



2006

CHRISTMAS

Gift Guide

*E*ach year around the Christmas holiday hustle and bustle, one question weighs heavy on generous minds everywhere: “What in the world will I get _____ this year?” Fill in the blank with your hard-to-shop-for friend or family member! Dad couldn’t possibly stuff another tie into his closet; Betty’s daughter has every baby toy ever manufactured; and cousin Doug lost that Gap gift certificate somewhere under a pile of discarded wrapping paper last season. You’ve yet to conquer the quest for that perfect present, and, though you really want to celebrate the real reason for the season right now, the stress of gift shopping is quietly gnawing away at your joy.

Well, relax! **Salem Publishing** is proud to be the bearer of good news to our over-shopped, under-served gift givers! The annual Christmas Gift Guide has everything you need to see your favorite gift-ee light up like a Christmas tree on the morning of December 25. From entertaining new CD and DVD offerings to insightful, engaging books and other unique items, the Christmas Gift Guide is guaranteed to inspire you with fresh ideas. This holiday giving season, the best new products are all here on these pages. So get ready, set, shop!

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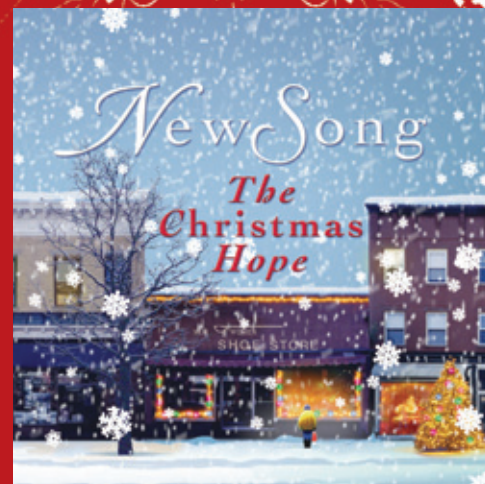


Shannon and I married on November 8, 1997. I was making a whopping \$11,000 a year. Needless to say, our first Christmas was a little small, but it was one of the best times of my life. Waking up on Christmas morning, turning on Bing Crosby, sitting in our home pants (pajamas for those who don't speak Bart and Shannone), brewing up the finest Swiss Miss hot chocolate around and taking turns opening our few gifts. And, of course, after every gift, you have to take a picture of the goofiest face possible to express your excitement. Now that we have Sam and Gracie, Christmas has changed quite a bit, but I will never forget those first few years with just Shannon and me. Thank God for the little things that keep us smiling.

—Bart Millard (MercyMe)

My favorite Christmas memories are usually events and people and not the gifts. But the one that sticks in my mind the most is about a gift. It was the first time I remember asking for a specific gift. I asked for a gray, leather-bound Bible. King James version...guess I thought I would learn more if the words sounded cool. Oh yes, and it must have the thumb tabs. Thumb tabs ROCK! Especially when you are racing your friends in Sunday school to see who can find the scripture first! Well, I got vinyl-covered cardboard and not leather. But, oh well, the words were the same. I could probably find that Bible tucked away in a closet. Probably still has the residue of the stickers that I so thoughtfully stuck all over it. And all the marks from the stickers that didn't make it through the summer heat as I tended to leave my favorite Bible in the back window of my parents' red Grand Am. Maybe I should go find it? See what scriptures I marked as a young man. I am sure they will still speak to me today.

—Nathan Cochran (MercyMe)



For: A Holly Jolly Christmas

From: Newsong

It's Christmas Eve, and these shoes are just her size/And I want her to look beautiful —if Mama meets Jesus tonight. —“The Christmas Shoes”

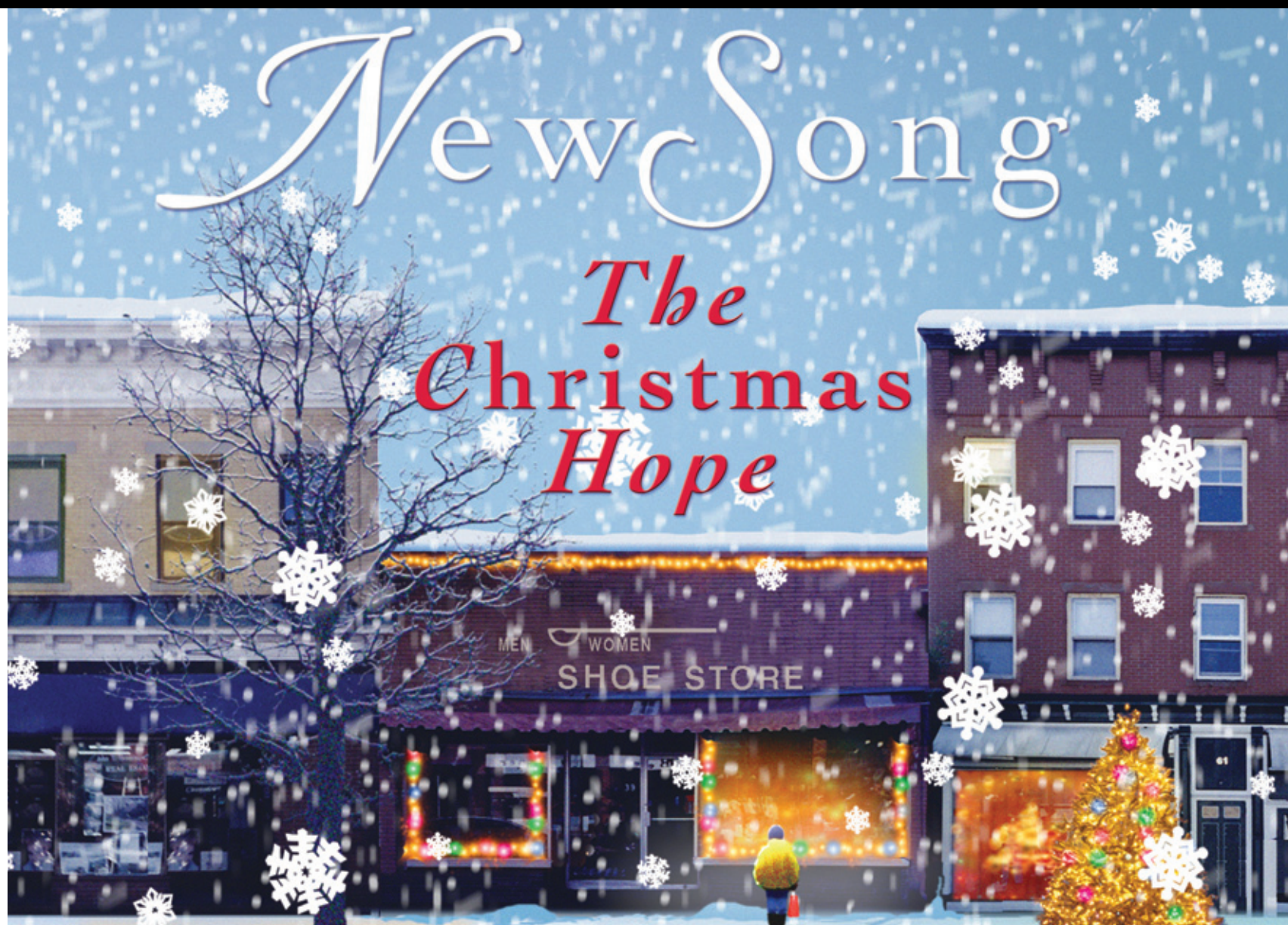
It's likely that, if you own a radio or TV and have been even remotely tuned in for the past few holiday seasons, you have been exposed to “The Christmas Shoes” phenomenon. “The Christmas Shoes,” a seasonal anthem by the vocal group Newsong, garnered No. 1 status on the *Billboard* charts in January of 2001. The poignant lyric about a young boy searching for the perfect gift for his sick mother on Christmas Eve tugged at heartstrings across the country. Newsong had another hit on its hands the very next year when it released its debut Christmas album, an offering with the same title as the tune. Inspiring a series of three New York Times best-selling books by Donna Van Liere and two CBS “Movies of the Week,” including 2005's smash “The Christmas Blessing,” which proved to be the most watched movie on television in 2005, the song “The Christmas Shoes” is now a standard just as synonymous with Christmas as any Amy Grant classic.

The Christmas Hope, the third book in the series by Van Liere, served as the inspiration for the Newsong album of the same title released this fall. If history repeats itself, this CD is bound to fall in line alongside its successful predecessors. Coming from a band that has over 20 years, 14 albums, 19 No. 1s and a successful multi-artist touring outfit to its credit, *The Christmas Hope* is a solid soundtrack by which to trim the holiday tree.

The collection of holiday tunes, produced by Bernie Herms (Natalie Grant, Nate Sallie, Avalon) and Newsong members Drew Cline, Matt Butler, Rico Thomas and former member Michael O'Brien, features 13 tracks headed for holiday radio rotation. Six original Christmas songs and a remake of “The Christmas Shoes” decorate this compact stocking stuffer. Both the traditional holiday songs and treasured sacred carols on *The Christmas Hope* showcase Newsong's trademark powerhouse vocals along with lush string and jazz arrangements and collaborations with several guest artists and musicians.

Other noteworthy contributors to the project include Matthew West, who co-wrote the album's title track with Carswell, Rachael Lampa, who guests on duet “The Christmas Blessing”; Anointed, which provides guest vocals for the sacred spiritual “Jesus What a Wonderful Child”; and the drum corps from Middle Tennessee State University, which offers an authentic Tennessee touch on “Little Drummer Boy.”

FROM THE BAND THAT BROUGHT YOU THE CLASSIC
“THE CHRISTMAS SHOES”



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When I was six years old, my family piled in our motor home to take a road trip from our house in Seattle to our grandparents' in San Diego. We loved road trips. We had put a little tree in there and some lights around the windows so we had some Christmas love in our RV. We stopped at a campground to stay the night in northern California. Next to our parking spot, there was a family in an old, beat-up trailer. The windows were just some taped up plastic. It looked really rough. My dad went over and introduced himself and made friendly with them. He came back and told us that a man and his five children were living in that trailer. Their wife and mother had recently passed away from cancer, and the man had lost his job. Dad told us we were going to pack up all of our groceries and give them to this family. He also told us that we had to pick one of our wrapped presents from under our little tree to give away. At first, I was a six-year-old Grinch, and was not happy with that idea. But, after I handed my present to that family and saw tears streaming down the man's face, I quickly learned what Christmas and "the spirit of giving" are all about. Thanks for the lesson, Dad!

—Natalie Grant



For: *Those Dreaming of a Sunny Vacation*

From: *Come Alive Cruises*

Are you stumped about what to get for that person whose CD collection rivals the selection at amazon.com? You couldn't possibly add another book to his or her extensive collection because its weighing down the shelves even now, and this individual already owns the newest Sony PS2 game the minute it hits the market. This entertainment-phile makes your job harder each year. You want to get him or her something really spectacular this year. Have you ever thought about gifting a vacation? The Come Alive Cruise, birthed by the same folks who bring you the fun-filled Creation festivals summer after summer, is tailor-made for the one who already owns everything you could possibly dream of putting a bow on this Christmas.

The Come Alive Cruise, which makes its maiden voyage February 11-17 from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., gives fans the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to mingle with their favorite artists and songwriters in a relaxing oasis aboard the Carnival Liberty, the newest and largest ship in the Carnival Cruise Line fleet.

