chop into a synagogue. He booked forty-three concerts in forty-one days. He called these independent Baptist preachers, and convinced them to let this Mark Lowry person come to their church and sing.

While I was waiting on the little man in the back of the church to change those soundtracks, which can feel like an eternity when people are staring at you, I started telling stories to set up the next song and people started laughing. At first I thought, Why are they laughing at my testimony? But then I thought, I'm on to something here. They're paying attention. You could have the greatest content in the world, and if they ain't listening, what good is it? So I started going with it.

But I've never considered myself a comedian—I've been labeled that—but a comedian is like a [Jerry] Seinfeld in my mind. He tells three jokes, changes the subject, tells three jokes, changes the subject, and it's brilliant—I love it, but you leave knowing nothing about him. I love storytellers, because a great story was the one thing that would hold my attention without medication.

CCM: Last year at the Dove Awards, they asked you to kill some time during the taping. You had us rolling, especially with the denominational humor. I don't know how you get away with that.

**ML:** I think because they know I love them all. All these different denominations have one thing in common, and that's Jesus. Humor is great to use to shoot down sacred cows so you can see the cross. We've got to shoot down the sacred cows.

My entire career I've had one goal: to convince the world that a man rose from the dead. That's it. Whatever tools it takes—song-



writing, humor, book writing, blogging, Facebook. A lot of people are listening on Facebook now and that's why I will not do anything political. You wrap a flag around the cross and you make a moot point out of both of them. There is one Kingdom I'm concerned with, and it ain't America. I love America and I'm going to vote, but my goal is, through whatever means possible, to try to convince people that a man rose from the dead. That's it.

### CCM: How do you address the tricky business of politics, from a spiritual perspective?

ML: Well, I already know the right side of thinking. And I've met Christians on the left side of thinking. There are saved Democrats, no matter what anybody else thinks, and they love Jesus, and that's why they become Democrats because they believe that's what Jesus would do. I used to get Jerry Falwell's Christmas card and Tony Campolo's Christmas card and put them side-by-side on my refrigerator, knowing that both of these men love me and both love Jesus. Yet they come to separate political conclusions. That's the reason I don't trust politics. I trust one thing, and that is a man rose from the dead. That's my message.

My heart breaks for people who [use politics] because you lose half your crowd. Are you trying to make them Republican or Christian? What's your point?

CCM: Spirituality is the umbrella which we place everything under, including our politics, including whatever cultural issue or topic. To keep our eyes on spiritual things, right?

**ML:** Jesus said, "I told you I've got sheep you don't know about." Well, look for them and quit trying to shoo them away. Don't hear me say I'm not proud of my heritage. Let me tell you—they got His name right, and if they did nothing else but get His name

right, I will be forever grateful. And they handed me the word of God. They got their fingerprints all over it. I spent my life wiping off the fingerprints, but they handed me the truth, and the more I explore that truth, the more I find out Jesus is very nice. Anybody who loves you enough to die for you is on your side.

Don't believe anybody who tells you God is mad at you. Do not believe anybody who tells you you've got to do this, this and this before you come to Jesus. Come as you are. That's what I did, and I ain't finished yet.

Listen, I am a sinner. A man who says he has no sin is a liar. It's not us and them; it's us and Him. We're all in the same boat. We're all just a pack of freaks trying to find our way home, just like everybody else in the Bible but Jesus. **King David**, if he'd had Prozac, we'd never have the **Psalms**. He was up one Psalm, down the next, up one Psalm, down the next. "Oh God, you're wonderful. Oh God, kill me!" He was just like us, and broken pots spill more water. If he'd had Prozac, look what we would have missed.

### CCM: We would have missed life. It is in the art of being alive where I feel like God intersects with us...

ML: ...and they make the best stories. I cannot remember jokes to save my life. When anyone asks me, "You heard the one about...," my brain tunes out. I can look you right in the eye, but be thinking about a million different things until you laugh at your joke. Then I will laugh and pretend I was listening. But if you come up to me and ask, "Did you hear what happened to me today...," I'm all ears.

CCM: I wanted to ask you about the song "How We Love." I love this lyric: "Sometimes we forget / Trying to be so strong / In this world of right and wrong..."

**ML:** "... all we have that carries on / is how we love." I have this retreat at my home for people who like to think outside the box. **Cynthia Clawson** was there, and she sat down at the piano and started playing this song. Well, when she started playing, I felt my head tilting. I call it hearing from home. I know when I'm hearing from home, because **1 John** says, "You have no need that any man teach you. You have the spirit of God living in you that will lead you into all truth," and I trust the spirit in me. And I know when I'm hearing from home. I know what sounds like my Father.

Paul asked the question, "Can good water and bad water come out of the same fountain?" Yeah, it sure can, because I've heard it. I've heard it when my pastor got up and he rung the bell, and I've heard it when he was just off on a tangent. I don't critique it over lunch, but I just know, sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad. And I know when they're right. I know when it's full of love and grace and mercy.

CCM: You talk about hearing from home, and I think, have we lost the trust in the Spirit? We work so hard to control the Spirit in everyone else's life.

**ML:** Let me tell you what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to turn the light on. Because when you turn the light on, everybody can see from where they are seated what they need to get.

A great song should never preach; it should turn the light on. I don't want to chew your food for you. I want to set the buffet, and let you come get what you need. Just like Jesus in **Matthew 23**,

He looks at the Pharisees, which the religious folks were the only people He ever chewed out, and can you imagine Jesus looking at you and saying, "You've taken God's law, which should be a banquet for all to come and feast, and you've bundled it into rules. And you've loaded them down like pack animals, and you won't lift a finger to help them up when they fall beneath the load."

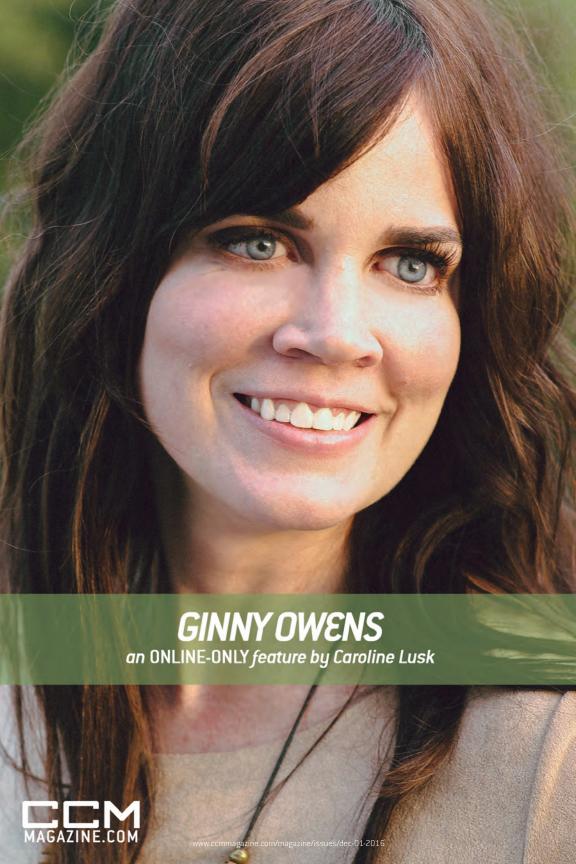
I have known preachers like that, who take God's law, God's mercy and bundle it into rules, as if rule keeping could save anybody. I mean that's what sent Paul off on a tirade against Peter. You're wanting to circumcise people again? What good did that do us except a lot of pain? It's not my job to spank your kids; it's God's job to spank His kids. It's my job to love them and to woo them to Jesus, just woo the bride to the bridegroom, and let Him clean her up.

CCM: Through the years, I have observed your support of friends who, like you, are in the public eye, and who have come under the scope of criticism when their personal struggles and failures became public. I have seen you continue to support them in a very sturdy, quiet, spiritually strong way. It seems that you are really interested in the restoration of redemption.

