

CE NewsNotes



spring 2010 | Vol 21

The Ministry and Activities of **CHRISTIAN EDITION**, A Men's Chorus



Director's Message

— Calvin Knipschild



The sign on the door read "Puppies for Sale," and so the young boy went inside to look. The man

in the pet store showed him five little puppies that were now ready to leave their mother. They were about the cutest pups the boy had ever seen. "How much are they?" he asked. The man replied, "Some are fifty dollars, and some are more."

The little boy reached into his pocket and pulled out all the money he had. "I have a dollar and eighty-six cents," he said.

"Well, I'm afraid I can't sell you one of these puppies for that price. You will just have to save your money for another time when we have puppies on sale."

About that time, the owner's wife brought out another puppy she had been taking care of in the back of the store. It was noticeably smaller than the others, and it had a defective leg. It couldn't stand very well and when it tried to walk,

How Great Thou Art — Richard Gutsche

Seldom does Christian Edition have the opportunity to meet someone who is known to the world as an icon of Christian music, but on a cool, crisp Autumn afternoon in October we enjoyed just such an occasion.

Through the sister of bass singer Patrick Wolfe, we were able to arrange a visit with George Beverly Shea and his wife, Karlene, at their home in North Carolina. Mr. Shea, who turned 101 this February 1, was the Music Director for the Billy Graham Crusades for more than forty years. He is probably most famous for singing "How Great Thou Art" and some of the songs he has written, including "I'd Rather Have Jesus" and "The Wonder of It All."

According to *Wikipedia*: "He has been described as 'America's Beloved Gospel Singer'" and is considered "the first international singing 'star' of the gospel world, as a consequence of his solos on the Billy Graham Crusades and his exposure on radio, records, and television."

The *Guinness Book of Records* reveals: Shea holds the world record for singing in person to the most people ever, with an estimated cumulative live audience of 220 million people.

We did not have a planned program but as we gathered with Mr. Shea in his living room, complete with a grand piano and two organs, we were warmly welcomed

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Remembering Vave Maneafaiga

1959–2009

— Henry Murray

My friend Vave Maneafaiga was born in Samoa and grew up in Samoa and Hawaii. He and his wife, Irene, have three children: daughter Starla and sons Schuyler and Spencer. Vave joined Christian Edition as a bass in 1996. If I were to sum up Vave Maneafaiga in a single sentence, I would simply say, “To know Vave is to love Vave,” but truly I couldn’t stop there.

When I first met him, it was his winning smile, firm, strong grip of a handshake and his deep rhythmic chuckle, “Heh, heh, heh, heh,” that captured my attention. In only a moment, I dismissed his giant physique and powerful handshake and determined that he was not threatening or harmful in any way. Then, amazingly, it was like suddenly being hypnotized by the contagious effect of that inviting chuckle. Trying to imitate that masculine sound only resulted in sounding foolish, so I asked, “How’s that bass voice coming, Vave?”

He chuckled and answered, “Fine, my brother. Just fine,” as I regained my composure—a moment I would not soon forget.

Vave was a quiet, private, yet loving gentleman, with emphasis on the “gentle.” I never heard him raise his voice, and he never spoke ill of anyone. In talking with his family, I learned he would avoid discussing anything that might upset any of

them. He loved peace and quiet, and he loved his family with a passion.

On Christian Edition trips, Vave would often be found away from the group, talking on the phone. Once I asked, “Vave, is something wrong?”

He simply smiled and said, “No, I just like to call my wife and see how the family is doing.” He was always in touch with his family. The



last thing he said to me, two days before his passing, was, “Henry, I just want to know my family will be all right. I’m concerned for them and their welfare.”

Vave had a total of six children (three from prior marriages) and two grandchildren, all of whom he adored. When we spoke of them on several occasions, I couldn’t help but sense his deep affection plus concern for their welfare and souls’ salvation. Irene was truly his best friend and confidante—close to his heart. It was always moving to sit and talk with him, but personal matters were only discussed after he

gained your trust.