Cruise attendees will catch sun rays with worship leader Paul Baloche and rockers Downhere, challenge top female vocalist Rebecca St. James to a game of water volleyball, enjoy the day's fresh catch at dinner with radio darling Casting Crowns and experience intimate acoustic showcases and full-band concerts each day by their favorite artists against the backdrop of the clear Caribbean Sea. In addition to musical entertainment, morning worship and other meaningful events led by Mike Cavanaugh and Pastor Harry Thomas will inspire attendees to enjoy the One who created such awesome tropical surroundings.

The six-day excursion makes stops in the Bahamas, Grand Cayman and Costa Maya, where attendees will have the chance to temporarily jump ship and stroll endless beaches, swim with dolphins, take a kayak safari, fly fish or spend the day shopping in the local markets.

Given the extensive amenities of the floating home-away-from-home, cruisers may not ever want to depart the deck. In addition to the vast dining options and duty free shops, the Carnival Liberty boasts a massive movie screen located poolside, featuring popular films, sporting events and other programming. The ship's 13 passenger decks also house a 13,500 square-foot health club, four swimming pools, a cascading water slide, a 4,200 square-foot children's play area and a 1,800 square-foot teen club.

Come Alive Cruise is the perfect chance to escape the blustery weather and enjoy Valentine's week with sunshine, peace and spiritual refreshment. This cool winter purchase is sure to have your gift-ee longing for the warmer months, ocean breezes and island songs awaiting them ahead!



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Have you ever actually seen the “heavenly glow” like the one from “Touched by an Angel” when they reveal themselves? Well, I have. It was in 1981, and Christmas morning couldn’t

come fast enough. When I got up and ran into the living room, there were beams of light shining from directly beneath the old fake tree we had in our house. When I saw past the glare, I noticed an Atari entertainment system. I would come to know a new best friend. His name was Pac Man!

—Rob Beckley (Pillar)

I was shopping with my dad one time before Christmas. He asked me to go over by the food court for a few minutes and not look. Of course, I looked and saw the electronic battleship he was buying me. I ended up getting that battleship from Santa (a.k.a. Dad) that Christmas.

A favorite Christmas present? The original Nintendo system and the game “Metroid.” I started playing it the second I opened it, ignored all the family that was over and didn’t stop for a decade or so.

—Kalel (Pillar)



For: Jingle Bell Rockers

From: Pillar

“We’re concerned with what our fans think of us,” Pillar’s Rob Beckley says. “We don’t want to let them down, but, at the same time, we know that, in order to grow, you can’t stay stagnant.”

These are wise words from the front man for a band that holds seven No. 1 hits, three Dove Award wins and a tour history with some of rock’s best-selling bands, like Switchfoot and Limp Bizkit. The four-piece outfit must be doing something right, as career sales have now careened over the half-million mark.

The fourth full-length record from Pillar is the kind of evolutionary leap all fans wish upon their favorite bands. If you’re a fan of Tool, Jimmy Eat World, AC/DC and Rage Against the Machine, put this disc on your holiday wish list. It’s a well-balanced mix of diverse musical influences and intelligent lyrics.

Preceding albums (*Above*, *Fireproof* and *Where Do We Go From Here*) all released in two-year intervals since 2000, and Pillar has exhibited a deft progression from rap-metal to hook-laden hard rock over the years. Produced by Travis Wyrick in conjunction with Pillar, *The Reckoning* continues to hone the band’s melodic yet tough sound while carrying on its rootsy, Midwestern legacy of rich rock. *The Reckoning* delves even further into song lyrics this time around to communicate the heart of the band. Beckley cites country artists Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and Marty Robbins as storytellers he hopes to emulate. “They made you want to know what happens in the third verse,” he says.

And, for those who might think the sonic element went by the wayside in the search for lyrical uprightness, think again. “It’s way too convenient now to record music,” says Beckley. “It used to be if you wanted to do it you had to really work at it. You had to be obligated and committed to it. Now it’s just like, ‘Hey man, we’re gonna start a band.’ I think that’s why this record is so cool to us—because there’s so much passion in it.”

Early Christmas shoppers definitely get the proverbial worm when they purchase this new album. Released simultaneously on October 3 was a special edition of *The Reckoning*, comprising the new album and featuring a bonus DVD with more than three hours of footage. The video portion includes a 2006 performance as well as song commentaries by Pillar and a “how to” section in which the members explain their equipment, technical aspects of songs and other helpful hints.

PILLAR
THE RECKONING



Special Edition features a full length DVD that includes a live concert film by Taylor Gahm from Cornerstone 2006, individual musician interviews with performances and an exclusive “director’s cut” song-by-song commentary with the band.

Headlining the **Days of the Reckoning Tour** this fall with special guests Day of Fire, Kids In The Way and The Showdown For tour dates check: pillarmusic.com • myspace.com/pillar



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A favorite Christmas present? Although my reaction to this gift wasn't one of elation or surprise, there is one gift that I've found myself using more than almost any other. My roommate for a couple years after college, Patrick Pinho, bought me the *One Year Book of Hymns* that I used almost daily while I was a full-time worship leader at Perimeter Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The book contained 365 hymns listed with the story behind each song, and it was where I first saw the words, "I am not skilled to understand" [the first line of "My Savior, My God"]. So, sitting in the Honolulu airport, two days before Christmas 1996, Patrick gave me the most-used gift I can recall ever receiving. Thanks again, Patrick.

—Aaron Shust



For: Christmas All Year 'Round
From: Amy Grant

Amy Grant's smooth, pure alto has long been a part of my family's Christmas tradition. As a child, I can recall unpacking my stocking to the tune of her first holiday offering, *A Christmas Album*. Nearly 10 years later, my sister and I squealed with delight on Christmas morning as we received our inaugural pair of concert tickets to see our favorite pop singer up close and personal. Grant's *Heart in Motion* had been a huge release that year, and we had memorized every song lyric. The next winter season, as a token of thanks and good memories, we gifted our parents with Grant's stunning new *Home for Christmas* collection. *House of Love*, *A Christmas to Remember*, *Simple Things* and other Amy Grant albums were added to the music collection over the years, and I can still recall each occasion for which they were purchased or gifted.

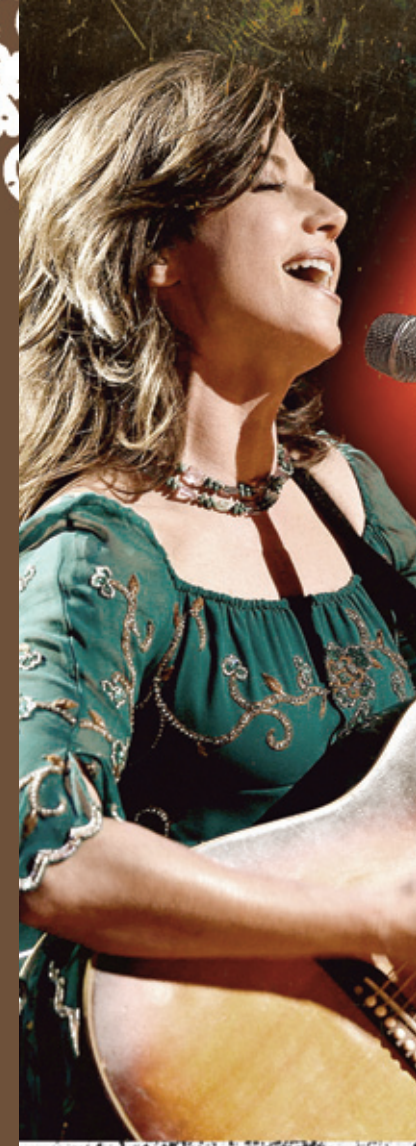
With over 25 million albums sold in a celebrated career that spans nearly three decades, it's a fact that many others share my affinity for this talented singer and songwriter. Given the short-lived careers of today's pop stars, Grant's legacy, one that began in 1977 with her now classic self-titled debut, is even more impressive as she continues to release solid efforts in the folk/country/pop vein. This year, there's a new Amy Grant project bound to delight old fans and serve as a great introduction to Grant's work for newbies unfamiliar with her sound.

Time Again...Amy Grant Live weaves a retrospective journey through a lifetime's worth of her most treasured hits, including "Lead Me On," "Simple Things," and "Takes a Little Time." The CD/DVD recording captures Grant's first live concert in 25 years. The concert was filmed during two sold-out performances on April 11 and 12, 2006, at the exquisite Bass Hall in Ft. Worth, Texas. Captured in stunning 5.1 Surround Sound and Hi-Def video, this 22-song treasure is a virtual experience not to be missed—no matter how many times one has seen Grant live in concert. On this unique CD/DVD pairing, Grant invites the audience into her "living room," bringing a couch and painting from her own home as part of the intimate stage setting. For a live concert experience from the comfort of your own home, *Time Again...Amy Grant Live* is unlike any other. Entertain those holiday houseguests with this timeless collection to keep them happy long after all the Christmas gifts have been unwrapped.



I thought I was getting a Gibson Les Paul guitar for Christmas. My dad had been leading me on about it since October. Christmas morning had come and gone, and all the presents were opened...and I didn't get it. My mom started crying because she knew that I wanted it so bad. My dad said, "You aren't getting something so expensive for Christmas!" My mom continued to cry and said, "I'm sorry we didn't give you a good Christmas." I felt like dirt for making my mom cry, and I said, "Are you kidding me? This was the best Christmas." Three hours later, I was in my room; and my dad called to me, "Hey, Santa left you something on the table." There was a Gibson guitar case! I opened it up, and there was my beautiful teal Gibson Les Paul! The amazing part was that I had carried a picture of that same guitar in my wallet for two years, and my dad never knew.

—Krystal Meyers



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Growing up in Australia, Christmas always meant hot weather, mid-summer pool parties and lamb roast for Christmas dinner—so things have changed a lot in the past 15 years I've been living in America! So much, in fact, that we actually went back to Australia last year for Christmas—and it didn't really "feel" like Christmas. I've obviously now gotten used to the cold weather, snow, the turkey for Christmas dinner and all the trappings. I'll be here in the States for Christmas this year, and the message is—no matter where we are—it's all about Jesus. I love Christmas!

—Rebecca St. James

Favorite Christmas memory? The year I snuck out and swore I was gonna catch Santa Claus. I snuck out to the living room of my Grandma's house and hid under the pull-out sofa. Of course, I fell asleep. Wound up foiled in my quest to apprehend Santa and woke up with a crick in my neck.

A favorite Christmas present? The year I got the GI JOE helicopter. I was a GI JOE fanatic, and to rip that box open and see exactly what I wanted was the culmination of every boy's hopes and dreams in the '80s.

—KJ-52



For: Those About to Rock

From: Kutless

When Kutless released its self-titled debut in 2002, the CD quickly became the fastest-selling debut in BEC Recordings' history. The modern rock/worship band made four CDs in four years, bowing the impressive *Sea of Faces* (2004), *Strong Tower* (2005) and its latest project, *Hearts of the Innocent*, just this year. The consistent tie throughout all Kutless' work is the dominant guitar-based sound, rife with catchy rock riffs and honest lyrics that continues to pierce hearts across the world. Fans of this stellar live act have snapped up nearly two million concert tickets in the last four years, a testament to Kutless' razor sharp musical chops and charismatic stage persona. National sponsors like Suzuki recognized the band's talent and, in an unprecedented move, signed on to sponsor the "Hearts of the Innocent Tour."

It's a natural progression that the next offering from this Oregon-bred band would be the long-anticipated, live concert package. *Kutless Live From Portland*. The CD features songs from previous albums, including one-of-a-kind renditions of hits from the latest album, *Hearts of the Innocent*. The must-have DVD includes the full show footage, along with exclusive interviews and backstage banter that only the unobtrusive camera could so beautifully capture.

