

By Guest Columnist Dr. Gregory T. Pouncey

First Baptist Church Clinton will host Jody McBrayer in concert on August 18 at 6 p.m. in the FBCC Sanctuary. McBrayer reached the pinnacle of success in Christian music and ministry as one of four singers with Avalon. Together, they received three GRAMMY awards, six DOVE awards, and sold 3.5 million albums. All of this came to a crashing halt with heart issues that prevented McBrayer from singing and touring for eight years. In 2007, he left Avalon due to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. He was told his days of singing and touring had ended.

Leaning on the support of his wife, Stephanie, and his daughter, Sarah Clayton, McBrayer took the time away not only to pray for God's healing concerning his condition, but also to evaluate ministry through music. As his body improved, so did his spirit, and so McBrayer decided to attempt a comeback in 2016. Despite recording twenty-one number one songs, he found that the Christian recording industry had moved on to other artists, and he struggled to find a place that would welcome him.

McBrayer recorded a CD of his own entitled "Keep Breathing" in February of 2016, and the response to his message opened the door for him to form a group called Cana's Voice with TaRanda Greene and Doug Anderson. The

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Jody McBrayer

response to his newfound love for ministering to others through song opened doors for him to tour with the group and to tour alone. Then, life came full circle in 2018, when Avalon invited McBrayer back to tour with them on selected dates.

McBrayer will sing in the morning service at First Baptist Church Clinton at 9:30 a.m. on August 18 with the church's choir and orchestra, and he will then share a full concert that evening at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and hear the powerful mes-

sage of faith that sustained McBrayer during both the good and bad times of his life. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The concert is free, though a love offering will be received.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Gregory Pouncey is the Senior Pastor at FBC Clinton.

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