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SINGER MICHAEL W. SMITH FEATURES STEVE AND SARAH BERGER IN “WELCOME HOME” VIDEO MESSAGE

Leipers Fork, Tenn.—Nov. 9, 2010—To help convey the meaning behind his song, “Welcome Home,” award-winning Christian music artist Michael W. Smith recruited *Have Heart* authors Steve and Sarah Berger. Smith was encouraged by the Bergers’ recent book about Heaven after experiencing the passing of close friends in 2009. This emotional time inspired Smith to write “Welcome Home.” He then asked the Bergers to participate in a video message for the song.

Both “Welcome Home” and *Have Heart* describe the pain and joy that come when a loved one departs earth and enters into Heaven. For the Bergers, their son Josiah’s home-going was the catalyst that drove them deeper into God’s Word where they discovered truths about Heaven that brought them comfort and hope.

“The Scriptures became an anchor for their hearts as they mourned the passing of their son and celebrated his eternal home and ongoing legacy,” Smith says. To encourage others with this, Smith gave Steve and Sarah the opportunity to share their story and illustrate Heaven using the Bible in his video.

“One of the verses that comforts all of us [that] we know so well is, ‘to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord,’ says Sarah Berger. “I dug into my *Strong’s Concordance* to find out what this really means, and ‘to be absent’ means ‘to immigrate,’ and, ‘to be present with the Lord’ means ‘to be in one’s homeland.’ That changes everything. If we have the proper perspective of what home really is—Heaven—then we should be able to celebrate more on this side when we know assuredly that somebody is a believer. The memorial service needs to turn into a welcoming.”

Currently on tour with Toby Mac, Third Day and author Max Lucado, Michael W. Smith has sold nearly 17 million albums, written 11 books, scored several films and received countless awards, including three GRAMMYS, one American Music Award and an induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Smith’s single, “Welcome Home,” is from his 22nd career album, *Wonder*, which released September 28, 2010. It is one of several songs featuring a video message to offer more insight. To view the video, visit www.haveheart.net or www.michaelwsmith.com.

Released June 2010 and in its second printing, *Have Heart* offers comfort and hope to Christians around the world by encouraging them to live on earth with Heaven in mind. *Aliéntate*, the Spanish companion to *Have Heart*, released November 2010. All proceeds from both books will benefit Josiah’s House orphanage in the Dominican Republic. *Have Heart* was also recently named the official charity of NASCAR’s Chivas Motorsports.