Vave had a passion and unquenchable thirst for the Lord’s work and for music, traits not commonly found in many people. I couldn’t say he appreciated all types of music, but when it came to anything spiritual or religious—definitely!

He cherished every year and every concert during the time he sang with Christian Edition. It was his way of witnessing. We spoke of those moments often during his last year. I recall his strong desire to make the weeklong trip to Michigan in the spring of 2009. He rescheduled the start of his chemotherapy and did everything in his power to be well enough to travel. “Henry, I can’t miss that trip,” he said. “I have to go. It means so much to me; you have no idea.” So I encouraged him to speak to his doctor to make sure it would be all right. Vave agreed it was a good suggestion. Whether or not he did get his doctor’s approval was never revealed, but he did make the trip!

During his illness, he frequently asked me to tell the CE guys, “I love them, I appreciate their prayers, and I miss their company.” Even in his last days when I called, he would ask, “Where are we (Christian Edition) singing next?” Somehow I never questioned the “we” part. I just answered the question, knowing that he would be there with us in heart, mind, and spirit.

Personally, the most difficult times for me were when I called during the last weeks and noticed the strength and boom of his

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How Great Thou Art

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as friends. He expressed his appreciation for the songs we sang, but indicated his preference for “Be Ye Holy” because it was “quieter,” evoking some smiles from the singers.

As the musical ministry continued, Mr. Shea shared comments after each song, relating many fascinating anecdotes and experiences.

One of the songs we had personally prepared was his signature song, “How Great Thou Art.” At the outset, he joined right in, that low bass voice sounding fantastic at 100 years of age! That was the highlight of our day.

George grew up in Canada, the son of a pastor. His middle name, Beverly, was after a female doctor in England whom his parents admired. At that time, Beverly was a perfectly acceptable name for a man.

He explained that he met Billy Graham while he was working at Christian radio station WMBI in Chicago. He began singing for

Graham in 1942 and has been with him ever since.

Shea also maintains an avid interest in church organs. He presently owns seven that are installed in his home. From the living room, he led us to the “organ room” where he played a few bars on one of the instruments, activating some of the 700 organ pipes in his basement. (He plays well!)

Our wonderful ninety-minute visit ended all too quickly, and as we sadly said good-bye to the Sheas, we posed for a group picture on the front steps of their home. This particular day we will always remember with considerable affection and profound appreciation. ●

Vave Maneafaiga

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chuckles were all but gone. I sing first tenor and my voice was now stronger than his—something I did not relish. I still shed tears remembering those sounds and

Christian Edition ready to give the January 16 Saturday evening concert at the Palm Desert Oasis SDA Church.

recalling the ones I know I will not hear again in this life. My heart is broken as I realize my friend is no longer with us—just beautiful and loving memories.

It is only fitting that the next sound Vave will hear as he is awakened by the mighty, melodious shout of His Savior and King, Jesus Christ, will be the glorious voices of the heavenly chorus, singing praises to the King of all kings and welcoming him to the Kingdom of Heaven. Imagine his joy when realizing where he is and what is happening!

May we all remain faithful in our service for the Lord, by His grace, in complete response to His love, so that we, too, will rejoin our loved ones and friends to live forever without any of the sorrows of life on earth today. This is the blessed hope! ●

Brie receives a "Kids of the Kingdom" cassette from Director Calvin Knipschild at the Fletcher SDA Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina.



The following prayer request was handed to bass singer Leonard Fletcher.

Dear Christian Edition: I love your singing. I like that you include kids in your program. I love blue and I have a cat and a dog. I also love to sing! I hope whoever gets this little note understands how it feels to be an only child. I'm in 4th grade. I am 9 years old, but in 5 days I will be 10. My birthday is on October 21. I love your group. I am only a kid, but I feel the need to say I was blessed. My prayer request is for me to get a dad. My mom's a single parent and I'm an only kid. Thank you. — Brie.

