

Every year Christian Edition makes one major tour of about ten days. For 2014, I had completed arrangements to visit North Carolina. All of the details had finally come together after months of planning, when only a week before we were to leave . . . IT HAPPENED!

My Chains are Gone!

by Calvin Knipschild



I received a call from the church where we were to be on Sunday morning. They had double-booked us with another group—a college group their church supported—and they would have to cancel our appointment. After spending months putting this tour together, I panicked! Because when you travel across the

nation with thirty people, asking only for love offerings and sales of recordings to help cover expenses, EVERY SERVICE counts. For the next three days I called every person and church I could think of to find a replacement venue, but nothing was working out. I was resigned to giving the group the day off to relax and not sing.

Then I received a phone call from Mr. Jim Wetmore who works in prison ministries in the Asheville area. He had heard that we were looking for a worship service site, and was wondering if we would be interested in coming to the correctional facility he worked with. He explained that there were no funds available because they were a volunteer group, and there was no guarantee of how many, if any at all, would show up for a service.

Since we had nothing else to do, why not? We had sung for a correctional facility once before, for a group of minimum security inmates, so I felt confident that these arrangements would be similar. Jim said they would need the name and driver's license number of each person entering, and that the number of people entering would be limited to twenty. Twenty? There were thirty people in our entourage, but, there were exactly eighteen singers, plus our accompanist and myself. Perfect! Jim called two days later to report that all of the names had been cleared and that, in his memory, it was the fastest any group had ever cleared security.

What was supposed to be a fill-in worship service, in God's hands and leadership, turned into the highlight of our North Carolina tour.

March 23, 2014, Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women

We woke up to pouring rain on Sunday morning, and packed into the vans to drive to Swannanoa for the morning worship service. I began to grow more skeptical about the arrangements after Jim called to tell me that they had moved the morning service up an hour earlier than normal. Why, I didn't know. Maybe they were worried because a large group of men, twenty in total, were coming and possibly an earlier service would keep more of the women in their quarters.

On arriving at the facility, we had to go through a gated security entrance, then walk about 400 yards to the chapel, IN THE RAIN, most of us without umbrellas.

Continued Overleaf—

Christian Edition
NewsNotes

The ministry and activities
of Christian Edition



Christian Edition
A Men's Chorus

Winter 2015 • Volume 31

My Chains are Gone!

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When we arrived at the chapel, we had only about 5-10 minutes to get ready before the doors were opened and the inmates were allowed to enter for worship. Jim said he hoped some would come but with the rain there might only be one or two. As always, we had prayer before the program. We stood in place waiting in front of the chapel, looking like drowned animals in our dripping wet suits, hoping that at least a few of the 2,700 inmates would show up to hear us sing.

I JUST LOVE IT WHEN GOD SHOWS US HIS SENSE OF HUMOR! In a couple of minutes a few women entered. The guys smiled among themselves; we would at least have someone to sing to. This is where God's greatness showed through. The women just kept arriving! Ten, twenty, thirty-five. Soon there were over fifty women sitting there waiting for us to lead them in worship. I looked over to Jim Wetmore—he looked shocked and amazed.



The lives of women in prison are often devoid of meaning and purpose. The power of the gospel, presented through the ministry of music, can bring hope and healing—even penetrating prison walls.

We sang our opening song “Joy.” When we finished, we were greeted with a standing ovation, lifted hands, and shouts of “Praise God!” We were speechless. In that instant, I believe all of us in Christian Edition knew we were a part of something that was out of our hands. We were in a place, in God's hands, where we could see and feel His Spirit leading us all in worship.

During the service, we asked the women to sing with us, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” I don't think I have ever heard the song sung more sweetly and sincerely than I did that Sunday morning. More than fifty women stood and sang the song with pure love radiating from their hearts.

The memory we will carry with us for the rest our lives, I am sure, came from the song we sang near the end of the service. I had wrestled with whether we should do the song or not because of where we were. But after discussing it with one of the other members in the group, I decided to go ahead and do it because the song has such a great message. The song is “Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone.”

I always ask the guys to keep their eyes on me while we are singing, but this time it just wasn't happening.

During the singing of the chorus when we sing “My chains are gone, I've been set free, my God my Savior has set me free,” several guys in the group stopped looking at me and started wiping their eyes. I always ask the guys to keep their eyes on me while we are singing, but this time it just wasn't happening. After the program, I was told by the guys that during the chorus of the song, several of the women claimed the promise of the words by standing and turning their eyes towards heaven and visually breaking imaginary chains symbolizing Jesus was “setting them free from their chains of sin.” In that special moment, these women witnessed to us.

