

Because Beauty is More Than Skin Deep

Christian

Summer 2025

VOGUE



The Oak Ridge Boys

Celebrating the First Fifty

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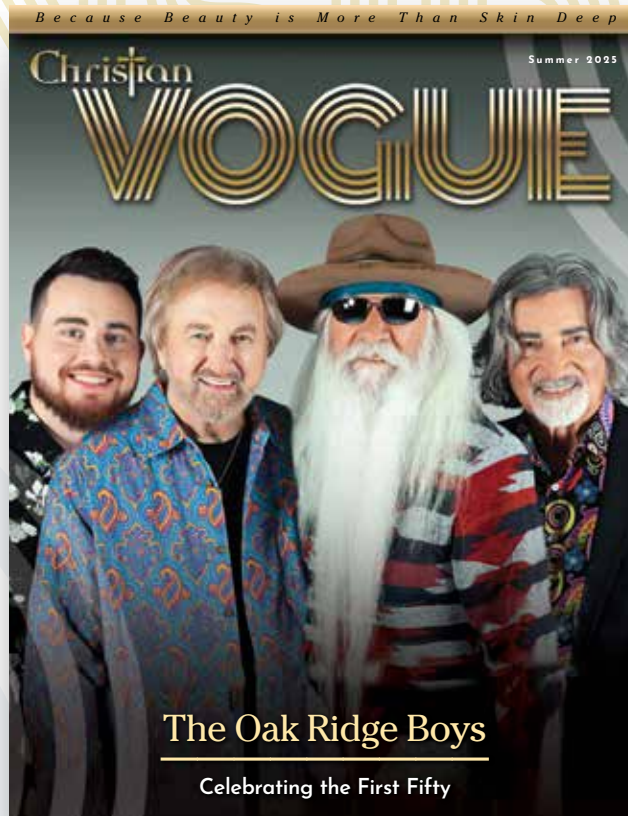
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Cover: In late 2023, Ben James replaced Joe Bonsall, who passed away on July 9, 2024. The Oak Ridge Boys continue to bring down the house with every concert across the country. L TO R: Ben James, Duane Allen, William Lee Golden, Richard Sterban

Photo credit: Brandon Wood/IndieBling

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Celebrating Summer

"I cried unto the LORD with my voice, And he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah."

—Psalm 3:4 KJV

Happy Summer 2025! Our team at the *Christian Vogue* celebrate with you our reader the glorious season of Summer. May yours be filled with happy memories and gatherings with family and friends. Summer is a time to honor our fathers, remember the goodness, the blessings and freedoms afforded us through Christ Jesus.

And may this Summer also be a time to CRY OUT to the Lord with our voice for or nation, and all those in our lives to give their hearts and souls fully to Christ. God has placed upon my heart that this not just be a season filled with celebrations and activities, but may Summer 2025 be also a time to "cry aloud" for souls.

Since our beginning at *Christian Vogue*, we desire each issue to bring voices in the Body of Christ who are crying aloud the message of hope, love and salvation of Jesus Christ. Every interview, testimony, and article is prayed in and prayed over to penetrate the hearts of you, our reader. Our mission is to encourage and uplift your heart, bringing you closer to Christ.

God has heard our team's cry to guide us and has sent us the best of the best voices who are crying aloud the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We marvel at His divine connections and how He has put *Christian Vogue Magazine* in homes across the world and give Him all the praise and glory.

Let's cry aloud together! Would you help us and please join our team?

Take just a moment to share this inspiring issue and previous issues that speak to your heart with those you love to make an eternal difference for Christ.

In His Love,

Rebecca

Rebecca D. Keener

Research and Development Director



The Oak Ridge Boys

Celebrating the First Fifty

BY JOHN WOOLEY

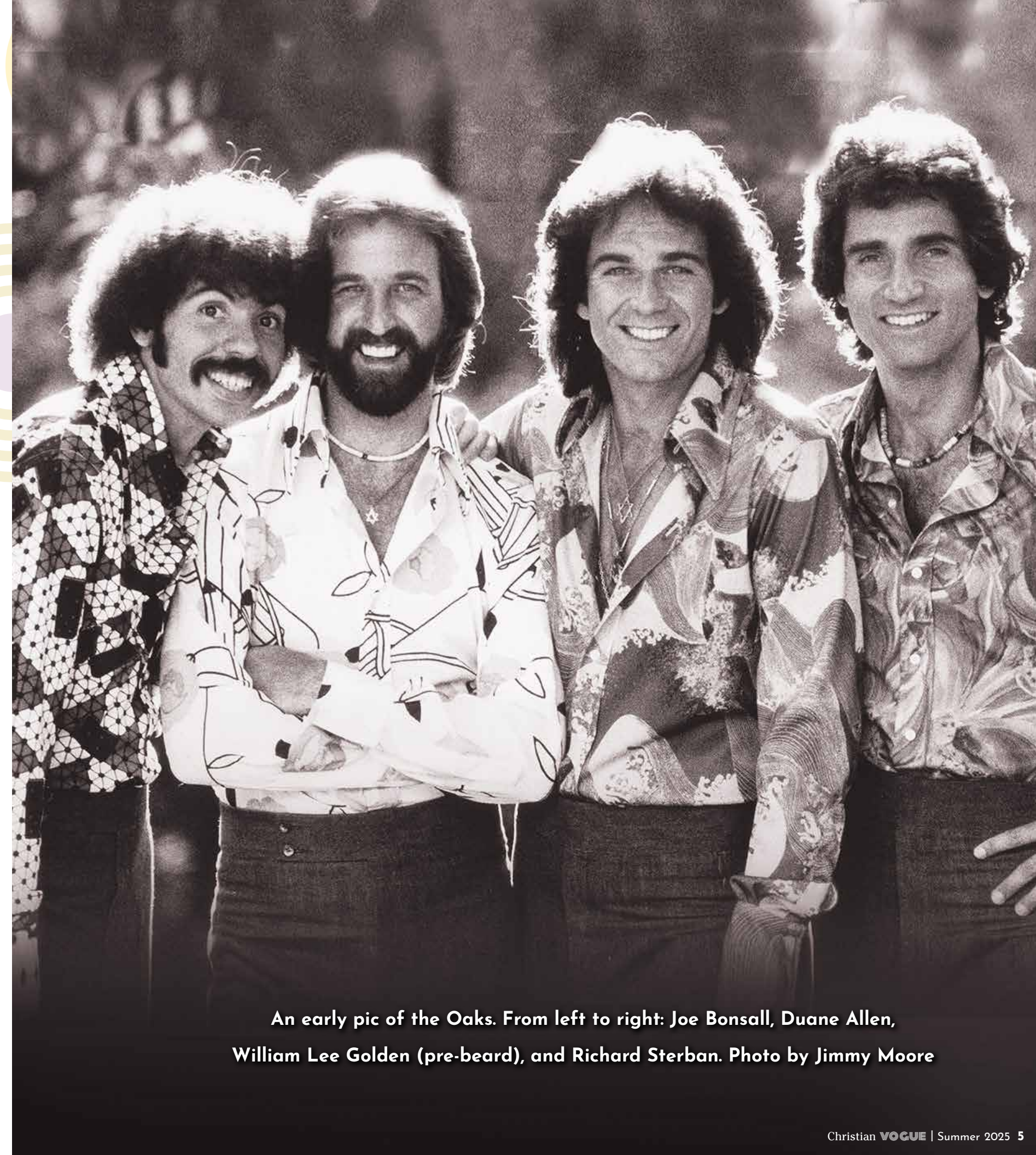
Every generation has its stars. A select few of them remain stars for generations. Those rare figures come to us from all fields of endeavor—Willie Mays from baseball, for instance. Humphrey Bogart from the movies. And, from popular music, The Oak Ridge Boys.

