

THE EVANGELISTS' **Perspective**

FALL 2010



**WALLY & GINGER
LAXSON
ON THE
ROAD AGAIN**



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FROM THE EDITOR

"It takes a lot of grace to shout at another preacher's meeting." I remember hearing that early in my ministry and wondering if that was really true. While I would not consider myself to be a Christian given to frequent audible outbursts of overwhelming praise, I do shout and I do affirm truth when I hear it. I also find it very natural for me to tear-up when I know Jesus is near and when people respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit even if I'm not the preacher. I can still raise my hand and focus on the truth proclaimed by another messenger.

The apostle Paul refers many times to the great joy he personally received when hearing about the successes and victories reported by fellow evangelists. For several years in the late 1970's and then through 1980's, there were five full-time Nazarene evangelists that used our church in Sturgis, MI as their headquarters. Our pastor, John Shoup, welcomed these road warriors by providing parking, RV hookups, secretarial and mailing services, and pastoral encouragement.

Most revivals at that time usually started on Tuesday or Wednesday and ended on Sunday night. Most, if not all of the five evangelists would drive all night, just to be home for a day or two. I came home one time and my driveway was full of trailers, motor homes, a semi-rig, and another bus. I had to park down the street wondering if the neighbors were thinking that the circus had come to town.

No matter how road weary they were, they would look forward to the Monday morning breakfasts at the local restaurant. After bragging about how far we had driven and how tired we were, the revival reports would begin. Sometimes the news was very simple and could be described as a "good meeting." Usually, however, someone would start bragging on Jesus and how the Spirit really blessed and how many people had sought help at the altar. We used more than our share of table napkins. All too soon we had to leave for our next assignments but our parting prayer would be, "Lord, thank

you for the privilege of singing and preaching about you. Please give safe travel to each one of us and may all the churches we minister to experience true revival. Please anoint each of us and all our colleagues with a fresh touch of your spirit."

I think all of us were "shouting at another preacher's meeting" during those times. I have a hard time with some folks that are always whining. Sometimes the calling to itinerant evangelism will have its lonely and

trying moments but it provides opportunities of great joy as well. We no longer have those Monday morning breakfasts around here. Everyone has moved on and found other homes in other parts of the country. We are

high-tech evangelists however, and stay in touch via newsletters, e-mail, facebook, twitter, and web-sights. Perhaps the most stirring method of communication is still that personal encounter. Recently I have enjoyed some of those encounters. The encounters were not with the evangelists themselves but with those to whom they have ministered.

This spring I was holding a revival in Elkins, WV with pastor Terry Burgess and his wife, Kathy. We were having a good revival and the Lord was blessing. This particular evening, the spirit moved upon the people and several spontaneous testimonies erupted. Many made their way to the altars and eventually we anointed some folks for healing. After the service a wonderful saint, Mrs. Ed Wilfong approached me with the words, "The Lord wanted me to share this with you." She proceeded to tell me about her husband Ed who had been diagnosed by the doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital as having MS. Ed is a builder of bridges and works very hard. For several years after the diagnosis, Ed would endure periods of extreme weakness and pain. In November of 2006, Evangelist Russ Coffey came to Elkins Nazarene church for revival. On November 15, 2006 after a good altar response at the end of his sermon, Russ Coffey said that he felt God prompting him to ask for those who need physical healing to come forward. Several people came forward and were anointed and prayed for. Rev. Coffey paused for a few moments as if he were

waiting for directions. He said that he felt that there was someone in the congregation who needed to be healed. He continued to wait. Ed Wilfong, a very quiet and unassuming person, stepped out and went forward. Mrs. Wilfong said, "I went with him to see why he went forward and I heard him request Rev. Coffey to anoint him for MS. He was healed!" I was not there that night in 2006 but I shouted at another preacher's meeting.

A few weeks after my revival in Elkins I was sitting in a board room in Grand Ledge, Michigan. I am honored to serve on the board of credentials for the Michigan District. We were interviewing candidates for ordination on this particular day. Rev. Matthieu Pierre and his wife came into the room and were seated in front of us. Matthieu was asked to share his spiritual journey and ultimate call to be an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene. Matthieu was born into a Baptist minister's home in Port au prince, Haiti. At the age of sixteen he received Christ as his personal savior. He said, "I was taught very little on the doctrine of sanctification. The idea of going to heaven with sin in my life was always something that made me think a lot." After moving to the United States he ended up in Grand Rapids, MI. In June of 1996 he heard the message of full salvation and entire sanctification from an evangelist by the name of Russ Coffey during a week-end meeting at Grand Rapids First. He said, "I knew I had found peace." When I looked around the board room I could not find a dry eye. For a few moments we were in that revival and I was shouting at another preacher's meeting.

I have often wondered if the first century Christian evangelists had their own breakfast clubs on Monday mornings. I can only imagine hearing the reports from Paul and Silas about their meeting in Philippi. Evangelist Philip probably encouraged the guys to stay in shape in case they had to preach on the run. Peter must have encouraged the evangelists to stay teachable and let Jesus do new things in their ministries.

Great advice comes through the apostle Paul in the letter to the Philippians. "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look

not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:1-4).

I'm not so sure it takes a lot of grace to shout at another preacher's meeting but it does take the kind of love that Jesus said would define us. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35). I know what it does for me when I see the pastor pulling for me during a sermon. I recently was blessed by the encouragement from Norman Moore in a camp meeting in which we shared preaching duties a few days ago. By the way, we both were blessed by Rev. Dave Garner who shouted and made a few laps around the old tabernacle.

True spiritual shouting is not measured in decibels but in levels of God awareness. My prayer is that our services whether they are in revivals, camp meetings, Sunday morning worship times or otherwise will be filled with that awareness. God is available. He made a promise, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20).

There are just too many saints who would say, "I may be calm on the outside but I'm shouting on the inside." Don't be selfish; let it out once in a while. A dear pastor friend of mine had a "calm on the outside" congregation. His parsonage was right next to the sanctuary. To try to get in the right spirit he would play a camp meeting recording by Wally and Ginger Laxson just before he went to the pulpit and then immediately after the sermon listen to it again before he went back to shake hands at the door of the church. It might be bending the scriptures a little but Jesus said, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (Luke 19:40). A paraphrase may be; if they keep quiet we'll have to improvise.

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25).

It's O.K. to shout at any preacher's meeting when Jesus is in the house. ★

Gary Bond, Executive Editor

Editors note:

Russ and Barb Coffey have been evangelists for forty years and now reside in Cleveland, TN. 2715 Red Hill Valley Road S.E. 37323-9325





On The Road Again

Celebrating the Gospel
Music Legacy of Wally &
Ginger Laxson

Getting Started

In 1980, a movie called Honeysuckle Rose debuted in theaters all across America. Part of the soundtrack was a song by country music legend Willie Nelson; the song was entitled "On the Road Again." Part of the lyric to that song says, "On the Road Again, I just can't wait to get on the road again...going places that I have never been, I just can't wait to get on the road again."

No prose or poetry could better express the sentiment I felt as a child growing up in the home of Nazarene song-evangelists Wally and Ginger Laxson. I cannot count the number of times we uttered those very words, as we climbed back in to our

1972 Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser Station Wagon and headed off in the direction of some revival, camp meeting, crusade, or concert.

