

Elvis Gospel Fan Club Quarterly Newsletter 2019-2

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Editorial

Dear Gospel Fan,

It is always a pleasure to hear of new ways in which Elvis is still having a positive effect on humanity. I recently listened to a wonderful BBC Radio 4 programme "Elvis - A Tribute in Dance - The Art of Living" Claire Cunningham is a Scottish choreographer and contemporary dancer who performs with crutches. The programme joined her in the studio during the research period for a new work, "Thank You Very Much", which draws on Claire's current fascination with Elvis Tribute Artists.

Claire is intrigued by the difference between impersonation and tribute, what it means to train to become someone else - or an ideal of someone else - and relating this to the lived experience of disability. She asks, "Is this also a life of being pressured to be someone you are not?" The programme is a fun, exuberant and occasionally poignant mix of dance, music, singing, text and, of course, fabulous costumes.

Through one-on-one masterclasses with Elvis Tribute Artists, practising harmonies, and offering up their own personal experiences of physiotherapy and speech therapy, the group not only learn to sing and dance like Elvis, but also explore how paying tribute involves bringing something of themselves into the act. These tasks become part of improvisations in the studio, from which the final show was devised.

I hope I will get to see this production when it premieres on 17-20 July at the Ukranian Cultural Centre, Manchester. I certainly pray that it will be a great success and bless not only those who see it, but also those involved in the production. Of course, from a Gospel point of view, we know that it is God who worked through Elvis to bless people and who is now working through memory of him.

I have only just discovered that Rick Stanley, one of Elvis' step-brother's died in January. I was sorry to hear of his passing at such a relatively early age. We pray for his family that they will know the comfort of the Holy Spirit as they grieve. See our report in this issue. Although I never met Rick, I did correspond with him and interviewed his brother David at an event in Liverpool many years ago. Elvis loved his new brothers. Rick said that when he met Elvis, the first thing Elvis said was, 'I've always wanted little brothers and now I have three'. Family was very important to Elvis and he made sure he took care of them. Family is so important to the Lord, especially His own family of believers. Let us pray that the God ordained family unit which is the bedrock of civilisation will survive the many onslaughts it is currently experiencing.

God bless you, *Madeleine*



A photo from 1956



Elvis with his mum in their Audubon Drive home.



Elvis Gospel Live! Show was again sold out this year at this Festival. Not all festivals feature Gospel music, but when they do, it is usually the most popular event. Below is more information about the festival.

Such a treat to see our friend Terry Blackwood as special guest of the Nashville Gospel Elvis Tribute. He was awesome! Terry is with the Imperials and they backed up Elvis along with other groups. He is an awesome singer! Gary Chapman was also outstanding. The entire show was great and we were blown away with the Elvis singers in how much they sounded like the real Elvis! Totally enjoyed it!

JOANNE CASH - Legendary Gospel Artist and the younger sister of Johnny Cash. She was a Judge for Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest. Joanne Cash was just a teenager when she first met Elvis backstage at a concert, where he was opening for her famous brother Johnny Cash. Of course, Johnny wasn't the only member of the Cash family to make a name for himself. With 26 historic recordings, the acclaimed autobiography *My Fears Are Gone*, and continuous concert appearances, Joanne just released her latest CD, *Unbroken* (2018), which features duets with some of her famous friends and family members including Crystal Gayle, Phil Keaggy, Bellamy Brothers, Rosanne Cash, Oak Ridge Boys, T. Graham Brown, for King & Country, John Carter Cash & Tommy Cash and more.

East Coast Elvis: Memphis By The Moors - Friday 16 August 2019

Ocean Room, Scarborough Spa, 11am-1am. A full day and evening celebration "The King", including: Market Place with various stalls including vinyl, art and Elvis Memorabilia, Collection Exhibit showcasing original concert Memorabilia and genuine Elvis owned and gifted exhibits. All day Elvis Disco & Movies. (And our Elvis Gospel display!)

Live Rock n Roll Music throughout the day including Guest singers and appearances. Food and drink will be available throughout the day from the onsite bars and catering outlets. Grand Raffle & Charity Auction with proceeds going to our nominated Charity: St Catherine's Hospice Scarborough. **Tickets:** £15 (plus booking fees) will be available on the door and can be booked in advance Tel: (01723) 821888



LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT GRACELAND!

For the first time ever, Hallmark Channel is hosting a June Weddings Fan Celebration over two days, full of events and interactive activities celebrating Hallmark Channel's annual line up of wedding-inspired original movie premieres every Saturday night in June. In honour of Hallmark Channel's June Weddings programming, a variety of themed events and activities are planned throughout the weekend.

