

God Had A Plan For The Easter Brothers



Life Stories, Photo's And Songs



Do you take this woman to be your wedded wife
 to cherish her and to keep her throughout your natural life
 To honor and to love her said the preacher to the man
 I do he responded as he gently held her hand

Do you take him for your husband To keep him in your heart
 To cherish and to love him till death you both shall part
 To honor and obey him said the preacher to the bride
 I do she responded he pronounced them man and wife

They knew the vows were sacred and kept them through the years
 Hand in hand together through the laughter and the tears
 Fifty three years later he laid his bride to rest
 and deemed the marriage they had shared among the very best

If you desire a marriage like you just heard about
 Take this advice I give you you'll find without a doubt
 It's not a hidden secret just a simple little task
 Keep Jesus in the middle and that's what makes it last

Marriage vows are sacred so keep them in your heart
 and when we get to heaven I DO will be our part
 For then we'll be with Jesus to be ever by his side
 and he will be the bridegroom and we will be the bride

Roses Will Bloom Again

Just Wait And See

Don't Mourn What Might

Have Been Only God Knows

How And When But Roses

Will Bloom Again



This poem was written by Russell Easter in memory of His wife, Myrtle Easter who went to be with the Lord March 17, 2003. This Book was written in memory of Myrtle Easter, my sister-in-law, and my friend. I miss her so much, but we know it won't be long till we will be together again, where there will be no parting.

May God Bless all who read this book. Written by Ann Easter.

CONTENTS

Chapter 1	Mom and Pop Easter.....	2
	Stories of the Boys in the Early Days	
Chapter 2	Russell, Edd, James and Simons Conversion.....	4
Chapter 3	Second Generation.....	7
Chapter 4	Recordings.....	9
Chapter 5	Bus Drivers, Awards and Interesting Stories.....	11
Chapter 6	Rev and Mrs Kivett.....	14
	Rev and Mrs Leonard Repass Sr.	
Chapter 7	A word from the Bunnies.....	15
	Some favorite Easter Brothers Songs	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Sarah Hambrick who is a very good friend of mine for encouraging me to write this book. Sarah has been in a wheelchair since an automobile accident in 1971.

I also would like to thank my grand daughter, Tonya Meeks for all the retyping and other help she has given me.

A very special thanks to AD ARTS in Bassett, VA for publishing this book.

Copyright 2004



Lilla & Jim Easter

Mom
&
Dad
Of
The
Easter
Brothers



Simon Peter Easter

Russell Lee Easter

James Madison Easter

Edward Franklin Easter

Easter Brothers from Mt. Airy, N.C.
(Mayberry) home of Andy Griffith

CHAPTER ONE

Mom and Pop Easter

It all started when James Lincoln Easter (Jim) met Lillie Mae Talbert and joined in Holy Matrimony on June 25, 1926. They began to start their family on September 5, 1927 when the Easters became the proud parents of their first son, Simon Peter Easter. On April 22, 1930 their second son was born, Russell Lee Easter. On April 24, 1932 their third son was born, James Madison Easter. On March 27, 1934 their fourth son was born, Edward Franklin Easter. Edward was the last to complete the Easter family.

Loving music came very early in Russell, James and Edds childhood. Unfortunately Simon was never interested in music. As the boys grew, their love for music grew. I suppose their talent came from Mom Easters side of the family. She played "Old Fashioned Style" on the banjo and guitar. The Easters were very poor, Dad Easter worked hard to make ends meet at the Furniture Factory. They were not able to have a lot of musical instruments. Mom Easter paid \$3.00 for the boy's first guitar but it never seemed to have a complete set of strings. James traded a rabbit for a fiddle, which the boys never mastered it. Edd had a great imagination; he used a stick that he imagined was a Banjo making the pretend musical sounds by his mouth. Edds pretend Banjo was also used as a pretend horse while playing "Cowboys and Indians." Then if the "Outlaws" got near his pretend horse became a rifle. A friend had left some musical instruments at their home leaving with strict orders not to let the boys bother them. It was funny how Edd seemed to have learned how to play the Mandolin around that same time.

Stories from the Boys in the Early Days

Some very interesting stories can be heard from the boys such as when Edd was always late returning to school after lunchtime. He just had to hear the Stanley Brothers "theme song on W.T.O.B. Radio, Winston Salem, N.C. The Louvin Brothers, The Blue Sky Boys, Reno and Smiley, Flatt and Scruggs and Bill Monroe were some other groups who also inspired the Brothers.

Their songs began at an early age. Russell was making kites for the brothers James and Edd. They were racing to get Honey suckle limbs for the kites. Edd wrote the lyrics "You race over there, I'll race back, little turkey, little turkey I can't cack". Of course this song never seem to hit the charts.

The "Old Minnow Hole" was where the brothers learned to swim. Russell was the first one who learned how to swim. He used a not so good technique to teach the others. Russell would give the winner a cigarette to whichever one that could swim to him first.

The boys sat up pins in the Bowling Alley for money to go to the movies; they were good at bumming pennies for this purpose as well.

Edd had a little friend named Jimmie Talbert. They were playing near the spring where they got their drinking water from. Jimmie left before Edd did so when it was time to leave Edd went the wrong way and got lost. Two nice ladies drove by seeing the boy crying and stopped to try and help him get back home. He could only answer "I live where Daddy lives". When they ask Edd where his Daddy lived he answered "Where Bobby Talbert lives". This in return gave the ladies no other option but to take him to the Police Station. The grocery store operator was contacted and he immediately recognized him as Jim Easters boy. They promised him a ride home on the Fire Truck if he would stop crying. So he went home ringing the bell and drinking a bottle

of pop but never stopped crying. When he arrived at home Mom Easter was outside yelling frantically for him.

The boys were carried to school quite often by the City Police because they played hookie a lot. Unfortunately each of them quit school as soon as they were old enough.

Mom and Dad Easter were not Christians when the boys were young. In fact the boys were never in church until they were grown. Alcohol was introduced to the boys at a very early age. James recalls at the age eight or ten years old when he got drunk for the first time. Mom and Dad Easter had left a glass of liquor on the table. James said he picked up the glass and ran out the door with it and hid under the house. Russell was ordered to chase him down and get the liquor back. Once Russell got to him he unfortunately helped James empty the glass. Thank the Lord that Mom and Dad Easter accepted Christ later on. Dad Easter even preached some in his last years.

Photo Gallery

This the beginning of the Green Valley Quartet (1953)
which later became The Easter Brothers.



L to R
Russell Easter, Jack Phillips, John Brummett, Troy Brummett.



Easter Brothers 1950's



Easter Brothers 1960's



CHAPTER TWO

Russell's Conversion

Russell was the first to learn how to play the guitar which he used to play at dances. Later he taught James to play and he began to accompany him as well. Russell was nineteen years old when he met Myrtle Brummett. Myrtle was fifteen when she and Russell were married. Russell continued to play worldly music for a while. Myrtle finally persuaded Russell to move to Danville, Virginia. She had lived in Danville part of her growing up years. She thought if she got him away from his drinking buddies that things might be better.

Russell got a job in Dan River Mills and as soon as Myrtle became old enough she worked there too. Myrtle was brought up in the Church Of God but had not been to church since she was married to Russell. They decided to attend a Tent Revival and that's when they both surrendered their hearts to God. Some said Russell's salvation would not last two weeks. Of course everyone can see Praise God that it's been over fifty years and he has never regretted a time giving his heart to the Lord.

Some of Myrtle's family got saved as well, her brothers Troy Brummett and John Brummett. Her brother-in-law Jach Phillips was saved also and formed a singing group with Russell. They called themselves "The Green Valley Quartet." Myrtle traveled with Russell and was always Russell's right arm. She encouraged him in his singing ministry. Russell began writing songs which made more sense than the ones he had written earlier such as: "Jimmy caught Dickens pushing Earnest in the Tub". It was funny though, Reno and Smiley ended up putting this song out. God has inspired Russell to write many beautiful songs since then.

Edd's Conversion

Edd moved to Danville and went to work in Dan River Mills as soon as he was old enough. While on one of his alcohol binges, he made the remark to Russell that he never invited him to go to church with him. This made Russell feel bad but it made Myrtle very angry. The following Sunday morning Russell and Myrtle went by Mom Easters who was now living in Danville. They had come to take Edd to church. Mom Easter said "there is no way you will get Edd out of bed because he came in at five am this morning". Myrtle told her that Edd had hurt Russell's feelings and she was going to get him out of bed and take him to church. It was a heated argument but Edd finally gave up and got ready for church.

