

# Bevill Stats:

Nickname: Bev Age: 34

Birthday: June 24th

Hometown: Franklin, Tennessee

Favorite Bible text: "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until He comes and showers righteousness on you."

Mosca 10:12, (New Student Bible)

Marital status: Married to Jeff

Children: Trevor (7) and Cody (2)

Future goals: To be happy and healthy.

Jesus is: Patient, very patient with me,  
loving and full of blessings.



Stats

Bev

Bevill



# the Lisa Bevill

*Lisa Bevill has been the voice behind Doublemint Gum and Toyota commercials. She's had a Top 20 hit with Sergio Mendez. But through the years she struggled with family deaths, self-image and suicide.*

*Lisa was a young woman well acquainted with grief despite her talents. But after reading "This Present Darkness," God opened her heart to truth and healing. Now she has a ministry in her own right, particularly to teenage girls with a summer retreat called "Place in the Sun." And with the release of her third Christian CD, Lisa truly sings about the "love of Heaven."*



thrititis, and my mom was diagnosed with cancer when I was twelve, so all of that had a profound effect on me. I blamed God for many years and asked, "Why are you doing this to me?" I dealt with thoughts of suicide pretty much all my life until I read *This Present Darkness*. I had extremely low self-esteem—I hated my body. Satan can use all of that sort of stuff, and he does. He'll use whatever weakness you think you may have to make you feel horrible about yourself and ultimately try to bring you down. I feel like I've dealt with all of the stuff teenagers in the '90s are going through.

**YMM** Managing Editor, Patrick Ambeault, recently talked with Lisa Bevill and discussed music and the needs of today's teenage girls. In this down-to-earth interview Lisa shares her heart and insight with YMM readers.

**YMM:** First of all, how did you get saved?

**LISA:** I initially got saved at a James Robinson crusade when I was about 9 years old. I had always been around church and the teachings of Christ growing up. But I really didn't come to know Christ on a personal level until well into my twen-

ties. I think when you go to church all the time you take for granted your upbringing. It wasn't until I read the book *This Present Darkness* by Frank Peretti that, boy, did the lights go on for me! That was truly the turning point for me. At that point I really started rediscovering the Bible and understanding spiritual warfare. I really started searching out for what I truly believed.

**YMM:** Was there something in particular that caused you to search?

**LISA:** Growing up I had very sick parents. My dad had severe rheumatoid ar-

**YMM:** You started your music career at a young age. Did you begin in secular music?

**LISA:** No, not really. I did Christian things here and there, then I did the duet with Sergio Mendez (*What Do We Mean To Each Other*) it was on the secular charts and it got to number 16. But I've always been involved in Christian music in some way. I used to be a background singer for David Meece and Russ Taff on the road for about three years, but quit finally to get married and swore to never, ever step on another tour bus again. Of course, God had other plans for me.



# Interview

**At this age if you really want teens to get to know Christ you need to split them up.**

**YMM:** While you were doing work in the secular arena were you saved?

**LISA:** Yes.

**YMM:** Were there a lot of temptations and particular trials you had to face during that time as a Christian?

**LISA:** The secular industry is very cut-throat and you have to deal sometimes with people who have no compassion. Not everybody was like that. There were times that I met people in the secular industry that were nicer than some Christians, which was very confusing emotionally and spiritually. I always wanted to sing pop music just because that's what I grew up listening to. When I was a teenager there wasn't Christian music like we have now. So I kind of had no idea that Christian music really existed. What little I did hear seemed like it was music for the older crowd.

**YMM:** Is your music more youth originated?

**LISA:** Yes, more the dance/urban kind of thing. But on this record we really felt the need for me to get closer to where I'm at. The people here in Nashville who truly know me, consider me a mid-pop/ballad singer instead of a dance/urban singer. All



artists go through growing periods of figuring out "Well, I like this song, but I like this one better and it's probably closer to who I truly am." Hopefully my audience is growing up with me. But there are still songs like "Changed" and "Happiness" that I feel still reach that market who like the R & B groove kind of thing. Hopefully it will prove to be a record that everybody will like.

**YMM:** How do you feel your music ministers to youth?

**LISA:** Well, I know it ministers to them because of the amount of letters I get. I like a song to speak for itself and for people to let the meaning come into their hearts.

