

ALSO: ANTHONY EVANS | IN REVIEW: HOLLYN, PASSION, ZSCHECH

# CCM

Steven Curtis  
Chapman

ADVENTURES  
OF LIFETIMES  
AMID A LONG & FRUITFUL  
30-YEAR JOURNEY, WILL  
THE BELOVED SINGER-  
SONGWRITER GO 'ANOTHER  
TIME AROUND THE CIRCLE?'



**CECE WINANS**  
WHAT GOES AROUND  
COMES [BACK] AROUND

MAR 1, 2017



# NEW LIVE ALBUM FROM *DARLENE ZSCHECH*

AVAILABLE NOW:  
*HereIAmSendMe.org*



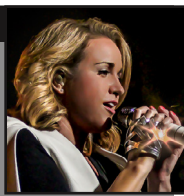
11 BRAND NEW SONGS FROM THE WRITER OF  
*Shout to the Lord, In Jesus' Name,*  
and *Victor's Crown*

## From the Editor

## Out &amp; About

Exclusive pics of your favorite artists!

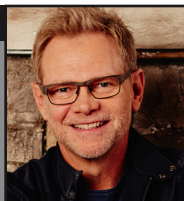
**In this issue:** Britt Nicole,  
Hillary Scott, Zach Williams,  
NewSong + more!



## Steven Curtis Chapman

Through all of the accolades, anguish, and accomplishment—the beloved singer-songwriter takes us on a great adventure in moving memoir.

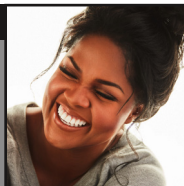
(All Steven Curtis Chapman photos by Jeremy Cowart)



[photo: Jeremy Cowart]

## CeCe Winans

Just let her *SING!* Nine-years in the making, could *Let Them Fall In Love* be this GRAMMY-winning vocalist's best yet?



## Anthony Evans

With his recent work on *The Voice* and a move to the west coast, we catch up with this worship leader-artist to find out what's really going on!



## Reviews

New music from Hollyn, Passion Music, Darlene Zschech, Daniel Doss + more!



**CCM Magazine is  
owned and published  
by Salem Media Group**

**Publisher**  
Michael Miller

**General Manager |  
Associate Publisher**  
Smitty Wheeler

**Associate Publisher |  
Mixed Media Production**  
Ross Cluver

**Editorial Director**  
Chris Well

**Managing Editor**  
Kevin Sparkman

**Design**  
Joshua Jamison (cover & graphics)  
Ross Cluver (content)

**Contributing Editors**  
Andy Argyrakis

**Contributors**  
Matt Conner  
Deborah Evans Price  
Andrew Greer

**Fulfillment & Customer  
Service Manager**  
Suzanne Solinger

**Customer Service Reps**  
Janice Collier Arsenault

**Executive Dir. of Advertising**  
DeDe Donatelli-Tarrant  
805.987.5072  
dede@salempublishing.com

Joel Stombres  
630.584.0213  
jstombres@salempublishing.com

**Account Executive**  
Jon Edlin  
913.231.7333  
jedlin@salempublishing.com

**Web Ad Traffic Coordinator**  
Kristina James

**Web & Social Media Support**  
Brandon Woolum

**'More about everything else'** | We have received an array of colorful statements from some of you the past few weeks regarding our coverage of the upcoming feature film, ***The Shack*** (in theaters everywhere, Mar. 3, 2017). I really wish you would read our prior cover story interview with *The Shack*'s author **Wm. Paul Young** before blindly throwing your stones. Surely, you—the ones with rocks in hand—would begin to understand that Mr. Young is a truly devoted man of God and a little more about the story behind *The Shack*. I find it timely that **Anthony Evans**, one of our featured artists for this Mar. 1, 2017 issue of *CCM Magazine*, reminds us of this quote by **C.S. Lewis**: "We don't need more songs by Christians about Christianity. We need more songs by Christians about everything else." I love Lewis' spirit behind that quote, and I would like to apply that to some of what you have been throwing at us the past few weeks and to Mr. Young for years, now. Of course, it's easy these days to hide behind a laptop and say (or do) anything we want—veiled in a dimly lit room and cloaked by any chosen screen name. I personally get blasted by some of you for being "too uptight" and "nonsensical" when I suggest we stop watching ***Saturday Night Live***, yet *The Shack*, with its foundation firmly rooted in fiction and intended for children, is "sacrilegious" and "garbage?" *The Shack* is not scriptural, nor, in my opinion, was it ever meant to be—yet, we vehemently defend something like *SNL* with the same passionate disdain for an innocent and uplifting fictional book (and now film)? Please stay tuned to *CCMmagazine.com* over the next week to find out what some of our (and no doubt, yours, too) favorite contemporary Christian artists also say in support of *The Shack*. *You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food—catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages.* (**2 Tim. 4:3, MSG**)



Blessings,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Sparkman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

**Kevin Sparkman**

Editor, *CCM Magazine*

[KSparq@CCMMagazine.com](mailto:KSparq@CCMMagazine.com)



[FACEBOOK.COM/CCMMAGAZINE](https://www.facebook.com/ccmmagazine)



[TWITTER.COM/CCMMAGAZINE](https://twitter.com/ccmmagazine)



[INSTAGRAM.COM/CCMMAG](https://www.instagram.com/ccmmag)



# Featured Events

TICKETED BY  **attendstar**



## MARCH

- 3/1 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
LAKE PLACID, FL
- 3/2 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
NORTH PORT, FL
- 3/3 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
LAKE LAND, FL
- 3/3 AN EVENING WITH JEREMY VANDERLOOP  
BOISE, ID
- 3/3 KINGDOM YOUTH CONFERENCE  
MONT BELVIEU, TX
- 3/4 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
LARGO, FL
- 3/5 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
SPRING HILL, FL
- 3/9 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
RALEIGH, NC
- 3/10 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
EVANS, GA
- 3/10 KINGDOM YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CLAREMORE, OK
- 3/11 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
CHARLESTON, SC
- 3/11 THE EDGE OF DAWN - AUDREY ASSAD &  
ANDREW PETERSON  
BETHEL, CT
- 3/12 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
GREENVILLE, SC
- 3/14 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
DOTHAN, AL
- 3/16 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
SWANNANOVA, NC
- 3/17 KINGDOM YOUTH CONFERENCE  
KINGFISHER, OK
- 3/17 YOUTH FOR CHRIST COMEDY NIGHT  
MODESTO, CA