The late Jessie Highfield was pastor at that time. There was no dynamic message that morning but while Russell and Sherman Combo were singing "Keep Your Eyes on Jesus", Freeman Brummett (Myrtle's brother) went over and ask Edd to go to the Altar with him. Edd was afraid that this might be his last call so he went on up to the altar that morning. Praise God because Edd also turned his heart over to the Lord that morning. Edd will always be grateful to Myrtle for that "extra push" shall we call it, to get up and go to church that Sunday. Edd immediately began to play with Russell and his group. He sang baritone and played the mandolin, guitar, and banjo. Since Edd was saved, God has inspired him to write many beautiful songs and he does a splendid job with recitations. As the singing group went on, the Lord called Troy Brummett to preach, he and his wife Janie with their children Carolyn and Danny began a Tent Ministry. John Brummett moved away and they both got out of the group.

The first recording was a single entitled "White Winged Angel", vocal by Russell Easter and Irvin Stone. The other side was "Have You Been Invited" vocal Russell, Edd Easter and Weldon Miller. Dudley Pondexter on the fiddle and Troy playing bass accompanied them. Edd

was playing the mandolin with Russell and Weldon playing the guitar. After Edd was saved he met a lady by the name of Ann Martin who is me. I had come to hear The Easter Brothers Sing and that's how we met. We married years later and have been worshipping the Lord together ever since.

James Conversion

James Easter's life was a bit different from Russell and Edd. James got involved in automobile theft and other things that caused him to have to spend time in prison. Most everyone except for Mom Easter gave up on James. She showed a true mother's love towards James. Every two weeks she would cook some of James favorite food and she would hire a taxi to take her to see him in prison.

James and some his friends were stealing gas for a stolen car they were driving. The man of the house heard them and came out. They had to run taking the plug from the gas tank with them. The man got in his car to chase them down but of course the car stopped shortly after that due to his gas had ran out. The boys knew that would happen. They turned around and played the part of the "Good Samaritan". They acted as if to stop and check on the poor guy whose gas ran out on him. The man began to explain to them what had happened. While they pretended to help him, they pretended they found his gas plug in the trunk and gave it to him. They helped the man get gas and the man was so grateful that he called them "Fine Boys".

James first prison term was spent in Dobson, North Carolina. He was too young to go to an adult prison. Later he spent some time in Albemarle, North Carolina. His last term was spent in Halifax, North Carolina. He had been sentenced to fifteen years. If he had not given himself up he would have been killed. The Sheriff's Department had been given orders to shoot him on sight.

A seed was planted in James heart when Rev. C.S. Grogan, a prison minister preached a message saying "There is someone that loves you and he knows you by name". James thought he must know my Mama, which is the only person that loves me. A large number of inmates were saved during that revival, but James had not yet made that commitment to the Lord.

While James was in prison he became very close to one guy. He taught him to play the guitar. The young man planned to run and get married then return. James tried to talk him out of it, but his mind was made up. James was kind enough to loan him some clothes. His friend had put them on underneath his prison clothes so when he ran he would have them. His friends plan did not work; he was shot and died in James arms. At this time Simon was trying desperately to get James out on parole. After five years of his sentence James was called to the Wardens Office. "James" he said, "I'm setting you free today". James sat down and ask the Warden to repeat what he had said. It was real, James was free.

Sometime after James was released from prison, he met a sweet girl named Louise Sechrist. Soon they were married but James was not ready to settle down yet. He soon began to cause him and Louise marital problems. They later made the decision to go their separate ways.

While James was sharpening something on an emery wheel that was going at a high rate of speed a piece of stone broke off. The stone hit James in the chest causing him to be rushed to the hospital. He had lost a lot of blood. James remembers his spirit actually leaving his body. He saw himself floating above his bed. He could see Doctors and Nurses working frantically with him. It was like a huge screen in front of him projecting his life. He saw his past life and it was not a pretty picture. James began to plead with God to allow him to go back and set his house in order. God answered his prayer and gave him another chance to make things right. James had no more desire to be the best Safe Cracker in the world. God had given James a new desire, for him to go

out and tell others what God has done in his life. James gave his heart to the Lord, and God called him to preach the Gospel.

He began to sing tenor with Russell and Edd making a beautiful trio of brother's harmony. Now the roads that James helped to build while in prison, he now drives on in a Gospel Singing Bus, telling others about Jesus! Only God could make that change. Praise His Holy Name! God has given James some beautiful songs. "Thank You Lord for Your Blessings on Me" was a beautiful chorus God gave him. The other brothers helped with the verses as they usually do when an idea for a song is expressed. The devil always made James believe when Russell and his family visited him in prison that he would never have a son. As we know, the devil is a liar because not only is he still married to Louise but James had two sons Steve and Jeff, and a daughter by the name of Teresa.

Simon's Conversion

Simon never traveled with the Easter Brothers but a few times when he helped to carry the music in for them. Simon's younger brothers had a burden for his soul. The first years of Simons life was not a drinking life as the other three brothers. He worked hard and even had a home. Something happened later in his life that he did not have the Lord to help him with. The result was a broken marriage and heavy drinking then followed. Simon had a daughter Jean and a son Dennis. Dennis and Jean are now both married, I do not have their companions name but Dennis has a son named Anthony Wayne. Simon later married another lady by the name of Dorothy. She was able to bare him another son by the name of Charles. Edd had concern for his brother; he made the remark "Simon's life is so messed up, I do not see how he can get it straight". The truth is Simon could not do it alone but with God anything is possible.

Simon left the house to go for cigarettes and he had been drinking heavy. When he did not return, his family was advised that he had stepped in front of an automobile. He was critically injured and stayed in Baptist Hospital, Winston Salem for sometime. Little Dennis would go in to see him; a spark of hope would gleam in his eyes. When he returned, Dennis would say, "I believe Daddy is a little better". James would go in and ask Simon to just squeeze his hand, and ask if he could hear him. Knowing Simon could not talk to James, he would say "Simon, just think of God and ask him to come into your life". The nurses would tell James he could not hear but James did not give up. He kept praying and so did Russell and Edd.

Finally Simon came out of the coma and he did surrender his life to the Lord. His legs were damaged; he had poor circulation in them. He ended up having one of his legs amputated. As time went on, his other leg had to be amputated also. He suffered long and hard with his condition but he never drank again. The Lord finally took him home and Simon does not have to suffer any longer. The loss was hard for his son little Dennis but he has grown into a fine young man.



Easter Brothers
Allan Mills
Ronald Thomas
and Ray Price

CHAPTER THREE

Second Generation

The brothers are very proud of their offspring. As soon as the children were big enough to hold an instrument they were learning to play just like their fathers had. Eventually the boys were able to play behind their Dads and did very well. They were called "The Easter Bunnies"; Russell Jr. played most of his young life behind his father. Rodger who was also Russell's son played behind him as well. Jeff and Steve also played behind their father James. Last but not least Eddie and Bobby played behind their father Edd.

As a couple of the grandchildren grew up they played behind their grandfathers as well as their fathers had. They were Jason, Russell Jr's son and Josh, Jeff's son. These young boys who have grown to be nice young men, I guess felt like they had three other fathers, Russell, James and Edd. They became very close to the Brothers. Jason was one who could sing his Grandpa's part and filled Russell's place a few times during Myrtle's illness. Jason has now been called to preach. He and his wife Scarlet and son Caleb live in Mt. Airy which happens to be pretty close to his grandpa Russell. Josh is now driving buses for a bus company out of Nashville. Josh is married to Julie, and they have a beautiful little girl named Alexis.

Several Gospel Music groups have formed from the children. The "Easter Family" members included Russell Jr., his wife Barbara, daughter Marty and sons Jacob and Jarod. Occasionally Jason will travel with them as well. They make for a fine evening of Gospel music. Rodger and his wife Gail sing together also. He is a minister and they had a T.V. Ministry for a long time. They live near their parents Russell and Myrtle. Rodger and his family were very helpful during the hard times of Myrtle's illness, and since her death they have been right by Russell's side. Russell and Myrtle also have a daughter by the name of Linda Easter Shew. Linda used to travel and sing. She has a recording on some of the earlier projects. After her marriage to Grey Shew, she settled down as a housewife, and mothered three fine boys, Danny, Johnny and Joe. Danny and his wife Marsha have a beautiful daughter Marina. Joe is married to Malinda. Grey went to be with the Lord in August 2002, 7 months before Myrtle passed away. Linda now travels with her father and helps "The Easter Brothers" sell tapes.

James and Louise also have two sons in the Gospel Music Ministry. Jeff Easter married Sheri Williamson. Sheri is the daughter of Polly Lewis Williamson of the "Lewis Family, Gospel Group". Jeff and Sheri have formed their own Gospel Group called "Jeff and Sheri". They are widely known, especially since they are a part of the "Bill Gaither" concerts. Their children Madison and Morgan are a part of their group too, as well as Greg and Charlotte Ritchie, and Little Landon. Steve "Rabbit" Easter was nicknamed by the late Rusty Goodman; he has been a musician for a lot of Gospel Music Groups including "Jeff and Sherri", and "The Happy Goodmans". He now has a singing ministry of his own. Rabbit with his wife Sharon and daughter Molly live in Graham, Alabama. Rabbit has won a lot of awards in the Gospel Music field. James and Louise also have a daughter by the name of Teresa Shockly. She operates a music store for her father James in Mt. Airy. She is married to Clark Shockley and they have a son by the name of Zane.

