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Savor Southern Gospel Music and Home Cooking at Silver Dollar City's *Southern Gospel Picnic* *Festival Runs August 26 - September 6*

(Branson, Mo. 07/10) As Southern Gospel Music marks its 100th year and Silver Dollar City celebrates its 50th, the top names in the music genre gather at the park for *Southern Gospel Picnic*, a daily celebration of music served up along with a picnic feast of **Chicken & Fixin's**. The popular festival features top groups from traditional to contemporary for 12 days of toe-tapping inspiration, August 26 – September 6.

“When we launched Southern Gospel Picnic as a festival four years ago, we knew it would be a great opportunity for Southern Gospel fans to gather and enjoy the ‘best of the best’ of the genre,” said festival coordinator D.A. Callaway. “We also found that guests who had never before been exposed to the music are becoming the newest fans, and the festival keeps growing each year.” Fans can take their favorite sounds home with the **new Silver Dollar City 50th Anniversary Southern Gospel CD from Daywind Records**, featuring top Southern Gospel performers who frequently appear at Silver Dollar City, such as Jeff & Sheri Easter and The Kingsmen.

Nothing pairs with Southern Gospel music better than home cooking. The **House of Chicken and Fixin's** on the Square features double-battered southern fried chicken, slow-roasted apple-glazed chicken and smoked barbecue chicken, with favorite “fixin's” from potato salad and coleslaw to Silver Dollar City’s official 50th Birthday Cake: Chocolate RiverBlast Raspberry.

Featured performers include Dove Award winners Jeff & Sheri Easter and The Isaacs, Hall of Famers The Kingsmen and The Perrys, Grammy nominees Karen Peck and New River, Singing News Fan Award stars The Booth Brothers, plus the **Triumphant Quartet**, Quartet of the Year. **Fan favorites include the Inspirations, Squire Parsons, Legacy Five and the Reggie Saddler Family**, led by former R&B artist Reggie Saddler who performed with artists from Jerry Lee Lewis to the Drifters before entering the gospel music ministry. Performances throughout the day are followed by ***Southern Gospel Nights* concerts each evening** in the park's 4,000-seat amphitheater, with 350 performances throughout the festival.

Special Sunday worship services return this year with inspirational speaker **David Ring** on August 29, and noted humorist and evangelist **Dennis Swanberg** on September 5.

Throughout the festival, the park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Sept. 4-5, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Information: 800-831-4FUN or www.silverdollarcity.com.