

# Michael W. Smith reflects on the wonder of worship

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. —For almost 30 years, [Michael W. Smith](#) has been taking listeners on a musical journey into the heart of worship while delivering powerful messages about grace, love and redemption through his songs.

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As one of the most popular contemporary Christian musicians, Smith has amassed an impressive catalog of achievements. His 21 albums have garnered multiple honors, including an American Music Award, three Grammy Awards, 44 Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association and 33 No. 1 radio hits. In addition, he holds 16 gold, seven platinum and two double-platinum albums for career sales approaching 15 million. In 2009, he was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

He also has scored several film projects and has been featured by a variety of media outlets including FOX and Friends, Hannity and Colmes, USA Today, Newsweek, NBC's Today Show and Nightly News, Larry King Live, Good Morning America and many others. But Smith has remained committed to shining the spotlight on God.

In addition to his music, Smith desires to create platforms that would reach out and help those in need. He established Rocketown in his hometown of Nashville, which serves as a safe place for young people to enjoy music and for artists to be discovered.

He also raises awareness for a variety of mission organizations, including [Compassion International](#) and Samaritan's Purse. Following the aftermath

of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Smith traveled to Haiti with [Samaritan's Purse](#). He also co-wrote the song, "Come Together Now," and gathered a community of artists to record the song to benefit Haiti relief efforts.



His tours consistently rank among the best-attended in the country, and he doesn't miss a beat sharing the gospel with audiences.

His newest album, *Wonder*, chronicles songs about life's most heart-wrenching moments, as well as the unexpected joys.

"I hope that these songs will help people to realize that they can get through whatever situation they are dealing with, if they trust in God," Smith said.

"Even in the midst of adversities, just anchor down. Don't cover it up with an addiction, but instead, trust in God's promises and know that he will never forsake you. The ultimate goal is for these songs to lead people to believe in Jesus and accept God's promises. If that happens, praise God, because I think it would allow a lot of people to be victorious and be able to finish well in this journey called life."

This is a busy season in Smith's life. This fall, he is on the "Make a Difference Tour" with speaker/author Max Lucado and musicians Third Day, TobyMac and Jason Gray. Immediately following this tour, he will join

Franklin Graham's Festival in Latvia and then embark on a tour in Hungary, Austria and Romania.

In December, he will sing Christmas carols with symphony orchestras around the country. He will appear with the Dallas Symphony at the Meyerson Nov. 30-Dec. 1, and perform at [Second Baptist Church in Houston](#) Dec. 10.

While dealing with the demands of a hectic touring schedule, Smith emphasizes the importance of limiting distractions so he can spend time in God's word.

"There's so much going on these days and so many distractions, especially with cell phones, computers and the Internet," Smith said.

{youtube}-rPX1z4cbyE{/youtube}

"God continues to teach me the importance of just being still and being in awe of his creation. When I look up at the sky, I can't help but think, 'God is so awesome.'

"For me, the key to focusing on Christ and dwelling in his presence is removing all those distractions and finding a place where I can be alone and read his word. Sometimes that means turning the cell phone off, going to a park or someplace quiet and just spending some time reflecting on his glory."

As the years pass by, Smith continues to be amazed and humbled by God leading this musical journey.

"I'm still amazed that I get to be part of building the kingdom through this gift that God has given me," Smith said.

"It's something that I love to do and it's changing the world a little bit, which blows my mind. Someone recently came up to me out of the blue and

said they accepted Christ at one of my concerts 20 years ago. I thought that was incredible.

“Another time, a man shared about a time when he was going to commit suicide and already had the gun loaded. By God’s divine intervention, just as this man was about to pull the trigger, he happened to hear one of my songs which addressed the issue of suicide and realized he couldn’t go through with taking his life. That man ended up giving his life to the Lord, and now, he’s married with a family. That story right there is worth my whole career.”