ML: Oh, I want to be a part of it. I need it for me. Lord, have mercy. I want to show mercy, I want to give mercy, and I want to receive mercy. Why not? If everybody knew what I did, nobody would buy a ticket. I have sinned. I have messed up. There are days I wish to God I could go back and relive, but I can't, and I just hope no one ever finds out about them. God knows all about it. I'm not worried about Him. It's His people that scare me. Have you seen that bumper sticker: "Jesus, please save me from your followers"? Well, they scare me. But oh no, I've never felt condemned in His presence. I've felt convicted, but I've

never felt ashamed. If you feel ashamed in the presence of the Lord, you need to fire him. You've got the wrong one.

I feel most in His presence when I'm in the shower. I don't know why. But I'm alone, I am not on stage, I let that water fall over me, and I just talk to Him. He's brought things up, and I've had to jump out of the shower, still naked, and go write an apology letter or go write a thought. He's given me great thoughts in the shower that have turned into stories. I don't know if it's that way for everybody. Everybody's got their place maybe. And He's the only one that can stand to see me naked—that's why I'm always alone in there.



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Medi-Share is biblical. I compare it with the book of Acts, where the Christians were sharing each other's needs. It feels wonderful when you know that you're

putting your money in something where you're helping others.

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Medi-Share has been a very big blessing for our family. Thank God for Medi-Share!"

That's what we love.

—Ariel and Yaditza

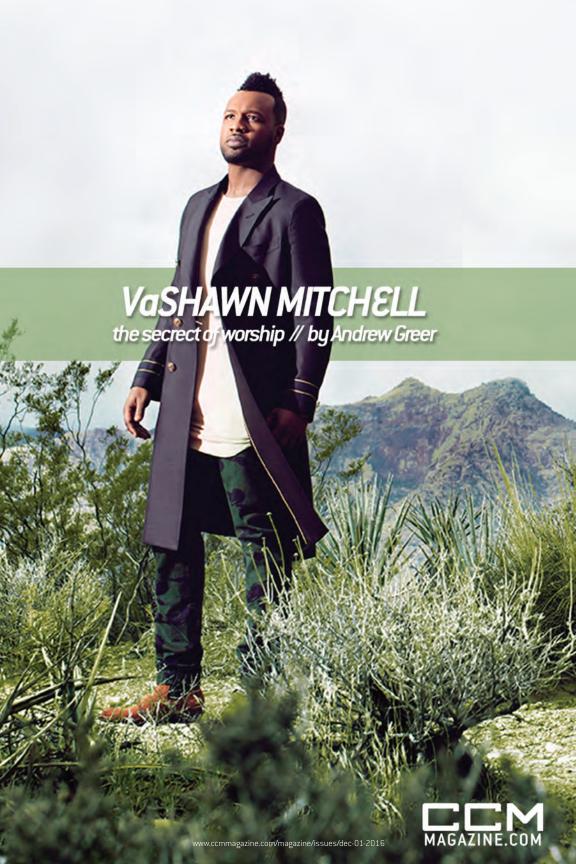


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### VaShawn Mitchell — The Secret Of Worship

### By Andrew Greer

Five years ago, **VaShawn Mitchell** set gospel music on fire with his six-time Stellar Award-winning R&B-worship anthem, "Nobody Greater." The smash single's crossover appeal set the GRAMMY-nominated producer-songwriter-performer on a celebrity trajectory seemingly overnight. But Mitchell's musical heart—curated through weekly worship leadership at his local church as an early adult—began, and remains, in the church.

Now, a dozen-plus years later, having traversed the globe to aid audiences in raising their praise, the Chicago native's ministerial spirit is as alive as ever, evidenced by the tone of his latest release, *Secret Place: Live in South Africa* (Motown Gospel). Featuring fellow gospel artisans and close friends, *Tasha Cobbs* and *BeBe Winans*, *Secret Place* utilizes locale, collaboration, a magnetic set list and, of course, the spiritual magic of music to prompt listeners in spiritual worship as Mitchell once again assumes the role he knows best—worship leader.

Opining here on what worship is, and how music aids the spiritual effort, Mr. Mitchell offers *CCM Magazine* an exclusive questionand-answer resulting in a conversation worth spreading around.

CCM Magazine: As one of today's most prominent gospel artists, how did the decision to make an entirely worship-focused project transpire?

**VaShawn Mitchell:** Praise and worship have always been my passion and assignment. Worship is the place for those who seek refuge to connect with God in an intimate manner. While we

know this is the place where God dwells and there is safety and security there, it is often challenging for believers to understand the freedom and liberty available to them in approaching God. This is the very essence of a personal relationship with God.

[I felt] it was important to capture the sound live that gives listeners an in-depth journey into this "secret place!" This project was purposely focused to encourage listeners around the globe to find shelter with God.

### CCM: What prompted the recording locale—South Africa?

**VM:** Over the last few years, I have traveled to South Africa numerous times. Some would say it has become my second home. The worship experiences I have encountered there have been life changing and created in me a yearning to worship unconditionally. I heard God [tell me] to record and release my next sound in South Africa. This sound would share the experiences I had there in live worship, and continue to change lives in the way mine was impacted.

#### CCM: This record integrates multi-nationalities. How does the diversity of sounds help summon the divine?

**VM:** When the Scriptures say, "One Lord, one faith," it provides the necessary framework for the focus of our worship experience. We have unnecessarily created divisions within our worship experiences. Our styles can differ without changing the substance of our experience. This was the driving force behind all that was done leading up to and during the recording of *Secret Place*. From singers and song selection, to the various expressions of faith, there was an intentional integration of a variety of influences, all focused on worshiping the One God and Father outlined in **Ephesians 4:6**.

In **Psalm 133** we are taught that it is in an atmosphere of true unity where the Lord commands a blessing, and we have experienced that through this project.

CCM: Tasha Cobbs and BeBe Winans guested on this record. How do you feel collaboration adds to our every day worship experiences?

**VM:** I am a huge fan of collaborations and pray for many more. Collaboration shows artists united together with no other agenda but to minister the gospel. When I was recording my last project the Lord told me, "If you build something that only benefits you, you are not building something inspired by Me." I bear witness to the fact that it is in the place of unity we experience the commanded, intentional blessing of God.

Tasha Cobbs and BeBe Winans are not just individuals I work with, they are people I walk with. Lifting up the name of Jesus on this project was a natural demonstration of our relationship, not only with God but also with each other.

CCM: December is here. We find ourselves in the momentum of the holidays. As someone who facilitates a service of worship through music year-round, I'm curious, how do you think musical worship is important throughout our Christmas celebrations?

VM: Living in a world that has made Christmas about gift giving and trees, it is vital for our music to continue to rehearse the true reason for the season. Jesus said, "I come that you might have life and life more abundantly." Rather than define "abundance" by the gifts we are able to afford to give and receive, we have a unique opportunity to focus our attention and that of our congregations on the abundant love of God demonstrated in the

gift of His Son. We have to reinforce this message, not just during the holidays but as often as we can.

CCM: Holidays can be hard. "Jingle Bells" and holly-jolly is contrasted by circumstances of our real, everyday lives. How do you reconcile or manage the glitter of the Christmas season with the challenges of real life hardships?

**VM:** Remembering the birth of Jesus and why I am on this earth is how I manage tough seasons. Like anyone else, though I may face hardships, I am okay because I have a comforter who was born, died and rose again for me. Regardless of the roughness of the road, my comfort is found in knowing I do not travel this road alone.





