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### **Michael Dean Church - Live it Out Loud**

Dream Church Records

Album Review by Cheryl H. Hill

This 6-foot-5 singer is making big waves with his first album. His bio states that when you mix the traditional country and bluegrass influences of his native West Virginia combined with the R&B-flavored soulful country of Atlanta and North Georgia, you begin to understand the magic and unique vocal stylings of Michael Dean Church. Then when you hear that he grew up in a home full of Gospel music (his grandfather was a preacher and his parents recorded Gospel albums), the breadth of Church's musical knowledge and taste shines forth as an ideal combination for today's Music Row and Country Radio.

Church says he aspires to be one of those brilliant country boys who hangs in there long enough for radio and Music Row to fall in love with his music. He is off to a good start since Steven Sharp and Chip Martin produced the album; Sharp has promoted more than 60 No. 1 singles including Alan Jackson's very first number one. Church actually went to Bakersfield to record several of the tracks with members of Buck Owens' Buckaroos but it is on the beautiful ballad from Sheri Austin called "Fools Like Us," that was first cut by Jason Sellers, that he really shines.

"It was sort of fate," he said. "I had always wanted to move to Nashville, but I didn't want to be a starving artist, so it just so happened that a position in my field opened up so that I was able to move." A loan officer with a financial mortgage corporation, Church said while his job pays the bills, it also gives him the flexibility to pursue his true calling ... music. "In this town, there are a thousand great singers, you just have to keep at it and hope someone will get what you're trying to do as an artist." With a voice like his, I don't think it will be long before he's trading his office for a stage.

**Stand out tracks:** "Fools Like Us," "What am I Cryin' For," "Another Lonely One," "Burned by the Same Fire Twice"