- 3/18 A NIGHT OF SOUTHERN JOY WITH THE  
PRUITT FAMILY, JEFF & SHERI EASTER,  
AND THE WILBANKS  
MAYSVILLE, GA
- 3/19 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
MIDLAND, GA
- 3/23 SECRET KEEPER GIRL, PURPLE PARTY TOUR  
SPRINGFIELD, MO
- 3/23 WE ARE MESSENGERS & STARS GO DIM  
DOTHAN, AL
- 3/24 INTENTIONAL LOVE MARRIAGE  
CONFERENCE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA
- 3/24 BUILDING 429  
ELIZABETH CITY, NC
- 3/25 WORTHY WOMEN BRUNCH  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
- 3/25 KINGDOM YOUTH CONFERENCE  
BIRD CITY, KS
- 3/25 WE ARE MESSENGERS & STARS GO DIM  
BEAUFORT, SC
- 3/26 PHILLIPS, CRAIG AND DEAN - HITS, HYMNS &  
WORSHIP TOUR  
JACKSON, TN

## APRIL

- 4/1 WES HAMPTON  
WAKE FOREST, NC
- 4/2 BUILDING 429 / JOSH WILSON  
HAYS, KS
- 4/8 WE ARE MESSENGERS, BROTHERS MCCLURG  
AND MICAH TYLER  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
- 4/14 SANCTUS REAL  
DECATUR, IL
- 4/15 AFRICAN GOSPEL CELEBRATION  
JAMAICA QUEENS, NY
- 4/21 SECOND HALF QUARTET  
SPRINGFIELD, MO

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS, VISIT [ATTENDSTAR.COM/EVENTS](https://attendstar.com/events)

TICKET YOUR EVENT & SEE YOUR EVENT LISTED HERE BY CALLING 615-223-1973

# OUT & ABOUT

March 1, 2017



*click here for more pics!*



**CCM**  
MAGAZINE.COM

[www.ccmagazine.com/magazine/issues/mar-01-2017](http://www.ccmagazine.com/magazine/issues/mar-01-2017)



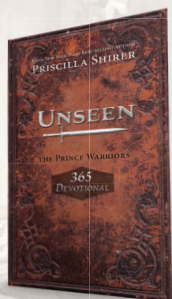
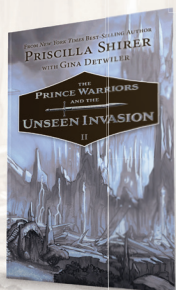
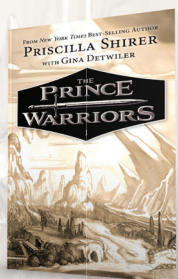
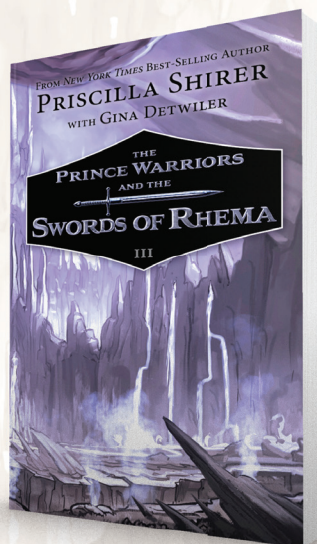
# THE PRINCE WARRIORS

## New from Best-Selling Author Priscilla Shirer

I can't wait for kids everywhere to  
be inspired through *The Prince  
Warriors Series*.

