

## Fair church service to include music from Christian band River

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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River, a nationally known touring group, will perform Sunday, July 28 during the Phillips County community church service at Homesteaders Park beginning at 9 a.m.

Made up of Paul Marino, Kurt Linn and Phil Reesnes, the trio has impacted thousands with the group performing over 1,300 concerts and events over the course of their career.

The group has released 10 recordings since the band formed in 1989. Since 1997, River has been one of the most played artists on Christian radio with 15 singles climbing into the Top 20 on national inspirational charts.

“I will,” My Love” and “God of Every Generation” are a few of the group’s most successful records, along with “Road to Redemption,” which served as the theme song for the Billy Graham Association’s World Wide Pictures movie also entitled “Road to Redemption.”

The band’s growth and longevity are due to more than just great songs and strong harmonies. Integrity and accountability have always been at the heart of River’s ministry.

Shortly after starting the group, River formed a board of directors to provide vision, direction and accountability. Each group member also has a personal mentor with whom they meet regularly.

Russ Breimeier of ChristianityToday.com said, “There’s a genuine quality to the music ministry of River. They’re pro-active in that they put their talents and heart for ministry into action, but they’ve left the measure of their success in God’s hands.”

The group sees themselves as ministers who do music, not musicians who do ministry.

Through their music, the group relays personal stories, ignites shared experiences that resonate with all people, offers heartfelt worship and presents a passionate gospel message.

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Everything the group does is centered around their mission statement which reads, “We serve as ambassadors of Jesus Christ to inspire, encourage and challenge people to live their lives in Him and in loving relationships with one another through Him.”

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