**YMM:** Is it a common demand for Christian musicians to have to plug in the name of Jesus x-amount of times?

**LISA:** Sometimes. If your record is on a

Christian label and people call you a Christian artist, wouldn't you assume the songs your singing are talking about Christ? Or about life, or about God's hope and His mercy? However, I don't feel we need to plug in the Name so many times when it should be a given what we're talking about.

**YMM:** How do you feel about songs that could go either way: it could be talking about a girl or God?

**LISA:** For me, I definitely like songs that get right to the point and it is understood as to what the lyrics are talking about. There are lots of ways to create lyrics to make them work on secular radio and on Christian radio. I'm not totally against doing that because there could be an unsaved listener and they could buy the record and realize that the singer is a Christian. What an opportunity that has been seized! It is hard for me to tell anyone else



what to do with their music. I would definitely like for things to be more straight forward. Also, I don't like heavily poetic songs that you don't know what they mean and have to listen to it ten times to grasp its meaning. I like it real clear cut as to what they are talking about.

**YMM:** How did your youth retreat, *Place in the Sun*, for teenage girls get started?

**LISA:** In September of '93 I was honored to be on the cover of *Brio* magazine, which is a magazine for girls put out by Focus on the Family. It was a testimony about my life. After it came out, I was flooded with letters from young girls who were saying "I'm in church and I'm thinking about suicide," or "I weigh only 100 pounds and I feel like I'm fat." They were pouring their hearts out to me because they read my article and found someone that they could relate to. I tried to write all the girls back and make it personal. They were asking the same questions and talking about the same issues. So, I tried to put together a two page form letter to try to address all their issues, but one night at the computer the Lord told me that this was not enough. He told me to take it one step further and start a girls' retreat. I was like, WHAT? I don't know the first thing about starting a retreat. I didn't know where to go. I didn't know who to contact or who would come work with me. But the Lord flooded my mind with people who heard about the idea and wanted to volunteer and help. It just happened. The Lord pulled it all together, it had nothing to do with my efforts. However, it was something that I believed in and felt was needed.

**YMM:** Tell our youth leaders some things

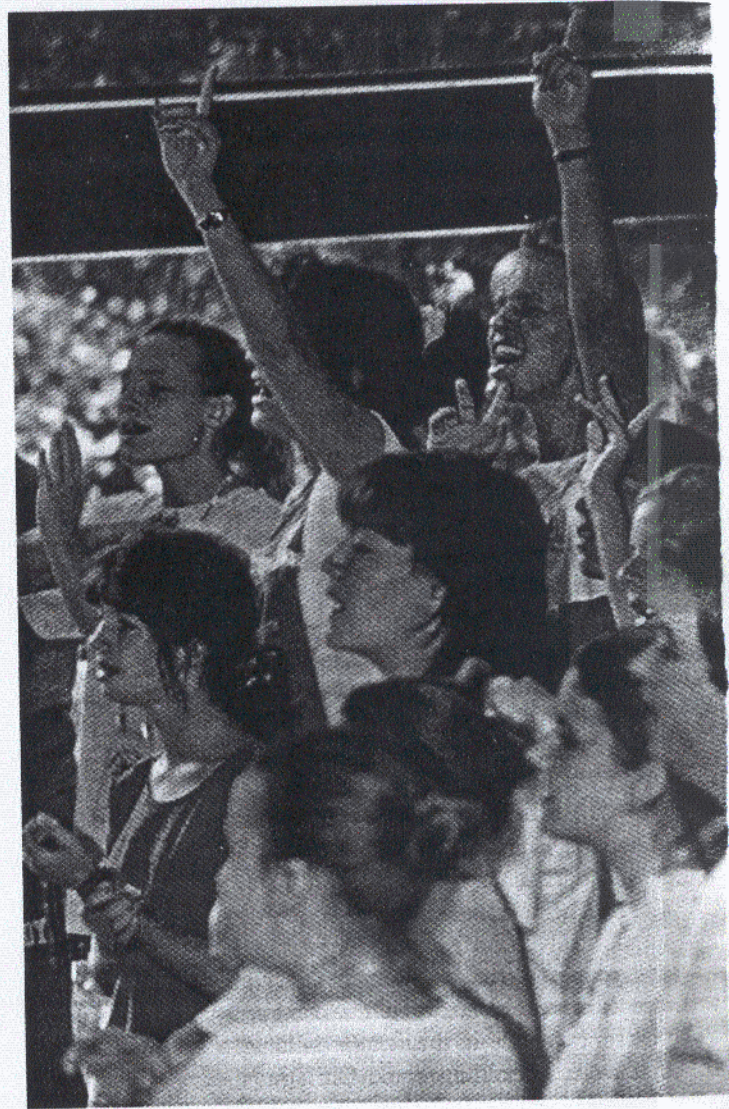
you provide for the young ladies.