Just as Willie Mays was much more than his immortal over-the-shoulder catch in the 1954 World Series, and *Casablanca* was far from the only great Humphrey Bogart movie, The Oak Ridge Boys are more than the unforgettable strains of 1981's "Elvira" oom-poppa-mau-mau-ing its way through our collective consciousness.

Fifty years after these legendary performers first stepped onstage together in the summer of 1973, this now-legendary quartet, (originally) made up of Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, Richard Sterban, and William Lee Golden, continues to pack in the crowds and bring down the house.

For the entirety of that amazing half-century, the Oaks have been weaving their colorful threads into the tapestry of America's popular music. As is the case with Mays, a look at their statistics can be dizzying: a dozen gold, three platinum, and one double-platinum record album (to go with the double-platinum single "Elvira," which sailed up both the pop and country charts). Thirty Top 10 hits. Performances before five American presidents. Pioneering work in the field of country-music videos. Induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame (and the Gospel Music Hall of

For the entirety of that amazing half-century, the Oaks have been weaving their colorful threads into the tapestry of America's popular music.



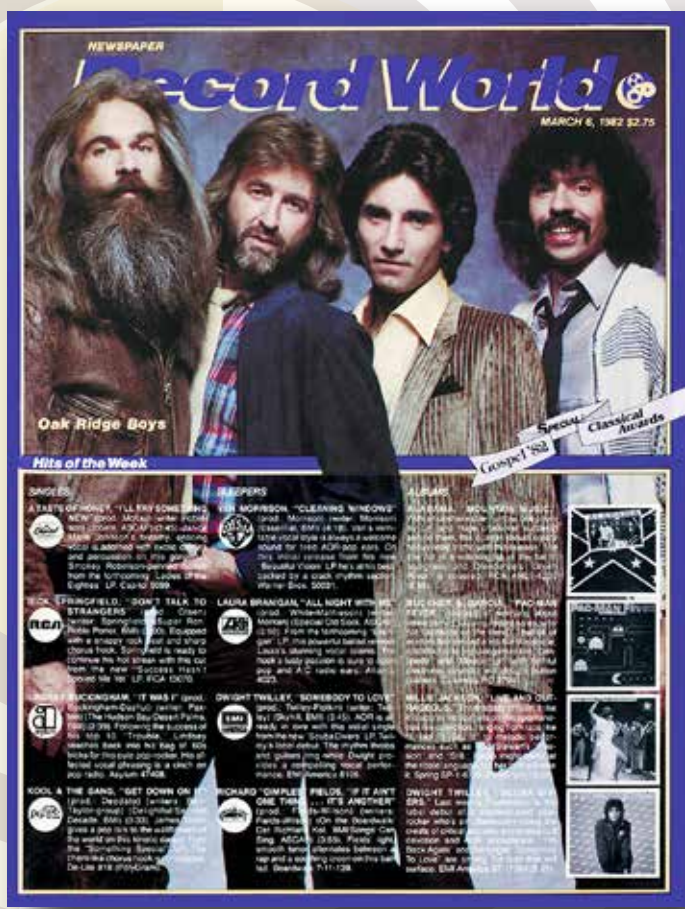
An early pic of the Oaks. From left to right: Joe Bonsall, Duane Allen, William Lee Golden (pre-beard), and Richard Sterban. Photo by Jimmy Moore



Duane Allen, William Lee Golden, and Richard Sterban with Joe's wife, Mary Ann Bonsall and their daughter, Sabrina Carver at a celebration event for Joe's last book, held at the Country Music Hall of Fame.



In January 2025, The Oak Ridge Boys announced the continuation of their American Made Farewell Tour. Photo by Brandon Wood



The Oaks on the cover of Record World, March 1982

Fame). International touring. Millions of streams. Live shows numbering in the tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands.

As was the case with Willie Mays, after logging more years in the business than all but a sliver of their contemporaries, the Oaks are still setting records. And making records. Following sales of well over 40 million albums and counting, The Oak Ridge Boys continue to lay down their one-of-a-kind vocals in the studio and on stages all over the world, experimenting with a sound known to millions, always looking for new ways to communicate with their music. As an example, their last (four) albums have been produced by famed Nashville music figure Dave Cobb, a Grammy Award winner for his work with artists such as Jason Isbell and Chris Stapleton.

The group's consistently fresh attitude and presentation is summed up nicely in a statement by William Lee Golden.

“We do things constantly to challenge ourselves, to try to do something different or better than the last time we did it.”

Like Willie Mays, like Humphrey Bogart—like all the greats—The Oak Ridge Boys transcend their time and place, continuing with every performance and each new disc to not only add to their amazing heritage, but also to further their quest to serve up more new and exciting Oaks' music to the world. One of the most famous “legacy acts” ever, with a 50-year string of hits to draw from, they are much more than a group content to faithfully reproduce its dozens of hits.

After all this time, the Oaks and their music remain vibrant, alive, and inventive. To the delight of their millions of fans, they're still breaking musical barriers, still reaching for new sounds, still performing at a high and wonderful level that both builds on and transcends the generations of their stardom.

For more about The Oak Ridge Boys and their music, please visit their website: www.OakRidgeBoys.com.

“One of the most famous ‘legacy acts’ ever, with a 50-year string of hits to draw from, they are much more than a group content to faithfully reproduce its dozens of hits.”