Our son Bobby had a Gospel Music group at one time. They called themselves "The Second Generation". Bobby and his wife Karen, their daughters Melissa and Michelle are all in the Bus sales now. Bobby has always been fond of buses and now helps out other singing groups with transportation including "The Easter Brothers". Bobby and Karen are the proud grandparents, which are my great grandsons, Sage and Colt Calfee. They are the sons of Melissa

and husband Jeremiah Calfee. We also have a daughter and her name is Margaret Rakes. She sang in church growing up with twin girls Karen and Sharen Belcher. They called themselves "The Buffalo Ridge Trio". She is a member of the Praise and Worship team at the Rocky Mt Church of God. Margaret has a son by the name of Sam who has been called to the ministry and is a great inspiration of God's work. Margaret's daughter Tonya has a calling to minister to people when they are sick or injured. Tonya and her Husband Patrick Meeks are both Paramedic-Firefighters in Roanoke, VA. They have a beautiful daughter which is my great granddaughter, Abby Lynn Meeks. Our two other sons Billy and Eddie are both into the car business. They have been in car sales for a long time. Billy and his wife Brenda have a son William. William is married to Nikki, they have a sweet and beautiful daughter, which is also my great granddaughter, Haley Easter. Haley loves singing her Grandpa's song "Thank You Lord For Loving Me" and she is only three years old. Eddie is married to Rhonda, they have four children, Brittanie, Jessica, Julie and Doug. Their grandchildren are Ethan and Summer.

Also, James' granddaughter, Misty and her husband Jamie, have 4 cute little boys, Tanner, Dakota, Bryson, and Zack.

Russell's youngest son, Rodger and his wife Gail, have 3 daughters, Tiffany, Brandy, and Tracey (husband, Barry).



Years have brought many changes for the family of entertainers. Kneeling: Jeff and Steve (James' sons), Billy and Bobby (Edd's sons), Roger, Standing: and Russell Jr. (Russell's sons) along with James, Russell, and Edd. (early 70's)

CHAPTER FOUR

Recordings

The Easter Brothers have recorded several single records. All songs written and recorded by the Brothers were inspired by God. Their first recording was a single entitled "White Winged Angel, the other side was "Have You Been Invited" Their second recording was entitled "Unfriendly World", sung by Irvin Stone and Russell with him and James playing guitar, Edd playing Mandolin and Troy Brummett playing bass. The third recording was "Cattle On A Thousand Hills", vocal by Russell, James, Edd and Jack Phillips. James was on the mandolin, Russell and Edd on guitar. The other side was "Prescription for the Soul", vocal by Jack Phillips and Russell, with him also playing Banjo, Edd playing mandolin, James playing guitar and Troy on bass.

The Easter Brothers were very excited to record on the "King" label the next three singles. These were produced by Carlton Haney and engineered by Red Smiley. Don Reno and Mack Magaha twin fiddled and the late Joel Martin played the Banjo. These songs were "Bible On The Table", "John Saw The Kindom", "Singing With The Angels", "There's Rest Just Ahead", "He saved My Soul" and "The Darkest Hour". Edd, Russell and James did the vocals except for "The Darkest Hour"; Ronald Thomas sang bass and Allan Mills played bass on that song. Ronald Thomas is a Mohawk Indian and is married to Myrtle's sister Shirley. Ronald also wrote a few songs and sang them on some of the projects which he did well. The Brothers never knew that Allan Mills could sing while he was playing bass for them. After leaving, Allen formed a group now widely known in the Bluegrass field, "The Lost and Found". An interview for some magazine revealed that "The Darkest Hour" was a favorite song of the late Elvis Presley.

The song "He Saved My Soul", rated four stars in the Billboard Magazine. The Brothers were real excited about it. The next project was "Dreams Of Reality" and "My Little Angel" sung by the Brothers and Ronald Thomas with Allan playing bass. The next project was an extension play album. One side was "Kneel and Pray", and "How Are You Standing With God" The other side was "Mother's Prayers Are Not In Vain" and "I'm Waiting Now To Hear My Number Called", vocals by the Brothers and Ronald with Allan on the bass. The next project was a long play album entitled "Fourteen Songs Of Faith". The late J.D. Stanley played bass and the late Walter McMillan played banjo on that album. This is where the children began to play the background music. Russell Jr. played the Dobro on this project. On a lot of personal appearances, Rodger played the bass while standing in a chair. From this time there were many long play albums, eight track tapes, cassettes, videos and C.D.'s made. Technology has come a long way since the "Easter Brothers" beginning and many musicians have come and gone. They treasure the memories of those guys singing and playing with them.

Rev. H.O. Jenkins played with the Easter Brothers for a number of years. I am sure it was very hard to come in late on Saturday night and have a message for his flock Sunday morning. He was pastor of Mt. Airy Pentecostal Holiness Church at that time. Never the less, he was a good fiddle player and also sang and did a recitation on some of their projects.

Another good fiddle player that stands out in my memory is Jimmie Edmonds. He did a great job with the Brothers as well as being a good bus driver too. He also gave them the idea for a song that gained a lot of recognition entitled "They're Holding Up The Ladder". Many other groups have recorded this song. After leaving the Easter Brothers he has played years at the "Carolina Opry" at Myrtle Beach, S.C. The late Wayburn Johnson was another good fiddle player

who grew up with the Brothers and player on the "County 716" album produced by David Freeman on the Rebel Label.

I'm afraid through the years I may have forgotten some of the great musicians who have been back up music for the Easter Brothers but I feel I must mention the ones I can remember for these gentleman meant so much to each of them. So if I fail to mention one it doesn't mean they thought less of him, it's my memory. Barry and Kenneth Berrier were brothers who played with them, maybe at different times but the Brothers were fond of those boys. Rev. Johnnie Taylor is a banjo picking Preacher who played on some of their projects as well as on some appearances. The late Bobby Durham, Jeff Talbert, Rick Aldridge, Brian Luffman, Wess Cooke, Dennis Sechrist, (James brother-n-law) Freddie Rakes, a member of the group "The Churchmen", Tim Sidden (an excellent Piano player), Sam Bolt, George Jordan, The late Rev Don Waily. Don Waily was blind and played excellent on the Piano. Don Tinsley still plays Dobro with them occasionally. The boys who now play regular with them are Sidney Watson and Matthew McMillan, they are nice boys as well as great musicians.



Rev. Troy Brummett Rev Ervin Stone Edd & Russell Easter

Musical Easter Family Have Their Day—It's Today

With a name like Easter, it would be expected that a day like today would be something special.

For the Easters of Elizabeth St. Ext., it most certainly is.

Today is Ed Easter's 30th birthday.

Easter Sunday last year was brother Russell Easter's 33rd birthday.

And Easter Sunday two years ago, Russell Easter, Jr. observed his 11th birthday.

If that is not enough coincidence for one family, consider their grandfather, Kimval Easter. He was born on an Easter Sunday and died on an Easter Sunday.

And James Easter, brother of Russell and Ed, has a birthday April 4—a day that has been Easter Monday several times in his life.

"Every Easter it's always seemed like one or the other of us was having a birthday," commented Russell Easter, the older of the brothers. "All that is but Simon (the fourth brother) his is in September."

A deeply religious clan, the Easters are proud of their close association with such a holy day.

But they find that their peculiar last name is the source of never-ending amusement, to themselves and to others.

Take last year, for instance, when Russell was calling James long distance. When Russell told the operator his last name, she answered sharply. "Oh you're just pulling my leg."

"No I'm not lady," he answered, impishly adding "It's my birthday, too."

She almost disconnected him.

Russell Jr. got a kick out of his teacher introducing him

to the class with the comment, "We don't have to wait for Easter. We'll have Easter with us every day."

But Mrs. Easter was not so amused when her absent-minded grocer forgot her name.

"I know your name is some holiday," he told her. "Christmas, Thanksgiving, Memorial . . ." She insists she finally had to tell him.

Russell Sr. however says this is the time of year when he adopts temporarily the name of some other holiday in the Dan River Mills dye room where he works. "Everybody goes by their last name there so they usually change my name to Christmas or something like that to avoid confusion with the holiday."

His mill job gives him a chance to do a bit of quipping on his own.

"I dye for a living during weekdays," he tells strangers, "and make music on the weekend."

The latter refers to the two traits the Easter boys were born with: deep religious beliefs and a talent for music.

They've combined the two into a string music gospel band that is good enough to keep them busy every weekend and earn them a recording contract with King Records in Cincinnati, Ohio. (Their last release on the King label, was "The Darkest Hour.")