- PRISCILLA SHIRER

*Join the adventure!*

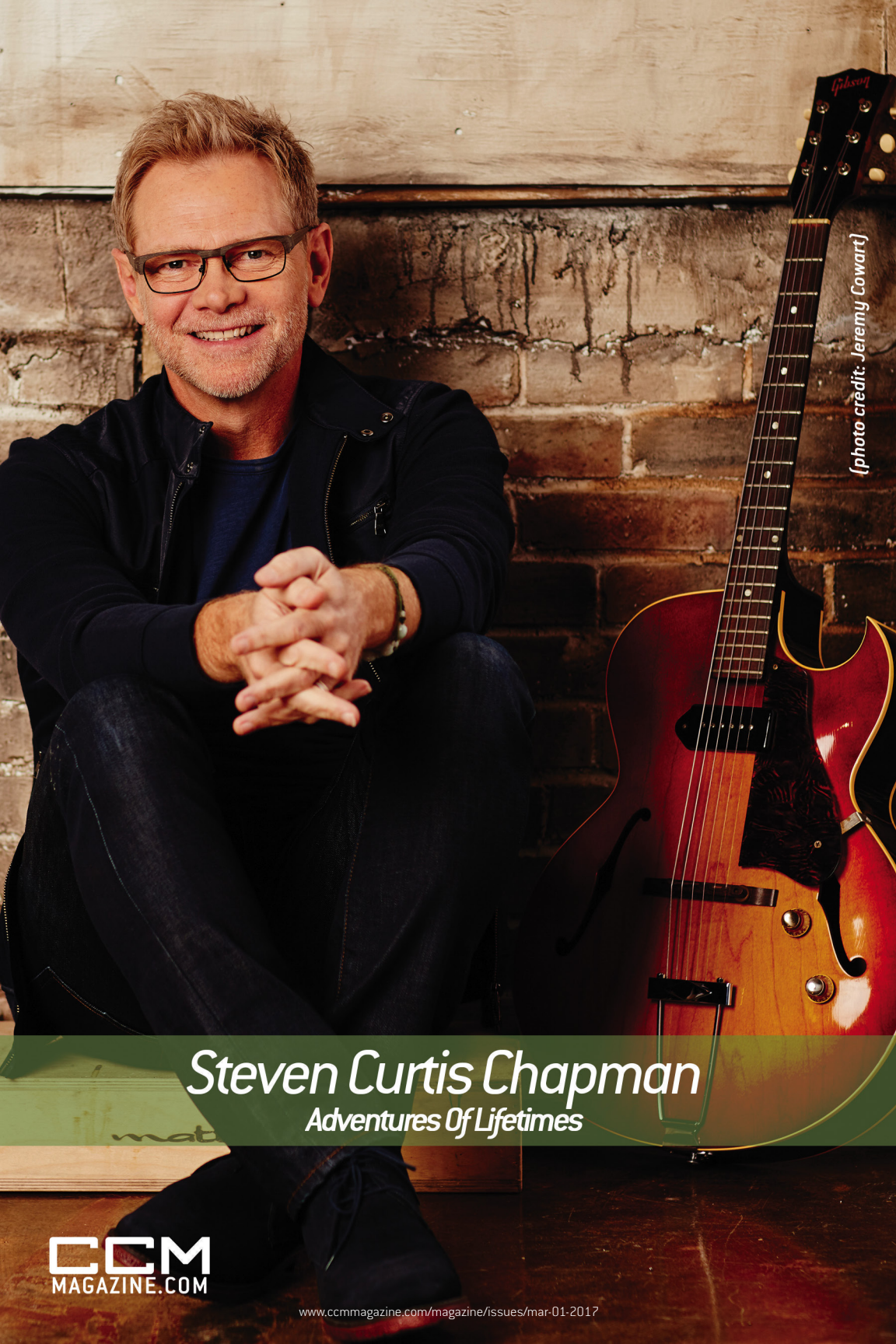


Also available  
in this series

Visit [theprincewarriors.com](http://theprincewarriors.com) for more information

**B&H**  
Every WORD matters™





(photo crédit: Jeremy Cowart)

# Steven Curtis Chapman

*Adventures Of Lifetimes*



# Steven Curtis Chapman

## — Adventures Of Lifetimes

Through all of the accolades, anguish, and accomplishment—the beloved singer-songwriter takes us on a trip *Between Heaven & The Real World* in moving memoir

By Andy Argyrakis

As the most decorated artist in Christian music history, **Steven Curtis Chapman's** trophy case is overflowing with five GRAMMY Awards, an American Music Award, an astounding 58 GMA Dove Awards, an equally staggering 48 chart-topping singles, plus eight gold or platinum albums responsible for more than 11 million albums sold. And chances are he's about to add a best-selling author credit to that ridiculously fruitful resume thanks to his first-ever memoir, ***Between Heaven & The Real World (Revell)***, which was written with **Ken Abraham** and slated to reach physical and virtual shelves on March 7, 2017.

As anyone who reads *Between Heaven & The Real World* will instantly ascertain, Chapman's life both in and out of the spotlight isn't always as glamorous as it seems. Sure there's performances at **Carnegie Hall**, elevator rides with **Bruce Springsteen** and **Sting**, plus movie premieres with **Robert Duvall**. But he also reveals surprising battles with self-confidence, a mountain of candid marriage struggles, the constant tug-of-war between touring and tending to family, plus an unthinkable tragedy of losing his daughter **Maria** at the hands of a freak accident that cast a shadow of grief and anger almost too enormous to bear.

Yet in spite of all the accolades, adoptions and episodes he's encountered throughout thirty years in music biz (and the public spotlight in general), Chapman couldn't be kinder, more humble, or more committed to touching lives. When he calls *CCM Magazine* from home in Tennessee, the singer-songwriter literally makes it sound like he has all the time in the world and is extremely generous in answering every question that comes his way with the openness of an old friend.

Indeed, no subject is off limits in the book, nor this conversation that ranges from the joyful to the bittersweet, horrifying, and ultimately, a peace that surpasses all possible human understanding. So, "saddle up your horses," because there's quite a trail to blaze surrounding the book (and filling in a few blanks that didn't make the final cut) with an artist, husband, father and man loved by so many who truly walks the talk.

***CCM Magazine: Why did you pick this particular time of your life to get your entire story down on paper?***

**Steven Curtis Chapman:** I think it was like so many other things in my life. It was the culmination of the right time itself. It felt like I had come to a place in my journey, more by process of elimination if I could even answer it that way. This isn't the first time I've considered and even been approached by publishing companies. "Hey, why don't you write a book?" Time and time again, I found myself saying, "I don't think right now is the time..."

In a way, it's a mountain climber saying, "Why don't you write a story about what it was like climbing Mount Everest?" They're like, "I'm only two-thirds of the way up. Let me go further in the journey." That metaphor comes apart in that I hope people don't see this as, "He reached the peak. Now he's done. He's riding off into the sunset." That was probably something I battled with a



See their video at [mychristiancare.org/stories](http://mychristiancare.org/stories)



**“Medi-Share  
covered me  
in prayer in ways  
they didn’t  
even know.”**

—Vanessa



**Medi-Share®**  
Affordable, Biblical Healthcare

More than 250,000 Christian  
members across America

Options for singles, families, and seniors\*  
about half the cost of insurance

No enrollment period—  
you can join any time

**VISIT [Medi-Share.org](http://Medi-Share.org) OR CALL 800-772-5623 FOR A FREE INFORMATION GUIDE**

Medi-Share is not health insurance. Medi-Share is not available in Montana. \*Seniors must have Medicare parts A and B to qualify.

little bit of thinking, “I feel like there’s still more journey for sure ahead of me with greater things than I even imagined as God has already done over and over again in my life.” But I knew I was coming up on 30 years since my first record came out. This year is that, and I think there was a part of me that felt like this is a good milestone.

Obviously a big part of the book is the loss of Maria, sharing that story from my perspective and how that redefined me in a lot of ways and reshaped my faith and my life. Again, that’s not a journey that you ever get finished with, but I felt like I had enough perspective now to share some of that. There are things that God has shown us and taught us and is teaching us that I felt kind-of released to make that, to engage in that process and begin to try to share the story.

Part of me also thought, at this point—I realized as I was writing it—I felt like there were about ten lifetimes wrapped into one life. It’s like, “Man, there’s a lot of living in there. A lot of amazing things, a lot of hard things.” Part of me is probably also like, “I should write this now because I’m just going to keep adding more chapters to the story. I think this is truly the right time.” I really think it’s just perspective. I’m certainly far from having anything all figured out or having a complete picture, but am at a good spot in the journey to take a little step off to the side of the path for a moment, so to speak, and tell about what it’s been like getting to this point.

***CCM: You mentioned the 30th anniversary moments ago. Do you consider yourself a pioneer in contemporary Christian music at this point?***

**SCC:** I wish I knew my history better, because I could probably give you a really good, cool, clever historical answer to that...



No, I'm not your "Christopher Columbus pioneer," the ones who discovered by any means what it meant to take music and fuse it with your faith in a really obvious way and use that medium as a way to teach and encourage people in their faith and tell their story. Certainly there were many that came before me, all the way back, obviously, to hymn writers, but certainly for contemporary Christian music, **Keith Green** and those that were ahead of me that inspired me and influenced me. The **Dallas Holm** singer-songwriter guys who shared their faith in a really honest way—those guys, I would say, are more pioneers. I would be coming along behind them like Lewis and Clark maybe, kind-of identifying the territories a little bit more, and taking it into some other areas than just the initial wave. It's an interesting thing to ask. It's an interesting thing to ponder. I guess I'd say, not a true early "founding father," but perhaps a "pioneer" is a good term for it? I guess that applies to a lot of different generations across a lot of different lines.