Pastor Lee Adams

FEATURE STORY

The Joy of Fatherhood

BY PASTOR LEE ADAMS

Fatherhood has been a profound journey in my life. Furthermore, fatherhood is considered one of the most revered responsibilities that God entrusts to men. I became a father in my late teens, and while it was a joyous occasion, it was also confusing and overwhelming at times.

However, having grown up with exemplary parents inspired me to embrace the responsibility fully. From my father, I learned that providing for one's children is a key element of fatherhood.

I vividly recall the days both my daughters were born and the joy of holding them for the first time. Following their births, my focus shifted towards considering the legacy I would leave. Psalm 127:1-5 highlights that "children are a gift from God" and that "blessed is the man who has a quiver full of them." This suggests there is joy in parenthood, although it is not without its challenges.

Early on, I relied on Ephesians 6:4: "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." I am fortunate to have two wonderful daughters who experienced predominantly positive childhoods, which I attribute to their willingness to heed guidance from me and God's word. It is gratifying to see them develop a sincere relationship with God; their passion for spirituality brings me immense joy.

Proverbs 22:6 advises, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it," emphasizing consistent practice and instruction over time. Raising children without a manual led to frequent self-reflection and questioning of my methods.

“Having grown up with exemplary parents inspired me to embrace the responsibility fully. From my father, I learned that providing for one's children is a key element of fatherhood.”



Lee and his Daughters

Through experience, I identified three essential steps in training children:

1. Dedicate or set aside time for God's purpose.
2. Clearly define what we plan to teach them.
3. Cultivate a strong desire for spirituality in their lives.

Training extends beyond teaching, as it involves shaping the will rather than just the mind. It requires showing children how to act correctly by example, ensuring that right behavior becomes habitual. My father often said, "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," meaning fathers must begin early and remain vigilant. We must be aware of our surroundings and our families, much like our Heavenly Father watches over us. We call God Abba, interpreted as "our Father," reflecting his role in loving, protecting, and providing for us, which mirrors our role as fathers.

As I mentioned earlier, being a father is extraordinary. It is important to cherish the journey and recognize the significance of the role. Today, my prayer is that more fathers experience the joy of parenthood. I hope they navigate the challenges posed by each child's unique personality and calling, so they can witness their children stepping into the destiny prepared by God. For struggling fathers, I urge you to resist apathy and passivity. Data shows that a healthy father is crucial for a child's development and fulfilling life. Your love, leadership, and wisdom are indispensable. Therefore, undertake the difficult task of confronting your heart and challenging your comfort zones. Fatherhood has been the greatest gift I have ever received. While it demands more energy and responsibility than I anticipated, it is a rewarding experience filled with shared adventures with my daughters, and I cherish the mutual love and bond we have developed along the way.

Upcoming Events

New Day Covenant Youth Conference & Back to School Rally

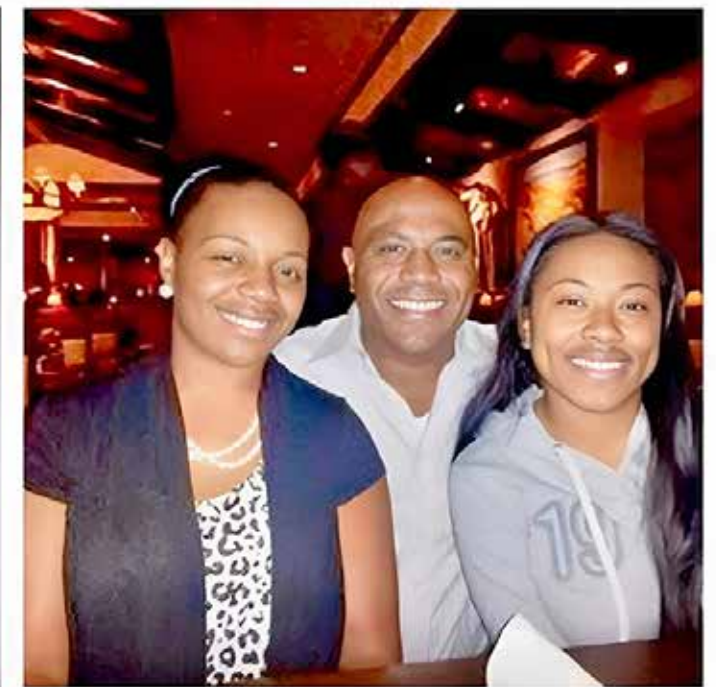
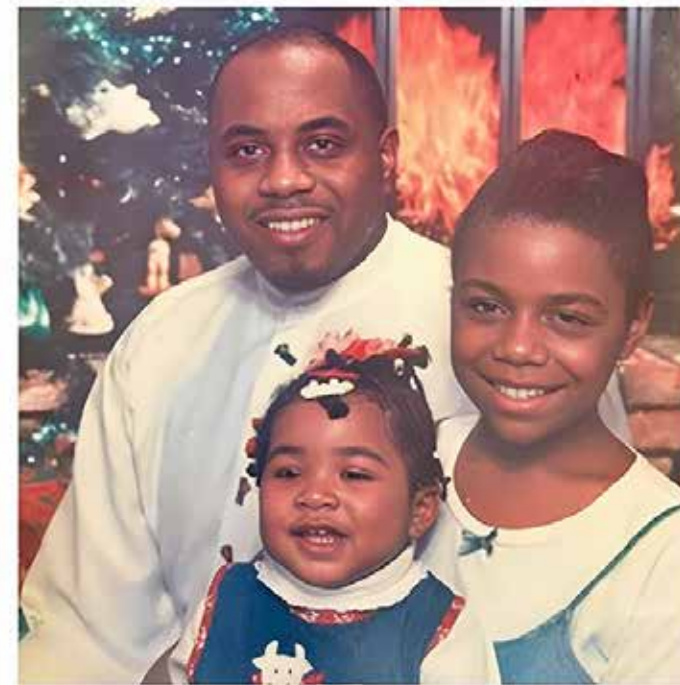
July 23-27, 2025

Wednesday 7/23/2025 – 7:00 pm. **Youth Empowerment Service**

Friday 7/25/2025 -5:30-8 p.m. Back to school rally and school supply giveaway

Sunday 7/27/2025 – 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**

Today, my prayer is that more fathers experience the joy of parenthood. I hope they navigate the challenges posed by each child's unique personality and calling, so they can witness their children stepping into the destiny prepared by God.



Through the Years

Join Us Weekly

Wednesday nights @ 7:00 pm. **Bible Study**

Sundays @ 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**

Lee Adams is the Senior Pastor of New Day Covenant Ministries in Lake City, Georgia. To learn more about his church and ministry please visit their website: www.NewDayCovenant.com.