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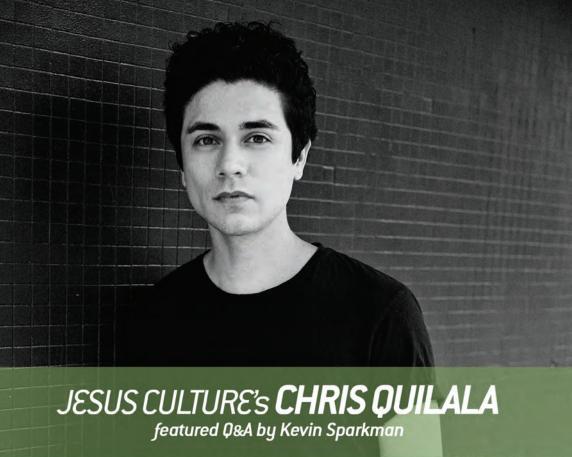
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### Jesus Culture's Chris Quilala

### Revelations To Genesis

For this singer-songwriter, it's always been about God's revealing love—no matter the circumstance—a truth continued on his first solo, studio release

### By Kevin Sparkman

At the beginning of this year, as the West Coast-based worship collective **Jesus Culture** released their latest, *Let It Echo*, *CCM Magazine* got the chance to get to know more about their ministry from the inside. Including roles within their formed label **Jesus Culture Music** and the church plant **Jesus Culture Sacramento**, **Pastor Banning Leibscher**, **Kim Walker-Smith**, **Bryan** and **Katie Torwalt**, and **Chris Quilala** shared what it's been like to go from fronting youth conferences to now leading an entire community year-round.

Little did we know at that time, "Father Christopher," as Bryan and Katie Torwalt affectionately know and call their worship leader, was working on a slew of new material to call all his own. We caught up with Chris Quilala on the release day of his very first solo album, *Split The Sky*, to dig a little deeper into what went into the beginnings of this project.

CCM Magazine: It seems effortless in the way you communicate who God is and what He has done, how does this come so easy for you and your songwriting?

**Chris Quilala:** Well, first of all, thank you so much for that, that means a lot. I encountered God during worship when I was really

young and I grew up in the church. But I remember the day that my life was changed forever... I remember where I was standing in this room at this youth camp. It may have even been the first time I lifted my hands and I felt God's presence so strongly.

Just that God would show up when we worshiped Him—we, obviously, pouring out our love for Him, but in turn, He reveals himself to us—a lot of my songwriting comes from that place, that first love. Scripture talks about, "We love Him because He first loved us." I hope that, whatever I do in life—whether it's song writing or loving my kids—that everything comes from that revelation. I do, I remember encountering God's love and it changed my life forever.

I remember my dad at that same youth camp encountering God's love and it changed his life forever, too. For me, that's just how I approach songwriting—it's from that place, that revelation of His love and what He's done for us.

### CCM: Did you say that your dad had a similar worship encounter at that same youth camp?

**CQ:** Yeah, my dad. He grew up in San Francisco, pretty much raised himself and he was a trouble maker. Long story short—he left San Francisco, married my mother, and eventually accepted Christ, but still struggled even after that. It was around that same time I had that encounter with God, He was also dealing with [my dad].

He'd been an alcoholic and we didn't know about it. I remember the first song I ever learned the night my sisters and I found out—I pulled out the guitar and we began to worship over him, and God began dealing with his heart. Fast-forward, at that youth camp that I mentioned earlier, I sang that song again. My

dad had been volunteering in the kitchen and he came out and I remember seeing him on his knees, just weeping.

I don't remember seeing him cry much, but that image of my dad just encountering God again, singing the song "Arms Of Love," and seeing God work on his heart...it's stuck in my head. Now he's completely set free, he's been sober for years but it's always just amazed me what God can do in an instant when we surrender our lives and worship. As I mentioned earlier, He, in turn, shows up and sets us free—He reveals himself to us. I've seen Him in my life, I've seen Him in my dad's life, and it's amazing.

CCM: What an awesome story!

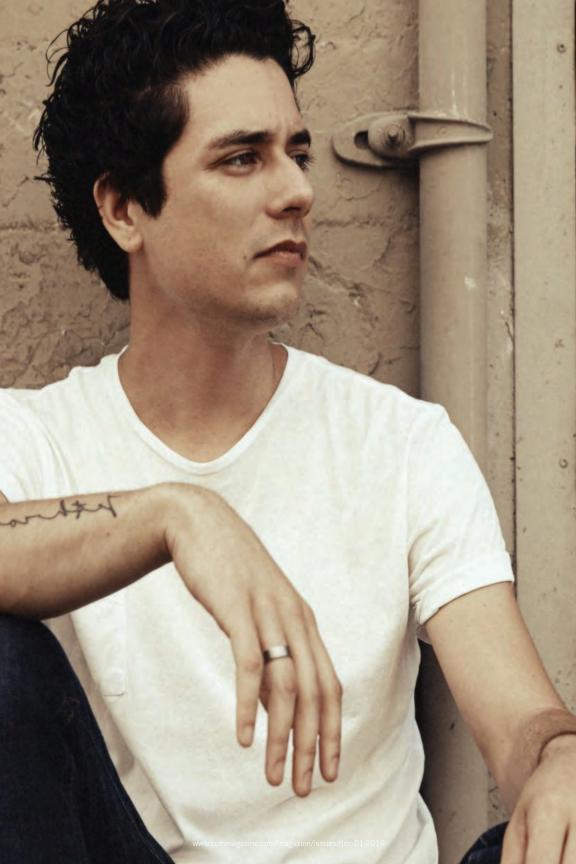
**CQ:** He's my hero. He really is.

CCM: You've mentioned that "Encounter You" on Split The Sky is about pursuing God...what are your thoughts on how He also pursues us?

**CQ:** That song's special because I put a little audio clip of my daughter in the second verse. She loves it. Every time it hits that spot, she's says, "That's me!" [*Laughs*]

I know that when we worship, God shows up. I mentioned this [with the release of] our last album... When **Paul** and **Silas** were in chains and in prison and they began to worship and God showed up and opened the prison doors—but not just theirs—every prisoner in the place was set free. He shows up like a mighty man of war and He fights our battles for us.

For "Encounter You," I just love it when we worship, and God, in turn, shows up and reveals Himself to us. In His kindness, and in His goodness, He just loves to show Himself.



For me, I can look back through my life and remember these moments where I may have been discouraged or whatever, and when I begin to worship or begin to thank Him, He, in turn, reveals His love, and the whole atmosphere changes. When my wife and I lost our son in late December 2014, even as we're holding him in our arms, we began to worship. We worshipped in the hospital room and again at his memorial. I think choosing to sacrifice in moments when and where it's the hardest—that one in particular kept my heart soft towards God and allowed Him to come and encounter us and reveal Himself to us as The Comforter, as our faithful father.

I don't want to get too off topic, but I know it to be true when we surrender ourselves to Him, He loves to meet with us. Even back in the Garden, He loved communing with Adam and Eve. That's why we were created, for communion, and for me that song is that pursuit. That this amazing God who created the universe, who knows us better than we know ourselves, wants to meet with us. Of course, He's always with us, but He still desires to be invited. Invited into our daily lives, and I think it's just taking time to turn our hearts and affections toward Him, and He shows up in an instant when we do that.

CCM: Actually, let's stay on that topic... Jesus Culture opened the doors to its new church right around the same time you guys lost your son, correct?

**CQ:** Right. It was all around the same time—we started the church September 2014 and then lost our son on December 3.

CCM: There was a lot of "new" going on in your lives, and then tragedy happens. What have you've learned about the church—both in your role as a church leader, and then to suddenly experience the church responding to the needs of your family in that time?

**CQ:** We all experience grief or loss at some point. It's just part of life, but tragically things happen that are out of our control. For instance, when we found out there was no heartbeat [with our son] and were in the hospital for two days, we were obviously believing for God to do a miracle and people were praying and we didn't see that. For us, we had a choice. We could have blamed God, became bitter and harden our hearts to Him.

We made a choice as a family, as a church, to proclaim His goodness even in the midst of pain when things wouldn't go our way. I think it kept our hearts soft toward God, and that allowed Him to come and minister to us. Through that, and because of our chosen response, we've experienced so many people [being blessed by us] for modeling that.