The band, comprised of vocalist Jon Micah Sumrall, guitarists James Mead and Ryan Shout, drummer Jeffrey Gilbert and bassist Dave Leutkenhoelter, rocked its home state prior to signing on with BEC Recordings. Its fan base quickly expanded as No. 1 radio hits stacked up, next to a Gospel Music Association award. The NBC hit "Scrubs" as well as a slew of other film and TV shows featured Kutless tunes. Rather than reading its own glowing press, the band forged ahead and worked to develop a sound that would translate to worship recordings—since it initially started out with deep roots in the worship arena—as well as create fresh, revolutionary rock recordings.

Not long ago, Kutless front man and chief songwriter Sumrall shared his perspective on the journey with *CCM Magazine* readers: "If we are unwilling to surrender our life to Christ, how can we have a true heart of worship? What better way can we worship than by simply serving Him and surrendering to His will on a daily basis? The heart of passionate worship begins with the act of surrendering ourselves to God's will."

And as this band can truly attest, everything else will fall into place.



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Before my grandfather died at the age of 94, the large extended family on my mother's side had all gathered together down in Georgia for our annual Christmas brunch.

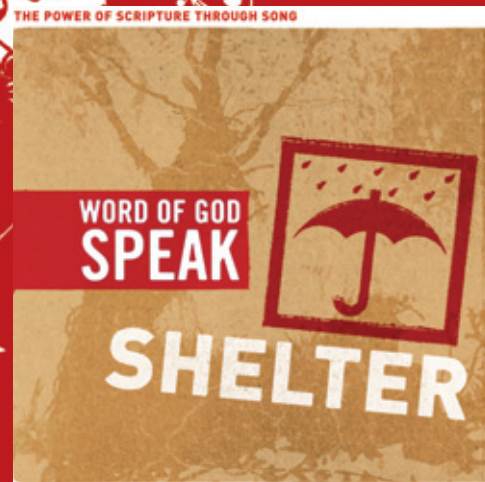
My grandfather cried that day when we all started opening gifts. When I asked him why, he shook his head and, as he looked at all the lives in that crowded home and realized that they all came from him in one way or another, he simply said that he was overwhelmed with all that life had given him—all that God had given him. I think he realized that day that, though his life was soon to be over, it had been well-spent and would, in a very tangible way, live on through his family.

A favorite Christmas present? Seriously, I get my mother's homemade biscuits and cheese grits every Christmas morning. What better gift could a man ask for?

—Bebo Norman

When I was in high school, I was involved in a local 250-voice church choir. I was the youngest member in the whole choir, and they let me sing in the candlelight Christmas Eve service. That night, with candles lit everywhere, we sang an *a cappella* rendition of "Ave Maria," and it was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life.

—Brandon Heath



For: *Hiding His Word in Your Heart*
From: *Word of God Speak*

Around this time of year, most folks are mulling over the happenings of the months past and begin dreaming toward 2007. The first day of January is the perfect time to put pen to paper and jot down those new goals and aspirations. Sticking by those New Year's resolutions a few months later, when all the excitement and ambition has worn off, is the hard part.

In churches across continents, there is one resolution that seems to come around year after year, and that is the importance of knowing God's word. Pastors encourage their congregations to dig deeper into God's inspired text for meaning and truth that can be applied to daily life. Sunday School teachers organize Bible verse contests for youth to teach the value of scripture at a young age. Knowing God's words by heart can be an awesome tool of encouragement and inspiration as well as a comfort and fortitude in times of trial.

Integrity Music has recently released *Word of God Speak*, a line of thematic albums, to make the task of Bible memorization more manageable. Most of us have had the experience of hearing a song on the radio and then recalling the words at the very next listen. There's something magical about the marriage of lyrics and melody. The *Word of God Speak* CD series does this very thing with some of the Bible's best-loved passages. Each *Word of God Speak* CD contains a collection of 12 songs. Each song lyric is word-for-word scripture. The lyrics are taken directly from the Bible using the New King James version, New International Version and New American Standard translations.

The first three CDs in the series, produced by Nathan Nockels of Watermark, are *Hope*, *Shelter* and *Illuminate*, and feature songs dealing with those topics. They include lyrics taken directly from familiar passages such as Philippians 4:6-7, a charge against anxiousness, and Psalm 34, which encourages believers to "bless the Lord at all times."

Set to a background of contemporary worship sounds and featuring artists such as Jared Anderson and Christy Nockels, each *Word of God Speak* CD combines pure scripture and sound to inspire listeners to draw close to the Author. This valuable tool is something to add to your personal Christmas wish list to jump-start scripture memorization for the New Year.



When I feel overwhelmed
(Ps 61: 1-2)
super stressed
(Ps 91: 1-2, 5-7)
or just having one of those anxious days
(Phil 4: 6-7)
the Word of God speaks to my soul and calms my mind.

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My favorite Christmas memory was visiting my family in Minnesota. When it was time to leave, a huge blizzard hit, and we were snowed in for three days! Next, the greatest Christmas present I ever received was my

Turgo Graphics 16. At the time, it was the best video system, and, at the time, my family didn't have a lot of money. That made it really special.

—Matt Dally (Superchick)



I played a charity Christmas concert with my praise band in high school. With the proceeds each of us was able to take a kid and sponsor him or her through Angel Tree at the church. Even though we butchered "Silent Night" *a cappella*, it still turned out great. A favorite Christmas tradition? Being with family. I go to my mother's parents' on Christmas Eve with all my Italian relatives, eat seafood and open gifts. Then, on Christmas Day, I go to my father's parents' for more traditional American Christmas foods (ham, turkey, yams); and, usually, we do some type of hunting (squirrel, rabbit, quail or deer).

—Eric Miker (DecembeRadio)



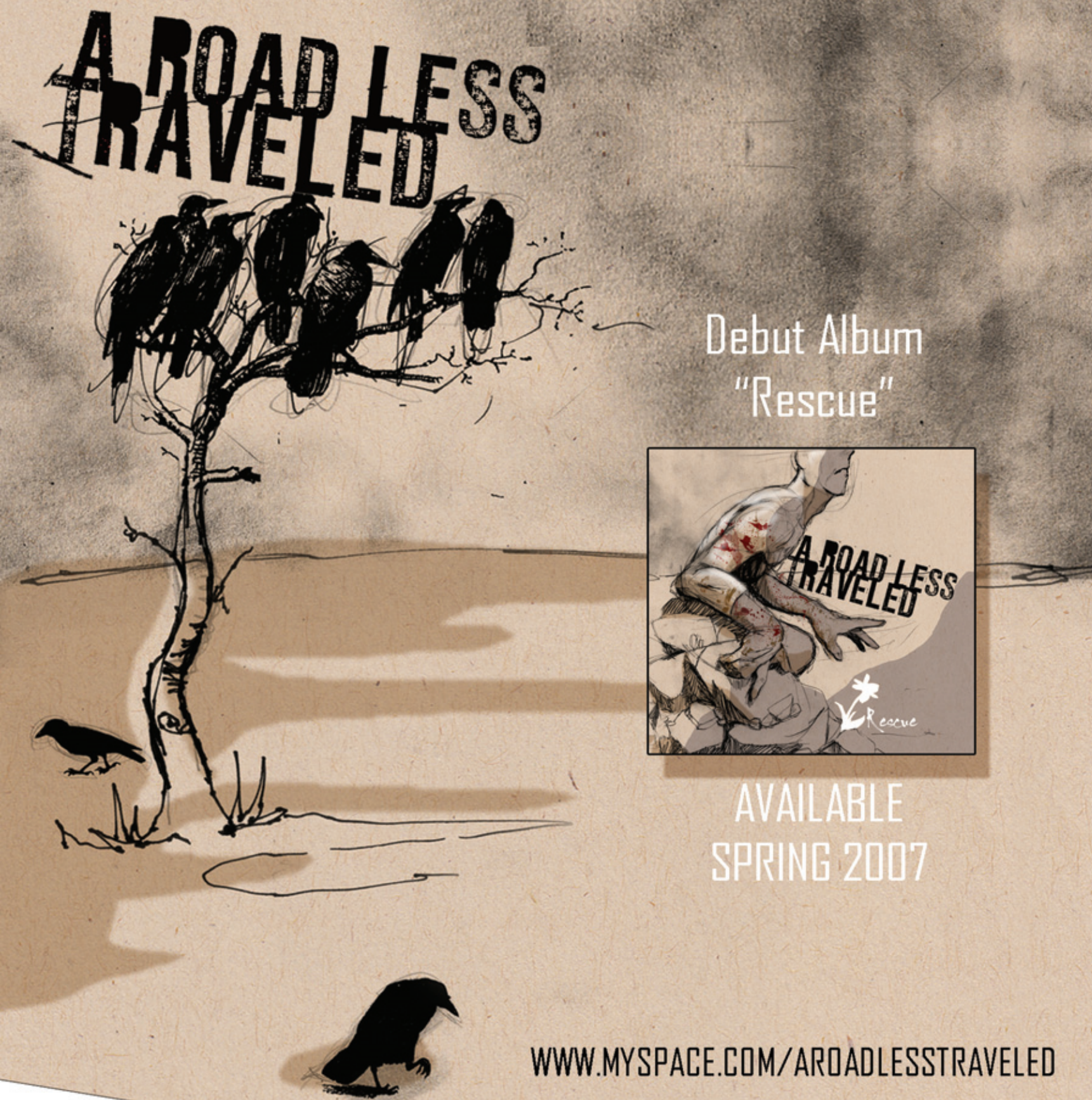
For: *The New Noel*

From: *A Road Less Traveled*

For fans of Skillet, Switchfoot, David Crowder and All American Rejects, here's a no-brainer gift idea that will definitely win cool points for desperate parents and delight hard-to-please music enthusiasts: Buy *Rescue*, a new CD from the independent, Texas-based band A Road Less Traveled.

Rescue, available in December on myspace.com/ARoadLessTraveled or at the band's website, arltmusic.com, combines heavy-hitting alt-rock sounds with straightforward, inspired lyrics about Christian living. Though the CD is not yet available at Christian retail brick-and-mortar stores, it's definitely worth digging for. This five piece band, comprised of front man Zack Dietz, guitarist Shawn Anglin, bassist Chris Brown, turn-table/Midi programmer Michael Murry and drummer Kuhrt Cowan, has been fortifying its unique sound since the band formed nearly five years ago. A steady diet of touring, from churches and festivals to camps and bowling alleys, has solidified these five into one of the best independent outfits on the present rock scene. Songs from *Rescue* run the gamut from acoustic guitar driven gems with tight harmonies, such as "Maybe" to the harder-edged, staccato piano/electric guitar track "Who I Am" to the soaring, radio-ready title track "Rescue."

For existing ARLT fanatics, there's a plethora of fun products to add to your wish list. This enterprising do-it-yourself group offers plenty of cool fan merchandise for reasonable prices. Even the smallest of purchases helps these guys sustain their primary musical mission of bringing God's truth and good music to the world. Advertise your devotion to this band on the rise with stylish T-shirts, nifty wristbands, Fidel hats, colorful stickers, buttons, and even wacky toothbrush bracelets for the dental-hygienically inclined. There is a full-service website in the works, but the band's MySpace page has everything any interested music lover could crave. Hear music clips from the upcoming ARLT *Rescue* project, check out band pictures from the road, read blogs written by band members about life in the recording studio, watch videos of ARLT rocking out live, connect with other fans to grow band awareness and laugh until it hurts witnessing Zack, Michael and Kuhrt break it down with a cover of a classic R&B/pop hit—ARLT style! Check out A Road Less Traveled this Christmas and get your *Rescue* CD before the rest of the music world jumps on the bandwagon as if they, too, were there from the start.



