

CE NewsNotes



summer 2013 | Vol 28 The Ministry and Activities of **CHRISTIAN EDITION**, A Men's Chorus



Christian Edition provides the worship service at Miami Temple SDA Church in Florida on March 16.

Adventures in the Sunshine State

— Jonathan Davidson

It's amazing what happens when a group says, "Father, here we are. Send us where we are needed."

This has been our prayer since day one. And here we are, thirty-two years later, running all over the country, painting pictures of God's love through those wonderful gifts of music and the spoken word.

This year, God worked things out for us to return to Florida after several years. And so it was that we woke up at unholy hours, gathered at LAX and flew all the way across the country to sing twelve times in eight days. While this sounds like a lot—and it is—God always gives us extra energy to stay enthusiastic and sing our best for Him at each worship service.

Even though Christian Edition had been to Florida several times,

I was excited because it would be my first time there and I was anxious to see alligators. So imagine my surprise when, on the tram ride from the airport terminal to baggage claim, I saw an alligator floating in a small pond. Ten minutes on the ground and mission accomplished! That night, as we were eating dinner, I informed Calvin Knipschild, our fearless leader, that I saw my first alligator at the airport. Calvin said, "You thought that was a real alligator?"

"Yes," I said.

"That's a mechanical fake. Disney World put it there."

"Oh," I said, feeling cheated.

Calvin kept a straight face for a few seconds more, then burst into fits of laughter. You'd think after five years I would have learned when to take him seriously.

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Director's Message

— Calvin Knipschild

Special Olympics



When I lived in Southern California, I had the opportunity to attend several very special

events held at the University of California, Los Angeles campus—the Special Olympics.

Just a few weeks ago I happened to find, on cable television, a feature on the Special Olympics and it reminded me of the ones I had attended. How excited the contestants were to participate and how proud the parents and siblings of each participant were! You could

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We received a warm welcome at Miami Temple SDA Church, our first worship service of the tour. As soon as we sang our first note, all the stress of traveling melted away as we joined in the bliss of worshipping our wonderful Heavenly Father. Fortunately, the good folks at Miami Temple were in a forgiving mood and patiently sat through a couple of songs while our lungs,

Right: Baritone Keith Smith and his wife, Amithy, enjoyed spending time with Keith's mother, Dr. Sheila Smith, and the extended family and friends at the Naples SDA Church.

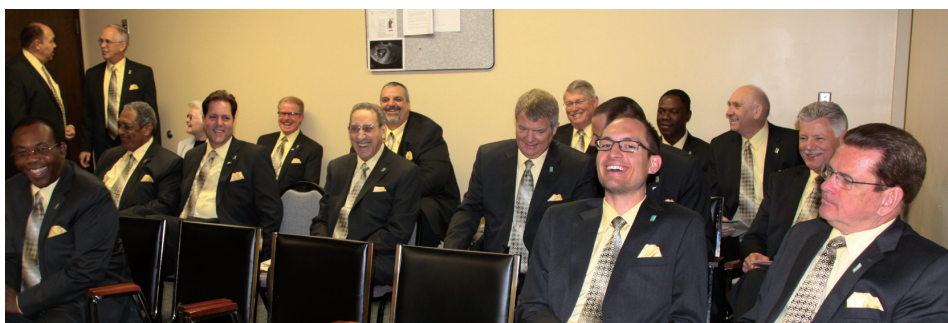
Below: Bass Jonathan Davidson enjoys a good laugh after being teased about his alligator sighting at the Orlando International Airport.

Bottom: Children of the Ambassador SDA Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, join Christian Edition in singing "This Little Light of Mine."

The next day, we had the honor of singing at John Knox Village, a beautiful retirement center in Pompano Beach. The first service was for the residents in their health center. The second service held in their chapel filled to capacity twenty minutes before the worship service started. The audience even joined us in several of our songs. The activities coordinator

church in the heart of the Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers.

Then it was on to the Orlando area where we sang at the Sabbath Grace Fellowship Church in Apopka. Sabbath Grace has the unique and crucial mission of reaching out to those who feel hurt by religion. They offer a safe, open and Christ-centered atmosphere where people



can come to Christ just as they are and worship. What an honor it was to join with them in song!