The truth is, even scripture talks about the enemy coming to steal, kill and destroy. I find it really interesting that when something happens, [so many of us] instantly want to blame God. The truth is, He's good and He's our comforter. My wife and I, and also our church, have chosen to turn to Him—to worship and thank Him, and to praise. Not that it was at all easy. It took a long time for my wife and I to be able to sing. I remember even less than a month after we lost **Jethro**, we're back in church and singing songs like "Forever"... The ground began to shake / The stones rolled away...these songs about resurrection. Songs about what He did on the cross, and it was hard to declare those words—but we did.

It's allowed people to find healing. My brother-in-law lost his mom to cancer and then his brother to cancer. He told me, "Because you guys have made the choice to declare, 'God is good,' it's caused me to go back and allow God to work on my own heart."

I know this is a long answer... God doesn't change, only our circumstances change. I would say that me being a worship leader and a worship pastor, my response to Him shouldn't change either. I needed to proclaim that He was good, that He was faithful, and I needed to write about it as well. A lot of the songs on *Split The Sky* came from that journey. Yeah, I felt pain, it wasn't easy, but there were songs that I needed to be sung even though it was hard, songs that I needed to write even though it was hard because they were the truth, and I needed to focus on the truth.

### CCM: What was the experience like to step outside of the Jesus Culture family to record something like this?

**CQ:** It was really vulnerable. I've never done a solo album. Naturally, my personality doesn't like being out front, so [I'm wrestling with] this awkward, "Everybody's-here-for-me" kind-of moment. Today, people were texting, etc., which I love all the encouragement, but it is really vulnerable. Like, "Here's a piece of my heart. I hope you guys like it."

Whereas the Jesus Culture albums are a collaborative effort and we're all in it together. For me, I felt like I needed to [record this album]. For one, as we've been talking about, it's everything I've been through the last couple of years. I'm just really thankful for all the songs that came out of that season and it just felt like it was time to do a solo album.

All of the Jesus Culture team and everybody were so supportive, and musically I really wanted to try something that I hadn't

done before. All of our albums are obviously live, so I wanted a studio album. When I talked with our producers, I was like, "Let's just have fun and see where it goes—if it gets too wild and crazy we can reel it back in." I just wanted to put some melodies and music to what I have been feeling and I feel like a lot of these songs, the way they came out, are an accurate representation of the season I walked through—the joy and hope that I found through it all.

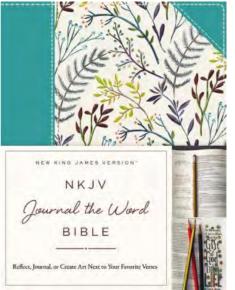
CCM: You've now joined the mix with others in your camp that have released studio projects—do you see Jesus Culture doing a studio album in the future?

**CQ:** That's a good question. I don't how. We've obviously, like you said, never done a studio album, partially because we started out as a youth group and just wanted to capture moments in worship at our conferences, etc. I think there's obviously high value for that and we've always tried to even produce or arrange our songs in such a way that when we get there in a live moment, we can get off the map. Not to say that can't happen in the studio, but there's just something special about being in a room full of worshipers and seeing where it goes.

I don't know. I think God can anoint a studio album as well—definitely not opposed to the idea. Practically, everybody on our label, we all love different styles of music, and everybody's tastes are different, so to collaboratively come together as Jesus Culture and say, "Let's try this specific style," rarely happens. The live albums are everybody getting into a room and throwing in a bunch of ideas and trying to land the plane somewhere. All that to say, who knows? We're always open for trying new things and exploring.







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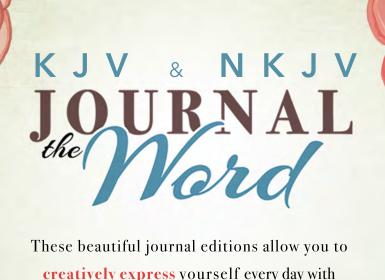
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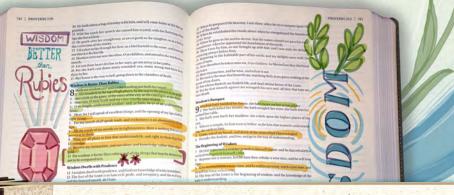
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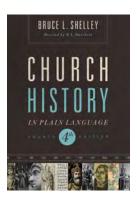


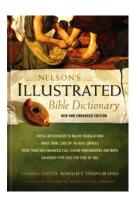


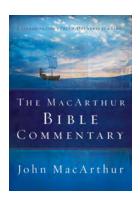
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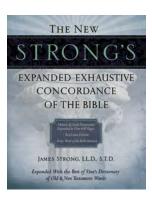












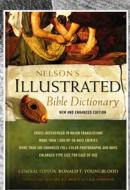
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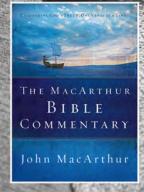
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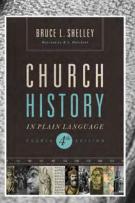
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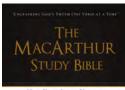
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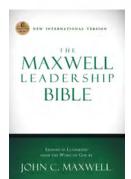


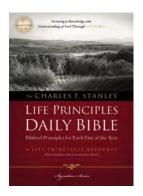














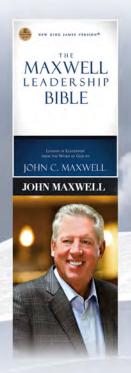
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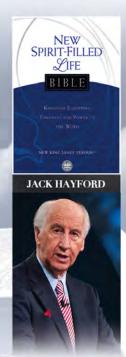
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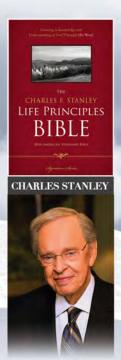
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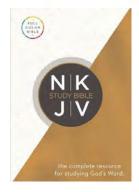
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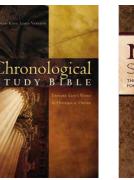
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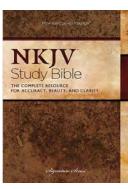












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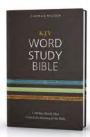


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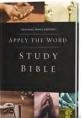












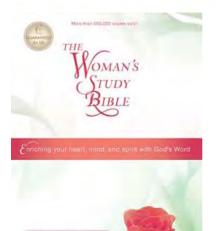
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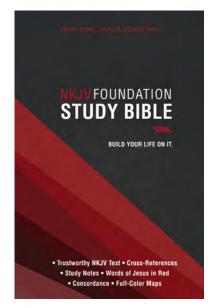






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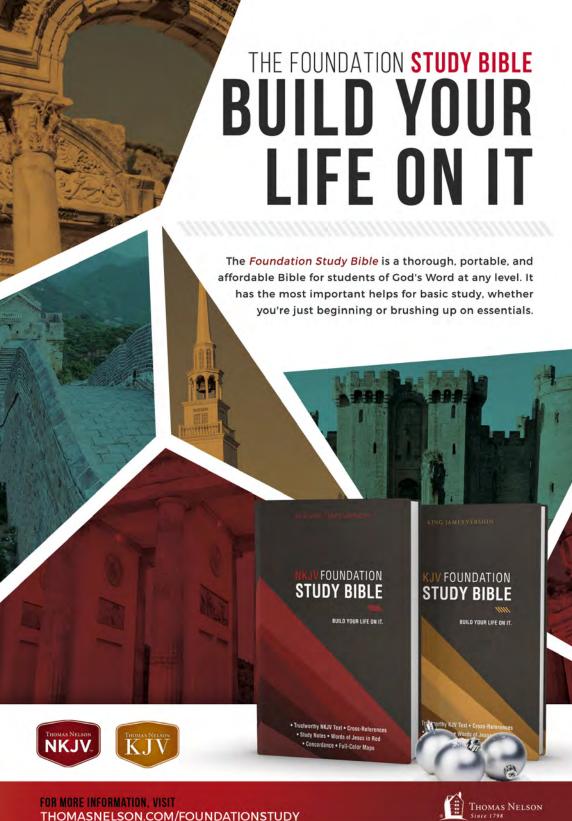
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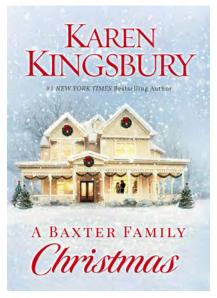
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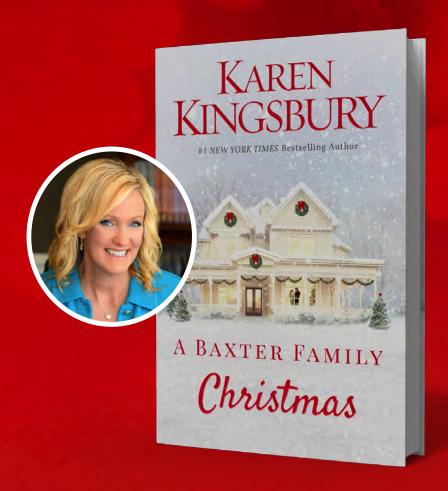
John is determined and believes meeting this woman is something his deceased daughter would want.