My mother, Ginger, was born on October 3, 1939 in Pine Log, Georgia. She started singing at a mere four years of age in the local Methodist church and other community functions and even became the "official" church pianist at eleven. By age thirteen, she was singing with The Spiritualaires Quartet of Cartersville, Georgia. They toured regularly across the Southeast and could be heard live every Sunday morning on WBHF Radio in Cartersville.

In was during these early years that Ginger's musical talents were noticed by The Singing Speer Family, and in 1958, when she was 18 years old, she formally joined them as pianist and soprano. For the next five and a half years, she traveled across the United States and Canada on the Southern Gospel quartet circuit. Mom said, "The Speer Family sang on live television, WLAC in Nashville, every Monday through Friday at 6:30 a.m. At night, we did concerts within 200 miles of our coverage area, but on the weekend we traveled greater distances."

My Father, Wally, entered this world on November 19, 1939 in the home of a cotton farmer in Athens, Alabama. Dad also grew up in the local Methodist church, where his father was the music and choir director. Growing up, Dad shunned public singing, showing no interest in participating in the church choir or anything else associated with music. That all changed in his junior year of high school, when he was asked to sing first tenor in the FFA Quartet. By graduation, he was singing regularly with a trio from Huntsville, Alabama known as The Songmasters. In 1959, Wally went to Nashville, Tennessee and became an original quartet member of The Tennesseans. For the next five years, he and his four companions bused across the land from one concert to the next, in addition to hosting their own television program on WSIX in Nashville.

Getting Together

In 1961, two concert tracks intersected in Toronto, Canada. My Father, Wally, traveling with The Tennesseans, and my Mother, Ginger, on tour with The Speers, appeared in concert together for the first time at an All Night Singing across America's Northern border. Mom and Dad went out to eat

after the concert, marking the beginning of their courtship. In February of 1962, they married in Nashville, Tennessee and continued singing with their separate quartets for almost two years. As one might imagine, they missed one another greatly traveling separately, but they were committed to the other members of their singing groups. All of this would soon change when Wally and Ginger's lives would come in contact with the people called Nazarenes, and a whole new song began. Rev. Leland Roebuck, pastor of

First Church of the Nazarene in Georgetown, Kentucky, and Dr. Dallas Baggett, the District Superintendent, invited Mom and Dad to sing at the 1964 Kentucky District Assembly in Lexington. They accepted

the invitation and the rare opportunity to sing duet, unaware that this would be the beginning of what became an illustrious career in music evangelism. Having both grown up in the Methodist Church, they were rather unfamiliar with revival and camp meeting music and the work of full-time Song Evangelists. But Roebuck and Baggett challenged them to use their musical talents in a new adventure. Following their singing at this District Assembly, Dr. Baggett publicly announced that Wally and Ginger were available for revivals and

evangelistic crusades....and the rest is history!

Across the next few years, their impact on the Church of the Nazarene in particular, and the religious world in general, would affect sacred music significantly. In 1966 at the World Conference on Evangelism, Dad and Mom introduced Bill Gaither's new song "He Touched Me" for the very first time. At a 1968 appearance in Kansas City at the Nazarene General Assembly, they sang a brand new song entitled "Child of the King." At the 1972 Nazarene General Assembly in Miami, Florida, they introduced another Gaither song that has become a classic, entitled "The Family of God." It does not take much imagination to realize the enormous impact these musical compositions have had on the church at large.

Going Forward

Over the next five decades, Mom and Dad would travel the United States, Barbados, the Bahamas, Canada, Europe, Israel, and the Middle East representing the Church of the Nazarene as full-time song evangelists. In addition, they recorded several musical projects for the Benson Company based in Nashville, Tennessee and partnered with Nazarene Evangelist Forrest McCullough on the nationwide radio program known as The Heartwarming Hour. I was born in 1966, and my brother, Kylan, in 1971, and we became a part of this ongoing mission and ministry.

The reality is that from 1964 to 2004, not a year went by without a full slate of revival campaigns, crusades, conventions, and assemblies, not to mention a summer filled

with retreats and camp meetings. Their ministry has included many positive working relationships with other well-known evangelists such as Clayton Bailey, J. C. Crabtree, Bob Hoots, Paul Martin, G. Stuart McWhirter, Chuck Millhuff, Nelson Purdue, Don Pfeifer, Charles Hastings Smith, Paul Stewart, Richard "Dick" Strickland, Bob Taylor, and Bill Varian. The music has never stopped. In 2003, Mom and Dad took a road less traveled by taking early retirement and slowing down their pace a bit. Even though this transition is marked by a less demanding schedule, they continue to sing selectively and employ their musical talents in many other creative ways.

A Living Legacy

The song that that the Lord began in my parents all those many years ago has resulted in a rich and lasting legacy that continues to this day. The impact of all those revivals and evangelists resulted in my call to the ministry at a very young age, and my wife and I have spent the last 24 years actively involved in Christian ministry.

Mom and Dad's legacy of song has also had a lasting affect on the rest of the Laxson family. My brother, Kylan, is an active member in his local congregation in Madison, Alabama, while continuing the "traveling tradition" as a computer software representative that takes him all across America. My son, Landon, is active in church related ministries, while my daughter, Kaitlyn, attends college on a full vocal performance scholarship. This testifies that both of Wally and Ginger's grandchildren are carrying on this marvelous musical heritage.

Mom and Dad continue to reside in Athens, Alabama, on the very cotton farm where Dad was born. They enjoy the many calls and emails they receive thanking them for their years of faithful ministry. "It's amazing," they say, "We rarely can place the people after all these years, but they tell us about how our music has touched their lives...and that is worth it all." ★

By Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson, Wally & Ginger's eldest son, and the Senior Minister of Asbury United Methodist Church, a 2300 member congregation in Birmingham, AL

(continued on next page)



**BROCK, DAD,
MOM, SPEER,
GINGER LAXSON,
AND BEN SPEER**



TRIBUTES TO WALLY AND GINGER

I was privileged to have Wally & Ginger Laxson for revivals from Indianola, Iowa to Atlanta (First), Georgia, and several places in-between. They (and the preaching evangelist) never left the church the same----always up the road spiritually. When I think of Wally & Ginger, I think of these descriptors: joyous enthusiasm, great blend, spiritually sensitive, connection with the congregation, magnifying Christ. And.....fun to be with after the service! Wally & Ginger have left a very positive influence on my life and that of my family. We love them and thank God for them!

James H. Diehl
General Superintendent Emeritus

Jeanne and I drove up the Snake and Columbia River valleys to The City of Roses, Portland Ore. in June of 1964 to attend our first General Assembly as young evangelists. The weather was perfect and the roses were putting on quite a show. In one of the night services, a young couple named Wally and Ginger Laxson came to the pulpit to sing. I knew of Ginger from the famous Singing Speer Family. Wally, a breath-taking tenor, had been singing with The Tennesseans Quartet. That night Wally and Ginger, now both Nazarene Evangelists sang "I'm A Child of the King." Soon the Glory fell like a cloud burst, with spontaneous shouting, weeping and praise unlike anything a program designer could have dreamed. Finally they were done and turned to return to their seats on the platform. About half way back Ginger turned on her heel and came striding back to the pulpit singing as she walked with Wally joining in, "I'm a Child of the King, a Child of the King, His Royal Blood Now Flows Through My Veins" What was a cloud burst became a tsunami. I will never forget that moment nor has anyone who was there almost 50 years ago. The Laxson's have become a legend of glory and music in our Zion and elsewhere as evangelists. I have worked with them in so many revivals and camp meetings, but that night in Portland will never be forgotten by all that were there. That's the night The Church of the Nazarene met the Laxson's. The Laxson's are a treasure in the church and in our hearts.

Chuck Millhuff

Wally and Ginger are long-time treasured friends. I remember them singing our songs in the early days. They are a very important part of not only our history but the history of the greater Gaither.

Bill Gaither

I don't know of anyone who can get people to respond in a service better than Ginger and Wally. I love them. They are the best and a real joy to work with.

Jimmy Dell

WALLY LAXSON AND THE TENNESSEANS QUARTET

As newlyweds aspiring to full time music ministry, ShirI and I learned of Wally and Ginger through long play albums that ShirI's parents acquired during the 70's. At that time we were not Nazarenes but were attracted to their style of music. I remember hearing them in person for the first time at the Mount of Praise Camp Meeting in Circleville, Ohio. A short time later they were in a revival meeting in our home area of Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania. We had just recently begun full-time music ministry and our schedule had several open dates which allowed us to visit the revival meeting that Sunday morning. Those times of attending their services had a profound influence on us and are forever cherished memories. We collected their recordings and made it a point to learn the songs they were singing. I studied Wally's style with the thought of patterning myself after him. Of course, I soon realized the Lord would have me be myself. As we continued to expand our travel schedule, we joined the Church of the Nazarene in 1990. Soon after, I received a phone call from Wally letting me know that he was interested in helping us in ministry any way possible. Their genuine care and concern has continued to this very day. The heartfelt music and spirit of promoting others has impacted many in ministry down through the years. They truly were role models in revival and camp meeting music. This special tribute in the Evangelists' Perspective is certainly an appropriate way to honor them. They inspired so many in an unforgettable era of revivalism in the church. Thanks for your faithfulness in ministry and know that your influence is far reaching and will continue into the future.

Don and ShirI Gessner

When I was invited to sing a duet with Wally, I was a student and lead singer for the Churchmen (Olivet Nazarene University PR traveling quartet). His strong tenor voice blew me out of the water. Many years later I was invited to be the soloist with Ginger and Wally at Southwest Ohio camp. This was my first time as a song evangelist to share the platform with another song evangelist. Yet, there was no sense of competition only a feeling of being part of a team. Wally gave me the solos while he and Ginger led the worship hymns and choruses. I'll never forget how the Spirit of God fell on that last service despite losing lights because of a summer storm. Also, having an accomplished pianist

like Ginger is like the icing on the cake. Her God given talent would lift a singer to a higher level. We are living in a different time in how we bring worship to our churches today. But one thing I learned from Wally and Ginger, when you are given the privilege to lead, do it well and with great joy.

Mark Murphy



The many revival campaigns Ellen and I had as co-workers with Wally and Ginger are among our fondest memories. I believe we worked with them more often than with any other singers. Our children and their children virtually grew up together. Camp meetings and trips together to Disney World were highlights for them.

Stuart and Ellen McWhirter

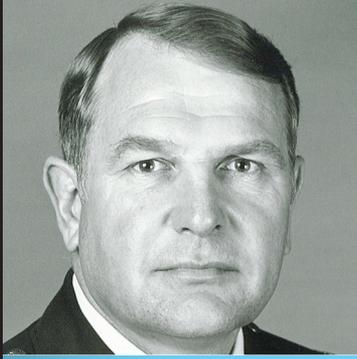
In all the years that I have known Ginger and Wally I have never seen a bad spirit. They always provided excellent music in the power of the Spirit. They are tops and I love them dearly.

Evangelist Bob Hoots

In the early days of our ministry Ginger and Wally were tremendous encouragers. They exemplified genuine freedom in the spirit when they sang. Their ministry has impacted thousands and continues to do so.

Lenny and Joy Wisheart





A TESTIMONY

Military service has not been a long-standing tradition in our family. In fact, I am told that one of the main reasons my ancestors emigrated to the United States in 1872 was the devastating effects on families of the seemingly never-ending wars in which Germany was engaged. Therefore, it was with incredulity that my parents reacted to the news that I was entering the Air Force in the fall of 1965. Not that my enlistment was totally motivated by “love of country” mind you! As you recall, we had a motivator for national service in those days called the “draft.” To be honest, it was in response to a draft call which would have resulted in my placement in the United States Army that I secured a placement in pilot training with the USAF.

My early days in the Air Force were typified by a series of training events meant to prepare me for the rigors of aerial combat; we were in the thick of the fighting in the Vietnam War in those years of the late sixties. After completing Officers Training School, pilot training, and F-4 transition training (along with short stays at various “survival schools”), I was deemed ready to proceed to Thailand where I could begin to repay the nation for the considerable training costs they by now had invested in me.

Combat flying out of three bases in Thailand was not all that uncomfortable. Unlike the Army guys who rarely enjoy the creature comforts of home while deployed, my squadron mates and I enjoyed such luxuries as an

Officer’s Club (equipped with a swimming pool, of course) and frequent “R & R” trips to Bangkok and other exotic destinations ... when we were not flying combat missions. The missions themselves came with varying degrees of excitement, mostly dependent upon how vigorously the enemy was defending the terrain over which we were flying. Strangely, we seemed to enjoy the “exciting” missions (despite the increased threat) most of all. I completed the last 5 months of my tour of duty at Korat RTAFB flying missions in the Tiger FAC program.

Forward Air Controllers or FACs enjoyed the most exciting flying in the air war. Tasked to locate and destroy difficult to find targets, the missions were necessarily long with prolonged periods inside enemy territory ... flying at low level! A Fighter Pilot’s dream! It did come with some risks, however, as I found out very suddenly on the 28th of August, 1969.

While engaged in a Tiger FAC mission in central Laos, we discovered (the F-4 is a two-place aircraft) that our aircraft was in trouble. A “Master Caution Warning” light alerted us to the fact that our fuel supply was leaving the aircraft at an alarming rate. Having just left an air refueling tanker only minutes before, we would normally have had fuel for at least an hour of combat operations. Instead, our jet had only a few minutes left. Late in the afternoon, attempting to return to the tanker for more fuel, our beautiful F-4E exhausted its supply of fuel (due to a still unknown rupture) and we were now in a \$6 million glider!

With only minutes to prepare, we now had to decide just how much “faith” we had in those Martin Baker ejection seats on which we had been seated for years. Realistically, there was no other choice; it was either pull the handle ... or die with the

jet. The seats worked, the time on the ground relatively uneventful (although we did have to spend the night in the jungle), and a flawless rescue performed the next morning by some wonderful helicopter pilots who were the real heroes of that war.

The call to my parents that I was “OK” was the first indication they had that I had been in trouble the preceding day. However, it was not their first indication that my life was in trouble. It had been their fervent prayer for years that I would come to know the Lord as my Savior and rely upon Him for my salvation as they had done before me. My father was an ordained Minister, who had previously served in Canada as a “Missionary” to a country who had an insufficient supply of ministers to serve them. In the mid-1930s, my parents answered the call and made their home in our northern neighbor for the next 19 years. Along the way, Dad founded a Bible College (which continues to this day ... although by a different name), started a radio program during the war to encourage the people, and pastored the college church. He had done everything he knew to do ... yet he could not say that his son was a Christian. Heartbreaking!

Following my return from Vietnam, my assignment to England was a welcome change from my time in the Far East. Stationed at RAF Bentwaters in the Eastern County of Suffolk, I quickly discovered why the ties between America and Britain are so strong. My bachelor friends and I had a wonderful time getting to know the local girls ... but my roaming days ended in 1971 when I married one of the British beauties. Jennifer Towler became my wife and departed England with me in 1973 for our posting in Arizona. In tow was our young son, Joel and less than a year after our arrival in Phoenix, he was joined by a younger brother, Toby.

The prayers of my parents were answered (continued on page 15)





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Vineyard, JoAnn	www.mnjministries.org
Ward, Dale	www.freedomquest.org
Whitworth, Marcus	www.marcuswhitworth.com
Wetnight, Rick	www.RickWetnight.com

SCHEDULES OF THE EVANGELISTS ✈

ADAMS, DAVID AND CHARLENE

Sep 12-19 Louisville, KY
 (National Quartet Convention)
 Sep 26 Logan, OH
 Oct 3 Petersburg, IN
 Oct 17 Akron, OH (Kenmore Community)
 Oct 24 Fort Wayne, IN (Grace Point)
 Oct 31 New Castle, IN (South Side)
 Nov 5-7 Lake Barkley, KY
 (Kentucky Laymen's Retreat)
 Nov 13 New Castle, IN
 (Henry County Crisis Pregnancy Center Concert)
 Nov 14-17 New Castle, IN (First)
 Nov 21 New Castle, IN (Mt. Zion Wesleyan)
 Nov 28 Cincinnati, OH
 (Cincinnati Montana Avenue)

ADAMS, MICHAEL

Aug 29-Sep 1 Springboro, PA (Conneaut Valley)
 Sep 12-15 San Angelo, TX (First)
 Sep 19-22 Rockledge, GA (Wilkes)
 Sep 26-29 Fort Oglethorpe, GA
 (Battlefield Parkway)
 Oct 3-6 Kingsport, TN (Southview Community)
 Oct 10-13 Lenoir City, TN
 Oct 17-20 Albany, KY (United)
 Oct 24-27 Terre Haute, IN (South Side)
 Oct 31-Nov 3 New Boston, OH (First)
 Nov 7-10 Warren, OH (First)
 Nov 14-17 Dunkirk, IN

BELZER, DAVID

Oct 20-24 Noble, OK
 Oct 27-31 Mc Louth, KS

BOND, GARY (T)

Sep 12-15 Moundsville, WV
 Sep 16-19 Paulding, OH
 Sep 22-26 Burton, MI (South)
 Oct 3-6 Flemingsburg, KY
 Oct 10-13 Irvine, KY (IFirst)
 Oct 17-20 Defiance, OH
 Oct 24-27 Greensboro, IN
 Oct 31-Nov 3 Britton, MI (Ridgeway)
 Nov 7-14 Dublin, GA (First)
 Nov 17-21 Nashville, MI

BURKHALTER, G. (T)

Sep 1-5 Marksville, LA
 Sep 8-12 Mount Vernon, IN (Point Township)
 Sep 15-19 Pittsburg, TX
 Sep 22-26 Sherwood, AR (First)
 Sep 29-Oct 3 Sikeston, MO (First)
 Oct 6-10 Augusta, KS
 Oct 13-17 Burlington, IA (Flint Hills)
 Oct 20-24 Eldon, MO
 Nov 10-14 Union, MO (Word of Life)

COVINGTON, NATHAN (T)

Aug 29-Sep 1 Florien, LA (Ccnchrea)
 Sep 25-26 Fort Worth, TX (Northside)
 Oct 3-6 Sand Springs, OK
 Oct 10-13 Beardstown, IL
 Oct 24-27 Kansas City, KS (Victory Hills)

DEGENKOLB, WILLIAM

Sep 10-11 Franklin, PA
 (Life Ministries Retreat Center)
 Sep 17-19 Columbia Station, OH
 (New Life Wesleyan Church)
 Sep 25 Butler, PA
 Oct 17-21 Howard, PA (Wesleyan Church)
 Oct 17-21 Howard, PA
 (Summit Hill Wesleyan Church)

DELL, JIMMY (T)

Sep 12-15 Apple Valley, CA
 (Victorville High Desert Harvest)
 Sep 19-22 San Pedro, CA (Peninsula)
 Sep 24-26 Yucaipa, CA
 Oct 3-6 Sarcoxie, MO (New Beginnings)
 Oct 10-13 Vici, OK
 Oct 17-20 Dayton, OH (Parkview)
 Oct 24-27 Martinsville, IN (Trinity)
 Oct 31-Nov 3 Birmingham, AL (Center Point)
 Nov 7-14 SWEDEN

FERGUSON, ANTHONY

Aug 29-Sep 1 Warner Robins, GA (First)
 Sep 8-12 Homer City, PA
 Sep 23-26 Charlotte, NC
 Oct 13-17 Cranberry, PA (Kossuth Faith)
 Oct 20-24 Spencer, WV
 Oct 27-31 Elkins, WV
 Nov 3-7 Clarksville, AR (New Hope)
 Nov 10-14 Summit, MS (GraceWay Community)
 Nov 17-21 Barnesville, GA (First)

GALLIMORE, DAVID

Sep 5-6 Hinton, WV (Greenbriar Campmeeting)
 Sep 12-15 Gallatin, TN (First)
 Sep 19-22 Summerville, SC
 Sep 26-29 Springfield, OH (High Street)
 Oct 3-6 Grand Haven, MI
 Oct 10-13 Clarksville, TN (Grace)
 Oct 16-17 Circleville, OH
 (First Church of Christ in Christian Union)
 Oct 24-27 Huntington, WV (First)
 Oct 31-Nov 3 Cantonment, FL (First)
 Nov 7-10 Sparta, MI
 Nov 14-17 Jumping Branch, WV
 (Gospel Tabernacle)
 Nov 21 Wrightsville, GA (Mount Olive)
 Nov 28 Nappanee, IN (Missionary Church)

GESSNER, DON AND SHIRL

Sep 1-30 Newark, OH
 Oct 1-31 Newark, OH
 Nov 1-30 Newark, OH

GREENWAY, KENNETH

Aug 29-Sep 1 Gloster, MS
 Sep 3-5 Randleman, NC (Worthville Baptist)
 Sep 12-17 Seagrove, NC (Trinity Wesleyan)
 Sep 19-23 Rockingham, NC (Wesleyan)
 Sep 26-30 Hamlet, NC (Spring Hill Wesleyan)
 Oct 3-6 Tabor City, NC (Old Zion Wesleyan)
 Oct 10-13 Greensboro, NC (First)
 Oct 17-20 High Point, NC (West Fairfield Baptist)
 Oct 24-27 Thomasville, NC (First)
 Oct 31-Nov 3 Kings Mountain, NC
 Nov 7-10 Tabernacle, NC (High Rock Baptist)
 Nov 14-17 Greensboro, NC (Triad Covenant Life)
 Nov 18-21 Carthage, NC (Community Friends)
 Nov 28-Dec 5 Concord, NC (Broadus Baptist)

HAINES, GARY (T)

Sep 12-15 Denton, MD
 Sep 26-29 Anderson, IN (Southdale)
 Oct 10-13 Uniontown, OH (Trinity)
 Oct 24-27 Springwater, NY
 Nov 7-10 Borger, TX (Trinity)
 Nov 19-21 Carlsbad, NM (Church Street)

HANCOCK, TIMOTHY (T)

Aug 29-Sep 1 Brazil, IN
 Sep 12-15 McConnelsville, OH
 Oct 3-6 Sistersville, WV
 Oct 8-11 Glen Burnie, MD (Mid-Atlantic)
 Oct 17-20 Findlay, OH (First)
 Oct 24-27 Chester, WV

HICKS, JOHN

Oct 10-13 Newell, WV (Glendale)
 Oct 24-27 Prosser, WA

JUNEMAN, JOHN

Sep 8-12 Fallon, NV
 Oct 22-24 Cowden, IL (Free Methodist Church)
 Nov 5-7 Chandler, OK (First)

LACOMBE, CHARLES

Sep 8-12 Millinocket, ME
 Sep 19-22 Alamosa, CO
 Oct 3-6 Cortez, CO
 Oct 10-13 Cortez, CO
 Oct 17-24 Rock Hill, NY
 Oct 29-30 Kelloggsville, OH (WEWM)
 Oct 31-Nov 7 Conneaut, OH (Kelloggsville)
 Nov 10-14 Leicester, VT
 Nov 18-21 Rutland, VT
 Nov 28-Dec 1 Sebago, ME

LIVERSAGE, JERRY

Sep 5 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
 Sep 9 Orange, CA (Time Warner Cable)
 Sep 11 Anaheim, CA
 (Evergreen Royale Motel Outreach)
 Sep 23 Costa Mesa, CA (Time Warner Cable)
 Oct 3 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
 Oct 7 Orange, CA (Time Warner Cable)
 Oct 10 Anaheim, CA
 (Evergreen Royale Motel Outreach)
 Oct 21 Costa Mesa, CA (Time Warner Cable)
 Nov 7 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
 Nov 11 Orange, CA (Time Warner Cable)
 Nov 18 Costa Mesa, CA (Time Warner Cable)
 Nov 25 Anaheim, CA
 (Evergreen Royale Motel Outreach)

MCDUFF, RONALD

Sep 5 Saratoga, WY
 (Platte Valley Christian Center)
 Sep 5 Encampment, WY
 (Foothills Baptist Church)
 Sep 11 Longmont, CO
 (Applewood Living Center)
 Sep 12 Livermore, CO (Community)
 Sep 12 Virginia Dale, CO (Community Church)
 Sep 16 Loveland, CO
 (Life Springs Covenant Church)
 Sep 19 Las Animas, CO (First)
 Nov 13 Pueblo, CO
 (Wesley United Methodist Church)
 Nov 14 Canon City, CO
 (4 Mile Correctional Facility)

MEO, ROCKEY

Sep 19-22 Mexico, MO
 Oct 3-6 Mountain View, MO

MILLHUFF, CHARLES

Oct 1-3 Fort Worth, TX

MILLS, HENRY

Sep 17-19 White Springs, FL (Suwannee River)
 Oct 3-7 Gladewater, TX
 Oct 10-13 Little Rock, AR (Calvary)
 Oct 17-20 Morrilton, AR
 Oct 24-27 Beebe, AR

NICHOLAS, CLAUDE

Sep 19-22 Adrian, MI (First)
 Sep 26-29 Richmond, KY (First)
 Oct 3-6 Eaton, OH (First)
 Oct 10-13 New Hampshire, OH
 Oct 17-20 White Lake, MI
 Oct 24-27 Plainfield, IN (United Community)
 Oct 31-Nov 3 Crowell, TX (First Methodist)

NORRIS, WILLIAM

Oct 15-17 Sanford, FL (NOW Singers Reunion)
 Nov 7-28 Punta Gorda, FL (Alligator Park Chapel)

PERDUE, NELSON (T)

Sep 5-8 Montpelier, OH
 Sep 12-15 Saint Joseph, MI
 Sep 19-22 Danville, IL (First)
 Sep 26-29 Catlettsburg, KY (First)
 Oct 3-6 Dunbar, WV
 Oct 7-10 Charleston, WV (Calvary)
 Oct 17-20 Jefferson, OH
 Oct 27-31 Mount Sterling, OH
 Nov 3-7 Oak Hill, WV
 Nov 10-14 South Point, OH
 Nov 21-23 Morgantown, WV (First)
 Nov 28-Dec 1 Wrightsville, GA (Mount Olive)

PETTIT, BENJAMIN AND AMANDA

Oct 1-3 Shipshewana, IN
 Nov 10-14 Tifton, GA (Tifton First)

PETTIT, ELAINE (T)

Sep 18-22 Rogersville, MO (Harvest Community)
 Oct 1-3 Shipshewana, IN (Town Center)
 Oct 16-20 Detroit, MI (Grace)
 Oct 23-27 Williamsport, PA
 Nov 4-7 Tifton, GA (First)
 Nov 10-14 Deltona, FL (Life Fellowship)
 Nov 20-24 Trenton, NS
 Nov 27-Dec 5 Elmsdale, PE

PETTIT, JEREMY

Sep 18-22 Rogersville, MO
(Harvest Community)
Oct 1-3 Shipshewana, IN (Town Center)
Oct 16-20 Detroit, MI (Grace)
Oct 23-27 Williamsport, PA
Nov 4-7 Tifton, GA (First)
Nov 10-14 Deltona, FL (Life Fellowship)
Nov 20-24 Trenton, NS
Nov 27-Dec 5 Elmsdale, PE

PHELPS, PHILLIP

Sep 12-15 Deridder, LA (DeRidder)
Oct 10-13 Rodessa, LA (McCoy)

PHILLIPS, GENE

Oct 13-17 Hannibal, MO (Riverview)
Nov 17-21 Des Moines, IA (Faith)

RAEBURN, STEPHEN AND JANET

Oct 1-3 Shipahewana, IN (Nazarene Retreat)
Oct 17 Cheboygan, MI

SHARPE, VANCE AND JEANNIE

Oct 10 Summerville, SC
Oct 19 Myrtle Beach, SC
(Ocean Lakes Campground)
Oct 25-29 Weirton, WV (First)
Nov 28 Camden, SC (Baptist Church)

SHAVER, CHARLES

Aug 28-Sep 1 Overland Park, KS
(Church of God Holiness)
Sep 5 Houston, TX (Living Word)
Sep 11-15 Delaware, OH (Highpoint)
Sep 18-22 Orient, OH (Southwest Community)
Sep 25-29 Ketchikan, AK
Oct 2-6 Seward, AK
Oct 17-20 Wellston, OH
Oct 23-27 Tulsa, OK (Regency Park)
Oct 30-Nov 3 Boise, ID (Euclid Community)
Nov 6-10 Payette, ID
Nov 13-17 Bradenton, FL (Bayshore)
Nov 21 Lenexa, KS

SMITH, THOMAS

Sep 12-15 Macon, GA (Shurlington)
Sep 19-22 Springdale, AR (First)
Sep 26-29 Nevada, MO

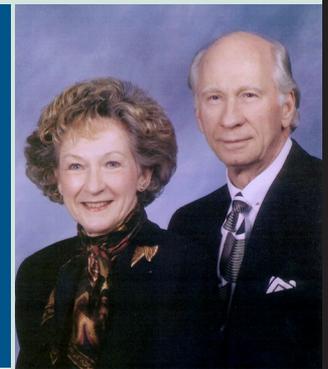
Oct 3-6 Perryville, AR (Immanuel)
Oct 10-13 Greensburg, KY (Summersville)
Oct 17-20 Cambridge City, IN
Oct 24-27 Fostoria, OH (Trinity U B in Christ)
Nov 7-10 Myrtle Creek, OR

ULMET, WILLIAM (T)

Sep 1-5 Fairfield, IL (Fountain of Life)
Sep 12-15 Milford, DE
Sep 19-22 Newton, IA (New Life Community)
Sep 26-29 Pittsfield, IL
Oct 3-6 Danville, IL (Northside)
Oct 10-17 Potomac, IL
Oct 17-20 Franklin, PA
Oct 24-27 Sullivan, IN
Oct 31-Nov 3 Henderson, TX
Nov 5-10 Houston, MS (Pearson Chapel)
Nov 14-17 Elkton, KY

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(T) Tenured Evangelist is recognized by the church as a lifetime assignment. See Manual 407.3

FROM THE 'PERSPECTIVE' OF THE EVANGELIST'S SPOUSE



"Mommy slit her wrist, but Daddy made her come, anyway!" That was the explanation that our younger daughter, Karla, who was six years of age, gave to the New York District Superintendent's wife when we arrived for my late husband, Jim Crabtree to serve as one of the evangelists for the camp. My wrist and arm were bandaged because at the last minute, before we were to leave to drive to New York about 5:00 A.M. that day, I decided to take the last bit of trash out of the house...not a wise move on my part. I opened the trash can in the dark and pushed the bag of trash down with my hand, puncturing my wrist. I quickly returned to the house and told our daughters, Karen and Karla, to bring me a towel and all would be fine. Well, two hours later, after a trip to the emergency room, stitches and a tetanus shot, we were on our way to New York! Jim was scheduled to preach the first service of the camp

meeting, so you can imagine the pressure that we both experienced during that trip. I think I cried all the way to New York, and when Jim reached over and patted me on the arm, there was another flood of tears. This was not one of the glamorous moments of an evangelist's life! After Karla's explanation of my bandage, I did try to explain the real circumstances, but her story was much better!

I met Jim during my early teen years while my parents, Revs. Floyd and Izel Shoemaker, both ordained ministers, were pastors of a church in Springfield, Ohio. Jim was a gifted guitarist, and on occasion, he attended our church and played the guitar. He was seventeen; I was thirteen when I told my Mother that I was going to marry Jim "when I grew up," by the time I was eighteen. I married him on September 14, 1946, and we were blessed with 60 years

of marriage before his death on November 10, 2006.

The first four years were spent at Olivet Nazarene University, where Jim attended college and traveled on the weekends, preaching and representing the university with singing groups. Our first daughter, Karen, was born during Olivet days, and we were expecting Karla when Jim graduated and began his full-time evangelistic ministry. By that time, Jim had built a substantial evangelistic slate from the experiences that were afforded him during his Olivet days. We began a journey that would be both challenging and rewarding.

I kept the home fires burning while the girls were growing up, but we traveled with Jim during the summer months to some of the greatest camp meetings in the church's history. I am so grateful that

we were part of and witness to those refreshing outpourings of the Holy Spirit. We all looked forward to these times when we could travel together as a family. Jim's dedication to his calling also gave us opportunities that we would never have had otherwise. The books, etc. that Jim carried in the trunk of his car were replaced by shoes, purses, curlers, clothes and all that three girls would want to take on a trip.... we always had to have that "alternate outfit!" He was outnumbered, and he knew it! We have been from New York to California and North Dakota to Texas, giving our girls the opportunity to visit many beautiful sites in our country. I recall our picnic on the Painted Desert in Arizona: it was so hot the green olives turned white and the bread became toast, but it was fun. We visited the Grand Canyon, Disneyland in its early years, Old Route 66; so many memories that we still talk about.

The girls also speak fondly of the great preachers and singers they had the opportunity to know; Dr. W. T. Purkiser was one of their favorites. They would leave their playing on the campground during the day services and come into the tabernacle when he preached. They had the privilege of hearing Dr. H. Orton Wiley preach in an open air stadium in California. And the list goes on and on, too numerous to mention in this article, but all made an indelible life-long impression on them.

When the girls were both in high school, I was employed by a large company as an administrative assistant and remained with the company for 26 years. This position allowed me to provide insurance for our family and to help keep Jim "on the road." All evangelists will understand that statement.

Karen and her husband gave us one of the greatest joys of our lives when they adopted our grandson, Josh in 1970, when he was six months old. It is such a highlight of my life to be his grandmother. He holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from Miami University and is employed in Columbus, Ohio by an architectural firm and has been primarily involved in the design of schools. Recently, he married Gina, a welcome addition to our family, so I now have a granddaughter by marriage. I am so grateful for a close-knit, supportive family.

One of the darkest days of our lives was on December 8, 1967, when Karla, seventeen at the time, had an automobile accident while she was driving to school. Jim had

bought a small convertible from a pastor in Missouri and had towed it home for her, as we had moved from the city to the county, and she needed transportation to continue to attend the same high school. She left the house about five minutes before I did. When I rounded the corner from the area where we live, I saw her car in the intersection with a semi truck loaded with steel upset, resting against the driver's side of her car! I think my heart stopped. I wouldn't let myself believe it was her car, but I stopped and jumped from my car to run across the highway when someone stopped me. The impact had thrown her onto the floor of the passenger side of the car, and someone had lifted her out of the car and laid her on the pavement for fear that the car might catch on fire! I screamed that she was my daughter, and someone escorted me across the highway.

In the providence of God, a nurse was traveling home from her night job and administered assistance until the emergency squad arrived. I rode with her in the squad to the emergency room, convinced that there was no way that she could survive; there were so many injuries! Jim was in a revival, and I couldn't remember where, because I was so disoriented. I finally remembered the city and the pastor's name and called him. American Airlines put Jim on a plane without a ticket and flew him home, with him not knowing whether Karla would be alive when he arrived. She had multiple broken bones and cuts, internal injuries that required surgery, and a punctured lung. To make a very long story short, we were hopeless that she would survive, but five weeks later, she was back in school as a walking miracle, and grateful that she "hadn't broken her fingernails in the accident!" God had performed a miracle right before our eyes! Today, if you saw Karla, you wouldn't know that she had been through such a nightmare.

After over 50 years of fulfilling his call as an evangelist, the thousands of miles and the stress and burden that Jim carried caught up with him, and he began to develop heart-related health problems. He conferred with specialists, and in February of 1996, he underwent surgery for five bypasses and replacement of the aorta valve. We both overheard the surgeons discussing that Jim probably could not survive the surgery, but God performed another miracle, and after several months of recovery, he was back in the pulpit fulfilling his call as an evangelist! God gave us ten more years together and of ministry until

his death in 2006. Jim's total evangelistic ministry spanned 65 years: he preached his first sermon at the age of 16 and his last at the age of 81!

Jim's death forced me to start a journey that I did not want to take. After being a part of him for 60 years, I couldn't find who I was without him. I had always considered myself as independent, because I had raised our two daughters with Jim traveling most of their lives. I kept the "home fires burning," had worked in the business world for many years, had been heavily involved in local church functions, directed the music in several local churches, and traveled part of the time with Jim, but suddenly I was lost. Jim wasn't coming home again, as he had done so many times through the years following a revival, usually driving all night to be at home for a few hours. As far as I was concerned, my world had come to an end. Of course, I still had my family, a wonderful pastor and wife and a host of friends – all of whom were so supportive, but life had stopped for me. My daughters were shocked that I had fallen into such a deep depression, because they considered me to be independent.

I found that I didn't know how to function without Jim. Oh, I knew how to take care of the house and finances, who to call for upkeep of the property, have the car serviced, and the list goes on. What I didn't realize was that my personal identity was wrapped up in being Mrs. J. C. Crabtree – the role that I enjoyed most. My life as I had known it for 60 years was over. Music had been such a vital part of my life, but my song was gone. The unknown future seemed more than I could comprehend, but I have found that God has been faithful and more than sufficient everyday, and He has restored my song!

Looking back on all that was involved in being the wife of an evangelist for 60 years, would I do it all over again? In a heartbeat! The privileges and blessings far outweighed any of life's difficulties or heartbreaks! ★

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Esther A. Crabtree is the widow of Dr. J. C. Crabtree, longtime evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene who was highly regarded as the "Dean of Evangelists" by his colleagues. Esther is involved in the music ministry of her church as pianist and soloist. Esther's heart is still very much in support of evangelists and the field of evangelism.

Mark Your Calendar!

Evangelists' Gathering



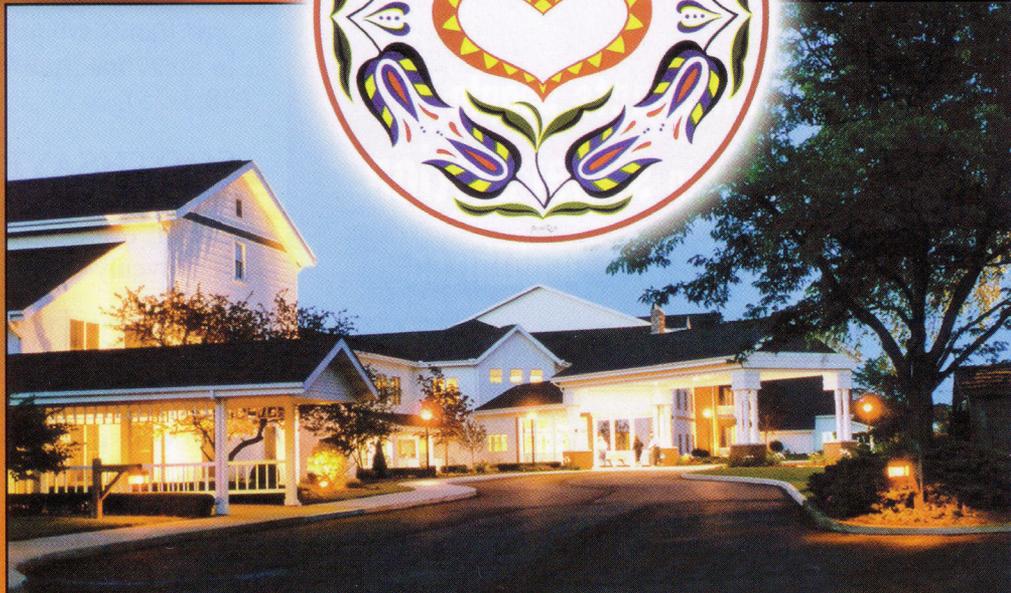
Banquet - Monday Evening, December 13

Provided by Revivalism Ministries

Gathering

- 2 Nights and all meals, Per couple, \$250.00
- 2 Nights and all meals, Single, \$200.00

Reservations with \$100.00 deposit need to be sent by
November 15, 2010 to:
Revivalism Ministries, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220



Fires of Revival

The Best Ride of Your Life!

There is a rumor going around that camp meeting is dead or about to expire. I know some districts are moving to other strategies for revival and renewal among their people. Some are selling their camp grounds, believing that they can no longer afford to maintain them or that they are no longer meeting needs.

BY DR. JOHN SEAMAN



However, that is not the case at Indian Lake Nazarene Camp and Conference Center, the camp grounds for the Michigan District. Camp meeting continues to be a vibrant, life-transforming event that is touching people

across generations. It's fascinating to watch the dynamics: friends who as kids played together and attended camp meeting at Indian Lake fifty or sixty years ago still get together, as do their sons and daughters around camp fires at their campers, and their kids, today's children and teens, continue the cycle! Not only are the regular camp meeting and teaching schedules maintained, but the youth meet in the mornings for youth-focused services then gather at the tabernacle in the evening, and children meet for their own camp meeting time.

There is something special about camp meeting on the Michigan District. There is a spirit here, an atmosphere, an anticipation of God at work, and it has been going on now for more than 80 years! Great preachers from long ago have proclaimed the call to holiness from the stone pulpit in what is now called the C. Neil Strait Tabernacle. Godly evangelists like R.T Williams, J.B. Chapman, "Uncle Bud" Robinson, Mendel Taylor and many more preached here. Great preaching is still proclaimed in that sacred place, and the long stone altar is lined every year. We work very hard to secure a variety of outstanding preachers and teachers, men and women of God, evangelists gifted in proclaiming the Word. Each year seems to get better. Every year someone comes to me and says, "That was the best camp meeting ever!" And in some ways, each one is! This year our evangelists were David Gallimore and Philip McAlister (Field Strategy Coordinator for Northern Europe), our class teacher was Chic Shaver, and our youth evangelist was Nick Jones. Children's camp meeting was led by

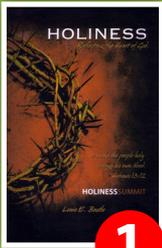
a team of our own district leaders. In every venue God did His work.

When camp meeting week arrives the camper and RV lots fill up, and the motel rooms are booked long in advance. Even the more rustic and minimal cost cabins with no amenities other than electricity and bunks fill up with folks operating on a tight budget. They come with an expectation of God doing something in their lives . . . and He does!

What I love the most about camp meeting is that every year eternal decisions are made. One of our evangelists said the presence of God was so great that "we could have preached do-re-mi and people would have responded!" Service after service, the altars were lined, young and old encountered God. This year thirty children met Jesus! Philip McAlister reminded us that our camp meeting is a precious treasure. On the last Sunday, he expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of being a part of camp meeting. He reminded us that there is nothing like it where he is from. After sharing a humorous story of a wild amusement park ride he rode in England, he said of the Indian Lake camp meeting, "This has been the greatest ride of my life!" How right he is! Camp meeting dead? Not on the Michigan District! ★

John Seaman is the Michigan District Superintendent, and Former Missionary & Regional Director of W.Africa

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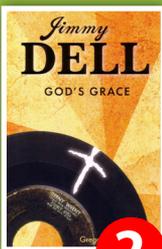
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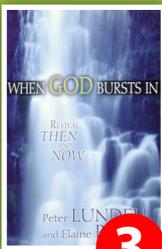
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3

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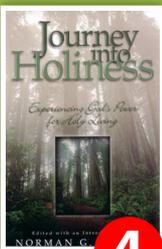
6

An Offering of Gospel Jazz

By Gary Haines with The Nazza Jazz Big Band

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Revghaines@aol.com P.O. Box 62759, Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2759



4

Journey Into Holiness - Experiencing God's Power For Holy Living

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7

This Is My Church

By Tim Hancock

Starting Now, All That Thrills My Soul Is Jesus, Holy Spirit Rain Down, My Church, He Saw It All, He Giveth More Grace/Grace Greater, Broken and Spilled Out, I've Just Seen Jesus (duet with Brooksie Hancock Smith), All of Me, A Name I Highly Treasure/He Knows My Name Evermore, Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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in a most unusual way on the 1st of May, 1975. While returning to Phoenix from temporary duty in Florida, I was providentially seated next to a man whose appearance presented me with a great paradox. While handsome in appearance, and extremely strong in build (his muscles fairly rippled beneath the polo shirt he was wearing), he broke the mold by having a Bible in his hands ... and in the "open for reading" position at that. Over the course of the next two hours, God used this man, who turned out to be the Defensive Captain of the Atlanta Falcons professional football team, to lead me to Christ. We finished our prayer of commitment as the aircraft was rolling to a stop at Phoenix Sky harbor Airport. He was met on the tarmac by several people who apologetically informed him that the banquet in which he was to serve as guest speaker had been cancelled. They told him that they regretted that he had traveled over 1500 miles for nothing. We thought otherwise!