Debut Album
"Rescue"



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Ibanez GSR200 bass
and CD signed by the band

Enter at www.arltmusic.com



For: *Having a Very Mary Christmas*
From: *Mary Mary*

influences reminiscent of Mary Mary's past offerings. The collection as a whole stands out from the recycled seasonal radio fare thanks to Mary Mary's signature sisterly harmonies and high-energy arrangements.

Since Mary Mary's 2000 debut, *Thankful*, and follow-up, *Incredible*, in 2002, these sisters have shown incredible talent and potential that has been rewarded with multiple Dove and Stellar Awards and even the music business' crowning glory, a GRAMMY® Award. Mary Mary's hit single "Shackles" quickly filled dance floors across the country and rocketed these two to the top of the charts across the world. Unforgettable lyrics, distinctive vocals and uplifting music made Mary Mary a staple on urban and gospel radio in both the Christian and mainstream arenas. This Christmas project picks up where the gospel duo left off in 2005 with their self-titled album, which debuted at No. 8 on *Billboard's* Top 200 chart. *A Mary Mary Christmas* continues a tradition of excellence and should be a part of every family's own holiday traditions.

Last year, sisters Erica and Tina Campbell, better known to their fans as gospel powerhouse duo Mary Mary, took home the American Music Award in the "Contemporary Inspirational" category. What better way to kick off the season centered around the most inspired day of the year—Jesus' birth—than with a worshipful musical celebration! *A Mary Mary Christmas* combines best-loved, traditional carols "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come All Ye Faithful" with swinging, contemporary gospel sounds from this Platinum-selling act on tracks "California Christmas" and "The Real Thing." These 11 songs, produced by Erica's husband, Warryn "Baby Dubb" Campbell, were certainly another family affair in the track selection and studio recording process. Each tune doles out a hefty helping of holiday cheer in the vein of groove-driven, bluesy-gospel and even Big Band

Have Yourself A Mary Mary Christmas



FEATURING CHRISTMAS FAVORITES

"TIS THE SEASON" AND "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING" PLUS NEW SONGS

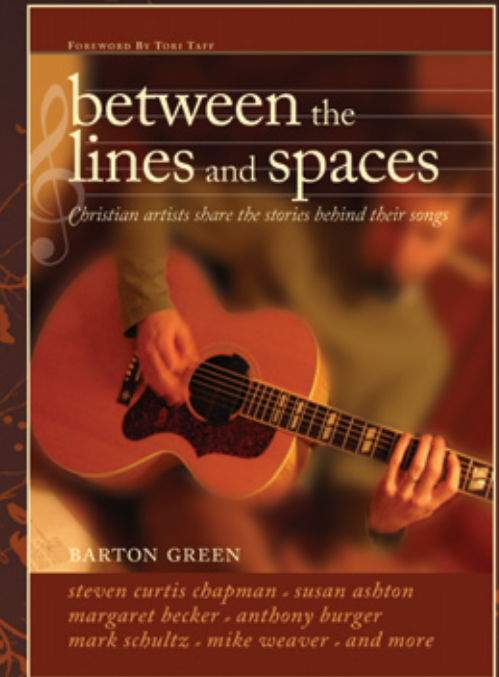


For: *Fireside Reading*
From: *Barton Green*

Behind every powerful song, there's usually a powerful story. Some of those tales are plainly relayed in the narrative of a song lyric. Some are well hidden, shrouded in the mystery of the melody. Songwriters have the creative license to communicate through the marriage of music and lyrics; but, for the listener who wants to delve deeper into his or her favorite album track, *Between the Lines and Spaces* is a must-have this holiday season. Music lovers who want to explore the meaning of a particular line or search out the inspiration behind their favorite tune will enjoy this new release from Standard Publishing. The book takes the listener into intimate conversations with songwriters, such as Russ Taff, Anthony Burger, Steven Curtis Chapman, Susan Ashton, Mark Shultz, Margaret Becker, Mike Weaver and others, about how, where, when and why a song was birthed.

Written in first person, author Barton Green weaves the poetry of the artist's lyrics throughout the prose account of each song's birth. Readers will be moved by Chapman's description of his song "Last Day on Earth." "If this should be the last day that I have/Before I breathe the air of heaven/Let me live it with abandon" is an example of the lines Chapman penned when he was prompted to explore the issue of mortality after witnessing an unsettling event. God's power is evident in the lives of these Christian songwriters, and this book proves that they face everyday struggles that we can all relate to. Each chapter ends with an introspective prayer and scripture verse to help readers personally reflect on the lyrics and apply the message behind the song to their own lives. *Between the Lines and Spaces* is an engrossing read for all ages on any cozy snow day.

powerful songs.
powerful stories.



Between the Lines and Spaces shares the true stories that inspired the songs of many popular Christian artists, inviting you to experience a new dimension of the power of Christian music.

Includes stories from: Mike Weaver, Kelly Minter, Matthew West, and Jason Roy

To purchase visit your local Christian bookstore, call 1-800-543-1353 or visit www.standardpub.com



CHRISTMAS
Gift Guide

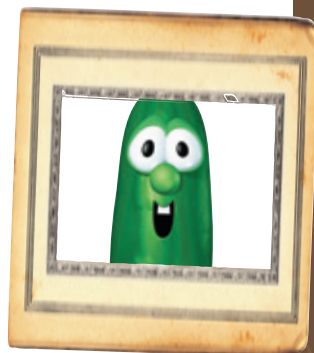


Larry and I had just finished work on *The Toy That Saved Christmas* and wanted to get away for the holidays and enjoy some rest and relaxation—so we headed out to Vail to do some skiing. Junior Asparagus came out for a few days, and we taught him to ice skate. It was a lot of fun!

—Bob the Tomato (VeggieTales)

Yeah, I remember that trip. It was a blast...except I had never skied before and got my poles caught in the lift when I tried to jump off. I ended up falling headfirst and busting my lip. While Bob and Junior had fun, I sat in the room for the next two days nursing my wounds. BUT during that time I worked on the song "I Love My Lips"—which went on to be a big fan favorite! So it all turned out just great!

—Larry the Cucumber (VeggieTales)



For: Kids From
1 to 92

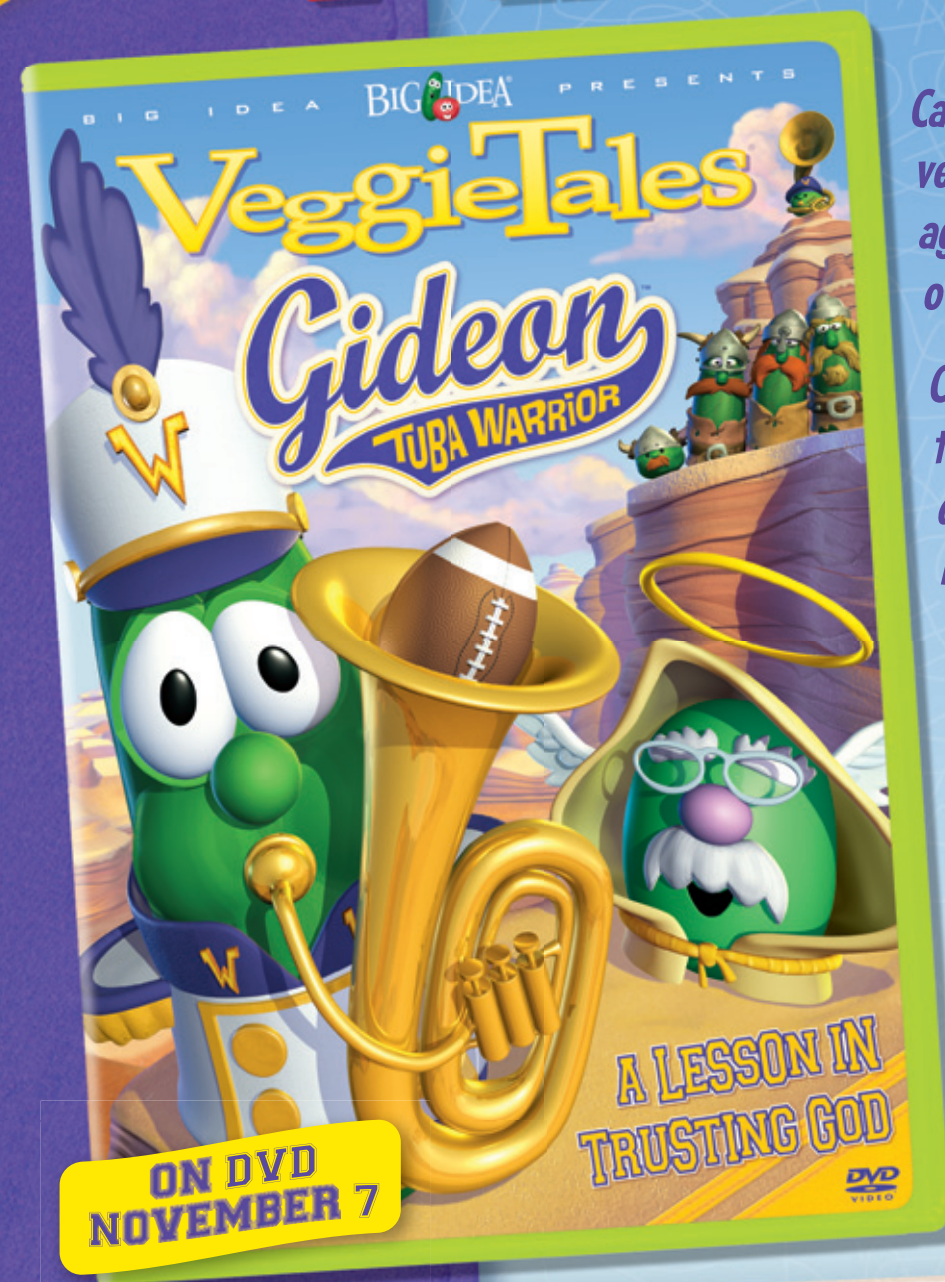
From: VeggieTales

Who would have dreamed that a group of ordinary vegetables could be so entertaining? Up until the uber-creative team at Big Idea brought us the likes of Larry the Cucumber and Bob the Tomato, most folks had only heard of eating their veggies to maintain a healthy, balanced life. Since the dawn of VeggieTales more than a decade ago, watching, rather than consuming, one's garden-fresh produce has become a whole lot more entertaining! The latest installment in the imaginative, kid-friendly VeggieTales series comes just in time for Christmas and finds the high-energy, animated characters illustrating the incredible Bible story of Gideon.

In *Gideon: Tuba Warrior*, viewers discover how God hand picked a most unlikely hero (played by acclaimed veg-lebrity Larry the Cucumber) to protect his people. As the encroaching army of 30,000 excessively hairy pickles bears down on Gideon, God doesn't abandon him in the fight. The reluctant, tuba-playing Gideon is better trained at marching in band formation than he is at marching into battle. But, after an angel of God (played by Pa Grape) delivers a message of protection, Gideon rises to the challenge. Accompanied by a mere six carrots and six peas to stand by him, Gideon is able to overcome an army of thousands, proving that God keeps His promises in this hilarious, hair-raising tale of courage.