It's always one of the most humbling, incredible things for me to hear the stories of so many artists that will say what I say about **Andrae Crouch & The Disciples**, **Dallas Holm**, **The Imperials**, **Keith Green** and so many of these artists and people that I was influenced by... Now I hear the stories of **Bart Millard** or **Matthew West** or **Mac Powell**. When we were [recently] on tour, **Mac** and **Mark Lee** [from **Third Day**] said that when they first got **The Great Adventure** record, it blew their minds. "Man, we should do *that* with music." I hear those things and it's pretty incredible to think maybe my music has had that kind of influence on a lot of artists' lives as well.

***CCM: Speaking of The Great Adventure, around that time, you also made a considerable splash at crossing over into both country and pop. Was that an intentional strategy on your team's part, or do you feel like it just happened to all align at the same time?***



**SCC:** It was a little bit of both. I think Christian music at that point was really exploding in a big way. People were really discovering it. It was getting better, and better with more artists. By better, I think we had more money to make better sounding records. As the level and quality began to really grow, more and more people began to discover it. You had **dc Talk** making Christian hip hop and rap. You had **BeBe & CeCe Winans**, who are just two of the best singers on the planet that got put here singing about their faith and making these incredible R&B records. That was around the time a lot of the labels, **Sparrow** in particular, was bought by **Capitol** and by the larger **EMI** at the time. "We want to put more money into this. We want to promote this, we want to market this and put the records in all the stores." You don't have to go to just Christian music stores now to find the records. This was long before iTunes. A lot of older people like me will actually remember those days. It was this perfect storm in a way. In the midst of that, I had the opportunity because I, along with others [like **Amy Grant** and **Michael W. Smith**], were leading the charge of how Christian music was growing and where it was going.

My sons [**Caleb** and **Will**] are killing it right now [in the indie rock band **Colony House**], and of course, I'm a proud dad. They're doing music that is great art, that is woven together by the threads of their faith, but it's in a very different way than I write songs and kind-of "push it out." My answer in all those situations [about the potential to cross over] was, "I'm going to make the music that is honest." I have to. I can't do anything different. I can't go sit down and say, "How can I be a little more subtle or veiled? Is there a way to do that?" I just need to write the songs that come out of me. If it's a love song for my wife like "I Will Be Here," then I don't feel this compulsion to make sure I mention Jesus by name in every song, or any song. It's more about just being really honest, creating art that is illuminated by my faith.



Sometimes that's going to be real obvious, sometimes it's going to be more subtle.

**CCM:** *Can you trace your musical evolution from the '80s, to the '90s, on through to now for us, and explain how you've been able to stay current with your sound?*

**SCC:** My early music, even from the beginning, was really hard [to pinpoint]. I know I was a great frustration to a lot of reviewers and critics saying, "We don't know what this guy is. Is he country? Is he rock and roll? Is he folk?" It's got a little bit of all of it in there because that's what I grew up listening to. It's part bluegrass and part folk music because that's what my dad played when I was growing up. Then I discovered **The Doobie Brothers** and the **Eagles** and rock n' roll records from **The Edgar Winter Group**. There were elements of all that and it sort-of lit something up in me. I had this really strange fire burning that had fuel from so many different sources, even touches of classical music that moved me when I played in band. That all went into those early records.

As time has gone on, so much of the music went electronic. I can remember using the first drum machines and programming, the synthesizers and keyboards and sequencing and all that stuff. Then I began to think, "Okay, that's not organically where I came from, but there are elements of it that I dig. How can I incorporate that? That's a musical language right now." If I want my message to connect with people where they're living and they put this on in their car or in their office or in their home and it speaks the same musical language as the music that's getting played and getting listened to right now, what are those elements that feel very organic to me?

At no point, do I want to be a 40-year-old guy putting on a pair of skinny jeans acting like I'm a lot hipper and younger than I am. I was never hip or cool in the first place. A record like **Signs Of Life**, which is one of my favorite, has a lot of guitar playing, swampy influence and even blues. [There was a lot of variety] through the '90s, doing songs like "Dive" and making a record like **Speechless**. There was some music that was moving and inspiring me around that time that I was even rediscovering or discovering for the first time that touched something in me in a deep place. It's like, "I'm going to move with that flow, creatively."

The easiest answer is, I'm trying to be a student through all of it—continuing to listen and continuing to be influenced. I love my sons loving music and being in a band, because all the time they're bringing me, "Dad, have you heard this new record from **The Killers**? You've got to check out this new **Kings Of Leon** record. You would really dig these songs." That's been a good process to keep me listening and learning.

**CCM: Switching gears... You cover Maria's incident it so extensively in the book. Her memory is obviously with you every single day, but are you at a point now when a day can pass and you no longer remember the horrific details of the actual accident?**

**SCC:** Oh yeah. I mean, for sure, there are days that it's not sitting at the front of my mind or maybe even near the front. It's always there. It's interesting you would ask that, as my wife and I this very day—and this isn't a daily occurrence—but it was today in some conversation that we were having and realized, "You know what, there's probably still some more work, as they call it in the counseling world, or whatever, that we could and should do." We just continue to work through the trauma, that day and that event and the impact of that on our lives and our kids. We're constantly watching and aware of this incredibly traumatic event





in our lives, aside from just the fact that there's always that empty place at our table. There's always that empty spot in the picture, like the family picture that we just took at **Disney** this last Christmas with our grandkids and everybody. There's always that missing spot where Maria belongs.

But by grace from God, it isn't something that we live with every day, that we battle those most intense memories and all of that. It's something that I think, as time goes, you are able to begin seeing more of that perspective that I talked about, which is why it felt like I could write the book now. It was also important for me to share my story one time and not talk about it and not hash it over and over. Obviously in the early months, there was a lot of discussion and interviews about our loss and the accident. But as time has gone on as a family, really more and more to honor my family, and just to take the steps forward, it's not the centerpiece and sometimes isn't even brought up in conversation.

