

31 March 2008

Casting Crowns, Switchfoot, David Crowder*Band, Mac Powell, Steven Curtis Chapman, Chris Tomlin, Michael W Smith and Amy Grant are just some of the acts performing this year at the 39th annual **GMA Dove Awards** in America. Casting Crowns is the most successful nominee with six nominations combined with its lead singer's Mark Hall. Aussies Hillsong United, Hillsong Kids, Darlene Zschech and newsboys are up for a total of five awards including Group of the Year, Praise and Worship Album of the Year, Children's Music Album of the Year, Female Artist of the Year, and Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year. And from all accounts, there's a good chance of winning some of these awards! Christian music's biggest night of the year will be held in Nashville Tennessee on April 23.

Third Day releases its 11th studio album in late July. Howard Benson, best known for his work with Daughtry, POD, Flyleaf and Hoobastank, is producing the CD titled *Revelation*. Not surprisingly, Chris Daughtry makes a guest appearance on the song called *Slow Down*. Flyleaf's lead singer Lacy Mosely drops in for appearances on two songs *Run To You* and *Born Again*. And to top it off, pedal steel wizard Robert Randolph adds his magic to *Otherside*. Christian radio will start adding the first single from the album later this month.

Sydney songwriter, worship leader, and now author **Nikki Fletcher** this week launches her first book, *Words Without Melody*. The 136-page book is a selection of poems, rhymes, prayers, lyrics and songs that are, as Nikki puts it, "filled with the good, the bad, and the ugly of her soul". Hillsong's Darlene Zschech has written the foreword for the 25 year old who is a key leader at Christian City Church, Oxford Falls. More details from nikkifletcher.com

C3's Melbourne *School of Empowered Ministry* presents an accredited course designed to teach you about creativity from God's perspective. Focusing on material contained in **Roma Waterman's** soon to be released book *The God Artist*, the 11 week course looks at what it means to be a "God artist"; the Old Testament tabernacles and its relevance to worship and cultivating creativity, and the supernatural in movies, music, media and books. And that's just three of the weeks! The course, presented by Waterman at the Christian City Church Whitehorse campus, begins 10 April. Contact sem@cccw.org.au for further details.

Over Easter, *The Australian* (Australia's national publication) published **Happy Clappers** a well researched story about the growing link between Christianity and Australian popular culture. Richard Leonard, Greg Clarke, Darlene Zschech, Paul Bootes and others contributed to the article.

www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,23396024-16947,00.html?from=public_rss