Joining the event will be Kellie Pickler and Wes Brown, the stars of the Hallmark Channel original movie *Wedding at Graceland*, premiering Saturday, June 1 at 9pm/8c on Hallmark Channel. Filmed at Graceland, *Wedding at Graceland* is the highly anticipated sequel to *Christmas at Graceland*, the 2018 original holiday movie that was one of the most-watched holiday movies in the history of Hallmark Channel's Countdown to Christmas.

Wedding of Richard and Samantha Ede

We first met Richard and Samantha on the Arena Tour of Elvis' Germany in 2017. It was also the first time they had met each other. Since then we have been keeping touch on Facebook. We were not surprised when they announced their engagement as we could see the attraction developing on the tour. Peter and I often smile remembering how they studiously sat in different seats on the coach back to the airport so as not to give the game away! We were even less surprised when they decided to get married at the Chapel in the Woods at Graceland. They are a lovely couple and we pray that their marriage will be blessed, and they continue to have fun and enjoy all the Elvis events they attend. We hope that you will enjoy these lovely photos of their special occasion.



EUREKA, S.C. (BP) -- Richard "Rick" Earl Stanley, a stepbrother to Elvis, who turned to Christ two months after Elvis' death and, as an evangelist, spoke at Billy Graham-sponsored events and in a multitude of other settings, died early Monday morning, 7th January, in Aiken, South Carolina.

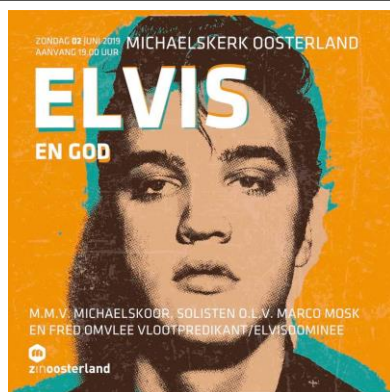


Rick Stanley

Rick had a born-again experience in October 1977, very much encouraged by his girlfriend Robyn who prayed for him and told him about the love of Jesus.

Rick was a member of the First Baptist Church in Eureka, S.C., where he first gave his testimony in early 1978 and was serving as associate pastor and minister of music at the time of his death at age 65. He is survived by his two daughters, Brittany Stanley and Bethany Stanley, his ex-wife Robyn and two brothers David Stanley and Billy Stanley.

Note: One of the first items I came across when I became an Elvis fan in 1995, was a tape recording of Rick giving his testimony at an event in the West Midlands of UK. An acquaintance knew that I was researching into Elvis' faith and gave me a copy of the tape. Since then I have done much more research, including reading Rick's book, "Caught in a Trap" and "The Touch of Two Kings" - Madeleine



A message from James Burton

6th April 2019

Our wonderful, talented, loving son, father, and brother, Jeffrey Scott Burton, went on to heaven today. He will be greatly missed. We want to thank all of our friends around the world that have had him in their prayers during this journey.

A donation may be made to the The James Burton Foundation in his honor.

God Bless You, The James Burton Family

(We saw Jeff Burton, a guitarist like his father, at an Elvis event in Birmingham, UK, in 2011. A lovely man.)

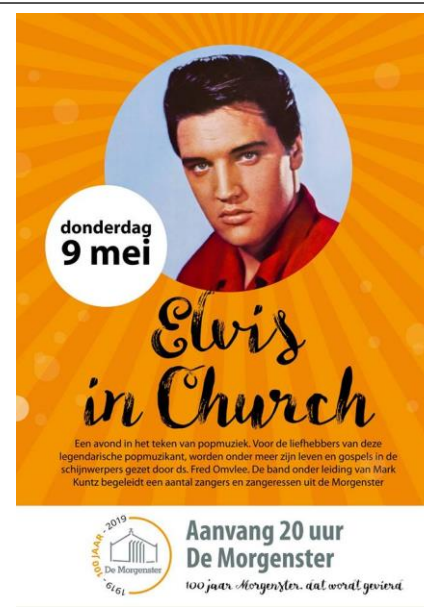


Elvis in the Netherlands

Our friend Rev. Fred Omvlee is continuing to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ using Elvis' music. On 9th May (*poster right*) he spoke at a church service, and on Sunday 2 June he was involved in an ecumenical celebration "Elvis and God" (*poster left*)

Fred is church minister and pastor in the Royal Dutch Navy and of course a big Elvis fan. He is widely known in the Netherlands as "Elvisdominee" (Elvis Padre)

In a personal story, Fred Omvlee told about Elvis and God, what they have to do with each other, and of a new book "From Elvis Celebration to U2 Service" written by himself and others.