P.S. I am the girl that got a tape tonight. ●



Christian Edition's 30th Anniversary Alaska Cruise June 19 – 26, 2011

Join us for a 7-Day cruise aboard Celebrity Cruise Lines' beautiful Mercury. We'll sail from Vancouver, British Columbia, and visit the ports of Juneau, Ketchikan, Icy Strait Point, Alaska, and cruise Hubbard Glacier and the Inside Passage. Your cruise will include **exclusive on-board concerts**, Celebrity's new "Savor, Discover, & Renew" programs providing great culinary experiences, enrichment and wellness, pre-paid gratuities, and one staff member for every two guests, who will help to create the moments and memories of a lifetime...plus, all the magnificence of Alaska! Space is very limited – don't wait to book your cabin and enjoy our wonderful, music-filled cruise.



Day / Date	Port of Call	Arrive	Depart
Sun., June 19	Vancouver, B.C.		5:00 pm
Mon., June 20	Inside Passage	Cruising	
Tue., June 21	Icy Strait Point	3:00 pm	10:00 pm
Wed., June 22	Hubbard Glacier	10:30 am	2:30 pm
Thur., June 23	Juneau, Alaska	7:30 am	8:30 pm
Fri., June 24	Ketchikan, Alaska	2:30 pm	8:00 pm
Sat., June 25	Inside Passage	Cruising	
Sun., June 26	Vancouver, B.C.	7:00 am	



Cabin Type	Category	Cruise Rate
Interior	11	\$1,079.50
Ocean View	7	\$1,229.50
Deluxe Ocean View with Veranda	2A	\$1,869.50
Concierge Class with Veranda	C2	\$1,963.00
Sky Suite w/Veranda with Butler	S2	\$2,294.00

Rates are per person, based on double occupancy

Government Fees: \$145.53* Port Taxes/ Charges: \$219* Fuel Supplement: \$0*

* All Taxes/Fees and Fuel Supplement are subject to change

R/T Airfare to Vancouver: Please call Montrose Travel for current pricing

Deposit: \$275 per person (\$75 non-refundable) Final Payment: February 1, 2011

Documentation: U.S. Citizens require a valid passport

Reservations – Questions:



Phone: 800-301-9673 * Fax: 818 248-5460 * Email: groups@montrosetravel.com



First Tenor David Taylor talks to the Greenville (Tennessee) SDA Church audience about the importance of the prayer ministry of Christian Edition.

Christian Edition Director Calvin Knipschild with Pastor Billy King of the Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina.





Enjoying time with friends at the Fairmont Church in Lodi, California, on Friday, November 20, 2009. Pictured are Richard Gutsche, Rob Peterson, Sonya Aceres, Northern California Conference President Jim Pedersen, Debi Pedersen and Paul Wilcox.

The distinguished performers of Christian Edition

DIRECTOR

Calvin Knipschild

ACCOMPANIST

Michael Spencer

FIRST TENORS

Henry Murray

Rob Peterson

David Taylor

Paul Wilcox

BARITONES

Chris Klebba

Al Perry

Bruce Powers

John Reader

Keith Smith

Craig Vendouris

BASSES

Jonathan Davidson

Leonard Fletcher

Ken Holland

Gary Mattison

Patrick Wolfe

SECOND TENORS

Fred Miller

Russ Nelson

LaMarr Proffitt

Dick Sample

Mickey Smith

Director's Message

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it limped badly.

"Oh, I wish I had enough money to buy that puppy!" said the boy. "That's the one I would choose!"

"Well, this puppy is not for sale. But if you really want him, I will give him to you absolutely free," said the owner.

The young boy became quite upset by this and looked at the pet store owner and said, "No, I don't want you to give him to me. That puppy is worth just as much as the others. I will give you my dollar and eighty-six cents now, and I will give you fifty cents a month until I have paid the full price for him."

The puzzled storeowner ex-

plained to the boy he shouldn't waste his money on a dog that would never be able to run and play with him like the other puppies.

