

VERTICAL PRAISE

ABOUT US

EDDIE CARDEN

Eddie was born and raised in Charlottesville, Virginia by God-fearing parents who made sure Eddie was introduced to Christ at a young age. His personal commitment to Christ was made at the age of 7. Eddie began singing at an early age in the childrens' choir at his church and then later in the youth and young adult choirs. Unknown to him, God was all the while laying a foundation for the love of music that would take root at a later time. Even though sports-related items and events occupied the majority of Eddie's young life, God was increasingly making His presence known and molding Eddie into the vessel He would one day use to proclaim His Word to the world. Eddie's path led him to his wife Holly and her passion for singing inspired him to develop his hidden talent, which he now enjoys using in service for the Lord. He now knows that God has called him to be a minister of the Gospel by proclaiming the Word of God through music. Everyone who meets Eddie instantly calls him a friend and most are acutely aware of the special anointing from God on his life. Apart from spending time with the group, Eddie enjoys spending time with Holly, eating, and watching sports.

HOLLY CARDEN

Holly finds herself residing in "The Gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains," also known as Greene County, Virginia, where she was raised by two very loving parents. At the early age of 7, Holly accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior after a faithful pastor literally carried her to church on a bus every week while all the time introducing her to Christ. Talent competitions were the norm for Holly at an early age, but success wasn't achieved until she committed her talent to singing for the Lord at age 11. Holly's love of country music quickly faded when she realized that people's lives could and would be touched by singing God-centered, Christ-exalting music. After singing in various choruses, ensembles, choirs, and drama presentations, Holly is now where God wants her; singing along side her best friend and husband Eddie and faithful friend and "cut-up" Tony. Holly is employed full-time as a human resources specialist but spends the majority of her free time with Eddie, singing with Vertical Praise, supporting Grace Baptist Church in Charlottesville, VA, and shopping whenever possible. Holly is also an avid dog-lover and enjoys spending time with her Jack Russell Terrier Jazz and loving mutt Chubs. When asked, Holly says that "It's not all about me. It's about Him (Christ), and everything revolves around Him."

TONY HENSLEY

Tony has been through many trials and difficult times over the years being disabled since birth and dealing with a long string of accidents. Tony can tell you with full confidence that Jeremiah 29:11 is true. He has learned no matter what trials and difficulties we face in life, God always has a plan, and God is always faithful to see us through. Tony accepted Christ as his personal Savior during a chapel service at the Christian school he attended but didn't really make his decision known or start serving the Lord until later becoming involved in a local church youth group. He always enjoyed singing in musicals at school. His love for singing became even stronger when one day, singing along with his mother, he began singing a harmony line which he had never heard of practiced before. When not out singing with Vertical Praise, like every other member of the group, Tony has a full-time job as an insurance underwriter that keeps him very busy. Tony's first love though is serving God in music ministry. In addition to singing, Tony love spending most of his time with his wife, Pam. "It takes a lot of time and hard work to serve God in a ministry like Vertical Praise, just ask any of us," says Tony. "But, if just one more person comes to know the Lord as their personal Savior through our ministry, then that one precious soul is worth every second of time and ounce of energy we can possibly put into everything we do!"