**LISA:** We provide a place where girls can come and let their hair down and get rid of all the hype of designer clothes and makeup. We wear grubby clothes and there's no makeup allowed, and there's no guys there to impress. We have seminars about particular topics to address their needs. Hopefully, they meet the Lord with these needs, so that they can learn to be content in how their made and with their lives. Girls need to realize that God has a plan for their lives and that it's going to work out if they trust Him. I vowed to do this retreat every summer. We have girls coming from everywhere. It is really exciting.

**YMM:** What are some of the activities?

**LISA:** Well, it's a three day event, and everything is basically about women's issues. Such as self-esteem and how to treat our bodies as Christians. We also learn to be creative by doing little arts and craft things. We also talk about guys (laughs) and sex. It is about issues young women deal with in order to show them how God truly knows all the

areas of their lives, because He created us. We try to show that there is contentment as a woman by knowing God and His word.



**YMM:** What is a typical day like?

**LISA:** We wake up and have breakfast. Then we provide a short devotional that



will relate to the morning seminar. They go off and study by themselves with their topic, Bible and notebook. We come back and I open up the session by talking about that particular issue and then turn it over to a counselor. For instance, the topic might be "dieting" and how the counselor had been anorexic for a time in her life. We try to get specific and how the Lord taught her about this issue and how He brought her through it. We have a question and answer time, followed by lunch. We have some free time then we start the crafts thing. We make sure the girls have ample free time, that's one of the things they really love. We have three sessions: one in the morning, one after lunch and one at night. Usually the one at night is real heavy, and we let the girls talk as much as possible. We encourage them to open up because this is their time. They come knowing what this camp is about. They come ready to unload. And, boy do they ever!

**YMM:** Are all the girls Christians, or are some of them who come unsaved?

**LISA:** We have girls from all walks of life.

**YMM:** I hope this interview will inspire youth leaders to start a teen retreat for the girls in their own area.

**LISA:** Guys and girls really need a time to be separated. There's a time when they can go together as a group, but when they are together—you know what they're thinking about. (Patrick laughs) They think how a guy is so cute or how they talk to him. At this age if you really want teens to get to know Christ you need to split them up. Their hormones are raging and blazing. Sometimes they hear the youth leader, but most of the time they don't. I

did the same thing. I saw a lot of my friends sneak off and go down to the beach and not really have study time. They were looking at some guy. Been there. Done that.

**YMM:** What advice would you give to a teenager aspiring to be a musician?

**LISA:** Get a college degree. It was the best thing I ever did. I have a marketing degree. I would suggest that teens today get a degree that makes sense in our world. Just in case they don't "make it," which many don't. They could be prepared to teach music, or train to go into the computer field, or they could go on the mission field or to seminary. Put it in their minds to get as much education as possible because the reality of this world is you've got to have degrees. It can be very cut-throat. It can be very political. It can be very hard and it can hurt emotionally. Most of all, make sure you are doing what the Lord has decided for you, not what you have decided for you. It seems like everyone wants to be a singer, and there are a lot of people who are just not cut out for it—their dreams are bigger than their brain. You have to figure out what are the talents that God has given you. Throw them back up to Him and ask, "What would you have me do with these talents that you have given me? Show me exactly what I am supposed to do. Teach me not to give in to what my flesh wants me to do. Help me do what you want me to do."

**YMM:** Are there any final suggestions you have for today's youth leader?

**LISA:** Let your teens know that you're not just a "grown up." Somehow get on their level. You have got to earn their respect and their ear. Be vulnerable with

them. Tell them your stories of when you failed. As for me I tell them, "Hey look, I really messed up when I was a teenager. I wasn't a virgin when I got married and boy, do I regret it." One thing guys and girls love to talk about is sex. They want information. They are craving it and you would think with as much information that is out there that they would know the truth. But, they don't. I'm amazed at how little they do know about the reality of sexual relations, especially Christian teens. Parents think, "I've got them in church so they're covered. I don't need to tell them about sex." Christian youth are getting hit harder than anybody because they are ignorant. Satan easily brings them down. Which drives unsaved teens to say, "Oh yeah, your God is so great, but you're all screwed up. So why are you telling me about Jesus?"

