



Band members of the 3rd Annual Country Gospel Jamboree, held Sunday, April 2, at the Giddings High School Auditorium. Standing, L-R: Bill Tucker, Billy Barnett, Curtis Krause, Chip Dunsmoor, and Paul Schlesinger. Seated, L-R: Tara Schlesinger, Kimberlyn Krause. PHOTO BY MICHAEL KELLY, JR.

Gospel Jamboree Entertained Hundreds

The 3rd Annual Country Gospel Jamboree, held Sunday, April 2 at the Giddings High School Auditorium, drew a crowd of nearly 300. While the majority of attendees were from Lee, Milam, and neighboring counties, folks came from as far as Waco to hear traditional, country-flavored gospel music. Second Chance, which is the band of the Lee County Cowboy Church, anchored the opry-style show.

Paul Schlesinger of Taylor, fiddle player for Second Chance and the music team leader of the Lee County Cowboy Church, served as emcee and director of the show. Second Chance consists of his wife Tara, who plays piano and sings, and Lexington's Bill

Tucker on electric bass. Billy Barnett of Milano played steel guitar, and Chip Dunsmoor of Minerva played drums. The group performed country versions of classic gospel favorites, as well as gospel re-writes of popular country tunes.

The show spotlighted the talents of many performers. Branded, the nationally famous gospel duo of Paul Staggs and Robert Welch from Conroe, drew a standing ovation with their song, "Heroes," a tribute to our military veterans both young and old. The Inspirational Country Music Association awarded the tune Song of the Year in 2008.

Lynn Martin of Milano also received a standing ovation with her inspired rendition of "How Great Thou Art."

Dennis Schroeder of Thorndale performed cowboy-flavored gospel tunes, including his self-penned "Clear Skies." Lexington's Tommy and Cindy Hart opened the show with the modern gospel classic, "God on the Mountain."

The daughter-father music team of Kimberlyn and Curtis Krause of Giddings kept the pace flowing with new takes on classic spirituals. Kimberlyn, currently a student at Texas A&M in College Station, played guitar and accordion. Both sang songs written by the late Joe Boyd Reynolds of Lexington, who was the previous director of the first two Country Gospel Jamborees, and leader of the Second Chance Band.

Pastor Kevin Mahr of Lexington gave a brief, non-denominational message during the show. Says Mahr, "We at the Lee County Cowboy Church thank all that came out and supported our Country Gospel Jamboree. We pray there were many who were touched by the ministry of music. If you don't have a church home, we would love for you to come visit." The Lee County Cowboy Church is located at 2645 CR 117, Giddings, TX 78942. Services are held every Sunday at 10 AM. For more information, visit www.cowclc.org.

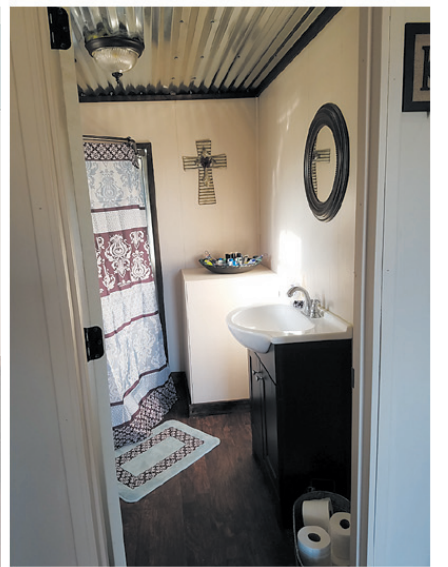


Robert Welch and Paul Staggs of the international touring gospel duo, Branded, were the headline entertainers at the 3rd Annual Country Gospel Jamboree, held Sunday, April 2, at the Giddings High School Auditorium. PHOTO BY PAUL SCHLESINGER.

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