

INSIDE
Classifieds, 5D

Faith & Values

DEAR ABBY
Trucker's lonely wife
craves four-legged friend
PAGE 4C



STAFF/JOHN D. RUSSELL

Local country Christian music singer Lesa Bailey Hudson is going to Nashville, Tenn., today to play her song "Step Out In Faith" as part of a showcase at the Roy Acuff Theater on Sunday.

'Step Out In Faith'

Country Christian musician to showcase work at Nashville performance

By Dwight Dana
Morning News
ddana@florencenews.com

Lesla Bailey Hudson is going to Nashville, Tenn., today to live out, in person, her song "Step Out In Faith."

She's going to mingle with all of those attending the Christian Country Music Awards annual convention. While there she will be promoting her new solo CD release titled "Not Me."

"Step Out In Faith" is one of the songs on the CD, which is being played on some 117 stations nationwide. It was No. 69 on the PowerSource Christian Country radio chart at the end of October.

Hudson was invited to perform in the Roy Acuff Theater on Sunday in one of its

"We just have to be ready to step out in faith because God has a plan for all of us."

Lesla Bailey Hudson

artists' showcases. About 100 people were invited to perform in the showcases. She said the performance is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for her.

"It's been sort of a musical journey and a great experience all the way around," Hudson said. "The Roy Acuff Theater could be the launching pad to doing things on a higher level. Nashville is a kind of a 'I-hope-to-be' step-

ping stone, where I hope to meet some people who can help me. I don't know what's going to happen, but I do know it's going to be fun."

The possibility of climbing the Christian musical ladder aside, Hudson said it's all about God. She said she is convinced that when He wants you to do something, He will put you on the path, give you the resources and place the people in your path who will help you get to where you need to be.

"We just have to be ready to step out in faith because God has a plan for all of us," she said. "We must step out in faith because if He takes you there, He will be there to lead you. No matter where you are in life, God will always be there to lead you

through it."

Stepping out in faith has been a key component for Hudson in her music ministry. She said this is where she needs to be.

And the song, "Step Out In Faith," has become a personal testimony to the Darlington native now living in Florence.

"It doesn't really matter to me what happens in Nashville," she said. "It would be cool to make it big, all of us have that dream. But just to know that people listen to this, are blessed by it and are encouraged is the answer to a prayer for me."

Hudson has played the piano since she was 6 years old. That progressed into

See MUSIC, 2C

www.scnw.com

MUSIC

Continued From 1C

singing. The journey came full swing when she started writing and producing songs in 2001.

Joanna Baker and Scott Shelley helped her write "Step Out In Faith." All are members of Darlington's First Church of God. Hudson grew up in the church, where she leads a contemporary worship service.

The CD has 11 songs. Hudson said she wrote the others with titles such as "Not Me," "Following God's Plan," "Hole Hearted" and "Lukewarm Christian."

Hudson's parents are the late Everett and Margaret Bailey of Darlington. Her mother played the piano for the First Church of God for more than 40 years. Her father sang in the choir.

"I come from a very musical family," she said. "I like all kinds of music. I've even been known to sing a few old tunes."

Hudson is a graduate of Francis Marion University with an undergraduate degree in business administration. She is employed by ACS Technologies. Her husband, Bruce, teaches at Wilson High School and is the head coach of Florence-Darlington Technical College's baseball team.