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CASTING CROWNS' COME TO THE WELL HIGHEST DEBUT ON BILLBOARD TOP 200

BAND CLAIMS TWO SPOTS ON SOUNDSCAN CHRISTIAN ALBUMS CHART: COME TO THE WELL, NO. 1, UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD HEARS, NO. 4

Come to The Well No. 1 on iTunes Christian Albums Chart, No. 3 on iTunes Overall Albums Chart "Courageous" No. 1 on iTunes Christian Songs Chart

Project's Lead Single "Courageous" No. 1 on Billboard National Christian Audience Chart

(*NASHVILLE*, *Tenn.*) Oct. 26, 2011— On the heels of its recent American Music Award® nomination, multi-platinum, award-winning artist **Casting Crowns** is this week's highest debut on the *Billboard's* **Top 200** at **No. 2**.

Come to the Well additionally topped the Billboard Contemporary Christian Overall chart, while also claiming No. 1 on the iTunes Christian Albums chart and No. 3 on its Overall Albums chart. Lead single "Courageous," landed at No. 1 on the iTunes Christian Songs chart as well.

Casting Crowns' fourth studio release, *Come to the Well* sold an extraordinary 99,138 copies this week. Such a showing earned *Come to the Well* the highest charting position for a debut album on the *Billboard* Top 200. Furthermore, the project dominated the *Billboard* Contemporary Christian Overall chart, where Casting Crowns' Nov. 3, 2009 release, *Until the Whole World Hears*, also charted at No. 4.

In addition, Casting Crowns celebrates a No. 1 on the *Billboard* National Christian Audience chart with hit radio single "Courageous," added only 10 weeks ago. The occasion marks Casting Crowns' second No. 1 song in six months, following "Glorious Day" which was No. 1 at AC in April 2011.

Other factors driving Casting Crowns' momentum are multiple sold out tour dates, Mark Hall's recent book release, high profile media coverage including a lead feature in *Billboard Magazine*, an American Music Award® nomination – the band's sixth - and the support of its more than TWO MILLION Facebook fans.

Celebrity blogger **Perez Hilton** was impressed by early buzz anticipating the album's strong debut. In his Oct. 20 blog post he singled out the band saying, "Congrats guys! You're quite blessed!" Read the post in its entirety here: http://perezhilton.com/2011-10-20-christian-rockers-casting-crowns-billboard.

Produced by Mark A. Miller, *Come to the Well* is Casting Crowns' first new studio album in two years. As with previous records this one draws inspiration from the band's ministry efforts at its home church, Eagles Landing Baptist Church, outside of Atlanta, where frontman Mark Hall serves as youth pastor. The project is filled with songs that both challenge and encourage believers in their walk. Hall collaborated on several of the tracks with top songwriters including Steven Curtis Chapman, Matthew West and award-winning country songwriter Tom Douglas.

About Casting Crowns

Atlanta-based Casting Crowns released its fourth studio album, *Come To The Well*, on Oct. 18, 2011. The album sold 99,138 copies its first week making it the highest charting debut on the *Billboard* Top 200, with an overall chart position of No. 2. It also garnered the No. 1 spot on the *Billboard* Contemporary Christian Overall chart, followed closely by its November 2009 release, *Until The Whole World Hears*, at No. 4.

Come To The Well additionally climbed to No. 1 on iTunes Christian Albums chart and No. 3 on its Overall Albums chart. The record's lead single, "Courageous," was the No. 1 Christian single on iTunes while hitting No. 1 on the *Billboard* National Audience Chart after just 10 weeks. All of Casting Crowns' projects are RIAA certified, with a tally of three RIAA Platinum Albums, two RIAA Platinum DVDs, two RIAA Gold Albums, two Gold DVDs and two Gold digital singles. The group also claims an American Music Award®, with six total nominations, three GRAMMY Awards, and 14 GMA Dove Awards.

Despite an unprecedented eight-year career with Casting Crowns, the seven band members remain active in student ministry in the Atlanta area and tour part-time around their local church duties. Serving his 18th year in youth ministry, lead singer/songwriter Mark Hall is the student pastor at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in Atlanta. As a testament to the band's impact, Casting Crowns performed for a second time in North Korea in April 2009, in partnership with Global Resource Services, as the band continues to forge invaluable relationships with the people in the D.P.R.K.

For more information on Casting Crowns and *Come to the Well*, visit: www.castingcrowns.com or follow Mark Hall's Twitter at twitter.com/markhallCC.

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