At the end of the service during my appeal, I did something I was not aware of until Jim told me after the women had left while we were walking back to the front gate to leave. He told me during my appeal I had said to the women, “I want you to be MY neighbor in heaven.” He indicated several women had said to him that this was the first time ANYONE HAD EVER SAID they wanted them in heaven. It made me realize how much we need to care for others, here and now, and let them know, while we can.

At the end of the service, we were told by Jim that maybe a few of the ladies would stay around to say thank you, but not to expect much. As I said, when God leads, don't expect normal: ALL the women stayed afterwards, We shared and talked for about 30 minutes, and only then did we find out the last surprise. While we thought we were ministering to minimum security inmates, we found out we had ministered to minimum, medium and maximum—a wonderful validation that God's love is truly for EVERYONE!

What was supposed to be a fill-in worship service, in God's hands and leadership, turned into the highlight of our North Carolina tour.

A Journey with Jesus

by Bruce Powers

As Christian Edition goes from place to place, we are frequently asked, “What is it like to be in Christian Edition?” We have a variety of answers, but as I reflect on the season that has just ended, I am inclined to say that being in Christian Edition is like being on a journey with Jesus.

In response to the question in that light, we acknowledge that our music is indeed Christ-centered. We are a group dedicated to prayer, and actively solicit prayer requests so that we may pray for individuals in need or who may have a reason for praise. We come to worship in song and glorify Jesus, not to perform a concert that glorifies our group.

But the question then becomes: How do we know that we are truly witnessing and touching the lives of the individuals to whom we sing? The reality is that we do not always know, BUT, we do have moments where Jesus seems to pull back the curtain and lets us have a glimpse of His working.

This season has been quite an eventful journey—a year in which we have truly seen the universal struggle between Christ and Satan over the ministry of Christian Edition.

The season began with our director, Calvin, recovering from quadruple heart bypass surgery. Then over the course of the program season, other members were impacted with illnesses, work issues, family crises, financial challenges—anything that Satan could drum up to create discouragement or give us reason to think that maybe Christian Edition had come to the end of its road.

But then, once again, Jesus stepped in and revealed His plan for Christian Edition. We have had people come to us and tell us how the music has touched their lives; how it got them through a very difficult time in their life—financially, the death of a loved one, health issues, spiritual challenges, peace to allow them to sleep at night and more. The central theme of their stories was that in the music they found Jesus, guiding them through their particular need.

For the singers, a particularly poignant moment was the group’s visit in March to the Swannanoa Women’s Correctional Facility, near Asheville, North Carolina. In that short visit we had the privilege of seeing the power of

the Holy Spirit at work as the women who are incarcerated there witnessed to us. Words cannot adequately describe the experience. My best attempt would be to say that it was like repeatedly encountering the Holy Spirit.


In the remaining three months of our program year, the Lord provided us with a variety of brief insights into the ways the ministry of Christian Edition, on His behalf, have touched the life of someone.

Needless to say these are touching and rewarding moments, but, what we really have come to realize is that these “events” result from a willingness to share the gift of salvation and the unconditional love and grace of Jesus. It affirms our desire and need, as individuals and as a group, to develop and maintain a close personal relationship with Jesus.

That is our witness, and that is what we want people to see and hear when we sing—the character of Christ, the joy of a relationship with our Savior. It is truly a wonderful journey!



First Tenor Paul Wilcox solos in “Sweet By and By.”



First Annual
Benefit Concert
for Glendale Adventist Academy

featuring
Christian Edition
Violinist Miclen Laipang
Comedian Pete McLeod

Saturday, April 11, 2015, 6:00 PM
Glendale City SDA Church
610 E. California Avenue, Glendale, CA

Ticket Information
Glendale Adventist Academy Website
hs.glendaleacademy.org

Fantastic Finale

by Esther Brummett

Ending on a high note, Christian Edition returned to Mount Hermon for the last concert of our 2013-2014 season. The century-old Christian camp and conference center, nestled among the redwoods in the Santa Cruz mountains has, for the past decade, included Christian Edition in their summer concert series. It has become one of our favorite venues for many reasons.



