

A Touch From the Father's Hand

One evening when my parents, my husband and I were having dinner at a small family restaurant, I witnessed a scene that became a powerful object lesson. Initially, the atmosphere in the restaurant was warm and friendly, alive with the laughter and conversations of parents and their children.

Your Past Doesn't Have to Dictate the Future

☒ Reggie Dabbs had a rough start in life, but learned that although he couldn't change his past, he could make a difference in the future—and that's just what he is doing now every day. Dabbs speaks to 2.5 million young people a year, and, with John Driver, he tells his story in *Reggie* .

Dabbs was born to a 16-year-old unwed mother who already had three children. In order to feed them, she felt compelled to accept the offer of a male friend who said he would give her \$20 for sex. As a result, she became pregnant and knew she couldn't handle raising another child. It was then that

she remembered a caring former schoolteacher, Mrs. Dabbs, who had said to her students, "If you ever need anything, call me." And she did.

Mrs. Dabbs and her husband had six grown children, but took the girl into their home and cared for her until baby Reggie was born. They served as his parents until he was in fourth grade and then officially adopted him.

Trust God With the Outcome

For most of us, envisioning how God wants to use us is easy. The real work comes in faithfully taking steps each day in the direction of His will.

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Laura Story

Laura Story: An 'Indescribable' Life



Imagine a 19-year-old college student looking out the window while driving through Asheville, N.C. She goes home and writes a song about how she felt. Years later the song is on the radio, sung at her college and heard around the world.

If that sounds odd, imagine how Laura Story felt. She wrote “Indescribable” and was more surprised than anyone that the demo she sent to Nashville, Tenn., ended up in the hands of Chris Tomlin, who eventually recorded it. “All of a sudden we started hearing the song everywhere,” says Story, 33. “It wasn’t anything I was looking for ... that’s the story of my life.”

Story lacked so much confidence in her musical ability—namely, her singing—that she’s still surprised to be leading worship at her Atlanta church and at events around the country: “I grew up listening to people who could do all these vocal acrobatics and I knew I couldn’t do that. I have a decent voice, and I sing in tune most of the time. But when I realized this was something maybe God wanted me to do, I wasn’t going to shy away from it.”

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Kari Jobe

Kari Jobe: Changing the Atmosphere



Kari Jobe doesn’t just have a soft speaking voice and gentle demeanor. The 29-year-old worship leader is also blessed with the singing voice of an angel. And it’s the combination of these qualities that often allows her to help people lower their guard, release their burdens and truly worship God.

“When David played before Saul it caused the tormenting spirits to leave. I’ve always loved that,” Jobe says. “When you ask the Lord to come, He does come and it changes the atmosphere. That’s how it was for me. That’s what worship is

for me.”

Not that Jobe is any different from the rest of us. She finds it difficult at times to fully lay down her burdens before the Lord, and sometimes those experiences become songs—as in the case of “You Are For Me,” which she wrote while in an anxious “season of waiting.”

“I felt like I could see some things that God had promised through a chain-link fence, but I couldn’t get to them yet. God was teaching me that His timing is perfect,” Jobe recalls before quoting Psalm 27:14: “‘Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart.’”

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Lincoln Brewster

Lincoln Brewster: Rockin’ a Baptist Hymnal



Never the churchgoing type, Lincoln Brewster grew up in Alaska and California surrounded by domestic violence and drug abuse. His stepfather was a gruff fisherman now known to millions as a boat captain on the reality TV series, *Deadliest Catch*.

“The fact that I’m married with kids and a worship leader at a church? That’s the miracle story,” says Brewster, 39. Even more unbelievable for Brewster—who, at 19, was former Journey frontman Steve Perry’s lead guitarist and had a mainstream record contract—is that one of his songs was recently published in a Baptist hymnal. “If you had my background, you would’ve been voted least likely to be a worship leader. So to have a song in a Baptist hymnal? It’s God having a sense of humor.”

“Leading worship is not what I thought I’d be doing, and it’s not what I wanted to do,” says Brewster, a staple on Christian radio and a worship pastor at a church near Sacramento, Calif. “But when God got a hold of my heart, I realized that this is what I was born to do.”

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Chris Quilala

Chris Quilala: The Night That Changed Me



As a teenager, Chris Quilala asked God for one thing while attending church camp: freedom in worship. “That night, during the worship service, I lifted my hands for the first time. At that moment I felt His presence so strong,” Quilala says. “It was such an intense experience in which I felt the love, peace and fear of God all at the same time. From that moment on I knew that God was such a huge, loving and real God.”

Today, as a worship leader with Jesus Culture, Quilala helps people experience the same freedom. “My prayer over the past few years had simply been, ‘God, more than anything, I just want to know You.’ For me, worship is [an] intimate opportunity to express the love and burning passion that’s in my heart.”

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Leeland Mooring

Leeland Mooring: Worship in a Lincoln Town Car



Leeland Mooring, frontman for the band Leeland, is only 22, but he's already preparing for the day when he no longer performs before big crowds and receives the attention that follows. Maybe that's because his second home was once his family's Lincoln Town Car. His parents had a band, Majestic Praise, and traveled with two evangelists, conducting revivals around the country.

"We did that for 2-1/2 years. I was 11, my brother was 13, and my sister was 9," Mooring says. "We weren't sure whether we'd be able to pay the bills, and it was then as kids that we began to see the sufficiency of God, the power of God."

Mooring's parents eventually started a church in Baytown, Texas, with Leeland as the unofficial youth-group worship leader. These days his band has the ability to make a leap into mainstream pop music, but Mooring says of the group: "Ultimately (praise and worship) is what comes out of us." And as for all the attention? He could live without it. "If all this was taken away, I could go back to Baytown and continue to pursue God's purpose in my life."

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Brian

Doerksen

Brian Doerksen: Close-Up



Moment you knew you were called to be a worship leader: I was a teenager and my dad took a group of us to a Petra concert. Toward the end of their set, they did some songs that were ... more about drawing us into the presence of God. I was touched by God and wanted more!

Hardest thing about music ministry: Doing your best in a way that's deep, transparent and vulnerable—and it being dismissed.

Best part about your life: Getting a hug from my 11-year-old son, Isaiah [who has Fragile X Syndrome and doesn't speak]. He knows life is about giving and receiving love!

Why it's better to live in Canada: Our politics are more peaceful, and we are a bridge culture between Europe and the U.S., so we get the best of both!

Worship is ... Surrender. Sometimes we forget that's what the word means ... and don't realize the most profound expression of worship may be the times when we are willing not to play or sing.

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Misty

Edwards

Misty Edwards: Writing With the Holy Spirit



As a leader at the International House of Prayer, Misty Edwards is charged with staffing and encouraging those involved with the 24-7 prayer room. “Keeping it going ... is a lot of work,” she says. “It’s the primary place I pour out my energy.”

But despite the demands, Edwards is able to write songs and lead worship because of the Holy Spirit, whom she calls “my closest friend.”

“Worship-leading and songwriting with Him is exhilarating,” she says. “When we pray and sing the Scripture, He actually teaches us—often through our own lips.”