

Elvis Gospel Fan Club Quarterly Newsletter 2020-4

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Editorial

Dear Gospel Fan,

I hope that this finds you well and even thriving. These are very difficult times for some, and my encouragement for those struggling is to trust the Lord Jesus, for He knows our situation and thoughts and is willing and able to help us. I have found that the Lord is always faithful and answers prayers even if the answer is sometimes “no” if what we pray for would not serve us well. I have also found that patience is essential, as the Lord will do things in His own time and His timing is perfect, even if we sometimes wish he would hurry up! We can be assured that he will stay with us and comfort us through difficult times.

I was encouraged to see that the clip they used of Elvis singing How Great Thou Art in the recent Channel 5 programme, Elvis - The Man that Rocked the World was the version where Elvis sings “How great I think you are”

Also encouraging was to read that James Burton has offered Lisa Marie to record a song with her. I hope that happens. It may help to assuage some of the grief she is still feeling after the death of her son.

I pray that you and yours will have a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth.

God bless you, *Madeleine*

New Elvis Film to Resume Filming in Australia

Tom Hanks headed back to Australia, six months after he tested positive for COVID-19. The 64-year-old actor, as well as the cast and crew of the upcoming Elvis Presley biopic, are returned to Queensland to resume production on the 8th October

"Looking forward to getting to work after the lengthy delay," the Film's Director Luhrmann said. "We're back to, as Elvis liked to say, 'taking care of business!' It is a real privilege in this unprecedented global moment that Tom Hanks has been able to return to Australia to join Austin Butler and all of our extraordinary cast and crew to commence production on Elvis."

"I cannot emphasize enough how lucky we feel in the current climate that the state of Queensland, and Queenslanders in general, have been so supportive of this film," he continued. "We thank our partners in the Queensland Government and Queensland Health for their extremely diligent process, so that we can be an example how creativity and productivity can proceed safely and responsibly in a way that protects our team and the community at large. We are all excited to start working with Tom Hanks when he is out of quarantine in two week." Tom Hanks revealed in March that he and his wife, Rita Wilson, tested positive for COVID-19, while working on pre-production on the film in Australia. They were the first celebrities to confirm their diagnoses.

After being quarantined and recovering from the coronavirus, he and Rita returned to Los Angeles. Tom updated his fans and followers on his recovery, sharing details about what it was like surviving the flu-like virus.

"Our discomfort because of the virus was pretty much done in two weeks. We had very different reactions, and that was odd," he explained in July. "My wife lost her sense of taste and smell, she had severe nausea, she had a much higher fever than I did. I just had crippling body aches, I was very fatigued all the time and I couldn't concentrate on anything for more than about 12 minutes. That last bit is kinda like my natural state anyway."

He has since donated plasma and blood to help develop a COVID-19 vaccine. He's also joked about what the potential vaccine should be named.

"The question is, 'What now? What do we do now? Is there something we can do?' And, in fact, we just found out that we do carry the antibodies," Hanks said during Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me! "We have not only been approached, we have said, 'Do you want our blood? Can we give plasma?' And in fact, we will be giving it now to the places that hope to work on, what I would like to call, the Hank-ccine."

"I'm not trying to hog it with a copyright," he laughed. "I'm not going to the patent office."



Elvis performs with The Statesman Quartet at Ellis Auditorium | July 27, 1956

Brian Petersen in 'The Atomic Powered Singer', wrote that on July 27, 1956, Elvis did a typically unexpected thing when he turned up at the Blackwood Brothers All-Night Gospel Singing at Ellis Auditorium and sang the two songs Jesus Filled My Every Need and You'll Never Walk Alone with the Statesmen Quartet.

Larry Strickland and the Stamps Quartet



Larry has just produced a wonderful album in memory of Elvis. Called "Legacy" The songs are:
Long Black Train, Just a Closer Walk, Take My Hand Lord, I Hope this Day is Good, In the Garden, Love Lifted Me
\$9.99 available from www.larrystricklandmusic.com

Larry Remembers Elvis

My first performance with Elvis was on stage at The International Hilton in Las Vegas. I was concentrating so hard learning my parts that I have very little memory of the show. I do remember being awe struck. The crowd was wild and screaming. The orchestra was huge and the sound was heavenly, unlike anything I had ever heard live. The background singers, which I was a part, were all tight and the harmonies were magnificent. And then there was the man himself, Elvis. How do you put into words what he looked and sounded like? It feels strange for me, as a man, to say he was beautiful but it's the truth. His outfit, his hair, his face, his demeanor, his voice was all something very unique and beautiful. I would never get over being in awe and star struck whenever he came on stage or walked into the room.