We arrived at Mt. Hermon on the afternoon of June 28. After checking in, we proceeded to the dining room where we were welcomed by our gracious host, Dave Talbot. He directed us to the tables he had reserved and joined us for a delicious buffet supper.

Then it was call time for sound checks and our gathering in a conference room, while the auditorium was being opened to the hundreds of guests who had come to enjoy Christian music.

The nine-foot grand piano gave accompanist Michael Spencer the perfect palette for his musical artistry, with director Calvin Knipschild taking the men of Christian Edition seamlessly from meditative hymns to glorious rafter-reaching anthems, sharing songs of prayer and praise with the appreciative audience.

The blessings of this program flowed both ways—from the singers, the accompanist, and the director, to the audience and back again. The evening was truly a mountaintop experience for all.

Sunday morning, after a hearty breakfast in the dining room, Christian Edition provided choral music for the worship service, led by Chaplain Ken Harrower. The benediction was a worthy “Amen” to CE’s current season.

We returned to Los Angeles Sunday afternoon, blessed and refreshed by our Mount Hermon weekend.

Cruise the Caribbean with CE in 2016!

Christian Edition will celebrate its 35th year of music ministry aboard Royal Caribbean’s *Liberty of the Seas* cruise ship June 12-19, 2016.

Music and Mission

*Celebrating 35 Years
of Music Ministry*

The theme, “Music and Mission” makes this seven-night Caribbean cruise extra special. In addition to worship concerts featuring Christian Edition’s music and pastor and author Karl Haffner’s inspiring worship messages, the “M and M” cruise includes voluntary mission projects at ports of call in Mexico, Grand Cayman and Jamaica.

Cruise speaker Karl Haffner is senior pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dayton, Ohio, known for a series of thought-provoking books including *The Cure for Soul Fatigue*, *Pilgrim’s Problems*, *I’d Rather Kiss a Catfish*, *Peace Like a Spider*, and *Diaper University*.

Montrose Travel is assisting Christian Edition with cruise arrangements and can also help with hotel stays before and after the cruise, travel insurance, transfers to and from the ship, air and rail tickets, and car rental.

Travel Schedule

June 12	Galveston, Texas
June 13	At Sea
June 14	Cozumel, Mexico
June 15	George Town, Grand Cayman
June 16	Falmouth, Jamaica
June 17	At Sea
June 18	At Sea
June 19	Galveston, Texas

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Cruise packages include

- Exclusive VIP concert and worship experiences
- Private Welcome Reception and one-to-one time with your Christian Edition family
- Opportunities to participate in mission projects at our ports of call
- Daily morning worship and praise services
- All meals at your choice of venue—the dining rooms, the always-open buffet, and 24-hour room service
- Gratuities for waiters and stateroom stewards
- Brisk morning walks led by Christian Edition
- \$300 charitable contribution receipt

Cruise package costs range from \$999 to \$1,489 (rates are per person based on double occupancy). Taxes and fees add an additional \$430 per person (subject to change at cruise time).

For more information, visit the Montrose Travel website, or send an inquiry to Montrose by e-mail.

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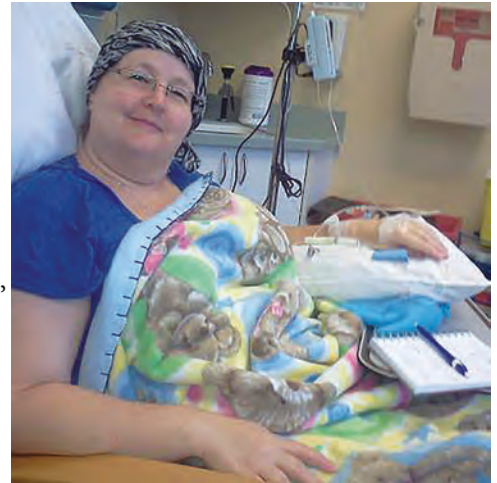
Answered Prayers

by Malisa Smith

It was my doctor calling: “We found traces of cancer in your biopsy.”

Wow, my head was spinning as she gave me the name and phone number of

a great cancer doctor. I hung up and called her; she could get me in the next morning. Now to call my parents, tell my school board, and let my staff know that I would be out of the office for a few weeks. I had one week to get ready for my first surgery ever. My head was still spinning. Why, God? Why me? As word got out, my family, friends, church, Christian Edition, and co-workers were all praying for me.