When Dreams Become Real

BY RUBEN TORRES

A son of hard-working Mexican migrant parents, I learned early in life to overcome adversity, hardships, and life-or-death dilemmas to follow God's path for me. Born and raised in a small Texas town, I grew up in a rural community among ten siblings who, with our parents, crowded into a small, two-bedroom home with a single bathroom.

I was the seventh of eleven children—eight boys and three girls. There were two sets of twins, including my sister and me. We were very poor, with barely enough to eat and had few necessities to provide for our family. We learned to depend on one another for survival and comfort.

But our family was not without problems. My father was an alcoholic. When drinking, he would become very abusive verbally, emotionally, and physically toward my mother and siblings, as well as me. I was always afraid of my father when he came home late at night, because we never knew which mood he would be in or how badly we would get beaten. Despite his hard work each day in the cotton fields to make sure we were fed and had a roof over our heads, my father could easily become violent at the slightest provocation. His temper was probably fed by harsh working conditions and bleak prospects, and he had only us to take out his frustrations on. We knew that, and yet it was horrible to watch him come through the front door, weaving on his feet, smelling of alcohol, and thundering at the top of his lungs, "Where's my supper? I want it NOW!" Everyone would scatter to do his bidding, my mother most of all, but in return all she got was ridicule and criticism, as well as occasional pushes and slaps.

“My father was an alcoholic. When drinking, he would become very abusive verbally, emotionally, and physically toward my mother and siblings, as well as me.”



Maybe that is why I enjoyed my school studies. I loved paging through the textbooks to see interesting pictures of faraway lands and historic people. All of them held special significance for me. I, too, wanted to do something to help others, as so many of these textbook people had done.

Yet, going to school was always a challenge and intimidating because every day in the halls and on the playground, I would get bullied, hit, mocked, and laughed at. Students made fun of me for wearing the same jeans and shirts to school repeatedly, because my parents had no money for new clothes. We were lucky to get shoes, and when we did, they had to last a few years, even with holes in them. There were no “dress shoes” and “play shoes,” just one pair that we wore every day.

I would hear at home and at school that I was a loser, a mistake, that I would never amount to anything and that I should never have been born. I felt worthless in others’ eyes, and my own.

But due to my love of learning, I graduated with high marks. I also was an accomplished athlete. By the end of high school, I was voted *Most Likely to Succeed*. Looking back, I can attribute my success to three things that no one could ever take from me:

1. **I had Hope.** I knew that if I believed in myself, things had to get better. They couldn’t get any worse. I began to understand—even as a young man—that my purpose in life was to bring hope to those who had no hope, and to be a voice for those whose voices could not be heard.
2. **I had a Dream.** I would escape to the woods, or a pasture covered with wildflowers and dream of one day standing before audiences to help them find their purpose and passion. Offering my message of inspiration and motivation could encourage them to be all they were born to be—*champions in life!* I had a dream that guided me through childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood, and it has brought me to where I am today. My goal now is to help humanity DREAM again.
3. **I had a Purpose!** I knew deep inside that I had been created with a purpose to inspire, encourage, and motivate others through understanding and compassion. I knew I was not here to merely exist, but to pursue a life of meaning. I wasn’t put on earth to be ordinary, but to become extraordinary!

I had a dream that guided me through childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood, and it has brought me to where I am today. My goal now is to help humanity DREAM again.

I remember going to work out in the fields to pick cotton, green beans, watermelons or whatever was in season. Every day, I would tell my fellow migrant workers that one day I would stand in front of millions bringing a message of hope to the hopeless and would be a voice to the voiceless! They all thought I was crazy. They called me the “dreamer.” They would tell me that my great grandparents, grandparents and my parents were migrant workers and that I to would be a migrant worker all my life. But I would insist, “*No, no, no!! Un dia! Un dia! Voy a traer un mensaje de esperanza a millones de gente!*”

I would speak my dream daily. Then one day I began to believe my dream. Until one day—*un dia*—I became my dream and walked into my destiny and purpose! *No abuse or hardship could take those things away from Ruben.*

Through my up bringing, my education, and my faith, I learned to view obstacles as opportunities, stumbling blocks as stepping stones, and setbacks as a setup to take me where God wanted me to be so that I can bring HOPE to the hopeless, and be a voice for the voiceless.

But the path was not easy.

In 1991, my father suffered a massive stroke and lay in a coma. Though we anxiously prayed and remained by his bedside, he never recovered. When the doctor took him off life support, he slipped into eternity. I grieved his passing profoundly. Though he had been abusive toward us, he was still my dad, and I loved him dearly. No one could ever replace him.

Then in 1992, on my way to work, I was struck by a vehicle and taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Tests revealed that I had suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and I was air lifted to University Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, where I underwent emergency brain surgery. Doctors did not think I would survive because of the severity of my closed head injury.

But God’s plan prevailed. Though seriously injured, I did not die. Gradually I overcame this life-changing adversity with phenomenal occupational and physical therapist, the support and help of family, prayers, and God. The simple things I had taken for granted such as walking, talking, and eating now became monumental tasks that I had to relearn. It was as though years of life experience had been swept away in that collision. Yet I persevered, and with God’s help I learned how to live a normal life once more.

In 2003, my beautiful sister was killed in a motorcycle accident. Although

One day—*un dia*—I became my dream and walked into my destiny and purpose! No abuse or hardship could take those things away from Ruben.

she knew I loved her dearly, I wanted to be by her side to tell her one last time how proud I was to be her brother and that I loved her beyond words. A huge piece of my heart was torn from me that day. She and I literally came from the same flesh-and-blood parents and a shared family history. Her loss wounded me emotionally more than the automobile accident damaged me physically. God walked beside me every step of the way. He was there to wipe my tears and ease my sorrow. The wound has healed, but the scars are still there.

I decided to enroll in Bible college to learn more about the great God that we serve—the King of the Universe who watched over my injuries and nursed me through them as tenderly as a mother with a newborn infant. I want to give back to Him a portion of all He has given me. Today, I travel everywhere I'm invited with a message of hope to a generation that seems to have lost its way. Speaking to students, I urge them to follow their dreams and to let God lead the way. One of my objectives is to sound the alarm of epidemic bullying that is causing suicides and psychological trauma to our youth. Young people need to realize they are precious in God's eyes and a valuable resource to our world.

If *I* can succeed, *you* can succeed! I came from *nothing* and became *something*, because, while growing up, I clung to my Hope, a Dream, and God's Purpose! Don't let your limitations confine you nor your mistakes define you. They only remind you of where you have been, not where you are going! Your destiny is greatness and excellence! You were born to be important - make your life meaningful so others will remember you with awe!