They have been known as the Green Valley Quartet but more recently they have been billing themselves as Russell and the Easter Brothers.

The brothers, says Russell, "have been playing together all our lives. We never had a

lesson. Music was just something we seem to come by."

Russell trained Russell Jr. on the Dobro guitar and now is bringing eight-year-old Roger (whose birthday is in August) into the gospel music aggregation.

This is the first weekend "in I don't know when that we haven't had anything to do," Russell reported yesterday, explaining that weekends nor-

mally find him, his brothers and sons at a church somewhere within a 150-mile radius of Danyille. They've played as far away as Florence, S.C., Wilmington, N.C., Bristol, Tenn., and Richmond.

But Danvillians who would like to become better acquainted with them can do so Easter Monday. They will be on the Reno and Smiley Show on Television Channel 7 from

6:45 to 8 o'clock that morning.

"I hope the folks will look in on us," said Russell. "I particularly want them to see the boys (Russell Jr. and Roger). They're getting to be pretty good, if I must say so."

It will be an occasion for some real Easter music, he promised.

The Easters of Elizabeth St. are the only ones in the Dan-

ville telephone book and so far as Russell has been able to determine, the only ones in town.

But, he reports, "there's a world of them back home" in Mt. Airy, N. C.

The local Easters migrated from there 14 years ago but they return to Mt. Airy at least once every year.

The occasion is an Easter family reunion on, naturally... the Fourth of July.



SINGING EASTERS: Russell, Jr., Roger, Ed, Russell, James

March 27, 1964



Life Line
BENSON
RECORDS

The
Easter
Brothers

137 Riverside Drive
Mt. Airy, North Carolina 27030
(919) 789-9311
(919) 789-5872



Don Light Talent, Inc.

1100-17th Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37212
615/329-1100

Jeff Easter and Jimmie Edmonds

CHAPTER FIVE

Bus Drivers

Russell and James are bus drivers as well as each of the boys. Several of the musicians were bus drivers. The first driver who was not a musician was the late Arthur Lawson. This was in the early years of the singing ministry. Another one I am thinking of is the late Dwight Hill. One of the latest drivers who were not a musician is Rev. Otis Chaney. He is a good friend of the Brothers. I suppose he would be driving most of the time, were it not for health problems. There may be more that I can't think of just now but we appreciate each person that helped us get to our destiny.

Awards

God has given "The Easter Brothers over three hundred gospel songs. Many of the songs have been recorded by other great artist of whom they are grateful. They are also grateful for being awarded "Traditional Bluegrass Band of the Year" in the years 1986 and 1987. Here is a little funny story behind the award in 1986. The Brothers went to Nashville, TN because they had been nominated for the "Traditional Bluegrass Band of the Year". They were not expecting to win, so when they heard their names being called they were caught off guard. "The Easter Brothers" for the first time in their lives were speechless. All three had to come on stage and give a small thank you speech. They placed the microphone in front of Russell and he could not speak. Then the microphone was placed in front of James and again no words were coming out of his mouth. Last but not least they placed the microphone in front of Edd; he said "I'll agree with whatever my brothers said". Can you imagine those three with a preacher in the middle being tongue tied? Oh, those sweet memories how now the laughter can live on.

In the year 2001, the Brothers "Heart and Soul" C.D. was nominated for the "Dove Award" which was an honor even though they did not win. In the year 2002 "Thank You Lord for your Blessings On Me" was awarded "Bluegrass song of the year". I think the greatest award is when the Brothers hear of someone pulling their car over and surrendering their heart to God after hearing one of their songs.

Interesting Stories

Once a young man purchased a tape and put it in his mother's car. The tape would be ready to play as soon as she cranked her car up. He of course knew his mother's condition for she was planning to take her life when a song on that tape changed her thoughts around and she gave her heart to God. Praise the Lord, Thank You Jesus.

The Easter Brothers pray for the Holy Spirit to anoint each song they sing when recording. David Freeman of Rebel Records brought a couple of guys from Ireland to meet the Brothers as they were on their way to Nashville. They expressed a desire to know what was in the tapes. The brothers didn't know just what they were talking about whether it was a mandolin or some other kind of instrument. They told them they were singing at a little Church in North Wilkesboro, N.C. on Saturday night. To their surprise they came back by and visited that church. The anointing fell

and the men from Ireland said "that's it" "that's it!" The Holy Spirit's anointing was what they were talking about.

Sometimes the road life gets very tiresome and the brothers were ready to get off the road and after a trip up north they had decided to quit. When they arrived home a police officer came to James' house and asked him to check his telephone. The receiver was off the hook and a Minister from Florida had been trying to get in touch with him. He wanted the Brothers to come down to Florida and sing and James had told him of their decision to quit. The Minister said "I wasn't going to tell you this but now I feel I must. My wife had heard me preach, but had never given her heart to God until she heard The Easter Brothers song "Lord I Will." She gave her heart to God that day. The Brothers reconsidered and went to a small church in Kissimee, Florida. A lady was on her way to commit suicide that day, and saw the bus at the church. She felt impressed to stop and after hearing the singing God convicted her heart. She gave her heart to God, and then she gave them her testimony.

God has spared the Easter Brothers from some very near accidents. I feel I must give him praise for his mighty hand of protection. I think of a time they were coming home from Canada. James was driving and getting very sleepy. He began to talk to the Lord and ask for help to keep him awake to get everyone home safely. Suddenly an Angel appeared on the fender of his station wagon. Of course that was enough to open his eyes and keep them open for the rest of the trip. The Angel sat with his arms folded and his hair blowing in the wind. The Angel sat on the fender until James pulled in the driveway safely at his home. Another occasion they were going down a ramp off the interstate when the airline for the brake burst causing him to have no breaks. They were headed toward the stop light at the end of the ramp. They saw no way to avoid an accident but suddenly everything seem to move out of the way. Only God could perform such a miracle because there was no accident. Praise His Name!

Another time the hand of God was with them on "Big A Mountain" in West Va. The invitation to the church led the Easter Brothers to believe other groups of singers were driving their buses in to the church. The road was very narrow and the rocks were rolling off the bank. After a scary ride they arrived at the church and James was a nervous wreck. He ask someone if they were sure other groups were bringing their bus in. They said "Oh no Brother, they always leave their bus on the main road and bring the equipment in by trucks. I don't see how you'll ever get that bus out of here." Again the Angels held that bus on the side of the mountain and took them to the main road safely. On another occasion they were on a trip and the gearbox fell down and they had nothing to brace it back up. Myrtle came out with some wire coat hangers which of course made them first laugh but they finally decided to try them. They got it braced back up and found some kind of cord to help brace it also in the case the hangers did not work. When they arrived home the cord was gone but the hangers were still in place. It looked as though at the end that Myrtle had the final laugh.

I must tell a humorous story on Edd. I had been to my daughters with the car before time for Edd to go to Mt Airy to get with his brothers. The brakes went down after I was parked for a while but they built back up and I was able to drive it back home. I told Edd there was no way he could drive that car to Mt. Airy. He went out and checked the brake, by that time they had built back up and he decided to go ahead and try it anyway. He got as far as Stuart and started to stop at the Bank. He could not stop which then caused him to hit the Bank. He found a telephone and called Russell to send someone for him. He told Russell he had hit the Bank. Edd waited a while and finally when his patience gave out he called Russell again. Russell said he had sent Jeff for him, and that Jeff had already called him back, said that he had looked over every bank between

Mt. Airy and Stuart and couldn't find Edd. Edd was furious and he said "not a bank Russell, The First National Bank". Jeff has to tell this story to a lot of Gospel Singers. Once the late Rex Nelon came up to Edd at a Concert and said "Edd, have you run into any Banks lately?"

This next incident did not seem so funny at the time, but Russell had just purchased a different bus and they did not have it built in yet. On the bus they had all their clothes on the same rod which meant that it was not a good time for the inside lights to go out. It was time to get dressed, of course all the suits looked alike they were differently sized. Jimmie Edmonds is a tall skinny person whose suit that Russell was apparently trying to get on. While Russell was trying on Jimmie's suit Jimmie was trying on a suit that would wrap around him twice. James came out saying "Hurry up boys, it is time to go on" while poor Russell was still trying to find his suit. Well, I guess they finally found something each could wear, but it was a nerve wrecking experience for a while.



Rev. Johnnie Taylor, Edd, James, Russell, and Wayburn Johnson kneeling: Ronald Thomas, Rodger, and Russell Jr.