The English Elvis Experience



This three day event featuring some of the very best tribute acts in Europe and the USA., including 3 Gospel Champions is organised by Matt King, himself a tribute artist. The event will also feature an 8 piece band with backing singers and original Elvis concerts on screen. The English Elvis Experience will be taking place in the Copthorne Effingham Gatwick Hotel. The ticket price of £150 includes drinks and canape reception, 10 Elite tribute acts, a 3 course dinner, after show parties, big screen ELVIS disco, open mic, transport between hotels, allocated weekend table, Elvis concert screening, Gospel show, Elvis' UK Number 1 Hits show. spectacular grand finale and much more. For more information and booking visit <https://mmkingproductions.com/> or phone: 07494 959544

News from Terry Blackwood

Hello Friends! I have a new album in the shop.

Please take a look: <https://www.terryblackwood.com/store/Live at the Metropol>. This CD features the original TCB Band, James Burton, Ronnie Tutt, and Glen Hardin. Dennis Jale is the host and Elvis vocalist. Terry Blackwood & the Imperials are on it all the way through.

Also, 3-6 Oct Bad Homburg, Germany

Spend the night like Elvis in Bad Homburg. Elvis lived in the old Ritter's Park Hotel in October of 1958. This weekend, you can travel back in time to the late fifties with the exclusive ambience of the hotel, Cost: £193 includes 2-night stay with breakfast buffet.

Friday evening a sparkling wine reception and meet & greet with the "Original Band of Elvis"

Saturday and Sunday all-day offer with a tour of the city of Bad Homburg, exclusive exhibition with original Elvis Presley pieces as well as stands and the opening of the original "Elvis Presley Suite"

Saturday evening live concert with the "Original Band of Elvis" inclusive drinks for four hours

Free entry to the hotel's gym including a sauna and steam baths.

Imperials Terry Blackwood and Jim Murray having fun with Pat Boone



Easter Message from Terry Blackwood

April 19, 2019 IT'S GOOD FRIDAY!

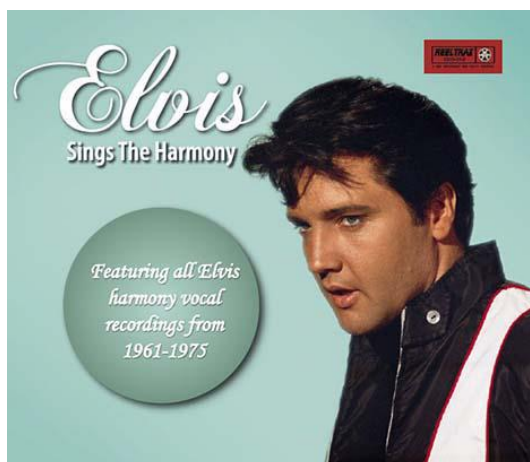
The demands of time and energy sometimes rob us of the important things in our lives. I'm writing this on the day the Christian world acknowledges as Good Friday, the day the Christian world acknowledges that Jesus Christ was crucified. I am mindful of what Christ did for us and the horrible pain and suffering He endured for us on Calvary because He loves us. I spend a lot of time talking about the past and my work with the Imperials. That's important because it has given me a platform to continue to sing and share my music and hopefully minister and encourage those who are hurting or in dire straits. The past is important to remember so we won't repeat our mistakes, but the future is MORE important because we can learn from those mistakes and not repeat them. Our memories serve as a compass for future endeavors and challenge us to greater heights and more accomplishments for the kingdom of God. Only one life will soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last.

My association with Elvis has opened so many doors that would normally be closed. Many wonderful fans and friends from around the world have been made over the years because I sang with Elvis. I'm reminded of the time a fan yelled out to Elvis, "Hey Elvis, you're the King!" Elvis didn't miss a beat with a quick retort. "Hey man, I'm not the king; Jesus is the King"! That humility was genuine, and Elvis' humble, God-fearing mother prayed for that boy so much I'm sure. Though he reached heights no other singer has ever reached, he never forgot his past, his humble beginnings.

Though my family wasn't as poor when I came around, they did start out that poor. They were share-croppers down in Choctaw Co, MS. They tilled land they didn't even own and their pay was to share in the crops produced. THAT'S POOR! They were so poor, the poor people called them poor.

I hope you have a blessed Easter and remember it's not about the Easter egg; it's about the risen Christ! I am excited about the future as I have learned so much from my past. I am ever learning and never arriving until I die. I will sing until I have no voice left to sing. I can do no less than give my all. To quote a deceased missionary: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep gaining what he cannot lose"!