Ruben Torres is a successful online digital marketer from San Antonio, Texas. His website is: www.MakeMoneyWithRuben.com.



“
If *I* can succeed,
you can succeed!
I came from
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became something,
because, while
growing up, I clung
to my Hope,
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God's Purpose!
”

STACEY GIBSON



LIVE FREE AND DIE STRONG

Summer '25 Fashion Tips

BY DONNA ROLAND

It's time for fun in the sun and fun with fashion this season! There are so many fabulous colors trending for the summer as well as some amazing fashion trends to try. With the warmer weather, it's nice to have cooler, light and airy clothes in our wardrobe. Think beautiful flowy dresses and linen fabrics. Whether you are heading to the beach or hosting backyard bar-b-q's, you can have the most stylish summer yet!

We will be seeing a lot of gingham, plaid, lace and crochet. You will also find frills and femininity making a comeback in the summer attire. Coastal and nautical themes will be more popular than ever. And...the fruit frenzy we saw in the spring is more popular than ever! You will see cherries, lemons, oranges and strawberries on everything! Here are some of the stylish summer trends to try this season!

Dress Trends

- Satin
- Strapless
- Drop Waist
- Romantic
- Vibrant

Accessory Trends

- Bucket Hat
- Charm-laced Shoelaces
- Feminine Chockers
- Magnetic Wrap Bracelets
- Summer Head Wrap

Handbag Trends

- Bag Charms
- Jumbo Straw Totes
- Graphic Tote
- Chic Crochet
- Beaded

Footwear Trends

- Jellies
- Espadrilles
- Summer Mules
- Raffia
- Woven and Mesh

I hope you have fun shopping in your closet, on line or in the stores this season and trying some of these beautiful colors and trends!

Donna Roland

www.DonnaRoland.com

865.599.6682



COLORS OF SUMMER 2025

Trending Hues for Your Color Code



BUTTER YELLOW



Butter Yellow is the ultimate soft and sunny shade. It's cheerful without being loud and brings a touch of warmth to any outfit. This creamy hue flatters a variety of Color Codes:

SOFT
LIGHT
WARM

PAIR IT WITH: Cream, Coral, Lavender, Seafoam Green or Dusty Blue for a fresh, feminine mix.
BEST METAL PAIRING: Gold

SEAFOAM GREEN



With its gentle mix of green and blue, Seafoam Green evokes ocean breezes and adds a light and airy touch to any outfit. This timeless hue flatters a variety of Color Codes:

LIGHT
COOL
SOFT
WARM

PAIR IT WITH: Neutrals like Camel or Navy or other pastels like Powder Pink or Icy Blue.
BEST METAL PAIRING: Silver or Gold

CHOCOLATE BROWN



Chocolate Brown is a rich, warm shade that evokes a sense of comfort, confidence, and sophistication. This classy and earthy hue flatters a variety of Color Codes:

LIGHT
SOFT
WARM
DEEP
CLEAR

PAIR IT WITH: Cream, Rust, Orange, and even Turquoise for a striking contrast.
BEST METAL PAIRING: Gold

ICY BLUE



A soft, serene shade, icy blue brings a sense of calm and quiet elegance to any outfit, adding simple sophistication. This fresh and modern hue flatters a variety of Color Codes:

LIGHT
COOL
SOFT

PAIR IT WITH: Silver, Soft Gray, Blush Pink, and Navy for a refined contrast.
BEST METAL PAIRING: Silver or Gold

BRIGHT GREEN



Bright green is a fresh, eye-catching color that brings a burst of energy to any look. Select this fun and fearless shade that is perfect for summer! This lively hue flatters a variety of Color Codes:

CLEAR
COOL
WARM
DEEP

PAIR IT WITH: Crisp White, Denim, Navy, or even Pink and Purple for a fun, fashion-forward mix.
BEST METAL PAIRING: Silver or Gold

TANGERINE



Orange Tangerine is a lively, energetic color that radiates joy. This bold citrus shade exudes vibrancy, brightens your look, and adds a pop of personality. This lively hue flatters a variety of Color Codes:

CLEAR
WARM
DEEP

PAIR IT WITH: Warm Neutrals, Denim, and even Deep Navy or Teal for a fresh, unexpected combo.
BEST METAL PAIRING: Gold

POWDER PINK



Powder Pink is a delicate color, but not one that is too precious. It adds a whisper of romance and works beautifully in soft fabrics like cotton and shifras. This feminine hue flatters a variety of Color Codes:

LIGHT
COOL
SOFT

PAIR IT WITH: Neutrals like Gray, White, or Tan to let it truly shine.
BEST METAL PAIRING: Silver or Rose Gold



Photo by Tami Kaye Studios, Panama City Beach, FL

Ashley Gronholm

FEATURE STORY

Ashley Gronholm

The Ministry of Being Free

In a whirlwind year of prophetic encounters, divine assignments, and bold intercession, God has taken Ashley Gronholm's ministry global. As the founder of Be Free Ministry, Gronholm is no stranger to bold obedience.

But 2025 has ushered in a fresh mandate: to take the Gospel across Europe and as far as India and to intercede for awakening, reformation and revival. From the private gardens of the Vatican to London to war-torn Ukraine, Gronholm, in the first few months of this year, has moved through nations with a unique calling—to intercede, declare, and ignite revival in unlikely places.

While in Rome, Gronholm found herself interceding in the Vatican gardens, praying "for the uprooting and overturning of false religion in Italy." She was given a tour of the Vatican private gardens—grounds normally reserved only for the Pope and his dignitaries to walk, the gates of Buckingham Palace, London's Parliament and the King and Queen's private chapel.

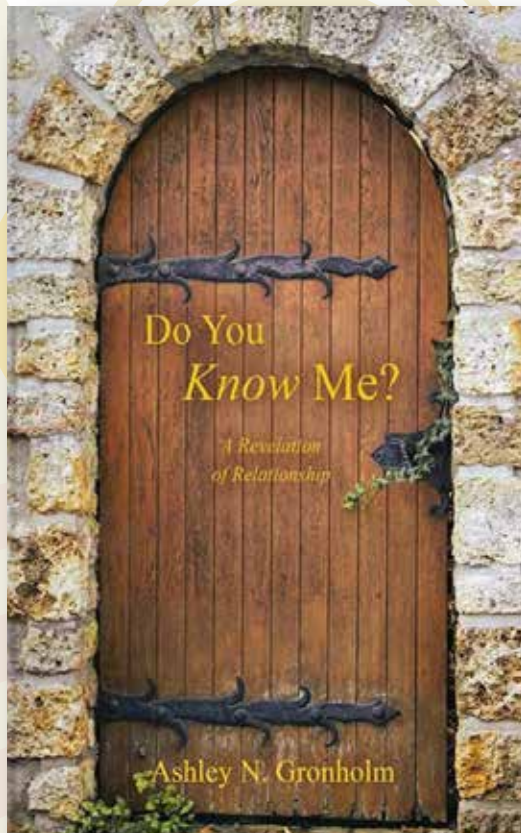
During her time in prayer in 2024, Holy Spirit gave Gronholm a vision of the Taj Mahal, leading to her ministering to local Be Free Ministry Pastors in New Dehli and a prayer event at the Taj Mahal.

