



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

2/11/09

Program 70 “**Jesus, Take The Wheel**” © Gordie Sampson, Brett James Hillary Lindsey

When I was in first grade, I remember riding with Mom, Dad and my sister in an old 1951 Chevy Biscayne on a very narrow road high in the mountains of Kentucky. It was only one lane wide in places, including where we were forced to go around a vehicle. To this day, we don't know what kept our car from going over the edge and down the steep embankment. Perhaps “Jesus took the wheel” at that point, or placed His hands under the left-side tires. Spiritually speaking, handing the wheel to Jesus is what we all should do. He has our best interests at heart, and a fulfilling plan for our lives!

The Song ¹

- Grammy Award-winning song from Carrie Underwood's debut album, *Some Hearts*
 - Best Female Country Vocal Performance and Best Country Song at Grammy's
- Won Gospel Music Association award for best country single of the year -- 2006
- Certified Platinum in April 2006
- Debuted #39 on *Billboard* Hot Country Songs; topped chart for record-tying 6 weeks
- As a crossover hit, it rose to #20 twenty on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart
- Named “Single of the Year” at 41st Annual Academy of Country Music Awards
- Its video spent 3 weeks at #1 on CMT's Top 20 Countdown; ranked #5 video for '06
- Sold more than 1 million ring tones as of August 2008
- 1 of 2 songs by Underwood that have earned #1 spots in Christian radio countdowns
- Relates how a troubled young mother turns her life over to Jesus after a near-tragedy driving a snow-covered road en route to Cincinnati, Ohio

The Artist – Carrie Marie Underwood (1983 -) ²

- American country pop singer and songwriter from Muskogee, Oklahoma
- Winner of the fourth season of *American Idol*
- Multi-platinum selling, multiple Grammy Award winner
- Her debut album, *Some Hearts*, was certified 7 times platinum
 - Fastest selling debut country album in country music history; 3 #1 country hits
- Other hits include: "Wasted", "Before He Cheats", "Don't Forget To Remember Me", "So Small", "All-American Girl", "Last Name", "Just a Dream" and "I Told You So"
- Inducted into Grand Ole Opry in 2008
- During her childhood, sang at her home church (Free Will Baptist Church)
- Graduated as high school salutatorian; magna cum laude from Northeastern State U.
- Competed in numerous beauty pageants; was selected Miss NSU runner-up in 2004
- Carrie Underwood performs for US Army Troops on a USO tour in Iraq.
- Voted "World's Sexiest Vegetarian" by PETA in 2007 for the second time
- Magnitude of success attributed to her wholesome image

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus,_Take_the_Wheel

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrie_Underwood

She was driving last Friday on her way to Cincinnati
 On a snow white Christmas Eve
 Going home to see her Mama and her Daddy
 with the baby in the backseat
 Fifty miles to go and she was running low
 on faith and gasoline
 It'd been a long hard year
 She had a lot on her mind
 and she didn't pay attention
 She was going way too fast
 Before she knew it she was spinning
 on a thin black sheet of glass
 She saw both their lives flash before her eyes
 She didn't even have time to cry
 She was sooo scared
 She threw her hands up in the air



Jesus take the wheel -- take it from my hands
 Cause I can't do this on my own
 I'ma letting go
 So give me one more chance
 To save me from this road I'm on
 Jesus take the wheel

- Where do you turn when you “run low” on faith?
 - *“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray...”* – James 5:13, NIV
 - Consider the example of Paul and Silas, who in Philippi, after doing a good deed, were *“...severely flogged”* and *“...thrown into prison”*, with their feet fastened in stocks. Acts 16:25 indicates that, *“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them”* (emphasis added)

It was still getting colder when she made it
 to the shoulder and the car came to a stop
 She cried when she saw that baby
 in the backseat sleeping like a rock
 And for the first time in a long time
 She bowed her head to pray
 She said I'm sorry for the way I've been living my life
 I know I've got to change, so from now on tonight



(Chorus)

Oh, Jesus take the wheel
 Oh, I'm letting go
 So give me one more chance
 Save me from this road I'm on
 From this road I'm on
 Jesus take the wheel
 Oh, take it, take it from me
 Oh, why, oh

- “...wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it”*
 – Matthew 7:13b-14, NIV
- Does taking the narrow road assure us of no “black ice”?
 - Why or why not?
 - What can we be assured of?

Final Thoughts:

A popular Christian song proclaims, “The battle belongs to the Lord”. This holds true in all areas of adversity that we may face, as long as we are living for, and trusting in Jesus. Someone must have shared Jesus with the young mother in these lyrics at some point. Do you share Him through your testimony and living out your faith before others? You may not get to witness someone handing the wheel to Jesus, but the seeds you plant will point people to Jesus when they are ready to give up the driving. And sharing the Gospel is all He has commissioned us to do. We can't convert others... we can only tell them what He has done and can do for them!
