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WORSHIP LEADER WINS AMERICAN IDOL

Kris Allen - the worship leader from *New Life Church* in Greater Little Rock, Arkansas - has pulled off the biggest upset in *American Idol* history.

He won the coveted title when he beat glam rocker Adam Lambert.

Allen spent much of the season in the shadow of fellow worship leader Danny Gokey, who was favored to go to the finals with Lambert.

But as the weeks progressed, Allen proved that his ability to interpret songs was a stronger asset than Gokey's soulful vocals and poignant back story, plus Lambert's big rock vocals and theatrical stage persona.

While he's yet to release any Christian songs, you can catch Allen singing Bluetree's worship song *God Of This City* at his church - online at YouTube.

NEWSBOYS #1 AGAIN

Newsboys holds the #1 spot on the US SoundScan Christian albums chart for a second consecutive week with its latest CD *In The Hands Of God*.

SoundScan is the US retail sales chart logging physical and digital sales.

Critics love the album.

- o *Soul.Audio.com* says its one of the finest, most cohesive and well-produced newsboys projects to date.
- o The *Gospel Music Channel* says the CD boasts some of their most contagious and memorably fresh melodies to date.
- o And the *Denver Post* says this is classic rock 'n' roll newsboys - big guitar riffs, driving drums and some quirky, pop lyrics thrown in for fun — all with a message.

TASKER HEADING TO BLACKSTUMP?

2006 TRAA Artist of the Year Nathan Tasker returns to Australia in September-October.

While tight lipped about headlining *Blackstump 09* this year, Nathan says he expects to release new material later in the year.

Tasker is one of the country's most accomplished Christian singer songwriters. He has been living and performing in the US for the past three years.

His best known for songs include: *Like You Love Me*, *Floating*, and *Narrow*.

SIMEON SECURES MAINSTREAM RADIO AIRPLAY

Melbourne pop rock band SIMEON is getting airplay on several commercial and community radio stations throughout the country with his latest song *I Can't Breathe*.

This is the third single from Simeon's debut band album *Then We Collide*.