While ministering in Ukraine, she has endured nightly air raid sirens and rocket interceptions over her lodging.

"It's extremely unsettling," she said. Despite the risks, she felt a strong call to remain: "I know God has me here now to be praying and interceding and believing and declaring that Ukraine shall be saved."

In late February, Gronholm had the remarkable opportunity to attend the inaugural National Day of Prayer at the Ukrainian Parliament—a miraculous occasion, considering Parliament's allowance of an American minister, not a diplomat, to be present.

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Her boots-on-the-ground work includes building relationships with churches and NGOs, notably *Save the Children*, which partners with Samaritan's Purse to rescue trafficked children.

"There are over 1.7 million children that have been trafficked out of Ukraine," she shared. "The impact will be in saving the children, because saving the rising generation—that's what it's all about."

Ashley plans to establish a new NGO "*Heal the Nations*" later this year to assist in raising support for medical aid and equipment for wounded soldiers, civilians and orphaned children.

God has blessed Gronholm's ministry to plant active prayer houses in Ghana, Kenya, India and Pakistan—often ministering directly to widows and orphans as well as offering an online international school: *Magdala School of Apostolic Ministry*.

Gronholm's journey to Christ is just as compelling as her global ministry. A former member of the Mormon church, she testifies of a radical encounter with Jesus that shattered what she knew before about faith. That deep deliverance has since birthed a calling to "overturn the tables of false religion," whether in Mormonism, Hinduism, or the halls of compromised government and religious power structures.

Ashley shares her powerful testimony in her new book "*Do You Know Me? A Revelation of Relationship*," available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Her TV broadcast "*Be Free with Ashley Gronholm*," featured in the NRB TV showcase now airs on WATC Channel 57 ATLANTA, Bible Discovery Network (out of Canada and the UK), on World Trumpet TV (out of Dallas and Africa), TX and Vision TV Network (out of Houston, TX and Asia).

Gronholm ministers powerfully through music with her newest worship single "Miracle In Me," which is available on iTunes. She plans to release a new worship EP coming later this year.

To learn more about **Ashley Gronholm** and **Be Free Ministry International** and/or to support her ministry, visit BeFreeInChristMinistry.org
www.Facebook.com/BeFreeMinistry
 Instagram: [@ashleygronholmofficial](https://www.instagram.com/ashleygronholmofficial)
 YouTube: **Ashley Gronholm Ministries**
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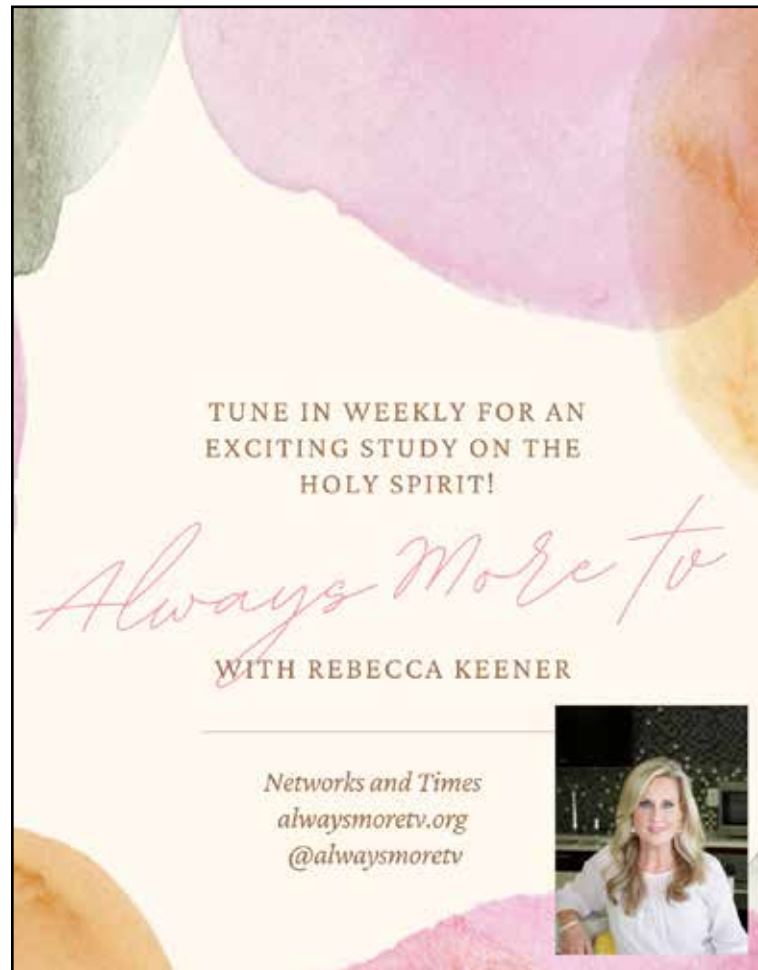
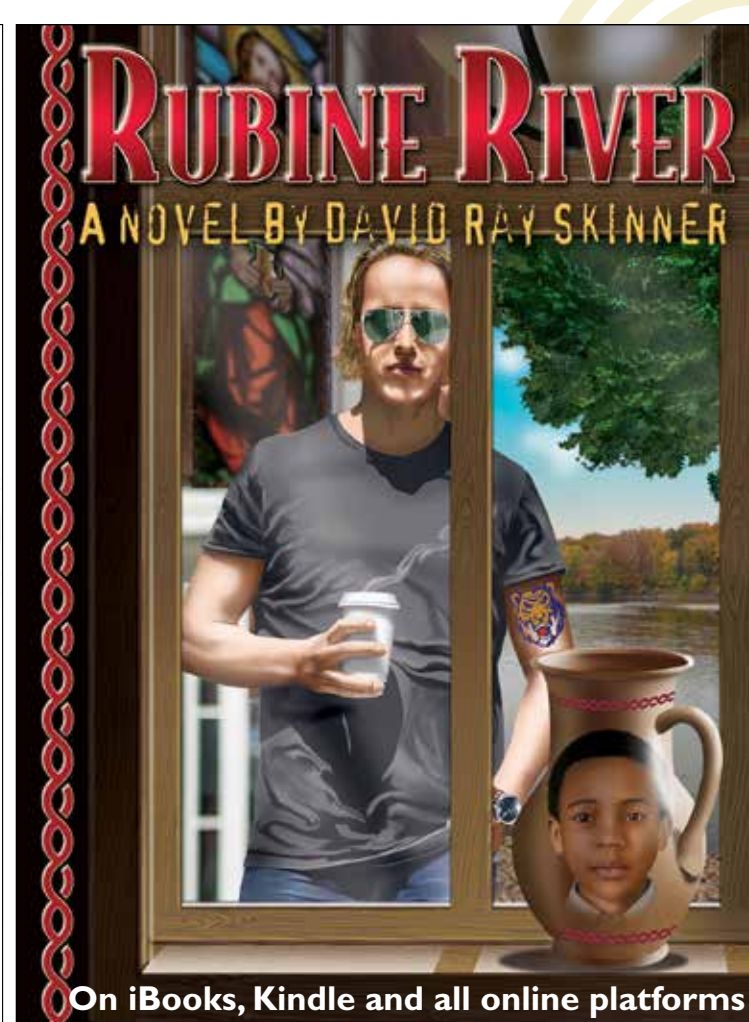
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Giving You the Best MIX of Music, Talk, Podcasts and Devotionals!