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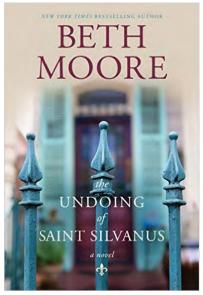


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Booklist says this... "In her fiction debut,

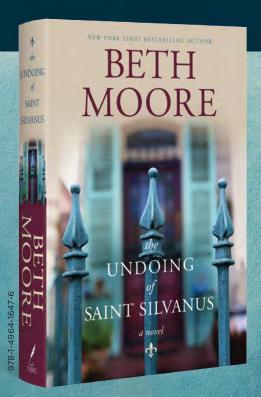
beloved Christian speaker and author Moore dives into uncharted territory with gusto. Simultaneously heartwarming and chilling, this tale has wide appeal with its mix of mystery, evangelism, history, suspense and love. Moore brings Southern culture to life, and thoughtfully poses questions of belonging, sin and self-worth. From its gritty start to its redemptive finish, Moore's ambitious first novel spotlights her gifts for humanizing the biblical experience and the search for faith."

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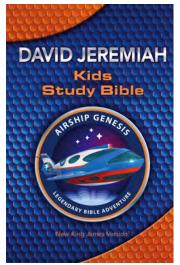
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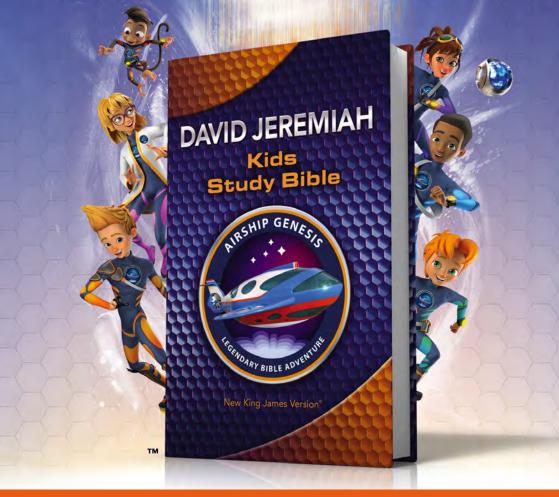
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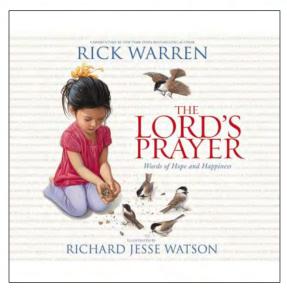
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-Rick Warren

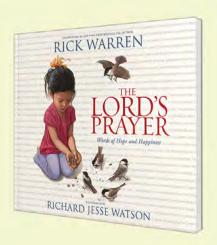
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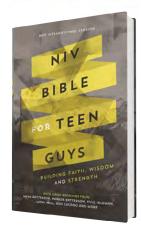
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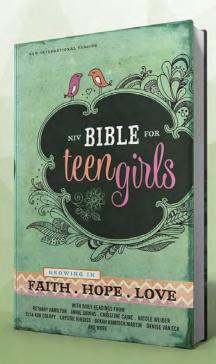
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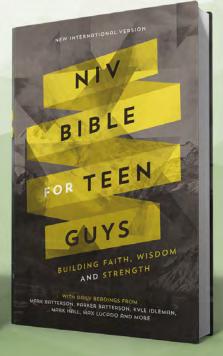
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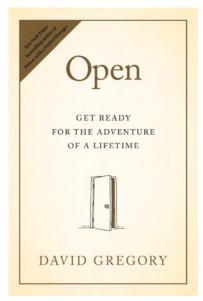




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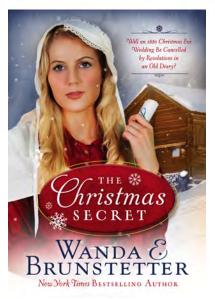












## A Family Secret May Destroy a Couple's Hope for Marriage

Elizabeth Canning discovers an awful secret in her deceased mother's diary. Believing her chances for a happy marriage are spoiled, she leaves her fiancé a letter and flees town. In hopes that distance will heal her broken heart, she takes refuge in her grandparents' Pennsylvania home.

Anticipating a Christmas Eve wedding with Elizabeth, David Stinner is confused by her letter and desperate to find her. Can David root out the truth about the past and bring back his bride? Or is the truth destined to bring an ultimate end to their romance?

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# A Christmas Story from NY Times Bestselling Author

## Wanda & Brunstetter



A Family Secret
May Destroy
a Couple's Hope
for Marriage

Beloved, bestselling author of Amish fiction, Wanda E. Brunstetter tells a heartrending story from 1880 Pennsylvania. Elizabeth and David are planning a Christmas Eve wedding when Elizabeth discovers a long-buried family secret. Leaving only a letter behind, she flees town thinking all hope of a marriage to David is lost.



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The battle is real.

As brothers, Xavier and Evan are used to battling each other. But now they're discovering that there is a much bigger battle going on all around them. And it's their turn to fight. Based on Ephesians 6:10–18, *The Prince Warriors* is the first book in Priscilla Shirer's epic new children's series that brings to life the invisible struggle ensuing in the spiritual realm. Xavier, Evan and their friends have typical lives until they enter a mysterious land called Ahoratos. There they meet their guide, Ruwach, who offers wisdom and direction as the kids' initial adventure begins—an adventure filled with armor and danger and a very real enemy.

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### "Mom, will I ever be in a battle?"

This question from my son inspired me to write a new series for kids—teaching them about the importance of the armor of God and of the reality of the spiritual world. We are in a battle—a daily battle—and it's time for our young people to learn how to suit up, too. The characters in these stories will draw tweens in with relevant and relatable experiences and then show them how to achieve spiritual victory in their own lives.



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I can't wait for kids everywhere to be inspired through

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- Priscilla Shirer

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#### Bibleman

The new animated Bibleman franchise features multiple products including animated DVDs, comics, books, building block sets, mini-figures and Bibleman's sword. Children will learn biblical values as well as Scripture. The Bibleman brand began in 1995 from Pamplin Entertainment and was primarily a series comprised of liveaction videos with other branded books and toys. B&H is partnering with P23 Entertainment Inc. to produce 26 episodes of Bibleman: The Animated Adventures, Learn more at Bibleman.com.

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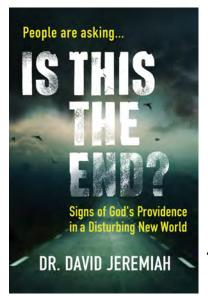


## **BIBLEMAN IS BACK!**

This time, he and the Bibleteam are not only fighting villains and evil, but also teaching kids Scripture and biblical principles in an all new animated series!







#### Is This The End?

Could the headlines be any more jarring, the cultural changes more rapid, or the moral decay more pronounced? More and more people are asking, "Is this the end?"

Over the last few decades, Dr. David Jeremiah has become one of the world's most sought-after Christian leaders on topics that deal with biblical application and modern culture. And few would dispute that the pace at which things are currently changing is unprecedented.