Part of what was important about this book was I was going to get the chance to share that, even as part of my own healing and as part of the grief process. How you walk through that is with a lot of prayer and tears and my whole family sitting down reading it and saying, "Is that okay? Is that too much? Is that respectful? Does that honor you guys?" But then to just say, "Okay, I'm not going to talk about it anymore. It's in the book, I shared it, I was able to do that and commit it to paper, so to speak, and now I'm going to really close that chapter publicly." I will, again, forever [deal with this] privately and it won't be that I'll never dialogue about it, but this book is a chance for me to close that chapter publically in a way.

***CCM: So many of your songs you wrote long ago seem to have spoken directly to your family situation surrounding that tragedy. I think of "His Strength Is Perfect," "My Redeemer Is Faithful***

***And True,” “Not Home Yet,” “God Is God,” “With Hope,” “Sometimes He Comes In The Clouds” and even “Next Five Minutes.” Looking back, do you feel your songwriting was preparing you for what was to come, or was it simply a coincidence of subject matter?***

**SCC:** No question. I don't think there's any question in my mind that God in His sovereign, great, loving, tender wisdom gave me these songs in many ways to help me survive the darkest moments of my journey. To be able to sing to my own heart, “God is God and I am not. I can only see a part of the picture He's painting,” or to be able to sing, “My redeemer is faithful and true” [and remember] He's gonna carry us through this.” To have all of those ones that you mentioned, and almost every song I can see a thread tethered to where I can hold on to this hope. God gave me this before, in some ways, before I even needed it at the depth that I was going to need it. So, no question and no coincidence about that at all. And I've many, many times gone, “Thank you that You gave me that before.” I mean, I needed it at the time, I wrote it from a sincere place, but just as only God could do, I had no idea how much I was going to need it.

***CCM: How much discussion was there between you and your wife Mary Beth about being so vulnerable surrounding your marriage struggles? Were you ever concerned it would be sharing too much?***

**SCC:** I really wanted to be committed to honesty and it came with encouragement from Mary Beth and even my kids. I remember Caleb, my son, particularly saying, “Dad, if you're going to do this, I know you're going to do it in a way that's going to honor mom and our family, but be honest. Share the journey with people so they can really know what it's been like and where those songs come from. I think it will make it even more impactful for people.”

Mary Beth and I are very honest. She wrote a book ahead of me, and in some ways, I couldn't have written this book, certainly not in the way I did, without her having blazed the trail with her own honesty. Some of the details and some of the things she had already shared from her perspective in her book, **Choosing To SEE**. And so, I felt like, in some ways, she had set the tone for that... Alongside the honesty, the ultimate goal was to honor. It was those two "H's."

I mean, what would the **Psalms** and the Bible be without the sometimes-brutal honesty of the failures, the weakness, and the struggles? I would have so much less hope for myself in certain situations if I weren't able to look at the life of **David** who, for crying out loud, was a man after God's own heart, but was a scoundrel in many moments and many ways. And to be able to go, "God, thank you! You didn't edit out his foolishness and his stupidity at different points." So I was like, "God, I want to be able to be honest," but I really felt it was so important to be honoring, whether it's my parents or my relationship with Mary Beth. And so we had a lot of conversations about that with the rest of my family to say, "Look, I'm going to share this. Are you guys okay with this? I feel like there's an important reason for it, but I don't have to if it feels like it's over-sharing in any way." So it was definitely a family process in that regard.

**CCM: What do you think fans will be most surprised about you after finishing this book?**

**SCC:** That is a great question and a good one to maybe put somewhere on my Facebook. I've been so honest through the years, well, not at *this* level of detail, but honest about our struggles and our journey together. I've shared so honestly about a lot of things, but I kind-of think that people will be surprised to just hear me share about the insecurities and the uncertainty about

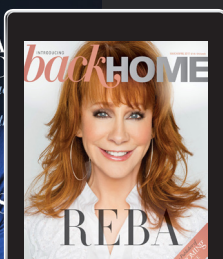


even my own abilities and those kind of things. I think there might be a sense of, “Man, I just—I didn’t get that.” Here’s guy who’s really wrestling to stay humble with what God gave him and all that. I mean, I’ve walked off stage and in tears going, “I don’t know if I’m supposed to do this. Is this right?” Or even just sitting in a room with my pastors and friends going, “I feel like I’m just a failure. I don’t know if I’m good enough at this,” or whatever. I think that might be the thing that people find most interesting and surprising about my journey. But I don’t know, that’s a great question. It’ll be fun to see what people discover. [CCM](#)

# SAVE up to 70% OFF NEWSSTAND PRICES on MORE MAGAZINES YOU WILL LOVE!



[www.BackHomeMag.com](http://www.BackHomeMag.com)



[www.singingnews.com](http://www.singingnews.com)



Download these FREE magazine  
Mobile Apps NOW!



Apple App - Google Play App



Apple App - Google Play App



*CeCe Winans*  
*Falling Forward*



# CeCe Winans — Falling Forward

What goes around comes (back) around, and for this legendary GRAMMY-winning vocalist, *Let Them Fall In Love* is a collection nine-years in the making that just lets CeCe *sing*

By Andrew Greer

She is arguably gospel music's greatest singer ever. Raised up through the legendary lineage of her mega-musical family tree, **Priscilla "CeCe" Winans** was born in Detroit during **Motown's** heyday. Though the historic record company was making massive strides in the racial integration of pop music, Mom and Pop Winans filled their home with solely spiritual music—tuning the ten Winans siblings' ears to the contemporary soul strains prescribed by the gospel music giants of the ear like **Andraé Crouch** and **Rance Allen**.

Deeply influencing her own sonic trajectory, CeCe, in duet with her brother, BeBe, forged a chart-topping career in the predominantly white Christian music world in the 1980's with their smooth grooves and easy listening harmonies, before diving headlong into mainstream soul circles with their platinum-selling R&B vocal mastery in the early 1990's. By the end of the same decade, the GRAMMY-winning songstress had made a formidable career out of a string of best-selling solo records, cementing her place in gospel music history forever.

But for the last several years, there has remained a steady silence on the CeCe front—at least in terms of new recordings, until now. After a nine-year pause, Winans is back at center stage, accessing the fashionable sounds of her childhood with a foundational gospel message for a new generation of believers, once

again commissioning the church with her award-winning pipes and wide open heartedness on a bold new set—***Let Them Fall In Love (Pure Springs Gospel/Thirty Tigers Music)***—out now.

Here to talk us through the process of throwin' it back into creating something new, please welcome the incomparable CeCe Winans.