CHAPTER SIX

Rev. and Mrs. R.L. Kivett

I would like to dedicate a space in this book to Rev. and Mrs. R.L. Kivett. These fine folks have been good friends of the Easters for a number of years. Brother and Sister Kivett have cosponsored singings for the Easters from Kentucky to Florida. They cosponsored for more than just one night singings but for three day singing as well. Brother Kivett owns a Church Furnishing business, one of the largest in the area I suppose. He has everything from Church Pews to Steeples. When he delivered a Surmonette and prayed for the sick, then Churches began to know about his business. He enabled the Easter Brothers to go to churches that could not take care of the expense. Also it enabled the Easter Family to join them which was a real treat; especially to Russell and Myrtle for very seldom do both The Easter Brothers and The Easter Family get to play at the same place. Brother and Sister Kivett would fly to the nearest airport and Rusell Jr. would go pick them up. We have the utmost confidence in the prayers of these two Saints of God; we thank God for allowing us to know them. Brother and Sister Kivett pastor a Church in Clinton, N.C. The Easter Brothers have been singing a "Watch Night" service for them every New Years Eve for many years as well as other concerts during the year.

Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Repass Sr.

This section is in the memory of our dear friend Rev. Leonard Repass Sr. Brother Repass was a T.V. Minister from Princeton, W.V. He used the Easter Brothers on his Television programs all over the U.S. He helped them to become known in a lot of places they would not have been known otherwise. He had programs from California to Pennsylvania. I thank God for allowing Brother Repass to use the Easter Brothers. He sold Easter Brother Material which also was able to help on his expense. All in all Gods intentions were for one to help the other. The Easter families became very close to the Repass family and were saddened at his passing. The Brothers felt honored to be ask to sing at his funeral. They had written a song entitled "Sleep on and Take Your Rest." They changed that song to make it personal and sang "Brother Repass Sleep on and Take Your Rest."

The Brothers did not only sing on his television programs but they sang at his church and crusades. One occasion stands out in my mind, a meeting was about to begin when an ambulance drove up. A baby had been born with no bladder. Its mother wanted Brother Repass to pray for it before they performed any type of surgery. He prayed for it and they carried it away. A couple of years later they were at the same place again. A lady was up rejoicing and a child was following her. When she finally had a chance to testify she ask him if he remembered the baby who came for prayer for a bladder. Of course he did and the mother said "this is the little boy; the Lord gave him a bladder." That was a miracle indeed but however we should not be surprised. After all, the Lord made the body so should he not put a bladder there for His Glory? Praise His Name!



FORWARD

JANUARY, 1983

FOR CHRIST

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Rev. Leonard Repass and the Easter Brothers, Russell, Ed, James



The Easter Brothers were privileged to sing on the "Grand Old Gospel" in the Old Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, TN. 1973

Back to Front

*Steve (Rabbit) Easter-Russell Easter Jr.
Jeff Easter-Bobby Easter-Roger Easter
Edd Easter-James Easter-Russell Easter*



Edd and Ann's Family Bobby, Margaret, Edd, Ann, Billy, and Eddie.



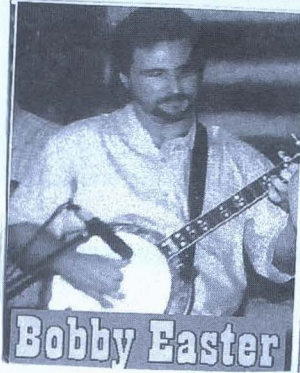
First and Second Generation



Rodger & Gail Easter



Easter Family



Bobby Easter



Jason Easter

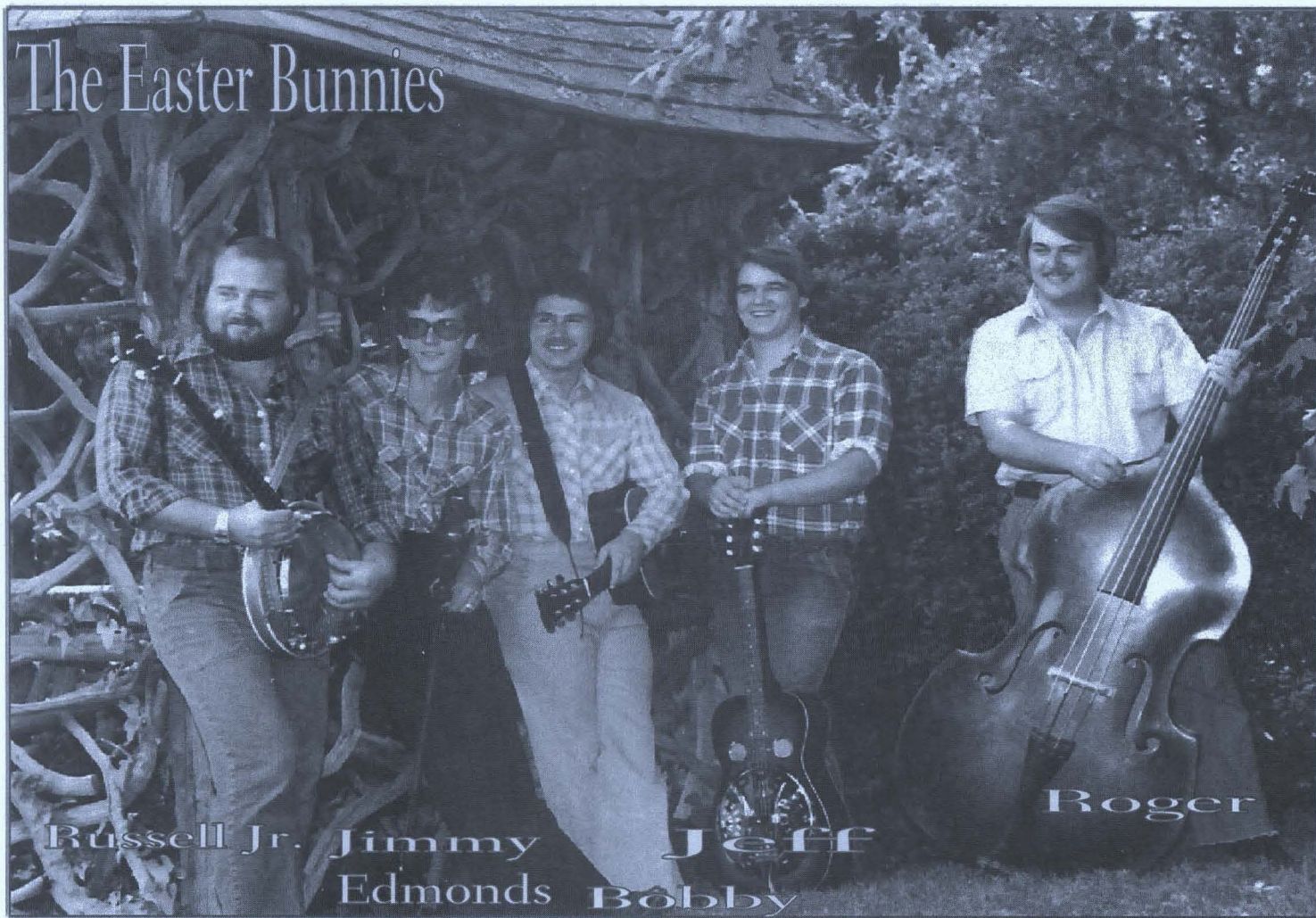


Mom Easter, Her children, most of her Grand Children



Left to Right: Steve, Rodger, Eddie, Edd, James, Russell, Rev. H.O. Jenkins, and Russell Jr.

The Easter Bunnies



Russell Jr.

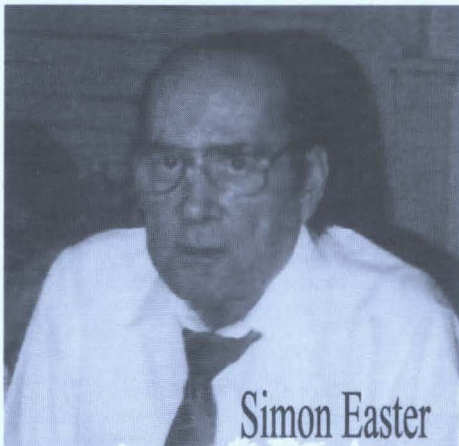
Jimmy

Edmonds

Jeff

Bobby

Roger



Simon Easter
Forth Brother (Oldest)

Easter Brothers Album "Heart and Soul" was a Daywind BlueGrass Album of the year Nominee 2001. We were honored with a Banquet ,along with many other Nominees. Easter Brothers and Jason



The Easter Brothers ,and Mom Easter



Easter Brothers and Josh



Steve Rabbit ,Sharon,and Molly Easter



In Memory of Shannon Dawn Easter

1994

The year of 1994 was a sad time for the Easter Family. This was the year of Shannon Dawn Easter's tragic death. This was Russell Easter Jr's oldest daughter. She and her husband were shot to death. Thank God just two weeks before her death she had come to church, went to the altar and gave her heart to God. The following Sunday she came back and brought her husband with her. He also went up and said the sinner's prayer. Shannon is greatly missed by her family and friends here on earth but praise the Lord for we will be reunited with her when the trumpets sound.



