

23 May 2009

NEWSBOYS, NUMBER ONE AGAIN

Newsboys debuted at number one on the US SoundScan Christian Albums chart with its fourteenth studio release, *In The Hands of God*.

The album, whose title track recently topped the Christian adult contemporary radio chart, additionally claimed #1 on

- SoundScan's Christian Adult Contemporary Albums chart,
- Soundscan's Christian Digital chart, and
- iTunes' Christian/Gospel Top Albums chart.

In The Hands of God is the first #1 record for newsboys since releasing *Adoration* in 2003.

COLMAN'S LIFE VERSES

Former Newsboys guitarist Paul Colman says he's "excited" about writing songs for a new album.

In an interview published in *Relevant Magazine*, the Australian singer songwriter says the new songs take an honest look at his life.

Colman says, at times, he's like the tree in Jeremiah 17 – dry, lonely yet planted by the river. He says this is a "breathtaking" piece of Scripture that has become his "life-verses".

The Nashville based Aussie recently released a best of collection called *History*, and a digital EP *If I Was Jesus*.

RSJ ROCKS FOR LIFE

Australian singer and actor Rebecca St James has weighed in on the abortion issue following US President Obama's recent visit to Notre Dame.

The Pro-Life Christian celebrity says that she aims to help "prevent life from being stolen from both children and their mothers, and hopefully bring a healing message to those that continue to grieve their loss".

Rebecca's comments presage her appearance in the upcoming film *Sarah's Choice* where she plays a young, single executive facing an unplanned pregnancy. She says to help prepare for the role, she visited several crisis pregnancy centres, and had spoken to a number of women about the intense trauma following their abortions.

Sarah's Choice releases mid November in the US and will probably go straight to DVD in Australia.

GMA-ANZ CONFERENCE

The Gospel Music Association (Aus-NZ chapter) holds its second annual conference May 28-29 on the Gold Coast.

Speakers include Jeff Crabtree, Roma Waterman, Jeff Bartlett, and Mark deJong. Details: www.gma-anz.eventbrite.com