***CCM Magazine: We live in a culture where our messages are fairly ambiguous and convoluted. Throwing the record back sonically—was that a way of getting back to some sort of back-to-the-basics message spiritually as well?***

**CeCe Winans:** When my son [Alvin Love III] came up with the vision of the throwback sound, he assured me that lyrically—and this was probably one of the things that won me over—we would be bold, really have songs of substance. We were purposeful with both, to have more of a throwback sound as well as going back to the old landmarks with lyrics.

***CCM: When Alvin first approached you with the throwback idea, were you immediately on board?***

**CeCe:** No. [Laughs] He had to convince his mother, his very strong mother. He said, “Mom, I know it seems like it’s out of style, but what’s out of style is in style. Young people love it. You’ll be relevant. And your old listeners will love it as well.” He started writing, I started listening to the music, and then I thought, “This is gonna’ be good.” But it took me a minute. We had—I won’t say arguments—passionate discussions. [Laughs] Of course, after he played me “Hey Devil,” I was sold. I love the attitude, the authority, while being wrapped up in fun.

The record label wanted me to do the same thing I had done before, what I'm known for, more of a worshipful style, but I wanted to do something different. After discussing the throw-back [sound] with Alvin and really talking about the whole project as a work of art, a work that would offer different styles of music but yet had that strong, precise and cohesive thread going through it, I think we did it. God did it. He did it.

***CCM: I saw you in concert when I was maybe 10 or 11, and I remember thinking, "Man, can she sing," and not necessarily having heard what you do live on the radio or on a record. On this album you really were able to sing, some of that live CeCe sound. Did you feel that way?***

**CeCe:** You sound like my son. Should I get into an argument with you? [Laughs] It's amazing you're saying that, because those are his words exactly. He would hear me live, and then he would hear me on the records, and he said, "You never really even sing on your records." I'm like, "What are you talking about? I do sing. Live is just something different." He said, "I want to capture what I hear live. I know your voice. I want to put these songs in keys that are going to make you work."

I'll just humble myself and let him know what you said so that he'll know that he did it. [Laughs] I get it now. This is definitely my first record that we have the live feel through it all.

***CCM: You referenced "Hey Devil," a dynamite track featuring The Clark Sisters. Lyrically, it is so bold and straightforward. Hell and the devil have become taboo subjects in my generation of Christians. Was this at all a thoughtful response to that?***

**CeCe:** I've never been ashamed of who I am or what I stand for. I believe in the whole Bible, the part that talks about heaven and





the part that talks about hell. We are missing the fear of God—not to be afraid of Him, but to be reverent of Him, to really understand who He is.

I remember as a kid, they taught on hell enough for me to say, “I don’t want to go there.” I got saved. It worked for me as a kid and as a teenager, but it wasn’t until later that I found out about the love of God. As I began to walk with the Lord, I understood that it’s the love of God that keeps you and it’s the fear of God that disciplines your life so you have the desire to please Him.

It’s been nine years [since my last record] and, boy, have things changed. I was excited about coming back bold. Yeah, I want to get their attention with great music, but let them continue to sing these lyrics over and over again, and understand Your power and Your love and Your grace and Your mercy and the authority that we have in You.

***CCM: Is some of this boldness in your lyrics and message coming from the time you have spent over the past several years in ministry with your husband in your local congregation?***

**CeCe:** It could be. I hope, the older I get, I become wiser. When we realized the Lord wanted us to start a church, we thought, “You’ve got to be kidding.” We’ve made church real complicated, and church is pretty simple—it’s loving God, loving people, and making disciples.

We can enjoy that Sunday service, but what do our lives look like throughout the week? I have learned we have to teach people how to live this abundant life, how to live a life that’s pleasing to God, and you do that by making choices that will bring God glory on every level every day—if that means paying your taxes or saying, “I’m sorry,” or being faithful to service.

I'm a shepherd now. I have to set the example for those who are coming behind me. It's no longer about me. It's funny, even since the record has been out, every time something happens, I call my son and I'm so happy for him. I forget that it's my record. I have a church full of Millennials, ages between 20 and 30, and so I want them to understand that you don't have to compromise to succeed in life. If you're going to have good success, then live a life that's pleasing to the Father—your relationships, how you speak to people, how you treat people.

God paid the price so that everybody would be saved. We are here to represent Him, and that's a heavy responsibility, so we're here to give you God's Word and only God's Word. If you like it, great. If you don't, hey, I'm praying for you. His Word offends all of us sometimes, but we have to be wise enough to say, "Yes, You're God. You're the potter and I'm the clay." When you listen to "Lowly," that's me encouraging somebody...

***CCM: ... to be humble. That is a super hip track, but I thought, "She's just telling it like it is." We live in this culture of what I call, "one-way communion." We post something or update our status, but we often miss out on a face-to-face relationship with one another. How do we achieve humility, if we're just strangers in the night?***

**CeCe:** You don't. The word "submission" is almost a bad word in this generation. Submission is protection. Submission is wisdom. Growing up, I owe everything to the part we allowed mothers and ministers to play in our lives. When they would say, "No, you're wrong." "Sit down." "You need to do this." And I listened. Thank God I listened and submitted, and because of that, God has protected me. He's honored me.



When I say you guys are amazing, this younger generation now, if they get lined up right, it's going to be serious revival. They want the real deal; they don't want halfway. I'm finding out that this generation wants to see a move of God. They don't want it to be sugarcoated. It's pretty awesome, but they have to be taught the beauty of submission.

***CCM: Growing up, your music transcended cultural and racial barriers for me, and was one of my first introductions to black music. Has this always been an intentional part of your platform, to be this bridge between different races, cultures, and classes through music?***

**CeCe:** It was just a byproduct of what we did. We were from Detroit, so Motown was around us, but my parents didn't allow us to listen to secular music. So we found incredible gospel music—Andraé Crouch and Rance Allen. We heard very contemporary, very soulful gospel music. So when I started recording at 17, we were just young people who liked hip music. We didn't think it was anything new or different.

It wasn't until we were on the charts that people started asking, "Wow, this is gospel music?" Even now you listen to Andrae's music and think, "Wow, he created this way back then?" His professionalism and production was always second to none, so we came out of the box wanting to make sure our production was just as good as anybody else on the radio and then just expressing ourselves the way we expressed ourselves. We never thought we would create this thing that would connect and show people how gospel music could be done. **CCM**



*Anthony Evans*  
*Life, and Everything Else*

# Anthony Evans — Life, and Everything Else

We often hear tales of mind-numbing writers block —not the case with this worship leader-artist of late. Penning close to 20 songs for his current project, at least we know his priorities are in place: *Back To Life* (with his worship to Christ), *Everything Else* coming after.