A line of VeggieTales books, CDs, DVDs, electronic games, ringtones and even live theatrical shows continues to take this inventive brand to new households across the world. VeggieTales, with over 50 million videos sold to date, recently made its national television debut on NBC due to high demand from parents and kids alike, resulting from their loyalty to the lovable green cucumber and his humorous sidekick. Whatever your entertainment medium of choosing, VeggieTales has something for every member of the family this season. Visit bigidea.com to purchase DVDs like the hit *Jonah* for fans of the silver screen and check out the 3-2-1 *Penguins* releases for the animal lover in the family. Also available are LarryBoy cartoons, chronicling the adventures of a superhero, and a vast catalog of VeggieTales CDs, complete with campfire songs, worship tunes and even bluegrass/gospel favorites for the music enthusiast in your family. Big Idea continues to supply children and parents with zany, interactive media with a positive message. This holiday, make it a point to laugh alongside the little ones in your family.

GIVE VEGGIES FOR CHRISTMAS!



Can a few good veggies stand against an army of thousands?

Can Gideon trust the message delivered to him by the angel?

Find out in the all new VeggieTales show *Gideon: Tuba Warrior!*



FEATURING OLD AND NEW CLASSICS:
O CHRISTMAS TREE
SILENT NIGHT
JINGLE KA-CHING
AND MANY MORE!



INCLUDES
THE STAR OF CHRISTMAS AND
THE TOY THAT SAVED CHRISTMAS!



VEGGIETALES FAB FOUR
ROCK THE HOUSE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
KIRK FRANKLIN



VISIT BIGIDEA.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VEGGIETALES

Sunday morning values, Saturday morning fun!

BIG IDEA

You've probably found yourself in at least one of these situations... You are running out to meet a friend who has been dealing with some heavy personal issues. You wish you had a passage of scripture to share as encouragement but didn't have time to find the right one. Perhaps you are running to your church small group. You have a 30-minute drive but no downtime to read the story of Esther as assigned.

This season, consider gifting the GoBible, a hand-held electronic device containing over 70 hours of scripture, organized by book, chapter and verse in an audio format. The GoBible is a revolutionary supplement to your study of the Word in an otherwise hectic, scheduled lifestyle. Like the popular iPod or Blackberry, the GoBible is compact and lightweight, requiring only one AAA battery for usage. The portable device is designed for use while driving in lieu of the radio and can be carried on a long walk if you just need some quiet time to contemplate God's word.

The GoBible is unique in the fact that it is the first product to recall passages by verse, thanks to emerging technology. Currently, all other audio versions of the Bible are recorded and indexed at the chapter level only. Equipped with features like a Story Index, an easy-to-access list of more than 200 of the most popular Bible stories, as well as a Topic Index, which lists 30 circumstances and emotions relevant to life's ups and downs, users are sure to find scripture that will speak to their state of mind or situation.

If reading the Bible in one year is on your list of New Year's resolutions, the GoBible provides a user-friendly program



For: *People on the Go*
From: *GoBible*

that organizes passages into 12- to 15-minute daily segments, walking the user through the entire Bible in 365 days. The GoBible also supports up to 24 bookmarks, so you can save specific passages to refer back to.

The GoBible is available in the New King James or the King James version, and listeners can choose the voice of narration on this revolutionary product. Two legends, the award-winning Stephen Johnston, known for PBS documentaries, and the late, legendary Alexander Scourby, the "Voice of the Bible," read the Biblical text in familiar renderings of your favorite passages.

The Original GoBible retails for a bargain price and is available at gobible.com or 1-866-GOBIBLE. For high-tech types looking for a gadget that will complement their devotional life, or for those who just need to give their eyes a rest from reading, GoBible is the smart alternative.



For: *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*
From: *Digital Praise*

Amid all the emerging, hi-tech products hitting the market and vying for consumers' hard earned dollars this Christmas, the Christian-themed home PC product *Dance Praise* should be on the top of your "Must Get" list. It's not one of those compact gadgets that fits in the palm of your hand, and it won't produce hi-resolution photos on demand or download your favorite musical track in an instant. But, if you are inclined to boogie away those extra holiday pounds or just let loose and show off those moves you've been keeping under wraps since the disco left town, *Dance Praise* is one game that's sure to entertain a range of ages in any

household. Equipped with several dance modes and an interactive dance pad and featuring 50 songs from Christian artists, including ZOEgirl and Steven Curtis Chapman, *Dance Praise* transforms any computer into a bumping dance arcade with on-screen lyrics that make it easy to sing along. The Arcade mode instructs users on more fancy footwork, while the Exercise mode is designed to provide a challenging dance workout. Add a second pad to experience the ShadowDance mode, where you choreograph the steps. For the rhythmically challenged, the "Tune into You" feature sets the level at your pace. The reasonable price tag includes the *Dance Praise* game and a dance pad, so visit digitalpraise.com to get your groove on today.

GoBible for Christians *on the Go!* at Christmas and throughout the year!



ARCHABLE

book, chapter, and over 31,000 individual verses; also by topic and verse (A first for audio Bibles!).

PORTABLE

lightweight and small enough to fit in your pocket or purse.

CONVENIENT

user-friendly, large easy-to-read screen, includes a bookmark function to remember where you left off or to mark a favorite passage.

This holiday season, give your friends and family—give yourself—the audio Bible that fits in the palm of your hand and makes it easy to schedule the Word of God into even the busiest of days.

- ▶ THIS COMPACT, SLEEK, NEW DIGITAL AUDIO PLAYER, COMES WITH OVER 70 HOURS OF AUDIO PRELOADED; BOTH THE ENTIRE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS
(Available in King James and New King James versions).
- ▶ GOBIBLE INCLUDES A STORY INDEX OF OVER 200 POPULAR BIBLE STORIES, A TOPIC INDEX, AND A "HEAR IN A YEAR" BIBLE STUDY PLAN.
- ▶ IT'S THE TIMELESS, UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD... IN A MODERN, CUTTING-EDGE FORMAT!

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Use it in small group Bible studies, during worship services...
or any time you need a quick scripture reference.*

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Dance Praise

ROCK OUT TO CHRISTIAN HITS!



Get ready for hours of family fun with music worth listening to! Simply plug in the interactive dance pad to the USB port of your computer and start movin' and groovin' to over 50 Christian songs from your favorite artists including ZOEgirl, Newsboys, tobyMac, Steven Curtis Chapman, and more. Add a second pad and enjoy dancing with a friend.

"Christian music, exercise, and lots of laughs for the whole family – what could be better? That's why Dance Praise is our top pick this year."

NATALIE NICOLE GILLESPIE
CHRISTIANITY TODAY

Dance Praise includes a CD-ROM game and Dance Pad. Available at Christian retailers, Circuit City, and www.digitalpraise.com. Or call 1-888-559-5055



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3 EXPANSION PACKS, EACH WITH 35 ADDITIONAL SONGS: MODERN WORSHIP, HIP-HOP/RAP, AND POP & ROCK HITS!

DIGITAL PRAISE
Glorifying God Through Interactive Media



For: Repeating the Sounding Joy

From: Steven, Moya & Friends



Platinum-selling singer/songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman is sure to spread plenty of holiday cheer with his Christmas CD, *All I Really Want for Christmas*. The disc, his 15th studio project with Sparrow Records, is a collection of 12 original and traditional holiday favorites. The gifted songwriter contributes several of his own tunes, such as "The Night Before Christmas," "The Miracle of Christmas" and "All I Really Want," as well as a new version of the timeless hymn "Angels From the Realms of Glory." Also included are Chapman's renditions, previously recorded for his 2003 Hallmark release, *Christmas Is All in the Heart*, of "Silver Bells," "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Home for Christmas." Country superstar Vince Gill guests on a new version of "Christmas Is All in the Heart," and Chapman's daughter, Shaohannah Hope, also lends her voice to the project. Shaoy starts the CD off with a heartfelt narration of "The Christmas Story" from the book of Luke, and she closes out the project, joined by her father, singing her rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Also available this season for

those younger, budding SCC fans is *Shaoy and Dot: A Christmas Miracle*, the second title in the Shaoy and Dot picture book series penned by Chapman and his wife, Mary Beth. Please longtime SCC fans this season with *All I Really Want for Christmas* and watch as new ones are made with the turn of a page.

Fans of Ireland's most respected act, Clannad, are no doubt familiar with the name Moya Brennan. Brennan, the first lady of Celtic music, has lent her voice to international film soundtracks, such as 2004's *King Arthur*, various spiritual recordings, several television series themes and even dance anthems while serving as the front woman for the acclaimed Irish act. Over the years, Brennan has also released her own solo albums and collaborated with artists including U2, who've recognized the magic in her sound. Brennan's commitment to musical excellence has driven a career that has notched up sales in excess of 15 million albums.

Brennan's latest project, *An Irish Christmas*, offers a look at the Christmas story unlike any before as she melds the ancient and modern sounds with classic, festive hymns conveyed in an ambient, emotive makeover. Reviewing the Christmas story through a blend of familiar favorites with a unique Irish twist, Brennan articulates tunes from "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" to "In the Bleak Midwinter." In her hands, with layered production that adds fresh depths and trademark vocals which bring light to the darkest of nights, tracks like "Carol of the Bells" and "What Child Is This" place the listener in the front row of the ultimate nativity opera.

If you are the type of music lover who would rather hear a variety of voices caroling this Christmas rather than one particular artist, *Unexpected Gifts* is the disc for you. It features a diverse roster of artists and a wide range of styles. If you're not hemmed in by one particular favorite genre, this catalog of songs is one sure to be in heavy rotation at your holiday gatherings. Bethany Dillon belts "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" in her smooth alto while David Crowder*Band stamps its signature modern worship sound on "Feliz Navidad." ZOEgirl brings its pop-infused harmonies to "What Child Is This" and Sanctus Real subtly rocks on "Silent Night." Other artists on *Unexpected Gifts* include Steven Curtis Chapman, Starfield, Chris Tomlin and more.

3 Ways to Celebrate Christmas Day



Unexpected Gifts
Various Artists

Wake up on Christmas morning with music from Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Nichole Nordeman, Kutless, Rebecca St. James and other artists the whole family will enjoy.



All I Really Want for Christmas
Steven Curtis Chapman

Reflect during the afternoon and enjoy a collection of original and traditional holiday favorites with Steven Curtis Chapman.



An Irish Christmas
Moya Brennan

Christmas Evening: Relax after a busy day with the quiet and peaceful sounds of Moya Brennan. A perfect companion to a warm fireplace.

Your favorite artists.
The best time of the year.

My first child, Aisling, was born just after Christmas. I had never experienced such a sense of anticipation. This, mixed with memories of family sitting around the piano singing carols, will always be with me.



A favorite Christmas present? It has to be my first ballet shoes. As we get older, we seem to lose the sense of treasure from such simple gifts.

—Moya Brennan

My favorite Christmas memory was my oldest son's first Christmas. Dressed in his red and white candy-striped pajamas, my son, Tré, came crawling down the hallway, and the look in

his eyes was the embodiment of hilarious, carefree, joy—pure, unadulterated joy. That was the first time I'd experienced what my paternal and heavenly fathers have felt every time they've provided for and blessed me. My joy was amplified because my son was having such a great time...and I had a hand in it. Awesome Christmas memory!

My favorite Christmas present memory was actually the year I didn't get a gift. My wife and I made a mutual decision, because of our financial goal and the sacrifice it was gonna take, that we weren't exchanging gifts. This was special because it caused me to realize what my real gifts are: Christ (the reason for the season), my life, my wife and my family. No gift tops that...and to think I get to enjoy them, brand new, every day!