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It's your *Image*.



Summer '25 Make Up Tips

BY HANNAH MONTGOMERY

This summer, it's all about fresh-faced radiance with a side of playful color. The Summer 2025 beauty trends are giving major "effortless glam" energy—with breathable skin, glossy lips, and eye-catching hues that make a statement without saying a word.

The Saint-Tropez Skin Era

Skin is the star this season. The goal? Sun-kissed, dewy, and ultra-lightweight. Tinted moisturizers and skin tints with satin finishes are replacing heavy foundations. It's all about a breathable, second-skin look that lets your natural radiance shine through—think vacation glow without the jet lag.

Glass Lips Over Matte Everything

Matte lips? We're leaving those in the archives. This summer, lips are glossy, juicy, and drenched in shine. From tinted balms to high-shine glosses, the goal is a plump, hydrated pout with just a hint of color.

Pastels & Bold Hues Take Over Eyes

Eyes are getting playful with a resurgence of pastel shadows—especially buttery yellow and gelato-inspired tones. For those feeling bold, dive into electric blues, sultry violets, and smoky grays for a striking evening look.

Blush is Back in a Big Way

More is more when it comes to blush. Rosy, coral, and poppy pinks are everywhere, giving cheeks a healthy, youthful flush. Pair with a cream formula for a sun-touched glow that lasts all day.

Softly Sculpted Eyes

Contoured creases are trending again—but not the harsh cut-crease of 2017. This season's sculpting is diffused, subtle, and soft-focus, giving dimension without the drama.

Cool-Toned Pinks & Faded Liners

Move over, warm browns. Cool-toned pink lipsticks are stepping in, offering a modern twist on the nude lip. Finish with a softly blurred lip liner in a nude or pink shade to perfect that plush, just-bitten look.

Pro Tips to Keep It Glam (and Chill):

- SPF is non-negotiable. Opt for skin tints or foundations with built-in sun protection.
- Waterproof mascara will be your ride-or-die in the summer heat.
- Cream blush melts into the skin for a fresh flush that stays put.
- Keep it light. For everyday looks, a luminous base, swipe of blush, and defined lashes are all you need.

Summary

Summer 2025 makeup is all about luminous, breathable skin and bold yet effortless accents. Glossy lips, pastel and vivid shadows, and a heavy hand with blush are the season's go-tos. Skip the heavy formulas, embrace lightweight radiance, and don't forget your SPF.

Hannah Montgomery

Christian Vogue Beauty Editor



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They Stole My ‘No’

BY MARK SOWERSBY

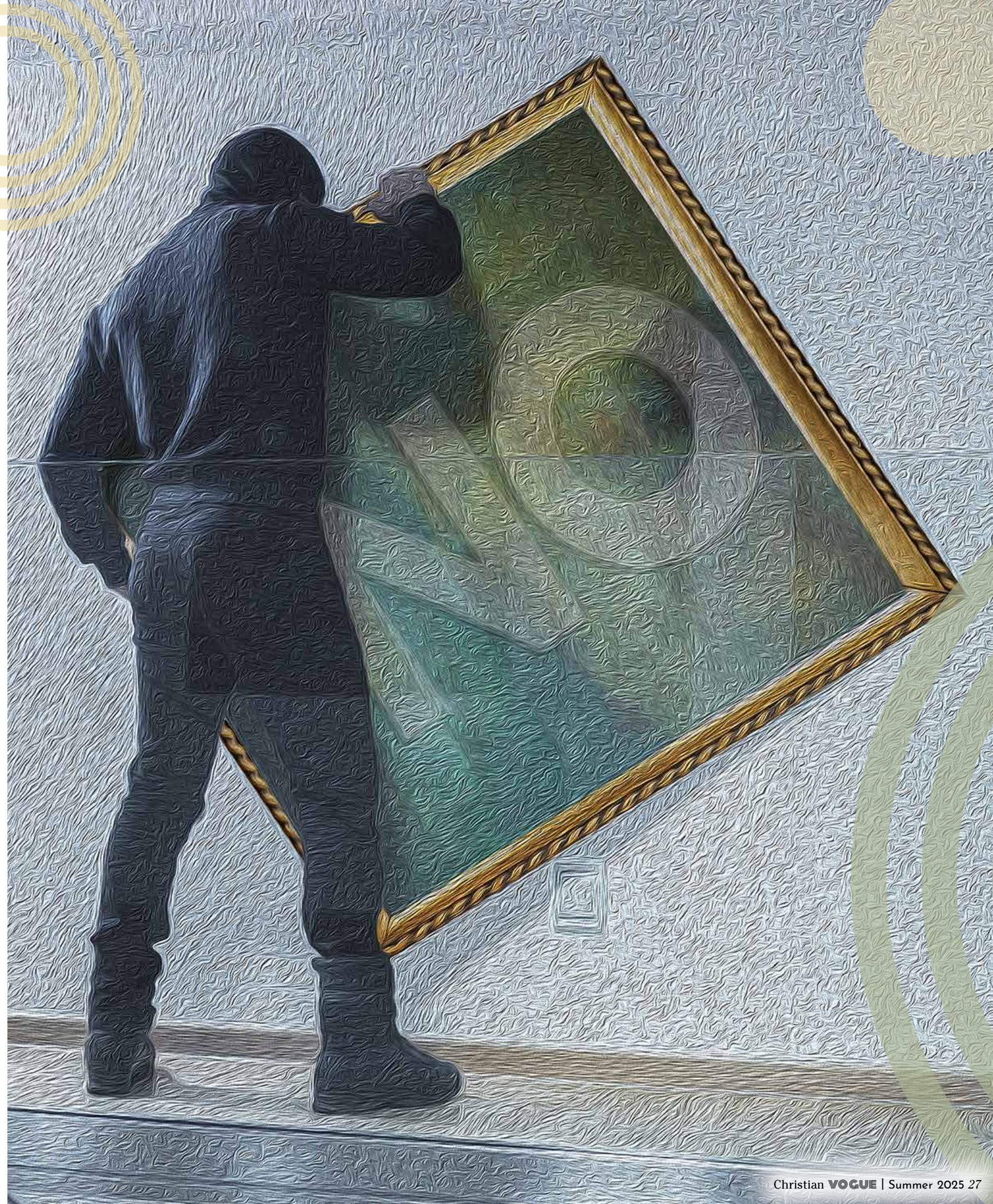
In the city of Boston, the capital of Massachusetts, resides the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the home to one of the most notorious art thefts ever. Over thirty years ago, two individuals impersonated police officers and stole thirteen priceless pieces of art. They were all one-of-a-kind pieces, revered for their beauty and composition, and can never be replaced or duplicated.

