

in the

SPOTLITE

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President
Faith, Inc.



From Music Man to Medicine Man
One man's journey of faith:
"If you believe it, you can achieve it."

The question I get asked more often than any other is: "How did a country music entertainer wind up in the medical field?" The answer: "It was just another way to serve the public." In music, a song might temporarily relieve the stress and problems for someone in everyday life. In medicine, a novel product or treatment can potentially enhance the quality of life for many more people—for more than just a moment in time.

Let me take you back a ways' and tell you how I became associated with the medical industry. In high school, I thought that some day I would become a doctor, believing medicine to be an honorable profession that would give me a chance to serve people in need while achieving financial security. This idea remained with me for a long time, until I realized that music was my true calling. Singing and entertaining would afford me the opportunity to not only make a difference in someone's life with a song, but also enable me to meet girls (which at 14 years of age was very, very important.) Twenty #1 hit singles and forty-seven albums later, the decision to go with music must have been the right choice.

However, a question that many of us have asked ourselves at one time or another kept coming to mind: "How would life have been different if I had pursued medicine as a career instead of music? Could I have made a bigger difference? I always wondered whether, if an opportunity arose, would I still 'take the leap' into the medical profession?

I learned the answer relatively quickly. In 2001, at the age of 56, a door opened. My sister, Rita Warner, and I were having Thanksgiving dinner with our family. During conversation, we learned of an opportunity to help some friends of ours with the growth of their medical finishing business. One thing led to another and, before I knew it, Rita had purchased the company (which was then known as Faith Finishing, Inc.) from Lloyd Lester.

Lloyd stayed on with the company until retiring several months ago from his position as Founder and President. He began his career at Richards Manufacturing Company (now, Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics) and, for more than 30 years, was one of our industry's premier hand finishers. Since 1992, his company had built a stellar reputation for its refurbishing of orthopaedic instruments.

During the early years of Lloyd's career in the 1950's, metal finishing was a different profession than it is today. Whether manufacturing surgical implants or instruments, everything was done simply and quickly — paperwork was minimal, processes were short, and Standard Operating Procedures hadn't yet found their way into the process controls of manufacturing. With the 1960's, everything changed. The FDA, documentation, traceability, QC, GMPs, and ASTM, and soon thereafter, a Regulatory Affairs department in every company.

Machinery became more accurate and reliable, and metal and chemical finishing processes improved. When man-hours versus volume production became a critical factor, robotics entered the picture. However, even with robots, hand finishers still perform the final phases of finishing long after the robots have gone home for the day. Because robots cannot 'see' residual surface irregularities, skilled operators are needed to 'finish out' these imperfections while maintaining dimensional specs without 'scraping out' a part.

As Lloyd still laments, metal finishing 'gurus' are a dying breed, and the really good ones are pretty hard to come by. A good Master Metal Finisher needs only to look at a part or a print to know exactly what needs to be done to achieve the desired finish 'call out' on any product. A Master Metal Finisher is the one person that Quality Assurance calls to write the SOP's for specific finishes.

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Things have changed dramatically since the 1950's, but not the finishes themselves. Only the technology employed to achieve them has changed — from robotics, to automatic programming for cleaning and passivation, to the use of multi-axis mills and lathes.

Our dream is growing. In 2002, Faith Finishing, Inc. was renamed Faith, Inc. While expanding our services to include the manufacture of implants and instruments, we still pride ourselves on having 'the best finishing operation' in the country.

Rita, who began her career as an R.N. but later transitioned to duties as a stay-at-home mom, saw a chance to fulfill her dreams on a larger scale than previously thought possible, and she now serves as CEO. Rita's husband, Dave Warner, came out of retirement after a 25-year career with FedEx and now sits at the helm as CFO. His passion for steering the company toward continued growth continues to be an inspiration to all of us.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to apply our energies to challenges that can meaningfully impact the quality of life for our friends and neighbors — while enabling us to give back a little of what we have been blessed to receive in life.

While touring as a performer remains one of my favorite pastimes, being a player in the medical industry has become my passion. I've discovered something that we all hear time and again, but often fail to recognize — that it's never too late in life to pursue new dreams or climb new mountains. Our family took a big leap of faith...and we know we'll never look back.

Editor: Faith, Inc. is headquartered within a 21,000 sq.ft. facility, employs a staff of 19, and specializes in the finishing and manufacture of orthopedic implants and instruments. Faith is FDA-registered, ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 13488:1996 certified, and is a Certified Woman-owned Company thru Pro-net, as well as Certified Globally by Amtac.

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Editor: On the Lighter Side...

T.G. Sheppard has always had an unstoppable passion for music. That passion, combined with a steadfast dedication to entertainment, has made him one of the most popular live performers in country music today.

Knowing early in life that music was more than a hobby, he left his home in Humboldt, Tennessee at the age of 15, journeying to Memphis to begin his career in earnest. Working in various bands, he began to develop his stage skills, learning how to put his own touch on the myriad of songs required to survive on the club and party circuit as an opening act for some of the biggest acts in America, including The Animals, Jan & Dean and The Beach Boys.

In 1965, T.G. entered the record promotion business and turned toward helping further the careers of other performers, making him one of the industry's most successful record promoters. While promoting records for RCA, T.G. formed a close personal and professional relationship with Elvis Presley. The legendary performer appreciated T.G.'s unique style and personality and, as a token of their friendship, gave T.G. his first tour bus in 1976, helping to provide him with the confidence to give up the promotion business and hit the road full time.

In 1972, T.G. found a song that would change his life forever. After cutting Bobby David's composition "Devil In The Bottle" himself, T.G. headed to Nashville where he was signed to Motown, the mammoth R&B label that was then trying to establish a presence in country music.

Named "Best New Male Artist" in 1976 by CASH BOX, T.G. signed with Warner Bros. when Motown decided to get out of country music. His career then skyrocketed as he scored 10 consecutive number one songs, including such classics as "Only One You", "Party Time", and "War Is Hell (On The Homefront)". In 1982, following this impressive "debut", T.G. was honored as Music City News "Most Promising Male Vocalist".