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## STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN PARTNERS WITH PROVIDENT MUSIC GROUP

### Iconic Artist Releases Christmas Record This Fall; Studio Project Follows - 2013

(Nashville, Tenn.) August 3, 2012 — **Steven Curtis Chapman** has signed a recording agreement with Provident Music Group, which will begin with the release of a Christmas record titled **JOY** (Reunion Records/Provident Label Group) on **October 16**. The iconic artist has amassed 46 No. 1 singles, 57 GMA Dove Awards; five GRAMMY awards and more than 200 songs recorded on 17 original albums spread across an illustrious 25-year career. In 2013, Steven will follow the Christmas release with his first full studio release of all new material since 2007's **This Moment**.

Terry A. Hemmings, President and CEO, Provident Music Group shares, "Steven and I have been friends for many years and I have always respected his character and integrity. He possesses the heart, passion and energy to do the work he's been called to; not only in music, but in caring for others and utilizing his gifts for so much more. We're excited to provide him a place to tell his story, while coming alongside him with the resources and channels to allow that story to be heard and experienced by many. We believe this will be a great 'new adventure' for all of us."

"Many know that the last few years have been a difficult journey for my family and me, following the loss of our daughter Maria," says Chapman. "So many have prayed for us and encouraged us, and having the opportunity to write, record and share this new music really feels like the beginning of a new season...a season of joy."

He adds, "In writing and experimenting with different ideas, my management and I discussed doing something for my friends and fans this year, perhaps releasing a small side project direct through my website. But as momentum picked up on some Christmas songs, I felt it blossoming into a full release. Then unexpectedly and suddenly, when it didn't seem it could be made available this year, the door opened for the chance to partner with Provident, and do so with a long time friend I truly respect, Terry Hemmings, so I'm excited about the chance to write a new chapter."

"I have nothing but the deepest respect, admiration and gratitude for my friends at EMI. I am so grateful to the people there for their belief in me, and the amazing things God accomplished through us together these past 25 years. Bill, Peter and the entire team there are remarkable and remain valued friends."

The first release through the new partnership at Provident Label Group is a 12-track Christmas title called *JOY*, slated for release on **October 16**. Chapman has three previously released Christmas projects: *The Music of Christmas* (1995, RIAA Certified Gold), *Christmas is All in the Heart* (2003, a Hallmark limited, sold-out run of 400,000) and *All I Really Want for Christmas* (2005, RIAA Certified GOLD).

"One thing I'm particularly excited about with this new music is the fact that I got to go in the studio and capture the magic that happens when musicians are together in the same room, making music, and having more fun than anyone should be allowed to have doing their job," offers Chapman.

"We found this great studio in Lexington, Ky. (my birth state!) and gathered together some of my favorite players, slept over in the rooms there, set up a Christmas tree (I wore my favorite Charlie Brown Christmas t-shirts everyday) and went at it."

Audiences will have the chance to hear new songs from *JOY* when Chapman joins the **12 Gifts of Christmas** tour this November and December. He joins Laura Story and speakers, including his wife, Mary Beth Chapman, Patsy Clairmont, Luci Swindoll, Marilyn Meberg, comedienne Anita Renfroe and illusionist Harris III. For full tour information, visit <a href="https://www.12gifts.com">www.12gifts.com</a>.

"There are still bittersweet moments of tears for us at Christmas, and I'm sure will be until we see our daughter and our Savior face to face," Chapman notes. "But each year the memories seem sweeter, the bitter gets less bitter, and the laughter gets louder...and there's joy again...full on joy!"

Following the release of *JOY* and the 12 Gifts of Christmas tour, Chapman will return to the studio to begin recording his first full studio release since his 2007 *This Moment*.

For more information on Steven, please visit: www.stevencurtischapman.com or www.providentpress.com

### **About Steven Curtis Chapman:**

**Steven Curtis Chapman** has sold more than ten million records including two RIAA certified platinum albums and eight RIAA certified gold albums. Along with his five GRAMMY awards, Chapman has won an American Music Award, has recorded 46 No. 1 US radio hits and been awarded 57 Dove Awards, more than any other artist to date. Since his recording career began in 1987, Chapman has recorded seventeen projects with Sparrow Records. He has performed at the White House and has appeared on multiple national programs via CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, MSNBC, CMT, FOX News, the Hallmark Channel and E!, including Good Morning America, Larry King Live, Fox & Friends, Huckabee, CBS Sunday Morning, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and more. Chapman and his wife Mary Beth created Show HOPE in 2001 after bringing their first adopted daughter, Shaohannah, home from China. The ministry's goal is to help families reduce the financial barrier of adoption, and has provided grants to more than 3,200 families wishing to adopt orphans from around the world.

#### **About Show Hope:**

A ministry founded by Steven Curtis and Mary Beth Chapman to help care for the millions of orphans around the world, Show Hope helps to provide waiting orphans with forever families by giving financial grants to adoptive families. To date, Show Hope is now an internationally recognized voice for orphan advocacy and has given more than 3,200 financial grants, affecting the lives of children from 50 different countries, including the U.S. In addition to giving financial grants, Show Hope also empowers families, churches and communities with adoption and orphan care resources and advocacy efforts to change the world for orphans.

Show Hope, expanding its remarkable worldwide impact, also provides for orphans with special needs in China through its Special Care Centers. One of these centers is Maria's Big House of Hope, a six-story healing home facility located in Luoyang, China. Opened in the summer of 2009, its mission is to provide the highest level of care for orphans who are in desperate need of surgeries and medical attention, thus enabling the children to thrive and increase the orphans' chances of being adopted. Additional centers have opened in the Henan province of China, operating in two state-run orphanages as an extension of the care being provided at Maria's Big House of Hope.

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