Easter Brothers, Matthew McMillan, and Sidney Watson.

CHAPTER SEVEN

A Word from the Bunnies

“Growing up on the Easter Brothers bus has taught me so much but one thing stands out in my mind. No matter what came their way, whether it be members coming and or going, buses breaking down or trials at home. The Easter Brothers have always sought the Lords will. That has been the most important lesson they have taught me. Do the Lord’s will and He will always be there for you to help you through whatever comes your way. Even after Grandma died, Papa knew God was not finished with him so he continues to spread the Gospel in song to all God sends his way. I only hope I can do the same.” **By Jacob Easter (Russell’s grandson)**

“I would like to thank the Easter Brothers for the opportunity to play with them. Each one has helped me in different ways. These guys live what they sing and they are the real deal.” **By Sidney Watson**

“When I started with the Easter Brothers my life was going in the wrong direction. The Easter Brothers inspired my life and made me realize that life is not always a nice paved road. Sometimes you have to ride on gravel. The Easter Brothers stories about how they did not have anything much when they were kids made me open my eyes and see how good I really had it. I have come to realize that I am blessed and that I count it a privilege to be a part of such a great family.” **By Matthew McMillan**

“I agree with what the other bunnies said and I’ll go along with whatever they said.” **By Jarod Easter (Russell’s Grandson)**

“I did not play music so I guess I didn’t travel with pop as much as my other two brothers did. I did go along sometimes and help carry in the music but I love Pop and his brothers and I am proud for what they stand for. I had open heart surgery a few months ago and all three were in my motel room praying for me before I left for the hospital that morning. That was about six in the morning, they traveled all the way from Mt Airy, NC to Roanoke, VA to be with me. I deeply appreciate it and love you guys.” **By Billy Easter (Edd’s son)**

“My experience as one of the Easter Bunnies began when I was eight years old. The group was doing a recording and their bass player had resigned. They ask me to take his place. I continued traveling with the Easter Brothers for the next nine years playing bass, banjo, dobro and steel guitar. I am thankful for the musical heritage I received from my Dad and Uncles but more than that I am grateful for them leading me to the Lord and for living as true Christians every day in front of me. I can honestly say they are the finest Christian men I have ever been blessed to know.” **By Steve Rabbit Easter (James and Louise’s son)**

“Music has been a big part of my life but I guess buses was my priority. I grew up loving buses. Russell used to get on to me for tinkering with the buttons on the bus. Since I now own and sell buses I had the privilege of calling Russell. I wanted him to know that I now own that very same bus he used to get on to me about and that I can play with the buttons if I wanted to now. Seriously I love these guys and I highly respect what they stand for.” **By Bobby Easter (Edd’s son)**

“I wasn’t a musician but I loved to sing with Pop. He wrote the song Lord I Will especially for us to sing together. I love Pop and my Uncles; I have the greatest respect for them.” *By Margaret Rakes (Edd and Ann’s Daughter)*

“I love daddy, James and Russell. I respect what they stand for and their closeness to each other. I love music but I haven’t been as dedicated to it as some of the cousins. As for buses I now drive one for a living.” *By Eddie Easter (Edd’s son)*

“No, I am not a bunny but a loyal fan for 30 years. I have always been so proud that I personally knew the Easter Brothers and remembering while in school thinking if you don’t know the Easter Brothers then you’re not hip. Funny, because I still feel that way. You guys have been a huge inspiration for me and I thank you for being such a great example of how much I want to love the Lord and to show him each and every day. I always thought James was the best preacher and enjoyed listening to him give his testimony. As for my grandpa Edd, well I am a little bias because I think he is the best musician in the world. He and my grandmother Ann have been wonderful loving role models for the Lord. I can not express how much they mean to me and the love they have shown is what I can proudly say helped lead me to the Lord on Fathers Day 2003. A funny story before I go though. When I was small I remember when the Easter Brothers had purchased a video camera. A bunch of them wanted to do a little show for the camera so they decided they would be a News Crew. Jeff came out wearing Myrtles wig and I remember we laughed and watched that video a million times. You could hear Myrtle in the back ground laughing so hard at those crazy guys. I love those memories and I love all of the Easter family and I am so proud to be part of your family.” *By Tonya Rakes Meeks (Edd’s granddaughter)*

“If I only had bad things to say about either of them I would be finished writing now. I’ve never seen any of the three men mad or say anything bad about anyone. I have never heard a bad word slip out either. They have had a lot of ups and downs, but they have more ups than they do downs. The rock they lean on can only bring them up when they are down. Russell has always believed in my gift that I only share with my dad most of the time. Russell knows the gift I’m talking about. He looks at me like he knows that everything I say is true, when others think I’m crazy. Edd can always bring a smile to my face. Even when he feels bad or having bad luck, he still tries to make others feel good. He calls me the Kentucky girl. James, my daddy, I thank God everyday for him. I know without him and the sermons he preaches to me that I would not be here today. I hope Jesus comes back before he takes my daddy, so I can go with him. I don’t want to think of this world without him in it. I love all the Easter Brothers. I know Jesus has a hand in everything they do and say. I think that if Jesus walked this earth today, he would feel a lot of love just being near any one of these three brothers.” *By Teresa Shockly (James’ daughter)*

“Growing up as a member of the Easter family has been a God-given privilege. Watching the lives of my Dad and his two brothers has truly been an inspiration and sincere motivation in my personal life. After the death of my mother and my husband of thirty-one years, I have begun traveling, once again, with the group after an absence of more than thirty-two years. The music of the Easter Brothers has always been an encouragement, but the impeccable testimonies of the lives of these three men are a demonstration of God’s amazing grace to not only myself, but also to

the entire second and third generations of our family. I count it an honor and a special blessing to be a small part of the heritage of the Easter Brothers." *By Linda Easter Shew (Russell's daughter)*

Even though I didn't start living my life for the Lord until 2002, I always enjoyed listening to the Easter Brothers. Growing up the Easter Brothers planted a seed in my life. I always enjoyed going with Grandpa when I was young and what an example they always were! On the day I got saved, the only reason I went to church was to hear Rabbit play but God Had a different plan. Without the Easter Brothers example, Rabbit would not have been there that day. As I began the road to my ministry, many doors are opening, just because of my relation to the Easter Brothers. I am pleased to say that I'm a grandson of Ed Easter and great nephew of Russell and James. I love the Easter Brothers with all my heart and I praise God for a wonderful family.

By Sam Rakes (Ed's grandson)

"My Dad and his two brothers formed a gospel group about 50 years ago called the Easter Brothers. The Easter Brothers are still traveling full time for the Lord today. Each of the three brothers Russell, James, and Ed had sons that played behind them growing up. There was myself, my brother Rodger, Jeff Easter who married Sherri (of the Lewis Family) and formed the Jeff and Sherri group, his brother Rabbit (Steve), Bobby, Billy, and Eddie. For over twenty years, my Dad and his two brothers were introduced as the Easter Brothers, and all the boys in the background were known as the "Easter Bunnies". Now I'm too old to be an *Easter Bunny*---I'm an old Jack Rabbit and I travel in a full time ministry that has been going now for about 10 years. This ministry consists of myself, my wife Barbara, daughter Marti, and sons Jacob, and Jarod. We dedicated our ministry to **the Lord** and to my daughter Shannon Dawn Easter who went to be with the Lord in 1994. My oldest son Jason Easter has a contemporary Christian group known as **Driven**. My desire is for my whole family to be united in Heaven someday."

By Russell Easter Jr. (Russell Easter Sr's son)

The Easter Brothers are three of the most precious and unique men I've ever known. From Russell (Papa), who often says "My two brothers are running with the old and helpless and I'm running with the young and restless," and he is! From bike riding to his exceptional computer skills, we have learned to never underestimate Papa! James--the middle brother--is one of the rare men who would give the shirt off his back to help someone he loved. Ed--What a memory!! He can tell you any song, recitation, joke, poem, or Bible verse he has ever heard--word for word. Together they form the best role model any girl could ever have. It's truly amazing how God had a plan for their lives and they have all three allowed Him to use them to carry that plan out. They continue to bless countless hearts and will only know how many lives they have truly touched when they get to the other side. *By Marti Easter Patterson (Russell's Grand daughter) Now married to Willie Patterson*

I used to visit Grandpa Ed and want to take a ride in his truck. They say I would say "Papa's truck". This caused Grandpa to write a little childrens song called "Papa's old Truck" My little girl Haley goes to sleep listening to Easter Brothers tapes. *By William Easter (Ed's Grandson) William and Nikki now have a new baby---Mckenzie Faith.*

When I was ask to write a word for the Easter Brothers.A lot of memories went through my mind. Total respect for three men who are dedicated to spreading the gospel in song.I grew up listening to their music,which inspired me to play and sing many of their songs.I had always hoped that someday I would travel and sing with them.A young boys dream came true!At the age of fifteen they ask me to travel and be a part of their group. Excited and nervous they taught me so much and really gave me a chance to get started in Gospel music like they did for so many others. It was a joy to be a part of the Easter Bros. through all the laughs and all the tears. Some of my greatest times were spent with men who honor God.Many have come to know Jesus Christ through their ministry.What an example you men and your families have been to me and others !Thanks for being real! *Love Jeff Talbert —Now a part of the Primitive Quartet*

Songs Written By The Easter Brothers

Many songs have come from testimonies given in church ,or a phrase used by a minister in his sermon. Many times God has awakened one of the Brothers while sleeping with a fresh idea or tune for a song.They have learned to get up immediately and write it down,or the devil will steal it if they go back to sleep.We hope that the songs in this book will be a blessing as well as the stories behind them.