The day of surgery, I was anointed and prayed with by two close pastor friends who met my parents and me at the hospital. I was so scared of the unknown—what happens in surgery? I think that was what was stressing me the most when I had this revelation: “Hey, Malisa, you know everyone is praying for you right now; God’s Got This!” Then came an overwhelming calm—Thanks, God! They took me into surgery but I don’t remember much of that. God is sooo good.

I was ready to go back to work in a few weeks, but my doctor had other plans. It was a grade 3 tumor that was 30% through the wall, so she said that to make sure all the cancer was gone, I would need 6 chemo sessions and 3 of radiation. “God, I know there is a reason for this. Please use me, help me to know why I’m here and going through all of this. Help me not to miss the opportunity to do your will.”

Again, more prayers—I lost all my hair, I was out of work, and for six months my mom and I lived with my friend who lived closer to my hospital. There were days when I felt really yucky and there were good days. Many, many doctor’s appointments, shots, IVs and tests all blurred together. Through all of this I could see God’s helping hands in my life—through my family, friends, co-workers, church, doctors, nurses, cancer center staff, and the new cancer family that I’m now a part of.

I’m back at work now, my hair is growing back, and so far all my tests have read “CANCER FREE!” Again, GOD IS SOOOOO GOOD! Many of you have recognized the chemo baldness I had last season. I have enjoyed meeting all the people who have come up to talk with me at the CE sales table, telling me of their cancer experiences. I have kept each one of you in my prayers, too. And for those of my new friends who didn’t make it, the next face you see when you awaken is God’s, calling you home. Just rest—don’t hurt anymore. Sometimes that is an answered prayer, too.

For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13

God knows our every need. He loves us very much. God’s Got This!

Director's Comments



When I get to heaven, one of the persons I am most anxious to meet is "Author Unknown."

I don't know where I first heard it said, but every time I come across a poem listed as "Author Unknown" I am reminded of how excited I'm going to be to be able to meet that individual in heaven.

A case in point is the following poem I want to share with you. When I read it, I was moved to tears because it says so powerfully what I believe is the core of the love that I have for my Savior.

I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door, Not by the beauty of it all, by the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp—the thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics, the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice. Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in hell, was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take. How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.

"And why's everyone so quiet, so somber? Give me a clue."
"Hush, child," said He. "They're all in shock. No one thought they'd see you."

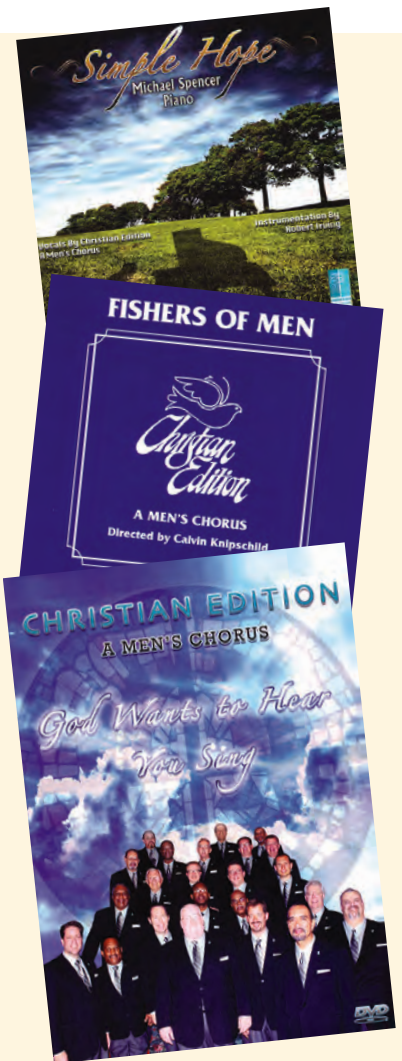
In Luke 5:30-32 we read that Jesus was questioned about who he associated with. His answer IS the reason I sing today. Because He is not afraid to be seen with ME, because He wants to be seen with ME, I am today, a sinner saved by His grace.

Praise God, I didn't have to meet anyone FIRST. Meet any set standards FIRST. I just met Jesus, and I fell in love. The Holy Spirit will take care of all the changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin Knipschild". The script is fluid and cursive.