—Smokie Norful

Want to read more Christmas memories from your favorite artists? We've posted all of them online at CCMmagazine.com



For: *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*

From: *Third Day*

A perennial *CCM Magazine* Readers' Choice Awards favorite, Third Day caps off another whirlwind year with a pleasant surprise for audiences craving some TD tunage to liven up otherwise gray winter days. The third installment in the Platinum-selling *Offerings* worship series, *Christmas Offerings* recently released to retail outlets. Get a jump-start on shopping for Christmas gift requests or just treat yourself to some solid, out-of-the-ordinary holiday music with this album.

Christmas Offerings, the latest in the *Offerings* series begun in 2000 by Third Day in response to fan demand, illuminates the spirit of Christmas through a collection of 13 holiday songs. The Atlanta-based band collaborated in its usual manner to produce four original, inspired Christmas tracks. Traditional favorites such as "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger" and "What Child Is This" also bear the stamp of Mac Powell's rich, resonant vocals and the band's seasoned rock musicianship.

Always a band to flex its creative muscles, Third Day took a little different approach for recording the bulk of *Christmas Offerings*. Rather than holing up in an exclusive studio with only the producer, band and engineer to capture the holiday magic, the crew invited friends and family from around their hometown for a live taping of the tunes for this project. After a year of solid touring on the successful "Wherever You Are Tour" spring and fall runs, Third Day decided that recording most of the 13 songs for *Christmas Offerings* live just made sense. After all, this is a band that's grown accustomed to sharing its most brilliant moments with a crowd.

Over its decade-long career, Third Day has maintained a tour schedule second to none, playing for audiences reaching into the millions. The band, consistently ranked as one of the top 25 grossing acts of the spring, maintained the momentum throughout the remainder of the year, even with a temporary touring halt to cut the *Christmas Offerings* album. Fans of all ages have found pleasure in Third Day's Christ-centered musical approach, and they've proven their admiration and loyalty to the tune of six million albums scanned to date. Whether rocking alongside Third Day's guitar-driven, Southern-rock sound on the albums *Time* and *Wire* or worshipping with the band on the lighter, vertical *Offerings* series of CDs, fans continue to embrace Third Day as the band comes into its own.

NEW FROM THIRD DAY THIS CHRISTMAS!

From The Best-selling Offerings Worship Series!



"The experience of worshipping and singing classic Christmas songs together really brings to mind the heart of what Christmas is all about." — Tai Anderson / Third Day



PRODUCED BY THIRD DAY WITH DON MCCOLLISTER

www.ThirdDay.com
www.essentialrecords.com

FEATURES
"BORN IN BETHLEHEM"
& "JOY TO THE WORLD"
& "AWAY IN A MANGER"

SONY & BMG
MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

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PROMINENT INTEGRITY
CULTURE

Make Your Own Manger Scene!

This is the time of year when everyone is getting ready for the holidays. It is a good time to think about ways to celebrate Jesus' birth. Making a crèche, or a manger scene, is a lovely way to remember the night Jesus was born. Let the ideas below and your own creative imagination guide you in making a very special Christmas memory.

Make a stable from Popsicle sticks or tongue depressors.

Use colorful clay to shape the figures.

Use paper cones, pinecones, Styrofoam balls, clay or empty thread spools to create your figures.

Decorate them with bits of cloth, colored paper, or tissue paper.

Cut up old Christmas cards and place them on a decorated milk carton or shoebox.

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time."

—Laura Ingalls Wilder



For: *Laughing All the Way*

From: *Patricia Heaton & a Cast of Thousands (or Less)*

There's one in every family. It may be Aunt Martha's goofy husband who keeps everyone in stitches around the table at Christmas dinner with his unending jokes about the fruitcake. It may be Cousin Mary, with her perennially witty commentary on the soap-on-a-rope that keeps getting re-gifted every year. It's the brother or sister who owns every Bill Cosby, Jeff Foxworthy or Jerry Seinfeld recording ever released on CD or DVD. This year, add a comedic gem to their collection with *Thou Shalt Laugh*, a hilarious standup comedy concert DVD whose stars, cast and crew share a love of humor and a heart for biblical truth.

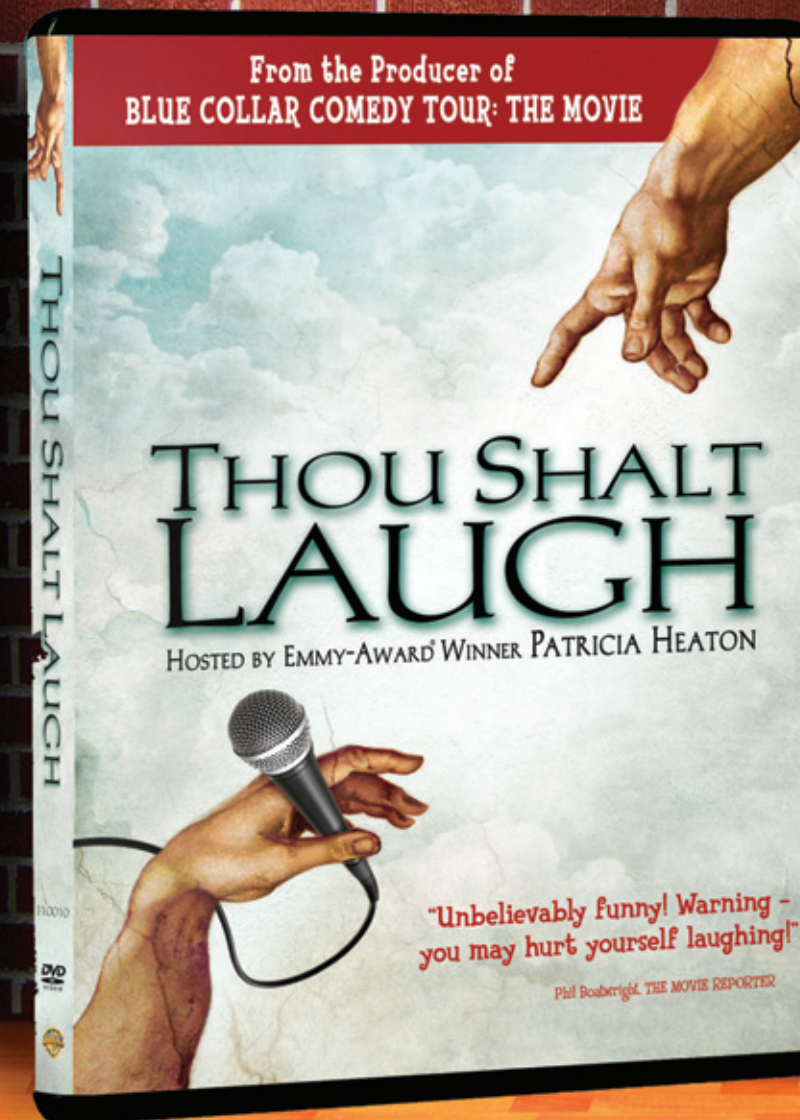
From the producer of the enormously popular *Blue Collar Comedy Tour: The Movie*, *Thou Shalt Laugh* showcases seven world-class comedians—Taylor Mason, Thor Ramsey, Michael Jr., Teresa Roberts Logan, Gilbert Esquivel, Joby Saad and Jeff Allen. Emmy Award-winning actress Patricia Heaton ("Everybody Loves Raymond") hosts an uproarious night of laughter featuring some of the most gifted comedians in show business today.

If you haven't heard of these funny folks yet, here's a little preview: Thor Ramsey's smart, jaded and no-nonsense brand of comedy made him a staple on the comedy circuit, where he has shared the stage with Drew Carey. Michael Jr.'s unique approach has landed him on such national shows as "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Comedian Jeff Allen boasts a career spanning two decades and performed at George W. Bush's Presidential Inauguration. Teresa Roberts Logan's edgy style has landed her appearances on television programs A&E's "Evening at the Improv" and HBO's "Comic Relief." Joby Saad, "The Village Idiot," is known for his unusual brand of theatrical standup comedy utilizing his extraordinary facial expressions and comedic physicality. Gilbert Esquivel's urban comedy keeps him in demand, performing around the country on such television shows as "The Apollo Comedy Hour." And last, but definitely not least funny, Taylor Mason, a graduate of "Star Search," which propelled him to new career heights, entertains audiences of all ages using his own brand of puppets and ventriloquism.

If you're still not convinced of the comedic talent on this DVD, heed journalist Phil Boatwright's (*The Movie Reporter*) words: "Warning! You may hurt yourself laughing!" Priced very reasonably, you can't afford not to give this away to the jokester in your own clan.

FROM THE PRODUCER OF
THE BLUE COLLAR COMEDY TOUR:
THE MOVIE,
IT'S ANOTHER HILARIOUS STAND-UP
COMEDY CONCERT - THIS TIME
FEATURING LEADING CHRISTIAN
COMEDIANS.

**THOU SHALT
LAUGH**



Filmed live in Hollywood and hosted by Emmy® Award-winning actress Patricia Heaton (*Everybody Loves Raymond*), it's a night of stand-up comedy from seven of the country's funniest comedians - including Michael Jr., Thor Ramsey, Taylor Mason, Jeff Allen and many more! If you're looking for funny, your prayers have been answered!



AVAILABLE IN
STORES:
NOVEMBER 7,
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"Who says Christians don't have fun? THOU SHALT LAUGH is hysterically funny and uplifting at the same time!"

Lynne Marian, Outreach Magazine

"Uproariously funny! Delightfully clean! Watch THOU SHALT LAUGH and thou wilt roar!"
Dick Rolfe, THE DOVE FOUNDATION



2006

CHRISTMAS
Gift Guide

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

—Charles Dickens

"Christmas, children, is not a date. It is a state of mind."

—Mary Ellen Chase

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

—Luke 2:6-8



For: Friends Who Really Are Friends Forever
From: Michael

If there is ever a time to stand up for the name of God just as He has done for His children by sending His son, Jesus, to a lost world, it would be this Christmas holiday. The miraculous story of the virgin birth of Christ Jesus in a lowly stable and the starlight that led the way to His manger bed for others to witness the glorious occasion is one that every believer should be proud to share. In a modern world where Christianity goes in and out of fashion and believers who claim to have a relationship with the one, true God are labeled as Bible-thumping fanatics, anyone with convictions may find it hard to stand up for what he or she believes in. Sometimes, we all need some encouragement from our Christian brothers and sisters.

On the new November release *Stand*, singer/songwriter, author and actor Michael W. Smith has made it his objective to encourage the body of Christ to action. Smith says of the record that "it is a call to stand because you've captured a glimpse of something so powerful you cannot stay seated." Smith, a husband and father of five, spent an intense season watching his own children develop into adulthood and was impacted by the need for nurturing strong leaders. The decorated artist's missions work with his own home church and his involvement with the club he founded, Rocketown—a Christian nightclub for teens in his Nashville hometown—further inspired him to create a project that is a call to action. *Stand* urges believers to rub shoulders with the lost and to be actively engaged in a world that needs God.

As the 19th release for Smith, this body of work is as lyrically sound and musically experienced as ever. There are, however, a few new nuances that set it apart from past projects. Smith, an accomplished songwriter in his own right, looked to his friends (Amy Grant, Leeland Mooring) and family (son Tyler Smith) for the lyrical bulk of this project. On the sonic end, he enlisted seasoned producer Matt Brownleewe to craft the overall direction of the tracks. In an amazing feat of 40 days, *Stand* was realized.

