

BEHIND THE SCENES AND BEHIND THE VISION OF

"The Mercy Project"

by Amy Alexander

lmost three years ago a vision was birthed that has since brought together a group of people driven by a willing heart and a common goal...

Jeff and Gayla Borders, award-winning Nashville-based songwriters, first learned about Mercy Ministries of America at a Point of Grace concert several years ago. Impressed by the purpose and vision behind the ministry, the husband and wife team were intrigued and awed at God's work through the homes for girls. What they did not know at the time, though, was how God was already planting in their hearts a seed that would connect some of today's top recording artists with the ministry that they wholeheartedly supported.

With songwriting hits such as Point of Grace's "Keep the Candle Burning" and "The Song is Alive," Jeff and Gayla had an overwhelming desire to use the gifts and talents that God had given them to help Mercy Ministries. One day while trying to determine what God wanted her to do with this desire, Gayla



Amy Grant

April McLean







Martina McBride

Christine Dente

"I hope these songs breathe life into people, because that's what they were written for."

birthed the idea of creating an album that would benefit the ministry. "The idea was truly a gift from God," Gayla said. With that call from God, Jeff and Gayla began to actively pray and seek guidance for the direction to be taken next.

They were able to call on friends

and colleagues to join together to see the project to fruition. With full underwriting from Gaylord Entertainment's Internet music service. Musicforce.com, the project was created in a manner that would allow 100% of all proceeds to benefit the residents of Mercy Ministries of America.

So, with the vision birthed and the financial needs met, the project began

and led to twelve of today's most popular female Christian, Pop, and Country artists joining together to create an album driven by a promise of hope and restoration through Jesus Christ.

As the album began to evolve, eleven original songs (seven of which were co-

written by Jeff and Gayla Borders) were produced. "Each song was written and performed to send a message to every girl who is at Mercy now, and those to come, that we truly care about what they are going through and commit to pray for healing and restoration in their lives,"

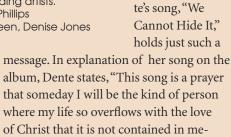
April McLean, and Kim Hill.

When commenting on "The Mercy Project," Australian spokesperson and Executive Director for Mercy Ministries Australia, Darlene Zschech, stated, "I hope these songs breathe life into

> people, because that's what they were written for."

When hearing each of the songs it is clear and unmistakable that God is using the lyrics of each song to touch people who may have different obstacles that they are facing. This isn't a message of despair or condemnation, but rather a message of praise and hope which only Christ can extend.

Christine Dente's song, "We Cannot Hide It,"



it is something that is so obvious that we

cannot hide it."



Nancy Alcorn pictured with some of "The Mercy Project's" recording artists Back Row (L to R) Amy Grant, Lisa Bevill, Erin O'Donnell, Jill Phillips Front Row (L to R) Terry Jones, Heather Payne, Nancy Alcorn, Shelley Breen, Denise Jones

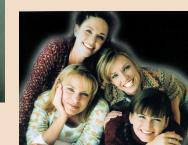
Gayla stated.

As the process continued, twelve artists agreed to join in the project including: Michelle Tumes, Point of Grace, Darlene Zschech, Martina McBride, Lisa Bevill, Amy Grant, Erin O'Donnell, Christine Dente, Donna Summer, Jill Phillips,



Lisa Bevill





Darlene Zschech



In response to her song on the Project, "You'll Get Through This," Country star Martina McBride understands and supports the need for a place like Mercy Ministries. "It's always great to have somebody there to help you realize that bad times don't last forever and that with hope and faith in God, you will get through whatever it is you're going through."

One of the most touching moments on the album occurs on Donna Summer's, "Take Heart." A special vocal appearance from some of the children saved through Mercy Ministries offers a reminder of God's love and faithfulness. Whether parented by the birthmother or placed for adoption, these children were given a chance at life.

Each of the songs and the artists that perform them are driven by the desire to help more girls who are lost and need a see that God's vision and purpose for this



Jeff and Gayla Borders, Engineer Richie Biggs, and Point of Grace in the studio for the recording of their song, "Love Won't Leave You Now"

ministry is fulfilled and with each album sold, there is more room for God's healing

Point of Grace's Denise Jones recently place of hope. This album was produced to said, "People are going to hear this project and know that this is a project of hope...

it's the story of where God has brought us

Songs of eternity, love, encouragement, brokenness and healing—that's what 'The Mercy Project' is—it's truth and reality combined to help girls at Mercy and people everywhere understand the magnitude of God's love and forgiveness when we turn to Him."

"The Mercy Project" is set for release on November 14th and will be available at music stores everywhere and can also be ordered through Mercy Ministries of America (see the attached order form.)

Nancy Alcorn and Mercy Ministries of America would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Gayla and Jeff Borders for their tireless dedication. We know that God will reward you tenfold for your selfless commitment to helping hurting girls everywhere. To the artists who made this project a reality, thank you for your willing hearts. And to Word Records, Musicforce.com, and everyone else who dedicated their time and hearts, thank you!



Nancy Alcorn with some of the "Mercy Kids" in the studio for their recording on Donna Summer's song, "Take Heart"





Donna Summer