**YMM:** You made a good point: being vulnerable or transparent.

**LISA:** You have to be because teenagers know when you are faking it. You have to be real because they can read right through you!

Lisa Bevill's latest CD, *love of Heaven* is available on Sparrow Records. For more information on "Place In The Sun Retreat" write: Retreat/P.O. Box 210993/Nashville, TN 37221.

*Patrick Ambeault has over five years of youth ministry experience. He holds two master degrees from Regent University in Theology and Journalism.*





Music Music Music

# MUSIC WITH GUTS

AUGUST 1996

**Lisa Bevell/love of Heaven**  
**Sparrow Records**

Lisa Bevell is back with her third album, "love of Heaven." This album showcases Lisa's talent as an emerging songwriter, with her skills being added to four of the album's songs. Most of the songs have a clear message of faith, family and her love of God.

The song, "Safe Inside" is dedicated to her sons' Cody, Trevor (and Paris—who she miscarried). Lisa says, they are the inspiration for the lyrics: "There are moments I treasure/captured in time/these small angel faces/these children of mine/they are blessings He has given me."

Lisa says, "As an artist, every time I leave my children I question God's will for my life. But every time I question Him, He answers and lets me know that my family and I are safe in His keeping; no matter how far apart we are."

Lisa chose to dedicate "Tender Reed" to "her girls" from her *Place In The Sun Retreat* (see "interview" on page 18). Overall, "love of Heaven" is a quality Christian CD, with blends of dance mixes and touching ballads.

Lisa is currently touring with special guests, Benjamin and Jackson Finch. For concert information call: (615) 771-7017. In 1994 she released "All Because of You," and in 1992 "My Freedom."



**CCM**  
**COUNTDOWN**  
**GARY CHAPMAN**

- 1 I'LL BE AROUND  
Michael W. Smith (Reunion)
- 2 THE MESSAGE, 4HIM (Benson)
- 3 I CAN HEAR YOU,  
Carolyn Arends (Reunion)
- 4 TURN AND LOVE,  
Lisa Bevell (Sparrow)
- 5 DEVOTION, Amy Morris (Myrrh)
- 6 LAY IT DOWN,  
Cheri Keaggy (Sparrow)
- 7 MIGHTY LOVE,  
Chris Willis (Star Song)
- 8 THAT'S WHY GOD MADE THE MOON,  
John Elefante (Word)
- 9 I WILL CHOOSE CHRIST,  
Kathy Troccoli (Reunion)
- 10 AND THE STORY GOES ON,  
Michael O'Brien (Benson)
- 11 WE ALL NEED,  
Aaron/Jeffrey (Star Song)
- 12 BUTTERFLY KISSES,  
Bob Carlisle (Dionemus)
- 13 HOLD ON TO LOVE,  
Sierra (Star Song)
- 14 THERE IS A GREEN HILL,  
World Wide Message Tribe  
(Warner Alliance)
- 15 HOPE IN SIGHT,  
Out of the Grey (Sparrow)
- 16 TAKE IT AWAY, Patty Cabrera (Curb)
- 17 HOPE HAS A WAY,  
Scott Krippayne (Word)
- 18 HERE I GO AGAIN,  
Bruce Carroll (Benson)
- 19 (I AM) NOT AFRAID ANYMORE,  
Twila Paris (Sparrow)
- 20 DAYS OF GRACE, Greg Long (Myrrh)
- 21 NO OTHER,  
Ashton, Becker, Dente (Sparrow)
- 22 I KNOW YOU, Cindy Morgan (Word)
- 23 MIGHTY LORD,  
Ashley Cleveland (Reunion)
- 24 IF THIS WORLD,  
Jaci Velasquez (Myrrh)
- 25 ALL FALL DOWN,  
Sarah Masen (re:think)
- 26 HIGH, Tony Vincent (Star Song)
- 27 WHEN THE FEELING IS GONE,  
East to West (Benson)
- 28 THAT'S THE POINT,  
Charlie Peacock (re:think)
- 29 ALL COMES DOWN,  
Billy and Sarah Gaines  
(SoundHouse)
- 30 ALWAYS SISTERS,  
CeCe, Angie and Debbie Winans  
(Warner Alliance)

"CCM Countdown with Gary Chapman" is broadcast weekly on Christian radio stations nationwide. Call your local Christian station for airtimes.