Elvis Sings The Harmony



After nearly 11 years, label "Reel Trax", famous for now very rare import CDs "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "Where No One Stands Alone" is back with a new and exciting project, called "Elvis Sings The Harmony". Elvis' love for singing harmony has its roots in his love for gospel choirs. It is absolutely common and even necessary to be able to sing harmony when you do gospel songs, unless you are always on lead vocals. From the very early stages of his career the "King" never really needed to do any harmony part. He had his beloved "Jordanares" with him who did a great job all of the time. Later on there were plenty of other background singers who always could do the job really well. Maybe Elvis chose to do his own harmony in the recording studio on a couple of songs because he COULD do it (and very well for sure). Maybe he got the idea from his own "home recordings" which we know quite a few of (as early as 1958)? One thing is clear: First you have to have the ability to do it. There have been many singers in show business who have NOT been able to do their own harmony because they simply did not know how to do it (you've got to have an "ear" for that)! Elvis did a great job on all of the songs you hear on this brand new CD, there's no doubt. The one which is best

known is certainly the legendary 1969 recording "Suspicious Minds". But there sure is much more to explore on "Elvis Sings The Harmony" CD! All tracks used for this project were taken from best possible sources available to date. Many of songs were individually restored and corrected and some are previously unreleased on CD. This unique release is presented in a de-luxe six-panel digipack with many unusual photos.

Tracks:

01. I'm Yours
02. Could I Fall In Love (harmony vocal overdub)
03. Singing Tree (remake with harmony vocals)
04. Gentle On My Mind (different mix)
05. Don't Cry Daddy (taken from acetate)
06. Mama Liked The Roses (harmony vocal overdub)
07. Suspicious Minds (master take without fade)
08. True Love Travels On A Gravel Road
09. Power Of My Love
10. Do You Know Who I Am
11. Bridge Over Troubled Water (master without overdubbed applause)
12. There Goes My Everything
13. Snowbird (take 6)
14. Miracle Of The Rosary
15. Separate Ways
16. For The Good Times (harmony vocal overdub)
17. It's Midnight
18. Promised Land (take 6)
19. T-R-O-U-B-L-E (harmony vocal overdub)

Bonus tracks:

20. Could I Fall In Love (harmony vocal)
21. Don't Cry Daddy (master take 3 with vocal overdub)
22. Mama Liked The Roses (different harmony vocal)
23. Suspicious Minds (isolated harmony vocals only)
24. Power Of My Love (harmony vocal version)
25. Do You Know Who I Am (harmony vocal version)
26. Bridge Over Troubled Water (stereo version with vocal repair and harmony vocal overdub)
27. Promised Land ("This Is Elvis" edit)

Source: For CD Collectors Only / Updated: Apr 19th 2019



Elvis In Concert - Live On Screen at the O2, and various UK venues

IT'S BACK FOR 2019

One of the most unique concert experiences of recent years is set to return for 2019 having won the hearts of critics and fans alike, as Elvis is set once again to be back in the UK.

The show will see the King once again up close on screen alongside the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra live on stage, with this year being extra special as they will also be joined by The TCB Band – Elvis' original and long-time backing band. This is the only chance to experience the man who changed the course of popular music, selling an unparalleled 1 billion records worldwide.

Marking 50 years since Elvis' triumphant return to live performing - as he took up his infamous Las Vegas residency in 1969 - the 2019 tour will feature very special personal appearances from Priscilla Presley and long term Elvis associate Jerry Schilling, who will be sharing intimate stories, personal photos plus rare home movies.

On the tour, Priscilla Presley said: "We're BACK and better than ever! I am thrilled and honoured to be returning to the UK. Please join me live on stage to present this brand new show backed by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, Elvis's TCB Band, never before seen new footage of Elvis and more surprises including Jerry Schilling and myself on stage sharing our stories. This will be a once in a lifetime show you won't want to miss."

With Elvis never having toured the UK nor performing with a full sized orchestra, which were two of his dreams, these shows are a chance to both honour his legacy and for fans to see Elvis in live concert, who never had the opportunity to before.

Tour dates...

Nov 25th - Manchester Arena
 Nov 26th - Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff
 Nov 27th - Birmingham Resorts Arena
 Nov 28th - Sheffield Arena
 Nov 29th - SSE Hydro, Glasgow
 Dec 01st - O2 Arena, London

Terry Blackwood and The Imperials are Back!

This DVD is a recording of The Imperials and the Morryston Orpheus Choir Elvis Concert back in November 2017 at Cheltenham Town Hall. If you weren't there this is as close as you'll get as you hear and watch our favourite gospel singers join forces with the internationally renowned Welsh male voice choir to sing some of Elvis' favourite ballads and gospels.

The DVD costs £9.95 (plus £3.95 postage and packing)

Send your cheque (payable to Strictly Elvis UK) to:

Imperials DVD Offer, Strictly Elvis UK, Unit D, Bristol Court, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 3RY

Or to order and pay by card call Strictly Elvis on 01473 621564