"In my conversations with people of all ages, races, and professions, I find deepening anxiety and even fear that things cannot go

on as they are for long," writes Dr. Jeremiah. "It is clear to many people that ominous clouds are darkening our future, and events are coming to a head.

"Christians wonder whether the end times prophesied in the book of Revelation are upon us. Is the rising disorder we are experiencing a precursor of the approaching Rapture of the church and the final return of Christ? Secularists wonder whether the nation is on the verge of collapse into economic, racial and political anarchy; or whether a hostile nation such as Russia, China or Iran might unleash its atomic fury on our cities; or whether militant Islamic terrorists flooding through our porous borders might inflict enough damage to bring us to our knees."

The time has come to accept this new normal, Dr. Jeremiah says, and understand how God's hand is still at work on His eternal plan for mankind.

WWW.ISTHISTHEEND.COM



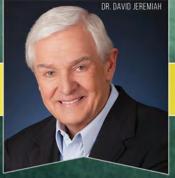
# CANYOUAFFORD TO... IGNORE THE ARABAMAN ARABAMA

NO, BUT ALL CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD'S GREATER STORY

AND THE ROLE WE EACH PLAY IN THIS CHANGING WORLD
FROM NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND

BIBLICAL SCHOLAR, DR. DAVID JEREMIAH.

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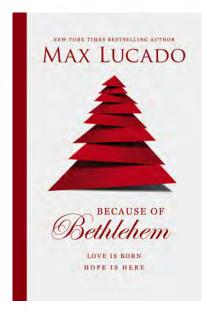
**#GODISWITHUS** 











#### **Because of Bethlehem**

Max Lucado loves Christmas. Let the sleigh bells ring. Let the carolers sing. The more Santas the merrier. The more trees the better. He loves it because somewhere someone will ask the ultimate Christmas questions: What's the big deal about the baby in the manger? Who was He? What does His birth have to do with me? And the answers he's found are filled with hope, love . . . and even joy.

In his compelling new book *Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here,* Lucado takes familiar elements of the year's most popular holiday and sheds brilliant light on how each aspect of the Christmas story reveals another expression of God's unbelievable, personal love.

Lucado looks into the Bethlehem story, with all its fumbles, awkwardness and longing, and details how the birth of Jesus is orchestrated to show us that God is with us in ways we could never imagine. "Christmas tells us that God knows what it is like to be a human," Lucado explains. "When I talk to him about deadlines or long lines or tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, I have a friend in heaven."

According to Lucado: "Because of Bethlehem we are given the honor to interact with God, hear His thoughts and witness the magnificence of His Glory in both the good and bad parts of life. Jesus brought the Message to us in order that we would know truth and be truth in a dark world."

WWW.THOMASNELSON.COM/BECAUSE-OF-BETHLEHEM

## Christmas.

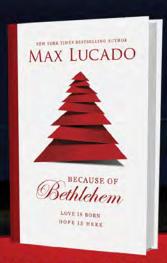
It brings sleigh bells ringing and carolers singing. And sometimes it brings heartache and hurt feelings. If you could use some true Christmas this Christmas, join Max Lucado as

he unpacks the enduring promises of Christmas and reveals a lifetime of hope

because of one baby born in Bethlehem.



# Because of Bethlehem



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#### The Beginner's Bible

The Beginner's Bible® has been a favorite with young children and their parents since its release in 1989 with over 25 million products sold. Now it's redesigned with fresh new art that will excite children for many more years to come.

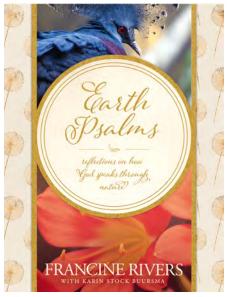
Full of faith and fun, *The Beginner's Bible* is a wonderful gift for any child. The easy-to-read text and bright, full-color illustrations on every page make it a perfect way to introduce young children to the stories and characters of the Bible. With new vibrant

three-dimensional art and compelling text, more than 90 Bible stories come to life. Kids ages 6 and under will enjoy the fun illustrations of Noah helping the elephant onto the ark, Jonah praying inside the fish, and more, as they discover *The Beginner's Bible* just like millions of children before. *The Beginner's Bible* was named the 2006 Retailers Choice Award winner in Children's Nonfiction. The Beginner's Bible family of products offers something for each child in your classroom, home or daycare. Join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter, and visit *The Beginner's Bible* website to learn more and take advantage of free resources!

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#### **Earth Psalms**

Reflections on How God Speaks through Nature

Millions of readers have been transformed and inspired by her bestselling novels *Redeeming Love* and *A Voice in the Wind*. Now, in this weekly devotional, beloved author Francine Rivers invites you to join her in seeking the Creator through the marvelous natural world we live in. Francine shares observations she's gathered over a lifetime of exploring—abroad and in her own backyard—and reflects on how they might apply to your daily life. What do the majestic

redwoods, the persistent woodpecker, or a glorious sunrise reveal about our artistic and generous God? How could that change your outlook or the way you handle adversity?

Stunning photography, Scripture excerpts, applications and prayers accompany Francine's reflections, inspiring you to be encouraged. Be challenged. Be comforted. God's power is immense; His attention to detail is precise; His love for you is vast and unfailing. The proof is all around you.

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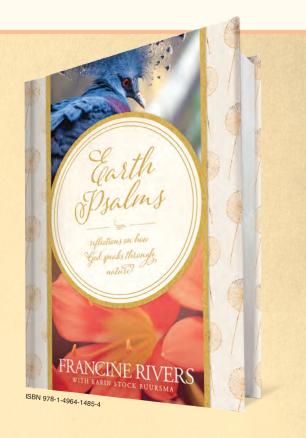
## New DEVOTIONAL FROM NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR FRANCINE RIVERS

#### EVERYTHING GOD CREATED IS A WONDER TO BEHOLD!

In this weekly devotional, beloved author Francine Rivers invites you to join her in seeking the Creator through the marvelous natural world we live in. Stunning photography, Scripture excerpts, applications, and prayers will inspire, encourage, challenge, and comfort you.

"Earth Psalms is a gorgeous book. It's the writing, insightful, fragrant and personal, that breathes this beauty to life and transports us in our imaginations to each scene."

New York Times bestselling author Beth Moore















New York Times bestselling author Francine Rivers has continued to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the globe. Her numerous bestsellers include A Voice in the Wind, Redeeming Love, and Bridge to Haven. Visit her website at www.francinerivers.com.

KARIN STOCK BUURSMA has worked in the publishing industry for more than fifteen years, first at a publishing house and now as a freelance editor and writer.

























#### A Very Merry Christmas Prayer

Join the adorable woodland animals as they celebrate Christmas! The pages of this book will walk you through beloved holiday traditions. This book will make readers more thankful for Christmas, and most important, Jesus.

#### **God Bless Our Christmas**

This sweet rhyming story will help your little ones focus on all the blessings of Christmas with family, including decorating cookies and trees, singing favorite carols, giving gifts, and celebrating Jesus!

## One Small Donkey for Little Ones/One Small Donkey

Bestselling author Dandi Daley Mackall tells the story of Jesus' birth from an unlikely perspective: a donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem. The donkey is not the fastest or strongest animal, but he had an important job all the same.

#### **Itsy Bitsy Christmas**

When two small mice find out that a king is coming to Bethlehem, they are so excited! They search high and low for him, but cannot find him anywhere. Just when they begin to believe that they really aren't important enough for a king to visit, they learn that Christ the King has indeed come for everyone!

#### **Good Good Father**

This beautiful picture book by Grammy award-winning Christian music artist Chris Tomlin and Pat Barrett leaves children with a greater understanding of who God is and of who they are because they are loved by Him.

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Filled with the familiar content you know and trust, this updated cover of *Jesus Today* makes an excellent gift for the teenagers and young adults in your life.

