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# Matthew West Wins 7th ASCAP Christian Songwriter Award

*A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.*

**KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY**

*"Recorded by Anne Wilson;"*

*(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)*

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

## The Story - Part One

Matthew West has won the ASCAP Christian Music Songwriter of the Year award for a seventh time, extending a record he already owned. The honour came at the 2026 ASCAP Nashville Songwriters Celebration on Monday night, November 16, at the 12:30 Club in Nashville, where the writers behind the most-performed country and Christian songs of the past year were recognised.

Seven wins is not a number that happens by accident. West set the record with his sixth win in 2024, and two years later he has pushed it further still.

The award is given for the songs that were actually played - on radio, in churches, on streaming services - which means this is not a prize for reputation. It is a count of how often the words he wrote were sung out loud by other people.

This year's honour rests on three songs in particular: "God Story," recorded by Anne Wilson; "No Fear," recorded by Jon Reddick and We the Kingdom; and "Unashamed," West's own hit.

One of those songs carried a young singer's testimony. Another carried a church's defiance. The third carried West's own voice.

Between them, they show why Nashville keeps coming back to the same writer: he can write a song for a teenager finding her voice, and a song for a congregation refusing to be afraid, and make both of them sound like they were written for the person singing.

### Forty No. 1 Hits And More Than 375 Songs

The numbers behind West's career are hard to take in all at once.

Forty No. 1 Hits as both an artist and a songwriter. More than 375 songwriting credits. A career spanning nearly three decades.

The Gospel Music Association, announcing the win, called it a continuation of Christian music history - and that is not exaggeration. Nobody else has won this award seven times. Nobody else is even close.

What makes the record matter is not the shelf of trophies. It is the reach.

West's songs have been sung by artists across the whole of Christian music, from worship leaders to country crossovers, and his own recordings have carried his testimony to audiences that never set foot in a church. He has built a career on a simple idea: a song that tells the truth about a person's life will find the people who need it.

## The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

### PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

## READ THE FULL STORY

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