No Survivors

All things work together for good for those that love the Lord. Those were the words I tried to tell myself after hearing the news the plane I was waiting for had crashed and taken the lives of everyone aboard.I stood at the airport in sorrow with a heart filled with pain,for our son who had been away to service was to come home tonight on that plane.My mind wandered back twenty three years ago to when his young life had just begun. Then came the day that he was to go and fight for our country in a place called Viet Nam.I can still recall every little country church that I preached in while he was gone. I would ask all the Christians to remember our boy in prayer that God would bring him safely back home.I stood there numb with hurt when I heard my name called on the intercom that I was wanted on the telephone. His Mother! Yes of course! I was supposed to have called as soon as we were on our way home.She had been a good Ministers wife, and we have never once questioned the Lord in all our Christian life.Now I thought,Oh God ,how can I answer that call,and what words could I use to tell the one person I must comfort this awful and tragic news? I finally managed to answer the phone,and the voice that I heard was like a touch from Heaven with these comforting words."Dad,I've been delayed ,I won't get to make it home tonight; the plane was too crowded,so I'll be coming in on the next flight."

Beg. chorus: Take your burdens to the Lord and leave it there

End chorus:If we trust and never doubt He will surely bring you out.Take Your burdens to the Lord and leave it there.

This recitation is a true story told by the late Evangelist Joe Cook as he was ministering in our church.I heard this testimony and Passed it on to the Brothers.

Jesus You Just Made My Day

#1

I woke up this morning and I walked out my door.A new day was dawning I'd never seen before.I looked up toward Heaven ,and Lord I could see,that you made this morning and you gave it to me.

Chorus:

Jesus you just made my day,all my dark clouds and burdens ,they're all rolled away.With joy all around me I'd just like to say "I thank you Dear Jesus, you just made my day".

#2

I once walked through the shadows,I felt so alone. But the darkness must flee at the breaking of dawn.A Heavenly light is now shining my way.I thank you Dear Jesus, you just made my day.

Chorus:

*Russell wrote this song for Connie Hopper. Connie has sung it a lot of times in their concerts.Of course the Easter Brothers love to sing it as well.

Thank You Lord For Loving Me

chorus:

Thank you Lord for loving me, through all the pain and agony.
While You were nailed there on a tree, Thank you Lord for loving me.

#1

You left your throne in Glory land, and paid the price for the soul of man.
With the blood you shed at Calvary, thank you Lord for loving me.

Chorus:

#2

Lord I'll give my life to you, I know that's all that I can do.
Search out my heart, and you will see, I thank you Lord for loving me.

#3

Someday soon this life will pass, and I'll be safely home at last.
And when your nail scarred hands I see, I'll thank you Lord for loving me.

#1

The Darkest Hour

Old satan with his evil, has caused the world to fear, with sorrow that he brought
to all mankind. But through the darkest hours, the Lord was always near, from the garden of Eden on down
through the ages of time.

Chorus:

While storms of life were raging, God's servants stood so true, and in their darkest
Moments, they saw they saw the dawn break through. So when my load gets heavy,
And it seems I can't go on. Then I remember the darkest hour is just before the dawn.

#2

Old Noah on the water, the waves were rolling high, it looked as if the sun would never
shine. But in his darkest hour, he looked across the sky. The clouds began to vanish,
and then Old Noah saw the rainbow sign.

Chorus:

Thank You Lord For Your Blessings on Me

#1

While the world looks upon me, as I struggle along, they say I have nothing,
But they are so wrong. In my heart I'm rejoicing, how I wish they could see.
Thank you Lord for your blessings on me.

Chorus:

There's a roof up above me, I've a good place to sleep, there's food on my table,
And shoes on my feet. You gave me your love Lord, and a fine Family. Thank you
Lord for your blessings on me.

#2

Although I'm not wealthy, and these clothes are not new, I don't have much money,
But Lord I have You. And to me that's all that matters, though the world may not see.
I thank you Lord for your blessings on me.

Chorus:

James thought of how hard it was for them growing up, with hardly enough food, or clothes, and how God had
Blessed him with an abundance, and came up with the song, "Thank you Lord for your blessings on me."
God gave Edd the song "Thank You Lord For Loving me". He just wanted to thank God, and acknowledge
The things God had done for him.

Wore Out

#1

You come home at night, you sit down for a bite, and you're wore out. You're hardly able to get up from the table, cause you're wore out. You crawl into bed and you sleep like you're dead cause you're wore out. In the morning you wake up, you can't seem to get up, cause you're wore out.

chorus:

But when we get to Heaven with Jesus our King, Ten million years and still fresh as the spring, We'll be happy and free, and our bodies wont bewore out!

#2

You go out for a drive in the car with your wife, and it's wore out. She starts to worry, tells you not to hurry, this car is wore out. You don't know where you're at, the old tire has gone flat, cause it's wore out. And from the sound of the motor, you'll soon have to tow her, cause she's wore out

#3

You get up on Sunday, you dread to see Monday, cause you're wore out. You go sit in the church, and your back starts to hurt cause it's wore out. The choir starts to sing, and you can't feel a thing, cause you're wore out. You pray the sermon and song wont last too long, cause you're wore out.

chorus:

But when we get to Heaven with Jesus our King, we wont have to worry about anything. We'll be happy and free, and our bodies wont bewore out!

Singing With The Angels

#1

My memory takes me to my childhood, to a little church I used to know. where Mom and Daddy used to take us, in the days of long ago. Their place was in the little choir, where in the Spirit they would sing. How I loved to sit and listen, as they let their praises ring.

chorus:

They used to sing the songs of Zion, that brought the tear drops to my eyes. And now they're singing with the Angels, while the endless years go by.

#2

The Church Bell rang on Sunday morning, and we were always on our way. To that little House of Worship, where we loved to sing and pray. and now it's nothing but a memory, since Mom and Daddy passed away. Seems that I can hear them singing with the Angels far away.

chorus:

Bible On The Table

#1

The Bible on the table brings a vision now so clear, the Living Word of Truth to one and all. It's Jesus humbly calling, the time is drawing near. And pointing to the clock upon the wall.

chorus:

Jesus is returning, for me there is no doubt. Destiny is closing in, her time is running out. There's two things reminding me this world is soon to fall. The Bible on the table, and the Clock upon the wall.

#2

The clock of time keeps turning, the moments passing by. The Bible stands to witness day by day. And from the clouds of Glory, there rings a pleading cry... Behold the Bride Groom cometh, watch and pray!

chorus:

The Brothers were coming home from Oklahoma, and very tired when Russell came up with the song "Wore Out"

Lord I Can't Picture Me Without You

#1

Like the grass lying still,neath the flowers on the hill,without you Lord they just wouldn't grow.
Like a lost sheep astray,I'd be wandering each day, without you I'd have no place to go.

chorus:

I can vision a tree with no branches, I can vision a Church with no pew.I can vision a well with
no water ,but L ord I can't picture me without you.

#2

Precious Lord be my guide, ever walking by my side.When I'm weak give me strength to go on.
In the darkness of night, hold my hand be my light,guide my steps till I'm safely at home.

chorus

They're Holding Up The Ladder

#1

As I climb this Gospel Ladder,always heeding every sign. I know my Saviour's with me and
He's teaching me to climb. Every day that I'm climbing, there's a battle for me.Every step on
this Ladder is another victory.

chorus:

They're holding up the Ladder that I'm climbing on,I'm climbing up the Ladder, and I'm
going home.At the top of the Ladder, oh what joy there shall be,and the Angels are
holding up the Ladder for me.

#2

Come on you Christian Soldiers,show the world your light can shine. Get on this Gospel
Ladder,and don't be afraid to climb. Can't you hear the Angels cheering soon the battle will
be o'er, ann we'll celebrate the victory when we reach that other Shore!

chorus:

From Earth To Gloryland

chorus:

Some sweet day I'll go to sleep and wake up in Gloryland.I'll enter into Heaven,carried by an
Angel Band. Then I'll see my Mom and Dad, and shake my Blssed Saviour's hand. When I
go to sleep on earth and wake up in Gloryland

#1

I remember long ago ,back when I was but a lad. Going to Church on Sunday morn with my
Mama and my Dad.They taught me the word of God, and all about Salvation's plan,then
one day they went to sleep to awake in Gloryland.

