

JAMIE SLOCUM

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
"The Times-Mail" newspaper
Bedford, IN
© 1999

Jamie Slocum, with his mellow, blues-jazz edge to Contemporary Christian music, has spent a lifetime listening and learning how God's grace can heal, transform, and resurrect the human spirit.

"Many, even strong Christians, struggle with the concept of grace," Slocum said. "We know that it's real, but it's hard to make it a reality in our hearts."

Bedford audiences will be graced with the opening act entertainment of the multi-talented singer, songwriter, and guitarist on Saturday, July 3, at the Ragamuffins BNL Performing Arts Center concert.

Slocum, a former Arizona marine biology and broadcasting college major, abandoned his studies in '91 to pursue a music career in Nashville.

After many years devoted to sharpening his skills, collaborating with other writers, and getting his songs published, he finally obtained his long-awaited Christian recording contract.

As a result, his innovative '96 debut album, ***Somewhere Under Heaven***, received rave reviews and earned him a '97 Gospel Music Dove Awards Nomination for Best New Artist.

His current album, ***Grace Changes Everything***, is a solid vocal and songwriting portrayal based on the physical, emotional, and spiritual well being of the listener.

"A lot of the early sketches for the record come from talking to people after concerts and hearing about their pains and hurts," he said.



His latest single, "*You Take Me Places*," slated for a mid-summer release, follows close on the heels of the album's recent Top Ten title track hit.

For Slocum, music has the ability to erase mankind's wounds, mistakes, and regrets, and provides a safe haven for those seeking the promise of God's eternal benevolence.

"My dream is that we are able to make a difference," he said. "Then my prayers will be answered. I want to hear God say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, now come rejoice with me in a great place.' "