A highlight of our trip was singing at the East Pasco SDA Church in Zephyrhills. No matter what the East Pasco Church paid their acoustic engineer, they underpaid.

traumatized by such clean, moist air, warmed up.

Our next place of worship was at Ambassador SDA Church in Fort Lauderdale. True to their name, the people at the Ambassador Church were wonderful ambassadors of Christ. Afterward, they had mango treats available for us, which made the entire trip worthwhile for Calvin Knipschild. (If you haven't heard, Calvin has requested that the heavenly mango groves surround his mansion.)



generously treated us to lunch afterward. Later that day, we sang at the Naples SDA Church and the following night in the huge and beautiful

The church was exhilarating to sing in and those who came to worship blessed us with warmth and friendliness.

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Thanks

Toward the end of our trip, we sang at Kress Memorial SDA Church in Winter Park. After the worship service, we received the compliment that touched our hearts the most. A man, who complained that his hearing had faded in recent years, said, "Your music was a blessing for

Markham Woods Men's Chorus. Singing with other men's choruses is always orders of magnitude more fun than singing with one's own group. There's a huge difference between twenty voices and forty. After singing together, the Markham Woods men sat us down

The Markham Woods Men's Chorus joined with Christian Edition in an "unofficial" post-lunch performance of two or three numbers the groups both knew.



two reasons: I could understand the words and you looked like you really knew the Savior and believed the words you were singing." Compliments like this show us that the Holy Spirit clearly carries our voices even to the ears of those who might otherwise have trouble hearing the message. What a wonderful God we serve!

Another highlight came at the Markham Woods SDA Church in Longwood. We sang for the church service and then, after lunch, we sang a couple of songs with the

and explained that they want to share God's love in bigger ways by recording an album. They asked us about our CD projects and, while we don't feel like recording experts, we did our best to answer their questions. It's wonderful to see dedicated men's choruses working hard to speed Christ's coming.

Our last worship service was at the Forest Lake SDA Church in Apopka. Once again, we were met with amazing acoustics, amazing people, and a great time singing His praises.

By the time we finished our tour we were thoroughly exhausted, but thoroughly blessed. We headed to the airport and, in the process, a storm cell threatened to carry us off for a special performance in Oz. Thankfully we all made it to the airport alive and headed back to the real Sunshine State. (FYI, Florida bills itself as the Sunshine State, despite having the most tornados, the most hurricanes, and the highest annual rainfall of any state in the Union!)

All kidding aside, going to Florida was an unforgettable experience and a spiritual high note. We hope to be invited back to Florida very soon. ●

San Diego Weekend

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song "Coming Home," was a wonderful way to end our Sabbath and begin our journey into the new week.

The day was indeed a wonderful Sabbath worship experience from beginning to end and a beautiful reminder that we are only transients here, and someday, "Soon and Very Soon," we will indeed be going home! We admonish our audiences to pray for us as we pray for them, and conclude by reminding them of the first rehearsal in Heaven sitting around the mango trees in Calvin's back yard, rehearsing the song of the redeemed. You know, that's not a bad thing to look forward to. Our continual prayer is that we will all be there! ●

¹On The Road Again lyrics © EMI Music Publishing, Universal Music Publishing Group

Our Weekend in San Diego

— Russ Nelson

A while ago a popular song writer penned the words that appropriately describe our concert weekend in San Diego. His song says, “On the road again—just can’t wait to get on the road again. The life I love is making music with my friends and I can’t wait to get on the road again!”¹ That says it all as the group of singers, family and support staff took to the road for the two-hour drive to our first destination, the El Cajon SDA church. This is a beautiful facility and a wonderful place to lift our voices in praise to God! It was our first traveling weekend since losing our brother and fellow singer, LaMarr Proffitt, but the service went well—the group always rises to the occasion when they come out to sing!

It is always our prayer that hearts will be touched and lives changed by the gospel that we present through our music, and this was no exception. To greet the people after any presentation is such a joyful experience, listening to the countless comments of how each individual was blessed—a poignant reminder of the power of the Holy Spirit to use humble, ordinary men to deliver a powerful message of love, grace, and mercy!