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### The Illustrator's Notetaking Bible

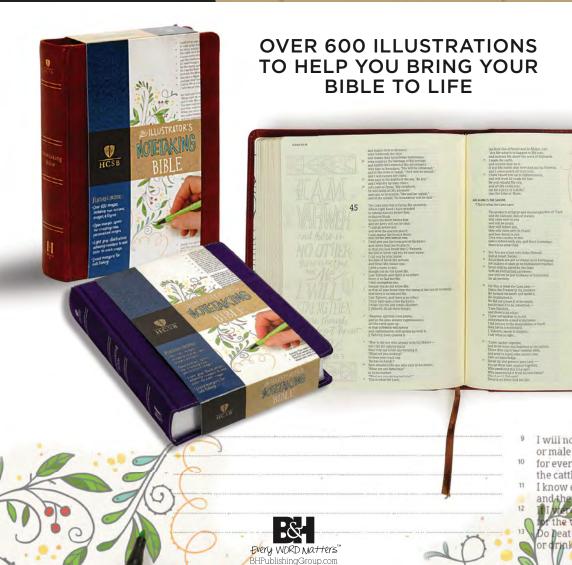
Offering the perfect gift for that creative person in your life, *The Illustrator's Notetaking Bible* combines both the opportunity to journal your thoughts in the conveniently lined margins as well as over 600 images to engage the artist in everyone. With these unique illustrations included on every page spread, readers, illustrators and notetakers alike learn to engage the biblical text in a new way. Each image is in light grey outline and there are open margin spaces for creating new, personalized creations as well.

The exceptional design offers a wonderful balance for everyone from seasoned artists to the creatively challenged, allowing for guided creativity and meaningful personalization of the Bible reading experience. Featuring filigree, Scripture quotes and unique images, these line-drawn illustrations are waiting to be brought to life. Several cover options are available, but shown here is our British Tan, bonded leather over board edition that offers a classic feel as well as a durable construction that will last for generations to come.

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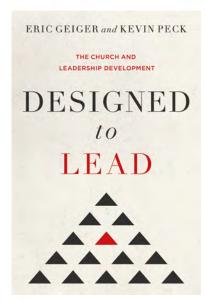


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#### **Designed to Lead**

Most churches merely exist.

Many churches do not develop leaders intentionally and consistently. When leaders emerge from some churches, it is often by accident.

Something is missing; something is off.

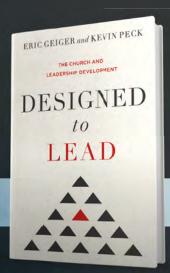
From the first recordings of history, God has made it clear that He has designed creation to be led by His covenant people. More than that, He has decided what His people are to do with that leadership. Whether you are called to lead in your home, in the marketplace, in God's church, or in your community, if you are called by God you are called to lead others to worship the glory of God in Jesus Christ.

God has designed his people to lead.

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#### **She Reads Truth**

She wants to know what is true—not partly true, or sometimes true, or almost true. She wants to see Truth itself, face-to-face. But here, now, these things are all cloudy. Hope is tinged with hurt. Faith is shaded by doubt. Lesser, broken things masquerade as love. How does she find something permanent when the world around her is always changing, when not even she can stay the same? And if she finds it, how does she hold on?

She Reads Truth tells the stories of two women who discovered, through very different lives and circumstances, that only God and His Word remain unchanged as the world around them shifted and slipped away.

Infused with biblical application and Scripture, this book is not just about two characters in two stories, but about one Hero and one Story.

Every image points to the bigger picture—that God and His Word are true. Not because of anything we do, but because of who He is. Not once, not occasionally, but right now and all the time. Sometimes it takes everything moving to notice the thing that doesn't move. Sometimes it takes telling two very different stories to notice how the Truth was exactly the same in both of them.

For anyone searching for a solid foundation to cling to, *She Reads Truth* is a rich and honest Bible-filled journey to finally find permanence in a world that's passing away.

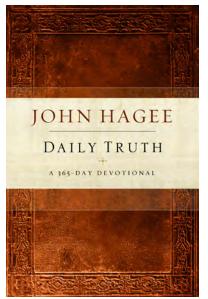
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#### SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IS TRUE-NOT PARTLY TRUE, OR SOMETIMES TRUE, OR ALMOST TRUE.

#### SHE WANTS TRUTH ITSELF.







#### **Daily Truth**

Our world is full of brokenness—in families, careers, marriages and finances. In the midst of the daily anxieties Pastor John Hagee reminds us to call out to God in prayer and claim His promises for provision and grace. Our year can be successful if we turn to God, seek His truth, and ask for help. In *Daily Truth* Pastor Hagee demonstrates God's past faithfulness in Scripture and challenges readers to trust in God's unfailing support in their daily lives. God has blessings in store for you; believe it!

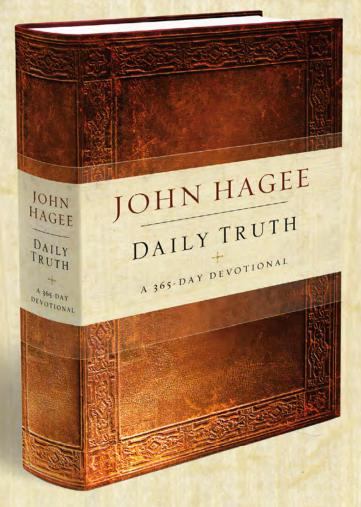
In this 365-day devotional, bestselling author and pastor John Hagee walks you

through the Scripture with words of strength and hope for every day. As only he can, Pastor Hagee draws from his decades of Bible study and ministry to bring authoritative yet inspirational meditations that will center you in the truth of the Word of God. At the end of each week, you will be especially encouraged by a powerful and meaningful Pastor's Blessing.

This elegant, jacketed hardcover volume features a beautiful full-color interior and a ribbon marker, making it perfect for daily devotional reading.

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## Words of Strength and Hope for Each Day of the Year

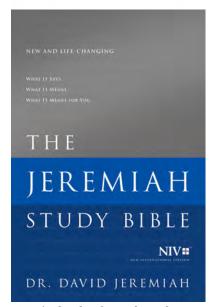


"I am praying that God brings you to a new destiny, a new spiritual high—a new destination with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

—Pastor John Hagee







#### The Jeremiah Study Bible

This extraordinary and popular Bible is the result of 40 years of study by one of the most widely viewed and respected Bible teachers in the world today. This legacy resource will be the standard for decades to come. Packed within the pages of The Jeremiah Study Bible are a lifetime of teaching and preaching insights God has given Dr. Jeremiah. He has often said that *The Jeremiah Study Bible* is the most important thing he has ever done because it brings everything back to what matters most in his life and ministry. "The Bible has the greatest potential of anything I know to permanently transform someone's life.

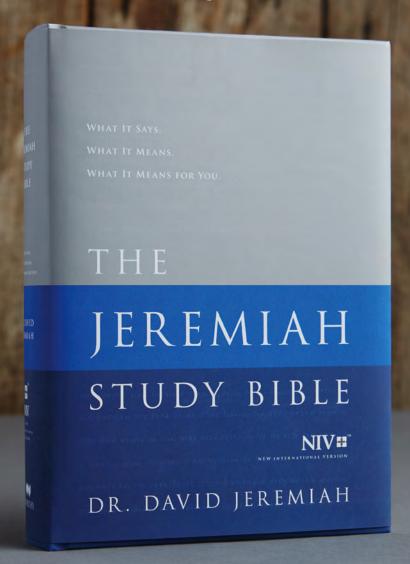
I can't think of anything better than extending its reach to even more people through *The Jeremiah Study Bible*."

Almost 50 years after the vision was cast—and more than 450 million copies later—the New International Version is the most widely read Bible translation in contemporary English. The NIV delivers the very best combination of accuracy and readability. It's true to God's Word and true to the reader.

The NIV, combined with more than 8,000 notes and sidebars from years of Dr. Jeremiah's teaching, helps you more clearly know what the Bible says, what it means, and what it means for you. It is available in jacketed hardcover, genuine leather, and LeatherLuxe bindings.

