

Celebrating a lifetime ministry of gospel music

# Through the Years

By Robin Melton

**T**he year was 1961, and he sat on stage with the rest of the Claiborne Brothers preparing to sing for an areawide rally. He looked across the stage as a girl's trio entered. *The one in the middle is kind of cute*, he thought. Surely a girl like that would understand his lifestyle, traveling and singing for Christ.

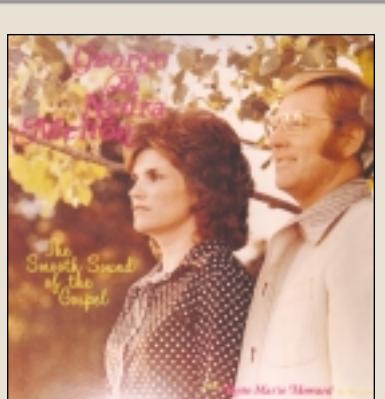
Afterwards, he made his way over to the singing group. Trying to be polite, he introduced himself to the other two girls, and then confidently held his hand out to the third. She gracefully placed her gloved hand in his and gave it a quick shake. They lingered on stage for a few moments, and then she was gone.

A few months later, they sang together again. By this time, he had seen her picture on an album in a record store. Their short meeting still lingering in his mind, he was excited about talking to this girl again. As she sang, anticipation made his face grow as red as his hair. He spoke to her on the bus, and a romance of dates spent singing at concerts and revivals led to an engagement that lasted for three months, and then, a wedding.

That special day he watched as she entered the auditorium, flowers and Bible in hand, her arm draped over her father's, and slowly glided down the aisle. This would begin a lifetime of love, service, and faith for a family that began with the words, "May I now present to you Mr. and Mrs. George Melton."

## God's Way, God's Supply

The Meltons has been a name synonymous with gospel music. As the



George and Nedra Melton on an album cover from the 1970s.

## Melton Luncheon to Honor 50 Years of Gospel Music

Everyone is invited to the celebration of George Melton's 50th year in gospel music. It will begin with a luncheon July 9 at the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. After the meal, the family will sing in a concert that also will feature George singing with members of past groups.

For information or tickets, visit the NACC Web site, [www.nacctheconnectingplace.org](http://www.nacctheconnectingplace.org).

chartering member of The Gospel Lads, George continued singing with the Lads until four of their five children were in school. At that time, the family made their home in East Peoria, Illinois.

A nearby church called George and asked if he and Nedra would sing at their Sweetheart Banquet on

Valentine's Day, to which George replied, "Sing with a girl?" The family ministry thus began.

He and Nedra continued this family ministry on the weekends and weeknights as the children grew up. Many times he went to work in the early morning hours, came home at the end of the day, loaded up the family, and headed to a nightly revival meeting.

When the four oldest children had finished school, George and Nedra sat the family down and announced they were going to travel full-time again. They became debt-free, started homeschooling the youngest, and began their travels in a van and trailer. They earned an income that normally would not be suitable for one person, let alone a family. George named the ministry, God's Way Ministries, because he declared, "God's work, done God's way, does not lack God's supply."

Each of the five children married, and now there are eight grandchildren, one of whom lives with Jesus. Out of the whole family, there are six ordained ministers, two full-time music groups, and one part-time singing group. The current Melton Family Singers includes George, Nedra, David, their oldest son, and his wife, Krista. CrossWalk includes twins Kenny and Rachel, and myself, Kenny's wife. Rachel's husband, Bert, is a music minister in Carterville, Missouri. The youngest child, Andy, ministers with his wife, Crystal, in Davis, California. Rhonda, the oldest child, is in a full-time ministry with her husband, Tom, in Algonac, Michigan. She also is in the singing group Everlasting.

The entire Melton clan uses every



Members of the Melton family continue to serve in music ministry as two full-time singing groups and one part-time group. The Melton Family Singers include George and Nedra; other groups include CrossWalk and Everlasting.

opportunity possible to get together and sing. Through the years, God has done wonderful things through this amazing and dedicated family.

### Ministering Together

What makes the Melton family so special? I have been a part of this family just long enough to catch the vision of their ministry, and here's my theory: The family eats together, works together, sings together, often lives together, prays together, and definitely lives by faith.

I propose to you that the Meltons

are not different than others when it comes to the pain they have endured. From basic child rearing, through rebellions, addictions, deaths of parents, a near-death of one of their own children, and the death of a grandchild, the Meltons have had one thing in common binding them together: music. From the very beginning, George knew he was to sing for the Lord, and he worked hard to see that the family shared in a ministry that had eternal purpose.

So many families are looking for the one thing to keep them together, but I

think that the Melton family hit upon the answer quite simply. A family that ministers together, stays together. There's no better example to our children than to share in a family ministry based on faith. One where every person's job is just as important as yours is, and where their role in the family ministry is taken seriously.

George Melton will celebrate his 50th year in gospel music at the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, this summer. The Melton family continues to sing and serve to this day, because God is the master composer, and He spends our whole lives tuning us for His purpose.

**Robin Melton** lives in Joplin, Missouri.



George and Nedra met when the Claiborne Brothers, left photo (George, second from right), sang at the same rally as the Mellowettes, center photo (Nedra on left). They were married a short time later.