Born and raised in Raleigh, NC, Larry Strickland was the son of a preacher that loved Gospel Music. Attending his first gospel concert when he was 12 years old, he was hooked. Blessed with a deep voice that few possess, he started singing with gospel quartets traveling all over the state of North Carolina until he was forced to join the military in 1966. After spending four years serving the country in the US Army working with the National Security Agency in Frankfurt, Germany, he continued singing with gospel quartets in and around North Carolina. It wasn't long before his voice was noticed by the legendary JD Sumner and the Stamps Quartet. In 1974, Larry was asked to join the group and overnight, he went from singing in regional quartets in the south to touring and recording with Elvis Presley. He stayed with Elvis until his passing in 1977.

Following Elvis's death, Larry continued to perform with the Stamps. In 1979 he met an unknown red headed dynamo who went on to form one of the biggest duo's in music history with her daughter. Larry and Naomi Judd have been married now for over 30 Years. Throughout all of this, he has managed, produced and performed on some of the biggest stages in the world. His voice is heard on millions of records, but he has never lost his love for Gospel Music and continues to perform with the Stamps and others to this day

Of **Legacy** Larry says:

I have become keenly aware of the fact that everyone who was personally involved with Elvis and his music all have expiration dates. Seems like we lose someone almost every year. There will be a time, in the not too distant future, when there will no longer be original band members and backup singers left for the fans to meet. I was honored to be a part of more than 200 concerts with the King. The music he made changed history. This is my motivation for making this recording.

Photo (right) shows Larry sitting next to Elvis



Tribute to a Wonderful Woman

Julie Anne McBride contacted me by phone from Australia in the late 90s soon after we had established the Elvis Gospel Fan Club. She was very keen to help what we were doing in any way and I am sorry I did not take her up on all of the help she offered. She very kindly sent us a 25th Anniversary Limited Gold Edition set Elvis the Definitive Collection of 8 DVDs covering Elvis' life and beyond. It had been produced by the newly formed Australian Company, Rayjon Vision. Because Julie found it difficult typing, she preferred phone calls and we had several. She was a lovely enthusiastic lady, and I was sad to hear of her death last year. I want to honour her as a fellow Christian and Elvis fan who is determined to let people know about the love of Jesus, so here is an overview of her amazing story.



Photo shows Julie Anne with her husband Neville

Julie Anne Lambert was born in 1951, suffering from cerebral palsy. When she was 5 years old her parents reluctantly decided to put her into institutional care. Although her parents drove the four hours twice a week to bring her home for the weekend, the time at the institution was not happy and Julie Anne did not progress very much. Eventually during her teens her intelligence and gifting were recognised, and she had teachers who helped her Matriculate. Her first job was in a sheltered workshop which she was loved and enjoyed working and learning new skills. She knew also that when her parents could no longer care for her, her brother her only sibling would continue her care. There was little to fear. That was until 1975 when her brother was killed by an exploding drum of weedkiller on the family farm. This was a great shock to Julie Anne, and she started to ask, "Where is God?", "What is there for me?" "Who will look after me?" She said to God "If you are real help me to understand why you took my brother."

The next day she came across a youth pastor of a church she had once attended and he introduced her to Jacob's Ladder, a Christian community ministering to Adelaide's poor and marginalised. It was through the care of this community that Julie Anne moved from being a nominal Christian to a living relationship with Jesus. She said, "have never had any trouble believing in the cross or the virgin birth, but I was 24 before I was born again." With the support of the community Julie gained confidence and independence and she began caring for others, eventually setting up a community house for people with disabilities and for the able. This was a new concept, but Julie Anne was given a grant from the government for her Koinonia ministry. What she had learned at Jacobs ladder, cooking, washing, interdependence and a meaningful existence she passed onto others. Because of this she has something in common with Elvis. In 1985 she was presented with the Jaycees Award. Soon after this she married Neville Mc Bride with whom she had become friends and the relationship had developed. They believed that the Lord had drawn them together because of the work they were doing. They both continued helping the disabled by setting up the Koinonia Trust. Part of that work is raising community awareness of the worth and talents of all people, especially those with disabilities.