If you were to go and take a tour of the museum today, you would find empty frames in the space where the masterpieces once hung. These frames are a ghostly reminder of what once was. Through years of investigation, the museum holds out hope that these wonderful pieces of art will be returned to their rightful place—in the museum for all visitors to enjoy.

Priceless pieces not only hang on the walls of art museums; they also hang in the souls of people. The beauty of eyes that sparkle, a smile that lights up a room, or wrinkles on the face that express the wisdom of life. There is also the inner beauty of a person’s confidence, compassion, and humility. Just like the priceless pieces of art that once hung in the museum were stolen, so too can the attributes of a person’s life, their value and beauty, be taken. They are left with a void, an empty space where their value and beauty once hung.

When items that one has worked so hard to protect are stolen, feelings of anger, confusion, and blame often follow. We relive the event over and over, asking ourselves, “*What could I have done better?*” or “*How could I have been so careless or foolish?*” The reason the art was stolen that night in Boston was because of the pieces’ value and importance. And what made that art so valuable and important was the one who created it—the master who put brush to canvas, the

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sculptor who cast and created a masterpiece that would inspire, compel, or enlighten, bringing the viewer to tears, laughter, or reflection.

We have all been created by God, who on a canvas full of love through the brush strokes of His Word, formed you and I—*God’s masterpiece*. That we are God’s masterpiece gives us all value and importance. Genesis 1:31 tells us,

“And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

While we were created to be a masterpiece, that also makes us a prime target for a thief. There is one who hates all that God has created. The first half of John 10:10 reveals the thief’s purpose:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”

Thieves may not get all that they want on their first attempt, which is why we have all heard stories of thieves returning to steal from the same place over and over. In the same way, our enemy, Satan, keeps coming back to steal the most valuable and important things from our lives until we are left empty, broken, and full of shame.

As a child of abuse, I was groomed by my abuser to never say “no.” I was manipulated and brainwashed. “No” was never an option. I was taught to believe it was wrong for me to say “no,” and made to feel shame and guilt if I attempted to say it. I believed that people would abandon me or be angry with me, that it would be all my fault if I said “no.” After my “no” was stolen, I was left feeling broken and powerless. Even into my early adulthood, years after the physical abuse ended, it was hard for me to say “no.” Every time I did, I felt anxiety and guilt. I still believed people would be angry with me. Saying no still felt like I had done something wrong.

As a result, I said “yes” many times when I should have said “no.” Especially when people came to me in excitement and shared decisions or expectations for my life. Sometimes I wanted to scream “no!” But I was too afraid; it was just too hard to say “no.” The awkwardness and disappointment others expressed when I did try to say no were a weight on me. That brought back all the emotions and feelings of being helpless. The “no” that I *did* express always came from a hurt place—a place of anger, frustration, or spite. I had to learn that a no could be healthy. “No” is honest, and

it places limitations, respects boundaries, and enables self-care.

I remember my first big “no.” My past was trying to own me, the brokenness was trying to control me, and the lies were whispering to me, trying to keep me bound. My heart cried out, *“Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ My heart said to You, ‘Your face, Lord, I will seek.’”* —**Psalm 27:7–8 NKJV**

Finally, with all that was in me I said, “No!” That “no” unleashed the helplessness, and restored freedom, power, strength, and confidence. A healthy “no” gave my yes a deeper and more committed ring, and made my yes even sweeter. I do not live with the inability to say “no.” Now I can say “no” because I have learned a “no” is just as good as a “yes.” When I found my voice and my “no” was “no” and my “yes” was “yes,” my “yes” shown like a diamond that sparkled. The “yes” became even more valuable. Simply being able to say no allowed my “yes” to be expressed with confidence and grace. I live my life in the promises of God that are “yes” and “amen.”

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” —**2 Corinthians 1:20**

Your words reflect your feelings, expressions, acceptance, your likes and dislikes, what you stand for and what you reject. I pray that your voice will always reflect who you are and what you are; that no pain or abuse steals the voice God gave you.

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.’” —**Isaiah 40:3**

Mark Sowersby is a speaker, writer and pastor. For more info about Mark and his ministry, visit www.ForgivingTheNightmare.com.



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Say It's So, Joe

Last Summer, on July 9, 2024, the Oak Ridge Boys world lost an amazing friend and performer and the world lost an even more amazing man. Joe Bonsall, who had joined the Oaks as a tenor vocalist back in 1973, passed away after battling ALS.

Joe's vocals helped shape the sound of the Oak Ridge Boys which ignited their success, kicking their music into high gear and high on the charts—in Country, Gospel, and Pop—beginning in the late '70s and early '80s.

Joe was also a prolific writer. In his last book, "I See Myself," he reflected on the tapestry of his life—a life that included growing up in the inner city of Philadelphia to sitting on the front porch of his log home in rural Tennessee, and hanging with a street gang in his teens to surrendering to Christ at a youth camp. From working as a short order cook to headlining sold-out arenas, two things never changed: His unwavering faith in God. And his ability to inspire others.

For more information about Joe, visit his website:
www.JosephSBonsall.com



I SEE MYSELF

*Musings and Memories
of a Blessed Life*