Over the years, this veteran artist has challenged audiences to *Live the Life* and has inspired fans to engage in their faith through albums such as *This Is Your Time* and *Healing Rain*. He has ushered millions into worship, but he has never issued such a bold call to action as *Stand* demands. This holiday, pick up a copy of this record to be inspired and to remind those you love to stay off the sidelines.



"IT'S A CALL TO STAND BECAUSE YOU'VE CAPTURED A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING SO POWERFUL THAT YOU CANNOT STAY SEATED."
MICHAEL W. SMITH

MICHAEL W. SMITH
STAND

AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 7



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FEATURES
"COME TO THE CROSS"
"BE LIFTED HIGH"
& "HOW TO SAY GOODBYE"



Holiday Popcorn Balls

The perfect holiday recipe...
for the tree and/or the tummy!

- 8 cups popped corn
(about 1/2 cup unpopped)
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar (packed)
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine

Measure popped corn into large bowl. Combine sugars, corn syrup, water, vinegar and salt in 2-quart saucepan. Heat to boiling over medium-high heat, stirring frequently.

Cook, stirring constantly, to 260 degrees on a candy thermometer (or until small amount of mixture dropped into very cold water forms a hard ball).

Reduce heat to low; stir in butter until melted.

Pour syrup in thin stream over popcorn in bowl, stirring until popcorn is well coated. Cool slightly.

Butter hands; shape mixture into 3-inch balls and place on waxed paper.

Makes 16 balls.



For: For That Special Lady

From: Women of Faith

If you're looking for a unique gift for that special lady in your life, be it your sister, mother, daughter or best friend, consider gifting an experience that she'll never forget by purchasing her tickets to one of the 27 Women of Faith "Amazing Freedom" conference weekends next year. Since 1996, over three million women of all ages have converged for spiritual nourishment, abundant laughter and new friendships forged at the Women of Faith retreats. The conferences, designed specifically to encourage women in Christian principles, found a fiercely loyal audience at their inception and have exploded in popularity over the past 10 years. The Women of Faith events have burgeoned into the largest women's conference event in North America.

The 2007 "Amazing Freedom" moniker is based on John 8:36, which says, "So if the Son makes you free, you will be truly free." Classic Women of Faith speakers like Patsy Clairmont, Luci Swindoll, Sheila Walsh, Marilyn Meberg, Nicole Johnson and Thelma Wells lead the discussion on what it means to have true freedom through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Conference attendees glean biblical insight from Women of Faith's acclaimed team of speakers, and they rejoice in the contemporary sounds of worship from today's top Christian musicians, such as Sandi Patty, Natalie Grant and Nicole C. Mullen. Additionally, Women of Faith conference events are relaxed, non-threatening environments in which to introduce non-Christian friends to God's grace. In 2005 alone, more than 39,000 women indicated decisions to follow Christ at a Women of Faith conference.

"Amazing Freedom" Women of Faith conferences begin in April 2007 and will extend across the United States and Canada. With weekends planned in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Denver, among others, there is bound to be a tour stop within easy reach of most major cities. The events, which run Fridays from 7-10 p.m. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays, usher in an oasis of calm and encouragement while serving as a wonderful getaway for today's over-scheduled woman. With conference tickets priced reasonably, and well below what you'd pay for a manicure for mom or a spa day package for your significant other, her ticket to a Women of Faith event is one gift that she won't want to return or exchange. What could be better than the gift of a renewed spirit? Visit womenoffaith.com online for information about ticketing, group discounts and more.

WOMEN OF FAITH presents
Amazing Freedom
2007

"So if the Son makes you free, you will be truly free." – John 8:36



We often catch GLIMPSES OF FREEDOM,
but what about the promise of being truly free?

That's AMAZING!

Women of Faith...as always, FRESH, FABULOUS,
and FUN-LOVING!

FEATURING THE INSPIRATIONAL CORE SPEAKERS

(l-r) Marilyn Meberg, Patsy Clairmont, Luci Swindoll,
Nicole Johnson, Sheila Walsh and Thelma Wells



National Conference

Amazing Freedom Conference • 2007 Event Cities *

March 15 - 17 San Antonio, TX	June 15 - 16 St. Louis, MO	August 10 - 11 Atlanta, GA	October 5 - 6 San Jose, CA
April 13 - 14 Little Rock, AR	June 22 - 23 Cleveland, OH	August 17 - 18 Calgary, AB Canada	October 12 - 13 Portland, OR
April 20 - 21 Des Moines, IA	June 29 - 30 Seattle, WA	August 24 - 25 Dallas, TX	October 19 - 20 St. Paul, MN
April 27 - 28 Columbus, OH	July 13 - 14 Washington, DC	September 7 - 8 Anaheim, CA	October 26 - 27 Charlotte, NC
May 18 - 19 Billings, MT	July 20 - 21 Chicago, IL	September 14 - 15 Philadelphia, PA	November 2 - 3 Oklahoma City, OK
June 1 - 2 Rochester, NY	July 27 - 28 Boston, MA	September 21 - 22 Denver, CO	November 9 - 10 Tampa, FL
June 8 - 9 Ft. Lauderdale, FL	August 3 - 4 Ft. Wayne, IN	September 28 - 29 Houston, TX	November 16 - 17 Phoenix, AZ

Register Today 888-49-FAITH womenoffaith.com

*Visit womenoffaith.com for Early Bird deadlines or call 1-888-49-FAITH. Dates, guests and locations subject to change. Not all guests appear in every city.

A Family Time of Worship

Worship is a vertical act of praise, thanksgiving and adoration toward the God who gives us all good things.

The approaching holiday season is one in which it is easy for us to focus on material and external things as we prepare for holiday celebrations and gatherings, but the deeper significance of God's blessings—to our nation and our families—as well as the unspeakable gift of His son to us, should stir our hearts to “Come and worship... worship Christ the newborn King.”

A special way in which we can engage in worship of our God and Savior is to set aside time in which we recognize His gifts to us of one another—family and friends.

As you gather around a dinner table or a Christmas tree, give each person a piece of paper on which he/she may note something about the way God has blessed them or others of the group in a significant way. These may be simple acts of kindness, special talents, occasions of significant joy or comfort or answered prayer, etc.

As you share these blessings, you are celebrating God and what He has done. That is a good way to worship!



For: *A Christmas to Remember*

From: *The Imperials & First Call*

There's a small segment of diehard Christian music fans who have experienced the careers of their favorite bands through concert attendance, CD ownership, grassroots promotion of the music and more over the years. If you can count yourself as part of this group, you probably don't rely on MySpace or MTV to find the next big thing. You may have even attended that benchmark performance that made news headlines, the one that keeps the fans still wishing for the old days. If you have found yourself wondering where all the great bands have gone, here is some good news: We've found the perfect CD for you. *The Lost Album*, a historical recording by Southern Gospel group The Imperials has recently been unearthed. Released for the first time by Word Records, this piece of Christian music history features nine classic songs and one rare live recording. *The Lost Album* documents The Imperials' foray into studio recording and features the illustrious Russ Taff as part of the classic group. If you can still hum the tune to “Sunshiny Day,” or if you just want to explore the foundations of Christian music, *The Lost Album* will be an integral part of your CD collection.



When Bonnie Keen, Marty McCall and Mel Tunney combined their voices for the first time over 20 years ago, the resulting pure sound would be the foundation for a mega-talented group unlike any other. The three, who struck up a friendship via various studio work, became immensely popular working together as a group—a group often considered the “first call” for session work. Music industry insiders caught wind of the trio's unique chemistry, and First Call began touring as part of Sandi Patty's backing band as well as for other Christian music acts. Fans embraced the three

well-seasoned singers, and, soon, the group commanded the main stage. The years have seen a slew of albums, including solo releases, a rotating cast of members and always solid work from First Call as a group. This holiday season finds the original members back together again, and what better way to celebrate a reunion than with an album of First Call favorites. *Christmas Landscapes: Evenings in December* combines two of the group's most beloved recordings, *An Evening in December, Volume One* and *Volume Two*. The a cappella renderings will have you reminiscing of Christmas past and rediscovering the joy in the present. Wrap up this quintessential 12-song disc for someone you love.

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BEFORE
RELEASED

JUST
\$9.97

THE LOST ALBUM IMPERIALS

JIM MURRAY/ARMOND MORALES/RUSS TAFF/DAVE WILL



Recorded 30 years ago and never before released, **THE LOST ALBUM** boasts 9 classic songs and a rare live recording.

SONG LIST

Sonshiny Day
New Creation
Earth, Our Island Home
Soon And Very Soon
We Are The Band, He Is The Music
The World Didn't Give It To Me
In The Same Old Fashioned Way
Closer To Jesus
I Love The Way You Love
Sonshiny Day (Live Version)

Christmas Landscapes

EVENINGS IN DECEMBER

Christmas Landscapes: Evenings In December takes the best of First Call's *An Evening In December Vol. 1 & 2* and combines them on one 12-song disc. This collection of a-cappella tunes is perfect for all Christmas holiday occasions.

ONLY \$9.97

Available NOW where fine
Christian music is sold.



“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.”

—Dale Evans Rogers

“I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.”

—Harlan Miller

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

—Isaiah 9:6



For: Remembering the Good Ol' Days

From: The Blackwoods

These days, the consumer's attention is fragmented between reality TV shows, electronic gaming, glossy magazines, Internet news, radio station banter and other media vying for eyeballs. It is not often that an artist's career stretches beyond one or two records given the tough job of breaking through the mire of new products and information. Every once in an era, though, something special comes through that is unmistakably good.

Consider Gospel legend James Blackwood. Blackwood, “Mr. Gospel Music” as he has been deemed, holds the distinction of being both a Southern Gospel Hall of Fame and a Gospel Music Hall of Fame member. He garnered nine GRAMMY® Awards and seven Dove Awards in his career, which spanned seven decades. Blackwood, who often recorded with his Blackwood Brothers Quartet, is recognized as a trailblazer in his field. Now, thanks to Deville Productions, Southern Gospel lovers have the unique opportunity to own a true piece of musical history with *The Lost Recordings*. Discovered in recent months in the warehouse vaults of Skylite Records, where James and his Blackwood Brothers Quartet were under contract, these never-before-released masters will continue the legacy that Blackwood worked so hard to establish. Producers Michael Sykes and David Lehman helmed this project for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Blackwood's sons, Jimmy and Billy Blackwood, also added their vocals to two of their father's tracks in a moving act of homage. While preserving the charm of the original studio takes, the producer of *The Lost Recordings* carefully layered additional musicians and vocals to these rare tracks. The resulting disc finds Blackwood in peak performance. While the sonics have been restored to modern standards, Blackwood's old-school, unmistakable charisma is on full display here.

The Blackwood Brothers' *Quartet Classics* CD, songs from the original masters recorded in 1958, is another special gift idea for any Southern Gospel fan. Recorded at RCA Victor Studios in New York City, these recordings of Blackwood and gang set the standard for Gospel music. Digitally re-mastered to today's standards, *Quartet Classics* illuminates what legends are made of. Blackwood fans can dig deeper into the life of this inspiring musician in a new biography, *The James Blackwood Story*, which is available on DVD. In this compelling offering, friends and family members reveal insights into what drove this Gospel music legend to sing about Jesus Christ. It's the touching story of a man whose life began in obscurity on a Mississippi sharecropper's farm and evolved into a powerful testimony on a stage of worldwide recognition. This is definitely one gift to be thoughtfully digested in those few hours of holiday downtime.