Julie Anne's (JA) husband Neville, tells us:

JA's interest in Elvis started when she was very young and was probably taken by his charisma and love and respect that he portrayed to people. I'm told she had a large poster of Elvis on her bedroom ceiling where she was staying in the support accommodation in Adelaide.

In the days of LP's, JA had records of Elvis that could not be bought in Australia. On becoming a Christian at the age of 24 (when her brother was killed), where she had Elvis as KING, she swapped the King title to Jesus her Lord and Saviour.

JA always wanted to go to America but unfortunately didn't make it. With the advent of computers and the internet, opened a whole new and wide world for someone with a disability. JA would research and investigate; she had the endurance and tenaciousness to push through with drive and determination.



Don Elvis



From our friend Rev. Fred Omvlee in the Netherlands:

I have a Catholic Elvis colleague: Don Elvis! Priest Antoniu Petrescu from Romania is a priest in Italy singing the most beautiful Elvis gospels! Next step: ecumenical Elvis festival 😊😊

Here is Don Elvis' Story:

"People ask me 'How can you reconcile Elvis impersonations with your choice of professional work?'" said Father Antoniu Petrescu, who puts on his jumpsuits when not working as a parish priest in the Italian town of Avezzano. He said he believes Elvis is an appropriate inspiration for Christian worship because he sang of "love in general".

The 34-year-old's web site (www.antonilupetrescu.com) has two separate entries -- one for the priest, another for the artist, which talks about his "fiery voice" and discography including the singles "Lovin' Arms" and "Reach out to Jesus".

Father Petrescu feels his responsibility as a priest is to "walk this Earth in love for Jesus Christ", a task in which he is inspired by Elvis's "search for spirituality in his own life". He says, "The Lord gave me a gift, and I don't see why I should bury it." If someone criticizes him, he responds, "St. Augustine said and repeated that he who sings well prays twice."

"Since I was a child, I nourished a special affection for Elvis; my parents adored him. I can say that I was raised with his music and his myth."

"The majority of people encourage me to go ahead on this road. For my part, I try not to hurt the religious sensibilities of anyone. And I share with them the positive vibrations that I experience when I perform." He says that his Elvis performances are not a goal in themselves but have a goal of evangelism.

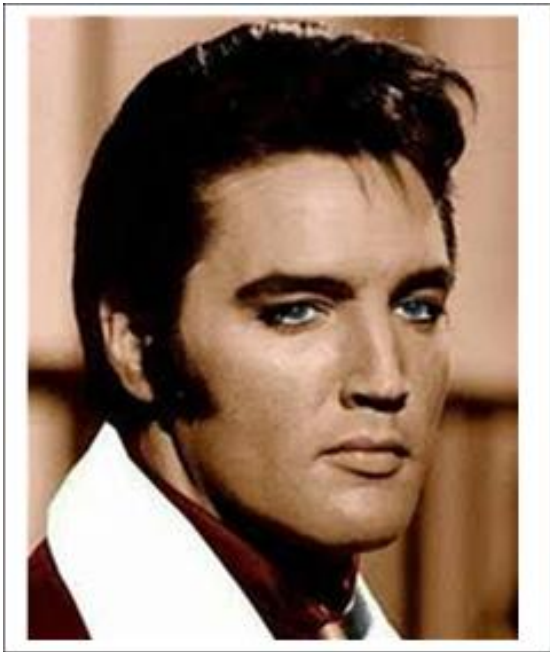
ORAÇÕES DE ELVIS



Madeleine Wilson

TRADUTOR - MÁRCIO SÉRGIO CASSIANO DE FREITAS

My book Prayers of Elvis has been translated into Portuguese by a Brazilian Pastor. It is available from www.amazon.com.br



The funeral service for Benjamin was held in Malibu. He is now laid to rest in a sarcophagus across the fountain opposite his grandfather in the Meditation Garden at Graceland. Lisa Marie's Instagram post to Ben on his birthday...

*My beautiful angel,
I worshiped the ground you walked on,
on this earth and now in Heaven. My
heart and soul went with you. The depth
of the pain is suffocating and bottomless
without you every moment of every day. I
will never be the same.*

*Please wait for me my love and hold my
hand while I stay to continue to protect
and raise your little sisters and to be
here for Riley. I know you would want
that.*

*Happy Birthday my sweet, sweet Boy.
You were much too good for this world.*



The sarcophagus of Benjamin Storm Presley Keough, son of Lisa Marie Presley

Elvis perhaps showing Lisa Marie how to pray. No doubt if he were still with us, he would be praying with and for her

