

The Blackwood Brothers Quartet

“The best-known name in Gospel Music!”

The Blackwood Brothers Quartet was formed in 1934 with brothers Roy, Doyle and James along with Roy's son, R.W., who was killed in a tragic airplane accident in 1954. Roy and Doyle retired from the road in the late '40s. James continued to lead the group into the early 1980s, and over the years it has become the best-known name in gospel quartet history.

James, the last surviving member of the original quartet, went to be with the Lord in 2002, but his son James, Jr. (Jimmy) brought the name out of retirement and now James' youngest son, Billy, continues the 79 year family tradition of great gospel singing. The group today consists of Billy Blackwood, Wayne Little, Butch Owens, and Mike Helwig. The result is one of the best quartets you have ever heard.

Billy, James Blackwood's youngest son, sings baritone and is the music arranger for the quartet and also produced the latest CD for the quartet. Billy played drums for J.D. Sumner and the Stamps Quartet at the age of 14. He also played for the Blackwood Brothers, Gordon Jensen and Sunrise, and Andrus/Blackwood & Company and toured with Voice, the opening act for the Elvis Presley show. He has traveled in solo ministry and has worked in youth and pastoral ministry. Billy has four daughters, Brette, Britni, Emma and Ellie and one son, Will. He and his wife, Cherry live in Hendersonville, TN

Wayne Little is one of the best tenors to ever sing a gospel song. Wayne formed the Crystal River Boys Quartet and later sang with former Blackwood Brothers bass singer, Ken Turner in the New Millennium Quartet. He was a featured singer at the Pentagon for a 9/11 Memorial service with Rev. Franklin Graham. His powerful, clear tenor voice thrills audiences from coast to coast. Wayne and his wife, Gina, live in Elizabethton, Tennessee, and have two sons, Micah and Maison.

Mike Helwig sings lead in the quartet. He started singing Gospel music at the age of 19. A Canadian native, he sang for Canadian groups The Torchmen and Unashamed. He won a Dove Award for Favorite Tenor from the Canadian division of the Gospel Music Association in 1997. Since moving to the United States he has sung with the Wilburns, the Stamps Quartet, the Dixie Echoes and Promise before joining the Blackwood Brothers. Michael and his wife, Leslie, have identical twin daughters, Eva and Laura and one son, Sam.

Butch Owens is the newest member of the group, but is no stranger to gospel music. He sang bass with the Stamps Quartet for a number of years and most recently with Bob Jones and the Songfellows Quartet before joining the Blackwood Brothers. Butch is the kind of person who never meets a stranger and has many friends across the nation and around the world. He recently retired from the Jackson, Mississippi police department where he worked for twenty-five years. Butch and his wife, Margaret, live in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

www.blackwoodbrothers.com

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