After the morning church service, there was a potluck lunch—a welcome time for meeting, greeting, and fellowshiping with the members. However, that day a surprise punctuated our conversations: Gayle Craig, one of our capable support staff, had done a marvelous

job of orchestrating a birthday celebration for our director, Calvin Knipschild. She surprised him with a birthday cake and a book of written birthday greetings and photos from each member in the group that she had compiled by special request of Calvin’s lovely wife, Linda. After we sang our “Happy Birthday” message, long-time friend, Pastor Richard Smith, presented each of



A very happy 65th birthday was wished to Christian Edition Director Calvin Knipschild at the El Cajon SDA Church.

us with his own gift. As a heartfelt gesture of his personal appreciation for the group being there, one of their church and school volunteers, Griselda Layman, had prepared individual loaves of banana nut bread. All in all, it was a wonderful experience.

From El Cajon, we had only a few minutes as we rushed to make our call time at the next venue, the beautiful Paradise Valley Retirement Community. This was also a return visit and we were delighted to be back. Again, we were very impressed with this attractive facility which garnered numerous comments, such as “Wow! I wouldn’t mind living in

a place like this when I retire” (Of course, that’s a long way off for all of us “youngsters”)! This would be a variation of the morning program so that those who had also attended that service would hear some different songs. Again, the power of the Holy Spirit was visible as hearts were touched by the music.

Then it was on to our third, yes that’s right, our third program of the day, which was at the Clairemont Adventist Church—another return visit. Not surprisingly, by this time we were all feeling a bit weary, but God has a way of lifting us up and supporting us both spiritually and physically for this final program of the day! For me, there was the added blessing of having my nephew and friends in attendance. This was one of the few churches that employs a digital grand piano as their main church instrument. Our multi-talented pianist, Michael Spencer, had a field-day as he experimented with the various sounds and settings during our warm-up and sound check—it was a delight to watch and listen! For this program, Calvin made a major program revision, adding some of our older, joyful songs such as “The Armor of God.” This particular song truly conveys what we are about, not just as Christian Edition, a men’s singing group, but as Christian “Additions” to a lost world in general. Satan IS leading his evil forces against God’s children, and the song exhorts us to keep our shields up, our swords up, and definitely our guards up, armed and ready for the battle. We are guaranteed victory by God’s merciful grace. That message, along with our final

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Life Sketch of LaMarr Profitt

— Paul Wilcox

LAMARR EBARCRUSKE PROFITT was born on June 1, 1938, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to parents Clarence and Hymeria Profitt. Two years later, younger brother, Elvin, rounded out the family. He recalled that he had a happy childhood and remembered with fondness his favorite pet, Gatsby. But when he turned 18, he enlisted in the Navy and spent the next several years traveling the world as an assistant to the Chief Medical Officer on a navy ship. He was stationed for several months at a time in places like Subic Bay, Philippines; Okinawa, Japan; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and San Diego.

Upon discharge from the Navy, LaMarr decided to move to Southern California where he took classes to become an LVN, which became his life work. He loved automobiles and owned some very exotic cars such as an MG TD, a Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing, several Corvettes, an AMC AMX and a Jensen-Healey Interceptor. He also loved to travel and drove some of these cars on his many cross-country treks to visit his family in Winston-Salem.

In the 1970s and early '80s, LaMarr traveled to Europe on several occasions, traveling by Eurail throughout Italy, Austria and even Hungary one time—by mistake. On this occasion, he had fallen asleep on the train and when he woke up, he was in Hungary, which was still behind the iron curtain at the time. He had a hard time explaining his

predicament to the authorities, but after being strip-searched and questioned extensively, he was finally allowed to board a train back to Austria where he was able to continue his adventure. LaMarr also loved fine art and obtained several statues and other pieces of art while on his European trips. He regretted, however, that he never took the time to visit Switzerland.