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## The best-selling study Bible from David Jeremiah

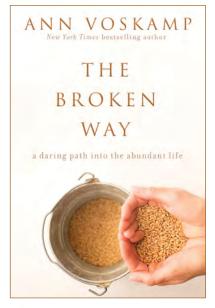


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This one's for the lovers and the sufferers. For those whose hopes and dreams and love grew so large it broke their willing hearts. This one's for the busted ones who are ready to bust free, the ones ready to break molds, break chains, break

measuring sticks, and break all this bad brokenness with an unlikely good brokenness. You could be one of the Beloved who is broken—and still lets yourself be loved.

You could be one of them, one who believes freedom can be found not only beyond the fear and pain, but actually *within* it.

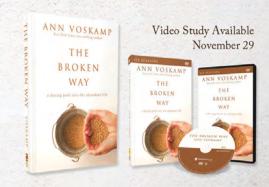
You could discover and trust this broken way—the way to not be afraid of broken things.

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## PAIN. HEARTACHE. BROKENNESS. THEY'RE THE BEGINNING, NOT THE END.

What do you do with the brokenness in your life?
What's the answer to suffering in the world?
What do you really do if you want to know
abundant wholeness in your day to day?



Bestselling author Ann Voskamp takes those who carry their own unspoken broken on a journey into *The Broken Way* — a fresh, authentic way into more time, more meaning, more abundant wholeness — a literal way to shape one's days into the abundant life. Live a life that is fearless of brokenness. Book on sale October 25th. To find a retailer and more information, visit TheBrokenWay.com.



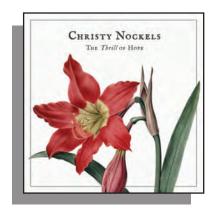
Christy Nockels The Thrill Of Hope (Keepers Branch Records)

**FOR FANS OF:** 

Kari Jobe, Passion worship

**WE LIKE:** "Amaryllis"

\*\*\*



Despite her resume as a nationally known worship leader, **Christy Nockels** intended her first holiday album, **The Thrill Of Hope**, to be a personal listening experience. The intimacy and intricacy of the arrangements clarify this vision with beautiful takes on "O Come O Come Emmanuel" and "O Holy Night."

Christmas music fans will also appreciate a handful of newer songs to add to holiday catalog, including the spirit "Song In The Air," the worshipful "Wrap This One Up" and the mid-tempo beauty of "Amaryllis." The latter reminds us that, "When everything is cold and dark, God's love breaks through." What a beautiful yuletide reminder for all of us

JJ Heller Unto Us

(Stone Table Records)

**FOR FANS OF**: Amy Grant, Lauren Daigle, Christy Nockels

WE LIKE: "White Christmas"

\*\*\*\*



Long time staple of the indie scene JJ Heller recalls favorite childhood memories on her first ever Christmas long player, splitting the instantly nostalgic project between traditional tunes and originals. Stylistically speaking, the cozy collection takes a low-key and generally stripped down approach, accompanied by the always tasteful production of both Ben Shive and Brown Bannister.

Heller's charming vocals can't go wrong on tried and trues such as "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home For Christmas," "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" and "Silent Night," though it's her handful of self-penned selections and their timeless tones that best reveal Heller's personal reflections surrounding the most wonderful time of the year.

-Andy Argyrakis

**Kenny Lattimore A Kenny Lattimore Christmas**(Motown Gospel)

**FOR FANS OF**: Brian McKnight, Eric Benét, Leslie Odom Jr.

WE LIKE: "Real Love This Christmas"

\*\*\*\*



For his first ever Christmas endeavor, mainstream hit makter Kenny Lattimore adapted his soulful sounds to six originals (which he co-wrote), alongside five familiar favorites. Throughout it all, the veteran's silky voice comes across as smooth as ever, while the messages contained therein range from anticipating Christ's coming into the world, spending quality time with family and spreading Yuletide cheer with the world at large.

Add in a stylistic swath as wide as modern R&B, jazz, gospel or straight up pop, and A Kenny Lattimore Christmas is a sumptuous melting pot of the season's sweetest sounds wrapped around its most touching messages.

-Andy Argyrakis

Ginny Owens Love Be The Loudest

(Chick Power Music)

FOR FANS OF: Britt Nicole,

Love & The Outcome, Ellie Goulding

WE LIKE: "Coming Alive"

\*\*\*\*



Taking a decidedly pop and electronic-leaning approach (alongside her signature piano stylings) throughout Love Be The Loudest may throw some longtime Ginny Owens fans for a loop at first, but the seasoned singer/songwriter nonetheless succeeds upon initial listen. Sure, the beats might be a little bubblier and many of the choruses burn brighter than more organic-minded material, but her commitment to comfort zone-shattering messages and introspective depth remain.

She also has some help from several familiar friends, including Ellie Holcomb, All Sons & Daughters, Meredith Andrews and Andrew Greer (among others), all of whom add to this engaging expansion of an artist who managed to pull off the surely tricky task of making vulnerability sound accessible.

-Andy Argyrakis

**VaShawn Mitchell** 

Secret Place: Live In South Africa

(Motown Gospel)
FOR FANS OF:

Byron Cage, Micah Stampley

WE LIKE: "Jesus Reigns"

\*\*\*\*



Gospel music veteran VaShawn Mitchell is back with his seventh album, Secret Place: Live In South Africa, a powerful and worshipful offering that features several impressive guests and Mitchell's own tremendous vocal talent and charisma.

"Jesus Reigns" is the centerpiece here, anchored by the one and only Tasha Cobbs, but highlights about on the yearning ballad "Holy Spirit" (which features Taelia Robinson) and the lively global punch of "Good God." The range of emotions match the wide range of Godward topics on Secret Place, another strong gospel release from Mitchell.

Chris Quilala

Split The Sky

(Jesus Culture Music)

**FOR FANS OF:** 

Jesus Culture, Hillsong Young And Free

**WE LIKE:** "Because Of Your Love"

\*\*\*\*



The first solo release from Jesus Culture's Chris Quilala is steeped in the synth pop of his generation, with bleeps and blips and synthetic swirls that surround familiar vertical refrains. Fans of Elliot Moss or Active Child will appreciate the largely chill pop here, and songs like "Because Of Your Love" and "Heart's Cry" work best in this atmosphere.

Worship fans in general might be wise to note the sonic curve Quilala throws on this one, since it's not as straightforward as a Jesus Culture release, but it's well past time for a nuanced, layered release like this. Kudos to Quilala for delivering it.

Jenny & Tyler Christmas Stories (Residence Music)

**FOR FANS OF:** 

JJ Heller, The Gray Havens

WE LIKE: "The Maker Of The Sun

And The Moon"

\*\*\*\*



Husband and wife duo Jenny & Tyler have entered the Christmas music catalog with the aptly titled Christmas Stories, a succinct set of eight holiday classics along with one original that sweetly sets the mood.

Ben Shive's smart production lends the album a classic feel (down to the lyrical Bing Crosby shout out on the original tune "Christmastime"), while the pair's lovely vocal interplay work well on favorites like "Winter Wonderland" and "White Christmas." Best of all is the burst of energy found on the British hymn, "The Maker Of The Sun And The Moon."

Matthew Parker Adventure (Dream Records)

FOR FANS OF:

Capital Kings, Owl City

WE LIKE: "Unstoppable"

\*\*\*\*



Matthew Parker got his start remixing other artists, and that sort of electronic experimentation will likely remain his calling card for quite some time. While some tracks on Adventure, Parker's Dream Records debut, venture into Owl City-esque inspirational territory and others are destined for pop radio, several tracks aren't satisfied until they rule the dance floor.

This will either work in Parker's favor with such a wide variety or frustrate those aiming for a specific mood. But what is clear is Parker wants to play wherever he feels, and he's talented enough to pull it off.

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the costs were so low, we thought, are they really going to support our family? Since then we've come to the conclusion that for us, there is no other option.

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Each year we do
the research—we
compare Medi-Share
to insurance plans,
and we come back
because it's simply
the best value for
our family."

—Tonya and Mark



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