



This is Ann...

More than likely you've seen Ann Downing as a regular on the popular Gaither Homecoming Video series. However the majority of her time is spent maintaining a full schedule of church concerts and speaking engagements almost fifty weekends each year. Ann is a Commissioned Song Evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene, however her schedule finds her in various denominations throughout the United States, Canada and parts of Europe.

Apart from her affiliation with the Gaither Homecoming Friends, Ann's own versatile music style appeals to a wide range of musical tastes and age groups, not just the Gaither Video fans.

Ann's unique presentation style is appealing to many in that she comes down from the platform to communicate with the audience on a very personal level. Her spontaneous, off-the-cuff delivery gives the feeling of a conversational visit rather than a rigid formal program.

Raised on a cotton farm in rural Mississippi, Ann grew up dreaming of the day she'd sing gospel music all over the world. Right out of high school she began to realize that dream by securing a position with the legendary Speer Family, later marrying the man of her dreams and co-founding The Downings, a group that helped shape the face of Gospel music we have today. She won the industry's highest honor—the Dove Award—for Female Vocalist within a year and went on to be inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Ann has been lauded with various awards and accolades throughout her gospel music career spanning more than forty years. However, she's quick to tell you that she's like you in many ways. Fading success? She's been there! Crumbling marriage on the brink of divorce? She's been there! Financial loss and devastation? Yes, she's been there too! Maybe you've lost a spouse or experienced a devastating trauma in your family? Ann's walked in your shoes!

What do you do when you can't "fix" what's wrong in your life or in the lives of those you love? What do you do when the circumstances of your life beg the question, "do you really believe what you've said all these years about trusting God?" Ann's intensely personal story reads like the Olympics, full of the 'thrill of victory...and the agony of defeat'. But it also is a testimony of hope and healing that helps us hold firmly to the promise that "earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal."