

## One Teacher's Best Day

— Ken Holland

It is always a special day when CE is going to sing at your home church. February 16 was one of those days because CE was singing at the Thousand Oaks SDA Church, which is where I attend. To make matters even more special, some of my students and their parents had said they would be there. As a fourth-grade teacher in a public

prepared for the concert. For me the excitement was almost too much to bear. I walked outside for a few minutes and that's when I saw my principal and two other teachers from my school walking from the parking lot! We hugged, exchanged pleasantries and they headed into the church to make sure they could find a seat.



Bass Ken Holland shares a very special moment with three of his students, Alex Whitney and Jordan and Austin Tapola, during the Thousand Oaks SDA Church concert.

joyously sing praises to the Lord without any fear of parents' complaints!

The elementary Sabbath School class was kind enough to lend their room for CE to warm up in as they

school, I don't get to talk much about God with my students. That day would be different because I could

When CE made its entry into the sanctuary, I saw twin boys from my class sitting in the second row with their mother! I'm not sure who smiled more broadly — the boys, their mother or me. During the song, *Kids of the Kingdom*, when the young people were invited to sing with CE, the boys came down and sat by me.

At that time I discovered another one of my students who came down to join us. I hadn't seen him in the congregation until then. He pointed to his dad several rows back and we waved at each other. Singing to Jesus with three of "my boys" surrounding me was a spiritual high for this particular teacher from a public school!

Later that afternoon in Ventura, CE was privileged to minister in song to Pastor Jim Ayars, a long-

*continued on page 6*

## Director's Message

— Calvin Knipschild

When I was growing up I had the opportunity to listen to one of the greatest preachers I ever knew. His name was John F. Knipschild, Jr., my father. When he preached, I was always personally moved into action to do something that would glorify God and lead others to Him. When he passed away, there were two items I wanted more than anything else — his marked Bible with hand-written notes and comments in the margins, and his card index of stories and illustrations still rich with spiritual insights in 2008.

I will often open his Bible and read something he "tucked" away in the pages, and am always blessed and inspired by what my father kept in it. A few weeks ago I found two challenges by which he lived. They were placed back-to-back on the same piece of paper and they impressed me. I want to share the concepts with you because I believe they are messages that we need to embrace as a daily reminder. I hope you enjoy them as much as I continue to do. I'm sorry he didn't state the sources of these illustrations.

*continued on page 6*

# Northern California Convocation

— Jillian Spencer

*This article and the “Many Tongues, One God” article are excerpts from Michael Spencer’s daughter who writes a blog called Jillian’s Journeys.*

**O**n a Friday afternoon, I took off with my parents for the long-prepared-for adventure of the Northern California Conference of SDA Convocation. Before we could leave for Sacramento, there was so much to do – more certificates, signs, tickets and loading music stands.

As soon as we arrived at the Sacramento Convention Center, there was more work to do—unloading the music stands, walking the space, and unloading the plants for the main set. When we dropped off the synthesizer in the youth room, I was deeply impressed by their setup, particularly the lighting. Downstairs the main hallway was even more impressive, with a huge, white curtain put up behind the main platform. Thousands of

empty chairs stood before it, waiting to be filled the next day.

After a trip to the airport to pick up my grandparents, we arrived at the Carmichael SDA Church for the Friday evening Christian Edition concert. There, I was given the task of handing out the programs. It seemed as though the entire Northern California Conference Department of Education was there, as well as many Pathfinder leaders I had a hard time recognizing out of uniform.

After the concert, we left as soon as possible and completed a few more errands, including another return to the convention center, before going to the hotel. Morning came all too soon, and with it, insanity! When we arrived at the convention center to set up, the fire alarm was blaring; the smoke machine in the youth room had actually set it off. The fire department came and soon we were

allowed back into the building.

Almost as soon as we opened the information desk, the mass choir started coming. And coming. It was a veritable zoo until rehearsal started and the Sacramento Philharmonic Symphony arrived. Oh, the shivers down my spine! Then, there was the matter of renumbering the choir's bleachers with brightly colored, extra-sticky Post-It Notes.

Elder Jim Pedersen, President of the Northern California Conference, gathered the people who were to be on the platform for the church service and prayed with us. I hadn't realized I would be sitting on the platform, and that surprised me a bit. Sitting between Elder Pedersen and the treasurer of the conference (who, it turns out, is a great conversationalist) was a very surreal

Christian Edition provides music for the Northern California Convocation at the Sacramento Convention Center.



## CE NewsNotes

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experience. I could just barely see my grandparents sitting in the front section. The hardest part of it, really, was the time-honored tradition of torturing people on the platform with hymns to which they do not know the words and not providing them with words. Lip synching was alive and well.

When I returned to rehearsal, it was almost over, and it was time to get the box lunches (provided

*Friends of the Christian Edition family, Michaela and Caitlyn Dimick, sit between Mickey Smith and Dave Taylor at the Arden Church of the Nazarene in Sacramento, CA.*



for CE by the Sacramento Adventist Academy music department). Presented in beautiful black boxes, they looked quite lovely in the truck, and it was after Mom and I had started enjoying ours in the company of her side of the family that Dad came and took me with him to the VIP lunch area to get certificates signed—this was also very surreal. There I sat at a table with Paul Stilwell (Ralph Carmichael’s producer) and a group of people from the recording industry who, when I mentioned having seen Sir Elton John in concert, were

able to tell me what it takes to hire him. These fascinating stories were accompanied by delicious food, and though I had to eat in a hurry (Dad left early), I made a point of thanking Mrs. Pedersen for it.

A good deal of the concert prep is a blur—lots of painful running around in platform heels and finally sitting down as a member of the choir.

The concert was incredible. After one or two songs, Mr. Carmichael stopped, turned to the audience and said in an emotionally cracked voice, “I promised my friends I would not speak too much tonight, but I don't think I could.”

Oh, the beauty of it! Oh, the glory of it!—I do believe such a thing has not been seen or heard, ever, in the history of this conference. To hear the thundering choir—actually, roaring, as a mass choir should—and the tremendous sound of the combined orchestra was one kind of wonder. To listen to the words and to know these were songs of worship, done for the glory of God, was another kind of wonder entirely. Towards the end, Elder Pedersen gave a beautiful response call before the final number. ●

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*Thanks*

# Many Tongues, One God

— Jillian Spencer

**D**rained from an exhausting week, it was with great anticipation that five Pacific Union College students carpooled down the hill, only to have an exhausting weekend round it off. Dropped off at Pleasant Hill, I set out almost immediately for Sacramento with my parents for a Men's Chorus Festival rehearsal. Along the way, we enjoyed catching up a bit. Arriving at the Carmichael SDA Church, rehearsal was already an hour in progress. Fortunately, Dad's pieces hadn't come up yet.

I had the best night's sleep I'd had in a week and was rewarded to get up the next morning and go to another Christian Edition concert. This one was at a Slavic church—it was quite an experience. The entire congregation spoke Russian, and the service had to be translated for us. They received us warmly, and afterwards a church member, Natella Rusu, had all of Christian Edition over to her house for lunch. Oh, the food! It was like Thanksgiving with the Ukrainian side of the family, but less American-ized. There was holopchi (cabbage rolls), petehch (a pasta stuffed with potato and cabbage), borscht (a beet soup), and many other wonderful Slavic dishes I can't even begin to name. Out of gratitude, Christian Edition sang for Natella who, in preparing the meal, had totally missed the concert.

During the final practice for the Men's Chorus Festival, some of my relatives arrived and Mom and I enjoyed catching up on news with them. There were even a few there

we hadn't expected, which was a pleasant surprise. When the festival began, I was enthralled by the incredible sound of 99 men's voices going at full strength; there are few words to describe it. Five men's choruses were represented there, and each had its own special sound, its own wonderful message. In this concert, many heard CE's new piece, *Jerusalem*, for the first time. The excitement in the room was tangible, mingling with the energy of the song. It finished to a standing ovation as the choruses combined once more for the last few songs.

Directors and accompanists are recognized by festival organizer Art Garbutt (not shown) at the conclusion of the Men's Chorus Festival held in the Carmichael SDA Church in Sacramento.



Hostess Natella Rusu provided a wonderful Slavic lunch for Director Calvin Knipschild and the rest of the Christian Edition family following the service at the Slavic SDA Church.

The finale of the concert, *No More Night*, was incredible; I have heard it sung many times before but never so strongly or with such passion. My prayer is that the words of that song will soon become reality. ●



In the midst of the Men's Chorus Festival weekend, Christian Edition provided the morning worship service at the Slavic SDA Church in Sacramento, California.



# Soon and Very Soon

— Craig Vendouris

Christian Edition headed to Portland, Oregon, for the annual convention of Maranatha International as they celebrated the blessings of the Lord and looked forward to the coming year. CE was asked to provide music on Friday night and Sabbath as Maranatha focused on their theme for the weekend, *Soon and Very Soon*, which all sang at the conclusion of each meeting.

CE was greatly impressed with the commitment of the Maranatha volunteers and the commitment of going to countries around the globe to serve the needs of people who don't have a church, a school or even clean water for daily use. Whatever the project is, the volunteers find the necessary resources to accomplish the task. Incredible stories were shared of how some resources found their way into the right hands. The volunteers do not hesitate in giving credit to God for frequently supplying their needs.

One Maranatha project that impressed CE was in Mozambique. The goal is to build 1001 churches to supply the spiritual needs of the people in this war-torn and poverty-stricken country and 1,001 wells, one in the courtyard of each church, to supply the physical need of clean, fresh water that the population so desperately needs. These wells and corresponding churches will become community gathering places which will also be used for government-sponsored literacy programs, schools

and medical clinics and will change individual lives, the community and the entire country. After discussing the need, CE was so impressed with this urgent challenge it decided to donate the funds from album sales during the convention to help construct wells in Mozambique. An amazing blessing from God was evident as CE donated \$6,000 to build three wells. An additional plan was voted by the group to send CD players and CE albums to each of the sites so that our music ministry will be available to those who come to get fresh water.

We witnessed one of the most impressive events we have ever experienced in CE's history during the Sabbath worship service. The offering appeal was extended and the response to the challenge was announced in the afternoon meeting. Over one million dollars had been raised for Maranatha! It was inspiring to take part in such an event financially, but also spiritually through donated time. Well done, Maranatha, and thank you for inviting CE to participate in such an amazing display of unselfish stewardship.



CE capped off our weekend in Portland by going to the Hoodview Church of God in Woodburn, Oregon, on Sunday morning. This was the church that Calvin discovered while chasing down the last sticky bun a few months earlier at a res-

taurant in Boise, Idaho. There had been one sticky bun left and Calvin and another diner were vying for it. The other person happened to be Pastor Dave Dougherty, the pastor of the Hoodview Church of God in Portland. When he discovered that Calvin directed a men's chorus, an appointment was quickly made for the time that we would be in the Portland area.

Of course, there was no way we could NOT mention the sticky bun incident once we arrived at their church to sing. Calvin had arranged for one of our baritone members, Chris Klebba, to run to a store and find a sticky bun to present to the pastor during the worship service. It was a great idea, but finding a sticky bun proved to be quite a challenge. Fortunately, Chris was able to find a grocery store that was just bringing them out of the oven, so he snatched one up and brought it back to the church. We walked in to start our worship time with the congregation and, after the first song, Calvin told the sticky bun story to the congregation. At that point he called up the pastor and gave him the sticky bun, and Pastor Dave was completely surprised. It wasn't typical of our worship services, but it was a fun way to bond with the pastor and his congregation. All of the singers learned something new that day as well: it's very difficult to sing with the smell of a freshly-baked sticky bun hanging in the air.

We enjoyed the people of Hoodview Church immensely and we look forward to returning there sometime down the road. ●

## One Teacher's Best Day *continued from page 1*

time friend and former bass with the King's Heralds Quartet. Again, something unexpected surprised me when I noticed there were three more of my students there to hear us sing! Twin girls from my class were there with their parents along with one other girl from my class. This was truly a great day. From where I stood in the formation, the girls were craning their necks to see around our director's head, and during the intermission they relocated so we could better view each other. They also joined CE up front for the children's song and surrounded me with happiness as they blended beautifully to the delight of us all.

That day ended faster than either CE or I would have liked. It was one day I will never forget because I was honored to sing for Jesus with six of my students and their parents present and I didn't have to guard or swallow my words. Jesus truly blessed. ●



Proud teacher Ken Holland enjoys sharing a concert moment with students Allyssa Sullivan and Corryn and Madison Douglass.



Former CE Bass Paul Husen and his wife Bridget attended the December 30 wedding of Krista Miller and Brenden McHale. Krista's dad is second tenor Fred Miller.

## Director's Message

*continued from page 1*

I would like to ask you three questions. What is your unique talent? How are you communicating that "special gift" to the rest of the world? What are some of the ways you like to give back? Whatever you do with your life, you want to be able to have your passions shed light on others because you desire to help better understand their personal journey.

If you are an enlightened teacher or dedicated artist, if you are a writer, editor, publisher, musician or dancer, think of the lives you can affect. If you are a designer, decorator, mother, father, gourmet cook or collector of letters and manuscripts, think of the lives you can influence. If you are a doctor, nurse, janitor or mechanic, think of the lives you can impact. If you have been redeemed by the grace of God, think of the lives you can change positively.

When we care enough to use our gifts to glorify God, we can make a powerful difference in the lives of so many.

On the opposite side of the paper found in Dad's Bible was this illustration: An aging rabbi once asked his students how they could tell when the night had ended and a new day had begun. "Could it be," asked one of the students, "when you can see an animal silhouetted in the distance and can tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?" "No," answered the rabbi. Another asked, "Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it's a fig tree or a peach tree?" "No," answered the rabbi. "Then when is it?" the students demanded. "It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see it is your brother or sister, because if you cannot see this, it is still night."

My friends, God has given each of us a story to share of how He saved us. I extend to you this challenge: use your uniqueness to see in your sphere of influence a brother or sister who needs to hear and see the richness of God's love and salvation so freely offered to him/her personally through you and me. ●

# Wings of Faith Club

— Paul Wilcox

If the ministry of Christian Edition has touched your heart and you would like to support our efforts to spread the good news of the Gospel through music, we invite you to join the *Wings of Faith Club*. It is a twelve-month commitment to a monthly contribution of whatever amount you are impressed to give. Some members give \$10 per month, others contribute \$100 or more. As a bonus, members who contribute a minimum of \$120 will be the first to receive our new CD when it comes out this Fall.

I have chosen to be a member of *Wings of Faith* since its inception in the late nineties because I believe in the ministry of Christian Edition. I have heard countless stories about

how the Holy Spirit has touched lives through our ministry. Since Christian Edition is a self-supporting ministry, all funds contributed support the music outreach. With the support of the *Wings of Faith Club*, Christian Edition is able to minister wherever God calls without financial worry.

Won't you prayerfully consider joining this support team? Christian Edition is a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible under state and federal law. You may contact us to make arrangements at 877 433-4846, email us at christianedition@hotmail.com or make a donation online at christianedition.com. ●

**YES! Please sign me up for the *Wings of Faith Club*!**

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# Calendar

**ALL LISTED CHRISTIAN EDITION REHEARSALS ARE OPEN TO OUR FRIENDS AND ARE HELD AT TEMPLE CITY SDA CHURCH LOCATED AT 9664 EAST BROADWAY IN TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA. CONCERT TIMES OR LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE. PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM A CONCERT BEFORE TRAVELING LONG DISTANCES. (SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HAS BEEN ABBREVIATED TO SDA.)**

## JULY 2008

- 18 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 19 Saturday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**  
Los Angeles University SDA Church  
1135 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
323 766-9889

## AUGUST 2008 **No Concerts**

## SEPTEMBER 2008

- 5 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 12 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 19 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 27 Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**  
Loma Linda Academy  
10656 Anderson Street  
Loma Linda, CA 92354  
900 796-0161

## The distinguished performers of Christian Edition

### DIRECTOR

Calvin Knipschild

### ACCOMPANIST

Michael Spencer

### BARITONES

Chris Klebba

Al Perry

### FIRST TENORS

Henry Murray

Rob Peterson

David Taylor

Paul Wilcox

John Reader

Frank Rubio

Keith Smith

Craig Vendouris

### BASSES

Leonard Fletcher

Ken Holland

Vave Maneafaiga

Gary Mattison

Patrick Wolfe

### SECOND TENORS

Fred Miller

Russ Nelson

LaMarr Profit

Mickey Smith

John Thomson

## OCTOBER 2008

- 3 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 10 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 11 Saturday 11:00 A.M. **Concert**  
Orange SDA Church  
1310 E. Walnut Avenue  
Orange, CA 92867  
714 538-1809
- 11 Saturday 5:30 P.M. **Concert**  
Redondo Beach SDA Church  
401 S. Prospect Avenue  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277  
310 316-4665
- 12 Sunday 6:00 P.M. **Concert**  
Sky Valley Resort  
Force Hall  
74-711 Dillon Road  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92241
- 17 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 24-26 **Retreat Weekend**  
Pine Springs Ranch  
58000 Apple Canyon Road  
Mountain Center, CA 92561  
951 659-4131



First tenors Paul Wilcox and Rob Peterson perform a duet in *Daystar*.

## NOVEMBER 2008

- 7 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 14 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 21 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 22 Saturday 11:00 A.M. **Concert**  
Whittier SDA Church  
8841 South Calmada Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90605  
562 696-9417
- 22 Saturday 4:30 P.M. **Concert**  
Inland Empire Filipino Church  
604 State Street  
Redlands, CA 92374  
909 910-6091
- 23 Sunday 6:00 P.M. **Concert**  
First Evangelical Free Church  
2801 N. Brea Boulevard  
Fullerton, CA 92835  
714 529-5544

## DECEMBER 2008 **No Concerts**

The last time you were here at Evangelical Free Fullerton I asked for your prayers, as my husband had Alzheimer's disease. I want to thank you for your support. God met us at every turn with His grace. How grateful my heart is! David died this January. But the year before his death, as I visited him each day, I played many of your CDs on his headphones and he became peaceful and often wept, especially when he heard *Daystar*. Thank you.

— Kaya Lien



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