In 1974, LaMarr purchased a turn-of-the-century house in the Mount Washington neighborhood of Los Angeles and spent many years remodeling and maintaining this house. To support his hobbies, he worked as a private duty nurse for several clients in the greater Los Angeles area and developed lasting friendships with many of his patients and their families. In more recent years, he worked for several registries and traveled extensively around the Los Angeles area visiting patients and helping them with their medications and other needs. He was generous to a fault and often spent his hard-earned money buying groceries and other necessities for his patients who were having financial difficulties.

In April of 1981, LaMarr was one of 16 men who were recruited by Conrad Knipschild to sing a song for the Eagle Rock SDA Church pastor

Jim Brown's birthday. This was the beginning of the Eagle Rock Men's Chorus, which eventually became Christian Edition. He was a very dedicated 1st Tenor and later, 2nd Tenor in the chorus and missed very few concerts and rehearsals over the years. As he loved traveling, this worked perfectly into his wanderlust spirit.

In November of 2010, LaMarr experienced congestive heart fail-

ure and had to have a permanent pacemaker installed. Edema in his legs due to the CHF made him home-bound for several weeks. As a result of this and

the poor economy, he was no longer able to work and was unable to maintain the mortgage on his home. He was devastated when he had to move, but some friends from church provided a room for him to rent for the next year and a half until he found a senior living center, Bethany Towers in Hollywood, which provided lodging and all his meals for a fixed, affordable price. In the few short months he lived there, LaMarr endeared himself to the residents of Bethany Towers and they, as well as all of us, were deeply shocked and saddened to hear the news of his untimely passing on April 13, 2013 at 4:50 A.M. at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital.

LaMarr is survived by his brother, Elvin, of Kalamazoo, Michigan; a niece, Lakela Jackson of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; a nephew, Carl Cloud of Van Nuys, California, and several other nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews. ●

Calendar

ALL LISTED CHRISTIAN EDITION REHEARSALS ARE OPEN TO OUR FRIENDS AND ARE HELD AT SAN GABRIEL ACADEMY ELEMENTARY LOCATED AT 5550 MUSCATEL AVE. IN SAN GABRIEL, 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.)

June

- | | | |
|--|------------|----------------|
| 14 Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Concert |
| Arizona Camp Meeting at
Camp Yavapines
2999 W. Iron Springs Road
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 445-2162 | | |
| 15 Saturday | All Day | Concert |
| Arizona Camp Meeting at
Camp Yavapines
2999 W. Iron Springs Road
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 445-2162 | | |
| 16 Sunday | 10:00 A.M. | Concert |
| Trinity Bible Church
14811 West R.H. Johnson Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375
(625) 546-4884 | | |
| 29 Saturday | 11:00 A.M. | Concert |
| Santa Cruz SDA Church
1024 Cayuga Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95062-2422
(831) 429-1442 | | |
| 29 Saturday | 7:30 P.M. | Concert |
| Mt. Hermon Christian
Conference Center
37 Conference Drive
Felton, CA 95018
(888) 642-2677 | | |
| 30 Sunday | 11:00 A.M. | Concert |
| Mt. Hermon Christian
Conference Center
37 Conference Drive
Felton, CA 95018
(888) 642-2677 | | |

Christian Edition to Visit Ohio this Fall

Worthington SDA Church
October 11 or 12

Kettering SDA Church
Men's Chorus Festival
October 12, 7:00 P.M.



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Director's Message

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feel the tension in the air as the athletes were getting ready.

I was especially moved by the running events. In every running event there was almost always a runner who would trip and fall, and what would happen next also seemed to always take place. One or more of the other racers would stop running and go back to where the runner fell, and then help their fellow competitor get back on their feet so that all of them could finish the race together. First place or last were of no concern to them. Finishing the race was the important thing to them because that way they were all winners.

Every time this happened, you could look around and see people wiping tears from their eyes while jumping to their feet applauding all the winners.

Dear friends, every one of us is involved in a race. It is the race of our lives and together all of us are stumbling towards the finish line. There is no first or last place in this race and we will all fall at times.

What a beautiful picture the Special Olympics athletes gives us. Rather than pointing fingers of judgment or accusation, we need the help of each other in order to win.

In the Bible, John 13:34-35 (NIV) says: "A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." ●

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