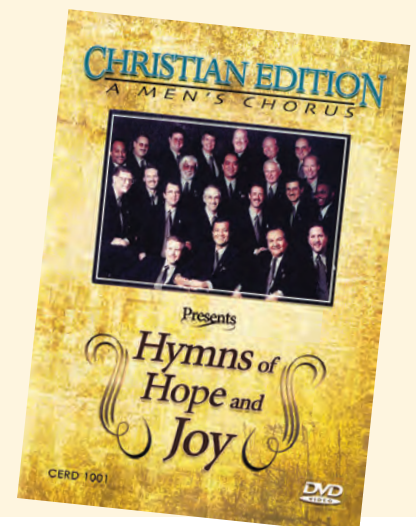
Scheduling a Concert

To inquire about scheduling a concert send a request by FAX to (360) 210-5206, or obtain a request form at ChristianEdition.com/requestform.pdf



Many of the hymns and gospel songs that you have enjoyed in concert performances are available on CD. And now, the entire collection of Christian Edition music on CD is being offered at attractive low prices. Select "Store" at the Christian Edition website to view both CDs and DVDs.

www.ChristianEdition.com





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Bass Leonard Fletcher, First Tenor Henry Murray and Director Calvin Knipschild blend their voices in "Loving God, Loving Each Other."



Wings of Faith

To help maintain the faith ministry of Christian Edition, I pledge:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 Other \$ _____
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*We sincerely appreciate your support
of this ministry.*

NewsNotes

e-mail version

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- Christian Edition rehearsals are open to our friends and are held at San Gabriel Academy Elementary, located at 5550 Muscatel Avenue in San Gabriel, CA.
- Concert times or locations may change. Please call ahead to confirm a listed concert before traveling long distances.
- Seventh-day Adventist has been abbreviated to SDA.



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Calendar of Events

January

9	Friday	7:00 pm	Rehearsal
10	Saturday	3:00 pm	Rehearsal
16	Friday	7:00 pm	Rehearsal
17	Saturday	10:45 am	Concert
Beaumont SDA Church 1343 Palm Avenue Beaumont, CA 92223-1752 [951] 845-2366			
17	Saturday	4:00 pm	Concert
Palm Springs SDA Church 620 S. Sunrise Way Palm Springs, CA 92260-7876 [760] 327-5112			

February

6	Friday	7:00 pm	Rehearsal
7	Saturday	3:00 pm	Rehearsal
20	Friday	7:00 pm	Rehearsal
21	Saturday	11:00 am	Concert
Eagle Rock SDA Church 2322 Merton Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90041-1917 [323] 257-5803			
21	Saturday	4:30 pm	Concert
Downey Spanish Church of Seventh-day Adventists (Meets in Christ Lutheran Church) 7707 Florence Avenue Downey, CA 90240 [714] 234-1844			

March

6	Friday	7:00 pm	Rehearsal
7	Saturday	3:00 pm	Rehearsal
Oregon/Washington Northwest Tour			
13	Friday	7:00 pm	Concert
Chehalis SDA Church 120 Chilvers Road Chehalis, WA 98532-9611 [360] 748-4330			
14	Saturday	10:45 am	Concert
Kirkland SDA Church 6400 108th Avenue NE Kirkland, WA 98033-7244 [425] 822-7922			
14	Saturday	6:00 pm	Concert
Lacey SDA Church 5831 Mullen Road SE Lacey, WA 98503-7196 [360] 459-5163			
15	Sunday	10:45 am	Concert
Lakewood New Hope Community Church 9308 Meadow Road SW Lakewood, WA 98499 [253] 588-0808			
15	Sunday	6:30 pm	Concert
Sequim Adventist Church 30 Sanford Lane Sequim, WA 98382-8969 [360] 683-7373			

16	Monday	7:00 pm	Concert
Monroe SDA Church 14118 Chain Lake Road Monroe, WA 98272 [360] 805-9777			
18	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Concert
Forest Park SDA Church 4132 Federal Avenue Everett, WA 98203-2117 [425] 252-3438			
19	Thursday	7:00 pm	Concert
Adventist Community Church of Vancouver 9711 NE St. Johns Road Vancouver, WA 98665-9682 [360] 696-2511			
20	Friday	7:30 pm	Concert
Pleasant Valley SDA Church 11125 SE 172nd Avenue Happy Valley, OR 97086-8669 [503] 658-2248			
21	Saturday	10:50 am	Concert
East Salem SDA Church 5575 Fruitland Road NE Salem, OR 97317-3334 [503] 363-0390			
21	Saturday	7:00 pm	Concert
Sunnyside SDA Church 10501 SE Market Street Portland, OR 97216-2951 [503] 252-8080			