James Blackwood

THE LOST RECORDINGS

Original Recordings
Never Before Released

SONG LIST

- 1 • Walk With Me (3:05)
- 2 • The Love Of God (3:31)
- 3 • It Took A Miracle (2:24)
- 4 • The Healer (2:47)
- 5 • Fill My Cup, Lord (2:25)
- 6 • Lovest Thou Me (3:06)
- 7 • I Should Have Been Crucified (2:42)
- 8 • My God And I (2:48)
- 9 • Jesus Will Outshine Them All (2:18)

Produced by Grammy® & Dove Award winners
Michael Sykes and Dave Lehman

- Own a part of gospel music history!
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- Recorded while James was in peak voice!
- Enhanced production of master tapes with added vocals and instrumentation

Enjoy “The Lost Recordings” now found!



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“A great gift to share with family and friends!”

Here's your chance to own a part of gospel music history! Little did anyone know when these master tapes were discovered, they would be the final chapter on the legacy of gospel music's greatest ambassador and singer, James Blackwood.

Jim Black, Michael Sykes and Dave Lehman, worked selfishly to make this project come to life. Words cannot explain the emotions that were felt listening to the recordings for the first time. They all became passionate about this man, his music, and his extraordinary talent.

James' two sons, Billy and Jimmy agreed to add their vocals to selected songs from “The Lost Recordings”. In the studio, Jimmy, the oldest son stated through tear filled eyes, “I never thought I'd ever get to sing with Daddy again!”

1 CD -- \$15.00 2 CDs -- \$25.00 Please add \$3.00 for shipping and handling

The Lost Recordings CD • QTY. _____ • Total enclosed including shipping \$ _____

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Name on Card _____ Exp. Date: _____ CCD 3 or 4 digit code on back of card _____

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2006

CHRISTMAS
Gift Guide

Grandma Faye's Rugulach

Sonya Isaacs shares her Grandma's recipe for this popular Jewish pastry

4 cups self-rising flour

2 packages of Philadelphia Cream Cheese

2 sticks Land O' Lakes butter

Chopped walnuts

Red raspberry or strawberry jam

Cinnamon powder

Sugar

Raisins (chocolate chips can be substituted)

Knead the four cups of flour, two sticks of butter, and two cubes of cream cheese together.

Separate mixture into four round balls. Refrigerate overnight.

Next day, flatten balls out with rolling pin into thin pizza-like circles (sprinkle rolling pin with flour so dough doesn't stick).

Add thin layer of raspberry jam, then sprinkle on the raisins (or chocolate chips).

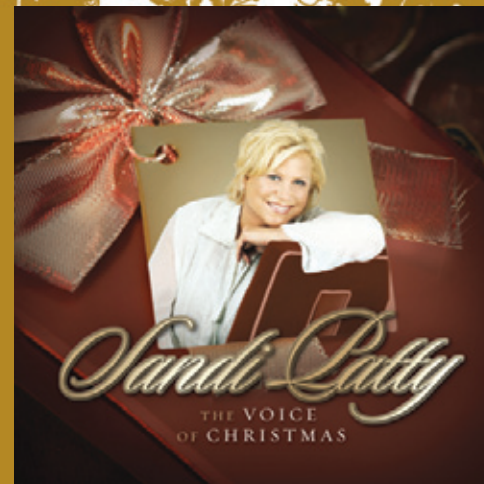
In a bowl, mix sugar and cinnamon—two parts sugar to one part cinnamon. Sprinkle sugar/cinnamon mix onto flattened pastry.

Slice into approximately one-inch triangles and roll each triangle from outside inward like you would a croissant.

Sprinkle sugar/cinnamon mix on rolled up pastry and bake at 375 degrees for approximately 20-25 minutes or until golden brown.

The result will be a delicious, lightly flaky pastry, sure to bring a smile.

Enjoy!



For: **A Merry Christmas With Love**

From: **Sandi Patty**

Sandi Patty already has several Christmas recordings under her belt, but that still doesn't make the arrival of her new release, *The Voice of Christmas*, any less anticipated. There is a reason this artist is counted among the most highly acclaimed performers of our time, considering her lengthy list of accolades including 39 Dove Awards, five GRAMMY® Awards, four *Billboard* Music Awards and more.

For over 25 years, Patty's voice has impacted audiences the world over and, in the process, has earned her the distinction of the most decorated female vocalist in contemporary Christian music history.

The Voice of Christmas finds Patty in top form as she lends her gorgeous, resonant chops to 12 festive anthems. While this album includes five all-time favorites from past efforts *Merry Christmas With Love* and *Oh! Holy Night*, the new tracks are well worth the price of the CD. Patty's generous range sways from gentle and plaintive on classic tracks "Ave Maria" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" to bold and boisterous on caroler staples "O Holy Night" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Pop/Gospel sensation Peabo Bryson joins Patty in the studio for a rendering of two powerful duets sure to bring yuletide joy to the most unmovable Christmas grinch.

Patty employs a wide range of musical styles on *The Voice of Christmas*, moving from pop to Gospel as effortlessly as she has throughout her career. This disc is a crisp reflection of Patty's knack for choosing good songs and stellar arrangements. With over 30 recorded projects to her credit and 11 million albums sold, Patty sets the standard for singers in the Gospel music industry while continuing to bow impressive projects year after year.

Audiences first fell in love with this Oklahoma girl after she made her debut at church with the Sunday morning standard "Jesus Loves Me." As she matured, Patty honed her sound on the road as a member of the Ron Patty Family, an itinerant Gospel group comprised of her two brothers. Vocal training at San Diego State University and Anderson College in Indiana gave Patty the classical education she needed to compete with other rising singers, and, eventually, audiences had their chance to weigh in on her talent when she released her first independent album in 1979. The rest, as Christian music fans know, is history as she won hearts with her impressive vocals and delivered some of this generation's most inspirational songs. *The Voice of Christmas* is another excellent addition to Patty's vast catalog. It's a Christmas morning must-have from one of music's top talents.

Celebrate the Season with new music from Sandi Patty

Sandi Patty is The Voice Of Christmas. For over 25 years, her voice has impacted audiences and listeners around the world. Now for the first time, Word Records offers 7 never before commercially released tracks including 2 duets with popular R&B singer Peabo Bryson, and 5 signature Christmas songs from her perennial bestsellers.

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ALSO
AVAILABLE



Sandi Patty
THE VOICE
OF CHRISTMAS

Available NOW where fine Christian music is sold!



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For: Li'l Buckaroos

From: Bailey & Canteen

Joined by the heart,
never apart,
It's Bailey & Canteen!

A lively western tale featuring a cowboy named Bailey and his faithful pony, Canteen, helps teach kids about God's love and kindness.

Author Eddy Bolton who has performed with the Texans and the legendary Speers, now brings experience from his own cowboy childhood to children everywhere in this new series.

Each book includes a CD with the story and three original songs!

This Christmas, pick up a series of story books that will entertain your children while teaching them valuable principles about God's magnificent character. Standard Publishing bows *The Adventures of Bailey and Canteen*, a new action-packed series of cowboy tales by author and singer/songwriter Eddy Bolton. Bolton, a tenor for the legendary Speer Family and a regular guest on the Gaither family's "Homecoming Series," found the inspiration for this creative line from his grandson, Bailey. Bolton, an avid horseman and outdoorsman, set out to develop a unique offering in this set of adventure stories. Each read-along storybook includes a CD containing the story and three original songs written and performed by Bolton. Children will sing along as they integrate the simple wisdom found in these tales into their own lives. Three storybooks make up this series that follows main character, Bailey, a cowboy, and his best friend, the faithful pony Canteen.

In *Shelter From the Storm*, readers discover how God provides shelter for Bailey, Canteen and puppy friend Lucky during a dust storm. *Canyon Rescue* finds Canteen in a sticky spot, as he loses his footing and watches Bailey tumble down a cliff. As always, God is present, sending His angels to help. *Lost and Found* follows Bailey and Canteen as they happen upon Lucky stranded in the middle of a stream. With God's help, they rescue their new friend.

Reasonably priced, each book in *The Adventures of Bailey and Canteen* series is a valuable gift for new readers growing in their faith.

To purchase visit your local Christian bookstore, call 1-800-543-1353 or visit www.standardpub.com



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"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.'"—Luke 1:30-32

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

—Norman Vincent Peale

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."

—Roy L. Smith



For: Thoughtful Listening

From: Jeremy Camp

Most Christian radio listeners are familiar with Jeremy Camp's soulful baritone and rock-infused sound. Most are also familiar with the incredible story of his brokenness and redemption. His own catalog of work relays the story: how he met and married his wife, how she suffered from an illness that would claim her life, how he coped in the wake of tragedy under God's grace and how he emerged encouraged with the blessing of a new family and burgeoning music ministry.

When Camp set out to articulate his emotions via music with his debut, *Stay*, he had no idea how much his songwriting would resonate with his audience. Fans craved something honest and real, and Camp, with a history beyond his years, could offer that authenticity. *Carried Me: The Worship Project* and *Restored*, followed, respectively, and Camp continued to write from the phases of his own life. Continuing in that tradition, Camp bows new disc *Beyond Measure*. Filled with hope, praise, and an even deeper comfort and understanding of God's mysteries, this album is the Midwestern singer/songwriter's defining chapter. The songs reflect the deep-seated peace inside Camp that comes from being rooted strongly in his faith and family.

While true peace on earth may not be a likely part of this Christmas, *Beyond Measure* mirrors what one soul, steeped in a right relationship with God, looks like at rest.

NEW FROM THIRD DAY THIS CHRISTMAS!

From The Best-selling
Offerings Worship Series!



"The experience of worshipping and singing classic Christmas songs together really brings to mind the heart of what Christmas is all about." - Tai Anderson / Third Day



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"BORN IN BETHLEHEM"
& "JOY TO THE WORLD"
& "AWAY IN A MANGER"

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2006

CHRISTMAS Gift Guide

"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart." —Helen Keller

*"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree.
In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."*

—Larry Wilde, *The Merry Book of Christmas*

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

—Matthew 2:10,11



**For: The Most
Wonderful Time
of the Year**

From: Third Day

A perennial favorite, Third Day caps off another whirlwind year with a pleasant surprise for audiences craving some TD tunage to liven up otherwise gray winter days. The third installment in the Platinum-selling *Offerings* worship series, *Christmas Offerings* recently released to retail outlets. Get a jump-start on filing those Christmas gift requests or just treat yourself to some solid, out-of-the-ordinary holiday music with this album.

Christmas Offerings, the latest in the *Offerings* series begun in 2000 by Third Day in response to fan demand, illuminates the spirit of Christmas through a collection of 13 holiday songs. The Atlanta, Ga.-based band collaborated in its usual manner to produce four original, inspired Christmas tracks. Traditional favorites such as "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger," and "What Child Is This" also bear the stamp of Mac Powell's rich, resonant vocals and the band's seasoned rock musicianship.

Always a band to flex its creative muscles, Third Day took a little different approach for recording the bulk of *Christmas Offerings*. Rather than holing up in an exclusive studio with only the producer, band and engineer to capture the holiday magic, the crew invited friends and family from around their hometown for a live taping of the tunes for this project. After a year of solid touring on the successful "Wherever You Are Tour" spring and fall runs, Third Day decided that recording most of the 13 songs for *Christmas Offerings* live just made sense. After all, this is a band that's grown accustomed to sharing its most brilliant moments with a crowd.