#2

Sometimes I wander back to my little Cabin home.Though it'll never be the same since my
Mom and Dad are gone. But I still have precious memories that my mind cannot erase.But
I do not wish them back,for they're in a better place.

May We Never Lose Sight Of The Cross

#1

The twelve Disciples on this earth they trod, they preached about Jesus in the big Sinagogues.
They were beaten and threatened, in the streets they were tossed, but they never lost sight of
the Cross. There once lay a man,who till death had been stoned, He went right on preaching
till his last breath was drawn. I believe Steven knew he must pay the great cost, but he never
lost sight of the Cross.

chorus:

May we never lose sight of the Cross on life's way.Help us draw nearer to it every day.
Through burdens and trials regardless the cost, may we never lose sight of the Cross.

#2

Paul and Silas were both thrown in jail,I've oft heard the story and I know it so well.They sang songs of
praises,and preached to the lost,yet they never lost sight of the Cross. Let us keep pressing onward till
this race is run,being a Soldier for Jesus till the battle is won, when we cross over Jordon,twill be worth
it all that we never lost sight of the Cross.

chorus:

The idea for the song "From Earth To Gloryland" came from a remark Edd heard on the "Happy Wheeler" program on
W.F.M.X.Statesville,N.C.

Jimmie Edmonds gave the Brothers the idea for the song "The're Holding Up The Ladder" Jimmie is a former Fiddle player for the
Brothers.

I've Been Touched

#1

I was heavy burdened down, the hand of satan had me bound. I called on Jesus, He had compassion on me. Then His love came rushing in, and He took away my sins; now I've been changed from that old boy I used to be.

Chorus:

I've been touched by those hands that were hanging, from a tree on a lonely hill that day. He put a song in my heart that keeps ringing, and it was Jesus that made me this way.

#2

The world can take away all the things that I work for through the years. Take this little house I'm living in. But there's one thing I know they'll never take away from me, and that's Jesus whose living within.

Chorus:

God gave James the song "I've Been Touched" after a healing touch from God. He had a sore place in his chest that went away after he was prayed for. He received a touch from God.

Sixty Four Roses

#1

Mr. Florist I'm calling for Flowers today, and arrange them with most special care.
Sixty Four Roses in a big bouquet, and one special Rose to wear.

Chorus:

One special Rose for each year that she gave, for one who well carried her part.
Sixty Four Roses for my Mother's grave, and one to wear over my heart.

#2

She labored so hard for a family of ten, and nursed us through sickness and pain.
In her sorrow, I've oft caught a tear in her eye, but I've never once heard her complain.

Chorus:

Russell wrote the song "Sixty Four Roses" in honor of Myrtle's Mother, who was the Mother of ten Children, and lost her husband when the baby was less than a year old. Mrs. Lola Brummett.

Heart That Will Never Break Again

#1

I remember holding her at that last moment, as my bitter tears were falling on her face.
As I held her withered hand, she softly whispered. I'll be waiting for you in a better place.

Chorus:

I'll have eyes that will never fill with teardrops, I'll have legs that will never ache with pain.
I'll have hands that will never age and wither, and a heart that will never break again.

#2

I have often heard and read about that city, where with Jesus we shall live forever more.
There a mansion's in construction for my dwelling, and the Streets of Gold will run by my front door.

Chorus:

#3

Oh, the eyes of the blind will then be opened, as they join the victory march with the lame.
And the deaf whose never heard the roar of thunder, will rejoice to hear the Saviour call his name.

Chorus:

Russell wrote this song several years ago in memory of his Father, but at Myrtle's passing he changed the first verse and sings it in memory of Myrtle.

Jesus Is Living In Me

#1

Lonely years I have lived them,-my life had no meaning till I heard about Calvary.
Then I knelt down in prayer and my Lord met me there.Now Jesus is living in me .

Chorus:

He's in my feet when I'm walking,in my tongue when I'm talking,in my eyes and now
I can see. He's in the songs that I'm singing ,in my heart His joy is ringing --Jesus is living in me.

#2

Thru the valleys He has brought me- to the top of the mountain ,and over life's trouble
sea.Now I sing for His Glory , songs that tell the great story--cause Jesus is living in me.

Just Another Hill

Chorus:

Lord it's just another hill,that I'm climbing ,Lord it's another tear ,you'll wipe away,
If I can just hold on a little longer,I'll be rejoicing in Heaven someday.

#1

Every storm seems to be a little darker, and every burden seems to weigh a little more
And every river seems to be a little wider,but I know I'm getting closer to the shore.

Chorus:

#2

Often trials and troubles gather round me, and it seems I'm in this valley all alone.
Then I can feel the Angels camping all around me,then I know that I'm not far away
from home.

He'll Come Walking On The Water

Chorus:

He'll come walking on the water,He'll come sailing on the sea.
He'll be standing in the shadow, watching over you and me.

#1

When there's trouble all around me,and burdens hard to bear,
A voice tells me I've no need to fear.I've a friend whose name
is Jesus,I go to Him in prayer.And I find that He is always standing near.

Chorus:

#2

He will tread the Firey Furnace,He'll go in the Lions den.In stoms
of life He'll take us safely through.He has no respect of persons,
if we'll put our trust in Him. What He's done for others He will do for you.

I'm Still On The Rock

#1

This home that I'm building, is founded on love. It's timbers are treated with things
from above. By faith it is standing,I nailed it with prayer.Now Jesus my Saviour
abides with me there.

Chorus:

I built the foundation on Jesus my Lord. My Rock of Salvation, my Shield and
my Sword.When I'm in the valley, I can still see the top. And if I hit rock
bottom, I'm still on the Rock.

#2

It's filled with the praises that comes from my heart,and the forces of evil can't
tare it apart.When life's storms are raging, and wont seem to stop.I'm anchored
in Jesus,and I'm still on the Rock.

Chorus:

Lord I Will

#1

If my Dad don't accept soul salvation, Lord I will, Lord I will.
Though Mother fails to carry the Cross through temptation,
Lord I will, Lord I will.

Chorus:

For I'm determined to stand for you Jesus, and by your help
and grace I'll do Thy will. And even if my dearest friends
wont accept You. Lord I will, Lord I will.

#2

If my loved ones wont follow in Your footsteps. Lord I will,
Lord I will. Although I'd have to follow You all by myself.
Lord I will, Lord I will.

Chorus:

For there's so many today that are falling, but I'll keep pressing
on for You still. And though no one else will heed Thy calling.
Lord I will, Lord I will.

Lord I'll Be Praising You

#1

When the sun comes up tomorrow, Lord I'll be praising You.
I'll always give You glory, in every thing I do. Although the
storm clouds gather, or should the skies be blue. When the
sun comes up tomorrow. Lord I'll be praising You.

#2

You took my sins to Calvary, and died that I might live. I know
that I'm not worthy of the blessings that You give. I know that
You still love me, and Lord I love You too. When the Sun comes
up tomorrow, Lord I'll be praising You.

#3

I may be on the mountain, or in the valley low. I may be free from
heartache or burdened as I go. Until my journey's ended, and my
life on earth is through. When the sun comes up tomorrow, Lord
I'll be praising You.

A Little At A Time

#1

From the moment that I get up, till the time I go to bed. Lord I just
keep searching for a way to get ahead. I'm on a narrow highway
and Lord I'm doing fine, as I make my way toward Heaven, a little
at a time..... A little at a time.

#2

There's workers needing sunshine, farmers needing rain.
There's fields that need a planting, for the cattle need the grain.
I need a little shove Lord, I'm getting way behind. But Lord I'm
gonna catch up, a little at a time..... a little at a time.

#3

I ain't got much down here Lord, but I do the best I can. And when
I get to Glory, I will be a wealthy man. I'll be living in a Mansion, and
I wont owe a dime, I'm laying up my treasures there, a little at a time,
..... a little at a time.

#4

Times are getting harder, with prices going up, Everything I do Lord,
don't seem to be enough. But when I get to Heaven with all my cares
behind. I'm gonna' take it in Lord a little at a time.... a little at a time.



James and Louise



Edd and Ann

James, Louise, Russell, Myrtle, Edd, and Ann.
For over Fifty years bringing you the Gospel
in song. Sure hope we've been an inspiration
to you and a blessing in your lives.
May God Bless You Is Our Prayer.



Myrtle and Russell



Linda Easter Shew

GMA



The Easter Brothers

2002 Dove Award Winners

By Their Greatest Hits

Throughbred (Daywind Records)

Bluegrass Recorded Song Of The Year

Thank You Lord For Your Blessings On Me