Upon arriving at my home only minutes later, Jennie met me at the door but was startled to see tears in my eyes (she had rarely seen me cry). After telling her the story of what had happened on the airplane, she quickly realized that her life was about to change. She had known about Evangelical Christianity through several visits with my parents. Although she respected them and thought they were "nice people", she wasn't quite sure she wanted to join their ranks. However, hours later (after I had gone to bed ... body-clock still on east coast time) a quick review of our troubled marriage convinced her that the chance for a new life was an opportunity not to be wasted. The Holy Spirit of God was at work in our home that night as He had been in the skies earlier that day. Jennie woke me up, and we prayed together beside our bed that night as she accepted Christ as her Savior.

Military service was more fun than hardship for our growing family. Although dad had to go to Korea for a year in the late 70s, on balance, the boys considered the excitement of a job that took them to a new location every two or three years to be quite exciting. Joined by a little sister in 1979 ... they would look back at deep sea fishing in the Keys, skiing in the Alps, and touring the great cities of Europe as memories that erased all the accompanying hardships of military service. Fortunately, they experienced all these memories as part of a Christian family.

God blessed our family in many ways over the next ten years. Promotions came on time (and even once ahead of schedule). I found myself in my dream job of Director of Flying Operations at a major combat wing ... flying two different aircraft, the old faithful F-4 and the new "hot rod" on the block, the F-16 Fighting Falcon (although more commonly known as the "Viper"). Trips to Red Flag and Norway as well as challenging assignments at

home made for the best times in my career. However, a strange sense of "restlessness" began to develop within me that God (the new Director of Operations in my life) might have a new mission for my life.

Without really understanding why, the family had a "meeting" in early 1988 to debate the issue ... "Should dad stay in the Air Force?" The vote was unanimous ... it was time to go. But, to what? Our local Nazarene Church (Princeton, FL) was searching for a Principal to lead their Christian School at the time. That proved to be the job God had in mind for us. The 11-year tenure commenced in the fall of 1988 and our sons (who had not been enrolled previously) joined our daughter (already enrolled) at the little church school. Uprooted from their friends and leaving behind the many extra-curricular activities afforded by public schools, the kids gamely made their own contribution to the future of Princeton Christian School. By the time they graduated, I believe they all agreed, they had gained more than they had forfeited.

Along with the many joys and benefits of leading a Christian School, a lavish salary was not one of them. As the boys approached graduation, scholarship help was a necessary part of their college plans. Without hesitating, both boys considered the generous plans offered by the military to be worth exploring. Joel enrolled and graduated from a fine Engineering school in Indiana (Rose Hulman Institute of Technology) and Toby graduated with the class of '96 from West Point. (Later, daughter Bethany earned a full scholarship based on academic merit to Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville.)

The boy's higher education has not come without a cost. Both boys were committed to repaying the government for their generous scholarships with a period of military service. Both completed the minimum term of service and have now continued for a career as a matter of choice. Joel completed helicopter training in 1996 and currently serves as a Tactical Trainer in Apache Helicopters. Toby completed Ranger School and has served with Special Forces for the past 10 years. They too have found themselves in the military at a period in which our nation is at war. As opposed to the defined opponents and measurable objectives of past conflicts, the War on Terror lacks these characteristics. Our sons, and their families, are making a significant contribution to newly-emerging threats to our freedom.

Joel was part of the initial thrust into Iraq in 2003, has deployed on several short-term visits to combat areas, and in 2007-2008 served a year in Afghanistan. He has been alerted for another tour to commence in 2011. Toby has served in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan on so many deployments (characteristic of Special

Forces) that it defies our ability to keep an accurate count. He currently is serving in Afghanistan with an expected return date in July. We have had at least one of our sons serving overseas most of the time since 2003. Their wives have done without husbands, their children without fathers, their sister without brothers ... with no defined end in sight. It is a difficult time for military families.

How do we all (mother, sister, wives, children) face it? It has never been easy, but lately it is getting more difficult due to the never-ending nature of the conflicts and the lack of measurable successes. There will be no "ticker-tape" parades marking the end of this war. Their will be no formal surrender by a beaten foe. It is a test of the will of a people who have fought in the past to preserve their freedom and are willing to do so again. It is a grinding process ... it saps the strength of the nation. But, there are worse predicaments.

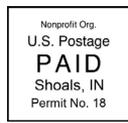
As difficult as this struggle is, it pales in comparison with the prospect of an America slowly but finally being overrun by the forces of Islamic terrorism. Forces opposed to our way of life and our Freedoms and opposed to the Lord and Savior the majority of us worship. And so, in answer to the question "how do we face it?" we must humbly turn to Him as we have in the past; beseeching our Faithful Lord, who will never leave us nor forsake us, to preserve the ones we love and the nation that we believe has established for a noble purpose.

Most reading this article will not have sons/daughters in the fight. That is a good thing. But those of us who do ask you to join us in prayer for the early and successful outcome of these hostilities. Pray that we as sending families will not weaken in support for these actions. Pray that our nation will not be further dividing over the need to fight at all and lose the will to support the troops as they deserve. Pray for those whose families have already made their ultimate sacrifice. And, pray for the combatants themselves that in this unfriendly, inhospitable environment that they will draw closer to (or perhaps even find) the God on which they have not previously so thoroughly rested. ★

*Charles W. Magsig
Colonel USAF retired
May 19, 2010*

Chuck and his wife Jennifer live in Goodlettsville, TN where they are members of the Church of the Nazarene. The Magsigs are strong supporters of revivals and evangelists. I encourage you to respond to Colonel Magsig's request for your prayers.

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RECENT NEWS

On May 8, 2010 Mary E. Fader wife of tenured evangelist Wes Fader went to be with the Lord. A very blessed home going service was held at Crosspoint Church of the Nazarene in Salisbury, MD. Pastor Ron Parker and others remembered the wonderful ministry of song and spirit that Mary and Wes demonstrated as full time evangelists. Our evangelists' family will miss Mary but we rejoice that she is with our Lord enjoying a complete healing. Please continue to pray for Wes and their two daughters and families in the days ahead.



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A University with an Altar

I'll never forget

this place because it was here, kneeling beside an old wooden chair, that I said 'yes' to God's will for my life. A lot has changed around here — but a few things haven't.

What God did

in my life is as real today as it was nearly 40 years ago. And you know what else hasn't changed? This place called Olivet is still all about transforming lives. If I were the president around here, I'd call this place 'Olivet Nazarene University: the University with an altar!'

-Excerpts from comments made by evangelist Chuck Milhuff '60 on a recent visit to Olivet



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