By Deborah Evans Price

**Anthony Evans** has lived a lot of life in the past few years. He soaked up some valuable lessons being involved in ***The Voice*** and has embraced the new friendships he's made after relocating to Los Angeles, California. But most of all, he's discovered that God can teach him lessons in the most unexpected places.

Those experiences inform the songs on his new album, ***Back To Life***. The gifted worship leader's eighth album finds him collaborating with some of the top names across multiple genres of music. He's co-written with **Cindy Morgan, Martha Munizzi, Krissy Nordoff, Michael Neale** and **Kirk Franklin** while the project was produced by GRAMMY-winner **Max Stark**. He also worked with vocal arranger **Tim Davis**, whose credits include **Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Sam Smith** and **Mariah Carey**.

Evans' season of collaboration extends to his current tour with his sister **Priscilla Shirer**, lead actor in the hit movie ***War Room***. The siblings will hit the road this spring on ***The FerVent Tour***, an evening of Shirer's teaching and Evans worship leading. During a recent visit to Nashville, Evans took time over a laid back brunch to discuss his latest endeavors with us.



**CCM Magazine:** *I understand that the new album was initially going to be a double album—one set a worship album and another songs about life from a faith-based perspective. What changed and when is the other project coming?*

**Anthony Evans:** I started writing worship songs and simultaneously writing songs from my perspective as a Christian, but real life issues, so I had both of these things going. There were 17 or 18 songs and I was talking about putting them together, but Martha Munizzi, a great worship writer—just, amazing—she sat down with me and said, “You need to put your worship record out first. Establish that.” I listened to her because it made sense to me.

Then I saw a quote that I saved on my computer from years ago. I had swiped over to that screen and there, the C.S. Lewis quote stated, “We don’t need more songs by Christians about Christianity. We need more songs by Christians about everything else.” I was like, “Perfect!” My next record will be called **Everything Else**, and that’s what it is. Songs by a Christian about everything else—both albums all made at the same time.

**CCM:** *The first single/video from Back To Life is “See You Again.” Why did you choose that as the lead single?*

**AE:** My team around me helped pick the single. I [happily] relinquish that as radio and singles have driven me nuts for years because I feel that my music lies between two genres of music. I’m not all-contemporary Christian and I’m not completely a gospel artist. I was hearing positive feedback for “See You Again” from a lot of different people, so that’s how it came about.

***CCM: How has living in Los Angeles changed you as an artist?***

**AE:** This little LA detour that started with *The Voice* has created a whole new passion and a different side to me. It has expanded my thought patterns and made me believe I'm capable of more—not that there was anything wrong with being in Nashville—but it was a bit one-dimensional for me and the different dimensions that it has added to what I've learned here has been amazing.

***CCM: What's been the biggest lesson you've learned?***

**AE:** The biggest things that have surprised me are the lessons I have learned in places that I didn't think I would get them. That's a broad-stroke answer, but that's what it is. You don't feel like your friends who are not Christians will be teaching you principles about honesty, vulnerability, and being transparent. These are people who do not "do church," and they've been like, "Let me tell you something..." It's so interesting when you can put those values in with what you've learned, into your faith—it's translated into some crazy, amazing things. Finding faith in unexpected places is what has shocked me the most.

***CCM: Even after you competed on *The Voice* you continued to work on the show. Tell us about that experience.***

**AE:** I did three seasons as a talent producer, working underneath Michelle McNulty. She's the boss. She's a producer on the show as well as the casting director. It was so much fun to go in and work in that environment. I've never worked in mainstream environments and it was just great. It was another level of excellence. "You can't mess up,"—I loved that challenge, and it has translated into what I'm doing now.

***CCM: What's your take on the current political climate in our country?***

**AE:** One of my close friends is Richard Grenell and he used to be the spokesperson to the United Nations. Now he's most likely going to be the U.S. Ambassador to NATO, so I get a lot of insight from him because I don't live in politics, but obviously, that's his life. It's so interesting, but the bottom line is unity will always win over being divided. That's just the bottom line. It's just making [unity] work, and a lot of times that can be uncomfortable, depending on where you are situated. [For right now], we have make the best of where we are in our nation.

***CCM: There have been a lot of people over the last few months marching for different causes to show the things that they believe in. What would you march for?***

**AE:** I don't know the answer to that yet, but as somebody of faith, I'm supposed to be trying to make a difference. I would march for anybody I feel like is voiceless. That's another broad-stroke answer, but there are different groups of people who I feel do not have a voice [right now]. Anyone who feels they do not have a voice, I'm in. I'll help you get heard.

***CCM: What do you think about the Black Life Matters movement?***

**AE:** I haven't studied the movement to know everything they stand for. I do feel strong about any movement that is perpetuating a thought of "lives matter," in general. I think the BLM movement is strong, but it's only strong if it's *not* being divisive. I think the only time you are being strong is when you are promoting a unified effort. This movement, which I *think* in a lot of ways, is changing the views of people. If people have a negative definition of a black male, I would want people to look at me [in



the hopes] they can redefine that in their eyes. If that is what BLM is about, then I'm all into that. I'm all into helping people change their perspective, especially if they don't value a life just because they may not look like their own, so that they might begin to see that others matter, too.

**CCM: How did the tour with your sister, Priscilla Shirer, come about?**

**AE:** We've done some events together through LifeWay over the last several years-or-so, but when *War Room* and *FerVent* came out, I was like, "Why don't we just go and try this?" At first we were like, "Let's go out for a week and try some," and it worked. So we added 12, then 16, and then yesterday we added 24 dates. Sherman James Productions is [producing the tour]. Those are my grandfathers on both sides and their decisions are why our family has turned out the way that it has, so when I stand on stage it is all because of Sherman and James and my grandmothers. My sister says, "There is something intangible about the family dynamic on the stage." She understood what I was trying to do. It's an honor to be able to do this with family. CCM

# REVIEWS

March 1, 2017



CCM  
MAGAZINE.COM

[www.ccmagazine.com/magazine/issues/mar-01-2017](http://www.ccmagazine.com/magazine/issues/mar-01-2017)

**Hollyn**

***One-Way Conversations***

(Gotee Records)

**FOR FANS OF:**

*Britt Nicole, Alessia Cara, Selena Gomez*

**WE LIKE:** "Can't Live Without"

★★★★☆



Propelled by the momentum of a tour with **TobyMac** and a Dove Award nomination in the "New Artist" category, **Hollyn** kicks up her brand of energetic, R&B-infused dance pop with diary-like honesty yet another notch.