The young boy reached down and pulled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted leg supported by a heavy metal brace. "Sir, I don't run and play too good myself. I figure this little puppy is going to need someone like me who understands."

Let's remember we were bought with a very high price when Christ went to the cross for each of us. He did it because He loves us and wants us to be with Him. He knows what we are going through, and He knows exactly how we feel.

Make Him a part of your day because He paid the price just for you! ●

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CHRISTIAN EDITION, A MEN'S CHORUS
1125 E. BROADWAY, PMB 156
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA 91205

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

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ALL GIFTS TO CHRISTIAN EDITION ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRC 501(c)(3), TIN: 23-7241305

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WP PLUS



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.)

MARCH 2010

- 12 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 13 Saturday 4:00 P.M. **Concert**
Calimesa SDA Church
391 Myrtlewood Drive
Calimesa, CA 92320
(909) 795-9741
- 20 Saturday 11:00 A.M. **Concert**
Chehalis SDA Church
120 Chilvers Road
Chehalis, WA 98532-4817
(360) 748-4330
- 20 Saturday 6:30 P.M. **Concert**
Olympia Transformation
Life Center
1717 Eskridge Blvd. SE
Olympia, WA 98501-3639
(360) 943-1370
- 21 Sunday 10:45 A.M. **Concert**
Lakewood New Hope
Community Church
9308 Meadow Road SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
(253) 588-0808
- 21 Sunday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**
Kirkland SDA Church
6400 108th Avenue, NE
Kirkland, WA 98033-7244
(425) 822-7922
- 22 Monday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**
Sequim SDA Church
30 Sanford Lane
Sequim, WA 98382-8969
(360) 683-7373
- 23 Tuesday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**
Auburn City SDA Church
402 29th Street SE
Auburn, WA 98002-7542
(253) 833-2560
- 25 Thursday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**
Vancouver SDA Church
9711 NE St. Johns Road
Vancouver, WA 98665-9682
(360) 696-2511



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- 26 Friday 7:30 P.M. **Concert**
East Salem SDA Church
5575 Fruitland Road NE
Salem, OR 97317-3334
(503) 363-0390
- 27 Saturday 11:00 A.M. **Concert**
Gladstone Park SDA Church
1475 Ohlson Road
Gladstone, OR 97027-1426
(503) 655-2614
- 27 Saturday 5:30 P.M. **Concert**
Sunnyside SDA Church
10501 SE Market Street
Portland, OR 97216-2951
(503) 252-8080
- 28 Sunday 10:30 A.M. **Concert**
Hoodview Church of God
1530 Mount Hood Avenue
Woodburn, OR 97071-9069
(503) 981-1660

APRIL 2010

- 2 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**

MAY 2010

- 7 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 14 Friday 7:30 P.M. **Concert**
Mt. Miguel Covenant Village
325 Kempton Street
Spring Valley, CA 91777-5810
(619) 479-4790
- 15 Saturday 10:50 A.M. **Concert**
El Cajon SDA Church
1630 E. Madison Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92019-1045
(619) 444-0763

- 15 Saturday 6:30 P.M. **Concert**
Paradise Village, Liberty Hall
2700 East 4th Street
National City, CA 91950
(619) 475-5040
- 16 Sunday 3:00 P.M. **Concert**
First Congregational
Church of Escondido
1800 N. Broadway
Escondido, CA 92026-2020
(760) 745-3320

JUNE 2010

- 11 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 19 Saturday 11:00 A.M. **Concert**
Grand Avenue SDA Church
278 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610-4724
(510) 452-0785
- 19 Saturday 8:00 P.M. **Concert**
Mt. Hermon Christian
Conference Center
37 Conference Drive
Felton, CA 95018
(888) 642-2677
- 20 Sunday 11:00 A.M. **Concert**
Mt. Hermon Christian
Conference Center
37 Conference Drive
Felton, CA 95018
(888) 642-2677

**Look for our booth at the
Atlanta, Georgia, General
Conference Session
June 24–July 3, 2010.**