The singer-songwriter's full-length debut, ***One-Way Conversations***, covers the gamut of relationships, aspirations and applying faith to her decision-making process in the generally exciting but unpredictable music biz. But as Hollyn proves on this bright and memorable coming of age collection, which even includes collaborations with TobyMac, **Andy Mineo** and fellow newcomer **Steven Malcolm**, chances are she'll have no trouble navigating her way into ongoing artistic relevance and relatability

—Andy Argyrakis



**Passion**

***Worthy Of Your Name***

*(sixstepsrecords)*

**FOR FANS OF:**

*Hillsong UNITED, Gateway Worship,  
Bethel Music*

**WE LIKE:** “Glorious Name”

★★★★☆



For those of us unable to attend the annual Passion Conference, this time of year comes with great anticipation of being able to recapture the praise and adoration of Jesus in song by thousands of unashamed worshipers. For this mostly-live edition (the album is capped by a studio version of “Worthy Of Your Name” and “This We Know”), there are certainly moments where ***Worthy Of Your Name*** will allow listeners to participate and feel like they are actually in the Georgia Dome—site of the 2017 conference—along with thirty-thousand-plus.

Domes are loud, and the album bears witness to recounts of this historic building experiencing some of its highest decibel numbers...ever. When you’ve got the likes of **Crowder, Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman**, and even a sit-in guest such as **Hillsong UNITED**, you expect the name of Christ to be sung and proclaimed to deafening levels. Emotional, passionate, reverent, and heart-felt are words best described by the contents on this edition—no doubt a direct translation of the experience from those two days in Atlanta.

—Kevin Sparkman

**Darlene Zschech**  
***Here I Am Send Me***

(Integrity Music)

**FOR FANS OF:**

*Paul Baloche, Christy Nockels*

**WE LIKE:** "Daylight"

★★★★☆



Beloved worship leader **Darlene Zschech** continues to contribute songs for the church to sing songs love and praise to God with her latest album, ***Here I Am Send Me***. The thesis of which can be heard on the opening track, "You Are Great," when Zschech sings, *No one in this world can have your fame / So let the earth declare your holy name.*

The first album since Zschech's battle with cancer, *Here I Am...* reminds the listener of God's faithfulness, strength and power with humble songs for worship. Fellow co-writers with Zschech include other favorites like **Leeland Mooring** and **Paul Baloche**, and the whole recording is rooted in the local church, **Hope Unlimited**, where Zschech and her husband serve as pastors.

—Matt Conner

**Joseph Habedank**

***Resurrection***

(Daywind)

**FOR FANS OF:** *Michael English*

**WE LIKE:** “Just When You Thought”

★★★★☆



Southern Gospel fans are already well acquainted with **Joseph Habedank**, former lead vocalist for **The Perry's**. Now the acclaimed vocalist tells his musical testimony of overcoming addiction on his latest solo album, ***Resurrection***. With a smooth yet powerful vocal, Habedank sings his story on moving songs like “Just When You Thought” and the bluegrass-tinged stomp of “Dead Things.”

Despite the serious backdrop for the album's formation, *Resurrection* is a surprisingly festive affair, from jazzed up tunes like “Jailbreak” and “Devil Can't Dance” to the almost playful “Middle Man,” not to mention the opening pop refrain “Here He Comes.” If you're a fan of Habedank's previous work, you'll undoubtedly find something to like among the many varied tunes on *Resurrection*.

—Matt Conner



**Daniel Doss**

***Praise The King***

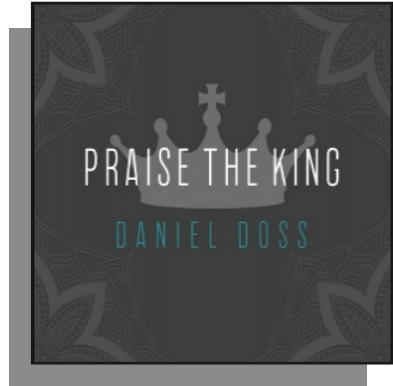
(Word)

**FOR FANS OF:**

*Matthew West, Jeremy Camp*

**WE LIKE:** “Stained Glass Windows”

★★★★☆



Only **Daniel Doss** can explain why nine years have passed since his last recording, but *Praise The King* is a very welcome return from the singer-songwriter and worship leader. The 10 songs on *Praise The King* each have strong radio potential, with lovely pop melodies made stronger by Doss’s killer vocal ability.

“Stained Glass Windows” is the album’s highlight, a beautiful ballad that finds hope in difficult times, but it’s not an easy choice given how enjoyable and moving other songs like “Brother Comes Home” and “Anchor” turned out. Whether you’ve been waiting for some time or just hearing Doss for the first time, there’s little doubt you’ll love *Praise The King*.

—Matt Conner

**Out Of The Dust**

**Out Of The Dust**

(Discovery House Music)

**FOR FANS OF:** Fleet Foxes,  
Sixpence None The Richer, John Mayer

**WE LIKE:** "Lead Me Through"

★★★★☆



Husband-wife duo **Out Of The Dust** (**Chris** and **Stephanie Teague**) sure do have a story to tell throughout this self-titled debut. For starters, their young marriage eventually led to divorce stemming from Chris' private battle with drugs and other trappings, but following a season of complete surrender, the pair miraculously remarried.

As a result, themes of wandering and questioning are balanced with tones of reconciliation across folksy-indie pop instrumentation, tight-knit harmonies and rousing choruses. Throughout all eleven tracks, the couple's creative and personal chemistry is consistently apparent, while listeners of any relationship status can likely connect with their honesty and emotional delivery.

—Andy Argyrakis



Explore the world of Aethasia™, and join the Resistance in their fight against the tyrannical emperor and his 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!







**TODAYS**  
**CHRISTIAN**  
**MUSIC.com**

# YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTIAN MUSIC

– Listen Via The App Or Tune In Now At [TodaysChristianMusic.com](http://TodaysChristianMusic.com) –



visit **TodaysChristianMusic.com**  
to listen online, find out about your favorite artists,  
new music releases and to download free music

**LIVE FROM THE WORLD'S CHRISTIAN MUSIC CAPITAL**

A service of Salem Music Network – Nashville, TN

